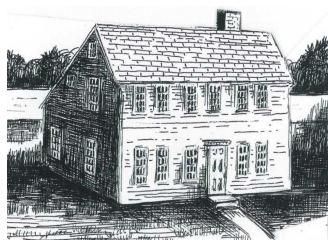


# Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

511 West Eucalyptus Street, Ojai, California 93023

Vol. 94, No.3 Summer 2020



Deacon Edmund Rice Homestead  
Wayland, MA 1643 – 1912

The Edmund Rice Association publishes the newsletter four times a year: 1) Winter, 2) Spring, 3) Summer, and 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: at [editor@edmund-rice.org](mailto:editor@edmund-rice.org)

## President's Column



*John Chandler,  
ERA President  
and Historian*

Greetings, cousins!

With a single topic weighing on everyone's mind these days, it is difficult to write a column that isn't topical. So this will be topical. I should begin by saying that, as a scientist, I can't resist the temptation to analyze data presented to me, and the US nationwide covid-19 reports are no exception. Back in March, I came up with a simple, three-parameter model to fit the daily cumulative statistics based on the assumption that the numbers would grow exponentially at a rate falling off to zero. In other words, I adopted a model with "flattening the curve" built in, and I could test the model by fitting the statistics and making predictions of the future. In particular, I calculated a prediction of the time when the death toll would essentially level off. For several months of crunching numbers every week or so, this exercise seemed to be working reasonably well, and the predicted date of "reaching the plateau" seemed to be converging on the end of August. Indeed, even the daily cumulative reports of covid-19 cases seemed to be following a similar trajectory, despite the fact that increased testing would naturally distort the numbers. However, in June, the predicted plateau date started slipping away into the future, and my model no longer looks like a good fit to the data. More precisely, the underlying falloff of the growth rate has evidently shifted for the US as a whole, and I will have to start all over.

Meanwhile, I can still relate all this back to genealogy by noting that epidemics have happened in the past, including some that affected our known ancestors and their families. While surveying a cemetery for gravestones relevant to my immediate research, or searching the vital records for that purpose, I may run across a row of stones for members of a single family who all died in a short period of time or a similar cluster of death reports citing a particular disease as the cause of death. The terminology of death might be unfamiliar (as in "summer complaint" or "lung fever") or possibly ambiguous (as in "consumption," which could sometimes mean something other than tuberculosis, or "teething," which could mean anything).

Then, too, there is a completely different phenomenon that has the same ultimate effect as a disease epidemic -- the town where I live was home to a large community of Shakers. As we all know, they practiced strict celibacy and thus removed themselves effectively from the gene pool and, incidentally, caused the sect to die out in the end.

Enough morbid rambling! Hope to see you (virtually) at the reunion later this month! See within for an agenda.

*~ John Chandler*

## 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 to the newsletter editor:

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

Deadline for summer issue 2020 is July 12, 2020

## 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.....\$ 20.00

Renewals:

Under 80 years of age.....\$ 20.00

Age 80 and above.....\$ 10.00

Life membership.....\$300.00  
(single payment)

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

### Membership Mailing Address and Address Corrections:

Kathleen H. Bond  
31 Billings Rd  
No. Stonington, CT 06359  
[membership@edmund-rice.org](mailto:membership@edmund-rice.org)

The Post Office forwards mail for 12 months if a member has submitted a forwarding address to the post office.

*Your help with this is greatly appreciated.*

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## Editor's Column

Hello cousins,

We will be having our annual reunion virtually this year via the communication method *du jour* in this era of the pandemic – the video-conference.

If you are interested in joining your ERA cousins online this year, please register by sending an email to [editor@edmund-rice.org](mailto:editor@edmund-rice.org) with your name, phone number, and email address. I will then forward to you the Zoom link (web address) to login, and the login ID and password. You should be able to login from your computer, tablet, or mobile phone (video or voice-only).

I recommend trying to login at least 15 minutes early to make sure you can get connected. See you soon!

~ Katrina Rice Schmidt

### Website:

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

### Social Media:



Like us on Facebook, at **Edmund Rice (1638) Association**

Follow us on Twitter **@EdmundRice1638**

### Contact us:

[info@edmund-rice.org](mailto:info@edmund-rice.org)

## 2019 - 2020 Officers

**President & Historian, John F. Chandler**  
183 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard, MA 01451  
[john.chandler@alum.mit.edu](mailto:john.chandler@alum.mit.edu)

**Vice President & Webmaster, Brian C. Rice**  
7 Park Avenue, Apt 155, New York, NY 10016  
[Bchar.rice@hotmail.com](mailto:Bchar.rice@hotmail.com)

**Vice President for Arrangements, Dale C. Gunn**  
94 Washington Street, Hudson, MA 01749  
[dccgunn@gmail.com](mailto:dccgunn@gmail.com)

**Treasurer & Book Custodian, Michael A. Rice**  
201 Old Post Road, Wakefield, RI 02879  
[rice@uri.edu](mailto:rice@uri.edu)

**Recording Secretary & Membership, Kathleen H. Bond**  
31 Billings Road  
No. Stonington, CT 06359  
[khbond007@gmail.com](mailto:khbond007@gmail.com)

## 2019 - 2020 Directors

George W. King, [gking5@cox.net](mailto:gking5@cox.net)

Leon King, [cpaking@gmail.com](mailto:cpaking@gmail.com)

Beth McAleer, [mcaleerb@bc.edu](mailto:mcaleerb@bc.edu)

Carleton Procter, [csptoo@gmail.com](mailto:csptoo@gmail.com)

Doyle L. Rice, [drice@arbor.edu](mailto:drice@arbor.edu)

Timothy L. Sanford, [timothy.l.sanford@sympatico.ca](mailto:timothy.l.sanford@sympatico.ca)

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**Director Ex-officio**  
**DNA Project, Dr. Robert V Rice**  
12A Woodview Drive, Falmouth, MA 02540  
(508) 548-4960  
[rvrbarre@verizon.net](mailto:rvrbarre@verizon.net)

**Director Emerita**  
Ruth M. Brown

## ERA Past Presidents

|           |                   |           |                      |              |                        |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1912-1913 | Eustace Bond Rice | 1952-1953 | John A. Bigelow      | 1976         | Seaver M. Rice         |
| 1913-1920 | Nellie Rice Fiske | 1954      | Sturgis C. Rice      | 1977-1978    | Henry E. Rice, Jr.     |
| 1921-1922 | H. Eugene Rice    | 1955      | Charles W. Rice      | 1979-1980    | C. Whiting Rice        |
| 1923-1924 |                   | 1956-1957 | Edgar W. Rice        | 1981-1982    | William H. Drury       |
| 1925-1928 | Harry C. Rice     | 1958-1959 | Stanley I. Rice      | 1983         | Patricia P. MacFarland |
| 1929-1931 |                   | 1959-1960 | Donald H. Whittemore | 1984-1985    | Janice R. Parmenter    |
| 1932-1934 | Russell J. Rice   | 1960-1963 | Frederick R. Rice    | 1986-1987    | Margaret S. Rice       |
| 1935-1936 | Daniel H. Rice    | 1964-1965 | William H. Hoefler   | 1988-1989    | Alex W. Snow           |
| 1937-1939 | Elsie Hawes Smith | 1966-1967 | Ray Lawther Ellis    | 1990-1993    | John S. Bates          |
| 1940-1941 | Sturgis C. Rice   | 1968      | Edgar W. Rice        | 1994         | Alex W. Snow           |
| 1942-1945 |                   | 1969      | Erwin R. McLaughlin  | 1995-1997    | Frederick H. Rice      |
| 1946-1947 | Everett E. Rice   | 1970-1973 | Col. Allen F. Rice   | 1998-2006    | Dr. Robert V. Rice     |
| 1948-1949 | Ralph E. Rice     | 1974      | Margaret E. Allen    | 2007-present | John Chandler          |
| 1950-1951 | Ralston F. Rice   | 1975      | Charles W. Rice      |              |                        |

### EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Published winter, spring, summer and fall by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association, 183 Prospect Hill Road, 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.

## 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: [john.chandler@alum.mit.edu](mailto:john.chandler@alum.mit.edu)

### Nine-Generation Rice Database Available on USB Flash Drive

Your Board of Directors (BoD) agreed that we would offer the nine-generation report to our members (only). The BoD approved a charge of \$10 plus \$5 shipping and handling postpaid for a USB flash drive containing the report. Please order from the Treasurer by sending a request for the USB flash drive, 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 conditions on the distribution of the report:

- 1) The information is copyrighted by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association and is restricted to the personal use of association members.
- 2) The USBs 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 2020. If you find any documentable errors, please let us know!

## Membership

### Lost Member

Do you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of **Darcie Ball**, Warrenton, MO?

### Memorial Gifts

**Consider donating to the Edmund Rice (1638) Association in memory of a loved one, or consider a legacy gift, a planned future donation, given through a will or other form of designation.**

### Life Membership

**Consider a Life Membership.  
By paying one single payment of \$300.00 you will never have to worry about remembering to pay your annual dues!**



## In Celebration



*HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
DEAR COUSINS!*

*WE HOPE YOU HAVE MANY MORE!*

### **JULY**

Elizabeth Berry, Ashland, VA  
Kimberlee Bryne, Meridian, ID  
John F Chandler, Harvard, MA  
Dana B Cobb, Ridgewood, NJ  
Richard Cochrane, Shrewsbury, MA  
Carl Fritsche, Eatontown, NJ  
Carlene Gnath, Leslie, MI  
Robert Hook, Overland Park, KS  
LaRain Hudson, Westlake, OH  
Barbara Johnson, Vienna, VA  
Larry King, Lehi, UT  
Robert D Lehr, Madison, SD  
Kathleen Gaye Holtz Lyon, West  
Liberty, IA  
Alice McCoy, Brier, WA  
Vicki Meadows, Fredricksburg, VA  
Peter S Meigs, Danville, NH  
Marilyn Nee, Tullahoma, TN  
Sue Anne Park, Capron, IL  
Lisa Quijano, Morgan Hill, CA  
Colleen Rice, Fresno, CA  
Douglas C Rice, Yetminster, Dorset, UK  
Jerald Rice, Millbury, MA  
Joanne Rice, Calgary, AB  
Max Rice, Vancouver, WA  
Rodger R Rice, Grand Rapids, MI  
Scott Rice, Glen Rock, PA  
Thomas Ritchie, Fairmont Hot Springs,  
BC  
George Six, Hurricane, WV  
Daphne Stevens, Northampton, MA  
Linda S Waterkotte, Quincy, IL  
Dorothy J Wells, Baltimore, MD  
Margery Zeller, Westport, MA

### **AUGUST**

Jason D Adams, Williston, VT  
Judy H Atkinson, Westphalia, MI  
Ellen Blanchard, Carver, MA  
Anita Cooper, Houston, TX  
Judy Dailey, Grapeland, TX  
Helen DePlonty, Midland, MI  
Frank George DeSanto, Farmingdale, NJ  
Linwood M Erskine Jr, Paxton, MA  
Lu Fischer, Saint George, UT  
Lois A Hess, Fort Wayne, IN  
Elizabeth Hicks, Wichit, KS  
Adolph Johnson, Mebane, NC  
Alda Kaye, Wakefield, RI  
Delilah C Moody, Butler, PA  
John E Newton, East Aurora, NY  
Nancy Nicol, Wellfleet, MA  
Joel Joseph Normand, Cave Creek, AZ  
John Pannullo, Ocean Isle Beach, NC  
Leslie Julian Payne, Rochester, MN  
Beverly Pelkey, Rockville, MO  
James K Rice, N Ridgeville, OH  
Philip R Rice, Ross, CA  
Robert R Rice, Novato, CA  
Dr Robert V Rice, Falmouth, MA  
Pauline M Rosen, Palos Verdes Estates,  
CA  
Peggy J Ross, Madison, WI  
Tim L Sanford, Toronto, ON  
Katrina Rice Schmidt, Ojai, CA  
Kimberly Lee Smith, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Joyce A Walker, Hot Springs, AR  
John Ward, Aldie, VA  
William R Wesen, Minneapolis, MN

### **SEPTEMBER**

David Anderson, Irvine, CA  
John S Bates, Henniker, NH  
Deryk Berger, Land O' Lakes, FL  
Susan Berger, Idaho Falls, ID  
Mary F Brown, Palatka, FL  
Don Carman, Aptos, CA  
Nancy Colt, Rockaway, NJ  
Macy Courtney, Louisville, KY  
Kathleen Farrell, Payson, AZ  
Edmund Garno III, Haverford, PA  
Betty J Gilmore, Wayne, NJ  
Roberta Gries, Lakewood, CO  
Kathy Jenkel, Tamaroa, IL  
Suzanne Kadiff, Watertown, MA  
Lois A Kendall, East Falmouth, MA  
Anne King, Williamsburg, VA  
David King, Nauvoo, IL  
Sharon Krisko, Maple Grove, MN  
Alice Pierce, Lexington, MA  
Carleton Procter, Brattleboro, VT  
Julie Proctor, Santa Barbara, CA  
Carol Rice, Alamo, CA  
Christopher Rice, Dartmouth, NS  
Geraldine K Rice, Rocky River, OH  
Janet Rice, Jackson, MI  
Robin Rice, North Stonington, CT  
Elizabeth J Sander, Plymouth, MA  
Tammy Sanford-Hutchinson,  
Clementsport, NS  
Jeffrey M Smythe, Freeburg, IL  
Margaret Stehle, Palo Alto, CA  
Lavon Stenquist, Logan, UT  
Cindy B Sturges, Columbia, MD  
Michael J Therien, Durham, NC  
Alice E Wareham, Orinda, CA  
Diana Lynne Weaver, Quebec, Quebec  
Arlene Wooten, Rainsville, AL  
Patricia Young, Elk Rapids, MI

## **“VIRTUAL ERA REUNION – 2020 STYLE”**

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

**WHERE:** ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE FROM YOUR OWN HOME  
(COMPUTER, TABLET OR MOBILE PHONE)

### **REUNION SCHEDULE: (All times are Eastern Daylight Time)**

- 12:50 PM (EDT)** Login to Zoom (Link and entry code will be emailed to you after you register)
- 1:00 PM** Opening Remarks – John Chandler
- 1:15 PM** “Edmund Rice 101” – Michael Rice
- 1:45 PM** Database update – John Chandler
- 2:00 PM** Formal Meeting:  
- Approval of 2019 Minutes  
- Treasurer’s Report  
- Membership Report  
- Book Custodian Report  
- DNA Update  
- Election of Officers & Directors
- 2:30 PM** Social Time

### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

Send your name, phone number, and email address to: [editor@edmund-rice.org](mailto:editor@edmund-rice.org)

Registration deadline is Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the virtual reunion, instructions on how to login to the meeting will be sent to you via email from Katrina Rice Schmidt (email address [katrice@pacbell.net](mailto:katrice@pacbell.net)). Included in the instructional email will be a link to the meeting, and a code to enter the meeting, either to attend via video conference or call-in.

## Rice Books Available

### **The Rice Family**, by Andrew Henshaw Ward [5]

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. Includes a soft-cover supplement (1967) containing additions and corrections. 379 pages.

### **The Rice Family, Supplement 2 (Part 1)** [7]

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. 224 pages.

### **The Rice Family, Supplement 2 (Part 2)** [8]

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). 720 pages.

### **Edmund Rice and His Family and We Sought the Wilderness** [5]

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

*Edmund Rice and His Family*, by Elsie Hawes Smith (1938) A 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) A historical narrative based on those Rices who pushed Westward to the prairies after short stays in New Hampshire and Vermont. 357 pages.

### **A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants** [15]

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. 1594 pages. *This book is out of print but is available for purchase on CD - Association members only.*

### **Sudbury 1890-1989: 100 Years in the Life of a Town**, by Curtis F. Garfield [10]

Published by Sudbury Historical Society and Porcupine Enterprises in 1999, Sudbury, MA. ISBN 0-9621976-3-7. 242 pages.

### **Heartbeat of History: A Collection of Short Stories from the Saltbox House**, by R.M. Rasey-Simpson [5]

Published by Sharpe & Company in 1999, Sanborn, NY. ISBN 0-966789-2-9. 182 pages.

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

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

## **REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

**BECAUSE WE ARE NOT MEETING IN PERSON THIS YEAR, YOU  
MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.  
PLEASE SEND IN THE MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH YOUR ANNUAL  
DUES, OR CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP.**

## Queries and News

### July 12, 2020 From Doyle Rice, Jackson, MI

In regards to the mention of Persis (Rice) Putnam [1427.1: Ward], on p. 13 in the Spring 2020 ERA newsletter, she is an older sister of my 5th great-grandpa, Sgt. Adam Rice (1739-1817), [1428.2: Ward]. This would make her my 5th great-grandaunt, and her husband Rufus, my 5th great-granduncle.

This couple is mentioned in one sentence in Smith's book, pp. 58-9, (Smith, Elsie Hawes. 1938. Edmund Rice and His Family. The Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. Boston: Meador Press).

Together they helped establish Marietta OH, (on the Ohio River, across from what's now West Virginia), the first European-American permanent U. S. settlement in the Northwest Territory in 1788. General Putnam is known as the Father of Ohio.

Like their Aunt and Uncle Putnam, two nephews and a niece (three children of Sgt. Adam's), Ephraim, Mary "Polly", and Josiah, (and their children) were pioneers in Michigan Territory nearly half-a-century later, in 1836.

I'm curious to know if anyone in the ERA has close connections to this couple, or know who does. I've been trying for years to find any living descendants of theirs.

### July 6, 2020 From Dr. Terry W. Dorsett, Executive Director, Baptist Foundation of New England



Unlike many of the other teenage boys, Luther Rice sat in the church pew giving rapt attention to the sermon. His heart was strangely warmed and the grace of God became clear to him. It was the moment of his conversion.

Rice was born in 1783 in Northborough, Massachusetts, the youngest child of Amos and Sarah Rice. The house where he was born was destroyed by fire, which was sadly common in that time period. But it was rebuilt and still stands on what is now the property of the Baptist Convention of New England. It is used as a retreat center and training facility for Baptist leaders from across New England.

During Rice's life Baptists were not organized enough to support missions effectively. Desiring to help his friend Adoniram Judson remain on the mission field, Rice spent most of his life preaching in churches up and down the East Coast, encouraging Baptist churches to cooperate together in supporting mission work. He also believed strongly in educating people so they could be more effective ministers. By the time of his death, the Triennial Convention had been formed in order to better fund missionaries. It was the first Baptist organization to have a national scope. Rice also helped start 15 Baptist colleges to train ministers and missionaries. Since then Baptists have sent thousands of missionaries around the world and trained tens of thousands of ministers in their seminaries.

In honor of Luther Rice's deep commitment to missions, and in an effort to continue the training ministry he helped promote, the Baptist Foundation of New England has created the Rice Memorial Fund specifically for the purpose of maintaining the historic house and buildings on the Rice property. Not only are the buildings maintained by this fund, but it also helps keep the cost low for those who attend training.



Due to Covid 19 almost all of our 2020 Rice Lodge reservations have been forced to cancel, costing the Rice Lodge over 90% of its income for the year. We really need your help to keep this vital ministry functional until the virus passes and we are able to return to regular operations.

Help us preserve Rice's legacy, train ministry leaders, and make an impact for the Gospel by donating to the Rice Memorial Fund at this link: [WWW.bit.ly/RiceFund](http://WWW.bit.ly/RiceFund) Checks can be sent to: BFNE Rice Memorial Fund, 87 Lincoln Street, Northborough MA 01532



## Posted on Social Media - Facebook

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association has a Facebook page! The content below represents the posts since the last newsletter. For comments and answers related to these posts, log onto the Facebook site and read the interactive posts, and if you would like, please add a few comments of your own. Log onto the Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/EdmundRiceAssociation/> to find posts about Edmund Rice descendants and other interesting matters related to the Edmund Rice (1638) Association.



*Victor Moreau Rice*

July 19, 2020 - Edmund Rice descendant, **Victor Moreau Rice (1818-1869)** studied law, but had a varied career as a teacher, newspaper editor, and president of both an insurance company and a New York City bank.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor\\_M.\\_Rice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_M._Rice)

August 20, 2020 - For Edmund Rice enthusiasts interested in getting the perfect photo. Best trick EVER to read old Gravestones given by a stone carver! PART 1

<https://youtu.be/dyGIVWvGZbs>



*Erastus Otis Haven*

August 26, 2020 - Edmund Rice descendant **Erastus Otis Haven (1820 – 1881)** served as the chancellor of Syracuse University, and later as president of Northwestern University before moving on to Ann Arbor as president of the University of Michigan. He was a Methodist minister who became a bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erastus\\_Otis\\_Haven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erastus_Otis_Haven)

September 7, 2020 - Edmund Rice (1638) Association Board Member **Brian Rice** at the Thompson Cemetery in Northumberland, NY at the grave of his 4th great grandfather, **Noah Rice (1760-1834)**, a fifer in the Massachusetts Militia serving in the Revolution near Bristol, Rhode Island prior to the Battle of Rhode Island. Noah Rice was a sixth generation descendant of Edmund who can be found in ERA's online six-generation database. <https://edmund-rice.org/era5gens/index.htm>



*Brian Rice at Noah Rice's grave*



# Letter Informing of Many Family Deaths

*By Doyle Rice*

In response to a change in theme for this quarterly newsletter, due to the current pandemic, we've been asked to share past occurrences of epidemics that involved our family. This letter came to my mind, written in 1864, by my 3d great-grandpa.

A localized incident that resulted in the deaths of a number of family members occurred during the latter part of the Civil War, around a village in south central Michigan. It was informed about by way of a personal letter written by Samuel Tainter Rice, dated July 4, 1864, sent to son Lucius Chandler Rice and new daughter-in-law Maria Louella (Sperry), then residing in San Francisco, CA.

A brief background sketch, has a large family group of Edmund and Thomasine's descendants (including Samuel, his wife and children, his parents and maternal uncle Samuel Tainter, two unmarried siblings, his Aunt Mary "Polly" (Rice) Meeker and her extended family, and his Uncle Josiah and his extended family), leaving NW Vermont, and migrating via the Erie Canal, Lake Erie steamer, through Detroit, then westward on a 2-track territorial road into Michigan Territory. They became pioneer settlers around a quarter-century earlier in 1836, (buying land from the U. S. government), in what later was established as Leslie TWP, in Ingham County, (MI statehood was granted in Jan. 1837).

Samuel is the grandson of Revolutionary War veteran Sgt. Adam Rice (called out on the Lexington Alarm in April 1775 from Amherst), and 5th great-grandson of the couple responsible for bringing our family to the shores of this continent in 1638, (Edmund, Thomas Sr., Thomas Jr., Charles, Zebulon, Sgt. Adam, Ephraim who married Hannah Tainter). He was born in Granby, Hampshire, MA in 1797. His parents removed to VT, where he married in Georgia TWP, Franklin Co., in Mar. 1822. All nine of their children were born in VT, from December 1822 to 1835. He was a widower of four years by the time he wrote this letter, living across the road from his place, with my 2d great-grandparents Rollin Gordencio Rice (his 3d oldest) and Emeline (Gray) and their 4 children, (he'd transferred his place onto his youngest child Henry Dwight Rice, his wife, now married for ten years, with two of three sons living). He is now age 66.

Samuel's son Lucius, (his 6th child), is 35. The recipient of this letter. He went to CA after 1850, but before April 1860, (according to Federal Census records), and had months earlier married a woman he'd met there, on Dec 14, 1863; so none living in MI had ever met her. (A few years later, Lucius and Maria migrated to Oregon, where they lived out their lives. Their oldest was born in San Francisco, April 1865, then their 2d in OR, three years after).

He starts his letter:

"Dear Lucius and Mariah [sic], My well beloved children. I sit down to write to you a few lines, and I do it with a sad heart, for death is making sad work midst, and no less than 5 of my loved ones and partners of my blood have been stricken down in a few weeks.

[1] Your Aunt Cynthia [*had married a widower, Martin DuBois, in 1845, at age 44. She died childless at age 62. She and her husband resided about 12 miles to the NNE in Alaiedon TWP. Her grave marker is at DuBois Cem., that was established on their farm*] died the 19th day of March. She was taken sick at 6 o'clock in the morning, and died at 9 o'clock, 3 hours after she was taken. Cause not fully known.

[2] Catharine (Denzil's wife) [*Denzil Putnam Rice is Lucius' uncle, Samuel's younger brother. His middle name is not arbitrary, for his Grandpa Sgt. Adam Rice's sister, Persis, was the*

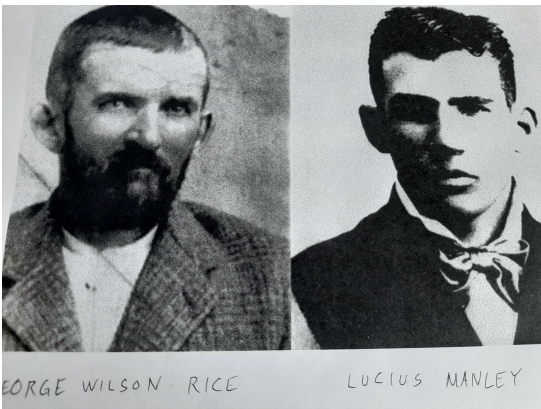
wife of General Rufus Pautnam, known as 'the Father of Ohio,' as he led settlers in 1787 to establish Marietta on the Ohio River, in then Ohio Territory of the Northwest Territory. Denzil lost his 1st wife of 7 yrs., in 1845. They had 3 children together. A few months later he married a widow, Mrs. Fuller, mother of 3, with another on the way. They had one child together, born in 1847. His place was 1/2 mile to the south of where Samuel was residing] died the 1st day of April, [at age 42] with a disease not known in the medicine works, and the doctors say that for want of a better name, they call it the spotted fever. The patients are taken with a chill, followed with a raging fever, and then come out in large yellow spots, and in a few hours they have another chill, loose their reason, and die in a short time. It is almost sure death, and is mostly among children and young people. Quite a large number have died in this place of the same disease.

[3] Clark Graves [husband of Samuel's 1st cousin, Fornia, the oldest of his Uncle Josiah and Aunt Laura's 11 children. She and Clark were married in Sheldon, Franklin Co., VT in Dec. 1830. They never had children, but did adopt a daughter, born in 1842. He was 55] died the 10th of April with the same disease.

[4] Charles (Rollin's oldest boy) [Lucius' nephew, who is 11 at the time, the oldest of 4; was at the house where Samuel resided. This is a brother of my great-grandpa, who he never knew] died the 19th day of April. He was taken Saturday night and died Tuesday morning.

[5] His mother Emeline [maiden name Gray, was 36 at the time. My 2d great-grandma. She and Rollin had been married 14 years. Her oldest died 5 days earlier. Her youngest is a baby of 4 months], was taken the next Saturday morning and died Sunday night the 24th day of April, with the same disease. Rollin, poor boy, had a pleasant home, comfortabley [sic] situated, with a good wife and 4 smart active children. Charles, if he had lived would have been 12 years old the 29th day of next September. He was a man in minature [sic]. The babe, a little boy, was born the 16th of last December [2 days after Lucius' wedding in San Francisco], and they called him Lucius [my great-grandpa], to bear your own name, but Rollin is now broken up, and his children scattered. Mrs. Potter [Eliza (Gray)], Emeline's sister has the babe. they carried it home from the funeral. [The Potter's lived in Bunker Hill TWP, bordering east of Leslie TWP, on a farm about seven miles to the east-north-east. My great-grandpa would continue being raised by his aunt and uncle. In time, acquire the Potter farm, marry, and raise all five of his children there, where they were all born. I grew up within sight of this homestead, on the next farm south and slightly west. Here my dad Donald Ward Rice and his

twin sister Donna were born in 1934, youngest of five to Floyd Manley and Lucy (Ward) Rice]. Mr. Hawley (Emeline's half-brother), and Manley Gray (her own Brother), took Ophelia and George, (one is 8 years old, and the other 4 years old [respectively]), with a design to keep them together, part of the time at one place, and part of the time at the other. [As Rollin himself died the following year, Nov. 1865, his 3d child George, ended up being raised by his half-uncle Henry Hawley, who lived about 6 mi. to the NNE. The two surviving siblings of the family, George and Lucius, were never raised together, but grew up separated by about 6-7 miles] Rollin himself went to Denzil's [Rollin's uncle] to board. The second Saturday in June he went to the children and on Monday he brought Ophelia & George home with him, with a design to carry them back in a few days. Just before he was to go Geo.[rge] was taken sick with the same disease, and for 2 or 3 days the Dr. said he could not live. After a few days, he got around again, but before he was able to go back, [6] Ophelia was taken down and for a number of days she was the most distressed person I think I ever saw. The Dr. had given up and says she can not live, and now I



Two surviving children of Rollin and Emeline Rice, that reached adulthood. George, 1859-1917, died at age 57. He married, but they never had children. My Great-grandpa Lucius Manley Rice (named after 2 of his uncles: a paternal one, Lucius Chandler Rice; and a maternal one, Manley Gray), lived 1863-1905, dying at age 41 from pneumonia.

have another death to record [she died June 11th, age 7 going on 8].

*[Next is a death of a different cause, but one that grieved him, being so close in proximity in time to the others. This death is of his oldest.]* [7] Our dear [Diantha] Candace [*(Rice) Bruce, Lucius' oldest sister*] died the 1st day of July, [age 41] under circumstances horrible to relate. Her dress caught fire, and before it could be extinguished, her clothes all burned off. This took place Sunday at 3 P.M. She lived until the next Fri. at 5 P.M. her head and face, along down her breast, to midway of her bowels, and her right arm, from her elbow to her wrist were not burned, but the rest of her body was all burned, and some of it to a crisp. She suffered much, but was very patient, and resigned. Friday night, after I had gone to bed a telegraph dispatch was brought to me [*he resided about a mile outside the village, where the telegraph office was*], stating that she was but just alive. I started early Sat. morning went to the village, took the stage[*coach*] to Jackson [*12 miles S*], got there just in time to take the [railroad] cars that run from Jackson to Adrian [*a distance of about 38 miles to the SE, on the recently completed Palmyra Jacksonburg RR*] got in Adrian half after 3 o'clock, found a team [*which was sent for him*] at the depot to take me to William's [*Candace's husband*] which is about 2 miles. She was in such condition [*already deceased*] it was not proper to keep her until Sun. and in view of my coming [sic], which they felt sure of it. I got the dispatch they had set the funeral at 4 o'clock. When I got there the people had assembled and all prepared to proceed with the services, and were only waiting for me, on return of the team that came after me. Dr. Luther Lee was selected to officiate on the occasion, and after the services were over we started for the burying ground [*Oakwood Cem., NE of Adrian*], which was about 2 miles distant, and there was a long string of carriages that followed in the procession. William was not at home. He and [Pliny] Warren [*Bruce, a. 19, 2d oldest of their 8 children*] were at Nashville Tenn. at work for the government [*enlisted soldiers for the Union Army fighting in the Civil War*]. They had telegraphed and written to him but he did not come before I left, which was next Tuesday morning. Valorus [*her oldest child, a. 21. He served as a soldier too, but was wounded, and had a leg amputated*] was about to write to you when I left. The Wesleyan General Conference was held at Adrian [*likely on the grounds of the 5 yr. old Adrian College, which still exists today, for which I also drive bus for*], commencing the 1st day of June. Denzel, Elizabeth [*or Eliza Root, who the widower Rollin was tentatively courting, after his wife Emeline's death in April; for Rollin and Eliza married that Nov.*], Rollin and myself went out and were there one week and had a good visit with Candace not thinking it was the last one. And when we came home she came with us to the depot [*in Adrian*], and there we parted for all time, not to meet her again on earth, but we do expect to meet her again where there shall be no sickness nor death.

Lucinda [*Jemima (Rice) Rolfe, Samuel's 2d oldest, Lucius' older sister, a. 40. She was widowed at this time, for over a year*] has been sick this long time, and she has become so reduced and feeble that we fear that she will never enjoy health again, and perhaps not live very long [*though she did live to be 78 by 1902, remaining a widow*]. . . .

I am going to tell you a little about myself. Four years ago the last of June, I carried Edward [*Carson, his grandson, age 8 at the time, whose mother [8] Edna Melissa (Rice) Carson, died at his birth. She was 23. She was Samuel's 5th child, a year older than her brother Lucius*] to his Father [*Simeon S. Carson*] in Saginaw County [*100 miles to the NNE*]. It was June after your mother died [*Samuel's wife Bethsheba (Washburn), died Feb. 1860, age 68*]. For 2 years past I have been trying to go and see him, and it appeared that fate was against me. So I got ready and fixed on Monday April 11th. Clark Graves died on Sun. morning [*3d death listed above*]. His wife [*Fornia*] sent for me to attend the funeral on Tues. Then I had to adjourn going, and when that was over, Lucinda [*as he told about above, also*] was so sick that I put off yet awhile. She got better the last of the week, so I fixed on the next Monday. Sat. night Charles was taken sick. So I had to put it off a while longer. He died Tues. morning [*the 4th death listed above*], and was buried Wednesday. my way then appeared to be clear. I started the next Monday, walked to Lansing [*over 20 miles away. In the next section he tells of his trip. He did take a passenger train to Owosso, then from Fentonville on stagecoach to the City of Flint, then took a train to East Saginaw. He hoped to switch to a steamboat, on an 18 mi. trip from*



*Bay City, but not finding one, he walked around the Saginaw Bay. His destination was in the Thumb area, to Wisner TWP, in the NW corner of Tuscola Co. He stayed with them over a week. In all, about a 280 mi. round trip, for a man in his late 60's. Simeon escorted him back to East Saginaw] . . . and I came on home.*

You wanted to know about Henry's being drafted [*Samuel's youngest, Lucius' younger brother*]. He was drafted and was sick at the time with a lung fever and did but just live through it. As soon as he was able, he went to Jackson, before the examining board, and was discharged. There were 18 drafted in our town[ship] at the same time. . . .

Now Lucious [sic], I have been scribbling quite a little. I do not know as you will have patience to read it all. If not, you can lay it aside, I did know that by & by you may have a lot of little ones around you, and children always like to hear stories. I do not know but you could interest them a little by telling them about Grandpa wading through the prairie and laying out in the swamp over night [*which he did in the Thumb area, on way to his son'in'law's*].



*Samuel Tainter Rice -  
Ferrotypes produced in 1864, sent to me  
compliments of my 4th cousin Laurel  
Price of Titusville FL, who descends  
from Candace Bruce.*

In this letter I am going to enclose a little plate [*ferrotypes photograph plate of himself*] I do not know as you will care to have it. If not, if you should even think it worth your while to write to me again, you can return it. My general health is now very good. I can do considerable amount of work, but Henry is quite a feeble person. His lungs are badly effected, and he cannot endure but a little hard work. Margaret [*Henry's wife*] is well. They have 2 little boys. One will be 8 years old in Oct., the other will be 4 years old in Oct. They are well and smart. I would like to get a letter from you. In one of your letters to Lucinda [*Lucius' sister*], you said you was going to write a long letter to father. I have not yet received it, although I have anxiously looked for it. I would be very glad to see you, but I never expect to on these shores of time. But I hope to meet you and yours in the better land. Are you living for it? Are you growing up into Christ, you living head? Be [ye] steadfast and unmov[e]able, always abounding in the work of the Lord [part of 1 Corinthians 15:58]. I have much more than[t] I would like to write to you, but I must soon close,, and carry this to the [post]office. I am truly glad that you are married and settle[d] down. How I would like to come and see you, but the distance is too great [*no transcontinental railroad yet*] and the expense so much [*traveling to New York and sailing around the tip of Chile, and up the Pacific coast to San Francisco*] that I can never come. I will now close and

subscribe myself -- your effectionate [sic] Father. Samuel Tainter Rice."

Samuel, this letter's author, died a little over a year later, at age 68, in Leslie TWP.

A copy of this letter was found about a century later in the house he was residing in when he wrote. It was relayed to my Grandpa Floyd Rice, and his siblings, living seven miles away in Bunker Hill TWP, (residing at four Rice farms, along a two mile stretch of Meridian Road). We're grateful, and fortunate to have this preserved, as well as blessed to have this firsthand historical account.

Deaths were more prevalent then, that could be prevented today. However, their pioneering spirit drove them to face the unknown, and transform woodland and swamp areas into a community with surveyed roads, homes, farms, businesses, churches, schools, and a transportation means that allowed them to move about with relative ease. A connected postal system, and telegraph communication, all within three decades--out of a wilderness.

My 3d Great-grandpa Samuel's losses were many in just four months, but it was something he'd faced previously. They had a daughter who died while they were yet in VT, in 1832. They had two more children that died about a week apart in March 1841, in Leslie TWP. A married daughter who died giving birth in 1852, and his wife of 28 yrs. in 1860. His parents who migrated with them, then in their later 60's, each lived in MI about a decade. A family graveyard was established on Samuel's property, that was demolished when U. S. 127 was constructed into a 4-lane divided highway, in the mid-1950's, by the federal government. Some thought was given to preserve stones that were unbroken, but the others were discarded, and so their history is lost.

## Past Family Physicians

*By Doyle Rice*

I present here, the account of two past family members who were physicians, a father and son.

The father, was the seventh of eight children, born to Mary "Polly" (Rice) and Benjamin Meeker. (She was the aunt of Samuel Tainter Rice. Her descent from Edmund and Thomasine, and the history of their migration from NW Vermont, to Leslie MI in 1836, and after, is relayed in the previous article, pertaining to the letter Samuel wrote to his son Lucius and daughter-in-law, in 1864). This father, Dr. Valorus Meeker (his 1st cousin, Samuel's grandson, Valorus Bruce, being named after him), was born April 17, 1808, in Sheldon, Franklin Co., VT. I have no record of when or where he received his medical training. He married his wife Eliza in VT, about 1832, and they and their toddler, Henry Valorus Meeker, arrived in 1837, shortly following his brother and parents' migration. Dr. Meeker would've been in his late 20's.

His name appears in many historical accounts, his fame is of being the first physician who settled in Ingham Co., MI. "The first physician who settled in Ingham county was Dr. Valorus Meeker, who came to Leslie township early in 1837. He was then a young man and most excellent physician for his day. He enjoyed a very large practice and had an extensive ride [circuit for attending to house calls] and is well remembered by the pioneers now living. Not long previous to 1847 his health having failed as a consequence of his labors, he returned to the State of Vermont and finally died in the East [Aug. 1858 at Waterville, Lamoille Co., VT]," Cowles, Albert E. 1905? *Past and Present of the City of Lansing and Ingham County, Michigan: Historically together with Biographical sketches of many of its leading and prominent citizens and illustrious dead.* Lansing MI: The Michigan Historical Publishing Association, p. 47.

Another source records ". . . among the first settlers in the township of Leslie. Henry Meeker [older brother of Valorus, by a couple of years] purchased land on section 28 in February 1836. Henry Meeker, in company with his father, Benjamin Meeker [age 64], and Denzil P. Rice [Henry's 1st cousin, Samuel's brother], came at about the same time with Elijah Woodworth [considered the first], and soon sent for the family of the elder Meeker, who came the same year (1836). Dr. Valorus Meeker arrived in 1837, and was the first physician who settled in Ingham County," Durant, Samuel W. 1880. *History of Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan.* Philadelphia PA: D. W. Ensign & Co., pp. 261-2. Valorus was elected county clerk in 1838, which office he held for that year only, (Cowles, p. 53).

Valorus and Eliza had a daughter prior to Henry V., named Henrietta, born Sept. 1832 in Fairfax, Franklin Co., VT, but she died in July 1834. They did have another son, Cyrus E., born Aug. 7, 1838, who died in Waterville, Lamoille, VT, Oct. 24, 1862, at 24 [maybe killed serving in the Civil War]. Cyrus had married in Waterville in



1858 to Keziah Gillard Gleed, and they had a son Phillip Gleed Meeker, born July 15, 1860, Morristown, Lamoille, VT. Phillip married Fanny C. Mundy, and they had a daughter born Aug. 20, 1887 at Newark, Essex Co., NJ. That is the only trace I have discovered of any of Dr. Valorus Meeker's surviving lineage.

Yet another source, *History of the Early Life and Business Interests of the Village and Township of Leslie, Ingham County, Michigan*. 1914. Published under the auspices of The Elijah Grout Chapter; Daughters of the American Revolution, Leslie, Michigan, repeats the same about Dr. Meeker. A reason being, that this DAR chapter was assisted by an historical committee of four women, one being the niece of the doctor, Mrs. Henriette (Grout) Taylor, the daughter of Dr. Meeker's sister Sophronia, married to Rev. Elijah K. Grout, "Mrs. Elijah K. Grout was a sister of Henry and Dr. Valorus Meeker, and the daughter of Benjamin Meeker, who were among the first settlers in Leslie," p. 30. "Early in March 1836, the first log house in the village of Leslie was built by Elijah Woodworth . . . a third . . . by Henry Meeker . . . Friends and relatives of the then venturesome pioneers soon followed. Among these were the father and mother of Henry Meeker, two married daughters [Florilla, a. 37, married to Flavius J. Butler, and Sophronia, a.31, married to E. K. Grout], and another son, Dr. Valorus Meeker, who was the first physician to settle in Ingham county. These families, as was customary in an early day, gave their name to a place where they settled and thus Leslie was christened 'Meekersville,'" p. 24. A state legislator serving at the capital, then in Detroit, "proposed naming the township 'Leslie' in honor of a much respected family by that name whom he knew in Eastern New York. The name was accepted, and appears in formal act of organization of this township, which was passed in March 1838," p. 22.

With Dr. Meeker returning his family back to Vermont, came an opportunity for his son Henry Valorus Meeker to attend college. FamilySearch.org links him to being a class of 1858 Medical graduate from University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. Henry served in the Civil War with the 2nd Vermont Infantry, Co. H, from May 25, 1861 to June 29, 1864, for 3 years, 1 month, 4 days. He is listed as an invalid upon discharge. He made his way back to Michigan after the war, for on December 22, 1867 he married Mrs. Clarissa L. Potter in Lansing MI. Her former husband had left her with 3 young adult children, ages 18-22, when they married. It's likely Dr. Henry Meeker knew Clarissa from his childhood days in Leslie. She was the daughter of Benjamin Davis, landowner living near his 2nd cousin Rollin Rice (Samuel Tainter Rice's son), and their family's friend. The doctor and his wife then resided in the next township north, Aurelius TWP. He died there on June 2, 1871, at age 36; 4 years after their marriage. They never had children. It's not known how much he practiced medicine, whether before his war service, during it, or after. Nor what injury he suffered that left him an invalid. It's possible he or Clarissa filed for a pension, which may describe the condition. Neither of these doctors were residing around Leslie during the outbreak of disease that occurred in 1864, which Samuel T. Rice writes about.

I don't know of any other family members who were involved with the medical field, in the past. However, my late sister Janice (Rice) Quinn (1961-2002), became a licensed practical nurse LPN, and worked for hospitals in Lansing. (Edmund, Thomas Sr., Thomas Jr., Charles, Zebulon, Sgt. Adam, Ephraim, Samuel T., Rollin, Lucius M., Floyd, Donald). Her daughter Racquel Salas, has earned her BSN, and works in an ER at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.



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

**Kathleen H. Bond**

**ERA Membership Chair**

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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.

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|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
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| Age 80 and above                      | \$10.00  |
| Life membership (in a single payment) | \$300.00 |

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