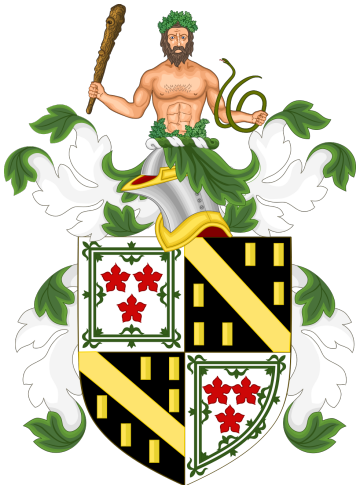

# The Livingston Family

Four Centuries of American History

*“Si je puis” — If I can*

Compiled July 2026 · livingston-family.brendan-559.workers.dev

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# Part One · The Main Line of Descent

*From the exiled minister of Ancrum to the ten generations that followed*

**1. John Livingston**
1603–1672 · Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) minister; Covenanter preacher

**2. Robert Livingston the Elder, 1st Lord of the Manor**
1654–1728 · 1st Lord of Livingston Manor; Secretary for Indian Affairs (1695–…

**3. Philip Livingston, 2nd Lord of the Manor**
1686–1749 · 2nd Lord of Livingston Manor

**4. Robert Livingston, 3rd Lord of the Manor**
1708–1790 · 3rd Lord of Livingston Manor

**5. John Livingston**
1749–1822

**6. Herman Livingston**
1793–1872 · Landowner, Oak Hill estate, Columbia County, NY

**7. Herman Thong Livingston**
1827–1899 · Landowner, Oak Hill estate, Columbia County, NY

**8. Herman Thong Livingston**
1856–1936 · Yale Class of 1879; Oil field owner, Virginia

**9. Edmund Pendleton Livingston**
1889–1972 · Yale University student; Registered for military service (1917)

**10. Edmund Pendleton Livingston Jr.**

b. 1923 · Geological engineer; Groundwater hydrology specialist, B.C. Provincial…

# Part Two · Stories

*Eleven long reads on the eras and turning points of the family*

# John Livingston (1951-2019): Life & Artwork

*John H. Livingston's Wild Man Mask (1970), a real cedar, pigment, and hair work in the Brooklyn Museum collection.*

John Livingston was born in Vancouver in 1951, the eldest child of Edmund Livingston, a geological engineer, and Dorothy Livingston, a social worker and civic leader. His childhood in British Columbia moved between Victoria, Nelson, Salmo, and Kamloops before the family returned to Victoria.

At fourteen, John and Henry Hunt Jr. began carving small masks and totems at Thunderbird Park beside the Royal British Columbia Museum. Under Henry Hunt Sr., Tony Hunt Sr., and later Tony Hunt, John entered a lifelong apprenticeship in Kwakwaka'wakw formline, cedar carving, restoration, and ceremonial art.

> *"John was like a cedar rope - he held everything together."*
>
> — Kaleb Child, Kwakwaka'wakw artist

## Early Life & Apprenticeship

After graduating from Victoria High School in 1969, John entered a full-time apprenticeship under Tony Hunt. That same year they co-founded Arts of the Raven Gallery and the Raven Arts workshop in Victoria, one of the earliest dedicated venues for Northwest Coast Native art.

The workshop became a training ground for many Kwakwaka'wakw artists. John developed a reputation for exacting carving, deep logistical competence, and a rare ability to hold large group projects together across artists, nations, and institutions.

## Cultural Adoption & the Hunt Family

Through his close association with the Hunt family, John was formally adopted into the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation during potlatch ceremonies. He received names and rights to important dances, took part in family potlatches, and joined a seven-city European dance tour carrying hundreds of pounds of regalia.

Calvin Hunt later summarized the adoption plainly: John became one of us. He earned it. The adoption was not a decorative honor; it recognized decades of work inside a living ceremonial and artistic tradition.

## Artistic Work

John worked primarily in red cedar, producing masks, totem poles, feast bowls, rattles, bentwood boxes, and ceremonial regalia. He collaborated on more than twenty-five large totem pole commissions, including projects with Tony Hunt, Calvin Hunt, Robert Davidson, Tim Paul, Art Thompson, Don Yeomans, and other Northwest Coast artists.

He also produced more than fifty limited-edition prints in the Kwakwaka'wakw formline style, restored historic poles and artifacts, appraised collections, and consulted for institutions including the Royal British Columbia Museum.

- Carving: transformation masks, Bakwas masks, portrait masks, mourning masks, poles, rattles, feast bowls, and bentwood boxes.
- Printmaking: limited-edition Kwakwaka'wakw designs, including works held by the Lowe Art Museum.
- Restoration: Stanford University totem poles, the Beacon Hill Park Story Pole, and historic poles around Victoria and Vancouver Island.
- Contemporary work: Queen and Maple Leaf Copper, a Portland Art Museum sculpture made from Canadian copper pennies and steel.

## Sourced Artwork Images

The gallery below is limited to works with a public image URL and a source page that identifies the artwork.

## Major Public Art Commissions

| Work | Location | Year | Collaborators | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **The Sea Captain** | Surrey Central SkyTrain Station, British Columbia | 2019 | Marianne Nicolson | Large suspended wooden sculpture inspired by an early nineteenth-century Haida Gwaii pipe; John's final public commission. |
| **Veterans Memorial Totem Pole** | Veterans Memorial Lodge, Broadmead Care, Victoria | 2003 | Calvin Hunt, Mervin Child | Totem honoring Indigenous veterans, with eagle, warrior, and bear imagery. |
| **Raven, Killer Whale & Seal, Grizzly Bear of the Sea & Salmon Totem** | Alnoba, Kensington, New Hampshire | 2008 | Calvin Hunt | Thirty-foot red cedar totem pole in the Kwagu'l style. |
| **Stanford University totem pole restoration** | Cantor Arts Center, Stanford, California | 2013 | John Livingston | Restoration of two historic Northwest Coast poles using Pacific Northwest techniques. |

## Works in Museum Collections

The Brooklyn Museum's Wild Man Mask is the clearest public image for this site because it is a real documented work by John Livingston. It represents Bakwas, the Wild Man of the Woods, and is made of cedar wood, pigment, and hair.

| Institution | Work | Medium | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Brooklyn Museum** | Wild Man Mask (Bakwas) | Cedar wood, pigment, hair | 1970 |
| **Portland Art Museum** | Queen and Maple Leaf Copper | Canadian copper pennies and steel | 2013 |
| **Portland Art Museum** | Tlakwa (Copper) | Copper | Undated |
| **Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami** | Kwa-giulth Wolf Design | Screen print | 1976 |
| **Canadian Museum of History** | John Livingston's Whale Carving | 16mm film | 1972 |
| **UBC Museum of Anthropology** | Bear & Halibut Totem Pole photograph | Archival photograph | Undated |

## Teaching, Market, and Personal Life

John taught through the Arts of the Raven workshop and individual mentorship, including artists such as Rande Cook. Galleries West remembered him as an orchestrator of major group projects across diverse Northwest Coast nations.

His works continue to appear in the auction market, including sales through Waddington's, Heffel, Bonhams, Clars, and other houses. He married Maxine Matilpi, known as Loved One, and remained deeply connected to Kwakwaka'wakw community life until his death from cancer in Victoria on March 9, 2019.

> **Image note**
> The website uses real collection photography for John Livingston's work. The AI-generated illustrations present in the Notion research page were intentionally not carried into the site.

CHAPTER 2 · FULL SPAN

# Main Line of Inheritance: John Livingston to Edmund Livingston

*Robert Livingston the Elder founded the New York branch and the Manor line.*

This page follows the primary line of descent from the Livingston family patriarch in Scotland through the Lords of Livingston Manor and the Oak Hill branch, ending with Edmund Livingston in the twentieth century.

The story is less a single straight line of fame than a chain of stewardship: exile, land, manor lordship, Oak Hill, and finally the modern family connection to Livingston State Forest.

## The Line at a Glance

| Gen. | Name | Years | Key Role |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | John Livingstone | 1603-1672 | Family patriarch; Scottish minister |
| **2** | Robert Livingston the Elder | 1654-1728 | 1st Lord of Livingston Manor |
| **3** | Philip Livingston | 1686-1749 | 2nd Lord of Livingston Manor |
| **4** | Robert Livingston | 1708-1790 | 3rd Lord of Livingston Manor |
| **5** | John Livingston | 1749-1822 | Of Oak Hill, Greendale |
| **6** | Herman Livingston | 1793-1872 | Landowner, Oak Hill estate |
| **7** | Herman Thong Livingston | 1827-1899 | Landowner, Oak Hill estate |
| **8** | Herman Thong Livingston | 1856-1936 | Yale Class of 1879; oil field owner |
| **9** | Edmund Pendleton Livingston | 1889-1972 | Yale student; World War I registrant |
| **10** | Edmund Livingston | b. 1923 | Geological engineer, British Columbia government |

## Generations 1-4: Exile to Manor

John Livingstone was born at Monyabroch in 1603 and became a Presbyterian minister. Banished after the Restoration, he died in exile at Rotterdam in 1672. His son Robert grew up in the Dutch Republic, a crucial fact: Dutch language and customs gave him an unusual advantage in colonial Albany.

Robert Livingston the Elder crossed the Atlantic in the 1670s, married Alida Schuyler Van Rensselaer, and secured the 1686 Livingston Manor patent. His son Philip became the second Lord of the Manor, and Philip's son Robert became the third and final Lord.

## Generations 5-8: Oak Hill and the Thong Name

John Livingston, son of the 3rd Lord, settled at Oak Hill in Greendale, Columbia County. From him the line passed through Herman Livingston and two successive men named Herman Thong Livingston.

The Thong middle name comes from Maria Thong, first wife of Robert Livingston, the 3rd Lord. It resurfaced as a family marker in the Oak Hill branch and stayed with the line into the nineteenth century.

## Generations 9-10: Edmunds in a Wider World

Edmund Pendleton Livingston, born in 1889, attended Yale and registered for military service in 1917. He married Kathleen Imelda O'Connor in Manhattan in 1923 and settled in Westchester County.

Their son Edmund Livingston, born in New York in 1923, earned a master's degree in geology from Cornell and moved to British Columbia, where he worked as a geological engineer and groundwater hydrology specialist for the provincial government.

## Key Themes

> **Land and continuity**
> Oak Hill passed through the male line from John Livingston through at least Herman Thong Livingston, anchoring this branch to the Hudson Valley for more than a century.

> **Education**
> Yale shaped Generations 8 and 9. Edmund broke the pattern by attending Cornell, where he met the woman who became his wife.

> **Westward migration**
> After nearly three centuries rooted in New York, Edmund relocated to British Columbia, marking the family's first permanent move outside the eastern United States.

CHAPTER 3 · MODERN

# Edmund Livingston & the Livingston State Forest

*The Hudson Valley landscape frames the final Livingston State Forest chapter.*

In 2008, a 319-to-320-acre parcel of the original Livingston Manor, owned by Edmund Livingston since 1948, was sold to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for $2.4 million through The Trust for Public Land.

The land became Livingston State Forest: the first legacy project of the 2009 Hudson Quadricentennial and a public-trust ending to more than three centuries of family landholding.

## The Land

| Detail | Value |
|---|---|
| **Size** | 319-320 acres |
| **Location** | Town of Livingston, Columbia County, New York, off Route 9G on Fox Creek Road |
| **Coordinates** | 42.181555°N, 73.842339°W |
| **Origin** | Part of the 160,000-acre royal patent granted to Robert Livingston the Elder in 1686 |
| **Owner, 1948-2008** | Edmund Livingston |
| **Current owner** | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation |
| **Current designation** | Livingston State Forest |

## Timeline

- 1686: Robert Livingston the Elder receives the royal patent that establishes Livingston Manor along the Hudson River.
- 1948: Edmund Livingston acquires a 320-acre remnant of the original patent in the Town of Livingston.

- 1948-2008: Edmund enrolls the land in a DEC-overseen forest management program and voluntarily allows public access for hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding.
- March 7, 2008: The Trust for Public Land announces the sale to the DEC for $2.4 million.
- Post-2008: The property is designated Livingston State Forest and managed for timber, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and public recreation.

## Why This Matters

> **Ten generations, one land grant**
> The parcel had been in Livingston family hands since the 1686 royal patent: more than 320 years of continuous family ownership.

> **Conservation by practice**
> Long before the sale, Edmund had already treated the parcel as a public landscape by managing it sustainably and allowing recreational access.

> **A broader conservation block**
> The State Forest now sits among thousands of acres of nearby protected public and private land in the Town of Livingston.

## The Forest Today

Livingston State Forest is managed by DEC Region 4. It is open year-round and free of charge, with uses including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, trapping, and primitive camping.

There are no designated trails. The forest is open for free exploration, and DEC continues to manage it for multiple public benefits rather than as a formal park.

## Edmund's Connection to the Land

Edmund was born in New York and spent most of his career in British Columbia, yet he maintained ownership of this Hudson Valley parcel for six decades. The line runs through the Oak Hill branch: John Livingston, Herman Livingston, Herman Thong Livingston, Herman Thong Livingston, Edmund Pendleton Livingston, and Edmund Livingston.

The transfer did not erase the family story. It changed its form, turning a private remnant of the Manor into a public landscape that carries the name forward.

*The State Forest descends from a remnant of the larger Livingston Manor patent.*

# From Scotland to the New World

*Rev. John Livingstone anchors the Scottish beginning of the American Livingston story.*

The American Livingstons begin not with land or money but with a stubborn conscience. John Livingstone, a popular Scottish Covenanting preacher, was banished after refusing to conform to the religious settlement imposed after the Restoration.

His exile to Rotterdam shaped everything that followed. His son Robert grew up bilingual in Dutch and English, a skill that made him unusually useful in Albany and helped him build the family fortune.

> *"In 1663 his father, a Presbyterian minister, was exiled to Holland, where Robert learned Dutch customs."*
>
> — Lawrence H. Leder, Robert Livingston, 1654-1728, and the Politics of Colonial New York

## A Faith Worth Exile

John Livingstone was born at Monyabroch, the older name for Kilsyth, on June 21, 1603. He became minister at Ancrum and one of the best-known Presbyterian preachers of his generation.

Summoned before the authorities in Edinburgh in December 1662, he was sentenced to banishment and sailed for Rotterdam in April 1663. He died there in 1672, still an exile.

> **The hinge of the family story**
> Had John conformed, Robert Livingston might never have grown up bilingual in Dutch, and the American family story would likely have taken a very different shape.

## A Son Crosses the Atlantic

Robert Livingston was born at Ancrum in 1654 and followed his father to the Dutch Republic as a boy. In 1673, at eighteen, he emigrated to North America and settled in Albany.

Albany was still deeply Dutch in language and culture. Robert became secretary to Nicholas Van Rensselaer, town clerk of Albany, secretary to the Commissioners for Indian Affairs, and eventually the colony's long-serving Secretary for Indian Affairs.

## The 1686 Patent

Robert began acquiring land from the resident Mohican people along the Hudson. On July 26, 1686, Governor Thomas Dongan consolidated those purchases into the Lordship and Manor of Livingston.

| Feature | Detail |
|---|---|
| **Patent granted** | July 26, 1686, by Governor Thomas Dongan |
| **Size** | About 160,000 acres, though some early surveys cite about 125,000 |
| **Location** | Between the Hudson River and the Massachusetts border |
| **Annual quitrent** | 28 shillings sterling, paid at Albany each March 25 |
| **Privileges** | Court leet, court baron, and advowson |
| **Modern footprint** | Livingston, Germantown, Clermont, Taghkanic, Gallatin, Copake, and Ancram, Columbia County |

## Royal Confirmation and Settlement

Robert secured a royal charter from King George I in 1715, confirming the manor and giving it its own seat in the colonial legislature. He built the Manor House around 1699 near the Roeloff Jansens Kill.

Settlement accelerated after 1710, when Robert sold about 6,000 acres to Queen Anne for German Palatine refugees. The Crown's naval-stores plan failed, but the tenant economy that followed helped sustain the manor for generations.

# The Manor Lords

*The Livingston Manor patent turned land into hereditary political power.*

Three generations held the Lordship of Livingston Manor, one of the largest private land grants in colonial America. Mastery of the land brought wealth, office, and a long quarrel with the tenants who farmed it.

The 1715 royal charter did more than confirm acreage. It created a true manor with court privileges and its own seat in the colonial assembly.

## A Lordship, Not Just an Estate

For three generations, the Lord of the Manor was landlord, magistrate, and legislator over a domain larger than many European principalities.

A junior Clermont branch also emerged when Robert of Clermont received a separate tract at the manor's southern edge. That branch produced Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, but it was not the main lordship line.

## The Three Lords at a Glance

| Lord | Name | Lordship | Defining role |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1st** | Robert Livingston the Elder (1654-1728) | 1686-1728 | Founder; Secretary for Indian Affairs; assembled the patent |
| **2nd** | Philip Livingston (1686-1749) | 1728-1749 | Merchant, officeholder, and consolidator of the estate |
| **3rd** | Robert Livingston (1708-1790) | 1749-1790 | Iron industry, Revolutionary support, and final Lord of the Manor |

## First Lord: Robert Livingston the Elder

Robert, a Scots immigrant fluent in Dutch, used marriage, office, and land purchases to create the manor. His service as Secretary for Indian Affairs placed him at the center of colonial diplomacy and trade.

## Second Lord: Philip Livingston

Philip Livingston inherited the manor in 1728. He served as a militia colonel, provincial councilor, and commercial operator from Albany and New York City.

His West Indian trade connected him to the transatlantic slave trade, including direct importation from Africa and investment in slaving voyages. That uncomfortable ledger is part of the family's colonial wealth.

> **The uncomfortable ledger**
> The manor's wealth cannot be separated from enslaved labor and Atlantic commerce. The site names that history rather than sanding it off.

## Third Lord: Robert Livingston

Robert Livingston, born in 1708, represented the manor in the colonial assembly and developed iron mines and a foundry. During the Revolution, he placed those resources at the disposal of the New York Committee of Safety.

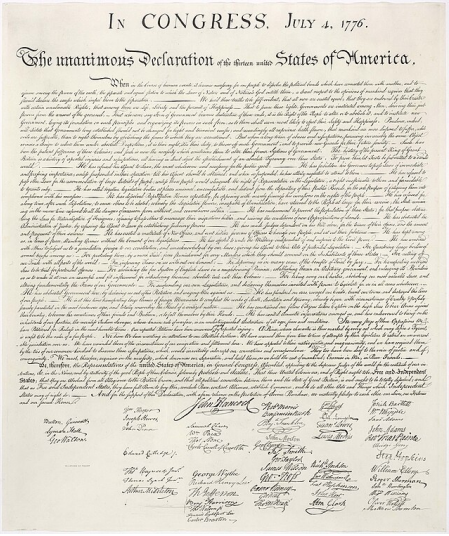
He died in 1790. With the new republican order, the formal lordship effectively ended and the land was increasingly divided among heirs and sold.

## The Tensions That Came With the Land

Livingston leases gave tenants little security in the improvements they made. Unlike some neighboring leases, they did not reliably pass to descendants, so barns, fields, and cleared land could enrich the landlord without creating ownership for the farmers.

The grievance fed boundary conflicts with Massachusetts settlers and the great tenant uprising of 1766, when armed farmers demanded fee-simple ownership. The issue survived the Revolution and flared again in the anti-rent wars of the 1840s.

# Signers and Founders




*Philip Livingston signed the Declaration of Independence for New York.*

At the birth of the United States, the Livingstons were everywhere. One brother signed the Declaration of Independence. Another signed the Constitution and governed New Jersey. Their cousin helped draft the Declaration, swore in the first president, and negotiated the Louisiana Purchase.

The exact relationships matter: Philip Livingston and William Livingston were brothers, sons of the 2nd Lord of Livingston Manor. Robert R. Livingston belonged to the junior Clermont branch and was their cousin.

## A Family at the Founding

| Founder | Lifespan | Branch | Defining act |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Philip Livingston** | 1716-1778 | Manor line | Signed the Declaration of Independence for New York |
| **William Livingston** | 1723-1790 | Manor line | Signed the Constitution and served as first elected governor of New Jersey |
| **Robert R. Livingston** | 1746-1813 | Clermont branch | Committee of Five, Chancellor of New York, Washington's oath, Louisiana Purchase |

## Philip Livingston, the Signer

Philip graduated from Yale in 1737 and built a fortune as a New York City importer. He helped found the New York Society Library, St. Andrew's Society, New York Chamber of Commerce, and King's College.

He represented New York at the First and Second Continental Congresses and signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. He died at York, Pennsylvania, in 1778 while Congress met there in exile.

> **The full record**
> Philip's mercantile wealth was entangled with slavery, including investment in slaving voyages and Caribbean plantations.

## William Livingston, the Governor

William Livingston was a lawyer, political writer, militia officer, and wartime governor. In 1776 he became the first elected governor of New Jersey and held the office for fourteen years.

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, he represented New Jersey, served on key committees, supported the compromise that gave states equal representation in the Senate, and signed the Constitution.

## Robert R. Livingston, the Chancellor

Robert R. Livingston was named to the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration of Independence but was recalled by New York before the final signing. As Chancellor of New York, he administered George Washington's first presidential oath in 1789.

As U.S. Minister to France, he negotiated the Louisiana Purchase with James Monroe, doubling the size of the United States.

## Beyond the Famous Three

> **A wider military family**
> At least twenty more members of the wider Livingston family served as officers during the Revolutionary War by appointment of Congress or state legislatures.

# The Louisiana Purchase

*The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States in 1803.*

In 1803 a Livingston of the Clermont branch closed one of the largest land transfers in American history. Robert R. Livingston was sent to Paris to help secure New Orleans. He returned having helped double the size of the United States.

> *"Let the Land rejoice, for you have bought Louisiana for a Song."*
>
> — Gen. Horatio Gates to Thomas Jefferson, July 18, 1803

## The Diplomat

Robert R. Livingston had helped draft the Declaration of Independence and, as Chancellor of New York, had sworn in George Washington. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson appointed him United States Minister to France.

His Louisiana work became the diplomatic high point of the family's public service.

## The Crisis Over New Orleans

The United States depended on the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans to move western produce to market. When Spain secretly retroceded Louisiana to France, Napoleon's presence on the Mississippi became a direct strategic threat.

Jefferson's instructions were modest: buy New Orleans and the Floridas if possible. The continent was not the original target.

## Napoleon Changes His Mind

Napoleon's army in Saint-Domingue had been wrecked by yellow fever and revolution, war with Britain was about to resume, and France needed cash. On April 11, 1803, Talleyrand stunned Livingston by asking what the United States would give for the whole of Louisiana.

## The Deal

| Term | Detail |
|---|---|
| **Date signed** | April 30, 1803, Paris |
| **Price** | $15 million, roughly $11.25 million plus about $3.75 million in assumed French debts |
| **Area** | About 828,000 square miles, or about 530 million acres |
| **Cost per acre** | About 3-4 cents |
| **Effect** | Doubled the size of the United States |
| **U.S. negotiators** | Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe |
| **Senate ratification** | October 20, 1803 |

> **The noblest work of my life**
> Livingston later used that phrase for the purchase. New York's statue of him in the U.S. Capitol depicts him holding the Louisiana Purchase deed.

## An Unexpected Sequel: The Steamboat

In Paris, Livingston also met Robert Fulton. Livingston held an exclusive Hudson River steam-navigation grant and financed Fulton's work. In 1807 their North River Steamboat, later known as the Clermont, proved steam power commercially viable between New York and Albany.

# The Bushes and the Livingstons: A Presidential Bloodline

*George H. W. Bush descends from Robert Livingston the Elder through his paternal line.*

Two presidents of the United States, George H. W. Bush and his son George W. Bush, descend from Robert Livingston the Elder, the Scottish émigré who founded Livingston Manor in 1686.

The line does not run through Philip the Signer, Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, or Barbara Pierce Bush. It comes through Prescott Bush's mother, Flora Sheldon, on the Bush paternal side.

## The Short Answer

- The Livingston blood enters the Bush family through the mother of Senator Prescott Bush.
- The descent comes from a collateral branch, not from the famous Signer or Chancellor.
- Because they share Robert the Elder, the Bush presidents are distant cousins of other Livingston descendants, including Eleanor Roosevelt and the Fish, Astor, and Kean families.

## The Line of Descent

| # | Ancestor | Lived | How the line continues |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Robert Livingston the Elder | 1654-1728 | 1st Lord of Livingston Manor; shared ancestor |
| **2** | James Livingston | 1728-1790 | Grandson of the 1st Lord; Poughkeepsie branch |
| **3** | Gilbert James Livingston | 1758-1833 | Married Susannah Lewis; the branch moves toward Oneida County |
| **4** | Judith Livingston | 1785-1858 | Married Samuel Herrick Butler |
| **5** | Courtland Philip Livingston Butler | 1813-1891 | Settled in Columbus, Ohio |
| **6** | Mary Elizabeth Butler | 1850-1897 | Married Robert Emmet Sheldon |
| **7** | Flora Sheldon | 1872-1920 | Married Samuel Prescott Bush |
| **8** | Prescott Sheldon Bush | 1895-1972 | U.S. Senator from Connecticut |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **9** | George H. W. Bush | 1924-2018 | 41st President of the United States |
| **10** | George W. Bush | b. 1946 | 43rd President of the United States |

> **A note on the earliest link**
> Genealogists agree that James Livingston was a grandson of Robert Livingston the Elder, though they differ on which son of the first Lord was his father. The descent from Robert the Elder is unaffected.

## The Quiet Road to Ohio

Most histories follow the senior Manor line or the Clermont line. The Bushes come down a quieter road: a Poughkeepsie and Oneida County branch whose Livingston surname eventually disappears into the Butler and Sheldon families.

Judith Livingston married Samuel Herrick Butler, and their son Courtland Philip Livingston Butler preserved the family tie in his name. His descendants carried the bloodline into Columbus, Ohio, then into the Bush family through Flora Sheldon.

## Cousins, Not Descendants

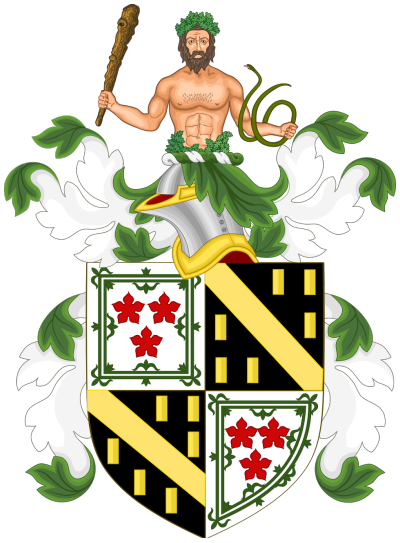
The Bush presidents do not descend from Philip Livingston the Signer or Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. They are collateral cousins. George H. W. Bush is a first cousin seven times removed from Philip the Signer; George W. Bush is a first cousin eight times removed.

The shared ancestor makes the Bushes part of a wider Livingston cousinhood that includes Eleanor Roosevelt, Astors, Fishes, Keans, and other political and social dynasties.

## Why It Matters

> **Same ancestor, different roads**
> The Livingstons who stayed on the Hudson produced signers and statesmen. The branch that moved quietly west produced two presidents four generations later.

# Family Crest



*Full armorial achievement of Philip Livingston, based on Bolton's American Armory.*

Two different families share the Livingston name, and the wrong crest circulates constantly. Most Livingston crest products show the Highland Clan MacLea / Livingstone of Bachuil badge: Saint Moluag holding a crozier. That is not the crest of the New York Livingstons.

The New York family descends from the Lowland Livingstons of Callendar and Linlithgow in West Lothian. Their heraldry is the Si je puis achievement: a quartered shield, three red cinquefoils, the Callendar quarter, a demi-Hercules crest, and the motto If I can.

## The Arms

The full achievement used by the family is quartered, combining Livingston with Callendar. The Callendar inheritance came into the family through a fourteenth-century marriage.

| Quarter | Blazon | Plain English |
|---|---|---|
| **1 & 4 - Livingston** | Argent, three cinquefoils Gules, within a double tressure flory counter-flory Vert | A silver or white shield with three red five-petalled flowers inside a green double border of alternating fleurs-de-lis |
| **2 & 3 - Callendar** | Sable, a bend between six billets Or | A black shield with a gold diagonal band flanked by six small gold rectangles |

## The Crest and Motto

The crest above the shield is a demi-Hercules, or demi-savage, wreathed about the head and middle, holding a club in one hand and a serpent entwined about the other arm.

The motto is Si je puis, Norman French for If I can. The Highland Livingstones' Gaelic motto echoes it, which is one reason the two unrelated heraldic traditions are so often confused.

## What the Elements Mean

- The three cinquefoils, or gillyflowers, are the defining mark of the Livingston name across branches.
- The double tressure flory counter-flory echoes the royal arms of Scotland and signals high standing and royal service.
- The Callendar bend and billets mark descent from the House of Callendar and, through it, the medieval Earls of Lennox.
- The demi-savage with club and serpent reads as strength joined to wisdom or prudence.

## Why There Is No Single Livingston Crest

Under Scots law, administered by the Court of the Lord Lyon, arms belong to a person, not to a surname. There is no generic family coat of arms. Every legitimate bearer carries arms differenced from the head of the house.

That is why the Livingston stem produced a family of related but distinct shields as it branched into Callendar, Linlithgow, Kilsyth, Newburgh, Westquarter, Dunipace, Bonton, and Glentirran lines.

## Cadet Branches

| Branch | How the arms differ |
|---|---|
| **Livingston of that Ilk** | Plain original arms: Argent, three cinquefoils Gules, without the royal tressure |
| **Callendar / Earls of Linlithgow** | Double tressure added and quartered with Callendar; the basis of the American arms |
| **Viscounts of Kilsyth** | Callendar arms differenced by a mullet at the center of the tressure |
| **Earls of Newburgh** | A heavily reworked shield with a blue fess and anchor between the gillyflowers |
| **Westquarter and Dunipace** | Differenced cinquefoil arms, with some inconsistency in historical usage |
| **Glentirran** | A branch that eventually abandoned the Livingston name and took the arms of Campbell of Ardkinglass |

## Where the American Livingstons Fit

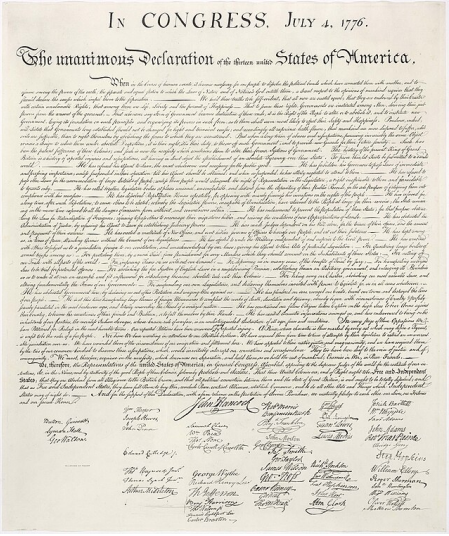
The New York family came from a clerical offshoot of the main Callendar stem: the ministers of Monyabroch, the old name for Kilsyth. John Livingstone was born there in 1603.

The American achievement recorded in Bolton's American Armory includes Linlithgow, Hepburn, and Callendar quarters. The Hepburn quarter likely points back to William, 4th Lord Livingston of Callendar, and his marriage to Agnes Hepburn.

> **More detail**
> The dedicated coat-of-arms guide includes the branch-shield image gallery and a fuller explanation of the wrong Highland crest.

CHAPTER 10 · FULL SPAN

# Claiming the DAR and Mayflower Society: A Livingston's Guide




*The family's hereditary-society birthright runs through the Revolution, not Plymouth.*

The verdict, up front: a Livingston descendant has one of the strongest cases in America for the Daughters of the American Revolution (and the Sons of the American Revolution), and essentially no claim to the Mayflower Society through the Livingston line. The family came from Scotland in 1673, half a century after Plymouth, and married into Dutch New York, not the Pilgrim families of New England. The premise that Livingstons “should be able to” join both is only half right. Here is how each society works, and exactly where the family fits.

Update, June 2026: a genuine Mayflower line has since been confirmed for this family, but it enters through Dorothy Corser's maternal ancestry, not the Livingston name. See the update at the end.

## The two societies at a glance

| Feature | DAR (and SAR) | Mayflower Society (GSMD) |
|---|---|---|
| **Who qualifies** | Women 18+ (DAR); men (SAR) | Any person, any age in most state societies |
| **The ancestor bar** | Lineal descent from a Patriot who gave military, civil, or patriotic service, 19 Apr 1775 to 26 Nov 1783 | Lineal descent from one of the ~26 Mayflower passengers (of 102) who have proven descendants |
| **Livingston eligibility** | Strong. Multiple direct-ancestor Patriots, including a Declaration signer | None via the Livingston line, but now confirmed through a separate maternal line — the Corser and Totman descent from passenger Constance Hopkins (see the update below) |
| **Core proof** | Vital records for every generation, plus proof of the Patriot's service | Vital records for every generation, plus a documented match to a known Pilgrim line |

> **Two different bars**
> The DAR asks for descent from anyone who aided American independence between 1775 and 1783. The Mayflower Society asks for descent from a specific 1620 Plymouth passenger. The Livingstons clear the first bar many times over. They do not clear the second one at all by the Livingston name, because the family had not yet crossed the Atlantic in 1620, and when it did, it landed in a Scottish-Dutch world, not a Pilgrim one.

## Daughters of the American Revolution

Eligibility. Any woman at least 18 years old who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided the cause of American independence is eligible. She must document every statement of birth, marriage, and death in the line, plus the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor. Men join the parallel Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) on the same lineage logic.

What counts as service. The society accepts service rendered between 19 April 1775 (Lexington) and 26 November 1783 (British withdrawal from New York). Qualifying service is broad: signers of the Declaration of Independence, Continental and state military service, civil officeholding under the patriot government, and material or “patriotic” aid. You do not need a soldier; a wartime governor or a Continental Congress delegate qualifies.

## The DAR process, step by step

- 1. Connect with a chapter. File the DAR Membership Interest Form and a local chapter registrar will reach out. There are nearly 3,000 chapters; you can also join as a member-at-large.
- 2. Pick your Patriot. Identify the Revolutionary ancestor you descend from. For a Livingston, this is the easy part (see the table below).
- 3. Build the generational chain. Assemble proof (birth, marriage, and death records) for every generation from you back to the Patriot. Marriage records are required where they are needed to prove a parent-child link.
- 4. Prove the service. Document the Patriot's qualifying Revolutionary service.
- 5. Verify, then submit. A chapter registrar helps you assemble the application; it then goes to the national society for verification. Once the formal application opens, you generally have about one year to complete it, so gather documents first.

> **Shortcut for an old family**
> Many Livingston Patriots already have approved DAR application papers on file. A previously verified lineage can be ordered as a record copy and reused as documentation for a new application, as long as there is no reason to doubt it. The DAR's GRC Index and record-copy service can save a Livingston descendant years of work, because someone has very likely already proven the upper generations of your line.

## Livingston Patriot ancestors to descend from

The family was, in the words of the Descendants of the Signers society, home to a Declaration signer, a Constitution signer, and “at least twenty other members of the larger Livingston family” who served as Revolutionary officers. The strongest direct-ancestor Patriots already in the family database:

| Patriot | Qualifying service |
|---|---|
| **Philip Livingston (1716–1778)** | Signer of the Declaration of Independence; Continental Congress |
| **William Livingston** | Wartime Governor of New Jersey; NJ militia brigadier general; later signer of the Constitution |
| **Chancellor Robert R. Livingston** | Continental Congress; member of the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration |
| **James Livingston (1747–1832)** | Colonel, 1st Canadian Regiment, Continental Army (his battery fired on HMS Vulture during Arnold's treason) |
| **Henry Beekman Livingston** | Colonel, 4th New York Regiment, Continental Army |
| **Henry Livingston Jr.** | Revolutionary War officer (Continental service, 1775 Canada campaign) |
| **Morgan Lewis** | Continental Army officer and quartermaster general of the Northern Department; married Gertrude Livingston |
| **John Jay** | President of the Continental Congress; diplomat; married Sarah Livingston |
| **Pierre Van Cortlandt** | First Lieutenant Governor of New York; president of the NY committee of safety |
| **Col. Nicholas Fish (1758–1833)** | Continental Army officer; married Elizabeth Stuyvesant |
| **John Kean (1756–1795)** | Delegate to the Continental Congress; married Susan Livingston |
| **William Alexander, Lord Stirling** | Major General, Continental Army; married Sarah Livingston |

> **One precision point**
> The DAR requires descent from the Patriot, so a Patriot who left no children cannot anchor a line. Richard Montgomery, the family's most famous war hero (killed at Quebec, 1775), married Janet Livingston but died childless. He is a Patriot the family can honor, but not one a Livingston can descend from. Choose an ancestor with surviving issue, such as the signer Philip or Governor William. For the wider story of these men, see the companion story Signers and Founders.

## The Mayflower Society: the hard truth

Eligibility. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) admits anyone who can document lineal descent from one of the Mayflower passengers of 1620. Of the 102 passengers, only about two dozen have descendants today, though those lines now reach tens of millions of Americans.

## Why the Livingston name does not qualify

The family's documented origin is the problem, and it is not close:

- The immigrant Robert Livingston “the Elder” was born in 1654 at Ancrum, Roxburghshire, Scotland, the son of the exiled Presbyterian minister Rev. John Livingston. The family fled to Rotterdam in 1663, and Robert sailed for Boston only in 1673, settling at Albany. That is 53 years after the Mayflower, and on a different track entirely.

- His wife, Alida Schuyler, and the family's early marriages (Schuyler, Van Brugh, Beekman, Van Rensselaer) were Dutch New Netherland families, not English Pilgrims.
- Even the family's one prominent New England marriage is a red herring: Mary Winthrop, who married Johannes Livingston, was a daughter of Connecticut governor Fitz-John Winthrop. The Winthrops came over in the 1630 Great Migration to Massachusetts Bay, a separate movement from the 1620 Plymouth Pilgrims.

> **The name confers nothing**
> Being a Livingston descendant does not make you a Mayflower descendant. The two streams of American ancestry simply do not meet in the Livingston line.

## The only real path: a separate, non-Livingston line

An individual Livingston descendant can sometimes join the Mayflower Society, but only by proving Pilgrim descent through some other ancestral line that married in much later, and that line must be documented on its own. The clearest illustration is already in the family's research: George W. Bush is both a Livingston descendant and a Mayflower descendant, but his Pilgrim blood runs through the Bush and Walker side, not through the Livingston line that connects him to this family (see The Bushes and the Livingstons). A Livingston who wants a Mayflower card must find a Pilgrim ancestor on a branch that has nothing to do with the Livingston surname.

## Update (June 2026): the family's real Mayflower line, found

Per an Ancestry.com line of descent, corroborated by published Hopkins-descendant genealogies and by the Jamestowne Society's Lineage Paper Project, the chain runs as follows. All eleven people are now in the family database with their sources attached.

| # | Ancestor | Note |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | Constance Hopkins (1606–1677) | Mayflower passenger, 1620; daughter of passenger Stephen Hopkins |
| **2** | Elizabeth Snow (1640–1678) | Married Thomas Rogers, himself a grandson of Mayflower passenger Thomas Rogers |
| **3** | Eleazer Rogers (1673–1739) | Born at Eastham, Plymouth Colony |
| **4** | Experience Rogers (1707–1750) | Married Samuel Totman, carrying the line into the Totman family |
| **5** | Joshua Totman (1737–1808) | Removed to Colrain, Massachusetts |
| **6** | Thomas Totman (1763–1815) | Family began migrating toward New York State |
| **7** | Ward Totman (1803–1892) | Settled at Bristol, Ontario County, New York |
| **8** | Levi Ward Totman (1842–1920) | Married Zylpha Marinda Moore |
| **9** | Grace Amina Totman Corser (1879–1957) | Married Henry Spencer Corser |
| **10** | Levi Spencer Corser (1898–1979) | Father of Dorothy |
| **11** | Dorothy Corser (1927–2010) | Married Edmund Livingston; the Mayflower blood enters the Livingston household here |

> **The prediction held, and the line has now been found**
> It does not run through the Livingston name. It runs through the maternal Corser line into Dorothy Corser (1927–2010), the wife of Edmund Livingston. Dorothy was a Livingston only by marriage. Her own ancestry traces, generation by documented generation, back to Mayflower passenger Constance Hopkins (1606–1677).

> **Who this actually makes eligible**
> Mayflower eligibility belongs to the descendants of Dorothy Corser, and it reaches the Livingston side of the family only through her, not through Edmund Livingston or the Livingston bloodline. A child or grandchild of Edmund and Dorothy can join the Mayflower Society, but the application is built almost entirely on Dorothy's Corser, Totman, Rogers, Snow, and Hopkins ancestry, with the Livingston name appearing only at the very bottom as an in-marrying surname.

> **A documented lead, not yet a filed proof**
> An Ancestry tree is a strong lead, not an accepted Mayflower Society application. The upper generations here are unusually well documented, since the Hopkins, Snow, and Rogers lines are heavily published and the Jamestowne Society already records Joshua Totman's family under qualifying ancestor Stephen Hopkins. The discovery work is essentially done. What remains is the ordinary task of assembling primary vital records for each generation, with the most attention on the 19th and 20th century New York links from the Totmans to the Corsers to Dorothy. Start with a free Mayflower Lineage Match filed on Constance Hopkins.

## More than one Pilgrim

This single line carries at least two, and probably three, Mayflower passengers. It descends from Stephen Hopkins and his daughter Constance Hopkins, both 1620 passengers, and through Elizabeth Snow's husband Thomas Rogers it also descends from a third passenger, Thomas Rogers.

## How the Mayflower process works (if you do have such a line)

- 1. Run a Mayflower Lineage Match (MLM). Submit a proposed lineage; the society checks it against the documented lines in the Mayflower Families Through Five Generations volumes (the “Silver Books”) and previously approved applications.
- 2. Submit a preliminary application and fees to your state member society.
- 3. Worksheet and review meeting with a state historian to map the generations.
- 4. Documentation. Provide proof for every generation from you to the passenger.
- 5. Review and approval by the state and general society.

## How a Livingston should actually start

> **DAR / SAR — do this**
> Pick a direct-ancestor Patriot from the table (the signer Philip Livingston or Governor William Livingston are the safest, best-documented anchors). Order DAR record copies of any already-approved application on that Patriot's line, then document the generations down to yourself. File the Membership Interest Form to get a chapter registrar's help.

> **Mayflower — do this instead of chasing the Livingston name**
> Ignore the Livingston line. Audit your other ancestral branches, especially any colonial New England ancestry, and run a free Mayflower Lineage Match before paying for anything.

## Why it matters

> **This family's pedigree is Revolutionary, not Pilgrim**
> The Livingstons were not at Plymouth Rock; they were in the room for the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Continental Army. Their hereditary-society birthright is the DAR and the SAR, earned many times over by a single generation of brothers and cousins in the 1770s. The Mayflower is someone else's ship.

CHAPTER 11 · FULL SPAN

# The Mayflower Line

*William Halsall's 1882 painting of the Mayflower at Plymouth — the ship at the root of the family's maternal Pilgrim line.*

For most of its history this family told itself a simple story about its origins: the Livingstons were Scots who became Dutch-New York gentry, and they reached America in 1673, more than half a century after the Mayflower. By the Livingston name, that is exactly right, and it means the Livingston line has no claim to Plymouth at all. But a family is not one surname. It is every line that marries into it. And one of those lines, hidden in plain sight on the maternal side, runs all the way back to the Mayflower itself.

> *"A family is not one surname. It is every line that marries into it."*
>
> — The Mayflower Line

## Where it enters the family

The Pilgrim blood enters the Livingston household in the twentieth century, with a single marriage. Dorothy Corser was a Livingston only by marriage; her own ancestry is pure New England. Her son John Livingston (1951–2019) and his generation are therefore the first Livingstons in this family who can claim Plymouth descent, and they can claim it only through their mother, not their Livingston father.

> **The headline**
> The family's Pilgrim ancestry is real, and it is well documented. It does not descend from any Livingston. It descends from Dorothy Corser (1927–2010), who married Edmund Pendleton Livingston Jr., and through her Corser, Totman, Rogers, Snow, and Hopkins forebears it reaches Mayflower passenger Constance Hopkins, who stepped off the ship at Plymouth in 1620 as a teenager.

## The documented line

The descent below follows an Ancestry.com line, corroborated by published Hopkins, Snow, and Rogers genealogies and by the Jamestowne Society's records for the Totman family. It runs from the Mayflower to Dorothy in twelve generations.

| Gen. | Ancestor | Pilgrim link / note |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | Stephen Hopkins (c. 1581–1644) | Mayflower passenger, 1620; the only passenger who had already been to the New World |
| **2** | Constance Hopkins (1606–1677) | Mayflower passenger as a girl; married Nicholas Snow |
| **3** | Elizabeth Snow (1640–1678) | Daughter of Constance Hopkins and Nicholas Snow; married Thomas Rogers |
| **4** | Eleazer Rogers (1673–1739) | Born at Eastham; through his father descends from a third passenger, Thomas Rogers |
| **5** | Experience Rogers (1707–1750) | Married Samuel Totman; the line passes into the Totman family |
| **6** | Joshua Totman (1737–1808) | Removed to Colrain, Massachusetts |
| **7** | Thomas Totman (1763–1815) | Generation that began the move toward New York State |
| **8** | Ward Totman (1803–1892) | Settled at Bristol, Ontario County, New York |
| **9** | Levi Ward Totman (1842–1920) | Married Zylpha Marinda Moore |
| **10** | Grace Amina Totman Corser (1879–1957) | Married Henry Spencer Corser; the line passes into the Corser family |
| **11** | Levi Spencer Corser (1898–1979) | Married Eloise Mae Pettes; father of Dorothy |
| **12** | Dorothy Corser (1927–2010) | Married Edmund Pendleton Livingston Jr.; Pilgrim blood enters the Livingston family |

## Not one Pilgrim, but three

The striking thing about this line is how many Mayflower passengers it gathers into a single descent. It carries:

- Stephen Hopkins, a 1620 passenger and a veteran of the earlier Jamestown venture, the only Mayflower passenger who had crossed the Atlantic before.
- Constance Hopkins, his daughter, also a 1620 passenger.
- Thomas Rogers, a third 1620 passenger, whose grandson Thomas Rogers married Constance's daughter Elizabeth Snow, folding a second Pilgrim family into the same line.

> **Why it was missed**
> Genealogies usually follow the surname. Tracing “Livingston” backward never finds Plymouth, because the Livingston name truly has no Pilgrim ancestry. The Mayflower line only appears when you stop following the surname and trace the maternal lines — Corser, then Totman, then Rogers, then Snow, then Hopkins — each of which changes the family name and so disappears from a surname-first search.

## A timeline of the crossing

| Year | Event |
|---|---|
| **1620** | Stephen and Constance Hopkins and Thomas Rogers sail on the Mayflower; landing at Plymouth |
| **c. 1627** | Constance Hopkins marries Nicholas Snow at Plymouth |
| **1640s–1670s** | Snow and Rogers families settle and intermarry at Eastham on Cape Cod |
| **1700s** | Rogers line passes into the Totman family; Totmans move to Colrain, Massachusetts |
| **1800s** | Totmans migrate to Ontario County, New York |
| **1879–1927** | Totman line passes into the Corser family; Dorothy Corser born 1927 |
| **20th c.** | Dorothy Corser marries Edmund Pendleton Livingston Jr.; the line joins the Livingstons |

## What it means

This does not make the Livingstons a Mayflower family. It makes this family — the living descendants of Edmund and Dorothy — a Mayflower family, through their mother and grandmother. It is a reminder that the most interesting ancestry is often not in the name on the door but in the women who married into it and quietly carried four centuries of American history with them.

For the parallel question of how to actually join the hereditary societies, see Claiming the DAR and Mayflower Society: A Livingston's Guide. For the Livingston name's very different origin, see From Scotland to the New World.

CHAPTER 12 · MODERN

# Livingston, Guatemala: The Town Named for the Code

*Edward Livingston, the legal reformer whose penal code gave a Guatemalan town its name.*

On the Caribbean coast of Guatemala, where the Río Dulce empties into the Gulf of Honduras, sits a town that can be reached only by boat. Its people are mostly Garífuna, descendants of West Africans and Indigenous Caribs, and they call the place La Buga. On the map, though, it carries another name entirely: Livingston. It is the only town in Latin America named for this family, and it was named not for a person who ever set foot there, but for a book of laws.

> *"The first legal genius of modern times."*
>
> — Sir Henry Maine, on Edward Livingston

## Named for a book of laws

> **The short version**
> The town is named for Edward Livingston (1764–1836), the youngest brother of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. Edward never visited Guatemala. The town honors him because the newly independent Central American republic adopted his celebrated legal code, the "Livingston Codes," in 1835, and named a port for their author.

## Who Edward Livingston was

Edward Livingston was the most intellectually ambitious of the Livingston brothers. Born in 1764 at Clermont, he was the youngest son in the generation that produced the Chancellor, who administered the oath of office to George Washington and negotiated the Louisiana Purchase. Edward followed his brother into national life on a grand scale: U.S. Representative and later Mayor of New York, then — after moving to New Orleans — U.S. Senator from Louisiana, Secretary of State under Andrew Jackson, and U.S. Minister to France.

But his lasting fame rests on law. In the 1820s Louisiana commissioned him to draft a complete criminal code. The result, known as the Livingston Code (or the “Livingston Codes”), was a systematic, humane, and strikingly modern body of criminal law. It abolished the death penalty, emphasized the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders, and insisted on clear, accessible drafting. Though Louisiana never fully enacted it, the code was translated and studied across Europe and the Americas, and it made Edward Livingston one of the most respected legal reformers of his age. Sir Henry Maine later called him “the first legal genius of modern times.” For the wider arc of this generation, see Signers and Founders and The Louisiana Purchase.

## How a Guatemalan town got the name

In 1821 the Central American provinces broke from Spain, and after a brief union with Mexico they formed the Federal Republic of Central America. The young republic's reformers, looking for a modern legal framework to replace colonial Spanish law, turned to the most admired criminal code in the hemisphere. In 1836 the Guatemalan state, led by the liberal chief of state Mariano Gálvez, formally adopted a version of Edward Livingston's penal code.

To honor the author of their new laws, the authorities gave his name to a port. The settlement at the mouth of the Río Dulce — strategically important as the gateway to Lake Izabal and the interior — was christened Livingston. The town was thus named for a man who never came, in recognition of a code that bore his family's name.

> **A code adopted abroad**
> It is a curious fact of legal history that the Livingston Code was put into force more completely in Central America than in the Louisiana that commissioned it. Guatemala's liberals embraced it as a symbol of a modern, rational, post-colonial state.

## The town today

| Detail | Description |
|---|---|
| **Local name** | La Buga (Garífuna) |
| **Department** | Izabal, Guatemala |
| **Setting** | Caribbean coast at the mouth of the Río Dulce; accessible only by boat |
| **People** | Predominantly Garífuna, with Maya Q'eqchi' and Ladino communities |
| **Named for** | Edward Livingston (1764–1836), author of the Livingston Codes |
| **Named when** | 1830s, after Guatemala adopted his penal code |

## A monument half a world from the Hudson

Today Livingston is a center of Garífuna culture, known for its music, its language, and its distinctive Caribbean cuisine. Most of its residents have no particular connection to the New York gentry whose name they carry, and the link to the Louisiana statesman is a piece of trivia even many locals find surprising. But the name persists — a small, permanent monument, half a world from the Hudson, to the one Livingston brother who made his mark not in war or diplomacy but in the written law.

> **Why it belongs in this history**
> Most of the family's legacy is anchored in New York and the early republic. Livingston, Guatemala, is the family name's farthest outpost — proof that Edward Livingston's ideas traveled further than the man himself ever did.

# Part Three · Family Register

*Every individual recorded in the family database (285), by generation*

## Generation 1

**John Livingston** 1603–1672 — Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) minister; Covenanter preacher

## Generation 2

**James Livingston** 1646–1673
**Robert Livingston the Elder, 1st Lord of the Manor** 1654–1728 — 1st Lord of Livingston Manor; Secretary for Indian Affairs (1695–1728); Clerk of Albany; Speaker, NY Provincial Assembly (1718)
**Robert Livingston the Younger** 1663–1725

## Generation 3

**Johannes Livingston** 1680–1720 — Son of Robert Livingston the Elder, 1st Lord of the Manor
**Margaret Livingston** 1681–1758
**Philip Livingston, 2nd Lord of the Manor** 1686–1749 — 2nd Lord of Livingston Manor
**Robert Livingston** 1688–1775
**Gilbert "Hubertus" Livingston** 1690–1746
**Joanna Livingston** 1694–1734
**Engeltje "Angelica" Livingston** 1698–1747
**James Livingston** 1701–1763
**Janet Livingston** b. 1703
**John Livingston** 1709–1791

## Generation 4

**Robert Livingston, 3rd Lord of the Manor** 1708–1790 — 3rd Lord of Livingston Manor
**Peter Van Brugh Livingston** 1712–1792
**Robert Gilbert Livingston** 1712–1789
**Henry Gilbert Livingston Sr.** 1714–1799 — Physician; Clerk of Dutchess County (1742–1789); Member of the New York Provincial Assembly from Dutchess County
**John Livingston** 1714–1786
**Alida Livingston** 1716–1798
**Philip Livingston** 1716–1778 — Signer of the United States Declaration of Independence
**Robert R. Livingston** 1718–1775
**Joanna Livingston** 1722–1808
**William Livingston** 1723–1790 — Governor of New Jersey; Signer of the United States Constitution
**Robert James Livingston** 1725–1771 — Grandson of Robert Livingston the Younger
**Sarah Livingston** 1725–1805
**Alida Livingston** 1728–1790
**James Livingston** 1728–1790
**Janet Livingston** 1730–1819
**Catherine Livingston** 1733–1807
**James Livingston** 1747–1832 — Colonel in the Continental Army

## Generation 5

**Peter Robert Livingston** 1737–1793
**Maria "Mary" Livingston** 1738–1821
**Philip Peter Livingston** 1740–1810
**Walter Livingston** 1740–1797
**Philip Philip Livingston** 1741–1787
**Gilbert Livingston** 1742–1806 — Lawyer; Surrogate of Dutchess County; member of NY Assembly; delegate to NY Constitutional Convention (1788); Presidential Elector for Thomas Jefferson (1800)
**Robert "Cambridge" Livingston** 1742–1794
**Catherine Livingston** 1743–1775
**Catherine Livingston** 1744–1832
**James Alexander Livingston** b. 1744
**Catherine Livingston** 1745–1810
**Chancellor Robert R. Livingston** 1746–1813 — Chancellor of New York; U.S. Minister to France; Negotiator of the Louisiana Purchase
**John Henry Livingston** 1746–1825 — President of Queen's College (Rutgers); Dutch Reformed minister and theologian
**Alida Livingston** 1747–1791
**Margaret Livingston** 1747–1830
**Henry Livingston Jr.** 1748–1828 — Revolutionary War officer; poet; claimed author of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' (Night Before Christmas)
**Susannah Livingston** 1748–1840
**John Livingston** 1749–1822
**Margaret Livingston** 1749–1823
**Henry Beekman Livingston** 1750–1831
**Catherine Livingston** 1751–1813
**Cornelia Livingston** 1751–1820
**Catharine Livingston** 1752–1849
**Hendrick "Henry" Livingston** 1752–1823
**Sarah Livingston** 1752–1814
**Mary Livingston** b. 1753
**William Livingston Jr.** 1754–1817
**John R. Livingston** 1755–1851
**Sarah Livingston** 1755–1825
**Sarah Van Brugh Livingston** 1756–1802
**Gertrude Livingston** 1757–1833
**Henry Brockholst Livingston** 1757–1823 — Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
**Gilbert James Livingston** 1758–1833
**Judith Livingston** 1758–1843
**Joanna Livingston** 1759–1827
**Susan Livingston** 1759–1853 — Daughter of Governor William Livingston
**Alida Livingston** 1761–1822
**Elizabeth Livingston** 1761–1787
**Edward Livingston** 1764–1836 — U.S. Secretary of State; U.S. Senator; U.S. Minister to France
**Peter Robert Livingston** 1766–1847 — Speaker of the New York State Assembly
**Maturin Livingston** 1769–1847 — Judge of Dutchess County; Recorder of New York City; delegate to 1801 NY Constitutional Convention
**Elizabeth Livingston** 1773–1818
**Elizabeth Livingston Smith** 1773–1818 — Mother of abolitionist Gerrit Smith; daughter of James Livingston of Saratoga
**Edward Livingston** 1783–1843
**Margaret Livingston** 1784–1871

**Richard Montgomery Livingston** 1787–1838
**Catharine Ten Broeck Livingston** 1789–1874
**Janet Livingston** d. 1824

## Generation 6

**Stephen Van Rensselaer III** 1764–1839 — 8th Patroon of Rensselaerswyck; Founder of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Lieutenant Governor of New York
**Henry Walter Livingston** 1768–1810
**Philip Henry Livingston** 1769–1831
**Maria Livingston** 1770–1828
**Peter Schuyler Livingston** 1772–1809
**Robert L. Livingston** 1775–1843
**Sarah Livingston** 1777–1833
**Gertrude Livingston** 1778–1864
**Edward Philip Livingston** 1779–1843 — Lieutenant Governor of New York (1830-1833); NY State Senator; Master of Clermont Manor
**Elizabeth Stevens Livingston** 1780–1829
**Margaret Lewis** 1780–1860 — Wife of Judge Maturin Livingston
**Richard Lewis Livingston** b. 1781 — Eldest son of Gilbert James Livingston
**Margaret Beekman Livingston** b. 1782 — Only surviving daughter of Henry Beekman Livingston "the Black Sheep" and Anne Hume Shippen
**Harriet Livingston** 1783–1826 — Wife of Robert Fulton, inventor and steamboat pioneer
**Margaret Maria Livingston** 1783–1818
**Judith Lewis Livingston** 1785–1858
**Peter Philip James Kean** 1788–1828 — New Jersey gentleman; father of First Lady Julia Kean Fish and U.S. Senator John Kean
**Robert Montgomery Livingston** 1790–1838
**Peter Van Brugh Livingston Jr.** 1792–1868
**Herman Livingston** 1793–1872 — Landowner, Oak Hill estate, Columbia County, NY
**Serena Eliza Livingston** 1795–1884
**Geraldine Livingston** 1798–1814 — Eldest child of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Lewis Livingston** 1798–1823 — Twin son of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Robert Livingston** 1798–1823 — Twin son of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Morgan Lewis Livingston** 1799–1869 — New York gentleman-farmer; son of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Margaret Alida Rebecca Armstrong Astor** 1800–1872 — Wife of William Backhouse Astor Sr.; matriarch of the Astor fortune
**Julia Livingston Delafield** 1801–1882 — Author; biographer of her grandfather Governor Morgan Lewis
**Alfred Livingston** 1803–1855 — Son of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Gertrude Laura Livingston Lowndes** 1805–1883 — Charleston society matron; connected Livingston family to the Lowndes of South Carolina
**Coralie Livingston** 1806–1873 — Daughter of Edward Livingston, U.S. Secretary of State
**Mortimer Livingston** 1807–1857 — Shipping magnate; co-founder of the Havre Line of packet ships (New York–Le Havre)
**Susan Mary Livingston** 1809–1875 — Daughter of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Robert James Livingston** 1811–1891 — New York lawyer and Hudson Valley landholder
**Lewis Howard Livingston** 1814–1886 — Proprietor of Grasmere, Rhinebeck, New York
**Elizabeth Cady Stanton** 1815–1902 — Suffragist; Women's rights activist
**Maturin Livingston Jr.** 1816–1888 — Merchant; of Staatsburgh House, Dutchess County, NY
**Henry Beekman Livingston** 1818–1861 — New York gentleman; son of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis
**Angelica Livingston** 1820–1896 — Wife of Alexander Hamilton Jr.
**Blanche Geraldine Livingston Hoyt** 1822–1897 — Youngest child of Judge Maturin Livingston & Margaret Lewis; wife of Edwin Hoyt

## Generation 7

**Edward Livingston** 1796–1840
**Courtland Philip Livingston Butler** 1813–1891
**Elisabeth Livingston Ludlow** 1813–1896
**John Kean** 1814–1895 — U.S. Congressman from New Jersey; President of the National State Bank of Elizabeth
**Mary Livingston Clarkson** 1815–1872 — Hudson Valley matron; wife of Levinus Clarkson
**Julia Kean Fish** 1816–1887 — First Lady of New York (1849–50); wife of U.S. Secretary of State Hamilton Fish
**Clermont Livingston** 1817–1895 — Hudson Valley gentleman; first child named for the family's Clermont estate
**Robert Edward Livingston** 1820–1889 — Heir of Clermont; Hudson Valley landowner; Columbia College graduate
**Angelica Livingston Clarkson** 1825–1890 — Hudson Valley society figure; wife of Howard Clarkson
**Herman Thong Livingston** 1827–1899 — Landowner, Oak Hill estate, Columbia County, NY

## Generation 8

**Mary Livingston Ludlow** 1843–1919
**Hamilton Fish II** 1849–1936 — U.S. Representative from New York (1909–1911); New York State Assemblyman
**Mary Elizabeth Butler** 1850–1897
**Stuyvesant Fish** 1851–1923 — President of the Illinois Central Railroad (1887–1906); Gilded Age financier and art collector
**Senator John Kean** 1852–1914 — U.S. Senator from New Jersey (1899–1911); U.S. Representative (1883–1885, 1887–1889)
**Herman Thong Livingston** 1856–1936 — Yale Class of 1879; Oil field owner, Virginia
**Senator Hamilton Fish Kean** 1862–1941 — U.S. Senator from New Jersey (1929–1935); banker

## Generation 9

**Anna Rebecca Hall** 1863–1892
**Flora Sheldon** 1872–1920
**Marian Anthon Fish Gray** 1880–1944 — New York and Newport socialite
**Stuyvesant Fish Jr.** 1883–1952 — New York investment banker and socialite
**Sidney Webster Fish** 1885–1950 — U.S. Army officer; New York socialite
**Edmund Pendleton Livingston** 1889–1972 — Yale University student; Registered for military service (1917)
**Robert Winthrop Kean** 1893–1980 — U.S. Congressman from New Jersey (1939–1959)

## Generation 10

**Eleanor Roosevelt** 1884–1962 — First Lady of the United States; Diplomat; Activist; Chair of UN Human Rights Commission
**Prescott Sheldon Bush** 1895–1972 — U.S. Senator from Connecticut
**Edmund Pendleton Livingston Jr.** b. 1923 — Geological engineer; Groundwater hydrology specialist, B.C. Provincial Government
**Governor Thomas Howard Kean** b. 1935 — 48th Governor of New Jersey (1982–1990); Chair of the 9/11 Commission (2002–2004); President of Drew University

## Generation 11

**George Herbert Walker Bush** 1924–2018 — 41st President of the United States; Vice President; CIA Director
**John Livingston** 1951–2019 — Master carver; Painter; Art appraiser and restorer; Co-founder, Arts of the Raven Gallery
**Ellen Livingston** b. 1960
**Anne Livingston**
**Bill Livingston**
**Jean Livingston**
**Mary Livingston**

## Generation 12

**George W. Bush** b. 1946 — 43rd President of the United States; Governor of Texas
**Nadine Livingston** b. 1986
**Brendan Tobin** b. 1992
**Adrien Livingston**
**Nathan Livingston**

## Allied Families & Maternal Lines

**Stephen Hopkins** 1581–1644 — Mayflower passenger (1620); signer of the Mayflower Compact; Assistant Governor of Plymouth Colony
**Nicholas Snow** 1600–1676 — Arrived at Plymouth on the Anne (1623); original purchaser and founder of Nauset/Eastham; first town clerk of Eastham
**Joseph Rogers** 1603–1678 — Mayflower passenger (1620)
**Constance Hopkins** 1606–1677 — Mayflower passenger (1620); Plymouth Colony matriarch
**Janet Fleming** 1613–1693
**Thomas Rogers** 1638–1678
**Elizabeth Snow** 1640–1678
**Alida Schuyler Van Rensselaer** 1656–1727 — Lady of Livingston Manor; businesswoman and co-manager of the Livingston estate
**Samuel Vetch** 1668–1732
**Eleazer Rogers** 1673–1739
**Ruhamah Willis** 1676–1739
**Margarita Schuyler** b. 1682
**Mary Winthrop** 1683–1713 — Daughter of Fitz-John Winthrop, Governor of Connecticut
**Catherine Van Brugh** b. 1689
**Elizabeth Knight** 1689–1736 — Daughter of Sarah Kemble Knight
**Cornelia Beekman** 1693–1742
**Margaret Howarden** 1693–1758
**Samuel Totman** 1693–1750
**Cornelius Gerrit Van Horne** 1694–1752
**Maria Kierstede** 1704–1762
**Martinus Hoffman** 1706–1772 — Dutchess County landowner; father-in-law of Isaac Roosevelt
**Experience Rogers** 1707–1750
**Maria Thong** 1711–1765 — Lady of Livingston Manor; granddaughter of Rip Van Dam, Acting Governor of New York
**Gertrude Van Rensselaer Schuyler** b. 1714 — Second wife of Robert Livingston, 3rd Lord of the Manor
**Catharina Ten Broeck** 1715–1802
**Catherine McPheadres** 1717–1792 — Wife of Robert Gilbert Livingston
**Christina Ten Broeck** 1718–1801
**John Lawrence** 1721–1764 — New York colonial merchant
**Mary Alexander** 1721–1769 — Wife of Peter Van Brugh Livingston
**Pierre Van Cortlandt** 1721–1814 — 1st Lieutenant Governor of New York
**Susannah French** 1723–1789
**Catherine De Peyster** 1724–1804 — De Peyster heiress; New York colonial society
**Margaret Beekman** 1724–1800
**Susannah Conklin** 1725–1799 — Wife of Henry Livingston Sr.
**William Alexander, Lord Stirling** 1726–1783 — Major General in the Continental Army
**Petrus Stuyvesant** 1727–1805 — Colonial New York landowner; great-grandson of Governor Peter Stuyvesant; Livingston-in-law
**Susanna Smith** 1729–1791 — Sister of Chief Justice William Smith
**Elizabeth Ward** 1733–1818

**James Duane** 1733–1797 — Mayor of New York City
**Judith Newcomb Livingston** 1733–1808 — Wife of James Livingston (1728–1790); mother of Gilbert James Livingston
**Joshua Totman** 1737–1808
**Margaret Livingston** 1738–1809
**Margaret Livingston Stuyvesant** 1738–1818 — Wife of Petrus Stuyvesant; mother of Elizabeth Stuyvesant Fish; Livingston-Stuyvesant connector
**Richard Montgomery** 1738–1775 — Major General in the Continental Army
**John Patterson** 1740–1823 — British Army officer; colonial merchant; brother of Walter Patterson, Governor of Prince Edward Island
**John Cleves Symmes** 1742–1814 — Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court
**Catharine Crannell** 1744–1803 — Wife of Gilbert Livingston (1742–1806)
**John Jay** 1745–1829 — 1st Chief Justice of the United States; Governor of New York
**Cornelia Schuyler** 1746–1822
**Cornelia "Kitty" Van Horne** b. 1748 — Wife of Philip Peter "Gentleman Phil" Livingston
**Sarah Johnson** 1749–1802 — Wife of Philip Philip Livingston; daughter-in-law of Declaration Signer
**Elizabeth Simpson** 1750–1800
**Thomas Tillotson** 1750–1832
**Alice Swift** 1751–1816 — Wife of Robert "Cambridge" Livingston
**Mary Stevens** 1751–1814
**Morgan Lewis** 1754–1844 — Governor of New York
**John Kean** 1756–1795 — Delegate to the Continental Congress
**Col. Nicholas Fish** 1758–1833 — Revolutionary War officer; New York Federalist politician; father of Hamilton Fish
**John Armstrong Jr.** 1758–1843 — U.S. Secretary of War; U.S. Minister to France
**Mary Ann (Maria) LeRoy** 1759–1797 — First wife of John Livingston of Oak Hill
**Susannah Lewis Livingston** 1761–1822 — Wife of Gilbert James Livingston
**Rachel Rice** 1762–1857
**Ann Home Shippen** 1763–1841 — Philadelphia socialite; diarist
**Thomas Totman** 1763–1815
**Robert Fulton** 1765–1815 — Inventor; Pioneer of steamboat navigation
**Peter Gerrit Smith** 1768–1837 — Merchant, land speculator, partner of John Jacob Astor; father of abolitionist Gerrit Smith
**Smith Thompson** 1768–1843 — Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Secretary of the Navy
**Daniel Cady** 1773–1859 — New York Supreme Court Justice
**Elizabeth Stuyvesant Fish** 1775–1854 — Dutch-American heiress; mother of Hamilton Fish; descendant of New Amsterdam Governor Peter Stuyvesant
**Louise Moreau de Lassy** 1785–1860 — Socialite; political influencer; refugee from the Haitian Revolution
**Samuel Herrick Butler** 1785–1851
**Sarah Sabina Morris Kean** 1788–1878 — New Jersey matron; grandmother of Hamilton Fish II, Stuyvesant Fish, and Senator John Kean
**Dr. Edward Delafield** 1794–1875 — Pioneering New York ophthalmologist; co-founder of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary; President of the College of Physicians & Surgeons
**Gerrit Smith** 1797–1874 — Abolitionist; Social reformer; U.S. Congressman
**Sarah "Sally" Lawrence Hallett** 1797–1852 — Mistress of Oak Hill; mother of Herman Thong Livingston line
**Thomas Pennant Barton** 1803–1869 — Book collector; bibliophile; son of physician Benjamin Smith Barton
**Ward Totman** 1803–1892
**Edwin Hoyt** 1804–1874 — New York City dry-goods merchant; founding partner of Hoyt, Sprague & Co.
**Henry Brewster Stanton** 1805–1887 — Abolitionist; Journalist
**Charles Tidyman Lowndes** 1808–1885 — Charleston rice planter; scion of the Lowndes South Carolina political dynasty
**Hamilton Fish** 1808–1893 — Governor of New York; U.S. Secretary of State; U.S. Senator
**Susan Elizabeth Fish LeRoy** 1808–1892 — Sister of Secretary of State Hamilton Fish
**Dr. Edward Hunter Ludlow** 1810–1884 — Physician; real estate broker (E. H. Ludlow & Co.); President of the New York Real Estate Exchange

**Alexander Hamilton Jr.** 1816–1889 — Real estate attorney; son of Alexander Hamilton
**Elizabeth Slade Pierce** 1822–1901
**Lucinetta "Lucy" Halsted Kean** 1825–1912 — Wife of Congressman John Kean; mother of Senator John Kean and Senator Hamilton Fish Kean
**Francis Sylvester Corser** 1832–1916
**Valentine Gill Hall Jr.** 1834–1880 — Socialite, banker, and merchant; of 'Oak Terrace,' Tivoli-on-Hudson
**Susan Bard Rogers** 1835–1911 — Mistress of Oak Hill; Rogers family of Hyde Park
**Levi Ward Totman** 1842–1920
**Zylpha Marinda Moore** 1843–1883
**Robert Emmet Sheldon** 1845–1917
**Elizabeth Ann Bartle** 1846–1930
**Edwin Brockholst Livingston** 1852–1929 — Amateur historian and genealogist of the Livingston family; shipping insurance broker
**Marion "Mamie" Graves Anthon Fish** 1853–1915 — Gilded Age society hostess; queen of Newport society
**Emmeline Cornell Hopkins** 1859–1940 — Mistress of Oak Hill; Hopkins / Cornell heiress
**Elliott Roosevelt** 1860–1894
**Samuel Prescott Bush** 1863–1948 — Industrialist
**Katharine Taylor Winthrop Kean** 1866–1943 — Wife of Senator Hamilton Fish Kean; mother of Congressman Robert Winthrop Kean
**Goodhue Livingston** 1867–1951 — Architect; partner in Trowbridge & Livingston
**Henry Spencer Corser** 1874–1949
**Grace Amina Totman Corser** 1879–1957
**Franklin D. Roosevelt** 1882–1945 — 32nd President of the United States
**Kathleen "Kitty" Imelda O'Connor** 1892–1982 — Irish immigrant matriarch of the Canadian Livingston branch
**Elizabeth Stuyvesant Howard Kean** 1897–1988 — Wife of Congressman Robert Winthrop Kean; mother of Governor Thomas Kean
**Levi Spencer Corser** 1898–1979 — Sergeant, U.S. Army (World War I)
**Dorothy Walker Bush** 1901–1992 — Mother of President George H. W. Bush; matriarch of the Bush political family
**Eloise Mae Pettes Corser** 1908–1989
**David Tobin** 1918–1967
**Margaret Ziebold Tobin** 1922–1999
**Barbara Pierce Bush** 1925–2018 — First Lady of the United States
**Dorothy Corser** 1927–2010 — Psychiatric Social Worker; Director, Saanich Mental Health; Unitarian Chaplain; Honorary Citizen of Victoria (1998)
**Deborah Bye Kean** 1942–2020 — First Lady of New Jersey (1982–1990); philanthropist
**Thomas Tobin** b. 1953
**Ken Ringwelski** b. 1986
**Alice Cosford**
**Eliza McEvers** d. 1810 — 2nd wife of John R. Livingston
**Elizabeth Ricketts** 2nd wife of Peter Van Brugh Livingston
**Hannah**
**Henry Hansen** d. 1758 — Colonial Albany merchant
**Irena Lester Joyner**
**Maj. James Valentine Gardiner** Major, British 16th Regiment of Foot
**Margaret Sheafe** Wife of John R. Livingston
**Mary Hopkins** d. 1613
**Mary McEvers** d. 1801 — First wife of Edward Livingston
**Susan C. Livingston** Current owner of Oak Hill (since 1997)
**Thomas Rogers (the Pilgrim)** d. 1621 — Mayflower passenger (1620); signer of the Mayflower Compact

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