

THE PLACE FAMILY HISTORY

These notes cover about 350 years, from 1631, the year of Enoch's birth, to the present. Enoch was in New England in the 1650's and this history traces the family line through twelve generations of Places - Enoch; Thomas; Thomas, Jr.; Thomas III; Philip; Rodman; Alvin; Frederick; George (the last of our line to carry the family name); George's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The first five generations lived in Rhode Island. It was Rodman who moved to Allegany County in New York State, and subsequent generations made their homes in and around Alfred, in Allegany County. Throughout all the years, the Place family has been closely associated with the Seventh Day Baptist Church and with Alfred University, which was founded by the Seventh Day Baptist denomination. Many other Seventh Day Baptist families are related to the Places through marriage.

The house which Philip built after the Revolutionary War still stands near East Greenwich, Rhode Island. It no longer belongs to the family. Also, in Alfred, the house which Frederick built in the late 1800's is still lived in though it was sold after Fred's death and does not belong to the family. This is on Sayles Street, and looks much as it did when we went there as children.

(If anyone can make additions or corrections to this family history, I would be most grateful for any additional information. Written in early 1984 by Audrey Place Betka, daughter of George, 1307 Sunrise Blvd., Schenectady, N.Y. 12306.)

THE PLACE FAMILY HISTORY

The history of the Place family which I am recording here is far from complete, and some of the information may not be totally correct. However, it brings together facts from published books and names and dates furnished by various family members over the years. I have been collecting this information over the past six to eight years, and am starting to type it in October of 1983. The book will never be truly 'finished', I know, and I will make additions and also changes from time to time, as I am able to learn more about the Places, past and present.

For the most part I have only followed the direct line from Enoch, who came over from England, down to my father, George, the last of the line to carry the name of Place. However, when information was available on other lines, I have included it when it had special interest (such as the family of Stafford, who had a daughter Audrey, and the family lines of Edith Dudley Place's husband Robert, and Brooks of the New Hampshire line, who have added to my knowledge of the family).

Much of the information included here was found in notebooks compiled by Ruth Artamisia Place, and she in turn obtained some of her facts from Virginia Place Mackay. I learned that Aunt Artie's notes were typed by Edith Dudley Place, who was a high school girl in Alfred at that time (1930's). I have included some of these typed pages along with my more recent ones. I am also grateful to Edith for information about property the Places owned in Alfred and the location of some of the early houses.

I have also added (and confirmed) some of the dates by visiting the Alfred Rural Cemetery and the family plot adjacent to Philip Place's house in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. At the Ag-Tech Library in Alfred, I was helped greatly by Mrs. Jean Lang in the genealogical reference section. She had known Dad and was much interested in helping me research the Places. There was a file of Rodman's papers which she copied for me. Also I was able to locate many gravestones in the cemetery at Alfred with the help of the card index in the library.

I was able to locate Philip's house and the cemetery at East Greenwich only through the kind help of Martha McPartland of East Greenwich. Formerly the librarian there, and still very much interested in the early history of the area and the first families, she also found the point of land where Enoch first lived, site of the "Hummocks" in earlier years, mentioned in Aunt Artie's notes. Martha was acquainted with Virginina Place Mackay, who had helped Aunt Arta with her research on the Places. As a point of interest, on our first visit to Rhode Island, we stopped in a bookstore in North Kingstown and inquired about the early settlements in the area. The kind gentleman there suggested I contact Martha, which I did.

For much of the information about Enoch Place and the early years, I relied on material found in Austin's book, A Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island.

There were two articles in The American Genealogist which supplied information on two families - Thomas Place and Stafford Place. In addition, I have found bits and pieces in other reference books.

Also included in Aunt Artie's notes were pages of genealogy charts, etc., in handwriting I couldn't identify, plus correspondence with John Biles and others. I have included much of this information.

Another relative with whom I shared information was Brooks Place of Francestown, New Hampshire. He visited Schenectady in September of 1979, and we spent a few hours comparing notes. Later we corresponded from time to time.

Aunt Margaret (Laire) was able to answer many questions and was able to identify many of the old photographs. I was fortunate in recording on tape some of Aunt Margaret's comments as we looked at old photographs. I regret so much that I wasn't interested in the family history while my Dad was alive, as he had such a good memory and I am sure could have answered many of my questions, and added many stories that he recalled from his childhood. Mrs. Lang at the Alfred Library was very kind and arranged for us to copy a tape Dad and others made at a meeting of the Alfred Historical Society. I was pleased to hear Mother's voice also on this tape.

I have not been able to find out definitely from what part of England the Place family came. Some records say it was Devonshire, others indicate Bristol in Somerset. However, I have nothing 'in writing' to verify the true location of Enoch's birthplace. It is believed the Places were originally French Huguenots who emigrated to England. The name was originally LaPlace. This may be true, as many families of French Huguenot heritage settled near East Greenwich.

The book AMERICAN SURNAMES, by Elsdon C. Smith, on page 188 says: The generic name PLACE could designate a dweller at a country mansion, near a market square, or on a particular plot of land. Or the name could specify one who came from Plash or Plaish, "marshy pool," names of towns in Somerset and Shropshire. Or it could be the man from Place, 'town or fortress' in France." In Cornwall, there is a most impressive "Place House" in the town of Fowey, but it has belonged to the Treffrey family for centuries and I guess we can't claim it as the ancestral home! Sherman and Connie visited there on one of their trips to England, but found no connection with our family.

According to some accounts, three brothers came from England:

JOHN PLACE, born 1612 in England, went to Bermuda Islands in 1634; later settled in Newington, New Hampshire.

PETER PLACE, born 1615 in England. Came on the ship FREELOVE in 1635 at age 20. Was of Boston, Mass. in 1646.

ENOCH PLACE, born in 1631. Was of Dorchester, Mass. in 1657, and of Kingston, R. I. in 1687.

If they were brothers, as has been suggested, it is doubtful if they came from England together as Enoch was much younger. He would have been only four years old when records show Peter came on the FREELOVE, and there has been no mention of their parents coming at that time. Of course, there is always the possibility that the birth dates may not be right.

According to Austin, Enoch's son Joseph married (1698) Joanna Place, of Boston, daughter of John and Sarah Place, this John being the son of Peter (b. 1615). This would seem to indicate that Peter and Enoch were brothers, if their families knew each other. However, in researching Enoch's family, I have found no association with John who settled in New Hampshire.

We have no record of Enoch's coming from England, but he was in Dorchester, Mass. in 1657. On November 5 of that year he married Sarah Mumford, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Sherman) Mumford. (This Sarah was the daughter of our ancestor, Philip Sherman. Ruth Sherman, wife of Alvin Ayers Place, was a direct descendant.) See *.

I could not find out much about Enoch, though he probably was a farmer. His will left "my dwelling house and 100 acres" to his wife, or if she had died, to his son Joseph. The property was about 'half a mile west of Sugar House Hill', probably near East Greenwich, R. I. There was a settlement there called Frenchtown and near there now is a road called Frenchtown Road and a crossroads called 'Place's Corners.'

ENOCH PLACE, b. 1631, England; died 1695, probably Kingston, R. I.

On November 5, 1657 in Dorchester, Mass., Enoch married Sarah Mumford, b. 1636; died 1719. She was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Sherman) Mumford. *[Our ancestor, Philip Sherman, had a daughter (1636 - 1719) who married a Thomas Mumford, and they had a daughter Sarah, b. 1668. This can't be the same Sarah, because of the discrepancy in dates, but I wonder if there is some relationship to Philip Sherman's family. Also, Enoch's wife and Philip's daughter are shown with the same dates, 1636 - 1719, is this an error or just a coincidence?]

Enoch and Sarah had six children, the first three being born in Dorchester, the others in Kingstown.

1. Dina, d. May 28, 1658, in infancy

2. Enoch, Jr. (1660 - 1703)

m. Mary Sweet (1660 - 1740), daughter of James and Mary (Greene) Sweet. She m. (2) Samuel Wickham. Enoch and Mary had a daughter Mary, b. 1697, who m. George Hazard.

See separate sheet for Enoch's descendants.

3. Peter (c. 1659 - July 6, 1735)

m. (1) Sarah Steere, daughter of John and Hannah (Wickenden) Steere, on Dec. 24, 1685. Their children were: Sarah, b. 1686, m. Thomas Shippen; Nathan, b. 1688; Joseph, b. 1691; Hannah, b. 1693; Aminette, b. 1695; Dinah, b. 1697; Ruth, b. 1700; Penelope, b. 1706.

Children of Enoch and Sarah (continued)

3. Peter (continued)

m. (2) Mary Bowditch, a widow. (She d. 1740.) [Bowditch was a family which was in Mary Maxon Johannson's genealogy. This Mary was included.]

Peter was a cooper. His family line is listed separately.

4. Thomas (1663 - 1727)

m. Hannah Cole, daughter of John and Susanna (Hutchinson) Cole.

See next listing for Thomas and Hannah and their children.

5. Joseph (16 -)

m. November 9, 1698 to Joanna Place, daughter of John Place, who was the son of Peter Place, Enoch's brother.

Their children were: son, b. 1699; Enoch, b. 1701; daughter, b. 1706;

Hannah, b. 1709; Peter, b. 1714.

Arca Place, who is listed separately, was descended from Joseph.

6. Sarah (16 - 1747)

m. (1) George Cook (- 1703). They had two daughters, Sarah and Phebe.

m. (2) Daniel Maccoone on June 19, 1705. Their children were:

Hannah, b. 1706, m. Thomas Stedman; Abigail, b. 1707, m. Thomas

Hazard; Thankful, b. 1710, m. Thomas Williams

The following is copied from Aunt Arta's notes, written sometime in the 1930's.

It was at Hamilton, or Frenchtown, that Enoch settled and near here at the Hummocks, a shore dinner place, where the first Thomas and Hannah Cole Place lived, Thomas owning a mill here. Enoch and Sarah were probably buried near for in recent years, in putting on an addition to the mill, a very old cemetery was dug up. [Martha McPartland located the spot where the Hummocks once stood, and I was able to take a picture. It is a point of land in sight of the Newport bridge.]

Thomas, the son of Enoch, married Hannah Cole, the granddaughter of Anne Hutchinson of historical fame. (Princess Diana, now married to Charles of England, also claimed Anne Hutchinson as an ancestor.) The Hutchinson family was slain by the Indians, with the exception of a daughter Susannah, who was in after years redeemed by John Cole. They were married, and lived in what is now known as Hamilton. Their house still stands. Thomas and Hannah, and her parents, John and Susannah Cole, are buried in the old Cole cemetery.

THOMAS PLACE, b. 1663, North Kingstown, R. I., d. 1727 at N. K.

Sometime after 1686, he married Hannah Cole (1668 - 1727), daughter of John Cole and Susannah (Hutchinson) Cole. [A book published in 1961, entitled "Indians, Privateers, and High Society" by Bertram Lippincott, devotes an entire chapter to Anne Hutchinson, Susannah's mother, who made a name for herself in early New England history for her religious and political beliefs. A copy of this chapter is included in this history.] Lippincott also notes, "Today thousands daily drive over the Hutchinson River Parkway, near the site of Anne's last home." This home was at Split Rock, near Pelham Bay, N. Y. in the New York City area.

Thomas and Hannah had nine children:

1. Mary, b. Jan. 5, 169- at North Kingstown
m. January 1734 to Thomas Williams
2. Marbury, b. May 5, 169- at North Kingstown
m. John Stafford
3. Thomas, Jr., b. Nov. 2, 1697; d. April 9, 1779
m. March 16, 1720 to Margaret Stafford, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Holden) Stafford. (Margaret had a brother John, probably the husband of Marbury.)
See next listing for Thomas, Jr. and Margaret and their children.
4. John, b. April 24, 170-
5. Sarah, b. May 10, 170-
6. Joseph, b. Dec. 22, 170-
m. to Anne (Gardiner ?). They had three children: Dorcas, b. 1760; Margaret, b. 1762; Welthian (or Nathan), b. 1764.
7. Samuel, b. Sept. 2, 1700 (1706)
m. March 4, 1759 to Mary Fowler (or Martha James, RAP lists both)
They had three children: Deliverance, b. 1759; Sarah, b. 1761; Griffin, b. 1763. Again, quoting from Aunt Arta (RAP), "T. A. Greene, a descendant of Samuel Place, a son of Thomas and Hannah, lives on a part of the land owned by Thomas, called Stoke Hall Farm." In 1983, Martha McPartland located this farm for us, but the road leading to it was marked 'No Trespassing', so we couldn't drive up to see it. It was near East Greenwich, R. I.
8. Enoch, b. April 12, 1704; d. 1787
m. Hannah Wilcox
Enoch and Hannah had a son Thomas. His line is listed separately. (notes found in Aunt Artie's papers)

9. Ann Phebe, m. April 6, 1758 to Richard Briggs, b. 1737, son of John and Jemima (Tarbox) Briggs. Nine children, born between 1760 - 1783. See next listing and notes regarding this Ann Phebe.

Regarding the children of Thomas and Hannah, Austin lists the nine children. However, Mary, John, Sarah and Joseph were not mentioned in Thomas' will (1727). He left bequests to daughters Marbury Stafford and Ann Place and to his three sons, Thomas, Enoch and Samuel. Mary was alive and married in 1734, so she should have been named in the will. Of Sarah and John there is no record except date of birth. Joseph poses another question - his children were born in 1760, 1762 and 1764 - so I wonder if he was the son of the next Thomas.

Also, I wonder if this Ann Phebe was a daughter of the next Thomas. Her nine children were born between 1760 and 1783, which would surely indicate she was not born in the 170-'s as were the other children of Thomas and Hannah.

Perhaps both Thomas and Thomas, Jr. had children named Joseph and Ann Phebe, and the dates and information given belongs to the children of Thomas, Jr. and Margaret Stafford. This would make the dates more appropriate.

See the next listing for information on Thomas, Jr. and Margaret and their children.

THOMAS PLACE, JR. b. Nov. 2, 1697 at North Kingstown, R. I.

THOMAS, JR.

d. after April 9, 1779

m. March 16, 1720 (1722) to Margaret Stafford, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Holden) Stafford. Her date of birth unknown; she died between 1756 and 1762.

Family records list: the children of Thomas and Margaret as follows:

1. Thomas, b. c. 1726 at North Kingstown, d. 1807 at East Greenwich

m. (1) Jemima Spencer; (2) Mary Briggs

See next listing for information about Thomas' family.

2. Joseph, b. 17--

m. Anne; three children born at East Greenwich

(1) Dorcas, b. Nov. 13, 1760

(2) Margaret, b. May 6, 1762, d. Oct. 11, 1834, Salem, Washington Co., N.Y.

m. William Perkins

(3) Nathan (or Welthian), b. June 3, 1764

Same information given for Joseph in previous listing. Dates of children's births fit in better here.

3. Phebe, b. 17--; d. after 1805

m. April 6, 1758 at East Greenwich to Richard Briggs, b. 1737, son of John and Jemima (Tarbox) Briggs. She d. 1805.

The same marriage date and husband are given for Ann Phebe in previous listing. These dates would seem to indicate this Ann Phebe belongs here.

Children of Ann Phebe and Richard Briggs, all born in East Greenwich.

1. Jemima, b. May 27, 1760; Amos, b. April 22, 1762, m. Sept. 28, 1780 at East Greenwich to Thankful Brown; 3. Jonathan, b. May 4, 1764; 4. Nicholas, b. June 6, 1767, m. at East Greenwich December 3, 1789 to Hannah Ellis;

5. Ruth, b. August 6, 1769; 6. Paul, b. September 6, 1771; 7. Joseph, b. December 16, 1783, d. June 14, 1850 at East Greenwich; m. February 2, 1807 to Hannah Shippee (b. Feb. 26, 1782, d. Mar. 22, 1874) 8. Lucy, not

recorded, but named in father's will, m. Cornelius Johnson of North Kingstown;

9. Susannah, not recorded but named in father's will, m. Peleg Remington.

4. Sarah, b. c. 1728, d. after 1805 at East Greenwich

m. May 27, 1749 at East Greenwich to Josiah Jones, son of Seth and Priscilla Jones. He d. 1789.

Children of Sarah and Josiah Jones

1. Amos, b. Oct. 6, 1749
m. at East Greenwich February 20, 1774 to Hannah Tibbitts
2. Elizabeth, b. July 15, 1751
m. at East Greenwich January 3, 1771 to Cary Briggs
3. Marbury, b. March 9, 1753
m. at East Greenwich Dec. 24, 1775 to Francis Briggs
4. Josiah, b. June 5, 1755
m. April 15, 1784 to Sarah Ellis
5. Priscilla, b. July 2, 1757
m. William Hambleton
6. Margaret, b. January 1, 1759; d. Berlin, Rensselaer Co., N.Y.
m. Jonathan Sweet
7. Seth, b. January 4, 1763
8. Mary, b. June 28, 1765
9. Thomas, b. November 6, 1767
10. Jenkins, b. June 20, 1770; d. c. 1841, East Greenwich
m. (1) Dorcas; (2) Alice or Alcey

Some of the information on these families came from an article in the January 1962 issue of the American Genealogist. A portion of this article, page 46, states:

The children of Thomas and Margaret Place are not recorded in the vital records of Rhode Island. It is possible they were recorded in North Kingstown, where they were undoubtedly born, and the record destroyed in the fire of 1869. Only four children have been found, two sons and two daughters. The sons, Thomas and Joseph, are called sons by their father in deeds quoted above. Phebe Place is called daughter of Thomas in her marriage record. The father of Sarah Place is not given in her marriage record, but she married a near neighbor of her father's (Josiah Jones) and named three of her children for this family, viz., Thomas, Margaret and Marbury.

THOMAS PLACE, III, b. 1726, d. 1807

m. (1) Dec. 13, 1747 to Jemima Spencer of Exeter, R. I. No children.

(2) Dec. 15, 1751 to Mary Briggs, b. Jan. 27, 1726, daughter of Richard and Experience (Tarbox) Briggs. Tarbox is of French Huguenot origin.

Richard Briggs' first wife was Susanna Spencer, by whom he had eight children. Experience had Mary, Philip, Daniel and Alice.

Children of Thomas and Mary:

1. Philip, b. Jan. 31, 1753, d. Feb. 18, 1835 at East Greenwich.

m. Dec. 1, 1776 to Mary Whitman (or Wightman), 1757 - 1838. See next listing for information about Philip and Mary and their children.

2. Nathan, b. July 5, 1754, d. young.

3. David, b. April 15, 1756, d. young.

4. Jeremiah (Jeremy), b. October 17, 1757, d. June 13, 1844, unmarried.

5. John, b. Dec. 6, 1760

m. March 18, 1784 at East Greenwich to Sarah Pierce, daughter of William Pierce. They had five children: Almy, 1784; Giles, 1785 (6); Christopher, 1788; William, 1795; Joseph, 1798.

6. Jemima, b. June 7, 1762, d. 1840 (49). Unmarried.

7. Stafford, b. Jan. 17, 1766, d. before 1824

m. March 13, 1788 to Mary Spencer, daughter of Silas Spencer. They had seven children: (Mary died Aug. 26, 1824, age 55.)

1. Experience, b. July 14, 1790 (91) at East Greenwich, d. April 3, 1877 at Woodstock, Conn. m. James Allen c. 1810. She was a midwife. They had three children: Silas, 1811, Edward, 1813; Adeline, d. young.

Possibly James was lost at sea. The records are not clear.

2. Audrey, b. 1795 at East Greenwich, d. February 2, 1881 at Ashford, Conn. m. June 28, 1812 to Edward Thurston of Providence, No children of record. Lived with nephew Edward, son of Experience, above.

3. Ann, b. c. 1793 at East Greenwich, m. c1 1814 to Leonard Hill, Jr. He died 1823, age 31. They had two daughters, Martha and Bathsheba.

4. Dorcas, b. 1799 at East Greenwich. m. Mar. 28, 1818 at Norton, Mass. to Benjamin Penno, daughter Betsey, b. c. 1820 and Sophia, b. c. 1823, who m. John Penno, Jr.

Children of Stafford, son of Thomas III

5. Thomas, b. c. 1797 at East Greenwich. d. Dec. 26, 1828 at Ashford, Conn.
m. Oct. 11, 1818 at Mansfield, Conn. to Nancy Slate. Children: Selina,
1819; Mary Alcena, 1822; Elizabeth, 1824; Lucinda, 1826.
6. Isabel Marie, b. c. 1803 at East Greenwich, d. Sept. 7, 1859 at
Ashford, Conn.
m. Oct. 26, 1825 at Ashford to David Leonard. Children: Mary Alcena,
Thomas Place, Moses Gage, William, Rhoda J.
7. Sarah Ann, m. April 6, 1826 at Providence to George Whitford.
8. Audre, b. June 25, 1768
m. John Briggs, 3rd. Jan. 15, 1789 by Elder Nathan Hull at East Greenwich.
They may have moved to Milo, in Yates Co., New York. John Briggs may have
been a descendant of Richard, father of Thomas III's wife Mary.

Jeremiah and Philip served with the Kentish Guards, Rhode Island Militia,
1775 - 1779. Chapter VIII of Martha McPartland's book on East Greenwich re-
counts the history of the Kentish Guards. Their building still stands near the
library in East Greenwich and I took pictures of it in May of 1983.

Jeremiah and Jemima are buried in the cemetery near Philip's house on Tillinghast
Road in East Greenwich.

PHILIP

PHILIP PLACE, b. January 31, 1753 at East Greenwich, d. Feb. 18, 1835 at E. G.
m. December 1, 1776 at E. G. to Mary Whitman (or Wightman), b. April 25, 1757,
d. March 16, 1838, daughter of John and Martha (Waite) Whitman. Her family
may have come from the Isle of Wight, a family of 'means' according to RAP.

Philip was a blacksmith. He served in the Rhode Island militia (1775 - 1779).
Based on his service, Aunt Artie belonged to the D.A.R. and a copy of her record
of Philip's service is included in this history. After the war he built the
house on Tillinghast Road in East Greenwich. Martha McPartland drove us around
East Greenwich in May of 1981 and located Philip's house and the cemetery for us.
The house has a marker 'Place House 1780', and the house and other buildings
seemed to be well taken care of. At the time the property was owned by a family
named Holland. We visited there again in the fall of 1981 and I was able to take
a few pictures. There is a 'ghost' in the Place House who sings, not a song,
but softly. When the old outhouse was torn down, the 'ghost' made lots of noise.
(This was told to me by Miss Martha McPartland of East Greenwich, local historian
and genealogist.)

Next door was the home of Dr. Fallon, an osteopath, and the Place cemetery is on
his property. I took a few pictures, but it is in a very shady location so they
didn't turn out too well. I have included a list of the graves we found there.

Children of Philip and Mary:

1. Benjamin, b. July 13, 1777 at East Greenwich, d. in infancy. (Perhaps
one of the small unmarked stones in the Place cemetery was his.)
Was he a twin of Whitman (below) or was there just one child, Benjamin Whitman,
as one source has suggested?
2. Whitman, b. July 13, 1777 at East Greenwich, d. June 11, 1884 at Berlin, N.Y.
Lived in Troy at one time. m. before 1803 to Mercy Murphy. Children: Mary,
b. 1802, m. Joseph Davies; Daniel; b. 1808, d. 1893, m. Jane Hull; Lyman.
3. Rodman, b. 1783 (1784) at East Greenwich, d. Feb. 17, 1860 at Alfred.
m. Jan. 27, 1805 at Berlin to Sarah (Sally) Stillman, 1786 - 1859.
See next listing for information about Rodman and Sally and their children.

Children of Philip and Mary (Continued)

PHILIP

4. Thomas, b. at East Greenwich

m. February 1 (10), 1810 by Elder Thomas Manchester to Amy Tillinghast Cole, daughter of Samuel of Exeter, R. I. (17 - 1816). Their children were: Julia Ann, b. May 23, 1810, m. Henry Smith; William; Horace; Emma, b. Oct. 16, 1816, m. Philip Place (1816 - 1898), her cousin, son of Rodman, Nov. 20, 1842; Mary, m. Benjamin Tillinghast; Ellen, m (1) _____ Greene, (2) _____ Beebe.

5. Capt. John, b. March 1, 1781, d. Jan. 25, 1866

m. Lydia Spink (1781 - 1850) Their children were: Isaac, m. 1844 by Elder Thomas Tillinghast to Catherine Briggs, daughter of Robert; John S., b. 1807, d. 1872, m. Mary James; Isaac Adelbert, b. 1811; Mary A., b. 1814, d. 1882, m. Alfred Sherman.

6. Daniel - no information on Daniel, perhaps he died in infancy.

7. Arba J. b, May 27, 1791 at East Greenwich, d. July 27, 1840

m. November 24, 1814 to Elizabeth (Betsey) Johnson (1796 - 1862)

Children of Arba and Betsey: Jefferson Johnson, b. 1815, d. at 15 days, buried in Philip's cemetery; Lydia Tanner, 1816 - 1905, m. Willet Hopkins; Alpheus Lyman, 1817 - 1926, m. Amy Greene; Daniel Whitman, 1819 - 1897, m. Hannah Arnold (Julia Place Mackay*was of Daniel's line); Sarah Gould, 1821 - 1895, m. Horace Briggs; Levi Burgess, 1824 - 1910, m. Maria Hölden; Cordelia Mariah, 1827 - 1907, m. George Hopkins; Charles Jewett, 1829 - 1908, m. Josephine Randall; Ira Arnold, 1831 - 1840; Willet Alfred, 1834 - 1840; Albert Bowen, 1837 - 1910, m. Jesse Clark; Henry Almon, 1840 - 1840.

8. Mary, b. June 26, 1793 at East Greenwich, d. Nov. 26, 18 at East Greenwich

m. Nov. 17, 1818 at East Greenwich by Rev. Mr. Palmer to Levi Johnson. (Was he perhaps a brother of Betsey Johnson who m. Arba (above)? No records available which show this.) No record of children of Mary and Levi.

The house where Arba lived still is standing at the intersection of Frenchtown Road and Tillinghast Road near East Greenwich, the intersection originally known as "Place's Corners". I have taken some pictures of the house and the 'Corners' which we visited in 1981. I have not located any other graves than those in Philip's cemetery, which I have listed.

* This should be Virginia Place MacKay. Aunt Artie corresponded with her and she supplied much information about the Place family. Martha McPartland was acquainted with her, said she had no children, so don't know what happened to her family history.

RODMAN PLACE, b. 1783 (1784) at East Greenwich, d. February 17, 1860 at Alfred.

m. January 27, 1805 at Berlin, N. Y. to Sarah (Sally) Stillman, daughter of Deacon George and Sarah (Maxson) Stillman. [She was b. 1763, d. 1841. He was the son of Capt. George Stillman, 3rd Co. Militia, Westerly, R. I. Revolutionary War.] Sally was born October 2, 1786 at Westerly, d. August 1, 1859 at Alfred.

Rodman was the first of the 'modern' Places, modern in the sense that I have pictures of him and Sally and some of their family; also letters and documents that pertain to their lives. Also, this was the family that brought the Places from Rhode Island to Alfred. This is from Aunt Artie's notes:

Rodman, the third son of Philp and Mary, was born at East Greenwich, 1784. Of his boyhood and early manhood we know but little. It has been said that his mother kept him in the house to help her with the housework. It is certain that he could do all sorts of housework - spinning, weaving, etc. He learned the tailor's trade, and the shears which he purchased with the first money earned after he was twenty-one are in the possession of one of his great, great grandsons. (I don't know which of the grandsons she was referring to. Though Rodman was a tailor by trade, he farmed in Allegany County.)

Sometime after he was 21, he bought some land in New Hampshire, in the Black River Country. Going up there in the early spring, with his ax over his shoulder, he found the settlers ploughing, the snow banks still so deep that they had to plough around them.

He evidently did not find this section to his satisfaction, for we next hear of him in Berlin, N. Y. The reason for this is evidently to be found in this bit of history from the Stillman family. About 1804 Deacon George Stillman moved with his family from Westerly, R. I. to Berlin, N.Y. and here in January 1805, Rodman married Sally Stillman, the second daughter of Deacon George Stillman. Rodman and Sally stayed in Berlin several years - five of their children were born there. Rodman served three months in the War of 1812.

In 1814 or 1815, the family moved to Alfred, N.Y. transporting their family and household goods in an ox cart.

The section on Alfred in the "History of Allegany County" states(p. 140): RODMAN

Prominent among those who came in 1815 was Rodman Place, from Rensselaer county, who took up seventy-five acres of land on lot number 22, and afterward purchased other parcels aggregating nearly four hundred acres. He was born in Rhode Island in 1784, and served three months in the war of 1812. He was a resident of the town until his death, in 1860. Jeremiah, Truman C. and David M. Place, his sons, came to the county with their father.

Aunt Artie has written at length about the family and given us a good picture of them and their life in the early 1800's. I have included her accounts in this history. About the property Rodman bought, she adds "Rodman bought one hundred acres of land southeast of the village, paying 20 shillings (\$2.50) an acre for it. The log house in which they first lived stood about where the house owned by the Ellis girls now stands (1954). Afterward he built a frame house farther up the hill. This house was burned, and another was built on the same site. Still later this house was moved to one side, and a nice large house was built by Rodman's son Jeremiah. All of Rodman's children but one - Rodman, Jr., lived to mature life, and all were people respected by their neighbors and friends. They all settled within a few miles of Alfred, Alvin, the farthest away, at Nile, 25 miles away."

About these houses, Edith Place wrote me in 1981: "No one seems to be positive as to the house that Rodman Place did live in first, but we believe that the log cabin was on the site of a house that the University now owns, that used to be the Ellis girls' home on the Randolph Road - the farm used to be that whole hill beside it. That house that was built by the son after we believe is the house that is there now." [I was able to take a picture of the "Ellis" house in 1982.]

A letter from Susan Langworthy which I copied from the file at the Ag-Tech Library indicates that Rodman's property extended down to Main Street, to Mamie Armstrong's property which was across the street from where Mom and Dad lived.

The Ag-Tech Library in Alfred has a file containing many letters and documents pertaining to Rodman, and I have included copies of some of these.

Since Rodman was the first to leave Rhode Island and settle in Alfred, the cemetery records are quite complete, and I have included a list of the graves which I was able to locate.

Sherman Laire has an original deed showing Rodman's purchase of land in September of 1832, and also Rodman's will showing how he disposed of his property at the time of his death in 1860. The deed dated September 20, 1832 refers to Lot 22 (north part) and Lot 38 (north part) purchased for \$406.00 from John Hornby of Middlesex, England.

The will indicates that son Philip inherited Lot 38; Truman, Jeremiah, David and the five daughters "land", not specified; Alvin, \$1000.00; and Thomas, \$200.00.

Brooks Place's papers included a letter from the Alfred minister, Rev. N. W. Hull, written October 6, 1863 to Rodman's children, which indicates that they were not pleased with the terms of Rodman's will.

Children of Rodman and Sally

1. Amy, b. Nov. 2 (3), 1805 at Berlin; d. Sept. 13, 1880 at Almond, N.Y.
m. Jan. 9, 1836 to Asa Sisson (Aug. 25, 1811 - Sept. 10, 1880) RAP wrote:
They were among the early settlers of Alfred, and had lived together for over forty-five years, and in death were separated by only two setting suns. The funeral services were both held at the same time at the Second Alfred Church. Their children: (1) Rodman Place, b. June 30, 1837, d. 1907, m. Carrie Terwilliger; (2) Maria Elizabeth, b. Dec. 3, 1841, d. Sept. 25, 1893, m. Joseph Vincent (1836-1916); (3) Susan Madelia, b. Nov. 29, 1844, d. Nov. 13, 1882; (4) Sarah Marilla, b. Oct. 11, 1852; d. Dec. 25, 1883, m. Fred Karr.
2. Jeremiah, b. Sept. 19, 1807 at Berlin, d. Aug. 3, 1882 at Alfred
m. (1) Oct. 28, 1834 to Eliza Burdick (1814-1835) (2) Dec. 21, 1838 to Mary Prosser (1812-1882). Their children: (1) Harriet, b. June 10, 1839, d. Sept. 15, 1892, m. Nathan Crandall; (2) Lucinda, b. Dec. 12, 1841, d. ;. m. (1) John Burdick, (2) William Worden; (3) Thomas Jeremiah, b. Feb. 14, 1843, d. Sept. 24, 1925, m. Amy Elizabeth Irish; (4) Ruth Sherman, b. Feb. 21, 1845, d. June 11, 1930, m. Isaac Langworthy; their daughter, Susan, b. June 18, 1878; (5) Martha Ann, b. Apr. 8, 1848, d. May 27, 1914 at Alfred; (6) Clark Sherman, b. May 19, 1857 at Alfred, d. Apr. 17, 1939, Ill., m. Margarita Cadmas.
3. David, b. May 5, 1809, Berlin, d. Nov. 1, 1886 at Alfred of "nervous prostration".
m. Sept. 1, 1836 to Anna Greene (Aug. 14, 1818 - Dec. 23, 1896). Their children: (1) Rodman, b. June 2, 1839, d. Mar. 31, 1843; (2) Leander, b. Mar. 17, 1841, d. Jan. 7, 1910, m. Nov. 27, 1876 Elizabeth Randolph; (3) Lavinia, b. Nov. 2, 1843, d. Mar. 6, 1869; (4) Horace, b. Apr. 13, 1848, d. Nov. 11, 1855.

4. TRUMAN CLARK PLACE

b. August 1, 1811 at Berlin, N. Y.; d. April 15, 1885 at Alfred of pneumonia
m. October 31, 1833 to Almira Maxon, b. Alfred, N. Y., August 17, 1813; d.
Alfred, N. Y. Feb. 5, 1897.

Children of Truman and Almira:

1. Matilda, b. Alfred, Sept. 5, 1834; d. Nov. 11, 1836
2. Milo Sweet, b. Alfred, Mar. 12, 1838; d. Alfred, Feb. 16, 1904; m. June 20, 1863
3. William Orlando - see below [to Arabella Wells (1843 - 1905)]
4. Benjamin Frank Tillingham, b. Milton, Wis. April 22, 1843; d. August 13, 1864
after being wounded in the battle of Winchester in the Civil War
5. Sarah Cordelia, b. Milton, Wis., April 6, 1846; d. Hornell, 1906
m. Augustus Ryno (1842 - 1906)
6. Susan Ophelia, b. Alfred, Nov. 18, 1851; d. Alfred, Jan. 13, 1920
m. Nov. 18, 1871 to James Moland (1847 - 1913); their son, Harold Moland (1885 -
1940) m. June Burdick. Their daughter Evelyn (b. 1916) m. Roger Thomas.
June and Evelyn were special friends of Mom and Dad.
7. James Hull Cochran, b. Alfred, April 7, 1854; d. July 22, 1911

WILLIAM ORLANDO PLACE

b. Milton, Wis., July 14, 1840; d. Alfred, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1914
m. Feb. 27, 1866 to Weltha DeEtte Baldwin, b. Brookfield, N. Y., Dec. 25, 1848;
d. Peoria, Ill., June 29, 1931

Children of William and DeEtte

1. Olive Ette, b. Alfred, Mar. 10, 1868; d. Dec. 28, 1942, Tenafly, N. J.
2. Ada Belle, b. Alfred, July 3, 1869; d. July 15, 1927, West Hallock, Wis.; m. Feb.
3. George Franklin - see below [7, 1899 to Herbert E. Hakes, b. May 3, 1876]
4. Earl William, b. Alfred, June 26, 1880; m. March 10, 1902 to Florence J.
Minnis, b. Bradford, Pa.
5. Neva Mae, b. Alfred, Mar. 31, 1890; m. June 24, 1915 to James Burton Green

GEORGE FRANKLIN PLACE

b. Feb. 29, 1872 at Alfred; d. Jan. 31, 1923 at Alfred
m. February 28, 1900 to Desdemonia Cooper, b. Dec. 16, 1872, Hartsville, N. Y.
Frank usually wrote his name Frank G.

Children of Frank and Desdemonia

1. Aletha, b. March 2, 1901, Alfred; m. Oct. 20, 1924 to Dana Clifford Peck,
b. April 6, 1900. No children.
2. Gladys, b. Nov. 30, 1902 at Alfred; m. Sept. 2, 1928 at Alfred to Erle
McKinley Myers. Children: Robert Erle Myers, b. April 1, 1937.
Erle Myers had a horse named Peanuts stabled near the garage where Dad kept
his car.
3. Robert, b. Sept. 17, 1908, Alfred; m. July 2, 1936 to Edith Dudley, b.
April 15, 1914. Children: Richard Dudley, b. April 30, 1950; William
Douglas, b. Sept. 1, 1952. Edith helped Aunt Artie by typing her notes, and
helped me to locate some of the Place houses in Alfred.

RODMAN

4. TRUMAN CLARK PLACE

b. August 1, 1811 at Berlin, N. Y.; d. April 15, 1885 at Alfred of pneumonia
m. October 31, 1833 to Almira Maxon, b. Alfred, N. Y., August 17, 1813; d.
Alfred, N. Y. Feb. 5, 1897.

Children of Truman and Almira:

1. Matilda, b. Alfred, Sept. 5, 1834; d. Nov. 11, 1836
2. Milo Sweet, b. Alfred, Mar. 12, 1838; d. Alfred, Feb. 16, 1904; m. June 20, 1863
3. William Orlando - see below [to Arabella Wells (1843 - 1905)]
4. Benjamin Frank Tillinghast, b. Milton, Wis. April 22, 1843; d. August 13, 1864
after being wounded in the battle of Winchester in the Civil War
5. Sarah Cordelia, b. Milton, Wis., April 6, 1846; d. Hornell, 1906
m. Augustus Ryno (1842 - 1906)
6. Susan Ophelia, b. Alfred, Nov. 18, 1851; d. Alfred, Jan. 13, 1920
m. Nov. 18, 1871 to James Moland (1847 - 1913); their son, Harold Moland (1885 -
1940) m. June Burdick. Their daughter Evelyn (b. 1916) m. Roger Thomas.
June and Evelyn were special friends of Mom and Dad.
7. James Hull Cochran, b. Alfred, April 7, 1854; d. July 22, 1911

WILLIAM ORLANDO PLACE

b. Milton, Wis., July 14, 1840; d. Alfred, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1914
m. Feb. 27, 1866 to Weltha DeEtte Baldwin, b. Brookfield, N. Y., Dec. 25, 1848;
d. Peoria, Ill., June 29, 1931

Children of William and DeEtte

1. Olive Ette, b. Alfred, Mar. 10, 1868; d. Dec. 28, 1942, Tenafly, N. J.
2. Ada Belle, b. Alfred, July 3, 1869; d. July 15, 1927, West Hallock, Wis.; m. Feb.
3. George Franklin - see below [7, 1899 to Herbert E. Hakes, b. May 3, 1876]
4. Earl William, b. Alfred, June 26, 1880; m. March 10, 1902 to Florence J.
Minnis, b. Bradford, Pa.
5. Neva Mae, b. Alfred, Mar. 31, 1890; m. June 24, 1915 to James Burton Green

GEORGE FRANKLIN PLACE

b. Feb. 29, 1872 at Alfred; d. Jan. 31, 1923 at Alfred
m. February 28, 1900 to Desdemonia Cooper, b. Dec. 16, 1872, Hartsville, N. Y.
Frank usually wrote his name Frank G.

Children of Frank and Desdemonia

1. Aletha, b. March 2, 1901, Alfred; m. Oct. 20, 1924 to Dana Clifford Peck,
b. April 6, 1900. No children.
2. Gladys, b. Nov. 30, 1902 at Alfred; m. Sept. 2, 1928 at Alfred to Erle
McKinley Myers. Children: Robert Erle Myers, b. April 1, 1937.
Erle Myers had a horse named Peanuts stabled near the garage where Dad kept
his car.
3. Robert, b. Sept. 17, 1908, Alfred; m. July 2, 1936 to Edith Dudley, b.
April 15, 1914. Children: Richard Dudley, b. April 30, 1950; William Douglas b.
6. Sept. 1, 1952 Edith helped Arthe by typing her notes, and.

Dup.
178

4. TRUMAN CLARK PLACE

RODMAN

b. August 1, 1811 at Berlin, N. Y.; d. April 15, 1885 at Alfred of pneumonia
m. October 31, 1833 to Almira Maxon, b. Alfred, N. Y., August 17, 1813; d.
Alfred, N. Y. Feb. 5, 1897.

Children of Truman and Almira:

1. Matilda, b. Alfred, Sept. 5, 1834; d. Nov. 11, 1836
2. Milo Sweet, b. Alfred, Mar. 12, 1838; d. Alfred, Feb. 16, 1904; m. June 20, 1863
3. William Orlando - see below [to Arabella Wells (1843 - 1905)]
4. Benjamin Frank Tillinghast, b. Milton, Wis. April 22, 1843; d. August 13, 1864
after being wounded in the battle of Winchester in the Civil War
5. Sarah Cordelia, b. Milton, Wis., April 6, 1846; d. Hornell, 1906
m. Augustus Ryno (1842 - 1906)
6. Susan Ophelia, b. Alfred, Nov. 18, 1851; d. Alfred, Jan. 13, 1920
m. Nov. 18, 1871 to James Moland (1847 - 1913); their son, Harold Moland (1885 -
1940) m. June Burdick. Their daughter Evelyn (b. 1916) m. Roger Thomas.
June and Evelyn were special friends of Mom and Dad.
7. James Hull Cochran, b. Alfred, April 7, 1854; d. July 22, 1911

WILLIAM ORLANDO PLACE

b. Milton, Wis., July 14, 1840; d. Alfred, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1914
m. Feb. 27, 1866 to Weltha DeEtte Baldwin, b. Brookfield, N. Y., Dec. 25, 1848;
d. Peoria, Ill., June 29, 1931

Children of William and DeEtte

1. Olive Ette, b. Alfred, Mar. 10, 1868; d. Dec. 28, 1942, Tenafly, N. J.
2. Ada Belle, b. Alfred, July 3, 1869; d. July 15, 1927, West Hallock, Wis.; m. Feb.
3. George Franklin - see below [7, 1899 to Herbert E. Hakes, b. May 3, 1876
4. Earl William, b. Alfred, June 26, 1880; m. March 10, 1902 to Florence J.
Minnis, b. Bradford, Pa.
5. Neva Mae, b. Alfred, Mar. 31, 1890; m. June 24, 1915 to James Burton Green

GEORGE FRANKLIN PLACE

b. Feb. 29, 1872 at Alfred; d. Jan. 31, 1923 at Alfred
m. February 28, 1900 to Desdemonia Cooper, b. Dec. 16, 1872, Hartsville, N. Y.
Frank usually wrote his name Frank G.

Children of Frank and Desdemonia

1. Aletha, b. March 2, 1901, Alfred; m. Oct. 20, 1924 to Dana Clifford Peck,
b. April 6, 1900. No children.
2. Gladys, b. Nov. 30, 1902 at Alfred; m. Sept. 2, 1928 at Alfred to Erle
McKinley Myers. Children: Robert Erle Myers, b. April 1, 1937.
Erle Myers had a horse named Peanuts stabled near the garage where Dad kept
his car.
3. Robert, b. Sept. 17, 1908, Alfred; m. July 2, 1936 to Edith Dudley, b.
April 15, 1914. Children: Richard Dudley, b. April 30, 1950; William
Douglas, b. Sept. 1, 1952. Edith helped Aunt Artie by typing her notes, and
helped me to locate some of the Place houses in Alfred.

5. Sarah (Sally), b. October 26, 1813 at Berlin; d. May 1, 1885 at Alfred of heart disease
m. Oct. 29, 1834 to William Maxson Saunders (b. Feb. 24, 1814 - d. Apr. 2, 1898)
Children: (1) William Albert, b. June 27, 1840, d. Mar. 11, 1880; m. Sept. 27, 1863 to Emma A. Hunt (184-); (2) Walter Gillette, b. May 20, 1846, m. June 20, 1869 to Florence Jemmison (1848); (3) Sarah Martha, b. July 1, 1847, d. June 27, 1913, m. Mar. 10, 1876 to Amos Lewis (1842 - 1901); (4) Mary Eurema, b. Apr. 11, 1851, m. (1) Dec. 12, 1872 to George Clark (1850-1901), (2) Kelsey; (5) Clara, b. Oct. 25, 1861, d. Mar. 14, 1862.
6. Philip, b. Mar. 15, 1816, d. June 24, 1888. See page 19 for information.
7. Mary, b. Sept. 15, 1818, d. Sept. 17, 1881 at Willing, N.Y. (b. at Alfred)
m. December 15, 1849 to Josiah Witter (Nov. 2, 1813 - Mar. 8, 1882). Later in life Mary and Josiah joined the Adventist Church in Willing. One child, Ella Eliza, b. May 12, 1865, m. Oct. 7, 1884 at Alfred to Luther A. Wing (1859 -); Luther and Ella were married at the home of Philip and Emma, her aunt and uncle.
8. Alvin Ayers, b. Jan. 6, 1821, d. Nov. 17, 1898. See next listing.
9. Marilla, b. Mar. 15, 1823, d. Feb. 22, 1877.
m. Nov. 6, 1845 (9) to Frederic Sherman (b. May 23, 1823, d. Sept. 29, 1891).
One child, Abby Altana, b. at Alfred, 1847, d. 1894, m. Robert Niles, Dec. 31, 1867 (Robert 1836 - 1918)
10. Phebe, b. Feb. 5, 1825, d. Apr. 13, 1908 at Alfred
m. Nov. 11, 1848 to Clark Sherman (b. June 12, 1825, d. Mar. 20, 1896)
Children: (1) George Clark, b. May 15, 1854, d. Oct. 21, 1948; m. Sept. 25, 1878 to Mattie Livermore (1860-1948); (2) Harley Place, b. Apr. 28, 1859, d. Dec. 20, 1940; m. Ruth Hemphill Nov. 26, 1879; (3) Frederick Willis, b. Oct. 26, 1861, d. Dec. 1, 1862.
11. Rodman, Jr., b. 1828, d. Mar. 9, 1930
12. Thomas, b. Feb. 23, at Alfred, d. June 6, 1885 at Alfred
m. Nov. 29, 1851 to Elizabeth Burdick (1830 - 1923). Children: Ira Adelbert, b. May 8, 1854, d. Jan. 24, 1928, m. Katherine Gauntlet; Philip Sheridan, b. Feb. 25, 1865 at Alfred, d. Sept. 5, 1949 at Alfred, m. (1) Margaret M. Greene, (1867-1938), (2) Grace Clarke Coon (1865-1946). Margaret's daughter, Leona, m. Irving Jones, their son Waldo was at Ag-Tech when I was at A.U.
Philip was an undertaker until the 1940's. His old glass funeral coach was used one year in the St. Pat's parade. I remember seeing him, he probably had some of the family funerals.

RODMAN

6. PHILIP PLACE

- b. March 15, 1816 at Alfred; d. June 24, 1888 at Alfred.
m. Nov. 20, 1842 at Cincinnatus, N. Y. to Emma Place, b. October 26, 1816,
d. Jan. 20, 1898. Emma was the daughter of Rodman's brother, Thomas.

Children of Philip and Emma

1. William Francis, b. May 6, 1844; d. Nov. 4, 1899 at Francestown, N. H.
2. Amy Madelia, b. May 1, 1846; d. Nov. 20, 1914. m. Daniel Coon in 1890
3. Ellen Alzina, b. Feb. 1, 1848; d. June 17, 1906. m. Elza S. York in 1873
4. Horace Albert, b. April 30, 1850; d. June 9, 1914. m. Ellen Barber in 1878
5. Mary Adeline, b. July 27, 1852; d. Aug. 27, 1860
6. Emma Eliza, b. April 21, 1855; d. June 16, 1866
7. Thomas Irwin (called T.I.) b. Mar. 9, 1861; d. Jan. 19, 1940; m. (1)
Lena Burdick in 1887; (2) Katherine Maxson in 1891. He was a jeweler in
Milton, Wis.

WILLIAM FRANCIS PLACE

- m. August 28, 1877 to Alice Dunham, b. Aug. 26, 1853; d. May 17, 1922

Children of William Francis and Alice

1. Mark Hopkins, b. Jan. 1, 1879; d. Aug. 28, 1924
2. Edwin Hemphill, b. Sept. 29, 1880; d. June 17, 1957
3. Philip Milfred, b. Dec. 19, 1882; d. July 30, 1955
4. Charles Francis, b. April 11, 1885; d. Nov. 6, 1951
5. Albert Whitford, b. Jan. 26, 1886; d.
6. Olive Ewing, b. Jan. 5, 1889; d. May 18, 1967, unmarried. She taught
school in New Jersey and was a special friend of Aunt Margaret (Laire).
I met her at Sherman's wedding.
7. Alice Josephine, b. May 6, 1892

EDWIN HEMPHILL PLACE

- m. June 27, 1907 to Emma Frances Bixby

Children of Edwin Hemphill and Frances

1. Cleone Dunham, b. June 28, 1909
2. Edwin Hemphill, b. May 4, 1913
3. Frances Bixby, b. Aug. 7, 1914
4. Thomas Bixby, b. Jan. 31, 1916

THOMAS BIXBY PLACE

- m. Sept. 7, 1949 to Patricia Anne Place, b. July 6, 1928, daughter of Charles
Francis Place, brother of Edwin Hemphill.

Children of Thomas Bixby and Patricia

1. Scott Thomas
2. Brooks Charles
3. Kimberly Rogers
4. Todd Phillip

Brooks visited in Schenectady in the fall of 1979. We exchanged information on
the Place family. His family still lives in Francestown, N. H., where William
Francis settled, I believe in the same house.

ALVIN AYERS PLACE, b. January 6, 1821 at Alfred, d. Nov. 17, 1898 at Alfred. ALVIN m. Feb. 12, 1846 to Ruth Sherman, b. Nov. 24, 1827 at Norway, N.Y., d. April 9, 1895 at Alfred. She was the daughter of George Sherman (b. Oct. 15, 1793, d. May 9, 1869) and Artamisia Wright (b. Sept. 13, 1793 - d. April 3, 1831) Ruth's brothers Frederick and Clark married Alvin's sisters Marilla and Phebe. See my notes on the Sherman family for more information.

We know quite a bit about Alvin from an autobiography which he wrote and from Aunt Artie's many notes and letters. I have not been able to locate where Alvin and Ruth lived, either in Nile or in Alfred. Aunt Artie wrote in part:

Alvin Ayers was so named from a man who taught school nearby the winter Alvin was born. He attended Alfred Academy a few terms and being a great reader, was well informed for his day. He learned the blacksmith trade and followed it until he was about 60 years old. He settled in the town of Friendship, at Nile. Later he bought a farm in the town of Wirt on the Clarksville Road. He did not stay there long, but moved back to Nile, bought a house and lot and followed his trade until 1881. In 1881 he disposed of his blacksmithing trade, and house and lot in Nile and moved to Scio where he was ordained and became the regular pastor of the Church. He held the position until 1895 when failing health made his resignation a necessity. The family moved to Alfred and after the death of his wife he lived with his daughter Jennie, Mrs. Charles Stillman.

Children of Alvin and Ruth

1. Emily Ione, b. June 15, 1847, at Nile, d. July 22, 1888 at Shiloh, N. J. m. July 31, 1869 to Theodore L. Gardiner, b. April 15, 1844, d. July 3, 1938. Children: (1) Effie Gertrude, b. May 29, 1871 at Alfred; d. April 9, 1946, m. William E. Davis, four children; (2) Grace Winifred, b. May 24, 1873, d. Sept. 3, 1873; (3) Emily Theodora, b. Dec. 25, 1877, d. Feb. 20, 1905, m. July 23, 1904 to Okey Davis. She died of typhoid fever, no children.

I don't recall Dad or any of his sisters ever mentioning anything about this family, perhaps because they all lived in New Jersey and didn't visit Alfred.

2. George Rodman, b. April 29, 1851, d. Dec. 6, 1852 at Nile.
3. Ann Augusta, b. May 26, 1854, d. Sept. 21, 1854 at Nile.

Children of Alvin and Ruth (Cont'd)

ALVIN

4. Jane Angelia (Jennie), b. Jan. 20, 1856; d. Sept. 2, 1927 at Alfred m. Dec. 2, 1874 to Charles Stillman (b. Alfred, Aug. 17, 1851, d. Alfred Feb. 16, 1914).

Children: (1) Vida Rose, b. July 21, 1880, Alfred; d. Sept. 23, 1972 at Alfred m. Sept. 15, 1904 Paul Emerson Titsworth (1881 - 1933) Their children were: Elizabeth, b. 1908; Eleanor, b. 1910; Katharine, b. 1914. (2) Ruth, b. May 29, 1883, Richburg, N. Y., d. Nov. 1963; m. Sept. 11, 1907 to George L. Babcock (1885 - 1942); their children were George Herman, b. 1910; Jean, b. 1911. (3) Elizabeth, b. Belmont Mar. 1, 1885, d. m. August 14, 1912 to Langford C. Whitford (1888 - 1937). Their children were Barbara, b. 1914, Langford Rodman, b. 1916.

My Dad (George) spoke often and with fond memories of Aunt Jennie, Uncle Charlie and their three girls. Joanne and John have a dresser which came to them from Aunt Margaret's things and it had belonged to the Stillmans. I have many pictures of this family. The only ones I knew were Vida and her daughter Katharine. Vida's husband Paul Titsworth was president of Alfred at the time of his death. While I was a student at Alfred, Vida was the housemother of the Brick dormitory, where I stayed my freshman year. Her daughter Katharine worked in the registrar's office while I was a student. I may have met some of the others at some time, but don't remember them.

5. Frederick Sherman Place, b. August 15, 1858, at Nile, d. May 4, 1936 at Alfred.

m. August 15, 1882 to Martha Ann Burdick, daughter of Alexander B. Burdick and Abby Jane Allen Burdick. Martha b. March 10, 1863, d. February 12, 1941. These are my grandparents and information about their family is on the next listing.

6. Ruth Artamisia, b. March 30, 1872, d. July 18, 1960, never married.

This is "Aunt Artie" who gathered most of the information about the Place family which I have. It was a life-time hobby and we all benefit from what she did. From what I know, after her parents were gone, she made her home with Jennie and Charlie Stillman most of the time. In later life she lived in a retirement home in Cuba, which went bankrupt and she spent her last years living in Almond as a ward of the county. From Aunt Artie I inherited many things that had been her mother's, a quilt made in the 1840's, several pieces of jewelry, other small keepsakes. Aunt Margaret had a rocking chair of Ruth's which Joanne now has, and a pair of brass candlesticks which I have.

Frederick Sherman Place, b. August 15, 1858 at Nile, d. May 4, 1936 FREDERICK
at Alfred.

m. August 15, 1882 to Martha Ann Burdick, (b. March 10, 1863, d. February 12, 1941)
at Alfred, daughter of Alexander B. Burdick and Abby Jane Allen. Information
about Martha's family is found in my Burdick notes.

Fred was probably named for his uncle Frederick Sherman, Martha for her grand-
mother Martha Minor Allen. They met when he was teaching at the Five Corners
School and she was one of his students. Probably Fred died as a result of
stomach cancer, Martha from heart problems.

I have many wonderful memories of Grandpa and Grandma Place, and of the good
times we had in their home on Sayles Street in Alfred, especially when the
aunts, uncles and cousins were all there.

From Fred's autobiography and some items in the Alfred Sun, we have much in-
formation about Fred and Martha and his career at the university. Like his
father Alvin, Fred was a great reader and also like his father, he learned the
blacksmith trade. In later years, when he was no longer teaching, he turned
this skill into a profitable hobby, doing ornamental ironwork, in a shop
behind his house. I have several pieces which he made.

Fred also was much interested in music, sang in the church choir for 50 years.
Margaret and George inherited Fred's love of books, music and nature. Fred
had a fantastic collection of stuffed birds which he himself identified and
preserved, Fred Laire has them now. All four of the children graduated from
Alfred University. Margaret and George both followed their father into
teaching.

A brief part of Fred's autobiography states: The family moved to Nile in 1859.
In the fall of '75 my brother-in-law Charles Stillman asked me to come to Alfred
to work for him, I to stay until I was 21, doing chores year round, going to
school half the year. I had a four-year course in practical agriculture. In
August '79 my term of service ended and I went into the college bell room (paid
tuition of \$10 per term) by the bell ringing. Graduated from college in June '82....
in '87 we decided to build a house - located on Sayles Street...Finished Theo-
logy course in '85. '86 until '97 taught at A.U. '98 until 1905 taught at
grammar school....1910 until 1924 taught at Ag School....in later years did
ornamental ironwork and ran Ag School greenhouse.

228

FREDERICK

Children of Fred and Martha

- (1) Bertha Jane Place, b. December 7, 1883 at Alfred, d. August 17, 1975 at Rochester. m. June 15, 1910 to Jerome Fuller Davis, b. April 17, 1888 in New Jersey, d. June 25, 1965 at Avon, N.Y. Both are buried in the Alfred cemetery. Bertha was a seamstress in Alfred before her marriage. I know nothing of Uncle Jerome's family, except that they came from New Jersey. Charlotte and Faye are looking for information which I can add. Jerome was graduated from Alfred and taught science in Rochester for many years, I believe in Madison Junior High School. In addition, he also served as a Justice of the Peace in Scottsville where they lived during all the years I knew them. Jerome also wrote and published a science workbook which was used in many schools in New York State. After he stopped teaching in the public schools, he served for two years as Professors' Aide at St. John Fishers College in Rochester. They had one daughter, Charlotte Frederica, b. September 15, 1918,* m. July 1, 1939 at Scottsville to Carl Frederick Gruschow, b. May 20, 1915 in Henrietta, son of Charles William Gruschow and Bertha Augusta (Dell) Gruschow. Carl worked for many years at the Rochester Products Division of General Motors. He also had a farm at 1139 North Road, outside of Scottsville. His family lived nearby.

Charlotte and Carl have one son, Douglas Carl Gruschow, born January 22, 1943 in Rochester, m. June 20, 1964 to Christine Ruth Pike, b. June 1, 1945 in Alpena, Mich., daughter of Ronald Edward Pike and Margaret Marie (Prell) Pike. They later lived in Flint, Michigan.

Douglas and Christine have four children:

1. Faye Ann Gruschow, b. November 30, 1966
 2. Karen Ruth Gruschow, b. April 5, 1969
 3. Kathleen Marie Gruschow, b. April 16, 1971
 4. David Jerome Gruschow, b. July 4, 1975
- * Charlotte died April 27, 1985

Children of Fred and Martha:

FREDERICK

- (2) George Alvin Place, b. September 5, 1886 at Alfred
d. April 12, 1973 at Bethesda Hospital, Hornell after an illness of several years,
of a stroke and complications.
m. August 27, 1912 at Little Genesee, N. Y. to Cora Ethelyn Slade, daughter of
Marcus Edwin and Ida (Tanner) Slade. She was born Sept. 3, 1888 at Little
Genesee, died August 18, 1978 at St. Francis Hospital, Olean. She had a
stroke in 1975 and had been in the Salamanca Nursing Home since that time.
They were married in the Slade home. Both are buried in the Alfred Cemetery.
George was named for his mother's brother, George Burdick, and for his grand-
father, Alvin Ayers Place. He never wrote an autobiography as Fred and Alvin
did, but I will attempt to write a biography based on facts on record and on
what I can remember of what he told me over the years. For now, I will just
include a very brief summary.

From his father George inherited his love for books, music and the outdoors.
He was a great hiker, an ardent tennis player until his 70th birthday, learned
to ski at 55. He sang in the choir in Albany and in Alfred, and played both
baritone horn and trombone in many bands over the years.

During his early years George worked with his Uncle George Burdick on the
Burdick farm at Five Corners. He graduated from Alfred University in 1910,
taught math and science at Corning, was principal at Ellicottville High
School. From the early 1920's until 1942 he was superintendent of the schools
in Salamanca. He then worked for the Education Department in Albany until his
retirement in 1956. He served in the U.S. Army in 1917-1918, was stationed
in Georgia. He did graduate work at Buffalo and Columbia Universities,
and earned his Master's degree. Like his father, his lifework was in the
teaching profession.

Ethelyn and George met when she was living in Alfred at the time her sister
Flora was attending the university. They were married when he was teaching in
Corning. She never worked outside her home, was an excellent cook and house-
keeper, was always active in church activities. During the war years, when
they lived in Albany, she worked for the Red Cross and served meals at the U.S.O.
Both the Places and Slades were of the Seventh Day Baptist faith, but in Albany
they joined the First Presbyterian Church and both took an active part in the
program of that church. When they moved back to Alfred, in 1956, they again
joined the Seventh Day Baptist Church and were active there.

248

Children of George and Ethelyn:

- (1) Jeanne, b. December 27, 1917 in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

m. August 9, 1941 in Salamanca to Charles William Green, b. Sept. 17, 1916, son of Stephen Silas Green and Marie Pearl (Fischer) Green. Stephen b. July 4, 1893 in Little Valley, d. April 24, 1961 in Salamanca. Marie b. June 2, 1894, in Syracuse, d. Sept. 3, 1959 in Salamanca. Charles has one brother, Stephen Clyde, b. Nov. 22, 1918, unmarried.

Jeanne and Charles met when they were students at Salamanca High School. She graduated from Geneseo State College in 1939 and taught in Lansingburgh in Troy for two years. While Charles was overseas during World War II, she lived with her parents in Albany and taught at School 16 on Allen Street. After the children were in school, she substituted in the Salamanca Public Schools, then taught from September 1965 to June 1977, is now retired.

Charles was working at the Hunt Furniture Company when they were married. Aside from his years in the service he spent most of his working years at the Fancher Furniture Company in Salamanca. In later years he was an instructor/counsellor at the New York State Youth Opportunity Camp near Great Valley for 16 years. He is now retired.

Children of Charles and Jeanne:

- (1) Charles William Green II, b. March 11, 1950 in Salamanca

m. September 2, 1972 in Salamanca to Shirley Jean Hutchinson, b. Oct. 16, 1950, daughter of Homer and Elizabeth (Schermerhorn) Hutchinson. They met when they were students at S.H.S. Bill graduated from SUNY in Albany in 1972, and since that time has been associated with the Salamanca Trust Company, is now Executive Vice President of this bank.

Children of Bill and Shirley:

Sheila Marie, b. Oct. 14, 1975 in Olean

Christine Elizabeth, b. Nov. 8, 1979 in Olean

- (2) Barbara Jean, b. March 23, 1952 in Salamanca

m. Dec. 29, 1973 in Salamanca to Robert Lester Morgan, b. Jan. 14, 1946, son of Joanne Morgan Booth and the late Lester Morgan. Barbara graduated from Jamestown Business College, and after working in Salamanca for a year, moved to Florida where she has worked for Doric Foods (presently named Sundor Brands, Inc.) for several years. At present she is a Sales Administrative Assistant. She met Bobby through mutual friends in Florida. He is associated with his stepfather and operates Booth Transport, Inc.

Children of Bobby and Barbara: Amy Lynn, b. Oct. 30, 1976 in Eustis, Florida
Steven Michael, b. Sept. 5, 1979 in Eustis, Fla.

Children of George and Ethelyn

GEORGE

(2) Audrey June, b. June 3, 1921, at Salamanca

m. October 11, 1952 in Schenectady to Walter Henry Betka, b. August 4, 1923, son of Joseph and Josephine (Mokra) Betka. He died July 26, 1929, and she m.

(2) July 11, 1934 Michael Szumachowski, b. March 1882, d. Sept. 16, 1972. She was born March 18, 1889 and d. April 25, 1970.*

Walter graduated from Nott Terrace High School in Schenectady, and worked for over 40 years for the General Electric Company, mostly in the Large Steam Turbine Department as a boring mill operator. He is now retired.

Audrey graduated from Alfred University in 1942, taught at Galway High School (French and English) for three years, later at Draper High School in Schenectady (Spanish). She also worked for several years at the International General Electric Company, the Maqua Company and the State Education Department, doing secretarial and editing work. In the late 70's she started working at Banks Typing as a proofreader, is now semi-retired.

Walter and Audrey have one daughter, Joanne Elizabeth, b. January 29, 1957 in Schenectady.

On March 3, 1979 Joanne married John Patrick Marhafer, b. Dec. 22, 1954, son of Joseph and Beatrice (Connelly) Marhafer, all of Schenectady.**

John graduated from Bishop Gibbons High School and has worked for several years for the David Mahoney Hardware Co.

Joanne graduated from Cobleskill State College in 1977 in the secretarial program. She has held several related jobs, is now employed by the law firm of Harold Friedman in Schenectady.

* Joseph, Josephine and Michael were born in Poland, exact place of birth not known. They came to the United States in the early 1900's.

Walter has a brother Frank, b. 1911, m. to Mildred Marculis, in Amsterdam; a sister Anna, b. 1910 m. Frank Krosky in Schenectady; a brother Stanley, b. April 1, 1913, d. April 9, 1961, unmarried. ***

** John has a brother David, married to Barbara Holley; a sister, Sally, married to Harry Constantino.

*** Frank and Millie have one daughter Barbara married to Richard Marshall, living in Newburyport, Mass. They have a son Richard and a daughter Donna.

Frank and Anna have a son Dennis, married to Bernadette Sasinowski, living in Schenectady. They have two daughters, Denise and Sheila.

268

Children of Fred and Martha

- (3) Margaret Eola Place, b. March 5, 1891 at Alfred, d. April 21, 1983 at Acton, Mass.
m. September 1, 1920 to Harold Townsend Laire, son of Charles Judson and Lily
Townsend Laire, b. April 1, 1895, d. Dec. 30, 1962.

From the obituary in the Concord paper: Mrs. Laire was graduated from Alfred University in 1913, and had taught music and art in Catskill, Pleasantville, and Rockville Center, N.Y. During World War I she served as a Reconstruction Aide at Camp Jackson, S.C. and at Staten Island, N.Y. An ornithologist, she was a founder and past president of the Sawmill River Audobon Society. She was a member of the Pleasantville Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the Fortnightly Club of Pleasantville. For many years she was actively involved in organizing and advising new Girl Scout Troops throughout Westchester and Rockland Counties in New York State.

I believe she met Uncle Townsend when she was working in the Pleasantville area, as his family lived there. He worked for a coal distributing company in New York for many years. They lived in Pleasantville until his death and then Aunt Margaret moved to Concord to be near Sherman and his family. She inherited her father's love of music, books and nature and was always a busy, active person with many interests. After she moved to Concord we visited there quite often and I was able to get better acquainted with her. She was much interested in the Place family history and added a great deal to the information I had.

Margaret and Townsend had one son: Sherman Place Laire, b. Nov. 5, 1922 at Pleasantville. On May 4, 1946 he married Cornelia Louise Kenyon, b. March 23, 1921, daughter of George and Cornelia (Smith) Kenyon. Sherman and Connie have lived for many years in Concord, Mass. They have three children:

1. Charles Sherman, b. April 27, 1949
2. Andrea Louise, b. Sept. 2, 1951
m. May 18, 1974 to David Gary Shaefer, son of Howard and Helen (Williams)
Schaefer. They are now divorced.
3. Frederick Townsend, b. July 20, 1953

Uncle Townsend was overseas in World War I. Sherman served overseas in World War II, also in Europe. For many years Sherman has been associated with Scientific American as New England advertising manager. He will retire at the end of 1984.

Children of Fred and Martha

- (4) Mildred Frederica Place, b. April 10, 1895 at Alfred, d. January 20, 1977 at Kent, Ohio. (Her body was donated to the Western Reserve Medical School.)*
m. April 15, 1919, to Ethan Wiard Vars, son of Forrest Legrand Vars and Ann Jeannette Clark; b. July 21, 1895 at Nile, N.Y., d. June 3, 1959 at Duncannon, Pa.*

Mildred graduated from Alfred University in 1918. Ethan attended A.U. also; his family was living in Alfred at that time. For many years Ethan worked for the General Electric Company in Erie, Pennsylvania, and we visited them often at their home in Lawrence Park, near Erie. In later years they lived in Bellefonte and Duncannon, Pennsylvania. After Ethan died, Mildred moved to Ithaca, N.Y. and later to Kent, Ohio to be near Gordon and his family.

They had one son, Gordon Forrest Vars, b. Feb. 10, 1923 at Erie, Pa.

Gordon m. August 22, 1949 Annis Eleanor Tallentire at Gaysville, Vt. She was the daughter of George Burdick Tallentire and Ida Gilson. Gordon and Annis were divorced in 1975.

Gordon and Annis had two children: (both adopted) *

- (1) Christine Ann Vars, b. April 8, 1948

m. January 13, 1969 to David Leslie Henry, b. May 5, 1947. They were divorced.

They had three children: Eric David, b. August 10, 1969

Renee Lynn, b. Dec. 16, 1970

Garth Allen, b. August 17, 1973

'Tina' married (2) Michael McMahan in Illinois on December 17, 1981.**

- (2) Lynn Burdick Vars, b. Oct. 13, 1954

m. Dec. 17, 1977 at Ft. Collins, Colo. to Deborah Lynn Reynolds.

Gordon m. (2) Alice Ruth Robbins McVetty, at Lexington, Ky. on Dec. 21, 1975.

She was born July 9, 1923 at Montpelier, Ohio, daughter of Cecil Alger Robbins and Rose Yost.

Gordon served overseas in the infantry during World War II. Afterwards, he returned to Antioch College, receiving an A.B. degree in 1948, and an M.A. degree from Ohio State University in 1949. After teaching junior high in Maryland, he went to Nashville, Tenn. to teach in Peabody Demonstration School and begin doctoral studies at George Peabody College for Teachers. He received his doctorate in 1958. He has taught at Plattsburgh State College and Cornell University in New York State and is currently a professor of education at Kent State University in Ohio.

*Uncle Ethan was cremated per his request.

** This should be January 2, 1982 at Lawn Ridge, Illinois.

All items marked with an * were changed or added per a letter from Gordon, Nov. 5, 1984.

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

These references can be found in the New York State Library in Albany, and in the Ag-Tech Library in Alfred.

- (1) AUSTIN, John Osborne, The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, Comprising Three Generations of Settlers Who Came Before 1690, 1887. This has information on the Places, Burdicks and Shermans, plus allied lines. Published by Munsell's Sons, Albany, N. Y.
- (2) JOHNSON, Nellie (Willard), The Descendants of Robert Burdick of Rhode Island, The Syracuse Typesetting Company of Syracuse, New York, 1937. Martha Burdick, wife of Frederick Place, was a direct descendant of Robert.
- (3) SHERMAN, ROY B., Professor Emeritus, University of Akron, Ohio, Some of the Descendants of Philip Sherman, The First Secretary of Rhode Island, 1968. Published by the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.

Ruth Sherman, wife of Alvin Place, was a direct descendant of Philip.

In my own library I have two volumes which cover the family of Thomas Miner of Stonington, Connecticut. Martha Burdick Place was a direct descendant through her grandmother, Martha Miner Allen.

The Lyon's Whelps, Descendants of Thomas Miner, written by John A. Miner, of Acton, Mass. in 1970. (No publisher given on title page.)

History of the Town of Stonington, City of New London, Conn. From Its First Settlement in 1649 to 1900, With a Genealogical Register of the Stonington Families, by Richard Anson Wheeler, published originally in 1900, published again in 1966 by Lawrence Verry, Inc., Mystic, Conn. This has a chapter on the Miners, also covers several allied lines.

Other references mentioned in these pages:

Brooks Place
Francestown, N. H. 03043
(see page 19 for his family)

Mrs. Robert Place (Edith)
20 Church Street
Alfred, N. Y. 14802
(see page 17 for this family)

Miss Martha McPartland
167 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818
(not related to the Places, but familiar
with the family origins through her interest
in the history of East Greenwich, R.I.)