

fore 4 May 1780, when his widow Prudence had to issue new deeds correcting an error in a deed Perry executed straightening out the estates of his brother and sister-in-law.¹⁰⁷

vii ELIZABETH PRETTYMAN, m. by 15 Aug. 1770, PRETTYMAN STOCKLEY.¹⁰⁸

Thanks are expressed to Lyndon H. Hart of the Jamestowne Society and John Frederick Dorman, FASG, who read the article and offered helpful comments, and to Ralph Prettyman, who shared information on later generations.

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¹⁰⁷ Prudence Prettyman to White heirs, 4 May 1780 (Sussex Co. Deeds M12:350-51 [FHL film #6,629]).

¹⁰⁸ Sussex Co. Orphans' Court Docket Book 3(1751-70):262.

ALE, TOBACCO—AND SECONDARY SOURCES

Contributed by D. L. Greene, Editor

Joel Munsell was one of the most important printers and publishers of the nineteenth century. The following, from his descriptive listing of publications that he had printed through 1870, provides an extreme example of why a specific secondary work should be distrusted:

HUNT, WILLIAM. *American Biographical Panorama*. 8° [octavo], pp. 480. [1849]

... The author had been engaged some time at Washington, as a reporter; but fancying that he was overworked, he came to Albany [N.Y.] to recreate, and undertook publishing. He entertained a theory that the public called for quantity rather than quality, and in his sketches of individuals, when he lacked facts, he eked out the desired quantity from a store of scraps of sentimental prose and verse. ... In this volume he gives a sketch of each of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and being desirous of having portraits to accompany the sketches, he gave a young English engraver just arrived, a *carte blanche* to produce all of them on wood. Thus commissioned he took a room, in Commercial Building, furnished it with a barrel of ale and a quantity of tobacco pipes, and under the inspiration imparted by these, produced for the first time, portraits of all the signers! Mr. Hunt quickly disposed of his carefully saved earnings as a reporter, and returned to Washington, where he soon after died.¹

¹ [Joel Munsell], *Bibliotheca Munselliana: A Catalogue of the Books and Pamphlets Issued from the Press of Joel Munsell from the Year 1828 to 1870* (Albany, N.Y., 1872), 37.

THE ENGLISH ORIGIN OF SERGEANT FRANCIS¹ NICHOLS OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

By Neil D. Thompson, CG, FASG

An assertion that Sergeant Francis¹ Nichols, who settled in Stratford, Connecticut, prior to 10 October 1639, was a brother of Lieutenant-Governor Richard Nichols of New York, was effectively demolished seven years ago in this journal.¹ The International Genealogical Index [IGI] indicates that the family originated in or around Chelmsford, co. Essex; however, alleged baptismal dates for two of the Sergeant's sons at Chelmsford have proved to be fabrications.² A further search in a different part of England has now uncovered the baptism and marriage of the Sergeant and baptisms for all but the last three of his children.³

Of two Nichols wills made prior to the commencement of the registers of the parish of Sedgeberrow, co. Worcester, one appears to be that of the grandfather of the emigrant.⁴ Thomas Nycholls of Sedgeberrow, husbandman, whose will was dated 27 November 1558 and proved on 4 April 1559, mentioned sons William, John, Henry and Nicholas Nichols, daughters Julyan and Margery [married names not given], and son-in-law James Alyson. A John Nycholls was also a witness to this will. The testator's wife Elynor and son William were appointed executors.⁵

On the assumption, based largely on the pattern of Christian names given to the children and grandchildren of John Nichols, father of the emigrant, that this is the correct identification, the family may be reconstructed.

1 THOMAS^B NYCHOLLS of Sedgeberrow, co. Worcester, was born say 1510 and died between 27 November 1558, when he executed his will, and 4 April 1559,

¹ Barbara J. Nichols, "Francis¹ Nichols of Stratford, Connecticut, Was Not a Brother of Deputy Governor Richard Nicolls of New York," TAG 68(1993):113-14. Donald Lines Jacobus had earlier criticized this claimed connection in his *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield*, 3 vols. (Fairfield, Conn., 1930-32), 1:434 (hereafter cited as Jacobus, *Fairfield Families*), and in "Pre-American Ancestries: I. Francis Nichols of Stratford," TAG 9(1932-33):9-12.

² IGI entries have Isaac, son of Francis, b. or bp. at Chelmsford, 5 Dec. 1624, and Caleb, son of Francis, b. or bp. there, 26 May 1627. No source is given, and the registers for the parish of Chelmsford and nearby parishes, while recording several Nichols families, do not include these entries.

³ This search was commissioned by the author of the 1993 article, and it is by her encouragement and permission that this article is published.

⁴ There is also a will for John Nycholls of Sedgeberrow, husbandman, dated 14 Aug. 1556 and proved 22 Sept. 1556 (Consistory Court of Worcester, 1556, No. 98), which names as his heirs John Nycholls the elder and John Nycholls the younger, his two sons.

⁵ Consistory Court of Worcester, Original Wills, 1559, No. 68. Neither the Sedgeberrow registers nor local probate records help to identify the wife of James Alyson, who may have been one of the named daughters or a deceased daughter; Alyson could also have been John Nycholls's stepson.

when it was proved. He married about 1535, ELINOR —; she was buried as Elinor Nichols, widow, at Sedgeberrow on 8 June 1592.⁶

Children of Thomas^B and Elinor (—) Nycholls, b. probably at Sedgeberrow, co. Worcester, before the commencement of the parish register:

- i JULIAN NYCHOLLS, b. say 1536.
- ii MARGERY NYCHOLLS, b. say 1538.
- iii WILLIAM NYCHOLLS, b. say 1540.
- 2 iv JOHN^A NYCHOLLS, b. say 1542; m. JOAN —.
- v HENRY NYCHOLLS, b. say 1544.
- vi NICHOLAS NYCHOLLS, b. say 1546.

2 JOHN^A NICHOLS (Thomas^B) was born say 1542; he was buried at Sedgeberrow on 6 August 1597. He married JOAN —, who was buried at Sedgeberrow on 29 November 1627 as widow and "once the wife of John Nicholes." She filed a bond to administer his intestate estate on 26 August 1597; an inventory, which did not state the occupation of the intestate but showed an estate of £200 3s. 4d., was taken on 15 September 1597.⁷ No estate administration was found for the widow.

Children of John^A and Joan (—) Nichols, bp. and in some cases bur. at Sedgeberrow:

- 3 i FRANCIS¹ NICHOLS, bp. 25 May 1575; m. (1) FRANCES WIMARKE, (2) ANN WINES.
- ii JOHN NICHOLS, bp. 3 May 1577.
- iii WILLIAM NICHOLS, bp. 3 Jan. 1579/80.
- iv GOODITH NICHOLS, bp. 17 March 1581/2, bur. 27 April 1582.
- v HENRY NICHOLS, bp. 13 April 1583, bur. 5 June 1595.
- vi ELINOR NICHOLS, bp. 18 Aug. 1586; m. Sedgeberrow, 15 Jan. 1613/4, THOMAS PAYTON.
- vii ANN NICHOLS, bp. 5 Sept. 1590.
- viii ELIZABETH NICHOLS, bp. 22 Sept. 1592, bur. 19 May 1595.

3 FRANCIS¹ NICHOLS (John^A, Thomas^B) was baptized at Sedgeberrow, co. Worcester, on 25 May 1575; he died before 8 January 1650/1.⁸ He settled at Stratford, Connecticut, by 10 October 1639, when he was appointed sergeant of the Stratford trainband,⁹ and that same year was listed with his three sons (John, Isaac, and Caleb) among the seventeen first settlers of Stratford.¹⁰

⁶ This and further references to baptisms, marriages and burials at Sedgeberrow are taken from the unpagged register, which commences in 1566.

⁷ Consistory Court of Worcester, Original Wills, 1597, No. 77c [bond], 109e [inventory].

⁸ This is the date of his estate inventory as published by Walter Nicholls, *Sergeant Francis Nicholls* . . . (New York, 1909), 14–15 (hereafter cited as Nicholls, *Sgt. Francis Nicholls*). Jacobus, *Fairfield Families*, 1:434, has the date as 1655, which seems to be a confusion with the inventory of his son John. I was not able to find the original document in Fairfield Probate District records or files.

⁹ *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 15 vols. (Hartford, 1850–90), 1:36.

¹⁰ Samuel Orcutt, *History of the Old Town of Stratford* . . . (Fairfield, Conn., 1886), 184.

Francis¹ Nichols married first at Sedgeberrow on 24 January 1599/1600, "FRANCIS" WIMARKE. She was baptized there on 2 November 1577 and probably died before the family's removal to New England.¹¹ She was a daughter of Robert^A Wimarke of Sedgeberrow.¹² Francis¹ Nichols married secondly about 1649 as her first husband, ANN² WINES. She was born say 1632 and was living on 4 March 1693/4,¹³ daughter of Barnabas¹ and Ann (Eddy) Wines of Southold, Suffolk County, New York,¹⁴ who after his death married second, John Elton, third, John Tooker, and fourth, John Youngs Esq., all of Southold.¹⁵

Children of Francis¹ and Frances (Wimarke) Nichols, all but the youngest bp. at Sedgeberrow, co. Worcester:

- i JOHN² NICHOLS, bp. 16 May 1601, d. Fairfield, Conn., before 19 June 1655, when his estate inventory was taken;¹⁶ m. (1) —, (2) GRACE —. Issue.¹⁷
- ii JANE NICHOLS, bp. 3 Nov. 1603, living Hempstead, N.Y., 16 Feb. 1666/7;¹⁸ m. co.

¹¹ She is not mentioned in any New England records of her husband's family.

¹² No burial, marriage or probate record has been found which would identify the mother of Frances Wimarke. She had two younger sisters: Jane, bp. 17 March 1580/1, who m. Sedgeberrow, 21 July 1602, John Hill; and Ann, bp. 27 March 1586, who m. there, 1 July 1604, Edward Roberts. A Robert Wimarke m. there, 24 April 1598, Elinor Roke; the marriage was by license but the license reveals nothing more about them (Consistory Court of Worcester, 1598, No. 18d), so we cannot say whether this was a second marriage of Frances's father or a marriage for a brother. The surname is quite uncommon in the west of England.

¹³ When she joined with her husband, John Youngs, in witnessing a deed from Isaac Arnold of Southold and his wife Sarah to Carterett Gilliam of Southold and his wife Mary (Southold Town Records C:185, ack. and rec. 5 Dec. 1702). She is not mentioned in the will of her husband, dated 20 Feb. 1696/7 and proved 28 May 1698 (New York Co. Wills 5–6:243 [Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Film #874,515]), and probably predeceased him.

¹⁴ For the family of (Deacon) Barnabas¹ Wines, see J. Gardner Bartlett, *The Ancestry of Daniel Bushnell* (Boston, 1918), 51–53, and *The Eddy Family in America, Supplement 1980* (Middleboro, Mass., 1980), 1–2.

¹⁵ On 30 April 1654, John Elton of Southold conveyed cattle to Barnabas Wines for Anna Nichols, daughter of his wife Anna by her former husband Francis Nichols of Stratford, pursuant to an agreement made at marriage (Southold Town Records A:61, rec. Feb. 1678/9). John Elton mentioned his wife in his will, dated 19 April 1675 and proved 3 June 1575 (New York Wills 1:113). As a widow, Anna [or Hannah] Elton made a pre-nuptial agreement with the widower John Tooker Sr. of Southold on 3 June 1686 (Southold Town Records C:106, rec. 26 Jan. 1692/3), and as a widow Anna [or Hannah] Tooker, she made a similar agreement with the widower John Youngs Esq. of Southold on 31 Dec. 1690 (Southold Town Records C:197, ack. 9 Sept. 1693, rec. April 1694).

¹⁶ Fairfield Probate District Rec. 1:4, sworn 19 June 1655. A list of the children of John Nichols is found at the foot of this inventory.

¹⁷ See Jacobus, *Fairfield Families*, 1:434–35.

¹⁸ Hempstead Town Records B:146, agreement between the widow and John Ashman to care for a mare, the property of a grandchild, Phebe, daughter of John Ashman.

Worcester (probably Bengeworth), about 1625,¹⁹ WILLIAM¹ WASHBURN, bp. Bengeworth, 9 Nov. 1601, d. before 11 June 1659 when his will was proved,²⁰ son of John^A and Martha (Timbrell) (Stevens) Washburn.²¹ Issue. The marriage is proven by the reference in the will of their son John² Washburn of Hempstead to his uncle Isaac Nichols of Stratford.²² (See no. x below.)

- iii HENRY NICHOLS, bp. 19 Nov. 1605, bur. 21 Dec. 1606.
- iv ANNE NICHOLS, bp. 18 Oct. 1606, bur. 25 Oct. 1606.
- v MARGARET NICHOLS, bp. 4 Jan. 1608/9; no further record found.
- vi FRANCIS NICHOLS, bp. 25 Aug. 1611; no further record found.
- vii JOSEPH NICHOLS (twin), bp. 31 Aug. 1614, bur. 2 Sept. 1614.
- viii JONATHAN NICHOLS (twin), bp. 31 Aug. 1614, bur. 4 Sept. 1614.
- ix SARAH NICHOLS, bp. 12 Nov. 1615; m. probably at Wethersfield, Conn., by 1641, as his 1st wife, RICHARD¹ MILLS of Wethersfield, Stratford, and Stamford, Conn., and of Southampton and Westchester, N.Y.²³ He was living 18 June 1663.²⁴

It has long been accepted that Richard Mills m. a daughter of Francis¹ Nichols, but her first name has been unknown.²⁵ The Sedgeberrow records indicate that the daughters Margaret and Sarah are the only reasonable candidates, and Margaret appears to be too old for the marriage.

- x ISAAC NICHOLS, b. say 1620, d. between 28 Sept. 1694 and 5 Nov. 1695, the dates that his will was executed and proven;²⁶ m. MARGERY —. She has been called a WASHBURN, apparently because of the reference in the will of John² Washburn to his uncle

¹⁹ She was not m. at Sedgeberrow. The Bengeworth parish register has a gap from about 1620, and the Bishops' Transcripts for the parish are incomplete. They could also have been m. in a third parish.

²⁰ Hempstead Court Proceedings 1657–1660, pp. 78–83, dated 29 Sept. 1657, with a note that the testator was “lately deceased” when the will was brought in, so that he probably d. in May 1659. The will, with an account of a number of descendants, is printed by Mabel T. R. Washburn, *Washburn Family Foundations* (Greenfield, Ind., 1953), 95–97.

²¹ Bengeworth parish register [unpaged], baptism of William Washburn. The Bengeworth origin has been known since the publication of James Davenport, *The Washbourne Family of Little Washbourne and Wichenford in the County of Worcester* (London, 1907), 35–58; see also John G. Hunt, “Clues to Origin of Washbourne, Willets, Whitehead, Williams Families of Hempstead, L.I., and Nicholls Family of Stratford, Conn.,” TAG 36(1960):62–64, at 62–63, and Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1995), 3:1937–39 [John Washburn of Duxbury, Mass.].

²² Hempstead Court Proceedings 1657–1660, pp. 95–97, dated Aug. 1658 and naming “Loveing Uncle Isaac Nicholls of Stratford” as an overseer, is printed in full in Brenton P. and Robin P. Washburne, *The Washburne Family in America*, 2nd ed., 2 vols. (Buena Park, Calif., 1997), 2, under the heading “B WILLIAM WASHBURN 1601–1657.”

²³ On Richard¹ Mills, see Helen Schatvet Ullmann, “Richard Mills, Seventeenth-Century Schoolmaster in Connecticut and New York,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 154(2000):189–210.

²⁴ His involvement in the dispute between the Dutch authorities at New York and the English authorities at Hartford about jurisdiction over the town caused him to be imprisoned in Manhattan; on 18 June 1663, he was released from prison. See Robert Bolton, *The History of the . . . County of Westchester*, 2 vols. (New York, 1881), 2:280–86.

²⁵ The evidence for the marriage is that Richard¹ Mills's son Samuel referred to his “uncle Caleb Nichols”; see the discussion in Ullmann, “Richard Mills,” NEHGR 154(2000):189–90.

²⁶ Jacobus, *Fairfield Families*, 1:435.

Isaac Nichols;²⁷ this possibility is made unlikely by the baptism of Jane² Nichols at an appropriate time to be the Jane who m. William¹ Washburn. (See no. ii above.) Issue.

- xi CALEB NICHOLS, b. say 1623; d. Woodbury, Conn., between 14 Aug. 1690, when he executed his will, and 27 Jan. 1690/1, when the inventory of his estate was taken;²⁸ m. ANNE² WARD, who d. 23 July 1718 “in the 98th yeare of her age,” daughter of Andrew¹ Ward.²⁹ Issue.

Child of Francis and Ann (Wines) Nichols:

- xii ANN NICHOLS (again), b. about 1650; m. by 4 Feb. 1677/8,³⁰ CHRISTOPHER² YOUNGS of Southold, b. Salem, Mass., 2 12m [Feb.] 1643/4, d. Southold, 5 Dec. 1698, son of Christopher¹ and Priscilla (Elvin) Youngs.³¹ Issue.

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²⁷ For example, [Joseph C. Wolf, ed.], *McCormick–Hamilton–Lord–Day Ancestral Lines* ([Chicago], 1957), 789, and Flora Davis Maull, *Genealogical Notebook of Flora Davis Maull* (Princeton, N.J., 1985), 120.

²⁸ Fairfield Probate District Recs. 4:57; the inventory of his estate, taken 27 Jan. 1690/1, was sworn 28 Jan. 1690/1 (Fairfield Probate District Recs. 4:57b).

²⁹ Jacobus, *Fairfield Families*, 1:435–36, 643–45 (on p. 645, Jacobus comments that Ann (Ward) Nichols “could not have been nearly so old” since she had children b. as late as 1676). For an account of some of the descendants of Caleb² and Ann (Ward) Nichols, see Nicholls, *Sgt. Francis Nicholls, passim*.

³⁰ Southold Town Records A:125, recorded Sept. 1678, in which Christopher Youngs makes provision for certain property to pass to his children by his wife, daughter of Francis Nichols.

³¹ See Selah Youngs Jr., *Youngs Family* (New York, 1907), 62–63, for an account of the family of Christopher and Ann (Nichols) Youngs. An account of Col. John Youngs, fourth husband of Ann's mother Ann (Wines) Nichols, is at pp. 47–50.

“FOLLOW YOUR BLISS”

(With Apologies to Joseph Campbell)

Contributed by D. L. Greene, Editor

Joseph Campbell's dictum “follow your bliss,” that is—to oversimplify greatly—seek what makes you happy, became a key phrase for an entire generation. Perhaps it should also be applied to a nineteenth-century minister of the First Church of Easton, Massachusetts, who was apparently fascinated by the bumps on his parishioners' heads:

June 8 [1832] they extended a call to the Rev. William H. Taylor to become their minister . . . [on] a condition that after the first year the connection of minister and parish might be dissolved by a three months notice being given in writing. . . . Mr. Taylor did not long remain: he was thought to be more interested in phrenology than in religion. . . .¹

¹ William L. Chaffin, *History of the Town of Easton, Massachusetts* (Cambridge, Mass., 1886), 36.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The American Genealogist was founded in July 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus (1887–1970) as the *New Haven Genealogical Magazine*. The first eight volumes consist primarily of the editor's compendium, *Families of Ancient New Haven*. When that project was completed, the journal became, with the July 1932 issue (the first number of the ninth volume), *The American Genealogist and New Haven Genealogical Magazine* and was dedicated to the elevation of genealogical scholarship, through carefully documented analyses of genealogical problems and through short compiled genealogies. In 1937 the subtitle was dropped, and the journal became simply *The American Genealogist*, usually abbreviated as TAG.

After forty-three years as Editor and Publisher, Donald Lines Jacobus was succeeded in January 1966 by Dr. George E. McCracken (1904–1986) of Des Moines, Iowa, who continued the high standards set by TAG's founder.

With the April 1983 issue, Dr. McCracken was succeeded by Robert Moody Sherman (1914–1984) and Ruth Wilder Sherman (1929–1992) of Warwick, Rhode Island. Dr. David L. Greene of Demorest, Georgia, joined Mrs. Sherman in editing TAG, beginning with the April 1984 number, and Robert Charles Anderson of Derry, New Hampshire, became Coeditor with Dr. Greene in 1993. In 1999 Joseph C. Anderson II of Dallas, Texas, joined David Greene and Robert Anderson in editing TAG.

The present editors will continue TAG's independent status and strive for the high standards that have been the hallmark of the journal since its founding.

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