
Descendants of John B. Prentice



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Preface



*Ralph Prentice, circa 1840, Sturbridge,
MA*

The research behind the genealogy presented here was begun in 1993 in an attempt to document the family history given to me by Shanna Prentice, my grandmother. What began as an off hours hobby soon developed into a compelling passion that threatened to consume my every waking moment. The trail started in Holden, Worcester County, Massachusetts, where John Prentice, Sr. made his home in the early 1700s. His ancestry is unknown, and there are at present no viable theories regarding his parentage. From there, the trail led to nearby Sturbridge where his grandson, Ralph, lived for most of his adult life.

In the mid-1800s many members of the family moved to the midwest, where our immediately family lives today. Letters between Ralph's daughter, Julia, and her husband, John Clark, survive today, and are in the possession of Frank Hollingsworth, of Ft. Worth, Texas. These letters tell the story of a difficult and sometimes deadly trek from the civilized town of Sturbridge, Massachusetts to the wilds of Nebraska. At least two children were lost on the wagon train, stricken with what was probably diphtheria.

The trail does not end in Nebraska; it continues on to Texas, California, and Illinois. But my story ends here, with Julia and her husband.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Shanna Prentice, for her effort to put in writing the stories and traditions of the Prentice family. Her inspiration set me on a decade long journey.

Thanks also to Frank Hollingsworth for sending copies of the correspondence between Julia Prentice and her husband. I extend my gratitude to Sandra Collings, research librarian at the Holden Public Library, for her patience and understanding.

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Descendants of John B. Prentice, of Holden, MA

1. John B.¹ Prentice, Sr. He married Martha Cobb.

John Prentice, Sr. was probably born about 1738 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. A J. Prentice sold land there in 1761, as recorded in the Essex County Deeds. In 1765, John Prentice, Sr. bought land in Holden, MA, per Worcester County Deeds.

Children of John B. Prentice, Sr. and Martha Cobb:

- 2 i. **John B. Prentice, Jr.**, born 3 Mar 1774, in Holden, Worcester, MA,¹ died 3 Mar 1841, in Holden, Worcester, MA.²
- ii. **Silas Prentice.**
- iii. **Otis Prentice.**

2. John B.² Prentice, Jr. (*John B.¹*), born 3 Mar 1774, in Holden, Worcester, MA,¹ died 3 Mar 1841, in Holden, Worcester, MA.² He married Hannah before Oct 1795.

Only two children of John and Hannah Prentice are recorded in Holden, but there were probably others.

Children of John B. Prentice, Jr. and Hannah:

- 3 i. **Ralph D. Prentice**, born 27 Oct 1795, in Holden, Worcester, MA.³
- 4 ii. **Hannah Prentice**, born 14 May 1797, in Holden, Worcester, MA,⁴ died before 21 Sep 1834, in Holden, Worcester, MA.

3. Ralph D.³ Prentice (*John B.²*, *John B.¹*), born 27 Oct 1795, in Holden, Worcester, MA,³ buried in Holden, Worcester, MA. He married Joanna Holbrook 1816, in Sturbridge, Worcester, MA.⁵ She was the daughter of Marcus Holbrook and Joanna Darling. Joanna Holbrook was born 12 Jun 1797.

Ralph Prentice was a surveyor and miller in Holden. In 1832 he purchased a corn mill from Jonathan Stone which he ran successfully for many years. He let his house as a tavern from 1840 to 1853, when travel on the Northside turnpike was at a peak.

Children of Ralph D. Prentice and Joanna Holbrook:

- 5 i. **Ralph Prentice**, born 27 Jan 1817, in Sturbridge, Worcester, MA.⁶
- 6 ii. **Julia Prentice**, born 29 Jan 1819.
- 7 iii. **Jonathan Prentice**, born 29 Aug 1821.

- 8 iv. **Jeremiah Prentice**, born Apr 1822.
- 9 v. **Paul Prentice**, born 21 Aug 1823.
- vi. **Joanna Prentice**, born 3 Jan 1826.

4. Hannah³ Prentice (*John B.², John B.¹*), born 14 May 1797, in Holden, Worcester, MA,⁴ died before 21 Sep 1834, in Holden, Worcester, MA. She married Clifton Smith, Sr.

The will of Hannah's father, dated Sep 21, 1834, refers to Hannah, "late of Holden".

Children of Hannah Prentice and Clifton Smith, Sr.:

- i. **Joseph Smith.**
- ii. **Abijah Smith.**
- iii. **Isaac Smith.**
- iv. **Hannah Smith.**

5. Ralph⁴ Prentice (*Ralph D.³, John B.², John B.¹*), born 27 Jan 1817, in Sturbridge, Worcester, MA.⁶ He married Catharine Smith 23 May 1838, in Sturbridge, Worcester, MA.⁷ Catharine Smith was born 13 Jan 1819.

Children of Ralph Prentice and Catharine Smith:

- i. **Joseph Prentice**, born 14 Aug 1839.
- ii. **Ralph Prentice, , Jr.**, born 14 May 1841.
- iii. **Catharine Prentice**, born 16 May 1842.

6. Julia⁴ Prentice (*Ralph D.³, John B.², John B.¹*), born 29 Jan 1819. She married John Clark 25 Dec 1840. John Clark was born 3 Jan 1820.

Children of Julia Prentice and John Clark:

- i. **John Clark.**
- ii. **James Clark.**
- iii. **Loren Clark.**

7. Jonathan⁴ Prentice (*Ralph D.³, John B.², John B.¹*), born 29 Aug 1821. He married Diane Stone.

Children of Jonathan Prentice and Diane Stone:

- i. **Stone Prentice**, born 21 Aug 1815.
- ii. **Jeremiah Prentice.**
- iii. **Catarina Prentice.**
- iv. **Kenneth Prentice.**

8. Jeremiah⁴ Prentice (*Ralph D.³, John B.², John B.¹*), born Apr 1822. He married Relief Baldwin May 1845.

Children of Jeremiah Prentice and Relief Baldwin:

- i. **Relief Prentice.**
- ii. **Jeremiah Prentice.**
- iii. **Ida Prentice.**

9. Paul⁴ Prentice (*Ralph D.³, John B.², John B.¹*), born 21 Aug 1823. He married Deborah Pratt 23 Jul 1850.

Children of Paul Prentice and Deborah Pratt:

- i. **Abigail Prentice.** She married Jonathan Stone.
- ii. **Josephine Prentice.**
- 10 iii. **Paul Prentice**, born 23 Jun 1865.⁸
- iv. **Jeduthan Prentice.**

10. Paul⁵ Prentice (*Paul⁴, Ralph D.³, John B.², John B.¹*), born 23 Jun 1865.⁸ He married Cynda Prentice 30 Aug 1886.

Children of Paul Prentice and Cynda Prentice:

- i. **Ozero Prentice.**
- ii. **Hannah Prentice.**
- iii. **Paul Prentice.**
- iv. **John Prentice.**
- v. **Captain James Prentice.**

Epilogue

This genealogy is entirely fictional and is supplied as an example for users to gain familiarity with Ancestral Author. The people presented here are not real, and any resemblance to actual people is coincidental.

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Sources and Endnotes

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