

Prominent Persons in the Hendee Family Tree



Gen. Ethan Allen played a significant role in the U.S. Revolutionary War and Vermont politics in subsequent years.

“Ethan Allen ... was a farmer, businessman, land speculator, philosopher, writer, and American Revolutionary War patriot, hero, and politician. He is best known as one of the founders of the U.S. state of Vermont, and for the capture of Fort Ticonderoga early in the American Revolutionary War.

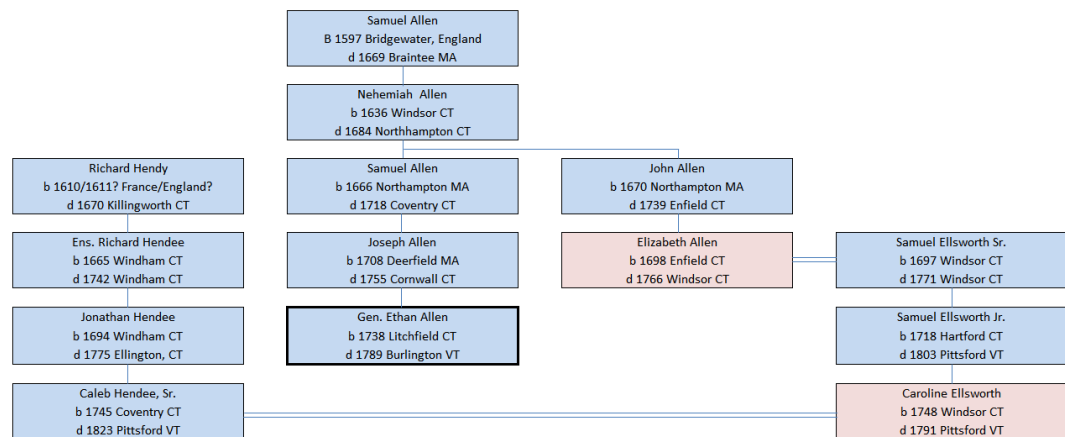
Born in rural Connecticut, Allen had a frontier upbringing but also received an education that included some philosophical teachings. In the late 1760s he became interested in the New Hampshire Grants, buying land there and becoming embroiled in the legal disputes surrounding the territory. Legal setbacks led to the formation of the Green Mountain Boys, whom Allen led in a campaign of intimidation and property destruction to drive New York settlers from the Grants. When the American Revolutionary War broke out, Allen and the Boys seized the initiative and captured Fort Ticonderoga in May 1775. In September 1775 Allen led a failed attempt on Montreal that resulted in his capture by British authorities. First imprisoned aboard Royal Navy ships, he was paroled in New York City, and finally released in a prisoner exchange in 1778.

Upon his release, Allen returned to the Grants, which had declared independence in 1777, and resumed political activity in the territory. In addition to continuing resistance to New York's attempts to assert

control over the territory, Allen was active in efforts by Vermont's leadership for

recognition by Congress,

and he participated in controversial negotiations with the British over the possibility of Vermont becoming a separate British province.



Allen wrote accounts of his exploits in the war that were widely read in the 19th century, as well as philosophical treatises and documents relating to the politics of Vermont's formation. His business dealings included successful farming operations, one of Connecticut's early iron works, and land speculation in the Vermont territory. Land purchased by Allen and his brothers

included tracts of land that eventually became Burlington, Vermont. He was twice married, fathering eight children.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen,_Ethan)

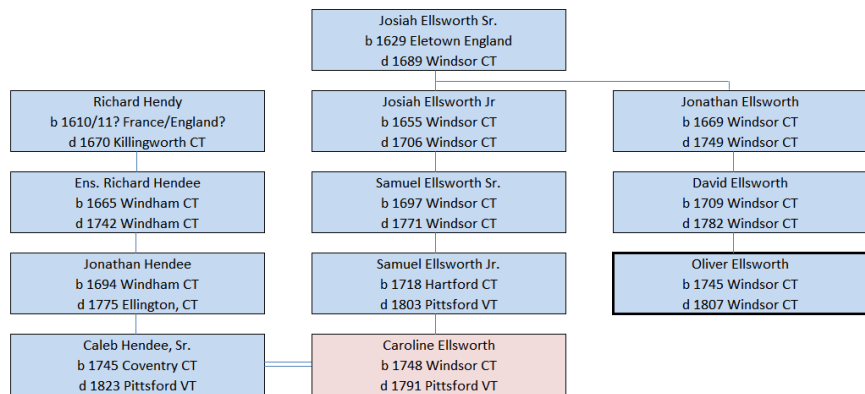


Oliver Ellsworth was the 3rd Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, nominated by President George Washington in 1796. He had previously been a member from Connecticut of the Constitutional Convention working to write the U.S. Constitution.

“Oliver Ellsworth ... was an American lawyer and politician, a revolutionary against British rule, a drafter of the United States Constitution, and the third Chief Justice of the United States. While at the Federal Convention, Ellsworth moved to strike the word National from the motion made by Edmund Randolph of Virginia. Randolph had moved successfully to call the government the National Government of United States. Ellsworth moved that the government should continue to be called the United States Government.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Ellsworth)

“Oliver Ellsworth was born on April 29, 1745, in Windsor, CT, to Capt. David and Jemima Ellsworth. He entered Yale in 1762 but transferred to the College of New Jersey (later Princeton) at the end of his second year. He continued to study theology and received his A.B. degree after 2 years. Soon afterward, however, Ellsworth turned to the law. After 4 years of study, he was admitted to the bar in 1771. The next year Ellsworth married Abigail Wolcott.

From a slow start Ellsworth built up a prosperous law practice. His reputation as an able and industrious jurist grew, and in 1777 Ellsworth became Connecticut's state attorney for Hartford County. That same year he was chosen as one of



Connecticut's representatives in the Continental Congress. He served on various committees during six annual terms until 1783. Ellsworth was also active in his state's efforts during the Revolution. As a member of the Committee of the Pay Table, Oliver Ellsworth was one of the five men who supervised Connecticut's war expenditures. In 1779 he assumed greater duties as a member of the council of safety, which, with the governor, controlled all military measures for the state.

When the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in 1787 Ellsworth once again represented Connecticut and took an active part in the proceedings. During debate on the Great Compromise, Ellsworth proposed that the basis of representation in the legislative branch

remain by state, as under the Articles of Confederation. He also left his mark through an amendment to change the word "national" to "United States" in a resolution. Thereafter, "United States" was the title used in the convention to designate the government.

Ellsworth also served on the Committee of Five that prepared the first draft of the Constitution. Ellsworth favored the three-fifths compromise on the enumeration of slaves but opposed the abolition of the foreign slave trade. Though he left the convention near the end of August and did not sign the final document, he urged its adoption upon his return to Connecticut and wrote the Letters of a Landholder to promote its ratification.

Ellsworth served as one of Connecticut's first two senators in the new federal government between 1789 and 1796. In the Senate he chaired the committee that framed the bill organizing the federal judiciary and helped to work out the practical details necessary to run a new government. Ellsworth's other achievements in Congress included framing the measure that admitted North Carolina to the Union, devising the non-intercourse act that forced Rhode Island to join, drawing up the bill to regulate the consular service, and serving on the committee that considered Alexander Hamilton's plan for funding the national debt and for incorporating the Bank of the United States.

In the spring of 1796 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and also served as commissioner to France in 1799 and 1800. Upon his return to America in early 1801, Ellsworth retired from public life and lived in Windsor, CT. He died there on November 26, 1807, and was buried in the cemetery of the First Church of Windsor."

(http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_founding_fathers_connecticut.html)

Ellsworth was "...a Delegate and a Senator from Connecticut; born in Windsor, Conn., April 29, 1745; pursued preparatory studies; attended Yale College and graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1766; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1771 and commenced practice in Windsor; moved to Hartford, Conn., in 1775; member, State general assembly 1773-1776; appointed State attorney in 1777; Member of the Continental Congress 1778-1783; from 1780 to 1785 was a member of the Governor's council; judge of the Connecticut Superior Court 1785-1789; delegate to the convention that framed the federal Constitution in 1787; elected to the United States Senate; reelected and served from March 4, 1789, to March 8, 1796, when he resigned to accept a judicial appointment; appointed Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1796 and served until 1800 when he retired; appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to France to negotiate a treaty 1799; returned to the United States in 1801; again a member of the Governor's council 1801-1807; died in Windsor, Conn., November 26, 1807; interment in the Old Cemetery."

(<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=E000147>)

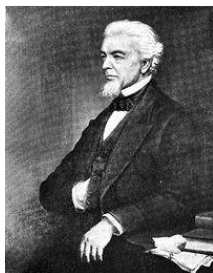
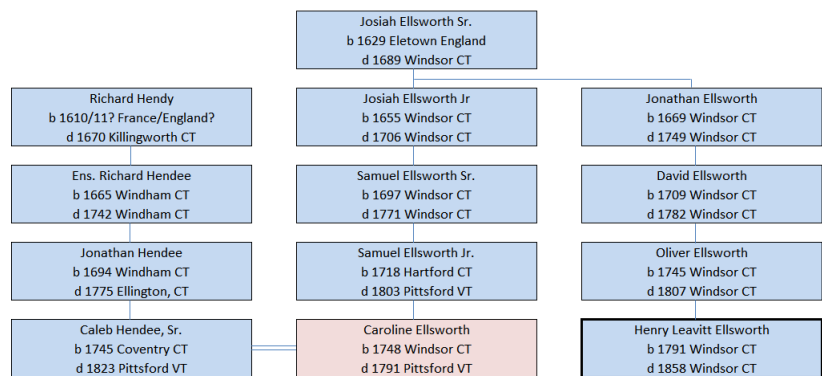
Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, one of Oliver Ellsworth’s twin sons, each notable in his own right, was the 1st Commissioner of the U.S. Patent office and instrumental in the formation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



“He was an ...”American agriculturist, ... grad. Yale, 1810. His interests were varied. He was a lawyer, businessman, and farming enthusiast. In 1832 he made a trip west as one of the commissioners appointed to superintend the removal of Native Americans to what is now Oklahoma. He was accompanied by Washington Irving, who recorded his impressions in A Tour on the Prairies; by C. J. Latrobe, an Englishman; and by the young comte de Pourtalès. Ellsworth's own account appears in Washington Irving on the Prairie; or, A Narrative of a Tour of the Southwest in the Year 1832 (ed. by S. T. Williams and B. Simison, 1937).

He served (1835–45) as commissioner of patents and worked to promote agricultural research and aid to farmers.” (The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright © 2012, Columbia University Press)

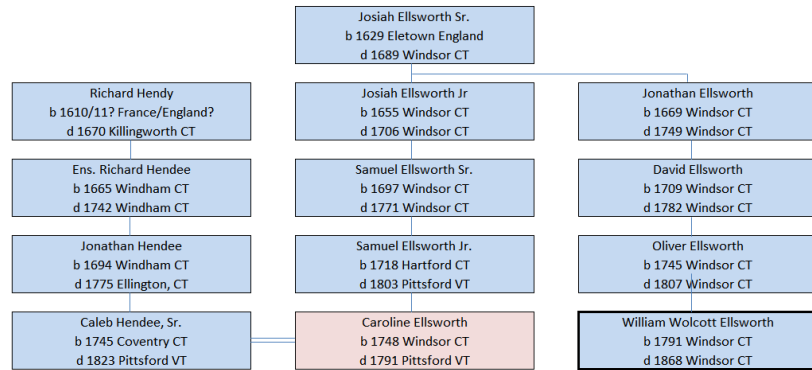
“Henry Leavitt Ellsworth ... was a Yale-educated attorney who became the first Commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office, where he encouraged innovation by inventors Samuel F.B. Morse and Samuel Colt. Ellsworth also served as the second president of the Aetna Insurance Company, and was a major donor to Yale College, a commissioner to Indian tribes on the western frontier, and the founder of what became the United States Department of Agriculture.”
 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Leavitt_Ellsworth)



William Wolcott Ellsworth, Henry Leavitt Ellsworth’s twin brother, was the 30th Governor of Connecticut and a three-term U.S. Congressman from Connecticut.

“William Wolcott Ellsworth ... was a Yale-educated attorney who served as the 30th Governor of Connecticut, a three-term United States Congressman, a Justice on the State Supreme Court, and who twice turned down nomination to the state's United States Senate seat. Born in Windsor on November 10, 1791, he was the son of Founding Father Oliver Ellsworth, and son-in-law of Noah Webster, who named Ellsworth executor of his will.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Ellsworth)

“Ellsworth was ... a Representative from Connecticut; born in Windsor, Conn., November 10, 1791; completed preparatory studies, and was graduated from Yale College in 1810; studied law in Litchfield, Conn.; was admitted to the bar in 1813 and practiced; appointed professor of law at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., in 1827, which position he held until his death;



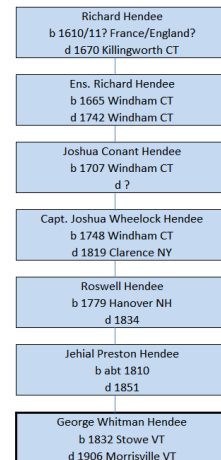
elected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twenty-third Congresses and served from March 4, 1829, to July 8, 1834, when he resigned; Governor of Connecticut 1838-1842; judge of the State supreme court from 1847 to 1861, when, by the constitutional provision relative to age, he was retired; twice declined to accept the nomination to the United States Senate; retired from public life; died in Hartford, Conn., January 15, 1868; interment in the Old North Cemetery.”(<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=E000150>)

George Whitman Hendee was the 32nd Governor of Vermont and served as a Representative from Vermont in the U.S. House of Representatives.



“George Whitman Hendee ... was a U.S. Representative from Vermont.

Born in Stowe, Vermont, Hendee attended the common schools of Morrisville, Vermont, and People's Academy. He studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1855 and commenced practice in Morrisville, Vermont. He served as prosecuting attorney of Lamoille County in 1858 and 1859. He served as member of the State house of representatives in 1861 and 1862. During the Civil War served as deputy provost marshal. He served in the State senate 1866–1868. 25th Lieutenant Governor of Vermont in 1869 and acted as Governor after the death of Governor Washburn.



Hendee was elected as a Republican to the Forty-third, Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses (March 4, 1873 – March 3, 1879). He was an unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1878. He resumed the practice of law. National-bank examiner 1879–1885. He was interested in the breeding of Morgan horses.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Hendee)



George Mallory Hendee was a champion high-wheel bicycle racer whose interest later turned to motorized bicycles and eventually to the founding of the Hendee Manufacturing Company. The company name was later changed to the Indian Motorcycle Company, producing the famed Indian Motorcycles.

“George M Hendee ... was a co-founder of the Indian Motorcycle Manufacturing Company. (He) took up bicycle racing at age 16. He won the United States National Amateur High Wheel Championship in 1886, setting a new world record over a dirt half-mile track of 2 minutes 27.4 seconds, and held it until 1892. He was America's first national cycling champion, winning 302 of the 309 races he entered, and dedicating himself to racing and traveling to bicycling events.

Richard Hendee
b 1610/11? France/England?
d 1670 Killingworth CT

Ens. Richard Hendee
b 1665 Windham CT
d 1742 Windham CT

Josiah Hendee
b 1702 Windham CT
d 1765 Ashford CT

Caleb Hendee
b 1730 Ashford CT
d 1814 CT

Caleb Hendee
b 1756 Ashford CT
d 1839 Ashford CT

Abel Hendee
b 1791 Ashford CT
d 1843 Mansfield City CT

William Goodell Hendee
b 1826 Mansfield City CT
d 1910 CT

George Mallory Hendee
b 1866 Watertown, MA
d 1943 Suffield CT

In 1892 Hendee retired from bicycle racing and began making Silver King bicycles ... in Springfield, Massachusetts ... In 1896 the Hendee & Nelson Manufacturing Company ... were building safety bicycles under the names of Silver King for men and Silver Queen for women.

The Hendee Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1898. The company's new line of bicycles was called Indian. Hendee sponsored a number of bicycle racers and events throughout New England. It was during an event in Madison Square Garden in January 1900 that Hendee became acquainted with Carl Oscar Hedström and witnessed first-hand the excellent performance of the motorized pacing bicycle built by Hedstrom.

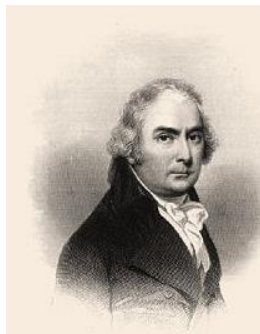
Hendee and Hedstrom signed a partnership agreement in January 1901 and Hedstrom became the chief engineer and designer.

The first Indian prototype was built by Hedstrom at the Worcester Bicycle Manufacturing Company in Middletown, CT and the first public demonstration was

held ... on May 10, 1901. By 1912, Hendee Manufacturing, was the world's largest motorcycle manufacturer. The company's name was changed to Indian Motorcycle in November 1923.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M_Hendee)



Ira Allen, the brother of Ethan Allen, was a founder of the State of Vermont and served with the Green Mountain Boys before and during the Revolutionary War.



“Ira Allen was born in Cornwall, Connecticut, the youngest of six sons born to Joseph and Mary (Baker) Allen. In 1771 Allen went to Vermont as surveyor for the Onion River Land Company. The Allen brothers established the company in order to purchase lands under the New Hampshire Grants. Through this Allen was involved in a dispute with New York over conflicting land claims in the region.

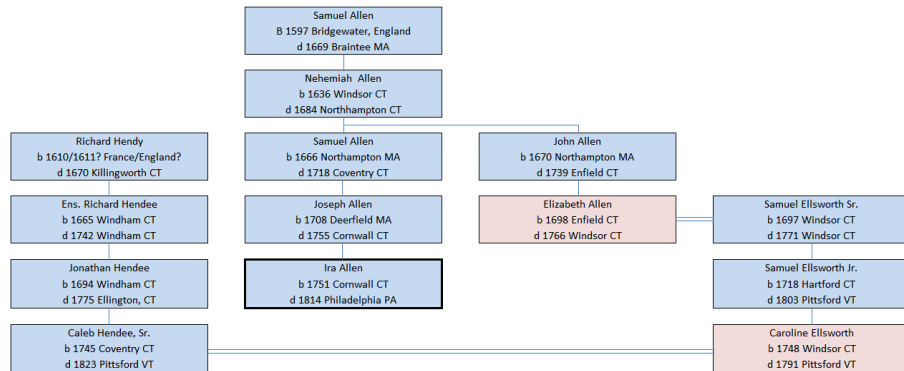
He was a member of the Vermont Legislature, in 1776-1777, and was a leading figure in the declaration of the Vermont Republic in 1777. He and his brother Ethan were implicated in

potentially treasonous actions when they entered into negotiations with Frederick Haldimand that suggested they might turn Vermont over to the British.

Allen designed the Great Seal of Vermont and the seal of the University of Vermont.

In 1780 he presented the Legislature a memorial for the establishment of the University of Vermont. He contributed money and a fifty-acre (20 ha) site at Burlington. He was

to



called the "Metternich of Vermont" and the "Father of the University of Vermont." Ira Allen pledged 4000 British pounds sterling to the University of Vermont, but never donated that money. In response, the Trustees of the University of Vermont secured a Writ of Attachment on his title to the town of Plainfield to try to extract payment of his original 4000 pound pledge

He served as the first Surveyor General of Vermont from 1779 to 1787.

He went to France in 1795, and sought French army intervention for seizing Canada, to create an independent republic called United Columbia. He bought 20,000 muskets and 24 cannon, but was captured at sea, taken to England, placed on trial, charged with furnishing arms for Irish rebels, but was acquitted after a lawsuit which lasted eight years.

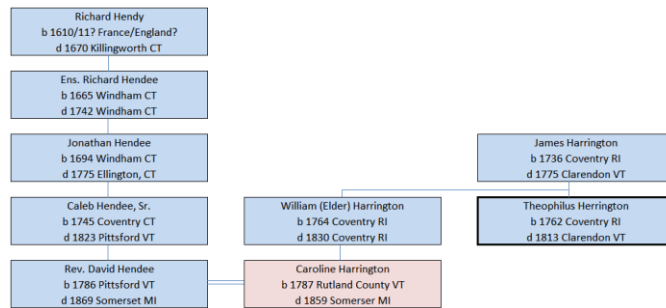
He owned undeveloped land including a stake in Barton, Vermont and was a major stakeholder in Irasburg, Vermont which was named after him." (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ira_Allen)

Theophilus Harrington. Slavery was abolished in Vermont while it was still an independent entity. When Vermont joined the union in 1791 (the first state to join after the original 13 colonies), it was the first state to abolish slavery. Nevertheless, slavery continued to exist. Theophilus Herrington is most well-known for his dialog, perhaps anecdotal, with a slave owner attempting to establish ownership of a runaway slave before the Vermont Supreme Court.

"Theophilus Harrington ... served as a Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court in America from 1803 to 1813.

Harrington was born in 1762 and moved to Clarendon, Vermont, in 1788. Although never receiving any formal legal education he worked as a judge and representative of Clarendon in the state assembly. In October 1800 he was made the chief judge of the County Court of Rutland. In October 1803 he was chosen as one of three justices of the Vermont Supreme Court, where he served until 1813.

In June 1804, a runaway slave was brought before the Vermont Supreme Court in Middlebury, Vermont. When the slave's owner sought to claim his ownership of the slave Judge Harrington demanded to see proof that he did indeed own the slave. The owner produced bills of sale for both the slave and the slave's mother. Judge Harrington said that the documents of title did not go far enough back in time. When the owner asked what proof of ownership the judge would accept, Judge Harrington replied, "Nothing short of a bill of sale signed by God Almighty Himself." The other justices concurred, and the slave was set free. Their actions were considered by abolitionists as an expression of the Vermont Constitution's prohibition against slavery.



Decisions from that period were not recorded, so there is no way to ascertain the validity of the story. The story has been recorded as far back as the 1840s. The first evidence of the story can be traced back to Benjamin Shaw's 1846 lecture 'Illegality of Slavery.'
 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theophilus_Harrington)