

Loose Ends



Levi Woodbury

I haven't included anything yet about my fourth cousin, seven times removed, Levi Woodbury, 1789-1851. (His Woodbury grandparent is also my Woodbury ggggggreat-grandparent, seven generations back.) Levi holds the record as the individual who has held the greatest number of positions in state and federal government in the U.S., including all three branches of the federal government.

He had begun with an appointment as a state judge in New Hampshire and then as governor of that state. After that he was elected as U.S. Senator, then was appointed as Secretary of the Navy in the cabinet of President Andrew Jackson and as Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren. It was President Polk who then nominated him to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he served until his death.

When you drive by Portsmouth, New Hampshire on Interstate 95 you see the signs for Woodbury Avenue, named for Levi, and across the country there are towns in a several states named in his honor.



SEARCH

First Person
WOODBURY David An...

Second Person
WOODBURY Levi (178...

Search

SEARCH RESULTS

Common Ancestors (1)
WOODBURY John (J 15...
WOODBURY David and WOODBURY Levi are cousins (4th cousin 7x removed)

Other Relatives (4)
WOODBURY David is
the spouse of a direct d...
a direct descendant (12...
the spouse of a direct d...
a direct descendant (12...
of WOODBURY Levi

Common Ancestor Of WOODBURY David And WOODBURY Levi

WOODBURY John (J 1579-1641)

1/2

WOODBURY Humphrey (1604-1686)	WOODBURY Peter (1640-1704)
WOODBURY Humphrey (1646-1727)	WOODBURY Josiah (1682-)
WOODBURY Nathan (1691-1768)	WOODBURY Peter (1738-1818)
WOODBURY Moses (1728-)	WOODBURY Peter (1767-1834)
WOODBURY True (1756-1828)	WOODBURY Levi (1789-1851)
WOODBURY True (1782-1854)	
WOODBURY Hugh (1806-1873)	
WOODBURY Daniel W (1843-1903)	
WOODBURY George Hugh (1873-19...	
WOODBURY Everett Hugh (1899-19...	
WOODBURY Victor Walter (1927-199..	
WOODBURY David Andrew (1950-)	

the Woodbury name

Many years ago, after living in Germany and learning a little of that language, I deduced that the name, Woodbury, is a corruption of Waldburg. In German that is literally a walled castle (“burg”) in the forest (“wald”). Ancestry.com has this more-sophisticated explanation:

“Perhaps *wudu* in Old English [wood] is not related to ‘forest’ in German, but *burg* and its ornate English versions are related. Many place names and surnames ending in -bury in modern English are corruptions of -*burg*: Kingsbury, Salisbury, Tewkesbury, and so on.”

English (Somerset and Devon): habitational name from Woodbury in Devon named from Old English *wudu* ‘wood’ + *byrig*, dative of *burg* or ‘fortress’ or from either of two places called Woodborough in Nottinghamshire and Wiltshire. The Nottinghamshire place name has the same origin as Woodbury in Devon. Woodborough in Wiltshire is named with the same first element + Old English *beorg* ‘hill.’

the Griswold connection

My great-grandfather, George Woodbury, had a great-grandfather, Samuel King. He had a great-grandfather, Robert Chapman. He had a great-grandfather, Francis Griswold, who was originally from Kenilworth, Warwickshire, (in England), but who was a resident of Norwich, Connecticut when he died in 1704. I have not been able to connect him positively to Clark Griswold, who was portrayed by Chevy Chase in National Lampoon’s “Vacation.”

Aaron Woodbury

When we first moved from Millinocket to Lincoln, Maine, in December 2000, our family consisted of two grown daughters, Ruth and Leigh, ten-year-old Samuel, and foster daughter, Christina. After Christmas break Christina, 17, began classes at Mattanawcook Academy, her new school in Lincoln. Not long thereafter she came home from school with some school-printed sheets laying out the history of Lincoln. The town was incorporated in 1829 and named for Enoch Lincoln, who was then Maine’s sixth governor since separating from Massachusetts in 1820. (Four men held the post of governor during the state’s first eight months.) The town’s population was about 400.

The first settler in what is now Lincoln, Maine, arriving in 1824 with his family, was... Aaron Woodbury. His was the first house and first store in what is now the town of Lincoln. Aaron subsequently moved to New York in 1835. It’s not clear whether any of his children remained in town once he moved on, but none of his descendants live here any longer. However, I am a fifth cousin six times removed and we have been the only Woodbury family in town during the nearly quarter-century since we moved here.

cousins, part one

My wife, Elizabeth (Noyes) Woodbury, is my tenth cousin once removed. Her eighth-great-grandmother, Lydia (Woodbury) Herrick (1643-1669) is a half-sister to my ninth-great-grandfather, Humphrey Woodbury (1604-1686). Or is she a half-sister...?

Lydia’s mother, Anna/Agnes/Annis (Napper) Woodbury (1598-1672), was John Woodbury’s second wife. They married many years after the mother of John’s son, Humphrey, died in England. We have Lydia’s year of birth as 1643. John died in 1641 (verified in the records of Salem Court). If those years are accurate, then Lydia cannot be John’s daughter. In 1643 Humphrey was 39 years

old and Lydia's mother, Anna, was 45. Anna had already delivered three other Woodbury children before John died. Was her step-son Humphrey sufficiently available and consoling to his stepmother that an accident occurred leaving her with a new girl-child?

Charles Levi Woodbury, a son of Supreme Court Justice Levi Woodbury, was the author of a 1904 *Woodbury Genealogy*, which I have. Charles has only this to say in that book (p.137): "There is little of fact known about Lydia Woodbury Herrick, who was the wife of Henry Herrick. I have no information where to place her."

Really, Charles? Other family trees have consistently placed her as a daughter of John's second wife, Anna, and fathered by John. But John had died at least twelve months before Lydia was born. If Humphrey and Anna had a little slip-up and if the child was endearing to them both, and if after a couple of long New England winters she could be passed off as John's youngest in spite of the one-year-plus lapse between his death and her birth, then where was the harm? Or did such things not happen then? Was *The Scarlet Letter* conceived entirely as a fantasy or might certain indiscretions have occurred frequently enough even then to lend pertinence to Nathaniel Hawthorne's story? Indeed, was Hawthorne, albeit living two centuries later, acquainted with some descendants of these early Woodbury settlers in the same eastern-Massachusetts towns?

SEARCH

First Person
WOODBURY David An...

Second Person
NOYES Elizabeth Ruth...

Search

SEARCH RESULTS

Common Ancestors (1)
WOODBURY John (J 15...
WOODBURY David and NOYES Elizabeth are cousins (10th cousin 1x removed)

Other Relatives (4)
WOODBURY David is
the spouse
a direct descendant (12...
a direct descendant (10...
a direct descendant (12...
of NOYES Elizabeth

Common Ancestor Of WOODBURY David And NOYES Elizabeth

WOODBURY John (J 1579-1641)

1/2

WOODBURY Humphrey (1604-1686) WOODBURY Humphrey (1646-1727) WOODBURY Nathan (1691-1768) WOODBURY Moses (1728-) WOODBURY True (1756-1828) WOODBURY True (1782-1854) WOODBURY Hugh (1806-1873) WOODBURY Daniel W (1843-1903) WOODBURY George Hugh (1873-19... WOODBURY Everett Hugh (1899-19... WOODBURY Victor Walter (1927-199.. WOODBURY David Andrew (1950-)	WOODBURY Lydia (1643-1669) HERRICK Samuel (1668-1743) HERRICK Joseph (1695-1777) HERRICK Joseph Jr (1725-1777) HERRICK John Groves (1750-1842) HERRICK Moses (1791-1882) HERRICK Leonard Crocker (1829-) HERRICK Ida Viola (1870-1960) NOYES Walter F (~ 1901-) NOYES Richard Walter (1929-) NOYES Elizabeth Ruth (1954-)
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I'm not making an accusation about our grandparents, Beth's and mine. I'm merely asking a question. Humphrey did have a wife at the time but had no children during the first eight years of that marriage, until his son, also named Humphrey (1646-1727), came along three years after Lydia was born to the widow, Anna.

Cousin Charles may have been reluctant to pin Lydia to the family tree. Perhaps she was adopted into the family, for instance — but by a widow who already had three little ones under the age of seven when Lydia was born? Anna would not have accepted a baby in that case unless it were her own. The child has to land somewhere. Let this be my under-the-rug suggestion: There was

some hanky-panky. Beth and I had no idea that we were cousins, of course, when we were falling in love and choosing to marry.

cousins, part two

In a similar way, our daughter, Ruth (Woodbury) Starr, and her husband, Morgan Strane-Starr, are tenth cousins, removed by one generation. They, too, had no idea that this was the case until they began researching their own ancestry.

SEARCH

First Person
STRANE-STARR Morg...

Second Person
WOODBURY Ruth Clai...

Search

Common Ancestors (2)

KNOWLTON William (1614-1655)

WELCH Elizabeth (1619-...

STRANE-STARR Morgan and WOODBURY Ruth are cousins (10th cousin 1x removed)

Other Relatives (2)

STRANE-STARR Morgan is the spouse a direct descendant (10... of WOODBURY Ruth

Common Ancestors Of STRANE-STARR Morgan And WOODBURY Ruth

<div>KNOWLTON William (1614-1655)</div> <div>WELCH Elizabeth (1619-1688)</div>	<div>KNOWLTON Mary (1653-1701)</div> <div>ABBE Ebenezer (1683-1758)</div> <div>ABBE Sariah (1721-1765)</div> <div>MARSH Joseph (1754-1829)</div> <div>MARSH Hannah (1784-1867)</div> <div>FERRISS Hannah (1813-1894)</div> <div>WANZER Hannah Cordelia (1839-18...</div> <div>STARR Frederick E (1868-1952)</div> <div>STARR William D (1906-1991)</div> <div>STARR William Frederick (1933-)</div> <div>STRANE-STARR Morgan Richard (...)</div>	<div>KNOWLTON John (1644-)</div> <div>KNOWLTON John (~ 1682-)</div> <div>KNOWLTON Andrew (1720-)</div> <div>KNOWLTON Jonathan (1750-1819)</div> <div>KNOWLTON Jonathan (1780-1864)</div> <div>KNOWLTON Jason (1813-1890)</div> <div>KNOWLTON Mary Jane (1845-1913)</div> <div>SWEET Goldie May (1882-1969)</div> <div>HINES Clarice Augusta (1903-1969)</div> <div>WOODBURY Victor Walter (1927-199..)</div> <div>WOODBURY David Andrew (1950-)</div> <div>WOODBURY Ruth Claire (1976-)</div>
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Joan Elma Woodbury

In 1996-1997, when our daughter, Leigh, was a high school junior at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine, she sang the song “Ten Cents a Dance” in a springtime concert. We were privileged to attend that concert. Suitably gowned to fit the song’s era (1930s), she delivered a delightful rendition of it. Little did we know at the time that the song had been featured in a 1945 movie of the same name starring, among others, Joan Woodbury (1915-1989). (The first movie featuring the song was a 1931 flick with Barbara Stanwyck in the lead role.)

When I ran across Joan Woodbury’s name several years later, I inquired into her ancestry and eventually turned up the connection to my own and her connection to the movie. We both go back to John Woodbury, one of two brothers who moved to Massachusetts from England in about 1624. It’s so many generations back and subject to so many branches of the tree that I haven’t counted the spread of cousinhood.

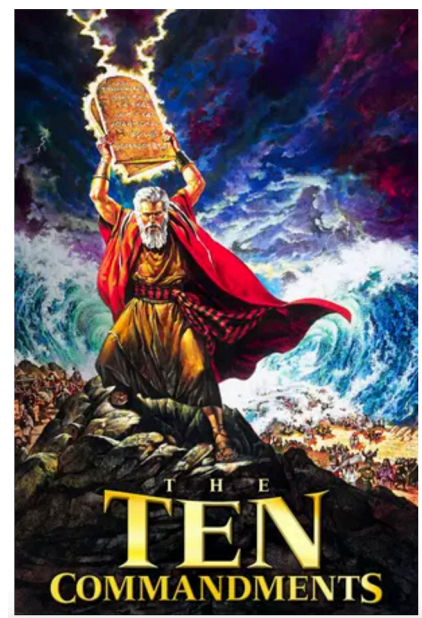
From 1934 to 1964 Joan played lead roles as well as bit roles in mostly what we used to call ‘B’ movies. I know I saw a few of these movies when they were re-broadcast on television during my youth, but I

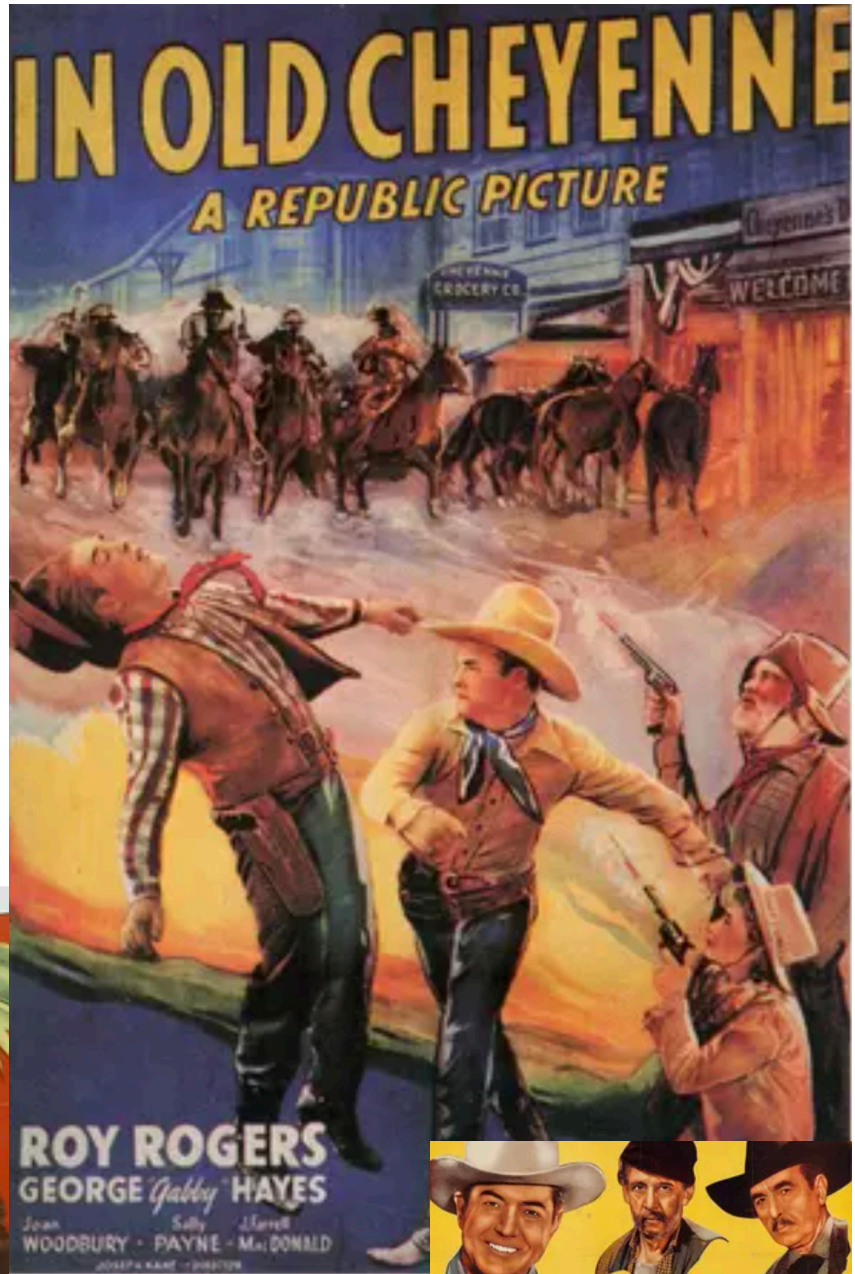


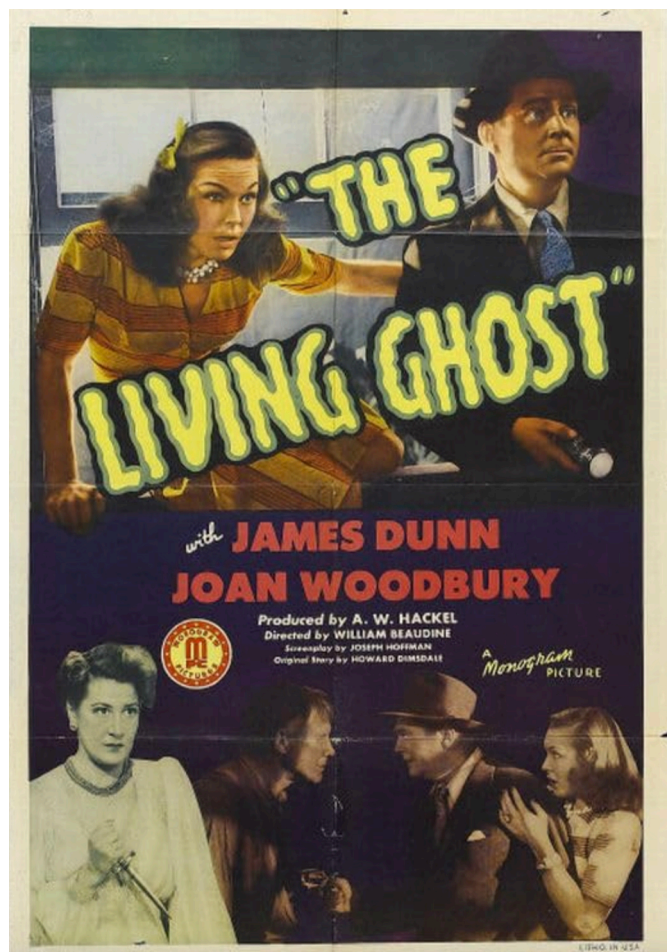
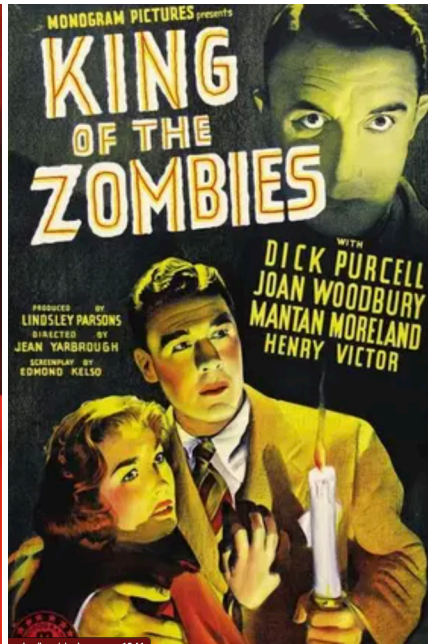
would never have paid much attention to the credits. Many of the actors who played alongside her were very familiar to me: Charlie Chan, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers. And she was given feature billing in a few but didn't even get credit in many. While continuing to receive acting offers, she let her career wind down on its own due to her desire to spend more time with her family and to enjoy a less-stressful life. She founded the Valley Players Guild in Palm Springs, California, with her husband Ray Mitchell, and went on to stage plays featuring veteran actors and actresses.

The Hopalong Cassidy movies were based on the short stories and the 28 novels written by Clarence E. Mulford. He created Hopalong Cassidy in 1904 while living in Fryeburg, Maine. Joan's father, by the way, Elmer Franklin Woodbury, was born in Paris, Maine, in 1865. To bring things even closer to home, Beth's great-grandfather, Arthur Augustus Noyes, was born six miles away in the next town over, Greenwood, Maine, in 1867. He was the husband of her great-grandmother, Ida (Herrick) Noyes (named in the ancestry list on page 205).

A few theater lobby posters will illustrate the range of Joan Woodbury's movie roles.









John Humphrey Woodbury

When I was a kid in Lima, Ohio, we often visited the Montgomery Ward retail store on the city square. It was a classic department store of the 1950s and 1960s, selling an array of items, from clothing to bicycles to wood stoves, both through its stores and through its annual catalogs comparable to its close competitors, JC Penney and Sears, Roebuck & Company.

The Lima store occupied (as I recall) four floors on the south side of Market Street in the city square and so was equipped with an elevator. It was not a self-serve elevator but was commanded by an a dignified woman, who would open the gleaming brass gate, which collapsed toward her when the elevator stopped, and which she would close with a long bar once its passengers were aboard. Then she would pull or push a foot-long vertical handle at her side to engage the electric motor and cable to move the elevator to the desired floor.

I remember accompanying my mom and one or more of my siblings on several occasions, no doubt to buy children's clothing, bedding, and similar family needs. Our aunt, Dorothy (Gladfelter) Miller worked there and would somehow obtain for us electric blankets which had been returned to the store for electrical failure. I think Aunt Dorothy was able to claim them at no cost, as an employee, and she would openly passed them on to us on the sales floor. I know we obtained several of them that way. Most often, the male plug end that normally protruded from the blanket had been cut off, preventing any further attempt to attach them to electrical power.

Anyway, that was Montgomery Ward. And it is pertinent here only because a salesman in the store always made it a point, whenever Mom passed through, to greet her as "Mrs. Soap." I can still see him rushing over to her: "Hello, Mrs. Soap!" She would laugh and greet him back. Woodbury Soap, you see, was one of the products that the store sold. The salesman, of course, had discovered her name somehow. Wherever we have lived, in Ohio and even in Maine, we have usually been the only family in town with the name, Woodbury.

I have found quite a bit of history on the Woodbury Soap Company, begun by a teenage entrepreneur in 1870, and I can connect its founder, John Humphrey Woodbury (1851-1909) to the patriarch we have in common, John Woodbury (1579-1641), who in 1624 was the first settler of that surname to arrive in Massachusetts. John, the cosmetics genius born in Salem, New Hampshire, remained in control of the Woodbury Soap company until he committed suicide in 1909. The company's products were still on the market until at least the 1980s. I have a newspaper advertisement from Wellby (a pharmacy in Millinocket) advertising bars of the soap in the early 1980s. And, of course, I have quite a few of the company's products that I squirreled away whenever I could scoop them up, since the parent company, Jergens since 1909, was eliminating the

27

"SUNSHINE"
in your soap lather
for glowing
fault-free skin

New Bath-time Luxury,
"Filtered Sunshine" Vitamin D
in Woodbury's ...
makes this Soap
Today's Outstanding Beauty Value

YOU draw your bath water. Ease your body into its soft caress. Now for the most delightful, skin-enlivening bath you've ever had! How luxurious you feel as you whisk up a foamy lather with a fragrant cake of Woodbury's!

Sunshine benefits are in that lather, in the form of "Filtered Sunshine" Vitamin D. And tests by a leading American university have proved that your skin absorbs this active sunshine element. It will help to tone up the skin of your entire body. To make your complexion glow with life and tingle with vitality!

For Clearer, Fresher Skin
In the interest of your beauty, Science undertook to duplicate Nature. Succeeded in capturing in Woodbury's the same vitamin which the skin, itself, creates when exposed to certain rays of the sun. This new "Filtered Sunshine" Vitamin D ingredient in Woodbury's acts to fortify the skin's resistance to de-

fects and to keep its texture faultless. Ever since you can remember, Woodbury's Facial Soap has been famous for its quick corrective action on coarse pores, blemishes, sallow color ... the whole distressing list of common skin faults. Now, the only specialized skin soap to bring you "Filtered Sunshine" Vitamin D in its lather, Wood-

bury's is a marvelous beauty value for both complexion and bath.

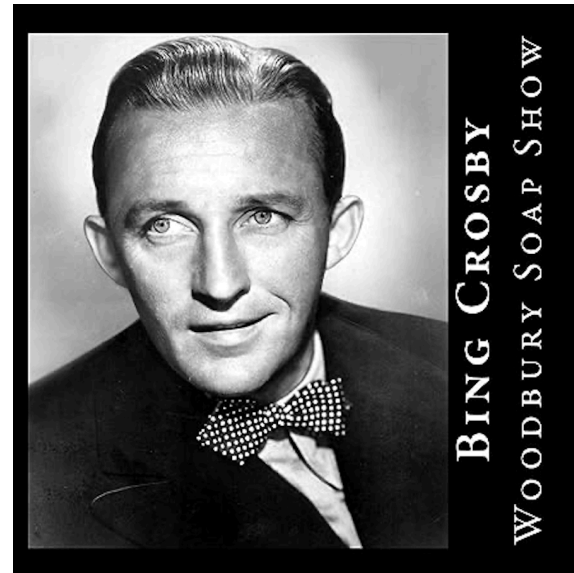
A Thrifty Buy at 10¢
So get "Sunshine" in your bath with Woodbury's today! Remember, you pay hardly more for the big, long-lasting cake than for ordinary toilet soaps. Only 10¢ a cake, at all drug, department, ten-cent stores and grocers.

NEWS! SKIN IMPROVED IN 91% OF CASES!
In recent tests, a well-known dermatologist instructed a selected group of women, ranging in age from fourteen to sixty, to use only Woodbury's Facial Soap, with Vitamin D, for 30 days. None of these women had previously used Woodbury's oil. Had some common skin faults. 91% of the cases showed positive improvement! At the close of the tests the dermatologist stated: "Woodbury's action in cases of excessive oil, enlarged pores, blackheads and blemishes is definitely and specifically helpful in practically every instance."

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Woodbury's
FACIAL SOAP

WITH "FILTERED SUNSHINE" VITAMIN D ... NOW 10¢



Woodbury product lines — soap, powder, hair care and shaving products, lotions, and perfumes marketed as after-shave lotion and such.

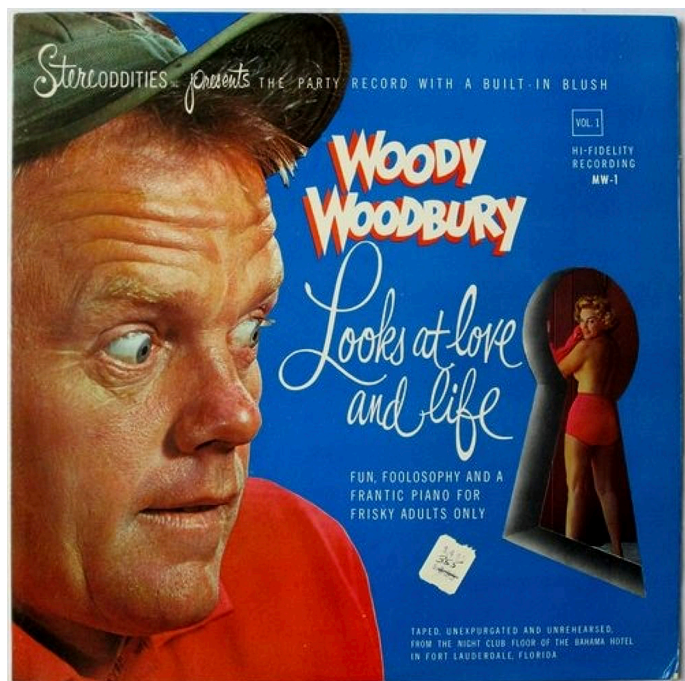
I also have several examples of advertisements that appeared in magazines up until the 1960s, some of them full-page spreads, always featuring glamorous women, usually famous actresses (but never Joan Woodbury herself). Bing Crosby is anything but glamorous, but he too appeared in at least one advertisement.

My research has produced one suggestion that John H. Woodbury was an uncle or great-uncle to Joan, but I can find nothing to verify that. (Joan's father came from Paris, Maine. Joan herself was born in California.) Ergo, I can associate myself only distantly with the founder of Woodbury Soap. And I can amuse myself by leaving a wrapped bar of the company's product where an unsuspecting guest might find it.

Robert Dennis Woodbury

My Uncle Woody was six and a half years younger than another Woody Woodbury. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota February 9, 1924, Robert Dennis Woodbury is an American comedian, actor, television personality and talk show host known for his best-selling comedy albums of risqué stories, most of which were released in the early 1960s. He was among the first standup comedians to receive a gold record. (Yes, for convenience, I am quoting from Wikipedia.)

This Woody Woodbury was a U.S. Marine Corps flight instructor in World War II and in the Korean War. Appearing at a night club in Florida, Woody Woodbury, as he was calling himself then, met Fletcher Smith, who recorded Woody's material and through his connections in Hollywood led Woody to appear in a few movies. By 1948, he was working at the Clover Club in Miami.



His most substantial movie role was that of “Uncle Woody” in 1964’s “For Those Who Think Young.” In 1962, Woody Woodbury replaced Johnny Carson as host of the game show *Who Do You Trust?* when Johnny left to succeed Jack Paar in hosting *The Tonight Show*, a job for which Woodbury had also been competing. Nevertheless, he often joined Carson on the show and subbed for him many times.

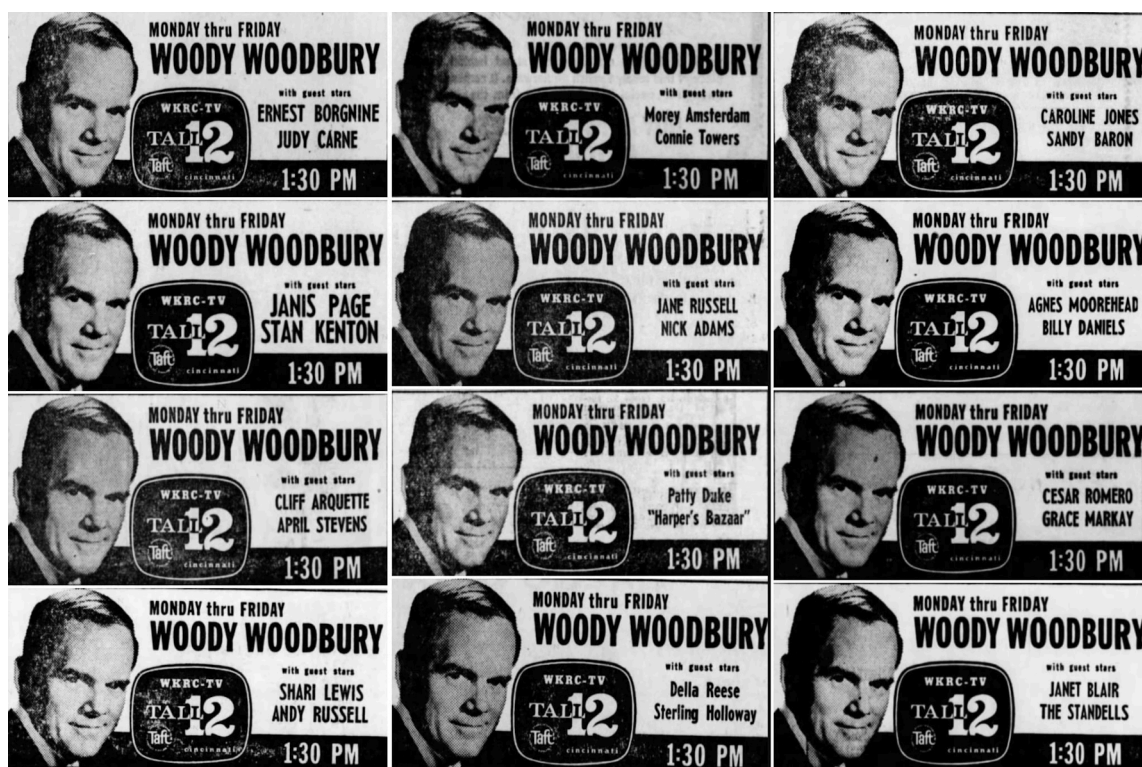
He also hosted his own *Woody Woodbury Show* on television from 1967 to 1968, a 90-minute talk show-variety show which aired weekday afternoons in most markets. He went on to perform stand-up comedy in the Ft. Lauderdale area in Florida in the 1970s and he resides there still, as he approaches his 100th birthday.

In my younger years I discovered a set of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM LP records of his better-known comedy skits: *Booze Is the Only Answer*, *Concert in Comedy*, *Laughing Room*, *Saloonatonics*, *Woody Invites You to Have a Party*, *Woody Looks at Love and Life*. I’ve transferred these to digital tracks and I play them occasionally. It’s bawdy, barroom humor and well worth a listen. The jokes are great and the delivery is brilliant.

I am a fan of his Facebook page and I inquired of him once about his ancestry. He replied, but I haven’t connected it to ours yet. Distant, I’m sure. Since we’ve all come from the two Woodbury brothers who arrived here from England in the 1620s, there is a connection, and that’s close enough for me.



Woody Woodbury with Rudy Vallee, the University of Maine alumnus and crooner who made the Maine Stein Song famous



the cousins tree

If the terminology describing cousin relationships confuses you, let me simplify it. It is based on a horizontal generation. You are "Self" in the accompanying chart. Notice that you have first, second, third cousins, and so on *in your generation*. Notice that your parents have first, second, third cousins and so on in their generation. Notice that each generation of grandparents has the same lineup of cousins — first, second, third — and in each generation the first, second, third, and so on (ordinal number), is determined by the distance back in generations (not necessarily time).

Your parents' siblings give rise to first cousins *in your generation* because your parents are your first generation of ancestors. Your grandparents' siblings give rise to second cousins *in your generation*, inasmuch as your grandparents are your second generation of ancestors. The fifth generation of your ancestors gives rise to your fifth cousins *in your generation*.

The same happens going into the future. or, as we say, once removed for each generation going forward. Your first cousin in your generation will give rise only to first cousins from then on. Your second cousin in your generation will give rise only to more second cousins, but removed by a generation or more according to how they line up with your children and their descendants.

It works in both directions. If I am *your* second cousin three times removed, then you are *my* second cousin three times removed. A first cousin could be 20 years or more older or younger than you are, but any child of your parent's sibling is in your generation on the chart.

There is no legality to this, it is merely the convention that genealogists have agreed upon.

