

Daniel B. Smith & Lucinda Tufts

Parents of thirteen children



Dorene Hancock Smith

Preface

This is the life story of the paternal great-great grandfather and grandmother of my husband. After many years of research, their life story was prepared using actual birth, marriage, and death records, as well as town records, land records, old maps, newspapers, probate records, and old photos of the town of West Fairlee. In addition, in 1981, 1988, 2007 and 2015, we visited West Fairlee, Vermont, and took pictures of the church, the prior home and property, and the tombstones of Daniel B. Smith and Lucinda Tufts, and tombstones of some of their children.

I have tried to present accurate information, but recommend independent verification before accepting the material as fact. This PDF may be printed for family history purposes and non-commercial uses. I only request that you reference me as the writer.

*Written by Dorene Hancock Smith
Draft August 2007, Final March 2020*

History of Daniel B. Smith & Lucinda Tufts

*1774-1849*1785-1856*

Birth place of Daniel B. Smith unknown

Daniel B. Smith came into this world just before the beginning of the American Revolution. After many years of research, the exact date and place of his birth has not been found, and his parents have not been identified. Without this knowledge, we don't know the effect of the war on his family, but we are certain, as with other families at that time, it would have been a difficult time for them.

A death record in West Fairlee, Vermont records his birth year as 1774.¹ In addition, according to several census records, two of his children give conflicting information regarding where their father was born. For example, in the 1880 census, his son Monroe indicates his father was born in Vermont.² Another son, Nathan records that his father was born in Rhode Island.³ Twenty years later Monroe records in the 1900 census that his father was born in Rhode Island.⁴ Thus, there are two records giving evidence that Daniel could have been born in Rhode Island. However, no birth records in Rhode Island have been connected to him. We do know that Daniel was in Keene, New Hampshire as early as 1800 when he got married.

Birth of Daniel's future bride, Lucinda Tufts

Before Lucinda was born, her father Zechariah Tufts, from Medford, Massachusetts, had served in the Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1782. During his service, he had been recruited as one of 500 light infantrymen who were handpicked sharpshooters, chosen for their marksmanship. These Rangers became known as Morgan's Riflemen.⁵

Sometime after his seven long years of service in the American Revolution, Zechariah moved to Keene, New Hampshire. Perhaps he found work at one of the mills or factories that were located along the Achuelot River. After Zechariah settled in Keene, he began courting Miss Mary Washburn, and they were married on October 2, 1783.⁶

On March 23, 1785, Zachariah and his wife Mary welcomed a sweet baby girl into their home and gave her the name of Lucinda.⁷ Being the second child in a family of twelve children, Lucinda certainly learned to help her mother with the daily chores of cooking, spinning, making cloth, sewing, and helping to care for her younger siblings. It wasn't long before Lucinda had developed into a young lady who was very capable and mature for her young age.

¹ West Fairlee Center Cemetery, Orange, Vermont: gravestone.

² Monroe: 1880 Census of Syracuse, Onondaga, New York.

³ Nathan: 1880 census of West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont.

⁴ Monroe: 1900 census of Syracuse, Onondaga, New York.

⁵ Daniel Morgan's Riflemen, <http://www.ushistory.org/march/other/morgan.htm>.

⁶ <http://www.keenepubliclibrary.org/library/vital-records/marriages-1762-1790>.

⁷ Keene, Cheshire, NH Vital records, birth records, <http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/library/vitalstatistics/>.



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Lucinda had developed into a young lady who was very capable and mature for her young age.

Daniel labors for a yeoman in St. Johnsbury, Vermont

We find Daniel living in St. Johnsbury, Vermont in 1794. On September 2nd, he and eleven other young men, took the first freeman's oaths in St. Johnsbury, which oath was a part of the 1777 Constitution of the Vermont Republic. To take the oath, a man had to be the full age of twenty-one years, a citizen of Vermont, and of a quiet and peaceable behavior. This oath would entitle him to all the privileges of a voter of the state.⁹

⁸ <https://olddesignshop.com/2016/09/dinner-time-for-the-calves/>.

⁹ <https://archive.org/details/vermonthistorica01heme/page/396/mode/2up>.

Four years later, in 1798, Daniel was working as a laborer for a yeoman farmer, Nathaniel Edson. St. Johnsbury is about 120 miles due north of Keene, New Hampshire, by way of the Connecticut River. During that era, a yeoman farmer was one who owned and worked his own family farm. Accordingly, Nathaniel promised to pay seventy pounds to Daniel—one half of which was to be paid in Neat Stock at cash price, and the other half in cash—if he would labor for him for two years, beginning October 1, 1798. Neat Stock was a livestock term, often used as payment and barter.



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Daniel was working as a laborer for a yeoman farmer, Nathaniel Edson.

Two years after Daniel had completed his labors in St. Johnsbury, he moved to Keene. Apparently, Mr. Edson had not paid him for his work. When Daniel realized he would not be paid, he sued Nathaniel and was awarded \$200.¹¹

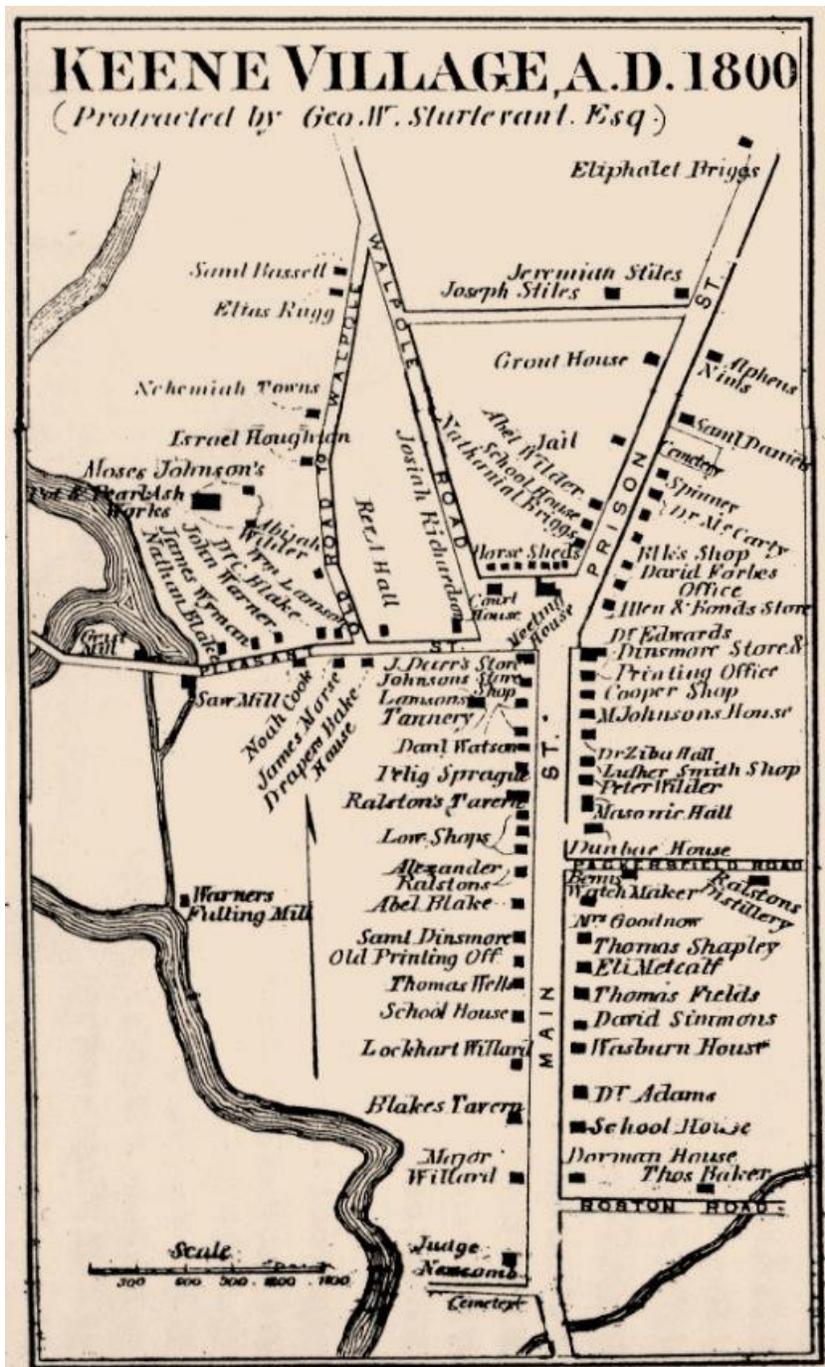
Daniel marries the young Lucinda Tufts

There appears to have been a very good reason why Daniel was so anxious to obtain the money that was due him. He had worked hard for Nathaniel Edson, and was to be married to the young and competent Lucinda Tufts, daughter of Zachariah and Mary. Daniel was twenty-six years old, and eleven years older than his young bride Lucinda, who was only fifteen when they married. At that time, all farmers' daughters learned to spin and weave,

¹⁰ <https://olddesignshop.com/2014/08/victorian-farmers-loading-hay-free-clip-art/>.

¹¹ "Daniel Smith recovers of the said Nathaniel Edson \$200 as his balance on all demand and cost of reference, taxed at six dollars and seventy five cents and cost of court." New Hampshire CCSC box #52537 Vol. Superior Court of Judicature #466-7.

and they usually made their own marriage outfit.¹² No doubt, when Lucinda became engaged, she began to spin and weave a dress for the special occasion. Jeremiah Stiles, Esquire, the Justice of the Peace of Cheshire County, performed the marriage in Keene, on November 7, 1800.¹³ One month later, Stiles unexpectedly died at the age of fifty-six.



Jeremiah Stiles, Esquire, the Justice of the Peace of Cheshire County, performed the marriage in Keene, on November 7, 1800.

¹² Griffin, S.G. *A History of the Town of Keene*, Chap. XII, p. 324.

¹³Keene, Cheshire, NH vital records, marriage records, <http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/library/vitalstatistics/>.

Thirteen Children

Because Lucinda was very young when she married, she was able to give birth to thirteen children, for the duration of more than thirty years, from 1801 to 1831.¹⁴

From three records, we learn the names of seven of their children. In one record, the death of **Sarah** Smith, daughter of Daniel Smith of West Fairlee, is recorded in a newspaper in 1845.¹⁵ The second record, from a West Fairlee, Vermont land deed, dated September 1849, gives the names of five children, **Harriet, Laura, Nathan, Monroe** and **Elizabeth**.¹⁶ Additionally, **Fanny** is identified as one of their children because she is buried between the tombstone of her father and mother, and the tombstone of her sister Harriet. The other six children have not yet been identified.

Census Records

In general, the 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840 Federal Censuses only recorded the names of those who were heads of families, with the number of males and females living in the household within a five to ten-year span. This makes it impossible to know the names of the children from those census records.

There are clues in the early New Hampshire newspapers that Daniel and his bride Lucinda lived in Keene, New Hampshire for a short time after they married. The local newspaper would publicize a list of persons who had letters that needed to be picked up in the Post Office. In 1801 and 1804, a Daniel Smith of Keene, had two letters listed in the newspaper. One letter in 1802 was addressed to Daniel Smith Jr. of Keene.¹⁷ After 1804, there were no remaining letters to Daniel Smith of Keene. If the letter to Daniel Smith Jr. was for Daniel B. Smith, it could be evidence for the name of his father.

Early records of Daniel—such as his marriage record—did not contain the letter “B.” By 1810, Daniel was using the “B” in his name. By 1810, it is clear that Daniel and Lucinda were living in Orford, New Hampshire. There was only one Daniel B. Smith in all of the New Hampshire censuses that fit the age categories for Daniel, Lucinda, and the two known female children, Harriet and Fanny. The following table shows the males and females who were living in the household of Daniel B. Smith, and the probable person who fits in the age span:

1810 Census, Orford, Grafton, New Hampshire

Number in Household	Sex	Age Span	Probable Person	Actual Age	Year Born
1	Male	26-45	Daniel B. Smith (Head)	36	1774
1	Female	16-26	Lucinda Tufts (mother)	25	Mar 23, 1785
1	Female	0-10	Unknown		Probably 1801
1	Female	0-10	Unknown		Probably 1803
1	Female	0-10	Harriet Smith	5	1806
1	Female	0-10	Fanny Smith	3	1807
1	Male	0-10	Unknown		Probably 1809

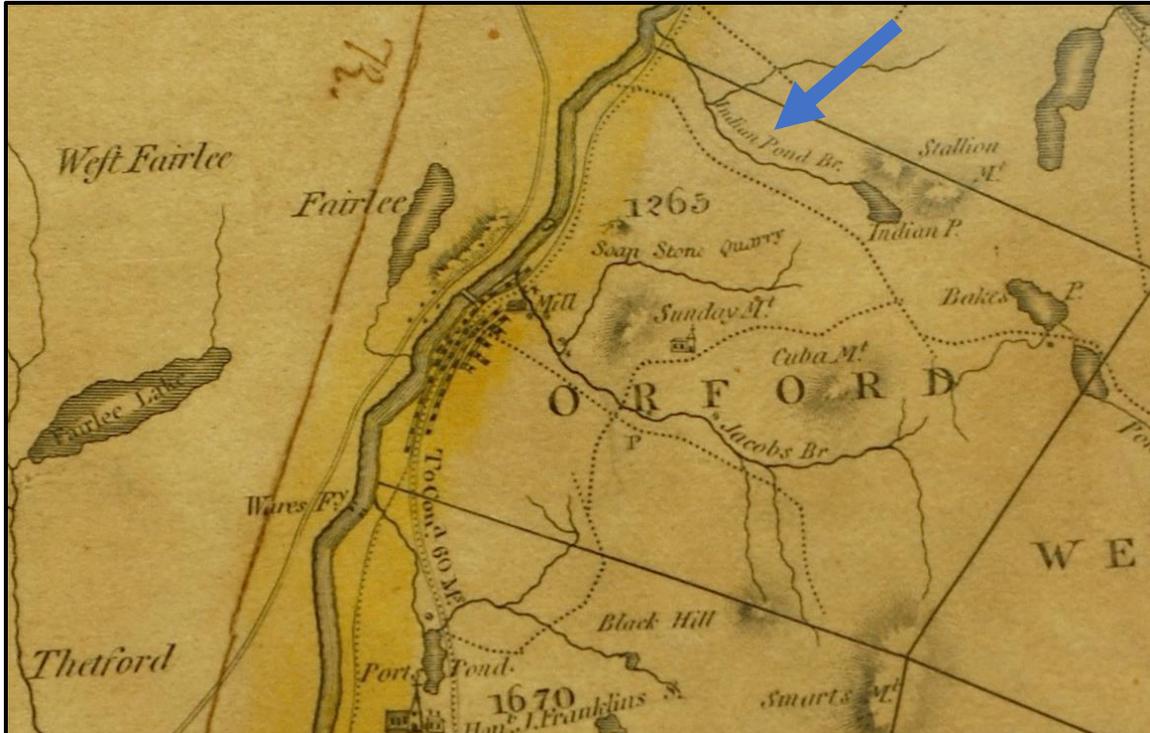
¹⁴ Obituary of Nathan A. Smith: Vermont Chronicle (Bellows Falls, VT) 27 Apr 1888, p. 8.

¹⁵ Vermont Chronicle, July 15, 1845, death of Sarah Smith.

¹⁶ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont land records; Smith & heirs to Smith, Volume 5, p. 333.

¹⁷ The Keene Sentinel, Keene, New Hampshire.

In addition, land records also indicate that Daniel B. Smith had moved eighty-five miles north, to Orford, New Hampshire. He started buying land in Orford prior to September 1804, as he sold some land in September 1804. He also sold land in 1805, 1809, and 1816.¹⁸ On May 4, 1816 he purchased the last recorded piece of land for \$175. It was a one-acre parcel in Orford, which was part of the Governors right on the road to Indian Pond.¹⁹ Less than a year later he sold that land on February 12, 1817, for \$147.33,²⁰ thus taking a loss on it of \$27.67. At the same time, he sold two other pieces of land. However, even though these sales are listed in the Grafton County index of land deeds, there is no volume or page number listed. According to a clerk at the Concord Archives, those records were likely lost.



It was a one-acre parcel in Orford, which was part of the Governors right on the road to Indian Pond.

By 1820, Daniel B. Smith is not recorded in the Orford census. Additionally, the 1820 census of Vermont was searched and there were twenty-two heads of families with the name of Daniel Smith. There was only one Daniel B. Smith who lived in Barton, Orleans, Vermont, but his wife's name was Thankful, not Lucinda.

According to the 1830 census, Daniel was living in West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont. There were five male children and two female children living in the Smith household.²¹ The chart below shows the children in order of birth. Because Harriet and Fanny were already married in 1829, they are not listed in this census. Likewise, Elizabeth is not in this census because she was not born until 1831.

¹⁸ Grafton County, New Hampshire Index to Land Records, Daniel B. Smith.

¹⁹ Grafton County, New Hampshire Land Deeds, FHL Film 0015829, Chaplin to Smith.

²⁰ Grafton County, New Hampshire Land Deeds, FHL Film 0015830, Smith to Dame.

²¹ 1830 US Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont, p. 85.

1830 Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont

Number in household	Sex	Age Span	Probable Person	Actual Age	Year Born
1	Male	50-60	Daniel B. Smith (father)	56	1774
1	Female	40-50	Lucinda Tufts (mother)	47	1783
1	Male	20-30	Unknown 1		Probably 1809
1	Male	15-20	Unknown 2		Probably 1811
1	Male	15-20	Unknown 3		Probably 1814
1	Female	10-15	Laura B. Smith	12	1817
1	Male	5-10	Nathan A. Smith	10	1820
1	Female	Under 5	Sarah Smith	4	1826
1	Male	Under 5	Monroe F. Smith	2	1828

In the 1840 census of West Fairlee, Vermont, there were five children living in the Daniel B. Smith household, consisting of two male children and three female children.²² The following chart details the known children who were in the household.

1840 Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont

Number in Household	Sex	Age Span	Probable Person	Actual Age	Year Born
1	Male	60-70	Daniel B. Smith (father)	66	1774
1	Female	50-60	Lucinda Tufts (mother)	57	1783
1	Female	20-30	Laura B. Smith	22	1817
1	Male	20-30	Nathan A. Smith	20	1820
1	Female	15-20	Sarah Smith	14	1826
1	Male	15-20	Monroe F. Smith	12	1828
1	Female	5-10	Elizabeth J. Smith	9	1831

These three censuses give evidence of 12 children. We can accept that the first nine children were likely born in Keene or Orford, and the last three children, Sarah, Monroe and Elizabeth were born in West Fairlee. However, because of the missing 1820 census, one unknown child is missing.²³

²² 1840 US Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont, p. 159.

²³ I have researched for many years to find the six missing children. Aaron Dexter Smith has circumstantial evidence that could place him in this Smith family. His middle name 'Dexter' does not yet connect him to this family, as it is likely a family name. (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/MF7W-CFN>)

a. Aaron was born about 1815 in Vermont or New Hampshire. He married Abiah B. Johnson in West Fairlee, Vermont, on October 18, 1837.

b. Aaron named his first child Laura E. who was born in 1839 in West Fairlee. The name of Laura possibly connects Aaron to Daniel because he also had a child named Laura B.

c. Aaron and Abiah were living in West Fairlee in 1840, then moved to Stockholm New York about 1848. Thus, Aaron was not in West Fairlee when father Daniel died in 1849, and also not mentioned as an heir to Daniel's estate. Aaron was listed in the 1850 Stockholm census and Agriculture census, both recorded on September 20, 1850. He likely died later that year, even though his tombstone incorrectly shows Aaron died in 1849.

Daniel buys farm in West Fairlee, Vermont

Orford is only across the River from Fairlee. The Connecticut River serves as the boundary between New Hampshire and Vermont, and forms the western edge of Orford, and the eastern edge of Fairlee. “The town of West Fairlee was originally a part of the town of Fairlee, and chartered as such. It was separated and set off from Fairlee in the year 1796, and called by the name of West Fairlee.”²⁴



The Connecticut River serves as the boundary between New Hampshire and Vermont, and forms the western edge of Orford, and the eastern edge of Fairlee.

The first bridge across the Connecticut River, from Orford to Fairlee, was built in 1802, but was destroyed by floods in 1809. A second bridge at this crossing was built and survived until 1856.²⁵ This bridge made it easier for Daniel to travel to the town of West Fairlee to search for a parcel of land for his family.

Daniel found a beautiful parcel of land in West Fairlee, which contained about thirty-seven acres. It was located in Lot 8 of the Third Range, in the south half of a one-hundred-acre parcel. In 1824, Daniel moved his family from Orford to West Fairlee. At that time his youngest child, Nathan, was four years old.²⁶

This parcel of land was owned by Elias Lyman, a resident of White Junction, Vermont, which is about twenty-five miles south of West Fairlee. On February 27, 1812, Elias had purchased this land from Samuel Niles of Massachusetts.²⁷ During the late 1700's, some wealthier residents of Massachusetts bought land in the new state of Vermont as an

²⁴ Vermont Historical Magazine, West Fairlee history by Alvah Bean, 1871, p. 908.

²⁵ https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/documents/connecticut_river_bridges.pdf, p. 6.

²⁶ Obituary of Nathan A. Smith: Vermont Chronicle (Bellows Falls, VT) 27 Apr 1888, p. 8.

²⁷ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Land Records, Vol. 4, p. 66.

investment. Many never farmed or lived on the land, thus giving farmers a chance to rent and farm the land. By November 1830, Elias Lyman had died at the age of sixty-two,²⁸ and his oldest son, Lewis Lyman of Hartford, Vermont, became an heir of his father's land in West Fairlee.



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In the 1830 West Fairlee census, Daniel was living in the same place as he was living in the 1840 census, next to his neighbor Jabez Lamphear. However, land records show that he did not purchase the thirty-seven acres until April 9, 1834, ten years after the family moved. Thus, he probably leased the land from Elias Lyman when he moved in 1824.

After Elias was deceased, Daniel was given the opportunity to purchase the land from his son, Lewis Lyman, for \$150. He promised to pay Lewis three promissory notes over three years, which included interest. The first note was for \$56, to be paid by Daniel and George B. Strong and Company, and was due at the end of the year, on December 1, 1834. The second note of \$56, was payable the following year, on December 1, 1835. The last note for \$53 was due on December 1, 1836.²⁹

It is unknown if the original owners, Samuel Niles or Elias Lyman, had built a home on the land, but it is unlikely, as both never lived in West Fairlee. Thus, Daniel probably needed to build a new home for his large family.

²⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58053679>.

²⁹ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Land Records, Vol. 4, p. 66.

Daniel owned a few farming tools, but they were of crude construction. Timber on the land had to be cut down with axes and trimmed into logs for the frame house. After many months, a frame house was completed. A well was dug for water and a barn was erected to shelter the animals and tools. A wood box was built to store wood for cooking and heating during the harsh cold winters. As the land was cleared for pasture and crops, large rocks were dug up and used to make a rock fence around the farm.



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Daniel also owned and used the following tools on his farm: He had a plow for turning the soil, a sickle for cutting hay, a hay fork for gathering the hay, a dung fork to clean up animal droppings, a grindstone for sharpening tools, two axes for cutting wood, a saw frame, a nail hammer, various hardware, and tongs, perhaps used to lodge into a log to be able to drag a log. He also had a trowel, two shovels, a chain, a staple and a ring, which may have been used to attach to an upright log in a barn or on a fencepost so that one could tether an animal.³⁰ Through the years, Daniel taught his sons to labor on the farm and help with the daily farm chores.

³⁰ Probate Court, Bradford District, Estate of Daniel B. Smith, Vol. 8, p. 470-471.



After many months, a frame house was completed. (1981 photo)



Old barn (1981 photo)



A well was dug for water and a barn was constructed to shelter the animals and tools. (2007 photo)

What was the Smith home like?

Because of the inventory taken of Daniel's estate after he died, we are made aware of some of the furnishings and household items that were included in their home. It is probable that Daniel made some of the furniture in their home.

The kitchen was where Lucinda spent much of her time each day, preparing meals for her large family. Located in their home, they had a large table, a smaller table, and twelve chairs. In her pantry she had two cupboards where she kept her provisions, cooking and eating utensils, which included two kettles, two jugs, and crockery. At that time, the term crockery was applied to the courser kinds of ware. The finer kinds of ware were usually called china or porcelain. Lucinda also had a salt mortar for grinding rock salt for table use, a churn for making butter, two cuke or cucumber barrels, a meat barrel, and a meal chest. In addition, she had a barrel, a half barrel, a half bushel, three boxes and two wash tubs, probably used for washing dishes. She also had three tubs, which were most likely used for washing and rinsing clothes.



Lucinda had a churn for making butter, and two cuke or cucumber barrels.

Daniel owned sheep, which were used for wool, as well as meat. The winters in Vermont were very cold and wool clothing would keep the family warm. It was a common thing in those days for the mother to make the cloth and the clothing for the entire family. In addition to cooking, much of Lucinda's time would have been devoted to hackling, carding and spinning the flax, then weaving it into cloth to make clothing. Lucinda had a foot wheel and a great wheel, which were used for spinning thread of various kinds.³¹ She also had an iron spindle, on which the thread, when twisted, was wound.³²

³¹ Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

³² Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

A typical home at that time had an open fireplace to warm the house in the winter. After the winter fire was burning, all the cooking and housework could be done. Then when supper was over, the family would gather around the fireplace to keep warm. It was their home—symbolized by the open fire and the hearthstone—that bound their family together. There they would teach their children, read together and share the events of the day.



Spinning wheel, which was used for spinning thread of various kinds.

During the winter, the fire would have to be kept burning through the night to warm the house while the family was sleeping. With such a large family, the children would have to share the beds and bedrooms, sleeping together to keep each other warm.

Their bedroom furnishings consisted of a light stand, three beds and bedding, four bedsteads with cords, and a chest of drawers. The bedstead with cords was the frame for the feather or straw bed. The cords were strung tightly back and forth across the bedstead to keep the bed up off the floor, away from any bedbugs. Thus, came the saying, “*Good night, sleep tight; don’t let the bedbugs bite.*”

The family even had a mirror, which allowed Daniel and Lucinda, as well as their children, to see their own reflection before the invention of photos. They also had a clock, a flat iron, three trunks, a chest, and a tub that was used for bathing.³³

³³ Probate Court, Bradford District, Estate of Daniel B. Smith, Vol. 8, p. 470-471.



“Good night, sleep tight; don’t let the bedbugs bite.”

Lucinda loses her parents

For Lucinda, March 1828 was a bittersweet month. Happiness filled the heart of Lucinda and Daniel when Monroe was born to them in March. Sadly, on March 12, 1828, her father, Zechariah, was walking home alone that night and accidentally fell twelve feet over a bank. He died as a result of the fall and was not found until the next morning.³⁴ He was seventy years old. At that time, the only form of communication would have been letters. It is certain that it must have been difficult for Lucinda to receive the tragic news of her father’s death. With a new baby, it is doubtful that Lucinda would have been able to travel the eighty-three miles to Keene, New Hampshire to visit and comfort her grief-stricken mother.

Eight years later, on August 23, 1836, when Lucinda was fifty-one years old, her mother, Mary, died at the age of seventy-four.³⁵

Daniel harvested sap and made maple sugar

Daniel owned seventy-four sap tubs that were used to harvest sap from the maple trees. When the warm days of late winter would awaken the flow of sap in the maple trees, causing the buds to swell, it was time to begin the labor of harvesting the sap. After harvesting the sap from the maple trees, they would boil the sap in the seventy-four sap tubs to evaporate some of the water. Soon there would be sweet-smelling, billowing clouds of steam rising from the sugarhouse.

³⁴ Keene, Cheshire, NH Vital records, death records: <http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/library/vitalstatistics/> and New-Hampshire Sentinel, March 14, 1828.

³⁵ Ibid, and New-Hampshire Sentinel, August 25, 1836.

It usually took forty gallons of sap from the maple trees to make one gallon of syrup, which was then made into maple sugar. This was both time consuming and labor intensive. It was common for every family to produce their own maple sugar. Maple sugar production was especially important due to the fact that other types of sugar were expensive and hard to find.



Daniel owned seventy-four sap tubs that were used to harvest sap from maple trees.

Daniel borrows money from neighbor

In the early spring of 1842, when Daniel's son, Nathan, married Mary Wilds,³⁶ it is probable that Nathan and his new bride continued to live with his parents until they could become better established. Daniel still needed Nathan's help on the farm to help care for the livestock, harvest the sap from the maple trees and prepare the ground for the spring planting.

Later that same year, Daniel had some financial needs and it became necessary for him to borrow money. Jabez Lamphear was well known in the West Fairlee town meetings, and was a kind neighbor who lived to the south of Daniel. Daniel went to the home of his neighbor, Jabez, and asked him if he would loan him money, until times were better and he could repay him. Jabez agreed to his request, if Daniel's thirty-seven acres of land could be used for collateral. An agreement was reached and on October 11, 1842, Jabez loaned Daniel \$150. Daniel signed a promissory note to Jabez for \$119, to be paid back in five years, with interest. The condition of the mortgage deed was if Daniel would pay off the promissory note, the mortgage deed would be null and void; otherwise Jabez would retain Daniel's land.³⁷ This is similar to what happens today when someone buys a home and then goes to a bank to take out a home equity loan, using the home as collateral for the loan.

³⁶ Topsham, Orange, Vermont Vital Records, Vol. 2, p. 137.

³⁷ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Land Records, Vol. 4, p. 584.

Daniel sells family farm to Nathan

In 1844, when Daniel was seventy years old, perhaps his health was beginning to decline and he realized that he should sell his farm to one of his children. We know that Daniel and Lucinda had at least five boys, but it is uncertain what happened to the three older boys.³⁸ Because Monroe was only sixteen at the time, he was too young to purchase the land from his father. Both Harriet and Laura were already married and settled with their husbands. His son Nathan was married and may have been living with his parents for two years. On November 5, 1844, Daniel sold the family farm to Nathan for \$200. He also sold him two brindle cows, a yearling heifer, twenty sheep and lambs, an ox cart, and two chains, for \$60.³⁹

A brindle cow is a cow that is streak-marked or variegated with stripes of different colors. Similar cows are mentioned in the Old Testament of the Bible, as cattle and goats that are ringstraked, speckled and spotted.⁴⁰



A brindle cow is a cow that is streak-marked or variegated with stripes of different colors.

Less than three weeks after Nathan had purchased the family farm, Nathan then bought another seven to eight acres of land for \$50 from the Niles brothers. This parcel of land was located right next to the family homestead.⁴² It is possible that Nathan and his wife moved onto this property, which either had an existing home, or they built a new home, allowing Daniel and Lucinda to continue living in their farmhouse until they died.

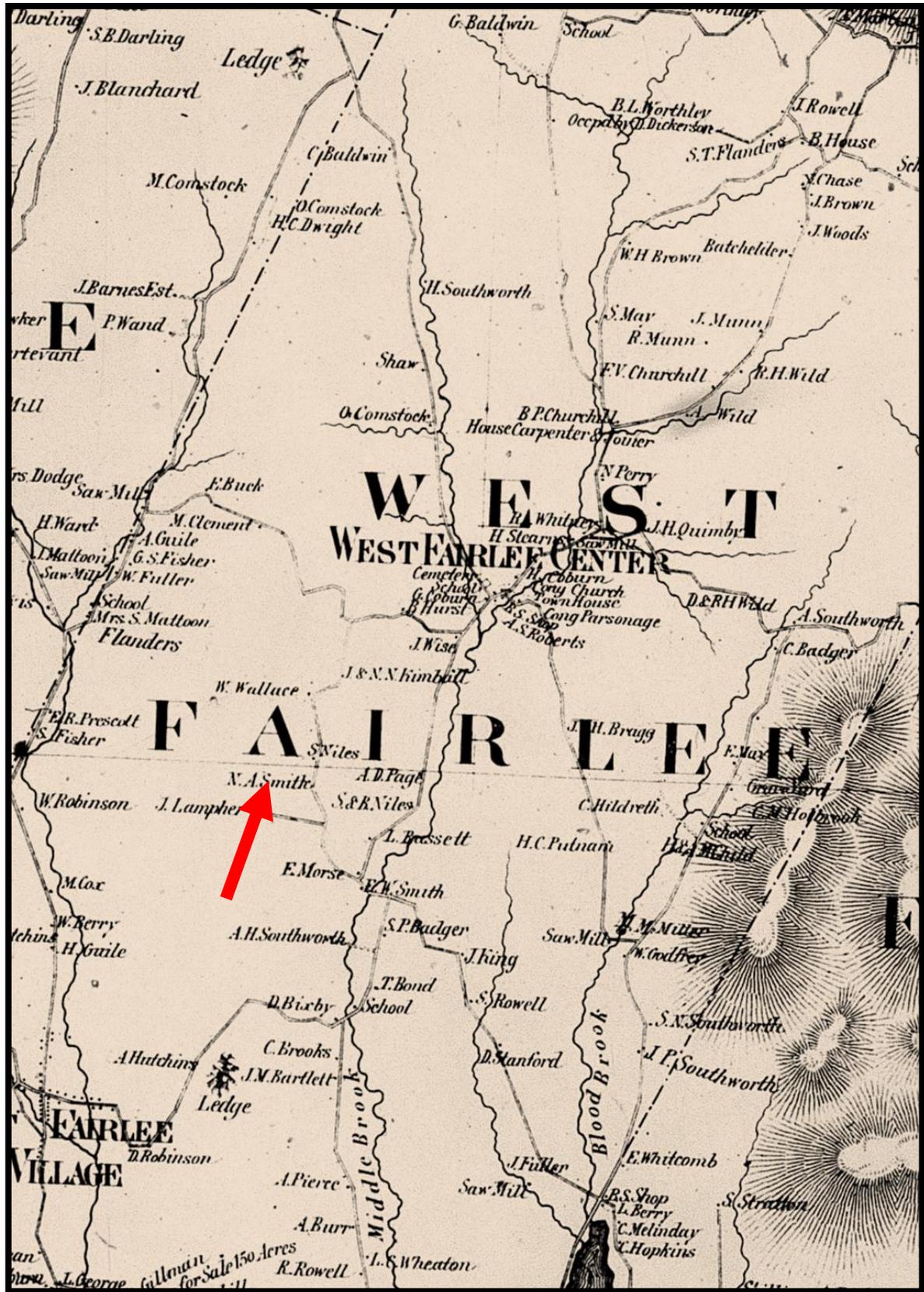
³⁸ Author's note: Only two sons were mentioned in the land record of Sep 1849, after Daniel had died. The other three sons either moved away or had died.

³⁹ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Land Records, Vol. 5, p. 18.

⁴⁰ Genesis 30:32

⁴¹ Christian Bickel, Animals of Iceland, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=581931>.

⁴² West Fairlee Land Record, Vol. 5, p. 27.

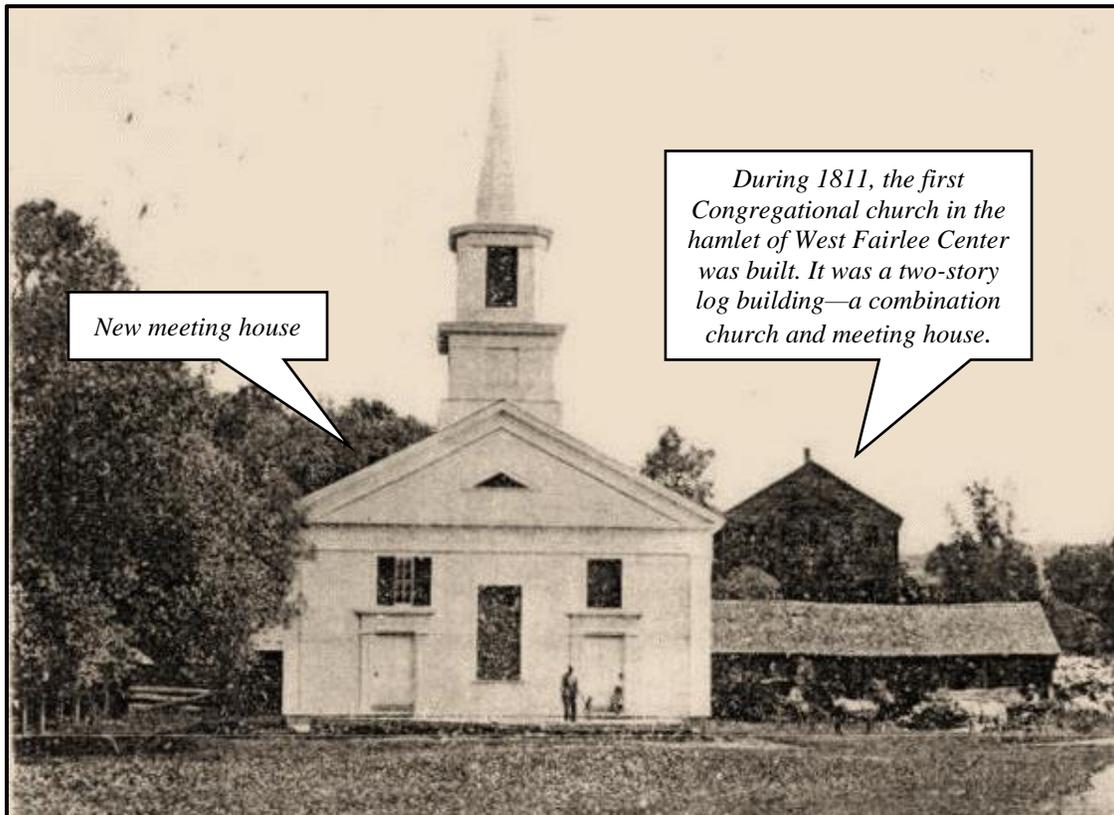


On November 5, 1844, Daniel sold the family farm to Nathan for \$200.

In those days it was common for the children to care for their aging parents in their home. They would faithfully support and maintain them, by making sure that they occupy a place in their dwelling house, furnish them with food, water, clothing, washing, a comfortable bed, medicine, and even medical and nursing care, when necessary. In short, the children would take care of their parents during their lives, and at their decease, they would bury them in a decent and Christian like manner.⁴³

West Fairlee Center Congregational Church

During 1811, the first Congregational church in the hamlet of West Fairlee Center was built. It was a two-story log building—a combination church and meeting house. In 1831, there was a remarkable religious awakening, from the fruits of which thirty-six members were added to the church.⁴⁴ Perhaps Daniel and Lucinda were among the thirty-six new members, and the family attended this church. We do know that their son Nathan became a member of this congregation by 1849. This first church served the growing congregation until 1854, when the members decided that they needed a larger meeting house. The new church was completed in 1855, six years after Daniel died.⁴⁵



This first church served the growing congregation until 1854, when the members decided that they needed a larger meeting house.

⁴³ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont land deeds: Smith, Freeman to Smith, Joseph-31 Mar 1836, Vol. 4, p. 38.

⁴⁴ Vermont Historical Magazine, West Fairlee history by Alvah Bean, 1871, p. 915.

⁴⁵ <http://www.wfcenterchurch.org/History.html>.

Unexpected deaths of their children

One of the most difficult trials for a parent is to experience the death of one of their children. Daniel and Lucinda experienced some heart wrenching sorrows and sufferings during their lifetime. From various sources, we are aware of some of their sorrows when they witnessed the deaths of their children.

Fanny was the first child they lost on October 1, 1839, along with their nineteen-month-old grandchild, Elbright, who died twenty-five days after his mother, Fanny. It is probable that the same disease took both of their lives. Fanny was only thirty-two years when she left her husband, Luther Lamb, and her seven-year-old daughter, Eliza. It is unknown what happened to Luther Lamb. However, next to Fanny, there is an unmarked grave that is marked with only a stone at the head and foot, which is probably his resting place.

Sarah was one of their younger children, born in West Fairlee after the family moved to Vermont. On the 10th of May 1845, at the tender age of nineteen, Sarah died of consumption, which is a disease involving the lungs, with progressive wasting of the body. Today this disease is called tuberculosis. Sarah likely experienced the classic symptoms of a chronic cough, with blood containing mucus, fever, chills, night sweats, loss of appetite, weight loss and fatigue. Despite the various remedies offered by healers throughout the ages, there was no definitive treatment for the disease at that time. While about twenty percent of those who contracted the disease fought it off, the other eighty percent were less fortunate. Sarah was one of the less fortunate who lost her battle with the disease. Her passing brought much grief to Daniel and Lucinda as they watched their young daughter waste away, perhaps suffering for many years.

Daniel's death

In the early spring of 1849, Daniel died on March 19, at the age of seventy-five.⁴⁶ It is not known if Daniel suffered a long illness or if his death was expected. Nevertheless, Lucinda mourned the loss of her husband, which was just four days before her sixty-fourth birthday.

Three weeks after Daniel died, on April 6, 1849, a probate court was held at West Fairlee to settle his estate. Lucinda was still grieving the death of her beloved husband, and she declined being appointed as the administrator for the estate. Instead, Lucinda's son-in-law, Elisha Badger (Harriet's husband) and her son Monroe accepted the trust and assignment as the administrators of the estate. It became their responsibility to take an inventory of the estate and make sure that all the debts of the estate were paid within one year. Elisha was probably well acquainted with his father-in-law, and he reported to the court that there were outstanding debts against the deceased and that the value of all the assets in the estate probably exceeded \$150.⁴⁷

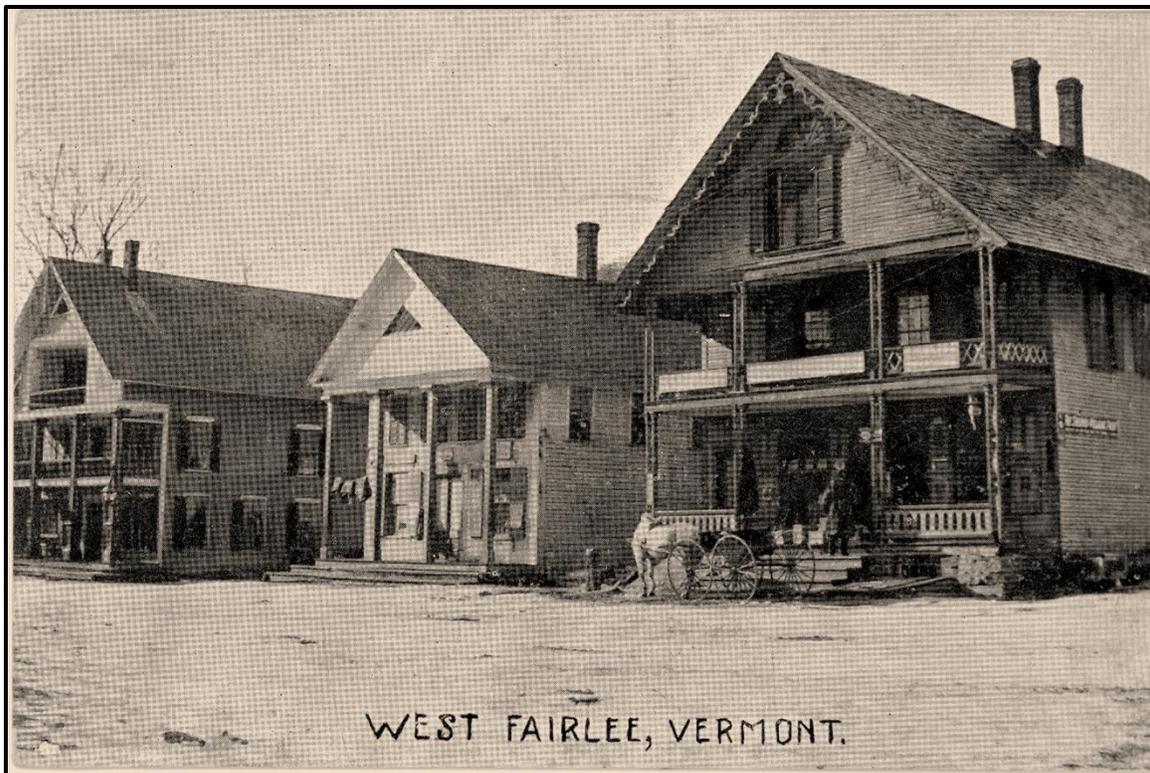
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elisha Badger Monroe B. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

⁴⁶ Tombstone inscription, West Fairlee Center Cemetery, Orange, Vermont.

⁴⁷ Estate of Daniel B. Smith, Probate Court, District of Bradford, Vermont, Vol. 8, p. 470.

Sands Niles and Joseph Kimball were appointed as commissioners to be appraisers for the estate.⁴⁸ Both these men were neighbors to Daniel before his death. Sands Niles “was an energetic and able man...and having for a long time followed the business of surveying...He held many important town offices and was a strong-minded man, noted for his inquisitiveness upon all subjects, and exceedingly firm and unchangeable in all his conclusions.”⁴⁹

Within a few weeks, notices were posted by Sands Niles and Joseph Kimball, at the Meeting House and at A.B. Southworth’s Inn in West Fairlee. Southworth was the first innkeeper and first Postmaster in West Fairlee, and had held the office of Postmaster for twenty-one years when Daniel died. They also posted notices in Thetford, at J. Pratt’s and A. George’s stores. Additionally, a notice was published in the Vermont Patriot newspaper for three successive weeks. Any claims against the estate were to be reported to Sands Niles and Joseph Kimball.⁵⁰



Within a few weeks, notices were posted by Sands Niles and Joseph Kimball, at the West Fairlee Meeting House and at A.B. Southworth’s Inn in West Fairlee.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Vermont Historical Gazetteer, edited by Abby Maria Hemenway, Vol. II, p. 911.

⁵⁰ Estate of Daniel B. Smith, Probate Court, District of Bradford, Vermont, Vol. 8, p. 470.

By July 9, 1849, Sands and Joseph had completed the appraisal of the estate and presented it in a court session, as follows:

1 Grindstone 1.00 – Plow 1.25 – Hrd [hardware] .40 - 74 Sap tubs 5.92 – two axes .50 – two Cuke [cucumber] Barrels 1.00 - Meat Barrel .75 – Two Wash tubs .17 – 12 Chairs 3.50 – Light Stand .75 – Gt Wheel 1.00 - Foot Wheel .75 – Meal Chest 1.00 - 3 Boxes 1.00 - 3 Tubs .70 - Half Bushel .25 - 3 Trunks .25 - Chest .32 -Half Barrel .42 - 2 Jugs .20 - 3 Beds & Bedding 30.00 - Sickle .10 - Trowel .10 – 4 Bedsteads & Cords 3.75 - Shovel and Tongs .20 - Flat iron .50 - 2 Kettles 2.50 - Tub .34 - Hay Fork .50 - Dung fork .25 - Shovel .10 - Saw frame Nail Hammer & Iron Spindle .50 - 2 Cupboards 1.50 - Churn .50 - Barrel .25 - Staple & Ring .50 - Chain .25 – 1 Table 1.25 - 1 Do .42 – Wood box .08 - Chest of Drawers 1.25 - Clock 2.50 - Crockery 1.50 - Mirror .25 - Salt Mortar .25 - Balance on Land deeded to Nathan A. Smith by his father Nov. 5 1844. \$193.00 – <i>Total Amount \$263.07</i>
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Nathan had been paying for the land deeded to him by his father, as well as the livestock, but he still owed his father an outstanding balance of \$193. Daniel's entire estate was valued at \$263.07, and included all his farm tools, furniture and other household items.

After Daniel's estate was valued, on August 6, 1849, Lucinda made an application to have the entire estate of her deceased husband assigned to her. A notice of this request was posted at the Meeting House in West Fairlee, to notify all concerned parties. One week later, the court convened again and the entire estate was assigned to Lucinda.⁵¹

Lucinda and Smith children settle Daniel's Estate

On September 3, 1849, a meeting was held to settle the remainder of the Daniel B. Smith estate, specifically to make sure that Lucinda was paid the remaining balance owed by her son Nathan, and to settle other claims against the estate. Lucinda was present at the meeting, as well as five of her children and their spouses, namely, Harriet and her husband Elisha Badger, Laura and her husband Cyrus May, Nathan, Monroe, and Elizabeth.⁵²

Because Nathan had apparently defaulted on the balance he owed for the thirty-seven acres of land he had purchased from his father, Nathan's deed to the land became invalid and became part of Daniel's estate. Thus, the five heirs of the estate had claim to the land, Nathan being one/fifth heir.

The first order of business was a mortgage deed signed by Nathan, transferring to his mother Lucinda, the thirty-seven acres and the seven or eight acres adjoining it, for \$193. The condition of the deed would be if Nathan signed and paid eight promissory notes to his mother, the new deed would become invalid and he would retain the land. The first payment of \$18 was due on demand, with interest. There were seven additional installments of \$25, with interest. The remaining installments were due every year, beginning January 1, 1851 and ending January 1, 1857.⁵³ This parcel of land was described as the south half of Lot 8, in the Third Range.

⁵¹ Ibid, Vol. 8, p. 471.

⁵² West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Land Deeds, Vol. 5, p. 333.

⁵³ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont land records, Vol. 5, p. 307.

In addition, Nathan's siblings agreed to release and quit claim their rights and title to their four-fifths interest in a certain piece of land described as the south half of Lot 9, in the Third Range, provided that Nathan would pay \$193 to their mother Lucinda T. Smith, and also pay an additional \$243, to settle other claims against the estate.⁵⁴

The above two pieces of land appear to be the same, but the description for one is Lot 8, and the other Lot 9. It is assumed that the recorder made an error in the Lot number, as there is no record of Daniel ever purchasing Lot 9. Nathan actually purchased Lot 9 in the Third Range, which was thirty acres of land from Chester Chubb.

Lucinda's final years

On September 24, 1850, Lucinda was living in the same household with Stephen and Hannah Rowell, and she lived right next to Nathan A. Smith and his family.⁵⁵ From this census it appears that Lucinda continued to live on the thirty-seven acre farmstead where she had lived with her late husband Daniel, and that her son Nathan lived on the seven acres next to her. Her youngest daughter Elizabeth was nineteen at the time of the census, and was the only child living at home with her mother. It is possible that the elderly Rowell couple lived with her to give her assistance and comfort after the death of Daniel.

Lucinda lived an additional six years after her husband. It must have been very difficult without him, but it was a comfort to have Nathan close by, so he and Mary could assist her. Perhaps Lucinda was able to attend some of the church services, with Nathan and Mary, in the new West Fairlee Center meeting house.

With Nathan and Mary living next to her, she was able to enjoy her granddaughter Lydia, and witness the birth of her new grandson Carl, who was born in 1852. Undoubtedly, Lydia and Carl brought her great joy

In addition, Lucinda's other grandchildren lived very close. Her daughter Laura May and her family lived in Thetford, which was only about seven miles away. The Badgers were only about a mile from her. It was a sad day when Lucinda experienced the passing of another daughter, Harriet Badger, who died on January 24, 1856, at the age of fifty.

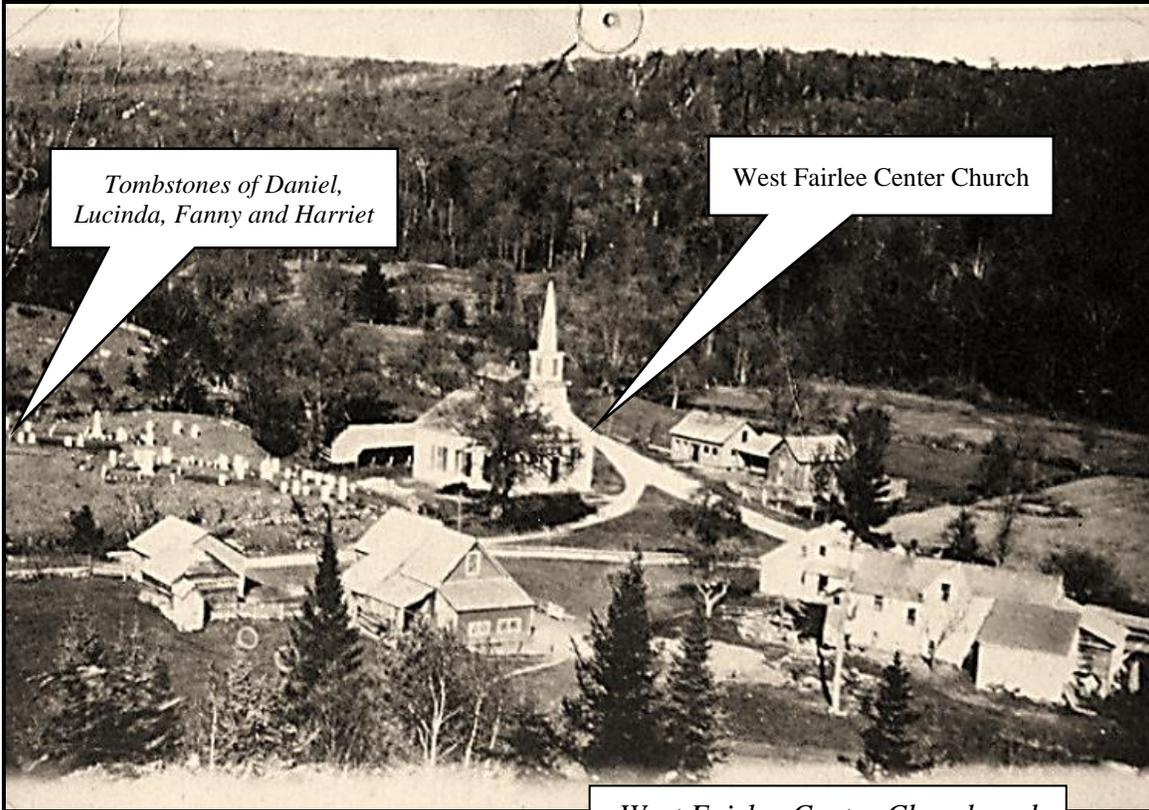
Lucinda knew her time was close, when she would be joining her deceased husband and deceased children. Just eleven months after the death of her daughter Harriet, Lucinda died on December 4, 1856, at the age of seventy-three. She was buried near her daughters, Fanny and Harriet, and next to her husband, Daniel, in the West Fairlee Center Cemetery, which is located next to the West Fairlee Center meeting house.⁵⁶

Even though there are few records left about Daniel and Lucinda Smith and their family of thirteen children, it is very obvious that they had to be very industrious and hardworking. The fact that the value of Daniel's estate was only \$263.07, gives us an idea of how difficult it must have been for him to provide for his large family. In spite of the challenges, Daniel and Lucinda did all they could to provide the bare necessities for their family. Daniel was a brave man, who spent his life caring for his family, livestock and farm. Lucinda was a loyal wife, who spent her days helping her husband, and she devoted time and energy to loving and nurturing her children, and teaching them, as a mother does.

⁵⁴ Ibid, Vol. 5, p. 333.

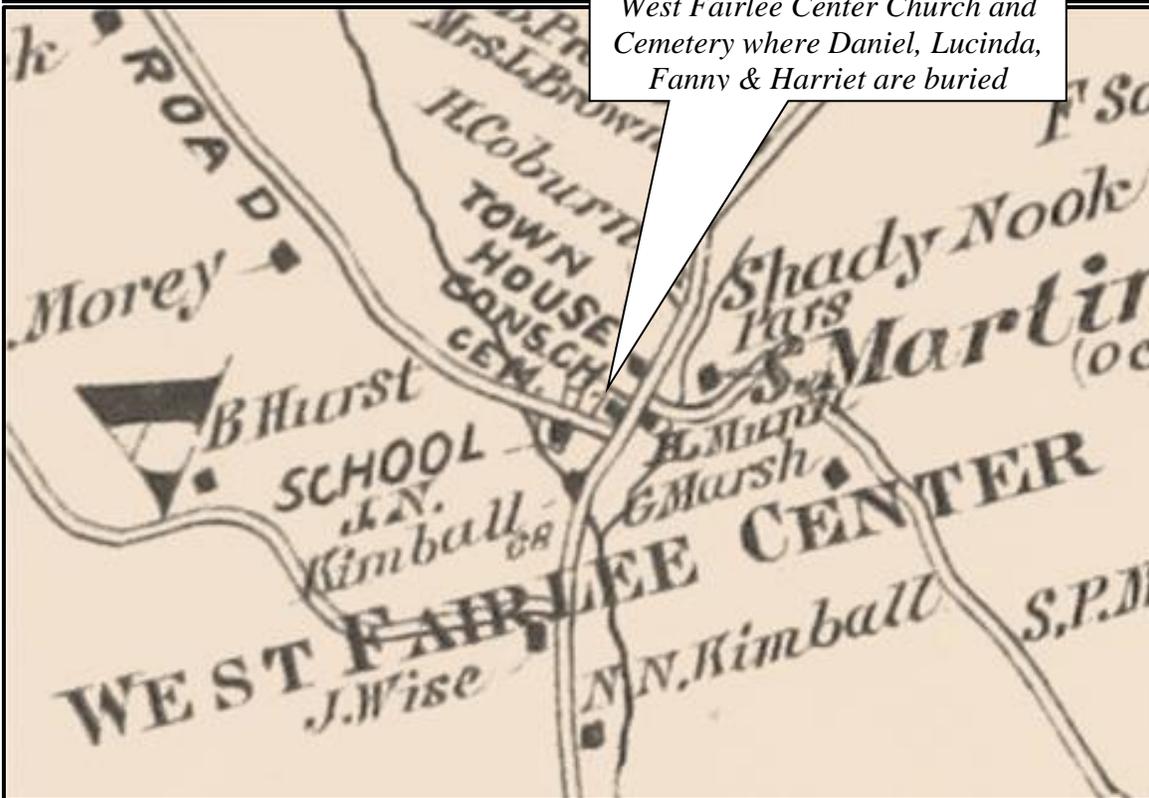
⁵⁵ 1850 U.S. Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont.

⁵⁶ Tombstones in West Fairlee Center Cemetery.



*Tombstones of Daniel,
Lucinda, Fanny and Harriet*

West Fairlee Center Church



*West Fairlee Center Church and
Cemetery where Daniel,
Lucinda,
Fanny & Harriet are buried*



*Daniel B. Smith Died March 19 1849, Aged 75.
Lucinda T. His Wife Died Dec 4, 1856, aged 73
My Father & Mother*

Resting places for the seven known children

Harriet Smith was born in 1805 in Orford, New Hampshire.⁵⁷ When Harriet was twenty-four, she married her sweetheart, Elisha Badger. They were married in West Fairlee, Vermont, on December 3, 1829.⁵⁸ They had at least five children, Elisha, Ellen, Horace, Harriet F., (Hattie) and George A.⁵⁹ Harriet died on January 24, 1856, when she was fifty years old.⁶⁰ By the 1860 census, Elisha was married to a second wife, named Olive. Harriet, Elisha and Olive are all buried in the West Fairlee Center Cemetery.



⁵⁷ 1850 US Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont: Elisha & Harriet Badger. Harriet was 45 years old.

⁵⁸ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Town Records, p. 309.

⁵⁹ 1850 US Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont, p. 64.

⁶⁰ Cemetery in West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont.

Fanny Smith was born in 1807 in Orford, New Hampshire. She married Luther Lamb on September 6, 1829, in West Fairlee, Vermont.⁶¹ Fanny was only a young mother when she died at the age of thirty-two, on October 1, 1839. Her nineteen-month-old son, Elbright, died twenty-five days after his mother.⁶² It is probable that the same disease took both of their lives. Both are buried in the West Fairlee Center Cemetery, next to Fanny's parents. Her husband's resting place may be the unmarked grave next to her.



⁶¹ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Marriage Records.

⁶² Cemetery in West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont.

Laura B. Smith was born in Orford, New Hampshire in 1818.⁶³ In her twenty-ninth year, she married Cyrus William May on June 7, 1847, in West Fairlee, Vermont.⁶⁴ After they were married, they moved to Thetford where Cyrus became the Postmaster of Post Mills Village, Vermont. On January 6, 1860, the census taker came to their home and it was recorded that they had two children, C.W, who was ten and George E, who was two days old. Laura died on July 20, 1864 and is buried in the Post Mills Cemetery, along with her husband Cyrus, her son William Cyrus, and an infant son who died in 1861. Cyrus remarried on September 18, 1872 to Emily D.⁶⁵ By the 1880 census he was married to Almira B.⁶⁶



⁶³ 1850 US Census, Thetford, Orange, Vermont: Cyrus & Laura B. May. Laura was 32 years old.

⁶⁴ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Town Records, p. 296.

⁶⁵ www.familysearch.com, IGI.

⁶⁶ 1880 US Census, Thetford, Orange, Vermont: Cyrus and Almira B. May.

Nathan A. Smith was born in Orford, New Hampshire, on February 12, 1820.⁶⁷ At the age of twenty-two, he married Mary Wilds, on March 10, 1842, in Topsham, Vermont.⁶⁸ They had two children, Lydia A. and Carlos William. Nathan is the great grandfather of my husband. He and his wife Mary are buried in the Post Mills Cemetery.



Sarah Smith was born about 1826, in West Fairlee, Vermont.⁶⁹ She died of consumption at the tender age of nineteen, on the 10th of May 1845. Her passing brought much grief to Daniel and Lucinda as they watched their young daughter waste away. It is unknown where she is buried, but likely next to her parents, in one of the unmarked graves in the West Fairlee Center Cemetery.

⁶⁷ West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont Vital Records (1760-1954), Vol. 2; Nathan's birth calculated from age on death record: 11 April 1888, age 68, 1 month, 28 days.

⁶⁸ Topsham, Orange, Vermont Vital Records.

⁶⁹ The Universalist Watchman, Montpelier, VT. 5 Jul 1845, p.7.

Monroe F. Smith was born in West Fairlee, Vermont, in March of 1828.⁷⁰ Monroe left his family after his father died in 1849 and moved to Worcester, Massachusetts to find a job. Monroe began working as a molder, and molded hot metal into machinery or tools. Mary A. Knight—also born in West Fairlee—became his wife on the 6th of October 1850.⁷¹ Mary gave birth to their only biological child in 1853. Sadly, Frances died three years later, a few months short of her third birthday. By May 17, 1860, they adopted a baby named Carrie Ida Smith.⁷² By 1880, he and his wife and daughter Carrie were living in Syracuse, New York. There he worked as an ironworker, likely in the Iron Foundry of Frazer & Jones Co, which had been in existence since the 1850's. After his first wife Mary, died in 1888, he married another Mary, in 1889.⁷³ Monroe died on November 16, 1903, in Syracuse, New York.⁷⁴ He is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse.



Monroe F. Smith

⁷⁰ 1900 US Census, Syracuse, Onondaga, New York.

⁷¹ New Hampshire Marriage Records 1637-1947, FHL film 004243230, image 1002.

⁷² <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FXH5-WN8>.

⁷³ 1900 US Census, Syracuse, Onondaga, New York.

⁷⁴ Findagrave, Memorial ID 94703050.

Elizabeth Jane Smith was born in West Fairlee about 1831, when her mother, Lucinda, was forty-six and her father, Daniel, was fifty-seven.⁷⁵ When Elizabeth was about twenty-three, she married Moses Sawyer Burnham, on November 30, 1854, in Thetford,⁷⁶ where Moses resided. They moved to Jackson Township, Missouri, where they were both school teachers. They later settled in Otsego, Michigan and Moses became a minister. Elizabeth died on August 5, 1873, at the age of forty-two.⁷⁷ Moses never married again, and lived to the age of ninety-three. Moses died from burns covering his face, neck and hands, which was caused by the ignition of a celluloid collar that was around his neck, setting fire to his hat and head. He died from exhaustion about a week after the accident. Elizabeth is buried next to her husband, Moses, in the Poplar Hill Cemetery in Monterey Center, Michigan.



⁷⁵ 1850 US Census, West Fairlee, Orange, Vermont.

⁷⁶ Vermont, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1732-2005, FHL film 005468611.

⁷⁷ Findagrave, Memorial ID 103429118.