

# CONNECTIONS

Kimball Family Association

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## Truman Kimball: A Pioneer

*By Judith Kimball*

One of the more interesting aspects of searching out family histories are the sidetracks, false starts, and errors encountered along the way. The continuation of M&S was replete with them. It took the work of several people bring this line together, and find its correct beginnings. It is included here as an example of what perseverance, time, and just sheer doggedness can accomplish. And, I should also add that most of us who have worked on this will already have deduced it another pesky John. The "Johns" are the bane of our lives. Johns simply upped themselves off into the wilderness without bothering to tell anyone where they had gone, whom they had married, or anything else of any use. They have given us more problems; and, I must add to that, more fun to work with than some of his more normal brothers.

Truman Kimball was born April 1, 1803, in Stowe, Washington Co., Vermont and departed this life at his home near Woodstock, Ohio December 19th 1894, having reached the ripe age of 91 years, 8 months and 18 days.

On the 4th of July, 1817, Truman Kimball, then a lad of fourteen, his father and mother with ten children, his grandfather and grandmother with four children, and his aged great-grandmother, left their home in

Stowe, Vermont for the unknown west. They started with two wagons, each drawn by a yoke of oxen with a team of horses hitched in front. They came by way of Buffalo, Cleveland, and Delaware. Buffalo they found in ruins, it having been burned to the ground by the British in the recent war of

1812. At Cleveland, the family of Abijah Hoisington joined them. Near Cleveland, they lost two of their horses and were obliged to make their way more slowly on that account. After crossing the Scioto River they saw no more settlers until they reached Big Darby, neither had they roads to travel, but were obliged to follow Indian trails, often stopping to cut their way through brush. The last night of their long journey they camped on the banks of Mill Creek, and

*(Continued on page 2)*



Frankenberger Tavern, built in 1801 is the oldest building in Mechanicsburg, IL

## 2012 Reunion



The 2012 annual Kimball Family Association Reunion will be held on September 15, 2012 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Peabody, MA. The Reunion committee had a number of requests to extend the length of the reunion to provide time for travelers to focus

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### Special points of interest:

- Extend 2012 Reunion to include Friday night? See page 4 for details
- The ship Elizabeth, of Ipswich, MA 1634. Wm Andrews, Captain.
- About the Kimball House in Concord, NH
- Membership dues deadline was July 1. Have you paid?

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the next day they reached a site near the present town of Milford Center where they decided to locate. It was then the 5th of September, it having taken them two months to make the journey. Of this little company of hardy pioneers, only two are now living, a younger brother and sister of the deceased, Mrs. Phila C. Hill of Butler, Bates County, Illinois, and Hiram Kimball who resides near Mechanicsburg. Houses were hard to procure in those early times and at first both families accepted a cabin of one room between where Mr. John Cranston used to live and the Milford Center railroad.

Afterwards Mr. Kimball's father bought a small farm that now forms part of the land belonging to David Kimball.

They found few neighbors. The nearest Post Office was Urbana, 18 miles away. There was no Maryville, no Milford Center, no Irwin, and there were only a few houses in Mechanicsburg. To facilitate mail carrying, seven neighbors banded together, each one obligating himself to go to Urbana in his turn, once in seven weeks, to get the mail for himself and the rest. Many were the stories of those early times that Mr. Kimball had told to children and grandchildren. Especially in his old age and his mind reverted to the primitive, even wild surroundings of his youth. A penniless boy, inheriting nothing but health and a strong, determined character, he managed by the exercise of New England thrift and sagacity to amass a considerable fortune. In 1835 he married Mary Fullington, his brother-in-law, Wm. Guy, performing the ceremony. He brought her home to a cabin near his father's the Sunday following the wedding. They made their first appearance at the old log Bethel church that stood on what was formally known as the Edwards farm. His bride rode behind him on the horse, according to the general custom.

To Mary and Truman Kimball were born twelve children, in order of their birth: Mrs. Clarriet McIlroy, Mrs. Harriet Woodward, Mrs. Lucy Guy, Truman M. Mrs. Susan McIlroy, Mrs. Martha McCarty, Mrs. Maggie Lincoln, David R., Samuel P., Jefferson F., Charles P., and James G. All of these children are living except Mrs. Clarriet McIlroy, Mrs. Lucy Guy, and the two boys, Truman M. and James G. who died in infancy.

February 27, 1858, he lost the wife of his youth, and December 2 of the same year, he married Mrs. Mary J. Hunter. Two children were the fruit of this second

marriage, Mrs. Rometta Howard and William C.

After the birth of seven children, he removed to the farm, living in a cabin that still stands. In 1860, he built the house in which he lived until his death. June 26 1884 his second wife died and from that time until the present, his youngest son, William, with his wife have kept house for him and made his declining years pleasant with filial devotion.

His life, for such a long one, was uneventful. The son of farmers, he was a farmer, keeping the even tenor of his way, "content to live where life began". His interest and his pleasures were in his home.

In politics, he was a Whig and from the time of that party's formation a Republican. He was always faithfully at the polls, casting his vote on the side of what he believed was right. It is worthy of note that he was a voter for seventy years, casting his first vote for John Quincy Adams. In religion, although a member of no church, he was by no means a disbeliever or a scoffer at religious things. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity at Milford Center until the lodge there disbanded and was always a strong believer in the order.

The keynote of his character was firmness. He was staunch and true in all his relations of life. He reared his large family in such a way as to make them worthy citizens, and was he to boast of any of his possessions, it would surely be of the womanly, dutiful daughters and stalwart sons who bear his name and make it a power in the communities in which they live.

His last illness was a brief one. On the 11th and 12th of December he had, it is believed, two slight strokes of paralysis, although they were not then so considered. On the 16th, after feeling unusually bright and cheerful in the morning, he experienced a third stroke, which rendered him helpless on his left side. From that time on, his life ebbed slowly away, and on Wednesday morning, December 19th at half past eight o'clock, surrounded by many of his loved ones, his spirit passed on its journey.

*From Unknown Newspaper'*

[For any readers with questions, this was a report just recently found – with members of non-related family. We were aware of Truman, he came from a large family of males, many of whom did leave Vermont for the mid-west. However, this was the first time I realized that I had a biography of him in my files, and had never read it. I suspect there may be other similar stories hiding here or there that have also been bypassed. More Johns to play with???

## Current Officers:

### President

Judith Miller, Southington, CT

### 1st Vice President

Jared Handspicker, Nashua, NH

### 2nd Vice President

Marion Bowden, Peabody, MA

### Recording Secretary

Inez Kimball, Kennebunk, ME

### Corresponding Secretary

Jane Coffin, Keene, NH

### Treasurer

Myra Sparkowich, Kennebunk, ME

### Historian & Genealogy

Judith Kimball, Kittery, ME

### Scholarship Committee

Co-Chairpersons -  
Winnifred Kimball,  
Middlebury, VT & Ralph  
Stevens, Merrimack, NH

### Website/Newsletter

Barbara Kimball Lewis,  
Sunnyvale, CA

## Volunteer

We can use more help. Right now, a handful of members are serving the whole association. So any person wishing to hold an Office may submit his/her name to:

Nominating Committee  
Kimball Family Association  
PO Box 453  
West Kennebunk, Me 04094

All Committee Chairs and non-elected positions are appointed by the President. Any member interested in volunteering or assisting the Committee Chair may submit their name via mail to:

President - Judith Miller  
Kimball Family Association  
PO Box 453  
West Kennebunk, ME 04094



## Connections

The Kimball Family Newsletter is published during the year by the Kimball Family Association. (ISSN: 0890-0639).

The purpose of Connections is to inform all members of the Association on the actions taken by the Board of Directors, on publications and happenings of interest to Kimballs, and to provide for the exchange of genealogical information on the Kimball Family.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles, ideas and information to the editor for consideration with the understanding all such material is subject to editing. The Newsletter office acts as the clearinghouse for correspondence and inquiries.

Send newsletter articles and comments to:

Kimball Family Association  
Post Office Box 453W  
Kennebunk, ME 04094  
Email: kimball@kimballfamily.com

Mail regarding genealogy may be sent to:

Kimball Family Association  
14 Manson Rd.  
Kittery, ME 03904-5534  
Phone /Fax: 207-493-2747  
Email: JKimball01@comcast.net

## The Elizabeth

By Judith Kimball

'...the ELIZABETH of Ipswich, Ma' Wm Andrews bound for New England the last of April 1634.'

Kemball it was then, and how Richard  
Had his name on his last will and testament.  
He died in June 1675, a man of worth:  
£ 737. 3s. 6p. in his coin.

They married in her village, he and  
Ursula his wife – and there's a strange thing –  
Sons and grandsons have his name even today:  
No daughters, no granddaughters were named  
Ursula. Perhaps it was that Popish saint's name;  
There were no saints in the Puritan firmament.

Master Andrews sailed with a full ship of  
Good Suffolk Puritans from Ipswich port.  
Did they know what they would find?  
Did they know the land, the weather,  
Even the air, would be different?  
Did they ever long for that fair  
Green land they left behind?  
Roads so old they were first used by  
Roman legions. Those were the straight ones.  
The others meander narrowly between  
Blooming hedgerows and trees, , from village  
To village in that soft Suffolk countryside.  
Did the desire for freedom from King and  
Archbishop and their passionate foolishness  
That allowed no dissension, did this make  
Acceptable the loss of home and family?

They came on the Elizabeth, a small ship  
To carry so much history; Wm. Andrews, Master.  
With a crew whose names are not given in the oath  
Sworn at "his Maj.tys Custome house in Ipswich."  
They came in pairs, like the ark,  
Richard Kemball, Ursula his wife:  
Thomas Skott, Elizabeth his wife;  
That was Ursula's brother.  
Humphrey Bradstreet, Bridget his wife;  
Their daughter married Richard's son.  
Fourteen pairs and Martha Scott.

Aged 60.

And 47 more , too young to take the oath.

Not all Richard's children: Henry and

Richard and John and Thomas, with two

More sons to come in the new land.

Mary and Martha and Elizabeth, and

Sarah born after. Abigail came with her new made  
husband, On that same schooner, under Ma' Wm.



Andrews, In 1637.

Where was she those waiting years?

Did she stay with some relative left behind?

We'll never know now, who's to tell us?

All those sons – Henry and Richard and John

And Thomas and Benjamin and Caleb –

Who bloomed and grew in the strange new soil

And spread across the face of New England

Their sons and their son's sons until even

That space would not hold them. It was well

There was more than New England for

Them to plant.

[Quotes are from official records of the port of  
Ipswich, Suffolk, GB]

These were real people, and those were their  
names. This is simply another way of telling their  
story. We tend to forget why they came and how  
much we owe them.

## 2011 Reunion & New KFA Officers

September 17th was this year's Kimball Family Annual Meeting & Reunion. A few photos are now on the site for those who couldn't attend to view. This event is always an opportunity to meet distant relatives and make new friends. The day included a talk about the Kimball House in Concord, NH by Steve Martin who oversees the operations of it. An article about the Kimball House is on page 3. Also a traditional part of the Reunion is an auction to raise money for the KFA Educational scholarships. The Reunion was held at the same location as last year, the Manchester, NH Highlander Inn.



Bob Kimball from Dartmouth, NS, Canada, and KFA's genealogist, Judith Kimball reviewing the new Volumes II & III of the *History of the Kimball Family in America* published in time for the 2011 Reunion

### 2012 Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

on genealogy and socialize. Feedback is needed from KFA members in order to commit to a Friday (September 14, 2012) evening gathering at the Holiday Inn and Suites, where genealogy and socializing would be the theme. The committee is open to other suggestions. Please provide your ideas, and if you would attend a Friday night social, to the Reunion Committee **by January 31, 2012**, so a per person cost can be generated. If there is enough interest in the Friday night social and genealogy event, the present plan is to have space and tables available for displays relating to Kimballs. Appetizers and beverages would be included.

### Peabody, Essex County, MA

Peabody is in Essex County where history, witch stories and sites, museums, etc. abound.

### New Officers

Judith Miller, Pres. & Al Hall, past Pres. At this year's Reunion and Annual Meeting, new officers were elected. Judith Miller moved from 1st VP to President replacing Al Hall who has served for two years.



Both are pictured below. A newcomer to KFA, Jared Hand-spicker, has been

elected 1st VP, and Marion Bowden remains as 2nd VP. The officers volunteer their time for all of these positions and their duties require a



significant effort to make our non-profit organization successful. KFA welcomes our new officers and thanks the past officers for their dedication and service.

This hotel is conveniently located 10 miles north of Boston, adjacent to U.S. Route 1, near Interstate 95. The Holiday Inn offers a fitness center, heated indoor pool, and many nearby restaurants. Recently, a block of 10 rooms is being held for KFA guests for Friday evening. If there is interest, rooms can also be blocked for Saturday evening. For Holiday Inn & Suites reservations call (978) 535-4600.

### Contact Information

**Reunion Committee**  
Sylvia and Ralph Stevens  
(603) 424-3550  
Sylvia.Stevens@myfairpoint.net  
Hotel Information

### Holiday Inn & Suites

One Newbury Street  
Peabody, MA 01960  
(978) 535-4600  
[www.holidayinn.com/bos-peabody](http://www.holidayinn.com/bos-peabody)



The House of the Seven Gables, built by a Salem sea captain John Turner in 1668. 3 generations of Turner families lived there before selling it to Captain Ingersoll in 1782. He left it to his daughter Susanna, a cousin of Nathaniel Hawthorne.

## Kimball House in Concord, NH

*By Barbara Leigh Polish*

In the middle of downtown Concord, NH there is an historical (and Kimball family) treasure that many people who live in the area, including me, overlook never knowing it is there. I have lived in the Concord area for over 40 years. During that time, I took my children to the movies at the Capitol Movie Theater, and to dance recitals and concerts at what was to become the Capitol Center for the Arts. Each time I walked right by a building that never caught my attention, yet was part of my heritage.

Ironically, over the years I have been a member of the Capitol Center for the Arts and have gone to many events at the theater. Last spring while attending an open house, a member and I struck up a conversation with a staff member who asked me if I had seen the newest renovations to the Kimball House. I asked if he meant the Kimball Jenkins Estate and he answered by directing my eyes to a door across the room under an arch reading The Kimball House.



**Kimball Family House, Concord, NH**  
A stately 19th-century Victorian mansion

I was taken aback at never having known it was there and asked if I could see the interior. He was delighted to take me into the house and show me around. He gave me a brief tour and suggested I contact Steve Martin, who oversees the operations of the building. I was impressed by what I had seen and called Steve the next day.

I met with Steve a few days later and he took me on a complete tour

of the building giving me a detailed history of the house that was the Concord Home of Benjamin Kimball and his family. Benjamin also owned The Kimball Castle, which was the family's summer home. I found it interesting that the Castle has received much attention historically, yet this house has been well hidden.

Over the years the estate has been divided into a number of different businesses, although the original wrought iron fence still stands beside the northern perimeter of the building. The stable now houses a glass business, the adjoining building, once a meeting house for the Masons, is now a business building. Originally, the building on one corner was a firehouse, but now is home to a printing business. The main building connects to the renovated Capitol Center for the Arts and it is the theater entrance that allows access to The Kimball House. There is a front entrance to the house facing the street adorned with large granite steps, but it is not used to enter the building. There is no outward sign identifying this building as The Kimball House and it goes unnoticed by those who pass by.

As a member of the Kimball family, I thought other relatives might be interested in the house and its history. I mentioned this to Steve and asked if he could give me some information to share at the Kimball Family Reunion. Steve did me one better and offered to come to the reunion and give a presentation on the home and the history he had concerning the building.

Those of you who were at the reunion had an opportunity to hear Steve's description of the building and the renovations that have been done to restore it to its original state. He was also able to show the group some pictures of the exterior and interior of the building as well as a portrait of Benjamin. He told the group that renovating the Kimball House is a work in progress and as money allows he is continuing to restore the building one room at a time.

At present, the main floor is completely refurbished and is used for various functions at the Capitol Center as well as for wedding receptions and other celebrations. The building has also been opened to the public during the Christmas season beautifully decorated for the holidays.

Steve has a strong love for The Kimball House and enjoys welcoming visitors to this historical treasure. He welcomes the opportunity to show it to members of the Kimball Family at any time and is delighted that a connection has been made with the family.

## Quotation of the Month

**“There’s a time in every man’s life and I’ve had plenty of them.”**

**Charles Dillon “Casey” Stengel**

The KFA is a non-profit association of the descendants of Richard Kimball.



Put Label Here



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## KFA Membership Dues



The KFA counts on your support to continue its research into the descendants of Richard Kimball.

KFA's annual membership were due on July 1st. For those of you who have paid, *thank you*. We are most grateful. This year it is more important than ever to continue your membership. Volumes II and III of the "History of the Kimball Family in America" were published in time for the 2011 Reunion and Annual Meeting in September thanks to the tireless work of KFA volunteers. They are already hard at work on Volumes IV & V. These activities put a strain on our budget. Every \$10 membership counts.

KFA is a non-profit organization that depends on volunteers to run it. But there are still expenses to make this a viable organization. The annual dues provide the revenue for:

- Research for the new **Volume IV of History of the Kimball Family in America**.
- Defrays some costs of the annual

Reunion meeting.

- Expenses for running the organization.
- The cost of printing & emailing our newsletter, "Connections". It contains articles not found anywhere else about the Kimball family history contributed by our genealogist, Judy Kimball, and by other KFA members.
- Also, \$2.50 goes to the Scholarship Fund. Note: It takes 200 members to give one \$500 scholarship. As you can see there is a lot of additional fund raising for each scholarship given.

Please encourage your adult children or relatives to join the association as our dues are only \$10.00 per year.

Membership applications are available on the site. Send it in with a check to KFA, PO BOX 453, W. Kennebunk, Me 04094 or fax the form to the number on the application.