

South Petherton, 1530...

by Richard Monk

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South Petherton is a village located about 10 miles west of Yeovil in the county of Somerset, England. It seems to have been a center for the surrounding villages during the past 400 years. In the early 1500's, there was at least one family with the surname Patch living in South Petherton. This family had at least one son— probably two. The son's name was William Patch; he was born about 1530.



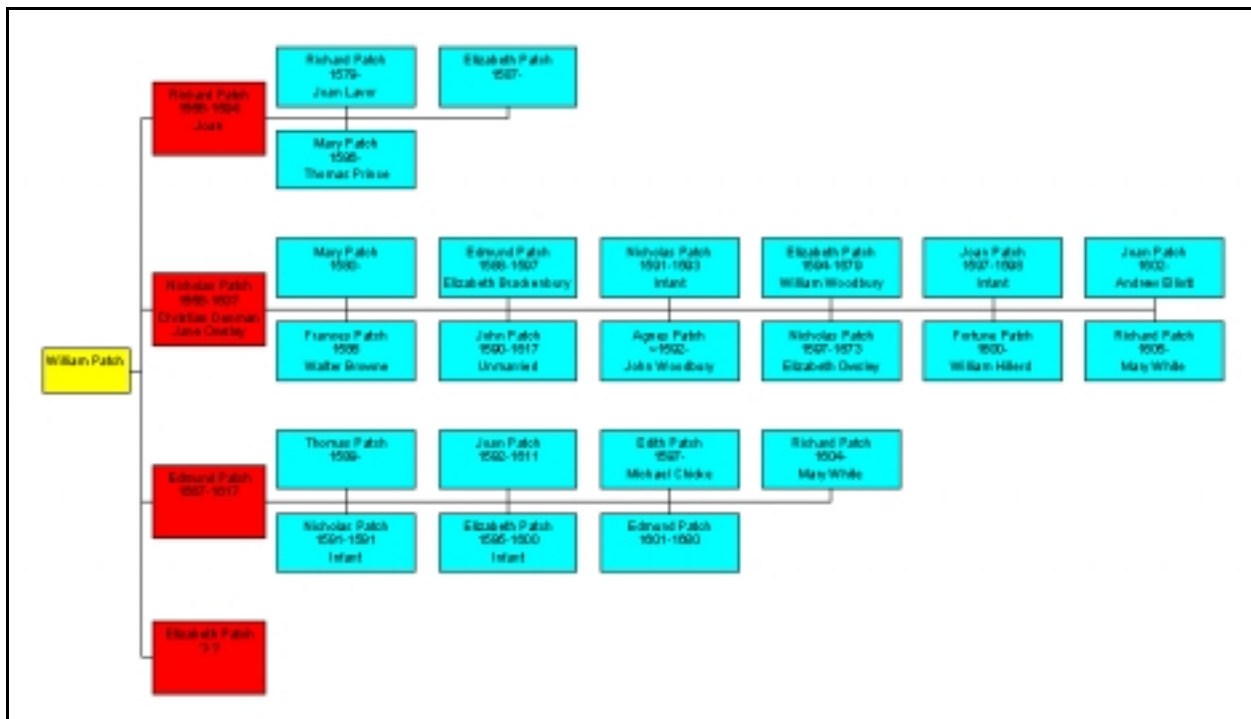
South Petherton, Somerset.

In the 1550's, William, who is reported to have been married to "Mrs. John Patch," had three sons: Nicholas, Richard, and Edmund. There was possibly a daughter named Elizabeth as well.

There is a web site that shows over 9000 descendants from this line.

Nicholas had about twelve children. Several of these emigrated to the American colonies (Massachusetts) in the early 1600's.

Edmund, the third son, had about eight children. Several, but not all, of these moved away from South Petherton.



Two generations of known descendants of William Patch of South Petherton.

We know about these people from the book, English Origins of New England Families.



Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in South Petherton, Somerset.

From the Norton Sub Hamdon parish registers, we learn that our Patch ancestors began moving to Norton Sub Hamdon in the mid to late 1700's. Following is a list of the direct line beginning with Great Grandpa Belmont (John Henry Patch):

1. John Henry, born 1861, son of
2. David, born 1822, son of
3. Joseph, born 1783, son of
4. Edward, born 1741, son of
5. John, born about 1700

Joseph and Edward were born in South Petherton, but were married and died in Norton Sub Hamdon. John was married and died in South Petherton. This firmly establishes our link to the South Petherton Patch family. A chart showing four generations of known descendants of Edward is on the fourth page.



Edward Patch was Church Warden in Norton sub Hamdon from 1795 to 1820.

Locating John's birth is proving to be problematic. There were two John Patches christened in South Petherton around 1700. According to the IGI, one was christened on 30 December 1705. He was the son of John and Jana Patch. The second was christened on 20 January 1706 (only three weeks later). He was the son of Richard and Margarett Patch. One of



Inactive stone quarry on Ham Hill. Charles Patch (brother of our ancestor, Joseph), was a stone mason and may have worked in this very spot 200 years ago.



View of Norton sub Hamdon and surrounding areas from Ham Hill. “Nor” means “north;” “ton” means “settlement” or “place.” “Sub” means “under,” and “don” means “hill,” so “Norton sub Hamdon” means “north settlement under Ham Hill.” The word “Ham” comes from the same root as our word “home.”

these later married Elizabeth— whose maiden name was probably Lang— and is our ancestor.

In order to sort out this problem, we have obtained the microfilm for the parish registers for South Petherton in hopes that there will be some clue to help up determine which John married Elizabeth.

Up to now, the only records that have been available to help sort out the lineage from John (1705) back to William (1530) came from the IGI. Unfortunately, these records came mostly from the book, *English Origins of New England Families*, and they are quite incomplete. Naturally, they are skewed toward Nicholas’ line since that is the part of the family that emigrated to America. Not only that, there are many discrepancies in the IGI records. For example, in several instances, a single individual is listed as being a child in two different families, making them their own cousins. Also, Richard Patch (b. ~1556), and his son, Richard (b. 1579), are listed as being married to the same woman, Joan Labor— in other words, Richard is his own

father! Furthermore, there is a fifty year gap in the IGI records (1650 to 1700).

We are hoping that the parish registers will help up in sorting out these problems so we can complete the connection between John and his parents and grandparents back to William.

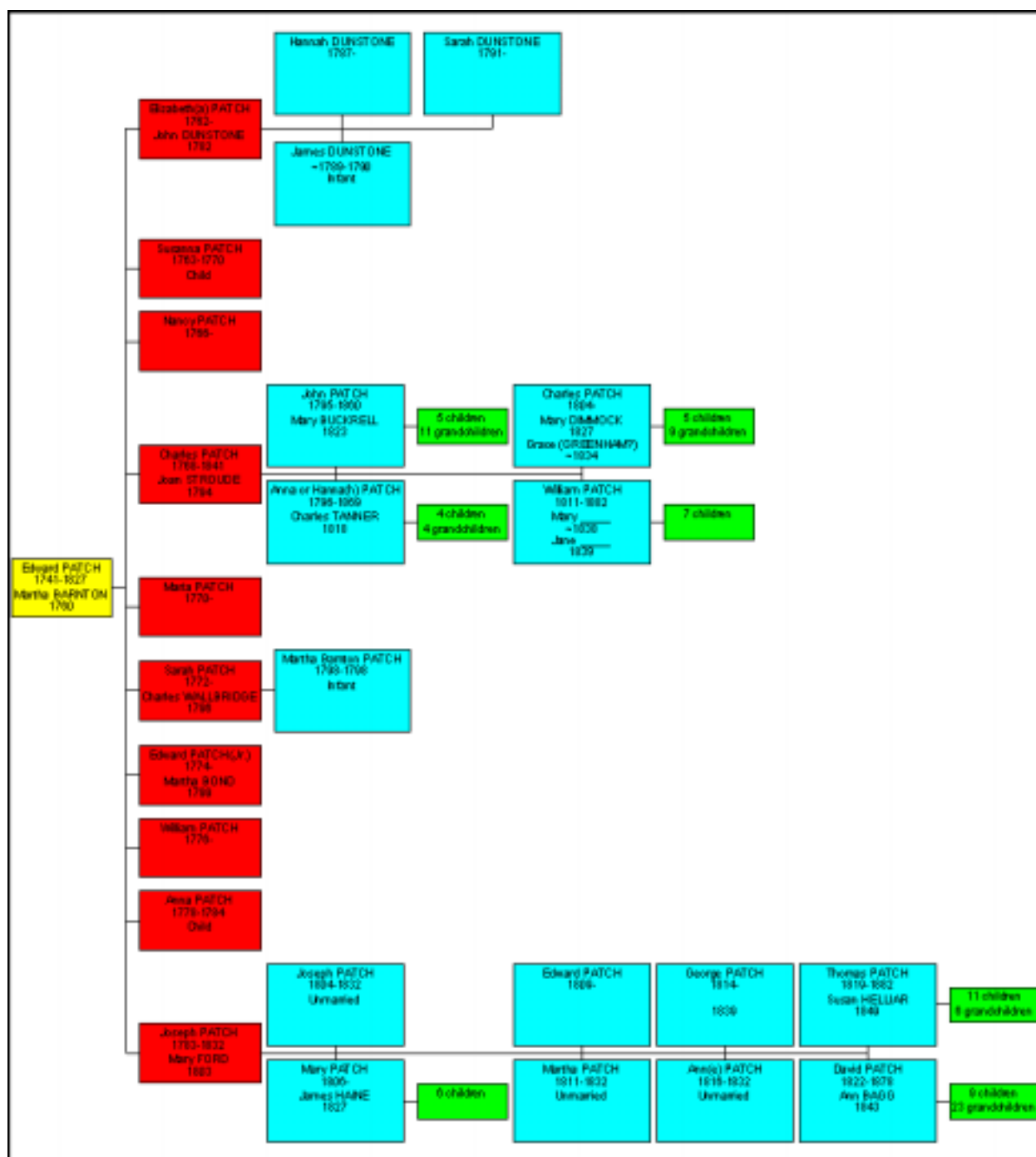
In addition to this work, I am also planning to correct many other problems that I have found in the records of the South Petherton Patch family. I hope to be able to identify as many of the descendants of William as I can. After that, I plan to do a geographic study showing how the family has moved over the past 450 years.



A view of the top of ham Hill, Somerset. The small “hills” in the picture are old stone quarries and are the result of centuries of removing “ham stone” from Ham Hill.

Since I already have the extraction of all the Patch records from the English Civil Registration Index from 1837 through 1900, I will be able to start at both ends of the time line and fill in at least some of the middle section. I plan to post the results of this ongoing research on my web site <<http://mum202-2.musm.ttu.edu/genealogy.htm>>.

Descendants of Edward Patch



Four generations of known descendants of Edward Patch. In order to reduce the space required for the chart, individual descendants are not named for the third and fourth generations. Most members of the fourth generation were born during the last half of the nineteenth century.