

Coates Register Report

The Coates family provides an interesting set of problems in our family tree. Originally, the research on this line was done on my mother's side of the family, where Sarah, the daughter of Samuell and Ruth Coates had apparently wed Caleb Downing in Lynn, Essex co., MA in 1751. However, in the course of researching this, my father's, side of the family, Boston, Suffolk co., MA and New Castle, Rockingham co., NH records clearly show that this Sarah Coates married John Neal of New Castle in Boston in 1746. Short of the unlikely instance of polygamy, the identity of the Sarah Coates who married Caleb Downing is now a mystery. The only other option is that John Neal died in 1750 (after the birth of his only child, James) and not in 1800, Sarah then returned to Lynn, Essex co., MA to be with her family and married Caleb Downing in 1751. This premise has holes of its own, however. Why would her marriage record to Caleb Downing list her last name as "Coats" and not "Neal"? What happened to her son James, who apparently lived in New Castle all his life?

However, that is not the only Coates mystery within the family tree. The New Castle Vital Records also show that "Robert Coates of Lynn, MA who bought land here in 1723" became the second husband of Jane FOSS [NEAL], the grandmother of the aforementioned John Neal, husband of Sarah Coates. This is clearly substantiated by his will.

So, who is this Robert Coates? While a branch of the Coates family moved to Newbury, Essex co., MA and probably further to Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH, there is no Robert of the correct age to be the one who married Jane FOSS [NEAL]. In fact, nearly all the Coates named "Robert" are descended from the Robert Coates who removed to Stonington, CT. By odd "coincidence", this Stonington Robert Coates is the same age and has the same death year as our New Castle Robert. My gut feeling is that the Stonington Robert did, in fact, come to New Castle to buy land (probable for a prosperous older man to want to buy real estate in that lovely spot), met and married the widow Jane Neal. Proof still to be found.

To further complicate matters, Evelyn (Coates) Aherin further complicates the Coates family knot by asserting that John² Coates (below) is not the son of Thomas – as is commonly thought and replicated below – but is the son of the very Robert Coates of Stonington who may or may not have ended up in New Castle. My gut says that she has mixed up her Roberts and that the Robert referred to below is the son of our Robert in question. John's parentage being Robert and not Thomas Coates is based primarily upon the following deeds:

"I, Robert Coats of Stonington, Colony of Connecticut, weaver, quit claim unto brother, John Coats, and brother-in-law, Samuel Rhoads of Lyn, County of Essex, Province of Massachusetts Bay, all real and personal estate of my honorable father, Robert Coates, Lately of Lyn, deceased. signed April 26, 1708, recorded Dec. 16, 1731."

"I, Robert Coats, of Stonington, Colony of Connecticut, weaver, sell to Jonathon Rhoads, cordwainer of Lyn, County of Essex, Province of Massachusetts Bay, land in Lyn, with dwelling house and bard, southerly and easterly on common, northerly on Sluice Pond, westerly on land lately owned by my honorable father, Robert Coats, deceased, containing one acre. Also all lots laid out to me on common. signed April 26 1708, recorded Dec. 31, 1731."

"I, John Coats, fisherman of Marblehead, County of Essex, Province of Massachusetts Bay, sell to Jonathon Rhoads, husbandman, of Lyn, County of Essex, Province of Massachusetts Bay, one certain tenemany near Graves End, within township of Lyn, easterly and westerly of Rhoads' land, northerly on Sluice Pond, southerly on common, containing five and 1/4 acres, more or less, the greatest part possessed by John Coats, late of Lyn, deceased. signed Jan. 13 1730/1, rec. Dec. 16, 1731." [34]

As with Yeaton and Amazeen, I have created a Coates family Reunion™ file in which I am tracking the vital statistics of every Coates I can find, in an effort to piece the families together in a way that makes sense as this is resolved. So far, I have completed all Vital Records of Essex co., MA and any and all marriages in Torrey. Research continues with the name variations Coates, Coats, Coots, Coatts, Cotes, Cates and Cootts.

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First Generation

1. **Thomas¹ COATES^[1,2]** was born probably ca. 1625 in Liverpool, England. Thomas is the emigrant and ancestor of most of the Coates family in Eastern Massachusetts and was a resident of Lynn as early as 1646^[3]. According to Broderick, "...On 16 September 1652, 'Obedia Flud of Boston and Thomas Coats of Lynn...both covenanted, bargained and sold to Henry Silsby of Ipswich...the now dwelling house of Thomas Coates in Lynn which was once in the occupations of Joseph Flud.' On 15 December 1658, Thomas Coates of Lynn conveyed to Robert Rand of that town, land in Lynn 'which was lately of Joseph Flud'. Thus it appears that Thomas Coates and Obadiah Flood were co-heirs of Joseph Flood..."^[3]

By 1646 when Thomas was 21, he married **Elizabeth² FLOOD/FLOYD** (see *Flood/Floyd*), daughter of Joseph FLOOD/FLOYD & Jane WEST, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[4,5,6,7].

Anderson, et. al. assert that nothing more is known of Elizabeth after her emigration with her family^[8]. Broderick postulates that, while Thomas' "...wife is never mentioned by her Christian name in any of the records..."^[3], the facts that: (1) Elizabeth Coates was an ardent Quaker and brought before the Essex Quarterly Court on the same day as Joseph and Jane Flood for that faith^[3,9]; (2) Thomas and Elizabeth named their first two children "...Jane and Elizabeth, perhaps after their maternal grandmother and mother, respectively..."^[10]; (3) that Thomas Coates appears to have been either an heir or executor (in addition to Odediah Flood, Elizabeth's brother) of Joseph Flood's estate^[3]; and (4) Torrey^[4] cites that Thomas' wife possibly had the last name of Flood; all point to Elizabeth Flood being the wife of Thomas Coates.

The Floods were ardent Quakers even in the face of the Puritan bias against that faith. In fact, in the May 1646 Quarterly Court Session at Salem, Elizabeth herself was admonished "for saying publicly and disturbing those who sat near when Mr. Cobbet was preaching (on Infant Baptism) on a Sabbath that Christ was circumcized on the eighth day and that then he was not baptized."^[3]

They had the following children:

- | | | |
|----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | i. | Jane (ca1653-) |
| 3 | ii. | Elizabeth (ca1655-) |
| 4 | iii. | James (ca1657-) |
| 5 | iv. | John² (ca1659-1729) |
| 6 | v. | Thomas (ca1661-1709) |

Generation: G8 Grandparents
Person Numbers: 1096/1097

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Second Generation

2. Jane COATES (*Thomas*¹) was born ca. 1653 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14]. On 25 May 1674, when Jane was 21, she married Joseph ROODS, son of Henry ROODS, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14].

3. Elizabeth COATES (*Thomas*¹) was born ca.1655 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. On 23 July 1673, when Elizabeth was 18, she married Josiah ROODS, son of Henry ROODS, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15].

4. James COATES (*Thomas*¹) was born ca.1657 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15].

5. John² COATES (*Thomas*¹) was born ca.1659 in Lynn, Essex co., MA. John's birth date is based on the fact that he was age 23 in June 1682^[15]. John died in Lynn, Essex co., MA [probably] on 17 April 1729; he was 70. Broderick claims that John died in 1726 or 1727^[15]. Torrey says 1727^[4]. Regardless, John's Probate was filed on 17 April 1729 and names John, jr. as his executor^[15].

John lived in Lynn all his life and had his home near Groves End^[15]. He was a member of the military squadron of Mr. Laughton and Francis Burrill and took the Oath of Allegiance on 26 February 1677/8 at Lynn [sworn to by Cap't. Thomas Marshall of Lynn.].

On 14 April 1681, when John was 22, he first married **Mary WITHERDIN**, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[4,5,6,16]. Mary died on 18 June 1682 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[15].

They had the following children:

- 7 i. Mary1 [twin] (Twin) (1682-1695)
- 8 ii. John1 [twin] (Twin) (1682-<1687)

Sometime after 18 June 1682, when John was 23, he second married **Naomi [surname not known]**, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[4,5]. Naomi died on 27 December 1687 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[3].

They had one child:

- 9 i. John2 (1687-1688)

Finally, on 3 November 1690, when John was 31, he third married **Else (also spelled "Eals" and "Alice") HENLEY**, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[4,17]. Else died possibly in Lynn, Essex co., MA on 20d: 1m: 1728/9. An entry in the Lynn Vital Records reads: "Coats, ___, wid. 20: 1m: 1729".

They had the following children:

- 10** i. Sarah (1693-)
- 11** ii. Mary2 (1696-)
- 12** iii. **Samuel³ (1699-ca1777)**
- 13** iv. Jane (1701-)
- 14** v. Martha (1703-)
- 15** vi. Tabatha (1705-)
- 16** vii. Benjamin (1706-1773)
- 17** viii. Abigail (1712-)
- 18** ix. John3 (1691-1754)

Generation: G7 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 548/549

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6. Thomas COATES (*Thomas*¹) was born ca.1661 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,18] and died in New Hampshire by 1709; he was 48^[19]. Thomas was a Shipwright^[20] and lived in Lynn, Essex co., MA until roughly 1695, when he moved to Newbury, Essex co., MA^[20]. It is believed that he perhaps later moved to Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH where he was fined in 170_ for selling without a license. He was also on the Tax Rolls there in 1707^[20].

On 29 December 1685, when Thomas was 24, he married **Martha GAY/GEE**, in Lynn or Newbury, Essex co., MA.^[14,20,4,21,22,23,24,25,26,27]

They had the following children:

- i. Thomas (1688-)
- ii. John (1691-)
- iii. Philip (1699-)

Third Generation

7. Mary1 [twin] COATES (*John*², *Thomas*¹) was born on 14 January 1682 in Lynn, Essex co., MA and died in Lynn, Essex co., MA on 17 April 1695; she was 13.

8. John1 [twin] COATES (*John*², *Thomas*¹) was born on 14 January 1682 in Lynn, Essex co., MA and died in Lynn, Essex co., MA before 13 December 1687; he was 5.

9. John2 COATES (*John*², *Thomas*¹) was born on 13 December 1687 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14] and died in 1688 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[15].

10. Sarah COATES (*John*², *Thomas*¹) was born on 29 March 1693 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. Sarah was not named in her father's estate in 1729^[15]. It is possible that she died before that time.

11. Mary2 COATES (*John*², *Thomas*¹) was born on 22 March 1696 in Lynn, Essex co., MA. On 15 March 1722 when Mary2 was 25, she married **John BREWER**, son of Thomas BREWER & Elizabeth GRAVS, in Lynn, Essex co., MA.

12. Samuel³ COATES (*John*², *Thomas*¹) was born on 29 July 1699 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. Samuel died in Lynn, Essex co., MA ca. 7 January 1777; he was 77. Samuel was a Housewright.

Samuel filed an intention of marriage on 24 December 1720, when Samuel was 21 between him and Abigail SARGANT, but he did not marry her. However, on 20 April 1722, when Samuel was 22, he married **Ruth2 HARTT** (*see Hartt*), daughter of Joseph HARTT & Ruth CHADWELL, in Lynn, Essex co., MA by The Reverend Nathaniel Henschman.

They had the following children:

- 22** i. Ruth (1703-)
- 23** ii. Samuell (1722-)
- 24** iii. John (1738-)
- 25** iv. **Sarah⁴ [john] (1726-)**
[Sarah⁴ [caleb] (1726-)]

Generation: G6 Grandparents

Person Number: 274/275

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13. Jane COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 27 May 1701 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. On 7 September 1721, when Jane was 20, she married **Jonathon TOMSON/THOMSON**, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,28]. On his marriage record, John is listed as being of Marblehead.

14. Martha COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 5 November 1703 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. On 21 January 1722/3 when Martha was 18, she married **Daniel GRAVES**, son of Samuel GRAVES & Sarah BRUER, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[15].

15. Tabatha COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 19 April 1705 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. Tabitha is "of Lynn", Essex co., MA on her marriage record. On 27 Dec 1725/27 Jan 1725[-6] when Tabatha was 20, she married **Thomas LASKEY**, son of Robert LASKEY, in Marblehead, Essex co., MA^[28]. He was of Marblehead.

16. Benjamin COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 29 March 1706/1707 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,20]. Benjamin died on 25 Apr 1773; he was 67.

17. Abigail COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born in 1712 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. Abigail was 17 when she asked the court to name her brother, John Coats, her guardian on 10 February 1729/30. The Court agreed and made her his ward^[20].

18. John3 COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 16 October 1691 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,15]. John3 died in Ashford, CT in 1754; he was 62. John "...was appointed executor of his father's estate on 7 April 1729 and given the guardianship over his younger sister Abigail 10 February 1730..."^[20] He probably moved to Boston, Suffolk co., MA sometime before 1744, since three of his children were subsequently married there^[20]. On 10 July 1715 when John3 was 23, he married **Mary PINSON**, daughter of Thomas PINSON & Mary [surname not known], in Marblehead, Essex co., MA^[20,28].

They had the following children:

- i. Alice
- ii. John
- iii. Mary
- iv. Pynson
- v. Thomas
- vi. William

19. Thomas COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 15 June 1688 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[20]. There is also a Salem, Essex co., MA birth record for Thomas, dated 27 June 1688^[29]. Thomas was taxed with his father in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH in 1707^[20]. This is perhaps the "...Thomas Coates whose will, dated 22 Oct. 1734 and probated 9 Dec. of that year, lists testator as of Roxbury. No widow or children are mentioned..."^[20]

20. John COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 7 January 1691 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14,20].

21. Philip COATES (*John², Thomas¹*) was born on 28 March 1699 in Newbury, Essex co., MA^[20,30].

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Fourth Generation

23. Ruth COATES (*Samuel³, John², Thomas¹*) was born on 15 September 1703 in Lynn, Essex co., MA.

24. Samuell COATES (*Samuel³, John², Thomas¹*) was born on 25 December 1722 in Lynn, Essex co., MA. He was possibly the Samuell buried on 14 May 1768.

25. John COATES (*Samuel³, John², Thomas¹*) was born on 2 April 1738 in Lynn, Essex co., MA.

26. Sarah [john] COATES (*Samuel³, John², Thomas¹*) was born on 3 July 1726 in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[14].

According to the Boston, Suffolk co., MA marriage record of John Neal and Sarah Coates (which specifically names Sarah's parents by name), **THIS** Sarah is the daughter of Samuel & Ruth [Hart] Coates. Now, the identity of the Sarah Coates who married Captain Caleb Downing is as yet unknown. Please read the notes at the start of the Coates family section.

On 28 November 1746, when Sarah was 20, she married **John NEAL** (*see Neal*), son of Richard NEAL & Abigail BERRY, in Boston, Suffolk co., MA by The Reverend Benjamin Colman^[31].

They had one child:

- i. **James^[33] (1750-1832)**

Generation: G5 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 136/137

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