The History of Edmund Freeman and His Descendants.

by Jake Fletcher
Edmund Freeman was a notable seventeenth century American colonist. He and his family were one of the first Freeman Families to settle in New England. He was born on 25 June 1596 in Pulborough, England, a large village in Sussex County located along the rivers Arun and Rother. In his pre-immigration life he lived not only in Pulborough but he moved to Billinghamurst in Sussex County in 1619-1620 and lived there for seven or eight years.

St. Mary’s Church in Pulborough, Sussex, England. This is where Edmund was baptized 20 July 1596.


Children of Edmund and Bennett (Hodsoll) Freeman:

1. Alice Freeman, born 04 Apr 1619 in Pulborough, Sussex, England; died 24 Apr 1651 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts.
2. Edmund Freeman, born 26 Nov 1620 in Billinghamurst, Sussex, England; died Bef. 05 Jan 1703/04 in Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts.

Edmund Freeman sailed on the Abigail from London, arriving in Boston, Massachusetts on 8 October 1635, the ship being infected with smallpox. On board the Abigail with him was his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Freeman as well as four of his children, Alice, Edward (Edmund), Elizabeth, and John.

The Ship Abigail which Edmund and his family sailed on to come to America
Edmund and his family moved around a lot in their first years in the New World. He moved to Saugus, Essex, Massachusetts first, noted as living there on 10 December 1635\(^1\). It is recorded that he presented the colony with twenty pieces of armor plate. Edmund and Elizabeth had one child, Mary Freeman, who was born in about 1636\(^1\).

**Edmund and the Founding of Sandwich, Massachusetts**

On 3 April 1637, ten men of Saugus, including Edmund Freeman, gained the agreement of the General Court of Plymouth Colony to commence the establishment of the first English Town on Cape Cod\(^2\), extinguishing the Indian’s Title to the land. It was written at the time that they went to Cape Cod “to worship God and make money”. Within two years, the settlement was legally incorporated as the town of Sandwich\(^3\). Edmund and Elizabeth settled near Scusset Marsh in 1638 and also owned land in Ploughed Neck in East Sandwich\(^1,4\).

Edmund was very active in public affairs. According to Frederick Freeman, he was “pre-eminently respected, always fixed in principle, and decisive in action, nevertheless quiet and unobtrusive, a counselor and leader without ambitious ends in view, of uncompromising integrity and of sound judgment…”\(^1\) In 1640, he was appointed as the representative of Sandwich and with Thomas Dimmock of Barnstable and John Crow of Yarmouth, met to discuss the causes/controversies with the three townships of Cape Cod\(^1\). He was elected as one of the seven Assistant Governors of Plymouth in 2 June 1640 and re-elected annually through June 1645\(^1\). When the government of Plymouth realized the need for a means to resolve small legal cases on Cape Cod with the parties having to go to Plymouth, Edmund Freeman was appointed head of a court of three men to hear and determine such cases.

He showed himself to be of tolerant and liberal views. Late in 1645, Captain William Vassal petitioned the Plymouth Court to legalize for men of every religious belief who would still “preserve the civil peace and submit unto government.” The Plymouth County of Seven plus the Governor were evenly divided, with Edmund Freeman among those in favor of the petition\(^1\). The conservative faction obtained a delay and the matter was never raised again, while Plymouth became steadily more rigid in its intolerance of beliefs other than those of the established church.

Unfortunately, his views led to him being persecuted and perhaps ostracized. The second incident came when, during the Quakers troubles in the Colonies, which reached Sandwich sixteen or seventeen years after its settlement, he counseled for the tolerance of the Quakers. Edmund Freeman opposed the enactment and enforcement of severe and illiberal punishments for the Quakers\(^1\). This principled stand put him in opposition to many others in the Plymouth Colony government and resulted in not being re-elected. Edmund and Elizabeth Freeman were accused of being un-devoted to the established Separatist church of Plymouth Colony, when on 7 October 1651, they, along with eleven other people of Sandwich, were presented to the court for not “frequenting the publick worship of God”\(^1,5\).

Elizabeth Freeman died in Sandwich on 14 February 1675/1676\(^1\). Edmund Freeman wrote his will on 21 June 1682 (proved 2 November 1682), which he assigned as executors his son, John, his daughter, Elizabeth Ellis, and his son-in-law, Edward Perry\(^1\). He gave his land to them, as well as to his other son, Edmund, and his grandson, Thomas Paddy. He referred also to land he had already given to his grandson, Matthias Ellis on 24 February 1678 in Sandwich.
Edmund and his wife were both buried on a hill at the rear of his house under rustic stone monuments, known as “the saddle and pillion” which he selected himself at the time of his wife’s death, the oldest burying ground in Sandwich. The graves are now marked by metal plaques on the original farm, located on Tupper Road in Sandwich¹.

“*The Saddle and Pillion*” overlooking the Town of Sandwich. Courtesy of Mansfield Historical Society.

This biography on Edmund Freeman and a lot of information on his seventeenth and eighteenth century descendants was found in *Freeman Families of New England* by Robert R. Freeman. The book shows the genealogies of many other families other than Edmund Freeman and is very thorough and includes a book of citations and references. Many of the events on Edmund’s involvement in the Plymouth Colony and the Founding of Sandwich are in the *Plymouth Colony Records* compiled by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff M.D.

Edmund Freeman’s children would go on to pursue different paths. Based on the information obtained, two of his children were government officials and high ranking military men, while others would be involved in crime. The stories of three of his six children are told.

3. Edmund Freeman would follow in his father’s footsteps, being involved in the Plymouth Colony Government. He was Deputy to the General Court of Plymouth from the town of Sandwich from 1669-1676¹. He was wed to Rebecca Prence, daughter of Thomas Prence, the governor of Plymouth Colony and Patience Brewster, on 22 April 1646 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts¹. Unfortunately, Rebecca died sometime before 18 July 1651 in Sandwich. Edmund remarried, being wed to Margaret Perry in Sandwich 18 July 1651. He died without a will. Ezra Perry, his nephew, was named administrator of his estate. The property was distributed 9 June 1705 to Edmund Freeman, Isaac Pope, and Alice his wife, Richard Allen of Sandwich, John Fish and Margaret his wife, John Launders and Rachel his wife, Patience Burg, widow and Ezra Perry and Rebecca his wife¹.

Children of Edmund Freeman and Rebecca Prence¹:
7 i. Patience³ Freeman.
8 ii. Rebecca Freeman.

Children of Edmund Freeman and Margaret Perry¹:
9 i. Margaret³ Freeman.
5. Major John Freeman seems to be the most accomplished of Edmund Freeman’s children. He was very active in public affairs in Plymouth, serving as the Deputy from 1654-1662, Selectmen from 1666-1673, Assistant Governor to his father-in-law Thomas Prentice at Plymouth several years from 1666, and the judge for the Court of Common Pleas beginning in December 1692. While still a resident of Sandwich, he married Mary Prentice, daughter of Plymouth governor Thomas Prentice in Eastham, Barnstable, Massachusetts. Mary was born before 28 Sep 1631 in Duxbury, Plymouth, Massachusetts. A few years after they married, they removed to Eastham, noted as first living there in 1663. He was granted land in Mannomoiett which the Plymouth Government had purchased from the Local Indian Sachem in 1665. He became the large landholder there and held a local monopoly on the making of tar, which was critical for sealing wood, such as in barrels. For many years he was the deacon of the Eastham church and saw service in the Indian Wars. He was frequently mentioned in the public records as "Lieutenant Freeman", then "Captain Freeman", and finally "Major Freeman". On March 6 1690/91, William Bradford, governor of Plymouth, gave land to Major John Freeman of Eastham.

Page 1 of the deed of William Bradford’s Land to Major John Freeman of Eastham, dated 6 Mar 1690/1.

Unfortunately, it is hard to read.

Source: Massachusetts Archives Collection, 1629-1799, 33:18, held at the Massachusetts State Archives.

Despite his accomplishments, it appears that it was not all well between John and his family. A bitter division with the family is revealed by John Freeman’s testimony on 3 July 1704, taken by Jonathan Sparrow, Justice of the Peace "...whereas Major William Bassett of Sandwich writ to me to give him the best information that I could..."
respecting my brother Edmond ffreeman’s condition and estate, I accordingly Gave him the best I could in writing and whereas I am abused by i, and that it hath been said by my cousin Edmond ffreeman or some of his family that it was a pack of lies...

Mary died 28 Sep 1711 in Eastham, Barnstable, Massachusetts; she is buried at Cove Cemetery in Eastham. John wrote his will 1 June 1716, proved 10 November 1719. The will accounts for all of his living children and their spouses. John’s son, Edmund, received all of his land and housing in Eastham, as well as other parcels of land. The will was disputed by the heirs until an agreement was made 27 January 1719/1720. John is buried with his wife in Cove Cemetery as well.

6. Elizabeth Freeman married John Ellis in about 1647. Not much is known about John Ellis, except he was brought to court for having sex before marriage.

"John Ellis, of Sandwich, for abusing himself with his now wife by committing uncleanness with her before marriage, is censured to be whipped at public post, and Elizabeth, his wife, to standby by whilst execution of the sentenced is performed." Despite this unfortunate fact, it is interesting in how it is reflective of early colonial society and the unique laws of the Plymouth Colony. According to the Freeman Family, Elizabeth Freeman, was an original proprietor of Rochester, Massachusetts, located in the Plymouth Colony. John Ellis died in Sandwich in about 1677.

10. Edmund Freeman spent the greater portion of his life in Sandwich, where all of his children were born and settled. He married Sarah Skiffe 1682 in Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts. Sarah was born about 1662 (whereabouts unknown). There is some doubt to whether her maiden name is Skiffe or not. Later in life, Edmund and his family moved further down the Cape to Yarmouth for a short time, in the part now known as North Dennis. His residence there came about through an exchange with another family. In 1702, he and John Nye visited and purchased a thousand acres of land in Windham County, Connecticut, in the part now known as Mansfield. He did not move down there, however his children did. This acquisition of land would be responsible for the Freeman’s migration out of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Children of Edmund Freeman and Sarah (Skiffe) Freeman, all born at Sandwich:

15 i. Edmund Freeman, born 30 Aug 1683 in Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts; died 01 Jun 1766 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.

The Freemans move beyond the Massachusetts Bay Colony

The Freemans followed a very interesting migratory pattern. While some of the Freeman Families would introduce English culture in places like Maine and Nova Scotia or south to New Jersey, the Freemans I belong to moved to Mansfield, Connecticut in the 1700s. They acquired land up in the area now known as Hanover, New Hampshire, settling in that area in the 1760s and 70s. In the nineteenth century, the Freemans moved out west to New York and then farther on to Wisconsin, Kansas, California, and Washington State, maintaining their rural and agricultural upbringings.

15. Edmund Freeman, the fourth of that name, was born 30 Aug 1683 in Sandwich, and married Kezia Pressbury about June 1708 in Sandwich. She was the daughter of Stephen Pressbury and Deborah Skeffe, and was born about 1687 in Sandwich. They had a total of fourteen children. Edmund and his family lived in an area called
“Spring Hill” in Sandwich. In 1736, Edmund purchased from Daniel Cross a lot of land on Spring Hill in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut. He and his family moved there soon after, traveling by ox cart over the rough trails of Cape Cod. It was perhaps the name of this part of Mansfield that attracted them to move here. They gradually added to their land holdings on Spring Hill, inhabiting the house on property purchased from Elisha Hall, and becoming very prominent in the development of the village. When Edmund and Kezia were baptized at Mansfield’s First Congregational Church, he was recorded as an aged man as he was 57 years old at the time.

Children of Edmund Freeman and Kezia Pressbury, all born in Sandwich:

17. Lydia Freeman, born 08 Apr 1710; died 28 Nov 1730.
18. Edmund Freeman, born 30 Sep 1711; died 11 Feb 1800 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.
21. Sylvanus Freeman, born 07 Sep 1716; died 29 Mar 1776 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.
22. Nathaniel Freeman, born 31 Mar 1718; died 02 May 1761.
23. Kezia Freeman, born 07 Jul 1719; died 07 Jan 1789.
25. Deborah Freeman, born 17 Apr 1722.
26. Skiff Freeman, born 28 Dec 1723; died 02 May 1809 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.
Edmund Freeman would attend a town meeting in Mansfield on 26 Aug 1761 where he and ten others were conveyed 22,400 acres of land in the area now known as Hanover, New Hampshire. Settlement in that area was highly avoided at the time due to the French-Indian War, however with the end of the war, people began to grab land up there fast. At the same meeting, the grantees of the charter for the town of Norwich, Vermont met for the first time. Subsequent town Meetings of Norwich were held in Mansfield until 1768. Edmund would die before anyone from Mansfield went up to settle in Norwich, seeing as the first settlers of Norwich left Mansfield in 1767.

Edmund Freeman’s grave at the Old Storrs Cemetery in Mansfield, Connecticut. A new stone was reset in 1831.

18. Edmund Freeman, the eldest son and fifth of that name, was the first of the family to attend college. He attended school at Harvard, being honored with Scholar of the House. After he graduated in 1736, he returned to the Cape to become a school master in Yarmouth. He married Martha Otis of the distinguished Massachusetts family. He came back to Spring Hill to be with his parents, due to his inability to support his family. In 1748 and 1749, the government of Connecticut appointed Edmund Freeman, Surveyor of land for the county of Windham, thus being referred to as “Proprietors Surveyor.” He represented Mansfield in the General Assembly of Connecticut from 1762-1780 and continued to be active in town affairs for the rest of his eighty-nine year life.

Edmund Freeman and his father were very involved in the proprietorship of the towns of Hanover, New Hampshire. In fact, a total of ten Freemans appear on the list of grantees for the town of Hanover. Most of them were in it only for financial profit and did not want to suffer tough winters, but it took the bravery of Edmund’s son,
Edmund Freeman VI, to be the first settler of Hanover in May of 1765. He was responsible for developing the town’s transportation ways and leading Hanover militia in the Revolutionary War through the battles of Bennington, Trenton, and Saratoga.

21. Sylvanus Freeman, son of Edmund Freeman, married Mary Dunham 30 Jan 1739/40 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut, daughter of Elisha Dunham and Temperance Stewart. Mary was born 02 Dec 1721 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.

Children of Sylvanus Freeman and Mary (Dunham) Freeman, all born in Mansfield:

30 i. Elizabeth Freeman, born 19 Feb 1740/41 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died 19 Mar 1830. She married Nathan Fletcher; born 29 May 1742 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died 01 Sep 1813.

31 ii. Elisha Freeman, born 02 Jan 1742/43 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died 04 Mar 1745/46 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.

32 iii. Temperance Freeman, born 01 May 1745 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died 28 Sep 1842 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut. She married Jesse Bennett 20 Feb 1777 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.

33 iv. Elisha Freeman, born 10 Aug 1747 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died in Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont.


35 vi. John Freeman, born 30 Dec 1751 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died 25 Apr 1777 in Hanover, Grafton, New Hampshire.

36 vii. Mary Freeman, born 27 Feb 1754 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut; died 23 Apr 1795 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.


39 x. Eleanor Freeman, born 11 May 1761 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.

40 xi. Triphemia Freeman, born 17 Aug 1763 in Mansfield, Tolland, Connecticut.

Vital Record of Sylvanus’s Marriage to Mary and their first four children’s births in Mansfield, Connecticut. Courtesy of Mansfield Town Clerk.
Many of Sylvanus’s children moved north to the land their grandfather originally bought along the Connecticut River up in New Hampshire and Vermont. While living up there, Elisha and John Freeman would fight for their independence from England during the Revolutionary War. Elisha Freeman served as a corporal under the command of Peter Olcott, a notable resident in the town of Norwich. Olcott’s regiment was characterized as a “purely voluntary group of young patriotic men” as most militia men are. John served under the command of Capt. Timothy Bedel and his unit of rangers organized in Coos, New Hampshire, serving to protect northern New Hampshire during the war. Sylvanus remained south in Mansfield, passing away almost 3 months away before the Declaration of Independence. He lies at the Old Storrs Cemetery.

Gravestone of Sylvanus Freeman, located at Old Storrs Cemetery.

Elisha Freeman, born 1747 in Mansfield, was part of the Freeman migration north. He was first noted as living in Hanover, New Hampshire in 1773. It was interesting that he was noted as living in Norwich, Vermont in 1775 because what is now known as Norwich, Vermont was once part of Gloucester County in New York. England extended the boundary of the New York Colony to all the land east of the Connecticut River. While in Norwich, Elisha married Lucy Bartlett 2 May 1775 in Norwich. Lucy was also a Connecticut native, being born 18 Nov 1750 in Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut to Gershom Bartlett and Margaret. It was also while in Norwich that he enlisted in Peter Olcott’s Regiment on 13 August 1777 and was discharged 9 Mar 1781. As far as it is known, he remained in Norwich until his death. He was last noted as living in Norwich in the 1790 US Census.
Elisha Freeman’s Revolutionary War Compiled Service Records

Source: Elisha Freeman, compiled military service record (Corporal, Peter Olcott's Regiment, Vermont Militia), in Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served In The American Army During the Revolutionary War, Microfilm M881, Roll No. 896.

Elisha Freeman in the 1790 US Census


Children of Elisha Freeman and Lucy Bartlett, all born in Norwich:

42. i. John Freeman, born 26 Mar 1776 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont.
44. iii. Temperance Freeman, born 22 Sep 1780 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont.
45. iv. Mary Freeman, born 18 Apr 1783 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont. She married Joseph Wilmott 05 Dec 1811 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont.
47. vi. Lucy Freeman, born 30 Jan 1789 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont. She married Erastus Baxter 08 Jan 1812 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont.
49. viii. David Freeman, born 05 May 1793 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont.

49. David Freeman spent his young years in Norwich and married Vina (Lavina) Waterman 01 Oct 1818 in Norwich, Vermont. Vina was born 02 Dec 1797 in Norwich to John Waterman and Hannah Hedges. He worked as a farmer until his old age, and moved up to Westville, Franklin County, New York around the 1830s, which still
is a large farming community in upstate New York. He was noted as first living there in 1850 in the US Federal Census\(^{19}\). He and Lavina had eight children in both Norwich, Vermont and New York State.

Children of David Freeman and Vina (Waterman) Freeman:

50 i. David Mills Freeman, born 17 Sep 1819 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont\(^{21}\).

51 ii. John Waterman Freeman, born 24 May 1821 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont\(^{21}\).

52 iii. William Harrison Freeman, born 26 Aug 1823 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont\(^{21}\).


54 vi. Stephen Derias Freeman, born 03 Mar 1830 in Norwich, Windsor, Vermont\(^{21}\).

55 vii. Lucy Freeman, born 1832 in New York\(^{22}\).

56 viii. Elizabeth Freeman, born 1834 in New York\(^{22}\).

57 ix. Joel S Freeman, born 1838 in New York\(^{22}\).

Birth Records of David Freeman’s first five sons. Courtesy of Norwich Town Clerk.

David Freeman would stay in Westville for the rest of his life. When David retired from farming, he and Lavina moved in with their son-in-law, Albert Tower\(^{23,24,25}\), who married their daughter Lucy Freeman. Albert was born between 1834 and 1836 in Franklin County, New York\(^{23,24,25}\). Lucy Freeman died sometime after 1870 because her husband was listed as a widow in the 1880 US Federal Census\(^{25}\). Lavina died 10 Feb 1874 in Westville of heart disease\(^{26}\). David would die at the age of eighty-eight, on 11 June 1881\(^{27}\). A transcription of his grave stone from Cemeteries of Franklin County Vol.I by Virginia Anne Wolfe notes that his grave says Revolutionary War on it\(^{28}\). He and Lavina are buried at the Riverside Cemetery in Westville\(^{28}\).
The wife of John Waterman, Elvira Dewey, is living in the house. They were married within the year and Elvira was born in Canada in about 1828. Both John and Azro are farming with their father. Elvira Dewey died in 1884. John Freeman died 15 Mar 1902 in Westville and it was noted in Deaths of Franklin County vol. 6 by Virginia Anne Wolfe, that he had two brothers, William H and Joel S, who were alive. William Harrison Freeman married Lucretia M. Clark. Lucretia was born about 1838 and died 2 Feb 1886, while William Harrison lived to be 95, dying 25 Dec 1918. Both couples are buried at Riverside Cemetery in Westville.

Not much else is known about the children of David Freeman, except for Daniel Azro, whose story takes the Freemans out west.

53. Daniel Azro Freeman was listed as Azro Daniel Freeman in all of his adult records. For the majority of the time, he will be referred to as Azro. The reason for his name change is unknown; however he first appears as Azro Freeman in the 1850 Census as a twenty-four year old, farming with his father in Westville (census record shown above). He migrated out to Wisconsin shortly thereafter where he married Mary Ann Dewey. The date of marriage is either the 11 or 19th of October 1852. Mary Ann Dewey was born 04 Sep 1833 in St.Reme, Quebec, Canada. It is quite likely however, that she is a sister of Elvira Dewey, John Waterman Freeman’s wife. Azro’s time of arrival in Wisconsin is unknown; however, thanks to the research of a distant cousin he first bought land at Stevens Point, Portage County, Wisconsin on 1 October 1858. In 1860, he and his family are listed in the US Federal Census in Belmont, Portage County, Wisconsin. He served in the Fifth Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War, enlisting at Oshkosh City in September 1864. Azro was found farming with his family in Dayton, Waupaca County, Wisconsin in the 1870 US Federal Census. Mary Ann Dewey died in 29 Dec 1876 in Wisconsin.

Children of Daniel Freeman and Mary Dewey.
Leonard Clerington Freeman, born 20 Aug 1853 in Wisconsin.

Wallace Ephrim Freeman, born 09 Mar 1857 in Wisconsin; died 28 Mar 1927 in Hanford, Kings County, California.

Mary Elvira Freeman, born 20 Feb 1861 in Wisconsin; died 25 Nov 1862 in Wisconsin.

Elmira Elizabeth Freeman, born 11 Dec 1863 in Wisconsin; died 10 Mar 1890 in Kansas.

Varina Elbertine Freeman, born 27 May 1867 in Wisconsin; died 11 Apr 1931 in Alhambra, California.

Florence Arvilla Freeman, born 17 Jan 1869 in Wisconsin; died 29 Aug 1952 in Hollister, California.

Lucy Ardell Freeman, born 15 Jul 1870 in Wisconsin; died 08 Oct 1870 in Wisconsin.

The birthplace of Leonard Clerington, their first son, has come into question. Family sources say he was born in Wisconsin, however his listings in the US Federal Census suggest he was born in New York State. After the Civil War, many people moved south and west to Kansas, taking up homesteads and buying cheap land. In 1878, the frontier had yet to be closed. Azro and his children, Wallace and Leonard, bought land in the town of Victor in Osborne County, Kansas in the late 1870s. They were noted as living there in the 1880 US Federal Census and the 1885 Kansas State Census.

Azro D Freeman, male, white, fifty four years old, widowed/divorced, working as a Farmer, born in Vermont, both parents born in Vermont

Elmira A Freeman, white, female, seventeen years old, daughter, single, born in Wisconsin, father was born in Vermont, mother was born in Canada

Varana Freeman, white, female, thirteen years old, daughter, born in Wisconsin

Florence E. Freeman, white, female, 11 years old, daughter, single, born in Wisconsin

Listed as alone in his own separate household, next door to his father is Wallace E Freeman (No.14).

Wallace E Freeman, white, male, thirty four years old, single, Farmer, born in Wisconsin, father born in Vermont, mother born in Canada

Listed 5 houses away, is Azro’s son, Leonard and his wife, Ida.

Leonard C Freeman, white, male, twenty six years old, married to Ida, working as a Farmer, born in New York, both parents born in New York

Ida Freeman, white, female, twenty two years old, married to Leonard C, keeping house, born in Wisconsin, both parents born in Vermont

Land Record of Wallace E Freeman (No.14), U.S. General Land Office, certificate no. 8057, recorded 27 March 1878. He bought this land for two dollars.

In the late 1880s, Azro Freeman moved yet again, this time to Lincoln County in Washington State. Interestingly, Azro was listed in the 1890 Veteran Schedule as living in Yarwood, Lincoln County, Washington, which was near the town of Harrington in Lincoln County. He had not suffered any injuries from his time in service. Sources in the family say Azro died 08 Nov 1895 in Yakima, Washington and lies at the North Yakima Cemetery.

Wallace Ephrim Freeman, followed much in the same vain as his father, for he was a farmer. Throughout his life, he followed his father and the farming opportunities he pursued, as evidenced by the land record above. Wallace moved near his in Washington State. Wallace married Elizabeth “Lizzie” Marie Williams on 5 Feb 1890 at Spokane Falls, Spokane County, Washington. Not much is known about Lizzie and her origins; she was born 12 Feb 1862 in Illinois. Determining Wallace and his family’s residence in Lincoln County, Washington was a bit of a search. Jessie Lee’s World War I Draft Card revealed his birth place as Harrington in Lincoln County.
Some of the Freeman Family. My 2x-great grandfather, Wallace Freeman. To the right is his sister Florence (Freeman) Williams and three of her children. The women standing above Wallace is probably his sister Varana Freeman.

Wallace and Lizzie divorced sometime after 1896 and before 1910; they had three children during their marriage. She didn’t seem very faithful as she had already been married several times (according to their marriage record). Wallace moved to Kings County, California where he was living in Lenmoore at the time of the 1910 US Federal Census. According to his death certificate, he was last living in Latin, Kings County, California along with his son Jessie Lee and had lived there for twenty two years. His cause of death is hard to read on his death certificate, but it’s probably cirrhosis, he died 28 Mar 1927 at the Kings County Hospital and is buried at the Hanford Cemetery in Hanford, Kings County, California.
Children of Wallace Freeman and Elizabeth Williams are:

64  i.  Jessie Lee Freeman, born 23 Dec 1890 in Harrington, Lincoln County, Washington; died 17 Jan 1957 in Alameda, California.  

A large group of kids from the Freeman Family in Yakima, Washington.

66.  James Wallace Freeman would be one of the few Freemans in my family to move back east. He spent his early years in Washington State and in California. He was a Merchant Marine in World War One, working as a machinist on a ship. The story is that while at sea, he met and befriended Arthur Olswang. After the war, Arthur brought James to Queens, New York to meet Arthur’s sister, Ethel Marcelle Olswang. This would lead to James and Ethel being wed 02 Jan 1923 in New York. Ethel, born 31 Dec 1902 in New York, is the daughter of Jacob Olswang and Margarette McGreevy. James and Ethel remained in Queens for some time, listed in the 1930 US Federal Census as living in 8425 168 Place in Jamaica, Queens County with their two daughters, Margarette Elizabeth and Etna Lynne. James went into Flooring Retail with Ethel’s brother, Arthur Olswang.
My Great-Grandfather, James Wallace Freeman. Photo taken around World War I.

Advertisement for Stately Floors in 1947 Hartford City Directory, located at 1130 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut.

Children of James Freeman and Ethel Olswang are:

67  i.  Margarette Elizabeth Freeman, born 28 Jan 1924 in New York, New York.


James continued the business after Arthur died in 1942, moving north to Washington Street in Hartford, Connecticut and running his flooring business, Stately Floors, in Hartford. James and Ethel moved around Hartford a lot in the 1940s, one of their residences being a farmhouse in Simsbury, Connecticut. Sometime after the war, James sold


The barn on the left side of the house, they used to keep chickens and pigs while they were living there.

My great-grandfather James and his son-in-law Robert built this house next door.

67. Margarette Freeman (called Peggy by her children and grandchildren) married Robert Frank Fletcher 13 Dec 1943 in New York City. Robert was born 14 Nov 1922 in New York to Frank Julius Fleischhauer and Caroline Marie Pralle. Formerly Robert Frank Fleischhauer, he changed his last name to Fletcher during the Second World War. He was a graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, specializing in engineering and then joined the Navy as an officer, serving on the repair ships \textit{USS Ajax} and \textit{USS Delta}. After the war, the couple moved to Hartford, Connecticut so Margarette was nearby her parents. In the early 1950s, Margarette and
Robert moved down to Miami, Florid where she was a school teacher and Robert was a salesman. After they divorced, Margarette remarried to Frederick Nehrbas of Evansville, Indiana on 13 Dec 1964 in Miami, Florida. A year later, Robert Fletcher died of consumption on 01 Aug 1965 while living in Miami. Margarette Elizabeth Freeman died on 22 Mar 2005 at a Hospice Service in Winter Park, Orange, Florida of emphysema.

Photo of my Grandparents, Robert Fletcher and Margarette (Freeman) Fletcher.

Endnotes

3. Ibid, 1:1, 88-89.
4. Ibid, 1:1, 149. Mr. Ed Freeman was given 42 acres when the Plymouth Colony divided the meadow lands of Sandwich.
5. Ibid, 1:2, 73.
6. Massachusetts Archives Collection, 1629-1799, 33:18, held at the Massachusetts State Archives.
14. Elisha Freeman, compiled military service record (Corporal, Peter Olcott's Regiment, Vermont Militia), in *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served In The American Army During the Revolutionary War*, Microfilm M881, Roll No. 896, at the National Archives.
17. Old Storrs Cemetery, Mansfield, Massachusetts, author’s visit in March 2009.
24. 1875 New York State Census, Westville, Franklin County, family no. 300, located at Daughters of the American Revolution Library.
30. Margarett Elizabeth Freeman, “Freeman Genealogy Notes,” privately held in Fletcher Family Archives. These are the genealogy notes of the author’s grandmother.
31. Roche, “Roche Family Tree,” viewed online at Ancestry.com. The author of this family tree has possible census listings of Mary A Dewey.
34. Azrow Daniel Freeman, Company Muster and Descriptive Roll, Company E, 5th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, Fort Randall, Madison, Wisconsin, September 25, 1864.
37. 1885 Kansas State Census, Victor, Osborne County, roll KS1885_103, p.4, (Kansas State Census Collection, 1855-1915, online database, Ancestry.com).
40. Marriage Certificate of Wallace E. Freeman and Marie Elizabeth Williams, 5 February 1890, Spokane Falls, Spokane County, Washington.
41. Margarett Elizabeth Freeman, “Freeman Genealogy Notes,” privately held in Fletcher Family Archives.
43. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, Island, Kings County, California, Roll 1530797, Jessie Lee Freeman (online database, Ancestry.com).
44. 1910 U.S. Census, Lenmoore, Kings County, California, roll 79, ED 180, p. 7A.
49. Seminole County Public Health Unit, 16 February 1987, Ethel M. Freeman death record.
51. 1930 U.S. Census, Jamaica, Queens County, New York, roll 1597, ED 319, p. 12A.