

## Editorial

We begin this issue with **Susannah Townsend of Berkley, Massachusetts, and the Descendants of George Townsend of Charlestown and Taunton, Massachusetts**, by Edward Charles Horton. The article's roots originated with the author's search for the identity and parents of Susannah Townsend who married Isaac Rickard of Freetown, Massachusetts on 5 March 1748/49. As is so often the case in New England genealogy, the solution was found in land records, in this case in a 1785 quitclaim deed, not recorded until more than fifty years later, that establishes her as a daughter of John and Experience (Gilbert) Townsend of Taunton. John Townsend was a son of George Townsend (ca. 1665-1717), who first appears in records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, and who moved with his family to Taunton probably in the early 1700s. Mr. Horton examines several print sources, none of which are satisfactory, that speculate on George's placement within the larger Townsend family. Lacking further evidence, the author wisely treats George and his descendants as an autonomous unit and provides a three-generation genealogy of George's progeny, most of whom remained residents of Bristol County, Massachusetts.

The widow Martha<sup>1</sup> Beard settled in Milford, Connecticut by 1640. A 1976 article in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* discusses a 1722 English Chancery suit regarding property in the parishes of Great Parndon, Epping, and Roydon in Essex that had belonged to James Beard, Martha's husband, and suggests that Martha was the Martha Wood who married James Beard at Epping, Essex in 1623. In **Ancestors of Widow Martha<sup>1</sup> (Wood) Beard and Mary<sup>1</sup> (Wood) Platt, Both of Milford, Connecticut**, author Robert Battle examined parish registers and wills for the border region of Essex and Hertfordshire to confirm Martha's identity and extend her paternal line for three generations. In addition, the author demonstrates that Mary<sup>1</sup> (Wood) Platt, wife of Richard<sup>1</sup> Platt, whose Wood parentage has long been known, was a double first cousin of Martha<sup>1</sup> (Wood) Beard, their fathers being brothers and their mothers being sisters. Part 2 of this article will appear in the Summer 2024 issue.

Although the identity of Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin Wilson (1670-1750) of Woburn, Massachusetts, has hitherto been unknown, it was reported as early as 1866 that she may have been a Fuller. Subsequent genealogists have wrestled with this problem without success. In **Elizabeth Fuller of Salem and Woburn, Massachusetts; Rehoboth, Rhode Island; and Ashford, Connecticut—Probable Wife of Benjamin Wilson**, author William Utermohlen makes a persuasive case to show that this identity is almost certainly correct. Not only were the Wilsons and the Fullers both connected to Salem and Woburn and well acquainted with one another, but they were already related by marriage: Elizabeth's paternal grandfather, Thomas<sup>1</sup> Fuller (1618-1698), married Benjamin's widowed mother Hannah Wilson as his second wife just a few years prior to their own marriage, which took place about 1693. In addition, four of their twelve children bore given names that are found in Elizabeth's family but not Benjamin's. The author discusses other contemporary women named

Elizabeth Fuller but dismisses them on the basis of chronology, geography, or evidence of their marriage to another party.

It has long been known that the immigrant Reynold<sup>1</sup> Marvin, an early settler of Connecticut, was a native of Great Bentley, Essex, England, but the identity of his wife Mary has been unknown. The Great Bentley parish register lists the baptism or burial records of nine children between 1618 and 1636, but the poor condition of the register makes it unclear as to whether Reynold and Mary were married there or in a nearby parish. In **The Identity of Mary, Wife of Reynold<sup>1</sup> Marvin of Connecticut**, author Robert Battle, in an unrelated search, discovered three more baptism and burial records for the couple in Great Horkesley, Essex, about thirteen miles northwest of Great Bentley. One of these, a 1624 burial record of one of Reynold and Mary's sons, noted that the boy was "the grand-child of William Edwards," thus proving Mary's identity.

In the next article, **Who Were the Parents of Lydia P.<sup>5</sup> (Hunt) Hardy of Kingston, New Hampshire?**, author David F. Lowry uses a variety of sources to make a compelling case for identifying Lydia P. Hunt's parents and unraveling her ancestry. The Hunt family was numerous in southeastern New Hampshire, but Lydia's 1834 marriage record to Peter Hardy does not list her parents, though it states that she was "of Kingston" New Hampshire. Her gravestone in Kingston lists her exact age, which matches her age in censuses, pointing to a birth in 1809 in New Hampshire. Analysis of censuses and vital, land, and probate records leads to the conclusion that she was a daughter of Moses<sup>4</sup> and Lydia (Johnson) Hunt of Kingston.

Much has been written about the English origin of the immigrant Joseph<sup>1</sup> Twitchell of Dorchester, Massachusetts, but accounts differ. A 1929 Twitchell genealogy concluded that Benjamin Twitchell, also of Dorchester, was Joseph's brother, citing entries in the parish register of Chesham, Buckinghamshire. Later genealogists questioned this reasoning on the basis that this would make Benjamin much too old, and they proposed that he was actually *a son* of Joseph<sup>1</sup>. In **A Fresh Look at Immigrant Joseph<sup>1</sup> Twitchell of Dorchester, Massachusetts**, author Randy A. West proves that Joseph's brother Benjamin died in London in 1635 and that the Benjamin Twitchell of Dorchester was indeed a son of Joseph<sup>1</sup>, having been baptized in Heston, Middlesex, on 22 February 1617/8.

– Henry B. Hoff and David Curtis Dearborn