



# THE NICHOLAS ROBBINS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2010

## Duxbury By Way of Digby and Worcester

*by Peter G. Robbins*

I recall my father talking about Nova Scotia off and on during my childhood. There were never too many details provided. I got the impression he did not know much about that side of the family for one reason or another. During one of our short conversations about Nova Scotia, he mentioned that my grandfather was ostracized by my great-grandfather for marrying a Catholic. Before my great-grandfather's death, my great-grandmother, known affectionately as "Nana Robbins", had to sneak over from Worcester to visit my father's family. I have no idea what story she used to pull that off, but I'm sure my grandfather respected her for doing it. I loved my grandfather very much and hearing this at a young age made me resent Protestantism and become strongly attached to my Catholic roots. Having two French Canadian lines, both Catholic, and an Irish Catholic line above me to latch on to, led me to not caring to know much about my Robbins line.

I'd always wanted to do a family tree but it wasn't until I saw the recent television programs, "Who Do You Think You Are?" and "Faces of America", that I thought I should stop thinking about it and give it a try. While watching those programs, one point struck home; that many folks harbored resentment toward a particular line because of the way a particular relative was treated. Even though I was very young when I heard about it, the fact that my grandfather was ostracized had left a lasting impression on me. Watching the individuals in these television programs get past resentment to find a better perspective on all of their family lines, sparked a new interest in researching my grandfather's male line.

I started my research by doing a look-up of birth records on Ancestry.com. I also chatted with my father again about all the names he could remember in regards to his grandfather and Nova Scotia. He stated that his grandfather's given name was Fred but had trouble recalling his grandmother's name as she was always referred to as "Nana". He thought her name might have been Margaret. This led me to search for a Fred Robbins married to a

Margaret Robbins in or around Worcester, Massachusetts, where I knew the family had moved prior to my grandfather's marriage to "that Catholic". I then did further searches using a random combination of Frederick Robbins and Nova Scotia and found the Rootsweb site with a lot of Robbins mentioned. Within that site there was reference to a Frederick H. Robbins who had "married in America". I thought this might be the Fred I was looking for, but was soon shot down as about this time I received an email from my uncle saying that his grandmother's name was Mildred, not Margaret, and that she was also from Nova Scotia and not originally a U. S. citizen. Also, the birth date listed for the Frederick H. Robbins on the Rootsweb site made him too old for a proper match with my great-grandfather.

OK, shoot! Wrong Fred Robbins. I thought I might be in a pickle at this point. I then did further searches on Ancestry.com and more appropriately placed a Fred Robbins with a Mildred Robbins in Worcester, Massachusetts. I then did further internet searches for a Fred Robbins in Nova Scotia and a Fred and Mildred Robbins marriage. I ended up finding an obituary for a Fred A. Robbins on a Nova Scotia genealogy website. It is noted below in its entirety. This obituary proved to be the Rosetta Stone of my research.

"Digby Courier, Thursday, May 25, 1961, FRED A. ROBBINS. Word was received by Clifford Robbins of the passing of his brother, Fred Albert Robbins, of Worcester, Massachusetts, on Sunday, May 15, 1961. He was the son of the late James Albert and Mary Etta Robbins of Smith's Cove, Nova Scotia. The deceased had been in poor health the past two or three years. He underwent two operations in the past year. Besides his wife, Mildred D'Arcey Robbins, formerly of Joggins Bridge, he is survived by two sons and two daughters of Worcester and Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and several grandchildren, also a brother Otis in California, two sisters in New York, and one in Virginia, U.S.; Hazel Smith of Sunbury, Ontario; Mrs. Avard Wilson of Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia and Mrs. Myrtle Jackson of Deep Brook, Nova Scotia. He was 67 years old and born in Bear River, Nova Scotia. (Submitter: L. Marshall)"

I called my father again and asked if he remembered a Clifford Robbins when visiting Digby. He did and stated that it was not often but that he had met him a couple times. The key corroborating points in the obituary were that it directly refers to Worcester, Massachusetts, that it refers to Mildred Robbins as the wife, and that it mentions two sons and two daughters, which would represent my grandfather, great-uncle and two great-aunts. My father was lumped into the grouping of "several grandchildren". Another key name listed was "Mrs. Myrtle Jackson", as will be seen again below.

After confirming within reason that the above obituary matched my great-grandfather, I searched further on the internet for birth information for Fred Albert Robbins and Clifford Robbins. I found their birth certificates on [www.novascotiagenealogy.com](http://www.novascotiagenealogy.com). God bless this Nova Scotia genealogy website!

The key points visible on the Fred Albert Robbins Birth Registry were: (1) Birth date recorded as August 1, 1893; (2) Parents recorded as James Albert Robbins and Mary Etta Berry of Bear Creek, Digby County, Nova Scotia; (3) Date of death for James Albert Robbins recorded as May 14, 1931; (4) Corroborates Mrs. Myrtle Jackson as sister to Fred Albert Robbins. The lower portion of the Fred Albert Robbins birth certificate indicates it was entered into the record by his sister, Myrtle Josephine Jackson on May 12, 1952. In further support of the birth data, she included the following supplemental information on her Affidavit: "My parents were married Nov. 28, 1876. Eldest child was born April 16, 1878.

The youngest was born January 19, 1900. The average between births was 2 years. This is all recorded in my father's family Bible and I know it is every whit the truth." Also, while on the Nova Scotia Vital Statistics site, I came across the following notation: "According to a Certificate of Marriage, Frederick A. Robbins and Mildred E. D'Arcy were married on February 25, 1914 at Bear River, Digby County, Nova Scotia. According to said certificate, the age of the groom is stated as twenty-one (21) years of age."

Key points visible on the Clifford Ainslie Robbins Birth Registry were: (1) Parents also recorded as James Albert Robbins and Mary Etta Berry; (2) Birth date recorded as January 19, 1900 and birth place as Bear River, Digby County, Nova Scotia; (3) The person making the Affidavit in support of Clifford's birth registration was his uncle, George Edwin Robbins, and he states the following: " I was working at the home of his father at the time of the birth of Clifford Ainslie Robbins. I was a brother of James Albert Robbins and I am now 85 yrs old the 16th of Sept. 1948."

With these poignant tidbits, I then moved on to attempt to connect George Edwin Robbins to James Albert Robbins. After finding both of their birth certificates, I did further internet searches for them and came across a rather shocking entry on a Rootsweb Message Board which noted James and George among the surviving sons of David R. Robbins of Bear River, who brutally murdered his wife, Emmeline (Chute) Robbins. On another Rootsweb site I was able to determine that David R. Robbins was the son of William Robbins and Francis Wier and was able to follow the linked lineage on that website all the way back to Nicholas Robbins of Duxbury, Plymouth Colony (now Massachusetts). I did some searches on Nicholas Robbins to check out who he was and found the Nicholas Robbins Family website. Lawrence G. Robbins, the website manager, confirmed the links between Nicholas Robbins and David R. Robbins, an eighth generation descendant of Nicholas. Thus, after a fruitful journey, I was able to establish my Robbins lineage as follows:

Nicholas Robbins, John Robbins, Jeduthan Robbins Sr., Jeduthan Robbins Jr., James Robbins, Abiel Robbins, William Robbins, David R. Robbins, James Albert Robbins, Fred Albert Robbins, Ewart A. Robbins, Kenneth N. Robbins, Peter G. Robbins

Peter G. Robbins was born in Saugerties, New York and moved to North Carolina in 1984 with his family. He presently resides with his wife and two children in Raleigh, where he is employed in the telecommunications industry. Peter may be contacted by email at [murdock@nc.rr.com](mailto:murdock@nc.rr.com).

## **Robbins at Rest in Lakenham Cemetery**

*by Lawrence G. Robbins*

LAKENHAM CEMETERY in North Carver, Massachusetts, holds a special place in our family's history. A grandson of Nicholas Robbins, JEDUTHAN ROBBINS, is buried there, together with his wife, HANNAH (PRATT) ROBBINS, sons Jeduthan (Jr) and John and several family members from subsequent generations. Time has taken its toll on the older stones. My best effort at deciphering them follows but first a few words about the oldest gravestone, that of Jeduthan Robbins (Sr). Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of

Eugene H. Robbins, an eighth generation descendant of Nicholas Robbins, the original marker was saved from oblivion after a couple centuries of wear and tear by embedding it in a larger granite marker. That work was completed in 1911. Now, a century later, the inscription on Jeduthan's marker, one of the oldest surviving gravestones in Lakenham Cemetery, can still be read: "Here Lys Ye Body of Jeduthan Robbens, Decd Apriell Ye 25 in Ye Year 1721 in Ye 54th Year of his Age". The inscription on the newer encompassing granite headstone reads: "Jeduthan Robbins, Born Jan. 11, 1667, Died Apr. 25, 1721, His wife, Hannah Pratt. ONLY CHILD OF JOHN WHO WAS THE ONLY SON OF NICHOLAS ROBBINS OF DUXBURY".

The older family gravestones which have survived, including Jeduthan Robbins (Sr)'s, are laid out in a row in the middle of the cemetery toward the south end (Row 3, Section "O"). Continuing southerly, next to Jeduthan (Sr), is son JOHN ROBBINS. His stone reads: "John Robbins, son of Jeduthan, grandson of Nicholas Robbins of Duxbury, Died in the Winter of 1740 aged about 44 years". Next is JOSEPH ROBBINS, son of Jeduthan Robbins (Jr) : "Joseph, son to Jeduthan Robbens, Dyed Oct. ye 20, 1719 ages 16 days", followed by REBEKAH ROBBINS, daughter of Jeduthan Robbins (Jr), "Rebekah, daughter to Jeduthan and Rebekah Robbens His Wife, Dec. ye 26 Dec 1734, aged 1 year, 1 month". The fifth stone in this line belongs to SARAH ROBBINS, daughter of Jeduthan Robbins (Jr). It reads: "Here Lyes Ye Body of Sarah Robens Who Dec. Nov. ye 11, 1739, in her 17th year." Next is ELEAZER ROBBINS, son of Jeduthan Robbins (Jr), which reads: "In Memory of Mr. Eleazer Robbins, Died Oct. ye 19, 1776, in ye 52nd year of His Life". Finally, the seventh and last stone visible in this "Robbins Row" is that of JEDUTHAN ROBBINS (JR), which is inscribed: "Here Lyes Ye Body of Mr. Jeduthan Robbens Jun. Who Dec. December ye 15, 1740, in his 46th year".

Other Nicholas Robbins descendants and their spouses buried at Lakenham Cemetery include:

ALBERT C. ROBBINS, 1915--1985 and wife MAY (SHAW) ROBBINS, 1914-- \_\_\_\_\_  
(Row 3, Section "H")

BENJAMIN W. ROBBINS, Aug. 12, 1835--Mar. 25, 1912, and wife LYDIA M.  
(HAMMOND) ROBBINS, Sep. 10, 1834--Mar. 17, 1926 (Row 2, Section "M")

CHANDLER ROBBINS (SR), Feb. 26, 1801--Aug. 15, 1887, wife SARAH (BURGESS)  
ROBBINS, Apr. 16, 1798--May 9, 1882, and daughter SARAH B. ROBBINS, died Mar. 20,  
1828, aged 2 yrs. 3 mo. (Row 1, Section "H")

CHANDLER ROBBINS (JR), Jan. 1, 1824--Mar. 27, 1895 and wife BATHSHEBA  
(WILLIAMS) ROBBINS, Aug. 2, 1824--Feb. 4, 1901 (Row 1, Section "H")

GERTRUDE L. ROBBINS, Jul. 8, 1900--Nov. 23, 1968 (Row 2, Section "M")

HENRY H. ROBBINS, Apr. 19, 1899--Apr. 6, 1971 (Row 2, Section "M")

HORACE C. ROBBINS, Oct. 11, 1850--Jul. 11, 1946, and wife JENNIE E. (HOWE)  
ROBBINS, Dec. 29, 1851--Sep. 12, 1913 (Row \_\_, Section "C")

JOHN SPRAGUE ROBBINS, died Aug. 30, 1862, aged 30 yrs. (Row 1, Section "H")  
Editors Note: John Sprague Robbins died in the Civil War at the Second Battle of Bull Run while serving in the 18th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers. Perhaps he was buried nearer the battlefield and this is a monument in his memory.

LLOYD C. ROBBINS, Dec. 5, 1876--Jun. 20, 1931 and wives, SUSIE A. (LINTON) ROBBINS, Apr. 14, 1883--Feb. 23, 1909 and MARY (SHAW) ROBBINS, May 29, 1887--Nov. 1, 1972 (Row 1, Section "H")

MAURICE F. ROBBINS, Apr. 19, 1879--Feb. 2, 1964, wife, ELIZABETH A. (LINTON) ROBBINS, Jun. 12, 1875--Jan. 10, 1956, son, EVERETT W. ROBBINS, Jul. 6, 1905--Dec. 8, 1906, and daughter, CLARA J. ROBBINS, Jun. 23, 1915--Dec. 18, 1915 (Row 2, Section "M")

## ROBBINS FAMILY REUNIONS

A family reunion will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2010. It will be at the Hart Historic District, 100 Union Street, Hart, Michigan. Noon-Social Hour; Potluck-1:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and bring money for the 50/50 raffle. Contact person: Marsha Soest, (616) 281-2810

The descendants of J. J. Clark Robbins (and Deacon James Robbins) will be having a reunion August 7-9, 2010 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Some descendants of Capt. Benjamin Robbins, brother of Deacon James, will also be in attendance, most notably David Robbins Lister, who is coming all the way from Australia and Jim Purdy, from Newfoundland. For information contact Hugh Kimball (Kim) Robbins by email at [hkrobbins@eastlink.ca](mailto:hkrobbins@eastlink.ca).

## FAMILY FORUM

*(Editor's Note: You are cordially invited to submit queries and notices related to Nicholas Robbins and his descendants. Topics may vary from information requests and "lost sheep" inquiries to birth and marriage announcements and family reunion notices. If you are able to provide an answer to a previous query, please send it in so we can publish it for the benefit of the original correspondent and other family researchers. Queries and notices may be submitted via email addressed to [riaresearch@aol.com](mailto:riaresearch@aol.com) or by regular post to Lawrence Robbins, P. O. Box 8274, Portland, OR, 97207. Thank you.)*

Found!!! POLLY ROBBINS, daughter of William and Clarissa Robbins of Floyd, New York. A family history ("Robbins Family" by Eugene H. and Henry T. Robbins) says William and Clarissa had five children, one son and four daughters, but provides no further details. From what could be deduced from local records and censuses, it would appear that

four of those five children were: Ephraim L. Robbins, b.c. 1813, who died in 1847; Louise Robbins, b .c. 1815, who married Stephen Brewer c. 1834; Clarissa Robbins, b.c. 1816, who died in 1848; and Jane Robbins, b.c. 1829, who married George Thayer c. 1849. No trace of the fifth child, a daughter, was found by the time "The Nicholas Robbins Family", was published in 2006. In September, 2008, we received a most welcome email from TOM HALL of Oakland, California, which not only supplied us with the identity of that daughter but also gave us much valuable information regarding the descendants of William and Clarissa Robbins. His email follows. Thank you, Mr. Hall. And thanks also to JULIE (ROBBINS) DRESSER for linking him up to the Nicholas Robbins Family website.

"I have just learned of your eight generation ancestry of Nicholas Robbins from Julie Robbins Dresser. I just forwarded her a copy of my recent post on Ancestry.com, which I think will tell you how I'm related and, according to Julie, will provide new information regarding a Robbins who has thus far gone undocumented.

'Seeking parents of Polly (b. 1819) and Jane Robbins of Rome/Floyd, NY area. Polly married Lyman Carpenter and had five children: Lyman, Washington, Cyrus, Sophia and Jane. Jane Robbins married George H. Thayer and had Henry W. and Cynthia. Henry W. Thayer died in Syracuse in 1926, a retired Erie Canal boatman and bachelor. With no surviving siblings, cousin Lyman Carpenter was executor of Thayer's will that divided estate of \$35,000 among numerous first, second and third cousins on his mother's and father's side. Receiving the largest shares were Celia Mallery Graves, Ella Alward, Charles Thayer Jr., Lyman Carpenter, Jennie Beatty and Eliza Peffer. Obituary for Henry Thayer mentioned a slip of paper in Thayer's billfold that also mentioned Hattie and Joe Archambeau as relatives, I suspect on the maternal side but am not sure how they're related.'

I had speculated to Julie that Polly was the daughter of William Robbins of Floyd for the following reasons. In the 1830 Census he has daughters of the right age to fit Polly into the Robbins family. Two doors down there is a Carpenter family, which suggests how she might have easily met Lyman. Julie tells me that you have placed Jane Robbins Thayer in the family of William and Clarissa Robbins. I found the cousin connection between Henry Thayer and Lyman Carpenter quite accidentally on the Fulton online postcard/newspaper site. Thayer's death in 1926 created a stir that the papers picked up. My post on Ancestry.com was actually wrong in the sense that there was no will. Thayer died intestate and left a small fortune behind. Lyman Carpenter, as first cousin, became executor of the estate and there were numerous second and third cousins in addition to the first, who were identified by Carpenter to share in the proceeds. I have a copy of the 'will' and if you are interested I can send it to you. I also have obtained copies of death certificates for Lyman Carpenter and Henry Thayer that establish their mothers as Polly and Jane Robbins, respectively.

I wish my searching had culminated in this information before you published, Julie says maybe three years ago, but if you are updating the information, I would be glad if you would add Polly Robbins Carpenter to your data base or addendum. After Lyman Carpenter died, Polly married a Levi Turner, or so I have concluded from a study of census records. I have not been able to find her death date. I am descended from Washington Carpenter, Polly's son. He died in 1915 before Thayer died. His grandson, Clarence Hall, my grandfather, received a distribution from the Thayer estate."

*Editor's Note: A Supplement covering Polly (Robbins) Carpenter and her family was issued in November, 2008, and can be found in the [Supplement section](#) of the Nicholas Robbins Family website. LGR*

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## **Obituaries and Memorials**

*(Editor's Note: This section honors our family members who have preceded us in death and will be a reoccurring feature of the Newsletter. Older as well as recent obituaries and memorials of Nicholas Robbins descendants and their spouses are welcome. They may be submitted as attachments to emails addressed to [riaresearch@aol.com](mailto:riaresearch@aol.com) or by regular post to Lawrence G. Robbins, P. O. Box 8274, Portland, OR, 97207. Please identify your media source, i. e. newspaper, on-line site, etc., as well as the date it was printed, so that proper attribution can be included. Thank you.)*

ROBERT M. ROBBINS (August 30, 1910 - November 4, 1975) Had he lived, "Dad" and "Papa Bob" would have been 100 years old this August. We love and miss him very much. Genealogically speaking, his descendants now include two sons, Larry and Steve, three granddaughters, Valerie, Sarah and Alicia, a great-granddaughter, Grace, and two great-grandsons, Henry and Miles. He would have been proud of all of them and each of them, in turn, would have enjoyed his company, particularly his stories about his youth and his Robbins ancestry.

Robert M. Robbins: Loving Husband, Dad, and Grandfather; Salesman, Marketing Manager and Sales V. P. (all in the poultry and dairy industries); Merit Park Homeowners Association Board of Directors; Mason and Shriner; devoted golfer; and avid Los Angeles Dodgers fan and original season ticket holder.

NRD: Nicholas Robbins, John Robbins, Jeduthan Robbins (Sr), Jeduthan Robbins (Jr), James Robbins (Sr), James Robbins (Jr), Rufus Robbins, Prince H. Robbins, Robert W. Robbins, Robert L. Robbins, Robert M. Robbins

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