

SOME CUFFE AND WAINER FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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Capt. Pardon Cook (1792-1849) Son-in-law of Paul Cuffe, resided on Drift Road, Westport. Whaling captain, commanded the *June* and *Elizabeth*. An 1843 profile in *The Liberator* stated that Cook disproves "the charge of his being indebted for his abilities to any white blood he possesses, for few are darker than he. He has performed three voyages from Westport as a master, and in every instance has succeeded in making good voyages, better than any other vessel from the same place, considering the amount of capital invested."

Nathaniel A. Borden (ca1805-1851). Brother-in-law of Pardon Cook, lived at 26 Wing Street, New Bedford. In 1839 Borden likely became the first African-American candidate for any state elective office. The recently arrived Frederick Douglass paid the \$1.50 poll tax to cast his first vote for Borden.

Capt. Absalom Boston (1785-1855) Brother-in-law of Pardon Cook. Whaling captain. Filed a lawsuit causing integration of Nantucket schools in 1845.

Thomas Smith Boston (1838-1893). Nephew of Pardon Cook. Musical prodigy, widely acclaimed concert pianist, opera baritone and composer, in addition to careers as a banker and doctor. In 1860 he lived at Westport Point.

Capt. John Wainer (1782-1869) Son of Michael Wainer, grandson of Cuffe Slocum. A whaling captain and farmer residing on Drift Road in Westport, husband of **Mary (Easton) Wainer**. An 1843 profile in *The Liberator* states that Wainer's "children were for a long time denied access to the district school on the same terms as the children of their white neighbors, but by unconquered adherence to principle and his rights as a citizen, he has at length obtained for his children an equal footing in the school."

Rev. Hosea Easton (1798-1837). Brother of Mary (Easton) Wainer. Minister, abolitionist, author of *A Treatise on the Intellectual Character, and Civil and Political Condition of the Colored People of the United States, and the Prejudice Exercised Towards Them; With a Sermon on the Duty of the Church to Them* (1837).

James Easton (1754-1830). Father of Mary (Easton) Wainer. Entrepreneur, owner of iron works in Bridgewater, MA, contractor of major construction projects in early 19th century Boston, Revolutionary War hero at Ft. Ticonderoga.

Alexander Howard, Jr (1818-1890) Grandson of Paul Cuffe. Hotelier and restaurateur, with wife Rebecca "Aunt Becky" (Groundage) Howard owned and operated Pacific House in Olympia, Washington Territory, where they hosted President Rutherford B. Hayes and Gen. William T. Sherman.

Paul C. Howard (1820-1848) Grandson of Paul Cuffe. Tailor, civil rights activist in New Bedford, in 1842 arrested for refusing to surrender his seat in a "whites only" passenger car of

