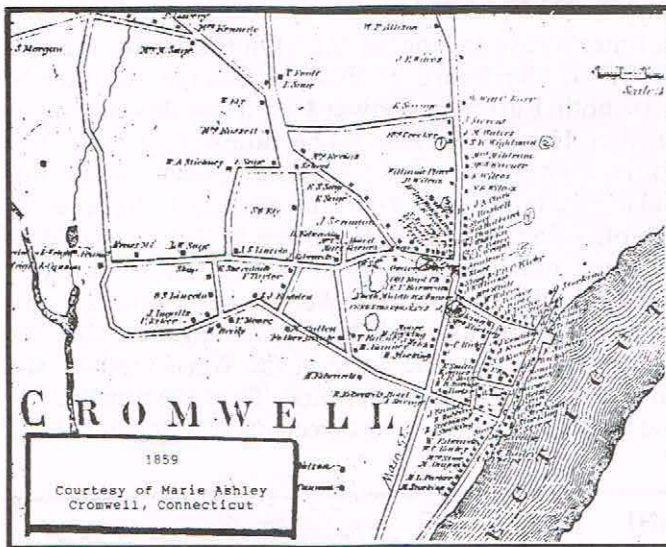


Connecticut Yankees

Latimers and Savages had left the Puritan communities in Massachusetts and settled in Connecticut in the mid-seventeenth century. Their lineages are documented in published histories of Middletown Upper Houses. Zebulon Latimer, the youngest of the six children of Samuel and Anna Stocking Latimer, was born in Glastonbury. After the death of Samuel in 1813, Anna moved to the home of her father, Jozeb Stocking, a prominent citizen of Middletown Upper Houses. Mary Ann Latimer, Zebulon's only sister, never married, but devoted her life to the care of her grandfather Jozeb, her mother and her Uncle Justus.³ She followed the careers of her brothers in the south with love and wasn't above teasing Zebulon in letters to him. Family ties remained close during the nineteenth century between the two river towns.

Upper Middletown Houses, as the town was called originally, had grown from a small settlement of land grant holders who cleared the land for farming. Among the settlers of the 1650s, the names of John Savage and Samuel Stocking are recorded. Upper Middletown, an outgrowth of Middletown, lay north of a branch of the Connecticut River. The new settlement was on the road from Hartford to New Haven but the Connecticut River was the better means of transportation for many years.⁴

Map of Cromwell in 1859



Men from Upper Middletown served as soldiers in the French and Indian Wars.⁵ During the Revolution they fought from Bunker Hill to Valley Forge. Others went to sea as privateers; many were captured and imprisoned, or died by drowning. By 1800 the river front had become the site of maritime activities including wharves, warehouses, shipbuilding yards, and ropewalks, all necessary in the shipping industry. Cromwell is now designated as the Upper Houses Riverport National Register District, an area which is apparent in the cluster of buildings on the river bank. Several generations of the Stocking and Savage families were involved in the shipping business, some in the com-

mercial aspects at the waterfront, others as shipbuilders, masters and owners. Their ships traded with the West Indies, the east coast, and the interior of the state up the river. As trade prospered, fine homes and warehouses reflected a successful economy. A landmark today in Cromwell's historic district is the home of Jozeb Stocking, maternal grandfather of Zebulon Latimer.⁶ It was to this Federal period house built on land inherited from Jozeb's grandfather that Anna Stocking Latimer brought her children after the death of her husband. Zebulon was then three years old.

Jozeb Stocking House



Jozeb Stocking (1754-1841) was one of the owners of the schooners *Fox* and *Sally and Moriah*. The *Fox* was captured by the French in 1800, when privateering flourished. Shipping suffered during the Embargo imposed by President Jefferson in 1807, but Jozeb had other interests. He speculated in land in the Western Reserve and represented Upper Middletown in the state legislature in 1815 and 1816.⁷ Reparation for the loss of the *Fox*, \$23.98, was awarded by the U.S. Government to the estate of Mary Ann Latimer in 1902, eighteen years after her death.⁸

Mary Ann Latimer, who maintained the home for her maternal grandfather, her uncle and her mother, reports Jozeb's death in a letter to Zebulon written on July 8, 1841. The house was inherited by his son Justus, a respected business man, the first millionaire in Cromwell. He left the homestead to Mary Ann at his death. Another uncle, Horace Stocking, followed the seas. When he retired to New York, he joined other merchants in founding the New York Stock Exchange. Mary Ann was devoted to her Congregational church and gave its pipe organ in 1853. The sister, who dared not leave her charges in Connecticut while they lived, died in Wilmington in 1884. Money from her estate was given for the repair of Upper Middletown's Old Burying Ground.⁹ A portrait of this remarkable woman hangs in the Latimer House today.

PORTRAIT OF MARY ANN



Captain Timothy Savage

Timothy Savage (1769-1849), was a son of Josiah Savage, recorded builder of twenty ships and a privateer. While two older brothers served in the Revolution, young Timothy remained at home in Upper Middletown. He told in later days how he was enlisted at the age of nine to carry an important message to the troops in the dark of night on an ailing horse. At the age of fifteen Timothy went to sea and was master of his own vessel at twenty-one. In time, Captain Savage owned 4 ships and had stores on the river front, a rope walk, a cooperage and a shipyard from 1792-1815. In 1816 he built a brick mansion in Upper Middletown.¹⁰ However, he suffered such losses in his various business ventures that the house was given up. He went to North Carolina, probably familiar with the Cape Fear River from voyages along the coast, and settled in Fayetteville with his family of eleven children.

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Fayetteville was a distribution center for the interior of North Carolina. There was steamboat transport from Wilmington to Fayetteville in 1818. A number of craftsmen from Connecticut had settled there: silversmiths, clockmakers and pewterers. It is speculated that Captain Timothy set up the partnership of his son Timothy and son-in-law, Gurdon Robins, in a general dry goods business.¹¹ An advertisement for their store appeared in a Fayetteville newspaper of 1816.¹² The business failed and young Timothy went to Wilmington. The household of the elder Timothy Savage is recorded in the Federal Census of New Hanover County of 1820.

Business in Fayetteville

Robins & Savage Ad

Gurdon Robins, who had married Julia, the Captain's daughter, in 1809, remained in Fayetteville and established a pottery. An advertisement for the manufacture of stone-ware advised that its products would be less expensive than the imported ware available. Robins had the help of a potter from Hartford, Connecticut, Edward Webster, in establishing the pottery. The ware produced was characteristic of Connecticut work. The business failed in 1823 and Robins returned to Connecticut to publish school books and to add The Reverend to his name. Webster remained in Fayetteville, where he married, and other brothers came to North Carolina to make pottery. The Webster School of Folk Potters existed for 60 years in North Carolina.¹³

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**New Wholesale
AND
Retail Store.**
Robins & Savage,
 HAVE taken the Store, lately
 occupied by Mr. Thomas
 J. Smith, on the North side of
 the Street, near the Ware-
 house of the Frenchman, where they offer
 for sale, a general assortment of
DRY-GOODS
Hardware & Groceries.
 ALSO,
 20 tons of powder
 200 barrels of stout Liver-
 pool Salt
 5 Tons of Iron, assorted
 Nails and Shovels, assorted
 4000 pounds of finest Liver-
 pool Salt
 Forty all kinds, &c.
 They respectfully invite their
 friends and the public to call and
 purchase
 Fayetteville, Dec. 2. 1816
CHEAP

On November 22, 1820, the *Fayetteville Gazette* carried a notice of transport offered by the steam boat *Henrietta* on the Cape Fear River between Fayetteville and Wilmington. Agents were named in Fayetteville and Wilmington. Timothy Savage was named as the agent in Wilmington. A deed of June 17, 1820 listed the furniture of the steam boat *Prometheus* and stated that Timothy Savage, Sr. was indemnified by its former owner. Another deed, dated February 12, 1821, conveyed his title to the *Prometheus* to another purchaser. The deed was witnessed by Timothy Savage Jr. and H. R. Savage, sons of Captain Timothy.¹⁴ It seems that Captain Timothy had been tempted by the first steamboats to operate on the Cape Fear River.

In Wilmington

The younger Timothy Savage had married Elizabeth Haddock, native of Fayetteville, in 1818. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born the next year in Wilmington. Three of Timothy's sisters planned their weddings for March 4, 1821, but Harriet's groom was delayed by bad roads and her marriage took place some days later than the weddings of her sisters Jerusha and Maria. The St. James Church Register records these marriages and that of a brother, John Savage, in 1830. Also recorded in the church register is the funeral of William T. Lucas, Timothy's nineteen-year-old slave.

Timothy raised a family of eleven children in Wilmington. He was working at the Commercial Bank at the time of Elizabeth's marriage to Zebulon Latimer in 1843. Elizabeth is known to have attended the school of the Misses Draper in Hartford in the years 1836 and 1837.¹⁵ Julia Savage, a younger sister, married Alfred M. Waddell of Wilmington.¹⁶ After Julia's death, he married another sister, Ellen Savage, who was a baby cutting her teeth when Elizabeth and Zebulon Latimer were married.

The Latimers

Two, or possibly three, Latimer brothers came to North Carolina from Connecticut. Family history states that the brothers went to Edenton in the 1830s and opened a dry goods store. Three of Zebulon's books in the Latimer house are dated in the 1830s with the name of Edenton. Nothing is known of the Latimer schooling in Connecticut, but letters reveal that Zebulon and Mary Ann were enthusiastic readers. When the brothers' business house in Edenton was burned, they came to Wilmington. Zebulon's name appears on the list of the Vestry of St. James Church in 1839. William and Zebulon were registered as commission merchants in New Hanover County in 1840 and both are listed on the New Hanover County Tax list of 1841.

Advertisements appear in Wilmington newspapers of Latimer properties for sale, one west of the northwest corner of Front and Market Streets, another a dock at the Latimer Wharf, north of Ann Street. Schenck locates the dry goods store on the first block of Market Street on his map. In 1844 *The Chronicle* reported a fire on the docks south of Market Street in which naval stores owned by William Latimer were lost. William died in 1852 in Connecticut, leaving a brick store house on Market Street in Wilmington and a slave who was a cooper, in addition to stock shares and bonds. The total value of his estate was \$16,333.62, according to the inventory of his property filed in the North Carolina Archives.

A sparse chronology of Zebulon Latimer's activities after his marriage can be made. A letter from his brother-in-law Edward in 1844 thanks Zebulon for the loan of \$100. More significant is the letter he received in 1848 from the Anti-Slavery office in New York City telling of the safe conveyance of a slave to Canada and asking that her clothing be forwarded. Zebulon's house was finished in 1852, the year he is listed as a stockholder of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad. In 1853 he subscribed \$1,000 for the deepening of the bar at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. Zebulon and Henry R. Savage purchased in 1855 ten acres on Bradley Creek where the Latimers built a summer home. Clearly Zebulon was doing well. As a prominent member of the parish church of St. James, he was appointed to the vestry of a "free church for a mixed congregation" in 1858. This was St. Paul's Church at Fourth and Orange. In 1863, Zebulon is recorded as a founding subscriber to Pine Forest Cemetery, a burying ground for blacks.

War Days

Visitors to the Latimer House often ask how the Latimers were affected by the Civil War. It appears that the family remained in Wilmington. Their sons did not serve in the military but Edward and Henry Savage, Elizabeth's brothers, raised companies and served in several battles. Elizabeth was able to send much desired thread (probably thanks to blockade running) to her friend, Phila Calder, who refugeed in Hillsborough.¹⁷

In the past year Zebulon Latimer's southern sympathies were established through letters inherited by the great-grandson of a cousin of Zebulon, Charles Brandegee Livingstone, who has published them recently. Zebulon's aunt, Emily Stocking, had married Elishama Brandegee (1784-1854). Their son was Dr. Elishama Brandegee (1814-1884), Zebulon's first cousin. The Brandegees lived in Berlin, a town near Cromwell, Connecticut and were frequently mentioned by Mary Ann Latimer in her letters.

Dr. Brandegee's son Charles enlisted with a Zouave regiment of New York, which was active in a number of battles of the Civil War. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Wilderness in May, 1864, and was imprisoned at Andersonville. He wrote to his father's cousin in Wilmington in July, 1864, asking for essential supplies. Zebulon's loyalty to the south is expressed in the letter he wrote in response. On August 2, 1864, he wrote to Charlie Brandegee in Andersonville:

Dear Charlie

I regret you have thought it well to join this abolition escapade against us, and are now a prisoner of war. With you I trust your Government will be just to her own citizens and agree to the Exchange of Prisoners, and that you may soon reach your home...

Zebulon promised to do what he could to provide the youth with food or funds.¹⁸

Charlie Brandege
(courtesy of Charlie's Grandson)



Charlie wrote to his father in October, 1864, that the money from Zebulon "came just in time to save me". In November Zebulon wrote to Charlie who had been moved to Florence, South Carolina, asking if Charlie had received the \$500 in Confederate money which he had sent under cover by General J. Winder. Even though Zebulon thought money would allow Charlie to buy things he lacked, he sent, at this time, a blanket and a quilted coverlet. Charlie's return to Connecticut is reported in a letter of March, 1865. Although weak from malnutrition, he recovered his health at home and was well enough in May to go to New York to get his discharge. Here he caught up with several family members, bought new clothes, and heard news of Zebulon's business.¹⁹

Zebulon went to New York City frequently on business and died there in 1881. He left a large estate that included the building at 17 Market Street, the house on Third Street, and about 600 acres of swampland in Pender County. Also listed in the inventory of his estate was Pew Number 41 at St. James Church.²⁰

Uncle Henry



The portrait of Henry Russell Savage seen in the Latimer House parlor suggests his role as guardian angel to his brother Timothy and to Timothy's family. Uncle Henry never married but was close to his brother and to many nephews and nieces.

During the 1840s the local newspapers carried advertisements of business partnerships with Mr. Wright and others. Schenck mentions in his diary Henry Savage's upstairs office on Water Street opposite his steam sawmill across the river.²¹ A deed of 1848 records the sale of land on Eagles Island from Henry R. Savage to Thomas H. Wright.²²

It is known that in 1848 Henry Russell Savage was living over the Bank of Cape Fear, where the Cashier customarily lived. A letter of Phila Calder, mentions the birth of Robert Latimer to Elizabeth and Zebulon. At that time they lived with her uncle above the bank.²³ When Henry Russell's large house on Third Street was finished, it seems likely that the Latimer family accompanied him to the new home. Work on the house of Edward Savage proceeded in 1851 as plans were completed for Zebulon Latimer's house on the adjoining lot.²⁴ Uncle Henry held a mortgage of \$3,000 on Edward's house.

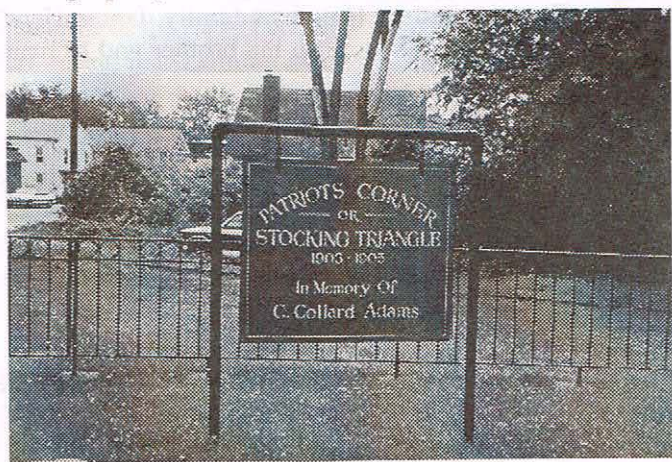
Henry Russell Savage died at the age of 62 in December, 1861, at Allegheny Springs, Virginia. Probably in poor

health, he had written his will there in September. To his brother Timothy he left \$4,000. His family of nephews and nieces was remembered generously; Elizabeth Latimer was to receive \$10,000 "for her separate use." Zebulon was given the property at Bradley Creek, while great-nieces, Mary McRae and Lizzie Reston, were to divide land he owned at Waccamaw.²⁵ Schenck's map indicates that Timothy Savage lived in Uncle Henry's house when he marked it 'TS'.

Henry Savage's house has been called the Bacon-Savage House because it was here that the Henry Bacon family lived while the elder Henry Bacon engineered the Rocks at the mouth of the Cape Fear River to close New Inlet. His children attended school in Wilmington and his son Henry became the architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Another Savage daughter lived in the house as Mrs. Alfred M. Waddell. The house was included in the estate of Elizabeth Latimer at her death.²⁶

Cromwell's history was enriched by its Latimer connections. In 1905 William Latimer, son of Zebulon and heir to the Stocking homestead, conveyed a plot of land, known as the Stocking Triangle, to the Society of Founders, Fathers and Pastors. On the plot was placed a granite monument bearing a bronze plaque honoring early settlers of the town. Later, other memorials to patriots were moved to the Stocking Triangle and its name changed to Patriots Corner.²⁷ It is not surprising that William Latimer was proud to honor his forebears in this way.

Photograph of Patriots Corner



(Sincere thanks to Marie Ashley, Cromwell, Connecticut, for her knowledge of this Connecticut town, and to Knox Pierson, Wilmington, who has provided recent photographs of sites in Cromwell. Charles Brandeggee Livingstone came from Maine to establish the relationship of Charlie Brandeggee and Zebulon Latimer. He has agreed to our use of pertinent letters. The recently published collection of the letters of Charlie and the record of his war, and the three histories of Middletown Upper Houses are in the library of the LCFHS Archives.)

NOTES

1. The map reproduced here from the photocopy of Nicholas Schenck's "Diary", p.133, is one of several sketched by Schenck on which the Latimer and Savage names appear.
2. Janet K. Seapker, "Wood Works: The Architectural Creations and Personal Histories of John Coffin and Robert Barclay Wood," Lower Cape Fear Historical Society *Bulletin* 39 (December, 1994). The author is the acknowledged authority on the Wood brothers and recounts their activities in Wilmington in her article.
3. Charles Collard Adams, *Middletown Upper Houses*. A facsimile of the 1908 edition with a new forward by John F. Reynolds III. Ranney Genealogical Fund, 1983. Adams, the faithful historian of his town, devotes chapters to its early families and their descendants, among them the Stockings and Savages.
4. Robert Owen Decker and Margaret A. Harris, *Cromwell, Connecticut, 1650-1990: the history of a river port town* (Cromwell Historical Society, 1991), pp.5-32. The authors include a chapter on the early settlers of Upper Middletown. They also thank Marie Ashley, our correspondent, for her collection of historical material.
5. Ibid., pp.47-73. Chapter 4, "A Maritime Village," details the development of the shipping industry at Upper Middletown.
6. Judith E. Johnson and William H. Tabor, *The History and Architecture of Cromwell* (Middletown, CT: The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1980). The architecture of Jozeb Savage's Federal period house is described on page 109.
7. Ibid., pp.251-262. Tables of sea captains, ships, ship owners and trade are included in an appendix.
8. Lower Cape Fear Historical Society Archives. Original document.
9. Adams, p.688, and Decker and Harris, pp.262 and 297. Mary Ann's sterling qualities and good deeds are described in both comprehensive histories of the town.
10. Decker and Harris, p.55, and Adams, pp.661-62, record the story of nine-year old Timothy and his later business ventures in Upper Middletown.
11. Quincy J. Scarborough, Jr., *North Carolina Decorated Stoneware: the Webster School of Potters* (Fayetteville, NC, Scarborough Press, 1986), pp. 3-7. Scarborough's research provides much information about Timothy Savage and his brother-in-law's business in Fayetteville.
12. *Fayetteville (NC) American* 5 December 1916.
13. Scarborough, pp. 9- 44. The author was able to identify Robins' pottery through his archeological digs at the site of the pottery in Fayetteville.
14. New Hanover County Register of Deeds. Deed Book R, 144 and 316.
15. Connecticut Historical Society, Letter, July 31, 1987.
16. Ida B. Kellam and Elizabeth F. McKoy, *St. James Historical Records. 1735-1872*.

17. Lower Cape Fear Historical Society Archives. Calder Letters, p.63.
18. Charles Brandegee Livingstone, *Charlie's Civil War: a Private's Trial by Fire in the 5th New York Volunteers - Duryee Zouaves and 146th New York Volunteer Infantry*, Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publication, 1997, pp.210-211.
19. Ibid. Chapter VII tells the story of Charlie's imprisonment at Andersonville and includes other letters to his father and from Zebulon Latimer.
20. New Hanover County Superior Court. Inventory of the Estate of Zebulon Latimer.
21. Schenck, p.123, #5. Schenck writes that Henry R. Savage was a good friend who offered him a clerkship at his bank.
22. New Hanover County. Deed Book KK,201
23. Lower Cape Fear Historical Society Archives. Calder Letters, p.43.
24. Lower Cape Fear Historical Society Archives. James F. Post Ledger.
25. New Hanover County. Will Book D-62.
26. North Carolina State Archives. Inventory of Estate of Elizabeth Latimer.
27. Decker and Harris, pp.182-183.

LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Merle Chamberlain

We are fortunate at the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society to have volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise. No one's star shines brighter than that of Merle Chamberlain.

With all that she has done, this is Merle's first venture into creation of an article for the Bulletin. The depth of her knowledge, the time spent gathering, researching and organizing the facts about Connecticut Yankees in Wilmington, and her love of the subject shine through in her work.

Merle has been with the LCFHS for fourteen years, working in the archives. She came to us from Philadelphia where she earned a library degree from Drexel University, and spent many years as archivist for the Philadelphia Museum of Art. There she created several guides concerning the Museum's art collections, one of which received national recognition. In her spare time, Merle took courses at the Library of Congress concerning archives.

Her expertise with the LCFHS archives is extensive, as anyone seeking historical information can attest. Working with Merle is delightful, making one's search much easier, especially when one may not always know exactly what question to ask! A hint of her technical skills can be found in the pamphlet she edited entitled "Violet and Gold". We look forward to Merle's future contributions to the Bulletin.



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