

Breck Parkman's Family, 1797

Transcribed by Ross W. Beales, Jr.

My Family is now Sixteen in number, 'tho I ever wished to have a small family. Yet it is thus enlarged, viz. My mother, Brother Ebenezer, my self and wife, six Children viz. Hannah, Sukey, Charles, R. Breck, Nancy, and Mary Augusta. Hired men Ephraim and Benjamin Chamberlin, Ephraim Maynard. Maids Kezia Allin and Sally Wood. Jno. Parkman in the Store. We are building a large elegant Store. All the workmen board themselves, except Mr. Blake the master workman is with us a few days. My mother is in a very feeble state, tho' she enjoys pretty good health of Body, yet has lost the use of her limbs so that she is not able to rise out of her Chair alone nor to walk when she is up. Has faltered in her speech so that it is difficult to understand her without giving great attention and is lost in her memory. Brother Parkman is very talkative and sometimes impertinent etc., is able to do some small Choirs.

Source: Diary of Breck Parkman (Parkman Family Papers, American Antiquarian Society), Oct. 27, 1797.

Mother: Hannah (Breck) Parkman (1716-1801), widow of Ebenezer Parkman

Brother Ebenezer: Ebenezer, son of Ebenezer and Mary (Champney) Parkman, b. Aug. 20, 1727

my self: Breck Parkman, son of Ebenezer and Hannah (Breck) Parkman, b. Jan. 27, 1749

wife: Susannah, daughter of Levi and Susannah Brigham, b. Jan. 21, 1754; mar. Jan. 9, 1777

Hannah: Hannah Breck Parkman, b. Oct. 22, 1778

Sukey: Susannah Brigham Parkman, b. Apr. 13, 1781

Charles: Charles Parkman, b. May 26, 1785

R. Breck: Robert Breck Parkman, b. Sept. 29, 1787

Nancy: Anna Parkman, b. Dec. 31, 1792

Mary Augusta: Mary Augusta Parkman, b. May 12, 1796

Ephraim Chamberlain: son of Eleazer and Esther Chamberlain, b. Apr. 14, 1768

Benjamin: Chamberlain: son of Eleazer and Esther Chamberlain, b. May 8, 1778

Ephraim Maynard: son of Jonathan and Zipporah Maynard, b. Apr. 29, 1783

Kezia Allen: unknown

Sally Wood: daughter of William and Susanna Wood, b. Dec. 16, 1780

Jno. Parkman: son of William (Breck's brother) and Lydia Parkman, b. Aug. 28, 1779

Mr. Blake: possibly Barnum Blake

Susannah (Brigham) Parkman experienced two miscarriages (July 27, 1777; July 1, 1783), the death of twins within a few hours of their birth (May 26, 1784), and a stillbirth (Feb. 8, 1790). Her last child was Charlotte Sophia, b. Feb. 5, 1800.

Sources: Diaries of Ebenezer Parkman and Breck Parkman; *Vital Records of Westborough Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester: Franklin P. Rice, 1903).