

The Family of John Goldfinch and Sarah Honey: From Kent, England, to New Brunswick, Canada

Alison Hare, CG

The story of this beautifully named couple and their family begins amid the bustle of a British naval dockyard and ends in the quiet backwoods of New Brunswick. Wings of canvas, a naval reward, and a dirty black mineral led from one to the other. A rich array of records preserves details.

GENERATION ONE

1. **John Goldfinch**, son of George Goldfinch and Elizabeth Corker, was baptized on 17 October 1770 in Chatham, Kent, England,¹ and died in Chipman, Queens County, New Brunswick, Canada, likely on 13 August 1844.² On 7 June 1795 in Frindsbury, Kent, he married **Sarah Honey**.³ Sarah, daughter of William Honey and Elizabeth Beal, was born on 16 September 1774 and baptized in Chatham on 12 October 1774.⁴ She died in Chipman on 13 July 1849.⁵

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¹ For baptism and George and Elizabeth Goldfinch as parents, see St. Mary, Chatham (Kent), Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1676–1771, p. 735, John Goldfinch; Medway Council, *Medway Archives* (<https://cityark.medway.gov.uk>) > Parish records (Archdeaconry of Rochester) > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, marriages and burials 1676–1771 > P085-01-05(7).pdf > image 38. For Elizabeth’s maiden name, St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Marriages and Banns, 1754–1762, p. 66, Goldfinch–Corker, 16 May 1758; *Medway Archives* > Parish Records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages and banns, 1754–1762 > P085-0-45(1).pdf > image 38.

² Goldfinch family record listing births, marriages and deaths; in the possession of Sally Kiepe, copy in author’s files. Sally descends from John and Sarah’s son Henry through Amanda (Goldfinch) Jenkins, Georgette (Jenkins) Westlake, and Mary Phyllis (Westlake) (Sievers) Levin. See also Red Bank Cemetery (Chipman, N.B.), John and Sarah Goldfinch gravestone; viewed by author, 13 November 2004. For a reported death in 1845, see Queens Co., N.B., Probate Records, RS 69, John Goldfinch file, John W. Goldfinch petition for letters of administration, 23 January 1849; microfilm F10422, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB). Filed several years after John’s death, the petition’s date may be incorrect.

³ All Saints Church, Frindsbury (Kent), Register of Marriages, 1793–1812, entry 75, Goldfinch–“Hony;” *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Frindsbury, All Saints > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages, 1793–1812 > P150-01-9(1).pdf > image 11.

⁴ For date of birth, see correspondence circa 1971 from Bessie Smith of Newport Mews, Virginia, to Dr. Smith Gardner of Calgary, Alberta, including a brief family outline by an unnamed cousin. Dr. Gardner forwarded the material, including a copy of his 18 February 1971 reply to Bessie, to the author’s mother in 1972. It is now in the author’s files. For baptism and William and Elizabeth Honey as parents, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, arranged by date, Sarah Honey, 12 October 1774; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P85-01-22A(1).pdf > image 15. For Elizabeth’s maiden name, see St. Mary Magdalene, Gillingham (Kent), Register of Marriages and Banns, 1770–1791, p. 29, Honey–Beal, 15 November 1773; *Medway Archives* > Parish Records > Gillingham, St. Mary Magdalene > Incumbent registers > Composite register: banns, 1770–1791; marriages 1770–1790 > P153-01-20(2).pdf > image 28.

⁵ Goldfinch family record. Also, Red Bank Cemetery, John and Sarah Goldfinch gravestone.

Family records

Several tattered pages now almost two centuries old preserve some of the Goldfinch story. A family scribe, most likely the patriarch John, began the account in a neat, fluid hand. John and Sarah's 1795 marriage at "Friensbery" Church is noted first, followed by the date and hour of seven children's births. Continuing in 1810, the same script but different pen chronicles four more births, fresh recall now several times supplying the day of the week and a more precise time of arrival for each new child. Whereas the first children were consistently said to have arrived on the hour or at half past, a later child was born at "20 Minnits" after the hour and another at "Tenn Minnits past." A separate page memorializes family deaths: a toddler, a six-year-old, and two daughters in their twenties. A different penman then recorded John and Sarah's deaths.⁶

Tested for accuracy, the worn pages hold up well. Frindsbury Church, where John and Sarah reportedly married, stands atop a chalk cliff overlooking Chatham and its records confirm John and Sarah's 1795 marriage. The couple's first eight children were baptized in Chatham shortly after the birth dates the family record reports. The lone point of disagreement is that first-born son George's baptismal record reports a birth date 11 days before the family record. A London baptism precisely confirms the birthday of the ninth child, while Deptford baptisms correspond with the reported births of the final three.⁷ The fragile family record also links the Goldfinches to their later New Brunswick home, supplying the same death dates as appear on John and Sarah's gravestone there. The gravestone in return links the couple to their place of origin, identifying them as "Natives of Chatham."⁸



Frindsbury Church in 2015

John Goldfinch's parentage

Naming George and Elizabeth as the infant's parents, Chatham parish registers document a 1770 baptism that must be John's.⁹ Contrary 1775, 1776, and 1778 birth years suggested by employment records may have been incorrectly recorded.¹⁰ If he was seventy-three when he died, rather than in his seventy-third year as his gravestone reports, then the 1770 baptism is a perfect match. George Goldfinch, either his father or brother, witnessed his marriage.¹¹ Additional evidence linking John to this family comes from

⁶ Goldfinch family record.

⁷ See documentation of baptisms in list of children on pages 11–13.

⁸ Red Bank Cemetery, John and Sarah Goldfinch gravestone.

⁹ St. Mary, Chatham, parish register, 1676–1771, p. 735, John Goldfinch, 17 October 1770.

¹⁰ British Admiralty, Dockyard Pay Books, Chatham Extraordinary, ADM 42/248, part 4 (Christmas quarter 1802), p. 56 for John Goldfinch, age twenty-seven; ADM 42/249, part 1 (Lady Quarter 1803), p. 49 for John Goldfinch, age twenty-eight; National Archives (TNA), Kew, England. Also, Dockyard Pay Books, Deptford Extraordinary, ADM 42/605, part 2 (Michaelmas quarter 1811), no page, entry 105, for John Goldfinch, age thirty-two on entry 22 July 1811; and ADM 42/618 (1825) for John Goldfinch, age forty-eight at re-entry 27 January 1825; TNA.

¹¹ For brother George's birth, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1676–1771, p. 704,

a letter by his daughter Sarah Smith mentioning a Goldfinch uncle who served in the British navy and a letter by Sarah's husband John naming the uncle as William.¹² George Goldfinch and Elizabeth Corker had a son William baptized in Chatham on 26 January 1766.¹³

Sarah Honey's parentage

Sarah's baptismal entry identifies her parents as William and Elizabeth Honey.¹⁴ The 12 October 1774 event aligns with a family record which says she was born on 16 September 1774. The unnamed great-great grandchild who authored the record lacked firsthand knowledge of her distant ancestors and failed to name John Goldfinch as Sarah's husband.¹⁵ However, the date of birth not only aligns with the baptism but the descendant correctly reported John and Sarah's date of marriage at "Finsbury" Church. The birth date is further supported by Sarah's gravestone, which reports she died in her seventy-fifth year. No other Honey family appears in Chatham records at this time.¹⁶



Chatham Dockyard, Main Gate, built 1722

Chatham

As the crow flies, Chatham lies thirty miles southeast of London. It sits beside the Medway River amid a cluster of three other towns: Rochester, Gillingham, and Strood. Tucked inland off the River Thames, the sheltered site drew British ships to winter there in the mid-sixteenth century. From this beginning it evolved into a naval repair and maintenance facility and then a royal dockyard. Continual expansion of the yard's facilities created an immense industrial complex with dry docks, building slips, anchor smithery, mast houses, sail loft, ropery, sawpits, wharfs, and storehouses.¹⁷ Other British

George Goldfinch, baptized 7 February 1768; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1676-1771 > P085-01-05(7).pdf > image 23.

¹² British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith application, John Smith letter, 30 August 1843, and Sarah Smith to Sir R. Dobson, circa July 1843; TNA. For daughter, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772-1812, by date, Sarah Goldfinch, 11 January 1807; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772-1812 > P085-01-22B(2).pdf > image 38. For daughter's marriage, see St. Mary, Lambeth (Surrey), Register of Marriages, 1831-1835, p. 172, no. 514, Smith-Goldfinch; "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932," *Ancestry*, imaged from P85/MRY1/408, LMA.

¹³ St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1676-1771, p. 681, William Goldfinch, baptized 26 January 1766; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1676-1771 > P085-01-05(7).pdf > image 11.

¹⁴ St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772-1812, arranged by date, Sarah Honey, 12 October 1774.

¹⁵ Correspondence from Bessie Smith to Dr. Smith Gardner circa 1971.

¹⁶ *Medway Archives* index for Chatham, 1772-1796. The author also read St. Mary parish records page by page from 1758 to 1774; microfilm 1,469,178, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁷ Philip MacDougall, *Chatham Dockyard: The Rise and Fall of a Military Industrial Complex* (Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 20120), 8-22 for dockyard development.

dockyards would eventually prove more suited to the task of outfitting ships during war, but historian Philip MacDougall has deemed Chatham “pre-eminent in its role as the nation’s most important warship building yard.”¹⁸

By 1800 the dockyard employed 2,000 workers in many trades. Here labored shipwrights, blockmakers, ropemakers, sailmakers, riggers, anchorsmiths, carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, caulkers, sawyers, scavelmen, and general laborers.¹⁹ John and Sarah’s fathers were among them. John’s father George worked there as a laborer for almost four decades²⁰ and Sarah’s father William as a scavelman for slightly less.²¹ Laborers such as John’s father carried timber, cleaned the yard, fetched supplies, and relayed messages.²² As a scavelman, Sarah’s father would have helped maintain the docks and slips, dredging them of mud and other debris left by ships.²³ Work days were long and the pay poor but the job security better than at private dockyards in the area.²⁴



*Chatham Dockyard, 1785–1794, by topographical artist Joseph Farington
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 22.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 54–70.

²⁰ British Admiralty, Dockyard Pay Books, Chatham Extraordinary, ADM 42/211, part 2 (Midsummer Quarter), p. 61, Geo. Goldfinch, laborer, entered 15 May 1765. Also, ADM 42/248, part 5 (Christmas Quarter 1802, special volume), Geo. Goldfinch, yard laborer, on “List of Men Superannuated and Discharged p[e]r Warr[an]t 7th October 1802 with their wages for Xmas Quarter 1802,” p. 9.

²¹ *Ibid.*, ADM 42/219, part 4 (Christmas quarter 1773), p. 66, Wm. Honey, laborer, entered 9 October 1773. Also, ADM 42/251, part 4 (Christmas quarter 1805), p. 60, Wm. Honey, laborer, discharged, 9 November 1805. He appears as a scavelman from ADM 42/226, part 2 (Midsummer Quarter 1780), p. 59, Wm. Honey, to ADM 42/248, part 4 (Christmas quarter 1802), p. 49, Wm. Honey.

²² MacDougall, *Chatham Dockyard*, 60.

²³ James Dodds and James Moore, *Building the Wooden Fighting Ship* (London: Hutchinson & Co., 1984), 49.

²⁴ MacDougall, *Chatham Dockyard*, 60–61.

John followed his father into the dockyard as a laborer on 10 July 1792.²⁵ Britain was on the brink of war with France and the dockyard would soon be busy building and repairing ships for the conflict. John was promoted to scavelman in 1803 and worked in that position until his discharge the following year.²⁶ “Wife Sarah” collected his last wages.²⁷

Where John worked for the next five years is unknown, but his growing family appears in Chatham parish registers until March 1810. In 1811 John entered the Deptford dockyard as a sawyer.²⁸ Located on the Thames River on the southeastern edge of London, Deptford had been a royal dockyard since 1513.²⁹ John had the arduous job of sawing timber for ships. He would have worked with a partner, sawing timber laid over a pit, one man sawing from above and the other from below.³⁰ In 1813 John was a sawyer living in the London parish of St. Anne, Limehouse.³¹ He returned to the Deptford dockyard in 1815, was laid off in November 1822, rehired in 1825, and on the payroll until records end in 1829.³² Through this period the family lived on Deptford’s Dowling and Creek streets.³³ Shortly thereafter the Deptford dockyard became largely inactive.³⁴ The dockyard’s closure, the end of the Napoleonic War, and the industrial revolution’s replacement of men with machines may have limited employment opportunities for the now fifty-nine-year-old George. The family’s next known move took John, Sarah, and several of their children to Canada.

Immigration to Canada

A family record credits the Goldfinch’s eldest son as the first of the family to come to North America.³⁵ Whether or not this was true, George almost certainly made the move possible. He joined the British navy as a boy of eleven, qualified as an officer in 1815, and subsequently distinguished himself in

²⁵ British Admiralty, Dockyard Pay Books, Chatham Extraordinary, ADM 42/238 (Michaelmas Quarter 1792), part 3, p. 67, Jno. Goldfinch.

²⁶ Ibid., Chatham Extraordinary, ADM 42/249, part 1 (Lady Quarter 1803), p. 49, John Goldfinch.

²⁷ Ibid., Chatham Extraordinary, ADM 42/250, part 3 (Michaelmas Quarter 1804), p. 51, John Goldfinch, discharged 26 August 1804.

²⁸ Ibid., Deptford, ADM 42/605, part 2 (Michaelmas Quarter 1811), entry 105, Jno. Goldfinch, 22 July 1811.

²⁹ MacDougall, *Chatham Dockyard*, 10.

³⁰ Ibid., 59. Also, Dodds and Moore, *Building the Wooden Fighting Ship*, 46.

³¹ St. Anne, Limehouse (Middlesex), Register of Baptisms, 1813–1821, p. 15, no. 116, James Goldfinch; “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P93/ANN/5, London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), London, England.

³² British Admiralty, Dockyard Pay Books, Deptford, ADM 42/609, Lady Quarter 1815, p. 52, entry 6, Jno. Goldfinch. For layoff, see ADM 42/616, Christmas Quarter 1822, p. 42, no. 11, Jno. Goldfinch, discharged 8 Nov. 1822. For rehiring, see ADM 42/619, p. 31, division 40, entry 10, Jno. Goldfinch, re-entry 27 January 1825. Last record, ADM 42/619, list dated 28 June 1830 for workmen’s wages for 1829, p. 24, division 33, no. 6, Jno Goldfinch,

³³ Parish of St. Paul, Deptford, Special Rate for New Gaol House of Correction and Court Houses, 17 August 1814, p. 32, back of Dowling; FHL microfilm 1,701,942, item 2. Also, Parish of St Paul, Deptford, Rate Book, 1815, vol. 1, p 36, back of Dowling; FHL microfilm 1,701,942, item 3. Also, Rate Book, 1822, vol. II, p. 38, back of Dowling; FHL microfilm 1,701,985. Also, Rate Book, 1826, vol. IV, p. 30, back of Dowling; FHL microfilm 1,701,988, item 2. Also, Rate Book, 1827, vol. I, p. 33, back of Dowling; FHL microfilm 1,701,988, item 3. Also, Rate Book, 1829, vol. III, p. 21, Creek Street; FHL microfilm 1,736,169.

³⁴ Philip MacDougall, *Royal Dockyards* (Newton Abbot, Devon: David & Charles, 1982), 147.

³⁵ Correspondence from Bessie Smith to Dr. Smith Gardner circa 1971.

the Burmese War.³⁶ His naval service entitled him to free land in Canada³⁷—a tangible benefit for his entire family.

In 1835 George was surveyed for 1,631 acres of land in the New Brunswick interior.³⁸ The land was subsequently conveyed to him in two grants, one in 1836 and one in 1837. The first rewarded him with two lots beside the Salmon River in the Queens County parish of Chipman.³⁹ The second bestowed five lots totalling 1,481 acres along nearby Coal Creek.⁴⁰ George then secured a fifty-year license to mine his land for coal while also privately purchasing another 300 acres on the Salmon River.⁴¹ The almost 2,000 acres he now owned was a windfall compared to the 200 acres poor immigrants received.⁴² George, however, remained in Canada only a short time, returning to England by 1838.⁴³

At least two family members journeyed to Canada at or about the same time as George. John, either father or his same-name son, witnessed two marriages in Chipman on 1 March 1836.⁴⁴ The impossibility of winter travel points to arrival in Canada in a previous year. The year 1835 was later remembered as the date of arrival for son James.⁴⁵ Incomplete records otherwise obscure the picture. An unnamed Goldfinch—variously referred to as a yeoman, trader, and merchant—was qualified to serve as a juror in Chipman in 1838 through 1841, and an 1842 juror's list names John Goldfinch, with no occupation.⁴⁶ In 1843 and 1844 respectively, John Goldfinch and John G. Goldfinch held responsibility for parish highways, with the 1844 entry stricken out.⁴⁷ This may refer to the patriarch John, who likely died in Chipman that August. The earlier entries may or may not pertain to the same man. Distinguished by his middle initial, John's son John W. was clearly in New Brunswick by 1839 when he petitioned for a timber berth.⁴⁸

Parish of Chipman

Rural Canada would have been a dramatic change for the then-elderly John and Sarah. Their new

³⁶ For career, see British Admiralty, Officers' Service Records, Series III, Officers' Time of Service, 1799–1853, ADM 196/2/125, George Goldfinch, and British Admiralty, Officers' Service Records, Series III, Executive Officers, 1815–1867, ADM 196/36/1167, George Goldfinch; TNA. Also, William R. O'Byrne, Esq., *A Naval Biographical Dictionary: Comprising the Life of Every Living Officer in Her Majesty's Navy, from the Rank of Admiral of the Fleet to that of Lieutenant, Inclusive* (London: John Murray, Albermarle Street, 1849), 402.

³⁷ *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Eighth day of January to the Thirty First day of March [1840]* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1840), lxxxii, free grants for services, navy, army, &c.

³⁸ New Brunswick, Land Grants, 1784–1997, RS 686, vol. H:193, 1835 survey filed with George Goldfinch coal lease; PANB microfilm F16305.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 17, p. 232, grant 778, George Goldfinch, 7 June 1836; PANB microfilm 16319.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 19, p. 100, grant 1183, George Goldfinch, 19 July 1837; PANB microfilm 16321.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, vol. H:193, George Goldfinch coal lease, 16 October 1837. Also, Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book L:492 and M:32, two lots sold by David Dogerty to George Goldfinch, 13 June 1837; PANB microfilm F5458.

⁴² W. S. MacNutt, *New Brunswick: A History, 1784–1867* (Toronto: Macmillan, 1963), 204.

⁴³ British Admiralty, Officers' Service Records, Series III, Officers' Time of Service, 1799–1853, ADM 196/2/125, George Goldfinch.

⁴⁴ Queens Co., N.B., Early County Marriage Records, RS 154, Marriage Register, Book A, 1812–861, Ephraim Betts–Margret Linton and Levi Betts–Rebecca Linton, 1 March 1836; PANB microfilm F15491.

⁴⁵ 1901 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 42), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict U), division 2, p. 19, line 39, James Goldfinch household; microfilm T-6,456, Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Ottawa, Ontario.

⁴⁶ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, RS 154, D/2a, Chipman qualified juror lists, 1838–1842, by date; PANB.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, RS 154, P/3e, Chipman parish officers, 1843–1844, by date.

⁴⁸ *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Eighth day of January to the Thirty First day of March [1840]*, xxx.

home lay deep in the New Brunswick interior, eighty miles by boat from Saint John. First settled about 1820, the area was populated by only a few families.⁴⁹ The surrounding forest made lumbering the main activity.⁵⁰ Not until 1844 would the community build its first church.⁵¹ A minister serving the parish in 1849 took a dim view of the place, describing it as sparsely settled with lumbering, “the trade of the country,” as yet in its infancy. “I left the place because I thought it was never likely to amount to much, and besides the people were poor and unable to give me a decent livelihood.”⁵² His successor more favorably found Chipman to be a “stirring place” with “an immense quantity of logs got, and a great many of them sawn there.”⁵³ This picture, however, reflects Chipman in the latter half of the 1850s, not the wilderness to which the Goldfinches arrived.

The Goldfinches evidently settled on George’s 100-acre Salmon River lot two and a half miles southwest of the present-day town of Chipman.⁵⁴ Everything here would have been strange and new—from the towering trees to the isolation and Canadian weather. This was no ugly, bustling industrial town.



View of Salmon River from former Goldfinch property, now a summer camp for children

⁴⁹ Rev. Frank Baird, *History of the Parish of Chipman* (Sackville, N.B.: Tribune Press Ltd., 1946), 66.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 47.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 66.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 67.

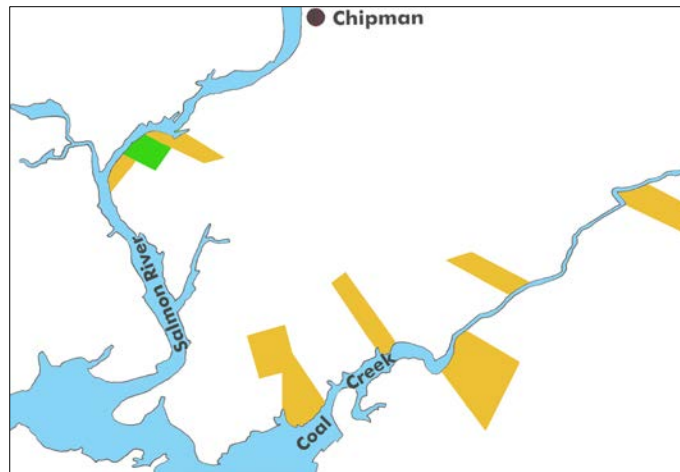
⁵³ *Ibid.*, 59.

⁵⁴ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, Chipman qualified juror lists, 1837–1841, consistently place the Goldfinches next to the “McGraine” family. Also see lot 23 (George Goldfinch) and lot 16 (Patrick McGrine) in Block A on New Brunswick, Department of Natural Resources, grant reference plan, map 116, revised 1979; PANB (<https://archives.gnb.ca>) > Exhibits and Educational Tools > Place Names of New Brunswick, search on Salmon River, Queens County > Cadastral Map for Salmon River > GRPA116.jpg.

It was a beautiful and quiet spot at a river's bend. With few neighbors nearby, the silence may have most often been broken by activity on the water flowing by.

Except for the two lots he was granted on the Salmon River's south side and the two he purchased on the northern shore, George's land lay in five parcels three and a half miles southeast along the aptly named Coal Creek.⁵⁵ The family perhaps hoped to strike it rich. Coal was then a hot commodity, much of George's Coal Creek land sat on top of it and he must have known its potential. At home in England, demand for the fuel had expanded tenfold between 1700 and 1830; it would double again by 1854.⁵⁶ In the Chipman area, five times more coal had been raised in 1835 than the previous year.⁵⁷ A 1839 geological survey predicted "other and far richer deposits of coal" lay beneath what had already been discovered. However, not all of it was easy to get at or transport. Some coal had been mined along Coal Creek, but the work there was difficult and the creek too shallow for easy transport.⁵⁸

Heaps of shale and a disfigured Chipman landscape today show man prevailed over nature, although George and his parents likely never profited. George's lease required him to pay a duty on whatever coal he extracted. Failure to pay or to open or work any mines would cost him the lease.⁵⁹ This may be what happened as in 1847 his lease was transferred to another man.⁶⁰ By 1888 some mining rights had reverted to Goldfinch ownership and George's brother John sold the rights to a 200-acre Coal Creek lot but only for one dollar.⁶¹



Map of Chipman showing the seven lots granted to George (orange) and a lot granted to his brother John (green)

Even without coal, the elderly John and Sarah were evidently able to sustain a living. In April 1844 John possessed sufficient resources to lend a fellow Chipman resident £31. A record of the transaction, witnessed by his son, identified him as a farmer and trader.⁶² Sarah evidently engaged in trading too, bringing a woman's touch to the rough and tumble backwoods with the goods she carried. An inventory of what she owned when she died impressively lists more than 500 yards of fabric—muslin, Scotch homespun, black linen, calico, gray cotton, bleached cotton, striped cotton, printed cotton, ticking,

⁵⁵ New Brunswick, Department of Natural Resources, grant reference plan, map 116, revised 1979.
⁵⁶ Barbara Freese, *Coal: A Human History* (Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2003), 67.
⁵⁷ Douglas Higgins, *History of Coal Mining and Other Related Industries in the Minto and Chipman area, 1783-1978* (Minto, N.B.: D.H. Higgins, 1978), 102.
⁵⁸ Abraham Gesner, *First Report on the Geological Survey of the Province of New-Brunswick* (Saint John: Henry Chubb, 1839), 70-72.
⁵⁹ New Brunswick, Land Grants, 1784-1997, RS 686, vol. H:193, George Goldfinch coal lease, 14 October 1837.
⁶⁰ *Journal of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Fourth day of February to the Third Day of May, 1853* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1853), lxi.
⁶¹ Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book T2:399, John William Goldfinch to Silas C. McMann, 3 December 1888, for Lot 4 on Coal Creek, 200 acres; PANB microfilm F5475.
⁶² Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book O:234, William McCallum to John Goldfinch, 10 April 1844; PANB microfilm F5459.

vesting, and diaper material. Her goods in hand also included thirty-one collars, seventeen shirts, eleven silk and other shawls, three black lace veils, cravats, vests, stays, braces, gloves, three padlocks, fifteen dozen spoons, fifty-nine lesson books and readers, thirty pencil cases, and sixteen grace rings, a colonial game for children.⁶³

Owning personal effects worth £35 and no real estate, John died intestate in 1844.⁶⁴ Sarah outlived him by five years. Two months before her death she signed a will with two bequests. All debts owed her from dealings in the two years preceding September 1848 were left to her son James “that being the time he acted as Agent for me.” Everything else was left to son John.⁶⁵ Valued at £39, saleable goods comprised most of her £102 estate. Livestock worth £35 and household items worth £28 made up the rest. She owned twenty sheep, two oxen, two cows, one bull, a two-year-old steer, a one-year-old heifer, and one calf. Her furniture included a dozen chairs, four tables, three feather beds, three looking glasses, a chest of drawers, a wash stand, and a franklin stove. Kitchen items included six more chairs, another table, utensils, crockery, glassware, pots, kettles, and a clock.⁶⁶



Graves at Red Bank Cemetery: from left George H. Smith, son of John and Sarah; Robert E. Lloyd, son of James and Jane Loyd; Sarah Smith; John Smith; and John and Sarah Goldfinch at front.

⁶³ Queens Co., N.B., Probate Records, RS 69, Sarah Goldfinch inventory, no legible date; PANB microfilm F10422. For grace rings, see *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game_of_graces), game of graces.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, John W. Goldfinch petition for letters of administration, 23 January 1849, in John Goldfinch file.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, Sarah Goldfinch will, 15 May 1849; PANB microfilm F0422.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, Sarah Goldfinch inventory.

Sarah and John were both buried in Chipman's Red Bank Cemetery. The stone marking their graves records their names, ages, and dates of death. Cement splashed on the stone when it was set in a new base partially obscures but does not obliterate a final line of text proclaiming their Chatham origin.⁶⁷ The site of their home is now Camp Wegesegum, a summer church camp for children.⁶⁸ A stone cairn with a plaque commemorates the location's history:

To the Glory of God and in memory of Thomas and Elizabeth Baird of Chipman, whose generous gift of this land in 1922 has provided a place for generations of youth to receive God's grace through the joys of fellowship in Nature's bountiful surroundings. Erected by their descendants, A.D. 2003. This site originally settled by the Goldfinch family of England, in 1837.⁶⁹



Goldfinch cairn at Camp Wegesegum

⁶⁷ Red Bank Cemetery, John and Sarah Goldfinch gravestone.

⁶⁸ New Brunswick, Department of Natural Resources, grant reference plan, map 116, revised 1979.

⁶⁹ Goldfinch memorial at Camp Wegesegum; photographed by author, 13 November 2004.

Children

John Goldfinch and Sarah Honey were survived by seven of their twelve children—three then in Canada, four in England. The Goldfinch family record and church registers establish the family framework. Except for one apparently estranged daughter whose story follows, high-quality direct evidence connects those who became adults. Most notably:

- When son John applied for letters of administration to settle his father's estate in 1849 he said his father was survived by four sons (George, a captain in the Royal Navy living in Plymouth, England, plus John W., James, and Henry, all residents of Chipman) and two daughters (Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Burrige of Walworth, Surrey, England; and Sarah, wife of John Smith, reportedly residing in the same part of England).⁷⁰
- Sarah's will names sons John and James.⁷¹
- Son George's will names siblings John William Goldfinch, Henry Goldfinch, James Goldfinch, and Sarah Smith as well as niece Elizabeth Mary Burrige and nephews George and Edward Burrige.⁷²
- Family letters connect George, Henry, John, and Sarah as siblings.⁷³
- Daughter Sarah names brother George in an 1843 letter seeking school admission for her son.⁷⁴

The children of John Goldfinch and Sarah Honey were as follows:

- + 2 i. GEORGE GOLDFINCH, born 8 or 19 March 1796 at five in the morning, baptized 8 April 1796, Chatham;⁷⁵ died 8 December 1864, Plymouth, Devon;⁷⁶ married Mary (Edwards) Williams, 4 September 1844, East Stonehouse, Devon.⁷⁷
- + 3 ii. SUSANNA GOLDFINCH, born 18 March 1798 at six in the afternoon, baptized 29 April 1798, Chatham;⁷⁸ died after 1861, likely in London, England.⁷⁹
- + 4 iii. ELIZABETH "BETSY" HARRIOTT GOLDFINCH, born 31 March 1799 at halfpast noon, baptized

⁷⁰ Queens Co., N.B., Probate Records, RS 69, John Goldfinch file for John W. Goldfinch petition for letters of administration, 23 January 1849.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, Sarah Goldfinch will, 15 May 1849.

⁷² England and Wales, Principal Probate Registry, George Goldfinch, will dated 16 June 1862, proved 18 February 1865; Probate Registry, York.

⁷³ George Goldfinch to Henry Goldfinch, letter, 7 May 1857, and John Goldfinch to Henry Goldfinch, letters, 2 April 1860 and 11 April 1885; in possession of Sally Kiepe, copies in author's files.

⁷⁴ British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith application, Sarah Smith to Sir R. Dobson, circa July 1843.

⁷⁵ For birth on March 19, see Goldfinch family record. For birth on March 8 and baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, George Goldfinch, 8 April 1796; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22A(3).pdf > image 44.

⁷⁶ England, death certificate, George Goldfinch, December quarter 1864, Plymouth, vol. 5b, p. 226; GRO.

⁷⁷ England, marriage certificate, Goldfinch–Williams, September quarter 1844, East Stonehouse, vol. 9, p. 359; GRO. Maiden name from will naming brothers, see England and Wales, Exeter Probate Registry, Mary Goldfinch will dated 12 April 1882, proved 7 June 1883; Probate Registry, York.

⁷⁸ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Susanna Goldfinch, 29 April 1798; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(1).pdf > image 10.

⁷⁹ Susan appears in the 1861 England census, Middlesex, Hackney parish, Hackney registration district, Hackney subdistrict, enumeration district (ED) 21, folio 72, p. 42, Henry Goldfinch household; RG 9/160, TNA. No Susan, Susanna, or Susannah Goldfinch, born circa 1798, can be found in the 1871 or 1881 England censuses, and *FreeBMD* (<https://www.freebmd.org.uk>) indexes no marriages or death for her in London 1861–1900.

- 7 August 1799, Chatham;⁸⁰ died 17 April 1853, St. George Camberwell, Surrey;⁸¹ married Thomas Burr ridge, 1 April 1816, Parish of Lee, Kent.⁸²
- 5 iv. MARY, born 19 February 1801 at halfpast midnight, baptized 11 March 1801, Chatham;⁸³ died 7 July 1832.⁸⁴
- 6 v. JOHN JAMES GOLDFINCH, born 25 January 1803 at halfpast ten in the evening, baptized 13 February 1803, Chatham;⁸⁵ died 30 June 1809, buried 2 July 1809, Chatham.⁸⁶
- 7 vi. LOUISA GOLDFINCH, born 13 March 1805 at half past two in the morning, baptized 14 April 1805, Chatham;⁸⁷ died 28 April 1831, buried 1 May 1831, Merton, Surrey.⁸⁸
- + 8 vii. SARAH GOLDFINCH, born 21 December 1806 at half past one in the morning, baptized 11 January 1807, Chatham;⁸⁹ died 26 January 1887, Chipman, N.B.;⁹⁰ married John Smith, 31 May 1832, Lambeth, Surrey.⁹¹
- + 9 viii. JOHN WILLIAM GOLDFINCH, born 31 March 1810 at nine in the morning, baptized 6 May 1810, Chatham;⁹² died 5 September 1900, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia;⁹³ married Jane Majoribanks, 1 May 1849, Saint John, N.B.⁹⁴

⁸⁰ For birth, see Goldfinch family record for “Batse.” For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Elizabeth Harriet Goldfinch, 7 August 1799; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(1).pdf > image 21.

⁸¹ England, death certificate, Elizabeth Burr ridge, June quarter 1853, Camberwell, vol. 1d, p. 323; GRO. The Goldfinch family record says she died in 1858 but the date appears to be a later insertion.

⁸² Parish of Lee (Kent), Bishop’s Transcripts, 1813–1835, by date, Burr ridge–Goldfinch, 1 April 1816; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004990769>), digital film 004990769, image 549.

⁸³ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Mary Goldfinch, 11 March 1801; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(1).pdf > image 35. The register calls Mary the daughter of Joseph and Sarah, but only John and Sarah appear in Chatham records at this time and the Goldfinch family record confirms this is their child.

⁸⁴ Goldfinch family record.

⁸⁵ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, John James Goldfinch, 13 February 1803; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(2).pdf > image 4.

⁸⁶ For death, see Goldfinch family record. For burial, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Burials, 1799–1812, by date, John Goldfinch, 2 July 1809; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of burials, 1799–1812 > P085-01-79(2).pdf > image 24. The register calls John the son of George and Sarah, but only John and Sarah Goldfinch appear at this time and the family record confirms this is their child.

⁸⁷ Goldfinch family record for birth of “Luzehar.” For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Louisa Goldfinch, 14 April 1805; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(2).pdf > image 23.

⁸⁸ For death, see Goldfinch family record. For burial, see Merton (Surrey), Bishop’s Transcripts, 1831, p. 59, no. 468, Louisa Goldfinch; “London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813–2003,” *Ancestry*, imaged from DW/T/6777, LMA.

⁸⁹ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. Also, Red Bank Cemetery, Sarah Smith gravestone; viewed by author, 13 November 2004. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Sarah Goldfinch, 11 January 1807; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(2).pdf > image 38.

⁹⁰ Red Bank Cemetery, Sarah Smith gravestone. Also, Parish of Canning, Burial Register, p. 101, Sarah Smith, wife of John Smith, buried 29 January 1887; PANB microfilm F1091.

⁹¹ St. Mary, Lambeth, Register of Marriages, 1831–1835, p. 172, no. 514, Smith–Goldfinch.

⁹² For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, John William Goldfinch, 6 May 1810; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, 1772–1812 > P085-01-22B(3).pdf > image 23.

⁹³ Mountain Cemetery (Yarmouth, N.S.), Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone; image, transcription, and lot number provided by Ruth Kirk, 2006, memo in author’s files.

⁹⁴ Saint John County, Marriage Register, RS 156, Book D:166, Goldfinch–Majoribanks; PANB microfilm 16242.

- + 10 ix. JAMES GOLDFINCH, born 6 April 1813 at twenty past three in the afternoon, baptized 27 June 1813, St. Anne, Limehouse, London;⁹⁵ died 21 September 1904, Yarmouth.⁹⁶ He likely married Mary Cosson, 4 December 1837, Yarmouth.⁹⁷ He married Elizabeth Phoebe Gardner, 13 July 1851, Yarmouth.⁹⁸
- 11 x. WILLIAM GOLDFINCH, born 17 April 1815 at three in the morning, baptized 30 July 1815, Deptford, Kent;⁹⁹ died 24 November 1816, buried 1 December 1816, Deptford.¹⁰⁰
- 12 xi. WILLIAM GOLDFINCH, born 9 November 1817 at ten past six in the morning, baptized 7 December 1817, Deptford;¹⁰¹ buried 17 June 1818, Deptford.¹⁰²
- + 13 xii. HENRY GOLDFINCH, born 25 September 1820 at halfpast noon, baptized 29 October 1820, Deptford;¹⁰³ died 22 July 1886, Beaver River, N.S.;¹⁰⁴ married Matilda Jane Bennison, 18 December 1845, probably at Chipman.¹⁰⁵

Also, "Married," *The New Brunswick Courier* (Saint John, N.B.), 5 May 1859, p. 2.

⁹⁵ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For birth and baptism, see St. Anne, Limehouse, Register of Baptisms, 1813–1821, p. 15, no. 116, James Goldfinch; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, imaged from P93/ANN/5, LMA.

⁹⁶ Mountain Cemetery, Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone.

⁹⁷ "Married," *Yarmouth Herald and Western Advertiser*, 8 December 1837, p. 3, col. 3.

⁹⁸ George S. Brown, "Yarmouth Genealogies, No. 18, The Gardner Family," *Yarmouth Herald*, 13 April 1897, p. 1, col. 8, Horatio Nelson Gardner family. A Yarmouth native, Brown (1827–1916) extensively chronicled Yarmouth families. Originally published in the *Yarmouth Herald* from 1896 to 1909, his work was later republished in George S. Brown, *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Genealogies* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993).

⁹⁹ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Paul, Deptford (Kent), Register of Baptisms, 1813–1817, p. 164, no. 1310, William Goldfinch; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, imaged from P75/PAU/3, LMA.

¹⁰⁰ For death, see Goldfinch family record. For burial, see St. Paul, Deptford, Bishop's Transcripts, 1809–1817, p. 189, no. 1506, William Goldfinch; FHL microfilm 254,584.

¹⁰¹ For day and month of birth, see Goldfinch family record. The year is cut off the family record but 1817 aligns with the baptism. See St. Paul, Deptford, Register of Baptisms, 1817–1822, p. 11, no. 85, William Goldfinch; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, imaged from P75/PAU/4, LMA.

¹⁰² St. Paul, Deptford, Bishop's Transcripts, 1818–1825, p. 262, no. 2096, William Goldfinch; FHL microfilm 254,585.

¹⁰³ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Paul, Deptford, Register of Baptisms, 1817–1822, p. 186, no. 1486, Henry Goldfinch; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, imaged from P75/PAU/4, LMA.

¹⁰⁴ Henry Goldfinch family records; in possession of Sally Kiepe, copies in author's files. Also, Free Will Baptist Cemetery (Beaver River, N.S.), Goldfinch gravestone; Old Beaver River and Port Maitland Preservation Society, image, *Old Stones* (http://www.oldstones.ca/founders/?page_id=233).

¹⁰⁵ Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on family residence at the time.

GENERATION TWO

2. **George Goldfinch** was born on the 8 or 19 March 1796 at five in the morning and baptized on 8 April 1796 in Chatham, Kent.¹⁰⁶ He died on 8 December 1864 in Plymouth, Devon.¹⁰⁷ He married **Mary (Edwards) Williams** on 4 September 1844 in East Stonehouse, Devon.¹⁰⁸ She died 4 May 1883 in Plymouth.¹⁰⁹

A royal navy officer, George achieved more prominence than any of his siblings. He was eleven when he entered the navy on 26 June 1807.¹¹⁰ He undoubtedly went straight to sea, serving against the dramatic backdrop of the Napoleonic War. In 1815 he passed examination to become a midshipman and then served on several ships before appointment to the 18-gun sloop *Sophie*, initially as master and then acting lieutenant.¹¹¹ He served on the *Sophie* in the East Indies during the Burmese War, distinguishing himself as zealous, cool, and intrepid in a series of engagements. Three months into the war on 3 June 1824, *Sophie* commander Captain Raves singled him out for praise after a British attack on a Burmese position near the village of Kemmindine:

Where every man did his duty, it is difficult to bring into notice the conduct of individuals, yet I cannot avoid particularizing the pre-eminent and gallant conduct of Mr. George Goldfinch, and I must regret the severe wound which he has received, as it will deprive me for a time of his valuable services. He has since our arrival here always been employed in the command of the boats belonging to His Majesty's sloop *Sophie*, and has always met my warmest approbation; indeed, I cannot speak too highly of this meritorious officer. He has passed his examination for a Lieutenant nine years and three months. I hope you will take the conduct of this deserving officer into your consideration, and recommend him to the favorable notice of Commodore Grant, and I trust it may be the means of procuring for him that promotion he so richly merits.¹¹²

On 4 December 1824 George's role in the capture of a vessel carrying the flag of the Burmese chief earned him further commendation as "a valuable officer" who "merits every praise."¹¹³ On 25 July 1825, at the age of twenty-nine, he was confirmed as a lieutenant.¹¹⁴ He was, however, soon invalidated home, and except for one brief assignment in 1831 saw no naval service for the next six years.¹¹⁵ It was during this hiatus that he received free land in New Brunswick in recompense for his naval service.

George resided in Chipman only briefly. Records documenting his acquisition of land and a coal

¹⁰⁶ For birth on March 19, see Goldfinch family record. For birth on March 8 and baptism, St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, George Goldfinch.

¹⁰⁷ England, death certificate, George Goldfinch, December quarter 1864, Plymouth, vol. 5b, p. 226; GRO.

¹⁰⁸ England, marriage certificate, Goldfinch-Williams, September quarter 1844, East Stonehouse, vol. 9, p. 359; GRO. Maiden name from Mary Goldfinch will dated 12 April 1882, proved 7 June 1883, Exeter; Probate Registry, York.

¹⁰⁹ England, death certificate, Mary Goldfinch, June quarter 1883, Plymouth, vol. 5b, p. 193; GRO.

¹¹⁰ *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, 402.

¹¹¹ British Admiralty, Officers' Service Records, Series III, Officers' Time of Service, 1799–1853, ADM 196/2/125, George Goldfinch.

¹¹² Horace Hayman Wilson, compiler and editor, *Documents Illustrative of the Burmese War with an Introductory Sketch of the Events of the War and An Appendix* (Calcutta: Government Gazette Press, 1827), "Documents," 58.

¹¹³ Captain H.D. Chads to Captain Coe, letter, 8 December 1824, in *The London Gazette*, 20 August 1825, p. 1497.

¹¹⁴ British Admiralty, Officers' Service Records, Series III, Officers' Time of Service, 1799–1853, ADM 196/2/125, George Goldfinch.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.* Also, *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, 402.

lease place him there as early as 1835.¹¹⁶ He appears on a list of potential jurors for 1837.¹¹⁷ By October 1838 he was back in England, accepting an appointment on the 84-gun *Ganges* in the Mediterranean followed by appointments to the 50-gun *Warspite* off Lisbon in 1842 and the 80-gun *Superb* in the Channel Squadron in 1845. In 1846 he was appointed to the 120-gun *Caledonia* at Devonport “for the purpose of waiting on Royal and distinguished personages who may visit that port.” Four months later he was promoted to commander, although destined to be inactive for the next decade.¹¹⁸ In 1849 he became deputy superintendent of convicts in Bermuda.¹¹⁹ His last naval posting was from February 1858 to June 1860 on the *Saturn* for the packet service at Liverpool.¹²⁰ In August 1860 he was promoted to captain. Five months later he retired on half-pay.¹²¹

When George married Mary Williams in 1844 it was a first marriage for him; she was a widow almost 10 years his junior.¹²² Back from Bermuda, in 1851 he and Mary lived with two servants in a house on Plymouth’s Windsor Terrace.¹²³ George’s employment in the packet service later took them briefly to Liverpool and they were enumerated as visitors in its environs in 1861.¹²⁴ George died in Plymouth in 1864. Mary lived nineteen more years.

George’s estate took two decades to settle. He left his wife interest on £2,200 worth of bonds. After her death the bonds were to be divided among his siblings Henry and Sarah and Burridge nephews George and Edward. From his share Henry was to pay an annuity to his brother John and his wife. Sarah was similarly to pay an annuity to brother James and his wife. Niece Elizabeth Mary Burridge received two bonds with a total value of £450. All except the bequest to his niece were effective after his wife’s death.¹²⁵ As per an earlier marriage settlement, George’s siblings were at that time to receive an



George Goldfinch
photo courtesy of Jill Martin Bouteillier

¹¹⁶ New Brunswick, Land Grants, 1784–1997, RS 686, vol. H:193, 1835 survey filed with coal lease.

¹¹⁷ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, Chipman qualified juror lists, by date, George Goldfinch, 1837.

¹¹⁸ For dates and appointments, see British Admiralty, Officers’ Service Records, Series III, Officers’ Time of Service, 1799–1853, ADM 196/2/125, George Goldfinch. Also, British Admiralty, Officers’ Service Records, Series III, Executive Officers, 1815–1867, ADM 196/36/1167, George Goldfinch. For purpose of *Caledonia* appointment, see “Naval Intelligence,” *The Times* (London), 9 July 1846, p. 8, col. E. For ships’ guns, see *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, 402.

¹¹⁹ England, Colonial Office Records, Secretary of State correspondence about Bermuda, CO 37/129, p. 239, George Goldfinch to T. F. Elliot accepting appointment, 19 September 1845; TNA.

¹²⁰ British Admiralty, Officers’ Service Records, Series III, Officers’ Time of Service, 1799–1853, ADM 196/2/125, George Goldfinch.

¹²¹ *Ibid*, Executive Officers, 1815–1867, ADM 196/36/1167, George Goldfinch.

¹²² England, marriage certificate, Goldfinch–Williams, September quarter 1844, East Stonehouse, vol. 9, p. 359.

¹²³ 1851 England census, Devon, St. Andrew Plymouth parish, Plymouth registration district, St. Andrew subdistrict, ED 1s, folio 585, p. 29, George Goldfinch household; HO 107/1879, TNA.

¹²⁴ 1861 England census, Cheshire, Bidstone parish, Birkenhead registration district, Tranmere subdistrict, ED 11, folio 42A, p. 21, Charles Kingcome household; RG 9/2647, TNA.

¹²⁵ England and Wales, Principal Probate Registry, George Goldfinch, will dated 16 June 1862, proved 18 February 1865; Probate Registry, York.

additional £1,500 benefit, “part of Mrs Goldfinch’s fortune.”¹²⁶ In the spring of 1884 John and Henry Goldfinch travelled to England to pursue their inheritance. The money was eventually paid but not before taxing the Canadian Goldfinches’ patience. In April 1885 John wrote to Henry:

About this time a year ago the finches was pluming there [*sic*] feathers for their trip across the Atlantic[.] it seems it would have been soon Enough had we wated untill Now[.] have you heard anything from London[.] I presume not by your silence[.] I have thought every thing would be settled by Chris[mas.] if I do not hear something before June I will write and ask if anything is wrong and why the money does not come.¹²⁷

George had no known children.

3. **Susanna Goldfinch** was born on 18 March 1798 at six in the afternoon and baptized on 29 April 1798, Chatham, Kent.¹²⁸ She died after 1861, likely in London, England.¹²⁹

Susanna is the only child of John and Sarah Goldfinch whose mention in the family record is limited to her birth. For Susanna alone, no death is given, suggesting lost contact or estrangement. Susanna was not mentioned among her father’s living children during settlement of his estate in 1849, nor did her brother George include her in his 1862 will. An effort to find her was however needed decades later for settlement of sister-in-law Mary Goldfinch’s estate. “The Court insisted upon advertisem[ent]s being issued as to your sister,” solicitor John Fraser wrote to Henry Goldfinch in 1884.¹³⁰ The *London Gazette* advertised for claims from next of kin before 25 October 1884, with particular reference to Susanna, identifying her as George’s sister and indicating she was a domestic servant who resided in the neighbourhood of Kingsland Road, London, about 1833.¹³¹

Circumstances may have erased Susanna from her siblings’ lives, but she was undoubtedly the “Susannah” Goldfinch whose three-week-old son Henry was baptized in the parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, in May 1830. No father was named for Henry, and Susannah lived at the Lombard Street poor house in the Mint, a five-minute walk from her sister Elizabeth Burr ridge’s home.¹³² Workhouse

¹²⁶ John Fraser, Furnivals Inn, London, to James Goldfinch letter, 10 December 1883; original in the possession of Sally Kiepe, copy in author’s files.

¹²⁷ John Goldfinch to Henry Goldfinch, letter, 11 April 1885. For eventual payment of legacy, see Digby Co., N.S., Court of Probate, vol. 5 (1886–1917), p. 23–24, Henry Goldfinch will, 4 June 1886; FHL microfilm 824,803. For return voyage, see *SS Nova Scotian*, p. 1, arriving Halifax, 11 July 1884, Henry and J.W. Goldfinch; “Passenger Lists for the Port of Quebec City and Other Ports, 1865-1922,” image, *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/passenger-lists-quebec-port-1865-1900/Pages/search.aspx>).

¹²⁸ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Susanna Goldfinch, 29 April 1798.

¹²⁹ Susan last appears in the 1861 England census for Middlesex, Hackney parish, Hackney registration district, Hackney subdistrict, enumeration district (ED) 21, folio 72, p. 42, Henry Goldfinch household; RG 9/160, TNA. No Susan, Susanna, or Susannah Goldfinch born circa 1798 appears in the 1871 or 1881 England censuses and *FreeBMD* indexes no marriages or death for her in London 1861–1900.

¹³⁰ John Fraser, Furnivals Inn, London, to Henry Goldfinch, letter, 18 September 1884; in possession of Sally Kiepe, copy in author’s files.

¹³¹ *The London Gazette*, 25 July 1884, issue 25381, p. 3406.

¹³² St. George the Martyr, Southwark (Surrey), Register of Baptisms, 1830–1834, p. 257, no. 2055, Henry Goldfinch; “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/152, LMA. For the Mint location of the Lombard Street poor house, see George Weight, “Statistics of the Parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark,” *Journal of the Statistical Society of London*, vol. 3, no. 1 (April 1840), 53. The walking distance from Mint Street to Rephidim Street is based on Google maps. See Elizabeth Burr ridge biography for her places of residence.

records that might reveal more do not begin for this parish until 1852.¹³³

“Susan” and Henry later lived in Hackney, a parish intersected by Kingsland Road.¹³⁴ In 1841 and 1851 they were enumerated in the household of Samuel Wardell, a gardener. Susan’s age as recorded in the 1841 census is illegible and no occupation is given. In 1851 she was a housekeeper in the same household.¹³⁵ In 1861 Susan, identified as Henry’s mother and a laundress, lived with Henry, his wife, and one-year-old daughter.¹³⁶ When Henry Goldfinch married in 1859, his father’s name was reportedly unknown.¹³⁷

Six points support identification of Henry’s mother as John and Sarah Goldfinch’s daughter Susanna:

- Her reported age of fifty in 1851 and sixty-six in 1861 roughly align with Susanna’s 1798 birth. Discrepancies of several years in early censuses are common.
- The 1861 census says she was born in Chatham, Kent. She or her son may have been the informant. Whoever provided a Middlesex birthplace for the 1841 and 1851 censuses was less likely herself or a knowledgeable family member.
- She can be placed near Kingsland Road about the time her family believed she lived there.
- As family members believed, she worked as a domestic servant.
- Henry was born near the home of Susanna’s sister Elizabeth Burridge.
- Having a child outside of marriage could explain Susanna’s disappearance from the family record. The last report of her in 1833 is compatible with an estrangement linked to her son’s 1830 birth.

Susanna had one known child:

- 14 i. HENRY GOLDFINCH, born 24 April 1830, baptized 19 May 1830, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹³⁸ died 3 December 1878, Hoxton Old Town, Middlesex;¹³⁹ married Ellen Poor, 26 May 1859, Parish of West Hackney, Middlesex.¹⁴⁰ She died 29 September 1873, Hoxton Old Town, Middlesex.¹⁴¹

¹³³ Peter Higginbotham, “St George-the-Martyr, Southwark, Surrey, London,” *The Workhouse: The Story of an Institution* (<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Southwark/>).

¹³⁴ For Kingsland Road, see *British History Online* (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol10/pp28-33>), transcription of “Hackney: Dalston and Kingsland Road,” from T. F. T. Baker, ed., *A History of the County of Middlesex*, vol. 10, Hackney (London: Victoria County History, 1995), 28–33.

¹³⁵ 1841 England census, Middlesex, Hackney parish, Hackney registration district, West Hackney subdistrict, ED 8, folio 38, p. 18, Samuel Wardell household; HO 107/700/6, TNA. Also, 1851 England census, Middlesex, Hackney parish, Dalston village, Hackney registration district, West Hackney subdistrict, ED 9, folio 252, p. 4, Sam^l Wardell household; HO 107/1504, TNA.

¹³⁶ 1861 England census, Middlesex, Hackney parish, Hackney registration district, Hackney subdistrict, ED 21, folio 72, p. 42, Henry Goldfinch household; RG 9/160, TNA.

¹³⁷ Parish of West Hackney (Middlesex), Register of Marriages, 1858–1861, p. 33, no. 65, Goldfinch–Poor; “London, England, Church of England, Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P79/WH/018, LMA.

¹³⁸ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1830–1834, p. 257, no. 2055, Henry Goldfinch.

¹³⁹ England, death certificate, Henry Goldfinch, December quarter 1878, Shoreditch, vol. 1c, p. 39; GRO.

¹⁴⁰ Parish of West Hackney, Register of Marriages, 1858–1861, p. 33, no. 65, Goldfinch–Poor.

¹⁴¹ England, death certificate, Ellen Goldfinch, December quarter 1873, Shoreditch, vol. 1c, p. 99; GRO.

4. **Elizabeth “Betsy” Harriott Goldfinch** was born on 31 March 1799 at halfpast noon and baptized on 7 August 1799 in Chatham, Kent.¹⁴² She died on 17 April 1858 in St. George Camberwell, Surrey.¹⁴³ With her parents’ consent, she married **Thomas Burrige** on 1 April 1816 in the parish of Lee, Kent.¹⁴⁴ He died on 31 January 1865 in Walworth, Surrey.¹⁴⁵

Elizabeth remained in England when her parents and brothers immigrated to Canada. She lived with her husband and children about a mile south of London Bridge in Southwark, an old part of London with many historic associations. From Roman times, the main road from London to the port of Dover ran through this area. St. George the Martyr Church, where most of the Burrige children were baptized, dated back to 1122, although it was rebuilt in 1734–1736. Next door stood Marshalsea prison, where Charles Dickens’s father was incarcerated for debt in 1824. Church and prison both appear in Dickens’s *Little Dorritt*.¹⁴⁶

The Burridges lived in a series of homes where today’s Great Dover Street runs into Old Kent Road. In 1832, 1834, and 1841 they lived on Hunter Street, which ran from Bermondsey Road almost to Long Lane on a rough parallel with Kent Street, now Tabard Street.¹⁴⁷ Modern-day maps similarly locate Rehidim Street, their 1825 residence.¹⁴⁸ This places the Burridges roughly two miles west of the former Goldfinch home in Deptford.

London at this time was a place of much poverty, overcrowding, crime, and disease. The Burridges’ neighborhood was no exception. Writing in 1840, George Weight, a resident minister, called Kent Street one of the “wretched and profligate” parts of St. George the Martyr parish, inhabited by beggars, thieves, prostitutes, and “bad characters of all descriptions.”¹⁴⁹ Weight acknowledged that the state of the parish had been “much improved within the last 20 years.” This period of reported improvement coincides with the Burridges’ residence there. The district nonetheless remained undesirable. A large section of the parish was called the Mint, parts of which Weight said were “exceedingly filthy and wretched, and inhabited by an indigent and profligate population.”¹⁵⁰ He presented statistics to show that

¹⁴² For birth, see Goldfinch family record for “Batse” Goldfinch. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Elizabeth Harriet Goldfinch, 7 August 1799.

¹⁴³ England, death certificate, Elizabeth Burrige, June quarter 1853, Camberwell, vol. 1d, p. 323; GRO.

¹⁴⁴ Parish of Lee (Kent), Bishop’s Transcripts, 1813–1835, by date, Burrige–Goldfinch, 1 April 1816.

¹⁴⁵ England, death certificate, Thomas Burrige, March quarter 1865, Newington, vol. 1d, p. 175; GRO.

¹⁴⁶ Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert, editors, *The London Encyclopaedia* (London: Macmillan, 1990). See Southwark, 802–804; St. George the Martyr, 708; and Marshalsea Prison, 499–500.

¹⁴⁷ For 1832 residence, see St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Bishop’s Transcripts, 1831–1834, by date, Charles Thomas, Edward, and James John Burrige, 10 May 1832, FHL microfilm 307,694. For 1834 residence, see St. George the Martyr, Register of Baptisms, 1830–1834, p. 293, no. 2338, Rudolph “Burrage.” “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1817,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/153, LMA. For 1841, see 1841 England census, Surrey, St. George the Martyr Southwark parish, St. George the Martyr registration district, Kent Road subdistrict, ED 10, folio 18, p. 29, Thomas Burrige household; HO107/1085/5, TNA. For location of Hunter Street, see University of Greenwich, et al., *Ideal Homes: A History of South-east London Suburbs* (<http://www.ideal-homes.org.uk/>) > My Borough > London Borough of Southwark > Historic Maps > Walworth for Walworth 1846 map. Hunter Street runs south from the Tan Yards south of the Leather Market in the right hand corner of the map.

¹⁴⁸ For Rehidim residence, see St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Burials, 1824–1827, p. 134, no. 1068, Charles Burrige; “London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813–2003,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/229, LMA.

¹⁴⁹ George Weight, “Statistics of the Parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark,” *Journal of the Statistical Society of London*, vol. 3, no. 1 (April 1840), 57.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 56.

the number of criminals living in the parish and the number of houses for the accommodation of vice far exceeded the London average.¹⁵¹ He also spoke at length about “the great deficiency of church accommodation, of clerical ministration, of educational establishments, of savings’ banks, of charitable institutions, and of other general means of moral and social improvement.”¹⁵²

The Burridges were likely not among the worst off. Elizabeth’s husband, Thomas, and eldest son, George, were both tailors.¹⁵³ Sons Edward and Rudolph were undertakers.¹⁵⁴ Late in his career, Edward advertised his undertaking firm as the “largest and cheapest house in South London” with “distance no obstacle.”¹⁵⁵ Upon his death, his estate was valued at £22,222.¹⁵⁶ Son James was a baker and in 1865 opened his own fancy biscuits and pastry bakery in Saint John, N.B.¹⁵⁷

The Southwark area grew significantly through the nineteenth century but retained rural characteristics during the Burridges’ early years of residence. Writing in 1862, a London historian noted:

There were pleasant walks fifty years ago about the Kent Road and Bermondsey where we should now look in vain for rural enjoyments. The favorite route from Southwark to the Old Kent Road was by way of the Halfpenny Hatch, the name of which is still retained, though the poplars and willows, and airy walks by the side of the small canals, are no more.¹⁵⁸

Another halfpenny hatch lay across Hunter Street, where the Burridges sometimes resided.¹⁵⁹ Compromised of a toll-house and gate, it stood thirty-two feet from the parish boundary, at which point the street name changed to Baalzephon. Pedestrians paid a halfpenny to cross; horse and cart travellers paid more. The income funded repair of the privately owned road.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 64–66.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 67.

¹⁵³ Thomas is described as a tailor in the baptisms of each of his children. See child’s list for documentation. For George, see for example, 1851 England census, Surrey, Camberwell parish, Camberwell registration district, Peckham subdistrict, ED 13, p. 7, George Burridge household; HO 107/1581, TNA.

¹⁵⁴ For Edward, see 1861 England census, Surrey, St. Mary Newington parish, Newington registration district, St. Peter Walworth subdistrict, ED 38, folio 30, p. 19, Edward Burridge household; RG 9/342, TNA. For Rudolph, see St. Stephen’s Church, Islington (Middlesex), Register of Marriages, 1846–1873, p. 115, no. 230, Rodolph Burridge–Mary Warren; “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P83/STE1/3, LMA.

¹⁵⁵ “Edward Burridge & Sons,” *South London Press*, 23 January 1886, p. 15, col. 1 and 3 May 1895, p. 6, col. 6.

¹⁵⁶ England and Wales, Principal Probate Registry, Edward Burridge, will dated 20 August 1906, proved 4 April 1907; Probate Registry, London.

¹⁵⁷ For occupation, Holy Trinity Church, Dartford (Kent), Register of Marriages, 1837–1856, p. 231, no. 461, Burridge–Norcliffe; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Dartford, Holy Trinity > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages, 1837–1856 > P110-01-58(3).pdf > image 33. Also, J. J. Burridge advertisement, *Morning Freeman* (Saint John, N.B.), 6 June 1865, p. 1.

¹⁵⁸ George Rose Emerson, *London: How the Great City Grew* (London: Routledge, Warne & Routledge, 1862), 132.

¹⁵⁹ For description of the “North side of Hunter Street to the Half penny Hatch,” see 1841 England census, Surrey, St. George the Martyr Southwark parish, St. George the Martyr Southwark registration district, Kent Road subdistrict, ED 10, folio 2.

¹⁶⁰ John Bury Dasent, editor, *The Common Law Reports, 1854–5: Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in all The Superior Courts of Common Law Together with Cases Carried by Writs of Error from Those Courts to the Exchequer Chamber, or thence by Appeal to the House of Lords: also Cases Carried by Appeal from the Colonial Common Law Courts to the Privy Council* vol. 3, part 2 (London: A. & G. A. Spottiswoode, 1855), 1127–1133 for the Queen against the Inhabitants of St. George the Martyr in a dispute about taxes due on the toll.

The Burridges maintained connections with family in Canada. Elizabeth's son James followed the earlier generation to Canada, settling with his family in Saint John about 1857.¹⁶¹ His sons James and George lived with John and Jane Goldfinch in Chipman in 1891.¹⁶² The previous year John sold George a lot next to the one where the Goldfinches had originally settled.¹⁶³ George married in Chipman in 1897.¹⁶⁴

Children of Thomas Burridge and Elizabeth Goldfinch:

- 15 i. GEORGE BURRIDGE, baptized 16 March 1818, St. Paul, Deptford;¹⁶⁵ died 19 August 1898, St. Leonards on Sea, Hastings, East Sussex;¹⁶⁶ married (1) after 1840 to Caroline (Goldfinch) Norcliffe,¹⁶⁷ who is likely the tailor's wife who died at age fifty-six on 13 March 1861 in Guy's Hospital, Surrey;¹⁶⁸ married (2) Maria Gillham, 5 April 1863, St. Giles, Camberwell, Surrey.¹⁶⁹ She died 3 March 1906, St. Leonards on Sea, Hastings, East Sussex.¹⁷⁰
- 16 ii. CHARLES BURRIDGE, born 26 December 1820, baptized 31 August 1823, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁷¹ buried 17 August 1825, St. George the Martyr, Southwark.¹⁷²
- 17 iii. EDWARD BURRIDGE, born 26 February 1823, baptized 31 August 1823, St. George the Martyr,

¹⁶¹ 1871 Canada census, New Brunswick, Saint John (district 174), Dukes Ward (subdistrict C), division 2, p. 86, dwelling 192, family 336, James J. Burridge household, including James, twelve, and George, eight; LAC microfilm C-10373. Date of immigration based on birthplaces of children.

¹⁶² 1891 Canada census, New Brunswick, Queens (district 18), Parish of Chipman (subdistrict D), p. 44, line 5, family 187, John W. Goldfinch household, with James, thirty-four, and George, twenty-nine, "nephew;" LAC microfilm T-6302.

¹⁶³ Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book Y2:306, John Goldfinch to George Burridge, 17 January 1890, and Queens Co., Deed Book Y2:380, George Burridge to George and William King, 17 December 1894; PANB microfilm F5477.

¹⁶⁴ New Brunswick, marriage registration 1273, George Burridge–Ella J. Lloyd, 14 September 1897; "Vital Statistics from Government Records (RS141)," image, *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick* (<https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/VISSE/?culture=en-CA>).

¹⁶⁵ St. Paul, Deptford, Register of Baptisms, 1817–1822, p. 24, no. 135, George Burridge; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* imaged from PA75/PAU/4, LMA. For date of birth, see for example 1851 England census, Surrey, St. Giles Camberwell parish, Hamlet of Peckham, Camberwell registration district, Peckham subdistrict, ED 13, p. 7, George Burridge, age thirty-three; HO 107/1581, TNA. Also, 1861 England census, Surrey, St. Giles Camberwell parish, Camberwell registration district, Camberwell subdistrict, ED 3, folio 69, p. 44, George Burridge, age forty-three. Also, 1871 England census, London, registration district Lambeth, sub-registration district Kennington First, ED 7, folio 138, p. 9, George Burridge, age fifty-three; RG 10/669, TNA.

¹⁶⁶ England death certificate, George Burridge, September quarter 1898, Hastings, vol. 2b, p. 27; GRO.

¹⁶⁷ For Caroline Burridge as wife and Clare A. Norcliffe as daughter-in-law, see 1851 England census, Surrey, St. Giles Camberwell parish, Hamlet of Peckham, Camberwell registration district, Peckham subdistrict, ED 13, p. 7, George Burridge household; HO 107/1581, TNA. Also, St. Mary's, Lambeth, Register of Marriages, 1823–1824, p. 117, entry 349, William Norcliffe–Caroline Goldfinch, 28 May 1824; "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry*, imaged from P85/MRY1/402, LMA. Also, St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1830–1834, p. 67, entry 532, Clara Ann Norcliffe, 31 July 1831, "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* imaged from P92/GEO/152, LMA. Also, St. Mary, Newington (Surrey), Register of Burials, 1838–1839, p. 41, entry 327, William Norcliffe, 17 October 1838; "London, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1980," *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/MRY/133, LMA. Also, 1841 England census, Surrey, St. Mary Newington parish, St. Mary Newington registration district, Trinity subdistrict, ED 3, folio 22, p. 36, for Caroline Norcliffe, thirty, and Clara Norcliffe, eleven, in Peter Pollard household; HO 107/1065/2, TNA.

¹⁶⁸ England, death certificate, Caroline Burridge, March quarter 1861, St. Olave, Southwark, vol. 1d, p. 50; GRO.

¹⁶⁹ Parish of St. Giles, Camberwell (Surrey), Register of Marriages, 1863–1865, p. 6, no. 11, Burridge–Gillham; "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry*, imaged from P73/IGS/029, LMA.

¹⁷⁰ England, death certificate, Maria Burridge, March quarter 1906, Hastings, vol. 2b, p. 33; GRO.

¹⁷¹ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1820–1823, p. 272, no. 2173, Charles Burridge; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/150, LMA.

¹⁷² St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Burials, 1824–1827, p. 134, no. 1068, Charles Burridge; "London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813–2003," *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/229, LMA.

- Southwark;¹⁷³ buried 14 September 1825, St. George the Martyr, Southwark.¹⁷⁴
- 18 iv. EDWARD BURRIDGE, born circa 1825,¹⁷⁵ baptized 10 June 1832, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁷⁶ died 6 March 1907, Peckham, County of London;¹⁷⁷ married (1) Caroline (Green) Pugh, 7 April 1856, St. George, Camberwell, Surrey.¹⁷⁸ Caroline died 12 September 1895, Peckham, County of London.¹⁷⁹ Edward married (2) Avice Elizabeth Field, 8 July 1899, St. Saviour, Southwark.¹⁸⁰ In 1855 Edward testified in the case of a surgeon convicted of unlawfully dissecting a dead body, reporting the heart and lungs missing after he allowed the surgeon to examine the body.¹⁸¹ One account of the incident described him as well known at Newington Workhouse as an undertaker to the poor.¹⁸²
- 19 v. CHARLES THOMAS BURRIDGE, born circa 1827,¹⁸³ baptized 10 June 1832, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁸⁴ possibly died young.¹⁸⁵
- 20 vi. JAMES JOHN BURRIDGE, born 15 February 1829, baptized 10 June 1832, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁸⁶ died 6 May 1912, Victoria, British Columbia;¹⁸⁷ married on 25 November 1844 in Dartford, Kent, to Clara Ann Norcliffe, age twenty-five, a resident of Walworth, Surrey, daughter

¹⁷³ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1820–1823, p. 272, no. 2174, Edward BurrIDGE; “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/150, LMA.

¹⁷⁴ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Burials, 1824–1827, p. 141, no. 1128, Edward BurrIDGE; “London, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813–2003,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P92/GEO/229, LMA.

¹⁷⁵ Year of birth based on age in 1861 England census, Surrey, St. Mary Newington parish, Newington registration district, St. Peter Walworth subdistrict, ED 38, folio 30, p. 19, Edward BurrIDGE, age thirty-six; RG 9/342, TNA. Also, 1871 England census, Surrey, St. Mary Newington parish, St. Saviour Southwark registration district, St. Peter Walworth subdistrict, ED 2, folio 53, p. 28, Edward BurrIDGE, age forty-six; RG 10/614, TNA. Also, 1881 England census, Surrey, Newington parish, St. Saviour Southwark registration district, St. Peter Walworth subdistrict, ED 2b, folio 75, p. 8, Edward BurrIDGE, age fifty-six; RG 11/538, TNA. Also, 1891 England census, London County, Camberwell parish, Peckham subdistrict, ED 11, folio 38, p. 3, Edward BurrIDGE, age sixty-six; RG 12/475, TNA.

¹⁷⁶ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Bishop’s Transcripts, 1831–1834, by date, Edward BurrIDGE, 10 May 1832.

¹⁷⁷ England, death certificate, Edward BurrIDGE, March quarter 1907, Camberwell, vol. 1d, p. 630: GRO.

¹⁷⁸ Parish of St. George, Camberwell, Register of Marriages, 1854–1858, p. 109, BurrIDGE–Pugh; “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P73/GEO/28, LMA. For Caroline’s maiden name, see England, birth certificate of daughter Harriett BurrIDGE, March quarter 1859, Newington, vol. 1d, p. 243; GRO. For previous marriage, see St. Mary’s, Paddington Green, Westminster (Middlesex), Register of Marriages, 1849–1850, p. 183, Edmund Pugh–Caroline Poulton Green; “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P73/GEO/28, LMA.

¹⁷⁹ England, death certificate, Caroline BurrIDGE, September quarter 1895, Camberwell, vol. 1d, p. 561; GRO.

¹⁸⁰ England, marriage certificate, BurrIDGE–Field, September quarter 1899, St. Saviour, Southwark, vol. 1d, p. 366; GRO.

¹⁸¹ “A Surgeon Convicted of Unlawfully Anatomizing a Dead Body,” *North Wales Chronicle* (Gwynedd, Wales), 17 November 1855, p. 5, col. 1–2.

¹⁸² Thomas Wakley, editor, *The Lancet: A Journal of British and Foreign Medicine, Physiology, Surgery, Chemistry, Criticism, Literature and News*, 1855, in two volumes annually (London: Edward Thomas at the Lancet office, 1855), 443.

¹⁸³ Charles’s birth must fall after the death of his same-named sibling who died in August 1825. Unless he and the second Edward were twins, his birth most likely falls between Edward’s birth in 1825 and James’s in 1829.

¹⁸⁴ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Bishop’s Transcripts, 1831–1834, by date, Charles Thomas BurrIDGE, 10 May 1832.

¹⁸⁵ Not with family in 1841 England census, Surrey, St. George the Martyr parish Southwark, St. George the Martyr Southwark registration district, Kent Road subdistrict, ED 10, folio 18, p. 29, Thomas BurrIDGE household; HO 107/1085/5, TNA.

¹⁸⁶ For date of birth, see 1901 Canada census, New Brunswick, Saint John (district 21), Guy’s Ward (subdistrict C), division 1, p. 4, dwelling 39, family 33, James J. BurrIDGE household; LAC microfilm T-6443. For baptism, see St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Bishop’s Transcripts, 1831–1834, by date, James John BurrIDGE, 10 May 1832.

¹⁸⁷ British Columbia, death registration 027665, James J. BurrIDGE, 1912; FHL microfilm 1,927,292. Also, “Obituary Record,” *Victoria Daily Times*, 6 May 1912, p. 11.

of William Norcliffe, a comb maker.¹⁸⁸ Clara Ann's age, residence, father's name, and father's occupation support identification of her as the daughter of George Burrridge's first wife Caroline. George and Caroline Burrridge witnessed the marriage. Clara Ann died of cholera 3 August 1871, Saint John, N.B.¹⁸⁹

- 21 vii. RUDOLPH BURRIDGE, born 15 January 1834, baptized 9 February 1834, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁹⁰ died 16 March 1899, Eltham, London County;¹⁹¹ married Mary Warren, 5 June 1858, St. Mary's, Islington, Middlesex.¹⁹² Appropriately for an undertaker, Rudolph's "polished outer coffin was nearly hidden by wreaths and crosses, among which were two beautiful wreaths from the employe[e]s of Messrs Burrridge and Sons."¹⁹³
- 22 viii. STEPHEN WILLIAM BURRIDGE, born 7 March 1836, baptized 27 March 1836, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁹⁴ likely died young.¹⁹⁵
- 23 ix. ELIZABETH MARY BURRIDGE, born 10 December 1839, baptized 29 December 1839, St. George the Martyr, Southwark;¹⁹⁶ married Andrew Burrridge, 27 September 1865, Woolwich, Kent.¹⁹⁷ In 1870 Elizabeth took legal action against Andrew and her brother Edward, seeking control of one of the bonds left to her by uncle George Goldfinch. She was then of 30 Wharfdale Road, King's Cross, Middlesex.¹⁹⁸ Her subsequent whereabouts are unknown.

¹⁸⁸ Holy Trinity Church, Dartford (Kent), Register of Marriages, 1837–1856, p. 231, no. 461, Burrridge–Norcliffe; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Dartford, Holy Trinity > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages, 1837–1856 > P110-01-58(3).pdf > image 33.

¹⁸⁹ 1871 Canada census, mortality schedule, New Brunswick, Saint John (district 117), Dukes Ward (subdistrict C), division 2, p. 2, line 9, Clara Burrridge; LAC microfilm C-10373. Also, *The Daily Telegraph* (Saint John, N.B.), 4 August 1870; transcription from Daniel F. Johnson, "New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics," *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick* (<http://archives.gnb.ca/Search/NewspaperVitalStats/?culture=en-CA>), search on "Clara Ann Burrridge."

¹⁹⁰ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1830–1834, p. 293, no. 2338, Rudolph "Burrage."

¹⁹¹ England, death certificate, Rudolph Burrridge, March quarter 1899, Lewisham, vol. 1d, p. 736; GRO.

¹⁹² St. Stephen's Church, Parish of St. Mary, Islington (Middlesex), Register of Marriages, 1846–1873, p. 115, no. 230, "Rodolph" Burrridge–Mary Warren; "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry*, imaged from P83/STE1/003, LMA.

¹⁹³ "The Late Mr. R. Burridge," *The South London Press*, 25 March 1899, p. 3, col. 2.

¹⁹⁴ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1834–1837, p. 174, no. 1385, Stephen William Burrridge; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, from P92/GEO/154, LMA.

¹⁹⁵ Not with family in 1841 England census nor in 1851 England census, Surrey, St. Mary Newington parish, Newington registration district, St. Peter Walworth subdistrict, ED 26, folio 738, p. 2, Thomas Burrridge household; HO 107/1567, TNA

¹⁹⁶ St. George the Martyr, Southwark, Register of Baptisms, 1837–1840, p. 270, no. 2155, Elizabeth Mary Burrage; "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry*, from P92/GEO/154, LMA.

¹⁹⁷ St. Mary Magdalene, Woolwich (Kent), Register of Marriages, 1862–866, p. 188, no. 376, Burrridge–Burrige; "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry*, imaged from P97/MRY/094, LMA.

¹⁹⁸ England, Court of Chancery, Clerks of Records and Writs Office, Pleadings 1865–1870, C16/620/B168, Burrridge v. Burrige, 1870; TNA.

8. **Sarah Goldfinch** was born on 21 December 1806 at halfpast one in the morning and baptized on 11 January 1807 in Chatham, Kent.¹⁹⁹ She died on 26 January 1887 in Chipman, N.B.²⁰⁰ She married **John Smith** on 31 May 1832 in Lambeth, Surrey.²⁰¹ He was born in 1801²⁰² likely in Cork, Ireland.²⁰³ He died in early February 1889 in Chipman.²⁰⁴

Like her parents and brother George, Sarah's life was linked to ships and the sea. Her husband John served in the British navy, by his account for 12 years. To support an 1843 application for son James's admission to the Royal Greenwich Hospital school, he claimed three years each under Sir Josias Rowley, Lord Coville, Vice-Admiral Plampin, and Sir Charles Paget,²⁰⁵ all of whom were commanders of Cork Station.²⁰⁶ The British admiralty confirmed John's service on the 24-gun frigate HMS *Semiramis* as an able-bodied seaman from 23 April 1825 to 26 May 1828 and as a personal domestic from 16 May 1829 to 25 January 1831 but not service on the HMS *Tonnant* from 1825 as the ship was no longer in commission at that time. The ship had, however, been the flagship of Cork commander Rear-Admiral Benjamin Hallowel, raising the possibility that the date was in error.²⁰⁷



HMS Semiramis
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

After leaving the *Semiramis*, John evidently sought employment in London where he and Sarah married two years later. When their first child was born in 1833, the family lived in Deptford and John was then

¹⁹⁹ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. Also, Red Bank Cemetery, Sarah Smith gravestone. For baptism, St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, Sarah Goldfinch, 11 January 1807.

²⁰⁰ Red Bank Cemetery, Sarah Smith gravestone for date and place. Also, Parish of Canning, Burial Register, p. 101, Sarah Smith, wife of John Smith, buried 29 January 1887.

²⁰¹ St. Mary, Lambeth, Register of Marriages, 1831–1835, p. 172, no. 514, Smith–Goldfinch.

²⁰² Red Bank Cemetery, John Smith gravestone. Also, 1851 England census, Devon, Kingsbridge registration district, Village of Kingston, ED 4, folio 251, p. 8, John Smith household; HO 107/1876, TNA. Also, 1861 New Brunswick census Queens Co., Parish of Chipman, folio 30, no. 1166, John Smith household; LAC microfilm C-1004. Also, 1871 Canada census, New Brunswick, Queens (district 77), Parish of Chipman (subdistrict J), division 1, p. 27, dwelling 77, family 83, John Smith household; LAC microfilm C-10380. Also, 1881 Canada census, New Brunswick, Queens (district 28), Parish of Chipman (subdistrict J), p. 23, dwelling 89, family 91, John Smith household; LAC microfilm C-13181.

²⁰³ British Admiralty, Coastguard Registers of Nomination for Appointments, ADM 175/78, 1833–1841, no. 4776, p. 43, John Smith; TNA. Also, 1851 England census, Devon, Kingsbridge registration district, Village of Kingston, ED 4, folio 251, p. 8, John Smith household. John's gravestone says he was born in Dublin, but the coastguard register is likely based on information he provided and is thus a more reliable source.

²⁰⁴ Parish of Canning, Burial Register, p. 101, John Smith, buried 9 February 1889. Also, Red Bank Cemetery, John Smith gravestone. Also, "Queen's County Notes," *The Daily Telegraph* (Saint John, N.B.), 27 February 1889, p. 1, col. 5. These sources supply the month and year but not the day.

²⁰⁵ British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith application, John Smith letter, 30 August 1843.

²⁰⁶ *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_of_Ireland_Station), entry for Cork of Ireland Station.

²⁰⁷ British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith application, admiralty attestation, 22 July 1843. For *Tonnant*, see *Michael Phillips' Ships of the Old Navy* (<http://www.ageofnelson.org/MichaelPhillips/liste.php?char=T#2255>). Also, see British Admiralty, "Certificates of Service, 13 July 1856–16 June 1858," ADM 29/57, p. 272 for John's complete service record; "UK, Naval Officer and Rating Service Records, 1802–1919," image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/navoffratservrec/>) search on "John Smith" and "12 May 1834" as first service date. Also, British Admiralty, Ships' Musters (Series II) HMS *Semiramis* muster book, ADM 37/7746 for ship's book covering 1829–1830; TNA.

a mariner.²⁰⁸ In 1834, described as “late *Semiramis*,” he joined the coastguard.²⁰⁹ Over the next twenty-three years a series of consecutive postings took the Smith family to twelve locations:

- Tillingham, Essex, 24 August 1834 to 30 January 1835;
- Shoeburyness, Essex, 30 January 1835 to 27 July 1837;
- Wakering Steps, Essex, 27 July 1837 to 9 March 1838;
- Brighton, Sussex, 9 March 1838 to 25 July 1839;
- “Kilcorgan” [Kilcolgan], County Galway, Ireland, 25 July 1839 to 16 February 1841;
- “Casleh” [Cashel] Bay, County Galway, Ireland, 16 February 1841 to 18 June 1842;
- Hastings, Sussex, 18 June 1842 to 20 June 1843;
- Langley Fort, Sussex, 20 June 1843 to 22 May 1847;
- Camber, Sussex, 22 May 1847 to 7 March 1848;
- Osmington Mills, Dorset, 7 March 1848 to 15 September 1848;
- Southsea Castle, near Portsmouth in Hampshire, 15 September 1848 to 25 May 1850;
- “Mothercombe” [Mothecombe], east of Plymouth in Dorset, 25 May 1850 to 31 August 1857.²¹⁰

John’s decision to join the coastguard was possibly encouraged by Sarah. According to testimony at a later House of Commons committee, “Those who join it [the coastguard] are most frequently married men, and they are induced to do so by their wives, who received the wages, which are very good, and the men have all the labour; and as their families increased they cannot provide for them elsewhere.”²¹¹

John initially served as a boatman and in 1837 was promoted to commissioned boatman. In 1847, at which time he was probably over the age limit of forty-five, he was further promoted to chief boatman, a position he held for only nine months before being reduced to his former rank and transferred from Camber to Osmington Mills as punishment for an unknown offence.²¹² When John was later approved for a pension his performance was described as “fair.”²¹³

Although also engaged in lifesaving, the coastguard’s primary function was then to prevent smuggling.²¹⁴ Smugglers were especially active in the Eastbourne area of Sussex where the Smiths spent several years. Skirmishes were sometimes fatal as the coastguard attempted to intercept the smugglers at

²⁰⁸ St. Anne, Limehouse, Register of Baptisms, 1833–1837, p. 21, no. 166, James Goldfinch Smith; “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917,” *Ancestry*, imaged from P93/ANN/7, LMA. Indexed as James Goldfield Smith.

²⁰⁹ British Admiralty, Coastguard Registers of Nomination for Appointments, ADM 175/78, 1833–1841, no. 4776, p. 43, John Smith.

²¹⁰ British Admiralty, Coastguard Establishment Books, ADM 175/6, p. 329 for Tillingham, p. 331 for Shoeburyness, p. 332 for Wakering Steps, p. 123 for Brighton; ADM 175/17, p. 134 for “Kilcorgan,” p. 137 for “Casleh Bay; ” ADM 175/6, p. 99 for Hastings, ADM 175/7, part 1, p. 102 for Langley Fort, p. 84 for Camber, p. 182 for Osmington Mills, p. 136 for Southsea Castle; ADM 175/7, part 2, p. 222 for “Mothercombe;” TNA. Thanks to Stephen T. J. Wright of London Research Service for his help with this research.

²¹¹ Great Britain Parliament, *Accounts and Papers: Twenty-One Volumes (3), Army and Navy*, Session 2, 31 May–13 August 1859, vol. XVII, for paper 45, “Manning the Navy: Return to an Order of the Honorable House of Commons, dated 4 March 1859,” p. 94.

²¹² *Ibid.*, p. 93, for rule about age. For promotions and demotion, see British Admiralty, Coastguard Establishment Books, ADM 175/7, part 1, pages 102 and 84.

²¹³ British Admiralty, “Certificates of Service, 13 July 1856–16 June 1858,” ADM 29/57, p. 272, John Smith, complete service record.

²¹⁴ William Webb, *Coastguard: An Official History of HM Coastguard* (London: England, Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, circa 1976), 21–24.

work.²¹⁵ The work was arduous with long overnight watches, usually outdoors.²¹⁶

John's postings meant repeated moves for John, Sarah, and their growing family. Their years in Ireland were likely difficult due to isolation of the coastguard stations.²¹⁷ Later years may have been easier. Coastguard personnel were at times housed in Martello Towers, small circular forts that had been built along the coast for defensive purposes during the Napoleonic War.²¹⁸ However, when daughter Henrietta was born in Brighton, the family lived on King's Road, which ran along the waterfront.²¹⁹ When children Helen and George were born in 1844 and 1846, the family lived in Willingdon, four miles inland from the coastguard station at Langley Fort.²²⁰ When John was stationed at Mothecombe in Devon, the family lived in the village of Kingston.²²¹

It was just before the family's transfer from Hastings that John and Sarah began efforts to have their then 10-year-old son James admitted to the Royal Greenwich Hospital school. When it became evident that James's chances were slim, Sarah appealed to Sir Richard Dobson, a surgeon at the hospital, to put in a good word for her son. In an undated letter that referred to the family's July 1843 transfer, she wrote:

I must apologize for again troubling you about my Boys admission into Greenwich School, I have received a letter but it gives me no hope of his being admitted as there are a greater number of Candidates then Can be provided for. Sir I cannot express my disappointment as I did hope he would be admitted after the vacation[.] a kind word from you to the Governace would be the means of getting him in the School, it will be the last request I shall ever make if I should be successful, I think I have as great a clame as any one, My Brother Lieut George Goldfinch being in the Navy nearly 40 years also my Uncle Goldfinch was Capt in the Navy[.] Many of my relations not one of them ever clamed any assistance from Greenwich – We have been removed from Hastings four weeks to a Tower a most dr[e]ary place in consequence of my husband being in debt caused in a great measure from my ill health[.] We have had a long doct[ors] Bill to Pay which always leaves us behind hand[.] My own friends will not assist me as I married against their consent.²²²

Dobson, who had served as a surgeon at Chatham from 1809 to 1824, spoke on the Smiths' behalf as requested and noted that Sarah "used to work at her Needle for Lady Dobson many years ago."²²³ In a letter to the naval authorities, John argued the same points about the service of Sarah's brother George and uncle William Goldfinch. He also noted that his father, James Smith, had been signal master at Carlisle Fort in Cork Harbor and during forty years in the navy had been recognized for gallant conduct in a 1781 battle between two frigates, the British *Crescent* and the Dutch *Brill*. In a plea for the school's charity, he wrote that "my situation is very limited and have not the slighost hope of being able to provide for my Child without your philanthropic benevolence towards the distressed."²²⁴ The Smiths' pleas were,

²¹⁵ F. R. Milton, *The Fight Against Smuggling Around Eastbourne and Newhaven* (Eastbourne: Family Roots Family History Society, 1991), 53–56.

²¹⁶ Webb, *Coastguard*, 25–27.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 81.

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 26.

²¹⁹ St. Nicholas, Parish of Brightelmston, Brighton (Sussex), Register of Baptisms, 1837–1838, p. 40, Henrietta Frances Smith; FHL microfilm 1,067,109, item 2.

²²⁰ England, birth certificate, Helen Maria Smith, December quarter 1844, Eastbourne, vol. 7, p. 326; GRO. Also, England, birth certificate, George Henry Goldfinch Smith, September quarter 1846, Eastbourne, vol. 7, p. 354; GRO.

²²¹ 1851 England census, Devon, Kingsbridge registration district, Village of Kingston, ED 4, folio 251, p. 8, John Smith household; HO 107/1876, TNA.

²²² British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith application, Sarah Smith to Sir R. Dobson, letter written four weeks after 20 June 1843 removal from Hastings.

²²³ *Ibid.*, R. Dobson to hospital official [Philip Carteret] Le Geyt, 22 August 1843. For Richard Dobson's connection to Chatham, see *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 58 (November 1857), 541.

²²⁴ British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith

however, to no avail. The school gave priority to boys whose fathers had been killed, drowned, or injured during naval service, those whose fathers still served in the navy, or those without mothers.²²⁵ Although it accepted some charity cases, it deemed John's documentable service too short to offer any hope of James being selected.²²⁶

John was discharged from the coastguard in 31 August 1857.²²⁷ The family then immigrated to Canada. Sarah's brother George wrote to brother Henry about the family's expected arrival in Saint John.

[Sho]uld you be there I am sure you will do [all y]ou can for them . . . telling them how to get to Salmon River and what supplies & provisions and utensils to procure at St. John's – beyond your advice they can expect nothing – but that will be of great service to them – they are rather a good specimen of the Old Country and I hope will thrive in the new – Much will depend on themselves – they have been long accustomed to a rough style of living and will make no great sacrifice in giving up all the comforts they have enjoyed here – I think John and his wife will be pleased with them. I shall expect a long letter from you, if not before, after the arrival of the Kinfolk. [T]he girls . . . work well and I think behave well, and the boy appears to be well disposed.²²⁸

John subsequently appears in numerous Chipman records.²²⁹ Likely to distinguish him from same-named men, he sometimes appears as John Goldfinch Smith.²³⁰ Much of the Goldfinch land over time passed into the hands of this family. George Goldfinch conveyed some, possibly most, of his Coal Creek property to John. According to a copy of a deed, this took place in 1853 at which time the Smiths would have still been in England, although the deed's description of John as "of Chipman" suggests the date may have been copied in error.²³¹ Much of George's land was later owned by the Smith's daughter Jane, including the Goldfinch land now part of Camp Wegesegum.²³² Sarah and John made their home on the west side of the Salmon River, the shore opposite where her parents had lived.²³³

Sarah died in Chipman on 26 January 1887. Her gravestone in Chipman's Red Bank Cemetery records her birth on 21 December 1806 in "London," Kent, England and bears this verse from a funeral hymn titled "On the Death of a Christian:"²³⁴

application, John Smith letter, 30 August 1843.

²²⁵ Ibid., school rules and regulations.

²²⁶ Ibid., unsigned note written after receipt of Sir Dobson's intervention.

²²⁷ British Admiralty, Coastguard Establishment Books, ADM 175/7, part 2, p. 222.

²²⁸ George Goldfinch to Henry Goldfinch, letter, 7 May 1857.

²²⁹ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, RS 154, Chipman electors lists for 1858, 1862, 1863, and 1864, and Chipman qualified jurors lists for 1858 and 1867 until lists end in 1877.

²³⁰ Ibid., Chipman electors lists for 1858, 1862, 1863, and 1864.

²³¹ Queens Co., Deed Book T3:183, Jane Lloyd to John Brodie, 13 May 1914, "all that certain land conveyed by George Goldfinch of Plymouth, England, to John Smith, of Chipman . . . the 28th day of December A.D. 1853," 380 acres; PANB microfilm F5488.

²³² Queens Co., Deed Book G3:114, Jane Lloyd to Michael Hawkshurst, 13 February 1903, "land known as the late George Goldfinch grant" on the north side of Coal Creek, 200 acres; PANB microfilm F5481. Also, Deed Book S3:464, Jane Lloyd to John Brodie, 5 December 1913, 180 acres of the Glebe lot at the mouth of Coal Creek, part of 380 acres granted to George Goldfinch in 1836; PANB microfilm F5488. Also, Deed Book C4:189, Jane Lloyd to James A. Hutchison, 26 November 1919, the first tract granted to George Goldfinch, 300 acres on Coal Creek; PANB microfilm F5492. Also, Deed Book K3:189, Jane Lloyd to Thomas A. Baird, 11 September 1907, 200 acres on the Salmon River's south side; PANB microfilm F5483.

²³³ Deed Book V3:141, Jane Lloyd to Charles Maston, 3 January 1914, for land "which at the time of his death was owned and occupied by the late John Smith;" PANB microfilm F5489.

²³⁴ For the verse's origin, see *A Collection of Hymns and Poetry: Original and Selected, Compiled Chiefly for the Use of Schools*, 3rd edition (Preston, England: Dobson and Son, 1858), 22. The gravestone credits the lyrics to R. Milligan. The hymn collection cited here and other sources credit Heber.

Thou art gone to the grave and its mansions forsaking
Perhaps thy tired spirit in doubt linger'd long;
But the sunshine of heaven beam'd bright on thy waking
And the sound which thou heardst was the seraphim's song.

Thou art gone to the grave; but were wrong to deplore thee
Since God was thy ransom, thy guardian, thy guide;
He gave thee. He took thee. He soon will restore thee.
And death has no sting, since the Saviour has died.

John died two years after Sarah and was buried beside her. The obelisk marking his grave says he was for forty years an officer in His Majesty's service, although his combined navy and coastguard service was four or more years less than stated and his coastguard rank was the equivalent of a naval petty officer.²³⁵



John Smith gravestone



Sarah Smith gravestone

²³⁵ For commissioned and chief boatman equivalents as naval petty officers, see "Coast Guardsmen in the Navy," *The Times* (London), 14 April 1854, image at Tony Daly, *Coastguards of Yesteryear* (https://www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org/articles.php?article_id=174). Also see British Admiralty, "Certificates of Service, 13 July 1856–16 June 1858," ADM 29/57, p. 272 showing John's 19 years of service as an inferior petty officer and 284 days as a superior petty officer.

Children of John Smith and Sarah Goldfinch:

- 24 i. JAMES GOLDFINCH SMITH, born 26 February 1833, baptized 26 May 1833, Deptford, Kent;²³⁶ died 18 June 1906, Halethorpe, Maryland.²³⁷ Having preceded his parents and siblings to Canada, James married on 19 April 1857 in Yarmouth, N.S., to Caroline Amelia Gardner, born 29 October 1829, daughter of Horatio Nelson Gardner and Mary Jane Durkee.²³⁸ Amelia died 16 November 1882, Baltimore, Maryland.²³⁹ James was a sea captain. He went to sea in 1846 as a youth of thirteen, working his way up from the rank of boy on a series of voyages from Yarmouth. In 1861, he earned a certificate of competency as a master mariner and for the next two decades captained Yarmouth ships across the Atlantic and to U.S. ports.²⁴⁰ In 1880 he relocated to Baltimore and ran a stevedore business. He was later a superintendent for Furness Withy, a steamer business, in Newport News.²⁴¹
- 25 ii. HENRIETTA FRANCES SMITH, born 9 July 1838, baptized 5 August 1838, Brighton, Sussex;²⁴² died 1 July 1921, Yarmouth;²⁴³ married George Hunter Gardner, 26 February 1867, Yarmouth.²⁴⁴ Son of Freeman Gardner and Joanna T. Hunter, George was born 5 November 1843 and died 26 June 1917 in Yarmouth.²⁴⁵
- 26 iii. JANE SMITH, born 11 May 1842, Ireland;²⁴⁶ died 14 March 1922, Fredericton, N.B.;²⁴⁷ married James Lloyd of Chipman, circa 1869.²⁴⁸ He died 2 March 1895 at age seventy-three and shares his father-in-law John Smith's gravestone in Red Bank Cemetery as does Georgena, "dau. of James and

²³⁶ St. Anne, Limehouse, Register of Baptisms, 1833–1837, p. 21, no. 166, James Goldfinch Smith.

²³⁷ Baltimore Co., Maryland, Board of Health, death certificate, James Goldfinch Smith, 18 June 1906; Maryland State Archives SE42-2218. Also, "Capt. James G. Smith Dead," *Baltimore Sun*, 19 June 1906, p. 9.

²³⁸ See "Yarmouth Genealogies, No. 18: The Gardner Family," *Yarmouth Herald*, 13 April 1897, p. 1, col. 8, Horatio Nelson Gardner family.

²³⁹ *Baltimore Sun*, 22 November 1882, p. 2. Also, Baltimore City, Board of Health, Office of Registrar of Vital Statistics, death certificate 61475, Mrs. Capt. Smith; Maryland State Archives CM1132-20; CR 48064, image 1048.

²⁴⁰ Application for certificate of competency and statement of service, 10 December 1860, and certificate of competency, 3 January 1861, James Goldfinch Smith; "UK, and Ireland, Masters and Mates Certificates, 1850–1927," *Ancestry*, search on "James Goldfinch Smith" for images 37–43 from originals at National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. For ports of call, see *Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada*, compact disc (St. John's, Nfld.: Maritime History Archives, Memorial University of Newfoundland, c1998), search on "masters" for James Smith.

²⁴¹ "Capt. James G. Smith Dead," *Baltimore Sun*, 19 June 1906, p. 9.

²⁴² For baptism, see St. Nicholas, Parish of Brightelmston (Sussex), England, Register of Baptisms, 1837–1838, p. 40, Henrietta Frances Smith. For a reported birth on 9 July 1840, see Mountain Cemetery, Gardner gravestone; photographed by author in 1987. The same 1840 date is supplied by Nova Scotia, death registration, Book 110, p. 606, Henrietta Francis Gardner, 1 July 1921; Nova Scotia Archives, image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>). The day and month are likely, but the baptism is a more reliable source for the year.

²⁴³ Nova Scotia, death registration, Book 110, p. 606, Henrietta Francis Gardner, 1 July 1921.

²⁴⁴ Nova Scotia, marriage registration, Book 1839, p. 18, no. 80, George H. Gardner–Henrietta F. Smith, 26 February 1867; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>).

²⁴⁵ For parentage and date of birth, see Gardner family bible record; from bible no. 16, Yarmouth County Museum, Yarmouth. Also, Nova Scotia, death registration, Book 50, p. 375, no. 1165, George Hunter Gardner, 26 June 1917; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://novascotiagenealogy.com>).

²⁴⁶ Jane was age one in 1843 when her parents listed her brother's siblings and ages in an application seeking his admission to the Royal Greenwich Hospital school. See British Admiralty, Royal Greenwich Hospital School Admission Papers, ADM 73/345/21, James Goldfinch Smith, 1843. For the day and month, see 1901 Canada census, New Brunswick, St. John (district 21), Guy's Ward (subdistrict C), division 1, p. 4, dwelling 29, dwelling 39, family 33, Jane Lloyd in James J. Burrige household; LAC microfilm T-6443. This census says Jane was born in 1844 but 1842 is more reliable.

²⁴⁷ New Brunswick, death registration 7780 (1922), Jane Lloyd, born 1842; PANB microfilm F18910.

²⁴⁸ Year estimated from birth of one-year-old daughter "Georgeina" in 1871 Canada census, New Brunswick, Queens (district 177), Parish of Chipman (subdistrict J), division 1, p. 26, dwelling 76, family 81, James Lloyd household; LAC microfilm C-10380.

- Jane Lloyd,” died 7 August 1895 age twenty-five.²⁴⁹
- 27 iv. HELEN MARIA SMITH, born 10 October 1844, Willingdon, Sussex, England;²⁵⁰ died 20 August 1894, Sable Island, N.S.;²⁵¹ married Robert Jarvis Boutilier, 23 September 1874, Chipman.²⁵² Robert was a lighthouse keeper on Sable Island from 1885 to 1912.²⁵³ He died 23 January 1924 in Halifax, N.S.²⁵⁴
- 28 v. GEORGE HENRY GOLDFINCH SMITH, born 16 August 1846 at Willingdon;²⁵⁵ died 7 March 1865, Chipman.²⁵⁶
- 29 vi. SARAH CATHARINE SMITH, born 10 March 1848, baptized 2 April 1848, East Guldeford, Sussex, England;²⁵⁷ died 31 August 1928 at the Provincial Hospital, a mental health institution, in Saint John, N.B.²⁵⁸

9. **John William Goldfinch** was born on 31 March 1810 at nine in the morning and baptized on 6 May 1810 in Chatham, Kent.²⁵⁹ He died on 5 September 1900 in Yarmouth, N.S.²⁶⁰ He married **Jane Majoribanks** on 1 May 1849 in Saint John, N.B.²⁶¹ She died on 23 August 1891 in Chipman, N.B.²⁶²

As a new Canadian in a timber-rich province, John ventured into lumbering.²⁶³ It did not go well, and he fell into debt. Newspaper notices and a court file preserve details. John was said to be formerly of Rochester, Kent, England, manufacturing chemist; afterwards of Chipman, farmer and lumberer; then a Saint John trader.²⁶⁴ He owed George Morrissey and Alexander Shives £68 as a result of a Supreme

²⁴⁹ Red Bank Cemetery, John Smith gravestone; viewed by author, 13 November 2004.

²⁵⁰ England, birth certificate, Helen Maria Smith, December quarter 1844, Eastbourne, vol. 7, p. 326; GRO.

²⁵¹ “Some Data re lineage on the Maternal side of the Bouteilliers,” family summary in the possession of Jill Martin, Bouteillier, great-granddaughter of Helen Smith and Robert Jarvis Bouteillier; copy in author’s files.

²⁵² Diocese of Fredericton, N.B., marriage certificate, Boutilier–Smith, 23 September 1874; original in possession of Jill Martin Bouteillier; copy in author’s files.

²⁵³ Bruce Armstrong, *Sable Island* (Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 1981), 91–107.

²⁵⁴ Nova Scotia, death registration, Book 104, p. 331, Robert Boutilier, 23 January 1924; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>).

²⁵⁵ England, birth certificate, George Henry Goldfinch Smith, September quarter 1846, Eastbourne, vol. 7, p. 354; GRO.

²⁵⁶ Red Bank Cemetery, George H. Goldfinch Smith gravestone; viewed by author, 13 November 2004.

²⁵⁷ For birth on 10 March 1850, see New Brunswick, death registration 439152 (1928), Sarah Smith, 31 August 1928; PANB microfilm F18942. Her birth, however, must have preceded her baptism. See East Guldeford (Sussex), Register of Baptisms, 1813–1883, p. 40, Sarah Catharine Smith, 2 April 1848; FHL microfilm 1,067,258. Also, 1851 England census, Devon, Kingsbridge registration district, Village of Kingston, ED 4, folio 251, p. 8, John Smith household, with Sarah, three.

²⁵⁸ New Brunswick, death registration 439152 (1928), Sarah Smith, 31 August 1928. Also, *After the Asylum > Deinstitutionalization Postcards > Provincial Hospital, New Brunswick* (<https://aftertheasylum.apps01.yorku.ca/en/deinstitutionalizationPostcards/>).

²⁵⁹ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, 1772–1812, by date, John William Goldfinch, 6 May 1810.

²⁶⁰ Mountain Cemetery, Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone.

²⁶¹ “Married,” *The New Brunswick Courier* (Saint John, N.B.), 5 May 1859, p. 2. Also, Saint John County, Marriage Register, RS 156, Book D:166, Goldfinch–Majoribanks.

²⁶² “Died,” *The Daily Telegraph* (Saint John, N.B.), 13 October 1891, p. 3.

²⁶³ *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Eighth day of January to the Thirty First day of March [1840]*, xxx for John W. Goldfinch, timber petition. Also, *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Ninth Day of January to the Fourteenth Day of April, 1845* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1845), xxxi for John Goldfinch return of mileage for timber berth.

²⁶⁴ “In Bankruptcy,” *The New Brunswick Courier*, 25 March 1848, p. 1.

Court judgement in January 1847.²⁶⁵ Other creditors included Jane Grant, a Saint John widow who he owed £105. His total debts were reportedly £500.²⁶⁶ Legal proceedings stretched over two years. Following arrest in August 1847, John entered into a bond that allowed him to go free but not leave Saint John.²⁶⁷ Final notice declaring him bankrupt appeared in the *Royal Gazette* on the first Tuesday of January 1849.²⁶⁸

John was age thirty-nine and his financial difficulties not far behind him when he married Jane Majoribanks of Saint John on 1 May 1849. Eight months later he petitioned the Crown for permission to purchase a fifty-acre property on the south bank of the Salmon River sandwiched between two properties granted a dozen years earlier to his brother George.²⁶⁹ He was granted 100 acres in this location on 4 April 1856.²⁷⁰ From 1850 onwards John served Chipman as parish assessor, overseer of the poor, trustee of schools, surveyor of roads, and revisor, in addition to several terms as chairman.²⁷¹ From 1855 to 1870 he was also a justice of the peace.²⁷² As described by Chipman historian Rev. Frank Baird, this was an important position with those who held it typically distinguished as Squire:

The prefix “Squire” was, as a rule, in earlier times—much more so than at present, it would seem—firmly affixed to the name of the men honoured by the Government with this office. Possibly they magnified their offices more than their successors, and this may have been necessary when there were no uniformed police as at present to uphold the dignity of the law, but in any case they seemed to be much more apart from, and above, the common run of men, than do our modern magistrates At any rate “Squire” Langin, “Squire” Burpee, “Squire” Dunn, Fulton, Goldfinch, McAllister, Ward, etc., etc., seemed to have a weight and substance now wanting.²⁷³

Along with other Chipman residents, John petitioned for various causes. He pressed for a change in the law governing the survey of lumber,²⁷⁴ requested £500 to remove navigational obstructions on the Salmon River,²⁷⁵ protested a plan to deprive inhabitants of the right to vote for parish officers,²⁷⁶ sought

²⁶⁵ Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book P:202, memorial of judgment against J.W. Goldfinch, 1 February 1847; PANB microfilm F5460.

²⁶⁶ New Brunswick, Court of Equity, 1785–1912, RS 55, John W. Goldfinch file, Jane Grant petition, 14 February 1848; PANB.

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, Deputy Sheriff George V. Nolin affidavit, 14 February 1848.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, John C. Allen affidavit, 9 January 1849, attesting to publication of the notice in the *Gazette*.

²⁶⁹ New Brunswick, Land Petitions, 1783–1918, RS 108, John W. Goldfinch, 14 December 1849, arranged by year and name; PANB microfilm F4238.

²⁷⁰ New Brunswick, Land Grants, 1784–1997, RS 686, vol. 48, no. 7469, John W. Goldfinch, 3 April 1856; PANB microfilm F16347.

²⁷¹ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, Chipman parish officer lists, 1836–1876, by date. For parish assessor see 1850–1852; overseer of the poor 1850–1854; trustee of schools 1860–1862, 1868–1870; commissioner of roads, 1867; surveyor of roads 1870, 1873–1874, 1876; revisor 1865–1867, 1871–1874; and chairman 1856, 1860 and 1863.

²⁷² *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Fourteenth Day of February to the First Day of May, 1856* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1856), clxxiii. Also, New Brunswick provincial secretary, Justice of the Peace Appointment Register (1863–1963), p. 198; PANB microfilm F8504.

²⁷³ Baird, *History of the Parish of Chipman*, 100.

²⁷⁴ *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the First Day of February to the Thirteenth Day of April, 1843* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1844), 90.

²⁷⁵ *Journal of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Fourth day of February to the Third Day of May, 1853*, p. 65 and 179.

²⁷⁶ *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Ninth of February to the First Day of May, 1854* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1854), 179.

to establish a ferry in the parish at York Point,²⁷⁷ objected against heavy taxes,²⁷⁸ and helped found a company to erect a boom or booms near Briggs' Corners, two miles upstream of present-day Chipman.²⁷⁹

Another view of John comes from an 1860 letter he wrote to brother Henry. "If you have my letter you will find I think that I did not mention a miniture of our Brother but a Likeness," he wrote, sounding querulous. "Do not you misunderstand or misconstrue what I write I beg of you[.] I have had enough of that sort of thing and to[o] much." John had just turned 50, reported poor health and felt he was getting old fast. He discussed an offer to use the grass on the "Blue lot" that Henry had been given by their brother George. "The place that I am allowed to live on want[s] all that can be brought on to it but you are aware that you or I ever [never?] had time to go to Coal Creeck to Save the grass." Three weeks earlier Doctor Little had offered £100 for the land and John advised Henry to sell it if he could get that price. He was not inclined to be a middleman on account of his health and because "I think I told you in my last [letter] I should try and get a Situation if I could[.] besides it appears that I am only Stoping here under Sufferance to all the people in the parish."

John also reported, "I have not got any news to tell you for Jane or myself do not go out and very few that come to see us has any thing to tell that we care much about hearing." He nonetheless conveyed some neighborhood news and wrote that he had nearly been killed when his sled slid out of control on an icy hill. "Mare and colt fell down [and] the sled went with such speed that it broke the rails and went over with me[.] It was a most merciful escape and I trust that I shall love[,] serve and fear god more than I ever have done."²⁸⁰

Winding down his affairs, John in 1890 sold his nephew George Burrige land he owned on the Salmon River's south side.²⁸¹ Four years later he sold a fifty-acre property that had been granted to George Goldfinch in 1837.²⁸² Having outlived his wife by nine years and evidently having moved to Yarmouth, John died 5 September 1900 and was buried in Yarmouth's Mountain Cemetery in the same lot where his brother James would later be laid to rest.²⁸³

John and Jane had no known children.

²⁷⁷ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, RG 154, A4/43, petition for permission to establish a ferry at York Point, January 1858; PANB.

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, C17/3, petition by Chipman citizens protesting taxation, no date.

²⁷⁹ *Journal of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, from the Twenty Seventh April to the Eighth of June, 1865* (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1865), 84-90.

²⁸⁰ John Goldfinch to Henry Goldfinch, letter, 2 April 1860.

²⁸¹ Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book Y2:316, John W. Goldfinch to George Burrige, 17 January 1890; PANB microfilm F5477.

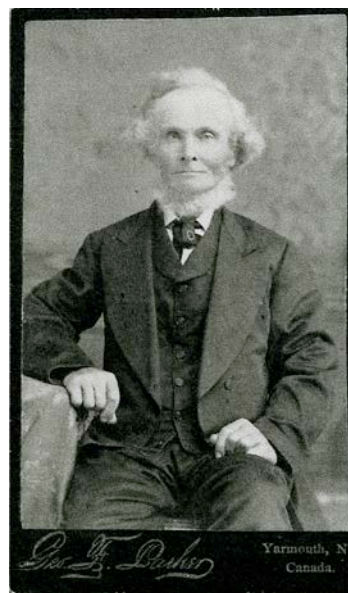
²⁸² *Ibid.*, Y2:118, John W. Goldfinch to Samuel Brogan, 31 March 1894.

²⁸³ Mountain Cemetery, Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone.

10. **James Goldfinch** was born on 6 April 1813 at “20 Minnits” past three o'clock in the afternoon and baptized on 27 June 1813 in St. Anne, Limehouse, London.²⁸⁴ He died on 21 September 1904 in Yarmouth, N.S.²⁸⁵ He likely married on 4 December 1837 in Yarmouth to **Mary Cosson**.²⁸⁶ He married on 13 July 1851 in Yarmouth to **Elizabeth “Phoebe” Gardner**, born on 29 October 1829 to Horatio Nelson Gardner and Mary Jane Durkee.²⁸⁷ Phoebe died in Yarmouth on 29 October 1917, her eighty-eighth birthday.²⁸⁸

James reportedly immigrated to Canada in 1835.²⁸⁹ Except for mention in records related to his parents' deaths, he appears in no Chipman records. Without saying where James had been, his mother left him all debts owing to her that had been contracted during the two years up to September 1848 “that being the time he acted as Agent for me.” Although possibly incorrect, estate papers for his father say he was a resident of Chipman in January 1849. Before and after that time, records place James in the Nova Scotia seafaring town of Yarmouth.

The uncommonness of the Goldfinch name points to James being the man who married Mary Cosson in the north Yarmouth community of Milton in 1837. The couple probably shared a Chatham origin as well as a family connection, two siblings of James's father both having married Cossons in England.²⁹⁰ James Goldfinch was said to be a bachelor when he married Elizabeth Phoebe Gardner in 1851, but this status could have been recorded in error or an earlier marriage could be one he chose to not mention or forget.



James Goldfinch
photo courtesy of Sally Kiepe

²⁸⁴ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Anne, Limehouse, Register of Baptisms, 1813–1821, p. 15, no. 116, James Goldfinch.

²⁸⁵ Mountain Cemetery, Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone.

²⁸⁶ “Married,” *Yarmouth Herald and Western Advertiser*, 8 December 1837, p. 3, col. 3.

²⁸⁷ Brown, “Yarmouth Genealogies, No. 18, The Gardner Family,” *Yarmouth Herald*, p. 1, col. 8, Horatio Nelson Gardner family.

²⁸⁸ Nova Scotia, death registration, Book 50, p. 439, no. 1327, Elizabeth Phoebe Goldfinch, 29 October 1917; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>). Also, “Mrs. James Goldfinch,” *Yarmouth Herald*, 30 October 1917, p. 2.

²⁸⁹ 1901 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 42), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict U), division 2, p. 19, dwelling 168, family 171, James Goldfinch household.

²⁹⁰ Mary Goldfinch married John Cosson, 3 May 1780. See St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Marriages and Banns, 1772–1780, p. 207, entry 619; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages and banns, 1772–1780 > P085-01-47(3).pdf > image 51. William Goldfinch married Sarah Cawson, 31 Oct 1784. See St. Margaret of Antioch, Rainham (Kent), Register of Marriages and Banns, 1754–1812, p. 38, entry 143; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Rainham, St. Margaret of Antioch > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages and banns, 1754–1812 > P296-01-09.pdf > image 22. Mary, daughter of George and Elizabeth Goldfinch, was baptized 20 July 1760, Gillingham, Kent. See St. Mary Magdalene, Gillingham, Register of Baptisms and Burials, 1754–1783, p. 25; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Gillingham, St. Mary Magdalene > Incumbent registers > Register of marriages and banns, 1770–1791 > P153-01-03(1).pdf > image 24. William, son of George and Elizabeth Goldfinch, was baptized 26 Jan 1766, Chatham, Kent St. Mary, Chatham, Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1676–1771, p. 680; *Medway Archives* > Parish records > Chatham, St. Mary > Incumbent registers > Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1676–1771 > P085-01-05(7).pdf > image 11.

Several family members joined James in Yarmouth, and three of them married into his wife Phoebe's family. His nephew James Smith married Phoebe's sister in 1857, his niece Henrietta Smith married Phoebe's cousin in 1867, and his brother Henry's daughter Sarah married Phoebe's brother in 1871.²⁹¹

James was the first of the Smiths to come to Canada, likely entrusted to his uncle James's care. The young Smith was in Yarmouth by November 1846 when at the age of thirteen he went to sea on a ship named the *Mary*. It was the first of many voyages he would eventually take. When his Goldfinch uncles, James and Henry, briefly owned a schooner named the *Ruby* in 1858, they helped advance his career by making him the *Ruby's* master, his first time in that position.²⁹²

James and Phoebe also appear to have raised a girl, born about 1865, who was enumerated with them as Mary Goldfinch at age six and again ten years later at age sixteen.²⁹³ Neither of the censuses in which she appears specifies relationship. Phoebe was still young enough to bear children, but the couple's childless first fourteen years of marriage raise the possibility that Mary was adopted. No Mary Goldfinch birth, marriage, or death is registered in Nova Scotia, and no Mary Goldfinch is buried in Yarmouth.²⁹⁴ Phoebe's obituary names no children as surviving or predeceasing her.²⁹⁵ No obituary has been found for James.²⁹⁶ Neither he or his wife left a will.²⁹⁷

James was a shoemaker by trade.²⁹⁸ In 1843 he purchased a small lot described in the deed as fifty by sixty, although later deeds put it at fifty by seventy.²⁹⁹ Located in Yarmouth's north end on the west side of Main, the property lay between today's Chester and Gardner streets.³⁰⁰ In 1879 James purchased a larger 165-by-130 foot lot on Starr's Road that had previously belonged to his wife's father

²⁹¹ Brown, "Yarmouth Genealogies, No. 18, The Gardner Family," *Yarmouth Herald*, 13 April 1897, p. 1, col. 8, see families of Horatio Nelson Gardner and Freeman Gardner for relationships of all and marriage of James Smith to Caroline Amelia Gardner, 19 April 1857. Also, Nova Scotia, marriage registration, Book 1839, p. 18, entry 80, for George Gardner to Henrietta F. Smith, 22 February 1867, and Book 1839, p. 52, entry 91, for Samuel E. Gardner to Sarah E. Goldfinch, 12 July 1871; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>).

²⁹² Application for certificate of competency and statement of service, 10 December 1860, James Goldfinch Smith. For the *Ruby's* ownership, see *Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada*, search on "owners" for Goldfinch.

²⁹³ 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 192), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict C), division 2, dwelling 68, family 84, p. 20, James Goldfinch household; LAC microfilm C-10546. Also, 1881 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 14), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict C), division 2, family 60, p. 11, James Goldfinch household; LAC microfilm C-13171.

²⁹⁴ Negative search for Mary Goldfinch in *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* and Doane's Cemetery Records, Yarmouth Museum and Archives.

²⁹⁵ "Mrs. James Goldfinch," *Yarmouth Herald*, 30 October 1917, p. 2.

²⁹⁶ Search of *Yarmouth Herald* index by Lisette Gaudet, archivist at the Yarmouth Museum and Archives; email to author, 2 June 2018.

²⁹⁷ Nova Scotia probate records index, 1843–1970; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > Nova Scotia Probate Records, 1760–1993 > Yarmouth > General index, 1843–1970 > image 25.

²⁹⁸ 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 192), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict C), division 2, dwelling 68, family 84, p. 20, James Goldfinch household. Also, 1881 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 14), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict C), division 2, dwelling 50, family 60, p. 11, James Goldfinch household. Also, 1891 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 44), Court House (subdistrict 8), family 66, p. 8, James Goldfinch household; LAC microfilm T-6322. Also, 1901 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 42), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict U), division 2, dwelling 168, family 171, p. 19, James Goldfinch household.

²⁹⁹ Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deed Book AA:153–154, Thomas Allen to James Goldfinch, 2 January 1843; FHL microfilm 834,271. Yarmouth Co., Deed Book CG:82–83, James Goldfinch to John D. Kirk, 8 February 1899; FHL microfilm 834,324. Also, Yarmouth Co., Deed Book CG:83–84, John D. Kirk to Elizabeth Phoebe Gardner; FHL microfilm 834,323.

³⁰⁰ *1890 Yarmouth Town Directory, Including Alphabetical List of Residents, Complete Street Directory, and Business Record* (Yarmouth, N.S.: printed by *Yarmouth Times*, 1890), 169. James is listed at 487 on Main Street's west side between Chester and Allen's Lane. Gardner is the next cross street.

and then brother, bidding \$1,050 at an auction after a legal dispute over the lot.³⁰¹ James may have lived on one of his properties and worked at the other. An 1864–1865 directory places him on Starr’s Road near Main, and an 1890 directory puts him at 487 Main. He is likely also the James “Goldsmith,” shoemaker, listed at 44 Starr’s Road in 1890.³⁰² Four years after his death, Phoebe sold the Starr Road property for \$650.³⁰³ The same year she sold the Main Street property to her brother Samuel Gardner for one dollar.³⁰⁴ James and Phoebe are buried together in Yarmouth’s Mountain Cemetery.³⁰⁵

James and Phoebe had no known children.

13. **Henry Goldfinch** was born on 25 September 1820 at half past noon and baptized on 29 October 1820 in Deptford, Kent.³⁰⁶ He died on 22 July 1886 at Beaver River, N.S.³⁰⁷ He married **Matilda Jane Bennison** on 18 December 1845, probably in Chipman, N.B.³⁰⁸ She was born 13 October 1817 in New Brunswick and died on 10 March 1887 at Beaver River.³⁰⁹

Henry Goldfinch would have been in his late teens when his family immigrated to Canada in the late 1830s. In August 1844 at age twenty-four he purchased the 200-acre Lot 21 on the Salmon River’s south side.³¹⁰ In the same year he first appears as a Chipman parish officer. He was surveyor of highways from 1844 until 1847, collector from 1846 through 1850, and surveyor of dams in 1851.³¹¹ In 1851, 1852 and 1853 he was qualified to serve as a juror.³¹² Then in September 1854 he sold his property, likely because he was leaving the community.³¹³

Henry was of Yarmouth in 1858 when he and his brother James acquired the schooner *Ruby*,

³⁰¹ Yarmouth Co., Deed Book BD:272–274, William Dudman, sheriff, to James Goldfinch, 8 August 1879; FHL microfilm 834,296. For previous ownership, see Yarmouth Co., Deed Book AR:464, Nelson Gardner to Samuel Gardner; FHL microfilm film 834,285.

³⁰² *Hutchinson’s Nova Scotia Directory for 1864–65, containing Alphabetical Directories of Each Place in the Province, with a Post Office Directory and an Appendix Containing Much Useful Information* (Halifax, N.S.: Thomas Hutchinson, 1864), 473. Also, *1890 Yarmouth Town Directory, Including Alphabetical List of Residents, Complete Street Directory, and Business Record* (Yarmouth, N.S.: printed by *Yarmouth Times*, 1890), 169. No James Goldsmith was enumerated in Yarmouth in 1861–1901.

³⁰³ Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deed Book CV: 418–419, Elizabeth Phoebe Goldfinch to John W. Bates, 27 July 1908; FHL microfilm 835,695.

³⁰⁴ Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deed Book CU:438, Elizabeth Phoebe Goldfinch to Samuel G. Gardner, 1 August 1908; FHL microfilm 835,658.

³⁰⁵ Mountain Cemetery, Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone.

³⁰⁶ For birth, see Goldfinch family record. For baptism, see St. Paul, Deptford, Register of Baptisms, 1817–1822, p. 186, no. 1486, Henry Goldfinch.

³⁰⁷ Henry Goldfinch family records; in possession of Sally Kiepe, copies in author’s files. Also, Free Will Baptist Cemetery, Goldfinch gravestone.

³⁰⁸ Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on residence at the time.

³⁰⁹ For dates, see Free Will Baptist Cemetery, Goldfinch gravestone. For death, also see “Died,” *The Daily Telegraph* (Saint John, N.B.), 19 March 1887, p. 3. For birthplace, see 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 191), Salmon River (subdistrict M), polling district 12, p. 23, dwelling 77, family 90, Henry Goldfinch household; LAC microfilm C-10545. Also, 1881 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 15), subdistrict L, polling district 12, dwelling 76, family 78, p. 20, Henry Goldfinch; LAC microfilm C-13172.

³¹⁰ Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book O:492, Thomas Robertson to Henry Goldfinch, 30 August 1844; PANB microfilm F5459.

³¹¹ Queens Co., N.B., Council Records, Chipman parish officer lists, 1845–1851, by date.

³¹² *Ibid.*, Chipman qualified juror lists, 1838–1841, by date.

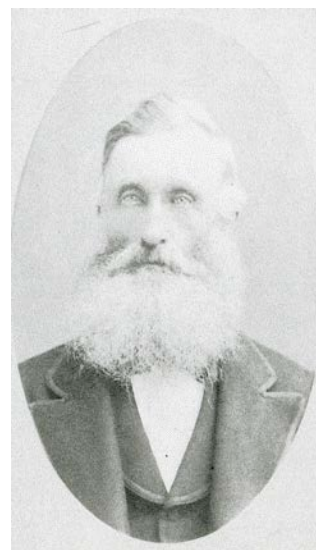
³¹³ Queens Co., N.B., Deed Book T:3, Henry Goldfinch to William McCullough, 12 September 1854, and Deed Book T:138, Henry Goldfinch to Nathaniel Ferriss, 13 September 1854; PANB microfilm F5462.

both described as tradesmen and not mariners.³¹⁴ Henry was also of Yarmouth when in October 1858 he purchased 100 acres and several smaller lots at Bartlett's River in Digby County's district of Clare.³¹⁵ The property lay just over the Yarmouth-Digby border.³¹⁶ Just over a year later he evidently wrote a favorable report of his new situation to his brother John in Chipman. John replied:

Much glad I was to hear from you that you were all well[,] that you had plenty to eat and some for sale[.] [T]hat is what farmers live by and I assure you that it gives Jane and myself much pleasure to hear that you have your farm paid for and something to Boot.³¹⁷

Henry was enumerated as a farmer in Beaver River in 1861, 1871, and 1881.³¹⁸ In 1871 he grew oats, barley, hay, potatoes, turnips, carrots, and other root vegetables and had twenty-six sheep, six dairy cows, six horned cattle, two working oxen, two swine, and one horse.³¹⁹

One of the last documented events in Henry's life was the visit he and John made back to England to pursue their share of their brother George's estate. The two brothers returned to Canada on the SS *Nova Scotian*, arriving in Halifax on 11 July 1884.³²⁰ Henry died two years later. Seven weeks earlier he wrote a will leaving \$2,800 and his farm to his wife. Eldest son George was to receive the farm after his mother's death, daughter Caroline was bequeathed a two-acre marsh lot, and the money from the sale of another lot was to be divided among children Caroline, Amanda, and George. The inheritance from George finally having been paid, Henry also left instructions for his brother John to continue receiving payments from \$1,500 on deposit in a Yarmouth bank.³²¹ Henry and Matilda are buried together at Free Will Baptist Cemetery.³²²



*Henry Goldfinch
courtesy of Sally Kiepe*

Family records passed down through Henry's family include one tattered page recording Henry and Matilda's marriage followed by their children's births. A separate page non-chronologically records the three family marriages that took place before February 1886. Another page records deaths until 1943. Handwriting and ink changes over the three pages suggest Henry began recording the births about 1848 and recorded the marriages and deaths shortly before he died. Henry and Matilda's deaths are written in a different hand.

³¹⁴ *Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada*, search on "owners."

³¹⁵ Digby Co., N.S., Deed Book 28:121, Thomas Foley to Henry Goldfinch, 8 October 1858; FHL microfilm 819,874.

³¹⁶ *Ibid.*, for identification of neighbors Josiah Porter and John Cann. Also, *Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources*, Crown Land Information Management Centre (<https://novascotia.ca/natr/land/grantmap.asp>), Digby and Yarmouth counties, land grant map, sheet 2. See Bartlett Brook north of Beaver River.

³¹⁷ John Goldfinch to Henry Goldfinch, letter, 2 April 1860.

³¹⁸ 1861 Nova Scotia census, Digby Co., Salmon River, polling district 12, family 1, "Henery" Goldfinch; LAC microfilm M-882. Also, 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 191), Salmon River (subdistrict M), polling district 12, p. 23, dwelling 77, family 90, Henry Goldfinch household. Also, 1881 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 15), subdistrict L, polling district 12, dwelling 76, family 78, p. 20, Henry Goldfinch household.

³¹⁹ 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 191), Salmon River (subdistrict M), schedule 4, return of cultivated land, p. 5, line 9, and schedule 5, return of livestock, p. 5, line 10; LAC microfilm C-10545.

³²⁰ *SS Nova Scotian*, p. 1, Henry and J.W. Goldfinch.

³²¹ Digby Co., N.S., Court of Probate, vol. 5 (1886-1917), p. 23-24, Henry Goldfinch will, 4 June 1886; FHL microfilm 824,803.

³²² Free Will Baptist Cemetery, Goldfinch gravestone.

Children of Henry Goldfinch and Matilda Bennison:

- 30 i. GEORGE ALFRED GOLDFINCH, born 10 December 1846, probably in Chipman;³²³ died 28 May 1891 two weeks after selling the family farm to his sister Caroline, both then still of Beaver River.³²⁴ George is likely buried with other family members in Free Will Baptist Cemetery, although no stone marks his grave.
- 31 ii. SARAH E. GOLDFINCH, born 27 March 1848, probably in Chipman;³²⁵ died 1 August 1873 on board the brig *Mary Ida* in Curaçao, West Indies;³²⁶ married 12 July 1871 at Beaver River to Captain Samuel Gardner.³²⁷ Sarah is commemorated on her parents' gravestone in Beaver River and on a marker in Yarmouth's Mountain Cemetery that also names her husband, Goldfinch uncles John and James, and her "only child," Henry Ernest, who died age fourteen months on 12 July 1873 in Curaçao.³²⁸ Sarah's husband Samuel died in Yarmouth, 22 January 1915.³²⁹
- 32 iii. JOHN THOMAS GOLDFINCH, born 29 October 1849, probably in Chipman.³³⁰ On 8 July 1870 he wrote to his parents from New Orleans saying he was going to Havre on the American brig *D.S. Soule*.³³¹ He was later lost at sea on a voyage from England to the Red Sea via the African Cape.³³²
- 33 iv. MARY CAROLINE "CARRY" GOLDFINCH, born 9 July 1851;³³³ died 20 December 1931, Everett, Washington.³³⁴ In 1901 she was an unmarried boarder in Yarmouth.³³⁵ In 1909 she went west to join family in Washington, living initially with her sister Amanda in Everett.³³⁶ Carrie was most likely born when her family lived in Chipman and the 1870 census supports New Brunswick as her birthplace. The 1901 and 1910 censuses, however, say she was born in Nova Scotia, as does her death certificate for which her sister Amanda was the informant.
- 34 v. ARTHUR W. GOLDFINCH, born 16 May 1853, probably at Chipman;³³⁷ drowned at sea in 1880 after being washed overboard from the barque *Bachelors* enroute from New Orleans to Rouen.³³⁸ He is commemorated on his parents' gravestone in Beaver River.³³⁹

³²³ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on parents' residence at time of his birth.

³²⁴ Image of death notice supplied by Lisette Gaudet, archivist, Yarmouth County Museum and Archives, email to author on 2 June 2018, citing *Yarmouth Herald*, 17 June 1891. For sale of farm, see Digby Co., N.S., Deed Book 64:59, George Goldfinch to Caroline Goldfinch, 15 May 1891; FHL microfilm 818,881.

³²⁵ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on parents' residence at time of her birth.

³²⁶ "Died," *The Daily Telegraph* (Saint John, N.B.), 8 September 1873, p. 2. Goldfinch family records in possession of Sally Kiepe supply the same details and also name the brig; copy in author's files.

³²⁷ Henry Goldfinch family records. Also, Nova Scotia, marriage registration, Book 1839, p. 52, entry 91, Gardner-Goldfinch, 12 July 1871; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>).

³²⁸ Free Will Baptist Cemetery, Goldfinch gravestone. Also, Mountain Cemetery, Lot G-15, Goldfinch gravestone.

³²⁹ Nova Scotia, death registration, Book 50, p. 101, entry 321, Samuel Gowan Gardner, 22 January 1915; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com>).

³³⁰ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on parents' residence at time of his birth.

³³¹ John T. Goldfinch to parents, letter, 8 July 1870; in possession of Sally Kiepe, copy in author's files.

³³² Undated note in possession of Sally Kiepe; mentioned in email to author 11 January 2006, copy in author's files.

³³³ Henry Goldfinch family records.

³³⁴ Washington State Board of Health, death certificate (339), Carolyn Goldfinch, 20 December 1931; "Washington Death Certificates, 1907-1960," image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1454923>).

³³⁵ 1901 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Yarmouth (district 42), Town of Yarmouth (subdistrict U), division 3, p. 5, dwelling 52, family 56, Carrie Goldfinch in S. B. Ray household; LAC microfilm T-6457.

³³⁶ 1910 U.S. census, Washington, Snohomish Co., Everett, Ward 1, ED 287, sheet 1A, dwelling/family 2, Amanda Jenkins household; NARA micropublication T624, roll 1668.

³³⁷ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. The year's last digit is illegible, but the record's chronological order and stated birth on Wednesday morning point to 1851. Place based on parents' likely residence at time of his birth.

³³⁸ "Local News," *Saint John Globe*, 18 June 1880, p. 2.

³³⁹ Free Will Baptist Cemetery, Goldfinch gravestone.

- 35 vi. HENRY “HARRY” BENNISON GOLDFINCH, born 23 May 1855, possibly in Massachusetts;³⁴⁰ died 9 November 1943, Los Angeles, California.³⁴¹ Harry married (1) Laura Shearer, 8 February 1883, Nevada City, California.³⁴² She died 8 May 1898, Everett, Washington, age thirty-five.³⁴³ He married (2) Hattie King, 15 June 1904, Everett, Washington.³⁴⁴ Backed by their sister Amanda, Harry and his brother Joseph founded Goldfinch Brothers, a paint, glass, and wallpaper store, in Everett in 1892. Now specializing in commercial and residential glass and glazing, the company is still operated by Goldfinch family members today.³⁴⁵
- 36 vii. JOSEPH ORR MASEFIELD GOLDFINCH, born 13 May 1857, probably at Beaver River;³⁴⁶ died 15 June 1950, Los Angeles;³⁴⁷ married Mary C. Tubbs in Wenatchee, Washington, 25 September 1901.³⁴⁸ Mary’s former husband Franklin Tubbs had earlier accused Joseph, his brother Harry, and sister Amanda of alienating his wife’s affections during seances by convincing her she should divorce him and marry Joseph instead.³⁴⁹
- 37 viii. CHARLOTTE “AMANDA” GOLDFINCH, born 1 February 1861, probably at Beaver River;³⁵⁰ died 19 April 1948, Everett, Washington;³⁵¹ married George Jenkins of Yarmouth, 5 February 1886, Beaver River.³⁵² He died 12 June 1891, Port Angeles, Washington.³⁵³ Amanda was left to raise their six-month-old daughter Georgette, born 4 January 1891. Two other children had died

³⁴⁰ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. The year’s last digit is illegible but the day of the week, Wednesday, points to 1855. Sources differ about the place. For Massachusetts, see 1910 U.S. census, Washington, Snohomish Co., Everett, Ward 6, ED 287, sheet 8B, dwelling 179, family 200, Harry B. Goldfinch household; NARA micropublication T624, roll 1668. Also, 1920 U.S. census, Washington, Snohomish Co., Mukilteo, ED 187, sheet 1B, dwelling/family 25, Harry B. Goldfinch household; NARA micropublication T625, roll 1939. For Boston, Mass., see California, Department of Health Services, death certificate 075387 (1943), Harry Goldfinch, 9 November 1943. For Nova Scotia, see 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 191), Salmon River (subdistrict M), polling district 12, p. 23, dwelling 77, family 90, Henry Goldfinch household. For Canada, see 1880 U.S. census, California, Nevada Co., Blue Tent, ED 59, p. 32, dwelling 314, family 543, H. Goldfinch; NARA micropublication T9, roll 70.

³⁴¹ California, Department of Health Services, death certificate 075387 (1943), Harry Goldfinch, 9 November 1943.

³⁴² Henry Goldfinch family records.

³⁴³ Snohomish County Auditor, Death Records, 1891-1907, Laura Goldfinch, 8 May 1898; image, *Washington State Archives: Digital Archives* (<https://digitalarchives.wa.gov>). Also, *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com>), Everett, Snohomish Co., Washington, memorial 50277617, Laura (Shearer) Goldfinch, photo by Littlmouse.

³⁴⁴ Snohomish County Auditor, Marriage Records, 1674, Goldfinch–King, 15 June 1904; image, *Washington State Archives: Digital Archives* (<https://digitalarchives.wa.gov>).

³⁴⁵ “Goldfinch Family History,” video, *Goldfinch Brothers* (<http://goldfinchbros.com>) > “About” > “About Goldfinch Bros.”

³⁴⁶ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on parents’ residence at the time. Also, 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 191) Salmon River (subdistrict M), polling district 12, p. 23, dwelling 77, family 90, Henry Goldfinch household.

³⁴⁷ California, Department of Health Services, death certificate (43377), Joseph Goldfinch, 15 June 1950.

³⁴⁸ Chelan County, Washington, certificate of marriage 59 (1901), Goldfinch-Tubbs, 25 September 1901; *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org) > Washington, County Records, 1803–2010 > Marriage Certificates, 1900–1912 > image 62.

³⁴⁹ “Spirits Cause Family Rumpus,” *San Francisco Call*, 10 December 1901, p. 7, col. 5 for report from Seattle about court case over the Tubbs’s property.

³⁵⁰ Date from Henry Goldfinch family records. Place based on parents’ residence at the time. Also, 1871 Canada census, Nova Scotia, Digby (district 191), Salmon River (subdistrict M), polling district 12, p. 23, dwelling 77, family 90, Henry Goldfinch household.

³⁵¹ Washington, State Board of Health, death certificate (6956), Amanda Jenkins, 20 December 1931; “Washington Death Certificates, 1907–1960,” image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1454923>).

³⁵² Henry Goldfinch family records. Also, Nova Scotia, marriage registration, Book 1812, p. 153, entry 9, Jenkins–Goldfinch, 5 February 1886; image, *Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics* (<https://www.novascotiagenalogy.com>).

³⁵³ Callam Co., Washington, Wills (1891–1934), p. 3–4, George C. Jenkins, 11 February 1891; “Washington, Wills and Probate Records, 1851–1970,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=9086>), images 21–22.

previously as infants.³⁵⁴ Many family documents, letters, and photographs—including those cited in this work—passed down through this line to Amanda’s great-granddaughter Sally Kiepe.

³⁵⁴ Sally Kiepe email to author, 31 December 2005; copy in author’s files.