

## CHAPTER THREE

### The Rogers' Family Genealogy

When I was about five years of age, we moved to the Town of Orrington, Maine. Father found a large house at Orrington Corners which rented for \$10. a month from the bank. The bank had recently foreclosed it for the second time. This was deep in the Depression, early 1930s. My grand parents Will and Susie Smith lived on a large farm two miles away, down a hilly, rocky and crooked dirt road. The first half-mile was paved up to an old railroad track, past the fair grounds and an old closed up skating rink. There were about a dozen homes on the street that had no name. The Methodist Church was next door to our house, the parsonage, and a new house on the corner. On the other side was the Town Hall, with four houses down the hill and a few to the North. We lived at the crest of the hill, which was great for sliding down on snowy days. At the foot of the hill, was the town water pump and across the main two-lane highway was a small general store with a post office in the front corner run by Ferd Bowden. We kids were allowed to wait for our school bus inside, if we kept quiet, on cold winter days. It was not unusual to have a 20-degree below, cold spell in the winter.



#### ***Lane Family Home - Orrington Corners***

Our house sat on an acre with a stonewall running in the back by a very big maple tree which I use to climb to the top. This separated

us from a neighbor's orchard. We had a few golden delicious apple trees, a crab apple tree and very large maples trees in the front yard. Next to the foundation of the old barn were rhubarb plants from which my Mother would make great pies. My Father renovated the barn into a one-car garage, but we never had an automobile during the depression, until I came home from the Army.

Since we were within walking distance, an hour or so, to my Grandparents, Mother, Bob and I would make the trip quite often. It was a big day, when it came time to go to Orrington Center for a visit.



### ***The Rogers' Homestead - Orrington Center***

We could sleep over in the big double bed with the down feather mattress, in the small bedroom up over the kitchen. There was no heat up there, but a vent opening over the cook stove, would have the wooden slats removed after dinner, so the warm air would rise. Heated soapstones would come out of the oven, to keep our feet warm.

On some of these occasional trips to the farm, Bob and I would be allowed to climb up to the attic. Since the Rogers family had lived in this house for a half dozen generations, the attic was like a fantastic museum. My Grandmother would tell us of her uncles who served in the Civil War and about Sumner Rogers, who established The Michigan Military Academy. In the attic were trunks full of uniforms, an old army rifle, plus boxes and boxes of Civil War books. Some of the books were very large with hand drawn

pictures of the battles. We boys would spend hours looking at the books and pictures. We were not allowed to take them down, however.

This small piece of my family history is an introduction to this chapter. In preparing it, a few years ago, I became intrigued with researching my genealogy. With the tools of the Internet, I was able to put together the ancestor's line reaching back a thousand years. There were several surprises. Thomas Rogers and his son who both came over to Plymouth on The Mayflower in 1620, then, Roger, the Martyr, who was burned at the Stake in England for compiling the First Authorized English Bible during the Reformation. Farther back, were the French Knights who went on a Crusade to Jerusalem, returning via Sicily. One of these was King Roger II of Sicily who was installed by the Pope.

The research turned out to be rather easy. I had a picture of my Great Great Grandfather Joseph Rogers. The search of his name on the Internet (before the days of google) came up with lots of family facts. Then there was a link from another part of the family, which had traced the line back to Sir Tancred DeHauteville of Normandy, France.

### ***The Rogers' family line:***

**Sir Tancred deHauteville, Normandy, France - 970AD - 1058**

**Sir Roger, Grand Count of Sicily - 1031 - 1101, his wife was Adelaide of**

**Montserrat - 1043 - 1101**

**Roger II, King of Sicily - 1095 - 1154, his wife Alberta of Castile - 1106 - 1138**

**Tancred, Roger III, King of Sicily - 1130 - 1194**

**Aaron Fitz Roger I, Italy - 1248 - 1320**

**Aaron Fitz Roger II, Italy - 1275 - 1300**

**Aaron John Fitz Roger b. Rome d. London - 1260 - 1356**

**John Fitz Roger, Somersetshire, England - 1334 - 1427**

**Sir John Fitz Roger, Knight - Bryanstone, Dorsetshire, England - 1386 - 1441**

**Thomas Rogers, Gentleman, - Dorsetshire, England - 1408 - 1471**

**Thomas Rogers, Esquire, Sergeant-at-Law, Bradford on the Avon,  
England. - 1435 - 1489**

**John Thomas Rogers, Warwick, England - 1485 - 1530**

**John Rogers, The Martyr, d. Newgate Prison, Smithfield, England - 1507 - 1554**



### ***Burned at the Stake***

**Bernard Fitz Rogers, b. Wittenburg, Saxony, Prussia - 1543 - 1564**

**Thomas Mathew Fitz Rogers, Stratford on Avon, Warwick, England - 1565 -  
1610**

**Thomas John Rogers, “Mayflower” died during first winter - 1587 - 1620**

**Lt. Joseph Rogers, “Mayflower” b. Dedham, Essex, England d. Barnstable,  
MA - 1607 - 1677**

**John Rogers, Barnstable, MA - 1642 - 1737, his wife Elizabeth Twining**

**Eleazer Rogers, Barnstable, MA - 1685 - 1760, his wife Martha Young**

**Jesse Rogers, Barnstable, MA - 1746 - 1837, his wife Mary Freeman**

**Moses Rogers Barnstable, MA d. Orrington, ME - 1762 - 1825, his wife  
Thankful Freeman**

**Joseph Rogers, Orrington, ME 1784 - 1865, his wife Salone Nickerson**

Joseph Rogers, Orrington, ME - 1817 - 1890 . his wife Joanna S. Harriman

Sydney L. Rogers, Orrington, ME 1840 - 1870

Susie M. Rogers, Orrington, ME - 1862 - 1943, her husband William B. Smith

1852 - 1945

Flora Belle Smith, Orrington, ME - 1886 - 1970, her husband Andrew H. Lane

1879 - 1946

Roger deWardt Lane, Boston, MA 1927 - his wife Marilyn Watson Lane

1928 - 2009

### ***Orrington, Maine***

The quiet town of Orrington, in Maine, was founded by Jesse Atwood, of Wellfleet, Cape Cod, in 1778, and has become known, since then, as a place where skillful farmers and brave sailors could always be found. It also kept Maine supplied for years with the oldest inhabitants. It is said that the name was an accident of illiteracy, and that it is the only place in the world that owes its title to bad spelling. The settlers who followed Atwood there were numerous enough to form a township after ten years, and the name they decided on for their commonwealth was Orangetown, so called for a village in Maryland where some of the people had associations, but the clerk of the town meeting was not a college graduate and his spelling of Orange was Orring, and of town, ton. His draft of the resolutions went before the legislature, and the people directly afterward found themselves living in Orrington.

### ***Purchase of one hundred acres for fourteen pounds, thirteen shillings, six pence lawful money***

The Rogers' homestead dates from 1786, when Maine was still part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Jesse Rogers agreed to purchase the Rogers Family Estate of one hundred acre.

March 25, 1786

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To John Brewer and Simeon Fowler, and other settlers:

Know all men by these presents, that we, whose names are undersigned and seals affixed, appointed a committee by a resolve of the General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, passed the 28th of October, 1783 on the subject of unappropriated lands in the County of Lincoln, and by that and other resolves of the said General Court empowered to sell and dispose of the unappropriated lands of this Commonwealth in the said County for and in consideration of the sum of three thousand pounds in the consolidated securities of this Commonwealth, to us paid by John Brewer and Simeon Fowler, both of a place called New Worcester, in the County of Lincoln, gentlemen, in behalf of themselves and others, settled at that place the receipt whereof, by their obligations for that sum to the treasurer of the Commonwealth, we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey to the said Brewer and Fowler, and other settlers at the place aforesaid, a certain tract of land containing ten thousand eight hundred and sixty-four acres adjoining to Penobscot river and on the east side thereof, bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning at said river and on the northwest corner of number one, or Buck town, thence running north seventy degrees, east three miles, two hundred and sixty rods; then north forty-eight degrees west two miles, two hundred and ten rods; then north, sixty-four degrees east, one mile, one hundred and fifty-four rods; then north seventy-five degrees east; one hundred and eighty-three rods; then north eleven degrees west, fifty-six rods; then north eight degrees east, two miles eighty-eight rods; then north fifteen degrees west, one mile and about forty-five rods to a bend of the said river, within about one hundred rods of the north-west corner of Dodge's plan; thence southerly by the said river to the place begun at; excepting and reserving however, the lot called number twenty-one in said Dodge's plan, containing two hundred and sixty-four acres, which was formerly sold to Robert Smith of Needham, and also suitable and convenient landings and roads to the same, from the lands purchased by Moses Knapp and associates, and the privilege of taking fish, which are to be held in common between the said Brewer and Fowler, and other settlers and the said Knap and his associates — to have and to hold the

above — granted premises in the manner and proportion hereafter mention, viz.: to John Brewer, Simeon Fowler, George Gardner, Thomas Campbell, Josiah Brewer, and James Ginn, Gentlemen, Charles Blagden, Samuel Knap, Emerson Orcutt, Joseph Mansell, Solomon Harthorn, Kennett McKenney, John Thomas, John Rider, Simeon Johnson, John Holyoke, Henry Kenney, John Hutchings, John Crocker, John Tibbetts, David Wiswell, Joseph Baker, Benjamin Snow, Solomon Sweat, Samuel Freeman, **Jesse Rogers**, Peter Sangster, George Brooks, Jesse Atwood, Oliver Doane, Warren Nickerson, Eliphalet Nickerson, Paul Nickerson, Henry Cole, Ephraim Downs, Moses Wentworth, James McCurdy, John Mansell, John Emery, Robert McCurdy, husbandmen, the widow of John Mansell, Junior, deceased, Hannah Ary, widow and the heirs of Simeon Smith, their heirs and assigns, **one hundred acres each**, to be so laid out as to include their improvements respectively, on condition that each of the grantees aforesaid, pay to John Brewer and Simeon Fowler **five pounds lawful money** within one year from this time, with interest till paid; and to each settler on the said tract who has made a separate improvement thereon, one hundred acres, to be so laid out as will best include his improvements and the residue of said tract to all settlers indiscriminately who have made improvements as aforesaid, on condition that each of such settlers pay to the said John Brewer and Simeon Fowler the **sum of fourteen pounds, thirteen shillings, and six pence, lawful money** within one year from this time, with interest till paid, for each hundred acres which shall be assigned and set off to him out of the residuary part and in the same proportion for a greater or lesser quantity; provided nevertheless, if any settler or other grantee aforesaid shall neglect to pay his proportion of the sum or sums aforesaid, to be by him paid, in order to entitle him to **one hundred acres** as aforesaid, in that case the said John Brewer and Simeon Fowler shall be entitled to hold the same in fee, which said negligent person might have held by complying with the conditions aforesaid on his part. Provided nevertheless, if any dispute or controversy shall arise between the said John Brewer and Simeon Fowler on the one part, and any settler on the lands aforesaid, or other person who

has purchased of an original settler there, on his part, in that case there is hereby reserved full power and authority to the committee aforesaid, or their successors in office, to adjust such dispute and controversy on the principles of equity, and to assign and convey to such settler, or to him or them who hold under such settler, his or their heirs and assigns, such quantity of the land aforesaid as to the same committee shall appear reasonable, and at such a rate as they may think just, so as that the said John Brewer and Simeon Fowler shall have a right to receive from all persons interested or which may be interested in the tract of land aforesaid, a sum of money of equal amount with the several sums for the payment whereof to the said John Brewer and Simeon Fowler provision is herein before made, in case application shall be made to the said committee at any time within three years next following the date hereof; and the said committee, in behalf of the said Commonwealth, covenant and agree that the said Commonwealth shall warrant and defend the premises on the conditions and with the reservations aforesaid, to the grantees aforesaid, their heirs and assigns to be held in the proportion and manner, and upon the conditions aforesaid, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof, the said committee set their hands and seals, this twenty-fifth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six.

My Grandfather Will Smith, sold the **Rogers' house** with the remaining hay fields and the rocky pasture in back in 1943 after Susie died.

At the same time, The Maine State Legislature awarded William B. Smith a pension of \$100 a month as the **"Oldest Man in the State of Maine."** My Grandfather then lived with Flora his Daughter for his last two years. I was away overseas in the Army in Germany, except for a delay on route, a week after basic training. At that time, my Grandfather Will Smith told me interesting stories when he was a seaman, running the coast of Maine in a sloop.