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The Robbins Family



*The **Robbins Family** joins the Falkenburg family with the marriage of my paternal grandmother Juliet P. Robbins to Samuel Edgar Falkenburg. While the Robbins family had its roots in England, our branch has been in America since colonial times.*

The ancestry of my Robbins family can be traced to John Robbins of Oyster Bay, Long Island in colonial America and joins the Falkenburg family through my paternal grandmother Juliet Provoost Robbins Falkenburg. Juliet was the daughter of George Washington Robbins and Emma van Voorhis. John Robbins, paterfamilias of our Robbins line, was a resident of Oyster Bay as early as 1663, at which time his name appears on a purchase agreement for lands from the native Mantincock people.

The names Robin, Robins, Robbins, and Robyns are derivative names for the same family. In his 1880 book, *Gleanings of the Robin Family*, the Rev. Mills Robbins states:

“The Robin, sometimes Robins, Family are supposed to be descended from the ancient tribes of the Robini, who inhabited the district of Venaissin, in Italy, and from whom sprang the Counts de Robin, who lived in Rome in the 10th century.” [10.1]

Chevalier Guy Robin, who appears in the *Dictionnaire de la Noblesse*, settled in France. [10.2] The epitaph on this French nobleman’s tomb states *“Here lies the noble Chevalier Guy Robin, surnamed the Italian. Pray for his soul, 1223.”*

Records dating from the fourteenth century place the family Robin on the Isle of Jersey.¹⁰⁻¹ Mills Robbins enumerates records of the Robins dating to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in twenty six other regions of England and Wales. Some claim that the family originally came to England in the 1066 Norman Conquest when William (Guillaume le Conquérant) swept into the English countryside with his knights. The Normans lived in northwest France (the region known as Normandy). They were a culture formed by the mixing of invading Vikings and the natives of the region—Frankish and Gallo-Roman stock.

Heraldic arms of English families are documented by the College of Arms, London. While there are regional variations in the crests and shields of the Robbins family, several contain the flour de lys, hinting at the French roots of the family. Mills Robbins documents the Arms of the Robyns or Robbins of Gloucester-

10-1 *The Isle of Jersey has been a British Crown dependency since 1066. It is just fourteen miles off the coast of Normandy in France, much closer to France than to England.*

shire. ¹⁰⁻² The motto of this regional family is *Deus pro nobis, quis contra nos?* (God is for us, who can be against us?) The Hertfordshire¹⁰⁻³ branch of the family is described by Robbins and is found documented in a tracing from the British Museum. [10.3] The crest depicts a Talbot hound (an extinct snow white hunting dog originating in Normandy and used and developed in Great Britain). The motto for this branch of the family is: *Cursu nunquam deficiens* (the course that never fails).



Robbins of Gloucestershire

Robbins of Hertfordshire

There are records showing four sons of John Robbins of Leicestershire, England who emigrated to America about a decade after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. Nicholas and his brother Thomas Robbins settled in Duxbury. Brother Samuel settled in Salisbury, Massachusetts. Brother Richard Robbins came to Cambridge, later moving to Boston in 1630. The time of the Robbins' de-

10-2 *The formal description of the Arms: Per pale, sable and argent (shield divided vertically with colors black and silver left and right), two flanches (plural of flank) and three fleur-de-lys in fess (in a line), all counterchanged (colors alternate with the background colors). The crest above the shield is described 'between two dolphins haurient (rising out of the water) respecting each other, or (gold), a fleur-de-lys per pale, argent, and sable' (silver and black)*

10-3 *Arms: Gules, two fleur-de-lys, each divided paleways and fastened to the sides of the escutcheon, the points following each other or (gold). Crest: On a wreath, a talbot's head, argent.*

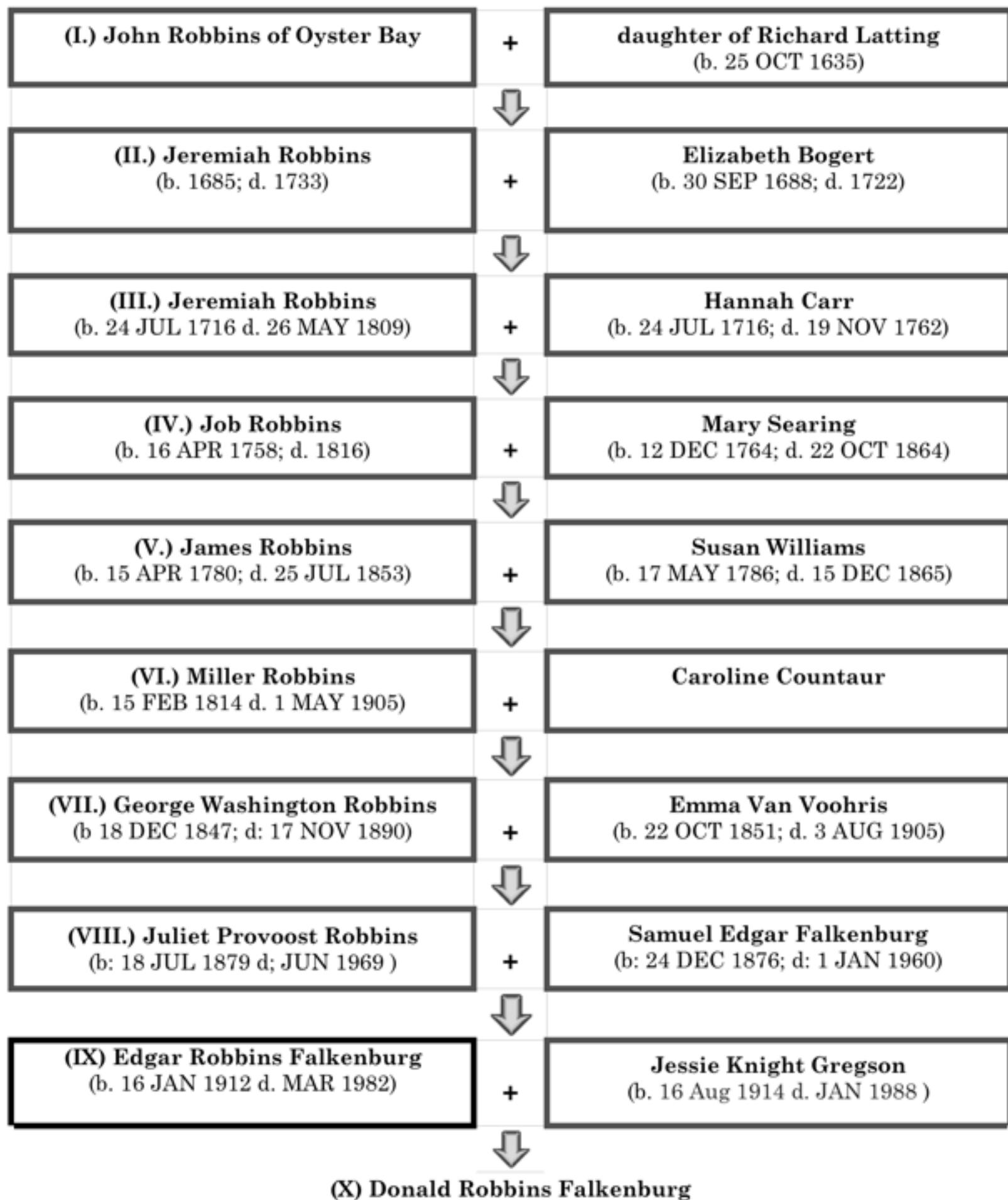
parture for America was a era of upheaval in England's history. When Charles I ascended the throne of England, he moved to dismiss Parliament and for a period of eleven years, Charles ruled the country as a tyrannical despot. He favored a high Anglican form of worship, which Puritans who embraced a protestant reformation in the Anglican Church, regarded as dangerously close to Roman Catholicism. Evidently, Richard was in a position of some power, and opposed King Charles. Because of this, he fled the country for America under an assumed name and in the guise of a servant. [10.4] There is no evidence that John of Oyster Bay is related to the family of John of Leicestershire. John Robbins of Oyster Bay was almost certainly from England, but we have not been able to identify his ancestry in the mother country.

Generation I. John Robbins of Oyster Bay

The Town records of Oyster Bay document a John Robbins as a witness to a deed for land purchased by Richard Latting on 20 APR 1669 [10.5] Subsequently in the records of the Town of Huntington, John Robbins appears in a deed from John Robbins to Benjamin Jones dated 6 JAN 1670. This is part of a compilation of documents prepared by the Town of Huntington, New York in 1887. In this deed John Robbins states:

“Know all men by these presents that I John Robines of oysterbay on long Island in york sheeir Cord winder have for a valiable Consideration in hand payed : have & doe by these presents sell alinate assinge all my Right title and intrust in an Accomondation or alotment : sittuate and lying in huntington : on long eiland aforesaid, formerly in the tenur or occupation of Timothy wood : thence estranged unto Richard latin thence to Josiah latten : son of the sd. Richard from thence unto John Robins : I say all my Rite, title and Intrust in and to all the p'mises I have sold and made over unto Benjemine Jones of huntington upon long eiland in york sheer...” [10.6]

Wading through the phonetic spelling and seventeenth century english language, there are three important pieces of information in this excerpt from the deed. First, John identifies himself as a resident of the Town of Oyster Bay—a community that spanned Long Island from Long Island Sound to the Atlantic



Ten Generations of my Robbins Family Line

Ocean. The Town of Huntington (where the deed was recorded) was a few miles east in the English county of Suffolk. Second, John states that he is a cord winder. A cordwinder or cordwainer was a term used in the seventeenth century for a shoemaker. Finally, I was interested to note that in the first sentence of the deed John identifies his residence as Oyster Bay on Long Island in *york sheeir*. A 1664 declaration by the British monarch created a governmental unit named Yorkshire which established jurisdiction over Long Island, Staten Island, Manhattan, and Westchester. This was done despite the fact that the Dutch still laid claim to Manhattan and the western end of Long Island. The statement in the deed, along with other references to the sovereign King Charles II establishes that these agreements were made under English law.

The map on the right was copyrighted in 1855 [10.7] and certainly was not of the period, yet it does show the relationship among the villages that are referred to in the colonial documents. John Robbins indicates that he resides in Matinecock in the Town of Oyster Bay. This is located just east of Hempstead Harbor, near the shore of Long Island Sound. Lattington is a small community (still in existence today) which was a part of the area purchased from the Matinecock indians, and later named after the Latting family (Richard and his son Josiah).



Oyster Bay Town, 1855

There are many references that link Richard Latting and John Robbins in deeds and documents of both the Towns of Huntington and Oyster Bay. Richard Latting “emigrated from England in 1638/39, and settled in Concord, Mass., subsequently removing to Fairfield Conn. In 1653 he went to Long Island, residing at Oyster Bay and Hempstead, dying in Hempstead about 1672.” [10.8] It is likely that the reason that Richard



Colonial New Amsterdam/New York

How did Long Island fit into the Dutch colonial presence in New Amsterdam? Peter Minuit had purchased Manhattan island from the Indians for a sum that would in today's dollars be about \$1,000. The Dutch settled New Amsterdam and moved east onto Long Island. The closer to New Amsterdam, the stronger the Dutch influence.

*There were early English settlements on Long Island, as well. William Earl of Stirling (residing in Boston) claimed the island was granted to him. Eastern Long Island was, indeed, dominated by the English, while the west was in the control of the Dutch. In 1640 Captain Edward Tomlyns from the town of Lynn (in the Massachusetts Bay Colony) attempted to make a settlement in what is present-day Oyster Bay. This incursion was strongly opposed by the Dutch, and the settlement was abandoned. After another conflict in 1642, the colonies of Plymouth, Hartford and New Haven joined in a pact of mutual **security** and protection, which led to a treaty establishing the boundary between the Dutch and English established that "a line run from the westernmost part of Oyster-Bay, and go a straight and direct line to the sea, should be the bounds betwixt the English and Dutch; the easterly part to belong to the English, and the westernmost to the Dutch." [10.12]*

In 1664 the English made additional claims based upon the discoveries by Henry Hudson and John Cabot. King Charles II, made a grant to his brother James, the Duke of York, to all territory lying between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers, including the territory settled by the Dutch. Open hostility ensued. It was not until NOV 1674 the Dutch ceded the area to the English in the Treaty of Westminster. Dutch settlers on Long Island did not accept the fact that the Dutch had abandoned the Colony of New Netherlands; friction continued between English and Dutch settlers under British rule.

Latting went to Long Island was a disagreement he had with the civil authority in Fairfield. While we don't know the infraction, we read in the General Court of Hartford recorded 21 MAY 1653, that Richard Latting has made an appeal to a sentence by the Town of Fairfield. *"Richard Lettin complainyng that his deafnes makes him uncapable of trayning, & hee desiring to be freed, its referred to the Townsmen of Fairfeild to consider of it, & to free him if they see good cause."* [10.9]

Sometime between this event and 16 MAY 1661, Latting left for Long Island with his son Josiah, leaving his wife and son Thomas in Fairfield. We read in the court record:

"This Court grants Goodwife Lettin liberty to inhabit in Fairfield, in case that Towne admit her." [10.10]

In the History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, Donald Jacobus lists the family of Richard Lattin. [10.11] Jacobus records that after removing to Long Island, Latting married Jean, the widow of Thomas Ireland of Hempstead. No date is given, nor is there any indication of what happened to *Goodwife Lettin*, whom he left in Fairfield.

Richard Latting found himself at odds with many in the Town of Huntington. At a Town Meeting 10 APR 1660 Latting offended Mr. Wood, a Justice of the Peace. Lat-

ting was “*threatened with punishment in the stocks, but boldly intimated that Mr. Wood would get there first.*” [10.13] In a town meeting (10 APR 1660) the Town of Huntington voted to align itself with the jurisdiction in the Province of Connecticut (New Haven Colony). In enacting this measure, the town distanced itself from Dutch rule over New Amsterdam and western Long Island. The town did not record exactly what Latting said, but he must have strenuously and vo-



Single room house (far right in photo) is the oldest home in Huntington and was built in 1653 by Richard Latting. Old Historic Long Island.

ciferously protested. On 28 JUN 1660 a town meeting was convened to banish Richard Latting from Huntington. The reason was his refusal to recognize Connecticut’s authority over the Town of Huntington “*on account of turbulent conduct*” [10.14]. Richard left the town and moved to the region of Oyster Bay. Richard’s son Josiah remained in Huntington, and Richard appeared in the community from time to time. On 19 FEB 1662 the Town meeting voted to impose a fine on any individual who would “*sell or give entartanement to Richard Laten for more than the spase of on[e] weeke*” [10.15].

I wondered why Richard Latting demonstrated such belligerence to an issue of affiliation with the New Haven Colony in Connecticut. After all, most Englishmen were more concerned with the encroachment of the Dutch who were moving eastward from New Amsterdam. The answer may rest in the history of the Puritan emigration to America, and the governments they established. The Puritan movement in England was an outgrowth of the reformation on the continent. They believed in congregational autonomy, a return to personal piety, and a rejection of ceremony and ‘popish practices’. Under Charles I, persecution of the Puritans was severe. One might think that the Puritan settlers who fled England because of religious persecution would be tolerant of other beliefs, but they were not. The Puritan colonies established a close knit relationship between civil authority and their religion. Not all persons who emigrated to America did so for the purpose of relig-

ious freedom. Indeed, this time in England was particularly turbulent with the re-establishment of monarchy overturning earlier reforms which restricted the King's authority to tax his subjects. Did Latting's problems arise from divisiveness over a civil authority and the linkage between town government and Puritan beliefs? I believe this is likely the root cause of the problems. At the time, this region of Long Island was largely without influence by English, Dutch or Puritan authority. Latting most likely felt that this was the best arrangement, and he probably objected to the imposition of puritanical governmental involvement in the Town of Huntington, as likely he once did in the New Haven Colony.

The records of Oyster Bay document a series of land purchases from the Matincock Indians. In the second recorded transaction (20 APR 1669) the deed was to Richard Latting. The current day town of Lattington, New York (just west of the village of Oyster Bay) is named after Richard Latting and his son Josiah. This is where Richard settled after purchasing land from the Indians. The area was marsh and the Lattings, utilizing the abundant natural resources, sold marsh reeds for thatched-roof houses. [\[10.16\]](#)

John Robbins of Oyster Bay also appears in documents relating to the purchase of indian lands from the Mantincocks [\[10.17\]](#). Dated 26 MAY 1663, "*Chiefs Sucasemen (Runasuck), Chechagen (Quaropin) and Samose (son of Tackapausha) conveyed lands in and about Mantencock for a price of sixty pounds of current merchantable pay*" to fourteen named persons; this land was then jointly purchased by a larger group of forty-nine inhabitants and freeholders of the town. The list includes John Robbins.

Generation II. Jeremiah Robbins

John Robbins married the daughter of Richard Latting. Donald Lines Jacobus refers to John Robbins as the son-in-law of Richard Lettin. [\[10.18\]](#) This is made even more believable by the number of deed transactions that involved John and Richard. Jeremiah Robbins was the son of John Robbins. Jeremiah's name appears first in the Town Records of Oyster Bay as witness to a deed 7 SEP 1695. From this I would estimate a birthdate for Jeremiah as before 1676. Jeremiah mar-

ried Elizabeth Bogert.¹⁰⁻⁴ The couple had two sons, Jeremiah Jr. (b. 24 JUL 1716) and John as well as five daughters. Abigail is the only daughter named in Jeremiah's will. There are several references to the residence of Jeremiah which mention Springfield. The will of Jeremiah was preserved by the New York Historical Society. [10.20] It states: "*I, Jeremiah Robbins, of Springfield, in Queens County...*" Springfield is also mentioned in other deed records in the Town of Oyster Bay, and even appears as an entry in the index to the records. In his will, Jeremiah refers to 'my now dwelling house' as "*on the south east side of the highway that leads to Jericho*". Some have identified the residence of Jeremiah Robbins as the current Springfield Gardens (originally this was named Springfield) located in current Queens County between what is now Kennedy International Airport and Jamaica. However, the statements that Springfield is in Oyster Bay Town, and the location is on the road to Jericho, led me to look for another Springfield in Oyster Bay. I found the answer in the History of Queens County. Springfield is the current town of Jericho, New York. "*The Indian name of this village [Jericho] was Lusum. It has also gone by the name of Springfield or "the Farms." It is pleasantly situated near the center of the town, upon the Jericho turnpike, 27 miles from New York. It was a part of the purchase made by Robert Williams in 1650, and was settled by a number of substantial Quaker families, the descendants of whom remain here, including a branch of the Underhills, several families of Willetses, the Seamans and others.*" [10.19] This makes sense in the context of the historical documents regarding Jeremiah Robbins.

The will of Jeremiah Robbins

"In the name of God, Amen. February 6, 172[10. I, Jeremiah Robbins, of Springfield, in Queens County, yeoman, being very sick. I leave to my wife Elizabeth, her living in the best room in my house, so long as she remains my widow, and a sufficient maintenance at the charge of my sons, John and Jeremiah. I leave to my son John, my land joining to the plains, bounded west by John Jansen (Johnson), east by the highway that leads from Oyster Bay to Hempstead plains, north by a line run by Samuel Clowes. Also 50 acres on the north side of said land. Also of my land

10-4 *Elizabeth (b. 30 SEP 1688) was the child of Myndert Harmense Van Der Bogert and Helena Schermerhorn. Myndert was born 1643 in New Amsterdam of immigrant Dutch parents.*

upon the plains and hollows, and of my meadow lying upon Unkarway Neck. And my Town right, and privileges in Robert Williams Purchase, To be equally divided between my sons, John and Jeremiah. I leave to my son Jeremiah, my now dwelling house and orchard and 20 acres, including the house and orchard, lying on the south east side of the highway that leads to Jericho, and on the west side of said highway, being 45 acres, with the barn that stands on it. Thirty of which acres are measured with the 18 foot pole, and so to have it as it stands on record. And my lands upon the plains and hollows. And the meadow that lyeth upon Unkarway neck. And a lot of meadow that lieth upon Unkarway neck, and a lot of meadow lying upon First (?) neck, bounded on one side by the meadow of Josiah Lattin (Latting), and on the other side by a lot of meadow now in possession of John Robbins. And also 63 acres measured by the long measure, Beginning at the middle of the Round Swamp, so running by and adjoining to the land of James Skrinnin (?) as may appear by a survey, and Card made by James Townsend. I leave to my daughter Abigail, £10, of a bond now in the hands of Samuel Clowes. The rest of the bond I leave to my wife. I leave to my son John, a good pair of oxen, and a good pair to my son Jeremiah, when of age, and his choice of the horses. Three horses are to be kept on the farm for the use of my wife. The rest of my movables I leave to my wife and 5 daughters (not named). The farming utensils to my two sons. I make my wife and my son John, executors.

Witnesses, Jacob Seaman, Samuel Workman, James Scinnen (?). Proved, February 22, 1727/8.

Jacob Seaman being a "known Quaker."

Generation III. Jeremiah Robbins, son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Robbins

The eldest son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth was Jeremiah Jr., born 24 JUL 1716. In 1732, Jeremiah Jr. married Hannah Carr. [10.21] The Encyclopedia of Quaker Genealogy indicates that this marriage was outside the Quaker community (the Carr family were Quakers, but the Robbins were not).¹⁰⁻⁵ The records of the Westbury Monthly Meeting indicate that the couple had eleven children:

i. Almy (b. 15 NOV 1733) ii. Elizabeth (b. 19 JAN 1736/7)
iii. Hannah (b. 19 APR 1739) iv. Sarah (b. 1 SEP 1742) v. Samuel
(b. 26 APR 1745) vi. Isaac (b. 12 MAR 1747/8) vii. Stephen (b. 26
FEB 1750/1) viii. Phebe (b. 17 SEP 1752) ix. Abigail (b. 9 AUG
1755) x. Job (b. 16 APR 1758) xi. William (born after 1758).

The Quakers kept very good records of the births, deaths, and marriages within the community. The dates (e.g. 1736/7) reflect the difference in the old-style (pre 1752) and new-style (Gregorian) calendars.¹⁰⁻⁶

Hannah and Jeremiah Robbins moved to Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey. There is evidence that this move occurred between 1755 and 1758. ¹⁰⁻⁷ When I first read that the family had moved to Little Egg Harbor, I was surprised as this is the ances-

10-5 *Since the Friends continued to document the Robbins family after the marriage, my assumption is that as part of the commitment Jeremiah made to Hannah, he must have joined the Quaker community.*

10-6 *Before January 1, 1753 the old calendar was in use. In the old style (Julian) calendar, the new year began on March 25. The new Gregorian calendar (named for Pope Gregory XIII) was adopted by England and the American colonies in 1752. Traditionally the Quakers did not use the names of the months January, February, etc., as they believed these were allusions to non-Christian gods; March, for example, in the Roman calendar was named for Mars, the god of war. They numbered the months, so there can be some confusion about dates. The editor of the Quaker Encyclopedia has made these conversions for us, and where cited dates are at the end/beginning of the year, he gives us the year in old style/new style.*

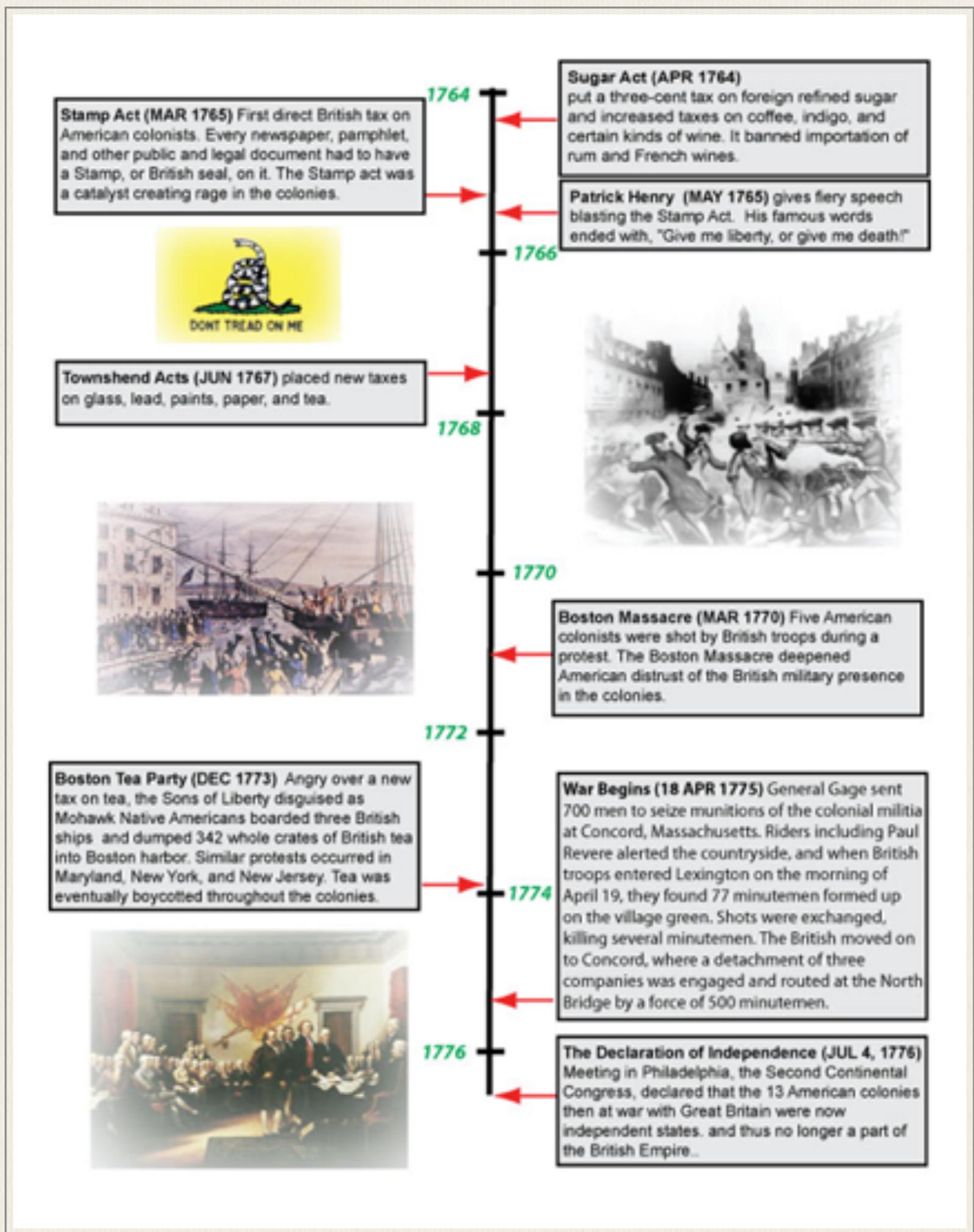
10-7 *The Carr family records indicates that Job Robbins, youngest son of Jeremiah and Hannah was born in Little Egg Harbor [10.22]. However, Job appears in the Westbury Monthly Meeting as the last son of the couple. These records seem to conflict. One possibility is that Job was very young when the Robbins family moved to Little Egg Harbor. I will stick with the estimate on the date of the move.*

tral home of the Falkenburgs. It would be four more generations, however, before the Falkenburg and Robbins families would be linked through marriage in Brooklyn, New York. Why did the Jeremiah Robbins family move to New Jersey? We read in Edson Carr's family history [10.23] that Hannah's brother, Caleb Carr, traveled to England in 1744, and when he returned to America, he settled in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey where in 1746 he married Sarah Ridgway. Sarah was the daughter of Thomas Ridgway, Jr. [10.24] Sarah, the wife of Caleb Carr, would have known John Falkenburg. The Ridgway farm was located on Osborn Island, which was originally purchased by Henry Jacobs Falkenburg from the Lenape indians. This was the ancestral home of the Falkenburgs until the time of the American Revolution.

My speculation is that the move of the Robbins family was influenced by undercurrents of the impending American Revolution. The Dutch had relinquished control of New Netherlands to the English with the Treaty of Breda in 1667. Matthias Nicoll was appointed mayor of New York, as New Amsterdam was renamed. While other colonies (e.g.

The Lineage of Hannah Carr Robbins

Hannah Carr was born 24 JUL 1716 near Jericho on Long Island. Her parents were Job Carr and Hannah Willets. Job was the grandson of Caleb Carr, Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island. Caleb Carr was born in London, England on 9 DEC 1616. He came to America on the ship Elizabeth & Ann, which arrived in Boston from London in 1635. Carr settled in Bristol for a while, but feeling persecuted for his Quaker beliefs he left with a group led by William Coddington and settled on Conanicut Island (Jamestown) in Narraganset Bay. One might think that the Puritan settlers who fled England because of religious persecution would be tolerant of other beliefs, but, in the words of Rufus M. Jones: "Here in the same field were two exponents of their fiery positive, both profoundly sincerely conscious of the infallible truth of their convictions, and with their lives staked upon divergent and irreconcilable conceptions of Divine revelation." By faith, Carr was a Quaker or member of the Society of Friends. In Rhode Island, Carr along with the leaders of the Friends found openness to their beliefs. Carr held several public offices during his lifetime. He was general treasurer of the Colony of Rhode Island (21 MAY 1661 to 22 MAY 1662) and Justice of the General Quarterly Session and Inferior Court of Common Pleas. He became governor of the colony in 1695 but died within one year of assuming that office. Carr had seven children by his first wife Mercy Vaughan and four by his second wife Sarah Clark. Carr died at age 73 on 17 DEC 1695. [10.26]



Timeline for the American Revolution

William Penn's Quaker colony) had some degree of religious freedom, the evolving New York Colony had a decided leaning toward the practices of the mother country. The Church of England was not established as the official church of the colony, but in many ways the newly established laws had the same effect. *"No minister was to officiate, who 'had not received ordination from some Bishop or Minister' of the Anglican Church."* Weary of complaints from his people over desires to share in the government, Nicholl gave instructions that if the people wanted change, they *"must go to the King for it."* The seeds of dissent were already planted. On 9 OCT 1669 the Towns of Hempstead, and Oyster Bay (along with several other Long Island communities) petitioned the Governor requesting that *"they should enjoy all such privileges as his Majesty's other subjects in America enjoyed."* [10.25] Long Island was split in her loyalty to the Crown and the emerging hunger for independence. Quakers were caught in the middle. While they had been persecuted in England for their beliefs, they would rather quietly endure their hardship, than to rebel against civil authority. In fact, engaging in seditious acts against the government was reason for exclusion from the Friends Community. It is entirely possible that the family sought refuge from the political and religious agitation that characterized the New York Colony by moving to Little Egg Harbor, the New Jersey Quaker community where Hannah's brother lived. The earlier cited Carr family history reports that Hannah's brother Caleb was a *"prosperous farmer, and also carried on the business of carriage and wagon making...he was an earnest religious man, and a firm believer in the faith of the Quakers."* [10.23]

It is not clear if all of the children moved with Jeremiah and Hannah. The two oldest daughters married into the Cock/Cox family of Oyster Bay while the Robbins lived in New Jersey. It is possible that the older children moved in with Jeremiah's brother John and his wife Jane (Seaman) Robbins. The three eldest daughters would have been about 25, 22 and 19 at the time of the Robbins' move.

Hannah (Carr) Robbins died 18 NOV 1762 in Mt. Holly, New Jersey. From the Carr family records, we read the words brother Caleb wrote following Hannah's death.

"Dear sister Hannah is lying at the point of death. As her husband and I were standing by her, she expressed herself thus—I feel a degree of peace that cannot be expressed. Me-

thinks I have a sight of the tree of life.' Then she followed with an exceeding fervent prayer. I took my leave of her with the conviction that she would soon be with my-beloved; and I prayed God we might live such lives that we might come to them in the Lord's good time."
[10.23]

Following Hannah's death, we believe that Jeremiah and the children moved back to Long Island. Before Hannah's death, two of her daughters (Elizabeth and Hannah) had married into the family of John and Sarah (Carpenter) Cock. Son Samuel Robbins also married into the same family in 1765. This joining of families had a profound impact on the future of the Robbins family. The Cock (Cocks, Cox) family were Quakers who were part of the 22 JUN 1667 land purchase from the Matincock indians. John Cock married Sarah Carpenter (daughter of William Carpenter Jr., and Elizabeth Priar) about 1729. They had eleven children. [10.27] [10.28] Three of these children married into the Robbins family.

Henry Cock (b. 10 SEP 1735) married Elizabeth Robbins (m. 2 JAN 1760)

Rees Cock (b. 26 JAN 1738/9) married Hannah Robbins (m 3 MAR 1762)

Elizabeth Cock (b. 9 JAN 1740/1) married Samuel Robbins (m. 1765)

How did the unfolding events of the Revolutionary War impact the Robbins family? On 21 OCT 1776 a group of loyalists from Queens County, Long Island issued a Petition to the representatives of King George asserting their allegiance to the Crown.

"When we compare the dismal situation of the country suffering under all the evils attending the most convulsive state, with the mild and happy government it had before experienced, we saw no ground for hesitation ; from happiness we have fallen into misery ; from freedom to oppression ; we severely felt the change and lamented our condition. Unfortunately for us these hopes were blasted by the infatuated conduct of the Congress : Your Excellencies, nevertheless having been pleased by a subsequent Declaration again to hold up the most benevolent offers and to repeat his Majesty's most gracious intentions toward the obedient.

"Permit us his Majesty's loyal and well-affected subjects, the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Queen's County, to humbly represent to your Excellencies that we bear true allegiance to his Majesty King George the Third, and are sincerely attached to his sacred person, crown

and dignity ; that we consider the union of these Colonies with the parent state essential to their well-being, and our earnest desire is that the constitutional authority of Great Britain over them may be preserved to the latest ages.” [10.29]

Among the petitioners were Samuel Robbins, Issac Robbins, John Robbins, Jacob Robbins, Jeremiah Robbins, and Stephen Robbins. Whether for political or religious reasons, these petitioners sought to identify themselves with the mother country. All of these individuals are likely descendants of John of Oyster Bay. Stephen Robbins (b. 1750) is likely the son of Jeremiah. Supporting this, the signatures of Jeremiah and Stephen’s follow each other on the document. It is difficult to tell the motivation for signing the document. Was it because of Quaker religious belief, fear of retaliation by the British, or a feeling of real loyalty to the crown. It is certainly the case that each of these views is represented among the petitioners, but we have no idea what motivated the Robbins family to sign.

When the Revolutionary War came to Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey in the Battle of Ridgeway Farm, Job Carr, nephew of Hannah Robbins and son of Caleb Carr was stationed with the Pulaski guards at the Ridgway farmhouse. This was the ancestral home of Caleb Carr’s wife Sarah. After a series of reprisals against privateers along the Mullica River, the British made a surprise assault on Osborn Island location of the Ridgway (and also the ancestral Falkinburg home). The attack caught Pulaski’s guard asleep and massacred all but five who were taken prisoner.

The Battle of Ridgway Farm.

October 15, 1778

“Colonel Ferguson decides to lead an attack on the Pulaski Legion. They stop at Osborn Island and compel Thomas Osborn to lead them to the encampment. Juliat uses his influence to make sure the attack takes place at the farmhouse where Baron Bose and his troop are encamped. Ferguson left a party of 50 men behind to guard the bridge and loosen the planking, so that it could be easily removed during the retreat. At Ridgway Farm, the lone sentry was easily overpowered and sleeping soldiers were awakened and killed, before they could mount a defense. Only 5 were left alive and taken prisoner. Pulaski’s camp was close by and they were quick to respond, but arrived too late. Ferguson’s plan to remove the planks from the bridge, plus the high tide, cut off the pursuit and most of the British returned to their ships without incident. Baron Rose and from 30 to 50 of his men died in the attack.” [10.30]

Among the dead, eighteen year old Job Carr. I am sure that there was great anguish in the peaceable Carr family.

We do not know where Jeremiah Robbins died. There are reports that he died in Little Egg Harbor, North Hempstead, and North Castle, New York where several of his children had moved. The most likely scenario is that Jeremiah Robbins moved in with one of his children in North Castle and died there.¹⁰⁻⁸

Generation IV. Job Robbins

Job, the tenth child of Jeremiah and Hannah Robbins was born 16 APR 1758 in Jericho, Long Island. On 23 APR 1777 a marriage license was issued in New York to Job Robbins and Mary Searing [10.31]. A record of the 26 APR 1778 wedding of Job and Mary appears in the History of the Parish Church of St. George (Anglican), Hempstead, Long Island [10.32]. There is a record indicating that Job Robbins was on the tax rolls of Oyster Bay in 1784 and 1788. By 1790, however, Job Robbins appears in the U.S. Census in North Castle, Westchester County, New York. Kensico became the family home for our line of the Robbins family for some three generations. Kensico was at the intersection of two indian trails: a north-south route, and the Otter Trail which ran east to Long Island Sound. The name Kensico is named after Cokenseko, a Siwanoy Indian Chief who sold land to early settlers. Today, this ancestral home of our Robbins family lies under the thirty-billion gallon Kensico Reservoir, completed in 1917 to expand the water supply for New York City. [10.33]

10-8 *It is unlikely that Jeremiah stayed in New Jersey after Hannah died. The reports that he died in North Hempstead could be correct. There are records of a Jeremiah Robbins in the Township of North Hempstead on Long Island. This area is not far from the ancestral home of John Robbins of Matincock, Oyster Bay Township. Matincock Point is located at the mouth of Hempstead Harbor. Just north of Glen Cove (then called Musketa or Musketo Cove) the boundary line between the Townships of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead intersects Hempstead Harbor. However, the 1790 U.S. census which reports Jeremiah Robbins in North Hempstead (1790 United States Census: (New York, Queens, North Hempstead) Ancestry.com shows eight persons in the household. 1 free white male under 16, 4 free white males 16 and older, 3 free white females, and 3 slaves. This is likely Jeremiah, son of John Robbins, the brother of Jeremiah. All of Jeremiah's children would have been adults and most married by 1790.*

How did Job and Mary Robbins end up in North Castle? In Henry Miller Cox family history we read that Rees Cock who married Hannah Robbins (the sister of Job) moved to the region of Westchester County near North Castle.

“They were both members of the Society of Friends and belonged to the Matinecock Meeting, on the records of which appear 3.15.1784, Rees Cock’s proposals to remove to the verge of the Monthly Meeting of Harrison’s Purchase. He and his children went first to Robbin’s Mills, Kensico, but this move having been unfortunate, he then went to North Castle, Westchester Co., N.Y. “ [10.34]

I don’t suppose that we will ever know what is meant by “this move having been unfortunate,” but perhaps it was over religious persecution of their Quaker beliefs. Harrison Purchase was founded by Quakers and this was an active community. Kensico and North Castle, and the community at Harrison Purchase were only a few of miles apart. The family history also documents that Samuel and Elizabeth (Cock) Robbins

“were Friends and he sometime a farmer and interested in mills at Kensico, N.Y. was of Putnam Co., N.Y. 1795. Westbury Records show 5.26.1784 request for certificates to [the] Purchase Monthly Meeting for Samuel Robbins’ children, sons William and John and daus. Sarah, Hannah and Abigail.” [10.34]

Brother Samuel Robbins originally worked for Henry Cock who married Elizabeth Robbins.

“Henry had a farm at Buckram operated by his brother-in-law Samuel Robbins, and engaged in milling, distilling and grocery business, 1786, at Cortland St., New York, having built a vessel for the transportation of various commodities to and from the city, but on the beginning of the Revolution was obliged to abandon the business, and removed to Norwich L.I., where he kept a Country store. From thence, after the war he went with Nicholas Townsend and Samuel Seaman to Orange Co., N.Y., where he took up a large tract of land...” [10.34]

Orange County, New York would be about thirty miles north and west of the Kensico/North Castle branch of the family. It appears from the 1800 United States Census that Samuel has moved to Kensico; youngest brother William also appears in the census record.

This 1800 census shows three brothers Job, Samuel and William Robbins, sons of Jeremiah and Hannah Robbins living in this small community. Two of the Cock brothers who married Robbins sisters also live in this community. The move from Long Island was a short five and a half mile trip by Ferry (sloop) from Matincock Point to Rye, on the Long Island Sound. The ferry, established in 1739, posted a curious (by modern standards) list of tariffs:

One person: 1s, 6d; Man and horse, 3s; Wagon, cart or carriage, 7s, 6d. Horned cattle over two years old, 2s., under, 1s. Fitch of bacon, or piece of smoked beef, 1d. Frying pan or warming pan, 2d. Looking glass of one foot, 6d. [10.35]

The ferry provided Long Island Quakers an easy route to travel between the Oyster Bay settlements and a growing community in Westchester County. The Friends sought places where they could live their lives without interference from civil authority and persecution.

North Castle		free White Males					free White Females					Total	Slaves	
Names of heads of Families		to 10	to 16	to 26	to 45	to 45	to 10	to 16	to 26	to 45	to 45			
William Robbins		2	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	6	
John Brown		2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	
Peter Feeks		1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	
Samuel Robbins		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	
Job Robbins		2	2	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	10	
Call Walker		-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	

Robbins appearing in the 1800 U.S. Census, North Castle, New York

Kensico was formerly called Wright's Mills, named for Reuben Wright who established a grist mill here in 1737. As ownership of the mill changed, the name of the community also changed becoming Fisher's Mill and then Robbins' Mills. Which of the Robbins brothers was the miller? From the description in the Cox Family History, my guess is that it was Samuel. The Robbins-Wright house played a role in the American Revolution. For a brief time, it was used by General George Washington (before the Robbins family lived here) for his headquarters. It was here that British Major John André, accused of spying and conspiracy with Benedict Arnold, was brought when he was captured. Allegedly, the house is also

the site of the court-martial of the American Gen. Charles Lee, for “*treacherous acts, disobeying his orders, and publicly expressing disrespect to his Commander-in-Chief*”.
[10.36]



The Robbins-Wright house in Kensico (mill owners)

Generation V. James Robbins

James Robbins was the second child of Job and Mary (Searing) Robbins. He was born 15 APR 1780 in Kensico, New York, and married Susan Williams of Kensico. There is a record of the James Robbins family which appears in the family bible¹⁰⁻⁹ of David and Ann (Robbins) Provoost. Ann was the sixth child of James and Mary. It appears that of the ten children of James and Susan Robbins, eight were female and two were male. One of those male children, Miller Robbins, was my 2nd great-grandfather.

10-9 *The bible was published in Concord NH, 18310-1840 by Roby, Kimball and Merrill, and purchased in Buffalo, New York on 20 DEC 1841. The family record which appears below is based largely on a transcript of these records. [10.37].*

Record of Deeds for Subdivision					
date	recipient	Lp	Lot	acres	price
5-1-1839	Gilbert Shelly	85-402	13	5	\$190.00
5-1-1839	Miller Robbins	85-483	12	4	149.62
5-1-1839	James Robbins	85-381	6	9+	345.00
9-21-1839	Harmon Demarest		4	11	
			10	2+	490.00
12-23-1839	Isaac Foster	87-369	7	8+	320.00



There is an interesting record in North Castle History published by the North Castle Historical Society which documents both James and son Miller in the deed records of the first subdivision of land in Kensico [10.38]. The property was known as the Green

The Green Farm subdivision and its approximate location in the Kensico reservoir

Farm. In 1826, the Green Farm was owned by John Griffin, a prominent citizen

Job Robbins b: 16 APR 1758 ^a ; d: 1816	
	married: 26 APR 1778
Mary Searing b: 12 DEC 1764 ^a ; d: 22 OCT 1864	
F	Mary d: 1841
M	James b: 15 APR 1780; d: 25 JUL 1853 (Kensico, NY)
M	Charles b: 1782
M	Carr b: 25 MAR 1788; d: 1860; m: Abigail Raynor (1808)
M	Jeremiah b: 1809
F	Hannah b: 1812
James Robbins b: 15 APR 1780 ^a ; d: 25 JUL 1853 (Kensico, NY)	
	married:
Susan Williams b: 17 MAY 1786; d: 15 DEC 1865 (Kensico, NY)	
F	Mary b: 24 NOV 1809; d: 15 MAR 1870 (Valhala, NY)
F	Sally Ann b: 24 NOV 1809; m: John Williams; d: 26 NOV 1880 (Kensico, NY)
F	Esther b: 25 JAN 1812; m: Waterbury; d: 15 JAN 1874 (Kensico, NY)
M	Miller b: 15 FEB 1814; d: 1 MAY 1905 (Brooklyn, NY)
F	Elizabeth b: 21 FEB 1816
F	Ann b: 4 APR 1818; m: David Provoost (20 AUG 1840 @ Rye, NY); d: 14 SEP 1879 (Buffalo, NY)
F	Amenia b: 5 FEB 1820; m: B. Sutton; d: 14 OCT 1874 (White Planes, NY)
M	Marvin b: 4 APR 1822
F	Amanda b: 17 DEC 1827
F	Dorinda b: 7 APR 1832

*The Job Robbins and James Robbins Families
(direct line of descent in yellow)*

of New Castle. When Griffin died, his executors sold the property. Among the purchasers of this property were James Robbins (Lot 6: 9+ acres) and his son Miller (Lot 4: 4 acres). The cost to the purchasers was about \$37.40 per acre. These were not sites of homes for the Robbins families, but, according to the author, were used as wood lots. Today, this land is partially submerged under the Kensico reservoir. The Google Earth map in the lower right corner shows the approximate location of the subdivision. I was able to locate two roads (King St. and Cooney Hill Rd.) which still exist today. However, with the major change to the landscape made by the reservoir, many of the roads were rerouted, so the location can only be considered as approximate.

Generation VI. Miller Robbins

Miller Robbins, my 2nd grandfather, was the fourth child of James and Susan (Williams) Robbins, born 15 FEB 1814 in Kensico, North Castle Township, New York. There is a record of Miller Robbins in the 1840 U.S. Census: Westchester, North Castle, New York. The family of Miller Robbins is reported as: one adult male (20-30) one adult female (20-30) and one male child five years or under. Both the location and the age of Miller are consistent with what we know about Miller. The George W. Robbins family bible records the wife of Miller Robbins as Caroline. In this census she is listed in the same age category as her husband Miller. This would mean that she was born between 1810 and 1820. Later census records show a wife Hannah, who was sixteen years younger than Miller. In the 2 MAY 1905 Brooklyn Daily Standard Union reports Miller Robbins' death. The obituary indicates that Miller was married three times. His first wife, Antonette Fischer of Westchester died in 1844. He remarried Caroline Countaur of New York City who died in 1860. Finally, he married Hannah M. Carpenter of Westchester. We know the names of two children in the Miller Robbins family: George Washington Robbins (b. 18 DEC 1847) and James (b. ABT 1854). Neither of these children is the child listed in the 1840 census. At present, I have not been able to find documentation from either the 1850 or 1860 U.S. census for Miller. Sometime between 1840 and 1859 Miller Robbins moved to Brooklyn, New York.

In the 1856 Brooklyn City Directory [10.39] we find the following entry for Miller Robbins:

Robbins, Miller, grocer, Fulton av. c. Hannover Pl., h. same

The red X on the map at the right indicates the location Miller Robbins established his grocery store. [10.40] Manhattan (in the upper left) is shown across the East River, and the Brooklyn Navy yard is the rose-colored area on the Brooklyn side of the East River. Washington Park shown north of Fulton was the Brooklyn's first park. The famous poet Walt Whitman was, at the time, the editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and he urged that a public park be established here. Today, the park is called Fort Greene, commemorating Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene who defended General George Washington's retreat across the East River during the Battle of Brooklyn.



There is evidence that the Robbins family has been in the grocery business for some time¹⁰⁻¹⁰ Before the American Revolution, Miller's Uncle Samuel managed a farm that supplied the grocery business for his brother-in-law Henry Cock at Cortlandt Street in New York [10.41]. In 1863 there is an IRS tax assessment record which lists Miller Robbins at 170 Fulton Ave; he is listed as a retail dealer, and is taxed \$1 for his horse and carriage valued at \$80. Miller Rob-

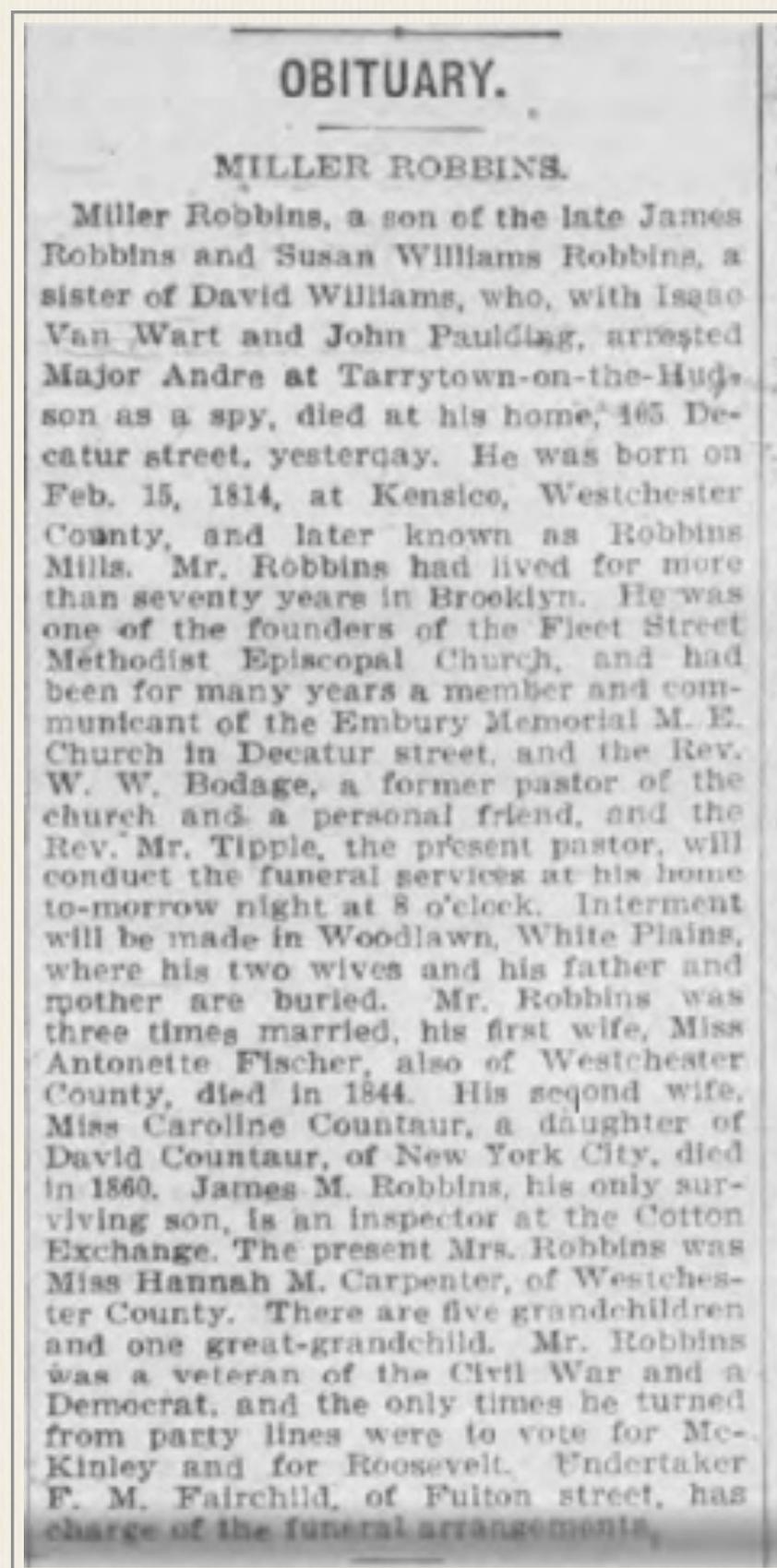
10-10 *In his history, Henry Cox states that the grocery was located at Cortland Street in New York. There is no Cortland Street, however, there is a Cortlandt street in southern Manhattan; this is likely the location of Henry's grocery business before the revolutionary war.*

bins appears in the 1870, 1880 and 1900¹⁰⁻¹¹ U.S. Census for Brooklyn, New York. The 1870 census lists one son James (b. abt. 1854) and wife Hannah. Fifty-six year old Miller Robbins is reported as a label cutter and his sixteen year-old son James is reported as a clerk in clothing. Miller Robbins' older son George Washington Robbins was born 18 DEC 1847 and does not appear in this family in the 1870 census. George has already married in 1868 and is living with his wife and one son, Miller jr. We know that George Robbins was a clothier and manufacturer of suits, so it is likely that at least for some time Miller worked with his sons in this profession. In his obituary, however, he is listed as a grocer. In the 1880 census, James, who would be 26, has moved out. We find James listed with his own family. Miller is listed as a clerk in store; we don't know if this is the grocery or clothing business. The son of George and Emma Robbins, Miller jr. is living with his grandparents in 1880. The ten year old boy is listed as at school. Perhaps, it was more convenient for young Miller to attend a school in the neighborhood in which his grandparents lived. In the 1900 Census, again young Miller lives with his aging grandparents (Miller is now 86 and Hannah is 71). Miller jr. married Carrie Boyd in 1893, and she lives with her husband along with Miller and Hannah. The 1900 census also documents the marriage date for Miller (sr.) and Hannah as 1859; at the turn of the century, the couple has been married forty-one years.

Five years later, the New York Tribune reported the death of Miller Robbins at the age of 91. Miller died at his home on Decatur Street in Brooklyn. [10.42] Many of the facts previously uncovered are verified. Miller was born in Kensico in Westchester County, New York. He was the proprietor of a large grocery store at Fulton and Hanover Place, Brooklyn. Two additional facts are reported. First, Miller Robbins played a role in the founding of the Fleet Street Methodist Episcopal Church [10.43] in Brooklyn. Starting at the grocery store (at the beginning of this section) follow Fulton left for one block and turn right. The Fleet Street ME Church was between Fulton and DeKalb. This church no longer exists, having been raised for apartment and road construction. The second fact that appears in the obituary is that Miller was a veteran of the Civil War. I have not been able to

10-11 *The 1870 census reports the wife of Miller as Anna. This is almost certainly an error, as later census enumerate her as Hannah.*

find any official government records documenting Miller's service. On 26 SEP 1905 a legal notice was posted in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle which named James M. Robbins and Hannah M. Robbins as executors of the estate of Miller Robbins. [10.44] On January 19, 1912 the Brooklyn Eagle [10.45] reported the death of Hannah M. Robbins, wife of the late Miller Robbins. Hannah was in her 83rd year of life, and still lived in the home on Decatur Street.



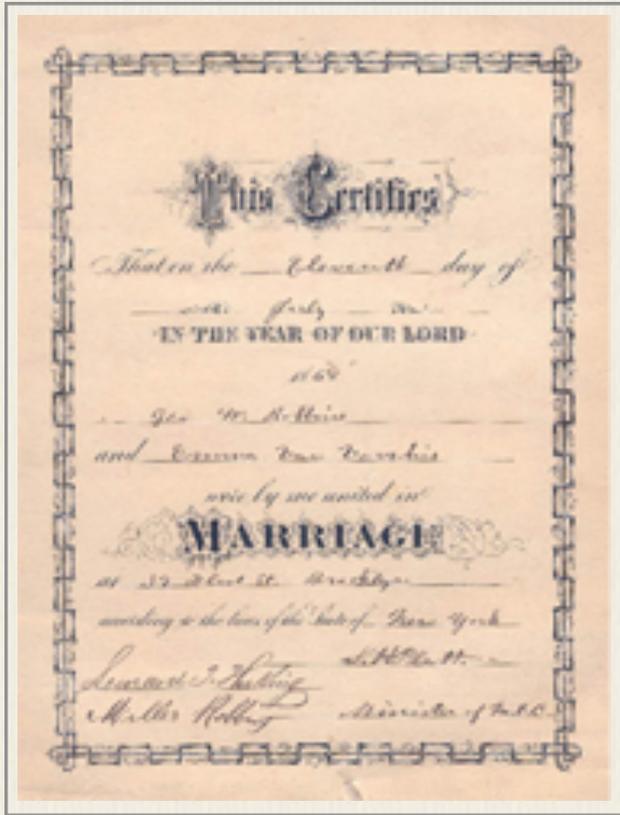
Miller Robbins b: 15 APR 1814; d: 1 MAY 1905	
	married:
(1) Antionette Fischer d. 1844	
M	Unknown male Robbins b: 1840
(2) Caroline Countaur d. 1860	
M	George Washington Robbins ^a b: 1847; m: Emma VanVoorhis (11 JUL 1868) d: 1890
M	James Robbins ^b b: 1854
(3) Hannah M. Carpenter married: abt 1859^b	
Notes for this table	
a	Data from the George Washington Robbins family bible
b	The 1900 U.S. census, Kings, New York indicates that Miller married Hannah in 185[10. This indicates that James was also likely the child of Caroline.

Miller Robbins Family

Generation VII George Washington Robbins

The George Washington Robbins family kept a well documented record of births, deaths and marriages in the family bible [10.46]. This is the principal reference I have used for this segment of the family tree. I have the family bible, but the pages describing family events are damaged and have broken into many pieces. I scanned the parts of the history and like a puzzle, I reconstructed the documents on my computer.

The G.W. Robbins Family Bible also contained the original marriage certificate of George Robbins and Emma van Voorhis. The marriage took place on 11 JUL 1868 at 37 Fleet Street in Brooklyn. The document is signed by S.H. Platt, Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is witnessed by Lenoard T. Harting and Miller Robbins (the groom's father). This is likely the church that the Robbins family attended. In the family bible, I also found two small cards tied together with a ribbon. The first was imprinted with Emma's maiden name Emma van Voorhis;



Pages from the George Washington Robbins Bible

the second card announced Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Robbins. These were contained in an envelope that was embossed with both the letters R and V intertwined.



Likely a favor used at the wedding of Emma and George

Fleet Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn

MEN'S, BOYS, AND YOUTHS CLOTHING.

SAUNIER & MASON'S

ONE PRICE

CLOTHING WAREHOUSE.

Spring Overcoats, \$8 00 to \$15.00
 Fine Bl'k Cloth Dress Suits all wool, 19 to 30.00
 Business Suits, 10 to 25.00

We invite an inspection of our \$12.00 Business Suit. It is warranted every thread Wool, is cut and made in good style, and is in every respect a First-Class Business Suit.

Extra Fine Cas'mere London Sack Suits, \$13 50
 Handsome Silk Mix London Sack Suits, 15.00
 Pantaloon, 3.50, 4, 5, 6 and 7
 Working Pants, 1.25 to 3.00

BOYS and CHILDRENS' CLOTHING,

AT EQUALLY LOW PRICES.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED or the Money Returned.

One Price and no Deviation!

SAUNIER & MASON,

421 GRAND STREET,

Between Union Ave. & Lorimer St., BROOKLYN, E. D.

In 1870, George and Emma were married two years. George's occupation is listed as clerk in store. They have a son Miller (named after his grandfather) who is 8 months old. According to the census record they reside at the same address as Abraham Gutman and his wife. The value of the real estate (owned by Gutman) is given as \$45,000—a rather large sum for that time. Gutman's profession is listed as Gents' Furnishing Goods. The 1873 Lains Brooklyn Business Directory [10.47] includes an entry for Gents' Furnishing Goods under the heading Merchant Tailors and Clothiers located at 427 Grand Street, E.D.

A June 11, 1874 advertisement for Saunier & Mason appeared in the Newtown Register [10.48] listing business suits for 10 to 25 dollars!

The 1880 US Census for Kings County, Brooklyn, New York lists George W. Robbins' occupation as a manufacturer of suits. The young family has grown since the last census, and new children include: George Alpha (9), Clara Fisher (4),

and my paternal grandmother, Juliet Provoost (10 months). Miller Robbins Jr. (who would be about 11 years old at this time) is not listed as a member this this household. Further exploration of the census records shows that Miller Robbins, Jr. lives with his grandparents Miller and Hannah Robbins. It is possible that young Miller works in his grandfather's grocery store, or perhaps attends a school located in the neighborhood in which his grandparents live. The record also shows that Hannah Pruch, is living with the Robbins' family. Hannah is listed as a sister. She could be a married sister of Emma, who has lost her husband. Her child Florence also lives with the G. W. Robbins family.

I had a box of old family pictures and documents. Unfortunately, few of them had any identifying names. A picture of mother was kept by her daughter was a



Emma (van Voorhis) Robbins



*George W. Robbins (left)
Miller Robbins (right)*

personal possession and no thought was given to identifying this person for a viewer from the future. For this photo, I had a few hints. First, it was one of three photographs of the same woman in her youth, a decade or so older, and finally, in her old age. The final picture was a photo greeting given to celebrate the New Year. As such, it had an inscription wishing a Happy New Year. I compared the writing on that photograph with the hand-written letter I had from Emma Robbins to her married daughter Juliet. There were striking similarities. Secondly, the address of the photographer is 1314 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn, NY. This address is in the neighborhood of the G. W. Robbins' home. While I cannot say for certain, I am reasonably convinced this picture is of Emma Robbins, mother of my paternal grandmother, and my great-grandmother. I have considerably less confidence in the identification of the individuals in the picture at the right. George Robbins died at the age of 43. He was listed as a manufacturer of suits and appears to be well dressed in this picture. This picture is a tintype which could have been taken at this time. The two gentlemen in this picture have similar facial fea-



Juliet Robbins Autograph Book 1891 with entries by Emma Robbins

The Robbins Sisters: Juliet (left) and Clara (right)

tures. Purely on the basis of a hunch, I will identify the older gentleman as my 2nd great-grandfather Miller Robbins.

In the box of pictures there was also a tintype of Juliet Robbins and her sister Clara. My best guess is that this was taken in 1882 when Juliet would have been three years old and Clara would have been six years of age.

A young Juliet Robbins collected memories in her autograph book signed by her friends and schoolmates. Juliet was 11 years old when she began the book in January of 1891; this probably was done in the sixth grade of primary school.

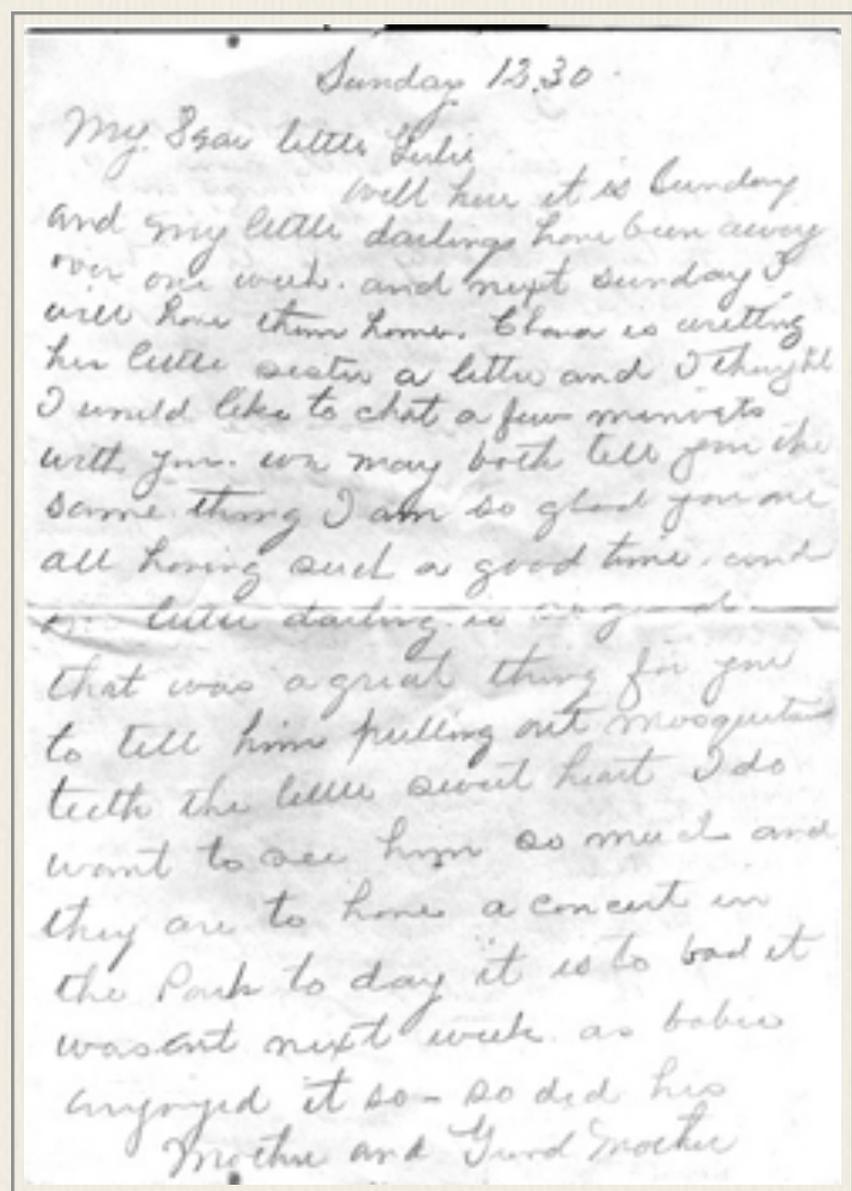
Four months after her 11th birthday, Juliet's father George Washington Robbins died. (17 NOV 1890). Emma Robbins raised her children, and over the next ten years had a full house. The 1900 census reports that Juliet (now aged 20 is still living at home). Married Daughter, Clara (Robbins) Lawrence lives with Emma along with her husband Thomas Edson Lawrence, and young four-year-old son

Edson Robbins Lawrence. Hannah's widowed sister Hannah Pruch and her daughter Florence Coyle also live at the Robbins residence. Emma has also taken in the daughter of a friend Mary (Goodson) Newcomb; her mother moved to Manhattan to work at Buttericks. In the census Margaret Newcomb is listed as a niece, although there is no blood relationship here. Margaret would become a little sister to Juliet, and a lifelong friend. She assumed the middle name Robbins, perhaps after her mother passed away. As a young child, I recall visiting Margaret (Newcomb) Fruscher at her home in Connecticut. I remember her laugh; she always kidded me about the way I pronounced her name: *Aunt Maaugerate*.

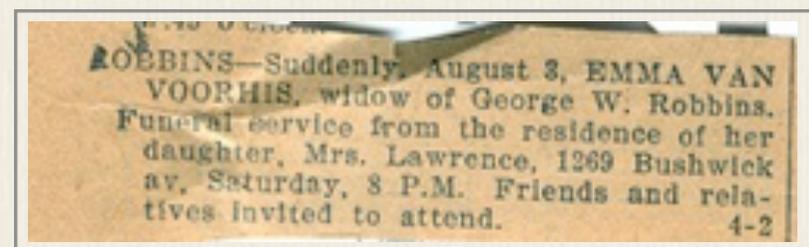
On Sunday, July 31, 1905 Emma Robbins wrote a letter to her married daughter Juliet who was vacationing at the home of the Atkinsons in Tuckerton, New Jersey. Tuckerton was the childhood home of Juliet's husband, Sam. The young couple had their first child Lawrence Miller and Grandma is telling Juliet how much she missed them. Sam, Juliet and their son Lawrence were due to return to their home in Brooklyn, NY the following Saturday. In the letter, Emma Robbins describes that she was suffering from stomach cramps and was not feeling well. She indicated her fear over her illness.

[11.49]

This was likely the last letter that Emma Robbins wrote. She died suddenly on August 3, 1905. I can only imagine the grief felt by Juliet when she heard the news.



Letter written by Emma Robbins to her daughter



Obituary of Emma Robbins

The Story Behind the Story

My father, my cousin Ray, my son David, and I were given the middle name Robbins. I have no recollection of any Robbins ancestors except my paternal grandmother Juliet Provoost (Robbins) Falkenburg; all my grandmother's family had died before I was born. There was, however, documentation in the George Washington Robbins family bible that I used to begin my research. The U.S. Census 1870 and 1880 lists Miller Robbins in Brooklyn, New York with wife Hannah M. Robbins. The 1840 Census record showed Miller Robbins in North Castle, Westchester County, New York. This led me to explore roots in the area of North Castle Township.

In a contact with Julie Cobb on Rootsweb, another door to the Robbins family history was opened. Julie had a transcript of the family bible of David and Ann (Robbins) Provoost. Ann was the sister of Miller Robbins. Miller Robbins was listed in that family bible as one of eight children born to James Robbins (b. 15 APR 1780) and wife Susan Williams (b. 17 May 1786). The married name of Ann Robbins was Provoost, which was also my grandmother's middle name. I still do not know if my grandmother's middle name indicates a familial link between the Robbins and Provoost families, or if it was given to my grandmother as a token of a close friendship between Emma and George and the Provoost family. There is a record in the 1900 U.S. Census that shows that Emma Robbins is a close neighbor of James (b. JUL 1846) and Juliette Provoost (b. JUN 1850). This family is almost certainly the James Edwin Provoost family documented in the family bible of David and Ann (Robbins) Provoost.

Once I established my 2-greats grandfather as James Robbins, it was reasonably easy to use the resources on Ancestry.com to trace my roots back to John Robbins of Oyster Bay. The colonial records of Oyster Bay and Huntington, Long Island have been preserved and are available on-line. The documentation includes indian deeds and the colorful description of Richard Latting's¹⁰⁻¹² disputes with colonial civil authority.

10-12 *Richard Latting was the father-in-law of John Robbins, and one of my eight greats grandfathers.*

But where did this John Robbins come from? At first I thought that he was a part of the Robbins family who settled in the Hartford, New Haven and Plymouth Colonies shortly after the establishment of the Plymouth Colony. However, a detailed search of records did not uncover a connection to this branch of the Robbins family. At this time I do not have any strong clues as to the origin of John Robbins. In addition to the Robbins who settled in New England, another family group settled in the region near Jamestown in the colonial south. Perhaps John Robbins came from that group, or he may have come directly to the Dutch settlement in New Amsterdam.

Jeremiah, the grandson of John Robbins and the 2-greats grandfather of Miller Robbins, married Hannah Carr. The Carrs were devout Quakers. Several of the children of Jeremiah and Hannah (Carr) Robbins migrated to Westchester County in New York, likely to gain further freedom in the practice of their religion. One of those was Job Robbins. There are some great resources available from the North Castle Historical Society which provided further insight into the three generations of the family who resided in Robbins Mills/Kensico.

The archives of several New York/Brooklyn papers provided additional information about the family after it moved to Brooklyn.

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