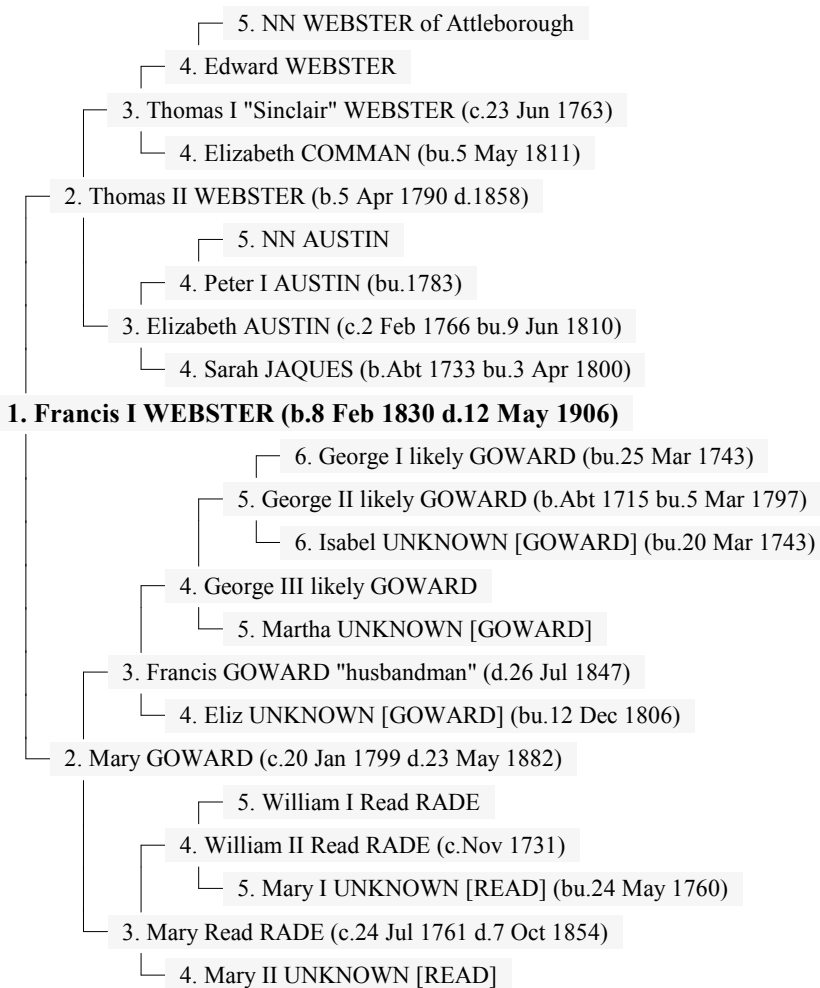


Ancestors of Francis I WEBSTER

17 Sep 2004

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Paternal Ancestors of Francis Webster Thomas II WEBSTER

First Generation

1. **Thomas II WEBSTER** was born 5 Apr 1790 in Bunwell, Norfolk. He died 1858 in Wymondham?.

The children of Thomas II Webster and Mary Goward were often christened late in their childhood, so they are given here in the order of their birth. Both christening and birth dates come from the Wymondham parish registers (Film no.1911510). Two other daughters (Mary and Elizabeth) are given in "Generations of Websters" (p.4) but were not found in the Wymondham records. Amy VanCott obtained the marriage certificates for Eleanor, Francis, Emily, and William for her family group sheets.

The marriage of Thomas II Webster and Mary Goward in Wymondham had witnesses Jeremiah Forster and Elizabeth Goward. Banns were read, and he was given as "bachelor" and she as "spinster," so neither had been married earlier. With the christening of all of Thomas's children except Eleanor he is listed as "labourer," and with Eleanor he is listed as a "husbandman" or small farmer. His abode was always Sutton or Sutton, a section of Wymondham. At least thirteen Webster couples appear in the parish records besides the three known to be ours. Socially they were similar as laborers, small farmers, weavers, etc, and further study will probably reveal family relations we don't now know.

Thomas married **Mary GOWARD**, daughter of Francis GOWARD "husbandman" and Mary Read RADE, on 7 Sep 1817 in Wymondham, Norfolk. Mary was christened 20 Jan 1799 in Brandon Parva, Norfolk. She died 23 May 1882 in Wicklewood, Norfolk and was buried 27 May 1882 in Wicklewood, Norfolk.

They had the following children:

- M i. **Israel WEBSTER** was christened 25 Jun 1820 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk. He died in Australia?.

The life and fate of Isaac Webster were apparently unknown to his brother Francis, but he may have emigrated to Australia according to a family friend ("Generations of Websters," p.47). This must have occurred after Francis'

trip to Australia in 1848-9, as his Journal has no reference to a brother there.

- F ii. **Eleanor Webster ELLEN** was christened 16 Jun 1822 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk. She died 13 Apr 1896 in ?Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk.

The data on Eleanor/Ellen's husband and children come from "Generations of Websters" (p.16).

- F iii. **Ann WEBSTER missionary** was born 10 Aug 1834 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk and was christened 23 Jul 1837 in Wymondham, Norfolk. She was buried 25 Sep 1893.

Ann Webster is given as Sarah Ann in "Generations" (p.16),

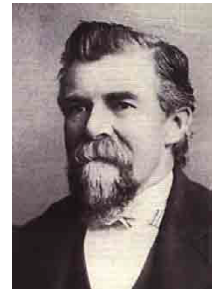
- F iv. **Mary WEBSTER missionary** was born about 1825 in ?Attleborough. She was buried 4 Jun 1876.

Mary and Elizabeth Webster were not found in the Wymondham parish records, and it is not clear where Amy VanCott got their dates ("Generations" p.16).

It is a family tradition from their brothers Francis and William that they (along with their sister Ann) never married and as spinsters became missionaries in India then returned to England late in life ("Generations of Websters," pp.16,46-47). Their life story would be interesting to research.

- F v. **Elizabeth WEBSTER missionary** was born about 1829 in ?Attleborough. She was buried 5 Oct 1891 in ?Attleborough.

- M vi. **Francis I WEBSTER** was born 8 Feb 1830 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk and was christened 23 Jul 1837 in Wymondham, Norfolk. He died 12 May 1906 in Cedar City, Utah and was buried 15 May 1906 in Cedar City, Utah.



The christening of Francis and his siblings comes from Wymondham parish registers, as does the marriage of his parents. These data were found by Amy VanCott and confirmed without problem (Film no.1911510). Francis Webster led a truly interesting, unusual, and impressive life. For an account of his time in Australia, in the California gold rush, and afoot with his family in the Martin Handcart company crossing the Rocky Mountains in the winter of 1856, CLICK on Personal Histories.

- F vii. **Emily WEBSTER** was born 10 Sep 1832 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk and was christened 23 Jul 1837 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk.

- M viii. **William WEBSTER** was born 21 Jan 1837 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk and was christened 3 May 1837 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk. He died 23 Apr 1922 in Cedar City, Utah.



Besides the church records to identify this William, we also have the 1851 census record in Wymondham which shows William as 16 years old, living with his parents Thomas Webster and Mary Goward. At that time William's elder brother Francis (about age 22 years) was away from home in Australia or the San Francisco gold rush.

William Webster differed very much from his brother Francis Webster, in that he came to Utah only late in life and mainly for economic, not religious reasons. He had been the prosperous superintendent of a coal and ironstone mine near Loftus, Yorkshire, with a large house at No. 31 Dundas Street. But his wife died quite young in 1888, and in 1892 a major strike closed down the mine. William and two sons decided to emigrate to Australia, but right at that time his sister in law, Ann Elizabeth Parsons, wife of Francis Webster, was visiting, and the men decided to go to Utah instead.

The decision was a mistake. William was unsuccessful in all his business endeavors and felt humiliated and chagrined that they lived worse than in England. He and his eldest son Will remained faithful to the Church of England, and never felt at home in Utah. William had buried his wife in Yorkshire, left two daughters there, and yearned for them and English life, but he never was able to return. This sad account is from the memory of Margaret Webster in "Generations of Websters," pp. 68-72.

- M ix. **Richard WEBSTER** was born 12 Apr 1839 in Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk and was christened 12 Jul 1840 in Wymondham, Norfolk. He was buried 1 Oct 1840 in Wymondham, Norfolk.
- M x. **Isaac WEBSTER?**

This Isaac is in "Generations" (p.17) with a reference to where he lived in England, but it seems to be an error for Francis's uncle Isaac, not a brother. We did not find such a brother in the Wymondham records.

Second Generation

2. **Thomas I "Sinclair" WEBSTER** was christened 23 Jun 1763 in Attleborough, Norfolk. He died in Bunwell?. Thomas married Elizabeth AUSTIN on 9 Nov 1789 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

The christening record for Thomas I Webster gives his name as "Thomas Sinclair Webster," but we found no connection to anyone named Sinclair. The Sinclair name does not even appear in the index of the lengthy Attleborough parish records (Fiche no.6046423). CLICK WEBSTER LINE

3. **Elizabeth AUSTIN** was christened 2 Feb 1766 in Bunwell, Norfolk. She was buried 9 Jun 1810 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

At Elizabeth Austin's burial her age was given as 43 years, though she was at least a year older. Her early death left several young children but we found no record that Thomas I married a second time. There were many women named Elizabeth. One of the witnesses at their marriage, also named Elizabeth Austin, was also a witness at the wedding of Elizabeth's sister Sarah to John Betts. Possibly this witness was their sister-in-law, Elizabeth Huggins, wife of Isaac Austin. Another Elizabeth Austin (wife of another Thomas) lived in the nearby parish of Carleton Rode; she was slightly older as she had a child in 1778 (Film no.1526806).

They had the following children:

- 1 M i. **Thomas II WEBSTER** was born 5 Apr 1790 and died 1858.
M ii. **Peter WEBSTER** was born 27 Jul 1793 in Bunwell, Norfolk. He died 25 Aug 1793 in Bunwell, Norfolk.
F iii. **Elizabeth WEBSTER** was born 12 Nov 1794 in Bunwell, Norfolk and was christened 18 Jun 1795 in Bunwell, Norfolk.
F iv. **Mary WEBSTER** was born 12 Apr 1801 in Bunwell, Norfolk and was christened 12 Apr 1801 in Bunwell, Norfolk. She was buried 13 Oct 1843.

This Mary Webster must have been fragile at birth, as she was christened on the same day she was born. Her burial date in 1843 comes from "Generations" (p.4), and we don't know where she died, presumably in Norfolk. We found her marriage to John Shinn in Wymondham records, but did not look for their children (Film no.1911511).

M v. **Isaac WEBSTER** was born 10 Jun 1804 in Bunwell, Norfolk. He died 2 Feb 1897.

Isaac's marriage was found in the Wymondham records (Film no.1911511)., but we found no children there (Film no.1911511). He probably lived at "Spinningrow near Wymondham," according to a journal reference by Francis Webster's son, who apparently mistook this uncle Isaac for a non-existing brother Isaac ("Generations" p.17).

F vi. **Sarah WEBSTER?**

This Sarah was given in "Generations" (p.4) but without any information. She was not found in the Wymondham records, and is likely an error.

Third Generation

4. **Edward WEBSTER** was born in ?Attleborough, Norfolk. He died in ?Attleborough, Norfolk. Edward married Elizabeth COMMAN on 20 May 1761 in Attleborough, Norfolk.

Edward is our earliest certain Webster ancestor, but we know neither his birth nor death place. The burial of his wife Elizabeth CLICK gives a possible death date for him. Other Websters were found in the records of St Julian's church in the city of Norwich, e.g. the burial of an Edward Webster on 20 July 1747, too early for our Edward but possibly his father or cousin (Film no.1657262).

At least one family of Websters remained in Attleborough and had seven children in the years 1825-34, James Webster, a barber, and his wife Mary Knight. But ours had moved away by then.

5. **Elizabeth COMMAN** was born in Attleborough, Norfolk. She was buried 5 May 1811 in Attleborough, Norfolk.

No further data on Elizabeth Comman or her family are given in "Generations of Websters," and the name is quite rare though "Colman" is frequent. Only three other references appear in the Attleborough records, for Elizabeth dau of Thomas and Marie Coman (christened on 22 Nov 1637 and for Stephen Coman's son Daniel (born and buried in 1792) and his wife Mary (buried in 1805). In nearby Wymondham in the 1830s Stephen Coman was a weaver, and Jonathan joined him in the 1840s (Film no.1911510). In Wicklewood the name Coman appeared twice: William Coman and Honor his wife had Sarah (chr 26 March 1802) and John Welton and wife Mary Coman had Susanna (chr 22 Sep 1803) (Film no.1526812). Possibly these later families were relatives of our Elizabeth, but none was traced further.

The death date given for Elizabeth Comman comes from "Elizabeth Webster widow" in the Attleborough parish register without more identification, but no other Elizabeth Webster appears there (Fiche no.6026423). If true, this means Edward Webster died before 1811.

Edward and Elizabeth had the following children:

- 2 M i. **Thomas I "Sinclair" WEBSTER** was christened 23 Jun 1763.
- F ii. **Mary WEBSTER** was christened 14 Jan 1766 in Attleborough, Norfolk.
- 6. **Peter I AUSTIN** was buried 1783 in ?Bunwell. He married Sarah JAQUES on 6 Aug 1758 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

Peter I Austin's marriage to Sarah Jacques and their children's christening dates were all found in the Bunwell parish transcripts for the Archdeacon (Film no.1526806). At their marriage they were called "bachelor" and "spinster," so they had not married previously. They were married by banns and both lived in the parish. His death date is unknown, but Sarah was called a widow at her burial in 1800, so he died before that date.

- 7. **Sarah JAQUES** was born about 1733. She was buried 3 Apr 1800 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

The birthdate and place of Sarah Jacques/Jacks are unknown, but at her burial in 1800 she was said to be 67 years old. So her birth year was estimated at 1733, which also fits her marriage in 1758 in the Bunwell transcripts (Film no. 1526806). Nothing more is known of the Jacques/Jacks family than Sarah's possible parents Isaac Jaques and Elizabeth N.N., with Elizabeth's burial in Bunwell on 4 November 1757.

They had the following children:

- F i. **Sarah AUSTIN** was christened 6 May 1759 in Bunwell, Norfolk. She was buried 4 Aug 1796 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

Sarah's marriage to John Betts, widower, occurred two years after the birth of her son Benjamin, so his father is unknown though possibly was Betts. The boy was christened only shortly before her marriage (Film no.1526806).

- M ii. **Isaac I AUSTIN farmer** was christened 6 Jan 1761 in Bunwell, Norfolk. He died about Dec 1819 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

We were able to learn more about this brother and uncle Isaac Austin than we know of our own ancestor Peter I Austin. Isaac was very active in leasing new farm lands and buying old leases or "copyholds" from bankrupt farmers, as shown in the Manorial court records (Film no.1657290). He was always listed as "farmer," but we do not know otherwise what kind of

farming was prevalent
in Norfolk. His widow Elizabeth Huggins kept certain of his
lands during her
life, then they were sold and the money distributed
apparently to the heirs.

We have not studied the Bunwell parish records later than
1812, so we don't
have Isaac's death date, but his will was proved on 20
January 1820. The
Manorial court records refer to his death in late 1819.

F iii. **Ann AUSTIN** was christened 13 Dec 1762 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

We are not certain that this marriage belongs to this Ann,
daughter of Peter I
Austin, but we found no other Ann in Bunwell. We did not
look for children
named Reynolds (Film no.1526806).

3 F iv. **Elizabeth AUSTIN** was christened 2 Feb 1766 and was buried 9 Jun 1810.

M v. **Peter II AUSTIN** was christened 19 Jun 1768 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

We found no more of Peter II Austin, and he may have died
young, or perhaps he
moved to another town. In Wymondham several Austins had
similar names, Peter,
Elizabeth, and John (Film no.1911511).

Fourth Generation

8. **NN WEBSTER of Attleborough** died in ?Attleborough, Norfolk and was buried in Attleborough, Norfolk.

Possibly this NN Webster was the widower "William" buried on 28 August 1730, presumably the husband of Maria Webster earlier buried in Attleborough. Or perhaps that couple were actually grandparents, and NN was the John Webster buried on 5 April 1737 with his wife being either "Widow Webster" buried on 13 March 1747 or "Widow Webster" buried on 29 June 1759. Our N.N. could also be the William Webster who was buried on 17 November 1761. Both names William and John appear among the sons of N.N. All these possibilities are in the Attleborough records (Fiche no.6046423), but will require deeds, wills, or occupational records to sort out their actual relations.

He had the following children:

- 4 M i. **Edward WEBSTER.**

- M ii. **John possible WEBSTER** was christened 9 Aug 1741 in Attleborough, Norfolk.

This John Webster was christened as "son of () Webster." By date and location (in the absence of any other Webster family in Attleborough), we have made him a brother of our Edward.

- M iii. **William possible WEBSTER.**

William Webster signed as a witness of the marriage of Mary Webster to William Batterby in September 1765, and Elizabeth Batterby married John Becraft, who was a witness for William Webster's marriage and also a witness for the marriage of Anne Webster to William Pinkhorne in Sep 1770. So we have assumed a family group with relations to the Batterby and Becraft families. It seems likely that this William Webster is the man of that name who was buried on 7 Dec 1770 (Fiche no.6026423).

- F iv. **Mary possible WEBSTER.**

- F v. **Anne possible WEBSTER.**

This Anne Webster and her husband William Pinkhorne must have moved away as

the Attleborough registers have no other reference to the name Pinkhorne.

F vi. **Elizabeth possible WEBSTER.**

We have placed this Elizabeth in our Webster family because of her location and date, without any further evidence. Nothing is known of the father of her "baseborn" daughter Phoebe, christened in 1771 and buried in 1773.

12. **NN AUSTIN.**

A possible family group was made of the Austins found in Bunwell parish records, using N.N. Austin as a possible father of the group. The later Austins we know of were land owners and tenants of farm lands, so study of deeds and land records might give needed information on these earliest Austins.

He had the following children:

M i. **Thomas I likely AUSTIN "bachelor"** was buried 13 Apr 1808 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

We believe this Thomas I Austin was brother of our ancestor Peter I Austin, but are still looking for more proof. It is clear from the Manorial Court Records that in his will of 1803 this Thomas bequeathed his farm lands to Peter III Austin (nephew of our ancestor Elizabeth Austin, wife of Thomas I Webster) (Film no.1657290). For more detail, [CLICK AUSTIN INTRODUCTION](#).

6 M ii. **Peter I AUSTIN** was buried 1783.

F iii. **Mary possible AUSTIN.**

This Mary Austin was married "by license," so perhaps more could be learned of her or her husband Stephen Cann by obtaining the license if available. The burial date given him may actually be for their son of the same name. No further data for this couple were found in the Bunwell transcripts (Film no.1526806).

M iv. **Thomas II possible AUSTIN** was buried 7 Dec 1774 in Bunwell, Norfolk.

This Thomas II Austin is a catch-all figure we have put together to include several men named Thomas Austin. The death of wife Rose, the marriage of widower Thomas to Susanna Read, and the burial of Thomas

Austin in 1774 are
not identified as events referring to the same Thomas, but
they fit together
by dates. We also have no evidence that Thomas III Austin
was the son of
Thomas II, but have attributed this relation as a
possibility. Only further
study will show whether these possibilities were actual.

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