

STAPLES FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION (SFHA)

The SFHA published 20 newsletters between July 1977; Vol. 1 No. 1 and January 1987; Vol.10, No. 2.

Two of these newsletters, January 1980 and January 1984, had articles that pertain to the property and family of Peter Staple (c1642-1718/19) of Kittery, ME. The following pages are reproduced from the SFHA newsletters with articles on other subjects removed. The newsletters were published by James C. Staples, Editor and President of the association.

Proper credit is given by the listing the - titles of articles, authors' names, issue dates and page numbers.

CONTENTS

- 1) Cover page of the SFHA first newsletter, July 1977.
- 2) Map of the Middle Parish of Kittery 1632-1700, Jan. 1980, p4. (Map reproduced from Old Kittery and her Families, by Everett S. Stackpole, p106.
- 3) Article - The Staples Homestead on the Pisqataqua River, by Ross P. Staples, Jan. 1980, p9-10.
- 4) Article – Immigrant Peter Staple's Mother-In-Law: Mary () Beadle Bachiler Turner, by Ross P. Staples with Mrs. Burton Murdock, Jan 1980, p11-13.
- 5) Article – Who was Peter Staple's Mother-In-Law, by Francis Murdock, Jan. 1984, p10.
- 6) Article Nathaniel Hawthorne Knew Thomas Waite, by Frances Murdock, Jan.1984, p11.
- 7) Added Comment - Nathaniel Hathorne in Raymondtown, ME., by Arthur B. Staples, July 2006.

Art Staples, 04 July 2006



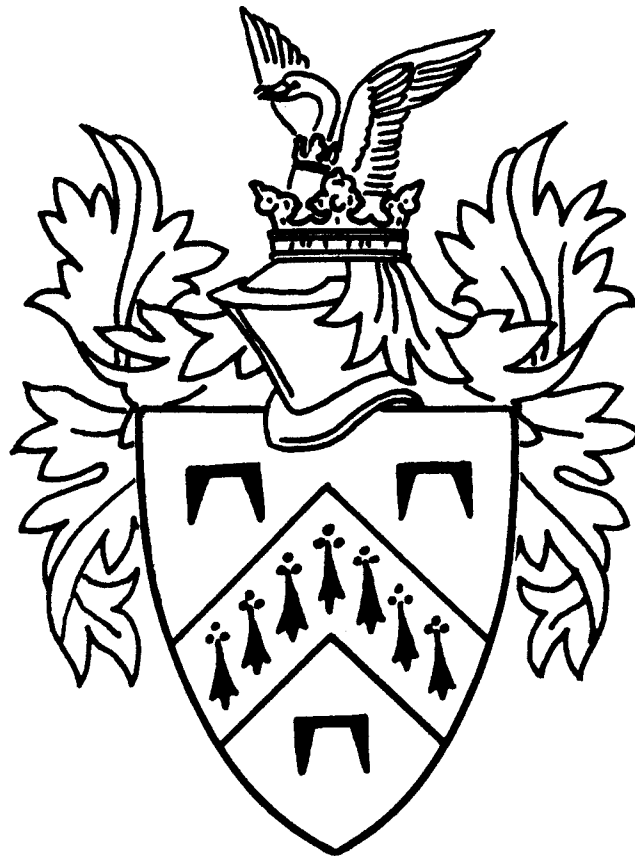
STAPLES
FAMILY HISTORY
ASSOCIATION



VOL. 1 NO. 1

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1977



Staples



THE STAPLES HOMESTEAD ON THE PISCATAQUA RIVER

by Ross P. Staples

In Eliot, Maine, the Baha'i School called Green Acre, converted from a 100-room inn and surrounding support buildings on a 10-acre rectangular green sloping to the Piscataqua River, today embraces immigrant Peter Staple's seventeenth century farmstead and that of his neighbor, George Rogers. From this glade in the midst of suburbia two miles upstream from the Kittery Navy Yard, one overlooks Portsmouth wharves across the river. At the entrance to the school on the road stands Staples Cottage of Victorian vintage, occupied until a few years ago by the family of Albert Dixon Staples. It is now a guest house.

Toward the waterfront stand the main school buildings, the inn, administration building and library. On the library site of two acres, Peter spent his last days after conveying the remainder of his 80-acre farm to his eldest son. His mother-in-law, Mary (Beadle) Bachiler, had lived on this spot before him. Peter left this two-acre parcel to his youngest son, Deacon James, who left it to his son William, who sold it to shipwright Joseph Hanscom in 1758. It became the nucleus for the Hanscom boatyard. Late in the nineteenth century, after the expiration of the boatyard, a beautiful summer villa was erected here by Mary Burnham Moore, New York pianist, who sold it to Mrs. Ole Bull, widow of the Norwegian concert violinist. Mrs. Bull gave it to Sarah Farmer, Eliot benefactress, for her conference center. The Farmer estate passed it on to the Baha'is.

Eliot in Peter's day was in that part of Kittery called the Long Reach, first settled in 1623. It became a separate parish in 1713, a separate town in 1810. The first meeting house in Eliot, called Church in the Woods, was situated next door to the Staple farm. Most Long Reach

farmsteads, including Peter's, were shaped in the form of a long thin rectangle, with the narrow end fronting on the river, vitally important because communication and transportation were mainly by boat. The waterfront was the center of economic life, and it offered an escape route in the event of Indian attack. These Long Reach families were closely knit, manning garrisons together, and intermarrying. Early Kittery records show Staples marrying into the families of Dixon, Fogg, Hill, King, Libby, Lydston, Paul, Remick, Spinney, Tetherly and Tobey.

The 338-year history of the Staple(s) homesite is a saga in four parts: the colonial period under the Beadles and Staples; the Hanscom shipbuilding era; the Green Acre Hotel and Green Acre Conference period; and the Baha'i School years.

1641-1765 Beadle-Staple Period.
Immigrant Peter's father-in-law, Robert Beadle, received a grant of land on Long Reach in 1641 from the Deputy Governor of Maine, Thomas Gorges, nephew of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, whose land patent extended from the Piscataqua River to the Kennebec River. This area contained fishing and trading settlements rather than church-oriented communities such as those of Pilgrim Plymouth and Puritan Boston. Sir Ferdinando rewarded his colonists with chunks of Maine land. Robert Beadle gained one of these lots which passed to his widow, Mary, in 1648 and to her son-in-law Peter Staple, the immigrant, in 1674, who enlarged it to an 80-acre farm. Peter conveyed the farm in 1694 to his eldest son, Peter Jr., reserving a life estate for himself and wife, Elizabeth, in half the dwelling plus a 2-acre lot by the waterfront. Peter Jr. probably turned part of his property into an inn, for a Kittery tavern license is issued to Peter Staple in 1703, and in 1706-1709, and

THE STAPLES HOMESTEAD (Cont'd)

his brother John refers to Peter Jr. as an innholder in a 1705 deed. John, a carpenter and garrison keeper, became a large landowner in the South Long Reach area. His brother James purchased 60 acres a mile north of the family homestead.

In the third generation the homestead was owned by Captain Peter Staple, son of Peter the innholder. Captain Peter led a militia company under Lord Pepperell in the storming of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, in 1745. Later he became a Kittery Selectman. He changed the destiny of his heirs by selling the waterfront part of the homestead in 1765 to shipwright Joseph Hanscom. Henceforth the thrust of his family pointed toward Berwick and inland rather than to the sea. His brother Joshua, and sons Peter the fourth and Nathaniel joined in signing that milestone 1765 deed.

1765-1889 Hanscom boatyard Era. The Hanscom family established a boatyard with a reputation for quality design and construction of barks, clippers, and schooners with peak years in the mid-nineteenth century. Nightingale, a 1066-ton clipper named for the "Swedish Nightingale", opera singer Jenny Lind, was the yard's most famous creation. Acclaimed for her beauty and speed, she sailed 42 years, much of it in the Australian and Far East trade.

1889-1929 Green Acre Hotel and Green Acre Conferences. The end of the clipper era marked the demise of the Hanscom boatyard. In its stead arose a 100-room summer hotel erected by Eliot capital and Eliot citizens headed by Dr. J. L. M. Willis, a Staples descendant on his mother's side. It attracted a fashionable clientele chiefly from Boston for over a decade until converted about 1902 by Sarah Farmer, Eliot community leader, into a religious and intellectual conference center. One of its guests, John

Greenleaf Whittier, gave it the name of Green Acre. After Miss Farmer's death in 1916, her associates, the Green Acre Fellowship, pursued her goals with a transfer of ownership to the Baha'is in 1929.

1929 to date: Baha'i School. The Baha'i religion originated in Iran over a century ago and has followers in 300 countries and territories. The school's summer programs for both children and adults stress the cardinal tenets of the faith: the divine origin of all bona fide monotheistic religions, unity of nations and races, establishment of universal peace, equality of sexes, and abolition of prejudice.

For Peter's descendants the Staples homestead should be a place to cherish, and a base to visit for spiritual refreshment, inspiration and perspective.

IMMIGRANT PETER STAPLE'S MOTHER-IN-LAW: MARY () BEADLE BACHILER TURNER
by Ross P. Staples with Mrs. Burton Murdock

Mary Bachiler (ca1620-1685) of old Kittery, Maine, created in the community shock waves that still reverberate twelve generations later. As the third wife of the Rev. Stephen Bachiler, 87 years old, Oxford graduate, weary veteran of a lifetime of losing contests with both Church of England and Puritan hierarchies, she vaulted into the history books by adultery with next-door neighbor George Rogers and a subsequent sentence by the Georgiana (York) court to be flogged and branded with the letter A ("Old York", Romance of the Maine Coast, Sylvester, Vol. II, 559-363). Not so well known is her remarkable recovery from public humiliation to a position of stature and respect in the community. Mary's triumph over adversity, and her growth in character rivaled that of Hawthorne's heroine in "The Scarlet Letter", Hester Prynne.

A Disastrous Second Marriage and Decade of Recovery. Mary was married three times: first about 1641 to Robert Beadle, fisherman-farmer, by whom she had daughter Elizabeth, wife of Peter Staple, and son Christopher; second to the Reverend Stephen Bachiler, sixty years her senior, who was the founder in 1638 of Hampton, New Hampshire, and its Congregational Church from which he was ousted after a feud with his assistant minister and the solicitation of his neighbor's wife while he was still married; third in 1657 to Thomas Turner who sold the Beadle homestead to Peter Staple in 1674. The first and third marriages were quiet, so prosaic that Mary would have died an obscure woman had she been limited to their experiences.

Documented events of the decade between 1647 and 1657 tell the story of Mary's tempestuous second marriage. In 1646-1647, the Reverend Bachiler, barred from preaching in the Massachusetts Bay Colony because of repeated dissent in former

parishes, moved in with his grandson and godchild, Stephen Sanborn, two farmsteads below Mary Beadle on the Piscataqua River in Kittery. Mary soon became his housekeeper, an arrangement that disconcerted the neighbors, as Bachiler later reported to Governor Winthrop. The situation was rectified by the two joining in marriage, exact date unknown because Bachiler, who performed the ceremony, failed to publish it, an omission for which he was fined 10 pounds, reduced later to five. On February 14, 1648 the farmstead of her late husband Robert Beadle was confirmed to Mary by the Town of Kittery. On October 15, 1650, at Georgeana (York) court, widower (and next-door neighbor) George Rogers and Mary Bachiler were presented for "incontinency for living in one house together and lying in one room". A year later on October 15, 1651 in the same court they were presented for adultery and were sentenced to receive 40 stripes save one, she to receive hers at the first Kittery town meeting 6 weeks after delivery of her child, and she also was to be branded with the letter A (worn on the garment). The court also ordered the Bachilers to live together as man and wife. Instead, the Reverend Bachiler took refuge with his grandson in Hampton. In 1651 Mary's daughter, named Mary, was born. The latter eventually married William Richards, a currier from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and lived a solid churchgoing life in that community.

On October 14, 1652, Mrs. Bachiler was presented at the district court for entertaining idle people on the Sabbath (possibly harassed Quakers). On November 16, 1652, Mary signed the Certificate of Submission, the only woman signer along with 40 leading male citizens. That document, which was endorsed under threats by the stronger Puritan government of Massachusetts to use its militia unless

(Mary () Beadle Bachiler Turner (Cont'd))

Maine succumbed peacefully, turned Maine over to the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Maine was not to regain its independence until 1820. That Mary was chosen to inscribe the treaty is some indication of her stature in the community. She penned her own signature, an act only half the subscribers could do.

Mary, husbandless in fact if not in law in a frontier settlement with two children, acquired land by grant in 1653, and by lawsuit in 1654. Then in June 1654 the York court ordered Thomas Hanscom, age 31, "not to live with" Mary Bachiler. Further investigation reveals Mary's plight. At the October 1651 adultery trial both she and the Reverend Bachiler sought divorce but were denied it. By the time Hanscom was living with Mary, her legal husband was in England where he remained until his death at age 99. Mary had found an attractive man from the Hanscom shipbuilding family, but was barred legally from marrying him. Finally, in 1656 Mary solved her dilemma. In this year she appealed to the Massachusetts General Court to obtain a divorce and remarry. She apparently obtained it, for she married Turner a year later. The substance and eloquence of her plea is moving. She tells the court that she does not want to live on the "common charity of others", that her husband is in England married to a fourth wife, that she needs her freedom to remarry for assistance in rearing two ailing children and preserving her estate. She is saying give me liberty and I will not be a welfare case. She achieved her goals, gained a husband more her age, saw two daughters married well, and conserved her estate which she passed on to her son-in-law, Peter Staple.

Connection of Mary Bachiler with Hester Prynne. For his services as a Massachusetts Bay Colony commissioner, Captain William Hathorne (original spelling), immigrant

ancestor of distinguished novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne, was rewarded with 870 acres of prime land on the Piscataqua River three farms north of Mary Bachiler's. Years later, Nathaniel Hawthorne, noted as an avid scholar of colonial history, soaked up local history during extended visits to the Kittery area. His journal does not mention the name of Bachiler, but does note a young woman doomed to wear to wear the letter A on the breast of her gown under an old colony law as punishment for adultery. A book(1) published at the time of the Eliot centennial in 1910 states that Mary Beadle Batchelder was the woman upon whom Hawthorne patterned the heroine of the Scarlet Letter. The description of Hester Prynne's cottage closely parallels that of Mary on what was to become the Staple property. The evidence is strong that Hester Prynne was a character derived from Hawthorne's extensive knowledge of the history of Kittery in Colonial times. Hester was a victim of Puritan intolerance in Boston, Mary of Cavalier justice at old York.

Hester and Mary were both strong, self-reliant, and iron-willed but with different styles. Mary was an outspoken battler, active in community affairs, aggressive in managing her estate and seeking a new husband. Hester was quiet, reserved, accepting her penance of loneliness gracefully apart from the village in an isolated cottage, graciously defiant with her aristocratic bearing, calmness of speech, and pride in self-support by needlework. Both won community respect but by different means.

(Continued on next page.)

(1)History of the Centennial of the Incorporation of the Town of Eliot, Maine, August 7-13, 1910. Ed. Aaron B. Cole & J. L. M. Willis, (1912), pp 25, 31, 35.

(Mary () Beadle Bachiler Turner
(Cont'd))

Literary and social critics have assessed Hester's conduct for almost 130 years. The orthodox Puritans among them have said the stain of sin persists, its permanent effect warping. Others, notably Mark Van Doren, have hailed Hawthorne as the Homer of ancient New England, and Hester as its most heroic creature, almost a goddess. In between these extremes some have said Hester expiated her sin, gained wisdom, self-knowledge, spiritual power, and hence greatness. Others have said that society sinned more than Hester by overpunishment of one who responded to a natural urge. Others say that sin is relative, it depends on what the sinner thinks is sinful and what it does to the personality and psychic balance. Virtually all attest to Hester's heroicism in her self-reliance and calm steadfastness. Mary likewise exhibited self-reliance and steadfastness; she, too, was of heroic proportions.

WHO WAS PETER STAPLE'S MOTHER-IN-LAW?

by Francis Murdock SFHA #152

After a 25-year search for the maiden name of Mary () Beadle Batchelder Turner, mother of the Elizabeth Beadle who married about 1670 Peter Staple of Kittery, Maine, I've concluded she was born Mary Baily.

Mary married Robert Beadle, and then, about 1647 became the wife of clergyman Stephen Batchelder, a man in his late eighties. Court records in York County, Maine, reveal that while she was Batchelder's wife, Mary was convicted of adultery with next-door neighbor George Rogers. She was sentenced to receive "forty stripes save one" and was to be branded with the letter "A" (worn on the upper garment)¹. It is highly probable that Mary served as the model for the heroine Hester Prynne in Nathaniel Hawthorne's literary classic, The Scarlet Letter.

On November 16, 1652, Mary, along with 39 men of Kittery, signed the Certificate of Submission, a document which turned the jurisdiction of Kittery over to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Mary was eligible to inscribe this important treaty because she became a principal land owner in Kittery when that town confirmed Beadle's land to her. That she could sign with a signature is remarkable in itself, for only half of the men consenters could do likewise. And it is significant that the town put the property in her name, not her husband's (the Reverend Stephen Batchelder), as was then the practice.

In a description of the copies of this treaty that remain in existence today, Libby, Noyes and Davis² state

¹ For a full account of what is known of Mary () Beadle Batchelder Turner's life, see the January 1980 issue of the Newsletter.

² Libby, Noyes and Davis, Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hamp-

that Mary's signature was altered from Baily to Bachiller. A facsimile of the treaty, showing the signatures of these residents of Kittery in 1652 is a noteworthy feature of Stackpole's Old Kittery and Her Families³. Careful scrutiny of this facsimile reveals that her signature does seem to be altered as stated. She changed the "i" to "c", the "l" to "h", and then went on to spell "Bachillor", as if someone standing nearby had said she should use her married name. She was at that date married to the Reverend Stephen Batchelder.

If Mary was a Baily, she may have been a relative of Jonas Bayly (Baly, Beyley, Baily, Balie, etc.)⁴, Nicolas Bully, and Hilkieah Bailey of Richmond Island (now Cape Elizabeth,) at the fishing settlement there, or at Saco or Scarboro nearby. Robert Beadle had a Kittery grant between George Rogers and John Symonds, both of whom previously had been at Richmond Island. Many of the settlers of Kittery had been first at some of the original fishing and trading outposts, or the later settlements along the coast of Maine.

Therefore, on the basis of the revised signature, and the existence of other Baileys at Richmond Island from where some of the original settlers of Kittery came, I believe it was Mary Baily who married Robert Beadle.

shire, p 32.

³ Stackpole, Rev Everett S., Old Kittery and Her Families, pp 143-4.

⁴ In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it was not considered important to spell a surname the same way each time. In fact, it was considered a mark of erudition to be able to spell a name several different ways and still have it pronounced right. Both Sir Walter Raleigh and William Shakespeare spelled their own names many ways during their lives.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE KNEW THOMAS WAITE

by Frances Murdock SFHA #152

To descendants of Peter Staple of Kittery, Maine, it is significant that Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), the great American novelist, knew Thomas Waite.

Thomas Waite was the husband of Maria Staples (pronounced Mariah by the family), of Eliot, formerly a part of Kittery, Maine. Maria Staples (1797-1885) was the daughter of Hezekiah Staples (1771-1808) of Kittery. The latter was son of Hezekiah Staple (1734-), (Ref. point I on chart in the Newsletter of January 1980).

Thomas Waite operated the Province House Tavern in Boston, and Nathaniel Hawthorne used to go there. In Twice Told Tales, Volume II, Hawthorne mentions the tavern and Thomas Waite seven times in the first 61 pages. Hawthorne used the tavern for his "Legends of the Province House" (written in 1838-9), which later were reprinted in Twice Told Tales. The Province House was a fine brick mansion on Washington Street opposite the head of Milk Street. It was built in 1679 as the home of Peter Sargeant, a wealthy Boston merchant. The legislature of the province of Massachusetts bought it as a residence for the colonial governors. Some time after 1817 it became the Province House Tavern, and in 1864 it was destroyed by fire.

Hawthorne evidently visited Thomas Waite's tavern prior to 1838. In 1850 he published The Scarlet Letter, the novel that is described as possessing "the unmistakeable stamp of genius". In that story the heroine, Hester Prynne, evidently is modeled after Mary Batchelder of Eliot, Peter Staple's mother-in-law.

Hawthorne was an avid historian, and his stories deal with actual events and actual people in the history of New England. His family owned land

in Kittery not far from Peter Staple's property, and he seemed to know the history of that area well. Perhaps he discussed the case of Mary Batchelder with Maria Staples and Thomas Waite in the Province House Tavern. Did Maria know that Mary was her 4-great grandmother?

Maria had a sister Eliza Staples (1805-1866) who married Joseph F. Davis. Their daughter married William Henry Hunter, and they in turn had three daughters. Alice Hunter, the oldest of these three daughters, married Colin Cameron and had one daughter, Dr. Ruth Cameron SFHA #283. Maria's portrait, painted in tones of pink and deep gray, hangs in Ruth Cameron's living room today. In the painting, Maria, a sweet-looking young lady, wears a cameo brooch, which Ruth Cameron now owns and cherishes. Ruth also has Maria's will.

Cora E. Hunter, the second of the Hunter girls, never married, but instead became an insurance company salesman at a time when few women were in business. She owned a copy of Twice Told Tales in which she marked several references to Thomas Waite and the Province House Tavern. Dr. Cameron gave me that book.

Louise Adele Hunter, the youngest of the Hunter girls, married Walter James Staples (1856-1931), whose biography appears in Volume 86, page 101 of the New England Historic Genealogical Register. He is a descendant of William Staples (1730-). (Reference point T4 in the January 1980 Newsletter). Louise was his fifth cousin once removed. Their grandson, Richard H. Staples of Pelham, MA, is a former member of SFHA.

Maria (Staples) Waite is buried in South Cemetery, Portsmouth, NH, along with her sisters and her parents, Sarah (Randall) and Hezekiah Staples.

Nathaniel Hathorne in Raymondtown, Maine

by Arthur b staples (jr.) July 2006

I have some information from my lineage that could be another connection to Nathaniel Hathorne (Hawthorne). Briefly, Nathaniel Hathorne was b 04 July 1804, in Salem, MA; his father was a sea captain who died in 1808 in the West Indies.

Ernest Harmon Knight, historian writes in his book – The Origin and History of Raymondtown, second printing, Village Press, Freeport, Maine 1996. p102-103, (in part) “His (Nathaniel’s) mother was a sister to Richard Manning, the Proprietors Agent (to Raymondtown), who built a house for her and Nathaniel after her husband died in the west Indies, while in command of a sailing vessel. Nathaniel thoroughly enjoyed his twelve years of boyhood in Raymond and credited it with being the source of the themes of some of his later literary successes, and also blamed it for his “cursed habit of solitude.”

Nathaniel’s mother was Elizabeth Clarke Manning Hathorne, her brother Richard Manning had moved from Salem to Raymondtown (Now Raymond, Casco, South Casco and part of Naples, ME.) and built Elizabeth a home across from Thomas Pond and a short distance from his own home. Nathaniel lived there with his mother and sisters until he went to Bowdoin College in 1820, which indicates he moved to Raymondtown shortly after his father died.

Peter Staple, b in Kittery 1750/51, Great Great Grandson of Peter Staple of Kittery (c1642-1718/19), and one of the original 30 settlers of Raymondtown, lived not far from the Hathorne house, which can be visited in So. Casco, ME, (Off the left of route 302, if traveling NW from Portland, before the turnoff’s to Raymond and Casco.). Peter Staple and some of his family are buried in the Manning Cemetery above the outlet to Lake Sebago of Thomas Brook. Peter (1750/51- 1846) would have been in his 60’s when Nathaniel Hathorne lived in So. Casco, Peter’s grandson Nathaniel Staples was born in 1805 in Raymond.

I have no knowledge of Nathaniel Staples and Nathaniel Hathorne ever meeting or Nathaniel Hathorne meeting any of the Staples family; however they were both about the same age and lived in the same vicinity for ~ 12 years. It has been said that some of Nathaniel Hathorne’s stories came to him while a young man fishing on the flat rock at the outlet of Thomas Ponds. Perhaps information on Mary () Beedle, Bachiler, Turner, Mother-In-Law to Peter Staple (c1642-1718/19) of Kittery came first from the Staples family of Raymondtown between about 1811 to 1820 and then from his visits with Thomas Waite and his wife Maria Staples at the Providence Tavern in Boston, MA after 1838 as indicated in the Staples Family History Association Newsletter’s of Jan. 1984, p11.