

THE GROVERS
OF
ENGLAND, THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY AND YORK MAINE

by
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INTRODUCTION

Young men and women should be inquisitive as to their roots. All too frequently, by the time they wish to know more of their forebears, the information that could have been so readily supplied by relatives, but was never recorded, is no longer attainable. Such was the case when I became interested in learning more about my ancestors; who they were, from whence they came, where they lived, and what were their occupations.

Although it is well known that Grovers have resided in York, Maine and particularly in the Beech Ridge section of the town since late in the 17th century, all too little was recorded with regard to members of the clan until the start of the 19th century. I, therefore, from Town of York records and the published endeavors of those who have preceded me in this search, have attempted to establish a thread of continuity relating to successive generations of Grovers from whom I am descended.

Admittedly, my labor has been amateurish for I lack the deep interest in geneology as a hobby that would stimulate me to delve thoroughly into the subject. Nevertheless, I hope that in the following text I have succeeded in sating, at least partially, my own curiosity and have established a starting point from which other members of my family, now or in the future, may trace their ancestry in a more professional and complete fashion.

In obtaining the information that follows, I am indebted to Margaret Joerger Hodgson who researched her line of descendency, first to York, then to Woolwich and Wiscasset, and finally to California, reporting her findings in The Grover Family in England, America and California.

Further, I am indebted to Forbes Kingsbury Wilson for information which he published in The York Weekly tracing the early history of York through his ancestors, the Kingsbury family. Mr. Wilson's grandmother, Mary (Grover) Kingsbury, was a younger sister of my great grandfather.

Credit is also due the late George Ernst, author of New England Miniature, a History of York, Maine, who attempted to identify generations of Grovers in the 1700's, albeit quite unsuccessfully. His frustration in this endeavor is evidenced when he wrote "---there would appear to be little of special interest in the Grover family. They would appear to have been a succession of farmers until the Kittery Navy Yard offered

a change of employment. No sailors or woodsmen or merchants or professional men have been noticed.

"--- Here is an example of the value of family records and letters that may someday give light on Beech Ridge history. Surely somewhere papers have been saved, papers, which likely mean little or nothing to the possessors ----."¹

With respect to the former statement, Mr. Ernst may have overlooked the fact that members of our family served with honor in the American Revolution and later conflicts, and that John Grover (1802-1888) was for more than fifty years a sea captain. His son, Henry (1828-1913), was a major building contractor in the York-Eliot-Kittery area and a grandson, Charles (1863-1953), operated a general store on Beech Ridge which served the needs of residents of the Beech Ridge, Scotland, Brixham and Frost Hill sections of York for more than a half century. Charles Grover was also prominent in supplying York Harbor's thriving summer colony with fresh produce and dairy products around the turn of the century. Descendants of John Grover who are still living have brought honor to their name as educators, engineers and in the fields of banking and business.

I doubt that many Grovers, if any, were prominent as farmers. It is more likely that they, like most property owners in their time, farmed mainly for subsistence and as an adjunct to their chosen occupation. With reference to occupation, down through the generations the carpenter trade appears to prevail over other lines of endeavor among members of the Grover clan. I suspect that our ancestors were neither famous nor infamous, but simply honest, hard working, respected citizens in the community. True, no statesmen nor professionals stand out among them, but neither have any rogues been uncovered.

With reference to Mr. Ernst's suggestion that letters and papers may have been saved that might add to our knowledge of our ancestry, I doubt that any such materials are in Grover hands. They might be, however, in the attics of persons who descend from the Grovers but have different surnames. The names, Blaisdell, Sargent, Rhodes and Shepherd are among those that come to mind.

1/ from material on file with the York Historical Society.

THE GROVERS OF ENGLAND

"The name Grover is not widely spread in England.¹ Our line of Grovers arose at Chesham, Buckinghamshire. The first recorded Grover was Thomas of Chartridge, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. The name comes from the old English word 'greave', which was a woodland path cut through a thick forest to make hunting easier. The first Grover was 'Greaver' or one who cut a greave and had his cottage at the beginning of a greave. Later, the 'grovers' cultivated fruit trees (mainly apples). Chesham, England is known as a fruit growing area.

- I "Thomas Grover of Chartridge, Chesham, Buckinghamshire was born about 1514. He married Elizabeth (last name
 II unknown) about 1542. Their son, Stephen, was born about
 1543 at Chesham, Bucks. Stephen married Elizabeth of Chelsea
 III on November 17, 1566. Lazarus, their son, was christened
 February 2, 1575. He married Godgrace King at London.
 They settled in Hertfordshire, which is directly north of
 London and is noted for its numerous gardens and orchards.
 Lazarus Grover was buried in March, 1648 at Aldenham, Hert-
 IV fordshire. His son, Thomas, was born at Chesham, Bucks."²

- I THOMAS Grover, Chartridge, Chesham, Buckinghamshire
 b. About 1514 d. January, 1579
 m. Elizabeth (last name unknown) (1516-1598) at
 Chesham, Bucks. in 1542.
 c. Stephen, (about 1543-1617)
- II STEPHEN, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth, Chesham, Bucks.
 b. About 1543 d. April 3, 1617
 m. Elizabeth Chase (1547-1579) of Chesham in 1566.
 c. Lazarus, (christened 1575, died 1648)
- III LAZARUS, a son of Stephen and Elizabeth, Chesham, Bucks.
 b. Christened February 2, 1575 d. March 22, 1648
 born in Chesham; buried in Aldenham, Hertford-
 shire.
 m. Godgrace King (1590-1641) (born in Chesham) on
 December 12, 1611 at London.
 c. Thomas, (christened 1615, died 1661)
- IV THOMAS, the first of our family to emigrate to America.

1/ While traveling in England I have observed that the name Grover appears in phone books only slightly more frequently than in the United States.

2/ Quoted from Margaret Joerger Hodgson.

THE GROVERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

I Thomas Grover, the first of the line to come to America, was christened at Chesham, Bucks. November 26, 1615. He may have accompanied Governor Winthrop, but there being no record of this, possibly arrived a few years later, but no later than 1640. If Thomas was with the Winthrop group in 1630, he would have been 15 years of age. Mrs. Hodgson notes that "it was the custom in those days to apprentice the young boys in order for them to learn a trade. Possibly he was a carpenter's apprentice." The Winthrop party first settled in Charlestown and it is reported that Thomas Grover resided on the Malden side of the town. Many members of this early group soon moved across the Charles River to establish Boston, where the fresh water supply was of better quality.

About 1640, at age 25, Thomas married Elizabeth (last name unknown). They became the parents of nine children. In 1643, Elizabeth was recorded as being admitted to the Church and was described as 'ould goodwife Grover'. Twenty three years of age at the time, she had borne only two of her nine children.

II According to Mrs. Hodgson's research, Elizabeth's second child, Thomas, was born in Charlestown on April 1, 1643. His brothers and sisters were: Lazarus, Grace, Andrew, Elizabeth, Simon, Matthew, John and Stephen. Their father died October 28, 1661 when he was only forty six years old, leaving his widow with eight children, the older daughter, Grace, having died in October, 1658. Further tragedy struck the family in the spring of 1674 as will be discussed below. In April, 1675 Elizabeth remarried, this time to Thomas (or Philip) Atwood.

Thomas Grover (1643-1711), the second son of Thomas and Elizabeth, married Sarah Chadwick, the daughter of John Chadwick of Watertown, Massachusetts on May 23, 1668 in Malden. By occupation, he was a carpenter-housewright.

III The couple had seven children, Thomas, Sarah, John, Andrew, Matthew, Mary and Samuel.

Joel P. Grover of Inglewood, California, a descendent of Thomas' younger brother, Matthew, writes the following report.

"Probate and court records at Malden show that Thomas Grover (1643-1711) made his home in Malden. After a short and unsuccessful attempt, together with several brothers and other relatives, at settling the 'Quansigamond Plantation Area' near what are now Grafton and Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1674-1675, they were driven out by the Indians at the beginning of King Philips War of 1675-1676.

"Returning to Malden, Thomas became a builder of homes (cabins), barns and outbuildings in the Charlestown-Malden-Reading area, often finding it necessary to take the buyer to court to recover some of the money due him from this construction work on their homes and property".

Mrs. Hodgson speculates, and probably correctly, that the deaths of John (1656-1674), Elizabeth (1652-1674), Andrew (1649-1674), and Andrew's bride of three months, Hannah, all in the spring of 1674, were caused by an epidemic. Recalling comment about much of Governor Winthrop's group moving to Boston for its better fresh water supply, she wonders if Typhoid Fever may have been the disease that wiped out so many of the family members, then living in Charlestown. Thomas, his young family, and his surviving brothers may have avoided the epidemic by virtue of having been at the Quansigamond Plantation at the time.

Old property records show that the Grover home was located where the present streets, Bow, Main and Prescott adjoined the Navy Yard.

I THOMAS, a son of Lazarus and Godgrace, and the first to emigrate to America.

- b. November 26, 1615 d. October 28, 1661
- m. Elizabeth in 1640, (last name unknown) (1620-1676)
(born in England).
- c. Lazarus (April 5, 1642-?)
Thomas, (April 1, 1643-1711)
Grace, (about 1645-1648)
Andrew, (1649-April, 1674)
Elizabeth, (1652-March, 1674)
Simon, (1654-1717)
Matthew, (1655-1679)
John, (1656-February, 1674)
Stephen, (1658-1694)

II THOMAS, the second son of Thomas and Elizabeth.

- b. 1643 d. 1711 in Malden, Mass.
- m. Sarah Chadwick (1650-after 1722), daughter of John Chadwick of Watertown, Mass. on May 23, 1668 in Malden.
- c. Thomas, (1669-?)
Sarah, (1670-before 1710)
John, (1672-1674)
Andrew, (1673-1753)
Matthew, (1675-?)
Mary, (about 1677-1748)
Samuel, (about 1680-1748)

III ANDREW, The fourth child of Thomas and Sarah

THE GROVERS OF YORK AND BEECH RIDGE

I Andrew Grover, born at the Quansigamond Plantation in 1673, was the first of the line to arrive in York.

About 1696, when Andrew was 22, he went to York, Maine. We can assume that he was a soldier in the British Army, a member of the detachment sent to York after the Indian Massacre of 1692. It would appear that he was billeted in the home of James Freethy who was taken away during the massacre and never returned. If this is the case, he lived with James' wife, Mary (Milberry) Freethy, and her daughters, Mary and Hannah. In 1697 Andrew and the daughter, Mary, were married.

In 1699 Andrew was granted 20 acres of land "wherever he can find it". It is assumed that this was reward for his service to the Crown. The land he chose was "above Brixham near the Huckleberry Plain", and that is where he and Mary resided until 1712. The land has been identified as being located at the northwest branch of the York River in the area known as Birch Hill and close to both the Frost and McIntire garrisons. It is mere coincidence that a descendent of Andrew's, Edward Grover, Jr., built his home at this location almost three centuries later.

About 1702 Andrew was joined by his brother Matthew, who married Mary's younger sister, Hannah. It was determined by Mrs. Hodgson that they had eleven children, eight girls and three boys, but she was unable to locate any geneology of their descent.

In 1707, Andrew, along with James Allen, his brother, Matthew, Elihu Parsons and Robert Gray purchased 570 acres of property in the Beech Ridge section of York. It was on this land near Old Mill Creek (a branch of the York River) that Andrew built a home and resided the remainder of his life.

It would appear that Andrew was a respected and active member of the community. "He was Surveyor of Highways" in 1718. In 1720, a schoolhouse was built at the lower end of town, and school was kept for six months at this far away location. The school near the Andrew Grovers was kept for only three months. There was only one schoolmaster for both schools. 'A. Grover' was among those signing a protest for his children were deprived of schooling under this arrangement. In 1726 he was recorded as Constable and also a 'tithing man' in the Church."²

In 1760 the property was acquired by Jonathan Sayward, a prominent merchant, who enlarged the Grover homestead and presented the property to his daughter and her husband, Nathaniel Barrell. It has been reported that the original

- 1/ Margaret Joerger Hodgson
- 2/ Margaret Joerger Hodgson

REF. TO 1ST PARAGRAPH -
PART OF THE FREETHY FAMILY
ARE BURIED ON CIDER HILL
BEHIND CARROLL BLAISDELL'S HOUSE
BESIDE THE CREEK

570 acres were acquired, after foreclosures on mortgages, chiefly on the Grovers. This is not surprising, for it was the custom in those days for families to run accounts with merchants for purchases that had to be met with cash. All too frequently, expenditures, over time, exceeded anticipated income.

Andrew and Mary had eight children, James, (1703-1730),
 II John, (1704-?), Thomas (1710-1721), Benjamin, (1712-?),
 Mehitable (1714-1789), Matthew (1717-?), Andrew (1720-1722)
 and Samuel (1724-?).

II John Grover (1704-?) was the first member of our line to have been born in York. Beginning with him and continuing through three successive generations, only a dearth of information has come to light. Marriages and records of births constitute the sole documentation that these ancestors of ours existed. I have discovered nothing at all as to precisely where they resided, what they did for employment, and where their mortal remains were interred. It can only be assumed that they did live on Beech Ridge or in the general area of York. It seems strange indeed that so little is known of them.

The second son of Andrew and Mary, in 1729 John Grover married Sarah Blaisdell (1713-before 1739), a daughter of Ebenezer Blaisdell of York. They had five children, Sarah, born in 1730 and James, born in 1732, both of whom died young but no dates are given. Andrew was born in 1734, no death date. Two other children, Daniel and John, probably died in infancy since no dates are given.

In 1739 John remarried, this time to Charity (Rhodes) Cross, no age given, a daughter of Miles Rhodes, possibly of Arundel. It appears, therefore, that Sarah (Blaisdell) died shortly after the birth of her fifth child. Charity, it can be surmised, was a widow of _____ Cross at the time of her marriage to John Grover.

John and Charity had four children, Simon (1740-?),
 III John (1743-?), Sarah (1747-?) and Daniel (1751-1817).

III John Grover, the second son of John and Charity, married Patience Rhodes, a daughter of Miles Rhodes, Jr. of Arundel in 1763. The couple had three children, Dorca (1764-?),

IV Rhoda (1766-?) and Andrew (probably born about 1768).

Town records show that (widow) Patience Rhodes married William Tetherly, Jr. November 29, 1787. Thus it appears that John died between the time when Andrew was born and 1787, when his widow remarried. A curious, but perhaps not uncommon circumstance in the 18th century, is that John and Patience, according to marriage records, appear to have been cousins.

IV Andrew Grover, the only known son of John and Patience, probably was born about 1768. He married Olive Blaisdell, presumably of York, age unknown, in 1801. Their only
 V recorded child, John, was born in January, 1802.

Perhaps Olive died in child birth, although there is no record to that effect. At any rate, Andrew remarried in 1815, this time to Rhoda Shepherd (perhaps of the Spruce Creek section of Kittery) (age unknown). No children were recorded from this marriage.

In 1821 Andrew married for a third time. He and Eleanor Sargent (1783-?) had a daughter, Rhoda I. (1829-1916). Marriage, rather than birth records, best define the Andrew Grover years. The 1880 census lists Eleanor Grover as living with John Grover (born 1802) and Abigail Grover (born 1804). This does not mean that Eleanor was the mother of John. It would not have been unusual for a stepson and his wife to take in the widow of his father in her twilight years. If the dates given in the above account are correct, Eleanor (Sargent) Grover lived a full life since she would have been 97 years of age in 1880. Possible? Yes, her daughter lived to be 87.

V Beginning with John Grover, the only recorded son of Andrew and Olive, our line is well recorded and easy to trace.

Born in 1802, he married Abigail Moulton, daughter of Joseph Moulton, Jr. of York. They had five children,
 VI Henry, (1828-1913), Adeline (1831-?), Matilda (1838-1881), Lydia Emeline (1843-?) and Mary E. (1850-1893).

My great great grandfather was quite possibly the most colorful character in the Grover line of succession. Quoting Forbes K. Wilson, "John Grover at the age of 15, left home to follow the sea. By the time he was 22 he was first mate on a clipper ship returning to Boston in late February from a trading cruise to the Caribbean area. In a severe storm off Hatteras, the skipper and three crew members were washed overboard.

"Young Grover became the captain and sailed his ship into Boston Harbor. His arrival received considerable notice in the local press. The ship was described as being almost encased in ice with several yards missing and many sails damaged. The young skipper was greeted as a hero.

"John Grover followed the sea for the next 50 years, taking ships out of Newburyport with a mixed cargo of salt fish, cotton goods and the usual trade trinkets which appealed to people in the islands and in South America. The trading started in the Caribbean area, continued along the east coast of South America, through the Straits of Magellan and up the west coast to Valpariso, Chile.

"He would return to New England two years later with a cargo consisting mainly of rum and molasses. His wife, Abigail, accompanied him on some of these long voyages.

"My mother was born on the Grover farm and lived there until the death of John Grover, her grandfather. As a little girl she was fascinated by the tall old man with a long white beard.

"He kept a stock of good cider in the cellar and when he went down the cellar stairs to sample the product, he always turned around and went down backward as he had done for most of his life on ship ladderways."

- VI Henry Grover, the first child and only son of John and Abigail, was born on Beech Ridge in 1828 and died there in 1913. In 1853 he married Esther Bowden (1835-1911), a daughter of Oliver Bowden of York. They had seven children, Almira G. (1854-1948), John W. (1855-1888), VII Charlotte (1862-1932), Charles E. (1863-1953), Abel H. (1865-1938), George H. (1870-1939) and Josephine Gertrude (1873-?).

My great grandfather was one of York's leading housewrights. In 1882 he contracted to turn the First Parish Church in York Village 90° to its present location. The job included an extensive remodeling of the structure and, I think, construction of its steeple. It is said that he made it a policy to never quite complete a building project. In that way, the customer always called him back to put on the finishing touches, at which time he would frequently be hired to do additional work.

In Henry Grover's time, little construction was done outdoors during the winter months. In the course of one such winter, my great grandfather built a boat of some size inside his workshop. When completed, it was too large to move through the door. Therefore, he removed a gable end from the building, exited the boat and then replaced the end of the building.

When I was a small boy, my cousins, Muriel and Edward Grover, Jr., grandchildren of George (1870-1939), lived in the Grover home. I was particularly fond of playing with them in the shop and marveling at the many carpentry tools, to a great degree the same as our great grandfather had left them almost a score of years earlier. In new home construction, it was apparently the practice years ago to fashion the trim, both interior and exterior, a little different on each house constructed. This required the forging of planer blades that would give a unique design to the trim on each home that was built. Henry Grover's shop contained dozens of wood planes and an array of blades, each labeled with the name of the home, the trim of which it had fashioned. I have one of my great grandfather's planes and use it for a bookend.

My father remembered Henry as a stern individual who never had to scold a child. One look was sufficient to bring about good behavior. I have a photograph of the old man with his full beard and piercing eyes, a formidable sight, I am sure, to a youngster.

I believe that my great grandfather was a founder of what is now the Beech Ridge Christian Church and it is probable that he was the builder, or at least one of the builders of the church itself. Following the Sunday service, I am told, the pastor would usually accompany Deacon Henry home for dinner. Before dining, Henry would repair to the cellar, where he would draw a pitcher of cider to sooth the parson's tonsils and, I suppose, relax him. A sad commentary is that my great grandmother, busying herself all morning preparing the Sunday meal, was seldom able to attend the services.

Ahead of his time in some respects, Henry Grover was of the belief that men should take vacations. Unfortunately, it was a concept that he did not extend to other members of his family. His idea of relaxation was to sign aboard a fishing schooner and spend a couple weeks at sea as a working fisherman. Probably his love for the sea was inherited from his father and when a boy, he may indeed have accompanied Captain Grover on one of his voyages.

VII Abel Henry Grover, the fifth child and third son of Henry and Esther, was born in 1865 at the Grover home on Beech Ridge and died in 1938 in York's Scituate District. In 1894 he married Julia M. Woodward (1869-1946) a daughter of William Henry Woodward of York's Scituate District.

VIII Abel and Julia had three children, William Henry (1896-1976), Margharita E. (1898-1981) and Albert Dennison (1905-1992). They also raised a stepson, Ulric Dennison Woodward (1889-1985).

Although my grandfather was born severely handicapped with extremely poor eyesight, he was never fitted to eye glasses until he attained manhood. My Great Uncle Charles (1863-1953) once told me that when they were boys, his father would have him and his brother John accompany him on construction jobs to learn the carpenter trade, but would leave my grandfather at home to do the barn chores because "we didn't think that Abe could do anything." Evidently, his father did not realize, or more likely, was unwilling to acknowledge that the poor lad had such poor vision. Once he was grown and on his own, my grandfather purchased spectacles. Henceforth, he was able to pursue a reasonably normal life style. Nevertheless, the problem was never fully corrected. I remember that the lenses of his glasses were as "thick as the bottoms of coke bottles".

I am convinced that it was due to this handicap that

my grandfather never learned a trade. Although he was known as a responsible, hard working individual, he spent much of his life as a laborer. How different his life might have been had he been born a century later and been given the benefit of modern medical science.

When Abel and Julia were married, they bought a small house across the road from the Grover farm on Beech Ridge. Previously the home of a Carter family, it was in poor repair. However, Henry Grover and his crew of carpenters enlarged the structure, adding a half story, an ell and an attached barn. It was the comfortable home in which "Abe and Julie" reared their family.

In 1921 my grandmother inherited from an aunt the Woodward home and farm in the Scituate District of York. My grandparents promptly moved there, enabling my grandfather to realize his dream of many years, being his own boss and having his own farm. Unfortunately, he was already too old to take on the hard work associated with the operation of a "one man, one horse" farm. From a fertility standpoint, the soil was not the best, and the Great Depression was just around the corner. Therefore, although my grandparents were always able to eke a living from the farm, it was not as profitable a venture as it might have been. Nevertheless, some of the happiest memories of my childhood go back to that Scituate farm, riding the dump rake for my grandfather, picking berries, both wild and cultivated, and sometimes going fishing with my grandmother, who truly loved the out of doors, and playing parchesi by the light of a kerosene lamp, for electricity had not yet arrived in the Scituate District.

I think that Abe Grover toiled as hard as any person I've known for as little monetary reward. Yet he was a gentle man in its total definition. Never did I hear him complain or voice an unkind word about another. Nor did I ever hear an unkind word spoken against my grandfather.

VIII William Henry Grover, the first child of Abel and Julia, was my father. He was born on Beech Ridge in 1896 and resided there until 1954 when my parents moved to York Village. He died in 1976. In 1922 he married Helen Morris, the younger daughter of George R. and Cora (Grant) Morris of Portland, Maine. My mother was a teacher at the York Beach School at the time when she was married. I was their only child, born in 1922.

About 1919 my father took a job as a laborer at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, quickly rose to a supervisory position in the Supply Department, and remained there until he retired in 1953. The home in which we lived, the same one in which my father had spent his youth, had only about three acres of land with it, surely not enough to be called a farm. Nevertheless, it was adequate to support a large garden, a cow, a flock of hens and a pig. With our food

supply largely home produced, my mother teaching, (now at the Beech Ridge School) and my father holding a better than average job on the Navy Yard, we were able to live a comfortable life throughout my boyhood. Indeed, except for a bank failure wiping out my parents' meager savings, including a small inheritance earmarked for my college education, we scarcely felt the impact of the Great Depression.

My parents lived by a code that bordered, on the one hand as puritanical, but was quite liberal on the other. Although we did not always attend church services, Sunday was a "day of rest". No work, other than essential chores, was performed. There was no card playing on the Sabbath, no games of any sort. Nevertheless, during the summer, whenever there was a baseball game at York Beach, my parents were sure to be in attendance. Evidently, where their favorite sport was concerned, it was permissible to cheer and shout, Sunday or not.

In 1947 my parents left their home on Beech Ridge and moved up the road to live with my Great Uncle Charles and care for the elderly gentleman until his death in 1953. They then moved into the bungalow that is adjacent to the York Library in York Village. Some good years were to follow. My father served as custodian of the library, reading his way through much of its collection. He had a flower garden on Parish land between his home and the library. Meticulously tended, tourists frequently paused to admire and photograph his flowers, giving him immense pride and pleasure. Meanwhile, my mother served as chief hostess at the Old Gaol.

Will Rogers is reported to have said that he never met a man whom he did not like. Of my father, although he had a rather reserved personality, it can be said that every person who ever knew him liked Will Grover.

IX Robert Morris Grover (1922-^{B. D. 2002}), the only child of William and Helen. Married Avis Anderson (1919-), the daughter of Charles and Edith Anderson of Newport, Maine, in Newport September 12, 1948. I am the last of the line to have lived on Beech Ridge, residing there through most of my youth.

- I ANDREW, fourth child of Thomas and Sarah (Chadwick)
 b. 1673, Quansigamond Plantation
 d. 1753, York, Maine (Beech Ridge)
 m. Mary Freethy, daughter of James and Mary Freethy York, in 1697.
 c. James (1703-1730)
 John (1704- ?)
 Thomas (1710-1721)
 Benjamin (1712- probably about 1757)
 Mehitable (1714-1789)
 Matthew (1717- ?)
 Andrew (1720- ?)
 Samuel (1724- ?)
- II JOHN, second son of Andrew and Mary (Freethy)
 b. 1704, York (Beech Ridge)
 d. ?
 m. Sarah Blaisdell (1713- ?), daughter of Ebenezer Blaisdell of York in 1729
 c. Sarah (1730- died young)
 James (1732- " ")
 Andrew (1734- ?)
 Daniel (No dates. Probably died in infancy)
 John (" " " " " ")
- m. Charity (Rhodes) Cross, no age given, daughter of Miles Rhodes, in 1739.
 c. Simon (1740- ?)
 John (1743- ?)
 Sarah (1747 ?)
 Daniel (1751-1817)
- III JOHN, second son of John and Charity (Rhodes Cross)
 b. 1743 in York
 d. Probably before 1785
 m. Patience Rhodes (no age given), daughter of Miles Rhodes, Jr. of Arundel in 1763.
 c. Dorca (1764- ?)
 Rhoda (1766- ?)
 Andrew (probably about 1768 - ?)
- IV ANDREW, the only known son of John and Patience (Rhodes)
 b. Probably 1767 or 1768 in York
 d. ?
 m. Olive Blaisdell (no age given) of York in 1801.
 c. John (1802-1888)
- m. Rhoda Shepherd, probably of Kittery in 1815
 c. None recorded
- m. Eleanor Sargent (1783- ?) in 1821
 c. Rhoda I. (1829-1916)

- V JOHN, son of Andrew and Olive (Blaisdell)
- b. 1802 (Beech Ridge)
 - d. 1886 (" ")
 - m. Abigail Moulton (1804-1887), daughter of Joseph Moulton, Jr. of York
 - c. Henry (1828-1913)
 - Adeline (1831- ?) (married _____ Danielson, a veteran of the Civil War)
 - Matilda (1840-1881) (unmarried)
 - Lydia Emeline (1843- ?) (married _____ Prevear of Eliot, Maine)
 - Mary E. (1850-1898) (married Martin H. Kingsbury of York in 1880)
- VI HENRY, first child and only son of John and Abigail (Moulton)
- b. 1828 (Beech Ridge)
 - d. 1913 (" ")
 - m. Esther Bowden (1835-1911), daughter of Oliver Bowden of York in 1853
 - c. Almira G. (1854-1948) (married Lowell Grant of York)
 - John W. (1855-1888) (married Sarah Goodwin of Eliot)
 - Charlotte (1862-1932) (unmarried)
 - Charles E. (1863-1953) (married Tina McIntire, daughter of George McIntire, Scotland Bridge Road, York)
 - Abel H. (1865-1938) (married Julia Woodward)
 - George H. (1870-1939) (married Anne Woodward)
 - Josephine Gertrude (1873- ?) (married Wm. Manson)
- VII ABEL Henry, fifth child and third son of Henry and Esther (Bowden)
- b. 1865 (Beech Ridge)
 - d. 1938 (Scituate District of York)
 - m. Julia M. Woodward (1869-1946), daughter of William Woodward of York, in 1894
 - c. William Henry (1896-1976)
 - Margharita E. (1898-1981) (married Allen B. Lewis of Kittery)
 - Albert Dennison (1905-1992) (married Bernice Vivian Dorr of York)
- VIII WILLIAM Henry, first child of Abel and Julia (Woodward)
- b. 1896 (Beech Ridge)
 - d. 1976 (York Village)
 - m. Helen Morris (1898-1990), daughter of George R. Morris of Portland, Maine in 1922
 - c. Robert Morris (1922 -

- IX ROBERT Morris, only child of William and Helen (Morris)
 b. October 26, 1922 in York
 m. Avis Anderson, daughter of Charles and Edith (Harris) Anderson of Newport Maine, September 12, 1948
 c. Marilyn Anne, (June 23, 1950 -
 Richard Anderson (May 6, 1953 -
 Bruce Wayne (August 19, 1957 -
- X MARILYN Anne, only daughter of Robert and Avis
 b. June 23, 1950 in Skowhegan, Maine
 m. Sanford Wax, son of Charles and Drew Wax of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania on January 4, 1986 in Scarsdale, New York
- X RICHARD Anderson, older son of Robert and Avis
 b. May 6, 1953 in Skowhegan, Maine
 m. Terri Marcus, daughter of Milton and Abigail Marcus of West Hartford, Connecticut on August 21, 1977 in Hartford, CT
 c. Jason (December 15, 1979 -
 Kathryn (June 29, 1982 -
 Christine (April 20, 1987 -
- X BRUCE Wayne, younger son of Robert and Avis
 b. August 19, 1957 in Groton, Massachusetts
 m. Vicki Vertin, daughter of Bernard and Margaret Vertin of Laurium, Michigan on July 18, 1987 at Ann Arbor, Michigan
- XI JASON, son of Richard and Terri (Marcus)
 b. December 15, 1979 in Columbus, Ohio
- XI KATHRYN, older daughter of Richard and Terri (Marcus)
 b. June 29, 1982 in Columbus, Ohio
- XI CHRISTINE, younger daughter of Richard and Terri (Marcus)
 b. April 20, 1987 in Bloomington, Indiana

APPENDIX

BEECH RIDGE AND THE PEOPLE WHO SETTLED IT

This is a discussion of the Beech Ridge District of York, not as it appears today, somewhat in a state of disarray as a result of homes having been built with little regard for aesthetics and no apparent concern for retaining the rural nature of the area, but as I remember it to have appeared in my youth.

Beech Ridge Road branches off from U.S. Route 1 just south of where U.S. 1 crosses the York River, and for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles travels in a generally northwesterly direction, then veers off to the west to the Eliot town line.¹

After crossing Old Mill Creek, the traveler comes upon the Barrell Farm. It is distinguished by a large frame home on the right, set back some distance from the road. This is the site of Andrew Grover's home in 1712. After acquiring this property from the Grovers and others in 1760, Jonathan Sayward, and later the Barrells, enlarged the dwelling, and on its north end attached a long ell to which a spacious carriage house was attached. Off to the west, two large barns stood parallel. Throughout the nineteenth and into the early part of the twentieth centuries, it was perhaps the largest farm in York and a veritable showplace. Not only was it a working farm, but also a mid-summer retreat for members of the Barrell family who resided in Boston and its environs. Currently, the Barrell home is the residence of Theodore Blaisdell, a direct descendant of Nathaniel Barrell, who, with his bride, was the first of the line to live there.

In the early years of my youth, the farm was operated by William and Theodosia Barrell, a bachelor brother and spinster sister. I recall seeing the elderly pair arrive at the First Parish Church in York Village, transported there in a "surrey with a fringe on top" at a time when most families had forsaken the horse for an automobile. During the Revolutionary War, the Barrells were sympathetic to the Crown, a circumstance which evidently brought them no particular abuse in York. When I was about 12 years old, Miss "Doshie" gave me a tour of her home. It was well maintained, sported a spiral front stairway and was furnished with fine antique furniture, much of it having been imported from England. She even showed me some of the gowns worn by her ancestors at gala events, including slippers that had been worn by a relative at a coronation.² The family burial ground, protected by a wrought iron fence, is located

1/ So named for a saw mill located about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile downstream from the bridge. It utilized a vertical saw, forerunner of the circular saw. Traces of this former mill could still be seen in the 1930's.

2/ Could this have been the Coronation of Queen Victoria?

near the creek, and just downstream from it, when I was a boy, there stood a boathouse. In its heyday, the farm provided summer employment for youngsters in the neighborhood. My father and uncle both worked there, harvesting vegetables and helping with the haying. The home has now been put on the National Register.

I remember a cart road (probably a right of way) that passed between the home and the barn, continued across the fields and terminated in the middle of a large field abutting the York River, and the apparent site of a one-time set of farm buildings. It may be that this was the location of the home of the Elihu Parsons who, with Andrew Grover and others, purchased the property early in the 18th century.

Continuing on up the Beech Ridge Road, one comes to a point where it is intersected by the Betty Welch Road to the south and the Scotland Bridge Road to the north. The church located here is the one in which Deacon Henry Grover and his family worshiped.

Beyond this intersection the road takes a slight rise and it is in this area where I believe the Blaisdells settled. The Blaisdells were early settlers of Beech Ridge, who, along with the Grovers, Parsons, McIntires and Moultons, are mentioned in this piece. It is here where Beech Ridge actually begins. Scarcely discernable as a height of ground, the "ridge" becomes more pronounced as one approaches the point where the road veers off to the west. One can only speculate that when first settled, this was part of a hardwood forest, predominantly beech.

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther along, and on the left, one comes upon the first two story house on the road. This is the Grover homestead which at least five generations of Grovers have called home. In succession they were, John, his son Henry, Henry's youngest son George, Edward, the only son of George and Edward, Jr., his only son. The current owners told me that they have found evidence that the house was originally a single story structure. It was probably Henry who added the second story at some time prior to the Civil War. The family burial ground is located about 100 feet beyond the house, a few yards back from the road. It was last used in 1932 for the burial of my Great Aunt Charlotte.

Across from the Grover home and about 100 feet east of it there sits the house with attached ell and barn that my grandfather bought when he was married, was the home of my father and my home during my youth.

Just beyond the Grover homestead, still on the left side of the road, and at the highest point on Beech Ridge, there is a single story dwelling, the lines of which reveal that it was built in Colonial times. This is the Parsons home, currently the home of Thelma Parsons Rollins.

Across from this house is the former site of the Beech

1/ A map, prepared by the late Attorney Lester Bragdon, shows the location of burial grounds in York.

Ridge Schoolhouse. It was the two room school which I attended, grades I through VIII, and the last school at which my mother taught. It was razed shortly after World War II to make room for construction of a dwelling. It was at least the second schoolhouse to occupy this location. My father attended a one room school on the exact spot.

The next two story house on the left and adjacent to the Parsons home was the residence of my Great Uncle Charles Grover and my Great Aunt Teen. He built the house when they were married and shortly thereafter built and opened a general store which he operated until 1947. I think that it sat on land purchased from the McIntires. Most of the land on which Charles Grover grew small fruits and truck crops he rented from the Parsons family.

Across the road from the Charles Grover house is property that was owned by the Moultons. It is my guess that the house directly across from my great uncle's home is the original Moulton homestead. I remember when it was a single story dwelling with an extensive attached shed and large barn. Moulton land extended to the point where the Beech Ridge Road alters its direction.

The land behind, and beyond the Charles Grover home was owned by McIntires. A direct descendent, Glenn McIntire, still makes his home on the property, as does his married daughter. McIntires inhabited much of the area at this end of Beech Ridge and on the other side of the York River.

Except for Eva Grover, the widow of Edward and daughter-in-law of George, the surname Grover has vanished from Beech Ridge after almost 300 years. However, Eva Grover's daughter, Muriel (Grover) Morse, has a home on the original Grover farm as does her daughter Patricia.

To my knowledge, no Moultons now live on Beech Ridge.

Nor is there anyone with the surname, Blaisdell. However, Frances (Blaisdell) McIntire, the wife of Glenn McIntire, resides on Beech Ridge as do two of their children.

MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY OF HENRY GROVER

Except for Henry Grover's son, John, who died in 1888, I remember all of my grandfather's brothers and sisters.

Almira (Aunt "My") married Lowell S. Grant (1847-1923) and lived on a farm on the Chase's Pond Road at the point where it is met by the Scituate Road. They had two children, William L. (1875-1957), and Lucy R. (1878-1958). In 1899 William married Olive Nichols (1870-1939) of Melrose, Massachusetts. William Grant was a school teacher. He and Olive had no children. His sister, Lucy, was unmarried.

John married Sarah A. Goodwin, and according to the information I have, was a farmer on the Long Hill Road near Chase's Pond. To me, this does not make sense. The only Long

Hill of which I am aware is located in the Scituate District some distance from Chase's Pond. Furthermore, I have found conflicting dates of his death (1885 and 1888). And finally, it was always my understanding that John Grover and his family lived in Eliot. I am certain that his descendants possess the facts concerning this ancestor of theirs who died all too young. I do know that John and Sarah had three sons, Arthur and John, who lived in Eliot, and Maurice, who lived in York and Eliot. Both John and Maurice were excellent carpenters.

Charlotte lived out her entire life in the family home and never married. She suffered an injury while a child that left her mentally disabled. Her disability was all the more tragic due to the fact that had she received medical attention promptly following her accident, she would have been perfectly normal. I remember the poor woman as a recluse who still wore the drab brown and black gowns of the mid-nineteenth century.

George married Anne Woodward, the younger sister of my grandmother. They too lived in the Grover family home. Their four children were Ruth, Edward, Marion and Bertha. Edward's children, Muriel and Edward Jr., are about my age and since they lived on Beech Ridge, were the cousins with whom I played the most when we were youngsters. Edward Jr., severely wounded in Italy in World War II, has carried on what appears to be a Grover family tradition where occupation is concerned. He is known as an excellent carpenter and cabinet maker. As this is written, he resides in Kittery. His sister, Muriel (Grover) Morse, lives on Beech Ridge.

Josephine Gertrude (Aunt "Gert") is the offspring of Henry and Esther whom I remember the least. This is probably due to her not living in York. In 1905 she married William J. Manson of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I think that he (or their son) was a Buick dealer in the Portsmouth, area.

MORE ABOUT THE WOODWARDS

The land in the Scituate District of York that Abel Grover farmed has been in the family of my grandmother, Julia (Woodward) Grover, for nearly three hundred years. The home itself was built in the mid 1700's and a member of the Woodward family has always lived in it. The Woodward name is prominent in the history of York. I suspect that its ancestry is well documented.

William Henry Woodward, my great grandfather, fought in the Civil War. As the story was told to me, he was a cavalryman whose horse was shot out from under him, and as he attempted to escape, he too was shot. Certainly the last part of this is true, for he was indeed wounded and imprisoned in Libby Prison in Georgia. I have in my possession a crudely constructed wooden box about half the size of a foot locker. Its interior is lined with pages from an Atlanta, Georgia newspaper dated during the war. My grandmother gave the box to my mother when I was a baby and she used it to store my baby clothing. Had it previously

contained the belongings of my great grandfather while he was incarcerated in a Confederate prison? We'll never know.

The Woodward property abutted what is now known as Scituate Pond. It is a man-made body of water, created when a brook was dammed in order to provide a source of water power for a saw mill. I don't know whether or not William Woodward was responsible for having built the dam and mill, but I know that he did own and operate it. Although my great grandfather died in 1889, the saw mill was operated by a series of owners until the mid-1920's.

Just as the abandoned saw mill with its mammoth water wheel was a place where I, as a child, liked to play, so was the attic of my grandparents' home. It was virtually filled with such things as spinning wheels, ladies' hats, and other reminders of an era long past. On rainy days I was allowed to play up there in that attic "as long as you don't break anything".

THE FAMILY OF ABEL H. GROVER

Margharita (Aunt Rita) was my father's only sister. She married Allen B. Lewis of Kittery and resided in Kittery throughout much of her adult life. Aunt Rita and Uncle Allen had three children, Edith (Bowie), William, and Robert. William was a navy veteran of World War II and Korea. He died in 1975, only 55 years of age. Robert died in infancy. Edith, the widow of Wayne Bowie, now resides in New Hampshire as do both of her sons. Uncle Allen (1889-1959) was a first rate cabinet maker by trade but it was his prowess as a marksman that intrigued me most. Although my parents were not thrilled with the idea, he saw to it that I had a shotgun as soon as I was big enough to shoulder one, and used to let me accompany him to the Portsmouth Gun Club to shoot trap. He was a champion trap and skeet shooter in both Maine and New Hampshire and on a summer evening would be seen driving slowly on the back roads of York, Eliot and Kittery, his eagle eyes spotting wood chucks which in turn he would shoot. Farmers loved it, his keeping their fields clear of the troublesome rodents.

Albert was my father's younger brother. He married Bernice Dorr of York in 1926 and they had two children. Uncle Albert was a teenager when my grandparents moved from Beech Ridge to Scituate and he spent much of his adult life at the latter location. Like so many of his relatives, he was very good at working with wood. In retirement, as a hobby, he and Aunt Bernice made lawn ornaments and other craft items that were sold to the tourist trade in York Beach. Outgoing and well liked by all those who knew him, Uncle Albert was very active in the Masons. My cousin, Delwyn, served in Korea, then married and bought a home on Scituate Pond where he and his wife, Jeanne (Bombard) raised a family. He currently lives in Norridgewock, Maine. His sister, Evelyn, married to Richard Hanson, now lives in the Woodward home in Scituate, thereby keeping the old

homestead in the Woodward family. In so far as I know, Delwyn's children all live in or near York. Evelyn's sons have built homes on land that was part of the Woodward farm in Scituate.

Editor's note: In collecting information on the "Ancestors and Family of William Henry Grover", my father, I have been lazy. As indicated in the introduction, I have relied upon the work of others to bring our line of Grovers to York, Maine from their English beginning. Tracing the family through the eighteenth century has been difficult but I might have done a more thorough job had I been more dedicated to the task. And from the family of Henry Grover to the present time, I have reached back to retrieve that which was told me by grandparents, great uncles, and my parents, along with a strong reliance on my own memory, having spent the first 16 years of my life on Beech Ridge.

This being the case, I make no claim that all of that which I have written is totally accurate. Undoubtedly, it is not. However, for my purposes it is accurate enough. For the most part, I have satisfied my own curiosity. And I have provided my children and their children, my cousins and their children, a sketch, a place from which to start, should any of them now or in the future become interested in constructing their family tree.

Robert M. Grover
March 18, 1993