EARLY RECORDS
OF THE
RUSSE FAMILY
OF ANDOVER

COMPILED BY
CHARLOTTE HELEN ABBOTT
RUSSE FAMILY
OF ANDOVER.

John (1) Russe and wife, Margaret, appear first, according to my notes, in 1645, when they come from Dover. Savage thinks that they were in Newbury, 1635, and had a son, probably John (2), born 1640. Probably that was the son, John, born June 24, 1641, called 19 in 1661, in a deposition in a Bradstreet suit at Essex Sessions. Other children found were: Mary (2), b. Feb. 16, 1642 and a Sarah, who was 17 in 1661, so born 1644. Margaret (2), in vol. 6, page 132, Essex Sessions, is called 21 and 22 in depositions, born probably before Savage records were begun.

Mass. Archives, 1645, has the petition of John (1) Russe, to conduct a ferry. John died in 1692, at 80, so was born 1612. Margaret, called "Goodwife Russe," died 1689.

John (2) married Deborah Osgood, born 1640, daughter of Christopher Osgood of Newbury and his wife, Margaret Fowler, and sister of Capt. Christopher (2) Osgood of Andover. He was a miller. He and Deborah came from North Church over to South Parish in 1711. The records do not give his death nor a probate, as he deeded his estate, most likely, to children.

Mary (2) married Andrew Foster of Andover, of a Scotch line here, and was head of a great clan.

I do not yet find the fate of Margaret or Sarah but think Sarah may have been the 3rd wife of Capt. Christopher Osgood, as he had a 3rd, named Sarah, who lived only a short time.

After John's (2) father-in-law, Christopher Osgood, Sr., died, the widow Margery (Fowler) married 2nd., Thomas Rowell, who was a genius for setting up mills. He came to Andover, bringing all the family connections with him, and I suppose that was the reason John Russe came here. At any rate, the Wilsons, Lovejoys, who were in-laws, squatted around the present Wilson's Corner and along Elm Street toward the Square and down High street. They owned also, the site of the Marland Mills for many years, until after Wm. (4) Russe left Andover.
The Osgoods went farther down the Shawshin to Frye Village and the first fulling mill was set up near the fall toward the Shawshin on the east side of the street near Village Hall (Russey's). The brook had a seine in it, and was then called Rowell's Folly.

John Russe settled up above Marland's Mills but owned or ran a gristmill on the Shawshin, near the present Abbott Village— as the Abbotts later bought the rights from Russe. Where Peter Smith lives, was the site of the oldest Russe homestead.

Some of this land was the original Chandler grant. Thomas (2) Chandler owned the iron works here, but his children sold extensively to Russe in the 2nd and 3rd generations. So, from West Parish Church on the West to the bounds of North Parish on the East, along the Shawshin from Abbott Village to below Frye Village, the families of Russe, Lovejoy, Osgood and Wilson were settled.

John (2) Russe, therefore turned miller. He and Deborah, whom he married here in Andover, had:

Mary (3), b. 1667, June 12. (Was she the Mary Russe of Plymouth age 16, Colony scandal, who ran away with Jonathan Singletary of Haverhill, a married man? Both were whipped and she was sent home. He fled to Bloomfield, N.J. and was joined there later by his family after they sold the property in Haverhill. (He changed his name, in New Jersey, to Dunham.) Mary had an illegitimate child, in 1688, recorded to Nicholas Butler. She, Mary (3), married John Stone, Nov. 14, 1690. He was son of Hugh Stone and wife Hannah Foster. They moved away, perhaps to Beverly, after birth of 4 ch: Thomas, 1691; Deborah, 1693; John, 1694; Joseph, 1695.

Sarah (3), b. Feb. 3, 1668; m. Christopher Lovejoy, May 26, 1688; d. April 1745; he was son of John Lovejoy and Mary Osgood. In her line at first there were several cases showing sporting tendencies, but finally everyone settled down to be ministers and leading lights in the community.
Children of John (2) Russe and wife, Debora Osgood, (cont.)-

John (3), b. April 5, 1671; m. Hannah Russe of Billerica, of a line from Newbury, May 6, 1695. daughter of John, Sr., of Ipswich. John (3) moved to Billerica as the Russe land crossed over into that part of town now called Tewksbury. John was a weaver; had only 1 child born here.

Margaret (3), b. April 10, 1673; m. Wm. Peters about 1694; lived near Haggett Pond in a garrison. He was son of John Peters, and b. Oct. 21, 1695. He was killed at Andover with John Hoyt of Bradford, by Indians, Aug. 13, 1696. Margaret m. 2nd., James Wilson of Cambridge Farms, April 1, 1704; went to Conn.

Jonathan (3), b. Dec. 27, 1674; could not trace him; probably left home before he married; Jonathan of Hollis, in 1758 may have been a descendant.

Thomas (3), b. Jan. 17, 1677; m. Ann Farnum, Apr 17, 1701. In 1702 had 1/2 his father's estate; d. 1707; she m. 2nd., John Johnson, probably his 3rd.

Abigail (3), b. 1680; she may have been the Abigail ROSSE who m. Jn. Hazeltine of Haverhill, Aug. 21, 1701.

Phebe (3), b. 1683; alive in 1711 when heirs of John (2) sign away rights to sister-in-law, Mrs. Tom Russe.

Josiah (3), b. 1684.

Joseph (3), b. 1687; d. 1687.

Joseph (3), 2nd., b. 1688; m. Priscilla Mooar, published 1709; moved to Framingham, 1711; had large family.

Hezekiah (3), b. 1685/; m. Debora Wilson, April 10, 1710; moved to Conn; was in Hebron, 1713, on a deed from Jos. Fassett, of which Jas. Wilson was witness. Russe line found in Mansfield, Conn. in 1747, when Silas Paddock m. Abiah Russe. Hezekiah Russe and his cousin, Hezekiah Lovejoy, were both fond of taverns, etc., and as they were church members, they were continually being disciplined for their love of a good time.

John (1) may have had a son Daniel Russe who stayed in Newbury and is mentioned by Bodge, in Philip's War, wounded in the Swamp Fight, 1675. He rec'd land in Paxton, Ma.
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John (3) Russe and his wife, Hannah, who left Andover for his wife's acres
in Billerica, had:-

Hannah (4), b. 1696. The family then disappears.

Tom (3) Russe (John (2-1) and wife, Ann Farnum, had:-

Tom (4), b. 1704; a favorite of g-father, John (2); was a cordwainer; got
the estate of his father, dec., by deed, 1712, from g-father, while
a lad; published to Sara Poor, July 16, 1730; she was of the tribe
of Dan(l) Poor, a good line, which was settled on the Shawshin at
its mouth in South Lawrence. Tom (4) was an innholder in Bradford,
1738 and moved to Pembroke, 1740. Sold land here in 1725 when he
came of age.

Annie (4), b. 1702; d. 1724.

John (4), b. 1706; named by Ann in her will; was of Pennacook, later; d.
there before 1744; he m. Priscilla Farnum of Andover, July 25, 1732;
she was dau. of Eph. Farnum and Priscilla Holt. He joined church here
(South) in 1728; left it, Nov. 8, 1730.

William (4), bap. June 15, 1712; was son of widow, Ann Russe and probably
b. after father's death in 1707; went to Pembroke, where he was
a Bricklayer; "ason and Gentleman; back in Andover by 1744; m. Mary
Watts, possibly his 2nd; she was of Haverhill; he m. next, Abigail
Davis, possibly of Methuen Davis family, b. 1736. He bought land
in Methuen from Jos. Swan, and Tim Wyrich, 1735; moved over there
from the Church here, in 1765. Abigail m. 2nd., Lieut. Jonas Noyes, 1785.

A Debora Russe who m. Philip Fowler, 1728, not placed yet.
The RUSSE FAMILY

John (2-1)
Hezekiah (3)/Russe and wife, Deborah Wilson, had a daughter, Deborah, (4), born 1711, bapt. June 22, 1712. Hezek. Russe confessed some sin, not specified in records, and this caused the delay in the baptism of the child. On June 15 he said that he was to move away, and they received the child and voted to try him a little longer. Deborah (4) probably came back here and at 17, married Philip Fowler.

Joseph (3) Russe (John (2-1) and his wife, Priscilla Moor had a son, Joseph (4), b. 1710, before they moved away to Framingham.

Tom (3)/Russe and wife Sara Pool, had:

Jonathan (5), bapt. North Church 1731; possibly m. Lucy Kendall in Hollis, N.H. 1758; she was of Litchfield.

Simeon (5), bapt. Nov. 31, 1725, in North Church; d. June 24, 1737, age 19 mo. father lived in Bradford but came to North Church, Andover, on Sunday.

Sarah (5), b. in Haverhill, March 7, 1737; family probably moved to Suncook.

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John (4) Russe of Concord (Tom(3)Jn.(2-1) and w. Priscilla Farmum, had:

John (5), named in Ann Russe Johnson's will; in 1755 acknowledged deed of father's, made 1735.

Ann (5), died here 1746 after widow Priscilla and her children returned from Concord.

Priscilla (5), b. after 1732; d. 1818; m. Thomas Blanchard, Nov. 17, 1751 or 2; m. 2nd. Ebenezer Rand of Charlestown; a blacksmith, 1759; he d. 1813; joined ch. here from Tewksbury; brought up her niece, the half-Indian girl, Eunice Russe.

Deborah (5), b. 1744, after mother's return and father's death; E. Rand appointed guardian 1762- so Priscilla was ready then. Deborah married Almonach, a full blood Narragansett Indian, in Indian ceremony, in camp at Penobscot or Mashpee. He was evidently bound out here, until of age. Had a daughter, Eunice, b. 1766, named for Eunice Blanchard, a friend of her aunt. Divorced Indian; m. John Hoyt of Tewksbury; d. in Vermont somewhere. Indian went to the Penobscots. Alias Peter Bridges.
William (4) Russe (Tom (3) and wife, Mary Watts, had:

William (5), b. 1745; may have lived in Boxford later.
Phebe (5), b. 1748.
Martha (5), b. 1749.
Daniel (5) b. — ; perhaps son of 2nd w. Abigail; perhaps m. Patty Safford, Jan. 20, 1781.
John (5), b. 1766; d. 1846; in deeds called Abigail, his mother.

Debora (5) Russe who married the Indian, Peter Bridges, about 1765, had daughter Eunice, who took her mother's surname and grew up here in the family of Eben. She married Prince Ames, Nov. 24, 1784. He died 1816.

He, according to Abiel, was the Negro servant of Capt. Tim Ames of Groton, and went through the Revolution with his master, and was with him at Bunker Hill. Prince was probably of Ames stock on the White side, and had also Indian blood, and was brought up in the family of Nathan Ames of Lexington or Groton. (Nathan Ames left Andover 1755 and I wonder if he had some trouble of this kind that caused the move.

Prince Ames moved to Bennington, 1777, though he enlisted here for 3 years' service, in that year. He probably had begun to learn his trade as blacksmith then. He must have been considerably older than Eunice. Old Mrs. Boynton, who was an Ames, knew Prince well. He was very dark, tall and very smart. Henry Boynton used to see Eunice Ames when she came to Andover, and was much in awe of the stately old lady, as he was a small boy of 10. Said that she was very dark skinned. Eunice died in Boston, at 97. They had:

Peter (7), April 22, 1785; named for her father; m. Patty Clark of Newburyport 1810; had 5 ch. Widow Clark lived in Ballardvale in the old mill house.

Anna (7), b. Feb. 28, 1787; m. Peter Hutchinson, 1809; moved to Windsor, Vt.

Philip (7), b. Feb. 27, 1791; killed while leading elephants in a show; m. Chloe Phebe Uervish of Dedham; all ch. died; 2 g-ch. lived in Lynn.
Children of Eunice Russe and Prince Ames, (cont.):-

George (7), b. July 27, 1793; moved to Boston; m. and lived in Portsmouth, N.H.; lived later until death, with sister, in Jamaica Plain; very white, tall and handsome; was evidently the barber. Mr. Eben Woodbury, husband of "chitable Ames, while on a visit to Portsmouth, patronized a barber shop because the sign said the prop. was Ames; talked to the man who said he was from Andover; had a real good visit with him.

Alexander (7), b. Feb. 2, 1796; went to sea; was in War of 1812; died in Marine service.

James (7), b. July 14, 1798; joined Navy; either died there in service or was taken prisoner by British; lost track of him.

Eunice (7), b. Oct. 22, 1800; m. Robert Ames, a Penobscott from Narragansett stock in 1819; he d. 1825; she m. 2nd., Rev. John Davis, about 1834; he d. 1867. Robert Ames was drowned in the Merrimac when he lived at Bellevue and kept boats and tackle.

Lavinia (7), b. April 8, 1800; straight hair, very handsome; m. John T. Bellin of Phila.; d. in Cambridgeport.

Samson (7), b. Sept. 20, 1805; d. 1830, Oct. 24, killed accidentally while gunning.

Cyrus (7), b. Jan. 2, 1809; m. Rhoda A. Holt of Exeter, N.H.; was dead 1863; no ch.

Notes and records;--

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Notes and records:-

vol. 7: page 143- John Godfrey quarrels with John Russe, Sr., and accuses his wife of lying in bed with John Carr, a young apprentice. Bill of charges, etc.

vol. 8: page 15--Stands case. Margaret Russe deposes; Mark Graves, 39; Moses Tyler, 18; Thos. Johnson, 28. Execution against Job Tyler by Jn. Godfrey.

June 19, Next case- John Carr against John Godfrey, page 15. Margaret Russe, 1662. witness that a note of execution was left at place of abode of Godfrey.

Warrant for debt.


John Carr, 22; Moses Tyler, 19; Mary Tyler, 18; Tom Johnson, 28; Tom Chandler, 32.

vol. 7: p 92- John Russe on case of wife and Carr scandal. John Carr sues Godfrey. Job Tyler, 40; Mary Tyler, 40; young Mary, 18; Moses, 20.

Deeds-- John Russe of Andover, miller, for goodwill to g-son Tom of Andover, all houses father Tom, dec. did own formerly will/w to son, Tom Russe; dds. No. side land of Tom Chandler-NW cor- ash stump; NE cor. the meadow of Capt. John Chandler-runs along meadow side -to SE corner to a little white oak; thence up to a little hill to a stake and heap of stones by ye road that runs to John Chandler's- as fence runs-to Edw. Philips'.

Jan. 2. 1712. Jn. Chandler; Andrew Peters; recorded 1719.

36:95... Joseph Russe of Andover, husbandman, for 40 Lbs. from sister-in-law, Ann Russe, widow, sells upland and meadow in Billerica, once owned by father... John Russe of Andover, miller, upland and meadow NE part of Billerica on strong waters' brook at a place where County Road was laid out across Brook; meadow both sides highway- bds. on Nathan Shed's meadow and

Kittredge meadow- 5 acres; also a parcel bought of Simon Crosby, Sr., adj. 20 acres on Billerica Town Commons and parcel bt. of Jn. Wilson, Sr. of Billerica, E of Strong Waters' Brook, 48 acre. Bds. Andover line. (RUS)
Deeds (cont.)

35:199. recorded 1719. -- John Miller, of Andover, for 20 lbs. sells to son Tom, husbandman, 1/2 homestead, upland and mowing ground 30 acres, highway lands by house, 8 bds. on highway. Tom is to choose which half he pleases. Andrew and Sam Peters, witness.


20:93. recorded 1707. John (3) Russe of Andover, weaver, for 20 lbs. sells to Wm. Foster of Andover, weaver, 1/2 upland-meadow on bds. of Edward Phelps, on the south by Lovejoy, east by E Phelps, west by Commons. Nov. 21, 1699. Francis Dane; Andrew Peters, witness.

21:36. John Russe, weaver, for 40 lbs. sells to Corp. John Stephens of Andover, upland and meadow, 57 acres, part of a Great Division, buts on Sam Phelps- Lt. John Chandler meadow, etc.

March 10, 1699. Francis Johnson; Andrew Peters, witness.

23:279. John and Ezekiah Russe, husbandmen, and wives, both named Deborah, (father and son) sell for 141 lbs. - 8 lbs. in hand, 61 secured by bill, to Stephen Abbott of Andover, wheelwright, 1 right Common Land and 1/2 a corn mill, 23 acres of land and buildings; cornmill stands on a stream called Shawshin River and Ensign Ballard owns 1/2. Mill was set on River by leave of Town. Land bds. on Thos. Abbott- Daniel Bigsby.

June 14, 1712.

24:231. recorded 1712. John Russe of Andover, for money, sells to Timothy Abbott right to fall to John Russe in Common Land.

June 6, 1712. George Abbott, Jr.; George Abbott, Sr.; Pasco Chubb. (wit

4.153. Abraham Foster of Andover, husbandman, for 4 lbs. from Tim Abbott and Stephen Abbott, sell rights to fall to honored mother, Mary (Foster) dau. of Jn. Russe, late of Andover, out of town rights of father, Jn. Russe, late of Andover, lot and money.

Feb. 28, 1722. John Abbott; Eph Abbott.
Deeds-(cont.)

67:188. John Russe of Rumford, housewright, for 40 lbs. from Jn. Webster, of Rumford, yeoman, land in Rumford, 6 acres Intervale bds. on Capt. Eben Eastman-Jn. Webster- Eph Farnum. (This was Jn.'s 4th son of Tom's.) Wife, Priscilla makes her X. Nov. 21, 1734. recorded 1734. Ben Rolfe; Henry Little, witness.


102:48. John Russe of Pennacook, joiner, for 40 lbs. converts to Zeb Chandler and David Abbott, husbandmen, 1 acre of land bds. on stake or stump standing by Russe's old cellar, which is Jn. Chandler's former bds.-runs E to S-S joins Tim Chandler-Sacill rds. to s-s joins David Chandler-SW 9 poles to great rock-join roadside- thence on road to 1st bds. Feb. 20, 1734. (Joshua and David Chandler, witness.)


76:118. Tom Russe, of a new plantation called Suncook, Middlesex Co., Mass. Bay. (Fembroke, later) yeoman, for 20 lbs. from Israel Howe, physician, and David Holt, blacksmith of Andover, wood lot W side Shawshin River, "playeth" on W side road leads from Jos. Bixby's to James Brown's-4 acres bds. on Jeremiah Osgood. July 10, 1739. (Josia Ballard; Ebenezer Abbott.)

55:193. Tom Russe of Suncook, husbandman, for 145 lbs. from Jonathan Farnum of North Parish, of Andover, husbandman, lands in South Parish-W side Shawshin River-E side of James Brown's land- 20 acres on Highway- on Brown's land; Ridge on it-Tim Chandler's meadow-leaving a cart road, Dr. Howe and David Holt March 14, 1740. (Asa Foster; Sam Phillips, Jr. witness)
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Deceds- ( cont.)


June 14, 1736. (John Chandler, Sr. and Jr. witness.)

95:199. Joshua Swan of Methuen, gentleman, for 245 lbs. sells to Wm. Russe of Andover, bricklayer, 49 acres in Methuen, on highway-Carleton grant-part of John Johnson's addition land.
Sarah signs. (Tim and Joshua Swan, witness.)
Jan. 15, 1735.

Mary signs. Jas. Bodwell; David Barker, witness. April 29, 1749.

115:238. Richard Swan of Methuen, yeoman, for a quit claim from Wm. Russe, gent. and Abigail, his wife, of Methuen, resign all interest in estate of honored father, James Davis, late of Methuen, dec., intestate. John Davis quits to Abigail all rights in land in Methuen—N side Davis estate part sold by mother Sara to Rev. Wm. Sergeant—by order of Court—bds. on farm in possession of Ben Hall, 11 3/4 acres. He manages to warrant it clear of claim of sisters, Grace and Anna Davis. Feb. 23, 1759. recorded 1765/ Asa Cross; Jn. Swan, witness.

page 239— Wm. Cross of Methuen, yeoman, for 82 lbs. 5 s. 4 d., from Wm. Russe of Methuen, bricklayer, land and buildings, 20 acres on Highway near Jn. Cross—Wm. Cross, Jnr. April 22, 1763. recorded 1765. (Dan Cross; Wm. Russ, Jnr. witness.)

113:129. Sam Cole of Methuen, blacksmith, for 66 lbs. from Wm. Russe of Methuen, bricklayer, sells land "where I live," bought of Richard Swan and Robt. Swan, 8 acres. April 3, 1750. Rec. 1765/ (Christopher and Abigail Sergent, witness.)

Probate 339:48. Guardianship of Deborah Russe (b. 1744) upwards of 14 years, daughter of John Russe, late of Andover— to Ebenezer Rand, who gave bonds with Barachias Abbott and Tim Moore and John Russe. April 5, 1762.


Prince Ames owned a place in West Parish. Was it sold after 1800?

Ipswich—vol. 4: p. 418. Thos. Chandler of Andover, for valuable services from John Russe of Andover, a parcel belonging to T. C. in Andover, 70 acres bds. on Highway—5 rds. wide—lies along J. Chandler's land—lot on south—land of Ed. Phelps So. and W.—line runs to a pinetree marked—NW corner—thence S—E to marked tree on south side of a swamp that crosses from Phelps—and from thence E as trees are marked—by the swamp side, etc., etc. 1677. (Tom Chandler lived on side of Marland Village hill.)

— Witnesses not given.—
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