
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI · RHODE ISLAND

Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham

*Research Dossier — Documentation in support of collateral descent claim,
Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations.*

APPLICANT

John Francis Long

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DATE

April 20, 2026

ARCHIVE

longfamilyarchive.com/lines/benjamin-peckham

Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham

BORN	July 1, 1753 — Newport, Rhode Island
DIED	August 15, 1821 — Wickford, Rhode Island
RANK	Captain
UNIT	Olney's Rhode Island Continental Battalion
SERVICE	Through November 3, 1783
CINCINNATI	Original Member, Rhode Island Society
SPOUSE	Hannah Wall (d. March 10, 1805)
FAMILYSEARCH	K4NQ-B7N

Captain Benjamin Lawton Peckham was commissioned in Olney's Rhode Island Continental Battalion and served through November 3, 1783 — qualifying him as an Original Member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the Society's founding. His commissioned officer status and length of service are documented in Rhode Island Continental records and have been verified against the canonical rolls cited at the end of this dossier.

II. EXTINCTION OF THE DIRECT LINE, 1848

The Phillips Grandchildren — All Died Without Issue

Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham's only child, **Elizabeth Peckham** (1789–1820), married Capt. Christopher Low Phillips. The couple had three children. **All three died without issue.** No surviving direct descendant line exists in any generation.

- **Hannah W. Phillips** (1813–1848) — died unmarried, no issue.
- **Dorothy Phillips** (1814–1820) — died at age six.
- **Samuel Phillips** (1818–1819) — died in infancy.

With Hannah W. Phillips's death in 1848, the direct line from Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham was definitively extinguished and has remained extinct for more than 175 years. The seat on the Rhode Island Society's roll associated with this officer is therefore available for a qualified collateral descendant.

Extinction citations: *Peckham Genealogy*, Stephen Farnum Peckham (1922), p. 271; Rhode Island Town Deaths and Burials Index; FamilySearch vital records for each of the three grandchildren.

III. COLLATERAL DESCENT VIA BENONI GARDINER (MRCA)

Common Ancestor: Benoni Gardiner (ca. 1640)

The Most Recent Common Ancestor between Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham and the present applicant, John Francis Long, is{" "} **Benoni Gardiner** (ca. 1640, FamilySearch PID{" "} LVF7-5YN) of Kingstown, Rhode Island. Two distinct branches descend from Benoni: the officer's branch, which terminates in 1848, and the applicant's branch, which continues unbroken to the present generation. Every generation in both branches is documented by FamilySearch person record and by published genealogical record.

Officer's branch (EXTINCT 1848)

- 0 **Benoni Gardiner** LVF7-5YN · ca. 1640, MRCA
- +1 Penelope Gardiner · b. 1689
- +2 Mary Lawton · b. 1730 (Penelope's daughter)
- +3 Benoni Peckham · b. 1729; m. Mary Lawton
- +4 **Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham** K4NQ-B7N · 1753–1821, Cincinnati Original Member
- +5 Elizabeth Peckham · 1789–1820; m. Capt. Christopher Low Phillips
- +6 Hannah W. Phillips · Dorothy Phillips · Samuel Phillips · all died without issue by 1848

↳ **LINE EXTINCT 1848 — NO SURVIVING DIRECT DESCENDANTS**

Applicant's branch (continuous to present)

- 0 **Benoni Gardiner** LVF7-5YN · ca. 1640, MRCA (same as officer's branch)
- +1 William Gardiner · b. 1671
- +2 John Gardiner · b. 1696
- +3 Hannah Gardiner · b. 1723
- +4 Elizabeth Westcott · b. 1760 (Hannah's daughter)
- +5 Mary Peckham LR79-JWN · b. 1792
- +6 Fanny P. Harrison 9F78-WDW · b. 1813

+7	Richmond C. Winter	L4ZL-SXH · 1839–1912, Fall River / New Bedford
+8	Fanny Harrison Winter	9VNZ-J6H · 1869–1914
+9	Rachael Winter Swift	9JGN-43B · 1896–1984
+10	Francis Swift Perry	L1V1-8D2 · 1923–2011
+11	Carol A. Perry	GB2W-HXS · b. 1953 (living)
+12	John Francis Long	b. 1976, Applicant

The MRCA relationship places the applicant in the nearest non-extinct collateral line to Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham, with every generation PID-linked and every marriage documented.

IV. SOURCES AND CITATIONS

Documentation

Primary sources

Peckham Genealogy, Stephen Farnum Peckham (privately printed, 1922) — p. 271 confirms the extinction of Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham's direct line through the three Phillips grandchildren.

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, Secretary of the Commonwealth (1896–1908), for cross-reference of Rhode Island Peckham and allied families.

Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, Francis B. Heitman (1914 rev.) — canonical Continental officer roll.

Rhode Island Town Deaths and Burials Index — for vital records of the three Phillips grandchildren.

Rhode Island Continental Battalion rolls (Olney's Battalion) — for Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham's service through November 3, 1783.

FamilySearch person records (all generations)

K4NQ-B7N — Capt. Benjamin Lawton Peckham (1753–1821)

LVF7-5YN — Benoni Gardiner (ca. 1640), MRCA

LR79-JWN — Mary Peckham (1792)

9F78-WDW — Fanny P. Harrison (1813)

L4ZL-SXH — Richmond C. Winter (1839–1912)

9VNZ-J6H — Fanny Harrison Winter (1869–1914)

9JGN-43B — Rachael Winter Swift (1896–1984)

L1V1-8D2 — Francis Swift Perry (1923–2011)

GB2W-HXS — Carol A. Perry (b. 1953)

Online archive

The complete Benjamin Lawton Peckham research page, including supplementary evidence and cross-line genealogical context, is maintained at{" "} **longfamilyarchive.com/lines/benjamin-peckham**. The archive's broader Cincinnati research frame, documenting related officer leads across the Swift, Coffin, Warren, Peckham, and Gardner families, is at **longfamilyarchive.com/lines/cincinnati**.