

KENT L. MEYERS

September 16, 1993

Mrs. Carolyn Cell Choppin

Dear Mrs. Choppin,

I am a great great grandson of James Henry Martineau. In getting myself started on my genealogy, I obtained information from the LDS Ancestral File, including your submission. I am writing to see if you have any source information on Lucy Rockwell, wife of John Mears, listed in your submission as a daughter of James Rockwell and Abigail Loomis. Following is what I have found.

- o In "The Loomis Family in America" by Elias Loomis and in Stiles' "History of Ancient Windsor" there is no mention of a Lucy, daughter of James Rockwell and Abigail Loomis.
- o I have found birth records in the old Windsor Vital Records for all of the children of James and Abigail, but no Lucy is among them. All of the children were born in Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut (actually in what is now East Windsor, but it was all part of Windsor at the time).
- o The will of James Rockwell dated February 1770 (Lucy was still living) and probated in Hartford in 1776 lists all living children, but no Lucy.
- o The only reference to Lucy in the Windsor Vital Records is her marriage to John Mears. There appears to have been another given name written first, partially erased, and Lucy written over it.
- o A well-researched document by Theoda Mears Morse, "Descendants of Robert Meares of Boston, Mass." at the New England Historical Society in Boston lists the wife of John Mears as Lucy or Lydia Rockwell. She cites only family records for her parents being James Rockwell and Abigail Loomis.
- o A Lydia Rockwell, daughter of Daniel Rockwell and Elizabeth Loomis, was born in 1740 in Windsor. I am beginning research to find out what I can about her.

My speculation is, absent hard documentation to the contrary, that family tradition had it that Lucy was from Sharon, CT, the daughter of a Rockwell and a Loomis. Someone may have jumped to a conclusion when they found James Rockwell and Abigail Loomis with a nine year gap between children about the time when Lucy or Lydia would have been born. However, James Rockwell does not appear to have ever lived in Sharon, having spent all of his time in Windsor and there do not appear to be any Rockwell's in Sharon at the time Lucy would have been born. (John Mears apparently lived in Windsor, then moved to Sharon a few years after his marriage.) There is thus the possibility that Daniel Rockwell may be her father and that her given name at birth was Lydia.

Any light you can shed on this situation would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kent L. Meyers