

Captain William¹ Terrett of Stonington, Connecticut, and Some of His Descendants

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Though allied with founding families in southern New England and New York, that region's English-origin Terrett family (a few later arrivals came from Ireland) has eluded treatment in the secondary literature. The following account rectifies this and corrects and augments online postings relating to the family.

1. CAPT. WILLIAM¹ TERRETT resided in London prior to emigrating,^[1] but if his parents were William Jr. and Catherine (Curnock) Terrett, as is probable, then he was baptized in the parish of Cam, Gloucestershire, 26 September 1747.^[2] A biographical sketch of a grandson gives William¹'s birth year as 1745,

¹ See advertisement below. To distinguish this man from Londoner William Territt, who came to America in 1768, see Appendix A. Appendix B identifies a William Tarret(t)/Terret(t) family in New Hampshire a half-century earlier and several similarly surnamed contemporaries of the subject William¹ Terrett. Appendix C describes a William Terrett who came to Virginia from London probably in 1721.

² When William Terrett and Catherine Curnock married in Gloucestershire's county town of Gloucester on 7 January 1742/[3], they were of the respective parishes of Uley and Dursley, which, about 15 miles south of Gloucester, are adjacent to one another and clustered with the parishes of Cam and Owlpen (*Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1813*, St. John the Baptist, Gloucester, parish registers, 1699–1806, image 38, at Ancestry.com). Although Terretts had long populated this vicinity, the few probate records they created fail to provide much lineal continuity. Thus it has not been confirmed that Catherine's husband was the William Terrett baptized in Owlpen 25 June 1710, son of William and Elizabeth (Brint) Terrett, who married in Uley 21 October 1703, when the groom, a malter, was of Dursley and the bride of Slimbridge, a parish separated from Dursley by Cam (*Gloucestershire Baptisms etc.*, parish registers of Owlpen, 1677–1764, p. 21, and Uley, 1668–1723, p. 60).

The will of William Terrett "the Elder" of Owlpen, yeoman, dated 10 June 1754 and proved 13 February 1755, mentions among his legatees "my ffour Brothers," Giles, Samuel, William, and Charles Terrett; sons Charles (deceased) and William; daughters Elizabeth (sole executrix), wife of Thomas Wilkins, and Mary, wife of John Verebee (i.e., Ferebee); and grandson William Terrett, son of Charles (*England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384–1858* [1750–1756], 814 Paul [1755], PROB 11/814/66, pp. 83r–v, images 167–168, at Ancestry.com). William and Catherine's first son was William, baptized Cam 26 September 1747 (*Gloucestershire Baptisms*, Cam parish register, 1708–1805, p. 68, image 36, at Ancestry.com); other children included Elizabeth, baptized Owlpen 7 November 1749, father William Terret "Junr.;" John, baptized Dursley 21 August 1756, buried Owlpen 13 December 1761; and Charles, baptized Owlpen 29 November 1761 (*Gloucestershire Baptisms etc.*, parish registers of Owlpen, 1677–1764, pp. 35, 52, and Dursley, 1754–1781, p. 66). The mother's name, Catherine, was also that of William¹'s elder daughter; the names Elizabeth, Charles, and John match those given respectively to William¹'s younger daughter and second and third sons.

A William Terrett married in Uley 9 December 1770, Mary Hancock, and four of their children — Mary, Joseph, Hannah, and Dinah — were baptized there between 1771 and 1779 (*Gloucestershire Baptisms etc.*, Uley parish register, 1756–1812, pp. 24/26, 28/30, 32, 36). If this man's parents were William and Catherine, it would rule them out as the parents of William¹,

and the age at death on his gravestone produces an equivalent approximation.^[3] He died in Stonington, Connecticut, 28 November 1817, aged 72, and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery there.^[4] He married by license dated 3 August 1771, **ANTJE/ANN “NANCY” LOZIER**,^[5] baptized there 1 September 1751,^[6] daughter of Nicholas⁴ Lozier (*Petrus/Peter*³, *Nicholas*², *Francois*¹ *LeSueur*) and Feýtje/ Sophia (Klokkenaar [Dutch spelling, perhaps of German *Klökener*]).^[7] Nancy died in Granville (West Parish), Massachusetts, 5 December 1834, aged 82 or 83, and was buried in West Granville Cemetery.^[8]

William¹ Terrett arrived in New York City from London no later than 1771. His first known appearance in colonial records was on 3 August of that year,

who had emigrated by 1771. It is evident, however, that William of Uley was the son of Joseph and Mary (Hancock) Terrett (*ibid.*, 1723–1756, p. 56 [Terat–Hancock]). Among the legatees named in the will of Joseph Terrett of Uley, clothier, dated 7 February 1773 and proved 9 March 1773, are his wife, Mary; his son, William; daughters Hannah Fisher and Dinah James; and son William’s daughters Sarah (from a previous marriage) and Mary Terrett (*England & Wales, PCC Wills, 1384–1858*, 986 Stevens [1773], PROB 11/986/88, pp. 242v–244r, images 505–508; *Gloucestershire Baptisms etc.*, Uley parish register, 1756–1812, pp. 10/12 [Sarah baptized 22 August 1762, daughter of William and Eunice], 10 [from end of vol.] [Eunice, wife of William, buried 26 November 1763], images 14, 139).

While traveling in England in 1876, Rev. William Rogers Terrett (*John C.3* [no. 2.vi, below]) visited “our relatives, Terretts at the Owl Farm, Cooms [Coombs Field, Owlpen Farm, parish of Owlpen], Gloucestershire, England, and brought back an old book which was used in the Church and contained Charles, William, and John Terrett as wardens and vestrymen back to the days of Charles the first” (Isabel Terrett [Rev. Terrett’s sister], letter [1902?] to then Stonington town historian Grace Denison Wheeler, Isabel Terrett file, Richard W. Woolworth Library, Stonington Historical Society; “Report by Rev. William Rogers Terrett of a Terrett Family in England,” in Townshend Dade Terrett, “A Sketch of the Terrett Family of Virginia” [1906], transcribed by Priscilla Dade Terrett Beumee [Littleton, Colo., ca. 1960; typescript], 9, copy, in possession of the author and reproduced for the Woolworth Library).

³ *Biographical Review . . . Sketches of the Leading Citizens of Hampden County, Massachusetts* (Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1895), 834; author’s photograph of the gravestone, Evergreen Cemetery, Stonington (a less legible one is at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 59219598); Charles R. Hale Collection of Newspaper Deaths and Cemetery Inscriptions, Connecticut State Library, Cemetery Inscriptions, vol. 49, no. 15, Stonington Borough Cemetery, p. 77.

⁴ Stonington Deeds, 17:305–307; gravestone, Evergreen Cemetery [note 3]; *Leading Citizens of Hampden County* [note 3], 834, died 4 November.

⁵ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968), 219, 387, says Ann “Lajire.” Ann and Nancy are English equivalents of the Dutch *Antje*.

⁶ *Baptisms from 1731 to 1800 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New York*, Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. 3 (New York, 1902), 169.

⁷ *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam – New York City*, Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. 9 (New York, 1940), 176 (Lozier–“Klokkenaar”) 168. Catharina “Klokkenaar,” one of only two others of that surname in the records of this church, was from “Hoogsduidsland” [southern Germany] (*ibid.*, 168; *Baptisms, Reformed Dutch Church* [note 6], 108, Anna Maria “Kleckenaar”). The male line back to Francois¹ Le Sueur, who arrived in New Amsterdam in 1657, is from Theodore W. Lozier, *Lozier Descendants of Francois Le Sueur* (Scranton, Ark.: the author, 1985), 3–5, and David M. Riker, *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland from 1613 to 1674*, 4 vols. and Supplement (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: the author, 1999, 2001), vol. 2 “Lozier.” Le Sueur is Old French for *the shoemaker* (Cameron Allen, “David LeSueur (1703/4–1771/2) of Manakin Town, Virginia: His Origin and Antecedents,” *The American Genealogist* 71 [1996]:5).

⁸ Gravestone (aged 82), family monument (aged 83), West Granville Cemetery (photographs of the stones at FindaGrave.com, memorial #78708596). *Vital Records of Granville, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1914), 229, lists those two West Granville Cemetery records for Nancy Terrett but calls her “d. [daughter of] William and Nancy” for the family monument.

when he filed a £500 bond for a license to marry Ann “Lajire” of that place.^[9] William Terrett was in New York City in 1774 but not 1775.^[10] By 1775 they had settled on Long Point, a borough of the coastal town of Stonington, Connecticut, whose 500 inhabitants (the town had upward of 5,000) engaged chiefly in whaling and cod fishing.^[11] In fall of 1775, William placed this item in a newspaper published in New London (of which Stonington had once been a part):^[12]

William Terrett,

Leather Breeches Maker and Glover from London,
(late of New York), next Door to Mr. John Den-
ison’s, 5th, Merchant at Stonington Long Point,

Hereby informs the Publick in

general, and his Friends in particular, that he continues, since his Arrival, to make best Buck and Doe Skin Breeches and Gloves, in the most elegant and fashionable Manner —has lately finished a large Quantity of the best Kind of Deer Skins; also, has a great Number of all Sizes of elegant and serviceable Buckskin Breeches ready made which will dispose of Wholesale or Retail on reasonable Terms—Likewise, Moose Skins suitable for Officers Belts, Cartouche-Box Slings, &c. &c.

He returns his sincere Thanks to his Friends for their former Custom, and hopes his Performance has given such Satisfaction as to merit their Continuance, which with every others, will be gratefully acknowledged, and their Commands punctually execu- ted, by the Public’s most humble Servant,

WILLIAM TERRETT.

Stonington, Octo. 1775.

*N. B. Wanted an active Lad, about 14 or 15
Years of Age, as an Apprentice, enquire as above*

At Long Point on 12 April 1782, about seven years after arriving in Stonington, William Territt paid John Newman, physician, by then of Newport, Rhode Island, £120 for a “lot of land, with the House & Buildings

⁹ Prior to 1784, a New York couple intending to marry without announcing the impending event in a church was required to obtain a license from, and file a bond with, the provincial secretary or, beginning in 1776, the secretary of state (*New York Marriages* [note 5], iv).

¹⁰ Thomas B. Wilson, *Inhabitants of New York 1774–1776* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993), 308. The author’s sources are described at v–xii. Many inhabitants left the city before the occupation by British forces in 1776.

¹¹ Williams Haynes and James R. Boylan, *Stonington Chronology*, 2nd ed. (Chester, Conn.: Pequot Press, 1976), 41; Norman F. Boas, “Stonington in Rebellion, 1775,” *Historical Footnotes: Bulletin of the Stonington Historical Society* 36:2 (May 1999):2. The Terretts’ ties to New York City nevertheless remained strong: as noted below, William’s daughter Catherine was living there in 1803, when she married a Manhattan merchant; in 1809, her sister, Elizabeth, did the same; by 1810 and until at least 1819, it was the home port of their brother Charles, then a mariner; and several of William’s grandsons migrated to the city in the 1830s and early 1840s, becoming prosperous Manhattan merchants.

¹² *Connecticut Gazette; and the Universal Intelligencer*, 20 October 1775. Newspapers cited herein were accessed online at GenealogyBank.com, FultonHistory.com, NYSHistoricNewspapers.org, Newspapers.com, and Ancestry.com.

thereon.” Newman had built the house probably by 1778, certainly by 1780.^[13] It was here (immediately north of the now historic Capt. Amos Palmer House, on Main Street) that William spent his remaining thirty-five years.^[14]

Only months after buying the Main Street property, William entered the army. Revolutionary War records of Capt. Benjamin Durkee’s Company of Matrosses [privates of artillery, gunnery assistants] indicate that Pvt. William Tarritt/Turrirt served at Fort Trumbull, in nearby New London, from 1 August 1782 to 1 August 1783.^[15] The fort had seen no action since the British attack of 6 September 1781, and William probably discharged his duty without incident.^[16]

Not surprisingly, William Terrett appeared in court records. Discussing them as an important genealogical source, Elizabeth Abbe writes, “Considering how many merchants, tradesmen, and farmers kept detailed account books, it would seem that a good number of townspeople would at some time in their lives be delinquent in pay and accountable for a ‘bookdebt’ . . . Civil cases abounded with matters of debt, trespass, and damages.”^[17] It is debatable whether this somewhat charitable analysis applies to the writ of attachment issued on 20 May 1783 against William Tarrett “to the vallue of Nine Pounds Lawfull Money.”^[18] A Rhode Island man charged that in exchange for value

¹³ Stonington Deeds, 10:155, 284, 410 (see also 10:105, 152, 242).

¹⁴ Stonington Deeds, 17:305–307, 484, 517. It is generally accepted that the old Terrett house now stands at 16 Church Street, moved there by Col. Joseph Smith (Grace Wheeler, *The Homes of Our Ancestors* [Salem, Mass.: Newcomb & Gauss, printers, 1903], 112; Mary McGrath Thacher, “History in Towns: Stonington Borough, Connecticut,” *The Magazine Antiques* [July 2003], 62, 63). Affixed to its façade is a plaque inscribed “William Terret house / circa 1787 [sic].” Col. Smith owned the Church Street property from 1823 — the deed of purchase mentions no dwelling house — to 1864; his son Nathan owned the Main Street property from 1822 to 1836 (Stonington Deeds, 17:304–307, 517; 20:31; 21:299; 29:406). Another account has the Main Street house relocated to 19 Elm Street (see letter, C. A. Anderson file, Richard W. Woolworth Library, Stonington Historical Society; Amos Chesebrough, “Stonington in the Days of Yore,” *Historical Footnotes* [note 11], 23:3 [May 1986]:10–11).

¹⁵ Revolutionary War muster/payroll abstract cards 37074893, 37074979, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War*, 3 parts (Hartford, Conn.: Adjutant-General’s Office, 1889), 1:588. At this time, the only known Connecticut Terretts, Tarritts, etc., were those of Stonington. Revolutionary soldier Amos “Terret” of Farmington or the Farmingbury Parish of Waterbury was one of many Terrells living there (see *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Revolution*, 1:562, 622).

¹⁶ From 1776 to 1783, the British forces occupying New York City used abandoned and decommissioned warships anchored near New York Harbor to hold captured or arrested American soldiers, sailors, and private citizens. Among these prison ships was HMS *Jersey*, or *Old Jersey*, infamous for its inhumane conditions. After April 1780, the *Jersey* also processed incoming prisoners of the entire floating prison system (Arthur B. Tourtellot, “Rebels, Turn Out Your Dead!” *American Heritage* 21:5 [August 1970], online at americanheritage.com). A British War Department list of those received by the *Jersey* or imprisoned on it or both includes the name William Terrett (*American Prisoners of the Revolution: Names of 8,000 Men Aboard the Old Jersey Prison Ship* [rearranged alphabetically], online at usmm.org/revdead.html).

¹⁷ Elizabeth Abbe, “Connecticut Genealogical Research: Sources and Suggestions,” in Ralph J. Crandall, ed., *Genealogical Research in New England* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 124.

¹⁸ Stonington District Probate, File 3250, William Terrett, *Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609–1999*, online at Ancestry.com.

received, William had on 30 January 1782 written him a promissory note for 16½ silver dollars, to be repaid with interest by the following 1 March. Despite frequent “Request[s] & Demand[s]” for repayment, William had failed for more than a year to make good on the note, and the plaintiff was now asking also for five pounds ten shillings in damages and an unspecified amount in recovery costs. In 1802 William was summoned to appear before a justice of the peace to answer Amasa Patterson’s complaint that William owed him three dollars “to Ballance Book accounts.”^[19] As detailed below, three of William’s sons were beset by attachments, lawsuits, and other legal measures arising sometimes from bad luck and at others from bad faith.

Precisely when William turned from making leather breeches and gloves to other pursuits, one of which earned him the title *Capt.* on his gravestone, is unknown. New London customhouse records describe him as master and sole owner of the sloop *Nancy* (presumably after his wife) since its first registration there, on 25 March 1793.^[20] The 37-foot, 23-ton “coaster” [coastal merchant vessel] had been built at nearby Westerly, Rhode Island, in 1790 and initially registered in Newport. William Terrett Jr. became the *Nancy*’s owner and master in 1800, and from then until its sale in 1805 to Stonington merchant Nathan Smith, the vessel was registered annually to Terrett Sr. or Jr. or both.^[21] Clearly neither man’s captaincy resulted from militia service in the War of 1812, as has been said.^[22]

William¹ has been described as a Stonington “merchant [who] was very successful and was one of the prominent citizens of the town.”^[23] Among his probate papers are two particular documents suggesting that his “shop,” as it is called in William²’s administrative account for his father’s estate, was a general store.^[24] One is a fragmentary record of expenditures by William² on behalf of his father’s estate, itemizing payments to Jesse Willcocks on 4 September 1816 for “pasage and bord [\$5] to New York & 2 bbl Rum back [\$3]” and on 16 October 1817 for “fraite of 1200# (hear to New York) [\$3].” The other indicates that William² Terrett paid David C. Smith for debts incurred by William’s father for wharfage (provided on five occasions between 11 April 1815 and 25 October 1816) for 4,039 pounds of cheese, six bushels of grain, four cords of wood, ten thousand shingles, and one hogshhead [63 gallons] of cider.

In that operating both a general store and a small merchant vessel were highly compatible, “vertically integrated” activities, we may assume that William¹ had kept a store on his home lot since purchasing the *Nancy* (between 1790 and 1793), if not earlier. In 1804, William² Terrett, merchant, paid [his brother-in-law] Asa Rossiter, mariner, \$525 for two 20-rod lots in Stonington Borough, on which were buildings but apparently no houses.^[25] Perhaps he

¹⁹ Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18].

²⁰ New London customhouse abstracts, G. W. Blunt White Library, Mystic Seaport, Old Mystic, Connecticut.

²¹ New London customhouse abstracts [note 20].

²² See William Rogers Terrett, “Terrett Family” [note 2], 6, 9.

²³ *Leading Citizens of Hampden County* [note 3], 834.

²⁴ Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18]; an 1822 deed of sale describes the property as “House, Store, and Lot” (Stonington Deeds, 17:484).

²⁵ Stonington Deeds, 15:109–110.

used one of these lots for a store apart from his father's, with surplus stock in the other.

William¹'s second and last recorded land transaction was on 9 January 1809, when he paid Sarah Nichols \$925 for a 20-rod lot with a two-story house and buildings thereon, which she had inherited from her father, Oliver Hilliard.^[26] William apparently bought the property for the use of his namesake son and the latter's growing family, for an inventory of William¹'s estate taken on 6 January 1818 indicates that William² occupied the "Hilliard house."^[27] The house stood on Main Street, at the northwest corner of Pearl Street, only a few blocks from the one in which he had grown up.^[28] The two properties, described as "garden spots," were sold out of the family in 1822.^[29] When William's estate was finally distributed, in 1821 and 1822, Nancy received the customary widow's thirds, and the remainder was divided equally — \$1,496.37 each — among sons William², Charles, John, and James; daughter Elizabeth Denison; and granddaughter Eliza Ann Secor, whose mother, William and Nancy's daughter Catherine, was deceased.^[30]

Although William died intestate, the inventories, administration, and distribution of his estate^[31] abound with biographical information. His estate inventories (the one aforementioned and a supplemental one, dated 23 March 1818)^[32] are of particular interest. Then among the largest estates in Stonington, his was initially valued at \$13,426; ultimately, \$13,098 was distributed.^[33] The greater part consisted of \$9,100 in United States "stock notes," on which interest of 6–7% was paid quarterly at New York City. Among other inventory items were about two hundred books, journals, and reports; two hundred Dutch quills; five reams of coarse foolscap paper; and thirty-three lead pencils. While William's having begun as a tradesman suggests a limited formal education, he was nevertheless a highly literate man with sweeping intellectual interests. His library embraced an astonishing range of subjects: courtroom procedure and law (common, patent, constitutional, international, and maritime); public affairs; history (primarily military and Latin American); biographies and memoirs (mainly of military and political figures); maritime matters (navigation, law, insurance); commerce and finance; society and ethnography; geography and travel; religion; medicine; grammar, vocabulary and spelling; bookkeeping; gardening; and fiction.

Another facet of William's lifestyle is revealed in an account of expenses incurred by William² from 20 October 1810 to 10 November 1817 and

²⁶ Stonington Deeds, 15:462.

²⁷ Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18], also Stonington District Probate, Records, 10:366–368.

²⁸ Mary M. Thacher, Librarian, Stonington Historical Society Library (now Richard W. Woolworth Library), letter to the author, 2 November 1994.

²⁹ Stonington Deeds, 17:299–302, 305–307, 484–485, 508, 516, 517, 524.

³⁰ Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18].

³¹ See Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18], also Records [note 27], 10:366–368, 502, 545–546, 11:40–42, 138, 152–157, 179–181.

³² Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18], also Records [note 27], 11:40–42 (year miscopied as 1819).

³³ Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18], also Records [note 27], 10:366–368, 11:40–42, 152–157.

charged to his father's estate.^[34] In practical terms, the five-page document begins with the second item, dated 4 June 1814; it ends two and a half weeks before William¹'s death. During this nearly three-and-a-half-year period, the items most frequently supplied William by his son were gin, to April 1815, and rum thereafter. Perhaps taken from larger stocks intended for sale, they were itemized in pint and quart quantities and grew from an average of a pint every three or four days to almost one per day. This might not reflect the full extent of William's alcohol consumption, however. Beginning with the shift from gin to rum, William² regularly provided his father with molasses (from which rum is distilled). At the top of the second estate inventory, moreover, is an item for 33 gallons of rectified rum. (There is no indication that either inventory contained stock from the store, which, presumably, was by then entirely in William²'s hands.) In the month of William's death, expense-account items included, for the first time, significant quantities of crackers. One cannot resist speculating that the old merchant and mariner died from an alcohol-induced bleeding ulcer.

Children of Capt. William¹ and Nancy (Lozier) Terrett; i. born probably New York City; ii.-iii., order uncertain, born New York City or Stonington; iv.-vi. born Stonington:

2. i. CAPT. WILLIAM² TERRETT, b. 17 May 1772;^[35] m. HANNAH FISH ROSSITER.
- ii. CATHERINE TERRETT, b. ca. 1775–1782;^[36] d. New York City 12 March 1807;^[37] m. there 23 July 1803, ABRAHAM SECOR,^[38] Manhattan dry goods merchant, b. 21 Aug. 1772,^[39] son of John and Elizabeth (Roe) Secor of Mahopac Falls, Carmel, N.Y.,^[40] d. New York City 21 April 1829, aged 57.^[41]

³⁴ Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18].

³⁵ *Leading Citizens of Hampden County* [note 3], 834; *Connecticut Gazette* [note 12], 20 October 1775.

³⁶ 1800 U.S. Census, Stonington, New London County, Connecticut, roll 3, p. 672, [Willi]am Tarrett, the female age 16–25.

³⁷ *New-York Weekly Museum*, 14 March 1807, p. 3.

³⁸ *Morning Chronicle*, New York, N.Y., 26 July 1803, p. 3.

³⁹ Dated 10 November 1821, an estate-settlement agreement between Abraham Secor (for his minor daughter, Eliza Ann) and William Terrett [Jr.], administrator of the estate of William Terrett [Sr.] (of whom Eliza was an heir at law), is signed "Abraham Secor / Guardian to Eliza Ann Secor / By her Attorney by power of Substitution from / Joshua Secor / George Hubbard [attorney] / William Terrett" (Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18], attachment order, dated 18 February 1822). The respective Manhattan addresses of Abraham and Joshua Secor in 1802 (440 and 461 Pearl Street) and of Joshua and Elijah Secor in 1808 (174 and 175 Broadway) imply a family connection among all three men; in both instances, Joshua is described as a physician (*Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register and City Directory* 1802–1803; 1808–1809 [New York: David Longworth, 1802 and 1808], 311, 282, respectively). Among the children attributed to John and Elizabeth (Roe) Secor are Abram, born 21 August 1772 (one child, Eliza, unmarried) and Joshua (M.D.), born 17 August 1778 (Frederick Secord, *Descendants of Ambroise Sicard*, book 6 of 10 [Chicago: the author, 1966?], n.p. [FHL 0,175,416]).

⁴⁰ Secord, *Descendants of Ambroise Sicard* [note 39], 6:n.p.

⁴¹ *Commercial Advertiser*, New York, N.Y., 22 April 1829, p. 2.

- iii. CAPT. CHARLES TERRETT, b. ca. 1775–1782;^[42] d. before 16 Dec. 1832, probably in Colebrook, Litchfield Co., Conn.;^[43] m. Greenwich Village, New York City, 3 June 1813, HANNAH/ANN DURR/DERR,^[44] b. Pa. ca. March 1788–1793 (perhaps Northern Liberties, Philadelphia Co., Pa., 18 March 1792, daughter of George and Catherine [____] Dürr/Derr),^[45] d. between Sept. 1877 and March 1878,^[46] probably Colebrook. She m. (2) Colebrook 16 Dec. 1832, Daniel DeWolf.^[47]

New London customhouse records show Charles as owner (sometimes with others) and master of several coastal merchant vessels: schooners *Betsy* (1804), *Eliza* (1805), *Buck* (1805–1810), and *Atlantic* (1810); brig *Othello* (1807); and ship *Washington* (1812).^[48] The *Atlantic's* record at New London indicates that Charles was living in New York City by 5 May 1810; his marriage record puts him there in 1813; and a listing as “shipmaster” in an 1816 New York City directory gives his residence as 474 Greenwich [St.],^[49] a short walk from the Hudson River docks.

Charles was “late of . . . Stonington” on 13 Sept. 1819, when a writ of attachment was issued against him for \$70 plus recovery costs, due to his failure to make good on two promissory notes he had given on 24 June 1814 to Stiles Phelps, a mariner and commission merchant formerly of Stonington; both men then of New York City.^[50] Though not found in the 1820 census (or any other as a householder), Charles was “now

⁴² 1800 U.S. Census, Stonington [note 36], roll 6, p. 672, the male 16–25.

⁴³ Colebrook, Connecticut, Town [and Vital] Records [FHL 1,503,206], 6:343; Colebrook Deeds, 7:83–426 *passim*; Winchester, Connecticut, District Probate, Records, 1:19.

⁴⁴ “Records of the Reformed Dutch Church at Greenwich in the City of New York, 1804–1866,” typescript, transcribed by Royden Woodward Vosburgh (New York, 1920), 123, Ann Derr; Colebrook Deeds, 7:83, 225, 234, 260, 426; Revolutionary War Pension File W1245, Daniel and Hannah DeWolf [FHL 0,970,806], image 317, as Durr; misread as *Dain* in Carol S. McGinnis, *Dolphs and De Wolffs: Descendants of Baltazar de Wolff of Livonia*, vol. 1 [Lakeside Park, Ky.: Richard Dolph, 1993], 478, image 352 (Dur) at FamilySearch.org.

⁴⁵ Revolutionary War Pension File W1245 [note 44], images 316 (Hannah age 66 years, 1 month, as of 16 April 1855), image 320 (65 as of 26 March 1853), 355 (76 as of 3 November 1868); 1860 U.S. Census, Colebrook, Litchfield County, Connecticut, roll 82, p. 855 (age 67, born New York); 1870 U.S. Census, Colebrook, roll 105, p. 69B (age 77, born “Pansylviany”). In the first several U.S. censuses, the surnames Durr and Derr are heavily concentrated in Pennsylvania.

Hanna, daughter of Georg and Catharine Dürr (Derr in 1790 and 1800 U.S. censuses) was born 18 March 1792 and baptized in Philadelphia 20 May 1792 (*Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708–1985*, St. Michael’s and Zion Lutheran Church Records, 5:n.p., image 1200 at Ancestry.com; 1790 U.S. Census, Northern Liberties, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, roll 9, p. 194; 1800 U.S. Census, Northern Liberties [West], Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, roll 42, p. 381.

⁴⁶ Revolutionary War Pension File W1245 [note 44], image 346 (last biannual pension payment, 4 September 1877).

⁴⁷ Colebrook Town [and Vital] Records [note 43], 6:343; Revolutionary War Pension File W1245 [note 44], images 317, 352, Hannah (Mrs. Daniel) DeWolf, formerly widow of Charles Territt/Terret.

⁴⁸ New London customhouse abstracts [note 20]; *Commercial Advertiser*, New York, N.Y., 8 November 1810, p. 3, and 31 January 1812, p. 2. Perhaps the schooners *Betsy* and *Eliza* were named after Charles’s younger sister, Elizabeth.

⁴⁹ *Longworth’s New-York City Directory* [note 39], 1816–1817 (New York: David Longworth, 1816), 414.

⁵⁰ Stonington District Probate, File 3247.

of . . . Stonington” on 28 Oct. 1820, when the complaint of Joseph Potter of Hopkinton, R.I., resulted in a second attachment order, for \$35 plus costs.^[51]

On 2 Aug. 1821, Charles, forsaking sea for soil, paid \$900 for a 130-acre farm in Colebrook.^[52] In less than four and a half years, a series of transfers and mortgages — punctuated by the forfeiture of 10 acres in a debt action brought by an attorney — culminated on 12 Dec. 1825 in Charles and Hannah’s selling the remainder of their farm to his brother William’s son George W. Terrett.^[53] No further record of Charles Terrett has been found.

- iv. JOHN TERRETT, b. ca. 1783–1786,^[54] d. Granville, Mass., 20 Nov. 1849, aged 65 or 66.^[55] A Seaman’s Protection Certificate issued at New London to John Tarret and dated 23 July 1806 provides the following information: born Stonington; age 20; light complexion, _____ freckled; height 5'8".^[56] Later a tailor, he is said to have had a family at Stonington,^[57] but the only potential evidence of it is an 1820 census record of a four-member Stonington Borough household headed by John H. “Sterrit,” nine lines above the listing for Nancy “Territt.”^[58]

John was a private in the War of 1812, serving as a musician in New London during the summer of 1813.^[59] In 1821 three different persons brought debt actions against him in Stonington totaling \$77 plus costs.^[60] The first two writs of attachment described him as being of “parts unknown,” and the third put him in “Huntington, in the state of New Jersey [*sic*]”; by 20 Oct. 1821, he had joined other family members at Granville.^[61] He was of nearby Colebrook on 28 Dec. 1821 and 14 March 1822; Granville on 7 Sept. 1822; Hartland, Conn. (not far from Granville and Colebrook), 9 Sept. 1822; Colebrook, 26 March 1823; and Granville, 15 Feb. 1828.^[62] He was probably enumerated in his brother William’s Granville household in 1830 and that of his nephew George (same house) in 1840.^[63] That John died in the poorhouse (of “dropsy”

⁵¹ Stonington District Probate, File 3247. Charles and his wife were probably enumerated in his mother’s 1820 Stonington household (1820 U.S. Census, Stonington, New London County, Connecticut, roll 2, p. 566, Nancy Territt).

⁵² Colebrook Deeds, 7:91. Colebrook, Connecticut, is almost adjacent on the northeast to Granville, Massachusetts, where Charles’s brother William and his family had settled in 1820.

⁵³ Colebrook Deeds, 7:83–563 *passim*. On 10 March 1826, George sold to a nonrelative the farm he had bought from Charles and Hannah Terrett (*ibid.*, 280, 563).

⁵⁴ *Vital Records of Granville* [note 8], 229, died aged 65 (town record) or 66 (Rev. Timothy M. Cooley private records); 1800 U.S. Census, Stonington [note 36], roll 3, p. 672, the male 10–15.

⁵⁵ *Vital Records of Granville* [note 8], 229.

⁵⁶ *Registers of Seamen’s Protection Certificates*, online database at mysticseaport.org.

⁵⁷ *Vital Records of Granville* [note 8], 229; Wheeler, *Homes of Our Ancestors* [note 14], 153.

⁵⁸ 1820 U.S. Census, Stonington [note 51], roll 2, p. 566.

⁵⁹ *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the . . . War of 1812* [note 15], 2:124.

⁶⁰ Stonington District Probate, File 3249, John Terrett.

⁶¹ Stonington District Probate, Files 3249, 3250 (receipt) [note 18].

⁶² Colebrook Deeds, 7:83, 92, 501, 504, 563; Stonington Deeds, 17:484, 485.

⁶³ 1830 U.S. Census, Granville, Hampden County, Massachusetts, roll 63, p. 49; 1840 U.S. Census, Granville West Parish, roll 186, p. 143.

[congestive heart failure])^[64] and apparently is not buried in either the Stonington or Granville family plot suggests estrangement from his closest relatives.

- v. ELIZABETH/ELIZA “BETSEY” TERRETT, b. ca. Sept. or Oct. 1787;^[65] d. Granville 10 April or 4 May 1864, aged 76 years, 7 months, bur. West Granville Cemetery;^[66] m. (1) Stonington 30 July 1809, JEREMIAH SHOTWELL JR., New York City merchant,^[67] b. probably Elizabeth, N.J., say 1784, son of Jeremiah and Mary (Barron) Shotwell of Elizabeth and Woodbridge, N.J.,^[68] d. ca. 1818, probably in New York City.^[69]

Elizabeth m. (2) between 1 June 1817 and 15 May 1819, probably in Stonington, as his second wife, BENADAM “ADAM” DENISON of Halifax, Vt.,^[70] farmer, b. Stonington ca. 1795, son of Benadam “Adam” and Rhoda (Randall) Denison,^[71] d. Halifax 1 April 1861, aged “66?”^[72]

With no apparent interruption of his business activities, Jeremiah Shotwell had by 1810 joined the New York State Militia, serving that year as paymaster of the Fourth Regiment, First Brigade of New York

⁶⁴ *Vital Records of Granville* [note 8], 229.

⁶⁵ Calculated from her age at death (Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, Granville Deaths, 174:329, indexed as Eliza Dinison). These Massachusetts state copies of vital records are online at AmericanAncestors.org, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com under various titles. Elizabeth’s age — she was apparently seven or eight years older than her second husband, Benadam Denison — is greatly understated in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, less so in that of 1855 (1850 U.S. Census, Colrain, Franklin County, Massachusetts, roll 316, p. 14B, age 58; 1855 Massachusetts State Census, West Granville, Hampden County, p. 23, age 65; 1860 U.S. Census, Halifax, Windham County, Vermont, roll 1325, p. 302, age 67). For his reported ages in these censuses, see notes 71 and 76.

⁶⁶ Gravestone and family monument, West Granville Cemetery, died 10 April 1864 (photographs at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 78708677); Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, Granville Deaths, 174:329 [note 65], died 4 May 1864.

⁶⁷ *New-York Weekly Museum*, 5 August 1809, p. 3; *Observer*, New York, N.Y., 6 August 1809, p. 196.

⁶⁸ *New York Marriages* [note 5], 18, 349 (Shotwell–Barron); Ambrose M. Shotwell, *Annals of Our Colonial Ancestors and Their Descendants . . . Nine Generations of the Shotwell Family . . .* (Lansing, Mich.: the author, 1897), 132, 226; *New Jersey, Wills and Probate Records, 1739–1991*, Middlesex County Probate Records, C:369–371, images 204–205 at Ancestry.com, 1830 will of Jeremiah Shotwell.

⁶⁹ *Evening Post*, New York City, 26 June 1817, p. 4 (court order published in June, responding to a petition filed in February naming Shotwell and three others; in not repeating their names, the court order failed to indicate whether Shotwell had died since the petition was filed). Elizabeth remarried by 15 May 1819 (see note 71).

⁷⁰ Benadam’s first wife, Lydia (Boardman), died Halifax, Vermont, 1 June 1817 (Vermont State Vital Records, 1760–1954, index card of Halifax Center Cemetery record. These Vermont State Vital Records are online under various titles on AmericanAncestors.org, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com. See also, E. Glenn Denison, Josephine Middleton Peck, and Donald Lines Jacobus, *Denison Genealogy: Ancestors and Descendants of Captain George Denison* [Stonington: Pequot Press, 1963], 162. Eliza Denison and husband Benadam, both of Stonington, granted power of attorney to Jesse Breed on 15 May 1819 (Stonington District Probate, File 3250 [note 18]).

⁷¹ [*Halifax*] *Registers of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, 1857–1896*, Halifax Deaths, 1857–1868, p. 3, image 22, at FamilySearch.org; 1855 Massachusetts State Census, West Granville [note 65], p. 23, age 60; 1860 U.S. Census, Halifax [note 65], roll 1325, p. 302, age 65; Richard A. Wheeler, *History of the Town of Stonington* (New London: Day Publishing, 1900), 348; Denison, *Denison Genealogy* [note 70], 97; Eugene Cole Zubrinsky, “Capt. Joshua⁴ Randall, Mariner and Malefactor of Stonington, Connecticut, and His First Wife, Prudence (Not Rhoda) Chesebrough,” *Register* 172 (2018):243.

⁷² [*Halifax*] *Registers* [note 71], Halifax Deaths, 1857–1868, p. 3.

Artillery, in New York City.^[73] During the War of 1812, he was a private in Major John Bleecker's Second Artillery Battalion, one of two detachments from the First Brigade assigned to defenses at the Battery (southern tip of Manhattan), North Battery (Hudson River, off Hubert Street), and Fort Richmond (Staten Island); Jeremiah lived only blocks from the second of these.^[74]

An undated Seaman's Protection Certificate issued to the younger Benadam at New London provides the following information: born Stonington; age 22; light complexion, scar on upper lip, "right little finger has been _____"; height 5'11".^[75] Elizabeth and Benadam were living in Colebrook, Conn., in August 1820; Stonington on 9 June 1821; Colebrook, 23 Oct. 1821; Hartland, Conn., 7 and 26 Sept. 1822; Tolland, Mass., 1830; Colrain, Mass., 1840 and 1850; West Granville, 1855; and Halifax, 1860.^[76] Census records suggest that Elizabeth had between zero and two children with Benadam, and that by 1830 they had taken into their household between two and four girls presumably not their own (see census data in note 76). The 1860 U.S. census describes the couple as paupers and Benadam as insane.

- vi. JAMES R. TERRETT, b. ca. 1791–1792; d. presumably unmarried, Granville 28 April 1827 or 16 May 1828, aged 36, bur. West Granville Cemetery.^[77] On 8 June 1819, the Court of Common Pleas at New London found him "wanting in understanding & wholly unable to provide for himself" and "hav[ing] estate which he is unable to take care of"; his brother William was appointed his conservator.^[78]

(to be continued)

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⁷³ Longworth's *New-York City Directory* [note 39] 1810–1811, 332; *Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment of the State of New York, 1783–1821, Volume I* (Albany: State of New York, 1901), 1130, 1133.

⁷⁴ War of 1812 compiled service record of Jeremiah Shotwell Jr., National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. (r[esidence] 70 Hudson St., New York City); Emmons Clark, *History of the Seventh Regiment of New York, 1806–1889*, vol. 1 (New York: Seventh Regiment, 1890), 60–61, 76; Rocellus S. Guernsey, *New York City and Vicinity During the War of 1812–15*, 2 vols. (New York: C. L. Woodward, 1889), 1:95, 103, 109.

⁷⁵ *Registers of Seamen's Protection Certificates* [note 56].

⁷⁶ 1820 U.S. Census, Colebrook, Litchfield County, Connecticut, roll 1, p. 345 (couple only); Stonington District Probate, File 3250 (two receipts, 1821) [note 18]; Stonington Deeds, 17:305, 484 (both 1822); 1830 U.S. Census, Tolland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, roll 63, p. 61 (couple and four females under age 20, the youngest under 5); 1840 U.S. Census, Colrain, Franklin County, Massachusetts, roll 183, p. 8 (couple and one female age 10–14); 1850 U.S. Census, Colrain, roll 316, p. 14 (couple only, Adam age 58); 1855 Massachusetts State Census, West Granville [note 65] (couple and unrelated female age 15); 1860 U.S. Census, Halifax [note 65] (couple only).

⁷⁷ West Granville Cemetery, 28 April 1827 (gravestone) and 16 May 1828 (family monument), photographs at FindaGrave.com, memorial nos. 80042119 and 78708570.

⁷⁸ Stonington District Probate, File 3248.