

NEW FROM THREE DOVES PRESS

WE ARE DOVES

Four Centuries of the Collver–Culver Family



Jabez Collver, senr.
Jabez Collver, second.
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THE LOYAL ADDRESS OF 1809 • NINE COLLVERS, ONE PAGE
ALBERT B. COLLVER III

WE ARE DOVES

Four Centuries of the Collver–Culver Family

Albert B. Collver III

Nine Collvers, one page. In 1636 a wheelwright named Edward Colver signed the town covenant at Dedham, Massachusetts. His descendant in the thirteenth generation has set out to test everything the family ever said about itself. *We Are Doves* follows one family, spelled Colver, Culver, and Collver by turns, across four centuries and three countries: Rogerene dissenters whipped at New London for their faith, a house divided by the American Revolution, a Presbyterian minister indicted for sedition who walked his family north to Upper Canada, the Loyalist settlement of Norfolk County, and the return to Michigan. It is a narrative family history built from the records, with the documents reproduced in facsimile and the family's legends weighed against the evidence, kindly and exactly.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

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REVIEW AND EXAMINATION COPIES

Review copies are available to the journals of historical and genealogical societies, to reviewers, and to libraries. Interview requests are welcome.

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The companion blog and the *A House Divided* podcast:

history.collver.biz

IN THIS BOOK

- Four centuries and three countries, from the Dedham covenant of 1636 to Bay County, Michigan, and the name itself: *culver*, Old English for a dove
- Rogerene dissenters at New London and the Colverite migration to Schooley's Mountain
- A family on both sides of the Revolution, the Loyalist walk north in 1794, and the War of 1812 in Norfolk County
- Family legends tested against the evidence, with the method shown

FOR GENEALOGISTS AND LIBRARIES

- A corrected descending register in the New England style: generations one to six, four lines to the eighth, the author's line to the thirteenth
- A graded service roster: the 1910 *Colver-Culver Genealogy's* Revolutionary roll reproduced whole, each man marked proven, probable, roster-only, or tradition
- "Bridges to the Other Branches": where each collateral line meets the documented one, and where the proof runs out
- Y-DNA and autosomal results read against the paper trail
- 68 illustrations, many of them documents in facsimile; timelines of Edward Colver and the Rev. Jabez Collver
- Full notes and a bibliography in Chicago style; a guide to the archives behind the book and to the record services, American and English; index

SUGGESTED FOR

Public, academic, and genealogical society libraries; collections in colonial New England, New Jersey and the American Revolution, Loyalist and Upper Canada history, and Michigan history.

OF INTEREST TO READERS OF

Loyalist history and the United Empire Loyalists; religious dissent in colonial America; family history method; and descendants of the Colver, Culver, and Collver families everywhere.

FROM THE BOOK

"[Family tradition] is treated as testimony: directionally reliable, verbally unreliable, and always worth taking seriously enough to check."

— The Prologue

"Some families keep the moral high ground. This one kept the receipts."

— Chapter Ten, on the War of 1812 claims

"What government denies, granite grants."

— Chapter Eleven, on the 1912 monument that carved "U.E. Loyalists" for a man the Crown had refused the title

"The theology divided; the ground did not."

— Chapter Eleven, on two brothers who published opposite answers about hell

"Every generation in this book that comes after him ... hung, that afternoon in the swamp, on an uncle's quick hand."

— Chapter Eleven, on a four-year-old and a rattlesnake on the Loyalist walk of 1794

"It found its way back to the ones it belonged to. Both houses. One flight home."

— The Epilogue

THE WORKSHOP IN PUBLIC

The book was written in the open. Its chapters were first tried out as weekly posts on history.collver.biz, where readers and distant cousins sent corrections, documents, and DNA matches, and as episodes of the *A House Divided* podcast. Several of their corrections reached the book before it went to press.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Albert B. Collver III, Ph.D., is a pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the thirteenth generation from Edward Colver of Dedham. Since 2020 he has been pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Troy, Illinois.

He served the Synod as Director of Church Relations from 2010 to 2019 and the International Lutheran Council as its executive secretary from 2012 to 2019. He earned his doctorate at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. His history of the Synod's postwar conferences in Germany, *Bad Boll: Missouri at the Crossroads*, is forthcoming from Concordia Historical Institute. He lives in St. Louis, Missouri.