

# THE BOODEY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JULY 2024

## “THE APPLE STORY” PART 2 BY SCOTT DRUMMEY

When the Colonists came over from Europe, they brought fruit trees with them. Apples, peaches, pears, of every variety were brought here and planted. When Zechariah and Mary Boodey moved to New Durham from Madbury, it is likely they brought a few fruit trees with them. Today, there are 4 apple trees still living on the Boodey property. It is unknown if these trees are ancestors of the original trees planted—they are not old enough to be originals.

Almost all fruit trees are reproduced by a form of cloning. For apple trees, a young rootstock is taken and the small trunk cut at an angle. A branch of an existing apple tree is similarly cut and attached to the rootstock so the two pieces will grow together. This method guaranteed that the qualities of the apples that grow from the branch of the tree would be the same on the new apple tree.

Sometimes, a seed of an apple was simply planted and allowed to grow. This tree might produce a tree that produced good quality apples, it also might also produce a poor quality apple. What this seedling apple would never be is the same as the apple the seed came from.

Today, the four apple trees growing at the Boodey site are fairly old and not producing well. In order to preserve the heritage of these apple trees, we have begun grafting healthy branches from these trees onto rootstock and growing the new trees at Granite Ledge Farm here in New Durham. Once the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead is completely built, we will transplant some of these trees to the new site and grow an apple orchard containing the same variety of apples that came from the original site.

Nancy Meekins and Crissa Evans are sisters and direct Boodey family descendants. They both remember the

apple trees on their family’s home- stead. Nancy said her father contact- ed her 35 years ago and invited her to pick apples in the Fall. She had never been there in the Fall before. She remembers there being a fifth tree on the property next to the two closely spaced trees that exist there today. When she went that year, it was dripping with apples. The apples were good fresh eating, and the pies they made were sweet and juicy. Nancy believes the trees are over a hundred years old. Two years ago, Crissa and Nancy picked apples from the third tree living now. They also made pies that were delicious. This year, trees one and two had almost no flowers. The third tree had many white-pink flowers. The fourth tree next to the original foundation also had several flowers. Checking sever- al weeks later, the fourth tree has apples! We will carefully follow the progress of these apples.



Flowers from #3 this year

Apple from #3 2 years ago



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# ELDER BENJAMIN RANDAL(L) FOUNDER OF THE FREEWILL BAPTIST DENOMINATION

THE EARLY YEARS 1749—1771 PART 1  
BY CHRISTINE EVANS

(This is part one in a series of articles regarding the Life of Elder Benjamin Randall.)

**B**enjamin Randall<sup>1</sup> was born in Newcastle, Province of New Hampshire, on February 7, 1749. He was the son of Captain Benjamin Randall and Margaret Mordantt. His grandfather was also named Benjamin Randall (1688), raised in Scituate, Plymouth, in the Massachusetts colony. His Grandmother, Mary Walton, grew up in New Castle. The couple settled there after their marriage.

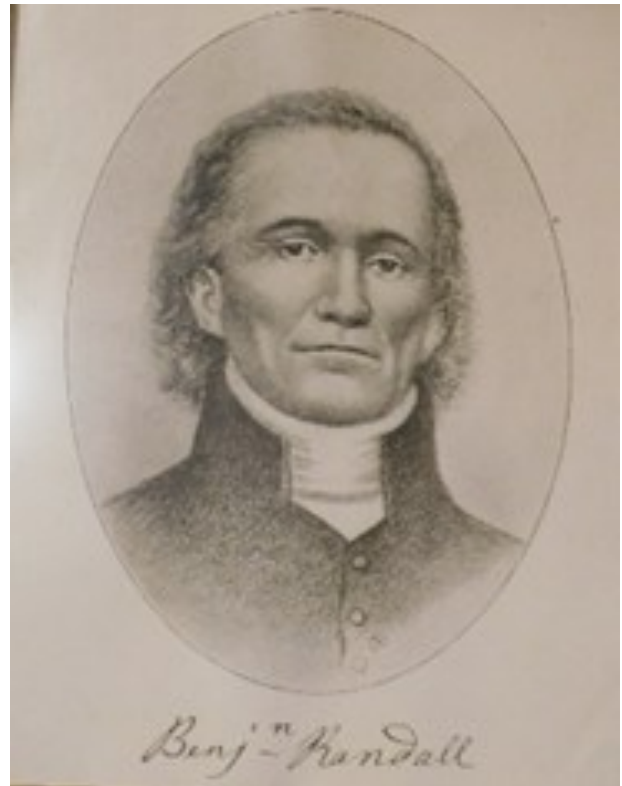
New Castle is a stone's throw from Portsmouth, separated only by a bridge. Due in part to its deep water surroundings, it was known as the infant colony's business mart.

Benjamin, the eldest of nine children, was born into a family of deep faith. His parents, known for their devoutness, instilled in him a strong religious foundation. From a tender age, Benjamin's nightly prayers were a direct conversation with the Lord. The family's religious commitment was further evident in their regular attendance at the local Congregational parish.

Benjamin began working as a cabin boy on Captain Randall's ship at age nine and continued working on the boat for ten years. Benjamin did not like the lifestyle of those onboard the ship. His father helped him find an apprenticeship in Portsmouth, NH, to learn the art of sailmaking. He continued there until he was twenty-one.

On September 24 and 25, 1770, Benjamin attended a preaching by the well-known, dynamic evangelist Rev George Whitefield, who was visiting from England. In The Journal of Benjamin Randall, Dr Roy Thomas states that Rev Whitefield died suddenly on September 30, 1770. Benjamin learned of this on his way to attend Whitefield's preaching in Newburyport.

The experiences of seeing and hearing the teachings and style of Rev George Whitefield had a profound effect on Benjamin Randall. Randall's memoir states that he experienced a fundamental shift in his religious beliefs.<sup>2</sup> Randall believed that people who preached should be college-educated. Most of the preachers he



knew had attended Harvard and Yale. But the Evangelist Rev George Whitefield had so deeply moved him he began to review and meditate on his knowledge of the scriptures. It is stated that he began to look for others who had been similarly converted within his church. After turning down a promising offer as a sailmaker in Newburyport, he returned to Newcastle in October 1771, hired a sail-loft, and set up his trade. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, he and Joanna Oram, the daughter of Capt. Robert Oram and Joanna Mitchell of Kittery Point were married. Part Two Randall Comes to New Durham.



Footnotes: 1 The recording of the name Randall includes spelling with a single "l" or double "ll."

2 The Life of Elder Benjamin Randall By John Buzzell, pages 2-8. The Life and Influence of the Rev. Benjamin Randall by Frederick L. Wiley

## EARLY SETTLERS OF NEW DURHAM: THE BOODEY AND THE LIBBEY FAMILIES

BY SHERRY CULLIMORE AND CATHERINE ORLOWICZ

Have you ever wondered where our early settlers came from? What enticed them to move inland to set up townships? First, a little bit about the beginning. As early as the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Proprietors of Portsmouth were anxious to build upon their wealth, set up an iron works, and the city of Portsmouth needed more space for its growing population. The solution to these problems was to obtain a township for the unsettled areas as defined by the Masonian Proprietors. The location selected was Barrington Township, granted in 1722. The Libbey and Boodey Families moved to Barrington by the late 1760's. These men and their families lived, as neighbors, in a section of Barrington, within a district called Canaan, along the "main road from Portsmouth" near the Isinglass River. Zechariah's father, Azariah Boodey, born in Madbury, came to Barrington to carve out a farm in the Canaan district. Joseph Libbey and his family had moved from Portsmouth to live with his in-laws, Ruben Abbotts, to help farm their land. As each of their sons grew up and reached the age of majority, they left their father's farms in Barrington and settled in surrounding towns. Following the signing of the Treaty of Paris of 1763, ending the hostilities between England and France, New Durham, as well as other townships were seeking families to help with meeting the terms of settlement as described in the Charters granted to

partitioners. New Durham's Charter, granted in 1762, required that each Lot owner build a dwelling of 16 feet square. There should be 40 families settled and families should have 3 acres cleared for mowing or tillage and a town center or square constructed. A Meetinghouse must be built within 6 years and a sawmill within 5 years. These requirements included the building of range roads 4 rods wide (64 feet) and the roads between the range lots 2 rods wide (32 feet). With the promise of fertile land and the chance to be more self-reliant, Zechariah Boodey and Joseph Libbey moved their growing families to New Durham.

Zechariah and Joseph purchased lots in the southern area of town known as the "Ridge" and began the task of setting up their homesteads.

Joseph Libbey had been a husbandman, farming his father-in-law's land in Barrington. Upon his arrival in New Durham he purchased in 1767 Lot 53 for 11 pounds. With this purchase he acquired the title of a yeoman and was a taxpayer.

Zechariah Boodey purchased Lot 49 from Colonel Thomas Tash in 1768 for 45 pounds. And once again, they were neighbors.

Both men built temporary shelters, log cabins that provided some comfort for their families from the ever changing New England weather. These buildings were built to meet the 16 feet square as required by the terms in the charter.

Their main homes would be classic New England Cape Cod style dwellings. Framed in using heavy timbers, with custom cut joinery. Both men made contributions towards the betterment of our town and country.

Joseph's sons would serve in the Revolutionary War, and serve in civic matters of the town.

Zechariah's homestead is the site for the birth of the Free Will Baptist Denomination. He served in the Revolutionary War, held a number of civic offices within the town, serving as a Selectman, and was over-seer of the poor.

Their homes still remain within the community of New Durham. Libbey's homestead can be found on the west side of Ridge Road. Boodey's house has been disassembled and will be reassembled at a site, off of the Berry Road, approximately a mile and a half north of its original location. It is with great pride that New Durham has many historical landmarks, reminders to a time of the birth of our town and country.



### References:

- History of New Durham, NH, Jennings, Ellen Cloutman, 1962.
- History of Barrington, NH, Wiggins, Morton H. Printed 1966., Reprinted 1983.
- History of Strafford, NH, Revised Edition, The Strafford Historical Society, Center Strafford, NH, 1995.
- Annal of the Boodey's in New England by Robert Boodey Caverly
- Libby Family of America 1602 –1881 by Charles T Libby

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*“PRESERVING THE PAST  
TO  
SUPPORT THE FUTURE”*



### MISSION STATEMENT

To reconstruct the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead, while maintaining historical integrity of the buildings; to teach future generations about our collective pasts; featuring New Durham's importance in that history; provide a useful asset for the community.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catherine Orlowicz, Chair  
Scott Drummey, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Cullimore, Secretary  
Christine C. Evans, Member and  
Family Representative

Donations may be made to:  
Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Collaborative  
PO Box 45  
New Durham, NH 03855  
Please make check payable to ZBF Collaborative  
501(c)(3) Non-Profit Funding Partner  
[www.zbfnh.org](http://www.zbfnh.org)

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS  
PROJECT OR WAYS YOU CAN  
SUPPORT,  
PLEASE VISIT**

[www.newdurhamnh.us/  
boodey-farmstead-  
committee](http://www.newdurhamnh.us/boodey-farmstead-committee)  
Facebook: Zechariah Boodey  
Farmstead

WE ARE PROUD TO HOST

## **CHILI BENEFIT DINNER** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

Dinner includes Chili, cornbread, beverages, and dessert.

Dinner is served from 4:00 to 6:00 pm or until sold out. *Take-out meals will be available.*

Doors open at 4:00 pm at the Community Room, 4 Main Street,  
(Behind the New Durham Fire Station)

Donation Prices: Adults \$12.00 Children, 10 and under \$8.00, Family of four \$35.00

The Committee is proud to host our Funding Partner, the **Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Collaborative's** special event, a delicious fall-style dinner of home-made **Chili!**

You will enjoy a delicious meal and make a significant contribution to the 2024 Fundraising goal of the Collaborative. This is a win-win for you! All proceeds benefit the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead Project.



### **SPECIAL DATES AND EVENTS:**

- *Oct 19th Hosting Chili Benefit Dinner serving 4 to 6 pm*
- *Hometown Cookery Cookbooks are available, Contact Chair*