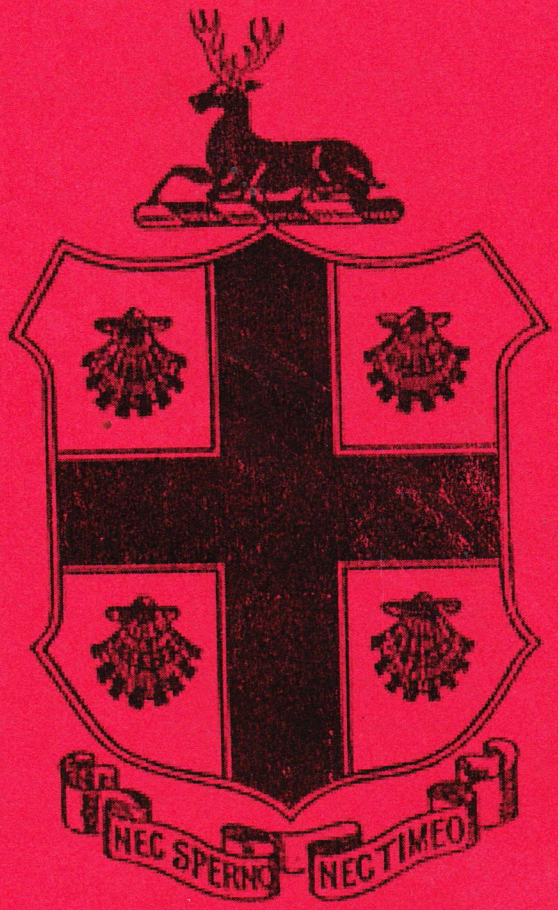

Cogswell

"I neither despise nor fear"

December 1999

Cogswell Family Association
Incorporated Massachusetts
February 17, 1989

Cyril Gray Cogswell
Founder

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WINTER ISSUE

December 1999

Cogswell Courier

From the Rear View Mirror

By Bernice Sonna

The recent reunion of the CFA having returned to Salem, Massachusetts, where the first took place September 1990, celebrated our 10th anniversary, incorporated February 1989, created a bit of reminiscing (day dreams, actually) that drifted through my thoughts. After several years of determined effort on the part of our founder Cyril Gray Cogswell, all was in place for the first gathering. Excitement and expectation was evident; the only regret was Cyril had become too ill to attend.

Having experienced many 'incidents' during my 25+ years of research (I like to think of them as destiny), another was about to come my way. I would never have known this momentous event was about to take place if now CFA member Cliff Haines of Augusta, Maine, had not phoned me to ask if I had seen the notice listed in the Yankee Magazine. Cliff's ancestor, Samuel Haines, was indentured to our Cogswell family and shared the voyage on the Angel Gabriel.

Several years prior I had attended a meeting at the Cogswell College in San Francisco together with Sumter Cogswell. The purpose, a proposal for a family association. Without having any knowledge of the results of that meeting perhaps I had put it all on the rear shelf of my memory bank...and now it was coming alive again!

'NO!' I had not seen the Yankee notice...and was I interested? 'Cliff, say goodbye so I can call to learn if any reservations are still possible at the Hawthorne Hotel!' My heart sank as I was told, 'no space available'. Persisting, I asked for help in locating accommodation close by with success at a B & B. I now began seeking flight reservations. Within three weeks I was on my way, with a tonnage of Cogswell information I had in my collection and eager to share.

But that had to come later. I made it! Looking forward to meeting with unknown cousins; eager to learn all about the ambitions and expectations of the association. IT WAS SUPER! It takes a lot to excite me more than family genealogy.

Gary Boyd Roberts was there to tell us about our 'Ancestors of American Presidents' and the opportunity to have an autographed copy of his book by that name.

The banquet was highlighted with a telephone conference call from Cyril for all to hear and enjoy, albeit with a certain amount of sadness due to his absence. What it would have meant to him to have been there! And to us also, although not knowing it would have been the one and only opportunity to meet our 'benefactor'.

We were treated with a very well organized bus trip through the area with a knowledgeable guide giving us moment to moment details of history as we passed by various homes. A very tasty box lunch under some shade trees served as a welcome break. How thrilled I was to be there, with a sort of 'going home' feeling. Of course the 'piece d'resistance' came when we visited the Cogswell Grant with Nina Little graciously pouring lemonade for us all. I was thoroughly enjoying everything, with no idea what the future held for me within the organization.

September, 1991 and another gathering was planned. This time at historical Pemaquid, Maine, where the Angel Gabriel so unceremoniously deposited our emigrating family in 1635. A bronze plaque was attached to a large stone commemorating that arrival for visitors to read.

September 1993 and time to 'go west' for our third reunion, and a western barbecue. I missed this one and in retrospect I should have been there as I was elected president! And I quickly realized it was best to keep Sumter's telephone number handy as my mind buzzed with pleas for help. Cyril had passed away in March at age 89...we were on our own. (cont'd page 2)

President's Corner

Dear Cogswell Cousins

It is an honor to be the president of this group. Our officers continue to do their jobs very efficiently, keeping the organization running smoothly.

Ed Cogswell and Steve Aberle are doing a fine job planning our September, 2000 reunion in Seattle. I hope many of you will attend. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Please contact me about any issues you would like to discuss.

.C.J.Castagnaro
smithc@pocketmail.com

3642 N. Garey Ave.#1
Pomona CA 91767
(909) 392-9734

Rear View Mirror (continued)

1995 we met in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, another historical Cogswell stronghold, followed by Charleston, SC in 1996 where 'north and south' came together amicably, enjoying a few good Civil War stories having Cogswells on both sides.

1997 we met in Sunnyvale, California. Hosted by the Cogswell College. We do bounce across the nation and perhaps it is because we have a nationwide membership.

1998 and we're on the road to Nova Scotia, Canada. So much of our ancestors mark this place... can we now claim to be 'international'? Better wait until we gather in Mother England some day.

And now it is 1999 so back to where we first met... you'll read about it elsewhere within these pages.

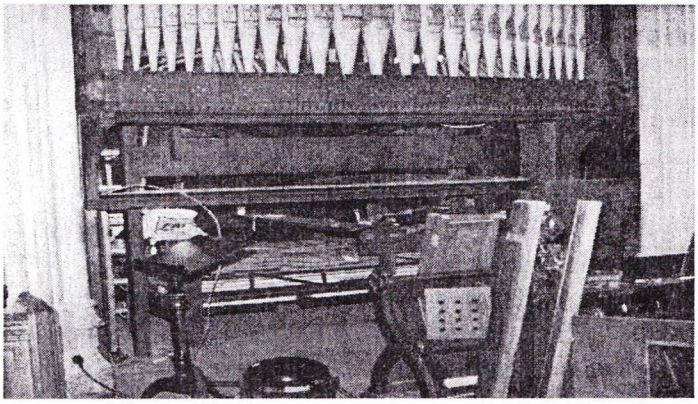
A sort of summary: We have: lost our founder; achieved 'nonprofit status'; had five presidents, developed our newsletter attaining an 'official' Editor; published 'The Descendants of John Cogswell'; made a group tour to Westbury Leigh in England; enjoyed eight reunions, and best of all we now number over 300 members having begun with approximately 65!

Now that was a lot of day dreaming... I just wanted to share our progress with our new members, as well as those 'not-so-new'. How very glad I am to be a part of the Cogswell Family Association.

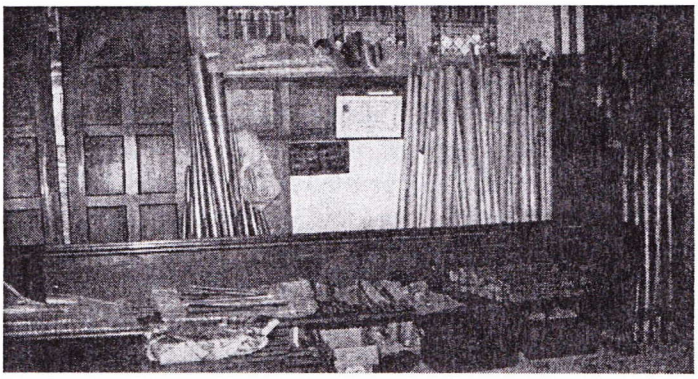
All Saints Organ Being Refurbished

By Steve Aberle

The 1866 Bevington organ at All Saints Church in Westbury is being refurbished, with the goal of having it functional again by Easter. When the work is complete, the organ will be reassembled in the stone archway directly West of its current location. This will allow the instrument to be better heard throughout the church.



"Stripped" organ (August 1999)



Pipes being boxed up (August 1999)

From the Editor's Desk

We are about to begin the last year of this millennium. Reflecting on this it would seem that
this would be a good chance to complete the many things we may have put on our agendas but for one reason or another have not done.

One of the things I have wanted to do was to learn desktop publishing. Well, I have my start and hopefully by the end of the year I will have it under my belt (thank you for bearing with me).

There are several trips Hal and I have wanted to take for some time but have postponed more than once. This will be the year! Of course the longer I think about it the longer the list grows.

I am not sure how to apply this to the CFA. Membership growth is always on the agenda and it certainly
isn't to be completed this year, hopefully never. We have never established a specific goal but certainly we all support the growth of the organization.

Perhaps we could all give a one-year membership as a gift to an offspring, sibling, or whatever.

It is always nice to end things with a big bang. MY New Year's wish is that you will each find your own way to use the last year of this millennium to do some of those things you have always wanted to do--or felt you should do--and go into the year 2001 with a clean slate, so to speak.

Happy Holidays

Courier Editor

Mary Lieberman

Articles for the April Courier

Will be due no later than

March 1, 2000

COGSWELL-LYMAN REMINDER SALE

"A HERITAGE OF LEAVERS: VOL II: COGSWELL-LYMAN", by David L. Taylor -- few remaining copies left, may be ordered from the publisher. Originally sold for $29 plus postage, briefly available for $15 plus $3.30 postage. This work, copyrighted in 1996, contains 143 pages of text plus 32 pages of pictures. The book traces lines of two great families from medieval Ireland, Scotland, France and England to New England (in the 1630's) then to points west, focusing on Pennsylvania (1794), where the families intermarried.

Order from **Dr. Howard Lyman Cogswell, Publisher**
1548 East Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541-5313

ORDER BLANK

Please send one copy of "A HERITAGE OF LEAVERS, VOL. II", for which I enclose $18.30, postage included to:

Name (Please print): _____
Address/P.O. : _____
City, State, Zip code: _____
Phone #: _____
Date: _____

A Family Member Remembers Henry Cogswell

By Richard Harrison

Dear Cousin Mary,

A feature in the current Cogswell Courier about the Henry Cogswell College brought back early memories. My Grandmother often spoke of her Uncle Henry. Her mother, Lucy Cogswell Reamer, and Henry shared the same father, George Washington Cogswell. She received $500 in Henry's will. With bad farming weather in Michigan that year, the bequest kept them going.

An Aunt, Ida Reamer Roberts, lived in Oakland, California much of her life. Also a recipient of $500, she took it on herself to tend his cemetery plot. He had an impressive obelisk. His wife a small marker on the border. Rumor's claim she shunned public notice. He even sported diamond shirt studs.

In the early 1920's lightning hit the large star atop the obelisk. Two 6" to 8" prongs split off. Aunt Ida gave it to a nephew for safekeeping. He brought it back to Michigan. I often looked admiringly on it. A number of years ago, I tried to retrieve it to donate to the College. My Aunt, who inherited the house, had married a man with the historical outlook of a small town Kroger manager, which he was. He disposed of everything old. It probably ended up in the local Kitchen Middens.

In 1943, after becoming ambulatory from Bethesda Naval Hospital, I walked down Pennsylvania Avenue. Nearing 7th Street, I spied a most amazing sight. A miniature Greek Temple covered a fountain of entwined Dolphins, atop stood a six-foot water crane. The canopy contained the words, FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, TEMPERANCE. I thought, "Whoever designed that must have had the DTs." Reaching the plaque, to my astonishment, it was my non-drinking Uncle Henry.

He had also given such monstrosities to 22 other cities, some with himself holding a water glass instead of the crane. Only Washington retained theirs. Years later, taking my wife to see it, two derelicts sat on the platform under "HOPE" and "TEMPERANCE" highlighting a cut-rate liquor store in the background.

WWW.COGSWELL.ORG

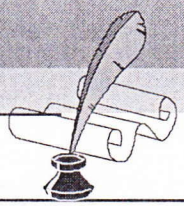
By Pat Cogswell - WebMaster

YOUR web site, which was first put on the Internet in March, 1999, has been constantly changing, so you should revisit it periodically just to see what's new. After the 1999 Reunion in Salem, a suggestion was made to include information on the 2000 England trip. This can be accessed from a link at the bottom of the "Officers, Board Members & Past Presidents" page. Plus all the new officers and board members have been added as well. Next someone suggested that it would make our secretary's life, Claire Cogswell Daigle, a little easier if we included the membership form on our web site, so a link was added to our home page "Cogswell Family Association" for the new membership page. If you are not yet a member... please feel free to visit our web site and print out a membership form and mail it to Claire.

Check the CFA Website for the latest additions to the *Prominent Cogswells in History*

Some of our members were very busy during their summer vacations and found new and exciting information, so a whole new page was added titled "New Discoveries/Information" which can be accessed from any page on YOUR web site. And finally, the Reunion 2000 committee has been very busy putting the wheels in motion for a splendid affair, so of course, I added a page entitled "Reunion 2000" to pique everyone's interest in attending.

If there is something you would like to see on YOUR web site, just drop me an email message (patcogswell@toadmail.toad.net) with the details (snail mail is OK too) and I'll be more than glad to enhance YOUR web site as much as you like. Thanks to all the folks who suggested the above information. YOUR web site wouldn't be possible without your help. Because of your ideas, our membership has grown and we've sold a number of books from people accessing **www.cogswell.org**.



From the Secretary's Desk

Dear Members,
We have returned from the family reunion in Salem after enjoying ourselves very much. Was nice to see so many new faces.
Want to "Thank" our past President Edna Roberds and John(Jack)Cogswell for a wonderful time. The food was great; the speaker Gary Boyd Roberts was delightful and interesting; the weather was hot and sunny and the tour was one that we won't forget for a long time. In other words everything was "wonderful". Thank You both!!
Final notices have gone out to members who still haven't paid their dues. Hope to hear from you soon.
Plans are in the works for the next reunion. If you haven't returned your survey please do so now. It will help the host and hostess to make the final plans.
Our membership is still growing at a good pace. This

I would like to mention again: if you are planning on moving or changing your address would you kindly let me know. Then I can make sure that you receive all the information I am sending out.
Also thanks to Ralph Cogswell, Ca.
for the photograph that I sent to reunion attendees.
Hope to see you all at the next reunion.
Hope you all have a nice holiday.
Your Secretary Claire Cogswell Daigle,

Membership questions?
Contact
Claire Cogswell Daigle
on the Internet at
secretary@cogswell.org

New Members of the Cogswell Family Association

David Glenn Cogswell, NJ

Mary Cogswell Baum, CA

William & Mary Cogswell, FL

Suzanne & John Graham, Canada

Allan Cogswell, OH

Louisa D. Cogswell, MA

Carolyn M. Facktor, MI

Sue Keith Elverston AR

Carolyn Cogswell, KY

Thomas L. Kincaid, AZ

Beverly Cameron , MA

Bruce & Holly Gagnon , CT

Evelyn Belli, NV

Janice Dewire, VA

Aaron J.Cogswell, NC

Reunion Impressions

Cogswell cousins met for the second time in the area of John Cogswell's first land grant in present-day Essex, MA. The Hotel Hawthorne in Salem was a wonderful meeting place and we all converged on their banquet hall Friday evening. Those of us who have attended several reunions now take so much joy in getting acquainted with our cousins from second to tenth, and some many times "removed"!

We can look up each other in the wonderful book *Descendants of John Cogswell* that Don Cogswell has done such a fine job on. It truly brought us nearer to our common ancestor John to visit Essex and the very land where he and succeeding generations have lived. Warren Little showed slides and told us what his boyhood was like living there. His parents' interest in art, furnishings, and all aspects of Colonial living is around there for all to see. They turned the property over to SPNEA (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities) and it is open to visitors.

Our tour of the property the next day was a delight, thanks to the Society's care of everything and the charming and knowledgeable docents who led us. They seem interested in having our association's cooperation. Our group then visited the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.

Gary Boyd Roberts, a renowned professional genealogist, was our speaker Saturday evening, and he does not trace just one family name. He traced the lines of families that Cogswells married into . Among the many notable persons who had Cogswells in their ancestry were Princess Diana, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Lou Henry Hoover, Julia Ward Howe, and the children of Shirley Temple Black.

I basked in all that reflected glory and then realized that I had always been proud of being a Cogswell, like my mother, grandfather, and cousins Mary Rockwell and Bernice Sonna, Claire Daigle, John Cogswell, and all of the admirable people who started the Association. I take pride in our new book and the next projects you will all be helping with, such as scholarships and replacing the vandalized plaque at Pemaquid, Maine.

It is always great to hear details of specific family lines. Evie Eisenhard and Howard Cogswell both started in Pennsylvania and each of us found interest in comparing Rodney Cogswell's stories of schooling. Mary and Hal Lieberman showed those same interests. Cogswells seem to be very interesting people!

--

-Edith Hall

First Wigwag in Battlefield

COGSWELL INVOLVED IN FIRST BATTLEFIELD USE OF WIGWAG

It was a relatively minor Civil War engagement, but it produced a battlefield "first." In December, 1861, Union troops occupied Port Royal Island, South Carolina. Confederate troops held the mainland and were busy building a fort to defend against any attempt at crossing the Coosaw River. The Federal forces under Brig. Gen. Isaac L. Stevens determined to destroy these batteries.

An assault force of 3000 men crossed the river on the night of December 31. The next day they headed for the Confederate fort. The Army troops were protected by Navy gunboats furnishing artillery support, something the Southerners lacked. The attack succeeded in large measure because communication between the troops and the gunboats was maintained by a wigwag system.

Devised before the war, the system was based on a single flag signaling dots or dashes, depending on whether it was moved to the right or left. Two signal officers, Lt. Henry S. Tafft with the troops on shore and Capt. William Sterling Cogswell [#2492] serving aboard the gunboat Ottawa, were in communication during the march to the fort. Thus the gunboats were able constantly to shell the woods in front of the Union troops and drive the Confederates from their positions. According to Gen. Stevens, this was the first test of the wigwag signaling system in the field—and it proved a decided success.

Subsequently, Cogswell participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and others, and was with Gen. Sherman on his march through the Southern states. He retired as a lieutenant-colonel, studied law, and practiced his profession in Brooklyn, NY.

(See *The News and Courier and Charleston* [SC] *Evening Post,* Nov. 7, 1961.)

William B. Cogswell Inducted into RPI Hall of Fame

By Mary Lieberman

Last summer I received a phone call from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) from a gentleman who had been referred to me as editor of the Courier by Arnold Cogswell (a CFA member and a board member at RPI). He was looking for a direct descendant of William B. Cogswell (#4466) a member of the class of 1852. In this instance he lucked out, as W.B. Cogswell is my great-grandfather.

I and other direct descendants, including my cousin Ronald C. Morse, a CFA member, were subsequently invited to attend the induction ceremony of WBC and thirteen other notable graduates. There were eight who had graduated before 1900.

William B.Cogswell
Class of 1852
Man of Diverse Ingenuity

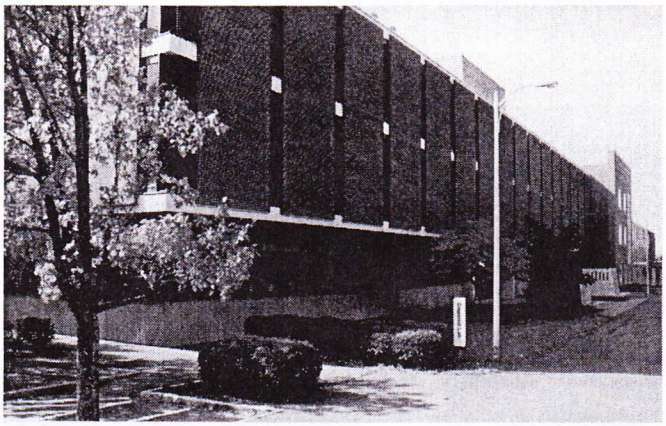
As a youth of 12, William Cogswell created architectural plans for a hotel built in Syracuse. As a Civil War Navy engineer, he converted old whalers into floating machine shops, enabling warships to be repaired while in service.

He introduced the Solvay Process of manufacturing soda to this country. His company in central New York became the largest manufacturer of soda ash and its derivatives in the United States. The Cogswell Laboratory, on the Rensselaer Campus, is named for this generous benefactor of Rensselaer.

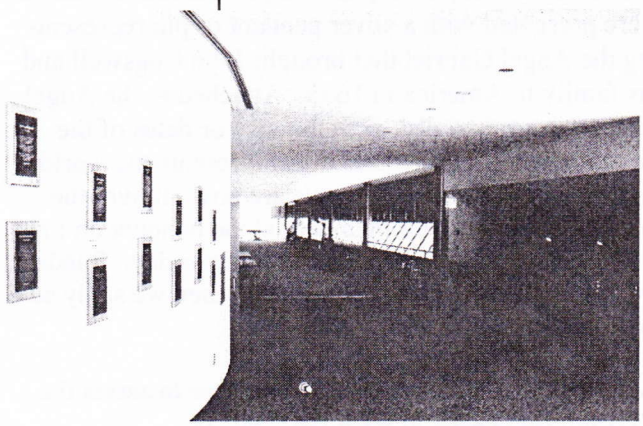
One of these was Asa Fitch, a pioneer in insect research and the first entomologist in New York State. You may think the name familiar. He is indeed a relative of Mason Fitch Cogswell (of Hartford School for the Deaf fame).

WBC is in good company in the RPI Hall of Fame. Others include a Nobel Prizewinner, the builders of the Brooklyn, Williamsburg, and Verrazano Narrows bridges, the inventor of the Ferris wheel, and the "father"of the micro processor. The ceremony was very dignified and quite impressive. Each inductee, if not present, was represented by a descendant or family member and presented with a glass replica of the window which is in the Hall of Fame (see picture).

The ceremony was followed by a reception and gourmet dinner.



Wm.B. Cogswell Laboratory building



Rensselaer Alumni Hall of Fame: Middle right is the bank of windows etched (as above) with picture of honorees.

Salem/Essex Reunion 1999

By Edna Cogswell Roberds

Reunion 1999 is over but not forgotten. It was held in Salem/Essex, Massachusetts and brought back fond memories for the ones of us who attended the 1990 reunion in the same area. We stayed at the same hotel and visited the same places. There were certainly changes in 9 years but still there was the feel of a small shipbuilding town. At the Shipbuilding Museum we heated up and bent the wood to make the side of a boat. While visiting the old graveyard behind the museum we came upon a Cogswell monument in need of restoration and the CFA decided to come to its rescue. This was our first visit to the Cogswell's Grant since SPNEA took over the management and we were treated royally. Rennie Little shared a slide show the night before which helped us combine the personal "Little" touch with the preservation of the SPNEA.

Old Cogswell monument In Essex graveyard In need of repair

New on our tour was The First Congregational Church across the street from the graveyard and we were blessed to have Kirk and Mary Wilheim tell us the history and the Cogswell connection. Now that the CFA has its own web page we had private workshops for anyone who wanted to see the sight during our free times in the hospitality room. At our banquet on Friday night all past and present reunion hosts were presented with a silver pendant or pin representing the Angel Gabriel that brought John Cogswell and his family to America in 1635. Attached to the Angel Gabriel is a round disk with the date or dates of the hosted reunion. The round disk represents the world and reminds us that Cogswells are now all over the world. There were 68 members at the banquet on Friday night and 62 on the bus tour on Saturday. Sunday was spent sharing family stories and then we sadly said goodbye for yet another year.

Lower right: Jack Cogswell showing how to access the CFA internet pages at www.cogswell.org

Above: C.J. Castagnaro, our new president, addressing the group at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem

Above: Cogswell's Grant

Cogswell Family Reunion – Salem/Essex, 1999

Searching for the Children of John and Elizabeth Cogswell

by Stephen Aberle

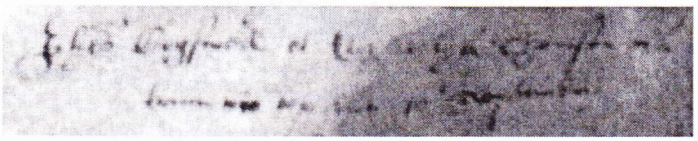
Did you ever search for an answer, only to end up with more questions then you started with? That is exactly what happened to me following a visit in August 1999 to the Wiltshire Records Office in Trowbridge, just north of Westbury.

It all started out simply enough … I was looking through the book "Descendants of John Cogswell, The Cogswell Family: 1635-1996", and became curious about finding the exact baptism dates for the children of ancestral immigrants John and Elizabeth Cogswell. The obvious place to start was with the original parish records for Westbury. But how many registers are there? In his book *The Cogswells in America* the Reverend Ephraim Orcutt Jameson mentions (on page "x") "The Register of the Chapel of Westbury Leigh" and later (on page "xi") refers to "The Register of the Parish of All Saints" and "The Register of Westbury". Did this mean there are three separate registers?

When I arrived at the Wiltshire Records Office in Trowbridge, where all original parish registers from throughout the county are now kept in climate controlled conditions, I asked the archivists how many different parish registers exist for Westbury. Their answer was that there is just a single set of registers, for All Saints Church, with the earliest dating from the mid-1500's. The individual entries for baptisms, marriages, and burials listed in both *The Cogswells in America* (hereafter CIA) and in the *Descendants of John Cogswell, The Cogswell Family: 1635-1996* (hereafter DJC) are all contained in the same register, which is the oldest of the set.

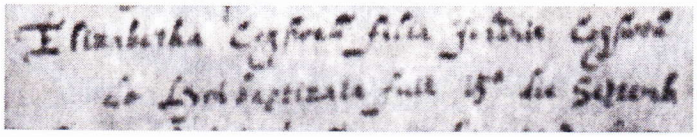
The archivists at the records office were kind enough to let me examine and photograph the original registers from All Saints. Although I felt like I needed to wear white gloves to protect the pages from further deterioration caused by exposure to human skin oils, they did not require it.

I started by locating the marriage entry for John and Elizabeth Cogswell, and then went on to find the baptism records for their children. The older register entries are in Latin, so I quickly learned that "filius" means "son" and "filia" means "daughter." It also took a bit of getting used to seeing the letter "s" extend both above and below the other lower-case characters on a line. Further, it was apparent that the spelling of the Cogswell surname varied from parish clerk to parish clerk with Cogeswell, Coggeswell, Coggswell, Cogswell, and Cogszell all appearing in various places within the register. The geographical spellings varied as well with Liegh, Lygh, Ligh, Lye all being used as alternates for Westbury Leigh.



10 Sep 1615 – marriage of John Cogswell and Elizabeth Thomson

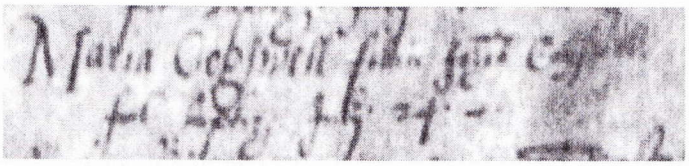
This entry is very difficult to read as it is in the lower right corner of a right-hand page, which is darkened, with what may once have been mildew. Note that the spelling of Elizabeth's maiden name is "Thomson," not "Thompson," as is widely reported. This is consistent with all references to Reverend Thomson in the parish registers.



15 Sep 1616 – baptism of Elizabetha Cogswell

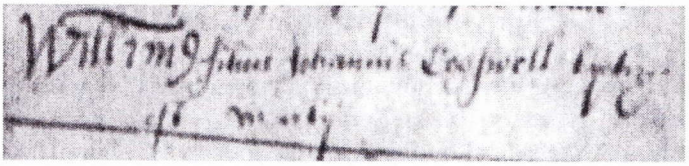
Elizabetha, or Elizabeth if we anglicize the spelling, is apparently the name of the eldest daughter of John and Elizabeth Cogswell, the one who remained behind to live in London when the rest of the family departed for the colonies. She is an unnumbered entry in CIA and is entry #2 in DJC. John Cogswell is shown as Johanis Cogswell of Lygh in this parish register entry.

Searching for the Children of John and Elizabeth Cogswell (continued)



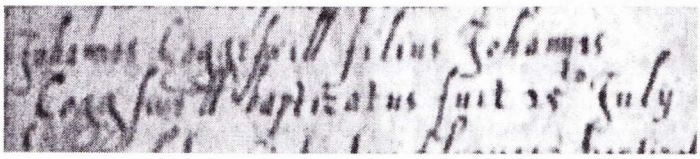
24 Jul 1618 – baptism of Maria Cogswell

Maria, or Mary, is entry #2 in CIA and is entry #3 in the DJC. John Cogswell is shown as Johan in this parish register entry.



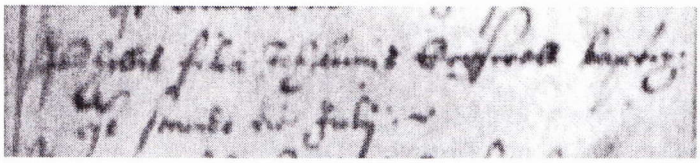
Mar 1619/20 – baptism of William Cogswell

William is entry #3 in CIA and is entry #4 in the DJC. John Cogswell is shown asJohannis in this parish register entry.



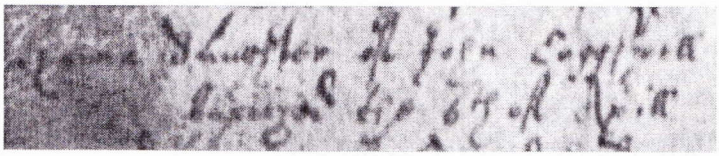
25 Jul 1622 – baptism of Johannes Coggeswell

Johannes, or John, is entry #4 in CIA and is entry #5 in the DJC. Both John and his father are shown as Johannes and the surname is spelled Coggeswell for the son and Coggswell for the father in this parish register entry.



2 Jul 1624 – baptism of Phyllis Cogswell

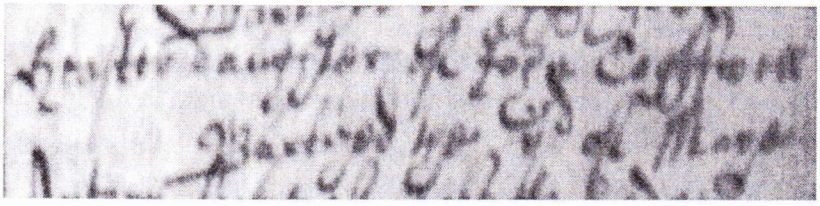
Phyllis is not listed in CIA and is entry #6 in DJC. This entry is perhaps the hardest to read in the register of any of the Cogswell children. John Cogswell is shown as Johannis Cogswell in this parish register entry.



6 Apr 1626 – baptism of Hanna Coggeswell

Hanna is entry #5 in CIA and is entry #7 in the DJC. This entry is the first child with the relationship shown in English (daughter) instead of in Latin (filia).

Searching for the Children of John and Elizabeth Cogswell (continued)



4 May 1628 – baptism of Heaster Coggswell

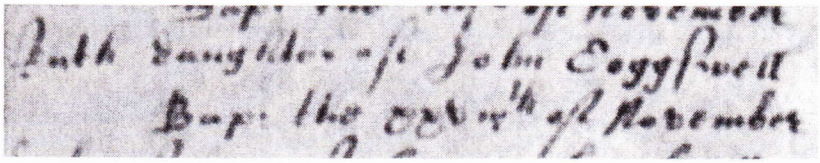
Heaster is not listed in either CIA or in the DJC.

16 Apr 1630 – baptism of Edward Coggeswell

Edward is entry #7 in CIA and is entry #9 in the DJC.

29 Sep 1631 – baptism of Alice Cogswell

Alice is not listed in CIA and is entry #10 in the DJC. The entry for the day of the baptism for Alice differs from previous Cogswell children in that the day is represented in roman numerals ("XXIX").



25 Nov 1633– baptism of Ruth Coggswell

Ruth is not listed in CIA and is entry #11 in the DJC. The day of Ruth's baptism, like that of her sister Alice, is represented in roman numerals ("XXV").

Searching for the Children of John and Elizabeth Cogswell (continued)

So where do the additional questions about the children of John and Elizabeth Cogswell mentioned at the beginning of this article come in? Here is a list of record anomalies and comments (of which there are likely many more):

- Both the 1884 and the 1998 books list a daughter named Abigail who married a Thomas Clark. Neither the All Saints nor the Dilton parish records document an Abigail Cogswell.

- Both the 1884 and the 1998 books list a daughter named Sarah who married a Simon Tuttle. Neither of the parish records documents a Sarah Cogswell.

- Both the 1884 and the 1998 books list a daughter named Elizabeth who married a Nathaniel Masterson. The All Saints parish register shows an Elizabeth Coggeswell, daughter of Robeart, baptized on 2 Feb 1626, and the St. Mary's parish register in Dilton shows an Elizabeth Coggeswell, daughter of Edward, baptized on 2 October 1650.

- One would certainly expect that John and Elizabeth had all of their children baptized, but why, if they were their children, are Abigail, Sarah, and Elizabeth (circa 1635) missing from the parish registers?

- Since John and Elizabeth Cogswell's eldest daughter ("Elizabetha" according to the All Saints records) was visited in London in 1652 by her brother John, it would be unlikely that there would have been two daughters of John and Elizabeth Cogswell with the same first name living at the same time.

- Why was the baptismal record of Heaster Cogswell not located previously and included in the 1884 and 1998 books?

- Conflicting information found on the LDS Church web site shows Elizabeth Cogswell married Nathaniel Masterson on 31 Jul 1657, in 1663, or before 1673 in either Westbury, Wiltshire, Ipswich, MA, or York, ME. Nathaniel is shown as having been born anywhere between 1629 and 1632 in either England, Maine, or Massachusetts. Other information suggests that this Elizabeth Cogswell had a daughter (Sarah Masterson, who eventually married Arthur Bragdon) about 1674, and died in Maine in 1691.

Readers are invited to share their own research and theories about these quandaries in future editions of the Cogswell Courier.

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* The author is a computer network manager living in the greater Seattle area and joined the Cogswell Family Association in 1998. He is descended from Elizabeth Cogswell (1648-1736) via the Wellman, Jennings, Whittlesey, McGrew, and Aberle family lines; and also from Hannah Cogswell (1719-1776) via the Beale, Whittlesey, McGrew, and Aberle family lines.

Close Companion of Lincolns lived in town for years

By Michael Salvatore
(excerpted from South Windsor [CT] Lifestyle, May 20, 1999)

If it were not for her strict Christian upbringing --- which included several years in South-Windsor --- Elizabeth Cogswell [#1314] Dixon would very likely have been sitting next to Mary Todd Lincoln at Ford's Theater on that fateful April 15, 134 years ago.

Dixon was one of the only three close friends that Lincoln had in Washington. She and her husband, Sen. James Dixon, were frequent companions of the Lincolns. The two men were colleagues in Congress in 1847, almost two decades before the assassination, and shared political philosophies. When Lincoln lost his bid for reelection as an Illinois representative, Dixon backed his quest for a federal post in the land office. And it was Mrs. Dixon who was called upon to comfort Mrs. Lincoln as the wounded president lay on his deathbed.

The long and close relationship backs the Dixon family tradition that the couple had been invited by the Lincolns to join them in viewing "Our American Cousin." In fact, more than a dozen people had declined similar invitations, most for political or social reasons. Although the Civil War had just ended, Lincoln still had many political enemies, and his wife was said to be a trying companion. In 1863, one of Dixon's political enemies complained that the senator was "snuggling him (Lincoln) up all the evening" at a Shakespearean theater production.

The Dixons had a straightforward reason for avoiding the theater that night. It was, after all, Good Friday, and they were strict Episcopalians. Additionally, the senator had made prior arrangements to return to Hartford for business.

The future senator was born in Enfield in 1814. His wife-to-be was born in Saco, Maine in 1819, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Cogswell, a Harvard graduate and distinguished churchman. The family moved frequently due to church assignments which included parishes in New York City and New Britain, but his daughter, Elizabeth Lord Cogswell, attained a formal education.

One of the minister's posts was professor of church history at the new Theological Institute of Connecticut in the East Windsor Hill section of what was then East Windsor. Independently wealthy, he not only served without salary, but donated generously to the new school, including his extensive library. His wife died during his tenure here and is buried in the Main Street Cemetery.

With three other children besides Elizabeth, Cogswell remarried here in 1837. By that time, Dixon had been admitted to the bar and built his own reputation while practicing in his father's Enfield law office. He soon moved to Hartford to open his own office.

Dixon was quite impressed by the sprawling new seminary on his trips from Hartford to Enfield and struck an acquaintance with Cogswell and his daughter, who was noted for her beauty and described by one family friend as both "highly educated and socially gracious."

The young couple's relationship grew, and they were married in East Windsor Hill in 1840, making their home in Hartford. Dixon's legal and political influence was also growing, and he was elected to Congress as a Whig in 1845 and again in 1847. Besides Lincoln, his colleagues included former President John Quincy Adams. In a diary she kept during their first four years in Washington, Dixon's wife described most of the leading political and social figures of the era, including her close friend Julia Gardiner Tyler, the wife of the former president.

Another capital observer of the time, Richard Spofford described Mrs. Dixon as "the most accomplished lady I have ever seen in Washington." The Dixons were guests at the most important social functions in the district. And, when they returned to Hartford after 1850, they in turn hosted such luminaries as Generals Scott, Sheridan, and Hancock, Secretary of State William Seward, and newspaper editor Horace Greeley

Dixon returned to Washington in 1857 for the first of three terms as U.S. senator. With his strong anti-slavery feelings, he became an important political ally of Lincoln. Once the Civil War started, Mrs. Dixon tended wounded soldiers, sometimes accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln.

Soon after Lincoln was shot and taken to a home across the street from Ford's theater, his son Robert sent for Mrs. Dixon to comfort his mother. She stayed with her through the night and accompanied her to the White House

continued on page 15

Close Companion of Lincolns lived in town for years (continued)

the next morning, remaining until noon, according to contemporary letters and diaries. Dixon himself was among those accompanying Lincoln's body home to Springfield.

The Dixons were also close politically and socially, with President Andrew Johnson. The senator's ties with the Democrat and his continuing moderate views cost him the nomination for re-election in 1868. And, when he ran for Congress as a Democrat the following year, he also lost.

The Dixons returned to their Hartford mansion, which was no longer the social club it had been earlier, traveled to Europe, and busied themselves with family and church matters. Dixon withdrew more as he grew deaf and suffered cardiac weakness., His wife, known in South Windsor only three decades earlier as the vibrant and accomplished Elizabeth Lord Cogswell, died in 1871. Dixon died two years later, and both are buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

Submitted by Lawrence P. Cogswell, Jr.

Birth Announcements

GAVIN THOMAS DOLBY (9 LBS. 11 OZ.)
SON OF TREVOR
AND LORI DOLBY AND A 14TH
GENERATION COGSWELL
DESCENDANT, WAS BORN AT 2:08
AM ON OCTOBER
31ST, 1999 IN SOUTHAMPTON,
ENGLAND. THIS IS
THE GRANDSON OF STEVE AND SUE

Report on Cogswell Family Tour to England in May 2000

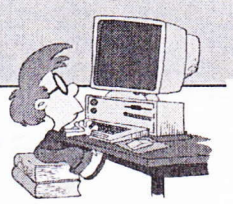
A number of you have signed up for this tour, but more are needed to insure that this trip makes.

If you are interested in joining the group, now is the time to take action.

A good time will be had by all!

Please note: The deadline for sign-up is December 15th.

From the Historian's Desk



The enclosed article is from the 18 April 1999 Washington Post. I will testify to the accuracy of the article, since I was invited to a meeting of the Cogswellians. The members were somewhat apprehensive about my presence, since the last Cogswell invited, upon realizing the purpose of the assembly, got in a serious huff, made a VERY crude remark, and stormed out of the restaurant. I, on the other hand, having a somewhat more liberal attitude toward occasional ingestion of Demon Rum, congratulated the members for (even sarcastically) preserving the memory of Dr. Henry Cogswell. The Cogswellians decided to award me a memento of the occasion, and I received the tattered black and blue Henry Cogswell Temperance Ribbon (actually, it's green) with the Henry Cogswell Medal. Since only full members may enjoy the honor of wearing that esteemed device, I did not receive the coveted "Coat Hanger."

The Cogswellians, our members may be interested to know, include the absolute Who's Who of Washington, D.C., society. Every man present (it is a men's organization) represented the Washington elite, including captains of industry, VERY high government officials, high-ranking military officers, a household-name stock brokerage owner, a Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper reporter, among others. "To Temperance; I'll drink to that."

HOW TO KEEP YOUR TEMPERANCE AND HIKE FOR TYKES

By Ray Lustig – Washington Post

When it comes to public fountains, the once-neglected Temperance Fountain at Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW may lack grandeur, but it has a unique history and an active following of Washingtonians dedicated to its protection.....

The fountain arrived in Washington circa 1880, gift of Henry D. Cogswell, a millionaire San Francisco dentist who dreamed of solving the nation's problems—all of them, not just the drinking of distilled spirits—by simply getting citizens to drink more water. So convinced was he that he had found the way to the nation's well-being that he shut down his dental practice and devoted his life to contributing temperance fountains to cities around the country.

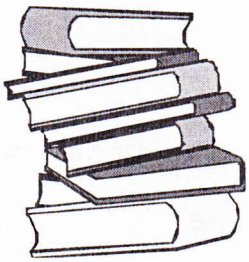
The Washington fountain is a simple but tasteful Victorian design of entwined dolphins surrounded by Greek columns, topped by a canopy featuring a heron. On the four sides of the canopy are carved the Cogswell message: Faith, Hope, Charity, and Temperance. The top of the heron's head takes on added charm as a favorite resting place for many pigeons that live in the area.

One of the fountain's early critics was Sen. Thomas Downey of California, who called it "the ugliest statue [in] Washington...which should be torn down by chains and dragged away." Even more disrespectful was the passerby who flung a coat hanger around the lead heron's neck, where it lay untouched and rusting for 13 years, thought by some to be a reflection of public indifference to Dr. Cogswell's theory.

But now the coat hanger is gone, and the fountain and its benefactor are honored each month at meetings of the Cogswell Society. Founded in 1973 to preserve the memory of the dedicated dentist and his gift to the city. Cogswellians proudly wear the society's symbol, a blue-and-black ribbon supporting a gold hanger, a constant reminder of past neglect of the fountain. Their stated objective is "the protection of the beloved Temperance Fountain from vandals——official and unofficial." And at each meeting, the members express their loyalty by standing, heron-fashion, on one leg and repeating the Temperance Toast: "To Temperance; I'll drink to that."

Your faithful scrivener,
Don

PS The only thing missing from full restoration of the fountain is——running water. A potential CFA project ???



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