



COLBY CLAN COMMUNICATIONS

Descendants of Anthony and Susannah Colby

Editor: Barbara J. Zdravesky 123 Mulberry Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860 401-724-2827 Bzdravesky@Lifespan.org
Treasurer: Adeline Stack 26 Coolidge Avenue, South Portland, ME 04106 207-799-1648

March 2007

From the Editor

Happy New Year! September seems like such a long time ago. I hope that every one of you enjoyed your holiday season. I think this issue of the Colby newsletter is a good one, thanks to contributions sent in from several members. If you haven't already signed on the rootsweb Colby list, you're missing out. Subscribers have access to lots of family research information and can be in touch with many others who are doing good work investigating all the family secrets. ☺ To sign up, use the url on page 7. Please mark your calendars for the Colby reunion on August 18. I know that Paula is going to show us a fabulous time in Massachusetts. Please read through her note in the next column. I have been working on organizing several old scrapbooks that Bea Blasenak compiled. It is fun work sorting through so many old articles, photos and memorabilia. I will be sure to bring them to the reunion so everyone can enjoy them. Most of you know that we have had a surprisingly mild winter here in New England. However, February brought the bitter cold temperatures and the icy wind, but still no snow.....so far. Stay tuned, and Stay warm!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- 1 From the Editor, Colby Reunion
- 2 News from the Members
- 6 Interesting Colby Facts
- 3 In Memoriam

54th Annual Colby Clan Reunion

From **Paula Belyea:**

Well - plans are underway for the 54th Colby Reunion to be held August 18, 2007. The reunion will be held in Wakefield, MA this year at the Parish Hall of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church. A buffet luncheon is being planned again this year so you will not have to make a choice about what you want to eat – you can have it all! Our entertainment program with a vintage flavor following the business meeting is sure to please...surprises are so much fun, aren't they? But, we are also looking to greet as many Colby descendant children as our members are willing to bring, as activities are being planned for their personal entertainment (and we will be asking for their ages on the reservation form coming out later this year)! Remember—without involving our children, our annual reunion may someday cease to exist! (Good heavens, no! Plan to bring those young-uns!) Hotel accommodations are still in process at this writing, but should be finalized very soon. Please feel free to e-mail Paula Belyea at ppbel@yahoo.com - she will be happy to provide this information (and any other that you may require) as soon as it is available (please put "Colby reunion" in the subject line). What, no e-mail! Call Paula at 781/595-2457 and be sure to leave a message if she's not home!



Your reunion committee—
Paula (DeGusto) Belyea, Christine (DeGusto) Corbett,
Pauline Colby DeGusto, Joan (DeGusto)—
is looking forward to greeting you this August!

News from the Colby Members

Kathleen Colby of Amesbury, MA -- I have now been elected treasurer, along with being the secretary, of the Friends. Next year I'll give you an update and photos before June of what's going on at the Macy Colby House so people can see that their money is being well spent. We very much appreciate everyone's generation support. This year alone we've spend close to \$25,000 on major repairs. But now the house will be standing for a few more hundred years, we hope.

In a letter to Adeline Stack, Kathy wrote:

"We want to thank you all for the hard work you do for the Colby Clan and we do appreciate the Colby Clan members' generosity. It does help with the upkeep for the Macy-Colby House. We have finished the first draft of the National Register application. Margaret Rice started this in the 1980s, but never completed it. Once the application is final, it will go to the MA Historical Commission and then to the National Register Commission. The 'nationals' meet only quarterly each year so it could be a year or longer before we get on the Register. We know we will be registered; it's just a matter of waiting our turn. When that happens, we will have a celebration."

The Friends of the Macy-Colby House had a ceremony on September 27, 2006 to recognize the work of Hazele and Milton Kray for many years of service to the Macy-Colby House. One of the photos has a picture of the plaque and a citation from the State of Massachusetts.



IN MEMORIAM

Frances Dowd passed away this past year. Frances was the treasurer of the Friends of the Macy Colby House committee.

Ruth Brown Colby, 78, Mission, Texas, died of a heart attack, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2000, at her home. She was born March 24, 1922, on a farm near Stockport, the daughter and step daughter of Ira L. and Donna Vancine Brown of Fairfield. She lived many years of her life in Fairfield, Burlington and graduated from high school in Fort Madison. She also accompanied her husband, Craig, to many foreign countries while he was with the Air Force. When they retired they moved to Mission, Texas and made it their permanent home. She was also the person that helped get the "Smoke Piercing Camera" for the fire department. She is survived by two daughters, Karla Robinson, Chicago, IL and Anita Bywater, Daleville, AK; one brother, Dwight "Bud" Brown, Clive; five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. A funeral mass was held Saturday, Aug. 12, in Mission, Texas. Burial was in Spencer Cemetery, Stockport.

Lois G. Colby, 77, of Martha Street in Claremont and recently a patient at Sullivan County Nursing Home in Unity, died Sunday, June 26, 2005, at Valley Regional Hospital. She was born in Springfield, VT on April 22, 1928, and was adopted by Joseph and Annie Gosselin of Springfield. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1946. She worked for five years in Albany, NY, for 20 years at Bryant Grinder Corp. in Springfield, Vt., for 11 1/2 years at Joy Manufacturing Co. in Claremont, and for 6 1/2 years at American Brush in Claremont. On Aug. 17, 1973, she was married to Dawson H. Colby, who died on Sept. 14, 1993. Survivors include one son, Alan Gavin, who made his home with Mrs. Colby in Claremont; one daughter, Diane Lawrence of Langdon, NH; three stepchildren, Susan J. Burbank of Livingston Manor, NY, Dawson H. Colby Jr. of Cement City, MI, and Kenneth Colby of Poway, Calif.; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson. A memorial service was held at Stringer Funeral Home in Claremont, with the Rev. Shawn M. Therrien of St. Mary Parish officiating. Interment followed at Pine Crest Cemetery in Charlestown.

Betty M. Colby, age 78, of Canton, OH, passed away Tuesday, April 17, 2001 in the Country Lawn Nursing Home following an extended illness. Born in Akron, OH, on May 29, 1922, she was the daughter of the late John and Lovina Bowermaster. She had lived most of her life in the Canton area and was a retired employee of General Electric Credit Co., retiring in 1983 after 20 years of service. She was preceded in death by her husband, Omer Colby, who passed away Nov. 10, 1989 and also by a sister, Madeline Arnold. Survivors include her daughter, Cynthia Jacobs of Canton and her son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Estella Colby of Loveland, CO; her brother, Jim Bowermaster of Mt. Pleasant, SC; five grandchildren and their spouses, Patrick Jacobs and Stephanie, Shannon Jacobs-Lippert and Robert, Jennifer Calhoun, all of Canton, Sean Jacobs and Elizabeth Shimp of Massillon and William Colby and Kate of Loveland, CO; 11 great-grandchildren. There were no services as her wishes were to be cremated.

Peggy Irene Colby, 68, of Loveland, formerly of Aurora, died April 6, 1999 in Sun City Center, FL. Services were April 16. Mrs. Colby was born in Flint, MI, on Oct. 20, 1930. She married Gerald W. Colby, 1949. She was a retired secretary. She was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church. Survivors include her husband; son Craig of Eagle; daughters Sylvia Dane of Boulder, Nora Cedarwin of WA, Ann Whisenant of TX; 10 grandchildren

Franklyn E. Colby died December 3, 2003 in Tonawanda, NY; husband of the late Margaret Jean Colby; dear father of Robert (Suzanne) and Theodore (Paula) Colby; grandfather of Scott (Lisa), Lisa Popp (Joseph), Suzanne Battilana (Samuel), Craig, Traci, Christopher and Patrick; also survived by five great-grandchildren.

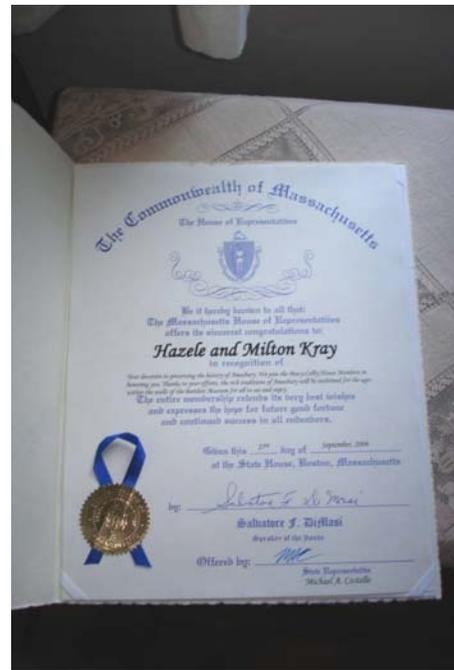
Cynthia Colby Schreiber, 67, of Fairfax, VA formerly of Jacksonville, FL. Cynthia was born in Laconia, NH and passed away on Thursday, July 21, 2005 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Beloved mother of Susan (Shaun) Ireland

and Kathleen Testone. She is also survived by 1 Sister and 2 Grandchildren Robert and Katie Ireland. Memorial Service was held at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, Fairfax, VA on Wednesday, July 27, 2005. Interment was held in Laconia, NH at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Larry Samuel Colby -- August 5, 1934 - July 14, 2006 Larry passed away suddenly on his boat in the early morning sunshine. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 48 years, Bar-Jean; his children Wesley (Nancy), Brooke (Roxanne), Larissa (Asiff), Douglas (Cheryl), Spencer (Connie); his grandchildren, Alexander, Amanda, Chantal, Kaitlind, Kyle, Khalil, Dustin, Taylor, Paige, Mackenzie, Benjamin; his siblings June (Stan), Irwin (Marianne), Sharon (Mel), Lynne (Wayne) and their families. Larry also leaves behind a large extended family and many treasured friends who will miss him dearly. He was predeceased by his father, Samuel Francis Colby and his mother, Norah Frances Colby. Larry was born in Vancouver, BC on August 5, 1934. He enjoyed an adventurous youth and then joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1953. It was during his naval service that he met and fell in love with Bar-Jean. They took up permanent residence in White Rock in 1962 with their young family and have lived there ever since. Larry's passions for people and new ideas led him on a wonderful life's journey that included stints as newspaper columnist, entrepreneur, plumber, realtor and city counselor. Recently, Larry was involved in helping to promote local tourism and was very excited about the upcoming Olympics in his beloved province. Larry never lost his love of the sea and cherished his time with Bar-Jean motoring and tinkering on their boat. With a larger than life personality, Larry maintained a positive outlook and lived life to the fullest. He will remain an inspiration to both family and friends. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, July 19th at Peace Arch Provincial Park, Surrey, BC. In lieu of flowers, donations will be gratefully accepted to CH.I.L.D. FOUNDATION CANADA or PEACE ARCH HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION. Victory Memorial Park Funeral Centre www.victorymemorialpark.com 604-536-6522

Irwin Keith Colby -- July 14th, 1931 - August 16th, 2006 It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of our wonderful husband, father, papa, brother, uncle and friend. He will be forever loved by his wife Marianne (Peanut): they had 55 wonderful fun filled years together. Lovingly remembered and missed by his children, Keith (Brenda), Larry (Tami), Cheryl (Michael), Stuart (Louise), Dianne (Lorne), Debbie (Don) and all eighteen of his grandchildren. Also mourning the loss are his three sisters, June McCreary (Stan), Sharon Lawlor (Mel), Lynne Cowley (Wayne), his sister-in-law Bar-Jean (Colby), and their families. He will be greatly missed by Marianne's brothers, Al Bayes (Shirley), Lionel, Gordie, and Gary Bayes (Dianne) and their sister Glenice (Hennessy) as well as their children. Predeceased by his wonderful younger brother Larry just one month ago. Irwin served with distinction in the PPCLI during the Korean War. Upon his return he embarked on a career in the "Plumbing and Pipefitting business". Through his hard work and perseverance he became the successful owner/manager of Porter's Mechanical in New Westminster, B.C. Throughout these years he always made time for his family. This included coaching his sons baseball teams, camping at Mara Lake, setting up swing sets, and never missing a game or performance of any of his children. He and Marianne were gracious hosts and many family gatherings have been held at their lovely home surrounded by their beautiful gardens. "Rest in peace my Darling" Love Peanut The service was held on Wednesday, August 23rd at the Peace Arch Park Pavilion, followed by a Celebration of Life at Irwin and Marianne's home. Donations to the Peace Arch Hospital and Community Health Foundation or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. and Yukon will be gratefully appreciated.





The photo below is of **Jay Williamson** and his daughter Carolyn. Jay is 6'4" and had to watch his head with the low ceilings. Their little girl, Carolyn, age 2 1/2, is probably the youngest descendant of the Colbys who last lived in the house. Jay's maternal grandfather Edwin lived there with his siblings and parents William and Helen Colby before they sold it to Uncle Moses. Jay hadn't been in the house since he was a little boy. He is on the Amesbury Historic Commission and is the curator of the Cushing House in Newburyport, which is owned by the Historical Society of Old Newbury. The house never looked better.





Amesbury — Pictured above is the Macy-Colby house, Main street. This perfect replica of colonial design and furnishing was built prior to the mid-17th century. (Star Staff Photo)

AMESBURY — One of the most extraordinary complete collections of Colonial furniture and furnishings to be found anywhere in the valley today is located throughout the Macy-Colby House on Main street, a short distance below the junction of the Haverhill Road. And appropriately enough, this collection has been placed within a typical old home which dates back to the same era.

The Macy-Colby home which resembles a salt box-type dwelling, has been completely equipped in every detail, as if for immediate Colonial occupancy. Few houses of its size in the country today have been so impeccably arranged, to give the feeling that the Colonial occupants had just gone out for a walk. As the visitor steps through the door it seems as though he or she had suddenly been whisked back through space and time to when Mr. Thomas Macy, that outspoken gentleman, and his family lived there.

In the kitchen stands the eight foot fireplace with its two clay brick ovens, large iron kettles, and sturdy andirons. Along with numerous ladles, fire tongs, warming pans and other kitchen utensils of that day, there hang above this barren brick recess two long-barreled, flintlock rifles with of course, a powder horn. These are hung against a background of finely carved wooden paneling.

It was up inside this same fireplace that Thomas Macy hid the exiled Quakers and was preserved, as described in Whittier's "The Exiles."

As throughout the house the ceiling is very low in the kitchen, a person six feet or over in height would have to stoop while there. Along the far wall the old-fashioned trays are set on edge so that their odd designs may be seen better. The original kitchen stretches the full length of the house on the back. An el, which was built on in later years, contains the kitchen which is used today by the Daughters of the Revolution, the organization which now has charge of the Macy-Colby house.

A feature of the front room leading directly from the kitchen, is the large wing chair that has

the slanting eaves of the back roof which comes down to within six feet of the ground. In the room among other things can be seen the hand made lathes, the four poster bed and the most archaic of wall paper.

Perhaps the most fascinating of all the upstairs rooms is the north room where sits a highly prized wooden hand loom will hand carved shuttles. On it are threads set up, ready to be woven. As in some of the other rooms there is a Sax wheel here in what could easily be called the "weaving room."

As has been hinted at earlier in this article, the Macy-Colby house has a bit of historic significance connected with it. Tom Macy, one of the first citizens of Amesbury, and the first town clerk of Amesbury, erected this house prior to 1654. The tale is told that Macy was accused of harboring Quakers during a storm, and was summoned into court by the Puritan rulers of the colony. He was not punished, but instead was fined thirty shillings. He became so disgusted with living under such social conditions and restrictions, that in 1659 he sold the house to Anthony Colby, and moved to Nantucket. He said he'd rather take his chances with 2,000 savages on an island than live under Puritan rule.

An incident which happened on the voyage to Nantucket points out even plainer the type of man Thomas Macy was. Enroute he and his family encountered a severe storm at sea. His wife was influenced by some omens of disaster, besought him to turn back. He told her not to fear for his faith was perfect. But she entreated him again. Then the spirit which impelled him broke out like the storm itself about them. "Woman," he shouted above the howling wind, "go below and seek thy God. I fear not the witches on earth or the devils in hell!"

When the family landed safely on Nantucket, the first and only settlers there in 1655. Once again Macy's pioneer spirit had carried him to a new land. His property increased from them on as he developed the land he had purchased from a Watertown merchant. Mr. Thomas Mathew back in October, 1641, Macy had no trouble with the Indians either, in fact they befriended him and took him along on whaling expeditions about the shoal-bound coast of the island. No puritan existed beneath their painted skins.



Interesting Colby Facts

From the Crystal Lake Herald Crystal Lake, Illinois (McHenry County) Wednesday, November 6, 1924

Clarence W. Colby, son of Webster and Abigail Colby, was born on a farm north of McHenry Dec. 22, 1848. He was united in marriage April 28th, 1870 to Henrietta Thurwell. To this union were born four children: Mrs. Lee Lockwood and Mrs. Truman Flanders, both of Crystal Lake, Edna who passed away about three years ago, and Myrtle who died in childhood. After his marriage he purchased a farm near Barreville and resided there for fifty years. Then, because of failing health, he disposed of his farm property and moved to Crystal Lake. Mr. Colby was abundant in labors and devotion to those for whom God made him immediately responsible. Forgetful of self he gave unsparingly of time and strength that they might have those comforts he wished them to have. He lived a quiet, unobtrusive life and was greatly loved by those nearest to him and highly honored and respected by all who knew him. During the past three years he has been in rapidly declining health and at 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3d., he passed quietly away at the age of 75 years, 10 months and 14 days. He is survived by his devoted wife; two daughters, Mrs. Lee Lockwood and Mrs. Truman Flanders both of Crystal Lake; also two sisters, Mrs. Emma Colby of Crystal Lake and Minnie Colby of CA; and one brother, Fred Colby of Crystal Lake. We can say of him as Alfred Tennyson said of his friend who had passed away - "God's finger touched him and he slept." Funeral services were held from the home on Woodstock street, Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m., Rev. H. D. Dick officiating. The remains were laid to rest in the McHenry cemetery.

The following note and photos were sent from **Carolyn Mohun** of Redwood City, CA.

Dear Barbara,

Received the Sept. copy of the Colby Clan Comm. It sounds like a good time was had by one and all. My brother Billy Lee and I were able to get together with all our cousins except 2 this last Aug. in Oklahoma for a very small reunion. I have enclosed some pictures. One is of our father taken in 1946 with his then 5 living sisters and brothers. The top row includes:

VEDA CINDERDALLA COLBY DEARTH
CLARENCE ROY(CLYDE)COLBY
GITHA BEE COLBY HALFERTY

Bottom row includes:

PAUL LAVIER COLBY
WILMER B(BABE)COLBY
LEE BUNN COLBY

The second picture is Veda Eileen Colby Damron, daughter of Wilmer, Veldon Paul Colby, son of Paul, Carolyn Fay Colby Mohun and Billy Lee Colby, children on Lee. The third picture is Veleta Ruth Colby Legate, Veldon Paul Colby and Vona Leota Colby Noble, children of Paul, and Billy Lee Colby and Carolyn Colby Mohun, children of Lee.

Our line is (13) our parents our (12) Samuel Edwin(11)Elijah Sullivan Wheeler(10)Elijah(9)Johathan(8)Abraham(7)Thomas(6)Thomas(5)Anthony(4)Thomas Junior(3)Matthew(2)unknown(1)



From the McHenry Plain Dealer
McHenry, Illinois (McHenry County)
Friday, December 28, 1973

HOWARD LOCKWOOD

Funeral services were conducted at the George R. Justen & Son chapel Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock for Howard Lockwood of 1701 N. Court street, McHenry, who died Sunday, Dec. 23, in Memorial hospital, Woodstock. Burial was in McHenry County Memorial Park cemetery, Woodstock. Mr. Lockwood, 68, was born April 22, 1905, in Crystal Lake, son of Lee and Ollie Colby Lockwood. He was a retired machinist.

From the Crystal Lake Herald
Crystal Lake, Illinois (McHenry County)
Thursday, March 24, 1932

Henrietta Thurwell Colby was born Dec. 28, 1851, in Yorkshire, England. She was next to the eldest of eight children. When but three years old she came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Thurwell, to this country, where she resided most of her life at or near McHenry, IL. On April 28, 1871, she was united in marriage with Clarence Colby, son of Abigail and Webster Colby. To this union were born four daughters, Olive, Mrs. Lee Lockwood; Lorena, Mrs. Truman Flanders; Edna, and Myrtle. The three latter daughters and Mr. Colby preceded Mrs. Colby in death. On April 28, 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Colby celebrated their Golden Wedding at their home on the farm, three miles south of McHenry. Not long after this they moved to Crystal Lake, which has since been their home. Because of her failing health, her daughter, Mrs. Lee Lockwood and husband Lee Lockwood came to live with her, and has given her tender and unceasing care, until her death came early Wednesday morning, March 16. Mrs. Colby passed away peacefully to her reward. Mrs. Colby had many sorrows but bore them with Christian fortitude and patience. Because of her cheerfulness, she will be greatly missed by her many friends. Mrs. Colby leaves to mourn her loss, one daughter, Mrs. Lee Lockwood; eight grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; two brothers, John Thurwell of California, and Clyde Thurwell of OK; and one sister, Mrs. Smith, of McHenry, IL.

"Oh to be ready to hasten home;
No earthward clinging,
No lingering gaze,
No step at parting,
No sore amaze,
No cloud-like phantom to fling a gloom,
'Twixt heaven's bright portals and earth's dark tomb;
But sweetly, gently to pass away
From the world's dim twilight into day."

Helpful websites:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~colby/colbyfam>

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NG_L_v1

The following book titles were sent in by **Bill Whidden** of Weymouth, MA.



Bill Whidden

Maine

Colby's 1881 Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, by Trescott Historical Society (Whiting, Maine: Moon River Press, 2005). Softcover, 68 pp., 87 maps, illustrations, indexed by town. Republished exactly from Colby's original 1881 atlas, naming every property owner on 87 separate town and village maps. Includes 1790 U.S. Census of Hancock County. \$19.50. Available from Trescott Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Whiting, ME 04691; website: www.moonriverpress.com.

Maine

Colby's 1881 Atlas of Washington County, Maine, by Trescott Historical Society (Whiting, Maine: Moon River Press, 2005). Softcover, 67 pp., 87 maps, illustrations, indexed by town. Republished exactly from Colby's original 1881 atlas, naming every property owner on 87 separate town and village maps. Includes 1790 U.S. Census of Washington County. \$19.50. Available from Trescott Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Whiting, ME 04691; website: www.moonriverpress.com.

Ralph E. Colby of Durham, NH sent the following:

"I enclose some interesting data pertaining to our ancestors. Mr. Garth Coombs, an associate with a penchant for genealogy was digging up information recently and came up with what looks like legal events for our immediate interest."

Anthony Colby

Origin: Horbling, Lincolnshire

Migration: 1630

First residence: Boston

Removes: Cambridge 1632, Ipswich 1637, Salisbury 1640, Amesbury, Salisbury

Occupation: sawmill owner

Church membership: "Anthony Chaulby" admitted to Boston church as a member #93, which would be in the winter of 1630/1 [BChR 14]. On 2 August 1646 "Anthony Colby according to his desire had letters of dismission" from Boston church "unto the Church at Salsbury" [BChR 47].

William Osgood and the other part owners of the old mill at Salisbury were brought to task for failing to pay the town its share of lumber agreed upon in return for allowing the mill to be built on Salisbury land. Osgood had to sue the heirs of the other owners, including "Susan Whitridge, administratrix of Anthony Colbye," to recover boards for Salisbury, which he did at court September Term, 1682. Among the depositions establishing the number of boards due were several describing immigration into Essex County, such as that of John Pressy "aged about fortyfour years, testified that the first summer he came into this country, in 1651...I do well remember that the saw mill at Salisbury was one thing that was accounted a rare thing and I did go to see it and I did see it going and sawing boards that very summer." [EQC 8:250, 373-75].

These two gentlemen, and many others, can be researched further in the Great Migration Begins 1620-1633. You can get more information be going to the following website:

www.greatmigration.org

Provided by Linda Holm of Dewitt, MI

Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey
By Lillian Schlissel
Schocken Books-New York
Pg. 155 and 156

Mary M. Colby wrote to her brother and sister in Massachusetts from Lebanon, in Oregon Territory, in 1849.

Dear Brother & Sister:

It is a long time since we have seen each other but I have not forgotten you although many miles of land and water separate us yet I often wish I could see you and your family and many dear friends in Nashville (New Hampshire). I suppose you would like to hear how we like this country and how we prosper in the first of our living here. I did not like (it) very well but after we had taken our claim and became settled once more I began to like (it) much better and the longer I live here the better I like (it). The summer is beautiful and not hot a very little rain tho it is not so warm in the summer here as it is in the States the nights cool and comfortable and I can sleep like a rock. The winters is rather rainy but it is not cold and so bad getting about as it is in the States here the grass is fresh and green the year round and our cattle are all fat enough now for beef there is not a month in the year but I can pick wildflowers or some wildflowers or some strawberry blossoms.

As to our prosperity we are getting along as well as one could expect we have a section of land one mile square in the best part of Oregon it is prairie all except a strip of timber on two sides of it with a stream of water running through each pice (sic) of timber our stock consists of seven cows one yoke of oxen six calves fifteen hogs and 24 hens: hens here are one dollar a piece eggs are only one dollar per dozen I sold a lot yesterday, for that price butter is from fifty cents to one dollar (a) pound. I think with good health and good economy we shall get along verry well. I cannot say that I wish to go back to the states to live at present if ever. I know when one gets comfortable fixed here they can live as well as they can anywhere else with half of the labor that you do in the states. . .

I do not wish to brag but I think we shall ere long be as well off for property as some of the family think they are . . . Our health is good and has been for the most of the time since we have been here. . . (I left out some here..... L.H.)

We are in the best neighborhood I ever lived in all it wants to make it right is to have some of my friends here. . .

I believe it we have about 140 acres of our own land under fence 40 of it is improved I suppose he (husband) would not sell it for four thousand that is a small price to what some value their claims when our fruit trees begin to bear it seems more like home we have apples pear peaches and plum trees . . . we live in a dry cabin it has two rooms and is verry comfortable is as good as the rest of our neighbors have so I am content with it till we can have a better one now . . .give my love to all your children and please to except a good share your self . . .

Yours, Mary M. Colby

Please send us a paper now and then.

~Mary M. Colby to her Brother and Sister. February, 1849. Bennett Family Papers, Haverhill Public Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts. I thank Alice Kessler-Harris for making the correspondence known to me.

Barbara J. Zdravesky
123 Mulberry Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

