

The data in this research file was compiled by Jackie Marshall (jlsn), decades-long (until 2023) genealogy chair of the Amherst (N.H.) Historical Society, and by Katrina Holman (KMH), independent historical researcher for/of Amherst, N.H., and author of “Historic Amherst” column for *The Amherst (NH) Citizen* newspaper 2009-2021. Jackie’s research, for the Ethnic History presentation she gave in 2010 on the Amherst History Panel held at Amherst Town Library in 2010, was largely based on her attempt to identify two individuals believed to be of African ancestry whose bones were accidentally uncovered in the Old Burying Ground in 2003. Katrina added more data including section on 18th- and 19th-century black real estate owners discovered in 2022, and compiled an index of names and a timeline.

Rev. Jan. 2025. This is first version made public.

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History of BLACKS in AMHERST, N.H.

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

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

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- 1767, 1773: “Slaves” in Amherst and in whole of N.H. (Provincial New Hampshire Census)
- 1775: “Colored” Persons in Amherst (Secomb’s *History*)
- 1779, 1783, 1788: Tax Invoices compiled by the Town listing “Negroes & Molatto Servants” as a category of property even though the number is 0
- 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830: “Other Free” or “Free Colored” [non-white] Persons (Federal Censuses of Amherst, N.H.)

Vital and Baptism Records

- Congregational Church of Amherst, Baptism records (1741 to 1926)
- Vital Records recorded by John Farmer

Earliest Black Real Estate Owners (in chronological order)

- 1775, 1778-1785: Elizabeth Perwid(d)y. “laboring woman” (=self-supporting) and “spinster” (=unmarried) and “free woman” – west end of Austin Road (land)
- 1778-1782: Cesar Freeman – 61 Austin Road (house & farm)
- 1780-1801: Philo Talbert/Talbot/Tolbart/Tolbert – East/North side Spring Rd, Amherst (house & land), initially 30a, reduced to 8a
- 1828-1833: William Ross Parker – 75 Lyndeborough Road (house & farm)

Anecdotes of Black Servants in Amherst

- c. 1774/5: Cato, “servant” of Joshua Atherton, register of probate, at 232 Boston Post Road
- c. 1793: Male servant of Hon. Samuel Dana at 19 Main Street

Notice of Run-away Black Indentured Servant in 1807**Biographical/Genealogical Information**

- Pompe Russell, Revolutionary War vet married at Amherst
- Caesar Parker, resident of Mont Vernon in first half of 19th Century who often visited Amh

BONES DISCOVERED/UNCOVERED AT TOWN HALL CEMETERY (aka Old Burying Ground) in 2003**1870 Trial****Info Gleaned from Books**

- Secomb’s *History of Amherst ...* (1883)
- Diary of Matthew Patten of Bedford, N.H. (1754-1788; typescript published 1903)
- E.D. Boylston’s *Sketch of a Busy Life ...* (1892)

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INDEX of “BLACK” / “COLORED” PERSONS
in 18th & 19th Century RECORDS of AMHERST, N.H.
- compiled by Katrina Holman (rev. Nov. 2024)

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

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

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

CHAMBERS, Cuff – non-white head of household in 1800 (census) with 3 other non-whites in household

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

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

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

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

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

HARE, Richard N. (b. in Virginia; d. 1953 aged 85; buried Amherst) – in 1913 bought house & farm in Amherst on Route 101 (near Bedford line, with 75a, formerly known as John Prince farm and then Frank Noyes farm) (deed 716:291; “Sales in Amherst” in *Milford Cabinet*, 6 Nov. 1913, p. 5) and moved his family here and became a farmer. His wife was Josephine nee Watson (1880-1955; b. Arkansas; married 1905 in Cohasset, Mass.). They were “black” in 1900 & 1910 censuses; “mulatto” in 1920 census; “Negro” in 1930 census. Five more children were born to them in Amherst. Their children were well educated. In Jan, 1920, Josephine Watson Hare became owner of the adjoining farm that had belonged to her late mother (deed 781:145). In 1924 the Hares opened a wayside refreshment stand aka tea room along Route 101, at first near the old Ephraim Jones blacksmith shop at the junction of the county and Merrimack roads, near their home (*Cabinet*, 11 Sep. 1924) , and the following year moved it even closer

to their house (*Cabinet*, 16 April 1925). Richard & Josephine lived in Amherst for 40+ years, essentially until their deaths. (Josephine's obituary in *Milford Cabinet*, 28 April 1955, p. 6.) Richard was succeeded on the farm by his son Eric W. Ware (1914-1984), a middle child but the first of their many children born in Amherst, who lived there with his wife Katherine nee Jeffers (1919-2011) until 1970s. Their three children were raised in Amherst.

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

KIMBALL, Thomas – “black” man, died 30 Sep. 1805 aged 61, of fever (John Farmer's vital records)

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

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

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

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

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

PERWID(D)Y [spelling?], Elizabeth/Eliza – an illiterate, unmarried, “free” “labouring woman” who likely was Black – and if so, the earliest known Black landowner in Amherst. She was a resident of Ipswich Hamlet in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in Dec. 1774 when she sold 60-acre First Division Lot 104 in northwest part of Amherst for 18 Pounds lawful money to Ephraim Hildreth [tavern/innkeeper on Jones Road] and Francis Lovejoy (deed 3:311); in Feb. 1778, by which time she was a resident of Amherst, she bought back the same property for 20 Pounds (deed 8:236) and immediately sold off westerly half, which would be early version of 61 Austin Road farm, to Cesar Freeman (deed 8:237), probably a Black man. She either lived at 61 Austin Road farm with Freeman – or more likely on the lot next east – because in the fall of 1785 she was still “of Amherst,” and still a “labouring woman” when she sold the easterly half of Lot 104, about 35 acres, to neighbor Daniel Campbell for 33 Pounds (deed 26:169). (Where she went next: In Sep. or Oct. 1785, Elizabeth P. of Amherst, spinster, bought 65-acre lot in Lyndeborough, N.H., her land bounding on Amherst town line on the east line and on New Boston town line on the north line (deeds 18:113 & 34:88); the abutting 65-acre lot was bought by one Sampson Freeman, also a resident of Amherst.)

There is no direct evidence for Elizabeth being Black, but consider these factors: (1) Her unusual surname and being from Ipswich Hamlet: Although Perwid(d)y is entirely missing from Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, in Ipswich, Mass., there was Peter Pervidy/Perviddy/ Peroiddy, whose color was

“B”, who married there in 1774. (2) Her habit of owning land next to Freeman family. (3) Her designation as “free woman” in 1789 Mortgage deed (Hillsborough County, N.H., 22:392).

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

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

SNOW, Jack – non-white head of household in 1800 with 2 additional “other” [non-white] persons in household (census)

TALBERT/TALBOTT/TOLBART, Philo (c.1723-1807) – “colored person” husbandman=small farmer, who in 1780 bought 30 acres in Amherst, from which he sold off 9a in 1788; in 1790 petitioned Town for relief/release, having long been confined in county gaol and being too poor to pay the charges for prison board (*Amherst Town Records*); listed as head of household of one and noted as non-white in 1800 (census); sold 8a (probably on north/east side of Spring Road) with life lease agreement; died 13 Feb. 1807 aged 84 (identified as “colored” in John Farmer’s vital records).

Genealogy: Philo m1 Sarah, 10 May 1752 at Kensington, N.H.; m2 Mary Beal/Beale/Bell, 2 July 1761 at Kensington, N.H. Daughter Anna (b c1748) was wife of William (Hodge) Brown (Rev. War vet who switched from British to American side), settled Amh. Philo had a granddaughter in Amherst named Sarah Brown (with whom he settle debt 1807). Son William Talbert (b. betw 1755-1765; d. bef. 8 Feb 1823 per estate administration), resident of Hillsborough, who 1807-1823 owned Philo’s former 8a in Amherst.

TAYLOR, Diadaspa – daughter of Lidia, a “Mulatto woman”; baptized July 1779, presumably at Amherst (Cong Church records)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Note: Because Mrs. Watson was resident in 20th century, her data is not included in Sources section below. See entry for Hare above in this Index.]

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

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

- 1767: 6 male slaves, 2 female slaves; total population 858
(Town includes present-day Milford north of river & Mont Vernon.)
- 1771/1772: Hezekiah Duncklee of 369 Boston Post Rd, farmer, freed “slave girl” in his Will.
- 1773: 3 male slaves, 2 female slaves; total population 1370 (incl. part of Monson).
- 1774 Feb 17: Dinah, “the little slave” of John & Margaret Mitchell, was baptized at Congr church.
- 1774/’75: Cato, the “half-witted negro servant” of Hon. Joshua Atherton (1737-1809), register of probate, was frightened by a mob of armed “Patriots” who visited & searched the Atherton house at 232 Boston Post Road.
- 1775: 4 “colored” persons reside in Amherst; total population 1428.
- 1775 Jul 25: Violet Content (no last name), “servant” of Dr. Moses & Hannah Nichols, was baptized at Congr church
- 1776 May: Primus Chandler, a “colored” man from Bedford who served as Revolutionary War soldier on behalf of Amherst’s quota, was killed “by the Indians”.
- 1777 Oct.: Peter Brewer, a “Negro”/“colored” resident of New Boston who fought in Revolutionary War as part of Amherst’s quota, was killed in battle at Saratoga.
- 1778 Feb.: Elizabeth Perwid(d)y an illiterate unmarried “labouring woman,” who probably was Black, was already a resident of Amherst when she bought 60-acre First Division Lot 104 for 20 Pounds lawful money back from Ephraim Hildreth [tavern/innkeeper on Jones Road] and Francis Lovejoy (deed 8:236) (to whom she had sold the property for 18 Pounds in Dec. 1774 when she was a resident of Ipswich Hamlet, Province of Massachusetts Bay per deed 3:311) and immediately sold off 30a westerly half that would be early version of 61 Austin Road farm to Cesar Freeman. In the fall of 1785 she was still “of Amherst,” and still a “labouring woman” when she sold the easterly half of Lot 104, about 35 acres, for 33 Pounds (deed 26:169) and moved to Lyndeborough.
- 1778: Cesar Freeman of Amherst, husbandman (and likely the Black man who had been a resident of Ipswich Hamlet, Mass. in 1774 when he married) – bought 30 acres, being half of a First Division lot, for 9 Pounds lawful money (deed 8:237); and likely built the house at 61 Austin Road, which he occupied until c. 1782.
- 1779: 0 “Negroes and Molatto Servants &c” as taxable property; 332 Polls [men “from 18 years & upwards”; town includes present-day Amherst & Milford & Mont Vernon.]
- 1779 Jul 21: Diadaspa Taylor, daughter of “a Mulatto woman” named Lidia, was baptized at Congr church
- 1780: Philo Talbart, resident and husbandman, buys 30a in Amherst (deed 7:358); sells 9.25a in 1788 (22:21).
- 1783: 0 “Negroes and Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of age,” neither male nor female, as taxable property in Amherst; 357 Polls [men “from 18 to 70 years of age”].
- 1785: Sampson Freeman, likely a free Black man, was resident of Amherst
- 1788: 0 “Negroes and Molatto Servants from 16 to 45 years of age,” neither male nor female, as taxable property in Amherst; 413 Polls [men “from 18 to 70 years of age”].
- 1788 June: Pompe Russell, a “black”/“colored” Revolutionary War vet who had fought with N.H. Regt., was married at Amherst to Margret Cut, by Moses Nichols, JP.
- 1790: Philo Talbert, poor man, was confined in county gaol at Amherst; in 1800 census he was enumerated as a non-white inhabitant of Amherst
- 1790: 18 [non-white] persons among 14 families/households; total population 2369 [includes Milford & Mont Vernon]. In all of New Hampshire: 158 slaves + 141,097 free whites.

- 1800: 31 [non-white] persons among 16 families/households in 1st Parish, including 3 non-white heads of household; and 2 more [non-white] persons in 2 households in 2nd Parish [one of which will remain in Amherst and the other is in section that became Mont Vernon in 1803]; total population 2150.
- 1800 Sep 5: Sally Ingals Taylor, daughter of “a molatto woman” named Lidia Taylor, was baptized at Congr church of Amherst.
- 1805 Sep 30: Thomas Kimball, 61-year old black man, died at Amherst.
- 1807 Feb 13: Philo Talbott, a “colored” person aged 84, died at Amherst.
- 1807 Feb.: A “Negro girl” named Nancy Gardner who was indentured to Ebenezer Kimball of Amherst, ran away from him and he placed a reward notice in the local newspaper.
- 1807 Apr 25: Phebe Snellings, a “partially colored” person aged 70, died at Amherst.
- 1810: 10 [non-white] persons among 7 households; total population 1554
- 1811 Jul 6: Dimon (Herisl?) Orn_ [sp?], son of “a black woman” named Cate, was baptized at Congr church.
- 1820: 8 “free colored” persons (3 males & 5 females) among 7 households; total pop. 1622.
- 1828-1833: William Ross Parker, son of a black resident of Mont Vernon named Caesar Parker, co-owned (with a resident white man) 75 Lyndeborough Road in Amherst and other real estate 1828-1830; 1830-1833 Parker was sole owner of the same real estate..
- 1830: 7 “free colored” persons (3 males + 4 females) among 6 households; total pop. 1657
- 1840: In Census, no “free colored” persons enumerated in Amherst; 3 in Milford; 3 in Mont Vernon, one of them being Cesar Parker as head of household.
- 1841 Feb.-May: The Congregational Church in Amherst grappled with abolition issue. “The agitation of the slavery question and the attitude of the church in regard to it, produced an alienation of feeling on the part of some of its members, who refused any longer to assist in the support of preaching [Rev. Wm. T. Savage recently installed], and encouraged the establishment of, and attendance upon, a meeting in the chapel [on Foundry Street, originally the Second County Courthouse] on the Sabbath in opposition to the regular services in the church. In consequence of these offences, Brothers Luther Melendy [(1793-1883); resided in NW corner of Amherst on Chestnut Hill, now part of tracking station, until 1866 when he retired and moved to 118 Boston Post Road in Amherst Village (deed 361:267)] and Loea Pratt [(1785-1875); resided 14 Rd] ... were by vote of the church ... excommunicated ... “ (Secomb’s *History of Amherst* (1883), p. 303.) Luther Melendy’s gravemarker monument bears the words: “The slaves friend / and the colored peoples benefactor.”
- 1841 June: “Hillsborough County Conference of Churches Annual Meeting on the 8 th and 9 th inst. ... Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference, slave-holding and salve-trading are inconsistent with religion and morality ... Resolved, That we believe it to be the bounden duty of christians everywhere to take a firm position against slavery ...” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 18 June 1841, p. [1].)
- 1841 Aug. 30: “Resolutions on Slavery passed by the Baptist Church in Milford. ... Resolved that we consider American Slavery a heinous sin in the sight of God...” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 1 Oct. 1841, p. [2].)
- 1841/2 ca.: “... period when Anti-Slavery excitement so rent the church ... Baptist Hall (over Read Store) [rock thrown through window]” (E.D. Boylston, *Sketch of a Busy Life ...* , p. 64)
- 1850: A “Negro” escaped from the county jail along with 3 Frenchmen and a Yankee; caught.
- 1850: In census, a single person of color was enumerated in Amherst, namely 13-year-old James Blanchard living in household of white farmer & his family at 44 Stearns Road; total population was 1613..
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- 1857-1859: Advertisement for “Mrs. Wilson’s Hair Regenerator” “prepared by Mrs. H. E. Wilson” of Nashua, street address “No. 13 Cottage Avenue” until April 1858 and thereafter “No. 9

Winter Street” – appears issue after issue in the *Farmers’ Cabinet* newspaper published in Amherst, from 7 Oct. 1857 through 13 April 1859.

This is believed to have been the same woman who authored the book *Our Nig, or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* that was printed in 1859 in Boston, Mass.; the copyright was filed in District Court of Massachusetts by “H. E. Wilson.” Authorship has been attributed to Harriet/Hattie E. (Adams) Wilson (1825/7-1900), who was born a free person of color in Milford, N.H., daughter of a poor white woman and a free black man. Although Prof. Gates, who rediscovered and republished the book in 1983, called it a novel, scholarship immediately focused on verifying autobiographical details. I would classify this as a memoir, that genre that purports to be non-fiction but tends to stray into fiction for the sake of the narrative (in this case also changing all the people's names). The introduction to Penguin's 2005 edition by P. Gabrielle Foreman, associate professor of English & American Studies at Occidental College, and Reginald H. Pitts, historical researcher and genealogist, provides details of the author's life. Besides what the story itself reveals about blacks in this area in the 19th century, the process of discovery of the author's life details is instructive for those interested in history, especially as described in the 2003 book on this topic by R. J. Ellis, the researcher who consulted Milford's annual reports by the Overseers of the Poor to narrow-down Harriet's whereabouts by year. Hattie was an indentured servant in the household of a Milford farmer until the age of 18 [so said the secondary source, but age 21 would be more usual] and after that remained too poor to support herself fully. In 1850 in Milford, Harriet Adams, 22, color “B”, was enumerated in the household of Samuel Boyles, 50, carpenter. For the two years prior to her marriage in 1851 in Milford, to a black man named Wilson “of Va.” who was an itinerant anti-slavery lecturer, Harriet Adams was given monetary aid by Milford's Overseers of the Poor as a “pauper off the farm” (that is, not living in the town's almshouse). She gave birth to a son in the County poor house in Goffstown, but returned to Milford (apparently when her husband returned). She again received pauper aid from Milford 1854-'56, and her 3-year-old son was actually admitted to the County poor house for four weeks in 1855. The “Wilson boy” was supported or aided by the town for the next three years, until his death of a fever at age 7 years 8 months in 1860. Her book is an impressive achievement of significant value to posterity. Towards the end of her life, in Massachusetts, Mrs. Wilson's occupation was “clairvoyant physician,” that is, a trance medium and spiritual healer nurse. The Harriet E. Wilson memorial statue was installed in Milford in 2006.

[RESEARCH NOTE: No attempt has been made to research this topic in the second half of 19th century nor 20th century, but info I happened across is included below.]

1870: Francis S. Freeman, “a full blooded negro” “nearly 70 years old” with a “Creole” wife, filed a lawsuit against Brooks R. Came [(1835-1914)] and John A. Boutelle [(1838-1928)] of Amherst to recover \$1100, the wages paid to Franklin Newton, a minor, for four years' service [deduced to be 1865-1868] in their employ, Freeman claiming Newton as his son. Newton, however, claimed to be white and denied the “parentage in toto”; although Newton acknowledged having been raised by the Freeman couple, he claimed to remember “to have been given to this negro and told that he must call them father and mother.” At the trial, held at the Supreme Judicial Court at Nashua, the plaintiff “had with him a boy, aged sixteen, and a girl fourteen, that he called his children, both of whom are “Blondes,” and appeared to recognize the old man as their father. ... The jury returned a verdict for the defendants.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 8 Dec. 1870, p. [2].) Frank Newton, 23, farm laborer, is enumerated in 1870 census of Amherst in household of John A. Boutelle, 31, farmer, who shared house [at 107 Ponemah Road] with household of [Boutelle's co-owner since 1867] Brooks R. Came, 34, farmer, and the household of their father-in-law Porter Dunklee, farmer, 64. (See below for this Freeman, his wife and young Newton in other censuses.)

1913: Richard N. Hare (b. in Virginia; d. 1953 in N.H. aged 85; buried Amherst) bought house & farm on Route 101 (near Bedford line, with 75a, formerly known as John Prince farm) (deed 716:291; “Sales in Amherst” in *Milford Cabinet*, 6 Nov. 1913, p. 5) and moved his family here and became a farmer.

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

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

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

[End of TIMELINE section]

PROVINCIAL N.H. CENSUS DATA

1767 Census of Province of New Hampshire – Amherst:

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

6 Male Slaves

2 Female Slaves

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

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

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

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

1773 Census of Province of New Hampshire – Amherst:

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

3 male slaves

2 female slaves

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1775 Census of Province of New Hampshire – Amherst:

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

4 Colored persons – sex not stated

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

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

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

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

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

FEDERAL CENSUS DATA

1790 US Census, Amherst, Hillsborough, N. H. (NARA Roll: M637_5; ancestry.com Images: 0141-0145)
National Columns: Name of Head; Free white males 16 & over including head; Free white males under 16; free white females including head; All other free persons; Slaves

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

Robert Means	1	[1 Pierce Lane, store]
John Wilkins	1	
Ralph Ellenwood	1	[41 Courthouse Rd]
Hannah Nichols	1	
William Brown	5	
William Read	1	[377 Boston Post Rd, Souhegan River farm]
Thomas Underwood	1	
Jona. Smith Jr.	1	[11.5 Church St, register deeds]
William Melendy Jr.	1	[Boston Post Rd]
Mary Wilkins	1	
Joseph Nichols	1	
Isaac Southwick	1	
Andrew Bradford Jr.	1	
Israel Towne	1	

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

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

In 1790, the whole population was 2369 (Secomb, p. 184). [Were prisoners counted?]

Note: In 1790 census, Philo Tolbut (1-1-1) is listed between Thomas Wakefield [25 Old Milford Rd] and William Wakefield, in same columns as their families, with no indication of his color.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Cuff Chambers	4	
Ebenezer Kimball	1	[See newspaper notice, Feb. 1807; northern Amh, near east end Rt 101]
Nathan Kendall	1	[6 Mack Hill Rd, tavern + store]
Anna Dana	2	[19 Main St, widow of judge]
William Gordon	1	[24 Courthouse Rd, lawyer, postmaster]
[---] Thompson	7	[?? In 1801, Samuel Thompson at 57 Seaverns Bridge Rd]
Robert Means	2	[1 Pierce Lane, Village, store]
Hannah Nichols	1	
James Roby	1	[likely on Mack Hill Rd]
William Reed	2	[377 Boston Post Rd]
Benjamin Shepard	1	[44 Stearns Rd]
William Towne	1	[southern part of Amherst, likely Ponemah Rd north of river]
*Philo Talbert	1	
*Jack Snow	3	
Ebenezer Weston	1	[2 Thornton Ferry Rd2, physician]
John Brown	2	

Households with 'other' persons in Amherst 2nd Parish:

Eli Brown	1	[near future Mt Vernon line]
<u>William Lamson</u>	<u>1</u>	[future Mt Vernon]

1800 Total both parishes: 33 persons

*Head of household 'other'

(Note: 1800 census transcription of names & quantities by jlsm; annotation of addresses by KMH.)

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

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

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

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

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

Families with 'Other Persons' listed

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

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

(Note: 1810 census transcription of names & quantities by jlsn; annotation of addresses by KMH.)

1820 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Columns: Name of Head of Household

6 columns: Free white males divided into age categories

5 columns: Free white females divided into age categories

Foreigners not naturalized

Persons engaged in Agriculture

Persons engaged in Commerce

Persons engaged in Manufacture

Free Colored Males, divided into 4 age categories

Free Colored Females, divided into 4 age categories

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

[Remarks]

Households with "Colored" Persons

Head of Household [all whites]	Free Colored M & F	
Isaac Brooks	0000-0100	[register of deeds, 12 Mack Hill Rd]
Luther Dana	0000-0020	[in Amherst Village, prob. Carriage Rd]
Jacob Kimball	0100-0000	
Ebenr. Kimball	0000-0010	
Holten Kimball	0100-0000	
James C. Mace	0010-0000	[hat-maker, 369 Boston Post Rd]
David Stewart	<u>0000-0100</u>	[SE corner Middle & Main Sts]

1820 Total: 0210-0230 Total 8 persons in 7 households

(Note: 1820 census transcription of names & quantities by jlsn; annotation of addresses by KMH.)

1830 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

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

Heads of Household with "Colored" Persons

Amos Upham [75 Lyndeb. Rd]	- 4 free white persons	+ one "free colored" male 10-23
Ezra Woolson [65 Lyndeb Rd]	- 10 free white persons	+ one "free colored" man 24-35
Mary Means [1 Pierce Ln]	- 10 free white persons	+ one "free colored boy" under 10
		[not captured by Ancestry transcription]
Thomas M. Benden [tailor]	- 7 free white persons	+ 2 "free colored" females 10-23
		[not captured by Ancestry transcription]
Isaac Brooks [register deeds, 12 Mack Hill Rd]	- 4 free white persons	+ one "free colored" female 10-23
William Colby	- 6 free white persons	+ one "free colored" female 10-23

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: Milford, N.H.

Heads of Household with “Colored” Persons

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

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

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

1830 “Whole number of Inhabitants in Milford 1803”

1840 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: Milford, N.H.

Households with “Colored” Persons

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

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

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: Mont Vernon, N.H.

Households with “Colored” Persons

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

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

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

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

1850 US population Census: Amherst, Hillsborough, New Hampshire

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congregational Church Baptism records:

[searched 1741 to 1926 & transcribed by jlsm]

Of the handful of baptisms recorded before 1774, none are servants, slaves, or black.

- 1774 Feb 17: Dinah, the little slave of John & Margaret Mitchell; same day as their son Oliver
- 1775 Jul 25: Violet Content (no last name), servant of Dr. Moses & Hannah Nichols
- 1779 Jul 21: Diadaspa Taylor, dau of Lidia, a Mulatto woman
- 1800 Sep 5: Taylor, Sally Ingals, dau of Lidia Taylor a molatto woman
- 1811 Jul 6: (Orn?), Dimon (Herisl?), son of Cate, a black woman

John Farmer's vital records (small notebook in collection of Chapel Museum of The Historical Society of Amherst, N.H.):

[searched & transcribed by jlsm]

- 1805 Sep 30: died Thomas Kimball (a black), Fever, age 61
- 1807 Feb 13: Philo Talbott, decay, a colored person, age 84
- 1807 Apr 25: Phebe Snellings, cancer, partially colored, age 70

EARLY BLACK OWNERS OF REAL ESTATE IN AMHERST

[Section Added by Katrina Holman, Aug. 2022]

1778 (or possibly as early as 1775)-1785: Elisabeth Perwidy who came from Ipswich Hamlet, Province of Massachusetts Bay, spinster (=unmarried) and “laboring woman”, who could not sign her own name

1774 Dec. 2 Deed (3:311): ELISABETH PERWIDY of Ipswich Hamlet, Province of Massachusetts Bay, spinster, sold to EPHRAIM HILDRETH of Amherst, Province of New Hampshire, gentleman, & FRANCIS LOVEJOY of Amherst, yeoman, for 18 Pounds Lawful Money, lot of land in Amherst, N.H. containing 60 acres by estimation, being whole of First Division Lot No. 104 in Proprietors’ Book, bounded – easterly partly by land of William Small Jr. and partly by land of Jonathan Wilkins Jr.; and westerly by land of Jacob Stanly; and southerly by land of Daniel Campbell.

Signed: with mark.

Recorded: 24 March 1775 by Sam’l Hobart.

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

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

Research note by KMH: Intriguing possibility (judging by her unusual surname from Ipswich Hamlet and habit of owning land next to Freeman family) – was she Black? Perwid(d)y is entirely missing from FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com; closest is Peter Pervidy/Perviddy/Peroiddy, whose color was “B”, who married 1774 in Ipswich, Mass.

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

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

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

Recorded: 18 Oct. 1779 by Moses Nichols, Register who was also JP.

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

Research Note by Katrina Holman: The “occupation” of the grantee in this deed (8:236) is highly unusual. Although deeds in 18th century and early 19th century N.H. listed the occupation of grantor and grantee, in the case of women, instead of occupation usually their marital status was given (spinster, widow, or wife of So-and-So) because that had legal implications as to their right to sell the property). There are a few cases where the actual money-earning occupation of the woman was given; but in researching hundreds of 18th- and 19th-century deeds of Souhegan West and Amherst, this Elizabeth P. is the only one I’ve come across called a “laboring woman.”

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DEED INDEXES 1771-1849

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

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

1779 (8:237):	Elisabeth Perwidy	to Cesar Freeman –	Amh, 30 acres
1782 Mortgage (9:150):	Cesar Freeman	to George Dodge Jr. et al –	Lyndeboro, 65a
1782 (9:151):	Cesar Freeman	to George Dodge Jr et al –	Lyndeboro, 65a
1783 (12:116):	Cesar Freeman	to Stephen Abbott –	Amh, 3/4 acre

Note: 1782 Cesar Freman/Freeman bought land in Lyndeborough from Parker

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

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

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

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

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

1774 July 18 – Ipswich Hamlet [Mass.]: Marriage of Caper [sic as transcribed later, someone probably couldn’t read elongated s letter] Freeman of Ipswich Hamlet, color B [!!!] & Lydia Freeman of Ipswich Hamlet (Marriages Registered in Ipswich Hamlet, copied from church record)

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

1774 August 11 – Ipswich Hamlet: Marriage of Peter Pervidy of Ipswich Hamlet, color B [!!!], & Deliverance Story of Ipswich Hamlet (Marriages Registered in Ipswich Hamlet, copied from church record; Freeman and Pervidy are the only ones marked “B” from 1771-1777, then in 1778 2 more Black couples with 4 different surnames; the next Black couple, with 2 more different surnames, registered in 1781 but place of residence blank).

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

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

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

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

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

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

1780-1801: PHILO TALBERT/TALBOT/TOLBART/TOLBERT, owned land
? (likely northerly/easterly side of Spring Road in SE part of town– or possibly near 25 Old Milford Road based on neighbors in 1790 census) in Amherst

1780 July 12 deed (7:358): Estate of Robert Morrison late of Amherst deceased sold to Philo Talbart of Amherst, husbandman, for 7 Pounds lawful money, tract of land in Amherst, N.H., containing about 30 acres bounded – easterly by Thomas Boutwell’s land; southerly by John Cochran’s land; northerly by land now owed by one Holt; & the west bound [is other land of the] deceased. Recorded: 13 July 1780. Moses Nichols was JP & Register. [FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantee Index 1771-1849, image 243 as Talbart; deed image 188. Deed transcribed by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025.]

1788 Dec. 16 Deed (22:21): Philo Talbart of Amherst, labourer, to Robert Bradford Wilkins of Amherst, gentleman, for 9 Pounds lawful money, tract of land in Amherst, N.H., containing 9 1/4 acres, bounded – beginning at NE corner: thence running westerly by land of Thomas Holt; thence southerly by Holt’s land to the corner of said tract; thence easterly by land of Daniel Warner to the corner of said tract; thence northerly by land of Aaron Boutwell & widow Lydia Boutwell to BFM. Signed: Philo Talbart. Witnessed: Nathanael Hosmer, Joshua Atherton (JP). Recorded: 18 Dec. 1788 by Moses Nichols. [FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 265 as Talburt [sic]; deed image 261. Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025.]

1790: SEE BELOW in PRISONERS section.

1790: SEE note in Census section.

ABUTTER

1795 Feb. 5 Deed (36:557): JOSEPH BOUTILL 3d of Amherst, gentleman, to CALEB BOUTILL of Reading, Mass., yeoman, for \$400, piece of land in Amherst, N.H., containing about 45 acres, bounded – beginning east of hwy leading from Samuel Fields to Amherst Courthouse, thence running: easterly by Fields land about 40 rods to black birch tree marked; northerly by Fields land & others about 80 rods to **Philo Tolbart’s land**; westerly about 6 rods to s&s; northerly about 5 rods to maple tree marked; westerly about 20 rods by Roleson Ellenwood land to black oak stub; southerly bout 20 rods to Deacon Barker’s line; southwesterly about 20 rods to a bunch of chesnut trees by said hwy; southeasterly by hwy about 90 rods to BFM. Signed: Joseph Boutell 3d. Witnessed: Samuel Whiting, Daniel Warner (JP). Recorded: 18 March 1795. [Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman; FamilySearch catalog image 566&567. Note by KH (July 2021): This is likely the beginning of Caleb Boutell farm on County Road, house marked J. Upham on 1858 map, now gone. This would narrow the location of Philo’s land to being south or SE of the Village, fairly near the Village/]

1795 June 30 Mortgage (37:363): Philo Tolbert of Amherst, husbandman, to Robert Means of Amherst, Esquire, for \$36.67– tract of land in Amherst, N.H., with the buildings on the same, bounded – beginning at northwesterly [?] corner of premises at highway, thence running westerly [sic, but?] 24 rods; thence southerly 92 rods; thence running 56 rods to white oak tree; thence running northerly by the highway to BFM. Provided nevertheless ... Signed: Philo Tolbert. Witnessed: Jona. Smith (JP & Register) and [his wife] Amelia Smith. Recorded: 10 July 1795. [FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 308 as Tolbart and Tolbert; deed image 196. Deed transcribed by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025.]

ABUTTER

1799 Dec 10 Deed (56:55): Jonathan Smith of Amherst, Esqr. to William Brown Jr. of Amherst, husbandman, for \$255.00, land in Amherst, N.H., containing 34 acres, bounded – Beginning at s&s at SE corner of the premises, being **Philo Talbart's NE corner**, thence: North by land of Aaron Boutell to large Oak Stump; West about as the rail fence runs, 32 rods to s&s; South by John Watson 4 or 5 rods to s&s northerly of an old bridge; about West to land of Col. Means; South by Means to the road at s&s; by Tolbart's to the bounds first mentioned. Signed: Jonathan Smith. Witnessed: Abigail Smith, William Dodge. Acknowledged & Recorded: 3 May 1800.

1801 Aug. 26 Deed (53:248b): Philo Tolbart of Amherst, N.H., husbandman, to William Dodge of Amherst, husbandman, for \$150 – tract of land in Amherst, N.H. containing 8 acres, bounded – beginning at NE corner being SE corner of William Brown Jr., thence southerly by land of Aaron Boutell to the road; thence on the EASTERLY side of road till it comes to land of said Brown [heading westerly]; thence northerly to s&s; thence easterly by said Brown's land to BFM; **reserving the use and improvement of the same during my [Philo's] natural life.** Signed: Philo Tolbart. Witnessed: Jona. Smith (JP & Register), J. K. Smith. Recorded: 26 Aug. 1801. [FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 308 as Tolbart and Tolbert; deed image 144. Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025.]

1807 Feb. 2 Bill of Sale [not real estate] (Registry of Deeds 72:514): Philo Talbert to Sarah Brown. "This day sold and delivered a dark brown coloured Cow with a white face and a certain quantity of hay in my barn estimated at one ton for the sum of \$30 to Sarah Brown my Grand Daughter, in consideration of her giving me a receipt in full for all accounts and demands she has against me up to this day, having recorded and adjusted the same and find the amount of her account to be the aforesaid sum of Thirty dollars I say sold & Delivered for the above consideration this second day of February AD 1807" Signed: Philo Talbert his mark. Witnessed: Attest James Cash, David Wilkins. [FamilySearch catalog Hillsborough County Grantor Index 1771-1849, image 264 as Talbert; deeds volume image 565. Transcribed by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025. Very unusual type of "deed": Philo clearly wanted this Bill of Sale 'on the record'!]

1807 Feb 13: died Philo Talbott, decay, a colored person, age 84 (John Farmer's vital records)

1807 Nov. 19 Deed (75:448): William Dodge of Amherst, husbandman, sold to WILLIAM Talbot of Hillsborough, N.H., yeoman, for \$150 – tract of land in Amherst, N.H. containing 8 acres, bounded – beginning at NE corner being SE corner of William Brown Jr., thence southerly by land of Aaron Boutell to the road; thence on the NORTHERLY side of road till it comes to land of said Brown; thence northerly to s&s;

thence easterly by said Brown land to BFM;

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

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

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

ABOUT WILLIAM TALBOT/TALBERT/TOLBERT

A user genealogy tree on FamilySearch.org, identifies both William Talbert (1758-1830) AND William Talbert/Tolbert (1763-1823; married 1783 in N.H.) – of which the latter is the more likely to be correct given 1823 Amherst real estate record – as sons of Philo Tolbart (1723-1807) married 2 July 1751 at Kensington, Rockingham, N.H. to Mary Beal/Beale/Bell (b. 1727). Same tree identifies Anna Tolbut (d. 1822) as daughter of Philo and wife of William Hodge Brown (d. 1825, no parents listed), giving no marriage date; and further identifies Betsey E. Brown (1794-1877), wife of Rufus Orcutt, as granddaughter of Philo. Caution with such info until properly vetted.

1800 Census – Hillsborough, Hillsborough, N.H. (p. 539): William Talbert – 20220//30010//1

Note: In FamilySearch, attached to genealogy tree as William T. (1763-1823)

1810 Census – Hillsborough, Hillsborough, N.H.: William Talbot 11101//01301 (appears to be listed with/as whites, altho no column headings on that page)

1823: gravestone in Hillsborough Centre Cemetery (died aged 59, in 60th year)

1788 Deed (9:54): William Talbert to Lydia Stewart – Hillsborough, 100a

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

1823 Nov. 13 Deed (142:24): Thomas Wilson of Hillsborough, Trader, administrator of the goods and estate of WILLIAM TOLBERT, yeoman, deceased intestate, sold

to Henry H. Ray of Amherst, innholder, for \$12.25 – Ray being the highest bidder at public auction holden at Amherst on 8 October last past by virtue of license [from Probate Court],

tract of land in Amherst, N.H., **on north side of road leading from Amherst meeting house to Merrimack**, containing 8 acres more or less, bounded –

beginning at NE corner of premises being SE corner of land now or formerly owned by William Brown Junior, thence southerly on land formerly owned by Aaron Boutell now owned by Town of Amherst to road aforesaid;

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

thence northerly to s&s;

thence easterly by said Brown's land to BFM.

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

Signed: Thomas Wilson, Admr. Witnessed: Luke Woodbury, Edmund Parker (JP). Recorded: 1 April 1824.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Jan. 2025; FamilySearch catalog deed image 361.

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

1824 July 7 Deed (147:269): Henry H. Ray of Amherst, tavernkeeper, sold for \$17

to James Boutwell & Abraham Boutwell Jr. both sons of Abraham Boutwell & minors, all of Amherst, yeomen, parcel of land in Amherst, N.H., on northerly side of road leading from Amherst meetinghouse to Merrimack, containing about 8 acres,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also in consideration of \$100 more:

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

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

Recorded: next day.10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Beginning of Amherst section] Andrew Elliot; Waitstill Fuller [39 Mont Vernon Rd]; Ebenezer Dodge [31 Mt Vernon Rd]; Lydia Felton [23 Mt V Rd, old house now gone]; Elias Damon [sp?]; Margaret Elliott [16 Eaton Rd, old house now gone]; Amos Phelps [9 Eaton Rd]; Joseph Crosby [south side of Christian Hill Rd, SW of junction with Eaton Rd]; Moses Hills [Christian Hill Rd]; Jeremiah Barnard [61 Christian Hill Rd]; Elijah Putnam [NE corner Christian Hill & Green Rds]; Amos Green [23 Green Rd]; Loea Pratt [14 Green Rd]; Edward Hartshorn [Chr Hill]; Daniel Hartshorn [Chr Hill]; John Hartshorn [Chr Hill]; Roger Elliot; **Amos Upham [75 Lyndeborough Rd]**; Benjamin Hastings [46 Lyndeboro Rd]; Ezra Woolson [65 Lyndeborough Rd]; John Marvill [poss. in Thos Woolson's old house, on same property as Ezra's]; Peter Young [31 Lyndeborough Rd]; Andrew Elliott; Benjamin Kendrick [23 Lyndeborough Rd];...

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

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

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

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

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

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

1831 March 18 Deed (166:167): Oliver Stearns of Amherst, husbandman, to William Ross Parker of Amherst, husbandman, for \$50, a tract of land in Amherst on Long Hill being about one half of the Stewart lot so called, containing 14 acres more or less, bounded – beginning on east side of the cross road leading from widow Elizabeth Upham's to Milford and being on the north line of Jonathan Howard's land, thence ...

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

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

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

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

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

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

[FamilySearch catalog deed image 436 & 437]

NEARBY MILL IN MILFORD CONVEYED TO ANOTHER HARTSHORN

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

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

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

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

Recorded: March 1833.

1833 May 23 Deed (176:168): WM R. PARKER of Amherst, husbandman, to PUTNAM EMERSON of Charlestown, Middlesex, Massachusetts, husbandman, for \$600, all the real estate land & buildings including divers lots & pieces situated in the town of Amherst & Milford, N.H., bounded & described each piece separately in mortgage deed given by Wm. R. Parker & Amos Upton [sic] to Putnam Emerson dated 16 December 1828 (recorded 156:358), excepting a part of said farm & privileges or lots which have be[e]n sold by said Putnam Emerson to Daniel Hartshorn by quitclaim deed dated 16 March last (recorded 172:311) and also excepting a piece or pieces sold & conveyed by Putnam Emerson to Wm R. Parker and by Parker to John Raymond of Mont Vernon.

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

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

WHERE WM ROSS PARKER WENT:

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

BLACK “SERVANTS” IN AMHERST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Judge Samuel Dana’s Servant

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

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

RUNAWAY INDENTURED MINORS

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

Note as to Location: Judging by tax invoices (*Amherst Town Records*, vol. 2), which in this decade listed taxpayers in roughly geographical order, Ebenezer Kimball lived in the east part of town, near to, or on, road to Manchester & Bedford.

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

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY WHITE GIRL IN AMHERST

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY WHITE GIRL IN NEARBY TOWN

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

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY BLACK BOYS IN NEARBY TOWNS

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

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY INDENTURED WHITE BOYS IN AMHERST

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

1809: “*ONE CENT REWARD.* Ran away from the subscriber on the night of the 16th inst. a lad by the name of THOMAS T. GREEN, an indented apprentice to the Saddlers business – Whoever will return said runaway, shall receive the above reward and no thanks from the subscriber. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting him if they would avoid the penalty of the law. JOHN WATSON. Amherst, August 18, 1809.” (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, 5 Sep. 1809, p. [6/6].)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: RUNAWAY INDENTURED WHITE BOYS IN AMHERST DECADES LATER

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

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

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

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

FOR COMPARISON: PATERNAL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO WAGES OF MINORS

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

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

BLACK PRISONERS IN COUNTY GAOL/JAIL AT AMHERST

1.

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

(*Amherst Town Records, Volume 1, p. 356*; it was hard to read on microfilm so if exactness matters to you, read for yourself.)

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

SEE ABOVE in REAL ESTATE section for evidence that Philo T. owned land in Amherst 1780-1801.

2.

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

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

BIOGRAPHICAL

Pompe Russell

NOTES

22 Aug 2010

- by jlsm

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

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

NH State Papers 15:211

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

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

Pvt. Pompe Russell

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

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

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

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

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

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

p 18) handwritten copy of New Hampshire pay roll

p 44) Pompe X Russell signed receipt for payment £4.10

p 45) Pompe X Russell signed receipt for 1 month advanced wages £4.10

Marriage:

Amherst June 26th 1788 was Married Pompe Russell & Margret Cut

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

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

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

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

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

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

=====

Pompe Russell was a Negro born in Charlestown, Mass., in 1765; he was at the battle of Bunker Hill and served in the army until the close of the war. He entered the British lines at one time as a spy, was taken and sentenced to be shot, but while confined in a hollow square, and preparations were being made for his

death, he ran around the square, broke through and escaped to the woods before he could be caught, and soon reached the American army. At the close of the war he married Margaret Southwick of Charlestown, and settled in Petersfield, N. H., where he engaged in farming ; he came from that town to No. 5, and settled at the foot of Mt. Hurricane, on land which Abel and Joseph Russell gave him. When Pomp was five years old, Mr. Thomas Russell, the father of Abel and Joseph, bought him, paying for the boy five pounds. Mr. Russell cared for him the same as for his own children, and when he was twenty-one years of age, gave him his freedom. [Early Settlers of Weld, by E.J. Foster; Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder] http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mecweld/EarlySettlersofWeld.htm#Russell_Abel9

=====Search=====

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

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

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

Not in Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors of the Revolutionary War

Further Potential Research (suggested by jlsn):

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

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

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

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

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

1771 Apr 15: marriage Ceasor Hervy & Jane Lea at Derryfield (now Manchester), NH [familysearch.org Record Search, New Hampshire Marriages 1720-1920, image of card from NHVR not available] Note: Caesar Hervy (Harvey) doesn't seem like the same man as Caesar Parker who would only have been age 11-15 at the time. [re: query 8/2010 from MS]

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

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

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

1810 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 657:
Cesar Parker 00000-00010-5 1 white female and 5 other free persons

1820 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 876
Cesar Parker 000000-00000-0000-[free males] 2311-[free females] 2010-[other] 1

1830 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 292
Ceaser Parker [free colored persons] 000010-01010

1840 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, page 146
Cesar Parker [free colored persons] 000010-000010; 1 person working agriculture

1850 US Census, Mont Vernon, Hillsborough, New Hampshire; page 139
2/2 Cesar Parker, age 90, male, B, Laborer, \$__, b New Hampshire
Margaret, age 81, female, __, b New Hampshire
Humphrey, age 43 [c1807], male, M, Laborer, \$__, b New Hampshire

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

1861: DIED - In this town [Amherst NH], 28th ult., very suddenly, Humphrey Parker, (colored person). [The Farmers' Cabinet; Date: 1861-07-05; Vol: 59; Iss: 49; Page: [3].]
Only burial in plot 747 Meadow View Cemetery, Amherst, NH; marble headstone, worn but clear:
HUMPHREY PARKER

DIED
June 28, 1861
AEt. 53 yrs. 9 mos.
ERECTED BY HIS FRIENDS.

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

Town Hall Cemetery Bones

[research notes by Jackie Marshall, 2014]

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

2003 Aug [16] "Old skull found during Town Hall construction" by David Brooks, *Nashua Telegraph* (clipping)
skull discovered Wednesday under back corner of the building built 1825

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Douglas Harper's website

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

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

(I [jls] have assigned it #10.2)

**REMAINS UNCOVERED
AND REBURIED
AUGUST 2007**

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

To: j15m@yahoo.com

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

Subject: Amherst town cemetery

Dear Jackie,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1870 July – Amherst, N.H. (census):

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

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

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

1850 Census – Hopkinton, Mass.:

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

1860 Census – Springfield, Windsor, Vermont:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Know all Men by these Presents: that I, James Man, of Mason, in the Province of New Hampshire, in County of Hillsborough, Do for Divers good Causes, freely and voluntarily, by these Presents, Give my Negro Servant Names

Christopher, His freedom from this time Henceforth, and to Have all that Belongs to Him, and to Pass and Repass where His Lawful Business shall Call Him. In Witness, I the above named James Man Have set my Hand and Seal, this twenty-sixth day of February A.D. 1773, and in the twelfth year of His Majesties Reign

Signed, Sealed, Delivered in present of

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

Hillsborough ss. Ye 23 day of March, 1770. This Day, Personally appeared before me Names James Man and acknowledged the within instrument by him executed to be his free act and Deed. EBEN H. GOSS, Justice Peace.

Rec'd and Recorded April 12 th, 1772 and Examined per SAM'L HOBART, Reg'r."
(*Farmers' Cabinet*, 19 Sep 1860, p. [2].)

See *Farmers' Cabinet* 1860 Sep 19 on former slaves in Amherst; also transcript of 1773 manumission by man in Mason (apparently from registry of deeds).

LITERATURE SEARCH

Katrina Holman found the following in Boylston's book:

ED Boylston's *Sketch of a Busy Life*, p. 11-12, in reminiscences of his boyhood (so circa 1820, give or take a few years):

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

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

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

Matthew Patten's Diary [checked by jls]

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOMB, *History of Amherst NH* (1883)

search word – Negro [1 hit]

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

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

[Note by KH: Farm of Hezekiah Duncklee was in Cricket Corner area, on the Boston post road, at 369 Boston Post Road.]

search word – colored [6 hits]

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

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

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

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

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

page 186 Census

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

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

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

search word – mulatto [0 hits]

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