

JOHN¹ AND ELIZABETH (DOWNAM/DOWNING) DAILY OF BRAINTREE AND MENDON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

By David Lang Clark

Providence, Rhode Island, records contain extensive documentation for the residency, land transfers, town council proceedings, and children of the man whom the records refer to as “John Daily” or “John Dalie.” There is a clear paper trail for his previous residencies in Mendon and Braintree, Massachusetts. The Braintree records, however, are complicated by John’s surname being given as “Darlin” in the references to his marriage and to the birth of his first child. This has led to speculation about his relationship to Dennis Darling, a contemporary in Braintree and Mendon. The authors of the 2006 two-volume work on Dennis Darling and his descendants concluded that the two men, although neighbors in both Braintree and Mendon, were not related by blood.¹ Recording their research about the two, they added to their study a chapter on John Daily of Braintree, Mendon, and Providence. However, this one existing published study of John Daily stands in need of corrections and amplifications.²

Samuel Bates, editor of the published *Records of the Town of Braintree, 1640 to 1793*, credited the relevant records to “John Daly,” “John Darly,” and “John Darlin.”

John Darlin & Elizabeth Downam were married 3 mo 13 [13 May], 1664 by Capt. Hubbert [Caleb Hobart].³

Mary Darlin the daughter of John Darlin & Elizabeth his wiffe borne 12, m^o. 21 1664 [21 Feb. 1664/5].⁴

John Daly son of John Daly & Elizabeth his wiffe borne 8th. m^o. 13 [13 Oct.] 1666.⁵

Sam^l. Daly son of John Daly & Elizabeth his wiffe was borne 6th m^o. 18 [Aug.] 1669.⁶

Margritt Daley, daughter of John Daly & Elizabeth his wiffe born^{the} 8th mo. [Oct.] [blank] 1672.⁷

¹ William A. Martin and Lou Ellen J. Martin, *Dennis Darling of Braintree and Mendon and Some of his Descendants: 1662-1800* (Privately printed, 2006).

² The Martins quote only some of the Providence records of John Daily, make no mention of the marriage record of daughter Mary, assume that son John died young, ascribe numerous children to sons Joseph and Benjamin without documentation, and did not discover that Judah, the wife of James Daily, was the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Howland) Sanders. Many of their claims are speculative and supported by records that are questionable sources for their claims.

³ Samuel A. Bates, ed., *Records of the Town of Braintree, 1640 to 1793* (Randolph, Mass., 1886), 717.

⁴ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 644.

⁵ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 645.

⁶ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 647.

⁷ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 649.

Margritt Darly daughter of John Darly, & Elizabeth his wife was borne 1 mo 30=77 [30 March 1677].⁸

The last of these entries, with the father's name spelled "John Darly," provides the most telling argument for interpreting all six entries as concerning the same head of household. The husband of a Margaret Daily is recorded as caring for her father, John Daily, in his old age,⁹ whereas there is no further record of a Margaret Darling in Braintree through the early 1700s. There are no problems, only a clear logical sequence, if we interpret all of the above records as those documenting births to the "John Darlin and Elizabeth Downam" of the 1664 marriage record.

Frank Dyer, in his conflation of the Bates transcription with other sources of early Braintree vital records, lists "John Darling" as the father of the children whom Bates correctly indicated were Daly children.¹⁰ Waldo Chamberlain Sprague correctly interpreted the marriage record as for "John Daly."¹¹ Austin, under his heading for "John Dailey," gives no wife, only a few of the children, and only a few of the many records for him.¹² Three compilations of "pioneer Irish in America" include descendants of our subject, assuming that the spelling given by Bates is evidence enough of Irish ancestry.¹³ William Cutter also assumed that our subject was Irish, supporting this by noting that John Daily and Robert Taft both were recorded in Braintree and Mendon, Massachusetts, about the same time: "It is fair to assume that they were relatives, coming to this country together . . . from Ireland."¹⁴ This is not a fair assumption about either of them and ignores the evidence in Braintree records that the scribe who heard John Daily pronounce his name was hearing something else than the two-syllable Irish name *Daly*.

It may be worthwhile to speculate that the name may be a form of the French *d'Ailly*. What the scribe heard can be reconstructed with some probability from his variant spellings of *Darlin*, *Daly*, *Daley*, *Darly*. He had difficulty distinguishing an *r* sound from an *l* sound, which is a problem familiar to teachers in multicultural settings. There would be no such problem when an Irishman pronounced the surname *Daly*, with a consonant beginning each

⁸ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 652.

⁹ See note 45 below.

¹⁰ Frank Dyer, "Genealogies of Families of Braintree, Quincy, Weymouth, Randolph, Holbrook, Mass.," online at <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=spragueged&id=I13186>.

¹¹ Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, *Genealogies of the Families of Braintree, Mass.*, CD-ROM (Boston, 2001), #1425R (hereafter cited as Sprague, *Families of Braintree*).

¹² John Osborne Austin, *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* . . . (Albany, N.Y., 1887; repr. with additions and corrections, Baltimore, 1969), 62.

¹³ Thomas Murray, *The Irish Vanguard of Rhode Island* (Boston, 1904), 10; Michael J. O'Brien, *Pioneer Irish in New England* (New York, 1937), 182, 287; Michael J. O'Brien, *Irish Settlers in America: A Consolidation of Articles from the Journal of the American Irish Historical Society*, 2 vols. (Baltimore, 1979), **I: 271-72, 477; II: 542**.

¹⁴ William Cutter, *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial*, 3rd ser., 4 vols. (New York, 1915), 1:792.

syllable. When a Frenchman pronounced the surname *d'Ailly*, however, an Anglophone would have difficulty distinguishing an *l* sound from an *r* sound. Three times the Braintree scribe heard an *l* sound, three other times an *r* sound. London scribes, accustomed both to French surnames and to the Anglophone need for unambiguous transliteration of them, would make this kind of baptismal entry: “John Dally, son of the late Simon d’Ailly, native of Tournay” baptized in 1639.¹⁵ London church records for French Huguenot families list children of fathers with the surname *d’Ailly* as having the anglicized surname *Daily*, *Daly*, *Dally*, *Daillie*, or *Daley*.

There are two pieces of circumstantial evidence that the ancestry of John Daily was not Irish. He used no traditional Irish names for his children, but used names common in both English and French families. There is no evidence of Roman Catholic allegiance on his part or on the part of his children. Beyond this evidence, however, there is no certain proof about his ancestry. The name *d’Ailly* does not appear in the records of Huguenot refugees who came to Rhode Island. This undercuts Elisha Potter’s claim that early Providence records giving the surname *Daily* were about Huguenot refugees and their descendants.¹⁶

The 15 January 1645 Braintree birth record for John Daily’s wife Elizabeth lists “Deerman Downam and Elizabeth his wife” as her parents.¹⁷ Sprague claimed that the spelling of the father was a variant of “Dorman Downing,” listed as age 52 in a May 1671 court record,¹⁸ who settled in Braintree about 1645 and lived near the forge on the Monatiquot River.¹⁹ In May 1671 Dorman Downing, age 52, and John Downing, age 50, testified that “about 25 or 26 years ago we being at work for Matthew Barnes at his mill, he being the miller of Braintree, sent a cart and a horse with a load of wheat to Boston.”²⁰ Deerman Downing died in Braintree on 30 January 1672/3.²¹

1 JOHN¹ DAILY is first recorded in American records when he married ELIZABETH² DOWNAM/DOWNING on 13 May 1664 in Braintree, Massachusetts. He died in Providence, Rhode Island, after 30 May 1720 (see discussion below). Elizabeth Downam/Downing was born in Braintree on 15 11th month [January] 1645[/6], the daughter of Deerman¹ and Elizabeth (—) Downam/Downing of Braintree.²² She died, probably in Providence, soon after the 19 August 1717 vote of the town council “that Elizabeth Dalie shall haue ten shillings . . . for her seruis don in tendence vpon her

¹⁵ William J. C. Moens, ed., *The Registers of the French Church, Threadneedle Street* [Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, vol. XIII] (London, 1899), 201.

¹⁶ Elisha Potter, *Memoirs Concerning the French Settlement and French Settlers in the Colony of Rhode Island* (Baltimore, 1868), 26.

¹⁷ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 632

¹⁸ Archives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, “Suffolk Files,” #1073.

¹⁹ Sprague, *Families of Braintree*, #1425R.

²⁰ *Suffolk County Records*, no. 1073.

²¹ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 61

²² Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 632.

Grand daughter Hannah jarret Anno 1715.”²³ She is unmentioned in the 3 January 1717/8 Providence town council vote that Joseph Dalie and Morris Brock should pay John Rhodes for “Keepeing of there father John Dalie.”²⁴

John and Elizabeth moved with nineteen other Braintree families to Mendon in 1680. This was after the first Braintree settlement there had been wiped out by a Narragansett raid. A 1681 petition to the General Court of Massachusetts from the Mendon residents includes the name of *John Dayley*.²⁵ Mendon vital records list the births of John and Elizabeth’s four youngest children. Even though the family resided in Mendon only a few years, their name remained attached to “Daly’s Brook,” which empties into the Mill River.²⁶ The land was near the present Thayer Road in Mendon, named for Thomas Thayer, the first representative from Mendon to the General Court.²⁷

On [blank] 1681, John Daly of Mendon, yeoman, and wife Elizabeth sold to William Holbrook Jr., of Weymouth, Massachusetts, sixteen acres “the North side of it bounding upon the land now in the possession of Denis Darling.” The deed was not recorded until 5 July 1712.²⁸

On 27 April 1685, the town council for Providence passed a resolution “warning out” John Daily from trying to buy land there and move from Mendon:

Whereas there is a person belonging to the towne of Mendon, John Daily by Name who is Endeavouring to make himselfe an Inhabetant in our towne by settling him selfe & his familye within our towneshipp, by procureing some small percell of land therein

The towne takeing into Conisderation that the said John Daily is an inhabetant of an other towne & Colloney; & not seeing how he cann here settle himselfe & familye but that he may be chargeable to the Towne, which in Case such be his Condition, it belongs to the towne of Mendon to take care for his supply The, [sic] towne doe therefore declare that they are not free that the said John Daily shall bring himselfe & familye within our towneshipp to reside or make settlement but doe fully declare themselves to the Contrarey.²⁹

John Daily’s name is on the August 1688 tax list for Providence,³⁰ but 27 August 1689 is the earliest date on any extant deed for land purchased by him in Providence. That deed refers to him as a “(husbandman) inhabetant of the Towne of Providence,” who paid James Phillipps for ninety acres, fifty acres of which was “lieing about a place called wesquadomesett, & on the westerne side of the Pautuckett River,” and forty acres was within “that Tract of land about Wesquadomesett belonging to Edward Inman & his partners within the towneshipp of

²³ *The Early Records of the Town of Providence*, 21 vols. (Providence, 1892–1915), 12:59, see also 12:50 (hereafter cited as *Early Records of Providence*).

²⁴ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:34.

²⁵ John G. Metcalf, ed., *Annals of the Town of Mendon from 1659 to 1880* (Providence, 1880), 86 (hereafter cited as Metcalf, *Annals of Mendon*).

²⁶ Metcalf, *Annals of Mendon*, 14.

²⁷ *The Proprietors’ Records of the Town of Mendon, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1899), 317, 771. Deeds for Thomas Thayer’s land state that he had bought 10 acres of it from John Daily.

²⁸ Suffolk Co., Mass., Deeds, 26:178–79.

²⁹ *Early Records of Providence*, 8:149.

³⁰ *Early Records of Providence*, 17:130.

Providence.”³¹ Today this land and another forty acres are identified as the Sayles Hill area, extending to the Crookfall Brook and the Blackstone River. A deed dated 2 June 1690 transferred these fifty acres to Anne Pratt, in return for a contiguous fifty acres. This deed specified that Edward Inman had owned all the land originally and that it abutted the river.³² On 10 September 1692, John signed by mark an agreement with John Blaxton, agreeing to farm half of the Blaxton property for seven years, after which “the said John Daily to remoove of from the said farme both he & his family.”³³ A 7 September 1693 agreement identified Cold Spring as the location of the land that Anne Pratt had transferred, and stated that Jn^o Dayly was trading it with John Blaxton for sixty acres “two miles southward from . . . westquadomsit [Westquadomesett], lieing lengthwayes S. west & by west . . . two acres of Meadow . . . upon that part of the menaspatucket River which runneth from the place called the Keyes. . . .”³⁴ On 25 March 1697, John Daily deeded forty acres “purchased from David Whipple” to my son Samuell Daily of . . . Providence,³⁵ who immediately mortgaged it to Pardon Tillinghast.³⁶ On 15 December 1698, John Daily, with wife Elizabeth also signing, sold to Pardon Tillinghast the sixty acres of land purchased from John Blaxton.³⁷ On 12 April 1699, Pardon Tillinghast sold to “John Daily of Providence . . . one Purchase Right of land belonging to me without the seven mile line in the bounds of Providence.”³⁸

Although Elizabeth was still living in 1717 (see below), her name appears on no further deeds on sale. On 13 April 1703, John transferred forty acres to his “well beloved Son Joseph Daily.”³⁹ John transferred land on 10 July 1704 to Resolved Waterman and on 20 March 1706/7 to Joshua Winsor.⁴⁰

There is no evidence that John was not legally competent to make these land transfers, but they raise questions about his judgment. Joseph was living in Colchester, Connecticut, in 1703, whereas other children of John were living near him. On 11 July 1704, shortly after this transfer, Joseph and [his brother] Benjaman Daly were fined and sentenced to be “tied to the Corner of the Cage and whiped” for physically abusing an officer who was delivering a town council order.⁴¹ Another decision, dated 13 April 1717, documented that Joseph had failed to provide the lodging and clothing that he had promised to “William Dalie,” a “Lad” called his “saruant or

³¹ *Early Records of Providence*, 14:194–96.

³² *Early Records of Providence*, 21:69–70.

³³ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:107–8.

³⁴ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:244–46.

³⁵ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:246–48.

³⁶ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:248–49.

³⁷ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:251–53.

³⁸ *Early Records of Providence*, 5:235–36.

³⁹ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:86–87.

⁴⁰ *Early Records of Providence*, 20:133–34, 208–9.

⁴¹ *Early Records of Providence*, 17:188.

Apprentis,”⁴² who has not been identified. Joseph’s behavior raises great questions about his role in the land transfer of 1703. There is no further evidence, though, to answer these questions.

The remaining Providence records for John Daily are sad accounts of his indigence and the breakdown of a support system for him. In his description of colonial Rhode Island welfare, Edward Field presented these accounts as a case study in how welfare was administered.⁴³ The last record in Providence records for his wife Elizabeth is the 19 August 1717 vote of the Providence town council “that [John Daily’s widow] Elizabeth Dalie shall haue ten shillings . . . for her seruic don in tendence vpon her Grand daughter Hannah jarret Anno **1715.**”⁴⁴ She died probably before 3 January 1717/8, when the Providence town council ordered that Joseph Dalie and Morris Brock should pay John Rhodes for “Keepeing of there father John Dalie.”⁴⁵ A month later, on 10 February 1717/8, the council renewed the same injunction.⁴⁶ On 28 April 1718, the council

adjorned to saturday the 10th of may next in order to take Care for the Releif of John Dalie and Joseph Dalie his son doth oblige him self in the sum of ten pounds Currant money to make his Lawful appearance before s^d Councill in order to discharge his dutie and quit him self of all Charges that hath accrewed for the Releife of his s^d father and and [*sic*] Jn default of his s^d appeareance the s^d—sum shallor may be Recovered against me the s^d Joseph dalie. in any of his majestyes Courts of Justice in new England. . .

May the 10th 1718: . . . Joseph Dalie made no appearance

Voated and ordered that John Dalie shall be and Continue with his daughter Abbigail [Rhodes] vntill the Councill takes sum further order for his Releif

Voated and ordered that there shall be a writ Taken out against Joseph Dalie to socure him on his Esstate for the Releif of his father persueant to the aboue Obligation⁴⁷

On 9 June 1718, Maurice Brock agreed to care for his “father in Law John Dalie” for £6 for a year, and Joseph Dalie promised to pay £3 10s. “and a new shirt.”⁴⁸ One year later, John Daily had returned to John and Abigail Rhodes (on 10 June 1719, John Rhoades began to “keepe his father In Law John Dalie”), and on 5 October 1719, the town council ordered that “the Apparrill of Sam^l Meades/deceased” be taken “to the Releif of John Dalie.”⁴⁹ On 23 May 1720, the town stated that £12 was “due To John Rhoades for keepeing of John Dalie one yeare Come the Last of October next,”⁵⁰ and at the same date, £3 12s. was “due to John Rhoades for keeping John Dalie formerly.”⁵¹ This is the last mention of John Daily in Providence records.

⁴² *Early Records of Providence*, 12:56.

⁴³ Edward Field, *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century: A History*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1902), 2:392–93.

⁴⁴ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:59 and 12:50.

⁴⁵ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:34.

⁴⁶ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:36.

⁴⁷ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:43.

⁴⁸ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:44.

⁴⁹ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:9.

⁵⁰ *Early Records of Providence*, 13:44.

⁵¹ *Early Records of Providence*, 13:46.

The Providence records about John Daily, and their silence about his son John, imply that his was a fractured family. John jr. must have severed all ties with his parents after he married, since there is no mention of him providing support to his father when siblings disputed their obligations to their widowed father. The Providence Town Council tried to reach beyond their jurisdictional borders to force payments from the son, Joseph, after he had moved to Connecticut, but council records are silent about the obligations of John jr.

Children of John¹ and Elizabeth (Downing) Daily, nos. i–v b. Braintree, vi–viii b. Mendon:

- i MARY² DARLIN, b. 21 12m [Feb.] 1664[5],⁵² Mary Daille m. 8 December 1681 William Farrett in Medfield, Mass;⁵³ d. before 19 August 1717 when the Providence Town Council voted to pay Elizabeth Daily for the care of “her Grand daughter Hannah jarret.”⁵⁴ Scribal error can account for “jarret” as a misrepresentation of “Farrett.” There are no records for the birth or death of William Farrett. No intention was recorded for his marriage in Medfield, suggesting that neither he nor his bride were residents there. No other Farretts are recorded there.
- ii JOHN DALY, b. 13 8m [Oct.] 1666,⁵⁵ d. before 1679.
- iii SAMUEL DALY, b. 18 6m [Aug.] 1669;⁵⁶ m. BARBARA —, whose name is given in a 9 March 1705/6 deed, when he sold land near the Rhode Island Seven-Mile Line to Zechariah Jones.⁵⁷ On 24 July 1701, he purchased from Richard Waterman land west of the Seven-Mile Line, which became the western boundary of North Smithfield.⁵⁸ The deed and a later Providence town council record state that his land was at the north end of Moswansicut Pond, which is in the northwest corner of Scituate near the Gloucester line.⁵⁹ No children are recorded.
- iv MARGARET DALY, b. 8m [Oct.] 1671,⁶⁰ d. before 1677.
- v MARGARET DALY, b. 30 1m [March] 1677;⁶¹ m. before 1705 (1st child), MAURICE/MORRIS BROCK.⁶² They lived in Westquadomesett⁶³ near where John Daily had first lived.
- 2 vi JOHN DAYLY, b. 25 March 1679;⁶⁴ m. MARY WHITMAN.

⁵² Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 644.

⁵³ *Medfield VRs*, 139.

⁵⁴ See note 44 above.

⁵⁵ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 645.

⁵⁶ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 647.

⁵⁷ *Early Records of Providence*, 20:87–89.

⁵⁸ *Early Records of Providence*, 20:195–96.

⁵⁹ *Early Records of Providence*, 11:111. The Providence town council ordered surveyors to “Rectify a matter of Difference between John Mathewson & Samuelli Daily as concerning their lands lying at Maswasacutt Pond.”

⁶⁰ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 649.

⁶¹ Bates, *Records of Braintree*, 652.

⁶² On 9 June 1718, Maurice Brock signed a court document stating that he would care for his father-in-law, John Dalie (*Early Records of Providence*, 12:44).

⁶³ On 22 March 1711/2, Benjamin Wright transferred to Morris Brock land in Westquadamossett (*Early Records of Providence*, 21:90).

⁶⁴ *Mendon VRs*, 69.

- 3 vii JOSEPH DAYLY, b. 10 Jan. 1680;⁶⁵ m. (1) PATIENCE —, m. (2) — —.
- viii ABIGAIL DAYLY, b. 1 April 1682,⁶⁶ d. Johnston, R.I., shortly before 10 July 1773⁶⁷ m. JOHN⁴ RHODES, son of John³ Rhodes (*Jeremiah*², *Zachariah*¹) and Madeline (Hawkins);⁶⁸ d. between 10 May 1718, when the Providence town council ordered that “John Dalie shall be and Continue with his daughter Abbigail,”⁶⁹ and 22 October 1748, when John Rhodes wrote his will and named Elizabeth Rhodes as his wife (2).⁷⁰ John lived in the Olneyville section of Johnston (now in Providence), where he was a blacksmith and cooper.⁷¹ On 10 May 1718, the On 27 Nov. 1760, “Elizabeth Rhodes widow and relick of John Rhodes, late of Johnston” signed over to John Fenner her dower rights to land that her husband had sold earlier.⁷² A 17 March 1770 record describes the location of her house in Johnston.⁷³ She d. Johnston, R.I., before 10 July 1773.⁷⁴
- 4 ix BENJAMIN DAYLY, b. Mendon, 30 Jan. 1684/5;⁷⁵ m. — —.

2 JOHN² DAILY (*John*¹) was born in Mendon, Massachusetts, on 25 March 1679, and died on 14 November 1753 in Easton, Massachusetts.⁷⁶ He married, by 1712, MARY³ WHITMAN, born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, on 14 October 1683, daughter of Abiah² Whitman (*John*¹) and Mary² (Ford) (*Andrew*¹).⁷⁷ She died in Easton, Massachusetts, on 28 December 1753.⁷⁸

A grave marker in the Cynthia Drake Cemetery, Church St., Easton, Massachusetts, states that “John Daily died Nov. 14 1753 in his 73rd yr.” This is consistent with the record of the birth in Mendon of the John Daily born there to John and Elizabeth Daily. This is the only record, though, that ties this child to his parents. There are no Providence records for him. His name is conspicuously

⁶⁵ *Mendon VRs*, 69.

⁶⁶ *Mendon VRs*, 69.

⁶⁷ Johnston, R.I., Town Records, 1767–1773, at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, unpaginated: On 10 July 1773, Thomas Angel, Esq., submitted account “for winding sheet, shift and cap and digging a grave for Elizabeth Rhodes.”

⁶⁸ Howard Rhodes, *The Rhodes Family in America* (New York, 1959), 24.

⁶⁹ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:43.

⁷⁰ George Roberts, “The Rhodes Genealogy,” typescript (1959), at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, 1, 19.

⁷¹ Roberts, “The Rhodes Genealogy,” 1, 17.

⁷² Johnston Deeds, 1:58.

⁷³ Johnston Town Records, 1767–1773: [17 March 1770] “Elizabeth Roads widow of John Roads of Johnston . . . having a small old dwelling house standing in said Johnston on the highway neere opposite against David Brown’s dwelling house.”

⁷⁴ Johnston Town Records, 1767–1773, at Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, unpaginated: [10 July 1773] Thomas Angel, Esq., submitted account “for winding sheet, shift and cap and digging a grave for Elizabeth Rhodes.”

⁷⁵ *Mendon VRs*, 69.

⁷⁶ Gravestone in Cynthia Drake Cemetery, Church St., Easton, Mass.: “John Daily who died Nov. 14th 1753 in ye 73rd year of his age.”

⁷⁷ *Vital Records of Weymouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1910), 1:348.

⁷⁸ Gravestone in Cynthia Drake Cemetery, Church St., Easton, Mass.: “Mary Daily the widow of Mr. John Daily. She died Dec. 28 1753 in ye 72nd year of her age.” Her age would have been 70, if the Weymouth birth record is correct.

absent from land records there in 1703, when his father deeded his last forty acres to his brother Joseph, who was a year younger than John and eleven years younger than Samuel.

It seems probable, though, that John Jr. maintained close ties to his Downam/Downing grandparents. His wife grew up along the Fore River in Weymouth, a short distance from their homestead upstream in Braintree.⁷⁹ Even though there is no marriage record for John Daily and Mary Whitman, the union is well documented in records of her family and in land records.⁸⁰

When John married, his father-in-law, Abiah Whitman, was generous in his gifts of land. The land was not in Weymouth, however, but in the area that became Easton, Massachusetts, southwest of Braintree. Abiah was one of the largest owners of land in the so-called “North Purchase of Taunton,” which comprises the present towns of Easton, Norton, and Mansfield, Massachusetts.⁸¹ He joined seven other families from Weymouth and Braintree in becoming a proprietor of the area that became Easton. Abiah settled John and Mary on land there.⁸² An entry dated 22 February 1708/9 in the Easton town records states that “John Dayly, on Abiah Whitman’s right, doth pick for twelve and a half acres of land on the Stone-house plaine, joining to the Bridgewater line . . . and six and a quarter acres of land in the northeast corner of the North Purchase, lying south from a bever dame house to the Bridgewater line.”⁸³ The original “right” of Abiah Whitman was a mile along a brook that came to be called Daily’s Brook and later Dorchester Brook, land that is now part of the campus of Stonehill College. John Daily added to his original “pick” of land along the brook by purchasing land from David Stone.⁸⁴ He built a house “on Grove St., just west of Stonehouse Hill and on the plateau south of the road and east of the brook.”⁸⁵

John Daily’s name is on petitions of 4 June 1709, against dividing Taunton into two precincts, and of 9 September 1709 for the incorporation of Taunton.⁸⁶ In 1713 he and others bought from Thomas Randall a sawmill, the first recorded enterprise of John Daily.⁸⁷

⁷⁹ See Sprague, *Families of Braintree*, #1425R, for location of Downing farm. Charles Farnam, *A History of the Descendants of John Whitman* (New Haven, 1889), 5 (hereafter cited as Farnam, *Descendants of John Whitman*): “The Whitman farm adjoining the north-side of the highway [to Boston], leading by the north side of the meeting house of the north parish in Weymouth, and directly off against it and extending to the Weymouth river [Fore River].”

⁸⁰ Farnam, *Descendants of John Whitman*, 21; Elizabeth Stewart, “Descendants of Andrew Ford of Weymouth, Massachusetts,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 119(1965):6–14, 102–26, 179–200, 250–59, 120(1966):38–55, at 119:12.

⁸¹ Farnam, *Descendants of John Whitman*, 19.

⁸² Farnam, *Descendants of John Whitman*, 22; Plymouth Co., Mass., Deeds, 22:32.

⁸³ William Chaffin, *History of the Town of Easton in Bristol County, Massachusetts* (Cambridge, Mass., 1886), 36 (hereafter cited as Chaffin, *History of Easton*).

⁸⁴ This is stated in John Daily’s will.

⁸⁵ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 298.

⁸⁶ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 19; Samuel Emery, *History of Taunton, Massachusetts* (Syracuse, N.Y., 1893), 145–46.

⁸⁷ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 273.

By 10 June 1717, he had saved enough money to pay his father-in-law £10 for “land in north purchase in Bristol and in west part of 2nd lot of west shares, the south end thereof abutting Bridgewater.”⁸⁸ On 28 July 1720, he bought land from Thomas Randall.⁸⁹ On 27 September 1725, he purchased more land in the north purchase.⁹⁰ By 1 June 1732, when John Daily purchased more land, he was referred to as “John Daily of Easton,” since the “north purchase” lands were in that part of Taunton that became Easton.⁹¹ He purchased more land from Zechariah Whitman on 9 April 1734.⁹² On 14 February 1737/8 he purchased land from Thomas Randall and Thomas Pratt Jr.⁹³ Richard Williams sold him land on 28 October 1741.⁹⁴ He acquired large tracts of land in towns that abut Easton.⁹⁵ The deeds for these lands all refer to the owner as “John Daily of Easton.”

Numerous enterprises brought John wealth and helped make him a prominent citizen of Easton. The most conspicuous enterprise was his inn on the southern edge of his homestead land. It gave the name Dailey’s Corner to what remains a major intersection in Easton.⁹⁶ On the village green was the sawmill he owned with others. Since he owned large tracts of land, agricultural production also must have been a major source of his wealth. He owned at least one slave.⁹⁷

He held many town offices in Easton, working his way up from hog reeve in 1725/6 to town treasurer for five years, and selectman during the years when the town was divided over the issue of a new church.⁹⁸ On 28 June 1718, he was one of seven appointed to select a site for a new church.⁹⁹ His name is on the 5 February 1750/1 list of selectmen who favored the raising of a new meeting house.¹⁰⁰ In the years between 1718 and 1750 nothing had happened about building a church, since Presbyterians, who held their services in private homes, opposed the tax for a new meeting house as unfair for them. The controversy divided the Daily family, since John Jr. signed successive petitions to further the Presbyterian position on the tax issue. John Jr. used his position on the building committee for a new church to delay construction; he was removed from the committee as a result.¹⁰¹ John and Mary continued

⁸⁸ Bristol Co. (Taunton Division), Mass., Deeds, 41:347.

⁸⁹ Bristol Co. (Taunton Division) Deeds, 13:304.

⁹⁰ Bristol Co. (Taunton Division) Deeds, 12:425.

⁹¹ Plymouth Co. Deeds, 22:32–33.

⁹² Plymouth Co. Deeds, 30:64.

⁹³ Plymouth Co. Deeds, 27:34.

⁹⁴ Plymouth Co. Deeds, 30:299.

⁹⁵ Plymouth Co. Deeds, 40:79–80, and other tracts of land listed in his will.

⁹⁶ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 440, n. 69.

⁹⁷ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 435.

⁹⁸ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 84, 641, 642.

⁹⁹ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 91.

¹⁰⁰ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 102.

¹⁰¹ Chaffin, *History of Easton*, 111.

as members of the North Parish Church in North Bridgewater, where their daughters were married.¹⁰²

John Dailey's will was written on 1 September 1753 and probated on 18 December 1753.¹⁰³ In it, he referred three times to his "live children John, Daniel, Martha, Mehitable and Miriam." Vital records of Easton list these "live children" and their birth dates together in one heading for the children of John and Mary Daily.¹⁰⁴ The will asks each of these children, named individually, to care for their mother "who is weak of mind and body." This provides firm documentation for the remarkable fact that Mary bore children over a period of twenty-nine years until she was 49. In a 1761 deed, Daniel, the last born, described land as "willed to me by my father John Daily of Easton."¹⁰⁵ The will also gives a long list of the lands owned by John, with instructions about their distribution to his children. John and Mary are buried in the Cynthia Drake Cemetery, Church St., Easton, where their grave markers document their birth and death dates.

Children of John² and Mary (Whitman) Daily, all b. Easton, Mass.:¹⁰⁶

- i JOHN³ DAILY, b. 20 July 1712, d. Brockton, Mass., 12 Sept. 1792;¹⁰⁷ m. Boston, Mass., 18 July 1746, MARTHA FOBES, b. Easton, 22 Dec. 1723, daughter of Benjamin and Martha (Hunt) Fobes,¹⁰⁸ d. Brockton, 27 June 1817.¹⁰⁹
- ii MIRIAM DAILY, b. 1 June 1719, d. after 6 March 1760, when, as "Miriam Dailey, spinster," she deeded to Joseph Lathrop "all that land that my father John Daily late of Easton gave me in his will, lying in Bridgewater."¹¹⁰ Her father's will referred to her as "Miriam Dailey" and left to her "the house of the road."
- iii MARTHA DAILY, b. 28 April 1722; m. Easton, Mass., 1 May 1740, SAMUEL RANDALL,¹¹¹ b. 24 Jan. 1708/9,¹¹² son of Thomas and Rachel (Lincoln) Randall.¹¹³
- iv MEHITABLE DAILY, b. 3 Sept. 1729; m. Easton, 19 June 1757, SETH⁴ LATHROP,¹¹⁴ b. 3 Aug. 1722, son of Edward³ Lathrop (*Samuel², Mark¹*) and Hannah³ (Wade) (*Thomas², Nicholas¹*), d. 2 March 1804.¹¹⁵

¹⁰² Bradford Kingman, *History of Brockton, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, 1656–1894* (Syracuse, N.Y., 1895), 40, which shows John Daily listed on the 1744 parish tax list for the North Parish of Bridgewater.

¹⁰³ Bristol Co., Mass., Probate Records, 12:559.

¹⁰⁴ "Vital Records of Easton, Mass.," *The Mayflower Descendant* [MD] 45(1995):141.

¹⁰⁵ Plymouth Co. Deeds, 46:216.

¹⁰⁶ All births from "Vital Records of Easton, Mass.," MD 45(1995):141.

¹⁰⁷ *Vital Records of Brockton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1911), 322 (hereafter cited as *Brockton VRs*).

¹⁰⁸ "Vital Records of Easton, Mass.," MD 45(1995):33.

¹⁰⁹ *Brockton VRs*, 322.

¹¹⁰ Plymouth Co. Deeds, 46:215, recorded 6 March 1760.

¹¹¹ "Vital Records of Easton, Mass.," MD 46(1996):31.

¹¹² "Vital Records of Easton, Mass.," MD 44(1994):133.

¹¹³ William L. Chaffin, *A Biographical History of Robert Randall and His Descendants, 1608–1909* (New York, 1909), 19.

¹¹⁴ "Vital Records of Easton, Mass.," MD 50(2001):143.

¹¹⁵ *Vital Records of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1916), 1:203, 2:511.

v DANIEL DAILY, b. 12 Dec. 1732, d. Livermore, Maine, 30 Jan. 1812,¹¹⁶ m. Taunton, Mass., 15 Feb. 1755, HANNAH TURNER,¹¹⁷ who d. Livermore, 16 March 1811.¹¹⁸

3 JOSEPH² DAILY (*John*¹) was born in Mendon on 10 January 1680, and died in Middletown, Connecticut, before 28 January 1748/9.¹¹⁹ His name is on a 1698 list of proprietors of Colchester, Connecticut, as “Joseph Dalee of Provedenc,”¹²⁰ and also on a 1698 list of taxpayers in Providence, Rhode Island.¹²¹ On 4 April 1703 he was granted earmarks for his livestock in Colchester¹²² and on 13 April 1703 his father deeded to him forty acres in Providence.¹²³ There is no clear explanation for records that document him as a landowner in both Providence and Colchester and as a presence in both places after 1698. There is evidence, however, about his antisocial behavior. On 11 July 1704, a magistrate ordered that Joseph and his brother Benjamin be fined, jailed, and lashed in public for “abuse and contempt of royal authority” after they had physically abused a court officer who served a town council order against Benjamin.¹²⁴ There was a town council order against him on 13 April 1717 to provide the lodging and clothing promised to his servant William Dalie.¹²⁵ As discussed above, there are the numerous town council records about his refusal to pay for the support of his father. The town council in Providence was able to place a lien on his land there and to have leverage over him.

Colchester records list the birth of his son John in 1708. This is the earliest record of his residency there. The 22 December 1718 list of inhabitants of Colchester includes his name.¹²⁶ He was surveyor of roads in Colchester in 1725 and a hayward there in 1726.¹²⁷ He purchased land in Colchester on 3 February 1718, on 20 December 1727, and on 10 June 1744/5.¹²⁸ His holdings were located on the Jeremy River and the Glastonbury Road. He sold land in Colchester on 27 February 1721/2, 28 February 1721/2, and 15 July 1747.¹²⁹ Despite all of these records of his residency and activities in Colchester, his name continued to appear in Providence records. There are records from 1710 and 1716 of him carrying

¹¹⁶ *The Town Register, East Livermore, Livermore, Jay, 1909* (Livermore, Maine, 1909), 150 (hereafter cited as *Livermore Town Register, 1909*).

¹¹⁷ *Brockton VRs*, 86.

¹¹⁸ *Livermore Town Register, 1909*, 190.

¹¹⁹ Charles William Manwaring, comp., *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records: Hartford District*, 3 vols. (Hartford, 1904–6), 2:88 (hereafter cited as Manwaring, *Early Connecticut Probate Records*).

¹²⁰ Charles Taintor, ed., *Extracts from the Records of Colchester, With Some Transcripts from the Recording of Michael Taintor* (Hartford, 1864), 6 (hereafter cited as Taintor, *Colchester Records*).

¹²¹ *Early Records of Providence*, 17:167.

¹²² Taintor, *Colchester Records*, 8.

¹²³ *Early Records of Providence*, 4:86–87.

¹²⁴ *Early Records of Providence*, 17:188.

¹²⁵ *Early Records of Providence*, 12:56.

¹²⁶ Taintor, *Colchester Records*, 19.

¹²⁷ Taintor, *Colchester Records*, 28, 29, 32.

¹²⁸ Colchester, CT, Deeds, 2 (Part 1):290; 2(Part 2):753; 4:319.

¹²⁹ Colchester, CT, Deeds, 2 (Part 1):407; 2(Part 2):406–8; 4:355.

out responsibilities for branding stray horses there.¹³⁰ On 20 February 1718/19, he also purchased forty acres in Scituate.¹³¹ There are four Providence deeds between 22 March 1717/8 and 28 January 1720/1 involving the buying and selling of land.¹³² Land speculation could account for him being “land poor” and negligent in making payments towards his father’s care. On 8 April 1718, he sold to Peter Ballou 57 acres in Providence with “a house and orchards where I now dwell.”¹³³ There is no further information to explain these multiple and overlapping residencies. He moved to Middletown, Connecticut, where his sons John and Joseph lived.

The evidence that Joseph was married to a first wife named PATIENCE — is found in the birth record of their son John at Colchester. An 1818 Colchester marriage record for Rebeccah Daily is that of a probable daughter, since her husband, James Roberts, sold land to Joseph on 20 December 1727 and the record indicates that the land was adjacent to Joseph’s land. She would have been born say 1698, or about the time that Joseph first was recorded as a proprietor of Colchester. A probate record of 28 January 1748/9 documents Joseph’s death (without giving a death date) and includes a document appointing Joseph Daily of Middletown as guardian of orphaned son Field, age 14.¹³⁴ This is the only record showing that Joseph was the father of Field and suggests that Joseph, the guardian, was Field’s older brother. Being of age in 1749, Joseph Jr. would have been born no later than 1728. Being age 14 in 1749, Field was born about 1735. This suggests that Joseph had a second wife, as his first wife Patience would have been beyond her childbearing years in 1735. The use of the name *Field* may be a clue to the identity of the second wife.

Children of Joseph² and Patience (—) Daily:

- i (prob.) REBECCA³ DAILY, b. say 1698; m. Colchester, Conn., Nov. 1718, JAMES⁴ ROBERTS,¹³⁵ son of William³ Roberts (*John*², *Samuel*¹) and Eleanor (—).¹³⁶
- ii JOHN DAILY, b. Colchester, 11 Dec. 1708,¹³⁷ d. Middletown, Conn., 1774.¹³⁸

¹³⁰ *Early Records of Providence*, 9:172, record of 21 Dec. 1710; 9:161, record of 22 Dec. 1716.

¹³¹ Providence Deeds, 3:115.

¹³² Providence Deeds, 3:105, recorded 22 March 1717/8; 3:115, recorded 6 May 1718; 1:134, recorded 16 June 1718; 4:216, recorded 28 Jan. 1720/1.

¹³³ Providence Deeds, 3:134.

¹³⁴ Manwaring, *Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:88: “28 Jan. 1748/49: Field Daily, 14 years of age, orphan of Joseph Daily, late of Middletown, chose Joseph of Middletown as guardian.”

¹³⁵ Barbour Index of Conn. Vital Records, citing Colchester VRs, 1:451.

¹³⁶ Lyle L. Roberts, *Roberts Family of Middlesex County, Connecticut: John Roberts Family* (Carmel, N.Y., 1979), 3.

¹³⁷ Barbour Index of Conn. Vital Records, citing Colchester VRs, 3:453.

¹³⁸ Barbour Index of Conn. Vital Records, citing Middletown VRs, 84.

land in Colchester, Conn., on 19 Mar

1742,¹⁴⁰ and sold his house and land in Colchester on 31 Mar 1742.¹⁴¹

Children of Joseph and — (—) Daily.

- iv (prob.) JOSEPH DAILY, b. say 1726; m. Middletown, 7 Jan. 1747, REBECCA DEWEY.¹⁴²
- v FIELD DAILY, b. ca. 1735.

4 BENJAMIN² DAILY (*John*¹) was born in Mendon, Massachusetts, on 30 January 1684, and died after 1760, when he made a land transfer to his son, the last record found for him. The name of his wife is unknown.

The first record of him in Rhode Island is a 4 July 1704 town council judgment, ordering him to pay a debt to Joseph Latham. When Thomas Harris, clerk of the town council, served him the order, Benjamin protested that it was “of the devils wrighting” and gave “two or three slaps” to the server. His brother Joseph joined in the ensuing melee. A week later, on 11 July 1704, Benjamin and Joseph were charged with “abuse and contempt of royal authority,” fined, jailed, and sentenced to fifteen lashes each.¹⁴³ He is recorded as “catcher of stray animals” between 4 June 1703 and 25 November 1729 in Providence; the records indicate that he was expected to brand stray horses.¹⁴⁴ On 3 June 1725 he bought land in Scituate at “the place called Chapaumiscock” near Chopmist Hill in the northwest corner of Scituate, which then was legally within the township of Glocester.¹⁴⁵ This explains why Benjamin is on the 1750 tax list for Glocester.¹⁴⁶ He sold some of the land in 1725 and 1729.¹⁴⁷ In 1738 and 1744 he purchased other land in Scituate, just west of the Seven-Mile Line, which became the boundary between Smithfield and Glocester.¹⁴⁸ On 19 March 1742, he purchased nine acres in Colchester, where his brother Joseph was a proprietor.¹⁴⁹ On 7 April 1746, “Benjamin Daly of Scituate, yeoman,” transferred “to son Samuel of Scituate,” fifty acres of his farm in Scituate.¹⁵⁰ Resolved Waterman sued

¹³⁹ Her name is on records of land transfers by Benjamin.

¹⁴⁰ Colchester, CT, Deeds 5:148, 150.

¹⁴¹ Colchester, CT, Deeds 5:116.

¹⁴² Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800*, 7 vols. (New Haven, 1896–1906), 3:100.

¹⁴³ *Early Records of Providence*, 18:188.

¹⁴⁴ *Early Records of Providence*, 9:129, 133, 143, 152, 160, 164.

¹⁴⁵ Providence Deeds, 6:314.

¹⁴⁶ Bruce C. MacGunnigle, *Rhode Island Freeman, 1747–1755: A Census of Registered Voters* (Providence, 1977), 98 (hereafter cited as MacGunnigle, *Rhode Island Freeman*).

¹⁴⁷ Providence Deeds, 9:320, recorded 29 Nov. 1729.

¹⁴⁸ Scituate, RI, Deeds, 3:148: [25 Jan. 1738] “Nathaniel, Joseph and John Waterman, all of Providence . . . transfer 8 acres of land on westerly side of Seven Mile line within purchase of Providence”; 3:220: [9 Jan. 1744] “Thomas Angel of Scituate . . . transfers 200 acres within original purchase of Providence on west side of Seven Mile line to Benjamin Daly of Scituate” 3:221: [10 Jan. 1744] “Edward Fenner of Providence . . . transfers 12 acres in Scituate on the west side of the Seven Mile line to Benjamin Daly of Scituate.”

¹⁴⁹ Colchester, CT, Deeds, 4:148, 150.

¹⁵⁰ Scituate, RI, Deeds, 1:225–26.

“Benjamin Daily of Smithfield, husbandman” for £8 at the December 1747 Court of Common Pleas.¹⁵¹ As mentioned above, his name is on the 1750 tax list for Gloucester. Benjamin and his son Samuel are on the 1750 list of Scituate freemen.¹⁵² On 8 November 1746, Benjamin transferred to his son Samuel land in Scituate.¹⁵³ On 9 April 1760 he transferred more land to Samuel.¹⁵⁴ This is the last record of Benjamin. There is no mention of Benjamin’s wife in any of these deeds. The land deeds signed by him refer only to his son Samuel. “My beloved father Benjamin” is mentioned in the will of his son David.¹⁵⁵ Land records for James and John document that they were brothers.¹⁵⁶ He is the probable father of Benjamin and Jeremiah who lived in Scituate and Gloucester.

Documented children of Benjamin² Daily:

- i SAMUEL³ DAILY, d. after 1769, when he was administering the estate of his 2nd wife’s former husband;¹⁵⁷ m. (1) ELIZABETH COLVIN, b. Coventry, R.I., 1722, daughter of Samuel³ Colvin (*John*², *Thomas*¹) and Phebe Briggs,¹⁵⁸ m. (2) widow ELNATHAN⁴ (BROWN) HOLMES.¹⁵⁹ Samuel served as a soldier in the French and Indian War.¹⁶⁰
- ii DAVID DAILY, say 1710, d. Scituate, RI, 24 June 1745.¹⁶¹

¹⁵¹ Rhode Island State Archives, Records of the Court of Common Pleas, Newport, R.I., Dec. 1747 (hereafter cited as *RICCP*).

¹⁵² MacGunnigle, *Rhode Island Freeman*, 98.

¹⁵³ Scituate, RI, Deeds, 3:225–26.

¹⁵⁴ Scituate, RI, Deeds, 5:144.

¹⁵⁵ Scituate, RI, Town Records, 1:123–24. The will of 23 June 1745 left land in Scituate and some possessions to Benjamin.

¹⁵⁶ Gloucester, RI, Deeds, 3:153 dated 30 March 1748 states that “John Daily of Scituate transfers land in Scituate, near Gloucester, to my brother James Daly of Gloucester;” 11:124 James Daly, Jr., transfers land ‘my honored father James Daley purchased of his brother John Daley and is recorded in Gloucester.’”

¹⁵⁷ Scituate, RI, Probate Records, 2:106. There are no birth or death records for him, but he is recorded in two land transfers made by his father, Benjamin, to him in 1746 and 1760, in a deed of 18 Feb. 1765 transferring land to him (Scituate Deeds, 3:560), and in three land transfers made by him to other in 1764 and 1766 (Scituate Deeds, 5:569, 636, 6:16).

¹⁵⁸ *Rhode Island Genealogical Dictionary*, in the entry for the Colvin family, states that Samuel Colvin’s will mentions Elizabeth Daily as his daughter. This is repeated in Edward Colvin, “Descendants of Thomas Colvin,” [typescript at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library], 83.

¹⁵⁹ Scituate, RI, Probate Records, 2:106: “On 10 April 1769, Samuel Daly, the husband of Elnath Holmes, late widow of Samuel Holmes, and administrator of Samuel Holmes’s personal estate, rendered an account of his administration.” Samuel Holmes had m. Cumberland, R.I., 15 Aug. 1751, Elnathan Brown (James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1630–1850*, 21 vols. [Providence, 1891–1912], 1: Cumberland, 18 [hereafter cited as Arnold, *VR of Rhode Island*]).

¹⁶⁰ Howard M. Chapin, *Rhode Island in the Colonial Wars* (Baltimore, 1994), 89 (hereafter cited as Chapin, *R.I. in the Colonial Wars*), lists a Samuel and a James Dailey as both serving in Capt. Harris’s regiment in 1760 during the Old French and Indian War. This strengthens the case that they were brothers.

¹⁶¹ Scituate, RI, VRs, 1:123–24. His will, dated 23 June 1745, bequeathed his real and personal estate to his father Benjamin. Scituate, RI, Probate Records, 1:123.

- iii JAMES DAILY, b. ca. 1720,¹⁶² d. Plainfield, Conn., before first Monday of April 1761 when will probated in Smithfield, RI;¹⁶³ m. before 8 Jan. 1739, JUDAH SANDERS,¹⁶⁴ b. 1720, d. 1784 in Uxbridge, Mass.,¹⁶⁵ daughter of Robert³ Sanders (*Robert*²⁻¹) and Elizabeth³ (Howland) (*Arthur*²⁻¹).¹⁶⁶ James served as a soldier in the French and Indian War.¹⁶⁷
- iv JOHN DAILY, d. after 18 Jan. 1749;¹⁶⁸ m. by 1747, ABIGAIL —.¹⁶⁹

Probable children of Benjamin Daily:

- v BENJAMIN DAILY, m. SARAH —.¹⁷⁰
- vi JEREMIAH DAILY, m. Gloucester, R.I., 3 March 1736/7, MARY WHITE of Rehoboth, Mass.,¹⁷¹ b. Rehoboth, 3 Dec. 1716.¹⁷² He was possibly the soldier who served in King George's War in 1746 and the soldier from New Providence who served in the Revolutionary Army in 1780.¹⁷³

David Lang Clark (38 New Province Rd., Sunapee NH 03782; <langd32@netzero.com>) is a retired history professor who, through his paternal grandmother, Alice Dailey of Georgeville, Quebec, is descended from John¹ Daily.

¹⁶² Proof of his parentage is in a land transfer deed dated 24 Mar 1745/6 for land which 'did belong to my brother David Daly at the time of his decease.' Scituate, RI, Deeds, 5:741.

¹⁶³ Smithfield, RI, Probate Records, 2:373-76. His death in Plainfield, Conn., is reported in the 1757 resolution of the Smithfield town council that is reported in *Rhode Island Roots* 12(1986):58. His probate record states that "James Daly was an enlisted soldier in the provincial troops of the Colony of Rhode Island who departed this life in his return from the last summers campaign."

¹⁶⁴ Birth date in Gloucester, R.I., of eldest child.

¹⁶⁵ Uxbridge, MA, VRs, 367. "Judah Daley, mother of James, d. 1784 in her 64th y.

¹⁶⁶ The marriage and her parentage are documented by the will of Robert Sanders, which names Judah Daly as a daughter, a copy of which is in the Rhode Island Historical Society, Special Collections, Bates Collection Mss. (Notes on Providence Families), v. 71, p. 5.

¹⁶⁷ Howard Chapin, *A List of Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors in the Old French and Indian War: 1755-1762* (Providence: Rhode Island Historical Society, 1918), 59. Chapin, *R.I. in the Colonial Wars*, 89.

¹⁶⁸ Elizabeth Perry, *A Brief History of the Town of Gloucester, Rhode Island* (Providence, 1866), 98, says that John Daley was declared a freeman in Gloucester in 1740. *Rhode Island Roots*, 17(1991):13, reports a record of him registering the brand for his livestock in Scituate on 18 Jan. 1749. He was involved in civil cases in the Court of Common Pleas.

¹⁶⁹ There is neither a birth nor marriage record for him, but there are birth records of two children born to "John and Abigail" in Scituate (*Scituate VRs*, 140, 746).

¹⁷⁰ There are no birth, marriage, or death records for him. Two other records identify him. A Scituate, RI, land deed of 12 Feb. 1779, signed by Benjamin and Sarah Daly of Scituate, transfers from them to James Young "land that is both in Scituate and Coventry" (Scituate Deeds, 6:145). That explains why he is on the 1774 tax list for Coventry.

¹⁷¹ Arnold, *VR of Rhode Island*, 1:7, 3:15.

¹⁷² James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642-1896* (Providence, 1897), 135.

¹⁷³ Chapin, *R.I. in the Colonial Wars*, 31; *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896-1908), 4:362.