

The American Genealogist

Whole Number 362

April/July/October 2019
(published April 2020)

Vol. 91, No. 2

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“SON OF AMEY”: AN INDEX ANNOTATION IDENTIFIES THE MOTHER OF CAPT. ABRAHAM TOURTELLOT(T)E OF RHODE ISLAND AND MAINE

By Mackenzie Leiter, Bruce E. Steiner, and David A. Drabold

There is no known birth record for Abraham Tourtellotte (died 1820), a junior officer in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.¹ He served as an ensign, lieutenant, and captain in three Rhode Island regiments from 1775 to 1779, and moved to Maine by 1781, where he married his third wife, Leah Mansell, in Castine. Lineage papers of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution indicate he was born in 1744.² This birth year almost certainly derives from his entry in the federal pension roll of 1835, which indicates that he was 74 years old in 1818,³ suggesting he was born about 1744. Several conflicting speculations about Capt. Abraham’s parentage have appeared in print and online. In this article, we assemble evidence to show that Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte’s parents were almost certainly Amy Herendeen/Harrington and, probably, Abraham³ Tourtellot, both of Gloucester, Rhode Island.⁴

Abraham Tourtellotte married his first two wives in Gloucester. He married first, on 1 May 1764, Hannah Combes.⁵ According to an account in the 1874 book commemorating the centennial of Orono, Maine, Capt. Abraham had

¹ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution*, 2d ed. (Washington, D.C., 1914), 546.

² *Lineage Book: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, vol. 137 (Washington, D.C., 1934), 263, abstracted from lineage paper of Grace Helen (Thomas) Crawford, NSDAR #136834, admitted 1917; Sons of the American Revolution lineage papers, Eugene Bigelow Hall and Omar Israel Hall, both dated 1926 [index and images, ancestry.com].

³ *Report from the Secretary of War in Obedience to the Resolutions of the Senate . . . in Relation to the Pension Establishment of the United States* [Pension Roll of 1835], 3 vols. (Washington, 1835), vol. 1, Maine Pension Roll [separate pagination for each state], p. 64.

⁴ A note on the surname *Tourtellot(te)*: Early appearances of the name in R.I. sources usually end with a single *t*, which would have been silent in French, as suggested by the appearance of phonetic spellings like “Turtelow” (see note 63). Nineteenth-century sources referring to Capt. Abraham of Maine and other members of this family elsewhere suggest the final *t* came to be pronounced; the name was then usually spelled by doubling the final consonant and adding a silent *e*: *Tourtellotte*. In this article, the spelling *Tourtellot* is used for the family in R.I., but Capt. Abraham of Maine is given the spelling *Tourtellotte*.

⁵ Gloucester, R.I., “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” [original manuscript], p. 21, “Abraham Tourtellot Jun.” [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #2188721, item 1]; original also inspected at Gloucester, R.I., Town Hall (see below).

two sons with Hannah: Reuben, who married Lucy Mansell, and Abraham.⁶ Hannah's death is not recorded in the Gloucester records, but Abraham married his second wife, "Mallason" Walling, in Gloucester on 10 December 1767.⁷ According to the 1874 Orono centennial book, Abraham had two daughters with Mallason: Amy, who married an Andrews, and Hannah, who married a Carpenter.⁸

Abraham Tourtellotte was still living in Rhode Island when he served during the Revolution. According to his pension application, he was commissioned as an ensign in Gloucester in May 1775, as part of Captain Blackmar's company in Hitchcock's regiment, and was discharged at Prospect Hill, Cambridge, Massachusetts, after nine months duty at the siege of Boston. He served two subsequent tours, finally as a captain in Crary's Regiment in 1778–1779. He stated that the first battles in which he fought were those of Trenton and Princeton.⁹

Abraham Tourtellotte married his third wife, Leah Mansell, on 15 October 1781 in Castine, Maine, according to her petition for a pension under the 1838 (widows') pension act.¹⁰ In the 1874 Orono centennial account, Abraham is noted to have had seven children with Leah.¹¹ Their son Thomas named five living full siblings in support of Leah's pension application in 1838: Mary, Rachel, Thomas B. (born in Maine, 23 April 1786), Stephen, and Olive.

THE RHODE ISLAND TOURTELLOTS

Since Abraham married his first two wives in Gloucester, Rhode Island, it is reasonable to presume that he was related to an older man with the same name in Gloucester: Abraham² Tourtellot, born say 1698, died in Gloucester, 23 November 1762.¹² This Abraham was the only known son of Abraham¹ Tourtellot (died about 1705) and maternal grandson of Gabriel¹ Bernon, a French

⁶ *Centennial Celebration and Dedication of Town Hall, Orono, Maine, March 1874* (Portland, Maine, 1874), 54. Birth records have not been found.

⁷ Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 153.

⁸ *Centennial Celebration and Dedication of Town Hall, Orono* [note 6], 54.

⁹ Revolutionary War Pension Application File #W23044 [index and images, fold3.com].

¹⁰ Leah Tourtillott petition, Revolutionary War Pension Application File #W23044 [note 9]. Lillis (Mansell) Spencer, sister of Leah, also attested the marriage date and place.

¹¹ *Centennial Celebration and Dedication of Town Hall, Orono* [note 6], 54.

¹² Death date in John O. Austin, *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* (Albany, 1887), 207, but not found in James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island*, 21 vols. [Providence, 1891–1912], vol. 3: Gloucester. His will was proved 13 April 1763 [see note 15]. A birth date of 22 March "1698" (stated location: Newport) or birth year of 1698 are widely reproduced in printed sources and online, but no birth or baptismal record or statement of age has been found in primary sources.

Huguenot who came to New England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1686, and was active in Rhode Island mercantile and religious affairs for decades until his death in Providence on 1 February 1735/6 at the age of 92.¹³ Abraham² Tourtellot, a joiner by trade, lived in Providence, Smithfield, and Glocester. He was married three times and had twelve known children with his first two wives from 1721 to about 1753.¹⁴ Abraham² Tourtellot's will, written in 1757 and proved 23 April 1763, includes an apparently complete enumeration of his surviving children.¹⁵ While not all the children's births were recorded in surviving town vital records, they can be summarized as follows:¹⁶

Children of Abraham² Tourtellot and his 1st wife, Lydia (Ballard), i–ii, iv, and vi–vii b. Providence:¹⁷

- i MARY³ TOURTELLOT, b. 20 March “1721”; m. Glocester, 3 Dec. 1741, HAZADIAH MITCHELL.¹⁸
- ii LYDIA TOURTELLOT, b. 24 Jan. “1723”; m. THOMAS KNOWLTON of Scituate, R.I.¹⁹

¹³ Elisha R. Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements and French Settlers in the Colony of Rhode Island* (Providence, 1879), 75–79 (Bernon) and 80–81 (Tourtellot); George Washington Baird, *History of the Huguenot Emigration to America*, 2 vols. (New York, 1885), 2:141 (Tourtellot); Lucian J. Fosdick, *The French Blood in America* (New York, 1911), 143–48 (Bernon). A photograph of Bernon's original gravestone in St. John's (Episcopal) Cathedral, Providence, R.I., is at findagrave.com, memorial #19231732. A collection of Bernon's papers is at the Rhode Island Historical Society, MSS 924, with a finding aid with some biographical detail available online. Biographical data on Abraham² Tourtellot is given in the catalogue entry on a maple desk, owned and apparently built by him, in Patricia E. Kane et al., *Art and Industry in Early America: Rhode Island Furniture, 1650–1830* (New Haven, 2016), 165–67.

¹⁴ Abraham²'s 1st wife is identified by Austin (*Genealogical Dictionary* [note 12], 207) as Lydia Ballard, daughter of Isaac and Dorothy (Herendeen) Ballard; no marriage record survives. Abraham² m. (2) Providence, 29 Jan. 1742/3, Hannah Corps (Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 2:Providence:187). He m. (3) date unknown, widow Welthian (Sheldon) Williams (Austin, 207), who was almost certainly then past childbearing age.

¹⁵ Will, Glocester, R.I., Probate Records, 1:227–30; inventory, 1:258–59 [FHL film #941847]. Abraham mentioned no grandchildren in his will.

¹⁶ A list of children's names and births is in Austin, *Genealogical Dictionary* [note 12], 207. The children of Abraham Tourtellot by his second wife were first compiled in an 1854 broadside, “Genealogy of the Tourtellot Family,” by descendant Jesse Steere Tourtellot. A later typescript of this, catalogued as a book, is available at familysearch.org.

¹⁷ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 2:Providence:251. No double-dating is used in the original manuscript (Providence vital records, 1[1715–65]:22), nor is the dating convention of that manuscript volume discussed in the two published derivatives — Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], vol. 2; or Edwin M. Snow, *Alphabetical Index of the Births, Marriages and Deaths, Recorded in Providence From 1636 to 1850 Inclusive* (Providence, 1879).

¹⁸ Glocester “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” [note 5], 126.

¹⁹ Named as “Lydia Knowlton” in her father's will; husband named in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 80.

- iii ESTHER TOURTELLOT, b. ca. 1723,²⁰ d. 1 Dec. 1797, aged 76; m. SAMUEL DUNN.²¹
- iv ABRAHAM TOURTELLOT, b. 27 Feb. 172[4/?]5; m. Gloucester, 11 Oct. 1747, PHEBE THORNTON.²²
- v JONATHAN TOURTELLOT, b. 15 Sept. 1728;²³ m. Scituate, 28 Jan. 1752, ELIZABETH WILLIAMS.²⁴
- vi BENJAMIN TOURTELLOT, b. 30 Nov. 1730; m. JERUSHA BALLARD, d. Cranston, R.I., 30 Oct. 1815, aged 85.²⁵
- vii SARAH TOURTELLOT, b. 22 April 1735; m. JOHN INMAN.²⁶

Children of Abraham² Tourtellot and his 2nd wife, Hannah (Case) (Corps):

- viii STEPHEN TOURTELLOT, b. say 1744, d. Providence, 22 Feb. 1769;²⁷ m. Gloucester, 25 Aug. 1767, MARY SMITH.²⁸
- ix WILLIAM TOURTELLOT, b. Gloucester, 12 May 1747, d. there, 9 Nov. 1833;²⁹ m. Cranston, 17 Jan. 1768, PHOEBE WHITMAN.³⁰
- x JESSE TOURTELLOT, b. ca. 1749, d. Mendon, Mass., 5 April 1841, in his "93rd year";³¹ m. LYDIA ANGELL.³²
- xi DANIEL CASE TOURTELLOT, b. ca. 1751, d. Gloucester, 2 Aug. 1826, aged 75;³³ m. (1) URANIA KEECH.³⁴

²⁰ Reported as Lydia's twin in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 80.

²¹ Named "Esther Dunn" in her father's will; her husband named by Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 80. Gravestone photograph of "Mrs. Esther Dunn," findagrave.com, memorial #21383545, St. John's Cemetery, Providence.

²² Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 1:131; see below.

²³ Birth not recorded in Providence, but stated in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81.

²⁴ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 3:Scituate:34; Elsie B. Williams, *Descendants of Roger Williams: Book V: Through His Son Daniel Williams* (Providence, 2014), 22, providing a modern account of Jonathan, his wife, and their children.

²⁵ Named as "—Ballard" in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #25174016, Pocasset Cemetery, Cranston.

²⁶ Named "Sarah Inman" in her father's will; her husband's name reported in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81. No marriage record found.

²⁷ Arnold *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 2:Providence:276, noting "mariner." Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81, noted that he d. young of smallpox.

²⁸ Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 1:37.

²⁹ R.I. Historical Cemetery Commission database [rihistoriccemeteries.org].

³⁰ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 2:Cranston:28. His children reported in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81.

³¹ Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #57680727.

³² Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81, reports they settled in Mendon, Mass., and had ten children.

³³ Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #25166157.

³⁴ Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #25166445. Noted as 1st wife in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81, but no subsequent wife named.

xii ANNE TOURTELLOT, b. say 1753; m. (1) — JONES; m. (2) EBENEZER WHITE.³⁵

Presuming that Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte of Maine belongs in the family of Abraham² Tourtellot of Gloucester, he should therefore be an unrecorded additional son of Abraham² himself, or a son of one of Abraham²'s children old enough to have had a child about 1744. Abraham² Tourtellot had married his second wife, Hannah (Case) Corps, in 1742/3. With his first wife, Abraham² had a known son Abraham³, whose birth in 1725 is documented, and who was named in Abraham²'s will.³⁶ It is unlikely that Abraham² would have had a second *legitimate* son Abraham, and also, perhaps, unlikely that an illegitimate son born about 1744 would have been given the same name as a living legitimate son. At the time Abraham² made his will in 1757, Capt. Abraham would have been about thirteen years old; only one son Abraham is named in the will of Abraham² Tourtellot.

In one early published sketch of Capt. Abraham of Maine, the words “it is said” are employed to identify him as the son of Benjamin³ Tourtellot (*Abraham*²).³⁷ The chronology is very unlikely, since Benjamin³ was born in 1730, and was therefore about fourteen years old when Capt. Abraham was born apparently in 1744. Benjamin³ had a son Abraham born about 1758.³⁸

If Capt. Abraham is a child of one of the children of Abraham² Tourtellot, he must be a child of one of the five oldest children listed above—two sons, Abraham and Jonathan, and three daughters, Mary, Lydia, or Esther. New evidence introduced below rules out any of these three girls as the mother of Capt. Abraham. This leaves two sons, Abraham³ and Jonathan³, as candidates for the father of Capt. Abraham.

Abraham³ Tourtellot was born in 1725. In one compiled genealogy it is stated that he married Phebe “Harris,” born in 1730, and had fourteen children.³⁹ Some online pedigrees show Capt. Abraham of Maine as a son of this

³⁵ The family is reported in Potter, *Memoir Concerning the French Settlements* [note 13], 81.

³⁶ See note 15.

³⁷ “Some Pioneer Settlers on the Upper Penobscot River,” *Bangor Historical Magazine* 6 (1890–91):28–34, at 32.

³⁸ Abraham⁴ Tourtellot (*Benjamin*³), b. ca. 1758, d. 26 Feb. 1835, aged 76, bur. in Townshend, Vt. (gravestone photo, findagrave.com, memorial #23486912). He had migrated there in or after 1786, when he and his wife, Dorcas, sold land in Gloucester previously purchased from “my honored father Benjamin Tourtellott” (Gloucester, R.I., Deeds, 11:468). He was enumerated next to another Benjamin Tourtellot (in non-alphabetical sequence) in the 1820 U.S. Census, Townshend, Windham Co., Vt., p. 255 (pencil).

³⁹ *Encyclopedia of Connecticut Biography: Genealogical–Memorial*, 10 vols. (New York, 1917–23), 4:3–14, at 7.

Abraham³ Tourtellot and Phebe “Harris.”⁴⁰ The Gloucester records show instead that Abraham³ Tourtellot married Phebe *Thornton*, daughter of Thomas Thornton, there on 11 October 1747.⁴¹ Abraham and Phebe, his only known wife, had fifteen children born between 1747 and 1770, most of whom migrated together to Thompson, Connecticut, where he died 6 May 1779.⁴²

Children of Abraham³ and Phebe (Thornton) Tourtellot:⁴³

- i MARY⁴ TOURTELLOT, b. 4 Jan. “1747”; m. (1) Gloucester, 28 April 1766, ELISHA HARRIS;⁴⁴ m. (2) Thompson, Conn., 1 July 1779, JONATHAN GROW.⁴⁵
- ii MICHAEL TOURTELLOT, b. 4 Feb. “1748”; m. Gloucester, 6 Dec. 1767, ELIZABETH SMITH.⁴⁶
- iii BERNEW/BERNON TOURTELLOT, b. 9 Oct. 1750; m. (1) Gloucester, 8 April 1773, PRISCILLA KILLEY;⁴⁷ m. (2) Thompson, Conn., 19 Sept. 1824, RUTH (—) WHEATON.⁴⁸
- iv ISAAC TOURTELLOT, b. 20 Nov. 1752, d. Thompson, 6 June 1837; m. ZERVIAH BROWN.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ A descendant’s sketch in *The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island* (Providence, 1881), 70, indicates that Abraham³ Tourtellot “was born February 27, 1725 and was twice married, first to Miss Harris, and second, to Mrs. Hannah Corps . . . whom he married January 29, 1743.” Both stated marriages are incorrect, as Abraham³ married Phebe Thornton; it was his father who had married Hannah (Case) Corps. Abraham³ Tourtellot and Phebe Harris are claimed as the parents of Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte in several user-submitted pedigrees at ancestry.com, wikitree.com, and geni.com. In some trees, it is claimed that Phebe Harris, alleged wife of Abraham Tourtellot, was a daughter of Toleration Harris of Warwick. Toleration’s daughter Phebe, however, was named as “Phebe, the wife of Philip Arnold” in Toleration Harris’s 1765 will (Warwick, R.I., wills, 3:160–65).

⁴¹ Gloucester “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” [note 5], 1:131.

⁴² Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, #11569851, Tourtellotte Cemetery, Thompson.

⁴³ Revolutionary War Pension Application File #W25491 (Abigail Tourtellot, widow of Joseph Tourtellot) [images, fold3.com]. Abigail included pages torn from a family Bible including one page listing the births of fifteen children of Abraham and Phebe, the first eight with full dates, the final seven only with birth years. There is no context given to show whether the old- or new-style dating convention was used for the first two births. The family is more fully sketched in J. H. Beers, *Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham Counties, Connecticut* (Chicago, 1903), 235–36. Information on the spouses here is supplied from this account except as noted.

⁴⁴ Gloucester “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” [note 5], 126.

⁴⁵ Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800*, 7 vols. (New Haven, 1896–1906), 2:61.

⁴⁶ Gloucester “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” [note 5], 67.

⁴⁷ Gloucester “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” [note 5], 68.

⁴⁸ “Barbour Collection: Thompson: Births–Marriages–Deaths, 1785–1850” (typescript, Conn. State Library, 1921), 256.

⁴⁹ Death date and wife as given in the sketch of grandson Oscar Tourtellotte in Beers, *Commemorative Biographical Record* [note 43], 576.

- v ISRAEL TOURTELLOT, b. 26 Dec. 1754, d. Thompson, 5 March 1846;⁵⁰ m. (1) MERCY JACOBS; m. (2) MARTHA (JOHNSON) TOWNE.⁵¹
- vi JOSEPH TOURTELLOT, b. 29 May 1756, d. Thompson, 6 Aug. 1842, aged 84 [*sic*];⁵² m. Thompson, 6 May 1786, ABIGAIL CARROLL.⁵³
- vii AMASA TOURTELLOT, b. 4 Feb. 1758, d. 1772.
- viii DINAH TOURTELLOT, b. 4 Jan. 1760, d. Thompson, 9 Oct. 1819;⁵⁴ m. JOHN JACOBS.
- ix ANNE TOURTELLOT, b. 1761.
- x ESEK TOURTELLOT, b. 1763; m. REBECCA SWAIN.
- xi JAMES TOURTELLOT, b. 1764; m. Thompson, 2 Sept. 1784, MOLLY BIXBY.⁵⁵
- xii JOSHUA TOURTELLOT, b. 1765; m. HANNAH CARROLL.
- xiii ZILPHA TOURTELLOT, b. 1767; m. — WEAVER.
- xiv STEPHEN TOURTELLOT, b. 1769; m. ELIZABETH BISHOP.
- xv ESTHER TOURTELLOT, b. 1770.

Abraham³ Tourtellot named all the children listed here in his will of 1779, except for Amasa, who died in 1772.⁵⁶ None of his ten known sons was named *Abraham*.

Jonathan³ Tourtellot, the second son of Abraham², was sixteen or perhaps eighteen years old in 1744,⁵⁷ therefore also a possible candidate father for Capt. Abraham. He did not marry, however, until 1752, five years after his brother Abraham. Jonathan lived in Scituate and Foster, Rhode Island, and his family is documented in a modern genealogical compilation; his wife was a descendant of Providence's founder, Roger Williams.⁵⁸

Children of Jonathan³ and Elizabeth (Williams) Tourtellot, b. and d. Scituate:⁵⁹

- i CHRISTOPHER⁴ TOURTELLOT, b. 9 May 1753, d. Oct. 1753.
- ii OLIVE TOURTELLOT, b. 6 July 1755, d. 12 Sept. 1764.
- iii REBECCA TOURTELLOT, b. 26 June 1757, d. 3 May 1778.
- iv ASA TOURTELLOT, b. 23 July 1760; m. AVIS HINES.
- v PATIENCE TOURTELLOT, b. 8 Sept. 1762, d. unmarried, 15 April 1846.⁶⁰

⁵⁰ Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, #84976443, East Thompson Cemetery.

⁵¹ Account in the sketch of a descendant in Beers, *Commemorative Biographical Record* [note 43], 236–37.

⁵² Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, #85819232, Tourtellotte Cemetery.

⁵³ “Barbour Collection: Thompson” [note 48], 256.

⁵⁴ Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, #49718654, Jacobs Cemetery, Thompson.

⁵⁵ Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages* [note 45], 2:63.

⁵⁶ Hartford, Conn., Probate Dist., Estate File Papers, #4016.

⁵⁷ See notes 23 and 62.

⁵⁸ See note 24.

⁵⁹ Births and child deaths reported in Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 3: Scituate:49. Information on the children's marriages and families not otherwise noted here are summarized from Williams, *Descendants of Roger Williams* [note 24], 5:56–59.

⁶⁰ R.I. Historical Cemetery Commission database [rihistoriccemeteries.org].

- vi JONATHAN TOURTELLOT, b. 3 Sept. 1764; m. MARY BOWMAN.⁶¹
- vii ROGER WILLIAMS TOURTELLOT, b. 24 Dec. 1766, d. 4 Oct. 1823; m. ELIZABETH RANDALL.
- viii JAVA TOURTELLOT, b. 5 Oct. 1768, d. 6 Nov. 1844; m. MARY WRIGHT.
- ix ELIZABETH TOURTELLOT, b. 7 April 1770, d. 7 Aug. 1770.
- x SILAS TOURTELLOT, b. 7 June 1774, d. 1 June 1775.

Jonathan died in Foster, Rhode Island, 16 November 1820, at the reported age of 94 years and 2 months, having been “respected and esteemed for his practice of the social virtues through a long and useful life.”⁶² Like his brother Abraham, Jonathan seems not to have had a son *Abraham*, though he left no surviving will or estate file to confirm that omission.

NEW EVIDENCE FOR CAPT. ABRAHAM’S PARENTAGE

Two pieces of evidence from primary sources provide new clues to the parentage of Captain Abraham Tourtellotte of Maine. The first piece is in the Revolutionary War pension application of Rhoda (Mann) (Harrington) Shelley, widow of Israel Harrington. In support of Rhoda’s application, Israel’s brother, Silas Harrington, testified that Israel had served in the Rhode Island line under “Abram Turtelow,” and that Silas “was well and personally acquainted with said Turtelow, who was a cousin to this deponent.”⁶³ Israel and Silas Harrington were sons of William and Ann (Hamon) Herendeen of Chepachet,⁶⁴ a village in the town of Gloucester where Abraham² Tourtellot had a public house.⁶⁵ In Gloucester and Providence records, this family’s surname is usually spelled *Herendeen*; the surname seems to have been standardized as *Harrington* among this family after migration to upstate New York.

The second piece of evidence comes from the index bound at the beginning of the first manuscript “Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages” of the town of Gloucester. This book contains entries for Capt. Abraham’s two Gloucester

⁶¹ Spouse named in Williams, *Descendants of Roger Williams* [note 24], 5:22, with no information on marriage or family.

⁶² Death notice, *Providence Patriot*, 25 Nov. 1820, p. 3 [genealogybank.com]. Stated age at death would put his birth in 1726, not 1728.

⁶³ Revolutionary War Pension Application File #W19026 (Rhoda Shelley, widow of Israel Harrington) [images, fold3.com], deposition of Silas Harrington.

⁶⁴ The fullest compiled genealogy is by George H. Harrington, “Manuscript of Harrington Family Genealogical Gazetteer,” 3 vols. (typescript, Austin, Texas, 1941), 3:472–78 [images, familysearch.org], from which a condensed account appears in Byron M. Herrington, *Ancestry and Descendants of William Harrington or Herrington* (n.p., [1964]), 8–10. The parentage of Ann Hamon is unknown. Members of this immediate family migrated to Easton, Albany (subsequently Washington) Co., N.Y., shortly after the Revolutionary War.

⁶⁵ Edna Whitaker Kent, *Gloucester, Rhode Island*, Images of America ser. (Charleston, S.C., 1998), 41.

marriages, in 1764 and 1767. Bound at the front of the book, with separate pagination, is a set of indexes of births, marriages (separate groom and bride indexes), and deaths, with entries grouped in columns by first letter of surname, listed in order of appearance within the volume (which is not chronological: entries seem to have been made in available space in the book on pages almost at random). The indexes do not appear to have been compiled as the entries in the book were created, but possibly all at once, at or after the book's completion; the book includes records down to about 1815. In the groom index, Capt. Abraham is indexed as "Tourtellot Abraham Jr." for his first marriage to Hannah Combes.⁶⁶ Several lines later, for the record of his second marriage, he is indexed as "Tourtellot Abraham *son of Amey*" (see illustration overleaf).⁶⁷

Capt. Abraham's mother is *not* named in the actual marriage record referred to by this index entry, so the addition of her name in the index is significant: it was added when the index was created, presumably with additional knowledge, to help distinguish people of the same name.⁶⁸ The word *junior* sometimes appears in the index and in the entries so indexed,⁶⁹ but no other *mothers* are named anywhere in the volume's indexes.⁷⁰

On the presumption that the information is accurate, who was *Amy*? There are three possibilities: she was (1) the wife of a Tourtellot; (2) a Tourtellot who bore an illegitimate child known by his mother's surname; or (3) the mother of an illegitimate son of a Tourtellot male. The first two possibilities cannot be corroborated. No marriages of any Tourtellot to an Amy, in or before 1744, are known from the records. Similarly, no Amy Tourtellot is found in any Gloucester records, nor anywhere within this Tourtellot family before Amy⁵ Tourtellot (*Michael*⁴, *Abraham*³⁻²⁻¹), born in Thompson, Connecticut, in the 1770s.⁷¹ The designation "son of Amey" therefore suggests that Capt.

⁶⁶ Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 21.

⁶⁷ Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], index:47.

⁶⁸ Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 153.

⁶⁹ "Tourtellot Abraham Jr." indexed for p. 21 points to the record of Capt. Abraham's 1764 marriage to Hannah Combes. "Tourtellot Abraham Jr." indexed for p. 131 points to the record of Abraham³'s 1747 marriage to Phebe Thornton. In both cases the index entry reflects the use of *junior* in the actual record.

⁷⁰ The index also includes the following notations for disambiguation: Capt., Esq., M.D., 3rd, Mrs., and Wid. In some cases, middle names are included. For example, Tourtellot Daniel *Case* (on the page pictured) and Tourtellot Jesse *Steere* (on the following page). No self-evident references distinguishing *illegitimate* individuals are listed in the index.

⁷¹ Amy Tourtellot, daughter of Michael⁴ and Elizabeth (Smith) Tourtellott (*Abraham*³⁻²⁻¹), was b. Thompson, Conn., 18 Dec. "1772, 1774" and m. Samuel Cleveland (Edmund Janes Cleveland and Horace Gillette Cleveland, *Genealogy of the Cleveland and Cleaveland Families*, 3 vols. [Hartford, 1899], 1:322).

Abraham of Maine was a son of one of the Tourtellot men and a woman named Amy, either in an unrecorded marriage, or an illegitimacy.

These two pieces of evidence, considered together, suggest a solution. Israel and Silas Harrington/Herendeen were sons of William and Ann (Hamon) Herendeen; William was, in turn, the son of Elisha and Susanna (Rutenberg) Harrington.⁷² Elisha Herendeen also had a daughter Amy born in Gloucester on 20 January 1722/3.⁷³ Silas and Israel therefore had an aunt Amy who was about twenty-one when Captain Abraham was born about 1744. This Amy may have married in 1746—not to a Tourtellot—and her fate is not known for certain.⁷⁴ If she was the mother of Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte, her Herendeen nephews were Capt. Abraham's first cousins.

Associations found in a Gloucester deed strengthen this possibility. Captain Abraham Tourtellotte and his second wife, Mallason (Walling), sold property in Gloucester to Nedabiah Brown on 15 October 1774.⁷⁵ Thomas Herendeen and Isaac Ross witnessed the sale, which included Abraham's house lot and adjoining sawmill. This Thomas Herendeen was Amy Herendeen's brother; Isaac Ross was the husband of Rachel Herendeen, Amy's sister.⁷⁶ Both witnesses, therefore, were uncles of Israel and Silas Harrington and, if Amy Herendeen was his mother, also uncles of Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte. Though no relationship is stated in the deed, the presence of these

⁷² Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 82.

⁷³ Gloucester "Record of Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], 82.

⁷⁴ An Amy Herendeen m. Scituate, R.I., 8 April 1746, John Randall (Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 12], 3:Scituate:26); she is identified as Elisha's daughter in Harrington, "Manuscript of Harrington Family Genealogical Gazetteer" [note 64], 1:122. Amy, daughter of Elisha, is not the Amy Herendeen who m. Smithfield, R.I., 5 July 1750, Joshua Smith (Smithfield, R.I., "Births, Marriages, and Deaths" [original manuscript], 80 [FHL film #959589]). Amy (Herendeen) Smith was a daughter of Ebenezer Herendeen of Smithfield, as is proved by her assent to the division of Ebenezer's estate in 1793 (Harrington, "Manuscript of Harrington Family Genealogical Gazetteer" [note 64], 1:99; Daniel M. Popek, "Smith and Young Families of Northern Rhode Island" [sites.rootsweb.com/~smithandyoung]). John and Amy (Herendeen) Randall have not been found further in Gloucester, Scituate, or any R.I. records. The John Randall "Jr." who m. Scituate, 23 Aug. 1752, Elizabeth Collins (Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island*, 3:Scituate:26), was probably a younger namesake of the husband of Amy Herendeen.

Elisha Herendeen, Amy's father, is last noted in Gloucester records on 1 July 1763, when, as "late of Gloucester, but now resident in the [drowned?] land on the west side of Hudsons Bay in north America," he sold land in Gloucester to one of his sons (Gloucester, R.I., Deeds, 7:434). No estate file has been found for him. Some of Elisha's children migrated out of Gloucester in the 1760s and 1770s.

⁷⁵ Gloucester, R.I., Deeds, 9:264 [FHL film #941832].

⁷⁶ Harrington, "Manuscript of Harrington Family Genealogical Gazetteer" [note 64], 1:122-23.

Thomton Joseph	52
Tourtellot Michael	67
Tourtellot Barnes	68
Thayer Ephraim	75
Tucker Rufus	85
Thomton Jeremiah	96
Tucker Nehemiah	120
Thomton David	127
Thomton Ezra	127
Thomton Benjamin	128
Tourtellot Abraham Jr.	131
Thayer Smith	150
Tourtellot Abraham son of Amy	153
Thacker Nathaniel	184
Tourtellot Jesse	187
Thayer Ephraim	198
Tourtellot Daniel base	238
Tourtellot Daniel Esq.	241

Glocester, R.I., "Births, Deaths, Marriages" [note 5], index p. 47 (marriages: grooms), detail. By permission of Glocester, R.I., Town Clerk's office.

Herendeen uncles as witnesses is consistent with a close family connection between Tourtellotte and the Herendeens.

If Amy Herendeen was Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte's mother, who was his father? The two third-generation Tourtellots of an appropriate age to have fathered Capt. Abraham with Amy Herendeen were brothers Abraham³ and Jonathan³ Tourtellot (*Abraham*²). Of these two, Abraham³ seems the more likely candidate, as he was nineteen or twenty in 1744 when Capt. Abraham was apparently born—close in age to Amy Herendeen, who was twenty-one.

The evidence therefore suggests that Capt. Abraham Tourtellotte of Maine was the son of Amy Herendeen of Gloucester and, most likely, Abraham³ Tourtellot. What is not known is whether those two individuals were married. Despite the possible stigma of illegitimacy, Captain Abraham Tourtellotte enjoyed the status of a member of a well-established family—owning property in Gloucester and receiving a commission in a Continental Army regiment. If he was illegitimate, there is no indication that he suffered from reduced social standing either while living in Gloucester or after his migration to Maine.⁷⁷

The authors wish to thank Mr. Leigh Cowing for a critical reading of the manuscript.

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⁷⁷ Editor's Note: Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG, Editor of *Rhode Island Roots*, has reminded us that in Rhode Island, unlike in Massachusetts, bastardy proceedings are not usually found in county or colony judicial proceedings. The only source usually found to document bastardy in Rhode Island is the records of town councils, since, as Cherry put it, "the town searched hard for a man to support a bastard child" as a financial matter, rather than a judicial one. No mention of Abraham Tourtellot(te) as a bastard requiring support has been found in Gloucester town council records.