

## **EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

Published Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association, 24 Buckman Dr., Chelmsford MA 01824-2156

---

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association was established in 1851 and incorporated in 1934 to encourage antiquarian, genealogical, and historical research concerning the ancestors and descendants of Edmund Rice who settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts in 1638, and to promote fellowship among its members and friends.

The Association is an educational, non-profit organization recognized under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Edmund Rice (1638) Assoc., Inc.**  
24 Buckman Drive  
Chelmsford, MA 01824-2156  
**Return Postage Guarantee**



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHELMSFORD MA  
PERMIT NO. 1055

Note: This version is edited for website publication.



# *Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter*

24 Buckman Dr., Chelmsford MA 01824

Vol. 79, No. 2

Spring 2005

## **President's Column**

Today we tend to take for granted that the Western World, at least, is multi-religious. The United States is a “melting pot” with a wide variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds. From the recent national election we learn that religious blocs are still important politically here, but in Europe they are much less so. In the 1600s, religion was all-important for most of the world. A recent best selling book by Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World* (Doubleday, New York, 2004, ISBN 0-385-50349-0) has a thesis that the US Melting Pot started in Manhattan Island of New Amsterdam. He gives evidence that the Dutch Reformed Church of Holland did not restrict religion there as the Puritans did in New England. And Eve Laplante’s recent book on Anne Hutchinson details the trials and tribulations of nonconformists in Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Rev. Mark Harris will take us through the period in which the Puritans changed from rigid religious qualifications of citizenship to somewhat more relaxed views. From the days of banishing Roger Williams and others to perhaps the time of the visit of Ralph Waldo Emerson with David Thoreau who was in jail for not paying his Poll Tax.

I have no idea of when and how the Rices of my particular branch changed, except that I was born into the Unitarian Church of Barre. It was the First Parish Church of Barre and was supported by all in the town until the early 1830s. Rev. James Thompson, a graduate of Brown University, was the minister from 1804 until his death in 1845. He was a Unitarian and some church members left his flock and formed the Congregational Church of Barre<sup>1</sup>. My Rice branch arrived in Barre in the 1740s.

I grew up going to the Unitarian Church but participating in various functions of both the Congregational and Methodist Churches there. One of my sisters and I were married by Congregational Ministers, for lack of Unitarian Ministers of the particular time and place.

There is no doubt that the views of both groups have changed rather drastically from those of the Puritans. It should be interesting to hear from Mark Harris some of the details of that evolution.

REMEMBER THE RICE REUNION SEPTEMBER 16 AND 17, 2005 at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, MA. Rev. Harris will speak at about 1 p.m. after our reunion luncheon.

– Bob Rice

**2005 Rice Reunion  
Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17  
Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, MA**

## **Inside This Issue**

Editor's Column	p. 2
Database Update	p. 5
Genetics Report	p. 5
Family Thicket	p. 6
Meet the Ancestors	p. 7
Zebulon Rice	p. 7
Americus V. Rice	p. 8
The Little Mystery	p. 9
A Coat Tale	p.10
Queries	p.11
Postcards	p.12

<sup>1</sup> History of Barre, Helen W. Connington, Albert Clark, and Mary Kelly, Barre Historical Commission,(1992), pp 155-161.

## Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

Send articles, corrections, member news, items of interest,  
obituaries, queries, etc. to the newsletter editor:

Perry L. Bent email: [perry\\_lowell@hotmail.com](mailto:perry_lowell@hotmail.com)

### Membership

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. is governed by a Board of Directors, of at least five members, elected at the annual reunion and meeting, usually held on a weekend in September.

Descendants of Edmund Rice were holding reunions as early as 1851, but it was not until 1912 that the Association was formed and officers elected. Incorporation under Massachusetts law took place in 1934.

Membership is open to anyone who claims to be a lineal descendant of Edmund Rice. Rigorous proof is not required and many members have been able to ascertain their pedigree only after access to the books and files of other members. Spouses are also eligible for membership.

Annual dues, payable *September 1*, are:

Initial dues.....\$ 15.00

Renewals:

Under 80 years of age.....\$ 15.00

Age 80 and above.....\$ 5.00

Life membership.....\$200.00  
(single payment)

**Checks To:** EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSN., INC.

#### Membership Mailing Address:

Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc.  
c/o William H. Drury  
24 Buckman Drive  
Chelmsford MA 01824-2156

#### Address Corrections:

The Post Office does NOT forward bulk mail. The return postage and re-mailing postage costs the Association nearly \$1.50 per copy.

*Your help with this is greatly appreciated.*

## Editor's Column

Happy Spring, everyone!

One of the joys of living in New England is that first breath of Spring air, wafting through the (finally) open windows. Smells of warm, fertile soil, greenery, flowering trees, and bulbs in the gardens lure me. Genealogical research takes a back seat to sprucing up the yard and getting outside in the sunshine and fresh air, and taking advantage of the longer days. But on to ERA news!

One of the new projects that Bill Drury and I are starting is offering our Rice re-print books on eBay to reduce our inventory. Needless to say, the Rice books will always be less expensive to order directly through the ERA, so if you don't have your copies—order now from Bill.

Your Board of Directors met in mid-March, and I think you're going to enjoy the speakers and events planned for the annual reunion on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Westborough. I hope that you're planning to join us. Our next newsletter will provide details of the 2005 reunion plans—but mark your calendars now!

The Summer newsletter is our next issue—and, as always, contributions are welcome. You don't have to be a professional genealogist or a journalist to contribute. Write or email me!

– Perry Lowell Bent

#### Membership Address Lists:

Member lists are available to MEMBERS ONLY. Please send \$1.50 to cover printing and postage, and specify alphabetic or zipcode order.

## Website

**Edmund Rice (1638) Association**

**[www.edmund-rice.org](http://www.edmund-rice.org)**

## **2004 - 2005 Officers**

**President, Robert V. Rice**

**Vice President, George L. Rice**

**Vice President for Arrangements,  
Jeannette Pollard**

**Treasurer, Henry C. Trombley**

**Historian, George W. King**

**Membership/Book Custodian,  
William H. Drury**

**Recording Secretary, John F. Chandler**

## **Honorary Life Members**

**Corinne (Mickey) Snow**

## **2004 - 2005 Directors**

**Perry L. Bent, Newsletter Editor**  
*perry\_lowell@hotmail.com*

**Kathleen H. Bond**

**Ruth M. Brown**

**Beth McAleer**

**Colonel Gary H. Rice, Ret.**

**Wendolin E. Wesen**

**Linda J. Wilson**

## **Ex-Officio Directors**

**(Past Presidents)**

**Frederick Rice, 1993-1997**

**John S. Bates, 1990-1993**

**Patricia MacFarland, 1982-1983**

**William H. Drury, 1980-1982**

**Margaret E. Allen, 1973-1974**

## Memorial Gifts

Cheri A. Smith in memory of **Ethel D. Smith**

Joanne Rice in memory of her father **Henry E. Rice, Jr.**

James Parker Rice, Jr. in memory of **Lt. Col. Joseph Parker Rice, GAR**

Harold R. Rice in memory of **Fred, Harold, Willard & Wendall Rice**

Rosalie Steele Bolene in memory of **R.V. Bolene, M.D.**

James H. Tyler in memory of the **Descendants of Lovina Rice Harwood**

Sandra M. Hewlett in memory of **Israel Rice (1788-1872 and Jemima Osgood (1792-1877)**

Renee Kenner-Juarez in memory of her uncle **Morgan H. Kenner**

## Welcome, New Cousins!

**Dan & Linda Rice** CA

**Christopher R. Calkins** MA

**Mitchell A. Rognholt** MN

## Nine Generation Rice Database Available on CD

Your Board of Directors (BoD) agreed that we would offer the nine-generation report and database to our members. The BoD approved a charge of \$10 postpaid for a CD-ROM containing both documents. Bill Drury, our book custodian, agreed to make copies of the CD-ROM for ERA members upon request. Bill's postal address is included in this newsletter.

The BoD placed three caveats on the distribution of these documents:

- 1) The information is copyrighted by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association and is restricted to the personal use of association members.
- 2) The CDs will be available only to association members who agree to its terms of use.
- 3) The association master database is an ongoing effort. We expect to add an additional 25,000 names and 20,000 updates during the next three years for generations six and more recent generations. This CD-ROM represents our database effort as of September 2004.

## **Database Update**

by George W. King

Historian, Edmund Rice (1638) Association [www.edmund-rice.org]

At the March meeting of the association board of directors, John Chandler and George King reported that the ERA master data base now contains 93,000 persons and includes descendants of Edmund Rice, their spouses, and parents of spouses.

In March, John gave George a major update with 3,000 new names, mostly from 19th century New England. George has completed the editing of databases from six cousins that will add an additional 2,000 names, mostly from the late 19th and 20th centuries.

By the September reunion we should have over 100,000 persons in the database. The number continues to grow. Have you submitted your ancestral line for our association records?

If you are uncertain about how you can contribute, please contact John or me.

## **The Master Genealogist v6 Upgrade**

by George W. King

Recently WhollyGenes announced the release of The Master Genealogist (TMG), version 6. Your association has been using TMG since version 1! At its March meeting, your board of directors approved the move of our master database to TMG 6. For those using TMG 5, the TMG 6 user interface is almost identical to TMG 5. If you have been waiting for reports about TMG 6, do not despair.

The move from TMG 5 to 6 is a "no brainer".

## **Report of the Genetics Committee**

*Members are John Chandler, George King, and Bob Rice*

We continue to get a few male Rices each month submitting YDNA samples and receiving results from FTDNA (ftdna.com.). Just recently two sets of two Rices were connected via YDNA results from new Southern Rices and have initiated two new southern groups. There are now seven Southern Rice groups. All results are posted periodically on our web site, Edmund-rice.org. We are also reporting results from the Sorenson Y Database pertaining to Rice males.

A paper, *YDNA Secures Identity of Rice Mohawk Native American with Edmund Rice Haplotype* by Beth McAleer and Robert V. Rice has been accepted by The New England Ancestors. This is a genealogical journal from New England Historic Genealogical Society and members of NEHGS will be able to read it shortly. Beth McAleer is planning to write a more extensive account of the research of Michael Rice and others of the Kahnawake Mohawks for a future issue of our Newsletter.

-Bob Rice

## The Family Thicket, Part VI (Addendum to Part IV)

by John Chandler

*This series of articles attempts to convey some of the complexity of family relationships among the descendants of Edmund Rice. Each article focuses on one early Massachusetts immigrant and his wife or wives and their offspring, showing how most of them are connected by marriage to the extended Rice family within a few generations.*

Instead of moving on to yet another family, I would like to revisit one recently discussed. The ERA has just received a report that fills in a gap in Part IV of this series, covering the family of Daniel Forbush. In that article, I stated:

4. Rebecca (1672-?) married Joseph Byles. However, there seems to be no record of any children.

This marriage was mentioned by Ward and is duly reported in many secondary sources compiled since Ward's time (such as my previous article), but these reports have always been silent on the obvious questions of when and where the marriage took place and just who was this Joseph Byles. The vital records of Eastern Massachusetts indeed do not document any marriage of a Rebecca **Forbush** to a Joseph **Byles**, or to anyone else in the expected time frame from 1690 to 1700. However, the Marlborough records do show the marriage in 1715 of Rebecca **Harding** to Joseph **Boilds**. Notice the same confusion between -i- and -oi- as seen in the Rice/Royce pairing.

Now, who could this Rebecca Harding be? None other than Rebecca **Forbush**, who had married Samuel **Hardy** of Stamford, CT, in 1698, as shown in the Barbour Collection, borne several children (mostly entered in the vital records), and been left a widow by 1714 (when a tax assessment in Bedford, NY, formerly part of Stamford, named widow Rebecca Hardy). That this is the same Rebecca is shown by the fact that the Hardy children also turned up in Westborough, and therein lies the reason for this update.

Her son Samuel Hardy married Tabitha<sup>4</sup> Forbush (Dorcas<sup>3</sup> Rice, Edward<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>); her son Daniel Hardy married Vashti<sup>4</sup> Rice (Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>); and her son Aaron Hardy married Vashti's niece Hepzibah<sup>5</sup> Bradish (Damaris<sup>4</sup> Rice, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>).

Her son Phineas Hardy had no fewer than three children who married Rice descendants: Prudence married Elijah<sup>5</sup> Rice (Charles<sup>4</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>); Constantine married Jemima<sup>6</sup> Brigham (Silas<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, Mary<sup>3</sup> Rice, Henry<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>); and Tabitha married Levi<sup>6</sup> Brigham (Levi<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, Mary<sup>3</sup> Rice, Henry<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>).

Two of Phineas' grandchildren by his son Joseph also entered the thicket: Lucy and Hannah married brothers Benjamin<sup>7</sup> and Joseph<sup>7</sup> Brigham (Gershom<sup>6</sup>, Gershom<sup>5</sup>, Gershom<sup>4</sup>, Mary<sup>3</sup> Rice, Henry<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>).

Also, just in case this narrative has been too short, I should point out that the siblings Damaris<sup>4</sup> and Charles<sup>4</sup> Rice mentioned above had another line back to Edmund<sup>1</sup> via their mother Anna<sup>3</sup> Rice (Edward<sup>2</sup>, Edmund<sup>1</sup>), and the Forbush and Brigham names in this part of the story were contributed by families already covered in this series.

In short, although we still have no record of any children of Rebecca and Joseph Byles, we can now firmly tie her into the family thicket through her previous marriage.

## Meet the Ancestors

Here's where we will feature photos and brief histories or anecdotes about our members' ancestors. Please share your ancestors!



**Sarah (Rice) Vose  
(1828 – 1900)**

**Sarah Rice** was the daughter of William [William, William, Dea. Jonathan, Joseph, Dea. Edmund] Rice and Charlotte (Whitman) Rice. She was born in Sudbury on June 5, 1828, and married Henry Vose, a farmer. They were married by Rev. Josiah Ballard in Sudbury, Massachusetts on June 6, 1848. Together, they had three children—two girls, and a boy who died in infancy. They lived for some time in Maynard. Sarah outlived her husband Henry by fifteen years, and died on July 3, 1900. She spent her later years living with her daughter and son-in-law in Sudbury on the Perry homestead, Elm Farm (later sold to Babe Ruth).

Sarah Rice Vose was my third great-grandmother. I love the expression on her face and I wonder what she was thinking!

-Perry L. Bent-

## The Old Cemetery on Meeting House Hill

by Gerry Rice

**Zebulon Rice** (1725-1799) [Elisha, Thomas, Edmund] married his cousin, Susanna Allen [Zebediah Allen, Frances Rice, Thomas, Edmund], and the couple had 17 children (I think a record for the Rice family).

Three of their sons fought in the Revolutionary War: Jonas and Eliakim, among other conflicts, were engaged at Bunker Hill. Three enlistments of Reuben 1757-1837 brought him to New Jersey to protect the flank of Washington, to northern New York in time to see the end of the Battle of Saratoga, and finally to West Point at the time of Andre's capture and Benedict Arnold's betrayal. Reuben's father-in-law, Joseph Metcalf, fought in the French and Indian wars and was with one of his sons at the siege of Boston during the Revolution. Reuben Jr., a veteran of the War of 1812, later was commander of the Ashburnham Light Infantry.

His wife's grandfather, Joseph Polley (1728-76), a minuteman at the Lexington Alarm in 1775, fought in the French and Indian war at the battle of Lake George. All except Joseph Polley and Eliakim Rice are buried near each other in the old cemetery on Meeting House Hill in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, as is Susanna, who died in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year. Eliakim is buried in the Jenneyville cemetery in Hartland, VT. I descend from Reuben Jr.

An unusual situation developed with two grandchildren of Reuben Sr.: Oran (1833-1888) and Joseph P. (1821-1862), sons of Joseph Rice (1792-1844) fought on opposite sides during the Civil War.

Col. Joseph Parker Rice of the 21<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Regiment fought in the battles at Roanoke, Newborn, Camden, and 2nd Bull Run. Joseph died Sept 1, 1862 at age 41 at the Battle of Chantilly, Virginia, following the retreat of Union forces from 2nd Bull Run. A large military funeral was held in Ashburnham. His life-sized



portrait, which once hung in the “Hall of Fallen Heroes” in the State House in Boston, was bequeathed to the Westminster Library. The Westminster GAR Post was named after him. He joined the many military men of the Rice family in the old cemetery on Meeting House Hill in Ashburnham.

Oran Rice opened a jewelry and eyeglass store in Fitchburg sometime in 1858. Some three years later he closed shop and moved to the South to regain his health following a serious bout with pneumonia. Being there at the onset of the Civil War, he was conscripted, against his wishes, into the Confederate forces until the end of the hostilities. Returning to Fitchburg after the war, he resumed his business, and later employed his dead brother’s son, Frederick, eventually selling to him. The Rice connection continued with James Parker Rice, evolving in 1980 to Hyland-Rice Business Systems, Inc.

## Americus Vespucius Rice (1835-1904)



Brigadier General, United States Army  
Member of Congress  
Courtesy of the U.S. House of Representatives  
from the Arlington Cemetery website

*Representative from Ohio; born in Perryville, Ashland County, Ohio, on November 18, 1835; pursued classical studies; attended Antioch College and was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., in 1860; studied law; commissioned as captain in the Twenty-first Ohio Infantry April 27, 1861, and promoted through the ranks to brigadier general in 1865; manager of a private banking house in Ottawa, Ohio; delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1872; elected as a Democrat to the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses (March 4, 1875-March 3, 1879); chairman, Committee on Invalid Pensions (Forty-fifth Congress); was not a candidate for renomination in 1878; president of A.V. Rice & Co., a banking concern of Ottawa; director in various business enterprises; appointed pension agent for Ohio in 1893 and served from May 1, 1894, until the fall of 1898; moved to Washington, D.C., in 1899 and engaged in banking and various other enterprises; appointed purchasing agent of the United States Census Bureau, which position he held at the time of his death in Washington, D.C., on April 4, 1904; interment in Arlington National Cemetery.*

**Americus Vespucius Rice**, soldier, was born in Perrysville, Ohio, 18 November, 1835. He was graduated at Union college in 1860, and began the study of law.

On 12 April, 1861, he enlisted in the National army, soon afterward was appointed a Lieutenant, and then a Captain in the 22d Ohio volunteers, and served in West Virginia. When his term of enlistment expired in August, 1861, he assisted in recruiting the 57th Ohio infantry, returned to the field as Captain of a company, and became Lieutenant Colonel, and afterward Colonel, of the regiment. He fought in General Willam T. Sherman's campaigns, in General William B. Hazen's division, was wounded several times, and during the march to the sea lost his right leg. The people of his district gave him a majority of votes as the Democratic candidate for congress in 1864, but he was defeated by the soldiers' vote.\*

He was promoted Brigadier General on 31 May, 1865, and mustered out on 15 January, 1866. In 1868 he became manager of a private banking business in Ottawa, Ohio. He was a delegate to the Democratic national convention at Baltimore in 1872, and was elected in 1874 to congress, and re-elected in 1876.

His cousin, Rosella, author, was born in Perrysville, Ohio, 11 August, 1827. She began writing for the local papers at an early age, published a novel entitled "Mabel, or Heart Histories" (Columbus, 1858), and has since been a contributor of serial stories and humorous articles and of poems descriptive of nature to newspapers and magazines. She is also known as a public lecturer. In 1871-2 she contributed, under the pen name of "Pipsissiway Ootts," a serial entitled "Other People's Windows" to Timothy S. Arthur's "Home Magazine." It attracted attention, and was followed by others with the same signature, "My Girls and I" and other tales signed "Chatty Brooks," and still other serials published under her own name, including "Fifty Years Ago, or the Cabins of the West."

[Note: Website for electronic reading of Rosella Rice's 414 page book "Mabel, or Heart Histories" Columbus, 1858 is: <http://www.lettrs.indiana.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=wright2;idno=wright2-2023>

- 1 Edmund Rice, the immigrant, b: 1594 in poss. Sudbury, England d: 3 May 1663 in Marlboro, Mass.  
+Tomasine Frost b c 1601 m: 15 Oct 1618 in St.Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds, England  
d 13 Jun 1654 in Sudbury, Mass. Father: Edward Frost Mother: Thomasine Belgrave
- 2 Thomas\* Rice b: bef 26 Jan 1625/26 in Stanstead, Suffolk, England d: 16 Nov 1681 in Marlboro, Mass.  
+Mary King b 22 Feb 1629/30 in Shaston Dorset England, m 1651 in Sudbury, Mass.  
d 22 May 1714 in Sudbury, Mass. Father: Thomas King Mother: Anne Collins
- 3 Ephraim Rice b 15 Apr 1665 d: 1732 in Mass.  
+Hannah Livermore m 21 Feb 1687/88 in Sudbury, Mass.
- 4 Gersham Rice b 27 May 1728 in Sudbury, Mass.  
+Eliza Battle
- 5 Samuel Rice b 17 Nov 1752 in Sudbury, Mass.  
+Abigail Underwood m: 1773 in Sudbury, Mass.
- 6 Ebenezer Rice b 8 Apr 1773 in Marlboro, Mass. d 3 Jun 1821 in Perryville, Green Township, Ohio  
+Martha Hammond b 1 Sep 1776 in Mass m: 5 May 1796 in Mass.  
d 7 Sep 1835 in Perryville, Green Township, Ashland Co., Ohio
- 7 Clark Hammond Rice, Sr b 1804 in NY d: 1870 in Ottawa, Putnam Co., Ohio  
+Catherine Mowers b 1808 in VA m: 1832 in Richland Co., Ohio? d 1874 in Ottawa, Putnam Co., Ohio
- 8 Americus Vespucius Rice b 18 Nov 1835 in Perryville, Green Township, Ashland Co., Ohio  
d in Washington, D.C.

## The Little Mystery

By Betty Fredericks

The short-lived marriage between Charles W. Rice (1850-1916) and Adelaide Crosby Hutchinson (1851-1928). Charles came c1870 to work in the factories in Ashland, MA. We have no idea how Charles met Adelaide, who was born and raised in Winchester, MA. We know there were Rice families in Arlington around that time, but we have no idea whether they were related to Charles. Adelaide was very much a "church-going lady" and was a life-long Baptist and long-time member of her church in Arlington. I believe the couple lived in Arlington during their short married life. Charles and Adelaide married in 1875 in Ashland, MA and "separated" around the time their daughters were around 20 - late 1890's. Charles moved back to Ashland where he died in 1916. They had just the two daughters, so he was my last Rice ancestor. Louise Wellington Rice, b 1876 Arlington, married George Sanford Kidder of Eastport, ME (b Princeton, ME), perhaps they met while she and her sister were visiting their Rice cousins. Edith Crosby Rice, b 1878 Arlington, MA, was a life-long Children's Librarian in Arlington. A few years ago, a lady donated a large special collection of children's books to the University of Maine, and the donation was named, "the Edith C. Rice Collection.

## A Coat Tale

By William H. Drury, March, 1981 (*re-printed from the Spring 1981 newsletter*)

Jonathan Rice, lineage number 3814, may be found on page 240 of *The Rice Family* and on page 560 of *The Register of Rice Descendants*. The two daughters mentioned did not "die young", for the Lowell, Mass., city records clearly indicate otherwise:

Jonathan Rice married Rebecca Smith on October 13, 1841.

Ellen F. Rice, daughter of Jonathan & Rebecca, born January 29, 1847; died May 11, 1911 at Westborough Hospital. She was single, aged 64 years, 8 months, 12 days. Saleswoman.

Edna C. Rice, daughter of Jonathan & Rebecca, born February 19, 1849; died February 27, 1912. She was single, aged 63 years, 9 days. At home.

The following account is condensed from articles appearing in *The Lowell Daily Courier* and *The Lowell Daily Citizen*.

*Monday, January 1, 1877*

Ashtabula, Ohio. Dec. 31, 1876 - Last Friday at about 8 o'clock the village was aroused by a general fire alarm, and word soon spread that passenger train No. 5 had gone through the high bridge over Ashtabula River with a large number of passengers and that the whole train was on fire. A lurid glare in that vicinity confirmed the report and, in spite of the terrible stormy night, nearly the whole village and all the fire engines were soon on the way to the depot. The train was due at Ashtabula at quarter past five and was nearly three hours late. It had 11 cars, including one drawing-room car, 3 sleepers, one smoking car and 2 first class coaches. The span is about 100 feet wide, and into this space were 11 cars and one engine and tender precipitated. The fall of 60 feet, breaking through the icy covering, shattered the cars as if a magazine of nitroglycerine had exploded beneath them. The 7 passenger coaches altogether contained about 165 adults and a number of children. Within a few minutes after the crash, the flames burst out simultaneously from nearly every car. A crowd soon made their way to the burning debris, and with axes and ropes, many of the passengers were extricated, placed on stretchers, and taken to the top of the hill where the best of assistance awaited them. The hotels and depot were soon filled, and private houses were thrown open throughout the town. The surgeons of the town rendered all the assistance in their power, but many perished during the night. The bridge was an iron truss bridge, and had been in use about 11 years.

*Monday, January 1, 1877*

There seems to be but little doubt that Mr. Jonathan Rice of this city was on the ill-fated train that broke through the bridge at Ashtabula on the Lake Shore Railroad Friday night. Mr. Edward Hosmer, a partner of Mr. Rice, and Mr. George Cheney, left Boston on the 5 o'clock train last evening for Ashtabula to learn the fate of Mr. Rice, if possible. Mr. Rice was born in Sudbury and was 58 years of age. He came to Lowell in 1839 and has been in the provision business ever since. For 29 years he has been in company with his brother, Mr. Henry M. Rice, the firm occupying their present quarters on East Merrimack Street for 21 years. Mr. Rice is an active member in the Masonic, Odd Fellows and other associations of this City. He has a wife and two daughters who are in great distress over his supposed fate.

*January 10, 1877*

Mr. Edward S. Hosmer and Mr. George A. Cheney, who have been in Ashtabula the past week to obtain information of Mr. Jonathan Rice, supposed to be killed in the late accident, have returned. On their arrival at the wreck a large number of persons were looking after parents and friends, and the scene is described as being most heart-rending. The search of Messrs. Hosmer and Cheney was considerably facilitated by a singular occurrence at the Fiske House. They had been there but a few minutes when they overheard a survivor of the

accident remark that he had an overcoat upstairs belonging to a Massachusetts gentleman, who he thought was among the killed. Of course the Lowell friends introduced themselves at once, and readily learned that the overcoat was that of Mr. Jonathan Rice, whose name was on the inside. The gentleman with whom they became thus acquainted was Mr. H. A. White of Wethersfield, Connecticut, who gave a graphic account of the accident and of his escape with a broken arm. He said that he was in the same seat with Mr. Rice during the day, and that at the time of the accident in the "City of Buffalo" car, every berth was occupied. All in this car perished but himself and a Mrs. Bradley from Chicago. When he made his way out of the debris he took Mr. Rice's coat, thinking it to be his, and expressed himself as certain that Mr. Rice had been burned to ashes, as were the others in the same car. When the train went down Mr. White was asked by a passenger in the ruins of the car, who he had no doubt was Mr. Rice, if the cars were on fire, and to endeavor to extricate him from the ruins. Mr. White endeavored for some time unsuccessfully to do so, when Mr. Rice urged him to make no more effort, but to save himself. Mr. White made his escape through the door at the upper end of the car.

## Queries

**Betty Fredericks** writes: I was just wondering if any other descendants of Ashbel and Percissa (Knight) Rice have joined the Association. I am descended from Daniel V. and Lucy (McDaniel) Rice of Lubec and Eastport, ME. I was able to determine (not proved) that my great-great-grandfather was their tenth and last child, Charles Wellington Rice, born 1850, Lubec, ME. Email me at: [bbffrpp@comcast.net](mailto:bbffrpp@comcast.net)

**Betty Fredericks** writes: I wonder whether Daniel RICE was the grandson of Ashbel RICE, son of Ashbel's oldest son, Rufus RICE, or the youngest son of Ashbel RICE. Some say Daniel was born right around 1800, or right around the time that Ashbel and Percissa RICE moved their family across the water from Digby, NS, to Lubec, ME. But, some say that Daniel was born in 1804 in Lubec. Email me at: [bbffrpp@comcast.net](mailto:bbffrpp@comcast.net)

**Liz Rice-Smith** writes: I am a Visiting Scholar this year at Harvard, researching aspects of the various Rice boys from (at least) generations who were abducted and brought to Canada. People who might have info, let me know. Moses Rice family including his grandson, his sister Prudence Rice Stevens and her sons, and then of course the families of Silas, Timothy, Nahor, Adonijah, and Ashur. I am wondering if I have missed any captives in our family, and hope I have not. I am a UCC minister and also have a doctorate in clinical psychology, specializing in trauma treatment with children, adults, and families. Write or email me, Elizabeth P. Rice-Smith, 632 Massachusetts Avenue #501, Cambridge MA 02139, [ericesmith@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:ericesmith@hds.harvard.edu)

**June Koeppe** writes: I have very little information on my Grandmother Margaret Emma Rice. She married Francis Dunton, on 1st January 1886. This was his second marriage. Her parents were James E., and Clara (Hayes) Rice. All of these were in Woolwich, Maine. We have a "Rice" Cemetery, and if anyone knows of an ancestor buried there, I will be in Maine next summer and would be more than happy to take pictures of gravestones, if needed. Please contact June Dunton Koeppe, 2111 Avenue B, Kearney, NE 68847

**Steve Hollands** writes asking if anyone knows anything about the parents, grandparents, etc. of Lydia Rice, b. about 1799 in Cortland County, NY and died Jan. 14, 1877 in Campbell, NY, who married Edward Wing, who was born April 18, 1795 in East Sandwich, MA and died Sept. 28, 1852 in Veteran, NY. Write Steve Hollands, 812 Greenwood Circle, Apt. 2, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

### Universalist Ministers

At the Rice reunion in 1996 at Marlborough I sat at a round table with as many as five (or more) men who later said they were all Universalist ministers. I assume they were retired. Presumably they were also Rice cousins. If anyone knows their name(s) and how to communicate with them I would greatly appreciate knowing. Bob Rice; [rvrbarre@aol.com](mailto:rvrbarre@aol.com)

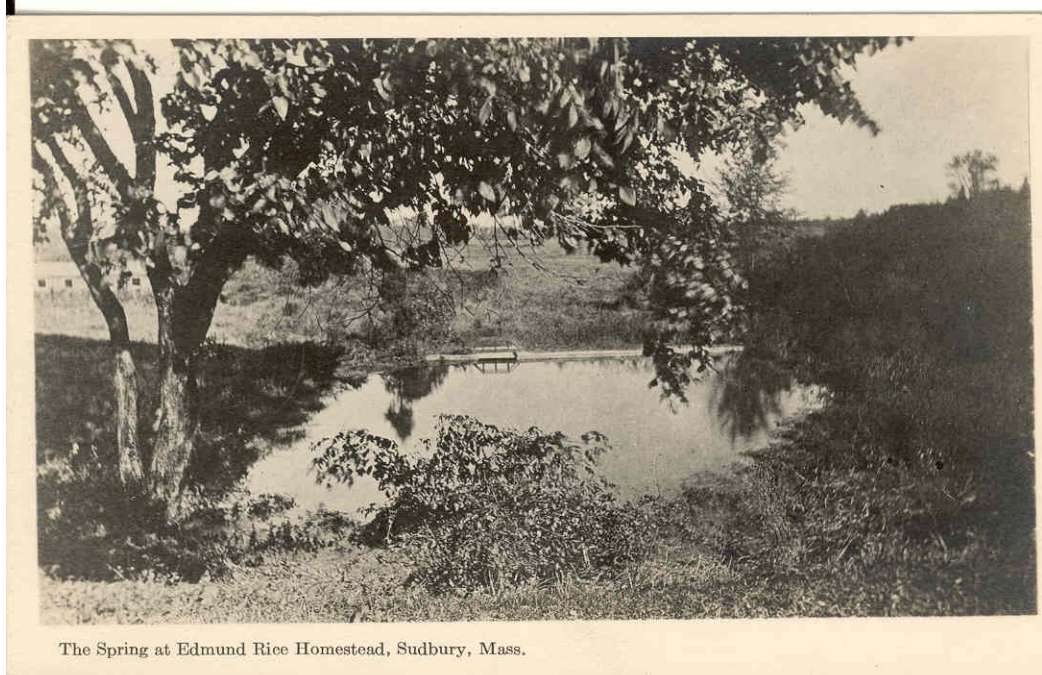
## Postcards from the Past

By Perry L. Bent

I am an avid postcard collector, searching out postcards from Sudbury and Framingham. Below are two Rice postcards, both of which are divided back (1907-1914) and unused. In the years that I have been collecting, they are the only ones I have found of these scenes. Email me if you'd like higher resolution images for printing.



In the homestead postcard (above), there are two men in the doorway, focused on something on the right of the doorway. Three other men are to the front and right of them, with what looks like shovels that two of them are leaning on while the third probes into a hole in the ground. We may never know what these men were all doing, nor why they seem so unaware of the photographer. In the spring postcard below, a small wooden bridge can be seen at the far end of the pond and to the left some sort of outbuilding.



## Rice Books Available

The ERA offers quite a few Rice books at reasonable prices. Contact Bill Drury for a list of available books and prices.

### Storage for Our Books

The books that the Association has for sale are currently stored in a rental storage unit in Tyngsboro, MA. The cost of this storage has escalated in recent years and we are looking for someone who has space available in a barn or outbuilding. The space required is 200-250 cubic feet and it must be dry (no basements, please). Since moving the books is no small task, it is preferable that storage be within 100 miles of Tyngsboro. If you are interested in saving the Association about \$900 per year, please email or write me.

### More Rice Books

Frederic A. Wallace is the author of “**Ancestors and Descendants of the Rice Brothers of Springfield, Mass.:** David Rice, William Marsh Rice, Caleb Hall Rice, Frederick Allyn Rice, Seven Generations – 1704 to 2004”. This is a serious genealogy and history of the family descended from David Rice, who first appeared in the records of Milton and Weymouth, Mass., around 1725. Special attention is given to four brothers, born in Springfield, Mass., who went to Texas in the early to mid-1800’s to seek their fortunes. One, William Marsh Rice, became the founder of Rice University in Houston. Their story is a classic example of a family torn apart by the Civil War. DNA evidence, obtained through the ERA’s Rice Family DNA Project, is presented to resolve longstanding questions about the origins of this line. Available from the author, \$30 (includes postage to the continental US): Frederic A. Wallace, 53 Eaton Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

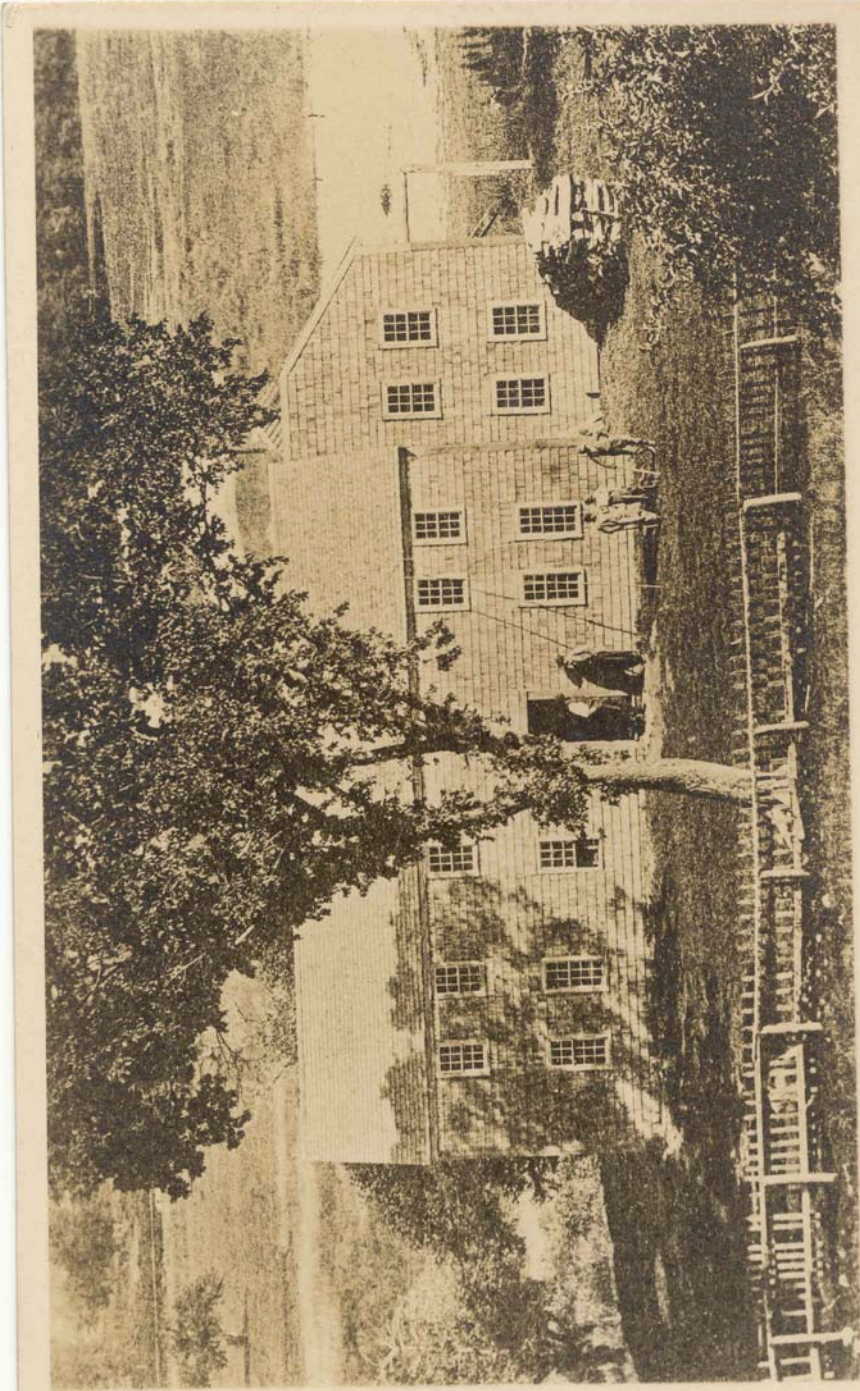
Peggy Rice Grosser is the author of “**Grains of Rice**—with an occasional dash of salt, a Rice family Chronicle from 1847-1947”—a compilation of family letters and photos and documents which would be of interest to Vermonters and history buffs of that time period, in general. Contains 338 pages, 68 illustrations, 30 photos. This book is available from her at 333 Water Street, Apt. D5, Kerrville, TX 78028-5232 for \$24.00 (\$20 book plus \$4 postage).

### Buy a Book. Or Several!

If your home library already has a full set of Rice books, what about the Family History section of your favorite local libraries? Consider donating a copy or two!  
Contact Bill Drury to purchase books.



Bonus: Extra-large image of Edmund Rice Homestead



Edmund Rice Homestead, Sudbury, Mass.