Kenney Ancestry

This was begun 4-21-2010 as a working document on the ancestry of Eurecta (Kenney) Parsons whose descendants married Brynes. On 5-29-2010 I added data gleaned during a trip to Cape Cod. There were at least two Kenney families on Cape Cod during the 1700s and 1800s — the English family detailed here and an Irish family.

Sir Thomas Keney (1575/1578– ) and Elizabeth Howard
John Keney (1602–1662) and Sarah Cheever
Arthur Keayne and Jane
John Keney (1644–1693) and Hannah
Nathaniel Kenney (1684–1719) and Elizabeth Carnes (1684– )
Jesse Kenney (1747– ) and Mary Hopkins (1751–1797)
Jesse Kenney (1772–1838) and Keziah Knowles (1775–1842)
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Nathan Kenney Parsons (1834–1896) and Lucy Grove (1839–1931)

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Sir Thomas Keney (1575/8– ) and Elizabeth Howard

Sir Thomas Keney was born 1575/8 in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England; died in New London, CT. He is believed by a descendant to be of Scottish ancestry. May be a descendant of Baron John De Kenne, cited in the Doomesday Book as a landholder and Lord in Somerset County.
Married 1590s Elizabeth Howard in Kings Lynn.

Children:
1. William Keney,
2. Thomas Keney,

John Keney (1602–1662) and Sarah Cheever

John Keney born 1602 Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England. Died 1662 in Salem MA. Immigrated to MA in the 1620s, certainly before his son Arthur was born in Boston in 1625.
Married 1621 to Sarah Cheever in Kings Lynn.

Children:
1. Henry Keney,
2. Alexander Kinne (Keney),
iii. John Keney,
iv. Mary Keney,
v. Elizabeth Keney,
vi. Lydia Keney,

Arthur Keayne and Jane

Arthur Keayne (Keney) was born 1625 Boston MA. Died 1687 in Boston, MA. Married Jane?

Children:
i. Sarah Kenney, married July 13, 1665 William Pierce.
ii. John Kenney, born Sept. 1644 in Barnstable, married Hannah

John Kenney (1644–1693) and Hannah

John Kenney was born Sep. 1644 Barnstable MA. Died 12 Aug 1693 in Milton MA age 48. Married abt. 1666 to Hannah (Susannah?) at Milton, MA.

Children:
ii. Moses Kenney, born 6 Oct 1668; married 24 Jul 1691 Margaret Leatherhead (born July 4, 1670, daughter of Zebulon Leatherhead); died 30 Nov 1694 age 26 in Boston.
iii. John Kenney, born 15 Jan 1669/70 in Milton, MA; married Lydia Tabor (born Aug 8, 1673 in Dartmouth, MA, daughter of Thomas Tabor and Mary Thompson of Yarmouth, MA); seven children born Dartmouth.
v. Daniel Kenney, born 2 Apr 1675; married 30 Jul 1696 Elizabeth Burges (born November 21, 1671, daughter of Thomas Burges).
vi. Jonathan Kenney, born 14 May 1677; married Mary; three children born Milton, MA.
vii. Samuel Kenney, born Oct 18, 1679; married Abigail Wingate (daughter of John Wingate and Sarah (Taylor) Canney); nine children born Boston.
viii. Elizabeth Kenney, born 24 Mar 1682/3; married Dec 24, 1711 John Dumsdale.

Nathaniel Kenney (1684–1719) and Elizabeth Carnes (1684–)

Nathaniel Kenney was born March 6, 1684/5 Boston MA. Died 1719 in Boston, MA. Married March 8, 1707 Elizabeth Carnes in Boston MA, by Cotton Mather. She was born August 8, 1684, the daughter of Thomas Carnes and Mary Brown.

Children:
i. Nathan/Nathaniel Kenney, born 10 Apr 1709 in Bostin; married Mercy Smith.
ii. Edward Kenney, born Dec 16, 1710; died in infancy.
iii. Edward Kenney, born Feb 26, 1712.
iv. Joseph Kenney, born February 6, 1713; married Mary.
v. Robert Kenney, born Dec 30, 1714.
vi. Elizabeth Kenney, born Nov 5, 1716; married Mar 31, 1742 Peter Hall.


About Elizabeth Carnes' parents. Thomas Carnes, son of John Carnes (died in Boston); died in New Haven, CT. He married Mary Brown.

Mary Brown was born May 2, 1664, the daughter of John Brown and Mary Walker.

Children of Thomas Carnes and Mary Brown:
i. Elizabeth Carnes, born August 8, 1684; married Nathaniel Kenney March 8, 1706/7.

ii. Alexander Carnes, born December 19, 1685.

iii. Joseph Carnes, born August 4, 1687.

John Brown was born May 7, 1640, the son of Francis Brown and Mary Edwards. He married January 1, 1663/4 Mary Walker.

Mary Walker was born March 1640/1, the daughter of John Walker and Grace.

Children of John Brown and Mary Walker:
i. Mary Brown, born May 2, 1664; married Thomas Carnes.


iii. Hannah Brown, born August 7, 1669.


Nathan Kenney (1709–1754) and Mercy Smith (1705– )

Nathan Kenney was born 10 Apr 1709 in Boston, MA; alternate birth dates and locations: April 10, 1709 or May 5, 1709, Chatham. Died 4 February 1754 in Chatham, MA

Married Sept. 24, 1728/9 Mercy Smith in Chatham, MA. She was born between 1698 and 1702 in Eastham, died unknown (maybe 1753/54 in Harwich), daughter of John Smith and Bethiah Snow, descended from immigrant Stephen Hopkins who arrived in Plymouth Colony in 1620 aboard the Mayflower.

A Nathan Kenney of Chatham married Apr 14, 1748 in Harwich a Thankfull Rodgers of Harwich. One possible explanation is that Mercy (Smith) Kenney died shortly after her last child was born in 1747, and that Nathan, then a widower with young children, remarried.

Children:
i. John Kenney, born 9 Nov 1730; married Nov 16, 1752 Elizabeth Nickerson (born 8 Aug 1732 in Harwich) in Chatham; died by Dec 1757. On Dec 16, 1757 Elizabeth was appointed administrator of her husband's estate. On Sept 17, 1761 Nehemiah Nickerson was appointed guardian of a minor son (John Kenney?). Elizabeth remarried Apr 26, 1762 Eliphelet Hamilton (son of Daniel and Abigail Hamilton, born Jan 10, 1735) in Chatham. This couple had six children in Chatham.

ii. Heman Kenney, born abt 1732; married Aug. 25, 1752 Mercy Nickerson in Chatham; moved to Barrington, NS as grantee; 12 children; died Feb 4, 1775 Barrington Head, Nova Scotia.

iii. Elizabeth Kenney, born April 1, 1734; married Jan 11, 1754 Isaac Phinney¹ in Chatham, MA (son of Gershom Phinney and Rebecca Griffith, born May 10, 1733, baptized May 13, 1733, died Aug 1820); eight children; died Jan 1, 1809. [One source says this Elizabeth married Eliphelet Hamilton (and not the widow of John Kenney), but I think this is in error because another source says Elizabeth and Isaac had 8 children, the last in 1770, and Isaac died in 1820.]

¹ Isaac Phinney descended from Thomas Rogers of the Mayflower.
iv. Sarah Kenney, born abt 1738 in Chatham; married 15 Mar 1759 Thomas Crowell (son of Paul Crowell and Rebecca Paine) in Chatham; died NS; ten children. Moved to Barrington, NS.
v. Nathan Kenney, born 1741 in Chatham; married Sarah Nickerson; moved to Barrington, NS; died 24 Apr 1827 Yarmouth, NS.
vi. Miriam Kenney, born abt 1743 in Chatham; married (1) Samuel Hamilton 19 Feb 1761 in Chatham (son of Daniel and Abigail Hamilton, he was born 29 Mar 1738 and died 1780); married (2) Asa Doane (he was born 16 Jun 1743 in Mansfield, CT and died 11 Aug 1830 in Roseway, NS, first child of second wife was born in 1765) in Nova Scotia. Six children with surname Hamilton. Another account says Miriam married (1) Thomas Hamilton and (2) Edmund Doane 2d, son of Edmund 1st—BUT this is in error, at least with respect to the first marriage.
vii. Jesse Kenney, born abt. 1747 in Harwich; married Nov. 2, 1769 Mrs. Mary Hopkins of Chatham in Harwich.

The brothers Heman Kenney and Nathan Kenney went to Harrington, Nova Scotia with the first settlers from Chatham or Harwich, Massachusetts, about 1761. Their descendants married into the SWIM family, ancestors of Averil Swim (1905–1993) who married George William DOREY, son of Moses Dorey.

At the age of 19 son Nathan enlisted from Harwich in Capt. Thomas West’s Company on an expedition against the French in Nova Scotia. From Barrington he removed his family to Little River, Argyle township, where in March, 1787, Nathan Kinney, Daniel Nickerson, Israel Doane, John Heater, and Joshua Tiefry purchased 1250 acres of Crown lands "situated on the eastern side of Little River."

**Jesse Kenney (1747– ) and Mary Hopkins (1751–1797)**

Jesse Kenney was born abt. 1747 in Harwich, MA. Death unknown.

Married 2 Nov 1769 Mary Hopkins in Harwich, MA. She born 25 Jun 1751, lived Eastham, died 5 Sep 1797 (six weeks after birth of her ninth child). She was the daughter of Joshua Hopkins and Rebecca Sparrow. Marriage record named her as Mrs. Mary Hopkins.

Children born Eastham:
i. Sarah Kenney, born Sep. 3, 1770; lived Orleans; married 21 June 1811 Tully Nickerson in Harwich (he was born Aug. 26, 1770 and died Jan. 17, 1854); died Jan. 6, 1857 in Harwich; buried East Harwich Methodist Cemetery. (On Apr 22, 1797 Sarah Kenne of Orleans filed intention with Ruben Rogers of Harwich. I found no record of their marriage.)
ii. Jesse Kenney, born July 15, 1772; married Keziah Knowles.
iii. John Kenney, born Feb. 13, 1774; married (may have been Zilpha Kinwricks per Dec 17, 1803 intention in Harwich). Daughter Elmira Kenney married Oliver Eldridge (intention on Nov 27, 1832 in Harwich with Oliver Eldridge, had child George N. C. Eldridge who married abt. 1867 Sabra Jones and died in 1935 age 86.
iv. Thankful Kenney, born Nov. 29, 1775; married Mar. 3, 1814 Seth Freeman (born July 7, 1786 to Seth Freeman and Abigail Rogers); seven children.
v. Heman Kenney, born July 7, 1776; died young.
vi. Nathan Kenney, born Sept. 1, 1778; married Rebecca (died Aug. 24, 1857 age 82 yr 11 mos); died June 7, 1849 age 70 yr 8 mos.; both buried in Congregational & Soldiers Cemetery, Eastham.

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2 Zilpha K. Kenney (re)married Dean Nickerson on Mar 6, 1828 in Harwich. Zilpha may have previously married John Kenney. I cannot tell for sure, but circumstantial evidence supports this hypothesis. I have no other explanation for the identity of Zilpha Kenney.
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vii. Allen Kenney, born Jan 7, 1789; married Sally Cahoon 17 Jan 1811 in Harwich, MA (she was born Apr. 28, 1791 and died Apr. 16, 1866); died April 28, 1856 Harwich; buried East Harwich Methodist Cemetery.

viii. Polly Kenney, born July 18, 1792; may have married Apr 14, 1831 Benjamin Eldredge in Harwich.

ix. Heman Kenney, born July 18, 1797.

Allen Kenny and Sally Cahoon had children:

i. Irene Kenney, born 27 Sep 1810 in Harwich; married 19 Feb 1829 Joel S. Cahoon in Harwich; 14 children; died 13 Dec 1885 in East Harwich.

ii. Nancy Bangs Kenney, born 14 Jul 1814 in Harwich; married Jan 18, 1834 Winslow Nickerson in Harwich; may have died Aug 22, 1887 of brain paralysis.³


iv. Thankful Basset Cahoon Kenney, born 7 Sep 1820 in Harwich; married 29 Feb 1844 Captain William Eldredge in Harwich.


vii. George Biven Pratt Kenney, born 18 Sep 1830 in Harwich.

Jesse Kenney (1772–1838) and Keziah Knowles (1775–1842)


Married Kezia Knowles (surname assumed from daughter’s middle name). She was born 1775, died May 25, 1842 in Orleans age 65, buried Orleans Cemetery.

Children baptized at First Church of Orleans:

i. Eurecta Kenney, born 1799, baptized Nov. 8, 1801; married 1821 James Parsons.

ii. Dorcas Kenney, baptized Nov. 8, 1801; married Oct. 12, 1818 Nathaniel Freeman (born Oct. 10, 1776 to Josiah Freeman and Phoebe Higgins); five children.

iii. Rebecca Knowles Kenney, baptized Oct. 15, 1804. Her middle name suggests her mother’s maiden name was Knowles.

iv. Solomon Kenney, baptized Sept. 7, 1806; died 1820 at sea age 15.

v. Nathan Kenney, baptized Nov. 1808.

vi. Tracy Kenney, baptized Jan. 11, 1813; married probably Bethia Doane (born July 5, 1815, daughter of Seth Doane and Abigail Cole, died April 11, 1870 age 54, buried Orleans Cemetery); died Sept 18, 1888 Orleans.

Tracy and Bethia had children found in the Orleans Cemetery:

- Tracy Kenney Jr (son of Tracy & Bethia) d. Sept 21, 1866 age 23yrs; born 1843 Orleans.
- Keziah S Kenney (dau of Tracy & Bethia) d. Jan 6, 1868 Orleans age 19yrs 1mo.
- Paulina Sparrow Kenney (dau of Tracy & Bethia) d. Sept 21, 1870 age 25yrs; born 1845/6 Orleans.

³ A Nancy Nickerson died on that date age 73. The name and age suggest she was Nancy Bangs (Kenney) Nickerson.
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- Bethiah D Kenney (dau of Tracy & Bethiah) d. Aug 17, 1876 age 24yrs 9mo 15da.
- Osmond W. Kenney (son of Tracy & Bethia) d. July 9, 1866 age 11yrs 11mo.

Eurecta Kenney (1799–1850) and James Parsons (1801–1881)

Eurecta Kenney was born 1799, baptized Nov. 8, 1801 at First Church of Orleans. Died Aug. 30, 1850 in Orleans, MA. Buried in Orleans Cemetery.

Married 1821 James Parsons. It was his first marriage. He was born 1801 in Chatham, died April 1881 in Truro, was buried in the Orleans Cemetery. His parents were Richard Parsons (1770–) and Mercy Higgins (born abt. 1775 in Chatham, death unknown), who married Nov. 22, 1798 in Chatham. James had two more wives after Eurecta died: Dorcas Hinckley (Bangs) Cook (born May 25, 1796 Truro to Perez Bangs and Thankful Rich Lombard, married Mr. Cook, married James Parsons Feb 16, 1851, died June 6, 1865 in Truro, buried Pine Grove Cemetery) and Priscilla Hart (born 1804 in Wiscasset, ME, married Jan. 17, 1866 in Wellfleet, died Mar 26, 1887 in Truro).

Children:

i. Laura Ann Parsons, born 1823; married 1844 Benjamin Ward Jr. in Orleans (he born 1830 died 1850 Orleans, buried Orleans Cemetery).

ii. Mary L. Parsons, born 1826; married Dec. 27, 1846 Richard Taylor in Orleans (he was born abt. 1824 to Richard and Joanna Taylor).


v. Nathan Kenney Parsons, born abt. 1834 Orleans; see next section for details.

vi. Jesse Kenney Parsons, born 1836 Orleans; died April 10, 1865 in Truro age 28 yrs. 6 mos. of consumption; buried Pine Grove Cemetery in Truro; a seaman.

In 1840 a James Parsons lived in Orleans with a household of nine: 1 male under 5 (Jesse), 1 male age 5–10 (Nathan), 1 male age 40–50 (James), 1 female age 5–10 (Abigail), 2 females age 10–15 (Mary and Eurecta), 2 females age 15–20 (Laura and ??), and 1 female age 40–50 (Eurecta). Because of the fit between the known family members by age, this is likely my family. There is one unknown daughter, age 15–20.

In 1850 James Parsons (50) lived in Orleans with children Nathan K. (16) and Jesse K. (14), all born Orleans per census. Nearby lived (1) Tracy Kenney (37), Bethiah B. Kenney (35), Paulina S. Kenney (6), Keziah Kenney (2); (2) Urcilla (Eurecta?) Parsons (50), Abigail N. Parsons (19). Her death record confirms that Abigail, born about 1831, was a child of Eurecta Kenney and James Parsons.

In 1860 James Parsons (57) lived in Truro with Dorcas Parsons (60), Dorcas Parsons (33), and John Parsons (8). This household was close to that of Nathan and Lucy Parsons. Dorcas (Cook) was James’ second wife, John may have been a son of that second marriage.

In 1870 James Parsons (70) lived in Truro with Priscilla Parsons (66) in the Alms House as the keepers. Priscilla (Hart) was James’ third wife.
Nathan Kenney Parsons (1834–1896) and Lucy Grove (1839–1931)

Nathan Kenney Parsons was born abt. 1834 Orleans. He died Feb. 22, 1896 in Boston at 76 Savin Street age 61 yrs. 7 mos. of apoplexy. Buried Pine Grove Cemetery, Truro.

Married June 11, 1858 Lucy Grove in Truro. She was born Feb. 24, 1839 Truro to James Grove (1817–1897) and Jerusha Rich (1818–1901) who married Dec 13, 1836 in Truro. Lucy died in 1931 and was buried in Truro’s Pine Grove Cemetery. Lucy Grove had siblings:

- John Grove, born Oct 26, 1840 Truro.
- James Grove Jr., born July 19, 1842 Truro.
- Samuel Sheldon Grove, born Dec 31, 1849 South Truro.

Nathan Kenney Parsons and Lucy Grove had three children:

i. Eurecta Kenney Parsons, born July 31, 1860 in Truro; married Oct 12, 1882 Elkanah Paine Smith Jr. in Truro; died 1927 in Loudon, NH. This family is detailed in the Smith document.

ii. Jesse E. Parsons, born Truro 1863; died May 29, 1864 age 10 months 10 days of scrofula; buried in Truro’s Pine Grove Cemetery.

iii. Jesse Kenney Parsons, born March 6, 1865 in Truro; married Jan. 1, 1886 Lizzie Elmer Ryder in Truro.

In 1860 Nathan and Lucy lived in Truro.
In 1870 Nathan and Lucy lived in Wellfleet with children Eurecta (10) and Jesse K. (5).
In 1880 Nathan and Lucy lived in Truro with children Eurecta K. (19) and Jesse K. (15). Next door lived two Grove families.
In 1900 Lucy, a widow, lived in Truro with mother Jerusha Grove (age 81, a widow, 10 children born, 9 living), niece-in-law Nellie A. Swift (age 54, a widow, 2 children born, 2 living), and Nellie’s daughter Gladys E. Swift (age 15).
In 1910 Lucy, a widow, lived in Boston with her son Jesse K. Parsons (45), his wife Lizzie E. Parsons (40, 5 children born, 2 living), and his daughter Nellie F. Parsons (19).
In 1920 Lucy lived in Loudon, NH with daughter Eurecta (Parsons) Smith, her husband Elkanah Paine Smith Jr, and their children.
I could not find Lucy in the 1930 census.

Jesse Kenney Parsons (1865– ) and Lizzie Elmer Ryder (1869– )

Jesse Kenney Parsons was born March 6, 1865 in Truro. Died unknown.

Married Jan. 1, 1886 Lizzie Elmer Ryder in Truro. She was the daughter of Soloman 4 Ryder (born Sep 10, 1845 Wellfleet to Thomas Ryder and Hannah Rich, died 1918, buried Snow cemetery in Truro) and Laurena Antionette Dyer (born Feb. 7, 1848 in Truro to Atkins Dyer and Paulina Paine, died 1922, buried Snow cemetery in Truro). She was born Sept. 14, 1869 in Truro. She had four siblings: Paulina A. D. Ryder (1873–1954), Nellie L. Ryder (1874– ), Roland Garfield Ryder (1881–1940), and Julia S. Ryder (1887– ).

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4 His name was written “Saloman Ryder” on her birth record.
Children:

i. Nathan Loren Parsons, born March 18, 1886 Truro; died Nov. 14, 1894 in Boston at 27 Trenton Street of diphtheria, age 8 yrs.


In 1890 Jesse was a section head of the railroad. In 1894 Jesse was a horse barn conductor in Truro. In 1900 they lived in Boston with 3 children (5 born in all): Nina (born 1888), Nellie (born 1890), and Eliza A. (born 1894, this must be Jessie May). In 1910 Jesse lived in Boston with his wife Lizzie E. Parsons (40, 5 children born, 2 living), his daughter Nellie F. Parsons (19), and his mother Lucy Parsons, a widow. In 1920 Jesse lived in Chester, NH with his wife Lizzie; he was a farmer. This couple lived with daughter Nellie F. LeClair (29) and her husband Harmidas N. (32, born MA) who owned the farm. Nellie married at age 23, her husband at age 26, about 1913. In 1920 Nina lived in Portsmouth, RI at 18 East Main Road with husband Arthur Ryan and children Victor C. Ryan (4.5) and Edward A. Ryan (1). Both children born RI. Arthur was machinist in the Navy yard.

In 1930 Jesse lived in Chester, NH at 113 North Sundown Road with his wife Lizzie; he was a farmer. This couple lived with daughter Nellie F. LeClair and her husband Harmidas who owned the farm. In 1930 Nina lived in Portsmouth, RI on East Main Road with husband Arthur Ryan and children Victor Ryan (14) and Edward Ryan (11). Both children born RI. Arthur was machinist in the Navy yard. At some point this family changed the spelling of their surname to “Persons.” I am retaining the original spelling here.

On Dec. 22, 1936 Victor Carlton Ryan married Edna Gilbert. He died Oct. 10, 1978. Per Elizabeth Gilbert Family Bible, Harford County, MD. On the basis of his middle name, this looks like the son of Nina Carlton Parsons and Arthur Forest Ryan. I have no way to confirm this.