



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

President's Column



Greetings, Cousins!

It occurs to me that this is my 20th year as President of the ERA, and I have in hand a long series of Presidential Columns covering a wide variety of topics, some of which could have been discussed at greater length, except for the demands of brevity. Here I reopen a topic I raised in 2016: signatures.

At that time I mentioned the fact that FamilySearch had many digitized images of documents bearing signatures of the principals, specifically US passport applications and draft registrations. I had then only recently become aware of these offerings, and I was quick to pass the word along. The draft offerings at first seemed to fit an obvious pattern -- the available registrants for both World Wars were all born before 1900 and are thus now beyond the umbrella of confidentiality. The WWI draft covered men born from 1870 to 1900 as of 1917-18, while the WWII draft was made available only from the 1942 registrations of men born 1877-1897.

Sadly, the WWII cards were withdrawn from FamilySearch after a relatively short period of exposure, but they have now reappeared along with other registrations ranging from 1940 to 1946 and covering men born through 1928. In case you've never run across these cards, I include here a brief description: full name and current address, telephone number, age, date and place of birth, name and address and relationship of a backup contact person, employer's name and location, and (on the back) a physical description.

I have examined the card for my father, who registered in 1940, and I made the following observations: (a) the full name and address were typed, (b) the rest of the information was written by hand by a clerk who (c) misspelled the birthplace and backup contact, (d) someone then crossed out two of the three spelling errors, (e) the telephone number was only three digits, (f) the clerk's handwriting seems to match the signature of the registrar on the back of the card, but (g) the signature of the registrant is recognizably my father's and (h) abbreviates both forenames to mere initials, unlike the typed name at the top.

This is a typical example, except that more often the card is entirely filled in by hand or entirely typed. Spelling errors are not uncommon. Registrants sometimes sign with their full names, exactly matching the name recorded at the top, but sometimes abbreviate (as my father did) or leave out a middle name, or choose a different spelling. I figure that a person's own signature counts heavily in deciding the "true" name, but my father's case illustrates a complication not usually seen -- almost everyone called him by various nicknames unrelated to either of his forenames, and so I imagine that signing with his full name would have felt wrong.

See within for more details about the upcoming reunion.

~ 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

Deadline for Summer issue, 2026, is June 30, 2026.

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)
ASSOCIATIONN., INC.

**Membership Mailing Address and Address
Corrections:**

Kathleen H. Bond
31 Billings Rd
No. Stonington, CT 06359
membership@edmund-rice.org

IMPORTANT: Please notify Kathleen Bond of email address changes to continue to receive notices of when the latest newsletter is posted to the ERA website.

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Website:

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

Editor's Column

~ *David W Rice*

For those that can spend an extra day after our Reunion meeting, there is an opportunity to visit historic Virginia City, which is a twenty-minute drive from Carson City. For those attending the Reunion without a car, we are working to develop other transportation options for a Sunday visit to Virginia City. Built in 1859, it was the center of the Comstock Boom. From an architectural walking tour, to a main street saloon crawl, there is a lot of the old west to enjoy. Check out the Virginia City website: <https://visitvirginiacitynv.com>.

Editor's note: The Winter newsletter really was the last color hardcopy version. I asked the printer to print in black and white, and he goofed up and printed color for the price of B&W.

2025- 2026 Officers

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Timothy L. Sanford, timothy.l.sanford@sympatico.ca

Directors Emeritus

Ruth M. Brown

George King

Beth McAleer

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	John E. Rice	1956-1957	Edgar W. Rice	1981-1982	William H. Drury
1925-1928	Harry C. Rice	1958-1959	Stanley I. Rice	1983	Patricia P. MacFarland
1929-1930	Clarence E. Rice	1960	Donald H. Whittemore	1984-1985	Janice R. Parmenter
1930-1931	John A. Bigelow	1961-1963	Frederick R. Rice	1986-1987	Margaret S. Rice
1932-1934	Russell J. Rice	1964-1965	William H. Hoefler	1988-1989	Alex W. Snow
1935-1936	Daniel H. Rice	1966-1967	Ray Lowther Ellis	1990-1993	John S. Bates
1937-1939	Elsie Hawes Smith	1968	Edgar W. Rice	1994	Alex W. Snow
1940-1941	Sturgis C. Rice	1969	Erwin R. McLaughlin*	1995-1997	Frederick H. Rice
1942-1945	Arthur P. Rice	1969	Jeneve M. Melvin	1998-2006	Dr. Robert V. Rice
1946-1947	Everett E. Rice	1970-1973	Col. Allen F. Rice	2007-present	John Chandler
1948-1949	Ralph E. Rice	1974	Margaret E. Allen		
1950-1951	Ralston F. Rice	1975	Charles W. Rice		

*Note: Died in office

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.

175 Annual Reunion of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association

September 25-26, 2026 (Friday and Saturday)

Federal Hotel, 900 South Carson Street, Carson City Nevada

This 175th meeting of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association (ERA) will focus on the life of Henry Freeman Rice and his leadership during the Comstock Silver Boom that fueled the rapid growth of Carson City during the period 1850 – 1900. Henry was joined in Carson City by his friend Henry Marvin Yerington. Spring and Summer ERA newsletters will provide historical background for our meeting.

Meet your Rice Cousins. Renew past friendships.

Learn about your ancestors.

Open to all, ERA members get priority for dinner and talks.

- Registration and payment in advance are required for the bus tour, Friday night dinner, and Saturday meetings and catered luncheon. Non-members payment will include annual ERA membership.
- The Summer newsletter will include a reservation form that must be returned along with all the applicable payments by **September 1, 2026**.

Preliminary Agenda of Events

Friday, September 25

- 9:00am Arrive early, visit the historic Nevada State Capital museum. Walk down nearby Curry Street and have lunch on your own, perhaps at the St Charles Hotel (built in 1862).
- 12:30pm For those on the bus tour, gather at the Federal Hotel parking lot.
- 1:00pm Enjoy a bus tour of historical Rice related sites including:
- Visit the Carson City Mint and State Museum for a docent guided tour. You will walk into an acclaimed mine recreation, view a mint press and the coins it produced, along with pieces of the famous MacKay silverware displayed at the 1878 World Fair.
 - Visit the Nevada State Railroad Museum for a docent guided tour of a world class collection of operating steam locomotives and rolling stock.
 - Visit the Henry F. Rice and Henry M. Yerington shared family burials plot in the Lone Mountain Cemetery
 - Bus tour of historic Carson City houses narrated by David and Frances Rice, and including the Rice and Yerington homes. Also see the Clemens house where Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) lived with his brother, and the Ferris house (inventor of the Ferris Wheel). We will also visit St Peters Episcopal Church (Rice and Yerington were founding Wardens in 1863).
- 6:00pm Social hour and Dinner at the Red's 395 BBQ which is directly across the street from the Federal Hotel.
- 8:00pm ERA Board Meeting at Federal Hotel small meeting room.

Saturday, September 26

PRELIMINARY Meeting Agenda

- 9:00am Gather at the Federal Hotel meeting Room for coffee, tea, and pastries. Coffee and teas will be served all day.
- 9:10am Welcome - Opening Remarks by John Chandler, PhD, President, Historian, and DNA Project Leader
- 9:20am ERA Family Database and Rice DNA Project – John Chandler, PhD, President, Historian, DNA Project Leader
- 9:50am Edmund Rice 101 - Michael A. Rice, PhD, Board Member, Treasurer, Book Custodian
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am “Tents to Towns” – Frances Rice, ERA Member
- 11:45am Group Photo
- 12:00 Buffet Lunch
- 1:00pm “In Mint Condition - The Life and Times of Henry Freeman Rice” – Guest Speaker David Woodruff Research Historian and Chautauqua presenter.
- 3:00pm Annual meeting of the ERA
Informal social and discussions

Accommodations

Hotel reservation must be made by the individual attendees by calling the Federal Hotel in Carson City (phone: 775-883-0900)(just across the street from Reds 395 BBQ). A block of rooms has been set aside with a rate of \$135/night. The room rate is good if you come few days early or stay few days later after the meeting. Mention the **Rice Reunion** to get the discounted price. The earlier the better.

Hotel Reservation may be accepted until Sept 1 or until our block of rooms is filled. Other hotels may also be available but will require personal transportation to attend the meeting at the Federal Hotel and dinner at Red' 395 BBQ.

Friday dinner is at Reds 395 BBQ. Group reservations have been made for no more than 50 people. Detailed menu choices will be listed in the summer newsletter registration form and will include BBQ, beef, fish, or vegetarian options.

Visit the ERA Reunion web page (<https://www.edmund-rice.org/reunion.htm>) to see further 2026 Reunion information including travel instructions.

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

Nine-Generation Rice Report 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 documents. 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 2024. If you find any documentable errors, please let us know!

Membership

New Annual Members

Keith Lewis, MA
Cindy Eddy, CA
Charles Rice, NC
Charles Suttles, NC
Rebecca Pelton, WI
Pamela Rice, CA
Catherine Willoughby, NY
Elena Rice, WI
Kathleen Moore, MA
Elizabeth Ballard, TX

Lost Members*

Susan Berger, NC
Linda Bryant, FL
Barbara Carlson, RI
Marilyn Cullen, CO
Rosalie B. Detmer
Jean Groves, VA
Lois Kendall, MA
Donald Nelson, TX
Mildred Rice, ME
Stephen Rice, PA
Mary Swanson, NE

*includes cousins whose mail addresses bounced back in the last newsletter mailing.

Remember to Renew Your Membership!

We want to stay connected! Please send in the membership form (last page of this newsletter), with your annual dues or consider a Life Membership.

Registration for the Annual Reunion includes a one-year membership.

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!

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

In Celebration

Happy Birthday, dear cousins! We hope you have many more!

APRIL

Kenneth Casanova
Mark Gottfredson
Roger D Hughes
Sarah B Rice Misura
Marie B Negrelli
Penelope Rice Nolte
John O'Keeffe
Dennis R Rice
George L Rice Sr
Kevin Anthony Rice
Robert T Rice
Stephen G Rice
Jason Hayes Sanderson
Charles R Stone Jr
Pamala Wadsworth

MAY

Henry Ball
Alice P Bernet
Bill Lynn Cornie
Dixie Davis
Terri Haven
Patricia J Kauffman
James Lydia Kleerup
Susanne R Loetterle
Beth McAleer
Harold R Rice
Lt Gen Leon S Rice
Mildred Rice
Mary Shaw
Albert Watts
Edna L Woodbury
Margery Zeller

JUNE

Lana Davis
Sarah Marie Franklin
Scott R Huntsman PH.D.
Chance Le Kelley
Joan Miller
Kevin William Mullen
Donald Nelson
Jonathan Normand
Doug W Schueths
Janet Sylvia Seitz
Patrick Smythe
Doug Vickery
Doug Daniel Vickery

Births

Ross McCurdy (life member) reports the birth of Piper Regen McCurdy, born February 27, 2026 in Charlotte, NC to John P & Samantha (Farr) McCurdy.

Piper is a girl's name of English and Latin origin.

Congratulations!



Obituaries

Thomas Dunne Gidley (March 13, 1934 - January 25, 2026)



Thomas Dunne Gidley Esquire, 91, of Bristol, Rhode Island passed away surrounded by family at Hope Hospice on Sunday, January 25. Tom was predeceased by his parents, Edwin Lewis Gidley and Dorothy Dunne Gidley, and stepson Matthew Rohloff Vohr. Tom was the devoted husband of Betty Vohr- Gidley, MD; proud father of; son Thomas Edwin Gidley and partner Janet, David Waterman Gidley and wife Jeanine; stepdaughter Jennifer Lynn Vohr Hurley and husband Lane; stepson Jonathan Larrison Vohr and partner Molly; and grandchildren Luke Gidley and Michaela Hurley, MD.

Tom was born March 13, 1934 in New Jersey. He graduated from Millburn High School and received a bachelor's degree cum laude in English from Dartmouth College. Tom served in US Army National Guard, achieving the rank of Captain.

Tom would go on to earn his law degree from Yale and launch a successful law career. He began by practicing law with Providence's Hinckley Allen law firm for 25 years,

before co-founding the firm Gidley, Lovegreen, and Sarli in 1985. They were subsequently joined by Jim Marusak Esq. Tom was a dedicated trial lawyer, specializing in medical malpractice defense. He was a member of Board of Federal Examiners, District of Rhode Island, 1984-1994. He received the Order of Commendation from the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. Tom was an Adjunct Faculty member of the Graduate Program in Health Services Administration of Salve Regina University (formerly Salve Regina College), from 1979-2020. Tom was also a member of the Rhode Island Legislative Commission on Medical Malpractice, from 1985-1986; and a member of Rhode Island and American Bar Associations' American Academy of Hospital Attorneys. Tom was nominated and became a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He retired from law practice on January 1st 2000.

Tom loved to read, especially English literature. After retiring from a successful law career, Tom decided to go back to school at University of Rhode Island get his masters' and doctorate's degrees in English literature. Tom and his wife Betty flew to London for him to gather data for his dissertation on the work of Sir Leslie Stephen. Tom was the oldest person to receive his PhD at graduation at University of Rhode Island. He went on to serve as an adjunct writing professor at URI until 2021.

Upon his second retirement, Tom delighted in participating in the Barrington Congregational Church and its book club. Tom enjoyed living on the water and cruising on his boat the Thornbury throughout Narragansett Bay and the offshore Islands. He joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary, where he enjoyed going on patrols, and sharing his love of boating with others. Tom was also an active member of the local ROMEO (Really Old Men Eating Out) luncheon club. Tom also loved traveling and cruising with his wife Betty.

David Foster King *(September 27, 1942 – February 1, 2026)*



David Foster King, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on February 1, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 83. Born on September 27, 1942, in Ogden, Utah, David's life was a testament to his unwavering faith in his Lord Jesus Christ, his devotion to family, and his lifelong commitment to serving others.

As a young man, David faithfully served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Netherlands from 1961 through 1964. This formative experience shaped his testimony and laid the foundation for a life guided by faith, service, and love for others.

Education was paramount to David, who earned his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Brigham Young University. He lived a life of honorable service, marked by loyalty, faithfulness, and integrity, standing as a true testament to his

beliefs and the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For over three decades, David was managing partner at King, King, Alleman & Jensen Accountancy Corporation in Burbank, California. In this role, he earned the admiration and trust of countless clients who relied on his expertise to guide them through their finances. His career was not just about numbers; it was about building relationships rooted in honesty and integrity, reflecting the man he was at his core.

David's accomplishments extended far beyond his professional life. He was deeply involved in scouting, earning the rank of Eagle Scout and receiving the prestigious Silver Beaver Award. His devotion to the community was evident through his long-standing membership in the Kiwanis Club of Burbank, where he proudly served as president in 1983 during the memorable "King Size" year. David served as a Bishop in the Burbank First Ward from 1991 through 1996. He cherished the opportunity to help his ward members come closer to Jesus Christ while serving in this capacity. He also honored his call to be a Sealer in the Nauvoo Illinois Temple where he was able to seal and link couples and families for eternity in the House of the Lord.

Outside of work, David cherished time spent in nature, finding joy in hiking, fishing, camping, and golfing. He delighted in summer vacations with his family, creating memories that will be treasured for generations. A devoted baseball fan, he especially loved attending Dodger games, sharing his enthusiasm for the sport with family and friends.

David held his family close to his heart. He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Joyce Powers King, whom he married on September 11, 1964. Together, they raised a beautiful family, including their son Lance King (Melanie); daughter Cynthia Gifford (Shaun); son Patrick King; daughter Wendy Bentley (Jon); and son David King (JoAnna). His legacy continues through his 14 grandchildren: Samantha Stuart (Cole), Patrick King (Ally), Brian King, Emily King, Matthew King, Miranda Gifford, Evan Bentley, David Bentley, Loria King, Ella Bentley, Kevin Gifford, Colin King, Steven Bentley, Evelyn King, and 6 great-grandchildren, Jane Stuart, Tommy Stuart, Marci Stuart, Emmett King, Lydia Stuart, Elliot King - all of whom adored him and carry forward his love and example.

He is also survived by his loving brothers, Dennis King (Patti), and Leon King (Cecilie), along with many extended family members and dear friends.

David was preceded in death by his cherished son, Patrick King, who passed away in 1983 at the age of 8; his parents, Carl and Virginia King; and his siblings Wallace King, Larry King, and Sharon Mortenson. He is remembered not only for his accomplishments but for the warmth, kindness, and quiet strength he brought into the lives of those around him.

As we say goodbye to David Foster King, we hold dear the lessons he imparted and the love he shared. He leaves behind a legacy rooted in faith, family, and friendship—forever cherished in our hearts.

Ruth E Brown (*June 10, 1920 – March 11, 2026*)



We share the passing of Ruth Brown on the eve of her 106th year. Ruth was born in Hammondsport, NY, the youngest of 4 children, to Monroe and Bertha (Sedgwick) Ray.

Following high school, she earned a secretarial certificate and moved to Buffalo, NY, to work at Bell Aircraft. She also worked as a city bus driver. At Bell, she met her future husband, Joe Brown. They lived in Buffalo, later moving to Ithaca, NY, with their five children. In 1959, the family of seven moved to their “forever home” in Sudbury. Ruth worked for many years as the secretary and go-to person for the Sudbury Public Health Nurses Association.

Ruth and Joe were interested in history and were very involved members of the Sudbury Historical Society. They served as docents at the Wayside Inn. An avid genealogist, Ruth traced several of her ancestors to Sudbury. She was a member of the Sudbury DAR Chapter and an active member of the Sudbury Women’s Club. She also volunteered at the Goodnow Library.

Ruth was honored by the Town of Sudbury in 2025 as a Boston Post Cane recipient, an award given to the town's oldest resident.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband, Joseph (1921-2021), and daughter, Amy Suzanne (2022). She is survived by her children – Timothy, Peter (Jeannette Sawyer), Peggy (Deb Roussell), and Sheree, as well as 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Edmund Rice's Descendants – Stories of our Ancestors

To understand the significant role that Henry Freeman Rice would play in the development of what would become the State of Nevada and its state capital, Carson City, it is important to know what H. F. Rice's life was like before he moved west and also the course of events surrounding the discovery of the gold and silver in the west that fueled the rapid migration and growth of the Utah Territory.

Henry Freeman Rice's life In the East

HENRY FREEMAN RICE, son of Stephen and Abigail (Hamilton) Rice, was born July 19, 1818. In the 1830s, he worked in a Boston, Massachusetts, express shipping business which was in its formative stage. Independent entrepreneurs and small companies were beginning to offer courier services between cities, and Henry F. Rice worked in an early express business with the Wells Fargo and Company founder Henry Wells. Henry Wells (1805–1878) hired William G. Fargo in 1842 and later partnered with him and others to form the famous Well Fargo Company. Concurrently with his express cargo work, Rice was also involved in the insurance sales business in Boston.

He moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in the 1840's and entered extensive business affairs involving coal transportation, with Joseph Chamberlain. Rice then moved to the Canadian side of Lake Erie from the early 1850s until 1860, and records indicate he was primarily involved in transportation and business development in Maitland, Ontario, and the Port Stanley area. Maitland was a vital shipping port on the St. Lawrence River, and Rice likely engaged in the local transport and logistics sector that supported the region's lumber and grain exports.

While Rice was in Canada, he was partnered in a shipping firm with Henry Marvin Yerington. Henry M. Yerington was born in Calborne, Canada, in 1828 so he was younger than Rice by about 10 years. Both belonged to the Port Stanley Masonic Lodge.

In 1853 Rice, at age 35, marries Jennie Elisabeth Hume (age 33). In 1854 Henry Hume Rice was born in Mailand, Canada. In 1858 Yerington, age 30 at the time, married Susen Mary Hume (age 20), Jennies sister. Rice and Yerington were now brothers in law as well as friends and business partners. The Rice/Yerington team was formed. In 1860, Henry F. Rice and Jennie E. Rice travel to Utah Territories leaving their seven-year-old son, H. H. Rice with the Yerington family in Canada.

While rail lines were relatively well developed in the Eastern United States, railroads did not extend beyond the Mississippi River and travel further west was generally by foot, wagon, or stagecoach. In 1860, travelers moving west beyond the railroad primarily used covered wagons ("prairie schooners") pulled by oxen or mules, traveling in organized wagon trains along the Oregon, California, and



Mormon trails. While more expensive, Henry and Jennie likely traveled by stagecoach for the 2000+ mile trip. Sixty to seventy miles per day was common for stagecoach passenger travel. The trip likely took about 25 days to reach the Eagle Valley area that was eventually to become a Carson City. Rice's goal was to explore business opportunities and make investments for both families.

The Opening of the West

In 1847, the Utah Territory did not yet exist as an official U.S. entity, as the land was still part of Mexico until the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848. The Treaty ended the Mexican War between the United States and Mexico. Mexico recognized the United States' annexation of Texas and agreed that the Rio Grande River was the true boundary between Mexico and Texas.



However, upon their arrival in July 1847, the Mormon pioneers under Brigham Young claimed a vast, undefined area known generally as the Great Basin. The area of the California Basin became the unorganized Utah territory that contained many Mormon emigrants. Following the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Mormons organized the provisional State of Deseret (1849).

Among the first of the pioneer trains that entered the Carson Valley in the spring of the year 1850 was a company of Mormons, led by Thomas Orr. On the fifteenth of May it halted for a few hours on the edge of a little creek that ran into the Carson River. While the women of the party were preparing the noon meal, one of the young men, William Prouse, washed a few pans

of the creek sand, and showed his companions a trace of gold. The showing was not rich enough to divert them from their goal of reaching the gold fields in California, but the party was detained some days in the valley by mountain snow. While waiting, John Orr, son of the leader, strolled up the creek with a companion. Here Orr pried off a fragment of rock with his butcher's knife from a crevice under a creek waterfall and uncovered a nugget of gold about as large as a walnut.

This was the first fragment of precious quartz taken from the gold and silver districts of the western Sierra; but Orr had not the faintest idea of the importance of his discovery and kept the nugget simply as a pretty memento of his overland trip to California.

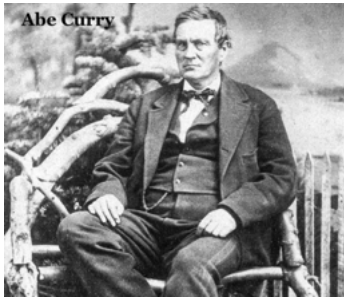


During the spring of 1850, a party including Abner Blackburn, Hampton S. Beatie, and Captain Joseph DeMont built a mud-and-log cabin in the Carson Valley to trade with passing travelers. This post, often called Beatie's Cabin, was located at the site of present-day Genoa, serving as a vital way station for California-bound emigrants. Blackburn and Beatie closed their place in the fall of 1850.

Later Colonel John Reese, also a Mormon, and a small group set out from Salt Lake City with thirteen wagons of goods, food, seeds, and farm equipment. One month later they arrived at what was to become known as Mormon Station and were very successful selling crops to miners and emigrants. Mormon Station did not become an actual 'thing' until the Colonel John Reese started things up in Spring of 1851.

In 1851 unsuccessful miners J. Barnard, F. Barnard, F. Hall, W. L. Hall, A. J. Rollins and G. Follenbye started a trading post and ranch north of the Carson Valley and named it Eagle Station in Eagle Valley because F. Hall killed and stuffed an eagle and hung it over the doorway. The site is located at Fifth and Thompson streets in present Carson City.

In 1854 the original owners sold Eagle Station to Colonel Reese who in turn sold it to several Mormon families. Also in 1854, Utah territorial legislature created Carson County. It was an attempt to establish a more formal government in the region and to maintain Mormon control of the area. Mormon Station was renamed Genoa in 1855 and was designated the county seat.



In 1855, Abraham Curry, Ben Green, John Musser, and Frank M. Proctor journeyed from Downieville, CA, to the Utah Territory to determine investment opportunities and visited Genoa to purchase land but were rejected. They then went north to Eagle Valley and purchased the Eagle Ranch Trading Post and 865 acres of the surrounding valley for downpayment of \$300 in coins out of a total sale price of \$1,000.

In early 1857, in response to conflict with non-Mormons and the difficulty of maintaining jurisdiction over Carson County, the Utah Territorial Legislature voted to attach Carson County to Salt Lake City, 500 miles away. This left the region without a functional government.

In late 1857 Brigham Young called Mormon members to Salt Lake City to defend against approaching military forces sent by President James Buchanan to re-affirm federal jurisdiction over the region. Young finally agreed to step down as territorial governor and accept federal oversight. When the Mormon settlers hastily left, they were forced to sell their ranches, equipment and mining claims at bargain prices.

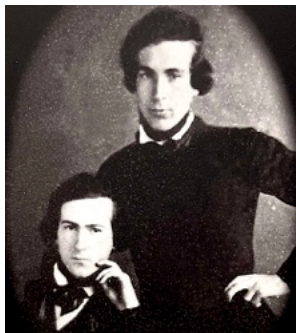
In 1858 Abraham Curry and partners plotted a townsite along the Carson River. The Carson River was named after Christopher "Kit" Carson who was a scout for John C Fremont when he explored the west in 1843-1844. Frank Proctor is credited for naming the town after the Carson River. Frank Proctor became a delegate to the Nevada State Constitutional Convention in 1864.

The late 1850's saw the ending of the prospector and burro phase of gold rush in California and many prospectors moved east over the Sierra to what was considered the Utah Territory. Many disappointed Utah prospectors eventually sold claims at a discount as surface deposits of gold played out. Mining for gold then entered a deep digging phase that required heavy infrastructure and large capital. As the deep miners looked for gold, they encountered an abundant heavy, sticky blue-gray material that was considered a nuisance. This material was in the gravels and rocks that made gold recovery difficult. The gold miners often used these blue-gray mine tailings to fill potholes and pave roads in Virginia



City.

Two smart, hardworking brothers, Ethan and Hosea Grosh knew what most prospectors did not know: how to identify different metals. Most prospectors were searching for gold, and they discarded the clay they called "that blasted blue stuff." But the Grosh brothers knew better.



Trained as mineralogists, they knew the blue gray clay contains silver, and in 1857, they discovered a "monster ledge" of silver on Mount Davidson where Virginia City would eventually be built. But bad luck hits! Hosea injured his foot and died. Then, Ethan gets lost and died on the trail to California. They died having no idea they discovered one of the greatest silver lodes in history.

In 1859 the Comstock Lode was rediscovered. Peter O'Reilly and Pat McLaughlin asked Snowshoe Thompson to take the blue grey clay material over the Sierra to an assay office in Placerville. It proved out at \$3000 per ton...when silver was only \$1.60 per ounce. This has led to reports that the streets of Virginia City were paved with silver.



Silver mined from this source was vast and ended up being more important than gold. This was the famous Comstock Lode. Silver profits from the Comstock flowed to the building of San Francisco's gilded age and spurred the development of Carson City and Virginia City. Carson City grew from the Eagle Ranch Trading Post along the emigrant trail beside the Carson River, to become a transportation hub for infrastructure materials and ore flowing to and from Virginia City.

In 1860 Carson City's population stood at about 500 people and in 1861 it was named the territorial capital. It is in this historical environment that H. F. Rice and Jennie find themselves in 1860. H. F. Rice's infrastructure and organizational skills are immediately recognized.

To be continued...

What happened to H. F. Rice and his family when they reached the Utah Territory will be the focus of the coming summer ERA newsletter and the David Woodruff historical presentation at the Carson City 175th Rice family reunion. The Summer Newsletter will also include reunion registration forms and instructions. Visit the ERA website (<https://www.edmund-rice.org/reunion.htm>) for Carson City reunion agenda, travel, and lodging information.



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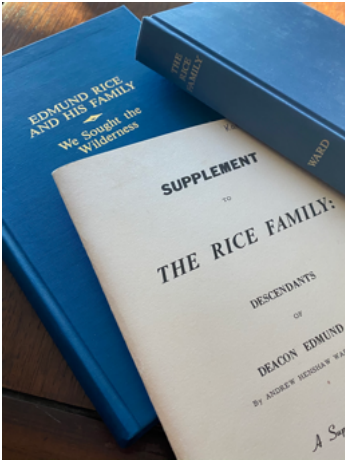
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Announcement

May 2, 2026
Sudbury Witness House Tour
Sudbury Historical Society
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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 USB drives - 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:

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR CARD'S EXPIRATION DATE!

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 to offset the erosion of our treasury due to the current low interest rates. Additional contributions are appreciated.

The schedule of dues is as follows:

Under age 80	\$20.00
Age 80 and above	\$10.00
Life membership (in a single payment)	\$300.00

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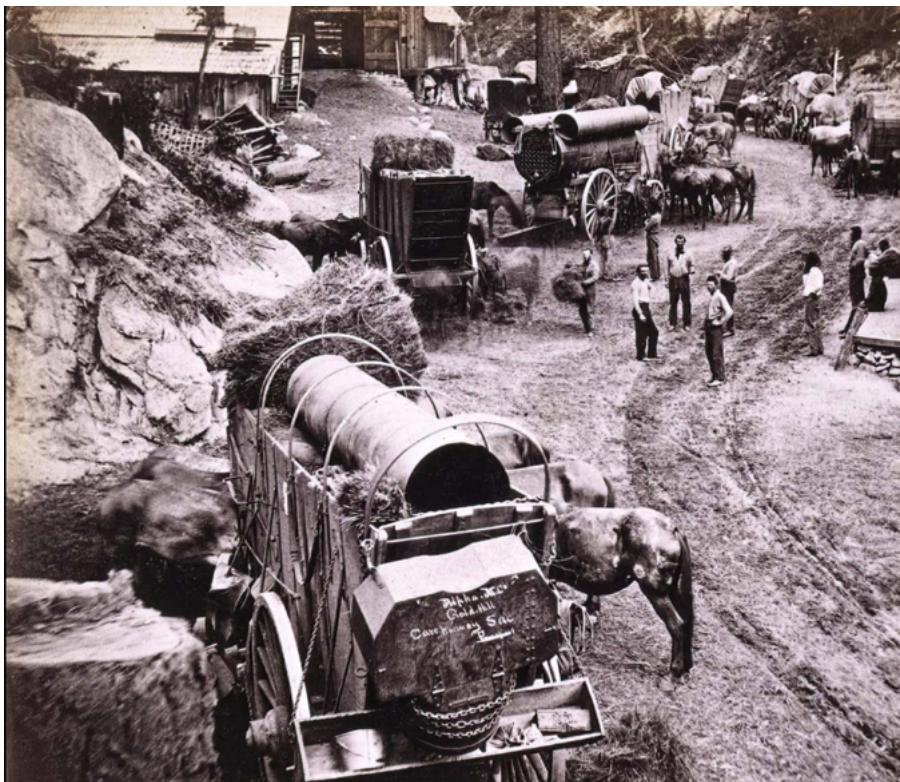
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Freight teams negotiating deep spring snowpack in the Tahoe region of California 1866.



Scene on the "Placerville Route". This 1860s photo captures freight teams on route from Sacramento to Nevada's Comstock Lode via Genoa.