

# The Ancestors and Descendants of Benjamin Franklin Gates and his wife Harriet L. Fowler

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### I. The Ancestors of Benjamin Franklin Gates (1845-1917)

Benjamin Franklin Gates' paternal ancestry traces back to **Stephen<sup>1</sup> Gates**, the third son and fourth child of Eustace and Rose (Wright) Gates. Stephen was baptized on December 26, 1597, in Coney Weston, a rural village in Suffolk, England. On May 5, 1628, in Hingham, England, Stephen married Ann Neave, born circa 1603.

In 1638, Stephen, his wife and two children sailed aboard the ship "Diligent" from England to the Massachusetts Bay colony in America. They settled first at Hingham, but later moved to Lancaster when it was being settled. After 1656, Stephen moved to Cambridge, where he died in 1662.

**Thomas<sup>2</sup> Gates**, son of Stephen<sup>1</sup>, was born in 1642 in Massachusetts. On July 6, 1670, he married Elizabeth Freeman, the daughter of Edmund Freeman of Sudbury, Massachusetts. "They resided at Stow, Marlboro, and Sudbury, Mass., and in 1703 went to Norwich, Connecticut, to that part which afterward became Preston." Thomas seems to have moved to Connecticut with most or all of his living children, who married and/or died there. Some sources say Thomas Gates died on August 10, 1726 in Preston, Connecticut.

**Josiah<sup>3</sup> Gates** (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1682 in Stow, Massachusetts. Apparently he moved to Connecticut with his father: In 1714 he married Grace Rathbone of Colchester, Connecticut. They settled in Colchester. Josiah Gates died probably sometime after August 22, 1763.

**Thomas<sup>4</sup> Gates** (Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born July 3, 1724 in Colchester, Conn. On December 22, 1748, Thomas married Ruth Randall. Thomas Gates died May 12, 1793, "in his 69<sup>th</sup> year." He and his wife are buried in the Rathbone Cemetery in Salem, Connecticut. His wife's gravestone inscription says, "Mrs. Ruth Gates, relict of Deac[o]n. Thomas Gates, died June 13, 1813, in her 82<sup>nd</sup> year."

**Abel<sup>5</sup> Gates** (Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1768 in Colchester, Conn. In September 1788, he married Rhoda Gardner.



We have found unconfirmed data saying that Rhoda Gardner's parents were William Gardner (also spelled "Gardiner") and Sarah Randall; and that Sarah was a sister to Abel Gates' own mother Ruth Randall. If this is true, Abel Gates and his wife Rhoda were first cousins.

Rhoda (Gardner) Gates died August 29, 1821, "aged 56 years." Abel Gates died December 11, 1850, "aged 82 years." Rhoda and Abel Gates are buried in the Rathbone Cemetery in Salem, Connecticut.

**Enos<sup>6</sup> Gates** (Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born February 16, 1800, in Salem, Connecticut. He was a stone mason. On January 2, 1825, in Lyme, Connecticut, he married Mary Ann Payne, born August 13, 1806, the daughter of Nehemiah Payne and Nancy Harrington.

Though Enos and Mary Ann made their home in Columbia, Connecticut, for many years, they later moved to New London, Connecticut. Mary Ann (Payne) Gates died in New London on August 15, 1882. Enos died May 25, 1887, in Waterbury, Connecticut. They are buried in Jordan Cemetery in Waterford, Connecticut (Lot 310, Avenue G).

**Benjamin Franklin<sup>7</sup> Gates** (Enos<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born on May 6, 1845, in Columbia, Connecticut.

Benjamin F. Gates served in the Civil War with Company I, 26th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at the rank of private. In his later years, he received a pension for this military service. (Benjamin gave his year of birth as 1844 when he joined the Grand Army of the Republic. Did he lie about his age in order to enlist? Probably.)

On December 13, 1869, in New London, Benjamin married **Harriet L. Fowler**. Harriet was born in Waterford on August 3, 1848, the daughter of Lester Fowler and Charlotte H. Fengar.

Benjamin and Harriet Gates had two daughters and two sons – Edith, Anne, Frederic, and Frank – whose families are described in their own sections, following that of their parents, below.

Harriet (Fowler) Gates died September 10, 1912, in New London. Benjamin F. Gates died in New Windsor, Maryland, on September 6, 1917. His body was brought back to Connecticut to be interred with Harriet in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New London.

## II. The Ancestors of Harriet L. Fowler (1848-1912)

The ancestry of Harriet L. Fowler includes lines of descent through old New England families, notably the Brooks family of Woburn, Massachusetts, and the Minor/Miner family of Stonington, Connecticut.

**Harriet L. Fowler** was the daughter and eldest child of **Lester Fowler** (1818 – 1899) and **Charlotte H. Fengar** (1829 – 1911).

**Lester Fowler** was born in 1818 in Connecticut, probably in Waterford. Circumstantial evidence tells us that Lester's parents were **James Fowler** (Sr.) and his wife **Hannah Lester**: James and Hannah are buried in East Neck Cemetery, in Waterford, right next to Lester Fowler and his wife Charlotte. It's



pretty convincing, also, that Lester Fowler's given name matches Hannah's maiden name. James Fowler was born circa 1763; he died on March 27, 1845. Hannah Lester was born circa 1777; she died December 12, 1849, in Waterford.

Lester married **Charlotte H. Fengar** circa 1847 (based on the birth date of their first child, Harriet). Charlotte, born in January 1829, probably in Waterford, was the daughter of **Thomas Fengar** and **Lucretia H. Brooks**. Lester and Charlotte Fowler resided on what is now Ocean Avenue in New London. The Fengar family lived just up the road.

Lester Fowler died on May 14, 1899. Charlotte (Fengar) Fowler passed away on May 2, 1911, at her home on Ocean Avenue. She outlived not only her husband but also five of her thirteen children. Charlotte and Lester are buried in East Neck Cemetery to the immediate right of James and Hannah (Lester) Fowler.

**Charlotte H. Fengar's** father was **Thomas Fengar** (c. 1801 – 1877), the son of **William Fengar** (c. 1750 – 1818) and **Abigail Minor** (1766 – 1815). Since Thomas's father William represents the very beginning of our Fengar family line, we'll start here with William and work our way back to Thomas.

**William Fengar** was born circa 1750. He died sometime between October 13, 1817, the date given on his will, and February 24, 1818, the date on which the *Hartford Courant* newspaper published the notice of William's death, at age 68, in Waterford, Connecticut.

Edith L. Gates' second cousin, Marjorie Fengar<sup>5</sup> Swazey (Carlotta<sup>4</sup>, Alvan Ackley<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup> Fengar), apparently captured some Fengar family lore in a handwritten document which, in turn, was preserved by her descendants. We cannot attest to the truth of this lore but, by the same token, have no competing data with which to disprove it. As written by Marjorie Fengar (Swazey) Ames (1893-1958):

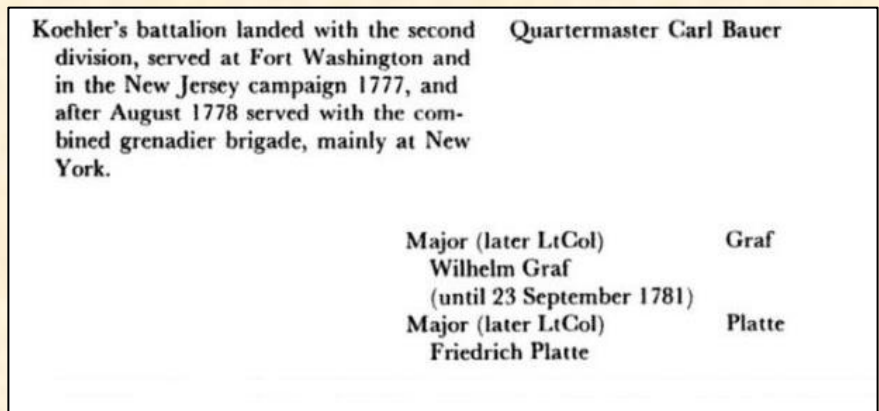
The presence of William Fengar in America as he related to his son Thomas was brought about as follows. He was a Hessian soldier who came to America from Hesse-Cassel, Germany, in the German army which the English employed to subdue the American Colonies in the War of the Revolution. He must have been among the troops stationed at Yorktown, for says he deserted in the night before the battle of Yorktown, with eight other soldiers. Connecticut Records of Connecticut men in the War of the Revolution say: "At Yorktown on October 14, 1781, a storming column captured one of the enemy's redoubts, which hastened its surrender, which occurred on the 19th of October, 1781. Storming column was proceeded by a 'forlorn hope' of 20 men of the 4th Connecticut Regt." Connecticut had 36 companies at Yorktown. William Fengar said his name in German was William Van Graf, the English of which is William Fengar.

That last line – about William's name in German being Van Graf – does not pan out; there is no correlation between the two. We also know that the prefix van is Dutch, not German. When we did some basic searching on the terms "Hesse-Cassel" and "von Graf," however, we were startled to find that the **Hesse-Kassel Grenadier Battalion v. Graf** was active in the area of New York in 1779. This battalion was designated "von Graf" for its commander, Wilhelm von Graf, whose name is associated with this battalion for the year 1781 (bold type added below for emphasis):

Hesse-Kassel 4th Grenadiere Bataillon von Köehler  
Commander: 1776, Oberstleutnants [lieutenant colonels] von Köehler, 1779,  
**Wilhelm von Graf**, 1781, Friedrich Platte

(Our source for this, <http://peter.mackenzie.org/history/hist531.htm>, seems to be defunct.)

The image on the right comes from pages 259-260 of Rodney Atwood's book *The Hessians: Mercenaries from Hessen-Kassel in the American Revolution* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2002). We observe that Wilhelm (von) Graf's tenure as a commander is given an end date of September 23, 1781.



Two Hessian regiments fought at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781, though we found no more detailed description than that they were “subjects of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel.”

Given all of this, we deem it possible that William Fengar was a Hessian soldier who left his unit and ended up making a new life in Connecticut. And if that's true, the place where he deserted might have been *Yorktown*, Virginia, or – more likely – New *York*. Getting from New York to Connecticut is much easier to accomplish than getting from Virginia to Connecticut.

The surname Fengar and its half-dozen spelling variations appear in only a few places in the US by the time of the first federal census. William Fengar, listed in Waterford in 1790 as William “Finger,” was the only head of household with that surname in Connecticut. At one time there was a place in Waterford called Fengar's Hollow, probably located where William made his home. Fenger Brook (note the different spelling), which drains into Alewife Cove in Waterford, is a vestige of William's early presence in that town.

The lineage of William Fengar's wife **Abigail Minor** traces back to Thomas Minor (1608 – 1690). This surname is also found spelled as “Miner.”

**Thomas<sup>1</sup> Minor** was born in Chew Magna, Somerset county, England, in 1608. He emigrated to Salem, Massachusetts Bay colony, around 1629-30. On April 23, 1634, in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Thomas married **Grace Palmer** (1612 – 1690), the daughter of Walter Palmer. Grace, too, was an English immigrant. Thomas and Grace – and Grace's father – were among the founders of the town of Stonington, Connecticut. One of the ten children of Thomas and Grace (Palmer) Minor was a son they named Clement (1639 – 1700). Thomas and Grace both died in 1690. They are buried together in Wequetequock (“Wickety-quock”) Cemetery in Stonington.

**Clement<sup>2</sup> Miner** (Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born circa 1639, likely in Hingham, Massachusetts. On November 26, 1662, in New London, Connecticut, Clement married **Frances Burcham**. Clement and Frances (Burcham) Miner had children, including a son they named William (1670 – 1725). Frances died in New London on December 6, 1672. Clement Miner died in New London on November 8, 1700.

**William<sup>3</sup> Minor** (Clement<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born on November 6, 1670, in New London. Around 1693, in Lyme, Connecticut, William married **Sarah Beckwith**, born on April 14, 1677, in Lyme. They had children, one of whom was a son they named Elihu (1722 – 1807). Sarah (Beckwith) Minor died in Lyme on March 24, 1721/22. William died on April 18, 1725, in New London.

**Elihu<sup>4</sup> Minor** (William<sup>3</sup>, Clement<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born in Lyme, Connecticut, on March 13, 1722, the youngest of about fourteen children. On March 21, 1745, in East Haddam, Connecticut, Elihu married **Keziah Willey**, born on March 26, 1723, in East Haddam. The lastborn of Keziah's eleven children



with Elihu was daughter Abigail. Keziah (Willey) Minor died in East Haddam circa 1790. Elihu died on March 29, 1807.

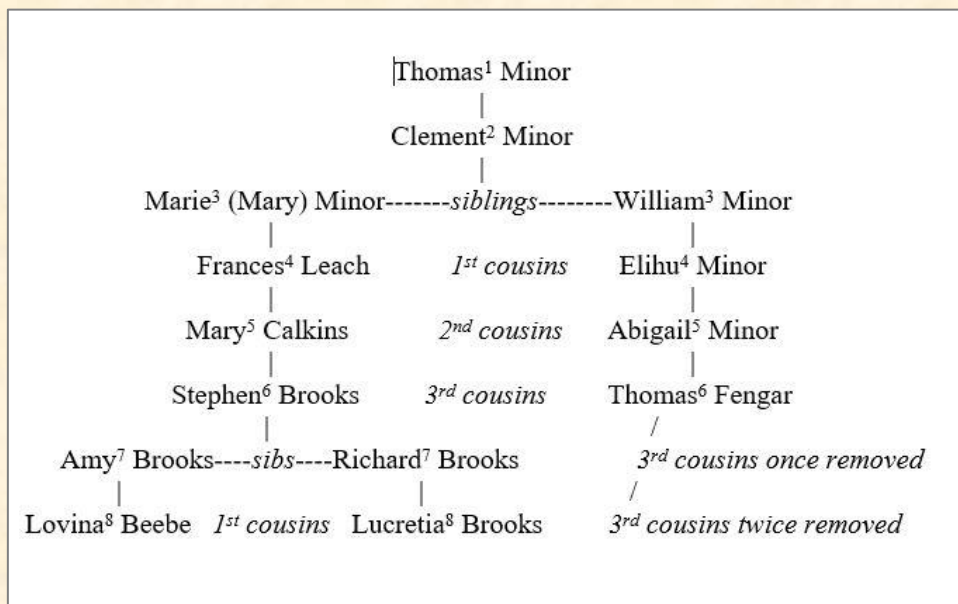
**Abigail Minor**<sup>5</sup> (Elihu<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Clement<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born in East Haddam, Connecticut, on April 4, 1766. As stated earlier, Abigail was the wife of **William Fengar**. She and William had children, one of whom was a son they named **Thomas**. Abigail (Minor) Fengar died in December 1815, in Waterford, Connecticut.

**Thomas Fengar** was born circa 1801 in Waterford, Connecticut. He served in the War of 1812 while still a boy, enlisting on January 1, 1815. Thomas was a “servant” in Capt. David Welsh’s company, 37<sup>th</sup> US infantry for four months, being discharged on April 30<sup>th</sup> of that same year. In later life, Thomas drew a federal pension on the basis of this wartime service. (For more on Thomas, see the Appendix.)

Thomas Fengar married twice, to women who were first cousins. His first wife was Lovina Beebe, daughter of Amy Brooks and Isaiah Beebe; she died January 9, 1826, at age 21. Considering that their daughter Abby Jane died on June 5, 1826, at five months of age, we think it likely that Lovina (Beebe) Fengar died in childbirth or shortly thereafter. Their surviving child was Richard Beebe Fengar (1823-1899).

Thomas’s second wife was **Lucretia Brooks**, child of Richard and Rebecca (Harris) Brooks. Lucretia was a 7<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Henry Brooks of Woburn, MA, and an 8<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Thomas Minor through his son Clement. This means Lucretia was a third-cousin-twice-removed to Thomas Fengar, whom she married on May 7, 1826, in New London.

Lucretia H. Brooks’ descent from progenitor Henry Brooks, as presented here, is excerpted and adapted (mostly) from “The Brooks Family of Woburn, Massachusetts” by William R. Cutter and Arthur G. Loring:



**Henry<sup>1</sup> Brooks** [was] a resident of Concord [Massachusetts] in 1639, having a wife and children previous to his coming to Woburn [Massachusetts] about 1650.... All his children were probably by his first marriage [first wife’s name unknown]. One of these children was a son named Isaac.

**Isaac<sup>2</sup> Brooks** (Henry<sup>1</sup>), the date of whose birth, and whose mother’s name, is unknown, married, Jan. 10, 1665/66, Miriam Daniels, and died in Woburn, Sept. 8, 1686. ... He was a cavalryman in King Philip’s War, 1675-6, and was appointed quartermaster of the “Three County Troop,” June 1, 1677, and was so named in the town tax lists of 1684 and 1685. Isaac was aged 27 in 1670, per Middlesex County files. Previously, in April 1668, he gave his age, in court, as about 25. It is supposed from this that he was born about 1643. Isaac and Miriam (Daniels) Brooks had children, including a son named Henry.

**Henry<sup>3</sup> Brooks** (Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>), born in Woburn, October 4, 1671, married Mary Graves, of Sudbury [Massachusetts], on December 9, 1691. He was of Sudbury in 1696, per Middlesex County Deeds.

Apparently this Henry Brooks moved to New London, Connecticut, about 1699. On May 30, 1704, in New London, Henry married Eleph Chappell, daughter of George Chappell of New London. Henry and Eleph had numerous children, one of whom was a son they named Samuel.

Henry Brooks died on February 17, 1733/34, in New London, Connecticut, in his 64<sup>th</sup> year. Eleph (Chappell) Brooks died on February 5, 1751/52, aged about 74 years.

**Samuel<sup>4</sup> Brooks** (Henry<sup>3</sup>, Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>) was baptized in New London, Connecticut, on August 29, 1714. On December 9, 1734/35, when he was 22 years old, Samuel married Mary Calkins, age 19, the daughter of John Calkins, “all of New London.” They had seven children, one of whom was a son they named Stephen.

**Stephen<sup>5</sup> Brooks** (Samuel<sup>4</sup>, Henry<sup>3</sup>, Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>) was born April 15, 1750, likely in New London. He married a woman named Ede or Edith, whose maiden name may have been Lester. (The Thomas Minor Society website says, without any source citation: “Stephen married Ede LESTER about 1775. Ede was born on 02 Jun 1748 in New London, New London [county], Connecticut.”

(<http://tmsociety.org/thomas/clement/aqwg13.htm>) Stephen and Ede Brooks had at least two children – daughter Amy and son Richard.

**Richard<sup>6</sup> Brooks** (Stephen<sup>5</sup>, Samuel<sup>4</sup>, Henry<sup>3</sup>, Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>) was born September 9, 1777, in New London. On October 4, 1798, he married Rebecca Harris, born June 19, 1779, the daughter of Daniel and Phebe (Lester) Harris. Richard Brooks died at the age of 32 on August 28, 1809. Rebecca (Harris) Brooks died on January 3, 1855 at age 76. They are buried in East Neck Cemetery in Waterford, Connecticut.

The second born of Richard and Rebecca (Harris) Brooks’ five children was a daughter they named **Lucretia H.** Perhaps Lucretia’s middle initial stood for Harris, her mother’s maiden name.

This brings us back to the Fengar side of things, specifically to Lucretia as Thomas Fengar’s wife.

**Lucretia<sup>7</sup> H. Brooks** (Richard<sup>6</sup>, Stephen<sup>5</sup>, Samuel<sup>4</sup>, Henry<sup>3</sup>, Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>), wife of **Thomas Fengar**, was born April 11, 1801, in New London. Thomas and Lucretia (Brooks) Fengar had a big family, including a daughter they named **Charlotte H.** Lucretia (Brooks) Fengar died at age 62 on November 1, 1863. Thomas Fengar died at age 76 on August 5, 1877. They lie buried with other members of their family on the west side of East Neck Cemetery in Waterford, Connecticut – the last row of stones up along the wall.

**Charlotte H. Fengar** was born in January of 1829, the daughter of Lucretia and Thomas Fengar. Around 1847 (relative to the birth date of her oldest child), Charlotte married **Lester Fowler**, mentioned previously. Lester and Charlotte had children, the eldest of whom was **Harriet L.** (1848 – 1912), who appears in at least one record (that of her marriage) as “Hattie.”

<i>Benj. J. Sater</i>	<i>Columbia</i>
<i>Hattie L. Fowler</i>	<i>New London</i>



### III. The Family of Benjamin Franklin Gates and his wife Harriet L. Fowler

**Benjamin Franklin<sup>7</sup> Gates** (Enos<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born on May 6, 1845, in Columbia, Connecticut, the son of Enos Gates and his wife Mary Ann Payne.

**Harriet L. Fowler** was born in Waterford on August 3, 1848, the eldest child of Lester Fowler and his wife Charlotte H. Fengar.

Benjamin F. Gates served in the Civil War with Company I, 26th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at the rank of private. In his later years, he received a pension for this military service. (Benjamin gave his year of birth as 1844 when he joined the Grand Army of the Republic. Did he lie about his age in order to enlist? Probably.)

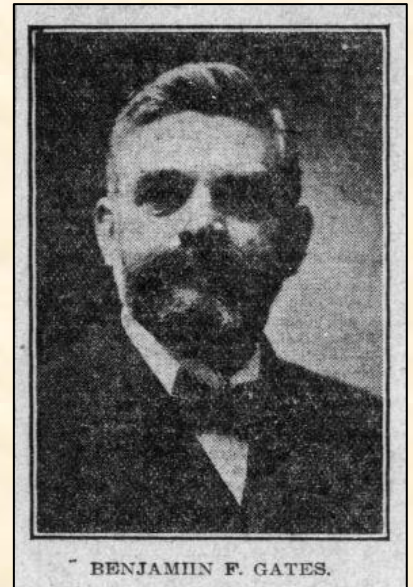
Benjamin F. Gates and Harriet L. Fowler were married in New London on December 13, 1869. They had four children:

- i. Edith Lottie Gates (1870-1920)
- ii. Anne Miriam Gates (1872-1947)
- iii. Frederic Payne Gates (1877-1956)
- iv. Frank Lester Gates, Sr. (1878-1942)

Harriet (Fowler) Gates died September 10, 1912, at her home at 30 Avery Street in New London. She was 64 years old. Harriet's cause of death was listed as (1) spinal sclerosis, 10 months; and (2) chronic myocarditis. Her place of death was noted to be a single family home.

Benjamin married again, on June 19, 1914, in New York City, to a divorcée named Sarah Martha Virginia (Bixler) de Vilbiss. We mention this because Benjamin left Connecticut, moving to his new bride's home town in Maryland to live.

On September 6, 1917, Benjamin died in New Windsor, Maryland. (His obituary stated that "He dropped dead in the home from heart trouble.") His body was brought back to Connecticut to be interred with his first wife Harriet in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New London.



Left: An undated photograph of Edith Lottie Gates, eldest child of Benjamin F. Gates and Harriet L. Fowler – courtesy of a grandchild of Edith's brother Frank. If we had to guess, we'd say this picture of Edith was taken circa 1891, the year she was married. If so, Edith would have been about 21 years old.

#### IV. The Descendants of Edith Lottie Gates and her husband Edward G. Dotzauer

**Edith Lottie<sup>8</sup> Gates** (Benjamin F.<sup>7</sup>, Enos<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born on September 26, 1870, in Jersey City, New Jersey, the first of four children born to Benjamin and Harriet (Fowler) Gates. On October 28, 1891, in New London, Connecticut, Edith married **Edward George Dotzauer**, the son of Louis and Louisa (Backert) Dotzauer. The wedding took place at the bride's home on Shaw Street, with the Rev. Silas Leroy Blake, D. D., pastor of the First Church of Christ in New London, officiating.

Edward and Edith (Gates) Dotzauer made their home in New London, where they raised their four daughters: Mabel (1892 – 1971); Miriam Gates (1894 – 1969); Irene (1896 – 1969); and Dorothy (1908 – 1994).

According to his daughter Dorothy, Ed Dotzauer was exposed to the preaching of Dwight L. Moody at some point in his life – probably at a revival meeting – and was “converted” from a “nominal Lutheran background.” Ed and Edith Dotzauer were members of the Life and Advent Christian Church in New London. This religious tradition, and the church community's summer gatherings at Camp Bethel in Haddam, Connecticut, was an enduring influence in the lives of Edith and Edward's daughters and their descendants.

Edith Dotzauer, who suffered from high blood pressure, had a stroke and died at age 50 on October 23, 1920, at her home at 207 Montauk Avenue in New London. It was the very day that her daughter Irene was to be married. Irene's son Sid recalled this tragic turn of events:

“Many times over the years my Mom told me about the events of that fateful day. After much prayer and soul-searching, it was decided to proceed with the wedding. Uncle Ted [Theodore Pierson Stephens] conducted the service.” (e-mail from Sidney Thrall to E. Ellsworth Watson, Jr., 17 February 2001)

Edith (Gates) Dotzauer was laid to rest in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, Connecticut, in Center section, Lot 19A. Edward Dotzauer survived her by little more than seven years. He died at age 63 on January 30, 1928, in Manchester, Connecticut, while visiting at the home of his daughter Irene and son-in-law Norman Thrall. Edward was buried next to Edith in Jordan Cemetery.

(Irene's mother died on her wedding day, and her father died at her house. *Why always poor Irene?*)

Edward and Edith (Gates) Dotzauer's children:

**1. Mabel<sup>9</sup> Dotzauer** was born on August 31, 1892, in New London, Connecticut. On May 14, 1914, in New London, Mabel married **Elmer Ellsworth Watson**, born April 26, 1887, in North Grosvenor Dale, Thompson, Connecticut, the son of Gurdon Winchester Watson and his wife Minerva E. George.

Elmer and Mabel (Dotzauer) Watson had two sons – Elmer Ellsworth, Jr. (1915 – 2016); and Donald G.

This marriage did not endure. In 1934, when their son Ellsworth (he went by his middle name) graduated from high school, Mabel “invited” Elmer to “leave the house and live elsewhere.” (Quote taken from the memoirs of E. Ellsworth Watson, Jr.) As Ellsworth told this story, this was the point at which he went to work to support his mother and brother.

Elmer E. Watson, Sr., stayed in the New London county area. He was working as a night watchman at the shipyard in Groton, Conn., when he dropped dead from a massive heart attack on September 6, 1942.



He was 55 years old. Elmer was buried in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, Connecticut, in the plot where his parents are interred.

Mabel D. Watson lived the final years of her life in the home of her youngest sister, Dorothy (Dotzauer) Lockward. Mabel died in Hartford, Connecticut, on September 16, 1971, at age 79. She was laid to rest in Jordan Cemetery in Waterford, in the plot where their parents are interred.

**2. Miriam Gates<sup>9</sup> Dotzauer** was born on March 9, 1894, in New London, Connecticut. On September 29, 1917, at Camp Bethel in Haddam, Connecticut, she married **Theodore Pierson Stephens**. Ted Stephens was born on May 5, 1896 in Brooklyn, New York, the son of George Underhill Stephens and his wife Emily A. Price. Ted was a minister of the Life and Advent Christian Church.

Miriam and Ted eventually left their home in New Haven, Connecticut, to take up residence in Aurora, Illinois, where they were enumerated in the 1930 federal census. Between 1933 and 1962, Ted served as president of Aurora College, about forty miles west of Chicago. Now known as Aurora University, it was founded originally as a seminary for the Life and Advent Union.

Ted and Miriam (Dotzauer) Stephens had three children – David (1918 – 1998); Margery (1920 – 2011); and Theodore, Jr. (1923 – 2007).

Ted Stephens died on March 15, 1963, in Aurora, Illinois. He was buried in Lincoln Memorial Park in Oswego, Illinois. Miriam Gates (Dotzauer) Stephens died in Live Oak, Florida, on February 7, 1969. She was laid to rest next to Ted in Illinois, where they share a headstone.

**3. Irene<sup>9</sup> Dotzauer** was born on January 1, 1896, in New London, Connecticut. On October 23, 1920, in New London, Connecticut, Irene married **Norman Bidwell Thrall**, born April 13, 1894, in Manchester, Connecticut, the son of Franklyn Norman Thrall and his wife Sarah Elizabeth (“Lizzie”) Bidwell.

Irene and Norman made their home in Manchester, Connecticut, where they raised their two sons – Gordon (1922 – 1944) and Sidney (1924 – 2010).

Irene (Dotzauer) Thrall died on September 11, 1969, in Manchester. She was buried in East Cemetery in Manchester. Norman B. Thrall died on April 25, 1975, in Manchester. He was buried with Irene in East Cemetery.

**4. Dorothy<sup>9</sup> Dotzauer** was born on March 27, 1908, in New London, Connecticut. On August 17, 1933, at her sister Mabel Dotzauer Watson’s home at 54 Sherman Street in New London, Dottie married **Gibson Crane Lockward**, a minister of the Advent Christian Church. Gibson was born January 2, 1907, in Caldwell, New Jersey, the son of Lynn Grover Lockward and Helen LaForest Smith.

Gib and Dottie had two children – son Lynn (1939 – 2002); and another child *who is still alive as of this writing* – and raised them in Connecticut.

Gibson Lockward died at age 72 on December 18, 1979, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Dorothy survived her husband by fifteen years. She died at age 86 on August 18, 1994, in Live Oak, Florida. Dorothy and Gibson are buried in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, Connecticut, in Center section, Lot 19A, where Dorothy’s parents, Edward and Edith (Gates) Dotzauer, are interred.

## V. The Descendants of Anne Miriam Gates and her husband Ernest Leander Whiton

**Anne Miriam<sup>8</sup> Gates** (Benjamin F.<sup>7</sup>, Enos<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born on March 9, 1872, in Jersey City, New Jersey, the second of four children born to Benjamin and Harriet (Fowler) Gates. On October 15, 1894, in New London, Connecticut, Anne married **Ernest Leander Whiton**. Ernest was born on October 6, 1869, in Longmeadow, Hampden county, Massachusetts, the son of Nelson Whiton and his wife Adaline T. Prickett.

Ernest and Anne (Gates) Whiton made their home in New London, where they raised their children.

Anne was known as “Annie.” That, in fact, is how her name appears in the record of her birth in New Jersey. Her grand-nephew Ellsworth Watson always referred to her as “Annie Miriam.”

Anne M. (Gates) Whiton died (probably in New London) on August 10, 1947, at the age of 75. She was laid to rest in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New London. Ernest L. Whiton, Sr., died at age 83 on April 12, 1953, in Groton, Connecticut. He was buried beside Annie in Cedar Grove Cemetery. The graves of their children Charlotte and Homer are in the same plot.

Ernest and Anne (Gates) Whiton’s children:

**1. Charlotte Anna<sup>9</sup> Whiton** (Nov. 16, 1895 – Jan. 1, 1989); never married. She was a teacher.

**2. Homer Gates<sup>9</sup> Whiton** (April 6, 1897 – October 8, 1897)

**3. Theodore Robert<sup>9</sup> Whiton** was born on November 7, 1900, in New London, Connecticut. On December 23, 1924, in Manhattan, New York City, NY, Theodore married **Edna Louise Ponedel**, born June 5, 1906, in Manhattan, the daughter of Max Ponedel and his wife Cecilia Abrahamson. Theodore and Edna made their home in New London, Connecticut, where they raised their two children, *both of whom are still alive as of this writing*.

Theodore R. Whiton, Sr. died in New London on March 16, 1967, at the age of 66. Edna L. (Ponedel) Whiton died on June 20, 2002, at the ripe old age of 96. We have found no information on the location of their burials.

**4. Ernest Leander<sup>9</sup> Whiton, Jr.**, was born on November 9, 1901, in New London, Connecticut. On February 8, 1931, in Hamilton county, Ohio, Ernest Jr. married **Frances Marcella Harris**, born April 8, 1905, in Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, the daughter of Ernest A. Harris and his wife Nancy M. Bunte.

Ernest and Marcella (she went by her middle name) had one child *who is still alive as of this writing*.

Ernest died at age 36 on November 15, 1937, in Bexley, Franklin county, Ohio. He was buried in Union Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.

Marcella (Harris) Whiton remarried on November 3, 1944, to a man named Henry Kautz Martin. Henry was born on July 27, 1901, in the town of Farmers in Rowan county, Kentucky. (Henry appears to have been married previously, to a woman named Clara Page Geer (1904-1998), with whom he had a son, Henry Kautz Martin, Jr. [1929-1988].)

Henry Martin adopted Marcella’s and Ernest’s minor child, giving this child his surname.



Henry and Marcella Martin moved to DeLand, Florida, which is where they eventually passed away – Henry on November 4, 1961, and Marcella on December 3, 1993. They are buried together in DeLand Memorial Gardens in DeLand, Volusia county, Florida.

**5. Marjorie Edith<sup>9</sup> Whiton** was born on February 8, 1911, in New London, Connecticut. On December 22, 1934, in Beverly, Massachusetts, Marjorie married **True Gilbert Miller**, born January 18, 1907, in Medford, MA, the son of William Myles Miller and his wife Margaret Sarah Pierce. True Miller was a 1930 graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy.

On September 29, 1940, Lieutenant True Miller was “killed in the crash of a Grumman JF-2 Flying Duck that took off from St. Petersburg Air Station on a local night training flight. The plane did not return, and Lt. Miller’s body was recovered from Tampa Bay” on October 1st.

The *Coast Guard Bulletin* (November 1940 issue; Vol. I, No. 17; page 136) reported:

Lt. True G. Miller and Seaman Second Class Travis B. Redman were killed on September 29 [1940], when Coast Guard plane V-145, a single-engined Grumman amphibian, which Lieutenant Miller was piloting, crashed in the water near the St. Petersburg Air Station, Fla. Lieutenant Miller was buried at Arlington Cemetery, Va., on October 4; the body of Seaman Redman has not yet been recovered. The plane at the time of the crash was on a local night training flight. Lieutenant Miller, during his career in the Coast Guard, served on the cutters Shaw, Pontchartrain, and Unalga. He also had been attached to the Salem Air Station, the Cape May Air Station, and the Brooklyn Air Station.”

True G. Miller, Sr., was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on October 4, 1940.

Following True’s death, Marjorie went back to Connecticut, where she – and the two children she had with True – lived with her parents, Anne and Ernest, in New London for several years.

Marjorie (Whiton) Miller married again, to career Coast Guard men like her first husband. Some time between 1943 and 1948, Marjorie married Capt. Preston Baker Mavor. (Marjorie’s father’s obituary, published in mid-April 1953, mentions Marjorie as Mrs. Preston Mavor of Cape Elizabeth, NJ.) When Capt. Mavor died on December 31, 1961, his obituary made no mention of Marjorie; that marriage may not have endured. Marjorie’s third husband was Capt. Simon Ray Sands, Jr., who wed Marjorie in 1962, according to *his* obituary.

Marjorie (Whiton) (Miller) (Mavor) Sands died on June 17, 1981, in Ivoryton, Connecticut. One of her granddaughters filled us in on Marjorie’s final resting place:

“My grandmother was cremated, and her ashes were spread in the pond behind her and my Grandfather Sands home in Ivoryton, CT. They lived on Falls River Drive.”

Marjorie’s third husband survived her by ten years. Capt. Sands was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with his first wife, Janet Heaney, who died in 1958 or ’59.

True Gilbert Miller and Marjorie Edith Whiton had two children – son True Gilbert, Jr. (1938 – 2013); and another child *who is still alive as of this writing*.

## VI. The Descendants of Frederic Payne Gates and his wife Pearl Rowland

**Frederic Payne<sup>8</sup> Gates** (Benjamin F.<sup>7</sup>, Enos<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born on May 28, 1877, in New London, CT, the third of four children born to Benjamin and Harriet (Fowler) Gates. Around 1901, probably in New London, Fred married **Pearl A. Rowland**, born July 23, 1876 in Connecticut, the daughter of George F. Rowland and his wife Georgia Newbry.

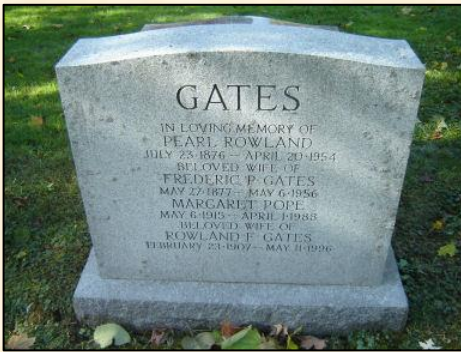
Fred and Pearl (Rowland) Gates had one child, a son:

**Rowland Fowler<sup>9</sup> Gates** was born on February 23, 1907 in Bantam, a borough in Litchfield County, Connecticut. He married **Margaret Pope**, born May 6, 1915. They had three daughters.

Fred and Pearl made their home in New Britain, CT, per the 1910 census, and then in West Hartford, per the 1920 and 1930 censuses. Fred appears to have started out as a machinist, later working for many years for the Arrow-Hart & Hegeman Electric Company. Fred's name (often appearing as "F. P. Gates") is attached to a number of patents for things like electrical switches.

Eventually Fred and Pearl moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, as Fred continued his career in electrical engineering for the same company.

On November 18, 1943, when Rowland F. Gates completed his WWII draft registration, he did so through "Local Board No. 1 (Foreign), District of Columbia." Rowland's country of citizenship was noted as U.S. He noted his employer's name as Arrow-Hart & Hegeman Canada Ltd., and gave the home address of his father ("F. P. Gates") as 199 Strathgowan Ave., Toronto, Canada.



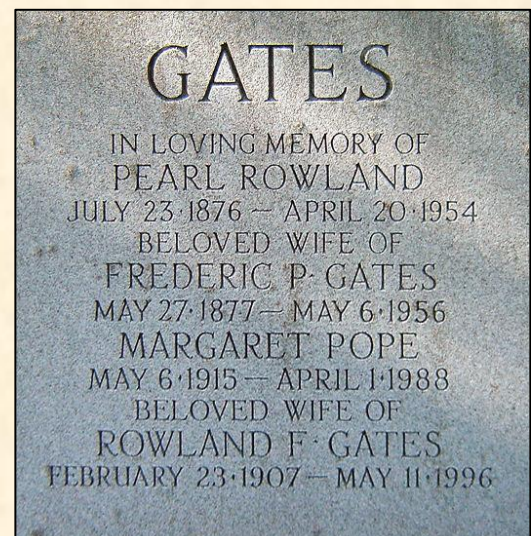
It appears that Rowland's marriage to Margaret Pope took place in Canada.

A large single headstone at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is dedicated to Fred, Pearl, Rowland, and

Rowland's wife Margaret.

Notice the birth date given for Frederic P. Gates on the family headstone? It says he was born on May 27th in 1877. This is at odds with the date given by both Fred's father Benjamin on a document preserved in his Civil War pension file, as well as the date given by Frederic himself on his World War I draft registration. The draft registration is a primary source, created by the person in question – Fred, who knew his own birthday. We submit that the gravestone information for Frederic Payne Gates is incorrect, putting the lie to the old saying about truths that are "written in stone."

Pearl Rowland Gates was the first to pass away. She died at age 77 in Toronto on April 20, 1954. Fred died in Toronto at age 78 on May 6, 1956 – his daughter-in-law's 41st birthday.





Per the inscription on this family's headstone, Margaret (Pope) Gates died on April 1, 1988; Rowland Fowler Gates died on May 11, 1996.

### **Mrs. Fred P. Gates**

Mrs. Pearl Rowland Gates of Toronto, Ontario, wife of Fred P. Gates, formerly of West Hartford, died recently in Toronto. Mr. Gates is managing director of Arrow-Hart and Hegeman Ltd. of Canada, the Canadian division of Arrow-Hart and Hegeman Electric Co., Hartford. Mrs. Gates leaves a son, Rowland F. Gates of Toronto; a brother, Ellsworth Rowland of Wethersfield, and three grandchildren. The funeral and burial took place in Toronto.

### **FRED P. GATES**

**Canadian Electric Co. Official,  
Born Here, Dies in Toronto**

Fred P. Gates, a native of this city and at one time managing director of the Arrow-Hart & Hegeman Electric Co. Canadian plant, died May 6, in Toronto.

A former West Hartford resident, Mr. Gates was born in 1877 and had been associated with the Canadian firm in executive and engineering capacities more than

40 years. He continued as a consultant after retiring in 1954.

His survivors include a son, Rowland Gates, factory superintendent at the Canadian plant. The funeral and interment took place in Toronto.

## VII. The Descendants of Frank Lester Gates and his wife Isabelle Anderson Stewart

**Frank Lester<sup>8</sup> Gates** (Benjamin F.<sup>7</sup>, Enos<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>1</sup>) was born on December 13, 1878, in New London, Connecticut, the youngest of four children born to Benjamin and Harriet (Fowler) Gates. Around 1902, Frank married **Isabelle Anderson Stewart**, born November 12, 1879 in New York, the daughter of Andrew Stewart and his wife Isabelle Reilly.

Frank and Isabelle (Stewart) Gates made their home in Brooklyn, New York City, NY, where they raised their children.

Frank L. Gates died at home (477 East 9th St.) in Brooklyn, NY, on July 10, 1942, aged 62. (Now we're wondering why Frank's obituary in the New London newspaper *The Day* was published on July 9th?) He was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New London, not far from where his parents are interred.

Isabelle (Stewart) Gates survived Frank by twenty years. She passed away at age 83 on December 23, 1962, in Santa Clara county, California. Isabelle was laid to rest next to her husband in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Frank and Isabelle (Stewart) Gates had three children:

**1. Stewart Lester<sup>9</sup> Gates** was born on February 18, 1908, in Brooklyn, New York. During WWII, Stewart was in England with the American Civil Technical Corps. In 1942 in Middlesex, England, he married English widow **Winifred E. (Richards) Matthews**. Winifred was born on November 28, 1913, in Dover, Kent, England, the daughter of Fred and Elizabeth (Toulson) Richards. Winifred had a daughter, Cecilia Ann Matthews, from her first marriage.

Stewart and Winifred had two children together – son Jeffery (1943 – 2011) ; and another child *who is still alive as of this writing*.

Winifred (Richards) (Matthews) Gates died at age 38 on August 30, 1952, in Lake Mahopac, Carmel, Putnam county, New York. Stewart L. Gates died on November 3, 1981, mostly likely in Costa Rica, Central America.

**2. Daughter Elizabeth<sup>9</sup> Gates** may have been stillborn. Her age at death on August 11, 1912, in Brooklyn, NY, was recorded as "0."

**3. Frank Lester<sup>9</sup> Gates, Jr.**, was born on March 1, 1914, in Brooklyn, New York. On November 17, 1941, Frank married **Constance Winifred Stockton**, born April 29, 1915, in Brooklyn, NY, the daughter of Jacob Lewis Stockton and his wife Amy A. Broadhurst.

The Day - Jul 9, 1942 Friday; page 13

### Obituary

**FRANK L. GATES**

**Former Local Machinist Dies in Brooklyn at Age 62.**

Frank L. Gates, 62, formerly of this city, died this morning at Brooklyn, N. Y., where he had resided for about 40 years. Mr. Gates, a veteran maintenance man in printing establishments, lived at 477 East Ninth street, Brooklyn.

He was born in this city Dec. 13, 1879, the son of the late Benjamin F., and Harriet Gates. He attended the public schools here and graduated from Bulkeley school. While at Bulkeley school he played on the baseball team.

Upon graduating from Bulkeley school he entered the employ of the D. E. Whiton Machine Co., as a machinist. Soon after completing his apprenticeship at the Whiton company he went to New York and there he specialized in printing machinery maintenance work. For many years he was engaged in typesetting machine maintenance in commercial printing plants as well as newspaper plants.

Mr. Gates is survived by his wife, the former Isabella Stewart of this city; two sons, Stewart and Frank Gates; a sister, Mrs. Ernest L. Whiton of this city, and a brother, Frederick P. Gates of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Funeral services will be held in Brooklyn Monday and the body will be brought to this city for burial.



Frank and Constance (Stockton) Gates had three children, *all of whom are alive as of this writing*. One of their children described how their family came to live in the Santa Clara area of California.

“When my Dad, Frank Lester Gates, Jr., left the Army, he decided we should settle in California. An Army buddy of his suggested he look to settle in the ‘Valley of the Heart’s Delight,’ one of the names of the Santa Clara Valley before it became Silicon Valley.”

“My uncle, Stewart Lester Gates, moved here a few years later ...”

Frank L. Gates, Jr., died on June 26, 1981, at age 67, in Palo Alto, Santa Clara county, California. He was interred in Mission City Memorial Park in Santa Clara. Constance (Stockton) Gates died at age 82 on November 23, 1997, in Fremont, Alameda county, California. She was laid to rest with her husband in Mission City Memorial Park in Santa Clara.

## VIII. Appendix

Beginning in 1850, Samuel Sheldon Fitch, A.M., M.D., published “Six Lectures on the Uses of the Lungs; and Causes, Prevention, and Cure of Pulmonary Consumption, Asthma, and Diseases of the Heart; On the Laws of Longevity; and on the Mode of Preserving Male and Female Health to an Hundred Years.”

The third lecture in Dr. Fitch’s series discussed the case of **Thomas Fengar** (~1801 – 1877), who suffered from asthma. Following is a transcription of this part of the publication:

### Case I. – Case of Thomas Fengar

#### Asthma

I have mentioned to you that asthma was one of the diseases that cured pulmonary consumption, and that Nature in this way saved the lives of thousands who would otherwise have died of consumption. I think a disposition to consumption is the cause of asthma in nearly all cases. I find the same remedies, with some modifications, that cure consumption will cure asthma; in other words, I endeavor to cure the consumption in the lungs, or the seeds of it, and the necessity of asthma ceases and it disappears. In January, 1845, I spent some days at New London, Conn.; and among many others that called upon me was a man named Thomas Fengar. He was sexton to one of the churches, had a large family, and was a very industrious, worthy citizen. For eight years he had been a subject of asthma, which had at last entirely broken him down, and prevented his doing any work. The weather was exceedingly inclement. It was with great difficulty that he could walk across the street. I gave him his remedies, and in three weeks from the time I first saw him he gave me the following letter:

“New London, Feb. 6th, 1845

“Dr. S. S. Fitch:

“Dear sir, – As a slight return for the assistance I have derived from your prescriptions, inhaling tube and medicines, I will inform you that I was taken with that distressing disease, the asthma, about eight years ago, and have experienced much of its distressing ravages upon my health. For two months before I saw you I was unable to do a day’s work, and was forced to sit up. For twenty-one nights I was unable to go to bed at all, being forced to sit up all night. On the 13th of January, 1845, I began the use of your remedies. In a short time I found relief and in less than three weeks was able to return to my work and do a full day’s work in the open air, and in the most inclement weather. I have no pain, very little shortness of breath, and can lay down and sleep in the soundest manner. If I can always have as good health as I now enjoy, I shall feel satisfied, and most happy and grateful. Myself, my wife and children join me in thanks for the assistance, under God, derived from your advice and medical treatment.

“Respectfully yours,

“Thomas Fengar”

<https://tinyurl.com/Thomas-Fengar-asthma>



## IX. Sources

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Edward J. Harrison, “Ann Neave, Wife of Stephen Gates, 1638 Immigrant to Massachusetts,” New England Historical and Genealogical Register, v163, pp134-136, April 2009.

Certificate No. 486-113, Benjamin F. Gates, Private, Company I, 26th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry; Civil War Pension Files; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

Death record for Harriet L. Gates: City of New London, Connecticut, Vital Records; Deaths, Vol. 4 – Jan. 1904-Dec. 1912, page 183.

The photo of Benjamin F. Gates was clipped from an article on pg. 5 of the *Norwich Bulletin* (Connecticut) newspaper, published Friday, August 15, 1913: “Veterans Attend Two Reunions / Half a Hundred Veterans Rally for Fiftieth Anniversary of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment at Buckingham Memorial – Local Comrades Attend Thirteenth’s Gathering at New Haven.”