

T.R. 1:116, 160]. On 15 Mar. 1677/8 John Gedney of Salem, vintner, conveyed for love, to his son Bartholomew Gedney and Hannah his wife, also to daughter-in-law Susanna Gedney, widow of John Gedney, all "my farm in Salem by Cedar Pond, formerly granted to Mr. William Clarke deceased, together with 60 acres also granted to William Clarke and afterward confirmed to me the sd John Gedney," to be equally divided between Bartholomew and Susannah Gedney [Essex Co. Deeds, 5:4]. Since Gedney's wife Katherine was not a party to this deed disposing of the property of her first husband, it is presumed that she had already died; and there is every indication that these two daughters, Hannah (Clarke) Gedney and Susannah (Clarke) Gedney, were her only children living at this time.

After the death of both Bartholomew and Hannah Gedney, their heirs agreed to a settlement dated 3 Nov. 1701, which gave one half "of their father's and mother's portion of the Clarke Farm" to daughters Bethiah, unmarried, and Deborah, wife of Francis Clarke of Boston, merchant [Essex Co. Prob. 307:230-1]. Thereafter, on 22 Sept. 1703, Bethiah Gedney of Salem, spinster, deeded her share of this property to Francis Clarke [Essex Co. Deeds, 15:238]. Finally on 18 July 1715 Deliverance Parkman of Salem, merchant, and wife Susannah (formerly Susannah Gedney), "being the only surviving daughter and living child and heir of our Father, Mr. William Clarke late of Salem deceased," deeded for love to her son William Gedney, "who bears up ye Christian name of our deceased father," all their part in Clark's Farm in Salem, bounded northerly with "our sister Hannah's part now in the possession of Cousin Francis Clark," provided William make certain payments to his mother during her lifetime and thereafter to her other heirs [*ibid.* 33:275]. This "Cousin" Francis Clarke of Boston, who is mentioned as half-owner of the Clarke Farm in Salem, was so called because he had married at Salem on 16 Oct. 1701 Susannah Parkman's niece, Deborah Gedney, baptized 25 Nov. 1677, daughter of Bartholomew and Hannah (Clarke) Gedney [Waters, 32-33].

These Gedney deeds disposing of the Clarke Farm leave no doubt as to the identity and marriages of two of the children of Mr. William and Katherine Clarke: Susannah and Hannah. Two other daughters are entered in the Salem vital records: Bethiah, bapt. 26: 6m: 1638 and Deborah, bapt. 6: 6m: 1645.

There is no marriage recorded at Salem for Bethiah Clarke, but her spouse may be inferred from the will of her stepfather, John Gedney Sr., written 22 Sept. 1684, proved 12 Dec. 1688, which in addition to provisions for his own children contained bequests to his "daugh-

ter-in-law Rebecca Putnam" and to "Bethiah Hutchinson that now liveth with me, one debt which her father Joseph Hutchinson oweth unto me" [Suffolk Co. Prob. #1667; Waters, 7]. Rebecca Putnam née Prince has been established as John Gedney's stepdaughter by his first wife [Moriarty, TAG, 14:84]. Bethiah Hutchinson was baptized at Salem on 26 Sept. 1666, daughter of Joseph Hutchinson by his first wife who was also named Bethiah [Perley, 1:249]; when Bethiah Jr. died unmarried in November 1690, the inventory of her estate included two silver cups "given her by her grandfather Gedney" [Essex Co. Prob. 303:11; Waters, 7].

Reasoning from these data, Joseph Hutchinson's first wife has been variously identified, by Perley as Bethiah Gedney and by Moriarty as Bethiah Prince. Moriarty's conclusion was based on a record that the Essex County Court, sitting on 30: 4m: 1654 at Gedney's Tavern in Salem, allowed 5s gratuity for "the servants of the house, that is 2s to Rob. Prince and 18d to Bethia and Lidia" [Essex Co. Qtly Ct. Rec. 1:361]. Gedney's own family included a Lydia but not a Bethiah [Waters, 8]; he was known to have had two Prince stepchildren, Robert and Rebecca; the logical deduction was that Bethiah was another hitherto unknown Prince. Now the knowledge that the tavern keeper had another stepdaughter, Bethiah Clarke, whose age in 1654 would be sixteen, changes the premises somewhat and makes it unnecessary to hypothecate an extra Bethiah to marry Joseph Hutchinson.

All the know circumstances of Bethiah Hutchinson's life are in keeping with this identification. She had died and Joseph had remarried on 28 Feb. 1677/8, less than a month before the date on which John Gedney deeded the Clarke Farm to the two surviving daughters of William and Katherine Clarke. By this conveyance Hutchinson probably had good reason to feel that he and his children had been cheated of his first wife's inheritance, and it is not so surprising that he then failed to pay the debt he owed Bethiah's stepfather.

This roster of four daughters of William and Katherine Clarke, as shown from the deeds to Susannah and Hannah together with the baptismal records for Bethiah, Susannah and Deborah, seems to present a patent inconsistency with the distribution order of 11 Nov. 1647, which mentioned an "elder son" who was to have a double portion of the money assigned to the "four younger children." Reasoning literally from the wording of the court record, one would infer that these "four younger children" were two sons, since an "elder" presupposes the existence of a younger, and two daughters. While it is possible that the recorder for the General Court might have been misinformed, or merely uninformed, as to the sex of Mr. Clarke's small children, still it

would be hard to believe that an Essex County court "sitting in Salem" would record a "double pchon" to "the elder son" unless the younger children in this Salem family actually did include at least one boy.

Moreover, there is a way to meet the record head-on. Perhaps there was in November 1647 a surviving son and three daughters in William Clarke's second family, with the fourth daughter, Hannah, born sometime after the distribution was ordered. True, this resolution of the discrepancy must stand without supporting evidence. There is no record of the birth, baptism or death of any such son of Mr. William Clarke and no probate disposing of his rights in his father's estate. If he did exist, he had certainly died sine prole before 15 Mar. 1677/8, when John Gedney deeded the Clarke Farm to his two daughters-in-law, the surviving heirs of Mr. William Clarke. In addition we must suppose that in ordering the distribution as it did the court was either ignorant of Katherine's condition or unusually remiss in making no provision for the unborn child.

However, since the four daughters are well proved by deeds and baptisms and since the court record is explicit in stating that there was a son by the second marriage, these five are listed as the children of William and Katherine Clarke:

4. The "elder son" given a double share in the distribution order of 11 Nov. 1647. He evidently died before 15 Mar. 1677/8, probably without heirs.

5. Bethiah, bapt. at Salem 26: 6m: 1638, d. before 28 Feb. 1677/8; m. before 1660, Joseph Hutchinson, b. ca. 1633, d. 1716, son of Richard and Alice (Bosworth) Hutchinson. Five children. He m. (2) 28 Feb. 1677/8, Lydia (Buxton) Small, widow of Joseph Small and daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth Buxton. [Perley, 1:249; Perley Derby, The Hutchinson Family, 1870, 10.]

6. Susannah, bapt. at Salem 12: 1m: 1643, d. there 19 Feb. 1727/8 aged 85 years; m. (1) at Salem, 4 May 1659, John Gedney, b. ca. 1636, d. before 15 Mar. 1677/8, son of John Gedney Sr. Six children. [Waters, 8.] She m. (2) as his fourth wife, Deliverance Parkman, shipwright, mariner and merchant, who d. at Salem, 14 Nov. 1715 aged 64 years. He m. (1) 9 Dec. 1673, Sarah Veren, who d. 14 Jan. 1681/2; m. (2) Mehitabel —, who d. 17 Dec. 1684 aged ca. 26 years; m. (3) at Marblehead, 3 June 1685, Margaret Gardner, who d. 25 Mar. 1689 aged 24 years [Perley, 1:441; 3:65].

7. Deborah, bapt. at Salem 6: 6m: 1645, d. there 16 Mar. 1660.

8. Hannah, b. shortly after 11 Nov. 1647, d. at Salem 6 Jan. 1695/6; m. there 22: 10m: 1662, Bartholomew Gedney, bapt. there 14 June 1640, d. there 28 Feb.

1697/8, son of John Gedney Sr. Eleven children. [Waters, 11; Perley, 1:441.] He m. (2) Anne Steward, who d. at Ipswich 15 Oct. 1697 aged 56 years, widow of William Steward, merchant of Ipswich, who d. there 3 Aug. 1695 aged 44 years. [Hammatt, 1:346.]

Editor's Note: The compilers of the foregoing article, Mrs. McTeer and Mr. Warner, have done a magnificent piece of research and in my estimation they have come as close to proving the identity of the three children of Mr. William Clarke by his first wife as it is possible to come without the aid of direct record evidence. They have also established that one of the four children by Katherine Clarke who survived him was a son.

As indicated in their article, one of their conclusions is controversial, namely, that the daughter Bethiah Clark survived and married Joseph Hutchinson. There is sound evidence that a step-daughter of John Gedney was Hutchinson's wife and that her name was Bethiah, but, as the present compilers have noted, Mr. Moriarty in his article in TAG, *supra*, 14:83-86, concluded that Hutchinson's wife was daughter of a former wife of John Gedney, and hence was an otherwise unknown Bethia Prince and not Mrs. Katherine Gedney's daughter Bethiah Clarke. Since that article was published in 1937 and probably is not readily accessible to many readers of the present article, it seems only fair to our former contributor to explain the reasons for his different opinion, and readers will then be able to weigh the evidence pro and con and decide which theory to accept.

Mr. Moriarty accepted Gedney's deed of 15 Mar. 1677/8 as proof that Hannah and Susannah Clarke, who married two of his sons, were the only Clarke heirs, thus implying that Bethiah Clarke had died without issue. For if Joseph Hutchinson's wife was Bethiah Clark, even though she had died he had a just claim on behalf of their children to a third of the Clarke Farm, and no record has been found that he brought such a claim at law, a suit which very probably he could have won. And six years after the deed, Hutchinson's daughter is mentioned by Gedney in his will as living with him, implying that the families remained on good terms—unlikely if Gedney had cheated the Hutchinson children out of their inheritance.

If Mr. Moriarty's conclusion is accepted, and if we suppose that Bethiah Clarke died in infancy, then the four children by Katherine who survived William Clarke would be the nameless son (whose later death without issue is postulated by the present compilers), plus Hannah, Susannah, and Deborah, of whom the last named died (per record) when under fifteen. That would leave Hannah and Susannah as the only surviving heirs and render Gedney's deed legally valid and proper. It also makes it unnecessary to suppose that Hannah was posthumous and married at fifteen, since she could have been older than Susannah and born ca. 1641. It also does away with the difficulty that the Court failed to make any provision for an unborn child, the customary procedure.

With the foregoing explanation of Mr. Moriarty's theory, the reader should be able to weigh the evidence and the arguments in favor of each of the proposed solutions to the problem of Mrs. Bethiah Hutchinson's identity.