To my knowledge, only one genealogy of the family of Edmund Perkins of Boston has been produced, and it is inadequate. It begins with an 11-generation English pedigree, for which H. G. Somerby is credited. This presumably accounts for the compiler’s insistence on connecting the immigrant ancestor to another of the same surname who settled in Essex County, Massachusetts,[1] even though the leading authority on that family shows no such link.[2] Even the compiler’s presentation of the American generations is far from complete. He concentrates on his own lineage, includes little information on ancestors’ collateral kin, and expresses most dates in years only. Although the present work similarly centers on a single lineage, it affords ample opportunity to address the shortcomings of the earlier work.

1. Edmund Perkins died in 1693, probably in Boston. In 1743 Jonathan Armitage, aged about 67 years, so deposed.[3] He married, as her second husband, Susan (Hudson) Howlett. She born in Boston on 15 December 1645, daughter of Francis and Mary (____) Hudson,[4] and died after 10 May 1703, when she sold property inherited from her father.[5] Her first husband, whom she married in say 1670, was John Howlett. He was born about 1643 and died in 1675.[6] After Edmund’s death, she married third, by publication of 30 October 1696 at Boston, Christopher Sleg.[7] He died 25 November 1697 in Boston.[8]

Children of John and Susan (Hudson) Howlett, born in Boston, are:[9]


---


[6] Ibid., 39265.


Edward Lillie,[13] son of Edward and Elizabeth (____) Lillie, d. between 4 Aug. 1702 (will) and 25 Nov. 1702 (probate);[14] m. (3) Boston 19 July 1704 Caleb Trowbridge,[15] d. 10 Sept. 1704;[16] m. (4) Boston 24 Sept. 1708 Capt. Thomas Gilbert,[17] b. ca. 1655, d. 9 Feb. 1718/9 in 64th y., bur. Granary Burying Ground, Boston.[18] A deed of 15 April 1712 describes her as a granddaughter of Francis Hudson, ferryman.[19] It has been incorrectly stated that she married Benjamin Emmons,[20] and that she was an Emmes by birth and not by marriage.[21]

ii. Sarah Howlett, b. 22 May 1674,[22] d. before 1675.[23]

Children of Edmund[1] and Susan (Hudson) Howlett Perkins, born in Boston, are:


2. Edmund[3] Perkins (Edmund[3]) was born 6 September 1683 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,[29] died 24 May 1761, aged 78 years, and is buried in King's Chapel Burying Ground, Boston.[30] He married first, 15 August 1709 at Boston, Mary Farris.[31] She was born about 1688, probably the daughter of James and Mary (____) Farris (see 1445. Farris, 1, ii.), died 18 November 1721, aged about 33 years, and is buried in the Granary Burying Ground in Boston.[32] He married secondly, 8 March 1722 in Boston, Esther Frothingham of Charlestown, Middlesex (now Suffolk) County, Massachusetts.[33] She was born in Boston on 13 October 1695, daughter of William and Esther (____) Frothingham.[34]

Children of Edmund[3] and Mary (Farris) Perkins, born in Boston, are:


---

[18] Dunkle and Lainhart, Old Cemeteries of Boston, 591; Dunkle and Lainhart, Deaths in Boston, 1:374. His will of 5 February 1718/9, proved 16 February 1718/9, names among other heirs his daughter in law [stepdaughter?] Elizabeth Foye (Thwing, Boston Inhabitants and Estates, 21196, citing Suffolk County Probate Records, 21:293).
[22] Appleton, Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 132.
[26] Appleton, Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 152.
[27] Ibid., 170.
ton,\(^{56}\) m. Boston 9 Feb. 1737 MARY KILBY,\(^{57}\) bp. Brattle Street Church, Boston, 9 Sept. 1716,\(^{58}\) dau. of Thomas and Mary (Robinson) Kilby,\(^{59}\) d. after 6 Jan. 1742/3, when they had a child bp. in the Old South Church, Boston,\(^{60}\) poss. m. (2) Hingham, Suffolk (now Plymouth) Co., Mass., 13 Feb. 1746. GRACE THAXTER,\(^{41}\) b. Hingham 18 July 1725, dau. of John and Grace (Stockbridge) Thaxter.\(^{42}\)

3. ii. WILLIAM PERKINS, b. 19 Nov. 1716, d. before 18 March 1760, m. ELIZABETH PAFFREY.

iii. MARY PERKINS, b. 23 Oct. 1718,\(^{43}\) prob. m. Boston 10 Nov. 1737 MICHAEL GEOGHEGAN,\(^{44}\) prob. the “Michel Geahgon” bur. from Christ Church, Boston, 24 Jan. 1742/3,\(^{45}\) Mary “Gaygehan was admitted to full communion of Brattle Street Church, 1 Aug. 1742.\(^{46}\) Children of Michael and Michael and Mary (Perkins) Geoghegan are:

1. Anna Geoghegan, b. Boston 1 Aug. 1738,\(^{47}\) bp. as Mary, King’s Chapel, Boston, 4 Aug. 1738,\(^{48}\)

2. Joseph Geoghegan, b. Christ Church, Boston, 18 Nov. 1739.\(^{49}\)

Children of Edmund\(^{2}\) and Esther (Frothingham) Perkins, born in Boston and baptized at the First Church, are:

iv. JOHN PERKINS, b. 22 Dec. 1723,\(^{50}\) bp. 22 Dec. 1723,\(^{51}\) prob. m. (int. Boston 13 March 1746) SUSANNA TUCK.\(^{52}\)

v. ESTHER PERKINS, bp. 18 Sept. 1725,\(^{53}\) d. Boston 20 Nov. 1807, aged 82y,\(^{54}\) m. (1) (int. Boston 31 Aug. 1749) JOHN TREVETT,\(^{55}\) d. between 1 March 1752 (baptism of child)\(^{56}\) and 21 July 1752 (advertisement of estate);\(^{57}\) m. (2) Brattle Street Church, Boston, 8 April 1762, THOMAS GREEN,\(^{58}\) b. New London, New London Co., Conn., 31 Jan. 1715/6, son of Dea. Timothy and Mary (Flint) Green,\(^{59}\)

\(^{56}\) Dunkle and Lainhart, Old Cemeteries of Boston, 648.

\(^{57}\) McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 208.

\(^{58}\) The Manifesto Church: Records of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, with Lists of Communicants, Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals (Boston: Benevolent Fraternity of Churches, 1902), 137.

\(^{59}\) Thwing, Boston Inhabitants and Estates, 41662 (Thomas Kilby).

\(^{40}\) Robert J. Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart, transcrs., The Records of the Churches of Boston and the First Church, the Second Parish, and the Third Parish of Roxbury, Including Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Admissions, and Dismissals, CD-ROM (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002), record 33,995. All citations are keyed to the record that gives the name of the referenced individual.


\(^{43}\) Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 131.


\(^{45}\) Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 88,313; Dunkle and Lainhart, Deaths in Boston, 1:366.

\(^{46}\) Manifesto Church, 113.

\(^{47}\) Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 233.

\(^{48}\) Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 37,030.

\(^{49}\) Ibid., record 85,077.

\(^{50}\) Appleton, Boston Births, 1700–1800, 161.


\(^{52}\) McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 282.

\(^{53}\) Pierce, Records of the First Church in Boston, 2:394.

\(^{54}\) Manifesto Church, 280; American Antiquarian Society, Index of Obituaries in the Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840, 5 vols. (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1961), 2:1933.

\(^{55}\) McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1700–1751, 292.

\(^{56}\) Manifesto Church, 173.

\(^{57}\) Thwing, Boston Inhabitants and Estates, 58439.

\(^{58}\) Manifesto Church, 251; McGlenen, Boston Marriages, 1752–1809, 327.

d. Boston 12 Sept. 1794, aged 78 y., bur. Granary Burying Ground.\[^{60}\]

vi. EDMUND PERKINS, bp. 26 March 1727,\[^{61}\] prob. m. (int. Boston 23 March 1762) HANNAH LAMONT.\[^{62}\]

vii. SUSANNA PERKINS, bp. 31 Aug. 1729,\[^{63}\] d. y.

viii. SUSANNA PERKINS, bp. 8 Aug. 1731,\[^{64}\] d. y.

ix. JAMES PERKINS, bp. 7 Jan. 1733,\[^{65}\] d. Boston 8 May 1773, in his 41st y.,\[^{66}\] m. Boston 29 Dec. 1755 ELIZABETH PECK,\[^{67}\] b. Boston 14 Feb. 1735, dau. of Thomas Handasyd and Elizabeth (___) Peck,\[^{68}\] res. 1796 at the corner of Purchase Street and Belcher Lane in Boston.\[^{69}\]

x. SAMUEL PERKINS, bp. 11 May 1735,\[^{70}\] as Capt. Samuel Perkins d. at sea, “on passage from St. Croix,” before 18 April 1774, aged 39 y.\[^{71}\] prob. m. Boston 24 May 1768 SARAH BLODGET.\[^{72}\]

xi. SUSANNA PERKINS, b. 26 July 1737,\[^{73}\] bp. 31 July 1737,\[^{74}\] prob. m. (int. Boston 14 Oct. 1758) JOSEPH WELCH.\[^{75}\]

3. William\[^{3}\] PERKINS (Edmund\[^{2}\] ) was born 19 November 1716 in Boston,\[^{76}\] and died before 18 March 1760. He married, 4 June 1741 at the New South Church in Boston, Elizabeth Palfrey.\[^{77}\]

She was born in Boston on 11 November 1719,\[^{78}\] daughter of William and Abigail (Briscoe) Palfrey (see 723. Palfrey, 2, ix.), and probably, as “Mrs. Hartley,” died in Boston on 20 March 1775, aged 55 years.\[^{79}\] After her first husband’s death she remarried, 18 March 1760 in Boston, Thomas Hartley.\[^{80}\]

There are three known eighteenth-century Bostonians named Thomas Hartley, each of whom apparently represent a different generation in the same family. The eldest was evidently married for the first time in 1727,\[^{81}\] and admitted to the First Church in Boston in January 1728.\[^{82}\]
By these indicators, he must have been at least a decade older than Elizabeth. His namesake son was born 25 May 1729 in Boston[83] and baptized 1 June 1729 at the First Church.[84] He is apparently the one who intended marriage to Sarah Phillips of Marshfield, Massachusetts, on 30 January 1752.[85] On 5 November 1752, Thomas Hartley junior “publickly recognized the Baptismal Covenant”[86] and had a son John, by wife Sarah, baptized in the First Church.[87] Because Sarah does not appear again, it is likely that this Thomas also married Mary Smith on 5 May 1757 at Trinity Church, Boston.[88] They had two children baptized in that church: Thomas, the third, on 2 April 1758,[89] and Mary on 3 February 1760.[90] Mary (Smith) Hartley thereafter disappears from the records, notably only a month before Elizabeth (Palfrey) Perkins’s second marriage. Despite their difference in age and the prevailing tendency of men to marry younger women, there is little to militate against a marriage between Elizabeth (Palfrey) Perkins and the second Thomas Hartley.

One Thomas Hartley was buried from Trinity Church on 23 April 1763.[91] This record might refer to either of the first two of the name and sheds no light on which, if either, married Elizabeth. In the same way, the Boston town record of 1 May 1765, which refers to a “now deceased” Thomas Hartley, not only suffers from the same lack of definition but also might well refer to the same man as the 1763 Trinity Church burial record.[92] In any case, that Elizabeth remarried is proved by her father’s will of 1 April 1766, which names his daughter Elizabeth Hartley.[93] She had no evident issue by her second husband.

Children of William3 and Elizabeth (Palfrey) Perkins, born in Boston and baptized at New South Church:

i. WILLIAM4 PERKINS, bp. 18 April 1742,[84] d. Boston, Oct. 1802, aged 60y,[95] m. Brattle Street Church, Boston, 20 Dec. 1763 ABIGAIL COX,[86] b. ca. 1742, d. Boston March 1800, aged 58y.[97]
   ii. EDMUND PERKINS, bp. 22 Jan. 1744/5,[98] d. y.

---

[83] Pierce, Records of the First Church in Boston, 1:112.
[85] Pierce, Records of the First Church in Boston, 2:398.
[87] Pierce, Records of the First Church in Boston, 2:440-1.
[88] Ibid., 2:417.
[90] Oliver and Peabody, Records of Trinity Church, 2:546.
[91] Ibid., 2:548.
[92] Ibid., 2:779.
[95] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,084.
[97] Manifesto Church, 252.
[99] Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,159.
[100] Ibid., record 76,254.
[101] Elizabeth Matchett will (1826), Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Probate Records, 129, pt. 2:136-7; FHL microfilm 493,982, item 2.
1714.[102] d. Boston, Nov. 1793.[103]


v. EDMUND PERKINS, bp. 4 Aug. 1751;[109] not listed in sister Elizabeth’s will.


103 Massachusetts Magazine 5 (1793): 768.

104 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,394.


107 Vital Records of New Bedford, 3:125 (gravestone; aged 80y); Index of Obituaries, 4:3512, citing Columbian Centinel, 7 June 1835 (aged 83y).


109 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,486.

110 Vital Records of Groton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1926), 2:209. This source calls them Capell, evidently resulting from confusion of a long s–short s pair with a lower-case p.

111 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,583.


116 Dunkle and Lainhart, Churches of Boston, record 76,754.

117 Dexter's Boston Memoranda, 308; American Antiquarian Society, Index of Obituaries, 3:2666, citing Columbian Centinel, 10 Feb. 1813.


119 Stillman Foster Kneeland, Seven Centuries in the Kneeland Family (New York, 1897), 55.

120 Ibid., 54; American Antiquarian Society, Index of Obituaries, 3:2666.

8 May 2003–11 January 2006

Austin W. Spencer