The Royce Quarterly

Summer 2025

A Publication of the Royce Family Association (RFA)

Volume 38 Number 3

Royce Family Association Website @ roycefamilyassociation.org.

Royce Family Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1127883208081516)

Co-Editor's Note: Hopefully, you have been able to take the opportunity to explore some genealogical trails over the summer. Perhaps you ran across an interesting story about an ancestor that you would like to share in the next Quarterly! This summer issue is filled with intriguing research about our Royce ancestors including articles by Kate Renner about how Nehemiah Royce received vegetables in exchange for shoes he made and how a Royce Vermontor ended up fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War. I explored how some of our Royce ancestors uprooted and moved to the Western Reserve in Ohio, which marked the beginning of the westward movement. While conducting research for my article I reflected on the fact that I am the only one in my family of origin and of 20th and 21st century direct descendants who was born in Ohio. My great-grandmother was born there in the 1860's and then migrated to Kansas on a wagon train as a child. I was fortunate to have known her when I was a little girl. Perhaps it was her stories that led me to become the family historian. I had no idea when I lived in Ohio until the age of 11 that I had such a deep history in Ohio.

Attention RFA Members

For the few RFA members who have requested a paper copy of the newsletter to be mailed to them, this costs the RFA approximately $8 per issue per member, which is $32 per year per member. The $15 annual membership fee does not cover this cost. Some of you prefer to receive both an emailed and mailed copy. The RFA would greatly appreciate it if you receive an emailed newsletter only and print the newsletter out at home. This would save the RFA a great deal of money and would also allow membership dues to remain low. Please email k8renmayo@gmail.com to confirm your choice to receive an emailed copy only.

Financial Statement for the Royce Family Association For the period

4/1/25-7/31/25

Beginning Balance on 3/31/25		**$6,060.48**
Dues Collected	**$228.78***	
Expenses		
Newsletter copy and mailing	**$305.39**	
Mailing of treasurer's materials	**$101.45**	
Total Expenses	**$406.84**	
Total Available Funds	**$5,882.42**	

***Uneven number due to processing fees deducted on 14 credit card payments. One check for $15 membership received. Five new memberships and 11 renewals.**

Do you have a Royce/Rice family story to share? Did you go on a genealogical road trip over the summer or are you planning a genealogical discovery trip this fall? Or have you discovered something from your research on a genealogical website? The RFA Quarterly would love to hear from you! Please submit your article or any questions to Anne McGreevy (amcgreevy16@gmail.com).

Welcome New Members

The Royce Quarterly used to run this type of welcome notice frequently but fell out of the habit in the last few years. So here is a welcome to new members who joined since the website pay by credit was launched in September 2024. So glad you are part of the RFA family! We invite you to write an article about your lineage, an interesting ancestor or how you became interested in genealogy. **Email to amcgreevy16@gmail.com**

Beth Royce Adriano	Avon OH
Paul Bartlett	Hixson TN
Jeanette Shuey Baugh	Lenexa KS
Robert Blount	Grapevine TX
Luke Bonacci	San Diego CA
Cathie Fisher Braman	Fredericksburg VA
Janet Cassagio	St. Augustine FL
Don Coffield	Locust NJ
Darlene Rice Dittmer	Grand Coulee WA
Peggy Durack	San Antonio TX
Ryan Edwards	
Craig Failor	Oak Park IL

Kirk Gilles	Exeter CA
Deborah Hanna	Storrs CT
Kathryn Hug	Parker CO
Jennifer Royce King	Westerly RI
John Peel	Durango CO
Brandon Rice	Fort McCoy FL
Clifford Rice	Bowie MD
Eileen Rice	East Chatham NY
Greg Rice	Richmond CA
Mary Rice	Maple Ridge British Columbia
John Rice	Missoula MT
Rory Rice	Missoula MT
Albert Jay Royce	Osprey FL
Gary Royce	Lemon Grove CA
Ronald Royce	Colorado Springs CO
James Royce	Monson MA
Shawn Royce	Old Town FL
Steve Royce	San Diego CA
Steven Royce	Appleton NY
Anthony Royse	Independence KS
Mark Royse	Carmel IN
Jim Ward	Dewitt MI

Back again is Edward Wenzell of Groton, MA

Total paid RFA members are 77 in number

Ancient History

By Kate Renner

The Winter 1997 issue of the Royce Quarterly was the first issue since 1989. E. Allen Royce restarted the RFA after it had been idle since 1951. In May 1979 he sent out organizational letters, much as Helen did, to all known Royce descendants. When Allen died in 1990, the RFA languished. That 1997 issue has an excellent summary by Al Rhods (author of "The Royce Family in America") of the history of the RFA, starting with the genealogical research by Helen Royce in the 1920s. Helen and her sister Lucy bought the Nehemiah Royce house in 1924 and it is worth a read—you can look it up on Familysearch or access their collection through our website.

A summary from the Winter 1997 and December 1980 issues of the Quarterly noted that the Royce Family Association was formed on 2 August 1934 and on August 16-18, 1935, a three day open house was held at the Nehemiah Royce house, then owned by Helen Royce. Between 1934 and 1940 the trustees met on May 1 of each year to transact business. In 1940 the RFA had a life membership of $25, a sustaining membership of $5 a year and regular membership was $1 a year. The first

formal reunion was held Saturday August 17, 1940 at the Nehemiah Royce house. In the December 1980 issue, Allen Royce, the editor, thanked Jean Rumsey of Oak Park Illinois for her help with that issue.

Reunion and business meeting: In the June 1981 issue: A reunion, the first in over 30 years, was held on June 5-7 1981 in Wallingford. The 24 in attendance were:
E. Allen Royce of Charlotte NC, (editor)
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rice of Syracuse NY
Joseph and Hazel Morris of San Antonio TX
Robert and Verna Brockhurst of Falls Church VA
Charity Royse Bergland of Mason MI
Elmore Nitchke of East Haven CT
Roberta Royce Tarbell of Olympia WA
Royce and Edna Coon of Rochester NY (parents of RFA president Lori Coon DiDonato)
Harry and Margaret Royce of Concord NJ
Lilian Royce of Avon CT
Diana Royce Barnard of Unionville CT
William Clotworthy of Westport CT
Jennie Smith of Westfield NY
Shirley Moore of Westfield NY
June Bartholomew of West Hartford CT
Harvey and Laura Royce of Oakland ME
Leslie Steele of West Hartford CT
Helen Roys of Scarsdale NY.

The cousins met in the Nutmeg room of the Yale Motor Inn, discussed lineages and broke for lunch. Later they visited the Wallingford Historical Society at 180 South Main Street for a tour and checked out their archives. On Saturday the 6th, a business meeting was held, and the June 1981 issue of the Quarterly noted at the treasury had $965, total membership was 211 but only 67 had paid their annual dues of $5 (*now it is only* $15). The cost of printing and mailing each Quarterly was estimated to be $50-60 (*now it averages $200 per issue, even though most members receive an emailed issue*). Discussion took place as to how long to continue to mail to unpaid members (*still an issue*). Under new business, the members at the meeting discussed changing the name of the society to include the variant spellings of the surname Royce. The consensus was that to include all the spellings would be cumbersome and lengthy, so a motion to retain the name Royce Family Association was passed. Regarding the society's organization, it was decided that it should remain unstructured without bylaws, officers and committees, but that one person would serve as president/treasurer/secretary and E. Allen Royce III was selected to be that person. After the meeting, the group had a tour of the Nehemiah Royce house which was at that time a private residence for the Dean of Faculty of Choate Rosemary Hall. Afterwards they toured the Center Street cemetery conducted by Robert Delaney, sexton of the cemetery. He had a 100+ year old map that showed the names and lots of burials. In the evening the group had a banquet with a speaker, Raymond Chappell, president of the Wallingford Historical Society. The June 1981 issue also contained several queries, including one that offered a $100

reward for documentation of the parents of Elijah Rice who died in Mentz NY on 29 June 1828.

Growth of the RFA
1940: dues $1, members ?
1980: dues $5, paying members 17
1981: dues $5, paying members 67 out of 211 on rolls
1997: dues $12, paying and sustaining members 89
2024: dues $15, paying members
2025: dues $15, paying members 70 out of 78 on rolls
New and renewing members in 2024 and 2025 have on average replaced those who have passed away or stopped paying.

Query ??????

Seeking marriage record for William Royce to Louisa Baldwin, probably in Vermont, circa 1813-1814. Louisa first married Archibald Kidd in 1808 in Montpelier, VT. I have their marriage record. Archibald died in 1812. From find-a-grave stones on Louisa's first two sons with William Royce, their marriage must have been 1812-1814. Also seeking proof of where their children were born:
Sylvester 1814-1862
Silvenus 1816-1867
Calvin 1817-1852
Cynthia 1820-1908 (her dc gave mother's maiden name as Baldwin)
Paschal 1828-1877 born in Syracuse, NY per obituary
Louisa married Henry Pearsall in 1837 in Michigan.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66487743/william-royce
I visited Orwell and Shoreham, VT and went to their two historical societies. I have looked through their books and kept in contact with these societies over the years, and had also contacted Susan MacIntire, author of "A genealogical register of the early families of Shoreham, Vermont, 1761-1899." She wasn't able to find anything that the children were born in Shoreham. I found the Orwell society larger and more helpful and also the city offices for older maps of the community.

Diana Ayers ayersjohnson@earthlink.net

Nehemiah Royce Paid in Vegetables for his Wares

by Kate Renner

From the Diary of Thomas Minor of Stonington CT
published in 1899 by Sidney Minor and George Stanton

Thomas Minor, my 8th great-grandfather, was born in Somerset England c. 1608 and died in New London on 23 Oct 1690. He arrived in Salem on the Arabella on 14 Jun 1630 and lived in Massachusetts until 1640. Thomas Minor kept a detailed diary, noting the day, month and year, the weather and crops. He described how the settlers lived, who was married or died, who visited or preached. While some entries concern his own family, he mentioned many of the residents of Stonington, including my Avery, Denison, and Palmer ancestors. He was skillful in dealing with the native Americans, chosen to do so by Governor Winthrop. The diary was handed down to his descendants who remained living on his homestead at Quiambaug, within the town of Stonington, which at the time was called Southerton. When published in 1899, it was in the custody of Cornelius V. Miner.

I first learned of the diary from the Royce Quarterly Vol. 2 #4 printed in December 1980. That issue is available digitally at familysearch.org and through the RFA website.

Entries 1653-1684
Available at
https://archive.org/stream/DiaryOfThomasMinor/DiaryOfThomasMinor_djvu.txt

1662-1663, page 55: This present writting witnesseth that I Nehemiah Roice shewmaker of new london doo heareby ingage to supplie with shews Thomas Minor and his familie for this yeare next insuing the date heare of as foloweth begining at the first of march next till. 1663. the first of marcht viz: shews of nins at four shillings six pence levens at five shillings six pence twelves at six shillings and 13 teens at six and six pence if plaine or wooden heels also I Thomas Minor doe heare by ingage to pay for all my shews in pease or Indean Coren 3s p bushell wheate at 4s p bushell buter & good murchatabell (merchantable or marketable?) Cheese at 6d p pound if the cheese be all new milke if not at five pence p pound as witnes our hands this 20th of februarie 1661. Thomas Minor. Nehemiah Royse.

From 1672-1673, page 115: The twelfe moneth is februarie and hath .28. days saterday the first: the 4th day Tusday I was at new London I had Two paier of playne shews of mr Royce I owe him Two shillings saterday the .8. samuell was at the farme Thursday the .13th wee wer at the new meeting house and appoynted how many seats to make friday the 14 wee agreed with goodman wheeler for £26. to make the seats to Cart and pvide all about them but nay Is: saterday the .15. I fecthed all the Iron workes from Lam there was due to him 02-06-00:
and the steere payd for wensday the .19. I looked out and picthed upon a place for my fiftie ackers Thursday the 20th Clement (Thomas' son) and martha (Wellman) was maried by mr withrell Comr saterday 22 and friday the 28.

(Note that Nehemiah's surname is spelled three different ways in these excerpts.)



John Rice Obituary
Long Time RFA member

John David Rice
May 2, 1937 - May 16, 2023

Sacramento, California - John was born in Fresno California, the son of Walter George Rice and Dorothy Fink Rice and passed away at age 86. He spent his youth on his father's ranch located on the Kings River in Reedley California, where he attended grade school at Riverview Elementary and high school at Reedley High where he made lifelong friends. After a brief stint at Stanford, he returned to Fresno State College, graduating with a degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation he moved to Sacramento and became a lifelong employee of the State of California with various agencies. Early on in his career he became interested in what today we would call Information Technology where the early beginnings of computers were room sized and used vacuum tubes to CPUs. His last position was at CalSTRS, State Teachers Retirement System, where his son, David, now works in the technology field as well.

In 1964 he married a teacher, Joan Rice, and to their joy a son that was born in 1970. John and Joan belonged to several dinner groups and spent many happy hours at each other's homes. They also attended many speaker series, enjoyed exploring the surrounding communities and like to go fishing. The Rice family traveled to the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and to the Midwest of the United States summerly to visit Joan's family. John and David shared the pleasures of playing golf and fishing. John coached one of David's Greenhaven soccer teams which was called the Jedi Knights. They also enjoyed going with a baseball tour group across the country which allowed them to attend several Major League games and historical sites.John also lent his support to several organizations. From the Neighborhood Association where he lived, to becoming a 10-gallon donation member of the Blood Bank to the Bing Maloney Men's Golf Club, supporting KVIE to various scholarship organizations. His passions included reading and attending several local historical groups that focused on early British Monarchy and American

Civil War history.He was described by many as a kind and gentle man with a beautiful smile. He is survived by his wife, Joan, of 59 years and their son David. Services will be held on Sunday, June 11th at 2pm at the First United Methodist Church located at 2100 J street, Sacramento California with a reception to follow. Come and share your memories of John with friends.

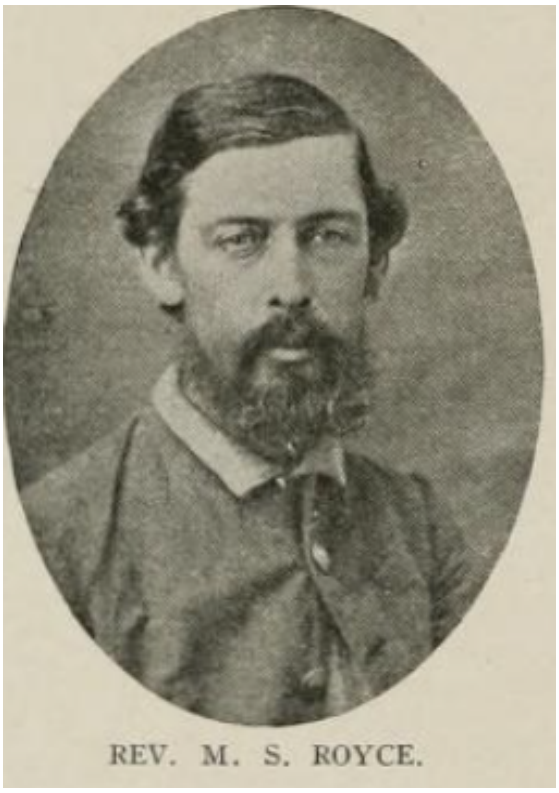
Published by The Sacramento Bee on Jun. 7, 2023.

Born a Vermonter, Became a Confederate Captain

By Kate Renner

Moses Strong Royce born 1825 Rutland VT died 1873 Nashville

From a biographical sketch of Moses, p. 622 in the *Confederate Veteran* periodical and other sources, Moses Strong Royce was born in Rutland Vermont, 13 July 1825 to Rodney Caesar Royce and Betsey Strong (Rodney was # 1445 in the Royce Family in America by Alvin Rhods, then Stephen, Stephen, Josiah, Robert, Samuel, Robert the immigrant.) Moses' great-grandfather Stephen (#256) moved from Wallingford to Vermont in 1774 and was part of the convention which declared the New Hampshire grants a free state. His uncle Stephen (#1441) was a judge of the Supreme Court of Vermont for 25 years and its chief justice for five. After that he was elected to be the state's governor. His father Rodney C. Royce was an attorney who died when Moses was 11.


REV. M. S. ROYCE.

Moses was educated at the University of Vermont and decided to study for the Episcopal ministry. He moved to Greeneville Tennessee in 1847 and supported himself by teaching while completing his studies for the ministry. He married Martha A. Broyles, a daughter of a physician in Greeneville. They went to Nashville traveling by stagecoach and later moved to Franklin, Williamson county where he took charge of St. Paul's Church. In 1852 he accepted the professorship of belles-lettres and mathematics at Norwich University in Vermont but in December of the next year he was called to the parish of St. Paul's in Franklin. He supplemented his income as a bookkeeper and ticket agent for the Tennessee and Alabama railroad.

When the Civil War came, he decided that the South was in the right, thereby losing the favor of his uncle Stephen Royce, and his share of the estate which went to a more favored nephew, Judge Homer Royce, who later became a member of the U.S. Congress. Moses served in Starnes Escort, 4th Tennessee Cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest and eventually attained the rank of Captain. Moses was captured during a guerrilla detail and confined in the military prison in Nashville. He was tried on the charge of being a guerrilla and sentenced to be shot. "The trial was such an unjust farce that the man whom he was accused of murdering was in court to testify that he had been killed" (per article in *Confederate Veteran*, p. 622.)

After his wife's journey to Richmond and appeal to Jefferson Davis, he secured a stay of sentence for Moses. While in prison, he wrote to his mother and stated that his imprisonment was not a complete misfortune as he had a fellow prisoner who was a Spaniard with whom he was studying and if his execution were delayed for three months, he thought he could learn the language. On 29 February 1864, Moses and three companions cut a hole in the floor of the cell with a saw made from a case knife. They were pursued but finally reached the Tennessee River and rejoined their commands.

At the end of the war, Moses found his family in Alabama and they journeyed back to Franklin where they found the home had been destroyed. Their house had been dismantled by Union troops and the materials were used to construct Fort Granger. Perhaps the home was targeted because Martha was suspected of spying and that Moses was a Confederate Captain on James Starne's staff under Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Moses took charge at Holy Trinity Church in South Nashville while his family remained at the farm. He built a shed to live in which was also a schoolroom. He taught a day school to increase his earnings and a night school for men employed during the day to learn penmanship, composition and arithmetic and for boys who could not pay. He established a St. Paul Building Association to assist poor people to obtain a home. According to Vermont newspaper articles, he returned to Rutland in 1869 to present "the claims of the freedmen at Trinity church" and for a family funeral in 1870. In 1873 Nashville had a serious cholera epidemic. Moses visited his family about 20 miles outside of Nashville and they begged him to stay, but he refused, stating he could not desert his people. He tended a parishioner on Saturday evening and on Sunday he became ill and died Monday morning. He was buried from his church the same day. "He was incapable of accumulating wealth; but he has left the imperishable memory of a good name, which is far better." (*Confederate Veteran*, p. 622)

Martha Ann Broyles Royce born 1831-1931 in Greene County Tennessee



MRS. MOSES STRONG ROYCE.

While Moses was away fighting for most of the war, his wife Martha and their daughters Betsey and Sally remained in the family home in Franklin Tennessee. Union soldiers occupied her house in the spring of 1863. She was suspected of spying and perhaps she did—she would count troops marching by from her bedroom window. A General told her to leave with four days' notice, shortly after the Battle of Franklin on 10 Apr 1863. She had to sell belongings and load what she could onto one wagon, take her daughters Betsey (born 1854) and Sally (born 1856) and flee to her parents' home in Greeneville Tennessee 295 miles away. Martha brought along a pistol that Betsey found in the yard, left by a soldier. The girls were able to choose one toy each and one to share so they each selected a doll and shared a tea set. They left their home on 16 April 1863. The Fayetteville (North Carolina) Observer, May 4, 1863, p. 3, described three families from Franklin forced to leave but the article named Mrs. Rice and there were no Rice families in Franklin at that time. Once at Martha's parents' plantation, she received a letter from Moses in December 1863 that he was to be executed "from false charges of guerrilla warfare." Moses had been captured in Tennessee and imprisoned in Nashville.

"*Dear Wife, I have been tried on a charge of guerilla (sic) warfare, have been adjudged guilty, and am now under sentence to be shot. The date of my execution has not been fixed. It is needless to tell you that I am innocent of the charge. I have only been a scout. I enclose a photograph of myself, which I was allowed to have taken, attended by a guard. You are not likely to forget my looks, but the children are. May the Lord have you in his keeping. Farewell. Faithfully your husband, Moses Royce*"

The letter was a shock to Martha and she immediately made plans to go to Richmond to plead with Confederate president Jefferson Davis to intervene. She traveled 325 miles in the midst of war in winter. Martha said this when asked by her daughter about this incident: "Sometimes, Betsey, it is better to just go ahead and do it. You can't allow your fears to get in the way. I had to save your father and that's what kept me going. I also knew in my heart the good Lord was with me and would protect me." Betsey later said of her mother: "a finely tempered steel blade sheathed in a scabbard of white velvet." From page 623 in *Confederate Veteran* (link

below) “Trip to Richmond in 1863” by Sally Royce Weir written in her mother’s voice and noting her mother is “still unreconstructed.”

“I was in the home of my father, Dr. Broyles, near Greeneville, Tenn. when I received a letter from my husband telling me that he had been captured by the Federals and was sentenced to be shot. I had been sent away from my home in Franklin seven months before by Gen. Gordon Granger who made a public example of me by giving me three days’ notice to leave their lines. Another family was also sent out with me and we were marched between ranks of soldiers, who stood with drawn bayonets to let us pass. It was proposed in this way to strike terror to the hears of the Rebels who remained.

I pondered long over the letter, and could think of but one thing which might possibly help my husband. If I could only reach Richmond and see President Davis, he might hold a hostage for his life or process a stay of sentence. I started the next day, taking a soldier cousin and one of my sisters with me.” The details of her journey by road, river, train, crossing over icy rivers, and through mud and the ruins of war were described in *Trip to Richmond* by Sally Royce Weir in *Confederate Veteran*, pp 622-624. Photos of both Moses and Martha Royce are on those pages.

Another article in the *Confederate Veteran* periodical: “Three Hundred Miles in a Wagon” by Sally Royce Weir, pp. 505-510, though written by Sally, she recounted the story from her mother’s point of view, their eventual reunion with Moses in August 1865 in Alabama where he rested a week and then the family planned to return to Franklin. Moses spent another week trying to buy a wagon from a Union army at depot. There were none to sell but he was told he could combine parts of broken wagons which he did. He bought a bony horse named Frank and the family had many dangerous encounters on the road home. They met a former pupil of Moses who invited them to his home but there were embarrassed by their clothing and did not want to go.

After Moses died, Martha moved to Asheville North Carolina where she and daughter Betsey lived with Sallie and her husband Dr. Alexander Weir in 1880. In 1884 her house at Hot Springs was destroyed by fire, having been built only a few years prior. She died in Hot Springs North Carolina in 1911, living with daughter Sallie Royce Weir. Sallie divorced her husband in 1889. In 1887 Betsey married Preston Spring, originally from New York, a wealthy farmer in Talbot County Maryland and they had three children, Royce Ryker Spring, Elizabeth who married Columbus Beach and died in Vermont in 1966, and Rodney who died in France in WW I. Son Royce had a son, grandson and great-grandson also named Royce Ryker Spring.

More about Moses

He was a cell-mate in the military prison with Captain Frank Gurley who was accused of murdering a Union General. and was sentenced to be hanged. The facts in the case are disputed and the Northern press printed many articles about it. The Southern press, short of paper, ink and funds, had fewer stories.

A petition written by Moses Royce to the Confederate Commission of Exchange, sought to free his cell-mate Captain Frank Gurley who had killed Union General Robert McCook near Huntsville AL in August 1862. Gurley was captured in October 1863 and charged with murdering McCook, allegedly shooting him while the General was lying in an ambulance. Sympathizers claimed that Gurley was not a guerrilla, but a regular soldier in the Confederacy's 4th Alabama Cavalry; and that he killed McCook under the rules of war. Northern newspapers claimed that Confederate guerrillas murdered the general; feelings ran high on both sides. Some accounts stated that General McCook was not in uniform while others said that the Confederate soldiers were not in uniform. Questions were raised as to whether Gurley fired the fatal shot. The August 23rd 1863 edition of Harper's Weekly ran this photo of the shooting of McCook, showing the Northern public that McCook was outnumbered.

After his escape from prison in March 1864, Royce wrote this letter to help Gurley's case which follows below. This letter is currently for sale for $2,000 by Fine Antiquarian Books in Woodbridge Connecticut:
https://www.lesserbooks.com/pages/books/36882/general-mccooks-murder-moses-strong-royce/manuscript-petition-in-regard-to-capt-f-b-gurley-4th-ala-cav

The letter of Moses Strong Royce:
"*Petition in Regard to Capt. F. B. Gurley 4th Ala. Cav.*

Capt. Gurley is now prisoner at Nashville (or was a prisoner on the 1st of March, when the undersigned escaped from prison)—He was confined in a cell for sixty-eight (68) days and allowed only about one hour a day for exercise, and was put upon trial for the killing of Genl. McCook.—He was obliged to employ counsel to defend himself at an expense of twenty five hundred dollars (2500) in greenbacks.—The evidence produced completely exonerated him of anything like murder, and the argument of his counsel was a complete vindication of his right as a soldier and an officer to do all that he did in bringing Genl. McCook to his death.—
When the trial was nearly ended four communications by flag of truce were sent to the court and were there read - one from Lt. Col. Hambrick, one from Genl. Forrest, one from Genl. Hardee and one from Genl. Johnston.— In three hours from the time these communications were read in the court Capt. Gurley was released from the cell and placed in the room where other Confederate Officers were quartered, and received from that time the same treatment which other officers received.—



Shooting of General McCook – Harper's Weekly, 1863

It is the belief of Capt. Gurley that the Federal authorities do not intend to communicate to him the result of his trial, that they are afraid to punish him lest retaliation should follow, and unwilling to exchange him so long as they can keep from it.—

The undersigned believes that if an effort were to be made by the Confederate Commission of Exchange to have Capt. Gurley exchanged, the Federal authorities would immediately send him forward for that purpose, and as a friend of Capt. Gurley the undersigned respectfully requests General Johnston to use his influence in procuring the exchange of Capt. Gurley.

Respectfully submitted,
M. S. Royce."

The letters in support of Gurley offered assurances that Gurley was not a guerrilla but a duly enrolled member of the Confederate military forces. Nevertheless Gurley was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. Gurley was released from prison in an administrative error, was re-arrested, charged, but finally released and placed on parole in April 1866. After the war he returned home to Alabama where he was elected sheriff of Madison County which led the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1865 to print "Rebels have defeated all the Union candidates. The infamous Frank B. Gurley, murderer of General McCook, has been elected Sheriff of Madison County." Gurley was again arrested for alleged war crimes and placed in jail. Military execution date set at 30 Nov 1865 but in April 1866 he was pardoned, signed an oath of allegiance and the charges were dismissed. He died 29 Mar 1920 in Gurley, Madison, Alabama.

Moses Royce's letter to claim damages for the loss of his home.

Moses attempted to be reimbursed for the damage that the Union army did to his home but it does not appear he was successful. From
https://battleoffranklin.wordpress.com/2008/06/10/royce/

Franklin (TN)
August 28, 1865
David Campbell Esquire

Dear Sir,

I neglected to speak to you yesterday in regard to prosecuting a claim for damages for my wife's property which was destroyed by the Federal army under General Granger. I will therefore make a brief statement of the facts in the case and would like to be advised what steps are necessary to be taken in the matter. The house where we formerly lived was deeded by me and W. S. McLemore (the former trustee for my wife) to myself as trustee for my wife and children some two years before the war – The deed was drawn by John Marshall and I had a perfect right to make the deed as I had sufficient property outside of that to meet all my debts and have a surplus. At the time my wife was ordered out of the lines she informed the authorities that the house was her property and she delivered the key to General Granger's Adjutant notifying him that she should hold him responsible for its safe keeping. She had never been required to take the oath of allegiance and of course had never refused [end page one] to take it. She had never been charged with doing any act prejudicial to the U.S. Army and as a matter of fact had done no such act. She had not been off her lot for three months previous to her being sent away, except twice, and no one was with her in the house except my two little girls, one eight and the other six years old. You are aware how the house was destroyed after she left, being hauled away by government wagons to the fort for the purpose of making barracks for soldiers. I estimate the damage to the property at five thousand dollars ($5,000) as I am satisfied it could not be restored for anything less than that amount. If there us any reasonable prospect of obtaining damages I wish to have steps taken immediately to prosecute the claim, and would like to be furnished with papers in proper form if it is necessary for me to certify to any such. All the facts stated here can be proven by witnesses now in Franklin.
I am yours very truly,
M.S. Royce

Sources
Samantha Lanier, "Stepping Out of the Victorian Mold: the lives of Women during the Civil War." (Master's thesis for MA in Exhibition Design, Corcoran School of Art, George Washington University, 2012)

"A Genteel Spy: the Inspiring Odyssey of Martha Broyles Royce and her family during the Civil War." Rockvale, TN: Two Peas Pub., 2010. Edited by Judith Riker Damon, written by her grandmother Betsey Royce.

"Confederate Veteran: published monthly in the interest of Confederate Veterans and Kindred Topics" Vol XVI, Nashville, TN, (1908) at https://archive.org/details/confederateveter16conf/page/n5/mode/2up?view=theater&q=royce

Moses Royce postwar letter seeking recompense for lost house transcribed in http://battleoffranklin.wordpress.com/category/fort-granger/

Rick Warwick, compiler, "Williamson County: The Civil War as Seen through the Female Experience" (Franklin, TN: Williamson County Heritage Society, 2008)

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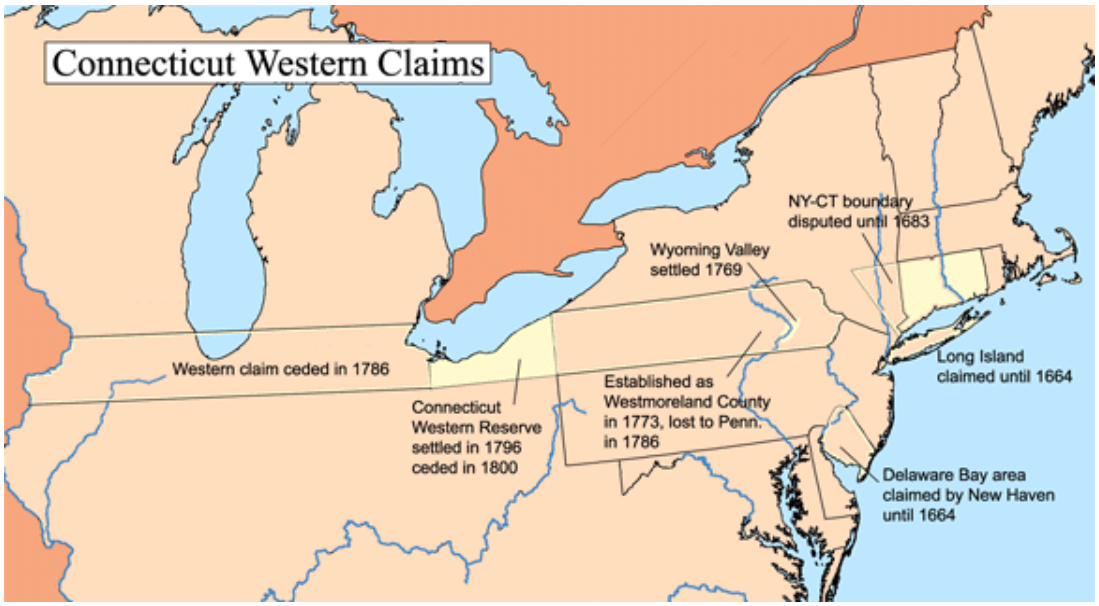
The Connecticut Western Reserve

By Anne McGreevy

In the year 1662 King Charles II granted Connecticut a royal charter that included land from its eastern boundary all the way to the "South Sea", or from "sea" to "sea". In the 1600's it was known that there was another ocean across the North American continent but geographical knowledge was limited and the Pacific Ocean was referred to at the time as the "South Sea". The distance across the continent was also unknown. After the American Revolution, Connecticut ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1788 and became the 5th state. In accordance with the U.S. Constitution, States were required to cede their land claims to the federal government. New York and Pennsylvania, of which Connecticut had conflicting and overlapping claims, also ceded their land claims to the federal government. Ceding land claims to the Federation was in exchange for the assumption of the States' debts. Connecticut, however, was able to reserve the northeast part of present day Ohio and called it the Connecticut Western Reserve. The Reserve encompassed a 120 mile wide area running from Pennsylvania westward and north-south between Lake Erie and present day Youngstown for a total of 3,366,921 acres.

The Connecticut Western Reserve included all of the following counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie and Huron (aka the Firelands or Suffers' Lands), Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Trumbull; and portions of Ashland, Mahoning, Ottawa, Summit, and Wayne.

The original inhabitants of the area that would become the Connecticut Western Reserve were the Erie people. Between the years of 1654-1656 the Erie were at war with the Iroquois who were attempting to dominate the beaver fur trade and were almost completely wiped out. The remainder of the Erie people were absorbed into the Seneca tribe and other neighboring tribes. The newly arriving settlers of European descent eventually displaced the Iroquois.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecticut_Western_Reserve

In 1795 the State of Connecticut sold most of the Western Reserve to the Connecticut Land Company which was a company composed of investors who were encouraging settlement in the Western Reserve through the sale of lands. The sale price was $1.2 million. Connecticut used the money for the Connecticut School Fund. A smaller portion of lands known as “Firelands” or Suffers’ Lands were also reserved specifically for Connecticut citizens who lost their property to British raiders during the Revolutionary War. In 1796 the Connecticut Land Company sent surveyors into the Western Reserve and divided the land up. There were 57 original proprietors of the Land Company who were among the wealthiest and most prominent men of Connecticut. Among them was Captain Caleb Atwater (1741-1832) of Wallingford. Caleb Atwater was the grandson of John Atwater who was an early settler of Wallingford. As I mentioned in the Spring 2025 Royce Quarterly, Caleb Atwater owned the property that the Choate School is located on in Wallingford. His granddaughter and her husband founded the school. He was a merchant who outfitted Revolutionary forces during the American Revolution. He travelled to the Western Reserve and after the property was surveyed and divided up, he returned to Connecticut. He died in 1832 and is buried at the Center Street Cemetery in Wallingford.

By the early 1800's the population of Connecticut had grown not only due to emigration but also from the colonists producing large families. The society was still mainly agrarian and descendants were in need of farmland of their own, so many Connecticut residents looked west for land ownership. The decision to emigrate was based on several factors; hope of economic gain, the opportunity to own land, abundant timber since most of the timber had been cut in Connecticut, and a more mild climate after a decade of harsh winters. Connecticut allotted land in the Firelands to Connecticut citizens who lost property to British raiders during the revolution. The rest was sold for $1-$2.50 an acre. This was a Connecticut venture and therefore most of those who purchased land and emigrated were from Connecticut. Some people purchased land for speculation and never actually moved to the Reserve.



1826 Map of the Western Reserve Including the Firelands
https://www.hcc-ogs.org/firelands-history.html

The journey from Connecticut to the Western Reserve was monumental. It was a 500 plus mile trek over rough terrain and Indian trails. Often men would forge ahead first and build a cabin before returning and bringing families west. Some would travel the northern route to northwest New York, stock up their wagons and head to Buffalo and the Lake Erie shore. Cattle were driven along the lake shore

trail while those with wagons would then have to navigate farther north and around Niagara Falls before embarking on a treacherous boat trip on Lake Erie headed for the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. If snow was still on the ground, sleds may have been needed. Still others took the southern route starting in Pittsburg and then following the Forbes' Road through Pennsylvania. The road paralleled several rivers including the Ohio, Beaver, and Mahoning to the eastern portion of the Reserve. Still others walked the riverbank or traveled by canoe down the rivers. As the years went by, the roads improved and the Erie Canal was built by 1825 which reduced travel time. At the outset, the trip usually took somewhere between forty and sixty days.

Below is a list of Royce ancestors who had a high probability of migrating to the Western Reserve between 1800-1820 either through the purchase of land or by receiving a land grant in the Firelands.

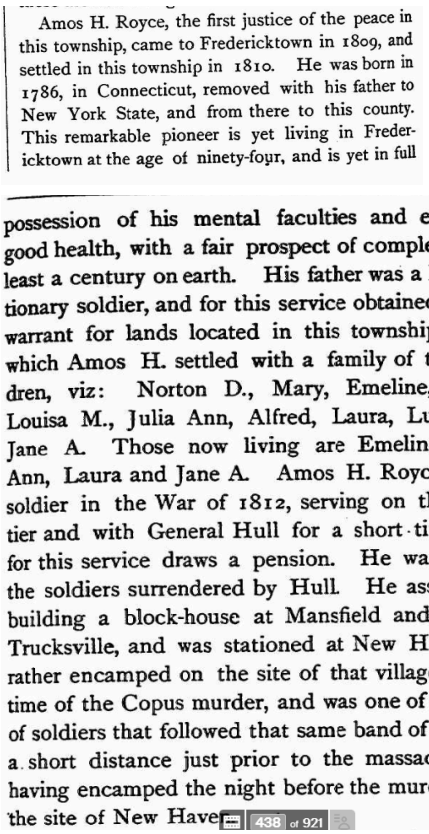
My ancestor, Amos Hosford Royce (b.1786-1881) who I wrote about in the Spring 2023 Royce Quarterly, descended from Robert Royce (1605-1676), Nehemiah Royce (1637-1706), Nehemiah Royce (1682-1725), Phineas Royce (1715-1787), and his father Nehemiah Royce (1753-1790). Amos received or inherited a land grant from his father.

- Adonijah Royce 1779-1842, buried in Sunbury, Delaware County, Ohio
- Alpheus Nathan Royce 1793-1859, born in Tolland County, Connecticut, buried in Van Wert County, Ohio. Alpheus was the son of Charles Royce.
- Daniel W. Royce 1789-1875, buried in Columbus, Ohio. Daniel is a descendant of Samuel Royce (1648-1711) who was a son of Robert Royce (1605-1676) and brother to Nehemiah Royce (1637-1706)
- Phineas Royce 1783-1858, buried in Oberlin, Ohio. Phineas is a descendant of Jonathon Royce (1638-1689) who was a son of Robert Royce (1605-1667)
- Elisha Royce 1785-1863, born in Walpole, New Hampshire, buried in North Fairfield, Ohio
- Benjamin Franklin Royce 1806-1874, born in Walpole, New Hampshire and buried in Chatfield, Ohio. Benjamin is a descendant of Jonathon Royce who was a son of Robert Royce (1605-1667)

There are many other Royces who immigrated to Ohio after1820 in the 2nd wave of migrations. If you have any known Royce descendants who resided in Ohio you can follow up through the citations below.

History of Knox County Ohio page 426

https://archive.org/details/historyofknoxcou00hill/page/424/mode/2up?view=theater



Amos H. Royce, the first justice of the peace in this township, came to Fredericktown in 1809, and settled in this township in 1810. He was born in 1786, in Connecticut, removed with his father to New York State, and from there to this county. This remarkable pioneer is yet living in Fredericktown at the age of ninety-four, and is yet in full possession of his mental faculties and enjoying good health, with a fair prospect of completing, at least a century on earth. His father was a Revolutionary soldier, and for this service obtained a land warrant for lands located in this township, upon which Amos H. settled with a family of ten children, viz: Norton D., Mary, Emeline, Sally, Louisa M., Julia Ann, Alfred, Laura, Lucy and Jane A. Those now living are Emeline, Julia Ann, Laura and Jane A. Amos H. Royce was a soldier in the War of 1812, serving on the frontier and with General Hull for a short time, and for this service draws a pension. He was one of the soldiers surrendered by Hull. He assisted in building a block-house at Mansfield and one at Trucksville, and was stationed at New Haven, or rather encamped on the site of that village, at the time of the Copus murder, and was one of a squad of soldiers that followed that same band of Indians a short distance just prior to the massacre, they having encamped the night before the murder near the site of New Have

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dred and ten.

Following is a list of the justices of the peace: Amos H. Royce, elected in 1821, and re-elected in 1825, 1827, 1830 and 1833; Richard Roberts, 1823; Elijah McGregor, 1836; George Ankeny, 1836, 1839, 1842; Alexander Menzie, 1838; J. A. Richardson, 1838, 1841; Joel Elliott, 1841; Richard Roberts, 1844; Henry Miller, 1845; Alfred Royce, 1847; George Shaffer, 1848; Gideon Elliott, 1849; Joseph Ankeny, 1850, 1855; Michael Hess, 1852; J. C. Auten, 1855; Alfred Royce, 1856; Joseph Ankeny, 1858; James Conings, 1859; J. W. Condon, 1859; George Irwin, 1860; Issacher Rowley, 1862; J. W. Condon, 1863; Augustus Rowley, 1865, 1868; J. W. Condon, 1866, 1869; S. J. Moore, 1872, 1875; William Tours, 1872; C. A. Amsbaugh, 1873, 1876, 1879; R. B. Smith, 1878.

Sources:

Findagrave.com

https://www.midstory.org/the-forgotten-history-of-ohios-indigenous-peoples/

http://slavicvillagehistory.org/PDF/CAPSULE_HISTORIES/early_migration_to_reserve.pdf

https://www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/wrvirtualtour/

By User:Kmusser - Own work, CC BY-SA 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1290884

Religion and Ethnicity in the Western Reserve *Kip Sperry*
https://rsc.byu.edu/regional-studies-latter-day-saint-church-history-ohio-upper-canada/religion-ethnicity-western-reserve

Early Migration to the Western Reserve by George W. Knepper
By Published by William Sumner - Cleveland Public Library, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2087030

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