

Sincerely Sarah

By Kathy Litwin

Note: This article is continued from last issue. Kathy Litwin recounts the discovery of the diary belonging to her great-great grandmother, Sarah Vose Fales. Her story continues:

I closed her picture and held it happily to my chest. I was now Sarah's "keeper", but wished at that moment that my dear mother-in-law could be here to share this wonderful moment with me. Perhaps, just perhaps, Jean was here with me. After all, I was drawn to this old black trunk, for some unknown reason.

I put Sarah's picture aside once again, and rearranged the contents in the trunk to make sure that no further damage would be done to what it held. As I put the stack of rebound cases back into their corner of the trunk lifting Emma's black feather, I noticed a small, worn book, only slightly bigger than the size of the snack-size boxes of raisins I had years ago as a child. The book had a small metal gold clasp on it, and I wondered what lay inside.

As my fingers fumbled with the thin, delicate clasp to open it, I felt for a moment that I was not alone. Someone else was with me in the room. Upon opening the book, I knew *who* that someone was, and knew that what lay inside this book's cover was surely a secret, happily waiting to be told, that warm spring day in 1998.

Sarah's handwriting was legible, but, in some places, faded. Perhaps the hands of those who had read her diary years before me had wiped away some of the pencil she wrote in. Each small page of the diary held the events of two days in her life in the year 1866, covering every day from January 1st through August 12th of that year. I was amazed that something this old had survived the generations, and happy that Sarah was "*here*" now, to share that part of her life with us.

Sarah Vose Fales was born in Thomaston, Maine on November 4th, 1832, the daughter of George Fales and Mary J. Crouch. She was the youngest daughter of eleven children.

She married Seth Padelford Shaw, son of Seth Padelford Shaw and Susan C. Padelford, on her nineteenth birthday, November 4th, 1851, in Thomaston. By 1866, they had removed to Brooklyn, N.Y. and lived in a shared home with Sarah's sister, Clementine ("Clem"), and Clem's husband, David B. Everett, of South Thomaston, who had also moved to Brooklyn.

Sarah and Seth had four children: Ella Rose, born about 1852/3, Alice W., born 1856, Allen K., born 1858, and, George, born 1866. From Sarah's diary, we learn that Alice W. (nicknamed "Allie"), born February 24th, 1856, died May 27th, 1861.

Saturday, February 24th, 1866: "*It is our precious Allie's birthday – if living she would be ten years old.*"

In that same year, Sarah and Seth tragically lost their son, Allen K., born March 28th, 1858. Allen died on May 19th, 1861; only eight days before "Allie" died, and I imagine that year must have been Sarah's and Seth's worst.

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Saturday, May 19th, 1866: "Five years ago today our precious little Buddy went to heaven."

Sarah's diary tells us much about the daily life of the ir firstborn child, Ella Rose, from whom we descend, and who later went on to marry John Willis Ackerman of New Jersey. Ella Rose was the only child who lived to adulthood, and the only child not buried with her parents in the Elm Grove Cemetery in Thomaston, Maine.

Wednesday, January 24th, 1866: "It has not been pleasant today and we have all been quietly at home. Ella has a bad cold and sore throat and has not felt able to go to school. I am sorry."

Wednesday, February 21st, 1866: "Another warm spring like day. I have been finishing Ella's dress."

Sunday, March 25th, 1866: "Ella has this morning avouched the Lord to be her God and may he keep her."

As for Sarah and Seth's fourth child, we are happily introduced to him in the diary when he was brought into the world on May 31st, 1866. Undoubtedly, he is George, as mentioned in Eaton's "Thomaston", and while he was still tiny at the close of the diary, he seemed to be a happy child and a joy for both Sarah and Seth.

Thursday, May 31st, 1866: "Another little Buddy came to us this morning. There was no one here but Clem when he was born. She went after Mrs. Rogers, and David soon got Alice so we had plenty of help."

Friday, August 3rd, 1866: "The doctor has been here again. Our little baby is nicely today. I am very thankful."

Friday, August 10th, 1866: "Clem and David went to ride. I have not been out today – think I shall go tomorrow. Our baby is a darling – cunning as he can be."

Sarah and Seth seemed to live a comfortable life, and enjoyed the luxury of having domestic help in their home. Their life was quite sociable, and people were always in and out of their home - stopping in for tea, going for rides, visiting Central Park, Coney Island, and other places in New York City.

Monday, January 1st, 1866: "A very stormy day,

but notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather we have had twenty-five gentlemen old and young to call on us and passed the day happily."

Sunday, January 21st, 1866: "A cold pleasant day and a house full of company. Col. Tilson, wife and son John, Emily and Johny. George came a little while. Sam Emery called. I have not been out."

Monday, February 26th, 1866: "Another clear day. Tom went home today. Edward, Mary and Mother came this p.m. John and Em came and spent the evening. Clem's girl came. Mrs. Hatch called."

Wednesday, May 9th, 1866: "Thomas and Mary Ann left this morning – took Emmie with them. Emily has been here all day. Capt. Haskill and wife came again tonight."

Although Sarah, in the time span of her diary, was somewhat incapacitated, being pregnant and rather immobile, she nevertheless kept herself busy with embroidery, sewing, the care of her family, reading, writing, and other pursuits.

Friday, February 9th, 1866: "I finished Mary Ann's dress and commenced one for Mary Everett."

Tuesday, April 17th, 1866: "A pleasant day. Seth has painted Willie's chamber. I have been sewing all day – finished my ottoman today."

Saturday, April 21st, 1866: "I have finished Mary's dress and trimmed two hats today – one for Ella and one for Emmie."

Thursday, July 26th, 1866: "I bought some ribbon and a flower for my bonnet – cost 17 shillings."

Seth worked as a house painter and in his business did a lot of traveling, sometimes going away from home as long as three to four days at a time, much to Sarah's melancholy. He was a loving husband, and a doting father.

Monday, June 18th, 1866: "Seth went away again this morning to Orange. I am so lonesome when he is gone."

Saturday, May 19th, 1866: "Seth went out tonight and bought Ella a parasol and mitts."

Sunday, June 3rd, 1866: "I was very sick all night – could hardly get my breath and have not felt any better today. Seth went for Dr. Howel this afternoon."

Saturday, August 11th, 1866: *'Set h took Ella and Emmie to Central Park this p.m.'*

The diary not only introduces us to Seth, Ella and George ("Buddy"), but also to Sarah's extended family, the Fales. We meet Sarah's sister, "Clem", and her husband, David Everett, who along with their children, Sarah ("Sadie"), Emily, Mary and Mamie, resided with Sarah and Seth in the Brooklyn house.

Tuesday, March 13th, 1866: *'I felt miserably this morning but Clem and I took a ride to Greenwood this p.m. and I feel better now. Saw some flowers – I bought some.'*

Tuesday, April 24th, 1866: *'I have finished Ella's dress and partly fixed one for myself. Seth has commenced painting Clem's chamber. Clem and David spent the morning at Mrs. Armstrong's.'*

We get to know her sister, Emily, and husband, John Roberts, as well as their son, "Johny", all of whom also resided in Brooklyn.

Tuesday, February 13th, 1866: *'John and Emily came this evening.'*

Sunday, July 29th, 1866: *'A lovely day. Clem, Mother and the children have been to church. Sam Everett came this afternoon. John and Emily were here to tea. I feel a great deal better than I did last Sabbath.'*

Sarah's sister, Mary Ann, and husband Thomas Rose, and their sons, Frank and Henry, lived in Thomaston in 1866, but are found in the pages of Sarah's diary as well.

Saturday, January 6th, 1866: *'A letter from Mary Ann today. Frank is better.'*

Friday, February 23rd, 1866: *'Thomas made Clem and I presents of new black veils today – both very handsome.'*

Sunday, May 6th, 1866: *'Tom and Mary Ann got here about eleven o'clock last night so we have a full house again. Noyes and Eveline went to their vessel.'*

Sarah's mother, Mary (Crouch) Fales, who resided, a widow, in the Brooklyn home of her daughter, Emily, and family, visited Sarah and Seth often.

Saturday, January 6th, 1866: *'I have finished Mother's dress – it looks very nice.'*

Saturday, March 3rd, 1866: *'Mother and Emily came up this afternoon. Mother is going to stay over Sunday.'*

Sarah's brother, George, and his wife, Alice, both of who, apparently, also lived in Brooklyn, kept close ties with Sarah's family too.

Tuesday, February 13th, 1866: *'Clem, Mary Ann and Ella have been at Alice's.'*

Saturday, June 9th, 1866: *'Seth took Ella and Mary over to Alice's to spend the day. George took them on board Capt. Mills' ship to see Uncle William – they had a nice time.'*

Sarah's brother, William (Capt. William), was a mariner who resided in Thomaston, but visited Brooklyn frequently.

Monday, July 23rd, 1866: *'Will came again tonight. He's going to sail for New Orleans tomorrow.'*

While the diary takes you through Sarah's daily life rather happily, as she puts finishing touches on Clem's tidy, fixes Ella's dress, measures Mother for her new dress, or finally finishes her first ottoman, the pages also sadly tell of anniversaries remembered for those close to her who had already passed on.

Sunday, July 1st, 1866: *'Ephraim's birthday – 50 years old.'*

Sarah's brother, Capt. Ephraim, born 1816, married Hannah Wyman of Brooklyn, but sadly died on the 22nd of May in 1857 at the age of 40 years old. Her brother, Edmund, born 1835, died at sea at the age of 27 years in the summer of 1862, after having sailed from Cardiff, Wales. Sarah's sister, Cynthia, was born 1824, and died at the age of 37 years in 1861. Her sister, Margaret, born 1826, married Capt. Silas O. Pierce in 1849, and, we think, died at an early age also, as she is not mentioned in the diary at all – only a mention of Silas. Sarah's sister, Eliza, born 1830, died December 11th, 1835, just two weeks before Christmas of that year, and only one day after the death of Sarah's father, George Fales.

Sarah herself was not spared. She was diagnosed with heart disease shortly after the birth of her last child.

Wednesday, June 20th, 1866: *“Another lovely summer day but I can hardly realize it is summer. Dr. Howel has been in again today – says I have heart disease – he has been here five times.”*

In the months following that warm spring day in 1998, I undertook the task of transcribing Sarah’s diary. It was a labor of love for me, and I was reminded how different life was in 1866, and yet how much the same it was too.

Often I’d be drawn back to the black trunk to stare into Sarah’s sweet face. Touching the surface of the picture with my fingers, I could almost feel as though Sarah and I were destined to connect with each other – that I was *meant* to find her picture and her diary. Each time I saw the picture, I relished the thought of it all, and returned to my transcription enthusiastically.

It was many months before I actually finished the transcription, but it was actually two years after, having done many re-readings, before I was certain that all that I recorded was correct. It seems each time I picked it up to read it over, there were corrections to be made. Only this year, 2001, was I satisfied that the transcription was complete.

Yet another surprise awaited me when I did pick it up and read it again in spring of this year. All dates for the year 1866 fell on the same days as the year 2001. On a daily basis, in the months that followed, I would start my day by checking to see what happened in the life of Sarah all those years ago. I would read aloud to the members of my family as well, and it became a happy ritual. I was sorry to see it come to an end on the day of Sarah’s last entry in the diary,

Sunday, August 12th, 1866: *“A very pleasant day. Ella has been to church all day and evening. Seth and I have been at home taking care of our dear little baby. There has been no one here for a wonder.”*

Inspired by Sarah, I started my own diary in 1999. Perhaps years from now, our descendants will be reading aloud to their families from *both* our diaries. Perhaps, too, they’ll find a picture of me, wearing a smile like the smile worn by someone with a secret to tell, and they’ll be intrigued, as I was when I first came upon Sarah’s picture and diary.

Sarah Vose (Fales) Shaw died on October 6th, 1869, only three years after this diary was written, aged 36 years, 11 months, and 2 days. In her busy and social,

but short, life and through her writings, I came to know Sarah as a kind soul, a loving wife, and a loyal and loving mother, friend, daughter, and sister

Letter from Sylvia (Mrs. Wilfred D.) Fales

1 July 2002

Dear Allen:

Wil and I joined the Fales Family Bulletin about ten years ago. At that time John Thomas was surprised that all five brothers and sisters were still living. These are the “children” of Rev. Ira Dexter and Hazel Fales. Ira Dexter Fales was the son of Willford Dexter Fales.

I want to let John Thomas know that these five brothers and sisters are still living.

Wilfred – 90 years old

Elizabeth – 89

C. Dean – 86

Miriam – 84

Robert Kermit – 78

It must be these good Fales genes!

Sincerely,

Sylvia
1010 Dutch Mill Dr.
Manchester, Missouri 63011

John Thomas replies:

Thank you, Sylvia. We have exchanged many letters over the years though it has been a while now. Yes, you are right about “those good Fales genes”. I am 81 years old and my sister, Marge, is 86. Kid sister, Mary, is only 77. Our oldest sibling, Frank, passed away a few years ago in his mid-80’s. Both our parents lived into their mid-80’s also. There are many other examples of longevity in the Fales family tree. I guess we’re just lucky!

Some Notes on James¹ Fales

By John Thomas Fales

By James¹ Fales I mean the James Fales who married Anne Brock in Dedham in 1655, "our James". In recent years I have seen on the Internet and received genealogies from correspondents that offer a ' James Fale' who married Anne Wolnoug in Fressingfield, Suffolk, England, on 18 June 1632 as his father. However nowhere have I seen any evidence that would confirm this, so, I believe, someone saw the marriage record which has been copied from the Fressingfield church records by the Latter Day Saints and claimed the name perhaps to advance one of his/her ancestral lines a generation. I hope someone will be able to make the connection between Anne Wolnoughe' s James and Anne Brock' s, but until they do it is wrong to assume these two Jameses are father and son.

If indeed Anne Brock' s James were the son of Anne Wolnoughe' s James, then the supposed son would have been born 1632 or later. He died in 1708 and therefore he would have been "no more than" 76 years old. The record of his death in the Dedham records refers to him as "James Fales, the Aged". I did an analysis of Dedham death records for this era and came to the conclusion that when they referred to someone as "aged" they were thinking somewhat older than that, like 80 to 90. (For more on this see Fales Family Bulletin of March, 1990 p3.) This doesn' t disprove that these two Jameses were father/son but there is absolutely no evidence in favor of it except the congruities of name and time. There is one point to consider though: Fressingfield is a possible site for his ancestry. Anne Brock' s family came from Stradbroke, a neighboring town. She herself was born in Stradbroke most likely. Anne' s James, the one we call James¹ Fales, could have been born in Fressingfield, could have been the son of James Fale and Anne Wolnoughe, but that is not nearly enough evidence to convince me that he was.

Another entry in the International Genealogical Index records the marriage of a James Fale to Ann Auger in Roydon, Essex, England in 1625. I am a little surprised no one seems to have suggested this James as the father of James¹ Fales. Probably the

ones who grabbed the James Fale of Fressingfield beat them to the punch. However there is nothing in the writings of James¹ Fales to suggest his parents could have been in the Essex area, only Chester and Suffolk are mentioned as possibilities.

Other correspondents and Internet listings state that our James¹ Fales was the son of Jacob Forseco (Fonseco?) Vale. This is far more difficult to accept than the Fressingfield connection discussed above. The oldest reference I have seen to a Jacob Fales as the father of James¹, was that contained in the genealogy written by Jane Miranda (or Miranda Jane) Fales, who married men named Garrett and Fox. Her account written possibly in the 1950' s, contains a wonderful history of the Fales family. Unfortunately it is mostly conjectures and fanciful conclusions derived from old documents which have been generously intertwined with each other. She wrote:

"...but from what I have been able to find I believe that Jacob Forseco Vales who came with his wife and three children, and 5 slaves, on one of two ships equipped and sent out from Liverpool, in 1622, by Thomas Weston."

Yes, there was a ship financed by Thomas Weston which carried settlers who arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, shortly after the original Pilgrims. These settlers did not prosper and the remnants of their group moved on. There is no mention in the accounts of this group of Jacob Forseco Vales. However there is a record elsewhere of a man named Jacob Fonceco Vale, with the same number of children and slaves as Jane Miranda Fales mentions, to be found in Hotten' s (John Camden) work on early settlers¹. Hotten found his name among the passengers of a shipload of Jews arrived from Portugal in 1680.

Could Jane' s "Jacob Forseco Vales" be this same man? If so, it is hard to imagine how he could have been the father of James¹ who we know was an adult in Dedham in 1654 as a member of that town and who most likely had been there for many years earlier as a bond servant to the Fairbanks family. Clearly Jane, who did a lot of research on the Fales family, was wrong about this.

Jane goes on to make an interesting point though. She suggests that the first Faleses to arrive in America were brothers, James and John, and that James¹ was the son of this James. She offers no evidence of this,

NEWS OF NOTE

Scott and Stacey (Holmes) Fales of Monroe, NC are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Sarah Elizabeth Fales, born on June 17, 2002 weighing in 8lb 6oz. Sarah is the first grandchild for Sharon and Jim Fales, and is the grand niece of Jane Roney.

Jonathan and Rachel (Putnam) Fales welcomed their first child October 17, 2002. Javan Isaac Fales was delivered in Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, Vermont at 9lbs, 3oz. Jonathan is son of Robert and Demetra Fales (FFA members) and the fourth great grandson of Allen and Kay Fales. Of course Javan was the most handsome boy in the nursery and is as pleased to be here as we are to have him.

Jennifer Fales daughter of James and Sharon Fales wed Greg Morris on Sat October 5th in Athens Ohio. After a honeymoon in Mexico the happy couple resides in Chicago.

DEATHS

William Enzor Fales (b.1932) of Medford, WI on May 5, 2002.

Martin (Bud) DeVries, Evelyn DeVries Teisman, and Donald Hoogerhyde, all of Grand Rapids, MI and descendants of Peter Fales.

Ina Lillian Fales Taylor (b. 10/7/16) on November 9, 2001, laid to rest in All-Bright Shores Cemetery, Beaverton, MI.

merely makes the statement. However she must have gotten the idea somewhere and I know that there are, hidden away or lost forever, some 19th century or earlier, unpublished family histories. One of these might have contained such a statement, just as somewhere someone a hundred years earlier said or wrote that James Fales was born in Chester. This statement found it way into print² and so was repeated over and over again by historians of the Fales and related families. However no one has ever been able to find a record of the Fales family in Chester.

So, we need to look further into the possible existence of a John Fales who could have been the brother or uncle of James¹ Fales. We will try to put together some information on this and present it in a future issue of the Fales Family Association Newsletter.

Footnotes:

¹ The Original Lists of Persons of Quality; Emigrants; Religious Exiles; etc.; Who Went from Great Britian to the American Plantations; London, 1874; reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1974.

² Either Directory of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families, 1620-1700, comp. Frank R. Holmes, Baltimore, 1964; or Genealogical and Personal Memoirs, Ed. William Richard Cutter, New York, 1908. These are both reprints and I am not sure who was first in print though I believe it was Cutter.

We've Lost Touch...

The FFA needs current addresses for the following members whose last newsletter was returned as undelivered by the Post Office. The missing members are:

*Ms. Betty Belle Walker of Wauconda, IL
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. Fales, of Riceville, IA.*

If you know, please contact
Kevin Fales,
Membership Secretary.

INTERIM TREASURER'S REPORT:

Received from Treasurer Emeritus, Jane Roney, Jan. 1, 2002:

\$984.95

Receipts:

2002 membership renewals (45)

\$450.00

Disbursements:

Robert Roney Memorial

\$ 25.00

June 2002 newsletter, print, supplies, postage

\$ 73.88

Administrative expense – checks

\$ 14.95

Three Fales Letters

\$ 6.00

Total disbursements:

\$119.83

Balance on hand - Dec. 1, 2002

\$1315.12

Letter from William Marsh

23 August 2002

Dear Kevin:

How is everything with you?

I wonder how John is coming along putting together the family genealogy. It should be huge.

I finished my book which contains seven different families including the Fales Family. I am sure that I am a descendant of James but I have run into a dead end. My family came from Walpole MA and settled in Canaan NH. From there they came to Sharon VT. I cannot find a connection to the Fales family of Walpole, except Joseph. He does not mention having a son named John.

Enclosed is \$10.00 for my contribution.

Yours truly,

Bill Marsh
Great Grandson of Augusta Fales
6058 Fairway LN
Wescosville PA 18106

John Thomas Fales replies:

Hi, Bill! Thanks for sending me a copy of your book. I have added all your Fales genealogy to my file, though as you say, we cannot link it to James and Anne. Someday, we will, I am sure.

As far as my data base, I am still at it, though I keep getting these interruptions: active (through necessity) in management of the condo where we live, computer problems, operations, ill health etc. However hope to pick up the pace again soon. I have about 14,000+ names in the data base. When I get a few thousand more entered, I will pack it in and put everything on CD's for anyone who wants it. Will probably also print out a few copies of a book version. Problem is the book version will be 5 or 600 pages! Too big.

Regards,

John Thomas

DEAD ENDS

By William H. Marsh

One of the most exasperating things about doing genealogical research is running into dead ends. Such was the case when I was working on my branch of the Fales Family Tree.

I am, without a doubt, a Fales. My great-grandmother was Augusta Fales, daughter of Horace Fales of Sharon, VT. She married my great-grandfather, Jasper Hayden, son of Eli Hayden of Sharon, VT. Jasper was a teacher and following their nuptials they moved to Beaver Dam, WI. In those days Wisconsin was a wilderness and they were among the first pioneers to settle in the area.

Horace Fales was a farmer and very likely a blacksmith like his father, John Fales. Horace married first Mercy Davis, daughter of Capt. George Davis and his wife Hannah. Capt.

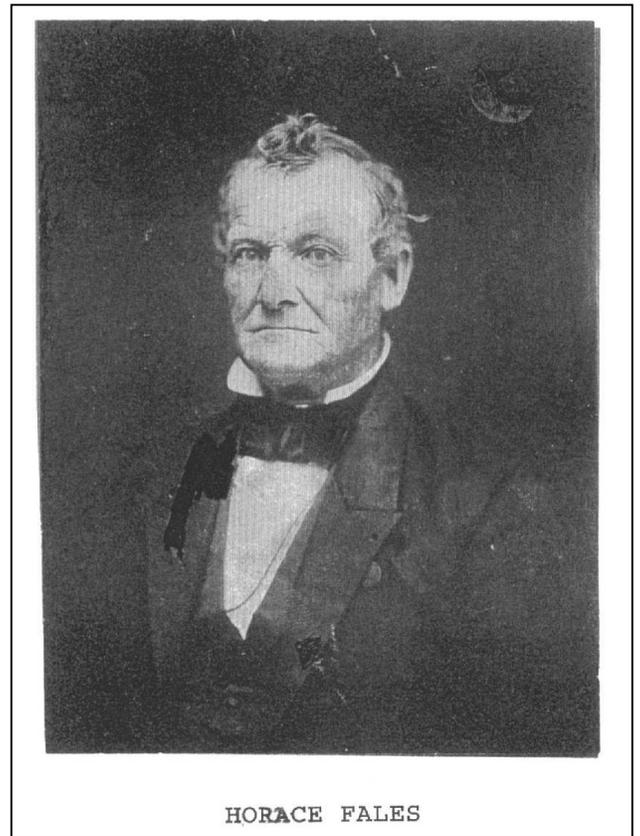
George served during the War of 1812, making the invasion of Canada. Mercy died in 1840 and was buried in the Broadbrook Cemetery in Sharon, VT. A short time later Horace married Caroline Spaulding Eldridge. By Mercy Davis were born Caroline Fales, Augusta Ann Fales, and John David Fales.

John David Fales was named for his grandfather, John Fales, of Canaan, New Hampshire. John Fales was born 13 February 1767/68 in Walpole, MA. He was a blacksmith and also dealt in real estate. According to the Rev. Warren D. Fales, John married Sally (Sarah) Aldrich. She and John had eleven children, a number of whom moved into Vermont. Although numerous attempts have been made to discover the lineage of John Fales, these attempts have been fruitless.

It was assumed that John was a descendant of Peter Fales, since Peter had a son name John. But, his son married another person and did not move to New Hampshire from Massachusetts. A number of Fales families lived in Walpole, MA, and they were all checked to see if a John existed.

I have contacted John Fales of New Smyrna, FL, and he checked his records and could not find the parentage of John Fales of Canaan, New Hampshire.

As you can see, I have reached a dead end. Any information from other members of the family concerning the parentage of John Fales of Walpole, MA, would be appreciated. John died in Canaan, NH. 15 August 1841.



HORACE FALES



Home of John David Fales, Sharon, VT