

## Regarding Select Descendants of Francis Andrews:

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Clarification of misinformation about John Andrews I and his descendants, John II, John III, John IV, John V, their respective birth dates and spouses

*Created by Doug Couch in 2023*

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Various historical and genealogical compilations of information on these families often provide sketchy, incomplete data as well as occasional errors connecting data to the wrong person. There are two main causes in addition to any research or editorial errors:

- 1) People named their children after their siblings such that in a given area, one might have had several of the exact same name and over time, this was multiplied. Also the same person might use their first name one time, their middle name another time, or a nickname yet another and end up being referred to by any of these in official documents (which themselves bear errors from time to time). As if that wasn't enough, individuals changed the spelling of their names (including surname) or just changed their names entirely.
- 2) Official records very often do not give any information or sometimes not even a clue as to which person of that name the record refers to. Educated guesswork kicks in, trying to figure all that out, and just like the records the data was drawn from, this guesswork doesn't always report accurately.

Misc Note: Re the resource book, *Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews* (etc.), the John Andrews of the title is not one of the John Andrews in the successive lineage John I-V discussed below.

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### John Andrews I, son of Francis Andrews I

- **Birth:** *History of Fairfield, Vol. 2, by Schenck in 1903, p.441* gives his birth place as *Essex, England* with no date. *Vol. 1, by Schenck in 1889, p.350* gives his birth date as *27 Sep 1646*.
- **Marriage:** *History of Fairfield, Vol. 1, by Schenck in 1889*, erroneously gives his spouse as Sarah daughter of Simon Couch. She corrects this error in *Vol. 2, by Schenck in 1903*, giving his spouse as *Bethiah Kirby* daughter of John Kirby, without a date (text cites records of Middletown, Conn.).
- **Death:** not given

### John Andrews II, son of John Andrews I

- **Birth:** *Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews...1640...Descendants to 1872*, by Andrews in 1872, p.28 & p.31 gives his birth date as 24 Oct 1679 in Fairfield, Conn. This date is reiterated in other works.
  - Regarding John II's birth year, Schenk Vol. I (which was published 12 years later than Andrews' work), after correcting the spouse of John Andrews I in Vol. 2, Schenck assigns Sarah Couch as the spouse of (Ens.) John Andrews II (born 1679), stating that they were married "about 1678" (Schenck, Vol. 1, p.441). Clearly this is another error of mistaken identity (or poor proofreading).
- **Marriages:** *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, Vol. 01A*, by Jacobus, pp.20-21 gives his birth, marriages and death information. m(1). Eleanor Burr, daughter of Daniel, born 26 Oct 1680. m(2). Abigail Sturgis, widow of Simon Couch.
- **Death:** 1728, Fairfield. (*ibid*)

### John Andrews III, (Dea.), son of John Andrews II

- **Birth:** *Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews...1640...Descendants to 1872*, by Andrews in 1872, p.28 gives his birth date as 6 Aug 1707.
- **Marriage:** *Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews...1640...Descendants to 1872*, by Andrews in 1872, p.28 gives his spouse as Sarah Couch, daughter of Simon Couch, married 28 Oct 1730 (also in Schenck Vol. I and Jacobus Vol. 01A) — [Note: Oddly, the Schenck Vol. 1 has this marriage correctly in addition to the erroneous information re the spouse of John I. Then in her Vol. 2, she shows her married to John II with the impossible estimated marriage date 1678. Then also in Vol. 2, she has Sarah Couch married to John IV.]
- **Death:** Colonial Cemetery inscription, 28 Mar 1771

**John Andrews IV**, (Capt.) son of John Andrews III

- **Birth:** *Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews...1640...Descendants to 1872*, by Andrews in 1872, p.28 gives his birth date as **17 Mar 1734**. His birth date is also given in Schenck, Vol. 1 & Vol. 2. confirmed by birth record.
- **Marriage:** *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, Vol. unknown*, p.28 (I only have an image of pages 28 & 29, and they appear to be a later edition than the full copy of volumes I viewed online.) — **Temperance Cable**, daughter of George Cable, married John Andrews IV 28 Mar 1758 as her first husband.
- **Death:** **19 Nov 1777** in **Westport** (*ibid*) confirmed by **cem. inscr.**

**John Andrews V**, son of John Andrews IV

- **Birth:** *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, Vol. unknown*, p.28 **Est 1759** revised: **Est 1757** re cem. inscr.
  - **Marriage:** **Lydia Gorham**, married 9 Oct 1783 (*ibid*)
  - **Death:** **29 May 1825** in **Westport** (*ibid*) revised **1823** re **cem. inscr.**
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### Summary:

— <b>John Andrews I</b> , b. 27 Sep 1646, Essex, England, m. Bethiah Kirby, d. unknown
— <b>John Andrews II</b> , b. 24 Oct 1679 in Fairfield, CT, m(1) Eleanor Burr, m(2) Abigail (Sturgis) Couch, d. 1728, Fairfield, CT
— <b>John Andrews III</b> , b. 6 Aug 1707, m. Sarah Couch, d. unknown
— <b>John Andrews IV</b> , b. 17 Mar 1734, m. Temperance Cable, d. 19 Nov 1777. Westport
— <b>John Andrews V</b> , b. Est 1759 / rev. 1757, m. Lydia Gorham, d. 29 May 1825 / rev.1823, Westport

### Births & Deaths of Spouses of John Andrews I-V

- Bethiah Kirby: b. 14 Feb 1658 Middletown (John I)
- Eleanor Burr: b. 26 Oct 1680 (John II)
- Abigail (Sturgis) Couch: d. 14 Sep 1730 (John II)
- Sarah Couch: b. 30 Mar 1706, d. 9 Mar 1783 (John III)
- Temperance Cable: b. 16 Jan 1739, d. 18 Mar 1819 (John IV)
- Lydia Gorham: b. 24 Dec 1763, d. 7 Sep 1851 Westport (John V)

## Children of John Andrews I-V and their Respective Spouses:

John I & Bethiah Kirby <i>Hist &amp; Gen Families of Old Fairfield, p.19</i>	1. John b. 24 Oct 1679 2. Sarah b. 12 Jan 1680
John II & Eleanor Burr <i>Hist &amp; Gen Families of Old Fairfield, p.21</i>	1. John b. 6 Aug 1707, d. 28 Mar 1771 2. Abigail b. 17 Jun 1709 3. Eleanor b. 09 Oct 1711 4. Daniel b. 20 Feb 1714, d. 1800 5. Abraham b. 21 Jul 1717 6. Ebenezer b. 12 May 1720
John II & Abigail Sturgis	
John III & Sarah Couch <i>Gen Hist of John &amp; Mary Andrews, p.28</i>	1. Sarah b. 6 Aug 1731 2. John b. 17 Mar 1734 3. Abraham b. 23 Aug 1735 4. Abigail b. 13 Aug 1736 5. Elinor b. 4 Aug 1738 6. Samuel b. 22 Feb 1741 7. Issabel b. 20 Sep 1742 8. Simon b. 28 Oct 1744
John IV & Temperance Cable <i>Hist &amp; Gen Families of Old Fairfield, unknown vol, p.28</i>	1. John b. Est 1759, d. 29 May 1825
John V & Lydia Gorham <i>Hist &amp; Gen Families of Old Fairfield, unknown vol, p.28</i>	1. Temperance bpt. 18 Jul 1783, d. 9 Nov 1870 2. Ellen bpt. 7 Jan 1787 3. Shubael bpt. 5 Apr 1789, d. 29 Jun 1818 ?. Eleanor daughter per will ( <i>ibid</i> ) 4. Ebenezer b. 30 Apr 1795, d. 28 Apr 1864

## Images from Selected Sources cited re **Errors** by Elizabeth Schenck:

### History of Fairfield, Vol. 1, by Schenck in 1889

1. John Andrews I shown as having Sarah Couch as his spouse.
2. Shows "their" children born 1679-1680 when Sarah would be 73-75.
3. Refers to Mary Andrews as sister to Simon Couch, thus referencing an earlier Simon Couch as this Sarah's father (although that Siimon also had a daughter, Sarah). Further, although Mary the wife of that earlier Simon is probably Mary Francis, there is no known document showing that his wife, Mary, was the daughter of Francis Andrews (father of John Andrews I). \* (comment on name error, see second image on this page)
4. Quotes a 1733 will which mentions wife Sarah and daughter Abigail (Edwards) as though they were the wife and daughter of John Andrews I. It appears that Sarah and her siblings in this will are all children of Simon Couch II & Abigail Sturgis (*except for an unnamed daughter, widow of Thomas; who remains unknown*) and appears that Sarah is not wife of John Andrews I as cited (however, that Sarah "is" later the wife of John Andrews III, grandson of John Andrews I).

The various commentary in this single paragraph image would seem to have been cobbled together. **Schenck Errors:**

JOHN I. s. of Francis Andrews I. of F. m. Sarah d. of Simon Couch. Their children were John, b. 24. Oct. 1679 & Sarah, 12. Jan. 1680, & d. in 1683. F. T. Rec. He with Simon Couch, who m. his sister Mary Andrews, purchased of the other heirs, & of their mother the long-lot & other lands of Francis Andrews I. at Fairfield. He was deeded several parcels of land by his father at Bankside, & owned a considerable land at Turkey-hill. In the distribution of his estate in 1733 w. Sarah is mentioned ; d. Abigail w. of William Edwards ; d. Hannah w. of Samuel Osborn ; d. — w. Thomas Couch ; d. Isabel w. Robert Rumsey & d. Deborah w. of Jacob P. Jones.

### History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, by Jacobus

#### \* Couch, Simon.

Born about 1633; testified 1681 ae. 48; m. Mary ——.† He bought land in Fairfield from Anna widow of Francis Andrews, 14 Mar. 1663/4, from William Hayden, 24 May 1664, and from Robert Beacham, 25 May 1665.

Comment by Jacobus further down the page:

† Mrs. Schenck with happy certainty calls her dau. of Francis Andrews, which is not impossible; yet the records she quotes do not specify the relationship as her quotations seem to imply.

## History of Fairfield, Vol. 2, by Schenck in 1903

1. In the first paragraph, Schenck corrects the spouse error re John Andrews I which was cited in the previous Vol. I image. She continues by citing a correct will (of John Kirby, him being the father-in-law of John Andrews I).
2. In the second paragraph, she cites similar rights to estate lands re John Andrews II (I haven't researched that part). Then she goes on to state that John Andrews II married Sarah Couch. However, Sarah Couch did not marry John Andrews II either.
3. In the third paragraph, she cites the spouse of John Andrews III as Abigail (no surname). John Andrews III did not marry an Abigail. However, Abigail Sturgis was the second wife of John Andrews II.
4. In the fourth paragraph, she cites Sarah Couch yet again as the spouse of John Andrews IV.
  - a. It is worth noting that there was a Sarah daughter of Simon Couch I, contemporary with John Andrews II within ten years, and another Sarah daughter of Simon Couch II born 1706, contemporary within one year with John Andrews III, whom she **"did"** marry.
  - b. Also, Abigail Sturgis, who married John Andrews II, married him as the widow of Simon Couch II. Her daughter, Sarah Couch, married John Andrews III. **Schenck Errors:**

John Andrews 1. b. in Essex, England, was a s. of Francis Andrews 1. of Hartford & later of Fairfield, did not marry Sarah d. of Simon Couch of Fairfield as stated in Vol. I. p. 350; but according to the town records of Middletown, Conn., he m. Bethiah Kirby b. Feb. 14. 1658 d. of John Kirby of Middletown. John Kirby, the father was b. in 1623 & d. in 1677. In the distribution of the estate of John Kirby by his widow Elizabeth, John Andrews of Fairfield was deeded, "in right of his wife's interest in her father's estate," her portion of his estate.

John Andrews 2. afterwards deeded, "by virtue of my father's right in my grandfather Kirby's estate certain lands within the town of Middletown, to my brother-in-law Richard Osborn of Eastchester, near Stamford, Conn."—Fairfield Town Rec. John Andrews 2. son of John 1. m. Sarah d. of Simon Couch about 1678.

John Andrews 3. s. of John 2. m. Abigail ——— & was bapt. at Christ's Church, Fairfield, with his son John 27. June, 1708.—Vol. I. p. 150.

John Andrews 4. son of John 3. married Sarah d. of Simon Couch Oct. 28. 1730 Their children were: Sarah b. Aug. 6. 1731; John March 17. 1734; Abraham Aug. 23. 1735; Abigail Dec. 13. 1736; Ellenor Aug. 4. 1738; Samuel Feb. 23. 1740; Isabel Sept. 20. 1742; Simon Oct. 28. 1744.—Reg. of Births, Marriages & Deaths of the Town of Fairfield 1692 to 1855. Sarah Andrews m. 1st Jonathan Nash & 2d Lieut. Nathan Godfrey of Green's Farms. Ellenor m. Dr. Edward Jessup a physician of high repute, & a brave & distinguished surgeon in the War of the Revolution. Abigail m. Daniel Sherwood; Isabel