

Which Isabella?

Distinguishing the wives of Isaac Savage of Hallowell Maine and Allen Malcom of Newcastle Maine

The published vital records of New England are the envy of genealogists throughout the South and West. Unfortunately these legendary “official sources” can be wrong. Genealogists who copy uncritically from the vital records published in the early 20th century occasionally perpetuate the mistakes of earlier genealogists without even realizing that the data they so carefully copy may not even be an official town record at all. In fact, that data may be “private records”, “family records”, “bible records” or the unpublished and undocumented work of a local genealogist/historian. Often the correct lineage of an individual is easily discovered once the less readily available (or more difficult to decipher) original vital records, deeds and probate records are researched.

Isabella (1727-1808), wife of Isaac SAVAGE of Georgetown, Woolwich and Hallowell, Maine provides a perfect cautionary tale.

There are 3 works treating the Savages of Woolwich that are widely cited by modern researchers, especially Internet genealogists. Two of these are unpublished typescripts in the collection of the Maine Historical Society -Marion L. Dunn’s, *James Savage of Woolwich, ME (-1748) and some of his descendants*¹ and *Early Families of Woolwich, Maine*² by Dr. Buck. Unlike Dunn’s relatively well-documented genealogy, Buck’s completely undocumented typescript is readily available on microfilm from the Family History Library. The 3rd item, cited by Dunn as well as numerous Internet genealogists is the very poorly documented *Families of Georgetown, Maine Pioneers*, by Helen Kernoul.³

According to all three family reconstructions – Isaac SAVAGE, son of James and Christian/Christine SAVAGE, married Isabella ALLEN born c. 1727, daughter of David and Francis (ROGERS) ALLEN of Georgetown, 1 September 1750 in Georgetown⁴. Dunn’s

¹ Marion L. Dunn, *James Savage (-1748) of Woolwich, Maine and some of his descendants*, North Windham, Maine, undated. Typescript in Maine Historical Society Library, G Sa92.7. (Hereafter Dunn)

² Dr. Buck, *Early Families of Georgetown*, undated typescript in Maine Historical Society Library, also Family History Library film 12317. (Dr. Buck’s first name doesn’t appear on his manuscript, or in the cataloging of that manuscript in the Family History Library Catalog.)

³ Helen W. Peacock Snowe Kernoul, *Families of Georgetown, Maine Pioneers*, no publisher given, 1981, page 199. Her sources for the SAVAGE family are Noyes *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, page 609, which doesn’t discuss the Isaac SAVAGE or his father James at all. Her second reference, Owen’s *History of Bath*, seems to relate primarily to the Major Thomas SAVAGE family. Kernoul gives two possible surnames for Isabella; OSBOURNE and ALLEN. I have been unable to discover why she thought OSBOURNE might be a possibility. There do not appear to be any OSBOURNES in Georgetown or Woolwich before the mid 1800’s. It is possible to tell which sources an Internet genealogist has used based on the name OSBOURNE.

⁴ Dunn, page 43. Sources cited on page ??? after treatment of the family.

source is the published Georgetown Vital Records (hereafter VR.) This marriage intentions entry for Isaac and “Below ALON” includes a note in square brackets that corrects the brides name to Isabella Allen and corrects the date to 5 September 1750. The note is followed by the abbreviation P.R. 9, which refers to “Family Records compiled by Dr. Buck” of Woolwich.⁵ The original marriage records of this period for Georgetown are either missing⁶ or have never been microfilmed. So, it was not possible to check the original marriage intention for Isaac and Isabella. Elsewhere in the published Georgetown births it is apparent that the transcriber of the original Georgetown records had problems with the old handwriting. Isaac and Isabella had the births of four children recorded in the Georgetown records. The published VR gives their names variously as Jack and Isabellah, Isack and Isabella and Isaac and Isabelah.⁷ A review of the original showed quite plainly and consistently that the names were Isack and Isabellah. It is likely the surname “Alon” was another misreading. Looking at the available records in the handwriting of Samuel Denny, town clerk during this period, his capital “A”s and his “n”s were very readable and consistent. However, the letters in between were often hard to read.

There are no ALLEN births in the published Georgetown VR. There are several marriages, none of which are earlier than 1796. And there is one death entry for “Francis ALLIN, wife of David ALLIN deceased departed this life October 15 1797 in the 91 year of her life.”⁸ David and Francis (ROGERS) ALLEN had several children, whose births were not recorded in Georgetown, including a daughter named Isabella. The births of the ALLEN children appear in the published VR of Phippsburg.⁹ The source for those births is not the official town records. It is P.R. 58 –Private Records *Rogers Family data* Josiah Drummond.¹⁰ Isabella ALLEN’s marriage does not appear in the published Phippsburg VR. Dr. Buck apparently made the connection between the ALLEN family of Phippsburg/Georgetown with the Isabella “ALON” who married Isaac SAVAGE.

⁵ Mary Pelham Hill, *Vital Records of Georgetown, Maine to the year 1892*, volume 1, Maine Historical Society, 1939, p. 9. (Hereafter Hill, Georgetown VR)

⁶ In a phone call to the Georgetown Town Clerk’s office, I was unable to discover the whereabouts of this early book of records. However the microfilmed records in the Family History Library are quite definitely Book 2 of the records. There is a note on the inside cover of the book that appears to be in the handwriting of Samuel Denny, Town Clerk in the 1760’s that says “Book N^o 1” and then the number 2 is written over the number 1.

⁷ In fairness to the transcriber, Isabella appears to have been called Sibella or Subellor at least that is how her name is recorded on several deeds. Although she signed with her mark, a complex “S,” the name in the deeds is usually Isabella and next to the mark is usually Sibella.

⁸ Hill, *Georgetown VR*, volume 3, p. 3. The published VR were checked against the Town Records, Book 2 1761-1822: 62, Georgetown, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 010919.

⁹ Mary Pelham Hill, *Vital Records of Phippsburg, Maine to the year 1892*; Maine Historical Society, 1935, p. 17. Phippsburg was cut-off of Georgetown in 1812, therefore any vital records that have dates before 1812 must have come from other sources. (Hereafter Hill, Phippsburg VR)

¹⁰ *ibid*, p. 15. Ironically, had SAVAGE family researchers followed up on this citation the problems with the ALLEN descent would have been uncovered at least 100 years ago. Josiah Drummond read his “Rogers Family of Georgetown” before the Maine Historical Society in 1896 and 1898. He clearly lays out the marriage and children of Isabella ALLEN, daughter of David ALLEN and Francis ROGERS working from deeds, wills, marriage and cemetery records in Lincoln County and Suffolk County, MA. While his printed work is not formally documented the dates of all documents used in his family reconstruction are given and there are long quotations from various wills and deeds. I did not see a copy of this slender book until after the research described in this article was completed.

With the assumption that the Buck manuscript had Isabella's last name correct, the search began for probate records for either David or Francis ALLEN. On page 317 of *The Probate Records of Lincoln County, Maine*¹¹ was a transcription of the will of Frances ALLEN of Georgetown, widow. The will was dated 23 September 1788 and submitted for probate on 25 May 1798. Among the numerous bequests are items of clothing "unt (*sic*) my daughter Isabale (*sic*) MALCOM..." and "to my granddaughter Frances MALCOM."

A general search on Ancestry.com produced a marriage, in Boston on 24 October 1759 between Isabella ALLEN and Allen MALCOM.¹² In the Georgetown VR there are two births recorded for Allen and Isabella MALCOM. Frances MALCOM born 26 September 1762 and David Allen MALCOM, born 4 March 1767.¹³

A check of the 1790 census revealed an Allen MALCOM living in Newcastle, Lincoln County, Maine.¹⁴ By 1800 this Allen MALCOM appears to have died and the Widow MALCOM is living next door to Allen MALCOM, junior still in Newcastle.¹⁵ Since Isabella and Isaac SAVAGE were busy becoming grandparents, buying and selling land and trading weaving work with Martha BALLARD in Hallowell, Maine during the 1790's, Isabella ALLEN is obviously not the wife of Isaac SAVAGE.

So who was the Isabella that married Isaac SAVAGE in 1750?

According to the Georgetown records "Joseph SAVAGE son to Isack and Isabellah SAVAGE of Georgetown was born in **York** (*emphasis added*) March 2 1752".¹⁶ The next three children recorded for Isaac and Isabella in Georgetown are all recorded as born in Georgetown. When all the children were recorded again in Hallowell before 1770, the same wording was used¹⁷.

¹¹ William D. Patterson, *Probate Records of Lincoln County, Maine 1760-1800*, Picton Press, 1991, p. 317.

¹² Ancestry.com, *Boston, Massachusetts Marriages, 1700-1809*, online database, Provo, UT: Ancestry.com 2000. Citing – Boston, Massachusetts Registry Department, *Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* and *Boston Marriages from 1752-1809*, Boston, MA: Municipal Print, 1898; 1903. Boston records and Lincoln County Deeds, cited by Drummond, indicate that the David ALLEN family was resident in Boston until at least 1769 when Francis ALLEN, widow, of Boston, released her interest in land in Sheepscot, Maine.

¹³ Hill, Georgetown VR, v. 1 p. 93. The published VR were checked against the Town Records Book 2, 1761-1822: 54, Georgetown, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 010919.

¹⁴ Allen MALCOM Household, 1790 U.S. Census, New Castle, Lincoln County, Maine, page 41; National Archives micropublication number M637, roll 2. Viewed on Ancestry.com, 17 May 2003, image # 0144.

¹⁵ Widow MALCOM Household, 1800 U.S. Census, New Castle, Lincoln County Maine, page 438, second line from the bottom; National Archives micropublication M32, roll 6. Viewed on Ancestry.com, 17 May 2003, image #412. In the household of the Widow MALCOM (age 45 and over) is 1 other female age 26-45. Perhaps this is her daughter Francis MALCOM born in 1762.

¹⁶ Town Records Book 2, 1761-1822, Georgetown, Maine, p. 38. Family History Library microfilm 010919.

¹⁷ Mabel Goodwin Hall, editor, *Vital Records of Hallowell Maine to the year 1892*, volume 1 – Births, Maine Historical Society, 1924, p. 258. The published VR were checked against the Town Records, Book ? Hallowell, Maine, p.? Family History Library microfilm 10934. (Hereafter Hill,

Isaac SAVAGE had no known ties to York County. Perhaps the connection was Isabella's. The index to the published York VR was scanned for any Isabella whose last name began with "A" and ended with "n". There was one. The Joseph AUSTIN family had a daughter Isabellah born 21 January 1727.¹⁸ No marriage record was found for this Isabella in the York VR.

Joseph AUSTIN of York, Maine left a will dated 10 December 1777,¹⁹ in which he left property to his daughter Isabella, wife of Isaac SAVAGE. No residence was given for this Isaac and Isabella SAVAGE. Court proceedings in 1784 indicate Isabella and Isaac SAVAGE sold her inherited land to John and Daniel MOULTON shortly before the estate division in 1784.²⁰ Again no residence was given for the SAVAGES.

York County deeds provide the final proof. On 18 June 1784, "Isaac SAVAGE of Hallowell in the County of Lincoln and Isabella wife of said Isaac, formerly Isabella AUSTIN, daughter of Joseph AUSTIN late of York, deceased" sold the land she had inherited from her father to John and Daniel MOULTON.²¹

Joseph SAVAGE, oldest child of Isabella and Isaac SAVAGE, was apparently named for his maternal grandfather, Joseph AUSTIN.

Family Summaries –

Allen MALCOM, son of Michael and Sarah MALCOM, was born 9 August 1733 in Georgetown, (then York County) Maine.²² He married 24 October 1759 in Boston, MA,²³ Isabella ALLEN, daughter of David ALLEN and Francis ROGERS. Isabella was born c. 1728 possibly in Bristol.²⁴ Isabella (ALLEN) MALCOM died between 1800-1810, probably in

Hallowell VR) The Hallowell VR give the town of birth for all of the SAVAGE children. Those places are York, Georgetown, Woolwich and Hallowell.

¹⁸ Lester MacKenzie Bragdon and John Eldridge Frost, *Vital Records of York, Maine*, Picton Press, 1992, p. 37. The published VR were checked against the Town Records Book 1: 21, York, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 012836. (Hereafter Frost, York VR.)

¹⁹ John Eldridge Frost, *Maine Probate Abstracts volume 2, 1775-1800*, Picton Press, 1991, p. 775-776, citing York County, Maine Will Book 13: 263. The published material was checked against Family History Library microfilm 012788

²⁰ *Ibid*, p. 888 citing York County, Maine Will Book 14: 325. The published material was checked against Family History Library microfilm 012788

²¹ Deed Book 6: 53, York County, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 0012672.

²² Hill, *Georgetown VR*, volume 1, p. 93. The published VR were checked against the Town Records Book 2 1761-1822: 15, Georgetown, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 010919. The family was recorded on 31 July 1750. The notation indicates that Allin MALCOM was born in Georgetown.

²³ Ancestry.com, *Boston, Massachusetts Marriages, 1700-1809*, online database, Provo, UT: Ancestry.com 2000. Citing – Boston, Massachusetts Registry Department, *Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* and *Boston Marriages from 1752-1809*, Boston, MA: Municipal Print, 1898; 1903.

²⁴ Hill, *Phippsburg VR*, p. 17, citing *Rogers Family data*, Josiah Drummond.

Newcastle, then Lincoln County, Maine.²⁵ Allen MALCOM died between 1790-1800, probably in Newcastle.

Children of Allen and Isabella (ALLEN) MALCOM:

Frances MALCOM was born 26 September 1762 in Georgetown, then Lincoln County, Maine.²⁶ Francis was unmarried in 1812 when her Aunt Anna ALLEN wrote her will.²⁷

David Allen MALCOM was born 4 March 1767 in Georgetown, then Lincoln County, Maine.²⁸ He is probably the Allen MALCOM junior who appears in New Castle, Lincoln County, Maine in the 1800 Census.²⁹ David appears to have married and possibly had at least 1 son and 2 daughters.³⁰

Isaac SAVAGE, son of James SAVAGE and Christian/Christine HUNTER, was born c. 1720 possibly in Nesquasset, (then York County) Maine.³¹ Isaac died 31 January 1809 in Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine.³² Isaac married (intentions) on 1 September 1750³³ Isabella AUSTIN, daughter of Joseph AUSTIN and Sarah GRANT.³⁴ Isabella was born 21 January 1727, York, York County, Maine.³⁵ On 10 November 1808 Midwife Martha Ballard noted in her diary, "the wife of old Mr. Isaac Savage expired at 9 hour the morning, his life is not expected".³⁶ Isaac SAVAGE was constable and pound keeper in Woolwich, Maine in 1762.³⁷ He moved to Hallowell sometime before 1769 when his daughter Lucy's birth was recorded there. On 12 May 1791 Isaac, his brothers and his sons signed a petition asking for the creation of Augusta as a separate town.

Children of Isaac and Isabella (AUSTIN) SAVAGE:

²⁵ Her death date based on presence in the 1800 census of a Widow MALCOM next to an Allen MALCOM jr. in New Castle, Maine and her absence in 1810. See footnote 14.

²⁶ Hill, Georgetown VR, volume 1, p. 93. The published VR were checked against the Town Records Book 1 1761-1822, Georgetown Maine p. 54. Family History Library microfilm 010919.

²⁷ Will of Anna ALLEN, dated 12 August 1812, proved 16 August 1815. Anna was of Georgetown at the time of the writing of her will. As cited in Josiah Drummond, *The Rogers Family of Georgetown*.

²⁸ *Ibid*.

²⁹ Allen Malcom junior Household, 1800 United States Census, Newcastle, Lincoln County, Maine, p. 438, National Archives micropublication M32, roll 6.

³⁰ *Ibid*.

³¹ Dunn, p.5 This appears to be a standard attribution as found in several Maine town histories, "An Interesting Pioneer Family" *American Irish Historical Society Journal*, Boston, MA, The Society, 6(1906): 55, and other articles.

³² Martha Ballard, *Diary*, Robert R. and Cynthia MacAlman McCausland editors, Picton Press, Camden, ME, 1992, p. 773. Part of entry for 4 February 1809 "Old Mr. Isaac Savage expired last night" (hereafter Ballard Diary.)

³³ Hill, Georgetown VR, volume 1, p. 9.

³⁴ Frost, York VR, p. 37.

³⁵ *Ibid*

³⁶ Ballard Diary, p. 773.

³⁷ Woolwich Town Clerk, Town and Vital Records, 1760-1891: page 7, Woolwich, Maine; Family History Library microfilm 12314.

Joseph SAVAGE was born 13 March 1752 in York, York County, Maine.³⁸ He married Alice/Ellis CARSON daughter of Adam and Alice CARSON in Hallowell on 23 November 1773.³⁹ Joseph died between 1810 and 1820 possibly in Meigs County, Ohio where many of his children had settled.⁴⁰

Hannah SAVAGE was born 14 November 1732 in Georgetown, then York County, Maine.⁴¹ She married William CARSON probably a son of Adam and Alice CARSON⁴² on 13 June 1773 in Hallowell, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁴³ Hannah may be the Hannah CARSON who married Jonathan PARKER in Augusta 27 December 1799.⁴⁴

Tabitha SAVAGE was born 16 October 1755, Georgetown, then York County, Maine.⁴⁵ Tabitha married Samuel BADCOCK/BABCOCK on 16 December 1774 in Hallowell. Martha BALLARD delivered at least 2 children of Tabitha's, (each recorded as a son of Samuel BABCOCK) between 1786 and 1791.⁴⁶ The births are not recorded in the Augusta Town Records.

Sarah SAVAGE was born 30 July 1757 in Georgetown, then York County, Maine.⁴⁷ Sarah married Eliab SHAW in Hallowell on 13 April 1775.⁴⁸ Sarah died 17 December 1825 age 68 in Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine.⁴⁹ Sarah and Eliab SHAW recorded the births of 7 daughters and 2 sons in the Augusta VR.⁵⁰

James SAVAGE was born 16 March 1759 in Woolwich, then York County, Maine.⁵¹ James married Sarah SAVAGE on 20 June 1783 in Hallowell, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁵² James and Sarah do not appear to have recorded the births of

³⁸ Georgetown VR: volume 1, p. 38.

³⁹ Hallowell Town Records, Hallowell Maine, volume 1p age 11.

⁴⁰ Marion Pierce Edwards "Braley-Savage" in *Meigs County Ohio History Book*, volume 2, Meigs County Pioneer and Historical Society, Inc., The Society; 88. Although there appears to be little doubt that several children of Joseph and Alice Carson Savage immigrated to Jackson County before 1820, the author of this article makes several questionable and undocumented statements about Joseph and Alice and about their oldest son Joseph.

⁴¹ Town Records Book 2 1761-1822: page 53, Georgetown, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 10919.

⁴² William's parentage is not found in the Hallowell or Augusta records. However, the earlier marriage between Joseph Savage and Alice Carson and the fact that Isaac Savage and Adam Carson owned adjoining lots in Hallowell, later Augusta make the relationship highly probable.

⁴³ Charles Elventon Nash, *History of Augusta*, Charles E. Nash & Son, Augusta, Maine, 1904, 566.

⁴⁴ Augusta VR, volume 1:234.

⁴⁵ Town Records Book 2 1761-1822: page 53, Georgetown, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 10919

⁴⁶ Ballard Diary, pages 53 & 117

⁴⁷ Town Records Book 2 1761-1822: page 53, Georgetown, Maine. Family History Library microfilm 10919

⁴⁸ Hallowell VR: 52

⁴⁹ Augusta VR, volume 2: 427

⁵⁰ Augusta VR, volume 1: 129

⁵¹ Hallowell VR: 6

⁵² Hallowell VR: 32

their children in either Hallowell or Augusta. He appears to have died between 1810 and 1820, probably in Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine.⁵³

Benjamin SAVAGE was born 15 February 1761 in Woolwich, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁵⁴ He married Sarah BRACHET in Hallowell on 31 January 1783.⁵⁵ Benjamin and Sarah did not record any children in either Hallowell or Augusta. He may be the Benjamin SAVAGE of Winthrop, Maine in the 1790 census. Nothing further has been found on Benjamin.

Mary SAVAGE was born 20 October 1762 in Woolwich, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁵⁶ Mary married John BADCOCK in Hallowell on 21 November 1780.⁵⁷ Martha Ballard recorded the births of several children born to John Badcock in her diary between 1790–1793.⁵⁸ These children are not recorded in the Augusta town records. Mary died 23 January 1808 in Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine.⁵⁹

Dorcus SAVAGE was born 12 June 1765 in Woolwich, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁶⁰ Dorcus married John JACKSON in Hallowell on 20 July 1786.⁶¹ Nothing else has been found for this couple in Hallowell or Augusta.

Jesse SAVAGE was born 26 May 1767 in Woolwich, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁶² No marriage has been found for Jesse and he doesn't appear on the 1790 census. He is probably the son of Isaac and Isabella who died 20 May 1783 in Hallowell.⁶³

Lucy SAVAGE was born 13 July 1769 in Hallowell, then Lincoln County, Maine.⁶⁴ Lucy married William STONE on 1 December 1786 in Hallowell.⁶⁵ Lucy died in Augusta, Kennebec, Maine on 2 September 1852 aged 88. Although she and William STONE did not record any children in Augusta, there are several Stone marriages in Augusta VR that appear to be possible children of this marriage.⁶⁶

⁵³ Death date is calculated from the 1810 census, *James Savage Household, 1810 United States Census, Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine, page 655, National Archives micropublication M252, roll 11. (This is an alphabetized copy of the census.)* and the 1820 census where he does not appear.

⁵⁴ Hallowell VR:6

⁵⁵ Hallowell VR:32

⁵⁶ Hallowell VR:6

⁵⁷ Hallowell VR: 52. Although there are three Mary SAVAGES marrying in Hallowell between 1774 and 1790, I believe this is the most likely marriage for the daughter of Isaac and Isabella based on age at marriage and the marriage between her older sister Tabitha and Samuel BADCOCK in 1774.

⁵⁸ Ballard Diary, various pages.

⁵⁹ Augusta VR page 227.

⁶⁰ Hallowell VR: 6.

⁶¹ Hallowell VR: 126.

⁶² Hallowell VR: 126.

⁶³ Hallowell VR: 8. The first name is very faint but the first letter is definitely a "J."

⁶⁴ Hallowell VR: 6.

⁶⁵ Hallowell VR: 126.

⁶⁶ Augusta VR, volume 2:146.