

Cogswell

"I neither despise nor fear"
August 2000



Cogswell Courier

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Cogswell Courier

Legislator's Letters Shed Light on Augusta, Maine, circa 1842 . . . by Anthony Douin

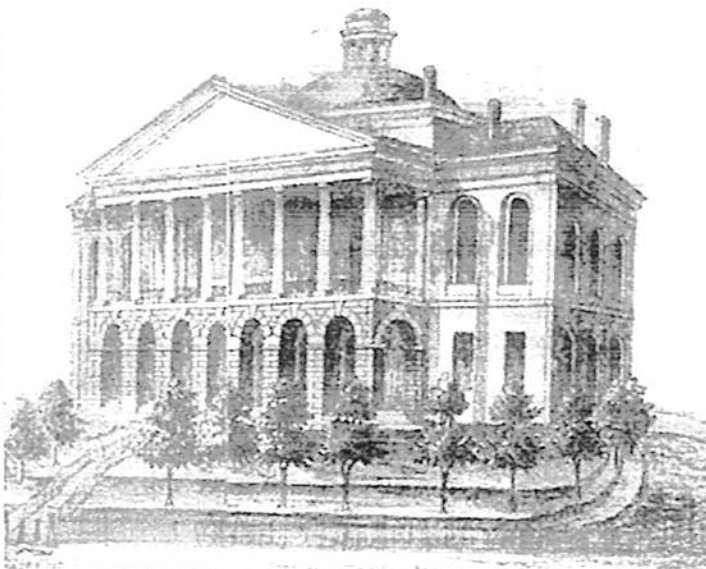
This article was submitted by Clifford Haines, a CFA member from Augusta, Maine.

Once again through the good offices of Earle Shettleworth, director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, we are able to present selections from a primary document of Augusta history, the correspondence of a member of the 1842 Maine Legislature, Charles N. Cogswell of South Berwick.

Cogswell's letters to his wife, Margaret, offer a glimpse of Augusta nearly 150 years ago. Before looking at the correspondence, let me offer a word concerning its author. Charles N. Cogswell was a highly esteemed and respected member of the bar in York County at the time of his service in the Maine Legislature. He was born in Berwick in 1797 and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1817. He then studied law with a Mr. Hayes, with whom he entered into partnership on being admitted to the bar in 1817. Both men proved to possess high intellect and a large business capacity. It is said that more business was done by their law firm than any other in York County.

Let's step back in time to the 1840s. At the time these letters are being penned, Cogswell is 48 years of age. He is newly married to his second wife, Margaret Russell. They have one son, Charles. Cogswell is a Democrat whose party dominates

Maine's politics at this time. The great issues confronting the 1842 Legislature include: the Northeast Boundary Dispute with Canada, reforming Maine's Bankruptcy Law for it's a time of hard economic downturn, and the new railroads--where are they to be built and how taxed. Also vying for the attention of the Legislature will be more mundane items: petitions for divorce or change of name and incorporation of towns and institutions. The legislature will also contend with the unrelenting effort of Portland to have the capital moved back there.



The Statehouse in Augusta Maine circa 1851

The Legislature will sit through the winter and spring. Transportation is slow, this being the era of stagecoaches, and railroads will not appear in Augusta for another decade. Because of these conditions, most legislators from a distance of the capital seldom leave to go home during the session. There are five hotels in Augusta plus the Hallowell House in Hallowell to accommodate them. Many members also

board in private homes.

Cogswell boards at the Augusta House along with many other legislators. Built in 1831, it opened its doors to the first Legislature to meet in Augusta in 1832. For more than 140 years until its demise in the 1970s, it could boast of being the political hub of

(continued on page 2)

Legislator Sheds Light on Augusta, Maine

Maine. Due to the length and rich material in Cogswell letters, they are being offered in several parts. His first letter from Augusta is dated Jan. 5, 1842, and in it he describes his journey to Augusta and the opening days of the Legislature.

"I thought before retiring that I would prepare you a short line, that you might understand I was here and well here," Cogswell wrote. "We had a very tedious and uncomfortable ride on Monday and on Tuesday, but arrived here last evening about half past seven without any serious accidents. Although to add a little variety to the storm of yesterday, we upset the coach in the town of Green (sic) with nine passengers inside and three or four out. It went over on my side and two heavy men came bounce upon me, but I'm proof against all such jostling to escape with only a little knock on the head which made me see stars rather plenty for a minute or two but no skin broken." Cogswell then informs his wife that he immediately after arrival went to his party's caucus to vote for a friend for speaker without stopping for tea or to get warm. His candidate lost.

In describing his rooms at the Augusta House he writes, "I find my quarters thus far very pleasant and comfortable, we have a fine large carpeted room with a large fireplace and plenty of wood so that we make it comfortable and above all we have a very good bed in it where I slept last night very sound and hope to tonight." Cogswell closes his letter by speaking about their son, "dear little Duchy" and asks if he misses his dad yet. "I shall find it a great privation to be from home but I hope it will not be long."

In his next letter dated Jan. 14, Cogswell starts off with his attention drawn to home. "How I should admire to go up and spend the Sabbath with you and dear little Eddie. If only we had a railroad now how easy it would be to do so." He goes on to describe scenes of the social life in Augusta.

(continued from page 1)

"They had quite a splendid inauguration ball here last Tuesday evening. I did not attend but should have taken pleasure in doing so if you had only been here. There were more than 100 ladies present, and among them some very fine looking and beautiful but still I should have been proud of the appearance of my own wife among them. She would not have been thrown in the shade by any of them. I had a fine opportunity to see all and judge all, as the ball was here at our house I was looking on and during the recess I went into the hall with Mr. Speaker Andrews and Col. Redington of this town and past up and down the hall several times.

Cogswell next mentions his attendance at a local church fair in Augusta. "They have built a new Episcopal church here very much like that in Dover and about fitting it up in order to defray part of the expense they got up a fair last evening. I went in a little while. They had a great variety of fancy matters for sale. They got part of the day's pay out of me which went to help pay for the church but doesn't help me much as I have got nothing to show for it. They put up a beautiful lace shawl in a lottery and I thought I would have two chances, so bought two tickets but as usual they were both blanks, and the shawl was drawn by a Miss Freeman, daughter of the clergyman. How fairly the lottery was drawn is more than I can say but any how I know you lost the shawl."

He closes this letter with a postscript: "Kiss the little dear a dozen times for me and ask him to do the same for his dear mother."

As the 1842 legislative session went on, Rep. Charles N. Cogswell's letters to his wife Margaret in South Berwick began to show what a toll separation from his wife and son was taking on him.

(continued on page 12)

August 2000

From the Secretary's Computer

By Claire Cogswell-Daigle



Hello Cousins,

Time for another report from me. Membership is still growing and this time we have twenty-two new members. We are doing very well.

Everyone should have the reunion information and should be making plans. We are hoping for a good turnout. Our two hosts have been working very hard on this reunion. They have done an excellent job. If anyone should like a new e-mail list or

anything else please feel free to get in touch with me.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion in September.

Yours truly,

Claire Cogswell-Daigle, Sec'y

Membership questions

Contact

Claire Cogswell-Daigle

On the internet at

secretary@cogswell.org

New Members of the Cogswell Family Association



The Cogswell Family Association, Inc. welcomes the following members into the family:

Joyce C. Cummings

Deborah S. Johannes

Shelby Sampson

Edward T. Duffett

Kelly L. Cogswell

Lyndon Gabriel

Helen Jette

Marilyn E. Boyd

Debbie Allgire

Ronald J. Cogswell & Family

Holland, IA

Berkley, CA

Berkeley, CA

Hudson, NH

Renton, WA

Vancouver, WA

Manchester, CT

Athens, TN

Grand Rapids, OH

Edison, NJ

Here Are The Winners!

2000 was a big year for the Cogswell Family Association. For the first time ever, scholarships were awarded to students at the Cogswell Polytechnical College, founded by Dr. Henry Daniel [4057] Cogswell, in Sunnyvale, CA, and the American School for the Deaf, founded by Dr. Mason Fitch [971] Cogswell, in West Hartford, CT.

Essays were submitted to selection committees at each of the schools, which narrowed the applicants down to three or four essays. The criteria for the scholarships were: Cogswell Polytechnical College - intended for a student with severe financial need; minimum GPA of 3.0; and submit a 450-500 word essay discussing "how the achievement of your career objectives will benefit society." American School for the Deaf - intended for a graduating senior who has demonstrated an outstanding awareness of good citizenship; minimum GPA of 3.5; and submit a short statement - no more than 500 words - discussing their career objectives and how they hope achievement of them will contribute to the benefit of society. The essays submitted were excellent and made it difficult for the CFA selection committee to decide.

I mailed a copy of each essay to the CFA selection committee members President Emerita Edna Roberds, President C. J. Castagnaro, 1st Vice President Austin Cogswell, and Board of Director members Hal Lieberman and me. Each member of the committee let me know whom he or she had selected.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Erik Purins - Cogswell Polytechnical College. In summary Erik wrote about "earning a position with a successful game-developing company, where I will work in a small team of designers and artists, making successful low-violence strategy, adventure or role-playing games for the child and teen markets. In my game production class at Cogswell, I work with a group of students on projects. We break down and share responsibilities, and assign tasks to .the

...By Pat Cogswell

- properly qualified and most enthusiastic students. In a work environment, this teamwork and coordination is important. My goal in the video game industry is to create challenging play experiences that do not depend on violence and shooting. I'd like to make simpler, more intuitive, faster and more interesting games than those currently available. There is a need for people with real vision to create fresh stories, action sequences, characters and interaction in today's games. My Cogswell education is helping me to shape my vision and reach my goals."
- **Steve Sousa** - American School for the Deaf - In summary Steve wrote "I am planning to go to National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, New York this fall. I would like to become a Mathematics teacher in a school for the Deaf in the future. Also, I will take NTID classes for four years then go to Rochester Institute Technical (RIT) for two years. Following that I will first get a bachelor's degree and finally a master's degree. I am a dedicated and hardworking student at ASD. I am always loyal to our staff and respectful to the teachers, students, and Residential Advisors. I received seven awards for outstanding excellence, and being on the honor roll, and one award for basketball, 'Most Improved Player.' I also had experience as a role model for outstanding leadership in my school and community activities for four years. My goal is to socialize, help, and teach the deaf, hearing impaired, and hearing students in a mainstream school or a school for the deaf. I want deaf and hearing students to love, respect, and cooperate as friends, in the future."
- **CONGRATULATIONS!** to the CFA's first scholarship winners. May your education prepare you for a fulfilling career that enhances the world around you.

August 2000

Cogswells and Slavery

Ed Cogswell of Albion, Maine, recalls a 1967 experience in which he encountered a young woman named Cogswell in Ipswich, Mass. While he was unable to speak at length with her, he speculates that she may have been of black or Indian descent. Since slaves sometimes took the surnames of their masters, one may wonder whether that is how she acquired her name. We will never know, but the episode brings up the question of Cogswells and slavery.

It is rather well-known that, during the colonial period of American history, New Englanders were heavily engaged in the slave trade. The demand for English manufactured goods, together with the lack of English demand for Northern colonial products, created a need for money. Substantial profits from the "triangular trade" (to Africa for slaves, to the West Indies for rum, molasses, etc., and to market in England or America) were made by entrepreneurs from New England, as well as England. We do not know of Cogswells engaged in this trade, but it would not be too surprising, since a number of them were seafarers.

Not so generally known is the fact that slavery itself was not confined to the southern colonies. Until the American Revolution, every one of the northern colonies had slaves, some in significant numbers. For example, the first census taken under the Constitution (1790) showed New York with 21,193 slaves and New Jersey with 11,423, even though slavery was being abolished in the northern states. And until the War Between the States broke out, most of the Presidents, cabinet members, and Supreme Court justices of the United States were slaveholders.

References to slavery are few and far between in Jameson's *The Cogswells in America*, but there are several mentions. In his 1714 will, Capt. Jonathan Cogswell [#15] gave his wife "my negro man I have commonly called *Jack*, and my Indian maid I have called *Nell*, they to be at her dispose..." Jonathan's

.....By Hal Lieberman

wife Elizabeth, in her 1723 will, gives to her daughter, Mary Cogswell, "my Indian woman, *Nell*." She "disposes also of 'negro *Jack*.'"

In 1742, Nathaniel Cogswell [#45] sold "my Negro Boy *Cesar*" for 115 pounds. His sister Margaret [#44] was the widow of Amos Perley, whose 1748 will mentions an "old negro, valued 80 pounds, and young Negro, valued 15 pounds." And in 1773, Major William Cogswell [#86] sold a "certain negro girl named *Dorcas*, about eighteen years of age," for forty-five pounds.

"*Pompey* was the name of a colored servant who belonged to Cogswell." This was Adam Cogswell [#169], a shipmaster who lived in Newburyport, Mass., before moving to Maine just before the outbreak of the Revolution. It seems likely, though by no means certain, that *Pompey* was a slave, since he "belonged" to Capt. Cogswell.

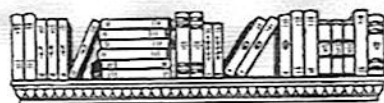
At the close of the Revolutionary War, General Thomas Cogswell [#152] brought home to New Hampshire a colored servant by the name of *Prince*. *Prince* must have been quite young because, according to Jameson, he and his descendants remained in the Cogswell family for many years, and his widow, "Aunt *Sophia*," survived him and died in 1882 at the age of eighty-five.

In the town records of Southbury, Conn., there appears in 1793 "the record of the birth of a negro child, whose mother was a servant of Asa Cogswell" [#215]. One cannot determine from Jameson whether this servant was a slave. And

Capt.

Were Cogswells in
the North, as well as
the South slave holders?

(continued bottom of page 14)



From the Historian's Desk

Dear Cousins,

First, please note the new address, phone number, and email address on page 9. My old email address, at Toad.Net, is deceased, and there is no way (known to this particular low-tech user) to forward mail sent to the old address. The U.S. Mail will be forwarded, but please start using the new address now, and make a note of the change on the back of the Title page in your copy of the Cogswell book. As before, the fax is on a separate line and is turned on 24 hours a day.

We now have 37,839 individuals listed in the Cogswell Family database, although a number of them are still listed as _____ (usually unknown parents of spouses, etc.) but are counted as persons. I type these "persons" in the database as reminders to their relatives that I would like to have the names, if at all possible, and also because the LDS-compatible program lists people as "illegitimate children" if they don't have parents.

As of today, we have only 250 copies of the Cogswell book remaining, and, since the publisher has gone out of business, when these copies are gone the Cogswell book will become Out of Print. In Economics 101 they told us that resources become more valuable as they become more scarce (hint). The Association had an agreement with Family Line that we could reorder more copies in the future, and no one expected the old and very reliable publisher to suffer from the "no heir" problem. Apparently, that's exactly what happened.

* * *

I know that I'm always asking for the members' help, but the Cogswell descendants are so generous, talented, intelligent, and well-schooled that, well, the temptation is overwhelming. So, here's this month's mystery:

Mrs. Helen Cogswell, wife of Richard W. [9717]

.....by Don Cogswell

was circulating in a local flea market when she spotted a beautiful 100-year-old Autograph Book, which just happened to contain the signature of one "John E. Cogswell, Danielsonville, Conn., May 1st 1882." According to our Cogswell Family Database, this person MIGHT be John [4483] Cogswell, who was about 25 years of age at the time, and appears to have been in Connecticut at the time, but we have no information on John or his descendants. Any information would be appreciated.

Helen would like to see this family treasure returned to a descendant of its original owner, Ida Butts, who appears to have married Thomas F. Carlisle in 1882. If we cannot locate a rightful owner of this book, we will place it in the Cogswell Family Archive. Here are a few more clues from the Autograph Book:

Mrs. Fannie Prout No 149 Thur-
ber Avenue South Prov RI 1883

William Jacques Danielsonville Conn. Dec 4
1881

Jan 20 1881 To Ida,
This world is a humbug and full of strife
But don't be too fast to be a wife
Remember that there is plenty of time to come
For now you are but twenty one.
S. P. Chas. So Killingly, Conn.

To knit and spin was once a girl's employment,
But now to dress and have a beau is all the girls en-
joyment.
Geo. M Wood Danielsonville, Conn. Dec. 12, '81

Aug 25, 1880 Ida: Please accept this a little verse
from me, To read in lonely
hours when parted we

(Continued on page 9)

**Don seeks help
to solve these very
interesting mysteries.
Do you have the
answer?**

August 2000

From your Webmaster

.....by Pat Cogswell



Did the CFA Web Site Meet Its Objectives ?

In March of 1999, the CFA decided to set up a Web Site. We wanted to tell people about our organization, attract new members and hopefully sell more copies of *Descendants of John Cogswell*. Did it work? I'll let you be the judge. So far we have 20 new members who found us through our web site, we've sold 30 copies of *Descendants of John Cogswell* and 4 copies of *The Cogswells in America*. This is based on information from Historian Donald J. Cogswell and Secretary Claire Cogswell Daigle. Not earth shattering, but a real good start.

The web site is updated on a quarterly basis with prominent Cogswells in History. There is also information on your Reunion in Everett, WA, September 15th through 17th. Just the other day, I added Ed

Cogswell's letter about the Reunion and the registration form, too. Perhaps Ed will let me know how many registration forms he got from the Web Site. If you haven't visited YOUR Web Site recently, please do so at www.cogswell.org.

Coming soon to YOUR Web Site will be a list of all the current CFA members. I only plan to show members names, city and state. Please let me know if you don't want to be listed on the Web Site by email at pat-cogswell@htn.net or by snail mail at 5902 Golden Road, Sebring, FL 33872.

I for one am looking forward to meeting some of our new members at this year's Reunion. Have a great summer and hope to see you there!

CFA Plaque at Pemaquid Disappears

This startling information was disclosed to members of the board of directors last year. I believe no one knew exactly when it disappeared nor was the sheriff able to find the scoundrel.

Ed Cogswell of Albion, ME volunteered to look into it. He spent the year researching thief proof methods of affixing the new plaque and finally decided on a special sort of epoxy that he believes will last for the next ten generations.

Thank you Ed!



Ed Cogswell putting finishing touches on our new Cogswell Family Association plaque.

In Memoriam

Keith H. Cogswell of Denver Colorado died March 7, 2000. Keith was a member of the Cogswell Family Association and president from 1995 until he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease a year later.

Keith was born in Hutchinson, Kansas on December 3, 1930. He married June Edwards of Littleton, Colorado November 5, 1961. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. He was a systems analyst for the State of Colorado (retired). Also Keith was past master of the Berkely Lodge of the Masons and past patron of Unity Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

He is survived by his wife June, two sons, Kevin of Lakewood and Steve of Denver, a sister Carolyn Parrish, and three grandchildren.

A number of CFA members enjoyed getting to know Keith and June during their participation in the 1994 Cogswell Ancestral Tour to England.

Mary F Cogswell of Friend, Nebraska.
She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cogswell. They are CFA members.

Major E. C. Wooding, (Retired) of Carson City, Nevada.
He is survived by his daughter.

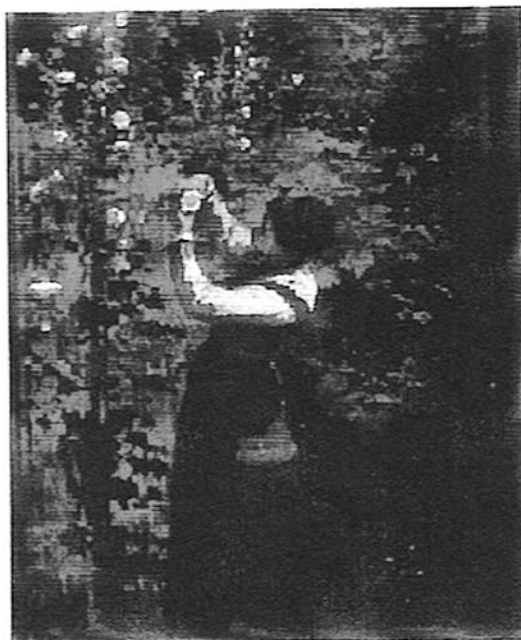
Philip Bordeau of Laconia, New Hampshire.
He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bordeau and a cousin, Claire Cogswell-Daigle. All are members of the CFA.

* * *

For Cogswell Art Lovers.....

CFA members attending the reunion may be interested in arriving early in order to visit a major exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum. "Eastman Johnson: Painting America" is the first comprehensive exhibition of this prominent 19th-century artist since 1972. Organized by the Brooklyn Museum, then moving to the San Diego Museum, the show is now in Seattle, but will close on September 10.

Eastman Johnson was a first cousin of Mary Naomi Johnson, who married William B. Cogswell [4466] in 1856, and whose only child was Mabel [6340]. Four Johnson paintings are in the possession of CFA members. A portrait of Mary Naomi is owned by Ronald and Nancy Morse. Mary and Hal Lieberman have portraits of William and Mabel, as well as one of Johnson's earliest works, "Savoyard Boy" (in the Brooklyn catalogue), on loan to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.



August 2000

From the Historian's Desk

(continued from page 6)

from me, To read in lonely hours when parted we
shall be.

Jennie R. Graves South Killingly, Conn.

Your Sister Lillie Butts Danielsonville, Conn.
Mar. 3, 1883

The bee through many a garden moves
Humming the bag of courtship o'er
But when he finds the flower he loves
He settles there and hums no more.

Allcott D. Sayle

Dec. 18, 1880 Cincinnati

Jos. H. Prout, Esq. Cedar Mountain South Prov.
R I.

Green are the leaves upon the vines
I have chosen you for a friend of mine
I have chosen you from all the rest
Hoping you will prove the best.

Thos. F. Carlisle Providence, R I Jan 29th
1881 [apparently her future husband]

John L. Litchfield Brooklyn, Conn.

Edward B. Geer Griswold, Conn. Jan 25th 1881

Henry G. Lathrop Danielsonville, Conn. Mar 2nd
'83

Nellie S. Hammett Killingly, Conn. Dec. 22, 1884

Abbie M. Hammett Killingly, Conn.

Sailing down the stream of life
In your birch bark canoe
May you have a pleasant voyage
And room enough for two.

F. E. Hammett Dec. 12, 1881 Killingly, Conn.

Your Affectionate Brother H. L. Butts
Conn. Aug 6th 1881

Danielsonville Conn. Aug 6th 1881

William F. Pickett Danielsonville Conn. Nov 6,
1882

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore E. Fulton Danielsonville
Jan., 1881

Hattie Pierce Stirling Conn. Nov. 13, 1881

Your loving cousin Minnie F. Bennett Plainfield,
Conn. Feb. 19, 1883

John E. Cogswell Daniel-
sonville, Conn. May. 1st
1882

Mystery #2:

My mother, Dorothy
(James) Cogswell, received a
post card from Susan Stine
Mason, who wrote from 401
Riverside Ave., Hopewell,
Virginia 23860: "I'm trying
to find my friend from high
school [who used to live in
Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, a close suburb of Wash-
ington, D.C.]. Her name was Nancy Cogswell, who
married Tom Reynolds. She had a sister, Judy, a
daughter, Angela, and a son named David. She was
divorced and I don't know if she has remarried."
Reuniting these two long-lost friends would be
a wonderful service by the Cogswell Family Asso-
ciation and I hope a member can provide a good lead
to the missing Nancy Cogswell.

* * *

Pat and I are anxiously planning our driving trip to
the 2000 Cogswell Family Reunion, and can't wait
to visit with all our Cogswell-related friends

NOTE: New Address

Donald J. Cogswell

5902 Golden Road

Sebring, FL 33872-6099

Phone: 863-471-2735

Fax: 863-471-6235

Email: doncogswell@htn.net

New Cogswell Descendants



Congratulations to the proud parents of the first four Cogswell descendants (we know of) born in 2000:

Alex Joseph Anderson, b 7 Jan. 2000 in Palm Springs, CA, is the son of Bryan G. and Christine [] (Reuter) Anderson. Alex is the grandson of Grace E. [] Cogswell.

Emily Isabela [] Cavin, b. 12 Jan. 2000 in Prince Rupert, B.C., is the daughter of Michael F.D. [11341] and Margaret L. (Stoddart) Cavin. Emily is the granddaughter of Desmond J. [9622] and Isabell G. (Le Blanc) Cavin.

Nicole Elizabeth Anne [] Laboy, b. 5 Apr. 2000 in Southbridge, MA, is the daughter of Frederick and Laura [9313] (Daigle) Laboy. Nicole is the granddaughter of Douglas F. [8082] and Catherine (Hayward) Daigle,

and the great-granddaughter of Ernest and Claire (6636) (Cogswell) Daigle. See page 445 in The Book.

Anna [] Gabriel – 24 Feb 2000 in Lexington, Kentucky. She is the daughter of Peter L. [] and Marty (Milliner) Gabriel; granddaughter of Alfred L. [] and Carol (Loron) Gabriel; and GGG Granddaughter of Samuel Cogswell.

* * *

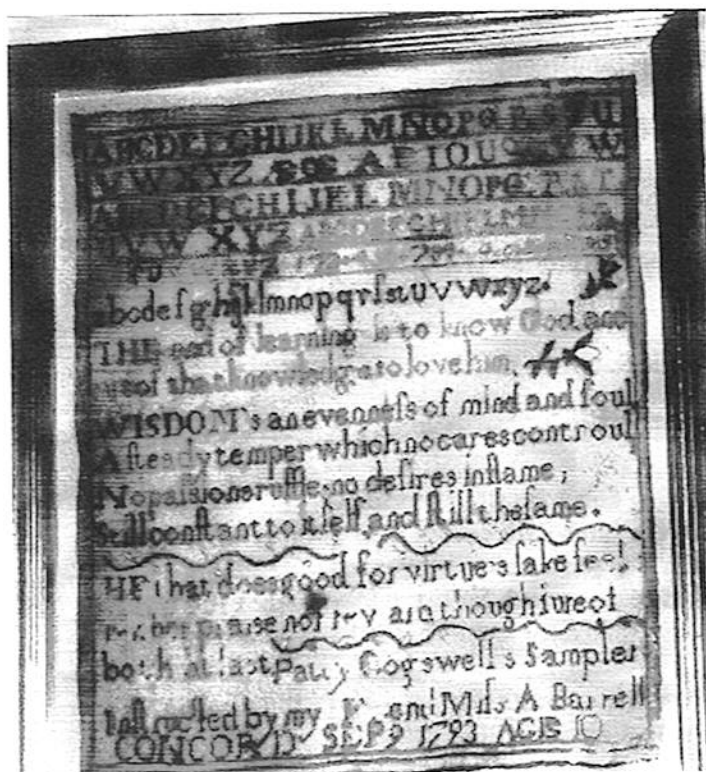
Empty brackets [] indicate that the information of this descendant was received AFTER publication of the 1996 Cogswell Book, and the descendant will have a “descent-from-John [1]” number in the next edition..

Sampler from 1793

This sampler was made by Martha “Patty” Cogswell [626 DJC] of Concord, Mass., in 1793. It is in the possession of a CFA member, Mrs. Helen Knudson Pulsifer [7957] of Seattle, Wash. Mrs. Pulsifer is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Martha.

Martha Cogswell, a sixth-generation Cogswell, was the fifth daughter of Emerson and Eunice (Robinson) Cogswell. She was born March 12, 1783, in Concord. She married her cousin, William Robinson (whose mother was a Cogswell), had six children, and died on Nov. 24, 1856.

The sampler was passed down through the Robinson, McArthur, Lucas, and Knudson families to rest, after more than two centuries, in Helen Pulsifer's hands. She will be bringing the sampler to the CFA's 2000 reunion, so everyone will have a chance to see it.



August 2000

From Your Editor's Den

The Cogswell Family Association Reunion is really very important to me for many reasons. The most important, however, is the following. Eleven years ago I had only just found out about the newly organized association. The following year my husband and I attended our first meeting at Pemaquid, Maine. It was the first time I had met any one named Cogswell (other than my immediate family, of course). What a rush! I was amazed to note a family resemblance among many of them, that is, a resemblance to my father and great-grandfather, not to mention cousins.

During the last ten years we have come to know many of my Cogswell cousins and their families. Talk about a "greater kinship group"! We feel so fortunate to have them as family and friends. That

Cogswell Connections - Nathaniel Hawthorne . . .by Hal Lieberman

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in Salem, Mass., in 1804. Graduating from Bowdoin College in 1825, he returned to Salem and began writing, editing, and publishing, including short stories and children's stories. He worked at the Boston Custom House (1839-41) and then spent several months (1841-42) at Brook Farm, the best-known of the many communal societies of the period. In 1842 he married Sophia Amelia Peabody of Salem, and they settled in the Old Manse in Concord, Mass. (Sophia's sister Elizabeth was the founder of the first English kindergarten in America, and her sister Mary married Horace Mann.) In 1846 Hawthorne was appointed surveyor of the port of Salem, but he continued his writing. In 1852 he published a campaign biography of Franklin Pierce, who had been a college classmate. Thus, in 1853, the newly-elected President Pierce appointed Hawthorne as the U.S. consul at Liverpool, England, a post he held for several years. Returning to Concord, he continued his writing until his death in

1864. He is buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Concord, Mass. His better-known works include *The Scarlet Letter*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, *Twice-Told Tales*, *Tanglewood Tales*, and *The Blithedale Romance*.

John Cogswell -- Elizabeth Thompson
 Abigail Cogswell -- Thomas Clarke, Jr.
 Elizabeth Clarke -- John Lord
 Thomas Lord -- Elizabeth Clarke
 Miriam Lord -- Richard Manning
 Elizabeth Clarke Manning -- Nathaniel
 Hawthorne (*sic*)

Nathaniel Hawthorne

. . .by Mary Lieberman

is why I want to urge any and all of you, especially if you have not been to a reunion before, to go to Everett, Wash. in Sept. Meet your cousins. Develop new relationships. Enjoy old relationships. Have a good time.



Lets Party!

Please Submit any material
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 BEFORE
 Nov. 1, 2000

Legislator's Letters. . .

(continued from page 2)

Writing on Jan. 25, 1842, Cogswell reported: "We are progressing here somewhat though not so fast as would please me. If I could have my way. I am working very hard myself, forenoon, afternoon, evening. I am chairman of four legislative committees, and member of a fifth. Some of which are laborious, especially the Committee on Apportion, the representatives through the state for the next 10 years of which I am chairman and a good share of the responsibility comes my lot. This being in the Legislature and laboring so diligently is not exactly what it is 'cracked up to be.' I shall feel relieved when I can get away."

He has been so busy at the Statehouse he notes later on in this letter that he had only been down the street to Hallowell to see relatives twice since he had arrived in Augusta. The rest of his time had been spent either at the Statehouse or at his boarding house. A few days later, on Jan. 30, he writes Margaret on his experiences in two Augusta churches. "I attended the Unitarian Church this forenoon and heard from their pastor a funeral sermon on the death of the Honorable Daniel Cony, one of the oldest citizens and greatest benefactors of this town. This afternoon attended at the Episcopal Church where Rev. Mr. Freeman officiates. Heard a very good sermon from some young clergyman whom I did not know. The late Chief Justice Weston was very polite, he seemed quite pleased to see me at what he termed 'our meeting' and requested me to take a seat at his pew whenever I attended there. The society is mostly made up of those who sent off from Dr. Tappan's church and congregation. Where the 'Scenes from a Vestry' were watched.

I have attended Dr. Tappan's meeting but one half day since I have been here which was the first Sabbath I spent here. I thought he looked sober at me when I met him in the street a few days ago."

In the previous passage, Cogswell makes reference to a split in Augusta's South Parish Congregational Church and its pastor, the Rev. Benjamin Tappan,

over church discipline. This will be the subject of a future Antiquarian Notebook.

While penning this letter Cogswell also notes his intention to get a leave of absence so he can go home and attend to his law practice and to see his family. However, in his next letter he still is in Augusta and now reports to his wife the "famous time going on in Maine's capital city."

In a letter dated Feb. 3, he writes: "They have had a famous time here in Augusta this week with a state convention of the friends of Temperance Cause, the old society, Washingtonians, and all together with a ladies' fair two evenings in aid of the cause. They have also had a splendid ball at the Hallowell House this evening which I did not attend. They have now in session the annual meeting of the Anti-Slavery Society and a ladies' fair this evening in aid of the cause. W.B. told me that General Fessenden and a big Negro came passengers on the stage with him and his wife from Portland to Hallowell. I saw General Fessenden at the Statehouse today. He inquired very kindly for you. Last evening for the first time since I have been here, I was invited to a party at the house of General White with governor and council and a select portion of the Legislature. There were some 15 or 20 ladies present. He had a good table of all sorts of good things. Pyramids of ice cream, lots of Blanc Maugh, and all sorts of sweet meats and knick knacks. But it was dull work for me as I was unacquainted with comparatively none but the Black Coats of which there was a great crowd."

Cogswell closes this letter with the hope that he can soon get away saying: "We are pushing through things so hard that we begin to talk seriously of a short session." Such optimism was short-lived. Having returned from a brief visit home he writes Margaret: "I am moored here for ought I see a fortnight longer. The time of the Legislature is so taken up by long speeches that I am quite disgusted. Instead of being here a week as I hoped when I came down, it looked really as though we should be here three weeks and I am getting discouraged. All this day too since breakfast and evening has been devoted to the considera-

August 2000

Legislator's Letters.....

tions of the subject of apportionment of the Representatives. Mr. Harris of Saco is here and he has labored with us today. None of us here have been out to church. I shall really feel happy when the fires here are raked up and we are ready to go home."

On March 5 Cogswell arose in the House chamber on the resolve apportioning the House seats according to the late reduction to 151 members explaining to the House the principles which guided the forms of apportionment. At this time, Cogswell writes home: "I am very lonely here with a household of 60 or more. Since we have got through with the apportioning the state and have got the resolve before the Legislature for their approval, I have felt that responsibility off my mind. In consequence I have more thoughts of home."

While waiting for the Legislature to wrap up, Cogswell writes to his wife on March 13 about a controversy that had riveted the attention of the legislators. "Mr. Judd, the Unitarian minister here, preached a lecture Monday evening on the evils of the Revolutionary War in which he took occasion to abuse General Washington and the worthy veterans of the Revolution in a style which deeply offended quite a portion of the Legislature who were there to hear him. Quite a number of the members quit the House in disgust and they are now engaged in squads (sic) all about the boarding house in devising the best of insulting him when he comes to the House to pray which it is said he will do tomorrow. Various plans are proposed such as hissing him down, voting to have no prayers, requiring him not to pray. But all is probably fudge and will die away by morning."

As we know, Cogswell's prediction was incorrect. The House denounced Judd's discourse and fired him as their chaplain by a vote of 127-5.

Here the letters cease. Cogswell returned home for a time but came back to Augusta in May to deal with

(continued from page 12)

the Northwest Boundary dispute and elections. One letter alone survives with no interesting details worth mentioning.

This was Cogswell's final service in the Maine Legislature. In the month of September, 1843, while retiring for the evening, he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 46 years of age. His widow, Margaret, was left with her son, Eddie, to raise. But not for long. Shortly after his father's death, Eddie succumbed to some childhood illness so often fatal in that day. He was 17 months old.

At his death, Cogswell was eulogized as follows: "The sudden death of one who had been so beloved by his friends, and from many trusts confided in him, so useful to the community, cannot fail to be extensively lamented."

* * * * *

This article is reprinted with permission from the Augusta, Maine, *Capital Weekly* of February 3 and 17, 2000. One major correction: Charles N. Cogswell [1285] had two children by his second wife—Edward and Charles. It was Charles who died, not "little Eddie." Edward [2632] lived a long and productive life. Not satisfied with his biography in Jameson, he wrote his own version, which can be found, together with further information, in *Descendants of John Cogswell*. While Jameson says that Dr. Edward did not practice his profession, the fact is that he practiced medicine from the time he received his M.D. degree in 1867 to about 1880. For two years he was the Health Officer of the city of Cambridge, Mass. He later served as president of the Cambridge Savings Bank for a number of years. He was a leading member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Cambridge.

Roger White Cogswell [7967] a CFA member, is the great-grandson of Edward.

Visions for the Future

.....by Stephen Aberle

At the 2000 CFA Reunion to be held at Henry Cogswell College in September, we will be preparing a time capsule to be opened in the year 2100. HCC will store our time capsule in one of their four vaults for the next century.

The vaults, by the way, are a side benefit of the college purchasing and renovating an old post office building.

Every CFA member is invited to contribute to the contents of our 2000 time capsule, regardless of whether or not you are able to attend the reunion. The overall volume of the capsule will be limited to two cubic feet, so it is important that each member keep the size of their individual contribution reasonable. When you do the math, each member will have about 10 cubic inches of space, equivalent to a legal size envelope filled to a thickness of one quarter inch. For longest life, it would be best to use acid-neutral paper for anything written or printed.

Recently, I began to ponder what I would present as my contribution to the time capsule. Would someone a hundred years from now want a copy of my personal genealogy information, a photo of my family, a sample from the baseball card collection I kept as a kid, the pocket watch owned by my grandfather, the broken remote control from my old VCR, or perhaps a few coins of the day? Would the CFA members opening the time capsule in 2100 say "why in the world would someone have put something like this into a time capsule?" or would they say "ooh, what vision that person had, this is really neat!" ?

Slavery

(continued from page 5)

finally, recorded not in Jameson but in *DJC*, we find Daniel Cogswell, [#1123], son of Asa, witnessing the manumission of a slave in 1803.

While it is likely that more Cogswells held slaves than are reported in Jameson, such information will probably be found only by researchers who are looking into the lives of individual ancestral mem-

In reviewing the genealogical research that I've conducted on my own family, my thoughts turned to what unique items I would like to have known about each of them. While it is somewhat easy to examine public records to obtain dates of birth, education, marriage, and death, it is completely another process altogether to determine what my ancestors did on a day-to-day basis, to locate their humorous personal stories, or to ascertain their thoughts about the quality of their lives and what they envisioned the future would hold for their descendants and for the world.

Some questions each of the contributors to the 2000 CFA time capsule might want to answer for their descendants are things such as: "What was your daily routine?" "How did you cast your votes on the major issues during your lifetime?" "What types of clothes did you wear?" "What was it like to drive one of those novel antique vehicles with an internal combustion engine?" "What types of entertainment did you enjoy?" "Were you really able to see things on those old devices which you called 'televisions'?" "What types of foods did you eat?" "Did you travel through the air in those dangerous old winged craft?" "What was your role in society?" "Did you love your family?" etc. You might also want to include your personal vision about what the world will be like in the year 2100.

Placing items in a time capsule is a very unique opportunity. I encourage each CFA member to make the most of it!

* * *

bers. Census records may provide some evidence, for while the southern states were becoming "slave societies," a number of the northern states remained "societies with slaves" for some time, as many historians have noted. It must also be pointed out that many Cogswells in later years were participants in the anti-slavery movement.

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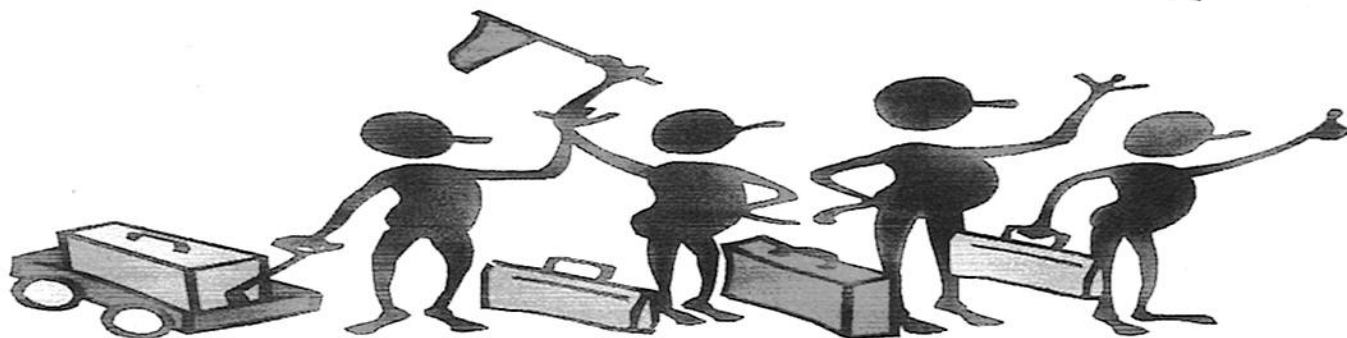
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