

Life and Family of Zechariah Boodey

A New Perspective

Jonathan Boody - 2022

Introduction

Robert Boodey Caverly, in his book, *The Annals of the Boodeys in New England*, published in 1880, recorded the traditional story of Zechariah Boodey's arrival in America, his possible origins and the early generations of his family in America. Caverly was born July 19, 1806, in Barrington, N.H., the son of Betsey Boodey. Betsey herself was also born in Barrington on May 11, 1763, and was the daughter of Azariah Boodey and the grand-daughter of Zechariah. It can be assumed that, due to his proximity to the old family home, Caverly grew up knowing many of the elder Boodeys, some of whom may have related the traditional early stories to him when he was a child. It stands to reason that, given his later research and publishing accomplishments, young Robert as a bright and inquisitive child had taken an interest in his forebears and listened intently to the stories from the elder Boodeys. These people would undoubtedly have been tremendous sources of family history. Caverly wrote that there were few written records of Zechariah, so these stories must have served as the basis for much of what Robert eventually wrote. These stories have largely held since they were recorded in Caverly's genealogical work in 1880, copied repeatedly since that time as fact with little scrutiny. What follows below examines and revises much of what Caverly related, based on new research and facts, along with some speculation which is noted as such. While this may help paint a more accurate picture of Zechariah's true narrative, it also still leaves a good deal of mystery for future generations to ponder.

The Name

The spelling of words in early New England records was often not consistent, with some words spelled differently between documents, and sometimes even within a document. Writers frequently came up with spelling that was phonetically somewhat accurate, if not always uniform. This carried over into names as well. The names Boodey and Boody are used interchangeably throughout early eighteenth-century documents. It appears spelling of the name became more uniform toward the end of the eighteenth-century, with the New Hampshire branches of the family keeping the "e", while the Maine branch, pioneered by the Reverend Robert Boody, dropped the "e". Boodey, with the "e", is believed to be the dominant or preferred spelling for the early generations and is therefore the default for this document, except in instances when quoting records that used the alternate version.

The Story

The story that Caverly related, in summary, is that Zechariah had jumped from a French ship in Boston Harbor in 1695 at a young age. He then made his way up to Dover, in the New Hampshire Colony, where he hid in a barn to avoid capture and certain death for his desertion. Once the scheduled time of his ship's departure passed, and the threat to him abated, he emerged and settled in a section of the town which eventually became known as Madbury. Zechariah built a 175-acre farm and raised a family of eight daughters and one son, with a "Yankee Lady, unknown to the records". He lived out the remainder of his life in Madbury, dying there at "an advanced age" in 1755.

An assumption that Mr. Caverly learned these stories when he was a child and carried them with him until he wrote his book when he was 74 years old is mere speculation. There is no doubt though that he was an expert on the Boodey family of his own time, having documented

hundreds of Zechariah Boodey's descendants and compiled a massive amount of biographical information, long before the advent of internet searches or even extensively published information. Robert Caverly was a romantic, however, and wrote with dramatic flourish and superlative, referring to Zechariah as "valiant boy adventurer" and "our Hero." He often related stories in the form of poetry. His descriptions of Zechariah's flight from Boston and his success at setting forth a family while taming the wilds of his own part of the new world seem overly dramatic and epic. Caverly built Zechariah into a paternalistic monument for his descendants to admire in awe. While Zechariah's true story likely did entail some amount of courage, drama and adventure, as would be expected of just about anyone traveling from Europe to build a new life in America at the time, some realities of his life might have been more average or ordinary than Caverly's rendition of his story would suggest.

Origins and Arrival

Zechariah's true origins remain a mystery as records have yet to be found to provide even a hint of his early whereabouts. Caverly suggested he was about 18 years old when he arrived in 1695, giving him an estimated birth year of around 1677. Given the known and estimated years of his children's births, beginning probably as early as 1710 and running into the mid-1720s, 1677 is on the early side but is still within a realistic range. Church records from the late seventeenth-century are still intact and complete in many parts of Western Europe, so it is possible that a record of Zechariah's baptism might still exist. Unfortunately though, most of those records are still not easily accessible or indexed. Without knowing the town or region he came from, finding existing records would still be virtually impossible today.

Caverly stated that Zechariah was "from an invariable tradition" of French origin. Unlike dates or other specific details, which become fuzzy or completely lost over time, a person's national heritage is more likely to be remembered, so it is reasonable to believe the story of Zechariah's French background was accurate. Whether or not he actually was from France, or if he came directly from France to Massachusetts is a different matter.

The traditional story holds that Zechariah deserted a French ship in Boston, a major colonial city firmly under British control. While conflict between England and France in America is often associated with the French and Indian Wars later in the eighteenth-century, France and England had been in a state of war off and on for several centuries. The Nine Years War, a conflict for religious and economic dominance between France and numerous European powers, including England, was actively fought between 1688 and 1697. The war was engaged on numerous fronts in Europe, as well as North America, New England in particular, where it was known as King William's War. It was therefore very unlikely that a French ship of any sort had entered Boston Harbor under its own flag at that time. Perhaps though a French man-of-war or a merchant ship was captured by the British and brought to the harbor, and flight from that ship might have been the only way to avoid an uncertain fate. While possible, this does not seem probable. There are several alternatives to this theory.

While Massachusetts and New Hampshire were both firmly held British colonies, France was also a major colonial power in the area, with colonial cities less than 300 miles to the north, in Quebec, part of what was then known as New France. By 1689 the population of New France had topped 15,000, and was clearly an easy entry point for French citizens.¹ The French military had also used New France as an entry point and as a launching point for raids on English

settlements to the south. King William's War was actively fought in southern Maine and New Hampshire around the time of Zechariah's purported arrival in Madbury in 1695, with one raid, known as The Oyster River Massacre, actually occurring in Durham, N.H., on July 18, 1694.² It's perhaps possible that Zechariah had deserted his military unit while campaigning somewhere in New England in the 1690s, with the story evolving over time, although again, this is a bit of a stretch.

It is quite possible that Zechariah's family did not come from France after all. There are many records of families named Boody or Boodey, along with some similar variations, throughout England in the seventeenth-century. In addition, a perusal of online databases finds no records of anyone specifically named Zechariah born in France in the period between 1650 and 1700, but numerous who were born in England. Similar versions of the name did exist in France at the time, but Zechariah is clearly the Anglicized version. This is not to say though that Zechariah couldn't have Anglicized his name upon arrival to better fit in.

Regardless of his origins, it is very unlikely Zechariah showed up unannounced in Dover in 1695, squatting on a large piece of land and setting about building a life for himself. Dover was the earliest permanent settlement in New Hampshire, having been founded in 1623 by a group of fishmongers from London. By the late-seventeenth-century Dover was a large and growing town with the population passing 200 before the century was out.³ Much of the land in town was already divided up amongst numerous established families, with further land grants coming in 1694 and again in 1701. Setting up shop as a stranger on open land in Dover, while others in town with lengthier and more impressive credentials followed set protocols for obtaining land, would certainly not sit well with the established residents and is an unrealistic scenario.

Being an uninvited stranger to town makes that scenario all the more unlikely. Residents of many New England towns, Dover included, were wary of strangers. Countless French and Indian raids over the years resulted in the loss of many lives and the loss of many people taken away as captives, not to mention burned houses and fields and stolen property. Strangers represented possible danger and were not readily welcomed. Strangers also represented financial liability. Despite the romantic notion of a pioneer clearing land, setting up a farm and getting on with his life, establishing a farm on virgin forest land was not a simple task. Doing so quickly and easily was nearly impossible. New arrivals often had to depend on the existing community for some degree of support, a community that itself was trying to manage through their own tough economic circumstances. In many cases strangers were "warned out" and escorted out of the town where they were encouraged to move along and try their luck elsewhere.⁴ A Dover town ordinance, recorded on April 22, 1695, states "...by reason of severall persons receiving and intertaining of strangers belonging to other places and there by having exposed ye town to great charge and expense..." a fine of fifteen shillings was imposed upon anyone in town who had received a stranger into their family without first consulting with the town's selectmen.⁵ Of course, an argument could be made that Zechariah himself may have been one of the strangers referenced by that town ordinance, but the ordinance also implies he would not have been warmly welcomed by the town in general and allowed free-reign to establish himself on open land as he pleased.

That said though, Zechariah eventually did make his way into Dover and did create a household and raise a family. For those without strong financial means, the easiest and most common route to establishing residency was to start under the employ of an existing resident and land

owner. This was almost certainly the path that Zechariah took when he arrived, likely having already been contracted as an employee before actually arriving in Dover. It's even possible Zechariah came to America as an indentured servant and was contracted before he left Europe. If this were the case Zechariah would have been obligated to perform slave-level labor for up to seven years to pay off passage expenses, with very few individual rights.⁶ This situation would help explain a sizeable lapse in time from when he supposedly arrived in 1695, to when he married and started up a family, closer to 1705 – 1710. Whether he was “free” of servitude when he arrived, or gained freedom later, Zechariah would likely not have enjoyed great fortunes, at least not right away. There is no doubt that he and his family had eventually become a free and productive part of Dover's society, but he likely remained relatively poor for much of his life.

Religion

Zechariah's true religious affiliation is not certain, although he probably came from a Protestant background. If Zechariah was born into Catholicism, the official state religion of France at the time and practiced by the vast majority of French people, he must have outwardly rejected it, if not before his arrival then definitely after. Amongst other reasons, Catholicism was essentially banned in colonial New Hampshire, to an extent that in 1696 the New Hampshire General Assembly imposed a test oath in which residents were required to swear allegiance to the Protestant faith, under pain of fine or imprisonment.⁷ While no records of his direct affiliation with a Protestant church have surfaced, at least five of his children, along with his wife, were all baptized by a Protestant minister in Oyster River. Zechariah could not have openly practiced Catholicism in New Hampshire and probably would not have been readily welcomed if he was a true Catholic at heart, nor would he himself have opted to move into such a staunchly Protestant society.

One of the greatest drivers of French migration in the sixteenth- and seventeenth-centuries was the yearning for freedom from religious persecution. During this period Protestants in France, also mostly known as Huguenots, had been fleeing violence and persecution at the hands of Catholics throughout the kingdom. In many cases Protestants were slaughtered en masse, most notably in the St. Bartholomew's Massacre in 1572, but also in countless other violent incidents through the years since. Many Protestants fled to foreign countries such as England, Holland, Geneva and Switzerland, where their religious beliefs were tolerated and welcomed. Many of the displaced Frenchmen ultimately removed to America, some after several generations as exiles in Europe. The Edict of Nantes in 1598 had helped temper hostility toward Protestants in France, but in October 1685, King Louis XIV signed the Edict of Fontainebleau, revoking the Edict of Nantes and effectively banning Protestantism in France. This edict also prohibited Protestants from emigrating.⁸ The following year the king boasted that his policies had reduced the Protestant population in France to as low as 1,000 to 1,500.⁹ Clearly, the Protestants who wanted to leave France had for the most part already done so before 1695.

It is very unlikely Zechariah, with a Protestant background, left France for America in 1695. It's also unlikely that he left France as a Catholic with an ultimate destination of Protestant New England. His family had almost certainly left France prior to 1695, possibly long before Zechariah was born, settling into exile with masses of like-minded Huguenots, elsewhere in Europe.

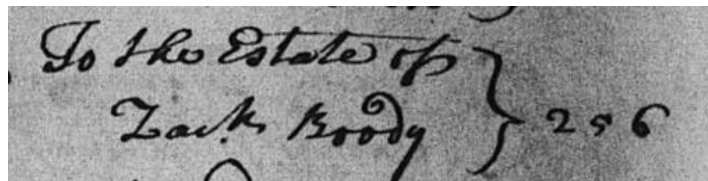
Land Ownership

Robert Caverly's narrative suggested that Zechariah had been a squatter who had simply fenced in 175 acres of "excellent farm of wild lands" where he built a cabin and cleared the land, "soon turning them into fair fields and green pastures". This was a very romantic image of a hard-working New Englander taming the wild and virgin lands into a sort of bucolic paradise. As pointed out earlier though, it is very unlikely Zechariah did actually squat on and improve 175 acres of his own land in Dover. No property or title deeds exist in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, which is largely complete and thorough, to indicate an acquisition or sale of this land. Nor is any mention made in Dover Town Records, which are also largely complete and include details of hundreds of land grants, surveys and transactions. If this rather substantial land grant, or subsequent sale, did occur it was somehow ignored by the town's land surveyors who had meticulously recorded hundreds of mostly significantly smaller land grants and sales in great detail. It is also noted that in those hundreds of land surveys documented between 1693 and 1758, which often defined property boundaries in part by the boundaries of neighboring properties, not once is Zechariah named as the owner of a neighboring property. Rather than being a large land-owner himself, Zechariah and his family likely found a safe home and work through accommodating landowners who needed cheap labor on their own farms.

While life for the Zechariah Boodey family in the early eighteenth-century in Dover was far from pastoral, in time the family did eventually obtain land. The Dover Town Records include details of a major land grant made on July 8, 1734. The purpose of this land grant was "to Dispose of the Common Lands within the Town of Dover to the Inhabitants of said Town."¹⁰ The land was divided up into shares consisting of 30 acres. Many inhabitants received a full share, while many more received a half, third or sixth share. Zechariah's name was included in the group who received a third share, or ten acres. It was these same ten acres in Dover that six of Zechariah's daughters sold to their brother, Azariah, on November 18, 1758, the deed stating "Ten acres of land granted by the town of Dover in the last division in said town to our Hon^d Father Zechariah Boodey".¹¹ It is also the same ten acres that Azariah sold to Ebenezer Demeritt several months later on April 3, 1759, for £1,200. On that same day in 1759 Azariah purchased 60 acres of land in nearby Barrington for £1,500, thus ending the only recorded Boodey land ownership in Dover.¹²

Death

According to Robert Caverly, Zechariah died at "an advanced age" in about the year 1755 in Madbury, NH. However, the 1734 land grant as described above actually stated the third share of land went "To the Estate of Zack Boody", indicating he was deceased by the date of the grant and that the grant actually went to his heirs instead. This would help explain why it was Azariah's sisters (and their husbands) who sold their share of this ten-acre grant to him in 1758. In this case the land appears to have been given to Zechariah Boody's heirs as a group, likely with equally divided ownership, as would have been required by multigeniture inheritance laws which were in effect in most New England colonies, including New Hampshire.¹³ If Zechariah had taken ownership of the land himself in 1734 he almost certainly would have bequeathed the land



directly to only one of his children, likely Azariah, by inheritance. Wording in Azariah's 1759 deed of sale of this land also supports this by specifying that the land was granted to his father "formerly Dec'd", implying he had died before the land was granted.

my Hon^d Father Zechariah Boodey (formerly Dec'd)

The 1734 records included at least a dozen grants "to the estate of". While not specifically stated in the Dover town records, similar records in numerous surrounding towns included grants "to the estate of", but also included the word "deceased" after the grantee's name. Some of the grantees in Dover were identified as deceased in subsequent land surveys requested by their heirs, while actual or estimated death dates are available for some others. For those whom death dates have been identified, they died anywhere between about 1722 and several weeks prior to the date of the land grants in 1734, so those particular grants did not go exclusively to the recently deceased. It appears the town may have been, at least in part, looking out for the welfare of fatherless families with these grants. The youngest of Zechariah's children was probably born about 1725, so it can be deduced that Zechariah died sometime between 1725 and early 1734, and not 1755 as Caverly reported.

It is worth noting that Caverly, when he wrote about the 1759 deed of sale for the Madbury property, omitted the word "formerly" from an otherwise exact quote from the original document. While this was perhaps a simple oversight on his part, Caverly, an educated and successful attorney, must certainly have seen this same word in the original and must have understood the implication it would have had on his assertion that Zechariah died in 1755.

Other evidence also indicates Zechariah had died prior to 1755. A petition for a separation of Madbury from Dover into an independent parish was signed by 61 Dover residents on May 13, 1743. Zechariah's name was not included on this petition, while his 22-year-old son did sign it.¹⁴

With Zechariah's death being 21 to 30 years earlier than had been believed for so long, the understanding of the dynamics of his family's life and his overall life in general fundamentally changes. By 1755 all of Zechariah's children would have been adults and he would have had numerous grandchildren, some possibly in their teens. The family would have been more knowledgeable of his background and his story. More detail about his life would have been passed on to subsequent generations, including from Zechariah's eldest grandchildren, some of whom Robert Caverly would have known when he was young. In reality, Zechariah's children were young when their father died, the eldest perhaps in early adulthood while others possibly so young they didn't even have any meaningful memories of their father. They were too young to inquire deeply into their father's past or accurately recall what little they did learn from him. Zechariah's past was probably to some degree a mystery to even his own children. Zechariah died at least ten years before Robert Caverly's eldest living relatives were even born. Caverly had never met anyone who had truly known Zechariah, so at no point in his life could he have ever received any first-hand knowledge from others about his early ancestor. Any information that was passed on to him was anecdotal, sketchy at best.

It was not unusual at the time for fathers to die and leave a young family behind. But that fact does not take away the void and the heartache the family must have felt, or change the financial

ramifications of the situation. The Boodey family was not necessarily destitute, but they undoubtedly faced challenges with their main means of support gone. In most cases where a family lost their father other family members or the community itself stepped in to help the widow and young children. Zechariah's own family was presumably nonexistent in America. Assuming Zechariah's wife was from the Dover area it would be likely that members of her family provided some degree of support. The land granted in 1734 signaled possible community support as well. It is important that this family stayed in and around Madbury after Zechariah died, the children needed their family and community support while becoming productive members of that community at a young age. There is no doubt that the early years for Zechariah's children were not at all easy.

Family

The Oyster River baptism records from 1717 mentioned above included an adult named Elizabeth Boodey.¹⁵ It's fairly safe to assume that Elizabeth was Zechariah's wife and the mother of at least some of his children. She does not show up in any other records, however, so her identity remains a complete mystery. While it is possible her father or other relative of hers mentioned her or her children in their will or some other document, so far no such mention has been found. Without any further detail about her life it is impossible to determine if she was the mother of all of Zechariah's children or if she herself had other children through another husband.

Robert Caverly listed nine children, eight daughters and one son, in his book. The son, Azariah, was the paternal ancestor of the Boodey or Boody family in New England and Caverly provided thorough detail about him and his descendants. On the other hand, he provided almost no detail about any of Zechariah's daughters, with only the name of a husband provided for most. Records of these daughters are scarce and in some cases only assumptions are possible. It is assumed that all of Zechariah's living children signed the deed of sale of Zechariah's land grant to Azariah Boodey on November 18, 1758. Between that and Caverly's book, we have a framework for Zechariah's family, but these still do not provide much detail. More detailed facts and some theorized information for each child are outlined below:

Elizabeth: Likely born between 1710 and early 1717 and baptized March 31, 1716/7, in Oyster River.¹⁵ Caverly suggested she married Ebenezer Pitman, who died before November 1758. While there are numerous records of a Pitman family in the Durham area throughout the late Seventeenth and early Eighteenth Centuries, including an Ebenezer born in Durham around 1670, a record of a contemporary Ebenezer Pitman has not yet been found. The 1758 Azariah deed states Elizabeth was living in Durham. She does not show up in any further record.

Betty: No early records of Betty have been found. Baptism records have not been located, nor was she named in the deed selling Zechariah's grant to Azariah in 1758, which is odd since she would have been at least 24 years old at that time and would have been an equal party to her named sisters in the ownership of the ten acres in Madbury. The only time she is found in records was on January 22, 1777, when she married James Rowe of Barrington.¹⁶ In that record she was listed as "of Madbury". Betty (or Betsy) is a common diminutive form of Elizabeth, which was likely her actual given name. Giving two children the same name was highly unusual in America at the time and almost certainly would have been done only if they had different mothers, which was possible, or if the first sibling of that name died, which is not the case here.

Betty would have been at least 43 years old when she married, and that is on the assumption she was born in 1734 when her father, if still alive at that time, would have been about 57 years old. In reality, Betty was likely born much earlier than 1734, making her older than mid-40s when she married. This would have been a very unusual age for a first marriage and indicates the possibility this was a second or third marriage for her. The evidence here suggests that Betty Boodey was probably Elizabeth Boodey, widow of Ebenezer Pitman, and not a separate daughter of Zechariah. No further records have been found to substantiate this theory however.

Charity: Likely born between 1710 and early 1717 and baptized March 31, 1716/7, in Oyster River.¹⁷ She married Captain Abednego Leathers. He was born about 1701 in or near Durham and baptized by Rev. Hugh Adams on March 28, 1725.¹⁸ Charity died before December 18, 1783, likely in Durham, as Abednego was mentioned with another wife, named Hannah, in a deed on that date.¹⁹ Charity and Abednego lived in Durham where he is frequently mentioned in deeds and other real estate transactions, including a deed of sale of land to Benjamin Jenkins of Durham dated November 25, 1754, in which Charity is named as his wife.²⁰

Charity the wife of the s^r. Abednego Leathers

Abednego and Charity did not have any surviving children. A guardianship deposition dated March 22, 1802, when Abednego was “reported to be upwards of the age of one hundred years” stated that he “has no child, and no other relation who is compellable by law to take care of the said Leathers, or to provide for his support”.²¹ His second wife, Hannah, died July 8, 1800, in Durham.²² His will bequeathed personal items “which belonged to my first wife”, to his niece, Charity Leathers.²³ Abednego died June 3, 1802, reportedly at the age of 101.²⁴

Mary: Not mentioned by name in Caverly’s book, Mary was likely born between 1710 and early 1717 and then baptized March 31, 1716/7, in Oyster River.²⁵ She was not named in the deed selling Zechariah’s grant to Azariah. Mary may have been the daughter for whom Caverly did not have a name, and who was reported to have died at a young age.

Sarah: Likely born after her sisters were baptized in 1717, probably in 1718, and baptized September 7, 1718, in Oyster River.²⁶ Sarah died sometime after October 22, 1766. She married Benjamin Jenkins likely before May 1751, when the first of their children was baptized, and definitely before May 18, 1754, when she was named in a deed along with her husband on the sale of land to Abednego Leathers in Durham.²⁷ Benjamin Jenkins was the son of Stephen Jenkins and Elizabeth Dean of Durham, and is mentioned as such in several deeds between Stephen Jenkins and several of his sons. He was baptized, along with his mother and four of his siblings, on March 29, 1719, by Rev. Hugh Adams in Oyster River.²⁸ Per a deed dated June 18, 1741, Benjamin had received land from his father as early as 1739.²⁹ Benjamin was consistently referred to as Husbandman or Yeoman in various deeds, but was also referred to as a cordwainer (shoe maker) in a deed dated July 8, 1762, when he sold his land and home in Durham to Thomas Tash.³⁰

I Benjamin Jenkins of Durham in the Province of New Hampshire in New England Cordwainer

He next appears as a cordwainer in a deed dated July 22, 1763, in which he purchased land in Pembroke, NH, from Stephen Swett.³¹ A Charity Jenkins was listed as a witness on that deed, although her relationship to Benjamin has not been determined.

*Benjamin Jenkins of
Pembroke aforesaid in the province of New Hampshire
Cordwainer.*

It appears Benjamin and Sarah did not stay in Pembroke for more than four or five years though as they sold their home and land in Pembroke, apparently in its entirety, to Peter Robinson in a deed dated October 22, 1766.³² Sarah was mentioned in this deed and Benjamin was once again referred to as a yeoman. This is the last time Sarah has been found mentioned in any documents.

*Also Sarah the wife of the said Benjamin surrenders up
all her right of Dower or thirds to the said Peter.*

Benjamin next appears in 1771, when he was one of the signers of the Royal Charter of Moore Town, New York, (later becoming Bradford, Vermont) on the 18th of March of that year.³³ There is no indication if Benjamin moved directly from Pembroke to Moore Town, or if he lived elsewhere briefly. Also, as there is no further record of his wife, Sarah, it is unknown if she also moved to Moore Town or if she died earlier.

Benjamin was elected to numerous town positions starting in 1773, including Fence Viewer, Supervisor and others. His last assignment was as "leather sealer" on March 27, 1781.³⁴ He is not mentioned in any town records since. The last known record of Benjamin was a deed from him to his son Stephen on April 2, 1783, in which Benjamin described himself as a cordwainer.³⁵

*I know all men by this present
that I Benjamin Jenkins of Moretown
in the County of Orange and State of Vermont
Cordwainer*

Four children of Benjamin and Sarah have been identified:³⁶

- Sarah: Baptized May 12, 1751, in Durham, NH; No further record found.
- Benjamin: Baptized May 20, 1753, in Durham, NH; No further record found.
- Betty: Baptized September 28, 1755, in Durham, NH; Died April 27, 1814, in Duxbury, Vermont; Married Benjamin Davis.
- Stephen Dean: Baptized July 14, 1759, in Durham, NH; Died October 12, 1829, in Bradford, Vermont; Married February 20, 1779, Lydia Stiles.

Azariah: Caverly states that Azariah was born August 15, 1720, in Madbury/Dover, although no primary records of this date have been found. Azariah “alias Hezekiah Boodey, son of Zechariah Boodey” was baptized by Rev. Hugh Adams on September 10, 1721, in Oyster River.³⁷ Azariah married first Bridget Bushbie (or Busby), probably about 1741/2 and maybe in neighboring Berwick, Maine, where members of a Busby family resided at the time. Bridget died July 30, 1785, in Barrington. Azariah married a second time in about 1787 to Mary (last name unknown), supposedly in Berwick, although this marriage was not recorded in that town’s records of Publishments and Certificates or marriages. Azariah died February 26, 1803, in Barrington, and his second wife survived him. Azariah and Bridget had eight children, all well documented by Caverly.³⁸

Hannah: Likely born between 1721 and 1725, although no birth or baptism records have been found. Hannah married Robert Huckins, yeoman, on September 25, 1746. He was born June 28, 1725, in Oyster River Parish and was baptized there August 29, 1725.³⁹ The 1758 deed states that Hannah and Robert lived in Madbury. He died in Madbury before November 25, 1793, when his will was probated.⁴⁰ Hannah was named in Robert’s will, dated January 14, 1785, but has not been found in any documents since then.⁴¹

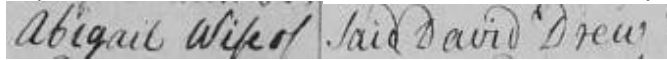
*I give and bequeath to my beloved wife
Hannah*

The Huckins family was well researched and documented in a book authored by Henry Winthrop Hardon. This book documents nine children, all probably born in Madbury:⁴²

- Rebecca: Born November 15, 1747; Married – Lucas, a farmer in Wolfeborough.
- Robert: Born April 25, 1750; Married about 1772, Mary Dame.
- Hannah: Born October 5, 1753; Died December 4, 1755.
- Abigail: Born October 10, 1756; Married about 1777, Hunkin Dame. Died September 8, 1835, in Newington, NH.⁴³
- John: Born July 17, 1759; Died August 30, 1759.
- Israel: Born September 15, 1760; Married Ruth Dame; Died May 20, 1823.
- Jonathan: Born March 31, 1763; Married Lydia Hanson, November 3, 1784.
- Andrew: Born August 15, 1768; Married Mary Daniels September 1791, in Madbury; Died 1824.
- Hannah Boody: Provides no birth date, but suggests she married Hunkin Dame. Other sources suggest Abigail Huckins married Hunkin Dame, so this last child may be in error.

Abigail: Likely born between 1721 and 1725, although no birth or baptism records have been found. She was married to David Drew by 1758, when they both signed the deed to Azariah. David was the son of Clement and Mary Bunker Drew of Madbury.⁴⁴ There were two David Drews in Madbury and Barrington, with one noted as “Junior” in the records. A number of deeds between David and David Jr. exist, suggesting one was the son of the other. That is not yet proven, however, and David Jr. could be a nephew rather than a son. The 1758 deed states that Abigail and David lived in Madbury.

Abigail was named in a deed dated November 14, 1773, in which David sold all of his land and his home in Madbury to Robert Huckins, Jr. of Madbury.⁴⁵ It is likely this Robert was their nephew, the son of Robert Huckins and Hannah Boody.



Abigail Wiper David Drew

David purchased land and a house in Barrington on November 6, 1773,⁴⁶ and all subsequent deeds indicate he was a resident of Barrington. He was still a land owner in Madbury though since on March 12, 1777, he sold land there to David Drew Jr.⁴⁷ This land apparently did not include a residence and did not include dower rights. On April 12, 1790, David sold all of his property and home in Barrington to David Jr.⁴⁸ Selling his land and home to David Jr., rather than simply letting it pass to him via inheritance suggests the younger David might not have been a direct heir. There was no mention of dower rights in this deed so it is likely Abigail was deceased by this point. While it is possible David and Abigail had children together, no records have been found to confirm this.

Kesiah: Likely born between 1721 and 1725, although no birth or baptism records have been found. Kesiah was not married as of November 1758, when she signed the deed of sale to her brother. Kesiah was a resident of Durham when she signed that deed. No further record of Kesiah has been identified so it is likely either her marriage record and/or death record has been lost.

Unnamed: Robert Caverly mentioned an unnamed daughter who died at a young age, however no records of an unnamed daughter have been found. This unnamed daughter was probably Mary, featured above.

APPENDIX

Notice of the agreement to divide up common lands in Dover amongst numerous residents. A total of about 8,200 acres were distributed across 426 grants. Grants were made based on shares, with a full share being 30 acres. The notice lists grants based on full share, two thirds share (20 acres), one third share (ten acres), and one sixth share (five acres). The meeting in which the grants were initially approved was held on June 4, 1733. A final vote of approval came on July 8, 1734, and the grants were made official on that date.

Whereas Mr. John Coney, Sam^l Carb, James Nutt, John Tashier, John Jays, John Town, Capt. Tho^s Wallingford, Jeremiah, Rawlings and John Winget were chosen a Committee at a Publick Town Meeting holden at the Meeting House at Becken in Dover the 27 of Feb^r 1733/34 to consider of some proper Methods to be taken to dispose of the Common Lands within the Town of Dover to the Inhabitants of said Town, and to propose the Method or Methods which they should agree upon to the Town in Publick Town Meeting, for the Towns acceptance, if they should see fit, which said above D^d Committee did accordingly perform: and likewise made report thereof to the Town in a Publick Town Meeting holden at the Meeting House at Becken in Dover on the 4th Day of June 1733, at which Meeting the Town did vote, that the Proportioning of the Common Lands in said Town, amongst the Inhabitants thereof, as it was performed and offered to the Town by said Committee, should be good and valid.

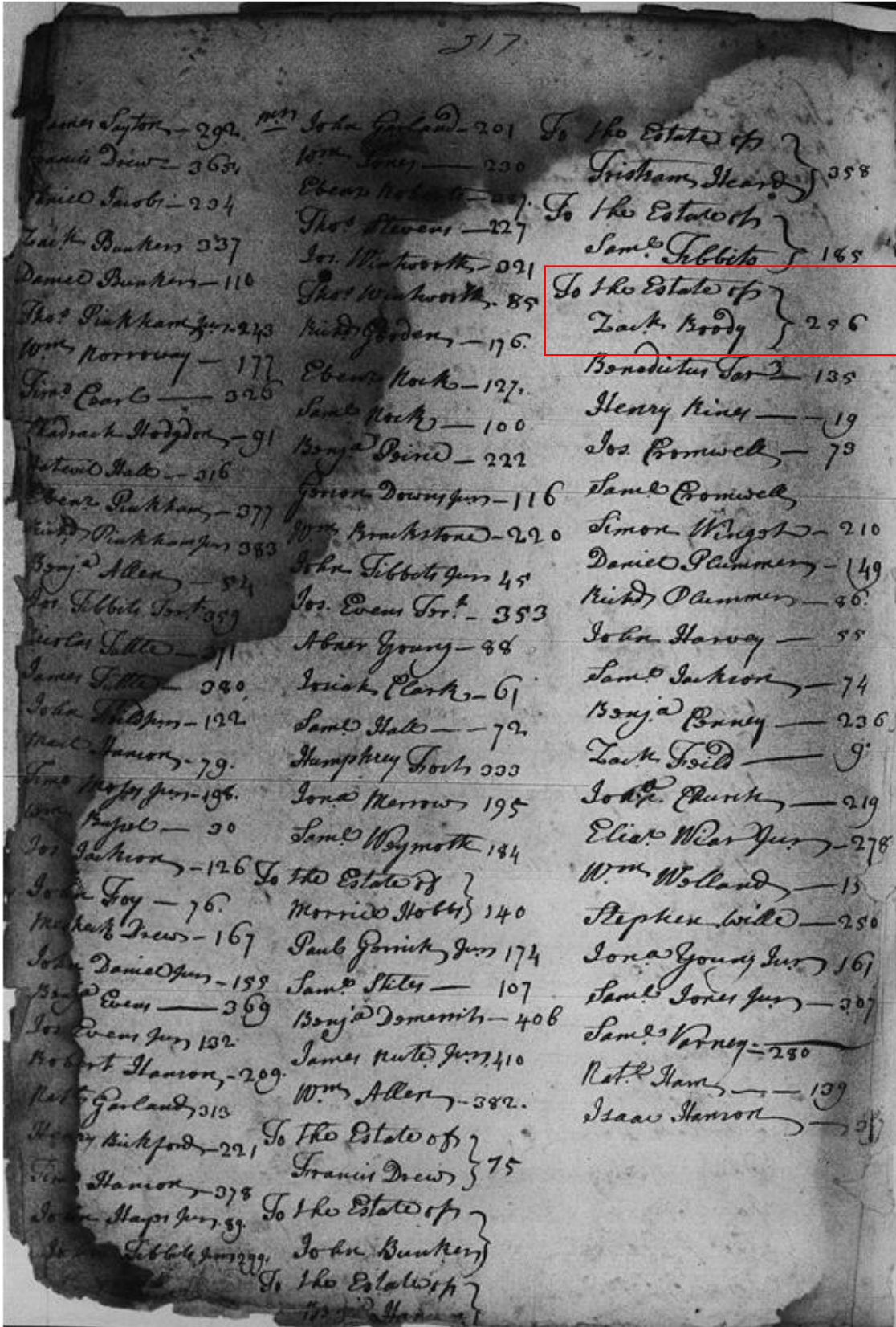
Dover Town Records Vol. 3, 1693-1757, P. 216, dated June 4, 1733, showing third-share land grants.

216

The Men whose Names are Mentioned in the Third List which
 recorded were appointed to have one third part of a field in
 the Division of Common Lands in Dover by the Committee
 for the Proportioning of the same

Mr Saml Darr — 43	Mr Jos Abbott Junr — 295
James Wollmatt — 170	Benj ^d Roberts — 144
John Gerrick — 215	Paul Roberts — 33
Wm. Hamon — 357	Thos ^d Roberts — 304
Benj ^d Hamon Junr — 282	Tim ^d Robinson Junr — 87
Benj ^d Poine Junr — 52	Saml ^d Carle Junr — 25
Dudley Watton — 2	Richmond Henderson — 249
Wm. Whitcomb — 373	Thos ^d Roberts Sr ^d — 194
Sam ^d Stead Junr — 349	Benj ^d Roberts Junr — 370
Jos. Conner — 33	Elijah Tuttle — 42
James Presley — 22	Jos. Kirkford — 304
Nehemiah Kimball — 300	Joshua Conney — 77
Ezra Kimball — 28	Saml ^d Hooper — 229
Nath ^d Vanev — 411	Edw ^d Cloutman — 5
Thos ^d Horn Junr — 400	John Cloutman — 43
Spencer Weatherill — 12	Paul Conney — 217
Sam ^d Allen — 190	Wm ^d Hussey — 19
Edw ^d Allen — 170	Isab ^d Conney — 224
Nich ^d Waldron — 242	Henry Kipps — 18
John Horn Junr — 157	James Kipps — 326
Thos ^d Vanev — 384	Job Demerits — 319
John Carter — 376	Colo ^d Emerson — 304
Isab ^d Horn — 197	James Suckson — 401
Daniel Clements — 246	Thos ^d Willd Junr — 108
Jos Poine — 408	Benj ^d Jones — 402
Thos ^d mayor — 67	John Jones — 40
Jos Hanford — 148	Anthony Jones — 100
	Wm ^d Brown — 200
	Benj ^d Bickering — 50

Dover Town Records Vol. 3, 1693-1757, P. 217, dated June 4, 1733, showing third-share land grants, including "The Estate of Zack Boody".



Strafford County, New Hampshire. Strafford County Register of Deeds, Vol. 1, p. 17. Deed of sale of the land "granted by the town of Dover in the Last Division in said town to our Hon^d Father, Zechariah Boodey", to Azariah Boodey, dated November 18, 1758.

It now all men by these Presents that We Eliza Pitman widow Abednego Leathers Yeoman & Charity his Wife Benja Jenkins Yeoman & Sarah his Wife Each of Durham David Drew Yeoman & Abigail his Wife Robert Huckins Yeoman & Hannah his Wife Each of Madbury & Keria Boodey of Durham Each of the Province of New Hampshire for Divers Good Causes & Considerations us moving thereunto have given granted bargained sold & by these Presents do give grant bargain sell alien Enfeoff convey & confirm unto Azariah Boodey of Madbury in the Province aforesaid yeoman his heirs & assigns forever all our right title Interest that we have or ought to have in or unto ten acres of land granted by the town of Dover in the last Division in said town to our Hon^d Father Zechariah Boodey formerly of Dover deceased being the lot or Number ^{unt} to be laid out in the Common & undivided land in said town To have & to hold the abovesaid ten acres with all the Privileges Commodities to the same belonging or any ways appertaining to him the said Azariah Boodey his heirs & assigns to their only proper use benefit & behoof forever & We Eliza Beth Pitman Abednego Leathers Charity Leathers Benja Jenkins Sarah Jenkins David Drew Abigail Drew Robert Huckins Hannah Huckins & Keria Boodey for our selves our heirs Executors & Administrators do Each in our several capacity acquit all our right title Interest of In & unto said Premises unto him the said Azariah Boodey his heirs & assigns forever & that he or they & may & shall by force & Virtue of these Presents have hold use occupy & Enjoy the same without the least Molestation from us or our Inheritance In Witness whereof we have Hereunto set our hands & seals this Eighteenth Day of November & in the thirty first year of His Majesty's reign George the Second King of Great Brittain &c 1758

Signed Sealed & Delivered

In the presence of
 Eben Demerit
 Han^r Demerit
 Tho^s Davis
 Elizabeth Hixon
 John Thomson
 Tho^s Noble
 Benjamin Wille
 Sam^l + Wille
 Patience Clark
 Moses Emerson

Province of New Hampshire

Some time between the first of April 1758 & the fourth of June 1768 Then Eliza Beth Pitman Abednego Leathers Charity Leathers Benja Jenkins Sarah Jenkins David Drew Abigail Drew Robert Huckins Hannah Huckins Keria Boodey Personally appearing acknowledged this Instrument to be their free act & Deed before me Solo Emerson Justice of Peace

Rec^d April 30th 1773 & recorded from the Original Tho^s W^m Waldron Recorder

Elizabth Pitman (seal)
 mark
 Robert Huckins (seal)
 Hannah + Huckins (seal)
 mark
 Abednego Leathers (seal)
 Charity Leathers (seal)
 mark
 Benja Jenkins (seal)
 Sarah + Jenkins (seal)
 mark
 David Drew (seal)
 Abigail O Drew (seal)
 mark
 Keria Boodey (seal)
 mark

Dover Town Records Vol. 3, 1693-1757, P. 368. Petition for a separation of Madbury from Dover into an independent parish on May 13, 1743.

To the Inhabitants and Freeholders of the Town of Dover now in a general Meeting of them
 Septem. 19 1743 The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the westerly part of said Parish
 Humbly shew that your Petitioners apprehend you are as sensible of the Difficultie they are
 under by Reason of the Situation of their Dwelling with Respect to their Attendance on the Publick
 worship and Enjoying other Advantages of the Ministry settled in this Parish as well as your ability
 to support the Ministry without them and that as they have been at the Charge to build a meeting house
 you cant but allow it Reasonable they should Reap the Advantage thereof without buying it at so Dear a
 Rate as maintaining a Minister to preach there while they pay their proportion to the settled Minister
 Wherefore they pray you would Pass a vote signifying your Consent that they should be Erected into a Parish
 by the following boundaries viz Beginning at the bridge over Johnsons Creek and so to Run as the Road Runneth
 till it Comes to Joseph Denkins his house and from thence to Run on a Northwest and by north Course to
 head of the Township and in so doing you will do no more than you would be willing should be done for you
 were you in our Circumstances tho you will thereby much oblige your Petitioners and brethren who will
 Ever pray &c

Thomas Willey	Zechariah Gilman	John Bufell	Daniel Young	John Row
John Roberts	Salomon Emerson	William Bufell	Sam. Davis Jun ^r	Hercules mooney
Samuel Davis	Joseph Meek	William Demerrett	Jonathan Hanson	Joseph Twombly
Paul Cornfield	James Huckins	Eli. Demerrett Jun ^r	Robert Swan	Abraham Clark
Sam. Chesley	Azariah Budgey	Joseph Bines	William Twombly Jun ^r	Joseph Jackson
James Chesley	Dan. Masarvey	Jacob Daniel	Grace Twombly	James Clement
James Jackson	Francis Drew	Timothy Moss	Joseph Evans Jun ^r	
John Huckins	Tho. Buckford	Bray. Hall	John Evans	
Job Demerrett	Ralph Hall	John Demerrett	Henry Bickford	
John Tupper	John Tappan	Zechariah Dagerly	Jonathan Daniel	
David Daniel	Henry Tabbet	William Allen	William Hill	
	Derry Pitman	Joseph Daniel	Stephen Dinkham	
		Nath. O. Davis	Henry Bufell	
		Mark	Bray. White	

Sources/Further Reading

The majority of the research behind this study was conducted using online resources. Familysearch.com was heavily used for primary records, such as deeds, probate and town records. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds was also very helpful as was ancestry.com. Most other sources were found using a variety of search terms with many of the resulting websites documented below.

1. Charbonneau, Hubert, et al. "The population of the St-Lawrence Valley, 1608–1760". in *A population history of North America*. Cambridge University Press, 2000. P. 99-142.
2. "Oyster River Massacre – 1694". <https://minerdescent.com/2013/02/01/oyster-river-massacre-1694/>
3. "Dover, New Hampshire". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dover,_New_Hampshire
4. "Warning out of town". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warning_out_of_town#:~:text=Warning%20out%20of%20town%20was,might%20become%20a%20town%20charge and Dodge, Timothy. *Poor Relief in Durham, Lee and Madbury, New Hampshire*. Heritage Books, Inc, 1995. P. 4
5. Dover, New Hampshire. Town Clerk. *Dover Town records Vol. 3, 1693-1757*, P. 7
6. "I for Indentured servants". <https://donnagawell.com/the-redemption-of-mehitabel-braybrooke/abcs-of-crime-and-punishment-in-puritan-new-england/i-for-indentured-servants/>
7. O'Connor, Charles. "New Hampshire." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 10. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1911. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10785a.htm>
8. "The Edict of Fontainebleau or the Revocation (1685)". www.museeprotestant.org/en/notice/the-edict-of-fontainebleau-or-the-revocation-1685/
9. "Dragonnades". <https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Dragonnades>
10. *Dover Town Records Vol. 3, 1693-1757*, pp. 211 - 218
11. *Strafford County, New Hampshire. Strafford County Register of Deeds, Vol. 1*, p. 17
12. *Rockingham County, New Hampshire. Registry of Deeds, Book 84*, P. 30, and *Book 97 P. 459* <https://nh5laredo.fidlar.com/nhrockingham/AvaWeb/#!/search>
13. Alston, Lee J., and Morton Owen Schapiro. "Inheritance Laws Across Colonies: Causes and Consequences." *The Journal of Economic History*, vol. 44, no. 2, 1984, pp. 277–87. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2120705>.
14. *Dover Town Records Vol. 3, 1693-1757*, P. 368
15. New England Historic Genealogical Society Staff. *Church records of the Rev. Hugh Adams Principally at Oyster River Parish (now Durham) N.H. Baptisms etc.* The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Vol. 24, 1870. P. 28
16. Hammond, Priscilla. *Vital Records of Barrington, New Hampshire, 1720 – 1851*. P. 10.
17. New England Historic Genealogical Society Staff. *Church records of the Rev. Hugh Adams Principally at Oyster River Parish (now Durham) N.H. Baptisms etc.* The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Vol. 24, 1870. P. 28
18. *Ibid.* Volume 32, 1878. P. 135
19. *Strafford County Register of Deeds, Vol. 7*, P. 558
20. *Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 45*, P. 290
21. *Strafford County, New Hampshire. Strafford County Probate Records, Vol. 7*, P. 187

22. Stackpole, Everett, and Winthrop Meserve. History of the town of Durham, New Hampshire (Oyster River Plantation) with Genealogical Notes. Vote of the Town, 1913. Vol. 2, P. 229
23. Strafford County Probate Records, Vol. 7, P. 256
24. Ancestry.com. U.S., Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. P. 2747, citing a notice in Columbian Centinel of Boston, dated June 23, 1802.
25. New England Historic Genealogical Society Staff. *Church records of the Rev. Hugh Adams Principally at Oyster River Parish (now Durham) N.H. Baptisms etc.* The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Vol. 24, 1870. P. 28
26. Ibid. P. 29
27. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 44, P. 118
28. New England Historic Genealogical Society Staff. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Volume 24, 1870. P. 29
29. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 24, P. 496
30. Ibid. Book 73, P. 202
31. Ibid. Book 93, P. 412
32. Ibid. Book 97, P. 40
33. McKeen, Rev. Silas. A History of Bradford, Vermont. J.D. Clark & Son. 1875. P. 29
34. Bradford, Vermont, Town Clerk. Bradford Town and Land Records 1752-1868. P. 49 (8)
35. Bradford, Vermont, Town Clerk. Bradford Town and Land Records, Vol. 1, 1762-1794, P. 335 (12)
36. Stackpole. P. 229
37. New England Historic Genealogical Society Staff. *Church records of the Rev. Hugh Adams Principally at Oyster River Parish (now Durham) N.H. Baptisms etc.* The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Vol. 30, 1876. P. 61
38. Caverly, Robert Boodey. Annals of the Boodeys in New England. Published by the author, 1880. pp. 124-127
39. Harden, Henry W. Huckins Family, Robert Huckins of the Dover Combination and Some of His Descendants. Press of D. Clapp & Son, 1916. P. 15
40. Strafford County Probate Records, Vol. 4, P. 91
41. Ibid. P. 49
42. Harden. P. 15
43. New England Historic Genealogical Society Staff. The New England Historical & Genealogical Register, 1847-2011, Vol. 073, (1919). P. 198
44. Strafford County Register of Deeds, Vol. 10, P. 266
45. Ibid. Vol. 1, P. 215
46. Ibid. Vol. 1, P. 55
47. Ibid. Vol. 12, P. 427
48. Ibid. Vol. 12, P. 126