



Our Belcher Ancestors

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The Belcher Context

The Belcher Ancestors date from William Belcher in 1534 in England to the marriage of two daughters of Jeremiah Belcher, Abigail Belcher to John Gould in 1670 and Dorcus Belcher to Daniel Gould. The two daughters married two Gould brothers thus starting two independent lines.

William Belcher 1534 - 1580 and Elizabeth Randes 1535- 1600

Robert Belcher 1565 -

Thomas Belcher 1590-1658

Jeremiah Belcher abt 1610 – 1693

Abigail Belcher 1655-1687

Dorcus Belcher 1656-1730 Daniel Gould 1684-

1. William Belcher 1534 - 1580 and Elizabeth Randes 1535- 1600

William Belcher was born in Guisborough, Northamptonshire, England in 1534. He died in Gullsbrough, Northamptonshire, England in 1580. He married Elizabeth Randes. She was born in 1535 in Lavenham, Suffolk, England. She died in Latton, Wiltshire, England in 1600.

2. Robert Belcher

2. Robert Belcher 1565 -

Robert Belcher of unknown parents was born about 1565 in Kingswood, County Wiltshire, England.

3. Thomas Belcher b. 1590 d. abt 1658, m Ann Solme

3. Thomas Belcher 1590-1658

Thomas Belcher, son of Robert Belcher of Kingswood, County Wiltshire. England was born about 1590.¹ The connection of Thomas Belcher with Jeremiah or Jeremy Belcher below is tenuous and must remain tentative until further information is collected. Bartlet and Whitmore provide the following information on Thomas. He married Ann Solme daughter of Andrew Solme of Sandon on 29 January 1613. He died about 1658. Their children may have included,

4. i. Jeremiah Belcher b. Sep 1613 in Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, England, d. Mar 1692/93, m. Mary Clifford in 1637
- ii. Andrew Belcher b. 20 Apr 1614 in London, Middlesex, England, United Kingdom, d. 31 Oct 1679 in Cambridge City, Middlesex, Massachusetts Bay, British Colonial America
- iii. John Belcher b. 23 Jun 1616, d. 31 Oct 1679

4. Jeremiah Belcher abt 1610 - 1693

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Belcher-690>

The fascination with the Belchers to the Retson family is that both George Clifford Retson and his wife Grace Elizabeth Atkinson can trace their ancestors back to Jeramiah "Jerry" Belcher.

Jeremy Belcher born between 1610 and 1614² possibly Sep 1613 in Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, England, d. Mar 1692/93, m. Mary Clifford in 1637 born in Wiltshire, England.

Jeremiah Belcher, possibly son of Thomas and Ann Belcher, came to New England on board the "Susan and Ellen" in 1635³. He settled in Ipswich where he died in March 1692-3. His age is listed at 22 years (which would have his birth about 1612). About 1637 he married his first wife who may have been Mary Clifford. This Mary "Marie Clifford", age 25 was enrolled at London as a passenger for New England on the Susan & Ellen, the same ship in 1635 and stands next to her on the Passenger list⁴

He settled at Ipswich, Massachusetts where he was admitted a freeman 13 March 1638/1639:⁵ A freeman could vote and were required to take part in town governance. It was they who determined who would be town officers. Duties included overseeing children's education, maintaining town laws, and maintaining roads. In

¹ Listed as father in the christening records of son Jeremy Belcher, England: Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2014. (Original index: England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. FamilySearch, 2014.)

<https://www.americanancestors.org/DB543/r/390612849> accessed August 18, 2018

² His christening date is listed as 19 Sep 1611 at All Hallows, London, England. Sources quoted in The Great Migration (See Sources) indicate a date for birth about 1614

³ The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635, Vol1, page 231

⁴ The Great Migration Vol 2, page 107, citing Hotten, John Camden, ed. The Original List of Persons of Quality (London 1874, rpt. Baltimore 1974, page 99

⁵ Massachusetts: Miscellaneous Census Substitutes, 1630-1788, 1840, 1890 (Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2013. From records supplied by Ancestry.com)

<https://www.americanancestors.org/DB509/r/242319970>, accessed August 18, 2018

1631 men requested to be freeman from the Governor. Qualifications for freemen in Massachusetts included being male, of the age of majority, own land and be a member of a church. Town meetings were held at least once a year

He acquired extensive land by grant and purchase. He is generally referred to in these records as "merchant" but sometimes appears as "sergeant".

He first married Mary Clifford age 25⁶ in 1637. By her, he had the following children:

- i. Samuel Belcher, b. abt 1639, d. 10 Mar 1713/34
- ii. Jeremiah Belcher, b. June 1641
- iii. Mary (First Mary) Belcher, b. About 1645; m. Joseph Russell of Cambridge
- iv. John Belcher, b. About 1649 was deeded land in Haverhill by his father on May 15, 1661 probably died a young man unmarried.

He married Mary Lockwood on 30 September 1652⁷. He made a marriage contract 30 September 1652 conveying lands to trustees for her benefit for life. According to Bartlett's article she died in October 1700.

His children by his second wife Mary Lockwood include

5. v. Abigail Belcher, about 1653/54; m. John Gould in 1670 of Charlestown End (Stoneham) and had 7 children.

6. vi. Dorcus Belcher b. 1656 m. Daniel Gould of Charlestown (Stoneham) Her eldest son signed the deed of 1721. 8 generations latter, descendent Clifford Retson leaving their children simultaneously 8th and 9th great grandchildren.

- vii. Judith Belcher, b. 19 August 1658; m. John Andrews of Ipswich, Essex County.
- viii. Mary (second Mary) Belcher, b. 12 July 1660; On 9 Feb. 1681-82 married Thomas Andrews, Ipswich, brother of John who married sister Judith. Her son Thomas signed the 1721 deed.
- ix. David Belcher, b. 1662
- x. Richard Belcher, b. 10 September 1665
- xi. Ann Belcher, b. probably about 1668; m. Moses Burnham of Ipswich who signed the deed of 1721.

He acquired extensive lands by grant and purchase: In the records, he is usually referred to as "merchant" but sometimes appears as "sergeant"

On May 28, 1659 he was granted 300 acres by the General Court to be located outside of the settled plantations, but he did not take up his grant, which was revived in favor of his son Jeremiah over sixty years later in 1722. On May 15, 1661 he deeded lands in Haverhill to his sons Jeremiah and John. On July 1, 1721, John Gould of Charlestown, and Moses Burnham, Thomas

Andrews of Ipswich: heirs of Jeremiah Belcher of Ipswich, deceased, released to Samuel Adams all claims to a farm in Ipswich formerly owned by said Jeremiah Belcher: and they also

⁶ New England Marriages to 1700. (Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2008.) Originally published as: New England Marriages Prior to 1700. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2015. <https://www.americanancestors.org/DB1568/i/21174/123/426876638> accessed August 18 2018,

⁷ New England Marriages to 1700. (Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2008.) Originally published as: New England Marriages Prior to 1700. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2015. <https://www.americanancestors.org/DB1568/i/21174/123/426876638> accessed August 18, 2018

defended the grantee from the heirs of Richard Belcher and from the heirs of David Belcher, sons of said Jeremiah and from the heirs of John Andrews who married the daughters of said Jeremiah Belcher.

On July 1, 1721, John Gould of Charlestown, Walter Russell of Cambridge, Daniel Gould of Charlestown and Moses Barnham and Thomas Andrews of Ipswich, heirs of Jeremiah Belcher released to Samuel Adams all claims to a farm in Ipswich formerly owned by Jeremiah Belcher. They also defended the grantee from the heirs of Richard Belcher and from the heirs of David Belcher, sons of said Jeremiah and from the heirs of John Andrews who married one of the daughters of said Jeremiah Belcher (Essex county deeds vol 40 page 9).

Jeremiah Belcher died in Ipswich in March 1692 age about 80 years the eldest son Samuel being appointed administrator of the estate March 31, 1692

" History of Ipswich, Essex and Hamilton p 70 states:" Quabog Ipswich Mass 1675:

14 Nov. 1660, Ipswich, Mass: Mr. John Paine mentions Jeremy Belcher in his will:

May 12, Jeremiah Belcher and others of this place granted a plantation six miles square if they reserve a farm of three hundred acres for the colony and have twenty families and a minister settled there in six years.

"Topsfield Historical collections vol 24 p 128" states:

Jeremiah Belcher, aged about 54 yrs, deposed (made a deposition) that being at Mr. Patterson's lodgings in Ipswich Mass when John How of Topsfield with some others bought some goods of Mr. Patterson for which said How was engaged to pay wheat or without smut. How said his wheat was good and he did not know that it had any smut, and Pattlesons aid a little would not matter, so John How set his hand to the bill: March 31, 1668:

"Tenth Report of the Record Commissioners p 148: Rumney Marsh List" 1701: Jeremiah Belcher x2025 25:0 2 8 2 1 \$100

1702: List of Rumney Marsh:

Jeremiah Belcher two heads ferme at twenty five pounds, rent a year: two oxen, eight cows, a hundred sheep, one horse, one swine."

governor is in the possession of Warren Belcher Esq of Winthrop Mass) and later purchased lands in what is now Lynn, Revere, and Breeds Island" then called Hog Island. He was a prosperous farmer as in 1702 he paid the highest tax in Rumney Marsh on a farm worth 25 pounds per year, two oxen, 8 cows, 2 horses, 1 hog, and 1 hundred sheep. (Boston Record Commissioners Report vol 10 p 143) he deeded lands to his sons Edward, Joseph, and Ebenezer which they divided among themselves

DEEDED #2 MARY LOCKWOOD 2ND WIFE LAND FOR LIFE ON 30 JULY 1652

By 1665 was living in Rumney Marsh which is now Revere, Chelsea, East Boston: He first leased a farm of Gov. Bellingham (the original indenture, in the beautiful handwriting of the governor is in the possession of Warren Belcher Esq of Winthrop Mass) and later purchased lands in what is now Lynn, Revere, and Breeds Island" then called Hog Island. He was a prosperous farmer as in 1702 he paid the highest tax in Rumney Marsh on a farm worth 25 pounds per year, two oxen, 8 cows, 2 horses, 1 hog, and 1 hundred sheep. He deeded lands to his sons Edward, Joseph, and Ebenezer which they divided among themselves .

He made a will the original which is in the possession of his descendent (Suffolk County deeds, vol 28 page 136).

"The Last Will and Testament of Jermiah Belcher, living in Boston, being at this present time through Gods goodness in health, revoking all other wills. 1...I do commit my soul into the hands of God who gave it, who I trust hath redeemed it, and purchased it with his precious blood. And my body to decent Chritian burial in hope of a blessed resurrection.

2...And as to my worldly goods I do give and bequeethe forever to my three sons, Edward, Joseph, and Ebenezer Belcher, all that my Farm, lying and being within the bounds of Boston and Lin, as they have already divided it, as also the salt-marsh lying within Boston bounds.

3...I do give unto my daughter, Sarah Dole, my house an land in Boston which I am no possessed of after my desease, tht is to say she paying to me the just sum of 30 pounds money as I shall ahve occassion to call for it, but it it so be I shall hav eno occassion to call for it, then my will is that after my desese the 30 pounds to be paid to my three sons, Edward, Joseph and Ebenezer tp be equally divided that is to say ten to each of them within one year aftermy desease.

4...I do give to my son Edward my silver Tankard and two silver spoons. My will is that my grandson Jermiah the son of Edward Belcehr may have the silver Tankard after his fathers desease.

5...I do give to my two sons Joseph and Ebenezer each of them a silver cup and two silver spoons. I also give to my daughter Sarah Dole two silver spoons

6...What remains of my estate after my desease to be equally divided amongst my children. Lastly, I do appoint my three sons already named, executors of this my last willa nd testament."

as witness my hand and seal August 28, 1719

Jeremiah Belcher

**In the presence of us: James Gooding Henry Emmes
Mark Day.**

Jeremiah Belcher died in Ipswich Essex County, Massachusetts. His in-March 1692/63 age about 80 years the eldest son Samuel being appointed adminstrator of the estate March 31, 1692.

Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts⁸

Ipswich is a coastal town in Essex County, Massachusetts, United States. Ipswich is located in central Essex County and is 11 miles (18 km) south of Newburyport, 12 miles (19 km) northwest of Gloucester, 13 miles (21 km) north of Salem, 20 miles (32 km) east of Lawrence, and 28 miles (45 km) northeast of Boston. It is bordered by Rowley to the north, Boxford to the west, and Topsfield, Hamilton, Essex and Gloucester to the south. (The border with Gloucester lies across Essex Bay, and as such there is no land connection between the two.)

Ipswich was incorporated as a town in 1634. Several hundred colonists sailed from England in 1630 in a fleet of 11 ships, including Winthrop's flagship, the Arbella. Agawam was incorporated on August 5, 1634, as Ipswich, after Ipswich in the county of Suffolk, England. Pioneers would become farmers, fishermen, shipbuilders or traders. The tidal Ipswich River provided waterpower for mills, and salt marshes supplied hay for livestock. A cottage industry in lace-making developed.

6. Abigail Belcher 1655-1687 John Gould

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Belcher-1361>

Abigail Belcher, daughter of Jeremy and Mary (Lockwood) Belcher was born on 10 Mar 1655 possibly in Ipswich, Essex, MA. She married John Gould in 1670. She died on 20 Dec. 1687. One of Abigail's descendants 9 generations latter was Grace Atkinson. John Gould and Abigail Belcher had the following children:

- i. John Gould b. Mar 26, 1671 in Reading, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA. He married Sarah
- ii. Abigail Gould b. Oct 30, 1672 in Reading, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA, m. Benjamin Gary in

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipswich,_Massachusetts ; Town Website: www.ipswichma.gov ; History of Ipswich, Essex, and Hamilton by Joseph Barlow Felt published 1834. Online at books.google.com

1693.

iii. Jeremiah Gould b. m. Mary Brown

iv. Daniel Gould b. n on Oct 11, 1681. M. (1) Sarah Grover on Oct 21, 1702. She died on Dec 04, 1745. He married (2) Abigail Richardson on Apr 18, 1747. She died in Jan 1771.

v. Thomas Gould b. 1680 in Ipswich, Essex, MA, USA. D. 1750 in Killingly, Windham, Conn. m. (1) Priscilla Bateman, daughter of Thomas ? Bateman and Priscilla? in 1714 in Killingly, Windham, Conn. She was born on Apr 28, 1687 in Concord, Middlesex, USA. She died in Killingly, Windham, Conn. He married (2) Mary Hay on May 29, 1705.

vi. Mehetable Gould. She married Jonas Eaton.

vii. Mary Gould was born on May 08, 1687. She married Ebenezer Knight.

6. Dorcus Belcher 1656-1730 Daniel Gould 1684-

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Belcher-1987>

Dorcus Belcher, daughter of Jeremy and Mary (Lockwood) Belcher in 1656, possibly in Ipswich, Essex, MA. She married Daniel Gould, the brother of John Gould above, in 1676 or 1683/ 85. She died in Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA on 5 Jun. 1730. 8 generations latter, descendent Clifford Retson married Grace Retson the 9th great granddaughter of Dorcus's sister Abigail, thus making Father Jeremiah simultaneously the 9th and 10 great grandfathers of the children of Cliff

and Grace Retson. Daniel Gould and Dorcas Belcher had the following children:

i. Dorcus Gould b. on Jan 05, 1684 in Reading, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA. She married JOSEPH BROWN.

ii. Daniel Gould b. Jun 30, 1687 (Died within a year). He died on Feb 15.

iii. Daniel Gould was born on Mar 07, 1688. He died on Mar 08, 1788. He married Susanna Pearson on Mar 26, 1710. She died on Mar 29, 1757.

iv. David Gould was born on Feb 06, 1691 in Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA. He died on Apr 03, 1760 in Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA (at age 69). He married Elizabeth Green. She was born on Nov 16, 1687 in Massachusetts, New England, USA. She died on Apr 18, 1753 in Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA (64 years).

v. Joanna Gould was born after 1692 in Reading, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA. She married Ebenezer Brown.

Appendices

Abbreviations:

Abt about b. born Bef. Before Bp baptism bur buried d. died m. married

Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian⁹

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1582 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old-style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25th of March i.e. the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712 old-style would-be January 24,

⁹ Greenwood, Val D. The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, 3rd Ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co Inc 2000

1713 new style. The correct way to describe a date in the “overlap” period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means

“January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713”

Also, since the calendar began in March the months if numbered are as follows

March 1
April 2
May 3
June 4
July 5
August 6
September 7
October 8
November 9
December 10
January 11
February 12

List of Freeman¹⁰

The status of freeman was primarily of political importance, for it gave one the right to vote for colony officers. In some colonies, though, freeman was tied to church membership, and so the meaning was somewhat different. Massachusetts Bay and New Haven, the most Puritan of the Puritan colonies, made church membership a prerequisite for foremanship, while the rest of the New England colonies did not.

List of freemen may be used for a number of purposes beyond proving biographical information about an immigrant. Like tax lists later, a list of freeman provides basic information about the presence or absence of a person on a given date. And, as noted above, freemanship in Massachusetts Bay and New Haven supplies information about church membership, from which we can learn not just whether this individual was a church member at a given time; we can also reconstruct some of the history of churches whose records have been lost by studying the lists over a period of years.

Sources

Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1620 -1633*, 3 Volumes
Anderson, Robert Charles, George F. Sanborn Jr. and Melinde Lutz Sanborn (1999) *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634-35* 7 Volumes
Bartlett, Joseph Gaudner, “The Belcher Families in New England” 1906 NEHGS, 60:249-56, 358-64

General Resources

¹⁰ Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635*, Volume VII, T-Y Boston, MA: New England Historical and Genealogical Society, 2011


Websites

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Belcher-690> Jeremiah Belcher (1613 - bef. 1690)

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Belcher-1361> Abigail (Belcher) Gould (1655 - 1687)

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Belcher-1987> Dorcas (Belcher) Gould (1656 - 1730)


8th great grandfather

	Jeremiah Belcher b: Sep 1613 Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, England d: 31 Mar 1693 Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts B
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7th great grandmother

	Dorcas Belcher b: 1656 Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts, d: 05 Jun 1730 Stoneham, Middlesex, MA
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6th great grandfather

	David Gould b: 06 Feb 1691 Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA d: 03 Apr 1760 Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA
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5th great grandmother

	Mary Gould b: 06 Apr 1724 Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA d: 21 Aug 1810 North River, Colchester County,
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4th great grandmother

	Mary Lynds b: 27 Jul 1751 Mystic Side, Malden, Suffolk, Mas d: 1815 Onslow, Colchester, Nova Scotia,
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3rd great grandfather

	David Gould Hoar b: 28 Sep 1783 Onslow Township, Colchester Co d: 1861 East Mountain, Colchester Count
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2nd great grandmother

	Agnes Hoar b: 27 Jul 1812 Onslow Township, Colchester Co d: 13 Feb 1896 East Mountain, Colchester Count
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Great grandmother

	Rebecca Nelson b: 04 Apr 1841 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d: 18 Mar 1924 Salmon River, Colchester County,
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Paternal grandmother

	Beatrice Mary Clifford b: 16 Feb 1887 Brookside, Colchester County, N. d: 16 Sep 1958 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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Father

	George Clifford Retson b: 19 Dec 1912 Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scoti d: 17 Feb 1997 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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Self


	James Clifford Retson b: 28 Jul 1948 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d:
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James C Retson
8th Great Grandson tracing through
George Clifford Retson


Relationship: Jeremiah Belcher to Grace Elizabeth Atkinson
Grace Elizabeth Atkinson is the 8th great granddaughter of Jeremiah Belcher

	Jeremiah Belcher b: Sep 1613 Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, England d: 31 Mar 1693 <small>Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts B; Stoneham, MA</small>		Mary Lookwood b: 1628 Ipswich, Essex, MA, USA d: Oct 1700 Ipswich, Essex, MA, USA
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Daughter

	Abigail Belcher b: 10 Mar 1658 Ipswich, Essex, MA, d: 20 Dec 1687 Stoneham, Middlesex, MA
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Grandson

	Thomas Gould b: 28 Mar 1680 <small>Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts, United States</small> d: 1750 Killingly, Windham, Conn.
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Greatgrandson

	Samuel Gould b: 10 Nov 1728 Killingly, Windham, Conn. d: 1784 <small>Danville, Washington County, New York, USA</small>
---	--

2nd greatgrandson

	Capt. Ebenezer Gould b: 09 Aug 1755 Killingly, Conn. d: 14 Jun 1809 <small>Danville, Washington County, New York, USA</small>
---	--

3rd greatgranddaughter


	Abigail Gould b: 08 Sep 1775 Danville, Washington, New York, USA d: 07 May 1860 <small>Lepore Twp, Danville Co, North Carolina</small>
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Grace Elizabeth Atkinson is the 8th great granddaughter of Jeremiah Belcher

4th greatgrandson

	Orrin Gould Perrin b: 16 Aug 1808 Waynard, Augusta, Grenville, Ontario d: 01 Mar 1888 <small>Waynard, Augusta Township, Danville County, Ontario</small>
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5th greatgranddaughter

	Elizabeth Jane Perrin b: 28 Sep 1840 <small>Merriville, Danville County, Ontario, Canada</small> d: 08 Apr 1915 Waynard, Grenville, Ontario, Canada
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6th greatgranddaughter

	Abigail Almada Sploor b: 13 Sep 1860 Prescott, Ontario, Canada d: 10 Jul 1940 Merriville, Ontario, Canada
---	--

7th greatgrandson

	Edward Elbert Atkinson b: 26 Feb 1887 Merriville, Leeds, Ontario, Canada d: 14 Jan 1957 Vancouver, British Columbia
---	--

8th greatgranddaughter

	Grace Elizabeth Atkinson b: 11 Dec 1918 Waskada, Manitoba, Canada d: 04 Jun 2008 <small>Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, Canada</small>
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James C. Retson 9th great Grandson
tracing through Grace Elizabeth Retson