Introduction 1

## Rev: Dec 13, 2022

Brian Patrick Bass (b: in Florida)

## Bass Family in America Overview

So, who are we? Our "known" Bass family history we believe begins with Andrew Bass (born: ~1730). We know he lived in Duplin & Wayne County, North Carolina before the Revolutionary War. Where he comes from remains very much a mystery that we continue to study. Our Basses of this line moved from Duplin/Wayne County, North Carolina to Cumberland County, North Carolina, then to Sumter County, Georgia. While much of the extended family remained in Sumter County, Georgia, our specific line left Sumter County and moved to Florida, around October/November of 1850.

Our Bass line (specific down to me), that is known goes from Andrew Bass (b: ~1730) to Rice Bass (b: ~1755/8) to Needham Bass (b: ~1794) to William Crawford Harris Bass (b: 1839) to William Robert Bass (b: 1864) to Ernest Ralph Bass Sr. (b: 1904) to Ernest Ralph Bass Jr. (b: 1924) to James Edward Bass (b: 1839) to Brian Patrick Bass (b: 1839). Obviously anyone reading this that is related, branches off at some point in their own direction.

Before diving into each person in our family history, I will attempt to give a brief overview of who's who in the Early-American Bass lines. <u>It is important to point out that we have NO actual known connection genetically or on paper to the other Bass lines discussed.</u>

Below is a good, overview of the known Bass lines in early America provided by Jeffrey Basset. Our family falls into **Group 4** but many people have made the mistake of blending our Group 4 with the Group 3 that we lived close to during the late 1700s in North Carolina. These mistakes are then copied over and over on sites like Ancestry.com. While we may someday find a connection to that group, there currently is no connection. The most common mistake I have come from confusing our Andrew (~1730-1782) and Andrew (1730-1791) son of Andrew Bass Sr (1698-1770) (Doc: 1x) and then mixing up our Andrew's son, Rice Bass with the other Andrew's son, Uriah Benjamin Bass. Then the incorrect Andrew's father, Richard Bass (1707) is mistakenly added in our line and everyone above him. We however are clearly not genetically related to this line (at least via male YDNA) and if you look carefully, there is no paper trail connection to be found either.



I have finished documenting each of the Y-DNA tests we have done on those with the Bass surname from Virginia and North Carolina. I am sure this will stir up some protest and controversy among members here as the results don't match up to historic Bass research. I am just reporting my findings. The Virginia/North Carolina Bass lines fall into four separate groupings.

- Descendants of William Bass that carry Haplogroup "A".
   In addition to the many document Bass families, we still have more than a dozen that carry the "A" haplogroup that we have not connected up yet.
- Descendants of James Bass of Brunswick County, Virginia. This group also includes Charles Bass (died 1780) who has been incorrectly attached to Richard Bass and the many descendants of Benjamin Bass who married Sarah Hicks.
- Descendants of Richard Bass and Mary Burwell. All DNA tests from known descendants of Richard Bass match each other.
- Descendants of Andrew Bass of Cumberland County, NC. This branch mainly moved to Sumter County, Georgia and then many branches moved to Florida.

I still have a few people to move at the Family Tree DNA website which can be seen here.

FamilyTreeDNA - BASS(E) FamilyTreeDNA Project I welcome any comments.

It would take literally thousands of pages to try to detail out the beginnings of the Bass Family in America but I will try to keep it relevant to "us". It was for many years, thought that Humphrey Basse (b: ~1564 d: 1616, Jun 4) of Essex, United Kingdom was the primary ancestor for nearly all Bass lines in early America. It has been determined that most Bass lines in America are however NOT directly/genetically descended (at least not father to son) from him. If one does descend from Humphrey, it is not 100% clear which one is this "true" Bass line. Humphrey and Mary (Bouchier) Basse (b:~1568 d: 1616, Jul 22) had a son Nathaniel (b:~1582 or 1589 d: 1655) also born in London who was the first in the line to travel to the new world around 1621 and established Basse's Choice. Basse's Choice is one of the earliest English settlements in America. There is some debate, which I will cover later, that there may have been two Nathaniel Basses and that Humphrey's actual son Nathaniel died in London with only 3 daughters and no male sons. This is generally accepted as not being the case however. Captain Nathaniel Basse (whether or not he is actually the same Nathaniel the son of Humphrey) married Mary Jordan (b: ~1585 d: 1629 or 1630, Jan 17) on 1613, May 21, and is believed to be the father of John Basse (b: 1616, Sep 7 d: 1699, Apr 2). John Basse was born in London. Nathaniel Bass (presuming there is only one) is thought to have died back in London, therefore John has often been considered the Bass family's original immigrant to what would become America, at least for the lines that descend from him. But again, our line has NO known genetic or paper connection to John.

John Basse married a Nansemond Indian "princess" Elizabeth (b: ~1618 d: 1676, Oct 4). Their son William Basse (b: 1654, Mar 29 d:1741, Aug 13) is the ancestor that is the line of Nansemond Chiefs to this day, all with the name Bass. This line for many years was considered

the "primary" or "true" Bass line from Humphrey of London. However genetics have proven that while William was Elizabeth the Nansemond's son, his biological father was of African descent passing on a very rare and ancient, Sub-Saharan African Halogroup A, Y-DNA. Therefore, William and his (and the Nansemond) descendants are technically Bass only by adoption. Nansemond Indian descendants of William (1654) likely had to contend with their part African lineage while maintaining their Nansemond heritage.

One of the sons of John and Elizabeth was a Richard Basse (b: 1622, Aug 2 d: 1722, Dec 26). There is some debate regarding this Richard. The Nansemond for some time did not recognize his descendants. Why I am not sure however to be fair, their interest is specifically in Elizabeth's descendants so it is possible they deny he was Elizabeth's son while he could still have been John Basse's son. I believe this has since been resolved with the Nansemond but since we have found no direct connection, I have not researched it further. Our family does not appear to be genetically related to Richard but there is a possibility that is Richard could be a potential step-grandfather of our most distant, confirmed relative Andrew Bass (b: 1730) d:~1781) and possibly is the connection to us having the Bass name. More on that theory later but in short, Richard was married twice, first to Jane Bryant then to Mary Burwell. Although debatable, the children of Mary Burwell are not genetically Richards (unless by chance there were two Richard Basses but we don't have evidence that supports that). It is possible that Richard "adopted" Mary Burwell's children including a daughter Mary Bass (1709). Mary is possibly the Bass mother of our Andrew but he likely had a non-Bass father. This however is far from established and only a theory with no paper trail supporting the idea that Mary Bass is Andrew's mother.

IF Mary Bass (1709) is indeed our Andrew's (1730) mother, that would mean our own Bass name connection above Andrew (1730) would be from a mother who had the maiden name Bass only after being adopted by a Bass stepfather (Richard) whose own lineage is genetically questionable to Humphry and has been debated by the Nansemond tribe. (*Note: This is only one of many theories and is far from being substantiated in any way.*)

A quick Y-DNA genetic overview is Nathaniel's "other" son William (1618): IM223, Humprhey's son Nathaniel (1582 or 1589): we think is RM269 L47, and John (1616) probably RM269 L47, Richard (1658) via children with Jane Bryant: RM269 L47, Richard (1658) via Mary Burwell's son Andrew (1698): S10051, Richard (1658) via Mary Burwell's son Richard (1707) (and brother of Mary (1709): RM269 L21. Our Andrew (1730): R1a aka R-M198. It is doubtful that our Bass line has any Nansemond Indian, though it is debated if Mary Burwell was white or Chowan Indian which means there is a POSSIBILITY that we have some distant Indian lineage of some sort. But that also depends on us having any connection to Mary Burwell which thus far we have no evidence of. (Note: The origins of Richard 1658 as well as the children of Jane Bryant and of Mary Burwell matching is debated and opinions change. Since we have found no actual connection to that line, I'll refrain from chasing that back-and-forth debate unless we find ourselves connected. Brian Bass)

## **Bass Lines in early America:**

Humphrey Basse (b: ~1564 d: 1616, Jun 4) married Mary (Bouchier) Basse (b:~1568 d: 1616, Jul 22)

Nathaniel Basse (b:~ 1582 or 1589 d: 1655) married Mary Jordan (b: ~1585 d: 1629 or 1630, Jan 17)

John Basse (b: 1616, Sep 7 d: 1699, Apr 2) married Elizabeth the Nansemond (b: ~1618 d: 1676, Oct 4)

Richard Basse (b: 1658, Aug 2 d: 1722, Dec 26) married Jane Bryant (b: 1665, Dec 17, d: 1689, Feb 14) then to Mary Burwell (~1674, d: ~1722).

Mary Bass (1709, Aug 16, d: unk) (daughter of Mary Burwell (but not genetically related to Richard). <u>Potential</u> Bass mother to our <u>Andrew (1730)</u>. (*Note: Unsubstantiated theory*)

While our Andrew and his sons lived in very close proximity to the Basses descended from the Richard Basse/Mary Burwell line, there is NO DNA or Paper link between our Bass line above Andrew (1730). It is very possible that we have no relation at all to this line and only coincidence that our Andrew lived in close proximity. Therefore, additional information regarding Richard (1658), John (1616), Nathaniel (1582/9) and Humphrey (1564), will be compiled in an annex at the end of this book until a legitimate connection is made. – Brian Bass

Another possibility that we are looking at is that our Andrew (1730) may have been born to a Bass mom down another line from John Basse (1616) and Elizabeth the Nansemond. John Basse (1616) another son, John Bass (1673) who married Love Harris in 1696. Their male children were John Bass (1770), William Bass (1712), Aaron Bass (1724?) and Edward Bass (1698). They may have also had a son, Needham (who would be older than our Needham) Their female children were Sarah Bass (Anderson), Keziah Bass (Johnston), Lucy/Lovey Bass, Patience Bass and possibly Judith Bass, Mary Bass and Ann Bass. It is possible one of these Bass daughters was the mother of our Andrew Bass (~1730). I am not sure if we'll ever find information to prove or disprove this THEORY, so for now it remains a possibility worthy of research.

John Bass died January/February 1732. His will was dated 18 January 1731/32 and he is said to have died at the age of 58. Will proved at February Court 1732, Bertie County, North Carolina. In the will he gave his wife Mary "the liberty of the plantation ... for bringing up my small children," referred to "my sd last wife's children," and left 50 acres to his friend, Daniel Wharten Burbegg. Executors were sons John and Edward Bass.[16]

Children and bequests named in his will (birth dates are tentative pending research):[17]

- 1. Edward (c 1696-) received manor plantation where John lived except John's wife Mary was allowed liberty of the plantation to bring up John's minor children
- 2. John (c 1700-1777) received "my ould square Mosled gun"
- 3. Aaron (c 1701-) received his father's plantation on the south side of Bear Swamp
- 4. Judith (c 1702- ) married William Cannady; received 100 acres by father's will
- 5. William (c 1703-) received land at Beaver dam
- 6. Sarah (c 1704-) married Lewis Anderson, received 100 acres in Northampton County by father's will
- 7. Lovey [Loucy] (c 1707-) received 100 acres of land

- 8. Mary (c 1709-) received 100 acres north side of Urahaw Swamp by her father's will
- 9. Ann (b c 1710-) not named in will, mother of Aaron Johnston who received 100 acres by her father's will
- 10. Elizabeth (c 1711-) not mentioned in father's will but called the "now wife of Edward Taylor" whose son John Taylor was given a deed of gift of 100 acres on the south side of Hunting Quarter Swamp in Northampton County on 6 November 1747 by her brother John Bass.
- 11. Patience (c 1712-) received plantation on the south side of Bear Swamp
- 12. Moses (c 1728- ) received "all my land that lyeth on the north side of Baire Swamp which is adjoining my brother Edward's line."

## **Our Confirmed Line:**

Andrew Bass ( $\sim 1730 - 1781/2$ )

(Y-DNA: R1a (aka R-M198) (not associated with any other known, male Bass line). The R-M198 is carried by descendants of three of Rice's sons, Quenton/Quincy, Akies and our Needham. We have confirmed Y-DNA matches to descendants of each of these three sons with whom I communicate and share research with regularly.

Rice Bass (~1755/58 - after 1824)

Needham Bass (1794-1870)

William Crawford Bass (1839-1904)

William Robert Bass (1864-1922)

Ernest Ralph Bass, Sr. (1904-1973)

Ernest Ralph Bass, Jr (1924-2012)

James Edward Bass ( – present)

Brian Patrick Bass ( – present)

So, who are we and where are we from? Basically we do not know and may never know earlier than Andrew (~1730). We know that we are very early settlers of Colonial America, certainly well before the Revolutionary War. Our "known" and genetic history starts at Andrew Bass (1730) being in North Carolina. He was likely born in North Carolina, possibly to a Bass mother but maybe not a Bass father. Earlier genealogy efforts seem to have mixed lines and he was assumed to be the grandson of Richard Basse (1658), and son of Richard Bass Jr (1707). I do NOT believe this to be a case of mixing lines as both Richards did have a son named Andrew but it was not ours.

There is no paper trail that shows our Andrew (1730) as living with either Richard Bass, or anyone else, and genetics do not match either one. On one hand, our Andrew (1730) was living in very close proximity to children of Richard Bass (1707) around Duplin County, North Carolina and it seems unlikely that he was not connected in some way to them being an area with such a low population density. Andrew was a common family name but was also a common name in general. Our Andrew did own land in Wayne and Duplin County and doesn't appear to

be a random "nobody" or someone not connected making the lack of paper trail even more mysterious.

Another, and very real possibility, is that our Andrew (1730) is completely unrelated to Richard (1658) or Richard (1707) and the other Bass lines and by coincidence shares a last name and all lived in Wayne/Duplin, County prior to the Revolutionary War. In some ways, this seems unlikely in such a small area but there are several factors separating our Andrew Bass and sons and the other Basses in the area. In fact, his Y-DNA genetics thus far suggests a likely father of Johnson or Johnston which was a name in this area at the time and very possibly we are of Scottish descent vice English, at least in the male line. Currently, a plausible THEORY presented by Wes Bass (descends from Akies) is his mother was likely an unmarried Bass (possibly Mary Bass (1709) daughter of Richard (1658) and sister to Richard (1707) due to age and location but it is only a theory). An additional possibility lies in the middle, we are possibly more distant cousins to the family of Richard Bass (1707) that we lived close to around the Revolutionary War time.

There are numerous other possible origins for our line but being either born to a Bass mother (maiden name) or possibly being a half sibling into a Bass house but not from a known Bass father are possibilities. There are some subtle hints that we may actually be connected to Moses Bass and the John Bass / Love Harris Line but that is very, very far from proven or even substantiated. That line supposedly also descends from the John Basse (1616-1699) and Elizabeth the Nansemond line but that is also up for debate and I am not sure the Nansemond accept them as their lineage.

There are some interesting facts that work against Andrew being part of the other Bass family that surrounded him in Wayne & Duplin County, NC. It seems odd we can find no paper trail of a younger Andrew living with the known Bass family members. While Andrew was a common name both within the family and in general, he names his 3 sons Harmon, John and Rice. None of which appear to be family names of the surrounding Bass families. Of course, that actually proves nothing. Additionally, Andrew and sons were Tory Loyalists to the British Crown at the time of the Revolution and we believe other Bass family members in the area were Patriots fighting against England. This also proves nothing as families were often split along these lines but it does seem to be another thing that distinguishes this line. Third, Our Bass line left Duplin/Wayne county and moved to Cumberland County, NC and then to Sumter, Georgia. I do not believe any members from other Bass family lines making those moves. Many of the other Basses in the area owned slaves, while our line does not appear to have owned any. So while not offering any proof, there seems to be enough circumstantial evidence that suggests we had little or no connection to the other Basses in the area. There is also some hints that maybe our line is actually **Highland Scotts** via either a different and unknown Bass line or via a Johns(t)on or some other male line above Andrew. Our male DNA favors Scottish somewhat over English, though both remain possible, and many of the Tory Loyalists in this area were Highland Scotts.

So what do we really know? We know that an Andrew Bass owned land that straddled the present-day border of Duplin and Wayne Counties in North Carolina. The land auction case

described in Andrew's Timeline Page, tells us Andrew's oldest son was Harmon/Herman. It was believed, or said, that Harmon was dead but it looks more like he just abandoned that land. The Mount Olive Map (section 4d) contains Andrew's auctioned land. We also know Andrew and his sons Harmon, Rice and John were British Loyalist Tories and caused trouble for the Patriots of the area. We can conclude that the Harmon, Rice and John correctly match Andrew (1730) and oldest son Harmon by studying the Mount Olive Map and comparing the people and locations of the map to the Court Petitions of 1784 (5b). These three later leave the area of Duplin/Wayne County and head to Cumberland County. To further confirm these are the correct connections, after Cumberland County, much of our line moved to Sumter County, Georgia. I do not know of any other Bass family members from other lines in the area to have also made that move. In Sumter County, we later see a Sarah Bass (~1805) originally from North Carolina, with sons names that tie us back to the original members discussed (sons; Andrew, Rice (~1831/2), John, Horman, Mathew and daughter Sarah) (1e1 1850 Sarah Bass). I believe this Sarah (~1805) is a likely widow (possibly of a Harmon Bass or other close relation). In section (1e1 1850 Sarah Bass) listed as the head of household in the 1850 census. A Rice Bass (either ours or Rice Jr (1797)) married Winney Ellis. (note: there is a possibility that it was our Rice who married Winney after his previous wife died, possibly giving birth to our Needham) While we have found no DNA from any descendants of Harmon or John, the very strong name correlation and movement locations, leave pretty much no doubt that the Harmon, Rice and John, sons of Andrew (1730), are our line. Once we get to Rice's sons, Quincy (1791), Akies (~1794) and Needham (1790), we have solid Y-DNA (R-M198/R1A) that confirms the family relationship from Quincy, Akies and Needham to present day. I communicate regularly with a descendant of Akies (Wes Bass) and descendant of Quincy (Zac Bass) about our research.

The organization for the remainder of these collections follows the timeline from early to present day. Each known ancestor has a "timeline" page that captures what we know. Additionally, I have included other relevant information in the form of maps, census documentation etc to help paint a comprehensive picture. **Section 1** includes all the compiled census data I have as well as maps and dates of significant events. **Section 2** focuses on DNA information. **Section 3** describes early North Carolina and the area we find our ancestors. **Section 4** details what we know about Andrew's (~1730) life. **Section 5** is Rice Bass (~1755/8), **Section 6** gives us quite a bit of detail on Needham Bass (1794) and his life as a pioneer in Florida. **Section 7** describes William "Crawford" Harris Bass (1839), **Section 8** is William Robert Bass (1864), **Section 9** details Ernest Ralph Sr (1904), **Section 10** is Ernest Ralph Jr (1924). **Sections 11-19** are left open for future research. **Section 20** compiles additional information on other early American Bass lines that are not a known part of our line.

One of the more interesting reads, especially for descendants of Rice's son, Quincy Bass, is the History of Sumter County, Georgia by Jack F. Cox. This books is summarized in section 1j. The most important take-away is the book states that our Bass Family (presumably Cox was stating OUR Bass line and not generically the Bass name in America), began with Samuel Bass (b. in England in 1601 and settled near Richmond, Virginia). He states that Samuel a son Needham who had 3 sons, George, James and Uriah and implies this Uriah is our Rice (Uriah) Bass. There are some issues that call this into question. The only Samuel Bass I can correlate to

this time period is Deacon Samuel Bass (b. 1600 that settled in Braintree, Massachusetts). This Samuel has been well researched and does not align with what is written. So assuming this is a different Samuel Bass, it is still nearly mathematically impossible for someone born in 1600 to have a grandson (Rice) born in the 1750s. Both Samuel and son Needham would have had to been around 75 when they fathered the next son in the line. Next, he describes "Uriah's" brother George as being a spy for George Washington and Uriah serving as a private in the 10<sup>th</sup> Reg N.C on the Colonial side. We comfortably know that our Rice (Uriah) was brother to Harmon and John, were well known Tories fighting in support of the British and their father was Andrew who was killed by NC Militia. Section 1j has more detail and we will continue to research these details but I have not seen evidence yet that validates these conclusions.

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1: Intro: (This page)

**1a: Bass Lineage Tree:** Depicts our line that is confirmed.

**1b: Historical Dates:** Shows key dates in both American history and our family history compiled together. Information directly tied to our family history is annotated in red.

**1c:** Bass Family Map: (1) An early map of SE America depict the key locations our known ancestors lived. (2) A second map shows the counties of Florida in 1850, the time at which Needham and family moved from Georgia to Florida.

**1d:** Bass Family Map Details: Text supports Map (1c) with documented information of Bass residences.

**1e1 1790 – 1e1 1950:** Census Data details. Key information is also shown in each ancestor's personal timeline.

1j: History of Sumter County, Georgia, by Jack F. Cox

**1x:** Other Bass Lines in VA/NC: This tree depicts the descendants of Richard Bass and Mary Burewell. While Mary Bass (1709) is a potential mother of our Andrew (~1730), there is no known connection to these Basses. It is important to detail them to understand this line as we lived in very close proximity. Names are also correlated to the Mount Olive Map (**3c and 4d**). This map has been critical document in the understanding of our early line.

1z: Discussion comparing our Rice Bass (sometimes referred to as Uriah Rice Bass) and the often mixed up Uriah Benjamin Bass.

2: DNA: YDNA Raw Data Test Results from Brian Bass

**3a: North Carolina Information:** This section provides an overview of early North Carolina history. While most does not directly detail our line, it does provide the backdrop for our early ancestors.

**3b Duplin County Land Grants Map** 

**3c Mt. Olive Map or R1a/R1b Convergence Map:** Mount Olive Map for Duplin / Wayne Counties North Carolina.

**4a: TIMELINE for Andrew Bass (~1730 - ~1781)** 

4b: Andrew's Death Account in John Kinneair's Pension Statement

**4c: Andrew Bass Land Text:** The 1784/1785 Court/Land Auctions disposing of **Andrew Bass'** land. This critical document mentions "Widow Bass" which is presumably Andrew's wife and **Rice's** mother. Thomas Hooks mentioned was robbed by the Bass gang.

**4d: Andrew Bass Land:** Detailed description and information relating to the land owned by Andrew Bass including the Mt. Olive, North Carolina Map.

**4e:** Bass and Johns(t)on on Mt Olive Map: Additional information for the map 4d.

**4f: Andrew's Possible Connection to Johnsons THEORY:** Provided by Wes Bass (descendant of Quincy Bass (our Needham's brother)

**4g:** Early Bass/Johns(t)on Parallels: Information provided by Wes Bass provided for future research.

**4x: Additional Information for Andrew Bass:** This information is primarily raw or unsubstantiated information provided for future research.

**5a: TIMELINE for Rice Bass (~1758 - ~1824)** 

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**5b: Outlaw Basses (1781 NC):** Documented court petitions against the Rice Bass and brothers Harmon and John.

5b1: Outlaw Basses (November 26, 1784) State House consideration

5b2: Rice Bass Extra Info

**5c: Additional Information regarding Rice Bass:** Further documents Rice and brothers' actions.

**5d: New Bern NC:** Overview of the British/Tory march to New Bern that we believe Rice and brothers Harmon and John were a part of.

**5e:** Loyalist in North Carolina: Overview of the Loyalists / Tory conflicts with the Patriots in early North Carolina. This is provided as context to what the Bass brothers were involved in.

**5f1: Rice Bass Land Purchase/Sale:** This section documents Rice's purchase of land in Cumberland County, North Carolina and later sale of the same land to his sons Akies and Quincy. I interpreted the cursive text to the best of my ability and included the typed version of the text to make it easier to read. *Note: Our Needham was not involved in this sale.* 

5f2: Rice Bass 1799 Land Purchase: Scan of the handwritten details of Rice's Land purchase.

5f3: Rice Bass 1824 Land Sale: Scan of the handwritten details of Rice's Land sale to his sons.

**54f:** Early Map of Fayetteville, North Carolina (Cumberland County): This map is believed to be from around 1822. While I have not pinpointed Rice's land specifically, this map gives a good idea of what the area was like at the time Rice and family lived in the area.

5f5: Cumberland County Historical Overview:

**5fg:** Cumberland County Additional Information: This additional information is provided for future research and refinement.

**5G Effie Bass** Quote regarding Loyalist Great Grandfather (aka Rice)

5q: Other Bass Mystery People

**5q1: Note regarding Moses Bass** 

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**5x Rice Bass Extra Info** 

6a: TIMELINE for Needham Bass (1790/4-1870)

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6c: Historic Overview of Americus, Georgia.

**6m: Old Tales and Trails Book Overview:** By Myrtle Hilliard Crow. Includes Map Location of Needham Bass' Ferry.

**6m1 – 6m18: Old Tales and Trails Book Excerpts:** Scans of key pages with additional notes and text included.

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