

# SIMSBURY

## Genealogical and Historical Research Library

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### Lockwood Migrations Tracing One Lockwood Family Line

*When researching a family that came to the New World many generations ago, one inherent challenge is tracking its movements within this continent. This country's early settlers often settled in more than one place. Englishman Robert Lockwood and his descendants, who now have reached the thirteenth generation in America, are typical of many families whose members began in New England, journeyed forth to open Western lands, then found a home in New England again.*

#### The Great Emigration

Robert Lockwood (Generation 1), the progenitor of this family line, was baptized January 14, 1599/1600, at Combs, Suffolk County, England. In 1630, Robert and his brother Edmund joined the Winthrop Fleet in the Great Emigration from England. They settled with other Massachusetts Bay colonists in Watertown, where in 1632 Robert married Susannah Norman. She was the daughter of Richard and Margaret (Alford) Norman. Robert Lockwood became a freeman in 1636 and was granted several parcels of land between 1636 and 1642. By 1645 the family had moved to the Connecticut Colony's newly settled town of Fairfield. A New Haven Colony record yields an interesting item: On May 13, 1654, at the court held in New Haven, Susannah Lockwood stated in a deposition that she had been present when Goodwife Knapp was hanged in Fairfield that April as a witch. Robert Lockwood died in Fairfield on September 16, 1658.

Their son Ephraim Lockwood (2) was born December 1, 1641, at Watertown and soon after moved with the family to Fairfield. As an adult he lived in the town of Norwalk, which was incorporated in 1651. In a transaction dated December 30, 1664, Ephraim Lockwood bought from

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#### About the Author

Thomas D. Ayres was raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and was graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1966 with a degree in Business. He served in the US Army Reserves from 1963 to 1969. His career with Aetna Casualty & Surety / Travelers Insurance Company spanned over thirty years, with retirement in 2001.

Tom's interest in genealogy began in 1960 when Ames Meacham, a relative living in Milan, Ohio, shared information from the Lockwood family bible with him. He did his early research at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. He is a member of the Connecticut Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and a volunteer at the Simsbury Historical Society and SGHRL.

one of the founders of the town, Jonathan Marsh, property that included his "home-lot containing one acre more or less" and "his howse with the shelfes, dress-boards, etc;" also the "yards, hovells, and tenn fruit trees growing upon the orchard." Marsh accepted as payment "one mare and a sucking colt." On June 8, 1665, Ephraim Lockwood married Mercy Sention, daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth Sention (or St. John), of Norwalk. He was made a freeman in 1667 and he died at Norwalk on June 13, 1685. The inventory filed with the probate court valued his estate at £322.

Their son Joseph Lockwood (3) was born April 1, 1680, at Norwalk. There he married Mary Weed, daughter of John and Mary Weed (or Wood), on August 14, 1707. Joseph was a deacon in his church and made wise land investments. He died November 23, 1760 and was buried in the old cemetery later called the Town House Hill Cemetery that is within the present Mill Hill Historic Park and Museum site in Norwalk. His estate was valued at £91.

Their son Joseph Lockwood (4) was born at Norwalk on November 23, 1710. He crossed Long Island Sound to marry Rebecka Rogers on March 10, 1736/7, at Huntington, New York. Joseph purchased land at "Sticky Plain" in Norwalk. He died in that town on July 20, 1773, and was buried in the same cemetery as his father. His estate was valued at £765.

Their son Stephen Lockwood (5) was born on August 16, 1754. During the American Revolution Stephen enlisted as a private in the company commanded by Fairfield's Captain John Mills. That company was part of the Connecticut Line's Second Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Webb. The Second Regiment served in the summer and fall of 1777 along the Hudson River under General Israel Putnum. In November they joined General George Washington's army in Pennsylvania and wintered at Valley Forge. In July of 1778 they were assigned to the Second Connecticut Brigade, Huntington's, at Camp White Plains in New York. Stephen Lockwood was discharged in 1780 and on April 14, 1782, at Norwalk, he married Sarah Betts, daughter of Dr. Thaddeus and Elizabeth (Maltby) Betts.

While Stephen Lockwood was still in the army, the British general William Tryon landed troops in Connecticut and attacked towns along Long Island Sound. On November 11, 1779, the British burned much of Norwalk, including eighty dwellings, two churches, eighty-seven barns, seventeen shops and four mills. Stephen Lockwood was one of the "sufferers," as those who lost property were called.

The fire sufferers spent years petitioning for relief. Finally in 1792 the state took action to reimburse victims and their heirs by turning over to them 500,000 acres in Ohio for equitable division according to their losses. These land grants, known as the "Fire Lands," were located in the Connecticut Western Reserve. It was 1805 before the Indians of the area agreed to cede their lands. Additional years were devoted to a survey. By that time, most of the sufferers were too old to move to Ohio, but they gave or sold their land grants to others. After the War of 1812 ended, "Ohio fever" hit Connecticut, resulting in one of the largest and most homogeneous group migrations in American history.

### **Migrating Yankees**

Stephen Lockwood gave his land in the New Connecticut Firelands to his sons George, Ralph and Henry. The brothers also had grants from other relatives and all three eventually moved to Ohio. Stephen, then fifty-one, decided to go with his son Henry and son-in-law David Gibbs to

inspect the land they owned. They left Norwalk on June 12, 1815, and proceeded by covered wagon to Ohio, passing through New York City; Newark, New Jersey; Reading, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and into Ohio. They spent the Fourth of July in New Lisbon, then pushed on to Wooster, Mansfield, New Haven, then by Bell's Trail to Lower Sandusky, and finally Milan, arriving on July 16th.

The whole journey lasted more than ten weeks and took place in almost continuous rain. They spent a week examining the family land and picked a home site about a mile east of Norwalk. There were only three other families in Norwalk Township at this time. During the months of August through October, they built a double log cabin and cleared and planted six acres of wheat. Then they returned to Connecticut, arriving in mid-October.\*

Stephen died on February 13, 1830, at Norwalk, Connecticut, and was buried in the town's first cemetery, now called the East Norwalk Historical Cemetery. His will was filed with the probate court in Huron County, Ohio. His widow, Sarah, died September 21, 1848, at Milan, Ohio, having joined their children there.

Their son Ralph Lockwood (6) was born July 9, 1787, at Norwalk, Connecticut. He married Esther Antoinette Gregory, daughter of Moses and Esther (Hoyt) Gregory, in May of 1815 in New York City. In the autumn of 1819 Ralph and his brother George and their families left Norwalk and proceeded via the Erie Canal to Buffalo, New York, where they chartered a schooner to cross Lake Erie. However, the schooner was becalmed for five days near the Canadian shore. So they landed their families and procured teams to pull their wagons back to Buffalo and then on to Milan, a distance of 250 miles. That part of the trip took more than a month.

Ralph was a surveyor, postmaster and merchant in partnership with his brother George. The brothers, who owned a grain business, successfully petitioned the state of Ohio to build the Milan Canal that ran twelve miles from Milan to Lake Erie and cost \$1,250 a mile to construct. Milan enjoyed an economic boom once the canal began to be used for transporting grain. The brothers owned one of the many warehouses that sprang up in the town. Ralph Lockwood died October 28, 1838, at Milan, Ohio. Because of the partnership's complicated affairs, it took the probate court ten years to settle his estate.

Their son Stephen Adolphus Lockwood (7) was born June 10, 1820, in a log cabin on the family farm. He was one of the first students at Huron Institute. In 1845 he went into the mercantile business in Milan with his brother William, and on August 3, 1847, he married his first cousin Sarah Lockwood, daughter of George and Mary (Cannon) Lockwood. William and he suffered heavy losses when the Milan Square burned in 1852. He then engaged in agricultural pursuits. During the Civil War he served for two years in the US Navy. Stephen Adolphus Lockwood died March 6, 1898, at Milan.

His widow, Sarah Lockwood, wrote in her "Reminiscences of Early Days in Northern Ohio" that she remembered seeing Indians pass by her family home in the 1830s on the way to their

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\* Henry Lockwood wrote an account of this journey that was published in "Firelands Pioneer" in 1859. Stephen Lockwood's daughter Elizabeth, who was married to David Gibbs, wrote an account of her difficult journey to Ohio in 1816 and hardships encountered there that was also published in the periodical. Both are reprinted, along with the Sarah Lockwood's reminiscences of life in northern Ohio, in the appendix to *Lockwood Genealogy: Some of the Descendants of Robert Lockwood* by Thomas D. Ayres. Mr. Ayres has contributed a copy of his book to the library.

camp on the river. Her father would invite them into the yard and treat them to bread or gingerbread, which they would sit on the grass and eat. One day the Indians stopped at the well to get water. "As they were leaving," she wrote, "they happened to spy the baking bread that mother had just taken out of the oven by the fire place and placed on the shelf in the pantry to cool; each took a loaf, putting it under their arms and were marching off when my mother happened to see them. She picked up an ax that was standing near and said, 'If you don't put my bread back, I will chop your heads off.' They put it back and left without saying a word."

Their daughter Sarah Rebecca Lockwood (8) was born August 26, 1860, and married George Rufus Curtis on November 10, 1881, at Milan, Ohio. George served as mayor of Milan for fourteen years. Sarah died May 21, 1920, at Lakewood, Ohio, and was buried at Milan.

Their daughter Mabel Ann Curtis (9) was born August 15, 1882, and married Walter Thomas Dunmore on November 10, 1904, at Milan. Walter graduated from Oberlin College and was Dean of Western Reserve Law School in Cleveland, Ohio, for thirty-five years. Mabel died September 2, 1931, at Cleveland Heights.

Their daughter Helen Elizabeth Dunmore (10) was born July 8, 1915 and married Charles Hamilton Ayres on December 17, 1938, at Cleveland. Both were graduates of Western Reserve University. Charles was an attorney at law for thirty years in Cleveland.

### **Transferring Buckeyes**

Their son Thomas Dunmore Ayers (11), the author of this article, was born April 24, 1941, and married Marcia Lou Witzel on May 25, 1968, at Cleveland, Ohio. While working for Aetna Casualty & Surety, he took advantage of the opportunity to transfer to the home office in Hartford, Connecticut. They moved to Simsbury in March of 1978, a drive across Interstate 90 that took about eleven hours, with their young daughters, Cathy and Susie asking, "Are we there yet?" Their Lockwood ancestors would have been envious of this trip.

Their daughter Susan Lockwood Ayres (12) was born October 12, 1972, at Willoughby, Ohio, and married Mark Allen Kolbusz on June 29, 2002, at Simsbury.

Their son, Trevor Curtis Kolbusz (13), was born August 22, 2003, at Hartford.

*By Thomas D. Ayres*

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- Probate Records, Connecticut State Archives, Hartford, Connecticut.
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- Lockwood family gravestones in East Norwalk Historical Cemetery and Town House Hill Cemetery, Norwalk, Connecticut, and Milan Cemetery, Milan, Ohio.

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## Bridge to Monument: A Storied Stone

The last issue of this newsletter featured the dedication by Simsbury's Abigail Phelps Chapter DAR of a monument in honor of their namesake, Abigail Phelps, the mother of three Revolutionary War soldiers. As it happens, the chapter placed its memorial plaque on a brownstone boulder that has a place in the town's history.

According to Town Engineer Richard Sawitzke, the stone was a part of an abutment for a bridge that elevated Drake Hill Road as it passed above the New Haven & Northampton Railroad. This was often called the Canal Line because it generally followed the right-of-way for the defunct Farmington Canal. The portion of the railroad running through Simsbury was built in 1849-50.

The railroad intersected Drake Hill Road just east of the property that is now occupied by Webster Bank and the trains stopped at the passenger station now the One Way Fare restaurant. Trains ran on this line until 1982 and cars crossed over the rail bed using the steep wood-decked bridge until it was removed in 1986 and the site was regraded.

The stones from the bridge abutment were stored on the Simsbury Pollution Control Facility grounds. Superintendent James Clifton and his staff assisted DAR Regent Joyce Cahill with obtaining one to place in Simsbury Cemetery for the Abigail Phelps monument.

Originally, the brownstone for the bridge most likely came from the quarry on Quarry Road, which supplied the stone in 1922 for the cemetery's memorial gateway. However it also might have come from the nearer, smaller quarry on Hop Brook that provided stone in 1826 for the viaduct that brought the canal over the brook.

Mary Jane Springman thanks Joyce Cahill, James Clifton and Richard Sawitzke for providing information for this article. She also used material from *Simsbury: Being a Brief Historical Sketch of Ancient and Modern Simsbury* by John E. Ellsworth (Simsbury: The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary, 1935) and *Connecticut Railroads* by Gregg M. Turner and Melancthon W. Jacobus (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1986).

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## Some Recent Acquisitions

*Death Notices from the Canada Christian Advocate, 1858-1872* by Rev. Donald A. McKenzie (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)

*Index to the 1871 Census of Ontario: Bruce, Wellington, Haldimand, Norfolk, Toronto* Bruce S. Elliott, gen. ed. (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)

*Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities 1987-1997: A Bibliography* by Barbara B. Aitken (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)

*Middlesex County in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England: Records of Probate and Administration, October 1649-December 1660, March 1660/61-December 1670*, 2 vols., by Robert H. Rodgers.

*Mohawk Valley in the Revolution: Committee of Safety Papers & Genealogical Compendium* by Maryly B. Penrose (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)

*Obituaries from the Canada Christian Advocate, 1873-1884* by Donald A. McKenzie (donated by Celia Ann Roberts)

**SIMSBURY MARRIAGES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>
June 4, 1875	Saml. D. Alford Nellie Brockett	28		Avon Simsbury
July 24, 1875	Thos. Convey Elizabeth Hill	25 20		Thompsonville, Ct Tariffville
July 24, 1875	John West Jennie Forsythe	28 30		Nova Scotia Ireland
Aug. 12, 1875	Jno J. A. Baggs Elizabeth J. Turnbull	27 23		Providence, RI Simsbury
Aug. 14, 1875	Nymphas N. Wright Edna M. Atwood	25 22		East Hartland Granby
Oct. 7, 1875	Chas. Julius Parker Sarah Cornelia Eno	25 23		New Britain, Ct Simsbury
Nov. 20, 1875	Chas. R. Holmes Alice E. Lemley	29 21		Simsbury Otis, Mass
Nov. 25, 1875	John T. Shaw Emma J. Brown	21 20		Pond Ridge, NY Collinsville
Nov. 24, 1875	Frank O. Brigham Katie E. Fulton	44 28		Dedham, Mass Simsbury, Ct
Mar. 16, 1876	Howard W. Smith Elizabeth J Messenger	24 20		Bloomfield Granby
Mar. 28, 1876	Miner S. Bacon Nancy J. Brown	21 17		Simsbury Simsbury
Mar. 29, 1876	William H. Fuller Julia A. Ransom	26 20		West Hartford Otis, Mass
Apr. 12, 1876	Eugene Brown Emma E. Gates	29 17		Granby Simsbury
Apr. 18, 1876	John W. Phelps Mary E. Buckley	39 30		Simsbury New Milford, Ct
Apr. 19, 1876	Charles E. Curtiss Sarah J. Toy	26 18		Simsbury Simsbury
May 2, 1876	John Perkins Harriett Smith	41 19		East Granby Bloomfield

This continuing series on Simsbury's early marriage records has been copied by Stephen E. Simon from microfilmed records at the Connecticut State Library.

## **SPEAKER ON GENEALOGY**

**Jean Nudd, Archivist**  
**National Archives and Records Administration**  
**Northeast Region, Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

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