

**MSOG**  
**MASSOG**

**Genealogists Helping Genealogists**

**Vol. 43, No. 1**

**2018–2019**

**A Genealogical Journal for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**CONTENTS**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| President’s Letter _____  | 1  |
| State Officers, Directors, Editorial Board, and Contact Information _____   | 2  |
| Identifying the Family of Susan (Neat) Brigham<br>of Boston and Westborough, Massachusetts _____                                    | 3  |
| Robert and Anne (Parker) Ingolls of Boston, Massachusetts _____   | 13 |
| James Hosley Family of Middlesex and Hampshire Counties, Massachusetts (Part 1) _____   | 16 |
| The Hardy Brothers of Westborough, Massachusetts _____  | 30 |
| Lost Lives and New Worlds:<br>The Stories of Scottish Soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar (1650) _____                               | 33 |
| Book Review: <i>Lost Lives, New Voices: Unlocking the Stories<br/>of the Scottish Soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar 1650</i> _____ | 36 |
| NERGC 2019: Family—a Link to the Past & a Bridge to the Future _____  | 37 |

© 2019 Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.



ISSN – 0738 – 1549

## **Lost Lives and New Worlds:**

### **The Stories of Scottish Soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar (1650)**

*Submitted by Andrew Millard*

On a wet Thursday afternoon in November 2013, construction work on a café in the center of the World Heritage Site in Durham, England, came to a halt when human remains were uncovered. Archaeological excavation followed, and over the last four and a half years I have been part of a research team at Durham University investigating those remains. The 28 skeletons recovered from two disorderly mass burials proved to be all male, mostly aged 13–25, dated between 1630 and 1660, and of diverse geographical origins.

From this evidence we concluded that these were men from the Scottish army at the Battle of Dunbar (3 September 1650) who were captured by the English under Oliver Cromwell. This Scottish army had been raised to support the claim of Charles II to be King of England, where the Parliament had executed his father, Charles I, and proclaimed a republic. The English, preempting any Scottish invasion, had invaded Scotland in July 1650. The two armies skirmished but did not engage in battle until 3 September at Dunbar, when the English won a resounding victory over the Scots. Thousands of prisoners were taken. Cromwell released many because they were wounded or old, but over 4,000 were marched south to England to remove them from the conflict. Some 3,000 were imprisoned in Durham Cathedral, which at that time was merely a large, empty building, as the Puritan government had closed all cathedrals.

“The flux” (almost certainly dysentery) had been rife in both armies before the battle, and very rapidly the prisoners started dying from it. Between their arrival in Durham on 11 September and a report written on 31 October—a mere 50 days—about 1,600 men died. Until the excavation in 2013, their burial location was unknown.

After the identification of the skeletons, a detailed program of research in collaboration with the Universities of Bradford and York began. We were able to establish life stories for thirteen of the more complete skeletons. One older man had not faced any major disruptions in diet or growth during his childhood, but the others all had one or more episodes of poor diet or illness. Several men had migrated between different geological areas during their childhood. Their dental hygiene was terrible, but that allowed us to analyze dental calculus to establish what they ate and diseases to which they were exposed. Many suffered from sinusitis, and all were exposed to smoke, though whether from fires or tobacco we cannot say.

Some 366 years after these prisoners’ lives were lost, one day in November 2016, our team of archaeologists was to be found tramping around the woods in southern Maine. Why? Because our research had branched out from the remains of those who had died to examine the lives of those who had survived their captivity. Some 500 prisoners were sent to drain the fens of Cambridgeshire, and another 500 were sent to fight in the French civil war known as the Fronde. Those of whom we know most, however, are 150 men who left London on 11 November 1650 aboard the ketch *Unity*. They had been purchased as bonded servants by the Company of Undertakers for the Iron Works in New England and arrived in Boston in late December 1650.

Some 60 men were employed by the company, either at its ironworks in Saugus or at the warehouse in Boston, and the others were sold as servants to English colonists to work for terms of six to eight years. One group was sent to sawmills at Oyster River, near Durham, New Hampshire, and others worked at The Great Works mill near Kittery (now South Berwick), Maine. Once released from their servitude, they established new lives in New England.

Some of the men became settlers on the limits of European settlement in North America. At least a dozen settled in what is now South Berwick, Maine. Here the “frontier lot” was allocated to Micum McIntire. There were also numerous skirmishes with Native Americans. The traces of the houses of several of these men, in the form of collapsed cellar holes, are visible in the woods of southern Maine today.

One of the wealthiest of the Scots was John Upton of Reading, Massachusetts, whose estate was valued at £981 after his death in 1699. He had accumulated a significant amount of land, a large house, numerous livestock, and “a negro boy about 13 years old.” He supported other Scots by administering their wills, being guardian of their children, and offering them hospitality. This last once landed him in court, as his visitor turned out to be a runaway servant who had stolen his master’s clothes!

In 1685 one of the prisoners from Dunbar was said to be “living now in Woodbridge [New Jersey] like a Scots laird, wishes his countrymen and his native soil well, though he never intends to see it.” Like many of his comrades, this anonymous man seems to have made a better life in exile than he could have anticipated at home.

Thousands of Americans are descended from these men, and their legacy in the development of America is notable. Soon after release from their servitude, a group of these and other Scots formed the Scots’ Charitable Society,<sup>[1]</sup> which is now the oldest charitable organization in the Western Hemisphere. Today, descendants are brought together by the Scottish Prisoners of War Society,<sup>[2]</sup> which promotes the study of the Scottish prisoners from the Battles of Dunbar (1650) and Worcester (1651), the historical events surrounding their lives, and their descendants.

The Durham University Scottish Soldiers Project<sup>[3]</sup> is now coming to an end. In our book *Lost Lives, New Voices*,<sup>[4]</sup> we detail the story of the discovery, our research on the skeletons to identify them and tell their life stories, the background to the Battle of Dunbar, and the fates of the prisoners. Two chapters are devoted to those who were transported to New England, and an appendix summarizes our attempts to identify their names from New England records.

From June to October 2018 there was an exhibition at the Palace Green Library, adjacent to the burial site, entitled *Bodies of Evidence: How science unearthed Durham’s dark secret*.<sup>[5]</sup> The exhibit allowed visitors to see original objects from the period—including armor, weapons, and

---

<sup>1</sup> Scots’ Charitable Society ([scots-charitable.org/](http://scots-charitable.org/)).

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Prisoners of War ([scottishprisonersofwar.com/](http://scottishprisonersofwar.com/)).

<sup>3</sup> “Scottish Soldiers Project,” Durham University ([www.dur.ac.uk/scottishsoldiers/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/scottishsoldiers/)).

<sup>4</sup> Chris Gerrard, Pam Graves, Andrew Millard, Richard Annis and Anwen Caffell, *Lost Lives, New Voices: Unlocking the Stories of the Scottish Soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar 1650* (Oxford and Philadelphia: Oxbow Books, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> “Exhibitions at Palace Green Library,” Durham University ([www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/events/exhibitions/?eventno=37429](http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/events/exhibitions/?eventno=37429)).

portraits—alongside accounts of the scientific methods used in archaeology to investigate skeletons.

In the United States, the stories of the men and their descendants are included in the National Parks site at Saugus, Massachusetts,<sup>[6]</sup> and the displays at the Old Berwick Historical Society in the Counting House, South Berwick, Maine.<sup>[7]</sup>

In addition, a travelling exhibition will be developed from the exhibition in Durham to tour locations relevant to the story in both the UK and the USA. Though smaller in scale, this exhibit will cover similar themes about the scientific analysis of the remains and the stories of the prisoners of war in New England. Dates and locations for this are yet to be announced.

Patrick Fassett's gravestone in the Old South Burying Ground, Billerica, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Like many of the Scottish prisoners deported to New England, he lived to a ripe old age. Photograph by kind permission of Bill Boyington.



*Dr. Andrew Millard, Associate Professor of Archaeology, Durham University, UK, is a specialist in dating archaeological remains, and in chemical analysis of bones and teeth to study diet and migration. He has also been a keen genealogist since childhood. He is currently chair of the Trustees of GENUKI, and Academic Coordinator for the Guild of One-Name Studies.*

*You can contact Andrew at [a.r.millard@durham.ac.uk](mailto:a.r.millard@durham.ac.uk), or Department of Archaeology, Durham University, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, UK.*

---

<sup>6</sup> “Saugus Iron Works,” *National Park Service* ([www.nps.gov/sair/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/sair/index.htm)).

<sup>7</sup> “Visit the Counting House,” *Old Berwick Historical Society* ([www.oldberwick.org/oldberwick/?Itemid=85](http://www.oldberwick.org/oldberwick/?Itemid=85)).

## Book Review

***Lost Lives, New Voices: Unlocking the Stories of the Scottish Soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar 1650*** by Christopher Gerrard, Pam Graves, Andrew Millard, Richard Annis, and Anwen Caffell (Oxford, England, and Havertown, Pa.: Oxbow Books, 2018. xvi + 368 pp. with illustrations and index. Softcover, \$35.00). Order from Casemate Academic, 1950 Lawrence Rd., Havertown, PA 19083, tel: 610-853-9131, fax: 610-853-9146.

This remarkable book treats the Scottish soldiers who were imprisoned in Durham Castle in England after the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. The impetus for the work was the discovery of skeletons of many of the prisoners at Palace Green in Durham in 2013. Several chapters detail the archaeology of the find along with scientific analysis of the bones. But what will be of special interest to New England genealogists are the last few chapters and two appendices treating the 150 prisoners transported to New England on the *Unity*.

These prisoners are often associated with the ironworks in Saugus, Massachusetts, but there were other iron works, notably in Lynn, Braintree, and Taunton, and many of the prisoners pursued other occupations, especially lumbering in Maine and New Hampshire. One chapter titled “New England” describes in great detail the ironworks themselves, housing, and everyday life. “New Voices” includes sample biographies of some of the men and discusses the friendship and family links among them.

An important sidebar treats the Scots Charitable Society, a rich source of personal information on microfilm at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Founders of the Charitable Society included some of the approximately 150 Scots listed in Appendix A. This list is divided into those who are definite, more who are probable, others who are possible, and finally the doubtful ones. Each man is listed with his residence and years of birth and death (if known) and with citations to sources where he is mentioned. Appendix B, “The New England wills and inventories,” contains abstracts of dozens of probate records, reflecting the fact that many of these men became substantial property owners.

Anyone who has connections with these Dunbar prisoners, as well as the prisoners transported on the *John and Sara* after the 1651 Battle of Worcester—or, indeed, to any early Scots in New England—will find this book a rich source.

Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG