

FAMILY DATA EXTRACTED FROM  
BIBLES FOR SALE ON eBAY:  
BROWN–GUION, DURYEE–BUNCE, HALLOCK–NORTHRUP

*Chip Rowe*

Antique family Bibles sold on eBay can run into the hundreds or thousands of dollars. But sellers often post images of the family registers. That's likely bad for business,<sup>[1]</sup> but good for posterity. Here is a sampling of inscriptions recorded from photos downloaded from eBay listings found after a search of “family Bibles” in the Books > Antiquarian category. Most Bibles offered for sale contain records from the mid-19th century or later; the selections below are limited to those in which the earliest record occurred in the mid-to-late-eighteenth century and the family could be identified as having lived in New York State.

Brenda Hay of *AncestorHunt.com* has posted transcriptions of eBay Bible finds, but most genealogists overlook the auction site as a potential resource. Both eBay and sites such as *Abebooks.com* allow users to create keyword alerts (e.g., a surname or town) that will trigger an email notice when an item is newly listed for sale.<sup>[2]</sup> Besides family Bibles, these finds might include photos, ephemera, letters, hard-to-find printed genealogies or even letterhead from family businesses.

**BROWN–GUION BIBLE (Westchester County, New York)<sup>[3]</sup>**

[page 677]

Jonathan Guion & Phebe Lyon was married April 21, 1773

Alexander Downs and Mary Guion Brown was mar[r]ied January 20, 1842

Samuel B. Downes their son was born February the 4, 1843

Hetty A. Downes their daughter was born August 13<sup>d</sup>, 1846

Amelia<sup>[4]</sup> Downes their daughter was born February 13, 1857

---

<sup>1</sup> Unless the Bible itself is scarce, such as a first or limited edition, family members would presumably be the most motivated bidders. This unorthodox research source has its pitfalls. For these three Bibles, in one case I received no response to phone and email requests for assistance from the seller, and in the second the item had been sold. In the third the seller had included a transcription in the listing. Typically images posted on eBay became pixelated if enlarged, so I relied on a technique known as “magnifying glass held up to the screen.” Secondary sources occasionally helped clarify 1s, 4s, 7s, and 9s.

<sup>2</sup> I had been looking for years for a copy of the 1945 *Axtell Genealogy* when I received an alert from Abebooks that a dealer had listed one for sale for \$50. I bought it even before he probably had closed the cover to return it to the shelf. Google has scanned a copy at the Wisconsin Historical Society and posted it as a free ebook, but I’m old-fashioned and wanted the actual book.

<sup>3</sup> Printed in Philadelphia in 1807; eBay item 370946810739. Many dates were checked against those in Barbara S. Massi, *The Story of Mary Guion Brown from Her Diary of 1800–1852* (North Castle, N.Y.: North Castle Millenium Committee, 2000), 149–53.

<sup>4</sup> The name appears to be scribbled out and is difficult to read. But she is identified as Amelia, age 3, in the Alexander and Mary Downs household in the 1860 U.S. Census, North Castle,

[second column]

Samuel Brown and Mary Guion was married October 29, 1807

Samuel Gardner and Phoebe Ann Brown was married December 31st, 1834

Mary Gardner their daughter was born April the 5th, 1836

Henrietta Gardner was born August 10, 1837. Died June 6, 1915

Joseph Close and Sarah Jane Brown was married April 20th, 1842

Mary Jane their daughter was born December 14th, 1844

Solomon their son was born October the 26, 1845

Abram their son was born December the 19 1848

[page 679]

Samuel Brown was born February 23, 1782

Phebe Ann Brown was born February 8th, 1811

Sarah Jane Brown was born February th[e] 16, 1814

Mary G. Brown was born January 21, 1817; died Feb. 24, 1898, age 81 years, 1 mo, 3 days

Hetty H. Brown was born January 21st, 1817; died April 9, 1891, aged 74 years, 2 mo, 19 days

Sarah Jane Close died May 31, 1887 aged 73 yrs, 3 months, 15 days

Joseph Close died Sept. 13, 1885, aged 77 yrs, 3 mos, 21 dys

[second column]

Mary Guion was born August 23, 1782

Children of Joseph and Sarah Jane Close

Mary Jane Close was born December 17th 1843

Solomon Close was born Oct. 19th 1845

Abram Close was born December 19th 1847<sup>[5]</sup>

George Brown Close was born Oct 3rd 1850

Josephine Close was born April 24th 1854

Samuel Gardner Close was born Oct. 21st 1856

Abram Close died Jan 7 1887 aged 39 yrs, 19 days

Elsie Mead his wife died Jan. 17 1890 38 yrs. 10 mos., 3 days

[page 680]

Sarah Brown died March 21, 1789 aged -- years<sup>[6]</sup>

---

Westchester County, New York, roll 882, p. 8. Her siblings Samuel, 16, and Louisa, 13, are also listed.

<sup>5</sup> The birthdates of the three oldest Close children differ from those on page 677, although these on page 679 appear to be accurate, based on photographs on *FindaGrave.com* of their gravestones in Christ Church Cemetery in Greenwich, Connecticut.

<sup>6</sup> Sarah Brown was Sarah (Lounsbury) Brown, wife of Daniel Brown and mother of Samuel Brown, according to Bruce Clifton Martin and Shirley N. (Finch) Martin, "Genealogy of Bruce Clifton Martin, Martin family from Catskill, N.Y. area, and Genealogy of Shirley Neta (Finch) Martin, Finch family from Greenwich, Conn. area," typescript (Auburn, Mass., 1982), 143, online at *FamilySearch.org/search* > Books.

Oliver Brown died October 30th, 1815 aged 45 years  
 Phebe Guion Died December 11th, 1819, aged 66 years and eight months  
 Daniel Brown died September 5, aged 87 years, 2 months, 1827<sup>[7]</sup>  
 Ann Green died July 1st, 1833 aged 59 years 8 months  
 Sarah B. Finch died May 17, 1835, aged 69 years, and six months  
 Jonathan Guion died August 28, aged 86 years and 8 months, 1835  
 [second column]  
 Samuel Gardner died October 29, 1837, aged 23 yrs, 3 mo.  
 Phebe Read died January 28, 1848, aged 59 years and 9 months  
 Sarah Sarles died October 31 1857 aged 78 years  
 Mary Gardner Died February 26, 1856 aged 19 years 11 m. & 23 days  
 James Guion died Feb. -- 1861 aged 53 years 5 months  
 Tabitha Guion died Aug 20th 1884 aged [left blank]  
 Reuben Green died Oct. 19 1860  
 Lydia Kelly died April 28, 1869 aged 85 years, 2 [months] and 1 day [?]  
 Samuel Brown died Oct 14th, 1869 aged 87 years, 7 months 20[?] days  
 Mary Brown died Feb. 16, 1871 aged 88 years, 5 mo. & 23 days  
 Thomas Guion died Jan -- 1871, aged 84 years, 5 mos., 9 days  
 Alvah Guion died Nov. -- 1872, aged 77 years & 15 days

#### DURYEE–BUNCE BIBLE (New York City)<sup>[8]</sup>

John T. Duryee was born May 31, 1771 in ---<sup>[9]</sup>  
 was married Dec. 18, 1797 to Ann Mumford ---<sup>[10]</sup>  
 Ann Mumford was born Oct. 3, 1773 ---<sup>[11]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Daniel Brown was Samuel Brown's father; see Massi, *Story of Mary Guion Brown* [note 3], 123, 125, 153. He is shown as Daniel<sup>5</sup> (*Daniel*<sup>4</sup>, *Benjamin*<sup>3</sup>, *Hachaliah*<sup>2</sup>, *Peter*<sup>1</sup>) Brown in Martin and Martin, "Genealogy of Bruce Clifton Martin" [note 6], 141–43. Note also Norman Davis, *Westchester Patriarchs: A Genealogical Dictionary of Westchester County, New York, Families Prior to 1755* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1988), 32–35.

<sup>8</sup> Printed in Philadelphia, 1798; eBay item 121218591046. The binding of the bible is intact, so the interior edges of pages are difficult to read on the seller's scan. The annotations were provided in part by Richard Alan McCool (*ramccool@hotmail.com*), the leading expert on the Duryea/Duryee family.

<sup>9</sup> John T. Duryee evidently was identical with John, son of Dirk Durye and Elizabet Titus, baptized at the New York Reformed Dutch Church 28 July 1771 (*Baptisms from 1731 to 1800 in the Reformed Dutch Church in New York*, Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. 3 [New York, 1902], 323). Dirk was the son of Charles<sup>2</sup> (*Joost*<sup>1</sup>) Duryea, as shown in the 1880 Duryea article by Teunis G. Bergen (*The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 11 [1880]:62–70), confirmed by Richard McCool's extensive research on the entire family.

<sup>10</sup> Frederic W. Bailey, ed., *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800*, 7 parts (New Haven, Conn.: Bureau of American Ancestry for Family Researches, 1896–1906), 2:36.

<sup>11</sup> "Ann Mumford, the third and youngest daughter of David Mumford, was born 3 Oct. 1773. In 1800 [*sic*], when 27 years old, she was married from her father's house at New London" (James Gregory Mumford, *Mumford Memoirs* [Boston: Merrymount Press, 1900], 224). Ann's mother

Abraham Brinckerhoff Duryee<sup>[12]</sup> was born on Wednesday Oct. 24 1798 at New London and departed this life at Valparaso (South America) Nov. 13, 1820 in the 22nd---

Louisa Ann Duryee was born at New York on Wednesday, April 15, 1801, was married --- to Z. W. Bunce.<sup>[13]</sup>

David Mumford Duryee was born at New York on Thursday, Jan. 27, 1803 & departed this life July --- was buried from ----- and lies in church vault ----

David Mumford Duryee was born at Bedford, Long Island, on Sunday morning Aug. 26, 1804 & departed this life and was buried from Bedford and lies in the church vault

John Richard Duryee was born at New York on Wednesday night at ten o'clock May 14, 1806.<sup>[14]</sup>

[Further down the same page in faint ink are the births of seven Bunce children.<sup>[15]</sup>]

### HALLOCK-NORTHRUP BIBLE (Dutchess County, New York)<sup>[16]</sup>

George Hallock was born the 20 Nov. 1776<sup>[17]</sup>

---

was Rebecca Saltonstall (ibid., 138; Leverett Saltonstall, *Ancestry and Descendants of Sir Richard Saltonstall* . . . [Cambridge, Mass.: Riverside Press, 1897], 221, 223).

According to Walter Barrett, *The Old Merchants of New York City*, 5 vols. (New York: Thomas R. Knox & Co., 1885), 5:190-93, "In the old times there was no name more eminent among the merchants of New York city than that of Mumford . . . I think David Mumford had a country place at New London, Conn. There, at least, his daughter Nancy was married to John T. Duryee, in December 1797. Mr. Duryee was a merchant in this city at that time, and did a large business at 74 Pearl street, residing at 75 Broad. Duryee commenced business as early as 1794, and he continued under his own name for more than 30 years."

<sup>12</sup> This child appears to have been named for a business associate of the family. No relationship by blood or marriage has been found.

<sup>13</sup> Gertrude A. Barber, *Marriage Notices from the New York Evening Post, 1801-1890*, database online at *AmericanAncestors.org*, "R. W. Bunce of Detroit to Louisa Ann Duryee, only dau. of John T. of this city, married 13 September 1827." The Vosburgh Collection of New York Church Records, indexed at *FamilySearch.org*, says Louisa Ann Duryee married Zephaniah W. Bunce on 13 September 1827 at the Garden Street Dutch Reformed Church.

<sup>14</sup> John Richard Duryee was later of Sangamon County, Illinois, where he married by 1840 Emma D. Thornton (1840 U.S. Census, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, roll 69, p. 10; 1850 U.S. Census, Sangamon County, roll 127, p. 152A). A 1928 letter from their daughter, Mary Louisa (Duryee) Leonard, to her nephew gives her mother's name and says her father was born 10 April 1806 and died 31 January 1860 (extracts of letter courtesy of Richard A. McCool).

<sup>15</sup> Four surviving children were living with their parents in the 1850 U.S. Census, Port Huron, St. Clair County, Michigan, roll 362, p. 202B. Frank B. Gay, *The Descendants of John Drake of Windsor, Connecticut* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1933), 97, says they had eight children but does not name them.

<sup>16</sup> Printed at New York, 1847; eBay item 121439247666. This record appears on a sheet of paper glued into the Bible. As of 7 October 2014, the Bible was for sale on eBay for \$99.95.

<sup>17</sup> Lucius H. Hallock, *A Hallock Genealogy* (Orient, N.Y.: the author, 1926), 313, 438, shows George Hallock, born 1777, died 1862, son of Joshua Halsey and Mary (Peters) Hallock. George's

Elizabeth Willing wife of George Hallock was born Nov. 1776 the 16th  
 James H. Hallock was born August the 3rd, 1802  
 Joshua G. Hallock was born Dec. 6th, 1803  
 Mary Hallock was born 16th of May 1805  
 Jane Hallock born 4th of March 1807  
 Permelia Hallock was born first of May 1809  
 Thomas W. Hallock was born 20th of Jan<sup>[18]</sup> 1811  
 William H. Hallock born the 11th of August 1814  
 William H. Hallock died Oct. 9, 1869 Julia E. Hallock died 30 Sep 1875  
 Elizabeth Hallock wife of George Hallock  
 died the 24th of May 1859, aged 75 years, 6 months  
 and 7 days  
 Fe [Recorded?] January the 26th 1862  
 [two-line newspaper death notice pasted in: "In the town of Washington, Jan.  
 1862, George Hallock, in the 86th year of his age."<sup>[19]</sup>]

Edgar Northrup born Sept. 22, 1811<sup>[20]</sup>  
 Jane Hallock born March 4, 1807  
 married January 21, 1838  
 Homer Northrup Born Nov. 9, 1838  
 James H. Northrup Born Aug. 21, 1841  
 Margaret E. Northrup Born June 12 1843<sup>[21]</sup>  
 Emer Augusta Northrup Born June 27 1845  
 Homer W. Northrup, Died Jan 15  
 1871, Aged 32 yrs 1 month & 23 days  
 Edgar B. Northrup Died April 7th  
 1880 aged in the 70 year of his age  
 Jane Northrup Died May 29th 1891  
 aged 84 yrs 2 month 25 days

*Chip Rowe may be contacted at [chip@chiprowe.com](mailto:chip@chiprowe.com).*

---

sons are on pages 390, 439, 606, A better account of George's children is Martha Bockee Flint, *A Peters Lineage: Five Generations of the Descendants of Dr. Charles Peters of Hempstead* (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: the author, 1896), 91–93, including the marriage on 5 July 1801 of George Peters Hallock and Betsey Welling.

<sup>18</sup> The seller transcribed the month as June. He may be right.

<sup>19</sup> George's death apparently prompted a descendant that same month to record the Hallock information in the family Bible. In 1860 George Hallock, age 83, was living in Washington with his son James H. Hallock, age 57 (1860 U.S. Census, Washington, Dutchess County, New York, roll 740, p. 933).

<sup>20</sup> Edgar Buel Northrup and his parents are shown in A. Judd Northrup, *The Northrup-Northrop Genealogy* (New York: Grafton Press, 1908), 183–84, 331.

<sup>21</sup> This date and a few others that were obscured in the eBay photograph were taken from the seller's transcription (see note 1).