

Genealogy - about Hannah Emerson Dustin

Mom said we were descended from Hannah Dustin. Who was she? Are the stories about her true? And were we really descended from her?

erica, Family Histories, 1500-2000 for Nathaniel

Hodge Genealogy from the first of the name in this country to the present time : w

CAPTURE OF HANNAH DUSTIN.

THOMAS DUSTIN (of Haverhill, Mass.).

Son of Thomas Dustin, Sr.; married, Dec. 3, 1677, HANNAH EMERSON, b. Dec. 23, 1657, eldest of fifteen children of Michael and Hannah (Webster) Emerson. In 1697 the Dustins were living in Haverhill, Mass.

Twelve children had been born to them; one born later:

1. HANNAH DUSTIN, b. Aug. 22, 1679.
2. ELIZABETH DUSTIN, b. May 7, 1680.
3. MARY DUSTIN, b. Nov. 4, 1681; d. Oct. 18, 1696.
4. THOMAS DUSTIN, b. Jan. 5, 1683.
5. NATHANIEL DUSTIN, b. May 16, 1685.
6. JOHN DUSTIN, b. Feb. 2, 1686; d. Jan. 28, 1690.
7. SARAH DUSTIN, b. July 4, 1688.
8. ABIGAIL DUSTIN, b. Oct., 1690.
9. JONATHAN DUSTIN, b. Jan. 15, 1692.
10. TIMOTHY DUSTIN, b. Sept. 14, 1694.
11. MEHITABLE DUSTIN, b. Sept. 14, 1694; d. Dec. 16, 1694.
12. MARTHA DUSTIN, b. March 9, 1697; killed by Indians March 15, 1697.
13. LYDIA DUSTIN, b. Oct. 4, 1698.

March 15, 1697, about twenty Indians appeared at Haverhill, burned a number of buildings, and killed or made captive thirty-nine of the inhabitants. Among the captives were Mrs. Hannah Dustin and Mrs. Mary Neff, a widow, who was serving as a nurse in the Dustin family, a child having been born to Mrs. Dustin six days before. Mrs. Neff attempted to escape with the babe, but was overtaken, the child snatched from her arms and its brains knocked out against a tree. Mrs. Dustin was compelled to leave her bed and accompany the savages. Mr. Dustin

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HODGE FAMILY.

hastened away with his children and with his rifle kept the Indians at bay until they escaped to a place of safety. Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Neff, on the day of their capture, were obliged to travel some ten miles. They were ultimately taken to an island in the Merrimac river above Concord, N.H., one hundred and fifty miles north from Haverhill.

The Indian family that laid claim to them, and which had separated from others of the party, consisted of twelve persons -- two full-grown men, three women, and seven younger persons.

The Indians had with them another captive, a young man about seventeen years of age, who had been with the Indians nearly a year, and had learned something of their language.

Mrs. Dustin learned, through this boy, that when they reached an Indian village she and Mrs. Neff would be stripped and made to run the gauntlet; that is, made to run between two files of Indians, while each Indian would have the privilege of striking them with some instrument of torture. On the 31st of March, just before the break of day, the three captives, having armed themselves with hatchets, attacked the Indians as they lay sleeping. Mrs. Dustin quickly dispatched the chief of the party, while the captive boy killed the other man, who a short time previous had instructed him just where to strike a person to kill him quickest. One of the women left for dead survived, and a small boy ran away to the woods. The other ten Indians were killed and scalped. It is said Mrs. Ruth Carter Rowell, of Bath, Vt., has the cloth in which Mrs. Dustin wrapped these scalps. All of the canoes but one were now scuttled and sunk. In the one canoe left, some provisions and the ten scalps were placed. In it the three captives

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HISTORICAL INCIDENTS.

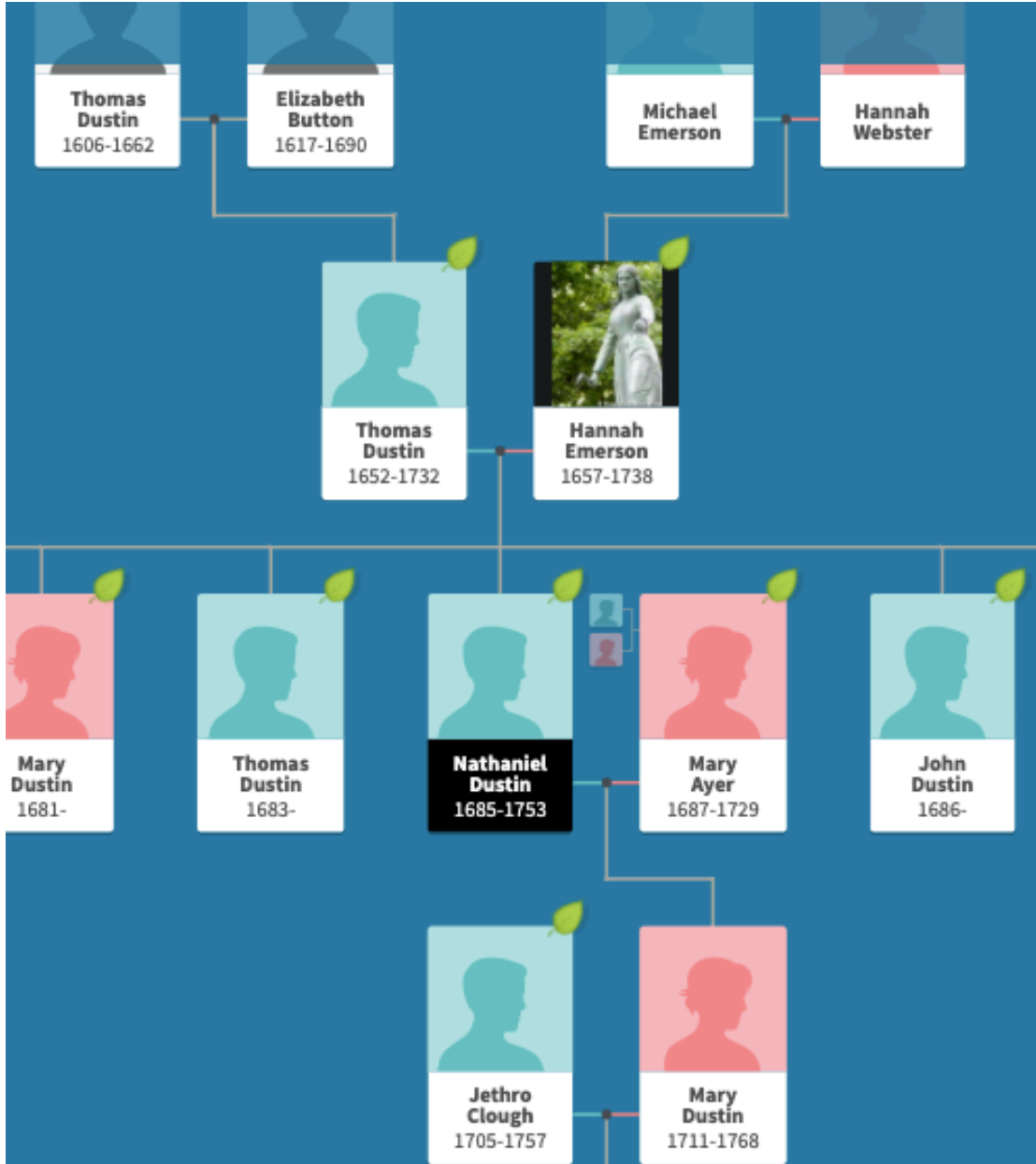
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made their escape down the river, and after much suffering and hardship finally reached Haverhill. A stone monument, consisting of a life-size statue of Mrs. Dustin, raised some eight feet, now marks the spot where the Dustin house was burned. Samuel Hodge, born Oct. 4, 1686 (No. 12), had for wife "Sarah," and a traditionary claim has been made that she was Sarah Dustin, born July 4, 1688, daughter of Hannah Dustin, but no record has been found to warrant such a conclusion. At a later date, however, the Dustin and Hodge families became allied by marriage. (See Hodge family, Nos. 108 and 207.)

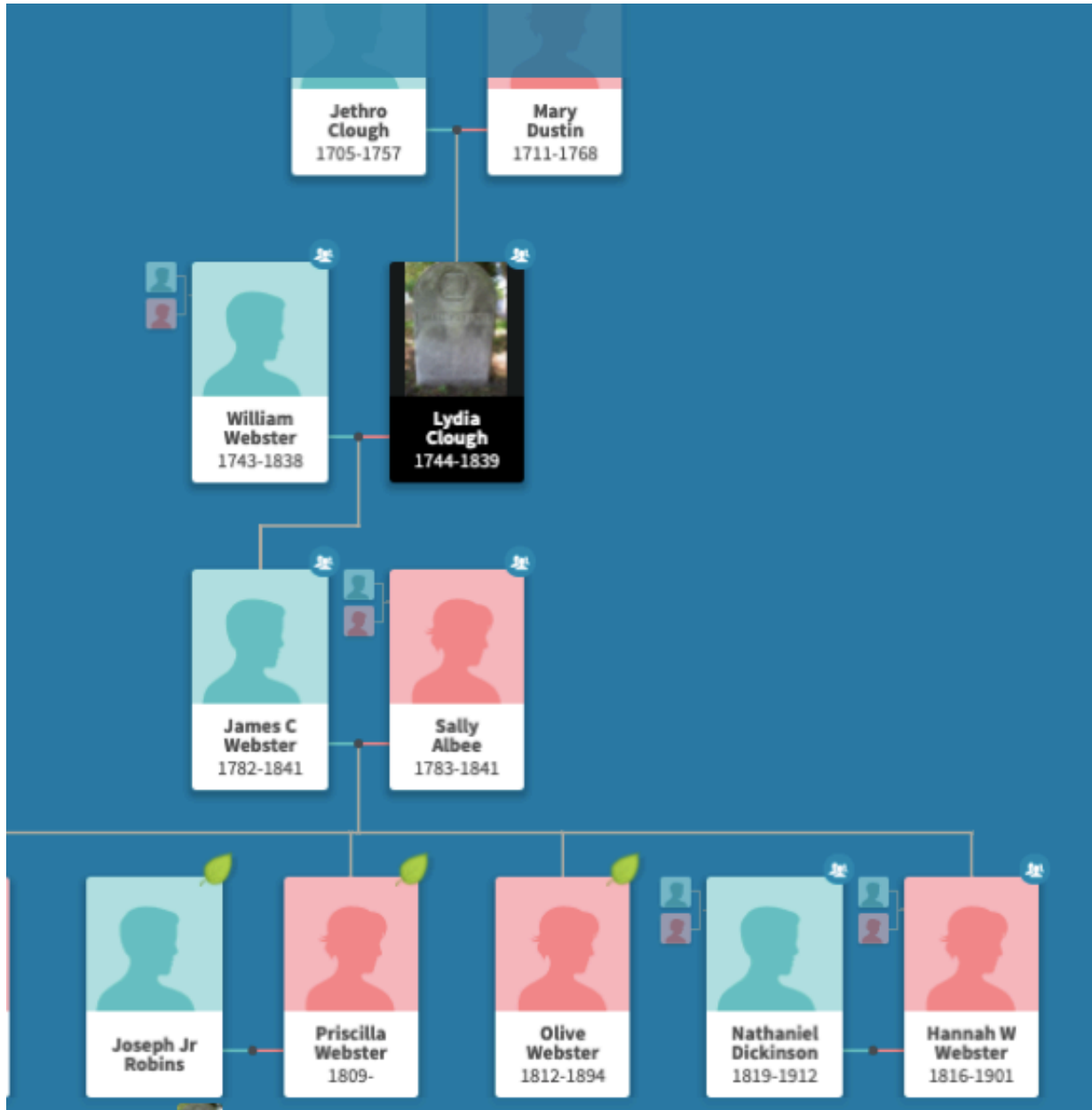
There was also a good article in the *Smithsonian Magazine* about this story: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/gruesome-story-hannah-duston-american-colonist-whose-slaying-indians-made-her-folk-hero-180968721/>

So were we really descended from her? Here's a tree of some of Hannah's many descendents

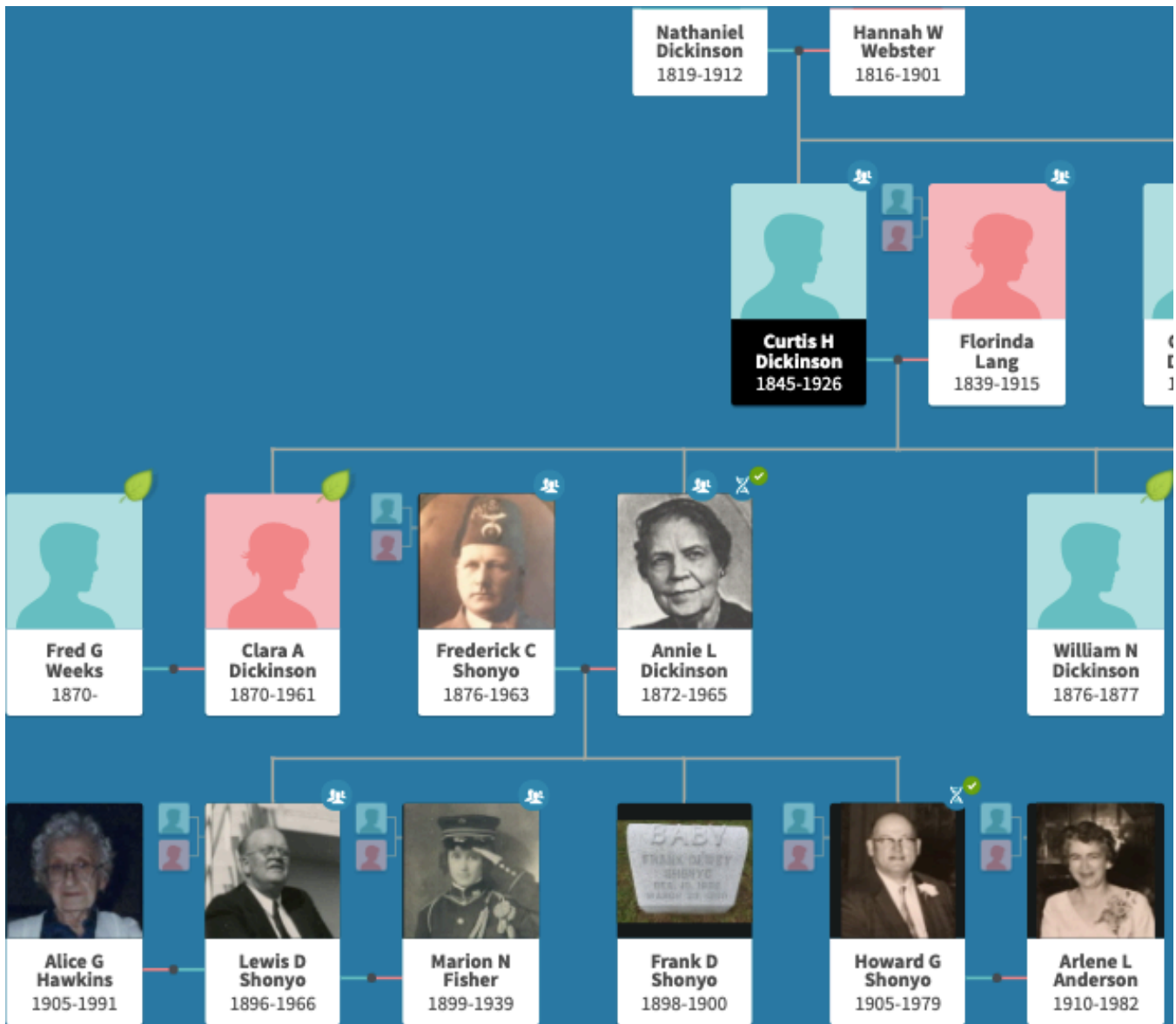
Hannah Emerson married Thomas Dustin in 1677, and had 13 children. Their son Nathaniel married Mary Ayer. Nathaniel's daughter Mary married Jethro Clough



One of Jethro & Mary's children, Lydia, married William Webster. One of William and Lydia's children was James Webster, who married Sally Albee. One of James & Sally's daughters was named Hannah, and Hannah married Nathaniel Dickinson.



One of Nathaniel and Hannah's children, Curtis, married Florinda Lang. One of their daughters, Annie Laurie, married Frederick Shonyo.



So, yes, my family, descendents of Shonyos & Dickinsons, are direct descendents of Hannah Dustin.