

The Means Family

1718-1950

References

Ridlon, G.T., Saco Valley Settlements and Families; Portland, Maine, 1895

First Book of Records of the Town of Pepperellborough (Saco); City Clerks' Office, Saco, Maine

Burnham's Papers, York Institute Museum, Saco, Maine

Grandpa's Scrapbook, Deering News, 1897

Robert Means and His Descendants; Rev. Chas N. Sinnett; Maine Historical Society, Portland Maine.

A History of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. William B. Jordan, Jr. Portland, Maine, 1965

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, for the year 1858, Volume XII, Samuel Drake, Publisher, Boston, 1858

Sand, Spindles and Steeples, Roy P. Fairfield

Letters and writings of Edgar L. Means.

Written notes for Jennie Means Thompson

DownEast Magazine, August 1980, page 34.

Pepperellborough First Church Records, John Fairfield, Pastor, York Institute, Saco Maine.

Scotch-Irish Immigration to America

In the summer of 1718, the first organized company of this class (Presbyterians), of which we have any knowledge, left the shores of Ireland in 5 vessels, containing 120 families, for the new world, and arrived safely in Boston, August 4, 1718. Her all was new, the wilderness and the world before them. Imagine this little colony, strangers in a strange land, seeking new homes and not knowing whither to turn. There they lie at the little wharf at the foot of State Street in the town of Boston, which then contained about 12,000 inhabitants, taking counsel where to go, and how to dispose of themselves and their little ones, to begin the world anew. With their wonted energy, they were soon astir. One brigantine, with a company of 20 families, sought their fortunes at the eastward, among whom were Armstrong, Means, McKean, Gregg'-they spent a hard and long winter in Portland harbor, and then fled westward, most of them, to join their companions in founding their new Londonderry.

This group of immigrants were credited with the beginning of Presbyterianism in the New World. In Maine, however, the church was overthrown by Congregationalism, such that no Presbyterian church remained.

Several agricultural innovations in America were theirs. In the Spring of 1719, they introduced the potato, planting the seed potatoes brought with tem in 1718. The introduced the cultivation of flax as a source of cloth, along with the use of the foot propelled flax spinning wheel.

Source: New England Historical and Genealogical Society, The New England Historical and Genealogical Register for the year 1858, Volume XII, Samuel Drake, Publisher, Boston, 1858, Page 234.

The Means Direct Line Generations

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Robert Means, the immigrant | died 1769 |
| John Means | 1728-March 16, 1776 |
| Captain Robert Means | 1755-1820 |
| Ray Means | 1786-1876 |
| Lemuel G. Means | 1822-1905 |
| Edgar L. Means | 1864-1947 |

The Immigrant

Robert Means born ~ 1689 in Ireland. Came to America in 1718 and settled in Falmouth, and later removing to the Scotch-Irish settlement in Saco, Maine. Married Jane (some accounts say Mary) Armstrong of Scarborough around 1718 or 1720. She was the daughter of James or John Armstrong, born 1700.. She died Feb. 18, 1769 at age 98 (some say 102). He died Dec. 29, 1768 (some say 1769) at Old Orchard, Maine at age 80. Buried at Old Orchard Beach cemetery that is now covered up.

“In autumn of 1718 vessels came from north of Ireland via Boston to Portland (then Falmouth) Maine. They were descendants of a colony, which went Argyleshire in Scotland and settled in the north of Ireland about the middle of the 17th century. They were rigid Presbyterians and fled from Scotland to North of Ireland to avoid persecutions of Charles I. Among them was James Armstrong with his sons, John, Simon, and Thomas, also Robert Means who married his daughter.

This colony with Rev. Mr. McGregor at its head left Ireland in five vessels containing 120 families and arrived in Boston August 4, 1718; part settled in Maine and Part in New Hampshire.

This company of immigrants, among other important services rendered to the land of their adoption, introduced the potato plant which had not before been cultivated in this county; also the linen spinning wheel, and the manufacture of linen. The spinning wheel had not appeared upon our shores until the advent of these people, and it produced quite a sensation in Boston. Societies were formed and schools established to teach the art of spinning flax and the manufacture of its thread. At the first anniversary of its introduction ladies with their wheels paraded on Boston Common for a trial of skill in spinning, and prizes were awarded. During four years this novelty held its attraction and then gave way to some new excitement.”

(from 1913-Means Family History, prepared by John Means of Boston to William Means – descendants of John Means (1-5).

The Scottish surname Means is spelled Main, Mains, Meins and Means in the early York County papers, but the Maine ancestor of these is Robert Means. Robert came from the north of Ireland to Falmouth via Massachusetts with James Armstrong in 1718 at the reported age of 16. He was one of the Scotch-Irish immigrants bound for Londonderry, NH, but with Barbour and Armstrong stopped in Falmouth. He had married Mary Armstrong, a daughter of Armstrong's and settled at Falmouth Neck (Portland) where he remained 5 years. For 2 years he dwelt in a log house near the Stroutwater meetinghouse. The log home stood opposite the Nathan Tibbetts House. Later in 1720, there is a record of Elizabeth Davis, widow, for a consideration of 30 pounds to Robert Means, 100 acres of land with 4 acres of marsh in Falmouth, Purpooduck side. Robert is recorded as one of the original member of the church organized at Portland in 1726. He then lived at the ferry on Purpooduck about 10 years. By 1725, the total number of families at Spurwink and Purpooduck amounted to approximately seventeen. New settlers were arriving every day. The town of Falmouth, despite its large extent of territory and remote situation of many of its inhabitants, continued united in one parish until 1733. This year saw Spurwink and Purpooduck set off as the Second Parish of Falmouth. The church was formed by the dismissal of five persons for the First Parish along with their pastor, Benjamin Allen, for that purpose. They were John Armstrong, William Jamison, Robert Means, Robert Thorndike and Jonathan Cobb. In 1735, he was taxed in Cape Elizabeth for land and personal property. In 1738, there was recorded considerations of 377 pounds for division of a large lot among Robert Means (formerly of Falmouth and Ireland, now

in Saco, alias Biddeford) and others. Robert finally removed to the Scotch-Irish settlement at Saco, residing near the beach (Old Orchard), where he died 'suddenly' Sept. 3, 1769 aged 79 years. (?) His widow died Feb. 18, 1789 aged 89 years. There is a conflict of evidence in the records since Burham's papers record burial in the cemetery at Old Orchard Beach nearly opposite the Boston and Maine Railroad station covered up and not removed. Along with another person, the site includes Robert Means, died Oct. 30, 1769 in his 80th year and John Means, his son, died March 16, 1776 in his 48th year.

Jane Armstrong, wife of Robert Means, was the daughter of James Armstrong, and immigrated to America with that family in 1718 from Ireland. After living in Falmouth, her father settled in Saco, Maine where he was a cabinetmaker. She was a sister of James and John Armstrong, who were among the members of First Parish at Falmouth, now Portland Maine.

In 1738, the Robert Means family moved from Falmouth, Maine to Old Orchard, now Saco, where the Scotch-Irish settlement included her father. Jane and Robert had 8 children of record, all born previous to the move to Old Orchard.

Jane lived to be a very old lady, some say as old as 102, but Pepperell Records indicate she lived to be 98 years. She was believed to be a very pious old lady who sang Psalms at night to keep away the Tempter.

Children:

1. Thomas Means 1722-1756
2. Sarah Means b. 1726 (?); married to John Thompson on Jun 21, 1739 (?)
3. Mary Means died 1800 at 77 years old
4. Dorcas Means
5. John Means 1728-1776
6. Jane Means born 1735
7. Elizabeth Means
8. Hannah Means Died 1759

1-1

Thomas Means, born 1722. married Oct. 1749 – Ellen (Alice) Finney or Phinney – killed by Indians at Flying Point, Freeport Maine, May 10, 1756 while defending his family. Mrs. Means, who had been captured, escaped to the house but was shot. The ball passed through the infant in her arms, killing it instantly and wounding the mother dangerously. Mrs. Means and her sister were carried off. A son survived and lived in Freeport. His wife survived him. They had 2 boys and 2 girls.

From DownEast Magazine, August, 1980 Page 34:

“Wolf Neck isn't the only place to take in coastal scenery in Freeport. If you continue down Bow Street, you'll end up on another picturesque peninsula called Flying Point. Now a quiet area of salt-water fumes

and impressive shoreline estates, Flying Pont is the site of a famous Indian massacre – and the bloody beginning of a romantic adventure that sounds like the plot of a Kenneth Roberts novel.

Late one night in 1756, Indians raided the home of farmer Thomas Means. They killed Means, his wife and son and took Mrs. Means' young sister, Molly Phinney, captive. Molly's fiancé, a young Freeport captain named William McLellan, knew that his girl would likely be taken to Canada and given over to the Indian's French allies as a servant if she survived the ordeal. Since this was his only possible hope, he acted on it.

Posing as a neutral trader, McLellan sailed to Quebec. It was a risky scheme for a British subject during the French and Indian Wars but the captain apparently had plenty of pluck – and luck. He traced Molly down through tavern gossip and rescued her in the dead of night from the French estate where she'd been placed as a servant. Then, together they sailed back to Freeport, married and – in one's imagination at least – lived happily ever after”

1-2

Sarah Means married John Thompson Jun 21, 1739.

1-3

Mary Means married June 19, 1742 at Biddeford or Scarbough – John Patten, son of Action Patten. He died April 7, 1795 – she died 1798. They had 13 children – 6 boys and 7 girls.

1-4

Dorcas Means married David Libby Dec. 13, 1750. She died and he married a second wife in April 1766, the widow Johanna (Joan) Page. David Libby early went to sea and became a captain of a coaster. During the French war, he transported supplies to garrison at Black Point. He bought a lot at Blue Point and built a house there. He sold it in Dec. 1762 and was one of a company who first settled Machias in 1763. He did not stay there long. In Jun 1768 he sold his 7-acre lot to Samuel Libby and soon after removed to Providence. By his first wife they had 6 children – 4 boys (George, Joseph, Robert, Issac and 2 girls (Jane, Dorcas).

1-5

John Means born 1728 in Falmouth, died suddenly on March 16, 1776, aged 48. Married Eleanor Johnson in Biddleford, York Maine on Dec. 25, 1748. Previous to 1755 he had settled at Old Orchard in Saco since Rev. Moses Morrill record show the baptism of their children from then on. It was noted he was a man of noble and helpful life. She died at age 60 on Sept. 18, 1789 of colic.1. The couple had 5 sons and 6 daughters all baptized in Saco. It is difficult to establish the order of the children since the first baptism included 3 of the children. The order is that assumed in SACO VALLEY SETTLEMENTS AND FAMILIES.

John and Roberts' gravestones were dug up when workmen were excavating for a drain for the Seaside House, Old Orchard. These stones now stand in an enclosure near the B&M RR stations and may be seen from the train window on right going down east.

Children:

1. James Jr. Means Baptized Nov.4, 1755
2. Robert Means Baptized Nov. 4, 1755, died June 20, 1826 in Surry.
3. James Means 1753-1832
4. George Means b. Apr. 20, 1756-1824, Bapt. July 7, 1757 in Saco.
5. Jane Means Born Aug. 5, 1759
6. Eleanor Means Baptized Nov. 17, 1765
7. Margaret Means Baptized July 10, 1762
8. Dorcas Means Baptized Sept. 20, 1772, died Apr. 21, 1772 (?)
9. John Means Died Apr. 16, 1782, age 32
10. Thomas Means b. Aug. 12, 1755 (?); Baptized Apr. 30, 1780
11. ?

1-6

Jane Means married William Jameson June 23, 1759. He died June 4, 1815 aged 79 years. She died July 13, 1818, aged 83 years. They had 6 boys and 8 daughters.

1-7

Elizabeth Means

1-8

Hannah Means Died 1759

1-5-2

Robert Means, son of John and Eleanor, was baptized by Reverend Moses Morrill, in Saco, Maine. In 1770, he married Mary Patten Rae (Ray), daughter of John and Mary (Patten) Rae in Old Orchard. She was born July 7, 1756 in N.Yarmouth, Maine. It is recorded that Robert and his wife, Mary Ray, renewed their covenant at First Church, Pepperrellborough, Maine on Nov. 2, 1778. Mary died in Surry, Mar. 22, 1842 ca 80 yr. and is buried at Rines Corner, Newbury Neck Maine. Robert died in Surry, June 1826. (July 20, 1820?) They had 17 children – 9 boys and 8 girls. In 1779 and 1780, Jane, Eleanor and James, children of Robert and Molly were listed as baptized by John Fairfield of Saco Maine.

However, about 1781, Robert Means, Molly and family, eventually with 17 children, moved to Surry, Maine, where they were one of the pioneer settlers. Robert was described by Sinnott as a man of truly sterling qualities and one of Surry's most enterprising citizens.

Children:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Jane Means | bapt. Jun 22, 1779, Saco |
| 2. Lavina Means | |
| 3. Nathaniel Means | died age 21 years |
| 4. John Means | born Jun 9, 1776; had 3 boys and 2 girls |
| 5. Elenora Means | 1777-1866; |
| 6. James Means | born Oct. 9, 1779; had 6 boys and 4 girls |
| 7. Samuel Means | 1780-1861;had 2 boys and 4 girls |
| 8. Matthew Means | 1781-1862; had 4 boys and 4 girls |
| 9. Robert Means | 1783-1842;Captain;died North Wilmington, NC. |
| 10. Mary Means | b. 1784;had 6 boys and 5 girls |
| 11. Ray Means | 1786-1876; had 7 boys and 5 girls |
| 12. Jesse Means | 1790-1874'had 3 boys and 3 girls |
| 13. Sallie Means | 1791-1876;had 6 boys and 10 girls |
| 14. Dorcas Means | 1795-1882 |
| 15. Thomas Means | born Oct. 9, 1799 |
| 16. Susan Means | had 3 boys and 7 girls |
| 17. Lydia Means | had 3 boys and 2 girls |

1-5-3

James Means was born 1753 in Old Orchard, ME. He was christened Nov. 4, 1755 and married Mary Cox. She was born 1754. They had 2 girls. James served in Revolutionary War, serving at Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and others. James died in Oct 15, 1832 in Stroutwater, Maine and is buried in Stroutwater Cemetery. Mary died Nov 27, 1831

James Means fought in the Revolutionary War and is listed as "a war hero".

Capt. Means's co., 12th Mass. regt.; entered service July 10, 1779; discharged April 10, 1780; term, 9 months. "

The Captain James Means House

From *This Was Stroudwater 1727-1860* by Myrtle Kittridge Lovejoy, National Society of Colonial Dames of American in the State of Maine, Portland, 1985

"In 1797, Capt. James Means (1753-1832) built a splendid new home on the large triangle that had once served as Colonel Westbrook's mast yard. This event made the Tate and Quinby families most unhappy, since it cut off their view of the river, bridge, stores, shipyards and river traffic that they had so long enjoyed. According to family tradition passed on to Andrew Hawes from his great-grandfather, John Quinby, this defeated the plans to use the triangle as a village green.

James Means, along with Josiah Cox and Gen. John Kilby Smith, had come to the village in the last year of the Revolutionary War and, as noted previously, they resided at the Zebulon Trickey House. The associates' bought the mast-yard triangle in 1786 and, by 1796,



purchased Smith's part. In January of that year, Cox sold it all to Means.



Though a newcomer to Stroudwater, Means (pronounced Mains) had deep roots in the area. His grandfather Robert had arrived at Falmouth Neck in 1718. At the outbreak of the Revolution, James was living in the home of his parents, John and Eleanor Johnson on Old Orchard, Biddeford. The battles of Lexington and Concord had already been fought when James was called up to Bunker Hill, and tradition has it that his mother made doughnuts while he ran bullets to take with him. He is listed at Valley Forge in 1777-1778 and held the rank of second lieutenant. When he received the title of captain is not known, thought it might have been a militia title.



Traditions about his army career came from Peleg Mitchell to John Remick, and on to Andrew Hawes. Eventually, these were recounted in a newspaper services, "Andrew Hawes – His Sayings" by Dr. Allston Hunt. Means is supposed to have served long with Washington, who he spoke of as a "coarse, pock-faced man". Tradition holds that in 18215, Lafayette stopped at the Means House to pay his respects.



By war's end, James had apparently saved enough to join Cox and Smith in seeking a fortune at Stroudwater. He was forty years old before he built a house, probably because he needs to accumulate capital. In the meantime, he wed Mary, sister of Josiah Cox, on April 4, 1785. He was civic-minded and served as surveyor of lumber, justice of the peace and representative at the General Court in Boston.

As a general storekeeper with Smith, Means's tenure in the old George Tate warehouse followed that of Jesse Partridge. When Means first married, he and his wife occupied the living quarters over the store. A wharf on the waterfront, whether built by him or a predecessor, was, doubtless, used by Smith and Means for many years before the house was built.

Charles Maxfield (1804-1897) told Andrew Hawes that, as a young man, he had seen Means's wharf covered with barrels of rum. He elaborated on the occasional use of a barrel. If, for instance, a captain died at sea and there was an agreement to bring the body home it was encased in one of those rum-filled barrels for preservation. The theory was successful, unless the sailors tapped the barrel by mistake and eventually drank its contents. "In those days," he explained, "people fairly swam in rum".

In proper fashion, the Captain and Mary Means built a lovely, hipped-roof house with an ell and outbuildings. Leonard Chapman give the building date as 1797. The rooms are large, and like the ceilings of the Tate House, high. The woodwork of the living room is beautifully decorated, and the McIntyre-like festoon carving on the fireplace is outstanding. There are four large chimneys. At one time, the colorful portraits of Captain and Mrs. Means graced the home. Today, through the generosity of a descendant, they are part of the permanent collection at Tate House.

Mary Cox Means died in 1831, and her husband a year later. They had two children, and the eldest Mary (1789-1837) inherited the house. At her death, she willed her property to her sister Sophie, the wife of Daniel Mason.

Handling the estate in both instances was William Slemons. From his account book, it appears that his services were valued at a dollar a day. At such a rate, he spent a day arranging papers, another with appraisers, and a final at Portland for administration. He loaned money to the ladies and sold hay and land for them. In fact, he acted as business manager in more than the Means instance.

The Masons had eleven children. One, born in the wake of Lafayette's visit, was given the unforgettable name of Sophiette. Her brother Samuel lived in the Means House. His son Frank sold the structure out of the family."

Children:

1. Benjamin Means birth b: Abt 1780 in Stroudwater,Cumberland,ME
2. Caroline Means birth b: Abt 1783 in Stroudwater,Cumberland,ME
3. Nicholas Means birth b: Abt 1786 in Stroudwater,Cumberland,ME
4. Mary Means birth b: 1789 -1837
5. Sophia (Sophiette) Means birth b: Abt 1790 in Stroudwater, Cumberland,ME;married Daniel Mason

1-5-4

George Means was born April 20, 1756 (1757), son of John Means and Eleanor Johnson. He married Hannah Banks in 1785. They had 11 children.

Children:

1. Elias Means b. 1786
2. Mary/Polly Means b. 1788
3. John Means b. March 15, 1790 died Feb., 1873 Augusta ME.
4. George Means b. 1792
5. Hannah Means b. 1795
6. Olive Means b. 1797
7. Joseph Banks Means b. 1799
8. Mark Means b. 1802
9. Cyrus Means b. 1805
10. Elizabeth Means b. 1810
11. Dorcas Means b. 1813

1-5-6

Eleanor (Nellie) Means, Died June13,1857 and buried in Bayview Cem.Newbury Neck, Surry, Hancock Co., Maine. Married Sturling Hopkins b: 22 Aug 1766

Children:

- Amos Hopkins b: 23 Nov 1796 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- William Hopkins b: 14 Feb 1798 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Robert Hopkins b: 4 Sep 1799 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Fanny H. Hopkins b: May16,1803 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Polly(Mary) Hopkins b: 5 Feb 1805 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Eleanor Hopkins b: 14 Dec 1806 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Thomas Hopkins b: 30 Dec 1808 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Sabrina Hopkins b: 23 Sep 1810 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine

- Mark Hopkins b: 12 Nov 1812 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Elizabeth Hopkins b: 16 Oct 1814 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Elvira Hopkins b: 10 Mar 1817 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine
- Martha Ann Hopkins b: 12 Nov 1819 in Surry, Hancock Co., Maine

1-5-2-4

John Means born Jun 9, 1776 in Biddeford, York Maine, died Surry, Hancock, ME.
Married Mary Dodge Oct.27, 1805.

1-5-2-6

James Means, son of Robert Means Sr. and Molly Ray, was born 9 Oct 1778 in Biddeford, York, ME U. S. A. ¹ **Christening:** 30 Apr 1780 Biddeford, York, ME U. S. A. ¹
Marriage to Elizabeth Heath Mar 21, 1807.

1-5-2-9

Robert Means, Jr. Born in Saco, Maine 1783-1842, Married in Blue Hill, Dec. 1, 1809 to Charlotte Kimball Witham, daughter of Andrew Witham. She was born Bradford, MA Sept. 7, 1790. She died Hampden Maine, April 29, 1870. He was a sea captain and died at Blue Hill Nov. 2, 1842. Both buried in Sea Side Cemetery at Blue Hill, Maine and 2 large stones mark their graves. Captain Robert Means built and captained the first 3 masted schooner with a few others at Blue Hill.

Inscriptions on gravestones:

He
Will
Rise
Again

Erected by the wife & children
In memory of a beloved husband and father

Capt. Robert Means
Died Nov. 2, 1842 Age 59

He was a master mason
of St. John's Lodge # 1
Wilmington NC

Asleep in Jesus
Blessed sleep
From which none ever
Wake to weep
A calm and undisturbed repose
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Our Dear Mother
Charlotte K. Means
Wife of Capt. Robert Means

Died Hampden
April 29, 1870
Age 79 yrs 7 mo 21 da

Dear is the spot where
Mother sleeps and sweet
The strains which angels pour.
Oh why should we in anguish weep-
She is not lost but gone before
God calls our loved ones, but
We lose not wholly what he has
given. They live on earth in thought
And deem as truly as in heaven

Both white marble stone – 4 ft 6 inches high

Children:

1. Mehitable Kimball Means Died May 14, 1856; ten children
2. John Witham Means Died March 6, 1875; Married Sophia Rumney Wells; Boston
3. Sophia Ada Means b. Aug. 1, 1849 d. May 16, 1901;
4. Edward Witham Means b. Sept. 7 1848 d. Aug. 25, 1873
5. Catherine Eustis Means b. July 12, 1851 d. Jan 4, 1881
6. Arthur Federick Means b. Sept 16, 1857 d. Oct 2, 1911
7. Alexander Hamilton Means d. 1902, aged 88; married Sarah Carey, of Hampden
8. Otis Witham Means b. Jun 6, 1817 d. Jan. 3, 1870 in Machiasport; Married Elsie Berry in Blue Hill, Apr., 1837

1-5-2-11

Ray Means was born in 1786 in Surry Maine to Robert and Molly Means. On January 18, 1810 he married Olive Wormwood. She was born 1790 and died 1857. He and Olive had 12 (13?) children, all born in Surry. He lived near his father in Surry until he left town and removed to Milbridge, Maine. Ray, a sea captain of great energy and success, died in 1875 in Milbridge, Maine and is buried there (The Evergreen Cemetery, Means lot, Milbridge, Maine).

Children:

1. Lavina Means
2. Elizabeth Means
3. Joseph Means
4. Benjamin Means d 1875 at sea, buried Millbridge Maine;
Damriscotta ME. “Jan I_Schr T.R. Hughley, Chandler of Kennebec, from Millbridge for Boston, with timber, went ashore on a small island near the mouth of the Damriscotta river on Friday night. The crew consisted of the captain and two hands. One of the latter, Benjamin Means, of Millbridge, was frostbitten and injured severely. He died soon after reaching the shore. Part of the cargo will be saved. The vessel went to pieces. She was insured.”
5. George Means d. 1855, buried Millbridge, Maine
6. Frank C. Means d. 1835

- 7. John (Knott Vicory) Means was the father of George H. Means, whose son E.K Means was a noted author.
- 8. Harriett Means b. 1821
- 9. Lemuel G. Means 1822-1905
- 10. Isabella Means d. March, 1891
- 11. Sara Jane Means
- 12. Andrew J. Means 1829-1895;was Captain of the bark “Cremona” and
did once captain the schooner “Zouave”

1-5-4-3

John Means, b. March 15, 1790, died Feb, 1873 Augusta Maine. Married Sarah Moody of Saco, daughter of William Perrereell Moody and Elizabeth Scammon. She was born Dec. 5, 1786. Moved to Augusta in 1811 where they owned a bakery.

1-5-2-11-9

Lemuel G. Means was born at Surry, Maine, on May 7, 1822, one of 12 children born to Ray and Olive Means. Married Christiana Wass Nov. 15, 1844. She was born 1825 and died 1854. Then married Mary Jane Wood, b. Nov. 6, 1828, died Jan. 27, 1915 in Portland, Maine, buried in Milbridge cemetery. Before Lemuel was 12 years old his parents moved to Jonesport, Maine and at that age he started out to make his way in the world by going to sea, as his ancestors had done before him. That he was competent, ambitions and trustworthy is attested by the fact that when he was 19 years old, he was given command of the brig, “Martha Washington”, a Mediterranean fruit trader. The proudest moment of his young life was coming into the Jonesport harbor under full sail. This was quite a feat for a 19-year-old boy—even then.

One of his first ships was the bark, 'Henry Badger' reportedly a very fast vessel that made some record-braking runs, one day making 320 miles.



The full rigged ships he commanded were "The Industry", "James Cheston" and the "Zouave". These ships were owned by Vernon H. Brown and Company of New York, who were also the American agents of the Cunard S.S. Line. In these ships he sailed the seven seas, visiting ports in Chili, Peru, India, Sumatra, China, Japan, Turkey, Russia, England, Germany, Holland and many other parts of the world for almost 50 years. No ship under his command was ever shipwrecked or met with disaster.

Lemuel Means had 2 children by his first wife, Christiana Wass, Edgar L.Means was washed overboard and lost at sea near the Azores on February 12, 1864. A daughter, Olive Means died later in Boston.

After his first wife died in childbirth, Lemuel married the widow, Mary Jane Wood, nee Gay, and had two children, Jennie Means and Edgar Means. Both children always went on world voyages as Captain Means was allowed to take his family on the ship without any extra charge. In fact, when the children became old enough to require instruction other than from Mrs. Means, a governess, Miss Nan Joy, was aboard ship also.

Family recollections and stories of exciting times aboard Captain Means' ships are many. On one voyage, Captain Means took a cargo of locomotives to Russia for the U.S. government, sailing up the Black Sea to a port where they anchored one night. The next morning they awoke to find themselves frozen in for the winter. One diary incident recall being in Yokohama in 1878-79 when General Grant was being welcomed there and upon his arrival was ushered up the long wharf on a red carpet. The Means family were included in the very formal parties given in General Grant' honor. Life in port after a long voyage was understandably very gay and very social.

On one occasion, Captain Means was in a North African port taking on a cargo. All day as he supervised the loading, he was disturbed by desperate looking characters lounging nearby. The ruffians looked suspiciously like pirates. The next day when his ship had cleared the harbor, Captain Means realized they were being followed by 2 smaller boats. In spite of all his sail and all his prayers for a small gale, the wind dropped and the pirates drew near. Then, in desperation all the fires were stoked, every kettle aboard was filled

with boiling water and firearms were broken out. Meanwhile the pirates closed in. At the last minute the prayers aboard were answered, for a brisk breeze started up, the sails filled, and the ship quickly left the desperados behind.

Mr. Vernon Brown, the Cunard agent in New York, gave Captain Means the choice of his best ship with a stay of several months in New York, provisioning for the voyage. Every known delicacy was included on the larder, as well as much time and thought spent in choosing his library. Meanwhile, Mrs. Means was provisioning for her becalmed days at sea by obtaining the best French wools for her needlepoint.

After retiring in 1880, Captain Means spent his last days in Milbridge, except for visits to his son Edgar and to his daughter, Mrs. George F. West. In Milbridge, he bought a large home, The Atlantic House, on the main street, which he ran as an inn for many years. In Milbridge, in 1878, Lemuel established the Evergreen Cemetery, for the benefit of the town and his own family.

Children of Christiana Wass

1. Edgar L. Means b. Oct. 8, 1845 d. Feb. 12, 1864 lost at sea in the Azores; marker at Milbridge cemetery
2. Olive A. Means b. Feb. 4, 1850, d. Dec. 29, 1867 in Boston, buried in Milbridge cemetery.

Children of Mary Jane Wood:

1. Edgar Leland Means b. Nov. 23, 1864 d. Nov. 27, 1947; buried in Orleans, Nebraska
2. Jennie Estelle Means b. 1863 d. 1950 in Portland Maine; married George F. West

Mary Jane Gay Wood Means, 1828-1915 was born Nov. 6, 1828 on the Gay farm outside of Milbridge, Maine, the daughter of Captain Amos and Patience Gay. She grew up during the era when the “downeast” town of Milbridge built ships and sent deep-water sea captains around the world.

My grandmother, who was May Jane Gay Means, used to tell about her father going out at night with a torch to spear the salmon on the Narraguagus River. These were salted down in barrels and kept through the winter months.

When she was widowed very young after her marriage to John W. Wood, she trained or apprenticed to be a tailoress, then married my grandfather, Captain Lemuel Means.

John W. Wood was an English sail maker from St. Thomas. There were 3 children born to John and Mary Jane - Clarinda, William and George, all dying very young. These children are buried in the Means family lot in Milbridge, Maine.

Once when a sailor fell out of the crow's nest onto the deck, she courageously came to his rescue and sewed up the scalp with a sail needle. All of her dozens of pieces of needlepoint she die at sea and several of them when they were in the doldrums, trying for 87 days to get around Cape of good Hope (Horn"), Mary Jane was considered quite an intelligent woman in those days. She used to go to sea with husband and once, when all aboard were sick, was credited with bringing the ship back across the Atlantic.

1-5-2-11-9-3

Edgar Leland Means, In his youth, he travelled with his father Lemuel G. Means who was Captain of the square-rigged schooner, Zouave. Edgar was taught on board the ship by his mother and a governess-teacher. When he was not sailing abroad, he lived in Milbridge, Maine in a house very near the bridge of Milbridge. After highschool he attended Bowdoin College where he played on the baseball team and graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa. Upon graduation he went to the West Coast by train and on the way back he met Mr. Preston, from the Bank of Orleans who informed him of an open position at the bank in Orleans Nebraska. Edgar got off the train at Orleans and got the job at the bank. At first he lived as a boarder in the home of Dr. William Banwell who operated a general store in Orleans. Eventually he married Dr. Banwell's daughter, Jessie, June 11, 1890 in Orleans, Nebraska. In the early years, Edgar acted as Notary Public for the Bank, but in later years he became the prime banker and principal stockholder of the Bank. From the records of land deeds it appears that he purchased the Bank of Orleans in 1902. Edgar and Jessie raised a family of 10 children in Orleans. In the late 1920s, after most of the children had left home, he sold the bank and moved to Omaha. In 1927 Jessie died in Omaha, after which Edgar moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. Within a year or so he married Grace Folts. About 1928 Edgar invested in a large office building in the business district of Lincoln. When the depression came he was unable to rent the space in the office building so that he lost all his money and had to declare bankruptcy. In the years after 1935 he worked as a gas station attendant at a CONOCO station near the center of Lincoln, Nebraska, until his death.

Armstrong
 James, 5
 Jane, 2, 4, 5
Banks
 Hannah, 10
Berry
 Elsie, 13
Carey
 Sarah, 13
Cox
 Mary, 8, 10
Dodge
 Mary, 11
Hopkins
 Sturling, 11
Jameson
 William, 7
Johnson
 Eleanor, 7, 9, 10
Libby
 David, 6
Means
 Alexander Hamilton, 13
 Andrew J., 13
 Arthur Federick, 13
 Benjamin, 10, 13
 Caroline, 10
 Catherine Eustis, 13
 Cyrus, 11
 Dorcas, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
 Edgar, 14
 Edgar L., 1, 3, 14, 15
 Edgar Leland, 15
 Edward Witham, 13
 Eleanor, 7
 Eleanor (Nellie), 11
 Elenora, 8
 Elias, 10
 Elizabeth, 5, 7, 11, 13
 Frank C., 13
 George, 7, 10, 11, 13
 Hannah, 5, 7, 11
 Harriett, 13
 Isabella, 13
 James, 7, 8, 9, 11

James Jr., 7
Jane, 5, 7, 8
Jennie, 1, 14
Jennie Estelle, 15
Jesse, 8
John, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14
John Witham, 12
Joseph, 13
Joseph Banks, 11
Lavina, 8, 13
Lemuel, 14, 16
Lemuel G., 3, 13, 14
Lydia, 8
Margaret, 7
Mark, 11
Mary, 5, 6, 8, 10
Mary Jane Gay Wood, 15
Matthew, 8
Mehitable Kimball, 12
Nathaniel, 8
Nicholas, 10
Olive, 11, 14
Olive A., 15
Otis Witham, 13
Ray, 3, 8, 13
Robert, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12
Sallie, 8
Samuel, 8
Sara Jane, 13
Sarah, 5, 6
Sophia (Sophiette), 10
Sophia Ada, 13
Susan, 8
 Thomas, 5, 6, 7, 8
Moody
 Sarah, 14
Page
 Johanna (Joan), 6
Patten
 John, 6
Phinney
 Ellen, 5
Rae
 Mary Patten, 8
Thompson

John, 5, 6
Wass
Christiana, 14, 15
Wells
Sophia Rumney, 12
Witham

Charlotte Kimball, 12
Wood
Mary Jane, 14, 15
Wormwood
Olive, 13