

History of Colrain, Massachusetts

A HISTORY OF COLRAIN
MASSACHUSETTS

With Genealogies Of Early Families

by

LOIS McCLELLAN PATRIE



Chapter Poems and Decorations

by

Ursula Russell

*To the memory of
my father and grandfather,
Hugh Herbert and Charles Herbert McClellan
whose combined diligence in recording and research
inspired and made possible this present History of Colrain.*

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FOREWORD TO GENEALOGIES

In this section I have tried to include all available records of Colrain families whose ancestors first arrived in the town before 1800, using the Census of 1790 and 1800 as a guide. A few were only "passing through," as it were, leaving no impression on the town, and those I have omitted. Others who gave valuable service to the town and whose descendants are perhaps living here or nearby, but who came after 1800 I have also regretfully been obliged to omit, for lack of space and time. In many cases the lack will be partly compensated in the biographies.

Although I have checked and rechecked, errors will be found, especially in dates. As every genealogist knows, there are frequent discrepancies between town and church records, and between either of these and family records. Family records are usually more reliable, but often entries in family Bibles are made after a considerable lapse of time and to the best (and sometimes faulty) recollection of the person who records the event. Add to this the possibility of human error in making copies and of long-ago human vanity in reporting ages to a census-taker, and you will see that accuracy is hard to achieve. Too, early genealogists sometimes record surmise as fact.

In most cases I have confined family histories to three or four generations for space-saving reasons, and because I feel that recent records are easier to find than early ones. Also, I have not usually followed a family for more than one generation after its members left Colrain unless the removal was to a nearby town. I have omitted specifying the name of the state in the case of Massachusetts towns and in the case of Halifax, Vermont which adjoins Colrain to the northeast. As with Heath and Shelburne, people often lived in Colrain and traded in Halifax or vice versa, and a son might buy land next to his father's but over the town (or state) line. In fact the line between Massachusetts and Vermont has been redrawn at least twice in the neighborhood of Colrain. Early residents of the Gore lived in what was variously known as Falltown, Bernardston and Leyden until the year 1779, when the Gore was annexed to Colrain.

This section was begun in 1938 at the same time as the History, and much information was obtained from my grandfather's notes and correspondence, from friendly Colrain residents and descendants, from family genealogies, and from that invaluable book, *THE BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW OF FRANKLIN COUNTY*. When I was obliged to lay the work aside the genealogical research was carried on, mostly by correspondence, by my father, the late Hugh H. McClellan, with most valuable assistance from Marion Sisler and Ruby Austin. These three not only secured records but by careful reasoning and analysis contrived to fit the pieces of many a puzzle into a recognizable picture of the family in question. Again, my job has mostly been that of editor.

Matthews

Salem, N.Y.; Salem 1790 census, 2-3-5, left bef. 1800.

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- II - 1 - JAMES MATTHEWS, JR., m. (1) by 1767 Ann ---; (2) Jane Kennedy aft. 1776. He bought Lot #70 of 100 acres which he later exchanged with Abraham Pennill for Lot #23, both in the 2nd division. He sold this in 1793 to Jacob Gragg and prob. moved away. He was a Revolutionary soldier in Capt. McClellan's company.

Children of James Jr. and Ann (---) Matthews:

- *** Mary, b. Merrimac, Feb. 17, 1768; d. Colrain June 29, 1846, bu. Christian Hill; m. int. Sept. 11, 1785, John Canedy, son of Hugh and Bathsheba (Baker), b. 1759; d. Colrain Feb. 8, 1853, bu. Christian Hill. 11 children. See CANEDY.
 *** Elizabeth, b. Merrimac, Feb. 10, 1770.
 *** Anne, b. Colrain, Aug. 16, 1772.

Child of James and Jane (Kennedy) Matthews:

- *** Joseph, b. Colrain, Aug. 29, 1782

- II - 2 - JOHN MATTHEWS, son of James Sr. and Mary, b. abt. 1734; d. Sullivan, N.Y. Aug. 27, 1807, a. 73; m. (1) Mary Bell, dau. Thomas and Esther (Bell); (2) Tryphena ---. He owned land in Bernardston: part of the Hubbard farm and the 250 a. Calf farm, bought betw. 1770 and 1780, and finally sold 1791. He was also a soldier in Capt. McClellan's company of minutemen.

Children of John and Mary (Bell) Matthews, prob. b. Colrain:

- *** James, poss. m. Patty Riddell, dau. Robert and Jane (McGee), b. Leyden Mar. 17, 1790

Maxam

*** John Jr.

*** Margaret, m. Thaddeus Bull of Sullivan.

*** Henry H. M., d. 1809; m. Thurea ---

*** David, b. abt. 1778; d. Sullivan, N.Y., Aug. 29, 1807; m. Cynthia --- who m. (2) William Pratt.

*** Samuel R. later in Salina and Syracuse, N.Y.

- 3 - DAVID MATTHEWS, son of James Sr. and Mary, bapt. 1738; d. Hoosick, N.Y. 1811; came to Colrain abt. 1770 when he bought and sold land in the 3rd division. He res. Shaftesbury, Vt. 1790, census record 3-1-7. He m. Westboro Oct. 5, 1773, Lucy Fay.

Children of David and Lucy (Fay) Matthews:

- *** John, res. Cortland Co., N.Y.
 *** Sukey, m. Clark Harris of Shaftesbury.
 *** Charity, m. Robert Morris.
 *** Lucy, m. --- Lake (not of Colrain), had son David.
 *** Patty, m. James Gault.
 *** Polly, m. Ebenezer Hopkins.
 *** Elizabeth, m. William Lake (See above)

MAXAM

EDMUND MAXAM JR., b. Plympton, 1753, son of Edmund and Abigail (Ellis) grandson of Samuel and Hannah (Perry), Mayflower desc. #13980 and 65570, d. Colrain Feb. 22, 1800, bu. Branch Cem.; m. Nov. 11, 1771, Rebecca Faunce (Fauns), b. Middleboro abt. 1748; d. Colrain Aug. 25, 1819, a. 71. He bought land in the 3rd division of Colrain from Job Ransom on May 9, 1788 and from John Balch Dec. 11, 1793. His record in the 1790 census was 3-2-3.

Children of Edmund Jr. and Rebecca (Faunce):

- *** James, b. June 11, 1772; drowned June 10, 1792, bu. Branch Cem.
 *** Zebedee, b. Apr. 16, 1774; m. Sally Ad-

Maxam

- ams, b. 1774, dau. Edward and Dorothy (Spear). They were in Madison Co., N.Y. 1819.
- *** Judah, b. July 11, 1776; prob. d. bef. 1790.
- *** Andrew, b. abt. 1778; d. Aug. 6, 1842, a. 64; m. Nancy Mixer, dau. Timothy and Hannah, b. abt. 1778; d. Sept. 19, 1849, a. 71.
- *** Silas, b. prob. 1780; was in Cortland Co., N.Y., 1819.
- *** Lavinia, m. --- Winslow; of Cortland Co., N.Y. 1819.
- *** Rebekah, m. int. Dec. 31, 1811, Ezra Parmedy of Colrain; was at Bristol, Ontario Co., N.Y. 1819.
- *** Samuel, b. 1787; d. Colrain Aug. 22, 1860; m. Nov. 30, 1809, Patty Nims of Deerfield, dau. John and Betsey (Rice).
- *** Susanna, b. 1791; m. 1819/20, Isaac Vincent.
- *** Calvin
- *** Edmund Jr., d. May 1790, a. 2.

KINGMAN MAXAM, apparently not related to Edmund, was the son of John and Silence (Pratt) of Bridgewater, and was b. Wareham, Apr. 20, 1767; d. Colrain, Oct. 2, 1827; m. (1) Content Shaw of Middleboro, Nov. 20, 1794; (2) Sarah (Lamon) Bennett in Colrain Dec. 1817. He came to Colrain Apr. 25, 1795.

Children of Kingman and Content (Shaw) Maxam, b. Colrain:

- *** John, b. 1796; poss. m. Marietta Dwight
- *** Perez, b. abt. 1798; m. Elizabeth ---, who d. May 3, 1841, a. 37.
- *** Patience, b. abt. 1800.

Children of Kingman and Sarah (Lamon) Maxam, b. Colrain:

- *** Britannia, b. 1819, m. Colrain, int. July 4, 1838, William Cary.

- *** Harriet Maria, b. May 22, 1822; m. (after her sister's death) William Cary, May 21, 1843.
- *** Stanford Bradley, b. Oct. 30, 1823; m. int. Apr. 9, 1848, Lucy Sturtevant.

MERRIFIELD

ROBERT MERRIFIELD, b. abt. 1747; d. Colrain Sept. 27, 1834, came to Colrain bef. 1790. He is recorded in the 1790 census as having a household of himself, wife, 2 sons under 16, and 2 females. His wife was Rebecca (Fisher), b. abt. 1751; d. Colrain May 3, 1838, a. 87. He came from England, and had a brother Benjamin, unm. who lived briefly in Colrain. Although there is no record of their owning land in the town or holding public office, the family lived there for more than 80 years.

Children of Robert and Rebecca (Fisher) Merrifield:

- *** Ester, m. John White of Shelburne bef. June 9, 1807.
- *** Amasa m. (1) Hannah White of Shelburne int. Oct. 1807.

- II - 1 - ROBERT, JR., b. abt. 1792; d. Colrain bef. 1830; m. abt. 1817 (1) Mary Faulkner, b. abt. 1791; d. Colrain Sept. 10, 1848, a. 57; (2) Colrain Nov. 15, 1849, Sally White, b. abt. 1802; d. Apr. 3, 1886, a. 84, bu. North River.

Children of Robert and Mary (Faulkner), prob. b. Colrain:

- *** Rufus, b. abt. 1818; d. unm. after 1830.
- 2 - JOHN, b. abt. 1821
- *** Emerson, prob. d. young
- *** Esther, b. Apr. 1823; d. Sept. 11, 1825.
- *** Mary, b. 1824
- *** Emily, b. abt. 1828