

The History behind the Blood Relationship between Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin Pierce Mason II

Compiled and written by Franklin P, Mason II, Spring 2020

Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin P. Mason II are ninth cousins three times removed. Their common ancestors are John Curtis and Elizabeth Hutchins. John and Elizabeth Curtis came to America in about 1638 from England.

Mr. Sell and Franklin met in the early 1940s when Mr. Sell was in his 50s and Franklin was, perhaps, 3 years of age (and probably younger). It is a wonderful happenstance that they are related, although neither of them knew it, then or later, until Franklin discovered their relationship in 2020, long after Mr. Sell had died (in 1974).

The following events made their blood relationship possible.

Wethersfield, Connecticut was founded in 1634 by several of Franklin's ancestors, specifically, the Curtis family. John Curtis and Elizabeth Hutchins were married 19 April 1610 in the All Saints' Parish Church in Nazeing, Essex County, England and the baptisms of all their children are recorded there. The couple, with their sons Thomas and William, immigrated to the New World between September 1638 and June 1639. (Son John had emigrated in 1635.) The family lived first in Roxbury, Massachusetts and then in Wethersfield, Connecticut where John, Sr. is believed to have died. In 1639, the remaining family departed for, and were one of the founding families of, Stratford, Connecticut. Elizabeth, who did not remarry and was known for the remainder of her life as the "Widow Curtiss" (she was the first to use the final "ss"), became an early proprietor of Stratford.

In 1639, Thomas Fairchild bought land from the Pequannock Indians in what would become Stratford, Connecticut. (The original Indian name of Stratford was Cupheag.) Mr. Fairchild had come directly from England, and he was the first person vested with civil authority in the town.

In 1639, the Reverend Adam Blakeman (Blackman), Mr. Sell's ancestor, came from Duffield, Derbyshire, England to Boston with a group of followers. The Blakeman company, finding no land to their liking in Massachusetts, trekked to Wethersfield, where again they discovered all the best land was already occupied. There is no record of when they made the 50 mile journey south, but by August 1639 they were living on land on the banks of the Pequannock River. When the Blakeman company left Wethersfield for Stratford, they were joined by some of the early Wethersfield residents, specifically the Curtiss family. Descendants of the Blakeman family and Curtiss family continued to live in Stratford.

In about 1691, Abigail Curtiss, the great granddaughter of John Curtiss, married Ebenezer Blackman, the grandson of Adam Blackman. That marriage created the blood relationship between Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin Pierce Mason II.

Note that the relationship between Mr. Sell and Franklin was established almost 400 years ago (as of this writing in 2020.) Note also that Mr. Sell and Franklin met in the 1950s, almost 300 years after the relationship was established!

It turns out that Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin P. Mason II are related on two additional ancestral lines. In each of these cases, they are seventh cousins three times removed.

**First Genealogical Relationship Between
Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin Pierce Mason II:
John Curtis and Elizabeth Hutchins**

Ancestors of Henry Blackman Sell

John Curtis(s) (1577-1639)	Elizabeth Hutchins (1588-1658)		
William Curtiss (1618-1702)	Mary	Adam Blackman (Blakeman) (1598-1665)	Jane Wheeler (1600-1674)
Jonathan Curtiss (1644-1681)	Abigail Thompson (1646-1731)	Rev. John Blackman ((1631-1662)	Dorothy Smith (1636-)
Abigail Curtiss (1671-1734)		Ebenezer Blackman (1656-1715)	
Ebenezer Blackman (1693-1753)		Mehitabel Adams (
Peter Blackman (1735-1793)		Mary McEwen	
Truman Blackman (1763-1850)		Hanna Sherman	
Alva Blackman (1794-1862)		Almira Briggs (1802-after 1851)	
Charles Blackman (1833-1912)		Mary E. Billings (1837-1913)	
Mary B. Blackman (1866-)		Henry Thorne Sell (1853-1928)	
Henry Blackman Sell (1889-1974)		Maude O'Harrow (1889-1975)	

Ancestors of Franklin Pierce Mason II

John Curtis(s) (1577-1639)	Elizabeth Hutchins (1588-1658)
John Curtis(s) (1614-1707)	Elizabeth ()
Israel Curtis(s) (1644-1704)	Rebecca Beardsley
John Curtis(s) (1670-1754)	Joanna Burr
Abigail Curtis(s) (1704-1787)	David Hurd (1701-1753)
Peter Hurd (1724-1771)	Sarah Squire
Sarah Hurd (1753-1826)	David Curtis 1746-1777
David Curtis (1771-1858)	Lucy Ann Parmelee
Sarah Ann Curtis (1794-1875)	John Jay Knox (1791-1876)
Cordelia L. Knox (1817-1876)	Andrew Anderson (1816-1876)
Sarah Knox Anderson (1850-1926)	Ambrose Edward Barnes ()
Genevieve Knox Barnes	Willard Cassidy Mason
Willard Franklin Mason	Agnes Armstrong Leckie
Franklin Pierce Mason II	Christina Lois Potter

Common ancestors: John Curtis(s) and Elizabeth Hutchins

Conclusion: Ninth cousins three times removed

**Second Genealogical Relationship Between
Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin Pierce Mason II:
William Edwards and Ann Cole**

Ancestors of Henry Blackman Sell

William Edwards (1612-1685)	Ann Cole
Ann Edwards (1653-1705)	John Squire
John Squire (1694-1740)	Rebecca Ellis
Ellis Squire (1738-1822)	Phebe Russell
Parnel Squire (1775-)	James Fordham
Stephen Crane Fordham (1801-1884)	Harriett C. Squire
Martha A. Fordham	Henry Thorne Sell (1823-1870)
Henry Thorne Sell (1853-1928)	Mary B. Blackman
Henry Blackman Sell (1889-1974)	Maude O'Harrow (1889-1975)

Ancestors of Franklin Pierce Mason II

William Edwards (1612-1685)	Ann Cole
Thomas Edwards (1647-1698)	Abigail Dodge
Elizabeth Edwards (1682-1761)	Job Parmelee
Thomas Parmelee (1711-1783)	Sarah Gould
John Gould Parmelee (1744-1776)	Ann Hurd
Lucy Ann Parmelee	David Curtis
Sarah Ann Curtis (1794-1875)	John Jay Knox (1791-1876)
Cordelia L. Knox (1817-1876)	Andrew Anderson (1816-1876)
Sarah Knox Anderson (1850-1926)	Ambrose Edward Barnes ()
Genevieve Knox Barnes	Willard Cassidy Mason
Willard Franklin Mason	Agnes Armstrong Leckie
Franklin Pierce Mason II	Christina Lois Potter

Common ancestors: William Edwards and Anne

Conclusion: Seventh cousins three times removed

**Third Genealogical Relationship Between
Henry Blackman Sell and Franklin Pierce Mason II:
George Squire and Ann Wheeler**

Ancestors of Henry Blackman Sell

George Squire (1618-1691)	Ann Wheeler
John Squire (1649-1701)	Ann Edwards
John Squire (1694-1740)	Rebecca Ellis
Ellis Squire (1738-1822)	Phebe Russell
Parnel Squire (1775-)	James Fordham
Stephen Crane Fordham (1801-1884)*	Harriett Corwin Squire*
Martha Ann Fordham (1830-)	Henry Thorne Sell (1823-1870)
Henry Thorne Sell (1853-1928)	Mary B. Blackman
Henry Blackman Sell (1889-1974)	Maude O'Harrow (1889-1975)

*Stephen C. Fordham and Harriett C. Squire are first cousins

Ancestors of Franklin Pierce Mason II

George Squire (1618-1691)	Ann Wheeler
Thomas Squire (1643-1712)	Elizabeth Grumman
Thomas Squire (1680-)	Anna Welton
Sarah Squire (1720-1794)	Peter Hurd
Sarah Hurd (1753-1826)	David Curtis
David Curtis (1771-1858)	Lucy Ann Parmelee
Sarah Ann Curtis (1794-1875)	John Jay Knox (1791-1876)
Cordelia L. Knox (1817-1876)	Andrew Anderson (1816-1876)
Sarah Knox Anderson (1850-1926)	Ambrose Edward Barnes ()
Genevieve Knox Barnes	Willard Cassidy Mason
Willard Franklin Mason	Agnes Armstrong Leckie
Franklin Pierce Mason II	Christina Lois Potter

Common ancestors: George Squire and Ann Wheeler

Conclusion: Seventh cousins three times removed