

### The Portsmouth Cripple

#### Memoir of William R. Fales

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1850, by Lindsay and Blakiston, In the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Reviewed by Jeraldene Bloom

Thanks to a tip from Cindy Shultz, John Thomas Fales obtained a copy of *The Portsmouth Cripple* (1850). It is a very small book containing 151 pages. It is a collection of letters and notes from William R. Fales who was crippled as a child and confined to bed in a twisted, painful manner. It contains his memoirs written from 1848 to 1850 when he died at age 30.

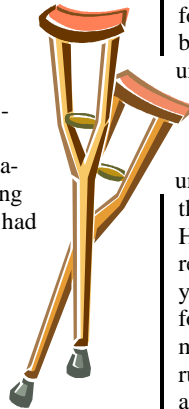
William contracted his illness when he was 6-1/2 years old confining him to a bed with contorted limbs, unable to help himself, nor even able to raise his head by himself. He lived his latter years in the Portsmouth Almshouse near Newport, Rhode Island off Narragansett Bay.

The following is an excerpt of his writing, which is an autobiography of his life, from pages 22-26. We do not know any more than this, including the lack of knowledge of his middle name. If anyone who reads this has further information of **this** William R. Fales, please contact either John T. Fales or myself.

#### Autobiography

Without any view to its publication, the following Autobiography was obtained in the autumn of 1848, at the request of the compiler, whose increased interest in the situation of W. R. Fales awakened the desire to know something of the vicissitudes through which the hand of Providence had guided, and thus far brought the sufferer on his way.

I was born October the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1820, in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. My mother was one of a family of thirteen children, and her father, being in limited circumstances, she was obliged at an early age to leave home, in order to procure the means of her own living. For a while she obtained employment in the neighbouring families, after which she removed to a greater distance, and commenced working in a cotton factory. Here she became acquainted with a man by the name of Nathaniel Fales; they soon became mutually attached to each other, and were subsequently married, and alas, it is *I* who am the unfortunate offspring of that unhappy union; and it is *he* that I am doomed to call my father, though to my recollection I never saw him but once, and that was when about eleven years old. For the first five years of my life I was permitted to remain with my grandparents, after which my mother took me to live



with an aunt in Somerset, Massachusetts, who was the wife of a respectable farmer. Here I was kindly received, and lived very comfortably, without anything occurring to interrupt my happiness, until a little more than six and a half years of age, when my series of sore afflictions commenced. Yes, on one fine afternoon in April, I was sent on an errand with another boy older than myself, and on our return home we stopped by the wayside, and, not considering the consequences, we incautiously stripped off our clothes, and went into a pond to bathe. While thus engaged, we espied a carriage approaching, and strove to get dressed before we should be seen, but in the haste my shirt fell into the water and got wet, yet I put it on, and went home. Being so young, we did not know that we had endangered our health by this adventure, therefore said nothing about it until it was too late; for that same evening I was attacked with chilliness, and continued to grow worse, until I was unable to stand upon my feet. A physician was called, who pronounced my disease to be inflammatory rheumatism, or the effects of sudden cold. Well, then I had to go through a long course of bleeding, blistering, and physic, and, as nearly as I can recollect, I began to recover in about fifteen months. Yet I never fully recovered, but was ever afterwards in a very precarious state of health, and, though part of the time I was able to do some work, yet whenever I took cold I was subject to severe fits of sickness, and thus my time passed away until I had commenced my fifteenth years, when my mother, having again married, and being about to remove with her husband to Pennsylvania, concluded to take me with then, hoping, by a change of climate, I might become more healthy, and assist then in working their farm. Accordingly, in November 1834, they took me from my good home in Massachusetts, and carried me to Rutland, Pennsylvania, and in the following spring we began vigorously to cultivate our land, but by being much exposed to the cold, I soon began to feel more unwell, yet continued to work day after day, until my limbs became so swollen and painful, that it was difficult for me to stand or go; and when a doctor was sent for he appeared to know little about my disease, and after a few visits left me uncured, for the disorder had made such insidious inroads throughout my whole system, as entirely to baffle his skill. However, towards the latter part of September, I so far recovered as to stand on my feet, and walk about considerably; yet being exposed during the inclement weather, I was, in the following February, so much worse as to be obliged to take to my bed, from which I never more expect to arise. Ah yes! February 1836, was the last time I ever stood upon my poor feet, and March 1840 the last time I ever sat up in a chair. Year after year passed away, during which my afflictions were various and unbounded, till a length, through the mysterious workings of Providence, the way opened for me to be removed to this place in June 1846... I was allowed to attend the district school, much of the time intervening between my ninth and fourteenth years. Putting it all together, I may have received about three years' schooling... Thus twenty-eight years of my miserable existence have passed away, and in looking back at them, it is evident that more than twenty-one of those years have been one unbroken chain of afflictions... (continued on page 5)

## Financial Report - 2003

Fales Family Association  
January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Balance - January 1, 2003	\$1315.12
Credits:	
Dues -	\$500.00
Donations -	<u>26.00</u>
	\$526.00
Debits:	
FFAN - 4 issues	\$705.91
Reunion subsidy	44.23
FGS Dues	70.00
Honorarium	150.00
CD development	54.20
Website develop.	<u>45.00</u>
	\$1069.34
Balance - December 31, 2003	\$ 771.78

*Humble apologies for omitting this report from FFA Treasurer Allen R. Fales in last issue of FFAN. J. Bloom, FFAN Editor*

## Reunion Plans - 2005



Planning is currently in process for the upcoming biennial FFA reunion for the spring of 2005.

Watch for details and your personal invitation in our next issue, coming in the December 2004 issue of

your FFA newsletter.

## Fales.org Website

For all the people who have Internet access, please check out <http://www.fales.org> and send us your opinions, suggestions and ideas for this developing site. We want it to be interactive and useful for all members and visitors who are interested in Fales family history and research.

## Fales Family Bulletin Shared

Recently John Thomas Fales offered copies of his CD compilation containing all 45 issues of the **Fales Family Bulletin**, 1982-1993, 13 issues, 500 pages, plus index of articles and name indexes of first three volumes. The request was given to the New York Public Library, the DAR, the Walpole Historical Society and The Daytona Beach Genealogical Library in the City Island Library. The NYPL declined his request due to having the CD presently technological difficulties for them, but they assured him they have all 45 issues in a BOUND format.

If you are ever in the New York area, we recommend you stop in to see the Fales collection there. It is located at the Milstein Division of United States History, Local History & Genealogy, The New York Public Library Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Room 121 Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018-2788 (Call #: APV (Fales) 94-1125).

The National Library of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) also have all 45 issues of the Fales Family Bulletin and they have had them bound into three books as follows: Volumes I to V, VI and VII, and VIII to XI. Mrs. Marian Bardole, Allen's sister, donated a subscription of FFB's to the DAR at the time they were published. Recently we received information that not only did they have a complete set, but also had had the issues bound. We think this is great!

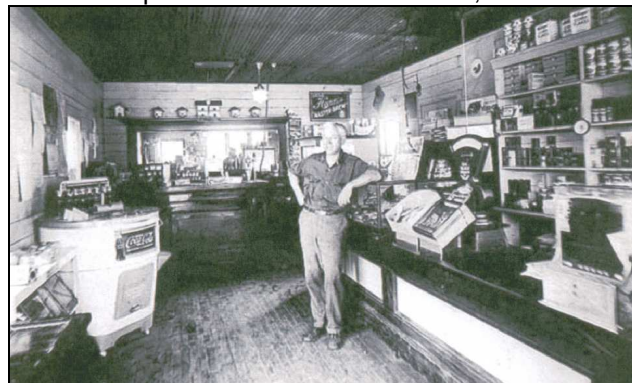
To obtain your own personal copy of his CD collection, contact John directly. Price is \$35 (non-member) or \$25 (member), including shipping and handling costs. Non-members will receive a **free** one-year membership in the FFA. **To order:** Mail check to John Thomas Fales, 4153 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169. For further information call JTF at (386) 423-7219, or e-mail him at [johnthomas@fales.org](mailto:johnthomas@fales.org).

## Lar-Lex Shell Store

By Jeraldene Bloom

While dabbling old "favorite" sites in the Internet recently, I looked at the Minneosta Historical Society site that always provides me with a wealth of information pertinent to my branch of the Fales family tree.

Just by chance, I found an area that allowed me to input a search into their various databases. I typed in the name "Fales" and much to my surprise, I found four photographs! They were taken about the fall of 1929 or spring of 1930, and all are related to a business run by the brother of my grandfather Arthur Grenville Fales, named Lar-Lex Shell Store. It was a general store and gas station at the corner of Lexington and Larpenteur Avenues in St. Paul, Minnesota.



*Photograph of Eugene D. Fales, Lar-Lex Store, St. Paul, MN, from Minnesota Historical Society collection.*

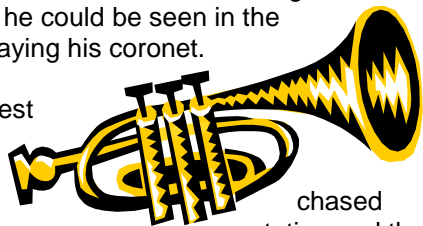
When writing to the MHS for permission to reprint the photographs shown here, I also wrote to Allen "Bud" Fales, who is shown being held by his grandfather in front of the store (note the price of gas was only 17.9 cents/gallon then). Allan is a member of FFA, and I met him with his wife at the last (2003) FFA reunion in Florida, so I had knowledge of him. And, much to my delight, he responded with a telephone call.



Photograph of Eugene Dotton Fales with grandson Allan Davis Fales at Lar-Lex Shell Store, Lexington & Larpenteur, St. Paul, MN, courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society collection.

"Bud" Fales remembers well the store, as his grandfather lived right next door to it. Living nearby, he visited his grandfather often. Eugene Dotton Fales was b 28 Feb 1876 in St. Paul, Minn., d 30 Sept 1945 in St. Paul, Minn. He was third oldest of four brothers and two sisters. He married Lillian Wegel 06 Feb 1901 and had six children. According to his grandson Allen Davis Fales, Eugene was a self-made man with only 6-8 years of formal schooling. He sold newspapers in his youth and worked his way up as apprentice to become a diemaker in the family business, Northwest Stamp Works in St. Paul. This company made seals for the state as well as other seals, like notary public seals and the like. He belonged to the Masons, Shriners and Knights Templar. Many years he could be seen in the Shriner parade playing his coronet.

When the Northwest Stamp Works was sold, Eugene purchased the Lex-Lar Shell



chased station and the house next door. His nephew Wesley Fales helped him with the business (see photo at right). I was unable to learn what is now on that corner. If you know, perhaps you'd be kind enough to tell me. My curiosity is aroused. As I reread this story, many more questions pop up. A request to Alan - can you provide more? Such as, what do you remember about Wesley Fales? Your uncle? What about your grandmother, Eugene's wife? Other tidbits?



Photograph of Wesley Fales, - Lar-Lex Shell Store, St. Paul, MN, courtesy of collection from Minnesota Historical Society.

## Yonts Correspondence

Hi [John], Good work on the Fales [news]letter. I really enjoy it. I would like to ask you if you have anything on the 2 Nathaniel 3.4. or Timothy and Abigail Hillburton Samuel's kids very interesting story. I found a cousin of ours setting in the Dr's. office in Billings, Mont. It was really funny. She goes down Peter2 and Peter3 then Moses. She said we would be 6<sup>th</sup> cousins. She lives in Fishtail, Montana about 100 miles from me. I plan to go see her this summer.

Thank you, Erma Yonts, Roundup, Montana.

May 25, 2004

Dear Erma,

How nice to hear from you again. It has been many years. Kevin Fales and Betty-Jean Piccola, co-presidents of the Fales Family Association, sent your letter to me because of your questions on genealogy. Jerry Bloom deserves the credit for the fine work of the Fales Family Association News of which she is now the editor. She is doing a great job.

You ask about Timothy<sup>3</sup> and Abigail (Haliburton) Fales. Timothy, son of James and Deborah (Fisher) Fales and grandson of James and Anne (Brock) Fales, was of course very famous. He graduated from Harvard University and was a sea captain, a teacher and a judge. He had a son, Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> who also had a son Nathaniel<sup>5</sup>. However, I am not sure if they are the two Nathaniels you ask about. There were many other Nathaniels, including Timothy's brother, Nathaniel<sup>3</sup>, who had a son, grandson and great-grandson named Nathaniel.

It is not possible to give you all the information on all the Nathaniel's in one letter, so perhaps you could give me a few more details on what you are interested in. You will be pleased to know that I plan, later this year, to publish all my information on the Fales family in a hard-cover book. When it is printed, it will sell for about \$50 a copy. Should you wish to have one for your family, I would suggest you reserve it now as I plan to print only 100 copies and many of those will go to libraries. There is no charge to be put on the list and the book would make a nice heirloom for any family with Fales roots.

Meanwhile, regards to you and your family. You have three sons if I recall; I hope all is well with you and that you have some grandchildren by this time. Thanks again for writing.

Sincerely,

John Thomas Fales

Dear John,

Thank you for answering my letter. I guess I messed up on what I wanted. I am looking for the 2 Nathaniels 4&5 before Samuel Fales who married Abigail Haliburton. I was trying to figure his line. These people name their kids the same name and we try to figure them out. Also was married DeCoursey Fales and have a family. He must have been quite a man.

Was Jerry Bloom's husband related to David Bloom, the TV news reporter that died on the way to Iraq? [No, sorry; no relation. J. Bloom, FFA Editor]

Yes, save me a book, it sounds good.

Thanks again, Erma Yonts

## What is a First Cousin Once Removed?

From *Genealogy Club of Osceola County Newsletter*, April 2003

If you and another person are descended the same number of generations from common ancestors, you may be first, second or third cousins depending on how far back those common ancestors are. You and your first cousin share the same grandparents. Your children and your first cousins' children are second cousins. Your grandchildren and your first cousins' grandchildren are third cousins.

When you and another person are descended in unequal number of generations, the term "removed" is added. For example: The child of your first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. The grandchild of your first cousin is your first cousin, twice removed.

## Publication Pending

John T. Fales is accepting reservations for a copy of "The Book" by e-mail or letter. This is on his research of the Fales genealogy - first 10 generations. The title hasn't been finalized yet. No money is required at this time for reservations. When he sends the book off to the printer (hopefully before the end of this year), he will notify everyone on the list and ask for a deposit, probably about 50%. When the books are ready for mailing, he will ask for the balance. John expects the price for 100 copies, hard bound and numbered, to be about \$50 with a price for libraries of about \$30. Cost for the hundred copies will be between \$5,000 and \$6,000 dollars, so obviously he will not make a profit on it. He just hopes to break even.

To reserve your copy, contact John Thomas Fales, 4153 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169, or e-mail him at [johnthomas@fales.org](mailto:johnthomas@fales.org).

When DeCoursey Fales wrote his book in 1919, he self published it and we're told he had 300 copies printed. It is said he never sold a copy but gave them all away. Quite a decent guy. Unfortunately John doesn't have DeCoursey's deep pockets so must try to cut his losses... Opinions? Suggestions?

## Lineal"? Collateral? Allied?

From *The Family Tree*, April / May 2004

Sometimes it is good to review the basics of understanding for genealogy. Here are some terms to help refresh your memory. In genealogy, the term "lineal" means either ascending or descending to a direct line. "Collateral" means descended from the same ancestor, but not in a direct line of descent. "Allied" families are related usually through marriage.

## Family Milestones

Hi All, It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I am writing this email. My husband, Bob [Homeier], passed away tonight [June 27, 2004] at 9:24 PM. He has suffered the pain of cancer since July of 2003, although we didn't know it was cancer until January 2004; now he is finally out of pain and in God's Hands. Now he will watch over me and our family in a special way. He was not in pain when he passed over, he was calm, we were all with him and he knew that we were going to be okay. His body is being donated for research; but we will be notifying everyone of a service to be held in the Plainfield area, we just aren't sure where or when as yet.

I want you all to know that we appreciate all your prayers. God Bless you and yours, Joyce, Eric, Joe, Annmarie, Jenn and all of our grandchildren

Sylvia Fales advised us recently that her husband Wilfred Dexter Fales passed away on 12 Jul 2003 in

Chesterfield MO, and is buried there in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Joan M. Fales of Medford, Wisconsin sent us a note to inform us of the death of her husband, William E. Fales, who died May 5, 2002. She also included a short remembrance of him:



William Enzor (Bill) Fales was born on May 6, 1932 at rural Canby, Minnesota to parents Enzor and Viola (Siverson) Fales. He attended Canby schools, graduating in 1950. He graduated from the Kahler Hospitals School of Nursing in 1953 and the St. Cloud Hospital School of Anesthesia in 1954.

He worked in the Chicago area for five years during which time he married Joan M. Steck on August 22, 1959 at St. Edward Church. They moved to Grundy Center, Iowa in October of 1959. They worked there for seven years during which time two sons, John and Robert were born to them.

In 1966 he entered the U.S. Navy, and they moved to North Chicago, Illinois. He served a tour of duty in Viet Nam from May 1967 to May 1968 for which he was awarded a citation for his work. He was discharged from the service, and they moved to Medford in October of 1968. He worked as staff anesthetist and anesthesia supervisor for twenty-seven years before retiring in January of 1996.

He was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, a past president of the Medford Curling Club, a life member of the VFW, the Medford Lions, a past member of the Naval Anesthesia Society, the Anesthesia and Analgesia Research Society, and AANA.

He is survived by Joan his wife of forty-two years, two sons John (Betty), Robert, three granddaughters, Colleen, Connie and Corinne all of Medford.

He enjoyed his work, gardening, stamp collecting, working with stained glass, reading and his winters in Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father.

### The Portsmouth Cripple (continued from page 1)

It was in the autumn of 1836, while I was lying sorely afflicted on my sick-bed, nearly ready to despair of ever regaining my health, or finding any more rest or comfort upon earth...that I, for the first time, felt inclined to withdraw my heart from the love of things that are seen, and turn it toward the things that are not seen. Accordingly, my attention was directed to a little, old Bible, which my mother had bought when she was young...At this time my mother was taken unwell, and sent for some of the neighbouring women to attend her, and one of them, not being much of a stranger to us...she bid me seek the Lord's assistance

by earnest prayer; and seeing there was no help nor confidence to be found in man, I began to do as she directed me, and from that time to this have never repented my choice. For I have had many proofs of His great goodness and power, and though, from time to time, my faith hath but just glimmered, and my soul been much dejected, yet praised be His holy name, He has never wholly suffered me to relinquish all hopes of obtaining a share in "that rest while remaineth for the people of God." [signed] W. R. Fales

John Thomas Fales writes: "I assumed I had William Richard Fales in my database, see now I do not. I had thought the Portsmouth Cripple was William Ryland Fales. Completely wrong. I do not have any William born in 1820 or died in 1850, so I am sure he is just not in my database. I can understand that his father Nathaniel might like to have forgotten him since Nathan abandoned him early... Gonna be hard to find I think." John intends to donate this book to the FFA library.

If you wish to read the entire text, thanks to efforts of Bill Saslow, you can find it on the Internet. Go to the GenForum Fales bulletin board and see the response to John T. Fales' msg. 683 or directly at: <http://rewhc.org/wrfales.shtml>

### Military Maneuvers

After being closed all summer, the US Army Heritage and Education Center's Military History Institute (USAMHI, <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec>) in Carlisle, Pa., reopened Monday in its new 66,000-square-foot facility. The official grand opening is Sept. 24, but you already can go there to research. Hours are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

As the Army's central repository for historical materials, USAMHI holds 11 million items, including books, magazines and journals, military publications, diaries, letters, maps, memoirs, oral histories, photographs and classified documents. Its collection of Civil War materials is among the best in the country.

The new facility, with an electronic database system and preservation-friendly environmental controls, is a far cry from the archives' previous home in an Army War College former classroom building.

Additional Army Heritage and Education Center construction plans call for a museum, visitor center and conservation labs for USAMHI materials. [Reprinted with permission from Family Tree Magazine Email Update, copyright 2004 F+W Publications Inc. To subscribe to this free weekly e-mail newsletter, go to <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp>. For a free sample copy of the print Family Tree Magazine, America's #1 familyhistory magazine, go to <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMfreeissue> ]

## The Jenks Family of New England from 1643 (Part 2)

by Yvonne Clark

Joseph I & Mary (Tervyn) Jenks

Joseph II & Esther (Ballard) Jenks

Joseph III & Martha (Brown) Jenks

Katherine (Jenks) & William Turpin

Martha (Turpin) & Japeth Bicknell

James & Anne (Brock) Fales

Peter & Abigail (Robbins) Fales

Peter & Sarah (Allen) Fales

Avis (Bicknell) & Peter Fales

In the last FFB I shared with you some information on the immigrant, Joseph Jenckes, who was directly responsible for beginning and running the first iron works in our country. This Joseph was christened in St. Anne's in Blackfriars on 6 August 1599, refuting some who list his birth as 1602. Joseph's son, Joseph, whom he had left in England with their maternal grandparents, James & Margery Tervyn, arrived in Lynn about 1647 or 1648 where he joined his father in the iron and brass works on the Saugus River.

Joseph Jr. was born about 1632, in Hammersmith, Hounslow, or Colnbrook in the neighborhood of London, England, and died 4 January 1717 in Pawtucket, R.I., aged 84. Before 29 June 1652, Joseph Jr. married Esther (Hester) Ballard daughter of William and Elizabeth Ballard of Lynn, MA because at the Quarterly Court of Essex County, MA., "Ester, wife of Joseph Jynkes Junior was present for wearing silver lace". This indicates that Joseph must have had a good income, either in wages from his father or from an interest in the forge. Esther was born in 1633, and died in Pawtucket after the death of her husband.

It is not certain how long Joseph and Esther remained in MA, but they were residing there in 1660 as Joseph was imprisoned there on a charge of treason for speaking disrespectfully of the new king, Charles II. At this time, he was working with his father at the Iron Works of Lynn, and according to the narrative "during some free and easy discussion with the other workmen or perhaps a political dispute" at the tavern, he said that if he had the power he would cut off the king's head and make a foot ball of it, and also declared himself in favor of treating the new ruler as Charles I, had been served. His exact words in the later connection were according to the testimony: "I should rather that his head were as his father's than that he should come to England to set up popery there." He was tried in April, but after a lengthy imprisonment was finally acquitted, the court deciding that the words he had uttered "were all too weak to prove him guilty of treason." He was evidently neither a cavalier nor a courtier, but was unmistakably a Roundhead, even if he was not a rigid Puritan. This gives us an insight of Joseph, showing him to have been an impulsive, outspoken, hearty and aggressive young man, but evidently the experience taught him wisdom in the expression of his opinions, although he continued to be a frank critic the remainder of his life.

The first legal transaction of Joseph Jenks, Jr. in the records of Providence is in the deed of the land he purchased at Pawtucket Falls, from Abel and Rachell (Holliman) Potter on 10 October 1671. Rachel had inherited sixty acres from her grandfather, Ezekiel Holliman, an original proprietor of Providence. The land transaction conveyed the right of commonage, which enabled Joseph to increase his estate by securing a share of the land when division was made to the proprietors. He was given liberty to fence and plant common land in the near neighborhood of his purchase. By these two methods, and by purchase from other owners, his property increased year by year, whereas his family acquired possession of the greater portion of the land in the immediate vicinity and the neighborhood became practically their private estate. At the time of the initial purchase, Joseph was listed as an inhabitant of Providence, lending credence to the tradition that he was living in the area prior to 1671. According to a document known to have been in existence among the Warwick records he was on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1669, granted land on both sides of the Pawtuxet river on condition that he would build a sawmill and cut boards at the rate of 4 shillings and 6 pence per hundred feet. He was also to have the right to cut the trees on either side of the river for a distance of half a mile. For the grant to be in the Warwick limits, it must have been on the south branch of the Pawtucket. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January of 1670, Joseph Jenks name appears on the Warwick records, as foreman of a jury to investigate the death of Thomas Smith and his wife, Ruth, who drowned on the night of 16 January, in the Pawtuxet River. This puts him in the area two years prior to his purchase in Pawtucket.

It is safe to presume that Joseph Jenks, Jr. was probably invited to take up his residence in Warwick or Pawtucket Falls by some of the leading colonists. He was the son of Joseph Jenks Sr. an inventor of high order, inheriting his father's talents, trained by him in his workshop, following in his footsteps as a maker of tools and a worker in iron. The men of Providence would clearly perceive the value of such a man to their community. Although there is no record of such an invitation, we can see by the rapid advancement of his position in the colony, how quickly they acceded to his requests for more land, and the offices to which he was elected, all indicate evidence that his fellow townsmen were willing to favor him as far as possible.

Joseph Jenks Jr. may have left his home in Lynn, because it was thought at the time that wood for charcoal to run the forge would soon be used up. Such an idea seems preposterous to us today, however, the landowners of the time feared that the iron works would consume the forests, prejudices were excited and lawsuits resulted. The fame of the Lynn Iron Works and of Joseph Jenks's inventions had rapidly spread throughout the New England colonies, and settlers in many places would readily have offered all the inducements in their power to have persuaded either father or son to settle among them and saw their timber with the new mill, or make the improved scythes and tools so essential to husbandry and woodcraft. It did not take Joseph long to find opportunity to inspect the magnificent water power at Pawtucket falls, which was ideally suited to his purposes, where there was plenty of timber in the dense forests adjoining the river, much unclaimed land in the neighborhood, located only four miles from the main settlement, and it was connected by a roadway or trail through the woods and fields.

Thus, Joseph Jr. was the first white settler of Pawtucket, R.I., where he made a clearing in the wilderness, by the side of a picturesque waterfall on the Blackstone River. He built his forge below the falls on the south side of the present Main Street, and used the power of this waterfall here among the rocks with the engineering operations performed by nature, so that he only had to adjust his 'engines or mills' to the great natural force which was available at his disposal. Because of his skill and opportunity, Joseph was able to supply pioneers who were engaged in subduing the wilderness and to bringing man and beast into subjection with his tools and weapons, soon became a man of consequence and distinction. His workshop became a nucleus, a social nerve center, to which other pioneers constantly gravitated in search of the tools they needed. These tools and weapon provided his neighborhood with social and drawing other pioneers to establish their homes nearby, which brought about the settlement of Pawtucket falls, which surrounded the home and forge of Joseph Jenks, Jr. He built a frame house on the west side of the present East Avenue overlooking the forge and river, and it is probable that his first house was made of logs until he was able to get his sawmill built and running. Later his sons built large homes nearby, his eldest son Joseph was fifteen years of age when he located in Pawtucket, and all their homes were built on Main Street.

Bog ore was found in the surrounding country and Joseph built a foundry and forge there in 1671, which was destroyed when the town was set on fire in King Phillip's War in 1676. A few months passed, Philip was killed, his warriors were slain, captured, or scattered, and peace and security returned to the little colonies, and Joseph rebuilt the works after the uprising was settled, and he once again laid the foundation for his iron works. He was taxed for the sawmill in 1679 and 1685 in Providence.

Joseph was not only active in his business, but was also public spirited. He had to have had capital, and talented and capable workmen in his service as well, for he invested time to attend to the affairs of the town and colony without injury to his private interests. One of his capable workmen was Joseph Woodward, to whom he gave four acres of land on 21 July 1679. He served as a member of the town council and as a tax assessor in 1680, and a moderator of the town meeting in 1679 and 1680. On April 28, 1679 he was chosen to represent Providence in the General Assembly of Newport; was speaker of the Assembly from October 1698 to February 1699; and referred to constantly in the town and colony records from 1684 to 1698 as 'assistant', in which capacity he acted as a justice and performed marriages. An interesting commentary on his character and sense of justice is the records of April 12, 1675, which states, "Joseph Jenks with others signed a protest against damaging Joshua Verin's right to a share in the lands yet to be divided," Verin had left Providence because of trouble arising from his interference with his wife's liberty of conscience; but Joseph did not believe that he ought on that account to be deprived of his property.

As a patriarch, he lived in the forest, his dependents cutting the wood and sawing it into boards and timber with the aid of the "water mill" or burning it into charcoal for the furnaces of the forge, where workers hammered out the iron and made scythes and other tools, aided in the heavier operations by the water power.

Joseph Jenks' prosperity continued to increase and descended to his children, who became leaders in the state of Rhode Island, in which his son became a governor of the colony.

The marriage of Joseph II to Esther Ballard, daughter of William and Elizabeth Ballard of Lynn, took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1652, Essex County, MA. The will of Joseph Jenks II was written on 21 October 1708, and proven on 11 February 1717. He died at the age of 84 years on 4 January 1717. In his will, his four sons are mentioned by name: Joseph, Nathaniel, Ebenezer and William. His wife, Esther (Hester), was named as sole Executrix, but none of his daughters were mentioned by name. The exact dimensions and details of his property are laid out in his will and how it was to be divided.

Known children of Joseph and Esther are as follows:

\*Joseph b. 1656, MA. md. Martha Brown

Elizabeth b. 1658, md. Samuel Tefft, d. 1740

Sarah md. Nathaniel Brown, d. 1708

Nathaniel b. January 29, 1662, md. November 4, 1686, Hannah Bosworth, d. August 11, 1723

Esther b. 1664, md. Samuel Miller, d. 1720

Ebenezer b. 1669, md. March 4, 1695, Mary Butterworth, d. August 14, 1726

Mary, md. Daniel Jenckes

Joanna b. 1672, md. 1692 Sylvanus Scott, d. March 12, 1756

Abigail md. Thomas Whipple

William b. 1675, md. Patience Sprague, md. 2, Mary, d. October 2, 1765

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*Field, Edward, A..B., "Tax Lists of the Town of Providence, during the Administration of Sr. Edmund Andros and His Council, 1686-1689," Providence, R.I.: Harold W. Preston, 1895*

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*"The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans: Volume VI*

**Look for continuation of this story in our next issue coming out in December, 2004 to learn the connection with Fales family...**

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## First Class Mail

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The **Fales Family Association** publishes the Fales Family Association News up to four times per year. Send all general correspondence to Jerry Bloom, Newsletter Editor, 1237 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 or email at jerrybloom@fales.org - phone (920) 743-8449. Dues: \$10/year (Jan-Dec) per mailing address. Send renewal dues and changes of address to Kevin Fales and Betty Jean Piccola at 248-33 Thebes Ave., Little Neck, NY 11363 or email them at [kfales@nyc.rr.com](mailto:kfales@nyc.rr.com) - phone (718) 224-4225. **Fales Family Association website - <http://www.fales.org>**

### Membership Report

As a result of the renewal drive, 18 members re-upped. That gives us a total of 57 members paid up for 2004. Welcome back, y' all!

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