

Hannah Caroline Brooks Bovey (Mrs. Charles A. Bovey) (1831-1906)

Hannah was born on August 15, 1831 in Eastport, Maine. She was the only surviving child of Luke Brooks and Sarah Leighton Hayden Brooks. Sarah's family was among the early settlers of Eastport, which was an important trading port with its own grain mill, and was claimed by both Canada and the United States at various times until the border was settled in 1842.

The family moved to Salem Massachusetts, Luke's family home. There, Sarah died in 1841 at the age of 32 from consumption, when Hannah was only nine years old. Luke remarried in 1844 to Priscilla Seccomb and had two daughters, Hannah's half-sisters.

Hannah married Charles A. Bovey in September 1856 in Salem. Charles was in the lumber business in St. John, New Brunswick, near Hannah's hometown of Eastport, and the family remained there for another thirteen years. They moved to Minneapolis in 1869, encouraged by articles about the growing business opportunities in the west. Charles had a home built at the corner of Harmon Place and 13th Street that was, at the time, on the outskirts of town. They lived in the same home for 36 years, celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary there shortly before Hannah's death. Hannah and Charles had four sons, Frank, Charles, John, and William, and two daughters, Caroline and Anne.

In Minneapolis, Charles established one of the first lumber companies, first Eastman, Bovey and Co., and later Bovey and DeLaittre, focusing mainly on small agricultural communities. Later, he and his business partner John DeLaittre developed a small town on the Mesabi iron range. Though Charles objected, the locals named the town Bovey in his honor.

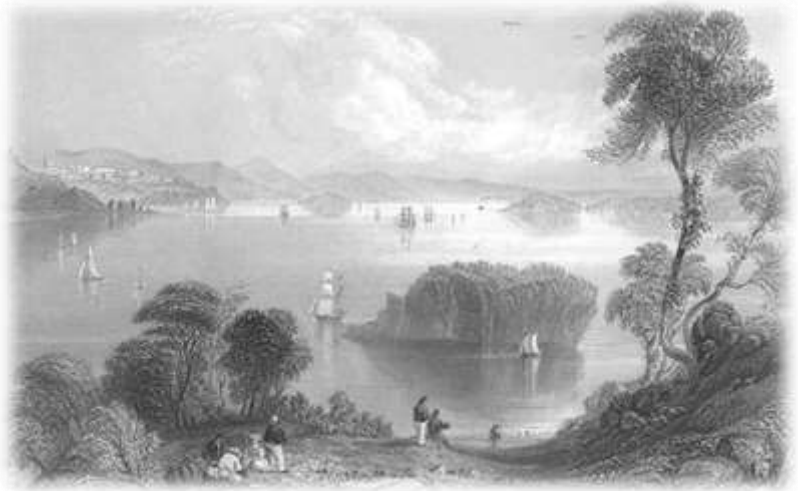


Figure 1: Eastport and Passamaquoddy Bay, Hannah's hometown.
Steel engraving by William H. Bartlett, 1839.



Figure 2: Wedding portrait of Hannah and Charles Bovey

They were members and early supporters of Plymouth Congregational Church. Hannah was a member of the Mayflower Society in addition to the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota. Both of her daughters and all four of her daughters-in-law joined the NSCDA-MN. Hannah served on the board and was Vice President of NSCDA-MN for years, including during the visit of national president Mrs. William Ruffin Cox in May 1906.

Two of their sons, Charles C. and William, held positions of prominence in the Washburn Crosby Company. Frank followed his father in the lumber business, working at Bovey, DeLaittre and Co., and John worked at the Bovey Chute Lumber Co. Charles C. was a founder of the Blake School and served as chair of its board.

Hannah died 15 November 1906 at the age of 75 and is buried in Lakewood Cemetery. At his death in 1911, Charles was considered one of the wealthiest lumbermen in the United States.



Figure 3: Portrait of Hannah in 1875, courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Colonial Ancestor John Alden (1599-1687)

Hannah was the fifth great granddaughter of *Mayflower* passenger John Alden, through her mother's lineage. John was hired as a crew member - a cooper - for the historic voyage, and decided to stay on as a colonist. He is a signer of the Mayflower Compact. He married fellow passenger Priscilla Mullins. Their descendant Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a fictional account of John and Priscilla's romance in his poem *The Courtship of Miles Standish* in 1858. John and Priscilla had 11 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood. Hannah is descended from their daughter Ruth.

John and Priscilla, with several others, founded the town of Duxbury, nearby to Plymouth, and he served as assistant to the governor of Duxbury from 1633 until 1675. He served on many juries and committees for Plymouth Colony and served as Colony treasurer. At the time of his death in 1687, he was the last surviving signer of the Mayflower Compact.

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