



David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

transcripts of town Webb memories10 messages

doug wilhelm <dwilhelm@together.net>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 10:56 AM

Reply-To: dwilhelm@together.net

To: David Webster <dwebster640@myfairpoint.net>, David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>, Dorothea Penar <dfpenar@comcast.net>

Hi David, Dorothea and David,

I hope you're all having a good summer, and I hope it rains soon!

I'm working on a final piece of my book on the pre-Shelburne Farms families, having to do with local sentiment about the Webbs -- and here are transcripts of two local people talking about that. I would have acquired these at the Historical Society one Saturday morning late in the spring, when I visited with David Boucher and he was so helpful.

Trouble is, I can't find any record of whose memories these are. I've looked and looked through the Society's online resources, and can't find these transcripts. Would you have any idea who these came from -- or can you help me figure that out, maybe if we delve into the Society's archives that are still unscanned?

As you'll see, these appear to be the transcripts of two people's memories, whether written or oral. The first two pages are from one person, seemingly a male, while page 3 is differently spaced and could be from someone else. But the pages seem to be connected -- page 3 follows on page 2's struggle to remember the name of the Webbs' English butler.

Any clue at all who's speaking (or writing) here?

hopefully,

doug

--

Doug Wilhelm
dwilhelm@together.net
www.dougwilhelm.com

KIND OF A MIRACLE: The Unlikely Story of the Community College of Vermont
longstridebooks.com

 **transcripts.pdf**
2249K

David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 11:17 AM

To: dwilhelm@together.net

Cc: David Webster <dwebster640@myfairpoint.net>, Dorothea Penar <dfpenar@comcast.net>

Good to hear from you Doug!

Summer has been going well for me anyway. Great gardening year!

You'll find attached the document I provided to you earlier this year when you came to visit. Below is what we have in the description of that entry:

"This is an essay written by a child of Julius Tracy who was born in a house at the top of the Breeding Barn hill writing

of the families attitude of the Webb's and their acquisition of farms to create their estate. [There is a possibility that this was written by one of his twelve children, Hannah Edgerton Tracy Maeck 1886-1982, because we have quite a few other archive records from her.] "

I remember asking David W. about who he thought was the author of this essay, David can you confirm?

Unfortunately, this is a different document that you are asking about.

David, Dorothea, Any ideas?

David Boucher

[Quoted text hidden]



The Webbs inShelburne.pdf

1264K

doug wilhelm <dwilhelm@together.net>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 11:39 AM

Reply-To: dwilhelm@together.net

To: David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

Cc: David Webster <dwebster640@myfairpoint.net>, Dorothea Penar <dfpenar@comcast.net>

Hi David,

Thanks a lot for your reply. I do have that document, "The Webbs in Shelburne" -- you gave it to me in the spring, and David Webster did weigh on its source:

"I believe the account that David Boucher refers to is one written by Laura Tracy Twitchell. The fact that the Webbs used agents to acquire the properties rather than in their own names and that the sellers were not to divulge the sales left some of the families feeling that they had not been dealt with fairly.

"Although the Webbs did do some trading with local merchants I believe much of what was consumed came by rail from New York. It is also my understanding that they did not make purchases at Tracy & VanVliet, later Tracy & Maeck, the larger of the general stores in the village.

"Also, the display of wealth was not something the leading families subscribed to."

If I can find out who wrote or said the reminiscences I emailed around today, they can somewhat balance out the negativity of Laura Tracy Twitchell's piece ... and whatever the content, I'll be on more solid ground if I can cite the memories of more than one local person.

hopefully,

doug

[Quoted text hidden]

David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 11:51 AM

To: dwilhelm@together.net

Cc: David Webster <dwebster640@myfairpoint.net>, Dorothea Penar <dfpenar@comcast.net>

Good luck in your search Doug. I'd be interested to know who wrote it.

If it's okay with you, I would like to save a copy in the file with The Webbs of Shelburne.

David B.

[Quoted text hidden]

doug wilhelm <dwilhelm@together.net>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 12:03 PM

Reply-To: dwilhelm@together.net

To: David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

Sure! I'm pretty sure those transcripts came from you in the first place ... can't imagine where else I would have acquired them. But I'm puzzled about why I don't have any notes on the sources. Maybe that information just wasn't there.

dg

[Quoted text hidden]

David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 12:08 PM

To: dwilhelm@together.net

Hmmm, I don't recall seeing them but I've handled LOTS of documents.

David

[Quoted text hidden]

doug wilhelm <dwilhelm@together.net>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 12:26 PM

Reply-To: dwilhelm@together.net

To: David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

It's funny because they don't appear on the Historical Society's page of scanned resources.

I'm going to send the transcripts to Julie Edwards, the Shelburne Farms archivist. She has been very helpful, and it's just possible these came from her. I'll let you know!

doug

[Quoted text hidden]

David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 1:05 PM

To: dwilhelm@together.net

FYI, we have a Digital archive that has a lot more records in it than our HUB website that you only have access to on our society computer in our office.

I did a search for that document and did not find it.

I'd like to meet up with Julie someday..... when I'm finished this archiving project.

David

[Quoted text hidden]

David Webster <dwebster640@myfairpoint.net>

Wed, Aug 6, 2025 at 11:40 PM

Reply-To: dwebster640@myfairpoint.net

To: dwilhelm@together.net, David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>, Dorothea Penar <dfpenar@comcast.net>

Doug,

This piece has to have been written by Richard Tracy. He mentions his cousin Bill Maeck who was closer in age to Dick than he would have been to Dick's older brother, Warren. He was the third child of Henry and Charlotte Maeck Tracy and the younger brother of Laura Tracy Twitchell who wrote the other piece you have. He was born circa 1919-1920. He spent his adult life in Marin County, north of San Francisco.

David

[Quoted text hidden]

doug wilhelm <dwilhelm@together.net>

Thu, Aug 7, 2025 at 8:22 AM

Reply-To: dwilhelm@together.net

To: dwebster640@myfairpoint.net, David Boucher <david.boucher@shelburnehistoricalsociety.org>, Dorothea Penar <dfpenar@comcast.net>

Thanks so much, David, and you're right! Late last night I found some papers that went with the transcript but got separated -- it was indeed Richard Tracy, who was interviewed in 2006 by Julie Edwards the Shelburne Farms archivist.

It was Julie who gave me this material, during one of my visits to that archive. I emailed her yesterday, asking if that might have been the case -- a vague memory came into my mind that it was -- and she promised an answer today; then last night I dug through materials for the book and found the evidence.

So, all's well that ends well ... in this case at least. Thank you David, and also David Boucher, for your help in solving this!

best,

doug

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