

John Akin Mysteries

1. John Akin, b. 12 Apr 1767, Dartmouth, Bristol, MA.

There was a John Akin born to Benjamin and Lydia (Almy) Akin on 12 Apr 1767 as documented in the DVR 1:17; however, there were several John Akin men born around that time, and the mystery is to determine which was the son of Benjamin and Lydia.

- 1.1. The first possibility is John Akin, Individual 13, on pp. 85-86 of Vol. II of the Settlers of the Beekman Patent (SBP) by Frank Doherty who is described as the son of Benjamin and Lydia Almy Akin and the husband of Belphame Cooke.

Concerning this entry, Frank responded, "Larry, The marriage of John, son of Benjamin and Lydia (Almy) Akin is not set in concrete and your findings may well be correct. I relied on the typescript of Mabel C. Akin Fairclough written 1954 and updated 1974 which provided great detail on the Akin family of Pawling. Her typescript, p. 50 shows: "John Akin m. Belphame Cook (?). page 126 (referring to that page of her work). I can't find that page which I presume would provide her reasoning for the placement. That work also mentions that Benjamin Akin Jr. married Mary Allen of the Allen family that came to Pawling. The minutes of the Nine Partners Friend's meeting note the marriage of Stephen Akin and Sarah (Mott) and the same minutes show the death of Sarah Akin, sister to John and Stephen. Evidently several of the children of Benjamin Akin did come to Beekman area and that is probably why Fairclough felt John might have been the man who married Balphane Cook. If I could find a grave it would help make a determination."

An obituary for this John Akin was found and is quoted in the SBP. The obituary identifies this John Akin as an editor of the Poughkeepsie Journal. It also states that John died in the home of Philip Hart in the town of Washington on 22 November 1808. He left a widow and two children. Unfortunately, it does not offer any information as to his parentage nor to his place or date of birth. No death notice other than this obituary has been found.

- 1.2. The second possibility concerns a John Akin who married Huldah Forster in Rochester, Plymouth Co., MA - int. 3 Jan. 1789 - as documented in the Mass. Vital Records, 1841-1910 on the NEHGS web site. This record says that both were of New Bedford. Huldah Forster was b. 23 Aug 1766 in Rochester to James and Mary Forster. Two children were born to John and Huldah: Deborah Taber Akin, b. 19 Jun 1803; and Warren Akin, b. 30 Oct 1804.

Deborah Akin m. Prince Bowles 16 Apr 1826 in Fairhaven, Bristol Co., MA and that they lived in Rochester where four children were born: William Ellis Bowles, b. 25 Jul 1827; Job Akin Bowles, b. 13 Mar 1831; Henry Prince Bowles, b. 31 Aug 1832; and Lydia Almy Bowles, b. 11 Nov 1839.

Warren Akin, m. Joanna Bowles of Rochester abt 1828 in Rochester. They lived in Rochester and had 7 children: Maria Ellis Akin, b. 05 Aug 1829; Lydia Almy Akin, b. 4 Mar 1831; Mary B. Akin, b. abt. 1833; Warren Akin, Jr., b. abt 1835; Benjamin F. Akin, b. abt 1842; Lucy E. Akin, b. abt 1844; and Ella B. Akin, b. abt 1849

What makes this very mystifying is the names of their descendants. One of the two children of John and Huldah Forster Akin was a daughter named Deborah Taber Akin. Deborah Taber was the wife of Job Akin, another of Benjamin and Lydia's sons. Furthermore, the grandchildren that resulted from the marriage of this daughter of John and Huldah were named Job Akin Bowles and Lydia Almy Bowles - both family names. The other child of John and Huldah was named Warren Akin. Two of his children were named Lydia Almy Akin and Benjamin F. Akin. As a result, I have to conclude that somehow this John Akin is part of the family of Benjamin and Lydia Almy Akin, but I cannot figure out how. It is not likely that Benjamin ever lived in Quaker Hill, but many of his family did.

It turns out, Job Akin (the son of Benjamin and Lydia and the brother of the John Akin who was b. 1767) had a son named, you guessed it, John Akin, and this would be a perfect place to connect the husband of Huldah Forster. However, this John Akin was a well-known master mariner in New Bedford who married Lucy Hammond and stayed married to her for over 70 years. I even have a photo of this man, an obituary, and records of his and his wife's graves.

One of my major sources, Lois Akin Schultz, connected Huldah Forster to the Akin family tree by asserting that she was the first wife of the John Akin of Dutchess County son of Benjamin and Lydia Almy Akin discussed in 1.1 above; however, the idea that there was one John Akin that married both Huldah Forster and Belphame Cooke is impossible. The problem is that children were born to both of these women (Huldah Forster and Belphame Cooke) IN THE SAME YEARS.

What we need is another John Akin that fits the husband of Huldah Forster. We also need to establish how they each connect to the Akin family tree.

By the way, it turns out that the day book of Benjamin Akin of Dartmouth is in the Amherst Univ Manuscript Collection. See:

<http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/collections/umarmot/a.htm>

Also included in this collection is a manuscript by Benjamin's grandson, Ebenezer, that contains a genealogy of Benjamin's family. This document may be the key to this mystery.

2. John Akin, husband of Charity Tobey.

Another John Akin mystery is an unconnected John Akin who is first documented in

the New Bedford Vital Records to 1850 when he married Charity Tobey, int. 28 Oct. 1797. This was Charity Tobey's second marriage - her first being to Job Keen. This John and Charity Tobey Akin are buried in the Quaker Burying Ground, Morris, Otsego Co., NY. Charity d. 9 Dec. 1851, age 80 y. 10 m. 5 d. John d. 27 May 1856, age 90 y. One report indicates that this John Akin was born abt. 1766 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA. They also reportedly appear in the 1800 census in Butternuts, Otsego Co., NY. While I have confirmed that there is an entry for John Aikins in that census, I cannot connect it to the husband of Charity Tobey although their burial nearby is good circumstantial evidence.

If the age given on his tombstone is accurate, this John Akin would have been born abt. 1766 which agrees with the report concerning Sandwich, MA., but my research into the vital records of Sandwich did not reveal any such birth.

We need to know the parents of the John Akin born about 1766 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA.

3. There is a John Akin that was a grandson of Captain John Akin's younger brother, James (Generation 2 in America). This John Akin married Martha Durfee on 10 Jun 1739 in Newport, Newport, RI as documented in the Vital Records of Rhode Island by Arnold. The mystery is whether this Martha Durfee is the same person as the Martha Durfee, b. 15 Jul 1719, the daughter of Benjamin and Prudence (Earle) Durfee of Providence, Newport, RI. No information was found at NEHGS nor in The Descendants of Thomas Durfee which is on Ancestry.com.