

Probable Parents of Hawaiian Patriarch John Blaisdell (b.1812)

by Beatrice K. Reynolds

John Blaisdell was born in Rockland, Maine on 9 February 1812, according to his Naturalization Certificate, Hawai'i State Archives, 16 June 1846. However, he could not have been born in Rockland, because the town was non-existent in 1812. Technically, he would have been born in Thomaston, out from which East Thomaston separated on 28 July 1848, becoming Rockland in 1850 and a city in 1854, when the legislation was passed by the Maine State Legislature.

From Maine to Hawaii

On 1 August 1849 John was issued the Hawaiian Kingdom Passport #729 with the name John L. Blaisdell, age 37, carpenter, native of Bath, Maine, sailed on "James Monroe" (US Passport, 1849). He had auburn hair, blue eyes, ruddy complexion, six feet in height. Notes from **Katherine Malia (Blaisdell) Apjoke** indicate that John L. Blaisdell's occupation was that of "missionary, sailor, whaling ship's captain and cooper [barrel maker]." When and where he married **Rosanna** (surname unknown) born in Scotland, is unknown. At some point in time, John added a middle name of Lewis and, thereafter, was known as **John Lewis Blaisdell**. He died 18 August 1889 in Kealia, Kaua'i, Hawai'i ("Hawaiian Gazette" gave his age as 88, and it was age 77), with his "Bones buried" in O'ahu Cemetery, Honolulu, HI, in a lot purchased by **Cora A. Blaisdell**, the year not recorded (Hawai'i State Archives). All this data were given to **Carter Blaisdell** of the Blaisdell Family National Association by **Richard Kekuni Akana Blaisdell**, MD, whom Carter and his wife, **Anita**, visited while they were in Honolulu March 27, 2007, visiting the islands.

The Search for Parentage

Several years ago, **Ellie Blaisdell** of South Berwick, Maine, responded as the Blaisdell Family National Association's Genealogist to an inquiry regarding this same John Blaisdell, who used "Lewis" as his middle name to which she added: "Parents unknown. Migrated to Hawaiian Islands at an early date while Hawaii was still a Kingdom. Described as a missionary; sailor, ship's captain and a cooper. Sailed with wife and child from San Francisco 27 November 1850 to Hawaii. (From Ship's Passenger List) New Bedford Whaling Capt. Pioneer to Hawaiian Islands, 1832" from news clippings. "Married B. L., who died 3 July 1867, buried same cemetery. If anyone can help the Association and these cousins in their search, the help would be most appreciated."

Unfortunately, John Blaisdell's birth was not recorded in the vital records of Rockland, Thomaston, Hampden, Bucksport,

Orland, Georgetown, Bath, or in Phippsburg, Maine (his son **Lewis H. Blaisdell** gave “Pittsburg, ME” as his father’s place of birth, probably for Phippsburg – on his marriage license 18 December 1917 in Maine) or in any of the towns where the Blaisdell/Blasdel/Blasdell families were enumerated in Maine from 1790-1820: Bangor, Buckstown (now Bucksport), Eastern River Township, Hampden, Georgetown, North Frankfort, Orland, Phippsburg, Prospect, and Sullivan.

Speculation that John Blaisdell (b. say 1814) was the son of **James** (1778-1866) and **Miriam (Lewis) Blaisdell** was ruled out, for **John** and his wife **Mary** were enumerated in the 1860-1880 US censuses in Bristol, Maine, Lincoln County.

Thus a search of the censuses was necessary to determine which Blaisdell families lived in Thomaston. The 1810 to 1820 censuses in Hancock County netted several Blasdsel (so spelled) families who lived in Orland, Frankfort, Hampden, North Frankfort, Sullivan, or W 3 Range 3, Range 5 or 9 TWP: **Abner, Daniel, Daniel Jr., David, Ebenezer, Ebenezer, Eben, Enoch, James, James, Jr., John P., Moses, Philip, Richard, Paul, Samuel, Robert, S. Richard, Samuel**, and two named **William**. However, no one named Blaisdell/Blasdel/Blasdell was enumerated in Thomaston. Next, the various towns’ vital records were searched for a John Blaisdell born in 1812, but to no avail.

In 1830, a **Richard S. Blaisdell** was enumerated in Thomaston, along with others named Blaisdell. In 1850, Richard was enumerated in Thomaston with his wife Mary C. and their “daughter” **Mary S. Blaisdell**. Cyrus Eaton’s *History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston, Maine. Vol. 2*, pp. 150-151, *Vol. 2* gave specific data on him, including the name of his father and siblings, which aided tremendously in solving the problem of John Blaisdell’s parentage. We now know that Richard Sanborn Blaisdell was the “son of Richard S. Blaisdell b. in 1761, who died at Rockl., 1 Nov. 1846” in Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland... Vol. 2: (op. cit., p. 150)* whose sons “**William** b. 1794, c. (came) here from Orland; m. **Lucretia Spear**, May 13, 1823; r. (resided) Rock., & d. Oct. 21.’ 58. Capt. Richard S. m. **Mary C. Arey**, “rem. for a time to California, but returned and resided in Rockland.” We also know that Richard’s parents were enumerated in 1790 in Hampden, Maine, whose children are documented in the vital records of Hampden, except for Richard Sanborn Blaisdell (b. 1787) and his sister Theodosia (b. 1787) and other siblings.

The next phase of the search included searching the 1790-1926 deeds in Lincoln, Waldo, and Hancock Counties which cited several Blaisdell men in the county — **Abner, James, Richard**, and **Sanborn**, but only **Richard Sanborn Blaisdell, Elijah S. Blaisdell, William Blaisdell** and **Sanborn Blaisdell** lived in

Thomaston, that part which became the city of Rockland in 1850.

A search of the vital records of Thomaston proved fruitful, for the birth records were recorded for key Blaisdell men—brothers of Richard Sanborn Blaisdell: **Sanborn Blaisdell's** children were born 1823-1833 and William's children were born 1827-1842. Richard Blaisdell (b. 1799), enumerated in Greenbush, Maine, never lived in Thomaston; his 14 children, all born in Milford, Maine, are documented in vital records of Greenbush, Maine. Thus, the parentage of John Blaisdell born 1812 who migrated to Hawaii can now be established!

Richard Sanborn and 1st wife Sophia Blaisdell of Bucksport, Thomaston, and Rockland, Maine

John⁸ Blaisdell is a direct descendant of **Richard⁷ Sanborn Blaisdell (Richard Sanborn⁶, Moses⁵ and Anne (Sanborn)**, she being of Epping, NH; **Daniel⁴ & Naomi Tuxbury/Tewkesbury, Jonathan³ & Hannah Gimson/Jameson, Henry² & Mary (Haddon) Sr., and Ralph¹ Bleasdale**). He is probably the son of Richard Sanborn Blaisdell (1787-1873) and his first wife Mrs. Sophia (Barnard) Sears (1787-1845) who filed marriage intentions at Buckstown (now Bucksport), Maine on 26 April 1811 (*Vital Records Bucksport, Maine*, p. 401). Both were residents of Buckstown. However, no birth records were found for the children of Richard and Sophia Blaisdell during their 34 years of marriage, or for his second marriage, although family records were found for others named Blaisdell.

Mrs. **Sophia Sears** was born say 1787, daughter of Dr. **Isaac Barnard** “the first physician who came here in 1787” and **Katie Tolman**, born 11 September 1768, daughter of **Isaiah Tolman** and his 2nd wife **Margaret Robbins** of Rockland, Maine (his name being spelled “Bernard” in Charles A.E. Long, *Matinicus Isle and Its People In Two Parts Part One, Historical Part Two Genealogical Illustrated* [1926], p. 208, with the Tolman genealogy being given on pages 206-216; and Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland.. [op.cit.], Vol. II* [1865]: 435). Dr. Barnard “did not remain long there, but being of a roving nature he shifted from place to place, remaining but a short time in the same town” (Reuel Robinson, *History of Camden and Rockport, Maine* [1907], pp. 84-85).

“Sopha” Bernard (Barnard) married (1) (int. 14 August 1806) **James Sears**, “of Camden.” (Marlene A. Groves, compiler, *Vital Records of Camden/Rockport, Maine* [2006], p. 514; called “Capt.” in Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland... [op.cit.], Vol. II* [1865]: 388). Capt. Sears “came from Camden”; he died 19 January 1810 “lost at sea” (Cyrus Eaton, *op. cit. Vol. II*:388) along with **Jonathan Spear 2nd**, brother-in-law of **William Blaisdell** (*loc. cit.*, p. 407). Children: **John B. Sears**, born 26 March 1807

at Thomaston, Maine (called "Dr." in Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston....Vol. II:388* and Marlene A. Groves, compiler, *Vital Records Thomaston, Maine* [2002], p. 44). He m. 22 Feb. 1830 **Priscilla Wotton**, b. 26 March 1809; they "removed to Illinois and California" (Cyrus Eaton, *loc. cit. Vol. II:388*). Their children were born in Thomaston (*VR Thomaston, loc. cit.*, p. 51): **John B. Sears** b. 30 Nov. 1830 of Stockton, California were married at Rockland, Maine 6 April 1868 **Lydia G. Pain** of Rockland, by the Rev. **W. C. Holman** (Marlene A. Groves, editor, *Vital Records Rockland, Maine* [2001], p. 425; they filed intentions there 30 March 1868, he "of Stockton Springs, California" [*loc. cit.*]); **Priscilla** b. 26 March 1832, **John B.** b. 25 March 1834, **Richard W.** b. 5 Nov. 1836, **James F.** b. 30 Jan. 1839, and **Benjamin F.** b. 3 April 1842 (*loc. cit.* p. 51). In 1860, John Sears, Sr., age 53, and his son, John, Jr., age 26, and **Margaret**, age 32, were enumerated in Stockton Springs, California. In 1860, John Sears, Sr., age 53, was still enumerated there with Richard W. Sears age 24 (b. 1846) and Richard Blaisdell, age 74 (b. say 1786) in his household, all born in Maine. (Note: Isaiah Tolman was born in Stoughton, Massachusetts 28 May 1721 (Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland....op. cit.*--- Dedham in those days); he married at Stoughton 12 September 1745 **Hannah Fuller**, both of Stoughton, by the Rev. **Philip Curtis** (Frederic Endicott, ed., *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Intentions of Marriage, in the Town of Stoughton From 1727 to 1800, and in the Town of Canton From 1797 to 1845, Preceded by the Records of the South Precinct of Dorchester From 1715 to 1727* [1896], p. 34). Isaac Tolman "moved from Stoughton, Mass. in 1769, and took up five hundred acres around what is now Chickawaukie Lake, in Rockland and Camden" (Charles A. Long, *Matinicus Isle: Its Story and Its People in Two Parts Part One Historical Part Two, Genealogical* [1926], p. 27). Isaiah and his first wife, **Hannah (Fuller) Tolman**, had eight children born 1746-1758 (*loc. cit.*, pp. 207-08); he married (2) 9 June 1859 Mrs. **Margaret Robins** of Walpole, Mass. 26 June 1759 (Curtis, *op. cit.*, p. 177; m. int. 9 June 1759, p. 173) by whom he had 11 children (Long, *op. cit.* p. 208); he m. (3) **Jane Philbrook** of Vinalhaven, Maine who died at Matinicus, Maine, by whom he had two children (Long, *loc. cit.* and the *History of Thomaston, Rockland... op. cit.*, p. 435). He had 21 children (*loc. cit.*).

Sophia Blaisdell died 11 December 1845, "age 58, wife of Mr. R. S. Blaisdell and daughter of the late Dr. Barnard of this town, aged about 58 years" (Steven Edward Sullivan, editor, *Vital Records from the Thomaston Recorder 1836-1846* [1995], p. 93); her gravestone at the Seaview Cemetery states "1st wife, d. 2 Dec. 1845, age 57 y (Dr. Donald V. Brown, "Seaview Cemetery," *op. cit.*, p. 9).

Second Marriage: Mary Arey

Capt. **Richard Blasdell** (so spelled) married (2) at Thomaston, Maine, 14 September 1846 (int. 1 Sept. 1846, VR, p. 465), **Marcy C. Arey** “both of Thomaston” (Marlene A. Groves, compiler, *Vital Records of Thomaston, Maine* [2003], p. 473). **Mary** (called **Marcy**) **Arey** was born at Vinalhaven, Maine 11 July 1827, daughter of Capt. **John** and **Sarah (Creed) Arey** of Thomaston (*loc. cit.*; her father was born 11 April 1797 at Vinalhaven as was her mother **Sarah Creed**, 11 November 1805 (Ralph Vary Chamberlin, Ph.D., “Richard Arey of Martha’s Vineyard and Some of His Descendants,” in the New England Historical Genealogical Society *Register*, Vol. 87 [1933]:19).

Mary C. Blaisdell “2nd wife” died 3 June 1860, age 32 y, 10 m 22 d; she and their children are buried with Richard and his 1st wife Sophia in the Seaview Cemetery, Rockland (Dr. Donald V. and Christine R. Brown, “Seaview Cemetery,” p. 9; death dates given in *Vital Records Rockland, Maine* [2001], p. 149). Richard S. Blaisdell died at Rockland, Maine 2 July 1873 (Marlene A. Groves, compiler *Vital Records Rockland, Maine* [2001], p. 149). His gravestone at Seaview Cemetery lot #4 gives his age as 87 y (Dr. Donald V. Brown, “Seaview Cemetery,” p. 9). **Arvilla A. Blaisdell**, 1st wife of **Lewis H. Blaisdell** [born Hawaiian Islands] is also buried there in Lot 9 (*loc. cit.*).

Since no birth records have been found for Richard S. Blaisdell’s family, and whereas he was a sea captain, it is possible that he took his family to sea with him, as did Capt. Colcord of Searsport, Maine, whose wife, daughter **Joanna Colcord**, and son **Lincoln Alden Colcord** (1857-1917) went with him (relatives of the author).

Family of Richard Sanborn & Sophia (Barnard) (Sears) Blaisdell

Richard Sanborn Blaisdell was enumerated in Thomaston, Maine in 1830 with two males age 20-30, one female age 15-20, and one female age 20 to 30. In 1840 and 1850, both Richard Sanborn Blaisdell and **Sanborn Blaisdell** were enumerated in Thomaston, with Richard having two males in his household age 20-30 (b. 1810-1820) and two males age 50-60 categories (b.1780-1790) with one female age 10-15 and one from age 50-60. In 1850 **Richard S. Blaisdell** age 62 (b. say 1788) “apothecary” was enumerated in Rockland, Maine with his wife **Mary C.** age 23 (b. say 1827) and **Mary S.** “daughter” age 10/12. In 1860 Richard Blaisdell age 74 (b. 1786), born in Maine, was enumerated in San Joaquin Township, California, living in the household of his step-son, **John B. Sears, Sr.**, “farmer” who lived next door to **John B. Sears, Jr.** and his wife, **Margaret**, all born in Maine.

That "Capt." Blaisdell resided in Rockland, Maine, moved to California, and later returned to Maine is consistent with the data given in Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston in Two Volumes* [Hallowell: 1865] Vol 2, p. 150. In the 1870 census Richard Blaisdell age 83 (b. say 1787 Maine) was enumerated in Rockland, Maine, living alone. No birth records have been found for the children of Richard S. Blaisdell and his two wives.

Probable Children by First Wife, Sophia Barnard

- a. **John⁸ Blaisdell** b. 9 Feb. 1812; married **Rosanne** (surname unknown) born in Scotland. He went to Hawaii being known as John Lewis Blaisdell. No birth record has been found for him.

Children: born Hawaii [Family data supplied to Carter Blaisdell by Richard Kekuni Akana Blaisdell of Hawaii]

- i. **John⁹ Blaisdell**, b. 1846 -1847 or 1849/50, nicknamed "Juno" who had **John Lewis¹⁰ Blaisdell** b. 7 August 1886. He died 27 March 1890 (age 39/40) in Honolulu. He was buried 27 March 1890 in Oahu Cemetery in lot purchased by **J. L.** and **Matilda Blaisdell** and **Elisha Andrew**. There is no tombstone (Oahu cemetery records). In 1885 he was age 35. His residence is given as King Street Honolulu, Hawaii; he was a laborer. He married **Matilda Hughes**, born 1864, daughter of **Thomas** and **Matilda Hughes** (Hawaii State Archives), testified by **Dianne McVicker** of Kodiak, Alaska.; she died 5 October 1889 in Honolulu and is buried in the Oahu Cemetery.

Children, born Honolulu, Hawaii

- a. **John Lewis¹⁰ Blaisdell** b. 7 August 1886; m. 28 Jan. 1914 **Evangeline Hawkins** in Honolulu. She died 30 April 1958 in Santa Cruz, California.
b. **Matilda Blaisdell** b. 23 Feb. 1888; m. 30 June 1909
Elisha Sydney Andres

- ii. **Charles Blaisdell**, b. 1850
iii. **Lewis Henry Blaisdell** b. say 1852; he died testate at Rockland, Maine in 1920. He was of "Honolulu, Sandwich Islands" when he married (1) 22 Sept. 1882 at Rockland, Maine Mrs. **Arvilla A. (Lothrop) Wallace** (*VR Rockland, Maine*) age 66 (b. say 1837), widow of **Reuben Wallace**, a "lime burner" in the 1860 USC Rockland, in 1870 he was a "seaman," and in 1880 USC he was a "sailor"; he was born at Waldoboro, Maine (*History of Thomaston, Rockland and South*

Thomaston, Maine, Vol. 2 [1865]: 447). He m. (2) at age 66, of Rockland, Maine at Rockland on 25 Dec. 1917 **Annie L. Ladd** of Rockland, age 62, born at Bucksport, Maine, daughter of **David** and **Eunice (Seager) Chase**. According to their marriage record, he stated that he was born in the Hawaiian Islands, his father "**John**" was born in "**Pittsburg, ME**" and his mother "**Roseanne**" (no surname) was born in Scotland" – the same data that he gave in the 1900 and 1910 US censuses, Knox County, Rockland, Maine. In 1900 **Lewis Blaisdell**, age 48, was enumerated in Rockland, Maine "born Hawaii."

- iv. **William Wallace Blaisdell** b. August 1856 Hawaiian Islands (1910 USC Oahu, Hawaii gives Maine as his father's place of birth and Scotland as his mother's place of birth). William married **Cora Shaw**, b. 24 or 28 January 1857, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Children: 1900 US Census, all born Hawaiian Islands

- a. **Charles M.** b. March 1880
- b. **Wallace** b. August 1884, California (1910 USC).
He was enumerated in 1910 in Honolulu with his wife **Malia K.** age 23, sons **Neil K.** age 7, **William** age 4, **Charles J.** age 3, and **Cora** age 2.
In 1920 he was enumerated there with his wife and children **Neil, Wallace**, a daughter [name not clear], **James**, and **Harry**.
- c. **James M.** b. Nov. 1888
- d. **Cora M. B.**, b. Sept. 1892

- v. **Jennie Blaisdell** b. 12 May 1858; d. 14 Feb. 1946. m. William Weight, Jr. b. 1858; d. 1921.
- vi. **Margaret Blaisdell** b. circa 1860; christened 18 Feb. 1870 at St. Andrews, age 10
- vii. **Fanny Blaisdell** b. circa 1859; bpt. St. Andrews Cathedral in 1875 age 16
- viii. **Edward F. Kukui Blaisdell** christened 6 Sept. 1863 at St. Andrews Cathedral (Parish Records); d. 13 June 1933, buried in O'ahu Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii. He m. **Marie Ayou Apana**, who d. 13 June 1933 (suicide). **Edward K. Blaisdell** is enumerated in 1900 in Puna, Hawaii, age 36, b. 1 Oct. 1863 (either his birth month is incorrect or his baptismal month is incorrect) with his wife (not readable) age 29, b. Nov.

1871, both born in the Hawaiian Islands. His father was born in Massachusetts [technically correct in 1812] and his mother was born in Scotland.

- b. **Elijah S. Blaisdell** was born on 10 October 1813 at Thomaston, Maine. He was “of Thomaston, Maine” when he (marriage intentions Thomaston, 30 December 1843) and **Sophia A. Knox** were married at Machias, Maine 1 March 1844 by the Rev. **J. A. Perry** (*loc. cit.*) and Steven Edward Sullivan, “Vital Records from Thomaston Recorder,” p. 71, at the Maine State Library; and *Vital Records Thomaston, Maine* gives his date of birth and marriage. He is probably the Elijah S. Blaisdell “of Rockland” called “Master” who owned ½ an interest in a ship constructed in Machias, Maine, with **Jacob Barter** of Machiasport; the ship was enrolled, No. 35, Sept. 15, 1851, at Machias” (New England Ancestors. Org.). Note: the 1836-1860 deeds at Rockland show **E. S. Blaisdell** and Elijah S. Blaisdell “of Thomaston” as grantor (Vols. 14:173, 8:366, 12:32), he being called “druggist” in a deed dated 10 June 1847 (Vol. 13: 105) and 7 March 1848 (Vol. 13: 308). From 1836-1860 E. S. Blaisdell was a grantee (Vol. 8:362).

E. Sabine Blasdell was first enumerated in 1850, living in Rockland, Maine age 37 (b. say 1813). In his household were his wife **Sophia A.** age 27 “insane”, **Sabine W.** age 4, **Edward F.** age 3/12, and **John K.** age 3/12, all born in Maine. He was enumerated next door to **William Spear** “mariner” and six doors down from **Richard S. Blaisdell**. In 1860 Elijah Blaisdell age 47 (b. say 1813), born Maine, “farmer” was living alone in Castoria Township, San Joaquin California, where **Richard S. Blaisdell** age 74, born Maine (b. say 1786), was enumerated in the household of **John B. Sears, Jr.** “farmer.” In 1860 **Sophia Blaisdell**, age 38 (b. say 1822) and **Frank Blaisdell**, age 7 (b. say 1853), probably their son, were enumerated in Whitneyville, Washington County, Maine in the household of **John Knox**, age 71 (b. say 1789), born in New Hampshire, and his wife **Lucy R. Knox**, age 67, probably Sophia’s parents. Also enumerated in the household were **John R. Knox** age 36, **Wallace Knox** age 33, **George Knox** age 29, and **John Knox** age 10, all born in Maine. Note: Elijah’s brother, **Edwin W. Blaisdell**, cited below, died in Whitneyville.

In 1860, **Elijah S. Blaisdell**, age 47 “farmer,” was enumerated, living alone in Castoria TWP, San Joaquin, California. **E. S. Blaisdell** “of California” married at Rockland (int. 21 May 1869) 27 May 1869 **Frances Doe** of Rockland, by the Rev. **George Pratt** (*Vital Records Rockland, Maine*, pp. 431, 612). In 1870, he age 50 (*sic*) with “no occupation” and his wife, **Frances**, were enumerated in TWP No. 2, Santa Barbara County, California. In 1880 he was enumerated in Montecito, Santa Barbara County, California, age 67 (b.

1813) stating that his father was born in New Hampshire and his mother was born in Maine; his wife, Frances, was age 45 (b. say 1835) with their daughter, **Eva F.** age 7, both born in Maine.

- c. **Sophia Blaisdell**, born say 1822 (age 38, living in the household of **John** and **Lucy Knox** in Whitneyville [Washington County], Maine with **Frank Blaisdell** age 7 [b. say 1853]), probably her son (she being enumerated as a young female in the 1830 USC). Note: John and Lucy were age 71 and 61 respectively, he being a postmaster. Also in their household were his sons, **John Knox** and his family and **Wallace Knox**, age 33.
- d. **Mary S. Blaisdell** b. say 1835-1840; deceased by 1849.

Children by Second Wife, Mary Arey

Children: only deceased children known: first two cited in *History of Thomaston... Vol. 2: [1865]: 151; "Seaview Cemetery," loc. cit., p. 9.*

- e. **Edwin F. Blaisdell** d. 9 April 1852 at Whitneyville (incorporated 10 Feb. 1845 from a portion of Machias)
- f. **Lucy Hellen Blaisdell** b. Sept. 1848, d. 19 April 1850
- g. **Mary Sophia Blaisdell** b. say 1849, d. 22 August 1854 age 5 y 1 m 15 d (g.s. Seaview Cemetery gives "daughter").
- h. **John B. Blaisdell** b. Jan. 1853, d. 7 August 1854 age 1 y 5 m (g.s. Seaview Cemetery)

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