

Deed information and previously published information of our earliest settlers and Loyalists, as well as genealogical references:
-Each update I will supply information that has been researched through the Municipality one area at a time.

BRIER ISLAND

Rice and Welch.

Brier Island:

The first deed ever recorded (Weymouth Registry) on Brier Island was a deed from Thomas Huggefurd to Judah Rice. Deed 1/63. Huggefurd probably never lived on Brier Island. We know Judah Rice did live here. The description of this lot stated that it bounded on the north as the fence runs across the land formerly the property of Joshua Welch, on the south by the land formerly the property of Conway, containing 100 acres.

JUDAH RICE:

-First suggestion to look for information on Judah Rice and the Rice family would be at the website compiled by George King: www.widowmaker.com/~gwk/

We will find info on the Brier Island Rice's under the descendant's of Beriah Rice, where we find the following.

Beriah^l Rice; born 20 August 1702 at Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA; married Mary Goodenow, daughter of Samuel Goodenow Jr and Sarah Brigham, 6 January 1730/31 at Westborough, Worcester Co, MA; died before 27 June 1764. Beriah Rice's will and probate record have names that were not known in Annapolis, Nova Scotia in 1764. Your author speculates that Beriah may have been visiting son Stephen or Benjamin in Massachusetts when his will was written and at the time of his death.

Judge Savary presents the List of Names of Confirmation of the Township of Annapolis, dated October 30th, 1765. Both Beriah and Beriah, Junr are listed. Paul Haseltine is also listed although we have good evidence that by late 1765 Paul was founding a new town in what is now the state

of Vermont. We may assume that the town fathers padded the list of names as Beriah Sr was dead and Paul Heseltine was living in Vermont by that time.

He resided on 25 June 1760 at Annapolis Royal, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia. He left Boston on the Charming Molly, May 17th, 1760 and arrived in Annapolis Royal on June 25th, 1760. He had with him two oxen and two cows.

Mary Goodenow was born on 5 April 1712 at Marlboro, Middlesex Co, MA. She died after June 1763 although we have no record of Mary's death or her living in Nova Scotia, her husband Beriah Rice left her one half interest in his farm and dwelling on the east side of Bloody Bridge Creek in the Township of Annapolis, Nova Scotia. Your author considers it quite certain that Mary lived at Annapolis Royal after 1760 and died after Beriah's will was recorded, 27 June 1764.

Known children of Beriah¹ Rice and Mary Goodenow were as follows:

- 2 i. [Judah² Rice](#), born 3 December 1731 at Westborough, Worcester Co, MA; married Sarah Kelly.

Judah² Rice ([Beriah¹](#)); born 3 December 1731 at Westborough, Worcester Co, MA; married Sarah Kelly 1 December 1758 at Upton, Worcester Co, MA; died circa 1801 at Westport, Digby Co, Nova Scotia.

He was also known as Jude Rice. He and Sarah Kelly lived circa 1765 at Stony Beach, Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia.

Sarah Kelly was born in 1735 at Leominster, Worcester Co, MA. She died on 11 September 1828 at Nova Scotia.

Known children of Judah² Rice and Sarah Kelly were as follows:

- 9 i. [Anna³ Rice](#), born 8 July 1759 at Massachusetts; married James McDormand.
- 10 ii. [Simeon Rice](#), born 4 June 1761 at Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married Nancy Burton.
- iii. Azubah Rice; born 15 April 1763 at Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married Samuel Buckman.
- iv. Molle Rice; born 25 December 1764 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia.
- 11 v. [Stephen Rice](#), born circa 1765; married Jane DeWolfe.
- 12 vi. [William Pickett Rice](#), born 5 August 1766 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia;

married Eunice Prentice.

- 13 vii. [Moses Rice](#), born 7 June 1768 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married Hannah Morse.
- viii. Aaron Rice; born 14 March 1770 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married (--?--) Aymar. The Rice Gen'l Register and Brian McDormand says: died unmarried in the West Indies.
- 14 ix. [Letetia Rice](#), born 13 May 1772 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married William Martin Johnson.
- x. Mary Rice; born 1774 at Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; the Granville Town Book lists no Mary Rice as daughter of Judah and Sarah Rice. Is this Molle Rice?; married Benjamin Berry.
- xi. John Martin Rice; born 13 July 1776 at Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married 1st Sarah Hicks, daughter of Thomas Hicks, before 1814; no children; married 2nd Susan Hicks, daughter of Thomas Hicks, between 1814 and 1826 at Digby Co, Nova Scotia; no children; died 5 August 1859 at Westport, Digby Co, Nova Scotia; at age 87 years, of which 74 years was spent at Briar Island; buried at Hilltop Cemetery, Westport, Digby Co, Nova Scotia.
- 15 xii. [Sarah Rice](#), born 4 September 1778 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married William Martin Johnson.
- xiii. Lucy Rice; born 14 August 1781 at Granville, Annapolis Co, Nova Scotia; married Francis Ogilby.

-Although the Rice name has left Brier Island many descendants of Judah Rice still exist there. Anybody descended from Judah Rice can join the Edmund Rice Association, Inc.

Who was Edmund Rice?

[\(Return to ERA main page\)](#)

Edmund Rice arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony about 1638. Our first record of his presence is in Township Book of the Town of Sudbury in the year 1639. Regrettably, no ship's passenger list has survived and we have no record of Edmund Rice and his family before 1639 so we can not be certain when or where he and his family arrived in the New World.

Knowing the names of Edmund Rice's children at Sudbury, family historians have traced his family back to England using church baptismal records for his children and, eventually, to his marriage to Thomasine Frost on 15 October 1618 at Bury St. Edmunds. However, we have found no record of his baptism or any other record that names his parents. Read more about the search for [Edmund Rice's ancestry](#) on another of these pages.

As yeomen farmers Edmund Rice and the other early settlers at Sudbury were well prepared

for the tasks of forming and governing a new community. As yeomen they had assumed both personal and community responsibilities back in England. As Protestant churchmen they had been encouraged to read and write so that they could study and understand their Bible. Although not of the noble class, they had shared many community and church responsibilities in their former communities in England.

Edmund Rice was one of the prominent leaders of his community at both Sudbury and Marlborough. In his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Puritan Village, The formation of a New England Town*, Sumner Chilton Powell sums up the high regard that his fellow citizens had for Edmund: "Not only did Rice become the largest individual landholder in Sudbury, but he represented his new town in the Massachusetts legislature for five years and devoted at least eleven of his last fifteen years to serving as selectman and judge of small causes." and "Two generations of Sudbury men selected Edmund Rice repeatedly as one of their leaders, with the full realization that they were ignoring men of far more English government experience who had come with him." If your ancestry goes back to Sudbury, be sure to read Powell's superb account of the development of this New England town in the mid 17th century.

Although much respected by his fellow townsmen, Edmund seems to have had an independent side to his nature. In 1656 Edmund Rice and others petitioned the Massachusetts General Court for a new town which became the City of Marlborough. Edmund moved his immediate family and was elected a Selectman at Marlborough in 1657. Later generations of Rices were founding members of many new communities, first in New England and Nova Scotia, and later across the United States and Canada.

Like many early New England families, Edmund Rice's family was a very large one. Of his twelve children, ten survived to have children of their own. Edmund Rice's descendants through his great great grandchildren number nearly 1,450. This pattern of large families seems to have continued well into the 19th century. The result is that many living people can trace their ancestry to Edmund Rice.

[\(Return to ERA main page\)](#)

Anyone looking for more information on the Rice family should go to this site:

<http://scorpius.spaceports.com/~hewitt74/edmundrice.html>

As can be seen on the following website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nsdigby/cemeterys/westhil2.htm>

these grave markers are found at the Hilltop

Cemetery on Brier Island.

Handley G **Rice** 1815- 1866

Mary Ann (**Bailey**) Rice 1820- 1891

John M **Rice** Aug 5, 1859 87 years old

Wife: Susan Rice June 15, 1874 86 years old

Joseph Peter Rice Tilston T **Rice** Feb 2, 1825-
Mar 2, 1854

Wife: Hannah D Rice May 24, 1832- Oct 23, 1915

Emily H **Leonard** Feb 8, 1834- Nov 20, 1927

JOSHUA WELCH:

Nothing is known of this elusive Welch. It has always been stated that David Welch was the first Welch on Brier Island but records indicate that Joshua was here and gone by 1788.

The following is taken from <http://www.westerncounties.ca/isaiah/bi.html>

Brier Island, four miles long, one and one-half wide, is the westernmost land belonging to Nova Scotia. Thickly settled, finely adorned, enterprising and picturesque, Westport is one of the foremost fishing stations on the western coast.

Isaiah W. Wilson. Geography and History of the County of Digby. Cha.1, p.10.

Brier Island was visited by Fishermen at an early period. David Welch, Senior, a native of Maine, United States, set out on a voyage to this island in spring of 1769, as a fishing Post. He was accompanied by Mrs. Welch and children. They were afterwards joined by Robert Morrell, also born in Maine, but a resident of Sissibou just previously. Finding fish plentiful, affording ample means of subsistence, they remained, becoming pioneers; and lived almost unknown to other sections of the county until arrival of Loyalists in 1783. They owned vessels, in which they captured produce of the deep. These were carried to

the older colonies and sold. Provisions were brought there, and freighted the crafts on their homeward journey. They lived in log houses, built near the shore, and thoroughly corked with moss. Limited parcels of land were also tilled by aid of the fish and refuse, which raised splendid crops of potatoes and other vegetables. They, however, failed to procure the Grants at this time, and were unknown and unprotected by Government. After the Tories came, all improved lands were secured to their occupants by the King's Letters Patent.

Isaiah W. Wilson. Geography and History of the County of Digby. Cha.4, p.38.

It is stated at

<http://rmeservy.byu.edu/cgi-win/pafweb.exe/CGI?Brobergp~737>

that a Joshua Welch was born in Connecticut in 1715 and later died at King's County, Nova Scotia. No connection seems to be made between Joshua and David Welch other than the fact that they were presumed to both be pre-loyalists of Brier Island.

Genealogist Rob McDormand has the following website on the Welch family:

<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=phillipwelch&id=I04017>