

Blaisdells in Maine in 1790

by Sally Furber Nelson

The new United States conducted its first census in 1790. Although this 1790 census reported little more than the name of the head of household and the number of males and females, it has become an important tool for family historians.

The Maine Genealogical Society (MGS) has an ongoing project which seeks to document all of the families living in Maine at the time of the 1790 census. Maine was part of Massachusetts at that time and contained only five counties. The population included 96,540 persons grouped into just over seventeen thousand households.

27 Blaisdell Households

Of these seventeen thousand households, 27 were headed by a man named Blaisdell, Blasdel, or Blasdell. They were living in York, Wells, North Yarmouth, Arundel, Georgetown, Lebanon, Shapleigh, Lewis-town, Sullivan, Frankfort, Sedgwick, Condukeeg Plantation (now Bangor), Eastern River Township #2 (now Orland), and Orphan Island Town (now Bucksport). There was even a town called Blaisdelltown Settlement, an early name for Exeter in Penobscot County.

MGS has published 9 volumes so far and volume 10 is expected to be completed during 2008. Volume 1 contains sketches of **Christopher Blasdel** of Georgetown in Lincoln County and **Richard Sanborn Blaisdell** of Condukeeg Plantation.

Christopher & Sarah Blasdel of Georgetown

Christopher Blasdel was born in Amesbury, Massachusetts, 22 March 1721/22, the son of **Daniel** and **Naomi (Tukesbury) Blaisdell**. He married **Sarah Nichols** in Amesbury 23 November 1742 and they had 10 children: **Judith** who married **Ephraim Griffin, Jr.**; **Jonathan** who married **Elizabeth Weston**; **Sarah**; **Christopher**, two **Marys**, all who died young; **Daniel** who married **Anne Fellows**; **Hannah** and **Nicholas**, who both died young, and **Naomi** who married **Samuel Small**.

Richard Sanborn & Rebecca Blaisdell of Hampden

The son of **Moses** and **Anna (Sanborn) Blaisdell**, **Richard Sanborn Blaisdell**, was born in East Nottingham, New Hampshire, about 1761. He married **Rebecca Howard** and they settled by 1786 in what is now Hampden, Maine.

Richard Sanborn and **Rebecca Blaisdell** also had 10 children. **Theodosia**, the oldest, married **John Dunning**; **Thomas Howard** died at age 20; **Moses** married **Deborah Ryder**; **Sanborn** married (1) **Mary Miller**, (2) **Olive -----**, (3) **Harriet**

Whittemore Carter Ellis Doe; William married **Lucretia Spear** of Rockland; **John** died at age 5; **Robert**, born 1797 – died Bangor 1882; **Richard Sanborn**, born 1799, married **Lucy F. Dudley**; **Rebecca** died young; and **David Stinson**, who lived from 1804 to 1860.

[Note that this information from Volume 1 of *Maine Families in 1790* is not consistent with information presented by Beatrice K. Reynolds in the December 2007 issue of *Blaisdell Papers*]

Daniel & Anna Blaisdell of Georgetown

Volume 3 of the *Maine Families in 1790* series documents the family of **Daniel Blaisdell**, the son of **Christopher** and **Sarah (Nichols) Blaisdell** described in Volume 1. A blacksmith, Daniel married **Anna Fellows** in 1788, and they had 10 children, all born in Georgetown.

Daniel and Anna had the following children: **Sarah; Elizabeth** who married **Francis Morse; Joseph; Moses; Abigail** who married **Joseph Merrill; Mary** and **Prudence**, twins born in 1795, who apparently married brothers **Samuel** and **John Wildes; Nathaniel** who married **Sarah Small; Judith** who married **Ephraim Wildes**; and **Susanna** who married a man named **Merrill**.

William & Rebekah Blaisdell of Lewiston

William Blaisdell and his family are well documented in Volume 8 by the editor, **Joseph C. Anderson II**. William, born 1748, is the son of **Nathaniel** and **Mary (Blay) Blaisdell**. He married **Rebekah Pettingell** in North Yarmouth 25 March 1773.

Reportedly, William Blaisdell moved to North Yarmouth as a young man and owned a farm there; he moved to Lewiston in 1774 where he was one of the original residents when the town was incorporated. He served in various town offices, including tithingman, surveyor of highways, member of the school committee, and fence viewer.

William and Rebekah (Pettingell) Blaisdell had 11 children. **Abijah**, the oldest, was born in 1774 and died in 1787; **Walter Robie** married (1) **Sarah Mitchell**, (2) **Sarah/Sally Tyler**, (3) **Elizabeth/Betsy Rogers**, (4) **Ruby Additon; Lydia** married **Pelatah Barnes** of Greene; **Mary/Polly** married **David Baley** of Poland; **William** married **Rebecca Tyler** of New Gloucester and moved to Bangor; **Peter M.** married **Hannah Morse** and had a farm in Monmouth; **Delia/Dillia** died young as did the next child **Hannah** and another **Delia; Sarah** married **William Jepson; Nathaniel**, the youngest, died in the army.

Elijah & Mary Polly Blaisdell of York

Recently, I have researched my ancestor **Elijah Blaisdell** and submitted my sketch for inclusion in Volume 10. Elijah, the son of **Daniel** and **Mary (Allen) Blaisdell**, was born in York about 1764. He married **Mary “Polly” Emery**, the

daughter of **John** and **Adah (Emery) Emery**, in York 11 December 1788. They had 11 children, all born in York. After Polly's death in 1821, Elijah and all of his children moved to the Sidney/Waterville area. There Elijah married for the second time **Annes Osgood Barrett** of Canaan and died 5 January 1849.

Mary, the oldest child, married Sir **Lathiel Ballentine** and lived in Waterville. **John**, the oldest son, married (1) **Lydia Trafton Eastus** (2) **Deborah Parsons**. John and Lydia had 5 children and lived on a farm in Sidney. His son, **Charles Trafton Blaisdell**, is my great grandfather. **Eleanor** married **Samuel Farnham, Jr.** in 1813; after his death in Sidney in 1832, she married **James Joy**.

Daniel, the fourth child of Elijah and Polly Blaisdell, married **Mary Blaisdell** in Sidney in 1817. She was the daughter of **Samuel** and **Mary (Mitchell) Blaisdell**. After Mary's death, Daniel married **Sally Tobey** of Wells. The next daughter, **Charlotte**, married **Joseph Buzzell** in 1814; they lived in Canaan, where Joseph died in 1838. Charlotte married second **Samuel Moore** of Sidney.

Keziah Blaisdell married **Joseph Farnhum**, brother of her sister's husband, **Samuel**. They raised their family in Sidney but moved to St. Albans by 1850. **Elijah Blaisdell, Jr.** married **Hannah M. Blaisdell**, daughter of **Samuel Blaisdell** and his second wife, **Nancy Erskine**, and step-sister to his brother Daniel's wife. Elijah and Hannah are both buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Waterville.

Hannah Blaisdell, born 1803, married **Stephen Bragdon** in York in 1821. They lived in Sidney. **David** married **Roxanna Kenney** in Sidney in 1829; they moved to Waterville later and are both buried in Pine Grove Cemetery there.

Mehitable, the youngest daughter, married **Joseph Mitchell, Jr.**, the son of **Joseph** and **Dorothy (Blaisdell) Mitchell**. They lived and died in Waterville. **Hosea**, the youngest son, married **Lucinda B. Ladd** in Sidney in 1836. After her death, he married her sister, **Nancy**. Hosea was a tanner who lived in Mechanic Falls, West Waterville, Sidney, and Waterville.

I am also working on a sketch for **Daniel Blaisdell**, Elijah's father, who was still alive when the census was taken in 1790. But this still leaves 23 Blaisdells to be researched!!! If your Blaisdell ancestor was in Maine in 1790, consider writing a sketch for a future volume of *Maine Families in 1790*.

For more details, go to <http://www.rootsweb.com/~megs/families.html>.

Sally Furber Nelson, Ph.D. *From: Alice Maud (Berry) Furber, Lena (Blaisdell) Berry, Charles Trafton Blaisdell, John Blaisdell, Elijah Blaisdell, Daniel Blaisdell — (6.22)*