



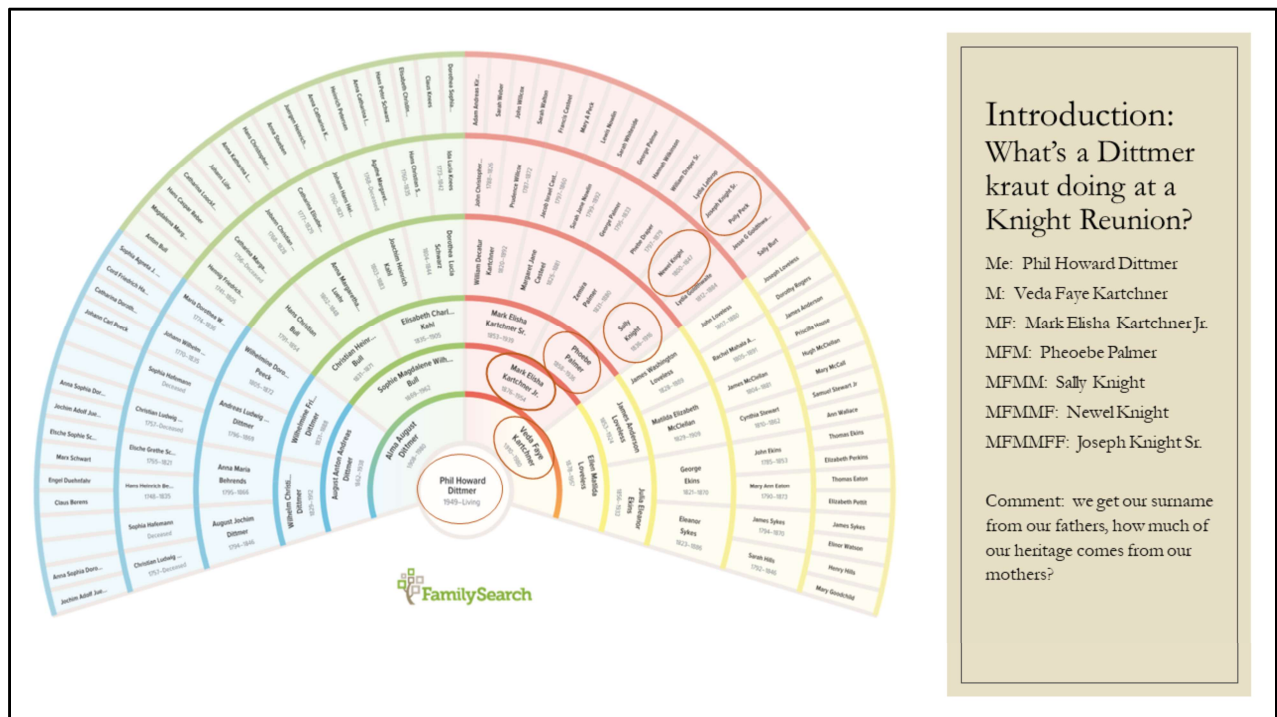
STORIES FROM THE KNIGHT-PECK FAMILY TREE

We love getting together for Joseph Knight and Polly Peck family reunions to hear and tell stories from their lives and the lives of their descendants who are also our ancestors. We are proud of the virtues and character illustrated in these stories, and especially of their witness and contribution to the Restoration.

Joseph and Polly also had ancestors who are also our ancestors. It is interesting to learn stories of these ancestors' lives. Sometimes we can recognize events or patterns that may have contributed to Joseph and Polly's circumstances or foreshadowed their accomplishments.

The author's interest in ancestors and their stories began with an assignment from his mother to make typewritten copies of family pedigree charts when he was about twelve years old. These pedigree charts fit in an 8 ½ by 14 inch Book of Remembrance, but unfolded twice in width and once in length to 25 ¼ by 20 ¼ inches, showing nine generations and 511 ancestors. The author thought it was neat to see all these names and learn something about his genealogy.

His interest waned over teen-age years, but resumed after his mission. He arranged to talk with an uncle with a reputation as the family genealogist. Upon seeing a family pedigree he asked who of these people was first to join the Church, and began to learn the story of Newel Knight and his role as a witness in early Church history and subject of revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants. His field of interest was thus extended from genealogy to family history, an interest greatly facilitated with the availability of the internet. This presentation is his effort to share some of the stories he has found with other descendants of Joseph and Polly.



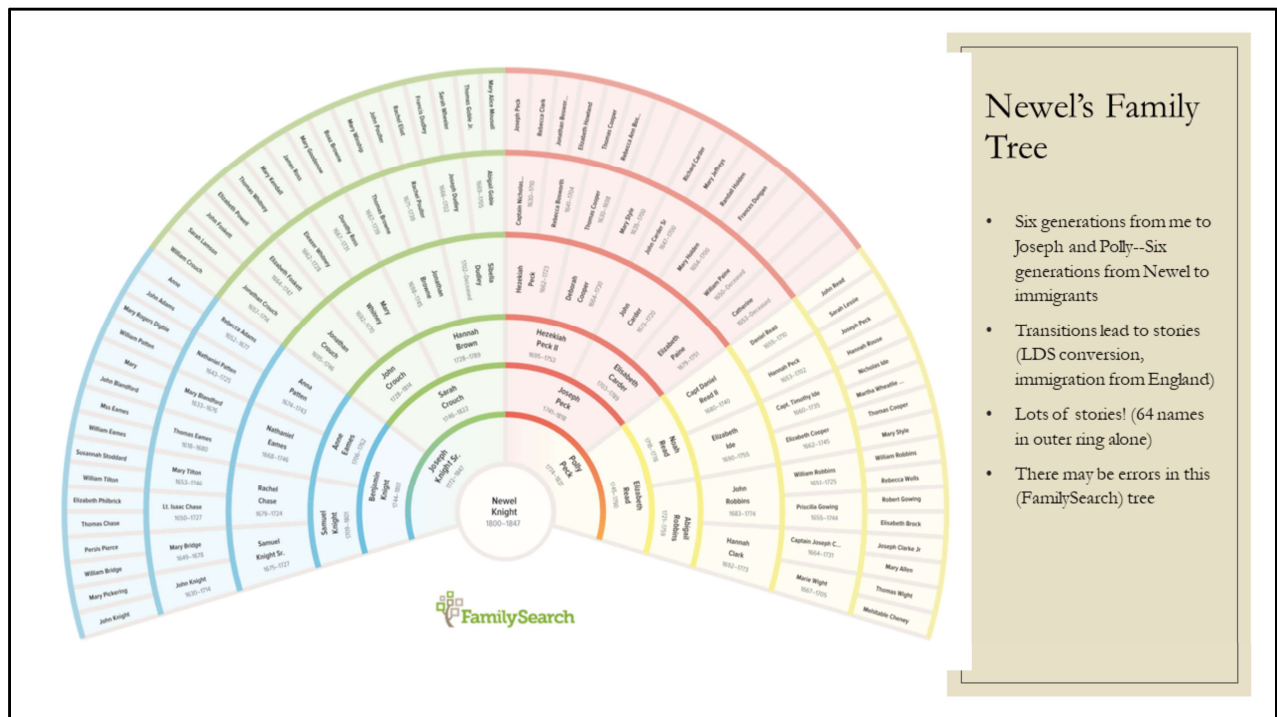
The author's surname, Dittmer, is German. As shown by his fan chart above, the outer ring of the left side of his fan chart has all German surnames except for two from Denmark, and there are two German surnames on the right of center, so he is exactly 50% German. So how does he claim to be a Knight?

The fan chart shows the connection through

- His mother, Veda Faye Kartchner,
- Her father, Mark Elisha Kartchner, Jr.,
- His mother, Phoebe Palmer,
- Her mother, Sally Knight,
- Her father, Newel Knight, and
- His father, Joseph Knight, Sr.

We tend to identify with our surname, so author thinks of himself as a Dittmer. But while our surname comes from our father, many other characteristics are inherited, by genetics and by culture, from our mothers. So the author, in addition to being a Dittmer, can claim (proudly) to be a Knight, a Kartchner, a Palmer, an Ekins, a Loveless, and so on. He takes pride in stories from all of these ancestors.

Similarly, while the Knight surname came from Romsey, the Knights also had ancestors with many other surnames, whose stores we will be sharing in this presentation.

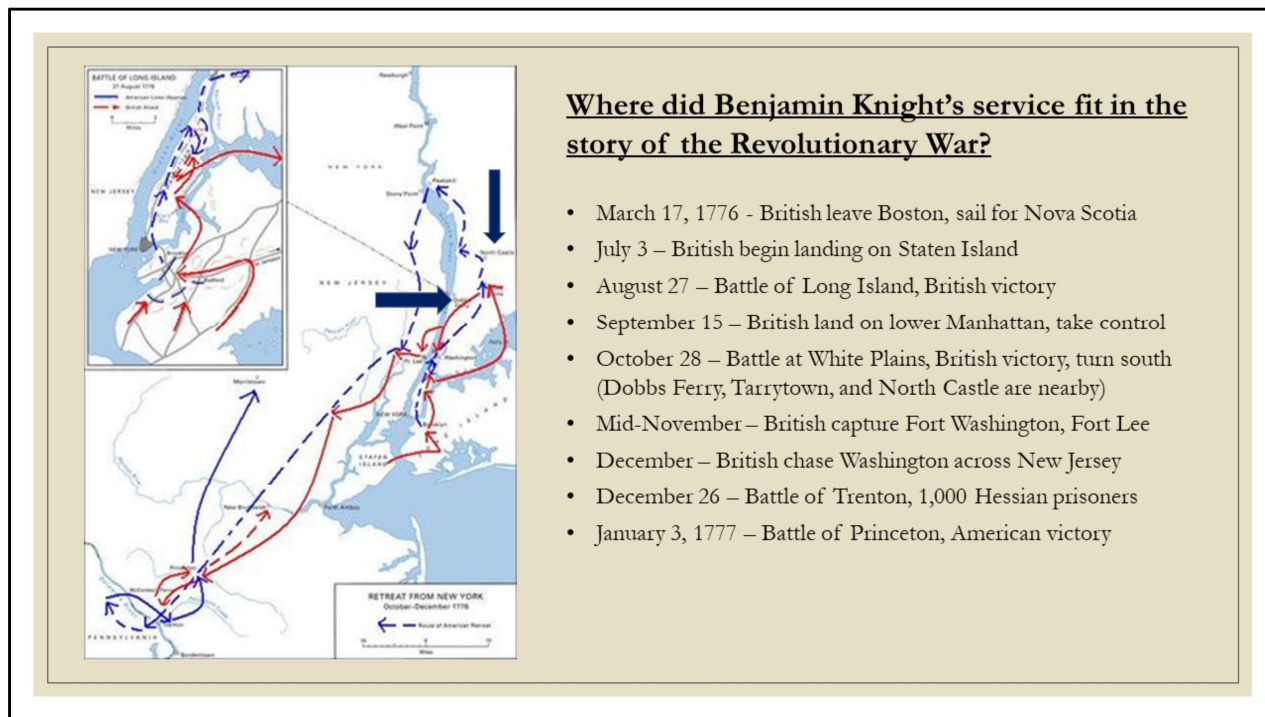


Here is the fan chart for Newel Knight, son of Joseph and Polly. The fan charts of all his full siblings will (of course) be the same, except for the starting name. Looking at this chart can show us a few interesting facts.

First, you may notice that just as there are six generations between the author and Joseph and Polly, there are also six generations between Newel and the outer ring of the fan chart, which generally represents the immigrant generation. The immigrants tend to have well-documented stories because of the important transition in their lives between England and New England (just as we tend to find some of the best-documented stories for our ancestors who joined the LDS Church and traveled west as pioneers).

It is also striking how many ancestors the Knights had on this side of the Atlantic. If the outer ring of the fan chart is well documented, there would be 64 stories to tell. We obviously do not have time for that many stories in a 50-minute presentation, so we will pick a few that seem especially interesting or inspiring.

We will also caution that this fan chart, taken from FamilySearch.org, may contain errors. For example, the mother of Joseph Knight is listed in different records as either Hannah or Sarah Crouch, and there are competing theories as to who she was and who her parents were. Hence, the entire green quadrant of this chart is questionable, and we will not include any stories from the people in this part of the chart.



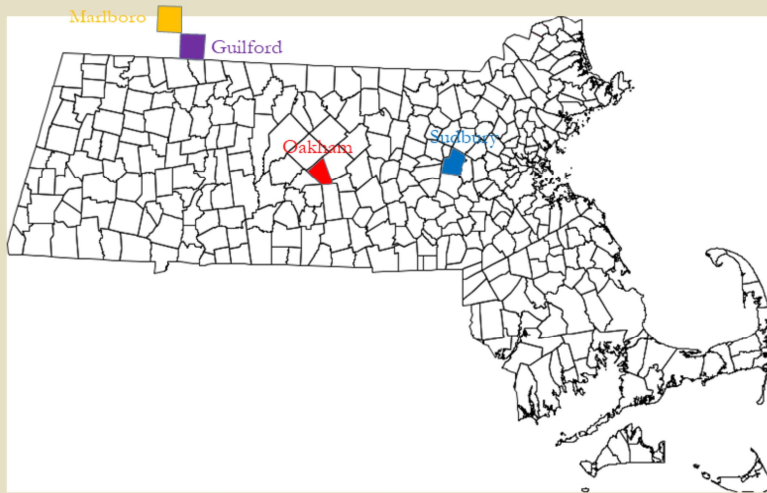
The locations where Benjamin Knight served are not well-known Revolutionary War locations. It is interesting to see where these locations fit in to the overall war effort.

On March 17, 1776, the British forces left Boston. They sailed at first for Nova Scotia, then turned back to launch a large-scale attack on New York. They landed on Staten Island, beginning in July. In August, they (red arrows) drove Washington's forces (blue) from Long Island (Brooklyn today), and then out of Manhattan. They again defeated Washington in White Plains to the north. The British then turned south to capture Fort Washington, at the northern end of Manhattan, and Fort Lee, across the Hudson in New Jersey. They chased Washington south across New Jersey. Washington then rallied his troops for the famous victories at Trenton and Princeton that greatly improved morale.

Arrows show two of the locations where Benjamin Knight's company served, Dobbs Ferry and North Castle. It appears that forces were located there to block or track the British forces had they chosen to continue northward after their victory at White Plains. Since they headed south to Forts Washington and Lee and the later New Jersey campaign, it does not appear that Benjamin Knight's company was involved in any battles.

While Benjamin fought no battles, it is striking to think of these farmers leaving home and family (Benjamin already had three children, Joseph age 4, Molly 2, and Elizabeth 8 months) to face the mighty British army. That Washington and the Americans survived and eventually triumphed with these amateur soldiers, enlisted sometimes for stretches as short as two months at a time, is amazing.

Where Did Benjamin Knight Come From?



Born 26 Dec 1744
Sudbury, Massachusetts
(incorporated 1639)

Married about 1771
(Joseph born 26 Nov 1772)
Oakham, Massachusetts
(Oakhampton incorporated 1762)

Between 1779 and 1781
moved to Marlborough (today
Marlboro) Vermont
Chartered 1764

Benjamin died Marlboro
4 August 1800

Here is a map that shows how Benjamin's Revolutionary War service fit in with the rest of his life. It shows the outlines of the towns of Massachusetts, which are geographical subdivisions of the state, much like townships in other states.

Benjamin was born in 1744 in the town of Sudbury, shown in blue on the map. It was incorporated in 1639. Since large-scale immigration did not begin until 1630, it was settled at an early date, and is today among the western Boston suburbs.

He was married in 1771 and his first child, Joseph Knight Sr., was born in 1772 in Oakham (red on the map). This town remains remote and rural today, as most settlement either came from the eastern coast or came up the Connecticut River, which can be tracked by a ripple in the town boundary lines half-way between Oakham and the state of New York on the west. Oakham was settled much later than Sudbury, and was incorporated in 1762, more than 100 years later. We can guess that Benjamin went there as it was sparsely settled and land was available.

From birth records of his children, we know he moved to Marlboro (also spelled Marlborough, orange on map) in Vermont between 1779 and 1781. He died there in 1800. Vermont was also settled at a relatively late date, as we will learn from the story of Polly Peck's father, Joseph, who settled in Guilford, next to Marlboro, shown in violet on the map.



What They Look Like Today (2010)

← Oakham, Massachusetts

Marlboro, Vermont →



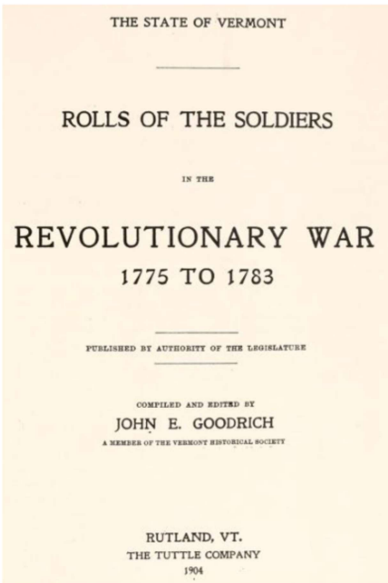
Here are some pictures showing what Oakham, Massachusetts, and Marlboro, Vermont, look like in the 21st century (2010).

The most prominent structure in the center of both towns is a white church, characteristic of New England. The one in Marlboro is bigger and more impressive, but both remain small towns.

On the lower left is a picture of a park across the street from the church in Oakham, showing a small gazebo. The size of park and gazebo give an idea of the small, quaint town that surrounds them.

The building below the photo of the church in Marlboro has signs on it showing its functions. The author has a larger-scale photo on which the signs are readable, and show that this very modest building serves as both the post office and the office of the town clerk.

From



EXTRACTS FROM "PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK"
[From "Archives of the State of New York," vol. xv.]

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ROLLS
STATE OF VERMONT

824

July 24, 1782.

Artemas How, Captain,	} South Co., Brattleboro' Town.
Benjes Church, 1st Lieut.,	
Isaac Crosby, 2d Lieut.,	} North Co., Brattleboro'.
Butlerford Hays, Ensign	
Richard Frosty, Captain,	} 1st (Guilford) Co.
John Alexander, 1st Lieut.,	
Francis Frosty, 2d do	} 2d (Guilford) Co.
Jon ^s Sartie Alexander, Ensign,	
Joseph Peck, Captain,	} 2d Company.
Wm. White, 1st Lieut.,	
Israel Bullock, 2d do	} 2d (Guilford) Co.
Joshua Nurse, Ensign,	
Daniel Ashcraft, Captain,	} 2d Company.
James Walsworth, 1st Lieut.,	
Benoni Cutbush, 2d do	} Halifax Co.
Samuel Stafford, Ensign,	
Joseph Elliot, Captain,	} 2d Company.
Elisha Root, 1st Lieut.,	
Isaac Weld, 2d do	} 2d Company.
Simeon Farrel, Ensign,	
Thomas Baker, Captain,	} Halifax Co.
Isaac Orr, 1st Lieut.,	
Daniel Donaldson, 2d Lieut.,	} Halifax Co.
David Lamb, Ensign,	
Elisha Pierce, Qr. Mr.	

SECOND (Upper) REGIMENT.


Colonel: Joseph Marsh.	2d Major: Joel Mathews.
Lt. Col.: John Berrett.	Adj.: Tim ^s Spencer.
1st Major: Hilkiah Groat.	Qr. Mr.: Amos Robinson.
	Joel Marsh, Captain.

Cumberland County Minute Men.

Colonel: Josiah Hoisington.	2d Major: Joel Marsh.
Lt. Colonel: Seth Smith.	Adj.: Timothy Phelps.
1st Major: Joseph Tyler.	Qr. Mr.: Elisha Hawley.

No other information concerning these last two regiments has been preserved. [pp 277, 278]

In Second Regiment, Albany and Cumberland Counties Company:
1st Lieut. Wm. McClune (McCune), of Cumberland, July 21, [1775], vice Samuel Fletcher, then with the army at Cambridge. [p. 528]



Joseph Peck

Captain of 1st (Guilford) Company for Cumberland, County, New York

How is a resident of Guilford, Windham County, Vermont a militia captain in Cumberland County, New York?

What battles were they fighting in 1782?

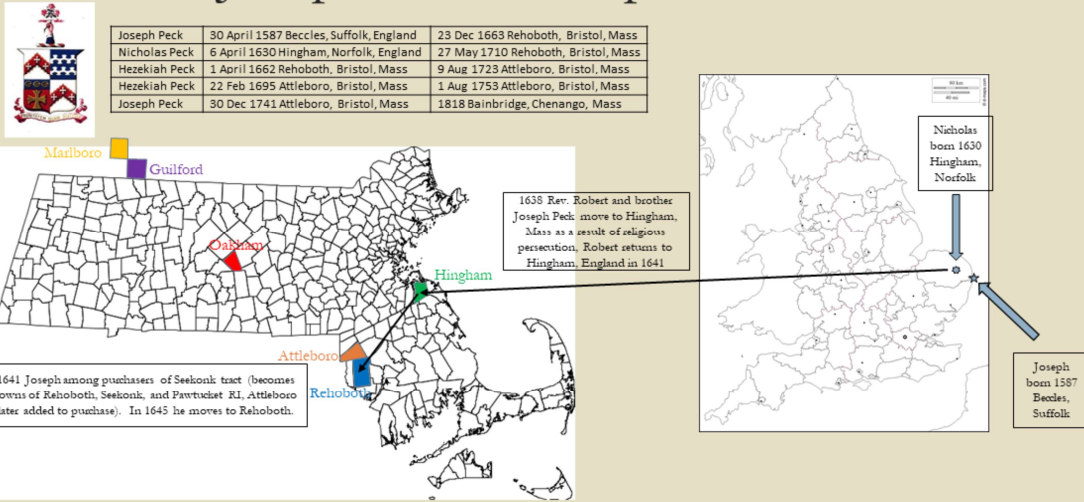
DAR Ancestor #A113699

We next turn to Polly Peck's father, Joseph Peck. He is listed in the book, "The State of Vermont Rolls of the Soldiers of the Revolutionary War 1775 to 1783," available online at <https://archive.org/details/rollsofsoldiersi00verm>

The title page is shown at left, the page showing Joseph Peck (p. 824) is at center. Based on his record, he is in the Daughters of the American Revolution registry as Ancestor #A113699.

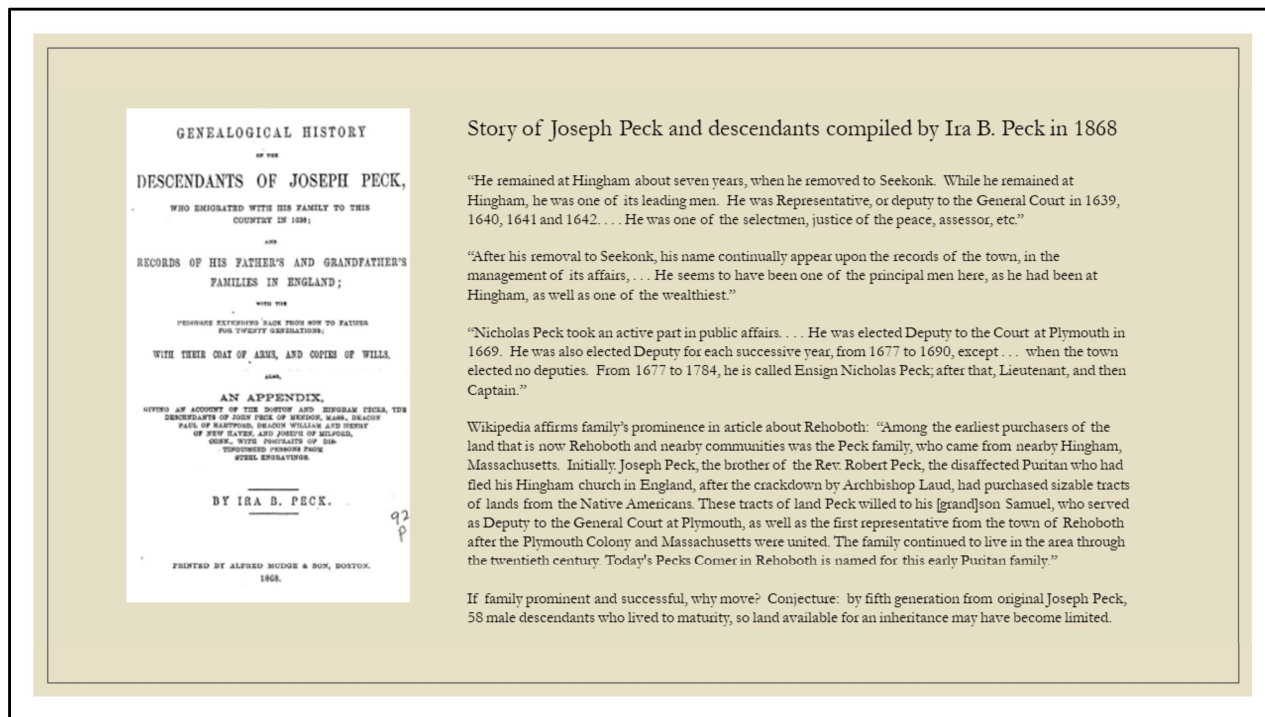
There are two things in this record which merit emphasis. One is that his listing (see arrow) shows him with the rank of Captain, being commanding officer of the 1st Guilford Company. Another interesting detail is that this company is part of the Cumberland County militia for the state of New York. How could a resident of Guilford, Vermont be Captain of a company of militia for the state of New York? The answer introduces us to an interesting story that explains how the Knight and Peck families happened to be living in New York when Joseph Smith came to work for Josiah Stowell.

How did Joseph Peck end up in Vermont?



We introduce this story by tracing the Peck line from England. Joseph's great-great-grandfather, also Joseph Peck, was born in 1587 in Beccles, Suffolk, England. He later moved to Hingham, Norfolk, where son Nicholas (Polly Peck's ancestor) was born in 1630. Joseph's brother, Robert, was a minister with a large following in Hingham, which unfortunately brought him to the attention of Archbishop Laud and others who were seeking to enforce compliance with the teachings of the Church of England. Robert was stripped of his religious post and chose to go to America. Joseph went with him. When the Long Parliament began to give the Puritans political power in 1640, Laud was imprisoned and Robert Peck returned to England and to his Hingham congregation. Joseph stayed in Hingham, Massachusetts, but also joined a group in the purchase from Indians of a tract of land called Seekonk, which today includes Seekonk, Rehoboth and Attleboro, Massachusetts and Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He moved there in 1645.

Joseph's son, Nicholas, also moved to the Rehoboth-Attleboro area, and his son, Hezekiah Sr., grandson, Hezekiah Jr., and great-grandson, Joseph (Polly's father) were all born in the same area.



The story of Joseph Peck, the immigrant, and his descendants, was compiled by Ira B. Peck in 1868. Here is a link to his book, which is available online

https://dcms.lids.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE90918

The book has several passages telling how important and prosperous he was. We might wonder about these passages as they were written by a descendant of the same name, but it is harder to discount the Wikipedia history of Rehoboth, as found at the following link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rehoboth,_Massachusetts

Speaking of the Pecks in Rehoboth, Wikipedia says:

“Among the earliest purchasers of the land that is now Rehoboth and nearby communities was the Peck family, who came from nearby Hingham, Massachusetts, initially. Joseph Peck, the brother of the Rev. Robert Peck,[4] the disaffected Puritan who had fled his Hingham church in England, after the crackdown by Archbishop Laud, had purchased sizable tracts of lands from the Native Americans. . . . Peck died in Rehoboth in 1697. These tracts of land Peck willed to his son Samuel, who served as Deputy to the General Court at Plymouth, as well as the first representative from the town of Rehoboth after the Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts were united. The family continued to live in the area through the twentieth century. Today's Pecks Corner in Rehoboth is named for this early Puritan family.”

We might wonder why Joseph left Rehoboth when his family was so prominent. We could not find a personal account of his motivation, but FamilySearch gives us a possible clue. We found 58 adult male descendants of the immigrant Joseph Peck in the generation of Polly Peck's father, Joseph. Dividing even a very large estate into 58 portions might have left him a very small inheritance, leading him to go west for more land.

Why did Joseph Peck settle in Vermont in 1766-67?



- Vermont first explored and settled (1609) by French coming down from St. Lawrence River valley; Vers Monts = Green Mountains
- Dutch (later British) moving north through Hudson River valley
- French, British fight many battles over disputed land.
- British win, French out in 1763; only 300 settlers in Vermont area
- Claimed by colonies of NY, NH, and MA. MA excluded 1740
- Governor of New Hampshire grants land to settlers starting 1749, they start moving in after British win French and Indian war.
- In 1764 King George decrees Vermont part of New York. Governor of NY invalidates NH land grants, issues its own.
- In 1770, settlers, led by Ethan Allen, organize militia (Green Mountain Boys) to defend property claims. Violence between settlers of both states and two sets of government officials
- 1775 and 1777, Vermont forces win Revolutionary War battles
- 1777 – Vermont declares itself an independent republic
- Fourteen years of conflict follow between “Vermonters” and “Yorkers.” Yorkers a majority in town of Guilford

Next, we might ask why he would look for land in the area that is now the state of Vermont. The history of this area gives us some clues. The first European explorer was Frenchman Samuel Champlain, whose name has been given to the lake in the northwest corner of today's Vermont. He named the area Vers Monts, French for Green Mountains.

Meanwhile, the Dutch settled New Amsterdam, at the mouth of the Hudson, and headed north up this river. The English continued this push when they displaced the Dutch and renamed the colony New York. The English and French fought many wars in old and new worlds. At the end of the French and Indian war in 1763, the English were in control, making the disputed area safe for settlement.

Disputes now remained between three English colonies claiming this land. Massachusetts dropped out early. New Hampshire's governor issued land grants for many settlers who moved west to the Green Mountains. He wrote a letter to New York's governor to clarify the border. New York claimed the whole area, and NY's governor wrote to the king who confirmed this claim. He wished to ignore the land grants issued by New Hampshire and issue his own grants, which the settlers already in Vermont did not like. They organized militias (the Green Mountain Boys) which played an important role in capturing Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, providing the cannons to drive the British out of Boston, and later at Bennington in 1777, a prelude to the decisive victory at Saratoga. Following this victory, Vermont declared itself an independent republic, leading to fourteen years of conflict with settlers whose loyalty and land titles were with the state of New York (the “Yorkers.”)

Examples of Yorker-Vermont Conflict and the Role of Joseph Peck

- Vermont directed Yorkers of Guilford to serve in Vermont regiments. They refuse.
- On 10 May 1782, town selectmen (Vermonters) assess leaders of Yorkers £15 to pay for substitutes. Direct sheriff to seize property to pay fine. He sends deputy with warrant.
- Deputy get mixed reaction in tavern, crosses valley to house of Joel Bigelow; seizes his cow to pay for fine.
- Upon return to tavern, 50 men, led by Captain Joseph Peck, seize and release cow.
- 36 of these men, including Joseph Peck, indicted in September 1782 for resisting authority of state of Vermont.
- On 15 July 1782, six companies of New York militia formed. Joseph Peck captain of 1st Guilford Company.
- Ethan Allen's reaction - *"I, Ethan Allen, do declare that I will give no quarter to the man, woman, or child who shall oppose me, and unless you, the people of Guilford, peaceably submit yourselves to the authority of Vermont, I swear that I will lay it as desolate as Sodom and Gomorrah, by God."*
- On 13 September 1782, Ethan Allen approach Guilford with large force. Yorkers flee. Green mountain boys take 150 cattle as well as sheep and hogs and season's produce. Leave warrants for arrest.
- Groups of men on both sides arrested leaders of opposite side, putting them in jail, or taking them from state.
- In 8 January 1784, a large party of Vermonters went to house of Joseph Peck. Five well-armed men entered, others waited outside. Capt. Peck not found—location not revealed. Plunder house, take sword and other weapons.
- On 21 April 1784, "attachment" of all land belonging to several Yorkers, including Joseph Peck
- 25 October 1784: Yorkers petition for pardon, return of property. Condition = Oath of allegiance to Vermont

Joseph Peck, Polly's father, settled in the town of Guilford, Vermont, in the southeast corner of the state. Yorkers were a majority in Guilford, and Joseph Peck supported the authority of that state.

The book, "Official History of Guilford, Vermont, 1678-1961" gives a detailed account of the Yorker-Vermont conflicts that followed Vermont's declaration of independence. It is not available online, but is in some libraries. A few incidents give a flavor of the events and of Joseph's involvement.

In 1782, Vermont directed many Yorkers from Guilford to serve in Vermont regiments in support of the Revolutionary War effort. They declined as they were registered in New York regiments. Vermont government officials declared that they should pay the cost of substitutes since they did not report for duty, and sought to seize property to pay this cost. When a cow was seized and led away, a group of 50, led by Captain Joseph Peck, surrounded the law officer and released the cow. Many of these men, including Captain Peck, were indicted by Vermont.

The leader of the Vermont Green Mountain Boys, Ethan Allen, was a very forceful personality. His response to the resistance of the authority of Vermont shows what the Yorkers were up against:

"I Ethan Allen, do declare that I will give no quarter to the man, woman, or child who shall oppose me, and unless you, the people of Guilford, submit yourselves peaceably to the authority of the state of Vermont, I swear that I shall lay it as desolate as Sodom and Gomorrah."

He later led a force into Guilford that seized 150 cattle, many sheep and hogs, and the season's crops.

In 1784, a group of men surrounded Captain Peck's home. Five well-armed men went inside. When his wife declined to tell where he was, they took his sword and other weapons and plundered the home. The Guildford history says his land later suffered "attachment" by the state of Vermont.

NAMES.		
6	Timothy Church (Colonel.)	3,840 acres No. 47, 35, 60, 90, 71, 84.
5	William Shattuck (Major.)	3,200 acres No. 36, 53, 65, 82, 78.
2	Francis Prouty, (Lieut.,)	1,180 acres for Prouty, No. 52.
	Isaac Kendell,	100 acres for Prouty & Kendell, No. 86.
1	William White (Capt.,)	640 acres No. 83.
1	Joseph Peck (Capt.,)	640 acres No. 68.
1	Daniel Ashcroft (Capt.,)	640 acres No. 88.
	Thos. Baker (Capt.,)	260 acres No. 81.
1	Samuel Bixby (Justice,)	380 acres.
	Hezekiah Stowell,	840 acres for Stowell, No. 37.
2	Orlando Bridgman,	260 acres for Stowell, Bridgman & Clark, No. 73.
	Samuel Clark,	180 acres
ACRES.		
	Ephraim Knapp	100
	Artems How (Lieut.)	200
1	David How	170 No. 58.
	Reuben Smith	170
	Samuel Meldy	420
1	Jonath. S. Alexander (Ensign,)	220 No. 98.
	James Davidson	500

What happened to CPT Joseph Peck and other Yorkers (aka “Vermont Sufferers”)?

- Granted land in New York as town of Jericho, Tioga County (later re-named Bainbridge, now in Chenango County).
- Relocated about 1786
- Daughter Polly stayed in Vermont
- Married Joseph Knight in Vermont in 1795
- FamilySearch shows first three children born in Marlboro, VT
 - Nahum 1796
 - Esther 1798
 - Newel 1800
- Subsequent children born in New York;
 - Anna 1804
 - Joseph 1808
 - Polly 1811
 - Elizabeth 1817

While the state of New York did not intervene to protect the “Yorkers” in Vermont, they did not altogether forget them either. In 1786, Yorker leaders submitted a petition to the state of New York pleading for compensation for their sufferings in behalf of their efforts to uphold the authority of New York. The state government responded by issuing to them land grants in New York proportionate to the magnitude of their contribution. Joseph Peck, as a Captain, received a grant of 640 acres, as shown in the above list, taken from:

<http://www.usgenweb.info/nychenango/books/1880-17.htm>

When Joseph relocated from Vermont to New York between 1785 and 1787 (from birth records of his children in FamilySearch), it appears that daughter Polly stayed behind. She was born on 6 April 1774, so she would have been about twelve years of age. She and Joseph were married in Vermont in about 1795, and Nahum (1796), Esther (1798) and Newel (1800) were all born in Vermont. The family then relocated to New York to the vicinity of Polly’s parents, and their younger children (Anna 1804, Joseph 1808, Polly 1811, and Elizabeth 1817) were born there.

It is interesting to notice that while the ordeal the Pecks endured as a family among the Vermont Sufferers would certainly not seem to be a blessing, their relocation to New York, joined by son-in-law Joseph Knight and his sister Mary Slade, was instrumental in their involvement in the early history of the Restored Church.

Why did Nicholas Peck have military rank?

Who was the enemy?



- May be related to King Philip's War – deadliest war per capita in modern American history (one-tenth of all men available for military service were lost)
- Twelve New England towns were destroyed, many more damaged
- Indian losses much more severe
- Named after Philip, (Indian name Metacomet), Wampanoag king, son of Massasoit, who helped Pilgrims at Plymouth survive
- Rehoboth was attacked in July 1675 and in late March 1676.
- On March 26, 1676, 63 English and 20 allied Indian troops leaving Rehoboth were ambushed by 500-700 Narragansett. Few escaped. Nine colonists captured and tortured to death.
- Feb 1676, 20 buildings destroyed in Medfield (JP's wmm's home).
- Warwick, RI (JP's mother's home) burned March 1676, settlers fled.
- Sudbury Fight (April 1676, 1,000 warriors) witnessed by JK's fmf

The list of descendants from Joseph Peck back to Joseph Peck on an earlier slide include Nicholas, the son of the immigrant Joseph. Records show him, like Polly's father, with military titles of rank, including Ensign and Lieutenant. We might ask why he would have such a title. What wars were being fought? Who were the enemy?

The most important conflict among New England colonists took place in 1675-6, shortly before Nicholas was given his titles. It is called King Philip's War, after the Indian king who was son of Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief who befriended the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1620 and helped them survive. King Philip (Indian name Metacomet) felt the Indians were not treated fairly under English law, they were losing land, and were becoming outnumbered, making it increasingly difficult for them to reverse the situation. He sought to enlist other tribes in a united effort to drive out the English by attacking their homes.

Rehoboth, home of the Pecks, was attacked early (July 1675) and late (March 1676) in the war. A group of 63 English and 20 allied Indians were ambushed near there after the March attack, and almost all were killed, with nine captured and tortured to death. In Medfield, home of Joseph Peck's wife's mother's mother, 20 homes were destroyed in February 1676. Warwick, RI, home of JP's mother and her ancestors, was destroyed in March, with the settlers fleeing to an island. One of the biggest fights, at Sudbury, involved 1,000 warriors. It was witnessed by Joseph Knight's father's mother's father, who was a boy held captive by the Indians. We will next turn to his family's story.

Eames Massacre

Knight ancestors dramatically affected by King Philip's War

- Thomas Eames was born in England in about 1618
- Settled in Massachusetts by 1634
- Served in Pequot War in 1637
- Worked as bricklayer and stonecutter, built chimneys and foundations
- "Maimed in the limbs," either in war service or in labors
- After Pequot war, married Margaret, had three children together
- Thomas and Margaret took up residence in Dedham in 1640, moved to Medford 1652-59
- Margaret died 17 Sept 1660.
- In 1662 Thomas married widow Mary Blandford Paddleford (4 children)
- Moved to Wayland or Cambridge, they had four more children
- Asked for land for Pequot War service—denied. Deputy Governor Thomas Danforth leases him land in Sudbury/Framingham
- Only seven settlers in Framingham area
- Two more children



When towns were attacked in King Philip's War, while many homes were destroyed, settlers were often able to minimize casualties by retreating within fortified homes. The Eames family is a famous exception. Nathaniel Eames is Joseph Knight's ancestor (fmf).

Nathaniel's father, Thomas, was in Massachusetts by 1634. He fought in an earlier war with Indians, the Pequot War in 1637. He suffered injuries either then or in his work as a bricklayer and stonecutter. After this war, he married Margaret and they lived in Dedham and Medford, both near Boston, and had three children. After her death in 1660, he married a widow, Mary Blandford Paddleford, they moved to Cambridge (again near Boston) and had four more children.

Thomas asked the government for land as a reward for his Pequot War service. The government denied his petition, but Deputy Governor Thomas Danforth, who had large land holdings farther to the west, leased land to him in the Framingham area, then part of the town of Sudbury. The Eames family were one of only seven families in Framingham, which was on the outskirts of English settlement. While living there, the Eames family had two more children.

What happens when King Philip's War begins

- The Eames household was seven miles SW of Sudbury (English) and three miles E of Magunkook (praying Indians)
- When word spread of King Philip's attacks in SE Massachusetts, all Indians, even Christians, regarded with great suspicion. Most were disarmed and sent first to Natick, then to Deer Island in Boston Harbor. They were not allowed to bring winter stores, neither did they have any shelter. Some escaped and fled into the woods, led by Netus.
- Settlers in Framingham felt exposed and four soldiers were assigned to guard them at beginning of War. When there were no attacks, soldiers were withdrawn.
- Thomas Eames petitioned to keep his horses for protection rather than lend them to the militia. Request granted.
- In January 1676, Eames took horses and went to Boston for supplies, ammunition, and more help.
- On 1 February 1676, Netus led a group of twelve Indians to Natick where they had left corn and winter provisions, but they were gone, taken by English settlers for their own winter stores. They went to Eames farm, where they knew there would be food.
- Two children were at edge of property. Indians seized them, took them to woods so they wouldn't raise alarm.
- Others went to house where Mary Eames was making soap. She had vowed not to be taken alive. She used every weapon at hand, including boiling lye soap on stove, which she threw at Indians.
- Mrs. Eames and five(?) children were killed, four children captured, three escaped, one ransomed in Canada.
- House and barn and all furnishings burned, livestock killed.

When King Philip's war began, the Eames family found themselves seven miles southwest of the English settlement of Sudbury and three miles east of Magunkook, a settlement of "praying Indians," so called because they were converted to Christianity. Perhaps they attended church together. However, with the outbreak of war, all Indians were regarded with suspicion, even the Christian converts. They were rounded up first to Natick, just east of Framingham, then to Deer Island in Boston harbor. Some of the praying Indians felt very upset with this treatment after their efforts to adopt the religion of the English settlers (and those on Deer Island were not allowed to assemble adequate clothing or provisions for the winter, and suffered greatly). As a result, some escaped to the woods.

Meanwhile, Thomas Eames and neighbors felt very exposed to attack and asked for soldiers for protection. Four were sent, but withdrawn when the war in early stages remained far to the southeast. In January 1676, he went to Boston for ammunition and supplies. At the same time, a group of praying Indians went to Natick to retrieve food left there, and it was gone, taken by settlers. They knew the Eames household had food and went there to get it.

Two children on the edge of the property were seized and taken into the woods so they would not alert the family. Mary Eames was making soap. Women settlers had been taken captive in earlier attacks, and she had vowed not to be one of them. She used every weapon at hand, including the pot of boiling liquid from the soap making, which she threw at the intruders. She and five children were killed, and four were taken captive. The house and barn and all furnishings were burned, and all livestock were killed.



The Eames
Massacre –
A
Nineteenth
Century
Engraving

Here is a nineteenth century engraving of the attack, known to history as the Eames massacre.

The Aftermath

"An inventory of the loss of Thomas Eames, when his house was fired by Indians at Framingham near unto Sudbury, in the County of Middlesex, the first of February, 1675-6.
Imprimis — A wife and nine children.
Item — A house 34 feet long, double floores, and garret, and cellar, and a barn 52 foot long, leanir'd one side and two ends, - - - - - £100.00 00
It. 4 oxen, - - - - - 024.00 00
It. 7 cows, fair with calf, - - - - - 028.00 00
It. 2 yearlings, - - - - - 003.00 00
It. 1 bull, - - - - - 002.00 00
It. 2 heifers, fair with calf, - - - - - 006.00 00
It. 1 heifer, - - - - - 002.00 00
It. 8 sheep, fair with lamb, - - - - - 003.12 00
It. 30 loads of hay in y^e barn at 8s. per load, - - - - - 012.00 00
It. 10 bush. wheate, at 6s. p. bush. - - - - - 003.00 00
It. 40 bush. rye, at 4s. 8d. p. bush. - - - - - 008.00 00
It. 210 bush. of indian, at 3s. p. bush. - - - - - 031.00 00
It. Hemp and flax, in y^e barns, - - - - - 001.00 00
It. Fire arms, with other arms and ammunition, - - - - - 006.00 00
It. Butter 20s., cheese 40s., 2 barrels and a half of Pork, and 4 flitches of bacon 10 lb. - - - - - 013.00 00
It. Carpenter's and joyner's tooles, - - - - - 005.00 00
It. 2 great spinning wheeles and 2 small wheeles, 4s., 4 for cards, - - - - - 001.00 00
It. 6 beds, 3 of them feather beds, and 3 flock, 6 Ruggs, 12 blankets, - - - - - 005.00 00
It. 1 chest of linnen with y^e sheets and shifts, - - - - - 010.00 00
It. A livery cupboard with what was in it, - - - - - 002.00 00
It. My wife's linnen and wearing apparel, and children's clothing, and my own clothing, with clothing that was my former wife's, - - - - - 025.00 00
It. Pewster, brasse, and Iron ware, - - - - - 014.00 00
It. Churns and other dairy vessells, with other wooden lumber, - - - - - 005.00 00
Total, 330.12 00

- Zachariah Paddleford (18), Samuel Eames (11) and Nathaniel Eames (7) escape. Samuel followed trail of a plant that only grew near English settlements. One son, perhaps Nathaniel (JK's fmf), may have been with Indians at Sudbury Fight in April 1676, with 1,000 Indian warriors and more than 75 English deaths
- Margaret Eames (9) ransomed in Canada, was married to one of her rescuers (Joseph Adams) 12 years later
- Netus hunted down and killed, wife sold into slavery. Another Indian similarly killed. Three more tried and hanged
- Thomas Eames presented inventory of losses in court, was awarded 200 acres of land in compensation. He received 300 acres more land from his Indian attackers
- Thomas died one week before 4th anniversary of massacre at age 62

After the attack, captives Zachariah Paddleford (18), Samuel Eames (11) and Nathaniel Eames (almost 7) escaped. Samuel followed the trail of a plant that only grew near English settlements. Some accounts say Nathaniel (Joseph Knight's ancestor) was still a captive at the Sudbury fight in April, which involved 1,000 Indian warriors and resulted in 75 English deaths. The last captive, Margaret (9) was taken to Canada and ransomed. One of her rescuers, Joseph Adams, married her 12 years later.

Two of the Indians, including leader Netus, were hunted down and killed soon after. Netus' wife was sold into slavery. Three more Indian participants were tried and hanged, being treated more as thieves and murderers than as enemy soldiers.

Thomas Eames presented a list of his losses totaling 330 pounds 12 shillings. He received 200 acres of land in compensation, and 300 more acres taken from the Indians who participated in the attack. While this compensation was a benefit to his descendants, he apparently suffered great emotional or psychological distress as a result of the attack, and died at age 62, one week before the fourth anniversary of the attack.

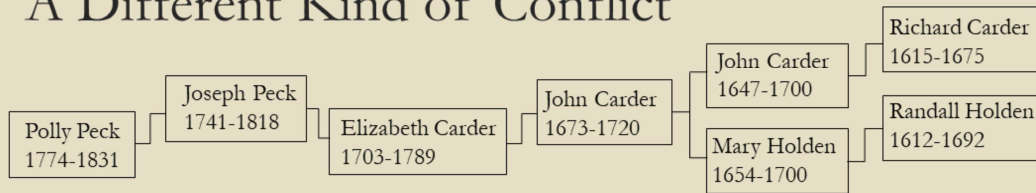
It is understandable but tragic to see how attacks by Indians in another area led to such distrust and ill treatment of those near Framingham (who were interred like Japanese-Americans in World War II). It is even more so when the Indians professed Christian belief and may have worshipped together with the English. Perhaps things would have gone better for Mary Eames and family if she had followed Brigham Young's policy to feed rather than fight her assailants. The lofty heritage and destiny of Lamanites in The Book of Mormon is surely in dramatic contrast with the view of their kinsmen shown in the 19th century engraving.

Monument built on site in 1900



Here is a small monument on the site of the attack. It consists of a bronze plaque attached to a large boulder. As you can see from the background. It is set in a small playground in a circle of houses in a neighborhood which today is in an outer suburb of Boston. It is mind-boggling to see this monument to a horrific, brutal event planted in a peaceful modern neighborhood.

A Different Kind of Conflict



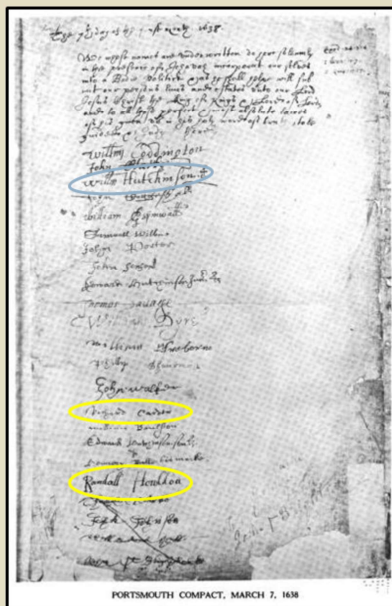
- Richard Carder and Randall Holden came to Boston in mid-1630's
- Involved in theological controversy in 1636-38 led by minister John Wheelwright and sister-in-law Anne Hutchinson
- Hutchinson a skilled midwife, offered spiritual as well as medical services to patients
- Led to popular in-home religious study group for women
- Men joined, including Carder and Holden
- Criticized ministers for emphasizing works rather than faith, claimed personal revelation as good as the Bible
- Wheelwright and Hutchinson banished in 1637, Hutchinson excommunicated in 1638
- Dissenters went to Rhode Island, established by earlier dissenter Roger Williams
- Hutchinson went to (Dutch) New York area in 1642 when Massachusetts threatened to take over Rhode Island
- She and family members massacred in 1643, Massachusetts leaders saw divine retribution in calamity
- Heroine of modern feminists

Our earlier stories have a consistent theme of conflict featuring war and weapons. We turn next to another kind of conflict which is involved more with beliefs and ideas.

The Knight ancestors involved in this story are the two grandfathers of John Carder, Polly Peck's father's mother's father. Richard Carder and Randall Holden both came to Boston in the mid-1630's. They were involved in a theological controversy in 1636 (see Antinomian Controversy in Wikipedia) led by minister John Wheelwright and his sister-in-law, Anne Hutchinson (Wikipedia has long articles about both). The latter is famous today, especially among feminists because of her gender.

Hutchinson was a midwife, and while delivering babies would provide spiritual advice. Her views about absolute grace and personal revelation were popular, and led to home-study groups, later attended by men including Richard Carder and Randall Holden. She and Wheelwright were banished in 1637, and she was excommunicated in 1638.

She and a group of like-minded believers went to Rhode Island, a colony established by earlier dissenter Roger Williams. Soon after, Massachusetts threatened to take over the colony, so she and her family fled to New Netherland. They settled in what today is the Bronx, unfortunately an area of settler-Indian conflict. She and many of her children were massacred in 1643. The clergy near Boston reacted harshly to the news. One wrote "Let her damned heresies, and the just vengeance of God, by which she perished, terrify all her seduced followers from having any more to do with her heaven."



Portsmouth Compact

We whose names are underwritten do hereby solemnly in the presence of Jehovah incorporate ourselves into a Bodie Politick and as He shall help, will submit our persons, lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given us in His Holy Word of Truth, to be guided and judged thereby

- Signed in Boston 7 January 1638 by religious dissenters
- Decided to leave Massachusetts for New York or New Jersey, persuaded by Roger Williams to go to Rhode Island instead
- Purchased Aquidneck Island from Narragansett sachems Canonicus and Miantonomo for the price of “forty fathoms of white beads, ten coats and twenty hoes.”
- Settled on NE of island at Pocasset/Portsmouth

While Anne Hutchinson was under house arrest in Boston between her civil and church trials, a group of her supporters prepared to leave the colony and settle elsewhere. They met at the home of a wealthy Boston merchant, William Coddington, to form a “Bodie Politick.” The name of Anne’s husband, William Hutchinson, is near the top of the list; the names of Richard Carder and Randall Holden are near the bottom.

The group considered leaving to settle in New York or New Jersey, but were persuaded by Roger Williams to settle in Rhode Island instead. They purchased the island of Aquidneck from Narragansett sachems Canonicus and Miantonomo for the price of “forty fathoms of white beads, ten coats, and twenty hoes.” (White beads, or wampum, were used as currency in dealings with native Americans; a fathom was a six-foot length of beads.) They formed a settlement called Pocasset (soon renamed Portsmouth), at the north end of the island, by which name their compact is now known. The purpose of the Portsmouth Compact was to set up a new, independent colony that was Christian in character but non-sectarian in governance. It has been called “the first instrument for governing as a true democracy.”

Here are links to more information:

<https://johnclarkemovie.com/resources/portsmouth-compact/>

http://www.portsmouthri375.com/uploads/5/6/9/3/5693083/a_brief_history_of_portsmouth3.pdf

More Challenges, Later Respect

- o Randall Holden (Wikipedia article) Marshall of Portsmouth in 1638, granted three acres
- o Among founders of Newport on south end of Aquidneck island
- o Carder and Holden cancelled from Roll of Freeman of Newport in 1641, reinstated in 1642
- o Became followers of Samuel Gorton who taught
 - Holy Spirit present in all human beings, follow Spirit not external ordinances
 - Educated, professional clergy a form of Anti-Christ
 - Civil and religious hierarchical systems “deny true priesthood of all believers”
- o Group purchased large tract of land (Shawomet) from Miantonomo for 144 fathoms of wampum
- o Court summons from Boston (they claimed jurisdiction) for defrauding Indians with purchase
- o Boston court sent soldiers who confiscated writings, took them to Boston for trial (blasphemous errors)
- o Imprisoned from November 1643 to March 1644, banished from Massachusetts and from Shawomet
- o Holden and John Greene sailed from New Amsterdam for England. Granted a charter by Robert Rich, 2nd Earl of Warwick, head of Commission on Plantation Affairs. Changed name of settlement to Warwick.
- o Holden and Carder both served in community leadership positions
 - Holden: Assistant to colony president, six terms as Commissioner, eight terms as Deputy; Captain, Justice
 - Carder: three terms as Commissioner, three terms as Deputy, selected as Assistant but refused



The men who dissented from the Puritans continued to dissent among themselves. Some left Portsmouth, at the north end of Aquidneck Island, to form the Newport settlement on the south end, which prospered with its excellent harbor. Holden and Carder were among the settlers of Newport, but dissent continued. They became followers of Samuel Gorton who believed in being governed individually by the Spirit, not by a professional clergy or by hierarchical systems. Gorton's group purchased a large tract of land, called Shawomet, from Indian sachem Miantonomo for 144 fathoms of wampum.

Boston continued to claim jurisdiction over the settlers in Rhode Island, and sent men to arrest Holden and Carder for defrauding the Indians (some other sachems had objected to the purchase). Soldiers from Boston arrested them, confiscated their writings, and took them to Boston. The trial ended up being primarily about the “blasphemous errors” in their religious beliefs, and they were held in prison for six months, then banished. After the trial, Holden and John Greene sailed to England where a charter was granted to the Rhode Island colony by the Earl of Warwick. They renamed their settlement in his honor.

After returning to America, Carder and particularly Holden held many positions of leadership in their area. Late in life, Holden was selected as one of the community leaders to deal with the King Philip's War, which had serious consequences in this area (Warwick was burned, but the citizens escaped to an island and survived).

Tales of Another Dissenter

- Brothers Thomas and Aquila Chase came to New England in 1636
- Moved to Hampton (now in New Hampshire) in 1640 (founded in 1638)
- Thomas married Elizabeth Philbrook or Philbrick in 1642
- Five sons: Thomas (1643), Joseph (1645), John (1649), Isaac (1650), and Abraham (1652)
- Thomas died 1652. Elizabeth remarried twice before death in 1677
- Isaac (JK's ffmf) married Mary Perkins in 1673 in Hampton. She died there in 1674.
- Isaac went to Martha's Vineyard in 1674, not allowed to settle in Tisbury, "possibly because of his religious beliefs, which were of the Quaker doctrinal variety."
- He later became one of the largest landholders on the Vineyard.
- Married Anne Tilton in 1675, six sons and six daughters; large progeny
- His occupations: blacksmith, inn-holder, and ferryman
- Though a Quaker, took office as Lieutenant in the Company of Foot in Tisbury
- "A man of sterling worth and scrupulous honesty, and his life was singularly free from contentions and litigations with his neighbors" (The Annals of Tisbury)
- Descendants of Aquila include Margaret Chase Smith, Salmon P. Chase (Chief Justice)



The Chase family was another line among Joseph Knight's ancestors with religious dissenters.

Thomas and Aquila Chase came to New England in 1636 and settled in Hampton (now New Hampshire) in 1640, two years after it was founded. Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth Philbrick, had five sons. Mortality was high at the time; Thomas died in 1652, and his wife remarried twice before her death. Thomas's son Isaac (JK's ffmf) married in 1673, his wife died, and he settled in Martha's Vineyard in 1674.

Isaac was not allowed to settle in Tisbury, the principal town on the island, because of his Quaker religious beliefs. He married Anne Tilton, who also had Quaker beliefs, and they had six sons and six daughters. In addition to a large progeny, he prospered materially, working as a blacksmith, inn-holder, and ferryman, and accumulating large land holdings. Though a Quaker, he took office as Lieutenant of the Company of Foot in Tisbury.

The Annals of Tisbury include the following tribute: "A man of sterling worth and scrupulous honesty, and his life was singularly free from contentions and litigations with his neighbors." Famous Chase family members include Senator Margaret Chase Smith and Salmon P. Chase, who was an Ohio senator and governor, served as Lincoln's Treasury Secretary, and later as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Though he had no personal connection, his name was chosen for the Chase Bank, and continues in the name of JPMorgan Chase.

Another kind of Dissenter – John Oldham

- Earliest Knight ancestors to arrive came in 1623 on Anne and Little James, sailing to Plymouth, sponsored by Thomas Weston's investment group, that also sponsored Mayflower in 1620 and Fortune in 1621
- 60 passengers were separatists from Leiden, 30 a separate immigrant group led by John Oldham
- Joseph Knight – Benjamin K – Samuel K – Samuel K – Mary Bridges – William Bridge(s) was either son-in-law (Wikipedia) or step-son (www.plimouth.org) of John Oldham, came on Little James in 1623
- Over half of settlers on Mayflower came for other than religious reasons, did not share values of Pilgrims
- In 1624, Rev. John Lyford came to Plymouth. Dissenters (including John Oldham) met with him in secret.
- William Bradford said Lyford and Oldham stirred up dissension and trouble in Plymouth
 - Wrote letters back to England disparaging and slandering Pilgrims
 - Oldham refused to stand his scheduled watch (a communal duty expected of all men)
 - Oldham drew his knife on Miles Standish, denouncing him as a "beggarly rascal"
- Lyford and Oldham banished – William Bridges went with them to Charlestown (Boston area), settled there
- Captain Oldham prospered as trader between Indians and colonists, sailed from New Amsterdam to Maine
- Representative to General Court of Massachusetts from 1632 to 1634, joined church in Watertown
- In 1633 or 1634, led group of 10 men in founding of Wethersfield, first English settlement on Connecticut River
- Killed by Indians 20 July 1636 in his boat off Block Island (off tip of Long Island, south of Rhode Island). His death a trigger of the Pequot War between settlers and Indians in Connecticut River valley

Captain John "Mad Jack" Oldham was a different kind of dissenter among colonists. His arrival is the earliest known among Knight ancestors. He came to Plymouth in 1623 on one of two ships sailing together, Anne and Little James. Both ships were sponsored by Thomas Weston's investment group, who also sponsored the Mayflower in 1620 and Fortune in 1621. The two 1623 ships included 60 separatists from Leiden and 30 in a separate group led by Oldham. William Bridges, JK's fffmf, was either son-in-law (Wikipedia) or step-son (www.plimouth.com) of Oldham, and part of the 1623 group.

In 1624, Oldham joined with Rev. John Lyford to stir up trouble in Plymouth (as recorded by Governor William Bradford). Oldham wrote disparaging letters back to England, he refused to take his turn standing watch, and on one occasion drew his knife on Miles Standish, denouncing him as a "beggarly rascal." He and Lyford were banished and settled in Charlestown in the Boston area—Bridges went with them as well.

Captain Oldham prospered as a trader between colonists and Indians, sailing up and down the coast between New Amsterdam and Maine. He was a Representative to the General Court in Massachusetts, and led a group of ten men in settling Wethersfield, the first English settlement on the Connecticut River. The Pequot Indian tribe became dominant in Connecticut by alliance with the Dutch and dominating other tribes. Oldham got caught in the middle and was killed on his ship off Block Island (south of Rhode Island, east of Long Island) in 1636. His death was a trigger of the Pequot War, the first colonist-Indian war.

Two Men with Familiar Names, Unusual Stories

- Joseph Knight – Benjamin K- Anne Eames – Anna Patten – Rebecca Adams – John Adams – ? – Henry Adams
- John Adams to Cambridge Mass in 1651. Henry Adams to Braintree Mass in 1633
- Some sources say John son of Henry, returned from Braintree to England, then to Cambridge.
- Why does it matter? Henry Adams was great-great-grandfather of President John Adams, who wrote the following:
 - “This stone and several others have been placed in this yard by a great, great grandson from a veneration of the piety, humility, simplicity, prudence, frugality, industry and perseverance of his ancestors in hopes of recommending an affirmation of their virtues to their posterity”
- Polly Peck – Elizabeth Read – Abigail Robbins – Hannah Clark – Marie Wight – Mehitable Cheney – William Cheney
- Born 1603, in Boston in 1635, at Newbury, then Roxbury as early as 1635.
- A resident of Roxbury from then on but a proprietor of Medfield and Medway
- Owned over 100 acres of land and a house in Boston.
- Selectman 1656-57, assessor, town officer, one of the founders and directors of the Roxbury Latin School
- He was admitted to the church in 1664/65, freeman 1666
- William Cheney was 8th great grandfather of VP Dick Cheney

Here are two other men among Knight ancestors whose stories have unusual features.

John Adams, JK's fmmmf, came to Cambridge (just West of Boston) in 1651. Henry Adams settled in Braintree (southeast of Boston) in 1633. Some accounts, such as the Wikitree biography of John (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Adams-263>), claim he was Henry's son, and that he had gone from Braintree back to England before settling in Cambridge. Other sources, like a 19th century history of the Henry Adams family (https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE3744944) doubt this claim. If Wikitree is right, we are among the posterity of Henry to whom his 2nd-great-grandson, President John Adams, recommended Henry's virtues, including piety, humility, simplicity, prudence, frugality, industry, and perseverance.

William Cheney, Polly Peck's mmmmmf, settled in Roxbury, south of Boston, by 1635. He accumulated over 100 acres of land and a house in Boston, and was also a proprietor of Medway and Medfield. He held leadership positions in Roxbury and was one of the founders of the Roxbury Latin School. What sets him apart is that in a Puritan-dominated society, he was not admitted as a member of the church until 1664-5, just a few years before his death. This anomaly is discussed in his Wikitree biography: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cheney-32>

His name is familiar to us as he is 8th-great-grandfather of former Vice President Dick Cheney.

If Some Ancestors were Atypical, What was Typical?

- Two groups dissented from Church of England in early 1600's:
 - Separatists wanted to leave Church of England. To Leiden, Holland in 1609. Then to Plymouth.
 - Mayflower 1620, Fortune 1621, Anne and Little James 1623
 - Puritans wanted to stay in Church of England but make it better
 - To Massachusetts Bay (Boston). 400 settlers in 1629. 700 settlers on 11 ships in 1630. About 2,000 per year until 1640 for a total of about 20,000 = The Great (Puritan) Migration
- Great refers to purpose, not size of migration
 - John Winthrop as leader spoke of “a City on a Hill” (Matt. 5:14) or “Zion in the Wilderness”
 - Persecuted dissenters to preserve purity of doctrine and avoid dissension and thereby protect society
- Social Characteristics of settlers of “Great Migration”
 - High proportion traveled in family groups
 - Relatively equal numbers of men and women
 - High level of literacy (could read the Bible)
 - Relatively prosperous (better off in England than in New England)
 - Highly skilled – more than half had been artisans or craftsmen
 - Only about 17% came as servants (75% in Virginia)
 - Relatively young and healthy – rapid natural population increase
 - Settled in towns less than two years old to become proprietor, share in land distribution.
 - When limit reached, town closed to further proprietors (22 towns closed by 1636)

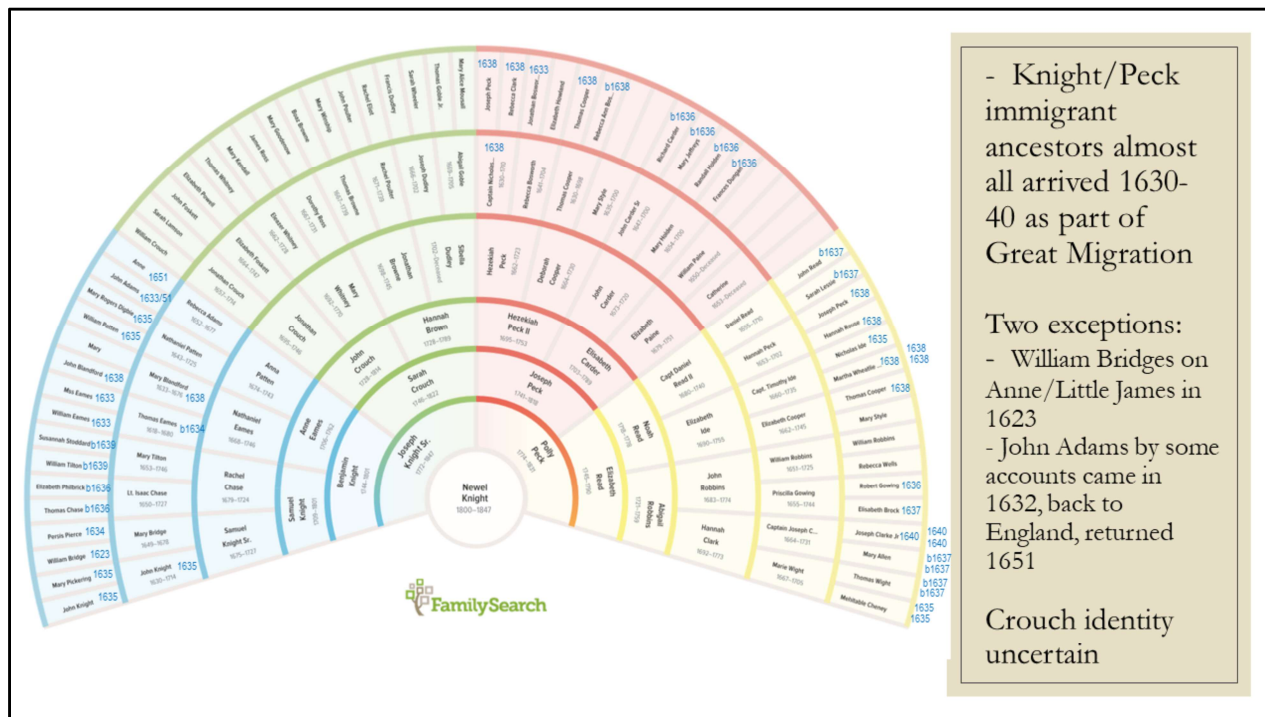
We have spent some time talking about Knight ancestors who were dissenters or in other ways unusual among colonists. It is interesting to see what typical settlers were like.

Most of these colonists were religious dissenters. When Henry VIII chose to break away from the Church of Rome, his motivations were more political than religious. Many believers thought the new Church of England was too much like the former church. Some felt the church could not be reformed so they should be separate from it. These separatists left England for more-tolerant Holland, settling in Leiden. They became the Pilgrims who came on the Mayflower in 1620 and a few other ships soon thereafter.

A much larger group of devout Englishmen thought they should stay in the church and reform it. These Puritans primarily sailed for Boston between 1629 and 1640, when persecution in England was severe. There were 400 settlers in 1629, 700 on 11 ships in 1630, and more thereafter—a total of about 20,000 by 1640. This group is referred to as the Great Migration, or the Great Puritan Migration. Great refers not so much to the number as to their purpose, as explained by leader John Winthrop, who spoke of “a city on a hill” (Matthew 5:14) or “Zion in the Wilderness.” His harsh persecution, as seen in the stories of Hutchinson, Holden, and Carder, was to keep dissension from spoiling this vision.

The Puritans largely traveled in family groups with equal numbers of men and women. They were literate (so they could read the Bible) and fairly prosperous, motivated by religion more than wealth. Many had been skilled craftsmen, few had been servants. They were young and healthy, so there was rapid natural population increase. Many of these group characteristics as well as motivation are similar to the Mormon pioneers, though hopefully Mormons treat dissenters better, and our identity as a religion-based society will endure better than has been the case for New England.

Settlers became proprietors of new towns, often dividing up all the land within a few years. We see this pattern among the Knight ancestors, who settled in new towns and largely stayed put until the parents of Joseph and Polly moved to western Massachusetts and Vermont.



Here is the fan chart of Newel Knight revisited. We have added approximate arrival dates for all immigrants except those in the Crouch line, because her parents' identity is uncertain. While the numbers added are small and hard to read, all but two are between 1630 and 1640. The two exceptions are:

- William Bridges, who arrived in Plymouth in 1623, as discussed in the story of John Oldham, and
- John Adams, who arrived in Cambridge in 1651 (though some believe he came to Braintree with Henry Adams in 1633 and returned to England before settling in Cambridge).

Name dropping – any famous ancestors?

- Previously mentioned:
 - William Cheney (Polly Peck's mmmmmf) 8th great-grandfather of VP Dick Cheney
 - John Adams (JK's fmmmf) possible son of Henry Adams, great-great-grandfather of Pres. John Adams
 - Nicholas Ide – Dorothy Wheatley Bliss line has been traced back to English royalty, but there is one very weak link:

Polly Peck 1774-1831	Elizabeth Read 1774-1831	Noah Read 1718-1778	Elizabeth Ide 1690-1755	Nicholas Ide 1660-1735	Martha Bliss 1622-1676	Dorothy Wheatley 1591-1621	Mary Fiennes 1566-1595	----- Anne Sackville 1542-1595, 1c1r of Anne Boleyn
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Famous direct ancestors in line of Newel's wife Lydia Goldthwaite:

- Ezekiel Cheever – taught Latin for 70 years, the last 38 as master of Boston Latin School, wrote text
- John Batcheler – juror for Salem Witches trials. Jury later issued the following apology:

We confess that we ourselves were not capable to understand, nor able to withstand the mysterious delusions of the powers of darkness and prince of the air, but were for want of knowledge in ourselves and better information from others, prevailed with to take up with such evidence against the accused as on further consideration and better information, we justly fear was insufficient for the touching the lives of any, Deuteronomy 17:6, . . . We do, therefore, hereby signify to all in general (and to the surviving sufferers in especial) our deep sense of and sorrow for our errors in acting on such evidence to the condemning of any person.

And do hereby declare that we justly fear that we were sadly deluded and mistaken, for which we are much disquieted and distressed in our minds, and do therefore humbly beg forgiveness, first of God for Christ's sake for this our error. And pray that God would not impute the guilt of it to ourselves nor others. And we also pray that we may be considered candidly and aight by the living sufferers as being then under the power of a strong and general delusion, utterly unacquainted with and not experienced in matters of that nature.

We do heartily ask forgiveness of you all, whom we have justly offended and do declare, according to our present minds, we would none of us do such things again on such grounds for the whole world, praying you to accept of this in way of satisfaction for our offense, and that you would bless the inheritance of the Lord that He may be entreated for the land.

While we have identified some familiar surnames of Knight ancestors, such as Chase, Adams, and Cheney, we might ask if any of these ancestors were famous in their own right, rather than by virtue of descendants. The answer would have to be No. None of these ancestors were prominent or important.

If we extend the search farther back into England, there are tie-ins with royalty, but there are some weak links. For example, Polly Peck's mfmfmmm was Mary Fiennes. There are rumors online that she was the illegitimate daughter of (George) Gregory Fiennes, 10th Lord Dacre and a descendant from three sons of Edward III, King of England. There is no documentation of this claim (would he document an illegitimate daughter?). His wife, Anne Sackville (NOT Mary's mother) was 1st cousin once removed of Queen Anne Boleyn.

Newel's wife, Lydia Goldthwaite, has two ancestors with some claim to fame.

- Ezekiel Cheever was a famous Latin teacher who taught for 70 years, 38 (1670-1708) as head of the Boston Latin School, the oldest (1635) and first public school in the US. He wrote a text that is probably the earliest American Schoolbook.
- John Batcheler was a juror for the Salem Witch trials. A few years after the trials, he was one of the signers of a touching apology, acknowledging that they were sadly deluded and mistaken, expressing distress, and pleading for forgiveness, first of God for Christ's sake, and of any whom they offended. Here is a URL of the complete apology:
<http://icah.infobaselearning.com/pdocument.aspx?ID=108662>.

If the Knights did not have famous ancestors, that should not matter to us. They are our ancestors, famous not for prominence or worldly success but as faithful followers, supporters, and witnesses in the cause of the Restoration. They give us much to be proud of and to live up to.