

# Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley b. 1701, Elisabeth Charles b. 1710, and Mary Needham b. 1725

## Introduction

The Cooley antecedents of the 11<sup>th</sup> generation author, Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: Clifford Coyne<sup>10</sup>, Robert Berton<sup>9</sup>, Robert Reed<sup>8</sup>, Andrew<sup>7</sup>, Noah<sup>6</sup>, Benjamin<sup>5</sup>, Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, and Ensign Benjamin<sup>1</sup>.

Confusion abounds in the early generations of this line as regards the Benjamins especially the third, fourth, and fifth generations, all named Benjamin with no other identifier. To minimize the confusion I have distinguished between Ensign Benjamin's son, Benjamin Junior who was not in my direct line, and his grandson, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, b. 1681 to Ensign Benjamin's son, Daniel. My methodology will always require that a person identified as a junior ("Jr") must have a father with same given name who will be designated as "Sr".

Therefore my antecedents will be designated generationally as follows: Benjamin<sup>1</sup>, Daniel, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, and Benjamin<sup>5</sup>. Note that in the *Cooley Genealogy* Benjamin<sup>1</sup> is just plain Benjamin or Ensign Benjamin, Benjamin<sup>3</sup> is Benjamin I, Benjamin<sup>4</sup> is Benjamin II and Col. Benjamin<sup>5</sup> is Benjamin III.

The confusion doesn't stop here. In old records Benjamin<sup>3</sup> is sometimes referred to as Benjamin Sr or Junyr or just Benjamin; likewise his eldest son, Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, is sometimes Benjamin and sometimes Benjamin Junyr. Therefore, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>'s son will be Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, with all references to "Junyr" ignored.

Massachusetts Bay Colony, the original English Puritan colony, (abolished by King James I in 1686) will be abbreviated MBC. It became the Dominion of New England for three years which was dissolved by William and Mary. In 1692 MBC and several other colonies were combined into the Province of Massachusetts Bay which will be abbreviated just "Mass".

## Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley

Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley was born 5 Nov 1701, probably in the long meddowe precinct of Springfield, Hampshire County, Mass<sup>1 2</sup> to Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Cooley and Margaret Bliss. He was twice married, firstly to Elisabeth Charles b. 1710 and secondly to Mary Needham b. 1725. He died 1 Apr 1790 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Republic of Vermont and is buried in Baptist Cemetery, Pittsford with gravestone in very good condition.

## Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley and first wife Elisabeth Charles

On 1 Sep 1730 Benjamin<sup>4</sup> (aged 28.8 years) and Elisabeth Charles (aged 20.5 years) were married<sup>3</sup> in Brimfield, Hampshire County, Mass. Elisabeth Charles was born 15 Feb 1709/10 in Springfield, Hampshire County, Mass, daughter of John Charles and Elisabeth Swetman or Sweetman.

## Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley and Elisabeth Charles Children Analysis

Benjamin and Elisabeth had four children all born in Brimfield, Hampshire County Mass. The birthdates appear in sequence in the Massachusetts Vital Records (MVR) database, thus were transcribed and sorted from the original entries.<sup>4</sup> The death dates, if any, are taken from the *Cooley Genealogy*. All name meanings are taken from [www.behindthename.com/name](http://www.behindthename.com/name).

i(1). **Gideon Cooley** b. 30 Jan 1730/31 in Brimfield; m. (intention) 9 Oct 1758 Elisabeth Osborn in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass; d. abt 1793 in Brantford, Brant County, Ontario.

Gideon is a Hebrew name meaning "feller" or "hewer". Gideon was a hero of the Old Testament who led the Israelites against the Midianites. In the English-speaking world, Gideon has been used as a given name since the Protestant Reformation, and it was popular among the Puritans.

ii(1). **Eunice Cooley** b. 2 Oct 1732 in Brimfield; m(1) 2 Sep 1752 Benjamin Garfield Jr in Leicester, Suffolk County, Mass; m(2) before 1757 Ephraim Pratt in Hardwick, Worcester County, Mass; d. 30 Dec 1829 in Dana, Worcester County, Mass (as Eunice Cooley Garfield Pratt). Eunice Cooley's death date is unknown.<sup>5</sup> Eunice was born 20.4 months after Gideon was born.

The name Eunice is the Latinized form of the Greek name Ευνίκη (Eunike) which meant "good victory". The New Testament mentions her as the mother of Timothy. As an English name, it was first used after the Protestant Reformation.

iii(1). **Elisabeth Cooley Jr** b .7 Jan 1734/35 in Brimfield, Hampshire County, Mass; m. 4 May 1755 Capt. Jeremiah Powers in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass; she d. 17 Aug 1823 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont. Elisabeth was born 27.6 months or 2.3 years after Eunice's birth.

Elizabeth from Ελισαβετ (Elizabeth), the Greek form of the Hebrew name עֲלִישֶׁבַע ('Elisheva') meaning "my God is an oath" or perhaps "my God is abundance". The Hebrew form appears in the Old Testament where Elisheba is the wife of Aaron, while the Greek form appears in the New Testament where Elizabeth is the mother of John the Baptist. Note that Elizabeth with an 's' is the German and Dutch form of Elizabeth.

iv(1). **Keziah Cooley** b.19 Mar 1738/39 in Brimfield, Hampshire County, Mass; m. abt 1760 Seth Johnson in Brimfield; d. 15 Feb 1822 in Hardwick, Worcester County, Mass. Keziah was born 51.1 months or 4.3 years after Elisabeth.

Keziah is a Hebrew name meaning "cassia, cinnamon", from the name of the spice tree. In the Old Testament she is a daughter of Job.

## Benjamin and Elisabeth in Brimfield

It is relatively easy (compared to Greenwich) to follow the lives of Benjamin<sup>4</sup>'s first family in Brimfield because so many records have been preserved in the Massachusetts Vital Records database. In addition, Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley (Junyr) was an original proprietor of Brimfield by virtue of the *Petition of the Committee of 1700/01* which wrote the rules for the establishment of the "Plantation East of Springfield".

Specifically the committee allowed grants of 120 acres to 84 individuals and one son each. Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Cooley was one of those individuals and Benjamin<sup>4</sup> acquired the right to 120 acres when he, the first son, was born in 1701. Although the regular business of the town had been conducted several years before, the full incorporation of Brimfield by the Massachusetts General Court wasn't officially realized until 1731.

Benjamin<sup>4</sup> probably arrived in the Eastern Plantation about 1717. It is not clear if the entire family was with him upon initial settlement. The first firm year we have for Benjamin and Elisabeth in the Eastern Plantation is 1724 when both were admitted to the church.



Fig 1. Aerial picture of present-day Brimfield  
The annotation is from the map below (Fig 2)

## The Church in Brimfield

From *Annals of the Church in Brimfield* by Pastor Jason Morse (1856) "Rev. Richard Treat, or Treat, commenced his labors here sometime in 1723, or the early part of 1724. The organization of the church and his ordination as its Pastor occurred both on the same day, Nov. 18th, 1724".<sup>6</sup>

To clarify the denomination, Pastor Morse states in the very first sentence of the *Annals*, "The Church of Christ includes all, of every name and age, who are united to him by a living faith. Its precise limits can be determined only by its Omniscient Head".<sup>7</sup> Many online sources say that the "Church of Christ" designation indicates a church is nondenominational.

"The original members of the church were probably fifteen or twenty in number. In the absence of early church records, it is impossible to designate them all. The names of such, as nearly as they can now be determined, are placed first in the list of members, upon the last pages of this pamphlet".<sup>8</sup>

Appearing in the list of original members of the Brimfield Church were:

Date of Admission 1724: "(a.) L. Benjamin Cooley [and] L. Elisabeth, wife of Benj. C. died 1743".

Key: a. = "Original Members" and L. "Stands against those received by letter". The "L" designation means the member brought with them an official dismissal [permission to leave] from another church.<sup>9</sup>

Both Benjamin and Elisabeth's dismissals probably came from the church in the long meddowe precinct of Springfield. Also note they were admitted to the Church in Brimfield before they were married so the dismissals were separate.

## Disenchantment with Rev Treat

After 10 years of service, the road for Rev Treat began to get very bumpy with respect to Brimfield residents. "Dec. 31, 1733. Voted to give Mr. Treat £20 for ye year ensuing towards his support in ye ministry, more than his stated saliery. Then sent Wm. Nilson & David Shaw to Inform Mr. Treat what was granted. Wm. Nilson returned answer from Mr. Treat, that he accepted of what ye town had granted him, Provided ye People were easy & Contented."<sup>10</sup>

"But the people had become uneasy and discontented. Mr. Treat was dismissed on the 27th of March 1734 but no record exists of the proceedings of the Council called at the time".<sup>11</sup> Whether they had any cause for disaffection aside from his additional salary is not discussed.

Could this have been an inkling of things to come due to the beginning of the First Great Awakening with the fire and brimstone preaching of Solomon Stoddard in Northampton just 40 miles away? Even though Stoddard's preaching was aimed at sinful Congregational church members, the repercussions of this revivalism spread far and wide and were known to affect ministers of all denominations. (The First Great Awakening is discussed in a section below).

If the Church in Brimfield was indeed nondenominational, Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, Elisabeth Charles and family may not have been caught up in the revivalism. However, when Benjamin<sup>4</sup> and his new wife Mary Needham relocated to Quabbin, they were right in the thick of it.

## Brimfield Proprietors Benjamin<sup>4</sup> and father Benjamin<sup>3</sup>

From the Proprietors Records of the Towne of Brimfield<sup>12</sup> there are references to both Benjamins, father and son (Junyr):

- At a meeting 27 Mar 1732 it was "voted & established to be one bridge upon the Brook by Mr Treats another bridge on the Plain brook by Benjamin Cooley junior house...another Bridge (on Chickuppee Brook) by Cooley & Scotts field on the road to Hain hill..."

- On 23 May 1732 Benjamin Cooley was awarded Lott 3 in the First and Second Divisions of Brimfield. It should be noted that through these formative years the following proprietors associated with the Cooleys also appear: John Stebbins and John Stebbins Jr., Thomas Stebbins, Anthony Needham, the partnership of John Pynchon (non-resident proprietor), John Charles Jr, Samuel Bliss, and Obadiah Cooley (also non-resident but he provided materials for finishing the meetinghouse and later improvements).
- In another order of business at this 23 May 1732 meeting "...an account of the draughts of the first & second Division in Brimfield as they were drawn for by the grantees & the names of Each grantee as the lotts came forth. Viz...Benjamin Cooley Jun Lott 73...
- On 9 Apr 1734 Benjamin Cooley Junyr was awarded Lott 42.
- Entered 2nd Day 22 Apr 1736, a list of the Draughts of the third and fourth divisions in ye Commons Lands in Brimfield as they were drawn for by the grantees and the names of Each Grantee as the Lotts came forth, Viz...Benjamin Cooley Jr Lott 80.
- On 5 Apr 1744 another drawing for the 3rd and 4th divisions of the Commons Lands was held with Benjamin Cooley Junyr winning Lott 82
- On 16 Sep 1746 "Benjamin Cooley" was chosen Moderator for ye meeting. Since Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Cooley died in 1744 this would be Benjamin<sup>4</sup>.
- Both Benjamin<sup>4</sup> (Jr) and his father continue to appear in Brimfield Proprietor's records as late as 1781 even though Junior was in Quabbin Plantation by 1747 and his father had died in 1745

The following map was obtained from *Annals of the Church in Brimfield*, frontispiece and annotated by me.<sup>13</sup>



Fig 2. Brimfield in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century

Fig 3 is the present Congregational Church in Brimfield still on same site as the ancient meetinghouse (number 71 in map of Fig 2). The front of the church faces south.



Fig 3. Present Congregational Church at Brimfield

According to Fig 2, Benjamin4 Cooley's lot (No. 4) was one or two lots northwest of the Brimfield meetinghouse on the west side of present Warren's Road. Fig 4 below shows the approximate location of Lot 4 (circled) as indicated on the old map. Notice the back of the church in left-center.



Fig 4. Roughly Benjamin3 Cooley's lot location in present Brimfield

## Death of Elisabeth Charles

Elisabeth Charles died 23 Oct 1743 in Brimfield.<sup>14</sup> An interesting article in the New England Historical and Genealogical Society's Winter 2016-2017 edition of *American Ancestors* entitled "Remarriage and Stepfamilies in Early America" relates that in New England between 20 and 40 percent of marriages were remarriages. "Widowers...felt pressure to retie the knot to provide their children with replacement mothers...Sentimental middle class norms of the time required child-centered parenting directed by a loving mother rather than a simple caregiver". Thus, with four children aged 4 to 13 to care for, Benjamin<sup>4</sup> undoubtedly felt an urgency to remarry.

## Transition from Brimfield to Quabbin

I have identified a 3½-year period of transition with regard to Benjamin<sup>4</sup>'s relocation from Brimfield to the area that later became Greenwich. The transition begins with the death of his first wife Elisabeth Charles in late 1743 in Brimfield and ends with the birth of his son Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Cooley in early 1747 in a place north of Brimfield identified as Quabbin by indigenous peoples or Narragansett Township No 4 by the General Court of Massachusetts.

## Benjamin<sup>4</sup> and Mary Needham

In just four months after his first wife Elizabeth Charles' demise Benjamin<sup>4</sup> was married a second time to Mary Needham on 14 Feb 1744/45 in Brimfield, Hampshire County, PMB.<sup>15</sup>

Mary was born 21 Jun 1725 in Brimfield, Hampshire County, Mass<sup>16</sup> daughter of Anthony Needham 4th (b. 23 Nov 1696 in Salem, Essex County, Mass, d. 2 Jul 1763 in South Brimfield, Hampshire County, Mass) and Mary Moulton (b. 30 Sep 1702 in Salem, Essex County, Mass, d. about 1790 in South Brimfield, Hampshire County, Mass). Mary Needham Cooley died 16 Jun 1799 (aged about 74 years) in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont. Both Benjamin<sup>4</sup> and Mary are buried in Old Baptist Burying Ground in Pittsford with gravestones in amazingly good condition for their over 210-year age.

## Benjamin<sup>4</sup> and Mary in Quabbin

The first definite date of Benjamin<sup>4</sup> family's residence in the Quabbin area was the birth of his eldest son Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Cooley (b. 1747) in Narragansett Township #4. Next were Mary (b. 1750) and Reuben (b. 1752), in Quabbin Parish, then the four youngest children Greenwich after it became an official town in 1754.

## Children Analysis

i(2). **Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Cooley** b. 30 Apr 1747<sup>17</sup> in Narragansett Township #4, Hampshire County, Mass, m. 18 Feb 1773<sup>18</sup> Ruth Beach in Pittsford, Charlotte County, New York; d. 27 Feb 1810 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont.<sup>19</sup> He was born 8.2 years after Keziah was born to Benjamin and Elizabeth.

The name Benjamin is from the Hebrew name Binyamin which means "son of the south" or "son of the right hand".

Benjamin in the Old Testament is the twelfth and youngest son of Jacob and the founder of one of the southern tribes of the Hebrews. He was originally named Ben-'oniy meaning "son of my sorrow" by his mother Rachel, who died shortly after childbirth, but it was later changed by his father.

ii(2). **Mary Cooley** b. 23 Aug 1750<sup>20</sup> in Quabbin Parish, Mass; m. ?; d. 4 Apr 1769<sup>21</sup> aged 19 in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass

iii(2). **Reuben Cooley** b. 25 Apr 1752<sup>22</sup> in Quabbin Parish, Hampshire County, Mass; m(1) abt 1785, Sarah; m(2) Elizabeth Needham, abt 1785 in Pittsford, Vermont<sup>23</sup>; d. 13 Apr 1835 in Portage, Kalamazoo County, Michigan<sup>24</sup>. Reuben was born 5 years after Benjamin<sup>5</sup> was born.

The given name Reuben means "behold, a son" in Hebrew. In the Old Testament he is the eldest son of Jacob and Leah and the ancestor of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. It has been used as a Christian name in Britain since the Protestant Reformation.

iv(2). **Azariah Cooley** (1st) b. 26 Jul 1755<sup>25</sup> in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass; m. 6 Sep 1781 Mercy Belden in Deerfield, Hampshire Co, Massachusetts;<sup>26</sup> d. 18 Mar 1813, Greenwich, Hampshire Co, Massachusetts; reinterred 8 Nov 1937 Quabbin Park Cemetery, Hampshire County.<sup>27</sup> Mercy Belden d. 14 Feb 1834, same burial information as Azariah. Azariah and Naomi were born about 39 months or 3.3 years after Reuben was born

Azariah means "YAHWEH has helped" in Hebrew. This was the name of several Old Testament characters including of one of the three men the Babylonian king ordered cast into a fiery furnace. His Babylonian name was Abednego which means "servant of Nebo" in Akkadian, Nebo being the Babylonian god of wisdom as told in the Book of Daniel.

v(2). **Naomi Cooley** (1st) b. 26 Jul 1755<sup>28</sup> in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass; m. (intention) 27 Aug 1775<sup>29</sup> James Ewings<sup>30</sup> (b. abt 1749, Edinburgh Scotland, d. 4 Sep 1828 Grafton, Northumberland Co, Ontario, Canada); She d. 4 May 1841 Grafton, Northumberland Co, Ontario, Canada<sup>31</sup>

Naomi is from the Hebrew name נְאוֹמִי (Na'omiy) meaning "pleasantness". In the Old Testament this is the name of the mother-in-law of Ruth. After the death of her husband and sons, she returned to Bethlehem with Ruth. After the death of her husband, Naomi took the name Mara (see Ruth 1:20). Though long common as a Jewish name, Naomi was not typically used as an English Christian name until after the Protestant Reformation.

vi(2). **Margaret Cooley** b. 13 Nov 1757 in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass,<sup>32</sup> m(1) 27 Jul 1780 Job Winslow Jr, in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass;<sup>33</sup> Job b abt 1754 in Hardwick Worcester Co, Mass, d abt 1785 same place; m(2) 1 Apr 1786 (intention) Peter Rice, Greenwich, Hampshire Co, Mass;<sup>34</sup> Peter b. 18 Jul 1748 probably in Guilford MBC (present Vermont), d. 24 Mar 1814 in Pittsford, Rutland Co. Vermont. Margaret d. 31 Dec 1808 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont (buried in Congregational Cem);<sup>35</sup> she was born 15.8 months or 1.3 years after Azariah and Naomi were born. The 16-month span between the twins' birthdates and Margaret's is suspiciously short.

Margaret is derived from Latin Margarita, which was from Greek μαργαρίτης (margarites) meaning "pearl", probably ultimately a borrowing from Sanskrit मञ्जरी (manjari). Saint Margaret, the patron of expectant mothers, was martyred at Antioch in the 4th century. Later legends told of her escape from a dragon, with which she was often depicted in medieval art.

vii(2). **Caleb Cooley (1st)** b. 12 Feb 1762<sup>36</sup> in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass; m. 6 May 1784<sup>37</sup> Elizabeth Sanford (b. Apr. 26, 1762<sup>38</sup>; d. 31 Aug 1812 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont, dau Thomas and Lucy (Kellogg) of Weybridge, Vermont); Caleb d. 13 Feb 1813.<sup>39</sup> Caleb was born 51.7 months or 4.3 years after Margaret. A full write-up of Caleb and Elizabeth's family can be found in the *Cooley Genealogy* starting at page 500.

The name Caleb is most likely related to Hebrew כֶּלֶב (kelev) meaning "dog". An alternate theory connects it to Hebrew כָּל (kal) "whole, all of" and לֵב (lev) "heart". In the Old Testament this is the name of one of the twelve spies sent by Moses into Canaan. Of the Israelites who left Egypt with Moses, Caleb and Joshua were the only ones who lived to see the Promised Land. As an English name, Caleb came into use after the Protestant Reformation. It was common among the Puritans, who introduced it to America in the 17th century.

Viii(2). **Antoney Cooley** b. 20 Mar 1765 in Greenwich, Hampshire County, Mass;<sup>40</sup> not married; d. 5 Mar 1790 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Republic of Vermont.<sup>41</sup> Antoney was born 37 months, 8 days (about 3 years, 1 month) after Caleb Cooley was born.

Anthony or Antoney is a version of the Roman name Antonius which means 'praiseworthy'.

## **Quabbin or Narragansett No 4 (NG4)**

In the mid-1720s, seven 6-mile-square townships, known as the "Narragansett Townships" were promised by the General Court of Massachusetts to a specific group of veterans of King Phillip's War (June 1675 to April 1678) who defeated the Narragansett tribe on 19 Dec 1675 and whom "should have a gratuity in Land besides their wages".<sup>42</sup> The grants commenced in 1728, and in the years following, 840 veterans were involved thus a quota of 120 men was allocated to each of the townships.

The grants were made on the condition each township should (1) settle at least 60 families in its territory within seven years after the grant, that (2) an orthodox minister should be duly installed with a lot set aside for his use, and (3) a lot set aside for a school. The grant would become null and void if these conditions weren't met

One of the seven townships, Number 4, was first located near present Goffstown, New Hampshire but was soon deemed unsuitable for settlement. On 16 Dec 1735 "...a petition of John Foster and Edward Shove in behalf of the grantees of No. 4, declared that, upon viewing the grant in order to lay out their lots, "they found it so barren and poor that it was uncapable (sic) of making settlements...therefore pray that they may have liberty to quit it and take up Said Grant in some other province land".<sup>43</sup>

The petition was approved by the General Court and the petitioners were ordered to "search out better land in exchange".

A report of the new location and survey in the Swift River Valley of Massachusetts Colony was made 5 Dec 1736 by surveyor Nathaniel Kellogg who found the Quabbin area to be considerably less than six miles square (3840 acres). Eventually, the General Court added a tract of land, lying west of and adjoining Hatfield, sufficient to make up the full amount of territory to which the grantees were entitled. This tract is now embraced within the boundaries of Chesterfield, in the county of Hampshire.<sup>44</sup>

On 14 Jan 1736/37 the General Court approved a land grant of 1200 acres in the Quabbin area that became the new Narragansett No 4. The initial grants were made to James Patterson, Robert Fenton, Edward Miller, James Wheeler, John Patterson, Andrew Turner, Thomas Powers, Arthur Gary, Robert Evans, Robert Carlile, (Mr.) Thorp, and (Mr.) Holden.<sup>45</sup>

On May 12, 1737, the proprietors appointed a committee, consisting of John Foster, Shubael Conant, Samuel Childs, Samuel Tildake, and Ebenezer Mun, "to lay out and allot the land" in Quabbin. The same committee was directed to lay out 10 acres of land for a meeting house, burying ground, highways, and a lot of the contents of 60 acres to each proprietor, besides ministry and school lots. See Fig. 5 below.

In pursuance of a warrant properly issued, the proprietors of NG4 met on the 14 May 1740, at the house of Edmund Taylor. At this meeting they voted to build a meeting house 40 by 30 feet in ground dimensions, and 20 feet between joints. It was subsequently altered to 35 by 45 feet, but the house was not finished until 1746 because boards could not be procured as there was no saw mill in the settlement.

Each proprietor was taxed 40 shillings to defray the expenses of building the meetinghouse and 10 shillings to defray the expenses of preaching for twelve months. The first minister, Rev. Pelatiah Webster, a graduate of Yale College, was settled 20 Dec 1749. He was dismissed in October 1755 and was succeeded by Rev. Robert Cutler of Cambridge, a graduate of Harvard College, who was installed 13 Feb 1760.<sup>46</sup>

## **Quabbin Parish or Plantation**

On June 29, 1749, NG4 was granted an act incorporating it into a parish, by which provision the inhabitants were empowered to call a minister and levy a tax for his support. Later that year NG4 became known as "Quabbin Parish" when the Rev. Pelatiah Webster was ordained five months later.

Often it was called Quabbin Plantation and, at the time, a parish and a plantation were one in the same thing. As the years passed, however, there evolved a distinction between the two: "parish" having religious connotations and "plantation", civil.



## First settlers of Quabbin

From *Soldiers in King Phillip's War*:<sup>47</sup> it appears most of the original grantees were indeed "soldier grantees" or their "claimants" as intended. Other, conflicting, sources claim that many initial grantees were from Brookfield, Connecticut Colony or immigrants from Ireland or Scotland.

According to Josiah Gilbert Holland in the *History of Western Massachusetts*, "The first settlement [of Quabbin] was commenced about the year 1732, by families of the name of Gibbs, Hynds, Powers, Rogers, Cooley, and Patterson", however this is not entirely accurate.

Taking a contrary position, Amanda Woods Ewing in *A Sketch of Enfield's History* says "It has also been claimed that families by the name, of Gibbs, Hinds, Powers, Rogers, and Cooley located in Quabbin...but the records of the proprietors, and the parish and town records, do not support the assertion. These names appear prominently a little later, and it is probable that these families were among the first permanent settlers on the soil; but some of those mentioned in the original grant doubtless preceded them".<sup>48</sup>

Amanda's statement is correct. The first white settlers into the Quabbin were most assuredly veterans of King Philip's War (or their descendants) with the name Patterson being prominent. The others came later.

From *History of Western Massachusetts*, "the name of Gibbs first appears in the year 1740, in the person of Thomas, who after that time filled positions of honor and trust in the town, and was one of its leading settlers. A little later Jeremiah and David Powers appear, together with William Carpenter, Simon Davis, John Rea, John Townsend, Nathan Fisk, Abraham Gibbs, John Harwood, and Timothy Ruggles. Later still appear Hopestill Hinds, Benjamin Cooley, James Nevins, James Wright, James Whitcombe, William Rogers, Luke Hitchcock, and Holmes".<sup>49</sup>

These were the names of those who were most prominent during the first thirty years of the settlement of the town...the first actual settlers were John and James Patterson, who located in the southern part of the plantation. The Hinds family...located in the western part along what was known as the "West Street". The Gibbs family settled West Street and the Powers family farther north. The Cooleys settled along the east branch of Swift River, and formerly owned the greater part of the land east of the "plains". They were active and industrious tillers of the soil for many years.<sup>50</sup>

## Benjamin4 Cooley in Quabbin

Probably the first definitive mention of the exact name "Benjamin Cooley" appears in records transcribed in the *Gazetteer of Hampshire County, Mass*: "The name of Thomas Gibbs first appears in the records in 1740...A little later...Benjamin Cooley...". The years 1743 to 1747 are my transition period for Benjamin4 to have settled in NG4 and the Benjamin Cooley mentioned above was "prominent in the affairs of the town" so allowing some leeway in the phrase "a little later" (than 1740) Benjamin4 could have arrived about five years before NG4 became Quabbin Parish (1749) and 10 years before the parish became the Towne of Greenwich (1754).

It must be said that the aforementioned Benjamin could have been Benjamin3 who was thought by Mortimer Cooley in the *Cooley Genealogy* to have died in 1745 "probably in Greenwich" (aged 64).

His wife, Margaret Bliss died about a year before in Brimfield so he could have been the first Benjamin Cooley in NG4 but it is highly unlikely. A widower aged 63 would probably be looking to stay with one of his offspring rather than blazing new trails. Since his gravestone has not been found, especially in Brimfield (not in Quabbin Memorial Park either), nor have any church records for that matter, it is necessary to eliminate Brimfield as his death place. Thus, we are left with NG4.

## Land in Greenwich

From *History of the Connecticut River Valley*, "...one hundred and sixty acres of [the Cooley] land was first granted to Edward Sloane on condition that he would erect a mill on the east branch of Swift River. Failing to comply with the condition, it was conveyed to Benj Cooley on 5 Jun 1754", shortly after the towne of Greenwich was incorporated.<sup>51</sup> See Fig 5, for the approximate location of the Cooley land.



Fig 5. Map was drawn in 1860 depicting Greenwich Hampshire County, Mass in the mid-1700s.

## The First Great Awakening

Of great interest in the lives of New Englanders was an evangelical movement that arose in the latter half of the 1730s with the preaching of Solomon Stoddard in the Congregational Church of Northampton, just 40 miles northwest of Brimfield and 10 miles west of Quabbin. It was the so-called "First Great Awakening", so-called because it wasn't given that appellation until the time of a second evangelical movement 100 years later which was labeled the "Second Great Awakening", a term applied to a truly frenzied evangelical movement that spread throughout the country beginning in the early 1800s. Its goal was to round up the unbelievers whereas the 1730 movement emphasized a return to piety and was aimed primarily at the Congregationalist denomination.

Stoddard was a "powerful preacher who wholly insisted on conversion while using the theme of judgment and damnation". His preaching was generally confined to the Northampton Church until his death in 1729 when the reins were handed over to his grandson, Yale-educated associate pastor Jonathan Edwards. Edwards felt that Northampton Congregational members had succumbed to licentiousness, the lewd practices of night walking and tavern visiting, and a lack of regard for family order which led to the breakdown of the family in his town.

In 1735 firebrand Edwards began a series of evangelical sermons concerning the need for faith. Later that year Edwards said, "The Spirit of God began extraordinarily to set in [and] more than 300 souls were savingly brought home to Christ, in this Town, in the space of half a Year". Also, some unusual manifestations began to occur during his sermons such as outcries, faintings, and convulsions. When news of these "conversions" spread (the terms "born again" and "revival" may have arisen at this time), Edwards wrote the book "Faithful

Narrative of the Surprising Work of God" which was widely read in the American Colonies and, by 1738, even in England.<sup>52</sup>

## **Quabbin Gets Involved**

The "revival" reached a high water mark during 1740-41. On July 8, 1741, in Quabbin, Jonathan Edwards preached his most famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God". Although the Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley-Elisabeth Charles family was still in Brimfield at the time and the effect of this revival on the family is not known, nonetheless, it was so close at hand (Northampton, Quabbin) it is likely they were affected to some extent. By 1745 they surely were affected since Quabbin was nearly at the center of the movement and the family had more than likely settled there at that time for in late 1745 the Quabbin Congregational parishioners protested the paying of money to support an "unorthodox minister.

## **Outcomes of 18th century revivalism**

The Great Awakening had done much to stimulate negative public energy and undermine ministerial authority, making it almost impossible for ministers to restore that authority fully in later years.<sup>53</sup> In Hampshire County, not a great many ministers had been dismissed before 1746 but afterwards over a dozen lost their jobs and a few others just barely managed to keep theirs...Sometimes the members of the Hampshire Association (of ministers) had to step in to defend their fellow ministers, usually without much success.

Pelataiah Webster of Quabbin, for instance, found his ability to serve capably as minister "very much Impeded if Not wholly frustrated & Cutt off...by the Great Disaffection & Ill will of Sundry Inhabitants who keep up contention, Endeavor to disaffect others".<sup>54</sup> Webster wrote to...members of the Hampshire Association in 1754 complaining that the reflections & Slurs which are cast on [his] Moral character were keeping about two-thirds of his people away from services and he wanted some outside help. When a council of ministers went to Quabbin to look into the matter, they tried earnestly to bring about some degree of reconciliation, urging the people to submit to Webster, and he "by all the arts of tenderness, Gentleness, and Ministerial Fidelity to endeavour to regain the Love and Esteem of them who are so offended".<sup>55</sup>

The attacks on "conventional" ministers were unfair and "purely for popular Disaffection", the association suggested but when there arose a public question concerning the morals and reputation of a minister, there was little the defending ministers could do. Alas, Pelataiah Webster lost his job in the Quabbin Church.<sup>56</sup>

Another outcome of the First Great Awakening was the spread of Baptists of all kinds throughout the Colonies. A Baptist church was established in Brimfield but it's highly unlikely any Cooley of this line was a Baptist judging that Benjamin<sup>4</sup>'s son Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Cooley was known to be a Methodist in Pittsford Vermont and Methodism<sup>57</sup> increased rapidly after the First Great Awakening.

This damaging "awakening" left colonials sharply polarized along religious lines. Anglicans and Quakers gained new members among those who disapproved of the revival's excesses, while the Baptists (and, in the 1770s, the Methodists) made even more handsome gains from the ranks of radical evangelical converts.

The largest single group of churchgoing Americans remained within the Congregationalist and Presbyterian denominations, but they divided internally between advocates and opponents of the Awakening, known respectively as "New Lights" and "Old Lights".<sup>58</sup>

Inevitably, civil governments were drawn into the fray. In colonies where one denomination received state support, other churches lobbied legislatures for disestablishment, and an end to the favored status of Congregationalism in Connecticut and Massachusetts and of Anglicanism in the southern colonies.<sup>59</sup>

## **Greenwich Towne Becomes Official**

On 20 Apr 1754, an act was passed making Quabbin Parish a corporate towne under the name of Greenwich (pronounced green-wich, not the English way). The Towne was named in honor of the Scottish 1st Duke of Greenwich, John Campbell.<sup>60</sup> The previous name, Quabbin, meant "well-watered place," and was a fitting name for the Greenwich area, which was dotted with ponds, lakes and streams with two branches of the Swift River, the Middle and the East, running through it. The largest of the lakes was Quabbin Lake, also known as East Pond.

The first meeting for the organization of the towne "was held at the meetinghouse on Thursday, August 15, 1754, when the following officers were elected: John Worthington, moderator; Nathan Fiske, clerk; Jeremiah Powers, James Nevins, Benjamin Cooley, John Rea and John Townsend, Selectmen; Nathan Fiske, Abraham Gibbs, and Benjamin Cooley, assessors".<sup>61</sup>

Rev. Pelatiah Webster, the first minister of the Standing Order of Christians, was ordained in 1749 and served until 1755 when he was forced out of office (see First Great Awakening above). He was succeeded by Rev. Robert Cutler, who was installed in 1760, and died in 1786, aged 68.

Greenwich was surrounded by rocky hillside, with Mt. Lizzie a distinctive geographic feature to the south, rising nearly 900 feet high from the middle of the valley floor and Mount Pomeroy slightly surpassing her height a couple of miles to the north. Greenwich Center, also known as Greenwich Plains, was located in the valley between the two. Greenwich Village, in the northern section of town, lay just to the east of Mt. Pomeroy.

Parts of Greenwich were carved off in the early 19th century. The section of town known as the southern parish of Greenwich was formed in June of 1787, and was formally separated from Greenwich on February 15, 1816, when it was incorporated as the town of Enfield. The northeastern area of Greenwich became part of the town of Dana on February 18, 1801.

The first Post Office in town was established in the Plains section of Greenwich Center in 1810 with Josiah White appointed first Postmaster on New Year's Day of that year. Greenwich Village received its own Post Office branch on May 28<sup>th</sup> 1824. Warren P. Wing was the village's first Postmaster.

In the month of Jan 1759 it was 'voted to raise £9 for the support of a school for this town' also 'voted that there be three men chosen a committee to divide the town into three parts in order for the school to be kept in'. Three districts were formed:<sup>62</sup>

- 1 North - All north of the county road leading from Hardwick to Pelham
- 2 Middle - all south of the aforesaid road to William Fisk's and across that into Mr. Benjamin Cooley's
- 3 South - and those south of said line be the third part

## **Benjamin4 Cooley plays an active role in the governance of Greenwich**

Benjamin4 was a Selectman for the following years:

1. 1754 - Jeremiah Powers, James Nevins, Benj. Cooley, John Kea, John Townsend
2. 1755 - Jeremiah Powers, John Kea, Wm. Fisk, Benj. Cooley, Abraham Gibbs
3. 1757 - Thomas Gibbs, Benj. Cooley, John Rea, Abraham Gibbs, Jeremiah Powers
4. 1759 - Stephen Fisk, Thomas Gibbs, Jeremiah Powers, Benj. Cooley, Nathan Fisk
5. 1761 - John Rea, Jeremiah Powers, Benj. Cooley
6. 1766 - Luke Hitchcock, John Rea, Simon Stone, Nehemiali Hinds, Benj. Cooley

As the settlement expanded, it became inconvenient for those living in the southern part of the town to go to Greenwich "Village" to transact public business, or attend religious meetings. Accordingly, in June 20, 1787 an act was passed incorporating the southern part of Greenwich into a separate parish, known as the "South Parish". On February 15, 1816, the South Parish was incorporated as a separate township, under the name of Enfield, deriving its name from Robert Field, one of the early settlers.

### **Benjamin4's sons Gideon, Benjamin5, Ruben, and Caleb in Pittsford Vermont**

From about 1765 to 1770 the exploits of two of Benjamin4's sons, half-brothers Gideon (Elizabeth Charles) and Benjamin5 (Mary Needham) can add perspective to the life of the Cooley family in Greenwich. According to anecdotes in the *History of Pittsford* by AM Caverly, Greenwich was the launch point of the Cooley sons' major role in the founding of Pittsford in present Vermont then known as New Hampshire Grants.<sup>63</sup> Also, Caleb Cooley played a role in the development of Pittsford after 1780.

Following is a brief rundown of the tales found in the pages of Caverly. Be aware that Caverly wrote of the Cooley boys' exploits in the last decade of the 19th century from the writings of Gen Caleb Hendee, a man of a later generation, who wrote of rumors and gossip. Also, none of this tale can be corroborated by official records until 1769.

Gideon Cooley, after fighting in the French and Indian wars often traveled through the area between New York and New Hampshire on the Crown Point road (a Native American trail) which crossed Otter Creek at Pitts Ford. After the wars he investigated an area northwest of a falls on Otter Creek then known as the Great Falls, deciding to settle there

He claimed the land and returned to Greenwich in 1766 (no official record of this). He wanted his half-brother Benjamin5 to help him get established but their father Benjamin4 would not let Benjamin5 go. Gideon cut a deal whereby he would work for his dad one year to secure Benjamin5's release, Benjamin4 approved and the two went back to Pitts Ford the next year where they built a rude log cabin and cleared Gideon's land for farming. Later in the year they returned to Greenwich to spend the winter.

When they returned to Pitts Ford in the spring of 1768, Benjamin5 learned that Gideon had "secured the land to himself" and he was not co-owner as he had assumed. He left Gideon and went to work in Addison Township but became ill and returned to Greenwich. Coincidentally, Gideon had returned to Greenwich about the same time; he felt guilty, and promised Benjamin5 land of his own.

They came back to Pittsford in 1769 and this is year that the first documented land transaction occurred in Pittsford involving settlers. On the 31st of October 1769 both men bought 120 acres each from land speculator Ephriam Doolittle. They had officially founded Pittsford, County of Albany, Province of New York.

### **Benjamin4 Cooley and Mary Migrate to Pittsford**

The last major transition in the life of Benjamin4 Cooley and his wife May Needham was when they came to Pittsford. The transition is marked by the last recorded presence of the couple in Greenwich to their first recorded presence in Pittsford analyzed as follows.

It is known from the very first census of the United States of America in 1790, the only Cooleys left in Greenwich were the families of Azariah Cooley 1st and Reuben Cooley, both sons of Benjamin4 and Mary.<sup>64</sup> Note that Vermont was not yet a state so it was not included in the 1790 census.

We know Benjamin4 died 4 April 1790 and was buried in Old Baptist Cemetery in Pittsford. However let's look at a Pittsford land transaction occurring in **1782**. John Barns received £28.10 from Benjamin Cooley for 57 acres on 6th day of October 1782 for a certain tract of land lying in Pittsford containing fifty seven acres of land bounded as follows: "Beginning at the SE corner of Isaac Smith Land thence North to Nathanal Pinneys Land thence East to Cap- Benj Cooleys land...". Caleb Cooley and Solomon Taylor witnessed the transaction Notice that Benjamin5's name us preceded by "Cap-" while the land transaction involves just plain Benjamin who could likely be a candidate for Benjamin4 Cooley.<sup>65</sup>

In 1785. Benj Cooley of Pittsford, Charlot (sic) County, Province of New York received £14 from Reuben Cooley of Greenwich, Hampshire County, Province of Mass, a New England Husbandman, for which he sold 70th part of Pittsford but for 110 acres kept by Benjamin. This land was formerly granted by New Hampshire. Received on record this 3 day of Nov 1785 Eben(ezer) Drury Town Clerk.<sup>66</sup>

While it is not abundantly clear that it was Benjamin<sup>4</sup> who was involved in the two transactions above, it seems quite possible that he was a player in Pittsford as early as 1781. Nonetheless, no land transactions in Pittsford distinguish among Benjamins (such as a Benjamin Sr, Benjamin Junyr) as they did in Brimfield and Greenwich.

### Deaths of Benjamin<sup>4</sup> and Mary

Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley's life came to an end 4 April 1790.<sup>67</sup> He, as well as Mary are buried in Pittsford in North Burying Ground, now-called Baptist Cemetery, which is right next to present Vermont Highway 7. His gravestone is remarkably good condition in its 230 plus years age.



In MEMORY of  
Mr. BENJAMIN COOLEY who died April 1.  
1790. in the 89. year  
of his age.  
Behold & See & view this Stone  
Prepare for death as I have - done.  
Apply to Christ's all cleanSing - blood.  
ForSake your Sins & live to God.

Fig 6. Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Cooley's gravestone in Baptist Cemetery, Pittsford, Vermont.  
Photo courtesy Janet Muff (FDG)

For perspective, on 4 Mar 1791 Vermont became the first state to join the original thirteen colonies in the new Union. Its Constitution was the first such document to outlaw slavery, the first to prevent a person from being transported out of the state for a crime committed within, and the first to provide for a state university.

Mary Needham's life came to an end 2 Jun 1799,<sup>68</sup> about 9 years after her husband Benjamin Cooley's death. She was buried in North Burying Ground (present Baptist Cemetery) alongside her husband. Her gravestone's lettering is nearly obliterated but you'd never know it looking at the picture below taken by Janet Muff using her special reflective method of gravestone photography.<sup>69</sup>



Fig 7. Mary Needham's gravestone in Baptist Cemetery, Pittsford, Vermont. Photo courtesy Janet Muff (FDG)

## Greenwich Comes to an Inglorious End

The story of Cooleys in Greenwich was almost finished at turn of the 20th century with the exception of one Cooley family in the 1910 census. There were none in the 1920 census. Alas, in the 1930s Greenwich itself succumbed to the bulldozers of progress, a story that is worth telling.



Fig 8. Greenwich 1930 with the approximate Cooley location spotted

During the 1920's it became apparent the greater Boston area did not have a large enough water supply to satisfy its growing needs. Thirsty eastern Massachusetts inhabitants looked 100 miles westward to the Swift River that flowed through some small towns nestled in the Swift River valley. A plan was hatched to dam the Swift River and flood the valley. By the mid-1930s the plans were well underway for a new dam and reservoir to be named Winsor and Quabbin respectively.<sup>70</sup>

The town of Greenwich, Dana, Prescott, and Enfield, were disincorporated on April 28, 1938 per the order of Chapter 240 of the Acts and Resolves of April 26, 1938, passed by the Massachusetts General Court and signed into law by Gov. Charles Hurley. The four towns were annexed to the adjacent towns of Hardwick, New Salem, Petersham, and Ware, respectively.<sup>71</sup> Greenwich ceased to exist eight days after its 184th birthday.

Through a series of "buyouts" the inhabitants of these towns were tossed out of their homes in preparation for construction of the dam. Houses were bulldozed, bodies dug up (except for Native Americans), factories demolished, and millions acres of trees were cut down. The half-mile-long Winsor dam was built on the Swift River in Belchertown Mass, and one of the longest tunnels in the world was constructed to carry the water a hundred miles to the east.

Flooding of the valley started in mid-August 1939 and the reservoir was filled to capacity in 1946. By then nearly 40 square miles were covered with water.<sup>72</sup>



## Bodies Disinterred

A new cemetery called Quabbin Park was established in Ware to provide for reinterment for former residents of the Massachusetts towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott.<sup>73</sup> Quabbin Park Cemetery records comprise nine volumes identifying those who were buried there. This set of records begins with 48 microfiches of index cards that usually contain the name of deceased, birth and/or death information, place of original interment, and the specific location of reinterment.<sup>74</sup>

According to Find-A-Grave under the heading "Greenwich Cemetery (Defunct)": "All 7613 burials in the watershed were exhumed in 1938 of which 6,601 were removed to the Quabbin Park Cemetery. The remaining 1,012 burials went to other cemeteries".<sup>75</sup> The entrance to the cemetery is 485 Ware Road in Belchertown, Mass.

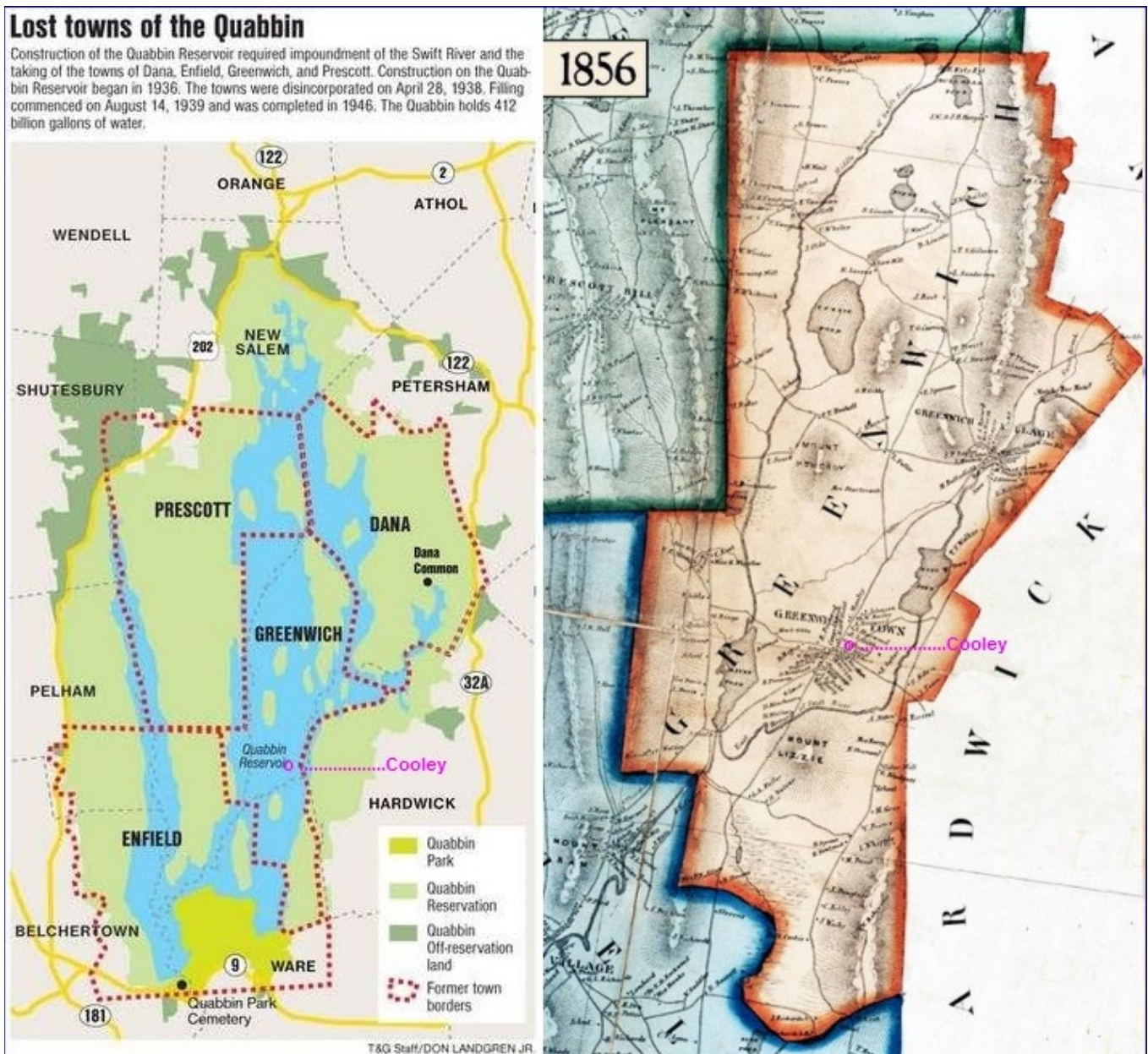


Fig 9. Present Quabbin Reservoir with an 1856 comparison of Greenwich

## Abbreviations

**ACB** - *Annals of the Church in Brimfield by the Pastor of the Church* by Jason Morse; Samuel Bowles & Company Printers, 1856

**AGBI** - *American Genealogical-Biographical Index* from the Genealogical Column of the "Boston Transcript" 1906-1941; 17 May 1916 and 7 Jun 1916 (ancestry.com)

**BHC** - *Brimfield Historical Celebration of the Town of Brimfield...* Oct 11, 1876

**CCI** - *Connecticut Individual County Chronologies* <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>

**ESB** - *Early Settlement of Brimfield* <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mahampde/brim.htm#index>

**DTW** - *Divisions Throughout the Whole: Politics and Society in Hampshire County Massachusetts, 1740-1775* by Gregory H. Nobles, Cambridge University Press, 1983

**FDG** - Find-A-Grave <https://www.findagrave.com> is a legitimate source *only* for gravestone pictures and information obtained therefrom. All other individual memorial information is not sourced and FDG has no requirement for it to be accurate.

**GHC** - *Gazetteer of Hampshire County, Mass., 1654-1887*

**GVR** - Greenwich Vital Records, 10 volumes

**HCV** - *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers*, online, Vol. 1; L.H. Everts, 1879

**HOP** - *History of the Town of Pittsford Vt. with Biographical Sketches and Family Records* by A.M. Caverly; Tuttle & Co Printers, 1862

**HWM** - *History of Western Massachusetts: The counties of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire; embracing an outline, or general history, of the section, an account of its scientific aspects and leading interests, and separate histories of its one hundred towns; in two volumes and three parts* by Josiah Gilbert Holland; Samuel Bowles And Company, 1855

**IHB** - *Indian History, Biography and Genealogy: Pertaining to the Good Sachem Massasoit of the Wampanoag Tribe, and His Descendants* by Ebenezer Weaver Peirce

**KPW** - *Soldiers in King Philip's War: Being a Critical Account of that War, with a Concise History of the Indian Wars of New England from 1620-1677* by George Madison Bodge January 1, 1906

**LMC** - *Chronology of Longmeadow, Massachusetts History* - [longmeadowhistoricalsociety.org/timeline.htm](http://longmeadowhistoricalsociety.org/timeline.htm)

**MBC** - *Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639-1915* database; LDS Family Search; FamilySearch.org; 18 March 2020

**MCH** - Massachusetts Individual County Chronologies; [publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents](http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents)

**MCRQ** - *Massachusetts Cemetery Records Quabbin Park 1741-1984*, Oxford, Massachusetts: Holbrook Research Institute, 1985; LC 84-062646, ISBN 0-931248-81-7 (ISBN 0-931248-81-7 Set); Copyright 1985 by Jay Mack Holbrook. Note: Greenwich & Greenwich Plains Cemeteries. Bk 4. FICHES 72-73.

**MSVR** - *Massachusetts, Springfield Vital Records 1638-1887* from FamilySearch (database possibly contaminated with discredited IGI and Ancestral File data)

**MVR** - *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Original data: Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts, Holbrook Research Institute (Jay and Delene Holbrook)

**NEHGS** - New England Historical and Genealogical Society and their publication *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*

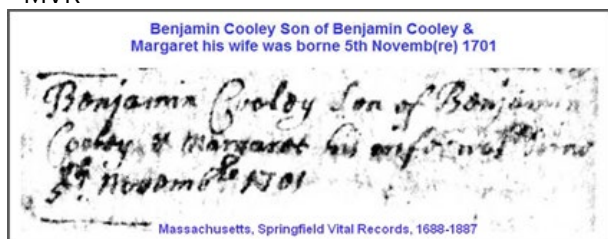
**QAB** - *Quabbin, the Story of a Small Town with Outlooks Upon Puritan Life* by Francis H Underwood LLD; Lee and Shepard Publishers, Boston; 1893

**VVR** - *Vermont, Vital Records, 1720-1908* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Original data: State of Vermont. Vermont Vital Records through 1870. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

**WIKI** - <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> MVR



<sup>2</sup> AGBI Benjamin Cooley b.1701

<sup>3</sup> MVR Brimfield Marriages



<sup>4</sup> MVR Brimfield "Births" p67

Gideon Cooley son to Ben <sup>2</sup> & Elisabeth Cooley born January 30 <sup>th</sup>	1730/1
Eurice Cooley Daughter to J.P. Benj <sup>2</sup> & Elisabeth born Oct <sup>r</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup>	1732
Elisabeth Cooley Born January 7 <sup>th</sup>	1734/5
Koziah Cooley Born March 19 <sup>th</sup> 1739	1739

<sup>5</sup> No primary source for her death date exists. The 1829 date is deduced from a brief obituary found in the *Boston Courier* Vol. V, #462, p.4, 31 May 1830 stating that she died in Dana "Dec 30th" which could only be a December 30th in a prior year, more than likely 1829. At that time her married name was Pratt.

<sup>6</sup> ACB p5

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> ACB p49

**NAMES OF CHURCH MEMBERS.**

NOTE.—Great pains have been taken to perfect the following list of church members. It is too much to suppose however, that it is altogether free from errors. The earlier names are recorded without much order; that of husband on one page, and that of wife joining the church at the same time, on another. The Christian names of married women are rarely given in the church records, and had to be sought among the town records of marriages, births or deaths. It is believed that this list is about as complete as these difficulties admit of. Most of the early members brought letters from other churches, and are so designated. Of others this is doubtful; until we come to 1848, when the record of Mr. Brighthouse begins. (179)

DATE OF MEMBERSHIP.	NAMES.	HISTORY.
1724. (a.)	I. David Morgan, Dea.	died 1760.
"	I. Henry Bart, Dea.	died 1765, aged 79.
"	I. John Stebbins, Dea.	died 1765, aged 79.
"	I. Patience, wife of John Stebbins,	died 1761.
"	I. John Sherman,	died 1774, aged 91.
"	I. Abigail, wife of John S.,	died 1772, aged 91.
"	I. Joseph Blodgett.	
"	I. Sarah, wife of Joseph B.,	died 1735.
"	I. Thomas Stebbins,	dis. to form a ch. Monson, 1762.
"	I. ———, wife of Thomas S.	dis. to form a ch. Monson, 1762.
"	I. Daniel Bart,	
"	I. Experience, wife of Dan'l B.,	died 1775.
"	I. James Thompson,	died 1776, aged 82.
"	I. ——— wife of James T.	
"	I. William Warriner,	died 1765. Nov. 16
"	I. Sarah, wife of Wm. W.	
"	I. Nathaniel Hitchcock,	died 1761.
"	I. Abigail, wife of Nath'l H.,	
"	I. Benjamin Cooley.	
"	I. Elizabeth, wife of Benj. C.	died 1743.

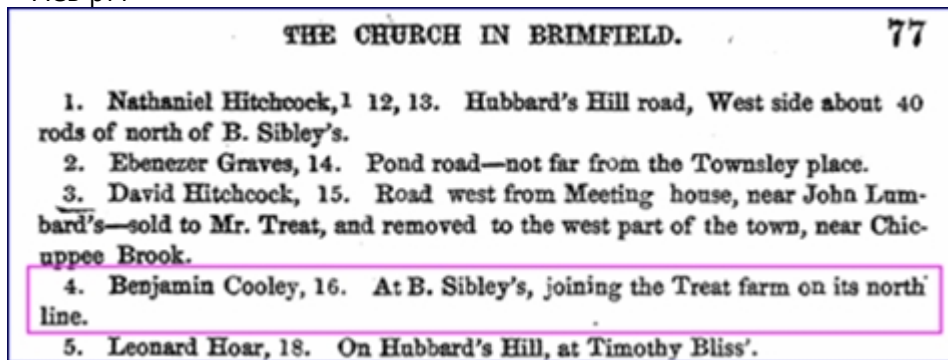
(a.) Original Members, (probably)  
 l. Stands against those received by letter.  
 p. Those received by profession.

<sup>10</sup> ACB pp10-14

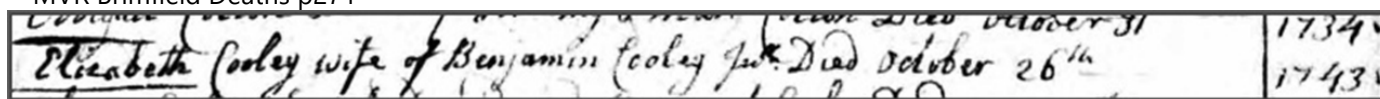
<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> MVR Brimfield

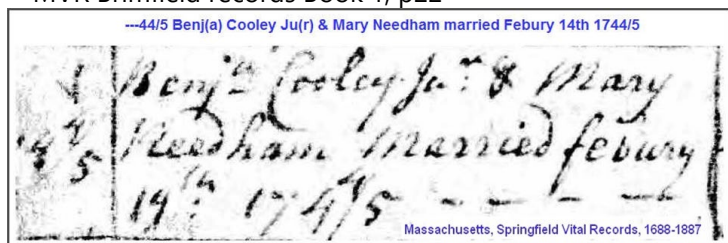
<sup>13</sup> ACB p77



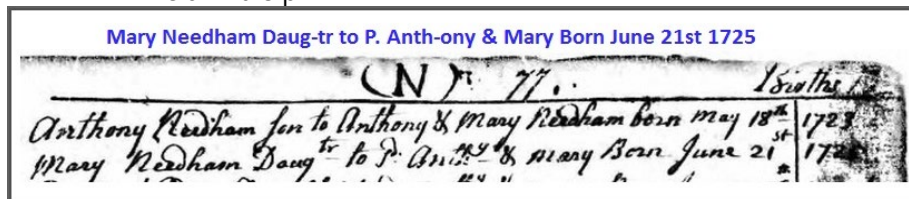
<sup>14</sup> MVR Brimfield Deaths p271



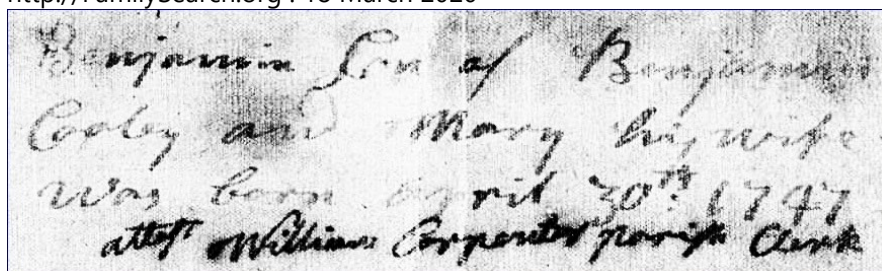
<sup>15</sup> MVR Brimfield records Book 1, p22



<sup>16</sup> MVR Brimfield Births p77



<sup>17</sup> MBC, LDS microfilm 186151/GM-866, Quabbin Reservoir (Belchertown Mass), March 1959; FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 18 March 2020



<sup>18</sup> VVR

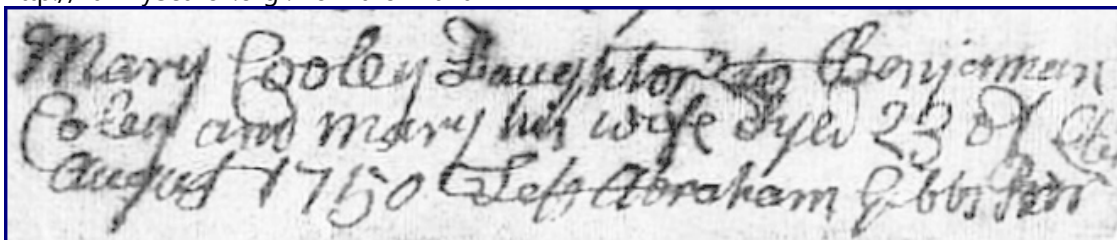
MARRIAGE-BRIDE

Name of Bride *North Beach*  
 Name of Groom *Benjamin Cooley*  
 Residence of Bride *Belchertown, W.*  
 Date of Marriage *July 18 1775*  
 Color *White* Age in Years *17* No. of Marriages \_\_\_\_\_ Wifed \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of Birth *Merristown N.Y.*  
 Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town *Pittsford* *Benj. Cooley* *Jan. Dec.*

<sup>19</sup> FDG Death date taken from gravestone and from the Cooley Genealogy



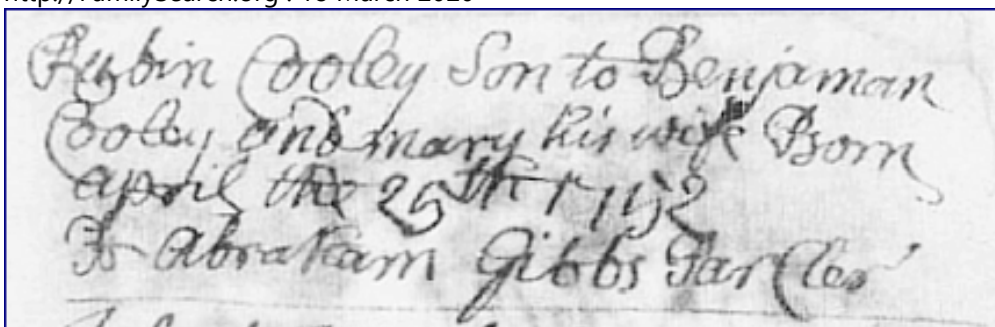
<sup>20</sup> MBC, LDS microfilm 186151/GM-866, Quabbin Reservoir (Belchertown Mass), March 1959; FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 18 March 2020



<sup>21</sup> "Massachusetts Deaths and Burials, 1795-1910", database; FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org>; 8 March 2020

Mary Cooley	
Massachusetts Deaths and Burials, 1795-1910	
Name:	Mary Cooley
Event Type:	Death
Event Date:	4 Apr 1769
Event Place:	Greenwich, Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, British Colonial America
Gender:	Female
Father's Name:	<a href="#">Benj'm. Cooley</a>

<sup>22</sup> MBC, LDS microfilm 186151/GM-866, Quabbin Reservoir (Belchertown Mass), March 1959; FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 18 March 2020



<sup>23</sup> CG pp496-7

Gravestone in Genesee Prairie Cemetery, Oshtemo, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Subject died in Portage, Kalamazoo County.



25 MVR #9, Greenwich, Page 3 (FamilySearch microfilm)

Esriah Cooly the son, and Naomi Cooly the daughter of Benjamin Cooly and Marah his wife were born July 25<sup>th</sup> anno Domini 1757

26 MVR 1620-1988

Azariah Cooley & Mercy Belden both of Danfield - September 6<sup>th</sup> 1781.

27 NEHGS Mass Town Records. Original interment: Greenwich Cem, Bl 4, Lot 278, Grave 5; died 18 Mar 1813 ae 58; Record Book 4, page 20. Reinterment: Quabbin Park Cem, Ware Mass, Lot 824, Grave 4; reinterred 8 Nov 1937.

28 Ibid endnote 25 above

29 MVR Intention of marriage between James Ewing of Halifax and Naomi Cooley (1st) of Greenwich. Also HOP pp60-61

30 See a very interesting story about James Ewings' father, Alexander Ewings, a British officer at Fort Cumberland (Maryland) during the French & Indian War (1754-1763) in *History of Pittsford* pages 60-61.

31 Death information for both James and Naomi are taken from a cenotaph in Fairview Cemetery, Northumberland County, Ontario.

32 MBC #9-Greenwich, page 3 (LDS microfilm; "Marget Cooley daughter of Benjamin Cooley and Marah his wife was born November 25<sup>th</sup> 1757"

Marget Cooley daughter of Benjamin Cooley and Marah his wife was born November 25<sup>th</sup> 1757 Recorded by Nathan Fisk Town Clerk

33 Massachusetts Town Records ca 1638-1691, FamilySearch L2PS-TQ9

<sup>34</sup> MVR, LDS #10 Greenwich, page 38; Marriage Intentions: 1 Apr 1786 Intention of marriage betwint Peter Rice and Marget Winslow both of Greenwich

<sup>35</sup> VVR <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V8m%-Q6T>

<sup>36</sup> MVR #9 Greenwich, Page 23 (FamilySearch microfilm)

COOLEY, Caleb	#9-Greenwich, Page 23
Caleb Cooley son of Benjn. Cooley by Mary his wife was born Feb. 20th, 1762	

<sup>37</sup> *Thomas Sanford, the Emigrant to New England, Ancestry, Life and Descendants, 1632-4* by Carlton E. Sanford, The Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont, 1911.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> FDG Gravestone states death dates for both Elizabeth Sanford and Capt Caleb Cooley.

<sup>40</sup> MBC Vol 1, 1747-1777 also MVR #9-Greenwich, p32; parents "Benjn. & Mary".

<sup>41</sup> VVR "Anthony Cooley, age 25, date of birth 1765, date of death, Mar 5th 1790, Baptist Cem". Gravestone picture in FGR.

<sup>42</sup> *Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast* by Christine M. Delucia.

<sup>43</sup> GHC - Gazetteer of Hampshire County, Mass., 1654-1887

<sup>44</sup> Ibid

<sup>45</sup> HCV p185

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

<sup>47</sup> *Soldiers in King Phillip's War: Narragansett township #4*, p48

<sup>48</sup> *A Sketch of Enfield's History* by Amanda Woods Ewing appearing in the program The Hundredth Anniversary of Enfield, Massachusetts, 1816 to 1916.

<sup>49</sup> HWM p535.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> HCV p185

<sup>52</sup> WIKI

<sup>53</sup> DTW

<sup>54</sup> Ibid

<sup>55</sup> Ibid p81

<sup>56</sup> Ibid p82

<sup>57</sup> WIKI. Methodism is a group of historically related denominations of Protestant Christianity which derive their inspiration from the life and teachings of John Wesley. George Whitefield and John's brother Charles Wesley were also significant leaders in the movement. It originated as a revival within the 18th century Church of England and became a separate denomination after Wesley's death. The movement spread throughout the British Empire, the United States, and beyond because of vigorous missionary work.

<sup>58</sup> <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/eighteen/ekeyinfo/grawaken.htm>

<sup>59</sup> Ibid

<sup>60</sup> <http://exploremass.blogspot.com/2007/02/greenwich-mass-1754-1938.html>

<sup>61</sup> GHC. This is the first definitive documentation of Benjamin4 Cooley in the Towne of Greenwich.

<sup>62</sup> HCV p538

<sup>63</sup> HOP p186

<sup>64</sup> First US Census 1790

Greenwich, Hampshire, County, MA						
1790 Census						
Sorted By Head of Household.						
* = Illegible						
	-----Free White -----					
	-- Males ---					
	16	Under	Females	Other	Slaves	Page
	& Over	16				
Colton, Reub*	2	0	3	0	0	113
Conkey, Alexander	1	3	2	0	0	113
Cooley, Azar*	2	1	4	0	0	113
Cooley, Reub*	2	3	4	0	0	113
Crosby, Rev. Josh*	2	1	1	0	0	113

know all men by these presents that I John Barns of Pittsford  
in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont yoman hold in  
the consideration of the sum of Twenty eight pounds ten shillings  
to me in hand paid before the delivery hereof part by Benjamin  
Cooley of Pittsford in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont the  
Receipt whereof do hereby acknowledge have given granted bargain  
and sold and by these presents do give grant bargain & sell alien  
releas convey and confirm to him the said Ben<sup>o</sup> Cooley his heirs  
and assigns all my right and title to a certain Tract of Land  
lying in Pittsford Containing Fifty seven acres of Land bounded as  
follows Beginning at the S E Corner of Isaac Smiths Land  
thence North to Nathaniel Pinneys Land thence East to Ben<sup>o</sup> Cooley  
Land thence South to Roger Stevens Land thence West  
to Ephraim Stevens Land then North on same (Crippens Land) thence  
West on s<sup>d</sup> Crippens Land to the first mentioned bounds  
to have & to hold the said granted premises with the appurtenances  
there of to him the said Ben<sup>o</sup> Cooley his heirs & assigns to  
them in proper use benefit & behoof forever here bying  
ing to sustain & defend said granted premises against all  
Claims or Demands of any person or persons Claiming by form  
or under me or the original prop<sup>r</sup> in Witness where of  
I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 16 Day of Octob<sup>r</sup>  
in this year 1782 Signed Sealed and Delivered  
in presence of us

John Barns &

Solomon Taylor Rutland Co  
Caleb Cooley Pittsford Dec<sup>r</sup> 1782 then personally app<sup>r</sup>  
the above named John Barns and acknowledge the above  
instrument to be his free act and Deed before me  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> of 1782 the above Deed  
Examined and recorded by me Eben<sup>o</sup> Dury S. C.

Full Name of Deceased	Benjamin Cooley		
Age	88	Yrs.	Mos. Days
Date of Birth	1701		
Names of Parents			
Name of Husband or Wife, if married	Mary Cooley		
Date of Death	Apr 1 1780		
Name of Cemetery	Baptist		
Attest: Elizabeth Kendall			
A True Copy	1919		
Attest: J. H. Wheaton			
Town Clerk of			

Full Name of Deceased	Mary Cooley		
Age	72	Yrs.	Mos. Days
Date of Birth	1826 (1725)		
Names of Parents			
Name of Husband or Wife, if married	Benjamin Cooley		
Date of Death	June 8 1789		
Name of Cemetery	Baptist		
Attest: Elizabeth Kendall			
A True Copy	DEC 31 1919		
Attest: J. H. Wheaton			
Town Clerk of PITTSFORD Vt.			



<sup>72</sup> WIKI

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/quabbin-park-cemetery>

<sup>74</sup> MCRQ

<sup>75</sup> FDG - [https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2380329/greenwich-cemetery-\(defunct\)](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2380329/greenwich-cemetery-(defunct))