

May 19, 1986

Dear Sirs

I am a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists (# 67065) and am attempting to trace the ancestry of William Louis Breaker, my great-grandfather. I know very little about him.

① In 1867 he was captain of the steamboat Ella, sailing out of Mystic, Connecticut.

② Records at the Town Hall in Groton, Ct. (Vol. 4, pg. 22, "marriages") show:

William L. Breaker, seaman of Key West, Florida (Age 26) and Emaline E. Dudley (Age 23), Nov. 20, 1865, by A.E. Bromson.

Have you any records of his birth? ~
Any other Breakers (or, perhaps
Brachier)? or any record of his
coming to Key West, possibly from
the West Indies?

Enclosed please find a stamped
self-addressed envelope. If there are
any other charges please advise
me so that I may also send a
Money Order.

Thank you.

Very truly yours

Helen Hearn Jones
(Mrs. Robert L. Jones)

Box 124. Jackson St.

New Suffolk, N.Y.

11956

MONROE COUNTY MAY HILL RUSSELL LIBRARY
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17 June 1986

Mrs Robert L. Jones
Box 124 Jackson St.
New Suffolk, N.Y. 11956

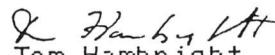
Dear Mrs Jones:

Your letter was forwarded to the Local History Department of the Library by the City of Key West.

I have not been able to find anything on William L. Breaker. There was a Connecticut connection with the early settlers of Key West. This can be found in "Key West The Old and The New" by Jefferson B. Browne. You may be able to find this in the N.Y. Library system. Also there were a number of Connecticut ships that came to Key West in the winter wrecking and/or fishing. You may be able to find some information at Mystic Seaport.

I found only two Breaker's in Key West. Lewis F. Breaker, who was a Justice of Peace, is listed in the 1830 and 1840 census. In the 1840 census the Breaker household had the following Males: one 10 to 15 year old, one 15 to 20 year old, two 20 to 30 year old, and one 40 to 50 year old. So none of these fit the age for your great-grandfather. The other is J. H. Breaker, who Browne ~~said~~ was pastor elect of the Baptist Church in 1842 and had been a member of the church in Connecticut. The 1850 census lists J. H. Breaker as 35 year old clergman born in S.C. with no family. The 1860 census does not have any Breakers in Key West.

Sincerely,


Tom Hambright
Local and State
History Department

Mrs. Robert L. Jones
P.O. Box 124
New Suffolk, L.I.
New York 11956

Dear Mr. Hamblight,

Thank you for your interest in
the Breaker family. Lewis F. Breaker and
his wife, Martha Carty Breaker, came to
Key West from Camden, South Carolina
where they had been members of the Baptist
church in Camden. (C.M. Breaker was
Pastor of that church). Their only daughter (?)
Martha C. Breaker m. a Mr. Mathew of
Monticello, Jackson County, Mid-Florida - on
"3rd ult" according to the Key West
Inquirer, Dec. 19, 1835.

It would appear that Lewis Breaker
came to Charleston, South Carolina from
Barbados shortly after the Revolutionary
War i settling around Goose Creek, St.
James Parish and later moving
to Kershaw County, Camden, S.C. It is
said that they brought the first Rice

Around 1823 - 1830 Lewis Martine
moved to Key West. The reason is not

known. However, Lewis wrote back to the
church in Camden asking permission to
preach in Key West. Permission was
granted. We know they had a son, J.
Manly Candy Breaker whom they sent
back to South Carolina because he
was becoming "too interested" in the sea.
He attended grammar and became a Baptist
Minister - eventually in Houston, Texas,
where he died. His grandson (born
when his father was 60 yrs. old.)
John C. Breaker - lives in Houston today
and is now 68 years old.

There were two other known
Breakers connected with South Carolina -
Key West - and Connecticut. One was
J. Henry Breaker - "postor elect" in Key
West - who married Abby Niles of
Grafton, Ct. on Aug. 24th, 1842. Abby died
in Portersville, Ct., Oct 1, 1859, leaving a

husband and 3 children. In the 1850
Key West census J.H. was listed as
a 5 or "35 yr. old clergymen" but
in the 1840 Census he was listed as
"pastor elect in 1842"?

There was also a John P.
Breaker who's wife was Elizabeth
who may or may not have come
to Key West. Maybe one of the
"pastors" referred to above was
John Manly Carty Breaker &
John P. Henry ???

The other J. Henry
Breaker I am most
interested in is John W. Breaker
who married Lucy Ann Niles of
Groton, CT. May 24, 1837. She
was a sister of Abby Niles who
married J. Henry Breaker. John
W. was Master of the Schooner
Lion of Mystic, CT. in the early 1840's.
I believe he had a son, William
Lewis Breaker, D. Groton, CT.
who was Capt. of the Malling Liner
Steamship Ella who married

Emmaline Dudley of Mystic, CT. Their
son - William Dudley Breaker was
my grandfather.

It seems probable that J. Henry
and J. W. Breaker were brothers who
married sisters. J. W. may have been
lost at sea - at any rate, J. Henry
named one of his sons J. W.
Back in South Carolina there was a
John Jacob Breaker who had 3 sons
and 1 daughter - The sons were John,
Henry and William. So J. Henry &
J. William may have been sons of
John Jacob and not of Lewis F. ??
Did John Jacob die and Martha &
Lewis move to Key West to care
for a brother's family - ? Were daughters
Martha's son John Moody Candy Breaker
brother & sister - or cousins. No J. Henry
and J. William? And where were the
other male Breakers listed in the
1840 Key West census? Or 1830 to
1850 censuses??

If you come across anything else
please let me know.

Sincerely,

John C. Karr

Mrs. Robert L. Jones
P. O. Box 124
Jackson St.
New Suffolk, N.Y.

H 956

Dear Mr. Glambright,

Thank you so much for the
information on the Brecker family in
Key West.

The J. H. Brecker you mentioned
(sometimes spelled Breacher) had
indeed been a member of the church
in Connecticut. Vol. 4, Pg. 32 "Marriages"
(Conn. Groton, Ct. Vital statistics) -
shows him as having married
Miss A. D. Niles of Groton, Ct. on
Aug. 24, 1842. Four years earlier
a John W. Brecker of Camden,

South Carolina m. Lucy Ann Niles
of groton on May 24, 1837.

There seems to be a connection
between Breakers (Preachers)
and Key West, Fla + groton, ct, &
Camden, South ~~Carolina~~ Carolina.

My great-grandfather,
William Lewis Breaker, was
26 years old when he married
Emaline E. Dudley in groton, ct
Nov. 20, 1865. Therefore he must
have been born approx. 1839.
The marriage record shows him
as a "seaman" of Key West, Fla.
In 1867 he was Capt. of the
Mallory steamship Ella + in
1868 of the Mallory steam yacht

Fanny. My grandfather, William
Dudley Breaker, only saw his
father twice. I don't know
whether he died or disappeared.

You spoke of Lewis F.
Breaker, a Justice of the Peace
in Key West. My great grand-
father's middle name was Lewis
according to Mystic Seaport records.
My Uncle is named Lewis
Breaker. So it would seem we
may be on the right tract.

But how could J. H. Breaker
have "no family" according to
the Florida records + census of
1850 when he was married in
Connecticut in 1842? I will
And had a son J.W. b. groton 1848!!!

Research the Niles family of Groton
and write to Camden, South
Carolina.

Can you find anywhere else I
can write to in Florida? A
Genealogical Society? I am
trying to get the book you
suggested by Jefferson B.
Brown & thought the Connecticut
Genealogical Society of which
I am a member

If you find anything
published Breacher instead of
Breaker - please let me know.
Thank you again —

Very truly yours,
John Gleason Farmer

Mrs Robert L.
Box 184 JACK
New Suffolk
I missed you
family in Key L.
Is it only the P
The address
Office box 10249

Dear Mrs Jones

Dear Mr. Hamblight,

You asked me to write again if I found any further information on the Breaker family of Key West. My mother, Helen BREAKER Itman was the daughter of William Dudley BREAKER and Annie Coates, of Mystic, CT. She had two brothers, William Dudley BREAKER and Lewis Coates BREAKER - all born in Brooklyn, New York.

William Dudley BREAKER was the son of "Capt. Louis BREAKER" (William Lewis BREAKER) and Emmaeline Dudley (dau. of Lemuel DUDLEY, a Mystic blacksmith who fitted out ships - the home still stands at 1 New London Rd, Mystic (Groton) CT. "Capt. Louis" was Capt. of the ELLA, a Mallory Lines side-wheel wooden steamer. He died at age 33 and is buried in Mystic Elmorest Cemetery. His only other son died in infancy! He had no daughters. He was also Captain of the FANNY - also a steamship. His father, Capt J.W. BREAKER, was Capt. of the Schooner LION, built in Groton. The ship foundered and was lost, but he was not listed as Master of the vessel at that

Family history has it that he was lost at sea but I have not been able to verify this. He was Master of the Lian in the early 1840's —

J.W. BREAKER was born near Camden South Carolina and was the son of J. Jacob BREAKER of St. James Parish, Goose Creek Charleston, S.C. He married Lucy Ann Niles of Groton, Ct. Lucy Ann was the sister of Abby Niles who married J.H. BREAKER — the "Pastor Elect" of the Baptist Church in Key West who "had been connected with the church in Conn" whom you wrote me about. I am not sure whether J.W. & J.H. were brothers or cousins but they were all related.

In 1848 J.H. & Abby married their son "J.W." suggesting that J.W. had died — or been lost at sea by them. William Lewis had a younger sister Adelia. He was born in 1839 — either in Key West or Groton — ? On his marriage certificate (1837-Groton Ct.) he wrote "Seaman of Key West" so whether or not he was born there it appears that he went there as a boy — an young man. Since he lost his father at an early age we believe he was lost

to Key West with "JH" and probably lived
with Lewis and Martha CANTY BREAKER.

Lewis & Martha's oldest son was
named Samuel. He remained in South
Carolina & became a Lawyer. A son
John Manly CANTY BREAKER was sent
back to South Carolina and attended/
what became Furman University - he
became a very well known Baptist
Preacher. Many of the Breakers were
Baptist Preachers -

The original Breaker was
a native of Germany. George W.
came to South Carolina before the
Rev. and was a Loyalist during
the British occupation of Charleston. I'm
not sure if he was Lewis' father
although census records suggest George
had three sons. I have verification
that Charles Middleton Breaker
(Pastor of the Baptist church in Camden
S.C. which Lewis & Martha belonged
to before moving to Florida c. 1829 -)
and J. Jacob were brothers. I am
not sure Lewis was the third
brother - Lewis & Jacob owned a

number of plots of land together in
Goose Creek - could have been brothers
or cousins. Susan Breaker's will mentions
son C. Middleton - & Jacob's son J.W. -
but doesn't mention Lewis. Will was
made Aug 9, 1832 - executed in 1840.
Lewis didn't die until ~~1842~~ 1892 - A
newspaper article (Camden, S.C.) mentions
that C. Middleton & ~~J.W.~~ Lewis
are related. (Doesn't mention Jacob).

The Lanty's were from
Barbados - J. Jacob may also have
married a Lanty. The original
Breaker may have come from Germany
to South Carolina via Barbados -
and the father of Jacob & C. Middleton
(and I Lewis?) may have married
a Middleton. His first name was
Susan.

Does Martha's tombstone at
St. Paul's in Old West give her parents
names by any chance?

There is an interesting
story here between the lure of the
sea and the call of the church. A
newspaper article says Martha
sent her son (J. Manly Lanty ~~B~~
Breaker) back to S.C. because he
was "getting too interested in the sea"
Some became Preachers - some Sea Captains

There is a connection with the
Screven Anabaptists I believe
(C. Middleton m. a Screven &
named his son William Screven -
his wife came from Conn.) -
the connection seems to be Rhode
Island - Connecticut - Charleston, S.C. -
Key West - Connecticut.

If you find anything more
please let me know - And I will
do the same. And thank you for
all your help to date - it really
got me started. We been to
South Carolina - hopefully I'll get
to Key West, eventually (I also
got to Salt Lake City for a
week & learned how to go about
researching families -).

Very truly yours,

John Gleason Jr.

Mrs. Robert L. John
P.O. Box 124
New Suffolk, N.Y.
11956



Mr. Tom Hamblight
Local & State History Department -
Monroe County May Gulf Russell Library
700 Fleming Street
Key West, Florida 33040

Barclay
16 Troy Ave
Groton, CT
06340

Key West Public Library
Key West, Florida Beg-Dept.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Am looking for information on
a sea Captain's family in Key West
during 1800's. At least one child

William Lewis Breaker ~~was~~ was
born there in 1839 - himself to become
a sea Captain. His parents were
Capt. Lewis W. Breaker and mother
Lucy Ann Miles Breaker of Groton,
CT. Her father Nathaniel Miles of
CT & Rhode Island appears also
to have been a mariner. A sister
to William, Adelia appears to have
been born 1844, and also not in
Groton records. Any information
you might have (in any segment
of this family) would be most
gratefully received. Please advise
of any costs. Sincerely.

Caroline Barclay

P.S. Agrement woud Captain
ranked in the Mallory Lines
of Mystic, Ct & Key West.
Florida plus other ports -