

Estabrooks of Concord

There were two unrelated families of Estabrooks in Concord. One family starts in Concord with the Reverend Joseph Estabrook, who came from England as a boy, went to Harvard, and was ordained as a reverend in 1667. The Reverend Joseph Estabrook was minister of the First Parish of Concord, and had many Estabrook relatives in Lexington as well. The Reverend Estabrook lived near the Concord Meeting House. He is unrelated to the Estabrook Woods. He died in 1711.

The other family, that Estabrook Woods is named after, descends from Thomas Estabrook (Born in 1658 in England). This family flourished in Concord from around 1680 to around 1800, when the name disappears from the Town records.

Some confusion is present in historical narratives, because the Reverend Joseph Estabrook had a brother named Thomas, who is not the same Thomas Estabrook of Concord. The reverend's brother Thomas resided in Swansea, later part of Warren, Rhode Island. This coincidence of names causes many written histories to incorrectly describe Thomas and Joseph of Concord as brothers, but they are not.

Thomas Estabrook

Carlisle records refer to Thomas Estabrook as a weaver by trade. He married Sarah Temple of Concord in 1683. He was married in the First Parish by Reverend Joseph Estabrook. Some of the progeny of Thomas Estabrook resided in Concord for at least 3 generations. Some of the later generations lived in what is now Carlisle, and the family tree is recorded in Carlisle archives.

Thomas Estabrook had a son named Thomas (referred to here as Thomas II) in 1685, and he in turn had a son named Thomas (referred to as Thomas III) in 1713. For a time, all three lived in Concord. This creates some confusion regarding references to "Thomas Estabrook".

According to Lapham, in 1688 Richard Temple gave his daughter (Thomas Estabrook's wife) 53 acres of land on the west side of Spencer's Brook bounded west by Nashoba Path. In 1717 Thomas Estabrook passed this land to his son Thomas II, land now described as "on both sides of a path that leads to towns new grant, including Strawberry Meadow". This would be in the area now known as "Strawberry Hill Road".

Prior to 1712, Thomas Estabrook lived near the Concord River on land near Richard and Abraham Temple. There is no evidence for him owning land in or living in the Estabrook Woods.

We know that a later 1756 Map of that area does not show an Estabrook family in the area of Barretts Mill Rd. Thomas Estabrook I passes away in 1720.

Another Concord reference to Thomas Estabrook was in 1705 when the town "agreed with J Hunt to keep a town cow that came from Thomas Estabrookes (sic) for one year".

By 1724 Thomas II and his brother Abraham owned 7 and 18 acres, respectively, in the North Quarter.

Abraham

Abraham was Thomas Estabrook's son, and brother of Thomas Estabrook II. His father gave him 6-7 acres of land, with a dwelling house, said to be between a "common road" and the "North River", most

likely near what is now Barretts Mill Rd. In 1724, he sold those properties to Benjamin Temple, and around that time appears to have acquired property along Groton Rd. By 1724, assessor lists show Abraham owning 18 acres. By 1729 Abraham died young at 39, leaving his widow and only female children, many of whom also died young. His widow, Martha, kept her home in the North Quarter; however, in 1776, Martha Estabrook sold 36 acres on the west side of Groton road (Lowell Rd) along Spencer brook to Jacob Brown, along with a small 4 acre parcel on the east side. In 1777, Martha acquires a large farm in Ashby, and after this time, the Abraham Estabrook line disappears from Concord.

Thomas II and Thomas III leave Concord

Sometime around 1738, a number of Concord families moved to Dunstable, which was a newly growing community recently relieved of Native American Conflicts. One of those families was the family of Thomas Estabrook II. Thomas II and two of his sons, Thomas III and Moses, are recorded on lists of inhabitants of Dunstable in 1744 and 1762. Thomas disappears from Concord assessors records around 1738. Thomas II's wife Elizabeth died in Dunstable in 1743. Thomas II sold his home near Chandler, Temple, and Benjamin Barrett, most likely on what is now Strawberry Hill Rd, to Stephen Wheeler in 1733. From this it is certain that Thomas II and some of his family moved away to Dunstable around 1738.

With the passing of Thomas I in 1720, there are no more Estabrooks named Thomas in Concord after about 1738.

Samuel Estabrook

Two of Thomas II's sons, Robert and Samuel, did not move with the family and remained in Concord. They both have small land holdings in the North Quarter beginning around 1742 when their father leaves the town. In 1747, Samuel sold a farm to Nathaniel Taylor. Curiously, by 1754, neither Robert nor Samuel have a home located on either the 1754 map of the North Quarter of Concord or the 1754 map of the proposed district of Carlisle. However, they are both said to have lived in Carlisle.

We know from the research of historian Donald Lapham that around 1740 Samuel lived in what is now Carlisle on a road now called School Street, which is a road that can be reached by passing through the Estabrook Woods north into Carlisle. We also know that Samuel did sell some lands to a Mr Green, lands which are near the north of the Estabrook Woods in Carlisle. However, by 1756 Samuel Estabrook had sold his home and moved away.

Robert Estabrook

Robert, the other Concord son of Thomas II, lived to age 97 and is found in the assessors records until at least 1766. He increased his landholdings from 5 acres to around 20 acres in 1756. In 1758, he acquired from Ephraim Brown a property just to the east and north of Bateman's pond (near the current location of the Middlesex School fields) which had a home on it. It appears that he passed this property to his daughter Rebecca, who later married Paul Adams and their home on that site was known as "The Paul Adams Place".

Naming of Estabrook Woods

The naming of the Estabrook Woods is said to have originated with Thoreau, who in his journals referred to the woods as "Esterbrook's Country". While there is no evidence that Thoreau knew any Estabrooks, we know he learned of from old farmer Brooks Clark that the Estabrook's once lived up the trail beyond Brooks Clark's house. By Thoreau's time there were had been no male Estabrooks in Concord for over

25 years. However, Rebecca Estabrook, the great granddaughter of Thomas I, lived in the Woods at the Paul Adams Place until sometime around 1830, so her family knowledge should have informed the local inhabitants.

By the time of Thoreau, Samuel Estabrook's home north of the Estabrook Woods was just an old cellar hole, and Brooks Clark could have been referring to that location when he spoke to Thoreau of the trail as leading to the Estabrooks. There was also some land in the Woods that had belonged to Robert Estabrook, that was to the west of the Trail (does not seem to have abutted the trail) that the Trail could have been used to access.

The popular story is that Thomas Estabrook lived at the location the old cellar hole on the west side of the Estabrook Trail, on lands now part of Harvard's Estabrook Woods nature preserve. This cellar hole is still visible today. Around 1850, both Thoreau and Ellery Channing describe that site as being long abandoned, with trees growing out of an old cellar hole. The dates of occupancy of that old cellar hole remain uncertain. The official 1794 Map of Concord does not show the Estabrook Trail at all. The first map showing the Trail at all is an 1830 map of Concord, and that map does not show any home at the Estabrook Trail site.

Despite the widely accepted belief that Thomas Estabrook lived where the old cellar hole is on the Estabrook Trail, there do not seem to be any actual town records supporting this notion. We do know a 1756 Map of that area does not show an Estabrook family in the North Quarter.

By around 1738 there were no more Estabrooks in Concord by the name Thomas, which limits the possible date range of occupancy of the Estabrook Road cellar hole by a Thomas Estabrook to prior to 1738, which could have meant either Thomas I or Thomas II were proprietors of the property. However, there are no documents specifically linking Thomas Estabrook to the old homestead on the trail.

Although there is no clear evidence of Thomas Estabrook living on the Estabrook Trail, we do know that his great-granddaughter Rebecca Estabrook did live in the Estabrook Woods, married to Paul Adams and residing at the property she inherited from her father at their home near Bateman's Pond in 1800 and for some time thereafter. Furthermore, Rebecca's sister Thankful married into the Green family and lived just north of the eastern part of Estabrook Woods. Rebecca's residence in the woods, combined with her uncle Samuel Estabrook's residence in Carlisle north of the woods, remain the justification for the Woods being named after Estabrook. This despite the fact that the Estabrook Family were owners of only very small parcels within the Estabrook Woods. The origin, owner, and dates of occupancy of the old cellar hole on the Estabrook Trail remain uncertain.

Thomas Estabrook of Concord

Generation 1-3

Thomas I B 1658 in England d 1720 in Concord

Wife Sarah Temple of Concord m 1683 d 1726

Thomas II b 1685

Wife Elizabeth Parker m 1707 (by rev Joseph Estabrook)

Moved to Dunstable before 1743 with son Thomas III

Joel b 1708 d 1708

Sarah b 1709

Samuel b 1710
Thomas III b 1713
Robert b 1715
Abraham b 1718
Moses b 1723
Joseph b 1726
Abraham b ca 1690 (no record, presumed of Thomas)
Wife Martha
No male heirs

Generation 3: Thomas Estabrook III line

Thomas III B 1713
Moved to Dunstable before 1744
Wife Prudence M 1743
Benjamin b 1744 (in Dunstable) d 1813 resided in Dunstable
Wife Sarah Heald
Joel b 1748 (in Westford) soldier in revolution for Dunstable
Josiah b 1751 (in Dunstable)

Generation 3: Robert Estabrook Line

Robert b 1715 d 1812 (d in Concord)
Resided in Carlisle (?); location unknown
Last living Estabrook in Concord when he died
Wife Olive Townsend m 1743 by Rev Bliss d 1760 d 1760
Abraham b 1744 removed to Vermont
Olive b 1745
Sarah b 1748
John b 1750 resided in Westminster
Wife Elizabeth Clark b 1757 d 1809
John b 1790 d 1801
Elizabeth b 1792
Husband Samuel Buttrick m 1817
Rebecca b 1795
Abigail b 1797
Jonathan b 1753 removed to Vermont ca 1778
Wife Mary Flagg m 1781
Hannah b 1755
Thankful b 1759
Husband Leonard Green
Resided in what is now Carlisle, Baldwin Road
James
Elizabeth
Thomas
Olive
Wife Susanna Flagg m 1762 d 1802
Susanna b 1765 (twin)
Husband Ephraim Brooks of Lincoln
Betty b 1765 (twin) d 1845 (single)

Rebecca b 1767 d 1838
Husband Hugh Cargill m 1798 d 1800
Husband Paul Adams m 1801
Resided at Paul Adams Place, Estabrook Woods
Rebecca b 1801
Eliza b 1803
Almira b 1804
Lydia b 1809
Twin sons d 1805 3 weeks old
Husband John Heald m 1818

Generation 3: Samuel Estabrook Line

Samuel b 1710 Concord
Resided in what is now Carlisle, School Street
Sold a farm (on School St) to Nathaniel Taylor
Sold land at north end of Estabrook Woods in Carlisle to Green
Wife Huldah m 1738
Elijah b 1744
Samuel b 1747 d 1816, resided in W Boylston
Huldah b 1749
Mary b 1750
Hezabeth b 1753
Phebe b 1755

Generation 3: Joseph Estabrook Line

Joseph b 1726
Wife Lydia Wheat m 1747

Generation 2: Abraham Estabrook Line

Abraham b ca 1690 d 1729
Wife Martha (sold land in 1776)
Martha b 1718
Mary b 1719 d 1727
Zerviah b 1721 d 1736
Hanah b 1724 d 1753
Huldah b 1726
Mary b 1728 d 1736

Unknown

Lovel b 1794 d 1826
Wife Mary Ann b 1804 d 1825

Joseph Estabrook of Concord

Generation 1

Joseph Estabrook

Wife Mary

Joseph b 1667

Benjamin b 1670

Mary b 1672

Samuel b 1674

Ann b 1677

Joseph

Wife Millicent d 1692

Joseph b 1690

Thomas Estabrook of Swansea

Note: this is said to be the brother of Rev Joseph Estabrook of Concord

Some histories incorrectly mention Thomas Estabrook of Concord as the brother of Joseph

Generation 1

Thomas I of Swansea

B 1643 enfield England

Emigrate 1660 via Swansea

Brother of Rev Joseph Estabrook of Concord

M 1663 Sarah Woodcock (Concord?)

Made inhabitant of Swansea 1666

Living in Swansea 1669, that part of Swansea became Warren RI

Selectman Swansea 1681

D 1713 Warren RI

Generation 2

Thomas II of Swansea

B 1670 Swansea

M 1692 Mary Luther b 1668 Rehoboth

M 1707 Elizabeth Thurber b1678 Swansea

D 1724 Boston

Generation 3

Thomas III of Swansea

B 1692 Swansea (by Mary)

M a1710 Joanna Wood at Swansea

D Warren RI 1720?