

WORDENS PAST

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Correction

WP page, paragraph 2 should read: Focus attention on the short line on the left. It indicates that in 1050 A.D. (approximately) it would take every living person (Chinese, Polynesians, etc) to provide enough ancestors for a person born in 1900, if not duplications and if the span between generations amounted to 33.333 years. If the span between generations were instead 20 years, then every living person would be encompassed around 1385 A.D.



From the Editor Rex Warden

It has been a busy couple of months around here. We have purchased a home in Statesville, NC and will moving there on the 18th of this month. We plan to

keep the same email address for a short time. When we get a new one it will be published on Peter Worden Family Genealogy Webpage. Our new address will be:
Rex and Pat Warden
168 Harbor Ridge Drive
Statesville, NC
28677

John Lorimer Worden and His Namesakes

Robert L. Worden
Annapolis, Maryland

The most famous member of the Worden clan is **Rear Admiral John Lorimer Worden** (1818–1897). He gave his name to history when commanded the U.S.S. *Monitor* at the Battle of Hampton Roads on March 9, 1862, the first naval battle between steam-powered, ironclad warships. After the battle, President Abraham Lincoln personally thanked the wounded Lieutenant Worden “for saving the country.” The bravery he showed in that event was no greater than when he commanded another monitor, the U.S.S. *Montauk*, in its bold attacks on Fort McAllister, Georgia, on February 27 and March 3, 1863. John Lorimer Worden, a native of Mount Pleasant, Westchester

County, New York, entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in 1834 and retired in 1886 after fifty-two years and eleven months of service, with a rear admiral's full active-duty sea pay, courtesy of an Act of Congress. His navy career has been detailed before in *Wordens Past* and more will undoubtedly be written about him in the future.

Admiral Worden married Olivia Aiken Toffey (1820–1903), a native of Dutchess County, New York, in 1844. They had four children: John Lorimer Jr., Daniel Toffey, Grace, and Olivia Steele. Up to May 2007, there have been forty-six descendants (and spouses) of John Lorimer and Olivia Toffey Worden but there is no living direct descendent surnamed Worden. In fact, his last direct descendant named Worden died in 1938. The male lineage depended on the Admiral's two sons. His eldest son and namesake, **John Lorimer Worden Jr.** (1845–1873), had no surviving children. The second son, Daniel Toffey Worden (1848–1914), had two children: Harriet and John Lorimer. This third **John Lorimer Worden** (1873–1938), the son of Daniel, married twice and had three stepsons but no children of his own. Thus, the male Worden line died out. Grace Worden (1852–1905) was a life-long invalid, did not marry, and died without issue. Her sister Olivia Steele Worden (1856–1933) married twice and had four children from her first marriage and none from her second. Olivia's line apparently has died out. To the best of my research ability to date, no living descendant has been found. Although many claim direct descent from Admiral Worden, only nine individuals living today are actual descendants and none are named Worden.

So far we have listed three individuals named John Lorimer Worden. They were the Admiral himself (1818–1897), his son John Lorimer Worden Jr. (1845–1873), and his grandson via Daniel, John Lorimer Worden (1873–1938). There is however, a collateral line that carries on this illustrious name.

The Admiral's father, Ananias Worden (1790–1861) had a younger brother named William (1800–died before June 11, 1860). William and his wife Melinda Miller (1801–1899), a native of Sing Sing (now Ossining), New York, had nine children. While Ananias, who had twelve children, owned land in both New York and Michigan, to which he migrated with most of his family in the 1840s, William became a shoemaker and was drawn to New York City to make his living and raise his growing family. His eldest son was James Henry Worden (1824–1894), first cousin to John Lorimer. James also was a shoemaker and for about twenty years worked as a New Bedford whaler. During the Civil War, while John Lorimer Worden had achieved fame and was busy overseeing the construction of more monitors, James Henry Worden became a quarter gunner on the Gulf Squadron blockade ship U.S.S. *Morning Light*. He was taken prisoner in 1863 and spent the rest of the war in prison camps in Texas. He returned to whaling in 1865–1868 and, after his last voyage, he settled down and raised a family in Sing Sing, New York, where he worked as a carpenter, house painter, and as an employee of the Croton Aqueduct, until his retirement on a Civil War pension in 1888.

James Henry Worden and his wife, Ellen Hyde (1843–1904), had five children, three of whom lived to adulthood. Unlike his famous first cousin who produced 46 descendants (and their spouses), James Henry has had 247 descendants and spouses, including three children through adoption. Of this number, at least 106 descendants are living today, 43 of whom are surnamed Worden. Of interest to this story was the birth of James Henry's second surviving son, John Joseph Worden (1876–1954). John was fascinated with his father's whaling and naval career and with his connection to his famous cousin, John Lorimer. By around 1907, John, by then a professor of art at his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, had changed his middle name to Lorimer and became known throughout the rest of his life as **John Lorimer Worden Sr.** Thus began a long line of John Lorimers. His son, **John Lorimer Worden Jr.** (1907–1979), like his father was a university professor, most of his career being spent at St. Bonaventure University, near Olean, New York. Next in line is **John Lorimer Worden III** (born 1938), a practicing attorney in Boston, Massachusetts. John Lorimer III's son is **John Lorimer Worden IV** (born 1964), a family practice physician in Gardiner, Massachusetts. The most recent is **John Lorimer Worden V** (born 2001), a kindergartner in Gardiner, Massachusetts, and proud owner of his own large-scale models of the *Monitor* and the C.S.S. *Virginia* and a Matthew Brady photograph of his famous collateral ancestor.

As a conclusion to this article, a word about the name "Lorimer" seems appropriate. The first Worden to have Lorimer as a middle name was the

Admiral. The name came from the family of the Admiral's his mother, Harriet Graham (1793–1883). Harriet's paternal uncle was John Andrew Graham (1764–1841), who married **Margaret Lorimer** (1774–1860). The Lorimers were an English family and it was in London that John Andrew Graham had met his future wife and where their son was born. Their son, and Harriet's first cousin, was **John Lorimer Graham** (1797–1876). John Lorimer Worden was named after this older cousin. Moreover, young John Lorimer Worden was sent to live at his cousin's home in New York City and to be educated there with Graham's own sons. According to the most detailed genealogical source on the Admiral's maternal ancestry, John Lorimer Graham was "a wealthy man of commanding figure and in 1835 built a large house on St. Mary's Place at Second Avenue. At that time it was the finest house in New York and was known as the Graham mansion." Graham was a lawyer, served on the staff of New York State Governor DeWitt Clinton, prospered in business, and served as postmaster of New York City. He even has a street named after his middle name in Brooklyn, New York. The future admiral's prospects took a very positive leap when he became closely associated with this prominent family. And, New York City would always be a part of the Admiral's life when he was not at sea.

The Lorimer name also has been given to other members of the family. On the Admiral's side, his sister Clarissa (1824–1909) named her firstborn **Lorimer Graham Kipp** (1851–1922). Then there was **Lorimer Graham Worden** (1864–d. after 1920), the Admiral's nephew and the son of the

Admiral's younger brother, James Barenloe Worden (1830–1885).

Lorimer Worden McLaren (1904–1930) was a great-grandson of the Admiral through his daughter Olivia Steele Worden (1856–1933) and granddaughter Olive Worden Busbee (1884–1940). On the James Henry Worden side there has been his grandson, **Edward Lorimer Worden** (1912–1957) of Ossining, New York, the son of James Henry Worden Jr. (1871–1938). Edward Lorimer had a son, **Edward Lorimer Worden Jr.** (born 1937).

This article is a short prologue to a series of future articles in *Wordens Past* on the seven namesakes of Admiral John Lorimer Worden. The author invites any questions or comments via email (njworden@aol.com).

Reference: Helen Graham Carpenter, *The Reverend John Graham of Woodbury, Connecticut and His Descendants* (Chicago: Monastery Hill Press: 1942), 352, 358.



Letter from George Morrison
to Edward C. Worden
recently found in papers of
Waite Worden

New York, 19th June, 1913

Dear Mr. Worden:-

I am sending you the result of some considerable delving in my attempts to track our Warren Worden, which kindly return to me when you have copied same, as I have no second copies.

1st The census of 1790.

2nd Wordens grouped from same.

Note that these documents give us unusual information concerning the migrations of the family. It appears that no less than five of the name were at Mamakating, Ulster (now Sullivan County), New York, in 1790.

These Wordens are the descendants of Abial Worden (Ebenezer, William, Samuel, Peter, Peter) [sic] and their descendants should be traced for valuable data. I have examined the Histories of Ulster and Sullivan Counties, New York, at New York Historical Society, but they contain nothing.

It further appears that no less than nine Wordens were settled in Stephentown, Albany (now Rensselaer) county, New York in 1790, and that a Walter Worden was a "path-master" there as early as 1784. I examined the History of Rensselaer County, New York, but it contains nothing except a L.E. Worden extract. (Enclosed herein)

I think the Stephentown Wordens probably were sons of Nathaniel Worden (William, Samuel, Peter, Peter) [sic] for he had Moses, Walter, Jesse and Arnold, and if so then we have another generation traced of these elusive Stonington, Connecticut Wordens, almost all of whom were descendants of William Worden (Samuel, Peter, Peter)[sic].

Just where Gilbert and Dudley Worden come from is a puzzle. The name Gilbert Worden appears in New York State in 1790 also in Washington, Dutchess, and Bedford Counties. We know that some of the Dutchess County Wordens hailed