

## Wait Ancestry of Aurilla Mariette Wait (1801?-1880)

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In 1992 I published a genealogy<sup>1</sup> studying the descendants of my great-great grandparents, Ebenezer Luther and Aurilla Mariette Wait. The genealogy was a mixture of some primary research<sup>2</sup> on Ebenezer and Aurilla's family and a family-maintained compendium of their known descendants. About 1500 persons are listed in the genealogy.

In the genealogy, I deal briefly with the ancestral background of Ebenezer and Aurilla. Ebenezer's parents are, at the time of this writing, unknown, though he is descended from the large line of Luthers emanating from the Puritan John Luther who came to the Colonies in the early 1600s.<sup>3</sup> There are also problems in making definitive connections between Aurilla Wait, Ebenezer's wife, and her ancestral lines, though it is possible to make more confident conjectures about her immediate ancestry than about her husband's. This document outlines some of these conjectures about Aurilla Wait's ancestry and follows these leads to back to the Wait ancestral homes in New England. This is a research summary—as new developments occur, I keep it updated. If anyone reading this has some help with the problems outlined here, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Ebenezer and Aurilla's parents were both, I suspect, the first to take families out of the New England settlements where they had put down more than century of roots. They moved from the settled areas of New England into the first large section of trans-Appalachian land to be opened up for settlement, the lands of upstate New York taken from the Iroquois in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War. Ebenezer and Aurilla became pioneers in their own turn, taking their family from the upstate New York area to the newly opened Midwest, through eastern Pennsylvania (Crawford County, 1843-59), Illinois (Warren County, 1859-1869), Kansas

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<sup>1</sup>*Descendants of Ebenezer Luther (1797-1867) and Aurilla Mariette Wait (1801?-1880)*. Self-published. Available from the author for \$20.00 US. Part of the genealogy is available as a PDF document at <http://www.sheridanc.on.ca/~kem/Htmlgen/luther.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Part of the research is detailed in Kem Luther, *Cottonwood Roots* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1993).

<sup>3</sup>The story of John and his descendants is in George Luther, *Luther Family in America* (2001). The connection of Ebenezer to the Puritan John Luther line has been established through Y-DNA testing.

(Brown County, 1869-71), and finally Nebraska (Saline County, 1871-86). Ebenezer died in Illinois in 1867, Aurilla in Nebraska on 28 May 1880.

### **Aurilla and Ebenezer in New York**

The story of Aurilla's ancestral background begins in Erie County, New York, in the 1830s. Ebenezer and Aurilla probably married in the mid-1820s, since they started their family then. The parents are on the 1840 federal census in Alden Township of Erie County with the first seven of their eight children. Here is their family:

Ebenezer Luther. Born, 3 Mar 1797, in New York. Died, 4 Oct 1867, in Illinois. Buried in McDonough County, Illinois. He married Aurilla Mariette Wait, in the early 1820s. Born, 10 Apr 1801 in New York. Died, 28 May 1880, in Saline Co, Nebraska.

- i. Caroline. Born 15 Apr 1824. Died about 1864 in Illinois. She married Samuel Luton.
- ii. Emily. Born 18 Feb 1830, in New York. Died Aug 1862 in Crawford County, Pennsylvania.
- iii. Samantha Louise. Born 28 Feb 1833 in New York. She married Byrum Webster on 13 Feb 1859 in Chautauqua County, New York.
- iv. Sarah Ann. Born 4 Nov 1835 in New York. Died 4 Aug 1906 in Hastings, Nebraska. She married, first, Charles Gales on 28 Feb 1860 in Swan Creek, Warren Co, Illinois. She married, second, Oliver W. Smith on 25 Feb 1881 in Saline Co, Nebraska. She married, third, Bradley L. Prime, circa 1891.
- v. Henry Lousern. Born 4 Mar 1837 in Erie Co, New York. Died, 30 Mar 1911, in Custer Co, Nebraska. He married Elizabeth Cline on 29 Oct 1860 in Swan Creek, Warren Co, Illinois. She was born 14 May 1843 in Ohio, and died 8 Jun 1926 in Miller, Missouri, USA.
- vi. James. Born 4 May 1838 in Erie Co, New York. Died, 14 Aug 1894, in Hastings, Nebraska. He married Suzy.
- vii. Mary Ann. Born 3 May 1840 in Erie Co, New York. Died 6 Sep 1901. She married Orlando Brown, son of Benjamin Brown and Armina Cotton on 26 Jun 1856 in Pennsylvania. He was born 25 Sep 1837 in Potter Co, Pennsylvania, and died, 12 Jan 1919, in Sabetha, Kansas.
- viii. Hanna L. Born 12 Oct 1845. Died 28 Dec 1875. She married Jesse H. James, son of Elijah and Leutitia James on 5 Jan 1862. He was born circa 1832 in Kentucky.

Alden Township is about 20 miles east of Buffalo, on Route 20. The place where the family was living was a little north of there, near the village of Crittenden. I have not been able to find any other mention of Ebenezer and Aurilla in the Erie County records. Though there are no land records that would allow the family to be exactly located in Alden Township, it is still

possible to get an approximate idea where they were in the township by looking at the other persons enumerated on the same census page with them then looking up the associated land records. This triangulation trick fixes Ebenezer and Aurilla somewhere in the vicinity of section 15 of Alden Township.

In 1840 a Lorin Wait owned land in section 15, along the Batavia Road, even though he was not in the census for Alden Township.<sup>4</sup> The natural assumption, then, would be that Ebenezer and Aurilla were living on Lorin Wait's land in place of Lorin and that Lorin Wait was somehow related to Aurilla Wait (as I will postulate below, a brother). Ebenezer and Aurilla do not appear on the 1830 census in Alden Township,<sup>5</sup> so they may have moved to Erie County when the land on Batavia Road was purchased by Lorin Wait in 1837. A date of 1847 for Ebenezer and Aurilla's move from New York to Pennsylvania would correspond both with the sale of Lorin Wait's New York land and the appearance of Ebenezer in the Crawford County, Pennsylvania, tax records.<sup>6</sup> So Ebenezer and Aurilla may have lived in Erie County, New York, for about a decade, from 1837 to the mid 1840s.

### **Lorin Wait**

The Waits in Erie County that I currently identify as Aurilla's family first appear in the Erie County records in the 1830s. They came from the vicinity of Lima, New York, in what is now the northern part of Livingston County, near Honoye Creek, and from West Bloomfield across the creek, in modern Ontario County. The earliest mention of these Waits is the settlement of a Lorin Wait (grandfather of the Lorin Wait in Erie County mentioned above) on land that was part of large the Holland Purchase, in West Bloomfield.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Lorin was living about 5 miles north of there, in Newstead Township, on other land he owned. The purchase of the land is recorded in Erie County Deed Book 46, page 243. The sale of the land is Deed Book 72, p. 463. It was bought in February of 1837 and sold in March of 1847. It was sold at auction, perhaps as a result of the Wait family's financial constriction.

<sup>5</sup>Nor, apparently, anywhere in New York. I am still looking for them on the 1830 census.

<sup>6</sup>The family history compiled by Bertha Calhoon says that Henry Luther, Ebenezer's son, was five when the family moved to Pennsylvania. This would place the move about 1843.

<sup>7</sup>In Judge Augustus Porter's account of the settlement of the Holland Purchase, in O. Turner, *Pioneer History of the Holland Purchase of Western New York* (Geneseo, New York: James Brunner, 1974), pp. 357ff, Judge Porter writes "The following are some of the persons who came into the country during this year [1790], viz: ... To West Bloomfield, Benjamin Gardner, (from Canandaigua,) Robert Taft, Mr. Miller, Clark Peck, Esq. Curtis, Jasper P. Sears, Nathan Marvin, Lorin Wait, Amos Hall." On p. 346 of Turner's work Lorin Wait is mentioned in a list of early settlers, along with Richard Wait and David Bailey. In another of O. Turner's works, *History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps & Gorham's Purchase and Morris' Reserve* (Geneseo, New York: James Brunner, 1976), p. 530, the sale of an 11,000 acre tract, known as the Wadsworth tract, in the vicinity of Mendon, is described. Wadsworth tract went on sale in June 1793 and probably includes the West Bloomfield area. A Lorin Wait is said to have been a purchaser.

This first Lorin came from Lyme, Connecticut, as did many other settlers in West Bloomfield. Here is the description of Lorin's family in the Lyme records:<sup>8</sup>

Lorin Wait (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, 20 Aug 1743, in Lyme, CT. He married Zeruah Caulkins, 3 Nov 1761, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Sarah Wait. Born, 24 Mar 1763, in Lyme, CT. She married Daniel Daniels, 28 Nov 1782, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Esther. Born, 22 May 1765, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Thomas. Born, 20 Feb 1768, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Stephen. Born, 11 Apr 1770, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Elizabeth. Born, 4 Apr 1772, in Lyme, CT.
- vi. Martin. Born, 15 Feb 1775, in Lyme, CT.
- vii. Phoebe. Born, 23 Dec 1778, in Lyme, CT.

Appendix A contains a listing of Lorin Wait's ancestry from the Lyme, CT, records. Lorin is the son of Thomas Wait and Elizabeth Lewis (call him Thomas III). Thomas III in turn is the child of Thomas Wait and Mary Brunson (Thomas II). The ancestry of Thomas Wait II is given on the Waite Genealogy Research Forum (<http://www.waitegenealogy.org>). Thomas's father was also a Thomas Waite (1641-1722, Thomas I) of Watertown, Massachusetts, and his mother was Sarah Cutler (1653-1743). The parents of Thomas I were Richard and Mary Waite, who came to Watertown, Massachusetts in 1630 from Wetherfield, Essex, England.

Lorin and Zeruah probably came to central New York in the early 1790s. I suspect that the "Loen Wait" with 8 kids (3 boys, 5 girls) on the New London County, Connecticut, federal census is Lorin. We find Lorin and Zeruah in the West Bloomfield area in 1800, on the federal census. Here is the entry:

S\A	<10	10-15	16-25	26-45	45+
<b>M</b>	1	0	1	2	0
<b>F</b>	1	1	2	1	0

The distribution of ages and genders suggests that one of the married children, either a daughter or son, along with the daughter's or son's own children, may have been living with Lorin and Zeruah at the time of the census. The boy Martin (in the 16-25 age bracket) and either Stephen or Thomas or both (in the 26-45 age bracket) may still be at home with the father in this census. The parents, Lorin and Zeruah, are tabulated in the wrong age category, since they were well

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<sup>8</sup> *Vital Records of Lyme, Connecticut to the end of the year 1850*, transcribed under the direction of Verne M. Hall & Elizabeth B. Plimpton (Bowie, CT: Heritage Books, 1976). Lorin's records are on p. 67. Lorin is called "Lowen" in the Lyme records. On other documents he is called "Leon." I have standardized the spellings to "Lorin" throughout.

over 45 in 1800. There is a 1796 land record for a Stephen Wait in the area, so Stephen may have already started a family and bought a farm by 1800, making Thomas and Martin the most likely boys to be at home. Thomas seems to appear on the 1810 census with a wife and no children, so he may not have left home until closer to 1810.

Here is the 1810 census listing for Lorin Wait:

S\A	<10	10-15	16-25	26-45	45+
<b>M</b>	0	0	0	0	1
<b>F</b>	0	0	1	1	1

Notice that now, ten years later, Lorin and Zeruah's sons are out of the house, but two daughters (the older one presumably Phoebe, age 32) are still with them. The last census on which Lorin appears, the 1820 census, shows Lorin without a woman in the comparable age bracket. There are several land records for Lorin in the 1810s, but the last one which explicitly mentions Zeruah is 1811. According to her tombstone in the Pioneer Cemetery of West Bloomfield, Zeruah died on 8 January 1813, age 73.

There are other Waits in the Bloomfield area in the census and land records. The Ezra, John, Richard, and Joseph Wait in the records are probably children and grandchildren of Lorin's uncle Richard (see Appendix A). Ezra seems to be the relative of Lorin's that stayed in Bloomfield the longest. He held some civil posts, and his will is on record in Ontario County. Ezra and his wife Lucia appear as witnesses on some of Lorin's legal transactions.

There are several 1820s land records mentioning Lorin Wait that show him divesting himself of his holdings. In one curious pair of 1823 records Lorin's son Martin deeds to Lorin some land and Lorin immediately deeds it (on the same day) to Martin's sons! Lorin's will, preserved in the Ontario County will books, is dated 26 July 1823. It was registered on 12 July 1825, after he died. Lorin's tombstone in the Pioneer Cemetery of West Bloomfield says that he died on the same day the will was registered, age 84. In his will and probate papers we get the following snapshot of Lorin's family in the early 1820s:

- wife not mentioned, presumably dead
- daughter Phoebe Wait, single, living on farm, expected to stay on the farm
- daughter Cynthia Fuller
- daughter Mary ("Polly") Hamilton, Mary's son William Richards (under 21)
- daughter Esther Beckwith
- son Thomas Wait and Thomas' son Marvin (under 21)
- son Martin Wait and Martin's second son Lorin (under 21)

In the will there is no mention of the Sarah, Stephen and Elizabeth known from the Lyme records and we hear about a Cynthia and Mary for the first time. Perhaps the children missing from the will either died or did not come to New York and the children appearing for the first time were born in New York and are thus missing from the Lyme records.

On a handwritten, unsigned Wait history on file at the Batavia Library there is a fuller exposition of Lorin Wait's family. I don't know the documentary base behind the attributions in it—some of it goes beyond anything available from any Lyme records (at least those known to me). Here is the family, as given in this genealogy (I have put in italics the information which is either different from, or cannot be deduced from, either the Lyme records or Lorin's will):

Lorin Wait, the only surviving son of Thomas/Elizabeth Wait, was born 20 Aug 1743 and married Zeruah Caulkins on 3 Nov 1761. They moved to West Bloomfield, New York.

- i. Sarah Wait. Born, 24 Mar 1763, in Lyme, CT. She married Daniel Daniels, 28 Nov 1782, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Esther. Born, 22 May 1765, in Lyme, CT. *She married, first, John Daniels,<sup>9</sup> and second, Joseph Beckwith, and left three married daughters.*
- iii. Thomas. Born, 20 Feb 1768, in Lyme, CT. *Married D. Wolf*
- iv. Stephen. Born, 11 Apr 1770, in Lyme, CT. *Married Anna Dudley.*
- v. Elizabeth. Born, 4 Apr 1772, in Lyme, CT. *Married a Hill.*
- vi. Martin. Born, 15 Feb 1775, in Lyme, CT. *Married Sarah Bailey.*
- vii. Phoebe. Born, 23 Dec 1778, in Lyme, CT. *Married first, Jared Fuller, and second, Henry Marvin.*

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<sup>9</sup>This marriage is actually in the Lyme records. I omitted it above because there are two Esther Waits to whom the marriage might pertain. The marriage record in the Lyme records says that Esther was the third wife of John Daniels (he had married earlier in 1780 and 1782). John and Esther had a son, John Watrous Daniels, born on 7 March 1788.

- viii. Cythnia. Married *Jared Fuller*<sup>10</sup>
- ix. Polly. *Died without issue.*<sup>11</sup>

### Martin Wait

Lorin's son Martin is the probable father of Aurilla. Martin must have married soon after 1800, since he is on the 1810 census with three children:

<b>1810</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>16-25</b>	<b>26-45</b>	<b>45+</b>
<b>M</b>	1	0	0	1	0
<b>F</b>	2	0	0	1	0

The first recorded land transaction for Martin is in 1802. It may represent the newly-married Martin buying land to set up his first home. The location of Martin's land is given as Lima, a town four miles west of West Bloomfield, in (after the county restructuring of 1821) Livingston County. The property would become his residence for the next thirty years,

At this point there is no definitive listing of Martin's complete family. In this study I will try to build up a reasonable picture of who these children are, following the clues as they chronologically occur. The 1810 census gives this glimpse of Martin's children:

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<sup>10</sup>2018 email correspondence with Nancy Ford Slavkovsky (nlsrscs@brighthouse.com) provides further information on Cynthia and her family. Jared (Jerrod) Fuller, she writes, was born in 1778 in West Bloomfield, New York, and died 22 October 1833 in Independence, OH. He is buried in Tinkers Creek (Old Indian) Cemetery, Bedford Twp, Ohio. In 1802, in West Bloomfield, New York, he married Cynthia Wait(e), who was born in 1786 in Connecticut. Cynthia died sometime after 1860 and is also buried in Tinkers Creek (Old Indian) Cemetery. During the War of 1812, Jared Fuller was employed in hauling provisions from Bloomfield to Buffalo, New York. While in West Bloomfield, Jared and Cynthia had five children: (1) Ezra Fuller, born on 18 January 1803 in West Bloomfield, married Rachael Highby on 5 December 1824 and died 21 November 1872 in Oakland, Iowa; (2) J. M. (Jane Hollister?) Fuller, was born in 1805 in West Bloomfield; (3) Jasper Fuller, born in 1810 in West Bloomfield, married Louisa Currier and died in 1873 in Keokuk, Iowa; (4) Jacob Fuller, born in 1811 in West Bloomfield, married Mary Cole and died on 12 February 1881 in Grinnell, Iowa; (5) Spencer S. Fuller, born in 1818 in West Bloomfield, married Ann Elizabeth Williams. Sometime between 1818 and 1820, Jared and Cynthia and the family moved to Independence, Ohio, where they had three more children: (6) Oscar Fuller, born in 1820 in Independence, Ohio, married Betsey Highby and Esther Turner and died on 25 July 1875 in Marengo, Iowa; (7) Matilda M. Fuller, born in 1822 in Independence, Ohio, married Thomas McDoladle; and (8) Jared Fuller, born in 1826 in Independence, Ohio, and died on 16 October 1828 in Independence, Ohio.

<sup>11</sup>I suspect that the author of this work has Phoebe and Polly (Mary) confused. Clearly, Mary was married to a man named Hamilton and had a child named Richards (from an earlier marriage?)—Lorin's will says this. Phoebe, whose surname is given as "Wait," was a 45-year old spinster at the time of Lorin's will. It is possible, of course, that she later married, as this author indicates.

- (1) female, born 1801-1810
- (2) male, born 1801-1810
- (3) female, born 1801-1810

Martin is also listed in the 1820 census:

<b>1820</b>	<b>&lt;10</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>16-18</b>	<b>16-26</b>	<b>26-45</b>	<b>45+</b>
<b>M</b>	2	1	0	0	0	1
<b>F</b>	2	1		1	1	0

His family, we see, has grown from three to seven, so at least four children were born in the 1810-20 decade. Here is the enlarged picture of his family (data unchanged from previous listing is in italics)

- (1) *female*, born 1801-1804.
- (2) *male*, born 1805-1810.
- (3) *female*, born 1805-1810.
- (4) male, born 1810-1820.
- (5) female, born 1810-1820.
- (6) female, born 1810-1820.
- (7) male, born 1810-1820.

In the 1820s, some names finally emerge for Martin's children. In Martin's father's will, as mentioned above, a Lorin is said to be Martin's second oldest son. In addition, Lorin the father of Martin sells land to the sons of Martin, and their names are given: a parcel to David, Thomas, Nathaniel, and Joseph<sup>12</sup> on one deed, and another parcel to Lorin Jr on another<sup>13</sup> (from this point we will distinguish the grandfather and grandson as Lorin Sr and Lorin Jr). If we are lucky, the four in the first deed have been named in chronological order, and all we have to do is to insert Lorin in his place as the second son. Up to 1820, only three sons appear in the census data. Five sons, however, are named on the deeds, so it seems likely that children continued to be born to Martin after 1820. The next census seems to bear this out. Here is Martin's listing in Lima on the 1830 census:

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<sup>12</sup>Livingston County, New York, Land Records, Book 3, p. 508.

<sup>13</sup>Livingston County, New York, Land Records, Book 3, p. 510.



1830	<5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59
<b>M</b>	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1
<b>F</b>	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1

It appears that there may be four more children on this census. But Martin's wife, as we will see, is 49 by 1830, so possibly one or two of the youngest ones on the census are grandchildren. But for now, let's list them as Martin's children. Putting all of this together, we come up with the following picture (as above, the previously established information is printed in italics):

- (1) *female, born 1801-1804.* Gone from household by 1830.
- (2) *David, male, born 1805-1810.* Gone from household by 1830.
- (3) *female, born 1805-1810.*
- (4) *Lorin Jr, male, born 1810-1820.*
- (5) *female, born 1810-1815.*
- (6) *female, born 1810-1820.* Gone from household by 1830.
- (7) Thomas, male, born 1815-20
- (8) Nathaniel, male, born 1820-1825
- (9) Joseph, male, born 1820-1825
- (10) female, born 1825-1830
- (11) male, born 1825-1830

Martin's wife, we learn from the land records, was named Sarah. Her age seems to bounce around a little on the censuses. It appears that she was born in the 1776-82 period. The records for Lorin's family cited above (the records whose documentation is unknown) say that Sarah's maiden name was Bailey. As we will see below, she claims to have been born in Livingston County, but, given a birth date of the Revolutionary War period, it seems unlikely that this would be so.

Somewhere between 1830 and 1840, Martin and several of his children move to Newstead and Alden Townships of Erie County. A sale in 1831 says Martin is "of Lima."<sup>14</sup> A sale in Livingston County in June of 1834 lists Martin, Sarah, Lorin Jr, and Thomas, but Thomas is explicitly said to be "late of Lima."<sup>15</sup> I suspect that it was not long after this sale that most of the Waits left the Lima area for Erie County. Backdating from the 1855 New York census (discussed below), where most of the mature persons say that they had been in Erie County for 20 and 21 years, we come up with a date of about 1835 for the move to Erie County.

Martin is in Erie County for the 1840 census. Here is the record:

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<sup>14</sup>Livingston County, New York, Land Records, Book 10, p. 138.

<sup>15</sup>Livingston County, New York, Land Records, Book 13, p. 281.

1840	<5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69
<b>M</b>	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1
<b>F</b>	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0

The first Erie County mention of one of the names of Martin Wait's children is in a land record that was generated when Lorin Jr bought a tract in Newstead Township. Not long after this Lorin bought the land discussed above on Batavia Road, in 1837-38.<sup>16</sup> Nathaniel Wait first appears in the Erie land records in September 1843<sup>17</sup> and Joseph the same year.<sup>18</sup> The only names added to the emerging picture by the land records is that of the wife of Nathaniel, Lovina,<sup>19</sup> and that of the wife of Lorin Jr, Helen.<sup>20</sup>

The real payoff in names comes in the 1850 federal census and the 1855 New York state census. On the federal census the Waits are listed in Newstead Township, Erie County, in two entries, one under Joseph Wait, the other under a 24-year old Martin Wait. Here are the entries:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age</u>
Martin Wait	M	24
Sally A. Wait	F	20
Roxanna Phelps	F	18
Joseph Wait	M	26
Caroline	F	24
Antoinette	F	2
(no name)	M	5/12
Martin	M	86
Sarah	F	74
Lorin	M	30 (39?)

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<sup>16</sup>Erie County Deed Book 43, p. 26 for the Newstead land and Book 46, p. 243 for the Batavia Road land.

<sup>17</sup>Erie County Deed Book 84, p. 420. He sells the same land to his brother Joseph in September (Book 88, p. 39). Nathaniel buys and sells land in 1846, and again in 1852-55.

<sup>18</sup>Bought from Nathaniel, record just cited. Joseph also bought land in 1848 (60 acres), and bought and sold another piece of land in 1859-63.

<sup>19</sup>Erie County Deed Book 143, p. 103, dated March 1853.

<sup>20</sup>Erie County Deed Book 288, p. 179, in a late (1869) deed. It seems likely that Lorin and his wife may have stayed in Erie County for the rest of their lives.

In 1855 there are also two entries, one for Joseph, the other for Martin:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
Martin Wait Jr	M	28	Genesee	
Sally Wait	F	25	Genesee	Wife
Harlo Wait	M	1	Erie	Child
Aletia E. Wait	F	6	Erie	Niece
Joseph Wait	M	38	Genesee	
Laura Wait	F	4	Erie	Child
Martin Wait	M	88	Connecticut	Father
Sarah Wait	F	81	Livingston	Mother
Rachael Wait	F	39	Genesee	Sister
Phoebe A. Wait	F	3	Erie	Niece
(Infant)	-	6 mo	Erie	Nephew
Lorin Wait	M	47	Genesee	Brother
Josiah Phelps	M	18	Erie	Nephew
Ruil Phelps	M	15	Erie	Nephew

The picture of Martin's family begins to fill in now. It is almost certain that the Martin Jr on these records is the last son of Martin and Sarah. The Phelps nieces and nephews point to one of the daughters marrying a Phelps before 1832 and possibly dying before 1850. It could be either daughter (3) or daughter (5). I will (arbitrarily) place the Phelps marriage on daughter (3). Here is the picture, then, at the end of the family's stay in Erie County (again, data established by earlier records is in italics).

- (1) *female, born 1801-1804. Gone from household by 1830.*
- (2) *David, male, born 1805-1810. Gone from household by 1830.*
- (3) *female, born 1805-1810. Married a Phelps (but the one marrying Phelps could also have been daughter 5)*
- (4) *Lorin Jr, male, born circa 1810/11. Married Helen.*
- (5) *female, born 1810-1815. Gone from household by 1830.*
- (6) *Rachael, female, born circa 1816.*
- (7) *Thomas, male, born 1815-1820.*
- (8) *Nathaniel, male, born 1820-1825. Married Lovina.*
- (9) *Joseph, male, born circa 1823/24. Married Caroline before 1848. Daughter Antoinette in 1848, male in 1850, Laura in 1851.*
- (10) *female, born circa 1825*
- (11) *Martin Jr, male, born circa 1826.. Married Sally A. before 1851. Son Harlo in 1854.*

After 1859 the Waits start to disappear from Erie County. It is not clear whether either of the parents ever left Erie County.

## The Waits in Illinois and Michigan

Martin Jr. moved on to Boone County, Illinois, according to an 1859 land record in Erie County.<sup>21</sup> I had a researcher look in the Boone County records for him, and nothing more than a census record was found. Here is the 1860 census record data for Martin Jr in Boone County, Illinois:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Martin Wait	M	36	NY
Sally Ann Wait	F	32	NY
Harlo Wait	M	6	NY
William Wait	M	4	Illinois
Marian	M	1 mo	Illinois

Martin Sr's three youngest sons, Martin Jr, Joseph and Nathaniel, moved eventually to Butler County, Michigan. In an obituary in the Homer newspaper *Index* of 23 March 1887 we learn that Martin Jr's wife's name was Sally Ann VanGuilders, that Martin was born on 6 June 1826 in Lima, New York, that he died in March 1887, and that he came to Butler, Michigan in 1867. In 1883, Martin Jr moved to Homer, Michigan and opened a dry goods store with his sons. His children were Harlo Wait of Homer, William J. Wait of Dowagiac, Marian E. Wait of Homer, and Cynthia Bowers, living with her parents. The son Harlow is said to have married Nellie E. Walford on 23 February 1891.<sup>22</sup>

Joseph Wait is discussed in the Hillsdale, Michigan, county history.<sup>23</sup> Here is the part of the entry that relates to Joseph and his immediate family:

Mrs. Laura A. (Waite) Whitney is a daughter of Joseph and Caroline Waite, her father having been born in Lima, N. Y., and her mother in Newstead Township, Erie County, of the same State. They settled in Crittenden, in which place the father followed the occupation of a farmer, and then coming West they lived for five years in Illinois, after which they moved to Michigan and settled in Butler, Branch County. The mother died in New York, aged sixty-three years, and the father died in 1877 at the age of 55 years. They had two children—Cerissa A. and Laura Ann.

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<sup>21</sup>Erie County Land Records, Book 202, p. 79.

<sup>22</sup>The data is from a family group sheet belonging to Bradley C. Waite, 123 Barry Street, Union City, Michigan. I will refer to these in the rest of this work as the Waite FGS.

<sup>23</sup>Publication data unknown. He is discussed on pp. 997-98, in the entry on his daughter's husband, Albert J. Whitney.

The wife of our subject [Albert J. Whitney] was born on the 27th of March, 1850, in Newstead Township, Erie Co., N. Y., and when her parents came to Michigan she was not quite a year old.

The wife of Joseph mentioned in this excerpt would be the Caroline (born circa 1826) on the 1850 census with daughter Antoinette (probably Cerissa A. of the excerpt). Caroline and Antoinette are missing on the 1855 census. Antoinette may have died, Caroline may have departed. Unless the county history is in error, Caroline and Joseph must have divorced, since she died at age 63, long after Joseph married his next wife. Joseph later married a Louisa and had Orma L. circa 1857 and Joseph Jr circa 1872.<sup>24</sup> The “five years” that Joseph spent in Illinois correspond closely to the stay of his brother Martin Jr in the same state. Joseph died on 22 December 1877.<sup>25</sup>

Nathaniel's family was large. Nathaniel bought land in Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan, on 15 July 1867.<sup>26</sup> Whether he came directly from Erie County or whether he also had a stay in Illinois is not clear. Here is the data on Nathaniel's family:

Nathaniel Wait, son of Martin and Sarah Wait, was born 26 Feb 1822 and married Lovina Avery, daughter of Daniel Avery and Florilla Barber.

- i. Elizabeth Wait. Born 1845. Died 1 Feb 1868 in Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan, of consumption. She is buried at Whig Center Cemetery, Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan.
- ii. Alice Wait. Born circa 1848. Married John Allen. Died 12 May 1875. She is buried at Litchfield, Hillsdale County, Michigan.
- iii. Olive Wait. Born circa 1849. Died 1869. Buried at Whig Center Cemetery, Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan.
- iv. Jerome Wait. Born 29 Sep 1851 in Alabama, Genesee County, New York.<sup>27</sup> Married Julia Ann Crandall on 2 Nov 1872 in Girard, Branch County, Michigan. Died 8 April 1932 in Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan. Buried at Litchfield, Hillsdale County, Michigan.
- v. Leroy Watson Wait. Born 7 Aug 1853. Married first, Ella Credit, and second, Ella Snyder. Died 27 Jan 1929 in Hillsdale County, Michigan.
- vi. Henry L. Wait. Born Oct 1856. Married Nancy Carroll. Died 1 March 1910 in Clinton County, Michigan. Buried at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan.

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<sup>24</sup>Waite FGS. Not certain what is the source of these names and dates. Orma is said to be buried in Riverside Cemetery, Teknosha, Michigan.

<sup>25</sup>Death records at the Branch County, Michigan, Clerk's Office in Coldwater, Michigan.

<sup>26</sup>This, and the rest of the information in this section on Nathaniel, is from Waite FGS.

<sup>27</sup>This town in Genesee County is only a few miles from Newstead Township in Erie County, and may have been the main town for the Waits while they were in Newstead.

- vii. Burton Wait. Born 1858.
- viii. Florence Wait. Born 1860. Died 17 July 1878. Buried at Whig Center Cemetery, Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan.
- ix. Clothilda (Tillie) Wait. Born 1862. Died 27 November 1878. Buried at Whig Center Cemetery, Butler Township, Branch County, Michigan.
- x. Sarah Wait. Born 1864.
- xi. Anna Sarah Wait. Born 31 Mar 1863 (?). Married Fred J. Haigh on 21 Nov 1888 in Allen, Hillsdale County, Michigan. Died 16 Mar 1956 in Lansing, Michigan. Buried at Oakhill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan.
- xi. Daniel M. Wait. Born 15 May 1856. Married Rosa Belle (Clark) Lurvey on 26 Dec 1899 in Marshall, Calhoun County, Michigan. Died 11 Sep 1950 in Marengo Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. Buried at Oakhill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Further information on these children of Martin Jr, Joseph and Nathaniel have been submitted to the Ancestry.com family tree project by Richard Nordstrom (gumby643@aol.com).<sup>28</sup>

### **Is this Aurilla Mariette Wait's Family?**

As we have seen, there is no document clearly putting Aurilla Marietta Luther in the Martin Waite Sr's family. There are two points of evidence that make this highly likely, however:

(1) Martin's oldest daughter was born 1802-1805 in Lima, New York and was gone from home by 1830. Aurilla was born in New York in 1803 and married Ebenezer in the 1820s.

(2) Aurilla was probably living on land owned by Lorin Wait Jr, son of Martin Wait, on the 1840 census. There are no other Waits in the vicinity of Aurilla's 1840 residence except Martin Wait's family.

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<sup>28</sup>The page is at <http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=REG&db=:2590178&id=I3868>.

## Appendix A: Waits Mentioned in Vital Records of Lyme, Connecticut

The persons listed below appear in the published records of Lyme, Connecticut, in Verne M. Hall and Elizebeth B. Plimpton (Transcribers), *Vital Records of Lyme, Connecticut to the End of the Year 1850* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1976). This genealogical reconstruction could be considerably extended by reference to other works. The goal here, however, has been to restrict the list to just those individuals who occur in the mentioned book whose placement in the Wait family could be reasonably guessed at. I have italicized the supposed direct line to the family of Aurilla Wait.

### FIRST GENERATION

1. *Thomas<sup>1</sup> Wait*. Died, **27 Jun 1725**, in Lyme, CT.

He married *Mary Bronson*, daughter of *Abraham Bronson* and *Hanna*, **16 Aug 1704**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **21 Mar 1680**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **7 May 1731**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Sarah<sup>2</sup>. Born, **9 Jun 1705**, in Lyme, CT.
- 2 ii. *Thomas*.
- iii. John. Born, **1 Dec 1707**, in Lyme, CT.
- 3 iv. Richard.
- v. Elizabeth. Born, **25 Feb 1714**, in Lyme, CT.
- 4 vi. Joseph.
- vii. Sarah. Born, **3 Jul 1717**, in Lyme, CT.
- viii. Mary. Born, **6 Dec 1718**, in Lyme, CT.

### SECOND GENERATION

2. *Thomas<sup>2</sup> Wait* (Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **9 Oct 1706**, in Lyme, CT.

He married *Elizabeth Lewis*, daughter of *William Lewis* and *Elizabeth Borden*, **21 Apr 1731**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **12 Feb 1722**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Elizabeth<sup>3</sup>. Born, **1731**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Johannah. Born, **29 Oct 1733**, in Lyme, CT.

- iii. Thomas. Born, **25 Feb 1736**, in Lyme, CT.
- 5 iv. Chloe.
- 6 v. Mary.
- 7 vi. *Lowen*.
- vii. Esther. Born, **16 Apr 1746**, in Lyme, CT.
- 8 viii. Tabitha.

3. Richard<sup>2</sup> **Wait** (Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **1 Jun 1711**, in Lyme, CT.

He married, first, Elizabeth **Marvin**, daughter of Samuel **Marvin** and Susannah **Graham**, **8 Nov 1733**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **2 Jun 1712**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **27 May 1755**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Phebe<sup>3</sup>. Born, **Sep 1734**, in Lyme, CT.
- 9 ii. Lois.
- 10 iii. Richard.
- iv. Elizabeth. Born, **12 Aug 1741**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Sarah. Born, **25 Feb 1745**, in Lyme, CT.
- vi. Marvin. Born, **16 Dec 1746**, in Lyme, CT.
- vii. John. Born, **21 Jan 1749**, in Lyme, CT.
- viii. Daniel. Born, **2 Feb 1751**, in Lyme, CT.

He married, second, Rebecca **Higgins**, daughter of Joseph **Higgins** and Mercy **Remick**, **13 Jan 1757**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **3 May 1724**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **17 May 1785**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- ix. Remick. Born, **10 Apr 1758**, in Lyme, CT.
- 11 x. Ezra.

4. Joseph<sup>2</sup> **Wait** (Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **25 Nov 1715**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **before 1747**, in Lyme, CT.

He married Mary. Died, **13 Sep 1767**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- 12 i. Joseph<sup>3</sup>.

### THIRD GENERATION

5. Chloe<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **20 Jun 1738**, in Lyme, CT.



She married Alexander **Bushnell**, **12 Feb 1761**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Thomas<sup>4</sup>. Born, **12 Jan 1762**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Daniel. Born, **18 Dec 1763**, in Lyme, CT.

6. Mary<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **20 Aug 1740**, in Lyme, CT.

She married Thomas **Rathbone**, **5 May 1763**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. John<sup>4</sup>. Born, **1 Feb 1764**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Ebenezer. Born, **12 Mar 1766**, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Thomas. Born, **19 Mar 1768**, in Lyme, CT.

7. *Lowen*<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **20 Aug 1743**,<sup>29</sup> in Lyme, CT.

He married *Zeruiah Caulkins*, **3 Nov 1761**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- 13 i. Sarah<sup>4</sup>.
- ii. Esther. Born, **22 May 1765**, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Thomas. Born, **20 Feb 1768**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Stephen. Born, **11 Apr 1770**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Elizabeth. Born, **4 Apr 1772**, in Lyme, CT.
- vi. *Martin*. Born, **15 Feb 1775**, in Lyme, CT.
- vii. Phebe. Born, **23 Dec 1778**, in Lyme, CT.

8. Tabitha<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **15 Mar 1748**, in Lyme, CT.

She married Gideon **Watrous**, son of Gideon **Watrous** and Martha **Beckwith**, **29 Mar 1778**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **22 Apr 1742**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Jared<sup>4</sup>. Born, **21 Dec 1778**, in Lyme, CT. He married, first, Phebe **Champion**, **26 Nov 1816**, in Lyme, CT. He married, second, Mary **Denison**, **23 Nov 1825**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Gideon. Born, **15 Dec 1780**, in Lyme, CT. He married Phebe **Rhodes**, **12 Feb 1803**, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Samuel. Born, **1 Mar 1783**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Fanny. Born, **21 May 1786**, in Lyme, CT.

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<sup>29</sup> Called "Lee" in the Lyme, CT, records of his birth.

9. Lois<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **3 Dec 1735**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **6 Jul 1764**, in Lyme, CT.

She married Marshfield **Parsons**, son of Jonathan **Parsons** and Phebe **Griswold**, **9 Oct 1755**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **circa 1733**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **13 Jan 1813**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- 14 i. John<sup>4</sup>.
- ii. William. Born, **27 Jun 1759**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **14 Aug 1761**, in Lyme, CT.

10. Richard<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **28 Nov 1739**, in Lyme, CT.

He married, first, Lucia **Griswold**, daughter of Thomas **Griswold** and Susannah **Lynde**, **1 May 1764**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **7 Oct 1745**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **25 Nov 1795**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- 15 i. Thomas Griswold<sup>4</sup>.
- 16 ii. Lois.
- iii. Elizabeth. Born, **30 Mar 1768**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Lynde. Born, **16 Nov 1769**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Richard. Born, **18 Jun 1771**, in Lyme, CT. He married Polly **Wade**, **29 Jan 1794**, in Lyme, CT.
- vi. Lucy. Born, **17 Jun 1773**, in Lyme, CT.
- vii. Susannah. Born, **29 Apr 1775**, in Lyme, CT.
- viii. James. Born, **10 Mar 1777**, in Lyme, CT.
- 17 ix. David.
- x. Phebe. Born, **20 Jan 1782**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **16 Sep 1786**, in Lyme, CT.
- xi. Daniel. Born, **10 Jan 1786**, in Lyme, CT.
- xii. Phebe. Born, **19 Jan 1788**, in Lyme, CT.

He married, second, Mary **Wood**, **27 Apr 1801**, in Lyme, CT.

11. Ezra<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **31 May 1763**, in Lyme, CT.

He married Lucy **Miller**, daughter of Ezra **Miller** and Sarah **Mather**, **23 Feb 1792**, in Lyme, CT. Born, **8 Jul 1774**. Died, **24 Nov 1796**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Carlos Adolphus<sup>4</sup>. Born, **12 Feb 1794**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Ezra Smith. Born, **9 Nov 1795**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **5 Oct 1796**, in Lyme, CT.

12. Joseph<sup>3</sup> **Wait** (Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>).

He married, first, Lurannah **Chadwick**, **3 Jun 1766**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **30 Dec 1769**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Charlotty<sup>4</sup>. Born, **10 Mar 1767**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Lurannah. Born, **22 Nov 1769**, in Lyme, CT.

He married, second, Betty **Manwarring**, **26 Aug 1770**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- iii. Joseph. Born, **20 Dec 1772**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Hannah. Born, **25 Feb 1774**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Betty. Born, **14 Oct 1780**, in Lyme, CT.
- vi. Fanny. Born, **10 Feb 1785**, in Lyme, CT.
- vii. Sarah. Born, **17 Jan 1788**, in Lyme, CT.

He married, third, Hannah **Peck**, **19 Oct 1790**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- viii. Diodate. Born, **30 Apr 1795**, in Lyme, CT.

#### FOURTH GENERATION

13. Sarah<sup>4</sup> **Wait** (Lowen<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **24 Mar 1763**, in Lyme, CT.

She married Daniel **Daniels**, **28 Nov 1782**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Bill<sup>5</sup>. Born, **6 Oct 1783**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Joseph. Born, **27 May 1786**, in Lyme, CT.

14. John<sup>4</sup> **Parsons** (Lois<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **9 Mar 1757**, in Lyme, CT.

He married Lois **Wait** (16), **1 Oct 1786**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Joanna<sup>5</sup>. Born, **31 Jul 1787**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Abigail. Born, **12 Oct 1788**, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Phebe. Born, **15 Apr 1790**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. William. Born, **30 Jul 1791**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Lucy. Born, **9 Jul 1793**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **12 May 1818**, in Lyme, CT.

- vi. Lydia. Born, **14 Jul 1795**, in Lyme, CT.
- vii. Marshfield. Born, **11 Mar 1798**, in Lyme, CT.
- viii. Richard Wait. Born, **19 Aug 1801**, in Lyme, CT. He married Clarissa L. **Griffing**, **27 Feb 1826**, in Lyme, CT.
- ix. Thomas Griswold. Born, **19 Nov 1803**, in Lyme, CT.
- x. John. Born, **Dec 1805**, in Lyme, CT.
- xi. George. Born, **2 Jan 1808**, in Lyme, CT.
- xii. Elizabeth. Born, **30 Jul 1810**, in Lyme, CT.

**15.** Thomas Griswold<sup>4</sup> **Wait** (Richard<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **14 Feb 1765**, in Lyme, CT.

He married Hannah **Caulkins**, **4 Jul 1790**, in Lyme, CT. Children:

- i. Maria<sup>5</sup>. Born, **10 Sep 1792**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Lois. Born, **15 Apr 1793**, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Emile. Born, **15 Apr 1795**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Thomas Griswold. Born, **30 Sep 1798**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Richard. Born, **8 Aug 1800**, in Lyme, CT.

**16.** Lois<sup>4</sup> **Wait** (Richard<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **1 Aug 1766**, in Lyme, CT.

She married John **Parsons** (14).

**17.** David<sup>4</sup> **Wait** (Richard<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). Born, **12 Feb 1780**, in Lyme, CT.

He married Sophia Eliza **Wood**, **20 Apr 1806**. Children:

- i. Mary Lay<sup>5</sup>. Born, **25 Feb 1807**, in Lyme, CT.
- ii. Richard. Born, **13 Jul 1808**, in Lyme, CT. Died, **10 Oct 1808**, in Lyme, CT.
- iii. Richard. Born, **1 Sep 1809**, in Lyme, CT.
- iv. Elizabeth Hale. Born, **14 Aug 1811**, in Lyme, CT.
- v. Emily Maria. Born, **3 Jul 1813**, in Lyme, CT.