

DESCENDANTS OF

JAMES FRANKLIN

MASSACHUSETTS CIRCA 1675

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REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

- AC Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy.
- AGRI American Genealogical Research Institute, The Franklin Family.
- AVR Vital Records of Rhode Island (1893) by James N. Arnold, Editor Narragansett Historical Register.
- BOD Soldiers in King Philip's War, by G. M. Bodge.
- BOF The World Book of Franklins (1995), by Halberts Family Heritage, Ch 5.
- CR Cemetery Records taken from grave markers.
- CEN First official census of Ontario, taken 1850-1851, called 1851 census.
- DR Ancestors and Descendants of my _____Grandparents, by Dorothy Raymoure (information unverified).
- FBA Family Bible of Augustus Franklin.
- FBW Family Bible of William Franklin.
- GDA Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, (1892) by John Austin.
- GDS Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England (1986), by James Savage, former president of Massachusetts Historical Society.
- HA Historical Atlas of Norfolk County, Ontario. (1877)
- HJ History of Jamestown on Conanicut Island (1949), by W. L. Watson.
- IGI International Genealogical Index, Latter-Day Saints.
- JS Jamestown Sampler (1980), by B. Lippincott.
- LPS The Long Point Settlers Journal, Vol 1, No. 1, (1994), Log Cabin Publishing. R. Robert Mutrie.
- MFH Montross: A Family History (1967?), by John W. and Eva Mills Taylor. Well researched. Continues family of William Franklin and Martha Maria McCleish to abt 1965.
- NEM New England Marriages Prior to 1700, by C. A. Torrey.

- NER 22 New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol 22.
- NER 51 New England Historical & Genealogical Register,
Oct. 1951.
- OPB Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement, (1898) by E.
A. Owen. Inaccurate and unreliable. Capt. William
Franklin, p 287; Andrew McLeish, p 307.
- RB Book in which receipts for payment were kept. Started
by George Franklin in 1766, continued by his widow,
Mary, brought to Ontario by John. Still in existence.
- RIF History of Rhode Island Ferries (1925), by A. A. &
C. V. Chapin.
- RMOF Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island,
Vol. III (1908).
- SADIE Sarah Rebecca Franklin, known as Sadie, d/o John Nelson
Franklin and Martha Ann Price. John N. s/o Augustus,
who was s/o John and Lydia Franklin. Sadie lived out
her life on the old home of Augustus near Port Rowan
with sister Margaret and brother Alex, none of whom
married. At least 3 generations lived on that farm for
over 130 years. Her letters to my mother contained
much family history. RB was in her possession at her
death in 1962.
- SBF Short History of the West Ferries of Jamestown, a paper
prepared for Jamestown Historical Society by Susan B.
Franklin, PhD, d/o William Barker Franklin.
- TR Original Town Records of Jamestown, RI.
- WBF Address by William Barker Franklin, des of John, s/o
Abel Franklin, to Jamestown Historical Society.

Compiled by Benjamin W. Franklin
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Revised June 1996

OUTLINE OF ONE BRANCH OF
JAMES FRANKLIN FAMILY

JAMES FRANKLIN, b abt 165?, parents and place unk. Soldier, Massachusetts militia Great Swamp Battle, King Philip's War, Dec 1675. (BOD, NER51, GD) Townsman of Dartmouth, cordwainer Rehoboth & Swansea, MA. (NER51) M (1) Unice Barnes, d/o Samuel Barnes (DR). 3 children born Dartmouth (NER22). 1. James, 8 July 1682 (ancestor of Calvin Coolidge (AC)). 2. Lydia, 18 June 1688. 3. Abel, next topic. M (2) Elizabeth Hammond, 17 Apr 1695 at Swansea. (NEM, IGI). Date & place of death unk.

ABEL FRANKLIN, b 18 May 1690. Freeman, Ferry owner and operator, Jamestown, RI. (RIFR, RMOF) d 3 March 1758, So. Kingston, RI. Abt 1713, m Sarah Remington, d/o Stephen & Penelope Remington, b 29 Aug 1688, d 10 Dec 1778. 7 children born Jamestown, RI: 1. Stephen, 4 Mar 1715. 2. Hannah, 15 Dec 1717. 3. Abel Jr., 8 March 1719. 4. George, next topic. 5. Sarah, 25 Aug 1725. 6. John, 12 Mar 1727. 7. Penelope 26 July 1730.

GEORGE FRANKLIN, b 30 June 1723. Freeman, Ferry Owner and operator, Jamestown, RI. (RIFR, RIF) d 17 Dec 1767. (TR) On 30 Apr 1749, m Mary Remington, d/o Gershom & Clemence Remington (NER51). 9 children born Jamestown, RI (AVR) > : 1. Abel, 31 July 1750. 2. Gershom, 13 June 1752. 3. Abigail, 26 Sept 1755. 4. William, 23 Aug 1757, d bfr 30 Oct 1767. 5. John, next topic. 6. Alice, 17 April 1762. 7. George, 25 April 1764. 8 & 9. Benjamin and Mary, b 9 June 1766, Mary d 12 June 1766.

JOHN FRANKLIN, b 24 April 1760. Ferryman in Jamestown. Saddler & shoemaker Ontario, after 1801. d 11 Dec 1726 or 1728. On 21 June 1782, m Lydia, d/o Benjamin & Jane Tayer, b 24 Nov 1761, d 31 May 1737. (AVR, FBA). 7 children, 1st 4 b Jamestown, RI (TR), last 3 Canaan, NY: 1. Abigail (Sarah) 6 Jan 1784. 2. Rebecca, 2 Feb 1786. 3. Benjamin, 1 Feb 1788. 4. George, 11 May 1792 (see Hazen Family). 5. Augustus 6 March 1795. 6. William, next topic. 7. Horatio Nelson, 1 March 1799.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN, b 8 April 1797, d Aug 1892. On 14 Oct 1820, m Martha Maria, d/o Andrew & Amy MacLeish (McClish), b 25 Aug 1802, d 1 March 1877. (FBW, MFH). (For ascendants of Martha Maria MacCleish, see MHF). 9 children born Walsingham, Norfolk Co., Ontario (FBW, MFH): 1. Ethan, 7 Nov 1821. 2. John Tyar, 27 Sept 1823. 3. Andrew Ralph, 9 Aug 1826. 4. Maria Louisa, 23 Aug 1828. 5. William, 29 April 1830. 6. Louisa Jane, 9 Aug 1832. 7. Benjamin Whiting, next topic. 8. Bruce, 18 Oct 1838. 9. Harvey Lewelyn, 29 July 1842.

BENJAMIN WHITING FRANKLIN, b 23 Nov 1834, d 17 Nov 1919, Millbrook, MI. M.D. practiced Springfield, Ont., Hemlock, MI. On 21 June 1860, m Mary Laurine, d/o Moses Warren & Harriet Dowling White, b 30 April 1841, d 6 Nov 1920. Both bd Hemlock Cemetery, Hemlock, MI. 5 Children b Ontario: 1. Florence, b Feb 1863. 2. Hattie Ann, b Feb 1871. 3. Mary Laurine b 5 Nov 1873. 4. Benjamin Lorne, 12 May 1878. 5. Nellie Marie, 10 Sept 1884

BENJAMIN LORNE FRANKLIN, b 12 May 1878, d 17 Oct 1967. M.D. Practiced 68 years in Millbrook and Remus, MI. On 8 Feb 1910, m Bertha A. d/o William H. & Alice Bywater Shepard, b 31 May 1890, d 5 June 1981. Both bd Womboldt Cemetery, Remus, MI. 1 Child b Millbrook Twp, Mecosta Co. MI. Benjamin William, b 13 January 1916.

BENJAMIN WILLIAM FRANKLIN, b 13 January 1916. Lawyer and judge Stanton, MI. Retired 31 December 1978. M Lucille a. Dalson (nee Pierce), d 24 July 1981. 4 children: Karen L g 16 November 1939; Karmen K b 16 March 1941; Benille B b 16 May 1945; Benjamin J b 13 February 1949. M 2n Sharon A. Rayl (nee Moulder).

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Many English surnames were derived from occupations or places. The name Franklin came from a French form of freeman, and more accurately described a rank in society. At the time surnames were being adopted, a franklin was a substantial freeholder, ranking below the gentry. He was freeborn, owned and cultivated his own land, and had the right to sell it. He owed only token duties to the lord of the estate. The name was adopted by many who belonged to this valued estate, but who were otherwise unrelated. (AGRI)

Some of the earliest records of this name are:

Ralph Frankelein--County Yorkshire--1195
Luke Le Franckeleyn--County Cambridgeshire--1234
Robert le Fraunkelyn--County Buckinghamshire--
Hundred Rolls--1273
Simon le Fraunkeleyn--County Berkshire--Hundred
Rolls--1273

The name Franklin was found most frequently in the counties immediately north and west of London. Starting as early as 1633, many Franklins migrated to the colonies. The census of 1790 lists over 200 heads of families by that name, the greatest number being in Virginia. (AGRI)

RHODE ISLAND FERRIES

During the 1700s, three generations of decendants of James Franklin, of Massachusetts, owned and operated ferries at Jamestown, RI. Some background is necessary to understand the importance of Rhode Island ferries. (HJ, RIF, JS, SBF)

Both Newport and Jamestown are located on islands in Narragansett Bay. Until occupied by the British in 1776, Newport was perhaps the most important seaport in the colonies. Hundreds of ocean-going vessels, coasters, and privateers commissioned by the Colony of Rhode Island sailed in and out of Newport. It was also a center for the slave and rum trade, ship building, and other manufacturing. Transportation between Newport and the mainland was by ferry. Between Newport and Narragansett to the south, it was by the Jamestown ferries.

The ferries were such an important part of the communication and transportation systems that the Colony undertook to regulate

them at an early date. (RIF) The English law of ferries was adopted, under which the Colony granted franchises to ferries, and set their rates. The ferries were required to operate between two points, to have a seaworthy boat and an able-bodied seaman, and to operate at reasonable hours. For benefits, ferrymen were exempt from jury duty and from all military service.

The ferries were usually sloops (mainsail and Jib), 35 to 40 feet long and about 14 feet wide. Livestock was carried in the forward part and passengers in the after part. Sons of ferrymen were put to work as soon as they were big and strong enough to handle the boat. Travellers waiting for a ferry were provided with a bed and meal at the ferryhouse, usually the ferryman's own home. If licensed to sell hard liquor, it was called a "house of entertainment." (JS) A ferry licensed between the same two points but leaving from the opposite side was called a "mate boat." Often, these were owned by different persons and went by different names. Ferries were known by different names at different times. (RIF) Apparently, a ferry returning to its home port was required to carry any freight or passengers that were waiting, but the ferriage went to the owner of the dock at which they were waiting.

It is difficult to determine how profitable the ferries were. The colonies used English money, Spanish silver dollars (pieces of Eight), and any other foreign money that was brought in. Rates of Exchange were fairly constant until the colonies started printing money in the early 18th century. Continual inflation followed, and the ferrymen were often petitioning the General Assembly for an increase in rates. The few records that still exist were prepared for the purpose of showing the need for such increases, and may not be representative. Perhaps the most valuable part of a ferry license was in keeping a house of entertainment, and in the opportunities it presented for other kinds of trade and business. (RIF, HJ)

Relations with England deteriorated, and on 15 April 1775, the first shots at sea were exchanged between the American ship Katy and the English ship Diana, in Narragansett Bay. The battle of Lexington and Concord followed three days later. The British had always maintained a few ships in the Bay, and the outbreak of hostilities brought them into action. They began intercepting the ferries, taking any livestock that might be on board, and taking livestock from the Islands in the Bay. To prevent this, the General Assembly ordered that all livestock be removed from these islands and from Block Island. (RIF) On 10 December 1775, British troops landed on Jamestown and burned every building along the main road, and damaged or destroyed the ferry wharves. (HJ, RIF) On 7 December 1776, the British Navy sailed into the

Bay, and their troops occupied Newport. Jamestown was occupied on the 12th. Most of the inhabitants of the islands evacuated, many crossing to the mainland by way of the Jamestown ferries. The British left for good on 25 October 1779.

The Franklins were involved with three of the Jamestown ferries. One, usually called the North Ferry, ran from Jamestown to Plum Beach at North Kingston. The second ran from Jamestown to the Smith Property in South Kingston, and usually was known as the South Ferry. The third was the mate boat to the South Ferry, and at different times was called the Smith Ferry, or Franklin Ferry. The South Ferry was out of operation for a while after the boat was conscripted, as appears more fully under Mary F. The Franklin Ferry apparently stopped operating after the occupation by the British and did not resume until after the end of hostilities. The North Ferry may have operated part time during the occupation, but it was risky. The British stationed ships in the bay to intercept any vessels attempting to cross to or from Jamestown to the mainland. The mate boat was chased and run aground, which put it out of operation. (HJ, RIF)

JAMES FRANKLIN

The earliest Franklin to whom this line has been traced is James Franklin. No record had been found of his parents, or of the date or place of his birth. He was probably born about 1655. (NER51) WOB has the passenger lists showing the Franklins who came to New England in the 1600s. There is no James Franklin listed. James Savage remarked: "I would gladly kn who was his f." (GD Vol II, p 200) In December 1675, he was in the Massachusetts militia and was a volunteer under Captain Samuel Moseley in the Great Swamp Fight in King Phillip's War. (BOD, NER51, GD) He was still in the militia in August, 1676. (BOD)

About 1680, he married Unice Barnes, daughter of Samuel Barnes, of Barrington, MA (DR). In 1686, he was a townsman of Dartmouth, MA. (GD, NER51) It was here that his three known children were born. (NER22) They were:

James, Jr., b 8 July 1682, d Scituate, MA, 21 October 1756. He married Martha Ormsbee, and is an ancestor of Calvin Coolidge. (AC)

Lydia, b 18 June 1688. No further information found.

ABEL, b 18 May 1690. Next subject.

On 17 April 1695, James married his second wife, Elizabeth Hammond, in Swansea, MA. (NEM, IGI) He was still in Swansea in 1706. In 1710 he was a cordwainer of Rehoboth, but in 1716, he was back in Swansea. He may have been a brother of a John Franklin, who was also a cordwainer of Swansea. (NER51) The date and place of James' death is unknown.

ABEL FRANKLIN

Abel Franklin was a prominent resident of Jamestown. He was "a mariner of Newport in 1721" and "a man of considerable property". (RMOF) He was born in Dartmouth, MA, 18 May 1690, son of James Franklin. Nothing is known of his early years, but it is probable that he had been a seaman for some time to be styled a mariner. In 1713, he married Sarah Remington, born in Jamestown 29 August 1688, daughter of Stephen and Penelope Remington, an old family of Jamestown. (See Related Families, Remington). If not married in Jamestown, they moved there soon after, for all of their children were born there, the first in 1715.

Abel was a ferryman for many years before he became an owner and kept a house of entertainment as early as 24 May 1724. He probably operated a ferry for Benjamin Sheffield. (RIF) On 16 April 1750, he bought a half-interest in the Smith ferry from South Kingston to Jamestown, and on 25 October of that year he bought the mate ferry from Jamestown to South Kingston from the Colony. As early as 1721, he started purchasing real estate. He acquired property on Jamestown, on Dutch Island, on Block Island, and near Charleston in Narragansett. (TR, NER51,SBF) With his brother-in-law, Gershom Remington, he owned a tanyard, or tannery, inherited from Stephen Remington.

Abel was also active in civic affairs. (RMOF) By action of the Rhode Island Assembly in 1723, he was made a freeman of Jamestown. He was a deputy to the General Assembly in 1743, and a member of the Town Council from 1744 to 1748. In 1740, the Town Council directed him to "build a beken att bever tail pint." (TR) The records do not show what was built, but in June, 1744, the Council directed that the door of the watch house be repaired and a lock installed. In 1749, the General Assembly authorized the construction of a lighthouse on Beaver Tail Point, the third lighthouse on the Atlantic coast. Abel was the first keeper of the light. It was made of wood, and burned to the ground 23 July 1753. It is recorded that "Mr. Franklin, the first light keeper continued his duties at night with an ordinary lantern." (HJ)

Soon after this, Abel moved to South Kingston, where his son, John, operated the Franklin Ferry. He died there 3 March 1758 and is buried in the old Friends' Cemetery on Jamestown, which is near the approach to the bridge to the mainland. (RIF) Sarah died in Kingston 10 December 1778, and is buried in the Franklin Burying Grounds, located near the old ferry property in South Kingston, and across the road from a little white church. (NER51, SBF)

Although Abel had given several pieces of real estate to each of his sons during his lifetime, his will, offered for probate 10 March 1758, would indicate that he still owned considerable property at his death. (WBF) To his oldest son, Stephen, he left 100 acres on Block Island. To his second son, Abel, he left 100 acres and buildings adjoining Stephen's, and 85 acres in Westerly. He left his interest in the Franklin (Smith) Ferry from South Kingston to Jamestown to his son John, who had purchased the other half interest in that ferry in 1754. The mate ferry from Jamestown to South Kingston he left to George, his other son. To each daughter, or their sons if deceased, he left 1200 Pounds, and to his wife Sarah, 500 pounds, all household goods except his desk, a riding mare, a cow, and a negro girl named Margaret.

Abel and Sarah had seven children, each of whom had several children, so there are still many of their descendants in Rhode Island and through the country. The children were:

Stephen, b 4 March 1715; m Margaret Mitchell. They lived on Block Island, later Jamestown.

Hannah, b 15 December 1717; m Benaiah Bill.

Abel, b 8 March 1719; m Lydia Littlefield. They lived on Block Island.

GEORGE, b 30 June 1723. Next subject.

Sarah, b 25 August 1725, m Robert Brown.

John, b 12 May 1727; m Elizabeth Mitchell, sister of Margaret Mitchell. For more, see RMOF, WBF.

Penelope, b 26 July 1730; m James Sherman.

GEORGE FRANKLIN

George, the third son and fourth child of Abel and Sarah Franklin, was born in Jamestown, RI, 30 June 1723. On 30 April 1749, he married his cousin, Mary Remington, daughter of Gershom and Clemence Remington (dob unk). Like his father, he was a freeman of Jamestown, and also served as a deputy to the General Assembly. He acquired and operated a tanyard, and did some farming. It is probable that at first, he operated one of Abel's ferries, and later had a house of entertainment. He inherited the South Ferry from his father in 1758, and on 23 April 1759 he bought the North Ferry from Benjamin Nichols. This gave him control of all the ferries from Jamestown to the mainland.

George died 27 December 1767, and was buried in the Artillery Garden. The original survey of Jamestown reserved 20 acres as an "Artillery Garden, a place for burial of ye dead, a prison house, and for other public uses." (HJ) Next to his grave are two small ones, those of his children, William and Mary. He left a will dated 30 October 1764, which was admitted to probate by the Town Council 7 January 1768. The will nominated his wife, Mary, and his brother, John, as co-executors. However, John appeared before the Council and "absolutely refused" to accept that appointment. (TR) It is interesting to note that the inventory of his estate listed 24 barrels of cider and 30 gallons of New England rum.

To his son, Abel, George left 15 acres on Dutch Island and 10 acres with buildings that he had bought from Benjamin Sheffield, together with a small island, but forbid Abel from establishing a ferry there. To Gershom, he left the house and ferry place that he bought from Benjamin Nichols (the North Ferry), the ferry boat, two acres on the north side of the main road, 5 acres on Dutch Island, and his silver-hilted sword. To his other sons, John and George, he left the South Ferry, the ferry place, house and wharf, and a parcel on the north side of the main road on which a house and tanyard were located, to be evenly divided between them.

All that he left to his wife, Mary, was his household goods for so long as she remained his widow, after which it went to his daughters. However, the will provided that the boys should not receive their property until they reached the age of 21 years. In the meantime, Mary was to have possession and enjoyment of the property to enable her to raise the children. As executor, Mary took possession of the property and undertook to operate the businesses. In an accounting to the Town Council about a year later, the Council found that George's personal property was inadequate to pay his debts, but that Mary had paid them, in some cases giving her own note in payment. (TR)

George and Mary had nine children, all born in Jamestown (AVR):

Abel, b 31 July 1750.

Gershom, b 13 June 1752.

Abigail, b 28 September 1755, m Tiddeman Hull.

William, b 23 August 1757. As he is not mentioned in his father's will, it is presumed that he died prior to October 1764.

JOHN, b 24 April 1760. Subject following Mary.

Alice, b 17 April 1762.

George, b 25 April 1764, married Phebe Tayer, sister of Lydia Tayer who married John.

Benjamin and Mary (twins), b 9 June 1766. Mary d 12 June 1766.

MARY REMINGTON FRANKLIN

Mary deserves a place of her own in this story. She was born at Jamestown, RI, date unknown, to Gershom and Clemence Remington. She was probably in her early 40s when George died, leaving her with seven children ranging from Abel, 17, to Benjamin, 1 1/2. Although nothing of value was left to her, George's will gave her possession of the boys' inheritance, and the "improvement of my real estate for the bringing up of my children at her discretion." At a time when few women were in business, Mary exercised her discretion, took over the operation of the tanyard and ferries, and did a commendable job.

First, she paid off George's debts, which amounted to several hundred pounds. (TR,RB) By 1 August 1773, she was able to buy the North Ferry from her son, Gershom, which included the boat, wharf, and 1/4 acre of land. On 8 April, 1775, she bought 4 aces from her son, Abel, which apparently joined the South Ferry property left to John and George. Hostilities with England started soon after, and so did her troubles.

The British started intercepting the ferries and taking any livestock they were carrying. They also removed livestock from some of the islands in the Bay. To prevent the British from taking more livestock, the General Assembly ordered that all livestock be removed from these islands, and from Block Island, and enlisted 250 minutemen to do it. The men were taken from South Kingston to Jamestown on Mary's ferry, and were billeted with her. It was 18 months before she was paid. The Colony then conscripted her boat from the South Ferry to carry the livestock, and a negro man to operate it. He was boarded with William Slocum, who sued Mary for his board and recovered \$40. (RIF)

On 10 December 1775, British troops landed on Jamestown. After pillaging them, they burned every house along the main road. Three of those were houses named in George's will. The ferry wharves were damaged or destroyed. The fate of the tanyard is uncertain, but it was not on the list of those burned. (HJ) After this, many left Jamestown for the mainland, and many more followed after the British occupied Newport in December, 1776. Three of the ferries on the west side of Jamestown were out of operation by now. The North Ferry apparently continued to operate for a time, and was the main means of transportation for those leaving the island. When Mary left is uncertain, but she probably took her family to So. Kingston, where she had relatives.

After the British left in October, 1779, immediate restoration of the ferries was a necessity. The General Assembly set about repairing the docks, for which the owners were expected to pay. In July, 1780, it ordered that a boat be furnished to Mary Franklin so she could get back into operation. This was done, and Mary gave her note for it. She requested, and probably was given a boat suitable to carry stone so she could finish repairing her docks.

Mary was back in operation before 24 August 1780. At that time, she presented a petition to the General Assembly showing that it had been the custom to divide the ferriage with the Franklin Ferry from South Kingston for the livestock carried on their respective boats. More livestock went north from South Kingston that went south from Jamestown, and Mary asked to have the custom made into law. After an investigation, it was enacted that Mary should receive 1/4 of the ferriage for livestock that her boat carried from South Kingston, and her brother-in-law, John, should have 1/4 of the ferriage that his boat carried from Jamestown. This arrangement continued for many years. (RIF)

On March 1781, General Washington and an aide went to Newport for a conference with the French General Rochambeau. To get there, they crossed from South Kingston to Jamestown by ferry. The Franklin Ferry from South Kingston was not in operation at this time, as the French were using the building for a hospital. (RIF) It must have been Mary's South Ferry that carried General Washington to Jamestown.

In February 1794, Mary and her sons, John and George, sold the South Ferry to John Almy. (See JOHN) No record was found as to when the North Ferry and the tanyard were sold. The place and date of her death are unknown. No information was found as to what happened to Mary after the sale.

JOHN FRANKLIN

John was born at Jamestown, RI, 21 April 1760, the 4th son and 5th child of George and Mary Franklin. OPS calls him "Captain William Franklin", apparently confusing him with his son, William. MFH refers to him as John William Franklin, but no other record of a middle name was found. The original record of his birth (TR) is just John. The title "Captain" may be a carry-over from having been a ferryman. Much of his life has been inferred from other information.

As soon as he was big enough, Mary put him to work at the tanyard and on the ferries. He was not yet 16 when the War started, and was with his mother during the occupation. The Rhode Island Military Census, taken in 1777, show him in South Kingston. If the North Ferry operated during the occupation, it was probably John who sailed it. The tanyard was in operation before and after the occupation. It was there, and probably from his father-in-law, Benjamin Tayer, that John learned the trade of cordwainer (leather-worker).

On 17 February 1794, "John Franklin, ferryman, with Lydia, his wife, George Franklin, with Phebe, his wife, and Mary Franklin, mother of John and George," sold the South Ferry to John Almy for \$2900 Spanish silver dollars. (RIF, WBF) Included in the sale were the boat, pier, wharf, a dwelling house, and 5 acres. In those days, that was quite a sizeable sum. From the description of the sale, it would appear that John, his brother, George, and their mother, Mary, had operated the tanyard and ferries as a partnership. The tanyard and North Ferry probably were sold before the South Ferry sale.

On 21 June 1782, John married Lydia Tayer, daughter of Benjamin and Jane Tayer. (See related Families, Tayer). Their first four children were born at Jamestown. (TR) Soon after the sale of the ferry, John and his family left Rhode Island. In August, 1794, he in Canaan, Columbia, Co., NY, where he bought some land from Jethro Dibble. (RB) He was still there when the 1800 Federal Census was taken.

The summer of 1801 finds John in the Niagara District of Ontario, where he and Lydia each made application for land. His application is dated 22 August, 1801, Lydia's 20 August. Neither application was granted. John's states that he had arrived the previous month. The certificate states that he came with a wife and 7 children, and "movable property to a considerable value." This movable property probably included the tools of his trade as a cordwainer. OPS calls his a shoemaker. Sadie said he was a saddler and a good one, and had a good business. MFH said he was both. In a pioneer community, he probably did whatever needed to be done with leather.

Soon after, John and his family settled in South Walsingham, probably between Port Rowan and the Hazen Settlement. (HA) His oldest daughter was married there in late 1805 or early 1806. John was summoned to serve on grand jury at the Court of General Quarter Sessions at Charlotteville 11 March 1806. About this time, his son, Benjamin, married Lydia Hazen.

The North 1/2 of Lot 14, 1st Concession, is commonly known as the Franklin Homestead. OPS says that "Captain Franklin finally settled on Lot 14." MFH says the same, although incorrect as to the Concession. In a letter written in 1958, Sadie refers to her home as being a century and a half old. In another written in 1960, she said "My great grand father came to this farm in 1798." At that time, there was much timber in South Walsingham, and many absentee owners bought the land just for the timber. It was a common practice for early settlers to clear and build on a parcel of land under some arrangement with such an owner. It is evident that John and his family settled on Lot 14 long before his son William bought it in 1827. (See William) The Franklin (now Fairview) Cemetery is located in the northwest corner of this lot. The lumbering industry probably was the source of considerable business for John, and of employment for his sons.

Although neither of the first petitions for land was granted, John eventually acquired 200 acres in the Talbot Settlement in Bayhem Township, Elgin County. On May 24, 1812, John made an application for land which was recommended by Col. Thomas Talbot. He was settled on Lot 115, North of Talbot Road East, and put his son, George, in possession to perform the required settler's duties. A second petition was filed November 16, 1827, also recommended by Talbot, and a patent was issued the following February. George eventually inherited this land.

The deaths of both John and Lydia are recorded in the family Bible of Augustus, rather than in William's, which is evidence that they were living with Augustus when they died. The date of Lydia's death is given as 31 May 1837. John's is given as 11 December 1826, but that is not consistent with the date of his second petition (see above). There is other evidence that he died in 1928. No record of the place of the burial of either has been found.

The children of John and Lydia were:

Abigail, b RI 6 January 1786, d abt 1874. Abigail in original record (TR), but always known as Sarah. Md Henry Smith in Walsingham prob early 1806. 14 children b Walsingham.

Rebecca, b RI 2 February 1786. Md Hamilton Woodruff before coming to Ontario. Settled near Vittoria, later moved to Michigan. 1861 Census shows her living with Augustus.

Benjamin, b RI 1 February 1788. OPS says settled in Ohio. However, he is probably the Benjamin Franklin who md Lydia Hazen. A sailor, lost when ship went down Lake Erie (?). Daughter, Permelia, b 28 May 1807. An later affidavit by Augustus Franklin states that he died in Buffalo, NY, abt 1819, a bachelor.

John ?? In a couple of letters, Sadie mentions another son, John, who was too ill to come with family and who died on the way later. Buried Black Rock, near Buffalo. No other information. Perhaps born abt 1890

George, b RI 11 May 1792, d 30 Jan 1853. Md Rachel Hazen, d/o Daniel and Anna Hazen. Settled on Lot 115, Bayham, Elgin Co. Ten children. (See Hazen Family in America)

Augustus, b NY 4 March 1895, d 25 Feb 1865. Md Jane Smith, b 1803, d 22 Jan 1884. Seven children. Lived on Franklin Family Homestead (N 1/2 Lot 14, 1st Concession). Appointed constable 17 July 1818.

WILLIAM, next subject.

Horatio Nelson, b NY 1 March 1799, d 25 June 1879. Md Mary Rockafeller, b 1 Dec 1816, d 18 June 1885. Settled first Walsingham, then Charlotteville. Five children.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN

William was born 8 April 1797 (FBW) in Canaan, NY, the next to youngest child of John and Lydia Franklin. He died in August, 1892, at the age of 95. He is probably buried beside his wife, although there is no marker for him. On 14 October 1820, he married Martha Maria McCleish (MacLeish), born New Brunswick 26 August 1802, daughter of Andrew MacLeish and Amy Montross. (See Related Families, Montross; MFH) She died 1 March 1877 and is buried in the Franklin Cemetery in Walsingham.

William was the first Franklin to own land. On 9 February 1827, he bought Lot 14, 1st Concession, Walsingham. That Lot was

first granted by the Crown to Edward McMichael 31 July 1797. He sold it to John McKay 25 September 1797. McKay mortgaged the property and later deeded it to Richard Hatt. Apparently, the mortgage was not paid, and the lot was sold under court order by the Sheriff of the London District, purporting to convey the interests of McKay and Hatt, to William Franklin.

On 28 February 1831, William sold the North 1/2 to his brother, Augustus. That was the home of Augustus and his descendants until the death of Sadie Franklin in 1962. William made his home on the South 1/2, which he sold to his son, Harvey Lewelyn, on 9 May 1863. William and Martha lived out their days with Harvey and his family. Sadie recalled in one letter that "he used to come up across the two farm to spend the day as often as he was able." William apparently was quite a prosperous farmer and a good business man, at one time, owning over 500 acres in South Walsingham.

William and Martha had 9 children, all born in Walsingham. (dates from FBW)

Ethan, b 7 Nov 1821, d 23 Dec 1873; md Celinda Beam, b 1826, d 1895.

John Tyar, b 27 Sept 1823, d Jan 1904; md Jane Brown, b 1830, d 2 Oct 1888.

Andrew Ralph, b 9 Aug 1826, d Arkansas date unk; md Victoria Montross, b 1838, d 9 April 1909.

Maria Louisa, b 23 Aug 1828, d May 1829.

William, b 29 April 1830, d 24 April 1904; md Mary Ann Gordon, b 1846, d 10 June 1889.

Louisa Jane, b 9 Aug 1832, d 16 Dec 1915, md Joseph Henry Hutchison, b abt 1827, d 23 May 1911.

BENJAMIN WHITING, next subject.

Bruce, b 18 Oct 1838, d Feb 1842.

Harvey Lewelyn, b 29 July 1842, d 21 March 1913, md 1st Margaret McBurney, b 2 Oct 1842, d 20 May 1877; md 2nd Becky (Rebecca) Becker.

(For More on the descendants of William and Martha, see MFH)

BENJAMIN WHITING FRANKLIN

Benjamin Whiting was the 5th son and 7th child of William and Martha Franklin. He was born in Walsingham, Norfolk Co., Ontario, 23 November 1834. He died 17 November 1919 in Millbrook, MI, and is buried on the family lot in the Hemlock Cemetery, east of Hemlock, MI. His middle name probably came from his uncle, Whiting VanNorman, of Normandale, who married Margaret McCleish, a sister of Martha Maria.

On 21 June 1860, he married Mary Laurine White, born 30 April 1841 in Houghton Twp. They were married at St. Williams by "William Wood Missionary Stationed in Walsingham." The license, issued 20 June, states that Benjamin was a resident of Tillsonberg, and Mary was a resident of Houghton Twp. She was the daughter of Moses Warren White and Harriet Dowling White. Mary died in Big Rapids, MI, 6 November 1920, and is buried beside her husband. (See Related Families, White)

Benjamin Whiting graduated from the Queen's University College of Medicine and received a provisional license in 1856. He was entered in the Medical Register 8 July 1866. Both of these show him as a resident of Pleasant Hill (Walsingham Center). He started practice in Tillsonberg, where they apparently lived for a time. Mary was engaged in a business. According to a memorandum dated 24 July 1863, Mary and J.D. Morgan dissolved partnership.

Some time after 1866, they moved, probably to Houghton Center. About 1874, they moved again, this time to Springfield, in Elgin County, Ontario. For a time Benjamin was in partnership with K. H. L. Cameron, M.D. This partnership was dissolved 6 March 1878. In 1886, he took in Thomas McEwen as a junior partner. Dr. McEwen later married Dr. Ben's oldest daughter. In 1898 the Franklins moved to Merrill, MI. They were in Vestaburg, MI, about 1904-1905, then returned to Hemlock, near Merrill.

Benjamin and Mary had 5 children:

Florence, b Feb 1863, d 3 Oct 1866, age 3 yrs 8 mo.
Hattie Ann, b Feb 1871, (Houghton Center?), d 25 March 1872, age 1 yr 1 mo. Both Florence and Hattie bd Port Royal Cemetery.
Mary Laurine (known as Babe) b 5 Nov 1873, Houghton Center; d 16 April 1950, Big Rapids, MI; Buried in family lot Hemlock Cemetery.

BENJAMIN LORNE, next subject.

Nellie Marie, b 10 September 1884, Springfield, Ont.; d April 1922; b Hemlock Cemetery. Md Walter Bouck, one child, June, md Al Swanberg; d early 1981.

BENJAMIN LORNE FRANKLIN

Benjamin Lorne, the only son of Benjamin Whiting and Mary White Franklin, was born in Springfield, Elgin Co., Ontario, on 12 May 1878. He died 17 October 1967. On 8 February 1910, he married Bertha A. Shepard, daughter of William H. and Alice Bywater Shepard. She was born 31 May 1890, Ionia Co., MI; died 5 June 1981. Both are buried in the Womboldt Cemetery south of Remus, MI.

Benjamin L. came with his family to Merrill, MI, in 1896. That fall, he entered Saginaw Valley Medical College, graduating from there 18 May 1899. He registered to practice the same day, and received his permanent license 29 March 1901.

He practiced medicine in Merrill with his father until 1904, when he moved to Millbrook, Mecosta Co., MI. In 1906, he was elected County Coroner, an office he held as long as the office existed. After that, he was County Medical Examiner for many years. He bought an automobile in 1908, the first between Ionia and Big Rapids. He started a drug store in Millbrook in 1909, which he operated for some time. In October, 1920, he moved to Remus, where he practiced for the rest of his life. He was honored by the community at a reception in 1949 for 50 years of practice, an accomplishment recognized by a resolution of the Michigan State Senate. His profession was his hobby, and his hobby was his profession. He was always on call.

Benjamin L. and Bertha had one son, Benjamin W. Next subject.

BENJAMIN WILLIAM FRANKLIN

Benjamin William Franklin (named after both grandfathers), was born in Millbrook, Mecosta Co., MI, 13 January 1916, the only child of Benjamin L. and Bertha A. Franklin. He graduated from Remus High School in 1933. He received a B. S. degree from Central State Teachers College (now Central Michigan University) in 1937, and a J. D. Degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1940. He was an associate editor of the Michigan Law Review his senior year. He was admitted to practice in October, 1940, and served as research clerk to Justice Howard Wiest, of the Michigan Supreme Court, from October 1940 to October 1941.

After his discharge from the Army in October, 1945, he practiced law in Stanton, Montcalm Co., MI, where he was active in civic affairs. He was instrumental in starting the movement to consolidate the local school district, which eventually became Central Montcalm School District. He was Judge of Probate of Montcalm County from 1949 to 1952, the youngest probate judge in the state. He was county supervisor from the City of Stanton, 1961-1963, and Justice of the Peace, 1963-1968. In 1968, he was elected without opposition as Judge of the newly created District Court, and served in that capacity until his retirement at the end of 1978. He was active on the Rules and Forms Committee of the Michigan District Judges' Association, and drafted the first rules of practice for the Small Claims Court. On his retirement, the Michigan District Judges' Association recognized his work by making him an honorary member for life.

He was a charter member of the First Congregational Church of Stanton, and a life member of the Masonic Lodge. He belonged to Community Congregational Church in Bonita Springs, FL.; the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was past president of the Lions Club of Sheridan.

On 19 October 1943, he married Lucille A. Dalson (nee Pierce). She was born 9 July 1918, and died 24 July 1981. On 8 May 1982, Benjamin married Sharon A. Rayl (nee Moulder), of Kokomo, IN. They moved to Florida that fall and settled in Bonita Springs.

Benjamin and Lucille had four children: Karen L., b 16 November 1939; Karmen K., b 16 March 1941; Benille B., b 16 May 1945; and Benjamin John, b 13 February 1949.

RELATED FAMILIES

REMINGTON FAMILY (GDA)

John Remington, b abt 1623, England, d 1709, Warwick, RI. m Abigail Acie. 8 children.

1. John b 20 March 1649.
2. Abigail b 14 Sept 1652.
3. Joseph b 29 Nov 1654.
4. Thomas b 4 Feb 1657.
5. Prudence b 14 July 1657.
6. Daniel b 18 Oct 1661.
7. Hannah b 3 July 1664.
8. Stephen b abt 1665.

Stephen Remington, b abt 1665, Jamestown, d 1738; m Penelope Parker, b 1666, d 1740. 8 children born Jamestown.

1. Mary, b 20 Sept 1686.
2. Sarah, b 20 Aug 1688, m Abel Franklin.
3. Gershom, b 3 Dec 1690, m Clemence ?, f/o Mary w/o George Franklin.
4. Phebe, b 29 May 1693.
5. Stephen, b 29 March 1696.
6. Alice, b 28 Nov 1698.
7. Hannah, b 10 March 1701.
8. Penelope, no info.

TAYER FAMILY (GDA) Probably due to the similarity between the early script capital S and the T, both AVR and IGI list this family as Sayer. The correct spelling is Tayer.

Benjamin Tayer, d 5 June 1716, 1st wf unk.

1. John.
2. Mary.
3. Mercy.

John Tayer, m Charity Foster 16 Jan 1700. 5 children.

1. Benjamin.
2. Elizabeth.
3. John.
4. Charity.
5. William. (Note: The Benjamin Tayer listed below probably is the grandson of John Tayer and w/Charity. Record of connection not found.)

Benjamin Tayer m Jane Batty at Newport 1 May 1757. (Jane prob d/o William Batty, Jr. and Phebe Remington. Her relationship to John R. unk) 10 children (IGI).

1. John b 10 Dec 1757.
2. Rebecca b 17 Jan 1760.
3. Lydia b 24 Nov 1761, m John Franklin.
4. Benjamin b 31 July 1764.
5. Phebe b 28 Feb 1766, m George Franklin.
6. Joseph b 9 Dec 1768.
7. Mary b 13 July 1770.
8. William b 31 Jan 1772.
9. George b 7 Oct 1774.
10. Paul b 7 April 1780.

MONTROSS FAMILY TO AMY MONTROSS MacLEISH (MFH)

	Jan Meyer b Holland m Teuntie Straetsman
Jean Davids m Esther Vincent	Margaret Meyring, b abt 1636, m Harmen Jansen, b abt 1620, Lennep, Germany
Margaret Davids, b Montreal, m Pierre Montras, b abt 1660, France, d bfr 1703	Jan Harmse, b 1658 New Am- sterdam, m Aeltje Abraham- son, b 1653, Long Island.
Margaret Montras, b 5 June ----- 1691, Kingston, NY	Harmen Jansen, b 1684 NY City
(Pierre Montras and Jan Harmse are sons of Harmen Jansen. Both took	thought to be half brothers, the surname of Montras)
Peter Montras, b 6 March 1715, Irvington, NY. On 30 December 1740 m Emmetje Anderzon.	
Peter Montross, b 27 May 1742, Long Island, NY, d 27 Aug 1833; bd Johnson Cem. St. Williams, Norfolk Co., Ontario. M Leah Mabie (from French Mabilie), d/o Simon Mabie & Marie Landrine, b 31 Oct 1750, d 13 March 1835.	
Amy Montross, b 15 April 1776, Putnam Co, NY; moved to New Bruns- wick abt 1783, d aft 1831 Charlotteville, Ont.	

MacLEISH FAMILY. Early records show a variety of spellings: McClish (MFH, land grant); McCleish (OPS); McCliesh (FBW); McLeish (Sadie, deed from Andrew, Jr.). On Bartholomew's "Clan Map" it is spelled MacLeish, which is presumed to be correct.

Amy Montross married Andrew MacLeish in New Brunswick before 1797. Andrew had been a private in the 42nd (Highland) Regiment of Britain in the Revolutionary War. They moved to Charlotteville, Ontario, in 1807. 12 Childred, the first 5 born in New Brunswick. (MFH)

1. Fanny, b abt 1798, m Thomas Shippey. 2. Mary, b avt 1800, m Isaac Smith. 3. Martha Maria, b 1802, m William Franklin. 4. Eleanor, b 10 Oct 1805, m Henry Rohrer. 5. Margaret, b abt 1806, m Whiting VanNorman. 6. Christine, b abt 1807, m Walter Rockafeller. 7. Amy, b abt 1808, m Isaac Procnier. 8. Rebecca Jane, b 19 Jan 1810, m Daniel Roher. 9. Phoebe, b abt 1812, m Jasper Dresser. 10. Andrew, b 17 April 1816, m (1) Mary Jane Franklin, (2) Mary Dowling Titus, a widow. 11. Ann Maria, b 24 March 1818, m (1) Granville Davis, (2) David Stackhouse. 12. Leah, b abt 1822, m Eli Louks.

WHITE FAMILY

Eli White m Mary Kelly. Both b 1793, Dutchess Co., NY. Settled near Grimsby, Ontario, near Lake Ontario, between Niagara Falls and Hamilton. 13 children, dates unknown.

1. Bridgeman, no info. 2. Courtland, m Annie May. Dairyman and farmer near Fulton. 3. Mittany, minister's wife, Caister Ctr. 4. Eli, music teacher, Fulton. 5. Burwell, went to Australia. 6. Darwin, m Penelope Swayze, Indiana. 7. Marcus, doctor, died at home. 8. **Moses Warren, below.** 9. Joshua, m Annette Davis, farmer. 10. Lauren, m Michel Durfey. 11. Anne, m Gilbert Wrong, Alymer. 12. Sara Jane, m G. R. David, farmer & wine maker. 13. Mary, m Farmer Buckbee, hotel keeper.

MOSES WARREN WHITE, referred to as Squire White, b July 1817, d 21 June 1892. On 16 April 1840, m Harriet Dowling, b Jan 1821, d 20 April 1907. He was first Magistrate of Township, Town Reeve, teacher, prominent in education. Lived on W 3/4 of S 1/2 of Lot 21, South Range, Houghton Twp., Norfolk Co. 8 children.

1. **Mary Laurine**, b 30 April 1841, m Dr. Benjamin Whiting Franklin. 2. Eliza (Liza) b 1842, m Rodney G. Montross (MFH 321). 3. Maitland, b 1844, m Lizzie Talmic. 4. Marcus, b 1846, m Nettie Dedrick. 5 Sarah, b 1848, m (1) Anthony Barrett, (2) Warren Cartwright. 6. Albert, b 1851, m Marion Draper. 7. Nellie (Penelope?) b abt 1853, m Henry Ellis, lived on w 1/2 Lot 16, Broken Front, Walsingham, near Port Rowan. 8. Burwell, 1854-1935, bachelor.