

John Law of Acton, Massachusetts, and Reuben Law of Acton, Massachusetts, and Sharon, New Hampshire

*Submitted by Alfred Woollacott III
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4. REUBEN⁴ LAW (*John³, Thomas², John¹*), the sixth of seven children of John and Sarah (Barker) Law, fought as a private in the Revolutionary War.^[84] Yet, like so many, he remains too insignificant for most historians' lens. Reuben was born in Acton, Massachusetts, on 22 October 1751. He died on 21 August 1840 in his 89th year and was buried in Sharon, New Hampshire.^[85] He was married (1) by Reverend Moses Adams in Acton on 13 January 1778 to **ALLIS PIPER** of Acton,^[86] daughter of Joseph and Esther (Wright) Piper, born in Concord, Massachusetts, on 13 February 1759^[87] and died in Sharon on 5 February 1821,^[88] having borne thirteen children. On 5 September 1827 Reuben, said to be of Sharon, New Hampshire, married (2) at Acton 5 September 1827 **RUTH (REED) PIPER**,^[89] widow of Captain Daniel Piper,^[90] son of Joseph and Elizabeth Piper and nephew of Allis.^[91]

After his father's death, Reuben's uncle Joseph Barker and Francis Faulkner were his guardians. His brothers, Samuel born 27 August 1744, James, born 27 October 1748, and Andrew, born 4 July 1754, also were given guardians.^[92] James and Reuben enlisted in the Acton militia:

To those Names are Underwritten thinking our Selves Ignorant in the Military Art and Willing to be Instrument met last Tuesday and made Choice of Mr. Joseph Robbins as our Capt & Mr. Israel Heald, Lieut. Mr. Robert Chaffin, Insign and then Adjourned to this Day and have According met Together to Chuse the other officers and to form our Selves into a Militia Company and we agree to meet at

⁸⁴ Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Law, W8019; Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238.

⁸⁵ Frances L. Eaton, "Cemeteries of Sharon, N.H. (formerly Peterborough Slip, N.H.)," typescript at the N.H. Historical Society, Concord, N.H. (Reading, Mass., 1935) [FHL microfilm 15,576], 3, says Reuben died 21 Aug. 1840 in his 89th year and there was a 1775 marker at the grave; Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Law, W8019, says August 1840.

⁸⁶ *Vital Records of Acton*, 197.

⁸⁷ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths*, 201; *Vital Records of Acton*, 88; *Vital Records of Westford, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1915), 215 (parents' marriage); Ellery Bicknell Crane, *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memors of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907), 2:49.

⁸⁸ Naamah Kendall Jenkins Carter Twiss Young, 1821-1909, *Temple Record Book, 1640-1909* [FHL 673268 Item 21], which "consists of genealogical data, 1640-1909, with some temple ordinances, 1875-1907, for Carter ancestry of Naamah Kendall Jenkins (Carter) Twiss Young (1821-1909)," not all pages numbered; *Columbian Centinel*, 14 Feb. 1821, p. 2, "In Sharon, N.H., Mrs. Alice Law, wife of leut Reuben Law, aged 64"; *New Hampshire Patriot & State Gazette*, 19 Feb. 1821, p. 3.

⁸⁹ *Vital Records of Acton*, 197; Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Law, W8019, deposition by widow Ruth and affidavit by Moses Taylor, J.P., citing Acton records; Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238.

⁹⁰ Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238.

⁹¹ Joseph Piper, son of Joseph, Jr., and Esther, was born in Acton 3 Jan. 1778. Daniel Hayward Piper was born in Acton 6 April 1771 and married Ruth Reed 12 April 1798 (*Vital Records of Acton*, 88-89 [births], 208 [marriage]); Crane, *Historic Homes ... Worcester County*, 2:49, which ascribes differing birthdates to him and his siblings.

⁹² Middlesex County Probate, files 13641-13643, guardianships of Reuben, Samuel, James and Andrew.

such times as shall be set by the Company and observe good order in our Proceedings as witness our hands Acton September 29th 1774.^[93]

The men were paid eight pence a half day,^[94] and they drilled twice weekly. On 19 April 1775, a private in Captain John Hayward's company, Col. Abijah Pierce's regiment,^[95] Reuben saw Captain Isaac Davis fall at the Concord Bridge and heard the "shot heard round the world." He was at Bunker Hill on 17 June 1775 where his braided hair queue was shot off,^[96] which he described later as "plaguey careless shooting."^[97] In 1776 he was in Capt. David Wheeler's company, Col. Nixon's regiment, and later enlisted "in Captain Hunt's company, Colonel Brooks's regiment,"^[98] serving at the Fishkill, New York, supply depot for nine months from June 1778. He was age 27 and 5' 9" tall.^[99] His younger brother Andrew marched from Temple, New Hampshire, to Cambridge on 19 April 1775.^[100]

Their first born, Reuben Jr., born eleven days after his parents' marriage, is listed in the Sharon, New Hampshire, town records, suggesting he was born there.^[101] Yet the 1850 census lists him as age 72, born in Massachusetts.^[102] Since his parents were married eleven days earlier in Acton, logic suggests Reuben Jr. was born in Massachusetts too. Town records often include children born before their families moved to the town. Although the children are recorded in Sharon, Acton records list several of them as being christened there.^[103]

Reuben and Allis Law moved to Peterborough Slip ("Sliptown"), New Hampshire, in the 1780s, precisely when is difficult to determine. Peterborough Slip was incorporated as Sharon on 24 January 1791.^[104] King talks about Reuben Law, Sharon's first settler:

Wearing snowshoes, he walked the distance from Acton, Massachusetts, bringing his possessions and supplies with him on his hand sled. The story is, he made his first night's camp there, high on a rock which he believed to be refuge from animals that might prowl; and that there he decided to remain. The place was afterward to become his north field. The temporary shelter gave place to more permanent quarters; he cleared the land for a small cabin. Spring found him bringing his family to a new home after a winter of patience and hard work.^[105]

⁹³ "Signup Sheet of Acton's Militia – September 29, 1774" Colonial Acton (online at www.colonial-acton.com).

⁹⁴ Charles R. Husbands, *History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies (1754-1925)* (Salem, Mass.: Higginson Book Company, 2003), 147, "from Solomon Smith's deposition ... town paid us 8 pence for every half day."

⁹⁵ Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238.

⁹⁶ King, *Sliptown*, 46; Houghton, "Acton's Forgotten Man," 6.

⁹⁷ Houghton, "Acton's Forgotten Man," 6.

⁹⁸ Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238.

⁹⁹ Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238; all the above service (except that at Bunker Hill) confirmed in Massachusetts Secretary of State, *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, 17 vols. (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1896–1908), 9:551, also erroneously listed as Reuben Shaw at 14:65.

¹⁰⁰ New Hampshire State Papers, Volume I, *Revolutionary War Rolls*, 35, from Henry Ames Blood, *History of Temple, New Hampshire* (Boston, Mass.: Geo. C. Rand & Avery, 1860), 97.

¹⁰¹ "Vital Records Taken from the Sharon, New Hampshire, Town records, 1946," typescript in the New Hampshire Historical Society Library [FHL 15,576, Item 3], 8.

¹⁰² 1850 U.S. Census, Wilton, Franklin County, Maine, roll 253, p. 46, taken on 18 July 1850.

¹⁰³ Sharon never had a church (King, *Sliptown*, 72) but did have town meeting votes to allot funds for a visiting preacher (Sharon Town Records, Volume I, 1775–1843), which could explain why the children were baptized in Acton.

¹⁰⁴ D. Hamilton Hurd, *History of Hillsborough County, N.H.* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1885), 670.

¹⁰⁵ King, *Sliptown*, 46

Reuben's younger brother Andrew married in Temple, New Hampshire, on 3 April 1777, Hepzibah Spafford.^[106] In 1780 Reuben and Andrew Law and Abijah Spafford, either Andrew's father-in-law or brother-in-law, paid poll taxes in Sharon, and subsequently Reuben's and Abijah's names continue to appear on the tax listing, one after another,^[107] suggesting they might be neighbors. Reuben ultimately would own land in the east part of Sharon, near Spafford Gap,^[108] bordering the west side of Temple. Town meeting minutes for 9 April 1787 list Lieutenant Reuben Law as constable, in 1788 as surveyor and in 1789 as fourth surveyor,^[109] Reuben had the title "Lftenant" throughout his life in Sharon, presumably in the local militia.^[110] Reuben "Lays" appears in the 1790 census of Sharon with, besides himself, three males under 16 and four females. Nearby was his brother James Law.^[111]

On 15 February 1790 John Tolford sold to Reuben Law, husbandman, about 120 acres in lot fifteen drawn in the right of Robert Bayes, Esq. And on 13 August John Robbins sold to Reuben Law the south half of lot fourteen originally allotted to Daniel Pierce and Mrs. Moore. Both of these lots were in the fifth range.^[112]

Reuben applied for a Revolutionary War pension on 8 March 1832.^[113] In 1840 at Sharon, Reuben, age 89, was listed with a male 15–20, a female 20–30, and another female 60–70. The only other Laws in Sharon were James, presumably his son, age 50–60, and Archelaus, age 30–40.^[114] Although he had a pension, Reuben's will, dated 12 March 1835 and proved 1 September 1840, suggests that he had considerable assets. Each son was to have \$300 and each daughter \$100 while his wife Ruth was to have \$100 "in addition to the \$200 I promised to pay her before our marriage and the furniture she brought." Sons were Reuben, Samuel, James, Joseph, John, and Artemas, and daughters were Alice Wetherby, Susanna Taggart, Sarah White, Milla White, Elizabeth Carter, and youngest daughter Lucy Livingstone.^[115] Receipts from several heirs are dated variously from 1842 through 1845, revealing that they received far less than promised in the will.^[116]

Reuben's widow Ruth applied for a pension on 26 April 1853 and her step-son-in-law Pliny Wetherbee testified in her behalf.^[117]

Children of Reuben and Allis (Piper) Law:^[118]

- i. **REUBEN⁵ LAW**, born 24 Jan. 1778;^[119] baptized Acton 20 Feb. 1780;^[120] died, probably 13 Aug. 1857;^[121] married Wilton, Maine, certificate dated 2 May 1804, **HANNAH WRIGHT** of

¹⁰⁶ Henry Ames Blood, *History of Temple, N.H.* (Boston: George C. Rand & Avery, 1860), 262.

¹⁰⁷ Sharon Town Records, Volume I, 1775–1843.

¹⁰⁸ King, *Sliptown*, map entitled "Early roads & Settlers – 1738 to 1776."

¹⁰⁹ Sharon Town Records Volume I 1775–1843.

¹¹⁰ King, *Sliptown*, 46; Sharon Town Records Volume I 1775–1843. Minutes of town meetings refer to Reuben as Lieutenant or Lt. or Lftenant.

¹¹¹ 1790 U.S. Census, Sharon, Hillsborough Co., N.H., roll 5, p. 315. The name is clearly written, "Lays," but being so near James Law, this is surely Reuben Law.

¹¹² King, *Sliptown*, 46.

¹¹³ Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Law, W8019.

¹¹⁴ King, *Sliptown*, 46; 1840 U.S. Census, Sharon, Hillsborough Co., N.H., roll 51, pp. 237–38.

¹¹⁵ Hillsborough County Probate, 48:51.

¹¹⁶ Hillsborough County Probate, 50:431–33.

¹¹⁷ Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Law, W8019.

¹¹⁸ Cutter, *Historic Homes ... Middlesex County*, 3:1238, erroneously lists the children of Reuben's brother Stephen as children of Reuben.

¹¹⁹ "Vital Records Sharon, N. H.," 8; Young, *Temple Record Book*, says 24 May 1778.

- Farmington, Maine,^[122] born N.H. ca. 1776. The 1850 census for Wilton, Maine, lists Reuben, 72, born in Mass., and Hannah, 74, born in N.H.^[123]
- ii. **ALICE LAW**, born Sharon 21 Sept. 1780;^[124] died Stow, Mass., 12 Sept. 1843 age 63, buried Hillside Cemetery there;^[125] was of Sharon when she married, intentions at Stow 3 Dec. 1809, **PLINY WETHERBEE**, born Stow 23 April 1788, son of Ephraim and Olive (Gates) Wetherbee,^[126] died Bolton, Mass., 2 May 1868 age 79 years [*sic*] 8 days.^[127] He was of Marlborough, Mass., age 62, when he testified in behalf of Ruth Law's pension based on Reuben's service on 8 April 1853.^[128]
- iii. **SAMUEL LAW**, born Sharon^[129] 27 Aug. 1782;^[130] baptized Acton 21 Sept. 1783;^[131] died River St., Lowell, Mass., 19 May 1859 age 79 years 9 months,^[132] was of Acton when he married (1) Acton 30 April 1807, **MERCY ADAMS**,^[133] born Acton 7 Dec. 1783, daughter of John and Lydia (Hayward) Adams,^[134] died 23 May 1840 at age 56, buried in Fairview Cemetery in Westford, Mass.^[135] Samuel married (2) Lowell 20 April 1842 Mrs. **SALLY TAFT** of Lowell.^[136] Samuel married (3) at age 71, called "gentleman," at Lowell 11 Sept. 1853 **CLARISSA (RICHARDSON) BOYNTON** of Lowell, age 65, born Dracut, Mass., daughter of Obadiah Richardson.^[137] In 1850 Samuel Law, age 68, farmer, was living at Westford in the household of William and Susan Taylor.^[138]
- iv. **JAMES LAW**, born Sharon 8 Nov. 1784;^[139] died Sharon 29 Aug. 1849 age 65;^[140] married Peterborough 1 Jan. 1807, **ESTHER PIPER**,^[141] born ca. 1781 in Mass., probably in Acton 19 April 1782, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Hayward) Piper,^[142] died Sharon 12 Sept. 1849.^[143] James continued his father's public service, serving as town clerk 1825–1828 and

¹²⁰ *Vital Records of Acton*, 78

¹²¹ *FamilySearch.org*, multiple patron submissions.

¹²² Vital Records of Wilton, Maine [FHL 0,012,322], item 3, p. 3.

¹²³ 1850 U.S. Census, Wilton, Franklin County, Maine, roll 253, p. 46.

¹²⁴ "Vital Records Sharon, N. H.," 8; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹²⁵ *Vital Records of Stow, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1911), 263.

¹²⁶ *Vital Records of Stow*, 92 (birth), 212 (intentions of marriage and parents' intentions).

¹²⁷ Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 213:242.

¹²⁸ Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Law, W8019.

¹²⁹ Third marriage record, see below.

¹³⁰ "Vital Records Sharon, N. H.," 8; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹³¹ *Vital Records of Acton*, 78

¹³² Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 130:81, paralysis, said to be married.

¹³³ *Vital Records of Acton*, 197.

¹³⁴ *Vital Records of Acton*, 11 (birth recorded as Mary but "Mercy" on church records), 127 (parents' marriage).

¹³⁵ *Vital Records of Westford*, 295, her maiden name from P.R. 23, a Bible record in possession of Samuel L. Taylor ca. 1915.

¹³⁶ *Vital Records of Lowell, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1930), 2:513; Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 2:397; intentions at Westford 26 March 1842 (*Vital Records of Westford*, 197).

¹³⁷ Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 70:147, Samuel born in Sharon.

¹³⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Westford, Middlesex Co., Mass., roll 323, p. 56.

¹³⁹ "Vital Records Sharon, N. H.," 9; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹⁴⁰ Eaton, "Cemeteries of Sharon, 3; 1850 U.S. Census, Mortality Schedule, Sharon, Hillsborough Co., N.H., p. 611, online at *Ancestry.com*.

¹⁴¹ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁴² *Vital Records of Acton*, 88 (birth); Crane, *Historic Homes ... Worcester County*, 2:49, for Elizabeth's maiden name. Birth dates of Esther and her siblings given there vary from those in *Vital Records of Acton*.

¹⁴³ 1850 U.S. Census, Mortality Schedule, Sharon, Hillsborough Co., N.H., p. 611, online at *Ancestry.com*.

representative 1825–1826; 1829–1830 and 1832–1833.^[144] James and his wife knew much sorrow as six of their nine children died in their infancy. In the summer of 1849, James, his wife, daughter Rachel and son Isaac died of dysentery. Their nine children, were all born and died in Sharon.^[145] See the description of Jarman Hill Cemetery in Sharon below.

- v. **SUSANNA LAW**, born Sharon 10 Oct. 1786;^[146] baptized Acton 4 Feb. 1787;^[147] died Nauvoo, Ill., 21 Oct. 1845;^[148] married (1) in Peterborough 16 Jan. 1816, **WASHINGTON TAGGART**,^[149] born Peterborough 10 July 1786,^[150] died Nauvoo 2 Sept. 1843.^[151] Susanna married (2) in Nauvoo 4 May 1845, **HENRY JOLLEY**.^[152] Susanna and Washington were influenced by Elder Eli Maginn’s preaching and followed the Latter-day Saints (Mormons) to Nauvoo. Two of their sons, George Washington and Oliver followed, while the other three remained in N. H. A rift over their parents new-found religion developed among the sons.^[153]

Children of Washington and Susanna (Law) Taggart:^[154]

1. *George Washington Taggart*, born Sharon 6 or 16 Nov. 1816;^[155] died Richville, Utah, 3 June 1893; married (1) in Nauvoo on 7 March 1843 *Harriet Atkins Bruce*, born Peterborough 20 March 1821; died Nauvoo 19 Feb. 1845;^[156] married (2) in Nauvoo on 12 or 27 July 1845 *Fannie Parks*,^[157] born Livonia, N.Y., 25 Oct. 1821; died Richville 6 May 1891; married (3) in Brigham City, Utah, on 12 Dec. 1856 *Clarissa Marina Rogers*, born Shalersville, Ohio, 26 March 1836, died Lewiston, Utah, 19 April 1901.

George and Harriet Atkins (Bruce) Taggart had one child, and George and Fannie (Parks) Taggart had three children. Fanny adopted the seventeen-month-old child of George’s previous marriage, Eliza Ann, as her own and George and Clarissa Marina (Rogers) Taggart had twelve children. In Nauvoo, widower George worked on the temple, sometimes taking young Eliza Ann to work in a wheelbarrow, which served as her bed while he worked. On 17 February 1846, two days after Brigham Young had led his saints into the wilderness, George left Nauvoo leaving his second wife and child there. In mid-July 1846 at age twenty-nine George joined the Mormon battalion in

¹⁴⁴ Sharon Town Records Volume I 1775 – 1843; “History of Sharon, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire” Transcribed by Janice Brown (Available at www.nh.searchroots.com).

¹⁴⁵ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 15; Eaton, “Cemeteries of Sharon, 3, 5.

¹⁴⁶ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 9; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹⁴⁷ *Vital Records of Acton*, 78.

¹⁴⁸ In a letter on “Mormons going from Peterborough in 1840 to 1850,” 2, Naamah K. J. (Carter) (Twiss) Young (see viii.4 below), widow of Brigham Young, states she attended her aunt’s funeral in Oct. 1845.

¹⁴⁹ *New Hampshire Marriages, 1720-1920*, extract online at FamilySearch.org.

¹⁵⁰ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 13.

¹⁵¹ “Susannah Taggart and George W. Taggart’s Letter of September 6th and 10th, 1843,” online at <http://byustudies.byu.edu/PDFLibrary/40.2Barney%204f7e3c94-f978-4e6c-9e1a-f6a1a21ff8c0.pdf>, which includes a portrait of George W. Taggart. See also Ronald O. Barney, “A Man That You could not Help Likeing, Joseph Smith and Nauvoo Portrayed in a Letter by Susannah and George W. Taggart” (Provo, Utah: BYU Studies, 2001), online at <http://byustudies2.byu.edu/shop/pdfs/40.2Barney.pdf>, note 25.

¹⁵² *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, online, Hancock Co., licence #957, her name spelled “Susannah Tigart.”

¹⁵³ Eileen Taggart Robinson, “*George Washington Taggart – A Biography and Tribute*,” 1, “George [Washington Taggart] asked a Mormon missionary by the name of Elder Eli P. Maginn, to baptize him a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. George’s parents, Washington and Susannah, and his brother Oliver also joined the LDS Church. George’s remaining brothers, Albert, Samuel and Henry, did not join.

¹⁵⁴ Unless cited otherwise, all of the following is from Robinson, “*George Washington Taggart – A Biography and Tribute*.”

¹⁵⁵ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 13, says 16 Nov.; *New Hampshire Birth Records, Early to 1900*, image online at FamilySearch.org, says 6 Nov.

¹⁵⁶ Robinson, “*George Washington Taggart – A Biography and Tribute*.”

¹⁵⁷ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, Hancock Co., license #979, says 27 July.

Council Bluffs, Iowa. His wife and daughter still remained in Nauvoo. He would travel some 4,400 miles on foot during his twenty-two months with the Battalion during the Mexican war; he was discharged on 17 December 1847 finally joining his wife and daughter. In July 1852 George and his family left for Utah and first lived in Salt Lake City, but eventually settled in Richville, Utah. He worked as a carpenter, joiner, and millwright, assisting in the building of a number of gristmills in Liberty Park, Bountiful, Farmington and Brigham City. He also worked on the Salt Lake Temple.^[158]

2. *Albert Taggart*, born Sharon 22 June 1818;^[159] died Peterborough 22 Oct. 1904;^[160] was of Wilton, N.H., when he married Peterborough 31 July 1849 *Mary E. Gowing*, born 20 Nov. 1828, daughter of Moses and Mary (Jewett) Gowing of Peterborough.^[161] Albert visited his family in Nauvoo sometime between April and October 1845.^[162]
 3. *Samuel W. Taggart*, born Sharon 8 June 1820;^[163] died Peterborough 31 Aug. 1887 at age 67;^[164] married Peterborough, 16 Nov. 1845 *Catherine Turner*.^[165] No record of Samuel seeing his family after they left for Nauvoo has been found.
 4. *Oliver Hazard Perry Taggart*, born Sharon 24 March 1824;^[166] died Nauvoo 1 Sept. 1843.^[167]
 5. *Henry Curtis Taggart*, born Sharon 2 April 1826; killed on 29 Aug. 1862 at Manassas, Virginia, at the Battle of Bull Run, while serving in Co. K., 6th N.H. Infantry,^[168] married Brattleboro, Vt., 13 Nov. 1845 *Fidelia F. Twitchell*.^[169] Like Samuel, he never saw his family after they left for Nauvoo.
 6. *Reuben Law Taggart*, born Sharon 17 Aug. 1830;^[170] died 21 May 1831.^[171]
- vi. **SARAH “SALLY” LAW**, born Sharon 23 Dec. 1788;^[172] baptized Acton 8 Feb. 1789,^[173] died Peterborough 29 July 1874 age 85 years 7 months;^[174] married Peterborough 10 April 1817,

¹⁵⁸ Robinson, “George Washington Taggart – A Biography and Tribute.”

¹⁵⁹ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 13; *New Hampshire Birth Records, Early to 1900*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁶⁰ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, old age, a resident for 48 years, previous residence Wilton, N.H., his parents named.

¹⁶¹ Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix 95-96 (her birth and parents), 307 (marriage). *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁶² Robinson, “George Washington Taggart – A Biography and Tribute.”

¹⁶³ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 13; *New Hampshire Birth Records, Early to 1900*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁶⁴ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁶⁵ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, from FHL 1,001,310.

¹⁶⁶ Salt Lake City temple endowments for the dead, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [FHL 0,446,345], p. 204, ref. no. 64105. Dates from these early temple records would be from local family records.

¹⁶⁷ “Susannah Taggart and George W. Taggart’s Letter of September 6th and 10th, 1843.”

¹⁶⁸ Historical Data Systems, comp., *American Civil War Soldiers* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 1999) database online at *Ancestry.com*, original data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, Mass.

¹⁶⁹ *Farmers Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 11 Dec. 1845, p. 3, at the “stage House in Brattleboro’ Mr. Henry C. Taggart to Miss Fedelia F. Twitchell, both of Peterborough.”

¹⁷⁰ Sealings of children to parents, 1884-1943, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Logan Temple Records [FHL 0,178,087], p. 286.

¹⁷¹ Sealings for the dead, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake Temple Records [FHL 0,184,790], no page or reference number given in the International Genealogical Index.

¹⁷² “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 9; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹⁷³ *Vital Records of Acton*, 78.

¹⁷⁴ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, of old age, her parents named as R. and A. Law, both born Acton. Albert Smith, M.D., *History of the Town of Peterborough* (Boston: George H. Ellis, 1876), Appendix 340, says she died in Aug. 1873.

- WILLIAM WHITE**,^[175] born Peterborough 12 July 1788, son of David and Betsey (Miller) White, died 12 June 1863 age 74 years 11 months.^[176]
- vii. **PARMELIA “MILLY” LAW**, born Sharon 23 Feb. 1791,^[177] baptized Acton 5 Feb. 1792;^[178] died 25 Aug. 1883 age 82,^[179] married Peterborough 4 Feb. 1812 Capt. **JAMES WHITE**,^[180] born 30 March 1784, son of John White, died 6 July 1859 age 75 years.^[181]
- viii. **ELIZABETH “BETSEY” LAW**, born Sharon 5 June 1793;^[182] died 5 Oct. 1835;^[183] married (1) ca. 1814 **BILLINGS CARTER**,^[184] born Wilmington, Mass., 11 Aug. 1791,^[185] died 5 Dec. 1825,^[186] apparently in Sliptown, as King wrote, “Billings Carter was running a mill. By some accident he fell into the water; pneumonia resulted and he died,”^[187] buried Jarmany Hill Cemetery, Sharon.^[188] Betsey married (2) Peterborough 31 Aug. 1830, **ELI UPTON**,^[189] born 1784 and died 1871 aged 87^[190] In 1820 at Wilmington, Mass., Billings Carter had a male and two females under 10 as well as himself and a female both 26–45.^[191]

Children of Billings and Elizabeth (Law) Carter, born Wilmington, Mass.:^[192]

1. *Salome Carter*, born 19 July 1815; died Henniker, N.H., 10 Jan. 1877 age 61,^[193] married Peterborough 31 Dec. 1835 *John Hill*^[194] of Peterborough.
2. *Caroline Carter*, born 10 April 1817; married Reading, Mass., 8 April 1841 *Oliver S. Adams*,^[195] born Carlisle, Mass., 25 Oct. 1817, son of Samuel and Dorcas (Heald) Adams,^[196] died Reading 8 May 1843 age 24.^[197] In 1850 at Reading, Caroline was age 33, with O. S. (male) age 9, and C. E. (female) age 7.^[198] The son was Oliver Scripture Adams, born Reading 5 Sept. 1841.^[199]
3. *Nathan Carter*, born 31 May 1819; married, intentions at Reading 25 June 1843 *Susan A. Flint*,^[200] born Reading ca. 28 Oct. 1825, died there 20 Oct. 1878 age 52 years 11

¹⁷⁵ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*; Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix, 340.

¹⁷⁶ Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix, 336–37, 340.

¹⁷⁷ “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 9; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹⁷⁸ *Vital Records of Acton*, 78, as “Milley.”

¹⁷⁹ Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix 339.

¹⁸⁰ New Hampshire State Vital Records.

¹⁸¹ Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix 336–37, 339.

¹⁸² “Vital Records Sharon, N. H.,” 9; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹⁸³ Young, *Temple Record Book*.

¹⁸⁴ Young, *Temple Record Book*, 28.

¹⁸⁵ Young, *Temple Record Book*, 28; the place from death records of two daughters.

¹⁸⁶ Young, *Temple Record Book*, 28.

¹⁸⁷ King, *Sliptown*, 131.

¹⁸⁸ See the description of Jarmany Hill Cemetery in Sharon at the end of this article.

¹⁸⁹ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁹⁰ Young, *Temple Record Book*, 28.

¹⁹¹ 1820 U.S. Census, Wilmington, Middlesex, Mass., roll 51, p. 25.

¹⁹² Young, *Temple Record Book*, for the births of all children; not recorded in Wilmington.

¹⁹³ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, cancer of stomach, born Wilmington, Mass., daughter of Billings and “Dowe” Carter. This says her father was born in Wilmington.

¹⁹⁴ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

¹⁹⁵ *Vital Records of Reading, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1912), 304.

¹⁹⁶ *Vital Records of Carlisle, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1918), 7 (birth), 39 (parents’ marriage).

¹⁹⁷ *Vital Records of Reading*, 489, of bilious colic.

¹⁹⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Reading, Middlesex Co., Mass., roll 324, p. 241.

¹⁹⁹ *Vital Records of Reading*, 10.

²⁰⁰ *Vital Records of Reading*, 305.

- months 22 days, daughter of Amos and Selina (Bailey) Flint.^[201] In 1870 at Reading, Nathan was 51 with Susan A. 44 and three children.^[202]
4. *Naamah Kendall Jenkins Carter*, born 20 March 1821; died Salt Lake City 5 Aug. 1909 age 88;^[203] married (1) by President Brigham Young in Nauvoo on 30 May 1845 to *John Sanderson Twiss* son of David and Lucy (Sanderson) Twiss, born 21 June 1821, Rindge, N. H., died 10 Sept. 1845 in Nauvoo,^[204] (2) by Heber C. Kimball in Nauvoo on 6 Jan. 1846 to *Brigham Young*, born 1 June 1801, Whitingham, Vermont, died 29 Aug. 1877, Salt Lake City. Naamah quite likely was named after her father's next eldest sister, who died 10 February 1821, about a month before her birth.^[205] With both parents deceased and no doubt influenced by Elder Maginn, and others, Naamah left for Nauvoo in 1845. Soon after arriving she married John Twiss, who had lived in neighboring towns of Rindge and Jaffery. Quite possibly, they had met at meetings to hear Elder Maginn and others preach. In October of 1845, about 24 years old, recently arrived to Nauvoo and recently widowed, Naamah attended her Aunt Suzanna's funeral.^[206] In Salt Lake in 1860, "'Aunt' Twiss took over the Lion House kitchen and directed it until after Brigham's death." At family dinners she sat on Brigham's left. Like many of her sister wives, she and Brigham had no children.^[207]
 5. *Betsy Carter*, born Sharon 11 March 1823; died Fitchburg, Mass., 2 May 1897 age 74 years 1 months 21 days;^[208] married Peterborough 5 Aug. 1844 *Horace Eaton*,^[209] born Peterborough ca. 16 Dec. 1822, died Fitchburg 26 Jan. 1883 age 60 years 4 months 10 days.^[210]
 6. *Susan Marie Carter*, born Sharon 19 Aug. 1825; died Peterborough 26 Feb. 1910 age 84 years 6 months 7 days;^[211] married *Thomas S. Nichols*, born Peterborough ca. 1816, died Peterborough 16 July 1883 age 67, son of Kendall and Nancy (Livingston) Nichols.^[212]
- ix. **JOSEPH LAW**, born Sharon 30 May 1795;^[213] baptized Acton 28 Feb. 1796;^[214] died 5 Oct. 1850; married (1) Acton 13 Feb. 1809 **NABBY PIKE** of Acton;^[215] married (2) 15 Nov. 1821 **HARRIETT CARTER**, Billing's younger sister, born Wilmington 24 Sept. 1799, died

²⁰¹ Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 302:154; her birth not in *Vital Records of Reading*.

²⁰² 1870 U.S. Census, Reading, Middlesex Co., Mass., roll 631, p. 280.

²⁰³ Ancestry.com, *Utah Death Index, 1905-1951* [database on-line] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2003), original data from Bureau of Vital Statistics, Utah Death Index, 1905-1951 (Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah Department of Health), recorded as "Hannah K.J.C.T. Young."

²⁰⁴ Young, "Mormons going from Peterborough in 1840 to 1850," 3, "John Sanderson Twiss, son of David and Lucy Sanderson Twiss, born in Rindge, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire, June 21st, 1820; went to Nauvoo in 1842 or 3; came back to Peterborough in 1844; returned to Nauvoo in the Spring of 1845 and is buried there."

²⁰⁵ Young, *Temple Record Book*.

²⁰⁶ Young, "Mormons going from Peterborough in 1840 to 1850," 2: "Susan Law Taggart, the wife of Washington Taggart and mother of Oliver and George, died in Nauvoo in the year 1845, I attended the funeral."

²⁰⁷ Leonard J. Arrington, *Brigham Young: American Moses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), 330–31, 420–21, which lists 27 wives.

²⁰⁸ Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 474:612, kidney and liver disease, her birthplace, parents and husband named.

²⁰⁹ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

²¹⁰ Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 348:397, pneumonia, a moulder, birth date calculated.

²¹¹ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, senile bronchitis, her parents named.

²¹² *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, apoplexy, an operative. This record has his birthplace and parents' names.

²¹³ "Vital Records Sharon, N. H.," 9; Young, *Temple Record Book*.

²¹⁴ *Vital Records of Acton*, 78.

²¹⁵ *Vital Records of Acton*, 197.

- Peterborough 21 Oct. 1856.^[216] In 1850 at Sharon, Joseph was 55, a farmer, and Harriet was 50.^[217]
- xi. **ISAAC LAW**, born Sharon 6 April 1797;^[218] died probably Sharon 2 Nov. 1797.^[219]
- xii. **JOHN LAW**, born 27 Sept. 1798;^[220] died probably 6 May 1883;^[221] married Peterborough 10 May 1832 **MARY ANN STEVENS**,^[222] born Mass. (census) or Derry, N.H.,^[223] ca. 1810 (census). In 1860 at Nashua, N.H., John was age 62, farmer, Mary A. 50, Anna M. 25, Mary E. 18, and Aaron F. Stevens 41, lawyer.^[224] In 1870 at Nashua, N.H., John was age 71, lockmaker, Mary E. [*sic*] 59, Mary E. 28, school teacher, Aaron F. Stevens 50, lawyer and member of Congress, and Addie M. Stevens, 27.^[225]
- xiii. **ARTEMUS LAW**, born Sharon 14 Aug. 1802;^[226] died Jaffrey, N.H., 12 Nov. 1836 age 34, buried “Old yd E. Jeffrey”;^[227] married Jaffrey 27 April 1829 **SARAH CUTTER**,^[228] born 13 Nov. 1801, daughter of Moses and Rachel (Turner) Cutter,^[229] died East Jaffrey 5 July 1887 age 85 years 7 months 19 days.^[230]
- xiii. **LUCY LAW**, born Sharon 12 April 1806;^[231] died Peterborough 4 May 1883 age 76;^[232] married Peterborough 14 May 1832,^[233] **FREDERICK LIVINGSTON**, born Townsend, Mass., 23 Oct. 1801, son of William and Elizabeth (Saunders) Livingston,^[234] d. Peterborough 29 Sept. 1893 age 91 years 11 months.^[235] Frederick Livingston was a director and president since 1865 of the First National Bank of Peterborough and a trustee of Peterborough Savings Bank Peterborough. He was self-educated, competent in mechanics and owed much in his life to three men – Charles Barrett, Esq. of New Ipswich; Hon. Samuel Smith and Gov. John H. Steele of Peterborough.^[236]

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²¹⁶ Young, *Temple Record Book*, 27.

²¹⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Sharon, Hillsborough Co., N.H., roll 433, p. 356.

²¹⁸ Young, *Temple Record Book*.

²¹⁹ *FamilySearch.org*, multiple patron submissions.

²²⁰ Young, *Temple Record Book*.

²²¹ *FamilySearch.org*, multiple patron submissions.

²²² *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

²²³ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org* of the death of their daughter Mary E. Stevens who died in Nashua, N.H., 15 June 1918 age 77.

²²⁴ 1860 U.S. Census, Nashua, Hillsborough Co., N.H., roll 673, p. 238, Mary A. born in Mass.

²²⁵ 1870 U.S. Census, Nashua, Hillsborough Co., N.H., roll 844, p. 180, all born in N.H. except the elder Mary E. and Addie. See <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/warheroes/stevensa.html> for a biography of Aaron Fletcher Stevens, probably Mary Ann’s brother. He was born in Londonderry or Derry, N.H., 9 Aug. 1819 and died at Nashua 10 May 1887, son of John F. and Martha (Warner) Stevens, born Billerica and Ipswich, Mass. (*New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*).

²²⁶ Young, *Temple Record Book*.

²²⁷ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

²²⁸ *New Hampshire Marriages, 1720–1920*, extract online at *FamilySearch.org*.

²²⁹ Daniel Bateman Cutter, *History of the Town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire* (Concord, N.H.: Republican Press Assoc., 1881), 277.

²³⁰ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*.

²³¹ Young, *Temple Record Book*.

²³² *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, of “senile debility.”

²³³ *New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*; Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix 137.

²³⁴ Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix 135.

²³⁵ *New Hampshire Deaths and Burials, 1654–1947*, image online at *FamilySearch.org*, of apoplexy, manufacturer, his parents named.

²³⁶ Smith, *History of Peterborough*, Appendix 137, his portrait on the facing page.

People who travel Jarmany Hill Road in Sharon, New Hampshire, will not readily see Jarmany Hill Cemetery. On the road's south side about one half mile west from its intersection with Route 123, is a white gate and beyond it a trail. As you walk the trail, slippery pine needles, crunching leaves and chirping birds accompany your ascent. A leaf-filled canopy blocks the sun's direct light; only sunbeams twinkle in the muted light. When the trail crests, the canopy disappears and the sun brilliantly illuminates an ill-maintained, yet hallowed cemetery, with a couple hundred stones. Small stones for James and Esther Law's six young children, larger ones for them and their two adult children, and a relatively opulent stone for Billings Carter are there. Near the front are a stone and a rusted, indecipherable medallion, perhaps placed long ago by the DAR – on Reuben Law's final resting place. I went to Jarmany Hill, parked at the white gate and took the walk. In silence, broken only by occasionally chirping, I stared at Reuben Law's gravestone and medallion. It was downright eerie.

Concluded

Dear Reader,

MASSOG editor, Helen Ullmann has spent a great deal of time with me editing this two-part article. She has been terrific and I've learned so much from her. I want to acknowledge her consideration of every aspect of my work. I am grateful for the advice and assistance that I received from her.

Thank you Helen for all your help,
Al Woollacott

Alfred Woollacott III spent more than thirty years in the business world auditing financial statements. Now retired, he has turned to researching his family history. He is currently working on a novel based on some of his illustrious ancestors in the Law family. When not working on family genealogy, he spends time with his wife of 37 years, four children, and eight grandchildren. He enjoys golf, crossword puzzles, cooking and landscaping. He now resides full time on Martha's Vineyard and may be contacted at MV4AL@aol.com.