

## Proving John Anthony as the Son of Seth Anthony and Charity Haskins

John Anthony was born 13 November 1780 in Taunton, Massachusetts, and died at Buffalo, Illinois, on 31 January 1857. He married Abigail Soule on 12 November 1801 at Blenheim, New York. Abigail was the daughter of Jacob and Meribah (Lewis) Soule and a descendent of George Soule, a Mayflower passenger.<sup>1</sup> Finding no direct evidence of John's parentage, we assembled records to show that his parents very probably were Seth and Charity (Haskins) Anthony, and that a bloodline truly exists between the applicant and the Pilgrim.

John's father Seth Anthony was of Taunton, Massachusetts, and a Quaker when he married Charity Haskins in Berkeley, Massachusetts, on 22 June 1775.<sup>2</sup> Less than a month later, 3 July 1775, Seth was disowned by the Quakers because he "hath Married out of the Unity of Friends and hath been sufficiently Laboured with therefore this meeting doth put him from under our care."<sup>3</sup>

By 1790 Seth and Charity had traveled about 250 miles from Taunton to Harpersfield, New York, where Seth Anthony, the one male over 16, was enumerated with two boys 16 and under [conjectured as Seth Jr., about 14, and John, 10], and six females.<sup>4</sup> After the 1790 census and before the 1800 census, the family moved about 12 miles to Kortright, New York, where Seth Anthony Sr, 45 and over, and Seth Anthony Jr both headed households in Kortright, enumerated one after the other. John, now 20, was probably the one male 16–25 in his father's household. Of the 260 dwellings in Kortright, only two were inhabited by Anthonys.<sup>5</sup>

On 12 November 1801, one day before he turned 21, John Anthony traveled about 29 miles east to Blenheim, New York, to marry Abigail Soule.<sup>6</sup> Evidence suggests the newlyweds returned to Kortright as the 1803 tax assessment for Kortright shows Seth Anthony Sr, Seth Anthony Jr and John Anthony owning land next to each other.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Membership application, Russell D. Francis, no. 87885, accepted 11 March 2015 by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Office of the Historian General, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850, Volume: Taunton-V2, p. 24 (Online Database: *AmericanAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001-2010).

<sup>3</sup> Swansey Monthly Meeting Minutes, 1732-1788. New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records (MS 902). Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries.

<sup>4</sup> 1790 U.S. Census, Harpersfield, Montgomery County, New York, p. 108 (stamped), Seth Anthony; digital image, Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication M637, roll 6.

<sup>5</sup> 1800 U.S. Census, Kortright, Delaware County, New York, p. 1313 (handwritten), Seth Anthony (s); digital image, Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 22.

<sup>6</sup> Membership application no. 87885, General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

<sup>7</sup> New York, Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804, assessment year 1803.

By 1810 Kortright had grown to 500 households, of which three were Anthonys. John Anthony was enumerated two doors from Seth Anthony Sr and three from Seth Anthony Jr. John, the one male 26 to 44, lived with one boy 9 and under; one female 26 to 44, and five girls 9 and under,<sup>8</sup> for a total of six children. This total likely includes daughter Charity, their sixth child, born 25 September 1810.<sup>9</sup> In 1820 all three Anthonys still lived in Kortright.<sup>10</sup>

Seth Sr sold land in Kortright on 2 July 1823 as witnessed by Geo. Little. His wife relinquished her right of dower on 11 Feb 1824 stating, "I Charity Anthony wife of the within named Seth Anthony...",<sup>11</sup> reinforcing the assumption that Seth and Charity Anthony of Kortright, New York, were the same who married in Taunton, Massachusetts.

An extensive search in New York for will or probate records for Seth Anthony Sr turned up negative.<sup>12</sup> Ebenezer Weaver Pierce, in discussing Seth's family, states "They moved to Kortright in the state of New York, where he appears to have become poor; he and his wife separated, remaining apart until his sickness, that terminated in death Sept. 20, 1827."<sup>13</sup> This is substantiated by a Delaware County affidavit of insolvency for a suit filed by Thomas Farrington, dated 30 October 1826.<sup>14</sup> All record searches for Seth Anthony Jr in New York after 1820 were negative. In 1830, only John Anthony is enumerated in the Kortright census.<sup>15</sup>

By 1832 John Anthony had moved to Sanford, Broome County, New York where John's daughter, Sara Jane Anthony, married James Aplington in 1833.<sup>16</sup> In 1838 John purchased 108 acres of land in Sanford.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, Kortright, Delaware County, New York, p. 608-609 (handwritten), Seth Anthony(s); digital image, Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication, roll 26.

<sup>9</sup> Mildred Mathews, *Soule Kindred Newsletter*, vol. 7 (1), 1973: 20-22.

<sup>10</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Kortright, Delaware County, New York; digital image, Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication M33\_65, Image 81.

<sup>11</sup> Delaware County Deeds, Delhi, New York, Town of Kortright Liber F of Deeds, p. 434.

<sup>12</sup> An extensive search was made for will and probate records for Seth Anthony including: 1629-1971 New York Probate Records at FamilySearch.org; 1787-1835 Abstracts of Wills, Administrations and Guardianships in New York State at NEHGS; Delaware County New York Genealogy and History Site; Delaware County Clerks Office; and the New York State Library.

<sup>13</sup> Ebenezer Weaver Pierce (Contributions, Biographical, Genealogical, and Historical; Boston, David Clapp & Son, 1874, p.166)

<sup>14</sup> Delaware County, Insolvencies, Delaware County Clerk's Office, Delhi, NY. Debtor: Seth Anthony, 30 October 1826.

<sup>15</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Kortright, Delaware County, New York, p. 108 (handwritten), John Anthony; digital image, Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 89.

<sup>16</sup> Membership application no. 87885, General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

<sup>17</sup> Broome County Deeds, Binghamton, New York, Town of Sanford Liber 22 of Deeds, pp. 70-71.

On 22 September 1850, John Anthony, 71, and Abigail Anthony, 69, both born in Massachusetts, lived with his nephew Wm R. Freeman, 14, and his son John A. Anthony, 29.<sup>18</sup> On 23 June 1855, John Anthony, 75, born Mass., [Rhode Island had been crossed out and Mass. written above] lived with “Abigail” Anthony, 75, wife, born Rhode Island. Both had been residents of Sanford for 23 years, hence the year of their removal to Sanford was in 1832. The next household was headed by John A. Anthony, 37, born “Delaware Co.,” and wife Sally, 22, born Massachusetts; John A. had also lived in Sanford for 23 years before moving to Jackson, Linn County, Iowa in 1855.<sup>19</sup> Their seven-month-old son Norman S. lived with them.

In December 1856 John and Abigail Anthony traveled from Sanford, New York to Jackson, Iowa to visit their son, John A. Anthony.<sup>20</sup> They stopped to see their granddaughter Catharine Aplington in nearby Buffalo, Illinois where John died 31 January 1857.<sup>21</sup> Abigail died of “Fits” in Linn County, Iowa, 12 July 1859.<sup>22</sup>

John A. Anthony later moved to Ruthven, Iowa where he had a very successful life in Palo Alto County as Justice of the Peace. In a handwritten letter from John A. Anthony to his niece, Helen (Aplington) Burns in March 9, 1894 from Ruthven, Iowa, John A. Anthony states “I am nearly Seventy Six years old” and “You Enquire the name of my grandfather I think his name was Seth. He was from Taunton Massachusetts. He and all the Anthony’s there were Quakers, and were natives of new England States.”<sup>23</sup> John A. Anthony died in Ruthven, Iowa 22 Jul 1895.<sup>24</sup>

The above evidence strongly implies that a bloodline exists between Seth and Charity (Haskins) Anthony of Taunton, Mass., Harpersfield, N.Y., and Kortright, N.Y., and John Anthony of Kortright, leading to the conclusion he is their son.

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<sup>18</sup> 1856 Iowa State Census Collection, Linn Co., Iowa, Jackson, p. 714; Ancestry.com, Provo Utah.

<sup>19</sup> 1850 US census, Broome Co., New York, Sanford, p. 187 (stamped), 272/274; NARA microfilm, M432, roll 477

<sup>20</sup> Lewis R. Anthony, (Sanford, New York) to “Father & Mother”, 14 December 1856, “I hope you will not think of going to Iowa till spring at least not till the weather is warm & dry”; copy privately held by Russell D. Francis, 10 June 2017, from collection of Anthony family letters passed down from Mildred C. Mathews to her niece, Dian Nash, Klamath Falls.

<sup>21</sup> Membership application no.87885, General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

<sup>22</sup> 1859 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule, Buffalo Township, Linn County, Iowa, Abigail Anthony, p. 3, line 32.

<sup>23</sup> John A. Anthony, Ruthven, Iowa to “Helen”, obtained copy of letter from Dian Nash, Klamath Falls, 10 June 2017; privately held by Russell D. Francis.

<sup>24</sup> Iowa Cemetery Records, 1662-1999; Ancestry.com, Provo Utah.