

Joseph Olin, son of Joseph Olin/Olden and Mary Aylesworth

Two Sarah “Aylesworth” Women He Did Not Marry

By Jerry “Olin” Shields, posted 27 Apr 2020

Joseph Olin II, who lived a great part of his adult life and died in Guilford, Vermont did not marry Sarah Aylesworth of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, blind daughter of Anthony and niece of Joseph’s mother Mary Aylesworth. Neither did he marry a Sarah incorrectly said to be a daughter of David Aylesworth and Martha Franklin of Scituate, Rhode Island.

One or the other of these two incorrect assignments of a wife to Joseph Olin/Olden, son of Joseph Olin and Mary Aylesworth of Scituate, Rhode Island are copied to genealogy trees repeatedly and hinder any search for the real spouse Sarah...maiden name unknown. To date, to my knowledge, no marriage record or any other record has been found to provide such evidence.

In fact, in my own years of research I have witnessed how the mistakes started. Innocently enough, it was a “one thing leads to another” situation but it is time for correction.

My father, Warren G. Olin, who died 8 Jun 2014, provided the first real documentation of the Joseph Olin line, first son of John Olin and Susanna Spencer of first East Greenwich and later North Kingston, Rhode Island. This two-volume effort included much discussion of the Olin origins before arriving in America, the birth of Joseph, his marriage and children and the most-important descendancy link to Joseph II’s migration from Scituate, Rhode Island to Guilford, Vermont and our line on to Pennsylvania and New York.

In the writing of “300 Years of Joseph Olin and His Descendants*,” he made one crucial mistake in my opinion, both as a fellow-researcher and genealogist and as his son wishing to learn even more but factual details of the lives of our ancestors. He chose, he said, to blend resourced fact, undocumented family history and creative fiction in order to make genealogy not just names and dates but an overall more enjoyable read.

“Yes, there is fiction wrapped around the facts,” he wrote on p.71. “But is it truly fictitious? It may have happened. At least I believe most of it did.”

Therein lies the problem. Some of it did happen and some of it didn't...enough so that fact often becomes confused with fiction. Joseph II did have a wife named Sarah, a fact Warren Olin provided, shown by her name as spouse on the probate records at his death in 1821 in Guilford, VT. But, although he clearly stated in the writing of the book, on page 99 of Vol. I, that no "official" record of any marriage had ever been found for this Joseph Olin/Olden, he had claimed earlier on p.98 that she was daughter of David Aylesworth and Martha Franklin of Scituate and that she was partially blind (p.71).

Research to date, including the well-respected "Arthur Alsworth and His Descendants*," has shown, however, that David, son of Arthur Aylesworth II and Mary Franklin did not have a daughter named Sarah. David's father and mother, per Arthur's will, according to the Aylesworth web site did have a granddaughter named "Sarah Lee," which could mean this granddaughter married a man named Lee.

I believe that the Aylesworth-site managers, knowing that this Aylesworth family could not provide a Sarah as a wife for our Joseph Olin II, then concluded that author Warren Olin had really meant Sarah to be the daughter of Anthony Aylesworth...a woman who was truly blind as claimed by her niece Anna Vaughn.

(I have been researching long enough to have seen the Aylesworth site managers change this Sarah Aylesworth from all marriages "unknown" to having married, incorrectly, our referenced Joseph Olin. Hopefully, they will see and make this needed correction).

Finally, regarding that particular Sarah Aylesworth, the Olin Family Society website still refers to Joseph's spouse as Sarah Aylesworth, but have removed any parentage. The site, initiated by Warren Olin and a reflection of his own books and earlier, shows incorrect birth and death dates for Sarah, records yet to be found. Hopefully, corrections will be made.

Now, as for the second Sarah Aylesworth, here's the real irony of how mistakes can snowball. A fact missed by the otherwise excellent Arthur Aylesworth site and by others, Joseph's uncle Henry Olin did marry the elderly, blind Sally Aylesworth as his fourth wife on 26 May 1810 in East Greenwich, RI.

She was a young age 75 and Henry a hearty age 93. They both died after some years of companionship at Henry's farm in West Greenwich. We know this because the evidence is in their wills. Further, this Sarah Aylesworth death in 1813 was well before Joseph's death in 1821 in Vermont, at which time he was still married to his long-time wife Sarah.

We know nothing of Henry's first wife, father of his sons Henry, Justin, Caleb and daughter Mary Tiffany. His second wife Charity is well documented and likely the mother of his two other daughters Nancy and Rebecca. Martha Randall, widow of Mathew Remington, was his third wife and she is mentioned in a codicil dated 15 Oct 1810 as Martha in his will dated 14 June 1808 and recorded for probate 26 Nov 1820. A second included codicil, not dated, refers to his wife Sarah. Peleg Olin, Henry's son, was executor.

Sarah Olin's will was dated 16 Dec 1812 and recorded for probate 31 Aug 1813. While she does not refer to spouse Henry Olin by name, she does mention son-in-law (meaning step-son) Peleg Olin along with her brothers Anthony, Richard and John.

More to the point, by also referencing her brother John's daughters Mary, Martha, Anna and Abba we can discover that it was her brother John Aylesworth and his second wife Asa Vaughn's daughter Anna, wife of John Vaughn, who in the Arthur Aylesworth website said her aunt Sally was blind.

Abstracts of these wills are found at the subscription website for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, www.americanancestors.org. : West Greenwich, R.I. Wills Recorded Between July 1743 and May 1846, compiled by Carol Joyce Hathaway. A.B., B.F.A., A.M., C.G. (Continued from Vol. 11 P. IV) West Greenwich, R.I. Will Book IV.

p.p. 41-44 Henry Olin, dated 14 June 1808, rec 26 Nov. 1820, wit. Levi Johnson, James Wightman, Benjamin Johnson. Codicil dated 15 Oct. 1810, wit. Joseph Fry, John Fry, Benjamin Johnson. Wf. Martha Olin; sons Peleg Olin, Justin Olin, Caleb Olin; daus. Mary Tiffany, Rebeckah Sly(?), Susannah Dwennells (?), dec. [her children unnamed]; grson Anthony Olin. Codicil: wf. Sarah Olin. Exec. son Peleg Olin

p.p. 100-101 Sarah Olin, dated 16 Dec. 1812, rec. 31 Aug. 1813, wit. Anthony Olin, Nabby Olin, Benjamin Johnson. Bros. Anthony Alysworth, John Alysworth, Richard Alysworth; Mary Aldrich (dau. of bro. Anthony); Mary, Martha, Anna, Abba (dau. of bro. John); son-in-law Peleg Olin; Anna Fry (dau. of Thomas Fry [no relationship given to testator]). Exec. bro. John Aylesworth

**("Arthur Aylsworth and His Descendants in America, with Notes Historical and Genealogical, Relating to the Family, From Early English Records," by Homer Elhanan Aylsworth, M.D. Edited by James N. Arnold.)*

www.aylesworth.net

** Warren G. Olin, "300 Years of Joseph Olin and His Descendants, Vol I" [hereinafter, Joseph Olin Descendants]. Editor Ann Joyce Olin Powell. (York, PA: Maple-Vail Book Manufacturing Group, 1996). Out of Print. Digital version: www.archive.org*

So, the search goes on. Who is Sarah? What is her maiden name? Where did they marry? Is there a record that can be found? Who did Joseph Olin Jr., a young man who turned 20 shortly after his father's death in Scituate, Rhode Island, actually marry?

In another story, to be attached to Joseph Olin II, I will try to make the case that he married Sarah Gallup, sister of Joseph Gallup and his wife Jemima Harrington, also of Scituate before they all migrated to Guilford, Vt.