

**FIRST  
GENEALOGICAL  
RESEARCH  
COMPANY**

**Research Report (FGRC-Chapman)  
5 January 2009**

**Summary**

Goal: To extend the ancestry of Amasa Chapman, born about 1754, died 1 Nov 1822.

Results or Findings:

1. Produced a more complete timeline for Amasa Chapman from Hancock Town Records and other sources. This was a major accomplishment during this segment of research. The timeline provides an excellent context of the life and people in Hancock between 1776 and 1822.
2. Evaluated the temple work done in the Endowment House Baptisms for the Dead by descendants of the Chapman family. These records are very valuable genealogically.
3. Continued to refine the family group sheet for Amasa Chapman and Ann Darby and family group sheets for their male children: Amasa, Jr., Lyman, Isaac, Henry, and Hiram.
4. With further analysis we are more convinced of a familial relationship of Ebenezer Chapman and Amasa Chapman.
5. A reference has been found of a Rufus Darby in Pittsfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts. It is important to learn how he relates to Ann (Darby) Chapman
6. A list of Shakers was found in the 1850 Federal Census of Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. This is of interest only because at one time it was thought there could have been a connection with the Shakers.

### Endowment House Proxy Baptisms for the Dead Performed

Henry Freeman Cook and his wife Sophronia and two of their children, John and Hannah, did proxy baptisms in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City on May 13, 1875 for some of their ancestors and other family members. The following list contains Chapman names and relatives, the number of the ordinance, name of proxy, and the relationship of the proxy to person for whom the ordinance was performed.

Name	Number	Proxy	Relationship
Amasa Chapman	1307	Henry Freeman Cook	Grandson
Lyman Chapman	1308	Henry Freeman Cook	Nephew
Amasa Chapman	1309	Henry Freeman Cook	Nephew
Isaac Chapman	1310	Henry Freeman Cook	Nephew
Henry Chapman	1311	Henry Freeman Cook	Nephew
Hyrum Chapman	1312	Henry Freeman Cook	Nephew
Joseph Darby	1313	Henry Freeman Cook	Grand Nephew
Rufus Darby	1314	Henry Freeman Cook	Grand Nephew
Amasa Chapman	1315	Henry Freeman Cook	Great Grandson
Ann Darby	1317	Hanna Cook Dayton	Grand Daughter
Lucy Chapman	1318	Hanna Cook Dayton	Grand Daughter
Cynthia Chapman	1319	Hanna Cook Dayton	Grand Niece
Lois Chapman	1320	Hanna Cook Dayton	Grand Niece
Ann Chapman	1321	Hanna Cook Dayton	Grand Niece
Ann Darby	1322	Hanna Cook Dayton	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cousin
Asenath Darby	1323	Hanna Cook Dayton	?*
*No relationship given.			

Henry Freeman Cook was born in 1815, the son of William Cook and Lucy Chapman. Lucy Chapman was the daughter of Amasa Chapman and Ann Darby. Hence, Henry Freeman Cook was the grandson of Amasa Chapman. Document 1 is a drop-line pedigree showing the relationships between many of the Chapman and Darby persons for whom temple work was accomplished.

Hanna Cook Dayton was the daughter of Henry Freeman Cook and Sophronia Strobridge.

Therefore Hanna Cook Dayton was the granddaughter of Lucy Chapman who married William Cook.

An important question is how credible or valid is the information given in Endowment House Baptisms for the Dead? How valid are the relationships which are given? In general, the name column has more credibility than the relationship column.

The genealogical data and relationships were given by the family members participating in the temple work. Henry Freeman Cook was likely the person who provided the Chapman and Darby family information for the temple work. He was born in 1815. His mother, Lucy Chapman, was born in 1787, apparently in Hancock. Since Lucy (Chapman) Cook moved to Utah and died in 1857, it is likely that Henry Freeman Cook had a good knowledge of the Chapman family based upon his mother's knowledge. There should have been a solid recollection of his Chapman uncles: Amasa, Jr., Lyman, Isaac, Henry, and Hiram. He himself could have had a direct recollection of his grandfather Amasa Chapman. However, Hannah (Cook) Dayton would appear to have been the great granddaughter of Ann Darby rather than the granddaughter of Ann Darby. The identity of some people mentioned in the above chart are not known for certain at this time. Among these are: Joseph Darby and Rufus Darby, though one could hypothesize they are brothers of Ann (Darby) Chapman, wife of Amasa Chapman. But Ann Darby, a third cousin and Asenath Darby are not identified at this time. Additional research to further identify the unknowns on the chart of temple work should allow a better analysis of the validity of the information given for the temple work. Again, in general, the information in the name column has more credibility than the information in the relationship column. Obviously, the more

generations removed from the person giving the information, the less likely the information will be accurate and complete.

It seems apparent that the Utah Chapman family had no or very little contact with Hiram Chapman, who went to Virginia in the early 1840s. It is noteworthy that Hiram Chapman was still living at the time of his proxy baptism on May 13, 1875, in the Salt Lake City Endowment House.

### **Amasa Chapman Timeline**

The timeline below of Amasa Chapman has been compiled principally from the Hancock Town Records. It also includes occurrences of Amasa from various records such as land, military, tax, census, and family records. An exact date to the reference has been added from the town records where possible. The page numbers refer to the handwritten number on the lower lefthand corner of each page. Each photocopy contains two pages from the town record book. There is a left page and a right page for each page number. The left page is called C-1 and the right page C-2. The Hancock Town Record Book which was copied is labeled as Book One. The photocopy of the Hancock Town Meeting Records, August 26, 1776 – October 22, 1822 was indexed for Chapman entries by Mr. Kim Chapman, 7950 Plattville Road, Newark, IL 60541, (815) 475-4117 in 2004.

#### **Amasa Chapman Timeline (about 1754-1 Nov 1822, of Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts)**

About 1754 – Amasa Chapman possibly born about 1754, place unknown, parents unknown.

4-11 May 1777 – Ebenezer Chapman, Pittsfield (probably) on list of men who marched to Kinderhook with Capt. John Strong after inimical persons and were dismissed; service, 1 week. (From Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors of Massachusetts). This possibly refers to Ebenezer Chapman, Jr. of Hancock/Pittsfield.

4-13 Oct 1777 – Ebenezer Chapman, Pittsfield (probably), Private, Capt. Andrew Lusk's Co., Col. John Brown's Regt.; enlisted Oct 4, 1777; discharged Oct 13, 1777; service 10 days, with Northern Army; roll sworn to in Berkshire Co. This probably refers to Ebenezer

Chapman, Jr. of Hancock/Pittsfield. (From Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors of Massachusetts).

1 July 1778-31 Oct 1778 – Amasa Chapman who served as Private in Capt. Peter Porter's company, company detached from Gen. Fellow's (Berkshire company) brigade to serve at Albany under Gen. Stark. (From Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors of Massachusetts). [this probably refers to Amasa Chapman (ca.1754-1822)]

1 Dec 1781 – Ebenezer Chapman, Junr., [an associate of Amasa Chapman], Surveyor of Highways, (p. 19, C-1).

10 March 1784 – purchased seventy acres of land in Hancock from an Ebenezer Chapman, also of Hancock.

26 May 1785 – Ebenezer Chapman, acknowledged his sale of seventy acres of land to Amasa Chapman. [Amasa may have married shortly before or after this date.]

28 Jul 1785 – the above deed was recorded.

1785 or 1786 – Amasa Chapman married Anna or Ann Darby at about this time.

5 May 1787 – daughter Lucy born to Amasa Chapman and Anna in Hancock.

1789 – daughter Lois born to Amasa Chapman and Anna in Hancock.

15 Mar 1790 – Voted that Ebenezer Chapman [an associate of Amasa Chapman] be exempt from Paying fourteen shillings Due on Rate bill, (p. 54, C-2).

27 Mar 1790 – Voted that Ebenezer Chapman, Jnr. be Relinquished from that which Martin Townen[probably Townsend] has against him (Note: Martin Townsend was a Tory for a time during the American Revolution), (p.55, C-1).

1790 – Amasa Chapman appeared as a head of household in Hancock in the 1790 census. Listed next to him was an Ebenezer Chapman. (Note that the 1790 census of Hancock was alphabetical by the first letter of the surname.)

18 Apr 1791 – Voted that Amasa Chapman serve as Constable and Collector of Taxes for the present year, (p. 56, C-2).

18 Apr 1791 – Voted that Amasa Chapman be Surveyor of Highways for town of Hancock this present year, (p. 57 , C-1).

12 Mar 1792 – Voted that Amasa Chapman serve as Constable and Collector & voted that the said Chapman shall have 4 per centum for all the Taxes he shall collect provided he procure sufficient bonds for his faithful performance as Constable and Collector, (p.59, C-1)

- 12 Mar 1792 – Voted that Amasa Chapman be a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 59, C-1).
- 11 May 1792 – Amasa Capman [Chapman], Constable of Hancock, (p.61, C-1).
- 10 Jul 1792 – Amasa Chapman purchased 29 acres of land in Pittsfield, part of square no. 30 from Ezekiel Crandal of Pittsfield.
- 16 March 1793 – Ezekiel Crandal acknowledged his sale of 10 July 1792 before Eli Root, Justice of the Peace.
- First Monday in April 1793 – Voted that David Vaughan, Jr. should pay Amasa Chatman [Chapman] order, (p. 65, C-1).
- 29 Sep 1793 – Son Amasa, Jr. born to Amasa Chapman and Anna in Hancock.
- 4 Mar 1794 – Voted and made choice of Amasa Chapman, a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 66, C-1).
- 30 Apr 1794 – Amasa Chapman purchased two pieces of land, one of 40 acres and another of 14 acres from Charles Goodrick, Esq. (where)
- 1795-1797 – Son Lyman born to Amasa Chapman and Anna in Hancock.
- 6 Apr 1795 – Voted and made choice of Amasa Chapman as a Selectmn, (p. 68, C-1).
- 15 Dec 1795 – an order was signed by the Selectmen of Hancock, including Amasa Chapman warning out a group of people including Hanes Chapman. See below, date of 5 Sep 1796.
- 4 Apr 1796 – at a town meeting held at the School house in the Middle District, voted and made choice of Amasa Chapman as a Selectman, (p. 69, C-2).
- 4 Apr 1796 – at a town meeting held at the School house in the Middle District, voted and made choice of Amasa Chapman as a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 70, C-1).
- 5 Sep 1796 – directed to warn and give notice unto Hop and Burdick, Augustus Hall, Caleb Sheldon, Rebeckah Osborn, Elisabeth Cole, Nathan Cole, Hanes Chapman and Peter Croker of Hancock in the County of Berkshire transient [sic] persons who has lately come into this town for purpose of abideing therein not having obtaining the town consent therefor that they Depart the limits there of with their children and others under their care if such they have within fifteen days. Signed at Hancock 15 Dec 1795 by the Selectmen of Hancock, including Amasa Chapman. (p. 72, C-1).
- 1 Mar 1797 – Amasa Chapman made a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 73, C-2).
- 2 Apr 1798 – Voted and made choice of Amasa Chapman to be Selectman and Fence Viewer, (p. 75, C-2).

2 Apr 1798 – Voted Amasa Chapman as a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 76, C-1).

2 Apr 1798 – Amos Broad and Amasa Chapman appointed to the School Committee, (p. 76, C-2).

About 1799 – Son Isaac born to Amasa Chapman and Anna in Hancock.

11 Mar 1799 – Voted and made choice of Amasa Chapman as Constable and Collector, (p.78, C-1).

11 Mar 1799 – Amasa Chapman & Amos Broad appointed to the School Committee, (p. 78, C-2).

4 Apr 1800 – Hanes Chapman mentioned as one of thirteen named persons ordered to depart the town with their children, (p. 82, C-2)

7 Apr 1800 – Amasa Chapman chosen Selectman for Hancock, (p. 81, C-1).

7 Apr 1800 – Amos Broad and Amasa Chapman appointed to the School Committee, (p. 81, C-2).

8 Apr 1800 – an order notes the above people were ordered to depart the town on a note dated 25 Mar 1800. Order signed by Amasa Chapman, Constable of Hancock. (p. 82, C-2)

7 May 1800 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock, yeoman, sold a tract of land containing 9 acres to Elizabeth Pratt of Spencer town, New York.

1800 – Amasa Chapman appeared as a head of household in Hancock in the 1800 census.

27 Oct 1800 – the Selectmen of Hancock met the Selectmen of Pittsfield and from ?\_\_\_\_\_ the line between the towns, signed Amasa Chapman, Amos Broad, the Selectmen of Hancock, (p. 82, C-2).

9 Mar 1801 – Voted that Amasa Chapman serve as Constable and Collector for the south part of the town [of Hancock], (p.83, C-2).

First Monday of May 1801 – Voted that Amasa Chapman serve on the School Committee, (p. 86, C-1).

22 Mar 1802 – Amasa Chapman chosen as Selectman for ensuing year, (p. 93, C-1).

22 Mar 1802 – Voted that Amasa Chapman serve as Constable and Collector for ensuing year with his procuring sufficient Bonds to the town for his faithful performance, (p.93, C-1).

3 Apr 1802 – Amasa Chapman chosen to the School Committee, (p.94, C-1).

About 1802 – Son Hiram born to Amasa Chapman and Anna in Hancock.

- 4 Apr 1803 – Voted that Lieut. Amasa Chapman Serve as Constable and Collector for the South part of the town of Hancock the ensuing year with his procuring bonds to the satisfaction of the assessors [sic], (p. 96, C-2).
- 4 Apr 1803 – Amasa Chapman chosen as Surveyor of Highways, (p. 97, C-2).
- 4 Apr 1803 – Voted David Lapham procure 5 \_\_\_?\_\_\_ made use of in Repairing roads on the towns East, also [sic] \_\_\_\_\_ Amasa Chapman to procure one on the towns East, (p. 98, C-1).
- 12 Mar 1804 – Chose Amasa Chapman as Selectman for ensuing year, (p. 99, C-2).
- 12 Mar 1804 – Chose Lieut. Amasa Chapman for a Constable and Collector for ensuing year, (p. 100, C-1).
- 12 Mar 1804 – Chose Amasa Chapman as a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 100, C-2).
- 12 Mar 1804 – voted the one half of the following persons taxes on the highway shall be exempted form pay the ensuing Vis. Amasa Chapman, Benjamin Lilly, Jesse Doolitly [sic, probably Doolittle], Elizabeth Stephen, Jeremiah Stephens, Jacob Adams and Daniel Bolden, (p. 101, C-1).
- Jan 1805 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Gentleman, was plaintiff against three traders by the name of Whitney. Court Records, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.
- March 1805 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Gentleman, was plaintiff against Seth Hart of Pittsfield, yeoman.
- 18 Mar 1805 – Amasa Chapman voted a Selectman, (p. 105, C-2).
- 8 Apr 1805 – Voted Amasa Chapman serve as Surveyor of Highways in his stead, (p. 106, C-2).
- 8 May 1805 – the inhabitants of the town of Hancock met on Wednesday 8 May 1805 according to an adjournment. Meeting was opened and proceeded as follow (viz.): Vote that the following: Amasa Chapman, Jesse Doolittle, Eliphalet Stephens, Benjamin Lilly, Abner Stephens, Jeremiah Stephens, Joab [Jacob?] Adams, Daniel Belden shall be exempted from pay such a part of there highway tax as they shall occasionally pay to the Tirnpike [sic] gate upon the Turnpike from \_\_\_\_\_ to Pitsfield [sic] in case that the sum doth not exceed the one half of there highway tax the year ensuing, (p. 108, C-2).
- 20 Nov 1805 – This may certify that we the subscribers on the twentieth day of Novembder last Priambilated [sic probably perambulated] and \_\_\_\_\_ the line between Pitsfield and Hancock renewed the Corners and marks on said line. Witness our hands. Robert Francis, Amasa Chapman, Selectmen of Pitsfield and Hancock. (p. 110, C-1).
- 9 Dec 1805 – Amasa Chapman, one of the “Selectmen” is a pathmaster and setting boundary between Hancock and Richmond to the south.

19 Dec 1805 – Lucy, daughter of Amasa Chapman, married William Cook.

21 Dec 1805 – A record of the town line between Richmond and Hancock done by the Selectmen of the before mentioned towns after having run and renewed the bounds have agreed on the following as the line between the Towns To begin at Chesnut stake standing on Francis Plummers Land being the SW corner of Pitsfield and the SE corner of Hancock thence N 73 45' W one hundred and seventy five chaines and thirty eight links to a with of stones \_\_\_\_\_ standing by Abraham Merriman's Land on the E line of the state of N. York, being the NW corner of Richmond and the SW corner of Hancock Dec. 18, 1805 (?). Signed by Levi Chittorston and Paul Raymond, Selectmen of Richmond and Amasa Chapman, Selectman of Hancock. (P. 100, C-1)

7 Apr 1806 – Amasa Chapman, a Selectman, (p. 110, C-2).

7 Apr 1806 – Amasa Chapman, a Constable and Collector, (p. 110, C-2).

7 Apr 1806 – fence viewers sworn, including Amasa Chapman, (p. 111, C-2).

16 Mar 1807 – Amasa Chapman, Selectman, (p. 114, C-2).

16 Mar 1807 – Amasa Chapman, Constable and Collector, Sworn, (p. 115, C-1).

16 Mar 1807 – Amasa Chapman, a Surveyor, (p. 115, C-1).

16 Mar 1807 – That survey of a road in the town of Hancock Beginning in the middle of the road on the line of N. York State near the House of John Wadhams made by David W. Patterson Surveyor. Signed by Amasa Chapman and two other Selectmen.

2 May 1807 – Pursuant to within warrant I have notified the Inhabitants of town of Hancock, signed Amasa Chapman, Constable of Hancock, (p. 117, C-1)

13 Jun 1807 – Amasa Chapman, one of the Constables of the town of Hancock warned of a town meeting to be held Saturday 20 Jun 1807 for the purpose of a road leading from near the Shaker brickyard so called to the Turnpike Road South of Benjamin Lillys house, also to establish a Road leading from the main road Northerly from Mr. Jincks house to the Lainsborough Road, Northeast of Captn. D. Smith's House also to Establish a Road leading from the main Road Northerly from Silvester Gardner's house to Rhodes Whitmans brook Southwesterly from his house and to Establish the main road from the White stone Near John Gardners House to Williamstown line. Amasa Chapman signed this order as one of four Selectmen of Hancock. (p. 117, C-2).

1 Sep 1807 – Amasa Chapman and two other selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, constable to warn of a town meeting to be held 16 Sep 1807. Signed Amasa Chapman, (p. 121, C-1).

8 Sep 1807 – Pursuant to within warrant I have notified the town as the law directs, signed Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p. 121, C-1).

7 Jan 1808 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock, bought 34 acres of land in Hancock from Benjamin Lillie and Anna Lillie, his wife, both of Hancock.

14 Mar 1808 – Amasa Chapman sworn as one of the eleven Surveyors of Highways, (p. 123, C-2).

24 Mar 1808 – Amasa Chapman sworn as Constable and Collector, (p. 123, C-1).

4 Apr 1808 – Amasa Chapman assembled the inhabitants of Hancock to draw a grand juror and a Pettit [sic] Juror, (p. 126, C-1).

15 Apr 1808 – Amasa Chapman, of Hancock sold 2.5 acres of land in Pittsfield, being part of square number 30 to Seth Hooper of Pittsfield.

25 Apr 1808 – Pursuant to the within warrant I have notified the inhabitants of Hancock. Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p. 127, C-1).

Probably Apr 1809 – Amasa Chapman voted and sworn as Assessor, (p. 131, C-2).

Probably Apr 1809 - Voted that Amasa Chapman serve as Constable, (p. 131, C-2).

Probably Apr 1809 - Voted that Amasa Chapman be a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 132, C-1).

Probably Oct or Nov 1809 – Pursuant to this warrant I have summoned and warned the Inhabitants of the town of Hancock to assemble at the time and place herein directed as the law directs. Signed Amasa Chapman, (p 133, (C-2).

20 Mar 1810 – Voted that Amasa Chapman searve [sic]as Constable Sworn, (p. 135, C-2).

20 Mar 1810 – Voted that Amasa Chapman searve [sic] as Collector, (p. 135, C-2).

20 Mar 1810 – Voted Amasa Chapman as Surveyor of Highways and sworn, (p. 136, C-1).

5 May 1810 – Pursuant to the within warrant I have notified the inhabitants of the town as the law directs. Signed, Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p. 137, C-2).

1810 – Amasa Chapman appeared as a head of household in Hancock in the 1810 census.

3 Nov 1810 – A record of the line between Pittsfield and Hancock. Signed by Oliver Robbins, Selectman of Pittsfield and Jesse Doolittle and Amasa Chapman, Selectmen of Hancock, (p. 138, C-2).

- Nov 1810 – Warrant served by Amasa Chapman to have inhabitants of Hancock to be involved in choosing a Congressman, (p. 139, C-1).
- Nov 1810 – Pursuant to the within warrant I have notified the inhabitants of the town of Hancock by me. Signed: Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p.139, C-1).
- 10 Mar 1811 – Amasa Chapman warned all eligible inhabitants of Hancock to assemble, (p. 139, C-2).
- 18 Mar 1811 – Three Selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, one of the constables to warn the inhabitants of a Town Meeting on 1 Apr 1811. (need source)
- 23 Mar 1811 – Pursuant to a warrant I have notified the inhabitants of the town of Hancock. Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p. 139, C-2).
- 1 Apr 1811 – Voted Amasa Chapman to be Assessor for the year 1811, (p. 140, C-2).
- 1 Apr 1811 – Voted Amas [sic] Chapman to be Constable and Collector for 1811, (p. 140, C-2).
- 1 Apr 1811 – Amasa Chapman sworn as a Surveyor of Highways for 1811, (p. 141, C-1).
- 1 May 1811 – Amasa Chapman given a warrant to warn a Representation Meeting, (p. 143, C-1).
- 6 May 1811 – Pursuant to the within warrant I have warned the Inhabitants of said warn as the law directs. Signed Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p. 143, C-1).
- 10 Mar 1812 – Warrant to Amasa Chapman, Constable warrants for the Annual town meeting to vote for governor, Lt. Governor, Senators, and Counsellors [sic] (for Massachusetts) at the house of William Lapham, inholder on Monday sixth day of April next. (p. 144, C-1)
- 29 March 1812 – Amasa Chapman notified the inhabitants of Hancock, (p. 144, C-2).
- 6 Apr 1812 – Amasa Chapman, Constable and Collector sworn, (p. 145, C-2).
- 6 Apr 1812 – Amasa Chapman voted and sworn as Surveyor of Highways, (p. 146, C-1).
- 1 May 1812 – Selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, Constable to warn of meeting. (p. 148, C-2).
- 1 May 1812 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, stated he notified inhabitants as per warrant, (p. 148, C-2).
- 15 Jun 1812 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock sold about 26 acres of land lying in Pittsfield to Alcott Chapman, Jun. of Pittsfield.
- 15 Mar 1813 – Selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, Constable, to warn the Annual town meeting to be held Monday 5 Apr 1813, (p. 152, C-2).

- 15 Mar 1813 – Warrant ordered by the Selectmen of Hancock for a town meeting to be held on \_\_\_Apr 1813. Also mention of a road going from the Shaker Village in Hancock. (p. 152, C-2).
- 27 Mar 1813 – Amasa Chapman notified he had served a warrant for the meeting immediately above. Signed Amasa Chapman, Constable, (p.153, C-1).
- 4 Aug 1814 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock purchased 26 acres of land in two pieces in Pittsfield from Alcourt Chapman, Junr.
- Probably 3 Apr 1815 – Amasa Chapman, Constable and Collector sworn, (p. 164, C-2).
- Probably 3 Apr 1815 – Amasa Chapman sworn as Surveyor of Highways, (p. 165, C-1).
- Probably 3 Apr 1815 – Amasa Chapman appointed to the School Committee, (p. 165, C-2).
- 14 Aug 1814 – on this day Alcourt Chapman, Junr. acknowledged the above sale to Amasa Chapman.
- 15 Mar 1815 – Selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, Constable, to serve warrant for town meeting to be held on 3 Apr 1815, (p. 166, C-2).
- 25 Mar 1815 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, confirmed he notified the inhabitants, (p. 166, C-2).
- 28 Apr 1815 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, ordered to warn a meeting to choose Representative to the General Court, (p. 169, C-1).
- Probably Apr 1815 – Amasa Chapman confirmed he served the above warrant, (p. 169, C-1)
- 12 Sep 1815 – on this day the above deed was recorded by Amasa Chapman.
- 10 Mar 1816 – Selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, Constable told to serve a warrant to notify inhabitants to attend a government meeting to choose town officers for 1816, (p. 170, C-2).
- 23 Mar 1816 – Amasa Chapman confirmed he served the above warrant. (p. 170, C-2).
- 1 Apr 1816 – Voted Amasa Chapman to serve as Constable and Collector for the ensuing year, (p. 171, C-2).
- 1 Apr 1816 – Amasa Chapman sworn as a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 172, C-1). [ the Collectors shall be allowed 5 percent for collecting the taxes the ensuing year.]
- 1 Apr 1816 – Amasa Chapman appointed to School Committee for the 6<sup>th</sup> District, (p. 172, C-2).

- 4 May 1816 – Selectmen of Hancock ordered Amasa Chapman, Constable, to warn a Representative Meeting, (p. 173, C-1).
- 1816 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, indicated he had warned of the above meeting. (p. 173, C-2).
- 6 Jun 1816 – Amasa Chapman, of Hancock, yeoman, sold five acres of land with the buildings thereon to Wolcott Lawrence of Pittsfield, Gentleman. Witnesses to the deed were Alcourt Chapman and Frederick Allen.
- 26 Oct 1816 - Amasa Chapman, Constable, assigned to warrant a meeting for the choice of a Representative to Congress, (p. 174, C-2).
- 4 Nov 1816 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, states he warned of meeting immediately above. (p. 174, C-2).
- 7 Mar 1817 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, served warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, (p. 175, C-2).
- Mar 1817 – Amasa Chapman, Constable, notified of the annual meeting above, (p. 175, C-2).
- 7 Apr 1817 – Amasa Chapman appointed as Constable and Collector, (p. 176, C-1).
- 7 Apr 1817 – Amasa Chapman sworn as a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 177, C-1).
- 1 May 1817 – Amasa Chapman of Hancock sold two pieces of land in Pittsfield, one of twenty-two acres and the other of twenty acres to Abraham C. Brown of Pittsfield. On this same date appeared Anna Chapman, wife of Amasa Chapman, and stated that she released all her right of dower in the within described premises.
- 11 Jun 1817 – Voted Amasa Chapman, a Selectman of Hancock, (p. 180, C-2).
- Probably May 1818 – Voted that Capt. Daniel Smith, Amasa Chapman and Capt Joshua Foster appointed to a committee to look into the situation of the cross road between Martin Townsend and Rodney Dawley and report to the town. (p. 183, C-1).
- 13 Mar 1819 – Voted that Amasa Chapman appointed to School Committee, (p. 186, C-2).
- 1820 – Amasa Chapman appeared as a head of household in Hancock in the 1820 census.
- 7 Apr 1820 – Voted that Amasa Chapman keep Marcy Hathaway one year for forty dollars without any additional expence [sic] to the town unless the Selectman provide some other one to keep her for less, (p. 193, C-2).
- 1821 – Voted Amasa Chapman [but apparently now sworn] as a Surveyor of Highways, (p. 200, C-1).

1821 – Amos Chapman [I believe this is a different man than Amasa] voted to serve on School Committee for the year, (p. 200, C-1).

1821 – That Amasa Chapman support the four above paupers [names not given] free all expences [sic] from said town for the sum of \$150 but if either of the above paupers should dye [sic] within the before mentioned time – he, the said Amasa shall refund such sum as the Selectmen shall judge reasonable, (p. 220, C-2).

1 Nov 1822 – Amasa Chapman died this date, probably in Hancock. Newspaper source.

26 May 1824 – the deed dated 1 May 1817 (above) was received and recorded in the Berkshire County Land Records.

1830 – The female age 60-69 in the household of Hiram Chapman in the 1830 census is likely Ann/Anna, the widow of Amasa Chapman, the elder.

4 Feb 1839 – Hiram Chapman of Pittsfield for sum of \$602 sold to Henry Stevens of Pittsfield a piece of land containing 43 acres.

10 December 1842 – See deed immediately above of Hiram Chapman. On this date the deed was recorded. The deed contains and addendum by Ann Chapman:  
“I, Ann Chapman, wife of Amasa Chapman, the Father of the within Hiram Chapman, hereby acquit my right of dower on the within described land.” (See documents 3-A and 3-B).

Thus, she could have been living as late as 10 Dec 1842.

### **Summary of Offices and Duties held by Amasa Chapman in Hancock**

Town Records are very important in New England research as they offer a wide variety of records of genealogical interest.

Careful analysis of the Hancock town records has provided additional information about Amasa Chapman, and clues and leads for further research on the origins of Amasa Chapman.

From the town records we find that:

1. Amasa Chapman was heavily involved in the town government of Hancock.
2. He at various times, was a Selectman, a Surveyor of Highways, a Constable and Collector of Taxes, and a member of the School Committee multiple times.
3. He was associated in the town with men such as Amos Broad, Jesse Doolittle, and others who held similar offices in the town.
4. He was also associated with a Hanes Chapman, with Ebenezer Chapman, and Ebenezer Chapman, Junior.

5. Amasa occasionally had aged people or paupers living in his home. They stayed in his home until they died or until someone else agreed to take them in and charge less money from the town for their subsistence.

An Amos or Amas Chapman appears in the town records also. It is possible one of the Amasa Chapmans holding office may have been Amasa, Junior.

I am not certain how the given name Amasa was pronounced. I suspect it was pronounced as AM uh suh (the accent is on the capitalized syllable). However, it could have been misspelled because of the way it was pronounced. Hence, such a pronunciation may have influenced spellings such as Amas or even Amos. If it was pronounced as AM is suh, may account for the spelling Amisa.

#### **More Evidence Pointing to a Probable Familial Relationship between Ebenezer Chapman and Amasa Chapman**

Evidence found in the Edward R. Knurow Papers has strongly suggested that there is a high likelihood of a familial relationship between Ebenezer Chapman and Amasa Chapman. Edward R. Knurow was a conservation officer in the Hancock area for many years in the mid and late 1900s. He was very familiar with the localities of Berkshire County. He must have had a penchant for genealogical and historical details. He produced a diagram regarding alterations in the Lebanon Springs Road brought about October 5 and October 10, 1826. On the October 10<sup>th</sup> or Second Alteration there was mention of the following (see document 2):

Old Ebenezer Chapman Farm –Tavern – 1782 – Amasa Chapman Store, 1804-1807.

Isaac Chapman Tavern, 1821.

The Second Alteration made it necessary to move the turnpike gate, to be located near Chapman's as traffic was detouring around same.

Though we feel reasonably certain of the familial relationship, we do not yet know the specific relationship. Isaac Chapman was the son of Amasa.

Other close neighbors included: William Stevens' dwelling house; Jesse Doolittle Tavern, 1807-1812; Chapman's; Capt. Jeremiah Stevens, Amos Broad, and Eliphalet Stevens. All of these families lived either on the Pittsfield or on the Hancock side of the Hancock/Pittsfield boundary on what later became West Street in Pittsfield.

### **Clue to Later Whereabouts of Lyman Chapman, son of Amasa and Ann**

In searching deed in the Middle District of Berkshire County, Massachusetts a quit claim deed of Lyman Chapman, et. al. was found. An abstract of the deed follows:

Lyman Chapman and Hannah Chapman of Avon, Lorain, Ohio for \$83.33 received from Oliver Robbins of Pittsfield, Berkshire, Mass. convey unto Oliver Robbins and his heirs and assigns right title etc. we have in the estate of Richard Robbins deceased and also in the thirds of Elizabeth Robbins lying in Pittsfield. Deed dated 8 Jun 1825. Signed Lyman Chapman, Hannah Chapman. Wit.: Noah Crocker. It appears that Lyman Chapman was married to Hannah Robbins and that Hannah was the daughter of the deceased Richard Robbins and probably his widow Elizabeth Robbins.(See document 7).

In the 1820 census of Troy, Cuyahoga, Ohio, a Lyman Chapman appears. Avon in Lorain County, Ohio is just west across from Cuyahoga County. Lyman is between 16 and 25 years old (thus born between 1795 and 1804. There are three males in his household, age 0-9 years. A female, likely his wife, is also in the household, age 16-25(See document 6-A). It is very likely this is the same couple who appear in the deed (document 7) in Berkshire County, Mass.

Of additional interest is the adjacent name in the census: Amisa Chapman. Amisa is a male age 26-44 (born between 1776 and 1794). We currently have no idea who this might be, but it is definitely of interest.

A Lyman Chapman appears in the 1830 census of Dover, Dutchess, New York (see document 5-A). His age is 40-49 and does not appear to be of interest.

### **Possible Amos Broad Connection**

Amos Broad appeared to be one of the closest associates in town government as well as being a near neighbor. According to the Rootsweb.com website Amos Broad married a Phebe Cook. Phebe was supposedly born 3 May 1756. "They lived on the mountain top between New Lebanon Springs, New York, and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where they kept a stage house on the old stage road as late as 1824. She was very fond of her Doolittle grandchildren who often went up the mountain from New Lebanon to spend some time with her daughter Lucy Broad who married Allen son of Squire Spencer. Phebe's sister Lois married Oliver Doolittle. Phebe was aunt to Captain Joel Cook who was appointed captain by President Jefferson and served under General William Henry Harrison at battle of Tippecanoe, where he saved the life of this future president." (See documents 8-A, 8-B, and 8-C)

There may be some clues and some truth in the above. There is another Amos Broad, born 17 Apr 1775 in Holden, Massachusetts, reputedly son of Josiah Broad and Elizabeth Scott. He may have married a Phebe (born 3 May 1756 in Wallingford, Conn.) There may have been some confusion in the application of compiled data between the two. As you are well aware compiled sources may have some truth but many errors. Still they should not be totally neglected because the grain of truth may lead to solution of a difficult research problem.

### **Rufus Darby of Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

Rufus Darby married Sophia Wadhams (born Nov 8, 1784, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts) (document 9).

Undoubtedly Rufus must have been a relative of Ann (Darby) Chapman.

### **Shakers in Hancock**

By 1850 the Shakers had a relatively large presence in Hancock. Their colony included 188 Shakers in the 1850 federal census.

### **Future Research**

The best opportunity for future productive research lies in the following:

1. Find more information on the Chapman and Darby individuals for whom temple work was done.
2. Reexamine men named Amasa Chapman who lived in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and other states in the 1700s or the first decade of the 1800s.
3. Research the Berkshire County land records/deeds of the male children of Amasa and Ann Chapman. There are several deeds for Hiram Chapman which have not been examined yet.
4. Do searches in Cuyahoga and Lorain County, Ohio records to learn more about Lyman Chapman, one of the sons of Amasa and Ann.
5. Investigate further the Rufus Darby who lived in Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts to hopefully determine his relationship to Ann (Darby) Chapman.
6. Perform a brief study of associates of Amasa who appear most prominently in his timeline. In Lineage-linked data bases such as Rootsweb.com and printed family histories can be used rather quickly to help find clues and information to hopefully assist in extending Amasa Chapman's ancestry. The Doolittle and Broad families should especially be examined for connections to Amasa Chapman.

This is not an easy problem to solve. We have not exhausted all avenues by any means. We believe that it can be solved with patient persistent efforts.

Larry L. Piatt, AG

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

The best opportunity for future productive research lies in the following:

1. Find more information on the Chapman and Darby individuals for whom temple work was done.
2. Reexamine men named Amasa Chapman who lived in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine, and other states in the 1700s or the first decade of the 1800s.
3. Research the Berkshire County land records/deeds of the male children of Amasa and Ann Chapman.
4. Do searches in Cuyahoga and Lorain County, Ohio records to learn more about Lyman Chapman, one of the sons of Amasa and Ann.
5. Investigate further the Rufus Darby who lived in Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.
6. Perform a brief study of associates of Amasa in the timeline in lineage-linked data bases such as Rootsweb.com in order to find for clues to assist in extending his ancestry.