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Darius Andrews of Sumner, Maine: An Update

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*This brief essay is an update to "Darius Andrews of Sumner, Maine: A Descent from Henry Andrews of Taunton, Massachusetts," which is available online from the University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository, which see for context.*¹

In September 2022, Maine genealogist Chris Dunham wrote to me to contribute more evidence for the list of Darius Andrews's children, specifically Freeland Q. Andrews and Harriet "Hattie" (Andrews) Demeritt.²

Chris had found the death certificate of Ann A. Shaw, who was born Ann A. Dammon, a daughter of Dolly C. Moore and her first husband Samuel Dammon. Ann was born in Rumford about 1829,³ which was the same year Dolly and Samuel divorced.⁴ This would make Ann a sister to Lorinda Dammon, an earlier child of this marriage, who is untraced and perhaps died young.

Although born "Ann A Dammon," we might question whether Ann was in fact a child of Dolly and Darius. In Samuel's divorce testimony, he sues Dolly for adultery with a man from Plantation No. 2, which was where Darius lived at the time; Dolly may have then been pregnant in order to have given birth to Ann in the same year. As in every age, rules around propriety may have been less rigorous than we expect: Dolly and Samuel's child Lorinda was born in May

¹ Aydelott, Kathrine C., "Darius Andrews of Sumner, Maine: A Descent from Henry Andrews of Taunton, Massachusetts" (2022). *Faculty Publications*. 1393. https://scholars.unh.edu/faculty_pubs/1393.

² Chris Dunham in email to the author dated September 22, 2022. Chris owns and maintains the <https://www.maine-genealogy.net> web portal. I take every opportunity to acknowledge Chris's help, support, and expertise, and I thank him again here for sharing with me relevant documents he finds during his own research.

³ "Maine Vital Records, 1670-1921," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-TYDH-K?i=2857&cc=1803978&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AKCD2-D88> : accessed 23 February 2022), film #4703961, image 2858/4235, death certificate, Ann A Shaw, 20 Aug 1897. Note that Ann's mother's name is listed correctly while her father's name is erroneously listed as "Carence Damon," which is likely either an error of knowledge or hearing; no informant information is provided.

⁴ Maine, Supreme Judicial Court, Oxford, Maine, vol. 1 Sep 1821-May 1836, May Term 1829, pg. 296-97; *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-24038-1286-36?cc=1877829&wc=9XJ8-RM9:174575201%2c174554702%2c175204801> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #5062265, images 299-300, "Sam'l Damon Pet. For Divorce," State Archives, Augusta.

1825⁵ mere weeks after their April 1825 marriage,⁶ and Harriet (Andrews) Demerritt was born in July 1832,⁷ two months before Dolly and Darius's September 1832 marriage.⁸ Were Ann to have been a child of Dolly and Darius, statements in her will regarding her siblings would not be glossing their presumed half-sibling status but would be acknowledging actual full kinship. Of course, the only route to proof here would be through DNA analysis.

Ann's first husband was Humphrey Vosmus,⁹ who lived only a year after their 1854 marriage.¹⁰ Ann was therefore a widow when, as Chris indicated, she was accounted for under the name Ann A. Vosmus on the 1860 US census, in Sumner, Maine, in the household of her mother's third husband, William Allen.¹¹

And here I will confess to the rookie mistake of not having myself turned the census page (or in this case advanced the film image) to find Ann listed in the Allen household on the page *after* the other expected family members had been enumerated. Learn from my mistake and always be thorough: check the next page!

⁵ Town of Buckfield, Maine, "Vital Records, 1803-1898," *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99N7-DXNG?i=54&cat=342523> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #7595320, image 55/475, Offspring of Samuel Dammon and wife: Lorinda born May 12, 1825.

⁶ Town of Sumner, Maine, "Vital Records, 1798-1891," *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS65-WW4S-F?i=100&cat=349876> : accessed 23 February 2023), film # 8006710, image 101/333, Samuel Dammon of Buckfield to Dolly Moore of Sumner, 2 Apr 1825.

⁷ "Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915," *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-68FQ-7Y3?i=188> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #4284118, image 189/2106, Deaths, 1912, Peabody, 178 (stamped), Harriet A Demeritt, 15 Sept 1912.

⁸ Town of Rumford, Maine, "Town and Vital Records, 1802-1892," *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89N4-KSCL?i=57&cat=348181> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #7596438, image 58/439, Darius Andrews to Miss Dolly Dammon, 14 Sept 1832.

⁹ Town of Rumford, Maine, "Town and Vital Records, 1802-1892," *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9N4-KSQQ> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #7596438, image 222/439, intentions between Mr. Humphrey Vosmus of Readfield and Miss Ann A Dammond of Rumford, 15 January 1854.

¹⁰ "Maine, Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780-1980," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVJ5-32MW> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #7586534, image 846/1592, Humphrey Bosmus, 1855; citing Readfield, Kennebec, Maine, United States, Readfield Center Cemetery, Maine State Library, Augusta; FHL microfilm 1,315,033; see also see *FindAGrave*, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/155316005/humphrey-vosmus> : accessed 23 February 2023), memorial no. 155316005, "Humphrey Vosmus."

¹¹ 1860 U.S. census, Oxford County, Maine, pop. sch., Sumner, pg. 39-40 (penned), dwell. 303, fam. 303, NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 444; *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDCQ-6H9> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #5170026, image 11/29, Ann A Vosmus in entry for William Allen.

In looking further into Ann's information, Chris had found her will, dated July 23, 1896,¹² in which she mentions her "beloved" siblings Freeland Q. Andrews and Hattie DeMerritt, whom, in my earlier article, I had worked to establish as Dolly's and Darius's children despite sketchy documentation and various transcription errors.¹³

In naming Freeland Q Andrews and Hattie Demerritt as her siblings, Ann not only affirms Dolly as their mother, providing evidence for why Ann was in the Allen household in 1860, but these pronouncements also add evidence that more deeply establishes especially Hattie's relationship to the family as well.

Ann's will also revealed a broader story.

In August 1866, Ann had married Edward Hawke Shaw as his second wife; she sued him for divorce in January 1888 for cruel and abusive behavior, drunkenness, and for "failure to provide for her maintenance." Ann further asked the court for alimony in the amount of four thousand dollars, and, in an unusual element, three local banks, listed as "Alleged Trustees," were named as co-defendants along with Edward. A jury was empaneled and ruled against her. Ann asked for a new trial and was denied, and, in the end, the divorce was not granted. Edward was charged only to pay Ann sixty dollars as reimbursement for expenses. The banks were "adjudged not to be trustees" and were discharged.¹⁴

In 1896, when Ann writes her will, she bequeaths fifty dollars to the West Auburn Congregational Church, fifty dollars to "the Old Ladies' Home" in Auburn, and to "her beloved husband, Edward H. Shaw, one dollar." The rest of her modest estate she divides among her "beloved brother" Freeland, who Ann names as her executor, his daughters Nellie, Ethel, and Annie; her "beloved sister" Hattie; and nieces Carrie Kimball and Addie Blainey, Harriet's daughters.¹⁵ Therefore, not having had children of her own, Ann gives the majority of her estate to her siblings (whether they be whole or half) and to their children; bequeaths money to the church, to the boarding house where Ann presumably lived apart from her estranged husband, and leaves her "beloved husband" a token bequest of a single greenback.

¹² "Maine, Androscoggin County, Probate Estate Files, 1854-1918," Case no 3997-4056 1896-1897, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9W6-4RH9?i=1173> : accessed 23 February 2023), film # 7147646, image 1174-1175/1282, Ann A. Shaw, July 23, 1896.

¹³ Dolly's and Darius's other daughter, Mercy B. (Andrews) Wing, is not referenced here as Mercy died in 1894 before the time period covered in this update. See Aydelott (2022) for Mercy's information.

¹⁴ Maine, Androscoggin County, Supreme Judicial Court Records, v. 23, Jan 1888-1889, April Term 1888, No. 159, pp. 224-226; *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L93M-3R1X> : accessed 23 February 2023), film #5656897, Images 193-195/624, Ann A Shaw vs. Edward H. Shaw and The Androscoggin County Savings Bank, The Auburn Savings Bank, and The Mechanics Savings Bank.

¹⁵ "Maine, Androscoggin County, Probate Estate Files, 1854-1918," Case no 3997-4056 1896-1897, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9W6-4RH9?i=1173> : accessed 23 February 2023), film # 7147646, images 1174-1176/1282; Ann A. Shaw, "23 July 1896, Androscoggin County Courthouse, Auburn. Note that Ann left no bequests to her other sibling, Mercy B. (Andrews) Wing or to any of Mercy's eight children.

It would be nice to believe that we could read Ann's "beloved" qualifiers used regarding her siblings as genuine, and her bequests lend evidence that we can. But she uses the same qualifier for "her beloved husband," to whom she only leaves one dollar. And as Chris Dunham pointed out, Edward H. Shaw, upon Ann's demise, "declined his wife's measly \$1 bequest and requested a larger share of the estate."¹⁶ The final accounting shows that he received \$328.70, decreasing Ann's preferred bequests to other family members.¹⁷

Ann A. (Dammon)(Vosmus) Shaw died on 20 August 1897 and is buried next to her first husband, Humphrey Vosmus, in Readfield, Kennebec County, Maine.¹⁸

Nevertheless, and in spite of the drama, Ann's familial acknowledgements, including bequests to her siblings and their children, provide further confirmation of Dolly and Darius Andrews's children and further establish the timelines and relationships among the now extended Dammon/Andrews family.

¹⁶ Chris Dunham in email to the author dated September 28, 2022.

¹⁷ "Maine, Androscoggin County, Probate Estate Files, 1854-1918," Case no 3997-4056 1896-1897, (Book 5, Page 26); *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9W6-4RQ2?i=1196&cc=2037995> : accessed 23 February 2023), film # 7147646, images 1194-1197/1282; Ann A. Shaw's Executors Account, 9 September 1898, Androscoggin County Courthouse, Auburn.

¹⁸ *FindAGrave*, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/155316006/ann-a-vosmus> : accessed 23 February 2023), memorial no. 155316006, Ann A. Vosmus.