

Part VII: Generation Six Myrtie's Great Great Great Grandparents and Beyond

**Richard Crabb?
Arnold BASSETT and Elizabeth
Samuel SHARP and Priscilla SUTTON
John OGDEN**



At this point in Grandma's story, there are still many unknowns.

Who was the father of John Crabb? Was his name Crabb, or Crabtree? Where was he from? When did the Crabb ancestors come to the United States? I don't know the answers, but in this chapter, I have included a few thoughts, comments, and possibilities about the Crabb name and ancestors that other Crabb relatives have made. There is also some information on the Sharp and Ogden Family Relatives.—Louise Smith

Chapter 1

The Crabb Name

Information and Comments from Crabb Relatives

Cousins' Comments on the Crabb/Crabtree Name

- Some of the spelling variations of the Crabtree name: Crabb, Crabbe, Crab, Crabe.
- The Crabb(e) name spelling change is still going on. In Hainesville, York County, New Brunswick, the Crabb homestead and the location of the old Crabb Cemetery, is a ski resort called Crabbe Mountain.
- Many changed the name to Crabtree: 1850 (Illinois), 1860 (Maine) and 1912 (Maine). My father was born Crabb but in 1912 legally became Crabtree.
- It is pretty consistent in the earlier days to spell it Crabb. Crabbe seems to have developed at a later time to make it look more attractive. Indeed, the earliest Crabb document that I recall relating to John, Sr. calls him John Crab.
- There was a Tory named John Crabtree who filed a claim for losses in Tryon County, New York.
- My father told me years ago that the family name used to be Crabtree and that the family on coming to Canada dropped the "tree" and added another "b".
- The picture on the name change is confusing. One family story that was passed down says the original was Crabtree and that it was changed when the family went to Canada.
- There are a couple of possible indicators that the name may well have been Crabtree from the start and changed at the time of the Revolution.
- Elijah was using the Crabbe name when he came to Maine from Canada.
- I believe that John Crabb 1741s father was Richard Crabb and I think the name was used before that. The names John and Richard show up over and over. There is a Richard Crabb will in print that I think might be the father. I wish I could find something on the Bassett line. There might be a clue there.
- My idea on the name is that the John Crabb who came to Salem, Massachusetts, in the Winthrop fleet of the 1630's, is our ancestor. He moved on to Connecticut and I think the family eventually ended up in New York.

Boston John Crabtree

The following comes from the descendants of Agreen Crabtree. I find it very interesting in light of the data our family's researchers have.—Cal Bivens

John Crabtree emigrated to Boston in the early years of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. As far as we can tell, he shipped on one of the eleven vessels of the

Winthrop Fleet of 1630, which carried about 700 passengers to Salem and Boston.

The first five ships sailed on April 8, 1630, from Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, and arrived in Salem on June 13, and following days. The other half of the fleet sailed in May and arrived in July at various dates.

Listed as a passenger was "John Crabb". "Crabtree" often appears as "Crabb" or "Crabbe", so we have no real good way to verify if this was John Crabtree. No John Crabtree is listed on any of the other passenger lists for the period 1600–1638, but the lists are not always complete nor accurate. For example, there was a "Jo: (John) Cribb", age 30, listed as a passenger on the *Christian*, which sailed from London on March 16, 1634/35, and arrived in Massachusetts Bay. This could also have been our ancestor John Crabtree.

John Crabb was one of the first settlers to the Massachusetts Bay Commonwealth to be granted Free-man Status, on October 19, 1630.

John Crabtree who emigrated from near Manchester, England, to Boston in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the early 1600's, was a joyner/joiner, a skilled carpenter who built houses and furniture.

If indeed this “John Crabb” is our ancestor, he continued to live and practice his trade as part of Boston’s early history. John Crabtree was mentioned in Governor Winthrop’s Journal in 1638 as being allowed an allotment of property (“a lot on the Mount for two heads”). John also took in an Apprentice, Solomon Greene, in the period 1638–1641.

John was part of the Crabtrees from England who emigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Others emigrated to the Virginia Colony, which explains why there are Crabtrees in the northeast as well as the southeast today.

We are having trouble finding who John’s parents were in the Manchester, UK area. A relation in the UK, Peter Crabtree, has located a John Crabtree, son of William Crabtree, who was baptised at Manchester Cathedral on March 6, 1595. The record is not clear, however, that this is “our” John Crabtree.

Also, the information on John’s wife Alice Courtenay (daughter of Francis Courtenay and Mary Poole) is missing—we don’t know where and when she was born, and where John and Alice were married. They could have been married in England, but there is no record on the passenger lists of Alice; or John could have married her in the colonies. We know that she married Joshua Hewes on February 11, 1657, after John died, but nothing of her earlier life.

There have been Crabtree’s in Maine since 1760. That was when Agreen and Sarah Crabtree moved east from Attleboro, Massachusetts to Bowdoinham, in the District of Maine which was part of Massachusetts Bay Colony then.

Around 1764, Agreen moved to what is now Hancock, Maine. He bought an island in Frenchman’s Bay and land on the east side of the Skillings River. Agreen

developed an active business in lumbering and shipping, and built a small stone fort and wharf on a small peninsula jutting out into the Skillings River. He shipped lumber to Atlantic ports in his own schooners.

Agreen’s line:

- Generation 1: John Crabtree
Boston, MA
(around 1616–late 1656)
- Generation 2: John Crabtree II
Swansea, Attleborough, and
Rehoboth, MA
(1639–around 1715)
- Generation 3: Benjamin
Crabtree Attleboro, MA
(1673–1736)
- Generation 4: Benjamin
Crabtree II Attleboro, MA
(1703–1763)
- Generation 5: Agreen Crabtree,
Hancock, ME
(1739–1808)

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Agreen Crabtree, Privateer/Pirate

The Crabtree family on the Maine coast contained an American privateer named Agreen Crabtree who raided the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia shores. When our family came back to the United States, I think the Crabtree name was a good one sort of identifying us with this family.

Agreen was known to the people of New Brunswick/Nova Scotia for his exploits during the Revolution. During the War the settlers on the Bay of Fundy were often pillaged and plundered by Rebel privateers from down the coast, mainly out of Machias, Maine. The trading post at the mouth of the Saint John River

operated by James Simonds, William Hazen, and James White, was particularly vulnerable.

Rev. William O. Raymond wrote: “Late in the autumn (of 1778) an American sloop carrying eight guns entered the harbour. Her Captain, A. Greene Crabtree, proved the most unwelcome and rapacious visitor that had yet appeared. Many of the settlers fled to the woods to escape the vandalism of his crew.”

Agreen, labeled a pirate by the British admiralty, actually commanded the 25-ton schooner *Hannah and Molley*, the schooner *Harlequin*, another schooner, and the uncommissioned picaroon,

True Blue. Researchers of his family say he became known as the *Scourge of Nova Scotia*.

Jemima Crabtree Tingley, sister of Agreen Crabtree, had a daughter, Jemima (born 1767) who married John Fillmore in 1785, in New Brunswick, Canada. Several of their daughters married into the Richard and Mary Crabtree Family, so the name may have been known from that connection as well. While this proves nothing, it could imply (through the Fillmores) knowledge of the Maine Crabtrees by our family, and vice versa. It would be nice to know more.
—Cal Bivens ❀