COLBY CLAN COMMUNICATIONS

Descendants of Anthony and Susannah Colby

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March 2009

From the Editor

The first thing I would like to mention is that my email address has changed. Please note the new address in the header above. The second item is a request. We are hoping to decrease the newsletter printing and postage costs, so if you are able to access the newsletter via email or online, please let me know (if you're still receiving a paper copy). I would like to continue printing the newsletter in color, so it will help to print copies for only those that can't open an electronic copy. Many thanks!

Our reunion is in Amesbury this year, which is always a popular location. We're hoping to see lots of folks this year!

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue. Please continue to send your news.

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1 From the Editor, Colby Reunion
1 News from the Members
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56th Annual Colby Clan Reunion
Saturday, August 15
Amesbury, Massachusetts

The Macy-Colby House will be open beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15.
Lunch will be an old-fashioned picnic beginning at 12:00 noon. The cost will be $5.00; children under 12 are free.
Menu: Sandwiches, steamed hot dogs, homemade baked beans, potato salad, garden salad, cold slaw, chips, pickles, soda, punch, coffee, cookies, desserts, fresh fruit.

There will be a tour of the oldest part of the cemetery at 2:00 p.m., looking for Colby relatives.

The Friday evening gathering on August 14 will be held at the Macy-Colby House from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hotel rooms can be reserved at the Fairfield Inn in Amesbury, MA. (978) 388-3400

More details, and an RSVP form, will be available in the June 2009 newsletter.
We hope to see you at the reunion!

News from the Colby Members

HURRICANE KATRINA

In August, 2005, the eye of Hurricane Katrina passed over Slidell, Louisiana and the home of Dr. **Ray and Andrea Newman**. Since moving there ten years earlier from Connecticut, they had never experienced a drop of flooding from all the storms and rain. Katrina, however, changed that with sustained winds of over 100 miles-an-hour that pushed a storm surge of water up to 25 feet deep inland from Lake Pontchartrain. They were unable to move back into their house until this past summer in 2008—almost three years after Katrina struck. Wide-spread devastation from Katrina was covered extensively in the news at the time. Ray and Andrea were close enough to the lake to sustain up to four feet of water being pushed into their house. Only four of the twenty rooms were upstairs so almost the entire house was damaged.

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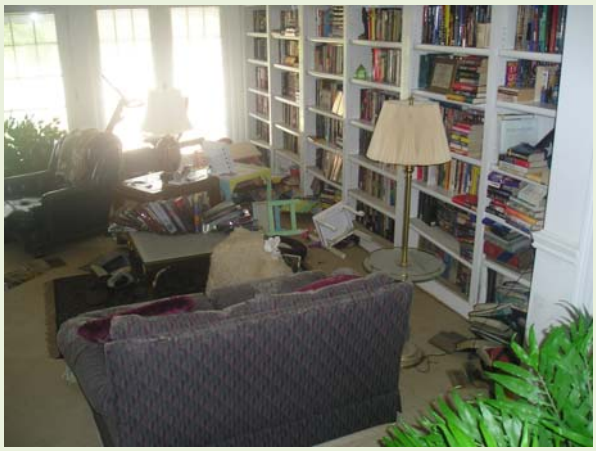
Virtually all the contents were destroyed and had to be tossed. This included decades of photo albums, book collections, and items gathered from trips to many parts of the world not to mention furniture, appliances, clothing, etc. Andrea says that took care of one major project of how to downsize for retirement. Most of the dense pine trees surrounding the house were ripped out of the ground with a couple of the larger ones crashing through the house. With extensive repairs being required, and the entire region placing demands on construction trades, it is little wonder so much time passed for repairs to be made. Only carpeting remains to be put into place to complete the renovation and repairs. Andrea and Ray are eager to see the end of the remaining occasional workmen and regaining a sense of normality. They expect to revisit the Colby Clan reunion after several years' absence.



Colby connection from **Ron Colby** of Kearns, UT:
Maurice Rasmussen was married to my Aunt Therresa Colby b. 10 Jun 1913 d. 19 Oct 2006. Kathryn (Rasmussen) Taylor is their daughter. Maurice is the one wearing the dark glasses and Kathryn is standing behind him.

Please join us for an 'Open House' Celebration
in recognition of the

Macy-Colby House's

Acceptance on the

National Register of Historic Places

Wednesday, October 1, 2008
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Macy-Colby House
257 Main Street
Amesbury, MA

Refreshments will be served

Harriett Gould, President,
Friends of the Macy-Colby House

IN MEMORIAM

James F. Colby, 76, of Gageville, OH, died Thursday morning, Oct. 23, 2008, at his home with his family at his side. Born Jan. 14, 1932, in Ashtabula, OH, he was the son of Earl L. and Dorothy (Frary) Colby. He was a lifelong area resident and attended Ashtabula High School. A Veteran, he enlisted in the Army in 1956 and was a Private First class upon his honorable discharge in 1958, and remained in the Reserves for many years. During his time in the service, he traveled to Holland and Germany and saw many sights which he shared through his pictures and home movies. He retired from Union Carbide/Elkem Metals in 1981 at which time he became self-employed and began caring for the Gageville Cemetery, a job which he truly loved and kept until this past summer, serving the community for 16 years. A devout Christian, James was a member of the Ashtabula Wesleyan Methodist Church his entire life. He was the church treasurer and also worked at Stoneboro Wesleyan Methodist Church camp every year in the kitchen. James loved to bird watch, walking his dog, spending time with his grandchildren, and loved being a prankster. He was lovingly nicknamed "the agitator." Survivors include his wife, Loretta (Sowry) whom he married Oct. 4, 1958; a son, Timothy (Rose) Colby of Jefferson, OH; two daughters, Joanne (Columbus) Farmer of Jefferson, OH and Janice (Mark) Luoma of Ashtabula, OH; five grandchildren, Bruce Colby, Christina Farmer, Mike Farmer, Mark Farmer, and Daniel Luoma; three sisters, Esther Nelson of Charleston, SC, Dorothy (Paul) Brink of Salisbury, NC, and Rebekah (Bill) Untch of Thomasvile, NC; sister-in-law, Cheryl Colby of Conneaut, OH; two brothers, George (Dee) Colby of Fort Collins, CO, and Earl (Betty) Colby of Ashtabula, OH; and many nieces and nephews, friends, and his church family. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, John and Rae; two sisters, Sarah Colby and Mary Golden; and a brother-in-law, Bob Golden. Funeral Services will be 11 am, Monday, Oct. 27th, at East Conneaut Wesleyan Methodist Church, 315 East Main Road, Conneaut, Ohio, with the Rev. Marvin Blowers officiating. Burial will be in Gageville Cemetery. Calling hours will be 5 to 8 pm, Sunday, at the Marcy Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 208 Liberty St., Conneaut, OH. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Ashtabula Wesleyan Methodist Church or to Hospice of the Western Reserve. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and at the church. Condolences at www.marcyfuneralservices.com and starbeacon.com.

Hazel Ione Colby, 81, of New Sharon, died Sunday evening, Sept. 14, 2008 at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston surrounded by her family. She was born in Hampden on Oct. 10, 1926, a daughter of Clyde and Viola (Downs) Bates and on May 6, 1944, married Clarence R. Colby in Bath. He died Nov. 5, 2006. Mrs. Colby worked as a postal clerk and in her later years was a homemaker. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, and working around her home. She is survived by two daughters, Sherry Callahan of Athens and Debbie Bailey and her husband, Jeffrey, of Westport Island; a son, Clarence Colby Jr. and his wife, Darlene, of Wiscasset; a brother, Benjamin Bates and his wife, Lucille, of Pittsfield; sisters, Pauline Dorr and her husband, Albion, of Bangor and Madeline Moon of Newburgh; six granddaughters; two grandsons; two great-granddaughters; two great-grandsons; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, June Tegethoff. The family would like to thank the New Sharon Volunteer Fire Department, Northstar Ambulance, the staff at Franklin Memorial Hospital, Central Maine Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and LifeFlight of Maine for all of their care and concern. Funeral services were held Sunday at the Wiles Remembrance Center, 137 Farmington Falls Road, Farmington. Relatives and friends were invited to call at the center one hour prior to the service. Graveside services were on Monday at the new Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Augusta. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312, or to United Cerebral Palsy, 1660 L Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036.

Robert (Bob) W. Smith -- A former resident of Lynn, died in Mesa, AZ on December 16, 2007 after a short hospitalization. Memorial services were held at Oasis Park Kingdom Hall in Mesa, AZ on December 22, 2007. Bob was born July 3, 1923 in Manchester, NH, son of Lewis W. and Grace E. Colby Smith and moved to Lynn as an infant. He was a graduate of Lynn English High School, class of 1942, and enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corp. immediately after graduation. He was stationed in the South Pacific during WW II. He was honorably discharged in 1946. After his discharge, Bob made his home in Beaumont, TX with his wife and daughter. He was employed by Gulf States Utilities and attended college under the G.I. Bill. Bob was predeceased by his parents, sisters Frances Cotreau, Claire Bidmead and great-granddaughter, Leah M. Brossia. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Beulah Elliott Smith of Superior, AZ, and children: Ann (Brian) Williamson, Soddy, TN, Sherry (Boyce) Lafitte, Tucson, AZ and Terry Smith of Superior, He is also survived by eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, three sisters: Margaret Reynolds, Lynn, MA, Alice (Jerry) Luongo, Malden, MA, Grace Thompson, Englewood, CO, and many nieces and nephews. Bob was retired but had been employed as an Electrical Engineer by various corporations in Texas, Colorado, California, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. After his retirement, he continued as an Electrical Consultant and was active with the Jehovah Witnesses.

Frances M. Cotreau, 82

Former sales clerk

PEABODY

Mrs. Frances M. (Smith) Cotreau, 82, of Peabody, died Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2003, at the Shaughnessy Rehab Hospital, Salem, after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Andrew L. Cotreau.

Born in Manchester, N.H., she was the daughter of the late Lewis W. and Grace E. (Colby) Smith.

Cotreau

She was a graduate of Lynn English High School, Class of 1939. She was a resident of St. Petersburg, Fla., for 10 years before moving back to Peabody 30 years ago.

She was a secretary at the former Crippendorf Co. of Lynn. She later operated with her husband the Puritan Fish Market in Swampscott for 20 years. She was also employed for 16 years as a sales clerk at the former Jordan Marsh Co. at the North Shore Mall in Peabody.

Mrs. Coutreau leaves three sons, Denis G. Cotreau of West Newbury, David Cotreau of Peabody and Andrew F. Cotreau of Manchester by the Sea; a daughter, Gerianne Caruso of Boxford; a brother, Robert Smith of Superior, Ariz.; three sisters, Grace Thompson of Englewood, Calif.; Margaret Reynolds of Lynn and Alice Luongo of Malden; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Claire Bidmead.

The funeral will be held on Saturday from the Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home, 12 Chestnut St., Peabody, followed by a funeral Mass in St. Adelaide's Church at 10 a.m. Burial will be in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park, Peabody.

Amesbury Mayor Thatcher Kezer, Harriett Gould (President of the Friends of the Macy-Colby House, and State Representative, Michael Costello – at the Macy-Colby House Historic Register Acceptance Ceremony

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

COURTESY

Taylor White, front left; Hayden White, Max White, Mannell Goold, Cordon White, Maurice Rasmussen, Jaxon Allen, Maegen Allen and Chet White, along with Ashton White, back left; Max White, Billy and Kaye White, Kathryn Taylor and Danielle White gather for a five-generation picture in Richfield September.

White family celebrates five generations times three

Some 15 people gathered Sept. 7 at the Lions Park in Richfield for a five generation photograph — in triplicate.

The photo opportunity marked the culminating event for the blessings of the family's youngest members in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Great-great-grandparents in the ancestral line include former Monroe resident, Mannell Goold, St. George; Max White, Richfield; and Maurice Rasmussen, Salina.

Billy and Kaye Goold White, Richfield; and Kathryn Rasmussen Taylor, Sandy; comprise the great-grandparents; while Max and Danielle Taylor White, Richfield, are the grandparents of the youngsters.

The five generations are completed with William Cordon White, son of Chet White, Richfield, born May 30, 2008, in Richfield; Hayden Dawn and Ashton James White, daughter and son of Taylor White, Lehi, born May 31, 2008, in Murray and June 22, 2005, in Provo, respectively; and Jaxon Trace Allen, son of Maegen Allen, Provo, born July 2, 2008, in Richfield.

Sent from **Marjorie McCabe** of Amesbury, MA on September 26, 2008: We are visiting our grandchildren in the Seattle area and staying in Edmonds, WA. The man from whom we are renting a cottage is a direct descendant of Richard Bartlett, who was one if the "First Settlers of Newbury." Since this name appears on Ron Colby's website, I emailed Ron to find out my connection. It turns out that I too am a direct descendent of Richard Bartlett (as is Ron) and thereby a 10th cousin of our landlord!! Small world!! Glad to hear that this year's reunuion was so much fun. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in
Amesbury next summer!

Dorothy Williamson of Newburyport, MA has been busy publishing a book, "Belleville Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1808-20008" It was a 2 year project and finished at the end of this past November. There were 70 copies published and sold. The Historical Society of Old Newbury and the Newburyport Public Library received copies. It was 120 pages with 135 photos which Dorothy took - both old and new.

Howard Gant of Glassboro, NJ sent these photos that he took while traveling to the 2008 Colby reunion in Providence. He writes, "I really enjoyed the Colby family reunion on August 16th. Great entertainment! I spent the next week in Middleton, MA camping and doing my family history (NEHGS in Boston, Phillips Library in Salem, Public Library in Amesbury)."

Merrimac River in Amesbury, MA – near Macy-Colby House

Street sign at the Macy-Colby House

Susanna Martin monument at her homestead site in Amesbury, MA

Merrimac River, Amesbury, MA

Siding replacement at the Macy-Colby House, August 18, 2008

Interesting Colby Facts

Newark Advocate
Newark, Ohio
Oct 11, 1916
Invitations have been issued by Mrs. Henry Francis Colby, to the marriage of her daughter, Eleanor Thresher Colby, to Edward Robert Little, on the evening of Thursday, October 24, at the family residence, No. 340 West First street, Dayton, Ohio. Miss Colby's father for many years was identified with Denison as the popular president of the Board of Trustees and her four brothers were graduates of the institution and members of Sigma Chi fraternity. Mr. Little was a student here and was also a member of Sigma Chi. Hence Granville's interest in the young couple who will be at home after the first of January at No. 93 Hayne avenue, Detroit, Mich.

From www.coinpeople.com

July 19, 1901
LAID AT REST
Funeral Services of
Late Moses L. Colby
Held at the Historic Macy-Colby House
Very Largely Attended - Delegation From Organizations
The funeral of Moses L. Colby took place as it was fitting it should from the Macy-Colby house. His remains followed by a long train of mourners were borne from this ancient home of his fathers to their last resting place on the green hillside near the gravers of his ancestors. It was the funeral of one in whom many were interested and the attendance at the obsequies was large. Besides the many relatives and friends to whom Mr. Colby was well known and beloved, there was a large number of citizens and some strangers. Representatives also of the Bartlett Cemetery Association, Josiah Bartlett Chapter of D.R. , Town Improvement Society had the two remaining '49ers in town, A.M. Huntington and Ephraim Brown, also F.F. Morrill of Newburyport. The services were conducted by Rev., D. W. Davis who discoursed at some length. In closing he spoke tenderly of the deceased bringing out some of the traits of his character. He emphasized feelingly the moral life, the gentle manner, the quiet reticent ways, the noble patriotism and magnanimous spirit of Mr. Colby in presenting the town with the invaluable gifts of his ancient ancestral home the its spacious grounds so finely graded and adorned. Mr. Colby's religious belief it was not easy to define for he was a man of few words on these things and of an exceedingly taciturn disposition. His brother Luther was a leading spiritualist but one who knew them both well and at whose home they were frequent guests remarked that in the discussion of such matters Moses never showed by word or act that he had any sympathy with spiritualism. A quartette consisting of C.S. Wingate, Dr. E.L. Noyes, Mrs. Sadie Taylor and Miss Mildred Daniels sang two selections, "Lead Kindly Light" and "Still, Still With Thee". And closed the service by chanting the Lord's Prayer. The floral tributes to the memory of the deceased were many and very beautiful. There were wreathes set pieces and bouquets by the family, the immediate friends and others. Hose Four contributed a basket of choice flowers, the Bartlett Cemetery Association a large set piece and Josiah Bartlett Chapter of D.R. a wreath of rare flowers. The bearers were Horace S. Worthen, G.W. Osgood, George S. Bartlett and Willis McFarland. When the

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body was placed in the hearse it was followed to the grave in the Bartlett Cemetery in the rear of the old home by a large procession of mourners formed of relatives, friends, citizens and others. At the grave Mr. Davis read few appropriate selections from Scripture and offered prayer.

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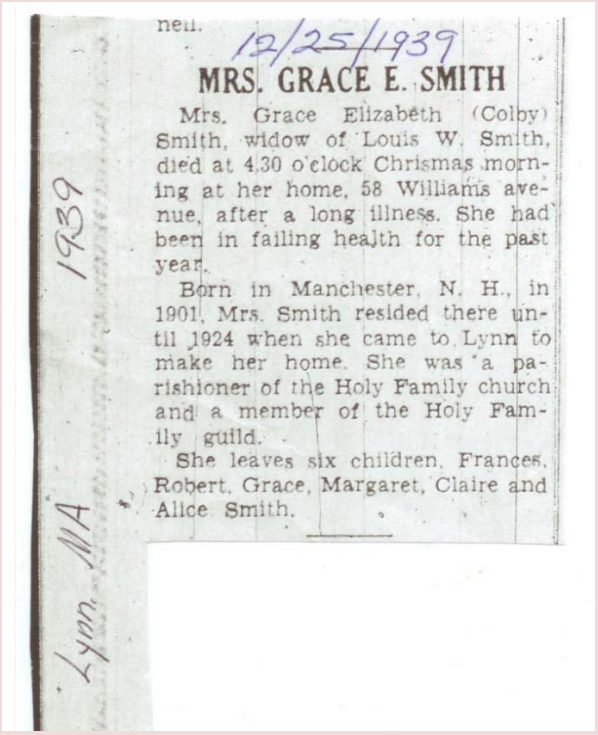
MOSES L. COLBY
Death of a Well Known Resident
Was a '49er and a Veteran Fireman
Generous Gift of the Historic Macy-Colby House

On Tuesday Moses L. Colby, a well known resident of the town passed away at his home in Kendrick's Court. He was the son of Capt. Wm. And Mary Long Colby and was born in 1821. His father was twice married. The children by the second wife were Joseph, Obadiah, Moses, Elizabeth and Luther, who was the editor of the "Banner of Light" for many years. The first Colby came to this country in Governor Winthrop's company in 1636 and Moses was of the seventh generation from Anthony, the first Colby settler of Amesbury. He went to Boston when a young man and learned the trade of a boot maker and followed that trade for some years. He belonged to one of the Boston Fire Companies, the equipment of which he loved to preserve to his last years. Moses was one of those who went to California in '49 and resided there for 18 years, keeping store part of the time. He was a member of one of the '49 Clubs of Boston. In his return from California he boarded with his nephews who kept house for their father Obadiah in the old Macy house. This house has been in the possession of this family for ten generations, since 1654 when they purchased it from Thomas Macy the first town clerk who erected it. After the death of Obadiah, Moses became legal heir to the Macy house be purchasing the property rights of others. Since his nephew Wm. Moved from the Macy house to Allen's Corner Moses had boarded with his nephew Edward who resides in Kendrick's Court. At this home he had for himself rooms which he kept in orderly arrangement relics of other years which he treasured so highly. He ever had a strong desire to see the Macy house preserved as an object of historic interest by the town and in this he was fully sustained by the members of Josiah Bartlett Chapter D.R. The Bartlett Cemetery Association having purchased from Mr. Colby the land in the rear of the house, it was placed in their hands and would be kept in an excellent stare of preservation. The Cemetery Association would thus secure by his gift to them what they had desired, an entrance to their grounds. For this reason, he gave a deed of the house to the Association stipulating that it should be kept in excellent order. It had been a great labor of love to Mr. Colby this summer in putting the grounds in to proper shape and adorning them. Mr. Colby was a great lover of his country, a true patriot. Last Saturday only he remarked to a friend who visited him that it caused him keen regret in not seeing the old flag float from the Macy house on the Fourth of July, the first time in all his life he had ever missed it there on that day. He was a man that was neat and orderly in all his habits and ways of life. He was upright and square in all his dealings with his fellows and was gently and retiring in disposition. His familiar form will be greatly missed by all his friends at the Ferry and elsewhere; but he will not be forgotten for he has left us an enduring memorial of his kindness and generosity. The death of Moses Colby removes from our midst a highly respected and most public spirited citizen. His generous gift to Josiah Bartlett Chapter Daughters of the Revolution of the historic Colby-Macy house will ever endear his name to the people of this town. This ancient house which has so many interesting historic facts connected with its history will always be highly prized. Mr. Colby did not wait until after he had departed this life before he did good with his money, his liberal contributions in fixing up the historic house and grounds were fully appreciated and he lived to see the generous use of his funds benefit those around him. Would that other men of means might emulate his example and by a liberal use of their wealth give the public something from which they can receive benefit.


12/25/1939

MRS. GRACE E. SMITH

Mrs. Grace Elizabeth (Colby) Smith, widow of Louis W. Smith, died at 4.30 o'clock Chrismas morning at her home, 58 Williams avenue, after a long illness. She had been in failing health for the past year.

Born in Manchester, N. H., in 1901, Mrs. Smith resided there until 1924 when she came to Lynn to make her home. She was a parishioner of the Holy Family church and a member of the Holy Family guild.

She leaves six children, Frances, Robert, Grace, Margaret, Claire and Alice Smith.

1939 Lynn MA

Chicago Tribune
18 July 1965
Geographer Charles Colby
Dies After Heart Attack

Charles C. Colby, 81, geographer and director of Mississippi Valley Investigations at Southern Illinois University, died Friday in La Crosse, WI, of an apparent heart attack. SIU President Delyte W. Morris Called Mr. Colby, the "dean of American geographers." "It was his wealth of knowledge couple with vision and enthusiasm that enabled him to contribute so effectively to the Mississippi Valley Investigations the project he had directed in recent years and in which he was engaged at La Crosse at the time of his death," Morris said. Mr. Colby was one of the first visiting emeritus professors to come to SIU when he joined the geography department staff in 1951. Mr. Colby's studies of the area resulted in a book, "A Pilot Study of Southern Illinois," published at SIU in 1956. He just completed another book entitled, "The Atlantic Arena," which will be published by the SIU Press this fall. Before coming to SIU, Mr. Colby served as the chairman of the geography department at the University of Chicago for more than 30 years. He was a specialist in the Division of Planning and Statistics, U.S. Shipping Board, 1918-19; advisor of War Shipping Administration, 1942; and a member of the division of Geology and Geography,

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National Research Council 1924-27 and 1940-43. Mr. Colby served as a land planning consultant for the Tennessee Valley Authority from 1934 to 1938. From 1938 to 1942 he was a member of the Land Commission, Natural Resources Planning Board. In 1939 he served as chairman of the sub-committee on Land Classification and in 1939, as a member of the sub-committee on Regional Approach to Employment Stabilization. Mr. Colby was a consultant to headquarters for a commission delegated to select the site for the United Nations building in 1946. A graduated of Michigan State Normal College in 1908, he received an honorary master of education degree from that college in 1922. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Chicago in 1909 and doctor of philosophy degree in 1917. In 1956, SIU awarded Mr. Colby an honorary doctor of science degree. He was born in Romeo, MI, April 13, 1884, the son of Frank and Anna Colby. Mr. Colby who lived at 313 S. University Ave., leaves his wife Mary, and two sons, Stephen and Bruce. Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Chapel of Hope in the Tower of Memories, Oakwoods Cemetery, 1035 E. 67th St., Chicago

This site has old maps of the Boston area. If you know where your ancestors lived, you might find a map of their neighborhood.
http://maps.bpl.org/

Aboard the Arbella: The ship that carried the colony's charter
By John Goff/Preservation Perspective
Fri Mar 21, 2008, 03:21 PM EDT
Salem - Last week's Salem Gazette carried a front-page article about the 17th-century Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter. Some speculated that Salem's Endecott Charter "may be the only original copy of the [Massachusetts Bay] charter in the United States." Perhaps it is not. A second copy, reportedly the original that crossed the Atlantic with Gov. John Winthrop aboard the ship Arbella in 1630, is preserved today in the Massachusetts State Archives in Boston. The Arbella was also known to history as the Charter Ship. Here let us describe what else is now known about the Charter carrying ship called the Arbella. One of the primary players in Salem's early settlement and in the 1630 founding of Boston, Charlestown and the Massachusetts Bay Colony was not a person at all, but a finely framed galleon-like sailing ship. She was hewn and assembled by skilled English shipwrights who worked with traditional post-Medieval adzes, mallets and chisels. Framed up on an English waterfront not yet known to this author, she was crafted from mammoth timbers cut into keel, frames, planks and other ship parts. The parts were then all finely joined and caulked, in that significant year the Pilgrims first landed at Plymouth —1620. The stunning new vessel, reinforced with ship's knees, iron rods and wood tree-nails or trunnels, was the mighty three-masted English ship Eagle. She also became known to history as the Arbella. She was a large vessel for those times, rated at between 350- and 400-ton cargo carrying capacity. She had an eagle figurehead, three masts and carried more than 20 cannon. Her crew consisted of 50 to 100 able-bodied seamen, needed in those days to hoist anchor, haul lines and, in cases of armed conflict, man the deafening guns. She was likely more than 100 feet long and about 30 feet wide.
excerpt:
http://www.wickedlocal.com/salem/archive/x1564565328

Residence of Thomas Colby, Gilboa, New York

In the early part of this century, there came from the State of New Hampshire, Nicholas Colby, who settled in the then town of Blenheim, [now Gilboa] Schoharie County, with his wife Sally or Sarah . Here he reared a family of twelve children. The eldest, Eli H. Colby, married Elizabeth Mackey, and settled in the town of Roxbury, Delaware county. Eli's family consisted of eight children, the oldest of whom is Thomas Colby the subject of our present sketch. Thomas Colby was

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born in the town of Roxbury, Delaware county, on the 23rd of March, 1833, and although he attended none but a common school, yet by perseverance he obtained a good education. At twenty-one he was without worldly means, save the energy and push which he so assiduously cultivated, fired with the zeal, enterprise and thrift so prominently developed later in life, and together with the working capital of a strong arm and determined heart, he decided as he expressed it, to strike out for himself. He bought the farm of 150 acres where he now lives, and soon after added another 100 acres, all of which was in a very low state of cultivation, at the time of his purchase, and would not keep over ten head of cattle. Mr. Colby has so improved it that it now keeps over sixty head, and is one of the best farms in the town of Gilboa. It is situated on the line of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad, which runs in the valley below, but a few hundred yards off. His residence is located in plain view of the Catskill mountains which give it a pleasant and picturesque appearance. He also owns another farm of about 100 acres situated one mile north of his residence, which he works in connection with the home farm. His farms are devoted strictly to dairying, sending milk to the New York market in the winter season and the making of butter and raising of stock during the summer. Mr. Colby's stock is the Jersey, which he thinks is superior to any other for dairy purposes. He is pre-eminently a working man himself, and is always with his hired help, some of whom have been with him for years. In politics he is a Republican, and has been honored with several town offices. He meets his obligations promptly, is a man of few words, considers it beneath his dignity to hold argument with any one, and belongs to no church. Mr. Colby has been twice married; his first wife was Julia S. Decker, by whom he was blessed with three children, all of whom died in infancy. By his second wife he has had two children, Thomas, Jr., and Emma. Mr. Colby is a very conscientious man; his opinions are always fearless and honest, never hesitating to denounce what he believes to be wrong, because others favor it, and never courting popularity at the expense of his honor. From: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyschoha/rospix27.html

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