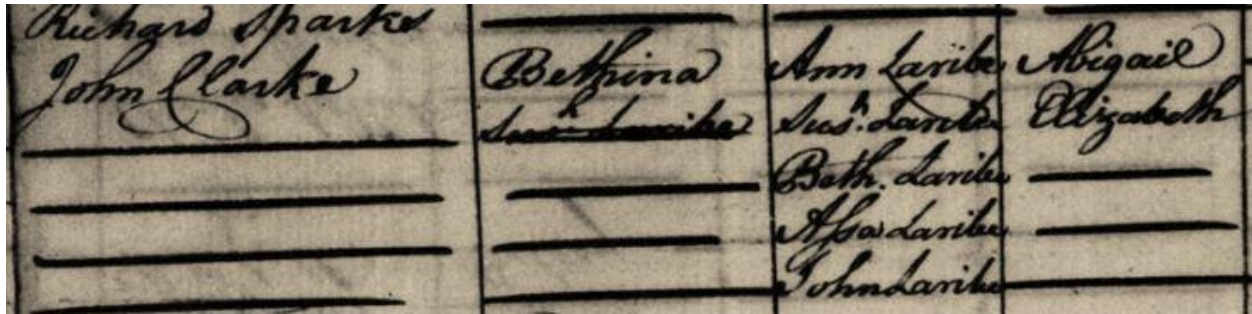


Larrabee

Laraby/Larribee/Larabe/Laraba/Laribe

in Guysborough, Inverness and Cumberland counties, Nova Scotia
by Byron Tory

On the 21st of June, 1784 five teenage orphans arrived in Guysborough, Nova Scotia. They were in the care of John and Bethany Clarke. On the muster roll they were listed as follows.



Richard Sparks	Bethiana	Ann Laribe	Abigail
John Clarke	Sus. Laribe	Sus. Laribe	Elizabeth
		Beth. Laribe	
		Asa Laribe	
		John Laribe	

Little seems to be collected in one place about this family, and there are many questions to be answered. Here's what I know so far.

Ann (Hannah) must have gotten to know James McKenzie either in New York, or on the way from there, since she married him a mere eight days after arriving in Guysborough. They stayed in Guysborough.

Susannah (Susan/Suzanne) waited about three years before marrying James Adams, another fellow passenger. They had one son (John) before James was lost in a fishing incident. She then married Donald MacLeod on Jan 18, 1791. They had eight children and lived in the Hillsborough area near Mabou, NS. Adams is recognized as an early settler in the area. Their son John made a land claim in 1814 (see box). This disagrees with his birthdate being 1789, but it is not clear what the year of his birth is on the microfilm records. It is interesting to note that he was baptized with his cousin, Mary McKenzie.

1814 Adams, John

Petition to Swayne: Petitioner's father served during the Revolutionary War, and at its termination drew land in Manchester, N.S. where petitioner was born. While he was still young his parents removed to Cape Breton. He is now 27 years old, and asks lot 29 on the east side of the south-east branch of the Mabou River. Note: recommended

Probably on the advice of James Adams, John Clarke moved the family to Port Hood, on the west coast of Cape Breton.

John Larraby married Elizabeth Hawley. From *Mabou Pioneers II* we have details of one son, Richard, and from Prince Edward Island records we have details of a second son, Matthew. According to the 1818 census there are a lot more; nine in total at that time.

Beth/Bethany married Benjamin Franklin Worth in 1805. They and some of their children moved to Pugwash, NS. The Worths are fairly well covered in *Mabou Pioneers II*.

Unfortunately I have no record of Asa after his baptism in 1786.

So we have some idea of what became of them, but where did they come from?

At this point I must acknowledge the writings of Dr Jim St Clair in *The Participaper* for pointing me in the right direction. Without him I would probably not have looked at Mabou Poneers. Unfortunately, I have not been able to contact him directly. (<https://invernesscounty.ca/residents/participaper/>)

According to the Christ Church baptismal record, three of the Larraby family were baptised August 1st, 1786 and the information given is as follows:

John } *sons* } *of Isaiah & Barbara Larrabay Quaquers*
Isaiah }
Susan daughter }

Ages are given as John 20, Isaiah (Asa) 13, Susan 14. If this is accurate, Susan was still at most sixteen when she married James Adams.

One thing to note in all this is the variability in the spellings of their names, particularly Asa. Asa starts on the Muster roll as Assa, but we know from the number of his siblings' offspring named Asa that this is closest to what he went by. Clearly this was overridden by the rector at Christ Church, who called him Isaiah, and also used the same name for the father. Should we be looking for Isaiah as his father's name or did he really go by Asa as well?

Asa Larabe/Laraba/Larrabee appears in the Muster rolls of Captain Eli Catlin's Company, Connecticut Regiment of Foot, commanded by Colonel Philip P Bradley. The muster rolls show several things:

1. Asa enlisted in April 1777
2. Willett Larabe enlisted in June
3. Willett deserted in September
4. Asa was captured at Germantown October 4, 1777
5. An Asa was declared a deserter in 1782, but there is no evidence that he was alive by this time to have returned to his unit.

Can we assume that Willett is Asa's younger brother?

Willet Larraby is the son of Willet Larraby Sr and Dorothy Clark (Hmm, there is that Clark name again!) And they also have a son named Asa...

[LARRABEE], LARIBEE, Asa, s. Willes, bp. Aug. 23, 1741	1	71
Hannah, d. Willet, bp. Mar. 11, 1744	1	75
Huldah, d. Willet, bp. Sept. 10, 1738	1	67
Joseph, s. Willet, bp. Oct. 25, 1747	1	78
Thomas, s. Willet, bp. May 9, 1731	1	61
Willet & w., o. c. May 9, 1731	1	36
Willet, s. Willet, bp. June 14, 1752	1	85

Taken from the Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920, Vol. 43, Griswold.

Willet Sr. is the son of Thomas Larrabee and Mary Willet. Thomas is the son of Greenfield Larrabee Jr. and Alice Burke. Greenfield is the son of the immigrant Greenfield Larrabee, who is known to have been in New London, Connecticut by 1637, when he got in trouble for working to save his boat from a storm on a Sunday. Greenfield Sr. married Phebe Brown, widow of Thomas Lee.

The following charts are from Saco Valley Settlements and Families by G. T. Ridlon Sr., published in 1895.

Children of Greenfield Larrabee and Phebe Brown

1. GREENFIELD,² b. Apr. 20, 1648; m. Alice, dau. of Thomas Burke, in March, 1672, and settled in Norwich, Conn., on the eastern side of the river near his father-in-law. In this place he prospered, acquired extensive lands, and brought up a family of children as will presently appear. His name is found on many early documents. Alice, his wife, d. Nov. 23, 1729. He d. Feb. 3, 1739, rising 90.
2. JOHN,² second son of Greenfield, 1st, b. Feb. 23, 1649; removed to Windham, Conn., from Norwich with a family. In 1691, he had broken land, built a house, and established himself upon a tract granted him on condition that he build upon it and run the ferry for seven years. He was admitted and enrolled as one of the inhabitants of Windham, May 30, 1693. Children's names with third generation.
3. ELIZABETH,² b. Jan. 23, 1652.
4. JOSEPH,² b. in March, 1655; d. Aug. 10, 1657.
5. SARAH,² b. Mar. 3, 1658; m. John Fox, of Concord, June 20, 1678.

Children of Greenfield Larrabee Jr. and Alice Burke

1. THOMAS,⁸ b. June, 1675; m. Mary Willett, July 19, 1697, and had five children, whose names will appear with fourth generation.
2. JOHN,⁸ b. June 11, 1677; m. Rebecca Park, Sept. 10, 1705. He died March 26, 1761, aged 84; his wife predeceased him, March 23, 1758. These had two children as will afterwards appear.
3. PHEBE,⁸ b. Sept. 13, 1680.
4. ALICE,⁸ b. Aug. 18, 1684.
5. DOROTHY,⁸ b. March 25, 1686.
6. NATHANIEL,⁸ b. in Jan., 1689; m. Sarah Lamb, Jan. 18, 1713; died at Norwich, Conn., Jan. 16, 1740.
7. ELIZABETH,⁸ b. in Sept., 1692.
8. GREENFIELD,⁸ b. June 13, 1696.

Children of Thomas Larrabee and Mary Willet

1. JAMES,⁴ b. June 22, 1698; m. Margaret Williams, Oct. 29, 1732, and d. May 6, 1747, leaving issue from whom, I assume, some of the families whose connection has not been traced satisfactorily descended.
2. JERUSHA,⁴ b. Aug. 24, 1701.
3. ELIPHALET,⁴ b. Oct. 12, 1703.
4. PATIENCE,⁴ }
5. WILLETT,⁴ } twins, b. Dec. 5, 1705.

So what does the DNA show? I have tested on FamilyTree DNA and Ancestry DNA. I have also looked at my first cousin's data on Ancestry DNA.

We have a few matches that relate through the five Larrabee orphans that we know.

1. One match shares Hannah, as a descendant of Asa McKenzie and Mercy Barss, so also shares Isabella Bowie (Mercy Barss' mother).
2. Two siblings are descendants of Bethany Larraby and Benjamin Worth. Susan Worth, their daughter, married Peter Leadbetter.

With the advent of ThruLines on Ancestry DNA I have discovered at least three more matches through Bethany Larrabee and one through Susannah Larrabee.

Between my cousin's Ancestry DNA and my siblings' Family Tree DNA results we have at least ten matches that point farther back to Larrabees. These are the ones with accessible trees. Undoubtedly there are more that may not even realize their roots go back to there.

Match 1 goes back to Rebecca Larrabee, b. Boston, 4 Feb 1684, d. North Carolina, 1780, m. Shubael Stearns

Match 2 goes back to Grace Larrabee, d/o Greenfield Sr., b. 1652, d.1700, New London, CT (not listed in Saco Valley ...)

Match 3 goes back to Phoebe Larrabee, d/o Greenfield Jr. , b. 1680, d. 1716, m. John Benjamin

Match 4 goes back to Patience Larrabee (Willett Sr.'s twin), b.1705, d. 1744, m. John Kimball, lived in Stonington, VT.

Match 5 and his daughter go back to Dorothy Laraby & Samuel Chappel.

"SAMUEL CHAPPEL was born in Connecticut[2] about 1757.[3] He died at Sandisfield on 8 March 1817[4] in his 60th year and was buried in the Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Monterey, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.[5] Samuel was possibly the son of Nathaniel and Patience (Turner) Chappel of New London, Connecticut.[6] He married on 26 August 1775, DOROTHY LARABY,[7] who was born in Connecticut,[8] about 1758.[9] She died on 20 May 1836, aged 78, and is buried in the Beach Ridge Cemetery in Sweden, Monroe County, New York.[10]" - *Western Massachusetts Families in 1790*

Match 6 traces back to another Dorothy, this time d/o Greenfield Jr., b. 1686, d. CT, 1777, m. John Safford/Saffard

Match 7 goes back to Elizabeth, d/o Greenfield Sr. b. 1652, d.1737, m. Joshua Hempstead, lived in New London, CT

Match 8 goes back to a Margaret Larrabee, b. about 1825, lived in New York.

Match 9 goes back to Florence, d/o Daniel Warren Larrabee, b. 1879 Essex, MA, d. 1966, m. David Coombs.

It is distinctly possible that some of these matches link through other paths. If I am correct in my assumptions, Willett Larrabee Sr. would be my 5GGF so DNA really only offers a hint about where to look, and I would not suggest that this is the only possibility.