

John Rogers Letter

The following letter has been in my family since it was written in 1795. It was written by John(6) Rogers [Moses(5), Eleazer(4), John(3), Joseph(2), Thomas(1)] to his brother, Abner. It was through this letter that the Litchfield, Maine branch of the Rogers family was connected to the family of Thomas Rogers of the *Mayflower*. The "father" mentioned is Moses(5) Rogers who was b. 13 March 1720 and died 22 March 1795 about a month after the letter was written. He was seventy four years old and obviously in very poor health in 1795. The "mother" was Elizabeth (Smith) Rogers who was b. 11 April 1732 and died 21 Dec. 1795. Two of her brothers, Thomas and Benjamin Smith and one sister, Mehitable(Smith) Baker were already living in Litchfield, Maine by 1795. Other persons named in the letter are identified with footnotes. I have used letters for these notes to avoid confusion with generation indicators. I have left the spellings as written and believe that this may give some insight into how words were pronounced on Cape Cod *circa* 1795.

Eastham Februrary the (14 ?) 1795

Loving brother and sister these lines with our most affectionate love to you Hoping they may find you in good health as throw the goodness of God they leave us at preasant We have nothing extrodinary to write at preasant our friends are all well Hear at preasant excepting father and he remains yet hear with us But (decays?) he is quite a chilkd and is quite helpless. He cant gitt a crost the house without a grate deal of help: Mother is tolerable for hir and makes out to do her house work with a small garl: We remember our lov to Ann(a) and the rest of your children. Should be glad to se you all Give our love to brother Aaron(b) and his wife and children Pray write to us when opportunity will permit We lookt for you last fall very hard to com and se us. Elizabeth(C) and Marcy(c) have each of them a boy last fall Mehitable (c) a garl and all well Daniel's (c) wife had a boy last week and right smart. Rebecca Lincoln died the first part of the winter Their was a shocking accident happened with us last July very indeed a schooner that brother Jonathan Kenwrick (d) ond the mager part a coming in from fishing over sett and every sole lost vessel and all eight men all our neighbors and some relations But two morned men: Levi Rogers(e) Pain Gould(f) and young men Hezekiah Rogers(g) two sons Jessie Kenney one son Jonathan kenwrick one son Edmon Higgins widdo one son Capt John Gould one son: all smart young men was lost in an instant when their brother fishermen was nigh hand and could not help them . So conclude remaining your brother and sister till death

John and Rebecca Rogers

Footnotes:

a. Abner(6) Rogers married Ann Rogers and had a daughter, Ann, b. 1795

b. Moses(5) had a son Aaron, b in Harwich April 16, 1757.

c. Elizabeth(6), Marcy(6), and Mehitable(6) were children of Moses(5) . The first two were named in his will dated 3 May 1791. It is not known why Mehitable, b. 1771 was not named in the will. Moses mentioned five daughters but only named four. Daniel(6) was named as a son in the will.

d. Betsey(6) Rogers is mentioned in Moses' will as Betsey Kenwrick. She was married to Jonathan Kendrick, the major share-holder in the schooner that was lost.

e. Eleazer (5) Rogers, a brother of Moses, married Ruth Higgins. They had a son Levi(6) Rogers, b. 1749. The *Paine Papers* record this Levi as lost at sea in 1794, the year of the ship-wreck recorded in this letter. Levi was thus one of the "relations" on the ship.

f. Paine Gould, b. 1770 and died 1794. He married Cynthia Krenrick of Eastham.

g. The *Paine Papers* record, "...two sons of Ski Rogers lost at sea in 1794.