

**From:** "John P Rankin" <jprankin@knology.net>

**To:** [terry@halefireglass.com](mailto:terry@halefireglass.com)

**Date:** 5/3/2007 9:48:47 PM

**Subject:** Bradford Ancestry

I forgot to mention that I have found data that seems to connect our Madison Bradford families back to William Bradford who was Governor of Massachusetts in the 1620s. It even mentions a wife along the line who had the surname **George**, which would explain Hamilton George Bradford's middle name. George was not a commonly-used middle name in the family lines, but it was not an unusual practice to give a male child the mother's surname as a middle name.

Today I also at last figured out the connection of the various Christopher C. Gewins (3 of them) who lived in Madison at the same time in the 1800s. It only took me about 5 years of searching and watching for the links, but at last I have it. The Christopher C. Gewin born in Chickasaw County, Mississippi, in 1845 and who died in 1878 (has a broken tombstone in our city cemetery -- one that Ron Johnson repaired) was a "**first cousin once removed**" from the senior Christopher C. Gewin who was born in 1810 and died in 1891. This senior Gewin served as a Justice of the Peace, postmaster, and mayor in Madison. He presided at the arraignment of the killers of Nathan Freeman in 1883 or 1884. He had a son also named Christopher C. Gewin. The senior's middle name was Columbus, while the one who died at age 33 had a middle name of Calhoun. Of course, I also acquired much more information about the Gewin families of Madison, but that can wait for another time....

John

Bradford

-4-

by her of Brian, Thomas, Robert, William, Izabell, Grace, Elsabeth, and Alice. Of these, the first two sons died without issue; and Robert was the father by his wife Elsabeth or Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Thorney, of Nottinghamshire, of four children, Robert, John, Anne, and Fraunces or Frances Bradford. The father also had a second wife, Dorothy Blewett, but had no children by this marriage.

Robert Bradford, of Stainley or Stanley, County York, the elder son of Robert and Elizabeth (née Thorney), married a Miss Fletcher before the end of the sixteenth century and had issue by her of at least



resided at Arksey, near Doncaster, County York, and was married before 1635 to Elizabeth, daughter of Hector Cooper, of Walkington, in Holderness. To this union were born five children, John, Robert, Jane, Dorothy, and Elizabeth.

Another early line of the family in Yorkshire was that anciently seated at Austerfield, which was represented in the latter half of the sixteenth century by William Bradford, yeoman, who was the father of William, Thomas, Robert, and Elizabeth. Of these, William married Alice, daughter of John Hanson, in 1584 and had issue by her of Margaret, Alice, and William, of whom the last was one of the Pilgrims who went to the Netherlands in 1609 (while still a boy in his teens) and later came with them to America in 1620.

The above-mentioned William Bradford was the first immigrant of the name in America. He brought with him his young wife, Dorothy May, whom he had married at Amsterdam, but she was accidentally drowned shortly before the Mayflower reached Plymouth. By this wife, he had a son named John, who later followed him to America. William was made Governor of Massachusetts upon the death of Governor Carver in 1620 and held that office until his death in 1657. In 1623 he married the Widow Alice (née Carpenter) Southworth, by whom he was the father of three children, William, Mary or Mercy, and Joseph.

## Bradford

-9-

in 1664 to Jael Hobart, of Hingham, who gave him at least two sons, Joseph and Elisha, and possibly had other children as well.

Joseph Bradford, the elder of the two sons of Joseph and Jael (née Hobart), evidently died without issue; while his brother, Elisha Bradford, first married Hannah Cole, who gave him a daughter named Hannah, and secondly married Bathsheba La Brocke, by whom he had three children.



... , Abigail, and Chloe. The records of this branch of the family are not, however, complete.

It is of interest to note here that, according to some historians, the Bradfords of Alabama, descended from the brothers General Benjamin McFarland Bradford and General Alexander Bradford, of Tennessee and Mississippi in the early nineteenth century, are believed to have had their origin in the New England family founded by Governor William Bradford, of Massachusetts.

One Alexander Bradford came in 1638, if not before, to Dorchester, Mass. He left a wife named Sarah (possibly née Merry), but had no children.

Another early immigrant of this family was Robert Bradford, who settled at Boston, Mass., sometime before 1640 and was the father by his wife Martha of Moses, Martha, and possibly others. He also had a second wife, named Margaret, but no record of children by this marriage is in evidence.

Moses, probably son of the immigrant Robert, resided at Salisbury and Boston, Mass., and was the father by his wife Elizabeth of John, Thomas, Robert, Elizabeth, Joseph, and James.

Robert and William Bradford, who appear to have been original emigrants from England (probably from Devonshire or Somersetshire), settled at Beverly, Mass., between the years 1660 and 1670. Of these brothers, Robert was the father by a wife named Hannah of three children, John, Robert, and Martha, all of whom were dead before 1706; while William was married in 1676 to Rachel

Bradford

-13-

(removed to Kentucky), William, Charles (of Washington, Pa.), Benjamin, Enoch (removed to Scott County, Ky.), Violette, Sarah, Katy, Fielding (of Kentucky), and Simon; John Bradford died unmarried; Alexander Bradford married Jemima Jones of Madison, Ky.



William, and Daniel; William Bradford married Mary Morgan and had issue by her in the year 1757 of a son named Henry, who settled near Nashville, Tenn.; and Joseph Bradford is said to have married first a Miss George, who gave him a son named William (settled in Tennessee, progenitor of a family of the name in Alabama), and to have later married Margaret Wilson and a Widow Jones, but the records of his progeny by these unions are not available; and Benjamin Bradford's records are not in evidence. ←

There was also a John Bradford resident in Brunswick County, Va., before 1732, who left sons named Richard, Nathaniel, and John, and daughters named Frances, Rebecca, and Sarah. The son Nathaniel received lands in North Carolina, in which State he may have settled, but the records of this line are only fragmentary.

A family of the name of Bradford in Culpeper County, Va., is said to have been established by a Major Bradford of the British Army, who married Jane Carter, of Virginia, and was the father by her of Samuel K. Bradford, who served in the Revolutionary War and was the father of a son of the same name.

Descendants of this Culpeper County family evidently included James M. Bradford, who was born there in 1795 and later removed to Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi, and Illinois, leaving numerous issue in the last State.

A hardy, self-reliant, conscientious, and progressive race, the Bradfords have won success in many lines of endeavor, but chiefly in intellectual pursuits. They have been prominent as clergymen, educators, and lecturers, and have, in many cases, shown themselves to be possessed of considerable artistic and literary ability.

Bradford



- Their Descendants. 1899.  
 Moore. Memoirs of American Governors. Vol. 1. 1846.  
 Mynderse. Lines of Descent from Honored New England Ancestors. 1897.  
 Read. Rossiana. 1908.  
 Ellis. Genealogical Record of the Bradfords, Fullers, and Ellises. 1900.  
 Morse. Descendants of Puritans. Vol. 3. Richards Family. 1861.  
 Crawford. Maternal Ancestry of Charles W. MacNair. 1912.  
H. S. Bradford. One Branch of the Bradford Family. 1898.  
 Shepard. William Bradford. 1900.  
 Davis. Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth. 1883.  
 Cochrane and Wood. History of Frankestown, New Hampshire. 1895.  
 E. J. Cleveland. Cleveland Genealogy. Vol. 1. 1899.  
 Thacher. History of Plymouth. 1835.  
 Crass. Some Genealogical Data Concerning the Crass, Bradford, and Other Families. 1932.  
 Winsor. History of Duxbury. 1849.  
 Morris. The Tucker Genealogy. 1901.  
 Caulkins. History of Norwich, Connecticut. 1866.  
 Hine. Early Lebanon, Connecticut. 1880.  
 Baker. History of Montville, Connecticut. 1896.  
 Pitcher. The Bradford-Dimock Ancestors. 1916.  
 Gold. History of Cornwall, Connecticut. 1904.  
 Cutter. Genealogy of Northern New York. Vol. 1. 1910.  
 Butler. History of Farmington, Maine. 1885.  
 French. History of Turner, Maine. 1887.  
 Eaton. History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Maine. Vol. 2. 1865.  
 T. Spooner. William Spooner and His Descendants. Vol. 1. 1883.  
 Lincoln. History of Hingham, Massachusetts. Vol. 2. 1893.  
 Saunders. Early Settlers of Alabama. 1899.  
 Davis. The Ancestry of Bethia Harris. 1934.  
 Secomb. History of Amherst, New Hampshire. 1883.



James Alexander, Viola Beatrice, Mollie Bettie, Felix Edgar, Stella Corrin, Percy, and Katie. The doctor's wife died April 13, 1878, and September 19, 1880, he married Miss Ella M., daughter of Andrew and Sarah E. Johnson of Huntsville, Ala. To this marriage was born one son, Milton C., Jr. The doctor and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, in which he has served as steward from 1856 until the present time.

HENRY S. BRADFORD, of Huntsville, Ala., was born in Madison county, Ala., near Huntsville, March 15, 1856, and was educated at Huntsville. He was engaged in farming until 1891, when he removed to Huntsville to educate his children. He is an encampment Odd Fellow, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was married March 27, 1878, to Dora Hereford, daughter of Dr. Hereford, of Madison county, Ala., and to them were born five children: Sallie W., Mame D., Annie, Martha and Roberta. The father of Mr. Bradford was H. G. Bradford, of Madison county, Ala. He married Susan Ward, of that county, and they had two children—Sallie, wife of Dr. E. G. Case, of Hopkinsville, Ky., and Henry S., of Huntsville. In 1892, Mr. Bradford was elected