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**Research Report (FGRC-Cook/Chapman F/O)
8 July 2008**

The goal of this research is to identify the ancestors of Lucy (Chapman) Cook, born 5 May 1787 in Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts. Her presumed parents are Amasa Chapman and Ann Darby. As stated in the first report, onomastics (naming patterns) strongly suggest Lucy Chapman was a daughter of Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Massachusetts. However, stronger and more complete evidence of the family connections need to be discovered. This study has continued during this research segment to more fully identify Amasa Chapman, the likely father of Lucy. The life of the elder Amasa Chapman of Hancock has been further fleshed out in the land records.

The summary below shows partial abstracts of a series of land transactions involving Amasa Chapman of Berkshire County, Massachusetts. The earliest known purchase of land by Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Massachusetts occurred on March 10, 1784, (Doc. 55) at which time he purchased seventy acres of land located in Hancock from Ebenezer Chapman. Ebenezer personally appeared before Samuel Hand, a Justice of the Peace on May 26, 1785 and acknowledged his sale to Amasa. The deed was not recorded until July 28, 1795. Amasa's purchase adjoined that of Joel Stephens at the time of his purchase. Ebenezer appeared next to

Amasa in the 1790 census (Doc. 6), but does not appear by name in any later census in Berkshire County.

The second known land purchase by Amasa Chapman follows: Ezekiel Crandal of Pittsfield, Berkshire, yeoman sold for 60 pounds in fee simple to Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County, yeoman a tract of land in Pittsfield being part of square no. 30, containing by estimation 29 acres. The deed was dated 10 July 1792 and signed by Ezekiel Crandal. Witnesses were James Taylor and Augustus Crandal. Ezekiel Crandal acknowledged the deed before Eli Root, Justice of the Peace on March 16, 1793. This deed was not recorded until October 1, 1813. (Doc. 83) The next land purchase by Amasa occurred on 30 April 1794, when he purchased two pieces of land, one of 40 acres adjoining Amos Broad, Eliphalet Stevens, Jacob Ward, and Nathaniel Robins [sic Robbins], and of 14 acres from Charles Goodrick, Esq. All three of the above pieces of land were recorded on July 28, 1795. Charles Goodrick's surname was sometimes written as Goodrich, and apparently locally pronounced as "Gutrick". (Doc. 56)

It would seem probable that Ebenezer is probably related to Amasa, but the specific relationship, if any, is currently unknown. Additional land transactions by Amasa are summarized below.

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County, yeoman, sold for \$90 silver money in fee simple to Elizabeth Pratt of Spencer town, New York a tract of land containing 9 acres. The deed was dated 7 May 1800 and was signed by Amasa Chapman. The witnesses were Luke Noble and Joshua Danforth (a Justice of the Peace.) (Doc. 70)

Benjamin Lillie and Anna Lillie, his wife, both of Hancock [sic], Berkshire County for \$105 leased 34 acres of land to Amasa Chapman of said Hancock land on the westerly side the Turnpike road, being the same whereon they now dwell, bounded easterly on said Turnpike highway northerly on Amos Broad's land and westerly on same land and southerly on a highway. It was agreed that the said house and half an acre of land adjoining the same or so much as is usually occupied for a garden spot is not to be included in this lease. The transaction was dated 7 Jan 1808 and was signed by Benjamin Lillie and Anna Lillie. Witnesses

were Wolcott Hubbell and Mary Hubbel. [Wolcott Hubbell was a Justice of the Peace at this time.] (Doc.71)

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County, yeoman, sold for sixty dollars in fee simple to Seth Hooper of Pittsfield of same county a parcel of land lying in Pittsfield being part of square number 30 containing by estimation 2.5 acres. The deed was dated 15 April 1808 and was signed by Amasa Chapman. Witnesses to the deed were Rodman Hazard (a Justice of the Peace) and Caleb Robbins. (Doc. 77)

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County sold his farm on which he lived for \$2,720 in fee simple to William Ensign of the town of Dalton, Berkshire County a tract of land containing 50 acres with the buildings thereon standing. This deed was dated 15 June 1812 and signed by Amasa Chapman and by the mark of Anna Chapman. Witnesses were Lyman Chapman and Betsy Broad. (Doc. 72)

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County sold in fee simple for \$475 to Alcott Chapman Jun. of Pittsfield Berkshire County two tracts of land lying in Pittsfield containing about 26 acres in total. The deed was dated 29 Sep 1813. The deed was signed by Amasa Chapman and Anne Chapman. Witnesses were Oren Goodrich (a Justice of the Peace) and Daniel Sacket. (Doc. 82)

Alcourt Chapman Junr. of Pittsfield, Berkshire County sold for \$475 in fee simple to Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County land lying in Pittsfield [the same piece of land as immediately above] containing in two pieces about 26 acres. The deed was dated 4 August [year not given but probably 1814 based upon the date of deed acknowledgement was on 14 Aug, 1814 and it was recorded from the original on 12 Sept. 1815]. The deed was signed by Alcowt Chapman. Witnesses to the deed were Lyman Chapman and Richard C. Cogswell. (Doc. 85)

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County, yeoman sold in fee simple for \$125 to Wolcott Lawrence of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Gentleman, a parcel of lands containing five acres of land together with the buildings standing thereon. The deed was dated 6 June 1816 and signed by Amasa Chapman. Witnesses were Alcourt Chapman and Frederick Allen. (Doc. 86)

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County, sold in fee simple for \$400 to Abraham C. Brown of Pittsfield, Berkshire County two pieces of land in Pittsfield, supposed in both pieces to contain twenty, twenty two acres. The deed was dated 1 May 1817 and was signed by Amasa Chapman. Witnesses were Oren Goodrich (a Justice of the Peace) and Roxana Goodrich. Also on 1 May 1817 appeared Anna Chapman, the wife of the above named grantor [Amasa Chapman], and stated for the consideration aforesaid do hereby release all my right of Dower in the within described premises. She signed as Anna Chapman. The deed was received and recorded from the original on May 26, 1824. (Doc. 87)

Amasa Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County sold in fee simple for \$2,000 to Isaac Chapman of the same town a lot or parcel of land in Hancock it being the whole of the whereon I now live containing 100 acres and 34 rods. The deed states: for a more particular description of said lot reference may be had to the former deed make to me by Ebenezer Chapman, John Ward and Charles Goodrick. This deed is dated 25 May 1822 and was signed by Amasa Chapman. Witnesses were Joshua Danforth (a Justice of the Peace) and Franklin Wadham. (Doc. 74)

Another deed related to Amasa Chapman is: Isaac Chapman of Hancock, Berkshire County sold in fee simple for \$2,000 [a tract of land on which I now live, being the same tract of land which Amasa Chapman conveyed to me the said Isaac Chapman by deed dated 25 May 1822] paid by Hiram Chapman of Hancock, a tract of land containing 100 acres and 34 rods, with no encumbrances except the claim of Anne Chapman, widow of Said Amasa for dower and an encumbrance of a lease to said Anne during her life of seventy acres of said premises hereby conveyed. The deed was dated 28 Jan 1828 and signed by Isaac Chapman. Witness was Calvin Martin. On Jan 28, 1828 Isaac Chapman acknowledged the above instrument before Calvin Martin, J.P.: "Know all men...that I Anne Chapman, widow of Amasa Chapman in consideration of one dollar paid me by the within named Hiram Chapman do hereby release and quit claim all my rights to dower in the within described premises to his the said Hiram Chapman, his heirs and assigns forever." Dated 23 Feb 1833 and signed by Anne Chapman. Witness Levinia S. Chapman. [Thus, we know that Anne Chapman was still alive as of 23 Feb 1833]

Another appendage: "Know all men by these presents, that I Tryphena Chapman, widow of Isaac Chapman, do hereby release and quit claim all my right to dower in the within described premises to his the said Hiram Chapman his heirs and assigns forever." This document was also dated 23 Feb 1833 and signed by Tryphena Chapman. Witness was Samuel H. Root. (Doc. 73)

Hiram Chapman of Pittsfield, Berkshire County for \$2,500 sold in fee simple to William W. Murray of Pittsfield a piece of land in Hancock on the road leading from Pittsfield to Lebanon on either side and bounded thus: the tract on the south side of said road bounded on the north by said road, east by land owned by William Stephens, west by land owned by Alanson Stevens, and south by Samuel Stocking; and the tract on the north side of said road bounded north by land owned by John Moduck, on west by Amos Broad, on the south by William and Jeremiah Stevens, the said two parcels containing 150 acres, and called the Mountain Farm. It was all the land conveyed unto **Amas Chapman deceased, father of said Hiram** by Charles Goodrich, as also by John Ward to said Amasa Chapman, the said John Ward conveying three different parcels by three several deeds. This deed was dated 22 Dec 1838 and signed by Hiram Chapman. Witnesses were P.L. Hall and Ensign H. Kellogg. (Doc. 78)

Early on in this research I felt that Ebenezer Chapman could have been the father of Amasa Chapman, the elder. Further analysis of federal census records and other evidence seems to indicate they were more likely brothers. In the 1790 census (Doc. 6) they were enumerated next to one another. However, it must be kept in mind that the 1790 census as well as other 1830 and earlier censuses were alphabetized by the first letter of the surname.

Hence, even though two heads of household were listed adjacent to one another did not necessarily mean they were enumerated consecutively. But it does suggest that they probably lived near one another. At this time, more evidence is needed to pin down their relationship, if any.

Table Showing 1790-1820 Census Analysis of Amasa Chapman, Sr. Family

Census Year	Males	Females
1790	2 males total	4 females total
See Doc. 6	1 male over 16 – Amasa Chapman, Sr.	1 female – probably Anna
	1 male under 16 - ?	1 female – prob. Lucy
		1 female – prob. Lois
		1 female - ?
1800	9 males total	10 females total
See Doc. 8	1 male 45 and up – Amasa Chapman, Sr.	1 female 45 and up – prob. Anna
	1 male 45 and up - ?	1 female 45 and up - ?
	1 male 16-25 - ?	1 female 16-25 - ?
	1 male 10-15 - ?	1 female 16-25 - ?
	1 male 10-15 - ?	1 female 10-15 - Lucy
	1 male 0-9 – Amasa, Jr.	1 female 10-15 - Lois
	1 male 0-9 - ?	1 female 10-15 - ?
	1 male 0-9 - ?	1 female 10-15 - ?
	1 male 0-9 – Isaac	1 female 0-9 - ?
		1 female 0-9 - ?
1810	6 males total	4 females total
See Doc. 14	1 male 45 and up – Amasa, Sr.	1 female 45 and up – Anna

	1 male 16-25 - ?	1 female 45 and up - ?
	1 male 10-15 - ?	1 female 16-25 - ?
	1 male 10-15 -?	1 female 0-9 - ?
	1 male 10-15 - ?	
	1 male 0-9 – Hiram	
1820	4 males total	4 females total
See Doc. 17	1 male 45 and up – Amasa, Sr.	1 female 45 and up – Anna
	1 male 16-25 - ?	1 female 45 and up - ?
	1 male 16-25 - ?	1 female 26-44 -
	1 male 10-15 – prob. Hiram	1 female 10-15 -

It is clear that from 1800 through 1820 censuses significant numbers of the Amasa household are not members of the nuclear family. It is possible that some potential nuclear family members may not be presently known. Note the working family group sheet in pencil to which Isaac and Hiram have been added. There could be additional members of their family both male and female. The typical family in the post-Revolutionary War period had eight to ten children. Since Amasa may have run a tavern and he had a farm, there could have been other males and even females who participated in these endeavors.

In the 1820 census of Hancock, Berkshire County (Doc. 17) the second name below Amasa Chapman, Sr. in the census is “Amas” Chapman. The 1820 census indicates he was probably between the ages of 26 and 44, making him born between 1776 and 1794. If this census entry refers to Amasa, Jr., his being born in 1793 would fit within the age range given in the census. Currently, he is the eldest know son of Amasa Sr. Apparently, Amasa, Jr. moved to Ontario County, New York between the 1820 and 1830 censuses. Amasa, Jr. did not appear in Berkshire County in 1830. He needs to be investigated greater detail.

The Chapman surname is well represented in the lists of patriots from Massachusetts. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, vol. 3, pages 325-327 lists an

Amasa Chapman, a private, Capt. Peter Porter's Co.; enlisted July 1, 1778; discharged Oct. 31, 1778; service 4 months; company detached from Gen. Fellow's (Berkshire County) brigade to serve at Albany under General Stark, [p. 325]. This may be your ancestor.

Another Chapman of interest is Alcut Chapman, Pittsfield. Descriptive list of enlisted men; age 19 (also given 18); stature, 5 ft. 7 in.; complexion, light; hair, brown (also given light); occupation, farmer (also given nailer); birthplace, Hatfield; residence, Pittsfield; enlisted for town of Roxbury; enlisted Aug. 31 (also given (Sept. 1 and 3), 1781; joined Capt. Eliphalet Thorp's Co., Lieut. Col. John Brooke's (7th) regt.; enlistment, 3 years; also, Private, 4th Co., Lieut. Col. John Brook's regt.; return for clothing received between Nov. 1, 1781, and May 31, 1782.

Two men of the name Ebenezer Chapman were listed in this source (p. 326, 327). One was from Belchertown, Mass. who was age 16 in 1780 [therefore born ca. 1764]. The other of the name was of Pittsfield (probably). List of men who marched to Kinderhook May 4, 1777, with Capt. John Strong after inimical persons and were dismissed May 11, 1777; service one week; also, 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 County. It would seem this man is likely the same Ebenezer who was listed next to Amasa Chapman in the 1790 federal census of Hancock. Unfortunately, no age was given for either Amasa or the latter Ebenezer Chapman mentioned above.

Brief Summary of History of Hancock, Massachusetts

Hancock, an agricultural town is the longest and narrowest in Berkshire County. It has one third of the State's boundary on New York and in its early history it was more slowly settled

because of the uncertainty of the State line and the possible claims of the old Van Rensselaer estate.

Until 1787 the town was nearly three-fourths of a mile wider than now, and in that portion, the first settlements were made. The earliest settlements were made near the central and western part of the town, then called Jericho, between April 13 and August 7, 1767. Others located eastward and northward along the valley through which flows a stream then, in old called Canterhook (Kinderhook now). In the early years there was a forty shillings per year tax for all freeholders. Amasa was a freeholder because he was called a yeoman. However, it appears that it was difficult to collect.

The first town meeting was not held until August 21, 1776. During the Revolutionary War the magazine in which the powder was kept in an underground stone structure, was in the present cemetery, a half mile north of the village of Hancock. In March 1783 meetings a book for recording marriages, births and deaths with orders that the town clerk record such items. To this date (1885), the town records appear as from an old book, now lost, but in an attested copy.

The Family History Library has films of vital records for Hancock between 1767-1900, but many births, marriages, and death were apparently not recorded. These vital records need to be looked at again.

Prospects for Further Research

Excellent opportunities exist for further research:

- Additional research should be done on the next level of associates: people such as Lyman Chapman, Isaac Chapman, Amasa Chapman, Jr. and others who were close neighbors of Amasa Chapman, Sr. The land records of Berkshire County are primary sources for such research.
- Correspondence (or email) should be sent to the Pittsfield Atheneum to have search made on the Amasa Chapman family. The Edward R. Knurrow Collection has been electronically indexed. A request will be sent to them
- Could Lyman be another son of Amasa? This hypothesis should be tested.

- The Vital Records of Hancock need to be examined again, as mentioned above.
- There are additional record collections which should be searched such as: Berkshire County Court of Common Pleas Records, 1761-1859; Berkshire County Probate Records beginning in 1761; the Corbin Collection; Pittsfield Tax Records – Series 1 (1761-1849; 1771 Massachusetts Tax Evaluation List; and many others.