

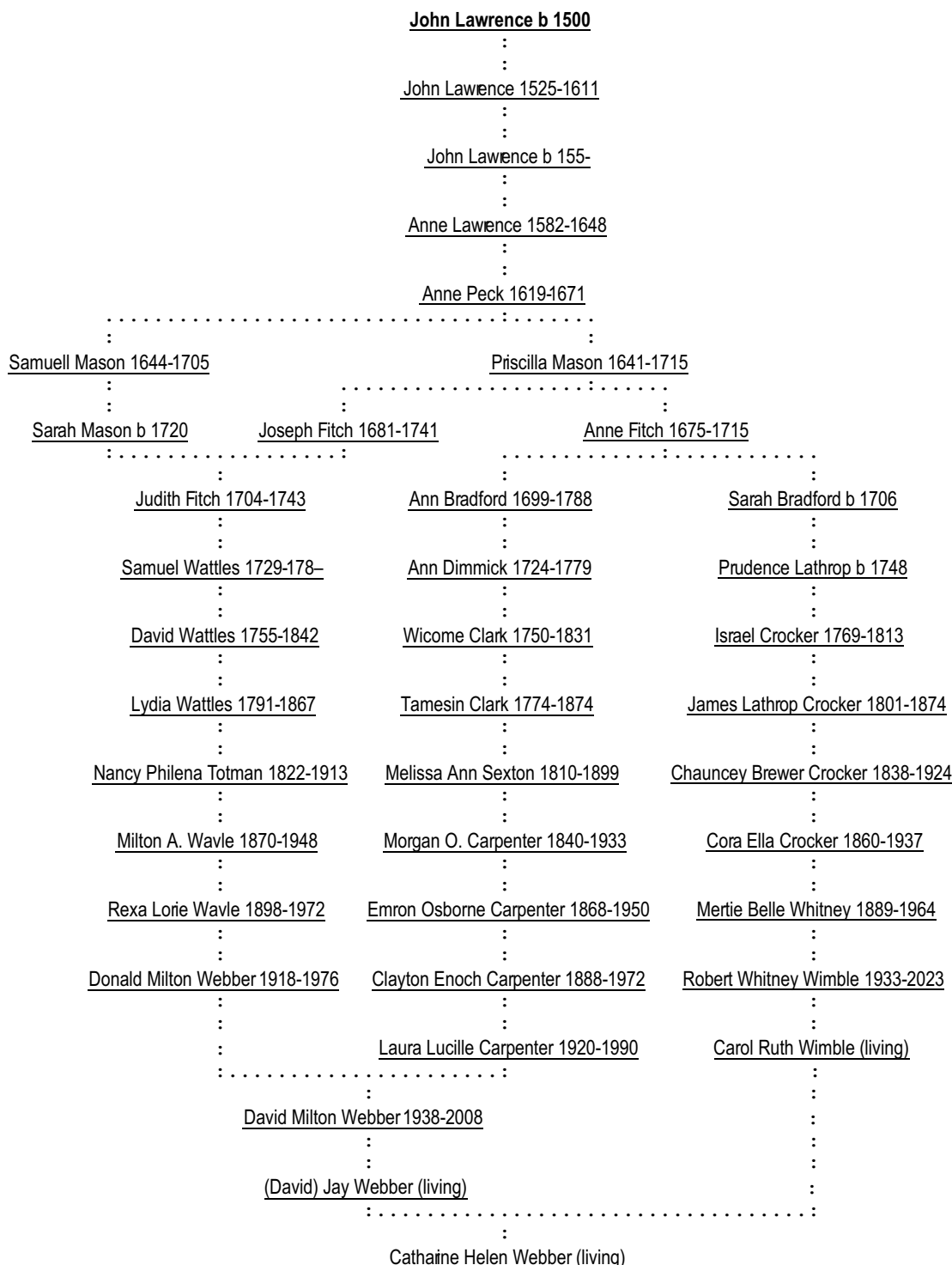
DESCENT FROM THE REVEREND JOHN LAWRENCE (BORN ABOUT 1500, DIED AFTER 1572)

"A family of the name of Lawrence were of St. James Park. There was of that family a very worthy man, who had fled for religion in Queen Mary's day, and was privately a teacher of a congregation of such as so fled from their habitation, when they could at any time get together. In his old age he was preacher at Fressingfield, and as he was a man of great estate, so was he of great liberality to the poor, and full of good works."

(Zaccheus Leverland [died 1677], travel journal, 1655)

"...a famous preacher, a reverend grave minister who had been a preacher to those who, fleeing for religion in Q. Marie's day, met together in woods and secret places, as they could. He was a gentleman of a great estate and exceeding liberality to the poor; in the time of Q. Elizabeth he preached at Fressingfield."

(Thomas Tanner, Bishop of St. Asaph [1674-1735])





John Lawrence's illegal Protestant congregation, during the reign of Queen Mary, may have included members of the extended Fiske/Gold/Phillips family. Robert Fiske (1521-1602) was

a wheelwright of Fressingfield, and St. James, South Elmham. [He] Married Mrs. Sibilla Barbor (nee Gold), a widow. Sibilla was in great danger in the time of Queen Mary's religious persecution of 1553-58, as was her sister Isabella Phillips, who was confined in Norwich Castle for her religion and escaped death only by the power of her brothers Paul and Peter Gold, who were men of some influence in the country. ... In an account by Robert's great-grandson, Rev. John Fiske, his grandparents and great-grandparents are described as "eminently zealous in the true religion." Robert fled to Geneva for religion's sake in the days of Queen Mary, but was once more residing at St. James in 1567-8 (mentioned in the lay subsidy) and at the time of his death. ... He was buried at St. James in 1602.