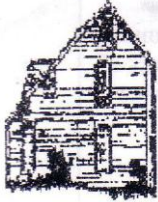
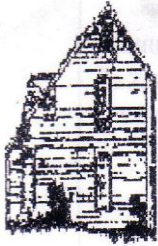


# Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

416 Shirley Place, Valdosta, GA 31605-6422 Vol. 88, No.4 Fall 2014



The Edmund Rice Association publishes the newsletter four times a year: 1) Winter 2) Spring 3) Summer 4) Fall. The summer newsletter is devoted to the annual September Reunion and includes a description of the program and registration information. The other three newsletters include information of more general interest to our members. We invite all cousins to submit their information, newsletter corrections, items of interest, family articles and pictures, obituaries and ad them to the newsletter editor: Susan Berger at [editor@edmund-rice.org](mailto:editor@edmund-rice.org)

## President's Column

usins!

Fall in the temperate zone has a way of inexorably chilling into winter. Even at the time of our reunion in September, before the "official" (or astronomical) start of autumn, there were signs of the impending changes of season -- webworm nests in the trees, trees starting to turn color, crisp mornings, and so on. Fortunately, the weather during the reunion (which had a distinctly outdoorsy component) was close to ideal. That leads me to one of my themes for this column. When we planned to hold the reunion at Old Sturbridge Village, we expected the novelty would lead to a bigger-than-average turnout. As a matter of fact, I persuaded my wife to attend this time, though she ordinarily doesn't come to these affairs. On the other hand, the attendance as a whole was less than average, and I'm wondering why. In the past, we have sometimes passed out questionnaires to those who came to reunions to ask what they liked and didn't like and what they wanted for future reunions but there is a statistical bias in such a polling scheme that favors continuation of exactly what was done at the reunion in question. I'd like to issue a challenge to all of you to speak up and state what sort of reunion you would definitely attend. (Planning is already underway for next year's meeting to be held at the Wayside Inn, but ideas are still welcome, and the choice of venue for coming years is certainly open.)

Now for a different reunion-related theme. In September, I presented some graphs showing demographic trends among the descendants of Edmund Rice, as recorded in our genealogical database. Those graphs are all viewable on our web site (in the Library section, under the heading "ERA Database Stats and Figure", at the URL [edmund-rice.org/library/ERA2014-JChandler.pdf](http://edmund-rice.org/library/ERA2014-JChandler.pdf)), so I won't reproduce them here, but I'll make some comments to give you a hint of what they can tell us. First of all, I'll point to the cultural cliché of the June wedding. Our database bears this out as a clear-cut, narrow peak in marriage frequency in the month of June, but this has not always been true. The June peak is very evident in the subset of individuals born after 1800, but for those born before 1800 the tallest peak falls in November. I don't know what changed, but it's clear something did. June figures clearly in another set of graphs: it is the month with the fewest deaths for three of the four subsets I examined (born before 1700, born 1700-1799, and born 1800-1899). For the fourth subset, the month-to-month variation is not statistically significant, except for a peak in deaths in December. Another clear demographic trend is seen in the very first graph -- a steady decline in the average number of children per person from century to century (among those who actually had children) from a high of 7.2 down to 2.5. Since the children are counted once for each parent, you can see that we are now near the population replacement rate. There is much more that can be said, but I'll stop here for now.

John Chandler

## ERA Past Presidents

1912-1913	Eustace Bond Rice
1913-1920	Nellie Rice Fiske
1921-1922	H. Eugene Rice
1923-1924	
1925-1928	Harry C. Rice
1929-1931	
1932-1934	Russell J. Rice
1935-1936	Daniel H. Rice
1937-1939	Elsie Hawes Smith
1940-1941	Sturgis C. Rice
1942-1945	
1946-1947	Everett E. Rice
1948-1949	Ralph E. Rice
1950-1951	Ralston F. Rice
1952-1953	John A. Bigelow
1954	Sturgis C. Rice
1955	Charles W. Rice
1956-1957	Edgar W. Rice
1958-1959	Stanley I. Rice
1959-1960	Donald H. Whittemore
1960-1963	Frederick R. Rice
1964-1965	William H. Hoefler
1966-1967	Ray Lawther Ellis
1968	Edgar W. Rice
1969	Erwin R. McLaughlin
1970-1973	Col. Allen F. Rice
1974	Margaret E. Allen
1975	Charles W. Rice
1976	Seaver M. Rice
1977-1978	Henry E. Rice, Jr.
1979-1980	C. Whiting Rice
1981-1982	William H. Drury
1983	Patricia P. MacFarland
1984-1985	Janice R. Parmenter
1986-1987	Margaret S. Rice
1988-1989	Alex W. Snow
1990-1993	John S. Bates
1994	Alex W. Snow
1995-1997	Frederick H. Rice
1998-2006	Dr. Robert V. Rice

## Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

Send your articles, newsletter corrections, member news, your children or grandchildren's births, obituaries, family items of interest and any queries etc. to the newsletter editor:

Susan R. Berger email: [editor@edmund-rice.org](mailto:editor@edmund-rice.org)

### 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.  
Susan R. Berger  
416 Shirley Place  
Valdosta, GA 31605

**Membership Email Address:**

[srberger@bellsouth.net](mailto:srberger@bellsouth.net)

**Address Corrections:**

The Post Office now forwards mail for 12 months if a member has submitted a forwarding address to the post office. The post office also returns the forwarding address to the association for a .65 fee. If a member has no forwarding address or 12 months forwarding has expired the post office returns the mail. Return postage and re-mailing postage costs the Association nearly \$1.50 per copy.

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### EDITOR'S COLUMN

The editor, Susan Berger, apologizes for the lateness of this issue, due to a combination of illness and computer problems. The latest report says that the antibiotics seem to be working, and the recalcitrant computer has been sent off for repairs. With any luck, the next issue will be on time.

Meanwhile, this issue will be posted first on our web site, and the paper copies will be printed and mailed as soon as possible.

- - - Interim substitute editor, John Chandler

### Website

**Edmund Rice (1638) Association**

*info@edmund-rice.org*

**www.edmund-rice.org**

## 2014 - 2015 Officers

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Wendolin E. Wesen, [crwesen@aol.com](mailto:crwesen@aol.com)

Ruth M. Brown, *DIRECTOR EMERITA*

## EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Published Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association  
416 Shirley Place Valdosta, GA 31605-6422

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association 24 Buckman Dr. Chelmsford, MA 01824 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.

## Memorial Gifts

Consider donating to the Edmund Rice Association in memory of a loved one

### ERA Database

Our computer database has been and will continue to be essential for DNA studies for Edmund Rice descendants and the descendants of other early Sudbury families. We need your continuing support. If you have not submitted your family line to us, why wait any longer? Have Questions? Contact our Historian at: [gking5@cox.net](mailto:gking5@cox.net)

### 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 (only). The BoD approved a charge of \$10 plus \$5 shipping and handling postpaid for a CD-ROM containing both documents. Please order from the Treasurer by sending a request for the CD-ROM, your name and mailing address and a check or money order for \$15 to:

Michael Rice  
201 Old Post Rd  
Wakefield, RI 02879-3908

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 through September 2014. If you find any documentable errors, please let us know!

### Edmund Rice (1638) Association Annual Meeting Old Sturbridge Village Sept. 20, 2014

About 30 members of the Association gathered at 9:00 AM at the Fuller Conference Center at Old Sturbridge Village to renew old acquaintances, meet new faces, compare notes, and, in some cases, buy books for the home library. At 10:00, President John Chandler opened the structured part of the morning session by welcoming everyone to the meeting and introducing the first speaker, Mike Rice, who gave a presentation on Edmund Rice and the first century of the Association. He was followed by George King, who gave a presentation on using Familysearch.org for online research. Then Mike Rice gave another presentation, about the architect Arthur Wallace Rice, who designed the monuments erected by the Association a century ago. Finally, John Chandler gave a presentation of demographic statistics drawn from the ERA database.

At noon, the members gathered at the front of the room for a group photo and then broke for lunch. After lunch, Ruth Watterson, a PhD candidate at Harvard University, gave an interesting talk about Quakers in Colonial New England, relating various streams of religious controversy in both old and New England.

The formal meeting was called to order around 2:30 by President John Chandler.

John thanked George Rice for setting up the reunion.



### 2014 Reunion Attendees

Oldest member: Bertyne Rice Smith  
 Youngest member: Brian Charles Rice  
 Farthest travel: George W King

Treasurer's Report given by Michael Rice:

INCOME (Dues, gifts, interest, meetings, membership, publications)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,221.13
EXPENSES (Board meeting, newsletter, reunion)	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,250.86
NET FOR THE YEAR	\$ -29.73

Membership Report given on behalf of Susan Berger

Total Members	356
Annual Members	208
Life Members	148

Deceased members since last reunion (Beatrice Fitts; Arthur Delbert Rice; Cuma Schofield; Thomas Walker; and Marian Wolfe)

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate:

John Chandler	President
George Rice	Vice President
Michael Rice	Treasurer/Book Custodian
Kathleen Bond	Recording Secretary
George King	Historian
Susan Berger	Director
William Drury	Director
Dale Gunn	Director
Beth McAler	Director
Brian Rice	Director
Timothy Sanford	Director
Daphne Stevens	Director
Wendolin Wesen	Director

William Rice from Rensselaerville, New York, was nominated from the floor.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to add him to the slate proposed by the nominating committee.so voted

Database Report given by George King:

Number of persons in database: 202554

Database Report given by John Chandler:

Number of persons in database 217384

DNA Project Report given by John Chandler:

Y DNA

406 Members

MT DNA

19 members

2015 Reunion Report: Wayside Inn; September 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

A suggestion from the floor was made to visit Plimoth Plantation at some future reunion.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Wendy Crizer	Kathleen J Farrell	Mary Chapman Cole
Elaine Marie Dell	Debra Ann Mackey	William McNeil III
Edward L Bellamy Jr	Thomas W Rice	Beth Perry
Michael Rice Dalton	John Raymond Rice	William R Drury
Mary Shaw	Richard C Cochrane	Lisa Smith
Christine King	William Wheeler	Stephen Knowlton
Franklin D King	Frederick Rice Joslin	Scott Rice
Martha E Wittenberg	Heather Kaye	Susan Kuzmak
Bonnie N Johnson	Patrick Curran	Carol St. John
Kathleen Farrell	Clive Moon	

## **NEW LIFE MEMBER**

Robert W McLaughlin

**IN MEMORY** - Please join me in saying a final goodbye to the following cousins; they will be missed by family and the association.

Arthur Delbert Rice Jr. (born January 1928) passed away in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines, May 8, 2014.

Mary Soliday passed away August 8, 2014.

Mr. Thomas Walker, 75, of Kenai, Alaska passed away at home on Monday September 23, 2013.

Marian Grace Wolfe, 84, of Coldwater, Michigan passed away at home on Sunday February 2, 2014.

**IN CELEBRATION** - Join me in sending special birthday wishes to the following cousins:

Dorothy Marsh of Sturbridge, MA 102 yrs. young  
Dorothy Rice Miller of Panorama City, CA 99 yrs. young  
Grace B Horne and Marian Wheeler both 97 yrs. young

**“HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU” – “HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR COUSINS”  
WE HOPE YOU HAVE MANY MORE**

## **October**

**Rebecca Craven** of Paoli, PA; **Rolland Rice Jr** of Concord, CA; **Jesse H Rice** of Gilmer, TX; **Ruth Ryser** of Sarasota, FL; **Bertyne R Smith** of Barre, ME; **John B Davidson** of Lunenburg County, NS, CANADA; **Leta Olsen** of Pampa, TX; **Maribeth Rice DelGiudice** of East Greenwich, RI; **Robin Pewtress** of Boise, ID; **Vicki Kaufmann** of Wilton, IA; **Rev. Stephen Petrie** of Montreal, QC, CANADA; **Dorel Kump** of Idaho Falls, ID; **Bonnie Wiley** of Cambridge, IL; **James Tyler** of Dewey Beach, DE; **Joella Grosser Schultz** of Tucson, AZ; **William S King** of Boston, MA; **Keith Allen** of Tulsa, OK; **Louise Rice** of Vallejo, CA; **Norman Cooper** of Canyon Lake, TX; **Bruce Coutu** of Miami, FL; **Gregory Rice Sr.** of Eugene, OR; **Dorothy Marsh** of Southbridge, MA; **Pat Hansen** of Castro Valley, CA; **Betty Fairchild** of Atlantic Bch, FL; **Sheree Brown** of Hamden, CT; **Bernadine Rice Cascarano** of Lake Forest, IL; **Geneva Garrett** of Santa Anna, TX; **Dennis H. Rice** of East Douglas, MA; **Mary Sullivan** of St. Catherines, ON, CANADA; **Barbara Bodeen** of Yamill, OR; **William Rice** of Parkville, MO; **Rita O’Connell** of Duxbury, MA; **Jeffrey M Rice** of Wayland, MA; **Lucille Casby** of Springdale, AR; **Carol Kosicki** of Holliston, MA; **Dan S Rice** of Ames, IA; **Michele Rice** of Lincoln, NE; **Eleanor Lockington** of Norfolk, VA; **Katherine Truesdell** of Twenty-Nine Palms, CA; **Nancy Janisz** of Oviedo, FL.

## **November**

**Jeanette Ockunzzi** of Niceville, FL; **Yaqirah Rice**, Jackson, MI; **Ariel Rice** of Jackson, MI; **Samuel Rice** of Jackson, MI; **Galt Grant** of Cohasset, MA; **Dale C Gunn** of Hudson, MA; **Dr. Kathryn Brown** of Cedar Rapids, IA; **Frances Rice** of Princeton, MA; **David W Rice Jr** of Livermore, CA; **Henry Snyder** of Kensington, CA; **Edmund C Rice** of Wayland, MA; **Jean Danielson** of Holden, MA; **Daniel M. Rice** of Crown Point, NY; **Armine Cooper** of Becket, MA; **Phillip D Rice** of Ashville, NC; **Elizabeth Alcorn** of Worcester, MA; **Creighton Nichols** of Framingham, MA; **Laurel Rice** of Windsor, CA; **Linda Bryant** of Winter Park, FL; **Brian K Maynard** of Wakefield, RI; **Rowena Huber** of Horseshoe Bay, TX; **James R. Rice Jr.**, of Concord, NH; **Betty Adams** of Stayton, OR; **Warren Lysne** of Monument, CO; **Anna LaChance** of Fort Smith, AR; **Roger A Rice** of Holden, MA; **Anna LaChance** of Ft. Smith, AR; **Kristina Stewart** of St. Catherine ON, CANADA; **Cheri Heeren** of Sedalia, MO;

**Russell Belcher** of Merrimack, NH; **William Mills** of Bartlesville, OK; **Elizabeth Johnson** of Delran, NJ; **Laurena McDermott** of Burlington, MA; **Michelle Baldwin** of New Carrollton, MD; **Donna Murphy** of The Villages, FL; **Sandra Hewlett** of Phoenixville, PA; **Lewis Olson** of Port Allen, LA; **James P. Rice Jr.** of Westport, NY; **Balis Dailey** of Schertz, TX; **John A. Parker, MD** of Newton, MA; **Charlene Keith** of Keene, NH; **Melinda Crawford** of Moscow, ID; **Rene Dart** of Appleton, WI; **Dennis Griffith** of Post Falls, ID; **Stephen Hollands** of Takoma Park, MD; **Helen G. Brinton** of Centereach, NY; **Elizabeth Rice-Smith** of Rockport, MA; **William Miller** of Norman, OK; **Amanda Haynes** of Amarillo, TX; **William Deming** of Shelburne, VT; **Jennifer Edwards** of Lillian, AL; **William Deming** of Shelburne, VT; **Sheri Gaines** of Coeur D'Alene, ID; **Heather McPherson** of Indianapolis, IN; **Wesley Rice** of Poulsbo, WA.

## December

**Doyle Rice** of Jackson, MI; **Jean Drury Groves** of Falls Church, VA; **Norman Mills** of Fjerdingby, NORWAY; **Ann O'Rourke** of Pukalani, HI; **Betty Wauer** of Bryan, TX; **Martha Frazel** of Stow, MA; **Benjamin Rice** of Keene, NH; **Lucile Rice** of Rochester, NY; **Robert W Rice** of East Moriches, NY; **Dr. Philip R. Loe** of Seattle, WA; **Julia McClure** of Port Townsend, WA; **Nancy R Powling** of South Newfane, VT; **Helen M Bell** of Freemont, MI; **Donald C Rice** of New York, NY; **Gerald M Rice** of Grand Rapids, MI; **Julie Ann Rice-Rollins** of Oklahoma City, OK; **Keith Reeves** of Arlington, VA; **Donna Barnes** of Ortonville, MI; **Betty Fredericks Pacheco** of Chelmsford, MA; **Barbara O'Neill** of Fultonville, NY; **Daniel Hingley** of Dawson Creek, BC, CANADA; **Donna Holloway** of Anderson, MO; **Richard Cameron** of London, ON, CANADA; **Virginia L Rice** of Broomall, PA; **Nancy Seibert** of Sun City West, AR; **Paul Piatkowski** of York, PA; **Dan H Rice** of Midland, MI; **Jacqueline Rice** of Lakeville, CT; **Thomas B. Rice** of Burien, WA; **Marilyn Skinner** of Brea, CA; **Martha Wood** of Lexington, MA; **Brian C Rice** of New York, NY; **Susan Rice-Ridgeway** of LaJolla, CA; **Warren Mahoney** of Auburn, WA.

## Another Item to Celebrate

by John Chandler

Work continues on the ERA database. I have just sent off to George King another batch of database updates containing more than 6,000 persons, mostly new persons to be added, but also including some 500 persons with changes or additions. These updates, more and more, are coming from documentation available on the Web, although trips to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, and so on are still needed from time to time. Computers (and the Web) have radically changed the face of genealogy. The only thing that computers don't do well is make subjective judgments. In the context of database updates, the computer shortcoming mainly affects the process of combining the information from the updates with what is already in the database. In short, the 500-or-so persons I mentioned with changes/additions must be laboriously compared and merged by hand by the database manager (George).

Meanwhile, Dennis Rice, former ERA Historian, has resumed his project of entering data from the published Rice books. He is currently working on *A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants*, published in 1970 and still only partly entered into the database. A year or so ago, I did a survey of all source references to this book in the database and found that 147 of the total 1,338 pages have no references at all. Moreover, many pages are undoubtedly referenced, but not fully entered. Dennis is facing a big task.





**EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Susan R. Berger  
ERA Membership Chair  
416 Shirley Place  
Valdosta, GA 31605-6422  
srberger@bellsouth.net

Cousins,

The dues year is September 1st to September 1st each year. Dues rates are per person; there is no discount for a spouse or children. The Board of Directors voted to insert the "Additional Voluntary Contribution" line in an attempt to offset the erosion of our treasury due to the current low interest rates. Additional contributions are appreciated.

Annual dues are payable by September 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$ _____
Additional voluntary contribution	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

The schedule of dues is as follows:

Under age 80	15.00
Age 80 and above	5.00
Life membership (in a single payment)	200.00

**Membership Type: New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Info Update \_\_\_**  
**Preferred Newsletter Delivery Method: Paper via US Mail \_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_**

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Added to ERA database for identification (kept confidential) and Birthday Wishes*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Due to duplicate first & last names: Please include First, Middle, "Maiden" Last, Suffix*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town/Province \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country (if not USA) \_\_\_\_\_

You may complete & submit this form via our website [www.edmund-rice.org](http://www.edmund-rice.org) and pay your annual dues via PAYPAL. Both websites notify me of your submission.

**-OR-**

Check or Money Order made payable to Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc., and sent with this form to:

**Susan Berger**  
**416 Shirley Place**  
**Valdosta, GA 31605-6422**

## Rice Books Available

**The Rice Family**, by Andrew Henshaw Ward [**\$5**] 110 pages

Hard-cover reprint. New, unused. A genealogical history of descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice who came from Berkhamstead, England, and settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts, in 1638. 379 pages. Includes a soft-cover supplement (1967) containing additions and corrections.

**The Rice Family, Supplement 2 (Part 1)** [**\$7**] 224 pages

Supplement Number 2 (Part 1) to *The Rice Family*, compiled by Margaret S. Rice (1983). Hard-cover reprint. New, unused. Additional lines of descent through the first eight generations, which were unknown at the time of publication of *The Rice Family* and the 1967 supplement.

**The Rice Family, Supplement 2 (Part 2)** [**\$8**] 720 pages

Supplement Number 2 (Part 1) to *The Rice Family*, compiled by Margaret S. Rice (1985). Hard-cover reprint. New, unused. A continuation of *The Rice Family Supplement 2 (Part 1)* from the ninth generation to the present (1985).

**Edmund Rice and His Family and We Sought the Wilderness** [**\$5**] 357 pages

Two manuscripts in one binding. Hard-cover reprint. 1986. New, unused.

*Edmund Rice and His Family*, by Elsie Hawes Smith (1938) An historical narrative about the early days of the Rices. Contains much genealogical information, as well as being a charming story.

*We Sought the Wilderness*, by Rev. Clayton Rice (1949) An historical narrative based on those Rices who pushed Westward to the prairies after short stays in New Hampshire and Vermont.

**A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants** [**\$15**] 1594 pages, published by the association in 1970. A continuation of A.H. Ward's *Rice Family* (1858) and the supplement to that book, bring it up to date at the time of publication. *This book is out of print but is available for purchase on CD - Association members only.*

Mail your check/money order made payable to: Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. to:

**Michael A. Rice**  
201 Old Post Rd  
Wakefield, RI 02879-3908

## More Books... by our cousins

**Mildred L. Henschel** is the author of **Lickiss Families and English Ancestors** consists of 292 pages and is spiral-bound with laminated covers. It consists of 3 parts: the first is English Ancestors, which includes Rice, Towne, Ball, Boland, Bullard, Mellen, Southworth, Whale, French, Fox, Frost, Moore, and Hancock. The second part starts with Hancock-- Sarah Jane who married the first John Lickiss to come to America and their descendants. The 3rd part consists of other Lickiss families, and includes a Table of Contents and Index. Price is \$45, postage and handling included. Mailing address is: 835 Valentine Dr., Dubuque, IA. 52003-0211

**Timothy L. Sanford** - Searching for the Forgotten War – 1812, Canada and Searching for the Forgotten War - 1812, United States of America. These two volumes provide valuable information to those interested in the War of 1812 and those who wish to learn about the people, places, and the battles fought between North American neighbors in the early nineteenth century.

**Both books are available on Amazon.com**

**Jane Rice** – Bob Fogg and New Hampshire's Golden Age of Aviation, consists of 220 pages. The book tells the story in words and numerous pictures of Robert S. Fogg, the pioneer who brought aviation to New Hampshire, beginning in 1920. Thomas Emerson Proctor Rice, the author's grandfather, flew in France during World War I and from 1936 to 1938 was a partner in Fogg's Winnepesaukee Air Service. Those interested in aviation history, or the history of Lake Winnepesaukee, N.H. will enjoy the book. Jane would be glad to personalize with any desired inscription. Jane Rice can be reached at PO Box 5, Moultonborough, NH 03254. **Price is \$19.95. The book is available on Amazon.**

## The Mercy Brigham Rice Chest ca1500-1550

By Michael A. Rice

Shortly after the 1654 death of his first wife Tamazine (Frost) Rice, Edmund Rice was remarried to the widow Mercy (?Hurd) Brigham of Cambridge on 1 March 1655 in Sudbury.<sup>i</sup> Mercy's first husband Thomas Brigham (1603-1653) arrived in New Towne (Cambridge) aboard the *Susan and Ellen*, captained by Edward Payne, which departed London in mid-May 1635.<sup>ii</sup> Mercy herself is not listed among any of the available passenger lists. She is simply identified as "Mercie widow of Thomas Brigham of Cambridge" by Ward in 1858 based upon the record of her marriage to Edmund.<sup>iii</sup> But Ward added, "Tradition says *her* family name was Hunt."<sup>iv</sup> Mercy spent about 2/5 of her life under the name "Hunt" by virtue of her third marriage, bringing the clear implication that the supposed "family tradition" of her maiden name was nothing but a reflection of her longest-lasting name, and the name she was known by during virtually all of the adult lives of all of her children. Her marriage to Thomas Brigham was estimated to be in 1637 in Cambridge and her maiden name was reported to be Hurd in the 1907 *History of the Brigham Family*.<sup>v</sup> However, these vital data about Mercy remain uncertain as neither her birth records nor marriage records that might have listed her parents have ever been found, thus she is listed with no known maiden surname in the current ERA database.

In the collections of the Worcester Historical Museum is a small chest or bible box donated to the museum in 1910 by Edmund Rice descendant Thomas Brigham Rice (1817-1914), who reported to members of the Worcester Society of Antiquity that the chest had been passed down through his family from Mercy Brigham Rice until he had received it from his parents (Figure 1). The chest was accepted by the Society and placed among their collections because Thomas Brigham Rice was known to be a direct descendant of Jonas Rice (1672-1753) a grandson of Edmund who is recognized as the first Anglo-American settler in Worcester.<sup>vi</sup> The 1910 Museum report of the donation of the chest is as follows:

There is another relic recently donated to the Society too important to be omitted at this time. It is Mercy Hurd's hat box. That chest, made of English oak with its carved front, brought from England by Miss Hurd in the ship *Susan and Ellen* in the year 1635, furnishes a link that binds the present with the coming of the Puritans to America. This girl of sixteen years came with the followers of that divine, Thomas Shepard, who organized his flock of Puritans under a church government at Cambridge and became their pastor. Two years later, Mercy Hurd was married to Thomas Brigham, a man of some years her senior, who accompanied her in the ship across the sea, and about 1638 lived in Cambridge at the easterly corner of Brattle and Ash streets...Mr. Brigham was constable 1639 and 1642, selectman 1640-1647, and died December 8, 1653. The widow, Mercy, married March 1655-6, Edmund Rice, Senior, of Sudbury, and settled in Marlboro, where Mr. Rice died in May 1663...After the death of Mr. Rice, Mercy married William Hunt, of Concord, whom she survived, and died in Marlboro December 22, 1693. This precious relic has been handed down through the various generations of Brighams and Rices to Thomas Brigham Rice, of the seventh generation, who presented it to this Society, that it might be preserved from time to come, that the Brighams and Rices might have opportunity to view it.<sup>vii</sup>



**Figure 1.** Carved chest, England, 1500-1550. A small carved chest of English oak reported to be brought to Massachusetts Bay Colony by Mercy, wife of Thomas Brigham of Cambridge. The chest measures 62cm long x 25cm wide x 28cm height. It is in the collections of the Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts. Photo by M.A. Rice.

This donation report of the Mercy Brigham Rice chest with details from the donor Thomas Brigham Rice states the maiden name of Mercy to be “Hurd” and she traveled to America aboard the *Susan and Ellen* along with Thomas Brigham. However, as previously noted, she is not found in the transcribed passenger list of that vessel. The report also mentioned that she was traveling with Rev. Thomas Shepard (1605-1649) of Cambridge, a devout Puritan. Thomas Shepard is not found on the passenger list of the *Susan and Ellen*, but a Shepard family from Cambridge with a child Thomas is listed in the passenger manifest of the *Defence*, captained by Mr. Edmond Bostocke.<sup>viii</sup> According to his own journal, Rev. Thomas Shepard was indeed on the *Defence* with his family and kin, but under an assumed name.<sup>ix</sup> This is primarily due to his staunch Puritan leanings and requirements in place from 1634 to 1637 by Archbishop William Laud and the Crown for all immigrants to swear an oath of conformity to the Anglican Church prior to their departure.<sup>x</sup> The *Defence* sailed from Gravesend, England for Boston and New Towne (Cambridge), Massachusetts on 10 August 1635, or about three months after the *Susan and Ellen*.<sup>xi</sup> Unfortunately Mercy Hurd cannot be found in the detailed passenger manifest of the *Defence*. She may have traveled likewise under an assumed name for the same reason, but that would conclusion be highly speculative. So her maiden name still remains a mystery due to lack of any primary documentation from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

The chest was already an antique when Mercy brought it to America, probably packed with some of her belongings from England. And it is been subsequently recognized by art historians as the earliest known piece of furniture with a New England history. The main body of the chest is constructed of English oak and carved in the equilateral arch shape of Gothic church windows with flamboyant tracery that is characteristic of similar furniture from the pre-Elizabethan Tudor period of England between the years 1500 and 1550. Similar boxes have been used in ecclesiastical practice in England for storage of bibles. The wood grain lid of the chest also of oak does not completely match the oak of the main body of the chest, suggesting that it was a replacement. Yet the lid too is of pre-18<sup>th</sup> Century origin. The chest has a small wrought

iron latch characteristic of a 16<sup>th</sup> Century design that allows for secure closure (Figure 2). The trefoil design within the carved Gothic arch symbolic of the divine trinity in Catholic or High Church Anglican traditions would have been a very unusual item in Puritan America.



**Figure 2.** *Illuminated detail of a two-piece wrought iron latching mechanism and flamboyant tracery carving of the Mercy Brigham Rice chest. The wood grain of the lid and main body of the chest are visible with a finer oak grain in the wood on the main body than is found in the lid. Chisel marks into the main body of the chest even with the lid suggest the latching mechanism was installed at the same time as the replacement lid. Detail of the tracery pattern in trefoil design within the Gothic arch is visible at the lower right of the image. Photo by M.A. Rice.*

The chest is likely to have been brought by Mercy into her marriage to Edmund Rice in 1655 and it is presumed listed in the household inventory of Thomas Brigham in the probate records of Middlesex County proved on 3 Oct 1654 with Mercy Brigham acting as executrix as “It[em] one parcell of ould with one bible and a greater bible” valued at one pound.<sup>xii</sup> Notably, this is the only item in the Thomas Brigham inventory listed as being explicitly recognized as “of ould” (of old). The chest may have been brought to the 1655 marriage with Edmund, but it was not as clearly listed in his household inventory of May 1663 in which Mercy also served as executrix of the estate in probate.<sup>xiii</sup> Mercy Brigham Rice went on to marry William Hunt of Marlborough in October or November of 1664,<sup>xiv</sup> and the chest may have also been brought by Mercy into that marriage as well, but Mercy survived William Hunt, as he died only three years later in Marlborough.

Based on the fact that Mercy Brigham Rice Hunt survived all three of her husbands before dying in Marlborough on 22 December 1693, it was deduced that the chest was more likely to have been passed through the Brigham family to Nancy Brigham (1789-1873), the mother of Thomas Brigham Rice, rather than through his Rice family line. Mercy’s only two children with Edmund were daughters, and it would be unlikely that the chest would have gone to Edmund’s son Thomas who died twelve years before Mercy. Nancy Brigham was a descendant of Mercy and Thomas Brigham, so the chest is most likely to have passed directly to Nancy through the male Brigham line from Samuel Brigham (1652-1713) who probably acquired the chest upon Mercy’s death.<sup>xv</sup> It is not likely that the chest passed directly to Samuel Brigham at the time of his father’s death in 1653 because he would have been less than two years old at the time.

The Mercy Brigham Rice Chest is on permanent display in the main gallery of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm St., Worcester, Massachusetts. Also on display in the same gallery is the original gravestone of Jonas Rice (1672-1753), Edmund's grandson and founder of Worcester.

### *Acknowledgement*

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<sup>i</sup> p. 620 In: Torrey, C. A. and E. P. Bentley. (1985). *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, and Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore. 1009 pp. ISBN 0-8063-1109-9

<sup>ii</sup> Transcription of the passenger list of the *Susan and Ellin* Voyage of 1635, The Winthrop Society.

<sup>iii</sup> p. 2 In: Ward, A.H. (1858). *A Genealogical History of the Rice Family: Descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice*, Boston: C. Benjamin Richardson, Publisher. 379pp.

<sup>iv</sup> p. 3 In: Ward, A.H. (1858).

<sup>v</sup> p. 33 In: Brigham, W.I.T., E.E. Brigham, and W.E. Brigham (1907). *The History of the Brigham family; a Record of Several Thousand Descendants of Thomas Brigham the Emigrant, 1603-1653*. The Grafton Press, New York. 810pp.

<sup>vi</sup> The descendency of Thomas Brigham Rice from Edmund as listed in the ERA database is as follows: Edmund Rice (ca1594-1663) > Thomas Rice (1626-1681) > Jonas Rice (1672-1753) > Jonas Rice, Jr. (1707-1793) > Thomas Rice (1741-1822) > Francis Rice (1782- after 1870) > Thomas Brigham Rice (1817-1914).

<sup>vii</sup> pp. 308-309. In: Librarians Report for the Year 1910, Proceedings of the Sixty-Third Meeting December 6, 1910, *Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity for the Years 1909-1910. Volume XXV*. Published by The Society, Worcester, MA, 1912.

<sup>viii</sup> Transcription of the passenger list of the *Defence* Voyage of 1635, The Winthrop Society.

<sup>ix</sup> pp. 57-60. In: Shepard, Thomas. (1972) *God's Plot: The Paradoxes of Puritan Piety, Being the Autobiography and Journal of Thomas Shepard*, edited with introduction by Michael McGiffert, University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.

<sup>x</sup> pp. 130-143. Promiscuous and disorderly departing out of the realm: the control of emigration. In: Cressy, David. (1987). *Coming Over: Migration and Communication between England and New England in the Seventeenth Century*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. ISBN 0-521-33850-6

<sup>xi</sup> p. 152. In: Cressy, D. (1987).

<sup>xii</sup> Inventory of the Estate of Thomas Brigham. p. 45 In: Brigham, W.I.T., E.E. Brigham, and W.E. Brigham (1907). *The History of the Brigham family; a Record of Several Thousand Descendants of Thomas Brigham the Emigrant, 1603-1653*. The Grafton Press, New York. 810pp.

<sup>xiii</sup> Edmund Rice Probate records (1663), Probate File Index #18696, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

<sup>xiv</sup> p. 404 In: Torrey, C. A. and E. P. Bentley. (1985).

<sup>xv</sup> Based upon genealogical records of the Brigham Family, the descendency of Thomas Brigham Rice from Thomas and Mercy Brigham is as follows: Mercy (?) Brigham (1618-1693) > Samuel Brigham (1652-1713) > Samuel Brigham, Jr. (1689 - ?) > Uriah Brigham (1727-1782) > Henry Brigham (1757-1829) > Nancy Brigham (1789-1873) > Thomas Brigham Rice (1817-1914).