

Timothy Sewell of Boston, Lynn, and Mendon, Massachusetts, and His Children

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The family of Timothy Sewell of Boston, Lynn, and Mendon, Massachusetts, has not received recent notice. There are a handful of queries in the genealogy column of the *Boston Evening Transcript* between 1902 and 1934 dealing with families into which two of Sewell's daughters married, but none provide clues to Sewell's ancestry.^[1] One unsourced genealogy in two editions^[2] and an anonymous typescript cover descendants of Timothy's eldest son John Sewell.^[3] The descendants of Anna (Sewell) Soule, another daughter of Timothy Sewell, are covered in a 1926 Soule genealogy.^[4]

Timothy settled in Lynn, Massachusetts, shortly after his marriage in 1716, and subsequently moved to Mendon, Massachusetts. The oldest son went to Frederick County, Virginia, and then to Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia), from whence some grandchildren moved to Clinton County, Ohio. The families of two daughters stayed in Massachusetts and nearby Rhode Island, but the other four surviving children went to Dutchess County, New York, from which place two moved to Alburgh, Vermont.^[5]

1. **TIMOTHY¹ SEWELL** was likely born in the 1680s or early 1690s, based on the date of his first marriage.^[6] He died in Mendon, Massachusetts, in 1753,

¹ "Genealogy Column," *Boston (Mass.) Evening Transcript* (1906–1941), as noted under those daughters below.

² William Roger Gillem, *Family History Sewell* (Cincinnati: W. R. Gillem, ?1997) (FSL film #1425071 item 10) and the same author's *The Seawell-Sewell-Sowell-Showell Family Tree*, 4 vols. (Cincinnati: W. R. Gillem, ?1998) (FSL #1425167 items 9–11) (both of which are compilations of what appears to be printed reports [mostly outline descendant trees] generated by Family Tree Maker software).

³ "The Descendants of John Sewell in the Anson Line," (typescript, Houston Public Library, [FSL #1317398 item 7]).

⁴ G. T. Ridlon, *A Contribution to the History, Biography and Genealogy of the Families Named Sole, Solly, Soule, Sowle, Soullis . . .*, 2 vols. (Lewiston, Maine: Journal Press, 1926) [hereafter Ridlon, *Sole etc.*], 1:454–484 "Soules in Alburgh, Vermont." Anna's parentage is given as unknown in that work.

⁵ The town's name was originally spelled "Alburgh." It was changed to "Alburg" in 1891 and back again to "Alburgh" at the town's request in 2006. The current spelling is used in this paper.

⁶ Online databases have at least two Timothy Sewells baptized in England in the late 1600s, but neither one is likely to be the Massachusetts man. One was b. 28 April and bp. 4 May 1656 in St. James, Clerkenwell, London: "Timothy s. of Richard Sewell & Elizabeth his wife"; however, he was bur. there 15 April 1658: "Timothy the son of Richard Sewell" (Register of St. James, Clerkenwell, 1654–1673; images on Ancestry.com). The other was bp. 27 Jan. 1695/6 in St. Cuthbert, Carlisle, Cumberland, son of Barnard Sewell (Bishop's Transcripts for St. Cuthbert, Carlisle; FSL #90578). While not impossible, it would be unusual for a 20-year-old man to be married at this time.

between 27 April, when he made his will, and 14 May, when the inventory of his estate was ordered.^[7]

Timothy Sewell married first **ELIZABETH JEFFERY** shortly after 25 July 1716, when intentions of “Timothy Sawell of Winesimet [then a part of Boston and since 1739 the city of Chelsea] and Elizabeth Jeffery of Lynn” were recorded at Boston, Massachusetts.^[8] Elizabeth was the daughter of John and Sarah (_____) (Prisbury?) Jeffery of Lynn. The will of John “Jeffryes” of Lynn, house carpenter, dated 12 July 1727 and proved 18 October 1728, names his daughter Elizabeth Sewall.^[9] Elizabeth died between 1729, when her daughter Catherine was born, and 1735, when Timothy remarried. If, as seems likely, her daughter Rebecca was younger than Catherine, she died a year or two after 1729. She was buried on a piece of Timothy Sewell’s property in Mendon, Massachusetts, which he held back when he sold the land to David Boyce in 1740.^[10]

As Timothy “Shewil” of Mendon, he recorded his intentions at Boston 30 June 1735 to marry (second) **BRIDGET LYNDSEY**.^[11] Bridget (Lyndsey) Sewell died after 26 April 1754, when her husband’s estate was distributed, and probably before 9 December 1758, when Timothy’s children began selling their interests in the land set off for her use by Timothy’s estate (as discussed below).

By early 1717 Timothy and Elizabeth (Jeffrey) Sewell moved to Lynn, where their first five children were born between then and 1724. They moved to Mendon by 1729, when their sixth child was born there. On 6 May 1729, 7½ acres of land in Mendon near his house was laid out for him; and on 10 December 1730 another 6 acres of land near his other land was laid out.^[12] On 30 April 1751 he was granted three lots totaling 4¾ acres in the eleventh division: one parcel adjoined his house lot, one parcel was next to his meadow land on the east side of the Mill River, and one parcel was on the east side of the road to Smithfield adjoining land of Walter Cook. On 27 September 1751 a lot with 9 acres of land granted him in the ninth and tenth divisions on the west side of the road to Smithfield adjoining land of Walter Cook and

⁷ Worcester Co., Mass., probate records, 4:225 (docket no. 52,985).

⁸ *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* (Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898) [hereafter *Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751*], 95. The intentions of “Timothy Sewell [or Sewall] of Boston and Elizabeth Jeffery” had been recorded at Lynn, Massachusetts, two days earlier (*Vital Records of Lynn, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849*, 2 vols. [Salem, Mass., The Essex Institute, 1905–6] [hereafter *Lynn VRs*], 2:205 [spelled “Sewall”] and 2:340 [spelled “Sewell”]).

⁹ Essex County, Massachusetts, probate records, packet 14,812, images at AmericanAncestors.org. John’s will named his wife Sarah, and distinguished between his three children (presumably with his wife Sarah) and his wife’s daughter Dorcas Brown. If Dorcas Brown was the Dorcas Prisbury who m. Thomas Browne at Lynn 26 Aug. 1709, then Sarah’s first husband would have been a Prisbury (*Lynn VRs*, 2:310). See also Marcia W. Lindberg, “Joseph Brown of Lynn” *The Essex Genealogist* 18 (1996): 222–228, at 227–228.

¹⁰ Worcester Co., Mass., southern district land records, 13:311.

¹¹ *Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751*, 223.

¹² *Proprietors Records of the Town of Mendon, Massachusetts* (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1899) [hereafter *Proprietors Records of Mendon*], 701. These grants suggest Timothy Sewell already had a house lot in Mendon in 1729. Both grants were of land originally granted to Isaac Richerson in the eighth division.

Isaac Chase, was laid out for him. Some of his land crossed the state line and extended into Cumberland, Rhode Island.^[13]

On 14 August 1733 Timothy Sewell of Mendon was summoned to court to answer a complaint filed against him by Ebenezer Cook of Mendon. He must have satisfied the complaint because the recognizance was discharged at the next session, 6 November 1733.^[14]

The will of Timothy Sewell, dated 27 April 1753 and proved 22 August 1753, names his wife Bridget Sewell, sons John and Joseph Sewell, and daughters Elizabeth Gibson, Margaret Sherman, and Katherine, Rebekah, and Anna Sewell.^[15] Bridget Sewell was appointed guardian for Anna Sewall, about 13 years old, and Joseph Sewall, about 15 years old, on 8 October 1753.^[16]

On 26 April 1754 the distribution of Timothy Sewell's real estate was presented and approved. Land valued at one-third of the total was set off to the widow Bridget Sewell "to be held & enjoyed during her naturall life." The distribution was signed by Bridget Sewell (by mark), Elkanah Sherman, and Anthony Chase, as well as by the court-appointed committee.^[17]

Between 1758 and 1762, Timothy's children John "Suel," Elizabeth Gibson (and husband William Gibson), Margaret Shearman (and husband Elkanah Shearman), Katherine Chase (and husband Anthony Chase), Rebecca Lewis (and husband Lemuel Lewis), Joseph Sewell, and Anna Sewell sold their one-seventh parts of the dower third set off for the use of their widowed mother, to Robert Aldrich of Cumberland, Rhode Island.^[18]

¹³ *Proprietors Records of Mendon*, 962–963. The location of the land in Mendon and Cumberland is documented in the inventory of Timothy¹ Sewell's estate. Timothy's land was probably in the southeastern corner of Mendon (now in the town of Blackstone), Mass. Between 1727 and 1845, Mendon included the present towns of Millville and Blackstone, as Bellingham was set off in 1719 and Uxbridge in 1727. Cumberland was set off from Attleborough, Mass., in 1747, when it was transferred to Rhode Island. Isaac Chase was probably the father of Anthony Chase, who married Timothy's daughter Katharine. Woonsocket, R.I., was not set off from Cumberland until 1888.

¹⁴ Franklin P. Rice, ed., *Records of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Worcester, Massachusetts, from 1731 to 1737* (Worcester: Worcester Society of Antiquity, 1882), 81, 86.

¹⁵ Worcester Co., Mass., probate records, docket number 52,985: 4:224–225 (will); 4:225 (inventory); 4:298–299 (account).

¹⁶ Worcester Co., Mass., probate records, docket numbers 52,983, 105:109 (Anna); and 52,984, 102:212 (Joseph).

¹⁷ Worcester Co., Mass., probate records, docket number 52,985, 4:351–352 (distribution). The land was divided by appraised value, which resulted in each heir receiving different acreage. Bridget's "one-third" was only 8 of the total 80 acres but included the house and barn. The children's portions, each valued at £18 15s. 7d., varied from 6 to 20 acres.

¹⁸ Worcester Co., Mass., southern district land records, 41:427 (John Suel of Winchester, Va., 31 Dec. 1759); 41:426 (William and Elizabeth Gibson of Hopkinton, Mass., 1 Feb. 1759); 41:273–274 (Elkanah and Margaret Shearman of Bateman Precinct, Dutchess Co., N.Y., 1 July 1759); 41:272–273 (Anthony and Katherine Chase of Mendon, 1 Jan. 1759); 41:273 (Lemuel and Rebecca Lewis of Bateman Precinct, Dutchess Co., N.Y., 9 Dec. 1758); 41:274 (Joseph Sewall of Bateman Precinct, Dutchess Co., N.Y., 10 Sept. 1759); and 48:497 (Anna Sewell of Beekman's Precinct, Dutchess Co., N.Y., 8 June 1762). John and Anna's deeds each included a small parcel in addition to their interest in their mother's dower third.

Children of Timothy¹ and Elizabeth (Jeffery) Sewell, i–v born at Lynn; vi, and probably vii, born at Mendon:^[19]

2. i. JOHN² SEWELL, b. 22 March 1716/17; m. JANE _____.
3. ii. ELIZABETH SEWELL, b. 18 Jan. 1718/19; m. WILLIAM GIBSON.
- iii. TIMOTHY SEWELL, b. 26 July 1720; d. probably by 1753, as he is not named his father's will.
- iv. SARAH SEWELL, b. 21 July 1722; d. probably by 1753, as she is not named in her father's will.
4. v. MARGARET SEWELL, b. 13 Dec. 1724; m. ELKANAH SHERMAN.
5. vi. KATHARINE SEWELL, b. 26 March 1729; m. ANTHONY CHASE.
6. vii. REBEKAH SEWELL, b. say 1731; m. LEMUEL LEWIS.

Children of Timothy¹ and Bridget (Lyndsey) Sewell, born probably at Mendon:^[20]

7. viii. JOSEPH SEWELL, b. ca. 1738; m. _____.
8. ix. ANNA SEWELL, b. ca. 1740; m. WILLIAM SOULE.

2. **JOHN² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born at Lynn, Massachusetts 22 March 1716/7.^[21] He died in that part of Berkeley County, Virginia (now in Jefferson County, West Virginia), between 1786, when he was named on a tax list, and 1793, when his will was probated.

John Sewell married **JANE** _____,^[22] who was alive in 1778 when he wrote his will and was probably the mother of his children.^[23] She died before 17 December 1793, when John Sewell's will was presented for probate: although she and John's son Timothy³ Sewell were named executors in the will, Timothy Sewell was listed on the probate records as the sole executor.

John was named in his father's 1753 will, and he received his share of the estate in the distribution dated 26 April 1754. Consistent with his having left Massachusetts by 1751, he did not sign the distribution that was approved by the court. As John Suel of Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, on 31 December 1759 he sold the land he received from the estate of his father, Timothy Sewell, and his one-seventh share of the land set off for the use of his mother Bridget Sewell by his father's estate.^[24]

¹⁹ *Lynn VRs*, 1:366; *Vital records of Mendon, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: [Wright & Potter], 1920) [hereafter *Mendon VRs*], 155.

²⁰ Guardianships were established in 1753 for Joseph, about 15, and Anna, about 13, minor children of Timothy Sewell (see note 24).

²¹ *Lynn VRs*, 1:366. The surname is spelled "Sewall."

²² The works by Gillem noted above and many online family trees say she was Jane Boswell. Jane Boswell was the daughter of Major Thomas Boswell and the widow of [Sterling?] Thornton. She married John Seawell of Gloucester Co., Va., and their son John Seawell was born 6 Feb. 1760. Jane was a witness to the will of Sterling Thornton [Jr.] dated 28 March 1790 (*William and Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine* 7 [1898–1899]:194, 8 [1899–1900]:54–60, 19 [1910–1911]:112).

²³ There is no evidence of a prior wife.

²⁴ Worcester Co., Mass., southern district land records, 41:427. He returned to New England to execute the deed. The land sold was approximately 16 acres, while 20 acres was received from the estate; as no other conveyances have been found, the discrepancy is probably due to measurement errors. One of the witnesses was Anthony Chase, probably his brother-in-law, and his affidavit of free action was dated at Smithfield, R.I.

On 24 June 1751 Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the proprietor of immense acreage in the Northern Neck of Virginia, granted John “Sewel” of Frederick County 365 acres of land there, in exchange for a perpetual rent of 7 shillings a year. The land, near Shenandoah Junction, in (then) Virginia, abutted, in part, land of Peter Burr and was in that part of Frederick County that was set off in 1772 as Berkeley County and, in 1801 as Jefferson County (in 1863 Berkeley and Jefferson Counties became part of West Virginia).^[25]

Quit rent rolls show him residing in Frederick County between 1774 and 1781.^[26] He was a voter there 11 December 1755 and 24 July 1758.^[27] In 1775, “for love & affection,” John deeded 146 acres and 147 acres from this grant to his sons Timothy and David.^[28] John Sewell was a member of the first grand jury convened in Berkeley County in August 1772.^[29] In 1775 John and Timothy Sewell were signers of “the Petition” in Berkeley County.^[30]

Between 1781 and 1783 John Sewell of Berkeley County presented a certificate to the Berkeley County court to substantiate a claim for property impressed under an act passed by the Virginia General Assembly to obtain supplies needed to continue the Revolutionary War. Timothy and David Sewell also presented such certificates.^[31]

The will of John Sewell, dated in April 1778 and proved at the Berkeley County probate court 17 December 1793, names his wife Jane, his daughters Abigail, Elizabeth, Jane, and Ann Sewell, and his sons David and Timothy Sewell. An account approved by the court 22 April 1799 names David Sewall, Abigail Sewell, Elizabeth Bountain, Jane Sewell, and Ann Joslin.^[32] John Sewell’s land in Jefferson County was divided into four lots in 1793: in 1796 the lots were described as 43 acres each to William Bountain, Jeremiah Joslin, and “Jean” Sewell, and 38 acres to Abigail Sewell.^[33]

²⁵ Northern Neck [Virginia] Land Grants, H:13, image online at the Library of Virginia, lva.virginia.gov. See also Gertrude E. Grey, *Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants*, 4 vols. (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987–93), 2 (1741–75): 204.

²⁶ Danske Dandridge, *Historic Shepherdstown* (Charlottesville, Va.: The Michie Co., 1910), “Rent Roll of Berkeley County for the Years 1774, 1775 . . . and 1781,” 62–73, at 71 (listed as “John Seville,” with 365 acres).

²⁷ Murtie June Clark, *Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732–1774* (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 328–32 “Poll for Frederick County, Dec. 11, 1755, List of Voters,” 513–19 “Poll taken in Frederick County, Jul. 24, 1758”; W. W. Abbot, ed., *The papers of George Washington, Colonial Series*, 10 vols. (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1983–1995), 5:334–44, Frederick County, Poll Sheet, 1758: Poll taken in Frederick County, 24th July 1758, at 5:338.

²⁸ Larry G. Shuck, *Berkeley County, (W.) Va., Deeds and Wills, Abstracts* (Apollo, Pa.: Clossen Press, 1999), 22–23, citing deeds book 3, 379–80.

²⁹ J. E. Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley Counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Clarke* (Chicago: A. Warner & Co., 1890), 227.

³⁰ “Petition of Freeholders of Berkeley County to the Convention, 1775,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 13 (1905–1906):412–15, at 412. See also Worley Levi Sewell, *History of the Sewell Families in America* (privately printed, 1955), 105.

³¹ Library of Virginia, Public Service Claim Certificates, Books and Lists.

³² Berkeley Co., W.V., probate records, will books, 2:209–10 (will); 3:224–25 (account, showing payments to Abigail Sewell, Elizabeth Bountain, Jane Sewell, and Ann Joslin). The four named female legatees each received £17 10s.

³³ Conrad C. Hamman, Don C. Wood, *A History of Halltown Paperboard Company* (n.p., n.d., 1984–partial PDF online at htracyhall.org/ocr/IRH-Genealogy/Cabinet1/Drawer 3/PaperBoard&&&/

John Sewell and Jane _____ had the six children named in his will, born in Berkeley County, Virginia from about 1740 to 1765.^[34]

3. **ELIZABETH² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born at Lynn, Massachusetts, 18 January 1718/9.^[35] She is probably the widow Gibson, aged 82 years, who died at Hopkinton, Massachusetts, 19 March 1798.^[36]

Elizabeth Sewell married, apparently for the second time, as Elizabeth Rines or Rhines, at Christ Church in Hopkinton, 12 September 1751, as his second wife, **WILLIAM GIBSON** of Hopkinton,^[37] the son of John and Mary (_____) Gibson of Hopkinton. John Gibson's will, dated 19 September 1744 and proved 26 November 1744, names his wife Mary, his eldest son William, his second son James, and his daughter Wood.^[38] William Gibson died, probably at Hopkinton, shortly before 6 June 1763, when administration of his estate was granted to his widow. He married, first, at Christ Church, 13 July 1744, Mary Scott,^[39] who

PaperBoard-105_OCR.pdf), facsimile of the division plot, citing an unrecorded deed in Jefferson County land records, book 1.

³⁴ A copy of this article, with information on Timothy¹ Sewell's grandchildren added to it, will be donated as an unpublished manuscript to NEHGS/American Ancestors by author Graves.

³⁵ *Lynn VRs*, 1:366. The surname is spelled "Sewall."

³⁶ *Vital Records of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1911) [hereafter *Hopkinton VRs*], 422, citing records of Christ Church in Hopkinton. Widow Gibson could have been Ann McCollister, daughter of John and Jennet (_____) McCollister, who married James Gibson at Hopkinton 27 Sept. 1757 (279), but Ann was born at Westborough 1 Jan. 1727 (*Vital Records of Westborough, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1903], 69), and was eight years younger than Elizabeth.

³⁷ *Hopkinton VRs*, 280, 353, citing both town and church records. The published vital records say she was Elizabeth "Rines" in the intentions and marriage records and Elizabeth "Rhines" in the church record. No record has been found of a Sewell-Rhines/Rines marriage, and the name Rines or Rhines does not otherwise occur in either Mendon or Hopkinton vital records. At age 32, Elizabeth was more than old enough to have been previously married. A query in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, 21 May 1906, says "in the records the name of Elizabeth Rhines is defaced and according to family tradition the wife's name was Elizabeth Sewell."

³⁸ Middlesex Co., Mass., probate records, docket 9107. A letter to the probate judge dated 19 October 1744 states that the undersigned heirs of John Gibson (Mary Gibson, William Gibson, Martha Wood and Joseph Wood), request that the will be allowed. Hopkinton vital records do not include a death record for John Gibson.

Martha Gibson married on 21 or 23 Sept. 1742 Joseph Wood; William Gibson married, intentions recorded 13 July 1744, Mary Scott; and James Gibson married, intentions recorded 23 Aug. 1748, Lettice Boyes (*Hopkinton VRs*, 279–80). James was John Gibson's administrator in 1744. Joseph Wood later became the guardian of William Gibson's three children with his first wife. A query in the genealogical column of the *Boston Evening Transcript*, 16 March 1933, suggests William Gibson was the son of Samuel3 Gibson (*Samuel2, John1* of Cambridge), but notes that a well-known Gibson genealogy (Mehitable Calef Copenhagen Wilson, *John Gibson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and His Descendants* [Washington, D.C.: Press of McGill & Wallace, 1900], 10) says both Samuels, sons of John1 Gibson, died young.

³⁹ *Hopkinton VRs*, 280, citing both town and parish records. Although her name is given as "School" in the marriage record, it is spelled "Scott" in the intentions and "Scot" in the church records. Three children of William Gibson were baptized at Christ Church before his marriage to Elizabeth Rines: *John*, bp. 21 April 1745; *Mary*, bp. 19 July 1747; and *Katherine*, bp. 5 Nov. 1747 (86–87). Harry A. Gibson, "Queries," *Register* 43 (1889): 431, names another child, *Chloe*, says she died in 1766, and asks for William Gibson's parents.

probably died between 5 November 1749^[40] and 12 September 1751, when William Gibson remarried.

Elizabeth was named in her father's will, dated 27 April 1753, as Elizabeth Gibson. On 1 February 1759 William Gibson and Elizabeth Gibson of Hopkinton sold Elizabeth's one-seventh share of the land set off for the use of her mother Bridget Sewell by her father's estate.

Administration of the estate of William Gibson, late of Hopkinton, was granted to his widow Elizabeth 6 June 1763. Guardianship of his three children with his first wife was granted the same day to Joseph Wood of Hopkinton.^[41]

William Gibson's real estate was distributed to his heirs 8 October 1766, including a third going to his widow Elizabeth for her natural life; and a final distribution decree was dated 9 July 1771. That day guardianship of the oldest four of William and Elizabeth's children was granted to James Hiscock of Hopkinton and of the youngest, Timothy, to widow Elizabeth Gibson.^[42]

William Gibson and Elizabeth Sewell had five children, baptized at Christ Church in Hopkinton from 1752 to 1761.^[43]

4. **MARGARET² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born in Lynn, Massachusetts 13 December 1724.^[44] As "Margaret Suel," she married at Smithfield, Rhode Island 18 October 1747, **ELKANAH⁴ SHERMAN**,^[45] who was born at Dartmouth, Massachusetts, 25 April 1722,^[46] the son of Elkanah³ Sherman (*Edmund*², *Philip*¹, *Samuel*^A, *Henry*^{B-C}) and his wife Elizabeth Manchester.^[47]

Margaret was named in her father's will as Margaret Sherman. On 1 July 1759 Elkanah and Margaret "Shearman" of Bateman Precinct, Dutchess County, New York, sold Margaret's one-seventh part of the land set off to her mother Bridget Sewell by her father's estate.

Elkanah Sherman and Margaret Sewell had seven children.^[48]

⁴⁰ Three children of William Gibson were baptized at Christ Church between 21 April 1745 and 5 November 1749 (*Hopkinton VRs*, 86–87, citing church records).

⁴¹ Middlesex Co., Mass., probate records, docket 9117 (administration); and 9118 (guardianship).

⁴² Middlesex Co., Mass., probate records, docket 9119 (guardianship of Elizabeth, Judith, Martha and William); and 9120 (guardianship of Timothy).

⁴³ *Hopkinton VRs*, 86–88.

⁴⁴ *Lynn VRs*, 1:366. The surname is spelled "Sewall."

⁴⁵ James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island 1636–1850: First Series: Births, Marriages and Deaths*, 9 vols. (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1891–97) [hereafter *Rhode Island VRs*], *Volume 3, Providence County*, "Smithfield Marriages," 65—the marriage is recorded under the surname Sherman but not under Sewell or Suel.

⁴⁶ His birth record listed him as "Elcanah Shearman" (*Vital Records of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 3 vols. [Boston, Mass.: NEHGS, 1929–30], 1:222).

⁴⁷ Elkanah Sherman's and Elizabeth Manchester's marriage on 15 Jan. 1719 was recorded at Little Compton and Tiverton, Rhode Island (*Rhode Island VRs, Volume 4, Newport County*, "Little Compton Intentions and Marriages," 40, 55; "Tiverton Intentions and Marriages," 37, spelled "Shearman," 46, spelled "Sherman"). For his ancestry, see David Sherman, "The Sherman Family," *Register* 24 (1870): 63–71. Sherman omitted Elkanah⁴ in the list of his father's children, probably because he mistakenly moved the birth of Elkanah's brother Job from 1720/1 to 1722. Elkanah Sherman's grandfather Philip¹ Sherman was the first secretary of Rhode Island, in 1639 (65–66).

⁴⁸ Roy V. Sherman, *Some of the Descendants of Philip Sherman, The First Secretary of Rhode Island* (n.p.: n.p., 1968), 350ff.

5. **KATHARINE² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born at Mendon, Massachusetts 26 March 1729^[49] and died by 3 April 1808, when her husband remarried.^[50]

Katherine Sewell of Mendon married at Cumberland, Rhode Island 23 September 1753, **ANTHONY⁶ CHASE**,^[51] who was born at Swansea, Massachusetts 26 June 1732, the son of Isaac⁵ (*Isaac*⁴, *William*³⁻²⁻¹) and Amy (Anthony) Chase.^[52] He died at Mendon 2 May 1817.^[53] He married, second, at Mendon 3 April 1808, Mary (____) Walling.^[54]

Katherine Sewell was the sole executrix of her father's will, and the estate account of Anthony Chase and Katharine Chase, formerly Katharine Sewall, was approved 29 November 1753. On 1 January 1759 Anthony and Katherine Chase of Mendon sold Katharine's one-seventh part of the land set off to her mother Bridget Sewell by her father's estate. Anthony Chase also witnessed the sales by John Sewell, Joseph Sewell, and Elkanah and Margaret Sherman of their one-seventh parts of the same land to the same Robert Aldrich.

Isaac and Amy Chase were members of the Society of Friends,^[55] and Anthony and Katharine most likely were as well, because the marriages of two of their daughters and the birth and marriage of their oldest son are found in the records of the Smithfield, Rhode Island, Meeting.^[56]

The will of Anthony Chase of Mendon, dated 27 February 1816 and proved 2 September 1817, names his wife Mary, his daughters "Neomy" Slade, Margaret Sylvester, and Ruth Marsh, his son Timothy Chase, his deceased son Israel Chase, his granddaughters Asenath and Hannah Chase (daughters of his son Timothy), his grandson Anthony Chase (son of his deceased son Israel Chase), and Heber Walling of Mendon, and mentions but does not name other grandchildren.^[57]

Anthony Chase and Katharine Sewell had seven children, born at Mendon from 1754 to 1767.^[58]

⁴⁹ *Mendon VRs*, 155. The surname is spelled "Sewel."

⁵⁰ John Carroll Chase and Walter Chamberlain, "Some of the Descendants of William Chase," *Register* 87 (1933): 46–55, 127–141, 242–264 (and continued) [hereafter Chase and Chamberlain, "William Chase"], at 247, say that Katharine died 19 Sept. 1808. The death is not recorded in *Mendon VRs*.

⁵¹ *Rhode Island VRs, Volume 3, Providence County*, "Cumberland Marriages," 57.

⁵² *Vital Records of Swansea, Massachusetts to 1850* (Boston, Mass.: NEHGS, 1992), 37. His parents' marriage is in *Rhode Island VRs*, 7:9, "Rhode Island Friends Record—Marriages," 7:9. Isaac Chase was probably the man of that name whose land abutted that of Timothy¹ Sewell.

⁵³ *Mendon VRs*, 456.

⁵⁴ *Mendon VRs*, 265, recorded her as Mrs. Mary Wallen. One researcher says Mary was Mary Herendeen, born at Smithfield 23 June 1757, daughter of Hezekiah and Freelove (____) Herendeen, that Mary married, first, Thomas Walling, who died in Litchfield, Conn., in 1802, that she married, third, intentions recorded at Mendon 20 May 1821 Thomas Bates, and that she died at Ripley, N.Y., in 1840 (unsourced notes at FindaGrave.com memorial no. 62907122). Mary's birth is in *Rhode Island VRs*, "Smithfield Births," 4:100; and the marriage of Mary Chase to Thomas Bates is in *Mendon VRs*, 266.

⁵⁵ Chase and Chamberlain, "William Chase," 247.

⁵⁶ *Rhode Island VRs, Volume 7, Friends and Ministers*, "Smithfield Record of Friends: Marriage," 164, and "Smithfield Record of Friends: Births and Deaths," 185. The two daughters' marriages are also recorded at Mendon (*Mendon VRs*, 266).

⁵⁷ Worcester Co., Mass., Probate Records, 48:583–84.

⁵⁸ *Mendon VRs*, 45–46. Naomi's name is spelled "Neomy" in her birth record, but "Naomi" in subsequent records; her sister Amy's name is given as "Namy" in her birth record but as "Amey" or "Ama" in her marriage intentions.

6. **REBECCA² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born probably at Mendon, say between 1731 and 1736. A guardianship was not established for her, as had been for Joseph and Anna. Her sister Katherine was named the sole executrix of their father's will, so Rebecca was probably the younger sister.

She married **LEMUEL LEWIS** between 1753, when she was named as Rebecca Sewell in her father's will, and 9 December 1758, when she and her husband sold land.

On 9 December 1758 Lemuel and Rebecca Lewis of Beekman Precinct, Dutchess County, New York, sold Rebecca's one-seventh part of the land set off to her mother Bridget Sewell by her father's estate.

A Lemuel Lewis paid rent to Jonathan Dennis, and a Timothy Lewis is also mentioned in the Beekman Patent.^[59]

7. **JOSEPH² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born probably at Mendon, Massachusetts, about 1738^[60] and died, either at Sutton, Quebec or Alburgh, Vermont.

Joseph Sewell's wife has not been identified.

Joseph was named in his father's will dated 27 April 1753; he received his share of the estate in the distribution dated 26 April 1754. In addition to his share of his father's land, he was given his father's gun and his father's negro servant, Cesar, when he reached the age of 21 years. On 10 September 1759 Joseph Sewell of Bateman Precinct, Dutchess County, New York, sold his one-seventh part of the land set off to his mother Bridget Sewell by his father's estate.

He is probably the Joseph Sewall who served in Capt. Ebenezer Jenckes's company from Rhode Island from June to December, 1756, during the French and Indian War.^[61]

Joseph and his sister Anne lived in Dutchess County, New York, from 1761 to 1763.^[62] A Joseph Suel was taxed in Saratoga District, Albany County, New York, in 1779 (Saratoga County was split off from Albany County in 1791).^[63]

⁵⁹ Frank J. Doherty, *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent*, 7 vols. (1990–2003), 4:201, 204. Doherty suggests that Lemuel and Timothy might be children of Nathan and Mary (Gridley) Lewis of Southington, Conn. (7:942, 8:139). While the Lewis brothers' known activity in the Beekman Patent (1761–1764) predates their marriages and the births of their children in Connecticut, connecting Lemuel Lewis, husband of Rebecca Sewell, to the Connecticut family requires Rebecca's death soon after her share of her father's estate was sold in 1758; Lemuel's return to Southington no later than 1765, when the first of seven children with Martha Royce was born; and Timothy's return by 1769, when he married. See Heman R. Timlow, *Ecclesiastical and Other Sketches of Southington, Conn.* (Hartford, Conn.: Case Lockwood and Brainard, 1875), "Southington Genealogies," i–cclxxv [following the paginated chapters], at clviii–clix. Doherty places two Rebecca Lewises in the Beekman Patent: one born about 1735 and who died in 1798 in her 64th year, widow of Jacob Lewis (Doherty, 8:141); and the second the wife of Thomas Lewis who was born in 1760 (8:139).

⁶⁰ From the guardianship established in 1753 for Joseph, aged about 15, a minor child of Timothy Sewell.

⁶¹ Howard M. Chapin, *Rhode Island in the Colonial Wars: A List of Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors in the Old French and Indian War, 1755–1762* (Providence, R.I.: Providence Historical Society, 1918), 7–8 (summary of action in 1756), 88 (Jenckes), 124 (Sewell).

⁶² Kenneth Scott, "Some Dutchess County, New York, Residents, 1761–1763," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 74 (1986): 129–49, at 142–43. Anne and Joseph's names both appear in the list of customers of Joseph Mabbett, a merchant of Washington Precinct, near the center of Dutchess County.

⁶³ Saratoga District, Tax List #2, Albany Co., transcription by Leslie B. Potter (2002), online at files.usgwarchives.org/ny/albany/taxlists/saratoga1779-2.txt.

He and his son Joseph Sewell Jr. both took the Freeman's Oath at the first Alburgh Town Meeting, 7 June 1792, and he appears on the town's grand lists as a land owner from 1794 to 1797. He lived on lot number 82, second concession, in 1798, which was owned by his son Joseph Sewell Jr. in 1802.^[64]

Joseph and Taber Sewell were among four men who took the oath of allegiance at Missisquoi Bay, Lower Canada (now Quebec), on 22 June 1795, stating they were from Vermont and intended to settle at Sutton, which is about ten miles northeast of Alburgh.^[65] Joseph Sewell was one of the original grantees named in the Letters Patent which created Sutton, dated 29 March 1802.^[66] He received two grants of land in Sutton on 31 August 1802.^[67]

Joseph's sons Joseph and Tabor Sewell and his sons-in-law Abel Holbrook and Timothy Soule, who were by that time married, are listed at Alburgh in the 1810 census; and Joseph may be the male over 45 listed in the household of Joseph Sewell.^[68]

Joseph Sewell had four children, born from about 1766 to about 1781, and possibly more.

8. **ANNA² SEWELL** (*Timothy*¹) was born, probably at Mendon, Massachusetts, about 1740^[69] and died at Alburgh, Vermont, 27 November 1825, aged 86.^[70]

She married, probably in Beekman's Precinct, Dutchess County, New York, in 1762, **WILLIAM SOULE**, who was born about 1739 and died at Alburgh, Vermont, 13 March 1811, aged 72.^[71] William and Anna Soule are buried in Bush Cemetery in Alburgh.^[72]

William was probably born at Dartmouth, Massachusetts, the son of Timothy⁴ (*Nathan*³, *George*²⁻¹) and Elizabeth (Allen) Soule,^[73] although

⁶⁴ Allen L. Stratton, *History of the Town of Alburgh, Vermont: An Account of the Discovery, Settlement and Interesting and Remarkable Events*, 2 vols. (North Hero, Vt: the author, 1986–2000) [hereafter Stratton, *History of Alburgh*], 1:57 (freeman's oath), 2:145 (land records).

⁶⁵ Lower Canada Land Petitions, 194:92515–22, at 92518, FSL film 1631062. The other two were William Smith and David Sowles.

⁶⁶ Lower Canada Land Petitions, 30:15854–65, at 15858, FSL film 1630493; Cyrus Thomas, *Contributions to the History of the Eastern Townships* . . . (Montreal: John Lovell, 1866) [hereafter Thomas, *History of the Eastern Townships*], 174–75. Joseph's sons, Joseph Sewell "the younger" and "Taber" Sewell, and his sister's husband William "Soules" and her sons, Joseph "Soles" and David "Soules," were also original grantees. The grantees are listed, loosely in alphabetical order, in the original grant.

⁶⁷ Library and Archives of Canada, 1802, 4:1468 (lot 3, range 11), 7:2040 (lot 19, range 3), both on FSL film 1977591.

⁶⁸ 1810 U.S. Census, Alburgh, Franklin Co., Vt., 344A (Joseph Sewell, indexed as Suell; Tabor Sewell and Abel Holbrook), 345 (Timothy Soule, indexed as Sowles).

⁶⁹ From the guardianship established in 1753 for Anna, aged about 13, a minor child of Timothy Sewell.

⁷⁰ Vermont Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1700–2008, online database at AmericanAncestors.org [hereafter *Vermont VRs*] (recorded as "Sowles").

⁷¹ *Vermont VRs*.

⁷² Alburgh, Vt., Cemetery Records, Vol. 1 (1792–1870), FSL film 2773; gravestone photographs, Bush Cemetery, FindaGrave.com memorials #23223722 (William "Sowles"), 23223713 (Anna "Sowles"); Stratton, *History of Alburgh*, 1:423. Stratton is helpful, as William's stone in the photograph is broken.

⁷³ Stratton, *History of Alburgh*, 2:149; Louise Walsh Throop, *George Soule of the Mayflower and His Descendants in the Fifth and Sixth Generations*, 5 parts (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of

some researchers have identified him as William⁵ Soule, born at Duxbury, Massachusetts, son of Ezekiel⁴ (*Joshua*³, *John*², *George*¹) and Hannah (Delano) Soule.^[74] Over time this branch of the family changed the spelling of its name to “Soles” or “Sowles.”

On 8 June 1762, Anna Sewell of Beekman’s Precinct sold approximately 5 acres of land received from her father Timothy Sewell’s estate and the one-seventh part of the land set of to her mother Bridget Sewell by her father’s estate.^[75]

William and Anna (Sewell) Soule lived in Spencertown (a hamlet in the town of Austerlitz, now in Columbia County), Albany County, New York, from about 1762 to about 1782.^[76]

During the Revolutionary War, William Soule was a Loyalist and served in the Royal Rangers. He was a private in Willett’s Company, Van Rensselaer’s Regiment, and promoted to corporal 14 June 1778 and to quartermaster sergeant in Putnam’s Company, Willett’s Regiment, 25 June 1778. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Saratoga, 17 October 1777, and released on parole. He continued serving in the King’s Loyal Rangers until the unit was decommissioned 24 December 1783.^[77]

William Soule left Spencertown sometime between 1782 and 1786, apparently intending to settle in Caldwell’s Manor, Noyan, Quebec, but settling in Alburgh by mistake instead.^[78] In the census of 1790, William’s sons Timothy, William, and Joseph Soule were listed at Champlain, New York, on the western side of the Richelieu River; and in the 1790 (1791) census of Vermont, they were listed in Alburgh, on the eastern side. In 1800 Timothy and William were listed in Alburgh. In these censuses William could have been either the son or the father, as the Soule households tallied under William’s

Mayflower Descendants, 2000–2008) [hereafter Throop, *George Soule*], 4:48–54; Anne Borden Harding, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: George Soule* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1980) [hereafter Harding, *Mayflower Families: George Soule*], 79 (Timothy in Beekman’s Precinct). The evidence for William’s parentage is circumstantial and based on the infrequent use of the name Timothy in the Soule family—although this is weakened as Anna’s father was also named Timothy—and he resided in Beekman’s Precinct after about 1748.

⁷⁴ Ridlon, *Sole etc.*, 1:330, 454, and Harding, *Mayflower Families: George Soule*, 196. Ezekiel Soule lived in Duxbury until 1766, when he moved with all of his children except William, the eldest, to Woolwich, District of Maine (Ridlon, *Sole etc.*, 1:328–333). This line of descent from George¹ Soule was accepted by the GSMD for many years—the eight applications in the GSMD/NEHGS/FS database with lines through William and Anna (Sewell) Soule identify him as Ezekiel’s son (George Soule, pages 208 (1921), 534 (1946), 689 (1956); John Alden, pages 1508 (1923), 2841 (1948), 2987 (1946), 3008 (1949), 3655 (1962); Edward Doty, page 291 (1923)).

⁷⁵ Worcester Co., Mass., southern district land records, 48:497.

⁷⁶ Ridlon, *Sole etc.*, 1:454, 461. Ridlon says William’s first child was born either in Dartmouth or Spencertown in 1762, and that the rest of his children were born in Spencertown; in his sketch on William’s son, Lewis puts the move from Spencertown in 1782.

⁷⁷ Stratton, *History of Alburgh*, 2:150; Throop, *George Soule*, 4:49; Ridlon, *Sole etc.*, 1:454, 483. Ridlon notes “published statements” calling him a Major but states he had not seen any documentary evidence of this commission. Stratton notes that his highest documented rank was sergeant. No claims were found in Paul J. Bunnell, *The New Loyalist Index*, 4 vols. (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1989–2005).

⁷⁸ C. M. Day, *History of the Eastern Townships* (Montreal: John Lovell, 1869), 289, spelling William’s name “Sowles.”

name are the only ones with more than one adult male and, in 1800, the only one with two adult females.^[79]

William “Sowles” and his sons Stephen, Timothy, Joseph, William Jr., John, and Lewis took the Freeman’s Oath at the first Alburgh Town Meeting, 7 June 1792.^[80]

In 1786, when he lived “south of the line” (i.e., in Alburgh), he was among several Loyalist petitioners for land in Potton and Sutton, Quebec; and, as noted above, as William “Soules” he was one of the original grantees named in the Sutton Letters Patent dated 29 March 1802.^[81]

William Soule and Anna Sewell had one child born at Dartmouth in 1762 and six born at Spencertown from 1764 to 1777.^[82]

Susan Hedeem (chantillycarpets@earthlink.net) of Chantilly and Reedville, Virginia, is a descendant of Timothy Sewall through his son Joseph². She inherited from her paternal grandmother a considerable quantity of original documents, letters, and research that became the foundation of her Sewell quest beginning in about 1979.

Larry Davis (ldavis028@cinci.rr.com) of Wilmington, Ohio, and John Clarke (jclarke@gcfn.org) of Delaware, Ohio, are descendants of Timothy Sewell through his son John² and have been researching their branches of the family for decades.

Eben W. Graves (eben@prodigy.net) of Brunswick, Maine, has been looking into all things Sewall or Sewell for more than twenty-five years.

⁷⁹ 1790 U.S. Census, Champlain, Clinton Co., N.Y., 182 (William), 183 (Timothy and Joseph); Alburgh, Chittenden Co., Vt., 144 (William Soal; Joseph and Timothy Sole); 1800 U.S. Census, Alburgh, Franklin Co., Vt., 410 (Timothy Souls), 412 (William Souls), both indexed as Sauls. In 1998 David Kendall Martin concluded that the entries in the 1790 census of Champlain and the 1791 census of Alburgh were duplicates. He noted that New York claimed land on both sides of Lake Champlain and gave up its claim to land on the east side only when Vermont was admitted in 1791; he says that the census takers from each state worked on both sides of lake and that, based on the 1800 census of Alburgh, the Soules really lived in Alburgh (“A 1790 Census Anomaly,” *Register* 152 (1998):69–81).

⁸⁰ Stratton, *History of Alburgh*, 1:57.

⁸¹ Throop, *George Soule*, 4:49, citing Stratton, *History of Alburgh*, 1:32–34 (petitioners); Thomas, *History of the Eastern Townships*, 174–175 (1802 grantees). His sons Joseph and David lived for a time in North Sutton, and his son Timothy built a gristmill in Brome (207–8, 252). The census records show that their surname was often spelled “Soules” or “Soles.”

⁸² Stratton, *History of Alburgh*, 1:151; Ridlon, *Sole etc.*, 1:330, 457–62. Harding, *Mayflower Families: George Soule*, 196, says that five were b. at Spencertown; Throop, *George Soule*, 50–51, says, with a question mark, that all the children were born there ca. 1762 to 1777.