

The strange tale of HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT'S VIOLIN
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Ray Swick, historian of Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park in West Virginia, reveals that Harman Blennerhassett did have a violin, of good quality, made at Cremona, Italy, and that Harman "...had been quite proud of it and told his friends that it was over 100 years old and had cost him 100 guineas..."
(The maker of Harman's violin is unknown, but Cremona has been the world centre for violin making since the 17th C.)
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This instrument, with other inherited Blennerhassett Island relics, disappeared following the death at New York, in poor circumstances, of his son Harman Blennerhassett Jr (K 4), who d.10.8.1854 of cholera "...after a protracted illness..." in an almshouse at Blackwell's Isle, New York City
It is interesting to conjecture that this violin, with the other objects, may perhaps have been auctioned or otherwise sold, to be later purchased by (Edward) Byron Hassett, because of his interest in the family;
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THE FOLLOWING NEED INVESTIGATING :-
1 local Digby Co. newspaper reports of the house fire
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2 the name of the person who sold the violin to Harman Blennerhassett, and what their family crest had been
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3 It is interesting that the owner of the Digby Co., N.Scotia violin was named "Byron".
perhaps(?) there may be a family or other connection with Richard Byron Blennerhassett (b.c1841 at NY, unkm.), the son of Richard Spotswood Blennerhassett (attorney, of St.Louis, Missouri) & Therese Martini Blennerhassett (nee Byron), which lady was author of a Ms. "Notes on the Life of Harman Blennerhassett" and who edited a Ms. "Poems by the late Mrs Harman Blennerhassett...etc"; these and other MSS (once in the possession of Therese Martini Byron BH) are among "Blennerhassett Papers" now at Campus Martius State Museum, Marietta, Ohio
(see p.K 15)

>> (Edward) Byron Hassett >>>>>>>> Bernice Hassett; b.16.6.1876 New Tusket, Digby Co.
b.?9.1851 (one source says
b. New Hampshire, USA; >>> Frances "Fanny" Hassett >>>>>> Dorothy E. Sabean
another says b.8.10.1877 New Tusket; | b.c1912 Massachusetts, USA
b. Weymouth, Digby Co., NS | "Annie" in 1920 census; | went to USA 1876; |>> dau.
moved to Massachusetts, | naturalised in USA 1919
USA 1899; at Melrose (Ward 3),
Middlesex Co., Mass. 1900 |
/ m.1900 New Tusket; Frank H. Sabean; b.28.12.1873
Ashmore, Digby Co.; moved to USA 1908; Naturalised 1919;
Finisher in leather tannery 1920
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d.15.7.1901 Worcester,
Worcester Co., Mass., USA;
Farmer; Anglican (C.of E.); >>> Percival "Percy" Hassett >>>>>> John P. Hassett;
of St.Bernard, Digby Co. 1881; | b.22.1.1881 (US SS death | b.c1903 d.c1920
of Hassett, Digby Co. c.1892/3 | index has b.13.1.1880) |
at Hassett, New Tusket, |>> Herbert E. Hassett b.c1905 >>>>>>
Digby Co., Nova Scotia; | of Oakland, Calif., USA
bapt.26.2.1882 | m. <??>
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(one source named him Hario
Hassett, in error for Byron)
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postmaster; he opened the
second Post Office at Hassett | the house he grew up in |>> Grace F. Hassett b.c1906 >>>>>>
was burnt c1892/3; | of Los Angeles, Calif. |>>
of Boston, Mass. | m. Warren Seabold(?)
until c1900 when moved |>> Margaret Ann Hassett >>>>>>>>
to Seattle, Washington; | b.1907/8
following d. of his wife | m. <??> Murphy
moved to LA, California
to live with dau. Grace
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d.14.2.1976 W.Hollywood,
Los Angeles, California;
bur. Calvary Cemetery
(RC) at Seattle,
Washington, USA
/

m. Annie Laurie Miller
of Weymouth, Mass. USA; bur. Calvary Cem. (RC), Seattle,
Washington; Her father & g.father were ship masters and
ship owners out of Weymouth, Mass., USA
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>> Daniel "Dan" Hassett; b.25.10.1881 New Tusket
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>> Herbert E. Hassett >>>>>>>>>>>> dau.
b.c1882/3 New Tusket;
of California;
Merchant Seaman for most of his life,
"...calling San Francisco home when not at sea...",
until he "...ran off to the last Nevada gold rush c1900..."
/

m.<??>
/

>> Benjamin Ellerton Hassett; b.19.9.1883 New Tusket
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>> <son> Hassett >>>>>>>>>>>> Olga E. Hassett
b. bef.1861 d. bef.1871 | b.25.6.1886 New Tusket; | b.10.12.1921
/ | d.11.11.1957 San Luis | San Joquin, California
He is indicated by the 1861
census, which shows 6 sons
and 5 daus in this family 1861
/

m. Olga A. Anderson
/

>> Harriet Sabean Hassett
b.8.3.1885 Weymouth, Digby Co.
(not in 1881 census;
some sources b.8.5.1855 & b.8.3.1875)
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>> Eugene E. Hassett b.?7.1889 Digby Co.

NOTE: one of (Edward) Byron Hassett's daughters was curator of a natural history museum at Boston, Mass. There is no record of her at the "Museum of Science" in Boston (which opened as the "New England Museum of Natural History" in 1864) so perhaps(?) it may have been Harvard Museum of Natural History

