

LARRABEE GENEALOGY for NH Branch

(aka: Lareby, Lereby, Larabe, Laraby, Larraby, L'arabie, L'araby, Larabie, Leatherby.....)

FORWARD

This family genealogy is specific to the direct branch in Manchester, NH that links Mary (Larrabee) Herod, Harold Francis Floden and Rita (Floden) Sopiak to the original Larrabee settlers. It will not show all the brothers and sisters in each generation, which there are many especially in the early generations. This genealogy is for the current surviving members of the Herod and Sopiak families. This document was prepared in 2013 to 2015, by Joseph Sopiak and is based on multiple sources, site visits to Yarmouth, Durham, Hartford, Mexico, Livermore, Portland and Scarborough, Maine as well as Greenland, New Hampshire plus Sawyerville and Eaton Canada. At the end of this genealogy I will provide the major references, maps, books, documents, internet sites, gravesite locations and significant places in Maine that were used for this compilation. For all who do not know, this endeavor was inspired and assisted by my wife Patricia and her diligent work at the National Archives in New York City. I am not a historian but have done my best to find the family's past and the historical context of their existence. Hopefully others might take up the cause in the future and correct any mistakes or gaps in the Larrabee history and the general history summary that I have herein provided. I have made some speculations based on educated guesses where the historical record fails. I will note those with a (?). When one researches the historical data, and related family trees by others, you will find inconsistencies and wishful data. I have tried to provide only what I can verify.

LARRABEE HISTORY and CONTEXTURAL HISTORY

Stephen Larrabee (1), with his brother (?) or cousin (?), William, came to North America in the 1640's (?) and likely settled first in Malden, Massachusetts. They probably disembarked from Cornwall England (?). It is speculated that they are of protestant French origin (Huguenot?). It is unclear whether they were born in England or France. It is of note that the brutal half century war between the Catholics and Protestants (Huguenots) in France finally ceased in 1629. The Protestants lost and many fled to Protestant England and Europe. I speculate that Stephen's parents (unknown) fled (?) southeastern France, Gave de Pau Valley (?) which was a primary Huguenot stronghold in France. [Today there is a small village in this valley named Larbey. This area in France needs further investigation in the future.].

William Larrabee (Lareby) stayed in Malden and married an Elizabeth Felt in 1655. He died in 1692 and had no children. He left his estate, with a written will, to his "kinsmen", Stephen (1)'s children.

While William stayed in Malden, Stephen (1) moved on to North Yarmouth Maine (now known as Yarmouth) and married Margaret Mains (?), or an unknown person, in 1652. There is no evidence as to her birth date, parentage, place of birth, death date or place of death. Many have speculated she was a daughter of John Mayne or George Felt, early settlers in North Yarmouth, but there is no record to justify those parentage claims. John Mayne's marriage date and his wife's age make her too young to be Margaret's mother. Is she a niece or cousin of John Mayne (?), or daughter from a prior marriage? We will probably never know more about Margaret (?), or the unknown person who married Stephen.

Stephen (1) claimed that he bought land from Abenaki Indians, related to the Algonquins (rivals to the Iroquois), in the 1650's in North Yarmouth (Wescustogo is the Indians' name for the area). He and Margaret lived there from 1652 to 1676 working their frontier property. They had 9 children there.

Buying land from Indians was not playing by the rules as far as England was concerned. This approach to land ownership created claim problems for the Larrabee's in future years. New England was claimed by the crown and the territory was patented or chartered to Sir Ferdinando Gorges. No one could own land other than England and the Crown. Sir Gorges managed the charter / patent which required that a percentage of the resources' profits (timber, beaver pelts, fish, corn, etc.) extracted from the territory be sent back to England. What was left would be shared by those working the land.

Eventually it all ended sadly for Stephen (1) on September 06, 1676 when an Indian raid killed him on Jewels Island in Casco Bay off the coast of North Yarmouth (Yarmouth). Many settlers had fled to Jewels Island to escape the Indian hostilities on the mainland and hoped to be rescued by sea. This raid was part of the greater New England "King Philip's War" with over 3000 Indians and 800 colonists killed. The per capita death rate exceeded that of the Civil War. The King Philip's War was the first time that many of the New England Indian tribes banded together to have a unified front against the colonists throughout New England. The war fanned a series of wars (King William's, Queen Anne's, Father Rale's, and King George's, see page 8 **) that terrorized both sides (colonists and Indians) until the 1750's. I speculate that Stephen's wife met a similar fate to Stephen (1) (?). Women, unfortunately were usually not mentioned in the war records. The fates of the men had priority in the reporting of the war and its casualties.

"King Philip" (his name was Metacomet), was the sachem (chief) of the Wampanoag / Pokanoket tribe in the area of Massachusetts near Rhode Island. The colonists gave him the name "King Philip" because of the elaborate way he dressed including jewelry (wampum) which gave him the appearance of a king.

The hostilities were long lasting, ending in the 1750's with the "French and Indian War". Most settlers fled Maine in general (including Portland [known as Falmouth] and Scarborough) for many years from 1676 to 1720's. Some settlers attempted a resettlement in the 1680's but it failed. The Larrabees moved south to Kittery / Wells, Maine; Greenland / Portsmouth, NH; and Lynn, Malden and Boston, MA.

Some settlers began returning in the 1720's when the towns began re-establishing. In particular, North Yarmouth established the plotting of the town in 1727 for the earlier settlers and their heirs with 10 acre plots of land. Lots # 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 37 were designated for Stephen (1)'s children/grand children: Isaac, William, Stephen (3), Thomas (2?), Samuel and Benjamin Larrabee ("Leatherby"). Today this area has a park "Larrabee's Landing" (Google Larrabee's Landing Road & Burbank Lane, Yarmouth).

Below is the charting of the Larrabee genealogy for NH descendants. Until the 1900's, the family livelihood was primarily farming, later some timber work and some shoe making.

PARENTAGE (with marriage date and place) **RESIDENCE + Birth and Death**
(M = Marriage; B = Birth; and, D = Death) (Larrabees' ancestor side only)

Generation 1

Stephen Larrabee (1)	Unknown	B: (?)
(1627?+/- to 1676)	(Margaret Mains?)	North Yarmouth, Maine
M: 1652, North Yarmouth (Cumberland), Maine		D: Jewels Island, Maine

Generation 2

Thomas Larrabee	Elizabeth Rowe (Roe)	B: North Yarmouth, Maine
(1662 to 1723)	(1661 to 1735)	Greenland / Portsmouth, NH
M: 1683, Scarborough (or North Yarmouth?), Maine		D: Scarborough, Maine

(**Thomas and Elizabeth** moved to Scarborough, Maine in 1683 and owned 6 acres in close proximity to Elizabeth father's (Anthony Rowe [Roe]) homestead which her father owned since the 1660's. Indian troubles became so intolerable in 1690 that they (and all other Scarborough residents) moved from Scarborough, Maine. Thomas and Elizabeth moved to Greenland / Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1690. Most of their children were born in the Greenland, NH area. They returned to Scarborough around 1721. **Thomas** was killed by Indians with his son **Anthony** on April 19, 1723 while working in the fields of Scarborough as per "History of Scarborough Maine" by William Southgate and other sources. They were buried on the west side of Black Point Road where they died.

Other notes: **Thomas's** brother **Stephen (2)** (1752-1718) died in Portland (Falmouth) in 1718 and is the oldest gravestone in Portland's East Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Portland; additionally Stephen (2)'s son and grandson, **Captain Stephen (3)** (1682-1737) and **Stephen (4)** (1702-1737) are buried in the "**Pioneers Cemetery**" near "Larrabee's Landing" in Yarmouth Maine (see the Significant Places in Maine – Larrabees section of this document). Go to "Find A Grave", type in, name, dates, USA, Maine to see photos of gravestones plus other information.

Generation 3

John Larrabee	Mary Ingersoll	B: Greenland / Portsmouth, NH
(1700 to 1750 +/-)	(1703 to 1748)	Scarborough, Maine
M: Jan. 13, 1726 Kittery, Maine		D: Scarborough, Maine

John and Mary (Ingersoll) Larrabee are likely buried in the Black Point Cemetery in Scarborough Maine in unmarked graves (?). Mary (Ingersoll) Larrabee was born in Kittery Maine. (Note: John had a twin brother (?), they were born on the same day, **Benjamin (1700-1763)** and a son **Solomon (1731-1759)** whose gravestones can be seen in the Black Point Cemetery, Scarborough, ME.). See "Find A Grave".

Generation 4

Jonathan Larrabee (1748 to 1836) M: 1771, Scarborough, Maine	Alice Davis (1748 to 1818)	B: Scarborough, Maine Cape Elizabeth / Durham, Maine D: Durham, Maine
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(**Jonathan** was an orphan at age 1 or 2. He reportedly owned a farm in the “Barren Hill” area of Cape Elizabeth until 1809 according to his Revolutionary War pension statement in 1832 and then moved to Durham, Maine to be near his children. He was a Revolutionary War soldier with a war pension.

Generation 5

Jonathan Larrabee (2) (1782 to 1853) M: 1809, Durham, Maine	Phebe Davis (1788 to 1869)	B: Scarborough, Maine Durham and Hartford, Maine D: Hartford, Maine (Livermore)
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Jonathan (2) was a soldier in the War of 1812; Jonathan’s and Phebe’s graves were found in Hartford, Maine – **Maplegrove Cemetery**. Go to “Find A Grave” (type in name, life dates, USA, Maine) to see pictures of their gravestones. In old age they moved to Harford to be with their son, **John** (1811-1888).

Generation 6

Aaron Sawyer Larrabee (1827 to 1904) M: 1855, Livermore, Maine	Elizabeth Anne Childs (1835 to 1909)	B: Durham, Maine Eaton / Sawyerville, Quebec D: East Dedham, Massachusetts
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(**Aaron** was a Civil War soldier for ten days and then deserted. He moved his family with two children at the time to Canada in 1862 +/-); He also lived in Harford (Livermore) and Mexico, Maine just before moving to Canada. **Elizabeth** was born in Livermore. Late in life, he and Elizabeth moved to East Dedham, MA to live with son **Myron L. Larrabee** (1869-1954). Brookdale Cemetery, East Dedham, MA.

Generation 7

John Larrabee (1864 to 1909) M: 1892, Sawyerville, Quebec	Mary Ann Largy (a.k.a. Laragan) (1867 to 1951)	B: Eaton / Sawyerville, Quebec Eaton / Sawyerville, Quebec D: Eaton / Sawyerville, Quebec
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(After **John Larrabee’s** death, **Mary (Largy) Larrabee**, with her four children (**Florence, Alice, Bertha and Harold**) moved to Manchester, New Hampshire in, or about, 1910; Mary Largy introduced Catholicism to the family. She died in Manchester, NH in 1951. All previous generations of Larrabees were various sects of Protestantism: Anglicans, Congregationalists, Universalists and Methodists.

Generation 8

Florence Larrabee

(1893 to 1985)

M: 1917, Manchester, NH

John Francis Floden

(1893 to 1976)

B: Sawyerville, Quebec

D: Manchester, New Hampshire

Generation 9

Children: **Rita (Floden) Sopiak & Harold Francis Floden**

(1920 to 2009)

(1918 to 2011)

B / D: Manchester, NH

Generation 10

Joseph Sopiak (1950 -) & **Mary (Sopiak) Foster** (1952 -) children of Rita Sopiak and John Sopiak

AND (in parallel)

Generation 8

Harold Thomas Larrabee

(1901 to 1981)

M: 1923, Manchester, New Hampshire

Mary Shea

(1897 to 1980)

B: Sawyerville, Quebec

D: Manchester, NH

Generation 9

Child: **Mary (Larrabee) Herod**

(1925 to 2014)

B / D: Manchester, NH

Other Larrabee siblings with Mary (Larrabee) Herod: **Harold Francis Larrabee** (1926), **Arthur L. Larrabee** (1927), **Dorothy Larrabee** (1931), **Eileen Larrabee** (1933) and **Virginia Larrabee** (1934)

Generation 10

Franklyn Herod (1949 -), **James Herod** (1952 -), **Gary Herod** (1954 -), **Donald Herod** (1957 -) and **Susan (Herod) MacDonald** (1959 -), all children of **Mary Herod** and **Franklyn J. Herod, Jr.** (1909-1980)

REFERENCES

- "Saco Valley Settlements and Families" (Maine), by G. Ridlon (1895)
- "Ancient North Yarmouth and Yarmouth Maine, 1636 to 1936", by William Hutchinson Rowe (1937)
- "History of Scarborough Maine, 1633 to 1783", by William S. Southgate (1998)
- "History of Durham Maine", Everett S. Stackpole (1899)
- "New England Marriages Prior to 1700" (Ancestry.com)
- Ancestry.com; FamilySearch.org; US Military Records and Pension Records
- "OWASCOA", Place of Much Grass, Settlement of Black Poynt, Mayne, 1605-1800", by Patricia B. Corey
- "Gems of Prout's Neck History", by Rupert Sargent Holland (1924)
- "King Philip's War – Civil War in New England 1675-1676", James D. Drake (1999)
- "King Philip's War... America's Forgotten Conflict", Eric Schultz & Michael Tougias (1999)
- "The Larrabee Family" by Marcia W. Lindberg – Essex Society of Genealogists, Vol.19, (1999)
- The North Yarmouth Historical Society, Yarmouth, Maine plus their website
- Scarborough Historical Society, Scarborough, Maine
- On the web: (1) Pioneers of Maine – 1623 to 1660; (2) Find A Grave – many graves can be found
- Family Tree by the Brown Family on the Larrabees (on Ancestry Public Tree)
- Family Tree by Stanley Walker on the Larrabees (2000) – 155 Bent Oak Triangle, Fairport, NY 14450
- New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), Boston
- National Archives, New York City and Waltham, Massachusetts (Various Data Bases)
- Will of William Lareby (Larrabee), 1692, Malden, Massachusetts
- Will of Captain Stephen (3) Larrabee, 1737, North Yarmouth Maine, Maine Wills
- US Census' from 1790, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1900
- Canadian / Quebec Census' 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901
- Mainegenealogy.net - Reference Tab, then Maps Tab:
- Oxford County Map 1858 (J. Larrabee and A. Larrabee in NE corner of Hartford + cemetery)
 - Cumberland County 1857 (Cape Elizabeth "Barren Hill" and Scarborough)
 - Androscoggin County 1858 (Durham [NW corner] + Danville [just north of the Durham town line]). Many Larrabees' homes can be found on this map.

SIGNIFICANT PLACES IN MAINE – LARRABEES (Related to the New Hampshire Branch of the Genealogy)
(Can be located by internet sources such as GOOGLE Maps, GOOGLE Earth, or “Find A Grave”)

1. Larrabee’s Landing Park, Yarmouth, Maine. Go to Burbank Lane in Yarmouth. The park is 200 feet up Burbank Lane from Larrabee Landing Road on the north side of Burbank Lane. The park has a sign and a fenced lawn pedestrian lane down to the banks of the Royal River. Try street view. This is the location of the plots allotted to the Larrabees during the town founding in 1727 and may have been the location of *Stephen (1)*’s homestead from 1652 to 1676 (?).

2. Pioneer’s Cemetery, Yarmouth Maine. On Gilman Road (south side) and directly opposite Garrison Lane. See Google Street View. This cemetery has only a few gravestones and there may be many unmarked graves here and maybe more Larrabees, but there are no records. However two of the gravestones are for: *Captain Stephen Larrabee (3)* and *Stephen Larrabee (4)*. Both died in 1737 and are grandson and great grandson, respectively of *Stephen (1)*. Their grave stones are in the middle to the left of a large natural looking stone (stone has a bronze plaque identifying this as *the Pioneers Cemetery*). We have a copy of *Stephen (3)*’s will / married to *Margaret Paine*. Go to “Find A Grave”.

3. East Cemetery Portland, Maine. *Stephen Larrabee (2)*, brother of *Thomas Larrabee* and son of *Stephen Larrabee (1)*, is the oldest grave stone in Portland. Enter from Congress Street (opposite Montgomery Street) and go straight in towards the south side of the cemetery, maybe a little to the west [right]. It is a small stone (approximately 2 feet tall). He died in 1718 at the age of 66. He is the father to *Captain John Larrabee* who defended *Prout’s Neck, Scarborough Maine in 1703*. See Scarborough locations in the next paragraph. Go to “Find A Grave” to see gravestone.

4. Scarborough, Maine. There are four places of note in Scarborough. Scarborough is just north of Old Orchard Beach, across the Scarborough River; and, is south of Portland and Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

(4A) Fogg Road and Black Point Road. At the corner of Fogg Road and Black Point Road was the location of the farmstead where *Thomas Larrabee and Elizabeth Rowe (Roe)* lived. It was owned by her father *Anthony Rowe (Roe)* since the 1660’s. Somewhere, on Black Point Road *Thomas and his son Anthony* were killed by Indians while working in the field on April 19, 1723 during the Father Rale’s War. It is claimed they were buried (unmarked) at the site of the killing on the west side of Black Point Road.

(4B) Black Point Cemetery (just a quarter mile east of Fogg Road) on Black Point Road. In the middle of the cemetery is a large rock with a plaque that says there was a meeting house here and many of the early settlers are buried there in unmarked graves. It is likely *Elizabeth Rowe (1665-1735, Thomas’ wife)*, *John Larrabee (1700-1748, Thomas’ son)* and *John’s wife Mary (Ingersoll) Larrabee (1705-1748)* are buried here (?). They died from 1735 and 1750, the time of the meeting house. Also, *Benjamin (1700-1763, John’s twin brother)* and *Solomon Larrabee (1731-1759, John’s son)* gravestones are here.

(4C) Prout’s Neck Monument to Captain John Larrabee. At the east end (ocean end) of Black Point Road at Prout’s Neck are several monuments but one is in honor of *Captain John Larrabee* who defeated the Indians and the French at Prout’s Neck in 1703. He was a son of *Stephen Larrabee (2)* and nephew of *Thomas Larrabee*. *Captain John Larrabee* is a cousin to our New Hampshire Larrabees and not a direct descendant. Note: The famous painter Winslow Homer once lived in the Prout’s Neck area and produced many famous paintings of the Maine sea coast here.

(4D) “Larrabee Cemetery” in Scarborough, Maine. This cemetery is overgrown and you have to cut your way in. Off of Route 114 (Gorham Road) turn south on Beach Ridge Road and the first right is Ottawa Woods Road. 100 feet on Ottawa Woods Road before the first house on the right is the cemetery about 50 feet into the woods. Many Larrabees are buried here and many more may be unmarked. Of note is the gravestone of *Philip Larrabee* (1743 to 1826) who was 82 years old. He was an older brother of *Jonathon Larrabee* (1748 to 1836). Philip’s wife *Sally Larrabee* (1746-1823) is here.

5. Cape Elizabeth, Maine. “**Barren Hill**” is located in the middle of Cape Elizabeth on Sawyer Road. *Jonathon Larrabee* (1748 to 1836) and his wife *Alice* reportedly lived there until 1809 and had a farmstead in this area. He lived here during the time of the Revolutionary War and served as a soldier.

6. Durham, Maine. *Jonathon Larrabee and his wife Alice (Davis) Larrabee* moved here in their old age in 1809. Jonathon’s son, *Jonathan Larrabee (2)* and his wife *Phebe Davis* were married here (1809) and their son, *Aaron Sawyer Larrabee* was born here, 1827. Many other Larrabee relatives lived in this area. See the 1858 Androscoggin County Map identified in the REFERENCE section above on page 6. Most of the Larrabees lived in the NW sector of Durham (north of Davis Road and along Bowie Hill Road and stretching into today’s Auburn [once known as Danville, Maine]). Early Larrabees built portions of the Auburn Pownal Road. I am still looking for the graves of *Alice Larrabee (D: 1818)* and *Jonathon Larrabee (D: 1836)* which are claimed to be in Durham, possibly in unmarked graves in the Parker Cemetery on Bowie Hill Road [where son *William (1775–1841)* and daughter *Joanna Roak (1794-1876)* are buried], or the Harmony Grove Cemetery (with *Isaac Davis, Alice’s brother or cousin*) on Davis Road, or the Bradbury Cemetery on Stackpole Road (with many Larrabee relatives) [?]. In those times people were buried very close to where they lived. *Jonathon and Alice* lived across from *William D. Roak* about half way up Bowie Hill Road, according to the “History of Durham” (1899) by E. Stackpole.

7. Hartford, Maine. *Jonathan [2] (1782 to 1853)* and *Phebe (Davis) Larrabee (1788 to 1869)* moved here from Durham in the late 1830’s to be with their son John. Jonathan was a veteran of the War of 1812. Both *Jonathan [2]* and *Phebe* are buried here with one son, *John Larrabee (1811 to 1888)* and two daughters, *Johnna Larrabee (1821 to 1875)* and *Louisa (Larrabee) Stickney (1819 to 1903)* in the **Maplegrove Cemetery** on Church Street. I think *Jonathan and Phebe* lived near the intersection of Pine Shore Drive and Church Street on the east side of Church Street (?). See the 1858 Oxford County map in the REFERENCE section above on page 6. The cemetery is about a half mile to the north on the right (east side of Church Street). The graves are in the middle of the cemetery (northern half) with the *Stickney family*. Go to “Find A Grave” to see the gravestones.

Note: in nearby **Livermore, Maine** in the **Lakeside Cemetery** is *Davis Larrabee (1823 to 1885)*. He served in the Civil War and is a son of *Jonathan (2)* and *Phebe Larrabee*. Go to “Find A Grave” to see.

8. Jewels Island, Casco Bay, Maine. *Stephen (1)* was killed here on September 06, 1676 by Indians along with other settlers who were fleeing raids on the mainland. They were seeking rescue by sea.

** King Williams War (1688-1699), Queen Anne’s War (1702-1713), Father Rale’s War [Dummer’s War] (1721-1725), King George’s War (1745-1748) and the French and Indian War (1755-1759).

2019 RESEARCH UPDATES

1. **Margaret Mains?** There is very little in the paper trail as to the identity of Stephen Larrabee's wife in 1652. So the proper identity should be: (?). The identity other historians have produced is based on educated speculation, but speculation none the less. The closest information comes from cross-references between C.A. Torrey's "New England Marriages Prior to 1700" and S. Noyes's "Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire", especially the footnotes. So "Margaret Mains" may not be the correct identity of Stephen Larrabee's wife in 1652. Actually, if I were to speculate, George Felt (a significant land owner in the area of Yarmouth, Maine and Malden, Massachusetts at that time) and his wife were of the proper age to have a daughter of the right age to bear children with Stephen and the Felts had more family connections to Stephen Larrabee because Stephen's brother? (cousin?) William married one of George Felt's daughters Elizabeth in 1655. But George Felt did not (on the record) have a daughter named Margaret. Nor did John Mains have a daughter (on the record) named Margaret. So even the name Margaret is suspect. The female names that reoccur with Stephen Larrabee daughters and grand-daughters are Mary, Jane, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Hannah and are clues to Stephen's wife's name in 1652.

2. Additional References.

S. Noyes, "Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire";

Jill Lepore, "The Name of War, King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity";

Neil Rolde, "The Interrupted Forest – A History of Maine's Wildlands";

Alan Taylor, "American Colonies – The Settling of North America".

3. **Origins in France?** Locations in France that need more scrutiny based on the locations in the Gave de Pau River Valley (frequently referenced in history books as the origin location of the Larrabee name in France) that have village names with close spellings (or phonetics) to the name Larrabee: *Larbey*; clustered villages (*Larrebieu*, *Arrast-Larrebieu*, *Larribar-Sorhapuru*, *Larroy*, and *Moncayolle-Larroy-Mendibieu*); and a village in northwest France, *Le Ribay*. All these villages, except Le Ribay, are located in the Basque area in southwest France.

4. **Maternal Genealogical Surnames related to Larrabee.** These are New England, except where noted, family names related to Larrabee wives since 1652. **Roe (Rowe)** – Phillips [1630]; **Ingersoll** – Phoenix [1675]; **Davis** – Wooster [1722], Seabury [1723], Hawkins [1695], Chatfield [1666], Cook [1652], Tomlinson [1656]; **Childs** – Goding [1804], Lovewell [1774], Learned [1741], White [1708], Sanderson [1669], Washburn [1774], Harrington [1737], Edson [1744], Bowman [1686], Bemis [1681], Bright [1710], Harrington [1663], Warren [1651], and Palmer [1616 in England]; Canadian Quebec: **Largy** – Penny [1850]; Curry [1806 Ireland] and Gallagher [1825 Ireland].

5. **Speculations About Stephen (1) Larrabee (1650's – 1676) in Maine.** Sir Ferdinando Gorges was an early promoter of the New England colonization, even before the Puritans of 1620. He helped establish England's Privy Council that was the King's mechanism for issuing charters in America meant for commercial development and colonization. Sir Gorges, however never set

foot in Maine and never established a government structure for his Maine colony, in stark contrast to the Massachusetts Bay Colony charter which had a hands-on, organized, democratically self-governed and religiously inspired settlement structure. Additionally, Sir Ferdinando Gorges died in 1647 which further put the Maine colony in disarray.

I speculate that Stephen (1) was not as religiously motivated as the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay colony and was looking instead to improve his fortunes. Maine provided more unrestrained opportunities in the loosely managed and sparsely populated colony. He went rogue by buying land from Native Americans instead of respecting the King's charter system of the 1650's. The surrounding sub-charter land owners probably looked the other way and allowed Stephen to settle in North Yarmouth because they needed a critical mass of settlers to establish the frontier colony in the 1600's wilderness of Maine.

In the years that followed the King Philip's War Maine was abandoned due to the Indian troubles (1676 – 1720). Massachusetts eventually took control of Maine and started re-establishing towns in the early 1700's. One of Stephen's sons, Isaac Larrabee, testified to the Massachusetts government about the Larrabee claims as prior settlers who were forced off their land because of the Indian wars. Isaac claimed that his father, Stephen (1), bought land from the local Sachem, Warrumby, in the area of North Yarmouth. He further testified that Stephen (1) had raised his family there from 1652 to 1676, and had six sons, Isaac, William, Stephen (2), Thomas, Samuel and Benjamin. Apparently, the Massachusetts government agreed with Isaac's testimony and granted the sons, or their heirs, a combination of land parcels of 10 acres plus 100 acres, each, in North Yarmouth.

END OF 2019 RESEARCH UPDATE

Joseph Sopiak, NYC