

The data in this research file was compiled by Jackie Marshall (jls), decades-long (until 2023) genealogy chair of the Amherst (N.H.) Historical Society, and by Katrina Holman (KMH), independent historical researcher for/of Amherst, N.H., and author of “Historic Amherst” column for *The Amherst (NH) Citizen* newspaper 2009-2021. Jackie’s research, for the Ethnic History presentation she gave in 2010 on the Amherst History Panel held at Amherst Town Library in 2010, was largely based on her attempt to identify two individuals believed to be of African ancestry whose bones were accidentally uncovered in the Old Burying Ground in 2003. Katrina added more data including section on 18th- and 19th-century black real estate owners discovered in 2022, and compiled an index of names and a timeline. Version 2 (2025 Aug.) added new section on Peter Lovejoy. Version 3 (2026 Feb.) added much more info on Philo T., including court case that landed him in jail; also added William Tolbert and Anna Brown; Catharine Orren/Owen (marriage & residence); Peter Lovejoy’s death; & more. Version 4 (2026 May) added Isaac Ellery; manumission section; Luther Melendy’s farmhouse as potential Underground Railroad station (in Timeline section); address of Hare farm.

Revisions: Version 1 created 2024, made public Jan. 2025. V2 released Aug. 2025. V3 = Feb. 2026; V4 = May ‘26.

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History of

BLACKS in AMHERST, N.H. – in the 18th & 19th Centuries

“At the time of the adoption of our Town Charter, there were eight slaves held in Amherst, six males and two females; and in 1800 there were 33 colored persons in town.”
(*Farmers’ Cabinet*, newspaper published at Amherst, N.H., 19 Sep. 1860.)

“New Hampshire saw an ambiguous process of emancipation. The state’s 1783 Constitution stated that all men were free and equal, mirroring the rhetoric of the Revolution. However, in 1784 slaves were still considered taxable property. In 1788, Jeremy Belknap stated that the state’s constitution had freed all slaves, but the same year New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice Simeon Olcott affirmed that slavery was still legal. Belknap later backtracked and stated that the constitution only freed slaves born after its adoption. There were very diverse opinions on slavery in the state and the institution gradually died out without a formal abolition plan.”
(“When Did Slavery Really End in the North?” blog post Jan. 2017, by Kathleen Logothetis Thompson, in *Civil Discourse*, A Civil War Era Blog, civildiscourse-historyblog.com; accessed Jan. 2024)

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INDEX of “BLACK” / “COLORED” PERSONS in 18th & 19th Century RECORDS of AMHERST, N.H.

- compiled by Katrina Holman (Nov. 2024; rev. Aug. 2025; rev. Feb. 2026)

Note about terminology: This INDEX uses the same racial/color terminology as its sources.

BLANCHARD, James – 13-year-old “mulatto” (mixed race) boy who in 1850 (per census) lived with family of farmer Francis Wright (1798-1883), 52, at 44 Stearns Road farm on Souhegan River (deed 240:528). James was the ONLY person of color enumerated in Amherst in 1850. James likely was born in Milford where one Timothy Blanchard was “free colored” head of household in 1820 & 1830 (censuses).

BREWER, Peter – “Negro”/“colored” resident of New Boston, who was a Revolutionary War soldier as part of Amherst’s quota, in Morrill’s company of Cilley’s Regt; killed in battle at Saratoga, Oct. 1777. (Sources: Secomb’s *History of Amherst*, p. 384, 385, 406. Also hand-written military record that shows “Peter Brewer, Negro, 2nd Company, [of] New Boston” “To Amherst for a Bounty” paid 6 Pounds 10 Shillings + “Paid by the Continent” 6 Pounds 14 Shillings; “Engaged Mar. 18, 1777 / Died Oct. 3, 1777 / By 6 months 21 days in 1777.”)

BROWN, Anna (d. 1822) – wife of William Brown (d. 1825 at Amherst) of Amherst, a Revolutionary War soldier/veteran, and believed to be daughter of Philo Talbot/Talbert/Tolbert. For a period of seven months from Oct. 1870 - April 1781, Philo Tolbart financially supported Anna Brown and her family, for which Philo was reimbursed for “supplying the family of William Brown, a Continental Soldier” by the Town of Amherst in March 1782 (U.S. military records). In March 1782, William petitioned the Town of Amherst for the bounty due him “as a soldier for this town for the term of three years” stating that he “then engaged to serve in the Continental army during the war” (Secomb, p. 398-399); also in March 1782, this William Brown was identified in a land deed as “late of Amherst and now a soldier in the Continental Army, labourer” when he bought 10 acres in Amherst (deed 9:179), which was the same land he sold in 1787 when he and wife Anna, neither of whom could sign own name, were still residents of Amherst (deed 32:397). By 1818, Wm Brown was in “reduced circumstances, no property; health is bad & unable to pursue a comfortable living” (from deposition for war pension application). This William Brown is probably the man who was born in Britain (c. 1739 if death notice age was correct) as William Hodge or Hodgeman, came to America as a British soldier, then acquired a new name when he deserted and switched sides.

William Brown Jr. (1776-1832; b. & d. Amherst; birth date from Secomb, death date from gravestone) was a son of Wm & Anna; Junior was married Aug. 1799 to Tabitha Bout(w)ell (1781-1870), daughter of neighbor Aaron Bout(w)ell (m. 1780; died 1839 a pauper in Amherst almshouse aged 86) & wife Tabitha Eaton. In Dec. 1799, Junior bought land abutting Philo Tolbart’s (deed 56:55). See LIFE LEASES research file for Wm Brown Jr.’s agreement in 1803 to support his father in Sr.’s house on 12a for the rest of Pa’s life (deed 60:253).

Sarah Brown, to whom her grandfather Philo Talburt sold & delivered a cow and about one ton of hay from his barn for \$30 in 1807 (bill of sale recorded in registry of deeds 72:514), must have been a daughter of Wm & Anna.

Polly Brown was another daughter of Wm & Anna (deed 136:246 of 1822); in May 1822 “the (Senior) William Brown of Amherst, Pensioner of the Revolutionary War” conveyed his 2-room house with no land to his daughter Polly, to come into her possession after the death of both of her parents (deed 136:246).

CHAMBERS, Cuff (d. 1818) – non-white head of household living in Amherst in 1800 (census) with 3 other non-whites in household. (Not a resident taxpayer of Amherst, N.H., in 1801, 1804-1810.) Before moving to Amherst, Cuff had married at Andover, Mass., in 1762, a woman who also was a “servant;” and had served in Capt. Forbush’s Massachusetts company during the Revolutionary War. After Amherst, he moved with his family to Leeds, Maine, where he died.

CHANDLER, Primus – “colored” man from Bedford, N.H., who was Revolutionary War soldier as part of Amherst’s quota, in Col. Bedel’s company; killed “by the Indians, May 1776” (Secomb, p. 373, 406) when “82 out of 200 of the N.H. regiment were murdered by the Indians as they marched out of Fort Wm. Henry unarmed after they had capitulated” (*History of Bedford*, 1850, p. 244); and/or “taken at the Cedars and never after heard of” (*History of Bedford*, 1850, p. 127; *History of Bedford*, 1903, p. 574). There is conjecture (*History of Bedford*, 1903, p. 573) that he was the same “negro boy” purchased as a slave in Boston in 1740 by Zechariah Chandler of Bedford; and that the younger/older Bedford resident also called Primus Chandler (1775-1853), who is buried at Bedford, was the son of the elder Primus.

ELLERY, Isaac – “servant” of William Vinson and inhabitant of Gloucester, Mass., who served as a soldier in the Narraganset War aka King Philip’s War (1675) and therefore was eligible for land in Souhegan West in 1734/5, which the S.W. Proprietors voted to award to the descendants of his master/employer Wm Vinson. “Servant” was sometimes code for “slave” so Isaac Ellery’s case begs the question: could he have been of African ancestry aka black?

FREEMAN, Cesar – husbandman=farmer (and likely the black man who had been a resident of Ipswich Hamlet, Mass. in 1774 when he married Lydia Freeman there) who in 1778 was already a resident of Amherst when he bought 30 acres, being half of a First Division lot [104], for 9 Pounds lawful money (deed 8:237); he likely built the house at 61 Austin Road, which he occupied until c. 1782, by which year he had become a resident of Lyndeborough (deed 12:116; *History of Lyndeborough, N.H.*, 1906, p. 269, 1786 list of taxpayers, which includes “Cesar Freeman”). If Cesar Freeman was indeed black, then house at 61 Austin Road is earliest/oldest still-standing house in Amherst owned by a black man.

FREEMAN, Sampson – laborer and resident of Amherst in Sep. 1785 when he bought 65-acre lot in Lyndeborough adjoining/abutting on Elizabeth Perwid(d)y’s west side (deeds 18:115 & 34:89). Likely a black man, related to Cesar Freeman (no source found).

GARDNER, Nancy – indentured “Negro Girl” who ran away from Ebenezer Kimball in Feb. 1807 (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, newspaper published in Amherst, N.H.).

HALL, Jude – “colored” resident of Kensington, N.H., who was Revolutionary War soldier as part of Amherst’s quota, serving in Richard’s company of Cilley’s Regt (Secomb, p. 384, 385, 404).

HARE, Richard N. (b. in Virginia; d. 1953 aged 85; buried Amherst) – in 1913 bought house & farm in Amherst at 332 Route 101 (near Bedford line, with 75a, formerly known as John M. Prince farm and then Frank W. Noyes farm) (deed 716:291; “Sales in Amherst” in *Milford Cabinet*, 6 Nov. 1913, p. 5) and moved his family here and became a farmer. His wife was Josephine nee Watson (1880-1955; b. Arkansas; married 1905 in Cohasset, Mass.). They were called “black” in 1900 & 1910 censuses; “mulatto” in 1920 census; “Negro” in 1930 census. Five more children were born to them in Amherst. Their children were well educated. In Jan. 1920, Josephine Watson Hare became owner of the adjoining farm that had belonged to her late mother (deed 781:145). In 1924 the Hares opened a wayside refreshment stand aka tea room along Route 101, at first near the old Ephraim Jones blacksmith shop at the junction of the county and Merrimack roads, near their home (*Cabinet*, 11 Sep. 1924), and the following year moved it even closer to their house (*Cabinet*, 16 April 1925). Richard & Josephine lived in Amherst for 40+ years, essentially until their deaths. (Josephine’s obituary in *Milford Cabinet*, 28 April 1955, p. 6.) Richard was succeeded on the farm by his son Eric W. Hare (1914-1984), a middle child but the first of their many children born in Amherst, who lived there with his wife Katherine nee Jeffers (1919-2011) until 1970s. Their three children were raised in Amherst. In 1948-1951, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hare bred for sale collie puppies at their Stony Acres Kennels. In Jan. 1958, Mrs. Eric W. Hare – known to her friends as Kathy – became the Amherst correspondent for the *Milford Cabinet*. She had previously worked on the “Village Spire,” the Congregational Church parish newsletter.

[Note: Because the Hare family were residents in 20th century, their data is not included in Sources section below. Related: See entry for Watson below.]

KIMBALL, Thomas – “black” man, who died at Amherst on 30 Sep. 1805 aged 61, of fever.

LOVEJOY, Peter (1764-1812) – non-white man who was married to Lydia Greenlief Bradford by Moses Nichols, JP, at Amherst on 3 Oct. 1786 (*Amherst Town Records, Volume 1*, p. 66). (Dr./Gen. Moses Nichols (1740-1790) was a physician in Amherst and county register of deeds and a general of N.H. militia, and in the Revolutionary War had been a Colonel in Gen. Stark’s regiment.) Peter Lovejoy probably was the Revolutionary War vet who fought in Mass. regt, having enlisted as 17-year-old “negro” from Andover in 1780 (*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors In the War of the Revolution*, 1902). The birth dates of 5 children, between 1788 and 1800, are recorded in *Amherst Town Records*; two of the children were baptized in the Congregational church of Amherst in 1794. In 1800 census Peter headed a household of 7 (including himself) non-white (“other free”) persons in Amherst. Peter Lovejoy died at Amherst in May 1812 of lues venerea (according to John Farmer’s vital records, image 9 of 19).

ORN [sp?], Dimon Herisl[sp?] – son of Cate, a “black woman”; baptized July 1811, presumably at Amherst (records of Congregational Church of Amherst, N.H.)

ORREN or OWEN, Catharine Miss – a “black woman” who resided in Amherst in Jan. 1818 when she was married to Mr. Cato Walker (d. 1839 aged 73) of Goffstown, a “black man,” by Rev. Jeremiah Barnard of Amherst, Congregational. (In typeset compilation of marriages by Rev. Barnard, her surname is rendered Orren and her color listed; but Secomb’s *History* (p. 854) printed it as Owen and the handwritten 1906 submission to the State by the Amherst Town Clerk looks more like Owen than Orren, neither with indication of her color.) Likely she was “Cate,” the mother whose child was baptized 1811 in Amherst’s Congregational church.

PARKER, Caesar (d. 1855) – “black” “African” resident/inhabitant of Mont Vernon, having “settled on a small farm in the south part of Mont Vernon, adjoining Amherst,” who was married to a white woman and in the first half of the 19th century regularly attended public festivities and gatherings in Amherst. (Secomb’s *History of Amherst*, p. 907; 1810-1850 censuses of Mont Vernon, N.H.; *History of Mont Vernon* by Smith, 1907, p. 120.) Possibly Cesar’s Brook is named for him (no source found).

PARKER, Humphrey Moore (d. 1861) – “colored person,” son of Caesar Parker, the father being a black resident of Mont Vernon, the son named for the pastor of the Milford church; unmarried laborer who died suddenly of heart disease at Amherst, 28 June 1861 aged 53 years and 9 months and is buried in Meadowview Cemetery with a marble gravestone inscribed “ERECTED BY HIS FRIENDS.” (Sources: Death notice in *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 5 July 1861, p. [3]; death record; and *History of Mont Vernon* by Smith, 1907, p. 120, which lists “Humphrey Moore” as one of sons of Caesar Parker.)

PARKER, Mark – son of Caesar Parker of Mont Vernon; laborer residing in Amherst in 1833 when he bought 14-acre tract of woodland on Long Hill in Amherst for \$130 from [his brother] William Ross Parker (deed 172:190). (Mark’s stay in Amherst appears to have been brief, as he had been an inhabitant of Milford in 1831 (deed 164:578) and was again in 1840 census of Milford, alone in household, counted as white; and in 1850 census of Milford when he was a laborer labeled as “Mulatto”; born c. 1810.)

PARKER, William Ross – son of Caesar Parker of Mont Vernon; co-owner 75 Lyndeborough Road in Amherst and also undivided part of nearby saw mill in Milford 1828-1830 who became sole owner 1830-1833. (Sources: Hillsborough County deeds 157:127; 156:358; 166:165; 176:168; *History of Mont Vernon* by Smith, 1907, p. 120, which lists “Ross” as one of sons of Caesar Parker.) Surely was the 1 “free colored” male aged 10-23 in 1830 census of Amherst who was enumerated in the household of Amos Upham [Jr.], a white man who was joint owner of their real estate.

PERWID(D)Y [spelling?], Elizabeth/Eliza – an illiterate, unmarried, “free” “labouring woman” who likely was black – and if so, the earliest known black landowner in Amherst. She was a resident of Ipswich Hamlet in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in Dec. 1774 when she sold 60-acre First Division Lot 104 in northwest part of Amherst for 18 Pounds lawful money to Ephraim Hildreth [tavern/innkeeper on Jones Road] and Francis Lovejoy (deed 3:311); in Feb. 1778, by which time she was a resident of Amherst, she bought back the same property for 20 Pounds (deed 8:236) and immediately sold off westerly half, which would be early version of 61 Austin Road farm, to Cesar Freeman (deed 8:237), probably a black man. She either lived at 61 Austin Road farm with Freeman – or more likely on

the lot next east – because in the fall of 1785 she was still “of Amherst” and a “labouring woman” when she sold the easterly half of Lot 104, about 35 acres, to neighbor Daniel Campbell for 33 Pounds (deed 26:169). (Where she went next: In Sep. or Oct. 1785, Elizabeth P. of Amherst, spinster, bought 65-acre lot in Lyndeborough, N.H., her land bounding on Amherst town line on the east line and on New Boston town line on the north line (deeds 18:113 & 34:88); the abutting 65-acre lot was bought by one Sampson Freeman, also a resident of Amherst.)

There is no direct evidence for Elizabeth being black, but consider these factors: (1) Her unusual surname and being from Ipswich Hamlet: Although Perwid(d)y is entirely missing from Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, there was Peter Pervidy/Perviddy/ Peroiddy who married in Ipswich or Ipswich Hamlet, Mass., in 1774, with color marked “B” in one marriage record and designated a “free negro” in another record of same event. (2) Her habit of owning land next to Freeman family. (3) Her designation as “free woman” in 1789 mortgage deed (Hillsborough County, N.H., 22:392).

RUSSELL, Pompe – married at Amherst June 1788, to Margret Cut, by Moses Nichols (1740-1790), JP. (*Amherst Town Records*, Vol. I, p. 66); a Revolutionary War vet who had fought in Col. Moses Nichols’s N.H. regiment. By 1806 he was a resident of Maine. (See bio in “Early Settlers of Weld,” by E.J. Foster, Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder.)

SNELLINGS, Phebe – “partially colored” person who died 25 April 1807 at Amherst, aged 70, of cancer (John Farmer’s vital records).

SNOW, Jack – non-white head of household in Amherst in 1800 with 2 additional “other” [non-white] persons in household (census). (Not assessed any taxes in 1801, 1804-1810.)

TALBERT/TALBOTT/TOLBART/TOLBERT/etc., Philo (c.1723-1807) – “colored” husbandman = small farmer, who in 1750s-c.1772/3 had been a free man and owner (since 1761) of his own half-house on one acre in Ipswich, Mass., where he worked as a shoreman and laborer, before moving to Amherst and purchasing 30 acres in 1780 (deed 7:358) as the foundation of his homestead (probably located in vicinity of Spring Road) – most of which, “situated about one mile southerly of Amherst Courthouse” on west/ south side of the road together with a barn (deed 20:200), he lost in 1786 to settle a lawsuit for debt owed in Ipswich. A paternity accusation in Dec. 1787 by an illiterate unmarried neighbor woman landed Philo in the local/county jail for unwillingness and then, having lost the court case, for lack of funds to pay child support, until his 1790 petition to the Selectmen of Amherst for relief effected his release. In 1794 Philo was able to buy back the 30 acres he had lost to court execution (deed 37:319) but mortgaged that property in 1795 (deed 37:363). In 1801 he sold his remaining 8-acre house lot lying on the north/east side of the road with a life lease agreement (deed 53:248b); died 13 Feb. 1807 aged 84 (identified as “colored” in John Farmer’s vital records).

Family Connections in Amherst: Daughter Anna (b. c.1750; d. 1822) was wife of William (Hodge/Hodgeman) Brown (d. 1825), who served in Rev. War as resident of Amherst, having earlier switched from British to American side, and remained in Amherst for rest of their lives, as did some of their children. Philo had a granddaughter in Amherst named Sarah Brown (with whom he settled debt 1807). William Tolbert (b. betw 1755-1765; d. bef. 8 Feb 1823 per estate administration), who served in the Revolutionary War as a resident of Amherst, is believed to be Philo’s son.

TAYLOR, Diadaspa – daughter of Lidia, a “Mulatto woman”; baptized July 1779, presumably at Amherst (which could have been in present-day Amherst, Milford or Mt Vernon) (Cong Church records).

TAYLOR, Lidia – a “Mulatto woman” who presumably lived in Amherst (but possibly future Milford or Mont Vernon area) July 1779 and Sep 1800, when daughters were baptized (Cong Church records).

TAYLOR, Sally Ingals – daughter of Lidia Taylor, a “mulatto woman”; baptized Sep. 1800, presumably at Amherst (Cong Church records).

TOLBERT/TALBERT/etc., William (b. betw 1755-1765; d. 1823 at Hillsborough) – presumed son of a “colored” man named Philo T.; served in the Revolutionary War as a soldier from Amherst. In 1782 Wm moved from Amherst to Hillsborough, where he married in 1783, and lived there as a farmer for the rest of his life, inferred to be white in census records. The record that ties William Tolbert to Philo T. is William’s purchase, shortly after Philo’s death in 1807, of 8-acre lot in Amherst (deed 75:448) on which

Philo lived at the end of his life (although owned by someone else), which Wm then owned but did not occupy until the end of his own life in 1823.

UNKNOWN SURNAME, Cato – “half-witted negro servant” of Hon. Joshua Atherton (1737-1809), register of probate, who hid in attic/garret when a mob of armed “Patriots” visited the Atherton house at 232 Boston Post Road and searched top to bottom for a British spy, in 1774 or 1775. (“Memoir of the Hon. Joshua Atherton” by his son Charles Humphrey Atherton (1773-1853), 1852, pages 12-13 of 57 total.) Probably one of 4 unnamed “colored persons” recorded in 1775 census of Amherst, N.H. (Secomb, p. 186.)

UNKNOWN SURNAME, Dinah – “the little slave” of John & Margaret Mitchell, baptized Feb. 1774 (Cong Church records).

UNKNOWN SURNAME, Unknown Given Name – female slave (“my negro girl”) of Hezekiah Duncklee who was given her freedom by his Last Will, written 1771, probated 1772 (Hillsborough County probate record). Duncklee’s farmhouse was at 369 Boston Post Road, on a Souhegan River farm.

UNKNOWN SURNAME, Violet Content – “servant” of Dr. Moses Nichols [(1740-1790), physician, & wife Hannah Nichols [(1739-1802)], baptized July 1775 (Cong Church records); likely in 1790 and 1800 she was the 1 “other [non-white] free person” in the household headed by Hannah Nichols (censuses).

WATSON, Georgiana nee Spicer (b. North Carolina; m. 1878 in Tennessee; d. Jan. 1919 at Manchester aged 56; buried at Amherst) – a “colored” (per marriage record) or “black” (per 1880 & 1910 censuses) widow who in 1915 bought a farm on the Manchester road (Route 101) near Bedford and Merrimack townlines (formerly one of the Frank W. Noyes farms) that adjoined/abutted the farm of her son-in-law, Richard N. Hare. (Deed 737:432; *Milford Cabinet*, 30 Jan. 1919, “Amherst – North End” section.) Her death record said that Mrs. Watson was a cook by occupation.

[Note: Mrs. W. was resident in 20th century, so her data is not included in Sources section. See Hare in Index above.]

[end of INDEX of “BLACK” / “COLORED” PERSONS in 18th & 19th Century Records of AMHERST, N.H.]

**TIMELINE of “BLACK”/ “COLORED” PERSONS in AMHERST, N.H.
in the 18th & 19th Centuries (& a few notable 20th Century Events)**

- Compiled by Katrina Holman (revised February 2026)

Note about changing size/boundaries of Town: Keep in mind that the Town of Amherst included present-day Milford (north of river) until 1794 and present-day Mont Vernon until 1803.

- 1767: 6 male slaves, 2 female slaves; total population 858
(Town includes present-day Milford north of river & Mont Vernon.)
- 1771/1772: Hezekiah Duncklee of 369 Boston Post Rd, farmer, freed “slave girl” in his Will.
- 1773: 3 male slaves, 2 female slaves; total population 1370 (incl. part of Monson).
- 1774 Feb 17: Dinah, “the little slave” of John & Margaret Mitchell, was baptized at Congr church.
- 1774/’75: Cato, the “half-witted negro servant” of Hon. Joshua Atherton (1737-1809), register of probate, was frightened by a mob of armed “Patriots” who visited & searched the Atherton house at 232 Boston Post Road.
- 1775: 4 “colored” persons reside in Amherst; total population 1428.
- 1775 Jul 25: Violet Content (no last name), “servant” of Dr. Moses & Hannah Nichols, was baptized at Congr church
- 1776 May: Primus Chandler, a “colored” man from Bedford, serving as Revolutionary War soldier on behalf of Amherst’s quota, was killed “by the Indians”.
- 1777 Oct.: Peter Brewer, a “Negro”/“colored” resident of New Boston who fought in Revolutionary War as part of Amherst’s quota, was killed in battle at Saratoga.
- 1777: William Talbert was an Amherst man in the Revolutionary War; also in 1778 and 1780 in the regiment of Col. Moses Nichols of Amherst, in 1778 in the company of Capt. Josiah Crosby.
- 1778 Feb.: Elizabeth Perwid(d)y, an illiterate unmarried “labouring woman,” who probably was black, was already a resident of Amherst when she bought 60-acre First Division Lot 104 for 20 Pounds lawful money back from Ephraim Hildreth [tavern/innkeeper on Jones Road] and Francis Lovejoy (deed 8:236) (to whom she had sold the property for 18 Pounds in Dec. 1774 when she was a resident of Ipswich Hamlet, Province of Massachusetts Bay per deed 3:311) and immediately sold off 30a westerly half that would be early version of 61 Austin Road farm to Cesar Freeman. In the fall of 1785 she was still “of Amherst” and a “labouring woman” when she sold the easterly half of Lot 104, about 35 acres, for 33 Pounds (deed 26:169) and moved to Lyndeborough.
- 1778: Cesar Freeman of Amherst, husbandman (and likely the black man who had been a resident of Ipswich Hamlet, Mass., in 1774 when he married) – bought 30 acres, being half of a First Division lot, for 9 Pounds lawful money (deed 8:237); and likely built the house at 61 Austin Road, which he occupied until c. 1782.
- 1779: 0 “Negroes and Molatto Servants &c” as taxable property; 332 Polls [men “from 18 years & upwards”; town includes present-day Amherst & Milford & Mont Vernon]. Note that this statistic says nothing whatsoever about how many black or “colored” inhabitants.
- 1779 Jul 21: Diadaspa Taylor, daughter of “a Mulatto woman” named Lidia, was baptized at Congr church
- 1780: Philo Talbart, resident and husbandman, bought 30a in Amherst (deed 7:358).
- 1783: 0 “Negroes and Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of age,” neither male nor female, as taxable property in Amherst; 357 Polls [men “from 18 to 70 years of age”].
- 1785: Sampson Freeman, likely a free black man, was a resident of Amherst.
- 1786 Oct.: Peter Lovejoy was married at Amherst to Lydia Greenlief Bradford, by Moses Nichols, JP.
- 1787: Judith Boutwell of Amherst, single woman, swore before a local magistrate (JP) that she was pregnant with an illegitimate child “begotten on her body by one Philo Talbart of Amherst, husbandman.” The issue was that “the said Bastard Child when born may be

- chargable to the Town of Amherst,” meaning require financial aid or support as a pauper. This is the legal case that landed Philo in the Country gaol at Amherst.
- 1788: 0 “Negroes and Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of age,” neither male nor female, as taxable property in Amherst; 413 Polls [men “from 18 to 70 years of age”].
- 1788 June: Pompe Russell, a “black”/“colored” Revolutionary War vet who had fought with N.H. Regt., was married at Amherst to Margret Cut, by Moses Nichols, JP.
- 1790: Philo Talbert, poor man, was confined in county gaol at Amherst; petitioned selectmen for relief; in 1790 census he was enumerated as white inhabitant of Amherst.
- 1790: 18 [non-white] persons among 14 families/households; total population 2369 [includes Milford & Mont Vernon]. In all of New Hampshire: 158 slaves + 141,097 free whites.
- 1790s: Children of Peter Lovejoy b. at Amh; 2 of them baptized in Congregational Church of Amherst. In 1800, he was non-white head of household of family of 7 in Amherst.
- 1800: 31 [non-white] persons among 16 families/households in 1st Parish, including 4 non-white heads of household; and 2 more [non-white] persons in 2 households in 2nd Parish [one of which will remain in Amherst and the other is in section that became Mont Vernon in 1803]; total population 2150.
- 1800 Sep 5: Sally Ingals Taylor, daughter of “a molatto woman” named Lidia Taylor, was baptized at Congr church of Amherst.
- 1805 Sep 30: Thomas Kimball, 61-year old “black” man, died at Amherst. (John Farmer’s record.)
- 1807 Feb 13: Philo Talbott, a “colored” person aged 84, died at Amherst.
- 1807 Feb.: A “Negro girl” named Nancy Gardner who was indentured to Ebenezer Kimball of Amherst, ran away from him and he placed a reward notice in the local newspaper.
- 1807 Apr 25: Phebe Snellings, a “partially colored” person aged 70, died at Amherst.
- 1810: 10 [non-white] persons among 7 households; total population 1554 (census).
- 1811 Jul 6: Dimon (Herisl?) Orn_ [sp?], son of “a black woman” named Cate, was baptized at Congregational church of Amherst.
- 1812 May: Peter Lovejoy aged 48 died at Amherst of “Lues Venerea.” (John Farmer’s vital records; no mention of his color in this record.)
- 1818 Jan.: Catharine Orren/Owen, a “black woman” of Amherst, was married at Amherst by Rev. Barnard to a “black man” from Goffstown named Cato Walker.
- 1820: 7 “free colored” persons (3 males & 4 females) among 7 households [altho census taker’s official tally was 3+3=6]; total pop. 1622.
- 1828-1833: William Ross Parker, son of a black resident of Mont Vernon named Caesar Parker, co-owned (with a resident white man) 75 Lyndeborough Road in Amherst and other real estate 1828-1830; 1830-1833 Parker was sole owner of the same real estate.
- 1830: 7 “free colored” persons (3 males + 4 females) among 6 households; total pop. 1657
- 1840: In Census, no “free colored” persons enumerated in Amherst; 3 in Milford; 3 in Mont Vernon, one of them being Cesar Parker as head of household.

1841 Feb.-May: The Congregational Church in Amherst grappled with abolition issue. “The agitation of the slavery question and the attitude of the church in regard to it, produced an alienation of feeling on the part of some of its members, who refused any longer to assist in the support of preaching [Rev. Wm. T. Savage recently installed], and encouraged the establishment of, and attendance upon, a meeting in the chapel [on Foundry Street, originally the Second County Courthouse] on the Sabbath in opposition to the regular services in the church. In consequence of these offences, Brothers Luther Melendy [(1793-1883); resided in NW corner of Amherst on Chestnut Hill] and Loea Pratt [(1785-1875); resided 14 Green Rd] ... were by vote of the church ... excommunicated ... “ Eight other members of the church then “stated that they held the same belief as the excommunicated brethren avowed” and requested dismissal too, which was granted (except for the one who had died). (Secomb’s *History of Amherst* (1883), p. 303.)

About LUTHER MELENDY (1793-1883): Until 1866, he resided in NW corner of Amherst, N.H., on Chestnut Hill (house labeled “L. Melendy” on 1858 map), now part of tracking station, with his wife Lucinda nee Kenney (1800-1883; married 1825; no children). Luther Melendy “was one of the first [in Amherst] to engage in the anti-slavery movement, which he advocated and defended against the most

determined opposition, and lived to see crowned with success,” according to Amherst’s historian Secomb (1883, p. 693). Melendy was active in William Lloyd Garrison's organization. The obituary of Luther Melendy in the local newspaper said: “Early in life he espoused the anti-slavery cause, and was a firm friend of the slave until their shackles were broken, and since then he has been most liberal in his contributions to aid in educating and assisting the freedmen. A few months ago he contributed \$500 to this cause, and his wife at the same time gave \$500 to the Women’s Board of Missions.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 5 Oct. 1883, p. 3.) In *The History of Milford* (1901), George A Ramsdell wrote (p. 432): “The historian has it from his daughter [of Leonard Chase (b. 1811) of Milford], Hannah L. Chase, that soon after the rendition of Anthony Burns, one stormy night, word came to the house that the United States officers were on the track of a fugitive who was then harbored in the family. It was a time of intense anxiety to this household. Mr. Chase, thinking that the fugitive might be safer outside of the village [of Milford], harnessed his horse and carried the man to Luther Melendy's farmhouse in Amherst. Mr. Chase's house was one of the stations on the underground railroad.” Based on this account, some people believe that Luther Melendy’s farmhouse in Amherst was part of the Underground Railroad. See: “The Melendys of Amherst, New Hampshire, the Underground Railroad, and the Anti-Slavery Movement” by George Fullerton of Goffstown, N.H., undated article, submitted by gfullerton21 @comcast.net, on National Park Service website, updated Nov. 2010. (Note by KMH (2014; added to this file 2026): Luther Melendy's credentials as an active abolitionist are unquestionable. However, the likelihood that his Chestnut Hill home was repeatedly used for fugitive slaves does seem questionable to me, because Melendy's name was too well known, published in abolitionist newspapers (of Concord, N.H. and Philadelphia, PA, for example; see also Ramsdell’s *History of Milford* p. 106-108) – isn't that the first place fugitive hunters would have looked and wouldn't there be the danger that the anti-abolition townspeople of Amherst might rat him out?) When Luther Melendy retired from farming in 1866, the couple moved to 118 Boston Post Road in Amherst Village (deed 361:267) where they lived until their deaths. Luther Melendy's gravemarker monument bears the words: “The slaves friend / and the colored peoples benefactor.”

- 1841 June: “Hillsborough County Conference of Churches Annual Meeting on the 8th and 9th inst. ... Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference, slave-holding and slave-trading are inconsistent with religion and morality ... Resolved, That we believe it to be the bounden duty of christians everywhere to take a firm position against slavery ...” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 18 June 1841, p. [1].)
- 1841 Aug. 30: “Resolutions on Slavery passed by the Baptist Church in Milford. ... Resolved that we consider American Slavery a heinous sin in the sight of God...” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 1 Oct. 1841, p. [2].)
- 1841/2 ca.: “... period when Anti-Slavery excitement so rent the church ... Baptist Hall (over Read Store) [rock thrown through window]” (E.D. Boylston, *Sketch of a Busy Life ...* , p. 64)
- 1850: A “Negro” escaped from the county jail along with 3 Frenchmen and a Yankee; caught.
- 1850: In census, a single person of color was enumerated in Amherst, namely 13-year-old James Blanchard living in household of white farmer & his family at 44 Stearns Road; total population was 1613..
- 1857-1859: Advertisement for “Mrs. Wilson’s Hair Regenerator” “prepared by Mrs. H. E. Wilson” of Nashua, street address “No. 13 Cottage Avenue” until April 1858 and thereafter “No. 9 Winter Street” – appears issue after issue in the *Farmers’ Cabinet* newspaper published in Amherst, from 7 Oct. 1857 through 13 April 1859.
- This is believed to have been the same woman who authored the book *Our Nig, or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* that was printed in 1859 in Boston, Mass.; the copyright was filed in District Court of Massachusetts by “H. E. Wilson.” Authorship has been attributed to Harriet/Hattie E. (Adams) Wilson (1825/7-1900), who was born a free person of color in Milford, N.H., daughter of a poor white woman and a free black man. Although Prof. Gates, who rediscovered and republished the book in 1983, called it a novel, scholarship immediately focused on verifying autobiographical details. I would classify this as a memoir, that genre that purports to be non-fiction but tends to stray into fiction for the sake of the narrative (in this case also changing all the people's names). The introduction to Penguin's

2005 edition by P. Gabrielle Foreman, associate professor of English & American Studies at Occidental College, and Reginald H. Pitts, historical researcher and genealogist, provides details of the author's life. Besides what the story itself reveals about blacks in this area in the 19th century, the process of discovery of the author's life details is instructive for those interested in history, especially as described in the 2003 book on this topic by R. J. Ellis, the researcher who consulted Milford's annual reports by the Overseers of the Poor to narrow-down Harriet's whereabouts by year. Hattie was an indentured servant in the household of a Milford farmer until the age of 18 [so said the secondary source, but age 21 would be more usual] and after that remained too poor to support herself fully. In 1850 in Milford, Harriet Adams, 22, color "B", was enumerated in the household of Samuel Boyles, 50, carpenter. For the two years prior to her marriage in 1851 in Milford, to a black man named Wilson "of Va." who was an itinerant anti-slavery lecturer, Harriet Adams was given monetary aid by Milford's Overseers of the Poor as a "pauper off the farm" (that is, not living in the town's almshouse). She gave birth to a son in the County poor house in Goffstown, but returned to Milford (apparently when her husband returned). She again received pauper aid from Milford 1854-'56, and her 3-year-old son was actually admitted to the County poor house for four weeks in 1855. The "Wilson boy" was supported or aided by the town for the next three years, until his death of a fever at age 7 years 8 months in 1860. Her book is an impressive achievement of significant value to posterity. Towards the end of her life, in Massachusetts, Mrs. Wilson's occupation was "clairvoyant physician," that is, a trance medium and spiritual healer nurse. The Harriet E. Wilson memorial statue was installed in Milford in 2006.

[RESEARCH NOTE: For the second half of 19th century through 20th century, little to no attempt has been made to research this topic, but info I happened across is included below. -KMH]

- 1860 May 1: Lecture at Town Hall, Amherst, by Sallie Holley, an Agent of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society at 7:30 p.m. (Advert in *Farmers' Cabinet* of Amherst, April 1860.)
- 1870: Francis S. Freeman, "a full blooded negro" "nearly 70 years old" with a "Creole" wife, filed a lawsuit against Brooks R. Came [(1835-1914)] and John A. Boutelle [(1838-1928)] of Amherst to recover \$1100, the wages paid to Franklin Newton, a minor, for four years' service [deduced to be 1865-1868] in their employ, Freeman claiming Newton as his son. Newton, however, claimed to be white and denied the "parentage in toto"; although Newton acknowledged having been raised by the Freeman couple, he claimed to remember "to have been given to this negro and told that he must call them father and mother." At the trial, held at the Supreme Judicial Court at Nashua, the plaintiff "had with him a boy, aged sixteen, and a girl fourteen, that he called his children, both of whom are "Blondes," and appeared to recognize the old man as their father. ... The jury returned a verdict for the defendants." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 Dec. 1870, p. [2].) Frank Newton, 23, farm laborer, is enumerated in 1870 census of Amherst in household of John A. Boutelle, 31, farmer, who shared house [at 107 Ponemah Road] with household of [Boutelle's co-owner since 1867] Brooks R. Came, 34, farmer, and the household of their father-in-law Porter Duncklee, farmer, 64. (See below for this Freeman, his wife and young Newton in other censuses.)
- 1883: Death of Luther Melendy (1793-1883), a white man whose gravemarker monument bears the words: "The slaves friend / and the colored peoples benefactor." He was a vocal supporter of the anti-slavery cause. (For more about him, see above in 1841.)
- 1913: Richard N. Hare (b. in Virginia; d. 1953 in N.H. aged 85; buried Amherst) bought house & farm at 332 Route 101 (near Bedford line, with 75a, formerly known as John M. Prince farm) (deed 716:291; "Sales in Amherst" in *Milford Cabinet*, 6 Nov. 1913, p. 5) and moved his family here and became a farmer.

1915: Mrs. Georgianna S. Watson nee Spicer (b. in North Carolina; m. 1878 in Tennessee; d. Jan. 1919 at Manchester aged 56; buried at Amherst), mother of Josephine (Watson) Hare (1880-1955; b. Arkansas; married 1905 in Cohasset, Mass.), bought 330 Route 101 farm because its house was next to the home of her daughter & son-in-law, Richard N. Hare.

2003 Aug.: Skeletal remains of an adult and a child were discovered/uncovered during excavation at back (SE) corner of Amherst's Town Hall that experts believe are likely to have been a young woman and young child of African ancestry, both with tuberculosis, likely buried between 1770 and 1820. (Town Hall was built in 1823 on the NW corner of the Old Burying Ground as the Third County Courthouse; the wings were added later. So the burial location was essentially at the front center of the graveyard, near the road – Courthouse Road continuing northerly to Mack Hill Road – which used to run closer to the front door of Town Hall than it does now.)

(Sources: A report entitled "Recovery of Human Osteological Remains at the Amherst Public Cemetery as Result of Town Hall Renovation[,] Amherst (Hillsborough County), New Hampshire" was prepared by Kathleen Wheeler, Ph.D., principal investigator, and Alexandra Chan, Ph. D., of Independent Archaeological Consulting LLC of Portsmouth, N.H., dated 29 August 2005, and submitted to Town of Amherst and to New Hampshire Division for Historical Resources at Concord. It contains photos and diagrams and is 20 pages long plus multiple appendices. Appendix D contains the "Forensic Anthropology Report" by Dr. Marcella Strong, Ph. D. and Lisa Hunter, Msc, University of Maine at Orono on pp. 52-57. This report was submitted prior to DNA analysis so this early report said the deceased persons were of indeterminate ancestry. Several articles were written in local newspapers (see abstracts below). A later report, before April 2014, by Dr. Bruce Jackson, concluded the two individuals were of African ancestry.)

2007: The Town of Amherst placed a small flat marker near the back of Town Hall:
"REMAINS UNCOVERED / AND REBURIED / AUGUST 2007"

[End of TIMELINE section]

PROVINCIAL N.H. CENSUS DATA

1767 Census of Province of New Hampshire – Amherst:

63 Unmarried Men aged 16-60 years
135 Married Men aged 16-60 years
200 Boys aged 16 years and under
17 Men aged 60 years and upward
270 Unmarried Females
147 Married Females
18 Widows

6 Male Slaves

2 Female Slaves

1767 Town of Amherst: 858 population, including 8 slaves.

1767 Province of N.H.: population of 52,700; 633 slaves.

(*Provincial Papers, Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New Hampshire Vol. 7, 1873, p. 168-170.*)

Note: Secomb (*History of Amherst, 1883, p. 186*) transcribed all of the same 1767 figures *except* only 2 male slaves.

1773 Census of Province of New Hampshire – Amherst:

109 Unmarried Men 16-60
237 Married Men 16-60
330 Boys 16 and under
13 Men 60 years and upward
412 Unmarried Females
245 Married Females
19 Widows

3 male slaves

2 female slaves

1773 Town of Amherst: 1370 population, including 5 slaves. (*N.H. Provincial & State Papers, 10:630*)

Reminder: Town of Amherst included sections that are now Milford & Mont Vernon; and land south of Souhegan River that formerly was part of Monson.

1773 County of Hillsborough: 26 towns (incl Amherst); population 13,514, including 77 slaves.

1773 Town of Rye: 12 male + 7 female slaves = 19 total.

1773 Province of N.H. totals: 138 towns; population 72,092, including 674 slaves. (*N.H. 10:636*)

Note: Secomb (*History of Amherst, 1883, p. 186*) transcribed all of the same 1773 figures *except* only 2 male slaves.

1775: Amherst provided no return for 1775 census; the population was 1428 by estimation (according to *N.H. Provincial & State Papers, 7:780*).

However, curiously, Secomb (in his *History of Amherst, 1883, p. 186*) provides just such data:

1775 Census of Province of New Hampshire – Amherst:

343 Boys under 16 years old
200 Men 16 years old and under 50, not in the army
53 Men 50 years old and upward
81 Men in the army
747 Females

4 Colored persons – sex not stated

1777, 1779, 1783, 1788 INVENTORIES for TAX INVOICES – AMHERST, N.H.:

These inventories counted the number of “polls” (essentially men who were eligible to vote, with the lower and upper age limits shifting over time, who were required to pay a poll tax whether or not they owned taxable property); and these inventories recorded the quantities and collective value of taxable property, including real estate, livestock, stock in trade (merchandise of storekeepers and tradesmen), and cash (“money in hand & on interest”). Among the categories also were:

- 1777: No. of Polls from 18 years & upwards: 322.
No. of Slaves: none.
- 1779: No. of Polls from 18 years & upwards: 332 (344 prior year).
No. of “Negroes and Molatto Servant &c”: none (none prior year).
- 1783: No. of polls from 18 to 70 years of age: 357 (vs. 374 last year)
No. of Male Negroes & Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of Age: 0 (last year also 0)
No. of Female Negroes & Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of Age: 0 (last year also 0)
- 1788: No. of polls from 18 to 70 years of age: 413 (vs. 395 last year)
No. of Male Negroes & Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of Age: 0 (last year also 0)
No. of Female Negroes & Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of Age: 0 (last year also 0)
- 1792 & 1793: There is no longer any category for persons as taxable property.
- 1792: No. of Polls from 18 to 70 years of age: 437.
- 1793: No. of Polls from 18 to 70 years of age: 442.

(Handwritten originals preserved in N.H. State Archives; accessed 2015 & partially transcribed by KMH.)

Comment (by KMH): As these were tax invoices – not population censuses – the fact that there were no “Negroes and Molatto Servants” as *taxable property* does not necessarily mean that there were no black/“colored” residents/inhabitants in the town at that time.

FEDERAL CENSUS DATA

1790 US Census, Amherst, Hillsborough, N. H. (NARA Roll: M637_5; ancestry.com Images: 0141-0145)

National Columns: Name of Head; Free white males 16 &+ over including head; Free white males under 16; free white females including head; All other free persons; Slaves

List of Families with “Other Free Persons” [no column for Slaves]

Robert Means	1	[1 Pierce Lane, house & store]
John Wilkins	1	
Joshua Atherton	1	[232 Boston Post Rd, register probate]
Hannah Nichols	1	
William Brown	5 + 1 white man [himself]	
William Read	1	[377 Boston Post Rd, Souhegan River farm]
Thomas Underwood	1	
Jona. Smith Jr.	1	[11.5 Church St, register deeds]
William Melendy Jr.	1	[Boston Post Rd]
Mary Wilkins	1	
Joseph Nichols	1	
Isaac Southwick	1	
Andrew Bradford Jr.	1	
Israel Towne	1	

Total **18 “other free” [non-white] persons in 14 families/households**

(1790 census: transcription of names & quantity by jls; annotations of address by KMH.)

In 1790, the whole population was 2369 (Secomb, p. 184).

In 1790 census, Wm Brown probably was Wm (born Hodge or Hodgeman) Brown, whose wife Anna likely was daughter of Philo Tolbert, and their 4 children. In 1800 census of Amherst, this family was enumerated as all white; and in 1820 as having one older female “free colored” person.

In 1790 census of Amherst, Philo Tolbut (1-1-1) is listed between Thomas Wakefield [25 Old Milford Rd] and William Wakefield, in same columns as their families, with no indication of his color not being white, whereas in 1800 census his color was non-white and his death record of 1807 says he was “colored.” See below for whole section on Philo.

1800 US Population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

The Amherst census is divided by Amherst 1st Parish and Amherst 2nd Parish (the future town of Mont Vernon). The names are in semi-alphabetical order.

Twelve columns include: Name of Head of Household; number of free white males & free white females in specific age categories; and one column with the number of other persons. The other persons were people of color. This column gives no specific information whether male or female; free or slave; age range or exact racial background.

Households with ‘other’ persons in Amherst 1st Parish; number of ‘other’ persons:

*Cuff Chambers	0 whites	+ 4 other [incl himself]	
Ebenezer Kimball	4 whites	+ 1 other	[320 Route 101, joiner/cabinetmaker]
Nathan Kendall	10 whites	+ 1 other	[6 Mack Hill Rd, tavern + store]
Anna Dana	6 whites	+ 2 other	[19 Main St, widow of judge]
William Gordon	4 whites	+ 1 other	[24 Courthouse Rd, lawyer, postmaster]
* Peter Lovejoy	0 whites	+ 7 other [incl himself]	
Robert Means	13 whites	+ 2 other	[1 Pierce Lane, Village, house + store]
Hannah Nichols	3 whites	+ 1 other	
James Roby	9 whites	+ 1 other	[likely on Mack Hill Rd]
William Reed	7 whites	+ 2 other	[377 Boston Post Rd]
Benjamin Shepard	5 whites	+ 1 other	[44 Stearns Rd, Souhegan River farm]
William Towne	7 whites	+1 other	[S Amh, likely Ponemah Rd N of river]
*Philo Talbert	1 wh woman >45	+ 1 other [himself]	
*Jack Snow	0 whites	+ 3 other [incl himself]	
Ebenezer Weston	5 whites	+ 1 other	[2 Thornton Ferry Rd2, physician]
John Brown	2 whites	+ 2 other	

Households with ‘other’ persons in Amherst 2nd Parish:

Eli Brown	7 whites	+ 1 other	[near future Mt Vernon line]
William Lamson	6 whites	+ 1 other	[future Mt Vernon]

1800 Total both parishes: **33 ‘other free’ persons**

*Head of household is ‘other’

(1800 census transcription of names & quantities by jls; annotation of addresses by KMH. Correction by KMH 8/2025: Peter Lovejoy instead of Thompson – sometimes it’s hard to read these handwritten records.)

1807: “One Cent Reward! Ran away from the Subscriber, about the 1st of January last, a NEGRO GIRL by the name of NANCY GARDNER, indented to the subscriber. All persons are forbidden to harbor or trust her, under penalty of the law... EBENEZER KIMBALL. Amherst, Feb. 9, 1807.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 24 Feb. 1807.) Ebenezer Kimball lived on 320 Route 101 farm, bought 1777 (deed 5:334). [Notice added to this file March 2021 and location added Feb. 2026, by KMH.]

Note: Same reward offered for white indentured boys who ran away; same language about “forbidden to harbor or trust” used for white boys. The last reward (one cent) notice for a runaway indentured boy was published in the *Farmers’ Cabinet* June 1838.

In 1800, everyone in family of William [& Anna] Brown and everyone in family of their son Wm Brown Jr. [& his wife Tabitha nee Boutell] was counted as white.

1800 US Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire; Roll: 20; p 452

William Brown	11001-11001 (all white)
William Brown Jr.	10100-00100 (all white)

1801 and 1804-1810 Amherst Tax Invoices (*Amherst Town Records volume 2*, starting p. 200): None of the four men identified in the 1800 census as non-white heads of household – namely Cuff Chambers, Peter Lovejoy, Jack Snow, and Philo Talbert – are listed as taxpayers. (Being omitted from the tax invoices also happens to eliminate an otherwise handy way to figure out how long they lived in Amherst.) Presumably their omission means none of them owned taxable property (real estate, livestock). Philo was exempt from the poll tax due to old age – but what about the others?

Adult men generally had to pay a poll tax regardless of whether they owned taxable property, the same amount of money for all in any given year. There were exemptions (as of 1798 law): old age (over 70); men 18-21 years of age enrolled in the militia; clergymen in active service; students in colleges (and a few years later also tutors and professors); “paupers” and “idiots.” (*A History of Taxation in New Hampshire* by Maurice H. Robinson, published by the American Economic Association, 1902, p. 87-88 for exemptions.) (downloadable from JSTOR Open in Feb. 2026)

1810 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

(Roll: 24; Page: 492-499; Ancestry.com Images: 67.00-74.00)

Columns: Name of household Head; 5 columns free white males divided by ages; 5 columns free white females divided by ages; 1 column other persons with no distinction of race, sex, age, free or slave.

Families/Households with ‘Other Persons’ listed

Jeremiah Barnard	2	[clergy Congr Ch, homes at 61 Christian Hill & 11 Carriage Rd]
Eli Brown	1	[businessman; postmaster w/ PO at 4 Middle St; owned 40 BPR]
Ebenezer Kimball	2	[joiner & cabinetmaker in NE part Amh: home 320 Route 101]
Timothy Nichols	1	[1 Smith Lane]
Ebenezer Taylor	1	[clothier w/ fulling mill, home at 6 Ponemah Rd]
Danl. Weston	2	[storekeeper & farmer, home at 2 Thornton Ferry Rd 2]
<u>David Williams</u>	<u>1</u>	[southern part of Amh, likely Ponemah Rd north of river]

1810 Total: **10 [non-white] persons in 7 families/households**

(1810 census transcription of names & quantities by jls; annotation of addresses by KMH.)

1820 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Columns: Name of Head of Household

6 columns: Free white males divided into age categories

5 columns: Free white females divided into age categories

Foreigners not naturalized

Persons engaged in Agriculture

Persons engaged in Commerce

Persons engaged in Manufacture

Free Colored Males, divided into 4 age categories [see column title on first page of Amherst section]

Free Colored Females, divided into 4 age categories [see column title on first page of Amherst section]

Persons not Taxed [no indication this has anything to do with race; female heads, paupers & pensioners]

[Remarks]

Households with “Free Colored” Persons

Head of Household [all whites]	Free Colored M & F	
Isaac Brooks	0000-0100	[register of deeds, 12 Mack Hill Rd]
Willm Brown [1 male + 2 female whites]	0000-0001	[Wm prob. son-in-law of Philo Talbert]
Jacob Kimball	0100-0000	[son of Ebenezer, 320 Route 101]
Ebenr. Kimball	0000-0010	[joiner & cabinetmaker, 320 Route 101]
Holten Kimball	0100-0000	[son of Ebenezer, brother of Jacob]
James C. Mace	0010-0000	[hat-maker, 369 Boston Post Rd]
David Stewart	<u>0000-0100</u>	[SE corner Middle & Main Sts]
1820 Total:	0210-0211	Total 7 persons in 7 households

Note: The 1820 census taker, however, tallied only 3 males + 3 females = 6 “free colored” persons out of 779 males + 843 females = total 1662 persons per census taker’s summary at end of Amherst section.

(1820 census of Amherst transcription of names & quantities by jls; annotation of addresses by KMH. Correction: 2026 Feb. KMH added 1 “free colored” female in household of Wm Brown (dark section in FamilySearch image).)

FOR COMPARISON: Milford, N.H. – 1820 Heads of Households with “Free Colored” Persons

Timo. Blanchard – family of 7 “free colored” persons, including himself, being 4 males & 3 females.

Jona. Cummings 0100-0000 (1 “free colored” male)

Noah Fuller 4 whites + 1 “free colored” female 26-44

John Needham 1 “free colored” female 26-44

Total Population of Milford: 613 males + 630 females = total 1243 persons, including 10 non-whites

FOR COMPARISON: Mont Vernon, N.H. – 1820 Households with “Free Colored” Persons

There was a single household with nonwhite persons:

Cesar Parker – 0 white persons; whole household “free colored persons”, namely 2311 [males]// 2-1-[females] /1

Total Population of Mont Vernon in 1820: 340 males + 329 females = total 729 per census taker’s summary at end.

1830 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Format: The right page of each spread has section for SLAVES and section for FREE COLORED PERSONS

Heads of Household with “Colored” Persons

Amos Upham [75 Lyndeb. Rd] – 4 free white persons + one “free colored” male 10-23

Ezra Woolson [65 Lyndeb Rd] – 10 free white persons + one “free colored” man 24-35

Mary Means [1 Pierce Ln] – 10 free white persons + one “free colored boy” under 10
[not captured by Ancestry transcription]

Thomas M. Benden [tailor] – 7 free white persons + 2 “free colored” females 10-23
[not captured by Ancestry transcription]

Isaac Brooks [reg. Deeds; 12 Mack Hill Rd] – 4 free white persons + one “free colored” female 10-23

William Colby – 6 free white persons + one “free colored” female 10-23

1830 Amherst Total: 7 “free colored” persons (3 males + 4 females) in 6 households

(1830 Census data extraction & annotation with addresses by KMH; added to file Aug. 2022.)

In 1830 Census of Amherst, the “colored” male in household of Amos Upham was surely William Ross Parker who was co-owner with Amos Upham [Jr.] of 75 Lyndeborough Road in Amherst and also of undivided part of nearby saw mill in Milford 1828-1830, of which this Parker became sole owner 1830-1833. (Sources: Hillsborough County deeds 157:127; 156:358; 166:165; 176:168.)

FOR COMPARISON: Milford, N.H. – 1830 Heads of Households with “Colored” Persons

Stephen Peabody – 8 white persons + one “free colored” male 10-23

Timo. Blanchard – 2 white women (1 aged 20-29, the other aged 30-39) + 5 “free colored” persons,
being 3 males under 10 yrs; 1 male aged 10-23; 1 male aged 34-54 (who must be head of household)

Research Note: Very difficult to read the Milford sheets because ink from whites columns bleeds through to “free colored persons” columns; and the enumerator did not provide that subtotal. So possibly there were a few more.

Total Population of Milford: “Whole number of Inhabitants in Milford 1803”

1840 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Format: Preprinted sheets, each with overall heading and individual column headers. The left page of each spread has section for FREE COLORED PERSONS divided by Males and Females into age categories (fewer age categories than for Whites) and right page of each spread has section for SLAVES; for each column, there is a cell for total in the bottom row. Household heads are listed in alphabetic order. In FamilySearch.org, Amherst starts with image 203; total tally page/spread is on images 225&226.

Totals: **0 “free colored persons”** and 0 “slaves”; total population 1565.

FOR COMPARISON: Milford, N.H. – 1840 Heads of Households with “Colored” Persons

Nehemiah Heyward: 3 white persons + 1 “free colored” female aged 10-23

Clarissa Peabody: 6 white persons + 1 “free colored” male aged 36-54

Francis Wright: 14 white persons + 1 “free colored” male aged 36-54

Total Population of Milford: 695 white males + 1757 white females; 2 “colored” males + 1 “colored” female.

FOR COMPARISON: Mont Vernon, N.H. – 1840 Heads of Households with “Colored” Persons

James Averill Jr.: himself + 4 females = 5 white persons; + 1 “free colored” male aged 24-55

Cesar Parker: no whites; himself “free colored” male aged 55-100 + 1 “free colored” female aged 55-100

Total: 3 “free colored persons” – of which 1, Cesar Parker’s wife, probably was white.

(1840 Census data extraction by KMH; added to file Nov. 2024.)

1850 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Format: Preprinted sheets with fill-in-the-blanks for page heading; and preprinted columns and column headings including one for “Color”: choices being “white”, “black” or “mulatto”.

Households with “Black” and/or “Mulatto” Persons

Francis Wright, 52, b. Mass., farmer, real estate \$3500; & [inferred family]; James Blanchard, 13, color “M” = mulatto. (FamilySearch image 7 of 39) [Located on Stearns Road.]

Poor Farm, Edwin M. Holt, 44, “farmer” [who was also the superintendent working for the Town]: There were 12 “Paupers”, all adults, all with color [blank=white]. (FamilySearch images 4&5)

Jail: 11 inmates of which 2 (aged 20 & 25) are females; all [blank = white] color; 5 imprisoned for stealing including one of the women. (FamilySearch image 16)

Total population: 763 white males + 849 white females + “col’d 1 per” = total 1613 persons.

(1850 Census data extraction by KMH; added to file Nov. 2024.)

VITAL AND BAPTISM RECORDS of Amherst, N.H.

Congregational Church Baptism records: [searched 1741 to 1926 & transcribed by jlsm]

Of the handful of baptisms recorded before 1774, none are servants, slaves, or black.
1774 Feb 17: Dinah, the little slave of John & Margaret Mitchell; same day as their son Oliver
1775 Jul 25: Violet Content (no last name), servant of Dr. Moses & Hannah Nichols
1779 Jul 21: Diadaspa Taylor, dau of Lidia, a Mulatto woman
1800 Sep 5: Taylor, Sally Ingals, dau of Lidia Taylor a molatto woman
1811 Jul 6: (Orn?), Dimon (Herisl?), son of Cate, a black woman

1794 Aug. 30: Lovejoy, Matthew, son of Peter
1794 Aug. 30: Lovejoy, Lucy, dau of Peter

Congregational Church Death records: [searched 1741 to 1926 & transcribed by jlsm]

1807 Feb 15: Philo Talbert, age 84 [also in John Farmer's vital records]

Congregational Minister's Marriage records

1818: "1818 / Married Jan'y 27 Mr. Cato Walker of Goffstown, a black man, to Miss Catharine Orren of Amherst, a black woman." (The New England Historical & Genealogical Register, 1847-2011, Volume 61 (1907) p. 381: "Marriages Solemnized by the Rev. Jeremiah Barnard, Amherst, N.H., 1780-1829.") [Record found by Jim Carleton; entered into this file Feb. 2026 by KMH.]
Note: Handwriting, historic or contemporary, can be difficult to decipher. Secomb's *History of Amherst* (p. 854) printed her surname as Owen and the handwritten 1906 submission to the State by the Amherst Town Clerk looks more like Owen than Orren; neither of those sources indicated her color.)

John Farmer's vital records 1800-1816 [searched & transcribed by jlsm]

(small notebook in collection of Chapel Museum of The Historical Society of Amherst, N.H.;
online <https://network.nhhistory.org/object/679961/booklet>)

1805 Sep 30: [death of] Thomas Kimball (a black), fever, age 61 [image 5 of 19]
1807 Feb 13: [death of] Philo Talbott, a colored person, decay, age 84 [image 6 of 19]
1807 Apr 25: [death of] Phebe Snellings, partially colored, cancer, age 70 [image 6 of 19]

Also in the record, but no color stated:

1812 May: [death of] Peter Lovejoy, lues venerea, age 48 [image 9 of 19]

MANUMISSION OF ENSLAVED “SERVANT” in/from/of AMHERST, N.H.

In his will, Hezekiah Duncklee, an early settler of Souhegan West, whose will was probated in July 1772, “gave his negro servant her liberty at his death.” (Secomb’s *History of Amherst ...* (1883), p. 570.) Notice that in 1883, an enslaved person is called a servant by the Town’s historian. -KMH

Corroboration: The last will & testament of “Hezekiah Duncklee of Amherst, yeoman,” dated Nov. 1771 and presented for probate July 1772, contains the following clause: “And I give & grant unto my Negro Girl a perfect & complete Freedom from my service & from the service of my Executor or Administrators, their heirs or assigns – which Freedom & Discharge shall commence immediately after my decease.” (Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, Probate File 02449, DUNCKLE Hezekiah, 1773; as transcribed by Jackie Marshall.)

[Note by KMH: Farm of Hezekiah Duncklee was in Cricket Corner area, at 369 Boston Post Road.]

RECORD FROM MASON [Added by KMH, Nov. 2015]:

“It is well known to most that Slavery was once an institution of our own. We recently alluded the **death of a colored person at the County Farm, said to have been a descendant of the Provincial Slaves of Amherst**. We have since learned further of his history. At the time of the adoption of our Town Charter, there were eight slaves held in Amherst, six males and two females, and in 1800 there were 33 colored persons in town. The following deed of manumission of a slave in a neighboring town, has been kindly copied for us from the County records by Charles B. Tuttle, Esq., our gentlemanly Register:

Know all Men by these Presents: that I, James Man, of Mason, in the Province of New Hampshire, in County of Hillsborough, Do for Divers good Causes, freely and voluntarily, by these Presents, Give my Negro Servant Named Christopher, His freedom from this time Henceforth, and to Have all that Belongs to Him, and to Pass and Repass where His Lawful Business shall Call Him. In Witness, I the above named James Man Have set my Hand and Seal, this twenty-sixth day of February A.D. 1773, and in the twelfth year of His Majesties Reign

Signed, Sealed, Delivered in present of

SAMUEL ABBOTT, }
BATHSHEBA ABBOT. } JAMES MAN [Seal]

Hillsborough ss. Ye 23 day of March, 1770. This Day, Personally appeared before me Names James Man and acknowledged the within instrument by him executed to be his free act and Deed. EBEN H. GOSS, Justice Peace. Rec'd and Recorded April 12 th, 1772 and Examined per SAM'L HOBART, Reg'r.”
(*Farmers' Cabinet*, 19 Sep 1860, p. [2].)

Research Note: Unsuccessfully attempted to find this person descended from a Provincial N.H. slave of Amherst by digital search of Wadleigh Library’s online newspaper database: tried to find when/where the *Farmers' Cabinet* alluded to person’s death; searched for “county farm” and “county poor farm” and “county pauper farm” and “colored person” and “colored man” in 1860, to no avail.

EARLY BLACK OWNERS OF REAL ESTATE IN AMHERST, N.H.

[Section added by Katrina Holman, Aug. 2022; Philo's portion expanded Jan. 2026]

1778 (or possibly as early as 1775)-1785: Elisabeth Perwidy

who came from Ipswich Hamlet, Province of Massachusetts Bay, spinster (=unmarried) and "laboring woman", who could not sign her own name

1774 Dec. 2 Deed (3:311): ELISABETH PERWIDY of Ipswich Hamlet, Province of Massachusetts Bay, spinster, sold to EPHRAIM HILDRETH of Amherst, Province of New Hampshire, gentleman, & FRANCIS LOVEJOY of Amherst, yeoman, for 18 Pounds Lawful Money,

lot of land in Amherst, N.H. containing 60 acres by estimation, being whole of First Division Lot No. 104 in Proprietors' Book, bounded – easterly partly by land of William Small Jr. and partly by land of Jonathan Wilkins Jr.; and westerly by land of Jacob Stanly; and southerly by land of Daniel Campbell.

Signed: with mark.

Recorded: 24 March 1775 by Sam'l Hobart.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by K. Holman, Feb. 2020.]

Note: In index (grantees 1771-1849, Ephraim Hildreth) also as PERROIDY

Research note by KMH: Intriguing possibility (judging by her unusual surname from Ipswich Hamlet and habit of owning land next to Freeman family) – was she black? Perwid(dy) name is entirely missing from FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com; closest is Peter Pervidy/Perviddy/Peroiddy, who married Deliverance Story in 1774 at Ipswich or Ipswich Hamlet, Mass., color of bride & groom both being "B" in one marriage record and recorded as "free negroes" in another marriage record (in the collection of vital records copied in 1889 from Essex County Records and also from the Church and Parish Records of the town of Ipswich at direction of Selectmen).

MISSING DEED: Deed by which Elizabeth P. acquired ownership prior to Dec. 1774.

Research Note about lot: Lot 104 originally belonged to John Ballard of Andover but was quitted, that is traded in for another, by Sherebiah Ballard; or maybe originally owned by Thomas Davis of Topsfield.

In 1740, Souhegan West Proprietors "Voted that the home Lott N^o 104" with the after Devissions shall be sold this day and it was accordingly sold to Cap' Stephen Pebody if he pays £85 in 5 months." [A later entry suggests that Peabody's Lot 104 was a 2nd Division Lot 104 of 83 acres.] (Propriety Records.)

1778 Feb. 7 Deed (8:236): Ephraim Hildreth of Amherst, gentleman, and Francis Lovejoy of Amherst, husbandman, for 20 Pounds lawful money, sold to Elizabeth Perwidy of Amherst, laboring woman, a certain First Division Lot 104 of land lying in Amherst containing 60 acres, bounding – westerly by land of Jacob Standly & easterly by land of William Small [smudged] & southerly by land of Dan'l Campbell. [Northerly bound missing.]

Signed: Ephraim Hildreth, Francis Lovejoy. Witnessed: Alex'r Brown, Elizabeth Hildreth.

Recorded: 18 Oct. 1779 by Moses Nichols, Register who was also JP. [Indexed at Registry as 1799.]

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Nov. 2022; online FamilySearch catalog deed image 343.]

Research Note by Katrina Holman: The "occupation" of the grantee in this deed (8:236) is highly unusual.

Although deeds in 18th century and early 19th century N.H. listed the occupation of grantor and grantee, in the case of women, instead of occupation usually their marital status was given (spinster, widow, or wife of So-and-So) because that had legal implications as to their right to sell the property). There are a few cases where the actual money-earning occupation of the woman was given; but in researching hundreds of 18th- and 19th-century deeds of Souhegan West and Amherst, this Elizabeth P. is the only one I've come across called a "laboring woman."

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DEED INDEXES 1771-1849

1779 (8:237):	Elizabeth Perwidy	to Cesar Freeman –	Amh, 30 acres	[index]
1783 (12:116):	Cesar Freeman	to Stephen Abbott –	Amh, 3/4 acre	[index]
1787 [1785] (18:113):	John Costelloe	to Elisabeth Perwidy [spinster of Amh] –	Lyndeb, 65a	
1789 Mortgage (22:392):	Ebenezer Fisk [of Amh]	to Elisabeth Perwiddy [of Lyndeb, free woman] –	Lyndeborough, 60a	
1794 (34:88):	John Costelloe et ux	to Elizabeth Perwido –	Lyndeb, 65a	

[FamilySearch Grantor Deed Index 1771-1849, image xxx; grantor image 209 & grantee img 109 for Freeman]

1779 (8:237): Elizabeth Perwidy to Cesar Freeman – Amh, 30 acres
1782 Mortgage (9:150): Cesar Freeman to George Dodge Jr. et al – Lyndeboro, 65a
1782 (9:151): Cesar Freeman to George Dodge Jr et al – Lyndeboro, 65a
1783 (12:116): Cesar Freeman to Stephen Abbott – Amh, 3/4 acre
Note: 1782 Cesar Freman/Freeman bought land in Lyndeborough from Parker

1787 (18:115): John Costelloe et ux to Sampson Freeman – Lyndeb, 65a
1794 (34:89): John Costelloe et ux to Samson Freeman – Lyndeb, 65a
1789 (22:369): Sampson Freeman [of Lyndeb, yeoman] to Henry Campbell [of Amh] – Lyndeboro, 20a, 24Pounds
Note: Sampson signed with mark.

1778 February Deed (8:237): Elizabeth Perwidy of Amherst, laboring woman, sold to Cesar Freeman of Amherst, husbandman, in consideration of 9 Pounds lawful money, a parcel land lying in Amherst, N.H., being half part of the First Division Lot No. [blank], containing 30 acres, bounded – beginning at SE Corner of Jacob Standly land, thence by the highway 30 rods; thence North 5 degrees West 8 rods to a large rock; thence North 13 degrees West 170 rods to hemlock tree; thence West 32.5 rods to a basswood stump; thence South 13 degrees East bounding by land of Jacob Standly to BFM. Signed: Elizabeth her X mark Perwidy. Witnessed: Andrew Wilkins, Timothy Nichols Jr., William Low. [Odd to have 3 instead of 2 witnesses for one signer.] JP: Nahum Baldwin. Recorded: 18 Oct. 1779. [Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Nov. 2022; online FamilySearch catalog deed image 343. Wow! The highway could be Austin Road – and this 61 Austin Road!]

(Where she went afterwards: In Sep. 1785, Elizabeth P. of Amherst, spinster, bought 65-acre lot in Lyndeborough, N.H., her land bounding on Amherst town line on the east line and New Boston on the north line (deeds 18:113 & 34:88). At the same time, one Sampson Freeman, also “of Amherst,” laborer, bought 65-acre lot adjoining/abutting on Elizabeth’s west side (deeds 18:115 & 34:89). In Lyndeborough’s 1786 list of taxpayers, Elizabeth is not listed – but her former Amherst neighbor Cesar Freeman is.)

1778 (before Feb.)-c.1782: Cesar Freeman, husbandman (and likely the black man who had been a resident of Ipswich Hamlet, Mass. when he married in 1774) – **61 Austin Road** w/ 30a

1774 July: Cesar Freeman & Lydia Freeman both of Ipswich entered Intention of Marriage July 1774 (Town Records of Ipswich, Mass.; online Ancestry.com, accessed Nov. 2022)

1774 July 18 – Ipswich Hamlet [Mass.]: Marriage of Caper [sic as transcribed later, someone probably couldn’t read elongated s letter] Freeman of Ipswich Hamlet, color B [!!!] & Lydia Freeman of Ipswich Hamlet (Marriages Registered in Ipswich Hamlet, copied from church record); in a different version of the same record, Caesar & Lydia are recorded as “free negroes” (in the collection of vital records copied in 1889 from Essex County Records and also from the Church and Parish Records of the town of Ipswich at direction of Selectmen, under “Marriages Solemnized by Rev. Mannasseh Cutler of the “Hamlet””, p. 249).

1774 Aug.: Peter Peroiddy or Perviddy [handwriting could be either] & Deliverance Story all of Ipswich entered their Intention of Marriage (Town Records of Ipswich, Mass., same page as Cesar Freeman intention).

1774 August 11 – Ipswich Hamlet: Marriage of Peter Pervidy of Ipswich Hamlet or Ipswich, color B [!!!], & Deliverance Story of Ipswich Hamlet or Ipswich (Marriages Registered in Ipswich Hamlet, copied from church record; Freeman and Pervidy are the only ones marked “B” from 1771-1777, then in 1778 2 more black couples with 4 different surnames; the next black couple, with 2 more different surnames, registered in 1781 but place of residence blank). In a different version of the same record, they are recorded as “free negroes” (in the collection of vital records copied in 1889 from Essex County Records and also from the Church and Parish Records of the town of Ipswich at direction of Selectmen, under “Marriages Solemnized by Rev. Mannasseh Cutler of the “Hamlet””, p. 249).

1778 February Deed (8:237): Elizabeth Perwidy of Amherst, laboring woman, sold to Cesar Freeman of Amherst, husbandman, in consideration of 9 Pounds lawful money, a parcel land lying in Amherst, N.H., being half part of the First Division Lot No. [blank], containing 30 acres, ...

1779 Oct. 19 – Amherst, N.H.: “This Day Laid out the following Road (viz) Beginning at the Road Leading from Bartholo’w Dodges to Daniel Campbells on the Line Between Land of Jacob Stanly and Land of **Seasar** [sic Cesar] **Freeman** thence Running Northerly on said Line until it comes out to the Road Laid out from Benjamin Calrks House to Reuben Holts House[,] Said Road to be two Rods and a half wide wholly on said Stanlys Land; and the Road from Reuben Holts house across said Stanley field to his East Line is by us Discontinued[,] Signed: Selectmen of Amherst, Thos Wakefield, Nathan Hutchinson, Timothy Smith, James Seatown. (Recorded by Thos Wakefield Town clerk.) (*Amherst Town Records, Volume 1*, p. 85. On microfilm at Amherst Town Library, N.H.)

1782 Dec. 21 Deed (12:116): Cesar Freeman of Lyndeborough, husbandman, sold to Stephen Abbott of Amherst, husbandman, for 2 Pounds 8 Shillings lawful money, piece of land in Amherst, N.H., 3/4 acre & 6 rods, bounded – beginning at NW corner of premises, thence southerly by land of Jacob 14 rods; thence East 8 degrees West by land of said Freeman to s&s; thence northerly 14 rods by land of Freeman to s&s; thence West by land of Abbott 10 rods to BFM. Signed: Cesar Freeman. Witnessed: Daniel Campbell, Jane her O [something distinctive that wasn’t an X] mark Campbell. JP: Nahum Baldwin. Recorded: 4 Nov. 1783. [FamilySearch catalog image 407]

1782 (9:151): Cesar Freeman [of Lyndeb] to George Dodge Jr. [of Ipswich, Mass. & Samuel Quarter of Windham] –Lyndeborough, 65a

1790 July 8 – Dublin. N.H.: “Caesar Freeman, servant to Gardner Towne, was 21 years of age [on this day] at which time his said master gave him his freedom.” (Filed with old vital records by Town Clerk of Dublin 1905.) Comment: The geographical proximity suggests a familial relationship. However, a person aged 21 in 1790 would have been born 1769 – which does not fit with out Cesar getting married in 1774 and could not be his son unless that was not our Cesar’s first marriage. “Freedom” “given” at age 21 was likely to be from indenture. (-KMH, 11/2022)

MISSING DEED(S): FREEMAN selling the REST/MAJORITY (29 1/4a); and DODGE buying.

(Where he went afterwards: By Dec. 1782 Freeman was a resident of Lyndeborough, when he sold off 3/4 acre from the NW corner of the Amherst premises to one Stephen Abbott of Amherst, husbandman, for 2 Pounds 8 Shillings lawful money (deed 12:116). In Lyndeborough’s 1786 list of taxpayers, “Cesar Freeman” is the only Freeman listed (*History of Lyndeborough, N.H.*, 1906, p. 269).)

1780-1801: Philo Talbert/Talbot/Tolbart/Tolbert/etc. (d. 1807 at Amh), owned land in Amherst – where? (likely on Spring Road in SE part of town about one mile from Village)

RESEARCH NOTE: This section on Philo and his relatives was considerably expanded in Feb. 2026 for third release of this document. Most of the new information added comes from historical research by Jim Carleton, a direct descendant of John Washer of 14 Green Road, Amherst, through Washer’s daughter Amy who married Oliver Carleton, settling in the section of Amherst that became Mont Vernon; and likely also a direct descendant of Philo Tolbart though Catherine Talbot (b. 1788; m. 1816), wife of Israel Farnum Jr. of Mont Vernon.

Secomb’s *History of Amherst* (1883) mentions:

- “Philo Talbot” 2x, both times for his longevity with date of death (p. 193 and 789), but no mention of color nor any family connections;
- “William Talbert” 4x, as an Amherst man serving in the Revolutionary War in 1777, 1778, 1780 (p. 386, 389, 395 spelled Tolbert, and 486), but he is not included in genealogy section;
- 4 men named William Brown, but they are muddled up and not connected properly into families. The genealogy section has William and Anna Brown with only 2 sons, both with exact birth dates but does not include daughters.

Genealogy: A user-submitted genealogy tree on FamilySearch.org (as of Jan. 2026), identifies both **William Talbert** (1758-1830) AND William Talbert/Tolbert (1763-1823; married 1783 in N.H.) – of which the latter is the more likely to be correct given 1823 Amherst real estate record – as **son(s) of Philo Tolbart** (1723-1807) who married 2 July 1751 at Kensington, Rockingham, N.H. to Mary Beal/Beale/Bell (b. 1727). Same tree identifies **Anna Tolbut (d. 1822) as daughter of Philo and wife of William Hodge Brown** (d. 1825, no parents listed),

giving no marriage date; and further identifies Betsey E. Brown (1794-1877), wife of Rufus Orcutt, as granddaughter of Philo. Caution with such info until properly vetted.

TALBOT/TOLBERT BEFORE ARRIVAL IN AMHERST:

1752 May – Kensington, N.H.: Marriage Record (p. 9) of Phyllo + Sarah [No surnames!! No further info.]

1756 Aug. 4 – Ipswich, Mass: Philo Talbott is listed (along with many others, most of whom were owed more money by the estate) as a creditor in estate inventory of John Henderson Jr., late of Ipswich, deceased, as being owed 4 shillings. (Source: Essex County, MA, Supreme Judicial Court. Probate Estate Case Files 1638-1880: no. 13036 to 13050 (Henchman, N - Henderson, M), John Henderson, Jr., Ipswich, 1756; online FamilySearch "Essex, Massachusetts, United States records" (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-YSQ8-MXW?>), image 19 of 151 from Image Group/Film Number 004481546; record found by Jim Carleton.) But the estate was involvent, so Philo only received 2 Shillings.

1761 July – Kensington, NH: Marriage Record (p. 12) of Philo Tolburt + Mary Beal. [No further info in vital.]

Research Note: Miscegenation, that is interracial marriage, was not legal in Massachusetts until 1843; whereas New Hampshire never enacted anti-miscegenation laws. If the wife (wives) were white, this could explain why a black or “colored” man from Ipswich, Mass., would cross the state line into New Hampshire to get married.

ABOUT MARY BEAL(E) OF IPSWICH BEFORE MARRIAGE

[Records found & abstracted by Jim Carleton.]

1755 April – Ipswich, Mass.: Mary Beal, single woman of Ipswich, confessed to the crime of fornication, whereof she had a base born child, and accused Francis Cogswell, Jr. [who would d. April 1760] of being the father; she was ordered to pay a fine of 10 shillings and court costs. In May 1757, James Beal, a child under the care of the Overseers of the Poor of the town of Ipswich, was bound and apprenticed to Joseph Stacey, cordwainer of Exeter, NH, and his wife Mercy. James Beal, cordwainer of Exeter, served in Revolutionary War, mustered in 1775, taken prisoner 1777, died 1778.

1760 April – Ipswich, Mass.: Benjamin Caldwell engaged to give lodging, clothing and victuals to Mary Beall, one of the poor of Ipswich, at the expense of the town for one year for 3 pounds, 6 shillings, 8 pence.

1761 – Ipswich, Mass.: Contract. By Benj. Caldwell & his mother for the bording of ye widow Hobbs & Mary Beal for the year 1760 to the fifth of April – 6 Pounds 13 Shillings 4 Pence. (“Ipswich, MA Treasurer Account Book 1753-1767,” image 64 of 222 online.)

REAL ESTATE OWNER ! in IPSWICH

1761 Sep. 21 – Essex County, Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England (deed v. 119, p. 133): Richard Partridge Farrin of Ipswich, barber surgeon, sold to Philo Tolbord [sic] of Ipswich, labourer, for 53 Pounds 16 Shillings & 4 Currants money, “a certain messuage and tennaments situate in Ipswich [which] contains by estimation one acre more or less it being the Undivided moiety of half part for quantity and quality of my Homestead with the easterly end of the Dwelling House begin(n)ing at the Mid(d)le of the Door on the southerly side of the House so through the Chimney to strike the Easterly end of ... the back side of said House with the Undivided Moiety of the barn upon the Premises” ... Richard’s “now wife” Abigail Farrin signed with a mark to signify that she gave up her dower right in the premises. Deed was acknowledged in 1765 and recorded in 1774. (Online FamilySearch "Essex, Massachusetts, United States records" Deeds 1765-1770 Vol. 119-121 (familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9ZZ-BPSB?), image 139 of 867 from Image Group/Film Number 007463311; deed found by Jim Carleton; abstracted & added to this file Jan. 2026 by Katrina Holman.)

Note1: In 1729 Feb., Elizabeth Lovell, widow of John Lovell, and her son Alexander Lovell Jr. (wife Margaret), both of Ipswich, together sold to Patrick Farrin of Ipswich, barber, “a certain messuage or tenament” in Ipswich together with 2 pieces of land and “together with all Houses, OutHouses, Barns, Yards, Ways, Waters” (Essex County, Massachusetts deed 56:140).

Note2: In Oct. 1773, Richard Partridge Farrin of Brunswick (re)sold the same property in Ipswich that Philo had bought. (-Jim Carleton’s research notes)

1767 – Ipswich, Mass. (p. 153): Philo Tallburd [sic] on list of taxpayers, 1 poll tax and some land.

1767 July– Ipswich. Mass. Court Record: “Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, Essex ss [county]. To the Sheriff of Our County of Essex, Greeting. Whereas Thomas Staniford of Ipswich in Our County of Essex, Gentleman, by the consideration of Our Justices of Our Superiour Court of Judicature holden at Ipswich recovered Judgment against **Philo Tolbert of Ipswich, shoreman**, for the sum of 3 Pounds 15 Shillings & 2 Pence lawful money .damage and 3 Pounds 1 Shilling & 6 Pence cost of suit [plus the Sheriff’s fee and 1 Shilling more for this Writ] ... whereof execution remains to be done, ... [so Sheriff was commanded to take the equivalent quantity of Philo’s goods, chattels or lands and if Philo didn’t pay up, “the Body of the said Philo” was to be committed unto “Our Goal [sic,

gaol] in Salem, Ipswich or Newburyport” and the Sheriff then was commanded to return the Writ to the court in Salem in Nov. next.] (Source: Suffolk, MA County Court case files, Executions 1629-1799, Vol. 778, Case file 126190, Staniford vs. Tolbert; online FamilySearch "Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States records" (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSRW-1SV4-G?>), image 518 of 775 of Image Group/Film Number 008296511; record found by Jim Carleton.)

This debt owed by Philo Tolbert of Ipswich, shoreman, to Staniford stemmed from a note dated 23 May 1764. (Source: Essex, MA Inferior Court of Common Pleas records 1766-1780, vol. 4, p. 103: Ipswich Court March 1767, Staniford-Tolbert appeal; online FamilySearch "Essex, Massachusetts, United States records" (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSVR-X7DK?>), image 65 of 924 from Image Group/Film Number 008131609; record found by Jim Carleton; added to this file Jan. 2026.)

1771 March– Ipswich, Mass. Court Records. Richard Patrick Farrin of __wick in our County of Cumberland, yeoman, against Philo Talbert of Ipswich in our County of Esses, labourer, .. It is considered by the Court that the said Farrin recover of the said Talbert 41 Pounds 18 Shillings money dam[age] & [a bit more money, presumably for court costs]. (Source: Essex County, MA Inferior Court of Common Pleas records 1770-1773: v. 5, p. 95 for Ipswich March 1771 Court Session, Farrin vs. Talbert; online FamilySearch "Essex, Massachusetts, United States records" (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSVR-XQJG?>), image 361 of 924 from Image Group/Film Number 008131609; record found by Jim Carleton.)

1771 – Ipswich, Mass.: Phil Tallburd [sic as transcribed] on list of taxpayers: for half house; annual worth of whole estate 1 pound (among the lowest); 1 acre of pasture, enough to keep half a cow; 0a tillage. Total 885 taxpayers. (“Historical Studies B-41: 1771 Massachusetts Tax Inventory”, transcribed digitized list. Record found by JC.)

1772 Feb. – Ipswich, Mass: Tolburd, Phelo [sic] mentioned on the Ipswich tax list. (Vol. 130:772) (index card)

1776 March – Ipswich, Mass.: Inventory of Estate of Ezekiel Dodge late of Ipswich shopkeeper deceased included among “Notes” (debts owned), near end of list, “Philo Tolbort 9 Pounds - 14 [Shillings] - 10 3/4 [Pence]”; signed by [Mrs.] Anna Dodge, Administrator, and a sworn committee of 3 men [the appraisers].

(Source: Essex County, MA, Probate Court: Probate records, 1757-1777, v. 351, book 51, p. 475-477, Estate of Ezekiel Dodge; online FamilySearch "Essex, Massachusetts, United States records," (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9YB-69GL-2?>), p. 477=image 249 of 616 from Image Group/Film Number: 007704829; found by Jim Carleton; transcribed & entered in this file Jan. 2026 by KMH.)

Note: This debt from his former hometown would cost Philo most of his homestead in Amherst ten years later (see below 1786 Court Execution of Hillsborough County, N.H.: “[Anna] Dodge vs. [Philo] Tolbart”). However, in July 1794 Philo was able to buy back that Amherst lost land (see Hillsborough County deed 37:319 transcribed below.)

AMHERST LAND PURCHASE BY FREE BLACK/”COLORED” MAN!

1780 July 12 deed (7:358): Estate of Holbert/Habbert Morrison late of Amherst deceased sold by Administrator **to Philo Talbart of Amherst, husbandman**, for 700 Pounds lawful money, tract of land in Amherst, N.H., containing about 30 acres

bounded – easterly by Thomas Boutwell’s land; southerly by John Cochran’s land;

northerly by land now owed by one Holt; & the west bound [is other land of the] deceased.

Recorded: 13 July 1780. Moses Nichols was JP & Register.

[FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantee Index 1771-1849, image 243 as Talbart; deed image 188. Deed transcribed by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025; first name of deceased corrected Jan. 2026.]

WHO OWNED LAND BEFORE:

1765 May 8 Deed (3:402): Cornelius Baker [not Parker], yeoman; Benjamin Edwards Jr., yeoman, & wife Anne, all of Wenham in the county of Essex in New England; and Wm Taylor of Beverly, yeoman, & wife Mary sold to Halbert Morison of Amherst in the Province of New Hampshire, yeoman – for 20 Pounds lawful money,

First Division Lot 9 in Amherst, containing 66a, bounded –

northerly on land of John Turner, Esq.; eastwardly on land of David Bowdd [sp?];

southerly on land of Spauldin; and westerly on land of Joshua Hicks, Esq. his heirs.

Recorded: 1 June 1774 by Hobart.

[Online FamilySearch deed image 206; transcribed/abstracted by KMH Jan. 2026..]

1772 Sep 30 Deed (3:404): Halbert Morison of Amherst, yeoman, sold to Nathaniel Hazeltine of Amherst, cordwainer, for 12 Pounds, 3.5 a in Amherst (abutting other land of Morison)..

Signed: Halbert Morison. Witnessed: Ephraim Hildreth; Zach. Cutler. JP: Moses Nichols. Recorded: 1 June 1774.

Note: On same day Hazeltine recorded deed (3:402) of 60a bought from James Russell et ux.

SUPPORT OF DAUGHTER'S FAMILY WHILE SON-IN-LAW AWAY AS SOLDIER, REIMBURSED

1780-1782 – Military Records of Amherst, N.H.: “Account of which the following is a copy:

Amherst May ye 24th 1781 The Town of Amherst to Philo Tolbart [sic] Dr

To Supplying the Family of William Brown a Continental Soldier, from ye 7 day of October 1780 to ye 25 th day of April 1781 – at 20 S [shillings] per month [for] 7 months + 4 days = L7:2:10 [7 Pounds 2 Shillings 10 Pence]

Philo Tolbart [sic]

[other side] May ye 24th 1781 – Received of Philo Tolbart by Sundries for the Support of my self and Family L 7.2.10 agreeable to the above account.

[Signed] Anna her X mark Brown

Attest Nahum Baldwin.

March 11, 1782 the within account sworn to before Nahum Baldwin Jus. Peace”

(Source: Preprinted fill-in-blanks card of Revolutionary War record for Philo Tolbart; searchable & viewable online “US, Compiled Revolutionary War Military Records, 1775-1783” on Ancestry.com accessed Jan. 2026)

Note: See below for related records for this William Brown.

LOSS OF REAL ESTATE TO SETTLE DEBT WITH STOREKEEPER IN FORMER HOMETOWN

1786 Court Execution (volume 1:pages 260–263): “Dodge vs. Tolbart.”

Hillsboro’ ss [County], State of New Hampshire.

To the several Sheriffs of the respective Counties in said State, their respective under Sheriffs or deputies Greeting, Whereas Anna Dodge of Ipswich in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, widow, ad__ of Ezekiel Dodge late of Ipswich, trader, deceased intestate, By the consideration of our Justices of our Inferior Court of Common Pleas holden at Amherst for and within our County of Hillsboro’ on the first Tuesday of September 1786 recovered judgment against **Philo Tolbart of Amherst, yeoman**, for the sum of 19 Pounds 16 Shillings 2 3/4 Pence Damage and 1 Pound 13 Shillings 2 Pence cost of suit as to us appears of record whereof Execution remains to be done. We command you therefore that of the good chattles or lands of said Tolbart within your precinct you cause to be ___ [seized?] and satisfied unto the said Dodge at the value thereof in money the aforesaid sums being 21 Pounds & 9 Shillings & 4 3/ 4 Pence in the whole with 1 Shilling __ more for this writ and thereof also to satisfy your self for your own fee. And for want of goods & chattles or lands of the said Tolbart to be by him shewn unto you or found within your precinct to satisfy the sums aforesaid, we command you to take the body of the said Tolbart and him commit unto our gaol in either of our Counties in said State and detain in your custody within our said gaol until he pay the full sums above mentioned with our fee(s) or that he be discharged by the said Dodge the Creditor or otherwise by order of Law. Thereof fail not and make return of this writ with your doings herein unto our said Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Amherst on the second Tuesday of December next. Witness Timothy Fanin [sp?] Esq. at Amherst, 14 September 1786. [Signed} Robt Fletcher Cl. [for “Clerk,” presumably].

Judgt on note Attest Robt Fletcher Cl [flourish].

Hillsboro’ ss Amherst Oct. 2, 1786. Then Daniel Warner, Nathan Kendall Jr. & Amos Truell personally appeared & made solemn oath that they have faithfully & impartially appraised such estate as hath been shown them to satisfy the within Execution and charges of levying according to their best skill and judg[men]t before [signed] Augustus Blanchard Jus. Peace.

Hillsboro’ ss. Oct. 2, 1786 At the direction of Samuel Dana, Esq. the Creditor;s atty I have levied the writ of **Execution on 30 and half acres of land in Amherst, it being a part of Philo Tolbart’s homestead** & shewn by the said Philo to satisfy the same[,]

bounded: beginning on west side of public road that leadeth from Amherst meeting house to Benjamin Davis’s and is on the north line of said Tolbart’s land,

thence running west 1 degree north 24 rods to s&s;

then[ce] south one degree west 92 rods to s&s;

then[ce] running west [east?] one degree south 56 rods to white oak tree by the highway;

then[ce] northerly by west side of hwy to BFM.

And I have caused said land to be set off by meets and bounds and appraised by three different men, freeholders of said county [Hillsborough, N.H.] viz Dan[iel] Warner chosen by Creditor’s Atty and Amos Truell chosen by the Debtor and Nathan Kendall Jr. appointed by myself, who upon their oaths appraised the above described land to be worth 23 Pounds 11 Shillings and 10 Pence and no more to satisfy this execution and charges of levying[,] the charges of levying being 2 Pounds and 1 Shilling & 7 Pence. & I have delivered possession thereof to Samuel Dana Esq., the Creditor’s Atty. [Signed} William Read, Deputy ___ [something other than “Sheriff”].

Hillsborough ss Oct. 2, 1786. We the subscribers being appointed & sworn to appraise such estate such as should be shown to us to satisfy this execution and charges of levying do on oath appraise the above land to be worth 23 Pounds 11 Shillings and 10 Pence and no more. [Signed} Daniel Warner [and] Nathan Kendall Jr.

Amherst, Oct. 2, 1786. Rec'd possession of above described land in full for this Execution on Accts[?] of William Read, Deputy Sheriff. [Signed] Sam'l Dana, Atty to ye Creditor.

Hillsboro ss Received October 6 th, 1786. Recorded & examined. Attest. Robt Fletcher ___ [end flourish; maybe "Cl" for Clerk]

(Source: Hillsborough, New Hampshire court records, "Court of Common Pleas Executions" vol. 1, Aug. 1782-Dec. 1787, p. 260-263: Dodge vs. Tolbart; online FamilySearch "Hillsborough, New Hampshire, United States records" (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HB-59QD-G?>), image 148 of 756 of Image Group/Film Number: 008649958, vol. 1-3 (1782-1808) filmed 1976 at Clerk's Office of Hillsboro' County Superior Court at Manchester; record found by Jim Carleton; abstracted/transcribed & added to this file Jan. 2026 by K. M. Holman.)

(Indexed in Pauline J. Oesterlin, *Hillsborough County, New Hampshire Court Records, 1772-1799* (published 1996 by Heritage Books), p 96: "Dodge Anna, administrator of estate, of Ipswich MA, vs. Talbert Philo, yeoman, of Amherst, rec date 1786, writ, debt, file #6267, estate of Ezekiel Dodge (trader).")

1787 Sep. 15 (Hillsborough County Deed 20:200): Anna Dodge of Ipswich in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, widow, to Barnabas Dodge also of Ipswich, yeoman, for 20 Pounds – tract of land in Amherst, N.H., situated **about one mile southerly of Amherst Courthouse**, formerly owned by Philo Talbert, containing 30.5 acres with a barn thereon, bounded – beginning at hwy at NE corner of premises, thence running westerly 24 rods; thence southerly 92 rods; thence running easterly 56 rods to a white oak tree; thence running northerly by the highway to BFM.

Signed: Anna Dodge. Acknowledge: 19 Oct. 1787 in Essex county [Mass.]. Recorded: 11 July 1788.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Oct. 2025; online FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County deeds image 351. Because deed mentions "barn" specifically, likely there was no house.]

COURT RECORDS – PATERNITY SUIT

1787: COURT RECORDS of HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, N.H.

(p. 1) To the Sheriff of the County of Hillsborough or to the Deputy Sheriff of Amherst in said County, Greeting, Whereas upon the Exa-mination of **Judith Boutwell of Amherst** in the County of Hillsborough State of New Hampshire, single woman, this day taken upon oath before me Samuel Wilkins, Esq., one of the Justices assigned to keep the peace within & for the said county, it appears that **she is now with child of a Bastard begotten on her Body by one Philo Talbart of Amherst, Husbandman**, and Whereas the said Bastard Child when born may be Chargable to the Town of Amherst, she this complain, and therefore ... against the said Philo Talbart that he may be apprehended & Delt with Touching the premises as the law Directs.

These are therefore in the name of said State to command you to apprehend Philo Talbart if he may be found in your precinct & bring him before me or some other justice of the peace for said County to answer to what is laid to his charge as aforesaid -- & that you do require Philo Talbart to bring with him sufficient sureties to enter into Recognizance for his appearance at the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Amherst ...

Given under my hand at Amherst, 7 Dec. 1787, Samuel Wilkins, J Peace. [p. 3 is another coy of the above.]

(p. 2) pursuant to this warrant I have taken the Body of Philo Talbart & have him before Saml Wilkins, Esq. & have notified to bring with him sufficient sureties etc. [Signed} Sam'l Stanley, constable of Amherst. (In the margin: the fees for his service.)

Hillsborough ss [County] December 8th 1787 –

Memorandum that on the day above mentioned the within named Philo Talbart being before me - & after a full examination it is considered & determined that Philo Talbart recognize himself as principal in the sum of 50 Pounds with two sureties in the sum of 25 Pounds each for his appearance at the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace next to be holden at Amherst on the first Thursday next following the Second Tuesday in December instant; & for abiding & performing the order of said Court touching a subject matter of said Complaint; & stand committed til sentence be performed. Whereupon Philo Talbart not complying with the foregoing sentence was committed.

[Signed] Sam'l Wilkins Jpeace.

[The paper is moisture-damaged at the bottom of the page, so some further words about Saml Wilkins there are illegible on scan image.]

(p. 5 is a copy of p. 2 with slightly different wording. It concludes: "Whereupon the said Philo Talbart refusing to complie with the foregoing order stands committed. Signed Sam'l Wilkins, J Peace / True Copy Attest.

[Note by KMH: Quite likely P.T. simply did not have that kind of cash. Ironically, while committed to gaol, he surely could not earn any more.]

(p. 4) Hillsborough ss. The **Examination of Judith Boutwell of Amherst** in County of Hillsborough & State of New Hampshire, single woman, taken before me, Samuel Wilkins esquire one of the justices of the peace for said Couty, this 7th Day of December 1787.

This Examinant saith – that on or about the 15 th of July last past – one **Philo Talbart of Amherst, Husbandman**, did near the highway leading from Aaron Boutwell’s to Samuel Field in Amherst, through wheedlings offer to lie with her[;] at length on the day and at the place above mentioned did enter & have **carnal knowledge of her body** whereby she this examinant **is now big with Child**[;] and this examinant further saith that no other person besides the said Philo Talbart had ever any knowledge of her body and that he is the only Father of the said Child.

Wherefore this examinant prays process against Philo Talbart that he may be apprehended and delt with touching the foregoing Complaint as the Law Directs.

[Signed] Judith her X mark Boutwell.

Hillsborough ss. Dec. 7th 1787 – personally appeared the above named Judith Boutwell and made solemn oath to the truth of the foregoing Complaint by her signed before me, Samuel Wilkins Jpeace. True copy Attest.

(p. 6) Hillsboro’ ss Court of Gen’l Sessions, Sept. Term 1788.

The said Tolbart being arraigned pleads not guilty and thereof puts himself on trial to which plea the said Judith ___.” Signed by a different person.

[end]

(Source: Hillsborough County, New Hampshire court records located at N.H. State Archives at Concord. Original is 6 pages on 3 sheets of paper folded together. Indexed in book by Pauline J. Oesterlin, *Hillsborough County, New Hampshire Court Records, 1772-1799* (published 1996 by Heritage Books), page 44: “Boutwell Judith, single, of Amherst, vs. Talbart Philo, husbandman, of Amherst, rec date 1787, petition, fornication, file #6526.” Record found by Jim Carleton; record transcribed/abstracted from scan images & added to this file Jan. 2026 by K. M. Holman.)

1788 Sep: MISSING Court Record

1790 October Term: PATERNITY SUIT APPEAL – Another COUNTY COURT RECORD

(p. 354-355) “Tolbert vs. Boutell. **Philo Tolbert** of Amherst in the county of Hillsborough, Husbandman, Plaintiff, against **Judith Boutell** of said Amherst, Singlewoman, Defendant, upon a certiorari in the following words We being desirous for certain reasons to be certified of a certain judgment rendered at our Court of General Sessions of the Peace holden at Amherst within and for the said County of Hillsborough on the first thursday next following the first tuesday of **September 1788** upon a Complaint and information of Judith Boutell of said Amherst, singlewoman, against Philo Tolbert of said Amherst, husbandman, in which it is said manifest error hath happened Do command you that under your or one of your hands and seals you send unto our Superior Court of Judicature to be holden at Amherst in and for the County of Hillsborough on the first tuesday of October next the said Complaint and information and the judgment thereon with all things touching the same plainly and distinctly and in as full and ample a manner as it now remains before you together with this writ so that we may cause to be done what of right therein and according to law we shall see to be done. And the said Tolbert by Joshua Atherton Esquire his attorney comes and lays that in the judgment and record aforesaid as also in the examination or Complaint aforesaid of the said Judith there is manifest error to wit

[1] for that it is not alledged in the said examination or complaint of the said Judith that the said child was a bastard child or would be a bastard child when born and that such bastard child was begotten on her body by the said Tolbert and this he is ready to verify.

2ndly In the aforesaid proceedings there is no judgment rendered that the said Tolbert was guilty of the charge aforesaid and this also he is ready to verify.

3rdly That the said Judith was not put upon the discovery of the truth of the aforesaid by the midwife in the time of her travel [sic, travail meaning childbirth labor] nor did she in the time of her travel [travail] charge the said Tolbert with being the father of the child mentioned in her said examination and this he is ready to verify and so the judgment and proceedings aforesaid as also the examination or complaint aforesaid of the said Judith are erroneous and void in law and the said Tolbert prays that the judgment and proceedings aforesaid may be revoked annulled and held entirely void and that the said Tolbert may be restored to all things which he hath lost by reason of the judgment and proceedings aforesaid.

Whereupon it is ordered by the Court that a writ of sarefacias issue to notify the said Judith Boutell to appear and hear the record and proceedings aforesaid and the errors aforesaid.

And now the parties appear and being fully heard by their Council learned in the law and all and singular the premises being seen and understood by the Court and it appearing that in the record and proceedings aforesaid and also in the examination or complaint aforesaid and in the rendition of judgment aforesaid there is not error[,] it is therefore considered by the Court that the said judgment of the said Court of General Session of the peace be affirmed and remain in its full force and effect.” [end]

(Source: Hillsborough County, New Hampshire court records, Superior Court of Judicature 1785-1793, vol. 2, p. 354-355: Tolbert vs. Boutell in neat script in bound volume, unsigned and undated but preceding and following records/cases are both dated 1790; online FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HB-5SZS-8?>), image 200 of 909 from Image Group/ Film Number 008649948 and image 19 for vol. 2 index that shows date of court session, filmed 1976 at Clerk's Office of Hillsborough County Superior Court at Manchester, N.H.; record found by Jim Carleton; transcribed from digital scans & added to this file Jan. 2026 by Katrina Holman so you too can experience the fun & frustration of interpreting historic legal documents. As always, if exact wording and orthography matter to you, then read the original for yourself.)

Research Note and Commentary Regarding Illegitimate Pregnancy (by KMH, Jan. 2026):
“Under a 1668 Massachusetts law, midwives were often asked to pressure young unwed mothers into naming the father of their child in the throes of labor, an action which Ballard frequently participated in. ... It appears that these records were not taken to shame women for participating in premarital sex, but more so to prevent the state from having to support children with unknown parentage.” (from Wikipedia entry on Martha (Moore) Ballard (1735-1812), an American midwife, healer, and diarist who practiced in Maine and kept her diary, begun at age 50, for 27 years. Accessed Jan. 2026.). Judging by these court records pertaining to Philo T., New Hampshire must have had a similar law. In N.H. in the late 18th century, Towns had to pay the financial aid to – or support of – paupers born in their own Town; whereas for persons from out-of-state who became too poor to support themselves, the County reimbursed the Town for financial aid.

ABOUT JUDITH BOUT(W)ELL:

Judith probably was sister of one of Philo's close neighbors. If Philo's age on death record and her birth date are correct, then in Dec. 1787, he was about 64 and she was 28 years old. Judith is entirely missing from genealogy section of Secomb's *History of Amherst* as is patriarch Thomas Boutell; her presumed brothers Amos and Aaron Boutell are listed, with their wives and children, but not connected.

1759 March 6 – at Reading, Mass. Bay Colony: Birth of Judith, daughter of Thomas & Lydia Boutwell. (FamilySearch image 46 of 151, film #007009686)

1759 March 11 – at Wakefield, Mass: Baptism of Judith Boutell, daughter of Tho[mas].
In baptism records of Wakefield, sons of Thomas Boutell were: Amos (bp 26 Nov. 1752), Moses (also bp Nov. 1752), and Aaron (bp 3 Feb. 1754). (Ancestry.com)

In Feb. 1762, Thomas Boutell of Reading, joiner, bought First Division Lot 8 in southeasterly part of Amherst (Hillsborough County deed 1:488, recorded 1774). Before 1774, Thomas Boutell, now a resident of Amherst, yeoman, bought adjoining 60-acre First Division Lot 20 (deed 3:487 top).

In 1774, Thomas Boutwell conveyed to [his presumed son] Amos, the eastern half of Lots 8 & 20, containing 60 acres, in exchange for Amos performing “several articles and things as specified in a bond” of the same date (deeds 3:487 bottom and 3:488) – which sounds like a life lease agreement. Amos signed with a “mark.” At this time Amos was already married with two yg children; three more daughters would be born betw 1775-1780.

In 1776, Aaron Boutell of Amherst, aged 21, was mustered into the Company of William Barron of Merrimack, part of Wyman's New Hampshire Regiment that was raised for Canada. The company marched August 1776 but before they left, they were paid by Company Paymaster, Nahum Baldwin. Aaron was paid 9 Pounds 18 Shillings. The original in which each soldier signed to acknowledge payment is preserved (can be viewed online Ancestry.com) – Aaron was one of the few so illiterate that he could not even sign his own name.

In March 1780, Thomas made a similar arrangement with [his presumed son] Aaron: Aaron acquired, the western half of Lots 8 & 20, containing 60 acres, in exchange for performing “several articles and things as specified in a bond” of the same date (deeds 5:252 and 10:548). In Dec. 1780, Aaron Boutell was married to Tabitha Eaton, and the first baby, Tabitha [Jr.], arrived seven months later.

In the 1790 and 1800 censuses, it's possible that Judith and baby, if she had a daughter, were enumerated in household of Aaron Boutell (1-1-6 in 1790; and 01101//01111 in 1800); her baby would have been mixed race but there are other examples of mixed-race persons in Amherst at that time being enumerated as white. What happened to Judith is unknown.

In 1810, Aaron Boutell sold his house “on the road leading from Amherst to Merrimack” (likely Spring Road) with 2 acres carved out of his homestead to his daughter Tabitha, wife of William Brown Jr., for \$20 (deed 85:523). Then in 1813 he sold the rest of his remaining homestead, 40a, for \$300 to the Town of Amherst (deed 98:370). There is no explanation in the deed but it may well have been to cover back taxes and/or for his support. In 1820, a news-paper notice identified Aaron Boutwell as a Town-supported pauper (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 1820 June 24 & July 1). 1839 Dec. 27 *Farmers' Cabinet*: “Died. In this town [Amherst, N.H.], at the Almshouse, Aaron Boutell, aged 86.”

1788 Dec. 16 Deed (22:21): Philo Talbart of Amherst, labourer, to Robert Bradford Wilkins of Amherst, gentleman, for 9 Pounds lawful money, tract of land in Amherst, N.H., containing 9 1/4 acres, bounded – beginning at NE corner: thence running westerly by land of Thomas Holt; thence southerly by Holt's land to the corner of said tract; thence easterly by land of Daniel Warner to the corner of said tract; thence northerly by land of Aaron Boutwell & widow Lydia Boutwell to BFM. Signed: Philo Talbart. Witnessed: Nathanael Hosmer, Joshua Atherton (JP). Recorded: 18 Dec. 1788 by Moses Nichols.

[FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 265 as Talburt [sic]; deed image 261. Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025. Note: Likely this sale was to raise money to pay for the paternity suit against him. After a stint in the local/county jail, Philo would buy same premises back in Aug. 1791 for same amount of money (deed 27:532). Neighbor/abutter widow Lydia Boutwell may have been widow of Thomas Bout(w)ell and mother of Aaron and Judith.]

1790: SEE BELOW in PRISONERS section.

PETITION FROM JAIL

1790 June: Special Town Meeting of Amherst. 3) To see if they will hear a **petition by Philo Talbert a poor prisoner long since confined**, at present destitute of means to defray prison charges and no rational prospect of his being in any better circumstances while confined to jail and as he is committed for a criminal breach of law it is said the prison keeper will recover pay for boarding him either of the County or of this Town ... Voted to chose a committee to consider the matter, [comprised of] John Shepard Esq., Col. Robert Means, Capt. Joshua Burnam, Lt. John Rettington [sp?], and John Langdel. (*Amherst Town Records, Volume 1, p. 356*; it was hard to read on microfilm so if exactness matters to you, read for yourself.)

Note: There is nothing in these minutes that suggests Philo is black, but see 1800 census and his death record (in vital records recorded by John Farmer).

BUYS BACK HOUSE LOT

1791 Aug. 27 Deed (27:532): Robert Bradford Wilkins of Amh, gentleman, to Philo Tolbert of Amherst, labourer, for 9 Pounds lawful money, tract of land in Amherst, N.H., containing 9 1/4 acres, bounded – beginning at NE corner: thence running westerly by land of Nelond [s/?] Abbott; thence southerly by Abbot's land to the corner of said tract; thence easterly by land of Daniel Warner to the corner of said tract; thence northerly by land of Aaron Boutwell & widow Lydia Boutwell [w inserted with editing carat] to BFM. Signed: Robt B. Wilkins. Witnessed: Robert Means, Augustus Blanchard (JP). Recorded: same date. [Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman & added to this file Jan. 2026; online FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County deeds image 277. In grantor deed index, grantee was indexed as Tobbert.]

RE-ACQUIRES REST OF AMHERST HOMESTEAD

1794 July 24: (Deed 37:319): Barnabas Dodge of Hamlet in the county of Essex [Massachusetts] quitclaimed to Philo Tolbert of Amherst, N.H., husbandman, for 15 Pounds, tract of land in Amherst, N.H. which was formerly owned by said Philo, containing 30 acres more or less, bounded – beginning at NW [should be NE] corner of premises at highway, thence running westerly 24 rods; thence southerly 92 rods; thence running 56 rods to a white oak tree; thence running northerly by the highway to BFM. Signed: Barnabas Dodge. Recorded: 30 June 1775 by Jona. Smith, Register. [Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman & added to this file Oct. 2025; online FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County deeds image 174; hard to read, check if there is mention of a barn.]

ABUTTER

1795 Feb. 5 Deed (36:557): JOSEPH BOUTILL 3d of Amherst, gentleman, to CALEB BOUTILL of Reading, Mass., yeoman, for \$400, piece of land in Amherst, N.H., containing about 45 acres, bounded – beginning east of hwy leading from Samuel Fields to Amherst Courthouse, thence running:

easterly by Fields land about 40 rods to black birch tree marked;
northerly by Fields land & others about 80 rods to **Philo Tolbart's land**;
westerly about 6 rods to s&s;
northerly about 5 rods to maple tree marked;
westerly about 20 rods by Roleson Ellenwood land to black oak stub;
southerly about 20 rods to Deacon Barker's line;
southwesterly about 20 rods to a bunch of chesnut trees by said hwy;
southeasterly by hwy about 90 rods to BFM.

Signed: Joseph Boutell 3d. Witnessed: Samuel Whiting, Daniel Warner (JP). Recorded: 18 March 1795.
[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman; FamilySearch catalog image 566&567. Note by KH (July 2021):
This is likely the beginning of Caleb Boutell farm on County Road, house marked J. Upham on 1858 map, now
gone. This would narrow the location of Philo's land to being south or SE of the Village, fairly near the Village.]

1795 June 30 Mortgage (37:363): Philo Tolbert of Amherst, husbandman,
to Robert Means of Amherst, Esquire, for \$36.67–
tract of land in Amherst, N.H., with the buildings on the same,
bounded – beginning at northwesterly [? NE] corner of premises at highway,
thence running westerly 24 rods;
thence southerly 92 rods;
thence running 56 rods to white oak tree;
thence running northerly by the highway to BFM. Provided nevertheless ...

Signed: Philo Tolbert. Witnessed: Jona. Smith (JP & Register) and [his wife] Amelia Smith.
Recorded: 10 July 1795. (No margin note.)

[FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 308 as Tolbart and Tolbert; deed
image 196. Deed transcribed by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025. That sure is an consideration amount.]

ABUTTER – PHILO'S GRANDSON BROWN

1799 Dec 10 Deed (56:55 bottom): Jonathan Smith of Amherst, Esqr.
to William Brown Jr. of Amherst, husbandman, for \$255.00,
land in Amherst, N.H., containing 34 acres, bounded –

Beginning at s&s at SE corner of the premises, being **Philo Tolbart's NE corner**, thence:
Northerly by land of Aaron Boutell to large Oak Stump;
Westerly about as the rail fence runs, about 32 rods to s&s;
Southerly by John Watson to s&s about 4 or 5 rods northerly of an old bridge;
about West to land of Col. Means;
Southerly by Means to the road at s&s;
southeasterly by road till it comes to land of Tolbart;
by Tolbart's land to the bounds first mentioned.

Signed: Jonathan Smith. Witnessed: Abigail Smith, William Dodge. Acknowledged & Recorded: 3 May 1800.
[Deed transcription corrected Jan. 2026 by KMH; online FamilySearch catalog image 350. Note by KHM (Jan.
2026): William Brown Junior is buying parcel of land lying north of land owned by his grandfather Philo.]

LIFE LEASE

1801 Aug. 26 Deed (53:248b): Philo Tolbart of Amherst, N.H., husbandman,
to William Dodge of Amherst, husbandman, for \$150 –
tract of land in Amherst, N.H. containing 8 acres,
bounded – beginning at NE corner being SE corner of William Brown Jr.,
thence southerly by land of Aaron Boutell to the road;
thence on the **EASTERLY** side of road till it comes to land of said Brown [heading westerly];
thence northerly to s&s;
thence easterly by said Brown's land to BFM;

reserving the use and improvement of the same during my [Philo's] natural life.

Signed: Philo Tolbart. Witnessed: Jona. Smith (JP & Register), J. K. Smith. Recorded: 26 Aug. 1801.
[FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 308 as Tolbart and Tolbert; deed
image 144. Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025. Note: William Dodge would marry into the
neighbor Boutell family in 1804, his wife being Eleanor (b. 1772), daughter of Amos & Eleanor Boutell.]

PHILO'S GRANDDAUGHTER BROWN

1807 Feb. 2 Bill of Sale [not real estate] (Registry of Deeds 72:514): Philo Talbert to Sarah Brown.

“This day sold and delivered a dark brown coloured Cow with a white face and a certain quantity of hay in my barn estimated at one ton for the sum of \$30 to Sarah Brown my Grand Daughter, in consideration of her giving me a receipt in full for all accounts and demands she has against me up to this day, having recorded and adjusted the same and find the amount of her account to be the aforesaid sum of Thirty dollars I say sold & Delivered for the above consideration this second day of February AD 1807”

Signed: Philo Talbert his mark. Witnessed: Attest James Cash, David Wilkins.

[FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 264 as Talbert; deeds volume image 565. Transcribed by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025. Very unusual type of “deed”: Philo clearly wanted this Bill of Sale ‘on the record’!]

1807 Feb 13: [death of] Philo Talbott, a colored person, decay, age 84 (John Farmer’s vital records)

PHILO'S OUT-OF-TOWN SON BUYS BACK SOME OF PHILO'S AMHERST LAND

1807 Nov. 19 Deed (75:448): William Dodge of Amherst, husbandman, sold to WILLIAM Talbot of Hillsborough, N.H., yeoman, for \$150 –

tract of land in Amherst, N.H. containing 8 acres,

bounded – beginning at NE corner being SE corner of William Brown Jr.,

thence southerly by land of Aaron Boutell to the road;

thence on the NORTHERLY side of road till it comes to land of said Brown;

thence northerly to s&s;

thence easterly by said Brown land to BFM;

Signed: William Dodge. Witnessed: Saml. Stanley; Saml. Curtis (JP),

Recorded: 19 Nov. 1807 by Isaac Brooks, Reg.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025; FamilySearch catalog deed image 233.]

ABOUT **WILLIAM** TALBOT/TALBERT/TOLBERT (died 1823 at Hillsborough), PRESUMED TO BE **PHILO'S** SON

“Talbert” in Revolutionary War records and Secomb’s and in 1800 census of Hillsborough.

“Tolburt” in 1782 deed as grantee for land in town of Hillsborough.

“Tolbart” in 1786 deed for purchase of land in town of Hillsborough.

“Talbot” in 1807 deed of purchase of land in Amherst and 1810 census of Hillsborough.

“Tolbert” in probate notice and 1823 deed of land in Amherst sold by his estate administrator..

“Talburt” on gravestone in Hillsborough, N.H. which says died 12 June 1823.

During the Revolutionary War period, William Talbert was listed in military records as a soldier from Amherst. In 1782 he moved from Amherst to Hillborough, where he married in 1783, and lived there as a farmer for the rest of his life, inferred to be white in census records.

The record that ties William Tolbert to Philo Talbot is William’s purchase, shortly after Philo’s death in 1807, of 8-acre lot in Amherst (deed 75:448) on which Philo lived at the end of his life (although owned by someone else), which Wm owned until the end of his own life in 1823.

1782 May Deed (Hillsborough County 9:53): Samuel Steward of Amh, yeoman, to William Tolburt of Amherst, yeoman, for 150 Pounds, 2d Division Lot 51 in Hillsborough, containing 100a. This was not an actual purchase, because William Tolburt/Talbert immediately sold it back for the same amount to Samuel’s wife, Lydia Stewart, “spinster” [huh?] (deed 9:54). In Sep. 1784, Lydia (who could not sign her own name) sold the same 100-acre Lot 51 with buildings to David Stewart of Amh, yeoman, Robart Bray Wilkins of Amh, gentleman, and Uriah Cram of Lyndeboro, yeoman, for merely 60 Pounds money (deed 13:282 – online FamilySearch image 171).

1783 April – Hillsborough, Hillsborough, N.H.: Marriage Mr. Wm Tolbert + Mrs. Mercy Andrews. [“Mrs.” was used for the other brides on same original records page so may have been short for Mistress and designated previously unmarried woman. In other records, she is called Mary.]

1786 Deed (16:210): William Booth to William Tolbart of Hillsborough, yeoman – for 27 Pounds, Hillsborough, 95.5a

1816 Deed (111:531): William Talburt to Benjamin Pierce – Hillsborough, 1a

1823 – Hillsborough, N.H.: Death of William Tolbert, insolvent.

LAND IN AMHERST SOLD AFTER HIS DEATH

1823 Nov. 13 Deed (142:24): Thomas Wilson of Hillsborough, Trader, administrator of the goods and estate of **WILLIAM TOLBERT, yeoman, deceased intestate**, sold to Henry H. Ray of Amherst, innholder, for \$12.25 – Ray being the highest bidder at public auction holden at Amherst on 8 October last past by virtue of license [from Probate Court],

tract of land in Amherst, N.H., **on north side of road leading from Amherst meeting house to Merrimack**, containing 8 acres more or less, bounded – beginning at NE corner of premises being SE corner of land now or formerly owned by William Brown Junior, thence southerly on land formerly owned by Aaron Boutell now owned by Town of Amherst to road aforesaid; thence on northerly side of road till it comes to land of said Brown; thence northerly to s&s; thence easterly by said Brown’s land to BFM.

Being same which said Talbert purchased of William Dodge by deed dated 19 Nov. 1807.

Signed: Thomas Wilson, Admr. Witnessed: Luke Woodbury, Edmund Parker (JP). Recorded: 1 April 1824. [Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025; FamilySearch catalog deed image 361.

Note: H. H. Ray kept a tavern-inn in Amherst Village.]

1824 July 7 Deed (147:269): Henry H. Ray of Amherst, tavernkeeper, sold for \$17 to James Boutwell & Abraham Boutwell Jr. both sons of Abraham Boutwell & minors, all of Amherst, yeomen, parcel of land in Amherst, N.H., on northerly side of road leading from Amherst meetinghouse to Merrimack, containing about 8 acres,

being same land that Wm Talbert purchased of Wm Dodge by deed dated 19 Nov. 1807.

Signed: Henry H. Ray. Witnessed: James Ray, Horace Ray. Recorded: May 1826

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025; FamilySearch catalog deed image 141.]

1826 Mortgage (147:242): Abraham E. Boutell to Willard Marshall – Amh, 8a

ABOUT **WILLIAM BROWN** (b. England; d. Feb. 1825 at Amherst), whose wife **ANNA** is believed to be **PHILO’S DAUGHTER**

[Much of the information in this section on Wm Brown is from research by Jackie Marshall (=jls), 2014; added to this file by KMH Jan. 2026]

During the Revolutionary War period, William Brown was listed in military records as a soldier from Amherst.

Research Note – Differentiation by jls (2024): William (Hodge) Brown was “William Brown 1” in the NH RW Pensions. The other man was “William Brown 2nd” of Fishersfield, NH, age 56 in 1820; res Bradford, NH; wife Sarah; 1855 res Weathersfield, VT.

Prior to 1770: STORY OF HODGEMAN’S DESERTION AND NAME CHANGE

“In the interval between the French and Indian war and the war for Independence many deserters from the British army found refuge in New Hampshire where opportunities were good for escape from capture. Prior to 1770 a young English soldier named Hodgeman came into the vicinity of Amherst. A few months later, learning that scouts were on his track he sought concealment in this [Purgatory Falls] neighborhood. Stephen Peabody, who had built and then occupied a large house at the top of Strawberry Hill, the cellar of which is yet visible, befriended the refugee. He located him in this ravine as his hiding place during the day, receiving his food from his protector’s table and at night fall would steal up up to Peabody’s for lodging. He afterwards married, settled in Amherst, served in the Revolutionary army, abandoned the name of Hodgeman and was afterwards known as William Brown, raised a family of children and **died in Amherst in February, 1825, aged 86**. Nearly eighty years after this man found a shelter here [at Purgatory Falls] his **grandson, Robert Brown**, became the owner of the farm which included the Upper fall. The farm is still [in 1889] in the occupancy of the family, a great-great-grandson of Hodgeman, the first *settler* of Purgatory, being the owner. Two years since, Mr. Hutchinson, to complete the ownership of the surroundings, purchased of Leonard Brown, Jr., a parcel of land which includes the mighty wonder below us.” (Source: *History of Purgatory, and the Early Settlers* by C. J. Smith, “Abstract of an address delivered at Hutchinson’s Grove, Purgatoro [sic, typo] Falls, August 22, 1889”, published as booklet in 1890 by W. B. Rotch; online archive.org)

1781: “The families of William Brown [and 5 other] soldiers in the continental army, were assisted by the town this year.” (Secomb’s *History*, p. 396.)

FAMILY SUPPORTED BY PHILO WHILE WM BROWN AWAY AS SOLDIER, REIMBURSED BY TOWN

1780-1782 – Military Records of Amherst, N.H.: “Account of which the following is a copy:

Amherst May ye 24th 1781 The Town of Amherst to Philo Tolbart [sic] Dr

To Supplying the Family of William Brown a Continental Soldier, from ye 7 day of October 1780 to ye 25 th day of April 1781 – at 20 S [shillings] per month [for] 7 months + 4 days = L7:2:10 [7 Pounds 2 Shillings 10 Pence]

Philo Tolbart [sic]

[other side] May ye 24 th 1781 – Received of Philo Tolbert by Sundries for the Support of my self and Family L 7.2.10 agreeable to the above account.

[Signed] Anna her X mark Brown

Attest Nahum Baldwin.

March 11, 1782 the within account sworn to before Nahum Baldwin Jus. Peace”

(Source: Preprinted fill-in-blanks card of Revolutionary War record for Philo Tolbart; searchable & viewable online “US, Compiled Revolutionary War Military Records, 1775-1783” on Ancestry.com accessed Jan. 2026)

1782 March 14 petition laid before the town:

To the town of Amherst, convened at the Court House in Said Amherst on the 18th of March, by adjournment:

GENTLEMEN: You may remember that I, your petitioner, did engage in the public service of the United States, to **serve as a soldier for this town for the term of three years**, which time I served faithfully, and then engaged to serve in the Continental Army during the war, and I have not received any bounty from this town, or any other; and as this is the town I first went for, **and my family living in it**, I shall choose to go for this town still. Wherefore your petitioner prays you would take his case under your consideration, and give him such a bounty as others have received in like circumstances, and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray. WILLIAM X BROWN (his mark.)

In answer to the above petition the town voted to allow the petitioner one hundred dollars, hard money, on the same considerations that the three years’ soldiers were hired in 1781.

(Secomb’s *History of Amherst* ..., p. 399.)

ABUTTER – PHILO’S GRANDSON BROWN

1799 Dec 10 Deed (56:55 bottom) : Jonathan Smith of Amherst, Esqr.

to William Brown Jr. of Amherst, husbandman, for \$255.00,

land in Amherst, N.H., containing 34 acres, bounded –

Beginning at s&s at SE corner of the premises, being **Philo Tolbart’s NE corner**, thence:

Northerly by land of Aaron Boutell to large Oak Stump;

Westerly about as the rail fence runs, about 32 rods to s&s;

Southerly by John Watson to s&s about 4 or 5 rods northerly of an old bridge;

about West to land of Col. Means;

Southerly by Means to the road at s&s;

southeasterly by road till it comes to land of Tolbart;

by Tolbart’s land to the bounds first mentioned.

Signed: Jonathan Smith. Witnessed: Abigail Smith, William Dodge. Acknowledged & Recorded: 3 May 1800.

[Deed transcription corrected Jan. 2026 by KMH; online FamilySearch catalog image 350. Note by KM (Jan. 2026):

William Brown Junior is buying parcel of land lying north of land owned by his grandfather Philo.]

MILITARY PENSION RECORDS FOR WM BROWN, HUSBAND OF ANNA (PROBABLE DAU OF PHILO)

NARA M804 Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files

Pension Number: S45653 [accessed 15 May 2014 fold3.com]

William Brown, New Hampshire, S45653, index card only

Anna Brown, New Hampshire, 45653, the rest of William’s file [she did not file for widow’s pension]

[also HeritageQuest website all documents under William Brown, New Hampshire]

45653 Invalid

Certificate #10830, New Hampshire

Vol. 3, p 62

William Brown 1st

Certificate of Pension issued 19 May 1819

Act of 31 Mar 1818, [paid in arrears]

Handwritten note: enlisted at Amherst 1775

Pvt. in Regt. Col. Cilley of NH Line 1777, 3 years
31 Mar 1818 found on rolls, admitted
Pension sent to J.K. Smith Esq., Amherst, NH

1818 Deposition:

William Brown of Amherst, New Hampshire, age 73 years [b c1745] ...

[1] First part of 1775 enlisted as private soldier Capt. Crosby's company, Col. Read's Regt. in the New Hampshire line to serve 8 months, at the end he reenlisted

[2] Enlisted for 1 year Capt. Wilkins Company in Col. Bedel's Regiment in the same line; served said year

[3] Enlisted Capt. Wait's company, Col. Cilley, First NH Regt., served 3 years, but not always in same company; transferred to Capt. Monroe's company light infantry

[4] At the end of 3 years enlisted in same company & regiment to serve during the war

Battles: Bunker Hill, Monmouth, Beaman's Heights & Saratoga, Newton with the Indians, Yorktown, &c

Discharged end of war at Rattlesnake Hill a few miles from West Point; Certificate signed by General Washington, but since lost

Reduced circumstances, no property; health is bad & unable to pursue a comfortable living

Signed William X Brown

Witness: Wm Read & I Parker

31 March 1818

Sworn statement by John Dutton of Amherst, 31 March 1818

Sworn statement by John Gault of New Boston, 23 Oct 1818

Statement by JK Smith, Esq. 31 Mar 1818

1820 Jul 5 – Inventory (printed form)

William Brown of Amherst, NH, age 77 [b c1743]

Basic kitchen, household, & farming equipment, value D21.75

Signed: William X Brown

[other side of Inventory, printed form]

1820 Jul 5

Similar to 1818 depo, but more concise [shorter] service description

Original pension date 31 Mar 1818; Certificate No. 10830

Occupation: Day laborer

Family: wife Anna age 72 [b. c.1748], infirm & unable to do much

one daughter Polly, aged 20 who is able to take care of herself and has assisted me

Unable by my labor to support myself and family

Signed: William X Brown

Hon. J. Darling & J.K. Smith, JP; M. Eastman, clerk

[record transcribed by jls, 2014]

New Hampshire Light Infantry Company of the First N.H. Regiment

Name: Wm. Brown

Age: 30 [b c1746]

Size: 5 feet, 6 1/2 inches

Where born:

Country: O. England

Town: Oxfordshire

Place of residence: Amherst, Hillsborough County

Hair: Gray

Complexion: Light

Inlisted:

When: Nov. 14, 1776

Where: M. Independance

For what time: War

(Source: *Regimental Book of the First New Hampshire Regiment from 1 Jan 1781 to [1802]*, Benjamin Montial, Recorder; 12 ¾ inches by 8 inches; p. 14-15 of approximately 225 pages; contains a Size Roll; in the collection of the DAR Library.)

[The above military and military pension records for William Brown of Amherst were searched & transcribed/abstracted by Jackie Marshall = jls.]

Hillsborough County Deed 136:246

Date of Deed: 10 May 1822 Acknowledged: same date Recorded: 28 Aug 1822

Grantor: The (Senior) William Brown of Amherst, A Pensioner of the Revolutionary War

Grantee: Polly Brown, of Amherst, "my daughter" singlewoman

Consideration: \$20.00 & sundry services rendered

Description: A certain Dwelling House, having 2 rooms, with additions, conveniences & privileges – Standing near the Southeasterly end of Beaver Meadow in Amherst on land belonging to the heirs of the late Daniel Stewart Esqr. deceased; the same house in which I have resided & lived in & occupied for several years last past;

Also I sell to Polly all the right to remove said buildings off of said land; It is understood that Polly is not to come into possession during my life or the life of my wife, her mother, but after our decease; then she & her heirs become sole owners of the buildings.

Signature: William his X mark Brown

Witness: Josiah Convers, Joseph Morrison

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by jls, 2014; online FamilySearch catalog deed image 448.]

1825: Death of William (Hodge) Brown in February 1825 was mistakenly published as a John Brown age 89 in both the *Farmers' Cabinet* and *New Hampshire Observer* as John Brown aged 79. However, in the *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette* article, death was attributed to WILLIAM Brown AND it confirmed the surname HODGE!

Further Confusion – Differentiation (by jls): In 1834, *Farmers' Cabinet* newspaper originally (19 Dec. 1834, p. [3]) published notice of death of "Mr. William Brown of Amherst, in 84th year of his age, a soldier of the Revolution." The following week (26 Dec 1834, p. [3]), the *Cabinet* ran a correction, that it had been "Mr. Abel Brown" of Amherst who died at Bedford. The name was also corrected from William to Abel in the records of the Amherst Congregational Church, Vol 2, p. 277), but the mistake was repeated in later years in various places.

1825: DIED. "In this town [Amherst, N.H.], Mr. John [sic] Brown, aged 89 – He was a deserter from the British army in 1776 [sic] and afterwards served in the American army to the termination of the revolutionary war. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, published at Amherst, N.H., 19 Feb. 1825, p. [3].)

1825: DEATHS. "In Amherst [N.H.], Mr. William Brown, aged 89, a revolutionary pensioner. He was a deserter from the British army in 1776, changed his name from William Hodge to William Brown and afterwards served in the American army to the termination of the revolutionary war." (*New Hampshire Patriot*, published at Concord, N.H., 28 Feb. 1825, p. [3].)

[end of section on PHILO T.]

1828-1833: William Ross Parker, probably son of Caesar Parker, co-owned **75 Lyndeborough Road** in Amherst, N.H., and undivided part of nearby saw mill in Milford jointly with a white man 1828-1830 and was sole owner 1830-1833.

GRANTEES DEED INDEX 1771-1849 (FamilySearch index image 335): Parker William R.

1828 Deed (154:144): Amos Upham to William R. Parker – Amherst, 14a

1828 Deed (157:127): Putnam Emerson to William R. Parker et [Amos Upham] – Amherst et al. [Milford], 5 tracts

1831 Deed (166:165): Amos Upham to William R. Parker – Amherst et al. [Milford]: (1) 4a; (2) 7a; (3) see; (4) 8a

1831 Deed (166:167): Oliver Stearns et al. to William R. Parker – Amherst, 14a

1832 Deed (170:125): Putnam Emerson to William R. Parker – Milford, 31a

GRANTORS DEED INDEX 1771-1849 (FamilySearch catalog image 414)

1830 Mortgage (163:253): WILLIAM R. PARKER [et al.] to PUTNAM EMERSON, Amh – 5 tracts

1830 Deed (162:460): WM R PARKER to OLIVER STEARNES, Amh – 14a

1831 Mortg. (164:578): WM R. PARKER to MARK PARKER, Amh – 14a

1832 Deed (170:126): WM R. PARKER to JOHN RAYMOND, Milf – 31a

1833 Deed (172:190): WM R. PARKER to MARK PARKER, Amh – 14a

1833 Deed (172:310): WM R. PARKER to DANIEL HARTSHORN, Milford

1828 16 Dec. Deed (157:127): PUTNAM EMERSON of Woburn, Mass., yeoman, sold to WILLIAM R. PARKER and AMOS UPHAM both of Amherst, husbandmen, for \$900:

[1] Piece of land in Amherst, N.H., containing 4a + 3 roods + 26 rods [no description!]

(deeded to PE by James Hartshorn of Amherst by deed dated 18 Jan. 1823, recorded 99:487 [wrong reference; that's prior sale]).

[2] 7a in Milford, N.H. [no description] (formerly belonged to Joseph Wallace Jr., see deed 99:485).

[3] Tract in Milford [bounds Amos Green and Edward Hartshorn and passes by east side of mill pond and dam].

[4] Undivided half of original saw mill privilege yard etc. formerly owned by Capt. John Bradford.

Also in consideration of \$100 more:

[5] 8 acres + 154.25 rods (by measure) in Milford, bounded on north by Mont Vernon town line.

Signed: Putnam Emerson & wife Betsey Emerson, who relinquished her dower right. JP: Nathl. Shattuck.

Recorded: next day.10

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Aug. 2022; online FamilySearch catalog, deed image 72. Note that there is no mention of buildings and the amount is LESS than Emerson paid. Nevertheless, Tract 1, which is original 75 Lyndeborough Road lot, MIGHT contain house.]

1828 Dec. 16 Mortgage (156:358): WILLIAM R. PARKER & AMOS UPHAM of Amherst, husbandmen, to PUTNAM EMERSON of Woburn, Mass., yeoman, for \$800:

[1] Piece of land 4a + 3 roods + 6 rods in Amherst, N.H.

(Same James Hartshorn to Putnam Emerson, 18 Jan. 1823, recorded 99:487.)

[2] Piece of land in Milford, N.H., 7a.

(Same Joseph Wallace to James Hartshorn in 1813, recorded 99:485.)

[3] Tract in Milford, N.H. ... abutting Amos Green and Edw. Hartshorn and mill pond ..

[4] One undivided half of original saw mill privilege formerly owned by Capt. John Bradford.

[5] Tract in Milford, N.H. bounding on town lines of Milford & Mt Vernon, 8a and 154 1/4 rods.

Condition: To be repaid in 4 equal installments, the first on 16 Dec. 1829, the second on 16 Dec. 1830, [and so on] with interest.

JP: Nath'l Shattuck. Recorded: same day/date.

Note by KMH: This had to be Amos Upham Jr. (because Sr., who had owned & occupied 23 Lyndeboro Rd since 1809, had died 1826).

1829: "Will be sold at Public Auction, on Thursday, 15 October inst. At the House of the subscriber in Amherst, at 1 o'clock, P.M. 2 yoke of OXEN, 2 Horses, 1 Ox Wagon, 2 Gig Wagons, 1 Second hand Chaise, 1 Sleigh & Harness, 1 Feather Bed & Bedstead, 1 Clock, 2 watches, Tables, Chairs and many other articles. Also, at the same time and place, 14 acres of Woodland on long Hill near MR. BENJAMIN KENDRICK's. ROSS PARKER. Amherst, Oct. 2, 1829." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 3 Oct. 1829, p. [3].)

1830 Census – Amherst, N.H. [roughly in geographical order]:

[Beginning of Amherst section] Andrew Elliot; Waitstill Fuller [39 Mont Vernon Rd]; Ebenezer Dodge [31 Mt Vernon Rd]; Lydia Felton [23 Mt V Rd, old house now gone]; Elias Damon [sp?]; Margaret Elliott [16 Eaton Rd,

old house now gone]; Amos Phelps [9 Eaton Rd]; Joseph Crosby [south side of Christian Hill Rd, SW of junction with Eaton Rd]; Moses Hills [Christian Hill Rd]; Jeremiah Barnard [61 Christian Hill Rd]; Elijah Putnam [NE corner Christian Hill & Green Rds]; Amos Green [23 Green Rd]; Loea Pratt [14 Green Rd]; Edward Hartshorn [Chr Hill]; Daniel Hartshorn [Chr Hill]; John Hartshorn [Chr Hill]; Roger Elliot; **Amos Upham [75 Lyndeborough Rd]**; Benjamin Hastings [46 Lyndeboro Rd]; Ezra Woolson [65 Lyndeborough Rd]; John Marvill [poss. in Thos Woolson's old house, on same property as Ezra's]; Peter Young [31 Lyndeborough Rd]; Andrew Elliott; Benjamin Kendrick [23 Lyndeborough Rd];...

1830 Census – Amherst, N.H.: Amos Upham – 1 white male under 5; 1 while male 30-39; 1 white female under 5; 1 white female 20-29; **1 free colored male 10-23** = 4 free white persons, 1 free colored person,

1830 April 13 Deed (166:165): AMOS UPHAM of Amherst, husbandman, quitclaimed to WILLIAM R. PARKER of Amherst, husbandman, for \$50, [5 tracts, comprising 4a in Amherst (not described but prior deed referenced) and the rest in Milford, including undivided half of saw mill].

Meaning to convey all Upham's right, title and interest in and to the several tracts of land that Putnam Emerson conveyed to Upham and Parker by deed dated 16 Dec. 1828 (recorded 157:127).

Signed: Amos Upham & wife Fanny Upham who relinquished dower right. Witnessed: Charles Richardson [JP], Charles A. Richardson, Benjamin Hastings [neighbor on Lyndeborough Rd]. Recorded: 24 March 1831.

[Deed abstracted by Katrina Holman, Aug. 2022; online FamilySearch catalog deed image 413&414.

Note: Why so little money for half share? No doubt because most of the value was still in the unpaid mortgage.]

1831 March 18 Deed (166:167): Oliver Stearns of Amherst, husbandman, to William Ross Parker of Amherst, husbandman, for \$50, a tract of land in Amherst on Long Hill being about one half of the Stewart lot so called, containing 14 acres more or less,

bounded – beginning on east side of the cross road leading from widow Elizabeth Upham's to Milford and being on the north line of Jonathan Howard's land, thence ...

It being the lot conveyed to me [Oliver] by Wm Ross Parker.

Signed: Oliver Stearns & Rhoda Stearns. Recorded: 24 March 1831.

1831 April Mortgage(164:578): Wm Ross Parker of Amherst, husbandman, to Mark Parker of Milford, laborer – for \$90, 14a woodland on Long Hill in Amherst, SW corner of premises being on east side of cross road leading from widow Elizabeth Upham's to Milford ...

1833 Feb 7 Deed (172:190): WILLIAM ROSS PARKER of Amherst, husbandman, to MARK PARKER of Amherst, laborer, for \$130, a tract of woodland in Amherst on long hill being about one half of the Stewart lot so called, containing 14 acres more or less,

bounded – beginning at SW corner of premises on east side of the cross road leading from widow Elizabeth Upham's to Milford Village and being on the north line of Jonathan Howard's land, thence ...

Signed: William Ross Parker [alone]. Recorded: same day/date.

[FamilySearch catalog deed image 436 & 437]

NEARBY MILL IN MILFORD CONVEYED TO ANOTHER HARTSHORN

1833 March 16 Deed (172: 311): PUTNAM EMERSON of Woburn, Mass. quitclaimed to DANIEL HARTSHORN of Amherst, N.H., in consideration of one dollar, all right, title, interest in tract of land in northeast part of Milford, N.H.,

bounded – beginning on west side of road or passageway leading from the dwelling house of William Ross Parker to the saw mill which is also the southeast corner of land sold by said Parker to John Raymond, thence :

S 67.5 degrees W by land of Daniel Hartshorn and land of Edward Hartshorn 13 rods to corner of fence; ...

Together with the saw mill standing on the premises and all the mill bars and other tools used in said mill; together with the right to flow the land above said mill ... (See deed Parker to John Raymond, dated 25 April 1832, recorded 70:126). Also right to pass from the road near Parker's dwelling house to said saw mill with teams.

Recorded: March 1833.

1833 May 23 Deed (176:168): WM R. PARKER of Amherst, husbandman, to PUTNAM EMERSON of Charlestown, Middlesex, Massachusetts, husbandman, for \$600,

all the real estate land & buildings including divers lots & pieces situated in the town of Amherst & Milford, N.H., bounded & described each piece separately in mortgage deed given by Wm. R. Parker & Amos Upton [sic] to Putnam Emerson dated 16 December 1828 (recorded 156:358), excepting a part of said farm & privileges or lots which have be[e]n sold by said Putnam Emerson to Daniel Hartshorn by quitclaim deed dated 16 March last

(recorded 172:311) and also excepting a piece or pieces sold & conveyed by Putnam Emerson to Wm R. Parker and by Parker to John Raymond of Mont Vernon.

Signed: William Ross Parker. Acknowledged: Middlesex county. Recorded: Jan. 1834.

(Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Aug. 2022; online FamilySearch catalog, deed volume image 431 & 432. No actual description of bounds in this deed. This deed *does* mention *buildings* but does not specify whether house is on one of the Milford parcels or in Amherst.)

WHERE WM ROSS PARKER WENT:

1850 Census – Nashua, NH: William Ross Parker, 50, race Black, b. NH, laborer; & Mary, b. Vermont.

“SERVANT” WHO WAS A VETERAN OF NARRAGANSET WAR aka KING PHILIP’S WAR (1675), ELIGIBLE FOR REWARD OF LAND IN SOUHEGAN WEST in 1734/5

[Section added by Katrina Holman, May 2026 from research note by Jackie Marshall (jls), former longtime genealogist of Amherst’s Historical Society, in her deed research for 27 Walnut Hill Road property c. 2014.]

Research Query: Was this “servant” a black man or even a former slave of African ancestry? More research needed.

From Proprietors’ Record Book, Narraganset No. 3, Souhegan West (p. 28 and p. 45):

[First Division Lots 1734/35, proprietors listed by town of residence:]

Glo[u]cester [:] Lot #76 Saml [Samuel] Stevens for Isaac Ellery, Drawn by [blank]

From Proprietors’ Record Book, Narraganset No. 3, Souhegan West (p. 68-69):

Att a Legall meeting of the proprietors of Souhegan west (No 3)

Dec’r 11. 1739 at mr James Phillips in Salem Villidge

Voted Corl [Colonel?] Epes Sargent Moderator for this meeting

...

Voted that the Right of Isaac Ellerry Servant of Wm. [William] Vinson be to the Decendents of said Wm. Vinson and was drawne by Samuel Stevens and Claimed by Conl Epes Sargent

From Proprietors’ Record Book, Narraganset No. 3, Souhegan West (p. 71, 73):

Wee the Subscribers being chosen a comitte by the Proprietors of Soug

hegan west or number three to Lay out the second Devission in said

Township accordingly wee have don it and have numbred the

Lotts as follows Viz: By whome drane

96 seventy six acers . . . Cor^{ll} Epps Sarjent [Epes Sargent] for Isaac Ellery Sarvent of W^m Vinson

(Source: “Propriety Records of Souhegan West, December 17, 1729 – October 15, 1778.”)

SOME GENEALOGY from FamilySearch.org (accessed by KMH May 2026):

From Vital Records of Essex County, Massachusetts Bay Colony, Gloucester People, alphabetized under E:

William Ellery (also spelled or transcribed Ellarie and Ellare etc.) & Hanna Vinson were married “8. 8. [16]64”.

The births of three children of William Elery are listed on same page as his marriage: daughter Hanna by his wife

Hanna born 25. 11. [16]66; son Benjamin born by his wife Hana bapt. [16]69; and daughter Susana born 2. 12.

[Dec.] [16]72 (image 164 of 180). On the following page:

Hanna Elery Deceased 24. 10 mo. [16]75.

Mary daughter of Wm Ellery born by Mary his wife “12.12 mo. [16]76”.

William Ellery & Mary Coyle were married “13 June [16]76”.

Abigail daughter of Wm Ellery born by Mary his wife “20 March 1678/79”.

Also: Isaac Eacely & Abigail Coyle were married 13. 9 mo. [16]77.

A user-supplied [caution!] family tree shows Hannah Vinson (c.1638-1675), daughter of William Vinson (1608-1690, born and married in England) of Gloucester, Massachusetts Bay Colony, was married to William Ellery Jr. (1643-1696) and lists 5 children for William Ellery & Hannah Vinson, including daughters Hannah and Susanna and son Benjamin, as well as an eldest son William and a youngest daughter, but no second wife for Pa William nor their daughters Mary and Abigail. No one named Isaac in family tree.

WHAT HAPPENED TO FIRST DIVISION LOT 76:

1771 July 2 (Hillsborough County Deed 2:39). Recorded: 12 May 1773.

Grantor: Paul Dudley Sargent of Gloucester, Essex, Massachusetts Bay

Grantee: Stephen How of Amherst, husbandman

Consideration: £18

Description: Tract of land in Amherst, 1st Division Lot #76, bounded westerly by Samuel Seetown

Containing: 60 acres

Witnessed: William Dolliver, James Prentiss.

Signed: Paul Dudley Sargent

[Deed abstracted by jls. This land would became the homestead with house at 27 Walnut Hill Road.]

BIOGRAPHICAL INFO ON BLACK/ "COLORED" PERSONS WHO APPEARED IN AMHERST RECORDS BUT DID NOT OWN LAND IN TOWN

Cuff Chambers

RESEARCH NOTES Jan. 2026

- by Katrina Holman

The only record for Cuff Chambers in Amherst, N.H., is 1800 census which shows him as inhabitant.

From FindaGrave – Leeds, Maine:

“Cuff Chambers was born around 1738 in Massachusetts. Cuff was the slave of Samuel Blanchard of Andover. There is not much information about Cuff's early life, but there is a record of his marriage to Bette [no surname for either in the record] on September 16, 1762. They were both listed as slaves. Samuel Blanchard promised to give Cuff his freedom if he served in the war. After the war, Blanchard was true to his promise and gave Cuff his freedom. When he joined the militia he was listed as Cuff Blanchard. After he was free, he changed his last name to Chambers. That was his parents' name. Years later his daughter Elizabeth stated that her father's name originally was Chambers, but that like other slaves he had to use his masters' last name on any record. His daughter did not provide any information about her grandparents to say if they were also slaves. In 1775 he joined the Andover militia after the Battle of Lexington and Concord. His company marched to Cambridge in May, 1775. Cuff's militia was called "eight month's men" due to how long they would be enlisted. Cuff was one of at least five men who were African American to serve in Bridge's regiment.

Cuff fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and helped to build the redoubt. After the battle he and Bette **moved to Amherst, New Hampshire** and then to Leeds, Maine. There is no information about what he did for a living, but he was listed as a poor man requesting assistance in 1814 and received \$100 to assist him and his family. He and Bette had at least five children born between 1775 and 1787. Elizabeth, their youngest, was born in 1787. He died on June 8, 1818 at the age of 80 and was buried in the Dead River Cemetery in Leeds on a bluff overlooking the river. His grave was honored by the Sons of the American Revolution and reads: "Pvt. Forbush's Mass. Co. Rev. war June 8, 1818". PVT means he was a private in Forbush's company. His wife, Bette died on January 26, 1839. (Source [for FindaGrave biographical sketch]: Biographies of Patriots of Color at The Battle of Bunker Hill)”

1762 Sep. 16 – Andover, Mass.: Marriage of Cuff and Bette [no surnames in record], “servants”. (Source: Printed book of Andover marriages, p. 357; indexed and viewable on Ancestry.com.)

[Date?] US Revolutionary War Pension Applications index: Service in Massachusetts, Chambers Cuff (Colored); wife Blanchard, Bette/Betsey. (on Ancestry.com)

1810 Census – Leeds, Maine: Chambers Cuff – 5 ‘other free’ [non-white] persons, including himself, and 0 whites; followed in alphabetical list by 3 households also with 0 white persons, namely Chambers Thadeus (also with 5 ‘other free’); Crosman Nathan (9 ‘other free’); and Durick Prince (2 ‘other free’). The census taker’s tally: 605 Males, 635 Females, and 33 “Blacks” for total population of 1273.

1818 June 8 – Leeds, Maine: Death of Cuff Chambers. b. Dover, Mass.; wife Betsey.

1934 – Application for free military headstone for US Military Veteran: For Chambers, Cuff (alias Blanchard, Cuff crossed out), Rev. war private in Capt. Forbush’s Mass. co.; death 8 June 1818; buried Riverside Cem, North Leeds, Maine. (viewable on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org)

Peter Lovejoy

RESEARCH NOTES Aug 2025

- by Katrina Holman

The primary source for Peter Lovejoy being non-white is the 1800 census of Amherst, N.H.

In FamilySearch, there is a familytree for Peter Lovejoy (1764-1844), with birth 2 June 1764 at Andover, Mass; death 16 May 1844 at Andover, Mass.; son of Pompey “Pomp” Lovejoy (1724-1826, marriage 26 Dec. 1751 at Andover, to Rose Foster (1727-1826)). Caution: familytrees in FamilySearch often contain errors; this one does not include sources for all of its data.

1764 June 2 – Amherst, N.H.: Birth of Peter Lovejoy (submitted to NH records by W.W. Sloan, town clerk, in 1906; only name, date, and town on record; “color” is blank). Note: Presumably taken from

Amherst Town Records (which volume & page??) but that does not necessarily mean Peter was born in/at Amherst if recorded much later as part of a family grouping.

Potential Father:

1790 Census – Andover, Mass: Pomp Lovejoye – 3 “other free persons” (including head of household)

1800 Census – Andover, Mass.: Pomp Lovejoy (listed second-to-last) – 3 “other free persons” (including head of household).

1810 Census – Andover, Mass.: : Pomp Lovejoy (listed alphabetically) – 3 “other free persons” (including head of household).

MILITARY:

IF the Peter Lovejoy who served 1775 in Col. John Stark’s N.H. Regiment is the SAME, he would have been 11 years old! It would have been more likely for an 11-year-old to be a musician (such as drummer boy) or servant to an officer, than a private. More likely candidate for “our” Peter Lovejoy is the one from Andover, Mass., serving at age 17.

1775 Aug. 1 – military service: “Pay Roll of Capt. Isaac Bladwin’s Company in Col. John Stark’s Regiment to Aug. 1, 1775” includes: 46. (of 50) Peter Lovejoy, inferred rank of “private”, time of entry May 15, time of service 2 months 22 days, 110 miles traveled with compensation amt [whereas most other privates compensated for 75 or 80 miles, a few for other milage, and only one other also for 110]; and includes amount of wages, cost of blankette, wages received. (No mention of hometown nor color for anyone.) (Handwritten page image on FamilySearch.org incorreced dated in index as 15 May 1775.)

1775 Aug 1 – military service: “Pay Roll of Captain Isaac Baldwin’s Company in Col. John Stark’s Regiment to Aug. 1, 1775” includes: 46. (of 53 + 2 non-numbered) Peter Lovejoy, rank blank [as for many others; presumed rank of “private”], time of entry May 15, time of service 2 months 22 days; and includes amount of wages, no. miles traveld @ 1 [pence?]; cost of blankette, wages received. (No mention of hometown nor color for anyone.) (Typeset page image from Revolutionary War Rolls on FamilySearch.org)

1775 Oct 4 – military service: Peter Lovejoy neatly signed list as one of Capt. Hale’s company in Coll Stark’s Regt who had received compensation for regimental coat as promised them by the Colony of New Hampshire, “Medford”. (Handwritten page image on FamilySearch.org which gives location as “Bedford” in N.H; no indication of skin color nor rank.)

1776 July – military service: Colony of New Hampshire. “Muster roll of Capt James Wetherbe’s Company in Col Isaac Wyman’s Regt in service of united Colonies to join the northern Army” includes Peter Lovejoy among 40 names. (No indication of hometown nor skin color.) (Handwritten spreadsheet page image on FamilySearch, not clear if continues on another sheet.)

1776 Aug. 20 – military service: “Muster roll of Capt James Wetherbe’s Company in Col Isaac Wyman’s Regt in service of united Colonies to join the northern Army,” signed by [pay] master Elijah Grant, includes Peter Lovejoy with same bounty as others. (No indication of hometown nor place enlisted nor skin color.) (Handwritten spreadsheet page image on FamilySearch; spreadsheet contained on this sheet but record continues onto another sheet.)

Other Revolutionary War records naming one Peter Lovejoy on Fold3.com, which costs fee to access.

From book *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors In the War of the Revolution*, “A Compilation from the Archives, prepared and published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth,” Boston, 1902.

(In FamilySearch.org book categorized as Military Records 1775-1783; place is erroneously indexed as being Andover, Ohio and Andover, Vermont.)

1780 June - 1782 May: “LOVEJOY, PETER, Andover. Descriptive list of men raised to reinforce the Continental Army for the term of 6 months, agreeable to resolve of June 5, 1780, returned as received of Justin Ely, Commissioner, by Maj. Peter Harwood, of 6 th **Mass. regt.**, at Springfield, July 2, 1780; **age, 17 yrs.**; stature, 5 ft. 7 in.; **engaged for town of Andover**; arrived at Springfield July 1, 1780; marched to camp July 2, 1780, under command of Capt. Phineas Parker; **reported a negro**; also, list of men raised for the 6 months service and returned by Brig. Gen. Paterson as having passed muster in a return dated

Camp Totoway, Oct. 25, 1780; also, receipt dated Andover, April 9, 1782, signed by **Joshua Lovejoy, for bounty paid him** by Capt. Henry Abbot, Chairman of Class No. 5 of the town of **Andover, for the service of said Peter [Lovejoy], his servant**, who enlisted into the Continental Army for the term of 3 years; also, Private, Col. Benjamin Tupper's (10 th) regt.; service from May 1, 1782, 10 mos. [See Joshua Lovejoy.]” (*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors In the War of the Revolution*, printed book, p. 995; in FamilySearch.org. Followed by another Peter Lovejoy, private, Capt. Joseph Browning's co., Col. Seth Murray's regt.; enlisted July 21, 1780; discharged Oct. 10, 1780; age 39; complexions, fresh; hair, light; engaged for town of Palmer in regiment raised in Hampshire Co.)

“LOVEJOY, “POMP,” Andover. Private, Capt. Henry Abbot's co., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service 1 1/2 days.” (p. 996.) [Of interest because family tree on FamilySearch has a Pomp Lovejoy as father of Peter Lovejoy who married at Amherst, N.H.]

There are 2 entries (p. 994) for LOVEJOY, JOSHUA, which *could* be same man, because diff. dates: 1775-1776: “LOVEJOY, JOSHUA, Andover. Sergeant, Capt. Benjamin Ames' co. of Minute-men, Col. James Frye's regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service 7 days; also, return of men belonging to Capt. Benjamin Ames's co. who sustained losses in battle of Charlestown, dated Cambridge, June 19, 1775; reported wounded; ... also, service from Nov. 1, 1776, to Dec. 1, 1776, 1 mo. 3 days, travel (73 miles) included.”

1780: “LOVEJOY, JOSHUA. Pay roll for 6 months men raised by the town of **Andover** to service in the Continental Army during 1780; marched to camp June 26, 1780; discharged Dec. 6, 1780; service 5 mos. 22 days, including travel (220 miles) home; also, receipt dated Andover, April 9, 1782, signed by said Lovejoy, **for bounty paid him** by Capt. Henry Abbot, Chairman of Class No. 5 of the town of Andover, **for service to be rendered by his servant Peter [Lovejoy] who had enlisted into the Continental Army for the term of 3 years.** [See Peter Lovejoy.]”

AMHERST VITAL RECORDS

1786 Oct. 3 – Amherst, N.H.: Marriage of Peter Lovejoy + Lydia Greenlief Bradford performed by Moses Nichols, J. Peace. (*Amherst Town Records Volume 1*, p. 66, which does not explicitly say WHERE; submitted to N.H. records by Amherst town clerk W. W. Sloan in Jan. 1906. Missing from Secomb's History (1882) even though includes marriage record of Pompe Russell that appears in same format on same page in *Town Records*.)

1812 May – Amherst, N.H.: Death of Peter Lovejoy aged 48 of Lues Venerea. (John Farmer's 1800-1816 vital records booklet, in possession of Historical Society of Amherst; online nhhistory.org image 9 of 19).

Children of Peter Lovejoy:

(on FamilySearch.org from cards submitted by Amherst's Town Clerk in 1906; “color” is blank on all)

[1] 1788 Aug 20 – Amherst, N.H. [??]: Birth of Lydia Lovejoy, daughter of Peter Lovejoy (submitted to N.H. records in 1906 by Amherst town clerk W. W. Sloan; that card's image is on FamilySearch.org)

1789 Sep. 20 – Andover, Mass.: bp [baptism] of Lydia Lovejoy, daughter of Peter Lovejoy. (Typeset vital record, on Ancestry.com)

1789 Sep. 20 – Andover, Mass.: baptism of Esther Lovejoy, daughter of Peter Lovejoy. (Indexed on FamilySearch.org along with baptism of Lydia Lovejoy on same day but NO IMAGE.)

[2] 1791 Jan 3 – Amherst, N.H.: Birth of Martha Lovejoy, daughter of Peter Lovejoy (submitted to N.H. records in 1906 by town clerk W. W. Sloan; that card's image is on FamilySearch.org)

1794 Aug 30 – Amherst, N.H.: Baptism of Matthew Lovejoy, son of Peter. (Congr Church records) [Names as transcribed by Jackie Marshall. CHECK first name and does it say “son”?]

[3] 1792 June 12 – Amherst, N.H.: Birth of Lucy Lovejoy, daughter of Peter Lovejoy (submitted to N.H. records in 1906 by town clerk W. W. Sloan)

1794 Aug 30 – Amherst, N.H.: Baptism of Lucy Lovejoy, dau of Peter. (Cong Church records)

[4] 1794 Nov 15 – Amherst: Birth of Betsy Lovejoy, daughter of Peter Lovejoy (*Amherst Town Records*, submitted to N.H. records 1906) by town clerk W. W. Sloan)

1850 Census – Dracut, Mass.:

751/856 **Lephe Lewis, 50, Mulatto, b. NH, real estate \$1500**; Theodore W. “, 16, Mulatto, b. Mass., barber, attends school within year; Levi I., 15, Mulatto, b. Mass., barber; Mary E. “, 13, Mulatto, b. Mass., attends school; Nathaniel Booth, 25, Mulatto, b. V.a, barber.

752/857 Walker Lewis, 50, Mulatto, b. Mass., barber, real estate %1500; **Elizabeth “ [Lewis], 55, color blank [inferred white although she was same as sister Lephe], b. N.H.**; Lydia E., 22, Mulatto, b. Mass.; Walker Jr., 11, Mulatto, b. Mass., attends school.

1860 Census – Lowell, Mass.:

163/186 Theodore W. Lewis, 35, Black, barber, no real estate, personal estate \$150; Mary C. “, 19, b. Rhode Island; **Leafey I. “ [Lewis], 60, Black, b. Mass., domestic, real estate \$1000**; Harriet N. Tuthill, 35, Black, b. Mass., domestic; Augustus [Tuthill], 26, Black, b. Mass., hair dresser; John D. Debois, 20, Mulatto, b. Conn., barber; James Clark, 22, Black, b. NH, barber.

164/187 **Elizabeth Lewis, 65, Black, b. N.H., real estate \$2000/ personal estate \$100**; Enoch L. “, 35, Black, b. Mass., domestic, idiotic; Samuel K. “, 40, Black, b. Mass., barber; Walker “, 21, Black, b. Mass., barber; Emma C. “, 12, Black, b. Mass.; Lydia E. Bennett, 22, Black, b. Mass., domestic; George A. Bennett, 32, Black, b. Rhode Island, barber.

1865 – Military Service: Walker Lewis (Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with Colored Troops)

1865 Census – Lowell, Mass.:

703/856 Theodore W. Lewis, 30, Mulatto, b. Massachusetts, barber; Mary C. “, 24, b. Rhode Island, Mulatto; Ella “, 4, Mulatto [crossed out], b. Mass.; Eva “, 2, Mulatto [crossed out], b. Mass.; **Lephe I., 65, Mulatto, b. New Hampshire**, widow; Augustus Tuthill, 30, Mulatto, b. Mass., single, occupation Aramp [sp?? Away?].

704/857 **Elizabeth Lewis, 70, Mulatto, b. New Hampshire**, widow; Enoch “, 39, Mulatto, b. Mass., widowed, no occupation; Walker “, 36, Mulatto, b. Mass., barber; Mary A., 21, color blank [inferred white], b. Mass., married; George H. Bennett, 37, Mulatto, b. Rhode Island, barber; Lydia “, 37, Mulatto, b. Mass., single, occupation housework [distinct from housekeeper at home].

1870 Census – Lowell, Mass.:

807/910 Lewis Theodore, 36, Black, b. Mass., barber; Mary C., 29, Black, b. R.I.; 3 [inferred daughters] 9, 7, 1, all B and b. Mass; Saint Clare Thomas, 40, Black, b. Penn., barber. [Where is Ma Lephe??]

808/911 Bennett George H., 42, Black, b. R. I., barber; Lydia, 41, Black, b. Mass; Lewis Enoch, 44, Black, b. Mass., no occupation; Lewis Walker, 31, Black, b. Mass., barber; **Lewis Elizabeth, 75, Mulatto, b. N.H.**, no occupation; Lewis Mary I/J., 37, Black, b. Mass.; Lewis Walker B., 3, Mulatto, b. Mass.; Lewis Mary E., 1/12, b. Oct., Mulatto, b. Mass.

1874 Feb. – Lowell, Mass.: Death of Elizabeth Lewis (A), 79, married, cancer of liver, b. N.H., dau of Peter & Lydia Lovejoy, b. Mass. [!] & N.H., respectively. (“Deaths Registered in the City of Lowell [in] 1874,” handwritten vital records; on Ancestry and FamilySearch)

1874 Feb. 5 – Lowell, Mass.: Death of Elizabeth Lewis, color A (the only one on whole page), 79, died at 34 Willis, widow, born Amherst, N.H. [!]; parents Peter & Lydia Lovejoy, he born Andover, she born Amherst, N.H. [!]; cause cancer of liver; interment cemetery; informant Chamberlin. (“Deaths in the City of Lowell in the Year 1874” page 55, handwritten entries on pre-printed form; on FamilySearch.org erroneously indexed as Elizabeth Lyon)

[5] 1797 May 26 – Amherst, N.H.: Birth Diadamia Lovejoy, child of Peter Lovejoy (submitted to N.H. records 1906 by town clerk W.W. Sloan; only name, date, town, father, and sex “male” on record; color is blank)

[6] 1800 Feb 14 – Amherst, N.H.: Birth of Leafy Ingalls Lovejoy, child of Peter Lovejoy (submitted to N.H. records 1900 or 1906 by town clerk W.W. Sloan; only name, date, town, father, and sex “male” on record; color is blank)

Differentiation: 1797 May – Hollis, N.H.: Birth of Leafy Lovejoy, 3d child of Samuel & Betsey.

1830 – Lowell, Mass.: Marriage of Peter P. Lewis and Lephia I. Lovejoy. (No further info in record.) [FamilySearch tree: Peter Pitts Lewis Jr. (1807-1845) & Lephe Ingalls Lovejoy (1800-1885).]

1850 Census – Dracut, Mass.: Lephe is head of household living with her children, including 2 teen sons working as barbers; living next door to sister {see above under her sister, Elizabeth]

1858 Sep. – Lowell, Mass.: Marriage of Augustus Tuthill of Lowell, 23, barber, b. Hingham, son of ... ; + Mary E. P. Lewis, 21, b. Dracut, daughter of Peter & Lephe I. Lewis. (Note: Color was not one of the recorded categories.)

1860 May 21 – Agawam, Mass.: Marriage of Levi J. Lewis A of Lowell, 28, agent, b. Lowell, son of Peter & Lephe I. Lewis; + Julia E. Davis A of Lowell, 30, b. Philadelphia, dau of Eli & Leah Davis; second marriage for both. [What did “A” after name stand for?]

1860 & 1865 Censuses – Lowell, Mass.: With son Theodore W. Lewis, barber; next door to sis [see above under her sister, Elizabeth]

1880 Census – Lowell, Mass.:

266/263 Lewis Theodore W., 45, Black, b. Mass., barber; wife Mary C., 39, Black, b. R. I., wash woman; daughter Ella G., 19, Black, b. Mass.; daughter Phoebe, 17, Black, b. Mass.; daughter Kate A., 11, Black, b. Mass., at school; daughter Julia, 5, Black, b. Mass.; **mother Lephe I., 80, Black, widow, b. N.H.**, father b. Mass., mother b. N.H.

266/264 Lewis Walter [Walker], 41, Black, barber; Mary F., 36, White, married; son Wm H., 8, Mulatto, b. Mass.; daughter Martha E., 5, Mulatto; daughter Lucy M., 1, Mulatto; Jerry, 57, Black, boarder, barber; mother-in-law Roche Hannah, 64, White, widow.

1911 Feb. – Lowell, Mass.: Death of Theodore W. Lewis, 76, colored, widowed, barber; b. Lowell, Mass., son of Peter L. Lewis, b. Barre, Mass., & Sophia [sic, Lephe] I. Lovejoy, b. Amherst.

CENSUSES, TAX INVOICES, DEEDS

1790 Census – Amherst, N.H.: Peter Lovejoy is not listed as head of household. If this Lovejoy family were residents at that time, only possibility is that they were among the 5 “other free persons” who lived in household of William Brown of Amherst, but those 5 could have been Philo T’s family or Wm’s wife & kids. Note: In 1790 Amherst, there were 7 white families named Lovejoy: Hezekiah Lovejoy 1-0-3 & his son Jonathan Lovejoy 1-1-2 [at corner Rt 101 & Schoolhouse Rd]; another Jonathan Lovejoy 1-1-5; John Lovejoy 1-5-2; Joseph Lovejoy 1-1-3; Joshua Lovejoy 1-3-5; and Samuel Lovejoy 1-2-3.

1800 Census – Amherst, N.H., 1st Parish: Peter Lovejoy – no white persons in household; 7 “free other” persons including himself. (p. 448)

1801 Amherst Tax Invoice (*Amherst Town Records Volume 2*, p. 202, in which taxpayers are listed in rough geographical order): Peter Lovejoy is not listed as a taxpayer, nor are the other non-white heads of household from 1800 census. This means 1) they did not own taxable property (real estate, livestock, etc.) and 2) assuming they did not qualify for the old age exemption, then they were not assessed a poll tax because they could not legally vote. [RESEARCH QUERY: Anybody have proper source for that?]

1771-1849 N.H. Hillsborough County Grantee Deed Index: No record of Peter Lovejoy buying real estate in whole county.

Death Record: Search on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (in Aug. 2025) turns up no death record of Peter Lovejoy.

[end of section on Peter Lovejoy & family]

The only record found in Amherst for Pompe Russell is his marriage in 1788.

Pomp Russell's Revolutionary War service for New Hampshire in 1777 is well documented:

NH State Papers 15:211

Payroll Capt. John Goss Company Militia, Capt. Nichols Regt, General Starks Brigade

Raised & Marched to reinforce the Northern Army July 20th 1777

Pvt. Pomp Russel

Note: This document does not say from what town the men were raised. The majority of them do not look like Amherst men to me and Daniel Secomb did not include this company in his list of "Amherst Men in the Revolutionary War." Amherst was the shiretown of Hillsborough County, NH and thus a center for business of all kinds. -jlsm

NARA; Revolutionary War Service Records; New Hampshire; 3 cards [footnote.com]

1) Index card, Pomp Russel, Nichols Regiment NH Militia; Private/Private; Card numbers listed 37129266 & 37362391, no personal papers

2) Pomp Russel, Pay Roll of John Goss' Company of Militia, Col. Moses Nichols Regiment, Gen'l Stark's Regt., raised and marched to reinforce the Northern Army July 20th 1777. (same pay info as NHSP 15:211) Certified copy of an original roll in the possession of the State of New Hampshire.

3) Receipt Roll; Pomp Russel, Roll dated Amherst July 21, 1777, sum pd 4.10; signed roll by his mark

NARA; Revolutionary War Service Records; New Hampshire; Nichols' Regt 1777, 121, p 18 & 44 & 45 [footnote.com]

p 18) handwritten copy of New Hampshire pay roll

p 44) Pomp X Russel signed receipt for payment £4.10

p 45) Pomp X Russel signed receipt for 1 month advanced wages £4.10

Marriage: "Amherst June 26th 1788 was Married Pompe Russel & Margret Cut

- by Moses Nichols JPeace"; Recorded &c Saml. Wilkins T.Clerk

(*Amherst Town Records*, Vol. I, p. 66 [Amherst Town Library microfilm 1/3])

Note: Included in Secomb's *History of Amherst*, 1883, p. 852, in section listing marriages from town records, sorted alphabetically by husband's name; curiously, with spelling variations, in this case.

1806: to Weld, Maine, Pomp Russell [Early Settlers of Weld, Foster] Weld was called No. 5 (or Webb's Pond) at the time; purchased in 1790 by Jonathan Phillips of Boston, whose agent Jacob Abbott of Wilton, NH resold parcels of land to settlers; Abbott's brother-in-law was Thomas Russell Jr. of Boston, & with Benjamin Weld of Boston, they purchased the rest of the Phillips tract in 1815. Weld is now in Franklin County, which was formed in 1838 from parts of Oxford, Kennebec and Somerset. [info from wikipedia - Weld, Maine]

1810 US Census: Webb Pond, Oxford, ME; NARA Roll 12; Page: 440-443; ancestry.com Image: 00445; "other free persons" = total 11; Not listed by household, but collectively at the bottom of the last page. Joseph, Abel & Ephraim Russell households listed.

1820 US Census: Weld, Oxford, Maine, NARA Roll: M33_37 Page: 105; ancestry.com Image: 67. Pomp Russell 4 non white persons (checked in boxes by age - look up categories)

=====

Pomp Russell was a Negro born in Charlestown, Mass., in 1765; he was at the battle of Bunker Hill and served in the army until the close of the war. He entered the British lines at one time as a spy, was taken and sentenced to be shot, but while confined in a hollow square, and preparations were being made for his death, he ran around the square, broke through and escaped to the woods before he could be caught, and soon reached the American army. At the close of the war he married Margaret Southwick of Charlestown, and settled in Petersfield, N. H., where he engaged in farming; he came from that town to No. 5, and settled at the foot of Mt. Hurricane, on land which Abel and Joseph Russell gave him. When Pomp was

five years old, Mr. Thomas Russell, the father of Abel and Joseph, bought him, paying for the boy five pounds. Mr. Russell cared for him the same as for his own children, and when he was twenty-one years of age, gave him his freedom. [Early Settlers of Weld, by E.J. Foster; Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder] http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mecweld/EarlySettlersofWeld.htm#Russell_Abel9

=====Search Results=====

Pomp Russell is not listed in the DAR Patriot Index, which only means that none of his descendants have joined DAR under his service.

Did not find him in the Revolutionary War Pensions on footnote.com.

Did not find him in Massachusetts Revolutionary War Service records footnote.com

Not in Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors of the Revolutionary War

Further Potential Research (suggested by jls):

Check book (interlibrary loan): Forgotten Patriots - African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies, by Eric Grundset, DAR Library Director (2008)

Look for him in towns surrounding Amherst (Bedford?).

Check Soldiers & Sailors of the Revolution, Maine, by Fisher (SAR)

Write to DAR to ask about records regarding placement of marker on his grave.

1756-1760: birth estimate for Caesar Parker; Unfortunately census comparison for "free colored persons" didn't yield much information about Caesar's birth year, all we can see is that he was born 1740-1775.

1771 Apr 15: marriage Ceasor Hervy & Jane Lea at Derryfield (now Manchester), NH [familysearch.org Record Search, New Hampshire Marriages 1720-1920, image of card from NHVR not available]

Note by jls: Caesar Hervy (Harvey) doesn't seem like the same man as Caesar Parker who would only have been age 11-15 at the time. [re: query 8/2010 from MS]

c1800: Marriage of Margaret Spear to Caesar not found in familysearch Record Search, New Hampshire Marriages. In the 1810 census they have 4 children, and perhaps Nathaniel has already gone to live in Antrim. I estimate their marriage around 1800. [-jls Aug 2010]

Nathaniel Parker, the only colored man in town [Antrim NH], son of Caesar and Margaret (Spear) Parker, was born in Weare in 1802, and came here at the age of seven to live with David McCauley. He has lived in Antrim most of the time since; has never married; is a kind, industrious, and smart man, whose memory has been of great service in preparing this book. [Families of Antrim NH, Cochran, 634]

"Cesar Parker (of colored blood) was from Weare, lived in a small house in the South part of the town [Mont Vernon] several years, m Margaret Spear of Weare. She d. Feb. 24, 1854, age 85 yrs; had several ch. He d 1855, age 99 yrs." Ch: Nathaniel b 1802, Humphrey Moore b sep 1807, Mark, Ross, James, & 2 daughters (one m a Baptist clergyman of Newport RI) [History of Mont Vernon NH, Smith II:120]

1810 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 657:

Cesar Parker 00000-00010-5 1 white female and 5 other free persons

1820 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 876

Cesar Parker 000000-00000-0000-[free males] 2311-[free females] 2010-[other] 1

1830 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 292

Ceaser Parker [free colored persons] 000010-01010

1840 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 146

Cesar Parker [free colored persons] 000010-000010; 1 person working agriculture

1850 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire; page 139

2/2 Cesar Parker, age 90, male, B, Laborer, \$__, b New Hampshire

Margaret, age 81, female, __, b New Hampshire

Humphrey, age 43 [c1807], male, M, Laborer, \$__, b New Hampshire

1855: DIED - In Newport, R.I., 7th inst., Cesar Parker, of Mont Vernon, aged 99. [The Farmers' Cabinet, 22 Feb 1855, Vol 53, Iss 29, pg 3]

1861: DIED - In this town [Amherst NH], 28th ult., very suddenly, Humphrey Parker, (colored person). [The Farmers' Cabinet; Date: 1861-07-05; Vol: 59; Iss: 49; Page: [3].]

Only burial in plot 747 Meadow View Cemetery, Amherst, NH; marble headstone, worn but clear:

HUMPHREY PARKER

DIED

June 28, 1861

AEt. 53 yrs. 9 mos.

ERECTED BY HIS FRIENDS.

CÆSAR PARKER - Fifty years ago no training, muster, cattle show, or Fourth of July celebration, could have been successfully carried on without the presence of Caesar Parker, a jolly, good-natured African, black as the ace of spades, whom the boys, young and old, rather irreverently called "Old Caesar," and took delight in tormenting. Caesar is said to have been a native of Boston, whence, in his youth, he was brought to Litchfield and held as a slave. The successful war for independence put an end to slavery in the Granite State, and thenceforth Caesar was one of the sovereigns of the land. Marrying a white woman he settled on a small farm in the south part of Mont Vernon, adjoining Amherst, and his marriage providing a fruitful one, he soon rejoiced in a large family, principally boys, to one of whom he gave the name of the worthy "Pastor of the Church in Milford." He was accused of being addicted to petty pilfering, and stories are told of some rather slippery dealings in regard to a load of fish he was assisting a dealer in getting up Mont Vernon hill; but whatever his failings in this regard might have been, they were generally detected and promptly punished by the attendants at the old Read store, who, after the toils of the day were over, met at that somewhat celebrated manufactory of "Weston's Itch Ointment" and emporium of dry goods and groceries, to talk politics, drink flip, or something stronger, and organize raids upon old buildings that were obnoxious to "Dea. Carleton's" company. One of the performances of this society, we may infer, was described by George Wilkins Kendall, himself an honorary member, at least, of the club, in the "melting story" published in the New Orleans Picayune some years since. One winter our hero unfortunately lost his cow, that had contributed largely to the support of his numerous family. On making his loss known to Judge Parker, who then had a law office on the Plain, he received a handsome contribution toward purchasing another animal. The judge also furnished him with a paper commending the bearer to the consideration of charitably disposed people, which Caesar circulated, and soon received enough to enable him to purchase another cow. That cow paper did duty for a long time, and over a large extent of territory. When change grew scarce Caesar started off on a collecting tour, and seldom returned without a supply of the needful. In his old age Caesar went to Rhode Island, where, in the vicinity of Newport, he died in 1858, at the age of about 96 years. [Secomb, p. 907-908]

BLACK “SERVANTS” IN AMHERST, N.H.

Cato, Joshua Atherton’s Black Servant in c. 1774/75

“Memoir of the Hon. Joshua Atherton” by his son Charles Humphrey Atherton (1773-1853), written in winter and spring of 1852, 57 pages:

“Mr. [Joshua] Atherton, [a known Tory], was subjected to all sorts of jibes and reproaches; even his wife and children did not escape these indignities. His house was several times surrounded by a rabble. He was called forth and marched up to Captain Ephraim Hildreth’s, who kept a tavern near the old meeting-house, which was used as a court-house, near what is now the mansion of Colonel Levi Jones. ... These ceremonies terminated by a bountiful supply of flip, punch, and toddy, at Mr. Atherton’s expense. ...” (p. 9-10)

“In these days of cool reflection, imagination can hardly conceive the extravagance, the absurdity, and folly of the suspicions that gained ready credence, in the then excited and jealous state of the public mind, against those who were suspected of Toryism, There most innocent acts were considered as having something treasonable in them. Some wiseacre had reported that my father harbored in his house a British spy. His house was forthwith surrounded with all sorts of people, with all sorts of arms, to prevent the escape of the spy. A committee, armed with pistols and swords, entered the house, and claimed the right to search it, which Mr. Atherton consented, and opened to them all the recesses and closets of the house and cellar. At that time he had a half-witted negro servant, who was exceedingly frightened at this array of arms, thinking the day of judgment had come. In his fright, he took an old bedquilt, esconced himself within it in a dark corner of the garret, which was the only place that remained to be searched. The committee approached, arms in hand, and discovered something moving under the quilt, which they seized, my father crying out, “Now you have got him!” Poor Cato was dragged to the light, his face almost white with fear; when they discovered they had captured the negro servant instead of the spay. The search was discontinued with some mortification and a general laugh.” (p. 12-13)

Story of mob is corroborated by *The Diary of Matthew Patten of Bedford, NH, 1754-1788*, published by Town of Bedford, 1903; online at archive.org., p.329-330:

“ [1774 Sept.] 19 th: I went to a town meeting [presumably of Bedford, N.H.] at Evening and the people intended to go to Amherst tomorrow to visit Mr. Atherton who insisted on my going with them and they told me I must and should go and that if I did not they would visit me on which I said I would go.

20 th: I went to Amherst and about 300 men assembled and chose a Committee who went to Mr. Atherton and he came to the people to the Court house and he Signed a Declaration and read it to the people who accepted it. He invited them to go to Mr. Hildreth's and drink what they pleased. The people dispersed about midnight without doing any outrageous act. I stayed till morning.” [Note: Hildreth’s was tavern in house that still stands at 18 Jones Road.]

Judge Samuel Dana’s Servant

The Farmers Cabinet, 15 Jan. 1878, page 1, “Hitty Dana’s Lover”:

This article mentioned “a comely African servant” who ushered Samuel Bell (the future president of Hillsborough Bank and future governor of New Hampshire) into the library of Judge Samuel Dana [at 19 Main Street]. Probably took place about 1793 when Dana’s daughter Hitty (the future Mrs. Samuel Bell) was 13 years old.

RUNAWAY INDENTURED MINORS / SERVANTS

1807: “One Cent Reward! Ran away from the Subscriber, about the 1st of January last, a NEGRO GIRL by the name NANCY GARDNER, indented to the subscriber. All persons are forbidden to harbor or trust her, under penalty of the law... EBENEZER KIMBALL. Amherst, Feb. 9, 1807.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 17 Feb. 1807, p. [4/4]; 24 Feb. 1807.) [Added to this file by KMH, March 2021]

Note as to Location: Ebenezer Kimball lived in the east part of town, on road to Manchester & Bedford, on the farm associated with house at 320 Route 101.

Research Note by KMH: Same reward of one cent offered for white indentured boys and girls who ran away; same language about “forbidden to harbor or trust” used for white servants and apprentices (and runaway wives and, rarely, underage (<21) son) because it absolved the master or husband or father of legal liability.

Judging by notices published in local newspaper, considerably more white indentured minors ran away than black (probably because there were considerably more white than black persons in this area).

The last notice about reward of one cent for a runaway was published in the *Farmers’ Cabinet* June 1838 for an indentured boy in New-Ipswich; although that was not the last runaway “indentured” boy (e.g., Francetown, in April 1829 and a different boy in Dec. 1840 and yet another different boy in June 1842, all different masters). By Oct. 1849, when a 12-year-old “indentured” boy ran away in Lyndeborough, the reward was one dollar (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 15 Oct. 1849, p. 3).

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY WHITE GIRL IN AMHERST

1804: “*One Cent Reward!* RAN from the subscriber on the 15th inst., an indented Servant by name of CLARISS HEYWOOD, fifteen years old. The above reward, without charges, will be paid to whoever will return her. All persons are forbidden to trust, harbor or employ said Girl, under the severe penalty of the law. DANIEL PRIOR. Amherst, N.H., Aug. 12, 1804.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 21 Aug. 1804, p. [3/4].)

Note about Location: Daniel Prior (1790-1808) owned & occupied 11 Courthouse Road as house-cum-store.

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY WHITE GIRL IN NEARBY TOWN

1803: “*One Half Cent Reward!* Ran away from the Subscriber on the 19th of November last, a bound Girl, about 14 years old, named *Nancy Kemp*. She wore away a dark calico gown, and a lambskin cloak and a straw bonnet. All persons are forbid harboring her; and whoever will return her shall have the above reward and no charges paid by ALEXANDER WALKER. Goffstwn, December 5 th, 1803.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 20 Dec. 1803, p. [3/4].)

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY BLACK BOYS IN NEARBY TOWNS

1803: “*RUNAWAY NEGRO.* RANAWAY from the Subscriber, on Saturday, the 4 th inst. LUTHER, a negro boy, 16 years old. I do hereby forbid all persons harboring or trusting him on my account. Whoever will return him to me shall receive *one cent* reward, and no charges paid. ARCHELAUS BATCHELDER. Wilton, June 6, 1803.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, newspaper published at Amherst, 23 June 1803, p. [3].)

1815: “*One Cent Reward.* Went away from the Subscriber, on the 17th inst. MOSES STEVENS, a black indented apprentice boy. All persons are cautioned not to harbor or trust him on my account, as I will pay no expenses which he may incur. Whoever will return said boy shall receive the above reward. HUMPHREY MOORE. Milford, April 20, 1815.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, newspaper published at Amherst, 6 May 1815, p. [4/4]. On same page, another notice of runaway indented apprentice, presumed white, in Wilton, with same reward.)

Note: Rev. Humphrey Moore was minister of Congregational Church of Milford. What kind of apprentice would he have had, I wonder.

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY INDENTURED (PRESUMED WHITE) BOYS IN AMHERST

1807: “Ran away from the subscriber on the night of Wednesday the 14th inst. an indented Apprentice, by name of CHARLES HOOD, about 18 years old – All persons are forbidden harboring or trusting him on my account, as I will pay no debts of his contracting. WILLIAM STEVENS. Amherst, Oct. 17, 1807.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 20 Oct. 1807, p. [3/4].)

1809: “ONE CENT REWARD. Ran away from the subscriber on the night of the 16th inst. a lad by the name of THOMAS T. GREEN, an indented apprentice to the Saddlers business – Whoever will return said runaway, shall receive the above reward and no thanks from the subscriber. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting him if they

would avoid the penalty of the law. JOHN WATSON. Amherst, August 18, 1809.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 5 Sep. 1809, p. [6/6].)

Note about Location: John Watson (1762-1813) at this time lived at 101 Boston Post Road in original house which he had recently built there; he left town in 1810 after the failure of the Hillsborough Bank ruined him.

1811: “One Cent Reward. RANAWAY from the subscriber on the 5th of August, JOHN BEALE FULLER, an indented apprentice. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting him, under the penalties of the law. HOLTEN KIMBALL. Amherst, August 10, 1811.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 20 Aug. 1811, p. [1/4].)

1818: “NOTICE. Ran away from the Subscriber on the 4th inst. *Mansfield King, Jr.* aged 19 years, an indented apprentice. All persons are forbid trusting of harboring him on penalty of the law. Whoever will return him to the subscriber shall receive one cent reward. JOHN FULLER. Amherst, Sept. 5, 1818.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 26 Sep. 1818, p. [4/4].)

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY WHITE BOYS IN NEARBY TOWNS, APPRENTICES WORTH MORE

1806 & 1808: “Ran away from the subscriber, on the evening of the 7th inst. an indented boy, by the name of HENRY WRIGHT, about 15 years of age; on each foot he has two toes grown together, and has a mole on the left side of his nose. Whoever will return him to the subscriber, shall receive ONE CENT reward. All persons are forbidden to employ, harbor or trust him, on penalty of the law, in that case provided. JAMES DODGE. Goffstown, May 8, 1806.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 20 May 1806, p. [4/4]. Dodge must have gotten the boy back, because another notice about same boy having run away appeared in newspaper in Nov. 1808, again offering one cent reward.)

1804: “*Three Cents Reward.* Ran away from the Subscriber, in Weare, on Wednesday, the 2d inst. an indented Apprentice, by the name of JAMES GOULD, in the eighteenth year of his age – about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, of a light complexion, with short curly hair, and stout built. All persons are forbidden harboring or trusting him on my account, as I will pay no costs of his contracting, after this date. Any person who will return him to the subscriber shall receive the above reward, including charges. DANIEL GRAVES. Weare, May 5, 1804.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 8 May 1804, p. [3/4].)

1804: “THREE CENTS REWARD! Ran away from the Subscriber, in New-Boston, on Sunday night, the 8th inst. an indented apprentice, by the name of JONAS WETHERBEE, in the 17 th year of his age – about 4 feet 10 or 11 inches high, of a light complexion, with short hair. All persons are forbidden harboring or trusting him on my account, as I will pay no debts of his contracting, after this date. Any person, who will return him to the subscriber, shall receive the above reward – no charges paid. DAVID WILSON, New-Boston, July 9, 1804.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 17 July 1804, p. [4/4]. Two such notices on same page. Also on same page, notice of escape of 7 men from county gaol at Amherst, \$300 reward.)

1804: “Two Cents Reward. Run away from the Subscriber, on the night, the 1st inst. THOMAS JEFTS, an indented apprentice, 20 years of age – about middling sized, black hair and eyes, dark complexion. Whoever will return said runaway shall receive two cents reward, and no charges. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting him on penalty of the law. JEREMIAH BOYNTON. Mason, July 2, 1804,” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 17 July 1804, p. [4/4].)

1809: “ONE CENT REWARD! Ranaway from the subscriber on the 5th inst. an apprentice boy to the Cabinet trade; is about eighteen years old, dark complexion, and six feet high – whoever will return said boy shall receive the above reward and no charges paid. DANIEL LYON. Bedford, July 14, 1809.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 25 July 1809, p. [4/4]. On same page, notice of another runaway apprentice, from Dunstable [now Nashua], with same reward.)

1812: “Absconded from the subscriber on the 12 th inst. an indented Apprentice, to the Cabinet business, by name of ELBRIDGE FOSTER, about 17 years old; whoever will return said apprentice to the subscriber, shall be entitled to 37.5 cents reward, and no charges paid. All persons are hereby forbidden harboring or trusting said apprentice on my account, as I shall pay no debts of his contracting after this date. ISAAC BLANCHARD. Wilton, March 15, 1812.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 16 March 1812, p. [3/4]. Note: Inflation? Or really valuable worker?)

1817: “Ranaway, from the subscriber, on the 25th ult. *Samuel Simpson*, an indented apprentice, 20 years of age. All persons are forbidden to harbor or trust him on my account; as I will not pay any debts that he may contract. Whoever will return him shall be paid therefor one cent. WILLIAM PEABODY. Milford, April 1 st, 1817,” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 5 April 1817, p. [3/6].)

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY WHITE BOYS IN NEARBY TOWNS – PROBABLY PAUPERS
(i.e., their parents supported by their respective hometowns)

1813: “Ran away from the subscriber on the 20th inst. an indented boy named Samuel Holt, 5 feet and 7 or 8 inches high; having grey eyes, with a very roguish cast. Said boy was bound to the subscriber by the town of Wilton. All persons are forbidden harboring or trusting said runaway on my account, as I will pay no debts of his contracting after this date. ASHBY MORGAN. Wilton, March 21, 1813.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 18 April 1813, p. [4/4].)

1831: “Notice. Ran away from the subscriber on the 30th ult. an indented boy named ISAAC JAQUITH, about 17 years of age, bound to me by the town of New-Boston. This is to forbid all persons harboring or trusting said boy on my account, as I will pay no debts of his contracting, and shall claim his wages. DAN TUBBS, New-Boston, May 30, 1831.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 11 June 1831, p. [4/4].)

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY INDENTURED WHITE BOYS IN AMHERST DECADES LATER

1829: “Notice. Runaway from the subscriber on the 26 th instant, FRANKLIN WILLINGTON, an indentured LAD. All persons are forbidden to harbour or trust said lad, as I will pay no debts of his contracting or for his maintenance after this date. REUBEN STEARNS. Amherst, Oct. 30, 1829, (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 14 Nov. 1829, p. [4/4].)

1834: “Notice. All persons are forbid harboring, trusting or employing James Riddle Tilton, an indented BOY, as I shall pay no debts of his contracting after this date, and shall claim his earnings until he arrives of age. DAVID STEWARD. Amherst, April 24, 1834. (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 2 May 1834.)

Note on Location: David Stewart lived in Amherst Village at SE corner Main & Middle Streets.

1844: “Left the emply of the subscriber, on or about the first of September, Thomas K. Clark, an indentured apprentice. All persons are hereby forbid to harbor or trust said boy on my account. DANIEL S. PERKINS. Amherst, Sept. 18, 1844.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 19 Sep. 1844, p. [3/4].)

FOR COMPARISON: PATERNAL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO WAGES OF MINORS

“Notice. Whereas my son, CHARLES STEARNS, a minor, has departed from his paternal abode, without consent, all persons are forbid to harbor or trust him on penalty of the law. I will pay no debts of his contracting after this date, nor any expense for his maintenance, but shall exact pay for his labor. WILLIAM STEARNS. Temple, June 14, 1838.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 29 June 1838, p. [4/4].)

1851-1855: Online search of *Farmers’ Cabinet* for “indentured” yields no results. Search for “runaway” brings up news items about “runaway slaves” in other parts of the US. Search for “ran away” turns up an “insane person” who ran away from the Poor House in Mason; and a male pauper who ran away from the Pauper Farm in Lyndeborough. A pauper widow “absconded” from Town Farm in Francestown. In July 1854, two brothers, 12 and 9 years old, “both able to earn their living and want good masters,” “absconded” from the County Alms House at Goffstown.

BLACK PRISONERS IN COUNTY GAOL/JAIL AT AMHERST

1.

1790 June: Special Town Meeting of Amherst. 3) To see if they will hear a **petition by Philo Talbert a poor prisoner long since confined**, at present destitute of means to defray prison charges and no rational prospect of his being in any better circumstances while confined to jail and as he is committed for a criminal breach of law it is said the prison keeper will recover pay for boarding him either of the County or of this Town ... Voted to chose a committee to consider the matter, [comprised of] John Shepard Esq., Col. Robert Means, Capt. Joshua Burnam, Lt. John Rettington [sp?], and John Langdel. (*Amherst Town Records, Volume 1, p. 356*; it was hard to read on microfilm so if exactness matters to you, read for yourself.)

Note: There is nothing in these minutes that suggests Philo is black or colored, but see 1800 census and his 1807 death record (in John Farmer's vital records).

SEE ABOVE in REAL ESTATE section for evidence that Philo T. owned land in Amherst 1780-1801 and for the reason Philo was jailed.

2.

1850: "Jail Breakers Retaken! Five prisoners broke out of Amherst Jail on the 31 st of December ,, The escaping party consisted of three Frenchmen, a Yankee, and a negro. The negro got chilled through, and stopped at Nashua, where he was shortly afterward arrested ..." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 17 Jan. 1850, reprinted from "Boston Trav. Friday")

1850: "Four of the five prisoners who escaped from our [Amherst] jail were re-taken by Mr. James Monroe, the Deputy Jailer – one at Nashua and three at Lowell – and safely returned to prison. The Yankee is still at large, resolved not "to give it up so." The negro felt quite indignant at the difference made in the reward offered, to his disparagement, declaring himself "the best of the lot!" (FC, 10 Jan. 1850, p. [2].)

TOWN HALL CEMETERY BONES

[research notes by Jackie Marshall, 2014]

1823 the new courthouse (current town hall) was built.

2003 Aug [16] "Old skull found during Town Hall construction" by David Brooks, *Nashua Telegraph* (clipping)

skull discovered Wednesday under back corner of the building built 1825
state coroner's office called, archaeologist called per law
Kathleen Wheeler, director of Independent Archaeological Consulting of Portsmouth
said skull part of skeleton of an adult male, prob in his 20s
could see stain in ground that marked vertical edges of wooden coffin
His humeri (upper arm bones) wedged against coffin wall
hands folded across the abdomen
assume old grave unmarked & forgotten by 1825
surprise to find Underneath the building
skeleton in good shape, even some of the rib bones

2003 Aug 21 "The mystery of the town hall bones" by Nancy Foster, *Milford Cabinet*, page 1

skeleton of a man found buried under the foundation of town hall
unearthed last week (Aug 13) during excavation for construction
human skull, Wheeler's team arrived Aug 14 exhumed additional remains
Independent Archaeological Consulting, Portsmouth, archaeologist Kathleen Wheeler
maps of cemetery on animal hide, said Carl Weber town administrator
original presumption, male in his 20s

2003 Aug 26 Questions surround unearthed bodies by Albert McKeon, *Nashua Telegraph*, p 11

remains of adult and child discovered under town hall
Anthony Booth removed lower extremities of the adult Monday
Booth works for Independent Archaeological Consulting of Portsmouth
lots of speculation by author & Booth
Booth sat drinking Moxie while looking through 1760-90 town book!
Booth thinks adult may have been female; Wheeler thinks male
the child's skull was discovered last week; the body removed Aug 18

2006 Dec 21 Town hall bones mystery solved? by Susan Lunt Childress, *Milford Cabinet*, page 1

Skeletal remains might have belonged to slaves
thought to have been buried before the Revolution
Dr. Kathy Wheeler
DNA results have not arrived
Facial bone structures indicate African features
Wheeler gave bone samples to Dr. Bruce Jackson, U of MA DNA specialist for testing
Jackson thinks African slaves brought from Congo & date earlier than 1774, maybe 1740s
he will finish DNA testing in the spring
Another expert, Pennsylvania historian, Douglas Harper, info re Portsmouth import slaves
because no tax; between 1773-1786 slave pop from 674 to 46, wartime attrition
bones 240 years old
child around 6; woman around 20; she may have walked with a limp, oddity in hip shape
adult had .25 inch deep depression in forehead over left eye, blow to head cause of d [?]
speculation mother & child carriage accident?

Dr. Jackson's website [no longer available, google him]

<http://www.uml.edu/roots/bjacksonsketch.htm>

Douglas Harper's website

<http://www-home.cr.duq.edu/~harperd/>

The Town of Amherst placed a small flat marker near the back of the building.

(I [jls] have assigned it #10.2)

**REMAINS UNCOVERED
AND REBURIED
AUGUST 2007**

From: "glennknob1@juno.com" <glennknob1@juno.com>

To: j15m@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2014 6:50 PM

Subject: Amherst town cemetery

Dear Jackie,

I hope this finds you well and that you got through this long winter ok!

I am now hard at work completing my book about historic African American burial sites in New England. The site at Amherst has been difficult to determine...despite all the news accounts and speculation, there was no proof that the remains discovered were of African makeup. After many phone calls and emails, and no help from the town of Amherst, I did get a copy of the archaeology report...once again, though the remains could not be identified as being African in origin, it did tell us that the burials likely occurred sometime between 1770-1823, and that it was fairly certain they died of tuberculosis (not a carriage accident). However, though the lead archaeologist could not say with certainty the remains were African American, she did tell me that DNA was collected, but that she had not ever received any reports or final determination on these tests. So, I've been working on tracking down the man who conducted the tests, Dr. Bruce Jackson...I've just heard back from him today (with official report to follow) and he confirms that the remains are indeed African in ancestry.

The next step is to try and figure out who these people were, and this is why I'm contacting you...do you have any interest in doing research on this subject? I'd like to know who they are, both for posterity and for my book, but I could use some help as I'm a bit far away. If you'd like to devote some time to this, let me know and maybe we could discuss it or come up with a time in the near future when I could come down and we could work as a team. If you don't have time to devote to this, I fully understand, but perhaps you know someone who might have an interest. Best, Glenn Knoblock

[end of section on Bones in Town Hall Cemetery aka Old Burying Ground]

A LEGAL TRIAL ABOUT RACE CONCERNING MALE MINOR (UNDER 21) WHO WORKED IN AMHERST AS LABORER

1870 Dec.: “The Supreme Judicial Court at Nashua were engaged for three days last week upon the suit of Francis S. Freeman vs. Brooks R. Came and John A. Boutelle of this place [Amherst, N.H.], to recover \$1100 paid to Franklin Newton, a minor[,] the same being Newton's wages for four years' service in their employ. The trial caused considerable public interest from the fact that the plaintiff is a full blooded negro, his wife a Creole, and the young man whose wages were claimed a white man. Newton disclaims the parentage in toto, on the grounds that he is a white man, and remembers to have been given to this negro and told that he must call them father and mother. Plaintiff is nearly 70 years of age and appears to have lived a vagabond life, roaming from one place to another without any particular object or occupation. He had with him a boy, aged sixteen, and a girl fourteen, that he called his children, both of whom are “Blondes,” and appeared to recognize the old man as their father. The jury returned a verdict for the defendants. Barrett and Atherton for plff.; B. Wadleigh for defts.” (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 Dec. 1870, p. [2].) [Found & added to this file by KMH, May 2015]

Comment: What a pity the newspaper didn't add the justification or rationale for the verdict. If Francis had been a white man, would he have been granted this financial parental right for an adopted son?

1870 July – Amherst, N.H. (census):

311/312 Duncklee Porter, 64, farmer, \$4000/1100; Mary A., 61; Kate A., 34, all b. N.H.

311/313 Came Brooks R., 34, farmer, \$2500/[blank]; Mary A., 30; Charles J., 10; all b. N.H..

311/314 Boutelle John A, 31, farmer, \$2500/[blank]; Chastina, 27; Lizzie C., 4; **Newton Frank, 23, farm laborer.** (Porter Duncklee's house was 107 Ponemah Road at Danforth's Corner. Next house/household listed is George Danforth, followed by Pauper farm [on other side of Souhegan River].)

1850 Census – Hopkinton, Mass.:

Francis S. Freeman, 49, b. Conn., “B” for black, labourer; Mary E., 39, b. Rhode Island, color BLANK [so presumed white]; Franklin S. Newton, 3, b. NY, color BLANK [so presumed white]; Louisa Cohen, 1. b. Mass., color BLANK [so presumed white].

1860 Census – Springfield, Windsor, Vermont:

Francis S. Freeman, 60, b. Rhode Island, stone cutter, no real estate, personal estate \$75; Mary E., 45, b. Rhode Island; Franklin, 11, b. New York; Edward F., 7, b. Mass.; Mary E., 6, b. Mass; Charlotte Lee, 13, b. NH. [Note: race/color BLANK so presumed White.]

1865 Census – Cambridge, Mass: Francis S. Freeman, 65, b. Rhode Island; Mary E., 45, b. Rhode Island; Franklin, 16, b. Mass.; Charlott, 17, b. Mass.; Edward, 12, b. Mass; Mary E., 10, b. Mass; Nancy, 5 months, b. Mass.

[Note: None of them were marked as color Black nor Mulatto whereas others on the same page were marked B for Black. Occupation was left blank for everyone on the page.]

1870 Census – Townsend, Mass: Freeman, Francis, 70, b. Mass, stone mason; no real estate.; Mary, 49, b. Mass; Edward, 16, b. Mass., attending school; Mary, 14, b. Mass., attending school. The whole family is marked W = white.

1870 Sep - Death Registered in Townsend, Mass.: Elen W. Freeman, age 5 days, cause being infantile cholera, daughter of Francis S. Freeman, b. R.I., & Mary E. Freeman, b. R.I.

FOR COMPARISON: PATERNAL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO WAGES OF MINORS

“Notice. Whereas my son, CHARLES STEARNS, a minor, has departed from his paternal abode, without consent, all persons are forbid to harbor or trust him on penalty of the law. I will pay no debts of his contracting after this date, nor any expense for his maintenance, but shall exact pay for his labor. WILLIAM STEARNS. Temple, June 14, 1838.” (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 29 June 1838, p. [4/4].)

LITERATURE SEARCH

Daniel Secomb, *History of Amherst, N.H.* (1883) [searched by jls]

search word – Negro [1 hit]

page 570: In his will, Hezekiah Duncklee “gave his negro servant her liberty at his death.”

search word – colored [6 hits]

mentioned, as a category but no individual names, in relation to the 1775 census (page 186)

mentioned, 2x as a category but no individual names, in relation to 1800 census (page 186)

mentioned 3 colored men who served in Revolutionary war as part of Amherst’s quota:

- (1) Primus Chandler, a colored man, who served under Col. Bedel; killed “by the Indians, May 1776” (Secomb, p. 373, 404, 406). Primus Chandler was from Bedford (Bedford, p. 574).
- (2) Peter Brewer, a colored man from New Boston (called “a Negro” in the actual record), who served in Morrill’s Co. of Cilley’s Regt., killed in battle at Saratoga, Oct. 1777 (Secomb, p. 384-385, 403, 406).
- (3) Jude Hall, a colored man from Kensington, who served in Richard’s Co. of Cilley’s Regt. (Secomb, p. 384-385, 404; Secomb’s cited source being 1779 “return” by Col. Moses Nichols).

search word – Slave [1 hit] / Slaves / Slavery [many hits]

page 907 bio sketch Caesar Parker, native of Boston, slave to Litchfield; Successful war for independence put an end to slavery in the Granite State; married a white woman, d 1858 in RI

page 186 Census

1767 Slaves 2 males, 2 females [not sure how he determined this, Amherst no return]

1773 Slaves 2 males, 2 females [different in NHSP]

1775 Colored Persons, sex not stated 4 [different in NHSP 7:170]

search word – mulatto [0 hits]

search word – servant [multiple hits but only one pertaining to black person, as “negro servant” on p. 570, see above]

Matthew Patten’s Diary [checked by jls]

See online book *Diary of Matthew Patten*; he was from Bedford, NH

1764 Jan 5: ... I writ a Bill of Sale from Robt Gillmor of Merrimac to his Daughter Elizabeth of a Negro boy and Acknowledged it unpaid [page 133]

1774 May 6: I left Matthew Little have 2 Bushells of salt by his new slave Karrow toward my note that I gave him for his Right in Dartmouth ... [page 322]

1780 Mar 27: I signed a [warrant] for the Selectmen to carrie Samuell Moors black woman to Portsmouth... [page 411]

1784 Mar 19: ... I took the acknowledgement of a deed from James Thompson of this town [Bedford] to Prime Wally a Negro who could not pay me for want of change ... [page 480]

Note: Patten’s Diary reveals slaves in neighboring N.H. towns – 1764-1780; and a black man who appears to be buying property in 1784; but nothing specific to Amherst regarding slaves.

ED Boylston’s *Sketch of a Busy Life ...* (1892), p. 11-12, in reminiscences of his boyhood (so circa 1820, give or take a few years) [added to file by KMH]:

[In church] The seating of the house was not wholly without distinction, as the more wealthy and prominent families occupied the pews directly in front of the pulpit. ... In the east and west galleries were long free seats for the men apart, and the women apart, AND THE NEGROES APART; ...

[Hmmm -- sounds like unattached Negro men and women could mix?]

ED Boylston was strongly anti-slavery. He writes how emotions ran high -- for and against slavery -- here in Amherst some 25 years before Civil War. He recounts how someone unknown threw a rock into the Baptist meeting, which was then held on second floor of Read store, and seriously injured a girl. He attributed this to disagreement over slavery issue.