

The Shepard Family

Stanley F. Johnson

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This is the Genealogy of one branch of the family, descendants of RALPH SHEPARD, from England to Massachusetts Bay in 1635. It extends through to Julia Ann (Shepard) Johnson, of the 8th generation in America. Julia Ann (Shepard) Johnson was Stanley F. Johnson's grandmother.

Generations 4 through 8 were typed in Nov. 1965, but since that time additional information and proof has been obtained, so that this genealogy of the first 3 generations can be attached ahead of the Nov. 1965 information.

References in respect to the first 3 generations are:-

Ralph Shepard, by Ralph Hamilton Shepard, 1893, Dedham, Mass.

Ralph Shepard and some of his descendants, by Alice T. (Pickford)

Brockway, Dedham Historical Register Vol. XIV, 1903.

1722 Will of Ralph Shepard of Milton, Mass. Will No. 4601 Suffolk County (Boston) Court House.

Boston Record Commissioners, Vols. 3, 8.

Genealogy and Estates of Charlestown, Wyman, 1879.

Gage-Shepard Genealogy. Brookline, Mass. Vital Records.

New England Historical Register, Vols. 4, 8, 9, 10, 98.

Planters of the Commonwealth, Banks, 1930. Milton, Mass., Vital Recs.

Milton Town Records, 1662-1729, pub. 1930. Compend. Amer. Gen., Virkus.

Desc. of Thomas & Hannah Shepard, Charles Shepard, 1922.

Canton, Mass. Vital Records.

1. RALPH SHEPARD, b. 1603 in England; died in Charlestown, Mass. Sept. 11, 1693 and buried in Malden; married in England THANKS _____, b. 1612 in England; prob. died before 1681, buried in Malden. Her name also shown as Thanklord and Thank Lord.

Ralph was a tailor and probably officer in the Draper's Guild and citizen of London. On April 24, 1634, when Bishop Laud was persecuting the non-conformists, Ralph was summoned before the Court of High Commissions. This was an ecclesiastical court, "for the peace and dignity of the church, by reforming, ordering and correcting the ecclesiastical state and persons, and all manner of errors, heresies, schisms, abuses, offenses, contempts and enormities." The sentence pronounced against "Ralph Shepard of Limehouse, Middlesex" is not given, but he probably left England on account of the sentence of the Court.

A little more than a year later he sailed for America June 30, 1635, with Thanks and daughter Sara aboard the "Abigail", Robert Hackwell, Master. Last port of departure was Plymouth, Eng. about Aug. 1, with 320 aboard and many cattle. Arrived Boston about Oct. 8, infected with smallpox. Also aboard the ship was Sir Henry Vane, travelling incognito, who later was to be governor of Massachusetts. The passenger list said "Ralph 29, Thanks 23, Sarah 3", but from Tombstone and Charlestown records he must have been 32. He had a certificate from minister of Stepney parish. Family tradition says he came from Stepney, near London. Limehouse then was a hamlet in Stepney parish-- St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. In 1730 Limehouse became the separate parish of St. Anne-Limehouse, now a part of London, and now densely populated in the East End.

In America, first records of Ralph are in town records of Dedham. First meetings for establishing Dedham were held in Watertown, and Ralph may have been there for a time. The Massachusetts General Court Sept. 3, 1635 ordered a settlement of a plantation (Dedham) two miles above the Charles River. A society formed and first recorded meeting (attended by Ralph) was held Aug. 18, 1636. He attended the Sept. 5, 1636 meeting of Dedham. A covenant was drawn up and Ralph's was the 8th signature. Of 26 recorded

were

town meetings before there selectmen, he attended 21. His last grant of land in Dedham was in 1650. He must have removed to Wymouth prior to June 20, 1639 for his son Isaac was born in Wymouth on that date.

He was a proprietor of Rehoboth, then part of Plymouth Colony (later to become Rehoboth and Seekonk, Mass. and East Providence, R.I.) A Compact was made in Weymouth, with Ralph's signature on it, and there was a migration to Rehoboth in the spring of 1644-45. The first division of land was granted by the Court of Plymouth to "the inhabitants of Seaconck, alias Rehoboth" about the year 1643. One note in the records says:- "The Tract of Ralph Shepard's, now James Redeway's is valued at £121, 10s." Following this his name is among those who "Forfeited their lots for not fencing, or not removing their families (that is to Rehoboth) according to a former order, made the 24th of the 8th month of 1643." This clearly indicates that Ralph was not at Rehoboth at this time, but he received a share of woodland June 31, 1644, and a lot on the great plain June 9, 1645. It is believed that he never settled in Rehoboth.

In Weymouth Ralph was a fence viewer 9 Feb. 1645-6 for the lower plantation. A notation 1659 Dec. 5 "Voted also that Mr. Thatcher shall have granted him that small parcel of land lying within his fence neere the place where Goodman Shepheard's house stood." This indicates that Ralph lived there but moved away (no other Shepard mentioned in land grants).

At Malden he was concerned in the ordination of Mr. Mathews in 1650, as appears from a petition presented to the Court May 16, 1655. He was a ruling elder in Malden Church in 1655. Thanklord Shepp'd signed a petition to the General Court favoring Rev. Mr. Mathews in Oct. 1651.

In land documents Ralph is of Malden in 1651, 1661, 1663. In 1666 he sold his house, land and orchards in Malden for 160 pounds, which shows him as being a thrifty and well-to-do farmer, although still called a tailor.

He bought a large farm in Concord of Lt. Joseph Wheeler, and on March 25, 1666 deeded 60 acres of this land to Walter Power, who had married his daughter Triall. It was not until 1678 that Jos. Wheeler deeded his property to Ralph, perhaps because not all paid for until then. This was in the New Grant (made in 1655, laid out in 1666) which included present Acton, and parts of Carlisle and Littleton. It was against the line of Chelmsford, sotheast of Nagog Pond. On May 29, 1681 he executed two deeds. One to his son Abraham (house, lot, part of a meadow, and a swamp). The other to his son Isaac's two sons and a daughter, instead of to Isaac as he was killed by Indians Feb. 12, 1676. At this time he was an old man, 79, and as there is no release of dower, his wife must have died before this. Isaac's children lived near him, also daughters Triall and Thanks, and his son Abraham. He seems to have been surrounded by kinfolk.

Middlesex County records shows Ralph took oath of a Freeman 1.2 (April) 1651.

His gravestone is in Bell Rock Cemetery, Malden. Charlestown Records say Ralph Shepard, aged 90 years dyed Aug. 20, 1693. Gravestone says Sept. 11, 1693. Maybe done on stone from memory. As death was recorded in Charlestown, and he buried in Malden, he must have died in the former place at Charlestown-Mystic side where Thomas Shepard, his son, lived. His advanced age would lead us to suppose he was away from Concord of a visit only, and that death took him unawares.

1. RALPH SHEPARD (Cont.)

CHILDREN of Ralph and Thanks

Sarah, b. in England about 1632, no further mention.

Thomas, b. about 1635. See below.

John, b. about 1637, probably at Dedham; d. 15 Dec. 1699; mar.

Sarah dau. of Thomas Goble of Concord. Had children. Jno. Shepard of Charlestown was in Capt. Moseley's Co. in King Philip's War, listed at Dedham 9 Dec. 1675.

Isaac, b. June 20, 1639 at Weymouth; killed by Indians Feb. 12, 1676 at Concord; mar. Mary, dau. of Baptiste Smedley. Had 3 children.

His wife mar. (2) Nathaniel Jewell.

Trial, b. 19 Dec. 1641 at Weymouth; mar. 11 March 1661 Walter Power of Nashoba (near Chelmsford). Had 8 children.

Abraham, b. Mar. 7, 1642-3; mar. Judith Philbrook, dau. of John Sill. He d. Feb. 22, 1715-16. Had 7 children.

Thanks, b. Malden 10 Feb. 1650-1; mar. Peter Dillof Nashoba. Had 3 children.

Jacob, b. Malden June 7, 1653; d. without issue.

Walter, of Sudbury, Mass.

2. THOMAS SHEPARD, son of Ralph and Thanks or Thankford Shepard, was born about 1635; died Milton, Mass. 26th of 29th Sept. 1719 ("ae 87" which would make birth 1632 instead of 1635); mar. (1) at Malden 19 Nov. 1658 HANNAH ENSIGN, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wilder) Ensign of Scituate; b. 1639; died 14 March 1698, ae 59. He mar. (2) Joanna_____.

Thomas was of Charlestown (Mystic Side), Malden, Medford and later of Milton. He and wife were members of the Charlestown Church 1686 and then at Malden. He died at Milton where his son Ralph then lived. There is an account on record of visits to children and grandchildren to Norton, Mass. at son Jacob's Wading River Farm.

Thomas Shepard "of Charlestown" was listed as a Freeman in 1680. Was collector of King's Customs and duties, Essex County, 1684.

A 1657-8 Charlestown tax listing referred to Thomas' 42 acres of woodland and 7½ acres in commons. In 1670 it was recorded that on Broad St. (Charlestown) "from Mr. Shepard's over to Mr. Chickering's is 35 ft." Thomas son Jacob married Mercy Chickering, who was probably a neighbor.

In 1681 (when settlements were being extended) "Names of proprietors which draw lots according to number drawn. No. 58 Hannah Shepherd 3 acres!" In 1685 Anna Shepherd's land referred to on north side of Menontamies Road. Also 1685, land granted "to Mrs. Anna Shepherd 7 acres, bounded by Mistick River, northeasterly...." In Aug. 1688, under Gov. Andros, Thomas Shepard, Sr. and Thomas, Jr. were taxed as of Charlestown (Mystic Side). Shepard land and well mentioned in 1713-4.

Proof that Thomas of Malden was the son of Ralph, the immigrant, has been found and reported in the N.E. Register of Oct. 1966, Vol. 120, p. 312. In the Middlesex County, Mass. Deeds Vol. 14, pp 562-564 incl. is a record of a partitioning of land between William and Walter Power, sons of Trial (Shepard) Power, and grandsons of the immigrant Ralph. This record dated 30 March 1708 indicates that they bought the land of their two cousins Ralph and Jacob Shepard. The only Ralph and Jacob Shepard nearby ~~at that time were the sons of Thomas Shepard of Malden~~ Hence Thomas was the uncle of the Power brothers, and son of the immigrant Ralph Shepard.

2. THOMAS SHEPARD (Cont.)

CHILDREN of Thomas and Hannah

Thomas, b. ca. 1660-62; d. 18 Apr. 1726; mar. Hannah Blanchard 1682.

Had 10 children. Resided Charlestown, Bristol, R.I. & E. Haven, Conn.

Ralph, b. Jan. 1666-7. See below.

John Shepard, b. ca 1668-9; d. March 9 1691; mar. 26 May 1690 Persis Pierce. He died of wounds received at Quebec.

Jacob, b. ca 1675-77; d. 1715; mar. Mercy Chickering dau. of Dr. John and Eliz. (Hagborne) Chickering of Charlestown (1668-1731) on Nov. 22, 1699. Resided Charlestown Mystic Side and Foxboro. Had children.

Hannah, b. 13 Apr. 1681 mar. Joseph Blanchard.

Isaac, b. May 1682; d. June 1724; mar. 31 Dec. 1702 Elizabeth Fuller.

Had children. Resided in Norton, Mass.

3. RALPH SHEPARD, son of Thomas and Hannah (Ensign) Shepard was b. Jan. 1666-7 at Malden; died 26 Jan. 1722 at Milton, Mass; mar. MARY _____ before 1694.

Ralph was on the list of inhabitants for Boston (Brookline) for 1695. On a tax list there he was listed for 1 poll on negro. On Mar. 11, 1700 he was appointed surveyor for Muddiriver (Brookline). He was fence viewer for 1700, 1701 & 1702, and constable for Muddiriver 1703 and 1704. In 1704 he signed a petition to the Governor's Council and Assembly to make Muddy River a separate village from Boston.

From Brookline the family moved to Milton and the first taxing of Shepard there was dated Aug. 20, 1713. In 1715 Ralph was taxed 17 shillings in Milton.

Ralph made a will the day before he died and left an estate in Milton, housing and lands in Brookline and salt meadows in Roxbury to his wife and children.

The births of all the children are recorded in Brookline Vital Records, except for Thomas and Nathaniel. I was not able to find a record of Thomas' birth and it is only through the will of Ralph that I was able to ascertain that Thomas was the son of Ralph. This will is No. 4601 in the Suffolk County (Boston) Court House and I (S.F. Johnson) have a photostat copy of it. As a matter of fact, the book "Ralph Shepard, by Ralph H. Shepard, pub. 1893 quoted the names of the children from this will, but left out Thomas' name by some mistake.

CHILDREN of Ralph and Mary

Mary, b. 26 Sept. 1694 Brookline; mar. 6 Feb. 1717 Jason Williams.

Hannah, b. 6 Jan. 1686-7 Brookline; mar. 29 Nov. 1716 Manasseh Tucker.

He was taxed in Stoughton in 1727.

John, b. 14 Feb. 1698-9 Brookline; d. 30 Aug. 1781; mar. 18 May 1721

Rebecca Fenno. He resided in Dorchester Village, now Canton, and became Major in the militia, Guardian of the Ponkapoag Indians and representative to the General Court. Had 6 children b. in Canton.

Ralph, b. 26 May 1700 Brookline; d. 22 May 1765; mar. Sarah Spur of Dorchester 28 Apr. 1726. Had 5 children, 1 b. in Milton, 4 b. in Stoughton (Canton).

Nathaniel, b. 1705-6; d. 15 May 1753; mar. Sarah _____. Had 4 children born in Milton.

Thomas b. 1708; d. Feb. 4, 1782 Stoughton (Canton); mar. Amity Morse. Had 5 children. See below.

Abigail, b. Mar. 13, 1709-10 Brookline

Elizabeth, b. 7 May 1713 Brookline.

Sarah, b. 4 Dec. 1705-6 Brookline; mar. John Ireland Mar. 30, 1727.

Sarah b. next after Nathaniel.

NEXT, See the SHEPARD FAMILY, pp 1-4, typed Nov. 1965 by SFJ.

Nov. 1966

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THE SHEPARD FAMILY.

Stanley F. Johnson's Grandmother Johnson was a Shepard, and this is the genealogy of her family. I am hoping to trace it back farther than what is indicated here. It is all established back to Thomas Shepard, who was born in 1708 (as figured back from age at death). He lived in Canton, Mass. Thus far I have not been able to establish his birth date and parentage, although I suspect that he was the son of

3. Ralph and Mary Shepard of Muddy Brook (Brookline) and Milton, Mass.

Ralph was the son of

2. Thomas Shepard, who married Hannah Ensign

Thomas was the son of

1. Ralph Shepard, who married Thank Lord. He came from England in 1635.

Inasmuch as it may take some time to establish the rest of the line I am writing down that which has been established. References from which the information has been obtained are:-

Canton, Mass. Vital Records

Sharon, Mass. Vital Records

Morse Genealogy, published 1903

History of Canton, Huntoon, publ. 1893. (SFJ has a copy.)

Julia Ann Johnson's Application for membership in the DAR. (SFJ's copy)

Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. IV, Virkus Co. 1930.

Genealogy of Capt. John Johnson of Roxbury, publ. 1948. (SFJ has a copy.)

4. THOMAS SHEPARD

Son of *Ralph & Mary Shepard*, born 1708 (figured back from age at death); died Feb. 4, 1782 at Stoughton (Canton); married (int. Sept. 29, 1735) publ. Nov. 29, 1735 at Stoughton (Canton) AMITY MORSE dau. of REV. JOSEPH and AMITY (HARRIS) MORSE; b. Nov. 9, 1710 at Dorchester Village (Canton); Died at Stoughton (Canton) March 7, 1747-8.

The deed to the Proprietors Lot burying ground in what is now Canton was procured of Thomas Shepard Mar. 7, 1741. Shortly after the third meeting house was built, in what is now Canton, in 1747, some of the inhabitants wanted a porch at the east end, but this was not looked on favorably by the precinct. Thomas Shepard and two others later offered to build it at their own expense.

In 1723 Dorchester appointed a committee to look into the situation of the English using lands of the Ponkapoag Indians, and made rules to be followed. These tenants had to pay land rents and allow certain fishing, fowling and hunting privileges to the Indians. Nathaniel Hubbard and John Quincy were trustees for the Indians. In 1735 there was a list of additional English tenants, and "a few years later" appeared other names including Thomas Shepard.

Thomas house and land is mentioned as Lot No. 36 on the 1794 map in History of Canton. On the map it is apparently where Mashapoag Brook crosses the Post Road and marked "Shepard's". At some date not clear, it is asserted that Daniel Stone exchanged farms with Thomas Shepard. Stone moved to Ponkapoag and Thomas Shepard to the place on Chapman St.

Thomas was on the Muster Roll of Militia May 3, 1757 under "Alarm Men under the age of 60". He signed the petition to incorporate as Canton Nov. 17, 1795.

Amity was the daughter of the first minister of Canton (See Morse Gen.) 1708 &

Note:- Canton is mentioned, but in 1710 it was the South Precinct of Dorchester (or Dorchester Village); in Dec. 1726 it was Stoughton; and after 1797 it was Canton.

CHILDREN

Samuel, b. Mar. 1, 1736-7

Jacob, b. Apr. 17, 1739 (See below)

Amity, b. Mar. 31, 1741; d. Jan. 14, 1806

Unity, b. Apr. 5, 1745

William Ensign, b. Jan. 9, 1746-7; d. July 7, 1826.

5. JACOB SHEPARD

Son of THOMAS and AMITY (MORSE) SHEPARD b. Apr. 17, 1739 at Canton; Died June 21, 1798 at Canton; mar. Dec. 5, 1765 at Canton BATHSHEBA PUFFER, dau. of Lt. JOHN Jr. and ABIGAIL (VOSE) PUFFER, b. Nov. 15, 1745 at Canton; died Feb. 23, 1809 at Canton.

Jacob was on the Muster Roll of 1757, private in Major Stephen Miller's Co. of militia. At the Lexington Alarm April 19, 1775 he was a private in Capt. James Endicott's Co. of militia, Col. Lemuel Robinson's Regt., service 6 days; also Capt. James Endicott's Co., Col. Benj. Gill's Regt., service 5 days; company marched from Stoughton on March 4, 1776, at the time of fortifying Dorchester Heights; also same company and regt., service 3 days; company marched to Moon Island, June 13, 1776 when the British Fleet was driven out of Boston Harbor; also Theophilus Lyons Co. entered service March 1, 1778, discharged April 5, 1778, service 56 days. Company marched to Castle Island, March 1, 1778, under command of Lt. Col. Samuel Pierce.

The first notice that the people of ancient Stoughton received that

hostilities had actually begun between the king's troops and the patriots, was on the afternoon of the 13th of April, 1775. It was lecture day, and Parson Dunbar was exhorting his people and preparing them for the next Sunday's service, when suddenly the door was thrown open and Henry Bailey marched up the broad aisle and said there was a'larum. In an instant, all was confusion. A small boy, Lemuel Bent, seized the bell rope, and soon the jangle reached the ears of the neighboring farmers. Israel Bailey conversed for a moment with Capt. James Endicott, and then the captain said, "Take my colt that is fastened outside, ride through the town, and warn the company to meet at May's Tavern with arms and ammunition ready to march toward Boston at a moment's notice." Captain Endicott returned to his home, obtained his accoutrements, and started down the road toward Boston, leaving his company to follow as soon as they could be collected.

And so these minutemen left their homes at the sharp clang of the alarm bell, or the hurried words of the orderly, "To arms. To arms. The war has begun," and hastened to the rallying place. A number of their townsmen followed them with provisions, including 12 year old John Endicott, son of the Captain, who next day started out with a team load of provisions. In time he reached Roxbury to find that his father's company had been ordered in the direction of Cambridge. Not discouraged, the lad proceeded after them and delivered the provisions to the encampment at Prospect Hill.

Jacob Shepard was brother-in-law to Capt. Endicott. Their wives were the sisters Bathsheba and Abigail Puffer.

Jacob was a member of the First Church parish with his signature on a letter, from the parish, to Rev. Aaron Bancroft, Dec. 13, 1784. He was also a member of the school committee for the Ingraham District in 1794.

CHILDREN

Thomas, born Oct. 16, 1766 at Canton; mar. Elizabeth Richards of Sharon Nov. 28, 1792. He died Jan. 11, 1835. * See * page 1.

Jacob, b. Nov. 13, 1770. He signed petition as parish member in 1820.

Bathsheba, b. July 9, 1772; int. mar. Jan. 1802 Elijah Randall of Easton.

Isaac, b. Sept. 12, 1774 (See below)

6. ISAAC SHEPARD

Son of JACOB and BATHSHEBA (PUFFER) SHEPARD was born Sept. 12, 1774 at Canton; died in 1817 at Milton, Mass.; married at Sharon May 6, 1802 AMITY CLARK, daughter of THOMAS and MARY (LEWIS) CLARK; born at Sharon June 13, 1776; died Feb. 18, 1849 at Sharon.

CHILDREN

Jacob, b. Sept. 7, 1802 (See below)

Elmira, b. Jan. 29, 1804

William Lewis, b. May 7, 1806; mar. Elvira Johnson Apr. 1, 1832

Phineas, b. May 24, 1808

Isaac Randall, b. Sept. 17, 1812

7. JACOB SHEPARD; 2nd

Son of ISAAC And AMITY (CLARK) SHEPARD was born Sept. 7, 1802 at Canton; died *1868 at ; married Sept. 24, 1829 HEPZIBAH ALGER of North Bridgewater, dau. of Alger; born *1808 at died *1843 at .

(*Dates marked * from Julia Ann Shepard Johnson's DAR application.

The History of Canton listed Jacob, 2nd as a member of the Canton Literary Association between the years of 1838 and 1841.

CHILDREN

Samuel Francis, b. Oct. 27, 1830

Amanda Maria, b. Apr. 18, 1832; mar. Morton; died at Worcester about 1915. Had 1 child Jessie who mar. Bernie Kempton.

7. JACOB SHEPARD, 2nd (Cont.)

CHILDREN (Cont.)

Amanda Maria (Cont.) Amanda outlived her husband and only child, and my father, Elmore Johnson, hired an auto and driver to go near Boston to get her and bring her to Worcester. That was quite a trip in those days in a "limousine", and there was a slight accident near Marlboro which delayed the trip some--the steering rod "crystallized". Aunt Mandy lived her last years in Mrs. Fisk's rest home on Florence St. two blocks south of our home. Our family visited her often.

Julia Ann, b. Apr. 21, 1835

Jane Arvilla, b. Apr. 29, 1836; d. Aug. 21, 1837

8. JULIA ANN SHEPARD

Daughter of JACOB, 2nd, and HEPZIEAH (ALGER) SHEPARD was born April 21, 1835 at Canton; died April 24, 1926 at Sutton Mass.; married April 26, 1854 at Sharon OBED PACKARD JOHNSON: son of OBED AND LYDIA (PACKARD) JOHNSON, born July 21, 1830 at Sharon, Mass; died Feb. 1, 1900 at Sutton, Mass.

Obed was a shoemaker (small manufacturer), and was a 2nd Lt. in the 33rd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War. (See SFJ's Packard Family for more details). After the war the family moved from Sharon to Sutton and lived in a large house on Singletary Ave. about one half mile from Sutton Common towards Millbury. Julia Ann was my grandmother, and she lived to be 91 years old in this large house, which had two sets of rooms. Parlor, dining room and kitchen on one side of the house; and then in parallel on the other side another parlor, dining room and kitchen. In addition was still another kitchen, the summer kitchen, between the house and the barn. The bedrooms were all on the second floor. We have a piece of the wall paper from the front hall of this house (This is the picture paper, which has been framed, in SFJ's study.) Several of our antique pieces of furniture came from this house--the maple spool bed, the cherry chest of drawers, the thumb back chair and the curved back Windsor chair.

CHILDREN

Elmore Forrest, b. July 3, 1856 at Sharon

Mary Howard, b. May 5, 1859 at Sharon, mar. B. Frank King, had 4 sons.

Vernon Shepard, b. 1872 at Sutton, mar. Betha Burreghs had 8 children.

Refer to SFJ's Ranger Family, where I have written about Elmore Johnson, my father. There other details are written--marriage, children and various dates.

Stanley F. Johnson
Nov. 1965