

JOSEPH SIBLEY of MASSACHUSETTS AND SOUTH CAROLINA

By Michael J. Vaughn, JD, LL.M.

Joseph Sibley* was a scion of one of the earliest families in Massachusetts, a descendant of John Sibley who was born in or near Bradpole, Dorset County, England about 1596, moved to Salem, Massachusetts in 1629, just nine years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, and died in Essex County, Massachusetts in 1661.¹ After serving in the Revolutionary War, Joseph embarked on a career as a Merchant and Trader, a career that ultimately led him to migrate south to Charleston, South Carolina in the vast wave of men and families who left New England for more opportunity in the South.

He was born 25 Nov 1762 in Sutton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, the second child and oldest son of Capt. Joseph Sibley (30 Aug 1739, Sutton – Jan 1805, Andover, Windsor County, Vermont) and Abigail Gibbs (20 Oct 1742, Sutton – 5 Dec 1824, Sutton), who were married on 16 Apr 1761 in Sutton.² Joseph Sibley was the fifth successive generation of men named “Joseph Sibley” descended from John Sibley.³

Little has been learned of Joseph’s early life. He grew up in Sutton, Massachusetts,⁴ where his father may have been a small farmer,⁵ but more likely was a Trader.⁶ Captain Joseph Sibley served in the Revolutionary War, from 19 Apr 1775, first as a Sergeant in Captain John Putnam

The author acknowledges with gratitude the assistance provided by Brent H. Holcomb, CG, Editor of SCMAR, making available to him a thorough research report on the Sibley family prepared in 1988.

* As used herein, the name “Joseph Sibley” without further identification refers to the subject of this article. “Captain Joseph Sibley” refers to his father. During the period 1750 – 1826 (the year of Joseph’s death), 10 men named “Joseph Sibley,” all descended from the common ancestor, were living. Two were born in Connecticut and 2 in New York and had no residential connection to Sutton, Massachusetts. One was born in Sutton in 1774, but was too young to be the subject. One was Joseph Noyes Sibley, son of Joseph. The other 4 were Joseph Sibley himself, his father Captain Joseph Sibley, his grandfather Joseph Sibley (1709-1777), and his great grandfather Joseph Sibley (1684-1754).

¹ Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, *Some Descendants of John Sibley of Salem, Massachusetts* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2006), 1.

² *Vital Records of Sutton, Massachusetts To the end of the year 1849* (Worcester, Massachusetts: Franklin P. Rice, 1907), 69, 155 and 352. The death of Captain Joseph Sibley is from various newspaper reports, including *Massachusetts Spy/Worcester Gazette* [Worcester, Massachusetts] issue of 13 Mar 1805, P. 3; the death of Abigail Gibbs is from [Providence] *Rhode Island American*, issue of 4 Jan 1825, P. 3.

³ James Scarborough Sibley, *The Sibley Family in America, 1629-1972*, 2 vols. (Midlothian, Texas; privately printed, 1982), 1: 12, 14, 17, 33 and 2: 1227. This book is a good compilation, but it has no documentation; furthermore, there are errors, most egregiously the statement that it was Captain Joseph Sibley who “went South,” and that George B. Sibley, another son of Captain Joseph Sibley and Abigail Gibbs, “moved to Georgia.” The third “Joseph Sibley” in this succession, born 6 Mar 1709 in Salem, was one of the original settlers of Sutton, Massachusetts, and died there on 22 Aug 1777 [William A. Benedict and Hiram A. Tracy, compilers, *History of the Town of Sutton, Massachusetts From 1704-1786* (1878; reprint, No Place: Commonwealth Press, 1966), 211 & 718.

⁴ Based on the fact that all of Capt. Joseph Sibley’s children were born in Sutton, during the period 1761 (Naomi) to 1781 (George Brydges Rodney Sibley) – see *Vital Records of Sutton, op. cit.*, 151 – 157.

⁵ Deeds recorded in Worcester County, Massachusetts Register of Deeds reveal very little land ownership by Captain Joseph. The deeds that are found refer to him as a “Gentleman” (a complimentary term usually referring to a person of affluence or gentility in a community) rather than as a “Husbandman” (a farmer who kept animals) or as a “Yeoman” (a freeholder who owned and worked his own small farm).

⁶ A Trader was one who bought and sold goods, often importing items from remote destinations such as the southern colonies or the West Indies, and then selling them to local merchants. As discussed hereafter, numerous court cases identify Capt. Joseph as a Trader.

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Company of Minutemen on the march to Lexington, rising to the rank of Captain.⁷ Joseph Sibley and his brother Gibbs Sibley (18 Feb 1765, Sutton – 17 Nov 1843, Bergen, Hudson County, New Jersey),⁸ Captain Joseph's two oldest sons, both served in his unit late in the War.⁹

During his lifetime, Joseph Sibley married twice – first to a woman whose name is not known, who may have been a “Noyes,” with whom he had at least one child, Joseph Noyes Sibley, b. before 1790.¹⁰ Joseph Noyes Sibley's place of birth is not known; he did not live until the 1880 census, and there is no other record.¹¹ After the presumed death of his first wife, Joseph married Ann/Nancy Dunbar about 1797.¹² Ann was born between 1766/1775,¹³ probably in Barbadoes/Nassau,¹⁴ and died on 27 Dec 1827 in Newberry District, South Carolina.¹⁵ Ann had already been married at least once when she married Joseph Sibley.

⁷ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, 17 Vols. (Boston: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1896), 14: 195 & 196.

⁸ Birth – *History of Sutton*, *op. cit.*, 718. Death – *National Aegis* [Worcester, Massachusetts], issue of 29 Nov 1843, p. 3.

⁹ The service of Joseph Sibley is from *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, *op. cit.* F. 1227. He is an accredited ancestor [#A128196] by the Daughters of the American Revolution [Lineage application, Elaine May, national no. 617708, Daughters of the American Revolution, approved 1992]. The service of Gibbs Sibley, is from his Revolutionary War pension application [Gibbs Sibley file, no. R9557, *Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Less Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service*, micropublication M804 (Washington: National Archives), roll 2183].

¹⁰ James Scarborough Sibley, *op. cit.*, 1227. See also, Rita Jones Elliott, *The John Jones Family Genealogy* (Spartanburg, TN: privately printed, 1975), 60. Joseph N. Sibley was named as a son in Joseph Sibley's will, dated Apr 1826 [Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Ordinary, Loose Estate Case Papers, Box 52, Package 12] he was not named as a child of Joseph's second wife Ann in numerous court proceedings and other documents discussed hereafter. His birth before 1790 is based on (1) the appearance of 2 males under 16 in Joseph Sibley's household in 1790 (see discussion hereafter), (2) his age on the 1820 census (26/45) [Joseph Sibley, Jun'r household, 1820 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, P. 130, M33, roll 20], and (3) his being named as grantee in a deed dated 13 Dec 1813 from Joseph Sibley and Nathaniel Very [Charleston District, South Carolina Register of Mesnes Conveyances, Volume “I-8,” P. 192].

¹¹ It is unlikely that he was born in Massachusetts in light of the fact, discussed hereafter, that Joseph left Massachusetts about 1786. One of his children, Joseph N. Sibley (4 Nov 1825, Newberry Co., SC – 17 Jun 1891, Grenada Co., GA), was enumerated on the 1880 census, and his father's place of birth is written unintelligibly. In printed indexes he is shown as “Indiana,” which is clearly not correct. The enumerator may have intended “Indies,” which would be consistent with Joseph Sibley's business ventures during that period. Of course, South Carolina is also a possibility.

¹² This date is an estimate, based on the birth dates of their children discussed hereafter. See also *John Jones Family Genealogy*, *op. cit.* Her name was shown in the records as Ann, Nancy or Anne; herein it is shown as “Ann,” the name on her Baptismal record of their children.

¹³ Ann's birth date is an estimate based on the birth of her daughter Caroline Eliza Williams in 1792, discussed hereafter, and her presumed appearance on the 1800 census as the oldest female, aged 26/45, in the household of Joseph Sibben [*sic*, actually Joseph Sibley], 1800 US Census, Charleston District, South Carolina, P. 80, M32, roll 48, and on the 1820 census as the oldest female, aged Over 45, in the household of Joseph Sibley, 1820 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, P. 130, M33, roll 120.

¹⁴ The fact that she had a daughter born in Nassau, discussed hereafter, suggests she may have been born there; at the same time, in her estate inventory, discussed hereafter, she was shown as owning a *History of Barbados*. Several histories had been written by that time, but the inventory was not more specific.

¹⁵ Newberry District Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, Box 18, #10, Susan Ann Guy by her next friend, James Crispin vs. John Taylor *et al* (1833).

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She had married Searles Lewis on 4 Nov 1792 at Christ Church Cathedral in Nassau.¹⁶ He died a few years later. They had a son, John William Lewis, born 14 Sep 1795 in Nassau, who died at sea near Nassau on 27 Jul 1813 during a return trip from Cuba.¹⁷ There may have been other children.

Additionally, Ann had a daughter named Caroline Eliza Williams with Samuel Williams before her marriage to Lewis.¹⁸ Caroline Eliza Williams was born 15 Sep 1791 in Nassau, Bahama Islands,¹⁹ and died on 10 Aug 1822 in Jalapa, Newberry District, South Carolina,²⁰ after having married Robert McHardy on 1 Nov 1812 in St. Augustine, Florida.²¹ The involvement of Joseph Sibley and his family with Caroline Williams McHardy's estate and the guardianship of her children are discussed hereafter.

Joseph and Ann had at least five children, but specific birth dates and places are only from scarce evidence, as there is no known Family Bible or other record recording that information.²² The children were James Washington Sibley, born abt 1797;²³ Susan Catherine Sibley, born bef 1800

¹⁶ Tench Pool Owens, *Carrie Pool: Life and Ancestry of Caroline Anne (Jones) Pool, Newberry, South Carolina, 1857-1941* (Clinton, South Carolina: privately printed, 2005), 26.

¹⁷ Carolyn Eliza Williams Diary, *op. cit.*

¹⁸ There is no record of Ann having married Samuel Williams, and, in fact, the known evidence strongly suggests that they were never married. Williams died in March 1811 in Spanish East Florida [Carolyn Eliza Williams Diary, 1812, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, Special Collections, University of Florida] and his will declared that he was "... lawfully married to Mary Ann Hill, since [1805] ... and had four children with her. He then went on to declare "... that I have a natural Daughter by Nancy Dunbar, called Caroline Eliza, who may be about nineteen Years old who stays with my Family in Nassau" He left a substantial estate in Florida and the Bahama Islands, total some £6500. Bahamas Registrar General, Land and Property Records, Wills, Volume "A-3," Pp. 151 & 1 microfilm #0223175 & Estate Appraisements, Volume "Z-2," Pp. 315 & 316, microfilm #0223174, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁹ Note 9, *supra*; *John Jones Family, op. cit.*; J. B. B. McHardy, *Memoir of Admiral J. B. B. McHardy*, (Privately printed by the family, 1894); copy held by the Newberry County, South Carolina Library in 2020.

²⁰ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, *Ex Parte* Henry Sibley, Jas. Crispin : Reuben Watkins, Box 9, #3, 1829 and *John Jones Family, op. cit.*

²¹ Carolyn Eliza Williams Diary, *op. cit.* Marriage Contract between Robert McHardy, Caroline Eliza Williams, Gabriel W. Persall and Joseph M. Hernandez dated 27 Oct 1812 [St. John's County, Florida Circuit Court, District Records, Volume "B," P. 88, microfilm #0964034, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah].

²² Their children are named in Joseph Sibley's will, Note 10, *supra*, and in Record of Baptisms, Independent Congregational Church, Charleston, South Carolina, Independent Church Records, Volume 4: 1790-1815, microfilm #0022258, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²³ See 1800 and 1820 census records in Note 13, *supra*. In 1800 there was 1 male under 10 in the household. Joseph and Ann had only one son, James Washington Sibley, by 1800. In 1820, it appears that James and his wife, Nancy Lemon Shell [see her obituary, Brent H. Holcomb, *Death and Obituary Notices from the Southern Christian Advocate* 1867-1878 (Columbia, South Carolina: SCMAR, 1993), 219] were living with his parents and he was the male age 16/26. Nancy Shell was born in 1798 [Jeannette Holland Austin, *Virginia Bible Records* (Riverdale, Georgia: privately printed, 1987), 147, Herman [sic] Shell Bible of Brunswick County]; therefore, an estimated date of birth for James of abt 1797 is reasonable.

²⁴ On the 1800 census, note 13 *supra*, there was 1 female under 10. Susan married Thomas Guy by 1814, and after he died she married John Taylor [Newberry District Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, Box 18, #10, 1833]. In 1811 they were enumerated in Newberry District, where she was the oldest female in the household, aged 30/40 [John Taylor household, 1830 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, P. 131, M19, roll 171]. It is entirely possible that Susan was older than James Washington, but both were born before 1800.

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Harriet H. Sibley, born abt 1804;²⁵ Henry Gibbes Sibley, born 1809²⁶ and Abigail Frances Sibley, born 19 Jan 1812.²⁷ Inferentially, all these children were born in Charleston, Charleston District, South Carolina. Only Henry and Abigail lived long enough for a census return to show a place of birth; in both cases it was South Carolina. None lived until the 1880 census, from which it might have been discovered exactly where their mother Ann was born. All of those children were baptized on 14 Mar 1812 at the Independent Congregational Church (Circular Church) in Charleston.²⁸

Trade had long been an integral part of the New England economy, as the soil was not conducive to large scale agriculture. Dried cod and timber were shipped to the West Indies, traded for molasses, sugar and rum which were then traded for fine English goods. After the Revolutionary War, goods from all over the world were imported and shipped from seaports to markets inland. West India Goods Stores sprang up in the seaports, selling items imported from the Caribbean Islands (generically referred to as the "West Indies").²⁹

As early as 1782, and probably much earlier, Captain Joseph Sibley was an active Trader, dealing in such goods as rum, molasses, English goods, West India Goods, Jamaica Spirits (a high alcohol rum particularly enjoyed by the colonists) and sugar, as revealed by a large number of lawsuits in which Captain Joseph, or his sons, were plaintiffs or defendants, beginning about that time.³⁰ Most of those cases were simply commercial disputes over non-payment of debts or suits on promissory notes, several payable in specified commodities. Some of the cases were appealed from the Worcester court to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.³¹

²⁵ It is very difficult to determine a reliable birth date for Harriet. She was born after 1800, inasmuch as there was only one female under 10 in the family on that census but before 1808, when James Gunnell gave a slave in trust for her [James Gunnell to Joseph Sibley and Ann his wife, Gift Deed for benefit of Harriet Sibley, 16 Jun 1808, South Carolina Secretary of State, Miscellaneous Records, Volume "4-B," P. 59]. She had married Reuben Watkins between 1826/1828 [Newberry District Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, John Taylor vs. James Sibley, Executor of John Sibley, Box 13, #1, 1828]. They were enumerated on the 1830 census [Reuben Watkins household, 1830 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, P. 78, M19, roll 171], and the oldest female in the household was aged 20/29, born Btwn 1801/1810. All in all, 1804 is a reasonable estimate.

²⁶ Birth from the 1850 census [1850 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, Henry Sibley household, P. Family & Dwelling 196, M432, roll 856] and the 1860 census [1860 US Census, Rusk County, Texas, Henry Sibley household, P. 303, Family 742, Dwelling 724, M653, roll 1304], whereon he was shown as aged 51 and 61 respectively.

²⁷ Find A Grave, Memorial #13563978, Sandtown Cemetery, Sandtown, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

²⁸ Record of Baptisms, Note 22, *supra*.

²⁹ "West India Goods Store," *Salem Maritime* (Salem Maritime National Historic Site: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior).

³⁰ There were numerous court cases in the Worcester County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas during the 18th century. The information in them is relevant mostly for showing that Captain Joseph's and his sons were Traders (Worcester County, Massachusetts Inferior Court of Common Pleas, Records, Volume 10, P. 432; Volume 11, P. 138, 161, 165, 238, 306, 374, 416 & 423 and Worcester County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas, Minutes, Volume 12, Pp. 20, 87, 125, 134, 190, 245, 273, 275, 283, 300, 329, 349, 332, 352, 399, 405, 409, 422 - 425, 438, 439, 443, 454 and 455; Volume 13, Pp. 17, 24, 40, 44, 73, 144, 206, 286, 331 and 336; and Volume 14, Pp. 66, 144, 211, 275 and 287).

³¹ For some reason, the records in those cases are found in the Suffolk County, Massachusetts County Court files (Suffolk County, Massachusetts County Court, Volume 1092, Pp. 126 & 128; Volume 1100, P. 24; Volume 1108, P. 142; Volume 1110, P. 32 and Volume 1111, P. 43).

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One lawsuit, and another resulting from it, are of particular importance and may have been the impetus for Joseph Sibley's move to South Carolina. In December 1785, Jonathan King, Jr. su Captain Joseph Sibley, Joseph Sibley, Jr. and Gibbs Sibley, Traders, in Worcester County on promissory note.³² King recovered a judgment, and levied numerous writs of execution for collection.³³

At that time, William Greenleaf was the Sheriff of Worcester County and John King was his deputy. Greenleaf was born in Boston to a fine old family, and was trained to be a druggist. Later he moved to Lancaster in Worcester County and became Sheriff. John Hancock, famed signatory to the Declaration of Independence, was married to his wife's sister.³⁴

His tenure in that position was marked by arrogance and dishonesty. He was Sheriff during Shay's Insurrection; among the many grievances of the insurrectionists were the Sheriff himself and his exorbitant fees.³⁵ In response to a gathered group who were protesting, Greenleaf pompously responded "If you deem my fees for [writs of] execution oppressive, gentlemen, you need not wait longer for redress; I will hang you all for nothing, with the greatest pleasure."³⁶ Someone in the crowd responded by rushing up and sticking a sprig of hemlock into his hat.³⁷ His actions became so notorious that he was impeached by the Massachusetts House of Representatives for misconduct and maladministration of his office, convicted by its Senate, and removed in 1788.³⁸

As it developed, when John King, as Deputy Sheriff under Greenleaf, levied the writ of execution he seized several horses and pieces of gear belonging to Captain Sibley and converted them to his own use leaving the judgment unsatisfied. That resulted in Sibley being subjected to other lawsuits, judgments and executions, effectively putting him out of business. Sibley then filed suit against Greenleaf in Worcester County, and recovered a judgment against him.³⁹ Greenleaf appealed the case to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.⁴⁰ There the court recommended referring the case to some sort of arbitration, but Greenleaf refused.

At the subsequent trial, several depositions were taken. One, dated 6 Aug 1791, was from Joel Kidder, and stated that

... [In December 1785] Joseph Sibley Jun'r Son to Capt Joseph Sibley of Sutton come to my House in order to purchase some Boards of me. I went the next day ...

³² Worcester County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas, Records, Volume 13, P. 331. That was not the first lawsuit by King against Sibley, see Volume 13, P. 24. Furthermore, at the same time, John King, who was related to Jonathan King, Sr. sued Joseph Sibley, Jr., Trader, on a note payable in "New England Rum." It is almost as if there was some vendetta between the families. They were cousins. John King was the son of Elizabeth Goldthwait, whose mother, Rachel Leach, had been married to John Sibley, the Sibley immigrant ancestor.

³³ Worcester County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas, Records, Volume 13, P. 24 – marginal notations.

³⁴ James Edward Greenleaf, *Genealogy of the Greenleaf Family* (Boston: privately printed, 1896), 94.

³⁵ *Shay's Rebellion: A Massachusetts Farmers Account*, online at <https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/br-4-1-b-shays-rebellion-a-massachusetts-farmers-account.html>, downloaded 3 Apr 2020.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Berkshire Chronicle* [Pittsfield, Massachusetts], issue of 19 Dec 1788, P. 3, among many other newspaper accounts.

³⁹ Worcester County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas, Records, Volume 13, P. 287.

⁴⁰ Suffolk County, Massachusetts Court files, Case #155777 (Volume 1125, P. 7) – the file contains what appear to be the original documents from the Worcester County litigation.

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to Capt Sibley's House and agreed with Capt Sibley and his sons Joseph and Gibbs to Sell them some boards. I rather inclined that Joseph Sibley Ju'r should come and take Delivery of the boards and give me his security for them upon which Capt Sibley the father said it matter'd not which of them gave Security he or his son Joseph or Gibbs for they were all in Partnership in trade⁴¹

Another deposition in the same case, that of Asa Sibley, dealt with the purchase of a clo Captain Joseph, and Asa Sibley stated that Captain Joseph told him "... that his sons Josep Gibbs were going to Providence for West India goods out of which [Asa Sibley] was to recei Payment"⁴²

Captain Joseph recovered judgment against William Greenleaf, but it did not help his fina situation. Greenleaf died insolvent in 1793, and there is no evidence that the judgment was paid.⁴³ The last appearance of Joseph Sibley in Massachusetts was during the pendency o lawsuit, but never after 1786. Soon thereafter Captain Joseph Sibley may have movi Vermont,⁴⁴ where he died in 1805.⁴⁵

Sometime between 1786 and 1790 Joseph Sibley moved to Charleston, South Carolina; on 1790, he was granted a tavern license by the Charleston City Council allowing him to spirituous liquors and keep a billiard table at #7 Jervey's Wharf.⁴⁶ On the same day, Morton S and Alexander Kennier were also issued similar licenses – Smith at #1 Jervey's Wharf and Ke at #6 Jervey's Wharf.⁴⁷ Sibley's license was renewed on 3 October 1791.⁴⁸ Joseph must been a resident of Charleston for some time before the fall of 1790 for the City Council to l him, and be satisfied that he was responsible enough to operate a tavern.⁴⁹

Jervey's Wharf (#90 on the map below), which no longer exists, was situated on the Cooper R near the City Exchange Building ("K") at East Bay (#1) and Broad Streets (#12), and the Tavern (marked as such).⁵⁰ Greenwood's Wharf, a location of importance hereafter, was #8'

⁴¹ Deposition of John Kidder, note 39, *supra*.

⁴² Deposition of Asa Sibley, *ibid*.

⁴³ Worcester County, Massachusetts Probate Files, Loose Case Papers, #25731, William Greenleaf, 1793.

⁴⁴ He was successful plaintiff in 3 small lawsuits in Addison County, Vermont in 1791 – 1793 (see Abby I Hemenway, editor, *The Historical Vermont Gazetteer*, 5 Volumes (Burlington, Vermont), 2: 169 – 171.

⁴⁵ Note 2, *supra*.

⁴⁶ *City [Charleston, South Carolina] Gazette*, issue of 23 Oct 1790, P. 3.

⁴⁷ *Ibid*.

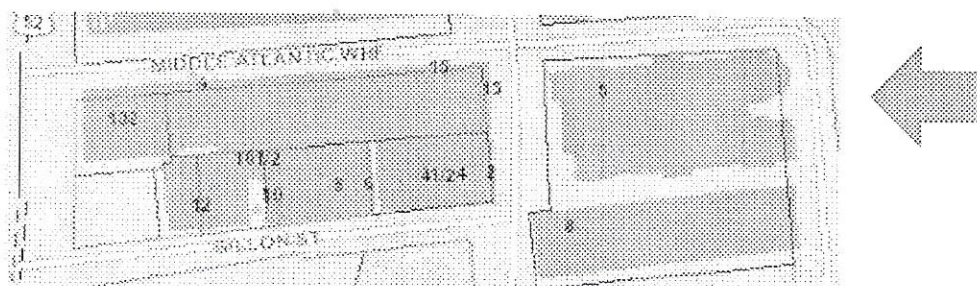
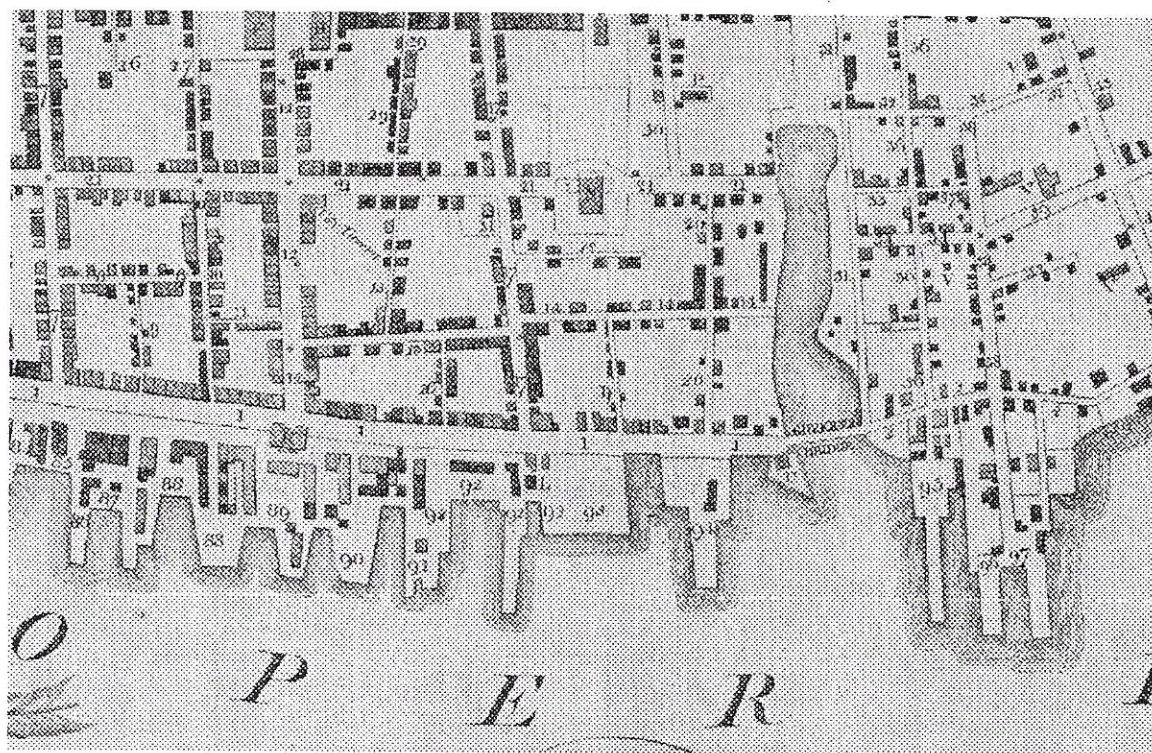
⁴⁸ *City [Charleston] Gazette and Daily Advertiser*, issue of 13 Oct 1791, P. 3.

⁴⁹ By an early statute, the Justices of the Peace in each parish had the responsibility and authority to inquire int fitness and qualifications of persons seeking tavern licenses; they also regulated the prices of drinks, and caused l lists to be posted in taverns. See G. Thomann, "Colonial Liquor Laws" in *Liquor Laws of the United States; Spirit and Effect* (New York: The United States Brewers' Association, 1887), 188. Interestingly, they could not a license to any tradesman who was capable of earning a living from his trade. In 1783, that authority, insof licenses in the City of Charleston were concerned, was granted to the City Council. Thomas Cooper, *Statutes at l of South Carolina*, Volume 3, P. 581 *et seq.*, Act No. 680, 8 March 1741, made perpetual by the Revival Act of M 1783. The language related to tradesmen reflects that most "taverns" were located in the home of the tavern ke Thomas Cooper, *Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, Volume 4, P. 607.

⁵⁰ Petrie, Edmund, Adam Tunno, and Phoenix Fire-Company Of London. *Ichnography of Charleston, S Carolina: at the request of Adam Tunno, Esq., for the use of the Phœnix Fire-Company of London, taken from a survey, 2d August*. [London: E. Petrie, 1790] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/80692362/>.

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today's Charleston (bottom image), Jervey's Wharf would be in the vicinity of the intersection Concord Street and Middle Atlantic Wharf, marked by the arrow.⁵¹



Joseph Sibley's location on Jervey's Wharf was in the area that was the most appealing for Charleston merchants and shop keepers. Between 1794 and 1807 as many as a quarter of Charleston merchants resided there. The cooling breezes off the ocean and the view of the wharves, allowing merchants to be the first to know when shipments from abroad arrived, offset the smell from the waterfront and the negative image imparted by ruffians and drunken sailors.⁵²

Unfortunately, Joseph Sibley did not appear in the 1790 Charleston City Directory, even though numerous other individuals with addresses on Jervey's Wharf, including Morton Smith and

⁵¹ Email, Rebecca L. Schultz, Records Specialist, City of Charleston <schultzr@charleston-sc.gov> to the author.

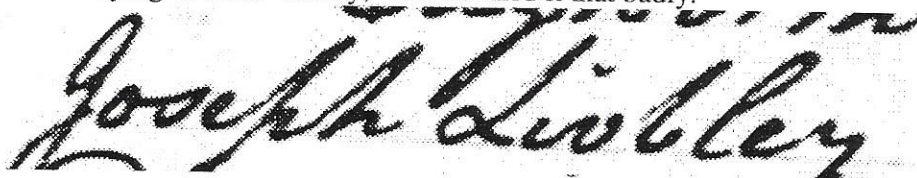
⁵² Benson, Aaron Michael, "Charleston Merchants 1790-1819: The Structure of a Profession" (2016). *Graduate Theses and Dissertations*. 15110. <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/etd/15110>.

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William Fullam, were shown.⁵³ Similarly, there is no entry on the 1790 census in the n Joseph Sibley, but it is almost a certainty that he was there and was enumerated.

"Joseph Livbley," with a family consisting of 1 male under 16, 2 males 16 and over, and 1 was enumerated.⁵⁴ The family constituency is consistent with Joseph Sibley being married having a son, Joseph Noyes Sibley born before 1790.⁵⁵ However, there is no other anywhere that such a person by the name Joseph Livbley ever existed, and a careful analysis indicates that person was, in fact, Joseph Sibley.

A careful study of the entry for "Joseph Livbley" makes it clear that this entry can be explained as an enumerator's error. The handwriting is not absolutely clear; although the letter is clearly an "i" and the last four letters are "bley." It is difficult to imagine the enumerator was trying to write "Sibley," and botched it that badly.⁵⁶

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Livbley". The letters are somewhat slanted and the ink is dark, typical of an 18th-century document.

Nonetheless, it is apparent that this entry was for Joseph Sibley. Those enumerated around were clearly his neighbors based on the 1790 Charleston City Directory and tavern license records and no other record showing the existence of a man named Joseph Livbley has ever been found.

By comparing the entries of those enumerated both before and after Joseph Livbley on the census with their respective entries in the 1790 City Directory, that conclusion is clear, in light of Joseph Sibley's known location in 1790.⁵⁷

1790 Census Entry

William Fullam
Joshua Hostige
Alexander Kinnear
John Edgeworth
"Joseph Livbley"
David Johnston
Dollaghan & Brannen
Joseph Malcolm

1790 City Directory Entry

Shop Keeper – Jervey's Wharf
Jehu. Hostige – Shop Keeper – Greenwood's Wharf
Shop Keeper – Greenwood's Wharf
Drayman – Greenwood's Wharf
No entry in 1790 City Directory
Shop Keeper - Greenwood's Wharf
Shop Keepers – 21 East Bay
Shop Keeper – East Bay

⁵³ Of course, the information on the census contained no addresses. James W. Hagy, compiler, "The 1790 Directory in *People and Professions of Charleston, South Carolina, 1782-1802* (1992; reprint, Baltimore, Maryland: Cle Company, 2008, 8 – 22; Smith, 20 & Fullam, 13.

⁵⁴ 1790 US Census, St. Phillips and St. Michaels, Charleston District, South Carolina, P. 280, M637, roll 11. the way the name is rendered on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.com.

⁵⁵ Note 10, *supra*, and discussion above as to Joseph Sibley's marriages and children. He and his first wife must have had a son who did not live long.

⁵⁶ A study of the other entries on pages 279 and 280 of that census reveals that the enumerator was not consistent the way that he wrote the capital letter "L" or the capital letter "S." In a stretch, this might be read as "Sivbley"

⁵⁷ Listed here are the 4 entries both before and after Joseph Livbley. If the list was expanded to include more entries on either side of him, the connections become even more obvious

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John Young

Hair Dresser – East Bay

The close proximity of East Bay Street and Greenwood's Wharf to Jervey's Wharf, as shown the Petrie map above, is very relevant to the identity of "Joseph Livbley." All of those enumerated near him in the 1790 census were shown in the 1790 City Directory with addresses on those locations. Of particular importance are the entries for William Fullam and Alexander Kinn, both of whom had been granted tavern licenses for locations on Jervey's Wharf along with Joseph Sibley on 23 Oct 1790.⁵⁸

Sibley was enumerated on the 1800 census in Charleston, appearing as Joseph Sibben.⁵⁹ Even though the name was misspelled, it is obvious the entry is for him. It was immediately after the entry for John Oeland, who was located at #9 Union Street in the 1801 Charleston City Directory. Joseph himself was at #10 Union Street in that same directory. His family at that time consisted of 1 male under 10 [James Washington Sibley], 1 male 26/45 – Joseph; 1 female under 10 [Susan Catherine Sibley] and 2 females 26/45, one of whom was Joseph's wife Ann.

From the time of his arrival in Charleston until he moved to Newberry District, Joseph Sibley was actively involved in trade, operating a tavern and later a wine shop.⁶⁰ He made a least one return trip back to New England in 1794.⁶¹ In partnership with George Savage he operated a grocery and liquor business, but that partnership was dissolved in 1796.⁶² By 1803 he was in the grocery business with Nathan Pearley at #40 East Bay and at #10 Queen Street.⁶³ They sold such items as "Boston Rum," pickled salmon, "Boston Bay Mackerel," and preserved Quinces.⁶⁴

It was common for traders and merchants to import goods for resale, and to act as factor and banker for their customers, handling bills of exchange and extending credit. In 1797, Joseph Sibley and Josiah Bixby leased the schooner *Esther* from John Usher for the purpose of shipping goods to and from New Orleans, and other ports. Apparently, the transaction did not work out; Bixby sued for the rental payments, but Sibley prevailed at trial.⁶⁵

Another transaction reveals that Sibley was involved with the Caribbean trade, and, it is possible if not probable, that involvement resulted in his meeting and marrying Ann Dunbar, who was living in Nassau. On 4 December 1806 at Ragged Island in the Bahamas, Thomas Choate drew a 60 day draft on Joseph Sibley, Merchant, at Charleston, payable to Duncan Taylor. The draft was endorsed to William Boyd, who sued when it was not paid. Judgment was for the plaintiff.⁶⁶

⁵⁸ Note 46, *supra*.

⁵⁹ 1800 US Census, Charleston District, South Carolina, Joseph Sibben [Sibley] household, P. 80, M32, roll 48.

⁶⁰ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issues of 13 Oct 1791, 15 Oct 1796; *Charleston City Directory* 1801 and 1802.

⁶¹ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issue of 22 Nov 1794.

⁶² *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issues of 6 and 12 Jan 1797.

⁶³ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issue of 15 Jan 1803 & 31 Dec 1803.

⁶⁴ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issues of 1 Mar 1804 and 30 Mar 1804. That partnership was dissolved on 23 Jun 1804 (*City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issue of 2 Jul 1804).

⁶⁵ Charleston District, South Carolina, Judgment Rolls, #820A, John Usher v. Joseph Sibley, 1804, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

⁶⁶ Charleston District, South Carolina, Judgment Rolls, #408A, William Boyd vs. J. Sibley, 1809, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

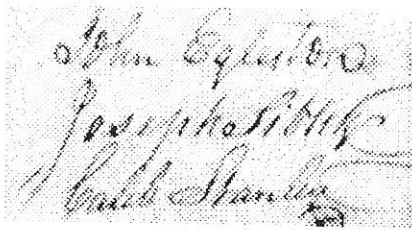
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Allegations in the pleadings are particularly informative as to Sibley's business activities

... the said Joseph Sibley ... William Boyd ... Thomas Choate and one Duncan Taylor were persons respectively residing trading and using Commerce to wit the said Joseph Sibley at Charleston ... the said William Boyd at Charleston ... the said Thomas Choate in parts beyond the seas to wit at Raged [Ragged] Island in the Bahama Islands the said Duncan Taylor at Charleston.

There were numerous other lawsuits involving Joseph Sibley during this period.⁶⁷

With other grocers and liquor dealers, he petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly protesting as unfair various laws regulating their businesses.⁶⁸ Although it cannot be said he originated the petition, his signature is among the first three appearing on it:

A photograph of a document showing three handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature is 'John Equiano', the middle is 'Joseph Sibley', and the bottom is 'Charles Stanley'.

Furthermore, he was actively involved in the Charleston Marine Society, and served Committee of Charity in 1808.⁶⁹

Sometime about 1806/1807 Joseph Sibley was joined in Charleston by his youngest son George Brydges Rodney Sibley (14 Jul 1781, Sutton, MA – Unk).⁷⁰ In 1804, Isaac Sturtevant of Plymouth, Massachusetts sued Stephen Lilley and George B. R. Sibley, Boston, Trade promissory note. Recovering judgment, Sturtevant obtained a writ of execution, which was on the schooner *Theodore* in 1805, property of Lilley and Sibley. That levy did not fully satisfy the judgment, and the Sheriff reported that he could not find any further property.⁷¹

On 19 Aug 1807, George B. R. Sibley joined the Olive Branch Masonic Lodge in Massachusetts,⁷² and on 10 Nov 1807 he married Rebeckah Smith there.⁷³ He must have been in the process of moving as a lawsuit in 1804 in Boston referred to him and his partner as "transient persons now resident of Boston, Traders."⁷⁴ And, in Jun 1806 Sturtevant filed

⁶⁷ Charleston District, South Carolina, Judgment Rolls, #10A, Joseph Sibley vs. John Noble, 1798; Wissman & v. Joseph Sibley, #831A, 1804 (some parties lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire); #119A, Joseph Sibley v. Stoops, 1807, and several others, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

⁶⁸ South Carolina, Petitions to the General Assembly, South Carolina Department of Archives and History S165015, 1807, item 45.

⁶⁹ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issue of 19 Nov 1808. This was a charitable society intended to benefit those in the maritime trade. Similar societies existed in most port cities.

⁷⁰ *Vital Records of Sutton, op. cit.*, 153.

⁷¹ Suffolk County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas, Court Records, 1805, P. 264.

⁷² Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Masons, Membership Cards, 1773-1990.

⁷³ *Vital Records of Sutton, op. cit.*, 351.

⁷⁴ Suffolk County, Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas, Court Records, 1805, P. 305.

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Charleston to recover the balance of his judgment. The pleadings name as Defendants, “Stephen Lilley and George B. R. Sibley, otherwise called Lilley and Sibley both late of Boston [Massachusetts] Merchants but now of Charleston [South Carolina].” Sturtevant prevailed and the balance of the judgment was paid.⁷⁵

In 1810, George B. R. Sibley was enumerated in Charleston, but there is no entry for Joseph Sibley.⁷⁶ It is clear, however, that Joseph Sibley was residing in Charleston.⁷⁷ He appeared in the Charleston City Directory in each of the years 1807, 1809 and 1813. The family of George Sibley in 1810 included several children, all of whom could not have been his own children in light of his marriage in 1807. However, only 1 male and 1 female in the 26/45 age category appeared. It is possible that Joseph Sibley’s children were living with George Sibley, but that does not explain the absence of Joseph and Ann.

It seems certain that Joseph Sibley continued to be involved in trade with the Caribbean Islands and traveled back and forth between them and Charleston and other ports.⁷⁸ Additionally, Ann Sibley traveled to Nassau at least once, where her daughter Caroline Eliza Williams was still living.⁷⁹ Caroline herself sailed from Nassau on 18 Apr 1811, and arrived in St. Augustine on the 23rd, journeying on to the District of Mosquito, Spanish East Florida where Robert McHardy’s plantation was located.⁸⁰ There she married Robert McHardy on 1 Nov 1812.⁸¹

Many merchants and traders left that profession due to various factors, including the high degree of risk involved, and also because some saw that line of work as a stepping stone to earning enough money to become a planter.⁸² Success in that era and place was determined by one’s ownership of land and slaves. There is no record of Joseph Sibley actually owning land or slaves for quite a few years after he moved to Charleston, but in 1811 with Nathaniel Very he acquired a lot on Washington Street in the Mazyckborough area of Charleston.⁸³ He sold 70’ off the North end

⁷⁵ Charleston District, South Carolina, Judgment Rolls, Isaac Sturtevant vs. Stephen Lilley and George B. R. Sibley, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Series L10018, 1807, Item 504A.

⁷⁶ 1810 US Census, Charleston District, South Carolina, George Sibley household, P. 400, M252, roll 60.

⁷⁷ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], Issues of 28 April and 12 Dec 1810. Charleston District, South Carolina, Judgment Rolls, 1810, Christian & D’Wolf vs. Joseph Sibley, #183A; Angus Bethune vs. Joseph Sibley, #184A, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

⁷⁸ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], Issues of 5 Nov 1807, 12 Dec 1810, 7 Jul 1815, 24 May 1816, 6 Dec 1821, 7 Mar 1822 and 8 Apr 1822.

⁷⁹ In her diary, Note 16, *supra*, Caroline wrote “Mrs. Joseph Sibley left Nassau New Providence for Charleston the 2nd day of April 1811 where she arrived safe five days after.”

⁸⁰ Diary, Note 16, *supra*.

⁸¹ Note 19, *supra*.

⁸² Jonathan Daniel Wells and Jennifer R. Green, Eds. *The Southern Middle Class in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011) and Benson, *Charleston Merchants*, *op. cit.* Not all scholars agree that the objective of merchants who left that profession was to become a planter; however, that appears to be the case with Joseph Sibley.

⁸³ Charleston District, South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyances, Deed Records, Volume F8, P. 112, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah. Mazyckborough was an area of Charleston developed by Alexander Mazyck, bounded by Chapel, Elizabeth and Calhoun Streets and the Cooper River. It was an especially popular area as it was not subject to Yellow Fever epidemics as much of the rest of Charleston.

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the lot to his son Joseph N. Sibley in 1813,⁸⁴ and, with Very's joinder, transferred the b. the property to William Kunhardt in trust, for

... Joseph Sibley and Ann Sibley his wife during their joint lives, and then to th use and benefit of the survivor of them for life and ... [then] to the use and benef of the four Children of them the said Joseph Sibley and Ann his wife namely Jame Washington Sibley Harriet Sibley Henry Gibbes Sibley and Abigail Frances Sible
....⁸⁵

It is not at all clear why their daughter Susan was not named as a remainder grantee, altho entirely possible that she had already married Thomas B. Guy, and that Joseph was prov his remaining family members. In 1804, Joseph and Ann had purchased a slave, Hanna was held in trust for Susan, but when she married Guy the slave was transferred back to Similar acquisitions were made by Sibley for his other children: on 16 Jun 1808, slave girl old for daughter Harriet;⁸⁷ on 13 Aug 1808, slave boy John 12 years old for son James W. on 12 May 1814, slave girl Polley age 17 for daughter Abigail and slave boy Cornelius ag son Henry Gibbs Sibley.⁸⁹

Joseph Sibley last appeared in a Charleston City Directory in 1816, shown as a Merchant Bay Street and Bailey's Wharf. However, his brother George continued to live in Charle was in business there as a merchant and operating an auction house,⁹⁰ until sometime after He owned a varnish factory as early as 1813 (Charleston City Directory), but it burned in conflagration in February 1817, destroying a new steam mill, 300 to 400 barrels of "Naval (pine resin products such as turpentine and varnish), and a block-maker's shop owned by N. Sibley.⁹²

It was about that same time that Joseph moved his family to Newberry District, South C On 5 Aug 1817 he acquired 450 acres there, located on Beaver Dam Creek, a branch River, from Stephen McGraw.⁹³ Joseph still owned the lot on Washington Street in Cha which was held in trust by William Kunhardt. In an equity proceeding, Joseph obtained a

⁸⁴ Charleston District, South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyances, Deed Records, Volume I-8, P. 192, 1 Lake City, Utah.

⁸⁵ Charleston District, South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyances, Land Records, Volume M-8, P. 4 Salt Lake City, Utah.

⁸⁶ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, Box 18, #10, Susan Ann Guy Taylor *et al.*

⁸⁷ State of South Carolina, Miscellaneous Records (Charleston Series), Volume 4-B, P. 59, South Carolina De of Archives and History,

⁸⁸ State of South Carolina, Miscellaneous Records (Charleston Series), Volume 3-Y, Pp. 638 & 639, South Department of Archives and History.

⁸⁹ State of South Carolina, Miscellaneous Records (Charleston Series), Volume F, P. 479, South Carolina De of Archives and History.

⁹⁰ *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issues of 4 Jul 1815, 16 Apr 1818, 30 Apr 1818, 7 Ja Jul 1820, 23 Sep 1822,

⁹¹ 1830 US Census, Charleston District, South Carolina, George B. R. Sibley household, P. 28, M33, Charleston City Directory for that year lists him as an "Ironmonger."

⁹² *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* [Charleston, SC], issue of 10 Feb 1817.

⁹³ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Equity Records, Volume Q-2, Pp. 359 - 361.

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to substitute 191 acres of his Newberry District tract for the Washington Street lot.⁹⁴ Then he sold the Washington Street lot to his brother George,⁹⁵ and deeded 191 acres of the Newberry tract Kunhardt, still in trust.⁹⁶

Joseph appeared on the 1820 census in Newberry District, as did his son Joseph N. Sibley. Enumerated just before Joseph Sibley, Sr. was the family of Harmon Shell,⁹⁸ whose daughter Nancy Lemon Shell, born 1798,⁹⁹ had married James Washington Sibley about 1819.¹⁰⁰ There was no female of her age in Harmon's household in 1820, therefore, it appears almost certain that she and James Washington had recently married and were living in his father's household.

Ann's daughter Caroline had married Robert McHardy in 1812 as discussed above. On 19 Jan 1822, the McHardys sold 600 acres of land, "... English measure, in the Territory of Mosquito at a place called Bissets as per survey of Andre Burgevin dated 8 September 1818" to Joseph Sibley.¹⁰¹ About that same time, Caroline had come from the McHardy plantation in Florida: "Tomoka" – to visit her mother at Jalapa in Newberry District. She planned to return to Florida in November after the child she was expecting was old enough to travel.¹⁰²

However, Caroline died on 10 Aug 1822 during the birth of Mary Eliza McHardy. Soon thereafter Robert McHardy died, leaving Mary Eliza and her two sisters, Melvina and Caroline, in the care of their grandmother.¹⁰³ Caroline had a substantial estate including slaves that had been left her by her father Samuel Williams,¹⁰⁴ and a claim to land in Florida.¹⁰⁵ James Washington Sibley was appointed guardian for those minor children about 1824, with his father Joseph as a surety on bond.¹⁰⁶ That guardianship, and the deaths soon after of Joseph, his wife Ann and James V. resulted in various conflicts among their heirs, the McHardy heirs and the creditors of Robert McHardy, who had died insolvent, conflicts that began a cascade of litigation both in Newberry District, Charleston District and St. John's County, Florida that went on for years.¹⁰⁷

⁹⁴ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, *Ex Parte* Joseph Sibley, 1823, Box 4, #

⁹⁵ Charleston District, South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyances, Land Records, Volume A-9, P. 22. The deed was actually from Thomas Hunt, Commissioner of Equity for the Southern District of Charleston County.

⁹⁶ Newberry District, South Carolina, Deed Book Q-2, Pp. 361 & 362.

⁹⁷ 1820 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, Joseph Sibley, Sr. and Joseph Sibley, Jr. households, P. 1 M33, roll 120.

⁹⁸ 1820 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, Harmon Shell household, P. 130, M33, roll 120.

⁹⁹ "Herman [sic] Shell Bible of Brunswick County," Jeannette Holland Austin, *Virginia Bible Records* (Riverdale, Georgia: privately printed, 1987), 147.

¹⁰⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Death and Obituary Notices from the Southern Christian Advocate: 1867-1878* (Columbia, South Carolina: SCMAR, 1993), 219. Through this marriage the Sibley family – one of the oldest families in Massachusetts – was united with the Epes family – one of the oldest in Virginia. Nancy Lemon Shell was the daughter of Martha Epes, a direct descendant of Francis Epes (1597- Bef 1674) who migrated to Virginia before 1625.

¹⁰¹ St. John's County, Florida Circuit Court, Deed Records, Volume "B," P. 151, microfilm #0964034, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁰² Elliott, *The Jones Family Genealogy*, *op. cit.*, 12 & 13.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.* and Ashworth P. Burke, *Burke's Family Records* (Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company (Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1994.

¹⁰⁴ Note 16, *supra*.

¹⁰⁵ See *American State Papers*, 9 vols. (reprint; Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1994), 3:784.

¹⁰⁶ Washington District South Carolina Court of Equity, Records, *Ex Parte* James W. Sibley, Box 5, #35, 1824.

¹⁰⁷ This litigation rivals the infamous case of *Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce* that Dickens wrote about in *Bleak House*. There was enough property and enough competing interests to attract almost any lawyer in the area. Noted South Carol

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Joseph Sibley died on 10 May 1826; his wife Ann died on 17 Dec 1827; and their son Washington died in Jul 1828, all in Newberry District. Joseph and James were both in when they died.¹⁰⁸ Joseph's will, dated 22 Apr 1826 and proved 21 Nov 1826, named 1 Ann, sons James W. and Henry, daughters Harriett, Susan and Abigail, and the children deceased son Joseph N. Sibley, viz, Sarah, Margaret and Joseph.¹⁰⁹

James W. Sibley was named Executor of his father's estate. He returned an appraisal of the estate on 8 Jan 1827 showing the usual items of a small farmer – a few cows, horses, hog equipment, household goods, “a Military coat & hat” valued at \$8, 3 slaves and 264 acres – all valued at \$2637. A schedule of debts due the estate, most dating back to his time as a man in Charleston, showed that he was owed about \$1748.¹¹⁰ When Ann died just over a year later, her appraisal bill showed mostly household goods, but did include a *History of Barbours County* mentioned previously. James W. Sibley's estate amounted to only \$60 when he died in 1828.

Only two of Joseph and Ann's children lived to a relative old age. James Washington died in 1828; Susan Catherine had married Thomas Guy by 1814, and died in 1832;¹¹¹ and Harriett married Reuben Watkins about 1826/1828,¹¹² cannot be accounted for after July 1831.¹¹³

jurist John Belton O'Neill seems to have made a career of suing these people. See Washington/Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, *Ex Parte* Henry Sibley *et al*, Box 9, #30, 1829; *Ex Parte* Crispin, Box 13, #32, 1836; *Ex Parte* Hannah K & Sophia R. Taylor, Box 16, #56, 1842; *Ex Parte* Frances *et al*, Box 11, #2, 1831; *Ex Parte* James R. Crispin, Box 12, #20, 1833 [note that Washington District Court Records are today a part of the Laurens County records]. Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, William A. Mitchell *et al* vs. Nancy Sibley *et al*, Box 47, #11, 1830; James R. Crispin vs. John Taylor, Box 18, #1, 1832; John B. O'Neill, Guardian vs. Thomas E. Herbert, Box 49, #7, 1837; John Taylor vs. James Sibley, Box 13, #1, 1828; William A. Mitchell & Silas Bronson vs. widow Nancy Sibley, Box 14, #1, 1828; John Taylor & wife Susannah vs. James R. Crispin & wife Abigail, *et al*, Box 15, #18, 1831; Thomas E. Adm. vs. James R. Crispin, Adm., Box 20, #23, 1835; Susan Ann Guy v. John Taylor *et al*, Box 18, #10, 1832; Cannon vs. John Taylor *et al*, No Box or Package, 1827; John B. O'Neill, Gdn. vs. Thomas E. Herbert, Adm., Box 23, #5, 1837; George Richey & wife Malvina vs. John B. O'Neill, Gdn., Box 24, #2, 1839. St. John's Florida Superior Court, Loose Case Papers, Mary Fontane vs. James Sibley *et al*, Admns. of Robert McHardy, File Drawer 6, #148, 1822; Francisco P. Sanchez vs. James W. Sibley *et al* execs. of Robert McHardy, File Drawer #92, 1823; James W. Sibley *et al*, execs. of Robert McHardy vs. Edward Sherman, File Drawer R-5, #149, 1823; Rodman, assignee of Robert McHardy vs. James W. Sibley *et al*, Admns. of Caroline Eliza McHardy, File Drawer R-4, #29-B, 1825; James W. Sibley *et al*, Admns. of Caroline Eliza McHardy vs. John Rodman, File Drawer #248, 1827; William H. Williams, Adm. *de bonis non* of Caroline McHardy vs. Francis Pellicer *et al*, File Drawer #5, #147, 1831; and Joseph M. Hernandez, Adm. of Robert McHardy *et al* vs. Joseph Hernandez, File Drawer #150. Charleston District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Reports, *Ex Parte* Harriet Sibley, 345, 1817. There are undoubtedly others.

¹⁰⁸ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Records, Loose Case Papers, Thomas Herbert, Adm. vs. James R. Crispin, Adm., Box 20, #23, 1824. Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Ordinary, Loose Estate Papers, James W. Sibley, Box 56, #9 & Nancy [Ann] Sibley, Box 55, #134.

¹⁰⁹ Newberry District, South Carolina Estates, Loose Case Papers, Box 52, Package 12, Joseph Sibley.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, Susan Guy vs. John Taylor *et al*, Box #10, 1833.

¹¹² Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Loose Case Papers, John Taylor vs. James Sibley, Box 18, #1, 1828; Deed, Reuben & Harriet H. Watkins to John Watkins, 6 Jan 1827, Newberry District, South Carolina, Office of Mesne Conveyances, Volume P, P. 328.

¹¹³ She was undoubtedly the oldest female in her husband's household in 1830 [1830 US Census, Newberry District, South Carolina, Reuben Watkins household, P. 78, M19, roll 171], and they both signed pleadings in a lawsuit.

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Gibbes Sibley married Eliza Cooper abt 1834, and moved to Rusk County, Texas where he died between 1860/1870.¹¹⁴ Abigail Frances Sibley married (1) James R. Crispin on 15 Jan 1826 in Newberry District; (2) Dr. John Long on 12 May 1840, both in Newberry District; she moved to Neshoba County, Mississippi and died there on 18 Nov 1888.¹¹⁵

Joseph Sibley's oldest son, Joseph Noyes Sibley married Mary Miriam Speake,¹¹⁶ and died in April 1826 in Newberry District.¹¹⁷ Miriam and their children moved to Carroll County, Mississippi, where she died in 1866.¹¹⁸

The 1830's saw the family of Joseph Sibley – those that were still alive – moving west to Georgia,¹¹⁹ then Mississippi and Texas, again seeking better opportunities. Joseph Sibley struggled to elevate himself and his family into the Planter class, but without much lasting success. Nonetheless, his efforts were fairly typical of many who moved South seeking fame and fortune, only to succumb to the risks and volatility of the mercantile trade and then the agrarian economy.

1831 [John Taylor & wife Susannah vs. James Crispin *et al*, Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity 15, #18, 1831]. Neither Watkins has been located on the 1840 census.

¹¹⁴ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Bills, Martha Cooper vs. John Jenkins, Box 22, #2, 1837 US Census, Rusk County, Texas, Henry Sibley household, population schedule, P. 303, Dwelling 724, Family #M653, roll 1304; Letter dated 9 April 1991 from Grady C. Brown, Rt. 5, Box 368, West Point, MS 39773 to Bill Barnett, 103 Northridge Drive, Brandon, MS 39402, original in possession of Bill Barnett on 16 September 2020, copy in possession of author in 2020.

¹¹⁵ Abigail Frances Sibley Long, Find A Grave Memorial #13563978; Dr. John Long, Find A Grave Memorial #13563967; Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Equity, Orders, *Ex Parte* Henry G. Sibley & Abigail Crispin, Box 36, #14, 1829.

¹¹⁶ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Ordinary, Estates, Loose Case Papers, John Speake, Box 56, #15, 1826.

¹¹⁷ Newberry District, South Carolina Court of Ordinary, Estates, Loose Case Papers, Joseph N. Sibley, Box 55, 1826.

¹¹⁸ Mary M. Sibley, Find A Grave Memorial #23587456.

¹¹⁹ James Washington's wife and children moved to Coweta County, Georgia with her father Harmon Shell in 1831 (see Note 100, *supra*).