

The American Genealogist

founded 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus

July 2002

EDITORS

DAVID L. GREENE, Ph.D., CG, FASG, Demorest, Georgia
ROBERT CHARLES ANDERSON, FASG, Derry, New Hampshire
JOSEPH C. ANDERSON II, CG, FASG, Dallas, Texas

MANAGING EDITOR

A. JANE MCFERRIN, Ed.D., Cleveland, Georgia

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JEROME E. ANDERSON, A.M., Warren, Massachusetts
STEWART BALDWIN, Ph.D., Auburn, Alabama
DAVID CURTIS DEARBORN, FASG, Sharon, Massachusetts
JANE FLETCHER FISKE, FASG, Boxford, Massachusetts
CHARLES M. HANSEN, FASG, Sausalito, California
GALE ION HARRIS, Ph.D., FASG, East Lansing, Michigan
HENRY B. HOFF, CG, FASG, Annandale, Virginia
MYRTLE STEVENS HYDE, FASG, Ogden, Utah
NORMAN W. INGHAM, Ph.D., CG, Granby, Massachusetts
ROGER D. JOSLYN, CG, FASG, New Windsor, New York
LESLIE MAHLER, San Jose, California
PAUL C. REED, FASG, Salt Lake City, Utah
GORDON L. REMINGTON, FASG, Salt Lake City, Utah
MARSHA HOFFMAN RISING, CG, FASG, Springfield, Missouri
DONNA VALLEY RUSSELL, CG, FASG, New Market, Maryland
CLIFFORD L. STOTT, CG, FASG, Orem, Utah

Back Issues: See insert in the April 2001 issue, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for list.

Indexed in *PERSI* and *Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*; reviews are indexed in *Book Review Index*. Microfilmed by ProQuest Information and Learning, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor MI 48106-1346.

The American Genealogist [TAG] (ISSN 0002-8592) is published quarterly by David L. Greene, P.O. Box 398, Demorest GA 30535-0398. \$30.00 (US) a year (4 issues), \$56.00 for two years, \$80.00 for three years. Single issues: \$9.00. Airmail delivery is available to non-US subscribers for \$10.00 (US) additional a year.

All books for review, correspondence, manuscripts, address changes, requests for permission to reprint, and subscriptions should be sent to the Demorest address below. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland GA and at additional mailing offices.

Copyright © 2002 by David L. Greene.

The American Genealogist

Whole Number 307

Vol. 77, No. 3

July 2002

WILLIAM¹ SWIFT, CITIZEN AND LEATHERSELLER OF LONDON, AND PLANTER OF SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

By Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG

The following account represents a serendipitous discovery followed by blind perseverance. Several months ago, in the Southwark Local Studies Library,¹ while looking for the 1808 burial record of one of my great-great-grandmothers, I realized that the index I was using had marriage entries back into the early 1600s. Following my inclination in such situations to check for familiar names of people who might have joined the Great Migration, I scanned through the earlier entries and came upon the marriage of a William Swift to Joan Dimbleby in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, Surrey. Remembering that William¹ Swift of Sandwich, Massachusetts, had a wife named Joan, but not knowing whether or not she had been identified, I copied the information and set it aside to check when I got home.

What I learned was that almost everything published about William¹ Swift of Sandwich and his wife Joan, beginning with Savage, includes the claim that the family was from Bocking, Essex, although a Yorkshire origin has also been suggested; some undocumented internet sources give Joan's maiden name as *Sisson*.² C. E. Banks noted that the name *William Swift* appeared on the Surrey Subsidy Rolls for 1627 in Bermondsey,³ but he did not carry the matter further. The marriage does not appear in the Bocking registers, and baptisms there are missing for the period when the children were born, so I decided to pursue the Bermondsey

¹ For those unfamiliar with London, Southwark is on the south side of the River Thames, roughly across from the City of London. Although technically in the county of Surrey, for most practical purposes it is part of London.

² James Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1860-62), 4:241; numerous undocumented claims that William's wife was Joan Sisson are found at the <www.rootsweb.com> site.

³ Banks *Genealogical Collection*, Family History Library [FHL], Salt Lake City, film #1,550,096, item 26, p. 46, citing County of Surrey, Subsidy Rolls 1620-1628, at the Public Record Office.

lead. I wrote to someone in London who had quick access to an index for that parish, and he sent me a list of Swift christenings from 1610 onwards, but the only child consistent with the Sandwich family was a son William, hardly conclusive evidence; known daughters Hannah and Esther were missing. Not quite willing to give up yet, on a more recent visit to the Society of Genealogists in London I went through Challen's transcript of the parish records of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey,⁴ page by page, heeding someone's frustrated annotation on the title page that there were many omissions in the index. The effort was worth it: an entry for the baptism of "Ester," daughter of William Swift, in 1629 provided the necessary link, and information from other sources has fallen easily into place.

It is now clear that wherever he may have been born, William was a citizen and leatherseller of London, admitted to freedom in 1620. He was living in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, at least by 1622, and he was a widower in 1625 when he married Joan, the widow of Roger Dimbleby, whose will proclaims that he too was a citizen and leatherseller of London. The picture that emerges from the records of St. Mary Magdalene, sketchy as it is, provides a poignant backdrop for the family's immigration to New England. Both William and Joan lost previous spouses in the plague-ridden summer before their marriage; William lost some of his children, and Joan evidently lost the last of hers. After the death of the youngest of three children born to them, in 1631, the family disappears from records of Bermondsey, appearing a few years later in Watertown, Massachusetts.

The story unfolded neatly, working backwards from New England records. William Swift was granted Lot 14, 40 acres, in the Third Division of the Great Dividend in Watertown, next to John Springe's 35-acre lot.⁵ On 7 April 1635, at a court held at New Towne, "Willm Swifte promiseth to gyve xx^s towards the cure of [blank] his late servant being infirme & lame."⁶ On 28 February 1636[7], Swift drew #84 in the distribution of lots in the Plowlands at Beverbrooke Plains, granted to all the townsmen who were then inhabitants; the allotment was one acre per person, and likewise for cattle valued at £20 per head. Swift received five acres,⁷ a figure consistent with a family in which there were three children (assuming no valuable cows). These lots were bounded by the Great Dividend on the north side and the Charles River on the south, and were divided by a cartway,

⁴ W. H. Challen, "Transcript of the Parish Registers of Bermondsey, Southwark, Surrey, 1609-1700," at the Society of Genealogists, London, SR/REG/48074, not paginated (hereafter cited as Challen, "Bermondsey Parish Transcript").

⁵ "Lands, Grants, Divisions, Allotments, Possessions and Proprietors' Book," Section Two in *Watertown Records*, Vol 1: Comprising the First and Second Books of Town Proceedings (Watertown, 1894), 4-5 (hereafter cited as *Watertown Records*, Vol. 1).

⁶ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston, 1853-54), 1:144 (hereafter cited as *Mass. Bay Records*).

⁷ *Watertown Records*, 1, Sect. 2:7.

the even-numbered lots being on the north side. According to a deed from Thomas White to John Knight of a house and lands, acknowledged before John Winthrop, Governor, White had purchased the property "of William Swift of Watertown and this was by an absolute deed of sale dated the 31st March 1640."⁸ William Swift was of Sandwich on 28 June 1641 when he granted unto Thomas White of Sudbury "all his messuage and tenements with all his right thereto belonging, Lyeing in Sudbury and then in the possession of the said Thomas White, for security of his lawfull possession of that house w^{ch} he bought of Swift . . . by a deed dated the 28 4th month [June] 1641."⁹

In the summer of 1637, William Swift appears to have returned to England on business. The court's vote on 1 August 1637 that "Mr Richard Browne and Goodman William Heath have power to examine [blank] Swifts case, about his man"¹⁰ makes more sense if Swift himself was not present. There is much more to be learned from William's involvement in a troublesome court case that is recorded, among other places, in Thomas Lechford's Note-book.¹¹ What appears to have happened was that Swift and Josiah [or Joshua] Smyth had signed as sureties for a debt of £52 owed by Roger Spring,¹² "principall debto^r," to Andrew Coleman.¹³ What became of Spring is unknown, but Coleman on an unspecified date in 1636 gave John Haynes, Esq., power of attorney to sue William Swift in New England for the debt. William mortgaged his house and lands to Haynes. Lechford in a final paragraph summarized the situation:

⁸ *Suffolk Deeds*, 14 vols. (Boston, 1880-1906), 1:44 (hereafter cited as *Suffolk Deeds*). Was Thomas White perhaps related to the Elizabeth White who m. in Bermondsey, 20 May 1611, Richard Swift (see below)?

⁹ *Suffolk Deeds*, 1:46.

¹⁰ *Mass. Bay Records*, 1:200.

¹¹ Edward Everett Hale Jr., ed., *Note-Book Kept by Thomas Lechford, Esq., Lawyer, In Boston, Massachusetts Bay, from June 27, 1638 to July 29, 1641*, *Archaeologia Americana: American Antiquarian Soc. Trans. and Colls.*, 7(Cambridge, Mass., 1885):308-10 (hereafter cited as *Lechford Note-Book*). A less complete version of the same document, containing some variations, is in *Mass. Bay Records*, 1:298.

¹² Roger Spring, for whom William Swift signed as surety, was probably the man of that name who had a daughter Sarah bp. St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, 23 June 1632, but does not appear in the parish records thereafter. Note that Swift's lot in Watertown was next to that of a John Springe.

¹³ Andrew Coleman, who caused William Swift so much difficulty, has not been identified, but there is no record of him in New England, and there was a man of that name who had a wife Hester with whom he had children, Hester, Andrew, Mary, and Joseph, bp. between 1631 and 1644 in three different London parishes. The International Genealogical Index [IGI] shows Hester bp. 20 March 1631 at St. Antholin Budge Row, Andrew bp. 5 July 1632 and Mary bp. 26 July 1633 at St. Botolph without Aldgate, and Joseph bp. 6 Feb. 1644 at All Hallows London Wall. This is noteworthy only because Roger and Joan Dimbleby named children Andrew and Hester, and Joan's first daughter with William Swift was *Esther*, a name interchangeable with *Hester*. This Coleman couple is a generation too young to be Joan's parents, but there may have been some relationship, and further investigation into them may help to identify her.

Goodman Swift was arrested about Midsomer 1637 & imprisoned in White chapel & at the p[illor]ye without Al[d]gate payd to Joshua Smith & M^r Heath the Scrivener 7^{li} 10^s. The suit ag Smithman & Stacey was in Guildhall 1636 Edward Swift his sonne that was prentice with George Andrewes butcher in Eastcheape little Eastcheape. [And a letter . . . Write to goodman Swift at Sandwich the letters to be left with goodman Buttolph glover in Boston.]¹⁴

The matter came before the Massachusetts Court on 1 September 1640:

In the matter between Andrew Coleman & William Swift it is ordered by the Court that whereas the said Andrew Coleman by his letter of Attorney dated the [blank] day of [blank] anno D[omi]ni 1636 made unto John Haynes Esq^r gave him power & authority to sue and compound wth the said Will^m Swift for & upon one bond of 100 li bearing date the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1635 wherein the said Will^m Swift as a suerty was bound wth Roger Spring principall debter, and Josiah Smith of Bermondsey streete leather-dresser another suerty for the payment of fifty two pounds upon a certaine day past. And thereupon the said John Haynes agreed & compounded wth the said William Swift. And the said William Swift mortgaged his house & lands at Watertowne aforesaid unto the said John Haynes in behalfe of the said Andrew Coleman by one deed or writing made in or about the moneth of [blank] in the year 1636. . . .

William claimed that Coleman had already received £18 5s. of the debt from John Smith[e]man and Willi[am] Stacy Jr. of Bocking, clothiers, which they had owed to him (Swift), and that since he had mortgaged his property, the said Andrew Coleman "hath contrary to the said agreem^t arrested, & troubled the said Willi: Swift in England for the said debt," and had recovered from him £7 10s. more, which in all being £25 15s., came to half the said debt, "wanting but five shillings, & that halfe thereof is as much in equity as hee being a surety wth another ought to pay, the other surety the said Josiah Smith being a man of sufficient estate ought to pay the other halfe."

This Court hath ordered that the possession of the said house & lands shall remaine in the hands of the said John Haynes till midsommer next to the end the said Will^m Swift may make what prooffe hee can of the premises in the meane time, And then this Court will set downe a finall order in the premises, as shall be agreeable to equity.

Lechford's editor, Edward Everett Hale Jr., in his annotation of the court record expressed doubt that the man in jail in London was the New England man; however, the knowledge of the family's London connections lends credence to the identification.

The reference to Bocking, above, as the place of business of John Smithman and William Stacey Jr.,¹⁵ who owed a debt to William Swift, was probably what led Savage to state that William came from that parish, and his assumption has been faithfully copied ever since. However, the apprenticeship record of Swift's son Edward (mentioned by Lechford) tells a different story:

¹⁴ Thomas Buttolph, discussed in Robert C. Anderson, George F. Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635*, 2 vols. to date, 1: A-B (Boston, 1999), 517-22 (hereafter cited as Anderson et al., *The Great Migration 1634-35*).

¹⁵ The IGI does show marriages in Bocking for a John Smithman in 1636 (to Elizabeth Pafflyn) and a William Stacie in 1633 (to Anna Clarke).

Edward Swifte son of William Swifte, citizen and leatherseller of London, was bound apprentice to George Andrewes for seven years from the day given, 8 May 1633.

2 July 1640 Edward Swifte apprentice of George Andrewes made free upon the report of George Stretton gave a white spoon and paid 3s. 4d.¹⁶

As a leatherseller, William would have been doing business with people like Smithman and Stacey who lived outside of London, but as a citizen of London he had undoubtedly served an apprenticeship in the city. This was confirmed by the records of the Company [Guild] of Leathersellers, where it is recorded that:

3rd October 1620

William Swyfte, made free by redemption by order of the Court of Aldermen bearing date the 26th of September last. And he presented to this house a gilt salt weighting six ounces and a quarter with the Company's arms and WS engraven thereon.¹⁷

Roger Dimbleby's name does not appear in the Company's records of freedom admissions, indicating probably that he was made free before October 1610 when those records begin. Accounts for the year 1615/6 note that Dimbleby was fined £15 for refusing to serve in the office of warden of the yeomanry [freemen]; this suggests that he had been free for some time in order to be considered for that office. He did not pay the fine, which was shown as owing each year until 1623/4, when it was not mentioned and thus had either been paid up or written off.¹⁸

There were other Swifts in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, during the years William is known to have lived there, and earlier. The following entries for Swift and Dimbleby were found:¹⁹

1582[3]	3 Feb.	Margarett dau. Richard Swifte bp.
1588	2 June	William son of Richard Swift bp.
	3 Nov.	William son of Richard Swift bur.
1598[9]	13 March	Richard Swyft bur.
1599	8 April	William Swyft m. Andw [sic] Edlyn ²⁰
	17 Sept.	Jacob Pratt m. Margaret Swyft
1599[1600]	9 Feb.	Rowland Thrappes Esq. m. Fran: Swift
1611	7 April	Frances Swift a woman bur.

¹⁶ Worshipful Company of Butchers, Wardens' accounts 1593-1646 (GL Ms 6440/2 part II), fo. 448, 544v. I am indebted to Stephen Freeth, Keeper of Manuscripts at Guildhall, for a very prompt response to my request for this record and for translating the binding record from Latin.

¹⁷ Records of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, at Leathersellers Hall, provided by Miss Wendy Hawke, Company Archivist.

¹⁸ Records of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, at Leathersellers Hall, provided by Miss Wendy Hawke, Company Archivist.

¹⁹ *The Parish Registers of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, 1548-1609* (Exeter, 1894), published as a supplement to *The Genealogist*; data from the period 1609-1700 taken from Challen, "Bermondsey Parish Transcript." There was also a Thimbleby family in the parish, but it does not seem to be connected to the Dimblebys.

²⁰ While the Bermondsey transcript calls the bride "Andw" Edlyn, this marriage was also recorded in the parish registers and Bishops' Transcripts of St. Marys, Watford, Hertfordshire, where the bride's name is given as a more likely "Audry" Edlyn and the marriage date as 13 April 1599 [FHL film #s 991,355, 569,766].

	20 May	Richard Swift m. Elizabeth White
1620	7 Nov.	Sara Swift a woman bur.
	11 Dec.	Joseph Swift a child bur.
1621	10 Sept.	Elizabeth Swift a woman bur.
1622	4 May	Andrew son of Roger Dimbleby bp.
	13 May	Andrew son of Roger Dimbleby bur.
	26 May	John son of William Swift bp.
	29 June	John Swift a child bur.
	30 Oct.	William son of Richard Swift bp.
1623	13 Aug.	Roger son of Roger Dimbleby bp.
	10 Sept.	Roger Dimbleby a child bur.
1624	13 Sept.	William Swift a child bur.
	17 Oct.	Roger son of Roger Dimbleby bp.
1625	30 July	Marie Swift a child bur.
	21 Aug.	Marie dau. William Swift bp.
	24 Aug.	Sara Swift a woman bur.
		William Swift a youth bur.
	26 Aug.	Hester Dimbleby a child bur.
		Susanna Swift bur.
	4 Sept.	Marie Swift a child bur.
	15 Sept.	Roger Dimbleby hous[eholder] bur.
	16 Sept.	Elizabeth Swift bur.
	19 Sept.	Roger Dimbleby a child bur.
	27 Oct.	Sara Swift a mayd bur.
1625[6]	3 Jan.	William Swift m. Joane Dimbleby
1627	25 April	William son of William Swift bp.
1627[8]	21 Jan.	Robert Swift m. Ruth Bird
1629	28 May	Ester dau. William Swift bp.
1629[30]	5 Feb.	Phillip Swift a child bur.
1630[1]	2 Jan.	Marie dau. Robert Swift bp.
1631	7 Aug.	Sara dau. William Swift bp.
	16 Aug.	Robert Swift hous[eholder]—convulsions—bur.
	8 Sept.	Sarah Swift an infant bur.
1632	15 April	Richard son of William Dimbleby bp.
1633[4]	9 March	Elizabeth dau. William Dimblebee bp.
1635	28 July	Elizabeth Dimblebee a child bur.
1635[6]	10 Jan.	Joseph son of William & Martha Dimblebee bp.
1637	18 April	Richard Dimblebee a child bur.—bleach & worms
1638/9	3 Jan.	William son of William & Martha Dimblee bp.

It is a safe assumption that the Swifts came to London originally from a country parish, but William may have been born in Southwark, which was a center of the leather industry, drawing men into the city from many areas. He appears to have had contemporaries who were perhaps his brothers, Robert and Richard Swift, both of whom married in Bermondsey and died there prematurely, and all may have belonged to the family of Richard Swift who died intestate in 1598.²¹

²¹ Prerogative Court of Canterbury [PCC] Admons 1599, at Public Record Office [PRO]. Administration was given to his daughter Margaret Pratt.

Both Roger Dimbleby and William Swift first appear in the St. Mary Magdalene records as parents in 1622, with older children evidently baptized elsewhere. The marriage record of Roger and Joan, needed to identify her, remains elusive. In his will dated 5 September and proved 26 September 1625, Roger Dimbleby of the parish of St. Marie Magdalene Bermondsey, citizen and leather-seller of London, sick in body, appointed his loving wife Johane executrix, leaving to her the residue and remainder of his goods and chattels after payment of bequests: £5 to cosen Symon Humfrey, 40s. to Agnes Rowell "my mayd servant," £40 to son Roger Dimbleby at the age of 21 years or date of marriage, 20s. to Mr. Abraham Molyne "now curate and preacher of this parish, as a token of my love unto him," and to the poor of the parish 10s.²² His son Roger, only a baby, survived him by only four days.

Symon Humfrey, named in Roger's will as cousin [nephew], provided a clue to the country roots of the Dimblebys. Records of the Leathersellers Company show that Simon Humfrey was bound apprentice to Roger Dimbleby on 1 February 1619[20], and was made free on 29 July 1629 by Roger's executors. On 20 October 1635, Simon took an apprentice, Thomas Dymbleby, son of Robert Dymbleby, late of Wilbarston, Northamptonshire, husbandman, deceased.²³ Wilbarston parish registers before the mid-1700s do not survive except for a few loose sheets for 1576–78 and 1591–92. These show two Dimbleby baptisms in 1576[7]; Margaret, daughter of Andrew, on 28 January, and Edward, son of Benjamin, on 11 March.²⁴ A search of Dimbleby wills in Northamptonshire turned up at least four that relate to this family.²⁵ Each of the testators was of Wilbarston and requested burial in the churchyard there. Cecily Dimbleby, widow, left bushels of barley to the church in Wilbarston for repairing the bells, and 3d. to the mother church in Peterborough; she left bequests to her sons Andrew, Thomas, and Benjamin, and daughter Ann.²⁶ Thomas Dimbleby died in 1558 leaving one son, John, and three daughters, mentioned but not named in his will; he named his brothers Andrew and Benjamin.²⁷ Benjamin died in 1604, naming wife Isabelle, sons John, Edward, and Robert, and daughter Frances Hale, as well as son-in-law William Taylor, and mentioning land in both Carlton and

²² Archdeaonry of Surrey wills, DW/PA/5/1625/68, at London Metropolitan Archives.

²³ Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, records of apprentices supplied by Miss Wendy Hawke, Company Archivist. There were later Dimblebys also in the Company records, one of whom appears in Boyd's "Citizens of London."

²⁴ Sarah Bridges of the Northampton Record Office deserves credit for supplying this information and citations for the wills which follow. Victor Longhorn of Milton Keynes obtained photocopies of the wills for me.

²⁵ A fifth is that of John Dimbleby *alias* Selbie of Stoke Albany, in 1612, naming son Raphe (Northampton Record Office [hereafter cited as NRO], MW90P, Will Book VIII 1612, folio 269).

²⁶ NRO, MW8N, Will Book K 1549–57, folio 60.

²⁷ NRO, MW9N, Will Book L 1548–61, folio 193.

Wilbarston.²⁸ Finally, Andrew, in 1606, calling himself Andrew Dimpleby *alias* Selbie, divided most of his property between eldest son Robert and second son George, who was to be executor, and bequeathed £4 to son *Roger Dimpleby*.²⁹ Andrew also made a bequest to "my son *by law*" Andrew Rowell and granddaughter Elizabeth Pynder, mentioning but not naming other grandchildren (the fact that he left eight sheep to be divided among them equally may be a clue to their number). Among the bequests (to George) was the remainder of years in a tenth or tithe of the corn, grain, and hay in Wilbarston "granted me by the Worshipfull Sir Edward Watson of Rockingham, knight." Andrew requested his loving kinsman and trusty friend Henry Pecke to serve as overseer.

Despite the fact that there is no mention of Simon or anyone else named Humfrey, and the puzzling alias *Selbie*, it seems likely that the son Roger named by Andrew was the man in London.³⁰ A legacy of £4, in contrast to the detailed lands, farm equipment, and household goods left to his brothers, is consistent with the situation of Roger Dimpleby of Bermondsey.

There is an abundance of sources remaining to be examined, in parishes around Wilbarston and in London, for further information. The discovery in the Bermondsey records should open the way for further research into William and Joan Swift's family, and possibly other New England immigrants associated with it.

SUMMARY

WILLIAM¹ SWIFT was born probably before 1596, based on the fact that he received his freedom as a member of the Company of Leathersellers on 26 September 1620. He died at Sandwich, Massachusetts, prior to 29 January 1642[3], when his inventory was presented.

His [presumed] first wife SARA — was buried in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, Surrey, on 24 August 1625, survived by at least two children, Edward and Hannah, whose baptisms have not been found, and a baby daughter Mary, who died not long after her mother.³¹

²⁸ NRO, MW89P, Will Book VII 1604, folio 333.

²⁹ NRO, MW89P, Will Book VI 1606, folio 96.

³⁰ Note that Andrew Dimpleby named his son-by-law (did he mean son-in-law or natural son?) Andrew Rowell, and Roger left 40s. to Ann Rowell, "my maid servant."

³¹ William's wife is presumed to have been this Sara because her burial record refers to her as "a woman," and William and Joan named their second daughter Sara in 1631. It should be noted, however, that there were burials for a Susanna Swift on 26 Aug. and an Elizabeth Swift on 16 Sept. 1625, both without indication of age or marital status. One of these may have been William's wife. Possibly one or both were his daughters. In any case, the list of burials in 1625 also includes likely additional children for William and his first wife, two of whom might be the "William Swift a youth" buried on 24 Aug., the same day as his mother, and "Sara Swift a mayd" buried on 27 Oct.

William married, second, in the same parish on 3 January 1625/6, JOANE (—) DIMBLEBY,³² widow of Roger Dimpleby, who had been buried there on 15 September 1625, "householder," also a citizen and leatherseller of London. The marriage record of Roger and Joan Dimpleby has not been found, but they were in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene by 1622 when their son Andrew was baptized there. They evidently had a daughter, Hester, baptized elsewhere.

Apparent children of Roger and Joane (—) Dimpleby, all events recorded at St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, Surrey:

- i HESTER DIMBLEBY, bp. not found, bur. 26 Aug. 1625, "a child."
- ii ANDREW DIMBLEBY, bp. 4 May 1622, bur. 13 May 1622.
- iii ROGER DIMBLEBY, bp. 13 Aug. 1623, bur. 10 Sept. 1623.
- iv ROGER DIMBELBY (again), bp. 17 Oct. 1624, bur. 19 Sept. 1625, 4 days after his father.

William and Joan lived in Bermondsey for at least five years after their marriage, and probably until at least May 1633 when William apprenticed his son Edward in London; the family may have left soon afterwards, for Savage stated that they were in New England by 1634. In 1636 William was sued for another man's debt, as discussed above, and became involved in a court case. In 1637 he was in jail in Whitechapel, London. He had settled in Sandwich by 1640, when Thomas Lechford wrote of sending him a letter there. He was dead by 29 January 1642[3], when his widow Joan exhibited his inventory.³³ On 7 March 1642[3], Joan was given administration on the estate, with [stepson-in-law] Daniel Wing as fellow-bondsman.³⁴ The inventory included a house, land, and meadow in Sandwich valued at £10, and a house and land at Sudbury mortgaged to one Mr. Burton³⁵ to secure a debt of £20 10s., not valued. There were books, but nothing except "2 parts of a hide" to indicate that William had been a leatherseller. The debts, including funeral charges, came to £254 15s. 18d., a figure large enough to cause comment among previous researchers not familiar with all the background. Of the total, £90 was due to Mr. Thomas Wallis and £89 to Mr. John Buckley; smaller

³² Challen, "Bermondsey Parish Transcript." The marriage also appears in Boyd's Marriages, Miscellaneous Series, at the Society of Genealogists. Boyd also noted the marriage of Richard to Elizabeth Wite [*sic*] in the same parish, and two of possible interest in the parish of St. George Southwark: Edward Swift to Jane Hudd in 1609, and Richard Swift to Elizabeth Pulman in 1621.

³³ [George Ernest Bowman], "Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories," *Mayflower Descendant* 4:168–71, transcribing Plymouth Colony Probate Records 1:44–45.

³⁴ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, eds., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, 12 vols. in 10 (Boston, 1855–61), 2:53 (hereafter cited as Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*).

³⁵ The very last entry in Thomas Lechford's Note-Book, made after his return to England "post Mich[aelmas] [29 Sept.] 1641," concerns William Swift (*Lechford Note-Book*, 438). Lechford wrote: "Layd out [4d.] for Will^m Swift for a search in the Affdⁱ office for the affidavit w^{ch} M^r Burton produced at New England as at the suit of Andrew Coleman but could not finde the same entered."

sums were owed to Mr. John Castele, Mr. Blackwell, "a hatmaker," John Barnes, Thom[as] Dexter, John Derby, Daniell Wing, Joseph Winsor, Thom[as] Butler, Rob[er]te Allen, Thomas Gibbs, Thom[as] Johnson, Miles Blacke, Mr. Waterhouse, Goodman Armitage, and Hugh [blank] Mr Noyce's servant.

Joan survived almost twenty years, settling William's business matters, staying involved in the affairs of the town of Sandwich, and being fined at least once for attending Quaker meetings.³⁶ In her will dated 12 October 1662, inventory taken 25 December 1663,³⁷ Jone Swift of Sandwich, sick of body, bequeathed:

unto Daniel Winges, his sons Samuel and John, a mare foal of a year old. Item, I give unto my grandchild Hannah Swift, the old mare, if she be alive, if not, the next to her. Item, I give unto my grandchildren Hannah Swift and Experience Allen, all my linen and my pewter to be equally divided between them. Item, I give unto Mary Darbey³⁸ my wearing clothes. Item, I give unto Hannah Winge the Elder my best hat, and forty shillings to her daughters to be divided amongst them. Item, I give unto Jedediah Allen and Experience Allen the third part of my estate, this house and garden being part of the third. I give unto my son William's children, each of them a mare foal; my debts being discharged, and my funeral being paid, I give the rest of my estate to my son William, whom I make my Executor. I make John Vincent and Benjamin Hammond my overseers of this my will and give them twenty shillings apiece.

William Swift, planter, with Richard Chadwell, ship carpenter, as surety, gave bond on 4 March 1663/[4] for his administration on the estate of Mistris Jone Swift, deceased.³⁹ The inventory of the estate of John Fish, taken 18 November 1663, included a debt due from William Swift to Fish "for his care to Mrs Swift."⁴⁰

The wording of the bequests to Hannah Wing and her children is consistent with Hannah's relationship as a stepdaughter. The will is clear as to the relationship of son William and the Allen grandchildren, whose mother must have been the daughter Esther, simply by process of elimination. It throws into some doubt, however, the traditional identification of Esther Allen (said to have been the daughter of Ralph Allen the mason), who married as his second wife Henry Bull of Rhode Island.⁴¹

³⁶ Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 2:75, 7:44, 8:103, 12:212.

³⁷ Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 2:16.

³⁸ Mary Darbey was probably the wife or widow of John Derby who d. in 1655 (Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Plymouth Colony Records*, 3:96), to whom William Swift owed 14s. at his death.

³⁹ Charles Henry Pope, ed., *The Plymouth Scrap Book* (Boston, 1918), 29.

⁴⁰ Pope, *Plymouth Scrap Book*, 31.

⁴¹ Caroline Lewis Kardell and Russell A. Lovell Jr., comps., *Vital Records of Sandwich, Massachusetts, to 1885*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1996), 2:1248 (hereafter *Sandwich VRs*), from records of Sandwich Monthly Meeting of Friends: "Henery Bull of Road island & esther Allen of sandwich took each other in marriage the fourteenth Day of the twelvth moneth in the yeare one thousand six hundred sixty & foure." [Either this date is wrong, or the date given in R.I. Friends Records for the death of Henry's first wife, Elizabeth, in 1665. It seems likely that the marriage date is correct, as Feb. 1664/[5] (that was the year following Esther's mother's death), in which case Elizabeth Bull's death date was probably Oct. 1663.] Esther is not named in her mother's will, but Joan left legacies to grandchildren Jedediah and Experience Allen, known to have been children of Ralph Allen the mason. If the Esther Allen who m. Henry Bull of Rhode Island in Feb. 1664/5

Children of William¹ Swift with his first wife, Sara (—):

- i EDWARD² SWIFT, b. say 1616, bp. not found; apprenticed 8 May 1633 to George Andrewes, butcher, in Eastcheap, London, and made free 2 July 1640, as noted above. An Edward Swift was buried in the parish of St. Botolph Bishopsgate, 17 Nov. 1646, aged 22;⁴² the age implies a birth year of 1624, which could fit into the family, but no such baptism was found in Bermondsey, and the dates of his apprenticeship and freedom suggest that he was born earlier.
- ii HANNAH² SWIFT, b. say 1620, bp. not found, d. 31 Jan. 1664/5; m. Sandwich, 5 9m [Nov.] 1642, DANIEL WING.⁴³ "Hannah Wing the wife of Daniell Wing deceased the thirty first day of the eleventh monoth in the yeare one thousand six hundred sixty & foure: 1664."⁴⁴ Hannah is named as *Swift* in her marriage record, and Joan in her will made bequests to Hannah Wing the elder and her daughters, and to Daniel Wing's sons. Daniel m. (2) Sandwich, June 1666, Anna Ewer, with whom he had children Experience, Bachelor, and Jashub.⁴⁵
Children of Daniel and Hannah² (Swift) Wing, recorded Sandwich:⁴⁶ 1. *Hannah Wing*, b. 28 July 1643. 2. *Lidia Wing*, b. 28 May 1747. 3. *Samuel Wing*, b. 28 Aug. 1652. 3. *Hipzibah Wing*, b. 7 Nov. 1654. 4. *John Wing*, b. 14 Nov. 1656. 5. *Bula Wing*, b. 16 Nov. 1658. 6. *Deborah Wing*, b. [—] Nov. 1660. 7. *Daniel Wing*, b. 21 Jan. 1664/[5].
- iii JOHN SWIFT, bp. Bermondsey, Surrey, 26 June 1622, bur. there, 29 June 1622.
- iv MARY SWIFT, bp. ("Marie") Bermondsey, Surrey, 21 Aug 1625, prob. the Marie Swift, child, bur. there, 4 Sept. 1625.

Children of William Swift with his second wife, Joan (—) Dimpleby, bp. St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, Surrey:

- v WILLIAM SWIFT, bp. 25 April 1627, d. Sandwich, Mass., 7 Jan. 1705/6; m. RUTH —. In his will of 15 Dec. 1705, proved 29 Jan. 1705/6, he named wife Ruth, daughters Hannah Tobie, Temperance Bourn, Hester Gibbs, and Dina Perry, sons Josiah and Jirah, the sons of his deceased son William, and son-in-law Timothy Bourn.⁴⁷
Children of William and Ruth (—) Swift:⁴⁸ 1. *Hannah³ Swift*, b. 11 March 1651. 2. *William Swift*, b. 28 Aug. 1654. 3. *Ephraim Swift*, b. 7 June 1656. 4. *Maria Swift*, b. 7 April 1659. 5. *Samuel Swift*, b. 10 Aug. 1662. 6. *Josiah Swift*, b. ca.

did belong to this family, as seems logical given her name, she could have been either the widow of Ralph Allen the mason, or the daughter Hester b. 1648, as has been widely claimed. It is curious that neither daughter nor granddaughter was named in Joan Swift's will, but considering that a third of the estate was left to two of the Allen children and no others named at all, it seems most likely that Jedediah and Experience were the only ones then living, and that the bequest was made to them because their mother was already well provided for. William as eldest son was probably entitled to two-thirds of the estate, consistent with Joan's bequest of one third to Esther's children.

⁴² Boyd's London Burials, ms. at Society of Genealogists, London, confirmed in registers of St. Botolph Bishopsgate, Guildhall Library Ms. 4515/2, which provide no further information.

⁴³ *Sandwich VRs*, 2:1249.

⁴⁴ *Sandwich VRs*, 2:1268, from Sandwich Friends Records, 252.

⁴⁵ *Sandwich VRs*, 2:1249 [marriage], 1244 [children].

⁴⁶ *Sandwich VRs*, 2:1243–44.

⁴⁷ Barnstable Co. Probate, 2:217.

⁴⁸ Mrs. John E. Barclay, "Hannah (Swift) Tobey, Daughter of William² Swift, and the Family of Ambrose² Fish, of Sandwich, Mass.," TAG 35(1959):40–43, at 40, and the sources cited there; *Sandwich VRs*, 1:12, 15, 19, 24, 25. For descendants, see George H. Swift, *William Swyft of Sandwich and Some of His Descendants* (Millbrook, N.Y., 1900).

- 1664 or after 1672. 7. *Temperance Swift*, b. ca. 1666. 8. *Hester Swift*, b. ca. 1668. 9. *Jirah Swift*, b. ca. 1670. 10. *Dinah Swift*, b. ca. 1672.
- vi ESTHER SWIFT, bp. ("Ester") 28 May 1629; m. (1) Sandwich, Mass., ca. 1646, RALPH ALLEN "the mason," who d. probably ca. 1659;⁴⁹ probably m. (2) HENRY BULL.⁵⁰ Children of Ralph and Hester (Swift) Allen, recorded Sandwich: 1. *Jediah/Jedediah Allen*, b. 3 Jan. 1646[7].⁵¹ 2. *Hester Allen*, b. 8 Dec. 1648;⁵² not named in grandmother's will. 3. *Experience Allen*, b. 14 March 1651/2.⁵³ 4. *Ephraim Allen*, b. ("Epherim") 20 March 1656/7;⁵⁴ not named in grandmother's will.
- vii SARA SWIFT, bp. 7 Aug. 1631, bur. Bermondsey, Surrey, 8 Sept. 1631; probably named for William's first wife.

Jane Fletcher Fiske (e-mail: <jffiske@attbi.com>), a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, former editor of The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, and a contributing editor of TAG, is now a genealogical editor and research consultant. She is not a descendant of William¹ Swift.

⁴⁹ Anderson et al., *The Great Migration 1634–35*, 1:33, admit that records of the two Ralph Allens in Sandwich "are difficult to disentangle," and proceed to try to do so on the basis of occupation. Richard LeBaron Bowen Jr. in "Notes on George Allen of Weymouth and Sandwich," *The New England Genealogical and Historical Register* 155(2001):212–14, focusing on the use of "Jr." and "Sr.," argues that both Ralphs lived well beyond 1659. If Mr. Bowen is correct, the Esther who m. Henry Bull would have to be the Allen daughter, as discussed in note 37.

⁵⁰ See note 37. Henry Bull was b. ca. 1610, thus 19 years older than Esther (Swift) Allen; the difference in age with her daughter Hester Allen would have been 38 years. Henry and Esther had no children, and she d. 26 March 1676, whereupon he m. (3) 28 March 1677, Ann (Clayton) Easton, the widow of Nicholas Easton, b. ca. 1627.

⁵¹ *Sandwich VRs*, 1:16: "Jediah Allen The soone of Ralphe Allen was Borne the 3d of January [1646]." Jedediah Allen witnessed the Quaker marriage in Newport in May 1677 of William Allen and Patience Beere, widow (R.I. Friends Records, Marriages, at Newport Historical Society, transcriptions by Jane Fletcher Fiske).

⁵² *Sandwich VRs*, 1:3, parents not given.

⁵³ *Sandwich VRs*, 1:12: "Experience Allin the daughter of Ralphe Allin mason was borne the 14th of March . . . [1651/2]."

⁵⁴ *Sandwich VRs*, 1:12: "Epherim Allin the sonn of Ralfe Allin was borne 20th of march [1656/7]."

A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A . . .

Contributed by Robert Charles Anderson, Editor

From the parish register of Rushbrooke, Suffolk:

Anne Rose daughter of John Rose and Rose his wyfe was baptized the thre and twentieth daye of Nouemb^r anno dmi 1582.¹

¹ Family History Library, Salt Lake City, film #952,208, item 2.

THE ENGLISH ORIGIN OF VALENTINE¹ PRENTICE OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

By Leslie Mahler

Valentine¹ Prentice and his wife, Alice, arrived in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1631, as stated in the church records there. The marriage for this couple in Chelmsford, Essex, was first noticed by Clarence Almon Torrey in 1933.¹ Other Prentice marriages from Chelmsford were later published by John Jordan in 1965.² In 1996 L. J. Dewald made a more complete search for this family in the records of Chelmsford and Felstead.³ The present article includes additional details not given in previous accounts, including the burials of both of Valentine's parents, his occupation (as given in the baptisms for his children), details about his siblings, and the burial of his son Josias in Chelmsford.

1 VALENTINE^A PRENTICE was born say 1562. He was married at Felstead, Essex, on 15 January 1586[7] to MARY (—) LUKE, a widow.⁴ No trace of Mary's previous marriage was found at Felstead, but any earlier union must have been very brief if she was the mother of Francis Prentice, who was born almost twenty years later. Valentine was probably related to another Valentine Prentice of nearby Shalford, who left a will dated 14 May 1598 and proved on 13 June 1598. The exact connection, however, is unknown.⁵ Valentine Prentice of Felstead was a witness to the will of his neighbor John Lord, husbandman, dated 25 March 1588.⁶

The family of Valentine^A Prentice of Felstead is later found in Chelmsford, where they probably moved about 1615. The following appears to be his burial

¹ Clarence Almon Torrey, "Marriages in England of Early American Immigrants," TAG 10(1933–34):14–15, at 15.

² John Jordan, "Prentis-Prentice, Chelmsford, Essex [Note]," TAG 41(1965):216–17.

³ Linus Joseph Dewald, *The History and Genealogy of the Prentice, Prentis and Prentiss Families in New England from 1631 to 1883*, 3rd ed. (Granite Bay, Calif., 1996) (hereafter cited as Dewald, *Prentice Genealogy*). This work is an updating of C. J. F. Binney's *The History and Genealogy of the Prentice, or Prentiss Family in New England, etc., from 1631 to 1883* (Boston, 1883), which presented the various Prentice families of New England, but did not have anything on their English origins. A summary of Valentine's brief life in New England can also be found in Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1995), 3:1525 (hereafter cited as Anderson, *Great Migration Begins*).

⁴ Felstead, Essex, Parish registers, 1558–1891 [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #1,472,223, items 11–20].

⁵ Commissary Court of London, Essex and Hertford Division, original wills, no. 255 [FHL film #94,384].

⁶ Consistory Court of London, registered wills, vol. 5, f. 412 [FHL film #94,172]. There are no occurrences of the name *Valentine Prentice* in any of the volumes of Essex wills abstracted by F. G. Emmison.