



DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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Oldest Dodge Cemetery on Islesboro, Maine Revisited

by Barbara Dodge



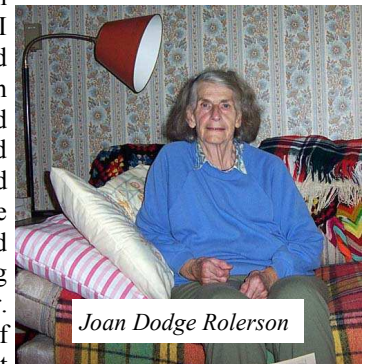
ABOVE: View from the bluff overlooking DARK HARBOR, Islesboro, Maine.

This bluff is where the oldest Dodge cemetery is located on Islesboro. Some locals knew about it, and Earl and I found it in 2002, but when Raymelle Moody-Guthrie went in search of the cemetery, not even the local historical society knew about it. Thanks to Raymelle for her story and photos.

Back in 2002, Norman and Eileen Dodge, and Earl and myself, Barbara Dodge, traveled to New England to attend the Dodge Reunion there. We went a couple of weeks early so that we could do some genealogy research.

Earl and I chose to take the ferry to Islesboro, Maine...the only way to get to that island unless one owns a boat. On the way across the water, we struck up a conversation with a man who was on the ferry and mentioned our quest to him...to find cemeteries where Dodes were buried so that we could take photos. Below, is part of the Journal article on that trip to Maine in 2002.

"A few days later, we took the Ferry to Islesboro. We arrived at the Ferry Dock earlier than we had planned and this allowed us to take an earlier ferry. In front of us was a very big truck which I learned later, belonged to LeMotte Rolerson.. I asked him how we would find cemeteries once we arrived on Islesborough, and he gave us instructions and then told us that his sister-in-law was Joan Dodge Rolerson and that we should stop by to visit her. We did that, and found her to be such a friendly helpful 'Dodge'. She even fed us lunch. Her sons, who came by for lunch, told us about the oldest Dodge cemetery. We went hiking through the woods to a site on a bluff overlooking Dark Harbor. There we found the graves of Noah and Joshua Dodge, sons of the first Dodes, Simon and Prudence Rose Dodge, who went to that Island in the late 1700s. There were other stones for members of their family, but the cemetery was in a terrible state of disrepair, and will soon be lost unless some kind of care is given to it. We were also able to visit two other cemeteries before we had to make our way back to the ferry. More work needs to be done there."



Joan Dodge Rolerson

The reason for bringing that trip up in this Journal, is because we received the following from Raymelle Moody-Guthrie who wanted to find this very old, first Dodge cemetery that was on Islesboro. Raymelle and a friend had traveled there and done a lot of walking but were unable to find the cemetery so contact with myself was made in the hopes that I could advise them.

So much more can now be found on the internet Since Earl and I made that trip, and I was even able to find a photo of Dark harbor and the roads that would lead to that area of the Island...THANK YOU GOOGLE EARTH! Following is the e-mail 'conversation'.

Raymelle wrote "A friend and I heard about the oldest Dodge cemetery on Islesboro, and went exploring for it yesterday. We actually were able to gain access to the Islesboro Historical Society and looked through the books of records of the people who are actually buried on the island. We ended up being lead to the Maple Brook Cemetery, where we came across a gate that is the same as the one in the photos on the Dodgefamily.org website. We talked to some other folks we ran into and hiked around looking for the site. I am wondering if there are more detailed coordinates for the cemetery? Were we in fact looking in the right area?" (I responded)

Raymelle: "Thank you much! I did have the directions with me but somehow we just ran out of time and did not walk far enough. We did make it to the Boardman Cemetery, but gave up to make it back to the ferry in time. We are going to head back in a couple of weeks, I will surely let you know how it turns out!" (I sent Raymelle the image from Google Earth)

Raymelle: "Thank you very much. The Google image is very helpful. You have confirmed that we were in the right place. We had a gentleman from the Historical Society help us, and they do not have a record of the Dodge Cemetery. He took us to the Maple Grove Cemetery and

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we hiked out of the back side of the cemetery, down East Shore Drive. We did come across the Boardman Cemetery which was on our right hand side. We just did not make it all the way to the path to the Dodge Cemetery. We are going back in two weeks. Now we know exactly where to go. I am going to take some photos this time around as well, the gates are different now, and the property has grown and changed as well.”

I transmitted the information to them and they made a 2nd trip to Islesboro and this time they were able to find the cemetery. Raymelle and her friend took pictures of every stone they saw and we have included some of them in this Journal. At some point, we will make a 2nd page on our website for this cemetery including the photos that Raymelle sent to us. Most of them are the same as what I posted there back in 2002, but it may be interesting to compare the condition of the stones.

After they made that 2nd trip, **Raymelle wrote once again:**

“I wanted to write and let you know that we were able to find the cemetery, although it was not an easy task. The path off of the East Shore Road, looks different now, and the sign is no longer there. Plus, the path is so grown up, at times it was hard to know which direction we were supposed to go in. Luckily, my friend Isaac who was with me both times on

our quest, has a great gut instinct and found it.

I am sending you a bunch of photos as well. We photographed everything you have on your website, including the gate you must walk from and the entrance to the path.

Sadly it seems as though 13 years have not done any good for the cemetery. It seems to be in more of a state of distress now. We have gotten the Islesboro Historical Society involved with this quest, and we are going to put together all of the information and photos and send it to them as well, in hopes that they might do something to save this historic site.

Thank you again for all of your help. The map imagery that you sent was incredibly helpful to us. We were able to find the East Shore Road directly off of the Main road and avoided the 3 mile hike we made the first time.

You have our permission to use any of the photos attached, if you want to update your website. This is great. It really inspired us to try and help with restoration. We have offered our own time to help as well. Thanks again for all of your help on this. It was an awesome trip, and such a cool mission. We are actually considering founding a non-profit that seeks out these type of lost grave sites and helps inspire restoration.”

It is inspiring to those of us who travel around the country when possible, to research some of the Dodge sites, to have someone contact us who WANTS to help preserve some of these sites, and not just for Dodges!

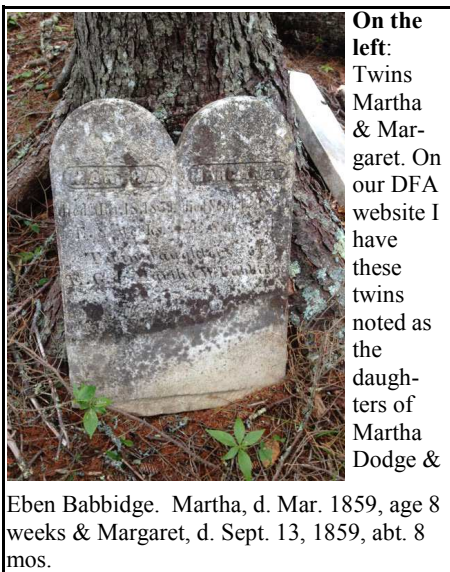
We have included some of the photos that were taken on Raymell & Isaac’s recent visit to Islesboro.

Below: BOARDMAN was a surname of several who married Dodges on Islesboro. The photo below is of the Boardman cemetery that one passes on the way to the Dodge Cemetery on the bluff overlooking Dark harbor. **The BOARDMAN cemetery is VERY WELL TAKEN CARE OF!!!**



Above: Tombstone of Noah Dodge the elder

Below, Noah Dodge, the younger: In Memory of Noah Dodge who died July 23d, 1816 in the 54th year of his age



On the left: Twins Martha & Margaret. On our DFA website I have these twins noted as the daughters of Martha Dodge &

Eben Babbidge. Martha, d. Mar. 1859, age 8 weeks & Margaret, d. Sept. 13, 1859, abt. 8 mos.

On the right: Phebe Dodge - March 18?? The rest is unreadable This is the daughter of Noah Dodge who was born Nov.5,1807 and d. Mar. 26,1823



The View From My Window



Here it is, Journal time again. I am not sick anymore, but my house is up for sale for just two weeks...a trial run...if it sells fine and if it does not, that is fine also. I do love living where I do and in the house I own, but it might be time to downsize.

The article on page 1, brought back so many memories of trips Earl and I took back east each fall for New England reunions. We would try to incorporate some kind of genealogy research as did Norman and Eileen. Most times we would meet back there and sometimes go together, like the time we went to Keene, NH, to look for Farwell Graves.

Earl and Norman shared the same great grandfather, Edward Blanchard Dodge. Two of Edwards sons, married Farwell sisters.. Earl and Norman were 2nd DOUBLE cousins. I say 'were' because Earl is not on this earth anymore.

Judy Ragan, who writes 'Who Do You Descend From' is a second cousin to Norman, and was also to Earl. Her grandmother was a sister of Earl's and Norman's grandfathers.

I probably would never remember all that except I was married to someone who thought all of these connections were very important and he went out of his way to meet new relatives.



Norman E. Dodge in front of cellar hole from home of G. Grandfather, Edward Blanchard Dodge in Stoddard NH

Missouri's General Henry Dodge, and His Amazing Family.

by James W Drewery

In 1891, well before he became the celebrated father of the "frontier thesis" that revolutionized American historiography, Frederick Jackson Turner wrote in his first published article that "history is the biography of society in all its departments". Over the next couple of years that profoundly succinct conclusion, as well as the findings of Turner's doctoral study of the early fur trade in Wisconsin, became the genesis of his landmark work, "*The Significance of the Frontier in American History*". Here he concluded that, in terms of the United States, clearly "society's departments" had been best represented and defined along the country's ever advancing western frontier and that "to study this advance and the men who grew up under these conditions, and the political, economic, and social results of it, is to study the really American part of our history." Turner did not have to search very hard, nor far, to find a nearly perfect example of the sort of citizen of the frontier he proclaimed had been the primary drivers of national growth, prosperity, and perhaps most crucially, national identity. The life and career of 'Moses' Henry Dodge was indelibly intertwined with the early history of the Badger State and certainly well known to Wisconsin natives such as Turner.

'Moses' Henry Dodge had a remarkable career in the military and in Wisconsin politics in the mid-1800s, which is hardly a new topic in American historiography thanks in no small part to Turner's influence as we will see. Dodge was a leading figure in the early history of the upper Midwest and, in the 1840-50s an important Democrat on the national political scene. He followed the others in the rush into the Fever River country in 1827 and was a hero of the brief Red Bird incident in the Lead Region that year, as well as of the Black Hawk War of 1832. Between those conflicts, he settled in what was then Michigan Territory and established a lead mining and smelting operation near where Dodge-

ville in Iowa County, Wisconsin lies today. After the Black Hawk incident he commanded a force of mounted rangers as a general in the Michigan Territorial militia for about a year. He was then picked by President Andrew Jackson to command the first regiment of United States Dragoons and led two important early expeditions across the plains that established relations with several Native American tribes of the region. In 1836 he was appointed governor of the newly created Wisconsin Territory and for the next twenty years he diligently represented its citizenry. In 1841 he was elected as the Territory's Congressional delegate where he served until 1845 when he was again appointed governor from 1845 until 1848, when Wisconsin became a state, and he was elected to the United States Senate. After serving two terms as a Senator, Dodge retired from public life in 1857, declining a final appointment as the Washington Territorial Governor; he lived another ten years before dying peacefully in his sleep at 85.

However, before any of that, for more than three decades Henry Dodge was a Missourian, counted among the more prominent citizens of Ste Genevieve County, which elected him as a delegate to Missouri's first constitutional convention. Dodge's family members were among the first Americans to settle there about 1790 when it was still part of Spanish Upper Louisiana. His father Israel was appointed as the county's first sheriff after the American take-over in 1804 with Henry named as a deputy. In 1806 Henry became an officer in the territorial militia and, when Israel died the same year, he inherited the sheriff's badge, along with his land, property, and several varied business interests. Henry was appointed as United States Marshall of the new Missouri Territory when it was formed and a short time later was promoted to commanding general of the territorial militia, during the War of 1812. Dodge's greatest contribution to Missouri's history and honor came late in that conflict, in August of 1814, when he stopped a massacre of Native Americans on a scale of infamy equal to Sand Creek or Wounded Knee. Indeed

if a politically ambitious bigot of the ilk of John Chivington had been in command of the Missouri militia that day rather than Henry Dodge, Missouri's Saline County would quite likely be the home of the Miami Massacre National Memorial today.

A hundred and fifty years ago all of this was still a very well-known part of Missouri's story and part of the standard fare in texts on the state's history into the twentieth century. When the Missouri State Capitol was built a century ago, after the previous state house was destroyed by fire, a mural commemorating Dodge's valor was commissioned by the Capitol Decoration Committee. While the Oscar Berninghaus piece located on the Capitol's east mezzanine is a handsome work of art, it completely fails to convey the electrified tension between General Dodge and Captain Cooper of the Boone's Lick militia that filled the air that hot summer afternoon. Like much of the Capitol's magnificent art collection, the piece is vastly overshadowed by the famous works of Thomas Hart Benton, and it is not located on the Capitol tour route so is seen by only a small portion of its nearly half million annual visitors.

In the ninety odd years since the Berninghaus work was unveiled in 1921, the Dodge legacy in Missouri history has largely been forgotten, like much of the state's rich colonial and territorial history. Aside from the Berninghaus piece and Dodge's signature on the 1820 constitution, few traces remain of the Dodge legacy in Missouri and those are found mostly in the archives of the state historical society. One other mention is found on the website of a popular Ste Genevieve eatery and pub called the "Old Brick House" proclaiming that the county court held session there in early days when it was the home of Sheriff Henry Dodge. Very little is found of Dodge in recent academic treatments of Missouri history. William E. Foley's seminal work on the state's history, which has been republished several times since its original 1971 offering, contains only a passing mention of Dodge's minor involvement in the 1805 Burr conspiracy incident for instance. Indeed though one easily can see the trend described

by the recent lament of Robert Mueller, past president of the Ste Genevieve Historic Society, that "Missouri's history is too often thought of as starting with Lewis and Clark."

Indeed today, aside from Dodge's signature on the 1820 constitution and the Berninghaus work in the Capitol, few traces are left of Henry Dodge's presence in Missouri. Those are found primarily in old texts from a century or more ago as well as in the *American State Papers* and the archives of state historical societies around the Midwest. One other noteworthy mention is found on the website of the "Old Brick House" a popular Ste Genevieve eatery and pub, which proclaims that county court was held there in the early 1800's when it was the home of Sheriff Henry Dodge. This work seeks to bring the important role which Henry Dodge played in the formative years of Missouri history, as well as that of his ancestors in its previous Spanish era, once again to the common knowledge of the academy and the public.

Additionally it will show Henry Dodge was only one of several Dodge family members who played important but largely forgotten roles in America's story. Indeed this is a fascinating clan, one of America's oldest with roots stretching back to into the mid-1600s, whose history could well serve as the basis of a fine documentary on early American history. By sketching that history in broad strokes it will illustrate how the legacy of the Dodge family provides considerable evidence concurring with the validity of the concepts immortalized by Frederick Jackson Turner in his famous "frontier thesis".

The ultimate purpose of this work involves more than the completion of an academic degree. Its goal is to ultimately call public attention to the important role the Dodge family and Henry Dodge especially played in the early history of both Missouri and the nation in a tangible manner. As a nation we have slowly begun to admit the mistakes of the past, casting daylight on the dirty little secrets

that have long remained buried, as well we should for who we are today is surely a culmination of all that has gone before. Likewise we should celebrate and honor those individuals who stood up for what was right and protected the defenseless from injustice.

On that day in August of 1814 Henry Dodge was a true hero whose actions saved scores of lives, had they been white lives no doubt the story would have been among the most famous of its day and long since captured the attention of the movie industry. For this and several other reasons which will become clear his place in Missouri history should be remembered and commemorated. To that end, upon its completion and final acceptance, a copy of this thesis will be forwarded to the Honorable Timothy Jones, the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. It will be accompanied by a memorandum strongly urging the Speaker to consider using the prerogative of his position to nominate 'Moses' Henry Dodge as the next inductee to the "Hall of Famous Missourians" housed in the Missouri State Capitol. It is hoped the readers of this work will be compelled after consideration of its content and argument to add their own affirmative endorsement as well.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would love to know more about you. What you do? Do you have any hobbies? Let us know and we will put it in our next Journal.

George B Dodge, Pensacola, FL
Victor Romero, Miami, FL
Sarah Welsch, Lebanon, NH
Tammy Gillispie, Kansas City, MO.
Kevin Hill, San Diego, CA
Brian Buckberry, Knoxville, TN
Teresa O'Sullivan, Seattle, WA

Member only area of website:

User name: dodgefamily
Password: promotingfellowship

In Memory



Those who went on one of our tours, undoubtedly remember meeting some of our English Dodge family. We had the joy of meeting David and Ruth Dodge from Warminster, Wiltshire, when they attended a couple of our dinners while we were in Southwest England. We received the following letter from David in March.

“Dear Barb, It is with much sadness that I have to tell you that Ruth my dear wife passed away on 6th March. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for about 5 years, and as is the way with that dread disease, it was progressive, and she had been in Salisbury Hospital since January. complicated with pneumonia at the last. She was cremated on 20th March, and we had a Thanksgiving Service for her Christian life and witness on 21st. at the United Church Warminster It was a wonderful occasion, there were over 200 attending. Sorry I have been out of contact for several months, I will try to improve. Love and God bless, from David “



Another one I missed getting in the last Journal was for Alberta Dodge Tripp. Her daughter, Dawn Crowley, had sent me the information asking if I could include an item about her mother, even though her mother died in 2013. Of course, I said “yes”, and then forgot to include it, so I am doing that at this time.

A number of years ago, Dawn, and her daughter Heather agreed to my request of them, to take the Tristram Genealogy that was published by Theron Royal Woodward in 1904, and type the whole thing into their computers. They did that, and sent me the file which was made into a pdf file. Then, we made CDs of that book which many people purchased, because

it was the latest Tristram genealogy in book form. Now of course, we have a big 2 volume book set of Tristram Genealogy that Norman Dodge and Jim Bailey worked on for years....but we are indebted to Dawn and Heather for stepping up way back then and doing a ‘job well done’ which helped many people at the time.

Dawn’s mother, Alberta Dodge Tripp was always very proud of her Dodge Heritage. She passed away on Sept.17, 2013. She was born Dec.20,1916 in Port Jervis, NY and grew up in Milford, Ct. During her life she graduated from Milford High School and Stone College. She lived and worked in New York City and Tampa FL before raising a family in Spencerport, NY. There she was active in her church, a 4-H club leader and volunteered at school. Her later years were spent in Palm Harbor, FL. She enjoyed playing bridge, knitting, word puzzles, dancing and genealogy.



Her survivors are daughters Dawn (John) Crowley, Christine (Colin) Roods, Trudy Farrell; grandchildren Charles Roods, Carrie Roods-Yorkey, Cindy Roods, Elizabeth, Heather and Julia Crowley, and Patrick Farrell; Great Grandchildren Briton and Char-lize Roods.



Dottie Noon attended every one of our Southern California Reunions. She and her daughters, Karen Burnette and Lynn Dove joined us on one

of our England Dodge Tours.

Dorothy Dodge Ludvigson Noon passed away on Bainbridge Island, Washington, where she had been living for 4 years with her daughter Lynn.

She was born Dorothy Dodge, in Ohio in 1926. She married naval dentist, Harold Ludvigson. They settled in San Clemente, CA in 1952 when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton.

Known as “Dottie,” she started a San

Clemente chapter of the Navy Officers’ Wives’ Club, organized a babysitter exchange and became a member of San Clemente’s Military Affairs Committee.

Among her many other activities, she helped establish an Interfaith Servicemen’s Center in San Clemente to provide a home away from home for Camp Pendleton personnel; helped start Chapel Hill Lutheran School, known today as Our Savior’s Lutheran School.; served as a hostess for functions at the Western White House and San Clemente Inn in conjunction with stays there by President Richard Nixon.

The above is just a sample of her busy life!

She is survived by daughters Lynn Dove of Bainbridge Island and Karen Burnette of San Clemente; son Dean Ludvigson of Dana Point; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to ALS research.



Virgil Roy Dodge answered his Master's appointed call and went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 15, 2015, surrounded by his loving family. He was born December 16, 1932 in Mount Vernon, WA to Herb and Alice Dodge. Virgil grew up on Bow Hill and attended the local schools where he participated in football, tennis and FFA. He was drafted into the Army January of 1953 and trained at Fort Lewis for combat engineering; sent to Korea on the 38th parallel, also known as the "Punch Bowl"; the cease fire was declared and he was honorably discharged in December 1954. In 1959 he married Thelma June Conrad of Stanwood WA, and they had two children Benny and Bonny. Virgil also had a daughter Tammy from a previous marriage. They bought their first home in Mount Vernon, WA and eventually were able to purchase a home on Bow Hill, across the street from where Virgil grew up and have been there since. Virgil is survived by his loving wife Thelma of 56 wonderful years & children: Tammy Coffell, Ben Dodge, Bonny (Chuck) Storrs and numerous grandchildren & g.grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

WHO DO YOU DESCEND FROM?

By Judy Prentice Ragan raganje@aol.com

HOME AGAIN!

Here we are, back home again, and trying to get back in to the routine of everyday life. We were gone for 3 months and 5 days and I drove the RV pulling our second vehicle the whole 11,365 miles! Yes I did! It was the best vacation we've ever taken and that is a good thing because it will be our last loooong vacation. In September we will go up to Vancouver, WA, for the TOWNE FAMILY reunion, a short trip after this last one, and in October we will travel up to Las Vegas for Bill's ship (USS Shields) reunion.

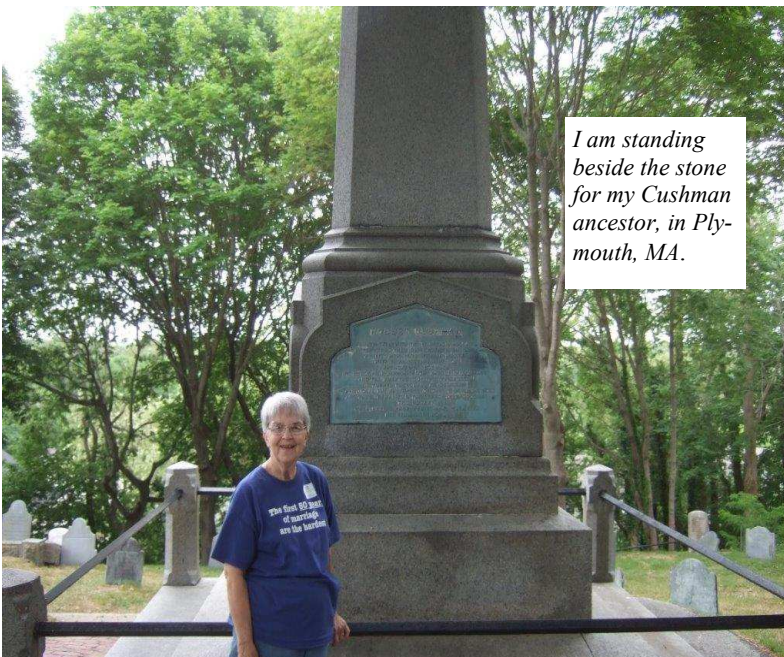
I will try to share some of the ways I searched for my ancestors while on our loooong vacation in this Journal and the next ones. I hope you will all learn a bit about where to search when going to your ancestor's place of birth/residence/death. Searching on the web for information today in 2015 is often much easier and much more informative; but I have found lots of good information by searching in the locale of my ancestor's homes.



1. Public Library – I found every small town I visited had a public library.

The library's genealogy room in Newburyport, CT, was a gold mine of family surname histories and are excellent if you are searching for the earlier ancestors of your surname. The books were all bound, hard copy editions and most started with my ancestors who first came to this country. They talked about the land as it was when first settled, how the people were living, and usually their descendants and their histories for several generations. I spent two days there.

2. Historical society libraries – You usually need to call before you go because they are located in obscure places; public libraries, individual buildings, government office buildings, etc.



Usually these resources have lots of books about the area with the history from the day it was first settled, some family surname history books, and usually lots of files containing information donated by people who have visited the society's library. In Owego, NY, I found some particularly valuable information about a family of my ancestors who lived in that area that someone had donated. It was written on plain paper and the handwriting was sometimes difficult to read but I had never seen this information in a book or on the web. Especially the original spelling of their surname which was quite different from what I was looking for and there was some history of their family. When I can get all of this info input into my database, I will make copies of the group sheets for my ancestors who lived in that area and send them to the Owego Historical Society to put in those files to share with other researchers. This will be valuable information to them as a year or so ago when the

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Susquehanna River overflowed its banks, the library's basement (where all the genealogy books, etc. are located) was flooded about 5 feet deep. They are making a good recovery of the water damaged files but they lost a lot that could not be recovered.

3. Town Clerk offices – Usually you will find the vital records for your ancestors in these places. In the Junction City, KY, town clerk offices I was able to pull land transfer books (VERY heavy and big and you needed a stool to reach them!), court records, vital record books (birth, marriage, & death), and military record books. There may have been others but I found what I needed in these particular books. I went there three times trying to solve William Carter's history!

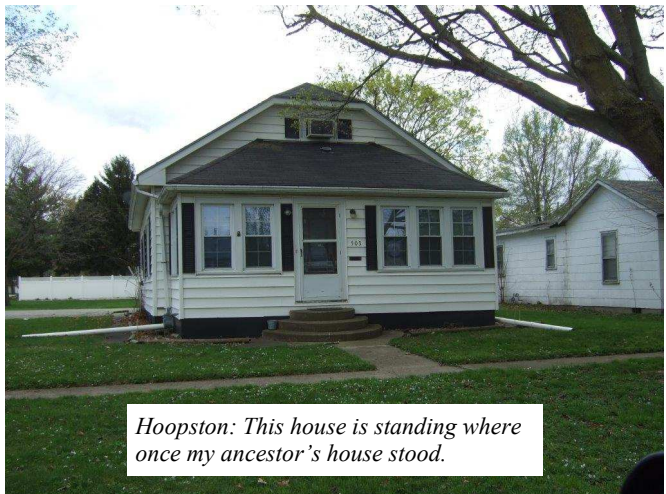


I am enjoying getting to know my new cousin, Diana

4. Cemeteries – It is strange that when I wanted to go visit a cemetery I would look it up on the web and I could find out lots of information about the cemetery but most of the time there was no actual address. A group of very old cemeteries in Stonington, CT, listed them all as being on the same road with their locations as: #1 - 1/2 mile from the town clerk's office, #2 – 1 1/4 mile from the town clerk's office, #3 – 2 miles from the town clerk's office, and so on for 8 different cemeteries. Of course, the town clerk's office was probably moved several times since that directional information was entered into the file and we didn't know exactly where the clerk's office was located when we were there (it was the weekend! See below). My new cousin, Diane, and Bill and I drove this road watching the odometer closely and found a couple cemeteries, which we walked, but found nothing we wanted, and we asked a man mowing his lawn, if he knew of this particular cemetery. He said it was probably out in the deep woods and inaccessible. My cemetery searches were not as successful as I was hoping but most of the graves I wanted to see were from the 1600 & 1700 centuries and were probably the stones that had been knocked down or removed due to poor condition or there might not have ever been a stone. When I was looking for graves in the 1800s I could usually ask the town clerks or people working in the cemeteries for the graves. (Most cemeteries had no office or place to find a human to ask questions. On Memorial Day we parked half on a sidewalk and partly on the curb because there was no parking for the 'old' part of the cemetery which was fenced off from the rest of the cemetery. In the distance we could hear the celebration in memory of our fallen heroes.) And in two towns I found books or pamphlets at the libraries that listed the people buried in each cemetery and sometimes with the grave location in the cemetery.

5. Telephone books – remember those???? When traveling today we use a GPS. But without an address it is useless...well, mine is anyway. So we would ask at libraries if we could borrow their phone book to get an address of a cemetery or historical society or ??? “ Sorry, we don't have one,” they said. Now what? To be continued.

Tips for June 2015 – If searching on the weekends you may not find humans available at cemeteries and particularly not in town offices. Be sure to call public libraries in small towns to find out what days and what hours they are open. The days and hours vary greatly. When calling Historical Societies, you might get your call answered by someone in their own home and you might be able to set up an appointment and place to meet with them. Two ladies in Hoopston, IL, got in their car and we followed them to the locations of the houses where my ancestors had lived!! And avoid holidays as campgrounds, lodging places and parking lots are full! Not to mention public bathrooms! One bathroom had a homeless person living in it! Oh woe is me!



Hoopston: This house is standing where once my ancestor's house stood.

WHO ARE THE PARENTS OF OLIVE DODGE PETERSON (1793 – 1857)

Olive Dodge was born about 1793 in Maine. Our records show her to be the daughter of Caleb Dodge and Elizabeth Perley. However, the names of her parents has recently come into question – thus, the reason for this article.

It is generally believed that her grandparents are Nicholas Dodge (1728 – 1785) and Experience Woodbury (1722 -). Nicholas and Experience raised four sons, Nicholas, Jr., Caleb, Ebenezer, and Isaac.

Nicholas Dodge, Jr. married three times – he had no issue with the first two wives – and with his third wife, Elizabeth Flye they raised the following children, all in Burnham, Waldo County, Maine: Elisha, born 1788; Herbert, born 1790; Sarah, born 1792; Daniel, born 1795; Nicholas, born 1798; Nathan Parks, born 1800; Elizabeth, born 1805; and Israel Woodbury, born 1808. All census records show the correct number of male and female children, all within the age guidelines listed above. There is no room for Olive, born 1793.

Caleb Dodge married Elizabeth Perley and they raised eight children – all born in various counties in Maine; Caleb, Jr., born 1781; Fannie, born 1783; William, born 1784; Edward, born 1785; Lydia, born 1787; Levi, born 1789; Olive, born 1793; and James, born 1802. Note that we list Olive in this family – all census records show the correct number of male and female children, all within the age guidelines listed above.

Ebenezer Dodge – we have no marriage or death record for Ebenezer, though that does not rule out that he married and had children - we simply cannot prove it.

Isaac Dodge married Mary Austin and they raised five sons, all born in New Hampshire: Isaac, Jr., born 1791; Caleb, born 1793; Samuel, born 1796; Benjamin W., born 1799; Moody, born 1801. Isaac had only sons, so there was no possibility that Olive was his daughter and all census records show the correct number of children all within the age guidelines listed above.

So we are now back to the parents of Olive Dodge – Nicholas and Experience – Caleb and Elizabeth – and possibly Ebenezer and unknown wife.

The reason we now question that Caleb and Elizabeth are the parents of Olive (even though she is found in the household in census records).

The following are two facts you need to know to continue with this query:

1. Caleb and Elizabeth moved to Franklin County, Ohio sometime between 1802 (after James was born) and 1815 (when Caleb died).
2. Olive Dodge married 1812 in Maine to Samuel Peterson and they moved from Maine.

Caleb served as a Private in the Army of the Revolution. In 1844 Elizabeth applied for a widow’s pension and had to make an oath of declaration in order to obtain widow’s benefits. Others who had known both Caleb and Elizabeth also gave their depositions. One of the persons giving a deposition was Olive Dodge Peterson.

This is the deposition as written:

Page 1: “Personally appeared before me, David Johnson, one of the Judges of the court of common pleas in and for said county, Olive Peterson, who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that she has long been acquainted with Elizabeth Dodge and Caleb Dodge from AD 1796 until the time of his death and with his widow Elizabeth Dodge hitherto said Caleb Dodge was always reputed by his neighbors and by those with whom he has long been acquainted to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War and.....that said Elizabeth Dodge and her husband Caleb Dodge from the deponent’s first acquaintance with them until the death of said Dodge lived and cohabited as man and wife as was reputed to be living in wedlock by those whom had long been acquainted with them and never contradicted to the best of my knowledge.

Page 2: Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before me, said Johnson, one of the judges as aforesaid and “I certify that I am personally acquainted with the deponent, Olive Peterson, and that she sustains a good character for truth and veracity. Signed James Dodge

So the question is – why did Olive know Caleb and Elizabeth from 1796 when she was born in 1793? Why did she serve a deposition for Caleb and Elizabeth, but none of the other children of Caleb and Elizabeth signed a deposition for them? Only James, youngest child of Caleb and Elizabeth testified to the character of Olive.

If you have any information that could help solve this query please contact Eileen Dodge - edodge1946@comcast.net