

THE BENCHLEY-BENSLEY FAMILY

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The humorist, critic, and actor Robert Benchley is reported to have remarked that he wished "his paternal ancestors had not been Welsh. I can't seem to get the hang of Welsh songs" (Babette Rosmond, *Robert Benchley His Life and Good Times* [New York, 1970], 18). In the biography of his father (*Robert Benchley* [New York, 1947], 21), Nathaniel Benchley wrote that his ancestor William Benchley came to America from Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales, "some years before the Revolution." It was claimed in a published sketch of John Bensley of San Francisco, a distant cousin of Robert, that on "the father's side Mr Bensley was descended from an ancient and long-lived family, belonging to the gentry of Wales, and were large landholders . . ." (Hubert Howe Bancroft, *Chronicles Of The Builders Of The Commonwealth*, 7 vols. [San Francisco, 1891-1892], 3:207, which is erroneous about other parts of Bensley's ancestry).

Two other accounts place the Benchley/Bensley family in England, but with earlier roots in other countries. Kathrine Scobey Putnam, in her privately published *Glimpses of Family History* ([Pasadena, Calif., 1953], 13), claimed that the Benchleys traced to a Danish bishop, Benzelius, from whom the familiar "three branches of the family were established. The Scotch branch were printers and book binders in Edinburgh. . . . The English branch, of which Sir William Bensley was a member, located in Oxford. The Bensleys, or Benchleys, who came to America sailed from Dover, England, and settled in Dedham, Mass., but little by little pushed farther west." A sketch of the Bensley family in Charles Cafferty, *Asbury Church And Its Minisink Influence[:] Town of Nichols, Tioga County, New York* ([Owego, N.Y., 1943], 39), relates that Adam Bensley, born in Baden, Germany, moved to England, and from there was sent to America as a soldier to fight in the French and Indian War. He settled in what is now Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, and was the grandfather of William Bensley of Barton, Tioga County, New York, wrongly claimed as a descendant of the Rhode Island Benchleys (see under [No. 6] David Benchley). American census entries for some nineteenth century Bensley immigrants show German birthplaces.

The sources for the above-mentioned Welsh, Danish, and German traditions among the American Benchleys and Bensleys have not been discovered. But England was certainly the place whence the family came. On 8 April 1756, William Benchley of Providence, Rhode Island, husbandman, quitclaimed to his son William Benchley of Providence, mariner, all his right to the estate "of my ever honowred Grand Father Robert Benchely of Little Rainham in the county of Norfolk in the Kingdom of Great Britain late Deceased" (Smithfield [R.I.] Deeds, 4:224-226, City Clerk's Office,

Central Falls, R.I.). The article that follows presents what information has been discovered about the Benchley/Bensley ancestry in England and the first four generations in America. A very special thanks is due to Elizabeth J. Johnson, who did a great deal of research in Rhode Island records and read drafts of this article, and to Peter B. Benchley, who gave financial support for needed English research. Others who provided research assistance and/or valuable comments and suggestions include Robert C. Anderson, F.A.S.G., Jane Fletcher Fiske, F.A.S.G., Ruth Ann Sherman, F.A.S.G., Richard W. Price, A.G., Robert S. Benchley, Steven W. Myers, Norma Moore, and Michael J. Wood.

Bensley is a name quite common to county Norfolk. A review of Percival Boyd's multi-volume "Marriage Index" (typescript, at the Society of Genealogists, London, the LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, and the New York Public Library), the International Genealogical Index (IGI) of the Genealogical Society of Utah, and probate indexes, shows a wide distribution of the name in the period 1538 to 1750, with the largest concentration in and around Norwich and the eastern part of the shire. Benchley is not a form generally found in England; however, many American records show Benchleys as Bensleys and some Benchley descendants actually use that spelling. In Norfolk records, Bensley is found also as Bensly, Bensely, Benseley, Benceley, Bencely, Bencley, Bencly, and Bencily. Bensly, alias Benslyn, is an old name in East Norfolk, believed to be a diminutive of Ben (Walter Rye, *Norfolk Families* [Norwich, 1913], 41). Only one book about surnames has been found which includes the names: Benchley, a "Dweller in the pasture land by the terrace, lodge or stream-bank"; and Bensley, a "Dweller in a grove where beans were grown" (Elsdon C. Smith, *New Dictionary of American Family Names* [New York, 1956], 32, 33). An entry in the IGI shows Bensleys in Norfolk by 1556.

The Benchley/Bensley family seems to have lived in the parish of West Raynham, which was occasionally referred to as Rainham Parva, or Little Rainham. East Raynham was sometimes called Rainham Magna, or Great Rainham (Francis Blomfield, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, continued by Rev. Charles Parkin, 5 vols. [Fernsfield and Lynn, 1739-1775], 3:815; see also Rev. George Munford, *An Attempt to Ascertain the True Derivation of the Names of Towns and Villages . . . of the County of Norfolk* [London, 1870], 17). There are three Raynham parishes — East, West, and South — which belonged to the Marquess Townshend, whose seat was Raynham Hall. Investigation of wills and administrations in the four courts having jurisdiction over the Raynham parishes has not disclosed more information about the family, or indicated where they might have lived earlier. Within the time period roughly from the mid-seventeenth to the mid-eighteenth century, only two probates were discovered for Bensleys within a ten mile radius of the Raynhams: Sarah Bensley of Walsingham, singlewoman, 1792, and William Bensley of Wood Norton, husbandman, 1760, neither of which suggests any connection to the family of Little Rainham.

As indicated above, not all America Benchleys and Bensleys descend from William¹ of Rhode Island. While these other families will not be discussed here, it has been necessary to study them, particularly in New York, where descendants of both William¹ of Rhode Island and Adam¹ of Pennsylvania settled in the late eighteenth century.

In the following genealogy, references to the United States Federal census are from the National Archives microfilm publications unless otherwise specified. Such citations will provide the year, page, and family and dwelling numbers — for example, 1850 Census, p. 250, #329–413. The enumeration district (ED) number is also shown for 1880, 1900, and 1910 census references. All older records of the Town of Smithfield, Rhode Island, are kept by the Central Falls City Clerk, unless shown otherwise. Early North Providence, Rhode Island, records are in the City Clerk's Office in Pawtucket. New York State censuses were examined in county courthouses, county historians' offices, and on microfilm prepared by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU). References to cemetery grave marker inscriptions and newspaper obituaries and marriage and death notices in Herkimer County, New York, are from card files in the library of Herkimer County Historical Society (HCHS). Raynham Parish Registers were searched at the Norfolk Record Office, Norwich, England, by Miss Jenifer A. Edmonds of Norwich.

1. ROBERT^B BENCHLEY OF BENSLEY was born probably about 1632 or earlier, perhaps in co. Norfolk, where he was buried in the parish of East Raynham on 9 January 1677/8. His wife was probably the Mary Bensley, widow, buried in East Raynham 4 February 1699/1700, but whether she was the mother of any of his children has not been determined.

Just when Robert came to Raynham has not been learned, but it was probably not long before his death, since there are no entries for the surname in the parish registers prior to his burial (the registers for West Raynham begin in 1538 and those for East Raynham in 1627). In 1756 his grandson William Benchley of Rhode Island quitclaimed his right to the estate of his grandfather Robert Benchley "of Little Rainham."

If his son Robert was the one married at St. Michael-at-Plea, Norwich, in 1682 (see below), the elder Robert may have been the son of Robert Bensley who married Mary Playford in that parish on 14 June 1635 (*The First Parish Register of St. Michael-At-Plea, Norwich, A.D. 1538-1695*, transcribed by Thomas R. Tallack [hereinafter *St. Michael-at-Plea PRs*] [Norwich, 1892], 13).

Probable children:

2. i. ROBERT^A, b. ca. 1657.
- ii. (perhaps) ELIZABETH; m. in East Raynham, 10 Dec. 1695, JOHN GUNS (Phillimore's Parish Register Series, *Norfolk Parish Registers* [hereinafter *Norfolk PRs*], Vol. 11 [London, 1926], 128).

Elizabeth's placement here is tentative, for her date of marriage makes it somewhat unlikely that she was Robert's daughter, unless

she married late. She may have been a daughter of the younger Robert, born before the Bensleys settled in Raynham.

2. ROBERT^A BENCHLEY OF BENSLEY (*Robert*^B) was born probably in co. Norfolk, England, about 1657, and was buried there in the parish of West Raynham on 12 September 1739.

The baptismal entries for his children show that Robert's wife was MARY, who, as "wife of Robert Bensley," was buried in West Raynham on 15 March 1737/8. It is tempting to suggest that they were the Robert Bensley of North Burlingham and Mary Baker of Wroxham married at St. Michael-at-Plea, Norwich, on 27 June 1682 (*St. Michael-at-Plea PRs*, 36). In addition to the right names and a date consistent with a child baptized in 1685, this marriage is the only possible Robert Bensley to a Mary listed in Boyd's "Marriage Index" and in the IGI. Unfortunately, of the almost 760 parishes in Norfolk, only 13% are covered by Boyd and only 30% in the IGI,* hardly enough to preclude the possibility that Robert and Mary married in another parish, if not another county.

Robert seems to have lived in West Raynham, Norfolk, where the baptismal records of daughters Mary and Hannah show the surname as "Benshly." His two sons were baptized in East Raynham, at which time the parents were recorded as of West Raynham. This seems to indicate that the Bensleys actually lived in the latter parish, which was sometimes called Rainham Parva, or "Little Rainham."

Nothing further has been discovered about Robert and Mary Bensley.

Children:

3. i. WILLIAM¹, bp. 4 Oct. 1685 in East Raynham.
- ii. MARY, bp. 18 Jan. 1687/8 in West Raynham; probably the Mary buried in East Raynham, 5 Dec. 1705.
- iii. ROBERT, bp. 1 June 1688 in East Raynham; buried there as Robert Bensley Jun., 8 March 1688/9.
- iv. ELIZABETH, bp. 3 Aug. 1690 in West Raynham; perhaps the Elizabeth Bensley who m. 5 July 1713 WILLIAM SOMERS in West Rudham, a parish just northwest of West Raynham (*Norfolk PRs*, Vol. 8 [London, 1914], 33).
- v. HANNA, bp. 11 Nov. 1692 in West Raynham.
- vi. FRANCES, b. 12 Dec., bp. 15 Dec. 1695 in West Raynham; of "Rainham" when she m. in Durham Magna [Great Durham], Norfolk, 4 Feb. 1725/6, JOHN SUTTON of Kempton (*ibid.*, Vol. 2 [London, 1900], 23).

*The only Boyd and IGI entries considered were for those parishes with extant registers from 1700 or earlier. The percentages are based on the parish register table for co. Norfolk in Cecil R. Humphery-Smith, ed., *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* (Chichester, Sussex, 1984), 189-197.

3. WILLIAM¹ BENCHLEY (*Robert*^{A-B}) was baptized in the Parish of East Raynham, Norfolk, England, on 4 October 1685, and was living in Providence, Rhode Island, on 9 July 1757 when he acknowledged a deed, as discussed below.

On 23 September 1723 the marriage intentions of William Benchley and ELIZABETH ELLISON were published in Boston, Massachusetts ([Boston Marriage] Publications, 1713 to 1728, 2:198, Boston City Registry Department; also published in *A Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston Containing the Boston Marriages From 1700 to 1751* [Boston, 1898], 160). There is no evidence that William actually married Elizabeth Ellison, for her name is never shown in any other records of him. A study of New England Ellisons has not revealed her family.

William married, evidently as his second wife, SARAH JENCKES or JONES in Smithfield, Rhode Island, on 25 December 1744 (James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850* [hereinafter Arnold], 21 vols. [Providence, 1891-1912], 3:4:18; "The Record of Old Smithfield," *The Narragansett Historical Register*, 5[1886]:58, which shows her name as Sarah Jones; the correct name cannot be verified since the original Smithfield town council book in which the marriage was recorded is missing). Sarah Jenckes or Jones has not been identified, although a clue to her identity may be through William Jenckes, Justice, who married her and Benchley (see William B. Browne, comp., *Genealogy of the Jenks Family of America* [hereinafter *Jenks Gen.*] [Concord, N.H., 1952], 39-40). Another clue may be through the 4 April 1776 will of John Jenks of Smithfield, physician, witnessed by William² Benchley and two of his sons (Inventory and Probate Court Record, Wills, Smithfield, 1769-1797, 128). There is no evidence that William and Sarah Benchley had any children.

While no American record reveals William's age, it can be assumed from the 1723 Boston marriage intention that he was born about 1700 or earlier. To have been the William Bensley baptized in 1685 means he was 37 or 38 when first married in this country—a little late for most men. But only one William was recorded in the Raynham registers and he seems to have been the grandson of a Robert Bensley, which is in agreement with the American record. Although there is room to squeeze another generation between Robert^A and the emigrant, the Raynham registers do not support such an addition.

Because of his age, it seems possible that William could have had an earlier wife in England, but no supporting evidence has been found. He was still in his native country when in April 1717 "William Benchley of Raynham in the County of Norfolk Gardiner aged about 33 years" testified in a suit between Frances Ingoldsby, widow, and Abraham Harrison. Benchley had known Ingoldsby "about 12 Or 14 years" and had been her servant about nine months earlier when she acquired a house that was in disrepair. His statement concerned the widow's unsuccessful attempts to have Harrison repair her home (Town Depositions, C24/1367, Public Record Office, London).

William seems to be the earliest Benchley in New England who left descendants.* No record of his arrival in America has been found, and how long he remained in the Boston area has not been discovered in town, county, or province records. He was likely the William "Benckley" whose tax was abated in Charlestown in September 1725 (Thomas Bellows Wyman, *The Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown . . . 1629-1818* [Boston, 1879; reprint ed., Somersworth, N.H., 1982], 76). This tax abatement cannot be found on microfilms of the original Charlestown records at The Boston Public Library.

A family tradition recorded in one branch of William's descendants, although applied to his son, may pertain to the immigrant: "He brought with him an old seaman's chest his belongings among which were his deeds of lands in England but while away the house was destroyed by fire and his deeds and household effects were consumed" (among papers of Benchley family information collected by Walter Knowles⁶ Benchley in the early 1900s [hereinafter WKB], now in possession of his grandnephew Robert Stafford⁸ Benchley; this story may have been repeated to Walter by Hannah⁴ (Benchley) Brown, last surviving child of [No. 10] Stafford Stukeley³ Benchley).

The earliest records of William Benchley in Rhode Island are of his financial troubles. On 17 December 1730 he was ordered arrested by the Providence County sheriff after a complaint of debt was filed by Abigail Field of Providence, widow. She produced his promissory note for £14 17s. 9d., dated 16 June 1730, showing his agreement to repay the amount by the following 31 August. Benchley answered the court that the suit should be abated since Abigail was not a widow but the wife of Zachariah Field. The decision of the court is not with the file papers and the early record books are missing (Records of Providence Co. Inferior Court of Common Pleas, Dec. 1730 term, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence College, Providence, R.I.).

Benchley was not long out of court. A year later, John Hoyle of Providence, innholder, complained against William Benchley of Providence, husbandman, for an unpaid debt of £5 12s. 2d. for "Sundry" items. A copy of the bill for a year beginning 1 January 1730/1 included "Drink and

*On 25 May 1636 "Will: Benseley" became a freeman in the Massachusetts Bay Colony (Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, 5 vols. [Boston, 1853-1854], 1:372). John Farmer, in *A Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New-England* ([Lancaster, Mass., 1829; reprint ed., Baltimore, 1976], 30, 32), equated this man with William Beamsley of Boston. For more information, see Mary Walton Ferris, comp., *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines*, 2 vols. (Milwaukee, 1931-1943), 84-86.

The only other record discovered in the Boston area for a Benchley or Bensley in the eighteenth century is the marriage of Dorothy Bensley to William Wheat in Boston on 20 March 1765, although she may have been a Bentley, as indicated in her marriage intention (*A Volume of Records Relating to the Early History of Boston Containing Boston Marriages From 1752 to 1809* [Boston, 1903], 61; see also Silas Carmi Wheat and Helen Love Scranton, *Wheat Genealogy* [n.p., 1960], 27, 28).

Genger bread," rum and cider, shoes, and a loan of two shillings (*ibid.*, Dec. 1731 term). Samuel Whittemore Jr. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, husbandman, brought suit in June 1734 against William Benchley, husbandman, John Smith, wheelwright, and Thomas Harding, blacksmith, all of Providence, for a debt of £25 12s., which he had loaned to them 22 December 1732 (*ibid.*, June 1734 term). Benchley was also sued for a debt of £3 4s. 6d. in December 1735 by William Turpin of Providence, shopkeeper. On 19 January 1733/4, Turpin and Benchley, "Farmer alias Labourer," had agreed to that amount owed by Benchley on his "book account" for rum and malt (*ibid.*, Dec. 1735 term, case 41).

This last matter seems to have been the end of Benchley's troubles, at least in court, for the indexes to the Providence County Court of Common Pleas show no more Benchley entries through 1785. William may have attempted to settle in Smithfield, Rhode Island, about this time, and was evidently warned out, for in [November?] 1736 "W^m Bensley" was "fined & whipped for returning to town," and in early 1737 he was listed as a "transient" person there (Erastus Richardson, "Abstracts of Smithfield, Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1731-1753, and Smithfield Town Council Records, 1731-1748" [n.p., ca. 1880], at Rhode Island Historical Society [hereinafter RIHS]; the original town council book from which these records were taken has long been missing from the Central Falls Clerk's Office).

Although William may have lived in or near Smithfield, no record of him there other than his marriage to Sarah Jenckes/Jones has been found. As noted above, William Benchley of Providence, husbandman, on 8 April 1756, quitclaimed to his son William Benchley of Providence, mariner, all his right to the estate of his grandfather, Robert Benchley of Little Rainham, co. Norfolk, deceased. This deed was acknowledged in Providence by William on 9 July 1757 and recorded in Smithfield on 14 April 1758 (Smithfield Deeds, 4:224-226). This is the last discovered trace of William; his name is found neither on Providence tax lists for 1749, 1752, or 1754-1760, nor on the 1769 tax list for Smithfield (at RIHS and the Rhode Island State Archives [hereinafter RIA]).

William Benchley apparently died first, for Sarah was doubtless the Sarah Benchley, widow, whom the Smithfield Town Council feared would become a charge to their town as a pauper. On 26 June 1780 she was brought to the council's attention by one of the overseers of the poor. Sarah was lame and unable to appear, so two men were appointed to visit her and determine her legal residence. They reported back at the 1 July council meeting that she "Doth Belong unto . . . North providence" and she was ordered to return to that town. At the council meeting on 15 September, town sergeant Job Mowry Jr. "made Return of his Removeing Sarah Benchley" to North Providence ([Town] Council & Probate Journal No. 1, Smithfield, 1770-1797 [hereinafter Smithfield TC & Probate 1], n.p.). North Providence twice appealed the action of Smithfield, the second time suggesting that witnesses could be found who would prove that

Sarah never gained legal residence in that town. A new trial was allowed, but there was no testimony and she was returned to Smithfield. The overseers of Smithfield then petitioned the General Assembly on 25 November 1782, alleging witnesses could be produced to prove that Sarah belonged to North Providence (Petitions to the General Assembly, 19:20, 24; 25:2:45, RIA). Sarah was evidently taken under the care of Moses Whipple and Nehemiah Sprague, who were paid out of the Smithfield town treasury "for keeping Sarah Benchley" at various times from 30 October 1782 to 9 September 1784. She died shortly thereafter and Sprague was allowed £7 7s. 6d. on 7 February 1785, "for keeping Sarah Benchley in her Last sickness & Funeral charges." Hezekiah Herendeen was allowed payment of £6 7s. on 24 August 1785 for "all Funeral Charges of Sarah Benchley" (Smithfield TC & Probate 1).

Child,* possibly by Elizabeth Ellison:

4. WILLIAM², b. ca. 1725.

4. WILLIAM² BENCHLEY (*William*¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born about 1725** and died in Smithfield, Rhode Island, 29 September 1811, aged 86 years (*The Rhode-Island American and General Advertiser* of 1 Oct. 1811, p. 3, showing his name as "Bensley"). That his father was the William Benchley whose marriage intention was recorded in Boston in 1723 and the William Benchley later of Providence seems quite certain. The chronology is comfortable and there is no evidence of any other Benchleys in New England at the time. Although the younger William could have been the grantor in the 1756 deed cited above, it is doubtful that he would have had a son old enough to have attained a position as a mariner by that date. Moreover, the appearance of William Benchley earlier in the Providence County court records seems to leave little doubt that the relationship of the two Williams in the 1756 deed is as here set forth.

About 1747 William married DEBORAH ARNOLD, probably in Smithfield, although the marriage was not recorded in that town. Deborah was born 15 May 1727 in Providence, possibly in that area which was set off as Smithfield a few years later, the daughter of Joseph³ (*Eleazer*², *Thomas*¹) and Mercy (Stafford) Arnold (John Osborne Austin, *The Genealogical*

*William was *not* the father of Amy, wife of Joshua Arnold, who is shown as Amy Bensley in Richard M. Bayles, ed., *History of Providence County, Rhode Island*, 2 vols. ([New York, 1891], 2:99). The Smithfield vital records, 1:76, clearly show that Joshua Arnold married there on 30 August 1752, "amy Arnold" (see also Arnold, 3:6:11). Joshua Arnold's sister Deborah married (No. 4) William² Benchley, which may explain the error in Bayles's *History*.

**In one of the *Lineage Books* of the Daughters of the American Revolution (97[1912]:67) it is stated William was born in Smithfield in 1725. The date is certainly calculated from his age at death, and that year his father was probably in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The Town of Smithfield was set off from Providence in 1730/1, so if William was born there it was actually still part of Providence at the time. William² Benchley's granddaughter, Hannah⁴ (Benchley) Brown, claimed William was born in England (WKB).

Dictionary of Rhode Island [Albany, N.Y., 1887; reprint ed., Baltimore, 1978], 243; Arnold, 2:1:210). She died after 8 January 1812 when she acknowledged a deed in North Providence (Smithfield Deeds, 12:228). In his will of 13 May 1746, proved 1 December 1746, Joseph Arnold of Smithfield, yeoman, named his wife Mercy, daughter Deborah Arnold, and other children. On 5 March 1749/50, Amos Arnold, "by virtue of power of attorney from William Bencheley of Smithfield and . . . Deborah Wife to the said William," received two hundred pounds from "Marcy" Arnold, executrix, and Benjamin Arnold, executor of the will of Joseph Arnold of Smithfield, deceased, as "the portion on Legacies Given by the said Joseph Arnold in his last will to his Daughter" ([Town] Council Book No. 1, Vital Statistics No. 3, Smithfield, 1733-1753, 330-334, 339).

William Benchley first appears in Rhode Island records near the time of his marriage. In 1748 he lived in the fourth highway district of Smithfield (Thomas Steere, *History of the Town of Smithfield* [Providence, 1881], 28; the town's population was then 450). That same year, on 9 February, he signed a power of attorney with other "Officers Seaman and those who have Purchased Shares Together with the Owners of the Sloop Reprisal a Private Sloop of War." William held one share in this sloop (*The Early Records of the Town of Providence, Volume IX* [town meetings 1677-1750] [Providence, 1895], 97; for information about the *Reprisal*, see Howard M. Chapin, *Rhode Island Privateers in King George's War, 1739-1748* [Providence, 1926], 176-185). This item seems to confirm William's early connection with the sea, as indicated in his father's 1756 deed wherein he is styled mariner, but why he is called of Providence in that deed is not clear, unless as a mariner it was his port. On 7 November 1752 William "Bensley" and others were summoned to give evidence regarding John Parker, a singleman of Providence "who doth not take care to provide for himself a proper livelyhood" (Providence Town Papers, Series 2, Vol. 3, no. 0845, RIHS).

William Benchley's name is not found on any tax or freeman's list for Providence, but William "Bensly" was taxed in Smithfield in 1760 for 15s. 10d. (1760 Assessment, RIA). His name is not found on 1769 and 1782 tax lists for Smithfield, but as William "Benely" he was listed there on the 1774 colony census with a household of two males above 16, three males under 16, two females above 16, and one female under 16 (*Census of the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island . . . Taken . . . in . . . 1774* [hereinafter *RI 1774 Census*], arranged by John R. Bartlett [Providence, 1858; reprint ed., Baltimore, 1969], 104). In 1778 William Benchley was taxed in Smithfield for one poll, one dwelling house, two horned cattle, two sheep and goats, and four swine. He had debts owing in the amount of £10, which when deducted from the worth of his personal estate left a value of £6 12s. His real estate was appraised at £20 ("A list of the Rolls and Estates Real & Personal of the Proprietors & Inhabitants of the Town of Smithfield . . . taken . . . pursuant to . . . Act of the General Assembly passed . . . October AD 1778," manuscript, City Clerk's Office, Central Falls).

A state census was also taken in Rhode Island in 1782, but the returns for Smithfield are missing. In 1790 the William "Bensley" household consisted of two males 16 years and upwards and two females (*Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790* [hereinafter *Heads of Fams. 1790*], *Rhode Island* [Washington, D.C., 1908; reprint ed., Baltimore, 1963], 39). He was probably the William Benchley enumerated in Smithfield in 1800, although he was counted in the age group between 26 and 45 years. The other person with him that year, a woman 45 years and upwards, was certainly Deborah (1800 Census, p. 519). The last census in which William was listed was 1810, when his Smithfield household included two men and one woman, all over 45 (1810 Census, p. 94).

In 1777 William Benchley and Knight Dexter inventoried the estate of Baulston Brayton (Inventory and Probate Court Record, Wills, Smithfield, 1769-1797, 128). More importantly, however, William and his sons David and Joseph Benchley were among the six witnesses to the will of John Jenks of Smithfield, physician, dated 4 April 1776 (*ibid.*, 110). As noted above, Jenks may have been a relative of William's stepmother.

Benchley evidently was also closely associated with Elisha Olney of Smithfield for whom he worked. On 27 January 1778 Olney paid William twelve shillings for "four oxen half a day to cart wood." Later entries in Olney's account book, through 30 March 1780, show additional payments to Benchley for other labor (Fenner Papers, Series 1, Vol. 39C, no. 17726, RIHS). William was appointed at the town council meeting of 15 September 1781 to succeed Olney as one of Smithfield's surveyors of highways. He was again appointed to this post on 1 July 1782. Benchley had been appointed a road repairman in Smithfield in September 1775. On 2 July 1787 and 24 June 1793 he was one of the men appointed to assist Henry Jenckes, then town surveyor of highways, and on 17 August 1795 he and his sons Isaac and Stafford were selected to help Jenckes (Smithfield TC & Probate 1). Years later, on 15 April 1811, only a few months before William's death, Elisha Olney of Smithfield, Esqr., leased to Benchley, for "the love and good Will which I have for the said William Benchley," some farm land in Smithfield (Smithfield Deeds, 12:146-147). By an indenture of the same date, Olney left land in Smithfield to Benchley, cordwainer, again for "the love & good will which I have for the said William Benchley" (*ibid.*, 12:540). This last deed is the only record that William was a cordwainer.

At the time of the American Revolution, William was probably the William "Bentley" listed on the Smithfield alarm list drafted 1 August 1778 (Military Papers, 2:320, RIHS). He was then about 53 and may not have performed active military service in that war. Even though he was past the cut-off age, "Wm Benchly" had been listed on the 1777 military census for Smithfield as between 16 and 50 years and able to serve (*The Rhode Island*

Military 1777 Census [hereinafter *RI Mil. Census*], transcribed by Mildred M. Chamberlain [Baltimore, 1985], 92). Nevertheless, at least three women descendants have joined the DAR, claiming William served as a private "at the Rhode Island Alarm" (*DAR Patriot Index*, 3 vols. [Washington, D.C., 1966-1986], 1:54; DAR Application, National No. 516696; *DAR Lineage Books*, 97[1912]:67; 99[1913]:265). This alleged service probably refers to the above-mentioned 1778 alarm list. His name appears as "Capt. William Benchley" in the Smithfield records for March 1778, when he and two others inventoried the estate of Captain Christopher Brown (Smithfield TC & Probate 1; Smithfield Inventory and Probate Court Record, Wills, 1769-1797, 161-163).

Deborah Benchley may have been a midwife, for at the town council meeting of 19 November 1781 it was voted to pay her six shillings "for Waiting Upon the widow Crossman In Time of her labour" (Smithfield TC & Probate 1). There is other evidence that Deborah provided some sort of nursing care. On the "28 of 2^d month 1789," William Benchley wrote "friend Moses" Brown from Smithfield, requesting that he "settle our Affairs" before leaving on a journey, signing himself "your Friend William Benchley" (Moses Brown Papers, 6:57, RIHS):

If you Do not I shall put it in the power of the Council for I think that nine years is a Long time to wate[.] I shall put you in mind that the five and twenty Doller that they promise to pay to my wife is nothing towards the Last Six weeks nursing mother whch was Agreed to be three Dollars p^r week[.] I Expect Interest from the time the money become Due until it is pad and then to be as good as Silver money

He may have been referring to his mother-in-law, Mercy (Stafford) Arnold, who must have died about 1780, his own stepmother, who died in 1784 or 1785, or the mother of Moses Brown, Hope (Power) Brown, who died in 1792.

In his will dated 13 July 1801, proved 14 December 1811 (Smithfield Probate Records, 3:407-408; TC & Probate, 1797-1822, vol. 3, n.p.), William Benchley of Smithfield, yeoman, named his wife Deborah, who was to have the "remainder of the real estate." Sons David and Joseph were to have his desk, "to be Equally Divided Between them or their heirs Which is agreeable to the Wish and Intent of their Honored Grandmother Deceased." Daughter Lydia Angell was to have one side saddle, a coffee mill, six silver teaspoons marked *D.A.*, and a "Watter plate that was her Grandmothers . . . The reasons . . . I give these things to my Daughter is Because I have not done so much for her as the Rest of my Children." Joseph was to have six dollars after his mother's death or with her permission "of my Wifes Right it being for an old Case of Drawr." All the rest was to be divided equally among all the children after his wife's death or "acquittance . . . namely Arnold Benchley, David Benchley, Joseph Benchley, Lydia Angell Samuel Benchley Isaac Benchley & Stafford Benchley." Wife Deborah was named executrix with son-in-law Benjamin Angell executor.

Angell presented an inventory on 4 April 1812, showing the estate valued at sixty-seven dollars (Smithfield Probate Records, 3:420-421).

Deborah Benchley and Benjamin Angell, executors of the last will of William Benchley late of Smithfield, deceased, for two hundred dollars, sold to Elisha Olney of Smithfield on 8 January 1812, all the right and title which William had to a small dwelling house in Smithfield on the north-west corner of Olney's homestead farm, where William had lived and died. On the same day, Deborah Benchley, widow and relict of William Benchley late of Smithfield, deceased, for one hundred dollars, deeded to Olney all her right and title of dower which she had in the dwelling house that was her late husband's, on land of said Olney (Smithfield Deeds, 12:227-228).

Children, probably all born in Smithfield, first six recorded there with the spelling "Benchely," 20 April 1761 (Records of [Smithfield] Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1725-1820 [Book 1], 154; the children named in William's will are also listed on a sheet labeled "Names & Ages of the Children of W^m & Dabrah," found in the Revolutionary War pension file of son Arnold [W21,653]):

- i. BENJAMIN³, b. 27 May 1748; d. probably young. He was not named in his father's will of 13 July 1801 or in the list of William's children in Arnold Benchley's Revolutionary War file. Also, he and brother Nathan are not listed in the 1777 Rhode Island military census which included men 16-50 years, and they do not seem to be two of the "5 brothers" of Arnold Benchley noted by Peleg Burroughs in 1779 (see under [No. 5] Arnold Benchley).
5. ii. ARNOLD, b. 25 Jan. 1750/1 [later given as 5 Feb. 1751].
- iii. NATHAN, b. 9 Nov. 1753; d. probably young. See the evidence noted above for his brother Benjamin.
6. iv. DAVID, b. 11 May 1755.
7. v. JOSEPH, b. 23 Aug. 1757.
- vi. LYDIA, b. 14 Jan. 1760; d. in North Providence, R.I., 12 May 1831; m. probably in Smithfield, ca. 1780-1, BENJAMIN⁵ ANGELL, b. in North Providence, 9 March 1760, d. there 28 Sept. 1826 in his 67th year, son of Abiah⁴ (*Hope*³, *John*², *Thomas*¹) and Freelope (Smith) Angell (Avery F. Angell, *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Angell* [hereinafter *Descs. of Thomas Angell*] [Providence, 1872], 79; Arnold, 12:405; information received 1982-1987 from Elsie B. Williams of Cranston, R.I., who is compiling a revised Angell genealogy).

After selling his right in his father's farm, Benjamin Angell went to Savile (now Sunapee), N.H., and worked for his brother Gideon. He later returned to Rhode Island where he lived on rented farms in Smithfield and North Providence. During the Revolutionary War he served as a private for twenty-two days in the Expedition to Rhode Island in Aug. 1778, and was also a member of the North Providence Rangers under Capt. John Angell (Military Papers, 4:586, RIHS; *DAR Patriot Index*, 1:16).

The Benjamin Angell family was enumerated in Smithfield in 1790 and 1800, at which times there was an extra, unidentified female living in the household. The family is not found on the 1810 Census, but in 1820 some grandchildren are indicated and there were four persons engaged in agriculture (1820 Census, Smithfield, p. 230). Lydia was enumerated on the "East side of the river" in Providence in 1830 (1830 Census, p. 21).*

Children (*Descs. of Thomas Angell*, 79; Elsie B. Williams) (surname *Angell*): 1. *Lemuel*, b. 4 or 11 Oct. 1782; d. in Smithfield, 24 Nov. 1872; m. in North Providence, Dec. 1810, Sarah Smith, b. 20 Feb. 1781, d. 15 Feb. 1836, daughter of Jeremiah and Freelove (Brown) Smith. 2. *George*, b. 24 March 1785 in Smithfield; d. in Southbridge, Mass., 18 Feb. 1827; Baptist clergyman in Providence, R.I., Woodstock, Conn., and Southbridge, Mass. (see William Catheart, ed., *The Baptist Encyclopaedia* [Philadelphia, 1881], 37); m. (1) in Smithfield, 25 Nov. 1810, Lydia Farnum, b. ca. 1787, d. 27 July 1818, daughter of Noah Farnum; m. (2) in Worcester, Mass., 10 April 1819, Rebecca Thorndike, b. in Warner, N.H., 7 June 1789, d. in Townshend, Vt., 15 June 1868, daughter of Paul^s (*James^a, John^s, Pau^r, John^l*) and Olive (Fletcher) Thorndike; one son, George Thorndike Angell, for whom Angell Memorial [Animal] Hospital in Boston was named. 3. *Pardon*, b. 12 May 1788; d. 27 Dec. 1789. 4. *Christopher B[rown?]*, b. 16 Sept. 1790 in Smithfield; m. his first cousin, Lydia S.⁴ Benchley, daughter of (No. 5) Arnold Benchley (q.v.). 5. *Harriet*, b. 20 May 1794; m. 2 July 1814, Joseph B. Hawkins, son of Joseph and Abigail (Hopkins) Hawkins. 6. *Almira*, b. 28 Oct. 1802 in North Providence; d. there, 22 June 1870; m. Hiram Leonard Howard of Pawtucket, R.I., b. in Middleborough, Mass., ca. 25 Dec. 1811, d. in Pawtucket, 7 May 1883, son of Benjamin and Fidelia (_____) Howard.

8. vii. SAMUEL, b. 1 May 1764.
9. viii. ISAAC, b. 1 Aug. 1766.
10. ix. STAFFORD STUKELEY, b. 26 July 1773.

[To be continued]

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*It should be noted that Susan, wife of the Gideon Angell treated on p. 123 of *Descs. of Thomas Angell*, was not a Benchley as there shown; the marriage record of this couple in Mendon, Mass., 16 Sept. 1798, clearly shows her as Susannah Benson (*Vital Records of Mendon, Massachusetts, To The Year 1850* [Boston, 1920], 238).

THE BENCHLEY-BENSLEY FAMILY

Roger D. Joslyn

[Continued from page 15]

5. ARNOLD³ BENCHLEY (*William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born 25 January 1751 [1750/1] in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and died there 19 January 1823, aged 72 (Arnold, 3:4:91; *Providence Gazette*, 22 Jan. 1823, p. 3; son William claimed that Arnold died 24 Jan. 1824 [see below]). On the list of his parents' children in Arnold's Revolutionary War pension file (W21,653), his date of birth is given as 5 February 1751, which clearly reflects an adjustment after the calendar change in 1752, and suggests that the correct date was probably 25 January 1750/1 Old Style, or 5 February 1751 New Style.

According to statements by his son William and brother David found in his pension file, Arnold was married about 1772 to ELIZABETH TUCKER of Smithfield who was born in 1755 or earlier and died in Smithfield 20 April 1837 (Providence [R.I.] Probate, P:10:420-421; see below).

The Benchleys were living in North Providence, Rhode Island, as early as 1774, when Arnold "Bentsley" was enumerated there with a household consisting of one male over 16, one male under 16, and one female over 16 (*RI 1774 Census*, 232). He was a cordwainer of Smithfield on 11 March 1776 when he purchased two acres in North Providence from Joseph Hawkins of that town, yeoman, for \$18. He sold this property 30 September 1777 to Peter Randall of North Providence, Esqr., for £16 10s., his wife Elizabeth surrendering her right of dower 2 February 1778 (North Providence Deeds, 1:419, 2:46). No other record of his owning land has been found in Rhode Island.

Arnold served during the Revolutionary War. He first enlisted in 1775 for eight months in Captain John Angell's (Providence) Company, Colonel Daniel Hitchcock's Regiment, according to information provided by his son William and brother David (pension file), but there does not seem to be any official record of this service. Arnold "Benshle" was listed on the 1777 Rhode Island military census as between 16 and 50 years old and able to serve, in the North Providence Chartered Company under Captain Joseph Olney (*RI Mil. Census*, 63). On 30 May 1778 he was elected a lieutenant in Captain Hezekiah Smith's North Providence Rangers and was re-elected to this rank on 5 May 1779. His brother Joseph was an ensign in this unit (Military Returns, 2:20, 75, RIA; Joseph Jencks Smith, comp., *Civil and Military List of Rhode Island. 1647-1800* [hereinafter *RI Civil & Mil. List*] [Providence, 1900], 381; John Russell Bartlett, ed., *Records of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England* [hereinafter *Records of RI*] [Providence, 1856-1865], 8:566, 567). Arnold's other documented service during this time was as a corporal in Captain William Whipple's Company, Colonel John Topham's Regiment,

in which he enlisted 9 June 1778. His name, spelled variously as Benchley, Benchely, and Bensley, is on payrolls for service from 16 August to 16 September 1778 and 16 February to 16 March 1779 (pension file; Military Returns, 4: 63, RIA; Shepley Collection, 407, RIHS).

Corporal Benchley and thirteen others were tried for mutiny and found guilty at a General Court-martial held in Tiverton, Rhode Island, on 2 February 1779. The subject of the revolt seems to have been the soldiers' dissatisfaction with the remuneration for their service, and Benchley, Sergeant Major Beriah Bump, and Sergeant William Smith, evidently the instigators of the mutiny, were to be executed nine days later at four in the afternoon (Field Book of Major Ebenezer Adams, pp. 52, 53, 56-59, typescript, Arnold Collection, Knight Memorial Library, Providence). The three condemned men, all members of Colonel Topham's Regiment, were visited as prisoners at Howland's Ferry (in Tiverton) on 4 February by Peleg Burroughs, a Baptist minister, who recorded that Arnold was "of Smithfield, aged about 28 years, has a father, mother, 5 brothers, and a sister, a wife and 4 children living." Burroughs made pleas in the soldiers' behalf and it was perhaps through his efforts they were reprieved to 20 February and pardoned the following day (Ruth Wilder Sherman, ed., *Peleg Burroughs's Journal 1778-1798* [Warwick, R.I., 1981], 41-44).

In 1781 Arnold "Bentchley" served as a sergeant in Captain Amaziah Weatherhead's Company, Colonel Stephen Kimball's Regiment, his name appearing on a pay abstract for 6 July to 5 August (Military Papers, 3:491, RIHS). In reporting his death, it was stated in the *Providence Journal* and the *Providence Gazette* that Arnold was a Revolutionary officer, the *Journal* adding "Lieut." (Arnold, 12:422, 13:172).

Determining the residence of the Arnold Benchley family at various times is difficult. They were not listed on the tax lists for Smithfield, 1778, or North Providence, 1782 (at RIHS). The 1782 Rhode Island census returns for these two towns are missing, but in 1790 the Arnold "Bensley" family was living in Smithfield, where they were enumerated with one male 16 years and upwards, two males under 16, and six females (*Heads of Fams. 1790, R.I.*, 138). Eldest sons William and Samuel were evidently not included and were probably living elsewhere.

It was soon thereafter that the Benchleys moved back to North Providence, no doubt attracted by employment opportunities there in the Village of Pawtucket's spinning mill. This mill was managed by Samuel Slater who, with his partner-employers William Almy and Smith Brown of Providence, was an important figure in the early textile history of New England.* The unskilled operators Slater hired were mostly Quaker children

*For a good background and evaluation of this operation, see Brendan Francis Gilbane, "A Social History of Samuel Slater's Pawtucket, 1790-1830," doctoral thesis, Boston University, 1969, 69-18, 731, pp. 99-135; Gary Kulick, "The Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution in America: Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 1672-1829," unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Brown University, 1980; and Ruth Macaulay, "Dull dejection in the countenances of all of them". *Children at work in the Rhode Island textile industry 1790-1938* ([Pawtucket, R.I.?], 1987).

aged seven to fourteen years whose normal work day was from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., under poor conditions of insufficient light and heat. Their families lived in housing provided by the company. Slater soon learned that his employers offered him little financial and moral support to deal with the working conditions and conflicts, and the partnership later dissolved.

The Arnold Benchley family figured conspicuously in the day to day record of the mill, as disclosed in the account papers of Almy & Brown, now at The Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence. It appears that the Benchleys were quite dependent on their children's work in order to obtain housing, goods, and money, and yet Arnold, who had earlier shown his willingness to let his dissatisfaction be known, was often in confrontation with Slater about their pay and working conditions. Slater in turn appealed to Almy and Brown, apparently with little satisfaction.

The first Benchley entry discovered in the account papers is dated 25 October 1792, showing that Arnold was paid £15 19s. 1¾d. "for the work of his children at the mills up to the 5th inst." An entry dated Pawtucket, 14 July 1792, lists "A. Benchley's Children's Time from April 12th to July 14," and provides their names, days worked, rate, and pay:

Sarah Benchley	56½	@ 5/-	p wk. 2-7-1
Stephen d ^o	77¾	3/6	2-5-4 ¼
Deb ^h d ^o	71¾	3/-	1-15-10 ½
Anna d ^o	34¾	2/6	"-14-6
Ama [Amy] d ^o	73¾	2/3	1-7-8
Nathan d ^o	74¾	2/-	1-4-11
			<hr/> £9-15-4¾

This list probably shows the children in order of their ages, the oldest being paid the most per week. Sarah was about fifteen at the time and Nathan only about eight.

Arnold's first disagreement is revealed in a postscript in Slater's letter of 19 April 1792 to Almy & Brown: "Arnold Benchley wants of several things. He sd he had some talk w/ you & you gave him some encouragement of getting some things at Croade's[.] no doubt he is in much want." Benchley's "want" was probably great, for the amount earned by his six children (shown above) was reduced to a net of just over a pound, the family debt being £8 14s. 9d. It is not clear whether Arnold himself worked for Slater. In the late 1790s he was paid numerous times in cash and goods or credit. Perhaps these payments were for work done by his children, although there are a few separate entries for daughter Deborah (Day Book #2, Slater, Almy & Brown Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Department, Baker Library, Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, Boston). Whatever the case, the family seemed dependent on the money earned by the children but at the same time Arnold actively looked after their welfare.

The accounts for 1793 show many payments to Arnold Benchley, but on 17 October 1793 Slater wrote Almy and Brown that Benchley was very

much dissatisfied with the payment because he did not know what his children "have per week." Two days later Slater wrote that Arnold is "still fussing about his children's wages in order to earn a living."

The 1794 and 1795 account entries for Benchley were fairly routine until 2 June 1795, when Slater entered that "J[eremiah] Amesbury, Neh[emiah] Barrows Jr. & Arnold Benchley's children are not coming to work until a fixed settlement can be made on their wages." For 24 July: "A. Benchley has taken his children out again & S. Slater can't see why the cause." From Slater's entry on 25 September, it appears that Arnold did not want his children working at night: "Benchley has been on the brim of another disturbance. The first night I lit candles he sent for his children to come home, which they did. Afterwards he & I had a considerable of a warm debate, however, it terminated so that his children worked the night following." An entry for 27 June 1796 shows "W^m Benchley worked," but, without other information, it cannot be determined if this was Arnold's father or son. This is the only instance of William's name found in the Almy & Brown records.

On 7 January 1796 Slater reported to Almy & Brown that Arnold's children had not been paid and he "threatens to take them out of work." Slater recorded on 16 April that "Benchley has but one child in the mill now neither does he intend sending more than 2 in future." Slater's letter dated Pawtucket, 10 November 1796, sums up Benchley's final plight:

A few days past I agreed with a W^m Thomas for three of his children to come into the Mill. he agreed to come next monday providing he or I could get a Room or two. I mentioned to him that we were trying to get Benchley out, providing we could, he might have that which Benchley has Benchley having but one child in here, and he being no better than ought to be, and no probability of his paying of old score, I think if I had the power I should urge his departure under the above circumstances[.] This week Benchley said he would send one more[.] I said I was afraid we could not agree upon a price, so parted[.] He expects we want him out of the house and I donot think he knows where to go and also he knows we are not depending on him for Children. Therefore he wud being under those embarrasments of not knowing were to go and by taking out his Children not being able to stop the Mill perhaps he would agree to something ab^t half right. I wish you would come up and decide it.

Benchley seems to have agreed to something less than "half right." His debt of £60 13s. 6d. — purchases at Nathaniel Croade's and George Jenks's stores and Thomas Arnold's flour mill, as well as money owed Slater and others — was reduced by only the £52 9s. 10d. earned by his children from January 1796 to February 1797, and the balance was "paid up" on 11 February 1797, with the company granting an "allowance" of £8 3s. 8d. gratis.

In 1795 the matter of the Benchleys' residence had been of concern to Smithfield and North Providence. On 18 May the Smithfield Town Council, recognizing that Arnold was "now engaged in Business in North Providence," gave him a certificate "owning him, his Wife & children inhabitants of our Town" (Smithfield TC & Probate 1). Arnold "and his present

Family” were “admitted to Reside” in North Providence when the certificate was presented to that town’s council meeting on 30 May. It was understood that the Benchleys were legal residents of Smithfield, which “will Receive them as such at any time when they shall return” (North Providence Town Council and Probate 1767–1801, B, Part 2, A-2: 471).

Even though Samuel Slater was apparently contemplating eviction of the Benchleys from mill housing in 1796, the family stayed in North Providence at least eleven more years. (They are not listed on the 1798 U.S. Direct Tax list for Smithfield [at RIHS]; the lists for North Providence are missing.) In 1800 they were enumerated in North Providence with a household of one male 10–16, one 45 and upwards, one female under 10, one 10–16, two 16–26, and one 45 and upwards (1800 Census, p. 322). Arnold and his brother Samuel signed a petition in 1804 concerning an act to repeal the 1787 act preventing the draining of the seines in the Providence River (Petitions to the General Assembly, 36:22, RIA).

By 25 December 1807 the town council had again become concerned with the Benchleys. On that date Arnold Benchley was found “Liable to be chargeable” to the town and, since he resided there under a certificate from Smithfield, it was voted that he and his family be ordered to remove. It was “voted unanimously” at the 27 January 1808 meeting, however, “that the clerk postpone making out said order until further notice” (North Providence Council and Probate No. 2, 1802–11, Personal Property No. 1, 1834–1840, A-5: 173, 177). No further action towards removing the Benchleys is found in the North Providence records, and whether they remained in that town is not clear. Arnold was not listed as the head of a Rhode Island household in the 1810 and 1820 censuses; his wife, however, may have been the Elizabeth Benchley enumerated in North Providence in 1820 with one female under 10, two 26–45, and one 45 and upwards (1820 Census, p. 106), which may indicate that the Benchleys were living apart. When his daughter Lydia was married in May of 1820, Arnold was called of Smithfield (*Providence Journal*, 1 June 1820, p. 3). Arnold’s name is not found on North Providence tax lists for 1819 and 1821–1823, and his widow’s name is not found on lists for 1824, 1830, 1835, and 1836 (at RIHS).

Arnold and his widow Betsey never applied for a pension based on his service in the American Revolution. The pension file in Arnold’s name contains papers concerning his children’s efforts to recover the pension their mother would have received. On 26 November 1844, son William filed a statement in the Providence Municipal Court, stating that his father Arnold, late of Smithfield, had been a Revolutionary soldier and died 24 January 1824; that his mother died 20 April 1837; and that he himself was born 14 February 1773. He also stated that Arnold married Betsey Tucker of Smithfield in 1772 and that they “left the following children”: William, the eldest, and Stephen Benchley of Smithfield; Sally Bly, widow, of Cumberland; Anna Babcock, widow, Betsey Benchley, and Lydia Angell, widow, of North Providence; Amy Benchley of Providence; and Nathan Benchley of Windham, Connecticut (Providence Probate, P:10:420–421;

pension file; the year of marriage and the residences of the children are stated only in the probate record). A power of attorney from the eight children to Lewis Salsbury of Providence, dated 11 July 1845, was acknowledged 28 July 1845 by all those in Rhode Island except Stephen, who had "died leaving No Children nor widow"; Nathan made his acknowledgment in Windham on 5 August 1845. At the time of her death, Betsey was entitled to a pension of \$58.33 a year from 4 March 1831, and on 11 August 1845 Salsbury signed a receipt for \$357.58 from Paris Hill, Agent for paying pensions (Revolutionary War Final Payment Papers for Betsey "Benckley" (Arnold), Rhode Island, 1836, National Archives).

Children (from statement of son William, as above; inclusion of Deborah from Almy & Brown account record, as above; Samuel is added because he had a son named Arnold and probably one named Nathan, and because his calculated birth would not allow him to fit elsewhere among the Benchleys), surname *Benchley*:

11. i. WILLIAM⁴, b. 14 Feb. 1773; m. AMEY DAY.
12. ii. SAMUEL, b. ca. 1774-5; m. EUNICE _____.
- iii. SARAH, b. ca. 1777-8 in Cumberland, according to her death record, but more likely in North Providence, where her father was living in 1777 (see above); d. of dropsy at 24 Meeting St., Providence, 28 May 1851, aged 73 (Providence Deaths, 9:28); m. as Sally Benchley, daughter of Arnold, in Smithfield, 24 March 1803, JAMES BLY, who d. before 26 Nov. 1844, son of James Bly (Arnold, 3:4:18).
The James Blys were in Smithfield in 1810 with two males under 10, one 26-45, three females under 10, and one 26-45 (1810 Census, p. 93). This is the only discovered evidence that they may have had children. The family has not been found in R.I. in the 1820 and 1840 censuses, but in 1830 James and Sarah, both aged 50-60, were in Cumberland, R.I. (1830 Census, p. 190). Sarah Bly, widow, was still there in 1844 and 1845, when she and her siblings were claiming the pension due their mother, and in 1850 she was with her sister Lydia Angell in Ward 2 of Providence, aged 72 (1850 Census, p. 131, #464-574).
- iv. STEPHEN, b. ca. 1779?; d. unmarried, probably in Smithfield, between 11 and 28 July 1845, as indicated above.
- v. DEBORAH, b. ca. 1780-1; d. unmarried, in Central Falls, R.I., Jan.? 1832, aged 51 (*Literary Subaltern* [Providence], 27 Jan. 1832, p. 2).

While there is no evidence Deborah was ever married, she was evidently the mother of Dexter Brown Allen, as claimed by his granddaughter, Mrs. Georgia (Stapleton) Collins. The father's name on Dexter's death record is blank and his mother is listed simply as Deborah Allen. Mrs. Collins has a printed cotton tablecloth with *D B* embroidered in one corner which Deborah is said to have received from Samuel Slater's wife (evidently his first wife, Hannah Wilkinson, who died in 1812). Mrs. Collins states that Deborah died when Dexter was about ten; she has the copy of the *Literary Subaltern* in which Deborah's death was reported. At the top of the front page of the newspaper is written "Mrs. Betsey B. Benchley."

This was doubtless Deborah's sister, evidently the mother of Caroline (Jenks) (Mills) Brown, who Mrs. Collins claims was Dexter Allen's first cousin. After his mother's death Dexter is said to have been raised on the farm of his "grandfather," Samuel Benchley. Furthermore, Dexter had a daughter Deborah. While nothing has been found to positively prove or disprove the connections, what evidence there is suggests that Deborah Benchley was the mother of Dexter Allen.

Probable child (surname *Allen*): *Dexter Brown*, b. 28 April 1821 in North Providence; d. of Bright's disease in Pawtucket, R.I., 24 April 1878, aged "56y 3m" (Seaman's Protection Register, RIHS; Pawtucket Deaths, 2:154; Bible [pub. NY, 1860] record kept by Dexter's wife, in possession of Mrs. Collins, shows aged 57y 3m); m. in Providence, R.I., 22 Sept. 1850, Roxania/Roxanna Ladd Bragg (marriage certificate, in possession of Mrs. Collins; Civil War Pension file 240,883, National Archives), b. in Waterbury, Vt., 17 Jan. 1833, d. in Pawtucket, 28 June 1911, aged 79y 2d, daughter of Alexander and Sophia (_____) Bragg (Pawtucket Deaths, 4:318; Bible rec.); 10 children. The Allens lived in North Providence (Pawtucket) where Dexter was a laborer. During the Civil War he served as a private in Battery F of the 1st RI Vol. Light Artillery (Civil War Military Service and Pension files). He and Roxania were buried in Mineral Spring Cemetery. It is interesting that the property on Pleasant St., Pawtucket, bought by Dexter's wife Roxania in 1867, was purchased in 1831 by Samuel *Allen* who d. in 1839; however, no evidence of a relationship has been found.

- vi. ANNA, b. ca. 1782-3?; probably living in North Providence with the Benjamin J. Gage [her son-in-law?] family in 1850, aged 67 (1850 Census, p. 331, #632-863); m. ca. 1807-8 RICHARD BABCOCK, the son of Thomas Babcock. He d. before 26 Nov. 1844, when Anna was called a widow of North Providence in the statement filed by her brother William concerning their mother's pension, and probably before 1830, as indicated by the census.

Some of the information about the Babcocks is found in the North Providence Town Council records for 27 August 1818, when Anna Babcock, wife of Richard, was interrogated regarding his settlement in the town. Anna stated that she had been married ten years and that her husband always insisted he belonged to South Kingstown until later years; that he was the son of Thomas Babcock, a "Foreigner," and had never gained any settlement in this country; that he "never went to South Kingston while living with me"; that he was apprenticed to Captain Biril and had brothers Benjamin and Thomas and a sister Betsey who married a Stedman "and went into the New Countries." Anna also stated that she had four children: Mary L., 9, Betsey, 8, Susan, 4, and Amey, 2. She further "declares she had no reason to doubt of the s^d Rich^d being a Foreigner as he would often speak a language to the Children that She could not understand & Spoke English very broken" (North Providence Town Council Records & Wills, C-2:346).

In 1810 the Richard Babcock household in Smithfield had one

male under 10, one 26–45, one female under 10, one 16–26, one 26–45, and one 45 and upwards (1810 Census, p. 94). The family has not been found in R.I. on the 1820 census, but in 1830 Ann Babcock was still in Smithfield, with one male under 5, one 10–15, one female 10–15, two 15–20, two 20–30, and two 40–50 (1830 Census, p. 127). In 1840 she was living alone in North Providence, aged 50–60 (1840 Census, p. 208). Anna Babcock and the Benjamin Gages are not found in the indexes to the 1860 or 1865 R.I. State Censuses.

Children (perhaps others, as suggested by the censuses) (surname *Babcock*): 1. *Mary L.*, b. ca. 1808–9; perhaps the *Mary L.*, aged 43, b. R.I., apparently the wife of Benjamin J. Gage, 45, b. Mass., baker, with whom Anna Babcock was living in 1850. 2. *Betsey Benchley*, b. ca. 1809–10; m. in North Providence, 15 Aug. 1844, John Allen (Arnold, 2:4:8). 3. *Susan*, b. ca. 1813–4. 4. *Amey*, b. ca. 1815–6.

- vii. *AMY*, b. ca. Jan. 1784 in Smithfield; d. unmarried, of old age at the Dexter Asylum in Providence, 7 Nov. 1878, aged 94y 10m (RI Deaths, 1878, p. 1302).

Amy lived in Providence, where she purchased a house and lot on Nash's Lane from Joseph Weaver of Providence, housewright, for \$250 on 9 Sept. 1846, and which she sold for \$800 to Patrick and Owen "Raid" of North Providence on 24 April 1855 (Providence Deeds, 103:71, 139:385). She lived in the First Ward of Providence with William A. Smith, where she was enumerated as "Amey Bennesley," "Amey Benchly," and "Amey Bentley" (1850 Census, p. 39, #494–685; 1860 Census, 1:141, #709–1215, R.I. State copy, RIHS; 1870 Census, p. 169, #908–1544). "Ann Bensley" and Smith were in North Providence in 1865 (1865 R.I. State Census, 7:146, #720–1143, microfilm, RIHS). Living in the next household was Betsey F. Bensley, 49, b. Conn., perhaps a niece.

13. viii. *NATHAN A*[RNOLD?], b. ca. 1784–5; m. *BETSEY REYNOLDS*.

- ix. *BETSEY B.*, b. ca. 27 Jan. 1792 in Smithfield; d. of old age in Burrillville, R.I., 12 March 1878, aged 86y 1m 13d (RI Deaths, 1878, p. 1040; Burrillville Deaths, 1A:39, incorrectly lists her as a widow, b. in Pascoag, R.I., daughter of Levi and Lizcy Wright).

She may have been the Miss Betsey Benchley listed in the 1826 Providence city directory on Martin Street. As she was living in North Providence in 1844 and 1845 (when she and her siblings were claiming the pension due their mother), she was probably the Betsey "Bensley" enumerated there in 1840, aged 40–50, with another female 20–30 (1840 Census, p. 214). She remained in North Providence and in 1850 was living with her daughter Caroline Mills. Caroline soon remarried Edward M. Brown, and it was in their North Providence household Betsey "Bensley" was living in 1860 (1850 Census, p. 332, #614–824; 1860 Census, p. 365, #571–937). When the Browns later moved to Burrillville, Betsey was with them in 1865 (1865 R.I. Census, 9:197, #492–718, microfilm, RIHS). "Betsey Bentley" was with the Browns when they were enumerated there in 1870 (1870 Census, p. 30, #411–493). Betsey B. "Buckley" was shown as Edward M.'s mother-in-law when listed with the Browns

in the "West end" of Burrillville in 1875 (1875 R.I. Census, p. 52, #226-364, microfilm, RIHS).

Although all discovered records of Betsey show her surname as Benchley and no record of her marriage has been found—her death record calls her a widow—she may have m. ca. 1817-8 WARREN JENKS, b. 1792 or earlier, son of John⁵ (*William*⁴⁻³, *Joseph*²⁻¹) and Annie (Bishop) Jenks, and brother of Washington Jenks who m. Amey Bucklin, sister of Mary, wife of (No. 8) Samuel Benchley (*Jenks Gen.*, 64-65). Warren and Betsey had a daughter Caroline, mentioned below. On 31 May 1820, Warren Jenks of Smithfield, yeoman, quitclaimed his right to his late father's real estate to Asa Arnold, George Smith, and Jonathan Arnold, all of Smithfield, for \$1500 (Smithfield Deeds, 14:297). Warren is not listed in the 1820 census for R.I. and no further record of him has been found. Caroline's second marriage record shows her parents as Warren and Betsey Jenks, and it has been claimed she was a first cousin of Dexter Brown Allen, evidently the son of Betsey's sister Deborah (see above).

Child (surname *Jenks*): *Caroline H.*, b. ca. 1819 in North Providence or Smithfield; d. of senile dementia and arteriosclerosis in Cranston, R.I., 28 Jan. 1907, aged 87 (RI Deaths, 1907, p. 40; Burrillville Wills, 6:479, 499); m. (1) in Providence, 14 May 1846, Abraham A. Mills, a mariner, b. in Southport, Conn., 14 March 1820, d. in Albany, N.Y., 18 or 19 Oct. 1847, aged 27y 7m 5d, son of Joseph and Sarah (_____) Mills (Providence Mars., 4:301; Seaman's Protection Register, RIHS; Pawtucket Deaths, C:151; *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 22 Oct. 1847, p. 3, shows aged 25); one son; m. (2) in Pawtucket, R.I., 15 Sept. 1857, as his 2d wife, Edward M. Brown, a mason, farmer, and trader, b. in North Providence ca. 26 Oct. 1801, d. in Burrillville 18 Aug. 1877, aged 75-9-23, son of Morris⁵ (*Phineas*⁴, *Daniel*³⁻², *Chad*¹) and Amelia/Permillia (Bucklin) Brown of North Providence (Pawtucket Mars., 1:39; RI Deaths, 1877, p. 1036). Caroline was buried in Mineral Spring Cemetery in Pawtucket.

- x. LYDIA S., b. ca. 1794 in Smithfield; d. of old age in Providence 8 Sept. 1869, aged 76 (RI Deaths, 1869, p. 1094); m. as "youngest daughter of Mr. Arnold Benchley" in Smithfield, 25 May 1820, her first cousin, CHRISTOPHER B[ROWN?] ANGELL of Smithfield (*Providence Journal*, 16 June 1820, p. 3), b. in Smithfield 16 Sept. 1790, d. evidently before 26 Nov. 1844, when Lydia was described as a widow of North Providence in the deposition filed by her brother William in regard to their mother's pension (date of his death given in the *Descs. of Thomas Angell*, 12 May 1862, must be an error). He was the son of Benjamin⁵ (*Abiah*⁴, *Hope*³, *John*², *Thomas*¹) and Lydia (Benchley) Angell (q.v.) (*Descs. of Thomas Angell*, 79).

Christopher B. Angell was Captain of the United Volunteers in the 2d Regiment of Militia in Oct. 1825, May 1826, and May 1827 (*RI Civil & Mil. List*, 2:42, 381, 396, 411). In 1850 Lydia Angell was living in Ward 2 of Providence. With her were son "Frederic" and sister Sarah Bly (1850 Census, p. 131, #464-574). She was in Ward

1 in 1860 and 1865, living with son Frederick (1860 Census, p. 208, #802-1362; 1865 R.I. State Census, 17:38, #34-99, microfilm, RIHS).

Child (surname *Angell*): *Frederick Franklin Homer*, b. ca. 1831 in North Providence; living in Providence 1874; m. (1) in Providence, 16 April 1854, Louisa R. Pierce of Providence, b. in Attleborough, Mass., ca. 1835-6, daughter of John B. and Emily (_____) Pierce (Providence Mars., 6:109), who was not living with him in 1860; m. (2) in Fall River, Mass., 2 Jan. 1861, Mary E. Mook of Fall River, b. in Ireland, ca. 1829-35 (Mass. VRs, 144:78); 5 children. "Fred F. H. Angell" was arrested in Fall River for polygamy after marrying his "third" wife (*Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 11 Jan. 1861).

6. DAVID³ BENCHLEY (*William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born 11 May 1755 in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and died in the Town of Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York, 9 November 1847, aged 92 years 6 months (Arnold, 3:4:91; cem. card file, Herkimer County Historical Society, Herkimer, N.Y. [hereinafter HCHS]; Herkimer Co. Surrogate's file 381; Revolutionary War Pension file W2430; *Daily Evening Transcript* [Boston, Mass.], 3 Dec. 1847, p. 2, shows d. 17 Nov., aged 93; *Mohawk Courier*, 18 Nov. 1847, p. 3 [obit. card file, HCHS], indicates he d. 10 Nov., aged 93; *Utica Daily Gazette*, 1 Dec. 1847, shows he was b. in R.I., d. in Fairfield, 17 Nov. 1847 [Fred Q. Bowman, *10,000 Vital Records of Central New York* (Baltimore, 1986), 19]).

About 1780 David married, first, MEHITABLE EATON, probably in Adams, Massachusetts. She was born in Thompson, Connecticut, 14 February 1763 and died in Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York, 20 February 1814, the daughter of John⁴ (*John*³⁻²⁻¹) and Hannah (Johnson) Eaton (Clarence Winthrop Bowen, *The History of Woodstock, Connecticut* [Norwood, Mass., 1926-1943], 4:628, 629; her daughter Sophia's 1880 census entry shows Mehitable as born in Mass.; Mehitable's date of death is from a chart supplied by Susan Longaker Ingalls, hereinafter Benchley Bensley Chart).

In September 1815 David Bensley married, second, ABIGAIL (PUTNAM) HASKINS, who was born in Winchester, New Hampshire, 8 April 1776 and died at her son William's home in Herkimer, New York, 15 May 1858, aged 82, the daughter of Stephen⁵ (*Elisha*⁴, *Edward*³, *Thomas*², *John*¹) and Mary (Gibbs) Putnam, niece of General Rufus Putnam, and widow of Loved Haskins (cem. card file, HCHS; *Herkimer Democrat and Little Falls Gazette*, 19 May 1858, p. 3; Eben Putnam, *A History of the Putnam Family in America* [Salem, Mass., 1892-1895], 160, which states Abigail was b. in Sutton, Mass., 10 Feb. 1776, m. Mr. Robertson, and lived in western N.Y.). Abigail was doubtless born in Winchester, where her father signed the Association test in 1776 (Nathaniel Bouton et al., eds., *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire, 1623-1800* [Concord and Manchester, 1867-1943], 30:162). She and "Looed Hoskins," both of Win-

chester, were married there 3 June 1800 (New Hampshire Vital Records, Concord, N.H.). Loved was born in Winchester 14 September 1778, the son of Capt. Nehemiah and Abigail (_____) Haskins, and he and Abigail had at least two children born there, Nehemiah in 1800, and "Lowra" in 1804. Their other children were Leonard, Irving, and Sophronia ("Partial Copy of Records of the Town of Winchester, N.H.," *Register*, 38[1884]: 31, 39[1885]:145, 40[1886]:58; Jane S. Raynore, *Historic Events of the Early Settlers of Fairfield, White Creek and Vicinity* [Newport, N.Y., 1909], 24). "Lovid Hoskins" was listed on the 1800 census for Winchester with one male under 10, two 16-26, one female 10-16, two 16-26, and one 45 and upwards (*Heads of Families . . . 1800* [:] *New Hampshire* [Chicago, 1973], 47). Abigail's obituary in the *Herkimer Democrat*, cited above, shows that she moved from Hinsdale, New Hampshire, to Deerfield, Oneida County, New York, about 1798, and went to Fairfield about 1810. She was doubtless the A. Haskins enumerated in Oneida County in 1810, with two males under 10, one female 26-45, and one 45 and upwards (1810 Census, p. 73; the returns for Oneida County were not made by individual towns; Abigail's 1855 N.Y. State Census entry, cited below, indicates she came to Fairfield about 1805).

No evidence has been found to support the statement by Mrs. James H. Stansfield in "William Rushton Bensley and Family" (*Register*, 93[1939]: 204-205) that David Benchley first married in Westchester County, New York, 1 January 1773, Elizabeth Rushton, born in Westchester County about 1756 and died there in December 1773, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Coon) Rushton.*

On 1 June 1775, David Bensley — as he spelled his name most of the time — enlisted for nine months as a private in Captain John Angell's (Providence) Company, Colonel Daniel Hitchcock's Regiment, and in the summer of 1777 he spent three months in Captain Samuel May's Company, Colonel [William?] Potter's Regiment (pension file). That same year he was of Smithfield, between 16 and 50 years and able to serve (*RI Mil. Census*, 95). From sometime in 1778 to about 16 March 1779, David "Bensley" (under various spellings) served in Captain William Whipple's Company, Colonel John Topham's Regiment (pension file; Shepley Coll., 407, RIHS). David "Bencely" was also a private in Captain William Bowen's Company, Colonel George Peck's Independent Company of the Smithfield and Cumberland Rangers, his name appearing on a company return of arms dated Smithfield, 18 October 1779 (Hospital Papers, #25-7, RIHS).

In 1776 David joined his father and brother Joseph in witnessing the will

*David and Elizabeth are further said to have been the parents of William Rushton Bensley, born 27 October 1773, who was married in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, in 1791, and settled in the Town of Barton, Tioga County, New York. Further research has proven William Bensley of Tioga County to have been the son of Israel and grandson of Adam Bensley (who married Elizabeth Rushton) who lived in what is now Smithfield, Monroe County, Pennsylvania (see Charles Cafferty, *Asbury Church And Its Minisink Influence*[:] *Town of Nichols, Tioga County, New York* [Owego, N.Y., 1943], 39).

of John Jenks of Smithfield, physician, perhaps a relative of the second wife of David's grandfather, William Benchley (Smithfield Inventory and Probate Court Record, Wills 1769-1797, p. 128).

Shortly after his Rhode Island service in the Revolutionary War, David moved from Smithfield to East Hoosac [now Adams], Massachusetts, where he lived about six years (pension file; in the deposition David made 5 Nov. 1844 in behalf of his brother Arnold's heirs, he stated he had lived in Smithfield until 1781). While in East Hoosac David served as a private from 13 to 22 October 1780 in Captain Ezra Whipple's Company, Colonel Benjamin Simond's (Berkshire County) Regiment, which marched on an alarm to Castleton, Vermont (*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* [hereinafter *Mass. Rev. Soldiers & Sailors*], 17 vols. [Boston, 1896-1908], 1:967).

About 1788 David settled in what is now Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York (Nathaniel S. Benton, *A History of Herkimer County* [hereinafter Benton's *Hist. Herkimer Co.*] [Albany, 1856], 398; it is stated in the *History of the Town of Newport 1806 to 1906* [hereinafter *Hist. Newport*] [Newport, N.Y., 1906?], n.p., that he settled in the county about 1787, from Newport, Rhode Island). On 3 March 1788, it was recorded at the Smithfield [Rhode Island] town council meeting that two Crossman children, Martha and Cynthia, had been bound [indentured] to David Benchley, and he "having moved into the country . . . said apprentice chooses not to go" (Smithfield TC & Probate 1). In 1790 David "Bentsley" was enumerated in Herkimer, Montgomery County, New York, with two young males and two females. Nearby were his brother Joseph and his brothers-in-law John and Elisha Eaton (*Heads of Fams. 1790, N.Y.*, 109). The following year Herkimer County was set off from Montgomery and in 1796 the Town of Fairfield was set off from Norway.

Only one recorded deed for land in Herkimer County is found for David. On 27 June 1798, David "Benchley" of the Town of Fairfield, tailor, for \$319, sold to Linus Everts of the same place, 80¼ acres in Fairfield, "late of part of the town of Norway, in that part commonly called Glens purchased, part of lot no. 10," which had been surveyed in 1794. "Mahitable Benchley," wife of David, for 50¢, quitclaimed her right of dowry in the land to Everts on 26 April 1802. David signed the deed "Benchley" and his wife as "Benslay" (Herkimer Co. Deeds, 2:41-43).

The David Benchley household is found in Fairfield on the 1800-1840 Federal censuses, with an unidentified male 10-16 in 1820 and an unidentified female 20-30 in 1830. The 1820 and 1840 censuses indicate the family was engaged in agriculture (1800 Census, p. 164; 1810, p. 381; 1820, p. 8; 1830, p. 13; 1840, p. 9). The 1825 New York State census reveals that besides three males and two females, the David Benchleys had forty improved acres, six neat cattle, two horses, twenty-three sheep, seven hogs, forty yards of fullled cloth, forty yards of flannel, and sixty-five yards of linen (1825 N.Y. State Census, p. 2). In 1835 the family was credited with forty improved acres, three cattle, two horses, fourteen sheep, two hogs, twelve

yards of fulled cloth, eight yards of flannel, and ten yards of linen (1835 N.Y. State Census, 1:1). The schedules for Fairfield seem to be missing from the 1845 census for Herkimer County. While the amount of cloth listed for the Benchleys might not be all that uncommon, the sixty-five yards of linen in 1825 seems to support David as a tailor. In 1879 his son William had his father's "queer looking old shears" (1791. *History of Herkimer County, N.Y.* [hereinafter *1791 Hist. Herkimer Co.*] [New York, 1879; reprint ed. Ovid, N.Y., 1980], 260).

It is claimed that David served as a captain during the War of 1812, and although newspaper notices of his death and those of his widow Abigail and daughter Sabra refer to him with this rank, no records have been found to substantiate such service. His son David did serve in the War of 1812, although he was not a captain. The claim probably arose from the fact that in 1796 David "Bentsley" was appointed captain of a "new company" of Norway, Herkimer County, in Lt.-Col. Jacob Petrie's Regiment. David's brother-in-law Wyman Eaton was lieutenant of the company (Hugh Hastings, comp. and ed., *Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment of the State of New York, 1783-1821*, 4 vols. [Albany, 1901-1902], 1:353).

On 11 February 1833 David Bensley of Fairfield, Herkimer County, aged 77, applied for a pension, stating that he was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, 11 May 1755, and recounting his military service in Rhode Island, but not mentioning his service in Massachusetts. His brother Joseph Benchley of Newport, Herkimer County, made a deposition as to David's age of 77 and his service in the Revolutionary War. David was pensioned as of 4 March 1831, to receive \$80 a year. On 8 April 1853 Abigail Bensley of Fairfield, aged 77, applied for a pension as the widow of David, stating that he died 9 November 1847 and that they were married "on Some day of September" 1815. By the pension certificate issued 30 August 1853, Abigail was to receive \$80 a year. Later, on 22 March 1855, Abigail Bensley of Fairfield, aged 78, applied for bounty land and was allowed 160 acres on 29 September of that year (pension file).

On 2 April 1846 David Benchley of Fairfield rented the "second part" of his farm "on which he resides" to Benjamin and Albert G. Ford for "one or more years" at \$150 a year and half the taxes. David reserved for himself the house, a small garden, and fruit. This agreement, found in David's probate file, was probably made to ensure that he and his wife would be maintained in their senior years.

In his old age, David was known as a "great fisherman," who "would start out in the morning with his fishing tackle and favorite bait of white grubs for speckled trout." He would return "in the afternoon . . . with a fine string of trout, some weighing over half a pound. He knew every favorite spot in the North Creek in which to cast his hook" (*Journal and Courier* [Little Falls, N.Y.], 1 May 1894, p. 1).

David Bensley of Fairfield, in his will of 5 March 1845, named his wife Abigail, who was to be provided a comfortable support out of his estate.

He also named sons Johnson, Eaton, David Jr., and William W. Bensley, who were to receive \$300 each, and the wives (unnamed) of Johnson and David Jr., who were each to have \$100 if their husbands died first. Son Truman Bensley was mentioned as having already received his share of the estate. Daughters Lydia, wife of George Arnold, Sophia, wife of Amasa Wheelock, and Angeline, wife of Albert G. Ford, were to receive \$200 each. Grandsons David, son of William W. Bensley, and Edwin Tine Ford, son of Albert G. Ford, were to each receive \$25 at age 21. Wife Abigail and son-in-law Albert G. Ford were named executors.

Albert G. Ford petitioned for probate of the will on 19 November 1847, stating that David Benchley of Fairfield died 9 November 1847 leaving widow Abigail of Fairfield and children Johnson Benchley of Springville, New York; Lydia, widow of George Arnold; Eaton Benchley of Erie County, New York; Truman Benchley of Cattaraugus County, New York; David Benchley of Geneseo, New York; Sophia Brooks of Wisconsin; and William W. Benchley and Angeline Ford of Fairfield, New York. The widow Abigail declined to serve as executrix and the will was proved 10 January 1848.

Ford paid the three daughters their \$200 each in November 1848; William received \$150 in January, and David Jr. \$150 in February 1850. The inventory of David's estate, taken 24 January 1848, shows Eaton and Johnson had notes against the estate and their legacies were either not paid or reduced according to their debts. On 1 February 1850 Ford filed another petition, showing the same heirs as before, this time identifying the residences of Eaton Benchley and Lydia Arnold more specifically as Springville and Sophia Brooks now of Geneseo and William W. Benchley now of Little Falls, New York (Herkimer Co. Surrogate's file 381).

By a complaint dated Little Falls, 18 October 1848, Abigail brought suit against the heirs of her late husband. In her declaration dated 1 November 1848, she stated that David died in Fairfield on 10 November 1847 and made specific mention of about twenty-eight acres which he had willed her for her "decent and comfortable support." Apparently, since David had also named in his will grandson Edwin Tine Ford, and Edwin was still a minor, the estate had not been settled. Aged 71 and infirm, Abigail pleaded that she was in need of support and believed the personal estate was satisfactory for the executor, Albert Ford, to pay the debts and legacies, "and what is left will help her sufficiently." "Arphanso" Loomis of Little Falls was appointed guardian of Edwin Tine Ford, aged about 7 years, on 4 May 1849, and on the following 2 October Abigail was allowed funds by the court (Herkimer Co. Supreme Court file A-862).

On 17 December 1849 Ford sold David's farm to pay debts. Highest bidder was (no. 21) William W.⁴ Benchley of the town of Little Falls, at \$1700 (Herkimer Co. Deeds, 56:388).

David "Bensley" was buried in Eaton Bush, now an abandoned cemetery on Route 169 in Herkimer, New York. His widow Abigail was living with son William in Little Falls, New York, in 1850 (1850 Census, p. 221, #310-317) and in 1855 with her daughter Angeline Ford in Fairfield (1855 N.Y.

State Census, p. 18, family #145). Abigail "Benchley" was buried in the Myers Park Cemetery in Herkimer (cem. card file, HCHS).

Children, by first wife Mehitable Eaton, first three born in Massachusetts, probably in Adams, rest in what is now Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York (years of birth from DAR application of Ruth Gilbert Ford [National No. 138624], daughter of Roscoe Ford, below; when son William died 1893, it was stated in his obituary that, of his siblings, only Angeline was still living), surname *Benchley* or *Bensley*:

- i. CLARISSA⁴, b. 1781; evidently d. young, probably before 1790, as indicated by the census; not named in her father's will.
- ii. LYDIA, b. 1784; d. probably in Concord, Erie Co., N.Y., after 1860 (1860 Census, p. 361, #491-483, which lists her as b. in Mass.) and before 1865, when she is not found there on the census; m. GEORGE ARNOLD, b. ca. 1775-80, d. between 1840 and 1850, probably in Concord, Erie Co.; m. (?) _____ BROWN (indicated on Benchley/Bensley Chart, but not verified).

The Arnolds were probably married in or near Herkimer Co., where they were first enumerated in 1810 in the Town of Fairfield, with two males under 10, one 26-45, one female under 10, and one 16-26 (1810 Census, p. 374). In the late 1810s they went to western New York, with or ahead of Lydia's brothers. George Arnold was enumerated in 1820 next to Johnson Bensley in Ischua, Cattaraugus Co., N.Y., with one male 10-16, one 26-45, one female 10-16, and one 26-45 (1820 Census, p. 16). Later that year Ischua became Ellicottville and here George was taxed in 1822 and was on a jury in 1823. In 1824 the Town of Ashford was set off from Ellicottville and in March George was elected one of the commissioners of schools at the first town meeting. He was town clerk of Ashford in 1828 (*History of Cattaraugus Co., New York* [hereinafter *Hist. Cattaraugus Co.*] [Philadelphia, 1879, reprint ed. Evansville, Ind., 1987], 340). In 1830 the Arnolds were listed on the census in Ashford with [two?] [*illegible*] males 10-15, one 50-60, one female 5-10, one 20-30, and one 40-50 (1830 Census, p. 182). By 1840 the family was in Concord, Erie Co., with one male 60-70, one female 15-20, one 20-30, and one 50-60, with one person engaged in agriculture (1840 Census, p. 54). Lydia and daughter "Clancey" were living with son-in-law Lydenham S. Clark in Boston, Erie Co., in 1850 (1850 Census, p. 18, #940-942). After his death she and daughters Clarissa and Sophia returned to Concord where in 1855 Lydia owned land (1855 N.Y. State Census, p. 47). In 1860 the three women were still in Concord, where Lydia was a seamstress.

Children, born in N.Y. (surname *Arnold*): 1. (probably) *Mortimer L.*, b. ca. 1803-5; m. Emily _____, b. in Mass. ca. 1805-6; farmer in Concord, Erie Co., in 1860 (1860 Census, p. 357, #462-452), but not found there in 1865. Mortimer is assumed to have been a son because of his residence in Concord and because Lydia's sister Sophia named a son Mortimer; at least 3 children. 2. *Clarissa C.*, b. ca. 1805-10 in Herkimer Co.; living with her sister in Concord in 1865 (1865 N.Y. Census, 1st Election Dist., p. 47, #244-258). She was

listed on census as disabled, with a spinal affliction, and idiotic.
3. *Sophia Altazera*, b. ca. 1821 in Cattaraugus Co.; living in Concord in 1875 (1875 N.Y. State Census, p. 39, #258-278); m. Lydenham S. Clark, b. in N.Y., ca. 1821-2, d. before 1855, a lawyer, whose real estate was valued at \$300 in 1850; 2 children.

14. iii. JOHNSON, b. 1787; m. AMY WARD.
15. iv. EATON, b. 1790; m. (1) SOPHIA RUSSELL, (2) AGNES McCAA.
- v. DAVID JR., b. ca. Dec. 1791 or Jan. 1792; d. of consumption in Fentonville, Mich., 27 June 1870, aged 78y 6m (Genesee Co. [Mich.] Deaths, 1:44, #861; War of 1812 Pension file WC17843, National Archives, shows he d. 25 June 1869); m. in Fairfield, Jan. 1817, REBINA HULL, b. in Conn. ca. 1794-5, d. in Greigsville, N.Y., 19 March 1886 (pension file).

During the War of 1812, David Bensley was a private and fifer in Capt. Asa Chatfield's Co. of Detached Militia, [Lt.-Col. George H.?] Nellis's (1st) Regiment of N.Y. Militia, enlisting in Fairfield 9 Sept. and discharged in Brownville, N.Y., 13 Nov. 1813, for which he was paid \$16.80. At the time he was a nineteen-year-old farmer (military service record and pension file). After one more year in Fairfield, David moved west, probably with his older brothers, and in 1820 was enumerated in the Town of Concord, Niagara (now Erie) Co., N.Y., with one male 10-16, two 26-45, and one female 16-26, with one person engaged in agriculture (1820 Census, p. 133). When two years later his brothers moved to what is now Ashford, Cattaraugus Co., David went with them (*Hist. Cattaraugus Co.*, 339), but he returned to Concord and lived twenty years in what became the Village of Springville in 1834 (pension file). Here he taught the first school, at Chafee Corners (Erasmus Briggs, *History of the Original Town of Concord . . . Erie County, New York* [hereinafter *Hist. of Concord*] [Rochester, 1883], 320). David is not found on the 1830 census, but in 1840 his household in Concord consisted of one male and one female, both aged 40-50, with one person engaged in agriculture (1840 Census, p. 54).

In the early or mid-1840s, the David Bensleys moved to Geneseo, Livingston Co., N.Y., where David was a farmer in 1850, with \$1600 worth of real estate. Mary St. John, 17, b. N.Y., was living with the Bensleys that year (1850 Census, p. 360, #9-9). Two years later David Bensley of Geneseo, 59, applied for and received 40 acres of bounty land for his military service. He had moved back to Springville by 1855 when at the age of 62 he applied for and received an additional 120 acres of bounty land. He and Rebina then lived three years in Ypsalanti, Mich., and then four years in Fentonville, where he died (pension file). At some time David is supposed to have been an innkeeper, but since he served liquor, his brother Eaton would not speak to him (Benchley/Bensley Chart).

About 1874 Rebina went to live in Greigsville with the Francis Hulls, perhaps relatives, and on 25 April 1878, at the age of 83, she filed for a pension based on David's military service. On 30 Jan. 1879 she was allowed eight dollars a month, retroactive from 9 March 1878 (pension file).

- vi. SOPHIA, b. 2 Jan. 1797; d. probably in Jefferson, Union Co., Dakota Territory (now South Dakota), 4 May 1888; m. (1) 2 Oct. 1817, AMASA WHEELOCK, a mechanic, b. in Vt., 7 March 1793, d. in N.Y., 9 June 1838 (dates of birth and death from copies of two pages from Family Bible, probably of daughter Electa (Wheelock) McKillips [hereinafter McKillips Bible], in DAR Library File Case title: David Bensley-R.I. and N.Y.; this Bible record also shows Amasa as b. in Vt.; other information from Cecil D. Hall, Eldridge, Mo., 1983, showing Amasa d. 6 June; 1880 census entries for some Wheelock children show their father as b. in N.Y.); m. (2) CALEB BROOKS, probably between 5 March 1845, when she was called the "wife of Amasa Wheelock" in her father's will, and 19 Nov. 1847, when she was called Sophia Brooks of Wisc. in Albert Ford's petition for the probate of that will.

The Wheelocks are not found on the 1820 census. In 1830 they were in Little Valley, Cattaraugus Co., N.Y., but daughter Marian was not counted in their household (1830 Census, p. 194).

After the death of her first husband, Sophia lived in Iowa. In 1840 she was in Township 69 North, Range 3 West, Des Moines Co., with son James missing from the enumeration (1840 Census, p. 54). She may have been living in Wisconsin in 1847 when her father's estate was being settled, as indicated above. When her stepmother Abigail made a complaint about David Benchley's estate on 18 Oct. 1848, her name appeared as Sophia ~~Wheelock~~ [sic] and a month later Sophia Brooks, wife of Caleb Brooks, of Geneseo, N.Y., was served notice. A statement in the court file dated 18 Nov. 1848 indicates that Caleb, husband of Sophia Brooks, was "believed to be living" in Montrose Twp., Lee Co., Iowa. Albert Ford filed a second probate petition on 1 Feb. 1850, in which Sophia Brooks was still called of Geneseo, N.Y., but later that year she was enumerated in District 20 of Lee Co., Iowa (1850 Census, p. 477, #1353-1359). On that and subsequent records her name is given as Wheelock, so perhaps she and Caleb divorced or separated. By 1860 Sophia was living with her son Mortimer, first in Munroe Twp., Fremont Co., Iowa (1860 Census, p. 835, #6-5), and then in Jefferson Twp., Union Co., Dakota Terr. (1870 Census, p. 127, #83-81; 1880 Census, ED 21, p. 2, #163-173).

Amasa Wheelock was 5' 8", 140 lbs., fair complexion, with blue eyes and dark hair. Sophia was 5' 5", 120 lbs., fair complexion, with grey eyes and light hair. Both were of "sanguine temperment" (McKillips Bible).

Children, born in N.Y. (C. D. Hall) (surname *Wheelock*):

1. *Electa Mehitable* (Electa Ann on 1850 Census, Montrose Twp., p. 402, #216-222), b. 6 May 1819 in Cattaraugus Co., N.Y.; d. in Yakima, Wash., 4 May 1904; m. in Clark Co., Mo., 27 Dec. 1847, John McKillips, b. in Lancaster, Pa., 25 Dec. 1818, d. in Sidney, Ia., 1866; 8 children (McKillips Bible, for births only; DAR Application, Nat. No. 454847 [Hattie B. (McKillips) Blackburn]).
2. *Mortimer Churbry*, b. 16 Oct. 1820; d. in Libby, Mont., 22 April 1908; m. 19 Sept. 1865, Sarah Stotts, b. in Ohio ca. 1843-4, living

1880. 3. *Darwin Rush*, b. 22 Jan. 1822; m. Zerlinda Hedrick, b. in Ky., ca. 1816-7; at least one child. 4. *Edwin Ruthvan*, b. 26 Oct. 1823; living 1870 with brother Mortimer. 5. *Marian Elizabeth*, b. 15 Sept. 1825; m. William Harvey Harding. 6. *David Bensley*, b. 13 Aug. 1828; living 1880 with brother Mortimer. 7. *Lydia Jane*, b. 7 Nov. 1835; m. 21 Jan. 1858, Harvey W. English. 8. *James William*, b. 31 July 1837; m. 13 April 1859, Catharine B. Argyle.
16. vii. TRUMAN, b. 1800; m. (1) HANNAH SAMPSON, (2) NANCY CARTER SAMPSON.
- viii. SABRA J., b. 1809; d. 19 Jan. 1828, aged 18 (*Peoples' Friend and Little Falls Gazette*, 24 Jan. 1828, p. 3-obit. card file, HCHS).

Children, by second wife Abigail Putnam, born in Fairfield:

17. ix. WILLIAM W., b. 4 January 1818; m. CATHERINE A. HANER.
- x. ANGELINE G., b. Oct. 1819; d. of a gastric ulcer and old age in Lima, Livingston Co., N.Y., 27 Feb. 1907, aged 87 (N.Y. Deaths, 1907, #10321); m. in Fairfield, 23 Jan. 1840, ALBERT GALATIN FORD (Civil War Pension file 453581), b. in Fairfield in 1813, d. of apoplexy and degeneration of the heart in Lima 7 Dec. 1891, aged 78, son of Benjamin Jr.⁵ (*Benjamin*⁴, *Jacob*³, *Matthew*²⁻¹) and Thankful (Griswold) Ford (N.Y. Deaths, 1891, #50167, showing aged 79; Eliakim Reed Ford, *Ford Genealogy* [hereinafter *Ford Gen.*] [Oneonta, N.Y., 1916], 116; *DAR Lineage Books*, 22[1906]:62, 84 [1926]:338, 139 [1934]:195; *Herkimer Democrat*, 16 Dec. 1891, p. 12 [obit. card file, HCHS]).

Albert was a farmer and land owner in Fairfield. In 1855 he had a frame house, 105 improved acres, 25 unimproved acres, a farm worth \$7800, stock worth \$1600, and tools worth \$100. His real and personal estate were valued at \$12,000 and \$700 in 1860 and in 1865 his frame house was assessed at \$4000 (1850 Census, p. 186, #100-100; 1855 N.Y. State Census, p. 18, fam. #145; 1860 Census, pp. 98-99, #118-125; 1865 N.Y. State Census, pp. 33-34, #234-230). Albert's obituary shows that the family lived also in Little Falls, Herkimer Co. About 1868 the Fords moved to Lima, N.Y., where, based on his son Frederick's military service, Albert applied for a Dependent Father's Pension in 1890, but it was rejected since the mother of the soldier was still living (pension file). Administration of Albert's estate was granted 2 Dec. 1891 to Angeline and Reuben Ford. In the petition for administration, Albert's heirs were listed as his widow Angeline and son Roscoe Ford of Lima, son George P. Ford of Geneva, Ill., and daughter Katherine J. Morris of Fairfield, Neb. (Livingston Co. Surrogate's Administration Files). Angeline joined the DAR in 1897 (Nat. No. 21165) and in 1900 she was with her son Roscoe in Lima (1900 Census, ED 27, p. 2, #28-29). The Fords were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Lima, where a memorial marker also lists their children (Marjorie S. Dows and Virginia Moscrip, "Lima, Livingston County, New York Cemetery Inscriptions" [(Rochester, N.Y.), 1974-1978], 12, 28).

Children, born in Fairfield (*Ford Gen.*, 116; 1850-1865 censuses, cited above; in the 1865 Census Angeline is listed as mother of 6 children, in 1900 of 4, only one then living) (surname *Ford*):

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1. *Frederick E.* [Edwin Tine in grandfather's will], b. 1842; killed in action in Fredericksburg, Va., 3 May 1863, while serving as a second lieutenant in Co. C, 121st N.Y. Vol. Inf. (pension file).
2. *Catherine Julia*, b. 1844; d. 1896 perhaps in Nebraska; m. 1872, Davenport Alger Morris, b. in N.Y. 1837, d. 1906, a teacher in Mitchellville, Ia., in 1880 (1880 Census, ED 168, p. 12, #132-134); at least one daughter (DAR Nat. No. 83894).
3. *George P.*, b. 1853; d. probably in Kane Co., Ill. between 1891 and 1900; m. Clara E. Angle, b. in N.Y. April 1859, living in Blackberry twp.; Kane Co., Ill., 1900; 5 children (1900 Census, ED 83, p. 12, #237-247).
4. *Roscoe*, b. July 1857; d. 1939, a farmer; m. in Lima, N.Y., 22 June 1887, Lottie F. Gilbert, b. in N.Y., Dec. 1859, d. 1943, daughter of Orrin⁷ (*Joseph*⁶, *Theodore*⁵, *Joseph*⁴⁻³, *John*², *Thomas*¹) and Elizabeth (Butler) Gilbert (Homer Worthington Brainard and others, *The Gilbert Family* [New Haven, 1953], 338); at least 2 children. 5. *child*. 6. *child*.

[to be continued]

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The American Genealogist

founded 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus

An independent quarterly journal, dedicated to the elevation of genealogical scholarship, through carefully documented analyses of genealogical problems and through short compiled genealogies.

Volume 63 now being published in 1988

Edited by

Ruth Wilder Sherman, F.A.S.G.

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\$15 (US) annually — sample copy \$4

THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST

128 Massachusetts Drive, Dept. NE, Warwick, RI 02889

THE BENCHLEY-BENSLEY FAMILY

[Continued from page 196]

Roger D. Joslyn

7. JOSEPH³ BENCHLEY (*William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born 23 August 1757 in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and he died in the Town of Newport, Herkimer County, New York, 18 December 1834, aged 77 (Arnold, 3:4:91; his birth-date is given as 23 Aug. 1758 in his Revolutionary War Pension application [file S12165]; *Mohawk Courier*, 25 Dec. 1834, p. 3 [obit. card file, HCHS], also states that he was born in Smithfield, R.I., 23 Aug. 1758; cem. card file, HCHS).

He married, first, in Smithfield on 16 January 1780, LUCINA BROWN (Arnold, 3:4:18). She was born in Smithfield 24 March 1762 and died 29 September 1814, probably in Newport, doubtless the daughter of Christopher⁵ (*John*⁴⁻³⁻², *Chad*¹) and Lydia (Jenks) Brown of Smithfield (DAR Application, National No. 16957 [Helen Kenyon (Benchley) Keith], which incorrectly states that she died in Smithfield, R.I.; grave marker shows her name as Lucinia Brown Benchley and that she died 20 Sept. 1844 [cem. card file, HCHS]). In his will of 25 January 1778, proved 23 March 1778, Captain Christopher Brown of Smithfield, yeoman, named his wife Lydia, daughter "Lucia" Brown, under eighteen, and other children. "Capt." William Benchley, Joseph's father, was one of the appraisers of Brown's estate (Smithfield Inv. & Probate, Wills, 1769-1797, 159-163).

Joseph Benchley married, second, JANE STEVENS before 6 August 1817, when they executed a deed (Herkimer Co. Decds, 11:316). She was born in Killingworth, Connecticut, 7 August 1768 and died 6 March 1853, aged 85, probably in Newport, the daughter of Hiel⁵ (*Elnathan*⁴, *Josiah*³, *William*², *John*¹) and Jane (Kelsey) Stevens (Killingworth VRs, 2:95; Charlotte Steevens Holmes, comp., *A Genealogy of the Lineal Descendants of John Steevens who Settled in Guilford, Conn. In 1645*, ed. by Clay W. Holmes [Elmira, N.Y., 1906], 98; cem. card file, HCHS, showing her maiden name as Stephens). Among the heirs to whom the estate of Hiel Stevens of Killingworth was distributed on 2 November 1784 were the widow Jane Stevens and [daughter] "Jain" (Saybrook Probate District file 2336, Connecticut State Library).

In 1776 Joseph, his father, and his brother David witnessed the will of John Jenks of Smithfield, physician, perhaps a relative of Joseph's grandfather William Benchley's second wife (Smithfield Inv. & Prob., Wills, 1769-1797, 128).

Joseph was listed in Smithfield in the 1777 Rhode Island military census as between 16 and 50 years and able to serve (*RI Mil. Census*, 93). On 5 May of that year he was elected an ensign of Captain Hezekiah Smith's North Providence Rangers. His brother Arnold was a lieutenant in this unit (Military

Records, 2:75, RIA; *RI Civil & Mil. List*, 381; *Records of RI*, 8:566, 567). That summer he served in Captain John Whipple's Company for one month and then spent three months in Captain Samuel May's Company, Colonel Potter's Regiment of State Troops, Rhode Island Line, being dismissed about 1 June 1778. Joseph "Bensley" was a corporal in Captain William Whipple's Company, Colonel John Topham's Regiment in 1778 and 1779 (*Military Returns*, 4:63, RIA; pension file). Joseph also served from 21 May to 3 June 1777 as a private in Captain Thomas Olney's Company, Colonel Jabez Bowen's Regiment. His service was reported to be in Pawtuxet, Rhode Island, under Captain Jonathan Russell, Colonel Jabez Bowen's 5th Rhode Island Division (*Mass. Rev. Soldiers & Sailors*, 1:934).

At the Smithfield town council meeting of 19 March 1781 it was voted that Abigail Crossman, born 11 April 1773, daughter of Abiel Crossman, deceased, would be indentured to Joseph Benchley (Smithfield TC & Prob. 1).

On 18 February 1784, Joseph Benchley of Smithfield, cordwainer, and his wife Lucina, for £31 19s., purchased a three-acre lot in Smithfield from [her uncle] Stephen Jenks of North Providence, Gentleman, and [mother] Lydia Brown of Smithfield, widow. The lot was part of the farm of Captain Christopher Brown of Smithfield which had been set off to his son John in 1782 (Smithfield Deeds, 7:432). Joseph Benchley of Smithfield, yeoman, and his wife Lucina sold this property, with dwelling house, to her brother-in-law Eleazer Whipple of North Providence, yeoman, for £75 on 20 February 1788 (*ibid.*, 9:8).

About this same time — 1788 — the Joseph Benchleys moved from Rhode Island to New York, to what is now the Town of Fairfield, Herkimer County, where Joseph's brother David had settled, and in 1795 they moved to the Town of Norway, living in that part set off as the Town of Newport in 1806 (Benton's *Hist. Herkimer Co.*, 442-444; 1791 *Hist. Herkimer Co.*, 272; *Hist. Newport*). Joseph "Bentsley" was enumerated in 1790 near his brother David in what was then Herkimer, Montgomery County, New York, with three young males (*Heads of Fams. 1790, N.Y.*, 109). On 3 April 1794 Joseph Benchley of Norway, New York, made his first recorded land purchase, of twenty acres and four rods in the Town of Norway, "formerly the county of Montgomery," on the north side of the Mohawk River. He bought this land from Cornelius Chatfield of Norway and his wife Zilpha for £48 (Oneida Co. Deeds, 2:169-170). Joseph and Lucina sold this property 26 March 1796 to Nathan Smith of Norway for £120 (Herkimer Co. Deeds, 11:190, recorded 1 Sept. 1817).

In 1800 Joseph's household in Norway, Herkimer County, was missing one of his older sons (1800 Census, p. 183). The Benchleys were enumerated in Newport in 1810 and 1820, and in the latter year there were an unidentified male aged 16-18 and female 10-16 living with them, with five persons engaged in manufacturing and trade (1810 Census, p. 369; 1820 Census, p. 38).

Joseph Benchley of Norway, "mechanic," purchased two half-acre lots in Norway in 1801, both in what became the Village of Newport. On one of them (number 51) lived the Benchleys, near West Canada Creek, and here

Joseph also had his shoemaking shop (Herkimer Co. Deeds, 4:162, 163, 11:316). He also had property, part of which he purchased in 1816, in the Town of Russia; he sold this land to son Joseph Jr. in 1827 (*ibid.*, 21:336, 338). In the recorded deeds Joseph's name is spelled Benchley, Benchly, Binchley, and Bensley.

On 6 September 1822 Joseph Benchley and his wife Jane of "New Port" sold to her brother Elias Stevens of Killingworth, Connecticut, for forty dollars, an acre in Killingworth, "it having been set off to the said Jane Benchley as part of her portion from her honored fathers property whose name was Hiel Stevens late of said Killingworth Deceased" (Killingworth Deeds, 21:367-368).

The 1825 New York State census for Newport (p. 4) shows Joseph Benchley with two males (one of whom was eligible to vote) and five females (one of whom was 16-45 and unmarried). He also owned one cow and had produced ten yards of flannel in the previous year. In 1830 Joseph "Bensley" and his wife were both 70-80, and in their home was a male, aged 5-10, perhaps a grandson (1830 Census, p. 35). Jane Benchley, Joseph's widow, was enumerated alone in Newport on the state census for 1835 (p. 11), in 1840 as age 70-80 (1840 Census, p. 65), and on the 1845 State census, the latter of which shows she was born in New England but incorrectly lists her in the column for females under 16 years (p. 11, #11).

Benchley was assessor of Newport for sixteen terms, three terms highway commissioner, two terms collector, and one term constable. He was also a tavern keeper and for many years proprietor of an establishment where President Van Buren once stayed and which in 1906 was the Spellman House (*Hist. Newport*).

On October 1832 Joseph Benchley of Newport, age 75, applied for a pension, stating he was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, on 23 August 1758 and recounting his military service. He also stated he moved from Rhode Island to Herkimer County nine years after the Revolutionary War. His brother David Benchley of Fairfield deposed on 3 June 1833, vouching for some of Joseph's military service, and Joseph was allowed a pension of \$66.66 a year from 4 March 1831 (pension file).

There is no estate record for Joseph Benchley, but on 28 January 1845 his children — Benjamin of the Town of Ohio, Christopher B. of the Town of Russia, William S. and Joseph Benchley and Lucina Porter of the Town of Newport — quitclaimed land to their brother Jenks for five dollars. Located in Newport and already in Jenks's possession, the property was half an acre, part of Lot 51 in the "second allotment of the Royal Grant" (Herkimer Co. Deeds, 67:66-67; rec. 13 Oct. 1854), one of the two lots purchased by Joseph in 1801.

In February 1836 Jane Benchley of Newport, widow, took steps to recover the unpaid balance of Joseph's pension. On 9 May of that year, William S. Benchley, acting as her attorney, signed a receipt in Albany for \$19.18 (Revolutionary War Final Payment Papers for Widow of Joseph Benchley, New York, 1832, National Archives). In 1850 Jane was living in Newport

with the family of Moses and "Acenith" Johnson, perhaps relatives (1850 Census, p. 155, #39-39).

Joseph and Jane Benchley were buried in the Newport Cemetery (cem. card file, HCHS).

Children, by first wife Lucina Brown, first 3 born in R.I., rest probably in what is now Newport, Herkimer Co., N.Y. (the 1791 *Hist. Herkimer Co.*, 272, shows there were 7 sons, all of whom were deceased except Wm.; the 6 sons named below are listed in *Hist. Newport*, but there is no mention of a daughter; it is stated in son William's obituary that he buried his father, mother, 6 brothers, and a sister), surname *Benchley*:

18. i. BENJAMIN⁴, b. 7 March 1781; m. SARAH CHURCHILL
19. ii. JENKS, b. 8 May 1784; m. MARY SWEZEY.
20. iii. CHRISTOPHER B[ROWN?], b. ca. 1786; m. (1) _____; m.
(2) LUCRETIA _____.
- iv. SON; perhaps d. young.
21. v. WILLIAM SMITH, b. 17 Feb. 1795; m. (1) MARY WILLOUGHBY; m. (2)
ROXY ANN POST.
22. vi. JOSEPH JR., b. ca. 1796-7; m. RUTH A. WILLOUGHBY.
- vii. PARDON B., b. ca. 1803; d. 3 Jan. 1823 in his 21st year; buried in the
Newport Cemetery (cem. card file, HCHS).
- viii. LUCINA, b. 1808; d. 1882 (cem. card file, HCHS); m. HENRY PORTER,
b. in Herkimer Co. 1807, d. in Newport 26 May 1884 in his 77th year
(*ibid.*; *Herkimer Democrat*, 4 June 1884, p. 2 [obit. card file, HCHS]).

The Porters lived in Newport, to which town Henry had moved about 1827 and where he was a cabinet maker. Here the Porters lived in a frame house and owned some land, the later valued at \$3700 in 1850 (\$1000 of which was invested in his business), \$2000 in 1860, and \$5000 in 1870. Henry's personal estate was worth \$2000 in 1860 and \$7000 in 1870. By 1870 he was a furniture dealer and also ran an undertaking business, and in 1880 he was a "retired mechanic," living on Main St. (1835 N.Y. State Census, 2:3, 1845 N.Y. State Census, p. 12; 1850 Census, p. 157, #69-69; 1855 N.Y. State Census, pp. 37-38, #63-63; 1860 Census, p. 260, #226-211; 1865 N.Y. State Census, p. 21, #137-152; 1870 Census, p. 332, #135-150; 1875 N.Y. State Census, p. 22, #190-190; 1880 Census, ED 33, p. 34, #304-320).

By his will of 13 Dec. 1882, proved 28 May 1884, Henry Porter of Newport, aged 75, left daughter Jessie the use of his home and lot in the Village of Newport. If she sold the property, she was to retain one-half the proceeds in consideration of keeping his house, and pay one-fourth each to daughters Elizabeth C. Stevens and Jane P. Allen. Henry also made bequests to son James H. Porter, sons-in-law Richard F. Stevens and Henry F. Allen, daughters Elizabeth C. Stevens, Jessie Porter, and Jane P. Allen, son George L. Porter, and granddaughter Jessie Allen, under 21 (Herkimer Co. Surrogate's file 6067).

Henry, Lucina, and children James, Jessie, and George were buried in the Newport Cemetery.

Children, born in Newport (1850-1880 censuses) (surname *Porter*):
1. *James H.*, b. 1831; d. in Newport 9 Sept. 1884, aged 52, machinist-mechanic (cem. card file, HCHS; *Herkimer Democrat*, 17 Sept. 1884,

p. 2 [obit. card file, HCHS]); m. Georgia Miller, b. in N.Y. 1849, d. in Dansville, N.Y., 29 Oct. 1889 in her 40th yr. (cem. card file, HCHS; *Herkimer Democrat*, 6 Nov. 1889, *Herkimer Citizen*, 5 Nov. 1889, p. 5 [obit. card file, HCHS]). 2. *Elizabeth C.*, b. ca. 1833; d. evidently before 1892, as she was not named among the heirs of her sister Jessie (New York Co. estate files); m. in Fairfield, 17 July 1878, Dr. Richard F. Stevens of Syracuse (*Herkimer Democrat*, 24 July 1878, p. 3 [mar. card file, HCHS]); living in Syracuse in 1884, when her father's estate was settled. 3. *Jessie* [Josephine on 1850 and 1855 censuses], b. ca. 4 Oct. 1839; d. unm., of multiple sarcoma and edema of legs at 224 West 74th St., New York, N.Y., 4 March 1892, aged 52y 4m 29d (Manhattan Deaths, 1892, #8161; cem. card file, HCHS; *Herkimer Citizen*, 8 March 1892, p. 8 [obit. card file, HCHS]). 4. *Jane P.*, b. ca. 1842; living in New York, N.Y., 26 June 1894, when she petitioned for administration, C.T.A., of her sister Jessie's estate (New York Co. estate files); m. after 1870, Henry Frederick Allen, b. in New York, N.Y., ca. Aug. 1844, d. of Bright's and heart disease at 244 West 74th St., New York, N.Y., 16 April 1894, aged 49y 8m, son of Benjamin D. and Mary A. (_____) Allen, gas works superintendent (ibid.; Manhattan Deaths, 1894, #13225); one daughter. 5. *George L.*, b. 1847; d. unm., of heart failure and Bright's disease at 36 Union Sq., New York, N.Y., 25 July 1893, aged 46, store clerk (Manhattan Deaths, 1893, #28134; New York Co. estate files; cem. card file, HCHS).

8. SAMUEL³ BENCHLEY (*William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, 1 May 1764 and he died in the Village of Pawtucket, North Providence, Rhode Island, 30 September 1834, in his 70th year. His date of birth is noted on a paper in his brother Arnold's Revolutionary War Pension file (W21, 653); his date of death is from his grave marker in the Mineral Spring Cemetery, located in what is now Pawtucket (Mineral Spring Cemetery Recs., p. 11, Arnold Collection, Knight Memorial Library, Providence; Report of Genealogical Records Committee of Rhode Island N.S.D.A.R., 1934, 1:85, RIHS) and from the *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle* (3 Oct. 1834, p. 3).

On 13 March 1794 Samuel "Bensley" of North Providence married MARY PECK BUCKLIN in Rehoboth, Massachusetts (Rehoboth Marriages, 3:311; James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642-1896* [hereinafter *Rehoboth VRs*] [Providence, 1897], 26, incorrectly shows Samuel's name as "Beasley"). Mary was born in Rehoboth 14 March 1771 and died in the Village of Pawtucket, North Providence, 24 July 1839, aged 68 years, the daughter of John⁵ (*James*⁴⁻³, *Joseph*², *William*¹) and Amey (Arnold) Bucklin (*Rehoboth VRs*, 562; *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 24 July 1839, p. 3; grave marker, Mineral Spring Cemetery, as above, which shows she d. in her 69th year; Hattie B. Cooper, comp., "Squire Bucklin of Foster, R.I. His Ancestors back to William Hingham [sic] Bucklin of Hingham, Mass., 1635 and His Descendants Buckland, Bucklen, Bucklin, Bucklyn" [Roxbury, Mass., 1944], typescript at the Society; GEORGE Wells Bucklin, "The Bucklin Family" [Broomall, Pa., 1958], 22, 48, typescript, RIHS).

During the Revolutionary War, Samuel Benchley (also recorded as Bendley and Bensley), although quite young, served as a private in Captain Daniel Mowry's Company, Colonel George Peck's Regiment of the 2d Battalion, performing duty "on Rhode Island" 8-17 March 1781 (Military Papers, 3:493, 506, 4:595, RIHS). It is stated in his death notice in the *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle* that Samuel was a Revolutionary pensioner, but no file has been found for him at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Samuel Benchleys lived in North Providence, in that part which became the Village of Pawtucket. Mary's father died in 1795 and on 5 December 1796 Samuel and his brother-in-law Joseph Bucklin purchased 4 acres and 61 rods at Bucklin's Island in Rehoboth from Amey Bucklin, administratrix of John Bucklin's estate, for \$109.53. On 6 February 1798 Samuel Benchley of North Providence, housewright, and Joseph Bucklin of Rehoboth, yeoman, sold this land to James Mason of North Providence for \$126.44. A division of Bucklin's estate was made 4 May 1798, with "Polly Benchley wife of Samuel Benchley & eldest Daughter of John Bucklin" receiving 11 acres and 54 rods, valued at \$318.77.3. Samuel and Polly disposed of this land on 17 May 1798, selling it for \$500 to Benjamin Angell of Smithfield, probably Samuel's brother-in-law. On the same day, Angell paid them \$100 for part of the Rehoboth estate of John Bucklin which had been set off to his widow as her dower (Bristol Co. [Mass.] Deeds, 76:558, 561, 77:83, 553; Bristol Co. [unnumbered] probate file of John Bucklin, 1795).

In 1793 Samuel Benchley was an incorporator of the Catholic Baptist Society in Pawtucket Village (First Baptist Ch. recs., 1:12, 22, 39; see also Robert Grieve, *An Illustrated History of Pawtucket, Central Falls And Vicinity* [hereinafter *Hist. Pawtucket*] [Pawtucket, R.I., 1897], 176, and Rev. Messena Goodrich, *Historical Sketch of Pawtucket* [Pawtucket, 1876], 163). Samuel signed a petition in October 1796 regarding about nine hundred dollars subscribed by petitioners in 1793 for the building of a meetinghouse for public worship in Pawtucket. The petition called for a lottery to raise an additional two thousand dollars to complete the house (Petitions to the General Assembly, 30:65, RIA).

Samuel Benchley became involved with a snuff manufacturing mill in North Providence, apparently in conjunction with his father-in-law. Amy Bucklin, widow of John and guardian of their minor children, and their adult children James Bucklin, Samuel Benchley and his wife Mary, and Amy Bucklin, were paid \$500 to settle a dispute about the mill's dam on the Pawtucket River. Their settlement was part of a larger agreement, dated 10th 2d month 1797, between owners of two other dams on the river (North Providence Deeds, 3:107-108). Sometime before May of that year Samuel and Benjamin Jenks of North Providence had the snuff plant, but their partnership was later dissolved (Pets. to the Genl. Assembly, 31:71).

Samuel "Bensley" was also an incorporator of the local fire district, apparently about 1801 (*Hist. Pawtucket* 129). In October 1804 he and his brother Arnold signed a petition for the repeal of an act of 1787 preventing the draining of the seines in the Providence River (Pets. to the Genl. Assembly, 36:22).

The Samuel Bensleys were enumerated on the Federal censuses in North Providence, where in 1800 they had one male and three females under 10 (1800 Census, p. 231). They are not found there in 1810 but in 1820 had one male 10-16, one 16-26, and two females 16-26. In 1830 there were one male and two females 20-30, with Mary wrongly listed as age 40-50 (1800 Census, p. 231; 1820 Census, p. 115; 1830 Census, p. 215).

At the North Providence town council meeting of 27 July 1818, a complaint was presented by the overseers of the poor that Samuel "Bensley" was residing in the town and "likely to become a Town charge," and it was judged that he had no legal settlement in any other town except Smithfield. Benchley, his wife, daughters Mary and Minerva, and son James, were ordered to remove to Smithfield "immediately after the first day of April next," to be delivered into the custody of one of the overseers of the poor of Smithfield, unless it was first determined that Samuel had legal residence in another town (North Providence TC & Probate, C-2:327, 362). Apparently no further action was taken; there is no evidence the Benchleys left North Providence.

Mary "Bensley" of North Providence, on 14 January 1825, purchased from Stephen and Ruth Jenks of North Providence, two-fifths of five and a half acres, known as the Davis Lot, located in Pawtucket between Pleasant Street and the Pawtucket River and north of Riverside Cemetery. Abraham Wilkinson purchased the remaining three-fifths of this property and in 1832 he and Lydia Wilkinson, perhaps his wife, quitclaimed their right to the lot to Mary's son James B. Benchley and son-in-law Warren Wakefield, then of Ludlow, Massachusetts. No doubt the Samuel Benchleys had been living on this land for some time. The succession of ownership of the property is not too clear, but in April and May 1870, the surviving four children of Samuel and Mary and their nephew John Benchley executed quitclaim deeds to each other for a division of the land. Also quitclaiming were their widowed sister-in-law Roma Bensley and her surviving children (North Providence Deeds, 6:318, 7:164, 48:318, 320:326). As early as 1790, a hospital for smallpox victims had been established in a dwelling on this property, "selected for its fine scenery, excellent water, and healthy location." Here Mary (Bucklin) Benchley had been a patient and nurse (*Hist. Pawtucket*, 68; 1636. *History of the State of Rhode Island* [Philadelphia, 1878], 226; see also *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 19 Aug. 1870, p. 2).

The Benchley children Clarissa Wakefield, Minerva Benchley, and Mary Benchley were remembered by their mother's sister, Amey (Bucklin) Jenks, in her will of 26 April 1856 (Pawtucket Probate file 764).

Children, probably all born in North Providence, surname *Benchley*:

- i. CLARISSA⁴, b. ca. 1794-5 or 1799-1800; d. of old age in Pawtucket, R.I., 29 Jan. 1889, aged 94 (North Providence/Pawtucket Deaths, 3:48; Pawtucket Cong. Ch. recs., #227, show 28 Jan.); m. by 1830 WARREN WAKEFIELD, b. ca. 1809-10 in Conn., probably in Somers, where he and two of his siblings were baptized 10 Aug. 1817, d. of chronic diffuse nephritis at his home "on the Bensley place" in Pawtucket 26 Nov. 1887, aged 77, son of David W. and Love (Loomis) Wakefield and brother of Cordelia Wakefield who m. Samuel Bensley, Clarissa's

nephew (North Providence/Pawtucket Deaths, 3:29; *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 2 Dec. 1887, p. 2, shows aged 78; "Connecticut Church Records, Somers Congregational Church 1727-1890" [Hartford, 1954], 208, 209, typescript, Conn. State Library; *Descendants of Joseph Loomis In America*, rev. by Elisha S. Loomis [n.p., 1908], 185).

In 1830 Warren and Clarissa were living in Somers, Conn., their household containing an unidentified female age 5-10 (1830 Census, p. 211). In the early 1830s Warren and his brothers-in-law James B. and John Benchley were in Ludlow, Mass., perhaps in connection with the Jenksville textile mills, founded in 1814 by Benjamin and Washington Jenks, Joseph Bucklin, and George Wilkinson of Ludlow and Stephen H. Smith of Providence, the latter selling his shares to Samuel Slater (Washington Jenks m. Amy Bucklin, maternal aunt of Clarissa (Benchley) Wakefield) (Alfred Noon, comp., *The History of Ludlow, Massachusetts*, 2d ed. [Springfield, Mass., 1912], 217). On 6 Oct. 1832, Warren and James purchased from George Wilkinson of North Providence his right in "the Davis lot" in that town, for \$150. Abraham and Lydia Wilkinson of North Providence quitclaimed their right in the property to Wakefield and Benchley the same day for \$1.00. As indicated above, Abraham Wilkinson had purchased three-fifths of the lot in 1825 and Mary (Bucklin) Benchley the other two-fifths, from Stephen and Ruth Jenks of North Providence, for \$550. James Benchley sold Wakefield his interest in the Davis lot on 12 July 1833 for \$150 (North Providence Deeds, 6:318, 7:163, 164, 221). Wakefield purchased half of four acres and twenty-seven rods near the Village of Pawtucket, "the Benchley lot," from Pardon Jenks on 9 April 1838; this property was just north of Samuel Benchley's, or rather, Mary's purchase. Warren and Clarissa Wakefield of Pawtucket, Mass., sold this.

By 6 May 1838 the Wakefields were in Pawtucket, Mass. (now R.I.), when Warren, Clarissa, and her sister Marietta Bensley joined the Pawtucket Congregational Church on Walcott St. by profession of faith (CRs, nos. 219, 227, 228). In 1840 the Wakefields were enumerated in Pawtucket, Mass., with a large household of three males 15-20, one 20-30, three 30-40, one 40-50, six 50-60, and two females 30-40 (1840 Census, p. 78). The family has not been found on the 1850 censuses for Mass., R.I., or Conn., but in 1860 they were in Pawtucket, Mass., where Warren was a grocer. Clarissa's niece Mary B. "Bentley" was living with them that year (1860 Census, p. 73, #151-305). With his nephew Samuel Bensley, Warren kept a grocery at 1 Prospect St., growing the produce on his farm (*Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 2 Dec. 1887, p. 2). Warren was a teacher in North Providence in 1865 and a farmer at the time of his death. In 1865 Clarissa's niece Mary was still living with the Wakefields, as were her sisters "Mary" and Minerva and their aunt Amy Jenks (1865 R.I. Census, North Providence, 7:142, #699-1120, microfilm, RIHS).

Pawtucket city directories show Warren Wakefield, farmer, lived at 300 (now 290) Pleasant St. from 1877, with boarders William A. and Warren H. Slater, his brother-in-law and nephew, with him until 1881. He was dismissed from the Pawtucket Cong. Ch. to the Park Place Cong. Ch. on 19 Sept. 1882 (Pawtucket Cong. Ch. recs., #219). By his will of 3 Feb. 1885, proved 23 Jan. 1888, Warren Wakefield of

Pawtucket bequeathed his estate to his wife Clarissa, although he also left Mary B. Benchley and Louisa Fanning, daughters of James B. Benchley, his house and a lot on property he had purchased from Marietta Bensley. His sister Elizabeth Slater and her son Warren H. Slater were also mentioned. Isaac C. Kenyon of Pawtucket and John T. Fanning of Manchester, N.H., were named executors (Pawtucket Probate file 2481). Warren was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Pawtucket.

23. ii. JOHN B[UCKLIN?], b. 14 May 1796; m. ROMA ANN GOFF.
- iii. (perhaps) DAUGHTER, b. ca. 1797?; d. 1800–1820?
- iv. (perhaps) DAUGHTER, b. ca. 1799?; d. 1800–1820?
- v. MARIETTA A. [Mary], b. ca. 30 April 1801; d. unm., of exhaustion from old age in Pawtucket, R.I., 22 June 1885, aged 84y 1m 22d (RI Deaths, 1885, p. 677; Pawtucket Cong. CRs, #228). She joined the Pawtucket Congregational Church on 6 May 1838 with her sister Clarissa (CRs., #228). Often called Mary in records, she lived in North Providence where in 1850 Ichabod England, a 22-year-old Canadian currier, was living with her. In 1860 and 1870 she was living with her sister Minerva and aunt Amy Jenks and in 1865 with her sister Clarissa. Mary's real estate was valued at \$1000 in 1870 (1850 Census, p. 330, #614–824; 1860 Census, North Providence, 7:353, #558–923, R.I. State copy, RIHS; 1870 Census, p. 365, #558–923). By her will of 30 June 1876, proved 29 July 1885, Marietta B. Bensley of Pawtucket left all her estate to her sister Minerva B. Knapp, but after the latter's death she crossed off her name and substituted that of Mary B. Bensley of Pawtucket, her niece. The will was witnessed by Isaac C. Kenyon, William A. Slater, Louise B. Fanning, and Warren Wakefield. John T. Fanning was bonded as executor, with James B. Bensley and Warren Wakefield as sureties, their bond witnessed by John Hancock and Isaac C. Kenyon (Pawtucket Probate file 2155). All were close relatives except Kenyon, who was a neighbor.
- vi. MINERVA BUCKLIN, b. ca. 1803; d. a widow, of insanity in Pawtucket, R.I., 3 Dec. 1879, aged 75 (North Providence/Pawtucket Deaths, 2:188); m. in Pawtucket, Mass., 24 Oct. 1843, CHARLES P. KNAPP of New Haven, Conn. (Arnold, 9:304).
Minerva B. Benchley joined the Pawtucket Congregational Church on 2 May 1841 (CRs., Vol. 1). The Knapps have not been found on the 1850 census, but "Manerva" Knapp and her sister "Mary" were living with their aunt Amy Jenks in North Providence in 1860 and 1870, and in 1865, as "Minerva Bensley," she was there with her sister Clarissa Wakefield.
24. vii. JAMES BUCKLIN, b. 11 June 1805; m. (1) MARY DURHAM; m. (2) MARIA WALKER.

9. ISAAC³ BENCHLEY (*William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, 1 August 1766 and died probably in North Providence, Rhode Island, between 1830 and 1840, when his name disappears from the censuses, or perhaps after 1 February 1841, as discussed below. His date of birth is noted on a paper in his brother Arnold's Revolutionary War pension file.

Isaac Benchley was of Smithfield when he married in Providence, Rhode Island, 22 September 1796, SALLY DAY of Johnston, Rhode Island (Arnold, 2:4:9). She was born in Rhode Island about 1774 or 1775 and in 1850 was

blind, living in Smithfield with the William Pooke family (1850 Census, p. 381, #165-191). Perhaps she was a close relative of Amy Day who married Isaac's nephew (No. 11) William Benchley.

Much less information has been found about Isaac Benchley than his brothers. The earliest discovered record about him is 18 May 1778, when he and his brother Stafford were to be admitted for inoculation at the hospital of the wife of Jeremiah Scott, as "it appear more than Probal [they] have taken the smallpox" (Smithfield TC & Probate 1). On 17 August 1795 Isaac and others, including his father William and brother Stafford, were appointed to assist Henry Jenckes, the Smithfield surveyor of highways, with road repair (*ibid.*).

Isaac was taxed in North Providence from 1801 to 1807 (North Providence TC & Probate No. 2, 1802-1811, A-5:7, 17, 45, 73, 103, 130, 159). While his name has not been found on later tax lists, Isaac remained in North Providence, where in 1810 he witnessed a deed and was enumerated with one male and one female both age 26-45 (Smithfield Deeds, 12:117; 1810 Census, p. 57). In 1820 there were one male 45 and upwards, one female under 10, and one 45 and upwards, with one person engaged in manufacturing (1820 Census, p. 113). Isaac was enumerated in 1830 with one male 60-70, one female 5-10, one 10-15, and one 50-60 (1830 Census, p. 217). His name is not found in the 1840 census for Rhode Island.

The North Providence town council, on 1 February 1841, found "Isaac Bensly a person not settled in this town and likely to become chargeable," and he was warned to depart within ten days after notice was served on him (North Providence TC & Probate No. 5, A-8:76). It is not clear if this record refers to this Isaac or the younger person of that name who was perhaps his son. Although the younger Isaac does not seem to have been included in the census records with the older man, there was an Isaac Benchley Jr. of North Providence who may have been his son. Isaac and Sally may have had also at least two daughters, although census records indicate they would have been born when Sally was in her forties. Perhaps these were grandchildren or some other relations, if they were related at all.

Possible children, surname *Benchley*:

25. i. ISAAC⁴, b. ca. 1800?; m. Elizabeth Thornton.
- ii. DAUGHTER, b. ca. 1815-20?
- iii. DAUGHTER, b. ca. 1820-25?

10. STAFFORD STUKELEY³ BENCHLEY (*William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, 24 July 1773 and died of old age at 43 Salem Street in Worcester, Massachusetts, 15 August 1860, aged 87 years 21 days (Mass. VRs, 140:270; *Boston Evening Transcript*, 16 Aug. 1860, p. 3; his birth date is from WKB; his birth as listed on a paper in his brother Arnold's Revolutionary War pension file seems to be 26 July, but the paper is torn along a fold at the particular point; his age at death calculates to a birth on 25 July).

Stafford married, first, 7 February 1796, RUTH HEALEY, possibly in Smithfield or Blackstone (then Mendon), Massachusetts, although the marriage is not found recorded in either town. She was born in Cumberland, Rhode Island, 6 April 1778 and died 15 January 1815 in Smithfield, the daughter of John⁴ (*Samuel*³, *Paul*², *William*¹) and Martha (Powers) Healey [or Healy] (WKB; Mrs. Carl W. Carrier, *Healy History Revised* [hereinafter *Healey Hist.*] [Longmeadow, Mass., 1968], 74).

Stafford married, second, in Smithfield, 17 September 1817, RHODA (ELDREDGE) BASSETT. She was born in Harwich, Massachusetts, 22 February 1783 and died in North Malden (now Melrose), Massachusetts, 16 October 1848, aged 66, the daughter of Thomas⁴ (*William*³⁻², *Robert*¹) and Sarah (Gage) Eldredge [or Eldridge] (Deloraine P. Corey, *Births Marriages And Deaths In The Town of Malden, Massachusetts 1649-1850* [hereinafter *Malden VRs*] [Cambridge, 1903], 330; WKB; cem. rec. shows her age as 63). She was the widow of Captain Nathaniel Bassett of Harwich, by whom she had three or four children. (For Nathaniel's Bassett ancestry, see Robert Ray King, "The Family of Nathan Bassett of Chatham," the *Register*, 125[1971]:7-20. This article shows only the two children of Nathaniel and Rhoda whose births were recorded in Harwich.)

On 18 May 1778 Stafford and his brother Isaac were ordered to be inoculated for smallpox (Smithfield TC & Probate 1). He attended the common schools of Smithfield and learned carpentry at an early age, probably as an apprentice. He also was employed at butchering young cattle. He met his first wife Ruth while she was keeping a boarding house in Blackstone (then Mendon), Massachusetts, and where he was boarding, being at the time overseer of what later became the Harris Mills in Woonsocket, Rhode Island (WKB, from which much of the following information about the Stafford Benchleys is also drawn). On 17 August 1795 Stafford, his father William, brother Isaac, and others were appointed to assist Henry Jenckes, then Smithfield's surveyor of highways, with road repair (Smithfield TC & Probate 1).

Evidently Stafford also learned shoemaking, perhaps from his father and/or brothers, for soon after his first marriage he moved to Providence where he had his own shoe shop. He then moved back to Smithfield to farm, but later returned to Providence. The exact dates of his movements are not known, but he was enumerated in Smithfield in 1800 (as "S. Stafford Benchley") and 1810 (1800 Census, p. 520; 1810 Census, p. 94).

By May of 1814 Stafford Benchley was in desperate circumstances, as were other struggling tradesmen with large families in a sliding economy. In his petition to the General Assembly of that date for "the Benefit of an Act passed in June AD 1756 entitled an act for the Release of Insolvent Debtors," Stafford Benchley of Smithfield, "Cordwainer alias Carder," recited his business beginnings in Smithfield as a cordwainer, where he had

hopes of gaining for himself & family a comfortable livelihood: But owing to circumstances which rendered it altogether impossible for him to gain that subsistence, he was induced in hopes of rendering his situation more comfortable and his gains greater to quit his business of a Cordwainer and entered in a Cotton Factory with his family. But here again he was disappointed and at the end of a year he found himself

indebted to the Company notwithstanding he & his family had in said Factory. . . he has had a great share of sickness in his family and a greater part of Eighteen months his wife has been very sick and still continues to be more so. . . he [has?] had a considerable money to pay for his Father whose age and infirmities rendered it impossible for him to assist himself—That under these accumulated distresses he finds himself at present in Debt about three hundred dollars and feels himself unable to defray it and sees no way to extrocate himself but through the interposition of the Hon^{ble} Assembly. . . [He] would further state that he has been sued & put to great and extrav[ag]ant expenses in paying Bills of Costs—that Excois are now pending against him and he must soon be put into prison if not otherwise released.

Benchley was then working as a carder in Smithfield and “makes out frugality & industry to keep his family together.” His petition was accompanied by an inventory of his household goods, showing the barest of items, and a list of his debts, amounting to \$327.98, the largest sum of \$97 due to “Wain-scutt M. Co. N.” Benchley was working for Stephen Jenks & Sons (to whom he was indebted \$50); a letter of 17 February 1815 from David Jenks of Pawtucket, one of the members of the firm, indicated Stafford had worked there since September 1813. Jenks described Benchley as “Steady & Industrious. . . an honest man free from bad habits, his family. . . very Expensive by sickness and otherwise unfortunate. . . [and] the high wages of Sixteen Dollars per weeks which we have paid him & his family during the time has been insufficient to defray the expence of his family.” The Rhode Island House of Representatives granted the petition on 23 February 1815 (Pets. to the Genl. Assembly, 43:11).

“Staford Benchley” was in Providence in 1820, and besides his wife, only his four youngest children were living with him (1820 Census, p. 150). The 1826 Providence city directory shows he was a shoemaker on Charles Street, living at 257 North Main Street; his stepson Elisha Bassett was apparently in business with him. Stafford was not listed in the 1824 or 1828 directories.

The Benchleys then moved to Chatham, Massachusetts, where Stafford worked two or three years in the ship chandler’s store of Smith Eldredge, Rhoda’s nephew. The 1830 census shows the Benchleys there with their three youngest daughters and three other females, unidentified—one under 5 and two 20-30 (1830 Census, p. 492). The family moved next to North Malden (now Melrose), Massachusetts, where Stafford leased a large farm. His son James helped him to stock it, apparently with dairy cattle, for Stafford “raised milk” to be transported to and sold in Boston. James’s son Henry W. Benchley also worked on his grandfather’s farm as a young boy. At this time Stafford also continued to do carpentry and custom shoe work. After about a year he went to Stoneham, Massachusetts, and worked on a farm there for a summer, moving next to Charlestown, where he worked in the currier shop of Lane and Hopkins (currier Benjamin Hopkins married Stafford’s daughter Sarah—see below). “Staffard Bensley” is listed in the 1840 Charlestown city directory as a shoemaker at 4 Sullivan Street and the census for that year shows him there with wife Rhoda and daughter Hannah, living next to the household of his son-in-law, Benjamin Hopkins (1840 Census, p. 149). Stafford prob-

ably did not remain long in Charlestown; his name is not found in the directories for 1836, 1838, 1842, or 1845.

The Benchleys returned to Malden where they lived in a house of the Reverend John McLeish, whose wife Rhoda was a daughter of Rhoda Benchley by her first husband (see Roger D. Joslyn, comp., "The Descendants of Reverend John and Rhoda (Bassett) McLeish" [typescript, Winthrop, Mass., 1978], currently under revision). Stafford continued to do shoe work and also built a house for McLeish and perhaps built his (Protestant Methodist) church. Stafford's wife Rhoda was buried in the Old North Malden Cemetery in the Stafford Benchley lot, with her daughter Sarah and some Bassett infants. When the cemetery was later cleared for other use, the graves were moved to the Wyoming Cemetery in Melrose, but there are no markers for the family. On 4 April 1846 Stafford wrote son James that "your [step]mothers health is very poor" and "I want Hannah to come home as soon as possible as mother cannot do without her." He also reported that that morning the "large school house near Mr. McLeishs meeting house is burnt to the ground, & came very near burning the meeting house but by great exertion was saved" (original letter in possession of Robert S. Benchley).

Not long after Rhoda's death, Stafford went to live with his son James on Maple Street in Millbury, Massachusetts. He was living there with James in 1850 and 1855 (1850 Census, p. 64, #76-87; 1855 Mass. State Census, 1st group of Millbury, n.p., #213-288, microfilm, Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, wrongly showing his age as 84 and birthplace as Mass.). He later went with James to Montague, Massachusetts, and then to Worcester, where they were enumerated in 1860 (1860 Census, Ward 6, p. 491, #1372-2037, showing his name as "Benchly"). His death record calls him a farmer. Among his many abilities were hunting, fishing, and farming, and, skillful with a knife, he fashioned many kinds of toys and baskets in his later years.

Children, by first wife Ruth Healey, born in Rhode Island (WKB; *Healey Hist.*, 74), surname *Benchley*:

26. i. JAMES HEALEY⁴, b. 28 June 1796; m. (1) HANNAH WETHERBEE; m. (2) NANCY HEMENWAY ALLEN.
- ii. CELINDA [Silyndia in WKB] ANN, b. 1 Aug. 1798; d. unm., in Providence 13 April 1827, in her 29th year (*Providence Journal*, 23 April 1827, in Arnold, 12:422; *Rhode Island American*, 23 April 1827, in Arnold, 20:572, the latter of which shows her name as Benckley and that she d. in 1817). Celinda is listed for 1817 in the account book of Jonathan Baker Jr., mason (in the possession [1988] of Stephen McKenzie of Johnston, R.I.).
27. iii. ARNOLD POWER, b. 13 Sept. 1800; m. ANN MARBLE.
- iv. WILLIAM STUKELEY, b. 31 Oct. 1802 in Smithfield; living on Staten Island, N.Y., in April 1846. William "followed the sea" and on 17 Aug. 1824 was certified for Seaman's Protection at age 22, birthplace Smithfield (Seaman's Protection Register, RIHS). He supposedly lived in Norway, N.Y., for a while, perhaps with or near his Uncle Joseph Benchley. William Bensley, age 40, born R.I., 5' 8½", light complexion and brown hair, was among the crew of the ship *Champlain* of Philadelphia, James F. Miller, Master, which left that port for Liverpool

on 28 Sept. 1842 (Maritime Records, Masters and Crews, 1798–1880, transcribed by the Works Project Administration, 37:102, List 399, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania). He was doubtless the “Samuel Bensley,” 37, born R.I., 5' 8¼", light complexion and brown hair, who was among the crew of the ship *Warren*, Life Wilson, Master, which left the same port for Liverpool on 25 June 1838 (ibid., 33:102, List 163). While aboard the ship *India*, William was assumed lost, and a memorial was erected [where?] by the officers and crew “as a token of respect of William Benchley who fell from the ship and was drowned Nov. 12, 1844 Aged 21 [sic] years” (WKB). He was, however, rescued and wrote his father “Mr Starford Bensley, Malden Village,” on 3 April 1846 that he was in the hospital on Staten Island in “very bad” health “after leaving Philadelphia” and that later, on a return trip from Europe, “was cast away and lost all.” He did not expect to get well but wanted his brothers to assist him and word sent “to my sisters Marthy and Susan.” He also requested letters to him be addressed “Bensley,” in care of Thomas Smith at the corner of Water and “Roslvelt” streets, New York. Stafford wrote on the reverse of the letter and sent it on to son James H. Benchley in Millbury. His signature looks like “Benshley” (letter in possession of Robert S. Benchley). William “Bentley,” 44, born in Rhode Island, had been admitted to the Seaman’s Retreat on Staten Island on 30 March 1846 from the ship *Siddons* of Liverpool, Capt. Cobb, with “Astheniá á Potu [*Poitou*],” probably some form of lead poisoning and he was released as “cured” on 4 April (Register of Patients Received into the Seaman’s Retreat, Staten Island, Jan. 1845–June 1848, No. 313 for 1846, National Archives–New York Branch, Bayonne, N.J.). There is no record of William’s readmission to the Retreat in 1846 and nothing further about him has been found.

- v. MARTHA POWER, b. 26 March 1805 in Smithfield; d. of senile debility at 115 Hope St., Providence, 14 July 1890, aged 86y 4m (RI Deaths, 1890, p. 779); m. in Pawtucket, Mass., 22 Nov. 1824, RUFUS SUMNER GOULD, b. in Roxbury (now Jamaica Plain [Boston]), Mass., ca. 4 June 1796 [bp. there 12 June], d. of paralysis of the lungs at 5 North Court St., Providence, 16 Oct. 1857, aged 61y 4m 12d, son of John and Elizabeth (Sumner) Gould (WKB; *Rhode Island American*, 22 and 26 Nov. 1824, in Arnold, 19:340; RI Deaths, 1857, p. 1000; *Vital Records of Roxbury Massachusetts To the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. [Boston, 1925–1926], 1:153).

The Goulds first lived in Pawtucket, where Rufus advertised “West-India Goods and Crockery War,” as well as lottery “Tickets and Shares,” in a building across from the Pawtucket Hotel. A year later he was selling “pure Groceries,” including rum, gin, brandy, wines, sugars, teas, and other fancy goods. In 1832 he advertised purchase of a “circulating Library,” which he had moved to his office (*Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 28 April 1827, p. 4, 26 April 1828, p. 4, 26 Oct. 1832, p. 4). In 1850 the Goulds were living in Ward 4 of Providence, where Rufus was an exchange broker (1850 Census, p. 250, #329-413), also his occupation when he died. After Rufus’s death Martha remained in Providence. In 1865 she was with her daughter Martha Young and in 1870 with daughter Elizabeth (1860 Census, Ward 1, p. 228, #1026-1673; 1865 R.I. State Census, Ward 5, 21:11, #83, microfilm, RIHS; 1870 Census, Ward 4, p. 419, #156-237).

- Children, b. in Pawtucket, R.I. (1850 Census; WKB) (surname *Gould*):
1. *Elizabeth Sumner* (Eliza A. on 1850 Census), b. ca. 1824–5; d. in Chicago, Ill.; m. Charles Henry Waterhouse, b. in Portland, Me., 21 Sept. 1822, d. in Chicago Dec. 1882, son of Charles Henry⁶ (*John*⁵, *William*⁴⁻³, *Samuel*², *Richard*¹) and Eliza (Webster) Waterhouse, jeweler and silversmith; 3 children (Gilbert Herbert Waterhouse, comp., “Descendants of Richard Waterhouse of Portsmouth, N.H.” [Wakefield, Mass., 1934], 3:1425, 1426, typescript, the Society).
 2. *Edwin A.*, b. ca. 1826–7; d. of jaundice in Newbern, N.C., 10 Dec. 1862, while a pvt. in Co. F, 5th R.I. Vol. Inf., miller and silversmith; m. in Cumberland, R.I., 30 Jan. 1849, Sophronia Davis Belcher of Cumberland, b. in Falmouth, Mass., 24 Nov. 1827, d. in Providence 19 Aug. 1904, aged 76, daughter of Dr. Caleb⁵ (*John*⁴, *Samuel*³, *Richard*², *Jeremiah*¹) and Evelina (Davis) Belcher; 2 children (Oliver B. Brown, comp., *Vital Records of Falmouth, Massachusetts To The Year 1850* [Warwick, R.I., 1976], 5; Civil War Pension file 6394; Providence Deaths, 22:75).
 3. *Rufus Stafford*, b. ca. 10 May 1829; d. of epilepsy at 51 Elm St., Providence 20 June 1865, aged 36y 1m 10d, machinist (RI Deaths, 1865, p. 980); m. (1) in Providence 11 Aug. 1856, Emily F. Churchill of Taunton, Mass., b. in New Bedford, Mass., ca. 1837–8, daughter of Anson S. and Betsey S. (Collins) Churchill (Providence Mars., 6:216); m. (2) Anna Bonn, who survived him and was buried in Worcester, Mass.
 4. *Henry Clay*, b. ca. Aug. 1831; d. in Pawtucket, R.I., 18 Nov. 1832, aged 15m (*Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 23 Nov. 1832, p. 3).
 5. *Martha*, b. ca. 9 Aug. 1833; d. of a fever at 59 Sabin St., Providence 16 March 1868, aged 34y 7m 7d (RI Deaths, 1868, p. 1104); m. in Providence 30 April 1862, as his 2d wife, Henry Dexter S. Young (Providence Mars., 8:11), b. in Providence ca. July 1836, d. of mitral stenosis at 15 James St., Springfield, Mass., 10 May 1895, aged 58y 10m, son of George W. and Sarah C. (Porter) Young, a boxmaker and a drummer in Co. G, 11th R.I. Vol. Inf. during the Civil War; 2 children (Civil War Pension file 478364).
- vi. *SUSAN A.*, b. 4 Aug. 1807 in Smithfield; d. unm., of breast cancer in Providence 11 Sept. 1861, aged 54y 6m (RI Deaths, 1861, p. 1004). She was a Quaker and was living with Ruth Greene of Warwick, R.I., singlewoman, when she was mentioned in the latter’s will of 10 June 1834 (Warwick Wills, 11:52–55, abstracted in *Rhode Island Genealogical Register*, 9 [1986]:142). In 1850 Susan was living with the George C. Kenyon family in East Greenwich, R.I. (1850 Census, p. 235, #237-284). In 1860 she was a servant in the household of Martha S. Gould in Newport, R.I. (1860 Census, p. 232, #508-658).
28. vii. *GEORGE ARNOLD* [Angell?], b. 19 April 1810; m. *RACHEL WESTON BOWE*.
- viii. *SARAH A.* [Sarah M. in WKB], b. 10 Sept. 1815; d. in Charlestown (now Boston), Mass., 15 Sept. 1845, aged 30 (WKB and *Boston Transcript*, 16 Sept. 1845, p. 2; Mass. VRs, 21:16, incorrectly show she d. 18 Sept. and was b. in Malden); m. in Malden (probably now Melrose) 12 Jan. 1836, *BENJAMIN HOPKINS* of Malden (*Malden VRs*, 203), b. in Brewster, Mass., 5 Aug. 1812, d. in Pembroke, Mass., 3 Nov. 1881, aged 62y 2m 18d [sic], son of Nathan⁶ (?*Nathan*⁵, *Joseph*⁴, *Stephen*³, *Giles*², *Stephen*¹) and [Mary (Berry)?] Hopkins (Mass. VRs, 329:328, which incorrectly show him as the son of Isaac; Plymouth Co. [Mass.]

Probate file 172; Timothy Hopkins, comp., "Stephen Hopkins and His Descendants," the *Register*, 104[1950]:215). Benjamin m. (1) in Charlestown 20 March 1834, Eveline Dean Wright, b. in Charlestown 14 Oct. 1813, d. there May 1835, aged 22, daughter of John Jr. and Sally (Prescott) Wright (Roger D. Joslyn, ed. and comp., *Vital Records of Charlestown Massachusetts To The Year 1850*, 2 vols. [Boston, 1984-1988], 2:334; Thomas Bellows Wyman, *The Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown. . . , Massachusetts, 1629-1818* [Boston, 1879; reprint ed., Somersworth, N.H., 1982], 1052; *Columbian Centinel* [Boston], 30 May 1835, p. 1), by whom he had a son; m. (3) in Abington, Mass., 25 Dec. 1848, Mary M. Keen of Abington, b. in Maine ca. 1824-5, living in 1881, daughter of Edward and Sarah (_____) Keen (*Vital Records of Abington Massachusetts To The Year 1850*, 2 vols. [Boston, 1912], 2: 109; 1850 Census, Abington, p. 231, #743-954).

In 1840 the Benjamin Hopkins family was enumerated in Charlestown near the Stafford Benchleys (1840 Census, p. 149) and in 1850 Benjamin was a currier in Abington.

Children, by second wife Rhoda Eldredge:

- ix. RUTH HEALEY, b. 9 or 19 May 1818 in Cumberland (WKB gives both dates; d. rec. states b. Smithfield); d. of paralysis in Marlborough, Mass., 2 Feb. 1894, aged 75y 9d [sic] (Mass. VRs, 446:285; Middlesex Co. Probate, 1st Series, file 46647); m. in Malden (probably now Melrose), Mass., 20 Oct. 1835, LEWIS FISHER JR. (*Malden VRs*, 204), b. in Malden 21 Sept. 1815, d. of old age in Marlborough 13 March 1896, aged 80y 5m 21d, son of Lewis and Sarah (Sargent) Fisher (*ibid.*, 28; Mass. VRs, 464:297).

In 1850 the Fishers were living in Malden where Lewis was a dyer (1850 Census, p. 378, #204-268). Lewis and Ruth were both buried in Marlborough.

Children, born in Malden (*Malden VRs*, 28; 1850 Census; WKB) (surname *Fisher*): 1. *Edwin*. 2. *Sarah Jane*, b. 2 June 1840; d. in Marlborough 22 Dec. 1919; m. in Hopedale, Mass., 31 July 1859, Julius Morgan Woods, b. in Barre, Mass., 8 Oct. 1835, d. in Marlborough 22 Oct. 1901, son of Edward⁶ (*James*⁵⁻⁴⁻³, *John*²⁻¹) and Caroline (Russell) Woods; 3 children (Mass. Deaths, 1919, 69:459; Mass. VRs, 517:645; *Vital Records of Barre, Massachusetts, To the end of the year 1849* [Worcester, 1903], 96; Adin Ballou, *History of the Town of Milford* [hereinafter *Hist. Milford*] [Boston, 1882], 1142). 3. *Mary Elizabeth S.*, b. 30 Nov. 1843; d. in Marlborough 15 June 1917; m. in Milford, Mass., 10 Oct. 1866, as his 2d wife, William Henry Scammell, b. in Milford 21 June 1838, d. there 26 May 1880, son of Alexander⁴ (*Alexander*³, *Samuel L.*²⁻¹) and Ann Augusta (Partridge) Scammell, and a Civil War veteran; one child (Mass. Deaths, 1917, 53:90; Mass. VRs, 321:397; *Vital Records of Milford, Massachusetts, To The Year 1850* [Boston, 1917], 154; *Hist. Milford*, 1009). 4. *Ellen Augusta* [M.?], b. 21 May 1849 (death rec. shows b. Milford); d. in Marlborough 23 Oct. 1917; m. in Milford 10 Jan. 1877, Edward Lambert Bigelow, b. in Marlborough 27 June 1839, d. there 24 Nov. 1915, son of Lambert⁸

(*Gershom*⁷⁻⁶, *Ivory*⁵, *Gershom*⁴, *John*³, *Samuel*², *John*¹) and Emily F. (Dickinson) Bigelow; 3 children (Mass. VRs, 290:133, 291:218; Mass. Deaths, 1917, 53:155, 1915, 49:481; Gilman Bigelow Howe, *Genealogy of the Bigelow Family of America* [Worcester, 1890], 415; Ella A. Bigelow, *Historical Reminiscences of The Early Times in Marlborough, Massachusetts* [Marlborough, 1910], 177-178; Middlesex Co. Probate, 2d Series, files 106137 [Edward] and 114413 [Ellen]).

x. THOMAS C., b. 15 Dec. 1822; d. 20 Sept. 1824.

xi. HANNAH MARIA [Hannah Wetherby in WKB], b. 22 Oct. 1826 in Providence; d. in Marlborough, Mass., 4 Oct. 1910 (Mass. Deaths, 1910, 68:416); m. in Malden, Mass., 13 Aug. 1848, JAMES BROWN JR. (*Malden VRs*, 204), b. in North Malden (now Melrose) 19 Dec. 1817, d. in Fitchburg, Mass., 2 Nov. 1902, aged 84y 10m 13d, son of James and Nancy (Howard) Brown, a shoe cutter and later wood turner (*ibid.*, 9; Mass. VRs, 530:323; 1850 Census, p. 284, #91-97, where James appears as John; Worcester Co. Probate, Series B, file 30927). In 1855 Hannah and her sons James H. and Walter C. were living with her brother James in Millbury, Mass.

Children (surname *Brown*): 1. *Florence Eveline*, b. 15 Jan. 1849 in Malden (now Melrose); d. in Melrose 6 Sept. 1853 (*Malden VRs*, 9, which gives her middle name as Ebeline; Mass. VRs, 76:99, showing her name as Florance and sex as male; Wyoming Cemetery rec. shows Florence Evelyn, d. 22 July 1853, aged 4y 6m). 2. *James Herbert* (James Stewart in WKB), b. 1 Jan. 1851 in Melrose; d. in Fitchburg 2 Oct. 1898, aged 47 (Mass. VRs, 52:125, 483:678); m. in Fitchburg 2 April 1872, Flora Elizabeth Wood (Florence L. in WKB), b. in Athol or Enfield, Mass., ca. 1847-8, d. in Fitchburg 7 March 1880, aged 32, daughter of Sylvanus and Elizabeth (_____) Wood (Mass. VRs, 246:253, 321:370); 3 children. 3. *Walter Clarence*, b. ca. 2 Nov. 1852 in [Milford?]; d. in Norway, Me., 15 Sept. 1910, aged 57y 10m 13d (Maine VRs); m. (1) in Fitchburg 6 Oct. 1880, Carrie E. Howarth (Mass. VRs, 318:252), b. in New London, Conn., ca. 8 July 1856, d. in Fitchburg 29 Jan. 1897, aged 40y 6m 21d, daughter of John K. and Ann (Sisson) Howarth (Mass. VRs, 474:608); 2 children; m. (2) Nov. 1906, Mary Emma (_____) Martel of Fitchburg, b. in Ontario, Canada, ca. 1857-8, who came to the U.S. in 1887 and who survived him (WKB; 1910 Census, Village of Norway, Me., ED 199, p. 4, #75-93; Worcester Co. [Mass.] Probate, Series B, files 47603 [Carrie] and 48456 [Walter]). 4. *Child*; d. before 1900. 5. *Benjamin Franklin*, b. 7 May 1859 in Welaka, Fla; d. unm., in Fitchburg 3 April 1917 (Mass. VRs, 124:149; Mass. Deaths, 1917, 27:361).

[To be continued]

THE BENCHLEY-BENSLEY FAMILY

[Continued from page 297]

Roger D. Joslyn

11. WILLIAM⁴ BENCHLEY (*Arnold*³, *William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born 14 February 1773 in Rhode Island, probably in North Providence where his father was enumerated in 1774, and he died in September 1849 in Smithfield, Rhode Island, aged 76 (birth from his deposition in his father's Revolutionary War pension file; death from 1850 Mortality, Smithfield, in Report of Genealogical Records Committee of Rhode Island N.S.D.A.R. 1945, p. 113, which gives his name as "Bensley").

William married AMEY DAY, who was born in Smithfield about 10 May 1778 and died of old age in North Providence 26 May 1861, aged 83 years and 16 days, daughter of Nathan and Lydia (____) Day (RI Deaths, 1861, p. 948).

In 1800 he was first listed on the census as William Benchley, Jun., evidently to distinguish him from his grandfather, and his household in Smithfield that year included his wife and young daughter (1800 Census, p. 519). Soon thereafter he moved to North Providence, where he and his uncle (No. 9) Isaac Benchley were taxed for personal property in 1801 in highway district No. 5 (North Providence TC & Probate No. 2, 1802-1811, A-5:7). William was not listed on subsequent tax lists and he does not appear as the head of a household on the 1810 Census. In 1820, however, he was farming in North Providence, but his daughter Joanna was not with him then (1820 Census, p. 107). In 1830 and 1840 his household there included others than his wife and children. In 1830 there were one male 5-10, one 20-30, one 30-40, one 50-60, one female 10-15, one 15-20, two 20-30, and one 50-60, and in 1840 there were one male under 5, one 15-20, one 20-30, one 30-40, one 40-50, one 60-70, one female 5-10, one 15-20, one 20-30, one 30-40, and one 60-70, with eleven persons engaged in agriculture (1830 Census, p. 217; 1840 Census, p. 185). William was still farming at the time of his death (Mort. rec.).

After William's death Amey Benchley lived with her daughter Eliza Esten, in Smithfield in 1850 and in North Providence in 1860 (1850 Census, p. 133, #500-800; 1860 Census, p. 395, #942-1358).

Children (it should be noted that presumed son William W. Benchley was a confectioner, as were his presumed brothers-in-law Olney Keech and Philander Fisher), surname *Benchley*:

- i. JO(H)ANNA MANTON⁵, b. ca. 10 May 1800 in Smithfield; d. of heart failure in Attleborough, Mass., 22 March 1885, aged 84y 10m 12d

(Mass. VRs, 364:79); of North Providence when she m. in Providence, 9 Sept. 1824, OLNEY KEECH of Providence (*Rhode Island American*, in Arnold, 19:340), b. in Scituate, R.I., ca. 11 Dec. 1802, d. of exhaustion at his residence, 258 High St., Central Falls, R.I., 16 July 1881, aged 78y 7m 5d, son of Rice and Mary P. (_____) Keech, confectioner and originator of the "O.K." lozenge (RI Deaths, 1881, p. 1164; *Providence Press*, 19 July 1881, p. 4; *Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle*, 22 July 1881, p. 2).

Children (surname *Keech*): 1. *Olney W.* 2. *Benjamin A.* 3. (possibly) *Emily J.* 4. *George L.* 5. *child.* 6. *child.*

- ii. ELIZA, b. ca. 1803-4 in Smithfield; living in Johnston, R.I., 1870 (1870 Census, p. 299, #507-643); of Smithfield when she m. in Pawtucket, R.I., 22 or 27 Nov. 1827, ALVIN ESTEN of North Providence, b. in Foster, R.I., ca. 1796-7, a farmer, living in Johnston in 1870 (Arnold, 10:312, shows m. 27 Nov.; *Rhode Island American*, in Arnold, 19:340, shows m. 22 Nov.).
- iii. (probably) WILLIAM W., b. ca. 1808-9; confectioner in Smithfield, 1850; m. SARAH A. _____, b. in R.I. ca. 1816-7 (1850 Census, Dists. 2 & 3, p. 91, #105-163). William and Sarah have not been located after 1850.
- iv. (probably) ABBY F., b. ca. 1809-10 in Providence; living there in 1865 (1865 R.I. State Census, 22:87, #7-92, microfilm, RIHS); of North Providence when she m. in Pawtucket, R.I., 17 Aug. 1831, PHILANDER W. FISHER of Providence (*Rhode Island American*, in Arnold, 19:341), a confectioner, living in Providence in 1844 (city directory).

Possible child (surname *Fisher*): *Frances.*

- v. LYDIA W., b. 7 Dec. 1817 in Smithfield; d. in Bristol, R.I., 28 May 1895, aged 78 (RI Deaths, 1895, p. 625); of Woonsocket, R.I., when she m. in Thompson, Conn., 5 July 1840, JOHN T. WILKINSON of Woonsocket (Thompson VRs, 1:306), b. in Smithfield ca. 1811, living in Bristol in 1880 (1880 Census, ED 66, p. 22, #204-282), cotton mill overseer.

Children (surname *Wilkinson*): 1. (perhaps) *Henry.* 2. *George E. S.* 3. *John J.* 4. *Charles W.B.* 5. *Abby F.* 6. *Isabella E.*

12. SAMUEL⁴ BENCHLEY (?Arnold³, William²⁻¹, Robert^{A-B}) was born about 1774 or 1775, probably in North Providence, Rhode Island, and he died 1 March 1842, aged 67 years and 3 months, probably in the Town of Middlebury, Wyoming County, New York (grave marker, noted below). That he was probably the son of Arnold Benchley of Smithfield and North Providence, Rhode Island, is supposed since Samuel had children Arnold and (probably) Elizabeth, who could have been named for his parents. He was probably also the father of William, Amey, Samuel, Nathan, and Benjamin — all names of Arnold Benchley's children and siblings. Samuel was not included among the list of Arnold's children, however, when in 1844 Arnold's son William made a deposition after the father's death, but William only listed the *surviving* children of Arnold.

Samuel Benchley married EUNICE _____, who was born in Vermont about 1780 to 1783 and was living with son Samuel and grandson Hiland

Beach in the Town of Newfane, Niagara County, New York, in 1855 (1855 N.Y. State Census, 2d Election Dist., n.p., #285-285).

Samuel may have been attracted to New York by his uncles, David and Joseph Benchley. The birth of a son in July 1800, however, seems to preclude he was the "Sam^l Benchly" enumerated alone that year in Richfield, Otsego County, New York, age 16-26 (1800 Census, p. 52). He was, however, the "Sam Bensley" found in Seneca, Ontario County, in 1810, with a household of two males under 10, one 26-45, two females under 10, and one 26-45 (1810 Census, p. 235). Son Arnold's death record indicates he was born in Newfane in 1813, but it seems unlikely his family moved there at this time. In 1820 Samuel "Bensley" was again enumerated in Seneca, with two males under 10, one 10-16, one 16-26, one 45 and upwards, two females under 10, three 10-16, and one 26-45, with two persons engaged in agriculture (1820 Census, p. 281). Son Arnold's death record indicates the Benchleys moved to Middlebury, Genesee (now Wyoming) County, about 1826, and the 1830 Census shows the family there with one male under 5, two 10-15, one 15-20, one 40-50, one female 5-10, one 10-15, one 15-20, one 20-30, and one 40-50 (1830 Census, p. 209). The last census entry for Samuel Benchley, 1840, shows him in Middlebury with one male 15-20, three 20-30, one 60-70, one female 5-10, one 15-20, three 20-30, and one 50-60 (1840 Census, p. 146).

Samuel was buried in the (Old) Dale Cemetery in Middlebury ("Dale Pioneer Cemetery," *Historical Wyoming*, 6[1953]:59; Janet Wethy Foley, *Early Settlers of New York State Their Ancestors and Descendants* [hereinafter *Early Settlers of NY*], 9 vols. [Akron, N.Y., 1934-1942], 3:10).

After Samuel's death, his widow Eunice went to Batavia, New York, where she was received by letter into membership of the First Methodist Episcopal Church on 12 May 1844. The date of her dismissal from the church was not noted in the records, which state only that she had "Gone" (Christine Fowler, comp., "Unpublished Record of First Methodist Episcopal Church Batavia, New York," *Daughters of The American Revolution in the State of New York Cemetery, Church, and Town Records* [hereinafter *NYSDAR Cemetery, Ch., & Town Recs.*], 128[1939-1940]:17). About 1847 she and her son Samuel went to Newfane (1855 Census) where they were living next to her son Benjamin in 1850. The Hannah Edson enumerated with them might have been Eunice's daughter (1850 Census, p. 379, #116-120). The Benchleys are not found in Niagara County on the 1860 Census.

Children, born in New York State, surname *Benchley*:

- i. (probably) WILLIAM^s, b. 1 July 1800 (Timothy Hopkins, *The Kelloggs in the Old World and the New* [hereinafter *Kellogg Gen.*], 3 vols. [San Francisco, 1903], 1:313); d. probably in Middlebury between 1830 and 1840, when his name disappears from the census; m. SYLVIA JENKS, b. Feb. 1798 (*ibid.*).
Children (surname *Benchley*): 1. *Mary Ann*. 2. (probably) *Loren*.
- ii. (probably) AMEY, b. 10 Sept. 1806 in Geneva; d. 1842-3; m. as his 1st wife, GEORGE JENKS, b. in Pompey, Onondaga Co., N.Y., 11 Aug.

1802, a carpenter, who m. (2) Polley M. Cummings, by whom he had 2 children (Bible of Harriet Jenks Howard, cited in information submitted by Wahnetta H. Overton of Costa Mesa, Calif., to the Institute of Family Research, Salt Lake City, 1979, microfilm, Genealogical Society of Utah).

Children (surname *Jenks*): 1. *Alonzo*. 2. *Elizabeth*. 3. *Sabry*. 4. *Levy*. 5. *Herman*. 6. *Jula*. 7. *Harriet*. 8. *Roaney*. 9. *Nathan*.

- iii. ELIZABETH, b. ca. April-May 1807, probably in Seneca; d. of inflammation of the lungs in East Bay Twp., Grand Traverse Co., Mich., 2 April 1871, aged 63y 11m (death rec., showing she was b. in "Seneca Co.," N.Y., daughter of "_____ Benchly"); m. ca. 1830, SEYMOUR GILES BEACH, b. in Middlebury, Vt., 2 Nov. 1806, d. in East Bay Twp. 9 April 1871, aged 64y 7m, son of Hiland⁶ (*Linus*⁵⁻⁴, *John*³⁻², *Thomas*¹) and Abigail (_____) Beach (Ethan Allen Chapter, DAR, comp., "Records of the Town of Middlebury Vermont. From its beginning to . . . 1820" [Middlebury, 1926], 5, typescript, Vermont Historical Society; death rec.; *Beach Family Magazine*, 2[1927]:172).

Children (surname *Beach*): 1. *Hiland Samuel*. 2. *Elizabeth P.* 3. *Seymour Clark*. 4. *Fedelia/Phidelia*. 5. *Adney Orlando*. 6. *Millard E.*

- iv. (probably) NATHAN, b. 1809, probably in Seneca; d. of a bowel ulcer at Dale 6 Sept. 1865 (son William's Civil War Pension file 121630), farmer; m. in Middlebury 30 Sept. 1832, MARY LOUISA KENDALL (ibid.), b. in Starksborough, Vt., 1812, d. of old age at Dale 10 Aug. 1893, aged "80," daughter of Solmon and Esther (Kellogg) Kendall (NY Deaths, 1893, #34088; unidentified newspaper death notice from Wyoming Co. Historian states that she d. 18 Aug. 1893, aged 81; son Albert's death rec. shows her b. in Middlebury, Vt.).

Children (surname *Benchley*): 1. *Albert*. 2. *William Russell*. 3. *Ellen*. 4. *Mary Jane*. 5. *Jefferson H.* 6. *Merritt Ranson*.

- v. ESTHER, b. 24 Jan. 1810; d. 26 Feb. 1811; buried in Dale Cemetery, Middlebury ("Dale Pioneer Cemetery," *Historical Wyoming*, 6:59; *Early Settlers of NY*, 3:10). (Since the Benchleys probably did not move to Middlebury until after 1820, Esther's remains may have been moved there.)
- vi. SAMUEL, b. ca. 1811 in Ontario Co., probably in Seneca; farmer in Newfane, Niagara Co., N.Y., in 1850 and 1855, as noted above; farming and living with his sister Eunice's family in Middlebury in 1880 (1880 Census, ED 206, p. 30, #306-311); called "Samuel Benckley Junior" when he mortgaged 27½ acres in Middlebury in 1839 (Genesee Co. Mortgages, 29:175).
- vii. (probably) ARNOLD, b. ca. 24 June 1813 in Ontario Co., probably in Seneca; d. of cancer at Dale 14 May 1896, aged 82y 10m 20d (NY Deaths, 1896, #20165, showing he was b. in Newfane, N.Y., son of William Benchley, although he was doubtless a son of Samuel; his 1870 Census entry shows he was b. in Vt.), farmer, carpenter, and Civil War soldier; m. ELIZA J. KENDALL, b. in N.Y. ca. 1816-7, d. probably in Middlebury 24 Aug. 1859, aged 42, daughter of Solmon and Esther (Kellogg) Kendall ("Dale Pioneer Cemetery," *Historical Wyoming*, 6:59).

Children (surname *Benchley*): 1. *Edgar Arnold*. 2. *Daughter*. 3. *Salmon Kendall*. 4. *Mary A.*

- viii. EUNICE, b. 28 Nov. 1817 in Seneca; d. of peritonitis in Middlebury 18 Nov. 1890, aged 73 (NY Deaths, 1890, #44491); m. in Attica, N.Y., 20 Jan. 1847, CHARLES M. WHALEY, b. in Middlebury 20 June 1822, d. there 1 Sept. 1888, son of David and Hannah (Bean) Whaley, a farmer and Civil War soldier (Civil War Pension file 383298; *Early Settlers of NY*, 5:239).

Children (surname *Whaley*): 1. *Eugran*. 2. *Oc* [Ocee?]. 3. *Jane L.*
4. *Mary Adelaide*. 5. *Thomas A.* 6. *Melvin*.

- ix. BENJAMIN, b. ca. 1820-1, possibly in Seneca; farmer in Newfane, Niagara Co., N.Y., 1850; m. BETSY _____, b. in N.Y. ca. 1822-3 (1850 Census, p. 379, #117-121).

Child (surname *Benchley*): *Emerancy*.

- x. (perhaps) HANNAH, b. ca. 1825-6; m. FRANKLIN EDSON, b. in N.Y. ca. 1827-8; living with Samuel and Eunice "Bensley" in 1850, as noted above.

Child (surname *Edson*): *Daughter*.

13. NATHAN A[RNOLD?]⁴ BENCHLEY (*Arnold*³, *William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born about 1784 or 1785 in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and died of old age in August 1871 at Crompton in Warwick, Rhode Island, aged 87 (Seamen's Protection Register, RIHS; RI Deaths, 1871, p. 992).

Nathan married BETSEY REYNOLDS, who was born in Norwich, Connecticut, about 1780-1790 and died probably before 1860, when Nathan's enumeration on the census did not include her. Her maiden name and birthplace are from son Henry's death record, but research in Norwich records has failed to identify her parents.

As a young man, Nathan was evidently a mariner, for he was certified under the Seamen's Protection on 14 April 1806, age 20, light complexion, birthplace Smithfield (Register of Seamen's Protection). From that time on he seems to have moved a great deal. In 1810 he was enumerated in Warwick with one male under 10, one 16-26, one female 10-16, and one 16-26 (1810 Census, p. 65). As Nathan "Bentsly" he was in the Town of Sterling, Windham County, Connecticut, in 1820, with four males under 10, one 10-16, one 26-45, two females under 10, and one 26-45, with three persons engaged in manufacturing (1820 Census, p. 564). He seems to have been the Nathan "Bentley" enumerated in the City of Norwich, Connecticut, in 1830, with one male under 5, one 5-10, three 15-20, one 40-50, one female under 5, one 5-10, one 10-15, and one 40-50 (1830 Census, p. 113). Bentley is a name found in Norwich, but no Nathan *Benchley* has been found on this census and the Norwich entry fits his family perfectly.

In 1840 the Nathan Benchleys were in Windham, Connecticut, with their four youngest children; three persons in the household were engaged in manufacturing and trade (1840 Census, p. 270). The family has not been found on the 1850 Census, but in 1860 Nathan was in Coventry, Rhode Island, living with his son John (1860 Census, p. 28, #406-508). He was back in Warwick in 1865 — his census entry shows he was born in Smithfield — and in 1870 was listed there in his son John's household as an invalid (1865 R.I. State Census, 5:147, #144-205, microfilm, RIHS; 1870 Census, p. 228, #307-285).

Children, third through seventh born in Conn., surname *Benchley*:

- i. JOHN S. R.⁵, b. ca. 1810 in Warwick; d. there of typhoid dysentery 6 Jan. 1879, aged 68 (Warwick Deaths, 1:128), tailor, mill operator, and stage driver; m. in Plainfield, Conn., 27 Nov. 1834, CAROLINE S. PHILLIPS (Plainfield VRs, 2:220; *Connecticut Herald*, 23 Dec. 1834, Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Newspaper Vital Records, Connecticut State Library [hereinafter Conn. Newspaper VRs], 16:602, b. in Exeter, R.I., ca. 11 April 1815, d. at 239 Cranston St., Providence, R.I., 10 Feb. 1905, aged 89y 9m 30d, daughter of Simon and Sarah (_____) Phillips (RI Deaths, 1905, p. 138; John Benchley's d. rec. shows his wife's name as Caroline Bailey).
Children (surname *Benchley*): 1. *John Brownell*. 2. *James Buchanan*.
- ii. NATHAN T[UCKER?], b. ca. 1811-2; d. in Willimantic 8 Jan. 1842, aged 30 (Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Connecticut State Library [hereinafter Conn. Headstones], Vol. 57, Windham, p. 110; *Hartford Courant*, 15 Jan. 1842 [Conn. Newspaper VRs, 28:1006], shows he d. 7 Jan.), machinist; m. in Willimantic 8 Sept. 1834, OLIVE S. COX (Windham VRs, C:169), who after Nathan's death m. (2) in Windham 9 June 1844, Solomon F. Place (*ibid.*, C:215). Neither Solomon nor Olive has been found on the 1850 or later censuses for Conn. or R.I. or in other records.
Child (surname *Benchley*): *George*.
- iii. HENRY ARNOLD, b. ca. 27 May 1813 in Sterling; d. of cerebral apoplexy and senility at 38 Winter St., Willimantic, 25 Sept. 1903, aged 90y 3m 29d (Windham Deaths, 1894-1908, p. 289; 1860 Census, Windham, p. 102, #761-859, shows he was b. in R.I.), laborer and farmer; m. in Willimantic, Conn., 28 April 1839, EMILY PALMER (Windham VRs, C:189; *Christian Secretary*, 3 May 1839, [Conn. Newspaper VRs, 6:273]), b. in Conn. 2 April 1817, d. of pneumonia at 38 Winter St., Willimantic, 26 Feb. 1896, aged 77, daughter of Amos⁷ (*Amos*⁶, *Joseph*⁵⁻⁴⁻³, *Nehemiah*², *Walter*¹) and [Lucinda (Cleveland)?] Palmer (Windham Deaths, 1894-1908, p. 288; *Willimantic Daily Chronicle*, 27 Feb. 1896, p. 3; Conn. Headstones, Vol. 57, Windham, p. 7).
Children (surname *Benchley*): 1. *Laura E.* 2. *Jane*. 3. *Agness*. 4. *Joseph*. 5. *Josephine*. 6. *Henry Arnold Jr.*
- iv. (possibly) BETSEY F., b. ca. 1815-6; living in North Providence, R.I., in 1865 with Stephen Bump; in the next household was "Ann [Amy] Bensley," probably her aunt (1865 R.I. State Census, 7:146, #721-1144, microfilm, RIHS).
- v. LAURA M. T., b. ca. 1820-1; living in Windham in 1850 with her sister Mary.
- vi. WILLIAM A., b. 30 Jan. 1822; d. unm. in Togus, Me., 13 April 1910, carpenter and Civil War soldier (Civil War Pension file SC725005); buried in the Old Cemetery in Windham, Conn. (Conn. Headstones, Vol. 57, Windham, p. 46).
- vii. MARY A., b. ca. 1824-5 in Willimantic; d. possibly in Ill. and probably before 12 Dec. 1871, when she was not named in her 2d husband's will (Mansfield Dist. Probate file 54); m. (1) in Windham 21 June 1846, EDWARD LEE MOULTON (Windham VRs, C:229), b. in Windham 12 July 1824, d. there of bronchitis 20 Oct. 1855, aged 31, son of John and Electa (_____) Moulton (*ibid.*, C:128, E:191), druggist; m. (2)

in Willimantic 24 Sept. 1861, as his 2d wife, RAYMOND BALDWIN (Windham VRs, E:153), b. in Mansfield, Conn., 20 Feb. 1806, d. there 1 Oct. 1872, son of Eleazer⁵ (*Ebenezer⁴, Daniel³, Benjamin², Henry¹*) and Harriet (Robertson) Baldwin. Raymond m. (1) in 1829, Amanda Lull, who d. in 1860, aged 53, by whom he had 9 children (*Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths From the Records of the Town and Churches in Mansfield, Connecticut 1708-1805*, copied by Susan W. Dimock [New York, 1898], 18, 208; Charles Candee Baldwin, *The Baldwin Genealogy, From 1500 to 1881* [Cleveland, 1881], 653, 676, and *Supplement* [Cleveland, 1889], 1240; Conn. Headstones, Vol. 57, Windham, p. 11).

Children (surname *Moulton*): 1. *Edward Everett*; 2. *Everet E.*; (surname *Baldwin*): 3. *Alice M.*

- viii. SAMUEL JAMES, b. 24 June 1827 in Willimantic; d. of a hernia at 67 Pine St., Providence, R.I., 11 Oct. 1901, aged 74y 3m 17d (RI Deaths, 1901, p. 193), carpenter; m. (?) in Providence 31 July 1853, SARAH JANE LEWIS of Central Falls, R.I. (Providence Mars., 6:97), b. probably in Newport, R.I., Nov. 1829, living with son Frank at 141 Whittier Ave., Providence, in 1900, daughter of Jeremiah and Ann (_____) Lewis (1900 Census, Ward 8, ED 77, pp. 21-22, #340-503).

The Benchleys were divorced 27 March 1871 (Superior Court of Judicature of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, March term 1871, No. 3081, in Providence College Archives, Phillips Memorial Library, Providence College, Providence) and Sarah Benchley of Providence m. (2) 18 Aug. 1872, James Morrison Bourne of Providence (Newman Congregational Church recs., in Arnold, 9:534).

Children (surname *Benchley*), by 1st wife: 1. *Frederick C.*; by 2d wife: 2. *Frank Nathan*; 3. *Anna*.

14. JOHNSON⁴ BENSLEY (*David³, William²⁻¹, Robert^{^B}*) was born in 1787 in Massachusetts, probably in Adams, and was living in the Town of Concord, Erie County, New York, in 1860 (1860 Census, p. 359, #477-469, showing he was b. in N.Y.). He may have died before 1864, when he is not found in the census for Concord.

By 1810 Johnson had married AMY WARD, who was born in Nova Scotia, perhaps in Sherburne, about 1786 or 1787 and was living with her husband in 1860 (*ibid.*; maiden name shown on Benchley/Bensley chart). She was probably the daughter of Ira⁶ (*James⁵, Ira⁴, Peter³, Andrew²⁻¹*) and Sarah Ann (Munday) Ward of Killingworth, Connecticut, and Sherburne, Nova Scotia, whose son Capt. William Munday Ward was buried in 1828 in the Maplewood Cemetery in Springville, where Johnson Bensley's son and grandson were also interred (George K. Ward, comp., *Andrew Ward and His Descendants 1597-1910* [New York, 1910], 84; "Old Cemetery Stones Maplewood Cemetery, Town of Concord, Village of Springville, Erie County, New York" [hereinafter *Maplewood Cem. Stones*], transcribed by Mrs. Malcolm T. Hopkins [n.p., n.d.], 8).

Johnson and Amy were first enumerated in the Town of Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York, in 1810, both aged 16 to 26 years (1810 Census, p. 381). They moved west and by 1820 were living with their two young children in Ischua, Cattaraugus County, New York (1820 Census, p. 16).

Johnson Bensley and his brothers David and Truman were among the early settlers of this area, which in 1820 was set off from Ischua as Ellicottville, and where by 1822 they had settled on Lot 74. He was on the assessment roll there in 1822 and as Johnson Bensley, tailor, was on an 1823 jury list for the town. In February of 1824 the Town of Ashford was formed from Ellicottville, and at the first elections a month later Johnson was selected the first town supervisor (*Hist. Cattaraugus Co.*, 339-341).

Johnson's entry on the 1855 New York State census indicates he settled in the Town of Concord, Erie County, New York, about 1827. The Bensleys were enumerated there in 1830 with unidentified males age 15-20, 50-60, and 70-80 (1830 Census, p. 198). The area in which the Bensleys lived became incorporated as the Village of Springville in 1834, and at the first election on 6 May of that year, Johnson was elected an assessor (H. Perry Smith, ed., *History of the City of Buffalo and Erie County* [hereinafter *Hist. Buffalo & Erie Co.*], 2 vols. [Syracuse, 1884], 1:641). Perhaps Johnson was "one of [the] brothers" of Eaton Bensley who gave \$100 to Springville Academy, now Griffith Institute (*Glimpses*, 33).

In 1840 the Johnson Bensleys were on the census for Concord, with one person engaged in manufacturing and trade (1840) Census, p. 58). "Jonathan" Bensley was in Concord in 1850 with real estate worth \$9000, but his occupation is not shown on the census for that year (1850 Census, p. 60, #880-899), and there are no land conveyances recorded in his name in Erie County. In 1855 he was a shoemaker, living in a brick house worth \$2000, and both he and his wife owned land (1855 N.Y. State Census, 1st Election Dist., p. 54, #209-223). The 1860 census for Concord shows him as a retired saddler, with \$2000 of real estate and \$200 of personal property.

Children, surname *Benchley*:

- i. SARAH ANN(E)⁵, b. ca. 1810-13 in Herkimer Co.; m. in Erie Co. 20 May 1841, HIRAM T. FELLOWS (*Early Settlers of NY*, 4:30), who apparently d. before 1850, when Sarah was living with her parents, as well as in 1855, and 1860, a seamstress.

Children (surname *Fellows*): 1. *William Bensley*. 2. *Amy E.*

- ii. JAMES WILLIAM, b. ca. May 1814; d. 26 Nov. 1828, aged 14y 6m; buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Springville (Maplewood Cem. Stones, 17).

15. EATON⁴ BENSLEY (*David*³, *William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{A-B}) was born in 1790 in Herkimer, Montgomery County (now Fairfield, Herkimer County), New York, and he died 20 March 1877 in Springville in the Town of Concord, Erie County, New York (War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land file WC11510; Erasmus Briggs, *History of the Original Town of Concord, . . . Erie County, New York* [hereinafter *Hist. of Concord*] [Rochester, 1883], 284, showing he d. in 1878).

Eaton married, first, on 27 April 1821, SOPHIA RUSSELL, born about 1801 or 1802, probably in Oneida County, New York, who died in Springville, at the birth of her daughter Anna Sophia, 29 April 1841, aged 39, the daughter of Deacon John⁵ (*Elisha*⁴, *Joseph*³, *Benjamin*², *Robert*¹) and Merinda

(Austin) Russell (*Hist. of Concord*, 284, 444-446; pension file; grave marker; date of marriage from Benchley/Bensley chart).

On 6 or 10 September 1841 Eaton married, second, AGNES MCCAA in Franklinsville, Cattaraugus County, New York. She was born in Scotland about June 1812 and died, probably in Springville, 7 April 1880, aged 67 years and 10 months, the daughter of John and Mary (_____) McCaa (pension file, in which Eaton gave the marriage date as 6 Sept. 1840 and Agnes as 10 Sept. 1841; *Hist. of Concord*, 284, 285). In his will of 2 January 1863, John McCaa of the Town of Farmersville, Cattaraugus County, named his daughter Agnes, wife of Eaton Bensley (Cattaraugus Co. Surrogate's file box 124).

During the War of 1812, Eaton Bensley served as a private in Captain Elijah Carpenter's Company, Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher P. Bellinger's (27th) Regiment of New York Detached Militia. Eaton was drafted in Fairfield, New York, on 20 September 1814, to serve three months, and after two months of service at Sacketts Harbor he was discharged there on 20 November; his pay was \$16 (service and pension files).

In the spring of 1816 Eaton moved west to Erie County, New York, where he farmed and in 1817 built, apparently with his brother David, a sawmill on Spring Brook near Cattaraugus Creek (*Hist. of Concord*, 284, 320; pension file; 1855 N.Y. State Census). The family has not been found on the 1820 Census, but Eaton evidently went with his brothers to or joined them in Cattaraugus County for a while, for he was on the assessment roll there in Ellicottville in 1822 with Johnson Bensley (*Hist. Cattaraugus Co.*, 340).

The Eaton Bensleys were in the Town of Sardinia, Erie County, New York, in 1830 (1830 Census, p. 201). Although they have not been found in the 1840 Census, they were enumerated on later censuses in the Town of Concord, where they lived in a frame house and where Eaton farmed. He had \$2000 worth of real estate in 1850 and in 1855 had 35 acres of improved and 10 acres of unimproved land, valued at \$2000, with stock worth \$200 and farming tools \$100. His real estate in 1860 was worth \$2000 with personal estate \$500, and in 1870 these amounts were \$1200 and \$2500 respectively. He was listed on the 1870 and 1875 censuses as a retired farmer (1850 Census, p. 37, #529-537; 1855 N.Y. State Census, 1st Election Dist., p. 67, #117-124; 1860 Census, p. 373, #596-586; 1865 N.Y. State Census, 1st Election Dist., p. 47, #241-255, showing Agnes as the mother of 7 children; 1870 Census, p. 152, #536-513; 1875 N.Y. State Census, 1st Election Dist., p. 42, #279-300). The family evidently lived in or near that part of town which had been incorporated in 1834 as the Village of Springville, and Eaton may have been the "W. Bensley" elected an elder and chosen a deacon in December 1840, when the Springville Congregational Church became Presbyterian (*Hist. Buffalo & Erie Co.*, 1:642). Eaton contributed \$100 to the church and the same amount to the Springville Academy (later the Griffith Institute). He was an innkeeper at some time and, selling no liquor, refused to speak to his brothers David and Truman who did. Truman may have been the brother of Eaton who "embraced the Universalist faith, and by so doing completely alienated himself from his austere Pres-

byterian brother, who tolerated no such liberal views as the Universalists espoused." The two families did not visit until Eaton "felt that it was his duty" to attend his brother's funeral, held in the Universalist Church (*Glimpses*, 33).

Although the Bensleys may have lived in Springville, Eaton and Agnes were described as of Concord when they sold on 19 March 1851 for \$70, a Springville Village lot of thirty-five square rods on Mill Street to Agnes Griswold, who owned the adjacent lot. Bensley had acquired this lot on 18 September 1839 from Elmer White [*sic*] and his wife Ruth, but the deed does not seem to have been recorded (Eric Co. Deeds, 337:525). On 11 March 1864 Eaton and Agnes of Concord sold twenty-six acres in that town to Philip Ferrin for \$1950, but Bensley's purchase of this property was not recorded either (*ibid.*, 237:36). Eaton purchased a half-acre Springville Village lot on Franklin Street from Caleb Ingalls and his wife Rebecca on 31 May 1864 for \$1000 (*ibid.*, 237:35). This lot seems to have been inherited by Eaton's son David.

On 28 September 1850 Eaton applied for bounty land based on his military service. He received 40 acres which he later sold, and on 26 March 1855, as a resident of Concord, age 65, applied for more land, receiving 120 acres. In a statement made in Concord 6 January 1851, Eaton Bensley gave his age as 60 and declared "his family name used to be spelled Benchley." He was a resident of Springville on 5 July 1871, age 81, when he applied for a pension, and he was granted eight dollars a month, retroactive from 14 February of that year. After his death, his widow Agnes of Springville, age 65, made application to receive the pension, and on 15 November she was granted eight dollars a month retroactive from 9 March of that year (pension file). Under a New York law of 1859 for War of 1812 veterans, Eaton also made a claim and received \$38 (New York Adjutant General's Office, *Index of Awards on Claims of the Soldiers of the War of 1812* [hereinafter *War of 1812 Awards*] [Albany, 1860; reprint ed., Baltimore, 1969], 44). Unfortunately, his original claim papers are missing.

Eaton and his first wife Sophia were buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Springville (markers read by David W. Bensley, June 1988).

Children, by first wife Sophia Russell, born in N.Y. (*Glimpses*, 14, 32; *Hist. of Concord*, 284; Benchley/Bensley chart) surname *Bensley*:

- i. JOHN RUSSELL⁵, b. 1821; d. young.
- ii. GEORGE EATON, b. 7 Sept. 1823 in Concord; d. of bronchial pneumonia at 3832 Langley Ave., Chicago, Ill., 17 March 1900, aged 76 (Chicago Deaths, 1900, #1396), farmer, grocer, grain merchant; m. 20 Feb. 1850, ANNA LOUISE/LOUISA TANNER, b. in Attica, N.Y., 25 Oct. 1829, d. of arteriosclerosis and mitral regurgitation at 4045 Ellis Ave., Chicago, 9 April 1904, aged 73y 6m (*ibid.*, 1904, #1473), daughter of Dea. Joseph⁴ (*Thomas*³⁻²⁻¹) and Florilla (Tooley) Tanner of Attica (*Hist. of Concord*, 931-932; Rev. Elias F. Tanner, *The Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Tanner, Sr. of Cornwall, Connecticut* [Lansing, Mich., 1893], 46).

Children (surname *Bensley*): 1. *Charles Russell*. 2. *Ellen/Ella F.* [Mary F. on 1855 Census]. 3. *Lotta/Lottie C.* 4. *George E.*

- iii. CYTHERA DIANTHA, b. 5 Feb. 1826; d. of arteriosclerosis and senility at 6401 Normal Blvd., Chicago, 18 April 1917 (Ill. Deaths, 1917, #32124); m. as his 2d wife, the Rev. LAFAYETTE WASHINGTON OLNEY, b. in N.Y. 5 June 1824, d. at 6401 Wright St., Chicago, 15 Nov. 1892, aged 68 (Index of Chicago Deaths), son of Samuel J.⁷ (*Peter*⁶, *Nathan*⁵, *William*⁴⁻³, *Thomas*²⁻¹) and Sally (Brown) Olney, a Baptist clergyman (James H. Olney, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Olney* [Providence, 1889], 150).

Children (surname *Olney*): 1. *Helen Adele*. 2. *Dana Bensley*. 3. *Jennie Amelia*.

- iv. SABRA VESTINA, b. 2 June 1828; d. 23 May 1869; m. ALANSON C. CHAFFEE. b. in Vermont 19 Nov. 1813, d. in Springville, N.Y., 28 July 1874, farmer, son of Charles⁶ (*Stephen*⁵, *Thomas*⁴⁻³, *Nathaniel*², *Thomas*¹) and Polly (Miles) Chaffee (*Hist. of Concord*, 320; William H. Chaffee, *The Chaffee Genealogy* [New York, 1909], 138).

Children (surname *Chaffee*): 1. *Mary Luella*. 2. *John Russell*. 3. *Emma Sophia*.

- v. JOHN RUSSELL, b. 1 May 1833 in Springville; d. of chronic pleurisy and [old] age at 3929 Ellis Ave., Hyde Park, Chicago, 5 July 1900, aged 67y 2m (Chicago Deaths, 1900, #856), grain dealer and electric lighting merchant; m. (1) in Wayne Station, DuPage Co., Ill., 25 May 1853, MARY ANN WHITE, b. in Springville, N.Y., 26 May 1835, d. in Chicago 1862 with her four children during a diphtheria epidemic, daughter of Almer⁷ (*Isaac*⁶, *Moses*⁵, *Isaac*⁴, *Daniel*³, *Nathaniel*², *John*¹) and Ruth Ann (Tefft) White of Springville (Allyn S. Kellogg, *Memorials of Elder John White. . . and of His Descendants* [Hartford, 1860], 218; *Hist. of Concord*, 930-931, and *Glimpses*, 127, state that John and Mary Ann were m. in 1854); m. (2) 1863, AUGUSTA FIDELLA FULLER b. in N.Y. 8 July 1836, d. of senile arteriosclerosis at her residence, 3933 Ellis Ave., Chicago, 20 June 1925 (Ill. Deaths, 1925, #17493), daughter of Eli and Martha (Lewis) Fuller of Castile, Wyoming Co., N.Y. (1850 Census, Castile, p. 167, #212-212; *Hist. of Concord*, 931; *Glimpses*, 14, 15, 127).

Children (surname *Bensley*), by 1st wife: 1. *Seward Russell*; 2. *Maria Vestina*; 3. *Cora*; 4. *Mary*; by 2d wife: 5. *Martha Sophia*; 6. *John Russell*.

- vi. SOPHIA ANNA [Sophia Russell in *Glimpses*, 14], b. ca. 1841 [around 29 April when her mother d.?]; d. 31 Jan. 1931; m. in Springville 18 Oct. 1864, HERBERT DELOSS SCOBEEY, b. in Ashford, Cattaraugus Co., N.Y., 27 July 1842, d. in Estherville, Emmet Co., Iowa, 22 May 1921, farmer, son of Alexander and Sarepta (Boss) Scobey and brother of Madison who married Sophia's half sister Agnes (Susan Longaker Ingalls).

Children (surname *Scobey*): 1. *Mark Clayton*. 2. *Gladys Vestina*.

Children, by second wife Agnes McCaa, born in Concord (*Hist. of Concord*, 284; *Glimpses*, 14, 32; Benchley/Bensley chart):

- vii. AGNES IONE, b. 9 June 1842 in Springville; d. in Pasadena, Calif., 14 April 1925; m. in Chicago, Ill., 14 Feb. 1866, MADISON CRANDALL

SCOBEY, b. in Ashford, Cattaraugus Co., N.Y., 8 May 1829, d. in Pasadena 27 Feb. 1910, farmer, miller, and cattle dealer, son of Alexander and Sarepta (Boss) Scobey and brother of Herbert who married Agnes's half sister Sophia (*Hist. of Concord*, 941; Susan Longaker Ingalls).

Children (surname *Scobey*): 1. *Carlotta Belle*. 2. *John Bensley*. 3. *Mary Agnes*. 4. *Adeline Louise*. 5. *Marshall Louis*. 6. *Kathrine Lois*. 7. *Vestina*.

- viii. MARY JANE, b. Feb. 1844; living at 3935 Ellis Ave., Hyde Park, Chicago, 1900, where she was keeping a boardinghouse (1900 Census, Ward 32, ED 992, p. 8, #76-173); m. (1) ELBERT CORNWALL, b. 30 Nov. 1840, d. 9 Aug. 1866, son of Willis Willard⁶ (*Benjamin*⁵⁻⁴⁻³, *John*², *William*¹) and Anna (Crocker) Cornwall (Edward E. Cornwall, *William Cornwall and His Descendants* [New Haven, 1901], 68); m. (2) MARSHALL L. PRICE, M.D., a U.S. Army surgeon in Texas; m. (3) [after 1883?] HORACE HOPKINS, who d. before 1900; m. (4) AUGUST CHRISTIANSON.
- ix. DAVID WILLIAM EATON, b. 9 Nov. 1845; d. in Springville, 10 Feb. 1883 (*Hist. of Concord*, 284-285; Erie Co. Surrogate's file 1488), grain and hardware merchant; m. 1874, LUCY KEZIAH TWITCHELL, b. in Concord 14 May 1848, d. of valvular heart disease at her residence on Franklin St., Springville, 31 Oct. 1930, daughter of Lemuel Houghton⁷ (*Lemuel*⁶, *Enos*⁵, *Seth*⁴, *Benoni*³, *Abiel*², *Benjamin*¹) and Hannah (Phillips) Twitchell (*Hist. of Concord*, 284-285; N.Y. Deaths, 1930, #61052; Ralph Emerson Twitchell, comp. and ed., *Genealogy of the Twitchell Family* [New York, 1929], 302, 303).
- Children (surname *Bensley*): 1. *Agnes Hannah*. 2. *William Eaton*. 3. *Bernis Lemuel*. 4. *Lucy A*. 5. *Esther*.
- x. MALONA, b. ca. 1847-8; d. 1859.
- xi. LOUIS KOSSUTH, b. 6 Jan. 1852; d. of a stomach ulcer at 3935 Ellis Ave., Chicago, 26 Dec. 1901, aged 49y 11m 20d (Chicago Deaths, 1901, #1803). Unmarried, he was grain shipper in Denison, Ia., for many years (*Glimpses*, 90).
- xii. KATE WARD, b. Nov. 1853; d. of cerebral meningitis and heart disease at her residence, 3923 Ellis Ave., Chicago, 30 Dec. 1914, aged "about 58" (Ill. Deaths, 1914, #33626). She was a teacher and never married.
- xiii. Child; d. before 1875.

16. TRUMAN⁴ BENSLEY (*David*³, *William*²⁻¹, *Robert*^{^1-13}) was born in 1800 in the Town of Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York, and died 18 August 1868, aged "69," in East Ashford, Cattaraugus County, New York (grave marker, noted below; *Cattaraugus Republican* [Little Valley, N.Y.], 27 Aug. 1868, p. 2, which shows he died 19 Aug. in his 69th yr.).

On 6 November 1822 Truman Bensley of Ashford married, first, HANNAH SAMPSON. She was born in Shutesbury, Massachusetts, 10 December 1802 and died of heart disease in Ashford, 8 December 1854, aged 52, the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Kellogg) Sampson (*Kellogg Gen.*, 1:296; her grave marker, probably misread, states she died in 1851, aged 53; mortality schedule of 1855 N.Y. State Census for Ashford).

In September 1855 Truman married, second, NANCY CARTER SAMPSON, Hannah's sister. Nancy was born in Shutesbury 16 November 1815 and died

of paralysis and old age in Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County, 16 December 1903, aged 88 years and 1 month (*Kellogg Gen.*, 1:296; N.Y. Deaths, 1903, #47938; 1860 and 1870 censuses, stating she was born in N.Y. are in error, as her parents moved to Concord, Erie Co., N.Y., the year after her birth).

Truman was an early settler with his brothers Johnson and David in Ashford (then Ellicottville), Cattaraugus County, New York, where they settled on Lot 74. Truman settled there about 1823 (1855 Census) and on 2 March 1824 was selected an assessor at the first Ashford town election (*Hist. Cattaraugus Co.*, 339, 341).

In 1830 Truman Bensley was enumerated in Ashford (1830 Census, p. 181). He was on the census there in 1840 as Truman "Bensly," with an unidentified male age 20-30; three persons in the household were engaged in agriculture (1840 Census, p. 136). On 20 March 1841 he purchased 100 acres in Ashford from The Farmer's Loan and Trust Company for \$264 (Cattaraugus Co. Deeds, 19:363, recorded 30 Dec. 1856). Truman's household in 1845 included four males (two of them adults and one under 16) and two females (one married, one under 16), with five in the household born in New York, the other in New England. Four children were in school and one was attending an academy. Truman had 45 improved acres and in the last year his family had produced 20 yards of fulled cloth, 20 yards of woolens, and 35 yards of linen (1845 N.Y. State Census, Dist. 2, p. 47).

By 1850 Truman was a hotel keeper, living in Great Valley, Cattaraugus County (1850 Census, p. 153, #113-113). At his hotel he served liquor, which caused an estrangement between him and his brother Eaton, who did not serve hard drink in his inn. Truman was probably the brother of Eaton who espoused the Universalist Church, which was another point of contention between him and the Presbyterian Eaton (*Glimpses*, 33).

The Bensleys later returned to Ashford, where in 1855 Truman had 60 improved and 40 unimproved acres and a frame house valued at \$200. His land was worth \$2000, his stock \$443, and his tools \$125 (1855 N.Y. State Census, 2d Election Dist., pp. 20-21, #175-175). Truman was a farmer in Ashford in 1860 and 1865. In the former year his real estate was worth \$2000 and personal estate \$500, and in the latter year his frame house was valued at \$200 (1860 Census, p. 252, #357-333; 1865 N.Y. State Census, 2d Election Dist., p. 63, #78-96).

It is recorded that Nancy, "who wore her hair in curls," had grey-blue eyes, which "danced as she jigged to her husband's fiddling. She was reputed to be a nagger, and when she began to nag, [Truman] would seize his fiddle and play and sing" (*Glimpses*, 33). As Nancy "Binsley" she was enumerated in Ashford in 1870 (1870 Census, p. 50, #308-318). She later lived with her brother Joseph P. Sampson in Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County, and after his death with his son Frank[lin] H. Sampson (1875 N.Y. State Census, 2d Election Dist., p. 396, #118-405; 1880 Census, ED 37, p. 45, #4-4; 1900 Census, ED 72, p. 9, #230-232). On 18 October 1876, Nancy "E." Bensley of the Town of Yorkshire, for \$150, purchased from Walter Cummings and his wife [Dimis?], a lot in that town, agreeing to build a fence along the south side of the property adjoining the Cummings's land (Cattaraugus Co.

Deeds, 100:212, recorded 12 Feb. 1897). She sold this lot on 6 September 1895 to her nephew J. Frank Sampson of Yorkshire for \$90 (*ibid.*, 162:587).

Truman and his first wife Hannah were buried in the Thomas Corners Cemetery in Ashford (Gertrude A. Barber, comp. & ed., "Gravestone Inscriptions of. . . [various cemeteries] in [Cattaraugus, Erie, and Wyoming counties,] New York State" [(Brooklyn), 1934], 8, typescript, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society). His second wife Nancy was buried in Yorkshire (death cert.).

There are no estate proceedings for Truman and his wives recorded in Cattaraugus County, but on 9 and 10 February 1869 sons Darius P. and James M. Bensley and daughter "Margret," wife of Alexis Parkhurst, sold their share of their father's 100 acres in Ashford to their brother Sanford (Cattaraugus Co. Deeds, 71:485-487). On the following 22 April, Nancy C. Bensley, widow of Truman, quitclaimed this land to Sanford, "a son and heir at law of the said deceased," for \$1800 (*ibid.*, 74:412-413).

The "Agniss Bensley," 8, born New York, living with Martin and Elizabeth [Miller?] in Ashford in 1850, was probably a daughter or granddaughter of Truman (1850 Census, p. 362, #20-20).

Children, by first wife Hannah Sampson, born in Ashford (1850, 1855 Censuses; Cattaraugus Co. Deeds, 71:485-487), surname *Bensley*:

- i. DARIUS P.⁵, b. ca. 18 July 1824; d. of consumption in Cattaraugus Co. 22 March 1877, aged 52y 8m 4d (Truman C. White, ed., *Our County and Its People[:] A Descriptive Work on Erie County New York* [hereinafter *Our County Erie*], 2 vols. [Boston, 1898], 2:209, showing he was b. 1826; Cemetery at Markhams, Town of Dayton, p. 1, Co. Historian's Office, Little Valley, N.Y.; *Cattaraugus Republican* [Little Valley and Salamanca], 29 March 1877, p. 5), mechanic, innkeeper, cheese factory owner; m. ca. 1852, HANNAH CHASE, b. in Little Valley, Cattaraugus Co., ca. 15 Dec. 1828, d. of apoplexy in Hamburg, N.Y., 30 Jan. 1900, aged 71y 1m 15d, daughter of Alvin⁷ (*David*⁶, *Abner*⁵, *Timothy*⁴, *Isaac*³, *Daniel*², *Aquilla*¹) and Mary (Phillips) Chase of Little Valley (*Our County Erie*, 2:209; Cemetery at Markhams, p. 1; N.Y. Deaths, 1900, #3750; John Carroll Chase and George Walter Chamberlain, comps., *Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aquilla Chase* [Derry, N.H., 1928], 528).

Children (surname *Bensley*): 1. Truman Gilmore. 2. Mark Filmore. 3. George A.

- ii. SANFORD SAMPSON, b. 4 June 1828; d. of old age and paralysis at his home in Delhi Twp., Delaware Co., Iowa, 14 Jan. 1911 (Delaware Co. Record of Deaths, 2:9), hotel clerk, merchant marine, farmer; m. (1) in El Dorado Co., Calif., 20 Feb. 1851, ELIS(S)A BRASH ("Northern California Marriages," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 54[1966]:140); m. (2) by 1860, probably in Cattaraugus Co., AMANDA _____, b. in Cattaraugus Co. ca. 1841-2, d. probably in Iowa 1870-1875 (1860 Census, Ashford, p. 251, #351-328; 1865 N.Y. State Census, Ashford, 2d Election Dist., p. 67, #103-123; 1870 Census, Jefferson Twp., Greene Co., Ia., p. 12, #69-74); m. (3) in Jefferson Twp. 18 Jan. 1877, KATE LOUISE HONSINGER, b. Erie, Pa., 24 May 1860,

d. of paralysis in Delhi 16 July 1924 (Delaware Co. Rec. of Deaths, 3:20; *The Manchester [Ia.] Press*, 24 July 1924, p. 2), who was perhaps the child Kate shown in the 1865 Census as his adopted daughter.

Children (surname *Bensley*): 1. *Kate* (adopted); by 3d wife: 2. *Asyonis*. 3. *Adrian*. 4. *Wilhema*. 5. *Jessie*. 6. *Hild(e)bery B.* 7. *Hemlin*. 8. *Lincoln*. 9. *Hilda L.*

- iii. JAMES M., b. ca. 1829; living in Hazel Green Twp., Delaware Co., Iowa, 1880 (1880 Census, ED 157, p. 6, #45-50), artist and farmer; of Lodomillo Twp., Clayton Co., Iowa, when he m. (1) in Cassville, Grant Co., Wisc., 26 Sept. 1858, LOUISA (KELLOGG) BILLINGS, b. in N.Y. ca. 1829-30, daughter of Alfred E. and Mary P. (Brumbley) Kellogg and evidently a widow with at least 4 children (Grant Co. Mars., 2:68; 1856 Iowa State Census, Lodomillo Twp., p. 628, #98-108); m. (2) ca. 1863, HARRIET L. _____(KELLEY?), b. in N.Y. ca. 1828, living in 1880.

Children (surname *Bensley*), by 2d wife: 1. *Ida V. N.* 2. *Phidella A.*

- iv. MARGARET M., b. ca. 1835-6; living in Fentonville, Mich., 1880 (1880 Census, ED 70, p. 45, #463-463), tailoress; m. after 1860, ALEXIS PARKHURST, b. in Mich. ca. 1830-1, living in 1880, foundry man and farm implements dealer.

Possible child (surname *Parkhurst*): *Llewellyn A.*, b. ca. 1864-5.

[To be continued]

Roger D. Joslyn is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and a professional genealogist in New York. He plans eventually to publish a full genealogy of the Benchley-Bensley family to the present generation. His address is 35 Union Avenue, New Windsor, N.Y. 12550-7140.

The American Genealogist

founded 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus

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Volume 63 now being published in 1988

Edited by

Ruth Wilder Sherman, F.A.S.G.

David L. Greene, F.A.S.G.

\$15 (US) annually — sample copy \$4

THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST

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