

- Structure and Overview -



"The genealogist needs the historian to broaden his perspective and deepen his comprehension of the ultimate objectives. By the same token the genealogist is useful to the historian lest he underrate the personal element in his narrative".

- Lester J. Cappon -

- CHAPTERS -



here are *six* introductory chapters. **CHAPTERS 1-3** briefly explore Nathan Winchester's direct ancestral lineage back to his *great grandfather* John Winchester who arrived in America in 1635. At the end of Chapter One there is a brief discussion on the *English* origins of John Winchester. A variety of evidence is presented to show that John was likely the "*son of Rycharde*" of County Kent, England. In order to show the different New England family connections some pertinent information is offered the reader in these chapters. It is not the intent to offer complete biographical and historical information on this "Man of Kent." This John Winchester and his New England descendants have been thoroughly researched and documented with the material published in various books, journals, periodicals and manuscripts. The main secondary sources consulted by the author to introduce the early members of this interesting and influential New England family are listed at the end of Chapter Four. A Family Register Report showing the first *three* generations from John Winchester down to the Nova Scotia Planter Nathan Winchester is contained at the end of Chapter Three.

CHAPTERS 4 and **5** trace - in some detail - the paternal and maternal New England ancestral lines of Nathan Winchester and his wife Beulah Parks. Both Nathan and Beulah have many distinguished New England surnames in their respective family lineages. The main focus here is to present an overview of the different families and to provide the reader with a lineal descent from their immigrant New England ancestor. A brief historical view of the times is included within, providing the reader with some information on some of the interesting political leaders and other personalities of the time. Hopefully a future volume will continue this avenue of research and examine these lines in more detail.

CHAPTER 6 provides some historical background information on the arrival of the first "Planters" to Nova Scotia in 1760. There is a small biographical sketch on Henry Evans, who chartered the *Charming Molly*, to bring these pioneer settlers to "New Scotland".

CHAPTER 7 offers the reader a brief discussion and overview of Nathan and Beulah Winchester's entire family. At the end is a Family Group Sheet (FGS) with the names of all their children, their spouses and vital events (b/m/d).

The main body of this work (**CHAPTERS 8-16**) contain a genealogical record and history of Nathan's **third** son, Josiah Hill Winchester tracing as many of his descendants as possible down into the late twentieth century. In some cases recent obituaries (1990-2014) were available online. Although it was not originally the purpose to go beyond the 1940 US census they are included to establish a link between the present generation and past families. The "life story" of each family line is explored and discussed, using church and civil records, cemetery records, census data, marriage and obituary notices and other newspaper articles of interest. Census data and cemetery information are presented in tabular form with added notes. For the sake of historical relevance many maps are included as well.

This part of the book is replete with numerous "drop-down" descendant charts and lineal descent generational "tables". The main purpose here is to facilitate the reader's understanding of the many complex in-law and other myriad family relationships. These charts and tables are not burdened with excess genealogical data beyond sufficient identification of the individuals.

The lineal descent tables of participating and allied families contained in this book should be regarded as *provisional* rather than *definitive*. They have been compiled over the course of several years from as many primary sources as possible as well as various secondary sources. Some wills and probates have even been obtained to further establish the correct family relationships within and between each generation. I believe the information to be *generally* correct, and it is the author's view that in the absence of complete and better data, "*proposed*" descents are preferable to none and will hopefully serve the reader as a "stepping stone" for further research.

There are sections throughout that offer the reader brief and partial genealogies of some allied families. The Winchester's were involved in and a part of many interconnecting family alliances. Some deserved a more full and complete genealogical delineation. An attempt has been made to trace the ancestry of some collateral family lines back to their Nova Scotia "immigrant" ancestor.

Tracing ones family history can result in many interesting surprises. It is possible to discover links to historical events and figures of past generations. Determined research has shown that some branches of the Winchester tree can claim direct *Mayflower* descent back to the Mayflower Pilgrims, who made the voyage across the Atlantic to America's shores in 1620. The results of the author's findings are contained in the individual family chapters. It is by no means an exhaustive treatment but simply a brief overview to interest the reader. **CHAPTER 17** contains an historical overview of the *Mayflower* crossing with a few biographical sketches of some of the passengers as they pertain to the Winchester story.

The **FAMILY REGISTER REPORT** on Josiah Hill Winchesters and his descendants is contained in the last "book". Detailed source citations have been prepared for all vital events. There is also an index of names which will be particularly helpful to those who are just beginning their family quest. Once all volumes have been finished a *complete* and *comprehensive* Winchester Family Register Report will be done showing all the descendant generations of Nathan Winchester's family.

There are **APPENDICES** at the very end of the last "book" offering supplemental information. There is a listing of all FHL films, newspapers, bibliographic material that was referenced and also CD-ROM resources used in the compilation of this genealogy. For the benefit of those new to genealogical research a discussion of the Register Format adopted by the New England Historical and Genealogical Register (NEHGR) and an explanation of genealogical terms is contained in one Appendix. There are also graphical family charts on Nathan's five sons. This will give researchers a chance to view the genealogy at a glance, hopefully making it easier to determine his or her own family line.

- CONCLUDING REMARKS -

Within this writing, the author has tried very hard to verify facts where possible, otherwise I have tried to qualify the information. With this in mind, comments and modifying phrases such as "*it is likely*" or "*it appears that*" or "*it is believed that*" have been used. This allows the genealogist to use information even if there is some doubt of its validity or is sceptical at times. It is very important to mention that not all genealogical information in this work could be verified with official records. Some secondary source material has been used especially in regards to the formation of "descent tables" and family charts of allied families and their ancestral lines. The author has also made use of many online indices, viz. (1) SSDI (2) Massachusetts Death Index: 1970-2003 at FamilySearch.org (3) Massachusetts Birth and Marriage index: 1901 -1970 at Ancestry.com (4) Maine State Archives Marriage and Death Indices and others. There is room for error here because the actual images of the event were not available to view in order to verify the dates in the transcription index. As a result further research and independent verification is needed here and not all dates should be accepted as *complete* fact. The majority of times the author was able to cross reference the birth dates in the SSDI and Massachusetts Death Index with official records, e.g. an actual record of birth (ROB) found in the Massachusetts VR's from 1841-1920. In many cases this validated the information found in the above mentioned indices.

It is not claimed that this genealogical work is beyond criticism. After exercising all possible personal diligence the reader may perhaps discover some mistakes and errors in the following genealogical record, as it has been found difficult to obtain all the information necessary to absolute correctness. In a

way such failures are simply due to the inability of the author to grasp all the details of this Herculean undertaking.

- A Note on Allied Families -

Thousands of people emigrated from the New England States to the British Colony of Nova Scotia in the middle to later part of the eighteenth century. There were two main waves during this time. The *first* wave of settlers arrived in Nova Scotia around 1760. They were known as "Planters" and came with the offer of land and a new life tempted by the proclamations of Nova Scotia Governor Lawrence following the Acadian Expulsion. The *second* wave arrived at the end of the American Revolution in 1783/84, fleeing America as loyal British subjects. These were the Loyalists. Hundreds of families started a new life and within Annapolis and Digby Counties intermarried.

It is not possible within the scope of this published work to present a detailed genealogical history of every allied family connected to the Winchesters through marriage. Many of these families have been previously written about and published in the form of compiled genealogies and will not be fully described here. In many instances only certain members of a particular family will be introduced. An attempt has been made, however, to ascertain the immigrant ancestor who brought the family name to Nova Scotia. The author has also tried to trace as many collateral family names as possible back to their direct and remotest New England progenitor. It has been discovered that both the Winchesters and the collateral branches of their tree share a common heritage with some of the earliest colonial families of New England, primarily of Massachusetts. By no means have I exhausted every lead or scoured every source for information pertaining to these families. In addition to New England town histories and published family genealogies of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, primary sources of information such as town, probate and church records were consulted and carefully compared. In many cases more confirming evidence is needed to prove conclusively the lineal descents of some families. Research by the author in this area is not intended to be in any way comprehensive, merely a "taster" to indicate possible ideas and leads for subsequent research.

Four main works of the nineteenth century which are very beneficial to those genealogists researching their roots in Nova Scotia are (1) W A Calnek's, "*History of the County of Annapolis*" (2) William E Chute's, "*A Genealogy and History of the Chute Family in America*" (3) Isaiah W Wilson's, "*A Geography & History of the County of Digby*" and (4) George S Brown's publication, "*Yarmouth Nova Scotia Genealogies*". Calnek's book is a good starting point for learning about the many Planter families who made their way to Nova Scotia from the New England States during the years 1760-1765. Even though there are errors and omissions his biographical sketches offer an overall picture of family structure. His work is particularly useful for the historical, social, political and economic background information contained therein. Chute's work contains a short history on many Nova Scotia families allied to the Chute family. Wilson's detailed and extensive history of the Digby area with biographical sketches of a number of prominent early settlers together with information on domestic, commercial, political and religious progress is indispensable. Brown's work should also be consulted because the descendants of many early settlers to Yarmouth County eventually made their way into the Annapolis Valley and Digby area. Although the layout of his work can be confusing at times, Brown also attempts to trace the direct ancestral lineage of many Yarmouth County families back to colonial America.

