First Generation

1. Marietta Waite m1 Thompson; m2 Thomas.

Second Generation

2. **Frederick P. Waite** was born¹ on 7 Feb 1844.

Third Generation

- 4. **Erastus Waite** was born² on 17 Feb 1797 in Goshen, MA. He married Mary Burroughs on 10 Apr 1820. Erastus moved to Ohio @1830. (HWM)
- 5. **Mary Burroughs** "Polly" was born³ in 1804 in Whately, Franklin, MA. Mary was the daughter of Stephen & Amilla () Burroughs. (HWM)

Fourth Generation

- 8. **Benjamin Waite** ^{4,5,6} was born⁷ on 13 Sep 1770. He died⁸ on 28 Sep 1830 in Whately, Franklin, MA. He married Polly Mott on 2 Jun 1794.
- 9. **Polly Mott** ^{9,10,11} was born¹² on 16 Mar 1783 in Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA. She died¹³ on 15 Mar 1864.

Fifth Generation

- 16. **Jeremiah Waite** ^{14,15,16} was born ^{17,18,19,20} on 16 Feb 1742/1743 in Athol, Worcester, MA. He died ^{21,22} on 16 Mar 1817. He married Rachel Bement in 1762 in Ashfield, Franklin, MA. Jeremiah served in Capt. Silah Barnard's Company on an expedition to Canada in 1760. He died of consumption contracted in the Revolutionary Army.
- 17. **Rachel Bement** ^{23,24,25} was born²⁶ in 1742. She died²⁷ on 23 Dec 1814.
- 18. **Samuel Mott** ²⁸ Samuel married Martha.
- 19. **Martha** ^{29.}

Sixth Generation

- 32. **Nathan Waite** ^{30,31,32} was born ^{33,34,35,36} on 15 Feb 1711 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. He died ^{37,38,39,40} on 25 Nov 1798 in Whately, Franklin, MA. He married ⁴¹ Hannah Billings on 18 Jan 1739 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. Nathan was a member of the Congregational Church and a Selectman from Ashfield in 1763. (BJWS)
- 33. **Hannah Billings** ^{42,43,44} was born ^{45,46} on 14 Jul 1706. She died ^{47,48,49,50} on 15 Aug 1773 in Ashfield, Franklin, MA.
- 34. **John Bement** ⁵¹ was born on 23 Mar 1701. He died after 22 Apr 1756. He married Mary.
- 35. **Mary** ⁵² died on 22 Apr 1756.

Seventh Generation

- 64. **Jeremiah Waite** ^{53,54} was born^{55,56} on 24 Sep 1684 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. He died on 3 Dec 1733 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. He married Mary Graves on 4 Apr 1706 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. The inventory of Jeremiah's estate was taken Dec 1733 at Hatfield MA. He resided at Hadley, Hatfield and West Brook, Massachusetts. Jonathan owned a fulling mill on the Housatonic River. (EWT) Some historians attribute a Jonathan to Jeremiah.
- 65. **Mary Graves** ^{57,58,59} was born^{60,61,62} on 24 Feb 1682/1683 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. She died on 4 Jan 1738/1739 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA.
- 66. **Richard Billings** ^{63,64}. Richard married Hannah Marsh in Hatfield, MA.
- 67. Hannah Marsh ^{65,66}.

Eighth Generation

128. **Sgt. Benjamin Waite** ^{67,68} was born⁶⁹ in 1645 in Portsmouth, RI. He died^{70,71,72} on 29 Feb 1704 in killed Deerfield, Franklin, MA. He was buried⁷³ in Deerfield Cemetery, Deerfield, MA. He married⁷⁴ Martha Leonard on 8 Jun 1670 in Springfield, Hampden, MA.

BENJAMIN WAIT GUARDIAN OF THE NEW WORLD © 1997, Sam Behling Benjamin was born about 1645 and was a petitioner of Hadley, Massachusetts April 25, 1665. He was recorded living at Hatfield, Hampshire County in 1668. In the division of his father's estate he received the lands at Misquamicut (Westerly), which he disposed of, and then removed to the CT Valley, where he was one of the guides of Capt. William Turner and his men in the "Falls Fight" in May 1676. On 3 Feb 1703/4 William Rooker assigned to Thomas Wait of Seaconnet (Little Compton) and Benjamin Wait of Hadley 40 acres in Brookfield, MA.

Ben could not get away from the minstrel in him that in generations past had earned his family the name "Wait". Waits, professional musicians and rhymsters in Old England, led processions and at smaller entertainments versified rhymes of their own making, sometimes for a half-hour without pause. Will Markham had not stayed within speaking distance of Ben in the five years since Ben had composed verses making light of Liza Hawkes, Will's heedless young sister. Liza, a young widow lacked judgment of any kind. When her frivolous ways escaped chastisement that had been dealt a bound girl, Ben took matters into his own hands. He had been keeping bad company at the time, but no one doubted the idea was his own. He not only put a telling rhyme about Liza on paper, he sailed the offending missive into her dooryard. Will Markham took Ben and his rhymes to law. The court ordered five stripes well-laid upon his naked body and & four pounds cost of court. Only Ben's much-needed skill as a carpenter had saved him from being drummed out of town along with riffraff involved in the matter.

But Ben soon settled down. Ben, a carpenter trained by a master in Dedham, had come to town recommended by Squire Leverett. Built like a young bull, with all the strength and agility needed to handle the demands of his trade, his craftsmanship had won the admiration of the valley men and his gifts for song and mirth had turned every girl's head. In record time, he won the consent of John Cowles, one of Hatfield's chief engagers, to wed his youngest daughter, Esther. While Ben fulfilled his contracts and

started to build a cottage for Esther, her father sent her to Hartford to help her eldest sister, Sarah Goodwin, with a new baby. In only a matter of weeks, word reached Hadley that Esther's bans were being read in Hartford for her marriage to Thomas Bull. Ben and John Cowles swept down the river to protest. John stated that, though no bans had been published in Hadley, he had given his promise that Esther would wed Ben; he would not dishonor his word. Ben protested that Tom's wealth and the excitement of living in a large town and helped turn Esther's head; he was sure he could change her mind.

But Esther would not be moved. Ben took his case to court. The Hartford magistrates, sympathetic to his causes, suspended Esther's bans for a month. They directed Ben to win back her favor. His efforts came to naught. John Cowles forbade Esther ever to return to his hearth again for any reason. Ben took his jilting hard. For a time, when he played his cornet in the quiet of evening, so much torment poured out in his music that he brought tears even to the eyes of flinty old Magistrate Clarke. For a season, nothing seemed to go well with Ben. When his music began to enthrall Hannah Lewis, Small Pockets' visiting granddaughter, her grandfather unceremoniously gave Ben short shrift. Small Pockets claimed that Hannah was too young to be courted. At last he married Martha Leonard, daughter of John, on June 8, 1670 in Hatfield, Massachusetts. A year after King Philip's War, Indians attacked once more. At Ben Wait's they left everything in flames and carried away Martha and her three little girls, two, four and six. Martha, too, was pregnant. Stephen Jennings' family was also abducted. He and Ben Wait set off to find the missing families. With no confidence in their safety along the Mohawks' Trail, they went to Westfield and headed westward for the Housatonic River; they reached Albany by way of Kinderhook, on the Hudson. Authorities at Albany gave the distraught men no satisfaction. They treated them ill and hindered their progress.

Resentful and more determined, Ben and Stephen pressed northward on their own. In small villages beyond Albany, they learned the captives had been marched along that way. A day's journey above Albany, the New York constabulary overtook the Hatfield men. They dragged them back to Albany for questioning. They were ordered to seek permission for their mission from the Governor, Sir Edmund Andros, at Manhattan. November was half spent before the men returned to Albany. Again, they received no civility from authorities at Albany, but a Mohawk with whom Ben had dealt during his early troubled years in Hadley befriended him. The Mohawk conducted Ben and Stephen to Lac de Saint Sacrament which the British would later rename for King George. There he provided them with a canoe and a rough map of his own drafting. They arrived in Canada in January in the dead of winter. The French government put no obstacles in the way of the grateful men. They moved from village to village and found and ransomed those they sought who had survived. They found Hannah Jennings first. Within a week, Ben found Martha and their three small daughters; a few days later, their fourth daughter was born. They named her Canada. As soon as Martha could travel, the party proceeded to civilization in Quebec. Accompanied by a guard of eleven soldiers provided by the French government, early in May the Hatfield Company turned homeward.

Three weeks later Ben wrote from Albany: "To my loving friends and kindred at Hatfield. These few lines are to let you understand that we are arrived in Albany now with the

captives and we now stand in need of Assistance, for my charges is very great and heavy; and therefore any that have any love to our condition, let it move them to come and help us in this strait. Three of the captives were murdered - Old Goodman Plympton, Samuel Foote's daughter, Mary, and Samuel Russell. All the rest are alive and well and now in Albany, namely Obadiah Dickinson and his child, Samuel Kellogg, my wife and four children, and Quentin Stockwell. I pray you hasten the matter for it requireth great haste. Stay not for the Sabbath nor the shoeing of horses. We shall endeavor to meet you at Kinderhook; it may be Housatonic. We must come very softely because of our wives and children. I pray you, hasten, stay not night nor day, for the matter requireth haste. Bring provisions with you for us.

Your loving kindsman, Benjamin Wait. At Albany, written from mine own hand. As I have been affected to your all that were fatherless, be affected to me now, and hasten the matter and stay now, and ease me of my charges. You shall not need to be afraid of any enemies."

Ben was also part of a highly secretive (and treasonous) group of colonists who became known as the Guardians of the New World. The Angel of Hadley has been one of our nation's best-kept secrets.

Because history records no battle with the Indians at Hadley, MA on September 1, 1675, careless antiquarians relegated the Angel to myth. One such historian, George Sheldon, disclaims the Angel of Hadley in the foreword section of second edition of Judd's History of Hadley that he edited. However, Lemuel A. Wells in The History of the Regicides in New England refers to earlier scholarship of Dr. Franklin B. Dexter who took exception of Sheldon's rewriting of history. Wackerbarth's research for Guardians supports Dr. Dexter.

The Angel was Major General William Goffe, a ranking Parliament man who had risked everything in opposition to the Divine Right of Kings of King Charles I. He and his father-in-law, Major General Edward Whalley, were two of the Judges responsible for ordering the beheading of King Charles. When King Charles II resumed the English throne and ordered the apprehension and execution of the judges who had condemned his father, Goffe and Whalley fled to the New World where they were successfully sheltered for eleven years by Ben Wait and his fellow Guardians.

The end of Benjamin's life came when he was slain by Indians at the taking of Deerfield, MA on February 29 1704. He left behind his widow, Martha and eight children.

"No reason can be found why he left Portsmouth and came into what was then the upper Connecticut Valley in the western part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He is cited in Hadley, in 1663, 'for being the author of a libelous writing found about Goodwife Hawks' door, defaming her' and 'was to pay her £5 and pay costs' (Judd, Hadley). A few years later he was in court, this time upon the complaint of Robert Boltwood of Hadley, for selling a servant of the Plaintiff's without his orders. And in 1670, Benjamin Waite was complained of for selling liquor to the Indians. He was fined £40; on appeal his fine was abated in part. (colonial Justice in Western Massachusetts,

1639-1702; The Pynchon Court Record, 1961 by Joseph Smith, published by Harvard University Press, page 69)" (GBW)

"Benjamin Waite appears in Hadley, Massachusetts, (specifically in that part of Hadley called the "West Side" and later set off from Hadley to become Hatfield) about four or five years after the founding of that settlement." (GBW) He had eight acres of land granted him for a house lot on the west side of Main Street, the fourth lot north of the Deerfield road, and other lots in the outlying various divisions of the town. (Waite 593-4) "But, where he came from was at best conjecture until the early part of the twentieth century. James M. Crafts, in his History of Whately, Massachusetts (1899) declares, on page 593, 'His early history is not an open book.' He theorizes, correctly that Benjamin, is a son of Thomas Wait of Seaconet, Rhode Island. (GBW)

"There was compiled a small booklet, in 1904 by John Cassan Wait, entitled Family Records of the Descendants of Thomas Wait of Portsmouth, Rhode Island. On page eleven, he says 'There is some evidence that Thomas had another son, Benjamin, who was one of the petitioners of Hadley, Massachusetts. In the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Volume C, pages 72 and 73 is a deed of about seventy acres of land in Brookfield, Massachusetts, which was deeded on 15 March 1692/3 by John Ayres of Boston to William Rooker of Hadley, Massachusetts for £20 of 'current silver money of New England.' Before this deed was recorded, there was attached to it another instrument wherein William Rooker and his wife, Dorothy sold the 'within named land' in Brookfield to Thomas Wait of Seaconet, Massachusetts and Benjamin Waite of Hatfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. This latter instrument was dated 3 February 1703/4. Both instruments were recorded as one on 16 May 1715." (GBW)

"Two years later, on May 24, 1717, John Wate, Jeremiah Waite and Joseph Waite, sons of Benjamin, then deceased and Ebenezer Wells, John Belding, and Joseph Smith, sons in law of the aforesaid Benjamin, 'in right of each of our wives' conveyed part of this Brookfield land to Capt. Thomas Baker, of Northampton. In this deed, the grantors agreed to 'warrant, maintain and defend the land against Thomas Wait, our uncle.' This deed was recorded in 1718 in Hampden County registry of Deed in Book C, page 439. I should be noted that land instruments in what is now Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties which were put on record before the early 1800's, are found in Springfield, Massachusetts at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds." (GBW)

"The above evidence should seem sufficient to tie up Benjamin as a son of Thomas Wait of Portsmouth, Rhode Island. G. Andrews Moriarty, a genealogist of repute, wrote an article in the NEHGR in 1919 vol. 73:291 entitled Thomas Wait of Portsmouth, Rhode Island and Some of His Descendants. He cites in detail the records of the above land transaction and then proves the relationship of Benjamin to Thomas as son and father by citing a document from Portsmouth, Rhode Island, which divided the estate of Thomas Wait among his wife Eleanor and his children Samuel, Thomas, Benjamin, Reuben, Jeremiah, and Mary. This document, Moriarty states, had been long lost but was found in the winter of 1913/4 in the cellar of the Portsmouth town House. With this evidence, there is no doubt of Benjamin's antecedents." (GBW)

Benjamin was a petitioner of Hadley, Mass., Apr. 25, 1665, lived at Hatfield, 1668, and was slain by Indians at Deerfield, Mass., 1704. Oath of allegiance 8 Feb 1679. Lived in Hadley, Hatfield, Deerfield, Springfield.

Benjamin was slain by Indians at Deerfield, MA on February 29, 1704. He was buried with 47 other men, women, and children, who also died at that time. Benjamin was a soldier and Indian scout. Killed by Indians/French while driving the enemy across the meadow in Deerfield towards Petty's Plain. The enemy were reinforced by the French troops and our men were compelled to retreat and here the hero of the Connecticut valley fell. He was stripped and his body mutilated. His remains were buried in the Deerfield Cemetery near the railroad station.

129. **Martha Leonard** ^{75,76} was born⁷⁷ on 15 Apr 1649 in Springfield, Hampden, MA. She died on 29 Sep 1704 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA.

Taken hostage by Indians 19 Sep 1677 with 3 daughters under 6 years of of age when her husband was fighting Indians at the other end of town. At the time she was 5 months pregnant. Her fourth daughter was born while she was in captivity and she named her Canada (where she was being held) and one whose descendants founded Smith's College at Northampton. They were released in 1679. She rejoined her husband and had four sons.

After her husband's death, in 1704, by the French and Indians, Martha was paid five pounds for his death.

Taken hostage by Indians 19 Sep 1677 with 3 daughters under 6 years of of age when her husband was fighting Indians at the other end of town. At the time she was 5 months pregnant. Her fourth daughter was born while she was in captivity and she named her Canada (where she was being held). They were released in 1679. She rejoined her husband and had 4 sons.

- 130. **John Graves** ^{78,79} was born⁸⁰ in 1653 in Wethersfield, Hartford, CT. He died⁸¹ on 2 Dec 1730/1750 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. He married⁸² Sarah White on 12 Feb 1677/1678 in Hatfield, MA.
- 131. **Sarah White** 83 was born 84 in 1661. She died 85 in 1741.

Ninth Generation

256. **Thomas Waite** ⁸⁶ was born^{87,88,89,90} in 1601 in Alford Lines, Lincolnshire, England. He was christened^{91,92} on 13 Jun 1612 in Rigsby with Ailby, Lincolnshire, England. He died^{93,94,95,96} before 13 Sep 1665 in Portsmouth, Newport, RI. He was buried on 13 Sep 1665 in Portsmouth, Newport, RI. He married^{97,98} Eleanor before 1640 in Portsmouth, Newport, RI. The parent relationship has been challenged.

MEANING OF THE NAME

The name has since been spelled Wayte, Wayt, Wayght, Waight, Waitt, Waitt, Wate, Weight and Waiet. The surname Waite appears to be associated with the English, meaning, "the watchman or lookout, especially a watchman in a castle or fortified place." [Halberts]

COAT OF ARMS

Our Wayte Coat of Arms was used down to the middle of the 17th century but when Charles II ascended to the throne in 1660, those instrumental in his father's death were brought to the scaffold except the few who fled to America. Thomas Wayte being of that number, either by an Act of Parliament or an edict from the throne, the family was deprived of its insignia. The Crest is described as a bugle horn, stringed, sable, garnished and the Arms as "Argent, chevron gules being three bugle horns stringed". The motto of the family "Pro aris et focis" meaning "For our homes and altars". The bugle portrays the musical element of the family and supports the tradition that the Waytes were musicians to the King and his Knights. "The original waytes were found in England immediately after the Norman conquest, only among the retainers of the King, Princes and great Barons; but their rank gradually degenerated with that of the other order of minstrels, until now the name is applied only to those itinerant musicians who, in most of the large towns of England, go around the principal streets at night, for some time before Christmas, play two or three tunes, call the hour, then remove to a suitable distance, where they go through the same ceremony, and so on until four o'clock in the morning.

TRADITIONS

Tradition says that the three brothers were farmers or herdsmen and as they were driving their herd of cattle to market, were beset by a press gang. They were able to escape whereupon they sold their cattle and immediately went aboard a vessel for America. They were said to have been a cousin of Thomas Wait who was a Member of Parliament and one of the Judges who signed the death warrant of Charles I.

It is said that all Waytes trace their lineage to Ralf de Waiet who received the Earldom, City and Castle of Norwich from William the Conqueror. He was the son of Ralf an Englishman and a Welsh woman. From him is descended Ricardus Le Wayte of the County Warwick who was Escheator of the counties Berkshire, Oxford, Wilts, Bucks and Bedford in 1315. Norwich is one of the largest cities in Norfolk County and stood second in size only to London during the Tudor period. William the Conqueror was the Duke of Normandy who after the Battle of Hastings in that year became the King of England until his death in 1087. His rule is remembered for its barbarity and its political intrigue involving the King of France as well as the Cardinals of the Church. England after his reign became a country in which French was as common a language as English. Ralf de Waiet married Emma sister to Roger, Earl of Hereford and a cousin of the conqueror. The Waytes live in the central part of southern England and northern Wales.

THEORIES

He had come from Wales to Portsmouth in 1634 with his brothers Richard who was b. 1596 and Gamaliel b. 1598. The two elder brothers settled in Boston.

FACTS

He was one of the purchasers of Conanicut and Dutch Islands in 1636.

"It is evident that Thomas arrived in New England in the middle 1630's. It is probable that Boston, and not Plymouth was his arrival point. He did not stay in Massachusetts Bay colony for long, for in 1638, he turns up in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. This was the same year in which Anne Hutchinson, who was propagating religious beliefs to her followers in Boston, was told, in no uncertain terms, to remove herself from the Massachusetts Bay Colony." (GBW) Thomas at least, became a part of Roger Williams' settlement on Delaware Bay which was organized in 1637 only two years previous to Thomas Wait's arrival. Roger Williams was exiled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635 for his belief in freedom of conscience in religion. He was warmly received by two Indian chiefs, Massosoit and Canonicus, who gave him tracts of land on the Seekonk River. Williams reserved no political power to himself, but seemed to be actuated solely by the desire to make happy all those around him. He was strenuous in asserting his own views, but he and his associates resolutely refrained from interfering with the rights of others.

Aguidneck, now Rhode Island had been settled in 1637 by Anne Hutchison and her followers. In May 1638 another Boston group joined them and it is thought that Thomas Wait was of this group. Applied for a lot on which to build (the land being held in common), at the first meeting of the council thereafter the record of its proceeding reads: "July I, 1639, Granted to Thomas Wait a house lot next Mr. Wick's"

PROBLEMS

Thomas' birth date is consistently given as 1601. Richard Wait & Margaret Carter m. 1603 Alford, England. Baptism date and place of 13 June 1612 Alford, England baptized at age 11? Thomas named his first son Samuel, a name carried on for at least the first five generations. This fact suggests that his father's name was Samuel. It is also interesting to notice that none of his sons were named Richard nor does this name appear in the first generations.

- **Eleanor** ⁹⁹ was born ^{100,101,102} in 1605 in Alford Lines, England. She died ^{103,104,105} on 21 Jan 257. 1675 in Portsmouth, Newport, RI. "Eleanor Wait was made administrix of her husband's estate, as 'Elen' Wait. She married Ralph Cowland shortly after this date. On 13 Jun 1671 'Elen Cowland' and Thomas Wait Jr. were taxed on the estate (Portsmouth Tax List). She d. before 21 Jun 1676, when Samuel Wait was made Administrator in her place. (Portsmouth Scrapbook)" (NEHGR) **John Leonard** was born ¹⁰⁶ in Springfield, MA.
- 258.
- John Graves was born 107 before 1622 in England. He died 108 on 19 Sep 1677 in killed by 260. Indians at Hatfield, Hampshire, MA. He married 109 Mary Smith in 1652 in Wethersfield, Hartford, CT. John was from Haddam CT.
- Mary Smith was christened 110 on 19 Oct 1628 in Hadleigh, Suffolk, England. She died 111 261. on 16 Dec 1668 in Hatfield, Hampshire, MA.
- John White. John married Sarah Bunce. 262.
- 263. Sarah Bunce.

Appendix A - Sources

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