

(We Have Questions) About Silas⁴ Watson

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This article is an extension of Silas⁴ Watson's own story, which can be found [here](#). It makes mention of Silas's brother Freeborn⁴, whose story can be found [over here](#). Silas's and Freeborn's stories are part of a larger family history, **The WATSON Family of West Greenwich, Rhode Island**, which can be found via [this link](#).

Silas⁴ Watson's Namesake

Silas⁴ Watson had a namesake – **Silas Watson Noble** (1795-1886), the son of Eli Noble Jr. and his wife Eunice Wilcox.

Land evidence from Pownal, VT, shows that Eli Noble Sr. lived in the same neighborhood as brothers Freeborn⁴ and Silas⁴ Watson. So we may assume that Eli Jr. grew up knowing the Watsons. Eunice Wilcox likely knew them from a young age, too. Freeborn's wife was Sarah Wilcox; Eunice probably was her sister.

Eunice Wilcox

We thank Boston genealogist Andrew Pierce for writing about why he believes that Eunice (Wilcox) Noble probably was the daughter of Hazard Wilcox Sr. Mr. Pierce has posted his theory at a [Geni.com page](#) for Captain Hazard Wilcox Sr.

Eunice appears in several land evidence records for Pownal, Bennington co., VT.

In April 1792, Eunice *Wilcox* witnessed a deed for Freeborn Watson's sale of land to brother Silas. Late in 1809, Eunice *Noble* witnessed a pair of deeds involving Freeborn, Silas, and Stukely M. Watson.

Eunice was a widow when she witnessed those deeds in 1809; Eli Jr. had died in August 1807. Since Eunice later remarried in Franklin county, VT – the same county where she and Eli had lived – we may suppose that Eunice and her children remained there after Eli's death. Eunice's presence in Pownal in 1809 might have been prompted by Freeborn and Sarah (Wilcox) Watson's imminent departure to go live in Canada.

(Perhaps) An Expression of Gratitude

It's an honor to have a child named for you. It's an even bigger deal when that child isn't a blood relative.

We suspect that Eunice was behind the idea of naming her baby boy after Silas Watson.

When Hazard Wilcox Sr. and his wife died within months of each other in 1780, they left five children behind. Andrew Pierce refers to this at the [Geni.com page](#):

After Hazard died from his wound on 14 February 1780, the *Royal Gazette* reported on 16 February 1780 that Hazard had left “a disconsolate widow, and five orphans.” The *Connecticut Journal* of 15 March 1780 added, “Tis said he had lived at White-Creek.”

White Creek, now in Washington County, New York, also borders Pownal.

Perhaps the Widow Wilcox and the five children returned to the NY-VT border, where Hazard Wilcox Sr. had owned property in White Creek, NY, land that was confiscated in August 1777 after the Battle of Bennington. That would help to explain how Sarah, Hazard Jr., and Eunice Wilcox found their way to Pownal. Given that William Wilcox described himself in a 1793 Canadian document as “from the State of Vermont,” we may guess that the Wilcox children lived in or near Pownal following the deaths of their parents.

We wonder if Silas Watson was a benefactor to the orphaned Wilcox siblings, perhaps even giving some (or all) of them a place to live following the deaths of their parents.

Eunice, born circa 1777, would have been a small child when she lost her parents. Silas and Sarah (Bowditch) Watson may have become like family to her. That’s the kind of thing that would inspire someone to name a child for such a person – an honor given to express gratitude and love.

(We Learn About) Silas Watson, Commissioner of Sequestration

Silas Watson’s name shows up twice in Volume 6 of *State Papers of Vermont: Sequestration, Confiscation and Sale of Estates*, appearing first on page 54 in a list of Commissioners of Sequestration. This means that, likely around 1778, Silas was given authority to confiscate and arrange for the sale of Tory property.

It also tells us that Silas Watson was dependably on the side of Vermont's independence from both New Hampshire and, especially, New York. From its earliest days, Vermont was a frontier, with both New York and New Hampshire laying claim to it.

These boundary disputes tell us more as to why Hazard Sr. was known and persecuted as “a Tory of much notoriety.” To quote Mary Greene Nye, editor of the abovementioned *State Papers of Vermont* (**emphasis** ours):

“... there appears to have been a peculiar animosity in some quarters toward those unfortunate individuals who were both **loyal to the British government and at the same time held their Vermont lands under titles obtained from New York**, as not infrequently occurred. That such persons were sometimes treated with additional severity if they fell into the hands of the Vermont officers, can hardly be denied.”

Hazard Wilcox Sr. owned land in both New York and Vermont. This is because his property bounds overlapped what is today the state line between Hoosick, NY, and North Bennington, VT.

And this is why, when Hazard Sr. was examined by the authorities in 1772 “as to the Riots at Bennington,” he was described as Hazard Wilcox of Bennington in the County of Albany. (See excerpt, on right, from *The Documentary History of the State of New-York*.)

Wilcox researchers, whose work is posted at [this Geni.com page](#), have found that Hazard Wilcox Sr.'s land was located in Lot #6 of the Walloomsac Patent. The relative location of Lot #6 can be seen in “[Overlay of the Walloomsac Patent onto a Topographical Map](#)” at the website of the Town of White Creek, NY, Historian.

EXAMINATION AS TO THE RIOTS AT BENNINGTON.

IN COUNCIL May 9th 1772.

Hazard Wilcox of Bennington in the County of Albany attending without, was called in, and being examined touching the Riots and Disorders in that part of the Country, declared that he lived on the patent of Wallumschack about seventeen Miles from Hudson's River, and that he understood the present Riotous disposition and Conduct of the people there, to proceed from their Claims to the soil under the Grants of New Hampshire; that many he was of opinion would be willing to purchase Titles under this Government to the Lands they have improved, but were deterred by the Majority who are of the contrary opinion, and seem determined to hold their possessions by Force, and that among their principal Leaders are James Breakenridge, Jedediah Dewey and Stephen Faey.

We have no reason to think that Silas Watson dealt with the disposal of Hazard Sr.'s real estate – which, per the testimony of Hazard Sr.'s children, was confiscated following the Battle of Bennington in August 1777. Which colonies/states confiscated Hazard Wilcox Sr.'s property? Both New York and Vermont, we'd guess.

The other place Silas shows up in *State Papers of Vermont: Sequestration, Confiscation and Sale of Estates* is on page 65. Here, he is not listed as a commissioner of sequestration but named as Lef^t (Lieutenant) Silas Watson, an officer of the Pownal militia.

Silas was one of six men who signed a formal letter, dated October 13, 1779, regarding Elder Benjamin Gardner of Pownal, against whom “Certain Specious Complaints” had been made to the Vermont General Assembly. Elder Gardner was accused of being “a Tory or unfriendly both to this State in Particular and the United States in General — .” Their letter strongly rebutted those complaints.

Silas Watson's participation in defending Mr. Gardner suggests that he might not have been given to the passions and paranoia that often hold sway in turbulent times. Perhaps he was given positions of responsibility in the local militia and as a commissioner of sequestration precisely because he was a man of good judgment.

The Enigma of Stukely M. Watson

Stukely Watson's name shows up in an 1897 “social interest” item from the *Rutland Daily Herald* newspaper (**emphasis** is ours):

BENNINGTON

... A young lady in this village is the possessor of three old-time relics which she prizes highly. The oldest is an invitation to a Thanksgiving ball given at Wheat's ball room in Bennington on Thursday, December 3, 1807, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The managers were J. Berry, A. Denio and R. Clark. The invitation is printed on the back of a playing card, the three of hearts. Another one printed on the back of a jack of hearts is an invitation to Mrs. Ormandy Armstrong requesting the honor of her company to a mechanics' society ball to

be given in C. Cushman's assembly rooms in Bennington on Wednesday, February 18, 1808, at 2 o'clock p.m. This invitation was printed by Anthony Haswell. The third is an invitation to Jethro Gary to Stephen Eldridge's assembly rooms at **Pownal** on Thursday, **December 1, 1808**, at 1 o'clock p.m. The managers were Agill Gibbs, **Stukely Watson**, Noel Gardner and Henry Gardner. The invitation was printed at Bennington by B. Smead.

So, Stukely Watson worked as a manager at Stephen Eldridge's assembly rooms in Pownal (whatever that entailed). The 1808 date places Stukely in Pownal, VT, a year before Silas⁴ first sells property to Stukely, in December 1809.

Though Stukely figures into the last 18 or so years of Silas Watson's life, we have found no description of their relationship – not even in Silas's will, where he bequeathed to Stukely "one equal third part" of his estate and property.

It's not just their relationship that remains a mystery: Several property transactions between Stukely and Silas in 1813 provoke questions about the flow of money.

Two deeds, both dated May 25, 1813, show that Silas Watson sold 84 acres of land to "Stutely" Watson, for the sum of \$700; and Silas's "new barn" and "old house" to Stutely for another \$400. (Pownal land evidence, Bk. 7, pp. 305-306 and 331)

Note: Stukely's name often appears as *Stutely*. Consider them interchangeable.

On May 26, 1813, the very next day, Stutely Watson of Pownal sold to "Lydia, late wife of Silas Watson," 90 acres of land in Pownal. The selling price was \$700; the property appears to have been the same land that Silas⁴ Watson sold to Stukely M. Watson in December 1809. (Pownal land evidence, Bk. 7, pp. 299-300)

BENNINGTON.

Mrs. George F. Bell of Burlington is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. H. Phillips.

Miss Blanche Sibley spent Sunday with friends at Albany.

John M. Burt has been appointed district deputy grand master of the 2d Masonic district of Vermont, comprising Bennington county.

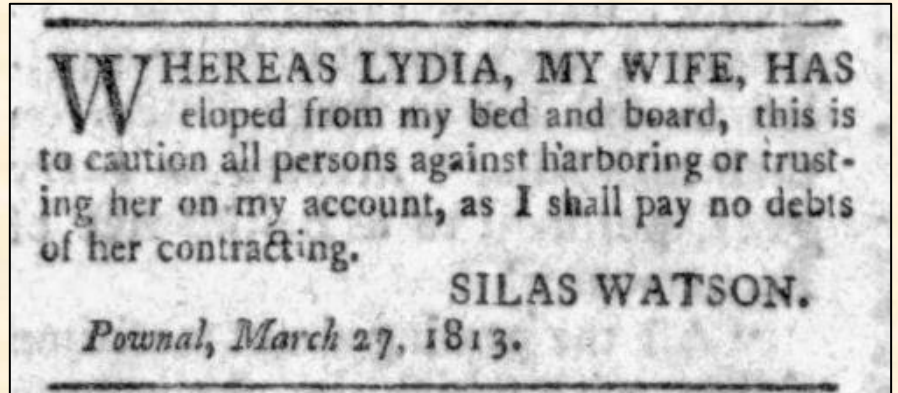
Michael Hogan of Division street is erecting a new front to his house. The Russell Lumber and Coal company is doing the work.

James Lyons was released from jail Saturday, having served a 20 days' sentence for intoxication.

A young lady in this village is the possessor of three old-time relics which she prizes highly. The oldest is an invitation to a Thanksgiving ball given at Wheat's ball room in Bennington on Thursday, December 3, 1807, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The managers were J. Berry, A. Denio and R. Clark. The invitation is printed on the back of a playing card, the three of hearts. Another one printed on the back of a jack of hearts is an invitation to Mrs. Ormandy Armstrong requesting the honor of her company to a mechanics' society ball to be given in C. Cushman's assembly rooms in Bennington on Wednesday, February 18, 1808, at 2 o'clock p. m. This invitation was printed by Anthony Haswell. The third is an invitation to Jethro Gary to Stephen Eldridge's assembly rooms at Pownal on Thursday, December 1, 1808, at 1 o'clock p. m. The managers were Agill Gibbs, Stukely Watson, Noel Gardner and Henry Gardner. The invitation was printed at Bennington by B. Smead.

Remember Lydia?

As we described in Silas⁴ Watson's own story, Lydia likely was the wife of "Silas Watson 2nd," not Silas⁴ Watson. We also surmise that it was Silas 2nd who ran a serial newspaper item saying he would not pay any debts incurred by his wife Lydia. We may assume that Silas 2nd divorced his fugitive wife.



There was an addendum at the foot of the deed for the land Stutely sold to Lydia:

“Provided nevertheless if I the sd Stutely M. Watson my heirs & executors shall well & truly pay or cause to be paid to the sd Lydia the late wife of Silas Watson her heirs executors or administrators the certain promissory notes executed by me the sd Stutely M. Watson made & executed to the sd Lydia late wife of Silas Watson first one Note dated the 21 day of May 1813 of one hundred dollars to be paid the first day of Nov. 1813 one Note dated the 21 day of May 1813 of two hundred dollars to be paid the first day of Nov. 1814 – two hundred dollars to be paid the first day of Nov. 1815 two hundred dollars to be paid the first day of Nov. 1816 the whole of the sum to be on interest from the 21 day of May 1813 according to [tenor?] thereof then this deed to be void otherwise to be & remain in full force in the Law signed & sealed in presence of”

Thomas Brownell 2nd
Angell Whipple

The phrase “to be paid to the sd Lydia” reveals that Stutely had borrowed \$700 from Lydia, to be paid back (with interest) in specified amounts, by specific dates.

This entire transaction – the sale of the property, the promissory notes – appears to be a collateral loan, with Lydia holding the real estate as an asset in case Stutely defaulted on his repayment of the \$700.

Or was it?

Following the Money

Little more than a week later, on June 3rd, Stutely Watson paid \$1400 to Silas⁴ Watson for land in Pownal “possessed by the sd Stutely M. & is the same land deeded to him by the sd Silas”... “with appurtenances.” (Pownal land evidence, Bk. 7, p. 330)

Consider the language of this latest deed: Stutely *already* possessed this property, which Silas had *already* deeded to him.

This latest amount paid by Stutely to Silas is a multiple of \$700 – which, as it happens, is the price Stutely paid to Silas ten days earlier for those 84 acres.

Normally we are not prone to conspiracy theories. But we do notice patterns.

Not a Sign of the Times

As a woman publicly called out for abandoning her husband, Lydia would have been an object of scandal and scorn. And, like nearly all women of that time, she would have had little means and few options for charting a new course in her life.

Yet we find Stutely Watson doing business with Lydia, counter to the warning published by the wronged husband, *another Watson*.

How can this be? And where did Lydia get all this money?

A Reality Check With Our Spouse Who Has a Background in Business and Finance

(Re-created from a conversation with said spouse)

Author: ... And that’s why I think the transaction between Stutely and Lydia was a collateral loan.

Spouse: I think you’re right. But do you think Stutely actually needed the money? And how did Lydia have that kind of cash?

Author: I’m guessing Stutely didn’t need the loan. I also think someone gave Lydia the money. That ‘someone’ could have been Silas Watson.

The series of transactions puts the money back in Silas’s hands. Meanwhile, Lydia becomes a property owner, making it harder for people to run her out of town.

Stukely “repays” the \$700 to Lydia according to schedule, thus giving her the means to get on with her life. And, in the end, Stukely retains those 90 acres of land [*which appears to have been the case*]. Everybody wins.

Does this sound plausible? Or crazy?

Spouse: It’s plausible.

Was Silas⁴ Watson a surprise benefactor to Lydia – a woman who *might have been* his daughter-in-law? We can’t point to a single source or document that would validate our suspicion. All we can cite here is the pattern we’ve described above.

Our theory about Lydia offers a common thread with the story of Eunice (Wilcox) Noble. In both cases Silas Watson may have provided significant help to a female in trouble, a child or a woman who lacked resources of her own.

The Silence Surrounding Simeon

Unlike Stukely M. Watson, Simeon Watson did not buy and sell land in Pownal; nor did he settle there. And he wasn’t mentioned in Silas⁴ Watson’s will.

As we described in Silas⁴ Watson’s own story, it is highly likely that Simeon Watson (1779 – 1858) was Silas⁴’s son. The (so far) complete lack of reference to his father in Simeon’s paper trail apparently extended even to his family lore. An article about Sarah (Watson) Andrews, Simeon’s daughter, is a case in point.

Sarah got written up in some newspaper items that circulated widely. On her 102nd birthday in 1904, the *Democrat and Chronicle* of Rochester, NY, printed a column (excerpts of which are shown) that includes the following:

“A daughter of the Green Mountain state, Sarah Watson was born November 28, 1802, in the good old town of Bennington, where in



the home of her parents, Simeon Watson and Olive Stratton Watson, she grew to womanhood. Her grandfather, Jonathan Stratton, was a soldier of '76 and her father fought in the war of 1812. She is a descendant of the Puritan colonists of New England, and is today the oldest Daughter of the American Revolution in the United States.”

A daughter of the Green Mountain state, Sarah Watson was born November 28, 1802, in the good old town of Bennington, where in the home of her parents, Simeon Watson and Olive Stratton Watson, she grew to womanhood. Her grandfather, Jonathan Stratton, was a soldier of '76 and her father fought in the War of 1812. She is a descendant of the Puritan colonists of New England, and is today the oldest Daughter of the American Revolution in the United States.

Rich Watson of Pittsburgh, PA – a lineal male descendant of Simeon Watson – notes that this article “makes no mention of her Watson grandparents.” He sees this as “an indication the family may not have been close” to Simeon’s parents.

Simeon Watson lived for many years in Bennington county, a significant portion of those years in the town of Shaftsbury – Olive (Stratton) Watson’s hometown, sixteen miles north of Pownal. Given the proximity of Olive’s parents in Shaftsbury, it’s not surprising that Sarah (Watson) Andrews knew about her maternal grandfather’s military service. We can only speculate as to why Simeon didn’t teach his children about his father’s Revolutionary War service.

Use this link to [Simeon Watson’s own story](#) to learn more about Simeon and his family.

A Simple Theory

Our enduring difficulty in naming the children of Silas and Sarah (Bowdich) Watson has us wondering: Did this ‘break’ in the Watson family history involve Simeon’s siblings as well? And did that break occur because Silas snubbed them all in his will?

If there were a problem, common sense suggests that it predated the making of Silas’s will in July 1818. In other words, Silas may have left his children out of his will because of an intractable disagreement.

A possible source of such a conflict could be Silas’s remarriage, in 1813, to a much younger woman. As we wrote in Silas’s own story:

A transcription of an item in the *Boston Advertiser* newspaper for October 27, 1813, notes: “Married, in ‘Petersburg, Vt.’ [sic], Mr. Silas Watson, 76 [sic] &

Miss Maria Bailey, 21 [sic]” (found in [Some Vermont Vital Records of the Early 19th Century](#), page 45, near the bottom). The repeated use of [sic] in quoting this startling news – *76-year-old man weds 21-year-old woman!* – is understandable. First of all, Petersburg is in New York, not Vermont. Such a marriage might not have been unheard-of in those days. Perhaps Silas wanted to extend some legal and financial protection to a young woman dwelling in his household. Perhaps Maria, in turn, cared for Silas in his last years.

It isn't hard to imagine the objections that Silas's adult children might have raised in that situation.

The Mystery of the Q Eggleston-Watsons

Three people – Brad, Kimberly, and Martha – born into different Watson families, traced their direct male lines back to around 1820 before hitting the dreaded “brick wall.” Hoping to push beyond that point, each† had Y-DNA testing done.

Their Y-DNA results point to a male ancestor named Joseph Eggleston (~1685-1767). In other words, these folks inherited the Watson surname, but genetically they were Egglestons.

And they were close matches to each other.

Likely Brothers

More extensive testing defined a highly specific haplogroup for these Watsons: Q-BY146071. Mark, an administrator for the Eggleston DNA Surname Project who analyzed their results, realized that the “Q Group” Watsons' three brick-wall ancestors likely were brothers.

<p>We will now refer to these <i>three brick-wall ancestors for the Q Group Watsons</i> simply as “brothers.” Readers are cordially requested to mentally supply the word “likely” ahead of the word “brothers” from this point forward. Thank you.</p>

Transition from Eggleston to Watson

We begin here with our *conclusions*, after which we describe our *process* of figuring out how and when the three brothers – Richard, Elisha, and John – acquired the Watson surname.

We think the brothers lost their father, Mr. Eggleston, when they were small, probably after the birth of the youngest brother, John, in 1800, in Schoharie county, NY. At some point not too long afterwards, the boys likely were absorbed into the family of Braddock Watson. We don't know if the boys' mother was related to Braddock or not.

This arrangement – whether a formal adoption or a casual blending of families – was the occasion for the boys to begin using Braddock's surname rather than their own.

In 1800, Braddock Watson was living in the town of Bennington, Vermont. He *might* have moved from Vermont to New York. We do not find him in the 1810 census.

ENDLESS DETAILS BEGIN HERE

Our process of working this out was akin to mud season in Vermont: We got bogged down constantly. There are no clear-cut answers to the question of how the three brothers became Watsons. But we examined the clues that have survived to the present day. And we invite you to slog through the following discussion.

Naming Patterns And a Link to Vermont

One of the Q Group Watsons traces her line back to Silas R. Watson (~1814-1877), who is buried in the town of Bennington, VT. Silas R.'s death record says he was born in Canada; and gives his parents' names as Richard and Anna. If that death record is correct, Richard Watson is her brick-wall ancestor.

Silas R. Watson had a son named Richard Braddock Watson. Amazingly, another of the Q Group has the given name Braddock show up in *his* Watson family tree, too. His brick-wall ancestor is John Watson, born circa 1800 in Schoharie county, NY. John Watson named his third son, born in 1826, John Braddock Watson.

The third Q Group person traces her ancestry back to Elisha Watson, born circa 1794. Elisha Watson's descendants don't include anyone named Braddock.

What's In A Name?

The given name Braddock, paired with Watson, evokes a specific person.

We have written elsewhere about Braddock Watson, who we believe to have been the son of [Nicholas⁴ Watson](#), Silas⁴'s brother. Here's a summary:

Braddock Watson was born in Rhode Island circa 1762, per a record of his death.

He shows up in the census twice – first, in West Greenwich, RI, in 1790; and in 1800 in the town of Bennington, Bennington county, VT. In Bennington, Braddock's name appears immediately after that of Peleg Moon, the husband of Mary Watson, daughter of the patriarch, Samuel³ Watson.

Mark's search of [Bennington, VT, deeds](#) on microfilm turned up no evidence to show that Braddock Watson ever owned property in that town.

Braddock is nowhere to be found in the 1810 census.

Braddock Watson died on August 17, 1818, in Manhattan, New York county, NY, in state prison. The record of his death gave Braddock's age as 56; his marital status as "unknown"; and his birthplace as Rhode Island. We don't know what Braddock did to get himself locked up, nor how long he spent in prison before he died there.

Given the size of Braddock Watson's household in 1790 and 1800, it would appear that he had a number of children. We have found the names of two men who *might have been* his sons – Braddock Jr. and Robert.

Braddock Watson Jr. enlisted in the US Infantry on July 23, 1812, in Burlington, VT, for a term of five years. Braddock Jr. was 18 years old at the time, a "farmer," born in Rhode Island.

The record of Braddock Jr.'s enlistment contains a notation: "See Robert Watson same regt." Braddock Jr. and Robert signed up on the same day. Regrettably, no additional information was provided for Robert.

This raises a new question: Which Braddock Watson – Sr. or Jr. – inspired the Eggleston-Watson namesakes?

Richard, Elisha, and John

Elisha Watson and John Watson made their census debuts in 1820. By that time, they were married and had children. Both lived in Saratoga county, NY, not far from each other – Elisha in Waterford, John in Halfmoon. The lives of these two brothers are more or less traceable going forward from that time.

To learn more, we invite you to read [John Watson's own story](#) and [Elisha Watson's own story](#).

Richard Watson is a different story. We have one newspaper item that *may or may not* pertain to the Richard who fathered Silas R. Watson.

On page 4 of the *Vermont Gazette* for Tues., June 28, 1814:

Ten Dollars Reward.

Escaped from the Jail in Manchester, in the county of Bennington, and state of Vermont,

Richard Watson,

on the evening of the 25th instant, May, said WATSON is about 20 years of age, about five feet nine or ten inches high, light complexion, sandy hair, had on when we went away a Coat and Vest of home-made plaid, Cotton or Cotton and Linen, Cotton and Woolen pantaloons, said WATSON was committed for theft. — Whoever will take up said run-away and deliver him to the subscriber in Manchester shall receive the above reward and all necessary charges.

NATHAN BROWNSON,
Deputy Jailer

Manchester, Vt. May 26, 1814

Ten Dollars Reward.
ESCAPED from the Jail in Manchester, in the county of Bennington, and state of Vermont,
Richard Watson,
on the evening of the 25th instant, May, said WATSON is about 20 years of age, about five feet nine or ten inches high, light complexion, sandy hair, had on when he went away a Coat and Vest of home-made plaid, Cotton or Cotton and Linen, Cotton and Woolen pantaloons, said WATSON was committed for theft.— Whoever will take up said run-away and deliver him to the subscriber in Manchester shall receive the above reward and all necessary charges.
NATHAN BROWNSON,
Deputy Jailer.
Manchester, Vt. May 26, 1814.

We choose to include this item about escapee Richard Watson because it may fit into a theme we'll discuss later in this essay.

Presumably Silas R. Watson was born in Canada in the same year Richard Watson – his father? A different man? – escaped from jail in Bennington co., VT.

There's a Richard Watson who enlisted in the military in Bennington, VT, in April 1814. Is this the same man who broke out of jail the very next month? He was listed as 5 ft. 8 in. tall; 21 years old; and born in "Greenage" (no state given).

Mercifully, Silas R. Watson's paper trail is easier to trace than the elusive man who was his father. Though he moved around a lot, living at various times in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, Silas R. Watson shows up in four federal censuses, two NY state censuses, and at least one city directory. But his paper trail begins and ends in Bennington, Vermont.

Check back here for a future link to [Silas R. Watson's own story](#).

How and When?

By what process did these three brothers – Richard, Elisha, and John – acquire the Watson surname? And when did that happen?

The question of *when* is the easier one to answer. Y-DNA analysis reveals, through comparison with other participants in the [Eggleston Y-DNA Surname Project](#), that the man who fathered Richard, Elisha, and John likely used the Eggleston surname. This means that the shift to the Watson surname occurred with the three brothers, probably after the birth of the youngest, John, in 1800.

We would guess that adoption was the process by which the brothers transitioned from Eggleston to Watson.

1. The simplest scenario for the above is that Braddock Watson, having lost his first wife, married again – to the Widow Eggleston, mother of the three brothers. She could have been pregnant with the youngest, John, when she might have wed Braddock; or John could have been an infant or toddler at the time.

The age of the brothers at the time of their adopting the Watson surname probably matters. If they were old enough to know that they were Egglestons and drew their identities from that, it's likely they would have kept their original surname. If the brothers were fairly young, adopting a new surname wouldn't have been such a big deal.

2. Another scenario: The three brothers were orphaned; someone among the Vermont Watsons – probably Braddock – took them in and adopted them.
3. Another, more complicated scenario: Mrs. Eggleston was fleeing an abusive husband. People in the Watson family provided a safe haven for her and her children. The children took the Watson surname as a way to remain hidden.

We mention this possibility because we've found an instance whereby a wife divorced her alcoholic and abusive husband, gained custody of their children, changed their surname from Watson to Wilson, and moved to a different state. (See "[The Saga of Ira Watson and Nellie Ormsby.](#)")

4. This next scenario is Mark's own theory. As mentioned earlier, Mark is an administrator* for the Eggleston DNA Surname Project and the analyst of the Q Group's Y-DNA results.

Both [the Eggleston and Watson] families trace back to early Kingstown, Rhode Island, which is a very small place. I figure it would be just a matter of time before an Eggleston boy married a Watson girl.

I think a great grandson Eggleston (b ~1764) of Joseph Eggleston of Stonington, Connecticut, wed a granddaughter of Capt. Samuel³ Watson (by way of son Silas⁴ or another son like Nicholas⁴). They had Richard and Elisha in Vermont and then removed to Schoharie Co., NY, where John, the youngest, was born just before the 1800 enumeration. I suspect this young family was missed on the 1800 census.

With their father dead, mom and the kids went back to her family in VT for support, which prompted the change of the boys' surname from Eggleston to Watson. Where are the three boys in 1810? I think they are in Braddock Watson's household, which could account for why the name Braddock later appears in the families of Richard and John.

Too bad Braddock was missed on the 1810 census. It would also be very helpful if we knew exactly how many sons he had and who his wife was, and also where Nicholas was in 1800 and 1810.

And Where?

If it's true that John Watson, the youngest of the three brothers, was born in 1800 in Schoharie county, NY – ninety to 100 miles away from Bennington county, VT – perhaps New York State was the scene of this historic family name change.

And if we continue to theorize that Braddock Watson was involved in the lives of these three brothers, then we'd expect to find Braddock in New York at some point beyond 1800, when he was enumerated in the town of Bennington, VT. But Braddock Watson is nowhere to be found in the 1810 census.

The only item we've found that connects Braddock Watson to New York is the 1818 record of his death in prison in Manhattan, New York county, NY. This does not tell us if Braddock was a resident of New York, only that he was convicted of a crime in New York State and subsequently incarcerated there. Was he missing from the 1810 census because he was en route to, or already in, prison?

Possible Involvement By Pownal, VT, Watsons?

Remember that the Pownal Watsons – Silas⁴ and Stukely – lived just south of Bennington, where Braddock Watson was enumerated in 1800. We expect Silas not only knew that Braddock, from his hometown of West Greenwich, RI, was living nearby; they must have been in touch with each other in various ways.

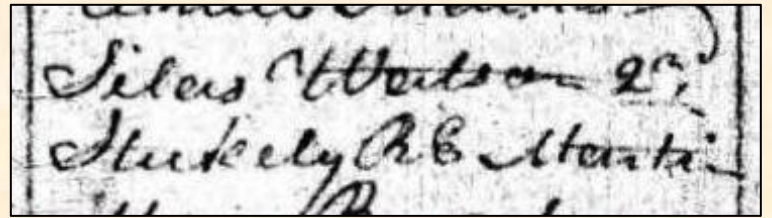
Two small things point to Silas⁴ Watson and Stukely M. Watson as possibly being involved with the Eggleston-Watson boys.

The first is the *possibility* that Richard Watson's son Silas R. was named for Silas⁴ Watson, in the same fashion that Eunice (Wilcox) Noble chose to name her son Silas Watson Noble.

The second involves Stukely's 1810 census profile, which does not resemble a nuclear family. The four people enumerated in Stukely's household – three males and one female – were all between the ages of 16 and 25. Richard and Elisha, the two older Eggleston-Watson boys, would have been roughly 17 and 16 years of age, respectively, in 1810. They *could have been* the two other males in Stukely's household.

Here's a wild idea involving the odd way Stukely was named in the 1810 census...

Enumerated right after “Silas Watson 2nd,” Stukely was listed as “Stukely R E Martin.” We know that Martin was Stukely’s middle name. Was there some reason he wasn’t identified in this instance as a Watson?



And what about the letters “R E” appearing in the middle of his name? Might they have stood for Richard and Elisha?

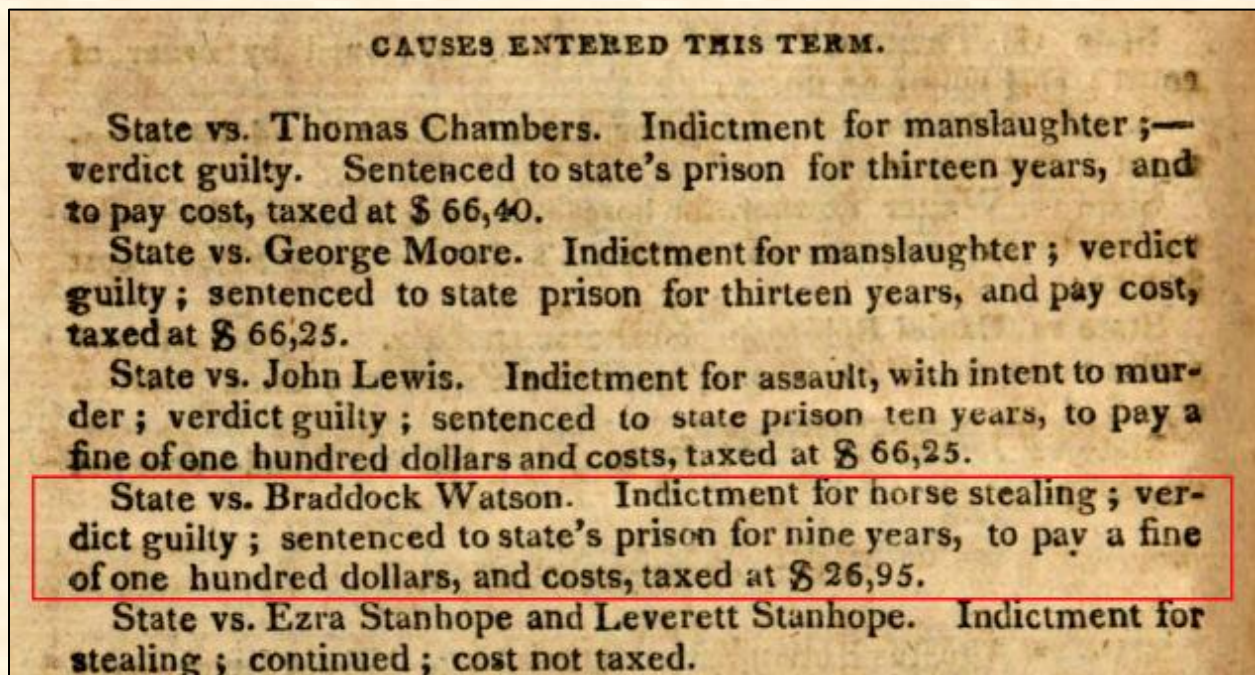
If we entertain the conspiracy theory that the Eggleston-Watson brothers were somehow in hiding, this irregular census listing might reflect that.

A Common Theme

As we know, Braddock Watson Sr. died in prison in 1818. We know also that Richard Watson – possibly the father of Silas R. Watson; “committed for theft” – broke out of the Manchester, VT, jail in 1814.

Rounding out this common theme is Braddock Watson Jr., whose name appears in the *doquet* (docket) for the June 1815 term of the Supreme Court of Judicature in the county of Franklin, Vermont.

“State vs. Braddock Watson. Indictment for horse stealing; verdict guilty; sentenced to state’s prison for nine years, to pay a fine of one hundred dollars, and costs, taxed at \$26,95.”



We know this is Braddock Watson Jr. because this man went to a Vermont prison; Braddock Sr. was incarcerated in New York, where he died in 1818. Braddock Jr. was pardoned and released in 1821 from the state prison in Windsor, Vermont.

We do not reflexively judge these Watson men as common criminals (though we do wonder if Richard's and Braddock Jr.'s thievery offenses, being close in time, were somehow linked). It's possible these men received less justice than if they'd been better-connected, with money and the right politics.

We include [more about Braddock Watson Jr.](#) in the Appendix.

What's In A Name, Redux

Earlier we asked the question: Which Braddock Watson – Sr. or Jr. – inspired the Eggleston-Watson namesakes? The truthful answer is, we don't know.

This naming tradition might have sprung from affection for Braddock Sr., who may have been an adoptive father to Richard, Elisha, and John. We wonder also if Braddock Watson Jr.'s exploits might have inspired Richard's and John's families to carry on his name.

While Elisha Watson didn't preserve the name Braddock in his family line, he did name a son John – and John Watson named another of his sons Elisha.

Is it a coincidence that Braddock Watson Jr. named a son Elisha? We know about Braddock Jr.'s son Elisha Edmund Watson through his 1844 death record. Young Elisha was twelve years old when he died in Montgomery, Massachusetts.

Summary

We have no questions regarding Silas⁴ Watson's appointment as a Commissioner of Sequestration. It suggests that he was considered an honest and respectable man.

Silas appears to have been someone who extended help to folks in need, in ways not captured in ordinary documents. At least one person, and possibly another, named a child in his honor.

Silas may have been assisted in his charitable endeavors by Stukely M. Watson. Some of the help they offered might have involved giving needy individuals a

place to live. In one case, it looks like Silas and Stukely cooked up a scheme to get funds into the hands of a woman who had fled her marriage.

Silas's children are absent from this story; we find no traces of their influence. None were named in Silas's will. Y-DNA and other evidence points to Silas as Simeon Watson's likely father; yet Simeon's daughter Sarah was conspicuously silent about her father's side of the family when interviewed late in life for a newspaper article.

There is no smoking gun to implicate Silas Watson in the mystery of the three Watson brothers. But since Braddock Watson appears to have been involved, we think it possible and even likely that Silas played some part.

Have we read too much into these echoes from Silas Watson's life? Maybe so. If Silas did the things that we suspect, he also covered up most of his tracks. Maybe that was the point.

Appendix

Y-DNA Evidence

The Y-DNA testing referenced in this article was done through [FamilyTreeDNA](#).

Q Eggleston-Watson

Two of the three Q Eggleston-Watsons are female. † Since Y-DNA is exclusive to men, the women asked close male relatives – members of their direct Watson lines – to spit in a tube for them. At the [Eggleston Y-DNA Surname Project](#), their test kit numbers are listed in the section titled “Connecticut family.”

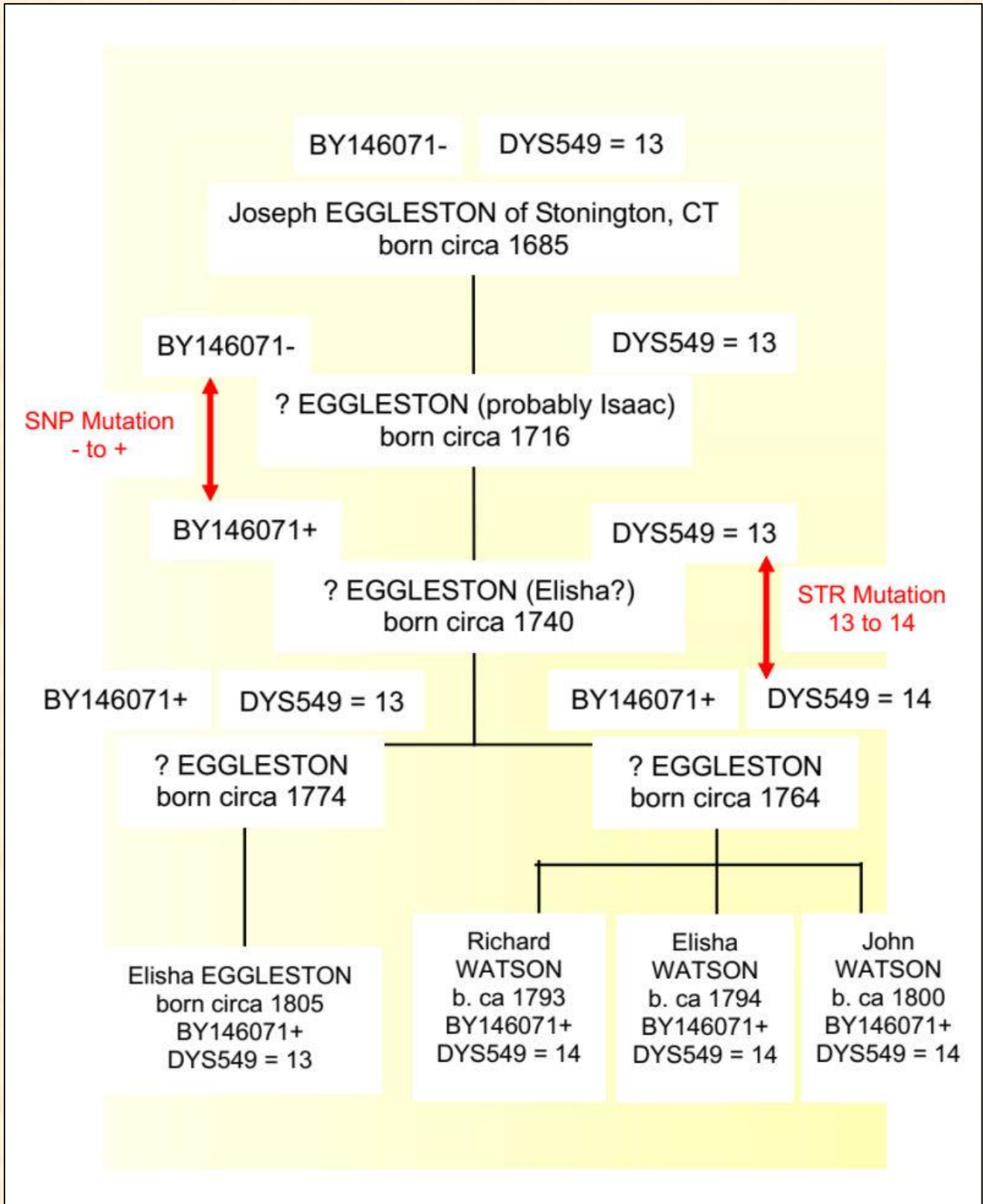
Kit # 56668 – *John Watson (1800-1873)* [Brad's ancestor]

Kit # 529767 – *Elisha Watson abt 1794 - 20 May 1841* [Martha's ancestor]

Kit # 945392 – *Silas R Watson b c1814 Canada d 1877 Bennington VT* [Kim's ancestor]

They started out in basic haplogroup Q-M242. Their specific haplogroup – derived from FamilyTreeDNA's 700 marker test (aka the *Big Y*) – is Q-BY146071.

Mark* compiled the male line Eggleston descendency shown below:



We needed help in understanding how Richard, Elisha, and John Watson were traced to this Eggleston family. Mark explained it for us, pointing out the significance of the man diagrammed on the bottom left-hand corner of his chart – **Elisha Eggleston, born circa 1805.**

Here are excerpts, lightly edited, from his various comments (*emphasis is ours*):

If there were only SNP and yDNA results, we would know they (*Richard, Elisha, and John Watson*) were extremely closely related by having the same terminal SNP BY146071+ **seen only within this tiny subgroup** (subclade) **which includes Elisha Eggleston b. ~ 1805.**

Elisha Eggleston b. ~ 1805 is the key. [He] is well researched with a solid paper trail. This Elisha 1805 first appears on the 1840 Census in Sterling, Cayuga county, NY.

Elisha Eggleston 1805 relates to kit # 69418 and is also Q-BY146071, the same as Richard, Elisha, and John Watson. They all descend from Joseph Eggleston of Stonington, CT; but it's unknown exactly how. I think it's Joseph's son Isaac and very possibly Isaac's son Elisha. Lots of Elishas in the Q-BY146071 group.

All the Q (*haplogroup*) Egglestons (including those who don't descend from Joseph of Stonington) at marker DYS549 are 13 (DYS549=13). All the Watsons are DYS549=14, which means Elisha Eggleston 1805 is for sure an Eggleston.

You can realistically fit only so many generations back to their progenitor (grandfather) who was an Eggleston. Elisha Eggleston 1805's father and the father of the three Watson boys are very likely brothers. The paper records we have also support the conclusions from the yDNA results of this group.

I think the Watson surname occurred at the level of Richard, Elisha, and John.

A quick glossary of some of the DNA terms used:

“A **SNP** (pronounced snip) is a single nucleotide polymorphism. That means that it is a single small change in your DNA code.” ... An **STR** is a short tandem repeat. This is a place in your DNA code where a letter sequence is repeated.

[FamilyTreeDNA Frequently Asked Questions](#)

A **haplogroup** ... is a group of similar haplotypes that share a common ancestor with a single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) *mutation*. A **haplotype** is a group of alleles in an organism that are inherited together from a single parent.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup>

Descent from Samuel³ Watson (the Patriarch)

In 2021, Rich Watson of Pittsburgh, PA, matched with two Watson men, both with well-documented lines of descent from Samuel³ Watson (the patriarch) – one via son Robert⁴, the other via son Samuel⁴ Jr.

At the [Watson Y-DNA Surname Project](#), their test kit numbers are listed in the section labelled “I Haplogroup, Family G.” This branch of the Watson family falls into basic haplogroup I-M253. Their specific haplogroup – derived from FamilyTreeDNA’s 700 marker test (aka the *Big Y*) – is I-FTA81938.

Kit # 904171 *Simeon Watson, b. 1779 d. 1858* (assumed descent fr/ Silas⁴ Watson)

Kit # 952744 *John Watson, d. 1729* (documented descent fr/ Robert⁴ Watson)

Kit # 952754 *John Watson, d. 1729* (documented descent fr/ Samuel⁴ Watson Jr.)

Two of the test kits give the name of progenitor John¹ Watson (*of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island*) as the earliest known paternal ancestor, since patriarch Samuel³ Watson, father of Robert⁴ and Samuel⁴ Jr., is known and documented as John¹ Watson’s grandson.

Two of the Q Eggleston-Watsons are listed in the Watson Y-DNA Surname Project – kit # 529767 (Elisha Watson) and kit # 945392 (Silas R. Watson).

(So Much) More About Braddock Watson Jr.

As mentioned on page 13, Braddock Watson Jr. was 18 years old when he enlisted in the US Army in July 1812 in Vermont.

First Marriage

Perhaps he was given time off from his military duties on Christmas Day in 1812. [Ancestry.com](#)’s database *Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968* includes a marriage record for “Braddok Watson” and Elizabeth Deline, who tied the knot on December 25, 1812, in Philipsburg,

Quebec, Canada, just across the boundary with Vermont. Below, an image of this record and a transcription:

On this twenty fifth day of December one th^d eight hun^d. & twelve Braddok Watson – Bachelor – Farmer – and Elizth Deline Spinster – Both of Minor age & of Stanbridge were married by banns in the presence of her Mother & the other subscribing Witnefs —

C. Stewart Min^r [minister]

Braddok Watson [his mark]

Elizth Deline [her mark]

Hannah Deline [her mark]

George Mitchell

On this twenty fifth day of December one th^d eight hun^d. & twelve
Braddok Watson - Bachelor -
Farmer - and Elizth Deline
Spinster - Both of Minor age
& of Stanbridge were married
by banns in the presence of
her Mother & the other sub-
scribing Witnefs —
C. Stewart Min^r
Braddok + Watson
Elizth + Deline
Hannah + Deline
George Mitchell.

By this time, Braddock Watson Jr. probably was 19 years old. Interestingly, this record suggests that *both* Elizabeth and Braddock were residents of Stanbridge, in the Province of Quebec, Canada, about eight miles northeast of Philipsburg.

Apparently, Elizabeth (Deline) Watson gave birth to a daughter, Louisa, in 1812. This suggests Braddock may have been aiming to “do the right thing” when he married Elizabeth late in that same year.

Researchers with access to Canadian records note that Elizabeth went on to marry a man named Jonas Bice/Boyce. Their first child was born in 1815. *This* suggests that Elizabeth’s and Braddock Jr.’s marriage did not endure. Indeed, Braddock had signed up for a five-year term when enlisting in the US Army in 1812. He may have left Canada to return to his military obligations.

In 1832, in Stanbridge, Quebec, Canada, Louisa Watson, Braddock Watson Jr.’s daughter, allegedly married John Deline (1809-1864), the son of her mother’s uncle George Uriah Deline and his wife Mary “Polly”

Schoolcraft. John and Louisa (Watson) Deline had four children – Albert; Calvin U.; Sarah Jane; and Mary “Maria” – before Louisa’s death in 1843.

On June 24, 1815, in a court in St. Albans, Franklin co., VT, Braddock Watson Jr. was found guilty of “horse stealing” and sentenced to nine years in prison. On June 27th, he was admitted to the state prison in Windsor, Windsor co., VT.

The data collected about Braddock Watson Jr. at the time of his incarceration includes a personal description nearly identical to the one obtained at the time of his enlistment in 1812. His birthplace was listed as West Greenwich, Rhode Island.

After serving six years of his nine-year sentence, Braddock Jr. was granted a pardon. He was discharged from prison on October 29, 1821.

By 1840, A Second Wife, With Children

Braddock Watson shows up – without the generational suffix – in the 1840 census for Westfield, Hampden co., Massachusetts. His listing indicates he had a wife and five children. Later census records tell us that Braddock’s second wife’s given name was “Wealthy M.” and that she was born in Massachusetts around 1810.

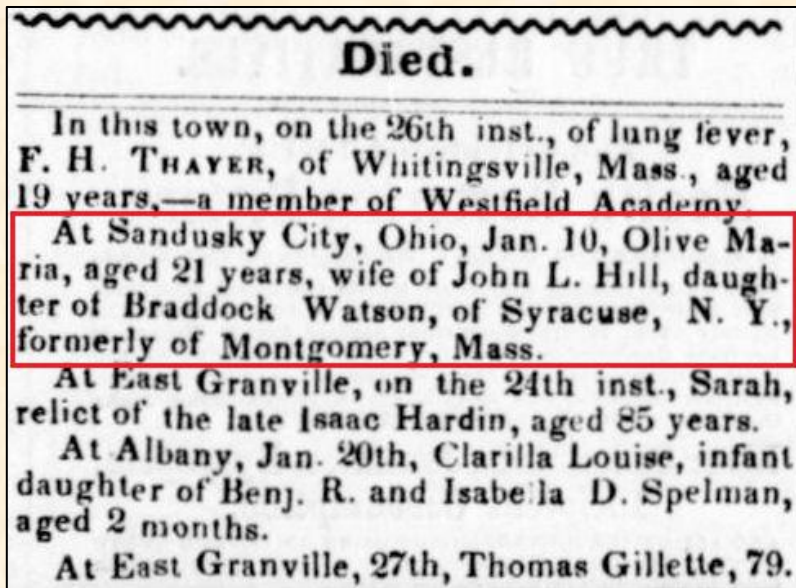
Braddock and Wealthy M. (—) Watson had at least eight children together:

- i. Olive Maria Watson (1831-1852)
- ii. Elisha Edmund Watson (~1832-1844)
- iii. Amos Watson (~1835-?)
- iv. William B. Watson (~1838-?)
- v. Mary E. Watson (~1839-?)
- vi. Wealthy Amena Watson (1847-?)
- vii. Delania L. Watson (~1849-?)
- viii. Helen R. Watson (~1853-?)

We know of the first two children, Olive and Elisha, from records relating to their deaths. The other children show up in one or more census records.

Daughter Olive Maria’s gravestone inscription gives her age at death on January 10, 1852, as 20 years, 11 months, and 17 days. Using an online [Tombstone](#)

[Birthday Calculator](#), we determined her date of birth to be January 24, 1831. Olive was two weeks shy of her 21st birthday when she passed away. A photo of Olive Maria (Watson) Hill's gravestone may be viewed at her online memorial: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114816027/olive-maria-hill>.



It's probably safe to say, then, that Braddock and Wealthy Watson got married around 1830. (The fact that Braddock doesn't appear in the 1830 census actually supports this notion: We've seen this *marriage-in-a-census-year disappearing act* lots of times.)

The ages and genders of the eldest five children match

this Watson family's data as listed in the 1840 census.

Tragedy Occurring in a Seven-Year Gap

There is a seven-year age gap between the fifth and sixth children in this family. While gaps in childbearing aren't unusual, this one is sizeable. Wealthy and Braddock could have lost several children through stillbirths and/or early death. Another distinct possibility is that Braddock was absent from the family home for a long time. Given his history, we wonder if he ended up in jail again.

Two notable events took place in that intervening gap.

One was the accidental death of eldest son Elisha Edmund Watson, age 12, on May 8, 1844, in Montgomery, MA. His tragic demise was "caused by jumping or falling from a scaffold on to the edge of a barrel."

The other involved eldest daughter, Olive Maria, who apparently gave birth to a child in March of 1845. This turn of events was manifested through her obituary, which led us to an 1850 census listing.

Olive Maria's obituary from the January 28, 1852, edition of the *Westfield News Letter* (Westfield, MA) reads:

“At Sandusky City, Ohio, Jan. 10, Olive Maria, aged 21 years, wife of John L. Hill, daughter of Braddock Watson, of Syracuse, N.Y., formerly of Montgomery, Mass.”

As noted earlier, Olive Maria (Watson) Hill's age at death, per her gravestone inscription, was 20 years, 11 months, and 17 days.

We found Olive and her family easily in the 1850 federal census. John and Olive Hill and their three sons were residents of Portland Township, Erie co., OH – precisely where the city of Sandusky was located.

John L Hill	33	4m	Carpenter
Olive M "	19	5	
George W "	8	4m	
Edmond L "	3	7m	
John L "	2	1/2 4m	

Since we don't find a record of Olive M. Watson's marriage to John L. Hill, nor birth records for the three boys in this family, we can't declare with certainty which of them were hers. But if we assume that they are Olive's children with John L. Hill, we can draw a conclusion or two from the birth date of the oldest boy, George, whose birth place as listed in the 1850 census was Massachusetts.

George W. Hill is buried in Oakland Cemetery in Sandusky, the same place where Olive is buried. His headstone tells us he was born March 10, 1845, and died November 17, 1863.

If George was Olive's child, it means she became pregnant around June of 1844, at 13 years of age, giving birth to George little more than six weeks past her 14th birthday.



This suggests that Olive M. Watson's marriage to John L. Hill was more of a shotgun wedding than a love match, especially as John was quite a bit older than Olive.

We acknowledge the timing of Olive's pregnancy, commencing so soon after the death of her brother Elisha Edmund, along with the possibility that their father might have been absent from the family home. We notice, too, that Olive named her second son Edmund, likely in tribute to her lost brother. The choice of this name suggests that Olive's brother may have gone by his middle name.

On February 28, 1847, Wealthy M. Watson gave birth to her sixth child, daughter Wealthy Amena, in Montgomery, MA. Wealthy M. went on to bear two more children, the last one circa 1853 when she would have been about 43 years old. This is why we think Braddock was away for a period of years: His wife bore children at fairly regular intervals before and after that seven year gap.

NAME, (if any.)	SEX.	DATE OF BIRTH.	NAME AND SURNAME OF PARENTS.	OCCUPATION OF FATHER.
Susan Elizabeth Washburn	Female	Jan 1 st 1847	Charles M and Orinda Washburn	Farming
Wharton Mapillon Crow	Male	Oct 5 1846	Mapillon & Betsey Crow	Farming
Samuel Saunders	Male	March 30 th 1847	Gilbert & Minerva Saunders	Farming
David Bishop Camp	Male	August 31 st 1846	John & Mary Camp	Farming
Orphelia Ann Moore	Female	July 22 1846	Hasting A & Dorcas P. Moore	Farming
Wealthy Amena Watson	Female	Feb 28 th 1847	Braddock & Wealthy M Watson	Shoemaker
David Owen Parks	Male	Dec 28 th 1846	Elisha P & Sophia Parks	Farming
Prince Albert Thorp	Male	August 15 th 1846	Samuel & Lucetia Thorp	Farming
Lyman Allen Reed	Male	August 19 th 1846	Josiah & Mary Reed	Farming

It is perhaps worth noting that Braddock Watson went from being a "person employed in agriculture" per the 1840 census, to being a "shoemaker" per the 1847 birth record of his daughter Wealthy Amena. Shoemaking was taught in the state prison in Windsor, VT, when Braddock was an inmate there.

Living In New York

On November 1, 1850, Braddock Watson and his family were enumerated in that year's census in Niskayuna, Schenectady co., NY, a town 90 miles northwest of Montgomery, MA.

Braddock Watson	57	m		Shoemaker
Walthy	39	F		
Simon	15	m		Stone
Jim	12	m		
Mary	11	F		
Walthy	3	F		
Delania	1	F		

Braddock was still a shoemaker. His family had expanded to include another child, daughter Delania, age 1.

The 1855 NY state census lists Delania Watson's birth place as Onondaga county, NY. Given that Syracuse is located in Onondaga county, this fits with the place mentioned in Olive M. (Watson) Hill's obituary – "daughter of Braddock Watson, of Syracuse, N.Y."

This, of course, tells us that Braddock went to Syracuse, Onondaga co., NY, after leaving Massachusetts. Later, he took his family to live in Niskayuna, in Schenectady county.

A journey from Syracuse to Niskayuna mirrors the route of the Erie Canal. Perhaps Braddock Watson and family traveled via the Erie Canal when they moved from Massachusetts to live in Onondaga and Schenectady counties.

The 1855 NY state census and the 1860 federal census tell us that Braddock's and Wealthy's last child, Helen R. Watson, was born circa 1853 in Schenectady.

Braddock Watson Jr. died before mid-June 1855, when his widow and five of his surviving children were enumerated in the NY state census. They were living in the 4th ward of the city of Schenectady.

Wealthy M. Watson	45	F			Mari
Mary E. Watson	15	F	Ohio		Mass
Walthy L. Watson	7	F	Ohio		Mass
Delany L. Watson	5	F	Ohio		Onondaga Co
Helen R. Watson	2	F	Ohio		Scheney
William B. Watson	17	m	Ohio		New York

Son Amos Watson is not listed in this census with his mother and siblings. By 1855, he would have been 20 years of age, old enough to be on his own. But we don't find him in any census or other records beyond 1850.

We are amused to see daughter Wealthy Amena Watson listed with the middle initial Z. This transition to the other end of the alphabet shows up again in the 1860 census.

Son William B. Watson makes his final appearance in this 1855 census. We have found other men named William B. Watson in later census years; but we cannot identify any one of them as the son of Braddock and Wealthy Watson.

There are two odd things about William B.'s entry in the 1855 census. Not only is he listed last in his mother's household – typically, the sequence was by birth order – but his place of birth is given as New York. Almost certainly William was born in Massachusetts, just like his younger sisters Mary and Wealthy. William's 1855 census listing reads like a careless afterthought.

We get our final glimpses of the rest of Braddock Watson Jr.'s family in the 1860 census.

By 1860, Wealthy M. Watson and her daughters Mary E., Wealthy Z., and Helen R. were all living in the county poor house in Schenectady's fifth ward.

The final column on each census page – “Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict” – gave the condition of each. Mary E. Watson, age 21, was listed as “pauper, sick.” Wealthy Z. Watson, 13, was “pauper, destitute.” On the next page, widow Wealthy M. Watson, 47 years old (she was closer to 50), was listed as “pauper, destitute.” And the youngest Watson child, 6-year-old Helen R., was “pauper, idiot.”

Daughter Delania Watson was the only one not to show up at the poor house. In the 1860 census we find her, at age 10, living in the household of Lewis C. F. and Abbie (Burt) Randolph in Woodbridge Township, Middlesex co., NJ.

Lewis C. F. Randolph	32	Mo			Yarmouth	7000	1000		
Abbie B.	30	F	✓						York
Franklin B.	3	Mo							Sussex
Delania M. Watson	10	F	✓						York

As best we can tell, there was no specific familial connection between the Randolph family and the family of Braddock Watson Jr.

Abbie (Burt) Randolph's father, Daniel Burt, was a native of Longmeadow, MA – a geographic commonality between the Burt and Watson families. Abbie was born in Schenectady; she was living there with her family of origin when the Watsons also lived in Schenectady.

Below: An excerpt from *The Descendants of Edward Fitz Randolph and Elizabeth Blossom 1630-1950*, page 164, naming Lewis C. F. Randolph and his wife Abbie Burt.

860. LEWIS CRAIG⁸ FITZ RANDOLPH (591), born Plainfield, N. J., Sept. 3, 1833; died there Apr. 6, 1918; married Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 31, 1856, ABBIE BURT, b. there Oct. 31, 1827, d. Plainfield, May 6, 1885; dau. of Deacon Daniel and Betsey (Van Patten) Burt.

Children:

- 990. i. FRANKLIN B.,⁹ b. Mar. 2, 1858.
- ii. ALFRED S., b. Feb. 23, 1862; d. Oct. 13, 1862.
- 991. iii. HERBERT L., b. Apr. 19, 1868.

Resources

Many thanks to the people who posted their research regarding Captain Hazard Wilcox, Sr., and his family, online at <https://www.geni.com/people/Captain-Hazard-Wilcox-Sr/6000000014408161950>.

Vermont (State). *State Papers of Vermont*. 6, 6. Bellows Falls: Gobie, 1941. Available in digital, downloadable form at FamilySearch.org: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/431533-sequestration-confiscation-and-sale-of-estates>

Morgan, Christopher, and E. B. O'Callaghan. *The Documentary History of the State of New-York*. Albany: Weed, Parsons, 1851; Vol. 4, page 777. Accessed 25 February 2022 via [Google Books](#).

Bennington Battle Day Pre-Parade Show 2021, video posted at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?extid=SEO----&v=374929044337212>
Hazard Wilcox gets a brief mention at 5:12.

With thanks to Boston genealogist Andrew Pierce; and to Ted Rice, [Town of White Creek, NY, Historian](#).

Rutland Daily Herald (Rutland, VT), 15 June 1897, p. 3; accessed at [Newspapers.com](#) on 4 April 2019.

Vermont Gazette (Bennington, VT), 28 June 1814, p.4; accessed at [Newspapers.com](#) on 22 March 2022.

Vermont Gazette (Bennington, VT), 15 April 1817, p. 4; accessed at [Newspapers.com](#) on 6 April 2019.

The News Herald (Hillsboro, OH), 12 January 1905, p.6; accessed at [Newspapers.com](#) on 17 March 2022.
(Shown at right)

Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester, NY), 28 Nov. 1904, p.4; accessed at [Newspapers.com](#) on 17 March 2022.

Journals of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, At their Session Begun and Held in the County of Washington, on Thursday the Twelfth of October, A.D. 1815; Windsor, VT; pg. 200. Digitized by Google; original from New York Public Library. Accessed on 1 September 2021, online at the HathiTrust Digital Library:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433011265018&view=1up&seq=209&skin=2021>

Info on Braddock Watson Jr.'s imprisonment and pardon was obtained from:

“Record of Convicts Admitted to the State Prison in Windsor, Vermont,” by Robert H. Rodgers; *Vermont Genealogy*. Braintree, VT: Genealogical Society of Vermont, Vol. 8 (2003), page 70. (Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society.)
<https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/vermont-genealogy/RecordDisplay?volumeId=58600&pageName=70&rId=1427632674> (a subscription/membership is required to see this record)

WOMAN REACHES GREAT AGE

Mrs. Sarah Watson Andrews, Aged 102 Years, the Oldest Living Daughter of the Revolution.

Silver Springs, N. Y.—Mrs. Sarah Watson Andrews, of this place, recently celebrated the one hundred and second anniversary of her birth. She has lived with her daughter, Mrs. Jane Walker, at the Walker house, since 1893.

Sarah Watson was born in 1802, in the town of Bennington, Vt. Her grandfather, Jonathan Stratton, was a soldier of '76 and her father fought in the war of 1812. She is a descendant of the Puritan colonists of New England, and is today the oldest Daughter of the American Revolution in the United States.

Mrs. Andrews has lived in the lifetime of all the presidents of the United States, except George Washington, whose death occurred three years before her birth.

She was married November 21, 1830, to Jasper Andrews, of Groton, at Darien. In 1892 the family removed to Machias, Cattaraugus county, and again in 1861 moved to Oramel, Allegheny county. Here her husband died in the month which has always played an important part in Mrs. Andrews' personal and family history, on November 29, 1893, at the age of 88 years.

A few months later Mrs. Andrews took up her residence with her daughter at Silver Springs. Seven children were born to the couple, of whom three died young. Two are living, Mrs. Walker, who was born at Darien, September 10, 1831, and Horatio Andrews, of Leslie, Mich., who was born at Machias, March 20, 1833.

Olive Maria (Watson) Hill's birth date was calculated using the Tombstone Birthday Calculator at <http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/birthday.html>

Elisha Edmund Watson's 1844 death record – “Massachusetts State Vital Records, 1841-1920,” database with images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N7BC-745>: 10 November 2022).

Wealthy Amena Watson's 1847 birth record – [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Original data: Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840–1911. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts. Massachusetts Vital Records, 1911–1915. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

George W. Hill's online memorial at Find A Grave:
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114743761/george-w-hill>

Christian Louise Aymar and Howard Stelle Fitz Randolph. 1955. *The Descendants of Edward Fitz Randolph and Elizabeth Blossom 1630-1950. Supplement*. Printed by Edwards Bros. Ann Arbor. Page images accessed at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) on 15 January 2023.