

## Walter Preble 1506-1589 My 12th Great Grandfather

BIRTH 1506  
Denton, Dover District, Kent, England  
DEATH 23 Jul 1589 (aged 82–83)  
Denton, Dover District, Kent, England

Walter (1506-1589) is the son of Walter Preble (b1450) and mother unknown. He married Elizabeth Fremingham (1502-1530) in 1525 at Denton, Kent. He died on 23 July 1589 at Denton and is buried in the St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Denton.

My line from the first Walter, my 13th Great-Grandfather

Walter Preble 1450-  
son  
Walter Preble 1506-1589  
married Elizabeth Fremingham  
son  
Robert Preble 1530-1589  
married Eleanor Wiltrop  
son  
Richard Preble 1564-1634  
married Margaret Allen  
son  
Richard Preble 1610-1640  
married Wilmar Hart  
son  
Thomas Preble 1638-1678  
married Mary Horne  
son  
Thomas Prebble 1662-1704  
married Mary Bucknell  
Thomas came to Maryland as an indentured servant in 1684  
son  
John Stephen Prebble 1697-1718  
married Nancy Anne Gallion  
son



St Mary Magdalene Church, Denton,  
Dover District, Kent, England

<http://www.edavidarthur.net/ThomasPrebble.html>

John Stephen Prebble, Jr 1736-1804  
married Elizabeth Lowe

son <http://www.edavidarthur.net/JohnPrebbleBurial.html>

John Prebble 1759-1850 (Rev. War Veteran)  
married Elizabeth Mason <http://www.edavidarthur.net/JohnPrebble.htm>

son <http://www.edavidarthur.net/PrebbleDecend.htm>

James Pribble 1789-1822  
married Jane Reid

daughter  
Lucinda Pribble 1815-1848 <http://www.edavidarthur.net/LucindaPribble/LucindaPribble.htm>  
married John B. Arthur

son  
Hezekiah Lee Arthur 1839-1918  
married Sarah Jane Bryan <http://www.edavidarthur.net/leearthur/leearthur.htm>

son  
Willie Thomas Arthur 1869-1966  
married Anselona Deborah Wade

son  
Edgar Wilson Arthur 1909-1955  
married Bertha Margaret Overby

son  
E. David Arthur 1949-

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Walter Prebble, my 12<sup>th</sup> Great-Grandfather, was born about 1506 in Denton, Kent, England in the reign of Henry Tudor (1485-1509). This period was one of national unity following the strife of the 15th century. His wife was also born in Denton about 1502 and they had a son Robert to whom Prebbles in New Zealand, Australia and America can all trace their ancestry. Walter's father, also Walter, is the earliest Prebble ancestor identified thus far.

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Robert Prebble was born in Denton, Kent in 1530 during the reign of Henry VIII the founder of the Church of England (1509-1547). In that same year Sir Francis Walsingham the English statesman was born at nearby Chislehurst. (Walsingham discovered the plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I which led ultimately to the execution of Mary Queen of Scots). Robert was married in Denton in 1559 when he was 29 to Elenor then 25 having survived the reigns of both Edward VI and Mary. They had four children: Robert born in 1560, John in 1562, Richard in 1564 and Helen in 1577. He died aged 59 and was buried in Wooton on 23rd June 1589. Elenor was also buried there on 19th July the following year.

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Richard Prebble was christened at Denton in Kent in 1564 early in the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) the last of the Tudor rulers of England who gave her name to an era, Elizabethan England, later regarded as a golden age of national triumph and cultural

brilliance, with a victorious struggle against the Spanish Empire typified by the defeat of the Armada, and the flowering of the English Renaissance. Richard was married in Barham, Kent on 3rd October 1604 at the age of 40 to Margaret Allen. This was just after the union of the crowns in 1603 when James VI of Scotland became the first Stuart king of England. Richard and Margaret had three children: Elizabeth, a son also named Richard in 1610 and another son whose burial is recorded in 1612 in Kingston coincident with his mother's death. Richard the father subsequently married an Elizabeth in 1613 with whom he had another two children - William born in 1614 and Ellen born in 1617. Elizabeth died in 1628 and Richard was married again the following year in Canterbury to an Elizabeth Spencer who also came from Denton. He was then 65 and she was 30. He died at the age of 97 in 1661, a year after the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II, having outlived his son Richard by more than 20 years.

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Richard Prebble (the younger) was christened on 15th April 1610 in Kingston, Kent and was married on 27th October 1633 in Christon, Somerset when he was 23 to Willman Hart with whom he had three children: Richard born in 1635, William born in 1637 and Thomas born in 1638. Little is currently known of Richard or his wife nor of the birthplace of their children. He died, aged 30, in 1640 during the reign of Charles I (1625-1649) just before the start of the English Civil War.

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Thomas Prebble was christened in 1638 during the reign of Charles I and by the time that he married Mary Horne on 15th October 1667 when he was 29 the English Commonwealth had come and gone. Thomas and Mary had five children: Thomas born in 1662, Elizabeth in 1670, John in 1673, Margaret in 1675 and Mary in 1676. He died in 1678 at the age of 40 during the reign of Charles II (1660-1685).

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Thomas Prebble 1662-1704, came to Maryland as an indentured servant in 1684.

<http://www.edavidarthur.net/ThomasPrebble.html>

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Robert Preble 1530-1589 who married Eleanor Wiltrop, had a son Robert 1560-1634 who married Johanne Andrews and they had a son Abraham Preble who married Judith Tilden. Abraham 1603-1663 immigrated to Maine and was the ancestor of a line of descendants some of whom migrated to Preble County Ohio. It is named for Edward Preble, a naval officer who fought in the American Revolutionary War and against the Barbary Pirates. Edward Preble is the Great-Grandson of Abraham Preble.

Some of this line is documented by Peter Preble on Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/15871162/family/pedigree>



Commodore Edward Preble  
The 4th cousin, 8 times removed  
of E. David Arthur

Edward Preble (15 August 1761 – 25 August 1807) was a United States naval officer who served with great distinction during the 1st Barbary War, leading American attacks on the city of Tripoli and forming the officer corps that would later lead the U.S. Navy in the War of 1812.

Preble was born at Falmouth, Eastern Massachusetts, now Portland, Maine, 15 August 1761, the son of General Jedidiah Preble. As a boy, his home was destroyed in the burning of Falmouth by British Naval Commander Henry Mowat. It is said that this action compelled Preble to join the Navy. It also contributed to his terrible temper later in life. In 1779 he was appointed to the Massachusetts State Navy, becoming an officer in the 26 gun ship Protector. Becoming a British prisoner when that ship was captured in 1781, he was held for a time in the infamous prison ship HMS Jersey. On his release, he served in the Massachusetts Navy sloop Winthrop and led a boarding party to cut out a British brig at Castine, Maine. At the opening of this action, Winthrop passed by the enemy ship so quickly that only Preble and 14 of his 45-man boarding party managed to get aboard. As Winthrop came back around to make another pass, Winthrop's captain, George Little, asked Preble if he wanted more men. Preble, realizing that he would lose the element of surprise if he disclosed his far weaker position, coolly replied, "No. We have more than we want. We stand in each others' way!" Going below with pistols in hand, he caught a portion of the crew still in their hammocks. Preble then announced that all were prisoners and that any resistance would be in vain. As British soldiers on shore began firing, Preble worked his prize out to sea while the Winthrop turned to deliver a broadside in reply before making her escape.

## United States Navy service

Fifteen years of merchant service followed his Revolutionary War career and, in April 1798, he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Navy. In January 1799, he assumed command of the 14 gun brig USS Pickering and took her to the West Indies to protect American commerce during the Quasi-War with France. Commissioned as a captain in June of 1799, he took command of the 32 gun frigate USS Essex in December and sailed from Newport, Rhode Island in January 1800 for the Pacific to convoy home a group of East Indiamen.

Upon his return, Preble announced to the Secretary of the Navy that he intended to retire from the Navy due to his health. Not wanting to lose such an experienced and capable officer, the secretary decided to put Preble on indefinite sick leave until a good post could be found for him.

During this time, the United States was engaged in naval warfare with the city-state of Tripoli, whose corsairs were causing havoc amongst American merchantmen in the Mediterranean. The U.S. Navy had sent squadrons under two commanders, Richard Dale and Richard Valentine Morris, to protect American interests in the region. While Dale ran an effective blockade of Tripoli, the endless routine bored his officers. Upon his return, Dale left the Navy over a promotion dispute.

The tenure of Richard Valentine Morris, on the other hand, was an utter fiasco, as Morris was neither an effective commander nor a very smart one. Morris spent most of his time socializing in Gibraltar and Malta, and he managed to be taken hostage by the Bey of Tunis, who felt that the American did not give him an adequate farewell (the ransom was paid by the American and Danish consuls). When he finally did arrive at Tripoli, he tried to play diplomat and sue for peace, which destabilized the strong negotiating position the Americans had been building up to that point. When Morris returned home, he was stripped of his commission by President Thomas Jefferson without so much as a court-martial.

With Morris ordered home, President Jefferson needed a new officer to command the Mediterranean Squadron. Bypassing several senior officers, Preble was asked to travel to Boston and ready USS Constitution for duty in the Mediterranean. He accepted, and was given a promotion to Commodore along with his new ship. He sailed on August 14, 1803.

## To the Mediterranean

### First Barbary War

On September 10, Constitution was approaching Cadiz on a black, moonless night. Suddenly, the dim silhouette of a warship loomed out of the darkness close aboard. Preble immediately ordered Constitution cleared for action. Preble hailed her, only to receive a hail in return. He identified his ship as the United States frigate Constitution but received an evasive answer from the other ship. Preble replied: "I am now going to

hail you for the last time. If a proper answer is not returned, I will fire a shot into you." The stranger returned, "If you give me a shot, I'll give you a broadside." Preble demanded that the other ship identify herself and the stranger replied, "This is His Britannic Majesty's Ship Donegal, 84 guns, Sir Richard Strachan, an English commodore." He then commanded Preble, "Send your boat on board." Preble was now devoid of all patience and exclaimed, "This is United States Ship Constitution, 44 guns, Edward Preble, an American commodore, who will be damned before he sends his boat on board of any vessel." And then to his gun crews: "Blow your matches, boys!" Before the incident escalated further, however, a boat arrived from the other ship and a British lieutenant relayed his captain's apologies. The ship was in fact not Donegal but instead HMS Maidstone, a 32-gun frigate. Constitution had come alongside her so quietly that Maidstone had delayed answering with the proper hail while she readied her guns. This act began the strong allegiance between Preble and the officers under his command, known as "Preble's boys", as he had shown that he was willing to defy a presumed ship of the line.

### Second Battle of Tripoli Harbor

After signing a peace treaty with Morocco, Preble established a blockade off Tripoli. Stephen Decatur, William Bainbridge, Charles Stewart, Isaac Hull, Thomas Macdonough, James Lawrence, and David Porter served under his command at Tripoli.

While commanding in Tripoli, Preble masterminded the burning of USS Philadelphia by Lieutenant Stephen Decatur on February 16, 1804, preventing the captured frigate from falling into enemy hands. Had Tripoli gained the use of Philadelphia, the entire blockade would have been wasted. Stephen Decatur and his younger brother, James Decatur, led the actual operation. James Decatur was killed in the fighting later that year aboard one of the squadron's attack craft.

Congressional Medal of Honor presented to Edward Preble -





EDUARDO PREBLE DUCI STRENUO COMITIA AMERICANA. (The American Congress to Edward Preble, a valiant officer.)

Reverse of Congressional Medal. VINDICI COMMERCII AMERICANI. (To the vindicator of American commerce.) Exergue: ANTE TRIPOLI MDCCCIV. (Off Tripoli, 1804). Representing the bombardment, by the American fleet in the foreground, of the forts and town of Tripoli in the background. The American vessels are drawn up in line, and several boats manned are seen in the water casting off to the attack of the enemy's shipping and batteries.

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Over the course of his career, Preble helped establish many of the modern Navy's rules and regulations. Described as a stern taskmaster, he kept high discipline upon the ships under his command. He also dictated that his ships be kept in a state of readiness for any action while under sail, something many US naval officers at the time did not insist upon. Future sea captains such as Decatur, Lawrence, and Porter took his procedures to heart at a time when the US Navy was highly unregulated. Many of Preble's procedures became doctrine after the establishment of an official US Navy. The officers serving under him during his career also went on to become influential in the Navy Department after his death, and together they proudly wore the unofficial title of "Preble's Boys". (When Preble took over command he discovered that his oldest officer was 30 and the youngest 15 years old. He therefore grumbled the Secretary of the Navy had given him "just a pack of schoolboys".)

Preble's Mediterranean cruise led directly to the US government's firm anti-negotiation stance. Many Mediterranean states, including Tripoli, had been pirating American shipping vessels, ransoming the sailors, and demanding tribute to prevent future pirate attacks. The tribute rose after each successful payment, as did the brutality and boldness of the attacks.

#### End of career

In September 1804, Commodore Preble requested relief due to a longtime illness. He returned to the United States in February 1805 and became engaged in the comparably light duty of shipbuilding activities at Portland, Maine. By congressional resolution in March 1805, a gold medal was struck and presented to Commodore Preble for the "gallantry and good conduct" of himself and his squadron at Tripoli. President Jefferson offered him the Navy Department in 1806, but Preble declined appointment due to his poor health. He died in Portland of a gastrointestinal illness on 25 August 1807. He is buried in Eastern Cemetery, Portland, Maine.

Preble appears as a character in the science fiction novel "Time for Patriots", ISBN 978-1-60693-224-7, performing much as he did historically.

In the 1926 silent film "Old Ironsides", Preble was portrayed by actor Charles Hill Mailes.

Preble appears as a character in the James L. Haley historical fiction novel "The Shores of Tripoli", Template:ISBN 978-0-425-27817-8.

Preble appears In "With Preble at Tripoli : a story of "Old Ironsides" and the Tripolitan war" Pub 1900, Author: James Otis, Publisher: Boston ; Chicago : W.A. Wilde Co. Youth Fiction found here <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/28534333>

The Constitution under Preble's command makes a very brief appearance in C. S. Forester's novel "Hornblower and the Hotspur".

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Jedidiah Preble 1707-1784  
Grandson of Abraham Preble  
&  
3<sup>rd</sup> cousin 9 times removed  
Of E. David Arthur

Brigadier General Jedidiah Preble (born 1707, York Maine, d. 1784) was Captain of Infantry in Samuel Waldo's Regiment, whom he bought land from and settled in Falmouth, Maine (present-day Portland, Maine). He served in the Siege of Louisbourg (1745). He also fought in the Battle of Grand Pre (1747). He accompanied John Winslow on his expedition up the Kennebec River and participated with him the following year in the Battle of Fort Beauséjour (1755) where he was wounded. He then participated in the Cape Sable Campaign. After the British took control of the Saint John River, they took control of the final river the Penobscot. Preble became commander at the newly built Fort Point (formally Fort Pownal) on the Penobscot River (1759). He was also active in the American Revolution.

He was the father of Commodore Edward Preble.