



DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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WENHAM AS IT USED TO BE ROADS, BYWAYS, AND THE PEOPLE WHO USED THEM - Part 2

by Louis A. Dodge - printed by the Wenham Historical Association and Museum, Inc. 1968

AWARDS

In April, Dr. Charles F. Dodge III of Texas, will be given an Honorary Membership in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

The guidelines for choosing who will receive this reward are as follows:

Candidates should have distinguished themselves in service to petroleum geology and to the Association. Contributions to the science and profession of Petroleum geology may be in particular areas of discovery thinking, application, exploration leadership, research, etc.

In 1998, Charles received the Dallas Geological Society Research and Publication Award and he is not the only one in his family to receive honors .

His wife, Charlyne Pond Dodge, received a certificate of appreciation for her work as editorial consultant for the Dallas Geological Society History Part II: 1973-1996, and their daughter, Rebecca L. Dodge, who received her Ph.D in geology at the Colorado School of Mines in 1982 was given an Outstanding Service Award for her work with geophysical, subsurface, and field data.

These Dodges will be joining us on the upcoming Tour and we will be looking forward to visiting with them at that time.

The most conspicuous of our early settlers was Rev. John Fiske who was born in England and graduated from Immanuel College. He was in Salem in 1637 and received a grant of land in Wenham to which he moved about 1640. He is credited with bringing with him servants and a good collection of tools of husbandry and carpentry. He organized the first church of which he became the Town's first minister. He gave ten acres of his land located near the meeting house to the Town and may have helped in the construction of the first meeting house. He was also a man of more than ordinary finances, for tradition says Mrs. Fiske dressed in what some people considered to be beyond her husband's financial ability. Therefore, she was presented in court for being extravagant. However, the Rev. John Fiske was able to convince the court that he had an income of which the public did not know.

In the fall of 1654 Rev. John Fiske was invited to go to help settle the Town of Chelmsford. This offer was debated until the following May when he and twelve families in town moved to their new homes. The loss of the minister and these families worked a severe hardship on both the Town and the newly-organized Church. Among those who followed their minister to

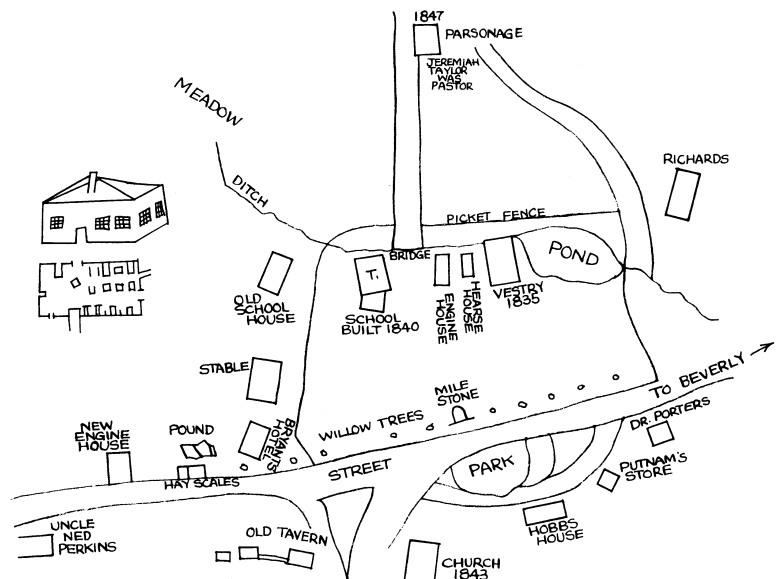
Chelmsford was Richard Goldsmith. Later, on a visit to Wenham on Sunday, May 1st, 1673, after the morning service he received an invitation to dine with the minister, Antipas Newman, at his house. While seated at the table, the house was struck by lightning, killing Goldsmith and the dog under the table.

Wenham as a whole was strictly an agricultural place, and it was common custom for the father of a family to own anywhere from fifty to seventy-five to two hundred acres. In fact, Mrs. Cole had a list saying that when the Town was set off, Salem had already granted sixteen hundred acres of land to the residents of this area. Now as the families grew up and if the family was sizable, the father would split up the farm, give the son an area of his own, and he would start his own family and his own farm. So it

continued up to about the third generation, and then it was that there were no more lands to be cut up and divided, and they had to go elsewhere. So in the meantime the Town was passing through the experience of several Indian Wars and the French-Indian War, and Wenham always provided its quota to the Army as far as the military end went.

As those soldiers went to the various military sites, especially to Canada, Louisburg and Ticonderoga, they were bound to pass through New Hampshire and Vermont. There they got their eyes on what they considered beautiful land which they could have for almost nothing. Some of it was given to them because the Continental government was not able to pay the soldiers for services in the Army so you will find that

(Continued on page 2)



Mr. Conant's Rough Sketch of Wenham Center as he remembered it.

(This is in Mrs. Cole's handwriting on original sketch.)

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **YOU** can be of help to the Dodge Family Association? If you think you would like to have the opportunity to **serve on the Board of Directors**, you can submit a resume to our office.

If you have **some time** that you would like to use for in-putting genealogical material into Family Tree Maker, or if you would like to help with research for lost ancestors of Dodges who are not able to do that due to age, illness, etc., we desperately **NEED** you. Let us know you are willing and we will assign you a Dodge to research.

If you have **any records of Dodges** that are not **YOUR** Dodges, that you have come across while doing your own research, we would love to have them. We may have someone looking for that very person.

If we all work together to help each other, **OUR** Dodge Family Association will be **THE place** for people to go who need help, want information, or who want to learn about their Dodge Heritage. We **URGE** you to consider the possibility of joining our crew, **ALL VOLUNTEERS**, to make **YOUR** Dodge Association the **BEST!**

(Wenham - Continued from page 1)

a lot of Wenham people left the Town and went on up there down through New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. The Blue Hills district was very attractive to a lot of them, and if you take a ride even today and go to Hillsboro, Antrim, New Boston, Linebrook or any of these places, you are bound to meet people whose ancestors came from Wenham. That brought about a condition where distance made it somewhat inconvenient and was covered by horse and team, oxen, or on foot.

Now to change the line of thought for just a moment, I want you to go with me to a home in Beverly. The year is 1829, and you are going to a wedding. The bride is 23 years old; the groom is 25, and at the close of the wedding, the marrying parson prays long and hard and earnestly that divine Providence would shine upon them because the bride was going so far away from home and acquaintances - a distance of sixty-five miles, and that was to New Boston, New Hampshire. Now I do not remember the groom, but I have always honored his name because his name is my middle name, Abraham, and in appreciation of what I might be later on, he started the first bank account I ever had. As for Augusta, the bride, she was my grandmother, and I do remember her.

Now to go back to some of the things that my grandparents did. One thing

was to move back to Wenham in 1834. Just to show you how people had to do and had to work -on one occasion he wanted a horse, so on Saturday morning he hitched up the team he had, and he and mother, as he always called her, went to New Boston. They visited friends and relatives and in the process of travel he went to several towns, finally located the horse he wanted which was in Ware, New Hampshire. He paid \$225 for it, brought it back to New Boston, and on the following morning he left New Boston with the horse tied behind the carriage. He left at 8:00 a.m. and at 10:30 p.m. was home in my yard. That shows you what travel conditions were at that time. Another time the same individual, at the age of 68, wanted a yoke of oxen, so he started and went to Brighton, bought his oxen, got a lunch, and before sunset had the oxen home on my property. He walked the distance of some thirty miles in eight and one-half hours. What he did, others no doubt would do or were able to do. With that explanation you can see how things happened. Travel was a real proposition to them.

Now it is 1710, and the first stage went through Wenham from Newburyport to Boston. If you go down the Main Street today you will see three stones one-half mile apart by which they computed the fares at so much per mile. Following that in 1762 was some type of a wheeled vehicle drawn by two fast horses which would pick up the mail from Portsmouth and take it to Boston and return in the remarkably short time of five days.

The coming of the stage meant that people living in the outside areas moved to the center of Town because it afforded them the opportunity to work in Boston or Salem or wherever they wished. Therefore, Wenham Neck began to fade away because the population shifted. The first steam train went to Ipswich in 1839, and it was not until 1885 that the horsecars came. When the first auto came, I do not know.

(to be continued)

MEMBERSHIP PINS

We have just received beautiful membership pins. One is pictured here but it does not do it justice. The background of the word 'MEMBER' is red. The background of the 'Dodge Family Association' is blue. The background for the **COLOR** Coat of Arms is White. All lettering and framing are gold.

Our Dodge Lifetime Member pin is identical to this one EXCEPT that the background for the 'Lifetime Member' is gold. These pins are top of the line hard enamel and will last a lifetime. They are



great for gifts to family members who are also members of the Dodge Association. Remember that if you are a member, those in your immediate family who are living

with you, are included in that membership.

Table of Contents

Wenham as it used to be - Part 2	1
Did You Know?	2
New-Member Pins	2
Barbara's Byline	3
Password for Genealogy on Web Site	3
Genealogy	4
Sands Point Tristram House	4



Barbara's Byline

Journals and Genealogies

Well . . . We have finally done it! Done what? We have started putting out six Dodge Journals per year. From now on they will be arriving at your door every two months. Even with six Journals you can see that we have trouble fitting everything in.

We have had so many interesting things happen in the genealogy department. If you have access to the internet and if you will look at our Dodge Web Site, you will see that we have a new area that contains many of our Mystery Dodges, those for whom there is no connection to William, Richard, or Tristram. This file will grow bigger as Norman Dodge has the time and energy to add all of our bits and pieces of Dodge genealogy. Anyone who gets on our Web Site will be able to view this genealogy file. We have great hopes that we will receive information on some of these mysteries regarding Dodge genealogy.

Genealogist at Heart?

Are you a genealogist at heart? Would you like to do some searching for Dodge ancestors?

Oh . . . you already have found all of your Dodge ancestors! Did I hear you say that you wish you had more to look for and that you miss being out there on the road trying to find records to prove that missing link?

Well . . . I have news for you! You can STILL be out there searching for lost Dodge Ancestors.

Read our Genealogy Column to find out about A new member who is searching EVERY town and county in his state for vital records on Dodges. When he gets this information, he will be sending it on to us and we will be able to check our data base and add those that we do not have, and undoubtedly, in the process, we will find missing dates for many of the Dodge Ancestors that we have in our records.

Can you imagine what would happen if more of our members did this? So . . . I am challenging YOU! Yes, I meant YOU! Now that the weather is getting better in many of the colder states, how

about planning a day a month (since I realize not all of you are retired!) in some town in your state, and looking at the records in the town (or county) clerk's office. Most of these clerks also have an e-mail address and you can write asking them if they have any Dodges listed in their vital records. If they do, then you can go and see them with your own eyes, and copy down or photo the information and send it to us.

I realize that most states cover a wider land mass than Vermont, BUT every little bit helps and you could work in the area say with in a 50 mile radius of where you live. If you do this, be sure to let us know what towns you have covered so that your work won't be duplicated by someone else.

We look forward to receiving lots of records of Dodges from all over our country. If information that you send us provides a Dodge for whom someone has been searching, we will make sure you know about it. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you have helped someone find their missing Dodge ancestor!

Articles for Submission

Now, on to other matters - I have had phone conversations with a number of you, and encouraged you to write articles about Dodges members of your families who were well known, or who did things that might be of interest to Dodges.

Now, I want to ask you to send to us any anecdotal stories about any of your Dodges. From time to time, we will include these in our Journals. We are especially looking for short anecdotes of 1 to 2 paragraphs to use in the "DID YOU KNOW" block.

There is quite a bit in the genealogy books on the William and Richard Dodge lines, but less in the Tristram book since it is much smaller. NOW is the time for you Tristram Dodge descendents to take advantage and send us anything at all that you think would be of interest. I eagerly await all of the interesting items that I am sure will be coming my way. I make a promise that everything will be printed in the Journal.

Another opportunity awaits! Some of you are working on biographical stories of an ancestor such as a great-grand-father, uncle, grandmother, etc. I am sure that there must be many of you who feel that you have an ancestor (and perhaps more than one) who deserves to have an article

written about them. Why don't YOU do the writing and send it to us. Over time, we will get all of those articles published that are sent to us.

Barbara

REUNIONS

Southeast - This is a brand new reunion and we are SO EXCITED! Thomas and Shelly Dodge of Grimesland, NC will be hosting this reunion. We even know what we will be eating! He is going to smoke and barbecue a pig. It is called a 'pig pickin'. (Remember - he was a chef!) The date will be October 16. Now all you folks who live in the South eastern part of the country OR even a little bit north of that, be sure to set aside this day. Earl and Barbara will be there from Colorado and we expect to have some of the board members from California and possibly Washington state there also. This is **YOUR chance** to meet some of those people who help the Dodge Family Association run smoothly

Northwest - There will be a reunion in Seattle on Saturday, July 24, 1999. A number of you who are new members live close enough to Seattle to be able to attend this reunion and we hope that you will set aside this date. This reunion is a pot luck, and Dodges are very good at preparing tasty dishes to be shared with other Dodges. Col. Robert Dodge and his wife Hilda, and Earl and Barbara will be at this reunion. We are looking forward to meeting you there!

Northeast - This year, the New England reunion will be held on October 9 at the Commodore Restaurant in Beverly. The 1640 Hart House was totally booked for the next 1-1/2 years. This reunion is always a highlight for those who live in the North East.

Please note: The Southeast reunion is the very next week. We have scheduled these to run back to back in order to make it easier for those of you who travel from other parts of the country to be able to attend both reunions.



GENEALOGICAL HELP COLUMN

We are still searching for information on the following:

Information on **ANY Shubal Dodge** (Shubial, Shubale, Shubail, etc.)

Information on **Solomon P. Dodge** from Maine, married to **Mahala Barter**.

Information on **Daniel Dodge** born approximately 1795.

Information on a **Henry Dodge** who had a descendents named **Thomas Jefferson Dodge** and **Sherman Tecumseh Dodge**.

We would appreciate having **ANY** and **ALL** information on **Dodges from Maine**. It does not mater how extraneous the information. The more information we can find on Dodges, the

better we will be able to help people who run up against obstacles in tracing their descendents. We have a number of members who have come to a dead end with ancestors whom they have traced to Maine.

We want **ANY** and **ALL** information of **YOUR** ancestors. It does not matter if it is incomplete.

Just two weeks ago, while talking to Charles Dodge of Connecticut on the phone, I suggested that he turn in his information, and he responded that he could not go back far enough, however, he gave me the name of his earliest known ancestor.

I assigned the search job to my favorite sleuth in Massachusetts and within two days Charles's line to William was established. If he had not been willing to give partial information, he would still be in the dark, and we would be minus a complete line that we now have.

Granted, this was easier than many because the family had lived in one area until they left in 1953, but . . . nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Dell Hill of Vermont writes: Searchers should use caution in breaking down the towns and counties. Today's county makeup is entirely different from two hundred years ago! "Vermont restructured itself with different county lines back then, so older records will be found in St. Albans, Vermont which is Franklin County. Dell is also visiting and/or corresponding with the city clerks in ALL Vermont towns in order to dig up ALL Dodge records for us.

Are there any of you who will do the same in YOUR state? Just think of the mysteries we could clear up!

I hope this will encourage you and also help to point out the value of the Dodge Family Association.

“Sands Pt. House in Landmark Fight”

“Harbor Road in Sands Point curves and dips toward Hempstead Harbor, ending in a cul-de-sac overlooking a stately white colonial homestead that is plainly visible through the bare wintry trees.” So starts the article from the January 24, 1993 issue of the New York Times, sent to us by Charles K. Dodge of Sherman, Connecticut.

The house was built by **Tristram Dodge 3rd** in 1791 on a site on the shore of Hempstead Harbor, and the Dodge family lived there for **more than 100 years**. Subsequent owners included Representative William Bourke Cockran, the oil tycoon Joshua Cosden, the financier and yachtsman Vincent Astor, son of John Jacob Astor, and Hedley Donovan, who was editor in chief of Time, Inc. At that time, the house was 250 years old and the Sands Point Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission wanted to designate the house as a landmark and cede it to the Village Board of Trustees.

The dispute that arose from this request was a set of competing values; preservation of history versus the rights of the homeowner. If the house became a landmark, then any exterior alterations the owner would want to have done would have to be approved by the

commission.

This action was being fought on the grounds that the Landmark Commission wanted to be able to tell the homeowner what they could or could not do with their home. None of the owner's children lived in the home, in fact, they lived in other cities, and one in another country.

The Commission pointed out that they were just trying to protect what little they had left, for future generations. They pointed out that the house was one of only four pre-Revolutionary War structures in Sands Point.

Evidently when Vincent Astor acquired the property in 1957, the lands were intact from the original. He subdivided the 20-acre waterfront property, undeveloped woodland, into 47 lots which he then developed as Harbor Acres. He left the Tristram Dodge house intact on four acres of land.

The owner of the house submitted an affidavit stating that the landmark designation would reduce the value of the house from \$1.8 million by \$90,000 (estimation). He also said that the designation would impose a burden for renovations, making the site more difficult to sell.

It was also stated that alterations had been made to the structure in 1790, 1820, and 1925. This made the structure to be

not a suitable example of building style of the 18th century.

However, the Landmark Commission noted that the house had a very long tradition. A boulder in front of the house has the name ‘Dodge’ and the date carved into it. “All too many things are done for short-term gain, as opposed to having a long view of what life and history are all about.”

The last owner, Mr. Hedley Donovan, in his book, “Right Places, Wrong Times” indicated that he and his wife had considered the house a landmark. The passage read: “Dorothy unilaterally declared the place a ‘Cow Neck Landmark’ and presented me a handsome plaque to that effect.” (As of 1993, the plaque still hung outside the front door of the house.)

(Ed. Note: I went on the internet to see if I could find out what had happened regarding this house. In a list of Historical places in the area, this house is UNLISTED. I am sure this means that the Landmark Commission was unsuccessful in their bid to make this house a landmark. The Thomas Dodge House (now a museum and featured in an earlier Journal) IS listed. This article in it's entirety will be scanned and placed on our Web Site at some future date - hopefully THIS year!