

Research Summary – Eliphalet Vibbert (last updated 1/4/2008)

Facts

1. Eliphalet was born in East Hartford, CT on September 16, 1789 according to the published EH VR.
2. His parents were Jesse and Martha (Abbey) Vibert. He was their 4th child and second son.
3. He seems to have married early. In the EH 1810 census he is shown living next door to his parents in the 16-25 category with a wife in the same age bracket and a female child under 10. At that time he was barely 21.
4. He does not appear in the 1820 census in CT. He also has no land transactions (ever) in CT that I have been able to find (something could turn up but he doesn't seem to have stirred from EH until he went to NY).
5. He does show up in the NY census for 1820 however, in Smithfield, Madison County. His family consists of himself, age 26-45 (he is 31), his wife, age 26-45 (same age bracket as Eliphalet – same as in 1810), one son 10-15, 3 sons under 10 (possibly Stephen, Edwin and newborn Ira), 1 daughter under 10 (the one from the 1810) and another in the 16-18 age group. He seems young to have a daughter age 16-18 and the son age 10-15 doesn't really fit either since there was no son in the 1810.
6. In 1830 he is still in Smithfield. He is listed in the 30-39 group (he is actually 40 or 41). His wife is also in the 30-39 age group. His children are two boys 15-20 (Stephen, age 18 and Edwin, age 16), one 5-10 (Ira, almost 10) and one girl 5-10 (Mary A., age 9). The daughter born before 1810 would be 21 or so and might have married or possibly died.
7. In 1840 he is in Sullivan, Madison County, age 50-60 (actually 51) with a wife also age 50-60 and two children – a boy 15-20 (Ira, almost 20) and a girl 5-10 (possibly Harriet M., age 9). This makes sense since Stephen has married and is living next door with his wife and four children, Edwin has married and died in 1839 and Mary A. had married John Wright in April 1840 before the census. This accounts for Harriet M. although it is still a big gap between Mary A. in 1821 and Harriet in 1830 or 1831. Still his first wife would still be around 40 so it's quite possible.
8. He is listed in the 1850 Census in Fenner, Madison County. The family is Eliphalet, age 60, Betsey, age 50 (more like 47 probably), Sarah J., age 6 and his 90 year old mother-in-law Jerusha Burgdoff. At this point, the assumption would be that his first wife died soon after the 1840 census and he then married, by 1843 or so, Betsey Burghoff, a somewhat younger woman who almost immediately had a daughter. All of his earlier children are out of the house including 19 year old Harriet M. who is listed elsewhere in Fenner, boarding with the family of Jedidiah Morse.
9. Eliphalet is listed in the 1855 NY state census for Nelson, Madison County. There he is listed as age 64, born in CT and living there for 1 year (presumably this refers to the house or the town, not Madison County itself). His wife is identified as Betsey, age 52, born in Westchester County and a daughter Sarah, age 11, born in Madison County, is also listed.
10. In 1860, he is still in Nelson, age 71 with wife Betsey, age 57 and daughter Sarah J., age 16.

11. In 1870, he is still in Nelson, age 81 with wife Betsey, age 66 and daughter "Josephine" (presumably Sarah Josephine), age 26.
12. He died June 19, 1872 and is buried in the Welsh Church Cemetery, Nelson, Madison County, NY (age 83). His wife, Betsey, died March 13, 1875 (age 71) and is buried there with him. There don't seem to be any other Vibbs buried in this cemetery.
13. In 1880, Josephine appears alone, age 36, boarding with a young family named England. They could be related (e.g., a nephew or niece) but there is no obvious indication of it.
14. I was unable to find Josephine (or Sarah) in either the 1900 or 1910 in Madison County under a name similar to Vibbert. Of course, she could have married and/or moved out of the county.

Conclusions

1. Eliphalet and Betsey must have been married after the 1840 census since his wife at that time was aged 50-60. Betsey would have been about 37 at the time.
2. The youngest child, Sarah, must be Betsey's, since his first wife would have been too old for childbearing by 1844, so that means between 1840 and 1844 his wife died and he remarried and had this child – pretty fast work but not uncommon.
3. His other children as shown were born:
 - 1 female 1800-1810 (1810, 1820 census)
 - 1 male 1810-1820 (1820, 1830 census) (Stephen - 1812)
 - 1 male 1810-1820 (1820, 1830 census) (Edwin - 1814)
 - 1 male 1810-1820 (1820, 1830 census) (Ira - 1820)
 - 1 female 1820-1830 (1830 census) (Mary A. - 1821)
 - 1 female 1830-1835 (1830, 1840 census) (Harriet M.)
 - Sarah 1844 (1850, 1855 census)
4. The candidates for children are as follows:
 - Stephen (the Michigan one) – born in 1812 in CT (gravestone)
 - Edwin – born about 1814 (gravestone)
 - Ira – born 6/1820 in Madison County, NY (1900 census)
 - Mary A. – born 4/24/1821 in Madison County, NY (family bible record)
 - Harriet – born about 1831 (1850 census in another family)
 - Sarah – born about 1844 in Madison County, NY (censuses)
5. This group fits the census picture pretty well. The only problems are the unidentified oldest female child and the two extra children in the 1820 census – a female age 16-25 and a male 10-15. Perhaps these are some of Eligah's kids – he disappeared between the 1810 and 1820. It's interesting that Stephen R. Vibbert (whom I am assuming to be Eligah's son) would have been about 13 in 1820 – that fits the extra boy pretty well. I need to crosscheck these extra kids with the Stephen Risley household. It would have been nice to have the grave of the first wife too.
6. Regarding Stephen, I think it looks pretty conclusive that the older of the two Stephens - Stephen R. – was born before 1810 and therefore cannot be Eliphalet's son. Otherwise he would have appeared on the 1810 census. On the other hand, the younger Stephen, who was born in 1812 and went to Michigan exactly fits the ages in the earlier censuses and the Stephen next door to Eliphalet in the 1840 census. In the 1840, this Stephen's four children exactly match his family with Marcia

Lathrop (3 girls, one boy) whereas the Stephen R. family in 1840 (over on a different census page) is exactly the opposite (3 boys and 1 girl).

Summary

Eliphalet was born to Jesse and Martha (Abbey) Vibbert in 1789. He married and had his first child shortly before the 1810 census. Sometime between the 1810 and 1820 censuses, he moved his family to Madison County, New York where his aunt and uncle, Stephen and Dorcas (Vibbert) Risley (and perhaps his uncle Eligah as well) had settled earlier.

By the 1820, they had four children and two more were born in 1821 and 1830 or 1831. His wife died around 1840 and he soon remarried. His second wife was Betsey Burghoff, born in Westchester County. They had one more child, a daughter named Sarah Josephine, in 1844.

The other children have been identified, with the exception of the oldest daughter. They are Stephen Vibbert (who married and eventually moved to Michigan) and Edwin Vibbert, who married a woman named Lovina before the 1840 census and had at least one daughter, Alvira. He and his daughter both died before the census date. Also Ira Vibbert who also married but only had one son who died without issue and Mary A, Vibbert who married John Wright and had many descendants. The last two daughters, Harriet M. and Sarah J., may also have married but have not been traced yet.

Eliphalet and his second wife Betsey, who died in 1872 and 1875 respectively, are buried in the Welsh Church Cemetery in Nelson, Madison County. He has descendants through at least their son Stephen and daughter Mary A. Wright and there may be others descendants through his other three daughters as well.

Research Ideas

I think that I need to start spreading a wider net on all of the Madison County research. Rather than concentrating on any one of the Vib families I know were in the area (that is, Stephen and Dorcas Risley, Eliphalet and probably Eligah and Caty), I need to look at them all together and start looking at all of their transactions and associates together rather than as individual families. This would include associates of the next generation families I already know about in hopes that they will lead me to the unidentified females and a better understanding of who's who.