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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

Thomas Minor [Miner] of Stonington, Connecticut

When I first began researching my ancestry as a teenager, Thomas¹ Minor [Miner] of Stonington, Connecticut was the first colonial era immigrant ancestor that I encountered. Some other descendant of Allen⁶ and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York had already outlined Allen's patrilineal line of descent from Thomas¹, probably with the goal of being accepted in to the Daughters of the American Revolution ("The DAR"). However, Allen's three other lines of descent from Thomas¹ were apparently unknown to his descendants until I began researching the his Avery ancestry.

Meanwhile, in 1981, John Augustus Miner (1919-2004) published an excellent compilation of the Miner family entitled *Thomas Minor, Descendants 1608-1981* [Trevett, Maine] which also documented the patrilineal descent of Allen⁶ Miner from Thomas¹ as well has some of Allen's descendants, including his granddaughter and my great-great-grandmother, Alice Amelia (Miner) Streeter.

In 1984, John A. Miner and Robert F. Miner published an article in *The New England Historic Genealogical Register* (138:182-185) on the English origins of Thomas¹ Minor. In approximately 1683, Alexander Cunningham wrote "An Heraldical Essay Upon the Surname of Miner" which purported to trace the ancestry of the immigrant, Thomas¹ Minor/Miner, back to Sir Henry Bullman "the Miner" in the 1300s. Modern scholarly research proved that this document and the coat of arms presented within were a hoax. In 1995, John A. Miner published *The Ancestral Heritage of Descendants of Thomas Minor c. 1450 - c. 1700* which provides a more humble but accurate history of the family's origins.

John A. Miner was also instrumental in the founding of The Thomas Minor Society in 1979. Clearly, the story of the Minor/Miner family could not be told without John's incredible contributions. His publications form the backbone of the chapter that follows. However, I have also provided many important corrections and additions to his research.

In particular, I am grateful to Linda (Brown) Raiola for providing corrections to my own research on the family group of our most recent common ancestors, Ransford⁵ and Esther (Allyn) Miner.

Three generations of my Miner ancestors married their first cousins with no apparent ill effects. Consequently, all descendants of Allen⁶ Miner of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York descend from seventeenth century colonial immigrants Thomas¹ Miner, Walter¹ Palmer and Christopher¹ Avery in four ways each and from Edward¹ Rainsford in two ways. That Edward¹ Rainsford [Ransford/Raynsford] was a descendant of King Henry III of England is well documented by modern, scholarly research. For more information on Edward's noble and royal ancestry, please see the Rainsford links at www.perrystreeter.com.

1. WILLIAM^C MINER was buried at Chew Magna, County Somerset, England on 23 February 1585/6.

He was a resident in the North Elm section of Chew Magna in 1523 when he paid 4^p tax on goods assessed at 234s. He received a Chew Magna house and land grant on 29 June 1554 with his son Thomas and Thomas' wife, Joan.

William may have been related to John Minere who appears on a Chew Magna manor account roll for the year 1494-5 as paying for grass or to Joan Minere, a widow, who appears as paying a tax known as churchscot.

Child:

2. ii. THOMAS^B, b. ca. 1530.

2. THOMAS^B MINER (*William^C*) of Chew Magna, County Somerset, England was born there about 1530; he was buried at Chew Magna on 15 November 1573. Thomas was married about 1554/59 to JOAN __; she was buried at Chew Magna on 21 December 1592.

Thomas was a tailor and resident of Chew Magna in 1556. An abstract of his will, dated 20 October 1573 and proved 15 September 1574, survives. The manor court rolls show Joan succeeding her husband on 19 July 1574 under a grant of 29 June 1554.

Children (will):

3. ii. CLEMENT^A, b. ca. 1560; d. 31 March 1640.
 iii. JOHN, b. ca. 1563/6; m. Chew Magna 23 June 1587 PHILIPPA SIMONS.
 iv. EDITH, b. ca. 1566; d. after 10 Oct 1573; may have m. RICHARD KENTE.

3. CLEMENT^A MINER (*Thomas^B, William^C*) was born in Chew Magna, Somerset, England about 1560; he was buried there on 31 March 1640.

Children, born Chew Magna, Somerset, England (*Parish Register of St. Andrew's Church*):

i. JOAN, b. ca. 1585; bur. 23 March 1585/6.
 ii. JOHN, c. 23 April 1587; bur. 3 Dec 1597.
 iii. JOAN, c. 19 Oct 1589; bur. 9 Nov 1595.
 iv. MARY, c. 19 Feb 1591/2; d. 1640 (will dated 4 Dec 1640, proved 23 Feb); never married.
 v. ELIZABETH, c. 7 Sep 1594; m. 14 Jan 1629/30 JOHN TONKINS.
 vi. EDITH, c. 6 Feb 1596/7; m. 31 Oct 1623 THOMAS BUCKE.
 vii. CLEMENT, c. 23 Nov 1600; d. after 1683; m. possibly SARAH POPE, dau. of John Pope.
 Children, surname *Miner*: 1. *William*. 2. *Israel*.
 4. viii. THOMAS¹, c. 23 April 1608; m. GRACE PALMER.

4. THOMAS¹ MINER (*Clement^A, Thomas^B, William^C*), was christened at Chew Magna, Somerset, England on 23 April 1608; he died in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut on 23 October 1690. Thomas was married at Charlestown, Massachusetts on 23 April 1634 to GRACE² PALMER (*Walter¹*), born in England in 1608, died in New London County, Connecticut on 31 December 1690, daughter of Walter¹ Palmer.

Children included:

5. ii. MANASSAH², m. LYDIA MOORE.

5. MANASSAH² MINER (*Thomas*¹) was born in New London, New London County, Connecticut on 28 April 1647; he was married in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut on 26 September 1670 to LYDIA² MOORE (*Miles*¹), born in Milford, New Haven County, Connecticut in 1649, died 12 August 1720, daughter of Miles¹ and Isabel (Joyner) Moore.

Children included:

6. ii. THOMAS³, m. HANNAH AVERY.

6. THOMAS³ MINER (*Manassah*², *Thomas*¹) was born in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut on 20 September 1683; died on 9 April 1739; he was married in Stonington on 26 December 1706 to his paternal first cousin, HANNAH⁴ AVERY (*Thomas*³, *James*², *Christopher*¹), born Groton, New London County, Connecticut, died 9 December 1762, daughter of Thomas³ Avery and Hannah² Miner (*Thomas*¹).

Children included:

7. ii. JONATHAN⁴, m. ANNA AVERY.

7. JONATHAN⁴ MINER (*Thomas*³, *Manassah*², *Thomas*¹) was born in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut on 25 February 1714 and was baptized there on 4 April 1714; he died, possibly on 12 June 1761, but no source for this claim has been found. Jonathan was married on 22 April 1739 to his maternal first cousin, ANNA⁵ AVERY (*Samuel*⁴, *Thomas*³, *James*², *Christopher*¹). Anna was baptized at New London on 22 May 1719; she died, possibly in May 1788, but no source for this claim has been found. Anna was the daughter of Samuel⁴ and Elizabeth (Raynsford) Avery; Samuel⁴ Avery was the son of Thomas³ Avery and Hannah² Miner (*Thomas*¹).

Children, born at Stonington, New London County, Connecticut:

8. ii. JONATHAN RANSFORD⁵, b. 23 Feb 1740; m. ESTHER ALLYN.
 iii. ELIZABETH, b. 14 Nov 1741; bapt. 15 Nov 1741.
 iv. CHRISTOPHER, b. 1 Jan 1744; bapt. Stonington, CT 22 Jan 1744; d. Peru, MA 24 Sep 1815; m. 1769 LUCY AVERIL, d. 6 March 1825; moved to Peru, Berkshire Co., MA in 1788; served in the American Revolution.
 Children, surname *Miner*: 1. *Anna*, b. 26 Feb 1767; d. 22 March 1771. 2. *Nathan*, b. Washington or New Milford, CT 12 May 1771; m. Dorothy Foote 10 May 1791.
 v. LYDIA, b. Voluntown, CT 15 Jan 1749/50 as "Ledia" (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:48); bapt. 20 May 1750; d. 27 March 1753.
 vi. SAMUEL, b. Voluntown CT 27 June 1752; bapt. 16 Aug 1752.
 vii. EPHRIAM, b. Voluntown, CT 10 Aug 1754 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:48); d. Windsor, MA 3 April 1813; bur. Shaw Cemetery, Windsor, MA; m. Woodbury or West Haven, CT 18 Feb 1778 ELIZABETH GOODSSELL, b. East Haven, CT 1 Feb 1754, d. 14 Feb 1846, bur. Shaw Cemetery, Windsor MA next to

Ephriam, dau. of Isaac and Elizabeth (Pennfield) Goodsell; settled at Windsor about 1776; served in the Revolutionary War. Elizabeth m. (2) Thomas Axtell of Peru, MA, who had m. (1) Rebecca ___, d. 26 July 1813; bur. together in Peru, MA.

Children, surname *Miner*, all b. Partridgefield, MA: 1. *Jonathan*, b. 24 June 1780; d. Windsor, MA 14 Sep 1845; m. Cummington, MA 26 Sep 1803 Sally "Polly" Tower, b. Cummington, MA 23 Oct 1780, d. Windsor, MA 19 Aug 1849, dau. of Nathaniel and Leah (___) Tower of Cummington, MA; both bur. Shaw Cemetery, Windsor, MA. 2. *Betsy*, b. 30 Jan 1782; d. 27 Sep 1838; m. 21 Dec 1800 David Foote of Peru, MA. 3. *Lemon*, b. 8 June 1785; d. Batavia, NY 12 May 1836; m. 21 Jan 1807 Joanna Tower, b. 1785, d. 6 March 1885. 4. *Anna*, b. 30 March 1787; m. Spencer, MA 5 July 1804 Gideon Pierce. 5. *Elizabeth*, b. 1791. 6. *Charles*, b. 1793. 7. *Ephriam*, b. 7 Feb 1797; d. 14 March 1813.

viii. WILLIAM, b. Voluntown, CT 1756; m. ___ __.

Child, surname *Miner*: 1. *Samuel*; m. ___ __; resided at Windsor, MA.

8. JONATHAN RANSFORD⁵ MINER (*Jonathan*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Manassah*², *Thomas*¹) was primarily known by his distinctive middle name, Ransford. He was obviously named in honor of his father but his mother's maternal grandfather was Jonathan³ Ransford (*Jonathan*² *Raynsford*, *Edward*¹ *Rainsford*). Ransford was born in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut on 23 February 1740 and baptized there on 24 February 1740 (Richard A. Wheeler, *History of the First Congregational Church, Stoning, Conn., 1674-1874* [Norwich, Connecticut: T.H. Davis and Company; 1875], 224). **As a correction to the publications of John Augustus Miner and The Thomas Minor Society, as well as *The Groton Avery Clan* [Cleveland, Ohio: 1912] upon which they are probably based, Ransford did *not* die in Stephenson [*sic*, Stephentown, Rensselaer County], New York on 24 December 1793.** Ransford died in Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts on 30 July 1795: "1795 July 30 Ransford Miner [died], aged about fifty years" (Rollin H. Cook, *Records of the First Church of Christ, Windsor Since 25 March 1773* [typescript; Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts], 209 citing 112) and (New England Historic Genealogical Society, *Vital Records of Windsor, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* [Boston: 1917], 139, citing C.R. [church record, Congregational Church]).

Ransford was married at Voluntown, New London County, Connecticut on 20 November 1766 by Elder Timothy Whitman to his maternal first cousin ESTHER⁵ ALLYN (*Samuel*⁴, *Robert*³, *John*², *Robert*¹) (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111), born in Groton, New London County, Connecticut 19 April 1739, daughter of Samuel⁴ and Hannah (Avery) Allyn (*The Groton Avery Clan*, 195). Esther died in Lansing, Tompkins County, New York on 5 March 1826 and was buried in the Lansingville Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #99623356*). Esther's mother, Hannah (Avery) Allyn, was the daughter of Samuel⁴ and Elizabeth (Raynsford) Avery and, as noted above, Samuel⁴ Avery was the son of Thomas³ Avery and Hannah² Miner (*Thomas*¹). Ransford and Esther were also Avery cousins in another way—Esther's father, Samuel⁴ Allyn, was the son of Robert³ Allyn and Deborah³ Avery (*James*², *Christopher*¹).

"Jonathan Ransford Miner" served in the French and Indian War campaign of 1759, as documented within "A Muster Roll of Cap^t George Crary's Company in the fourth Regiment of Connecticut Troops Commanded by Eleazar Fitch Esq." (*Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War 1755-1762* [Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society; 1905], 2:170). "Minor Jonathan" [Minor, Jonathan] served in the campaign of 1758 in "The Third Regiment of Connecticut Troops Commanded by Eleazar Fitch Esq." (*Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War 1755-1762* [Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society; 1905], 2:64). Given the two points of association with Eleazar Fitch, it seems safe to conclude that both of these references pertain to Jonathan Ransford⁵ Miner.

As another correction to the publications of John Augustus Miner and The Thomas Minor Society, there is no evidence that Ransford "was a soldier in The American Revolutionary War." Service as a gunner in "Capt. Nathaniel Saltonstall's Coast Guard" has been claimed for Ransford but a request to the National Archives failed to yield any records to support that claim. As a likely explanation, someone too eager to join the Daughters of the American Revolution probably confused Jonathan Ransford⁵ Miner with a documented veteran named Jonathan Minor. Per the response from the National Archives, "the only Jonathan Minor that we have on file... served as a Sgt, under Mjr. Saltonstall's Co. of Artillery"; however, his widow was named Sally instead of Esther!

On 3 June 1779, "Esther Miner" joined the First Congregational Church of Voluntown; she was subsequently removed on 19 November 1796 (Church Records, 1723-1841 [FHL 4307], 58), long after the family left Connecticut and even after Ransford had died in 1795.

On 30 August 1782, Samuel, Allen and Ransford Avery, "the Children of Ransford Miner & Esther his wife" were baptized by the Reverend Samuel Morgan in the First Congregational Church of Voluntown (FHL 4307, 69). Ransford and Esther moved from Voluntown sometime after this event to Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts before the end of 1784 when Ransford served as a tax collector there.

THE TOWN OF WINDSOR, Berkshire County, was established as the town of Gageborough July 4, 1771, from the new plantation called Number Four.

October 16, 1778, a part of the plantation called Number Five was annexed, and the town of Gageborough, together with this annexed tract of land, was established as the new town of Windsor.

In August 2009, I had a brief opportunity to review the Northern Registry of Deeds for Berkshire County in Adams, Massachusetts. I copied all of the relevant Miner entries from the Grantee (buyer) and Grantor (seller) indexes but I only had time to abstract some of the deeds in any detail. Ransford was involved in a large number of land transactions in his own interest and as a "collector of taxes" for Windsor.

Notice is hereby given to the following non-resident Proprietors of Lands in the Town of Windsor, County of Berkshire, that their Lands are taxed for the years 1784, 1785, 1786 and 1787 as follows... RANSFORD MINER, Collector for 1784, 86, & 86, JOSEPH RIPLEY, Collector for 1786 and 87, ASA HALL, Collector for 1787. Windsor, February 20, 1788. (*The Independent Chronicle and the Universal Advertiser* [Boston, Massachusetts, 24 April 1788]; Volume XX, Issue 1017, Page 4).

From this notice we know that Ransford Miner was a resident of Windsor by 1784. However, in the earliest grantee or grantee deed that I found for Ransford, dated 3 July 1785, Jonathan Ransford Miner was already identified as a resident of Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts when he purchased half of Lot 98 there from the second division for £10 from Levi Allen of Sunderland, Bennington County, Vermont. (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; C:280)

The Berkshire County Registry of Deeds was not established until 1788. Colonial land transactions conducted prior to that time were recorded in Berkshire County proprietors' records. Every name indexes exist for these colonial records and they reportedly contain a wealth of historical and genealogical information. Regrettably, the otherwise helpful staff of the Registry of Deeds office did not reveal the existence of these records to me. I intend to eventually review them on microfilm unless some kind soul volunteers to do so on my behalf sooner. They are available as "Colonial records and proprietary plans: a compilation of the proprietors' lots, grants, plantations and colonial records of

the middle, northern, and southern districts of Berkshire County"; FHL US/CAN Film 876706 includes the Town of Windsor.

On 1 August 1785, Jonathan Ransford Miner of Windsor sold half of Lot 98 in Windsor from the second division for £10 \$10 to Joseph Jenkins of Windsor. (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; C:232)

In March 1787, "an account of Witnesses Travel and Services at G. [Great] Barrington" was compiled to document some of the costs incurred by the Berkshire County court in response to Shay's Rebellion. Among the many individuals listed was "Randsford Miner." (Edward R. Knurow Collection, 15:437)

In March 1788, Ransford Miner was chosen a Constable of Windsor:

RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF *RANSFORD MINER*, RENDERING VALID HIS DOINGS AS A CONSTABLE, WITH A PROVISIO.

On the Petition of *Ransford Miner* setting for that in the Month of *March* last he was chosen a Constable of the Town of *Windsor* and that he has never qualified himself for that Office by taking the Oath of Allegiance.

Resolved that the doings of the said *Ransford Miner* in said Office of Constable shall be valid to all intents and purposes as if he had taken the said Oath within the time prescribed by law, provided he shall take and subscribe the said Oath of Allegiance, on or before the twentieth Day of *February* next. *January 12, 1789.* (*Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts* [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Company; 1894], 301)

On 14 June 1788, "Jonathan Ransford Miner by the name of Ransford Miner," and Asa Hall sold 100 acres in Windsor within Lot 90 from the second division to Joseph Pierce by a quitclaim deed that was recorded on 4 January 1792. (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; 3:30)

On 7 October 1789, Jonathan Ransford Miner of Windsor, oddly styled as both "Yeoman and Gentleman," purchased 61 acres in Lot 11 from the first division for £19 from Yeoman Benjamin and Gentleman Leavens Hutchens of Windsor. (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; 1:26)

As noted above, Jonathan Ransford Miner did *not* die in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York but it appears that he did own property and reside there briefly. In the 1790 Federal Census, there is no record of Ransford at Windsor but his household was enumerated at Stephentown, (then Albany, since 1791) Rensselaer County, New York. 1790 is the first year in which a Federal Census was taken; the large households of Ransford and his son, Samuel, were tallied as follows:

Ransford Miner 4-1-6
Samuel Miner 1-0-9

The first column of numbers denotes free white males of 16 or older; the second is free white females under 16; and the third is free white females of 16 or older. In both households, the number of females recorded exceeds their number of known daughters. No first-hand research has been conducted in Albany or Rensselaer Counties yet but it is evident that Ransford probably became a full-time resident of Windsor again after selling his property at Stephentown, also in 1790:

Rev. Winslow Paige [was] ordained in the Congregational church at Stephentown, New York, March 17, 1790... He bought from Ransford Miner, November 29, 1790, eleven acres adjoining the church square at Stephentown, paying sixty-one pounds (Culyer Reynolds, *Genealogical and Family History of Southern New York*

and the Hudson River Valley [New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1914], Vol. III, 1364).

On 6 May 1792, Jonathan Miner sold Lots 14 and 11 in Windsor to Robinson Dennison (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds, 3:102). On 20 May 1793, Ransford Miner, Yeoman of Windsor, bought Lots 14 and 11 in Windsor back from Robinson Dennison, Gentleman of Windsor. (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds, 3:150).

On 21 May 1792, a warrant was issued for warning people of out Windsor: "To capt. Noah Green, constable... to warn & give Notes unto all the persons... within the limit of your Tax Bills that they Depart the limits of this town with their children & others under their care... within 15 days." Among the dozens of individuals so warned were Ephraim Miner, John Cole and Ransford Miner. (Edward R. Knurow Collection, 42:329-330, citing 340-343)

On 29 October 1792, Ransford Miner was one of the subscribers who mutually agreed to "Divide the [South West] School District at the house of Mr. William Bassett—that is to say, all East of Mr. Bassett's to be considered as a District... and Mr. Bassett and all west of Mr. Bassett's to be and remain, as the old district." (Edward R. Knurow Collection, 42:331, citing 337)

On 13 May 1793, Jonathan R. Miner deeded parts of Lots 14 and 11 in Windsor to the Union Bank (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds, 3:181).

On 29 March 1794, Jonathan R. Miner "and Esther his wife" mortgaged part of Lots 14 and 20 in Windsor to the Union Bank (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds, 3:324).

In August 1794, Ransford Miner mortgaged 150 acres within Lot 20 from the first division from merchant William Dall of Boston; his son Allen Miner purchased the property on 14 February 1797 (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; 5:209).

On 29 September 1794, Jonathan R. Miner, Yeoman sold parts of Lots 11, 14, 20, 50 and 60 to Samuel Miner "late of Stephentown, New York," Yeoman (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds, 3:400).

"1795 July 30 Ransford Miner [died], aged about fifty years" (Rollin H. Cook, *Records of the First Church of Christ, Windsor Since 25 March 1773* [typescript; Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts], 209 citing 112) and (New England Historic Genealogical Society, *Vital Records of Windsor, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* [Boston: 1917], 139, citing C.R. [church record, Congregational Church]). We can be confident that Jonathan Ransford⁵ Miner did indeed die at Windsor on 30 July 1795, based on the excerpts from his probate records in Berkshire County, Massachusetts that follow.

On 7 December 1796, in reference to the "estate of Ransford Miner late of Windsor aforesaid decease," Esther Miner, "wife of said deceased," along with Samuel Miner, Allen Miner, Lydia Cole and Avery Miner, "the children and heirs at law of said deceased" submitted the following:

We the subscribers do not choose to take letters of administration on the estate of Ransford Miner late of Windsor in Said County [Berkshire], dec^d, intestate, and desire your honor to appoint Ephraim Miner of said Windsor administrator on said Estate.

Other documents within File 1806 indicate that Ransford's brother, Ephraim Miner, was appointed as the principal administrator of Ransford's estate with Asa Philips and Allen Miner serving as sureties, all residents of Windsor. The estate was declared "insolvent" with total debts of \$125.39 that included the following (re-ordered chronologically from the original document):

- 17 Feb 1786 Town of Windsor Note, 2.60
- November 1788 Town of Windsor Note, 36.12
- 2 March 1796 Doctor Ebenezer Flagg last sickness, 2.66

- 26 June 1796 Doctor David Brown last sickness, 2.00
- 26 Jan 1797 Doctor Ashahel Wright's account for last sickness, 3.65
- 11 April 1797 Doctor Lewis [McLoth] last sickness, 25.08
- 11 April 1797 Allen Miner's services performed, 5.00
- 28 Aug 1797 Samuel Miner's account, 19.50
- 8 November 1797, Ephraim Miner's admin account: Allen Miner Bondsman for his journey, 4.59; Allowance to widow, 4.73

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by Hon. William Walker, Esq. Judge of Probate; &c. for the County of Berkshire, to receive and examine claims of creditors to the Estate of RANSFORD MINOR, late of Windsor, deceased, represented insolvent; and nine months being allowed from the seventh day of December, A.D. 1796, to bring in and support their claims—hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the Dwelling house of the Widow ESTHER MINOR, in Windsor, and on the last Mondays of April, May and June next, from nine o'Clock, A.M. to six o'Clock, P.M. on each of said days.

AMASEY CONVERTS, ROBERT WALKER, *Comm'rs.*

All Persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to EPHRAIM MINOR, *Administrator.*

Windsor, Jan. 30, 1797.

(*The Western Star*, [Stockbridge, Massachusetts; 6 March 1797], Volume: VIII; Issue: 16, Page: 4)

On 7 March 1797, at a Court of Probate at Lenox, Massachusetts, Ephraim Miner presented "an inventory of the Real Estate of which Ransford Miner late of Windsor died seized of or shone [shown] to us by Ephraim Miner Administrator in D^{cd} estate." The inventory totaled \$230.70 and included the following items, many of which were crossed out as noted:

- 108 acres No. 12 first range in the County of Ontario in the Seneca, 150-0-0 [all crossed out]
- One deed from William Clark Esq to Ransford Miner for 73.5 acres, 33-33 [all crossed out]
- One lot of wild land in Windsor No 90, 200-0
- One lot of land in Steventown in the State of New York, approximately 1 acre on which the meeting house and school now stand, 130-0 [all crossed out]
- Bible, 1
- Town Officer, .50

It seems likely that items were added to the inventory as individual papers were discovered one-by-one and then some items were subsequently crossed out when additional papers were discovered. "The County of Ontario in the Seneca" undoubtedly refers to Ontario County, New York which was populated by the Seneca Native American tribe prior to white settlement. "Steventown," was Stephentown in Rensselaer County, which borders Berkshire County, Massachusetts. As noted above, Ransford Miner had sold property in Stephentown in 1790.

On 8 November 1797 at a Court of Probate at Lenox, Massachusetts:

an allowance of Bedding, Utensils and Implements of Household to the amount of Four Dollars & Seventy Three Cents [was granted] to Esther Miner Widow & Relict of Ransford Miner late of Windsor in said county, deceased, out of the personal estate of said deceased

On 6 August 1797, the Congregational Church of Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts "Admitted Esther Miner from ye Chh. in Voluntown, a member of this church" (Rollin H. Cook, *Records of the First Church of Christ, Windsor Since 25 March 1773* [typescript; Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts], 199 [citing 90]). Esther (Allyn) Miner had apparently resided in Windsor for most of the time since she had left Voluntown. Ransford died in 1795. Why did Esther wait so long to formally join the Windsor church? In the same records, there is an undated note, "Esther Miner Dismissed" (Rollin H. Cook, *Records of the First Church of Christ, Windsor Since 25 March 1773* [typescript; Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts], 156 [citing 32]). Sometime after 6 August 1797, Esther Miner migrated to Lansing, Tompkins County, New York, probably with her son, Allen. Her marker in the Lansingville Cemetery is inscribed "In / memory of / ESTHER MINER / died / March 5,th 1826, / in the 85th year / of her age."

In 2017, Linda (Brown) Raiola furnished extracts from the journal of Luther Allen Brown that provide critical insights into the family group of Ransford and Esther. During a round-trip journey by horseback from Hamburg, Erie County, New York to Orwell, Vermont in 1818, Luther recorded the following events:

- 24 September: arrived at Uncle Allen Miner's [son of Ransford and Esther] at Genoa, Ny in the evening.
- 25 September: took dinner with cousin Dolly Miner who is married to Samuel Burrell [Dolly was the daughter of Allen and Esther]
- 26 September: Visited at Uncle Clark's [Cyrus Clark was the husband of Lucy Miner, daughter of Ransford and Esther]
- 29 September: proceed on journey from Uncle Allen Miner's in Lansing, NY
- 1 October: Took breakfast at the house of Mr. Rowley who married a cousin of miner [kinship not yet identified]
- 26 October: took dinner at Josiah Goodrich's in Benson, Vt [possibly the husband of Lucy Brown]
- 30 October: Utica - called at cousin J. Brown's, Arrived at Uncle John Cole's in the evening
- 31 October: Utica area - called at J and N Underwood's
- 2 November: Rode to Utica with Uncle J. [John] Cole [husband of Lydia Miner]

Children of Jonathan Ransford⁵ and Esther (Allyn) Miner:

- i. HANNAH⁶, b. Voluntown, New London Co., CT 29 December 1767 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111); d. 26 June 1850 Orwell, Addison Co., VT; bur. North Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #124386970*); m. Voluntown, CT 3 January 1787 Luther Brown, b. Canterbury, Windham Co., VT 1764, d. 27 January 1837, bur. North Cemetery, Orwell, VT, son of John and Lucy (Underwood) Brown, served in American Revolution (*Find A Grave Memorial #124386947*).

Children, surname *Brown* (birth order uncertain): 1. *Sophia*, b. Orwell, VT 29 Aug 1787; d. 16 Aug 1838, bur. Deuel Cemetery, Orchard Park, Erie Co., NY (*Find A Grave Memorial #26406389*); m. Samuel Abbott (*Samuel, Timothy, George*), b. Bennington, Bennington Co., VT 14 Jan 1779, d. 2 Oct 1846, bur. Deuel Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #25431952*). 2. *Hannab*, d. 1876; bur. Maple Wood Cemetery, Boston, Erie Co., NY (*Find A Grave Memorial #76740611*); m. (1) 10 Feb 1817 (*Diary of Luther Allen Brown*); m. (2) William Washburn. 3. *Lucy*,

- b. VT 8 June 1795; d. 26 Dec 1875; bur. Deuel Cemetery, Orchard Park, Erie Co., NY (*Find A Grave Memorial #26408678*) m. Josiah Goodrich, b. Orwell, VT, d. Hamburgh, Erie Co., NY 8 June 1875. 4. *Ransford Avery*, b. Orwell, VT 25 Nov 1797; d. Brandon, Rutland Co. VT 13 April 1883; bur. Plot 01-12, Greenwood Cemetery, Bristol, Addison Co., VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #76055623*); m. Angeline Barnum, b. 1810; d. VT 24 Oct 1885, bur. Plot 01-12 (*Find A Grave Memorial #76056037*). 5. *Stephen Waldo*, b. Orwell, VT 15 Dec 1799; d. Benson, Rutland Co., VT 30 Aug 1877; bur. Mountain View Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #124386470*); m. Naomi Root, b. Orwell, VT 1 Dec 1800, d. 4 May 1871, bur. Mountain View Cemetery, dau. of Eli and Sarah (Fairfield) Root (*Find A Grave Memorial #124386494*). 6. *Esther*, b. Orwell, Vt 1801; d. Bennington, Bennington Co., VT 11 Nov 1897; bur. Row 18, Column 16, West Salisbury Cemetery, West Salisbury, Addison Co., VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #87779652*); m. Nathaniel Spencer, b. 1793, d. Salisbury, Addison Co., VT 22 Jan 1879, bur. Row 18, Column 15, West Salisbury Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #87779738*), son of Jabez and Joanna (Ives) Spencer. 7. *Olive*, b. Orwell, VT 13 Oct 1803; d. 7 Oct 1880; bur. Lake View Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #137370347*); m. Josephus Sholes, d. 16 Dec 1856, bur. Lake View Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #137370339*). 8. *John Franklin*, b. Orwell, VT 2 Oct 1805; d. Orwell, VT 29 May 1892; bur. Mountain View Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #114825695*); m. (1) Pauline White, b. 1818, d. 13 Feb 1896, bur. Mountain View Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #114315782*); m. (2) Caroline A. Sanford, b. 1823, d. Orwell, VT 1 April 1842, bur. North Cemetery, Orwell, VT (*Find A Grave Memorial #124387146*). 9. *Julia A.*, b. Orwell, VT 10 Nov 1807; d. 9 May 1892; bur. Plot B 63, Greenwich Cemetery, Washington Co., NY (*Find A Grave Memorial #141532375*); m. Ira C. Stevens, b. 13 May 1800, d. 6 Jan 1881, bur. Greenwich Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #141532425*). 10. *Luther Allen*.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. Voluntown, CT 9 Aug 1769 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111); bap. First Congregational Church, Voluntown, CT 30 Aug 1782; d. Windsor, Berkshire Co., MA 11 Dec 1848; bur. Windsor Hill Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #131014839*); m. Windsor, MA 7 June 1802 MARY "POLLY" REMINGTON, b. [Cummington, MA] ca. 1774, d. Windsor, Ma 1851; bur. Windsor Hill Cemetery, Windsor, MA (*Find A Grave Memorial #180943565*), dau. of Joshua and Ruth (___) Remington (Lois Remington Smith, *A Remington Family History 1687-1962* [typescript; San Jose, California, 1963, C-3).
Children, surname *Miner*: 1. *Esther*, b. 29 Aug 1803; m. 19 Oct 1832 Lucian Foot of Lee, MA. 2. *Ransford*, b. 20 Jan 1805; d. Duanesburgh, NY 23 Nov 1837 while returning to Windsor from a trip west; m. Windsor 5 Jan 1831 (intentions) Mercy Chapman. Ransford died intestate and insolvent ("Ransford Miner's Estate," *The Pittsfield [Massachusetts] Sun*, Vol XXXIX, Issue 2001, 24 Jan 1839). 3. *Ruth*, b. 7 Jan 1807; resided in Windsor, MA 9 Jan 1849. 4. *Samuel*, b. 26 March 1808; m. 10 Oct 1833 Esther A. Chapman. 5. *Louisa*, b. 1810; d. 20 Aug 1819. 6. *Hannah*, b. 1812; d. 29 March 1840. 7. *Polly*, b. 1816; d. 26 Aug 1819. 8. *Sylvia*, b. 14 Sep 1818; d. Hinsdale, Berkshire Co., MA 20 Feb 1900; bur. Hinsdale Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #131013160*); m. Peru, Berkshire Co., MA (intentions) 21 Oct 1839 Asahel "Asa" Raymond, b. Peru 13

March 1808; d. Peru 27 Oct 1890; bur. Hinsdale Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #127664518*), son of Amos and Sena (Jackson) Raymond. 9. *Avery*, b. 1821; d. 1854.

9. iii. ALLEN, b. Voluntown, CT 10 Nov 1771 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111); m. DOROTHY DYER.
- iv. RANSFORD AVERY, b. Voluntown, CT 10 March 1774 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111); bapt. First Congregational Church, Voluntown, CT 30 Aug 1782; d. Huron, OH 13 May 1854; m. Lansing, Tompkins Co., NY 1 Feb 1816 EMMA EDDY, b. Great Bend, PA 23 March 1797; d. Clyde, OH 8 Dec 1874.
- Children, surname *Miner*: 1. *G. Frederick*, b. Lansing, NY 16 July 1817; d. Monroeville, OH 1893. 2. *Charles Avery*, b. Ithaca, Tompkins Co., NY 5 Jan 1825; d. 22 Feb 1897; m. (1) 22 Nov 1855 Mary E. Miller of Ballston, NY, d. [Clyde, OH] 4 Jan 1960; m. (2) 17 May 1877 Maria Veletta Stark, b. Fremont, OH 6 Feb 1842, d. [Clyde, OH] 10 July 1903. 3. *William H.*, b. Ithaca, NY 29 Aug 1828; d. Toledo, OH 15 July 1895.
- v. LYDIA, b. Voluntown, CT 17 April 1776 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111); d. Litchfield, Herkimer Co., NY 2 Jan 1852; m. Windsor, MA 24 March 1796 JOHN COLE JR. (96); he was reportedly John Avery Cole, b. Windsor, MA 19 Sep 1773 (not found in vital records), d. Litchfield, NY 6 May 1827, reportedly the son of John Avery Sr. and Elizabeth (___) Cole; migrated to Litchfield, Herkimer Co., NY about 1799; both bur. in private cemetery on their farm.
- Children, surname *Cole*, first two born in MA and remainder born in Litchfield, Herkimer Co. NY: 1. *Lydia*, b. Windsor, MA 8 Sep 1796, recorded as "Lidah, ch. John and Lidah" Cole (24). 2. *Erastus*, b. MA 12 July 1798; d. Crete, Will Co., IL 1864; m. Litchfield, NY 1 Sep 1839 Martha Boardman, b. Gorham, NY 14 March 1810; migrated to Crete, IL in 1835 where their household is recorded in the 1840, 1850 and 1860 Federal Census records. 3. *Gridley*, b. 1801; d. 1801. 4. *Stephen Lyman*, b. 1802; d. 1838. 5. *Oran*, b. 1804; d. 1854. 6. *Ransford Avery*, b. 12 March 1806; d. 30 Jan 1885; bur. Litchfield, NY; m. Williamina Ross, b. Cromarty, Scotland 25 Dec 1816. 7. *Almira*, b. 1808; d. 1888. 8. *John Ward*, b. 1 Jan 1811; d. 22 Oct 1891; bur. Crete, Will Co. IL; blacksmith. 9. *Emily*, b. 8 Sep 1813; d. Crete, IL 1895; bur. Crete, IL; resided with brother Erastus until his death.
- vi. STEPHEN, b. Voluntown, CT 27 Oct 1778 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111); d. Voluntown, CT 8 June 1781 (Voluntown Vital Records, 1:111).
- vii. LUCY, b. Voluntown, CT 12 Sep 1784; d. Tompkins Co., NY; bur. Lot 74, Row 10, Lansingville Cemetery, Lansingville, Tompkins Co., NY (*Find A Grave Memorial #91266107*); m. Cyrus Clark, b. CT 1786; d. Tompkins Co., NY 28 March 1850, bur. Lansingville Cemetery (*Find A Grave Memorial #*). The Thomas Minor Society identifies Lucy as an "unconfirmed" child of Ransford and Esther. Although Lucy and Esther are buried in the same cemetery, the proximity of their graves is unknown. Also buried in the same cemetery is Allen Clark (d. 1871).

9. ALLEN⁶ MINER (*Jonathan Ransford*⁵, *Jonathan*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Manassah*², *Thomas*¹) was born in Voluntown, New London County, Connecticut on 10 November 1771. He was baptized in the First Congregational Church of Voluntown, Connecticut on 30 August 1782 with his brothers Samuel and Ransford Avery. Allen died in Greenwood, Steuben County, New York on 27 March 1859. As a

resident of Cummington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, Allen was married there on 13 July 1794 to DOROTHY DYER, also of Cummington; "Allen Miner to Dorothy Dyre July 13th 1794. He in the 23^d year of his age. And she in the 22^d at Cummington, Boston" (*Miner Family Record* [hereinafter *MFR*]). In the 22^d year of her age (not yet age 22) at marriage on 13 July 1794, Dorothy was born, probably in or near Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, after 13 July 1772 but before 13 July 1773; she died in Greenwood, New York on 24 April 1846. Allen and Dorothy are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery, Greenwood, New York (*Find A Grave Memorials* #120079844 and #120079893). Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was probably a heretofore unidentified daughter of James⁵ Dyer (*Joseph*⁴, *William*³, *Christopher*², *William*¹) and his wife, Dorothy⁵ Whitmarsh (*Ezra*⁴⁻³, *John*²⁻¹), both of Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts (George Walter Chamberlain, *Genealogy of Weymouth Families*, Volume III of the *History of Weymouth, Massachusetts* [hereinafter *Chamberlain*] [1923]) and Plainfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts; Plainfield is adjacent to Cummington and Windsor.

Prior to marriage, Allen probably resided with his parents first in Voluntown, Connecticut, then in Windsor, Massachusetts; at Stephentown, New York in 1790; and probably at Windsor, Massachusetts again.

On 8 November 1793, Allen Miner was one of many who had taken up residence in the Town of Cummington in Hampshire County, without the Town's consent and was consequently "warned out." (Town of Cummington, *Proceedings of Town Meetings 1779-1804* [official transcript of original currently used by the Town], 150). Warning out was not a punishment; it was a routine process by which towns protected themselves from becoming responsible for the welfare of newly arrived paupers. Like most new arrivals, Allen Miner must have obtained the necessary consent to remain in Cummington since he was subsequently married there several months later.

On 12 July 1794, the marriage intentions of "Allen Minor" and "Dolly Dyar" were recorded at Cummington and both of them were identified as residents of Cummington (William W. Streeter and Daphne Morris, *Vital Records of Cummington, Massachusetts 1762-1900* [Bloomfield, Connecticut: Connecticut Printers, 1979], 135) and they married the next day (*MFR*). If Allen actually resided in Cummington, it must have been for a very brief period.

On 18 January 1795, Allen and Dorothy's first child was reportedly born in Windsor (*MFR*); however no vital record for this event is found in Windsor or Cummington.

On 30 July 1795, Allen Miner's father, Ransford Miner, died in Windsor. In the probate records associated with settling Ransford's affairs, Allen is consistently identified as a resident of Windsor.

On 14 February 1797, Allen Miner of Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts purchased 150 acres within Lot 20 from the first division for \$339 from merchant William Dall of Boston; "said lot was mortgaged by the said Dall to Ransford Miner of said Windsor in the month of August 1794" (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; 5:209).

On 5 May 1797, Allen Miner, Yeoman of Windsor sold Lot 20 to Samuel Miner, Yeoman of Windsor (Berkshire County, Massachusetts Deeds; 5:219).

A "Dolly M. Miner" was dismissed from the Congregational Church of Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts; although the date of this event is unknown, it probably marks the Miners departure from Windsor for New York State (Rollin H. Cook, *Records of the First Church of Christ, Windsor Since 25 March 1773* [typescript; Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts], 193 [citing 76]). Dorothy's mother-in-law, Esther (Allyn) Miner, and probable mother, Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer, also belonged to the Windsor congregation.

Allen Miner has not been identified in the 1800 Federal Census. However, on 29 November 1800 at Owego, New York, Dorothy, the daughter of Allen and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was reportedly born (*MFR*).

Allen and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner arrived in (then Milton, Cayuga County, since 6 April 1808 Genoa, Cayuga County, since 7 April 1817) Lansing, Tompkins County, New York between 29

November 1800 and 13 June 1803, per the birth records of their children (*MFR*). In 1810, the adjacent households of Allen and Avery "Minor" were enumerated in Genoa, between those of David Carll and James Silcocks and apparently near Genoa's border with the Town of Scipio. In September 1818, Allen's nephew, Luther Allen Brown, visit the Miner family in Lansing, per excerpts from Luther's journal provided above. In 1820, the following household were enumerated sequentially in Lansing: Higby "Burrill," Avery Miner, Benjamin Fletcher, Allen Miner, Asa Eddy, and John Cole. On the same page, the household of Henry Smith—the future father-in-law of Allen's son, Aiden—was also enumerated. In 1830, the households of Allen Miner and Henry Smith were again enumerated on the same page in Lansing; Allen's household was listed between those of Abram Chittenden and his son-in-law, Samuel N. Burrell.

Allen and Dorothy reported removed to Greenwood, Steuben County, New York in 1830, per the obituary of their daughter, Mary "Polly" (Miner) Smith. In 1840, the adjacent households of "Aden" and Allen Miner were enumerated between those of Abia [Littes?] and Jonathan Rose. In 1850, Allen was widower sharing his home with the family of his son John; he was enumerated as a Farmer with real estate valued at \$756.

After settling in Greenwood, Steuben County, New York, Allen wrote letters to his son Aiden in Lansing before he followed his parents to Greenwood.

Greenwood April 16th 1835

Aden Miner... if you had any mind to come here now is the time to take a horse and ride out Immediately Allen has moved to Farvers and if you dont buy you can Come here and Farm with us this Summer and have this place if no other this in haste from your Father allen miner

we send our love to all the Children

PS... If you do not buy you can come on this Place as allen has gone to Canister To live and I think will not work on the Place any more

Greenwood August 14th 1836

... Give our love to all the Children Sons & Dafters of all our Famely — I would If you can bring or send me 20lbs of Codfish as you write that Brother avery will make us a Visit before he mooves to Ohio we shall Be glad to see him and his Famely and all the Relations in your Parts — — In Respects to the Andover Place if the Railroad Comes through andover as was Expected Smith's Plase will be worth it is thought Fifteen hundred dollars or more; but they are Trying to have it go through Bath and if so it will go Quite to the North and the Place will Not sell for more than half as much as if it Come through andover But the Route is not yet decided as Can hear My son Thomas and Famely are in good health or was last Sunday Marvin was at home and Says Elisa is Content and hearty and They like her well and all much Pleas^d and have given her a Calf and lamb you will Remember us to Dolly and Famely and I think they may be Satisfyed their Dafter is doing well and all the Rest of the Children you will give our Love and must Visit us as Soon as they can To Aden Miner Lansing Ville I remain yours, allen miner

THE PROBABLE ORIGINS OF DOROTHY (DYER) MINER

1880 was the first year in which the Federal Census documented the birthplaces of one's parents. Among the surviving children of Allen and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner, Aiden, Mary and Marvin all identified both of their parents' birthplaces as Massachusetts while only James identified Connecticut as their state of origin. As documented above, Allen was actually born in Connecticut, but he moved to Massachusetts between 1782 and 1784 with his parents. Thus, we are uncertain if Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was born in Connecticut or Massachusetts.

Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was probably born in or near Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts as a heretofore unidentified daughter of James⁵ Dyer (*Joseph*⁴, *William*³, *Christopher*², *William*¹) and his wife, Dorothy⁵ Whitmarsh (*Ezra*⁴⁻³, *John*²⁻¹), both of Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts (George Walter Chamberlain, *Genealogy of Weymouth Families*, Volume III of the *History of Weymouth, Massachusetts* [hereinafter *Chamberlain*] [1923]) and Plainfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts; Plainfield is adjacent to Cummington and Windsor. Within the known children of James and Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer, there is a large gap in births between 1 March 1768 and 20 November 1774.

That Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was the daughter of James and Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer is a logical and highly probable conclusion but definitive proof eludes us. Supporting circumstantial evidence includes the following:

- Given the naming patterns of that era, Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer was highly likely to have named a daughter, Dorothy Dyer, in honor of her own mother, Dorothy (Gardner) Whitmarsh.
- Allen Miner and Dorothy Dyer were married in Cummington 1794; Cummington is adjacent to Plainfield and Windsor where the family of James and Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer resided and worshipped and Dorothy's probable uncle, Stevens Dyer, resided near the Cummington church.
- The gender of Allen and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner's eldest child, Dana, who died young, is uncertain. Within the remainder of their family, in order, they named sons Allen, in honor of the boy's father; John, in honor of the boy's paternal grandfather, Jonathan Ransford⁵ Miner; and James, presumably in honor his maternal grandfather, James⁵ Dyer.
- Allen and Dorothy named their eldest daughter Esther in honor of the girl's paternal mother, Esther (Allyn) Miner. They named their next daughter Dorothy; thus, she was probably named not only in honor of her mother, Dorothy (Dyer) Miner, but also in honor of her maternal grandmother, Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer, and, ultimately, her great-grandmother, Dorothy (Gardner) Whitmarsh.
- James⁵ Dyer's sister, Jane Dyer, married Abraham⁴ Burrell (*John*³⁻²⁻¹), son of John³ and Mary (Humphrey) Burrell. James⁵ Dyer's sister, Mary Dyer, married David Burrell. Dorothy⁷ Miner, daughter of Allen⁶ and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner, married Samuel N. Burrell. David and Samuel N. Burrell were probably descendants of John¹ Burrell of Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Definitive proof that Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was the daughter of James and Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer could be obtained by comparing the Mitochondrial DNA of her living matrilineal (or umbilical) descendants with that of living matrilineal descendants of her probable matrilineal ancestors:

Mary (Gilman) Jacob

|
Deborah (Jacob) Thomas
|
Mary (Thomas) (Gardner) Goold
|
Dorothy (Gardner) Whitmarsh
|
Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer

A DNA-based approach to confirming this connection may sound far-fetched to some readers but that is exactly how Mike Morrissey and I confirmed that Mary (Updike) Richey of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York was the daughter of Roliph⁵ and Eleanor (Lane) Updike and that Eleanor was a matrilineal descendant of Aeltje Cornelise (Cool) (Van Couwenhoven) Stoothoff. For a copy of the resulting article, as published in *New Netherland Connections*, please visit www.perrystreeter.com.

Dorothy (Dyer) Miner was probably the daughter of James⁵ and Dorothy (Whitmarsh) Dyer; however, we do not have conclusive proof for this identification. Consequently, we must consider other possibilities for her origins. Allen and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner named their second son, John Avery Miner. As noted above, he was probably named in honor of Allen's father, Jonathan Ransford⁶ Miner. However, a Dorothy Dyer was reportedly born at Voluntown, New London County, Connecticut in 1773 as the daughter of John Avery Dyer (*International Genealogical Index*; hereinafter *IGI*) and she is identified as the wife of Allen Miner in the LDS Ancestral File. However, there are several reasons to doubt that this Dorothy Dyer, if she existed at all, married Allen Miner:

- The IGI and Ancestral File entries were submitted by individuals rather than extracted from primary sources.
- Vital records for Voluntown exist from 1721 yet no month or day was included for this 1773 birth.
- No other records have been located to confirm the existence of a John Avery Dyer in New London County, Connecticut or in Hampshire County, Massachusetts.
- Although Allen Miner was born in Voluntown, he moved to Windsor, Massachusetts at a young age with his parents so there is no reason to think that Dorothy was also a native of Voluntown.

I suspect that the IGI entry, or at least the Ancestral File entry upon which it is based, are the result of speculation and assumption, rather than being grounded in facts.

Children of Allen⁶ and Dorothy (Dyer) Miner (*MFR*):

- i. DANA⁷, b. Windsor, Berkshire Co., MA 18 Jan 1795 (no record in Windsor Vital Records); d. (then Milton, Cayuga Co., now) Lansing, Tompkins Co., NY 8 May 1804.
- ii. ESTHER, b. Windsor, MA 4 July 1797 (no record in Windsor Vital Records); d. Canisteo, Steuben Co., NY 12 Nov 1846; m. WILLIAM S. THOMAS of Canisteo, Steuben Co., NY, probably identical with the William S. Thomas who died at age 49 on 12 Nov 184? and was bur. in the Thomas Plot Cemetery, Canisteo, NY. Some sources indicate that this couple had no children but perhaps they had one:

In passing up Bennett's Creek [from Canisteo], the first settler above Johnny Moore was Joshua Stephens... A short distance above Mr. Stephens lived William S. Thomas, who accumulated a fair competence and lived to an old age. He left but one child.

Soon after the road was opened from Mr. Thomas' to the Salt Spring [Greenwood] (1820), John H. Stephens, son of Col. John, made a beginning in the midst of this nine or ten mile wilderness, with not a neighbor within five miles of him, Mr. Thomas being the nearest. (Clayton, *History of Steuben County, New York* [1879])

- iii. ALLEN, b. Williamstown, Berkshire Co., MA 20 Sep 1799 (no record in Williamstown Vital Records); d. 12 Oct 1799 (not recorded in Williamstown Vital Records).
- iv. DOROTHY "DOLLY," b. Owego, NY 29 Nov 1800; d. Andover, Allegany Co., NY Thursday 28 Oct 1886, age 85 years and 11 months (*Canisteo Times* [1886]); m. SAMUEL N. BURRELL, b. Binghamton, Broome Co., NY, wagon-maker; eight children; resided in Lansing, Tompkins Co., NY September 1818 (journal of Luther Allen Brown); enumerated in Lansing in 1830, adjacent to Allen Miner; resided in Lansing 14 Aug 1836; resided in Vinton, Benton Co., IA 10 Jan 1877.
Children, surname *Burrell*. 1. *Alphonso H.*, b. Salisbury, Herkimer Co., NY 8 Jan 1826; d. Canisteo, NY 1912 (William M. Stuart, *Who's Who In Steuben*); m. 13 June 1849 Sarah C. Allen; came to Canisteo, Steuben Co., NY in 1837; resided in Greenwood 1849-1865; in 1891 his law office was on the corner of Main and Depot Streets in Canisteo; in 1891 he resided on Main St. in Canisteo (*Directory of Steuben Co., NY*). 2. *Allen M.*, b. NY ca. 1828; m. Mary ____, b. NY ca. 1832; resided in Canisteo, NY in 1880 and 1886.
- v. JOHN AVERY, as a correction to the publications of John Augustus Miner and The Thomas Minor Society his full name was *not* John Avery Milton—he was simply b. (then Milton, Cayuga Co., since 6 April 1808 Genoa, Cayuga Co., since 7 April 1817) Lansing, Tompkins Co., NY 13 June 1803; d. Greenwood, Steuben Co., NY 17 Feb 1863; m. (1) 1824 ALMIRA TUPPER of Venice, NY, d. 12 Oct 1840; m. (2) MARTHA NAOMI FAUVER, b. 24 Oct 1823, dau. of Samuel B. and Rebecca (Nichols) Fauver.
Children, by Almira Tupper, surname *Miner*: 1. *John Avery*, b. 25 June 1827; m. 16 Sep 1854 Mandana P. Chafee. 2. *Alfred Mortimer*, b. 15 June 1829; m. 12 July 1853 Mary Heminway. 3. *Lyman Bayliss*, b. 15 July 1839; m. Mary Elizabeth Smythe.
Children, by Martha Naomi Fauver, surname *Miner*: 4. *Alphonso Ransford*, b. 3 May 1846; d. 1918; m. Mary F. Russell, b. 1844, d. 1926; both bur. Hillside Cemetery, Canisteo, NY. 5. *Martha Jane*, b. 31 Aug 1849; d. 1882; bur. Hillside Cemetery, Canisteo, NY; m. 17 Aug 1864 George E. Hartrum. 6. *Oren Jerry*, b. 26 March 1856; d. in 1877 before 8 April "Dear Cousin Alice... you dont know how I do miss Oren. I cant make it seem that he is dead," (Martha Jane (Miner) Hartrum, letter to Alice Amelia (Miner) Streeter, 8 April 1877, Cameron Mills, Steuben Co., NY), bur. Hillside Cemetery, Canisteo, NY.
- 10. vi. AIDEN, as a correction to the publications of John Augustus Miner and The Thomas Minor Society his full name was *not* Aiden Lansing—he was simply b. (then Milton, Cayuga Co., since 6 April 1808 Genoa, Cayuga Co.,

- since 7 April 1817) **Lansing**, Tompkins Co., NY 26 Dec 1805; m. SUSAN A.SMITH.
- vii. JAMES LUTHER, b. (then Genoa, Cayuga Co., since 7 April 1817) Lansing, NY 29 April 1808; d. [Parma, Jackson Co., MI] 5 Jan 1881; m. 28 Dec 1833 ABRA WALDRON; resided in Parma, Jackson Co., MI in 1880.
Children, surname *Miner*: 1. *Mary Esther*, b. Lansing, NY 18 April 1835; m. Jeremiah Mackey of Parma, Jackson Co., MI. 2. *Delos James*, b. 13 Oct 1836; m. 24 May 1877 Anna Langdon. 3. *Frank G.*, b. 14 Aug 1842; m. Sabra E. McGee. 4. *Harriet*, b. 30 Aug 1845; d. March 1912; m. David Keeler.
- viii. ALLEN, b. (then Genoa, Cayuga Co., since 7 April 1817) Lansing, NY 20 April 1811; d. Canisteo, NY 7 March 1860; bur. Thomas Plot Cemetery, Canisteo, NY; m. LYDIA FAUVER.
- ix. MARY "POLLY," b. (then Genoa, Cayuga Co., since 7 April 1817) Lansing, NY 25 April 1813; d. Smith residence, Canisteo, NY 8 Feb 1898; m. Greenwood, NY 13 Jan 1833 JESSE BRADLEY⁷ SMITH (*Enos*⁶, *Job*⁵⁻⁴, *John*³, *Joseph*², *Thomas*¹), son of Enos⁶ and Ann ([Bradley?]) Smith; removed to Canisteo, NY in 1844; bur. Bennetts Creek Cemetery, Greenwood, NY; residence inherited by Floyd Smith; nine children.
Children, surname *Smith*: 1. *John Avery*, b. Greenwood, NY 4 Jan 1839; m. Emily Thompson, dau. of Isaac and Keziah (Wickes) Thompson. (J.H. Beers, *History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania*, [Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co. Pub.; 1890], 1213).
- x. MARVIN, b. (then Genoa, Cayuga Co., since 7 April 1817) Lansing, NY 8 Aug 1816; resided in Greenwood, NY.

10. AIDEN⁷ MINER (*Allen*⁶, *Jonathan Ransford*⁵, *Jonathan*⁴, *Thomas*³, *Manassah*², *Thomas*¹), **as a correction to the publications of John Augustus Miner and The Thomas Minor Society his full name was *not* Aiden Lansing**; he was simply born in the Town of (then Milton, Cayuga County, since 6 April 1808 Genoa, Cayuga County, since 7 April 1817) **Lansing**, Tompkins County, New York on 26 December 1805; he died in Greenwood, Steuben County, New York on 20 June 1883 (*Williamson Family Bible Records*). Aiden was married at Lansing, New York on 2 February 1830 to SUSAN A.³ SMITH (*Henry*², *Christopher*¹), born near Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York on 1 November 1808. Susan was baptized in the German Lutheran Church, at Bower Settlement, Lansing as "Susanna Schmidt," daughter of Henry and Sara (Emerich) Schmidt (*The Church Book of the Evangelical United Congregations in Milton and Scipio* [1803]). Susan died at the farm of Francis Marion and Alice Amelia (Miner Streeter) in Greenwood, New York about 9:00 pm on 20 July 1898; the chief cause was "old age" but a "weak heart" was a contributing cause (*Death Certificate*). Some researchers have erroneously assumed that she was a child of Enos and Anna ([Bradley]) Smith of Greenwood, New York, like Aiden's brother-in-law, Jesse Bradley Smith. However, it is well documented that Susan was the daughter of Henry and Sarah (Emery) Smith of Lansing, New York (*Death Certificate*). Susan's parents did not move to Greenwood with the Miners.

On 12 August 1828, Aiden executed two deeds with the Davis family:

Warranty Deed. This Indenture, made the twelfth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight between Lois Davis of Lansing in the County of Tompkins of the first part, and Aiden Miner of the same place of the second party, Witnesseth: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the

Sum of One hundred and fifty dollars to her in hand... sold... All that certain tract piece or parcel of Land Situate lying and being in the Town of Lansing aforesaid and Known & distinguished as part of Lot No 63 in said Town and bounded as follows. Beginning at the south East Corner of Albert Bakers Land on said Lot and running thence South four chains and fifty Links to Simeon P. Strong's land. thence East Sixteen chains & Sixty two links to a Stake thence North four chains & fifty links to a Stake. thence West Sixteen chains and sixty tow links tot he place of Beginning Containing seven acres and a half of Land (Tompkins County Deeds, O:253-254; recorded 29 Jan 1829)

This Indenture, Made the Twelvth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty Eight between John Davis and Cornelia his wife of the first part, and Aiden Miner of the second part Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents... doth... sell ... All that certain tract piece or parcel of Land situate lying and being in the town of Lansing County of Tompkins and State of New York... part of Lot No 63 in the Town aforesaid, Beginning at a stake standing in the road nine chains and Eighteen links East from the North west Corner of lot No 63 and running thence South Eight chains and twenty two links to Stake thence East five chains and seventy eight links to a stake thence North 8 chains & seventy two links to the center of the road Thence west along the middle of the road five chains and seventy Eight links to the place of Beginning Containing five Acres of Land (Tompkins County Deeds, O:254) State of New - York.

To Mr. Aiden Miner. Greeting:

You have been elected a Sergeant of a Company, under the command of Samuel Benjamin in the Eighty Eighth Regiment Fiftyth Brigade, and Twentyeth Division of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New-York... Given under my hand at Lansing this 9 day of Sept A.D. 1828 Jehul Sudlow Colonel

On 2 February 1830, Aiden and Susan were married, probably by her brother, in the Township of Lansing, Tompkins County, New York:

I hereby certify that marriage was this day solemnized by me between Aiden Miner of Lansing in the county of Tompkins—wagon maker aged 23 years; and Susan Smith of the afore said county aged 21 years; both personally known to me, in the prescence of Geo. Eddy, Jacob Smith and other attending witnesses of the town of Lansing, County of Tompkins, and that after due enquiry by me made there appears not lawful impediment to such marriage.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand at Lansing afforsaid, this 2d day of Feb. 1830.

John Smith. Presbyterian Minister.

Abram Bower's wife was a bridesmaid for Susan A. (Smith) Miner (*Residence of Abram Bower, Lansing, Tompkins County, New York*, annotated engraving). Abram Bower was doubtless identical with Abram⁴ Bower (*Honteeter³, Deilman² "Tilman" Jr., Deilman¹ Bauer*), son of Honteeter³ and Susan (Teeter) Bower, born 16 November 1805; died 20 May 1882; married 25 May 1831 Francina Demarest Baker, born 20 February 1810, died 27 Oct 1908 (Dawn Marie Bower, manuscript [13 January 1994]), daughter

of Samuel Baker (*History of Tompkins County*). Abram was a first cousin to Susan's brother-in-law, Nathan⁴ Bower; perhaps Samuel Baker was related to Susan's brother-in-law, Joel Baker.

Although the Miners belonged to a Methodist Church after their migration to Greenwood, New York, they probably would have joined a Presbyterian congregation had one been available:

Know all Men by these Presents, That we Moses Lyon, Martin Lyon, & William H. Palmer Trustees of the Milton Centre Presbyterian Society, in the town of Lansing, count of Tompkins, for and in consideration of the sum of thirty dollars to us in hand paid by Aiden Miner of the town of Lansing in said county of Tompkins, ... do sell... unto the said Aiden that certain Pew or seat in the Meeting-House, belonging to the said society, and known and distinguished as Number No. 50 on the upper floor of said Meeting-house... this eighth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

It would seem that Aiden Miner was more prone to litigation than other direct ancestors of mine. Whether that was actually the case or if our view is biased by the number of legal documents found at the Streeter Farm can not be determined with confidence.

To _____ of the county of Tompkins, GREETING:
IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, you are hereby commanded to appear before me Abijah Miller Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace of the said county at my office on the 31st day of May next at 2 o'clock in the afternoon the same day, to give evidence in a case then and there to be tried between E. Brown 2^d plaintiff and Aiden Miner defendant on the part of the Debt Hereof fail not at you peril. Given under my hand, at Lansing this 23 day of May 1831. A. Miller J.P.

On 10 September 1831, Aiden and Joseph Smith, presumably Aiden's brother-in-law, secured a loan for \$1,000:

Bond. Know all Men by these Presents, That We Aiden Miner & Joseph Smith of Lansing, Tompkins County & State of New York are Held and firm bound unto Hinman D. Strong of the town County & state aforesaid in the sum of One thousand Dollars... Dated 10th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty one... sealed and delivered in the presence of Cha^s C. Egan.

On 3 February 1835, Aiden Miner settled some business with Crocker & Strong in Lansingville. Line items are provided for G. & J. Eddy, N. Bower, Weston Allen, S. Smith, D. Crocker. G. Eddy was probably the George Eddy who witnessed Aiden's marriage to Susan; N. Bower was probably Susan's brother-in-law, Nathan Bower; S. Smith was perhaps Susan's brother, Samuel Smith.

On 16 June 1835, Allen Miner of Greenwood, New York wrote to his son, Aiden, for some assistance with business matters back in Lansingville. "Egan Esq" is probably identical with the Charles C. Egan mentioned above. "Henery Smith" is presumed to be Aiden's father-in-law.

... I wish John to call on Egan Esq to send me a copy... judgements in any favour on Esq Strongs... and... Nupany to Collect the same agains jope [*sic*, perhaps JOP for Justice of the Peace] B. Bart—... Before Henery Smith I Paid him be fere Smith and... (Allen Miner, letter to his son, Aiden Miner, 16 June 1835)

Aiden was a farmer and a wagon-maker. Per a newspaper article cited further below, Aiden and Susan moved to Greenwood, Steuben County, New York in 1837. Aiden's parents had already settled there in 1830 or earlier. In the letter below, Susan designated 1834 as the year of migration. Normally, one would think that an autobiographical letter is a more accurate source than a newspaper article. However, it is evident from two documents cited above, that Aiden was living in Lansingville in 1835. Also, as noted above, Aiden was still in Lansingville as of 14 August 1836 when his father wrote to him from Greenwood.

Dear Ederter,

I was thinking of the cange of time wine I first came to Steuben County ine 1834 [*sic*, 1837] and the presant time wene evry thing was in the forest of grene timber, the difference betene the hornd ox and the iron horse. The new setlers though theme selves qite wel to do if they had a yoke of catle and gether there wives and childen ine a woodshod slead and throw ine a few bundels of straw and thene git in fore a visit to some naber, and I do rely think there was more reyal injoyment thene there is in our present time fore pride and self takes the lead (Susan A. (Smith) Miner, letter to a newspaper editor).

In 1850, Wm McClay and John A. Miner were named as trustees in conjunction with the following announcement issued by Aiden Miner:

Notice is hareby given to the inhabutants of district No 5 in Greenwood that the anual meeting for the election of District officers will be held at the school house of said district on monday october 28 at 6 oclock PM And also for the purpose of Voting & dedurming on the following estimates and expendatures for the support of School during the ensuing year and the transaction of Such other business as the meeting may dam necessary Aiden Miner

The 1850 Federal Census for Greenwood included the household of "Aden" Miner. Along with Susan, and their three children, "Farmer" Philip Smith was also residing there. Philip was Susan's brother and had apparently spent other summers with the Miners:

Dear Sister... poor cute good for noting Philop is Sory that he cand come out there this Sumer to help you he has took fathers place to work this Sumer father cant Spare him this Sumer... (letter to Susan A. (Smith) Miner, 8 Feb 1847)

Land Office, Bath, Steuben Co., October 13 1852.

Mr. Aiden Miner, Sir: The state of your Contract debt for land in the Town of Greenwood requires your attention and I am instructed to require a payment of not less than one hundred Dollars, by the first of december next. You are requested to call at the Land Office on or before that day, with the Office Contract you now hold, so that if your circumstances require further credit, it may be granted to you by a renewed Contract.

East pt. Lot 65. W.W. McCay

In 1858, Aiden's son, Ai Miner, was called to the legal defense of his litigious father:

Subpoena. Steuben County, Town of West Union. To A.I. Miner GREETING: You are hereby Comanded, In the name of the People of the State of New-York, to appear before the undersigned, at this office in said town, on the 18th of December 1858... to give evidence in a civil action then and there to be tried between Joseph Elison Plaintiff, and Aiden Miner Defendant, on the part of Aiden Miner Defendant. Dated at the town aforesaid, this 3d day of December 1858. T.W. Failing Justice of the Peace.

By 1860, "Adin Miner" had accumulated \$1,840 in real estate and \$1,114 in personal estate. Also residing in his household that year was "James Krusan," age 14. James was undoubtedly related in some way to another pioneer of Greenwood who was also my direct ancestor, Richard Krusen.

In the 1873 Atlas of Steuben County, E Miner and AL Miner are shown as residents of Lot #65, due west of my ancestor, Daniel¹ Brown. The initials are doubtless errors as property in this lot was deeded to Aiden as will be shown below and, from other sources also cited further below, we know that Ai Miner lived next to his parents in 1880.

On 15 April 1874, John Miller Brundage solicited Aiden for payment on behalf of his sister-in-law, Mary Jane (Krusen) Brundage. Mary Jane was the widow of John's brother Israel Morris Brundage. Israel, another one of my direct ancestors, had died on 1 January 1871. John threatened to involve his brother, "prominent lawyer" Robert Lanning Brundage:

Mr. Aiden Miner

Dear Sir

There is due on that old [note] of Israel \$765 & I Must have the Mony immediately to pay fer some Hay that Jane has bought If not paid I shall have to get Robert to [illegible] the Money & take your bill and collect.

JM Brundage

The Miner farm was located on West Greenwood Hill at the uppermost bend of what is now Brown Hollow Road. There is old photograph at the Streeter Farm that was labeled by Mary (Williamson) Streeter, as follows:

The house on the hill where the Miner's first settled when they came to this country from Lansing Thompkins co NY Stood in vicinity of the Caffery House—now burned.

Consultation with long-time residents of West Greenwood Hill, George McCaffery Jr. and Dan Redmond, and Greenwood's Historian, Jerry Mullen, indicate that Mary's identification must have been in error. The home in the photograph probably belonged to some ancestor of Miner Thomas and Mary (Williamson) Streeter, but it was not the Miner family. The Miners' home later burned but the foundation was reused and another home was built on this site. At some point following the centralization of the Greenwood school district, the former one-room Brown Hollow schoolhouse was moved and added to the existing structure. My maternal grandfather, Alex Joseph³ Brown, attended this school; Brown Hollow was named after Alex's grandfather and immigrant ancestor, Daniel¹ Brown. This property is currently owned by the Mills family.

Although Aiden settled on this site in 1837, his deed was not recorded until 17 December 1874. Perhaps the ever-enterprising Aiden had been squatting on the land until he was forced to execute a proper deed. This theory is supported by additional legal documents cited further below.

Warranty Deed. This Indenture, Made the Seventeenth of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight-hundred and seventy-four Between Henry C. Howard,

(commonly called Viscount Andover,) George C. K. Johnstone, Henry Chaplin and James R. Farquharson, by their Attorney, Benjamin F. Young, of Bath, Steuben County, N.Y., of the first part, ... and Benjamin F. Young of the second part and Aiden Miner of Greenwood in the County of Steuben and State of New-York, of the third part, Witnesseth that the party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Twelve hundred dollars... do... sell... All that certain piece or parcel of land, situate in the town of Greenwood in the County of Steuben and State of New York, known and distinguished as Sub Division number Two (2) or the East part of Lot number Sixty five (65) in Township number Two (2) in the Sixth (6) Range of Townships and bounded as follows. Beginning at the NorthEast corner of Sub Division number One (1)—thence along the East line thereof South 5° West Forty Six (46) Chains and Eighteen (18) Links to the South line of the Lt.—thence along said South line South 85° East Nineteen (19) Chains and Sixty five (65) Links to the South East corner of said Lot—thence along the East line thereof North 5° East Forty Six (46) Chains and Twenty five (25) Links to the North East corner of the same—thence along the North line of said Lot North 85° West Nineteen (19) Chains and Sixty five (65) Links to the place of beginning, containing Ninety (90) Acres and Eighty hundredths (80/100) of an Acre, as Surveyed by C.A. Canfield, be the Same more or less. (Steuben County Deeds, Liber 129, page 285; recorded 18 December 1874)

On 1 June 1876, Aiden paid two dollars when an "assessment or tax was levied" by the newly-formed Greenwood Cemetery Association "for [the] purpose of clearing and fencing the yard" (*Proceedings of the Greenwood Cemetery Association: Organized 26 May 1876 in Greenwood, Steuben County, New York*).

In anticipation of Aiden's and Susan's fiftieth wedding anniversary, Susan's brother, Samuel Smith, penned the following:

Trenton NJ Dec 1879

Dear Nefue and Neas

... tell father and mother that they must rite for I want to hear from I think of them vary often more then ever and hope that they will boath cape well till the fifty years is up at Least for then I expect that you will have a grate time rite what day it comes on So that I cane think more aspesuly of you all (Samuel Smith, letter to his niece, Alice Amelia (Miner) Streeter, and her husband, Francis Marion Streeter)

On 2 February 1880, Aiden and Susan celebrated fifty years of married life together. The lengthy newspaper article documenting this special event began with a full transcript of the wedding certificate provided above.

The parties who received the above certificate 50 years ago, celebrated their golden wedding [anniversary] on the 2d day of Feb. 1880. Aiden, the semi-centenarian in husbandry, is now 74 years old and in the enjoyment of fair health for one his age. In health and appearance, he has changed but little for the past twenty years. Susan the bride of fifty years ago, is hale and hearty, although 71 years of age, she can do the work of two American girls. During the past season she has milked nine cows, cared for the milk at home, doing all the work herself except carrying the milk to the house, which

was done by Mr. Miner. This together with the usual household duties, is more than the majority of women who are 40 years younger can perform.

They came into Steuben from Tompkins Co. in the fall of 1837, a distance of about 100 miles. The journey was made over-land with teams, and owing to bad weather, and bad luck, occupied 8 days. At the time it was woods nearly all the way from Canisteo to Greenwood. Coming from the village of Lansingville, they found themselves at the close of the 8th day in the wilds of Steuben Co. town of Greenwood, about 3 miles west of what is now the village of Greenwood.

Their home was a log house around which was a clearing of about ten acres, the remainder of the farm of 92 acres was timber-land. His tax for a number of years was one dollar and five shillings. As small as this may seem it was not as easily paid as the exceedingly high tax of \$80, paid by him during the war of the rebellion.

They were not so fruitful as most of the early settlers. They have but three children; Olive, the oldest of the family, was born in Thompkins [*sic*] Co. before the removal to Steuben. Ai and Alice were born in Greenwood. Olive was married to Elias Williamson in the fall of 1854. He is now a well-to-do farmer, and lumber dealer living about two miles north of Greenwood village.

Ai was married to Harriet Krusen in the winter of 1864. He now owns and occupies the farm immediately west of his father's. Alice was married to Marion Streeter in the summer of 1867. He too is a prosperous farmer living about one mile north of Greenwood village.

The second of Feb. dawned clear and cold. At an early hour the relatives and friends were seen on their way to the home of the aged couple. The company, received by host and hostess, were made to feel at once, that they were to enjoy in the fullest sense the festive occasion. There were about 30 persons present, nearly all of whom were relatives of the family. Among those who deserve especial mention, is Mrs. McClay of Greenwood, a sister of Mrs. Miner who was present at the wedding 50 years ago. She though young at that time, still remembers and related to the pleasure of the company some of the events of their wedding day. Also J.B. and Polly Smith of Canisteo, aged 68 and 67 years respectively, were present. Mr. Smith spent about 20 years of his early manhood in Greenwood and was [a] neighbor of Mr. Miner. Mrs. Smith is a sister of Mr. Miner. They are both in the enjoyment of good health, and if spared to each other about three more years more they too can celebrate their 50th wedding day.

A little before the dinner hour, the family were assembled in the parlor, prayer was offered by Rev. C.R. Buck of Greenwood. It was an occasion for profound gratitude. There were the aged father and mother, their children and their families, to the fourth generation, the whole circle unbroken by death. The scene about there was the home of childhood, the place where by honest industry and frugality, they had carved for themselves a home and reared their family. Very few have enjoyed a similar occasion with so great reason for gratitude to the giver of all good. After devotional exercises the gifts were presented. The children their husbands and wives bringing their offerings... their grandchildren—great-grandchildren... and other relatives and friends. Eighty and one half dollars in gold and other gifts amounting in all to about \$135 were presented to the happy couple. The most costly gifts were given by their children, showing more plainly than words can express their unfained love for their aged parents. This part of the entertainment was made interesting by remarks from different ones who had in one way or an other been connected with the family; calling up pleasant

recollections of happy days gone by. We were then invited to a table loaded to that degree with viands, that it seemed a deed of charity to relieve it of its burden, which the company proceeded to do. The dinner was as great a contrast with like scenes of 40 years ago, as the above certificate is with those of to-day.

The first set of chairs used by them are still in use, and in a good state of preservation. One old-fashioned rocking chair, a keep-sake in the family, is two hundred years old. Late in the afternoon the company took leave of the aged parents, feeling that another link had been added to the chain of love and friendship which binds them together.

Mr. and Mrs. Miner wish to take this opportunity to do that which in the surprise and joy of the hour they forgot; namely, to express their thanks to their children and friends, not only for the gifts, but for their presence and the hearty good-will with which each joined in the pleasures of the occasion, making it in every respect worthy [of] the name of a golden wedding day.

A Guest.

As mentioned above, Aiden Miner had resided on West Greenwood Hill for almost thirty years before a deed was recorded for the property in 1874. The following document is undated but it may have been issued in 1880 because Aiden had not paid for the land that he had finally bought. 1880 is six years after 1874: "*the Defendant is in possession of said premises, and has for the space of six years last past wrongfully withheld possession of the same from the Plaintiff.*" 1880 was also the year that Susan A. (Smith) Miner bought property in the Village of Greenwood and insured her home. It is noteworthy that in both transactions, Susan acted alone. Given Aiden's propensity to become involved in legal disputes, it had probably become easier for Susan to act independently on their behalf.

Summons for Relief—Complaint Filed

William Earl of Craven, Alexander Osvald and Edmund B. Estcourt against Aiden Miner: The Plaintiffs in this action complain of the Defendant therein, and state to the Court that the Plaintiffs are the owners in fee and entitled to the possession of that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the town of Greenwood, in the County of Steuben and State of New York Known and distinguished as the East part of lot number Sixty five (65) in township number two in the sixth range of townships containing ninety two acres.

And the Plaintiff further say that the Defendant is in possession of said premises, and has for the space of six years last past wrongfully withheld possession of the same from the Plaintiff, and has during all the time aforesaid, used and occupied the same, and received the rents and profits thereof. That the value of the use and occupation, rents and profits of said land is the sum of Six hundred dollars.

Wherefore the Plaintiffs demand judgement that they recover from said Defendant the possession of said premises and Six hundred dollars for the rents and profits thereof, besides costs.

This Indenture, Made this Sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty between William R. Prentice and L. Myra his wife of the town of Horseheads in the count of Chemung and State of New York of the first part, and Susan A. Miner of the town of Greenwood in the County of Steuben and state aforesaid of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, in

consideration of the sum of eight hundred Dollars, to them duly paid, have sold, and By these Presents do grant and convey to the party of the second part,... that Tract or Parcel of Land, situate in the town of Greenwood, County of Steuben and Sate of New York known and described as a part of lot Number one hundred and fifteen (115) in township number two (2) in the sixth (6) range of townships in said count of Steuben and bounded as follows: Beginning in the center of Bennets Creek valley highway at the NorthEast corner of a lot formerly owned by William Burton thence North 85° West along the South line of said lot number one hundred and fifteen (115) two (2) chains and fifty (50) links to the Northwest corner of said Burtons Lot. Thence North 13° East and parallel with the center of said highway one (1) chain and ninety seven (97) links to a stake Thence South 75° East two (2) chains and fifty (50) links to the center of said highway thence South 13° West along the center of said highway one (1) chain and fifty seven (57) links to the place of beginning containing about seventy (70) square rods of land be the same more or less an being the same premises conveyed by Joseph Woodbury and wife to William B. Prentice by deed... recorded in the Steuben County Clerk's office in Liber 155 of Deeds at page 20 (Recorded 30 Dec 1880, 174:240)

By This Policy of Insurance, the Home Insurance Company of the City of New York, In Consideration of Seven and 50/100 Dollars... Do Insure Susan A. Miner \$800 on Her Frame Dwelling House, Additions and Foundations... situate on the West side of Main Street, Greenwood N.Y. (8 August 1882)

Perhaps stress surrounding Aiden's legal disputes contributed to his death in 1883. For all his entrepreneurial spirit, Aiden had little to show for it at the end of his life. He left \$25 to each of his three children. After debts, expenses, etc. had been subtracted from his estate, there was \$26.11 left for distribution to his widow. Among the items inventoried in his estate were a spinning wheel, a cherry drop-leaf table, six chairs valued at \$3 each and a clock valued at \$2. These belongings may be identical with family heirlooms now at the Streeter farm. (*Steuben County, New York Probate Records*, Will 19:277 and File A-7010)

By 1891, Susan Miner, widow of "Aden" Miner, was a boarder, residing on Main Street, Greenwood (*Directory of Steuben County, New York*). In the 1892 New York State Census, "Susan Streeter" was enumerated in the household of Francis Marion and Alice Amelia (Miner) Streeter. This census entry is undoubtedly an error intended to represent Alice's mother, Susan (Smith) Miner; Susan resided with the Streeters when she died:

Mrs. Susan A. Miner died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Marion Streeter, in the town of Greenwood, July 20, 1898, aged nearly ninety years.

The deceased was the daughter of Henry and Sarah Smith and was born in Tompkins county, N.Y., Nov. 1, 1808 and was married to Aiden Miner in 1830. They moved to Greenwood, Steuben county, in November 1837, the distance of about 100 miles requiring eight days toilsome journeying to accomplish it with their teams, because of bad roads and weather. They settled on a farm in the wilderness about three miles west of the village of Greenwood, in a log house about which was small clearing. They cleared the land and lived there until they 1880 when they moved to Greenwood village where only three years later the husband was called to his eternal home. Since then Mrs. Miner lived with her children of whom there were three: Olive, wife of Elias Williamson, who died about ten years ago, Ai, and Alice, wife of F.M. Streeter, all of Greenwood.

Mrs. Miner was a woman of superior traits of character. Endowed with a strong physical constitution she had all her long life been a remarkably energetic worker. She was noted as a "good hearted" woman and rare was the case of sickness or need in her neighborhood which she did not minister unto.

She was a faithful and loving wife and mother and "Her children rise up, and call her blessed." She was of a deeply religious nature and was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

A large concourse of neighbors and friends of the deceased were in attendance at the funeral services which were held at the M.E. church at 11 a.m. on Friday, the Rev. E.A. Anderson officiating. Interment was in the Greenwood cemetery.

In her will, Susan left \$2 to each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as her great-great-grandchild, Bernice Blair. (*Steuben County, New York Probate Records, Will 30:22 and File A-7013*)

I descend from Aiden's and Susan's daughter, Alice Amelia (Miner) Streeter. It is interesting to note that their daughter, Olive, married one of my Williamson uncles and that their son, Ai, married one my Krusen aunts, both of whom descended from the Richey family. Thus, all descendants of these couples are my triple-cousins.

Children:

- i. OLIVE ADELIA⁸, b. Lansing, Tompkins Co., NY 24 March 1833; d. Greenwood, NY 1 Sep 1888; m. 28 Oct 1854 ELIAS⁷ WILLIAMSON (*Abraham⁶, John⁵, Peter⁴, William³, Willem² Willemsen, Willem¹ Gerritsen*), b. 6 June 1831, d. Greenwood, NY 1897, son of my direct ancestors, Abraham⁶ and Sarah (Smith) Williamson, he m. (2) 9 April 1893 ALICE MINARD.
- ii. AI, b. Greenwood, Steuben Co., NY 15 Feb 1842; d. 11 Nov 1902; m. HARRIET⁸ KRUSEN (*Francis⁷, Richard⁶, Francis⁵, Derrick⁴, Francis³, Derrick², Garret¹ Dircksen Croesen*), b. 1841, dau. of my direct ancestors, Francis⁷ and Charity (Richey) Krusen.
 Child, surname *Miner*. 1. *Delphene "Della,"* b. Greenwood, NY ca. 1865; d. 3 Jan [1909] age 44; m. Elijah B. Rollins; graduate of the Canisteo Academy; moved to Andover, Allegany Co., NY in 1891.
- * iii. ALICE AMELIA, b. Greenwood, Steuben Co., NY 10 Nov 1851; d. Streeter Farm, Greenwood, NY 29 Sep 1932; m. Greenwood, NY 4 July 1868 FRANCIS MARION³ STREETER (*Thomas²⁻¹*), b. Canisteo, Steuben Co., NY 15 Oct 1845, d. Streeter Farm, Greenwood, NY 12 Sep 1917, son of Thomas² and Elizabeth "Betsey" (Burlson) Streeter of Greenwood, NY; both bur. in Bennett's Creek Cemetery, Greenwood, NY; my great-great-grandparents. See *The Streeter Family of Dunnings Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex, England* for more information.

Index

This is a complete every-name index for the entire document; each woman is indexed under her maiden name and her married name(s). A question mark, (?), indicates an unknown maiden name.