



Franklin printing press. Made in London ca. 1650. On loan to Newport Historical Society from the Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, L 93.54.1. Photo courtesy of the Newport Historical Society. Visitors can see the press at the Museum of Newport History at Brick Market in Newport.

“MY GRANDDAUGHTER’S FATHER”

Elizabeth (Hall) Barnes of Brookfield, Massachusetts, and
James and Ann (Smith) Franklin of Boston and Newport, Rhode Island

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Revolutionary War Patriot Benjamin Franklin learned the printing trade from his older brother James. James Franklin and his wife Ann Smith played critical roles in the history of printing in America. His experience with the *New-England Courant* affair in Boston led to the bedrock principle of freedom of the press in America. Ann (Smith) Franklin was the first female printer in America. Their life in Boston has been well discussed by numerous historians, starting with Isaiah Thomas, author of the authoritative *History of Printing in America*.¹ Part of the story of James Franklin’s family appears to have been intentionally told in a false manner. Because of damaged and missing records, it is not surprising that the false story has been believed for centuries, but a single phrase from an almost totally destroyed record reveals the truth about James’s daughter Sarah and her daughter Elizabeth Hall. The story has considerable genealogical significance: Elizabeth Hall was to be the ancestor of the only living descendants of James and Ann (Smith) Franklin.

James Franklin published his intention to marry Ann Smith at Boston 15 January 1723/4.² They were married there by Presbyterian minister John Webb 4 February 1723/4.³ Ann was born at Boston 2 October 1696, the daughter of Samuel and Anna (____) Smith,⁴ and baptized there at the Old South Church 4 October 1696.⁵

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1. Isaiah Thomas. *The History of Printing in America, with a Biography of Printers, and an Account of Newspapers: to which is prefixed a concise view of the discovery and progress of the art in other parts of the world: in two volumes* (Worcester, Mass.: The Press of Isaiah Thomas, Jr., 1810) 1:270–1, 308, 311–320, 419–21 [hereafter Thomas, *History of Printing*]. A second, expanded edition was published in 1874. See also Benjamin Franklin, V. *Boston Printers, Publishers, and Booksellers* (Boston: G. K. Hall, c1980) 193–196 (hereafter Franklin, *Boston Printers*).
 2. Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Boston, 1630–1849* (Oxford, Mass.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1985) “Boston Marriage Publications 1713–1728, vol. 2,” 204 (hereafter Holbrook, *Boston VRs*).
 3. Holbrook, *Boston VRs* [note 2], “Boston Marriages 1721–1751, vol. 2,” 14.
 4. *Boston VRs* [note 2], “Boston Births 1693–1696; Marriages, 1695–1697; Deaths, 1693–1696,” 58.
 5. “Boston, MA Church Records” [hereafter *Boston Churches*], database online at www.AmericanAncestors.org. Originally published as Robert J. Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart, *The Records of the Churches of Boston and the First Church, Second Parish, and Third Parish of Roxbury, Including Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, Admissions, and Dismissals* (CD-ROM Database, Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001) “Records of the Old South Church in Boston,” 133.

James and his wife Ann never owned any property in Boston or Newport. He opened his first print shop at Boston in 1717 on Queen Street. In July 1724 he relocated to Union Street, probably in one of the buildings his father owned there. In all he had about sixty imprints during the decade he published in Boston.⁶ James Franklin began Boston's third newspaper, the *New-England Courant*, in 1721. James published numerous forthright articles and humorous essays that challenged religious and civil leaders of the colony. While this daring led to his imprisonment in 1723 and the paper's eventual demise in 1726, it firmly imprinted in America the right of freedom of the press.

James' brother and sister-in-law, John and Mary (Gooch) Franklin, had removed to Newport by 1721 when Mary appeared on a list of members of the First Congregational Church there renewing the covenant.⁷ After the exhausting *New-England Courant* affair ended, James and Ann Franklin brought their two small children, Abiah and James, Jr., to Newport in 1727, seeking, he said, "a more Congenial Home at the Mouth of Narragansett Bay."⁸ Newport was then a bustling seaport, the largest town in the colony, and one of the two capitals of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (the other being Providence, the present capital). There he would start over as a printer by publishing official documents for the colonial government. He took on whatever other printing that Newporters wanted. In 1728 *The Rhode-Island Almanack*, the first in the colony, began its run. The author was shown as "Poor Robin (Alias J.F.)" His own minister, Nathaniel Clapp of the First Congregational Church, chose him to print a thousand copies of his two-page sermon in October 1730. The complicated invoice, now at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, shows specifications for size and quality of paper as well as a schedule of payments. By October 17th Clapp had given Franklin £8 and still owed £11 7s. 6d., to be paid in four additional payments through early January.⁹ In September 1732 James Franklin tried the experiment of a weekly newspaper, the *Rhode Island Gazette*. Unlike Franklin's Boston newspaper, *The New-England Courant*, the *Gazette* ceased publication eight months later, not in controversy but from failure to enlist enough subscribers.¹⁰

There are no extant birth records for their four younger children, Ann, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah, at Newport. Perhaps James and Ann Franklin never

6. Franklin, *Boston Printers*, 193–196 [note 1].

7. G. Andrews Moriarty, "Record of the Rev. Nat Clapp of the First Congregational Church, Newport, R.I." *NEHG Register*, 111[1957]:55. "Members of other churches of Christ in the land Renewing their couvant in the Presents of our Church 26 Day 7 mo— 1721—" entry for "Mary Franklin—John of Boston Old."

8. *The Rhode-Island Almanack For the Year 1728* [1728] (repr., Providence: Will. Chatterton, 1911), title page.

9. Invoice from James Franklin to Nathaniel Clapp, ms, John Carter Brown Library,

10. R.M.P., "'Anthony Afterwrit,' an Honest Tradesman: *The Rhode Island Gazette*, January 25, 1733," *Newport History*, Vol. 70, Part 4 (Spring, 2000), 125–128.

registered their births, but perhaps the record was in papers lost during the Revolution. When the British withdrew from Newport in 1779 they loaded the town's records on a ship along with evacuees. Unfortunately, the ship was swamped on shoals near Long Island. The records were rescued from the ship and placed in an attic for safekeeping for the remainder of the war. By the time they were repatriated to Newport, some were missing, and others were damaged.¹¹

It may be that the Franklins felt baptismal records sufficed. Unfortunately, none survive. The minister of the young church, Nathaniel Clapp (Harvard Class of 1690), kept records for 1720 and 1721 [note 8], but recording only became regular in November 1746 when Rev. William Vinal (Harvard Class of 1739) was ordained the pastor.¹² While there are no baptismal records for James and Ann's children, later church records show that daughters Abiah, Elizabeth, and Mary Franklin all married sea captains at the First Congregational Church of Newport. Abiah Franklin married George Buckmaster 17 July 1743, Mary Franklin married William Allen 23 January 1752, and Elizabeth Franklin married Isaac All 19 March 1761.¹³ The Franklins shared a pew at this church with son-in-law Capt. George Buckmaster.¹⁴

James became seriously ill, and by 1734 he was in bad straits. Benjamin Franklin returned to Boston for a family visit that year. On his return back he stopped at Newport:

After ten years' absence from Boston, and having become easy in my circumstances, I made a journey thither to visit my relations, which I could not sooner well afford. In returning, I call'd at Newport to see my brother, then settled there with his printing-house. Our former differences were forgotten, and our meeting was very cordial and affectionate. He was fast declining in his health, and requested of me that, in case of his death, which he apprehended not far distant, I would take hom [*sic*] his son, then but ten years of age, and bring him up to the printing business. This I accordingly perform'd, sending him a few years to school before I took him into the office. His mother carried on the business till he was grown up, when I assisted him with an assortment of new types, those of his father being in a manner worn out. Thus it was that I made my brother ample amends for the

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11. Rockwell Stensrud, *Newport: A Lively Experiment 1639–1969* (Newport: Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 2006), 222–223.
 12. Judith C. Harbold, "First Congregational Church of Newport: Baptismal Records, 1744–1820," *Rhode Island Roots*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (March 2011), 28–46 at 29. The early records for the church are now at Newport Historical Society.
 13. First Congregational Church, Second Book, Newport Historical Society no. 838B, 87 (no. 74 in modern pencil); p. 12, no. 251; First Congregational Church Marriages Baptisms 1744 1825, Newport Historical Society, no. 832, 7, no. 526; 12, no. 251.
 14. 1755 Assessment List of "The Pews Below Stairs," No. 32, Buckmaster & Franklin, 12.14 (First Congregational Church Records, 1743–1831, Newport Historical Society, no. 833, n. pag., chronological order).

service I had depriv'd him of by leaving him so early.¹⁵

James Franklin's premonition was correct, as he died at Newport on his forty-first birthday, 4 February 1734/5. The *Boston-Newsletter* reported "We hear from New-Port on Rhode-Island, That on Tuesday the 4th instant, died there after a long illness, Mr. James Franklin."¹⁶ He is buried in the Common Burying Ground, Newport Historical Cemetery 3.¹⁷ No record of an administration or will for James's estate has survived.

At his death he left Ann with five small children aged ten and under. The widow and Benjamin Franklin honored James Franklin's dying wish: Ann sent her only son James Franklin, Jr., to Philadelphia, where his uncle Benjamin put him through school for six years, before taking him on as an apprentice 5 November 1740 to learn the trade of printer.¹⁸ Ann immediately went to work at her husband's press, becoming the first female printer in the colonies. At least two of her daughters, who had already learned the trade from their father, worked with her.¹⁹ Isaiah Thomas wrote that Ann:

was aided in her printing by her two daughters, and afterward by her son, when he attained to a competent age. Her daughters were correct and quick compositors at case; they were instructed by their father, whom they assisted. A gentleman who was acquainted with Anne Franklin and her family, informed me that he had often seen her daughters at work in the printing house, and that they were sensible and amiable women.²⁰

Since Ann had four daughters who survived into the 1750s, it is likely that the anonymous gentleman was acquainted with the family later on. All of the children predeceased their mother who died in April 1763, but we only know the death dates of two daughters, Abiah, who died in 1754, and Elizabeth who died in 1762. Either Mary or Sarah may have also died in the 1750s. That would leave Elizabeth (who died in 1762) and either Mary or Sarah as the two daughters working with

15. *Benjamin Franklin's Autobiographical Writings*, ed. Carl Van Doren (New York: The Viking Press, 1945), 707–708.

16. "Boston, Feb. 13," *Boston News-Letter* (Boston, Mass.), p. 2.

17. John Eylers Sterling, Barbara J. Austin, Letty R. Champion, *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* [hereafter Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds*], ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG (Hope, R.I.: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2009), 221. Photograph available on disc 1 of the companion DVDs or at Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission grave database (www.rihistoriccemeteries.org).

18. James Franklin Indenture of Apprenticeship, transcription at www.franklinpapers.org, citing the original at American Philosophical Society.

19. Gay Walker. "Women Printers in Early American Printing History" *The Yale University Library Gazette* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University, 1926–2008) 67 [1987]:120.

20. Thomas, *History of Printing* [note 1], 420. "Compositors at case" refers to selecting pieces of type from a multi-compartment case and placing them, backwards of course, in a hand-held composing stick.

Masthead of the first issue of the Newport Mercury.



their mother. Ann Franklin continued commercial job printing, including many projects for the colonial government, among them the published version of the laws of the colony's General Assembly. She identified herself either as "A. Franklin" or "The Widow Franklin."

James Franklin, Jr., returned home at the end of his apprenticeship in 1748 and joined his mother in the business, printing official documents well as sermons, lottery tickets, and other documents. He also sold books and pamphlets. Advertisements in the early 1750s describe the location as "the Printing Office under the Town School-house, in Newport."²¹ He also started a newspaper. *The Newport Mercury or the Weekly Advertiser* "With the freshest Advices foreign and domestic" made its first appearance Monday, 9 June 1758, adorned with an emblem of Mercury, wings on his heels, flying over the ocean with a paper in his hand. Unfortunately, James Franklin, Jr., would not get to enjoy his success for very long. He died at Newport, unmarried, age 36, on 21 April 1762.²² An obituary was printed in the *New-Hampshire Gazette*:

NEWPORT, April 30th, 1762

M^r. JAMES FRANKLIN, of this Place, Printer, died on Wednesday the 21st Instant. His Remains (attended by a numerous Concourse of the principal Inhabitants) were interred on Sunday last. He performed the Business of a Printer with great Capacity, and was a most useful Member of Society. His Reputation for Probity and Integrity in every Respect, was so justly established, that he enjoyed the peculiar Felicity of being intrusted and esteemed by the contending Parties, into which this Government is unhappily divided. He had been in a declining State for some Months, and met the Approach of Death with the greatest Resignation and Fortitude.²³

21. He advertised outside Newport as well as within. See, for example, his ad for *Poor Job's Almanack for the Year 1752* in the *Boston Evening Post*, December 26, 1751, p. 3.

22. "Deaths in Newport, R.I., 1760–1764. From a manuscript of Rev. Ezra Stiles, D.D., LL.D., now in the possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society," [hereafter Stiles "Deaths in Newport"], *NEHG Register*, 62[1908]:354.

23. "Newport, April 30," *The New-Hampshire Gazette* (Portsmouth, N.H.), May 7, 1762, p. 3.

The obituary closed with a quotation from Alexander Pope: “A it's a Feather, and a Chief's a Rod, / An honest Man's the noblest Work of GOD.”

The last issue of the *Mercury* published by James Franklin was printed 13 April 1762 (no. 190). After her son's death, Ann Franklin took up publishing the paper. The first extant issue to carry the dual imprint of Ann Smith and Samuel Hall was No. 207, published August 17, 1762. The issue carried a notice advising the public that “Franklin and Hall, in Partnership, now carry on the Printing Business in Newport; and may be assured that all Persons who shall employ them, will be served with Fidelity and Dispatch. They propose to continue the NEWPORT MERCURY.” Clearly they did not employ reporters. Most of the foreign and out-of-town news was reprinted from other newspapers, and some was contributed by “Gentlemen of Capacity and Leisure” who were encouraged to send “suitable Entertainment” to the publishers.²⁴

Ann passed away at Newport 19 April 1763. Her lengthy obituary reads (*emphasis in original*):

Newport, April 25.

The 19th Instant departed this life, Mrs. ANN FRANKLIN, in the 68th year of her Life. She had a fine Constitution, firm and strong; — was never sick, nor ailing, scarcely in the whole Course of her Life, 'till a few Months before her Dissolution ; nor did she ever take any sort of Medicine in all that long Space of Time, 'till that Sickness seized her, which brought her down to the Grave. When she reflected, in Health, on the Goodness of her Constitution, she was at a Loss to guess what Part would be attack'd by Sickness in order to bring on her Dissolution.—But in her we see an Instance of the Truth of that Word, “The strong Men shall bow themselves”—She was a Widow about 29 years—And tho' she had little to depend upon for a Living, yet by her Oeconomy and Industry in carrying on the Printing Business, supported herself and Family, and brought up her Children in a genteel Manner; — all of whom she bury'd sometime before her Death.—She was a Woman of great Integrity and Uprightness in her Station and Conversation, and was well beloved in the Town. She was a faithful Friend, and a compassionate Benefactor to the Poor, (beyond many of great Estates) and often reliev'd them in the Extremity of Winter.—And, she was a constant and seasonable Attendant on public Worship, and would not suffer herself to be detain'd by trivial Family-Concerns: Herein she excell'd most of her Sex.

She enter'd into the Christian Life in her early Youth, and has, ever since, adorn'd her Profession by an exemplary Conversation. And, under all the varying Scenes of Life, and some shocking Trials laid on her in the Wisdom of divine Providence, she maintain'd a noble Fortitude of Mind, mixt with Patience and Submission to the Will of God; though not without Imperfection.

24. “Newport, August 17,” *Newport Mercury*, August 17, 1762, p. 3.

For Several Weeks before her Death she was in great Darkness and Distress of Mind: but it pleased God, a few Days before her Departure, to shine in upon her Soul, and lift up the Light of his Countenance upon her, and thereby to give her *that Peace of God, which passeth all Understanding*.

And so she pass'd from Time to Eternity in the lively View and Prospect of eternal Life, through Faith in the Son of God, who gave his Life a Ransom for Sinners: that they, and they only, who believe on Him, and obey Him, might have and enjoy a glorious happy LIFE WITHOUT END, in the open Vision, and Full Fruition of the Author of their Being and Blessedness.²⁵

Among Ann's inanimate survivors was the London-made printing press that her husband had brought with him from England to Boston in 1717 and then to Newport ten years later. It was the same press that Ann and her children used for decades. An active press until 1851, it then went on display at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Since 1993 it has been a centerpiece of the Museum of Newport History at Brick Market in Newport.

The genealogical puzzle addressed in this article concerns Ann Franklin's youngest daughter Sarah Franklin and Samuel Hall, who was Ann's partner in the printing business. Most histories give 1762 as the year that Ann Franklin took Samuel Hall into partnership and state that he married her youngest daughter, Sarah. Neither the civil records nor the records of the First Congregational Church of Newport show this marriage nor the birth or baptism of their daughter. The "marriage" was likely a polite fiction to hide the fact that the child was illegitimate.

Samuel Hall had an interesting background when he came to Newport. "Samuel son of Jonathan Hall Jun^r & Anna, his wife was born Nov^r 2 1740" at Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.²⁶ The records of Charlestown, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, show the marriage of his parents: "Jonathan Hall, of Medford, & Anna Fowle of this town, were joynd in marriage, by the Rev^d Mr Hull Abbot, November, 22^d 1739."²⁷ The world of printing in New England at that time was quite small, and printers likely knew each other

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25. *Newport Mercury* (Newport, R.I.), April 25, 1763, p. 3 [hereafter Ann Franklin obituary]. The obituary gives the date of Ann's death as 19 April, and notes her burial on 20 April. Ezra Stiles says that W^o [widow] Franklin, Printer, died 24 April (Stiles, "Deaths in Newport" *NEHG Register*, 62[1908]:359. Given that the obituary was published in the *Mercury*, her own newspaper, then published by Samuel Hall, that date is more likely to be correct.
 26. Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Medford, 1673–1910* (Provo, Utah: Holbrook Research Institute, 2005) "Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1718–1830 + Out of Town Marriages to 1800," [47].
 27. Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Charlestown, 1629–1874* (Oxford, Mass.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1985), "Charlestown Archives. Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1629–1800," 445.

personally, or at the very least knew of each other. In 1750, Anne (Fowle) Hall's brother Daniel opened a printing house on the south side of Anne Street, not far from the Flat Conduit, so called, which at that time stood in Union street. At the same place he also opened a shop and kept a small selection of books for sale. The location was near the house and shop of William and Mary (Franklin) Homes (sister of James and Benjamin Franklin) in that area of Anne Street.²⁸ Samuel likely came to apprentice his Uncle Daniel's print shop in the early 1750s. The apprenticeship could not have been entirely without drama, as Daniel Fowle become more and more political, less and less in favor as a printer. Between 1750 and 1752 Daniel was printing fewer and fewer imprints. In 1750, he had twenty-five imprints, but by 1751 he had dropped that to ten, and by 1752 he produced only four imprints.²⁹

In October 1754 Daniel was arrested by an order from the House of Representatives on suspicion of having printed a pamphlet entitled *The Monster of Monsters*. The pamphlet, critical of the government, was actually printed by his brother Zechariah. Daniel was jailed for five days.³⁰ Fowle retaliated by publishing an inflammatory pamphlet in 1755: *A total eclipse of liberty: Being a true and faithful account of the arraignment, and examination of Daniel Fowle before the Honourable House of Representatives of the province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, Octob. 24th 1754. barely on suspicion of his being concern'd in printing and publishing a pamphlet, intituled, the Monster of Monsters. Also his imprisonment and sufferings in a stinking stone goal (sic), without the liberty of pen, ink or paper, and not allowed to see his nearest friends, nor to write a line to his wife; with many other incidents and aggravations; which shews it to be monstrous treatment.* Aside from its political significance, the pamphlet offers the single most detailed description of the Boston prison in that day.

It is likely that Samuel Hall and his uncle Daniel Fowle parted ways about this time. A printer at odds with colonial authorities, one producing only four imprints in a year, hardly has enough business to support an apprentice. Daniel set up an apprenticeship for his nephew to James Franklin at Newport, which put Samuel out of the control of the government of Massachusetts. Fowle himself prudently moved to New Hampshire and began publishing the *New Hampshire Gazette* in 1756.³¹ Samuel Hall was entering his teen years when he went to Newport, and Sarah Franklin was probably in her late teens, based on the known and deduced ages of her siblings. As will be proved below, by rather interesting

28. Thomas, *History of Printing* [note 1], 1:333. Indenture, William Homes to Samuel Gardner, Suffolk County Deeds 73:22 [FHL #494,589, Item 1].

29. Franklin, *Boston Printers* [note 1], 1:183.

30. Thomas, *History of Printing* [note 1], 1:129–132.

31. Thomas, *History of Printing* [note 1], 1:336. He published James Franklin's obituary in that paper.

evidence, they had a daughter, Elizabeth Hall, born about 1755, who would be the ancestor of the only living descendants of James and Ann (Smith) Franklin.

Samuel Hall and Sarah never married, although that has been claimed in print. The first edition of Isaiah Thomas's *The History of Printing in America*, published in 1810, says that Samuel "was born in Medford, Massachusetts, served an apprenticeship with his uncle, Daniel Fowle of Portsmouth, and first began business in Newport, in 1763, in company with Anne Franklin."³² The second edition of the book, published in 1874, long after Thomas's death, gives a different ending (*emphasis added*): ". . . and first began business in Newport, in 1763, in company with Anne Franklin, whose daughter he married."³³ Isaiah Thomas would have been acquainted with Samuel Hall, as he served his apprenticeship with Samuel's uncle Zechariah.³⁴ He likely knew that Samuel and Sarah were not married and tactfully omitted any reference to marriage in his original publication.

Samuel Hall married at Boston 9 June 1766 Mary Hurd.³⁵ They had no known children. After selling the *Mercury* in 1768, Samuel moved to Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, where he continued printing with his brother Ebenezer. In 1775 the Halls moved to Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, according to Ezra Stiles, at the request of "sundry members of Congress...that he might issue the News from Head Quarters during this important period."³⁶ Ebenezer died in February 1776, and Samuel removed to Boston in April of that year. Samuel Hall stayed there until 1781, when he returned to Salem for four years. In 1785 he returned to Boston where he remained the rest of his life.³⁷ He published 450 titles during his career, and was best known for publishing children's books.³⁸

By the fall of 1807, Samuel's health was starting to suffer. In September he ran the following advertisement:

THE Declining state of health of the Subscriber, has obliged him to retire from business. He thanks his Friends and Customers for their numerous favours and begs leave to inform them, that the Printing, Bookselling and Stationary [*sic*] business, which for many years past he has carried on at No. 53, *Cornhill*, will be continued by Mr. ENSIGN LINCOLN.

32. Thomas, *History of Printing* [note 1], 1:395.

33. Thomas, *History of Printing*, Second Edition [note 1], 1:177.

34. Thomas, *History of Printing* [note 1], 1:337.

35. Holbrook, *Boston VRs* [note 2], "Boston Marriages 1761–1809," 12:50.

36. Franklin Bowditch Dexter, *The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles, D.D., LL.D.* [hereafter *Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles*], 3 vols. (N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901), 1:558.

37. Franklin, *Boston Printers*, [note 1], 267.

38. Thomas, *History of Printing* 395–6 [note 1] and Franklin, *Boston Printers*, [note 1], 267–272.

*Boston, Sept. 12, 1807*³⁹

Samuel Hall never recovered, and his obituary appeared six weeks later on 31 October, with no mention of any wife or children.

DIED, yesterday, in this town, Mr. SAMUEL HALL Æt. 67.—One of the oldest and most correct Printers in the State. He edited a truly republican newspaper from the commencement to the termination of the revolutionary war. Uncorruptible integrity and extraordinary equanimity of mind were prominent traits in his character. He advocated undeviatingly the rights of the colonies as opposed to the unjust claims of the mother country; and while he admired he uniformly supported those patriotic characters who formed our national constitution, and whose administration produced the highest happiness to their constituents and will render their names immortal. His funeral will be on Monday next, at 8 o'clock P.M. from the House of Mr. E. Rhoads, in Charter-street, near the North Church which the connections and friends are respectfully invited to attend.⁴⁰

In his will, “Samuel Hall of Boston in the County of Suffolk & Commonwealth of Massachusetts at Present residing at Charlestown in the County of Middlesex in said Commonwealth Printer,” after paying off his debts and funeral expenses, left his entire estate to his wife Mary. The will was proved, and Mary was appointed executor 30 November 1807. The third entry in the copy book, however, took place prior to these events (*emphasis added*).⁴¹

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Suffolk SS Probate Court Boston

To Thomas Barnes of Brookfield in the County of Worcester yeoman and *Elizabeth Barnes wife of said Thomas. she being next of Kin to Samuel Hall late of said Boston Printer deceased.* You are hereby Notified that yew may appear at the Probate office in said Boston if you see cause on Monday the twenty third of November Instant at ten of the Clock before Noon then and there to attend the Probate of an Instrument purporting to be the last Will of said Hall. by which he has devised his whole Estate to Mary Hall his wife and executrix of said Will Given under my hand and seal of Office this Ninth day of November Anno Domini 1807—

Thomas Dawes Jun^r Judge of Probate

We Acknowledge that we have received Notice by the within [*smear'd*] notification this twentieth day of November Anno Domini 1807 } Thomas

39. *Boston Gazette* (Boston, Mass.), September 14, 1807, p. 3. A week later a notice appeared in the *Columbian Centinel* that Edmands had moved to 53 Cornhill and taken Thomas Edmands, Jr., into partnership, the business to be known as Lincoln & Edmands (Columbian Centinel [Boston, Mass.], September 23, 1807, p. 4).

40. *Columbian Centinel* (Boston, Mass.) Saturday, October 31, 1807, p. 2.

41. Suffolk County, Mass., Probate, Docket 23043, 105:524–5 [FHL #493,962 Item 1].

Barnes Elizabeth Barnes Probate Court Suffolk County 23^d November 1807.
Said Thomas and Eizabeth not appearing the Probate of the said Samuel
Hall's Will is continued until monday next 30th November 1807. Ten oClock
a.m. at the Probate Office Boston.

Thomas Dawes Jun^r Judge of Probate

Mary (Hurd) Barnes survived her husband Samuel by a decade, her death notice appearing at Boston 30 October 1817.⁴² In her will, dated 1 November 1813, “Mary Hall of Boston in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts widow relict of Samuel Hall late of said Boston Printer, deceased” left a series of bequests. After paying off her debts and expenses, the first was (*emphasis added*) “to Elizabeth Barns the wife of Thomas Barns of Brookfield and to Betsey Barns & Mary Hurd Barns, daughters of the said Elizabeth Barns One hundred dollars each.” No relationship between Elizabeth and Mary is stated. The remaining bequests were mostly to Mary’s nieces and nephews.⁴³ Although Samuel had not mentioned daughter Sarah in his will, Mary’s will strongly suggests that after her mother's death, Elizabeth was raised by Samuel and Mary (who married her father when she was just 11 years old). Further confirmation of an affectionate relationship is that Elizabeth named her youngest child Mary Hurd Barnes.

It is clear that Elizabeth is related to Samuel and entitled to contest his will under Massachusetts law. Since he was legally married to Mary, the only relationship that would fit this profile is that of a daughter. Elizabeth’s marriage was recorded at Brookfield in 1780 in a list of marriages performed by Rev. Ephraim Ward: “Nov^r 2^d Tho^s Barnes & Elizabeth Hall both of Brookfield.”⁴⁴

Confirmation comes from Ann (Smith) Franklin. After more than 35 years of living in Newport, more than a quarter century of them as a working widow, Ann passed away there on 19 April 1763.⁴⁵ She left a will of which, unfortunately, only a fragment remains. The date is partially obliterated. It was signed on 20 January, but the year is now gone. It mentions headstones and footstones to be erected for James Franklin (probably her son) and daughter Mary Allen, and her “half pew in Mr Vinals Meeting House.” She left “to my grandson Isaac Allen all my son James Franklins. . .” the exact legacy no longer extant. She mentions “my negro named” but the name and context are gone. The only other discernable names are Edward Thurston, Jr; Ann’s surname Franklin where she signed; and Mary Campbell, likely one of the witnesses, given the position of the name in the document. The

42. “Last evening, mrs. Mary Hall, relict of the late Samuel Hall, Printer, aged 74,” *Boston Commercial Gazette* (Boston, Mass.), Monday, February 17, 1817, p. 3.

43. Suffolk County, Mass., Probate, Docket 25188, 115:133–135 [FHL #493,968].

44. Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Brookfield, 1700–1895* [hereafter Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs*] (Oxford, Mass.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1987) “Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Intentions & Marriages 1718–1735, 1747–1792,” 1:[p. 19 verso], n. pag., pages counted.

45. “Newport, April 25,” *Newport Mercury*, April 25, 1763, p. 3.

next page, on the back side of the page with the will, is an inventory of her estate dated 26 April 1763. Much of it is also missing, but the surviving parts list various pieces of furniture, kitchen ware, bed clothing, and “1 small box containing vizt. necklaces, earrings, sho. . . “amongst other things.” The total value of the estate is missing.⁴⁶

The key phrase, however is a legacy in the will to “*my granddaughters father.*” The phrase can only refer to the father of Elizabeth, daughter of Sarah Franklin, as she was the only granddaughter still alive when Ann died. This expression is not the typical language one uses to describe a son-in-law. It is, however, perfectly appropriate for the father of a daughter’s illegitimate child.

The Franklin print shop, founded by James Franklin in 1727, continued in business for more than two and a half centuries before closing in 1996. The *Newport Mercury*, founded by James Franklin, Jr., in 1758 and published by his mother Ann (Franklin) Smith after his death, is still in publication today.

Genealogical Summary

1. **JAMES² FRANKLIN** (*Josiah*¹) was born at Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 4 February 1696, son of Josiah¹ and Abiah (Folger) Franklin.⁴⁷ He was baptized there at the Old South Church 7 February 1696.⁴⁸ He died at Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, 4 February 1734/5.⁴⁹ On 15 January 1723 James published his intention to marry at Boston ANN SMITH.⁵⁰ They were married there by Presbyterian minister John Webb 4 February.⁵¹ Ann was born at Boston 2 October 1696, daughter of Samuel and Anna (____) Smith.⁵² She was baptized there at the Old South Church 4 October 1696.⁵³ She died at Newport 19 April 1763 “in the 68th year of her age.”⁵⁴

Children of James² and Ann (Smith) Franklin, all d. by April 1763:

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46. Newport, Rhode Island, Town Council Records, Newport Historical Society, 13:199 (will), 13:200 (inventory).
47. “James son of Josiah [and] Abiah Franklin” Holbrook, *Boston VRs* [note 2], “Boston Births 1693–1696; Marriages, 1695–1697; Deaths, 1693–1696,” 62.
48. *Boston Churches* [note 5], “Records of the Old South Church in Boston,” 134.
49. Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 221. Image available on disc 1 of the companion DVDs or Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission database (www.rihistoriccemeteries.org).
50. Holbrook, *Boston VRs* [note 2], “Boston Marriage Publications 1713–1728, Vol. 2,” 204.
51. Holbrook, *Boston VRs* [note 2] “Boston Marriages 1721–1751, Vol. 2,” 14.
52. Holbrook, *Boston VRs* [note 2], “Boston Births 1693–1696; Marriages, 1695–1697; Deaths, 1693–1696,” 58.
53. *Boston Churches* [note 5], “Records of the Old South Church in Boston,” 133.
54. “Newport, April 25,” *Newport Mercury*, April 25, 1763, p. 3.

- i. ABIAH³ FRANKLIN, bp. at the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, 23 May 1725;⁵⁵ d. at Newport 15 October 1754, bur. Common Burying Ground, Newport Historic Cemetery 3, near her parents and children;⁵⁶ m. at First Congregational Church, Newport 17 July 1743 GEORGE BUCKMASTER,⁵⁷ b. ca. 1721, d. 22 March 1791, bur. with his second wife in the Common Burial Ground.⁵⁸
Children of George and Amiah (Franklin) Buckmaster, bur. Common Burying Ground near their mother:⁵⁹
 - 1. [unnamed daughter] Buckmaster, stillborn, 19 December 1745;
 - 2. *John Buckmaster*, bp. 22 May 1749 at First Congregational Church,⁶⁰ d. at Newport 22 May 1749, age 14 days;
 - 3. *Ann Deborah Buckmaster*, bp. at First Congregational Church 4 November 1750,⁶¹ d. at Newport 8 December 1750, age 5 weeks.⁶²
- ii. JAMES FRANKLIN, JR., bp. at Brattle Street Church, Boston, 6 November 1726;⁶³ d.s.p. at Newport 21 April 1762, unm.⁶⁴
- iii. ANN FRANKLIN, b. March 1728/9 (age 2 years 8 months at death); d. Newport 2 November 1730, buried in the Common Burying Ground at Newport.⁶⁵

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- 55. Church in Brattle Square. *The Manifesto Church: Records of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, With Lists of Communicants, Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals 1699–1872* [hereafter *Church in Brattle Square*] (Boston: The Benevolent Fraternity of Churches, 1902) 146, no. 1261.
 - 56. Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 221. Image available on disc 1 of the companion DVDs or at www.rihistoriccemeteries.org.
 - 57. First Congregational Church Second Book (Newport Historical Society no. 838 B), p. 87, [no. 74 in modern pencil].
 - 58. Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 312. Image available on disc 1 of the companion DVDs or Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission database (www.rihistoriccemeteries.org). His obituary reported his death, adding that he had “sustained, through life, the character of an honest man and valuable citizen” (“Died,” *Newport Herald* [Newport, R.I.], March 26 1791, p. 3).
 - 59. Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 221. Images of the gravestones of 1 and 2 are available on disc 1 of the companion DVDs or at www.rihistoriccemeteries.org.
 - 60. First Congregational Church Marriages Baptisms 1744 1825 (Newport Historical Society no. 832), p. 21, no. 45. John was baptized at home, his father being at sea and his mother first owning “the Covenant in Presence of several of the church.”
 - 61. First Congregational Church Marriages Baptisms 1744 1825 (Newport Historical Society no. 832), p. 22, no. 62.
 - 62. The gravestone for Ann or Deborah Buckmaster (transcribers differ) was last seen in 1895 (Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 221). Her baptismal record confirms that she was given both names.
 - 63. *Church in Brattle Square* [note 55], 148, no. 1341.
 - 64. “Deaths in Newport, R.I., 1760–1764” [note 20], *NEHG Register*, 62[1908]:354.
 - 65. Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 221. Image available on disc 1 of the companion DVDs or at www.rihistoriccemeteries.org.

- v. ELIZABETH FRANKLIN, b. probably at Newport about 1731 (calculated from age at death,); d.s.p. at Newport 17 January 1762, “in [y^e] 32^[d] Year of her Age,”⁶⁶ bur. in the Common Burying Ground near her parents; ⁶⁷ m. Newport 19 March 1761 ISAAC ALL,⁶⁸ d. after 1784 when he survived a shipwreck.⁶⁹
- vi. MARY FRANKLIN, b. say 1732 (est. marriage at 20), however prob. 1733 based on calculated birth of sister Elizabeth; d. by April 1763; m. at Newport 23 January 1752 WILLIAM ALLEN,⁷⁰ d. perhaps May 1764.⁷¹
One son, *Isaac Allen*, d.s.p. unm. by 1793 when his aunt, Alice (Allen) Freeborn, petitioned to administer his estate, he being “Absent at Sea and unheard of Three Years.”⁷²
- 2. vii. SARAH FRANKLIN, b. say 1734–5.

2. SARAH³ FRANKLIN (*James*², *Josiah*¹) was born say 1734–5 (estimated from siblings and date of father's death), probably at Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, daughter of James² and Ann (Smith) Franklin. She died, probably at Newport, by April 1763. She had a liaison with SAMUEL HALL, who was born at Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 2 November 1740, son of Jonathan and Anne (Fowle) Hall.⁷³ He died at Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 30 October 1807.⁷⁴

Samuel Hall and Sarah Franklin were never married but had a daughter Elizabeth, who was born, probably at Newport, ca. 1755 (from her age at death). Sarah helped her mother run the Franklin print shop at Newport after her father's death. Her exact date of death is unknown, but she did predecease her mother.

66. “Stiles, “Deaths in Newport” [note 20], *NEHG Register*, 62[1908]:353.

67. Sterling et al., *Newport Colonial Burial Grounds* [note 18], 221.

68. First Congregational Church Marriages Baptisms 1744 1825 (Newport Historical Society no. 832), p. 12, no. 251.

69. *Providence Gazette* (Providence, Rhode Island), December 11, 1784, p. 2.

70. First Congregational Church Marriages Baptisms 1744 1825 (Newport Historical Society no. 832), p. 7, no. 526. The church record disagrees slightly with the damaged town records that show the date of marriage as 1750 (Arnold, *RIVR*, 4:2:3).

71. Benjamin Greene and George Peckham Hazard, assignees to the estate of William Allen, advertised for creditors and debtors in *Newport Mercury* (Newport, R.I.) July 9, 1764, p. 3. William Allen was a common name in Newport, and he may have been a different man.

72. Newport, Rhode Island, Probate Records, Newport City Hall, 2:290.

73. Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Medford, 1673–1910* (Provo, Utah: Holbrook Research Institute, 2005) “Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1718–1830 + Out of Town Marriages to 1800,” 47 [n. pag., pages counted]. Parents married at Charlestown, Middlesex Co., Mass., 22 November 1739 (Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Charlestown, 1629–1874* [Oxford, Mass.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1985], “Charlestown Archives. Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1629–1800,” 445).

74. *Columbian Centinel* (Boston, Mass.) Whole No. 2,461, Saturday, October 31, 1807, p. 2.

Samuel Hall married at Boston 9 June 1766 Mary Hurd.⁷⁵ She was baptized there at the New South Church 7 Nov 1742, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Mason) Hurd.⁷⁶ She died there 29 October 1817.⁷⁷

Child of Samuel Hall and Elizabeth³ Franklin:

3. i. ELIZABETH⁴ HALL, b. ca. 1755.

3. **ELIZABETH⁴ HALL** (*Sarah³ Franklin, James², Josiah¹*) was born probably at Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, ca. 1755 (from her age at death), daughter of Samuel Hall and Sarah³ Franklin. She died at Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 11 March 1831, age 76, and is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield with her husband and five of their children.⁷⁸ Elizabeth married at Brookfield 2 November 1780 **THOMAS BARNES**.⁷⁹ He was born there 7 July 1751, son of John and Mary (Root) Barnes.⁸⁰ He died there 6 March 1838 and is buried with his wife.⁸¹

There is no extant record of birth or baptism for Elizabeth, who was born out of wedlock to Samuel Hall and Sarah Franklin. Thomas and Elizabeth were not mentioned in her father's will. While the Suffolk County Court allowed them an opportunity to contest the will, they declined to take action.⁸² Their youngest daughter, Mary Hurd Barnes, was named for Elizabeth's stepmother, Mary (Hurd) Hall. Mary Hall provided legacies in her will for Elizabeth and her two unmarried daughters, Betsey and Mary Hurd Barnes.⁸³

Children of Thomas and Elizabeth⁴ (Hall) Barnes, born at Brookfield:⁸⁴

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75. Holbrook, *Boston VRs*, [note 2], "Boston Marriages 1761–1809" 12:50.
 76. *Boston Churches* [note 5], "Records of the New South Church in Boston" p. 28 (citing original p. 33). Parents' marriage at p. 86.
 77. "Last evening, mrs. Mary Hall, relict of the late Samuel Hall, Printer, aged 74," *Boston Commercial Gazette* (Boston, Mass.), February 17, 1817, p. 3.
 78. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs*, [note 44] "Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Births & Deaths by Family ca 1705–1813" 1:61. Several photos of her elegant slate gravestone with its weeping willow motif appear on Find A Grave Memorial# 34184990.
 79. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], "Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Intentions & Marriages 1718–1735, 1747–1792" vol. 1, p. 19 verso (n. pag., pages counted).
 80. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], "Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Births & Deaths by Family 1701–1841," 36
 81. Find A Grave Memorial #34185069 "*In memory of* | Mr. | THOMAS BARNES. | who died | March 16, 1838 | Æt. 86." His gravestone appears to have been cut by the same carver who produced his wife's stone.
 82. Suffolk County, Mass., Probate, Docket 23043, 105:524–5 [FHL #493,962 Item 1].
 83. Suffolk County, Mass., Probate, Docket 25188, 115:133–35 [FHL #493,968].
 84. Births of all children from Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Births & Deaths by Family ca 1705–1813," 1:61.

- i. JOHN⁵ BARNES, b. 25 January 1782; d. at Brookfield 9 May 1843, age 61, bur. Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield.⁸⁵
- ii. BETSY BARNES, b. 8 May 1783; d. at West Brookfield, Worcester Co., Mass., 25 March 1861, unmarried.⁸⁶
- iii. MERCY BARNES, b. 3 January 1785; d. at West Brookfield 3 December 1860;⁸⁷ bur. Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield;⁸⁸ m. at Brookfield 17 March 1808 WILLIAM CLAPP.⁸⁹ He was b. there 9 May 1783, son of Elijah and Azubah (Ross) Clapp;⁹⁰ d. there 14 September 1846.⁹¹
- iv. JONATHAN HALL BARNES, b. 16 May 1787; d. at Brookfield 27 October 1809,⁹² age 22, bur. Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield.⁹³
- v. GRACEY WELCH BARNES, b. 12 July 1789; d. at Boston 31 August 1865,⁹⁴ bur. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.;⁹⁵ m. at Brookfield 4 March 1817 THOMAS THWING.⁹⁶ He b. at Newton, Middlesex Co., Mass., 21 February 1792, son of Nicholas and Lydia (Stratton) Thwing;⁹⁷ d. at Boston 6 May 1867.⁹⁸ He is bur. in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., Arethusa Path, Lot 3307.⁹⁹
Thomas Thwing's son Edward Payson Thwing wrote a biography of his father *A Memorial of Thomas Thwing, Thirty Years City Missionary in Boston* [1868]. An author of a number of books,

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85. Photos of John Barnes' gravestone by James Bianco and Mark Wing at Find A Grave memorial #94127505. He is buried at Pine Grove Cemetery in that part of Brookfield that became West Brookfield in 1848.
 86. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1861, 149:311, No. 6 [FHL #960, 179, Item 2].
 87. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1860, 140:258, No. 28 [FHL #660,177].
 88. Photos by James Bianco and Mark Wing at Find A Grave Memorial# 94129291.
 89. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], "Marriages, Publishments, Miscellaneous, 1793–1844, "Intentions & Marriages 1804–1820," 33.
 90. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], "Births and Deaths, 1768–1847, Births & Deaths by Family 1768–1841," 36.
 91. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1846, 27:151, No. 17 [FHL #959,809, Item 2].
 92. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], "Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Births & Deaths by Family ca 1705–1813," 1:61.
 93. Photos by James Bianco and Mark Wing at Find A Grave Memorial# 94128515
 94. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1865, 185:114 No. 3,102 [FHL #960,187 Item 2].
 95. Find A Grave Memorial# 90499393, Arethusa Path, Lot 3307. She is bur. next to her husband.
 96. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs*, "Marriages, Publishments, Miscellaneous, 18081, 1813–1836, "Intentions & Marriages 1804–1820" p. 84 [note 44].
 97. Jay Mack Holbrook. *Massachusetts Vital Records: Newton 1621–1915* (Provo, Utah: Holbrook Research Institute, 2006). "Newton Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1780–1845," 2:7.
 98. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1867, 204:61, No. 1459 [FHL #960,19, Item 2].
 99. The memorial at Find A Grave does not have a photo of his gravestone but does have one of him from the biography (Find A Grave Memorial# 90499612).

Edward Thwing was a minister who died in Guangdong, China in 1893 and is bur. in the Protestant Cemetery there.¹⁰⁰

- vi. SILAS BARNES, b. 29 July 1791; d. at Brookfield 1 August 1791.¹⁰¹
- vii. BAXTER BARNES, b. 11 May 1794; d.s.p. at West Brookfield 28 December 1863, age 69,¹⁰² bur. Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield; m. there 23 July 1851 ADELINE BLAIR.¹⁰³ She b. at Brookfield 1 August 1810, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Tufts) Blair;¹⁰⁴ d. at West Brookfield 7 May 1882, age 71,¹⁰⁵ bur. with her husband.¹⁰⁶
- viii. MARY HURD BARNES, b. 22 March 1796; d. at Brookfield 2 April 1847, age 51, unm.¹⁰⁷ “Miss Mary H. Barnes” is bur. in Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield.¹⁰⁸

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- 100. Much interesting biographical information appears in his entry on Find A Grave Find A Grave Memorial# 132397129.
 - 101. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], “Births and Deaths, 1700–1818, Births & Deaths by Family ca 1705–1813,” 1:61.
 - 102. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1862, 167:298, No. 32 [FHL #960,183, Item 2].
 - 103. Massachusetts Vital Records, Marriages, 1851, 56:257, No. 4 [FHL #1,432,877, Item 2].
 - 104. Holbrook, *Brookfield VRs* [note 44], “Births and Deaths, 1768–1847, Births & Deaths by Family 1783–1846,” 176.
 - 105. Parents’ names, including mother’s maiden name, given on death certificate. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 1882, 339:456, No. 19 [FHL #960,223].
 - 106. Photos by James Bianco and Mark Wing at Find A Grave Memorial# 94128923.
 - 107. Massachusetts Vital Records, Deaths, 27:152, No. 46 [FHL #959,809, Item 2].
 - 108. Photos by James Bianco and Mark Wing at Find A Grave Memorial# 94127786.