

REBECCA, WIFE OF THOMAS¹ JOSSELYN OF HINGHAM AND LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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With little doubt, the best published genealogical account of 1635 New England immigrant Thomas¹ Josselyn remains that by Elizabeth French (later Bartlett) in volume 71 of the *Register*.^[1] Curiously, however, Miss French avoided mentioning two questionable statements about Thomas Josselyn's family that were already in print by the time her article was published in 1917. One was inclusion of a son Joseph who did not exist. The other claim was of a maiden name for Rebecca, wife of Thomas. Joseph's invention was explained many years ago.^[2] This article reveals Rebecca's true maiden name.

When in April 1635 the Josselyns enrolled to sail from London to Boston aboard the *Increase*, Rebecca was listed as 43, the only known record of her age.^[3] Following the family's arrival in New England, the next discovered

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¹ Elizabeth French, "Genealogical Research in England—Josselyn," *Register* 71 (1917):19–33, 227–57. For Thomas's earliest English ancestry, Miss French relied on the published visitations of Essex, the pedigrees of which probably cannot be verified before about the year 1200. She did not enumerate all the various claims of Thomas¹ Josselyn's ancestry already in print, some of which she may not have seen. One of the more interesting is Laura Elmendorf Skeels, "The Jocelyn-Joslin Family," in volume 6 of *The Journal of American History* (1912), pp. 516–41, in which Thomas was said to have been the son of Sir Thomas Jocelyn, father of Henry and John Josselyn, who also went to New England in the 1630s. While Edith S. Wessler followed Miss French in giving Thomas¹ Josselyn's English ancestry in *The Jocelyn-Joslin-Joslyn-Josselyn Family* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1961), she unfortunately included Ms. Skeels's inventive lineage to the town of Josselin in Brittany and a descent from Charlemagne.

At the time of Thomas's immigration and for many of his descendants for several generations, *Josselyn* seems to have been the principal spelling, although several variations are found, and indeed, the immigrant may have himself preferred *Joslin*, although this is not totally clear.

² Roger D. Joslyn, "There Was No Joseph² Josselyn," *The American Genealogist* 56 (1980):153–54.

³ The family's enrollment date was 17 April, which in some accounts has been incorrectly given as the date of sailing. John Camden Hotten, ed., *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality*. . . (London: Chatto & Windus, 1874; repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 55. The earliest publication of this record was evidently by James Savage in "Gleanings for New England History," *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 3rd series, 7 (1843):256, where the name is rendered "Jestlin." In the original list (1635 London Port Book, The National Archives [formerly the Public Record Office] E157/20, p. 17), dated 17 April 1635, the name was written as Jostlin: a Husbandman—Tho: Jostlin – 43, Rebeca his wife – 43; Rebecca

mention of her is 9 May 1660, when in his will, Thomas “Joslin” of Lancaster bequeathed to “my wife Rebecca Joslin” for the rest of her life, “all my goods, moveables & all my estate in lands & housing with barne & cow houses” in Lancaster, as well as “all debts that be oweing to mee either in this Towne of Lanchaster or elsewhere, whatsoever with all lawfull power to recover them.” Rebecca was to have “so much of my goodes and lands as shall remayne undisposed for her comfortable maintenance & subsistance in mann[er] hereafter following,” and she to be “whole & sole Executor, dureing the time of her life.”^[4] On 29 March 1661, widow Rebecca Joslin swore to the inventory of Thomas’s estate, taken two months earlier by William Kerley and Jacob Farrer, both of Lancaster.^[5] In 1664 Rebecca sold off her rights to her late husband Thomas’s land, signing the deeds with an *R* mark, or, in one instance, an *I* [for Josselyn].^[6] Her last two conveyances were as the wife of William Kerley, whom she married, as his third wife, in Lancaster 6 or 16 May 1664.^[7] William died in Lancaster 14 July 1670,^[8] but no record of Rebecca’s death has been found. She had probably predeceased William, as he named no wife in his will of 26 July 1669. The inventory of his estate, taken 19 July 1670, by John Moore and Roger Sumner (the latter a son-in-law of Rebecca), was amended by Nathaniel Joslin (son of Rebecca) and John Lewis to include “a small parcel of goods more, which came to him [Kerley] by his Last wife.”^[9]

– 18, Dorothy – 11, Nathaniell – 08, Eliza. – 6, Mary – 1, children of the family [of] Thos Jostlin; Eliza Ward, maid servant, 38. My thanks to Robert C. Anderson for a copy of the original list.

⁴ Witnesses to the will, allowed in Cambridge 2 April 1661, were Mordeca Maccloud (his mark), James Butler (his mark), and James Farrer. At the top of the recorded will, the name is written Thomas Joceline, but is spelled in the will as Joslin and Josline, and his signature was recorded as Thomas Joslin (Middlesex County Probate, First Series, 2:82–84; see also the abstract published in Mary Lovering Holman and Winifred Lovering Holman, comps., *Ancestry of Colonel John Harrington Stevens and His Wife Frances Helen Miller*, 2 vols. [Concord, N.H.: privately printed, 1948–52], 1:74–75, and the full transcript in Robert H. Rodgers, *Middlesex County in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England: Records of Probate and Administration, March 1660/61–December 1670* [Boston: NEHGS, 2001], 17–19). There are no probate papers for this estate.

Thomas “Joslin” died in Lancaster 3 January 1660/61 (Andrew H. Ward, “Lancaster Records,” *Register* 16 [1862]:359; Henry S. Nourse, ed., *The Early Records of Lancaster Massachusetts, 1643–1725* [Lancaster, Mass.: W.J. Coulter, 1884], 322; Henry S. Nourse, ed., *The Birth, Marriage and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts. 1643–1850* [Lancaster, Mass.: W.J. Coulter, 1890], 14).

⁵ Middlesex County Probate, First Series, 2:85; Rodgers, *Middlesex County Records of Probate* [note 4], 18.

⁶ Middlesex County Deeds, 3:102, 140–42. Transcripts of all but the first deed are in Rodgers, *Middlesex County Records of Probate* [note 4], 19–22.

⁷ Ward, “Lancaster Records” [note 4], *Register* 16:355, showing her name as Rebeccah Joselin and the date as 6 May; Nourse, *Early Records of Lancaster* [note 4], 320, and Nourse, *Birth, Marriage and Death Register of Lancaster* [note 4], 11, show the date as 16 May.

⁸ Ward, “Lancaster Records” [note 4], *Register* 16:353; Nourse, *Early Records of Lancaster* [note 4], 323; Nourse, *Birth, Marriage and Death Register of Lancaster* [note 4], 13.

⁹ Middlesex County Probate, First Series, 3:238–39; see also Rodgers, *Middlesex County Records of Probate* [note 4], 626–27. There are no probate papers for this estate.

In several published and manuscript accounts of the Josselyns, the wife of Thomas¹ is listed as Rebecca Marlow or Marlowe, with no source ever given. The earliest instance discovered in print of this surname for Rebecca is in a little book by Luke Joslin Page, *Genealogical Registers of the Ancestors and Descendants of . . . Lemuel Page and Polly Paige, Peter Joslin and Sarah Kidder. . . .*, printed in 1887.^[10] The account of the immigrant generation of the Josselyns in this genealogy is curious and suggests the hand of Gustav Anjou, or someone with his flair for fraud. Not only does Rebecca appear with the surname Marlowe, but with a marriage date “in London, Jan., 1614,” and full dates of birth are given for three of the six Josselyn children.^[11]

If Elizabeth French ever saw the published material giving Thomas Josselyn a son Joseph and listing his wife Rebecca’s surname as Marlow, she was right to reject it, although she might have at least provided caveats.

Thomas presumably grew up in Roxwell, co. Essex, where his father, Ralph, was first married in 1583 and had children baptized 1586–1604,^[12] but just where

¹⁰ Luke Joslin Page, *Genealogical Registers of the Ancestors and Descendants of . . . Lemuel Page and Polly Paige, Peter Joslin and Sarah Kidder. . . .* (Boston: n.p., 1887), 78, 83, indicates she was Rebecca Marlowe, born in London in 1592 and married in 1614 to Thomas Joslin, born in London in 1590, but provides no evidence. The name Marlowe was subsequently picked up for other accounts of the Joslins that predate Miss French’s article. See, for example, William Richard Cutter, ed., *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1908), 3:1039–45, at 1040.

Page’s account also erroneously indicates the New England immigrant was from “Nathaniel Josceline (supposed a brother of Sir Ralph [Lord Mayor of London]),” born about 1450, through his son “James Joslin,” born 1497, through his son “Robert Joslin,” who moved to London in 1560 and with wife, “Martha Cleveland,” were the parents of Thomas.

Miss French also did not mention another suggested name for Rebecca’s father that was published before her article: “As regards the name ‘Abraham,’ given by said Thomas to his eldest son, it may have been the name of his (Thomas’s) father-in-law, for what more likely than that a woman bearing the Scriptural name ‘Rebecca’ should have had an ‘Abraham’ for her father?” (William M. Sargent, “Henry Josselyn, The First and Only Royal Chief Magistrate of Maine,” *Register* 40 [1886]:290–94, at 293).

¹¹ While the information in Page’s little work is similar to Anjou’s, such as dates of birth that are rare to find for the time period and other information that cannot be verified, the master of genealogical fraud began his work a little later. See Robert Charles Anderson, “We Wuz Robbed! The Modus Operandi of Gustave Anjou,” *Genealogical Journal* 19 (1991):47–58, and Gordon L. Remington, “Gustave, We Hardly Knew Ye: A Portrait of Herr Anjou as a Jungberg,” *Genealogical Journal* 19 (1991):59–70.

¹² The baptisms of only six of his father Ralph’s eleven known children were recorded in Roxwell, with just one entry identifying the father: “Marie Joseline,” 4 September 1586; Agnes [Anne] Joslin, 25 August 1588; Ralph Joslin, 8 July 1590; Joseph, son of Ralph “Joselin,” 6 July 1600; Nathaniel “Joscelin,” 29 September 1602; and Elizabeth “Josceline,” 13 September 1604 (Roxwell original registers, ERO D/P288/1/1, Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, abstracted by Peter C. Nutt; French, “Josselyn” [note 1], *Register* 71:33, 250–51). The baptisms of three other children took place in Good Easter parish, northwest of Roxwell and not found by French: John “Joyclinge,” son of Rafe, 27 December 1584; “Symon Josselin,” 1 April 1594, son of Rafe of Roxwell; and “Dorothie Josselin,” daughter of Rafe of Roxwell, 2 April 1598 (Good Easter original registers, D/P57/1/1, Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, abstracted by Peter C. Nutt).

Thomas married and lived the first several years of his own marriage has not heretofore been discovered.

As discussed below, Thomas and Rebecca were married probably in 1613. Their eldest-known child, son Abraham, was born about 1615–16, since he was “aged about 26 years” when he married in 1642.^[13] One record indicates Abraham was born in Essex,^[14] which is quite likely. Regardless of where Abraham was born, within a few years of their marriage, Thomas and Rebecca were moving in a northeasterly direction from their home parishes. The next two Josselyn children were born, or at least baptized, in the parish of Ardleigh, co. Essex, which lies just northeast of the town of Colchester and about twenty-six miles from Roxwell and Radwinter: Rebecca on 27 March 1617, and Mary on 25 August 1619, both recorded as daughters of Thomas and Rebecca Joselin.^[15] The whereabouts of the Josselyns for the next several years is unknown. During this time at least three more children were born: Dorothy about 1623–24, Nathaniel

Ralph, the father, was married at least twice, first to Mary Bright 21 May 1583, and later to Dorothy _____, who survived as his widow, but the Roxwell and Good Easter parish registers do not include the name of the mother of the children recorded there. Ralph’s eldest son, John, had daughters Mary and Dorothy, as did son Thomas, and son Ralph [Jr.] had a daughter Dorothy, but lack of other evidence makes it impossible to determine which wife of Ralph the father, if either, was the mother of Thomas. Dorothy may have been the mother of sons Ralph [Jr.] and Simon, as Ralph [Sr.], in his will of 1626, expressed his desire she live with them. If so, she was also the mother of the later children: Thomas (ca. 1591), Dorothy, Richard, Joseph, Nathaniel, and Elizabeth. When Ralph’s son Richard and son-in-law Daniel Hudson sued sons Ralph [Jr.] and Simon Joslyn in 1646, Dorothy was referred to as the mother of the latter two sons (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Bills and Answers, Bundle H. 1, no. 8, and Bundle H. 72, no. 45, The National Archives, London, abstracted in French, “Josselyn” [note 1] *Register* 71:230–32). The 1583 marriage of “Ralfé Joslin” and “Marie” Bright is from the Roxwell original registers, ERO D/P288/1/1, abstracted by Peter C. Nutt, and is also found in W. P. W. Phillimore and others, eds., *Essex Parish Registers: Marriages*, 4 vols. (London: Phillimore & Co., 1909–14), 4:76. French, “Josselyn” [note 1], *Register* 71:33, noted gaps in the Roxwell baptisms for 1621–June 1623, marriages for 1571–75, 1621, 1645, and burials for April 1621–December 1622, although these do not seem to be significant for this article. There are no Bishop’s Transcripts for the parish (E. J. Erith, *Essex Parish Records 1240–1894* [Chelmsford: The Essex County Council, 1950], 183). Some of the missing baptisms of Ralph Josselyn’s children may have taken place in the neighboring parish of Writtle, where he also seems to have had land, but whose registers do not begin until 1634.

¹³ Bishop of London’s Marriage Allegations, 1641–43, Ms. 10,091.23, Guildhall Library, London. See also Roger D. Joslyn, “A Josselyn Note,” *The American Genealogist* 53 (1977):100. The birthdate of 20 May 1615 in London for Abraham in Page, *Genealogical Registers* [note 10], 83, is almost certainly fictitious, even though the year is acceptable based on Abraham’s age at marriage.

¹⁴ “My Great Grand-Father Capt Abraham Josselyn was Born in England in Essex . . . Uncle Joseph took this account from his Cousin Rebecca Clark Octr. 18th 1759.” Diary of Thomas Josselyn, 1743–1775, Mss C3489, NEHGS.

¹⁵ Ardleigh parish registers, FHL 1,565,698. These two baptisms were discovered by Leslie Mahler of San Jose, California, and sent to Robert C. Anderson, who shared them with the author. Peter C. Nutt also examined a transcript of Ardleigh registers at the Essex Record Office (ERO T/R168/1) but found no other Joslin baptisms and no Joslin burials.

about 1627–27, and Elizabeth about 1628–29.^[16] A search of the registers surrounding Ardleigh turned up no Josselyn baptisms or burials in the period 1615–35.^[17] Daughter Mary born in 1619, must have died young, for Thomas and Rebecca had another daughter of this name, baptized in Barham, co. Suffolk, 16 March 1633/4,^[18] evidently their last child.

Thomas's father, Ralph Josselyn of Roxwell, yeoman, made his will 4 August 1626, during the time Thomas's whereabouts are still unknown. Ralph bequeathed son Thomas and daughter Mary only £5 each, whereas eldest son, John, had already received a portion of the father's lands and other estate amounting to £800, and son Richard was to have £200, son Joseph £160, and son Nathaniel £100. Daughter "Anna" was to have only £10, having perhaps received something at her marriage, as might have her sister Mary,^[19] and daughter Elizabeth was to be provided for the rest of her life, perhaps because of some disablement. Ralph also mentioned his brother Simon, as well as several parcels of land (including the home or farm called Bollinghatch [modernly Bolding Hatch^[20]]), servants, linens, and so forth, suggesting an ample estate and prosperity.^[21] The small amount left Thomas is in harmony with a conveyance Ralph made over a decade earlier, as discussed below.

On 7 November 1642, Thomas's brother Joseph Joslyn of Cranham, co. Essex, yeoman, made his will, leaving Thomas £10 out of £160 their brother Symon was to pay Joseph under a bequest made by their father in his will. Thomas was living

¹⁶ The approximated years of birth of these children are based on their ages when the family left England in 1635 (see note 3).

¹⁷ Original registers at the Essex Record Office, examined by Peter C. Nutt: Great Horkesley (ERO D/P205/1/1), Boxted (ERO D/P155/1/1, baptisms missing for Jan. 1616/7–1643), Dedham (ERO D/P26/1/1, burials missing for 1615–35), Lawford (ERO D/P347/1/1, baptisms missing for March 1615/6–June 1618), Little Bromley (ERO D/P5/1/1, baptisms missing for 1625–94 and burials for 1619–76), Great Bromley (ERO D/P103/1/1, burials missing for 1558–1724), Elmstead (ERO D/P168/1/1), Wivenhoe (D/P277/1/1), and Langham (ERO D/P154, no registers survive before 1638).

¹⁸ Barham Parish Registers, 1562–1919 [FHL 1,658,080]; French, "Josselyn" [note 1] *Register* 71:227.

¹⁹ Mary had married her second husband, John Benton, before 9 May 1622, and Anne had married Daniel Hudson 30 January 1616/7 (French, "Josselyn" [note 1], *Register* 71:250). For clarity on Anne's marriage, see Douglas Richardson, "English Origin of Daniel Hudson of Watertown and Lancaster, Mass.," *The American Genealogist* 56 (1980):25–28, at 25–26.

²⁰ P[ercy] H[ide] Reaney, *The Place-Names of Essex*, English Place-Name Society Vol. 12 (Cambridge: University Press, 1969), 264.

²¹ The will was signed 3 September 1628, and proved 4 May 1632. Will of Ralph Josselyn, PCC 57 Audley/The National Archives PROB11/161, folios 455–56, abstract and copy provided by Peter C. Nutt; also abstracted in French, "Josselyn" [note 1] *Register* 71:28–30, in Alan Macfarlane, *The Family Life of Ralph Josselin: A Seventeenth-Century Clergyman* (Cambridge: University Press, 1970), 215–16, in Holman, *Stevens-Miller Ancestry* [note 4], 1:71–2, and in Frederick Arthur Crisp, *Fragmenta Genealogica*, 13 vols. (London: the author, 1889–1909), 4:4, with the latter leaving out children Thomas and Mary.

in Hingham, Massachusetts Bay Colony, at the time, although his residence was not specified in Joseph's will.^[22]

The family farm, Bollinghatch, which Ralph and his brother Simon "purchased to themselves and their heirs . . . lying in Roxwell, Newland Fee, and Writtle," had been in the Josselyn family earlier. Simon later relinquished his share to Ralph and his heirs, according to a suit brought by Daniel Hudson of Epping, co. Essex, clothier, and Richard Joslyn of the same place, yeoman, executors of their brother Joseph Josselyn's will (Hudson married Ralph Sr.'s daughter Anne). At the time of the suit 30 April 1646, Daniel and Richard claimed the farm was valued at £70 a year, and that Ralph made his will in 1626, "having this estate and also corn and cattle to the value of £400."^[23]

Three years later, on 28 September 1649, Thomas's brother Symon Joceline of East Hanningfield, co. Essex, made his will, in which he mentioned an undated division of two parts of the farm called "Bouleinghatch," whereby Thomas "Joceline" of Barham, co. Suffolk, yeoman, and Rebecca, his wife, and his brothers Ralph Joceline of Roxwell and Symon Joceline conveyed land to Aron Renton and John Parcey of London, gentlemen.^[24] While Thomas was already in New England, it is his former residence in Barham, Suffolk, mentioned in brother Symon's will, that equates him and his wife with the Thomas and Rebecca Josline whose daughter Mary was baptized there 16 March 1633/4^[25] — the daughter Mary who was a year old at emigration a year later.^[26]

²² Will of Joseph Joslyn, Archdeaconry of Essex, ERO D/AER20/161, abstracted by Peter C. Nutt; also abstracted in French, "Josselyn" [note 1], *Register* 71:30, and in Macfarlane, *Family Life of Ralph Josselin* [note 21], 214–15.

²³ In his reply to the complaint, Daniel and Richard's brother Simon Joscelyn claimed Bollinghatch "became his uncle Simon's by right of survivorship," and that his father, Ralph, died with an estate of £300, but the inventory was "overvalued . . . and compromised many desperate debts," so that he and his brother Ralph [Jr.] "paid more in legacies than their father had died possessed of." Daniel and Richard then answered that Simon "well knows that their uncle Simon gave his brother Ralph, their father, a full and clear release of the premises. . . ." (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, Bills and Answers, Bundle H. 1, no. 8, and Bundle H. 72, no. 45, The National Archives, London, abstracted in French, "Josselyn" [note 1], *Register* 71:230–32. A drop-line pedigree chart of the relationships given in the suit was published in *The Ancestor* 11(1904):161.

²⁴ Will of Symon Joceline, PCC 54 Berkley/The National Archives PROB11/253, abstracted in French, "Josselyn" [note 1], *Register* 71:30, and in Crisp, *Fragmenta Genealogica* [note 21], 4:6. Of the deed, Jennifer Butler, Principal Archivist of the Essex County Council Archives in Chelmsford wrote: "I suspect that, unless it is still lying unnoticed in a solicitor's strongroom, it has not survived" (letter of 16 February 1999 to the author).

²⁵ See note 18.

²⁶ That this important deed, connecting Thomas back to his ancestral home of Bollinghatch, was separated from the genealogical summary in Miss French's article, may have led Winifred Lovering Holman to ask in a footnote in the "The Josselyn Line" section of *Stevens-Miller Ancestry* [note 4], 1:73, "Beyond the fact that Thomas, alive 1642, son of Ralph, had a sister *Dorothy* and brother *Nathaniel* [names of two of immigrant Thomas's children], what is the proof that said Thomas is identical with the immigrant?" Philip Howard Gray was also put off the mark in volume 6 of his *Penobscot Pioneers* (Rockport, Maine: Penobscot Press, 1996), wanting the

Another deed, apparently not available to Miss French when she conducted her Josselyn research nearly a century ago, reveals the maiden name of Rebecca, wife of Thomas Josselyn.

We, Ralph Josselin senior of Roxwell in Co. Essex, yeoman, and Simon Josselin of Roxwell, yeoman, have given and confirmed to John Jude of Radwinter in the same county, yeoman, and Ralph Josselin junior of Roxwell, yeoman: one parcel of arable and pasture land containing ten acres, parcel of a certain field called Apsonfield in Roxwell, Newland or Writtle, next to a lane called Pyntayle Lane, and abutting on Pyntayle Lane towards the east, one head abutting on the highway on the north, and the other head on land called Willow Leaz, alias Lowbottom, on the south,

To have to them, John Jude and Ralph Josselin junior, their heirs and assigns, to the use and behoof [benefit] of me the said Ralph Josselin the elder for the term of my life, and after the decease of me the aforementioned Ralph Josselin the elder, then to the use and behoof of Thomas Josselin one of the sons of me the aforesaid Ralph Josselin the elder, and Rebecca Jude and the longer liver of them, And after the decease of the said Thomas and Rebecca and of the longer liver of them, to the use of the heirs of the bodies of the same Thomas and Rebecca lawfully begotten, and for the default of such issue then to the use and behoof of the heirs of the body of the same Thomas lawfully begotten, and for the default of such issue then to the use of the right heirs of me the aforementioned Ralph Josselin the elder for ever, in perpetuity, to hold by services first owed and customary.

Provided always that if the heirs, executor and administrators of me the aforesaid Ralph Josselin senior, should pay the aforesaid Thomas Josselin and Rebecca, or their attorney etc., the sum of £100 within one year after my decease, at or in the mansion house called Bollinghatche in Roxwell, Newland or Writtle, that this indenture shall be nullified.

One part of the conveyance was to be signed by John Jude and Ralph Josselin junior, and the other by Ralph Josselin senior and Simon Josselin. It was signed by the marks of Ralph Josselin senior and Simon Josselin, and witnessed by Samuel Smyth, clerk, William Nealle, and Richard Josselin. The internal date of

1635 immigrant Thomas to be of a different ancestral line. “The belief that the immigrant Thomas Jocelyn [*sic*] who eventually settled in Hingham was the son of Ralph Jocelyn of Roxwell co Essex is totally dependent upon an assumption of Col. Charles Edward Banks who passed it to Elizabeth French who accepted it without question” (p. 75). Dr. Gray offers no evidence that Col. Banks primed Miss French with an “assumption,” but she does acknowledge Banks (footnote on p. 233 of her Josselyn article) with bringing to her attention the published diary of the Rev. Ralph Josselin, a nephew of Thomas, entries from which added to the evidence for the English ancestry of the first New England Josselyns.

the conveyance is 29 September 1613, but on the outside of the document is the date 9 Sept 11. Jas I [1613].^[27]

This deed conveyed ten acres of Ralph's estate — evidently co-owned with his brother Simon — during the rest of Ralph's lifetime to his son Ralph, Jr., and to John Jude, but after Ralph senior's death, the land was for the use of his son Thomas Josselin, and of Rebecca Jude, and after their deaths, for the use of the heirs of Thomas and Rebecca. If Ralph Sr.'s executors, however, within a year after his death, paid Thomas and Rebecca £100, then the conveyance was voided.

While this deed was obviously prepared in expectation of Thomas and Rebecca's marriage,^[28] it is not a direct marriage settlement, whereby the ten acres would have gone directly to the couple (but with the remainder clauses, as above, that the property would go back to Ralph's heirs if Thomas had no children). Had the land been security for the £100 borrowed by Ralph Josselin from John Jude, then the instrument would be a regular mortgage, with the conveyance voided when the loan was repaid.^[29]

What seems to have happened is that Ralph Josselin Sr. borrowed £100 from John Jude, who was probably Rebecca's father, or perhaps her eldest brother, or less likely her uncle or grandfather. Rather than having the ten acres as security on the loan, however, and since Thomas and Rebecca were about to be married, it was agreed, so that Ralph could not alienate the land to someone else, it be held jointly in trust by Ralph Josselin Jr. and John Jude, to protect the interests of Ralph Josselin Sr. and John Jude, but with Ralph continuing to "enjoy" [benefit from] the land while he still lived, unless the loan was repaid before his death, or within a year after he died. This document also explains the small amount of five pounds Ralph left Thomas by his will thirteen years later.

Who was Rebecca Jude? At the time of her marriage to Thomas Josselyn, probably soon after the 29 September 1613 conveyance by Thomas's father, she

²⁷ Deeds, D/DHt, T531, Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, abstracted from the Latin by Janet Gyford, September 1999, copy and abstract obtained by Peter C. Nutt. This document was one of a large number the Essex Record Office obtained about twenty to thirty years ago from the Essex Society for Archaeology & History, but its ownership prior to that is apparently not known.

²⁸ Research for this article turned up only one prior suggestion of Jude as Rebecca's maiden name. On 22 March 1999, Hazel Tatro replied on Genealogy.com's Joslin Genforum to Brent Henderson's post of 21 July 1998: "Thomas Joslin-1591 Eng-1660/1 Mass. married Rebecca (**jude** ?, Marlowe ?/ [sic]" (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Jude::joslin::510.html>, downloaded 30 October 1999). Ms. Tatro made a nearly identical reply on 25 March 1999 to Norris Taylor's inquiry of 25 October 1998, "Oh, does anyone have a source for the maiden name of Marlowe for Rebecca, Thomas's wife?? [sic]" (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Jude::joslin::516.html>, downloaded 30 October 1999). Upon inquiry to Ms. Tatro, she replied that her cousin Emogene Tendall, a professional genealogist, had provided the possible surname Jude for Rebecca. In her response to the author, however, Ms. Tendall denied she had such information.

²⁹ My thanks to Michael J. Wood for his assistance with interpretation of the 1613 deed. Mr. Wood adds that Ralph "may have in fact borrowed, say, £80 to £90, the repayment being rounded up in commutation of interest, saving the hassle of paying and collecting regular installments during the term."

was about 21 or 22 years of age (since she was age 43 in 1635) and probably not married before. She was with little doubt a relative, and probably a close one, of John Jude of Radwinter named in the conveyance. While Radwinter was quite possibly Rebecca's home parish, its registers do not start until 1638,^[30] so there is no record of her baptism with the names of her parents (or at least her father). And since no record of her marriage to Thomas Josselyn has been discovered, it is likely the couple married in the bride's parish and again no record exists.

An attempt to learn Rebecca's parentage through other records has not been successful. Rebecca is not named in any will of a Jude (or Judd, a variant of the surname^[31]) of Radwinter or surrounding parishes,^[32] or in the extant baptismal registers of surrounding parishes in the period 1580–1600, either with her maiden or married name. The only John Jude/Judd mentioned with a relationship in a will of a Jude/Judd of Radwinter is as a son of William Jude of that parish, husbandman, dated 9 November 1583. William also named in his will children Joan, Robert, Elizabeth (married Robert Pledger), Henry (deceased), and Giles, as well as his wife, Joan, who was not his first wife.^[33] While the number of contemporary William Judds is not known, the 1583 testator may have been the William Jude of Radwinter named as executor and identified as "my brother-in-law" in the 1573 will of John Westley of Hempstead, co. Essex, husbandman.^[34]

John Jude, son of William, was also named in the nuncupative will of his brother Henry Jude of Radwinter, tailor, dated 26 October 1584.^[35] In December 1598, he was doubtless the John Jude who witnessed the nuncupative will of Giles Jude of Radwinter, husbandman,^[36] youngest son of William. He was probably

³⁰ Erith, *Essex Parish Records* [note 12], 173.

³¹ P[ercy] H[ide] Reaney, *A Dictionary of English Surnames*, rev. 3rd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997), 258.

³² Actually, there are no Jude/Judd wills for persons from Essex parishes surrounding Radwinter in the time period 1400–1720 (F. G. Emmison, *Wills at Chelmsford (Essex and East Herefordshire)* [1400–1858], 3 vols. [London: The Index Library (The British Record Society, Limited), vols. 78, 79, 84, 1957–69], 1:239, 2:204–05).

³³ Will of William Jude, Archdeaconry of Essex, abstracted in F. G. Emmison, abstr. and ed., *Essex Wills: The Archdeaconry Courts 1583–1592* (Chelmsford: Essex Record Office in collaboration with The Friends of Historic Essex, 1989), 187. Daughter Elizabeth's marriage is clarified in the will of her husband, abstracted on page 195 of the same work, as well as in the will of her brother Henry, cited in note 35.

³⁴ Will of John Westley, abstracted in F. G. Emmison, abstr. and ed., *Essex Wills (England) Volume 3, 1571–1577* (Boston: NEHGS, 1986), 317.

³⁵ The writing of the will was obviously done some time after Henry's death, since he was noted as deceased in his father William's will nearly a year earlier. Will of Henry Jude, abstracted in Emmison, *Essex Wills 1583–1592* [note 33], 182. Henry referred to Joan Jude as his mother-in-law (i.e., stepmother).

³⁶ Not only did Giles name his eldest son William, but he left his wife, Margaret, his message "belonging to the manor of Bendish Hall [in Radwinter] called Downes," and William Jude by his 1583 will had bequeathed to his son Giles "my customary tenements and lands in Radwinter called Downes and Cowleys." Will of Giles Jude, abstracted in F. G. Emmison, abstr. and ed., *Essex Wills: The Archdeaconry Courts 1597–1603* (Chelmsford: Essex Record Office in collaboration with The Friends of Historic Essex, 1990), 100–01.

also the John Jude of Radwinter, yeoman, named in the 1593 will of Thomas Parker the elder of [Saffron] Walden, shoemaker.^[37]

Again, without knowing how many adult John Judes there might have been in Radwinter in the late sixteenth century, one can only suggest that the following earlier references may be to the son of William and to the John who was possibly the father of Rebecca (Jude) Josselyn:

John Jude, witness to the 1572 will of John Tittrell of Radwinter,^[38]
 John Jude, witness to the 1574 will of John Flacke the elder of Radwinter;
 “John Judde,” witness to the 1574/75 will of John Chesse of Barnston, who
 named “Henry Judde my kinsman and servant.”^[39]
 John Jude of Radwinter a constable in March 1575.^[40]

If all the John Judes were one and the same, his birth took place about 1551 or earlier (assuming he was already of age when he witnessed a will in 1572), certainly comfortable enough to have a daughter Rebecca born about 1591–92. But while the chronology fits, nothing further has been found to prove the son John mentioned in the will of William Jude was the John Jude of the 1613 Josselyn-Jude conveyance or that John was the father of Rebecca (Jude) Josselyn.^[41]

The parish of Radwinter lies roughly sixteen miles due north of Thomas Josselyn’s home of Roxwell and along the Essex-Cambridgeshire border. Just how Rebecca Jude and Thomas Josselyn met is a mystery, unless, perhaps, one or the other had relatives nearby.^[42] As noted above, the late beginning of the Radwinter registers greatly complicates the reconstruction of the Jude family there. Examination of registers for the surrounding parishes is sometimes helpful,

³⁷ Will of Thomas Parker, abstracted in F. G. Emmison, abstr. and ed., *Essex Wills: The Archdeaconry Courts 1591–1593* (Chelmsford: Essex Record Office in collaboration with The Friends of Historic Essex, 1991), 110.

³⁸ Will of John Tittrell, abstracted in Emmison, *Essex Wills 1571–1577* [note 34], 278–79.

³⁹ Wills of John Flacke and John Chesse, Archdeaconry of Essex, abstracted in F. G. Emmison, abstr. and ed., *Essex Wills: The Archdeaconry Courts 1577–1584* (Chelmsford: Essex Record Office in collaboration with The Friends of Historic Essex, 1987), 132, 196–97.

⁴⁰ Abstracts of “deeds” at “Essex, Suffolk & Norfolk genealogy, census, marriages & other stuff,” online at <http://kevw.net/Lagden-SEAX-info.htm>, downloaded 23 March 2004.

⁴¹ The only other record discovered for probably this same John was in 1592, when John Jude of “Redwynter” served on a jury panel for “Udgelsford [Uttlesford] Freshwell and Clavering half hundred” (Quarter Session Rolls 123/20, Essex Record Office, abstracted by Peter C. Nutt). This record places a John in Radwinter close to the time of Rebecca (Jude) Josselyn’s birth.

⁴² Curiously, a William Joseline and Joan Judd were married at Great Canfield, co. Essex, 3 October 1636; he may have been the William, son of William Josline, baptized there 9 January 1608[9] (Great Canfield parish registers [FHL 1,471,966 Item 17], examined by Gordon L. Remington, FUGA, FASG). William Judd of Much Canfield, yeoman, in his will of 26 September 1647, mentioned his “son Wm Joselines three children” (Will of William Judd, ERO D/ABW60/70, abstracted by Peter C. Nutt). William Joseline’s relationship to Thomas Josselyn, the immigrant to New England, was not pursued for this article.

but in this case, only limited information was found in these records for the period 1580–1600. None of the Jude/Judd name is found in the baptismal registers for Ashdon, Bartlow End, Great Sampford, Little Sampford, and Wimbish, and no baptism registers survive for Hempstead prior to 1693. In Helion Bumpstead are listed children of Henry Jude, 1602–25, including a daughter Rebecka in the latter year, which might suggest a relationship to Rebecca (Jude) Josselyn, born about 1591–92, possibly at Radwinter. In the baptisms for Saffron Walden are found John, son of Willm Jude, 20 August 1574, and Anne, daughter of Jhon Jude, 23 November 1595, and these might be the John Jude of neighboring Radwinter, possible father of Rebecca (Jude) Josselyn.^[43]

Percival Boyd's marriage index for Essex shows Judd marriages in the period 1538–1600 for the Essex parishes Great Dunmow, Little Canfield, Felsted, Farnham, Great Hallingbury, Great Canfield, Latton, and Saffron Walden, the original registers of which were examined for information about or further clues to Rebecca Jude/Judd. No Rebeccas were found, but there were several John Jude/Judd entries: John Judd and Dority Wrene married at Little Canfield 1577, John Jude and Joyse Minet married at Felsted 1558/9, children of John Jud/Judd baptized at Great Canfield 1580–91, John Jude and Ellin Clark married at Saffron Walden in 1593, and John Jude and Agnes Cooke married there in 1594/5.^[44]

After years of the name Marlowe appearing in print and in researchers' notes for the maiden surname of Rebecca, wife of Thomas¹ Josselyn of New England, her real surname, Jude, can at last be celebrated. Even with her correct name, however, the identification of her parents, other family members, and ancestry is stymied, perhaps because of the late registers for Radwinter, co. Essex, the parish that was possibly her home prior to marriage. At best, it can only be suggested she *may* have been the daughter of John Jude of Radwinter, who in turn *may* have been the son of William Jude of Radwinter, *perhaps* the John son of William baptized in the neighboring parish of Saffron Walden in 1564 and by a wife whose maiden surname *might* have been Westley. With this article as a starting point, however, some as yet unfound document may someday shed further light on Rebecca's origins.

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⁴³ Original registers at the Essex Record Office, examined by Peter C. Nutt: Ashdon (ERO D/P18/11), Bartlow End (ERO T/R198/1 [transcript]), Great Sampford (ERO D/P289/1/1), Little Sampford (ERO D/P122/1/1), Wimbish (ERO D/P313/1/1), Hempstead (ERO D/P314/1/1), Helion Bumpstead (ERO D/P331/1/1), Saffron Waldon (ERO D/P192/1/1). The mother of the children of Henry Jude of Helion Bumpstead is listed as Elizabeth beginning with the child baptized in 1616.

⁴⁴ Original registers at the Essex Record Office, examined by Peter C. Nutt: Great Dunmow (ERO D/P11/1/1), Little Canfield (ERO D/P222/1/1), Felsted (ERO D/P99/1/1), Farnham (ERO D/P290/1/1), Great Hallingbury (ERO D/P27/1/2), Great Canfield (ERO D/P364/1/1), Latton (ERO D/P344/1/1), Saffron Walden (ERO D/P192/1/1).