

The Odells of Stratham, New Hampshire: An American Family Takes Root¹

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The Odell² family of Stratham, New Hampshire, was most likely spawned by a notorious counterfeiter, but its subsequent history is well within the bounds of law and order. Its members achieved security and then respectability in a small agricultural community during the 18th century. Sustained civic leadership and professional status came in the 19th century. Financial reversal, triggered by a father's untimely death, was overcome by two brothers aided by their uncle, who stepped into the breach.

The challenge of New England research is to effectively correlate a vast array of sources—original, derivative, and published—for many jurisdictions in close proximity. The New England colonies, including New Hampshire, were the first to keep vital records among town records, and Stratham is among the towns for which those have been published.³ The practice of recording births, marriages, and deaths was far from universal, however, and may represent only one fourth of all such events.⁴ Statutory requirements over the years required copies to be made for the Secretary of State of New Hampshire, creating layers of derivative sources.⁵ Town records are rich in other detail—governance, politics, finance, religion, and the care of less fortunate residents.

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¹ This narrative was submitted as Requirement 7, Kinship Determination Project, to the Board for Certification of Genealogists® on 11 July 2014. The portfolio was accepted on 15 September 2014. Several minor changes were made in response to judges' comments.

² The spelling of Odell is standardized in the narrative but appears in records as Oadle, Odal, Odel, Odle, Odval, Odvall, and Oldel.

³ Transcripts of Stratham vital records were published in an 11-part series in the *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* between 1903–1904 and 1908.

⁴ Edward F. Holden, "Early New Hampshire Town Records," *American Ancestors*, New England Historic Genealogical Society (<http://www.americanancestors.org/early-new-hampshire-town-records/>; accessed 28 March 2014).

⁵ For a discussion of New Hampshire vital record-keeping, see Paul Friday, "Explaining Errors: Three Deaths or Only One on 2 July 1850 at Temple, New Hampshire," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 98 (September 2010), 211–218.

In addition to county histories that are familiar to most researchers, many New Hampshire towns have published histories with genealogical information included for prominent citizens.⁶ Numerous family compilations vary in quality.

Stratham research benefits from two unique and related sources. Deacon Samuel Lane—cordwainer, surveyor, and town leader—recorded deaths in a journal from 1741 until his 1806 death.⁷ His life, as evidenced in his journal, account books, and family papers, became the subject of scholarly research that provided a greater understanding of day-to-day colonial life in Stratham.⁸

Boundary changes between towns, counties, and states also affected the research process. For example, the earliest vital record cited herein was created when New Hampshire was part of “Old” Norfolk County, Massachusetts.

FIRST GENERATION

1. **THOMAS¹ ODELL** of Boston and **HANNAH SMITH** of Exeter, New Hampshire are probably the forebears of the Odell family of Stratham, New Hampshire.⁹ Thomas was born [—?—] and probably died around 1711.¹⁰ Hannah, the daughter of Nicholas and Mary (née Satchell) Smith,

⁶ For a guide to genealogical content of New Hampshire town histories, see William Copeley and New Hampshire Historical Society, *Index to Genealogies in New Hampshire Town Histories* ([Concord, New Hampshire:] New Hampshire Historical Society, 1989).

⁷ Transcripts of Lane’s death records (and later those kept by his sons) were published in a seven-part series, all titled “Deaths in Stratham,” in *New England Historical & Genealogical Register* between 1876 and 1919. Citations within this document are to the original papers: MS 1991-095, Lane Family Papers, 1727–1899; Special Collections, Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, New Hampshire.

⁸ Jerald E. Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane, 1718–1806: A New Hampshire Man and His World* (Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 2000).

⁹ Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1979), 517. The Odell-Smith marriage reference is undated and includes a rare question mark in this highly regarded authored work. Efforts to locate original sources to corroborate the marriage and other first-generation facts are documented below. For now, it is not possible to use terms of certainty.

¹⁰ The death date for Thomas¹ Odell is suggested by the chronology of events discussed in detail below.

was born 10 May 1673 and died 27 July 1757 in Stratham.¹¹ Hannah married (2) probably around 1712 Ebenezer Folsom, and it was he who influenced the lives and fortunes of Odell descendants, through his relationship with stepson Thomas.¹²

Nothing is known of the life of Thomas before his arrival in Boston about 1697, but his role as the “Chief Contriver” of the first counterfeiting ring in Colonial America is well documented. His early reputation was established in August 1703, when a Boston baker accused him of using counterfeit coins to purchase goods. He was known to the baker as “Thomas Collins,” and court documents list Odell, as well as Fletcher and Green, as aliases. Thomas and two men filed a £50 bond to ensure his appearance at an October trial, at which he denied using any name other than “Odel,” denied passing bad coins, and testified that he had been in the country for six years. The jury found him guilty, but his punishment was not recorded.¹³

Bills of credit, originally issued by the Province of Massachusetts Bay to pay the wages of soldiers, were the first paper money in the colonies, and they circulated widely.¹⁴ There was at least one early instance of tampering to increase their face value, but in late July 1704 it became

¹¹ For Hannah’s birth, see Massachusetts, Old Norfolk County, County Court, “Births, marriages, deaths, marriage intentions, earmarks, strays, 1670–1747,” page 142, under “Exeter Births,” birth of Hannah Smith to Nicolas Smith on 10 : 3 : 1673, Family History Library (FHL) microfilm 877468, item 5, Salt Lake City, Utah. Old Norfolk County was composed of towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and discontinued when the Province of New Hampshire was established in 1781. It should not be confused with modern Norfolk County. Because the Old Norfolk County book is held and was microfilmed at the Essex County (Massachusetts) Courthouse, the target for Item 5 on the microfilm does not include the word “Norfolk.” For the 1665 marriage of Nicholas Smith to Mary (Satchell) Dale, see Noyes, Libby, and Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, 646. For Hannah’s death, see Samuel Lane, “An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham Since I came to live in the Town which was June 11th 1741,” 1741–1820; diary, MS 1991-095, Lane Family Papers, 1727–1899, page 19.

¹² The marriage date for Hannah Smith and Ebenezer Folsom is suggested by the chronology of events discussed in detail below.

¹³ Massachusetts, Superior Court of Judicature, 1692–1800, Suffolk Files, Case #5910, Volume 59, page 34, Jurors’ finding on Thomas Collins, alias Odell; records held by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives, 3 Pemberton Square, Boston and made available, upon request, for review at the Massachusetts State Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston.

¹⁴ Richard LeBaron Bowen, *Rhode Island Colonial Money and Its Counterfeiting 1647–1726* ([Concord, New Hampshire: Rumford Press,] 1942), 6–7.

known in Boston that twenty-shilling counterfeit bills were circulating.¹⁵ On 24 July, Captain-General and Governor in Chief Joseph Dudley issued a proclamation requiring all bill holders to present them, for assurance or detection, to the Commissioners in Council Chambers at set times over the next several weeks. Not only was a reward of fifty pounds offered for information leading to the conviction of the persons involved, indemnity was offered to guilty parties willing to name others.¹⁶

Within a few days, the perpetrators were identified and the plates and press were seized. Father Peregrine White, Jr. and son Benoni White, blacksmiths; John Brewer, carpenter; and Daniel Amos, wine-cooper, were arrested and all but one tried that summer on forgery charges. Benoni White and Brewer implicated Thomas Odell in obtaining the plates and putting the printed bills into circulation in Exeter, New Hampshire, earlier in the summer, but he had fled the colony.¹⁷

On 8 August 1704, Governor Dudley issued another proclamation requiring all “her Majesties Loving Subjects” to apprehend Thomas Odell, “Chief Contriver and Actor in the Counterfeiting of the Twenty Shilling Bill of Credit on this Province” and offering thirty pounds as a reward. Thomas was described as “of middle Stature, slender & straight Body, black hair, thin visage, holding his head somewhat on one side in his walk ; who is known often to have changed his name.”¹⁸ Two days later, Thomas was apprehended in Stonington, Connecticut, after trying to cheat several persons, but he escaped and made his way to Philadelphia.¹⁹ In the

¹⁵ *Ibid.* For the rumors in Boston, see M. Halsey Thomas, editor, *The Diary of Samuel Sewall 1674–1729*, 2 volumes (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1973), 1:511.

¹⁶ *The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay: to which are prefixed The Charters of the Province with Historical and Explanatory Notes, and an Appendix, Volume VIII., Being Volume III. Of the Appendix. Containing Resolves, Etc., 1703–1707* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers, 1895), 431; digital images, *Internet Archive* (https://archive.org/details/actsresolvespubl_d01mass; accessed 11 December 2013).

¹⁷ Massachusetts, Superior Court of Judicature, 1692–1800, Suffolk Files, Case #6275, Volume 62, pages 81–82, Examination of Benony White and Examination of John Brewer. For the reference to Exeter, see Massachusetts Superior Court of Judicature, Volume 1700–1714, page 170, on microfilm at Massachusetts State Archives.

¹⁸ [By His Excellency, Joseph Dudley, Esq.,] *Boston News-Letter*, Monday August 7, to Monday August 14, 1704, No. 17, page 2, column 1; digital images, *Early American Newspapers Series 1, 1690–1876* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 10 September 2013).

¹⁹ Kenneth Scott, *Counterfeiting in Colonial America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1957), 29–30.

meantime, the Massachusetts legislature hurried to pass a law specifically outlawing the counterfeiting of bills of credit.²⁰

Thomas was recaptured in Philadelphia in May 1705 and placed on a sloop headed for Boston. The vessel was driven ashore in the “east Jerseys” by a storm, and Thomas was held by the sheriff of Monmouth County before being transferred to New York. He was put aboard the *Derrick Adolph* in leg irons, but when the ship stopped in Newport, Rhode Island, Thomas escaped again and hid in a barn near town for nearly a week. After a third voyage, he was finally secured at the Boston Gaol on 13 June.²¹ Thomas Odell, trader, was tried and convicted in the Superior Court of Assize, and General Gaol Delivery on 6 November 1705. He was ordered to “pay a fine of 300 pounds, a year’s Imprisonment, to pay the charge of Prosecution, and stand Committed till the Sentence be performed.”²²

On 20 April 1706, a remorseful Thomas filed his first petition, avowing that because he had no means to pay the substantial fine, his sentence was little better than “Death, Especially to one in the Middle of his Age, Capable of Doing a Great Deale of Good in the World.” He sought to change his punishment to transportation out of the province to a place where he might be of “Some Use & Service the Rest of His Days.”²³ Little attention was paid, but a petition filed by Daniel Willard, Keeper of the Boston Gaol, requesting reimbursement for providing Thomas with food and firewood was debated for many months before being approved.²⁴

In November 1708, authorities became concerned that “ill-minded persons are contriving again” to help Thomas escape, and they debated a

²⁰ [Boston,] *Boston News-Letter*, Monday August 21, to Monday August 28, 1704, No. 19, page 2, column 1; digital images *Early American Newspapers Series 1, 1690–1876* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 11 December 2013).

²¹ *The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay: to which are prefixed The Charters of the Province with Historical and Explanatory Notes, and an Appendix, Volume VIII ... 1703–1707*, 709.

²² [Boston,] *Boston News-Letter*, Monday November 5, to Monday November 12, 1705, No. 82, page 2, column 1; digital images, *Early American Newspapers Series 1, 1690–1876* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 11 December 2013).

²³ *The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay: to which are prefixed The Charters of the Province with Historical and Explanatory Notes, and an Appendix, Volume VIII ... 1703–1707*, 709.

²⁴ *The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay: to which are prefixed The Charters of the Province with Historical and Explanatory Notes, and an Appendix, Volume VIII ... 1703–1707*, 710.

transfer to Castle William for “better and more safe-keeping.”²⁵ The move required legislative approval because it would put Thomas at a military fortification beyond the reach of court jurisdiction.²⁶ Instead, he was kept at the Boston Gaol “loaded with chains” and with harsh restrictions. An inquiry by the Attorney General into Thomas’ right to the “Liberty of the yard” was met with amazement by Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the Judicature Samuel Sewall, who quoted from Virgil’s *Aeneid* in reaction: “*Quid non mortalia pectora cogis Auri sacra fames?*”, which translates as “To what lengths will man’s passion for gold not lead him?” Yard liberty was for debtors, not criminals.²⁷

Early in 1710, Thomas, ill for much of the previous year, petitioned for a discharge to go home to his family, citing his “Deplorable Condition” and the impossibility of paying his fine.²⁸ A Mrs. Odell had been seen in Boston by some of his known associates.²⁹ His plea was ignored again, while his jailer’s request for compensation was granted quickly.³⁰ His last recorded plea was received by the Governor’s Council on 23 August 1710. In it, he asked for release, as “most of the good People here are as weary of him, as he is of his Imprisonment” and for the opportunity to “make some recompense to the Country for what is past.”³¹ No response was recorded and no further maintenance expenses reimbursed. Thomas likely died in prison within the next year or two.

²⁵ Nancy Voyer and Massachusetts, Office of the Secretary of State, “Massachusetts Archives Collection,” 328 volumes, microfilm (varied material, 1603–1799, Massachusetts State Archives, Boston), 71:476, Vote for Sending Thos : Odell to be Confined at Castle William, 1 November 1708. The Massachusetts Archives Collection is also known as the Felt Collection.

²⁶ Thomas, *The Diary of Samuel Sewall 1674–1729*, 1:607.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 1:608. For the translation, see J. W. Graham, “Auri Sacra Fames,” *Phoenix* 11 (Autumn 1957), 112; *JSTOR*, online archives (<http://www.jstor.org/>; accessed 22 December 2013).

²⁸ Voyer and Massachusetts Office of the Secretary of State, “Massachusetts Archives Collection,” 71:761, The Humble Petition of Thomas Odell, 14 March 1710/11.

²⁹ Massachusetts, Superior Court of Judicature, 1692–1800, Suffolk Files, Case #7900, Volume 78, page 148, Deposition of Margaret Barton, 22 November 1709.

³⁰ Voyer and Massachusetts Office of the Secretary of State, “Massachusetts Archives Collection,” 40:941–42, The Humble Petition of Seth Smith, Keeper of her Majesties’ Goal in Boston,” [Council Resolution authorizing payment to Seth Smith,] 14 March 1710/11.

³¹ Voyer and Massachusetts Office of the Secretary of State, “Massachusetts Archives Collection,” 71:697, The Humble Petition of Thomas Odell, received in Council 23 August 1710.

Hannah, the daughter of Nicholas and Mary (Satchell) Smith, of Exeter, was born 10 May 1673.³² It was the second marriage for both Nicholas and Mary.³³ Hannah was just over a month old when her father died 22 June 1673.³⁴ Mary Smith was appointed executor of her husband's estate.³⁵ It was appraised at £229.5.6 and included a dwelling house, pasture land, orchards, and three acres of marsh.³⁶

Hannah's mother, Mary, married for the third time to Charles Rundlett in 1675.³⁷ Rundlett had begun life in the colonies as a young servant to Philip Chesley of Oyster Bay (now Durham, New Hampshire) and may have been several years younger than his new wife.³⁸ Just a few months before his marriage, he was kidnapped by a small band of Indians during a burst of hostilities in and around Exeter. He managed to convince one of

³² Massachusetts, Old Norfolk County, County Court, "Births, marriages, deaths, marriage intentions, earmarks, strays, 1670–1747," page 142, birth of Hannah Smith to Nicolas Smith on 10 : 3 : 1673, FHL film 877468, item 5.

³³ Piscataqua Pioneers, *Piscataqua Pioneers: Selected Biographers of Early Settlers in Northern New England* (Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Piscataqua Pioneers, 2000), 371. Also see Noyes, Libby, and Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, 646 for the 1665 marriage of Nicholas Smith to Mary (Satchell) Dale.

³⁴ Massachusetts, Old Norfolk County, County Court, "Births, marriages, deaths, marriage intentions, earmarks, strays, 1670–1747," page 174, Exeter Deaths, death of Nicolas Smith on 22 : 4 : 1673.

³⁵ Nathaniel Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire, 1623–1800*, 41 volumes (individual volumes were published in Concord, Manchester, Nashua, and Bristol, New Hampshire between 1867 and 1943), 31:146–47; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/provincialstatep31newh>; accessed 11 December 2013). These volumes are known collectively as *New Hampshire State and Provincial Papers*. See "State and Provincial Papers of New Hampshire," New Hampshire State Archives and Milne Special Collections at the University of New Hampshire Library, *New Hampshire History Bookshelf* (<http://www.library.unh.edu/diglib/bookshelf/NHPapers/volume.shtml>; accessed 24 March 2014).

³⁶ Essex County, Massachusetts, probate case file 25711, The Inventory of Nicolas Smith of Exeter (1673); "Essex County, MA, Probate File Papers, 1638–1840," *American Ancestors* (<http://americanancestors.org/>; accessed 30 October 2013).

³⁷ *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County Massachusetts*, 9 volumes (Salem, Massachusetts: The Essex Institute, 1916), 6:139. "From Samuel Dalton's Commissioner Records . . . Charles Runlett and Mary Smith, widow both of Exeter, were married 10: 11: 1675."

³⁸ Joseph Milton Odiorne, *A Rundlett-Randlett Genealogy: Mainly Descendants of Charles Runlett of Exeter, N.H., 1652?–1709* (Farmington, Maine: The Knowlton & McLeary Co., 1976), 1.

his captors to help him escape; at least six other men were not as fortunate.³⁹

The decade continued to be tumultuous for young Hannah. Her mother, Mary, was charged with fornication in 1677 but was not in condition to be served with the warrant that was issued.⁴⁰ Charles and Mary remained together and raised five children of their own along with Mary's two older offspring; they were supported by Charles' lumber and shipbuilding business.⁴¹ Charles drowned in the Exeter River on 1 April 1709; a local diarist noted that he may have been "indisposed by drink."⁴²

Hannah probably married Thomas by the summer of 1704, when he is known to have been in Exeter with counterfeit bills, and gave birth to their son the following spring at the latest.⁴³ Nothing further was heard from the

³⁹ Charles H. Bell, *History of the Town of Exeter New Hampshire* (Exeter, New Hampshire: Press of J. E. Harwell & Co., 1888), 215–216; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofe00bell>; accessed 11 December 2013).

⁴⁰ *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts*, 9 volumes, 6:324; "Warrant, dated Apr. 9, 1677, for appearance of Mary Runlet, wife of Charles Runlet, for fornication, signed by Tho. Bradbury [autograph], for the court and served by Kinsley Hall [autograph], constable of Exeter, who returned that she was not in a condition to go to court."

⁴¹ For the family composition, see Barbara Stone Chase and Alicia Crane Williams, *Chase-Wigglesworth Genealogy: The Ancestors and Descendants of Philip Putnam Chase and His Wife Anna Cornelia Wigglesworth* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1990), 369. For Rundlett's occupation, see Odiorne, *A Rundlett-Randlett Genealogy: Mainly Descendants of Charles Runlett of Exeter, N.H., 1652?–1709*, 2, and Bell, *History of the Town of Exeter New Hampshire*, 337.

⁴² For a report of the drowning, see Bell, *History of the Town of Exeter New Hampshire*, 215. For the possible cause, see Rev. A. H. Quint, D.D., editor, *Journal of Reverend John Pike of Dover, N.H.* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Press of John Wilson and Son, 1876), 37; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/journalofrevjohn00pike>; accessed 20 December 2013).

⁴³ See footnote 9. The marriage also appears in Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Historic Genealogical Society, New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, 3 volumes (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011), 2:1108. This edition of Torrey includes sources and, for this entry, points to Noyes and relies on Elizabeth Knowles Folsom, *Genealogy of the Folsom Family: A Revised and Extended Edition Including English Records, 1638–1938* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1975), 42–43, which is discussed below in greater detail. No marriage record for Thomas and Hannah or birth record for their son was located, however. The following records were searched: (1) Exeter, New Hampshire, Town Records, volume 1: 1636–1693, volume 2: 1639–1739, volume 1: 1636–1774, volume 2: 1639–1821, FHL microfilms 15783 and 15135; (2) "New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1636–1947," *FamilySearch*, images, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 22 August 2013); (3) Exeter Town Records, Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1657–1848, volume 1, imaged from FHL

imprisoned Thomas after 1710. Hannah married Ebenezer Folsom probably around 1712, the year that he acquired 54 acres of land in the northern division of nearby Hampton, New Hampshire.⁴⁴ It was adjacent to property owned by her brother, Theophilus Smith.⁴⁵ Like Hannah, Ebenezer was born in Exeter; he descended from John Folsom, who settled there by 1655.⁴⁶ Ebenezer was credited with soldier service in King William's War four times between 1694 and 1696; the longest stretch was four months in the Exeter garrison.⁴⁷

microfilm 15785; (4) First Congregational Church in Exeter, Records, FHL microfilm 987081 (items 1–3, 5), FHL microfilm 987084; and (5) *Boston Records Commissioners' Reports, 1674–1822*, 39 volumes (Boston: various publishers, 1875–1909); digital images, *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/>; accessed 20 April 2014); volume 2: Boston Town Records, 1634–1660, volume 7: Boston Town Records, 1660–1701, volume 8: Boston Town Records, 1700–1728, volume 9: Boston Vital Statistics, 1630–1699, volume 24: Boston Births, 1700–1800, and volume 28: Boston Marriages, 1700–1751. The proposed marriage and birth dates in the narrative are suggested by the timeline of Thomas Odell's criminal activity.

⁴⁴ Noyes, Libby, and Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, 517. Like the Smith-Odell marriage, the Odell-Folsom marriage is undated. Its inclusion in Torrey implies that their marriage took place before 1700. See Torrey and NEHGS, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, 1:558. If a marriage between Hannah and Ebenezer took place prior to 1700, however, Hannah either was not married to Thomas Odell, she obtained a divorce (as he was still alive in 1710), or she married Ebenezer while she was still married to Odell. See Sheldon S. Cohen, "What Many Hath Put Asunder: Divorce in New Hampshire, 1681–1784," *Historical New Hampshire* 41 (1986): 118–41. According to Cohen, only three divorces occurred in provincial New Hampshire. A search of the Massachusetts Archives Collection Card Index File at the Massachusetts State Archives, which covers all relevant court records for that time and place, did not turn up a Smith-Odell divorce in Massachusetts. For the land transaction, see Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 9:671–72, Joshua Wingett to Ebenezer Folsham, 26 June 1712; digital images, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, *NHDeeds.com* (<http://www.nhdeeds.com/rockingham/RoHome>; accessed 1 April 2014).

⁴⁵ Rockingham County, New Hampshire Deed Book 9:671–72, Joshua Wingett to Ebenezer Folsham, 26 June 1712. Theophilus Smith, adjacent landowner, is named in the deed. Hannah and Theophilus were both children of Nicholas Smith and Mary Satchell; see Chase and Williams, *Chase-Wigglesworth Genealogy: The Ancestors and Descendants of Philip Putnam Chase and His Wife Anna Cornelia Wigglesworth*, 367.

⁴⁶ Jacob Chapman, *A Genealogy of the Folsom Family: John Folsom and His Descendants, 1615–1882* (Concord, New Hampshire: Republican Press Association, 1882), 14 and 20–21; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 16 November 2013). For record of his birth, see Bell, *History of the Town of Exeter New Hampshire*, 43.

⁴⁷ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 11:642 and 643, and 17:640 and 643.

Hampton, New Hampshire, was one of the first four settlements in New Hampshire and at one time covered a large area of land. It decreased in size over time as additional towns were formed—Kingston, followed by Hampton Falls, Kensington, and Rye.⁴⁸ In 1714, inhabitants of nearby Squamscot Patent, northeast of Hampton, began advocating for a separate township, as they were at a “great distance from the Publick Worship of God and Haveing no benefitt of any School,” even as they paid taxes to Exeter to the west.⁴⁹ The proposed boundary included the small portion of northern Hampton where Ebenezer had recently settled. He and 24 other residents submitted a counterpetition asking to continue as they were; they could afford neither to support an entirely new town nor to give up their land.⁵⁰ But the advocates, far greater in number, prevailed, and Lieutenant Governor George Vaughn signed the charter of the Town of Stratham on 20 March 1715/16, establishing the new local government, with all its benefits and responsibilities. The first order of business was to erect a meeting house and procure a minister.⁵¹ The town’s name was apparently taken from the title of an English nobleman who was a close friend of Samuel Shute, governor of both New Hampshire and Massachusetts.⁵²

Despite his opposition to the establishment of Stratham, Ebenezer remained on his property. When the meeting house was finished in 1718, he was assigned to the second long seat, closer to the humblest citizen of Stratham than the most influential; Hannah Folsom was assigned to the corresponding seat on the women’s side.⁵³ On 25 March 1724, Ebenezer

⁴⁸ Joseph Dow, *History of the Town of Hampton, New Hampshire: From Its Settlement in 1638, to the Autumn of 1892*, 2 volumes (Salem, Massachusetts: 1894), 1:3; digital images, *Google Play* (<http://www.play.google.com/>; accessed 20 December 2013).

⁴⁹ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 9:777–79. For the patent given to Edward Hilton in 1630, see Charles B. Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 2nd edition (Stratham, New Hampshire: Town of Stratham, 1987), 2.

⁵⁰ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 9:780.

⁵¹ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, xi–xii.

⁵² Elmer Munson Hunt, *New Hampshire Town Names and Whence They Came* (Peterborough, New Hampshire: Noone House, 1970), 191. For the succession of officeholders, see New Hampshire Secretary of State and Hosea B. Carter, *The New Hampshire Manual for the General Court, with Complete Official Succession: 1680–1891* (Concord, New Hampshire: 1891), 117–18; digital images, *Google Play* (<http://www.play.google.com/>; accessed 17 December 2013).

⁵³ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, pages 17–19, seating of meeting house, 31 December 1718; New Hampshire State Library, Concord; FHL microfilm 15319. State copies of the town records are a combination of longhand transcriptions and original pages pasted into bound volumes with preprinted page

was elected constable for the following year.⁵⁴ It was not as prestigious as selectman or town clerk nor as menial as catching stray livestock, but “arduous” and vital to order.⁵⁵

Hannah’s marriage to Ebenezer provided her son, Thomas, with middling social status in the new town of Stratham. More significantly, because the couple apparently did not have children of their own, it was Thomas to whom Ebenezer conveyed his land.⁵⁶ In 1728, Ebenezer deeded just over 20 acres, a “part of [his] homestead,” to young Thomas, cordwainer (shoemaker), for the consideration of £19, reserving a section to be used as a burying ground.⁵⁷ Near the end of his life, Ebenezer conveyed the rest of his land, including his residence, to his stepson.⁵⁸ Ebenezer died 22 December 1749.⁵⁹ Hannah also conveyed real property to Thomas toward the end of her life—a piece of salt marsh in Exeter near Broad Cove that she inherited from her father, Nicholas Smith.⁶⁰ Widow

numbers. Many of those page numbers are illegible. State Volume 1 contains town volumes 1–2; State Volume 2 contains town volumes 3–5; State Volume 3 contains town volumes 6–8. The longhand transcription sections refer to the original page numbers. When births, marriages, and deaths are cited from town records hereafter, they will be paired with citations to the transcriptions published in *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* between 1903–1904 and 1908, which also refer to original page numbers.

⁵⁴ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, page 32, election of Ebenezer Follshom and Thomas Right Hoge as constables, 25 March 1724.

⁵⁵ Edward M. Cook Jr., *The Fathers of the Towns: Leadership and Community Structure in Eighteenth-Century New England* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976), 2.

⁵⁶ Noyes, Libby, and Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, 517.

⁵⁷ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 34:422–23, Ebenezer Fullsom to Thomas Odel, 19 November 1728.

⁵⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 54:357–58, Ebenezer Folsom to Thomas Odel, 17 February 1748/9.

⁵⁹ Lane, “An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham,” 11.

⁶⁰ Elizabeth Knowles Folsom, *Genealogy of the Folsom Family*, 42–43. Hannah’s name is asterisked [*] with this abstract cited: “From an unrecorded deed in possession of the late F. O Conant, of Portland, Maine: ‘Hannah Folsom, relict and widow of Ebenezer Folsom, late of Stratham, for £40 paid ‘by my son Thomas Odell’ of Stratham, sells a piece of salt marsh on west side of Exeter Great river near road, Cove that did belong to ‘my Hon’d. father Nicholas Smith of Exeter. Dec’d., 16 Dec. 1752.’ Witnessed by John Robinson and Theo. Smith.’ Frederick Odell Conant, who probably provided the abstract, served as the president of the Maine Genealogical Society and was a noted genealogist in his own right. His death in 1928 occasioned an obituary published in the *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*. See Rev. Arthur Wilmot Ackerman and Harold Clarke Durrell, “Memoirs of Deceased Members of the New England Historic Genealogy Society,” *New England Historical & Genealogical Register* 83 (July 1929), *American*

Folsom died 27 July 1757, identified in Deacon Lane's journal as "Thos^s Odel's mother."⁶¹

The only known child of Thomas¹ and Hannah was:

- + 2 i. **THOMAS² ODELL**, probably born 1705 at the latest⁶²; died 10 August 1781; married Mary Rundlett.⁶³

SECOND GENERATION

2. **THOMAS² ODELL** (Thomas¹), son of Thomas Odell and Hannah Smith, was born, at the latest, in 1705 and died 10 August 1781 in Stratham.⁶⁴ He married **MARY "Molly" RUNDLETT** no later than 1737, in Greenland, on the northeast border of Stratham.⁶⁵ Mary, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Robinson) Rundlett, was born 22 April 1712 and died 8 November 1781.⁶⁶ Mary's father, James Rundlett, and Thomas'

Ancestors (<http://www.americanancestors.org/>; accessed 3 November 2013). Attempts to locate Conant's research papers and documents at a repository have not been successful. So far, no familial connection has been established between Conant and the Odells of Stratham. The phrase "Dec'd., 16 Dec. 1752" has been incorrectly interpreted as the death date for Hannah Folsom; see Piscataqua Pioneers, *Piscataqua Pioneers: Selected Biographers of Early Settlers in Northern New England*, 401. It was probably the date of the deed.

⁶¹ Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," 19.

⁶² The proposed birth year for Thomas² Odell is suggested by his father's flight from the Massachusetts Bay Colony and subsequent capture and imprisonment.

⁶³ For the marriage record, see Priscilla Hammond, *Vital Records of Greenland, New Hampshire Compiled from the Town's Original Record Books, 1714–1820, and Other Sources* (Concord, New Hampshire: Page Hammond, 1938), 47. For Thomas' death, see Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," 38.

⁶⁴ The proposed birth year for Thomas² Odell is suggested by the timeline of events detailed in the First Generation section. For his death, see Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," 38.

⁶⁵ Hammond, *Vital Records of Greenland, New Hampshire Compiled from the Town's Original Record Books, 1714–1820, and Other Sources*, 47. The undated marriage of "Thos. Odel and Mary Rundlet" appears in records kept by Rev. Edward Allen, the first settled minister in Greenland, from 1710 to 1737. For use of the nickname "Molly," see Martha Brackett Walker, "Some Descendants of George Veasey of Stratham, New Hampshire," page 10; MSS G VEA550, NEHGS.

⁶⁶ "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 1 (July 1903–April 1904): 189, citing Stratham Town Records (STR) 1:219. For her mother's surname, see Odiorne, *A Rundlett-Randlett Genealogy: Mainly Descendants of Charles Runlett of Exeter, N.H., 1652?–1709*, 4. For her death, see Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," 38.

mother, Hannah (Satchell) Smith, were half-siblings, making Mary and Thomas (half-)first cousins.⁶⁷

The forty-four-year marriage of Thomas and Mary coincided with the transformation of Stratham from a frontier settlement of an estimated 660 residents to a town of more than 1,100 in 1776.⁶⁸ Indians still lived nearby during the 1740s, and although Stratham escaped serious conflict, residents would have been concerned by violence in the area.⁶⁹ The era included a religious schism in town that spilled into everyday life and a revolution that created a new nation. The larger events were a backdrop to the daily challenge of providing for a growing family, securing a future, and participating in town affairs.

Thomas was well established in Stratham by the time of his marriage in 1737. He had purchased nearly 75 acres from his stepfather, including a residence, had set up his own household, and was working as a cordwainer.⁷⁰ He was also a real estate investor. The 1720s brought a dramatic uptick in land speculation to New Hampshire, and Thomas was an active participant. Increased immigration created pressure to expand settlements, and a prolonged period of peace allowed residents to seek investment opportunities.⁷¹ His first acquisition was in the Town of Bow, about fifty miles northwest of Stratham; he was one of the original 160 proprietors.⁷² It was a local trend; 91 of the 160 were Stratham residents.⁷³

In the early 1730s, Thomas purchased two more parcels—a home lot and 500 acres in Nottingham for £100⁷⁴ and 160 acres for £9 in

⁶⁷ Odiorne, *A Rundlett-Randlett Genealogy: Mainly Descendants of Charles Rundlett of Exeter, N.H., 1652?–1709*, 1–4.

⁶⁸ For the population estimate in 1732, see Jay Mack Holbrook, *New Hampshire 1732 Census* (Oxford, Massachusetts: Holbrook Institute, 1981), 9. For the 1,100 figure, see Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 2nd edition, 157.

⁶⁹ Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane*, 81–82.

⁷⁰ Holbrook, *New Hampshire 1732 Census*, 36 and 55. Tom Odvall appears on page 55 with two taxable heads, while Ebenezer Folsham appears with one taxable head on page 36. The other male in Tom's household may have been an apprentice cordwainer.

⁷¹ Daniel E. Van Deventer, *The Emergence of Provincial New Hampshire, 1623–1741* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976), 78–79.

⁷² D. Hamilton Hurd, editor, *History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, New Hampshire* (Philadelphia, PA: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1885), 266; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofmerrima00hurd#page/n9/mode/2up>; accessed 10 January 2014).

⁷³ Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane*, 87.

⁷⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 18:240–241, Sarah Wentworth to Thomas Odell, 7 January 1731/32. The number of acres was not explicitly stated in the deed, but Sarah was identified as the sole heir of Mark Hunking, who acquired an Associate

Barnstead.⁷⁵ Nottingham was much closer to Stratham and was already being settled.⁷⁶ Barnstead was the more speculative investment; its distance and location kept it from being developed until 1767.⁷⁷ Thomas, not ready to convey part of his Stratham property to the next generation, settled his oldest son and namesake on part of the Nottingham tract.⁷⁸ He sold the rest of the tract in pieces during his lifetime: 100 acres for £50 pounds in 1768⁷⁹, another 100 acres for £90 in 1777⁸⁰, and then, in the biggest return, 50 acres for £500 pounds in 1779, a fiftyfold gain.⁸¹ The property in Bow did not appreciate as much due to litigation over competing proprietary claims; Thomas sold the first division of 40 acres in

Proprietor's share—500 acres and a home lot—by virtue of his political prominence. For Hunking's status as a Proprietor, see See Rev. Elliott C. Cogswell, *History of Nottingham, Deerfield and Northwood: Comprised within the Original Limits of Nottingham, Rockingham County, N.H., With Records of the Centennial Proceedings at Northwood, and Genealogical Sketches* (Manchester, New Hampshire: John B. Clarke, 1878), 85; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<http://archive.org/stream/historyofnotting00cogs#page/n5/mode/2up>; accessed 3 September 2013).

⁷⁵ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 34:423–424, William Pottle deed to Thomas Oadle, 6 February 1730. The number of acres was not stated explicitly in the deed, but Pottle conveyed the Proprietor's share originally owned by John Wallingford to Thomas. The share totaled 160 acres, 100 of which Thomas devised in his will to his daughter Mercy Wiggin; the rest went to his sons, Thomas and James, which they conveyed to their brother-in-law, Henry Kenniston. See Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate Papers, Old Series, Docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), Will, 20, December 1779; FHL microfilm 1578904; Strafford County, New Hampshire, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 19:359, Thomas and James Odle to Henry Kennison, 22 December 1794; FHL microfilm 16385.

⁷⁶ Cogswell, *History of Nottingham, Deerfield and Northwood: Comprised within the Original Limits of Nottingham, Rockingham County, N.H.*, 77–84. Nottingham is 12.9 miles from Stratham; Barnstead is 35.4 miles. “Getting Directions,” *Google Maps* (<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/>; accessed 31 March 2014).

⁷⁷ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 9:825.

⁷⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate Papers, Old Series, Docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), Will, 20 December 1779. Thomas left his son Thomas land in Nottingham “where he now dwells.”

⁷⁹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 103:509–10, Thomas Odel to Jeremiah Bachelder, 15 June 1768.

⁸⁰ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 115:365, Thomas Odel to Nathan Prescott, 2 April 1777.

⁸¹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 111:557, Thomas Odel to Joseph Henderson, 4 December 1779.

1745⁸² for 135 “Old Tenor Bills of Credit,” a significantly less valuable currency than pounds.⁸³ Thomas held the Barnstead property for life.⁸⁴

Thomas was a cordwainer by trade but would have farmed at least enough to meet his own family’s needs, making shoes between plowing, sowing, mowing, and tending to animals.⁸⁵ He had acquired 75 acres of local property from his stepfather, and it’s likely that he was farming it or at least working with Ebenezer before the deeds were executed. Although the land was fertile, relatively flat, and free of rocks, the climate could be unforgiving, with extremes of drought and cold.⁸⁶ Just after Ebenezer’s death, Thomas’ mother deeded the Exeter salt marsh property to him;⁸⁷ it provided highly nutritious hay for livestock and was a major farming asset.⁸⁸

Thomas and Mary’s children probably began arriving around 1740. Lydia, who lived to young adulthood, may have been their firstborn.⁸⁹ A

⁸² Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 82: 394–95, Thomas Odel to Jonathan Chase, 28 March 1754.

⁸³ Old tenor currency was worth roughly 1/3 to 1/4 of a pound. See George Bancroft, *A Plea for the Constitution of the U.S. of America Wounded in the House of Its Guardians* (New York: Harper, 1886), 19; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/pleaforconstitut00bancuoft>; accessed 12 January 2013). For more detail on Bow’s history, see David A. Bundy, *100 Acres More or Less: The History of the Lnd and People of Bow, New Hampshire* (Canaan, New Hampshire: Bow Town History Committee and Phoenix Publishing, 1975), especially pages 41–47.

⁸⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), will, 20 December 1779.

⁸⁵ Samuel Lane was also a cordwainer by trade. Brown’s book, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane, 1718–1806: A New Hampshire Man and His World*, provides particularly relevant context to the dual pursuit, as does the daybook of Josiah Brown, another Stratham cordwainer. See Josiah Brown and Graeme Mann, *Daybook, S.C. 1790* [Stratham, New Hampshire?: Stratham Historical Society?, 1987?]. This is a typed transcript of Brown’s daybook, catalogued as a book and held at NEHGS.

⁸⁶ For a description of the land, see Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 2nd edition, 95. For a detailed account of the weather and its impact on farming during Thomas’ life, see Samuel Lane and Charles Lane Hanson, *Journal for the Years, 1739–1803* (Concord, New Hampshire: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1937), 64–101. This is a published and more accessible version of portions of Lane’s journal.

⁸⁷ Folsom, *Genealogy of the Folsom Family*, 42–43.

⁸⁸ John M. Holman, “The Salt Marsh & Salt Haying,” article, Lane Memorial Library (Hampton, New Hampshire), *Hampton History* (<http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us/hampton/history/holman/index.htm>; accessed 13 January 2014).

⁸⁹ Lane, “An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham,” 22. Lane’s records of deaths did not typically refer to infants or young children by first name, so it is likely that Lydia had achieved at least young adulthood before her death.

daughter, Mercy, born in 1742, became the wife of Joseph Wiggin.⁹⁰ Mercy was followed by a son, Thomas, in 1744.⁹¹ Two young children died in November 1750, one on the 12th and one on the 14th.⁹²

A daughter, Hannah, was born in 1753. Although no birth, marriage, or death record names her parents, Hannah is identified as the daughter of Thomas and Mary by the sum of genealogical evidence. Thomas named a daughter, Hannah Kenniston, in his 1779 will and left her property in Barnstead.⁹³ That property was sold in 1789 by Henry and Hannah Kenniston, his wife.⁹⁴ Hannah Kinnison's birth date, 2 August 1753, was recorded in Stratham town records along with the birth date of her husband, Henry, and those of their children.⁹⁵ That birth date fits into the period in which other children of Thomas and Mary were born. Naming patterns further affirm the kinship between Hannah and her parents: She was given the same name as Thomas' mother, and, in turn, she named her oldest daughter Molly after her mother. Two other daughters were given even more specific family names of Hannah's sisters—Mercy Wiggin Kenniston and Lydia Odell Kenniston.⁹⁶

⁹⁰ Arthur C. Wiggin, Agnes P. Bartlett, and Alexander Lincoln, "Wiggin Genealogy: A Combination of Manuscripts in the Library of the New Hampshire Historical Society," 11 and 22; MS 1265 GWIG, NEHGS.

⁹¹ "Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 17 July 2013), SAR Membership Number 87507, patriot Thomas Odell; citing original data from the Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, Kentucky.

⁹² Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," page 11. The published transcription refers to Thomas "Odds" but the original diary clearly reads "Odel."

⁹³ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1791), will, 20 December 1779.

⁹⁴ Strafford Co., New Hampshire, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 12:389, Henry Kenison and Hannah Kenison to Moses Emerson, 2 March 1789; FHL microfilm 16382.

⁹⁵ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, page 566, the births of Henry Kinnison's family, 1749–1796, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 13, citing STR 2:304.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.* Mercy Wiggin was Hannah's sister's name after marrying Joseph Wiggin. Lydia Odell Kenniston was probably named for her unmarried aunt.

The year after Hannah's birth, Thomas and Mary suffered a stillborn loss.⁹⁷ James, the couple's last child, was born in June 1759 and named for Mary's father.⁹⁸

The Great Awakening, a religious revival that challenged the old order, had its inception in Massachusetts in 1734 and swept through communities in the 1740s.⁹⁹ Stratham was no exception. By 1744, the separatist faction in town had gained a majority and called a minister who preached to their new preferences. They insisted on hearing him at the meeting house on a Sunday afternoon and verbally attacked the incumbent minister, Henry Rust; the incident resulted in criminal charges. Samuel Lane, then the tithingman tasked with preserving order on the Sabbath, spent 13 days in court as the dispute made its way to the Superior Court of the Judicature.¹⁰⁰ Thomas was elected to succeed Lane as tithingman in 1745, his first town office.¹⁰¹ His service in that capacity would have put him on the side of the established order in the dispute, which didn't end until the factions agreed to call a "new Light" minister, the Rev. Joseph Adams, in 1756.¹⁰² Thomas did not embrace the change; he was one of many inhabitants who relied on a "dissenter" tax exemption to avoid paying taxes to support Adams.¹⁰³ Thomas' wife, Mary, joined the church

⁹⁷ Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," page 16. "Thos Odel had a child Dead-born."

⁹⁸ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record, 1784–1873, loose family record page from unknown Bible; photographed by the author; Ephemera 1842–1946, Ms. 22, Box 1, Folder 16, Portsmouth Historical Society Collection; Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The children's names were written in large block letters, apparently at different times. The names of their spouses, marriage dates, and death dates were written above each name. The names of James and Hannah and their dates (only month and year for James) were written near the bottom of the page but are very faded. A partial marriage date for James and Hannah was written in ink and includes the name of the officiant, Rev. McClintock. The page is torn and chunks are missing on each side. No provenance information is on file at the repository.

⁹⁹ Samuel Eliot Morison, *The Oxford History of the American People* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1965), 151.

¹⁰⁰ Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane*, 68–70.

¹⁰¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, page 104, minutes of 25 March 1745 meeting.

¹⁰² Robert F. Lawrence, *The New Hampshire Churches; Comprising Histories of the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in the State, with Notices of Other Denominations: Also Many Interesting Incidents Connected with the First Settlement of Towns* ([Claremont, New Hampshire?]: Claremont Manufacturing Company, 1856), 141; digital images, *Google Play* (<http://play.google.com/>; accessed 18 January 2014).

¹⁰³ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, page 171; minutes of 25 March 1757 meeting.

in May of 1759, perhaps as a sign of her acceptance of the new minister.¹⁰⁴ She may have also needed spiritual support; their daughter Lydia died just a few weeks later while Mary was eight months pregnant with their last child.¹⁰⁵ When a new meeting house was built in 1768, Thomas bid £13-3-5 on a relatively prestigious pew location, a public sign of his eventual reconciliation.¹⁰⁶

Thomas' involvement in town affairs expanded. In 1757, he was elected a surveyor of the highway, a middle management task that required recruiting and supervising residents on road repair.¹⁰⁷ Four years later, he was elected constable for two years, following directly in his stepfather's footsteps.¹⁰⁸ He was elected one of five selectmen in 1763 and 1764, the pinnacle of duty and responsibility in town government.¹⁰⁹

During the last decade of his life, Thomas witnessed the American Revolution, possibly with the same mixed emotions that were evident in Stratham as a whole. The town's proximity and connection to Massachusetts meant that conflict literally hit close to home. On 7 February 1774, six months after the Boston Tea Party resulted in retaliation from the British Parliament, residents of Stratham registered strenuous opposition to taxation without representation, signaling their intent to boycott East India Company products and repugnance for those who didn't agree.¹¹⁰ Later that year, they sent support—in the form of cattle—to residents of Boston hit by a punitive port closure.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁴ Stratham Congregational Church (Stratham, New Hampshire), Records, 1746–1913, Vol. 1, page 32, “Mary Odle own'd the covenant and was taken into the chh” (1759); Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society.

¹⁰⁵ Lane, “An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham,” 22. For the birth of the youngest child, see James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

¹⁰⁶ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, 159?; minutes of 25 March 1775 meeting.

¹⁰⁷ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, 171; minutes of 25 March 1757 meeting. For a description of the job, see Cook, *The Fathers of the Towns*, 25.

¹⁰⁸ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, 272, minutes of 25 March 1761 meeting.

¹⁰⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, 294, minutes of 25 March 1763 meeting, and page 304, minutes of 26 March 1764 meeting. Cook describes selectmen as “chief executive authorities.” See Cook, *The Fathers of the Towns*, 2.

¹¹⁰ Col. R. M. Scammon, “A Country Town in the Revolution,” *The Granite Monthly* 25 (July 1898–December 1898), 13.

¹¹¹ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 2nd edition, 160.

On 12 April 1776, the Chairman of the New Hampshire Committee for Safety called upon men over the age of 21 to sign a declaration promising “at the Risk of [their] Lives and Fortunes” to “oppose the Hostile Proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies, against the United American Colonies.” Refusals to sign were recorded. Thomas signed the document, known as the Association Test, as did his son Thomas, then living in Nottingham.¹¹² Several prominent Tories resided in Stratham and publicly espoused their views; the town had one of the highest numbers of nonsigners in the state—42 out of 173.¹¹³ But the town was also home to a disproportionate number of young men, and 171 of them answered the call to service. At least seventeen gave their lives.¹¹⁴ Thomas watched his namesake enlist in service and was no doubt relieved that he returned safely.¹¹⁵

In 1779, Thomas, apparently in failing health, dictated his will to Samuel Lane; his signature is legible but shaky.¹¹⁶ He died two years later, in August 1781.¹¹⁷ He bequeathed “two Cows, four Sheep, [his] Riding Chair and Horse; and all [his] Household goods” to his widow, Mary, and her heirs and assigns, and one third of the improvement on all his real estate for her natural life. In September, Mary hired Lane to write her will, but she died in November, possibly before executing it.¹¹⁸ The inventory of Thomas’ estate included items that belonged to her. It was assessed at just over £1,419 pounds; real property accounted for more than 80% of the value.¹¹⁹

¹¹² Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 30:1, 107, and 145.

¹¹³ Scammon, “A Country Town in the Revolution,” 18–19. For a comparison to other New Hampshire towns, see Jay Mack Holbrook, *New Hampshire 1776 Census* (Oxford, Massachusetts: Holbrook Institute, 1976), ii–iii.

¹¹⁴ Scammon, “A Country Town in the Revolution,” 20–21.

¹¹⁵ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 14:231. Tho^s Odell appears as a corporal in the return of Captain Cutting Cielly’s Company at Pierce’s Island on 5 November 1775.

¹¹⁶ Rockingham County, New Hampshire Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1791), will, 20 December 1779. The handwriting was compared to examples of Lane’s handwriting in Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane*, 11, 16, and 25.

¹¹⁷ Lane, “An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham,” 38.

¹¹⁸ Samuel Lane, “1781–1787 Daybook; MS 1991-095, Lane Family Papers, 1727–1899,” unpaginated, entries for 1781. Lane, “An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham,” 38.

¹¹⁹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), inventory, 13 November 1781.

Son Thomas inherited land in Nottingham on which he was living, while James inherited the Stratham property, as well as the Exeter marshland. James also received Thomas' pew in the Congregational meeting house, valued at £15. Thomas' sons were named co-executors.¹²⁰ Thomas' married daughters, Mercy Wiggin and Hannah Kenniston, also received land. Hannah's bequest was shared with Daniel French, identified as Thomas' grandson and most likely her son from a previous marriage.¹²¹ Mercy, Hannah, and Daniel received the less valuable investment land in Bow and Barnstead, respectively; the women's property came immediately under the control of their husbands.¹²² At his death, Thomas still owned husbandry and farming equipment, as well as stores of hay, rye, potatoes, and wheat.¹²³ It's likely that son James had already taken over farming duties.

Thomas² and Mary had at least seven children, probably all born in Stratham.¹²⁴

- 3 i. **LYDIA ODELL**, born [—?—]; died 25 May 1759 in Stratham.¹²⁵
- 4 ii. **MERCY ODELL**, born 1742; died 19 January 1833;¹²⁶ married about 1761¹²⁷ **JOSEPH WIGGIN**;¹²⁸ died destitute about

¹²⁰ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), will, 20 December 1779.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), inventory, 13 November 1781. For women's legal rights, see Marylynn Salmon, *Women and the Law of Property in Early America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 15.

¹²³ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1781), inventory, 13 November 1781.

¹²⁴ See previous discussion of infant loss on page 93. Those in this list of children were all named in Thomas' will, cited above, with the exception of Lydia, who died in 1759.

¹²⁵ Lydia's birth order placement is estimated. Her parents married in 1737; she could have well been a first-born. For her death, see footnote 89.

¹²⁶ Rev. Asa Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," page 27; Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society (NHHS). This typescript document is a copy of Rev. Merrill's diary made by Merrill's granddaughter, Bell Merrill Draper, in 1911 and presented by her to NHHS. It is catalogued as a book. The diary was independently transcribed by Priscilla Hammond and included in her manuscript "Additional vital records of Stratham, New Hampshire: marriage intentions and marriages 1743–1879, deaths 1786–1859," MS 2776, NEHGS. Where Merrill is cited in this narrative, the entry was compared with Hammond's version for consistency.

¹²⁷ Wiggin, Bartlett, and Lincoln, "Wiggin Genealogy: A Combination of Manuscripts in the Library of the New Hampshire Historical Society," 11.

- 1817,¹²⁹ son of Joseph Wiggin and Susanna Barker. The couple had two known children: (a) Joseph, born 1762, and (b) Chase, born 1763.¹³⁰ Mercy lived most of her waning years with her younger brother, James, with support from the town.¹³¹
- 5 iii. **THOMAS ODELL**, born 1744; died in Dixmont, Penobscot County, Maine, between 1837 and 1840; married about 1764 **SARAH DOW**.¹³² He settled in nearby Nottingham by 1776 on land owned by his father and devised to him in his father's will.¹³³ He served as a corporal in the Continental Army in 1775 under Captain Cutting Cielly.¹³⁴ By 1807 he had removed to Maine, where he signed a petition to incorporate the town of

¹²⁸ For his birth, see "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 14, citing STR 2:310.

¹²⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 655, money paid by selectmen, 1817; New Hampshire State Library, Concord; FHL microfilm 15320. The town paid for the digging of Joseph's grave, mourning apparel for his widow, and rum and crackers for his funeral.

¹³⁰ Wiggin, Bartlett, and Lincoln, "Wiggin Genealogy: A Combination of Manuscripts in the Library of the New Hampshire Historical Society," 22.

¹³¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 487, minutes of 13 March 1821 meeting; New Hampshire State Library, Concord; FHL microfilm 15319. It was voted that the "widdow Mercy Wiggin live with her brother James Odell . . . for which he shall receive thirty eight dollars annually."

¹³² For his birth and marriage dates, see "Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, SAR Membership Number 87507, patriot Thomas Odell. For his date of death, see *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Maine*, vol. 26, July Term 1846 (1848), 295–305; digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.com/>; accessed 15 September 2013); case name was *Diana G. Emery v. Levi G. Vinall*. Thomas Odell died between executing a deed on 18 March 1837 and the 1840 federal enumeration. Odell was likely the 80-year-old male residing in the household of his son-in-law Lot Vinal in 1830 but was not present in 1840. Testimony in the above case corroborates his death during that period. See 1830 U.S. Census, Penobscot County, Maine, population schedule, Dixmont, page 495, line 25, Lot Vinal; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 5 January 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 51, and 1840 U.S. Census, Penobscot County, Maine, population schedule, Dixmont, page 232, line 19, Lot Vinal; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 5 January 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 149.

¹³³ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 30:107. Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate Papers, Old Series, docket 4742, Thomas Odel (1791), will, 20 December 1779.

¹³⁴ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 14:231. Tho^s Odell appears as a corporal in the return of Captain Cutting Cielly's Company at Pierce's Island on 5 November 1775.

- Dixmont.¹³⁵ He and Sarah had seven known children: (a) Thomas, born 1770;¹³⁶ (b) John, born [—?—];¹³⁷ (c) Joseph, born 1772;¹³⁸ (d) Jacob, born 1777;¹³⁹ (e) James, born [—?—];¹⁴⁰ (f) Noah, born [—?—];¹⁴¹ and (g) Nancy, born 1784,¹⁴² with whom Thomas lived at the end of his life.¹⁴³
- 6 iv. **HANNAH ODELL**, born 2 August 1753;¹⁴⁴ died in Stratham 16 February 1835;¹⁴⁵ apparently had a son named Daniel, born about 1768, fathered by Lt. Daniel French of Stratham, but no

¹³⁵ Llewellyn P. Toothaker and Eleanor A. Toothaker, *The History of Dixmont, Maine* (Dixmont, Maine: Town of Dixmont, 1939), 3–4.

¹³⁶ “Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970,” digital images, *Ancestry.com*, SAR Membership Number 87507, patriot Thomas Odell (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 5 April 2017).

¹³⁷ Mary E. Neal Hanaford, Arranger, *Meredith, N.H.: Annals and Genealogies* ([Concord, New Hampshire: Rumsey Press,] 1932), 372–373.

¹³⁸ Ezra Stearns and New Hampshire Genealogy, *Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*, 4 volumes (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1908), 4:1859; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalfami04stearn>; accessed 26 July 2009); and Rev. M. T. Runnels, *History of Sanbornton, New Hampshire in Two Volumes*, 2 volumes (Boston, Mass.: Alfred Mudge & Son, 1881), 2:532–533.

¹³⁹ Hanaford, *Meredith, N.H.: Annals and Genealogies*, 372–373. For more detail, see Everett S. Stackpole and Winthrop S. Meserve, *History of the Town of Durham New Hampshire (Oyster River Plantation) with Genealogical Notes*, 2 volumes ([Durham: Town of Durham], 1913), 2:297.

¹⁴⁰ Hanaford, *Meredith, N.H.: Annals and Genealogies*, 372–373.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² David W. Hoyt, *A Genealogical History of the Hoyt, Haight, and Hight Families: With Some Account of the Earlier Hyatt Families* (Providence and Boston: D. W. Hoyt and H. Hoyt, 1871), 184; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/agenealogicalhi00hoytgoog>; accessed 28 December 2013).

¹⁴³ *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Maine*, volume 26, July Term 1846 (1848), 295–305; digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.com/>; accessed 15 September 2013); case name was *Diana G. Emery v. Levi G. Vinall*.

¹⁴⁴ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, 506, the births of Henry Kinnison’s family, 1749–1796, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 13, citing STR 2:304.

¹⁴⁵ “Deaths,” *Salem (Massachusetts) Gazette*, 24 February 1835, 3, “In Stratham, N.H., 16th inst., Mrs. Hannah Kenniston, age 83;” digital images, *Early American Newspapers, Series I 1690–1876* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 29 July 2013).

marriage record was found;¹⁴⁶ married about 1774 **HENRY KENNISTON**.¹⁴⁷ Henry served in the Revolutionary War,¹⁴⁸ was a tailor,¹⁴⁹ and later operated a tavern in Stratham.¹⁵⁰ The births of eight children to Hannah and Henry are listed in Stratham town records: (a) Molly, born 1775; (b) Hannah, born 1778; (c) Marcy [Mercy] Wiggin, born 1780; (d) Nancy, born 1783; (e) Useljell [Ursula], born 1786; (f) Lydia Oldel [Odell], born 1789; (g) Farezina [Fairozina], born 179? [page torn]; and

¹⁴⁶ Thomas Odell named a grandson, Daniel French, in his will and devised property in Barnstead to him and Hannah Kenniston jointly. Hannah's husband, Henry Kenniston (also spelled Kennistone, Kennison/Kenison, and Kinnison in records), acted on behalf of Daniel French, a minor, in 1785, when a dispute arose over the Barnstead property. See Henry Harrison Metcalf, editor, *Laws of New Hampshire including Public and Private Acts, Resolves, Votes, Etc., Vol. 5, First Constitutional Period, 1784–1792* (Concord, New Hampshire: Rumford Press, 1916), 122–123; digital images, *Google Play* (<http://www.play.google.com/>; accessed 5 November 2013). See Chapter 17, “An Act to Restore Henry Kennison to his right in certain land in Barnstead.” In 1789, Daniel, then living in Portsmouth and of legal age, sold his share of the property inherited from Thomas Odell to Henry. See Strafford County, New Hampshire, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 12:90–91; Daniel French to Henry Kennison, 2 September 1789; FHL microfilm 16382. In 1805, Daniel French released his rights to the land of his late father, Lt. Daniel French, in favor of his brother Joseph. See “New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769–1936,” digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 28 March 2014), image copy, Rockingham County Estate papers, Old Series, Docket 7361, Daniel French (1805), Release, 28 March 1805; imaged from FHL microfilm 1618000. According to Stratham Vital Records, the offspring of Lt. Daniel French and his wife Martha Wiggin, whom he married on 16 December 1768, were Joseph, Mary, Noah, William, David, and Susa [sic]. Daniel was not included in the list. For the marriage of Daniel (Sr.) and Martha Wiggin, see “New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947,” index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 30 September 2014), marriage of Daniel French and Martha Wiggin, 16 December 1768; imaged from FHL microfilm 1000990. For their reported offspring, see “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 16, citing STR 2:313.

¹⁴⁷ The marriage date of 1774 is suggested by the 1775 birth date of Henry and Hannah's oldest daughter, Molly. See Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, page 566, the births of Henry Kinnison's family, 1749–1796, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 13, citing STR 2:304.

¹⁴⁸ Bouton *et al.*, editors, *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 14:370, 378, 491.

¹⁴⁹ Jabez Lane, “1784–1730 Ledger,” Volume 4; MS 1991-095, Lane Family Papers, 1727–1899, 13 and 80.

¹⁵⁰ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 252.

- (h) Henry Augustus, born 1796.¹⁵¹ In addition, the couple had a stillbirth in 1785¹⁵² and lost an infant in 1792.¹⁵³ Hannah, Henry, their daughters Lydia and Fairozina, and their youngest child and only son Henry, who died at twenty months, are all buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Stratham.¹⁵⁴
- + 7 v. **JAMES³ ODELL**, born June 1759;¹⁵⁵ died 14 August 1834;¹⁵⁶ married 22 November 1782 or 1783 **HANNAH VEASEY**.¹⁵⁷

THIRD GENERATION

7. JAMES³ ODELL (Thomas², Thomas¹), born probably in Stratham June 1759; died 14 August 1834;¹⁵⁸ married 22 November 1782 or 1783 **HANNAH VEASEY**,¹⁵⁹ born May 1751, died 19 May 1826,¹⁶⁰ daughter of George and Lydia (Morrison) Veasey.¹⁶¹

¹⁵¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, volume 1, 1716–1783, state copy, 566, the births of Henry Kinnison's family, 1749–1796, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 13, citing STR 2:304. The state copy is not a transcription but a photocopy of the original, allowing for additional analysis. The names and birthdates of the youngest two children, Farezina and Henry, appear to have been entered at different times and later than the other entries. Months and days are included in the Town Records. The spelling Fairozina is used on her cemetery marker; see Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Kenniston family markers; read and photographed by author, 7 August 2013.

¹⁵² Lane, "An account of the persons who have Died in the Town of Stratham," 41.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, 45.

¹⁵⁴ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Kenniston family markers.

¹⁵⁵ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

¹⁵⁶ Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," page 28. See also "Deaths," *Exeter* (New Hampshire) *News-Letter*, 26 August 1834, 3, column 5.

¹⁵⁷ The Bible record includes the phrase "married in 1783 by Dr. McClintock" in very dark ink between the faded names of James Odell and Hannah Veasey. No month or date was included. See James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record. A family compilation reports the date as 22 November 1782. See Walker, "Some Descendants of George Veasey of Stratham, New Hampshire," page 10.

¹⁵⁸ For his birth, see James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record. For his death, see Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," 28.

¹⁵⁹ *Supra*, footnote 157.

¹⁶⁰ Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," 23.

¹⁶¹ Walker, "Some Descendants of George Veasey of Stratham, New Hampshire," 10.

James and Hannah grew up on neighboring farms and probably knew each other well.¹⁶² It was more than a marriage of convenience; Hannah was congratulated before their wedding on their mutual affection.¹⁶³ They were the first generation of Stratham Odells to be enumerated in a federal decennial census, in 1790; their household already included a son and two daughters.¹⁶⁴ The first detailed map of Stratham was drawn three years later; the land marked “J. Odel” lay on Middle Road, aptly named for its proximity to the geographical center of town.¹⁶⁵ Houses were drawn in rough proportion to their sizes, and the Odell house was larger than most. Their immediate neighbors were B. Merrill to the west and Joshua Lane, son of Samuel, to the east. The Moore family lived across the road. Those families would remain their neighbors for most of the nearly 50 years that James owned the land.¹⁶⁶

James’ attention was on his farm, family, and church. He was neither an investor nor active in town government. He was of average means and,

¹⁶² Walker, “Some Descendants of George Veasey of Stratham, New Hampshire,” leaf after page 10. As shown on a hand-drawn map between pages 10 and 11, George Veasey, Hannah’s father, owned the farm next door to J. Odell’s farm from 1752 until 1770, the year Hannah would have turned 18.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.* An unidentified correspondent wrote these words to Hannah: “[I] congratulate you on your adventure and am Very happy to here that you and Mr. odel are so Near Connected as to make your selves happy in Marriage as Persons are Muttely agreed in each other.”

¹⁶⁴ 1790 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 178, arranged alphabetically by surname, James Odel; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M637, roll 7.

¹⁶⁵ Phinehas Merrill, “Plan of the Town of Stratham New Hampshire, July 17, 1793,” Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord. The map has been widely reproduced; for example, see Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 2nd edition, frontispiece.

¹⁶⁶ No 1800 census for Stratham survives. See Alice Eichholz and Ancestry Publishing, *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources*, 3rd edition (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004), 430–431. Merrill, Lane, and Moore appear both above and below Odell in the next two federal censuses. See 1810 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 63 (stamped), James Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M252, roll 25; and 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 191, James Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 77.

over the years, sold about one third of the family land.¹⁶⁷ He apparently never owned more than one horse and two oxen.¹⁶⁸

James' religious affiliation shifted over time. He and Hannah chose the Congregationalist minister of Greenland, Rev. Samuel McClintock, to marry them instead of Rev. Adams in town.¹⁶⁹ Like his father, James did not pay taxes to support the Congregationalist minister.¹⁷⁰ Perhaps Hannah's influence was in evidence; her uncle and cousin, Thomas Veasey, Sr. and Jr., were on the 1785 roll of Baptist church members.¹⁷¹ But the regular Baptist Church of Stratham had declined, and some suspected that dissenters were merely avoiding taxes and not actively expressing spiritual preferences.¹⁷²

James was not a dissenter in name only, however. When the Baptist Church of Christ, also known as the Christian or Middle Church, was formed in 1808, James, Hannah, and all their children were among the founding members, who numbered about 60.¹⁷³ Some of the early

¹⁶⁷ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 130:327, James Odel to Daniel Jewell, 17 November 1783. Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 174:66, James Odell to Theophilus Smith, 18 January 1806.

¹⁶⁸ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 52–53; Invoices and Assessments, John Moore through Josiah Smith, 1806, pages 82–83; Invoices and Assessments, Joshua Lane through John Piper, Jr., 1808, pages 98–99; Invoices and Assessments, Parker Norris through Ebenezer Taylor, 1811, pages 126–127.

¹⁶⁹ McClintock was identified as the marriage officiant in the Odel Bible record. For McClintock's position, see "Quarterly Obituaries - Capt. John McClintock," *New England Historical & Genealogical Register* 10 (January 1856): 100.

¹⁷⁰ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 52–53; Invoices and Assessments, John Moore through Josiah Smith, 1806, pages 82–83; Invoices and Assessments, Joshua Lane through John Piper, Jr., 1808, pages 98–99; Invoices and Assessments, Parker Norris through Ebenezer Taylor, 1811, pages 126–127.

¹⁷¹ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 146.

¹⁷² For the status of the Baptist Church, see R. M. Scammon, "Down the King's Great Highway: A Sketch of Stratham," *The Granite Monthly* 25 (March 1899): 158. For the opinion of dissenters, see Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 141.

¹⁷³ "The Names of the Members of the Baptist Church of Christ in Stratham," 6 July 1808, Letters pertaining to Church Matters, 1808–1875, Baptist Church (Stratham, New Hampshire); Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord. This collection is a combination of records of the Baptist Church of Christ, formed 1808, also known as the Christian or Middle Church, and later correspondence and documents of the "regular" Baptist church.

meetings were held at James' home, and James Jr. served as the first church clerk.¹⁷⁴

Brother Abner Jones was named moderator for at least one meeting in 1813.¹⁷⁵ The presence of the church reformer ties the Stratham congregation to a larger nondenominational movement that emphasized a direct connection between individuals and the teachings of the Bible.¹⁷⁶ The small congregation pledged to "walk according to the rule of the Gospel as contained in the New Testament" and met "in conference" the last Saturday of every month. Members who missed meetings or were known to have lived intemperately received visits or strongly worded letters of "admonition with love" from their "brethren and sisters."¹⁷⁷ Noah Piper, the first and best known of the church's ministers, and son of a prominent and disapproving Congregationalist father, was known for his "fiery" oratory.¹⁷⁸ James' daughters Charlotte and Mary were both married—Charlotte, twice—by Piper.¹⁷⁹ James' involvement apparently waned, for his name disappears from extant records after February 1813, and at his death he owned a pew in the "regular" Baptist church.¹⁸⁰

James and Hannah's household became a refuge for others. Joseph Wiggin, husband of James' older sister Mercy, died destitute in 1817. The

¹⁷⁴ [Booklet of Baptist Church of Christ Records,] 1808–1818, unpaginated, 10th page, Letters pertaining to Church Matters, 1808–1875, Baptist Church (Stratham, New Hampshire).

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 13th page.

¹⁷⁶ Abner Jones, J. Burnett, and Bradley Cobb, *Abner Jones: A Collection*, Kindle edition (Cobb Publishing, 2013), 103; download from Amazon.com.

¹⁷⁷ [Booklet of Baptist Church of Christ Records,] 1808–1818, unpaginated, 2nd–15th pages, Letters pertaining to Church Matters, 1808–1875, Baptist Church (Stratham, New Hampshire).

¹⁷⁸ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 148–149.

¹⁷⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Volume 2, 1742–1846, page 417; marriage of Thomas Boyd and Charlotte Odell by Noah Piper, 28 April 1814. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906): 164, citing STR 4:191. "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and images from handwritten cards compiled in 1906 from original town records and submitted to the Bureau of Vital Records, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 13 July 2013), marriage of Zebulon Wiggin and Mary Odell, 28 April 1818, by Noah Piper; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001315. "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 27 August 2013), marriage of Jonathan Leavitt and Charlotte Boyd, 27 July 1828 by Noah Piper; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001275.

¹⁸⁰ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), inventory, 25 May 1835.

town paid for his grave to be dug and for his widow's mourning clothes.¹⁸¹ James entered into a long-term agreement with the selectmen to provide for Mercy's "comfortable maintenance during life Doctoring & nursin when sick and deacently buried when dead." He received \$38 annually—a sizeable sum—but posted bonds with "sufficient surety" to ensure his performance.¹⁸² This arrangement was in accordance with new town policy. Boarding of the poor had previously been subject to a bidding process, but arrangements for those "with a bed" were left to the discretion of the town selectmen.¹⁸³ Mercy stayed with her brother at least until 1830, but probably moved to the town poor farm before her death on 19 January 1833.¹⁸⁴

The youngest daughter, Charlotte, married Thomas Boyd in 1814, but he abandoned her almost immediately, leaving for "another British province" with no intent to support her or their son. She and the infant Charles returned to her parents' home.¹⁸⁵ Charlotte remarried in 1828 and left the household, but Charles stayed with his grandfather.¹⁸⁶ The middle

¹⁸¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 655; money paid by selectmen, 1817. The town also paid for rum and crackers for his funeral.

¹⁸² Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 487; minutes of 13 March 1821 meeting. It was voted that the "widdow Mercy Wiggin live with her brother James Odell . . . for which he shall receive thirty eight dollars annually . . ."

¹⁸³ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 449; minutes of 11 March 1817 meeting.

¹⁸⁴ Mercy was likely the 80–90-year-old woman in James' household in 1830. See 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 191, James Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 77. Her death was reported by Asa Merrill. See Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," page 27; "Old Mrs Wiggin at the Farm, [age] 91."

¹⁸⁵ "Deposition of Enoch Boyd," undated; Fam. Mss. 94; Enoch Boyd Papers, n.d.; Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts. Enoch Boyd avowed that his brother Thomas, of Seabrook, New Hampshire, married Charlotte Odell in April 1813 [sic] and left for one of the British Provinces, leaving her and their child entirely without support and did not intend to return. Charlotte and Charles appear to be members of her parents' household in 1820. See 1820 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 433 (stamped), James Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 60.

¹⁸⁶ Charles was likely the 15–20-year-old male in James' household in 1830. See 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 191, James Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 77.

daughter, Eliza, never married but must have been a trusted companion to her father. He named her executrix of his estate.¹⁸⁷

At a time when male offspring typically became farmhands and, later, successors, James' sons made other plans. James Jr. and George attended a nearby preparatory school, taught school in Stratham for a time, and then pursued higher education.¹⁸⁸ Education was clearly valued in their home. Daughter Mary also taught school before her marriage.¹⁸⁹

James and Hannah did not apparently experience deaths of infants or young children, but they did not escape loss. James Jr. died suddenly at the age of 38, in the early prime of his professional and public service career.¹⁹⁰ Eliza died in 1830, robbing her father of companionship and care in his final years.¹⁹¹

Hannah died in 1826, and James soon took steps to settle his affairs. His surviving son, George, was a doctor residing in another town.¹⁹² His

¹⁸⁷ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), will, 23 September 1829; FHL microfilm 1637414.

¹⁸⁸ "U.S. High School Student Lists, 1821–1923," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 24 February 2014), entry for James Odell, age 20 of Stratham, Class of 1805, *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Phillips Exeter Academy* (Exeter, New Hampshire: J. & B. Williams, 1838), page 27; citing material licensed from the American Antiquarian Society. "U.S., High School Student Lists, 1821–1923," entry for George Odell, age 18, Stratham, Class of 1811, *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Phillips Exeter Academy*, page 33. Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 547 and 550 and 558; Discharged payments to James Odell for teaching school in 1807 and 1808. Stratham (New Hampshire), Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, page 610; Discharged payments to George Odell for teaching school in 1812. *Dartmouth College and Associated Schools General Catalogue, 1769–1940* (Hanover, New Hampshire: Dartmouth College Publications, 1940), 892. For George's medical school, see *List of Students Attending the Medical Lectures in Boston, Commencing November 1, 1815* (Boston: s.n., 1815), 2; "Early American Imprints, Series II, Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801–1819," digital images, *NewsBank InfoWeb* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 18 June 2014 on campus at University of Maryland Libraries).

¹⁸⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 580, 582, and 587, discharged payments for 1810, 1811, and 1812.

¹⁹⁰ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41. See below for a full discussion of his career.

¹⁹¹ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

¹⁹² 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, North Hampton, page 216 (penned), line 25, George Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 16 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication

two married daughters were comfortably settled in Stratham.¹⁹³ His unmarried daughter, Eliza, and his teenage grandson, Charles, still lived with him, but he did not pass the property to them. Instead, in April 1829, he sold the Middle Road farm to Samuel Sinclair.¹⁹⁴ On 23 September 1829, he wrote a will, disposing of his personal possessions. Besides naming Eliza as executrix, he made her the residual beneficiary of his estate after specific bequests were honored.¹⁹⁵

Eliza died the following year, but James did not update his will.¹⁹⁶ When he died in 1834, his son, George, petitioned to serve as administrator of his father's estate.¹⁹⁷ James intended to leave two sheep to his daughter Mary Wiggin and a heifer, an oxcart, and wheels to George. His grandsons, by deceased son James, were to receive one sheep each.¹⁹⁸ The inventory detailed furniture and household and kitchen items, but it did not include a cart or any livestock.¹⁹⁹ They had probably been sold to support the aging household.

James owned two church pews—one in the Congregational meeting house, inherited from his father, and one in the Baptist church. The former was valued at \$12 even and the latter at \$12.12.²⁰⁰ He favored his grandson, Charles, with personal items—clothing, a razor, and his stock

M19, roll 77. The record was incorrectly indexed on Ancestry.com as New Castle, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

¹⁹³ In 1850, Mary's husband, Zebulon Wiggin, a shoemaker, owned real estate worth \$700 and served as the town postmaster. Charlotte's husband, Jonathan Leavitt, was farming his land worth \$500. For Wiggin, see 1850 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 261 (penned), dwelling 137, family 144, Zebulon Wiggin household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 28 July 2010), citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 438. For Leavitt, see 1850 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 271 (penned), dwelling 225, family 233, Jonathan Leavitt; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 21 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 438.

¹⁹⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 257:82, James Odell to Samuel Sinclair, 29 April 1829.

¹⁹⁵ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), will, 23 September 1829.

¹⁹⁶ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

¹⁹⁷ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), petition of George Odell, 10 September 1834.

¹⁹⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), will, 23 September 1829.

¹⁹⁹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), inventory, 25 May 1835.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

buckle, a piece of jewelry used to hold a tie. James did not leave anything to his daughter Charlotte.²⁰¹ Perhaps he felt the years of extra support had fulfilled his obligation to her. The estate was appraised at \$113.32.²⁰²

James and Hannah are buried in the Congregationalist Church cemetery.²⁰³ Their names are carved in two modern markers. One is a family marker; the other is a composite marker for twenty early citizens of Stratham. The latter was erected in 2002 after original markers fell into disrepair.²⁰⁴

James³ and Hannah had five children, all born in Stratham:

- + 8 i. Dr. **JAMES⁴ ODELL, JR.**, born 28 October 1784;²⁰⁵ died 22 February 1822;²⁰⁶ married 22 November 1812 **CHARLOTTE HILTON**.²⁰⁷
- 9 ii. **MARY “Polly” ODELL**, born 17 March 1787;²⁰⁸ died in Stratham 6 October 1865;²⁰⁹ married 28 April 1818 **ZEBULON**

²⁰¹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), will, 23 September 1829.

²⁰² Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), inventory, 25 May 1835.

²⁰³ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Odell family marker; read and photographed by the author, 22 August 2011.

²⁰⁴ Memo from Len Lazullo to Jennifer [—?—], 9 September 2010, filed inside Barbara Sewall Clements and Margaret Pearson Tate, “Index to Registration of Grave Plots in Old Cemetery North of Congregational Church Emery Lane, Stratham, N.H.,” 1992, Stratham Historical Society, Stratham, New Hampshire. The construction date of 2002 was established by follow-up communication with a Stratham Historical Society volunteer. Teddie Smith, tedsan@comcast.net, to Malissa Ruffner, e-mail, 18 February 2014, “cemetery,” James Odell File, Odell Research Files; held by the author.

²⁰⁵ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record. See Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Dr. James Odell’s family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

²⁰⁶ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Dr. James Odell’s family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.* See also James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record, and Merrill, “Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859,” page 20.

²⁰⁸ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record. See also Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 636, entries for Zebulon Wiggin’s Family, 1787–1826, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:39.

WIGGIN, son of Nathan and Mehitabel (Norris) Wiggin.²¹⁰ She taught school in Stratham from 1810 to 1812;²¹¹ women typically taught the summer session, when farm work required men in the fields.²¹² Zebulon was appointed Stratham's first postmaster on 30 May 1822²¹³ and served in that capacity for more than 40 years.²¹⁴ The couple had five children: (a) Zebulon, born 1819; (b) Mary, born 1821; (c) Selena, born 1823; (d) James, born 1824; and (e) Andrew, born 1826.²¹⁵ Polly and Zebulon are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Stratham.²¹⁶

- 10 iii. **ELIZA MORRISON ODELL**, born 26 December 1789; died unmarried 20 July 1830 in Stratham.²¹⁷ She was named

²⁰⁹ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and images, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 2 September 2013), death of Mary O. Wiggin, 6 October 1865; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001113.

²¹⁰ "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and images from handwritten cards compiled in 1906 from original town records and submitted to the State Bureau of Vital Records, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 13 July 2013), marriage of Zebulon Wiggin and Mary Odell, 28 April 1818, by Noah Piper; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001315. For the identity of his parents, see John Scales, *History Of Dover, New Hampshire: Containing Historical, Genealogical and Industrial Data of Its Early Settlers, Their Struggles and Triumphs, Tercentenary Edition* (Dover, New Hampshire: City Councils, 1923), 426; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 January 2014).

²¹¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 580, 582, and 587; discharged payments for 1810, 1811, and 1812.

²¹² Scammon, "Down the King's Great Highway: A Sketch of Stratham," 152.

²¹³ Zebulon Wiggin, appointed Stratham, New Hampshire postmaster, 1822, entry 5638; 2nd volume, page 162A; Record of Appointment of Postmasters, Oct. 1789–1832 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1131, roll 2); Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28; National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.

²¹⁴ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Wiggin family marker; read and photographed by the author, 7 August 2013. Zebulon's birth and death dates, 1787–1864, are followed by "First Post Master of the Town Holding the Office 41 Years."

²¹⁵ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 636, entries for Zebulon Wiggin's Family, 1787–1826, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:39.

²¹⁶ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Wiggin family marker.

²¹⁷ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

- executrix in the will written by her father in 1829²¹⁸ but did not survive him.²¹⁹ Her resting place is unknown.
- 11 iv. Dr. **GEORGE ODELL**, born 13 April 1793;²²⁰ died 23 July 1873 in nearby Greenland,²²¹ where he practiced medicine for more than 40 years;²²² married (1) 18 October 1818²²³ **SARAH “Sally” BARTLETT** Towle, daughter of Philip and Betty (Nudd) Towle;²²⁴ married (2) 25 November 1859 **IRENE (DEARBORN) WALDRON** of Portsmouth.²²⁵ George attended Phillips Exeter Academy²²⁶ and lectures at Harvard Medical School.²²⁷ When his older brother died in 1822, he

²¹⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), will, 23 September 1829.

²¹⁹ Merrill, “Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859,” page 25.

²²⁰ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

²²¹ “New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947,” index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 31 January 2014), death of George Odell, 23 July 1873, in Greenland; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001097. “Deaths,” *Independent Statesman* (Concord, New Hampshire), 31 July 1873, No. 44, page 352, column C; digital images, *19th Century U.S. Newspapers* (<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/>; accessed 9 March 2009).

²²² George was living in Greenland by 1834, when he petitioned to become administrator of his father’s estate; see Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 12796, James Odell (1834), petition of George Odell, 10 September 1834. His service to Greenland was documented in a publication by his son-in-law. See M. O. Hall, *Rambles about Greenland in Rhyme* (Hampton, New Hampshire: Peter E. Randall & Friends of Greenland Public Library, 1979), 57–58; Randall’s *Rambles* is a facsimile reprint of a 1900 edition published by A. Mudge, Boston, and includes a preface, footnotes, an index, and additional photographs.

²²³ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

²²⁴ For the identity of Sarah’s parents, see Robert Piercy Dow, *The Book of Dow: Genealogical Memoirs of the Descendants of Henry Dow 1637, Thomas Dow 1639 and Others of the Name, Immigrants to America during Colonial Times Also the Allied Family of Nudd* (Rutland, Vermont: Robert Dow, John W. Dow, and Susan F. Dow and The Tuttle Company, 1929), 537.

²²⁵ “New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947,” index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 10 August 2013), marriage of George Odell and Irene Waldron, 24 November 1859; imaged from FHL microfilm 4243068.

²²⁶ “U.S., High School Student Lists, 1821–1923,” digital images, *Ancestry.com*, entry for George Odell, Stratham, age 18, Class of 1811 in *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Phillips Exeter Academy*, page 33.

²²⁷ *List of Students Attending the Medical Lectures in Boston, Commencing November 1, 1815*, 2.

became guardian to his two nephews and niece²²⁸ and took in the oldest boy, James.²²⁹ He and his first wife had seven children of their own: (a) an infant who lived only a few days in October 1819²³⁰; (b) Rebecca, born about 1821²³¹; (c) a daughter who lived three days in August 1822²³²; (d) George Washington Lafayette, born 1824; (e) Sarah, born 1826; (f) Mary Isabella, born 1828²³³; and (g) Joseph Warren, born 1831.²³⁴ Some 20 years after naming his son for the first American president, Dr. Odell treated Ona Judge Staines, a former slave of Washington's family.²³⁵ Ona, a waiting maid to Martha Washington, escaped in the 1790s, resisted efforts to be recaptured, and lived the rest of her life in Greenland, supported by the town.²³⁶

²²⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10772, James Odell (1822), consent of Charlotte Wiggin and Walter Wiggin regarding guardianship of Odell children, 14 March 1827; FHL microfilm 1631986.

²²⁹ "Stratham, Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894, page 2, columns 3–4. James was probably the 15–20-year-old male enumerated in the household of his uncle in the 1830 federal census. See 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, North Hampton, page 216 (penned), line 25, George Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 16 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 77. The record was incorrectly indexed on *Ancestry.com* as New Castle, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

²³⁰ Susannah J. Clark and Richard Curl, compilers, *The Vital Records of North Hampton, NH: Volume 1: Town Records, 1738–1860; Church Records, 1739–1900* (Melrose, Massachusetts: CV Publishing, 2009), 127.

²³¹ Paul C. Hughes and Paul F. Hughes, compilers, *Persons Buried in Greenland New Hampshire Cemeteries*, (n.p.: Burtonsville, Maryland, 1980), 56. The copy consulted was at Stratham Historical Society, Stratham, New Hampshire. Rebecca's date of death was 14 February 1869; her age at death was 48.

²³² Clark and Curl, *The Vital Records of North Hampton, N.H.*, 129.

²³³ Hillside Cemetery (Greenland, New Hampshire), Odell family marker; read and photographed by the author, 22 August 2011.

²³⁴ "New Hampshire, Deaths and Burials, 1784–1949," index, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 31 January 2014), death of George Odell, born 1831, died 24 March 1910; imaged from FHL microfilm 2168698.

²³⁵ Evelyn B. Gerson, *A Thirst for Complete Freedom: Why Fugitive Slave Ona Judge Staines Never Returned to Her Master, President George Washington*, thesis (A.L.M., Women's Studies), Harvard University, 2000, 139. The copy consulted is held at Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

²³⁶ T. H. A., "Washington's Runaway Slave," *Granite Freeman* (New Hampshire), 22 May 1845, page 1, columns 1–2.

- 12 v. **CHARLOTTE ODELL**, born 12 April 1795;²³⁷ died 22 February 1887;²³⁸ married (1) 28 April 1814 **THOMAS BOYD**²³⁹, with whom she had one son, Charles A., born about 1815;²⁴⁰ married (2) 27 July 1828 widower **JONATHAN LEAVITT**.²⁴¹ She and Jonathan had a son, Joseph, born in

²³⁷ James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record.

²³⁸ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 15 July 2013), death of Charlotte Leavitt, 22 February 1887, in Newington; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001089.

²³⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Volume 2, 1742–1846, page 417; marriage of Thomas Boyd and Charlotte Odell by Noah Piper, 28 April 1814. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906):164, citing STR 4:191.

²⁴⁰ The age of Charles A. Boyd was reported inconsistently on the federal census: 48 (1860), 50 (1870), and 63 (1880). 1860 U.S. Census, Essex County, Massachusetts, population schedule, 4th Ward, City of Lynn, page 331, dwelling 2092, family 2838, Chas. A. Boyd; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 January 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 495. 1870 U.S. Census, Washington, D.C., population schedule, 5th Ward, page 50, dwelling 324, household 385, Chas. A. Boyd; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 January 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 125. 1880 U.S. Census, Washington City, Washington County, District of Columbia, population schedule, Enumeration District 58, page 30B, dwelling 269, family 309, Charles A. Boyd; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 January 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 123. His death record lists his age as 75. "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841–1915," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org/>; accessed 6 November 2013), Charles A. Boyd, 75, dead of general debility, married, carpenter, born at Stratham to Charlotte and Chas. [sic], 29 January 1888; citing Lynn, Norfolk, Massachusetts, volume 391, page 274, State Archives, Boston; imaged from FHL microfilm 960237. These sources suggest a birth year range of 1812 to 1820. Given the relative certainty of the 1814 marriage date of his parents, 1815 is the estimated birth year.

²⁴¹ "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 27 August 2013), marriage of Jonathan Leavitt and Charlotte Boyd, 27 July 1828 by Noah Piper; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001275. Jonathan Leavitt's wife had died in 1827. See Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," page 24.

1834.²⁴² Charlotte and her second husband are buried in the Congregational Church cemetery.²⁴³

FOURTH GENERATION

8. Dr. **JAMES⁴ ODELL, JR.** (James³, Thomas², Thomas¹), born 28 October 1784; died 22 February 1822 at the age of 37;²⁴⁴ married at Newmarket, Rockingham County, 22 November 1812 **CHARLOTTE HILTON**,²⁴⁵ described as “amiable,” born 4 September 1790,²⁴⁶ died 24 November 1866.²⁴⁷

Charlotte was the daughter of Daniel and Sarah “Sally” (Wiggin) Hilton. Her birth, death, and two marriages, all included among New Hampshire state vital records, do not name them but provide the dates and geographical clues of her origin. A birthdate of 4 September 1790 was twice entered in Stratham town records, both well after the fact, with data for her two husbands and children from both marriages. In the first

²⁴² *Find A Grave* (<http://findagrave.com/>; accessed 15 March 2014), memorial pages for Joseph H. Leavitt (died December 21, 1902, age 68 years, 2 months, 17 days), Memorial 80825125, citing Greenwood Cemetery, Stratham, New Hampshire. Leavitt’s birth date on the memorial page is calculated from the date of death and age information on the marker.

²⁴³ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Jonathan Leavitt and Charlotte Leavitt markers; read and photographed by the author, 7 August 2013.

²⁴⁴ For his birth, see James and Hannah (née Veasey) Odel Bible Record. For his death, see Merrill, “Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859,” page 20.

²⁴⁵ Their marriage, along with the births of their children and his death, were entered in town records, apparently some years after the fact. See Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Dr. James Odell’s family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

²⁴⁶ “Married,” *Democratic* (Walpole, New Hampshire) *Republican*, 11 January 1813[, page 3]; digital images, *Early American Newspapers, Series I 1690–1876* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 29 July 2013). The text reads “In New-Market, Doctor James Odell, to the amiable Miss Charlotte Hilton, of N Market.” For her birth, see “New Hampshire, Birth Records, Early to 1900,” 20th-century transcripts by state clerks, index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 13 July 2013), Charlotte Odell, born 4 September 1790; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001026.

²⁴⁷ “New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947,” index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 2 September 2013), death of Charlotte Wiggin, 24 November 1866; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001113.

instance she is referred to as Charlotte Odell, the wife of James; on the next page, she is named Charlotte Wiggin, the wife of Walter. The marriage of Charlotte Odell to Walter Wiggin is recorded between.²⁴⁸ The record of her 1866 death was transcribed from town records onto a preprinted card by the state Office of the Registrar of Vital Statistics at least 15 years after her death.²⁴⁹ Her age was given as 77, but if 1790 is correct, she died in her 77th year, a minor inconsistency. Her birthplace, South Newmarket, a part of Newmarket at the time, was included on the transcription and matches her reported residence at the time of her marriage to James.²⁵⁰

Probate records supply the names of her parents and match the geographical clues. Daniel Hilton, of Newmarket, named his minor grandchildren, children of his son, Daniel [Jr.], in his will dated 4 January 1800—Charlotte, Nancy, and Daniel Hilton.²⁵¹ Charlotte's status as a minor in 1800 is consistent with a 1790 birth. On the maternal side, Simon Wiggin, Esq., of Stratham identified Charlotte Odell and Nancy Hilton as granddaughters in his 1821 will, offspring of his deceased daughter Sally.²⁵² A gravestone in current-day Newfields, formerly South Newmarket, connects Daniel Hilton and Sarah Wiggin in marriage:

²⁴⁸ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, and entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, dates of entry unknown. In the state copies, the two sets of entries appear on the same page.

²⁴⁹ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 2 September 2013), death of Charlotte Wiggin, 24 November 1866.

²⁵⁰ "Married," *Democratic* (Walpole, New Hampshire) *Republican*, 11 January 1813[, page 3].

²⁵¹ "New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769–1936," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 28 March 2014), image copy, Rockingham County Estate papers, Old Series, Docket 10751, Simon Wiggin (1823), Will, 6 March 1821; imaged from FHL microfilm 1631986.

²⁵² "New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769–1936," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 28 March 2014), image copy, Rockingham County Estate papers, Old Series, Docket 6635, Daniel Hilton (1800), Will, 4 January 1800; imaged from FHL microfilm 1617458.

Mrs. Sarah Hilton
consort of
Cap't. Daniel Hilton
daughter of Simon Wiggin, Esq.
& Mrs Hannah Wiggin
died July 14th 1799 Ae. 37²⁵³

Naming patterns in the next generation confirm the kinship. Charlotte named a daughter, Sarah Wiggin Odell, after her mother and bestowed Hilton as a middle name to son George. Daniel Hilton Wiggin, a son from her second marriage, was named for her father.²⁵⁴

James Jr. matriculated at nearby Phillips Exeter Academy in 1805 as a twenty-year-old.²⁵⁵ He was one of three young men from Stratham in the class of forty students, who ranged in age from 11 to 24. The curricula included English, French, Latin, Greek, history, geography, rhetoric, philosophy, logic, and astronomy. Formal diplomas were not granted until 1877, but subject-specific certificates were awarded on examination after six months of study. No tuition was charged at that time. The course of study, admissions process, and finances were all formalized several years

²⁵³ William Carl Tebo, *Inventories of the Graveyards, and Cemeteries of Newfields, New Hampshire* (Newfields, New Hampshire: Newfields Historical Society, 1995), page 210; for the relationship of Newfields to South Newmarket, see page 2. The publication is organized by layout and includes a map of each burying ground, keyed to textual entries. See also *Find A Grave* (<http://findagrave.com/>; accessed 30 April 2014), memorial page for Sarah Wiggins [sic] Hilton (?–1799), Memorial 40767745, citing Hilton Burying Grounds, Newfields, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

²⁵⁴ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, and entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, dates of entry unknown. In the state copies, the two sets of entries appear on the same page.

²⁵⁵ "U.S. High School Student Lists, 1821–1923," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, entry for James Odell, age 20 of Stratham, Class of 1805, *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Phillips Exeter Academy*, page 27. Class membership was designated by year of entry, according to Philips Exeter Academy archivist Edourd L. Desrochers. Edourd Desrochers, Exeter, New Hampshire, edesrochers@exeter.edu, to Malissa Ruffner, e-mail, 18 September 2013, "Academy Archive Form Request: Malissa Ruffner," James Odell, Jr. File, Odell Research Files; held by the author. A later edition of the *Catalogue* confirms that this James Odell is the one who became a doctor and died in 1822. See "U.S., High School Student Lists, 1821–1923," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 21 June 2013), entry for James Odell, M.D., class of 1805, died 1822, *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Phillips Exeter Academy 1783–1883* (Boston: J. S. Cushing & Company, 1883), page 25, citing material licensed by the American Antiquarian Society.

later.²⁵⁶ Dr. Benjamin Abbott, benevolent preceptor, would have overseen James' long days of recitation and study in the second structure built on campus, where the main building stands today.²⁵⁷ It is not known how long James attended or if he received any certificates.

James first appears in Stratham town records after his 21st birthday, paying the 1806 poll tax of \$1.30. Town, state, and county taxes amounted to another \$1.41. Like his grandfather and father before him, he did not pay taxes to support the Congregationalist minister.²⁵⁸ He taught school in Stratham in 1807 and 1808 and was paid a salary of \$17 per month.²⁵⁹

In 1808, he reported \$40 in financial assets—"money at interest"—an indication that his financial horizon was expanding beyond that of his father.²⁶⁰ That same year, he was elected by his fellow citizens to moderate the annual Stratham town meeting.²⁶¹ Moderators were usually the most prominent, well established men in town. Their selection was always the first order of business, and the office called for a man of presence who could control meetings, which often extended to multiple sessions. This rare honor for the 23-year-old highlights James' early promise in civic leadership.²⁶²

James Jr. does not appear in Stratham tax records for 1809.²⁶³ He was probably in Brentwood, New Hampshire, studying medicine with Dr. William Graves before entering Dartmouth Medical College in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1810.²⁶⁴ There is no record of his graduation from

²⁵⁶ Charles H. Bell, *Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire: A Historical Sketch* (Exeter, New Hampshire: New-Letter Press, William B. Morrill, Printer, 1883), 25–26; digital images, *Google Play* (<https://play.google.com/>; accessed 24 February 2014).

²⁵⁷ "U.S. High School Student Lists, 1821–1923," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 24 February 2014), Laurence Crosbie, *Phillips Exeter Academy: A History* (Norwood, Massachusetts: The Plimpton Press, 1923), 55–57, citing material licensed by the American Antiquarian Society.

²⁵⁸ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 52–53, Invoices and Assessments, John Moore through Josiah Smith, 1806.

²⁵⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 547, 550, and 558, discharged payments for 1807 and 1808.

²⁶⁰ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 82–83, Invoices and Assessments, Joshua Lane through John Piper, Jr., 1808.

²⁶¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 331, minutes of 11 April 1808 meeting.

²⁶² Cook, *The Fathers of the Towns*, 25.

²⁶³ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 98–99; Invoices and Assessments, Daniel Jewell through Samuel Pottle, 1809.

²⁶⁴ For his association with Dr. Graves, see D. Hamilton Hurd, *History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, New Hampshire, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its*

Dartmouth, but he attended lectures for several years.²⁶⁵ His training was typical of the period, a combination of apprenticeship and classroom education.²⁶⁶

He spent at least part of 1810 in Stratham teaching school and was probably one of the two young men enumerated in his father's household in August in the federal census.²⁶⁷ When James' name appears in 1811 town records, it carries the title of "Dr." He no longer had money at interest but had acquired a horse.²⁶⁸ His cash probably went toward educational expenses and the means of transportation to those needing his care. He returned to teaching for the next two years even as he began treating the poor in Stratham at the town's expense.²⁶⁹

Firmly established in his career, James married Charlotte in 1812 and turned his attention to establishing their household.²⁷⁰ James bought eight acres of land, including a residence and outbuildings, near the intersection of the two main roads in Stratham in March 1813, paying \$1,200.²⁷¹ James

Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Company, 1882), 550. For his enrollment at Dartmouth, see *Dartmouth College and Associated Schools General Catalogue, 1769–1940*, 892.

²⁶⁵ Inhabitants of Stratham, New Hampshire, Request for Dr. James Odell to be named Justice of the Peace, 3 February 1812; Petitions (chronologically arranged), General Court Records; New Hampshire State Archives, Concord.

²⁶⁶ Barbara Krieger, Archives, Rauner Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, Rauner.Special.Collections.Reference@dartmouth.edu, to Malissa Ruffner, e-mail, 16 October 2013, "Dr. James E. [sic] Odell, Entered 1810," James Odell, Jr. File, Odell Research Files; held by the author. For information about medical education at that time, see Marc McCutcheon, *Everyday Life in the 1800s: A Guide for Writers, Students & Historians* (Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 1993), 157.

²⁶⁷ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 547 and 582; discharged payments, 1810. 1810 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 63 (stamped), James Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 6 November 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M252, roll 25.

²⁶⁸ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 126–27; Invoices and Assessments, Norris Parker through Ebenezer Taylor, 1811.

²⁶⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, pages 589 and 594; discharged payments, 1811 and 1812.

²⁷⁰ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 2 September 2013), death of Charlotte Wiggin, 24 November 1866.

²⁷¹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 200:41, Samuel Avery to James Odell, physician, 31 March 1813.

Eustace Odell was born later that year.²⁷² James Jr. purchased three nearby acres the following year.²⁷³ In 1816, he acquired 25 acres of pastureland from Samuel Lane, Jr., son of Deacon Lane, for \$776, paying \$200 in cash.²⁷⁴ Lane financed the balance.²⁷⁵ Charlotte gave birth to their daughter, Sally, that year.²⁷⁶

James continued his ascent in town affairs. At the annual meeting in 1813, he was chosen as one of the town auditors, whose job was to review the tax collector's books.²⁷⁷ The following year, he was elected town clerk, sworn in immediately, and also named a member of the school committee.²⁷⁸ Town clerks served as scribes, recording decisions and actions taken at meetings and attesting to the records' veracity. They recorded births, deaths, and marriages, as well as earmarks established by stock owners and authorizations to sell spirits on town meeting days. One of James' first official vital record entries was the marriage of his sister Charlotte to Thomas Boyd.²⁷⁹ James would have been custodian of the historical town records and, in that role, responded to inquiries about their contents.²⁸⁰ He was elected town clerk eight consecutive years.²⁸¹ Busy

²⁷² Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

²⁷³ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 205:191, Walter Weeks to James Odell, Jr., 13 August 1814.

²⁷⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 210:92, Samuel Lane, Jr. to James Odell, physician, 1 June 1816. For the filial relationship between the two Samuel Lanes, see Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane*, 35.

²⁷⁵ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 212:31, James Odell, physician, and Charlotte Odell to Samuel Lane, Jr., 1 June 1816.

²⁷⁶ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

²⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 400, minutes of 15 March 1813 meeting.

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 413, minutes of 8 March 1814 meeting.

²⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 417; marriage of Thomas Boyd and Charlotte Odell by Noah Piper, 28 April 1814. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 3 (July 1905–April 1906):164, citing STR 4:191.

²⁸⁰ "Autographed Letter from Paine Wingate to James Odell of Stratham," 14 June 1821; Item 178; Paine Wingate Papers, 1732–1850 (MS Am 198); Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

²⁸¹ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 273.

with town affairs and his professional career, he paid others to plough and sow grain and haul rocks and wood on his land.²⁸²

In 1813 and in 1815, the inhabitants of Stratham petitioned the Governor and Council to name James a justice of the peace, citing his “unblemished character” and his “industry and great perseverance” in pursuit of his education.²⁸³ It was convenient and economical to appoint a doctor to administer oaths and adjudicate minor crimes as he traveled through town attending to patients.²⁸⁴

The Town of Stratham paid James for his services as clerk and reimbursed him for expenses, such as buying a record book and furnishing rooms for selectmen and “victualing” them at meeting times.²⁸⁵ He was paid for his medical services to the poor and occasionally for boarding children who needed his care. James was not only at the center of town activity by virtue of his clerkship and medical service, but he lent money to family members and other residents of town.²⁸⁶ When one of his patients died in 1820 and the named executor declined to serve, the decedent’s heirs asked James to administer the complex, insolvent estate.²⁸⁷

Although James had several income sources, he must have found himself in need of a cash infusion. In 1818, he mortgaged his two smaller tracts of land to Phillips Exeter Academy, his alma mater, whose board of trustees apparently invested its endowment in land.²⁸⁸ He promised to pay off the \$500 loan in one year.

²⁸² Andrew Wiggin, “Account Book,” ledger, MS 1988-025, Farm Accounts, 1813–1838, pages 3, 8, 17, and 28; Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society.

²⁸³ Inhabitants of Stratham, New Hampshire, Request for Dr. James Odell to be named Justice of the Peace, 3 February 1812 and 6 April 1815; Petitions (chronologically arranged), General Court Records.

²⁸⁴ Paul Drake, *What Did They Mean by That?: A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms Old and New* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2008), 171.

²⁸⁵ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 3, 1724–1825, state copy, 646, discharged payments for 1816, page 629, discharged payments for 1814.

²⁸⁶ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), inventory, 14 March 1822; FHL microfilm 1631982.

²⁸⁷ “New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769–1936,” digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 1 March 2014), image copy, Rockingham Co. Estate papers, Old Series, Docket 10085, David Smith (1820), Petition of Jonathan Smith, 10 February 1820; imaged from FHL microfilm 1631903. Dr. James Odell appears as a creditor on the estate inventory, owed for his medical services.

²⁸⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 216:426–27, James Odell to Walter Weeks [trustee], 8 April 1818. For the fiduciary duty of the trustees, see William G. Saltonstall, *John Phillips, 1719–1795, Merchant, Shipowner, Landed Proprietor, and*

Two more sons were born to James and Charlotte. William, born in 1819, lived only six weeks.²⁸⁹ George, who arrived in 1820, grew to adulthood and eventually followed in his father's professional footsteps.²⁹⁰ James' death on 22 February 1822 at age 37 was sudden.²⁹¹ In a cruel coincidence, it occurred on the third anniversary of William's death. Unlike his father and grandfather, who lived to advanced ages, James had not prepared a will. His widow, Charlotte, and brother, George, were appointed administrators of his estate, and Charlotte was named guardian of the children.²⁹²

The inventory reveals a comfortable home; the parlor had card tables, chairs, a tea tray, a looking glass, silverware, and an historical chart. The attached physician shop was stocked with medicine and surgical instruments. He owned a horse, a cow, six sheep, and two hogs, farming and dairy utensils, and stores of rye, oats, potatoes, beef, pork, and cider. He held notes due him worth more than \$800 from nearly 40 individuals, including family members.²⁹³ But the debit side of the ledger, \$1,652, was twice the size of the credit side. He owed more than \$200 on the Lane mortgage as well as the full amount of the note to Phillips Exeter Academy.²⁹⁴ The estate was declared insolvent and a commission appointed to allocate his assets against those making claims.²⁹⁵ His creditors were forced to settle for roughly 2/5 of value. Lane received \$85

Founder of Phillips Exeter Academy (New York: Newcomen Society in North America, 1951), 15–16.

²⁸⁹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41. William Graves Odell was born 11 January 1819 and died 22 February 1819. See also Merrill, "Deaths in Stratham, New Hampshire, 1786–1859," page 18.

²⁹⁰ See the list of children for full details.

²⁹¹ *New-Hampshire* (Portsmouth, New Hampshire) *Gazette*, 22 February 1822, 3; digital images, *Early American Newspapers, Series I 1690–1876* (<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>; accessed 24 September 2013). The item reads "In Stratham, on Friday last, suddenly, Dr. James Odell, aged 39." The age is an apparent error.

²⁹² Rockingham County, New Hampshire Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), consent of Charlotte Odell for sale of real estate, 15 January 1824.

²⁹³ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822) Inventory, 14 March 1822.

²⁹⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), List of Claims against the estate of James Odell, 15 May 1823.

²⁹⁵ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), Petition of George Odell, Administrator, 15 August 1823.

and the academy collected slightly more than \$200.²⁹⁶ Charlotte was given money to support her children under the age of seven, in accordance with statutory law that protected vulnerable family members while estates were being settled.²⁹⁷

On 15 January 1824, the probate judge ordered a committee to set off Charlotte's dower—one third of the real estate property for her natural life.²⁹⁸ Two weeks later, she married Walter Weeks Wiggin, son of Nathan and Mehitabel (Norris) Wiggin.²⁹⁹ Walter was seven years younger than Charlotte and the brother of her sister-in-law's husband, Zebulon.³⁰⁰

In early March the committee met and drew a line through the family home, giving Charlotte the southern portion of it: the front room and the chamber above it, the back chamber, the shop, the south part of the garret, right of use of the kitchen and scullery, and passage to her portion. The cellar was similarly divided. She received the east end of the shed, the west side of the barn, and eight of the 25 acres of pasture land.

The rest of the real estate was auctioned at a public sale held at the home 18 March 1824. Walter purchased the other half of the house and two thirds of the outbuildings for \$350.³⁰¹ He didn't have the cash; his

²⁹⁶ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), Proportion & Settlement of the estate of James Odell, undated.

²⁹⁷ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), Account of Estate of James Odell, 22 March 1822. Secretary of State, New Hampshire, editor, *Laws of New Hampshire Including Public and Private Acts, Resolves, Votes, Etc.*, volume 10, 1829–1835 (Concord, New Hampshire: Evans Printing Co., 1922), 104–05; University of New Hampshire Library, digital images, *Digital Collections* (<http://www.library.unh.edu/digital/>; accessed 12 March 2014).

²⁹⁸ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10416, James Odell (1822), Judicial Order to Set Off Dower on the Estate of James Odell, 15 January 1824.

²⁹⁹ "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images from handwritten cards compiled in 1906 from original town records and submitted to the Bureau of Vital Records, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 1 February 2014), marriage of Walter W. Wiggin and Charlotte Odell, 1 February 1824, by Noah Piper; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001315. For the identity of his parents, see Scales, *History of Dover, New Hampshire: Containing Historical, Genealogical and Industrial Data of Its Early Settlers, Their Struggles and Triumphs, Tercentenary Edition*, 426.

³⁰⁰ Stratham, New Hampshire Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:40.

³⁰¹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 241:90, George Odell, Administrator, to Walter Wiggin, 13 May 1824.

brother James J. Wiggin lent him the money.³⁰² Thus Charlotte was able to stay in the family home with her second husband. Neighboring property owners purchased the other tracts.³⁰³

In 1827, their uncle George became the legal guardian of James E., Sally, and George, the minor children of James and Charlotte.³⁰⁴ The oldest, James E., may have already been living with him, while the other two remained with Charlotte and Walter, who had three children of their own.³⁰⁵ The half-siblings were apparently close throughout life; James E. left a life estate in one of his properties to one half-brother, and George named a son after another.³⁰⁶

Walter died, without a will, on 4 May 1833 at the age of 33, leaving Charlotte widowed for the second time.³⁰⁷ Charlotte, administratrix, petitioned for an allowance to support her young children, all under seven,

³⁰² Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 255:2, Walter Wiggin to James J. Wiggin, 13 May 1824.

³⁰³ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 241:35, George Odell, Administrator, to Zebulon Wiggin, 10 April 1824. Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 241:37, George Odell, Administrator, to Simeon Jewell, 10 April 1824.

³⁰⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate Papers, Old Series, docket 10772, James Odell (1822), guardianship, 15 March 1827; FHL microfilm 1631986.

³⁰⁵ "Stratham, Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894. James was probably the 15–20-year-old male enumerated in the household of his uncle in the 1830 federal census. See 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, North Hampton, page 216 (penned), line 25, George Odell; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 16 March 2014); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 77. The record was incorrectly indexed on *Ancestry.com* as New Castle, Rockingham County, New Hampshire. In 1830, George and Sally were apparently living in Walter Wiggin's household; see 1830 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 188, Walter Wiggin; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 16 March 2014); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 77. Stratham, New Hampshire Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:40.

³⁰⁶ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Probate Records, 1771–1969, Vol. 197:378, James E. Odell (1894), will, 15 November 1894; FHL microfilm 1548784. James E. Odell left a life estate to his "brother D. H. Wiggin." George Hilton Odell named a son, George Horace, after his half-brother Horace, who died at a young age.

³⁰⁷ Stratham, New Hampshire Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:40.

her “pecuniary means of support being small.” She was given \$70.³⁰⁸ Walter didn’t have much more than that, and, on 9 April 1834, his estate was declared insolvent.³⁰⁹ The financial arrangement that had allowed the family to stay in the home was in disarray. Charlotte allowed her dower share—her life interest in part of the homestead—to revert to her first husband’s estate. Her oldest son, James E., not yet 21 years old, bought it for \$150.³¹⁰ The following year, after he reached the age of majority, he acquired Walter’s fee simple share from James J. Wiggin, who had assumed legal title upon Walter’s default and insolvency.³¹¹ Thirteen years after the death of Dr. James Odell, Jr., title to his homestead was held by his oldest son. Although no mortgage documents were recorded, James was said to have used “hired money;” his uncle was likely his banker.³¹²

In 1851, James E. and his wife sold the homestead to his younger brother, Dr. George Hilton Odell, who was living there with his mother and younger half-sister.³¹³ They also financed the sale.³¹⁴ George married the following year and remained on the property until his death in 1871.³¹⁵

³⁰⁸ “New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769–1936,” digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 1 March 2014), image copy, Rockingham Co. Estate papers, Old Series, Docket 12533, Walter W. Wiggin (1833), Petition of Charlotte Wiggin, 11 September 1833; imaged from FHL microfilm 1637410.

³⁰⁹ “New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769–1936,” Rockingham County Estate papers, Old Series, Docket 12533, Walter W. Wiggin (1833), Decree of Probate Court, 9 April 1834.

³¹⁰ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Estate papers, Old Series, docket 10772, James Odell (1822), petition of George Odell, Administrator, 19 March 1833. Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 272:458, George Odell, Administrator, to James E. Odell, 17 May 1834. Nothing in the law prevented a minor from purchasing property, although he could void the transaction upon reaching majority. See William Draper Lewis, *Commentaries on the Laws of England in Four Books by Sir William Blackstone, Knight*, 4 volumes (Philadelphia: Geo. T. Bisel Co., 1922), i: Chapter XVII: 466. In this family transaction, that would not have been a major concern.

³¹¹ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 276:245, James J. Wiggin and Nancy Wiggin to James E. Odell, 13 April 1835. James and Nancy Wiggin might have waited until James was of the age of majority to avoid any complications arising from his right to void a deed executed before then.

³¹² “Stratham, Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894.

³¹³ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 255:2, James E. Odell and Sarah E. Odell to George H. Odell, 22 April 1851. The deed refers to the property conveyed as “where George currently lives.” In the 1850 census, George, 29, was listed in the household of Charlotte Wiggin, 60, and Charlotte A. Wiggin, 21. See 1850 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, 261 (penned), dwelling 138, family 145, Charlotte Wiggin household; digital images,

Charlotte has not been located in the 1860 federal census.³¹⁶ She died in Stratham 24 November 1866, after being ill with cancer for four years.³¹⁷ She is buried with her first husband, James Odell, Jr., in the Congregationalist Church cemetery.³¹⁸ Walter was buried on his parents' farm.³¹⁹

Four children were born to James⁴ and Charlotte:

- 13 i. **JAMES EUSTACE ODELL**, born 4 October 1813;³²⁰ died 26 November 1894;³²¹ married in Stratham 17 September 1842

Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 28 July 2010), citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 438.

³¹⁴ Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 344:306, George H. Odell to James E. Odell, 22 April 1851.

³¹⁵ George H. Odell did not buy or sell any property in Stratham after purchasing the family home in 1851. The debt to his brother was not paid in full until after George's death. See J. E. Odell's acknowledgement dated 10 January 1872 on the 1851 mortgage deed. Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Deed Book 344:306, George H. Odell to James E. Odell, 22 April 1851. For biographical details about George, see below.

³¹⁶ Four of Charlotte's five living children were found in the census; she was not listed with any of them. Two of those four children, James and Sarah, were enumerated on the same page of Stratham residents; see 1860 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, 80 (penned), James E. Odell, dwelling 588, family 651, and Sarah Smart, dwelling 587, family 650; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 15 August 2011), citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 679. Son George is on the previous page; see 1860 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, page 79 (penned), Geo H. Odell, dwelling 582, family 645. Charlotte Wiggin Adams was living in Maine; see 1860 U.S. Census, Cumberland County, Maine, population schedule, Westbrook, page 10 (penned), dwelling 81, family 79, Charlotte Adams; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 3 March 2014); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 436. Her son Daniel Hilton Wiggin has also not been located, but, according to his obituary, he could have been living in Massachusetts or Connecticut. See "Daniel Hilton Wiggin," obituary, *Exeter News-Letter*, 13 November 1896, 5, column 3. Searches for Charlotte Wiggin and Daniel Hilton Wiggin in the 1860 federal census were conducted on both *Ancestry.com* and *HeritageQuest.com* in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut using a variety of spellings.

³¹⁷ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 2 September 2013), death of Charlotte Wiggin, 24 November 1866.

³¹⁸ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Odell family marker.

³¹⁹ Herbert Clarkson Varney, "Inscriptions from family burial lot on Nathan Wiggin farm Stratham, N.H." [copied 1915], 1st leaf (of 3); MSS A 2364, NEHGS.

³²⁰ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. "Stratham

SARAH WIGGIN, daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Clark) Wiggin.³²² Only eight years old when his father died, James became the ward of his uncle, Dr. George Odell of Hampton, later Greenland. He attended school in Hampton and worked on his uncle's farm until he returned to Stratham and purchased his father's property.³²³ He was elected to serve as a selectman 13 times over a span of 50 years and served in the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1867–1868 as a Republican (formerly an Abolitionist).³²⁴ A successful farmer and stockman, he earned the title "Captain" by working his way up the ranks in the militia.³²⁵ Etchings of him and his home in Stratham, considered the "finest" in town, were featured in a county history.³²⁶ He and Sarah had no biological children but adopted two daughters. The first, Ellen Ames, appeared in their household in the 1870 census as a ten-year-old schoolgirl, a native of Massachusetts. She died 5 September 1872 and was

Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907):113, citing STR 5:41.

³²¹ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), James E. Odell marker; read and photographed by the author, 22 August 2011.

³²² "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 28 January 2014), marriage of James E. Odell and Sarah E. Wiggin, 17 September 1842; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001288. "Marriages," *Exeter News-Letter*, 11 Oct. 1842, 3, column 5, "In Stratham, on the 17th ult, Rev. J.H. Lerner, Capt. James Odell to Miss Sarah E., daughter of Capt. Daniel Wiggin, both of S." For the identity of Sarah's mother, see "Stratham," Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894.

³²³ "Stratham, Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894.

³²⁴ For selectman service years, see Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 2nd edition, 271–272. For his state representative service, see George E. Jenks, compiler, *The New-Hampshire Political Manual and Annual Register for 1868, No. 12* (Concord, New Hampshire: McFarland and Jenks, 1867), 58; digital images, *Google Play* (<http://play.google.com/>; accessed 21 March 2014). This volume was digitized with the same title for the previous year; search on title requires "The New Hampshire Political Manual for 1867;" pagination restarts at the beginning of No. 12. For his political affiliation, see "Stratham," Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894.

³²⁵ "Stratham," Obituary, [Capt. James E. Odell,] *Exeter News-Letter*, 30 November 1894.

³²⁶ Hurd, *History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, New Hampshire, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men*, house, between 546–547, and James E. Odell, between 550–551. The description of the house is on page 551.

buried in the Congregational Church cemetery, still bearing the surname Ames but identified as their adopted daughter on her marker.³²⁷ Isabelle Thompson of Maine, age 15, was listed in their household in 1880.³²⁸ Isabelle's 1891 marriage record names the couple as her adoptive parents, and James named her as his daughter in his will.³²⁹ James and Sarah are buried in the Congregational Church cemetery.³³⁰

- 14 ii. **SARAH "Sally" WIGGIN ODELL**, born 18 January 1816;³³¹ died 1875;³³² married about 1845³³³ **JOHN SMART**, son of John and Sally ([—?—]) Smart.³³⁴ The couple had two sons and two daughters: (a) Joseph T., born 1846;³³⁵ (b) Annie, born 1849;³³⁶ (c) John J., born 1850;³³⁷ and (d) Charlotte, born

³²⁷ "Stratham, New Hampshire, Cemetery Inscriptions, Cemetery at Upper Congregational Church" (typescript, 1939?, Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society), page 22. These transcriptions are arranged alphabetically and shelved in an envelope with other transcriptions.

³²⁸ 1880 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, ED 237, sheet 15C, 207 (stamped), dwelling 150, family 164, James E. Odell, head of household, and Isabelle Thompson; digital image *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 30 January 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 768.

³²⁹ "New Hampshire, New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org/>; accessed 30 January 2014), marriage of Fred J. Gale and Isabella Odell, 1 January 1891; imaged from FHL microfilm 1000996. Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Probate Records, 1771–1969, 197:378, James E. Odell (1894), will, 15 November 1894.

³³⁰ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Sarah E. Odell and James E. Odell marker; read and photographed by the author, 22 August 2011.

³³¹ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell's family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

³³² Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Smart family marker; read and photographed by the author, 21 August 2011.

³³³ Marriage year estimated as year before birth of the first child.

³³⁴ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 14 August 2013), death of John Smart, son of John and Sally Smart, 10 December 1871; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001105.

³³⁵ 1900 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, ED 217, sheet 5B, dwelling 98, family 106, Joseph T. Smart; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 30 January 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 217.

³³⁶ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Smart family marker.

1853.³³⁸ John Smart was a butcher and trained both sons in the business.³³⁹ The oldest, Joseph T., was known as an “enterprising butcher” who slaughtered and dressed dozens of animals each week and supplied many nearby towns with meat.³⁴⁰ The couple and their two daughters are buried in the Congregational Church cemetery.³⁴¹

- 15 iii. **WILLIAM GRAVES ODELL**, born 11 January 1819; died 22 February 1819.³⁴² The infant was named for the physician with whom his father trained. William is buried in the Congregational Church cemetery; his name appears on a modern composite marker.³⁴³
- 16 iv. Dr. **GEORGE HILTON ODELL**, born 19 November 1820;³⁴⁴ died 24 April 1871;³⁴⁵ married 29 January 1852

³³⁷ “New Hampshire, Birth Records, Early to 1900,” index and digital images from handwritten cards compiled in 1906 from original town records and submitted to the Bureau of Vital Records, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 29 January 2014), male child born in Stratham to John and Sarah Smart, 14 November 1850; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001038. Although the first name is not recorded, the infant must be the John J. Smart who appears in the 1860 census as the nine-year-old of John and Sarah Smart. See 1860 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, 80, dwelling 587, family 650, John Smart, head of household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 29 January 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 679.

³³⁸ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Smart family marker.

³³⁹ All three men are listed as butchers in the 1870 census. See 1870 U.S. Census, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Stratham, 9 (penned), page 605 (stamped), dwelling 78, family 87, John Smart, head of household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 29 January 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 848.

³⁴⁰ Nelson, *History of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1631–1900*, 228.

³⁴¹ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), Smart family marker.

³⁴² Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell’s family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

³⁴³ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), composite marker for early residents of Stratham; read and photographed by the author, 21 August 2011. William G. Odell appears with the same birth and death year, 1819.

³⁴⁴ Stratham, New Hampshire, Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, 637, entries for Dr. James Odell’s family, 1784–1822, date of entry unknown. “Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:41.

LOUISA A. BARKER, daughter of George and Mary (Piper) Barker.³⁴⁶ George attended Bowdoin College Medical School of Maine.³⁴⁷ Like his father, he practiced medicine in Stratham for many years³⁴⁸ and died at a relatively young age. He served on the Stratham school committee and as superintendent during the 1850s, and audited the town accounts in the 1860s.³⁴⁹ George and Louisa had three children: (a) Mary Louise, born 9 November 1853;³⁵⁰ (b) George Horace, born 8 September 1855;³⁵¹ and (c) James Eustace Odell, 2nd, named for his uncle, born 11 October 1865.³⁵² George Hilton, Louisa, Mary Louise,

³⁴⁵ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Odell family marker; read and photographed by author, 22 August 2011.

³⁴⁶ "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 16 July 2013), marriage of George H. Odell and Louisa A. Barker, 29 January 1852; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001288.

³⁴⁷ *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College and the Medical School of Maine 1794–1912* (Brunswick, Maine: Bowdoin College, 1912), 538. George Hilton Odell of Stratham is listed as a member of the Medical School Class of 1848.

³⁴⁸ Scammon, "Down the King's Great Highway: A Sketch of Stratham," 155.

³⁴⁹ Stratham Town Reports, 1851:4, 1852:5, 1853:4, and 1863:1; Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord.

³⁵⁰ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Odell family marker, "Mary Louise [Odell] Their Daughter, Nov. 9, 1853–June 17, 1888."

³⁵¹ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Odell family marker, "George H. Odell, Sept. 8, 1855–May 5, 1918." George's death record reports his birth date as 9 September 1855. See "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 14 August 2013), death of George H. Odell, son of George H. Odell and Louisa Barker, 5 May 1918; imaged from FHL microfilm 2111342.

³⁵² James E. Odell's death certificate reports his birth date as 11 October 1866. See James Eustace Odell, death certificate [unnumbered] (16 August 1939), New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry, Trenton. His marriage record, cemetery marker, and the 1900 federal census indicate that he was born in 1865, however. See "Massachusetts Marriages, 1841–1915," 381:229, James E. Odell, age 22, and Mary E. Gleason, age 21, 20 November 1887; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://FamilySearch.org/>; accessed 15 March 2014); *Find A Grave*, database and images (<http://findagrave.com/>; accessed 15 March 2014), memorial page for James E. Odell (1865–1939), Memorial 10004262, citing Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Hyannis, Barnstable County, Massachusetts; and 1900 U.S. Census, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Ward 21, Roxbury, City of Boston, Enumeration District 1483, sheet 6A, dwelling 69, family 72, James E. Odell, born October 1865; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 15 March 2014), citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 686.

and George Horace are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.³⁵³
 James Eustace is buried with his wife, Mary Gleason, in
 Barnstable County, Massachusetts.³⁵⁴

The children of Charlotte Hilton by her second husband, Walter Weeks Wiggin, were as follows:

- 17 **HORACE WIGGIN**, born 4 August 1825;³⁵⁵ died 15 August 1844. He is buried on his paternal grandfather's farm in Stratham.³⁵⁶
- 18 **DANIEL HILTON WIGGIN**, born 5 July 1827;³⁵⁷ died 9 November 1896 in Exeter;³⁵⁸ married in New Bedford, Massachusetts, 4 August 1868 **ELIZABETH COOMBS**, daughter of Asa and Lucy [—?—] Coombs.³⁵⁹ He was a bookbinder and worked for many years in Boston and in Connecticut but returned to New Hampshire shortly before his

³⁵³ Greenwood Cemetery (Portsmouth Road, Stratham, New Hampshire), Odell family marker.

³⁵⁴ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<http://findagrave.com/>; accessed 15 March 2014), memorial pages for James E. Odell (1865–1939) and Mary E. Odell (1866–1947), Memorials 10004262 and 10005021, citing Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Hyannis, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The memorial pages were created by Kevin Murphy and contain an incorrect death year for Mary E. Odell. The accompanying photograph by Maria [—?—] is legible and correct.

³⁵⁵ Stratham, New Hampshire Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:40.

³⁵⁶ Herbert Clarkson Varney, "Inscriptions from family burial lot on Nathan Wiggin farm Stratham, N.H." [copied 1915], 2nd leaf (of 3); MSS A 2364, NEHGS.

³⁵⁷ Stratham, New Hampshire Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907): 113, citing STR 5:40.

³⁵⁸ "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 14 August 2013), death of Daniel H. Wiggin, of Exeter, 9 November 1896; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001113.

³⁵⁹ "Massachusetts, Vital Records, 1841–1910," 217:118, marriage of Daniel H. Wiggins, born in Stratham, New Hampshire, son of Walter W. and Charlotte, to Elizabeth J. Coombs, born in New Bedford, daughter of Asa and Lucy J. Coombs, 3 August 1867, in the City of New Bedford; New England Historic Genealogical Society, digital images, *American Ancestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org/>; accessed 29 January 2013). The 1867 marriage was recorded in the 1869 volume.

- death.³⁶⁰ He is buried in the Congregational Church cemetery in Stratham.³⁶¹
- 19 **CHARLOTTE ANN WIGGIN**, born 9 May 1829;³⁶² died in Portland, Maine 8 January 1864;³⁶³ married 18 March 1856 **JOHN W. ADAMS**, son of the Rev. John F. and Mary (Lane) Adams.³⁶⁴ She was brought back to Stratham to be buried in the Congregational Church cemetery in her husband's family plot.³⁶⁵

³⁶⁰ "Daniel Hilton Wiggin," obituary, *Exeter News-Letter*, 13 November 1896, page 5, column 3.

³⁶¹ Congregational Church Cemetery (Emery Lane, Stratham, New Hampshire), D. Hilton Wiggin marker; read and photographed by the author, 21 August 2011.

³⁶² Stratham, New Hampshire Town Records, Volume 2, 1742–1846, state copy, page 637, entries for Walter Weeks Wiggin's family, 1790–1833, date of entry unknown. "Stratham Genealogical Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 4 (January 1907–October 1907):113, citing STR 5:40.

³⁶³ For the names of his parents and the location and year of her death, see William Richard Cutter and American Historical Society, *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts, Biographical - Genealogical*, 13 volumes (New York: American Historical Society, 1916–1925), 12:109; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/encyclopediaofma12amer>; accessed 29 January 2014).

³⁶⁴ "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947," index and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 17 August 2011), marriage of John W. Adams and Charlotte A. Wiggin, 18 March 1856; imaged from FHL microfilm 1001120.

³⁶⁵ "Stratham, New Hampshire, Cemetery Inscriptions, Cemetery at Upper Congregational Church," page 1; Cemetery Inscriptions, Stratham, New Hampshire (shelved with books); Tuck Library, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord. This page is stapled to a one-page transcription of a Wiggin Family Cemetery and "2" is inked at the top. It is clear from the following pages with typed numbers that this is page 1 of a separate document covering the Upper Congregational Church Cemetery.

**A Note about the Wives of Two James Gilmores
of Rockingham County, New Hampshire
F. Stephen Gauss**

The plethora of James Gilmores of Rockingham County, New Hampshire, has confused genealogists for years. Several authors have contributed to the confusion. In particular, the identities and relationships of Captain James Gilmore, James Gilmore, Colonel James Gilmore, Margaret Gilmore, and Agnes Gilmore of Windham and Londonderry have been muddled by erroneous transcription of their gravestones which lie in the Cemetery on the Hill in Windham.

Identification is complicated by the existence of three generations of James Gilmores living simultaneously in the area. Further, in their lifetime, the town of Windham was set off from their hometown of Londonderry in 1741/2.

Each author used quotation marks differently when citing the gravestones, but none transcribed them precisely. In an attempt to resolve the confusion, this author examined the gravestones in 2015 and again in 2016. Although deteriorated, most of the inscriptions are readable with a careful eye.

In his 1851 *History of Londonderry*, Edward Parker identifies James and Jean (Baptiste) Gilmore of Londonderry,¹ but confuses them with the James Gilmore family of Windham. In 1883 Leonard Morrison corrected Parker, but then mistakenly combined James of Windham with James of Londonderry, giving one man two wives. He quoted the Windham gravestone of Captain James Gilmore and, outside the quotation, added information about his wife Margaret: “‘Capt. James Gilmore, d. June 1, 1758, in his 56th year.’ Margaret, his wife, d. Jan. 8, 1775, in her 84th year.”² This transcription is inaccurate.

In 1926 Frank Osgood corrected Morrison’s error, but added further confusion.³ In 1957 Claude Hamel noted the errors in Morrison’s work, but repeated the idea that James had two wives.⁴ He did not quote from either gravestone.

All of the authors seem to imply that only one stone exists for James and his wife Margaret. In 1994 the gravestones were transcribed.⁵ That work listed the lines from the gravestones, but again, did not give an exact transcription.

In 2012 Rick Davis summarized the errors and confusion, and finally, seems to have untangled the multiple James Gilmores. However, he again quotes Parker’s transcription of the gravestones.⁶

¹ Edward L. Parker, *The History of Londonderry, Comprising the Towns of Derry and Londonderry, N. H.* (Boston: Perkins and Whipple, 1851), p. 273.

² Leonard A. Morrison, *History of Windham in New Hampshire 1719–1883*, reprinted for the Town of Windham, New Hampshire by Phoenix Publishing, Canaan, New Hampshire. (Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co., 1883), p. 535.

³ Frank Storey Osgood, *Robert and James Gilmore Who Settled in Southern New Hampshire, and Their Descendants; Also, a Brief Account of Other Gilmores Not Related to Them* (Newburyport: the author, 1926), pp. 11-23.

⁴ Claude Charles Hamel, *Genealogy of the Derry, Rockingham County, New Hampshire Line of the Gilmour-Gilmore Family, Which Descended from Robert and Mary Ann (Kennedy) Gilmore* (Elyria, Ohio: the author, 1957).

⁵ *Town of Windham known graves* (Windham, N.H. : Cemetery Trustees, 1994) at the Nesmith Library, Windham.