

Sunday, November 27, 1994 • South Bend Tribune • INTERMISSION

BACK IN TIME

Records of New England settlements are easily found

CAROL COLLINS
MICHANA ROOTS



There are several important factors that make researching ancestry in New England different from that in other areas.

New England began keeping vital records in cities and towns from the earliest settlements, which makes tracing individuals and families much easier. Many of these records, if not most, have been published — either in whole or abstracts — and are easily found in libraries.

Until around 1850, all records were kept at the town level and not at the state level. After the "Great Migration" period in the 17th century, there was relatively little migration from Europe. This makes it easier to isolate a particular family and identify the immigrant.

And with the exception in the early 18th century of a substantial influx of Scotch-Irish who tended to cluster for a few generations, the population as a whole was remarkably homogeneous, consisting of "Yankees" — descendants of the original English settlers.

The "Great Migration," which took place from 1620 to 1640, consisted of five distinct waves. First came the Separatist Puritans who had separated in the Low Countries and then to Plymouth Colony in the years between 1620 and 1630. Last was a flood of all, they included the passengers of the Mayflower in 1620, who settled at Plymouth, and the Puritans under the leadership of John Endicott in 1630, who settled at Salem and commenced the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The non-Separatist Puritans, organized by Rev. John White from the West Country of England and John Winthrop of East Anglia, both with London connections, came between 1630 and 1635. They numbered about 2,000 to 3,000.

Spontaneous migration of non-Separatist Puritans were organized in small groups of five to 25 families. They usually came on a regular passenger ship and came to New England in the summer months. Volume 2 of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register will share their stories.

FROM THE TRIBUNE FILES

COMPILED BY TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS (APRIL 1994)

1894

Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad was inaugurated to South Bend and Mishawaka in 1894. The railroad was being built along the eastern track. A few days before Nov. 27, five cars containing shipments to South Bend and Mishawaka, Ohio, had been broken into. The thieves stole 30 pounds of Whittier linen.

Railroad officials, reluctant to discuss the theft problem, would only confirm that theft was a daily occurrence. The officials said they didn't think the crimes were being committed by migrants, and arresting and convicting perpetrators didn't seem to be a deterrent.

1919

Grave markers were placed on the graves of 37 members of the Holy Cross who had served as nuns in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

The markers were unveiled at a patriotic and religious ceremony at Saint Mary's College. Similar ceremonies took place in religious communities across the nation in 1919, some of the communities were represented in a pilgrimage led in front of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

The nuns received recognition from the War Department and Congress. Thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth Jolly, a writer from Providence, R.I., who would later publish the book "Nuns of the Battlefield," Jolly was present for the ceremonies at Saint Mary's.

A company of ex-servicemen from the University of Notre Dame unveiled the grave markers.

1944

The president of the South Bend Blue Sox, part of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, called a meeting of the team's directors and stockholders to discuss the operation of the team in South Bend in 1945.

In a meeting notice, Al McGinnis said the team had \$11,994 in South Bend the year before, mainly because the team didn't receive the receipts on the road or at home that had been expected. McGinnis also cited location and scheduling, saying that had the two been better arranged, the team would have played to hundreds more people.

Chewing gum magnate Phil Wrigley Jr., who founded the women's league in 1942, as well as the Chicago Cubs, offered to turn the league over to a board of governors that would represent each team. Under this plan, each team, not the league, would sign the players, coach-chapman and managers.

It already had been agreed that each of the teams would have 16 of 42 1944 players, if wanted, to form the nucleus of its 1945 team.

Because Milwaukee and Minneapolis had been dropped from the league, franchises were being awarded to two other teams, including Fort Wayne.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

1969

A grand jury was called to determine if there was sufficient evidence against accused hijacker Randall T. Boble to warrant a trial.

Boble, 21, of Michigan City, was charged with aircraft piracy. He was being held in the St. Joseph County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Boble was accused of forcing an Eastern Airlines flight en route from Miami to Nassau to fly to Cuba on Jan. 8, 1968. The plane was forced to fly to the airport in Havana after the hijacker threatened a flight attendant at Indianapolis.

An action spokesman later said the only person who failed to return to the United States from Cuba was listed on the airplane manifest as Mr. E. Boble Boble, a navy veteran, was arrested at the Canadian border in November of that year.

The grand jury decided evidence did warrant a trial, and Boble was indicted in November 1969. The New York judge threw out a part of the air piracy law that permitted the death penalty. In 1975, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and Boble's 37-year prison sentence.

NOT SO LONG AGO



The beauty business

Avon Ladies of South Bend, circa 1940, pose at a monthly meeting where samples of Avon beauty products are displayed along the wall at left. What may have been an area map is posted on the wall at right. In those days, the women had neighborhood routes, so they could work their products to customers' homes. No cars were involved as it often is the case today with the company's current crop of sales representatives.

Hardwoods brought Singer to area

The first of two parts, this article recounts the development of the Singer Sewing Machine Co. in South Bend. Hardwood's article will talk about the plant's early years and eventual decline and closing. — Editor

By MARSHA MULLEN

SOUTH BEND — The start of South Bend's Singer plant was preceded by Isaac M. Singer's establishment in Boston in 1851 of the Singer Sewing Machine Co.

Singer was not averse to relocation, and in 1852, he moved his operation to New York City. In 1872, the main plants were moved to Elizabeth, N.J. Between these two moves came development of the South Bend plant.

At the time, the western agents of the Singer company were having trouble getting machinery from their Chicago distributor. There the story starts to shift to South Bend and one Fred Gretter.

The South Bend agent for Singer, Gretter thought he could get local furniture makers to bid on sewing machine-cabinet construction. At the time, Singer didn't build its own cabinets; it contracted them out.

South Bend was an excellent location for furniture making because local walnut and other hardwoods were plentiful, supply Gretter approached several South Bend furniture makers — such as South and Hilling, Montgomery, and E.F. Price — for bids on 1,000 cabinets per month.

The work included construction of tables, box covers and drawers for the machines. But all those approaches resulted in bid on such a small amount of work.

Then, in 1880, Leighton Price came from the New York office to establish a Singer Cabinet Works in the South Bend area. He chose a site on the East River which was available for purchase at \$2,500.

However, Milwaukee officials, wanting the factory for their city, made an offer to Price and other Singer officials who had come to inspect the site. They could have better water power, a better site and 20 additional acres — all free.

The Milwaukee offer and even direct offering to move the distribution center to Milwaukee, Ed Gretter decided to bid on the raise money for the South Bend site by subscription from citizens.

and he persuaded Miller and Greene, proprietors of the water power operation in South Bend, to offer free power to Singer to operate the factory for their city.

He sent this offer to the Singer officials who had returned to New York, and it was accepted. All funds were raised, and the Singer Works came to South Bend.

A native of New York City and a photographer during the Civil War, Leighton Price extended the employ of Singer in the mid-1880s as a cabinet worker. In 1886, at the age of 24, he established the Singer Cabinet Works in South Bend and supervised the plant's construction.

After the plant was built, Price did most of the office work himself. During its first year in South Bend, the plant employed 160 men and made \$10,000 worth of cabinets.

In 1870, Price left Singer for a short time to become general manager of South Bend Iron Works. In November 1873, he returned to Singer and remained with the company until his death in 1885.

Eventually Price became general manager of all Singer cabinet works worldwide, including Cairo, Ill.; Kilmarnock, Scotland; Wittenburg, Germany; Philadelphia, Austria; and Portland and Moscow, Russia. He kept living in South Bend but died while on business in Scotland.

Price acquired a site on Division Street (now Western Avenue), including and surrounding the Marycrest Building which remains standing today. It was close to the Economical Flow Works which he eventually incorporated into the Singer factory as a foundry.

THROUGH THE YEARS

is a Michigan history column coordinated by Mary Annenke. Historical photos, writing with a group of authors, agencies in Indiana and Michigan. For more information about the column, write the N420, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN 46701.

Among many other community activities, Price was successful in his campaign to establish a stand-pipe water system in South Bend, chosen over the Italy system favored by John H. Stoddard. This house was one of the most badly damaged by the 1872 water main break. The standpipe advantage was the electric, and the standpipe was constructed.

Singer employed him as the plant on the East River in 1871, and by 1880, it was clear that these facilities were becoming outgrown. Some officials of Singer advocated moving the cabinet works to Cairo, Ill., but Leighton Price persuaded them to keep the works in South Bend and to move the factory.

Price acquired a site on Division Street (now Western Avenue), including and surrounding the Marycrest Building which remains standing today. It was close to the Economical Flow Works which he eventually incorporated into the Singer factory as a foundry.

The Division Street plant was supposed to be the largest sewing machine-cabinet factory in the world when it was built, although it was later expanded by the works in Scotland. The plant covered about 40 acres, including 20 acres of lumberyards. There was an 8-mile of track which shipped the cabinets to the plant.

At the time of construction, it was thought the capacity of the factory was 2,000 employees making 7,000 cabinets only per day. All operations were performed in the plant, including drying lumber, cutting lumber, veneering and assembling cabinets.

Marsha Mullen, former curator of Discovery Hall Museum, wrote this article while researching among St. Joseph County manufacturing companies.