

B Duxbury Clipper

SPORTS • CALENDAR • CLASSIFIEDS

Section B • Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Duxbury's Early Settlers: Job Cole

Job Cole (pronounced "Jobe," as in the Bible, not "job" as in work) was granted a "parcel of land on the Duxborrow side" on June 4, 1638. In keeping with the Plymouth Colony Second Division in which each person received 20 acres, the grant

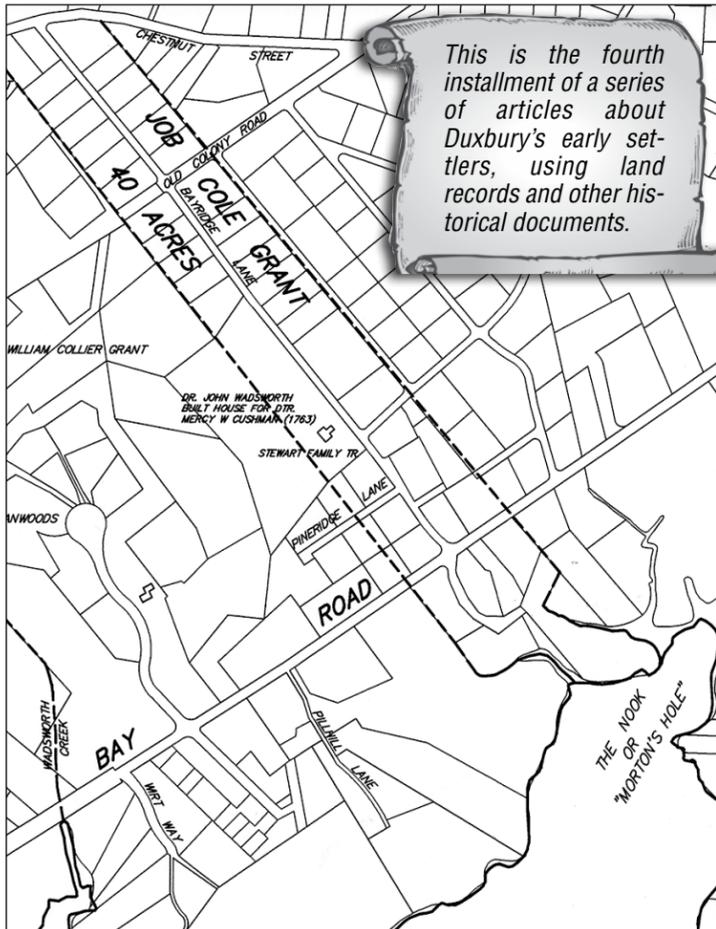


BY LAMONT "MONTY" HEALY

consisted of about 40 acres as he had recently married Rebecca Collier, daughter of William Collier. William Collier was Job's father-in-law, his neighbor to the immediate west, and his "boss," since he was considered "one of Mr. Collier's men."

Job's grant comprised the property on both sides of what is now Bayridge Lane from Chestnut Street to Morton's Hole on Kingston Bay. Whether he actually settled on this property is subject to conjecture. His name shows up in the 1639 list of freemen, and the name is crossed out in the Duxbury section and is added to the Yarmouth section. Freemen were men who were not indentured workers or servants.

If Job and Rebecca did live on the property, it was only for a short time (1638-1639). They may have lived with Mr. Collier for a period of time since they were married on May 15, 1634. Job and Rebecca moved to Eastham sometime between 1644 and 1648; Job was appointed constable in Eastham in 1648. It should be noted here that Eastham was called Nauset ("Naussit") and was comprised of the towns of



Eastham, Truro, Wellfleet and Orleans until the latter three towns split off in the 1700s. For a time Eastham was seriously considered as the colony seat.

Job and Rebecca had two children: Daniel, who was born around 1650, and Rebecca, who was born in August of 1654. Rebecca grew up to marry Robert Nickerson.

There is an entry at the Plymouth Court in June of 1672: "Daniel Cole, son of Job Cole, for cursing, fined 10s (shillings)." There were several Daniel Coles in Eastham, including this son of Job and his cousin, the son of Daniel, brother of Job. Both Daniels had wives named Mercy, one

identified as Mercy Freeman, daughter of Samuel, and the other as Mercy Fuller, daughter of Samuel. Which Mercy married which Daniel remains to be proved – a genealogist's nightmare!

Job held onto his property in Duxbury until August 13, 1651, when he sold it to Christopher Wadsworth. Christopher, the progenitor of the Wadsworth name in Duxbury, often signed his name as "X"opher. We believe this was out of reverence for the "Christ" part of his name and symbolic of the cross.

When Job sold his property to Christopher Wadsworth in 1651 it was described as "a house and land lying against

Morton's Hole with meadow and fencing." Christopher, who died in 1677, left the property to his son Deacon John Wadsworth.

Deacon John died on May 15, 1700 and left "to eldest son, John, tract of land my father purchased of Job Cole." This son, another John, and also a deacon leads to some confusion in the Wadsworth genealogy. Both Deacon Johns were "coasters" who would sail from their property (on Wadsworth Creek) with produce and cord wood to Boston markets, a venture that proved to be quite successful. When the second Deacon John died on May 3, 1750 the surviving children deeded the property to the eldest son Dr. John Wadsworth.

Dr. John married Mary Alden in 1734 and they had four children: Mercy (1736), John (1739), Salumith (1742) and Sarah (1744). Their son John went to Harvard, became a professor and was, to be kind, considered eccentric. He was a Tory to his dying day and died unmarried in 1777. Salumith married Ezra Weston (the wealthiest man in town) in 1770, and Sarah married John Neal in 1774.

Dr. John built a house for his eldest daughter Mercy in 1763 when she married Joshua Cushman. It would seem that Dr. John lived in his own house until around 1774 and then moved in with Mercy and her husband. He deeded half of the property to his son-in-law in 1774 and the other half in 1797. Sometime in this period the property became 35 acres. Possibly Dr. John sold the part of the property that

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The world meets Duxbury at the Senior Center

BY BRUCE BARRETT, CLIPPER COLUMNIST
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Last week I danced for a stranger on a New York subway car. This week I'm back to explain myself: Like Merlyn in T.H. White's "The Once and Future King," I'm convinced that I'm going backwards in time. I remember the future, but yesterday is a blank, a fog. I can guess at what might have happened, if today unfolds as I expect it will, but you never know until it happened. Thank goodness I seldom



pretend to be a reporter, although taking notes can help a little.

Happily, I'm not losing ground. I've never had much idea of what I've done. When I read White's classic in college, I knew that I had found

a kindred spirit. Merlyn's baffled brilliance is just my cup of tea. I'm finding that age, grayness, and even the occasional ache are not shutting down my life. They are splitting it wide open. I loved White's vision when I was nineteen, and I'm finally getting the breadth and depth that it takes to live it out.

Which brings me to the Duxbury Senior Center. Over the past ten years or so, I've seen a striking change down at the Center – everyone has

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The world meets Duxbury

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gotten younger, more interesting, and better looking. Ten or more years ago, older folks seemed slower. Now they walk as fast as I do. They all had more grandchildren than I did. Now, they have about the same. They had more canes. Now I have two – one for around the house, and one to impress young women, a splendid Chinese confection my wife bought for me in Montreal.

Most old men won't tell you about the flurry of young women's attention that a cane attracts. The trick is to try to do everything for yourself – doors, cafeteria trays, everything. Whiny, crabby, and needy are no more attractive in an old goat than they are in a young man. Lean on the cane with an element of dignity, and I promise you, the girls will swoon with concern.

I haven't tried it yet at Lesley University, where I've gone back to graduate school. It seems an odd project for a man of 60, but Merlyn would approve. My first year is nearly finished, and I've done very well. Ten years ago, I would have thought it a ridiculous project. Now, returning to my original career seems most natural.

If that seems too big a lurch for you – and the older people around you are getting speedier than they used to be – check out something closer to home. At 10 Mayflower St. (by the Transfer Station), the Duxbury Senior Center has a wealth of opportunities for expanding your life. Fitness is a great start. Tai Chi and Yoga – both organized for smarter, trickier (older) bodies – offer physical and mental benefits that are all the rage in counseling programs. Hard science has caught up. They can now take pictures (called functional MRIs) of the neurological benefits of Yoga and Tai Chi, including improved reasoning, emotional balance, and integration of functions in wide-ranging areas that might seem completely unrelated. In addition, regular-style fitness classes and weight training are offered at the Center five days a week.

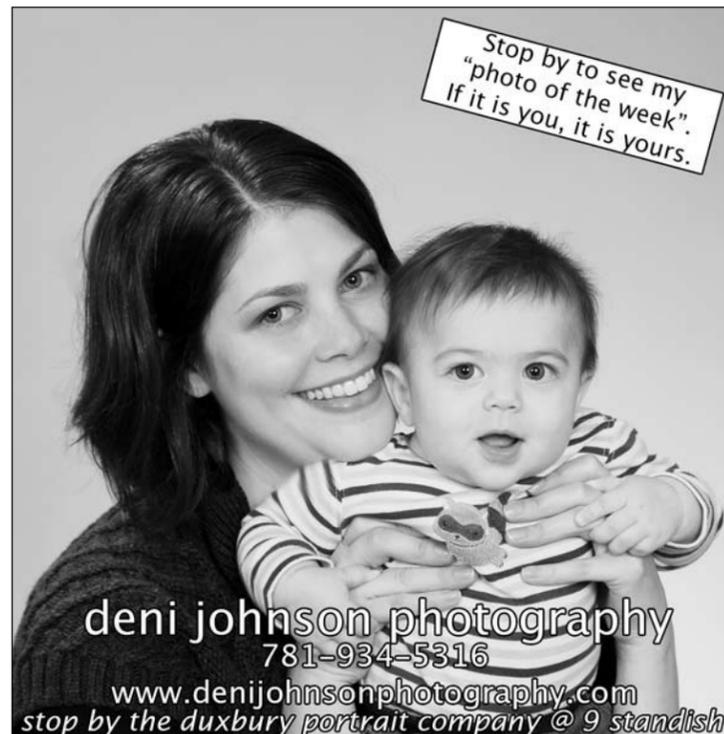
How about conversational French? They've got it. Can you imagine how different a trip to Montreal, Quebec City, or France would be if you didn't feel the need to force everyone to bump along with you in English? Even if you stay at home (or at the Center) you'll get more out of those hot foreign films – yup, they've got those, too.

Lunches are served Monday through Thursday for \$5, \$6 for non-elders. It'll give some of you a chance to practice your cane skills before you try them out in a regular restaurant. Don't expect any swooning at the Center. The girls there are too cagey to fall for that one.

Whatever you do, go there intending to remember the future, like Merlyn and me, where your dreams rest until you need them again. You, too, might get a chance to tap dance on a subway car. Oh, yeah. They've got tap and jazz dancing, too.

Sailing team plant and yard sale

The Duxbury High School Sailing team is holding a yard sale on Saturday, May 1, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Duxbury Bay Maritime School located at 457 Washington St. Rain or shine. This is a fundraiser for the DHS Sailing Team. To donate items in good saleable condition (no clothing), drop them off at DBMS on Friday April 30, from 6-8 p.m., or a team member will pick them up. Call Sally Austin-Runci 781-585-2205, or e-mail sarunci@comcast.net or Lisa Keohan at 781-934-7498 to arrange a pick up. Shoppers will find everything from household items, toys, furniture, a piano, coffee tables, a kayak and a variety of plants for your garden.



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Early settlers: Job Cole

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was his former homestead. He died on March 26, 1799 at the age of 92.

Joshua Cushman deeded the property to his and Mercy's surviving two sons Ezra and Charlemain (two sons died early and two daughters survived). Ezra married Sarah Bradford, daughter of Seth, in November of 1798. Charlemain moved to Portland, Maine, so Ezra and Sarah (Bradford) Cushman were the next owners of the property.

The Cushmans had two sons, John Wadsworth Cushman and Julius Bradford Cushman, who died in childhood. They also must have had a daughter who married a Bartlett because there were granddaughters named Bartlett mentioned in Ezra's estate. Ezra left the property to son John W. Cushman.

The next owner of the property was Sarah B. Cushman (b. 1841), one of John W. Cushman's three daughters, and her husband George F. Ryder, who acquired the property in 1866.

They had one daughter Catherine Isabella Ryder who was born in 1878. This woman had an exceptional ancestry, for not only was she a Ryder and a Cushman, but she was also a Wadsworth, an Alden and a Bradford. She inherited the property, at this time consisting of 11 acres, much of the rest of the 40 acres being sold off in harder times.

Catherine I. Ryder, who owned part of the property that contained the house built in 1763 by Dr. John Wadsworth, married Robert H. Stewart and they had two sons: Robert Bradford (b. 1913) and Vernon Wadsworth (b. 1915), a daughter Mary Allerton (b. 1917) and a daughter who died in infancy.

Husband Robert and second son Vernon were "jacks of all trades" and Vernon was about the only welder in town in the mid 1900s.

None of the Stewart children had any children themselves. Together the Stewarts formed the Stewart Family Trust and deeded the house

that Dr. John Wadsworth built for his daughter Mercy in 1763 along with the 11 acres that Catherine Isabella inherited from her parents, to the trust. The trust prohibits subdivision and additional building on the property. The building is one of the few houses in town that has not had additions and improvements, stands substantially as it did in 1763, and is ably maintained by Joseph Maher, a trustee from across the street.

As for the rest of the property it seems to have been divided into several parcels beginning in 1866 with the George F. Ryder ownership (mentioned above) then passed through the Cushings, Allens, Giffords, Goodwins, Littles, then to Frederick B. Knapp and wife Lucia B., who sold the property in the 1920s and early 1930s to John Marshall. John Marshall divided the property into smaller lots, which today are individually owned lots on Bayridge Lane.

Youth LAX clinic

Players wanted for a youth lacrosse clinic to take place Friday, May 7. The clinic will be held from 6-8 p.m. under the lights at the new turf field, and is open to students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Cost is \$25 per child. If there are two kids from the same family, price is \$40 for two. Come on out and practice with the varsity team on the turf. The clinic will include skill stations, drills and instruction from the Duxbury varsity players and coaches.

Other fun activities planned for this year: Boston Cannon Players will be on hand with a radar gun to test the speed of a player's shot. There will also be a big inflatable target and a chance to enter the raffle to win tickets to the Cannons All Star Game and a tour of their locker room.

Registration opens at 5:30 p.m. on May 7. Brought to you by Duxbury Lacrosse Boosters.

Girls LAX clinic

There will be a girls lacrosse clinic for grades 3-8 on Friday, May 7, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the turf field behind Duxbury High School. Girls will be grouped by grade. Cost is \$30. Sign up online at duxburylacrosse.org or at the field. Call Tracey Burke at 781-934-6724 with any questions.

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately..."

-Henry David Thoreau

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