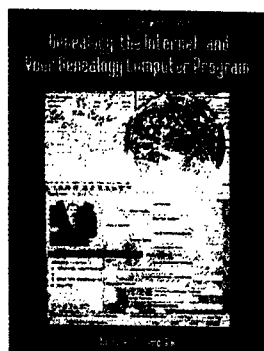


The Complete Beginner's Guide to
GENEALOGY,
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 AND YOUR **GENEALOGY**
COMPUTER PROGRAM

Karen Clifford



The modern world of genealogy combines the traditional methods of research with the awesome power of computers and the Internet, a combination so powerful that it has transformed the way we do genealogy. The purpose of this book is to instruct the researcher in this new methodology, tying the fundamentals of genealogical research to the infrastructure of computers and web sites. In other words, it is a **manual for modern genealogy**—designed for the beginner but useful even to the most seasoned researcher.

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THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL
 AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER

Contents

Thomas Clemence of Providence, Rhode Island and Four Generations of His Descendants <i>Gordon L. Remington, F.U.G.A., F.A.S.G. and Roberta Stokes Smith</i>	131
The Peter ² Lurvey Family of Essex County, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont (<i>continued from page 90. Concluded</i>) <i>John Bradley Arthaud and Ernest Hyde Helliwell, III</i>	167
The Descendants of Stephen Bryant of Plymouth, and of His Son-in-law Lt. John Bryant of Plympton (<i>Part Six. Concluded</i>) <i>D. Alden Smith</i>	189
Notes on George Allen of Weymouth and Sandwich <i>Richard LeBaron Bowen, Jr.</i>	212
Genealogical Notes: Shepard of Taunton, Massachusetts <i>John C. Brandon</i>	215
"One Wilson" – Servant of Thomas Beard <i>Doris Schreiber Willcox, with David Willcox and Helga Andrews</i>	217
Martha Edwards, First Wife of William Cleaves of Beverly, Massachusetts <i>Donald S. Kenney</i>	225
Reviews of Books	227

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NOTES ON GEORGE ALLEN OF WEYMOUTH AND SANDWICH

Richard LeBaron Bowen, Jr.

The sketch of George Allen recently published by the Great Migration Study^[1] includes several statements that require correction or comment.

Evidence for the name of the wife of Ralph² Allen, "given as Susanna in many sources, but without record evidence cited" (p. 28), was published by Charles Carroll Gardner in *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 16 [1941]: 7, citing Sandwich Quarterly Records of Friends, 40:25 and 60:68, showing Ralph Allen and Susanna Allen as witnesses to marriages in 1676 and 1685. Analysis of other Allen names in the separate lists of men and women witnesses indicates that, when the known wives are paired with their husbands, in all cases Ralph and Susanna are left, indicating that they were probably married.

Joseph³ Allen (Ralph², George¹), stated to have been the "eldest certain child" (p. 28), was almost certainly younger than his brother John³. In the will of Ralph², John is named first, given two tables and two bedsteads, and then the remaining five children are given the rest of the moveable estate.^[2] Joseph was married 5 July 1662, so in calculating a birthdate of 1642 for him, Gardner was subtracting only 20 years, rather than the 25 generally accepted by the Great Migration Study; using the latter results in a probable birthdate of 1637. John, if two years older, was born say 1635. By the same formula, Ralph² may have been born about 1610, considerably earlier than the estimated 1617.

In reference to John³ (p. 30), it is stated that about 1643 both John Allen and Ralph Allen held land in Weymouth first granted to George Allen, and that the most likely explanation is that the two were older sons of George. It is then said that many of the early settlers of Weymouth later removed to Rehoboth, and that a John Allen is found there, "who we have assigned as this son of George." It should be noted that Ralph Allen was also in Rehoboth shortly after 1643, owning a much larger estate than John, and that he moved to Sandwich.

It seems probable that Robert² Allen (pp. 28, 30) is the same man who was in Marblehead in 1638, banished from Massachusetts Bay.^[3]

It is stated (p. 32) that for about a decade two Ralph Allens resided in Sandwich. In March 1650/1 Ralph Allen Jr. was first mentioned in a law case, and in August 1651 a warrant was issued for Ralph Allen Sr. It is noted that, with two

exceptions (mentioned later), no Jr./Sr. designations were found after June 1659 when Ralph Allen Sr. was one of a number of men who refused to take the oath of fidelity. In October 1659, March 1659/60, June 1660, October 1660, and March 1660/1 a Ralph Allen (without further designation) again refused to take the oath. On this basis, it is concluded that one of the two Ralphs died in the fall of 1659, between the June and October court sessions.

In confirmation of this conclusion, it is stated that fragmentary entries in Jedediah Allen's Bible^[4] may be interpreted to imply that Ralph Allen, father of Jedediah, died before Jane Swift, Jedediah's grandmother, whose inventory was taken in 1663, as noted by Gardner.^[5] Gardner specifically implied that the death dates for Ralph and Jane (with the years torn off), which were listed in that order, indicated that they died in that order because the entries were made by Jedediah, who owned the Bible, after they died. This conclusion is faulty, because the entry preceding the deaths of Ralph and Jane is that of Jedediah's own death in 1712, a fact Gardner failed to mention. Thus, the deaths of Ralph and Jane were entered after 1712, about half a century after the fact, and not necessarily in chronological order. It is more logical to assume that Jedediah's death record was followed by that of his father and then grandmother.

Despite the claim that one of the Ralph Allens died in the fall of 1659, *The Great Migration* notes two exceptions to the use of Jr./Sr. after 1659. In June 1671 Ralph Allen Sr. was made a surveyor in Sandwich, and in April 1675 Mary Allen, daughter of Ralph Allen Sr. was buried. It is concluded that, while the second does not necessarily refer to a living Ralph Allen, "the first certainly does," but the following paragraph repeats the statement that Ralph Allen Jr. died in or about 1659.

An examination of the records provides a good explanation for the fact that the Ralph Allen of the five oath cases from 1659 to 1661 was not designated Sr. or Jr. In October 1657 Ralph Allen Sr. and William Newland were the first men charged for Quaker activities in Sandwich, and were jailed for refusing to post surety for good behavior. They spent five months in jail in the winter and were released at the March 1657/8 court after paying fines. At the same court Ralph Allen, Jr., was admonished for attending a Quaker meeting and fined (which he paid). In October 1658 Ralph Allen Sr. was disenfranchised from Sandwich for "non legel admittance" to the town.^[6]

In June 1659 Ralph Allen Sr. refused to take the oath of fidelity. Then followed five cases, from October 1659 to March 1660/1, at every court session, in which a Ralph Allen (without Jr. or Sr.) refused to take the oath. Looking at the group of cases as a whole, it is apparent that the last five are essentially continuations of the first. The language is almost identical, and the same ten or

¹ Robert Charles Anderson, George Freeman Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration, 1634-1635, Volume 1 A-B* (Boston: NEHGS, 1999), 27-35.

² *Mayflower Descendant*, 32 [1934]:166.

³ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 1:31.

⁴ *Register*, 25 [1871]:146.

⁵ Charles Carroll Gardner, *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 16 [1941]:52.

⁶ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, 12 vols. (Boston, 1855-61), 3: 123, 130, 153.

eleven men were named in each, many in the same order. Ralph Allen Jr. is not in the group, presumably having taken the oath; he paid his fine in March 1657/8 when Ralph Sr. first refused. The ten or eleven men were all Quakers. These presentments were a means devised by the Plymouth court to punish Quakers by additionally fining them, a practice stopped in 1661 when the King of England ordered Massachusetts Bay to stop hanging Quakers and inflicting physical punishment such as flogging or cutting off their ears. Plymouth Colony followed suit by stopping their harassment of the Quakers.

Thus the Ralph Allen mentioned in the last five oath persecutions was the Ralph Allen who had refused to take the oath of fidelity. He was well known to the court as the most abusive and belligerent of the Quaker activists, and the first brought into court. He did not need "Sr." next to his name to identify him in these Quaker harassment cases. He was living as late as 1671, when he was chosen surveyor in Sandwich.

James Allen, who had daughters born at Sandwich in 1663, 1665, and 1667, is discussed as a possible son of George¹ and rejected (p. 34). In fact, it has long been recognized that James was a son of Samuel¹ Allen who settled in Braintree. A genealogy for James² (*Samuel*¹) was published 75 years ago by Charles Edward Banks.^[7] James removed to Sandwich and then to Martha's Vineyard, where he died at Tisbury.^[8] It is significant that in James we have evidence that there was at least one Allen in Sandwich not directly related to George Allen. There undoubtedly were others.

Finally, it should be noted that the most recent serious treatment of George Allen and the two Ralph Allens, omitted by *Great Migration*, is that of Bertha Clark, "A Sandwich-Dartmouth-North Kingstown Allen Line" (Boston, 1955, a 33-page typescript at the Society). Clark provides extensive discussion of the children of George¹ Allen and the two Ralphs, with references for virtually every statement.

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⁷ Charles Edward Banks, *History of Martha's Vineyard*, 3 vols. (Edgartown, 1925), 3:3-7, 2:25-28.

⁸ David Allen Thompson, *George Allen - Ralph Allen* (Albany, 1910), 25. Thompson appears to be the only Allen researcher who included James in the family of George¹.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES SHEPARD OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

John C. Brandon

Dean C. Smith's *The Ancestry of Samuel Blanchard Ordway, 1844-1916* suggests a possible English origin for William¹ Shepard of Taunton, Massachusetts.^[1] Following the work of Donald Lines Jacobus in *The Shepard Families of New England*, Smith presents a rather convincing case (though he states that it is not proven) that William of Taunton was the "son William Shepard now in New England" in the 1643 will of John Shepard of Towcester, Northamptonshire. William was to have a house "in Northbarrstreet in Banbury [Oxfordshire], if it be it please God he live to come over again to Old England." John Shepard's will also speaks of his *brother* in New England, the well-known Rev. Thomas Shepard of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who was to oversee John's wishes for his son William. Smith is careful to point out that the famous minister's extensive autobiographical writings never mention this putative nephew, William Shepard of Taunton. However, this doubt was not enough to disprove the theory, since Cambridge and Taunton were in different colonies, and perhaps uncle and nephew were not overly fond of each other.

In favor of the theory, as pointed out by Smith, was the fact that John's will mentions "all the goods which I sent over unto him [William] in May or June, 1643, in a ship called the *Concord*." Smith provides evidence from inventories taken at Taunton and New Haven that William Shepard "died possessed of a large stock of goods . . . in keeping with the 'goods' sent by John of Towcester to his son in New England in mid-1643."^[3] There is also some onomastic evidence for the connection as the will of John of Towcester mentions sons William, John, Samuel, Daniel, and daughters Elizabeth and Anne. Among the children of William of Taunton we find sons named Samuel and John and a daughter named Elizabeth.

Recently, however, I ran across a published document which clearly shows that William Shepard, son of the testator John Shepard of Towcester, died 4 December 1653 in England. The 1643 will of John of Towcester, as quoted by Smith, mentions that John's "adventure of £150 for lands in Ireland, in which my cousin Richard Farmer hath £100 and my brother George Waple £50, shall be divided amongst my sons." I was aware that one volume of *The Calendar of State Papers Relating to Ireland* has the subtitle *Adventurers for Land, 1642-1659*. This volume contains several documents relating to John Shepard's Irish investment, or "adventure," as it was

¹ Dean C. Smith, *The Ancestry of Samuel Blanchard Ordway, 1844-1916*, ed. Melinde L. Sanborn (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1990), 365-73; hereafter *Ordway*.

² Gerald F. Shepard, comp., *The Shepard Families of New England, Vol. III: Additional Family Groups*, ed. Donald Lines Jacobus (New Haven: New Haven Colony Historical Society, 1973), 326. Smith provides an abstract of the will of John Shepard of Towcester, from *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 42 [1911]:94-96.

³ *Ordway* [note 1], 366.