

WELLES SPRINGS

A Publication from the WELLES FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mrs. Martha A. Partridge, Editor

117 Longvue Drive

Wethersfield, CT 06109-3019

E-mail: martypart@juno.com

WEBSITE: www.wellesfamily.com

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TIME

It is time to renew your subscription to the Welles Family newsletter. Below you will find the status of your subscription... paid through or due. Please review and if your subscription is running out, you can renew by sending your check, made payable to WFA to the editor (address above). Also be sure to check the address label. If the first number on the top line is circled in red, your annual dues are also in need of payment. You can send me one check for the total amount. Your editor is also the ass't treasurer. If no red circle appears, your dues are paid to date. You may subscribe to the newsletter for 1 to 3 years at a time.

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Thanks for your continued support. Marty

Dear Cousins;

News time once again! Boy, all sorts of news to share this edition. Hope you enjoy some of the various bits and pieces we think you might enjoy. If there is something you would like to see in your "Wellesprings", drop me a line or an e-mail. We are always looking for new input and new ideas.

This was the first time in several years that Russ and I were not able to attend the annual Reunion. Everyone involved says it was a grand day but apologies that the date had to be changed at the last minute to accommodate the Mashantuckets' schedules of events. You know what they say about the "best laid plans..."! Anyway we are delighted that so many of our cousins could attend and had a great time. The museum is open for visitors most every day and I highly suggest if you are traveling through Connecticut, that you make it a stopping place. The museum begins with the entrance into an ice age glacier and it's forward from there on. I am placing an article further in this edition about one of the elders of the tribe... Gladys Tantaquidgeon ... who died last week (Nov. 1) at the age of 106 years.

I'm sorry I do not have any pre-2006 reunion plans to share with you at present. The committee is working but has yet to set a date or site. Look to either a special mailing or the spring newsletter to bring you up to date. I truly hope to see you all there ... where ever/when ever.

Meanwhile, may your Holidays be blessed and the New Year treat you graciously.

Always yours,

Marty

President's Letter – Fall 2005
November 1, 2005

Greetings Welles Family and Friends,

Many thanks to all those who attended the 2005 Welles Family Association Reunion in June at the celebrated and renowned Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Ledyard, Connecticut.

The museum traces the history of the Pequots from the Ice Age up to modern times. Along with the educational and informative exhibits about animal life and natural history and Indian life of the Connecticut region throughout the ages, there were dramatic exhibits with life-like models showing a caribou hunt and what it was like to live in a Pequot village. There was also an excellent film that depicted the arrival of the English and the tragic events that followed.

All in all, the Pequot Museum is certainly a wonderful facility and the exhibits are extraordinary. There is something there for all ages and I would highly recommend it for the whole family.

With warmest regards,

Tom

Thomas Gideon Welles, Jr., President

Departed Cousins

As in every issue, there are always cousins who have passed on to the biggest family reunion in a place where pain and suffering are no more. We, who remain on earth, mourn their deaths while we rejoice in their lives.

This edition is sorry to have to announce the deaths of:

Jacqueline Gallagher , 61, of Delmar, NY	Sept. 24, 2004
G. Donald Norris of British Columbia, CN	Feb. 5, 2005
Irene Kelleher , 103, of Abbotsford, British Columbia	Mar. 16, 2005
Lucy Beswick Nuttall , 97, of Hollidaysburg, PA	Mar. 19, 2005
Dr. Hilda Crosby Standish , 102, of West Hartford, CT	Jun. 1, 2005
Thomas Gideon Welles, Sr. 85, of Coventry, CT and Stuart, FL	Aug. 4, 2005

In Memoriam

**It was the Father's will to call them Home,
Where they might rest and hear Him say, "Well Done."
Their work complete, another life awaits
Beyond the sunset, through the golden gates.**

**Then let them find eternal love and peace
Where all our worries, pain, and heartaches cease.
May light perpetual shine upon them, Lord;
And the joy of your Presence be their sure reward!**

By Miriam Phifer, late of Raleigh, NC

Jacqueline Gallagher was another of my long time correspondents about the Welles family. Her son, **Matthew Giltner** kindly wrote to me of her death and sent her obituary (Albany Times Union 9/27/04). Jackie was the founder of Traditions Antiques on Albany; a founding partner in Abacus Antiques in Saratoga's historic downtown during the Saratoga racing season. She was a master gardener and spent her free time restoring her 1850 mill worker's home in the Normanskill section of Delmar, NY, where she could tend her magnificent garden within view of the Normanskill Creek waterfall. Her parents, a brother and sister, two sons, a daughter and her beloved granddaughter, Hannah Giltner of Kinderhook, survive Jacqueline.

Don Norris and Gloria George have suffered several losses in their families this year. Don's Dad, **G. Donald Norris** passed away on Feb. 5, 2005. On May 31st, Gloria lost her cousin **Vivian (George) Creyke** (whom she had grown up with) and on Sept. 30th, her sister-in-law, **Janet George** (her brother Leonard's wife, fondly called "Old Socks") passed away. In between, they finally heard that cousin **Irene Kelleher** had died on March 16th. A long time resident of Abbotsford, Irene was born in Matsqui, B.C. on Dec. 16, 1901, daughter of **Cornelelius and Julia (Wells) Kelleher**. Julia Wells was the daughter of **Joshua Willard Wells**. Irene Kelleher was the first Native woman in British Columbia to be granted a teaching certificate. Her first application to work in Abbotsford was not successful, a rejection she attributed to her heritage and gender. She persevered and began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Usk, (near Terrace) B.C. She eventually became Principal of North Poplar Elementary School in Abbotsford and retired from teaching after 44 years of dedicated service (a true descendant of Gov. Welles) to the youth of her community.

Lucy Beswick Nuttall was the oldest and longest-lived member of the Hollidaysburg First Presbyterian Church, which her family had founded. She was a faithful attendee at our Welles Family reunions for many years. An expert bridge player, she and her late husband, **William**, taught bridge for many years. Lucy became a local historian and wrote three books based on her life experiences in Hollidaysburg (you can peruse them at our annual reunions). Lucy is survived by her two children (also life members of the WFA) **William R. Nuttall** of Pittsburg, PA and **Susan Nuttall Hartmeister** of Golden, CO and five grandchildren.

Dr. Hilda Crosby Standish, widow of life member **Dr. E. Myles Standish**, was medical director of Connecticut's first birth control clinic and a member of the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Educated in Hartford public schools, she majored in zoology at Wellesley College and graduated from Cornell Medical School in 1928. In 1932 to 1934, she taught obstetrics at the Women's Christian Medical College of Shanghai, China. There she taught local women how to care for their own people as well as working in the hospital. Upon her return to Connecticut she became medical director of the state's first birth control clinic, the Maternal Health Center in Hartford. This clinic served only married women who couldn't afford a private doctor and opened at a time when the state law prohibited the use of contraceptives (and doctor who advised the use of them faced fines and jail). Dr. Hilda Crosby felt it was just good medical practice and downplayed the person risks she faced. The clinic closed in five years. She married Dr. Myles Standish of Wethersfield (a dermatologist) in 1936. She served on the anesthesia staff at Hartford Hospital during World War II. She stopped practicing medicine while raising their five children but continued to teach sex education classes. Teaching and lecturing continued until her retirement in 1969. In 1963 the Hartford Branch of Planned Parenthood was named after her and in 1994 she was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. She and Myles traveled extensively and she was the recipient of many awards. We had the pleasure of spending some time with Hilda Standish, a delightful and gracious hostess, during our activity with the Experiment in International Living in the mid-1960s.

All who have attended reunions of our family will long remember Thomas Gideon Welles, Sr. Tom and **Jane** were faithful to our organization and selflessly brought their children in the association. Who can claim as life members three of their four children and two presently serve our association with deep dedication... our president, **Tom, Jr.** and our Trustee, **Robert "Bob" Welles**. Daughter, **Susan Welles Mahr**

has also been an active member. Tom and Jane divided their time between their Coventry farmhouse and their winter home in Stuart, FL. Tom's parents started the Welles Real Estate and Insurance Agency, which Tom later ran. He and Jane met during World War II, when Tom was assigned to McBride Air Base in Missouri ... he was a pilot in the Army Air Corp. Tom ran the family business for three decades before turning it over to son, Tom. Although his health slowed him down some in the past few years, he was ever enthusiastic about life. Tom was interred at the Welles Burial Plot at Cedar Hill Cemetery, the same cemetery where his great grandfather, Gideon Welles, is buried.

Our prayers and condolences go out to each member of the families of our departed cousins. Editor

Other Well(e)s Deaths/Obituaries Received

Cousin **Ralph Wadleigh** of Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA has forwarded several obituaries to me of Wells/Welles who have died in the Boston/Cape Cod area and also New London, CT. While I do not know if or how they might be related, we try to list them and keep the obituaries in our Memory Book for possible connections and interest by others. They are listed here by death date.

- Maureen A. (Lemire) Wells**, 60 of Lowell, MA and Sarasota, FL in June 2004 (Cape Cod Times)
- Elizabeth Wells "Dody" Baird**, 85 of Mystic, CT and Newburgh, NY on July 21, 2004 (The Day)
- Barbara (Robinson) Wells** of Winchester, MA on Sept. 6, 2004 (The Boston Globe)
- Robert Wells**, 81, of Waterford, CT on Sept. 19, 2004 (The Day, New London, CT)
- Robert F. Wells** of Hyde Park, MA, formerly of Dorchester, MA on Oct. 25, 2004 (The Boston Globe)
- Benjamin Wells** of Randolph and East Falmouth, MA on Nov. 9, 2004 (ibid)
- Rogers Galt Welles** 83, of Tequesta, FL and So. Dartmouth, MA on March 6, 2005 (ibid)
- John Hunter Wells** of Weymouth, formerly Quincy and Dorchester, MA June 9, 2005 (ibid)
- Deborah Marie (Purcell) Wells** of Maynard and formerly Framingham, MA Aug. 7, 2005 (ibid)
- Scott E. Wells** 36, of Miami Beach, FL, formerly Medford, MA on Aug. 16, 2005 (ibid)

Our thanks to Ralph for continuing to keep us updated on Wells/Welles obituaries and our condolences to each family who has suffered great loss of loved ones. Editor

GENEALOGIST CORNER

The Connecticut River and its Change of Course over Time

By Barbara J. Mathews, CG

The earliest European settlers along the Great River in Connecticut experienced several severe floods in the 17th Century. The earliest of these floods was triggered by a storm that began on 5 March 1638/9 and went on until 18 March 1638/9. Four days later, on 22 March 1638/9 the flood crested. The three earliest towns along the river, that is, Hartford, Windsor, and Wethersfield, had only been settled for three years. In his Journal, Gov. Winthrop of Massachusetts stated that, "There came such a rain withall, as raised the waters at Connecticut

some twenty feet above their meadows, etc.”⁶ Certainly the loss of meadow and crops at this time must have been a severe hardship for people who might still only have been living in dugout homes.

The next flood was actually two floods, both occurring in the summer of 1683. The Rev. Cotton Mather wrote about these floods in his book *Remarkable Providences*. He stated:

Some remarkable land floods have likewise happened in New England. Nor is that which came to pass this present year to be here wholly passed over in silence. In the spring time, the great river at Connecticut useth to overflow, but this year it did so after midsummer, and that twice; for, July 20, 1683, a considerable flood unexpectedly arose, which proved detrimental to many in that colony. But on August 13, a second and more dreadful flood came; the waters were then observed to rise twenty-six feet above their usual boundaries; the grass in the meadows, also the English grain, was carried away before it; the Indian corn by the long continuance of the waters is spoiled so that the four river towns, viz[ualize]: Windsor, Hartford, Weathersfield [sic], Middle-Town [sic], are extream [sic] sufferers. They write from thence, that some who had hundreds of bushels of corn in the morning, at night had not one peck for their families to live upon. There is an awful intimation of Divine displeasure remarkable in this matter, inasmuch as August 8, a day of public humiliation, with fasting and prayer was attended in that colony, partly on the account of God’s hand against them in the former flood, the next week after which the hand of God was stretched out over them again in the same way, after a more terrible manner than at first.⁷

The Connecticut River continued to flood annually in the Spring and to flood in greater measure from time to time. Stiles gives the following flood heights:⁸

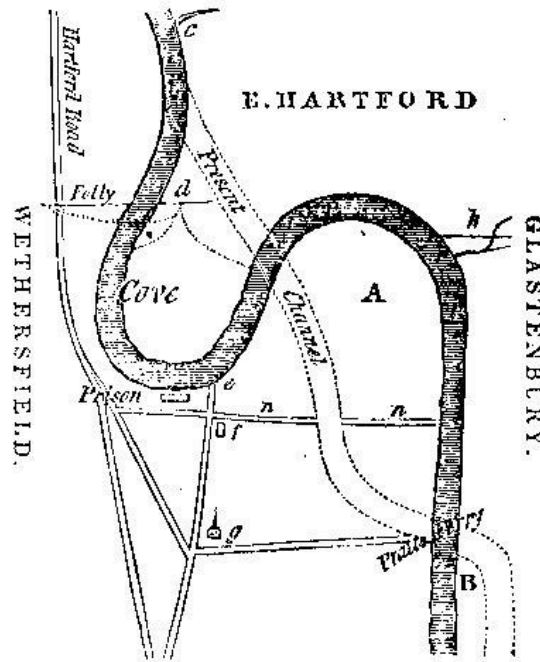
1692	26 feet, 2 inches
1801	27 feet, 3 inches
1839	23 feet
1840	25 feet, 6 inches
1843	26 feet, 3 inches
1852	23 feet
1853	28 feet, 10½ inches

Each new flood had the force to drive a straighter course for the Great River. In time, the course that had meandered between Hartford and Wethersfield became straighter and straighter. The map published by John Warber Barber in *Connecticut Historical Collections* shows in dark the old channel and in dotted lines the new channel.

⁶ Henry R. Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut*, vol. I, p. 712, citing Winthrop’s *Hist. of New England* (Savage’s Edition), I, p. 352.

⁷ Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut*, vol. I, p. 712, citing Mather’s *Remarkable Providences* (1856 edition of the original published at Boston, 1684), p. 232.

⁸ Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut*, vol. I, pp. 712-713.



According to Barber, “The tract A contains a number of hundred acres of good land, over which the river has gradually passed to its present course, from the old channel seen in the diagram, which is now obliterated. The town of Wethersfield maintaining its old bounds, it will be perceived that the tract A, although on the east side of the river, is within the bounds of Wethersfield... and it will be perceived that the tract B is within the limits of Glastonbury.”⁹

This sometimes gradual, sometimes cataclysmic change of the river’s course had its impact on the family of Samuel² Welles. Like his brother Thomas², Jr., he died intestate and his estate was subject to the legal division of the dower third and shares to the children.¹⁰

The inventory of Samuel’s estate was taken 15 July 1675 by Samuel Talcott, John Chester, and John Deming. It came to £1100:00:00, the exact same amount that his brother Thomas, Jr.’s estate had come to. At the end of the inventory the appraisers appended a list of Samuel’s children which reads:

The names & age of Capt. Sam’l. Welles his children:

Samuell Welles aged 16 years } or thereabouts

Thomas Welles 14 years }

Sarah Welles 12 years }

Mary Welles 10 years

Ann: Welles 7 years

Elizabeth Welles 5 years

This youngest child, Elizabeth³ Welles, was to marry Daniel Shelton of Stratford. While the children were young, administration responsibilities for the estate passed through the widow Hannah Welles; John Chester (husband of Samuel’s sister Sarah), and Mrs. Ann Hawkins (Samuel’s older sister). Finally, the two oldest children, both sons, were able to assume responsibility for the estate.

⁹ John Warner Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections* (New Haven: Durrie & Peck and J. W. Barber, 1838), p. 15.

¹⁰ The estate papers of Capt. Samuel Welles appear as docket no. 5848 in Hartford Probate District Court records. Manwaring I:249-250 cites the probate court record books as III:157, 164-165; IV:14, 37, 148; and VI:159. All the material here is taken from the original papers in the estate files.

Thomas³ Welles and his brother Samuel³ Welles, Jr., served as administrators on their father's estate. Evidently the two were late in providing the share to their sister Elizabeth, married to Daniel Shelton of Stratford. Her share came to £127:14:00 of which she had only received £80:10:00 in movables by May 1699 when Daniel Shelton brought the issue to the attention of the General Court.¹¹ One of the factors slowing the distribution of her share had been the shift of the "Great River" (now the Connecticut River) in her course late in the 17th century. This had literally caused land to be lost at Hoccanum. The court adjusted the value of the land Elizabeth was to receive to £42:10:00 and levied court costs of £2:05:00 to each of the executors. The executors were to pay Elizabeth out of their own monies. Evidently this didn't happen soon enough for Daniel Shelton, as he brought the issue to the General Court again in May 1701. It was ordered then by the assembly that each man should pay half from his own estate.¹² Still this did not bring relief to Daniel Shelton. The General Court in May 1713 granted £7 to Daniel out of the estate of Capt. Thomas Wells, deceased. It was resolved that, should the estate not pay Shelton, then the money would come from Ephraim Goodrich and his wife who were administrators on his estate for a total of £18:15:09 together with court costs of £2:15:06.¹³ All of this adjustment because the course of the Connecticut River had changed over time.

⁶ J. Hammond Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, prior to the Union with New Haven Colony, May 1665* (Hartford: Brown & Parsons, 1850-1890), 4:294-295.

⁷ Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 4:355.

⁸ Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 5:375.

Another fascinating article by our genealogist...many thanks, Barbara

Drips and drops from the old bucket...

Last edition, I published an obituary about the death in (approximately) 1889 of Mr. Austin Brainerd. I stated at the end that although it was most interesting reading and informative, it did not give the answers to questions the article brought to mind. Always up for a genealogical challenge, **Patricia L. Odiorne** of Southwick MA went to work, trying to solve the puzzles. Here follows, her findings, as they were sent to me in three letters from Pat.

“Here’s a little more information on Austin Brainerd/Brainard. According to the Massachusetts vital records death index, Austin died in South Hadley, MA in 1889.” Pat also found the death of his wife, “Susan V. in So. Hadley in 1885. His father, Austin, Sr. died in So. Hadley in 1869.

“The 1880 U. S. Census shows, Austin (age 49 and “Frances V.” (age 39) Brainard were parents of George D. (21), Fred W. (age 15. and Frank A. (age 10) and the family was residing in South Hadley, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts.”

“ The 1870 U.S. Census of South Hadley has the same family, with Austin (age 39), Susan V. (age 29), George D. (age 11), Fred W. (age 5), and a male infant [Frank] born March 1870. Austin and the boys are shown as born in Massachusetts, but Susan was shown as born in New York. Austin’s brother Sylvester (age 24 -sic) was also living in So. Hadley with a presumed wife named Catharine, (age 22) born in Ireland, and two presumed children, John (age 2) and Emma (age 1). According to the obituary, Sylvester would soon be dead, and his sister Mary would be caring for his children...” Pat found Sylvester in the death index for 1876 and his wife there for 1873. This correlates with the obituary although Sylvester’s death date is somewhat later than

stated in Austin's obituary. The 1860 U. S. Census of South Hadley has the elder Austin (age 69), his presumed wife Emma (age 68), their presumed daughter Mary E. (age 33), and presumed son Sylvester (age 32). Pat worked backward to the 1850 U.S. Census where she found the above four individuals (10 years younger) and Austin Brainard, Jr. (age 19) living in So. Hadley, MA

Three days later, Pat visited the Connecticut River Historical Museum and Genealogical Library in Springfield, MA, where she found three death records on microfilm of Massachusetts Vital Records.

1. Austin Brainard died 20 July 1889 in So. Hadley, MA and was listed as follows: M[ale], W[idower]; Age 58 years, 6 months and 3 days; Cause of death: Bright's Disease [Kidney disease]; Residence, Place of Death and Burial all So. Hadley, MA; Occupation: Farmer; Birthplace: So. Hadley, MA; Father: Austin, b. Haddam, CT; Mother: Emma, born Easthampton, MA

2. Mary C. Brainard died 10 March 1881 So. Hadley, MA and was listed as follows: Female; Single; Age 43 years, 9 months, 15 days; Cause of death: Consumption [Tuberculosis]; Residence and Place of death: So. Hadley; Occupation: At Home; Birthplace: So. Hadley; Parents Austin and Emma (Smith), born East Haddam, CT and So. Hadley, MA [respectively]. **...giving us a maiden name of Smith for Mary.**

3. Susan V. Brainard died 28 February 1885 in So. Hadley, MA and was listed as follows: Female; Married; Age 44 years, 4 months, --- days; Cause of Death: Meningitis Cerebro Spinal; Place of Death; So. Hadley, MA; Occupation: Housekeeper; Birthplace: Masonville, N.Y.; Parents; Joel and Nancy, born New York. **...but, alas, no proof of her maiden name being Weld [? Or perhaps Velt, as it would have been pronounced in German...thus (perhaps) explaining Susan's middle initial "V"? Editor]**

The other facts noted by Pat are that we now know that Emma Smith was born in Hampshire County, MA...either Easthampton or So. Hadley, as stated in the death records for Austin and Mary. The names Brainerd/Brainard are interchanged for no apparent "rhyme or reason" says Pat.

Pat just can't leave a mystery alone and returned to the CRHM&GL the next day. Here she also found the records of death for Austin Brainard, Sr. and Sylvester S. Brainard.

4. Austin Brainard Sen.; Male; Married; Age 78 years, 6 months, 13 days; Cause of death: Liver Disease; Residence: So. Hadley Falls, MA Occupation: Farmer; Birthplace: East Haddam [CT], Parents: Robert and Abigail Brainard. Date of Death 7 August 1869.

5. Sylvester S. Brainard; Male; _____; Age 47 years, 4 months, 6 days; Cause of Death: Consumption; Residence and Place of Death: So. Hadley, MA; Birthplace: South Hadley; Father Austin, born East Haddam [CT]; Mother: Emma, born So. Hadley. Date of Death 12 June 1876.

Still hoping to verify Susan Brainerd's maiden name, Pat checked the birth record for Frank A. Brainard. "As I was scanning the page for South Hadley, I found a female Brainerd born 8 November 1870. I really did a double take when I discovered that her parents were Wells and Adeline W. Brainerd, born So. Hadley and Belchertown [MA] respectively". "Frank's birth record showed his parents as Austin and Susan V. Brainerd, both So. Hadley and Mason Ville (rest of page in fold)." "Now we know that Wells Brainard and Austin Brainard lived in the same town...So. Hadley.

Pat continued to dig and found (Biographical Review...of The Leading Citizens of Hampshire County MA, pub.1896) that the parents of Wells Brainard were Robert and Mercy (Snow) Brainard and that his grandfather was Robert Brainard, Sr. of Haddam, CT...moved to So. Hadley in 1805. Perusing the "Gazetteer of Hampshire County, MA 1654-1887 Pat discovered that Robert, Sr. had two wives, Abigail and Olive, and that he "in 1805" ..."settled on the farm now owned by Wells Brainard." Wells Brainard and Adaline A. Wilson, both residents of So. Hadley, were married in West Springfield on 29 Nov 1854 by Rev. Henry Cooley. Wells was 22 years old; Adaline was 18, daughter of Porter Wileson (sic) and it was a first marriage for both.

Thank you to Pat for all her research on this family. We still do not know how or if they might be related to our Welles family or any other Well(e)s...so there is no end to this mystery. We have learned how much can be found by delving into the various records and files of our Historical Libraries/Societies. Never give up digging. I also know that, while this family is not found in our present level of research (6th generation from the Governor) it well may connect later on down the lines. We do have Brainards who are members of our association. Susan Dudley Welles (deceased) married Jesse Brainard. Susan was Aunt to

our President, Thomas G. Welles, Jr. and lived at Melody Farms in Coventry, CT. Two of her sons live there today. Perhaps, President Tom or cousins John, Tom and/or Bill Brainard would be able to shine some light on this subject?

Our Genealogist has forward to me another letter of interest ... a follow up on her article in the Spring Edition 2005 or "Wellesprings" . The writer, **Mr. Ralph A. Sperry** of Portsmouth, NH has graciously allowed us to copy his letter in this edition.

" The other day I came across you account of the murder of Enoch Sperry by Charles Sanford in 1856. As it happens, I'm currently editing the collected poems of my grandfather, Charles Sanford Sperry, who was born in Aurora, IL, in 1858. His parents moved to Aurora from Oneida County, NY, sometime in 1857, so they might well have heard of Enoch's murder, both because it was apparently big news, and because Enoch was family, albeit distant. (As you probably know, the first Sperry in this country, William, settled in New Haven, CT, in 1638 as the governor's farmer, and the Sperrys, at least in my branch, were subsequently very prolific. My grandfather was the seventh of eleven children, and the first born in Illinois.

Now, it's hard to imagine my grandfather's parents naming him after a murderer (though my great-grandfather's name was, improbably, Jinks Hale Sperry). On the other hand, it's hard to imagine the naming to be purely coincidental, on the principle that one coincidence is possible, two are unlikely, and three are improbable. Whichever the case – and I doubt that one can determine which case at this date – I thought you'd be as bemused by this as I.

Incidentally, traditionally speaking, death by suicide was the worst death of all, the suicide being condemned to Hell. Death as punishment was next-worst, sending the deceased at least to Purgatory. Thus death by natural causes (in Sanford's case, smallpox) was indeed an improvement over hanging, since Sanford was deemed to be deranged, and, absent the condemnation of capital punishment, he died an innocent madman."

Many thanks to Mr. Sperry for his thoughts and input on Barbara's tale of a "Welles Descendant Was First Victim of The Maniacal Ax Murderer of Woodbridge ...New Years Day, 1856"

NEW ACQUISITION TO THE WFA "LIBRARY"

Cousin Ralph Wadleigh recently acquired "The Genealogy of the Harmon Ruliffson Family" 1689-1961 compiled by Lois Ruliffson Wells in 1961 and has passed it on to me to as an addition to our archival materials (available at our annual meetings). I have had a few minutes to peruse this 43-page booklet and have found that other than the author, there are three other Wells connections.

Page 6: #276: Philetus Ruliffson married in 1854, **Lois Wells** of Wheatland, NY. Their children were Melvin W., Allen W., John W., and William W Ruliffson.

Page 12: #631: Serena E. Clark , b. 17 Aug 1848, d. 1934, m. **John Talcott Wells**, b. 14 Jan 1843, Garbutt.,d. 11 Mar 1932. He was a contractor and builder. Built many large barns in Western, NY.[*Could these be the barns we were told about at the reunion in Mystic, CT 3 years ago? I'm still waiting for the article that was "promised" about these barns for the Wellesprings!!*] Children (all surnamed Wells): Stephen C., Noland G., Robert R., Ward H., and John T. These descendants are carried for two more generation in the booklet...pages 12 and 13.

Page 36: #284: Marietta Ruliffson b. 28 Aug 1836, Schoharie Co., NY. She died in Garbutt, NY 21 Aug 1910. On 7 Nov 1866, she married **Seth Wells**, b. 19 Apr 1838, d. 8 Feb 1912. Both buried at Garbutt. "He enlisted as a private on July 31, 1862, in Company C. 108th Reg., N.Y. Volunteers. He was in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, where he was wounded on July 3 in the 3rd battle. He was taken to a hospital in Baltimore, where he spent about three months." "After his marriage he settled on a farm in Henrietta, N.Y. for a few years. Then he went to Minn. about 1870, where he farmed for about four years. From there to Tennessee for a year. The rest of his life was spent on the farm at Garbutt where he was born. His father

had purchased this land in 1823. Seth bought off the other heirs. He left the farm to his son, William, and it is now [1961] owned by his grand-daughter and her husband, and is worked by their son, John Minster. Children of Marietta and Seth Wells: William W., Josephine (twins), a child who died in infancy, Marion, and Myra." Again, their descendants are carried for two more generations forward.

I think the most interesting descendant of Seth Wells is daughter Marion Wells, M.D. b. 28 March 1874. She graduated from Ann Arbor Medical College in 1898. While in college she joined the "Student Volunteers" movement along with Sharon J. Thoms and they decided to go a Medical Missionaries to a foreign country. They were married at her father's home in Garbutt, NY on 27 Sep 1898, and in October of that year they were sent out by the dutch Reformed Mission Board. After a few months of intensive language study, "they took up the Medical work in bBasral, Arabia. At that time no Arab woman could have medical aid except by the hands of a woman physician and to pioneer in this field was a difficult task. There were other missionaries there who were teaching and preaching the Gospel. In 1900 they were transferred to Bahrein on the Persian Gulf. Here Dr. Thoms supervised the erection of the Mason Memorial Hospital, the first missionary hospital in Arabia. Here, a few years later, a hospital for women was to be built and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Marion Wells Thoms for Marion died of typhoid fever in 1905, not long after their first furlough home." Her widower, Dr. Sharon Thoms married (2) in 1906 Mae DePree, who had gone to the Mission field as a teacher. Years later, she started a school for girls in Baghdad. Drs. Marion and Sharon Thoms had three children: Frances Marion, Lois Etta, and William Wells. When the children were old enough they were sent to school in Kodaikanal, India. Dr. Thoms asked to be transferred to the station at Matrah. Here in 1913 he was accidentally killed when he fell from a ladder while helping to put in a telephone, one line which would connect the hospital at Matrah with missionaries in Muscat, a few miles away. Lois Wells, compiler of this genealogy, states," I find this quote from "Neglected Arabia" –"Sharon Thoms was an ideal man for pioneer days and the friendships he made as he traveled through that country endure to this day. While in the towns of Muscat and Matrah, he was universally beloved. His death was a heavy blow to our country."

Now we have a new mystery for this edition...Who were these Wellses and do they connect with Governor Thomas Welles of Connecticut? If so, how? In any event, they certainly emulate the standards of service exhibited by our ancestor, Gov. Thomas Welles. Again, my thanks go to Ralph Wadleigh for sharing this book and information with Welles the family.

THE PASSING OF A TRIBAL ELDER

On November 1, 2005, the Mohegan Tribe suffered a great loss with the peaceful passing of their Medicine Woman Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon at her home on Mohegan Hill. Gladys was 106 years old, the oldest living member of the Tribe. Born on June 15, 1899 to John and Harriet Fielding Tantaquidgeon, she was the third of their seven children. Her "tribal grandmothers" educated her in tribal spirituality and herbalism. She briefly attended grammar school before entering the University of Pennsylvania in 1919. There she studied with Anthropologist Frank Speck and wrote at length in the field, especially about herbal medicine. Gladys researched herbal medicine among related east coast tribes. She received an honorary doctorate from the University of Connecticut and from Yale University. Other honors include the Connecticut Education Association's Friends of Education Award, the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, The National Organization for Women's Harriet Tubman Award, and many Native American honors.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon was a 10th generation descendant of Uncas, the famed Mohegan Chief. In 1931 she and her brother Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon, along with their father, John, founded the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Uncasville. Here for many years Gladys and Chief Harold taught the ways and lore of the Mohegan Indians to many a school child, Indian Guide, Scout, and young families. *[I personally remember their warm welcome when we visited with our young family. On a second visit, our daughter presented Chief*

Tantaquidgeon with a small bag of "Indian Beads" collected on the shores of Lake Champlain. He was delighted and planned to string the rounded pebbles, with water made holes in the middle of each, into a necklace with several bear claws that he possessed.] This museum is the oldest Indian owned and operated museum in America. Gladys is said to have shared her brother Harold's philosophy that "You can't hate someone that you know a lot about". They believed that education was the best cure for prejudice.

Gladys' work was not limited to southeastern Connecticut. Her knowledge, skills, and research took her to many a reservation throughout the country. She was instrumental in the revival of Native art, including the ancient ceremonials. She kept exemplary personal records, correspondence and tribal documents. Gladys' collection of vital statistics on the Mohegan tribe was a significant factor in the Tribe obtaining it's Federal recognition in 1994. She was a true genealogist.

Her graveside service took place on Sunday November 6, 2005 with Native American leaders from all around the country, many local Tribal members and past chairmen, family, friends and representatives from state and national government in attendance. A walking funeral procession began at the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum and proceeded for one and a half miles to Shantok, the sacred burying grounds on the Mohegan Reservation in Uncasville. It was reported that about 300 were in attendance. "They wore traditional clothing and sang songs of gathering, traveling and honor in their native language. Sweetgrass and sage were burned during the procession."

Gladys Tantaquidgeon will be remembered by the Mohegan Tribe and all others whose lives she touched, even briefly. Her legacy will continue in the history of her People forever.

[I want to acknowledge that parts of this information was taken from articles appearing in The Hartford Courant. Editor]

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

By Harold R. Small

As the year 1776 drew to a close there was little cause for rejoicing in the American camp. Other than the forced British evacuation of Boston by Washington's forces there was only the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4th that offered hope for the future of the fledgling country. Its very signing meant that the thirteen colonies evidenced their united intention of breaking loose from the shackles that bound them to England. However, to signify their intentions to become free and independent was one thing, to achieve it was an entirely different matter.

As Lord Howe and his troops sailed from Boston, Washington could not help but wonder as to their destination. He could not believe that they were sailing to Halifax for with all of the troops, ships, and war materials the British general had at his disposal, a movement to Canada was foolish. It seemed to Washington that Howe might well risk a strike at New York City with its great port facilities.

The loss of New York would be a grievous setback for the Americans. To check such a potential British maneuver, Washington rushed troops overland to New York City and set his men diggin' entrenchments from the battery to the northern tip of Manhattan Island.

Late in June, the missing British fleet appeared in New York harbor. Lord Howe had more than 100 ships and thousands of British [and] Hessians for the attack on New York. The British landed on Staten Island and then drove Washington back in a series of battles in Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, Harlem and White Plains. Each engagement resulted in an American defeat and shortly thereafter Howe ended all American resistance in New York City and in Westchester County.

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Beaten and hounded by the British and Hessians under Lord Charles Cornwallis, Washington crossed the Hudson River at Peekskill and started a torturous retreat through New Jersey all the way to the Delaware River which he crossed opposite Trenton. Once over the Delaware [River] the Americans had a chance to rest.

Howe knew the Continental army was suffering from the lack of every military necessity. He also knew that Washington's men were without proper shoes, clothing, food and blankets. Sir William [Howe] was sure the rebellion could not last much longer. Reluctant to conduct a winter campaign, Howe halted instead of going after Washington and set up a chain of garrisoned posts across New Jersey with the intention of waiting for Spring to resume, if it was necessary.

Grateful for the respite, Washington desperately sought to keep his army together. He had about 6000 men on the muster rolls but most were "so thinly clad as to be unfit for service". Bitter winter weather closed in and the Delaware River was choked with ice. The American cause seemed destined for a frozen death.

The ragged Continentals soon proved Howe wrong, The rebellion was far from finished. In Trenton, New Jersey, on the far side of the Delaware, Colonel Johann Rall and his 1000 Hessians were celebrating Christmas Day with much revelry. Advised of the enemy's roistering Washington decided on a daring counterstrike.

Perhaps at that moment Washington had in mind the words, of Tom Paine from his pamphlet titled "The Crisis", Paine wrote: "These are the times that try men's souls, the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis shrink from the service of their country." George Washington was no sunshine soldier. The men he led were no summer patriots for in their hearts burned the fires of liberty.

On the night of December 25, 1776 the Americans braved a sleet storm to cross the ice filled Delaware in sturdy boats manned by Col. John Glover's rugged Marblehead fishermen. By 4 A.M. the boats had taken 2400 soldiers and 18 cannon to a point nine miles from Trenton. The Americans marched toward the objective at breakneck speed over ice-slicked roads. At 7:30 A.M. they swept down on the sleep-dazed Germans with bayonets and musket fire.

Trenton was swiftly captured and Washington offered the country a fine Christmas gift, 1000 prisoners and tons of sorely needed supplies. [It was] a glorious victory to end a year that had brought the brightest dreams and the bitterest of despair to the American people. Perhaps the greatest gift on that Christmas of 1776 was the knowledge that the soldiers and the country could preserve in adversity and offer hope for a truly free and united people.

[Thanks to cousin Roy Goold, CG and President of the Risley Family Association for allowing me to publish this article by Harold R. Small, 1991, originally published in the "Risley Record".]

Thus we come to the end of this edition of Wellesprings. Pray for a peaceful 2006 and don't forget to renew your subscription if it is due, so you will not miss the next edition, which will bring you news of the 2006 Reunion.

I have finally managed to get address labels printed (except for the page I put in backward, so had to hand address them). To read them: S/W means it is your summer/winter address; the first word and number (if appropriate, as with Annual and Associate members) is your membership type and the year it is paid up through, the third item on the top line is the year your newsletter subscription is paid through. Thus you may see the first line of your address label as this: S/W Life 2005 ... this means it is your full time address, you are a Life member and your newsletter is paid through 2005(see first page of the newsletter for renewing your subscription or this may be your final copy); or: W Ann/2005 2006 ... would mean it is your winter address, you are an Annual member whose dues were paid only through Oct. 1, 2005 (please remit for 2006), and your newsletter subscription is paid through 2006; or: S/W Ann/2006 C(ourtesy) 11/04 ... would show it is your full time address, you're an Annual member who has paid your dues for 2006 and that you do not subscribe to the news letter but are receiving this issue as a courtesy. Obviously the combinations vary with each addresse. Payments have been posted for all checks received prior to Nov. 20, 2005. □

In Memoriam

**It was the Father's will to call them Home,
Where they might rest and hear Him say, "Well Done."
Their work complete, another life awaits
Beyond the sunset, through the golden gates.**

**Then let them find eternal love and peace
Where all our worries, pain, and heartaches cease.
May light perpetual shine upon them, Lord;
And the joy of your Presence be their sure reward!**

**Poem by Miriam D. Phifer, A member of the Welles Family Association
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