

Expanding the Family of Joshua Beal Sr. of Abington and Cummington, Massachusetts

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This work is an expansion of and addendum to the *MASSOG* article "Correcting Parents in the Joshua Beals Family of Abington, Massachusetts: A Link with a *Mayflower* Line" by Cynthia S. DellaPenna.^[1] First, a case is presented identifying Abraham Sr. and Deborah (Shaw) Beal as Joshua's grandparents. Second, more information is given for Joshua's siblings, the children of Joshua Sr. and Elizabeth (Leavitt) Beal, not treated in the 2010 article beyond their births. Lastly, intermarriages and other circumstances among the families of Joshua Sr. and Abraham Beal Jr. will be outlined to enhance the theory that they were brothers.

The parents of Joshua Sr. father of the main subject of the previous article, have been a mystery to Beal researchers. He doesn't appear in the only substantive publication on this family, *John Beal the Centenarian and Descendants*,^[2] but is mentioned in *History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts*.^[3] Abraham Jr. is included in *John Beal the Centenarian*, but only on a list of Abraham, Sr.'s, children. The same is found in *History of the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts*.^[4] These books have been relied on heavily for information on the Beals in lieu of treatment in genealogical journals, but they lack scholarship.

Joshua Sr. doesn't have a birth or baptism recorded in a publicly accessible source, but there is one good piece of evidence for his parents that has gone unnoticed. Abraham Beal Sr. of Abington, Province of Massachusetts Bay, has a will in which he names a son Joshua, yet his identity as an adult hasn't been pursued.

Abraham Sr. lived first in Weymouth, which is adjacent to Abington. The published version of Weymouth's vital records gives the births and deaths of the following of his children with Deborah (Shaw) Beal before they moved to Abington in 1731-3:^[5]

Deborah, b. 9 April 1715
Ruth, b. 15 January 1717/8
Abraham, b. 6 March 1720/1
Abraham, b. 28 February 1721
Benjamin, b. 1 April 1724, d. 20 April 1724
Hannah, b. 31 May 1725
Job, b. 18 April 1727, d. 5 May 1727
Stephen. b. 10 November 1728, d. 6 December 1728

¹ *MASSOG*, vol. 34, No. 2 (2010), 45.

² Bertha Bortle Beal Aldridge, *John Beal the Centenarian and Descendants* (Victor, NY: self-published, 1956).

³ *History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts*, vol. 2 (Hingham, MA: Town of Hingham, 1893), 62.

⁴ *History of the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts*, vol. 3 (Boston, MA: Weymouth Historical Society, 1923), 66.

⁵ *Vital records of Weymouth, Massachusetts, to the year 1850* [hereafter *VRW*] (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1910), 1:36-38.

Benjamin, b. 8 November 1729, d. 2 December 1729
Ebenezer, b. 13 March 1731

There is no credible evidence of an Abraham born on 6 March 1720/1. He appears to have begun life in the published vital records. Church, graveyard and private records were used as supplements and noted as such. The Beal children listed above have no notations, indicating they are from the town's manuscript records. The latter contain all these children except the first Abraham.^[6]

The "Genealogies of Weymouth Families" volume of the 1923 *History of the Town of Weymouth* has both Abrahams and is very likely based on the 1910 published vital records. The Abrahams are explained by stating the one born in March 1720/1 died in infancy even though there is no supporting record for it. This compounded the mistake and was repeated in 1956 in *John Beal the Centenarian*,^[7] which includes an odd double entry for Abraham and Deborah's family, both with two sons named Abraham and the first dying young.

Abraham Jr. and Ebenezer's births were within the Julian/Gregorian calendar-year overlap, but neither has a dual year given in the town records. Since the oldest manuscript volume of vital records groups births by year but not chronologically within the year, it isn't obvious what the dual year should be for either. Ebenezer's baptism record in Weymouth's Second Parish says March 1731.^[8] The baptism list is entirely chronological and shows the dual year for Ebenezer is 1730/1 and by inference, Abraham's is 1720/1. Abraham was undoubtedly baptized in Weymouth's First Parish, which has no extant baptism records before 1734. Abraham was one of the founding members of the South Parish of Weymouth and signed the covenant for it on 18 September 1723.^[9] Benjamin's was the first of his children's baptisms there followed by his younger siblings, inferring Joshua was baptized at the First Church before this date.

Abraham's will can be used to narrow the possibilities of when Joshua was born.^[10] The sequence of bequests to his surviving sons was Abraham, Joshua, Benjamin and Ebenezer, which, excepting Joshua, reflect the birth records. This was normal in probate records. The same applies to the daughters named in the will. Given this and considering gestation periods, the most plausible place for Joshua is between Abraham and Benjamin. This puts his birth between December 1721 and July 1723. Joshua BealSr. married in November 1744.^[11] He was likely no younger than 18 and more likely at least 20, which would put his birth before about 1726, but probably before about 1724. If he was born within the above time span, he was about 22-23 years old when he married.

⁶ "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," [hereafter MTRV] ancestry.com database online (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011), "Weymouth, Births, Marriages and Death." This is the only online database with images for all vital records filmed for Weymouth. Two apparently 18th century record groups are extant and bound in one volume, one being more comprehensive. The latter will be called group 1. All the Beal children in the published vitals appear in group 1 except Ruth. Deborah, Ruth and Benjamin are in group 2. Database images for group 1 are 516 (Deborah), 519 (Abraham), 520 (Benjamin), 521 (Hannah, Job), 522 (Stephen, Benjamin), 523 (Ebenezer); group 2 images are 462 (Deborah), 463 (Ruth), 467 (Benjamin). There are two 19th century transcripts of the vital records as well that contain no conflicting or new information.

⁷ *John Beal the Centenarian*, 22-3.

⁸ "Church records, 1723-1818, Old South Church in Weymouth, Mass.," Congregation Library & Archives, database online at congregationallibrary.org.

⁹ "Church records, 1723-1818, Old South Church in Weymouth, Mass."

¹⁰ Plymouth Co., MA, probate 12:138.

¹¹ The original town record says they were married at the First Church, Hingham. MTRV, "Hingham, Births, Marriages and Death," image 2520. Their marriage intentions say both were of Abington, MTRV, "Abington Town Records," 1712-1761, image 138.

Joshua's inclusion in the first "Genealogical" volume of George Lincoln's *History of the Town of Hingham* is based on three things: Hingham town and tax records, something that led him to believe he lived "temporarily at the harbor" and what he says are two of Joshua's children's Hingham birth records. He didn't attempt to place Joshua in a nuclear family but refers to him as the one called "Junior." Nothing was found in the Hingham records to corroborate this. Elizabeth has a birth and baptism record there.^[12] Mary's supposed birth claimed in the book is her baptism, also in Hingham.^[13] Her birth as "Molly" is in the Abington records.^[14] Both name Joshua as their father, and by process of elimination and circumstance, both are certainly of Joshua and Elizabeth (Leavitt) Beal.

The only other Hingham record found that obviously refers to Joshua of Abington is a memorandum dated 6 March 1748 saying Israel Leavitt "recd. into his House Joshua Beal & family from Abington not notified within twenty days."^[15] Israel was Joshua's father-in-law. There is no context to show if this was a Julian or Gregorian date. Although the wording is somewhat obtuse, this and several other similarly worded records undoubtedly refer to the standard New England practice of warning people out of town who were there without permission.

There were three Joshua Beals who were long-term residents in Hingham in the first half of the eighteenth century. Two of them were father (born 1680), and son (born 1714).^[16] The third was born in 1722, son of Andrew Beal.^[17] None of these could have been Joshua of Abington. Whatever evidence Lincoln may have found for "Joshua jr." in Hingham, he was most likely the one born in 1714. To add to the confusion, he also married an Elizabeth and had children contemporarily with Joshua and Elizabeth (Leavitt),^[18] but there is enough information for both families to match the children with their correct parents.

How long Joshua of Abington remained in Hingham after being warned out in 1748 or 1749 isn't apparent. A son Caleb was baptized in Abington in May 1748.^[19] If the warning-out was in 1749, it's possible the family stayed in Hingham through to Mary's baptism in 1754. Given this, the reference to him living temporarily at the harbor may be correct.

The only recorded deed for Joshua of Abington is when he and Elizabeth sold their homestead to Caleb before moving to Cummington, Massachusetts.^[20] Joshua may have lived on land his father had given or sold to him, and the deed was never recorded. Only Ebenezer, the youngest surviving male child of Abraham BealSr. was given real estate in the latter's will. Abraham Jr. and Joshua were given five shillings, and an added note for Joshua says "besides what I have already given him."

Joshua, Elizabeth and most of their children moved to Cummington about 1778. Caleb eventually settled in Plainfield, the adjacent town to the north of Cummington.^[21] Joshua jr. settled

¹² MTVR, Hingham, Births, Marriages and Death," images 2693, 2777.

¹³ MTVR, Hingham, Births, Marriages and Death," image 2777.

¹⁴ *Vital records of Abington* [hereafter *VRA*] (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1912), 1:24.

¹⁵ MTVR, "Hingham, Selectmens' Records," image 154.

¹⁶ MTVR, Hingham, Births, Marriages and Death," images 2427, 2484.

¹⁷ MTVR, Hingham, Births, Marriages and Death," image 2496.

¹⁸ MTVR, Hingham, Births, Marriages and Death," image 2790.

¹⁹ "Church records, 1714-1749, First Congregational Church in Abington, Mass," Congregational Library & Archives, database online at congregationallibrary.org.

²⁰ Plymouth Co., MA, deed 62:148.

²¹ Hampshire Co., MA, deed 2:735, 4 Mar 1791, Caleb of Abington buys land in Plainfield.

in a part of Cummington that became Windsor.^[22] Abraham Sr. and Deborah's children Abraham Beal and Deborah (Beal) Ford also moved to Cummington,^[23] and their son Ebenezer moved to Plainfield.^[24]

The earlier *MASSOG* article accounts for all of Joshua and Elizabeth's children and gives marriage and child information for four of them. Those not treated were Elizabeth, Nabby, Huldah and Barzillai. A document in the Cummington town records mentions the Beal daughters.^[25] This was an agreement on 12 September 1787 between Joshua, his wife Betty and their son Comfort. It was clearly made in lieu of a will. Comfort was to get the personal and real estate connected with his parents' farm and the rest was to be divided among Betty Cunningham, Nabby Beal, Huldah Wheeler and Molly Hamlin. The children not named in the agreement may already have had something from their parents in money or land. Caleb had bought rather than been given the Abington homestead.

Nabby and Huldah have marriage and marriage intention records in Abington and Cummington respectively to Jacob Beal and Timothy Wheeler.^[26] There is no marriage record for Betty. Circumstantial evidence shows her husband was David Cunningham of Cummington and were married before the town was incorporated. David bought land there when it was still "Township No. 5."^[27] He was the only adult male Cunningham on record to have lived there in the late 18th century, and his wife's age at death on her gravestone puts her birth within the same year as Joshua, Sr.'s, daughter.^[28] She is included with the name Betty in some of David's deed records. When Joshua and Elizabeth's son Barzillai was charged with horse-theft in 1792 and then fled Massachusetts, David and Barzillai's brother Comfort were ordered to bring him to court.²⁹ Polly (Beal) Hamlin, a daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth, and Joshua Beal Jr. witnessed two of David and Betty's Cummington deeds.^[30]

Another situation supporting the parental connection between Joshua of Abington and Abraham Sr. and Deborah (Shaw) Beal are intermarriages between Joshua's and Abraham, Jr.'s, families for several generations. Abraham, Jr.'s son Jacob married Nabby Beal, who, by process of elimination, was Joshua's daughter. Abraham, Jr.'s, daughter Rebeckah married David Hamlin, a brother-in-law of Joshua's daughter Molly. Jacob and Nabby Beal's daughter Abigail married Noah Ford, a son of Joshua's sister Freelove (Beal) Ford. While there were many intermarriages between families originating in Plymouth County and migrating to Hampshire County, including Beals, Shaws and Fords, this is a particularly dense three-generation cluster.

The intermarriages between Joshua's and Abraham Jr.'s families for several generations further support the parental connection between Joshua of Abington and Abraham Sr. and Deborah (Shaw) Beal. Abraham Jr.'s son Jacob married Nabby Beal who, by process of elimination, was

²² Joshua Beals gravestone, Shaw Cemetery, Windsor, Berkshire, MA, with full birth date matching that of Joshua jr. in Abington.

²³ Hampshire Co., MA, deed 1:68, (Abraham and Bathsheba Beal); MTRV, "Cummington, Proprietors' Records with Births, Marriage, and Deaths," image 79 (deaths of Hezekiah and Deborah Ford).

²⁴ Ebenezer Beal death, 15 Jan 1814, age 83, MTRV, "Plainfield, Births, Marriages and Death [sic]," image 220.

²⁵ MTRV, Cummington, p. 301.

²⁶ *VRA*, 2:25; MTRV, Cummington, p. 5.

²⁷ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (Hampden registration), 9:217, 9:218, 10:226, 10:228. His brothers Jonathan and Robert also bought land in Cummington but didn't live there.

²⁸ "Elisabeth" Cunningham gravestone, Twilight Rest Cemetery, Richfield, Otsego, NY, d. 3 Mar 1807, in her 55th year (age 54, if this phrase was used correctly), so b. betw. 3 Mar 1752 and 3 Mar 1753. She is called Betty in Otsego Co. deeds.

²⁹ Hampshire Co., MA, Court of Sessions of the Peace, vol. R (19), p. 53.

³⁰ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds, 2:232, 4:387.

Joshua's daughter. Abraham Jr.'s daughter Rebeckah married David Hamlin, a brother-in-law of Joshua's daughter Molly. Jacob and Nabby Beal's daughter Abigail married Noah Ford, a son of Joshua's sister Freelove (Beal) Ford. While there were many intermarriages between families originating in Plymouth County and migrating to Hampshire County, including Beals, Shaws and Fords, this is a particularly dense three-generation cluster.

Some of the children and grandchildren of Joshua Sr. and Abraham Jr. appear consecutively enumerated in the 1790 Federal census for Otsego Township, Montgomery (now Otsego) County, New York. They were Freelove Ford, Lidia Tower (Freelove's sister), Nabby Beels, Timothy Wheeler and David Hamlin.^[31] Being enumerated as such, they were very close neighbors, maybe living in the same house.^[32] If these relatives were living in the same house, they would still be considered heads of households since each had children with them. This was standard practice in the Federal censuses, made more explicit after 1850. Abraham "Beels," likely Abraham 3rd, (b. 1751) and Joseph Ford, likely one of Freelove Ford's sons, lived nearby.

A food shortage in a region that included Otsego Township in the winter and spring of 1789 is said to have had near famine consequences.^[33] The area was sparsely settled and supply lines to supplement local deficiencies weren't well-established. Joseph Ford Sr. Matthew Tower, and Jacob Beal may have died at this time.

When Lydia (Beal) Tower deposed for David Hamlin's Revolutionary War pension application, she said she was boarding with the same Cummington family as David in 1775 to 1777.^[34] David was single, but Lydia was married with at least two sons, so multiple, related family groups boarding together wasn't a new circumstance for them.

The lack of a birth record for Joshua in Weymouth is probably very unusual for that town, but Joshua's son Caleb's birth is also not recorded either in Hingham or Abington, while all his siblings' births were. In any case, the circumstantial evidence is very strong connecting him to Abraham Sr. and Deborah. There were no other Joshua's found who could be reasonably identified as their son or as Joshua of Abington and Cummington. There is a remote possibility he was adopted, but if so, it's very unlikely Abraham Sr. would have included in him in his will as he did.

Genealogical Summary

Although the spelling "Beals" is commonly used in publications and online for descendants of John Beal of Hingham, it isn't always accurate. The family groups in this article, for instance, appear with the name "Beal" variously spelled but without the "s" in 18th century primary records with few exceptions. There was an increasing shift to "Beals" into the 19th century.

1. ABRAHAM⁴ BEAL (Jeremiah³⁻², John¹) was baptized in Hingham, Plymouth Colony, on 26 October 1690^[35] and died in Abington, Plymouth County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, between

³¹ 1790 US census, Otsego, Montgomery, New York, NARA microform publication M637, roll 6, p. 2.

³² Property records for Otsego Co. are very sparse before 1791, when it was a part of Montgomery Co.

³³ James Arthur Frost, *Life on the Upper Susquehanna, 1783-1860* (New York: 1951), 66.

³⁴ Revolutionary War Pension File 22807. See "Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900," Ancestry.com database online, images of NARA microform publication M804, roll 1173.

³⁵ MTRV, "Hingham, Hubbard's Journal, with Births, Marriages, and Deaths," image 130. Bertha Aldridge, in *John Beal the Centenarian*, mistakes this as a birth date.

24 April and 4 September 1749.^[36] He had marriage intentions published in Weymouth, Suffolk (now Norfolk) County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, on 2 April 1714 to DEBORAH SHAW,^[37] daughter of Nicholas and Deborah (Whitmarsh) Shaw. She was born in Weymouth about 1694^[38] and died probably in Abington after 24 April 1749.^[39]

Children of Abraham and Deborah (Shaw) Beal:^[40]

- i. DEBORAH BEAL, b. 9 April 1715
- ii. RUTH BEAL, b. 15 January 1717/8
- 2 iii. ABRAHAM BEAL, b. 28 February 1720/1
- 3 iv. JOSHUA BEAL, b. abt. 1722
- v. BENJAMIN BEAL, b. 1 April 1724
- vi. HANNAH BEAL, b. 31 May 1725
- vii. JOB BEAL, b. 18 April 1727, d. 5 May 1727
- viii. STEPHEN BEAL, b. 10 November 1728
- ix. BENJAMIN BEAL, b. 8 November 1729
- x. EBENEZER BEAL, b. 13 March 1730/1
- xi. SETH BEAL, bap. 25 March 1733
- xii. LUKE BEAL, bap. 21 April 1734
- xiii. SARAH BEAL, b. 23 September 1735

2. ABRAHAM⁵ BEAL (Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹) was born in Weymouth on 28 February 1720/1. He married in Abington on 24 July 1740 BATHSHEBA SHAW,^[41] his first cousin, daughter of Nicholas and Lydia (?) Shaw, born in Abington on 10 March 1722/3.^[42]

Abraham moved to Cummington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, where he bought land in 1779,^[43] and he and Bathsheba sold land in 1785.^[44] No obvious record was found for this couple after 1785.

Children of Abraham and Bathsheba (Shaw) Beal:^[45]

- 4 i. FREELove BEAL, b. 27 August 1741
- ii. RUBEN BEAL, b. 13 April 1745
- 5 iii. LYDIA BEAL, b. 13 October 1748
- iv. ABRAHAM BEAL, b. 28 April 1751
- v. REBECKAH BEAL, b. 11 Apr 1753
- 6 vi. JACOB BEAL, b. 20 May 1754
- 7 vii. REBECKAH BEAL, b. 1 January 1759

³⁶ See note 10. These dates are for his will and his estate probate.

³⁷ *VRA*, 2:25; *MTVR*, Weymouth, image 460, "both of Weymouth."

³⁸ She is undoubtedly "Deborah Beales" in Nicholas's will, which mentions his children in chronological order by birth in separated gender groups (Suffolk Co., MA, probate file 3987). Deborah fits neatly between Joshua, b. 18 Mar 1692/3, and John, b. 31 Mar 1696 (*VRW*, 1:266-274).

³⁹ Date of Abraham's will, see note 10.

⁴⁰ *VRW*, 1:36-38; *VRA*, 1:24-5. The baptisms were double-checked in *FCA*.

⁴¹ *VRA*, 2:24.

⁴² *VRA*, 1:210. Nicholas and Lydia's daughter was the only Bathsheba Shaw of record in this generation.

⁴³ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (recorded in Hampshire Co.), 1:40.

⁴⁴ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (recorded in Hampshire Co.), 1:68.

⁴⁵ *VRA*, 1:22-25.

viii. DEBORAH BEAL, b. 28 July 1760

3. JOSHUA⁵ BEAL (Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³, Jeremiah², John¹) was born probably in Weymouth about 1722 and died probably in Cummington, Massachusetts, after summer 1790.^[46] He married in Hingham, Suffolk (now Plymouth) County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, on 21 November 1744 ELIZABETH LEAVITT,^[47] daughter of Israel and Mary (Bates) Leavitt. She was born in Hingham on 25 September 1724^[48] and died after the summer of 1790.

Children of Joshua and Elizabeth (Leavitt) Beal (all records in Abington except where noted):^[49]

- i. JOSHUA BEAL, b. 27 November 1745
- ii. CALEB BEAL, no birth record, bap. 1 May 1748
- 8 iii. ELIZABETH BEAL, b. 27 July 1752, bap. 2 August 1752, both in Hingham
- iv. MARY/ MOLLY/POLLY BEAL, b. 18 April 1754, bap. as Mary in Hingham, 21 April 1754, went by Polly as an adult.
- v. CALEB BEAL, b. 2 March 1756
- 9 vi. NABBY BEAL, b. 2 April 1758
- 10 vii. HULDAH BEAL, b. 3 October 1761
- 11 viii. BARZILLAI BEAL, b. 12 March 1764
- ix. COMFORT BEAL, b. 20 May 1766

4. FREELove⁶ BEAL (Abraham⁵⁻⁴, Jeremiah³, Jeremiah², John¹) was born in Abington on 27 August 1741 and married in Abington on 15 May 1766 JOSEPH FORD,^[50] son of Jacob and Sarah (Poole) Ford. He was born in Abington on 13 November 1746^[51] and died probably in Otsego Township, Montgomery (now Otsego) County, New York, early in 1789.

On 22 March 1767, "Joseph Foard & his wife made publick confession of their sin in ye Breach of ye 7th Commandment by committing fornication & were restored to Christian Charity" in Abington.^[52] Freelove was almost four months pregnant with their son Moses when they married. Joseph Ford of Abington, yoeman, bought (solely) and sold (with Freelove) land in Township No. 5, now Cummington, in 1770.^[53] Joseph served in the Revolution as a resident there between 1775 to 1777.^[54] The last deed recorded involving Joseph was as a grantor with Freelove on 25 February 1788.^[55] This surely was their homestead, since, in the 1790 census, the grantee (Nathaniel Holbrook) is living among the abutting property owners named in the deed.^[56] Joseph died by the time the 1790 Federal census was taken, which has Freelove as part of the

⁴⁶ Joshua Beal household, 1790 US census, Cummington, Hampshire, Massachusetts, NARA microform publication M637, roll 4, p. 131.

⁴⁷ "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001" [hereafter MTCVTR], familysearch.org database online (Salt Lake City, UT: 1972), "Hingham, Births, marriages, deaths, 1635-1780," image 305, by Rev. Ebenezer Gay, First Church. Intentions at Abington on 4 Aug, both of Abington, MTRV, "Abington, Town Records," image 138.

⁴⁸ MTCVTR, Hingham, 206.

⁴⁹ *VRA*, 1:22-25; FCA; MTRV, Hingham, image 2777.

⁵⁰ *VRA*, 2:24.

⁵¹ *VRA*, 1:76.

⁵² "First Congregational Church in Abington."

⁵³ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (recorded in Hamden Co.), 10:292, 14:526.

⁵⁴ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution* (Boston, MA: 1896), 5:860.

⁵⁵ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (recorded in Hampshire Co.), 3:297.

⁵⁶ 1790 US census, Cummington, Hampshire, Massachusetts, NARA microfilm series M637, roll 4, p. 131.

Ford/Tower/Beels/Wheeler/Hamlin group in Otsego Township, New York, with two males over 16, two males under 16 and four females in her household. No further record was found of her. Moses, Joseph, Noah and Nehemiah are presumed sons of this couple. There was a Joseph Ford living very near the group in 1790, and he was likely the Joseph of Cummington who married "Bersheba" Bates in Worthington, Massachusetts, on 10 Feb 1789.^[57] The 1800 census for Milford, New York, a part of Otsego Township in 1790, has Noah, Nehemiah, Moses and Jacob Ford as close or adjacent neighbors.^[58] Jacob Beals was also nearby, most likely their first cousin, presumably with his wife and mother Nabby (Beal) Beal.

Children of Joseph and Freelove (Beal) Ford:^[59]

- i. prob. MOSES FORD, b. abt. 8 December 1766^[60]
- ii. prob. JOSEPH FORD, prob. bap. 16 October 1768^[61]
- 12 iii. prob. NOAH FORD, b. say abt. 1770
- iv. daughter FORD?, b. say abt. 1772, living in mid 1790^[62]
- v. prob. NEHEMIAH FORD, b. say abt. 1773
- vi. SARAH FORD, b. say abt. 1775, bap. 12 September 1779^[63]
- vii. JACOB FORD, b. say abt. 1777, bap. 12 September 1779
- viii. MOLLY FORD, b. say abt. 1779, bap. 12 September 1779
- ix. ANNA FORD, bap. 29 May 1785

5. LYDIA⁶ BEAL (Abraham⁵⁻⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹) was born in Abington on 13 October 1748 and died probably in Java, Genesee (now Wyoming) County, New York after 14 December 1832.^[64] She married in Abington on 27 November 1766 MATTHEW TOWER,^[65] son of Matthew and Lydia (Wilder) Tower. He was born in Abington on 15 January 1746/7.^[66]

"July ye 17th [1768] Mathew Tower & Lydia his wife owned their Baptismal Covt."^[67] There is no record of this couple buying land in Cummington, but Matthew witnessed a deed there in

⁵⁷ MTRV, Cummington, image 166. Bashaba (evidently not Bathsbeba as is assumed) remarried to Joseph's brother Jacob. She is Bashaba in her father's will and she had a granddaughter with that name.

⁵⁸ 1800 US census, Milford, Otsego, New York, NARA microform series M32, roll 25, p. 618.

⁵⁹ Elizabeth (Cobb) Stewart, "Descendants of Andrew Ford of Weymouth, Mass.," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 119:255-6 and "Additions and Corrections," 137:42-4. Order based partly on the 1790 and 1800 censuses and the baptism records from the diary of William Packard (*Vital Records of Cummington, Massachusetts, 1762-1900* (1979), 26-27). For this article, Joseph's Abington baptism is posited, and the approximate birth dates are modified slightly.

⁶⁰ Moses Ford gravestone, Needham Family Cemetery, Eastview, Hardin Co., KY, gives a full birth date, photo at findagrave.com.

⁶¹ "FCA," no parents named, which isn't an anomaly in these records. He doesn't have an evident place in other Ford families living in Abington.

⁶² Freelove Ford household, 1790 US census (see note 31).

⁶³ The First Congregational Society in Cummington was organized in 1779. Joseph and Freelove probably joined shortly before 12 September, explaining the three simultaneous baptisms.

⁶⁴ Her deposition for David Hamlin's Revolutionary War Pension File application was on this date, see note 34. The Tower Genealogical Society bulletin says about 1837, see note 70.

⁶⁵ *VRA*, 2:25.

⁶⁶ *VRA*, 1:232.

⁶⁷ "FCA" has this 1768 bap. for Joseph, but the parents aren't named. None of the children are in the Abington birth records, nor is there an alternative Joseph with a birth about 1768 who could have been the one baptized on this date, leaving his identity debatable.

1772.^[68] He probably served in the Revolution in 1776 and 1777.^[69] Matthew and Jeremiah are listed as David and Lydia's sons in *Tower Genealogy. An account of the descendants of John Tower, of Hingham, Mass.*⁷⁰ A printed account of a Tower family reunion suggests "Jeremiah" was actually "Nehemiah."⁷¹ Lydia, presumably a widow, is enumerated in the 1790 census as part of the Ford/Tower/Beels/Wheeler/Hamlin group with one male over 16 and a female. The male was likely Nehemiah, who is in New York State tax lists for Otsego from 1799 to 1802.^[72] Lydia was plausibly the woman over 45 in Nehemiah's 1800 census enumeration for Milford, formerly a part of Otsego Township.^[73] The deposition in her brother-in-law David Hamlin's 1832 pension application says she was a resident of China (now Arcade) Township, New York. She was undoubtedly the woman aged 80-89 in her grandson Bela Tower's 1830 household in that town.^[74] She wasn't with Bela when he was enumerated in nearby Java Township in 1840.^[75] The Tower reunion account gives says she died about 1837, apparently based on oral history, and that she died in Java.

Children of Matthew and Lydia (Beals) Tower:

- i. MATTHEW TOWER, bap. 18 June 1768^[76]
- ii. prob. NEHEMIAH TOWER, b. abt. 1770-1774

9. JACOB⁶ BEAL(S) (Abraham⁵⁻⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹) was born in Abington on 20 May 1754 and may have died in Otsego township early in 1789. He very likely married in Abington on 7 October 1776 his first cousin 9. NABBY⁶ BEAL (Joshua⁵, Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹). She was born in Abington on 2 April 1758 and supposedly died in Hardin County, Kentucky, on 9 August 1829.^[77]

It was likely this Jacob who served in the Revolution from Hampshire County, Massachusetts, in 1777.^[78] He bought land in Township No. 5 in 1778.^[79] There is no record of it being sold. This family moved to Otsego Township, New York, by 1790 and were part of the

⁶⁸ MTRV, Cummington, p. 301.

⁶⁹ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, vol. 15 (Boston, MA: 1907), 897.

⁷⁰ *Tower Genealogy. An account of the descendants of John Tower, of Hingham, Mass* (Cambridge, MA: John Wilson & Son, University Press, 1891), 201

⁷¹ *Report of the John Tower Ter-Centenary Celebration and Tower Reunion at Hingham, Massachusetts* (1909), 12.

⁷² "New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804," Ancestry.com database online (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014), images of NYS Comptroller's Office series B0950. Matthew and Jeremiah are listed as David and Lydia's sons in *Tower Genealogy. An account of the descendants of John Tower, of Hingham, Mass* (Cambridge, MA: 1891), 201, but Jeremiah is thought to have been a mistake and should be Nehemiah.

⁷³ Nehemiah Tower household, 1800 US census, Milford, Otsego, New York, NARA microform publication M32, roll 25, p. 581.

⁷⁴ Bela Tower household, 1830 US census, China, Genesee, New York, NARA microform publication M19, roll 90, p. 154.

⁷⁵ Bela Tower household, 1840 US census, NARA microfilm series M704, roll 285, p. 117.

⁷⁶ "FCA."

⁷⁷ Claimed on the internet. This is plausible since several relatives were in Hardin County in 1820 and her nephew Moses Ford has an 1831 gravestone there. Censuses don't reveal an obvious woman of her age among these relatives. If daughter Betsey married and moved to KY, Nabby may have been living with her.

⁷⁸ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, vol. 1 (Boston: 1896), 856, served under Capt. Christopher Bannister, Col. Ezra May, who commanded in Hampshire Co.

⁷⁹ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (recorded in Hamden Co.), 16:140.

Ford/Tower/Beels/Wheeler/Hamlin group. The Nabby Beels household had four females and two males under 16. Nabby may have been the older woman in Jacob Beels's household in the 1800 census for Milford, New York, formerly a part of Otsego Township.^[80] Toward the end of the 18th century, the recorded surname for this family started to include a final "s." While Nabby was likely a nickname, she isn't found in any record referred to as Abigail.

Children of Jacob and Nabby (Beal) Beal(s) (Cummington baptisms):^[81]

- i. NABBY BEAL, b. abt. October 1779, bap. 25 June 1780, d. Coles County, Illinois, 12 Nov 1846.^[82] She m. 12. NOAH FORD, son of Joseph and Freelove (Beal) Ford, making him both her first and second cousin.
- ii. JACOB BEAL, bap. 25 June 1780
- iii. BETSEY BEAL, bap. 20 March 1783
- iv. CALEB LOUD BEAL, bap. 22 October 1786

7. REBECKAH⁶ BEAL (Abraham⁵, Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³, Jeremiah², John¹) was born in Weymouth on 1 January 1759 and died in Clarence, Erie County, New York, on 21 May 1835.^[83] She married supposedly on 1 January 1780 DAVID HAMBLIN/HAMLIN,^[84] evidently her first cousin, son of Isaac and Sarah (Shaw) Hamlin. He was born in Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, on 23 May 1752^[85] and died in Clarence about Summer 1838.^[86]

Based on what is posited in this article, David's brother Isaac's wife Molly Beal was Rebeckah's first cousin, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Leavitt) Beal. David served in the Revolution in from 1775 to 1777,^[87] and at the time he was living with the same family as Mathew and Lydia (Beal) Tower. No deed records were found to help place this family's move to New York State. He and his family were part of the Ford/Tower/Beels/Wheeler/Hamlin group in 1790. The Hamlin genealogy and his pension file say he was in Milford, Bloomfield and Honeoye, New York, before finally settling in Clarence. Census and tax records confirm this excepting Honeoye.^[88]

⁸⁰ See note 58.

⁸¹ *Vital Records of Cummington*,

⁸² gravestone, Old Beals Cemetery, Pleasant Grove Township, Coles Co., IL, "Naby," wife of Noah, age 67 years, 6 months, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 54773978.

⁸³ Gravestone, Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, NY, "Rebeckah, wife of David Hamlin," photo at findagrave.com, memorial 27797164, indexed as "Rebecka H. Beals Hamlin." Her age is missing due to damage. No transcriptions have been found for this cemetery.

⁸⁴ H. Franklin Andrews, *The Hamlin Family, a genealogy of James Hamlin of Barnstable, Massachusetts*, (Exira, IA: 1902), 183. No source given or found for this or their children's birthdates. Given the specificity of the information and the paucity of vital records in New York in the early 19th century, this may have been a source within the family, perhaps a Bible record.

⁸⁵ *Vital Records of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1850* (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1916), 130. Isaac Hamlin m. Sarah Shaw 23 Jan 1746/7, Abington (*VRA*, 2:192); Sarah Shaw b. 1 Oct 1726, Abington to Nicholas and Lydia () Shaw (*VRA*, 1:209).

⁸⁶ "U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815, 1818-1872," Ancestry.com database online, the last biannual payment was made in Sep 1838.

⁸⁷ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, vol. 7 (Boston, MA: 1900), 168.

⁸⁸ The 1790 census puts him in Otsego Township (see note 31) and the US tax assessment rolls for Suffrage in 1799 and Bloomfield in 1800-1802 ("New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804," Ancestry.com database online, Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014). Otsego was the parent town of Unadilla (created 1792), which was the parent town of Suffrage (1796-1800), which was then renamed Milford. David Hamlin household, 1800 US census, Bloomfield, Ontario, New York, NARA microfilm series M32, roll 28, p. 396. D. Hamblin household, 1810 US census, Clarence, Niagara, New York, NARA microfilm series M252,

Supposed children of David and Rebeckah (Beal) Hamblin/Hamlin:^[89]

- i. REBECCA HAMLIN, b. 2 January 1782
- ii. DAVID HAMLIN, b. 22 April 1783
- iii. NANCY HAMLIN, b. 9 October 1785
- iv. SIBA HAMLIN, b. 16 December 1789
- v. ALBIN HAMLIN, b. 21 March 1791
- vi. LENZEA HAMLIN, b. 24 August 1793
- vii. ORRA HAMLIN, b. 3 November 1796
- viii. ISAAC HAMLIN, b. 29 December 1800
- ix. SARAH HAMLIN, b. 3 September 1803

8. ELIZABETH⁶ BEAL (Joshua⁵, Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³, Jeremiah², John¹) was born in Hingham on 27 July 1752 and died in Richfield, Otsego County, New York, on 3 March 1807.^[90] She probably married in Township No. 5 (now Cummington) about 1778 DAVID CUNNINGHAM, son of John and Ann (Sinclear) Cunningham. He was born in Spencer, Worcester County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, on 6 June 1748^[91] and died in Richfield on 23 April 1818.^[92]

David bought land in Township No. 5 from his father in 1770. He served as a "Minute Man" in the Revolution in 1775-7.^[93] He sold the last of his accumulated land in Cummington in 1792⁹⁴ and moved to Richfield, New York, by 1799.^[95] David and Elizabeth have gravestones in Twilight Rest Cemetery, Richfield.^[96]

Children of David and Elizabeth (Beal) Cunningham:^[97]

- i. ELIZABETH CUNNINGHAM, b. 8 November 1779
- ii. ANNA CUNNINGHAM, b. 30 May 1781
- iii. HULDAH CUNNINGHAM, b. 28 November 1782
- iv. AZUBAH CUNNINGHAM, b. 31 August 1784
- v. JOHN CUNNINGHAM, b. 15 February 1786
- vi. DAVID CUNNINGHAM, b. abt. 1788
- vii. ABIGAIL CUNNINGHAM, b. abt. 1790

roll 29, p. 231. David Hamlin household, 1820 US census, Clarence, Niagara, New York, NARA microfilm series M33, roll M33 69, p. 128A.

⁸⁹ *The Hamlin Family*, 183. See note 77.

⁹⁰ gravestone in Twilight Rest (formerly Hillside) Cemetery, Richfield, NY, "Died March 3d 1807, in the 55th Year of her age," photo at findagrave.com, memorial 79365335.

⁹¹ *Vital records of Spencer, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849* (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1909), 34.

⁹² Twilight Rest Cemetery, Richfield, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 79364763.

⁹³ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution* vol. 4 (Boston, MA: 1898), 227, 230.

⁹⁴ Hampshire Co., MA, deeds (Hampshire registration), 4:387.

⁹⁵ Otsego Co., NY, deeds, E:518-519.

⁹⁶ Site visit by author.

⁹⁷ Elizabeth to John, Cummington Town Record Book, 206, images in MTRV, "Cummington, Town Meeting Minutes, with Births, Marriages, and Deaths," image 104. All the children are named in a family Bible (in the family of and accessed by the author) without birthdates.

viii. POLLY CUNNINGHAM, b. prob. December 1791^[98]

ix. SARAH CUNNINGHAM, b. abt. 1795

9. NABBY⁶ BEAL (Joshua⁵, Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹). See entry for 6. JACOB BEAL(S).

10. HULDAH⁶ BEAL (Joshua⁵, Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹) was born in Abington on 3 October 1761. She had marriage intentions recorded in Cummington on 29 May 1786 to TIMOTHY WHEELER of Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York. He was enumerated as part of the Ford/Tower/Beels/Wheeler/Hamlin group in the 1790 census of Otsego Township with a female and a male under 16. No further record was found for this couple.

11. BARZILLAI⁶ BEAL (Joshua⁵, Abraham⁴, Jeremiah³⁻², John¹) was born in Abington on 12 March 1764 and died in Boston Township, Norfolk County, Ontario, on 30 March 1837.^[99] He married probably in Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey, about 1795 MARGARET CORLIS. She was born about 3 March 1770 and died in Boston Township on 6 December 1842.^[100]

He signed his name "Barzillai."^[101] It can sometimes be found as "Barzilla" when recorded by others. Barzillai of Cummington was charged with the theft of a gray mare from David Campbell about January 1792. He was released on bail with his brother Comfort as surety and then fled Massachusetts. Comfort and brother-in-law David Cunningham were ordered to bring him to court. They couldn't, and Comfort was liable for all costs and damages. Barzillai went to Shrewsbury, New Jersey, where he and the Corlis family appear on tax lists.^[102] Barzillai and some Corlis in-laws were in Warren, Otsego County, New York, at least in 1799^[103] and then moved with the family of brother-in-law James Corlis to Canada, where they pioneered the Baptist settlement at Boston Township (now Townsend), Ontario, about 1804.^[104]

Supposed children of Barzillai and Margaret (Corlis) Beal:^[105]

i. JAMES BEAL, b. abt. 27 May 1796^[106]

⁹⁸ Polly Bloomfield gravestone, Bloomfield Cemetery, Warren, NY, d. age 74 years, 10 months. site visit by author. See also a poor photo at findagrave.com, memorial 169512117.

⁹⁹ Barzillai Beal gravestone in Boston Cemetery, Boston Township (now Townsend), Norfolk Co., Ontario, age 73 years, 19 days, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 69098238.

¹⁰⁰ Margaret Beal gravestone, Boston Cemetery, age 72 years, 9 months, 3 days, wife of Barzillai, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 68996117. Her maiden name is spelled by some as "Corlies," but her brother, for instance, signed his surname as "Corlis." See next note.

¹⁰¹ Norfolk Co., ON, deeds, A:412. A witness was James Corlis.

¹⁰² "Tax ratables, Monmouth Co., 1778-1822," familysearch.org database online, film # 865479.

¹⁰³ Barzilla Beals household, 1800 US census, Warren, Herkimer, New York; "New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804," ancestry.com database online.

¹⁰⁴ "Niagara Settlers" website, accessed May 2023, <https://sites.google.com/site/niagarasettlers/ontario-pioneers/settlers-b/ontario-pioneers-baumwart-to-best>.

¹⁰⁵ This list has been compiled and uploaded to various personal genealogy databases online, none with sources. No primary sources were found connecting these children to Barzillai, but secondary sources and geographic proximity make this list plausible. "Abt." is used before birthdates calculated from gravestones.

¹⁰⁶ James Beal gravestone, Boston Cemetery, d. 8 Jan 1870, age 74 years, 2 months, 5 days, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 68996114. No evidence was found to support the claim that his middle name was Corlies, which appears on the internet.

- ii. ELIZABETH BEAL, b. supp. 26 March 1798^[107]
- iii. LEVART BEAL, b. 13 January 1800^[108]
- iv. ANNA BEAL, b. supp. 23 March 1802^[109]
- v. MYNDART BEAL, b. abt. 21 July 1804^[110]
- vi. PETER BEAL, b. abt. 26 August 1806^[111]
- vii. BARZILLA BEAL, b. abt. 6 April 1809^[112]
- viii. MARGARET BEAL, b. abt. 6 August 1811^[113]
- ix. SARAH BEAL, b. abt. 1 June 1813^[114]

¹⁰⁷ John Cortland Crandall, *Elder John Crandall of Rhode Island and his Descendants* (1949), 221, gives her birth date and surname Beals. Elizabeth Crandall gravestone, St. George Baptist Cemetery, St. George, Brant Co., ON, d. 5 June 1843, age 43 years, 2 months, wife of Laben, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 37618180.

¹⁰⁸ Levart Beal gravestone, New Richmond Cemetery, New Richmond, St. Croix Co., WI, d. 19 Oct 1863, gives this birthdate, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 118878167. Levart was undoubtedly a phonetic variation of Leavitt and likely used to honor Elizabeth (Leavitt) Beal. See his marriage record (Levit Beel) and the 1851 Canadian census (Levatt Beel), ancestry.com. He had a nephew named Leavitt Scovell Camfield.

¹⁰⁹ Birth and death date probably come from a family Bible owned by Anna's husband Ziba William Camfield, referred to at <http://wajcgs.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Toms-Camfield-Journey.pdf>. Various records connect Ziba with Anna/"Nancy" Beals. For instance, see Matilda Smith's State of Michigan death certificate, dau. of Z. W. Camfield and Anna Beals, "Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952," ancestry.com database online.

¹¹⁰ Myndart Beal gravestone, East Berlin Cemetery, Berlin, Monroe Co., MI, d. 18 Feb 1887, MI, age 82 years, 7 months, 27 days, photo of findagrave.com, memorial 3667619. Myndant Beal death record, same information, but 28 days, b. Canada, "Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952."

¹¹¹ Peter Beal gravestone, Boston Cemetery, d. 17 Dec 1880, age 74 years, 3 months, 21 days, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 68996122. Death record confirms date, age 72, "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1948," ancestry.com database online.

¹¹² Barzilla Beal gravestone, 17 Oct 1878, Boston Cemetery, age 69 years, 6 months, 9 days, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 68996106. Death record confirms date, age 70, "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1948."

¹¹³ Margaret Masecar gravestone, Rockford United Cemetery, Rockford, Norfolk Co., ON, d. 14 June 1869 age 58 years?, 10 months, 8 days, wife of Abraham Masecar, photo at findagrave.com, memorial 64368279. Abraham "Messacar" and Margaret Beal marriage mentioned in Egbert Americus Owen, *Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement* (Toronto: William Briggs, 1898), 482.

¹¹⁴ Sarah Cole gravestone, Hartford Baptist Church Cemetery, Hartford, Norfolk Co., ON, d. 9 Mar 1845, age 32 years, 2 months, 3 years, wife of Jacob Cole, transcription at interment.net based on a field survey.