

Hodgman Register Report

The Hodgman/Webber branch of the tree is somewhat mysterious and murky. "Hodgman" is the adoptive family name and Webber the "true" family name. One Josiah Webber married (or just sired an illegitimate child by) an unknown woman in Reading, Middlesex co., MA by 1668. They had a son, also named Josiah, who was born that same year. Soon thereafter, Josiah Jr. was adopted by Thomas Hodgman and his wife Mary and Josiah Sr. completely vanished from the records.

I have completely searched the vital records of Massachusetts and found absolutely no trace of Josiah, Sr. The only mention Torrey has of him is the nebulous entry: "WEBBER, Josiah & _____; by 1668; Reading". His parentage is equally murky. There is a Thomas Webber who married first in Boston in 1643 and later in Falmouth, Cumberland co., ME who is of the right age to have been Josiah Sr.'s father. There is also a Richard Webber of Dover, Strafford co., NH who would have been the right age to have been a brother of Josiah, Sr. However, this is sheer speculation without solid proof. Thus, the Webber family currently dead-ends with him. My gut speculation is that Josiah either left for the Maine/New Hampshire frontier or went off to sea. While the Webbers who remained in the Boston/Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA area were sea-farers, instinct feels stronger that Josiah Webber headed north. Perhaps his origins & outcome lie buried in records there.

Meanwhile, Josiah Webber, Jr. happily adopted the surname of his adoptive family and prospered. Thomas Hodgman was originally from Salem, Essex co., MA and had a cousin in Charlestown, Suffolk co., MA named Joseph Underwood. This cousin later moved to Reading, Middlesex co., MA with his wife, Susanna [Parker]. Beyond that, we know nothing of his origin or family. Thomas and Mary had no other children, save their adopted son. Thus, if you are descended from this Hodgman line, you are actually a Webber. I would dearly love to crack the Webber mystery, if anyone has any info on Josiah's parentage, please let me know.

Bruce Hodgman has spearheaded a ten-year research effort to trace the lineage of all North American Hodgman/Hodgeman families to see if they all trace back to Josiah & his adoptive parents. His research currently comprises over 3000 names and his hypothesis has currently been proved correct.

Name variations on Hodgman are Hodgeman, Hodgman & Hogman. Bruce Hodgman also adds Hodgemoure & Hodgemun to the mix. Variations on Webber are simply Weber & Webber. Happy hunting!

First Generation

1. Thomas¹ HODGMAN died on 28 August 1729 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[1,2]. We are currently unsure of his birth & origins. He was in Salem, Essex co., MA by 1661, when he married Katherin More. By August of 1663, Thomas had removed to Reading, Middlesex co., MA. Wyman states that he was of Reading, but records the following early ties to Charlestown: "Buys of John Trumbull, 27 acres on Mystic side, 1684, rec. 1687. He and his wife Mary to "cousin Joseph Underwood of Reading, weaver, who hath lived many years with me" &c. 27 acres in Chas. 1703."^[3] Joseph was of "Reading &c; weaver" and married Susanna Parker in 1707 at Reading^[4].

In October 1661 Thomas first married **Katherin MORE**, in Salem, Essex co., MA^[5,6,7]. Katherin died before August 1663, when Thomas married for the second time.

On 12 August 1663 Thomas second married **Mary [surname not known]**, in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[3,5,6,8,9,10,11,12]. Their marriage record reads "Hodgman, Thomas and Morral (Mary, T.C.)". Mary was the widow of **Ezekiel MORRILL** of Reading. Estimating from her given age at death, Mary was born in 1640. She died in Reading, Middlesex co., MA on 10 November 1735; she was 95^[1,2].

They had one child:

2 i. Josiah [Adopted]

Generation: G8 Grandparents [Adoptive]

Person Numbers: 1832/1833 [Adoptive]

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Second Generation

Family of Thomas HODGMAN (1) & Mary [surname not known]

2. Josiah² [né WEBBER] HODGMAN (*Thomas¹*) was born on 31 May 1668 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA as “Josiah Webber”, son of Josiah Webber and [not known]^[13] and died in Reading, Middlesex co., MA on 24 March 1748/9; he was 79^[1].

On 18 May 1691 when Josiah was 22, he first married **Elizabeth [surname not known]**, in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[3,5,6,8,14]. Elizabeth died on 5 May 1712 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[1].

They had one child:

3 **i.** **Thomas (1692-1739)**

Generation: G7 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 916/917

Josiah second married **Grace EATON^[6]**, the widow of **John BOUTWELL**. Grace died on 19 July 1756 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[1].

Third Generation

Family of Josiah HODGMAN (2) & Elizabeth [surname not known]

3. Thomas³ HODGMAN (*Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 18 February 1692/3 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[15] and died in Concord, Middlesex co., MA on 4 October 1739; “in the 47th year of his age”^[16]. He is buried in The Hill Burying Ground, Concord, Middlesex co., MA^[16].

Thomas settled his family in the West Parish of Reading, Middlesex co., MA, near and south of the Prescott place^[17]. After the birth of their youngest child, John, this family completely disappears from the Reading vital records. They are not in Wilmington or Woburn (the towns which spawned from the West Parish), either. By the 1730s-40s, they were in Concord, Middlesex co., MA

On 19 January 1713/4 when Thomas was 20, he married **Abigail GEARY/GARY** of Stoneham, Middlesex co., MA, daughter of **Benjamin GEARY & Abigail GOULD**, in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[18]. Their marriage record is in the Reading vital records as “Garey, Abigail of Charlestown”. Wyman says they married “Jan. 12 (or 19) 1714-15” and recommends the Hodgman article in Savage^[20].

They had the following children:

4 **i.** **Elizabeth**
5 **ii.** Josiah
6 **iii.** Benjamin
7 **iv.** Jonathon
8 **v.** Thomas
9 **vi.** David
10 **vii.** Timothy
11 **viii.** John

Generation: G6 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 458/459

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Fourth Generation

Family of Thomas HODGMAN (3) & Abigail GEARY/GARY

4. Elizabeth⁴ HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born in April [day and year torn] 1715 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[17,21]. She is listed as being "of Concord" on her marriage record in 1738. When her husband Joseph died unexpectedly of fever, Elizabeth parceled out her children: Abigail stayed with her mother; Jedidiah, Thomas and Joshua were given to Benjamin Newhall; Martha & Elizabeth were given to Robert Mansfield. No mention is made of the others.

On 19 November 1738 when Elizabeth was 23, she married **Joseph NEWHALL**^[23], son of **Joseph NEWHALL Senior & Elizabeth POTTER**, in Lynn, Essex co., MA^[24,25]. An intention was also filed on 19 November 1738 in Lynn, Essex co., MA.

On 2 June 1767, administration of her estate was granted to Nathaniel Newhall, her son. Guardianship of Jedidiah & Thomas (over 14) and Joshua (under 14) was granted to Benjamin Newhall. Martha & Elizabeth (over 14) were given to Robert Mansfield. "The estate was divided 4 July 1768 between Nathaniel and Joseph Newhall, tertius,...they to pay the other heirs, viz.: to the legal representatives of Abigail Newhall deceased, to David, Elizabeth, Thomas, Jedidiah, Martha and Joshua Newhall...." Accounts were proved on 8 March 1774 and the balance was distributed between Nathaniel, Joseph, David, Thomas, Jedidiah, Joshua, Elizabeth, wife of William Newhall, and Martha Newhall...^[22]

They had the following children (*surnamed NEWHALL*):

- i. Nathaniel
- ii. Abigail
- iii. Joseph
- iv. David
- v. Elizabeth
- vi. Thomas
- vii. Jedediah**
- viii. Martha [*Twin*]
- ix. Joshua [*Twin*]

Generation: G5 Grandparents
Person Numbers: 228/229

5. Josiah HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 2 August 1720 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21]. He lived in Concord, Middlesex co., MA, where his children's births were recorded. On 16 April 1745 when Josiah was 24, he first married **Rebecca BUSS**, in Concord, Middlesex co., MA^[31]. On 31 May 1749 when Josiah was 28, he second married **Dorathy WHEELER**, in Concord, Middlesex co., MA^[32].

6. Benjamin HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 18 December 1722 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21] and married **Elizabeth MERIAM**.

7. Jonathon HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 26 January 1724/5 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21] and married **Mary (Mercy) BUTTRICK**.

8. Thomas HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 11 May 1727 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21]. He lived in Concord, Middlesex co., MA, where his children's births were recorded and married **Elizabeth BILOOD**.

9. David HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 3 March 1729 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21] and died in Concord, Middlesex co., MA on 2 August 1738; "in the 10th year of his age"^[16]. He, too is buried in The Hill

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Burying Ground, Concord, Middlesex co., MA^[16].

10. Timothy HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 22 April 1731 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21] and married **Ann LEE**.

11. John HODGMAN (*Thomas³, Josiah², Thomas¹*) was born on 18 January 1732/3 in Reading, Middlesex co., MA^[21] and married **Lois PARLING**.

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Sources

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