

# THE WEBB BULLETIN

## NEWS, PROJECT UPDATES & RECORDS

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### Webbs in the Arts:

## *Charles Clayton Webb “aka” Todd Webb*

I was moving from painting to painting, enjoying each one and taking in the mastery of composition and the beautiful use of color and shadow. The scale of the Georgia O’Keeffe museum was perfect; just large enough to see a good representation of her work, but small enough to leave you wanting to see more. I walked into the next room, and instead of colorful paintings on the walls, there were small black and white photos. The photos required that I move closer to see them, and as I did so, I realized they were



delightful, intimate photos of O’Keeffe taken by someone who obviously knew her well and with whom she felt extremely comfortable with. Stepping in even closer, I read the photographer’s name: Todd Webb.

I had come to New Mexico for a much-needed vacation, but now I found myself suddenly in that all too familiar “sleuth mode.” I wanted to know more about Todd Webb’s life and learn how he came to know Georgia O’Keeffe. I also wondered

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## From the Administrator

Dear Project Members,

The “Results Chart” survey is complete and the overwhelming majority of you would like to continue to have both chart options available. Thank you for your feedback. Both charts will continue to be available, however the Y-DNA111 test results will only be available on the FTDNA version until more test at this level.

One of the “New” features on your personal page at FTDNA is a “beneficiary information” form. I encourage everyone to fill this out. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

Eileen

## Charles Clayton Webb [cont.]

whether he was, at least theoretically, represented in our DNA project. When I got back to my hotel, I spent the evening scanning censuses and marriage records, and reading the available biographies. I learned about the interesting life of Todd Webb and discovered the beauty of his photographs...

...

Charles Clayton Webb III, "aka" Todd Webb, was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1905. He was the son of Joseph Frank & Ida Albert "Bertha" Hollingshead Webb. He spent time as a boy in Ontario, Canada, where his father was born. Joseph F. Webb [b. 1875] had immigrated to America about 1900. They were Quakers, and some who knew Todd Webb in his later years felt that the Quaker foundation he was given as a child instructed the way he viewed the world and influenced the way he lived his entire life.

As a young man, Todd Webb worked as a clerk and teller for a stockbrokerage but lost everything in The Crash. During the Great Depression he went West and prospected for gold, worked as a forest ranger in California, and made just enough to meagerly survive on. By 1937, he was back in Detroit working for Chrysler in their export division. In that same year, he decided to visit a friend in Panama and he brought a camera along that Chrysler had loaned him. This may have been his first introduction to the camera and it was during this period of his life that he aspired to be a travel writer and lecturer and he thought he would use the camera as a tool to record his travels. The following year, he joined the Chrysler Camera Club and fortuitously studied under the great photographer Ansel Adams.

His initial success with photography allowed him to work as a photographer in the Navy in the South Pacific during the War. After the war, he was employed by Standard Oil to photograph their pipeline construction from Portland, Maine to Montreal. By the mid-1940's, the idea of writing fell by the wayside and photography became his focus. He traveled to New York City in 1946 and photographed the city in all of its gritty detail. He was fascinated with everyday life and was quoted as having said:

"Photography is the opportunity to express what I feel about our time. I have an intense interest in and feeling for people. And often I find subject matter with no visible persons to be more peopled than a crowded street scene. Every doorway, street, building, every mark on a wall, every sign, has a human connotation. All are signs and symbols of people – a way of life – living in our time."\*\*

That first year in New York City, he met and became friends with the famous art promoter and photographer, Alfred Stieglitz. It was Stieglitz who helped arrange Webb's first photography exhibition at the Museum of The City of New York. The lifetime friendship that Webb forged with the painter, Georgia O'Keeffe, must have been at its budding stages during this time in New York as she was the wife of Stieglitz. In 1949 Webb went to Paris and there met his future wife, Lucille. They reportedly got engaged the day after they met and they remained in Paris for four years. He continued to photograph people, architecture, and every day city life, using his "sharp focus" technique that was his trademark.

*He was not encumbered by the pursuit of wealth and possessions and this was perhaps one of the similarities he shared with O'Keeffe, in addition to their passion for expressing through art what they saw around them.*

In 1955, Webb won the Guggenheim Fellowship to photograph the pioneer trails of Oregon and California. He would spend the next three years walking across the country with his camera, and compiling a huge portfolio of photos documenting the immigrant trails and ghost towns of the West. During this period of his life, he kept in touch with Georgia O'Keeffe who was now a widow and living in New Mexico. He would visit her often as their friendship continued to develop, and Webb and his wife, with O'Keeffe's encouragement, eventually moved to Santa Fe in 1961. Todd and Lucille Webb opened a bookstore and gallery on Canyon Road and lived in Santa Fe for ten years, becoming a fixture of the local art community. Georgia O'Keeffe and her home became a frequent subject of his photographs, he, having unprecedented access through his long friendship with her. He often caught her lying against a rock sketching or walking through the landscape she loved to paint. Eventually he would publish the book: "Georgia O'Keeffe: The Artist's Landscape."

After 1971, Webb and his wife lived in Province, France and for a short period, Bath, England, but they made their final home in Maine. Todd Webb was often described as a quiet, unassuming and simple man, but with a strong sense of adventure and a love for exploration. He was not encumbered by the pursuit of wealth and possessions and this was perhaps one of the similarities he shared with O'Keeffe, in addition to their passion for expressing through art what they saw around them.

One Webb biographer said the following about Webb and his photography:

"His life was like his photographs: at first they seem very simple, without obvious tricks or manipulation, but on closer examination, they are increasingly complex and marvelously subtle."\*\*

Todd Webb died in 2000 at the age of 94. He and his wife Lucille have no descendants. His photographs are in the collections of over 25 major museums.

\*\*\*

From the census and other records available I learned that Charles Clayton Webb III, "aka" Todd Webb, was the grandson of Charles Clayton Webb Jr. and Sarah Hollingshead. Charles Jr. and Sarah were married in 1863 in Whitechurch, York, Ontario. Charles Clayton Webb Jr. was born in 1836 in Newmarket, York, Ontario and was the son of Clayton Webb and Sarah Hughes, who were married in 1799 in Berks Co. Pennsylvania. Clayton Webb was the great grandson of John Webb b. c1694 m. Mary Boone and is represented in our DNA project by the John Webb [1694 PA] DNA group.

Sources and further reading:

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Todd Webb Photographs, presented by the Evans Gallery. [\*\* Quotes: Evans Gallery.]

<http://www.toddwebbphotographs.com/>

"Good news for Webbheads," The Portland Press Herald, June 13, 2012.

[http://www.pressherald.com/life/audience/good-news-for-webbheads\\_2011-11-20.html](http://www.pressherald.com/life/audience/good-news-for-webbheads_2011-11-20.html)

Oral History Interview with Todd Webb, Sept 4, 1990 – May 22, 1992. Archives of American Art.

<http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-todd-webb-12229>

Todd Webb, Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd\\_Webb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd_Webb)

“After Atget: Todd Webb Photographs New York and Paris.” Bowdoin College Museum of Art.  
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“Georgia O’Keeffe: The Artist’s Landscape Photographs by Todd Webb” exhibition. Oglethorpe University Museum of Art  
<http://museum.oglethorpe.edu/Okeeffe-Webb.htm>

“Honest Vision, A Portrait of Todd Webb,” film by Huey. <http://www.filmsbyhuey.com/films/honest-vision-a-portrait-of-todd-webb/>

“Todd Webb: A Photographer’s Welcome Home,” University of Maine Press.  
[https://secure.touchnet.com/C22921\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=431&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C22921_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=431&SINGLESTORE=true)

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[http://www.pressherald.com/archive/lucille-webb-101-elegant-independent-and-free-spirited\\_2008-01-14.html](http://www.pressherald.com/archive/lucille-webb-101-elegant-independent-and-free-spirited_2008-01-14.html)

Artwork:

Todd Webb in Boat, Courtesy of Evans Gallery and Estate of Todd & Lucille Webb, Portland, Maine [Wikimedia Commons].

## WEBB Records Repository:

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### Georgia

#### Irwin Co. Marriages

Elizabeth Webb m. Jacob Marchant, Sept 1, 1853  
Vivian Webb m. Loyd Meeks, July 23, 1912  
Echsol Webb m. G. A. Player, March 16, 1904  
Pearl Webb m. Ed W. Rainey, December 23, 1899  
Mormicy Webb m. A. M. Terry, April 14, 1917  
W. W. L. Webb m. Sarah C. Sinclair, Aug 20, 1876  
A. B. Webb m. Laura Stevens, April 20, 1905  
Esther Webb m. Elbert Walls, November 1, 1925  
Ida Webb m. Charles Lewis, March 27, 1898  
Lucy Webb m. W. I. Hobbs, Feb 16, 1913  
Emma Webb m. Edwin Grice, Nov 6, 1910  
Lula H. Webb m. B. F. M. Coats, May 21, 1892

[Source: History of Irwin County, J. B. Clements, 1932]

#### Wilkinson Co. Marriages

Sally Webb m. Elijah Cook, May 14, 1837  
Augustine Webb m. John Cook, Mar 20, 1837  
Frances Webb m. William Fountain, Mar 31, 1844  
Martha Webb m. James Goodman, Oct 22, 1840  
Sarah Webb m. Michael Isler, Oct 20, 1839  
Eliza Webb m. Moses Sutton, Jan 12, 1827  
Charles Webb m. Sarah Tinney, Oct 9, 1842  
Daniel Webb m. Martha Barfield, Jan 7, 1846  
Etherlred Webb m. Rena Goodman, April 5, 18\_5  
James Webb m. Mary Nalus, Oct 11, 1838  
Jesse C. Webb m. Elizabeth Goodman, Nov 11, 1848  
Samuel B. Webb m. Serinda E. Murphy, Jan 4, 1825

[Source: History of Wilkinson County, Davidson, 1930]

## Illinois

### Williamson Carroll Webb

To live for almost three quarters of a century in one locality and be an eye witness to the marvelous growth and development that marker the change from pioneer times to the present day, has been the privilege of **Williamson Carroll Webb**, of Shiloh township, Jefferson county, Illinois. **Mr. Webb** is one of the oldest inhabitants in the township, and was one of its earliest settlers, having come hither with his parents in 1844. He was born in Tennessee on October 27, 1830, and was the son of **Bennett and Martha [Hull] Webb**, the former being a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Tennessee. As has just been stated they emigrated to Jefferson county in 1844, and were among the earliest settlers. They completed their days here, **Mr. Webb** attaining the age of seventy-five years and his wife seventy. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom grew to maturity, **Williamson** being the eldest of the four sons.

Our subject was reared on the farm, receiving such education as was afforded under the primitive conditions, but which developed within him the strong independent spirit that has enabled him to make life a success. He was married to Miss Mary M. Frost, a native of Shiloh township, and daughter of Newton L. and Emily [Stanford] Frost. She became the mother of seven children, two of whom, **Wilford B.** and **Newton E.** grew to manhood. She has passed to her reward.

**Mr. Webb's** second marriage took place November 7, 1890. His companion was Mrs. Mary Alvis, widow of James F. Alvis, and daughter of Joshua and Nancy [Hall Stonecipher, both natives of Tennessee. They came to Marion county, Illinois, early in the forties, and ended her days in that locality, and here Mrs. Webb was born, October 17, 1851. She was among the oldest of a large family, there being fourteen children in all, nine of whom grew to maturity. Her home life and training were of the most wholesome type, the spirit of fellowship and kindly helpfulness having been inculcated into her ways of thinking as she grew to womanhood, having a share in the cares and responsibilities of the household. By her first husband she became the mother of three children, only one of whom, Henry E. Alvis, is surviving.

**Mr. and Mrs. Webb** are the parents of two children. **William C. and Herman W.** **Mr. Webb** has taken an active part in the management of local affairs. Although he has been a very busy man, devoting the major portion of his time to the management of his extensive farming interests, yet he has frequently consented to fill such offices his friends and neighbors urged him to accept. He has been Supervisor of the township, and was for nine years its Constable. He was Collector for one term and also served for six years as Highway Commissioner. He affiliates with the Democratic party, but stands first of all for a fair and honest administration of all duties, public or private.

He has made farming his chief work, and his success in this line is but a natural consequence, for he has exercised wise discretion and skill of judgment, so that his efforts have been accompanied with commendable results. He has grown with the times and in his riper years has coupled a wide experience with a close observation of the most advanced thought and methods, and this with his neighborly spirit, has made him a valuable and popular member of the community.

### Hon. Andrew Duff Webb, Jefferson Co. IL

A man of sterling worth and high professional attainments, who has been honored by his fellow citizens with positions of responsibility and trust, the subject of the sketch occupies an important place in public view and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of his day in the county of Jefferson. According to the most reliable data obtainable the founders of the **Webb family** in Illinois appear to have been **Eli** and **Lazarus Webb**, who migrated from Virginia as early as the year 1790, and settled on the prairie in Franklin county, which in compliment to them has since been called Webb's Prairie, being among the first men in that part of the state. **Eli Webb**, the older of the two, was a true type of the sturdy pioneer of the age in which he lived and nobly bore his share of the labor and responsibility incident to the settlement and development of a new country and lived to see Franklin county redeemed from a primitive wilderness to the fair and

flourishing conditions for which it has long been noted. He became a successful farmer and influential citizen and reared a large family of sixteen children, among whom was a son by the name of **Elijah T.**, who grew to manhood in Franklin county, and in early life entered the ministry of the Baptist church and in due time rose to a position of prominence and wide influence in that denomination. He preached in various parts of Illinois, organized churches in a number of counties and in addition to religious work was also interested in the cause of education, having been one of the founders of Ewing College, in Franklin county, and a trustee of the institution to the day of his death. He also served a number of years as County Surveyor, besides taking an active part in inaugurating and furthering measures and enterprises for the material advancement of the country while all laudable movements having for their object the social, intellectual and moral improvement of his fellow men enlisted his hearty co-operation and support.

**Elijah T. Webb** was born in 1818, the year Illinois was admitted to statehood, and lived an active and eminently useful life of sixty-one years, dying on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1879. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Clark, was also a native of Franklin county and a descendant of an old and well known Kentucky family, which settled in that part of the state in pioneer times and became actively identified with its growth and subsequent history. Mrs. Webb was a woman of high character and many excellent qualities, not a few of which have been reproduced in her descendants who are now among the most enterprising and highly esteemed people of their respective places of residence. She bore her husband fourteen children and departed this life at the age of sixty-one years, in 1884.

Of the large family born to **Rev. Elijah T. and Nancy Webb**, seven survive namely: **Mrs. Elijah J. Link, Mrs. Emeline Pierce, Mrs. Thomas Neal, Eli, John C., Andrew D.**, of this review, and **Robert L.** The following are the names of those deceased: **Mrs. Elizabeth King, Albert C. Webb**, formerly a prominent member of the Jefferson County Bar; **Dr. L. M. Webb**, a physician and surgeon of Mount Vernon, and four children that died in infancy unnamed.

**Andrew Duff Webb**, the youngest but one of the above named family, was born in Franklin county, Illinois, January 4, 1864, and spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead on Webb's Prairie, where he early became familiar with the varied duties of the farm. After remaining with his parents and attending the public schools at intervals until his fifteenth year, he entered Ewing College, where he pursued his studies for a period of five years, when he became a student of Shurtliff College, Upper Alton, from which he was graduated in 1884. With a substantial intellectual foundation **Mr. Webb** began life for himself well fitted for its duties and responsibilities and during the year following his graduation gave his attention to the insurance business, in which he met with fair success. Later he taught school one year in Morgan county and after devoting the same length of time to education work in Aspen Colorado, he returned to Illinois and took up the study of law at Mount Vernon in the office of his brother, with whom he remained until his admission to the bar in 1889.

**Mr. Webb** brought to his profession a well disciplined mind and his abilities being duly recognized he soon built up a lucrative practice and achieved an honorable reputation as a capable and painstaking lawyer. In 1895 he was appointed Master of Chancery for Jefferson county, and after holding the office two years with credit to himself and to the satisfaction to the people he was further honored in 1897 by being elected City Attorney of Mount Vernon, in which capacity he served two terms and the duties of which he discharged with ability and commendable fidelity. Later he served two years as corporation counsel for the city, during which time he was untiring in behalf of the interests of the municipality and in 1906 he was elected Judge of Jefferson county, which office he still holds and the duties of which he has discharged ably and faithfully, his administration proving eminently satisfactory and adding to his reputation as a sound lawyer and judicious public servant...

On March 14, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of **Judge Webb** and Miss Clara B. Green, daughter of S. R. Green of Cobden, Illinois, a union blessed with six children, whose names and birth are as follows: **Roger B.**, June 5, 1890; **Helen**, April 19, 1892; **George**, March 14, 1894; **Alice**, October 11, 1896; **Clarella**, December 17, 1900, and **Andrew D.**, who was born on March 3d of the year 1904."

[Source: Wall's History of Jefferson County, Illinois, John A. Wall, 1909]

## Maine

### Annals of the Town of Warren

Cyrus Eaton, 1851

1788

"Among the persons who had, within a few years past, been added to the neighborhood, were Benjamin Webb, John Fairbanks, and Ezekiel G. Dodge...Webb, a native of Boston, came somewhat earlier, and kept a small assortment of dry goods, first at Packard's, and afterwards at Union. Unsuccessful in trade and other projects which he formed, he, about this time, studied physic with Dr. Dodge, and commenced practice under his auspices.

1817

"...Thomas Robinson and family, Robert Porterfield and family, both of this town, Mr. March of Union, and Dr. Benjamin Webb then of Thomaston, with their families, besides many others, removed in 1817 to Ohio; and more, perhaps, would have gone, if they could have found a satisfactory sale for their possessions here."

1816

"...April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1816, the shop of Dea. Webb took fire in the afternoon, and was totally consumed. Through the smoke caused by this fire, a spot, apparently as large as a musket ball, was observed upon the disk of the declining sun, and many others were, at different times, seen during the season. These, with the coldness of the summer, threw a deep gloom over the minds of many, and strengthened the notion that the order of nature was deranged, and the source of light and heat about to fail."

### Franklin C. Webb, Brunswick, Maine

"Franklin C. Webb, the leading merchant of Brunswick, Me., was born in Brunswick, October 23, 1849, son of Samuel and Cynthia [Coburn-Hemenway] Webb. Samuel Webb was born in Woolwich, Me., and reared on a farm. He was engaged for some years as a lumberman, and in 1849 opened a grocery store in Brunswick, which he managed successfully up to the time of his death, at the age of seventy. His second wife, whose maiden name was Cynthia Coburn, was a native of Dracut, Mass., and was the widow of Martin D. Hemenway, of Lowell, Mass. She died in Farmington, Me., at the age of sixty-eight, having reared three children – Charles Hemenway; Rena C., now the wife of Dr. John Linscott, of Farmington, Me.; and Franklin C., the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Webb attended the Universalist church.

Franklin C. Webb acquired a good education, graduating from the high school of Brunswick, and taught school for a while after finishing his studies. He entered on his mercantile career when twenty-one years of age, obtaining a position as clerk for J. T. Adams & Co., who were the proprietors of the store now owned by himself. In 1882 he purchased Mr. Adams's interest; and since that time he has controlled a growing and prosperous business, carrying in stock a full line of groceries, meats and provisions, dry goods, boots and shoes. His store is the largest in the town, and gives constant employment to a number of clerks. Mr. Webb is a shrewd and capable business man, whose motto, as he ascends the hill of success, is "No steps backward." He wins custom by his courtesy and attention to the demands of purchasers, and keeps it by supplying first-class goods only. Mr. Webb is also a Director of the Electric Light Company of Brunswick, and of the First National Bank.

He was married in 1874 to Lizzie E. Randall, daughter of B. F. Randall, of Harpswell, Me. Her father died at the age of fifty-six, leaving a widow and three children. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Webb, three of whom are living – Ethel M., a student at Smith College; Harold R.; and Frank W..."



**Honorable Mahlon H. Webb, Westbrook, Maine**

“**Hon. Mahlon H. Webb**, ex-Mayor of Westbrook, who is in business as a wholesale meat dealer, was born in Windham, Me., April 13, 1842, son of **John and Lucy Ann [Hasty] Webb**. His grandfather, **Stephen Webb**, also a native of Maine, born April 10, 1792, lived for some years in Scarborough, on a farm which his father bought of a Mr. Knight, and spent his last years in Windham, where he died May 13, 1868. He was a staunch Whig in politics, while in religious belief he was a Universalist. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Padden, died July 13, 1889. They reared one son and two daughters, namely: **John**, the father of **Mahlon H. Webb**; **Betsey**, the widow of Mark H. Stevens, and now residing in Saco, Me.; and **Hanahette**, who died August 2, 1840, at the age of sixteen.

**John Webb** was born in Scarborough, Me., November 29, 1818. During the greater part of his life he has been engaged in farming in Windham, and for several years past he has been employed in butchering and selling meat at wholesale. Politically, he is a staunch Democrat, while he is no aspirant for public office. He is well known and respected in Windham, of which he may be described as a representative citizen. His wife, Lucy Ann, native of Standish, Me., was born March 11, 1822, daughter of Daniel and Susanna Hasty. **Mr. and Mrs. Webb** are members of the Universalist church. They had three children, namely: **Parris O.**, a police officer in Portland, Me., **Mary P.**, the wife of Edward E. Elder, of Lynn, Mass.; and **Mahlon H.**, the subject of this sketch. The mother died April 16, 1886.

The **Hon. Mahlon H. Webb** received such an education as the schools of Windham could impart in two terms, every winter, of ten or twelve weeks each, before he was sixteen years old. On leaving school he entered the employ of J. Winslow Jones, of Westbrook, Me., with whom he remained three years canning corn. He then bought a milk route extending as far as Portland, which he conducted about four years. Returning to his former employment after that, he remained with Mr. Jones about four years more. In 1875 he engaged in the wholesale meat business, which he has prosperously followed for the past twenty years or more. He supplies the stores of Westbrook and Deering, and has established a reputation for first-class goods and honorable dealing.

On March 7, 1865, **Mr. Webb** was married to Miss Hattie E. Boody, daughter of Nathan W. Boody, of Westbrook, Me. The union was blessed by two children – **Lillian M.** and **Eva A.** Both graduated from the Gorham Normal School, and subsequently taught school for several years in Westbrook. **Lillian** married D. C. Dennett, M. D., of Portland, Me., and died July 5, 1894. **Eva** married L. C. Hazelton, of Westbrook, and resides in Millis, Mass...”

[Source: Biographical review: Cumberland County, Maine, 1896]

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## Massachusetts

**Annals of the Town of Providence**

William R. Staples, 1843

**Pine Street, or Second Baptist Church**

The Pine street or Second Baptist Church, was organized on the first day of May 1805. Its first members were Jeremiah Rose, William West, Benjamin Ham, William Ham, Samuel Gorton, Reuben Burke, **Chace Webb**, Laban Lake, Thomas Reynolds, Nancy West, Frances Gorton, **Mercy Webb**, Sarah Lake, Abigail Jenks, Lillis Paul and Rachel Mason, most of whom had been members of the First Baptist Church.

### J. Thomas Webb, Worcester Co. MA

“**J. Thomas Webb**, the chairman of the Board of Selectmen of New Braintree was born in Hardwick, September 16, 1838, son of **Jonathan and Mary [Page] Webb**. The **Webbs** are descendants of the Winslows, who came over on the “Mayflower.” **John Webb**, the grandfather of **Mr. Webb** and native of Cape Cod, became an early settler in Hardwick. He followed the trades of carpenter and cabinet-maker, in addition to farming, during the active period of his life, which ended when he was eighty-two years old. Patriotic as well as industrious, he served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The Christian name of his wife was Betsey.

**Jonathan Webb**, **J. Thomas Webb's** father, was born in Hardwick, July 29, 1791. In early life he was a school teacher. Later he was engaged in farming at the homestead, where he resided until 1849. Coming to New Braintree in that year, he spent the rest of his life upon the place which is now owned by his son, and known as Sunnyside Farm. He was a Captain in the State militia. In politics he supported the Republican party, and he was a member of the Congregational church. His wife, born in Hardwick, December 13, 1799, who died at the age of sixty-nine years, became the mother of eight children, three of whom are living, namely: **John**, a broker in New York City; **Elisha**, a manufacturer in West Brookfield; and **J. Thomas**, the subject of this sketch.

**J. Thomas Webb** was educated in the common schools at Hardwick and New Braintree, and reared to farm life. He continued to assist his father until he received entire charge of the farm. Since then he has cultivated it industriously. Taking high rank among the dairymen of the locality, he keeps from fifty to sixty head of Holstein cattle, full bloods and grades; and he ships milk annually to the amount of about ten thousand cans. Sunnyside Farm, containing three hundred and twenty-five acres of desirable land, is regarded as one of the best in the town. The buildings, spacious characteristic of a well-to-do Worcester County agriculturist. On April 28, 1873, **Mr. Webb** was united in marriage with Jennie Bowen. Born in Sturbridge, Mass., February 8, 1852, she is a daughter of Henry and Hannah Bowen. Mr. Bowen, who was a well-known horse dealer, died in September, 1897, having survived his wife, who died March 3, 1887. **Mr. and Mrs. Webb** have had four children, two of whom died in infancy. The living are: **Irving T.**, born June 5, 1881; and **Grace J.**, born June 16, 1889...”

[Source: Biographical review: Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1899]

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## North Carolina

### Caldwell Co.

1819 – White District Tax List, [including Upper John's river]

**John Webb** 400 acres, \$1,100, one black poll and one stud horse valued at \$250.

1790 Caldwell Co. Census:

**Jasbret Webb**

**Ben Webb**

“The **Webbs** are an old family on the river, always prominent, enterprising and leading in all good works. **John, Joe,** and **Henry** of the generation composing the best friends of the writer, have passed away but are being succeeded by their sons who are worthy of their sires; **Roby**, for instance. Thaddeus Perkins, whose name is not on this list, lives in John’s River township now. His son, George Perkins, over on the old Carroll place and married one of the **Webb** young ladies. The father of the family which is spoken of as being the friends of the writer was **Serug Webb**, a very large man and a splendid one withal. The writer remembers as a small boy seeing him and “Squire J. N. [“Jano”] Harshaw riding into Lenoir coming to court. They were both big men, rode big horses and made a big impression upon the small boy. ...”

[Source: Annals of Caldwell County, W. W. Scott, 1930]

### Halifax Co.

“At the same sitting of the Provincial Council of Safety at Halifax, the following singular order was made: **John Webb**, of Halifax County, was allowed to export 18,000 hogsheads of staves to any of the French or Dutch cities on giving bond that he would import the proceeds in salt, arms, ammunition, and other warlike stores.”

### Union Academy of Halifax Town

“From its establishment in 1815 to 1821, there are frequent notices, in the press of that day, of Union Academy, which was located in the town of Halifax. This institution was in charge of **William E. Webb**, with Jesse N. Falcon as president of the Board of Trustees. **Webb** appears to have been a man of some ability and influence, for he represented the County in the General Assembly three times before he became Principal of Union Academy. “

[Source: History of Halifax County, W. C. Allen, 1918]

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## Pennsylvania

### The Webb Family

“**Elizabeth Webb**, a noted minister in the Society of Friends, from Gloucester, England, visited this country in 1697-8, and in 1700, with her husband, **Richard**, and children, came to Philadelphia. At the same time came **John Webb** and John Lea [ancestor of the Lea family of Wilmington], with Hannah his wife, formerly wife of **Joseph Webb**. **Mary and Rachel Webb**, sisters of **Richard**, came then or subsequently, and resided among their relatives here. **Richard** and his family settled in Birmingham, Chester County, Pa., in 1704, where he died in 1719, having been a Justice of the Common Pleas, and an active citizen. His widow in 1721 conveyed to certain trustees an acre of ground, for L3, whereon Birmingham Meeting House was then or soon after erected.

**Richard Webb** had several children, of whom **William** m. 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 22, 1709-10, Rebecca Harlan, settled in Kennet [now Pennsbury] township; was a justice of the peace and for many years a member of Assembly for Chester County. Another son, **James**, settled in Lancaster County, of which he was at one time the sheriff.

**William and Rebecca Webb** had a son **William**, b. 11<sup>th</sup> mo. 13, 1710, who m. 9<sup>th</sup> mo. 23, 1732, Elizabeth Hoopes, b. 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 13, 1716, daughter of Daniel and Jane of Westtown; and she, after his death, married Thomas Welsh 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 21, 1767, and d. 12<sup>th</sup> mo. 9, 1803, aged 87; buried at Kennet Meeting. **Ezekiel Webb**, their son, b. 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1747, d. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 26, 1828, m. 1<sup>st</sup>, Cordelia Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 7, 1773, at Birmingham Meeting, daughter of John and Sarah [Taylor] Jones, who lived at what is now Sagerville or Lenape, on the Brandywine. Cordelia d. 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 27, 1785, and **Ezekiel** m. 10<sup>th</sup> mo.

25, 1787, Elizabeth Hollingsworth, b. 2d mo. 1, 1766, d. 9<sup>th</sup> mo. 7, 1825, daughter of Christopher Hollingsworth of Kennet, and his first wife, Elizabeth Chandler. **Ezekiel** owned a farm and kept the Anvil Tavern in Kennet. A stone in the south end of the old smith-shop at this place bore the initials **E. E. W.** 1797.

Children of **Ezekiel Webb** by 1<sup>st</sup> wife:

1. **Elizabeth**, b. 9<sup>th</sup> mo. 10, 1773; d. 2d mo. 24, 1853; m. Jacob Baily and Joseph Peirce.
2. **Rebecca**, b. 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 16, 1775; d. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 26, 1776.
3. **Sarah**, b. 3d mo. 2, 1777; d. \_\_\_: m. \_\_\_ Copeland.
4. **Hannah**, b. 3d mo. 1, 1779; d. \_\_\_; m. Israel Harlan.
5. **Thomas**, b. 3 mo. 10, 1781; d. 9<sup>th</sup> mo. 14, 1860; m. Hester Paxson.
6. **John**, b. 3d mo. 8, 1783; d. 3d mo. 19, 1783.
7. **Ezekiel**, b. th mo. 14, 1784; d. 2d mo. 20, 1790.

Children by 2d wife:

8. **Rebecca**, b. 4<sup>th</sup> mo. 17, 1789; d. \_\_\_; m. Eli Lamborn.
9. **Susanna**, b. 3d mo. 3, 1791; d. 4<sup>th</sup> mo. 7, 1791.
10. **Ezekiel**, b. 3d mo. 8, 1792.
11. **Jane**, b. 2d mo. 21, 1794
12. **Christopher H.**, b. 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 3, 1796; d. 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 28, 1878; m. Sarah Pyle.
13. **Mary**, b. 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 26, 1798; d. 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 3, 1799.
14. **William**, b. 3d mo. 8, 1800.
15. **Samuel**, b. 4<sup>th</sup> mo. 4, 1802
16. **Susanna**, b. 10<sup>th</sup> mo. 7, 1804
17. **Stephen**, b. 12<sup>th</sup> mo. 5, 1806.

**Hannah Webb**, daughter of **Ezekiel** and Cordelia of Kennet, was married 10<sup>th</sup> mo. 23, 1794, at Kennet Meeting, to Israel Harlan, son of Thomas and Mary, of Kennet. In later life she was a large fleshy woman. Their home and lands were in east Marlborough, adjoining Pierce's park on the west. Their children were-

Lydia, b. 12<sup>th</sup> mo. 6, 1795; d. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 22, 1796.

Mary, b. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 13, 1798; d. 2d mo. 8, 1823.

Lydia, b. 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 5, 1799; d. \_\_\_, 1840.

Ezekiel W., b. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 15, 1801; lived and died at Mauch Chunk, Pa.

Elizabeth, b. 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 9, 1804; d. about 1880, at Oxford.

Benjamin Jones, b. 3d mo. 12, 1808; m. Phebe Stern.

Israel, b. 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 23, 1811; m. a Miss Sprowl.

Hannah, b. 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 4, 1813.

William S., b. 4<sup>th</sup> mo. 23, 1819; d. at Oxford, Chester., Pa., 3d mo. 15, 1881.

Christopher Hollingsworth, for 2d wife, had married 12 mo. 28, 1775, **Sarah [Smith] Webb**, widow of **William Webb**, a brother of **Ezekiel Webb, senior**. He was the son of Thomas Hollingsworth and Judith Lampley, - grandson of Thomas Hollingsworth, of Rockland Manor, and Grace Cook, -great grand son of Valentine Hollingsworth and Catharine Cornish, and great, great grand son of Henry Cornish, High Sheriff of London 1680; d. 1685.

**Christopher H. Webb** left children, of whom **James Elwood Webb**, of Pocopson, Chester County, whose son **Elwood Christopher Webb** m. 2d mo. 14, 1885, Laura, daughter of Elisha and Sidney P. [Stern] Darlington, of the same township. **E. C. Webb** is the ninth, and Laura the tenth, of line of descent from Henry Cornish."

[Source: Our Kindred: the McFarlan and Stern families of Chester County, Pa., and New Castle County, Del. in two parts ..., Cyrus Stern, 1885]

## Tennessee

### White Co.

#### John Webb

“**John Webb** once placed a number of people on the proscribed list, one of these being his uncle, who he said, had burned his barn. This was a falsehood. The uncle, Crock England, was plowing in a field when **Webb** came to him and killed him. England’s children begged **Webb** not to kill their father but **Webb** was obdurate. Now **Webb** was a disreputable bushwhacker whom no one would believe. His father was a Methodist minister. Later **Webb** and his brother, another bushwhacker, were up in a tree and Federal soldiers shot them out of it.”

[Source: History of White County, Monroe Seals, 1935]

## Virginia

### Colonial Records

#### Merchants:

Year	Merchant	Ship	Master	Destination
1664	<b>Thomas Webb</b>	Mary	Robert Pitts	Virginia - cloth
1667	<b>Thomas Webb</b>	Advice	Dnl Pensax	Virginia – cloth
1676	<b>John Webb</b>	Friends Increase	John Martin	Virginia - cloth
1677	<b>William Webb</b>	unknown	Mthw. Noorwood	Bermuda –tobacco

#### Masters:

Year	Master	Ship	Destination
1672	<b>John Webb</b>	Dragon	Virginia
1697	<b>William Webb</b>	Exchange	Virginia
1696	<b>William Webb</b>	Little John	Virginia

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Treasury order to Customs Commissioners, 30 October 1690 prefixing an Order in Council dated Whitehall, 16 October, that the Virginia Merchant, John Wallis master, with 25 men, and the Friendship, **George Webb** master, with 14 men, both belonging to the trade of Bristol port, but loading in the Thames for Virginia and Maryland, be added to the list of ships permitted to sail there, their complement being abated out of the quota assigned to Bristol port.

[Source: Library of Virginia, Treasury Out Letters – Customs XII 1689-1692]

**State Papers Domestic – April 23 – May 25, 1676**

**Nehemiah Webb**, merchant [Bristol] – 1676

“Affidavits taken before the Mayor of Bristol, 6 May 1676, by John Harris of Corke, Ireland, mariner, Robert Penington of Bristol, mariner, **Nehemiah Webb** and William Brinkworth of the same, merchants, and Thomas Duddlestone of the same, to the effect that on exporting tobacco from England to Ireland they were charged duty of 2 ½ d. a pound whereas formerly they always paid 1 ½ d. per pound.”

**Charles Webb, Runaway – 1688**

pp. 157-160 Minutes of Council, 5 April 1688. Pp. 157-158 letter read from Colonel Spencer of Virginia, desiring assistance in recapturing **Charles Webb**, who has escaped from Virginia to Maryland; agreed.

[Source: Library of Virginia, Maryland, Sessional Papers. Council 1668-1689]

**Thomas Webb & Co. Merchant of Curacoa: 1780-81**

“A letter from **Thomas Webb**, Curacoa, 30 Sept. 1780, addressed to “My dear Friend” [this may however be to a member of the Beverley family of Essex County, Virginia] The writer says he has heard of his correspondent’s safe arrival at Ocracock inlet, and he encloses a letter which has arrived from Holland, which he imagines is from Mr. William Beverley, as it was accompanied by several letters for his father and other relations in Essex County. The writer’s illness has improved since his correspondent left Curacoa, owing to temperance and a very regular way of living. He speaks of a romance between “N. G.” and a Miss Ellis, and mentions the pending marriage of Mr. Areson to a Miss Winkler, a planter’s daughter. The writer is anxious to hear from his friends in Rappahannock, and to know if his correspondent’s uncle arrived from S. Martins. He goes on to say that Curacoa is almost deserted by Americans, and yet there is much to attract them as trade is good and prices for tobacco high.”

“ A letter from **Thomas Webb**, Curacoa, 1 October 1780, addressed to: “My dear Friend”, acknowledging a letter of 16 April from St. Eustatia, and he still does not know if his friend has reached Virginia safely. H has not her from any of his friends on Rappahannock for an age, as “This” is the only vessel which has arrived from Virginia since April. This is difficult to understand, as the opportunity for trade is so good, and so little danger to chips once they get clear of the American coast. The writer goes on to say that if his friend has reached Virginia safely, he is inclined to retain his small share in the Jolly Robin, unless it should get into other hands.”

[Source: Library of Virginia, High Court of Admiralty: Prize Papers, 1783]

**Admiralty Master’s Logs**

1753-54, **Capt. James Webb**, Speedwell - Master, Thomas Bisset

Aug 3, 1753 – left Spithead

Aug 13 – Sept 4 – anchored off Plymouth

Oct 24 – anchored in Hampton Roads for repairs & cleaning

Feb 7, 1754, left Virginia

Feb 22 – sailing towards England

[Source: Library of Virginia, Admiralty Master’s Logs, 1753-54]

**Essex Co. VA**

“Copy of the suit held in Essex County 23 May 1798 between A. McCall & Shedden against James Jones executor of **John Webb** deceased, with a printed order of execution to the Sheriff of Essex County against the goods of **John Webb**. 6 June 1798.”

“Copy of a bond filed in suit in Essex County Court June 1800 in the name of Wm. Snodgrass against James Jones, administrator of **John Webb** deceased for sum of L41. 18. 0 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> . A verdict of judgment given 20 May 1800.

[Source: Library of Virginia, American Loyalist Claims VII. 1767-1811]

**Thomas Webb, Indentured Servant to John Ball of Virginia, 1727/28**

Dec 18, \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Parman of the parish of St. Faiths, London, tailor, twenty-eight years old, and **Thomas Webb** of Newport Pagnell, Bucks, cordwainer, twenty-nine years old. To serve John Ball 4 years in Virginia.

[Source: Library of Virginia, Indentures to Serve in Virginia, 1727/28]

**Michael Webb, Sailor, 1727**

Captain James Cornwall, Sheerness, 1727

Muster for April-July 1727

At Virginia July 6 onwards

Men who left or joined in the colony

John Spender, Thomas Danait, Richard Sealy, John Bray, Joseph Hill, Nathaniel Cobb, Henry Hitchins, James Cullinore, Jospeh Trim, Patrick Covenough, Edward Burk, John Smith, Joseph Davis, Robert Igyer, John Sharper, Thomas Bounce, **Michael Webb**.

[Source: Library of Virginia, Admiralty Muster Books, 1727]

**William Webb, Sailor, 1700**

Robert Wynn Commander, Shoreham

Muster for May – June 1700 at Virginia

Men who left or joined in Virginia –

Edward Turtle, Peter Fowle, Edward Playsted, Christopher Coverson, Edward King, Francis Townsend, Abraham Circular William Hunt, John Tidd, Thomas Young, **William Webb**, Joseph Jeorum.

[Source: Library of Virginia, Admiralty Muster Book, 1700]

**Nathaniel Webb**

“Royal Letter dated at Kensington on 2 July 1710 signed by Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State, and addressed to the Governors of all “Islands, Colonies and Plantations in America for the time being” requiring them to permit the Barbados bound ship Boyle Fregat of Bristol, 200 tons, 40 men and 12 guns, **Nathaniel Webb**, master, to load cargo and sail homeward without being detained to await convoy. “

[Source: Library of VA, Entry Book of Grants, Warrants, Ships' Passes, Letters, etc. 1710-1713]

“Depositions on behalf of Margaret Crump, Bristol, Oct 12, 1708 – George Mason: In August 1690 John Erles bought from Sir Richard Crump a parcel of tobacco valued at L200 which was sent to Ireland. In 1691 the plaintiff and Earles, who lived in Dublin, were trading partners. In May, they bought a parcel of tobacco from Sir Richard and another one from this witness. Both were sent to Ireland. Erles sent goods from Ireland and ordered Eglesham to pay the defendant and this witness for the tobacco. Differences arose between the plaintiff and Crump which were referred to arbitration but the plaintiff refused to pay what was adjudged due to Crump. They both had interest in a ship called the John or Cherry Tree, **Nathaniel Webb**, master, which was lost. Eglesham went to Holland to recover the insurance money but never settled with Sir. Richard.

[Source: Library of Virginia, Court of Chancery, Depositions taken by Commission. Hamilton’s Division, 1708]

### **Terence Webb**

From the Will of John Parker,

“...To **Terence Webb** his freedom, L10 worth of goods, his shallop with its sails etc. his wearing apparel, and 25 s due from John Foster...” Signed: Dec 13, 1699, Probated, Jan 3, 1699, County Court of Richmond.

[Source: Probate Act Book 1701, Library of Virginia]

### **William Webb, Shipwright, Rappahannock, VA 1684**

**William Webb**, shipwright, of Rappahannock, Virginia  
William Thomas, age 24, indentured to... Sept 13, 1683  
Francis Coffin, age 27, indentured to...for 4 years... Aug 31, 1684

**William Webb**, shipwright, of Ratcliff, 1684

[Source: Quarter Sessions Records. Plantations Indentures 1682/83-1684, Library of VA]

### **Giles Webb, 1652**

2 August 1652. Claim of **Giles Webb** for loss of 50 hogshead of tobacco. No long after the seizure of the Golden Lion, **Webb** set sail for London in a New England ship, but this too was captured by a French man-of-war, and carried off to St. Malo.

30 August 1652. John Thurmer of St. Catherine’s, London, a planter, age 55, deposes on behalf of **Giles Webb**.

31 August 1652. Thomas Pott of Bethnal Green, Stepney, master of the John and Thomas, aged 29, deposes on behalf of **Webb**.

3 Sept 1652, **Giles Webb** of Upper Norfolk in Virginia, Planter, age 38.

[Source: High court of Admiralty. Instance and Prize Courts: Examinations, July 1652-Feb 1652/53, Library of VA]



**John Webb, Virginia, 1643**

Debts owing in Virginia upon the Barbados to the Guinea Company and left with **Mr. John Webb** in Virginia to recover, 1643.

[Source: State Papers, Domestic, Charles I, Letters and Papers. 1643, 1644]

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## Great Britain

**The Annals of the Parish of Swainswick [near the city of Bath]**

R. E. M. Peach, 1890

Will of Thomas Prynne – Obit July 20, 1620

“I, Thomas Pryn, of Swanswicke, in the county of Somerset, ... desire ... to be buried in the Church... I leave L5 to the poor of the parish, to be paid in half-a-year after my decease to the Churchwardens and Sidesmen.

**John Webb**, of Swanswicke, left the like sum to the like use, and by his will it was to be put into the Chamber of the Citie of Bath, there to remain for ever, and they to pay to the Overseers of the Poor of Swanswicke aforesaid 6s. 8d. per ann. for ever. They being offered it, will not take it in that same manner, and therefore, it having remained in my hands as executor, I doe therefore pay to the said Overseers yearly 6s. 8d. according to the same will. My will and mynd is that the L5 given by me, and also the L5 given by **John Webb**, shall for ever remaine in ye hands of ye Churchwardens and Overseers; 13s. 4d. per ann. to be distributed to the saide poor...”

### Register

1568 – **Edward Webb**, son of **Richard**, bap. 27<sup>th</sup> Maie.

1569 – **Thomas Webb** = John [Joan] Taylor, 29<sup>th</sup> November

1570 – **Julian Webb**, daughter of **Richard Webb**, bap. 19<sup>th</sup> Februarie

1573 – **Edward Webb**, farmer, was buried 22<sup>nd</sup> daie of June

This **Edward Webb**, as stated, was appointed “farmer,” which signified agent or manager, by Oriel College, soon after it had acquired the property in 1529. He lived at the Manor House, standing on the north side of the Church. The house is still in admirable preservation, and although it contains vestiges of an ancient edifice, it is not in itself older than about 1600. **Edward Webb** was succeeded in the agency by **John Webb**, and he by Thomas Prynne, father of William Prynne.

1611 – **Richard Hopkins**, a base born child, born at Okeford, in the parish of Marsfield, the son of Elizabeth Hopkins, and as she did confess at the houre of the birth of the child, the sonn of **John Webb**, gent., was brought to our church the tyme of Divine Service, and laid upon the fonte, and because it was weak and was begotten in the farme, was here christened the 9<sup>th</sup> daie of Februarie. Richard Davis, Minister; Thomas Lewes, John Tanner, Churchwardens.

1616 – **John Webb**, farmer of Swainswick, a man of the age of eighty yeres and upward was buried the 4<sup>th</sup> daie of Aprill. [He died at the Manor House.]

[**John Webb**] This was the eldest son of **Edward Webb**, who died in 1573, the earliest agent of Oriel College. This **John** succeeded him, but was probably dismissed. He gave by his will the sum of L10 to the Abbey Church.

1634 – **Robert Webb** and **Marie Webb** were married the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May.

1645 – Mr. Robert Webb [paid] for making cleane the Churchyard.

1685 – Margaret Webb, buried 26<sup>th</sup> July.

1686 – Elizabeth Webb, buried 26<sup>th</sup> July.

The Churchwardens of Swanswick:

John Webb, 1578

John Webb, 1593

John Webb, 1597

John Webb, 1599

Poor Rate Book Accounts

1668

To John Longman for house rent for the Widow Webb for 2 years. [This Webb was unconnected with the Manor House Webbs.]

1674

to ye Widow Webb [paid]

1676 and 77

for a warrant of disturbance against Margaret Webb.

1681-2

Interest Money, 19s. 4d.

Goody Webb

1682

to ye widd. Webb, her daughter being sick and she complaining of want, 18d.

To goody Webb to by firing

Goody Webb had also in money

Goody Webb to buy malt

Wid. Webb

1684

Nothing different except a Sack of Cole for Widd. Webb.

Layd out for half a bushel of wheat for Goode Webb

And for half a pound of butter

More money to Goode Webb by Nan Pearce

To Nan Pearce money to buy Margett Webb a shroud

G. Webb

1685

Isaac Archar for Ringing the Bell and Digging Margret Webb grave.

Wm. Morly for ale and small beere for Margt. Webb in her sickness

Ffor Margett Webb's coffin

Paid Mr. Shearstone more for Mgt Webb's shroud

Mary Collings for tending Margett Webb

Goode Pearce for goeing in errandes [errands] for Goode Webb in her daughter's sickness

To John Griffin for things for Margett Webb in her sickness

To Mr. Henery Clarke for Goode Webb's hous rent half a year, due at Michael. 1685

1686

Francis Smith and **Goode Webb**, all the year

To Sarah Ashly for tending **Goode Webb**

To Jno Griffinn for malt, wheat, et., for **Goode Webb**

1712

Pd. **Mr. Web** ye Layer [this "**Web** ye Layer" was **Webb**, a well-known lawyer in Bath at that time] about Bett Leek

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I welcome any suggestions or requests for future issues!

Eileen Sturner [nee Webb]

Webb Surname DNA Project Administrator