

Amasa Chapman Report

28 March 2009

The goal of this research is to determine the parentage of Amasa Chapman, born about 1754 and died 22 November 1822. He was a resident of Hancock, Massachusetts at least as early as mid-1777, and lived there until his death. He lived near the border of Hancock with Pittsfield. During his life he owned property in both Hancock and in nearby Pittsfield.

Summary of Findings

The major findings and accomplishments from this research period are briefly summarized immediately below:

- Further evaluation and interpretation was done on Chapmans in the 1783 and 1784 tax valuations of Hancock, Massachusetts.
- The timeline for Amasa Chapman was updated and refined.
- The death date of Anna (Darby) Chapman, widow of Amasa Chapman, has been found.
- A couple of militia lists or military rosters were located which listed the names of Revolutionary soldiers who served in the same unit as Ebenezer Chapman of Berkshire County on one list, those who served with Amasa Chapman of Hancock appear on another list.
- Further identifying information on Henry D. Chapman, son of Amasa and Ann Chapman, has been located. Henry's birth and death dates have been found. Henry D. and his brother Hiram, died in West Virginia.
- We found additional information on Hiram Chapman, including his death date and his reputed age at death. From this information, a birthday can be calculated.
- Family group sheets for most of the children of Amasa and Anna Chapman have been updated.
- There is a "probability" another daughter of Amasa and Anna Chapman, Ann Chapman, born 1791 or 1792, has been discovered. Cynthia Chapman, possibly born about 1797, based on temple work in 1875, in the Endowment House, may be a second additional daughter.
- Further research was accomplished in identifying various Chapman males named Amasa born in the 1700s and early 1800s in hopes of finding a clue to Amasa's parentage. However, fewer men of the name Amasa Chapman, born before 1775 have been noted than was expected.
- A small group of people acquainted with Hiram and Henry D. Chapman in Massachusetts also went to what is now West Virginia. Hiram, Henry and some of their Massachusetts associates and descendants became very influential in West Virginia affairs.
- Henry D. Chapman appears two times in the 1850 census, once in Massachusetts and once in Virginia.

- Henry D. had quite a resume. He was a Physician. He also was a delegate to the Wheeling, Virginia Convention which was held to put in motion a separation from the State of Virginia, and to form a new state “Kanawha”. He was also a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1863 which formulated the Constitution of the new state and organized the state of West Virginia.
- Ann or Anna (Darby) Chapman has been located, or her probable location found, in every federal census from 1790 through 1850.
- Additional information has been found on Hanes/Hains Chapman of Hancock, Massachusetts as well as some of his probable descendants. One of his descendants had the given name Amasa.
- An obituary for Henry D. has been located and another one probably exists in the “Berkshire Courier” Newspaper. An obituary probably exists for him in West Virginia also.
- In our research we have uncovered additional descendants of Amasa and Anna Chapman. We are reasonably certain that many have not had their temple work done.

While looking up the meaning of the given name Amasa we learned some very interesting material from Wikipedia on the Internet. The name Amasa is applied twice in the Bible. Most famous is Amasa, the son of Abigail, one of two sisters of David. This Amasa became an army leader, first of Absalom (2 Sam. 17:25), later of David (19:13), supplanting his cousin Joab. For this and other reasons Joab killed Amasa (20:10).

The name Amasa means burden bearer. A related name with a similar meaning is Amos. It is no wonder that some confusion of the names seems to appear in census records for example, with Amasa, Amas, and Amos occasionally being interchangeable.

The other Amasa in the Bible was a son of Hadlai, and one of the leaders of Ephraim (2 Chr. 28:12) during the reign of evil King Ahaz (2 Chr. 28:1-4). The normal pronunciation of Amasa, according to most authorities is ah – MAHS –eh.

Amasa has not been a common name throughout the history of America. For example, the name has not broken into the top thousand given names since 1886 based upon a study of Social Security applications. In searching for the given name of Amasa in the 1790 census on Ancestry.com we found there were 184 (document 47-A through 47-H). In 1790, it is obvious that the name was popular in New England.

Details of Findings

1783 and 1784 Tax Valuations of Hancock, Massachusetts

In a previous report we mentioned the Tax Valuations of 1783 and 1784 for Hancock, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, these are the only two early years for which tax records

for Hancock exist. Further analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of these valuations has strengthened the probable close relationship between Ebenezer Chapman and Amasa Chapman.

In the 1783 valuation of Hancock, Ebenezar [sic] Chapman, Ebenezar [sic] Chapman, Junr. and Hanes Chapman are listed consecutively in the above order. Names on the tax valuation sheet are arranged alphabetically by the first letter of their surnames. Ebenezar Chapman had two polls in his household, Ebenezar Chapman, Junr. had one poll, and Hanes Chapman had two polls. As stated previously to be a poll a male had to be sixteen years of age or older. According to this valuation each of the abovementioned three men owned some real property. Thus, it is probable all three were above the age of twenty-one.

In the 1784 tax valuation of Hancock, those on the tax list are not arranged alphabetically by even by the first letter of the surname. Thus, they appear to be geographically arranged. Ebenezar Chapman and Amasa Chapman are adjacent to one another. Hanes Chapman is listed a column away. Ebenezar Chapman owned seventy acres of land. According to this record Amasa Chapman owned no real estate at all. Hanes Chapman owned twenty-five acres of land. All three of the Chapmans had three white persons in their household. Hanes and Amasa had no dwelling house. Ebenezar had a dwelling house and one other building.

One of the assessors, Thomas Lusk was listed immediately below Amasa Chapman. The assessors had completed the 1784 list by October 1784. The assessors stated "The reason why the State Valuation does not accompany this is because we are in daily expectation to have the line between this county [Berkshire] and the State of New York run by the Committees of the two states, when we expect by the progress they have already made, that near half this town will be cut off by York line, and this state would not wish us to give in a valuation of any part of another state."

Another portion of the 1784 valuation was titled "A List of the Polls and of the Estates, Real and Personal, of the Several Proprietors and Inhabitants of the Town of Hancock". This table gives in greater detail information on the land, personal property, and livestock. Ebenezar Chapman and Amasa Chapman are both listed separately as having one poll. Ebenezar was listed on tax list No. 1 and Amasa on list No. 2. Each list was arranged by the first letter of the surname, It appears that the printed forms for 1784 were received and the data within them refers to the tax and ownership status as of September 1st, 1783.

In summary, it appears that Amasa Chapman may have been the second poll, living in Ebenezer's (apparently the elder Ebenezer) house in 1783.

Amasa Chapman Timeline

Additions to the timeline include the following dates include: 1852 death of Ann Chapman his widow; birth dates of Hiram and Henry D. Chapman; and the known death dates of the children of Amasa and Anna; and dates of military service of Ebenezer Chapman.

Death Date of Anna (Darby) Chapman, Widow of Amasa Chapman

We feel very fortunate to have found the death date for Anna (Darby) Chapman. A search of the Massachusetts State Vital Statistics (which began the keeping of statewide births, marriages and deaths in 1841) failed to yield a death record for her. Nor did we find a death record for her in the town records of Egremont. However, a death notice for her appeared in the records of the Egremont, Massachusetts Congregational Church. On page 148 of an extracted church record we find: under Deaths, "May 29, 1852 – Mrs. Chapman, Aged 89 years." (See document 2-A). This certainly appears to apply to Anna (Darby) Chapman.

Anna appears in the 1850 federal census for Egremont in the household of her son Henry D. Chapman. The 1850 census indicates she was 87 years old, suggesting she was born in 1762 or 1763. We feel certain both the 1850 census and Congregational Church record apply to Anna, the widow of Amasa Chapman, Sr.

Anna (Darby) Chapman Has Been Found, or Evidence of Her Probably Found in Every Federal Census from 1790 through 1850

A chart, document 40, addresses Ann's age at the time of each federal census and her age given at her death. There is one discrepancy in the 1800 census where Anna should be from 26 to 44 years old, but no such female of that age range is listed in the census. It is not unusual for censuses to have some errors, particularly considering there were nineteen individuals in Amasa's household at the time of the 1800 census (document 22-A).

Militia Lists including Amasa Chapman and Ebenezer Chapman and Those Who Served with Them in the Revolutionary War

Both Ebenezer Chapman and Amasa Chapman served in the Revolutionary War although not in the same unit. We have discovered a list of those who served with each

of them. In the case of Amasa and his co-soldiers, the town from which the soldier hailed is stated. Though the town was not given for Ebenezer and his co-soldiers, most of the soldiers who served with Ebenezer were also from Berkshire County. This is inferred from a comparison of the names on the military rosters with the names appearing in the 1790 census of Berkshire County. It was found that for most of the soldiers their names also appeared in the 1790 census of Berkshire County.

Ebenezer Chapman appeared on a Revolutionary War Roll of the company of Captain Oliver Root Company. Microfilm Publication No. M246, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783. This microfilm publication has been imaged and indexed by a commercial firm, www.footnote.com. The provenance of this roll is interesting and follows:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Berkshire. I Henry W. Bishop Register of the Court of Probate within and for said County of Berkshire certify that a book bearing marks of great age purporting to be a book kept by Capt. Oliver Root, late of Pittsfield in said county has been presented to me and thence is contain or contained [sic] a record of the muster roll of his company of which the foregoing is a copy. (signed) Henry W. Bishop.

This muster roll contains seventy names. I should state that Capt. Root was the grandfather of the wife of Isaac Chapman and the first wife of Hiram Chapman, Tryphena Root and Lavinia Stocking Root, respectively.

An additional find was the "muster roll" including the name of Amasa Chapman. His name appears on a list in the same publication mentioned above, M246 and is also on Footnote. This list is titled "Roll of Soldiers Rased [sic] for service until the first of January next (a roll of soldiers mustered for service until the first of January next. The muster itself was dated July 3, 1778. It contains twenty-six names and is arranged by Berkshire towns. The first two names are Richard Treat and Amasa Chapman. The town given for Richard was Hancock [sic]. Though no town is mentioned next to Amasa, the overall structure of the list makes it clear Amasa was of Hancock. A Richard Treat, Jr. appears on the 1783-1784 Tax Valuations of Hancock.

In summary, with regard to both of the above lists, a comparison with the 1790 census of Berkshire and the 1783-1784 tax valuations shows many of the same names are found, proving the soldiers were mainly from Berkshire County.

question occurs: why did Amasa Chapman and Ebenezer Chapman neither obtain a pension for their service in the Revolutionary War. As time passed after the Revolutionary War, in general, the pension laws became more lenient. Many Revolutionary War pensions were destroyed in a fire in Washington, D.C. in 1814. Most

of the early pensions were allowed for widows whose husbands had died in the war. The pension law of 1818 was much more lenient. However a financial crisis or Panic as they were called in that day occurred. The government ran low on money, so the pension law was amended and was much less lenient. Basically, a pensioner almost had to prove he was a pauper to draw a pension. Thus, Amasa, based on his short time of service and property holdings would have been ineligible under the new law promulgated shortly before his death in 1822. But his widow should have been eligible after 1836 to draw a widow's pension based on his service. Some veterans were eligible for a pension but did not apply.

Further Identification of Henry D. Chapman, Physician, and His Descendants

A somewhat flowery obituary for Henry D. Chapman appears in a compilation of deceased doctors. (See document 1-A and 1-B). As you can see below from his obituary, Henry D. was quite influential in West Virginia.

“Henry D. Chapman, of Spencer, Roane County, West Virginia, was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He enjoyed the educational advantages afforded at Williams College: read medicine with Dr. Beekman, of Kinderhook, N.Y., and with Dr. Delamater (subsequently a professor in the Cleveland Medical College, Ohio), of Sheffield, Mass., entered the Berkshire Medical College, Massachusetts, from which he received the degree of M.D.

He was a patron of all the leading medical journals, both European and American. A man of untiring energy; indomitable will; strictly temperate, at the age of fifty he quit the use of tea, coffee, and tobacco, and of the latter especially he was an avowed enemy the remainder of his life.

Dr. Chapman died at his residence in the town of Spencer, Roane County, West Virginia, March 12, 1870, aged seventy-one years.

He stood very high as a physician, in the estimation of an appreciative people among whom he practiced his profession.

For the latter ten years of this highly esteemed physician's life his declining health forbade the extension of his professional labors beyond the immediate neighborhood of his mountain home.

His reputation was most creditable and wide spread, attracting to him from a distance the afflicted in great numbers. He was held in no less estimation as a citizen and neighbor than as a physician. Kind, generous in his nature, he was always ready to extend a helping hand to the needy.

Dr. Chapman was born in the State of Massachusetts, and came to West Virginia about the year 1840.

During the bloody strife of our civil war, he acted as aid to Governor Boreman, ranking as colonel, and frequently accompanying the State troops on the dangerous errand of bringing up supplies from the Ohio River to Spencer.

On the occasion of one of these trips, when fired upon by a band of guerillas, he received a severe gunshot wound in the thigh.

In the year 1862 [actually 1863?], Dr. Chapman was elected as a delegate to the convention which framed the Constitution of West Virginia, and labored during the sittings of that convention with honor to himself and his constituents.”

Soon after arriving in Virginia, Henry D. was a participant in local affairs as one of the commissioners of the first election of officers for Smithfield District (document 29-C).

Another obituary for him appears to be in the “Berkshire Courier” newspaper in Massachusetts (document 16-B). This would have to be sent for I believe.

In the publication Roane County, West Virginia Cemeteries, we located a transcription of his tombstone in the Spencer, (West Virginia) Memorial Cemetery:

Henry D. Chapman, born Pittsfield, Mass.
7/12/1799-3/12/1870

Located near his tombstone is that of one of his daughters, Jane:

Jane Schilling
6/12/1834-1/14/1889

See document 28-C for both of the above.

Additional Information on Hiram Chapman of Roane County, West Virginia and His Descendants

In the same cemetery, Spencer Memorial Cemetery, the mortal remains of Hiram Chapman and his second wife Eliza (Carpenter) rest:

Hiram Chapman:

Died – 6/20/1885, aged 72y 2m 15d

Eliza Chapman:

Died – 9/26/1889, aged 58y 18d

(document 28-E for both of above)

The age at death given on Hiram's tombstone seems to be too young. Based on some of his ages in the federal census he may have deflated his age or whoever supplied the age to the census taker did so. The reason may have been because he was somewhat older than his second wife.

Like Henry D, Hiram Chapman lived an illustrious chapter of his life in West Virginia also. He was a large landowner and more than relatively successful financially. Hiram Chapman and his brother Dr. Henry D. Chapman both purchased significant acreage in what is now West Virginia. According to one county history, Hiram first became a merchant in Charleston. And Henry D. tarried at first on the Ohio River about Hartford. Prior to September 6, 1842 Hiram had purchased from the Commonwealth's commissioners of forfeited lands two large tracts containing about 33,500 acres. (document 29-B).

One of Hiram's descendants, Harry Chapman Woodyard, served in the United States Congress. An excerpt from the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1775-2005 states:

“Harry Chapman Woodyard a representative from West Virginia; born in Spencer, Roane County, W. Va., November 13, 1867; attended the common schools; engaged in the wholesale grocery and lumber business; member of the State senate in 1898; elected as a Republican to the Fifty-eighth and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1903-March 3, 1911); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1910 to the Sixty-second Congress; elected to the Sixty-fourth congress to fill the vacancy cause by the death of Hunter H. Moss, Jr.; reelected to the Sixty-fifth, Sixty-sixth, and Sixty-seventh Congresses and served from November 7, 1916 to March 3, 1923; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1922 to the Sixty-eighth Congress; elected to the Sixty-ninth Congress (March 4, 1925-March 3, 1927); was not a candidate for reelection to the Seventieth Congress; resumed his former business pursuits; died in Spencer, W. Va., on June 21, 1929; interment in Spencer Mausoleum.”

Henry D. and Hiram Chapman Family Group Sheets Updated and Family Group Sheets Begun for Their Descendants

A goodly number of family group sheets have been begun for Henry D. Chapman descendants and Hiram Chapman descendants.

Possible Additional Daughters of Amasa and Ann (Darby) Chapman

We were very excited to learn of two more potential daughters of Amasa and Anna (Darby) Chapman. These probable daughters are Ann and Cynthia. Ann appears in the census household of Henry D. Chapman in 1850 and 1860. More information on these daughters is given under "Henry D. Chapman Enumerated Twice in 1850 Census," just below, and in "Temple Work Done in 1875 in the Endowment House", further below.

Massachusetts and Connecticut Associates of Hiram and Henry D. Chapman Left Their Marks in West Virginia.

A small "colony" of people from Massachusetts moved south to what is now West Virginia, in association with Henry D. and Hiram. Included in this group are surnames of Andrews, Baldwin, and Spencer who distinguished themselves in West Virginia. For example, John W. Spencer became the sheriff of Roane County, Virginia (document 29-C). Indeed, several descendants of Henry D. married spouses from the Berkshire County, Massachusetts area. Henry D. seemed to hold closer to Massachusetts than did his brother Hiram which is not unusual, considering the probable circumstances, of an ugly breakup, when Hiram deserted his first wife in Massachusetts.

Henry D. Chapman Enumerated Twice in 1850 Census

Henry D. Chapman was enumerated twice in the 1850 census, once in Gilmer County, Virginia, and the second time in Egremont, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In the former place Henry appears in the household of John W. Spencer in District 17 (documents 10-A through 10-C) . Henry was listed as H.D. and a physician, born in Massachusetts. His appearance as a head of household in Egremont, Massachusetts (documents 9-A through 9-C) is much more interesting and revealing genealogically. These two census enumerations are summarized below.

1850 Census Egremont, Berkshire, Massachusetts

Name	Age/ Gender	Occupation	Value Real Estate	Birthplace
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Henry D. Chapman	51/M	Physician	\$1,500	Mass.
Anna Chapman	87/F			Conn.
Lois Chapman	38/F			N.Y.
Annjenette Chapman	19/F			Mass.
Jane Chapman	16/F			Mass.
Nancy Chapman	13/F			Mass.
Isabelle Chapman	6/F			Mass.
Anne Chapman	56/F			Mass.

(See documents 9-A through 9-C)

In the above census, it is clear that Anna Chapman, age 87, born Connecticut, is the widow of Amasa Chapman, and the mother of Henry D. Lois Chapman is the wife of Henry D. and Annjennette, Jane, Nancy, and Isabelle are his daughters. Anne Chapman, could be an additional daughter of Amasa and Anna Chapman.

In 1855 Nancy married Dr. Joseph M Bassett in Egremont, Massachusetts (document 11).

1850 Census District 17, Gilmer, Virginia

Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Value Real Estate	Birthplace
John W. Spencer	33	M	Farmer	\$600	Mass.
Permelia Spencer	23	F			Mass.
Milton Andrews	21	M	Laborer		Mass.
H.D. Chapman	51	M	Physician	\$20,000	Mass.

(See documents 10-A through 10-C)

The adjacent family, A. Andrews and Olive are the parents of Milton Andrews, part of the New England contingent in Virginia. (document 10-B)

In 1860, Henry D. Chapman was a head of household in Spencer, Roane County, Virginia.

1860 Census Spencer, Roane, Virginia

Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Value Real Estate	Value Personal Property	Birthplace
Henry D. Chapman	62	M	Physician	\$20,000	\$2,000	Mass.
Ann Chapman	68	F				Mass.
Jane Chapman	26	F				Mass.
Isabel Chapman	16	F				Mass.
Magdaline Rohrbough	22	F	Domestic			Va.

(See documents 8-A through 8-C)

Jane and Isabel are the same individuals as Jane and Isabelle Chapman in Egremont in 1850. Ann Chapman, age 68, is the same individual as Anne Chapman, age 56, in the Egremont census of Henry D. Chapman's household in 1850.

We strongly suspect Ann is a sister of Henry, and hence, another daughter of Amasa and Anna Chapman. In looking again at the temple work done on May 13, 1875 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City (Baptisms for the Dead), we conclude Cynthia Chapman is another daughter of Amasa and Anna Chapman. Hannah Cook Dalton who was the proxy was a grand niece of Cynthia according to the data in the temple record.

Probable Additional Information on Hanes or Hains Chapman of Hancock, Massachusetts

The given name of Haynes, Hanes, or Haines is relatively rare. Hanes had been warned out of Hancock. In fact, Amasa Chapman as Selectman wrote the order. Hanes had very poor land, much poorer than the piece of land Ebenezer and Amasa had owned. He still could have been related to them, even closely related.

The son of a probable descendant of Hanes (various spellings) of Hancock received the name Amasa (see document 27). This drop-line pedigree chart shows Hanes Chapman, probably of Hancock, and his descendants through his daughter Silvia. Silvia married Silas Kellogg, and their son Lyman and his wife named a son Amasa Chapman Kellogg. Amasa Chapman Kellogg was unmarried as of 1878. His death date is currently not known by us.

Haynes Chapman, born 1787, is probably a son of Hanes, Sr. and is also probably a brother of Silvia. If so, Haynes was a son of Hanes and Hannah Chapman. Haynes, Jr. married Polly Huggins, daughter of Zenas Huggins and Senah Huggins. It is noteworthy that Zenas was born in Sheffield, Massachusetts and his wife Senah was born in New Marlborough, Massachusetts. Both of these towns are located in Berkshire County. Hence, now we seemingly have both geographical and name ties between Hanes Chapman and Amasa Chapman of Hancock.

Further Research in Identifying Other Amasa Chapmans of the 1700s

Surprisingly, the given name Amasa is more frequent in New England than the uninitiated might think.

In a study of pre-1800 Amasa Chapmans, we encountered relatively few. The earliest Amasa Chapman encountered was born in 1759. This tends to make me think that the temple record indicating that Amasa Chapman, Sr.'s father was also named Amasa is possibly incorrect. If Amasa Sr. was born between 1754 and 1758, his father would have been born in 1738 or earlier.

Temple Work Done in 1875 in the Endowment House

Descendants of William and Lucy Cook performed temple work in the Endowment House for Chapman and Darby family members on May 13, 1875. A research goal during this segment of research has been to identify those for whom the work was done. See document 45 for a drop-line pedigree illustrating the names and relationships of those who received temple work, based upon current knowledge. The number of the temple ordinance is also given on the drop line relationship pedigree.

Some of those for whom temple work was done in 1875 are still not specifically identified as to their specific place in the Darby and Chapman families.

Rufus Darby of Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Another objective of this research segment was to learn more about Rufus Darby of Pittsfield. Rufus was born in 1784 or 1785, in Connecticut. He died in 1870, reputedly at Mt. Liberty, Knox County, Ohio. He married first in about 1804, Sophia Wadham, daughter of Caleb Wadham and Dorothy Hubbard. Sophia was born 8 Nov 1784 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. They were the parents of six children. Sophia died in 1820 and Rufus married second, about 1826, Margaret _____. This Rufus appears to be a generation younger than Anna Darby Chapman.

Interestingly, some of the descendants of Rufus and Sophia, also went south. Their eldest son, John Franklin Darby went to Georgia, and eventually to Brooklyn, New York. John was a teacher for some years and later became a chemical manufacturer (documents 48-A through 48-C; 49-A through 49-C; and 50-A through 50-C).

Also, Sophia Wadham's brother Franklin Wadham was a witness to the deed of sale in May 1822 from Amasa Chapman to his son Isaac Chapman, This was just six months before Amasa died.

Proof Summary

This proof summary discusses the pro's and cons of where the determination of Amasa's parentage stands at this time. Currently, the most likely candidate for father of Amasa Chapman is the elder Ebenezer Chapman. Supporting this belief are:

- Amasa, Ebenezer, and Hanes Chapman are the main contemporaries of the surname in Hancock, Massachusetts in the time period of Amasa's residency there. Some circumstantial evidence given earlier in this report indicates Hanes may have been related to Amasa.
- Ebenezer Chapman and Amasa Chapman were enumerated adjacent to one another in the 1790 census of Hancock (see document 21).
- Obviously, the most important pro supporting Ebenezer as Amasa's father is his deed of 10 March 1784 of the first 70 acres of land Amasa owned in Hancock. The fact Amasa did not record this deed for over eleven years tends to strengthen the suggestion that the transaction was "within the family", and that they could have had a son-father relationship.
- The 1783-1784 tax valuations support a close relationship between Amasa and Ebenezer.
- Both Ebenezer (probably Ebenezer, Jr.) and Amasa served for a brief time in the Revolutionary War, albeit not in the same unit. It would appear that Ebenezer, Jr. probably moved elsewhere. But a question remains, who was the ninety year old Ebenezer who died in 1842?

The cons in some instances are questions or points of concern, and raise issues tending to weaken the father-son relationship.

- The Chapman surname is common in nearby Pittsfield, Massachusetts, a much more densely populated area than Hancock. Not all of the possible Chapmans of Pittsfield have been ruled out.
- Why haven't birth records and other vital records of any of the children of Amasa, Sr. shown up in the Hancock Vital Records?
- What happened to Ebenezer, Sr. and Ebenezer Jr.? They do not seem to be in the Hancock area after about 1795 to 1805.
- The Ebenezer Chapman who died in 1842 at age ninety was not old enough to be the father of Amasa. Another question is why was Ebenezer Chapman who died in 1842 described as Deacon? He must have been supportive of a church at least when he died. Could Ebenezer, Jr. have gotten religion in his older years. A corollary question is sparked by why hasn't an Ebenezer Chapman appeared in any federal census of Hancock since 1790? Yet an Ebenezer Chapman died in 1842 in the area but did not appear in any censuses after 1790. Clearly, he or they must have moved away.
- Why didn't Amasa's widow apply for a Revolutionary War pension based on Amasa's service?

- So far Amasa and his family have not appeared in many church records.

Taken as a whole, at this time, there is not enough evidence to sufficiently prove the father-son relationship of Ebenezer and Amasa.

The questions expressed above need to be addressed before the proof can be considered convincing.

More needs to be learned about the two Ebenezers, who they are, and what happened to them.

In summary, excellent progress has been made in adding information about Amasa and Anna and their children. Progress has also been made in learning more about key associates of Amasa. And more needs to be learned about his associates.

A great amount of new information has been accumulated during this segment of research. More remains to be done to solve the parentage of Amasa Chapman, Sr. and provide adequate proof. We think we are on the right track but we still do not have sufficient evidence to say with enough certainty that Ebenezer Chapman is the father of Amasa.

Recommendations for Further Research

In future research we recommend continuing to work on the potential father-son relationship of Ebenezer and Amasa Chapman. Our desire is to either prove or rule out this father-son relationship.

Major strategies and records to search:

- Because Amasa lived so close to Pittsfield, a next step would be to concentrate on Pittsfield records. There are more earlier tax records available for Pittsfield (dating from 1761) than for Hancock. Amasa and other Chapmans lived in Pittsfield. These records are on film but are not at the Family History Library.
- Since the father of Amasa should have been born by 1738, the male Chapmans of the area born 1738 or before should be examined more closely to see if a connection can be discovered to a father of Amasa.
- More church records need to be examined surrounding the Hancock area.
- Births, marriages, and death need to be systematically searched in the surrounding area.
- Seek to obtain copies of the death notices in the "Berkshire Courier" for Henry D. Chapman and Anna Chapman by correspondence. Check for an obituary for

Hiram and Henry D. Chapman in Spencer, Roane County, West Virginia newspapers.

- Seek to identify more thoroughly the earlier life of the Ebenezer Chapman who died at age 90 in 1842.
- Seek to learn more about Cynthia Doolittle, widow of Jesse Doolittle who died in 1813. This lady appears to be too old to have been Amasa's daughter Cynthia. Amasa Chapman, Sr. paid three years of back taxes for Cynthia Doolittle. Perhaps there a blood relationship of some nature.
- Comb through parts of the Corbin Collection and the Edward Knurow Collection.
- Some genealogical clues or information of import may exist in eastern New York areas of Washington, Rensselaer, and Columbia Counties.

We look forward to continuing research on this pesky problem.