



# Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

50 Ivy Meadow Spur Blairsville, GA 30512 Vol. 90, No.1 Winter 2016

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 genealogical information, newsletter corrections, items of interest, family articles and pictures, obituaries and queries. Send them to the newsletter editor: Susan Berger at [editor@edmund-rice.org](mailto:editor@edmund-rice.org)

## President's Column

Greetings, cousins!

Or should I say, "Top of the morning to you"? I'm writing this column on Saint Patrick's Day, the last holiday of winter, and I guess that's relevant because I've noticed in a lot of the US census entries I've looked up recently that either the spouse of an Edmund Rice descendant or a parent of the spouse lists Ireland as the birthplace. Then again, I've noticed that in 1930 there was a tendency to write "Irish Free State" anachronistically as the birthplace of persons who were born (and indeed emigrated) long before there was such a place. I suppose that's really just an abbreviated form of "the part of Ireland that now is the Irish Free State" and, as such, could be useful to genealogists trying to trace ancestors back to specific locations in Ireland. Still, it contrasts strangely with the common problem of late-19th-century entries where a birthplace is said to be "Virginia" when the place is actually what became West Virginia during the Civil War.

In any case, that brings me to the topic I wanted to address here, namely, the good news (and the bad news) about the US census. The good news is that all of the publicly released every-name censuses are now available as digitized images on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), and not just available, but also more-or-less completely indexed. (I hope everyone knows what I mean by an every-name census, but I'll explain just in case -- from 1790 to 1840 only the head of each household was listed in the census, along with head counts by age group, but from 1850 onward everyone was listed separately by name with an individual age and birthplace.) For long while, [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) offered only the 1850, 1870, and 1900 censuses in full (and then more recently 1940), but now the others are freely available as well, even the surviving fragment of the 1890 census.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the display mechanism appears to be complex and fragile, such that the digitized census images sometimes download into some kind of limbo, where they register as incomplete and not ready to display and remain so "forever". This fragility is variable over time and from one computer to another. I'm hoping the problem will be fixed the next time the web server software is updated, but, as of now, one of the computers I often use can only display 1870 and 1940. (Note that I haven't had any trouble with images other than the census, and that's just as puzzling as the problem itself.)

Hope to see you at the reunion this fall!

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
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1969	Erwin R. McLaughlin
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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 Payable to:** EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSN., INC.

#### Membership Mailing Address:

Susan R. Berger  
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Blairsville, GA 30512

#### Membership Email Address:

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#### 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 .75 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 \$1.75 per copy.

*Your help with this is greatly appreciated.*

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### EDITOR'S COLUMN

I must apologize for getting this edition out so late but unforeseen circumstances (our house flooding and loss of internet service for a time) prevented me from getting it created and processed on time.

All is well now and I'm getting back on schedule. I will be mailing out the spring newsletter issue very soon after you receive this one.

I'm so very sorry!!

Susan Berger

### Website

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*DIRECTOR EMERITA*

### EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Published Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association  
50 Ivy Meadow Spur Blairsville, GA 30512

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The Edmund Rice (1638) Association 183 Prospect Hill Rd Harvard, MA 01451 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

**IN MEMORY** Please join me in saying a final goodbye to: Stanley Everett Rice son of Christine Stevens and Henry Ellsworth Rice Jr., brother of ERA member JoAnne Rice of Calgary Canada. Stanley died on in Florida November 3, 1993.

**LOST MEMBERS** Several of the newsletters have been returned as undeliverable for the following members Dudley Titus, Carol B. Pobst and Phoebe Ann Glaze. If you know them please ask them to contact me with their new address and phone number.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Jacquelyn Ruiz                  Susan Woodford                  Marcia Sanford                  Christopher S Proctor  
Julie A Proctor                  Suzanne Swanson                  John Van Hoose                  Donald S. & Carol J. Nelson

### **NEW LIFE MEMBER**

Mildred T. Rice

### **MEMBERS MAKING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Ellen M. Blanchard                  Dorothy J. Wells                  Stephen Bergstrom                  Donald Stewart Nelson

### **IN CELEBRATION**

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

### **January**

**Laura Anders** of Fulton, IL; **Doris Austin** of Aurora, IN; **Stephen Bergstrom** of Fairfax, VA; **Kathleen Bond** of N Stonington, CT; **Nancy Boulter** of Berea, OH; **Emily Donovan** of Lexington, MA; **Geraldine Foty** of Brookfield, MA; **Stanley Heisler** of Ridgefield, CT; **Sandra Hyden** of Arlington, TX; **Wallace King** of Beaverton, OR; **Stephen Knowlton** of Province Fair Haven, NJ; **Delores Mandeville** of Broken bow, NE; **Lynn McLaughlin** of South Hadley, MA; **Bob McLaughlin** of St. Louis, MO; **William McNeil III** of; **Lois Morlock** of Hastings, MN; **Nancy Murphy** of E Hampstead, NH; **Herbert Rice** of Lowell, MI; **James P Rice** of Pekin, IL; **Richard E Rice** of Fountain Valley, CA; **Robert M Rice** of East Moriches, NY; **Robert T Rice** of Florence, MA; **William S Rice** of Rensselaerville, NY; **Becky Rice-Leanna** of Elk River MN; **Michael D Willer** of; **Amy Hall** of Framingham, MA.

## February

**David Alcorn** of Worcester, MA; **Peter Andrew Bundgard** of Washington, MS; **Mary Ann Carney** of Wilbraham, MA; **Mary Cole** of Seattle, WA; **Anne DiBuono** of Hubbardston, MA; **William R Drury** of Virginia Beach, VA; **Stephen Frazel** of Stow, MA; **James Fullerton** of Bonita Springs, FL; **Christine Graham** of Provo, UT; **Pamela Harrison** of Chicago, IL; **Bonnie Johnson** of Mebane, NC; **Fred Joslin** of Glastonbury, CT; **William H Paeth** of Cedar Rapids, IA; **Lawrence F Peters** of York Harbor, ME; **Charles V Peterson** of Savage, MN; **George L Rice Jr** of Wayland, MA; **John W Rice III** of Bend, OR; **R Craig Rice** of Waterman, IL; **Karen Roop** of Concord, MA; **Joan E Schacht** of St. Louis, MO; **David LG Smith** of Dartmouth, CANADA; **David Staublin** of Rockford, MI; **S Craig Tally** of Joplin, MO; **Helen Taylor** of Glassboro, NJ; **Janice Vanlysel** of Madison, WI; **Wendolin Wesen** of Gross Point Woods, MI; **Andrea Wetzstein** of Laughlin, NV **Elizabeth Reid** of New York , NY; **Carol Nelson** of Williamsburg, VA.

## March

**Peggy Brown** of Maynard, MA; **Michael Dalton** of San Antonio, TX; **Colin Fairn** of Ontario, CANADA; **Alison Goeller** St. Hilaire, D'Ozilhan; **Beatrice Hites** of Douglasville, GA; **Lorraine Jacobs** of East Hartford, CT; **Col George W King** of Williamsburg, VA; **Martha McLaughlin** of St. Louis, MO; **Hope Pobst** of Barre, MA; **Marilyn J Powers** of Wilbraham, MA; **Barbara J Rice** of Florissant, MO; **Douglas J Rice** of Rochester, NY; **Michael A Rice** of Wakefield, RI; **Stephen J Rice** of Philadelphia, PA; **William J Rice Sr** of Johnson City, IL; **William S Rice** of Ormond Beach, FL; **Christine M Rios** of Murrieta, CA; **Stephen Seiple** of Hilliard, OH; **Patricia Stithem** of Clinton, AR; **Kathryn Ripke** of Minneapolis, MN; **Susan Kuzmak** of Alberta, CANADA; **Diana Hageboeck** of Wayzata, MN.

## 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 2015. If you find any documentable errors, please let us know!

## When did Edmund Rice Arrive in America?

By Michael A. Rice

We've long assumed that Edmund Rice and his family arrived in Massachusetts Bay Colony sometime during the year of 1638. Indeed, the name of our Association proudly proclaims the year of 1638 for Edmund's arrival, as do both the Edmund Rice home site and cemetery markers erected over a century ago by the ERA. But just how do we know this to be true given that no mention of Edmund or any of his direct family members has ever been found among the passenger manifests of any of the immigrant ships crossing the Atlantic during the period of the Great Puritan Migration (1621-1640)? The answer lies partly in civil and religious records that do exist in England and in Massachusetts, and partly with the circumstances of these records when they *do* appear.

The first published information about Edmund's arrival in America can be found in Ward's 1858 genealogy of the Rice family in which he stated that, "Edmund Rice came from Barkhamsted (sic), in the county of Hertfordshire, in England, and settled in Sudbury, Mass., in 1638 or 9..."<sup>1</sup> This statement originated from Ward's direct reliance upon the last record of Edmund being in England, which is the 13 March 1637/38, baptism of his son Joseph at St. Peter's Church in Berkhamsted<sup>2</sup> and his first appearance in the records of Massachusetts, which is a notation in the Township Book of Sudbury prior to 4 April 1639 in which he was already serving as a selectman and surveyor<sup>3</sup>. So, Ward was quite faithful in his reading of the actual available records and he reported the migration date to be sometime within the 13 month window between the dates in the two records.

Historian Sumner Chilton Powell in his 1964 Pulitzer Prize winning *Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town* made the statement, "When the Goodnows, the Noyeses, and the Rices landed in Watertown about 1637-1638, they found, indeed, a 'select society,' and a vigorous spirit of dissent."<sup>4</sup> This is a curiously specific statement about the time and place of the Rice family arrival given the lack of any specific travel records. Throughout his book by using a vast number of public documents from Sudbury showed that the Goodnow, Noyes and Rice families were extremely close in their political alliances and interpersonal connections. Undoubtedly, Powell was speculating that the political alliances of these three families that were so prominent in Sudbury predated their residence back to Watertown where both Peter Noyes and the Goodnows were known to reside. However, the 6 September 1638 Petition to form Sudbury named Watertown residents Brian Pendleton, Peter Noyes, and Rev. Edmund Brown, but other unnamed petitioners were included as "and Company" in the petition, so Edmund Rice *may* have participated.<sup>5</sup>

Based upon Powell's assumption that Edmund Rice and the other prominent Sudbury founding families resided in Watertown former ERA Historian Corinne McLaughlin Snow expanded upon the idea of Edmund Rice's alliance with the Noyeses and the Goodnows by providing a speculative account of the Rice family's departure from Southampton Harbor and their voyage to Watertown aboard the *Confidence*, a ship of 200 tons that sailed from Southampton in early Spring of 1638<sup>6</sup> captained by John Jobson that arrived in Boston on 24 April 1638.<sup>7</sup> Many of these Watertown residents who were original founders of Sudbury, including Peter Noyes, Thomas Goodnow, Edmund Goodnow, John Goodnow, Walter Haine, and John Bent, can be found in the passenger manifest of the *Confidence*. However, as previously noted, none of the Rice family can be found anywhere on this ship's manifest. The Rices may have been on the ship with assumed names as has been documented to happen to prominent Puritans seeking anonymity, but this is not very likely.<sup>8</sup>

The fact that the *Confidence* arrived in Boston on 24 April 1638 a mere 42 days after the baptism of Joseph Rice in Berkhamsted further calls into question the likelihood of Edmund and

his family being on board as the time period of travel would have been unusually short. According to David Cressy's analysis of 44 ships logs, the passage from England to America took a considerable amount of time.<sup>9</sup>

No one could say how long the voyage would take. Everything depended upon the unpredictable Atlantic weather and the success of the ship and crew in contending with it. Five-week passages were recorded, but such speedy crossings were remarkable. Eight to twelve weeks were more usual, with average passage taking ten and a half weeks.<sup>10</sup>

Additional travel time from inland Berkhamsted to Southampton Harbor some 80 miles (130km) distant with family and possessions would add several additional days time as would the inevitable delays associated with the voyage preparations:

Delay was endemic to the start of an ocean voyage. Almost every migrant group was resigned to a period of waiting – waiting for instructions from the ship's owners or undertakers, clearance by customs officials and searchers, approval of harbor authorities, the gathering of a protective convoy, and above all, waiting for a favorable wind. The time called for saints to talk of patience, and for others to divert themselves as best they could. During the 1630s, when a regular traffic ferried emigrants to New England, at least three or four weeks elapsed between passengers' first coming aboard and the ship's departure.

Assuming a week's travel overland from Berkhamsted, another two weeks or so waiting to depart and an average ten and a half weeks at sea, this amounts to some 94 days of travel time, suggesting that the 42 days between Joseph Rice's baptism and the arrival of the *Confidence* in Boston may reasonably rule out the likelihood of the Rice family being on that particular ship.

Although Edmund Rice probably did not travel aboard the *Confidence* with Noyeses, the Goodnows and the others eventually bound for Watertown, it is never-the-less likely that he and his family did indeed travel during the summer or fall voyage season of 1638 on some other unknown ship. In the first document that conclusively shows Edmund in Massachusetts, Edmund was serving simultaneously as a selectman and a land surveyor in Sudbury prior to 4 April 1639.<sup>11</sup> The document is an undated town ordinance that is very likely to have been promulgated sometime in late March 1638/39 based on the context of the ordinance text. Important to the context of the ordinance is that March 25 was the first day of the year in the Annunciation Style calendar then in use among the English, and the late winter period within what we now consider the new year is the time in which field preparations were usually made for the spring planting season. The ordinance text reads as follows:

It is ordered and agreed that everyman within the towne that hath any land ly in any generall field that they shall make all such fences that apertayne to the field and sufficient; by the 4th of Aprill in this yeare and if any man shall fayle herein after the warnings given by the surveyors apoynted for that purpose or such time that they shall apoynt the persons so offending shall forfeit for every default 5 shillings. Edmund Rice and Robert Darnell for the north field; Thomas Goodnow and Andrew Belcher for the south field; We give these men power to levy for all such fines after 7 dayes after every default. Signed, Brian Pendleton, Peter Noyes, Walter Hayme, Edmund Rice.

It is also known that winter crossings of the Atlantic were hazardous, and thus rare. Cressy explains using the words of Captain Fitz-John Winthrop as follows:

Springtime was the favored time of departure. As Fitz-John Winthrop later explained, 'It will be difficult to adventure upon the coast of New England if delayed after August, and then it must be deferred till February or the beginning of March.' Like the earlier explorers, most migrants made their first direct acquaintance with New England in high summer.<sup>12</sup>

From the Sudbury ordinance text we know that Edmund and his family were already residing in town by March 1638/39 and that voyages departing England after August were exceedingly rare due to the hazards, it can be concluded with reasonable confidence that Edmund Rice and his family most likely did arrive in Massachusetts during the summer or early fall sea voyage season of 1638.

<sup>1</sup>p. 1 In: Ward, Andrew Henshaw. (1858). *A Genealogical History of the Rice Family: Descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice*. C. Benjamin Richardson Publisher, Boston. 379pp.

<sup>2</sup>Parish Register, St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

<sup>3</sup>Record #139 Town Ordinance, Township Book, Sudbury Massachusetts (see: <https://sudbury.ma.us/archives/>)

<sup>4</sup>p. 74 In: Powell, Sumner Chilton. (1963). *Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town*. Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, CT 215pp. ISBN 0-8195-6014-6

<sup>5</sup>p. 238 In: Shurtleff, Nathaniel B. (ed.) (1853). *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, Vol. 1, 1628-1641. Press of William White, Boston.

<sup>6</sup>Snow, Corinne M. (1980). *The Deacons*. Harmon Associates Publishing, Delmar, NY 12054 USA. 257pp. Library of Congress #80-83205

<sup>7</sup>Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild. (1999). *Confidence*, Arrived Boston 24 April 1638 (see: <http://immigrantships.net/1600/confidence380424.html>)

<sup>8</sup>Note: For example, the famed Puritan dissident Rev. Thomas Shepard was aboard the ship *Defence* in 1635 with his family and kin, but according to his own journal traveling under an assumed name. See: 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>9</sup>p. 155 In: Cressy, David. (1987). *Coming Over: Migration and Communication between England and New England in the Seventeenth Century*. Chapter 6 'The vast and furious ocean,' Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-33850-6

<sup>10</sup>p. 152 In: Cressy, David. (1987). *op.cit.*

<sup>11</sup>Record #139 Sudbury Town Ordinance (1639). *ibid.*

<sup>12</sup>p. 156 In: Cressy, David. (1987). *op.cit.*

### ***The Enigmatic 1638 Marriage of Mary Rice and Thomas Axtell in Hertfordshire***

John F. Chandler, Michael A. Rice, Robert V. Rice, and George W. King

Ever since the English church records were found specifying the baptisms of Edmund Rice's children in Stanstead and Berkhamstead, we have been faced with two genealogical puzzles. One is the mismatch between his son Edward and the baptism showing the son's name as Edmund (which we resolve by assuming either a clerical error or a misunderstanding in the parish records), and the other is the fact that one of the children cannot be accounted for either by a burial (as in the case of Daniel, born and died in 1632) or by arrival with Edmund in Massachusetts. The missing child is the first-born, Mary, baptized in 1619.

If you turn to the ERA database (available on CD and also on line), you can see the status of the Mary puzzle as of last year: she was presumed to have died before Edmund emigrated, even though no burial record was known, because no other record of her was known either. We had received a report that claimed she married Thomas Axtell (another early Sudbury settler), and the supporting evidence was a marriage license supposedly issued in their names by the Archdeaconry of Saint Albans, a town about 15 km (9 miles) from Berkhamstead. If true, this would be a major breakthrough, since Thomas did indeed arrive in Sudbury with a wife named Mary and two children who had been baptized in Berkhamstead, and Mary survived him and went on to have other children by her second husband, John Maynard. However, some inquiries at this point led to a report that the Saint Albans Archdeaconry records no longer exist or cannot be found, and so we regretfully left the matter as an unconfirmed rumor.

However, we can now report a new development: although the original records are still unavailable, it turns out that they were translated from Latin and published over a century ago! (We might in fact wonder if the records were lost or misfiled as a direct result of that project to make them more accessible, but that's all in the past.) These records were published serially, along with many other types of records, in a



periodical called the *Herts Genealogist and Antiquary*, which is available on-line in both Google Books and the Internet Archive. The work of translating and publishing appears to have been done very carefully, and so we can with some confidence quote the relevant passage (from p. 216 of vol. 1):

*[1638] Oct. 10 Tho. Axtell of Bushy, bachr and Mary Rice, maiden.*

These records were rather formulaic, and so the basic information is nearly the same in every case: the date of the license and the name, condition, and home town of each party. However, in this particular record, the home town of Mary Rice is not stated, and so we are left to assume she lived at Saint Albans, since why else would the clerk omit that information? To put this all in context for those who don't live in Hertfordshire, note that Berkhamstead is situated on the western edge of the county, while Saint Albans is near the center, and Bushey is on the southern edge, about 19 km (11 miles) from Berkhamstead and 13 km (8 miles) from Saint Albans. The time context is also interesting: this license was issued after (but not long after) Edmund Rice must have left Hertfordshire to catch the fair-weather sailing season of 1638.

So is this finally the answer to our genealogical puzzle? Did Edmund's daughter Mary come to New England just a few years after Edmund? Maybe. There is a complication to the story. We know that "our" Mary had a cousin also named Mary Rice, just a few years older, born in 1615. This other Mary was the daughter of Elizabeth Frost (Thomasine's sister) and Henry Rice (very likely Edmund's brother), making her most likely a double cousin. Indeed, Henry's family shows many parallels with Edmund's beyond the fact that they married sisters. Four of the five names bestowed on Henry's children were also given to Edmund's; one child's burial is on record in each family; both families moved to Berkhamstead about 1626 and later to the New World (in Henry's case, it was his widow and her second husband, Philemon Whale, who moved); and, in particular, both Marys are unaccounted for by any known post-baptism parish records. The parallels extend even to New England, since both families settled in Sudbury, and, when Thomas Axtell died in 1646, his estate was jointly appraised by Edmund Rice, Edmund's son Edward, and Philemon Whale.

In other words, both Marys, if still alive in 1638, would likely have been living in Hertfordshire, and both were represented in the financial affairs in the closing of Thomas Axtell's estate in Sudbury. The fact that Edmund Rice had sold land to Thomas when the latter emigrated to Massachusetts could be attributed just as easily to an uncle-niece relationship as to a father-daughter one, and the fact that Philemon Whale didn't sell land to Thomas is easily understood because the Whales came over about the same time as the Axtells, around 1643, perhaps even on the same ship (but the precise times of their immigration are not known). Some additional circumstantial evidence may be relevant, though ambiguous: the children of the Axtells known from the Berkhamstead records were named Mary and Henry, the latter being also the name of the eldest sibling of each of the Mary Rices and of the father of the elder one. Further, the Massachusetts records show the birth of another Axtell child in Sudbury, named either Mary (unlikely) or Lydia, depending on which record is consulted (Lydia being also the name of Edmund's second daughter).

Another intriguing but tenuous clue may lie in the probate records of Edmund Rice himself. On page 3 of Ward's 1858 genealogy of the Rice family, the details of Edmund's probate records of 1663 are discussed (original document held in the Massachusetts Commonwealth Archives, File Index #18696, Middlesex County). A supplementary document with crossed out but readable text shows proposed monetary amounts for division of his estate among "eight eldest children" (i.e. living children by Thomasine) and two youngest (i.e. children by the widow Mercy) for a total of ten. It is known through the baptism records that Edmund and Thomasine had ten children with their son Daniel known to be deceased through a Berkhamsted burial record. Edmund's two daughters by his second wife Mercy are accounted for in the

total, suggesting that Edmund's daughter Mary may not have been alive at the time, with the time and place of her death unknown. However, even this evidence of an 11-way distribution of assets among Mercy Brigham Rice and the ten living children is muddled by the existence of a second crossed out distribution proposal showing 12 equal shares, with Mercy receiving 3 shares, thus leaving only 9 shares for the children. Since the eldest child would be entitled to a double share, that would signify only 8 children, clearly at odds with the known set of progeny, unless the 3 shares allocated to Mercy were intended to cover her two (very young) daughters as well as herself. Ordinarily, a widow was entitled to a third of the estate, but an ordinary widow's heirs would be her deceased husband's children, while Mercy's were her own Brigham and Rice children. In other words, the complicated situation calls into question the usefulness of these probate records for determining the exact number of Edmund's living heirs at the time.

In short, both Marys can make a good case for being Mary Axtell, so we still have the puzzle, and frustratingly, this may be a very difficult puzzle to resolve. Typically a disputed case of identity of this kind might be resolved by examining differences in the DNA of known descendants of Mary Rice Axtell Maynard on the female descendancy line (mtDNA), but unfortunately this method would not work in this instance. Both Mary Rice, the daughter of Edmund, and Mary Rice, the daughter of Henry, would have a common female ancestor in Thomasine Belgrave Frost, the maternal grandmother of both of them, so we would expect the *same* mtDNA results from both Marys, and the puzzle would still stand.

The one new certainty that this marriage record from St. Albans can provide is that the maiden name of Mary Axtell of Sudbury is indeed now known to be Rice. This finding would rule out the long-held speculation that Mary Axtell's maiden name was Starr. However, given the high degree of uncertainty about the parents, the Edmund Rice (1638) Association will not be formally listing Edmund's daughter Mary Rice (1619) as being married to Thomas Axtell within the ERA genealogical database, but instead, providing an analysis of existing data records of each of the two Marys.

## **COME TO THE REUNION!**

Here is a quick notice of this year's reunion. We will be holding our annual meeting and reunion at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough, MA, on Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24. The schedule has not been set yet, but among the attractions of Westborough are a number of houses built by Rices and a commemorative marker at the site where four Rice boys were captured by Mohawks in 1704 and carried off to Canada, where their descendants can still be found.

Look for more information in the spring and summer newsletters. Meanwhile, save the dates!

## 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. send to:

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## 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.**



EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION, INC.

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March 2016

Cousins,

**PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD!**

The dues year is September 1st to September 1st each year. **If not already paid, your dues for Sept. 2015 thru Sept.2016 dues year are overdue now!!** 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> \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The schedule of dues is as follows:

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You may send this form and pay your annual dues via PAYPAL **-OR-** pay by Check/Money Order made payable to Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. Please send check/money order with this form to:

**Susan Berger**  
**50 Ivy Meadow Spur**  
**Blairsville, GA 30512-9012**