

KATHAN TIMES

Volume I, Issue I

JANUARY 2005

KATHAN FAMILY REUNION

Special points of interest:

- Kathan Reunion
- Children of Capt. John Kathan
- Vermont Cemeteries
- Charles Kathan (1743-1793)
- Kathan Cemetery

The Kathan Family Reunion was held August 15-17, 2003 in Putney, Vermont. It was held in conjunction with the 250th Charter Celebration of the Town of Putney. Captain John Kathan and his family were the first English settlers in 1752.

The Reunion started Friday evening with a meeting at The United Church of Putney with a presentation by Boardman Kathan. Mr. Tom Johnson Of the Dummerston Historical Society brought along Alexander Kathan's gun, powder horn and Family Bible. Members were allowed to hold the gun and have their picture taken with it.

Saturday members of the Kathan Family participated in the Putney Parade and also in a Quest looking at historic Kathan sites. The cemeteries were marked with balloons by Donna Allen. Saturday evening the family members



The Putney Inn, Putney, Vermont

had supper at the Putney Inn. They also voted to form the Kathan Family Association.

It was an enjoyable weekend and we met a lot of family.

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Children of Capt. John Kathan

Captain John Kathan and his wife Martha had 8 children: Alexander, born 22 April 1729; Margaret, born 6 October 1730; John Jr., born 7 January 1732; Mary, born 18 October 1734; Martha, born 8 May 1736, Esther, born circa 1738; Daniel born 1 February 1741 and Charles, born 26 March 1743. Captain John Kathan didn't have any children

with his second wife, Mary Wright. With his third wife, Priscilla Winslow he had a son, Joseph, born 1 March 1781. Joseph is mentioned in the Dummerston Probate records for Capt. John.

What was Martha's Maiden Name?

The question was brought up at the Reunion about Martha Kathan's maiden name.

John is working on this and is planning on trying to get information published.

David Mansfield lists her as Martha Moore in *The History of Captain John Kathan* and *The History of the Town of Dummerston*.

John Sherer and Boardman Kathan have been working on this question. Through information that they have put together it is believed that Martha's maiden name was Baird (Beard) and not Moore.

Photo at right is of the Memorial Marker for Capt. John Kathan and Martha Moore. The marker is in the East Dummerston Cemetery, VT.



Cemeteries with Kathan Relatives, Putney Vermont

Kathan Cemetery: From Putney Town Hall go 0.2 miles south on Route 5, and turn left onto Old Depot RD. Cemetery is in the thick brush and woods behind the house on the left.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery: In the village, on left side of Route 5, approximately 0.3 miles north of Putney Town Hall.

Old North Burying Ground: On Right side of Westminster West RD, approximately 1.2 miles from Putney Town Hall.

Maple Grove Cemetery: In the village, on right side of Route 5, approximately 0.2 miles south of Putney Town Hall.

West Hill Cemetery: From Putney Town Hall go out Westminster

West RD 1.1 miles, turn left on West Hill Road, cemetery is another 3.1 miles, on the left.

Source: A complete listing of GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS in Putney, Vermont. Ken Stevens. 1994. Inscription up to 1991.

Charles Kathan (1743-1793)

In David Mansfield's *History of Captain John Kathan* [1902] there isn't much information known about the Charles Kathan Family. It doesn't have his wife's death date or much about



the family.

While at the Reunion a chance conversation with Donna Allen lead me to her grave site.

Donna's husband, Bill, escorted us out to the Smokeshire cemetery outside of Chester, Vermont. The cemetery is out in the middle or nowhere. Elizabeth Kathan is buried there with 3 of her children and their families. Children are William Kathan, Priscilla Stoddard and Lucy Perry.

Kathan Cemetery, Ken Stevens

This is what Ken has written for the Kathan Cemetery.

David L. Mansfield, on page 62 of *History of Captain John Kathan*, [1902] states that his old cemetery is the resting place of Captain John Kathan and several of his immediate descendants, also quite a number of the earliest settlers of Putney who lived in that part of town, were buried in this



cemetery. "Many of the bodies buried therein were taken up and buried in other cemeteries, some of Jerry Ryan's family were taken up and buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Richard Kathan's gravestone was removed. This venerable spot has been sadly neglected and desecrated, it was turned into a cow pasture and many of the headstones were

overturned and mutilated. Seven skeletons were carted away during excavation of a cellar. In 1873 seventeen old gravestones were left standing and a few years later they were reduced to nine. On the night before the fourth of July, 1892, several of the degenerate sons of Putney people completed with axes and crowbars, the destruction of these records of early history"

It is difficult to continue designating this spot as a cemetery, there are no walls or fences to mark the boundaries and the only stones found were leaning against trees. Continued page 4.

Alexander Kathan Farm

The first known make of Maple Sugar in Fullam, and perhaps the first in Vermont, was John Kathan's son, Alexander. This sugaring information was recorded in his Almanac: "March 19, 1764, Tapped Trees.

Made 21 pounds of molasses."
"Feb. 1765, Tapped trees. Sugared off 18 pounds the 26th."
"April 6th 1778 Made off 10 pounds. That's the first this season." Others in town with a wealth of Maple Trees followed Alexander's lead and began "Boxing" every Spring when the weather became

just right (freezing nights & warm days), usually a slack time in farming. (Town of Dummerston Vermont, Inc. Fullum, 1753, Dummerston Historical Society, page 134)

Picture taken Aug. 2003



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If you would like to add
Something to the
Next newsletter
E-mail or send me a letter.

Vickie Storlie

Darrell Storlie holding the Alexander Kathan gun.

2003



Kathan Cemetery cont.

In its time the cemetery must have covered an extensive area, Mansfield states that skeletons were carried away during excavation for the house which is situated approximately fifty yards from the remains of the markers. It would be interesting to trace the deeds for this land to find out by what process the long-term occupants were dispossessed of their interest in the neighborhood burying ground, thereby permitting it to be converted into the site for a private residence.

Page 78, Gravestone Inscriptions in Putney, Vermont by Ken Stevens.

Kathan Cemetery Picture

