

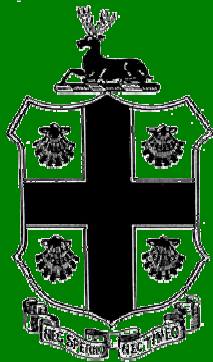
# The Cogswell Courier

Cogswells in  
Minuteman statue with poem



the Revolution  
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"I neither despise  
nor fear"  
December 2011*





## Cogswell Courier

**December 2011,  
Volume 22, Issue 3**

The mission of the Cogswell Family Association is to perpetuate the memory, history and genealogy of the Cogswell family with particular emphasis on descendants of John and Elizabeth Cogswell who arrived in America in 1635. This mission is accomplished by collecting, preserving, recording and publishing family documentation, memorabilia and memorials, as well as promoting friendship, understanding, mutual assistance and collaborative research across the membership.

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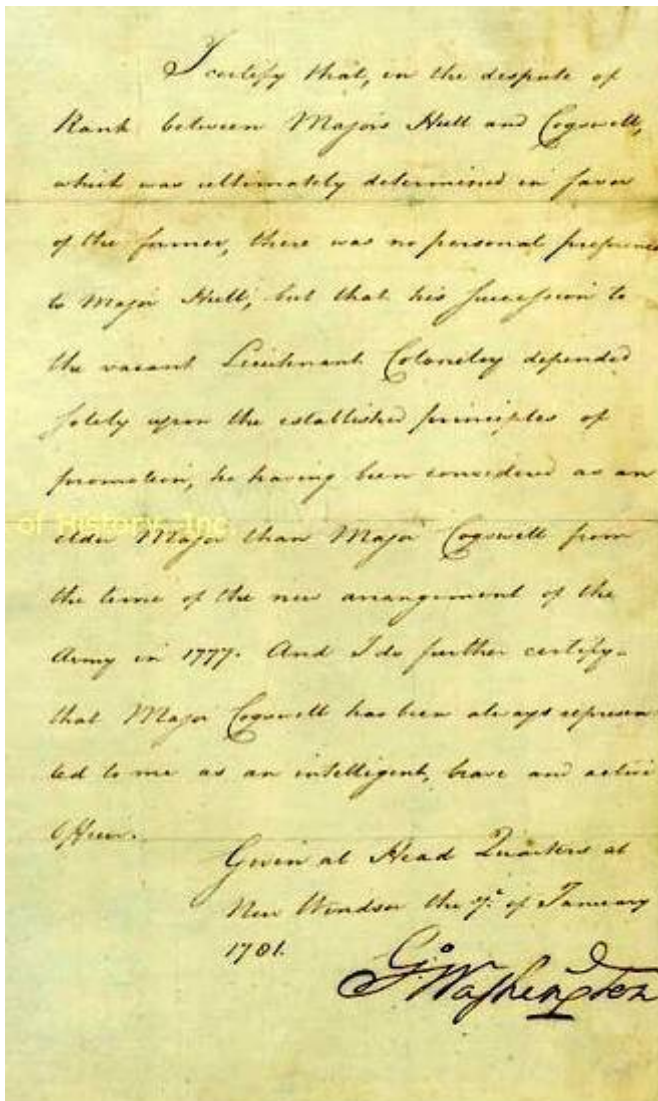
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By the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
 Here once the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world.  
 The foe long since in silence slept; alike the conqueror silent sleeps;  
 And Time the ruined bridge has swept down the dark stream which seaward creeps.  
 On this green bank, by this soft stream, we set to-day a votive stone;  
 That memory may their deed redeem, when, like our sires, our sons are gone.  
 Spirit, that made those spirits dare to die, and leave their children free,  
 Bid Time and Nature gently spare the shaft we raise to them and thee.  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Letter from George Washington



After the battle of Trenton (December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1776), on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1777, George Washington promoted William Hull to be Major in the 8<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1779. William or Thomas Cogswell (which one is uncertain) felt the promotion should have been his, so he resigned his commission, returning home.

An item offered for sale on the internet (asking price over \$150,000.00) is a letter from Washington, explaining the situation:

"I certify that, in the dispute of Rank between Majors Hull and Cogswell, which was ultimately determined in favor of the former, there was no personal preference to Major Hull, but that his succession to the vacant Lieutenant Colonelcy depended solely upon the established principles of promotion, he having been considered as an older Major than Major Cogswell from the time of the new arrangement of the Army in 1777. And I do further certify that Major Cogswell has been always represented to me as an intelligent, brave and active Officer.

Given at Head Quarters at New Windsor, the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1781

G<sup>o</sup> Washington"

Cogswell was promoted to Major on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1777, giving Hull 20 days of seniority. This certification by General Washington was most probably written at the request of Major Cogswell, explaining why

Cogswell was not promoted and Hull was.

(Hull was later Governor of Michigan Territory [1805-1812]. In the War of 1812, now a Brigadier General, William Hull led the American attack from Detroit into Canada, was outmaneuvered and defeated by the British and surrendered on August 16, 1812. Hull was court-martialed, convicted of cowardice and neglect of duty and sentenced to be shot. His execution was not carried out because of his outstanding service during the Revolutionary War.)

# Nathaniel and John Cogswell

Nathaniel Cogswell (*DJC* 212) and his son John Cogswell (*DJC* 557) both fought in the American Revolution. In 1763, Nathaniel had been appointed Lieutenant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company in Preston, Connecticut, where he had moved from his birthplace of Ipswich. He had previously fought in the French and Indian War (referred to as the "Old French War"). Details of his service during the American Revolution are unknown to the writer of this article.

John Cogswell enlisted four times, the enlistments apparently being for limited periods. He enlisted in July 1776, at Coventry, Connecticut, under Captain Wilson, and served until November, when his company was discharged. During this enlistment, his company stood guard over a store of salt at Stamford for about six weeks and was then marched to the Saw Pitts at "Horse Neck" (? – writing is difficult to read), where they guarded Military Stores.

A few days after his discharge, he found another company and re-enlisted under Captain Burrows. This time, he was involved briefly with building a fort near King's Ferry on the Hudson and then marched to New Jersey. On the way, he was part of a group of about 200 men who plundered the enemy lines one night and returned with thirty horses and other equipment. The company then marched, crossing the Delaware, into Pennsylvania, where it was discharged in early January, 1777.

He received no written discharge or any pay, but the orderly sergeant of each company received an order which allowed him to draw provisions at any public store on the way home. He thus returned with his company to Coventry in Connecticut.

In the latter part of July in the year 1778, he volunteered in a Militia company commanded by Captain Rudd. They were sent to Provincetown, Rhode Island, and from thence to the Island of Newport, where they arrived on an evening of a great storm. On that island, the enemy attacked and, during the fighting, the soldier just to the right of John Cogswell was shot through the chest and killed and the soldier just to his left was wounded. John was not hurt. Colonel Livingstone, who was in command, was also wounded. The American forces, under General Sullivan, made a safe retreat from the Island and marched to Provincetown, Rhode Island, where the company was disbanded in mid-September.

In late July, 1779, he again volunteered in a company of Militia under Captain Wilson, the same Captain under whom he first served, and marched with him to New London. On this occasion, he was enlisting in the place of his father, who was by now getting to be an old man – 65 years old. They camped at Groton near Fort Griswold; Colonel Sigard and Capt. Lathan commanded the foray there. John believed these two officers were both killed at Groton the next year on the taking of Fort Griswold. He served there until being discharged in early September, having served about a month and twenty days. He took no further part in the war.

An Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832, granted benefits to surviving Revolutionary soldiers. John, now living in Whitehall, Washington County, New York, where he moved after living for a time in Vermont, applied, although he had no proof he had served. Written discharge papers were apparently never used during the American Revolution. His total time of service amounted to about eleven months. (His application says "at least nine months.") His application was accepted and he received \$45.00 in September 1832, and a further \$15.00 in 1833. (His date of death, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1829, must be incorrect.)

## William Cogswell, Patriot

William Cogswell (*DJC* 222), son of Edward and Hanna (Browne) Cogswell, was born in 1734 in Ipswich, Mass. When he came to New Preston is not known but, in 1756, he bought 90 acres of land from his father and built a tavern on it. Over the years, he added to the land until he owned about 2,000 acres. In Colonial times, travelers needed taverns to get rest and nourishment for themselves and their horses. Taverns were also the place where much of the community's business was discussed and conducted. Tavern licenses were awarded only to a "man of



outstanding character and importance in his community." In 1762, he married Anna Whittlesey. They had ten children.

William was one of the first to initiate revolutionary measures in resistance to English oppression. At a town meeting held September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1774, he was one of a committee chosen to collect and communicate all necessary intelligence of movements in and about Boston and other parts of the country.

A Major in the state Militia and Captain in the Army of the Revolution, Captain Cogswell was in command under Washington in the September, 1776, retreat from Long Island. In December, 1776, he served on the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence. Cogswell was promoted to Major on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1777.

In 1779, William was Captain of a Company in Lieut.-Col. Samuel Canfield's Regiment of Militia. Captain Cogswell's Company was one of those that answered the New Haven Alarm in response to the attack by the British there on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

As Justice of the Peace, Major William Cogswell called the meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1779, where he was elected the first Selectman of the newly incorporated town of Washington, Connecticut.

William Cogswell did not remain out of the army for long. In May of 1781, he was promoted to Major in Col. Increase Moseley, Jr.'s 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Militia.

While William was away during the war, his wife was left to manage things in his absence. Family lore has it that local Tories would sometimes gather around the premises and try to intimidate the children and Mrs. Cogswell, perhaps by saying, "Major Cogswell is dead and now is a good time for the Tories". More than once, tired of their impertinence, she armed herself with a chair and cleared the house in quick time. Later in life, she is recorded to have said, "I never feared a Tory."

Legend also has it that "one morning after a long previous day, the cooks were sitting down to breakfast and one said, 'I hope we shall be permitted to eat in peace for once.' Just then, a Continental Army officer came galloping up, announcing that three hundred soldiers wanted breakfast immediately. It is believed that General Washington stopped at Cogswell Tavern three times. Family tradition holds that it was while en route to New Preston that General Washington was told of Benedict Arnold's treason (Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1780). It is said that he was so upset that "he couldn't set and paced the room holding a bowl of warm milk". While the family is not certain where Washington paced with his milk, they like to imagine that it was in the tap room of the house. We know for a fact that he did stop at the Cogswell Tavern on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1781, because Washington noted in his diary, "Breakfasted at Squire Cogswell's".



*Cogswell's Tavern today*

As a magistrate, Major Cogswell conducted marriages. There is a story of a couple from the old country, whom he had married, who came into his yard wishing to be unmarried. Major Cogswell said "I'll do it" and, indicating a block and cleaver nearby, he added, "Here, whichever of you wishes to be unmarried, put your head on the block and I'll cut it off." The couple decided not to be unmarried.

By the time William Cogswell died in New Preston, Conn., in 1784, he had acquired over 2,000 acres and owned a country store, an iron foundry, a saw and grist mill, a potashery, a distillery, malt-house and the tavern. From his orchards, a thousand barrels of cider were made each year.

## **Col. Amos Cogswell Applies for a Pension**

"About the 10 May, 1775, I entered the service of my country as a second Lieutenant in Col. Garrish's regiment, in the Massachusetts line, and was in a small action with the enemy at Sewell's

Point with their floating batteries. In 1776, I served as second lieutenant in Col. Baldwin's regiment, in New York; was in a small action with the enemy when they landed at Throg's neck, and also at White Plains. At Trenton, I waded across the river, and took two Hessian prisoners under the Bridge; in doing which. I got a bad cold, and have had the rheumatism more or less ever since. In 1777, January 1<sup>st</sup>, I was appointed a Captain in the 9<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Col. James Wasson; was up the Mohawk River; took Ensign Butler with fourteen Canadian Rangers, and three Indians, prisoners; was at the raising of the siege of Fort Schuyler; marched from Albany to Ballston with one hundred men, and took forty refugees prisoners, that were going to Canada; was at the taking of Burgoyne; marched into their encampment with one hundred men, when their troops marched out, and collected together all their arms and made my report to the Adjutant General that night. From there I joined George Washington, at Whitemarsh; was in the battle of Monmouth; was in a small action near King's Bridge, when the French troops joined the American army.

I continued in service until the last day of December 1783, when I left with a commission of Brevet Major.

I retired from service, and settled in Dover, N.H.

I married a young widow, whose husband was a Captain of Marines [Samuel Wallingford], in the ship *Ranger*, with Capt. Paul Jones, Commander, when he took the British ship of war, *Drake*, and then lost his life. According to several acts of Congress, she was entitled to about \$1,000 for the prisoners and guns so taken, but she could never obtain anything. She is now in

years, very infirm, of the same complaint as my own. She thinks she ought to draw a stipend from Government for one or the other of her husbands.

I have always been a true friend to my country, both in the field and cabinet. I served about ten years in our General Court, three years in the Honorable Senate, and have had the honor of being one of the electors [in 1816] of our President and



Vice-President. I do say, not to my knowledge, did I ever miss a regular tour of duty the whole time I was in service, but performed hundreds for my brother officers that were absent in visiting their friends."

Col. Amos Cogswell (*DJC* 328) died at Dover, N.H., January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1826.

## George Washington's Doctor

Dr. James Cogswell (*DJC* 968) was born July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1746, in Canterbury, Conn., the son of Rev. Dr. James and Alice (Fitch) Cogswell. He studied medicine and began his practice in Preston, Connecticut.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1775, he married Elizabeth Davenport. They settled in Stamford, Connecticut. They had one child, Alice.

The American Revolution interrupted his career. In 1775, he wrote a letter to Aaron Burr, (who would become Vice President under Thomas Jefferson) advising him against joining an expedition against Quebec, because the expedition would be arduous and Burr's constitution was delicate. He commented that "I should come and see you if I had not got the Scriptural excuse, - a wife, and cannot come." Apparently, Burr mentioned this letter to one J. Bellamy, for that individual replied to Burr, "If you should happen to find Dr. James Cogswell, who is in Colonel Spencer's regiment, please to give my best love to him, and tell him he is a lazy scoundrel."

Cogswell served as army surgeon at Cambridge, Massachusetts, during the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1775. March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1776: Doctor Jim Cogswell has left the army. As the war progressed, Cogswell was again called upon to aid the Patriot cause with his services. During the years 1776 and 1777, he was assigned as regimental surgeon to General Gold Selleck Silliman, who was on duty at New York with the Connecticut Militia, a surgeon on the staff of General Washington. While at New York, Cogswell's younger brother, Mason Fitch, served as his assistant. (Mason Fitch Cogswell studied medicine under his brother Dr. James Cogswell, first in Stamford, Conn., and as Examining Surgeon of Volunteers in the Revolutionary War and, in 1784 until 1787, in New York City.)

Elizabeth, wife of James Cogswell, M. D., departed this life Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1779. Dr. James Cogswell afterwards (May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1783) married Mrs. Abigail Lloyd and had four children: James, Sarah, John and Harriet.



Late in the war (1880), he received a letter from Samuel Huntington. This letter gives us no details of his life, but tells of the Empress Catherine II of Russia joining with the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden in a neutrality pact which was seen as favorable to the United States. It also gives encouragement on the home front.

After the war, James Cogswell continued his medical practice at New York with Mason Fitch serving as his assistant. For a time, they both maintained an apothecary business. He was largely interested in promoting philanthropic work.

Dr. James Cogswell died of yellow fever, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1792, contracted while attending a stricken patient in the duties of his profession. He was 46. He was a Patriot member of Washington's staff, a philanthropist; one of the principal originators of the New York Dispensary system; of a society for the relief of distressed

debtors; of the first African school in New York City.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1875, in San Francisco, another Dr. James Cogswell organized the second Society of Revolutionary War Descendants.

## Ferris Cogswell

Ferris Cogswell (DJC 1116) was a private in the Vermont Militia. He was born May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1767, in South Britain, Conn., so he was only eight years old when the fighting began. He enlisted at age 14 in 1781. There is a note which reads: "Pheris (Ferris) Cogswell; 17 days in service; pay and subsistence, 1.2.0; miles traveled, 52; amt. travel at 4d per mile, 17.4; total, 2.0.0. After the Revolution, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1786, he married Phebe Hawley Hurd, widow of another Revolutionary soldier, Gideon Bristol, Jr., who had died April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1784. At that time, he was living at Sandgate, Vermont. Ferris died in 1836 in Fosterville, N. Y.



# Bernice (Lewis) Sonna



Bernice Grace (Lewis) (Mosser) Sonna was born Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1919, and died Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, at age 91. She lived her life with few regrets ... and most of those were men. She was the widow of Henry Mosser (with whom she had two daughters, Barbara and Brenda) and of Peter Sonna III (with whom she had a third, Suzan.) She was writing pithy, sharp social and political sarcasm one month before her death. Her daughter, Suzan, provided the gorgeous color plate of the Cogswell Coat of Arms for The Book. She was a worthy descendant of those who put all but one of their beloved children on the Angel Gabriel and sailed off to the largely unexplored New World. She pulled the CFA back together when it was in danger of falling apart. Bernice enthusiastically supported Edna Roberds' election when a number of members did not think a Southern Lady was appropriate.

Both Bernice and Edna were outstanding Presidents, who brought great credit to the CFA.

Bernice also edited the Courier for over six years.

"During the very early morning hours of February 14<sup>th</sup>, she fell and was unable to get back up by herself. There was extensive muscle tissue damage ultimately causing her kidneys to shut down. After a week of unsuccessful efforts to get them working again, the decision was made to honor the DNR she had in place and let her go. She was kept pain-free in the hospital until she died peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"Her request was to be cremated and that there be no funeral. Instead she wanted a gathering of her close friends and family to celebrate her 'graduation,' as referred to the ultimate escape from a 91 year-old body and all its earthly trappings.

"Over the last few years she had rekindled her relationship with God. She believed in Jesus Christ and heaven. And if she had her way...which she frequently did...she's there right now. No woman deserves it more.

"As you can imagine, we're feeling the loss on levels in which there is no way to prepare. So it would be greatly appreciated if, for the time being, the urge to call with your support and sympathy is resisted as we're going to need all the moments of sanity and clear thinking that we can muster in order to get through the next few weeks. Cards and emails, however, are always graciously accepted.

Thank you all for your understanding and patience."

Barbara, Brenda & Suzan

Some seven or eight years ago, Don Cogswell's motorcycle club decided to raffle off a Harley Davidson full-dresser (well over \$20,000.00) as a fundraiser. As a semi-joke, Don (the CFA Historian) asked Bernice if she would like to buy a \$5,00 ticket. Rather than the big laugh he was expecting, Bernice sent him \$5.00 and he sent her a ticket. He promised to personally deliver the Harley if she won, but things didn't work out. Ed Cogswell, in Maine, agreed to ride across the country with him and deliver the bike to Bernice. Also, when she was living in Wyoming and complaining about having trouble finding someone to shovel the snow off her sidewalk, Don suggested that she stand in the front window in a bikini to attract a strong young man with a snow shovel. He doesn't know if she followed the advice but she agreed to give it serious consideration. Bernice and Don had many, many long telephone and email talks on politics and religion and he misses her and her wisdom very much.



She loved a good conversation and was always in search of stimulating discussions, whether the situation in the Middle East, the personal history of someone she just met or, one of her favorite topics, the independence of women.

# Cogswells in Sports



Jefferson girls' **soccer** coach, Harold Bache, was almost speechless about **Sarah Cogswell's** (14, left) performance during the October 8<sup>th</sup> game against Martinsburg. Cogswell scored four times, twice in each half, to lead the Cougars to a 5-1 victory over the Bulldogs and keep Jefferson undefeated for the season. Earlier, Jefferson's Sarah Cogswell (See August, 2007, Courier) scored a goal and had an assist in the Cougars' 2-2 tie against University.

Sarah Cogswell notched a hat trick in the second half. Cogswell got on the board with 16:37 left in the game, when she received a long pass near the goal and fired a shot into the back of the net. Cogswell got Jefferson's final two goals of the game - one on a shot from straight on, the other off a direct kick. In the first half, Sarah Cogswell's shot bounced off the post and Barnholt was there to finish off the play, putting the ball in the right side of the net. Jefferson's Cougars beat Hedgesville 9-0 on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jefferson senior Sarah Cogswell – last year's Herald-Mail Player of the Year – is closing in on the century milestone for career goals. Cogswell has 16 already this season (to September 24<sup>th</sup>,) giving her 90 for her career. She had 18 as a freshman, 20 as a sophomore and 36 last year. Sarah Cogswell had three goals in leading Jefferson to a 6-0 shutout of Washington in girls' soccer on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jefferson's Sarah Cogswell, two-time High School Girls Soccer Player of the Year, added another milestone to the lengthy list of achievements the standout Cougar senior forward has already accomplished. On Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, Cogswell notched her 100<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> career goals as a member of the Jefferson High School girl's varsity soccer team in a commanding 6-0 win against the visiting St. Maria Goretti, Md., goals to become the first Cougar girl to reach the coveted century scoring mark. "It's 100 goals but I've had excellent teams behind me. I couldn't have done it without every single one of the girls," said the humble All-American, who was last season's Gatorade State Soccer Player of the Year, West Virginia Sports Writers Player of the Year and West Virginia Coaches Player of the Year.

In the Hurricane-Jefferson Class AAA girls' state semifinal, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, the final score was Hurricane 1, Jefferson 0. "We dominated most of the game," Hurricane coach Shellie Young said. "They have an outstanding player (Sarah Cogswell) and we were able to shut her down."

Sarah Cogswell, Jefferson, midfielder, senior, was named by the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association to the Class AAA First All-State team November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



Jefferson's Kelsey Barnholt and Sarah Cogswell proved unstoppable as they helped the Cougars dominate the area competition and advance to the state tournament for the fourth consecutive time, an area first.

Senior midfielder Sarah Cogswell and junior forward Kelsey Barnholt combined to score 60 goals, forming an unstoppable offensive force that helped the Cougars continue a two-year reign of area domination that didn't see a loss to a Panhandle school during that span. Cogswell continued to do what she has done for four seasons, headlining the area in goals scored with 33 to finish her high school career with 107 - a mark that even surprised her. "High school soccer seemed like the pinnacle of my soccer career," said Cogswell, who is still undecided where she will be playing soccer next year in college – between the College of Wooster, Ohio, and Ursinus College, Pa. "I'm just looking forward to going and playing in college and having this not be the end."

**Rachel Cogswell** led the Lenox Millionaires to a 25-18, 25-16, 25-11 **volleyball** win, extending its season-opening unbeaten streak to four by mid September. Rachel Cogswell had 15 service points, eight assists, four aces, a block and a kill as Lenox volleyball team prevailed in four games over New Lebanon, N.Y., September 25<sup>th</sup>. Although Rachel Cogswell added 10 assists for the Millionaires, Monument Mountain's volleyball squad prevailed 25-19, 25-17, 25-12, November 9<sup>th</sup> at home.

## *Readers' Page: Corrections, Queries and More Information*

### *Rev. Charles Cannon III*

**August, page 11:** The degree Charles Cannon received was an MA in Theology, rather than a BA. He already had a BA from the University of Florida, and a MSW from Barry University.



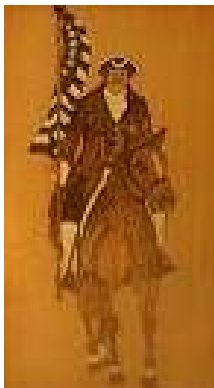
### *Matchbook Cover*

**August, page 11:** Robert Elzy Cogswell of Houston, Texas, tells of the matchbook cover advertising a restaurant in Olean, N.Y., mentioned in the last issue. He notes that the phone number is just four digits, which was probably in the 1930s. The restaurant still existed in 1968 when he passed through – the same building, although renamed “Cogswell’s Rest.” He asked if there were still a Cogswell in charge and the owner, a Cogswell, came out to talk to him and his wife, and whatever they wanted to eat was “on the house.” Robert had just concluded a campaign for state representative in Austin, Texas, so he gave the owner copies of a bumper sticker he had used, which read “Cogswell for the People.” The owner put them on all the cars. Robert says the restaurant is not listed today, but there is a Cogswell’s Rest just two counties east in Elmira. It is part of a chain of assisted living centers.

### *Skateboarder Logan Cogswell*

**August, page 15:** Logan’s father, Jeremy Cogswell, has pointed out some errors. His wife's name is Enid, not Lisa. Logan started skateboarding seriously at age 5 and never looked for sponsors, they found him. Regardless of the price of shoes and jeans, his parents support Logan doing what he loves. The picture with his sister was taken when Logan was seven or eight. He is not sure why the term "an old slayshtank pro team rider" was used; it's a fairly new team. The main team that he rides with is Dogtown Skates since the early part of this year.

Edward E. Cogswell, Vice-President of the Cogswell Family Association, died Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, at age 72. He was the son of Montreville Howard and Dorothy Mary (Madden) Cogswell and was born May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1939. He was a sailor (yachts), power plant builder, supervisor of a large paper mill, horse breeder and motorcycle enthusiast. He graduated from the General Electric Company Apprentice program in 1963 and worked for that company in Chicago and was assigned to several foreign countries where he installed various sized turbines. His last assignment was with the Scott Paper Company where he remained as Mechanical Supervisor of the Power House until he retired in 1992. He was a 32 degree Mason at the Central Lodge No. 45, A.F. & A. M., China,



Maine, and a Shriner at Anah Shriners, Bangor, Maine.

He was the author of *Civil War Cogswells at Battle of Vicksburg, Miss.: 28<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry* published in November, 2006. He was also involved in pyrography, known as the art of decorating wood (can also be done with other materials as well) with burn marks which result when you carefully control the application of a heated object such as a "poker". Pyrography is also commonly known as wood burning. He helped organize two Cogswell Family reunions, in Henniker, New Hampshire in 2001 and in Central Falls, Rhode Island in 2007. He also organized a reunion of descendants of *Angel Gabriel* survivors at Fort William Henry, Pemaquid, Maine, in 2008. He was married three times, to Patricia Shaw, to Donna Mackin and to Marianne Kandibowich and was the father of three children: Kimberly Ann, Kelly Lynn and Eric Edward.



## English Genealogy Poem

(From Margaret Simons) Author unknown

I've been doing family history for nearly 30 years,  
Diligently tracing my illustrious forebears,  
From Pigeon Lake to Peterborough, Penrith to Penzance,  
My merry band of ancestors has led me quite a dance.

There's cooks from Kent and guards from Gwent  
and chimney sweeps from Chester.  
There's even one daft fisherman lived all his life in  
Leicester,  
There's no-one rich or famous, no not even well-to-do,  
Though a second cousin twice removed once played in goal for  
Crewe.

I've haunted record offices from Gillingham to Jarrow,  
The little grey cells of my mind would humble Hercule Poirot.  
I've deciphered bad handwriting that would shame a three year  
old,  
And brought the black sheep of the family back to the fold.

My bride of just three minutes, I left standing in the church,  
As I nipped into the graveyard for a spot of quick research.  
Eventually I found an uncle, sixty years deceased.  
That was far more satisfying than a silly wedding feast,

After three weeks of wedded bliss, my wife became despondent.  
She named the public records office as the co-respondent.  
I didn't even notice when she packed her bags and went  
I was looking for a great granddad's will who'd died in Stoke  
on Trent

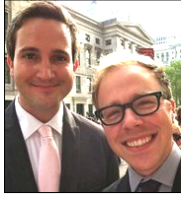
But now my 30 year obsession's lying in the bin  
Last Tuesday week, I heard some news that made me pack it in.  
Twas then my darling mother, who is not long for this earth,  
Casually informed me they'd adopted me at birth!

Great-grandfather's gravestone - a slab of masonry with a wrong age on it.  
Great-grandmother - a person who is sometimes 92 years older than her husband.  
Great-great-grandfather - a person who was married and buried but wasn't baptized.

# Cogswells in the News

Branden **Cogswell**, grade 12 student (Shenendehowa, N. Y.) has been named to the Class AA First Team all-state baseball team. He will play shortstop.

During his first sermon at the Nantucket Methodist Church early in July, Rev. Alan **Cogswell** (left, *DJC* 11264), the church's new part-time pastor, spoke to the congregation for the first time, delivering an impassioned sermon about his father, a WWII fighter pilot, who died last year, and the importance of a balanced relationship with God.



Joshua **Cogswell**, 35, Senior Vice-President at Viacom Media Networks (the shorter one), and his partner, Justin Daniel, 32, progressing toward his Masters at NYU in Educational Theatre, both of Park Slope, Brooklyn, were among those who took the opportunity to get married on the first day that same sex marriages were legal in the State of New York, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. They met at a birthday party of a mutual friend and have been together for ten years. They entered into a civil union in New Jersey in 2007 and took a trip that



was akin to a honeymoon. Cogswell's employer, Viacom, has extended employee benefits, such as health insurance, to Daniel since then. "I think it's taking advantage of a right that the community was just given and supporting the institution of marriage," said Josh, as he and Justin waited outside the Brooklyn marriage bureau. Justin had trouble removing his ring so that Josh could put it back on for the 10:40 a.m. ceremony. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker of the City Council, witnessed the marriage. The couple had not expected the Council Speaker to attend their wedding, but having the surprise guest "was awesome." Following their marriage, Daniel said they would go see the latest Harry Potter film. "We've always considered ourselves to be married," Daniel said.

Judy Lynn **Cogswell** of Elmira and Sugar Cookie, a poodle she adopted from Four Paws Animal Rescue of Millerton, attended a 45-minute "Blessing of the Animals" service at The Park Church in Elmira. The Rev. Felicity Wright blessed several dogs that came to the outdoor ceremony in Wisner Park with their owners.



History professor Tom **Cogswell** (left) led a group of University of California, Riverside, students across the Atlantic Ocean to attend class at the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and other points-of-interest during a five-week stay in London. They took part in "Shakespeare's World: Society, Religion, and Politics in England," July 25<sup>th</sup> to Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>.



Charles **Cogswell**, 29, Fordland, Mo., was taken to Cox South Hospital by ambulance with moderate injuries after his Yamaha struck a downed tree in a field and he was thrown from the four-wheeler.

Quarterback Tyler **Cogswell** (right) went 6-for-12 for 127 yards and three touchdown passes to lead host American Heritage (Plantation, Florida) to a rout over Martin County 40-0 Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tyler has thrown for 560 yards and eight touchdowns while leading American Heritage to a 3-1 record.



Leslie **Cogswell** is Race Co-Director of the Bend Marathon, which made its Central Oregon debut on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Designed to be more challenging than others, the course will include more than 1,400 feet of elevation gain from the start in Sisters to the finish in west Bend. The kids, from kindergarten to fifth grade, have been running their marathon a mile at a time and October 1<sup>st</sup>, they finished their 1.2 miles to finish their marathon.



Adrienne **Cogswell** (left), Executive Director of the Inner City Churches Loaves and Fishes Society, Sydney, N.S., had initially thought 200 people might come through the door by noon, but within its first half-hour, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the annual Canadian Thanksgiving Day dinner already had handed out 196 meals. Unlike regular meal days where people line up with trays in hand, the sit-down dinner allowed volunteers to serve those less fortunate. The Thanksgiving meal is one of three special sit-down dinners offered by Loaves and Fishes, with Easter and Christmas being the other two. Residents in the area serviced by Loaves and Fishes were urged to open their food cupboards October 22nd and make a donation to ensure no one goes hungry. "This is our one effort all year to stock the shelves," said Adrienne. "Last year alone, we served 62,000 meals. At Thanksgiving, we had 250 dinners served," she said. Cogswell will retire at the end of this year after 26 years of service.

Twelve bakers garnered top prizes for their innovative baking in America's Best Raisin Bread Contest, the only professional baking competition in the U.S., October 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Chief Judge and promoter of the contest was Theresa **Cogswell**, President of BakerCogs, Inc., Olathe, Kansas. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual America's Best Raisin Bread Contest will kick-off in January, 2012. Bakers interested in competing should contact Theresa **Cogswell** at [bakerscogs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bakerscogs@sbcglobal.net).

# This and That

## *Minister in Trouble for Drinking – Tea!!*

During the revolution, it was considered disloyal to drink tea. The old minister of Scotland Parish, Windham, Conn., Rev. James Cogswell (DJC 407), had the misfortune to lose his step-daughter, Elizabeth Devotion, a beautiful young woman. Her illness was sudden and severe, her death greatly affective and, under the circumstances, the aged parents were persuaded to indulge in the gentle stimulant of a cup of tea. And such a storm as was raised by it. As soon as Mr. Cogswell heard of the complaints, he hastened to the Committee of Inspection with certificates from attendant physicians that the tea had been taken by their advice as a medical prescription. But this excuse was wholly unsatisfactory. From all parts of the parish, parishioners were dropping into the minister's house to vent their own disapproval and report sayings of their neighbors. Some showed their displeasure by actually staying away from the meeting. Others insisted that Mr. Cogswell's dereliction should be published and denounced in the Norwich and New London newspapers. One old woman declared that she should never be satisfied till Mr. Cogswell made public explanation and confession from the pulpit.

### *Lula Belle Cogswell*



Lula Belle Cogswell (DJC 4649) was the daughter of Frederick Whittlesey Cogswell and Julia M. Radcliffe, born on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1879. Sadly, little Lula Belle died on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1883, at the age of four. Her stone is in the shape of a tree stump, which can signify a life cut short.

### *80 Trees Missing in Westbury*

In 1980, the townspeople of Westbury were asked for suggestions as to where 80 trees to commemorate the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday should be planted in or around Westbury.

Town Council does not have any records that go back as far as 1980. The Mayor at the time recalls that some were planted along the Trowbridge Road and that it may have been the District Council that was responsible. The records prior to 1983 of the West Wilts District Council, Parks and Amenities Department, have been destroyed. The Wiltshire County Council Land Agent does not know anything about it. The Queen Mother's Office replied that they "have no record in our files." Where are the trees?



The Board of the Cogswell Family Association  
wishes you the greetings of the season with all the blessings and happiness  
of this time of year.



Membership notices will be going out in January and we remind you that the dues cover the calendar year from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Board considered imposing a "late payment" fee but decided against it for this year. We do hope you will get your payment in early.



# Westbury, Wiltshire, News



Ben Harrison, 19, spends six hours a day practicing at the Players Snooker Club in Westbury, sinking frame after frame as he strives for potting perfection. One of the country's most promising amateurs, he begins his next assault on the pro ranks. He's already living like a pro. Harrison is a regular at the Players Tour Championship events and also made the southern final of the English Amateur Championships. He also took an ambitious shot at the pro ranks in May by entering the prestigious Q School series but wasn't one of the lucky 12 players to clinch their dream.

Ivy and Reg Sharpe were married in Westbury, Wiltshire, and spent 58 happy years together. Reg was a regular soldier and she travelled across the world with him to Palestine, Malaya and other Far East postings. They settled in La Siesta, Spain, more than 25 years ago. Despite losing Reg some years ago, Ivy chose to remain in Spain and remains a popular and well known figure in the community. Volunteers helped Ivy celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at La Siesta in July, 2011.

Westbury Leigh teacher Julie Lusty, 56, is retiring after 20 years at the school, during which time she has taught some 600 children from several generations. She started in 1991, having worked previously at Studley Green Primary School, Dilton Marsh Primary School and New Close School in Warminster. With her husband, Paul, Mrs. Lusty, of Leighton Park, intends to travel to France for a cycling holiday, a hobby she hopes to continue through her retirement.

Construction work has begun on the first refuse plant in Wiltshire to give household waste a second chance. The £20m plant being built at Northacre in Westbury will treat up to 60,000 tonnes of household waste a year. The plant is expected to produce around 28,200 tonnes of refuse-derived fuel each year and recover 1,800 tonnes of recyclable metals.



Families gathered at White Horse Country Park to cheer their donkeys to the finish line in the Westbury Lions Donkey Derby September 11<sup>th</sup>. The charity event, with eight races, is now in its fifth year and raised about £3,500 for Lions' charities. Attractions included a fairground, miniature railway rides and a bouncy castle. Pictured: Dylan Conrad and Jessica Seager are led by Richard Warburton of Terry Vincent's Donkeys.

Mechanics from Wiltshire are battling the elements to keep military vehicles in working order for the British forces at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. The men, who normally work at the Defense Support Group near the Land Warfare Centre in Warminster, volunteered to spend more than a year at the base in Helmand Province. Dan Rogers of Westbury is enjoying the work, but missing the picturesque Wiltshire countryside.

T. M. Alexander (pictured right) went to Westbury Leigh School Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> to run two workshops. Pictured, she is modeling her favorite wig. For her workshops she takes wigs and other props, including night-vision goggles and a cuddly toy – a monkey, a dog and a skull. She's not keen on the skull but boys seem to like it. Children always decide to make the monkey an evil character in the made-up story, which is odd, because he's enormously cute. She'll take a few extras to ensure both sessions are completely different.



Households in Westbury received new blue-lid plastic and cardboard recycling bins (shown left) ahead of a planned collections start date of November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Kerry Hart, 19 (far right), a former Matravers School student who lives in Frogmore Road, Westbury, has already raised more than £1,000 for Help for Heroes. She tackled a sky dive October 15<sup>th</sup>, at Netheravon, home of the Army Parachute Association, following a training session. An earlier attempt was cancelled due to the weather. Emma Martin, 28, of Westbury, did her own sky dive at Old Sarum on September 25<sup>th</sup> to raise more than £1,100 for Ataxia UK.





## ***From the Secretary's Desk***

Greetings from the Desk of the CFA Secretary. I hope you are all doing well and are as happy as we are that our Bylaws have been updated and voted in. Now that these have been accepted by the membership, we can move on to other challenges that we need to tackle as an organization.

You probably have heard that our Historian (Don Cogswell) has resigned and has been replaced by Elli Gassert. Elli loves to do research and will be an asset to the association. However, she doesn't want to do the genealogical data entry for the CFA members and is looking for someone to help her with the data portion of this task. Don is ready to send the data he has, mostly in boxes and on paper, to whoever will continue the task of data entry.



I emailed the librarian of Brigham Young University in Utah. The response I received from BYU informed me that there is a reasonable selection of software out there that will work for us. At the next CFA Officer and Board of Director Meeting, we will be discussing this. If there is a CFA member out there that enjoys this sort of thing, Elli would love to work with you. Please contact me if you are interested.

As we celebrate the Holiday Season, enjoy your family and this season and look forward to 2012. I'll be sending out the dues announcements for 2012 in January. If you want to get active in the association, please let me know. We always have plenty to do!

Merry Christmas and have a very Happy New Year!

Ed Cogswell (of Snohomish, Wash.) (CFA Secretary)

## ***Welcome to New Members***

Amy L. Coffey, Wever, Iowa

Sarah B. Lopez, Venice, California

Richard B. MacDougall, Hamilton, Ontario

## ***Engagements***

Leah Lynnette Cogswell to Matthew Ballard, wedding to be in Palmetto, Florida, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## ***Marriages***

Justin Daniel and Joshua Cogswell, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Brooklyn, N. Y. (gay marriage)

## ***Deaths***

Sarah Cogswell, 47, of Albany, California, died February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Frances Nell Cogswell Melton, 82, of Tallahassee, Florida, died March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Cheryl Cogswell, 60, Elgin, Illinois, died May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Ruth F. Cogswell, 71, of Seabrook, N. H., widow of Anthony Cogswell, died May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Patricia (Cogswell) Carrillo, 53, Muskegon, Michigan, died June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Elsie Pearl Cogswell, 95, in Spokane, Washington, widow of Jack Cogswell, died July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

Elois Ann Cogswell, 64, of Jackson, Michigan, died July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Cynthia Ann Boivin, 64, of Middletown, Connecticut, daughter of Philip W. and Edith Cogswell Boivin died July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Peggy Jean Cogswell, 80, Topeka, Kansas, widow of Glenn D. Cogswell, died July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Garth Forest Cogswell, 89, of Arcadia, Florida, died July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Vera J. Cogswell (nee Umbreit), 93, of Barrington, Illinois, died August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Edward E. Cogswell, 72, of Albion, Maine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, CFA, died September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Florence (Cogswell) Bremner, 97, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, died September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Carol (Cogswell) Gaulin, 74, of Florence, Oregon, died September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Benjamin G. (Sonny) Cogswell, 73, of Muskegon, Michigan, died September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Patricia K. (Cogswell) Scott, 69, of Marsing, Idaho, died September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Albert H. Cogswell, 88, of Warren Center, Pennsylvania, passed away October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

CFA member Margaret (Peg) (Hamlin) Simons, 82, of Waterbury, Connecticut died October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and her husband, Gordon James Simons, 85, of Waterbury, Conn. died November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

## *From the Editor's Desk*

It seems to me that I am nearing the end of my time as editor of the Cogswell Courier. This issue contains my last idea for a major story, unless someone can come up with one. This issue starts my eighth year as editor – my twenty-fifth issue. I've run out of Ipswich neighbors to write about and am having trouble finding Cogswells in sports that haven't been written about. A few people have suggested or written stories to be included in the Courier, but the vast majority of the material has had to be found by the editor alone. Very soon, a new editor will be needed – one who will not be saying, "I've already done that one."



I received an e-mail telling me that a relative was the coxswain of Canada's under 23 women's rowing team that won gold in the Netherlands recently. Unfortunately, it was not a Cogswell or, as far as I know, a Cogswell descendant. It was the grand-niece of the husband of my wife's first cousin, a Fawcett who married an Ellis – my wife's maiden name.

### *About the Cover of This Issue*

This issue has a major article (five pages) about Cogswell participation in the American War of Independence. I haven't found any pictures of the Cogswells who fought. However, the Minute-man statue in Concord, Mass., has the first verse of a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson, who is a Cogswell descendant. I doubt if you can read the writing, but it is repeated on the first two lines of page one of this issue.

Several Cogswells are missing from the article. At least 22 Cogswells served in the Revolution. One, **Benjamin Cogswell**, may have died at the Battle of Bunker Hill; although it is possible he died of other causes that year. Nathaniel and Judith (Badger) Cogswell had nineteen children, eight of whom served in the Revolutionary War (including two as privateers in the navy.) One was Captain **Thomas Cogswell** (listed as Major in 1778). He served at Sewall's Point; in the City of New York; in New Jersey, English Neighborhood; at Fort Constitution; at the Camp at Mile Square and conducted 22 men to Fishkill. That was all I found, and no record of him in service after 1780.

Lieut. **Moses Cogswell's** military title came from a commission he held in the naval service during the Revolution, having served on a privateer for nearly the whole period of the war. Captured by the British, he was held as a prisoner for some time at Halifax. Could he have been one of those who raided Cornwallis, N.S., where Hezekiah and his family lived? That ship was captured.

Others not mentioned elsewhere are **Emerson, James, Col. Nathaniel, Jonathan, Samuel, John, Jeremiah, Capt. Nathaniel, William, Joseph, Samuel, John and John.**

### *Cogswell Runners*

Doug Cogswell, South Barrington, Ill., was entered in the 87 km Ultra Marathon in Durban, South Africa, June 14<sup>th</sup>, but he blew out his anterior cruciate ligament skiing in March, so he was unable to run it. The ligament is in his knee. The Cogswell Family Association hopes that the injury is not permanent and that he will be able to run again in the future. (I'm sure Doug hopes so too but he did not report on that.)

Kristen Cogswell ran Milwaukee's Lakefront Marathon October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, time: 3:41:50. Jarod Cogswell, 40, Tigard, Oregon, ran the Portland Marathon Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>: time: 3:55:23. Brandon Cogswell, 32, Columbus, Ohio ran the Columbus Half Marathon 1:35:47 Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jeremy Cogswell is registered in the Ford Ironman Arizona, Tempe, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – a full Ironman race. That's before this Courier reaches you but after it goes to the printer. I hope to report how he did in the April Courier.





# Canadian Connection



## Nova Scotia and the Revolution



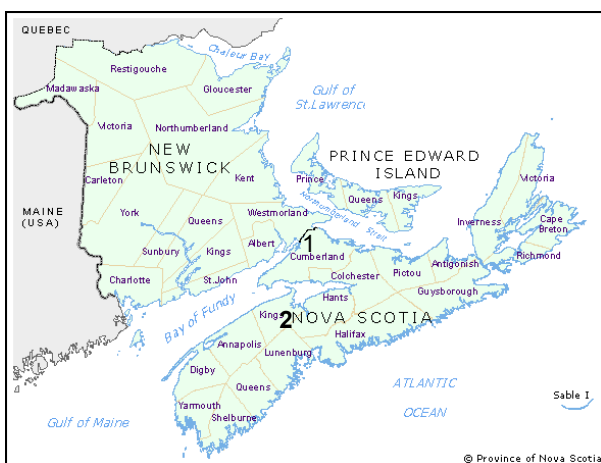
Perhaps the central phenomenon in the history of the New England Planters (including the Nova Scotia Cogswells) was their neutrality during the American Revolution.

About 200 Nova Scotians rebelled against their colonial government in 1776. They attacked Fort Cumberland and planned to seize the entire province. Yet most Nova Scotians supported the British or remained neutral. Fort Cumberland's Loyalist garrison held out until British forces from Halifax lifted the siege. The rebels fled and the rebellion collapsed. (The Cogswells lived in Cornwallis, far from Fort Cumberland.)

Poverty, geography and the British naval power were stacked against the Revolutionary cause. Nova Scotia was not populated to any great extent. By 1775, the Planters had been in their new homes only fifteen years, still busy establishing themselves and probably eking out a living. Labor was needed on the farms. The settlements were small and travel between them was possible but difficult. This gave little chance to organize. The province had greater numbers of military personnel, especially when taking into account the naval dockyard at Halifax. (The navy was rarely seen in New England.) The province imposed a tax for the call up of militia, and some from Cornwallis were called into service but took no active part in any fighting. Someone argued that what was needed to get Nova Scotians on the side of the Revolution was more educational material – or propaganda. By and large, the only educated men, not many, that were to be found in Nova Scotia were those that came from England. All the educated men in Nova Scotia, almost without exception, were very much dependent on the British authorities for their income.

Church ministers were sympathetic to the Republican cause and most returned to New England. The minister of the church at Cornwallis, Rev. Beniah Phipps, was a supporter of the Revolution and had to leave, but he was disliked for other reasons so was not much help to the Revolutionary cause.

Another significant factor was the Great Awakening. In 1776, Henry Alline became a traveling preacher and leader of what was called the New Light movement in Nova Scotia. People came by the boatload to hear him speak in churches, barns and open fields on any day of the week. Alline was interested in the spiritual conditions of his hearers, not things like taxes and governments. Religion became the prime topic of each town. In his sermons, Alline propagated the view that the New England colonies were wrong to indulge in war and urged the Yankees to see that they had performed a salutary act by staying out of such illegal and sinful undertakings. At least one of Hezekiah Cogswell's sons, Oliver, seems to have been a convert and others in the family were influenced by the movement.



<sup>1</sup> Fort Cumberland; <sup>2</sup> Cogswells, Cornwallis

Towards the end of the Revolution, many Planters actually became pro-British as a result of destructive raids by American privateers. Hall's Harbor, on the Bay of Fundy north of Cornwallis, was named after Captain Samuel Hall, who, in 1779, piloted a privateering band of seventeen men from the revolting colonies in America to the place and from here, they committed a number of thieving raids on the settlers of the surrounding country. There had been others before that. Against these, the Planters did defend themselves and supported the building of a barracks at Town Plot in 1778, used for military purposes for two years before being sold as a large private dwelling.

# Jeremiah Cogswell and the Erie Canal

Jeremiah Cogswell (*DJC* 867), son of Lieut. Moses and Hannah (Foster) Cogswell, was born Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1796, in Canterbury, N. H. He married, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1825, Tryphena Achilles, daughter of H. B. and Martha (Burpee) Achilles. They resided in Brockport, N. Y. According to his widow, the home was one of the happiest in the village; the husband was one of the best, a very indulgent father and a man of firm integrity; one who was looked up to for advice by all his associates. A daughter, Martha, was born March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1830, but died April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1832, at age two. A son, William Henry, was born a month later on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1832, and another son, Moses Payson, was born July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1834.

Jeremiah was for some years a forwarding merchant and a dealer in flour and grain. According to William Glidden of Clarendon, who served as its driver, in 1825, Jeremiah was captain on the "New Hampshire," of Brockport. The boat was about eighty feet in length and



seventeen in width and horses, which would pull the boat along a ten foot wide towpath built along the bank of the newly opened Erie Canal, were carried in the stern. The driver received eight dollars a month; the bows-man eighteen dollars. The boat drew three feet of water (the canal was four feet deep) and would carry about seven hundred barrels of flour. A round trip from Buffalo to Albany and Brockport would be about eighteen to twenty days. In 1829, he owned a line-boat which carried freight but also passengers and livestock and, on one occasion, it carried 300 Dutch. Travelling on a working boat was cheaper than on a passenger boat (packet.)

Jeremiah Cogswell had to do with the building of the Erie Canal. By 1836, he was a Superintendent of Canal Repairs on the Erie Canal at Brockport. He died at his residence in Brockport on Sunday evening, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1837, after a short illness, in consequence of an injury received on the canal near the close of navigation, while serving in his official capacity. He was a man very much esteemed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. All places of business in the town were closed during the hour of his funeral service. His wife and children were thus deprived of the means of support and asked for a year's salary or compensation, although salary or wages due to him had been paid up to the time of his death. The 1838 Committee on Claims, State of New York, sympathized but saw no reason to grant the request, fearing that many similar claims might "besiege your capitol."

The oldest son, William Henry, died October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1846, at age 14. Mrs. Cogswell remarried, this time to William Dewey in 1850. He died in 1876, leaving children only by his first wife. Tryphena lived until at least 1883. Moses Payson had three children, a son who died at less than three years old, and two daughters. He died October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1876, when all but the first engine of a train fell into a seventy-foot deep ravine when a bridge over the Ashtabula River collapsed under the train near Erie, Pennsylvania. (Picture left) At the time, it was the worst rail accident in American history. In that wreck 92 died and 64 were injured. Only three (in the first engine?) were unhurt.



(Note: pictured near the top is a packet [passenger] boat. The New Hampshire was a working boat.)



# Jonathan Coggswell Farley Plaque

Jonathan Coggswell Farley was baptized in Ipswich, Mass., Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 1801. He was the son of Jonathan Farley and Susanna Dodge Farley. Jonathan (Sr.) was baptized June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1763, in Ipswich. He was the son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Coggswell (*DJC* 231) Farley.

Jonathan Coggswell Farley appeared in the U. S. federal census of 1 June, 1850, in Macon County, Alabama, the U. S. federal census of 1 June, 1860, in Chambers County, Alabama and the U. S. federal census of 1 June, 1870, in Chambers County, Alabama. In 1850, other members of the household included Jonathan C. Farley (in all three censuses), William Farley, Sarah Farley and Mary Farley. In 1860, there was also Martha Moore, age 22, born in Georgia, possibly Sarah's daughter by an earlier marriage. Jonathan was farming, according to the 1870 census.

Note the two g's in Coggswell. How he spelled the name himself is unclear, but he was born to a one g Coggswell family. Plaques recently erected by the state of Alabama tell more about him and his accomplishments. One side reads:



## Jonathan Coggswell Farley 1798-1864

Farley acquired two lots on this site in 1817. Here he built the town's first frame store and first frame two-story building, his house. In Farley's store, an election was held January 3, 1820 to create Montgomery's first governing body. Farley and three others were named in an act of the Alabama General Assembly to conduct and manage this first election. Farley was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1798. About 1816, he sailed from Portland, Maine to the port of Mobile then proceeded to Ft. Jackson (Toulouse) to establish a trading post. Coming to Montgomery, he opened the town's second store. He served as foreman of the first Grand Jury and, later, moved to a plantation outside town near Cross Keys. The

town's first newspaper, The Montgomery Republican, also occupied his store.

The other side reads:

## Montgomery's First Election January 3, 1820

At this site, in Jonathan Coggswell Farley's store, an election was held to establish Montgomery's first government. The Alabama General Assembly, meeting in the capital at Huntsville, approved an act on December 3, 1819 to combine the communities of New Philadelphia and East Alabama into the new town of Montgomery. Named in the act to conduct and manage the election were Jonathan C. Farley, Walter B. Lucas, Ebenezer D. Washburn and Andrew Dexter. Elected to the first town council were Nimrod E. Benson, William Graham, Clement Freney, Ebenezer D. Washburn, John Goldthwaite, Rhodes L. Smith and Daniel Carpenter. They chose Graham as the first intendant (mayor). Walter B. Lucas proposed that the new town be named for Gen. Richard Montgomery, the Revolutionary War hero.



## Marathon News

They're not Cogswells, but... Fauja Singh (right) completed the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at age 100 in 8:11:05.9 for last place of 3,855 participants. Amber Miller (left) was 38 weeks and five days pregnant when she completed the Chicago Marathon, then gave birth seven hours later. She had got clearance from her doctor to half-run half-walk. She was accompanied by her husband, Joe, although she beat his time – 6:44:47 by 19 minutes.



# Cogswell Family Association

Incorporated Massachusetts, February 17, 1989

## Founder & First President - Cyril Gray Cogswell

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First Class

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