723. Palfrey

The Palfrey family of Boston has received little treatment in the considerable genealogical literature of New England. To the present author’s knowledge, no scholarly study of this family has been published.

1. **William Palfrey** married in about 1675 **Constance Windsor**, and probably died before 1701. Constance was born 7 May 1659 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, daughter of Robert and Rebecca (Scottow) Windsor,[1] and died in Boston on 30 December 1701.[2] Constance Palfrey, for herself and her husband, with the other children and coheirs of Robert Windsor, quitclaimed her share in Robert Windsor’s estate on 7 April 1680.[3] Constance probably married secondly, 4 August 1701 in Boston, **Robert Griffin**.[4] If so, she must have died 30 December 1701 in Boston.[5]

Children of William and Constance (Windsor) Palfrey, born in Boston, all but vii baptized in Old South Church, are:


iii. **Lydia Palfrey**, bp. 7 March 1679/80,[11] d. y.


vi. **Lydia Palfrey**, bp. 14 March 1685/6,[16] d. 2 Jan. 1727, admitted to full communion in Old South Church, 26 July

---


[8] Ibid., 146.


2. William² Palfrey (William¹) was born 17 February 1681/[2] in Boston,[24] baptized 19 February 1681/2 in the Old South Church, and died 23 April 1766 in Boston.[25] He married, 23 December 1703 in Boston, Abigail Briscoe.[26] She was born there on 2 April 1683, daughter of Joseph² (Joseph¹, William¹) and Rebecca (—) Briscoe,[27] and probably died before 1 April 1766, for her husband’s will of that date does not name her. The will of William Palfrey of Boston, sailmaker, was proved 2 May 1766, and names son Thomas Palfrey, grandsons William Palfrey and John Palfrey, to receive son Thomas’s share after Thomas’s death; daughters Abigail Corney, Rebecca Burroughs, and Elizabeth Hartley; children of daughter Lydia, deceased; and children of daughter Margaret, deceased.[28]

Children of William² and Abigail (Briscoe) Palfrey, born in Boston, are:

i. William³ Palfrey, b. 2 March 1704,[29] no further information.


iv. Lydia Palfrey, b. 16 June 1710,[37] named as deceased in father’s will, m. (1) New South Church, Boston, 1 April 1731 Philip Aubert,[38] m. (2) Boston 15 March 1749 Alexander Cunningham,[39] living 18 Nov. 1750, when he was admitted to full communion in New South Church.[40]

17 Ibid., record 27,165.
18 Appleton, Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 175.
19 Ibid., 202.
20 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 31,053.
21 Dunkle and Lainhart, Deaths in Boston, 2,683.
22 Appleton, Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 233.
23 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 31,544.
24 Appleton, Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 155.
26 McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 14.
27 Appleton, Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 159.
28 Thwing, Boston Inhabitants and Estates, 3649, citing Suffolk County Probate Records, 65:248.
29 Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 25.
30 Ibid., 43.
31 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 78,904. McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, gives his surname as Jesery (138)—an understandable error, because ff can very much resemble a long s next to a t.
32 Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 15.
36 Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 57.
37 Ibid., 70.
38 McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 152; Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 78,945.
39 McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 347.
40 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 80,236.
v. Richard Palfrey, b. 29 May 1712,[41] d. Boston 1 Oct. 1721, aged 9y 4m.[42]

vi. John Palfrey, b. 23 June 1714,[43] prob. m. New South Church, Boston, 4 Nov. 1736 Mary Hatch of Hanover, Plymouth Co., Mass.[44]

vii. Rebecca Palfrey, b. 15 Oct. 1716,[45] named in father’s will, bur. from Trinity Church, Boston, 20 Oct. 1790, aged 72y,[46] m. New South Church, Boston, 14 Jan. 1737/8 John Burroughs,[47] b. ca. 1708, bur. from Trinity Church 4 Dec. 1792, aged 84y.[48]


ix. Elizabeth Palfrey, b. 11 Nov. 1719,[54] bp. New South Church, Boston, 15 Nov. 1719,[55] d. Boston 20 March 1775, aged 55y,[56] m. (1) New South Church 4 June 1741 William Perkins,[57] b. Boston 19 November 1716,[58] son of Edmund and Mary (Farris) Perkins (see 361. Perkins, 3); m. (2) Boston 18 March 1760 Thomas Hartley.[59]

x. Susanna Palfrey, b. 13 Feb. 1722,[60] bp. New South Church 18 Feb. 1721/2,[61] not named in father’s will, perhaps m. there 6 Sept. 1744 John Down,[62] and if so prob. d. s. p. before 1 April 1766.


xii. Margaret Palfrey, b. 12 Nov. 1725,[66] bp. 14 June 1725,[67] named as deceased in father’s will, m. (1) Boston 15 Nov. 1744 William Cunningham,[68] b. there 28 Sept. 1722, son of William and Elizabeth (Wheeler) Cunningham,[69] d. there in May 1755,[70] prob. m. (2) New South Church, Boston, 30

---

[48] Oliver and Peabody, Records of Trinity Church, 2:807; Dunkle and Lainhart, Deaths in Boston, 1:144.
[50] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 32,393.
[51] Ibid., record 79,042; McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 207.
[52] Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 139 (birth); McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 78 (parents’ marriage).
[53] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,663.
[57] Ibid., record 79,088; McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 345.
[61] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 75,152.
[62] Ibid., record 79,125; McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1752–1809, 346.
[64] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 75,224.
[67] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 75,276.
[68] Ibid., record 79,127; McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1752–1809, 346.
[70] Ibid., 417.

xiii. Martha Palfrey, b. 18 Dec. 1729,[75] bp. 21 Dec. 1729,[76] not named in father’s will; no further information.

73 McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 46.
74 Dunkle and Lainhart, Deaths in Boston, 2:715.
75 Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 194.
76 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 75,488.

10 May 2003–4 October 2015

Austin W. Spencer