

A HISTORY  
OF THE  
CUTLER FAMILY

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*Cutler, Henry J.*

# HISTORY

OF THE

# HOLLISTON BRANCH

OF THE

# CUTLER FAMILY.



CLINTON:  
PRESS OF W. J. COULTER,.....COURANT OFFICE.  
1897



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Joseph H. Benton, Ed.

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## P R E F A C E .

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HAVING in my possession many old books, letters, and scraps of memoranda, belonging to members of our family, I thought it wise to put these into some enduring form before they entirely crumbled away or became illegible.

These relics are of great interest to me, because of the personal acquaintance I had with those whose active lives were spent in the last century, but who were still living during my early manhood. From them I obtained a great deal of information about our family which has never been printed in any form. I feel, therefore, that the responsibility of preserving this material rests upon me, and I trust that what I have here written may be of use to some one better fitted than I am for the task, who shall enlarge and complete this imperfect record.

HENRY CUTLER.

NORTH WILBRAHAM, Dec. 1, 1897.

So the multitude goes, like the flower or the weed  
That withers away to let others succeed:  
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,  
To repeat every tale that has often been told.

For we are the same our fathers have been,  
We see the same sights our fathers have seen,  
We drink the same stream and view the same sun,  
And run the same course our fathers have run.

—KNOX.

## CUTLER FAMILY.

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The majority of the ancestors of the Holliston branch of the Cutler family came from the southern counties of England—principally from Dorset and Devonshire. John Cutler, the first to arrive in this country, was an exception to this rule, coming from Hingham, near Norwich, in Norfolk County.

As it was the custom of these early settlers to give to their new homes the name of the town in the mother country from which they had emigrated, or in which they were born, we find in New England a town called Weymouth. Here, in 1640, lived the greater part of the families whose descendants are traced in this record.

The territory first called Weymouth was later incorporated into several towns, among them Hingham, where John Cutler settled. It lay between the colonies of Plymouth and Salem, and to which of these it belonged by right of charter grant, was always a disputed question. At the date mentioned the chief families settled in this territory were Cutler, Adams, Marsh, Rockwood, Clark, Morse, Perry, Barbour, Newton, and Wilson. Although as Puritans they had come to this country to obtain greater religious freedom, they were not Separatists like the Pilgrims, but, following the example of Endicott and Winthrop, remained within the church until they left England.

Such intolerance as they gave evidence of proceeded from their thorough appreciation of the fact that absolute unity of action must be secured. The success which crowned the efforts of these men in founding a civilization which at this day gives perfect freedom of conscience to every mem-

ber of the American nation, is due to the persistency with which they clung to this policy.

These families were the proprietors or founders of the towns of Braintree, Medfield, Milton, Medway, Sherborn, and Holliston. In every new town a church was the first thing to be established, and around this the whole life of the community centered.

The men belonging to the families before mentioned were always prominent in public affairs, and later, were often appointed by the General Court to perform important duties for the State.

The method of laying out new towns was as follows: "The new town was laid out about six miles square. The right of proprietorship was granted by the General Court to seven men of good repute, on condition that within two years they erect houses, and prepare to build up a town." The law required them to make honorable terms with the Indians before proceeding to occupy the land. The proprietors had power to give land to persons who were desirous of settling down with them. Each new comer had assigned to him meadow and upland according to his stock of cattle, and capacity for cultivating the soil. The poorest obtained at least seven acres of meadow and twenty-five acres of upland. No one was refused on account of poverty; but those who were already established often assisted in building houses for those new-comers who were too poor to erect dwellings for themselves. Such, however, as were of a "turbulent spirit" were not allowed a freehold.

The founders laid out roads wherever they were needed for the convenience of the settlers, and often these were made through fenced fields, requiring the bars to be taken down, as will appear from this petition to the General Court in 1643:

"It is conceived by those that are appointed to lay out the way between Weymouth and Braintree, that the way without at Mona-

tuent is conceived to be nearer and more comfortable, and not so troublesome to the travellers in regard of putting up and down the rayles; neither will so much damage redound to the inhabitants in regard of spoyling their corne as formerly hath been."

The territory then under the control of the colonial government extended along the coast eastward, including many settlements, as far as Nova Scotia. To the west, the boundary was indefinite.

Transportation by water being the only means of early intercourse between the settlers, and frequent voyages being made along the coast in rude vessels of home construction, the line of settlement was naturally in this direction. In the interior, villages grew up along the banks of rivers and streams accessible by boats, while the wild grass growing on the banks furnished food for the cattle, and was an additional incentive for settlers to locate there.

The principal food at this time was corn, which was prepared by pounding it in a mortar of stone or metal. Fish also was abundant. These articles of food, in want of a better circulating medium of exchange, became legal tender for all debts of forty shillings and under.

The building of mills to grind corn was encouraged later by grants of land. Millers were exempt from doing military service. On November 10, 1650, the citizens of New London, Ct., held a special town-meeting to consider the question of putting up such a mill. In the year in which John Winthrop built this mill, the first in the Connecticut Colony, we are told, began "the practical inauguration of the religious and commercial interests of the town, attended by a large influx of settlers, so that the growth of the place went on rapidly." For thirty years these sturdy Pilgrims had struggled along with their crude hand-mills for converting Indian corn into something like edible shape. That any of them were alive at the end of this period of cracked-corn bread, speaks well for their digestive organs.

They not only survived, but .. thrrove and multiplied amazingly."

Ship-building was another much-needed industry, and Anthony Newton of Milton received state aid for this purpose, building vessels on the Neponset River. Those employed in ship-building were also exempt from doing military service.

The iron industry was also encouraged by large grants of woodland. Lient. Alex. Marsh was one of the first to engage in this business, and became one of the wealthiest men in Braintree. His father-in-law, John Belcher, was associated with him, and later they were succeeded by members of the Adams and Quincy families.

#### JOHN CUTLER.

John Cutler, the first member of the Holliston branch of the Cutler family to land in New England, was born in 1600. He came from Hingham, England, on ship "Rose of Yarmouth," sailing for this country early in 1637, bringing with him his wife Mary, whom he had married in 1625, and seven children—six boys and one girl.

John was undoubtedly the brother of Robert Cutler, who settled the year before in Charlestown. He was accompanied by his pastor, Rev. Robert Peck, and other friends, who shared his independent religious views. His name appears in the records of Norfolk, England, among the persecuted adherents of Rev. Robert Peck, "who sold their possessions for half their value, and named the place of their settlement after their natal town."

Land was assigned him by the proprietors of Hingham, but he died in 1638, before there had been much improvement of it. His wife and children were after this subject to great hardships, but the boys were soon taken care of by their uncle Robert, of Charlestown.

The names of only five of his children are found in any record ; but these sons settled later in or near the new town of Reading, where their services were in demand, by farmers, in cultivating their new grants of land. Their mother married Thomas Hewitt in 1649, and continued to live in Hingham, where her daughter also lived.

In spite of the precarious condition in which these young boys were left at the death of their father, they managed by great industry and thrift to cultivate enough land to furnish themselves a livelihood, and were able during their lifetime to acquire comfortable homes for their families.



NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup> CUTLER. (JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Nathaniel Cutler was born in England in 1630; was living in Reading, Mass., as early as 1652, for, "the 12th of the 11th, 1653," he had been received as an inhabitant, and then had a home lot of eleven acres, and two lots of meadow assigned him, and subsequently four other lots, all of which were located in the eastern part of the town. He married, Sept. 29, 1655, Mary ——, who died Feb. 4, 1708. For his second wife, he married Elizabeth ——, who died March 4, 1714. He died in 1716, aged eighty-six. He had five children; four of them were girls.

NATHANIEL<sup>3</sup> CUTLER. (NATHANIEL,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Nathaniel Cutler, the only son of Nathaniel Cutler, was born March 12, 1659, in Reading, Mass. He married, May 24, 1700, Elizabeth Underwood of Watertown, and as his second wife, Feb. 21, 1709, Elizabeth Haines of Reading. He died in 1714. His widow, in 1718, married Theophilus Clark of Medway, Mass. Thither she took the entire family. Mr. Cutler's three sons settled in the vicinity of their mother's home in Medway.

[HAINES]

*Elizabeth Cutler*

JONATHAN<sup>4</sup> CUTLER. (NATHANIEL,<sup>3</sup> NATHANIEL,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Jonathan Cutler was the only child of Elizabeth Haines, the second wife of Nathaniel<sup>3</sup> Cutler. He was born in Reading, in 1711. After the death of his father, his mother married Theophilus Clark, and took Jonathan, together with his father's other children, to Mr. Clark's home in the eastern part of Medway.

In the June before he became of age he bought of

William Sheffield ninety-five acres of land, for which he paid four hundred pounds, "old tenor." This was located in the western part of Holliston, which had lately been incorporated. A house had been built upon it, and some improvements made. In 1733, he married Abigail Clark, the daughter of his step-father. Later, he bought one hundred and forty-seven acres of adjoining land, which had once belonged to Medfield, and which, in 1659, was given by the people of that town to their minister, Rev. John Wilson. He built a mill on Chicken Brook, which runs through this property. He gave Holliston the right of way for the first road to Medway, through the center of his farm, reserving the right to flow the same as high as necessary for his mill. Most of his land was virgin soil; it could be reached only on horseback, by Indian trails. It was about two miles distant from the home of his mother in East Medway, and the place has since been occupied by Jonathan junior, Calvin, and Amos Cutler, then by Clark Travis.

When the boys were grown up he divided his farm. On the eastern part he built a new house, and moved there with his family. His widow lived there after his death, also his son Simeon, and grandson, Martin Cutler.

Jonathan Cutler was a stirring, public-spirited citizen, often employed by the town in public duties, and frequently held the position of moderator in town-meetings. He was distinguished for his regular attendance at public worship, for his efforts to impart to his children the elements of a common school education, and to imbue them with the spirit of the gospel.

Many amusing incidents are related of his great physical strength. Once in the midst of haying he had the misfortune to lose one of his oxen; whereupon he attached a lever to the yoke in such a manner that he was able, himself, to supply the place of the missing animal, and in this way he continued his harvesting through the season. On one occa-

sion, breaking through the ice on his mill-pond, he escaped drowning only through his great endurance and skill as a swimmer. This accident determined him to teach all his boys to swim, and he set about it in a novel way. He threw them into the pond, and stood on the shore with a fish-pole, to which was attached a rope, which the lad held in his teeth. By means of this unique apparatus, they soon became expert swimmers.

When about fifty years of age his health failed to such an extent that, in anticipation of his decease, he completed the settlement of his estate. To his oldest son, Jonathan junior, he deeded the old homestead; to his other sons he gave various portions of land, and to Simeon, the youngest, he gave the eastern part, with the house he was then living in, reserving the income and improvements of the same for his wife, during Simeon's minority. He also gave her the use of other land during her life. He died in 1762.

*Children of Jonathan Cutler and Abigail (Clark) Cutler.*

1. Abigail, b. 1734, d. 1736.
2. Jonathan, b. 1735, m. Jerusha Blake, 1763.
3. Abigail, b. 1737, m. Eben Leland, 1762.
4. Moses, b. 1739, m. Lydia Blake.
5. David, b. 1742, m. Lydia Bixby.
6. Mary, b. 1744, m. Capt. Daniel Fames, 1768.
7. Ebenezer, b. 1746, m. Esther Bacon.
8. Simeon, b. 1749, m. Elizabeth Rockwood, 1770.
9. Lydia, b. 1751, m. Joseph Johnson, 1772.

ABIGAIL (CLARK) CUTLER.

At the time of his death, the wife of Jonathan Cutler was left with three children who had not reached their majority. She continued living on the farm, of which she had entire management, for nine years, until her son Simeon became of age. The year following her husband's death she married Deacon Thomas Marshall. Having no home of his

own, he lived with his wife on the Cutler place, assisting in its management.

Mr. Marshall was a very prominent citizen, being elected one of the first selectmen, and continuing in that office for twenty years. For thirty-eight years he was deacon of the Holliston church. He died in 1766. Thomas Marshall's son, Ebenezer, built a dam on Sudbury River, in Ashland. This was afterward called Cutler's Mill. His daughter, Ann, married William Bullard, grandfather of Joseph Bullard. Mother Marshall, as she was called by every one, lived in the same place until her death, twenty-eight years later. She managed her own separate property, spun her own wool, and sold her farm produce.

In her accounts, which she kept most carefully, we find records of tea, sugar, and brandy, bought at her son's store. In this busy and independent manner she lived until 1794, being then eighty-two years of age.



Abigail Marshall widow; formerly  
 widow of Mr. Jonathan Cutler of Holliston  
 in the County of Middlesex Massachusetts  
 Testifyeth, That the boundary line be-  
 tween my son Jonathan's lot of land and the  
 Home Stead of my husband the said Jonathan  
 Cutler - according to the best of my remembrance  
 my said Husband dyed in Oct 2 - in part of  
 that meadow, viz<sup>t</sup> Down to the Ditch, which  
 is now a ~~lot~~ contested line between my son  
 Simeon Cutler, and my Grandson Calvin Cutler  
 was considered and improved to the Home Stead  
 of my said Husband to the time of his death,  
 and for some time since without any  
 uneasiness - my son Jonathan then apply  
 and say he had not his Number of acres -  
 and I freely gave him the improvement  
 of my part of the meadow, untill my son  
 Simeon who dwells on the Home Stead should  
 be Twenty one year of age  
 October 2<sup>d</sup> 1792

Abigail

 her  
 Marshall  
 mark

COLONEL SIMEON<sup>5</sup> CUTLER. (JONATHAN,<sup>4</sup> NATHAN-  
IEL,<sup>3</sup> NATHANIEL,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Simeon Cutler was born in Holliston, July 4, 1749. He was first named Simon, but having a cousin, within two miles, of the same name, his was changed to Simeon. At the age of thirteen his father died, and he, with two other minor children, was left in the care of his mother. Although we have but meager information concerning the details of her life, the sterling character of her sons is an evidence of her own personal worth and capability.

Simeon lived with his mother on the farm, which she managed, until he reached his majority. He then married Elizabeth Rockwood, daughter of Timothy Rockwood, and opened a public house on the homestead left him by his father.

In the Revolutionary struggle he exerted all his influence in favor of the Colonists, not only taking an active part in devising means for the defence and protection of the towns of the county, but also enrolling himself among the "Minute Men" who were armed, equipped, and held ready to march at a moment's notice. At the commencement of hostilities he joined the army in the field. After the close of the war he was chosen colonel of the militia, the office requiring at that time both ability and hard service.

He continued the business of inn-keeping and farming, adding thereto a "variety store," and later, a wheelwright shop—the latter being in charge of his son, Elihu. His account book shows that nearly all the people within a radius of ten miles were customers of his store, many of them being family connections.

In the records of the Great and General Court, volume 38, page 596, under date of January 19, 1778, is the following resolve :

In the House of Representatives . . . . . On the Petition of the selectmen of Holliston, in the County of Middlesex; . . . . . Setting forth that there is no Inn-holder House of Entertainment, or licensed Person for selling Spirituous Liquors in the Town of said Holliston. That the Road through said Town is of great utility to the Public. That the Passengers with Teams, and others on Publick Service are obliged to travell twelve miles at least without refreshment, and that there is no Court of General Sessions of the Peace in the County, aforesaid. where due application can be made for License for three Months at least, and the Publick, in the meantime must suffer by want of such a house.

And the Selectmen have recommended to this Court Mr. Simeon Cutler to keep an Inn, in Said Town, being a person of sober conversation, suitably qualified and provided for such an Employment as the Law directs. Praying the said Simeon Cutler may be licensed by this Court until the next Court of Sessions in said County.

(Capt Daniel (47) Towne  
 June 12 to 4 1798 50:00

---

Calvin (6) Cutler  
 May 10 1792 then returned  
 with Calvin Cutler all accounts  
 on both of Hollings Town

---

July 31 1799 to Cash  
 the tax (2000)

---

(38) Parry L. J. S.  
 February 17 1785 the Remembrance  
 of sundry Bay and Perry 0:3:6

His success in all his enterprises was greatly promoted by the energy and ability of his wife, who was a woman of exceptional business capacity and strength of character. Mr. Cutler died July 13, 1799. His son, Elihu, administered in the settlement of his estate. His widow was allowed one third of the personal, and the use of one third of the real estate, during her life.

Her son Martin, with her son-in-law, John Mellen, managed the whole farm for some years. Eventually, Martin bought the shares belonging to the other children, and owned all but the widow's thirds.

## ELIZABETH (ROCKWOOD) CUTLER.



*Elizabeth Rockwood*  
1753 wife of  
*Simon Cutler*  
1749

Elizabeth Rockwood Cutler was born in 1753. When twelve years of age her mother died, leaving her with two

younger sisters, one a babe, the other only eight years old. Her father married again; her step-mother died when Elizabeth was fifteen, and so the management of the household devolved upon her. In two years she married Simeon Cutler.

1770, list of household  
 goods which Timothy  
 Rockwood gave his  
 daughter Elizabeth  
 upon her marriage to  
 Simeon Cutler

three pair of Curtains  
 six pair of sheets six table cloths  
 six pair of pillow Cases six towels  
 one Bed quilt two covered three  
 Bed Blankets one Cup of Draw  
 two Shifts four tables one Dozen  
 and Half of Chairs great Chair three  
 tubs one Churn three nails one  
 Dye tub two wheels two Brass kettles  
 two Iron pots one Dish kittle two  
 one tea kittle two pairs Skimmer

two Brass Skillets one Table one  
 pr platters Iron one Iron taster  
 one Carver one pair of hand Irons  
 one pair of long five peal two  
 Forkings six Glasses six New silver  
<sup>is old ones</sup> platters <sup>three plates</sup> one Tray of plates four  
 Quart Basins four pint Basins  
 five serving one quart pot one  
 pint pot one teapot one Coffee pot  
 and other two articles

Six Black six Spears Nine Cream  
 Coland plates four Bowls set tea  
 Dishes and spoons one <sup>pr</sup> Beaker one  
 pr of wine Glasses one pair of Candle  
 Sticks one set of knives and forks  
 one Tray of wooden plates one pr of  
 Shaws three trays two Milk pans  
 two pots one piven pan two pla  
 tters two trays  
 four Cows Six Sheep

When he went to the war she was left with three small children, and in entire charge of his extensive business. Under these trying circumstances she showed great endurance and executive ability. By reason of the law that all inn-keepers must entertain soldiers and travellers connected with the army, and receive payment therefor in continental money, most of the inns in the vicinity were obliged to close. The Cutler Inn was able, however, through her exertions, to remain open till the end of the war.

Her husband died when she was forty-six years of age, and left her with two children, who had not reached their majority. She lived on the same place fifty years after this, making seventy-nine years of residence here. She retained to extreme old age her interest and skill in business matters, and managed her own affairs so successfully that she was not only able to provide a comfortable and independent support, but also to contribute to many benevolent objects.

The amount of Mother Cutler's property now in  
the hands of Elisha Cutler is the above note.

679 4/1

1838  
March 2

Hereby we settle all accounts with Mother Cutler as above.

Elisha Cutler

During her life she saw many and great changes. At her birth the Indian had scarcely left the neighborhood, yet she lived to see a railroad built through the town. In old age she became an authority on things which occurred during the Revolutionary period, and was a most interesting narrator of incidents which then took place. She lived to see around one table four, and even five generations of descendants. Her life was a series of useful and beneficent deeds—the “Florence Nightingale” of the village. She was always present to afford comfort and assistance wher-

ever the sick or afflicted had need of her. She died in 1849, at the age of ninety-six. At her death she had seventy-four living descendants.

*Children of Simeon and Elizabeth (Rockwood) Cutler.*

Elihu, b. 1771, m. Lavinia Newton, 1798.

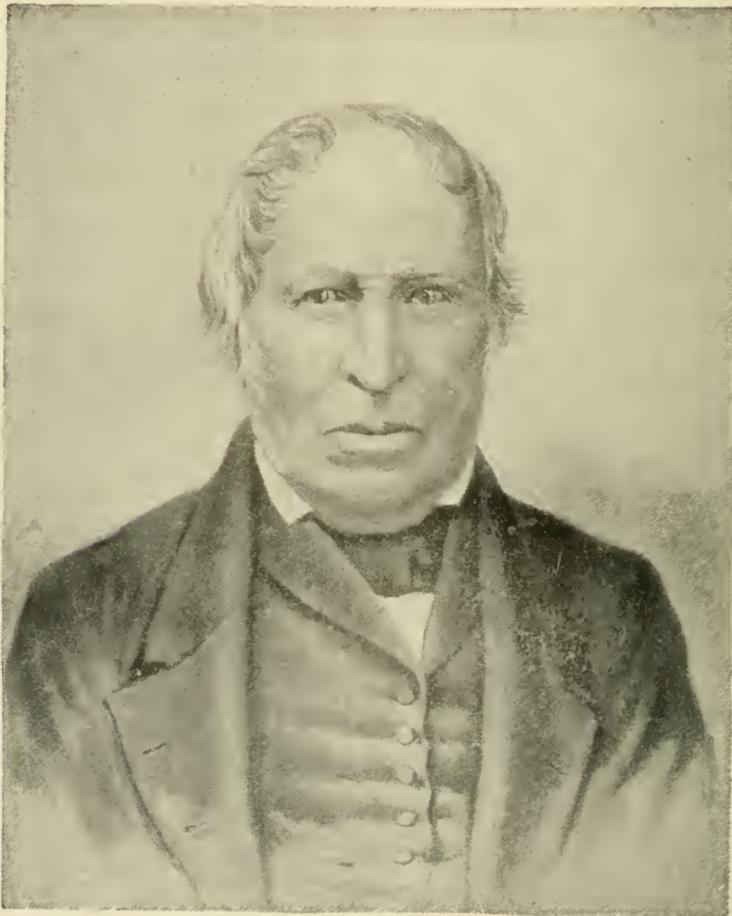
Martin, b. 1773, m. Elizabeth Mellen, 1799.

Uriel, b. 1776, m. Naby Morse, 1809.

Ursula, b. 1779, m. John Mellen, 1789.

Sally, b. 1782. d. 1804.

James, b. 1785, m. Nancy Leland, 1813.



*Elihu Cutler*  
1771.

ELIHU<sup>6</sup> CUTLER. (SIMEON,<sup>5</sup> JONATHAN,<sup>4</sup> NATHANIEL,<sup>3</sup>  
NATHANIEL,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Elihu, son of Simeon, was born in 1771. He married Lavinia Newton in 1798. He inherited no fortune from his parents, and received only a common school education. In his youth he helped his father carry on the farm, and learned the wheelwright trade, so that he was able to take entire charge of the business when his father's health failed, as it did, several years before his death. His younger brother also learned the trade, and managed the business after Elihu's marriage, in 1798.

Elihu was a typical Cutler. Although always leading a busy life, his talents for business did not appear until his maturer years. He began his married life in the house of James Wight, near the woolen factory in East Holliston, where he lived only a year. Owing to the ill health of his wife's father, he was then induced, in 1800, to buy Simeon Newton's farm and mill. Thither he moved, cultivated the farm, and operated the mill. At the same time he kept an interest in the wheelwright shop, formerly belonging to his father, which Martin now managed. When his brother James became of age, the three brothers formed a company for carrying on the business. They made wheels and wagons, by water power, at a shop on Jarr Brook. Their trade grew rapidly.

Later, they bought vacant land in the center of the town and divided it into house-lots, some of which they sold, and, building houses on other portions, disposed of them at a small profit. These houses are, many of them, now standing; before they were built there was no center village. Still later, Elihu built in the town a tannery and manufactured leather. His friend, James Wight, was interested in this enterprise; here leather was made for the first boot and shoe manufactory, which afterward became the chief industry of the town.

Holliston Cloth Manufactory <sup>Del.</sup>

Garr Brook Wheel Manufactory Co  
to James Wright & Elisha Cutler

Cutler & Wison Swift & Cutler

Elisha Martin & James Cutler

7/ Elisha Cutler & Company

Holliston Factory Co

11/ Capt Johnson & E Cutler

Elihu next formed a company among his townsmen and superintended the erection of the first woolen mill in Holliston. Each man furnished timber, or labor, as he was able, and in most cases took stock in payment. Three years were spent in completing this enterprise.

This was the first Church built in 1720

The Town of Holliston C <sup>ty</sup> Tol. Ct.		
1824		
June	By the sales of the old meeting-house as follows viz-- of Isaac & Davon for 1 window & } 3 paint paper North side - - - } 2 05	
	Col. Wm. Blackwood for one window - -	90
	Gorge Lealand for 5 rows 2. seat, panels &c	2 45
	Calvin Blackwood for stairs &c	1 80
	Do for windows - - - - -	1 15
	Capt. J. M. Blackwood for windows	1 20
	Samuel Merrill for window - - - -	1 15
	Appalten Bridges for pulpit &c	1 75
	Charles Marsh for round window - -	35
	Elisha Dewing 2 windows - - - - -	3 60
Sept <sup>r</sup> 23 <sup>th</sup>	Levit B. Walker - 1 window - - -	1 35
	This account is made out and accepted by the Town and is the order of the	
		Elihu Cutler

Steps were then taken to erect a new Congregational church. He was chosen chairman of the building committee, which planned and built the present church.



“NEW MEETING-HOUSE.”

Caring the ...		Holliston C <sup>2</sup>	Vol 84
1822			
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	By Cash taken at the ... of the ... of articles left at the Raising the Meeting House including what was sold at private sale after all expenses was paid which have as yet been <del>expended</del> - expended - above Raising said House		78 11
	By Cash allowed by Mr. ... for 9 1/2% of ... returned - -		2 07
	By an order on the Town Treasurer		50 -
	By Cash of Mr. ... for ...		31
			130 49

Soon after this he added a thread factory to his grist-mill, taking his son-in-law, James B. Wilson, into partnership with him, and later, his son, Elihu Cutler. The number of business firms with which he was connected for many years is too large to be correctly estimated.

During the later years of his life he was much sought after as an administrator of estates. The largest one that he settled was that of Aaron Eames, valued at ten thousand dollars, most of which was given to the Congregational Church.

Aaron Come Estate Dr		Del	Lt
1831			
Jan <sup>13</sup>	By Cash of Silvanus Sparks in part rent	27	19
March <sup>11</sup>	By Cash of David Comes on Execution	72	97
	By Balans on my first acct	5062	27
		<u>\$5162</u>	<u>43</u>
The fore going account is settled as will appear by account rendered to the Court of Probate at Frammingham June <sup>26</sup> 1832 and was approved by the Trustees of the Holliston Comes fund			
July <sup>26</sup>	journey to Boston to see Mr Webster about the Will	6	—
	Cash paid Daniel Webster as by Receipt	50	—

He assisted his mother and his wife's mother during their last years, in the management of their property, directing them wisely, and always rendering a strict account to them each year. He was the trust company and savings bank for all who sought a safe investment for their money, and he was often responsible for many thousands of dollars, and never did he disappoint any one or prove untrustworthy, but always returned to his creditors their own, with interest. Indeed, he was so liberal in sharing the advantages of his business enterprises with his townsmen that he accumulated for himself only a small competency, often remarking at the close of his yearly accounts that if he had made no mistake, he had added one hundred dollars to the value of his estate.

Although not a member of any church, he was constantly present at the church services, and was active in all the affairs of the parish, often rendering valuable assistance at precarious and trying times.

In 1827-28, he was Representative to the General Court, and he was the first State Senator chosen from Holliston. In his early life, politically a Federalist, he later became an

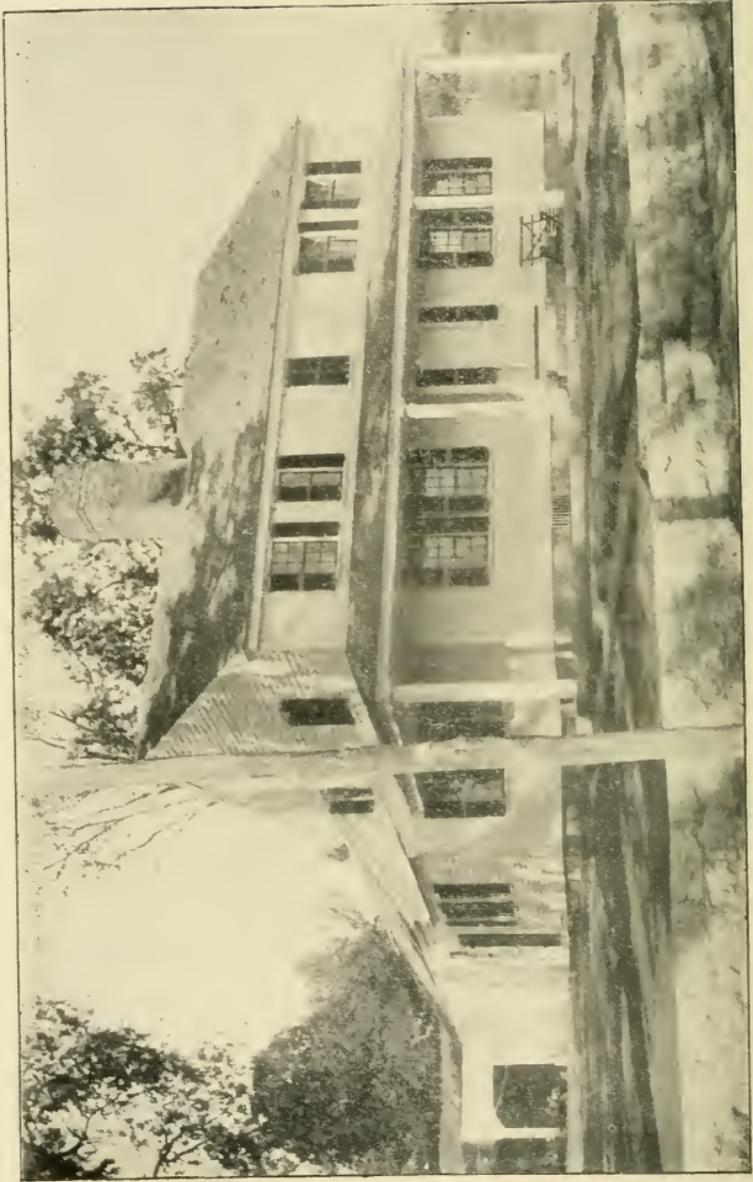
active member of the Whig party, and was a warm friend of Daniel Webster. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being elected Grand Master of the Montgomery Lodge, in 1813. He also belonged to the American Peace Society, and advocated its doctrines with enthusiasm.

Abner Morse, in his "History of Holliston and Sherborn," says that for forty years Elihu Cutler was connected with all the public measures and transactions of Holliston, if not the projector of all. No one ever came to a satisfactory conclusion without the aid of his counsel.

In spite of the meagerness of his early school training, and the pressure of an active business life, he yet gathered in his leisure hours a remarkable amount of information. This, with his ability to impart his knowledge to others, made his society delightful and profitable. Combined with his mental culture, were great ease and dignity of manner, still often referred to by those who knew him. He died in 1857, aged eighty-six years.

*Children of Elihu and Lavinia (Newton) Cutler.*

1. Simeon, b. 1799, m. Mary Fitts, 1821.
2. Betsey, b. 1801, d. 1886.
3. Sally, b. 1803, m. James B. Wilson.
4. Elihu (Hon.), b. 1806, m. Rebecca Temple.
5. Charles, b. 1814, m. Mary Strickland,



THE SIMÉON NEWTON HOMESTEAD, REMODELED BY ELIHU CUTLER.



LAVINIA (NEWTON) CUTLER.

Lavinia (Newton) Cutler was a true representative of the distinguished ancestry from which she was descended. She was intellectually the equal of her husband, strong-minded, showing her nervous temperament in the energy and enthusiasm with which she undertook every task. Her husband being the most prominent man in the village, their home was the place of entertainment for distinguished guests, who came to officiate on great occasions, such as church dedications, ordinations, and public celebrations. She was also called upon to provide temporarily for the assistants which her husband needed in starting his new business enterprises, and the superintendents of his shops and factories were permanent members of the family.

In addition to these various duties, the house was often turned into a court-house, her husband, while Trial Justice, often holding trials there. Notwithstanding these many interruptions to the regular routine of home life, her house-keeping was always characterized by neatness and thrift. Under all circumstances she bore herself with dignity, and

filled every position with extraordinary ability, proving a most valuable helpmeet to her husband. During the last few years of her life she was an invalid. She died in 1833, aged sixty-five years.

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After a careful investigation of all the evidence to be obtained, it seems altogether probable that the first John Cutler of Hingham, and the first Robert Cutler of Charlestown, were brothers.

It has been thought by many that the first James Cutler of Watertown, who came to this country about the same time, was a brother of John and Robert. The only fact which supports this theory is, that at about the same time a number of descendants of James and John removed from Watertown and Reading, where John's sons settled, to the town of Killingly, Connecticut. In this town was born the famous Mannassah Cutler, grandchild of one of the immigrants.

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## ANCESTRY OF ABIGAIL CLARK,

WHO MARRIED JONATHAN CUTLER.

Joseph Clark, born in Suffield, England, one of the founders of Medfield, was made a freeman there in 1652. He married Alice Pepper in 1640. He built his house on the place now occupied by the Peak house. His sister Elizabeth married Capt. George Barbour, who is mentioned later in these records. Joseph died in 1684; his wife, in 1710.

### WILL OF JOSEPH CLARKE.

[Suffolk Probate Records, Vol. 6:462.]

In the yeare of our Lord 1682 the 24 day - 4<sup>th</sup> mo.<sup>th</sup> Joseph Clarke senior of Medfield in y<sup>e</sup> County of Suffolk in the Massachusetts Colony in New England being by the good hand of God pre-

served to old age thereby and the infirmity's attend thereon am put in mind of mortality and summoned to appeare ere long before that great God to whome I must give an account of all my waies do yet notwithstanding enjoy the full use of my understanding and memory through the great goodness of God, and do for the quiet of my mind and dispose and settlement of that portion of the things of this life which it hath pleased the Lord to intrust me with, and having committed my soule into the armes of Jesus Christ my most dear Redeemer and my body to the earth from whence it was at the first taken to be christianly buried at ye discretion of my executore hereinafter named :

Imp<sup>rs</sup>. I will and bequeath unto Alice my now dear and loving wife the full and free use of all my Estate both reall and personall in my hands when it shall please ye Lord to take me out of this world, (the East end of my dwelling house and barn excepted for the free use of Nathaniel Clarke my son) freely to use and improve for the comfort and support of her natural life. \* \* \* \* \*

Item - I will and bequeath unto my three sons (that is to say) Joseph Clarke Benjamen Clarke and Ephraim Clarke the remainder of my dividont on the new grant to be equally divided amongst them. \* \* \* \* \*

And I do hereby ratify and confirm unto and upon all and every one of my children all such Lands as I have formerly given and granted to any of them, but not herein expressed :

And I do hereby constitute appointe and ordain my dear and loving wife above named and my loving son Nathaniel Clarke my Executo<sup>rs</sup> of this my last will and & Testamen<sup>t</sup> to the intent that they shall see the same effectually performed according to my true intent and meaning therein, unto whome I commit and give all full power and trust for the effecting thereof. And I do furthermore nominate and appoint my loving and beloved Son Joseph Clarke Over seer of this my will and Testamen<sup>t</sup> and to be assistant to my forenamed Executo<sup>rs</sup> in the work I have comitted to them. And I do hereby utterly revoke all other wills by me at any time heretofore made And in witness that this is my last will and Testamen<sup>t</sup> written and contained in this sheet of paper I the said Joseph Clarke Senior have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seale the day and year abovewritten.

JOSEPH CLARKE his mke & Seale

Signed Sealed and published in the presence of us George Barbour, John Allen, a marke

This will exhibited before the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Simeon Bradstreet Esq<sup>r</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>. and Samuel Sewall Esq<sup>r</sup> Assist by Nathaniel Clarke therein nominated Executor for probate the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1684.

Cap<sup>ne</sup> George Barbour and John Allin made Oath that they were present when Joseph Clarke Signed Sealed and declared this Instrument to be his last will and Testam<sup>t</sup> and that he was then of disposing mind to their understanding.

Attestr. ISA ADDINGTON *Ctre.*

CLARKE HIS INVENT<sup>o</sup>:

[Suffolk Probate Records, Boston, Vol. 9: 185.]

An Inventory of the Estate of Joseph Clarke late of Medfield Dece<sup>ct</sup> as it was presented by his Executor<sup>s</sup> & appraised by us whose names are Subscribed.—January 29<sup>th</sup> 168<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Imp <sup>es</sup> his wearing Apparrell & Bookes	£..004 : 00 : 00
It. two Feather Beds Bedding Bedsteeds & Furniture	£..009 : 16 : 00
It. one Bed Some bedding & Some remn <sup>ts</sup> of new cloth	£..003 : 03 : 06
It. Linnen Linnen yarn & Some othe things	£..005 : 12 : 00
It. Brass pewtar & Iron in the house	£..004 : 09 : 00
It. Some Armes and Several tooles	£..002 : 10 : 00
It. Several utensils in the house & Lumber	£..004 : 14 : 00
It. grain in y <sup>e</sup> house & barn & other provision in y <sup>e</sup> house	£..014 : 09 : 06
It. Cart plough & other implem <sup>ts</sup> of Husbandry	£..003 : 12 : 00
It. a yoke of Oxen & two bulls	£..014 : 01 : 00
It. 5 Cows and some young Cattle	£..018 : 15 : 00
It. Several Swine and divers other things	£..008 : 14 : 00
It. The Home lot & house & barn upon it	£..076 : 10 : 00
It. Pasture Land & meadow neer y <sup>e</sup> Town Land on planting Field	£..015 : 10 : 00
It. upland & Meadow on Mill broke and at Farther Field	£..048 : 00 : 00
It. Meadow on Stop River & at Center Meadow	£..015 : 00 : 00
It. one peel of Land near Easy plain and one near y <sup>e</sup> bent of Charles River	£..010 : 10 : 00
It. Five wood lots about 18 acres	£..009 : 00 : 00
It. two peels of Land at y <sup>e</sup> new grant & 20 acres of Swamp	£..028 : 00 : 00
	£..294 : 05 : 06

GEORGE BARBOUR WILLIAM PARTRIDGE THO. THURSTAN.

Nathaniel Clarke Exec<sup>r</sup> made Oath before the Hono<sup>ble</sup> Simon Bradstreet Esq<sup>r</sup>, Gov<sup>r</sup>, and Samuell Sewall Esq<sup>r</sup> Assist 4<sup>th</sup> July 1684 that this is a just and true Inventory of the Estate of his late Father Joseph Clarke Dece<sup>st</sup>, to his best knowledge and that when more appears hee will cause it to be added.

Attest. ISA. ADDINGTON *Ctre.*

BENJAMIN<sup>2</sup> CLARKE. (JOSEPH.<sup>1</sup>)



Benjamin Clark was born in Medfield, 1644. He married Dorcas Morse in 1665; she was the daughter of Joseph Morse, and grand-daughter of Samuel Morse, a soldier in Cromwell's army. He lived in the Peak house in Medfield. He died in 1724: his wife, in 1725.

## WILL OF BENJAMIN CLARK.

[Suffolk Probate Records, Boston, Vol. 23: 454.]

In the name and fear of God Amen.

I Benjamin Clarke of Medfield in the County of Suffolk in His Majistys Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Wheewright being about Seventy-five years of age and through Gods Goodness at present have and enjoy my memory & understanding and a considerable Measure of health, yet being mindfull of Death and of my Duty to Set my House in order and in preperation thereto I Do humbly commit my Immortal Soul through Christ Jesus into the hands of the Almighty and for that portion of Worldly Goods which God of his goodness hath given me:

I do dispose of them as followeth: My just Debts first paid

Imprimis—I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Dorcas Clarke my Dwelling house I live in and my part in the Barn, being half the Barn and all my right in the Orchard the use thereof with the improvement of all my lands of all sorts in said Medfield and Dedham Excepting my meadow in Center Meadow so long as she remain my widow and bear the name of Dorcas Clarke and no longer; and also I give her my best Bed Bolster & Pillows, Bed Clothes & all that belongs to it, and Six pairs of sheets, & as much Household Stuff as she shall judge convenient to keep House with; and also I give her Twenty pounds of Silver Money and Twenty pounds paper money and two cows all which movables I give to her use & dispose forever. \* \* \* \* \*

Item—I give and bequeath unto my daughter Hannah Mason Twelve pounds of silver Money besides what she formerly received.

Item—I will and bequeath unto my Son Theophilus Clarke my little Line Swamp in Wrentham bounds with what other Lands I have formerly given him by Deeds and also Eight pounds in money which he owes me and Ten pounds money more with half my Land in the New Grant to Equalize him with his brother Edward relating to that piece of Meadow I have given him in Center Meadow hereafter Specified and one Third part of four Common Rights in Wrentham bounds. \* \* \* \* \*

Then follows gifts of land and “Ten pounds money to Son Timothy Clarke to Equalize his portion,” also land in common rights in Wrentham. Also to his son Edward, various lots of land. To his daughter, Tabitha Sanford,

“Eight pounds Silver Four pounds paper money to Son Seth buildings and lands in Medfield and Dedham to come to him when his mothers term of improvement expires.” To Hannah, Theophilus, Timothy, Edward, and Tabitha, “Twelve pounds each, current pay, to be paid within ten years after my disease. What Silver I have not given away shall be equally divided among my four Sons.”

\* \* \* And I do hereby Constitute and ordain my said wife Dorcas Clark to be my soul Executrix of this my last will and Testament

In witness whereof I have herunto Set my hand and Seal the Eighteenth day of March in the year of Lord One Thousand Seven hundred Twenty one. Benjamin Clark and a seal Signed Sealed and declared by the said Benjamin Clark as his last will & Testament

In presence of us the subscribers

HENRY  
SMITH

SAMUEL SMITH Sen<sup>r</sup> ELEAZER SMITH  
Exam: & JOHN BAYDELL Reg<sup>r</sup>

These may certify the honored Judge for Probate That I the Subscriber being appointed Executrix of the within written Will & Testament of my late Husband Benj: Clark Deceased that by reason of my long Sickness & weakness I am not able to undertake that work Therefore I do utterly refuse as being Executrix of the said Will though Otherwise I do approve of Said Will and do accept of what provisions is therein made for me.

In witness whereof I have Set my hand DORCAS CLARK & a mark.  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 1724            Witness

HENRY ADAMS  
SAMUEL SMITH

Exam: & JOHN BOYDELL Reg<sup>r</sup>.

CLARKE ADM<sup>RE</sup> ACCT.

To the buildings & his part in House Lott	65.00.00
To 7 acres & an half of Plow Land at South Plain	30.00.00
To 3 acres of Meadow Land at Upper Meadow	36.00.00
To 4 acres & half of Meadow Land in Center Meadow	54.00.00
To 1 acre & half of Meadow at Brook Meadow	12.00.00
To 1 acre & half at Home of Meadow Land	15.00.00
To 4 acres of Pine Swamp	4.00.00

To 6 acres of Woodland near Home lot	9.00.00
To 42 acres of Woodland in Dedham bounds	10.00.00
To 2 acres of Woodland near Noon hill	4.00.00
To 2 acres & half of Woodland in Medford	4.00.06
To 7 acres & half of Swamp in Black Swamp	7.00.00
To 3 acres Land at Pine Plain	3.00.00
To 3 acres of Plow Land in Wrentham Bounds	6.00.00
To 3 acres of Pine Swamp in Wrentham Ditto	2.10.00
	£261.10.00

[Suffolk Probate Records, Boston, Vol. 24: 316.]

*The Accompt of Edward Clark & Seth Clark Admmrs cum testament Annexa on the Estate of their Father Benj. Clark late of Medfield Deceased.*

The Said Accomptants Charge themselves with all and Singular the goods, Chattels Rights and Credits of the said Deceased Specified in an Inventory thereof by them Exhibited into the Registry of the Court of Probate for the County afores<sup>d</sup>: on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of February 1724. Amounting to £569.12.10

Received since from an Indian Servants time named  
 Josep Daniel 15.00.00  
 A Hog not Inventoried sold for 3.10.00

And the said Accomptants pray for allowance for paym<sup>ts</sup> by them made as follows

Viz<sup>t</sup>.

P <sup>d</sup> John Pratt for a Coffin 8/ for the Grave Digging 3/	11.—
P <sup>d</sup> Ezra Clark Constable Rates	10.. 3
P <sup>d</sup> Do for Smith work 15/10 p <sup>d</sup> Dr. Jers 12/ p <sup>d</sup> Dr. Adams £1	2.. 3..10
P <sup>d</sup> for Drawing the Will Letters of Administration &c	1.. 4.. 6
P <sup>d</sup> the Witness coming to Boston	14.—
P <sup>d</sup> for Apprising the Estate	8.. 6
P <sup>d</sup> for Thrashing Corn and other Labor	12.—
P <sup>d</sup> for Exhibiting the Inventory and Oaths	10.—
P <sup>d</sup> for Dying Cloth 6/6 p <sup>d</sup> M <sup>rs</sup> . Hammon for nursing 2/	8.. 6
P <sup>d</sup> the Administrators Journey to Boston to prove Will &c	1.. 4.—
P <sup>d</sup> Theophilus Clark for dressing Flax	8..
P <sup>d</sup> Timothy Whelock for Do.	1.. 2
Paid Joseph Bullard for burying the Indian	1.. 6
Paid Ebenezar Mason and others for Thrashing	6.—
Paid for weighing Silver and writing	2..

To Administrator's time & trouble	2..—...—
Paid for Drawing allowing & Recording this Acc <sup>t</sup> . &c	14..—
Paid for copy of this Account	2..6..—
Errors Excepted &	

EDWARD CLARK

SETH CLARK

The Admin<sup>rs</sup>: have brought no receipts but the payments are small

Suffolk ss: By the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Samuel Sewall Esqr. Judge of Pao. &c.

Edward Clark and Seth Clark Admm<sup>rs</sup>. presented the foregoing and made Oath that it contained a just and true account of their Administration on the Estate of their Father Benjamin Clark late of Medfield Deceased, So far as they have proceeded therein; which I do accordingly allow and approve of.

Boston Jan 3<sup>d</sup>: 1725 Jurat Coram

SAMUEL SEWAL

THEOPHILAS<sup>3</sup> CLARK. (BENJAMIN,<sup>2</sup> JOSEPH.<sup>1</sup>)

Theophilus Clark was born in 1670. He married in 1718, for his second wife, Elizabeth Haines Cutler of Reading, the widow of Nathaniel Cutler. He was a founder of the town and church of Medway, and settled there opposite his father's house, across the river in Medfield. He had twelve children. Abigail, the youngest child of his first wife, was born in 1712. She married Jonathan Cutler in 1733, and moved to Holliston.

After a very thorough search among the records of the towns in Eastern Massachusetts to discover the parentage of Elizabeth Haines, but one family of that name has been found that could possibly be the one from which she came. It is probable her father was Jonathan Haines, who, with his son Joseph and three daughters, were carried away captives by the Indians from Haverhill, in 1697. This family escaped, and on their return to the Colony were scattered for a time among settlements less exposed to Indian raids. Elizabeth probably found a home in or near Reading. From this home she married Nathaniel Cutler, as his second wife.

She named her first child Jonathan, probably after her father, Jonathan Haines. As this is the first Jonathan in this Cutler family, it is at least significant. Five years after her marriage with Nathaniel Cutler, she was left a widow. Four years later, she married Theophilus Clark.

Meantime the family of Jonathan Haines, or some part of it, had moved from the Province of Massachusetts Bay to Woodstock, Conn. About the year 1733, Theophilus Clark moved to the town of Ashford, Conn., near Woodstock, where he acquired large tracts of land. This change of residence was no doubt brought about through the influence of his wife, Elizabeth. She was evidently a woman of energy, with a talent for business.

After the death of Mr. Clark, in 1737, and the settlement of the estate, it was natural that Elizabeth should wish to be near her father's family. On May 9, 1740, she bought land in Woodstock, and here she spent the remainder of her eventful life.

#### WILL OF THEOPHILAS CLARK OF ASHFORD, CONN.

Probated in Windham Probate District, Nov. 9, 1737.

In the name of God amen y<sup>e</sup> fifth day of October 1737. I Theophilus Clark of Ashford in y<sup>e</sup> County of Windham in y<sup>e</sup> Colony of Connecticut, Husbandman, being sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, Thanks be given to God therefor, not knowing how soon God may cal me y<sup>e</sup> way of all y<sup>e</sup> Earth, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament, That is to Say princely and first of all I give and recomend my Soul into y<sup>e</sup> hands of God that Gave it and my body I recomend to y<sup>e</sup> Earth to be buried in deceant manar at y<sup>e</sup> discretion of my Executor heare after named nothing doubting but at y<sup>e</sup> General Resurrection I shall recover y<sup>e</sup> Same again by y<sup>e</sup> mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to Bless me with, after my Funeral Expenses and just Debts are payde I Give and Dispose of as followeth.

It<sup>m</sup>.—I give & bequeath to my Son Ebenezar five pounds and that with what I have already given him I account to be his full part and portion of my Estate. \* \* \* \* \*

Then follows the same legacies to each child, viz : Caleb, Rachel, Deborah, Dorcas, Mary, Abigail, with the same statement following regarding what had already been given them.

It<sup>m</sup>.—I give and bequeath to my Son Theophilus my homsted in which I now live in wch I bought of Thos. Corbin only my will is that my loving wife Elizabeth shall have y<sup>e</sup> improvements of it So long as She remains my widow. \* \* \* \* \*

It<sup>m</sup>.—I give and bequeath to my Son Benjimen that hundred acres of land I bought of Jacob Parker wch lyes West of Mr. Samuel Woodcocks in Ashford.

It<sup>m</sup>.—I give and bequeath to my Daughter Esther fifty pounds to be paide her when She marries or comes to y<sup>e</sup> age of twenty-one y<sup>r</sup>'s.—and my will is that y<sup>e</sup> five pounds wch I have given to each of my Sons & to Each of my Daughters that lives down in y<sup>e</sup> provence (Medway) Should be paide to them within two years after my deceas.

It<sup>m</sup>.—I give and bequeath to my loving wife Elizabeth all my movable Estate of all sorts both within doors and without when all my debts and legasis are paide out of it.

I do hereby constitute make and ordain my loving wife Elizabeth, my sole Executor of this my will and testament and I do hereby revoke and disalow all other wills testaments and bequests and Executors by me before named, ratifying and conforming this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Theophilus Clark have heareunto set my hand and seall y<sup>e</sup> day and year before written. Signed, Sealed Published pronounced and declared by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Theophilus Clark to be his last will and testament.

THEOPHILAS CLARK (Seal)

In y<sup>e</sup> presents of us the subscribers

THOMAS CORBIN  
ALEXANDER IRVING  
PHILIP EASTMAN

#### INVENTORY.

A Inventory of y<sup>e</sup> Estate of Mr Theophilus Clark of Ashford taken by us y<sup>e</sup> subscribers under oath this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 1737. The house and barn and homsted containing 100 acres £700..00..00  
100 acres of land lying upon a hill west of mount hop  
river 150..00..00

It <sup>m</sup> . . . Arms and a pariel £31. bibles and other books £6	37..00..00
A negro girl pris at of four years ould	40..00..00
A Ridden hors with y <sup>e</sup> furniture belonging to him	24..00..00
A yoke of oxen with five cows and one yearling	62..00..00
13 sheep £10 Cart & wheals chain yoak ploug irons bar axes Sythe £20	30..00..00
new cloth not made up	20..00..00
five feather bed with covering and other furniture to them	93..00..00
lining yarn, coton wool, sheeps wool, with some other things	14..00..00
Brass and Putar £17. Iron ware within y <sup>e</sup> house £9	26..00..00
Table cloths, chairs, tubs bariels with sum other lumber	12..00..00
Bills of Public credit	6..10..00
Silver money at 15 peny weight	8..00..00
by one bond that was dew to me & I have received it	18..00..00
To bonds for money	270..10..10

SAMLL SNOW  
 PETAR BICKNALL } prisors.  
 SHUBOEL DIMOCK }

## ANCESTRY OF ELIZABETH ROCKWOOD,

WHO MARRIED COL. SIMEON CUTLER.

### RICHARD ROCKWOOD.

In this country the name was first recorded as Rocket, and this spelling was retained until 1728, when the original orthography was restored. Of the number of Rockets who early arrived in New England, and of their previous history, nothing can be discovered. The names of only two have been preserved. Of these, John, who was enrolled as a planter in Dorchester, in 1636, died without issue. Richard was also a planter in Dorchester, in the same year, and from him all the Rockwoods of New England origin have sprung.

The first record we have of him is, that he and his wife sold a house and twenty acres of land, in Weymouth, which belonged to their child, and the General Court, March 9, 1636-7, bound the son when of age, either to ratify the sale or "allow all such costs as the Court shall think meete." Richard's first wife was the daughter of Zachary Bicknell, to whom he must have been married as early as 1627, three years prior to the settlement of Dorchester. This leads to the presumption that he had previously lived in Weymouth, where the marriage took place, or more probably in Weymouth of Dorsetshire, from whence the early settlers of our Weymouth came.

For his second wife he married Ann ——, who died in 1664. He had three children, two boys and one girl.

#### NICHOLAS<sup>2</sup> ROCKWOOD. (RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

Nicholas Rockwood was born as early as 1628. He first located in Braintree, but in 1650, the enterprise of settling the new town of Medfield drew him thither, and he became one of the proprietors of that town, as was also Lieut. Henry Adams. He drew lots of land from time to time, most of which, by a division of the township in 1713, fell into Medway. He finally settled in the northeast part of Medway, and was, with most of his family, in the stone house at Bogistow Pond when King Philip and his warriors met with their "notorious repulse" in 1676. He became a member of the church in Medfield, and took the freeman's oath May 23, 1666.

He married first, Jane Adams, daughter of Lieut. Henry Adams, who died in 1654, and second, Margaret Holbrook, in 1656, who died in 1671. She was the daughter of Thomas Holbrook, who settled Holbrook Station in Sherborn, in 1652. He died in 1680.

He seems to have been a husbandman in common cir-

cumstances, and a worthy and respected citizen. He had eight children; seven of them were boys; none of them were named after him, which is quite a remarkable omission of the usual custom of the day. On the death of their father, Edward Adams was chosen guardian for the minor children.

JOHN<sup>3</sup> ROCKWOOD. (NICHOLAS,<sup>2</sup> RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

John Rockwood was born in 1662. He inherited the homstead, one-fourth mile south of the lowest water privilege on Bogistow Brook, in East Medway. He was styled "Rev." on the records, probably from his speaking in religious meetings, as there is no evidence that he was ever ordained or licensed to preach. He is presumed to have been a Separatist. He assisted in the establishment of the first Baptist Church in Medfield. He was twice married: first, in 1688, to Berthia Twitchel, who died in 1706. He had eight children.

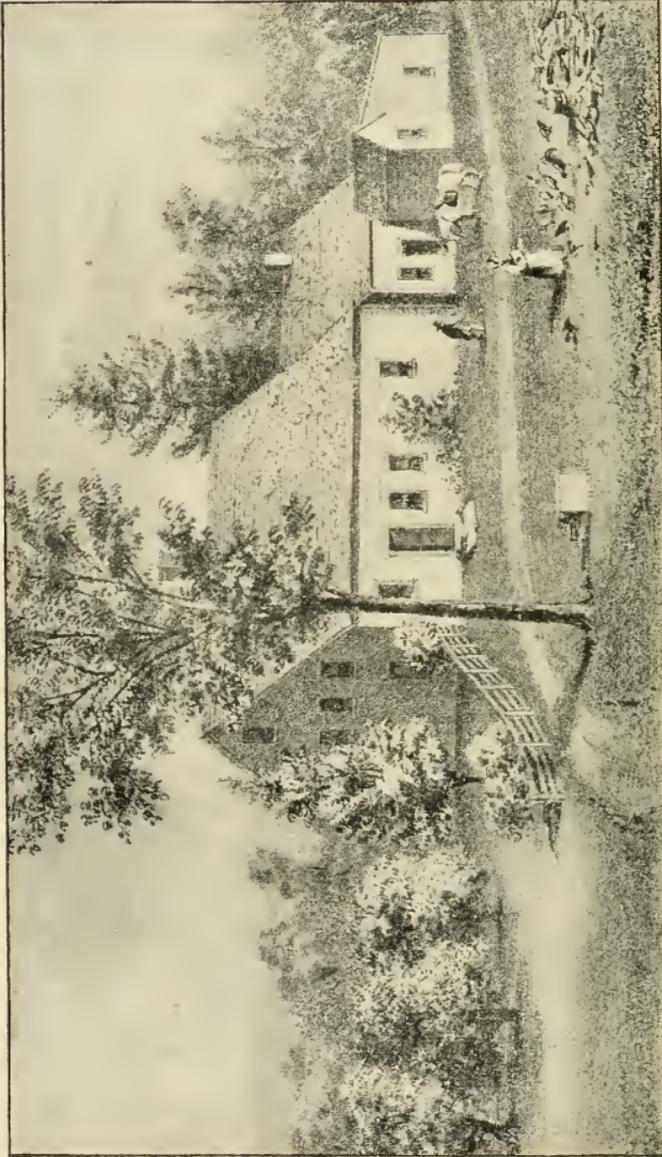
SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> ROCKWOOD. (JOHN,<sup>3</sup> NICHOLAS,<sup>2</sup> RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

Samuel Rockwood was born in 1695. He married Mary White of Mendon, and settled southeast of Winthrop's Pond in Medway on land granted to Capt. George Barbour, in 1659. He had five children.

TIMOTHY<sup>5</sup> ROCKWOOD. (SAMUEL,<sup>4</sup> JOHN,<sup>3</sup> NICHOLAS,<sup>2</sup>  
RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

Timothy Rockwood was born in Medway, July 5, 1727. In 1750, he married Elizabeth Perry, whose home was in sight of his future residence in Holliston, a little west of Holliston Center. He was the owner of much real estate in Holliston and elsewhere. He was an ardent and constant supporter of the cause of liberty in the war of Independence, a firm and reliable friend of the widow and fatherless, in those troublous times. He held almost every office in the gift of the town peculiar to the Revolutionary period. He was one of the committee "to paste up the names of all who sold or consumed any of the East India teas." The General Court required the inhabitants of the several towns to furnish the army with a quantity of beef and clothing. Timothy Rockwood was one of a committee chosen "to procure beef and pay money in lieu thereof, agreeable to the records of the General Court." He was also on a committee to "inspect the inhabitants of the town, and learn the opinion of each person in relation to the acts of the Provincial Congress."

In 1776, he was one of those chosen to draw up an instrument relative to forming a constitution for the State. He died in 1806, aged seventy-nine. He had twelve children, and in 1850, his descendants numbered four hundred and fifty-five. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Col. Simeon Cutler in 1770.



TIMOTHY ROCKWOOD HOMESTEAD.



## ANCESTRY OF ELIZABETH PERRY,

WHO MARRIED TIMOTHY ROCKWOOD.

John Perry, born in England, came to this country in 1631, in company with Rev. John Eliot, the apostle to the Indians.

JOHN<sup>2</sup> PERRY. (JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

John Perry was born in Medfield in 1639. In 1665, he married Berthia Morse, daughter of Daniel Morse, and cousin of the wife of Benjamin Clark. In 1679, he had land assigned him in Sherborn, where he settled and became one of the selectmen.

JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> PERRY. (JOHN,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Joseph Perry was born in Sherborn, in 1674. He married Martha Lovett, in 1698, and settled at Brush Hill in Sherborn.

JAMES<sup>4</sup> PERRY. (JOSEPH,<sup>3</sup> JOHN,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

James Perry was born in 1703. He married Elizabeth Dearth in 1728. He settled near Metcalf Station, Holliston, where he was selectman for seven years. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Timothy Rockwood in 1750. He had six children. One of his sons, Col. Abner Perry, was a soldier in the French and Indian war, and in the Revolutionary war commanded a regiment.

## ANCESTRY OF ELIZABETH DEARTH,

WHO MARRIED JAMES PERRY.

John Dearth married Mary —, and moved from Natick to Sherborn in 1677.

JOHN<sup>2</sup> DEARTH. (JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

John Dearth was born in 1676. He married Elizabeth Barbour, 1698, and lived in Sherborn, near where the woman's prison now stands. His daughter, Elizabeth, married James Perry.

## ANCESTRY OF ELIZABETH BARBOUR,

WHO MARRIED JOHN DEARTH.

CAPTAIN GEORGE<sup>1</sup> BARBOUR.

George Barbour married, in 1640, Elizabeth Clark, sister of Joseph Clark of Medfield. Elizabeth died in 1683.

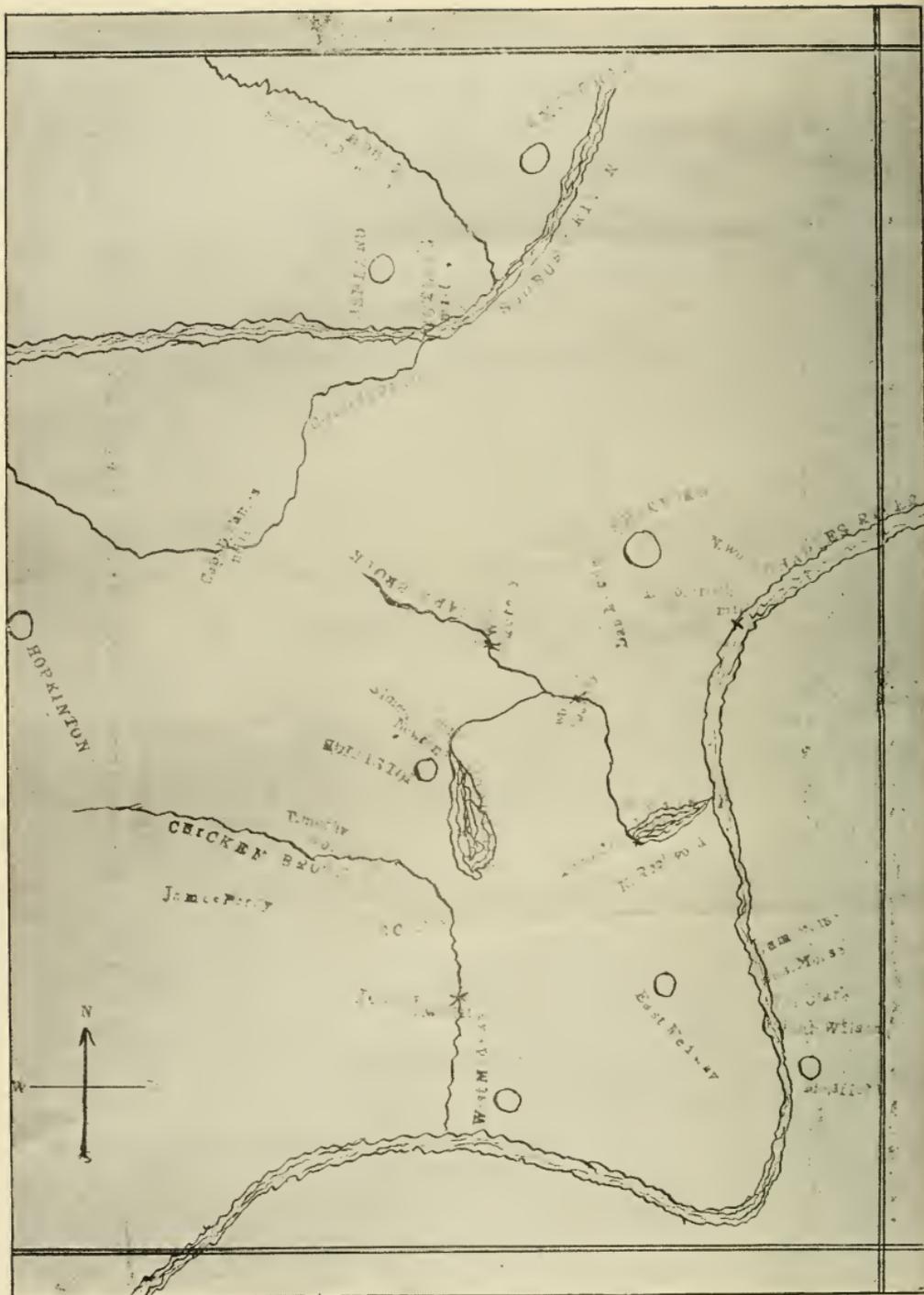
JOHN<sup>2</sup> BARBOUR. (GEORGE.<sup>1</sup>)

John Barbour was born in 1649, in Medfield; married in 1776, Abigail ——. His daughter, Elizabeth, in 1698, married John Dearth.

## EXAMPLES OF LONGEVITY.

In the records of the Cutler family one finds many examples of those who lived to a good old age. Among them are Abigail Clark Cutler, aged eighty-two; Jerusha Marsh Newton, ninety-six; Elizabeth Rockwood Cutler, ninety-six; Sarah Belknap Newton, one hundred and six (her mother lived to be one hundred and ten); Richard Newton, one hundred, and Nathaniel Cutler, eighty-six. The great age to which many of these people lived made it possible for a few lives to extend over a long period of years.

Elizabeth Rockwood Cutler was a famous narrator of stories of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods. Her



MAP OF CHARLES RIVER.

husband was a soldier in the Revolutionary war; her uncle, Abner Perry, was in the French and Indian war, and as colonel, commanded a regiment during the Revolution. Her grandparents were born in 1670-9, and must, therefore, have been personally acquainted with some of the Pilgrims and many of the early Puritan settlers; yet there are many now living who knew Grandmother Cutler for twenty years.

Abigail Clark Cutler, born in 1711, lived until her grandson, Elihu, was twenty-five. Her grandfather was born in 1644. He was present in Medway at the time of the Indian raid on the stone house at Bogistow, and also at Medfield when that town was burned and its inhabitants massacred. She was thus able verbally to give testimony concerning these incidents to one who lived until 1857.

---

## SETTLEMENT OF NEW TOWNS.

The energetic pioneers found employment and profit as proprietors of townships. Grants of land were easily obtained from the General Court, on conditions that a certain number of settlers could be found. Land was also granted as a reward for public services, as in the case of Governor Winthrop's widow, to whom was given territory in Holliston, bordering on the lake which now bears the family name.

Medfield and other towns were accustomed to pay their minister's salary in land. Men who obtained these grants urged the youth from older towns to emigrate to these new regions, and as this was the only means by which they might hope to better their circumstances, volunteers for such enterprises were not wanting. They cleared and cultivated large tracts of land, and were able in time to build thereon comfortable dwellings for their families. The more hands to labor the better, and Theophilus Clark was not, therefore,

without an eye to business when he moved to the new town of Medway and took with him not only his wife's son, Jonathan Cutler, but also her two step-sons. In this way, by emigration from older towns, Braintree, Dorchester and Milton were settled, and from them came the pioneers who located in Medfield, Sherborn, Medway and Holliston. Of these towns, many of our ancestors were proprietors.

In 1640, Nicholas Wood of Dorchester and Andrew Pitcher were occupying as tenants the large estate of Hon. John Glover in what is now Milton. John Glover was surveyor general, having been appointed by the General Court, and had, therefore, supervision of all land-grants and the settlement of contracts. In 1642, an Indian from near Providence, R. I., committed an assault on Wood's wife, and the government demanded that the offender should be sent to them to be punished, "not with death, but with some other punishment."

The Indians in this district around Providence settlement were in constant conflict with the Rev. Samuel Gorton, who settled with his followers in that locality, and who was also obnoxious to the Massachusetts Colony. For this reason, and on account of the action of the government before mentioned, the sachems of this territory in Rhode Island formally placed themselves under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. The Hon. John Glover, knowing of this condition of affairs, evidently informed his tenants, Wood and Pitcher, that here was a good chance for an investment. At any rate, they, with Henry Adams senior, and probably Nicholas Rockwood of Braintree, together with Henry Adams junior, Thomas, Samuel, John, and Christopher Adams, and about twenty others, were induced to petition the General Court, which in 1645, granted them ten thousand acres around Providence, "to be set out for their town," and resolved that seven actual settlers should have power to admit or keep out whom they should think good. They should

“compromise” with the Indians at the easiest rates possible, dispose of the houses (which belonged to the persecuted Gortonites), and pay for them as the General Court shall hereafter appoint, “if they see cause so to do.” Before the execution of this scheme it is probable that some of the company came to realize the iniquity of it and withdrew.

The company finally dissolved, and possession of the land was never taken; neither does it appear that they received any recompense from the relinquishment of the grant. This enterprise, however, interested them in this line of business, and later they became proprietors of several new towns.

Wood, Thomas Holbrook and Pitcher settled, in 1652, at what is now called Holbrook Station. Here they were joined by Daniel Morse. This was the first settlement on the west side of the Charles River at Sherborn. Nicholas Wood’s daughter was the first white child born in Sherborn.

Henry Adams and Nicholas Rockwood contented themselves with settling Medfield and Medway; the latter lived in the eastern part at Bogistow, and with the assistance of other settlers built the stone fort which formed a refuge for families for miles around. This fort, though often assailed by the Indians, was never taken. This spirit of adventure was still alive a hundred years later, when the three children of Capt. Daniel Eames moved four hundred miles west, to the “Mohawk Country.” James Eames, who married Jerusha Newton, and Mary Eames, who married Joseph Phipps, were in the company which emigrated to Central New York, and were the first to settle on public lands, in Oneida County. Their descendants are today among the most eminent citizens of that district.

Caroline Phipps, a daughter of Joseph Phipps, was the founder of Phipps Academy in Albion, N. Y.

66

Feb y<sup>r</sup> 11 This Day I have  
 been married thirty six year  
 thanks to God for sparing  
 mercy to me and mine  
 feby 11 98 my Dear  
 Jerusha with her family Sat  
 out for the Mohawk Country  
 a grievous parting to me  
 and her poor infirm father  
 merciful God I give up this  
 Child to thee with out any  
 latent Reserve O Lord take  
 her and her Dear husband  
 children into thy holy keeping

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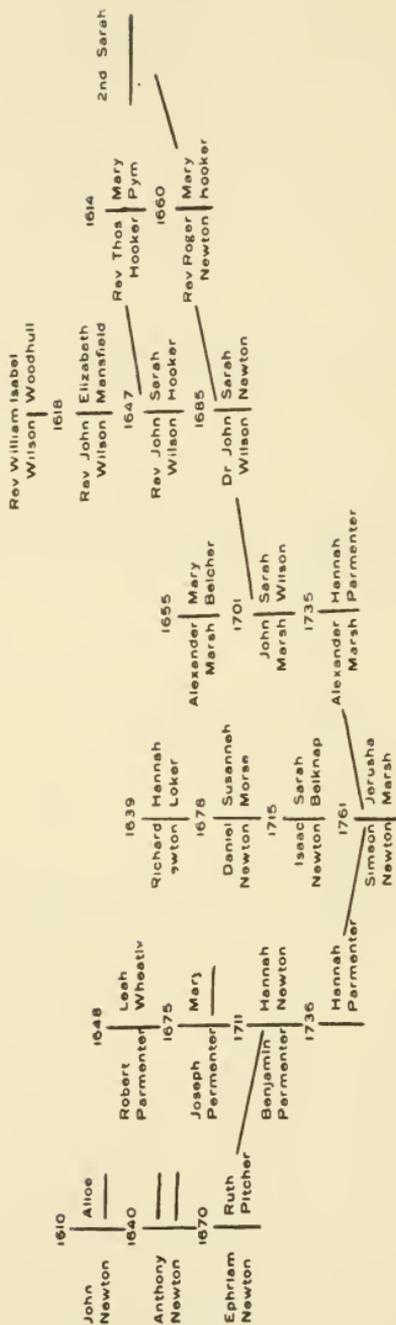


PART II.



THE ANCESTRY OF  
LAVINIA NEWTON,  
WHO MARRIED  
ELIHU CUTLER.

1585



## CHART SHOWING ANCESTRY OF LAVINA NEWTON

THE DATES REFER TO YEAR OF MARRIAGE.

# ANCESTRY OF LAVINIA NEWTON.

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## RICHARD NEWTON.

Richard Newton lived in Sudbury, in 1640. He married Hannah Loker. He was a proprietor of Sudbury, and took the freeman's oath in 1645. He was one of the petitioners for, and proprietors of Marlboro. In 1656, he moved to the southern part of Marlboro, which became Southboro in 1727. In 1666, he sold land in Sudbury to Peter Noyes, a neighbor.

His wife died December 5, 1697; he died August 24, 1701, aged about one hundred years. He had nine children. His will is on file in the Middlesex Probate office. It is a well-written document, in which reference is made to his "great age." For signature he made his "mark." The will was made in 1693.

## WILL OF RICHARD NEWTON.

I Richard New of Marlburrough in the county of Midd<sup>x</sup> in theire Maj<sup>ties</sup> Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, husbandman, being in competent health and enjoying the freedom of mine understanding and by reason of my great age, expecting my Dissolution shortly, Do make and constitute my last will and Testament in manner and form following. After the surrender of myself to God my Former, and most merciful Preserver, I give grant and confirm to my Eldest Son, John Newton Sen<sup>r</sup>, of Marlburrough aforesaid, house carpenter, Sixteen acres of upland more or less, aforesaid being so much of the Thirty acres long since granted unto me for a house lott by the proprietors of said Marlborrough. \* \* (Then follows description of several other lots that fell to him as proprietor.) \* \* \* All the above given parcell of upland and Meadow and Cedar Swamp, Right of Commonage, I bequeath unto my said Son John & to his heirs & assigns forever, and also I give

to him all my Neat Cattle and all my Swine, my cart and all my Toles and Instruments belonging to husbandry.

Likewise I give to my loving Daughter Mary the wife of Jonathan Johnson Sen<sup>r</sup> the sum of Eight pounds, Ten shillings to be paid within three months after my death by my Executors out of my household stuff which I shall leave behind me. This said sum together with what my Daughter hath already received from me I allow her as her portion.

To each of my three sons, namely, Moses Newton Sen<sup>r</sup>, Joseph Newton, Sen<sup>r</sup> and Daniel Newton, Sen<sup>r</sup> Also unto both my Two Daughters namely Elizabeth Dingley Sen<sup>r</sup> and Sarah Taylor Sen<sup>r</sup> I say to each of these my five children I bequeath Two Shillings and no more because I have given a portion to each of them already.

To Hannah my loving Wife I give all my movable Goods which I leave behind me at my Death. She paying out of the same all such Legacies as are above mentioned (unless Providence unavoidably deprive her thereof) And to this my Will I appoint my loving Son Joseph Newton Sen<sup>r</sup> and my loving Friend Isaac Amsden Executors. This is my Will.

Witness my hand & Seal this twenty-Eighth Day of September in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand six hundred ninety and three.

RICHARD NEWTON his mark and a Seal.

Read, acknowledged, Signed and Sealed In presence of the Witnesses.

NATHANIEL JOHNSON his mark  
 JAMES WOODS his mark  
 JOHN MAYNARD Jun<sup>r</sup> his mark

DANIEL<sup>2</sup> NEWTON. (RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

Daniel Newton was born in Marlboro in 1655. He married Susanna Morse, who was born in Watertown, Nov. 24, 1687. His father deeded him, "in consideration of fatherly love and affection," twenty acres of third division of upland, bounded on two sides by Stony Brook.

In October, 1722, he gave to his sons, Nathaniel and Samuel, "interests in a Grist Mill, on Stony Brook, near his dwelling house," the same in later years called "Nicholas Mills."

He died November 29, 1739. He had ten children.

ISAAC<sup>3</sup> NEWTON. (DANIEL,<sup>2</sup> RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

Isaac Newton was born in Marlboro, March 12, 1686. He married Sarah Belknap, who lived to be one hundred and six years of age. He was a cooper by trade.

He died in 1754. He had seven children.

SIMEON<sup>4</sup> NEWTON. (ISAAC,<sup>3</sup> DANIEL,<sup>2</sup> RICHARD.<sup>1</sup>)

Simeon Newton was born in 1735. He followed his father's trade, and worked in a cooper's shop in Needham before he was nineteen.

His father made his will in 1751, bequeathing to his wife his personal property and some real estate, reserving for his youngest son his sword and fire-arms. A section of the document reads thus :

To my fourth son, Simeon, I have given no part of his portion before this, wherefore I do now give and bequeath to him thirteen pounds, six shillings, and Eight pence, also one yoke of oxen, all to be paid two years after my decease, also my old hunting gun, if I do not dispose of it before.

All this, with the exception of the gun, which was probably given to Isaac, was duly paid by Seth, his brother, who inherited the homestead and settled the estate.

Two days after he became of age, he signed a quitclaim deed of all interest in his father's estate to Seth, his brother. Sometime about 1761, Simeon moved to Holliston, and married Jerusha Marsh, daughter of Alexander Marsh.

Here he bought a piece of land on Jasper Hill, of James Russell, which had formerly been owned by Lieut. Henry Adams; also a house and mill, of William Jones, built by Isaac Foster in 1730.

Later, this place was owned by Elihu Cutler. He carried on an extensive business, both in the mill and in the cooper-shop. His account book, still in existence, shows that he manufactured about every household article and

farming implement then in use ; spoons, bowls, churns, tubs, and all kinds of kegs and barrels.



NEWTON COAT OF ARMS.

June 1769 then reckoned and cleared with  
Joshua Hennosa

April 11 1770 then paid  
Jmae Newton five Dollars for his gun

April 8 1771 then reckoned with <sup>old time</sup>  
E. B. Jones as before and due to him \$10.00

56. 11 months of 25 1770  
To 40 Bush Barrels 40.00

May 2 1770 To 3 Bush Barrels 19 40.17 1/2

June 1770 cash 1.7.0

not Alexander's cash credit  
by 20 pounds of 1/2 c. x 0.15.0

by carting 100 of Barnet's casks 7.0.0

by carting 100 of Barnet's casks 7.0.0

Sept 14 1770  
Timothy Carter to 10 Bush Barrels 16.00

Sept 29 1781  
Timothy Park wood <sup>due</sup> to E. B. Jones 0.10.0

Beside supplying the local trade, loads of these goods were carried to Boston by ox-teams; these returned laden with groceries, molasses, New England rum, and sugar, which had been received in exchange. These in turn he bartered with the farmers for barrel staves and hoop-poles. The scarcity of money made this barter trade a necessity.

A short time before he died he sold the house, farm and mill to his son-in-law, Elihu Cutler. He died in 1801. His estate was valued at \$1,749.81, and was distributed between his wife and children by mutual agreement.

The inventory of the estate of Simeon Newton, made in 1801, includes :

Farming tools,	\$30.91
Coopers tools	27.30
Two cows & one colt	48.00
Pew in the old Meeting House	55.00
Silver Watch	14.00
Silver knee-buckles	4.00
Saddle & pillion	19.87
Silver spoons, knives & forks	3.45

	JAMES MELLEEN
Apprisers	AARON PHIPPS
	JAMES WIGHT

*Children of Simeon and Jerusha (Marsh) Newton.*

1. Hannah, b. 1762, m. Ichabod Perry, 1782.
2. Jerusha, b. 1766, m. James Eames, 1784.
3. Lavinia, b. 1768, m. Elihu Cutler, 1798.
4. Sally, b. 1776, d. 1806.
5. Elizabeth, b. 1778, m. Nahum Rockwood, 1799.

JERUSHA (MARSH) NEWTON.

Jerusha Marsh was born in Braintree, in 1741. When she was thirteen she moved with her father to Holliston. Although she never attended school, she has left more written records of her family, and the events of her day, than any of her kindred. Among these is a journal covering the

17  
 June 17<sup>th</sup> This Day an awfull  
 Battle was fought between the  
 Regulars and the provincials  
 in which my Brother was  
 wounded in the joint of his  
 knee and to this present  
 time Remains a Cripple the  
 was a distressing time with  
 me. But thanks be to God I  
 have been carried thro the  
 various trials of the <sup>to be Gracious</sup> ~~Summer~~  
 Blessed be God who still ~~will~~

FROM JERUSA NEWTON'S JOURNAL.

years between 1769-1835, which is now in a good state of preservation, and is owned by Arthur H. Cutler of New York city. This is written in a very interesting style, and

shows remarkable literary ability for one who received so few educational advantages.

<p> <sup>10</sup> as we were coming  down a hill in a Chaise  the horse ran and turned  over the Chaise threw myself  and Louisa and the Child all  on the frozen ground thro  wonderful mercy our  Lives were spared none of  greatly hurt except I  who was very much  hurt and remains lame yet  I hope this accident will  be sanctified to each of us </p>	<p> <sup>16</sup> Feb<sup>15</sup> this my Daughters  Sally Sat off for New York  to stay a year with her Sister  I desire to give up this Child  renewedly to God praying he  would be with her in her  Long and tedious Journey  and bless it to her and her  friends I desire with <sup>the</sup> event  and trade in the Lord I thank  who performeth all things  for us </p>
---	---

PAGE OF JERUSA NEWTON'S JOURNAL.

This gift was to some extent inherited from certain of her ancestors, who were among the most famous literary men of their times. She was of a highly nervous temperament, and suffered much from ill health. In the journal referred to she made an entry on her sixtieth birthday; she regrets that her's must be a short life, and strives to resign herself to her early decease. She lived, however, to make the same entry every recurring birthday for thirty-five years.

After her husband's death she lived some years with her son-in-law, Elihu Cutler. Later, she made her home with her daughters, in Leominster and Leicester.

The last years of her life were spent with her granddaughter, Mrs. James Wilson, in Medway, and with her grandson, Simeon Newton Cutler, of Holliston. In visiting her children she often took long journeys, over rough roads, and on her return she never failed to record her gratitude to the kindly Providence who had prevented her bones from being broken. Many persons now living have listened to her tales of earlier times, when Holliston was a hamlet with less than a hundred families. Her husband left her a competence, which she managed with the assistance of her son-in-law, Elihu Cutler.

<p><i>Jessieha Newton. Dr</i></p> <p>To sundry articles which she thought herself so poor she would not get which we got and are not set to her account for fear of worrying her —</p>	<p><i>Dol Ct</i></p>
<p><i>Recd of Mother Newton \$2.50 for</i></p> <p><i>to get a large Silver Spoon given</i></p> <p><i>to Cutler to be marked J. N. C. 1834</i></p>	

EXTRACT FROM ELIHU CUTLER'S ACCOUNT BOOK.

She contributed regularly for benevolent objects, and for the support of the Holliston church, of which she was a member for seventy years. In 1835, she died, at the age of ninety-four.

James Weston

1834<sup>th</sup> April  
 Brought from page 23  
 By the four hundred Dollars left in  
 the hands of the heirs of James Weston to  
 be expended by his widow if needed

The foregoing account note and  
 agreements have this day been  
 examined by us and find the above  
 Dollars due from the <sup>heirs</sup> Elisha Cutler  
 Natham Jackson

Elisha Cutler

24 =

P 7

Precious Day might see on my heart  
 Holliston Nov<sup>r</sup> 1824

Heavenly father thou hast in wondrous goodness  
 put it into the hearts of the people of this  
 town to build a house for the worship of  
 God and it is completely finished and solemnly  
 Dedicated for which I desire to call upon my  
 soul and all that is within me to praise his holy  
 name and <sup>with thy goodness</sup> beg that he would fill this house may  
 be filled his glory and the hearts of the whole  
 Society with his love Lord Grant it for Christ's

## ANCESTRY OF JERUSHA MARSH,

WHO MARRIED SIMEON NEWTON.

Alexander Marsh, great-grandfather of Jerusha Marsh, was born in England about 1628. He became a freeman of Braintree, now Quincy, in 1654. In 1655, he married Mary Belcher. For his second wife, he married Bathsheba —, who died January 8, 1723, at the age of eighty-two. He died March 7, 1698, aged seventy years.

Mr. Marsh was a selectman of Braintree for a series of years, often serving as chairman, and was representative under the new charter in 1692. In the town records he is spoken of as lieutenant, but just what service he did aside from militia service, we are not able to say. He made his will March 19, 1696. The same was proved March 21, 1697. He mentioned his wife, Bathsheba, giving her "free liberty of abiding with my children as a mother upon the farm I now occupy;" or, if she does not care for this, she may have liberty of rooms in his house in Boston. He had nine children. A section of his will follows :

Item, I do ordain and appoint that while my wife, and children, viz. John, Rachel, and Phoebe Marsh, shall continue together, or until my son John comes of age. All my whole stock of Cattle, horses sheep and hogs. Together with the buildings by me at my cost set up, on the Farm Shall be used and improved for their comfortable Subsistence, and at their parting the A fore mentioned Stock and Buildings to be divided betwixed my three last named Children according to the discretion of my Executors in trust.

Item—I do hereby give devise and bequeath to my son John Marsh and to his heirs forever, All and every parcel and parcels of my Upland and Meadow Lands undisposed of, now lawfully and rightfully belonging unto me, in the township of Braintrey and elsewhere in New England aforesaid, Together with all my Tackling and Utensils for husbandry.

I do hereby nominate and appoint my good friend M<sup>r</sup> John Wilson and M<sup>r</sup> Roger Billings the Executors in Trust of this my last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup> until my Son John Marsh comes of age and then he

to be Executor thereof — In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal the day and yeare first above written. ALEXANDER MARSH and a Seal, Signed, Sealed Published and Declared by the s<sup>d</sup>. Alexander Marsh as his last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup> in presence of us. DANIEL PRESTON Jun<sup>r</sup> WILLIAM RAWSON JOHN WILSON NATHANIEL GLOVER Sen<sup>r</sup> THOMAS FREMAN.

Exam<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>e</sup>. 18<sup>a</sup> ADDINGTON Reg. Ein.

*William Rawson*

*Alexander Marsh*

The Inventory of the property of Alexander Marsh, amounting to £1290-18-04, is on file at Probate Registry :

Land Valued at	£ 300.
Furnace Plant	“ 420.
House and land in Boston	“ 200.

Among the personal property items :

One Indian man bound for two years	“ 003.
An Indian boy, supposed for a longer time.	“ 005.

JOHN<sup>2</sup> MARSH. (ALEXANDER.<sup>1</sup>)

John Marsh, only son of Alexander, was born in 1678, in Braintree. In August, 1701, he married Sarah Wilson, daughter of Dr. John Wilson, the first physician in Quincy, and granddaughter of Rev. John Wilson, the first minister of Boston. He died June 22, 1745. He had eleven children.

*John Marsh*

*Sarah Marsh*

ALEXANDER<sup>3</sup> MARSH. (JOHN,<sup>2</sup> ALEXANDER.<sup>1</sup>)

Alexander Marsh was born in 1707. He married Hannah, daughter of Benjamin Parmenter. She was born in 1714, and died at the age of seventy-four years. About 1754, he moved from Braintree to Holliston, and settled on the Winthrop grant, on the north side of Winthrop Pond.

He died about 1788, aged eighty-three years. He had eight children; one of these, Jerusha, married Simeon Newton.

## ANCESTRY OF SARAH WILSON.

WHO MARRIED JOHN MARSH.

William Wilson of England was Canon of St. George's Chapel, in Windsor Castle. He married, first, Isabel Woodhall, and second, Anne ——. He died March 14, 1615. He had eight children.

REV. JOHN<sup>2</sup> WILSON. (WILLIAM.<sup>1</sup>)

Rev. John Wilson was born in 1592. He married Elizabeth Mansfield, daughter of Sir John Mansfield. She died about 1659. Considering the position held by his father in the church of England, it is remarkable that he was such a radical non-conformist. He came to this country with Endicott. In November, 1632, he organized the first church in Boston, and was its pastor during his life. He was a personal friend and staunch defender of Governor Winthrop, who was one of the charter members of his church. He died August 7, 1667, aged seventy-five years. He had four children.

*John Wilson Sen*

## JOHN WILSON — HIS WILL.

In the Name of God Amen I — John Wilson senior Pastor of the Church of Christ at Boston in New England being now aged and many weakness attending of me and puting me in mind of my great change, yet through the goodness of God being yet present of sound Judgment and memory Do therefore hereby Order and declare my last Will and Testament in maner and form following :

Imprimis. My soul which I do believe is immortal and do humbly and believably commit it into the everlasting Arms and mercy of God the Father Son and holy Ghost accounting him faithful that hath promised

My body I commit it to the earth to be decently interred in the same Tomb where is now lying the body of my beloved wife Elizabeth in Boston at the discretion of my Executors and loving friends.

And as for mine outward Estate wherewith the Lord hath ben pleased to bless me and make me Steward of for a time, my first and funeral expenses being first paid, I dispose of the remainder as followeth :

Imprimis To John Wilson jun the Son of my Son Edward Wilson Doctor of Physik late of London deceased I do will and bequeath Two hundred Thirty three pounds Six Shillings and Eight pence to be paid to his lawful Gurdian within two years after my discease in Boston in New England in Merchantable & good goods, either for the Indias or for England at the currant prices with the Merchants. \* \* \* \*

To my Son John Wilson Pastor of the church at Medfield, and to my daughter Mary Danforth the wife of Samuel Danforth of Roxbury Pastor of that church to whom I have by deed made and signed the same day with the said presents given and granted all my houses and lands whereof I am now seized together with all other my estate real and personal I do hereby fully clearly and absolutely confirm the same to them the said John Wilson, Samuel Danforth and Mary his wife and to their heirs & assigns forever Ever. And do hereby nominate and ordain my two Sons John Wilson and Samuel Danforth Joint Executors of this my last will and Testament. \* \* \* \* \*

To Sarah, Elizabeth, John and Susanna, children of my son John Wilson of Medfield twenty-five pounds each. \* \* \* \*

To John Mary Elizabeth and Samuel children of my daughter Mary Danforth twenty-five pounds each, also same sum to such children as are born to them within the next two years. To John

Mansfield brother of Elizabeth Danforth, ten pounds, to his wife five pounds. \* \* \* \* \*

To my beloved Cousin Mr. Edward Rawson at Boston I do give One hundred pounds.

To Mrs. Anna Paige my Kinswoman I do give Twenty pounds. To my brother John Mansfield and his Children I do give Ten pounds Viz<sup>t</sup>. to him and his wife five pounds and the other Five pounds to be equally divided between his children

To my dear Cousin Mrs Sarah Higginson I do give Five pounds.

To the church over which I am Overseer as aforesaid Ten pounds.

To my beloved Brother and fellow Elder over the same church Mr. James Penn I do give three pounds.

To my beloved Brethren Cap<sup>t</sup>. James Johnson, Mr. Richard Truesdale Mr. Jacob Eliot Deacons of the same Church Forty Shillings a piece

To my ancient and good Friend Mrs. Norton as a Small expression of my affectionate love to her I do give Twenty Shillings.

To my faithful and good friends Gandy James and Ann his wife, I do give five pounds as a testimony of my thankfulness to them for their love and service done unto me. To my Cousen William Smith I do give Forty Shillings.

To my reverend and beloved Brethren and fellow labourers in the works of the Ministry Mr. Richard Marther of Dorchester, Mr. John Allen of Dedham Mr Zachariah Lyones Senior of Charlestown Mr. John Sherman of Watertown Mr. Jonathan Mitchel of Cambridge Mr. James Sheapard of Charlestown and Mr. Michael Wigglesworth I do give ten shillings apiece to each of them And to Mr. Thomas Thacher and Mr. James Allen twenty shillings apiece.

To my son John Wilson I give the gold ring with the Seal and to my daughter Mary Danforth an Emerald gold ring.

I do also nominate and appoint my Honorable Friend Mr Thomas Danforth of Cambridge and my loving Kinsman Mr. Edward Rawson, Overseers of this my last will & Testament & bequeath to the said Mr. Thomas Danforth the sum of forty shillings.

In Witness whereof I do hereunto put my hand & seale this 31 May: 1667.

Signed sealed & published on the day of the date hereof by the said John Wilson Senio<sup>r</sup>, to bee his last will & Testament in presence of us

DANIEL DENNISON  
JOHN LEVERETT

JOHN WILSON  
Senio<sup>r</sup> & Seale

INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY OF REV. JOHN WILSON  
SENIOR.

Wee whose names are subscribed being desired to put a just estimate on the farm wherein James Faxon does now dwell Apertaining to the Estate of Reverend Mr. John Wilson lately deceased doe hereby declare that we do judge the said farm Containing one dwelling house & barn with about seven hundred Acres of Land more or less of Swamp meadow Arable and woodland w<sup>th</sup> the priveledges & Appurtenances thereto belonging, as also ten Cows & a mare to be delivered by the said Faxon at the End of his tearme the whole wee do value at Thirteen hundred pounds in Currant payment of the Country given under our hands in - Braintry this 19<sup>th</sup> of Aug.<sup>st</sup> 1667.

RICHARD BRACKET

EDMUND QUINCY

His personal property valued at	£119 - 14 - 6
His home in Boston	300 - 00 - 00

Apprised by

JOHN HULL

THO. BUNSTEAD

At a meeting of the Governor major Lusher & Record<sup>r</sup> in Boston the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1667 Mr. John Wilson junior & Mr Samuel Danforth Executo<sup>rs</sup> of the last will & Testament of the - Mr - John Wilson senio<sup>r</sup> deposed that this & the other papers hereto annext Contains a true Inventory of the Estate of the late Mr John Wilson Sen<sup>r</sup>, that is come to their hands or knowledge, that if they know more they will discover the same

EDWARD RAWSON, Record<sup>r</sup>

REV. JOHN<sup>3</sup> WILSON. (REV. JOHN,<sup>2</sup> WILLIAM.<sup>1</sup>)

Rev. John Wilson, born in 1621, was a member of the first class that graduated from Harvard College, in 1642. He married Sarah Hooker, daughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker and Mary Pym Hooker, of Hartford, Connecticut. He was pastor of the church in Medfield, which he founded in 1651, with only eight members. He held this office for forty years. On one occasion his house was attacked and burned by the Indians, a number of persons losing their lives. His grand-daughter, Sarah Wilson, was there at the time,

It was afterward enacted by the General Court that every one should carry arms to the meeting-house on the Lord's day. Each man was to be supplied with five charges of powder and shot, under penalty of five shillings for each default.

“So once for fear of Indian beating,  
Our grandsires bore their guns to meeting;  
Each man equipped on Sunday morn  
With psalm book, shot and powder horn,  
And looked in form as all must grant,  
Like th' ancient true church militant,  
Or fierce like modern deep divines,  
Who fight with quills like porcupines.”

The wife of Rev. John Wilson died in Mendon in 1715. He died August 23, 1691, at the age of seventy years. He had eight children.

DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> WILSON. (REV. JOHN,<sup>3</sup> REV. JOHN,<sup>2</sup>  
WILLIAM.<sup>1</sup>)

Dr. John Wilson was born in 1660. He taught school in Medfield in 1685, and sometimes preached. He resided in Medfield until about 1695, when he removed to the ancient Wilson homestead in Braintree, at present in Quincy, the home built by the Rev. John Wilson, the first pastor of Boston. About 1685, he married Sarah Newton, daughter of Roger and Mary (Hooker) Newton. She died August 20, 1725. He was a commissioner from Braintree in 1695, a moderator of town-meetings from 1698 to 1709, and a captain of militia as early as 1698. He practiced medicine in Medfield and Braintree. He died in 1727. He had seven children. His eldest daughter, Sarah, married John Marsh in 1701.

*John Wilson*

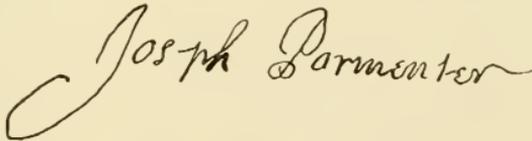
## ANCESTRY OF HANNAH PARMENTER,

WHO MARRIED ALEXANDER MARSH.

Robert Parmenter was born in 1622. He became a freeman of Braintree in 1650. He married, in 1648, Leah Wheatley, who died March 24, 1706, aged eighty-six years. He was deacon of the First Church in Braintree, now Quincy. He died June 27, 1696, at the age of seventy-four years. He had five children, of whom one son, John, a corporal, went out with the fleet to Canada in 1690, and, dying of small-pox, was buried at sea.

JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> PARMENTER. (ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

Joseph Parmenter was born in Braintree in 1655. He married Mary Marsh, daughter of Edmund Sheffield's second wife, in 1675. He became a freeman in 1678. In 1675, he became one of Captain Davis's company to fight in King Phillip's war. He was elected town-clerk in 1699, and held the office for thirty years. He was also a founder and deacon of the church. He died February 20, 1737, at the age of eighty-one years. He had six children.


BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> PARMENTER. (JOSEPH,<sup>2</sup> ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

Benjamin Parmenter was born in 1682. He married Hannah, daughter of Ephraim Newton. Their marriage intentions were published May 25, 1711.

Branbury March 25<sup>th</sup> 1711

ms Hannah

I was by Divine Providence hindered and prevented (within a few dayes after I last visitt'd you) of what I fully purpos'd and determin'd even of giving you another visitt ~~but~~ now, but by sickness I have been detain'd and confin'd, though now through Gods goodness in some measure abated, never theles my love is not abated <sup>or</sup> cooled but more then ever enlarg'd, and by these lines I assure thee of the constantly and reality of my indeav'd Affection for, and towards thee, since then at present I cannot personally visitt thee, Accept I intreat thee of what I have here from my heart uprightly and sinseerly inclosed, and disclosed unto thee, hoping for the like answerable returns of Love from thee, with more full and firme evidence, and experience thereof, when it shall please God to give me an opportunity to see thee I who am in hopes that a very few dayes will be the longest. The meane while I shall most un-faynedly remaine and abide, what I now seriously and sinseerly subscribe your true Steady and Steadfast friend and very humble servant. Benjamin Parmenter

Let our desires & prayers for each other be, that God would preserve and keep us from the evil of the times - that our ~~garments~~ may be kept unspotted from the world, and that we may live soberly rightowly and godly in this ~~evil~~ present evil world =

As for the time of my absence  
I think it long my Dear  
I'll haste and give thee my presence,  
may that thy presence be here; B-P

She was born June 1, 1682, and was living December, 1743. Benjamin was a tailor; he died May 1, 1718, at the age of thirty-six. He had three children; the eldest, Hannah, married Alexander Marsh.

After the death of Benjamin Parmenter his widow managed the estate for twenty-four years. When in 1743 she rendered her account to the Judge of Probate, it was shown that she had provided for herself and reared her children on the income, thus preserving the estate intact, as seen by the following :

BENJAMIN PARMENTER'S ADMIN<sup>TR</sup> ACC<sup>T</sup>.

[Suffolk Probate Records, Boston, Vol. 36:348.]

*The account of Hannah Parmenter admin<sup>TR</sup> of Benjamin Parmenter late of Braintree Taylor deced Intestate*

The accomptant Chargeth herself with knowledge of the Personal Estate Sold by her &c and what remains in her hands not worn out as follows

By Bills of Credit in the House about the time my husband was taken sick of his last Illness	£ 5 - 00 - 00
By one cow sold for	" 5 - 00 - 00
By a cradle and swing sold	" - 10
By a prr. Shears Sold 3/ By a gun & Sword 40/	" 2 - 3 -
By a Garlick Shirt 12/ By Clothes sold for 60/	" 3 - 12 -
By a pr. Stockings Sold for 1/a Childs fur hair Waist-coat sold 2/6	" 9 - 9 - 6
By a pr. of shoes I had of Mr Adams for Debt	" - 4 -
By a Bushell malt I had of Nathan Bracket for D. due to him	" 5 -
Remaining in my hands	
One bed & furniture & two Bedsteads	£ 10 - —
Sheets and pillow beers much worn & 2 napkins	" 1 - —
a case of drawers & a table 50/ a chest & chairs 30/	" 4 —
Books 3s/ Brass and Pewter 90/ Iron Ware /52	" 6 - 4 —
a large Table & Form 25/ 2 Wheels a Reel & pr <sup>r</sup> Wood-en Scales 12/	" 1 - 17 -
and old Pillion Carkrich Box Snap Sack Bodkin & old Tob <sup>o</sup> Box 4/	" 4 —

one Wooden & one Iron Candle stick 6/ Earthen Ware 4/	“ 0 - 10 -
a Joynt Stool an old Wooden Sugar box & a Paper Box 4/	“ 0 - 4 -
a Sma : Looking Glass 3/ a child's Silver Spoon 10/	“ 0 - 13
2 Sma : Glass Bottles 1/ 3 old Trays a Lapboard yard stick two old Bracketts & a cover for Small Earthen pot 6/8	“ 0 - 3 - 6
a razor and an old Tin Lamp	“ 0 - 2 -
The accomptant further Chargeth herself with the Rent and Profit of the House & Land for 24 years a £9	£ 216
	<hr/>
	“ 260 - 15 - 2

The Accomptant Dischargeth herself by her Payment & Disbursn<sup>ts</sup> as follows

To funeral Funeral Charges	£ 0 - 7 - 0
To £7 p <sup>d</sup> Mr Samuel Tompson a debt due to him on Bond	“ 0 - 7 - 0
To Fencing Stuff 9/ with Setting y <sup>e</sup> fence	“ 0 - 4 - 9
To the maintenance of the children one 2 years at 5/ p week £26 another 4 y <sup>r</sup> at D <sup>o</sup> £52 - y <sup>e</sup> youngest 6 y <sup>rs</sup> a D <sup>o</sup> £78	} £156
To 4000 Shingles laid on the Rouse	4 - 16 -
To nails & work	2 - 15 -
To 4 New wind <sup>o</sup> Frames Lathes & Glass	6 - 12 -
To 2 pc <sup>s</sup> Timber & raising the Floor	1 - 0 -
To mending Glass 24/ a new Door & hinges 14/	1 - 13 -
To 30/ p <sup>s</sup> for Summering & Wintering a cow	1 - 10 -
To making 2 ovens 30/ a Ladder for y <sup>e</sup> House 12/	2 - 2 -
The accomptant prays for allowance of her Third part of the Personal Estate after Debts & Funeral Charges p <sup>d</sup> being £29 - 5 2 and for her third part of the Income of the House & Land for 24 years being three pounds a year	£ 72 —
	Discharged 276 - 12 —
	Charged 260 - 15 - 2
Ballance due to me old Tenour	£ 15 - 16 - 2
Error Except <sup>d</sup> & HANNAH <sup>her</sup> X PARMENTER <sub>mark</sub>	

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed being Chosen & Impowered to audit the accompt of the admin<sup>rs</sup> above named have

Carefully perused and examined the within written accompt and Judge the same to be reasonable & Just and that it ought to be allowed

Braintree May 1743.

JOHN QUINCY

PETER ADAMS

EBENEZER FIELD

Suffolk ss: By the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Josiah Willard Esq<sup>r</sup> Judge of Pro & c

Hannah Parmenter adm<sup>rx</sup> presented the foregoing & made oath that it contains a Just and true accompt of her admina'con of the Estate of her late Husband Benjamin Parmenter dec'ed so far as she hath proceeded therein which I do allow & approve of the same having been allowed by the auditor appointed by myself and the Parties/  
J. WILLARD

Boston, June 14, 1743.

Ex<sup>d</sup> & An I<sup>w</sup> BELCHER Regr<sup>r</sup>

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## ANCESTRY OF HANNAH NEWTON,

WHO MARRIED BENJAMIN PARMENTER.

There is no evidence of family relation between this family and the family of Simeon Newton.

### JOHN NEWTON.

John Newton of England resided in Colliton, county of Devonshire. He was a chirurgeon (surgeon). He made his will April 3, 1646, from which we learn that the name of his wife was Alice; that he had a daughter Mary, unmarried when the will was made, who later married — Stoker; that his son Anthony was in New England, also his daughter Jane, who had married Deacon Thomas Loring of Hingham. The following is an abstract of his will:

#### WILL OF JOHN NEWTON, ENGLAND.

\* \* \* \* My wife Alice shall have and enjoy all that house wherein she now dwelleth and occupieth. during her life, if those three lives hereafter mentioned, or either of them so long shall live,

that is to say, John, Grace, Tamsin, his wife, and Tamsin his daughter. And after her death my daughter Mary shall have and enjoy the said home during all the time then to come and unexpired. And if my daughter Mary die before Alice my wife, my will is that all such goods etc. as my wife hath now in keeping etc. Shall be sold and the money that is yielded shall be equally divided between my son Anthony, and my daughter Joane, or their children. And if my daughter Mary die childless and if my said wife and she die before the expiration of the said term of three lives, my will is that Edward Newton, son of William Newton of Waddon shall then have and enjoy the said home etc. during all the time to come and unexpired. Also I give unto Anthony, my said son and Joane by said daughter, which are now in New England, Six pounds apiece, to be paid by Mary, my said daughter within half a year after my death.

The residue to my said daughter Mary, whome I make mine Executrix and I do appoint my well beloved and faithful friends in trust John Purchase of Maymbree, and Nicholas Bauches my kinsman to be overseers herein, and for their pains therein I give them five shillings apiece.

Proved by the oath of Mary Stoker als. Newton, natural and lawful daughter of the deceased and executrix named in the same will.

#### ANTHONY<sup>2</sup> NEWTON. (JONAS.<sup>1</sup>)

Anthony Newton was born about 1614, probably at Collyton, county of Devonshire, England. He died in Milton, Massachusetts, May 5, 1704, aged ninety years. His wife was living in 1681, at which time she was dismissed from Dorchester church to join the church at Milton. Her maiden name cannot be found. Anthony Newton was a shipwright. He was among those who formed a church at Milton in 1678. He was at Braintree in 1640, had property interests at Lancaster in 1652, but was probably a resident of Dorchester from 1642 in that part which became Milton.

To his son Ephraim he deeds his homestead in Milton. He had five children.

EPIHRAIM<sup>3</sup> NEWTON. (ANTHONY,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>)

Ephraim Newton was born in 1647. He married Ruth, daughter of Andrew Pitcher. He was a soldier in King Philip's war. He deeded his homestead to his son John, in 1722, with the exception of a small place which he gave to his daughter, Ruth Addington, of whom John purchased it in a few years. He was living in 1722, as was also his wife. He had five children, of whom one, Hannah, married Benjamin Parmenter of Braintree.

## ANCESTRY OF RUTH PITCHER,

WHO MARRIED EPHRAIM NEWTON.

Andrew Pitcher lived in Dorchester in 1634. He was made a freeman June 2, 1641. He, in company with Nicholas Wood, was one of the first settlers of Sherborn at Holbrook Station. He married Margaret Russell, who died in 1681. He died in 1661. He had eight children. All of his four sons were in King Philip's war. His youngest daughter, Ruth, married Ephraim Newton.

## ANDREW PITCHER — WILL.

[Suffolk Probate Records, Boston, Vol. 1: 366.]

I Andrew Pitcher of Dorchester being by ye present paynes and weaknesse upon mee sensible that my dayes will not be long here and willing soe for to dispose of that little estate that God hath lent mee that it may prevent trouble hereafter hopeing that ere long I shall be freed from what I now undergo And I shall be with the Lord Therefore after ye buriall of my body and my Debts honestly payde my will is that my wife margaret shall have all my estate that is within Dorchester during her life for her owne maintaynance and for to bring up my children And further my will is that my eldest sonn Samuell shall have halfe my land that lyes neere good man Wade behind medfield and halfe ye meadow that lyes belonging to it And further my will is that my sonnes John and Jonathan shall

have y<sup>e</sup> other halfe of it with the other halfe of y<sup>e</sup> meadow belong- to it And further my will is that after my wifes decease my sonne Nathaniel shall have my houseing and all my lands and cattle within Dorchester and shall pay out of it to my eldest Daughter experience Sixteen pounds within four yeares hee comes to enjoy it

And to my youngest daughter Ruth twelve pounds within six yeares after he comes to enjoy it And further my will is that what household stuffe there is left after my wifes disease shall be devided equally to all my Children alike and further my will is that if any of my Children dye before they come to enjoy their portion it shall be devided Amongst the rest equally except they leave children to suc- ceed them furthermore I doe appoynt my wife and eldest son for to be executors of this my last will and Testament In wnesse I have set too my hand ANDREW PITCHER his marke.

In presence of William Robinson

John H<sup>his mark</sup> Gill

Samuel Wadsworth

y<sup>e</sup> 4(10) 1660 At A County Court held in Boston 9 mos 3 1661 John Gill and william Robbinson Deposed that having subscribed their names to this paper were present when Andrew Pitcher signed and declared this paper as his last will and Testament that he was of A sound memorie and disposing mind to their best knowledge

#### ANDREW PITCHER INVTY

[Suffolk Probate Records, Boston, Vol. 4:18.]

An Inventory of y<sup>e</sup> goods and Chattels of Imp<sup>r</sup>mis) Andrew Pitchers late of Dorchester prized by us under written 19(1) 1660

A dwelling house barne house lott & orchard	£ 100.00.00
To three acres of meadow	.. 012.00.00
To two hundred Acres of upland and meadow lying in or neare unto Medfield	.. 110.00.00
To four Cowes and oxen and one horse	.. 033.00.00
To small swine	.. 002.00.00
To one Cart one share and Coulter one Chayne Axletree pines hoopes for wheels wedges and Ranges for beetle 2 howes one Axe one Sythe and one yoake	.. 003.00.00
To 3 beds with furniture	.. 012.00.00
To in Table linen	.. 002.00.00
To in cloathe	.. 002.00.00
To in wearing apparell	.. 002.00.00

To in pewter br in brasse vessells 25 <sup>s</sup>	“ 002.00.00
To in an iron pott and frying panne	“ 000.06.00
To in wooden vessels and one Spinning whelle	“ 002.00.00
To Armes and Ammunition 2 <sup>s</sup>	“ 002.00.00
To in Corne 40 <sup>b</sup>	“ 040.00.00
To one hand saw and pot hangers 6 <sup>s</sup> in baggs 5 <sup>s</sup>	“ 000.11.00
To in bookes 5 <sup>s</sup> in Cards 3 <sup>s</sup> cheste and boxes	“ 002.08.00
	<hr/>
	£ 286.
Debts that at p <sup>r</sup> sent Appear are	“ 20.20.00

Samuel Pitcher deposed in Court 9 May 1662 saith that this is A true Inventory of y<sup>e</sup> estate of the late Andrew Pitcher to his best knowledge that when he knows more he will discover it

PROMINENT MEN WHOSE NAMES APPEAR IN  
THESE RECORDS.

We may get some idea of the sincerity and devotion to their religious convictions of such heroic spirits as John Wilson and Elizabeth Mansfield, of Thomas Hooker and Mary Pym, leaders in literary and social circles, from the fact that they left their homes of comfort, and even luxury, for the life of deprivation and actual suffering necessarily attending their emigration.

Thomas Hooker was a famous preacher and teacher in England; he numbered John Elliot among his pupils; he was a cousin of Richard Hooker, a noted prose writer in the time of Elizabeth. The main part of Hooker's company came to New England in 1632. He was obliged to escape in disguise to avoid imprisonment, but came some months later. His company settled at Newtown, now Cambridge, this territory having been assigned them by the General Court of Massachusetts.

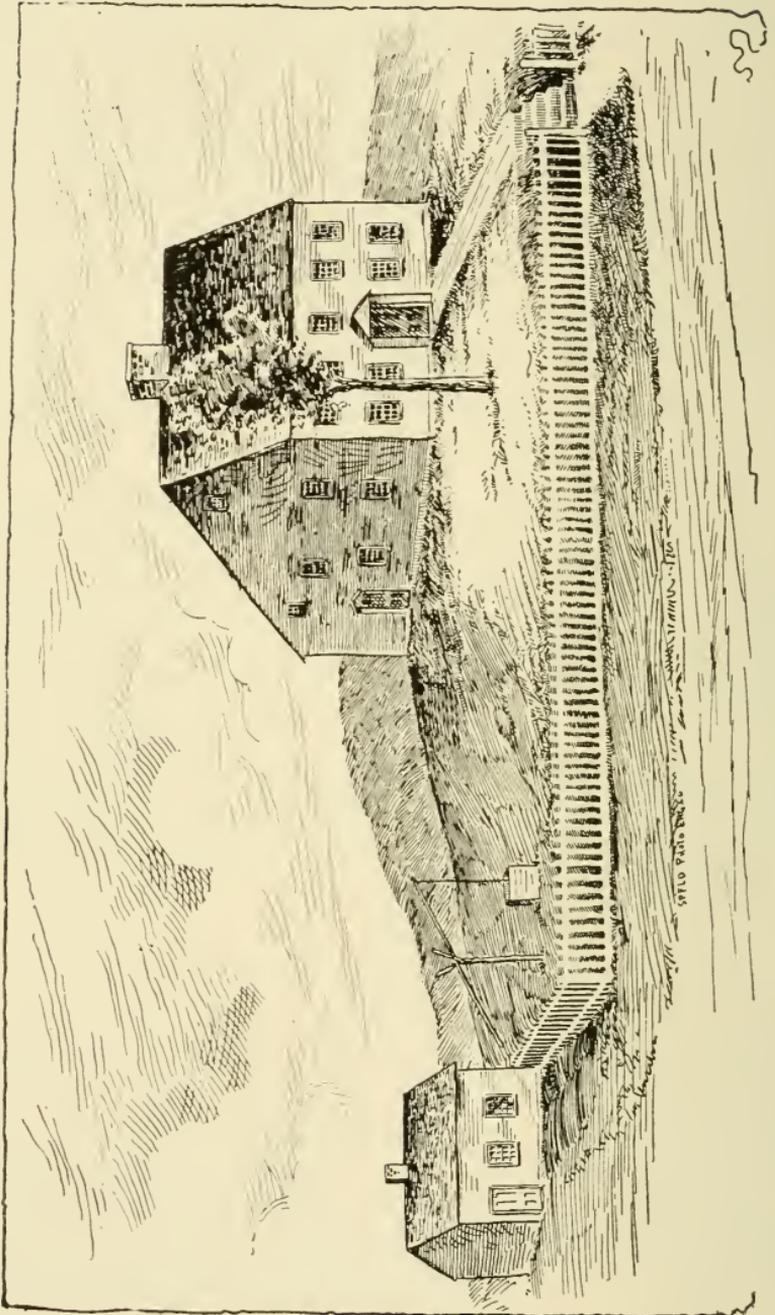
Thomas Hooker married first, Mary Pym, sister of the great John Pym, the leader of the Parliament which opposed Charles the First with armed force. Sarah, the daughter of Thomas Hooker and Mary Pym, married Rev. John Wilson of Medfield; her son, Dr. Wilson, married Sarah Newton, who was a granddaughter of Thomas Hooker and Sarah —, his second wife; their daughter, Sarah Wilson Marsh, was great-grandmother to Lavinia Newton, wife of Elihu Cutler.

What relation existed between Mary Hooker Newton and Gov. Edward Hopkins of Connecticut is not known, but she was a legatee in his will by which he left five hundred pounds to Harvard College. The trustees of this legacy invested it in land in Massachusetts; which later became incorporated into the town of Hopkinton.

Thomas Hooker was too liberal to be in sympathy with the policy of the Massachusetts Colony, where civil rights depended on religious qualifications. He, therefore, soon asked permission of the General Court to remove with his followers from Cambridge to the banks of the Connecticut. The privilege, refused at first, was granted the following year. In 1636, Mr. Hooker, with Samuel Stone, also a preacher, and John White, who later was an elder in his church, in company with about a hundred followers, including men, women and children, started across the country, driving horses and cattle before them for a distance of more than a hundred miles through a trackless wilderness. They settled at Hartford, then calling it Newtown, after their former home.

Samuel Morse, who was an officer in Cromwell's Ironsides, came to New England in 1645. He first settled in Dedham. About 1650, he moved to Medfield, where his family became connected by marriage with the Perrys and Clarks. Daniel Morse, one of his sons, was among the first to settle on the west side of the Charles River. He was a charter member of the first church in Sherborn, and prominent in all public affairs. His daughter married John Perry. Dorcas, the daughter of his brother Joseph, married Benjamin Clark.

HOMESTEAD OF SIMEON NEWTON.



Built 1730.

SIMEON NEWTON.

1761.

The land upon which Simeon Newton's house and mill was located was part of a grant of land given to Eleazer Lusher. It consisted of two hundred and fifty acres in what was then called Medfield. Part of this he sold May 26, 1659, to Henry Adams, who had a cattle ranche upon it for a few years. His son Jasper was the first to live upon it, and Samuel Brown of Salem owned it later, but did not occupy it. About 1725, Isaac Foster, supposed to be a relative of the Browns, built the mill, and the house about 1730, both of which he sold to Joshua Hemenway, who in turn sold them to William Jones. From him, in 1763, Simeon Newton purchased the property for the sum of "Two hundred & eighteen pounds, six shillings & eight pence, paid in hand." It consisted of thirty-two acres of land, a house and gristmill. To the north and east it was bounded by land owned by James Russell, on the south by the estate of Rev. Joshua Prentice, and on the western side by the "farm line," so called.

When Grandmother Newton began housekeeping here there was probably only one house in sight. The Brook meadow, stretching away to the northeast, was the only cleared land in view; all the rest was primeval forest. The little mill was two hundred yards higher up the stream, where evidences of the old dam can still be seen. During her lifetime the land about there was cleared and cultivated nearly as much as at present, and most of the buildings now standing were erected. A new dam and a trim little red factory and mill were built, which with the beautiful sheet of water in the foreground still forms a pleasing picture in the memory of her children.

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 Holliston, 7, 13, 18.  
 Holbrook Station, 29.  
 Hopkinton, 32.  
 Hartford, 33.  
 Hemenway, Joshua, 35.
- Hopkins, Edward, 32.  
 Hooker, Richard, 32.  
 Thomas, 21, 32, 33.  
 Mary, 22.  
 Sarah, 21, 32.
- JONES, William, 7, 35.  
 Jasper Hill, 7.
- KING PHILIP, 23, 29.
- LOKER, Hannah, 5.  
 Loring, Thomas, 27.
- MARLBORO, 5.  
 Medway, 13.  
 Medfield, 21, 32.  
 Milton, 28.  
 Morse, Susannah, 6.  
 Samuel, 33.  
 Daniel, 33.  
 Joseph, 33.
- Marsh, Jerusha, 7, 16, 18.  
 Alexander, 7, 16, 17, 18, 23.  
 John, 16, 17, 22.  
 Mary, 23.
- Mansfield, Sir John, 18.  
 Elizabeth, 18.
- NEEDHAM, 7.  
 Newton, 32, 33.  
 Newton, Simeon, homestead, 34, 35.  
 Nicholas Mills, 6.  
 Newton Coat of Arms, 8.  
 Newton, Lavinia, 5, 32.  
 Richard, 5.  
 Daniel, 6.  
 Isaac, 7.  
 John, 27.  
 Simeon, 7, 13, 18, 27.  
 Seth, 7.  
 Jerusha (Marsh), 10.
- Sarah (Hooker), 22.  
 Ephraim, 23, 29.  
 Anthony, 27, 28.  
 Hannah, 27, 29.  
 Noyes, Peter, 5.
- PARMENTER, Benjamin,  
 18, 23, 25, 27.  
 Hannah, 18, 23.  
 Robert, 23.  
 Joseph, 23.
- Pitcher, Andrew, 29, 30, 31.  
 Ruth, 29.  
 Samuel, 29, 31.
- Pym, John, 32.  
 Mary, 32.
- Perry, John, 33.
- QUINCY, 17.  
 Quincy, Edmund, 21.  
 Quincy, John, 27.
- RAWSON, William, 17.  
 Edward, 20.  
 Roxbury, 19.
- SUDBURY, 5.  
 Stony Brook, 5.  
 Stoker, Mary, 28.  
 Stone, Samuel, 33.
- WINDSOR Castle, 18.  
 Watertown, 6, 20.  
 Winthrop Pond, 18.  
 Winthrop, Gov., 18.  
 White, John, 33.  
 Wilson, Mrs. James, 13.  
 John, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 32.  
 Dr. John, 17, 22, 32.  
 Sarah, 17, 21.  
 William, 18.  
 Woodhall, Isabel, 18.  
 Wheatley, Leah, 22.

APPENDIX TO PART II.



*Betty Rockwood Cutler*  
1801

Daughter of Elihu Cutler.

Sally Newton  
 from Mahauk  
 See her mothers  
 Journal. p. 9, 12

Western Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1800

I have written & written & am

writing again for fear you not hear enough from  
 me now I regret much to hear of Cady Ravens

illness I have suffered so much myself this Season from  
 bad health I am tolerable well at present however

I have been much about the Country there something  
 so new & romantic in it that I have <sup>been</sup> pleased with every  
 occasion I went in July to the Pleasing Eben. Plaster  
 Made it in a height of Sand and composed of about  
 thirty acres a handsome frame the roof low & a  
 very curious Cellar the House itself is pleasant indeed  
 adorned with beautiful Trees it was a scene most impressive

rather almost any thing I wish you would write how soon  
 I have a letter partly written for Uncle Prubens but  
 me to finish it be kind enough to rem. me before to him  
 in I regret very much the situation of his health  
 we to all who have the Goodship to enquire after him



Newton here is a  
 Letter for you & the two  
 Loves like your & Bobsays  
 1. See your White Pigeons yesterday  
 & when I return shall certainly  
 bring them if you read twice  
 a Day & spell with Phony  
 Learning & Betsy must read too  
 & have a word every Day  
 your New-Testament is at Capt-  
 -Sabanen I shall expect a

Letter from you next week

Do write if you remember your  
Geographical Calculations I shall  
be glad to hear of your good  
behaviour to your grand Ma

I send you a very pretty piece of Calico  
for your grand Ma - a new gown

I think I shall bring her one  
just like it when I come back write  
if your grand Ma's glasses fit her eyes  
& if your uncle James likes his  
speaking

My Love to Betty &c

S. N.



SIX GENERATIONS.

ADDITIONAL FACTS REGARDING THE MILLING OPERATIONS  
OF SIMEON NEWTON AND ELIHU CUTLER.

The relics of a dam on Jarr Brook and a cellar hole near by may still be seen, near the farm formerly owned by Samuel Bullard, Esq. According to the testimony of living descendants of the Bullard family, it has always been a tradition that it was here Simeon Newton first built a house and saw-mill. After a few years, he bought the place with which his name is generally connected.

He moved his saw-mill to his new place. The house was also moved from the old site, and with this an addition was built, which is still a part of the Simeon Newton house.

About 1815, Elihu Cutler bought of the Leland family the water-power, where the comb factory stood in recent years, for the Jarr Brook Wheel Company. Here were made the first four-wheeled passenger wagons made in this State. The Holliston wagons obtained quite an extensive sale in this and other States.

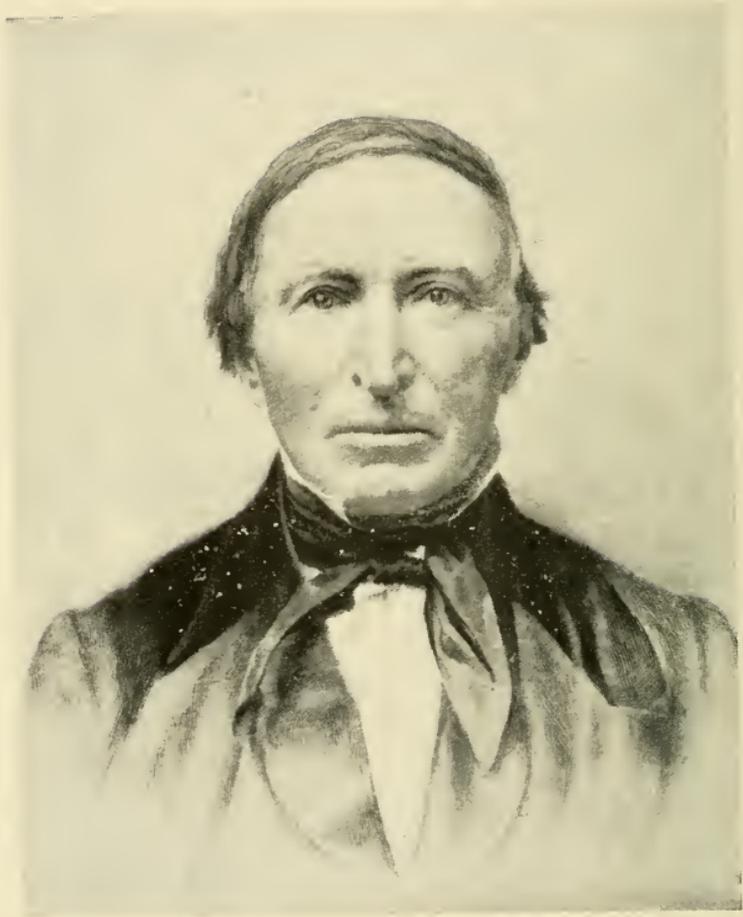
The Cutler family own land on which, until recent years, were two dams a mile or more above this spot.



PART III.



HISTORY OF  
SIMEON NEWTON CUTLER,  
MARY (FITTS) CUTLER,  
AND THE  
FITTS FAMILY.



*Simon Newton Cutler,*  
1799.

## SIMEON NEWTON CUTLER.

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SIMEON<sup>7</sup> NEWTON CUTLER. (ELIHU,<sup>6</sup> SIMEON,<sup>5</sup>  
JONATHAN,<sup>4</sup> NATHANIEL,<sup>3</sup> NATHANIEL,<sup>2</sup> JOHN.<sup>1</sup>

Simeon Newton Cutler was born September 28, 1799, in the old farm-house of James Wright, near the woolen factory in Holliston. Within the year after his birth his father moved to the Simeon Newton homestead, occupying it with the Newton family. As Simeon was the first grandson to become a member of the family, his grandmother, Jerusha (Marsh) Newton, and aunt Sally, took especial interest in his welfare, as may be seen by records in the old journal. He is the child referred to by his grandmother in her journal where she narrates her hair-breadth escape while riding in a chaise with her daughter and grandchild. (See Part II, page 12.)

His aunt, Sally Newton, was a teacher. She taught in the schools of Boston and Lynn. Her interest in his early education is shown by a correspondence which occurred when he was five or six years of age.

He attended the district school at the old school-house, near the meeting-house; later, at the red school-house on the corner of the roads, near the house of John Batchelder. He then spent several terms at the Leicester Academy. After this, he received instruction in advanced mathematics from Samuel Bullard, Esq., of Holliston. This was the extent of his school advantages.

By assisting his father in the wheelwright shop when not

1010  
 April 1805 Newton Cutlar my  
 Grandchild fell into the mill Pond  
 and like to have lost his Life and his  
 father with him in trying to help him  
 out & how Great was the Goodness of  
 God in appearing for them in that  
 moment of distress wonderful display  
 of the power of the power and Goodness  
 of Jehovah in the mount of the  
 Lord it shall be seen, I hope and  
 trust this Child will live to be a  
 Blessing in the world and a Comfort  
 to his parents & may he live  
 as one who has been Redeemed  
 from the grave by the wonderful  
 power of God



Newton my

Dear Boy I was every  
glad to hear from you  
I wish you would come to  
to be a good scholar when  
the school begins & write often  
to me the post box of the  
school thing & you must learn  
your spelling & lessons every  
night every without fail

My Love to Betty Tell her she

must learn one word a Day your Grand  
Ma<sup>r</sup> you must both remember her

& write me what ever her the best thing  
of you I want to know if Sally goes  
about you must learn her to pronounce  
any name if you wishes & Laugh her  
school the Master will not love you  
but if I hear you are a good scholar  
still in school I will bring you up the  
Pigons in a pretty Fine Basket I want  
writing Book I shall expect you will  
be very kind to your Grand Ma & D<sup>r</sup>  
every thing she bid you I remember  
I speak loud in school I write

in school he early acquired a considerable knowledge of that trade. When his father began building at Jarr Brook, he worked with the wheelwrights. He also assisted in building the woolen factory on the James Wight Trip-hammer privilege. Later, he assisted in erecting a saw-mill at the same place.

November 21, 1821, he married Mary Fitts of Seekonk, Mass., and began housekeeping in the Simeon Newton homestead, where his father still lived.

1061 November 28 1821 my Dear Grand Son  
S Newton Cutler married and brought his  
Wife to Holliston and settled down in a fam  
will the Lord be pleased to Bless them  
and lift upon them the Light of his  
Countenance Lord be thou their God

EXTRACT FROM JERUSHA NEWTON'S JOURNAL.

From this time, he was his father's millwright. He changed the Jarr Brook wheel factory into a saw and grist-mill, and assisted in building on the home place a thread mill and a bark mill for the tannery. He operated for rent, or on shares, his father's mills. He also made shoe-pegs by water power for the first shoe factories.

In 1832, in company with his father and Mr. Daniel Eames, he built a saw and grist-mill near the house of Mr. Eames, on Cold Spring Brook, in Hopkinton.

Leicester July <sup>29</sup> 1826 Dear Grandchild I have long waited for a  
 letter from you or Mary but in vain I could not suppress my feeling  
 any longer I must write tho very feeble since I wrote your Mothers letter I have  
 had a poor turn and am very weak appearances seem as tho you had forgotten there  
 was such a person as <sup>the</sup> Grandmother however I will not indulge the thought I know  
 your family affairs call for exertions but surely you have leisure moments perhaps Sabbath  
 evening you might write a few lines it would refresh my poor heart in my solitary hour my  
 Dear Child I do long to see you both if <sup>the</sup> Lord will fall do not know but I shall come down  
 if it is convenient I expect to hear from our folks by that time you will be in your new  
 house I write this in <sup>my</sup> Eighty Sixth year Amos J Newton

EXTRACT FROM JERUSA NEWTON'S JOURNAL.

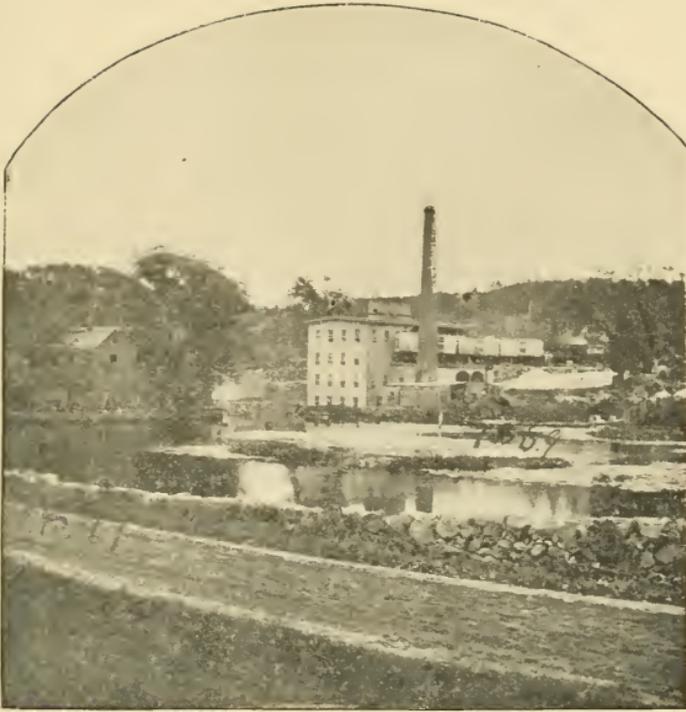
At this time all machinery propelled by water-power in the country towns was made of wood; shafts, cog-wheels, and pullies, were worked out of wood by hand. The construction of such machinery required nice calculation and the utmost skill in its execution. All board nails, spikes, etc., at that time were wrought by hand, and sold by the dozen. In general manufacturing there was no established method; costly experiments had to be tried, and inexperienced workmen trained. In the absence of railroad transportation, the market was too limited to promise large returns to the manufacturer. Cotton had not come into general use. The spinning and weaving of wool and flax was still done in the homes of the people.

While the building of mills and dwelling-houses in Holliston was a source of profit to the farmer—who furnished all the lumber and all the fuel required from his forests, all the beef and breadstuff used by the mechanics from his fields—the proprietors of the mills did not at first share, as they had hoped, in this prosperity. On the contrary, as a business venture, it was attended with considerable loss to both Elihu Cutler and his son Simeon.

While planning the machinery for the Eames mill, Mr. Cutler proposed that it should be constructed principally of iron instead of wood. After considerable delay, and with many misgivings, the proprietors accepted his suggestions. A wooden water-wheel was, however, built and put in position; but even this he finally persuaded the owners to take out before it was started, and the first cast-iron water-wheel ever seen in the county was installed in its place.

The remarkable success which attended this innovation introduced Simeon Cutler to a large field of millwright work. He was profitably employed for the next twenty years in changing the wooden-constructed mill gearing to iron, and in substituting cast-iron for wooden water-wheels.

In 1839, he exchanged his place in Holliston for the mill which had been built at the old Triphammer privilege of Ebenezer Marshall in 1747, and was at this time owned by William Greenwood.



Ebenezer Marshall, 1747.

S. N. Cutler, 1839.

S. N. Cutler &amp; Sons, 1869.

Here for many years he and his sons carried on milling business which, as the population increased, grew into a large merchant milling enterprise, requiring a grain elevator (the first one built east of the Hudson River) and a side-track connecting it with the Boston and Worcester railroad, for its operations. This business was continued until 1876, when the Sudbury River was taken for additional supply to the Boston Water Works.

In 1846, he bought the Ballard\* farm, which adjoined his other land. By devoting considerable time to the cultivation of his lands, he became quite a large and scientific farmer.

His estate was now included in the new town of Ashland,

\* This name appears as Bullard in Part I, page 16.

which was organized in 1846. He was chosen to office at the time of the organization, and continued in some town office until his death. In 1853, he represented the town in the general court, and in June of the same year he was a delegate to the convention for amending the State constitution.

Mr. Cutler was a man of literary taste and a life-long student, having always in hand a number of books on various subjects, thus keeping himself well posted on all scientific discussions and political questions. He was a constant reader of William Lloyd Garrison's *Liberator*, the most radical of anti-slavery journals, devoted chiefly to discussing the moral aspects of the political issues of the day. He was a Democrat in the best sense of the term. Thomas Jefferson was his ideal statesman. When the extension of slavery became the paramount issue, he with many of the best of his political associates joined the Free-soil party. He supported the Coalition Movement of 1850, which resulted in the election of Charles Sumner to the United States Senate. As the slave power became more aggressive, demanding the active coöperation of northern men in returning fugitives to slavery, he became a radical abolitionist, declaring that obedience to a higher law than the Constitution required the overthrow of slavery, and absolved all citizens from unwilling support of this gigantic evil. Although a man of very positive opinions, he was never a partisan; he would not go with his party where he believed it in the wrong; yet he always cultivated friendly social relations with people of all shades of political and religious beliefs.

He considered the Sermon on the Mount the highest authority regarding human conduct, habitual obedience to its precepts the best evidence of loyalty to its Great Author, and the best guide to a useful and happy life. His sympathies extended to men of all classes and conditions. He often spoke in praise of the worthy lives and simple faith

of the Quakers. He was fond of quoting the words of Whittier :

The letter failes and systems fall,  
And every symbol wanes ;  
The Spirit overbrooding all  
Eternal love remains.

We faintly hear, we dimly see  
In differing phrase we pray,  
But dim or clear, we own in thee  
The light, the truth, the way.

Dear Sir

I received your friendly and faithful letter this evening on my return from Boston. The reasons given for the course you have taken in reference to the office of Clerk I think sufficient to justify you in refusing to do the duties of the office under present circumstances. Arrangements shall be made to fill the place at the time you mention.

You kindly refer to our differences in political and religious sentiments. I make but little account of these in my intercourse with my friends, why should we be expected to view these subjects alike. In politics I presume we differ only in the means to produce the same ends, in religion most of the difference I consider as not essential, The precepts of Christ are simple no one can misunderstand them, the difficulty is not in the understanding but in opposition in our natures to the performance. I believe in no outward symbols other may think themselves binding, why should we quarrel with them let every one search his own heart for to his God he stands or falls.

Thanking you for all your past kindness and asking ~~and~~ you excuse this hasty and imperfect epistle written in great haste without correction I am

Yours as ever S. S. Cutler



Mary F. Butler  
1802

## MARY FITTS.

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Mary Fitts, who married Simeon Newton Cutler, was born at the Fitts homestead on the banks of Ten Mile River in Seekonk. In addition to the advantages received at the district school she attended for several terms a girls' boarding school in Providence. She was thus equipped for life with what, at that time, was regarded as an excellent educational outfit.

When not in school she assisted her mother in the various duties of the household, including at that day, spinning and weaving of flax and wool. There were no stoves in her mother's house. Friction matches were unknown. If the fire went entirely out a live coal must be obtained from a neighbor's dwelling.

When about eighteen she spent a year at the home of her uncle, Dr. Thomas Bucklin, in Hopkinton. After this, she lived for one or two years with her cousin, who was the wife of Rev. Josephus Wheaton, the settled minister of Holliston. Here, she first became acquainted with her future husband, whom she married November 8, 1821.

They commenced housekeeping, as before mentioned, in the home of Mr. Cutler's father — the Simeon Newton homestead. Ellen Maria was born here, November 30, 1822, and George Edward, August 22, 1824. For nearly a year they lived in a house south of the woolen factory, while Mr. Cutler was doing a job of wheelwright work at the factory; here Henry was born, July 21, 1826.



HOUSE BY WOOLEN FACTORY. 1826.

The same year they moved to a new house east of the mill-pond, opposite the home of Mr. Cutler's father. Delia Lavinia was born here, May 22, 1829; Martha Jerusha, August, 1832; and Cornelius Howard, September 18, 1834.



HOUSE BY ELIHU CUTLER'S MILL. 1826-1836,

They resided here ten years ; during this time the family income was small. Mrs. Cutler was obliged to work hard and exercise economy to keep her household comfortable without exceeding the means at her command. The children went to school in the same red school-house where their father attended in his boyhood. It was situated on the corner of the roads near the home of John Batchelder. Later, they went for a short time to a new school-house, near Jarr Brook, on Main street. In 1836, they moved to a new house, built by Mr. Cutler, on the Hopkinton road, not far from the meeting-house.



HOUSE ON HOPKINTON ROAD. 1836-39.

Here, William Clark was born May 17, 1837. The children now attended school in a building in the rear of the Methodist church ; to reach this they traveled all the way in a path through the woods.

When, in 1839, this place was exchanged for the mills in Framingham, the removal was a very sore trial to Mrs. Cutler, as it separated her from all her early friends and



FRAMINGHAM HOUSE AND MILL. 1830.

associations. Fortunately, however, she found in her new neighbors congenial spirits, with whom she sustained the most friendly and intimate relations to the end of her life.

The children now attended school a year at the Parks Corner school-house, completing their common school studies at the new school-house built near the house of Mr. Charles Parkhurst.

Charles Fredrick was born July 22, 1841, in the house by the Framingham mill.



BALLORD HOUSE. 1846.

In 1846, they moved into the Ballord farm house, where she found ample scope for her taste in the cultivation of flowers, which amounted to almost a passion with her. Her garden was a constant source of pleasure. She was never so happy as when, assisted by her husband or boys, she was working with her own hands, cultivating some choice variety,

For sixty years she was a member of the Congregational

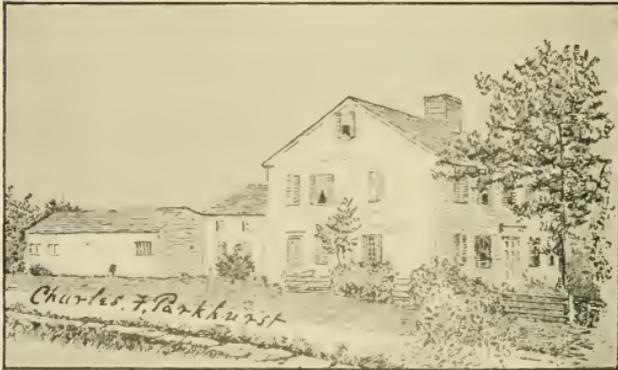
Church, a consistent christian, devoted to the social and benevolent work of the church. The sick in her neighborhood were the objects of daily visitation. Her care and sympathy for those afflicted with some illness often led her to spend days and nights many miles from her home. She shared to the fullest extent her husband's liberal hospitality. No needy stranger was ever turned away from her door without food or shelter. She informed herself as far as possible of the needs of every poor family in the town, and freely and cheerfully supplied their necessities.

After her husband's death she continued to carry on the farm, a business for which she developed a taste, and in which she was very successful. A few years before her death she removed to South Framingham, where she purchased a cottage near her daughter, Mrs. Thompson. She continued to manage her property, which was ample for her comfortable support and for liberable contributions to many worthy objects. She died September, 1888, aged eighty-seven. She bequeathed by will all her property to benevolent and educational purposes.

All hearts grew warm in the presence  
 Of one who, seeking not her own,  
 Gave freely for the love of giving,  
 Nor reaped for self the harvest sown.

To homely joys and loves and friendships  
 Thy genial nature fondly clung;  
 And so the shadow on the dial  
 Ran back and left thee always young.

—Whittier.



THE OLD FRAMINGHAM NEIGHBORHOOD.

# THE ANCESTRY OF MARY FITTS,

WHO MARRIED SIMEON NEWTON CUTLER.



The genealogy of Sir John Fitts of Fittsford, Devonshire, England, which is traced from the thirteenth century, is published in England.

## ROBERT FITTS.

Robert Fitts, the first of the family to settle in New England, was born in Fittsford, Devonshire, England, about 1600. He married there, Grace Lord. They first settled in Ipswich, where they were in 1635. He was one of the proprietors of the new town of Salisbury. His name appears with some fifty others upon a compact for the settlement

and government of the town. John Choat, Roger Eastman and Simeon Thompson, whose families later became connected by marriage with his family, also signed the same paper.

The town was first called Colchester, in honor of a town of this name in England, where Cromwell's army had then recently gained some advantage over the king's troops. In 1640, he was voted commoner and townsman, and assessed thirty pounds. He received also a share in Plum Island. He returned to Ipswich in 1655, leaving his son Abraham in the homestead at Salisbury.

He died in 1665. His estate was appraised at £230-0-4. He made a will which was probated. He had a brother Richard, who settled in Newbury, whose name often appears on the records of that town. Robert Fitts was a Puritan, a man of education and integrity.

#### WILL OF ROBERT<sup>1</sup> FITTS.

I Robert Ffitt being Infirm of body but through God's mercy Injoying my understanding & memory and not knowing how soon the Lord may call me out of this world doe make this my last will and Testament as followeth: first I commit my soul into the hands of Jesus Christ my blessed Redeemer in hope of a joyful resurrection: my body to be desently buryed where the Lord shall dispose my departure to be.

And for my outward estate that God hath left me to enjoy I thus doe dispose.

Those household goods and estates which my wife's mother left and gave to my wife I promised my wife that shee shall have them to dispose of amongst her kindred as she shall think meet. The rest of my estate I doe thus dispose my will is that my sonn Abraham flitt shall have the neck of land at Salisbury which was lately sould unto Lionell worth but returned back & in possession of my tennant and alsoe I give unto him that peell of meddow at Sailsbury which was purchased of my brother Wilm Barnes

Alsoe I giv unto my said soune Abraham all my armes as also my beetle and wedges & chains plow irons and implements of husbandry wch are alredey in his hands

And I doe give & bequeath unto my beloved wife Grace flitt my house and all the rest of my lands at Salsbury both medow and upland with all the appertences & priviledges thereunto belonging as also the interest I have in the house & land I now live in heere in Ipswich with all my moveable and houshold stufe and two coves & rest of my estate and of my estate and all this I doe give unto her during her natural life and then to return unto my sonn Abraham and his heirs forever and I doe constitute and appoint my beloved wife Grace flitt to be sole executrix of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have sett my hand and seale this fifth day of January one thousand six hundred sixty-three 1-663.

Signed and Sealed in the p'sence  
of us

ROBERT LORD  
THOMAS LORD

Robert flitt 

IPSWICH June 26, 1665.

Robert Lord & Thomas Lord, the subscribers to this Instrument, being sworn do say that Robert flitt deceased, being of sound Judgment & memory signed sealed and declared this as his last will & testament; and that they know of no other.

Before us

SAMUEL SYMONDS  
DANIEL DENNISON

The above is on file in the Essex County Probate office at Salem, Mass.

*AN INVENTORY of the goods & estate of Robert flitt Late of Ipswich deceased taken the 21 of June 1665 aprised by Mosses Pengry and Henry Archer*

It: his weareing Apparell	07-10- 0
It: a bedsted fether bed boulster & blanketts coverlet curtaines matt & cord	6- 5- 0
It: 5 paire and one old sheet	5- 0- 0
It: 4 pillow beers	1- 0- 0
It: 2 Table cloths & six napkins & 8 towells and some other corse lennen	2- 0- 0
It: a remnant of cearsye	0-18- 0
It: in pewter little brase skillett & Skimmer and tunell	2- 0- 0
It: a p <sup>r</sup> of scales & waites	1- 0- 0
It: wooden mortar & Iron pestle	0- 2- 6

It 1 brase kettell	1-10- 0
It 2 Iron potts pothookes & tramell & chafen dish	1-18- 0
It a spitt firepann tongs hammer & a pr of nippers	0- 3- 0
It. 2 pr of sheers sissers pressing Iron & 2 bodkins	0- 6- 0
It. 2 chests & a little box	0-18- 0
It. in earthen ware	0- 8- 0
It a hanging cubberd	0-10- 0
It. in barrells keelers, trayes & other tubes &c-	1- 5- 0
It: In bookes	1- 4- 0
It. musskett barrell of a fowleing peice & sword.	1- 6- 8
It: severall tooles and Iron things & old Iron	2-12- 0
It: 2 yard $\frac{1}{2}$ cloth	0- 6- 8
It: in hempe and noyles	0-18- 0
It: wheat & Indian & sacks	0-18- 0
It: 2 chaines a mattock & trowell	1-00- 0
It: beetle & 5 wedges & forks	1- 0- 0
It 3 axes & 2 hows & spade	0-17- 0
It. a churne cheespresse a cowle 4 pailles	1- 0- 6
It a lenen wheele & reele 2 sives and other small things	0-11- 0
It. a brake & cleaver chaire & other small things	0- 8- 0
It. 3 cowes and calfe	14- 0- 0
It: 3 swine	2-14- 0
It: Debts	5- 3-10
It: in yarne at the weavers	1-16- 0
It. in boards marchentable	1-10- 0
It. in bricks 75	0- 1- 2
acording to our best information the estate at Sals-	
bury the land given to Abraham	50-00- 0
The house & the rest of the land	110-00- 0
	<hr/>
	230.00. 4

### ABRAHAM<sup>2</sup> FITTS. (ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

Abraham, son of Robert and Grace (Lord) Fitts, was born in England about 1629. He was nearly ten years old when his father settled in Salisbury. In 1655, he married, and settled on his father's homestead in Salisbury, his father having moved to Ipswich.

His wife was Sarah Thompson, a daughter of Simeon Thompson. They remained in Salisbury ten years, when

his father-in-law, Thompson, gave him his Ipswich home-  
stead, and he removed to that town. Upon the death of his  
father in 1665, he inherited all the Salisbury property, and  
all the other property subject to a life lease to his mother.  
His father-in-law gave him his property and made him one  
of his executors.

His wife died in 1664, and he married the widow Birdley  
in 1668. In 1672, his uncle Richard died, and he was made  
sole legatee to his uncle's estate also. A son born the same  
year he named Richard. This son inherited the Salisbury  
estate, formerly his grandfather's. Here he built a block-  
house for defence against the Indians, who frequently as-  
sailed it. Abigail Eastman, a granddaughter of Richard  
Fitts, married Col. Ebenezer Webster and became the moth-  
er of the great statesman, Daniel Webster.

Abraham Fitts was one of the remarkable men of early  
colonial times. His father was a wealthy Puritan pioneer;  
he succeeded not only to his father's estate, but also to a  
large share of his father-in-law's. Later, he inherited the  
property of his uncle. Historians state that £300 was the  
extent of value of any estate of that day in the new country.  
The wealth of Abraham Fitts must have exceeded that sum.

In November, 1675, when he was nearly fifty years old,  
he left his wife, and six children all under age—three less  
than six years old—in the depth of winter, to travel a hun-  
dred miles to the Narragansett country, in company with  
twenty-eight other Ipswich men, to participate in the battle  
with King Philip and his warriors. In this conflict, twenty-  
three of the number were either killed or wounded. They  
endured terrible hardships from insufficient food and shelter  
before they returned to their homes.

Again, when over sixty years of age, in 1690, with an-  
other company of his townsmen, he joined the expedition  
for the capture of Quebec. No doubt these exposures, with  
other experiences in camp and field, was the cause of his

early death, which occurred in 1692. He had eight children.

He was a large-hearted, public-spirited, patriotic citizen. So liberal was he in his expenditures for the public service, that his estate was by this means reduced, during his lifetime, to less than half the value of the estates he inherited. At his decease his property was valued at £366-10-0, with debts £98-15-5½. In recognition of his military service, his descendants received lands by grant of the General Court, both in the Narragansett country and in the new town called Ipswich Canada.

#### WILL OF ABRAHAM FITTS.

In the name of God Amen. I Abraham fitts Senour Being weake In Body but Sound and of Perfect Memory in case of Death Doe thus Dispose of the Estate God hath Given me; as follows (viz) first that I and my wife After Death Be Dassantly Buried :

And secondly I Give unto my wife all the Indian Corne and malt and all the meet that is Laid in for years stoor, and all the flax and sheeps wool and all the seed Barley that is laid in for ye insueing yeare, and the use of all my moverbles That is household stuff and house and one cowe and four sheepe During her Life. And the use of a pair of oxen and tackling with them so long as my wife shall see cause to make use of them; thirdly I have Given unto my son Richard my mere, And hors colt and the Bede and Beding that he now Layes upon or covering belonging to it and there are eight sheepe of Richards amongst my sheepe four of them he bought and four of them are increase; and I Give my sun Izaack ye youngest mare colt; and the Remainder of my Stock I Leave first to pay my Debts so far as it will Goo; and the Remainder of my Debts that Stocke Above sd will not pay: To be paid out of my Land; by an equal Proportion that is to say A third part Planting Ground and A third Part Pastor-Land and A third part meddow-land; and what is Left After all Just and Due Debts are paid: The Remainder my wife and Richard To have the uce and improvement of it During her Life; and then to Return unto the Executor or Executors; my will also is that after my wifes Decease, that my son Abraham fittes and son-in-Law William Baker shall have the Remainder of my hole Astate In Ipswich as namely housing and land stocke and moverbles. Two thirds I Give to my son Abraham fitts; and the

other third part I Give to my Son-in-law William Baker, To them and their heirs for ever; and my will is that my whole estate be exactly Prised; in Ipswich within one month After my Decese; I make my son Abraham fitts and my son-in-Law William Baker ex-ecutors of this my Last will and Testament as wittnas my hand & Seale: Dated this twenty fourth of february in y<sup>e</sup> yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred ninety-one: Two

It tis to be understood before the signing  
and selen her of that I give my wife the old  
sowe [Seal.]

Signed sealed in  
the presents of  
uss the marks of

*Abraham Fitts Sen*

JAMES FFULLER

JOSEPH FFULLER

The inventory of the estate showed real estate appraised at £250; personal property valued at £126; a large quantity and variety of farm tools; valuable stock consisting of horses, oxen, cows, sheep and swine; a large supply of old time household stuff; "two musquetts Sword & Cartouch box;" a good store of provisions, seeds, etc.

### ABRAHAM<sup>3</sup> FITTS. (ABRAHAM,<sup>2</sup> ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

Abraham Fitts, the second in succession bearing this name, was the only son, who grew to manhood, of Abraham and Sarah (Thompson) Fitts. He was born in Ipswich in 1658. He married, in 1682, Margaret, daughter of Sergeant John Choat, the emigrant ancestor of the distinguished Choat family.

He was a farmer, and remained upon the homestead which was his grandfather Thompson's, where he spent the remainder of his life. His wife Margaret died in 1692. He married Mary Ross, who became the mother of eight children, six of whom had not attained their majority at their father's death. Eleven of his children married and

had considerable families. The larger number of the Fitts families now living trace their ancestry to this Abraham Fitts. He died in 1714, aged fifty-six years.

Abraham Fitts Jr.

[Docket No. 9529, Essex Co. Probate Records, Salem.]

In The Name of God amen I Abrahā ffitts Sen<sup>r</sup> of Ipswich In y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex In new England yeomon being weak of Body but of sound mind & memory Doe make This my Last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup> In manner & form following.

ffirst & pincpally I Recommend my Immortall Soul Into ye hands of God my mercifull Redeemer & my Body To a Decent buriall att y<sup>e</sup> Discretion of my Exe<sup>rs</sup> hereafter named and as Touching such Worldly Estate wherew<sup>th</sup> It has pleased God to bless mee withall In this world I Give bequeath & Dispose of as folloes

ffirst I will y<sup>t</sup> all my Just & funerall charges be first payd & contented by my Exe<sup>rs</sup>.

I Give unto my wife Mary Twelve acres of Land which was six of it Edward Ardeway & six y<sup>t</sup> was Rich.<sup>d</sup> Nichols Given mee In my Granfather Tompson with y<sup>e</sup> Buildings standing y<sup>e</sup> upon dureing y<sup>e</sup> Time of her being my widow In my name – also I give To my said wife Two Cows eight Sheep – The Bed which wee Lye upon with all y<sup>e</sup> furniture y<sup>r</sup> unto belonging and y<sup>e</sup> Bay Mare – & Two Swine & 3 pigs To be att her Dispose as shee pleased

To my Sons Abraham & Robert ffitts I Give & Bequeath all my Lands, arable pasture & marsh & meadow Ground be y<sup>e</sup> same more or Less- To Them & y<sup>e</sup> heirs & assignes for ever all my Lands not given my wife – To be y<sup>rs</sup> In present possession & att Their mothers Ceaseing To be my Widow To have all y<sup>t</sup> Land I have given her y<sup>e</sup> Improvement of Imediately after such removable To be Equally Divided between Them my Two Sons Abram & Robert ffitts Together with all my Common Rights priviledges appertaineing To y<sup>e</sup> same In any wise belonging

Also I give To my said Two sons Abraham & Robert ffitts all my moveable or pson<sup>l</sup> Estate of what name or kind soever of Quick stock or utensills of husbandry of w<sup>t</sup> nature soever not before given In This my Will To my Wife Equally To be Divided between Them Their haveing been great help To mee & help Clear my Estate

I Give To my nine Children – namely Annah Margaret Mercy Sarah – Sam.<sup>ll</sup> John Mary Ephraim & Ebenezer The sum<sup>s</sup> of five pounds apeice In Cattle or Corn att money price To be payd by my Execut<sup>rs</sup> hereafter mand when & as They respectively shall arrive att full age but If my said Exect<sup>rs</sup> shall see Cause To pay any of y<sup>e</sup> foregoeing Legacies of five pounds To all or any of Their Brothers & Sisters In money passing In New England Then Each shall abbate of y<sup>e</sup> five pounds y<sup>e</sup> sum of Twenty Shillings

Lastly I Constitute ordaine & appoint my said Two sons Abraham ffitts & Robert ffitts Joynt Exe<sup>re</sup> To This my Last Will and Testament They paying all Debts & Legacies Equally between Them In Confirmation hereof I have hereunto sett my hand & Seale This fourth Day of August anno D<sup>o</sup> 1714

Signed Sealed published

ABRAHAM FFITTS [Seal.]

& Declard In p<sup>r</sup>sence of us

SYMONDS EPES

THOMAS BAKER JUN<sup>r</sup>

DAN<sup>l</sup> ROGERS

Know all men by These p<sup>r</sup>sents y<sup>e</sup> wee Abram ffitts & Robert ffitts Sons of Abram ffitts of Ipsw<sup>c</sup> Dec.<sup>d</sup> as principle & George H, & Thomas Baker jun<sup>r</sup> of sd Ipswich sureties are holden & stand bond & obliged unto Jn<sup>o</sup> Appleton Esq<sup>r</sup> Judge of y<sup>e</sup> Probate of y<sup>e</sup> Will &c In sd Conty In y<sup>e</sup> full & Just Sum of Three hundred pounds Curr<sup>nt</sup> money of New England To be payd to y<sup>e</sup> sd Judge his success<sup>rs</sup> In s<sup>d</sup> office attorney in sd office for y<sup>e</sup> True payment w<sup>r</sup>of we bind ourselves each of us our & each of our heirs Ex<sup>rs</sup> adm<sup>r</sup> Joyntly & Severally In y<sup>e</sup> whole & for y<sup>e</sup> whole fully and firmly by these p<sup>r</sup>sents Sealed with o<sup>r</sup> Sealers- Dated y<sup>e</sup> 13 Day of Septemb<sup>r</sup> anno D<sup>o</sup> 1714

The Cond<sup>o</sup> of This obligation of This obligatio Is such y<sup>t</sup> If y<sup>e</sup> above bonden Abrā & Rob<sup>t</sup> ffitts Joynt Exe<sup>rs</sup> To y<sup>e</sup> Last Will of y<sup>r</sup> ffather Abram ffitts Late of Ipswich Dec<sup>d</sup> shall well and truely pay all & severall y<sup>e</sup> Debts y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> owed & all y<sup>e</sup> severall Legacies given In y<sup>e</sup> will of sd Dec<sup>d</sup>. aced<sup>g</sup> To

In s<sup>d</sup> will given & bequeathed without faile fraud Deceit or further Delay Then y<sup>e</sup> oblig<sup>a</sup> to be void null & of no Effect otherwise To remaine In full force & virtu

Signed seal'd  
DD In p<sup>r</sup>sence  
of us

JOHN ROSS

DAN<sup>l</sup>. ROGERS Reg<sup>r</sup>

ABRAHAM FITTS

RORERT FFITTS

GURGE HART

THOMAS BAKER

seal

seal

seal

seal

desember 1 . 1714

Reseved of abrahan and Robart fitts ecsexeters to thear fathers will too Cows and 8 sheep 2 hogs and the bay mere and 3 pigs and a bed & furnetuer acording to will I say reseved by me

We ye subscribers hearof do testifie & say y<sup>t</sup> one ye day of ye date above written we see ye above s<sup>d</sup>. abraham & Robert ffitts Exec<sup>rs</sup> to their fathers Last will & test<sup>mt</sup> deliver ye above mentioned goods & Chattels to ye Widdow of sd abraham ffitts deces<sup>cd</sup> our father afore<sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup>.

THOMAS BAKER  
GURGE HART

ABRAHAM<sup>4</sup> FITTS. (ABRAHAM,<sup>3</sup> ABRAHAM,<sup>2</sup> ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

Abraham Fitts, the third bearing this name, was the oldest son of Abraham and Margaret (Choat) Fitts. He was born in Ipswich about 1684. His father's property was largely invested in land, as was the custom of the times. The heavy incumbrance of debt was the cause of a hard, life-long struggle for the father. After his early death, the two brothers, Abraham and Robert, only surviving children of Margaret Choat, were made the executors of the estate, and assumed the responsibilities of the homestead.

It became their duty to continue with their stepmother upon the farm. They stood loyally by her and her nine minor children, carrying on the farm for the mutual support of the entire family, until the younger children had reached an age to care for themselves.

Abraham was thirty-eight years old before he married and made a home for himself. In 1722, he married Phebe Fuller; he remained upon the homestead, buying his brother's share. They had eight children, only four of whom attained to adult years. He acquired a grant of land in his grandfather's right, called Narragansett land, for service in the King Philips war; this was located in Amherst, N. H., but was supposed at the time to be in Middlesex County, Mass. The expense he incurred in assisting his stepmother, the sums of money he paid to secure the shares of the other

heirs, and the large depreciation that befell all land values by reason of the abundance of public lands offered by the State for sale about this time, nearly exhausted his estate. It was no doubt this aspect of his affairs that induced his only son, Daniel, about the time of the death of Abraham Fitts, to emigrate to the new town of Ashford, Conn., where conditions for gaining a livelihood for himself and growing family were at this time more promising. Many of his neighbors and friends had already removed to that place.

Abraham Fitts died in 1763, aged seventy-nine.

#### WILL OF ABRAHAM<sup>4</sup> FITTS.

In The Name of God amen the Twentieth Day of November 1757 I the Abraham Fitts of Ipswich in the County of Essex and Province of Massechusetts Bay in New England husbandman Being in health of Body and of a Sound mind & memory Calling to mind the mortality of my Body and Knowing it is appointed for men once to Dye Do make and ordain this my Last will and testament Principaly and first I Give and Recommend my Soul into the hands of God who Gave it and my Body to the Earth to Be Deceantly Burried at the Discretion of my executor and as Touching Such worldly Good and Estate as it hath Pleas'd God to Bless me with in this Life I Give and Dispose of in the following form and manner.

Imprimes I Give to my well Beloved wife Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> Improvement of one third Part of my houseing and Land During her natural Life and one Cow for her own

Item I Give to my Son Daniell Fitts his heirs and assigns for ever whome I make my Sole Executor of this my last will and testament all my Buildings as housing Barn &c with all my quick Stock husbandry tools & utentials except one Cow already disposed off.

Item I Give to my Daughter Phebe Achus six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence to be Paid her within two years after my Decease which with what she hath already had is in full of all her Portion

Item I Give to my Daughter mary Gourden five shillings and four Pence which with what she hath already had is in full of her Portion.

Item I Give to my Daughter Sarah Fitts six Pounds thirteen Shillings and four pence to Be paid her the one half upon marriage the other half two years after my Decease all which several Pay-

ments Shall Be Paid by my Executor out of my Estate and I Do hereby utterly Disalow, Revoke & Disoniull all and every other former testements wills Leaguicys and Bequests and Executors by me in any wise before named, willed and Bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last will & testament in witness whereof I have here unto Set my hand and Seal the Day and year above written.

Signed Sealed Published Pronounced and Declared By the Said Abraham Fitts as his Last will and Testament in the Presence of us the Subscribers

STEPHEN ANDREWS

ABRAHAM FITTS

JOHN BAKER

(Seal.)

EUNICE BAKER

*A Codicile or Schedule*

Be it known to all men by these Presents that whereas I Abraham Fitts of Ipswich in the County of Essex & Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Husbandman have made and Declard my Last Will and Testament in writing bearing date the twentieth day of November 1757.

I the said Abraham Fitts by this Present codicile to Ratify and confirm my said Last Will and Testament; and do give and Bequeath unto my Loveing Daughter Phebe Achus all my Household stuff after my Decease to be delivered to her by my Executor And my will and Meaning is That this Codicile Be and be Adjudged to be Part & Parcel of my said Last Will and Testament; And that all things herein mentioned & contained Be faithfully & truly Performed and as fully and amply in every respect as if the same were so declared and Sett down in my Said last Will and Testament Witness my Hand

STEPHEN ANDREWS

JOHN BAKER

EUNICE BAKER

*Abraham Fitts*

PUBLIC LANDS IN CONNECTICUT.

About 1735-40, large tracts of public land were opened for sale in the territory now known as Killingly, Ashford, and Woodstock, Connecticut. At that time they were under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. These lands were very desirable for agriculture, and were sold for the low price of six to eight cents per acre. The conditions of mar-

ket and general trade were much superior to like advantages in Essex County, Massachusetts. Moreover, the inhabitants of Essex County were still harrassed by Indian raids.

Many families whose names appear in these records availed themselves of this opportunity to improve their prospects by emigrating thither.

The following petition was presented to the General Court in 1735 :

*The Petition of many Soldiers who from this Colony went with the ill-fated Expedition to Quebec in 1690.*

“The Surviving officers and Soldiers, and the descendants of those deceased, petition for Grants of Land as part compensation for the Sufferings and losses in that expedition.”

This petition was granted, and Ephraim Fitts, son of Abraham and Mary (Ross) Fitts, with about fifty other Ipswich men, had land assigned them. It was located in the territory now included in the town of Winchendon, Massachusetts. It was called “Ipswich Cannada.”

#### DANIEL<sup>5</sup> FITTS.

(ABRAHAM,<sup>4</sup> ABRAHAM,<sup>3</sup> ABRAHAM,<sup>2</sup> ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

Daniel Fitts, the only son of Abraham and Phebe (Fuller) Fitts who lived to adult years, was born in Ipswich in 1725. Here he married, in 1750, Christiana Smith of Ipswich; he united with the First Church the same year. In 1767-70, he removed to Ashford, Connecticut.

When the political disturbance occurred which preceded the war of the Revolution, he joined the Ashford militia company, which was commanded by Col. Thomas Knowlton, a veteran of the French and Indian war. When the “Alarm” went out of the Lexington fight this company marched immediately to the assistance of the Massachusetts militia; it was the first organized body of troops from beyond the State boundary to arrive in the vicinity of Boston. Daniel Fitts was in this company, as the company roll shows.

At this time the General Court of Connecticut, in special session, ordered a reorganization of its militia for a long term of service. Daniel Fitts, although fifty years of age, having a wife and five minor children, four of whom were under thirteen years of age, re-enlisted on May 6th, in a company under the same commander. It is probable he was a special friend, or perhaps a neighbor of Colonel Knowlton, as the Knowlton family were originally from Ipswich, his native town. In the course of time his son married a daughter of Colonel Knowlton.

The Ashford company were a part of the five company regiment under Israel Putnam. Colonel Knowlton had seen military service at the capture of Ticonderoga. The regiment marched at once to Cambridge and joined the army under Gen. Prescott. June 16th, the night before the battle, a part of this regiment, including the Ashford company, were ordered to Bunker Hill. They worked all night throwing up intrenchments which were intended to reach the entire distance across the peninsular, from the Charles to the Mystic River. When the enemy appeared there was a gap on the left, near the Mystic; here Knowlton improvised a breastwork of fence-rails and new mown hay.

With no time for rest and without food, his company, being the best equipped and commanded, were stationed here to defend this, the weakest as well as the most important part of the works. They successfully resisted all attempts of the British to turn the left of the Provincials, until the order to retreat was given. They kept their ranks, retiring in good order, after making a stand, holding the enemy in check to enable less fortunate comrades to escape. They were able to do better than other companies, as their supply of ammunition was not exhausted, and they were commanded by officers who often before had been under fire. After the battle the company was stationed at different

points in the fortifications which extended from Cambridge to Roxbury.

After General Washington took command in July, 1775, Putnam's regiment was mustered into the regular Continental army. Colonel Knowlton, with his company, was sent on one or two adventures inside the enemy's lines, which he executed so successfully as to be commended in the general orders of Washington.

The company record simply states that Daniel Fitts died September 7, 1775, whether from wounds received in conflict with the enemy, or from disease, is not explained. His body was buried at Brookline.

The slow vine creeps around  
 The soldier's grave;  
 And when a hundred years  
 Lose record of our tears,  
 Still will the voice of fame  
 Exult to name his name;  
 And every spring the clover and the sorrel  
 Make haste to bloom for crown and laurel!

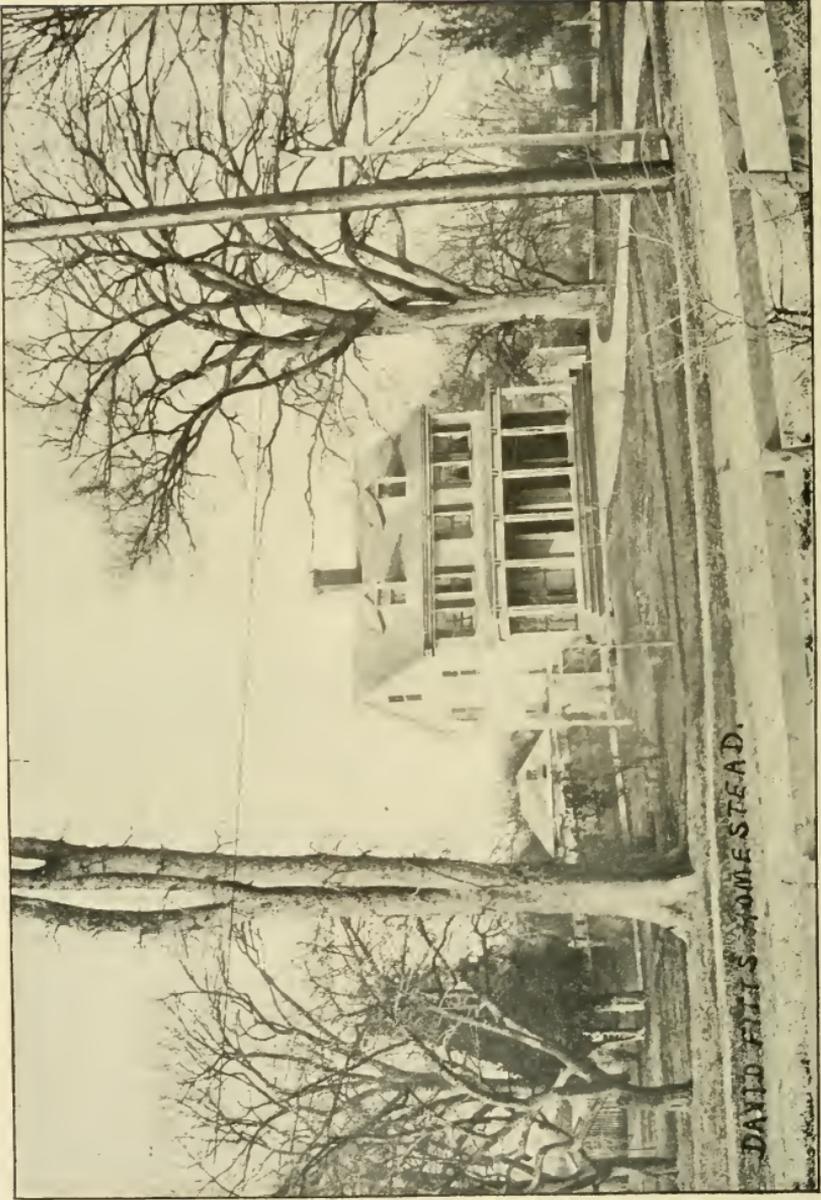
— *Elbridge Jefferson Cutler.*

#### DAVID<sup>6</sup> FITTS.

(DANIEL,<sup>5</sup> ABRAHAM,<sup>4</sup> ABRAHAM,<sup>3</sup> ABRAHAM,<sup>2</sup> ROBERT.<sup>1</sup>)

David Fitts was the youngest child of Daniel and Christiana (Smith) Fitts. He was born in Ipswich, July 1, 1767. He was a young child when his parents removed to Ashford, Connecticut; he was eight years old when his father died in the Continental army, under General Washington, at the siege of Boston in 1775. His mother was evidently left in straitened circumstances, with four children less than thirteen years of age; she required all the assistance the four sons could give her to maintain the family. Three years later she married Ebenezer Mason.

David was apprenticed to a tanner in Ashford. At the



FITTS HOMESTEAD.

expiration of his term of service, he removed to Providence, where he worked at his trade for Colonel Abbott until he bought the house and land on the banks of Ten Mile River, in Seekonk.

Here he carried on the tannery business and custom shoemaking, managing a small farm also. In 1795, he married Delia Bucklin of Seekonk. He was an industrious, hard-working man, with an income sufficient to support his large family and give his children a good education.

Mr. Fitts was a frank, honest, open-hearted man, genial and happy in his social relations, a kind and helpful neighbor. The careful training his children received reflected his own character. They were well fitted for the useful and prosperous lives which, to an unusual degree, they all enjoyed. He was prompt and regular in his attendance on public worship; he was absent but once in fifty years from the Thanksgiving service. He enjoyed almost perfect health, often remarking that he never needed a physician, nor was he ever sick a day in his life. He died May 18, 1864.

*Children of David and Delia (Bucklin) Fitts.*

Almira, b. April 25, 1797, m. Joel Whitaker.

Albert, b. April 1, 1800, m. Triphose Bartlett.

Mary, b. March 18, 1802, m. Simeon N. Cutler.

James, b. Dec. 31, 1804, d. 1846, unmarried.

David Bucklin, b. May 10, 1807, m. Nancy Lathe.

Charlotte Delia, b. Jan. 19, 1811, m. Orvil Bourn.

Charles Harris, b. April 30, 1813, m. Emeline Richardson.

Abbie Ide, b. April 13, 1815, m. William Bradley.

Joseph, b. March 14, 1818, m. Elizabeth Dennis.

*David Fitts*

## DELIA BUCKLIN.

Delia Bucklin, the wife of David Fitts, was born December 2, 1774, in Rehobeth, since called Seekonk; the same now belongs to East Providence, R. I. She was the daughter of Capt. John and Jemima (Peck) Bucklin. Both the Peck and Bucklin families were among the oldest and most respected in the town. She married Mr. Fitts in 1795, and lived in the Fitts homestead to the end of her life. She carefully instructed her four daughters in all the arts of good housekeeping. By precept and example she instilled into their minds the truths of the gospel. She was an active member of the Congregational church in Seekonk for many years, a consistent christian, a teacher in the Sunday school and a constant attendant upon the services of the church. She was a friend to missions, and was interested in all humane and benevolent work, both at home and abroad. In her will she made liberal bequests to these christian charities.

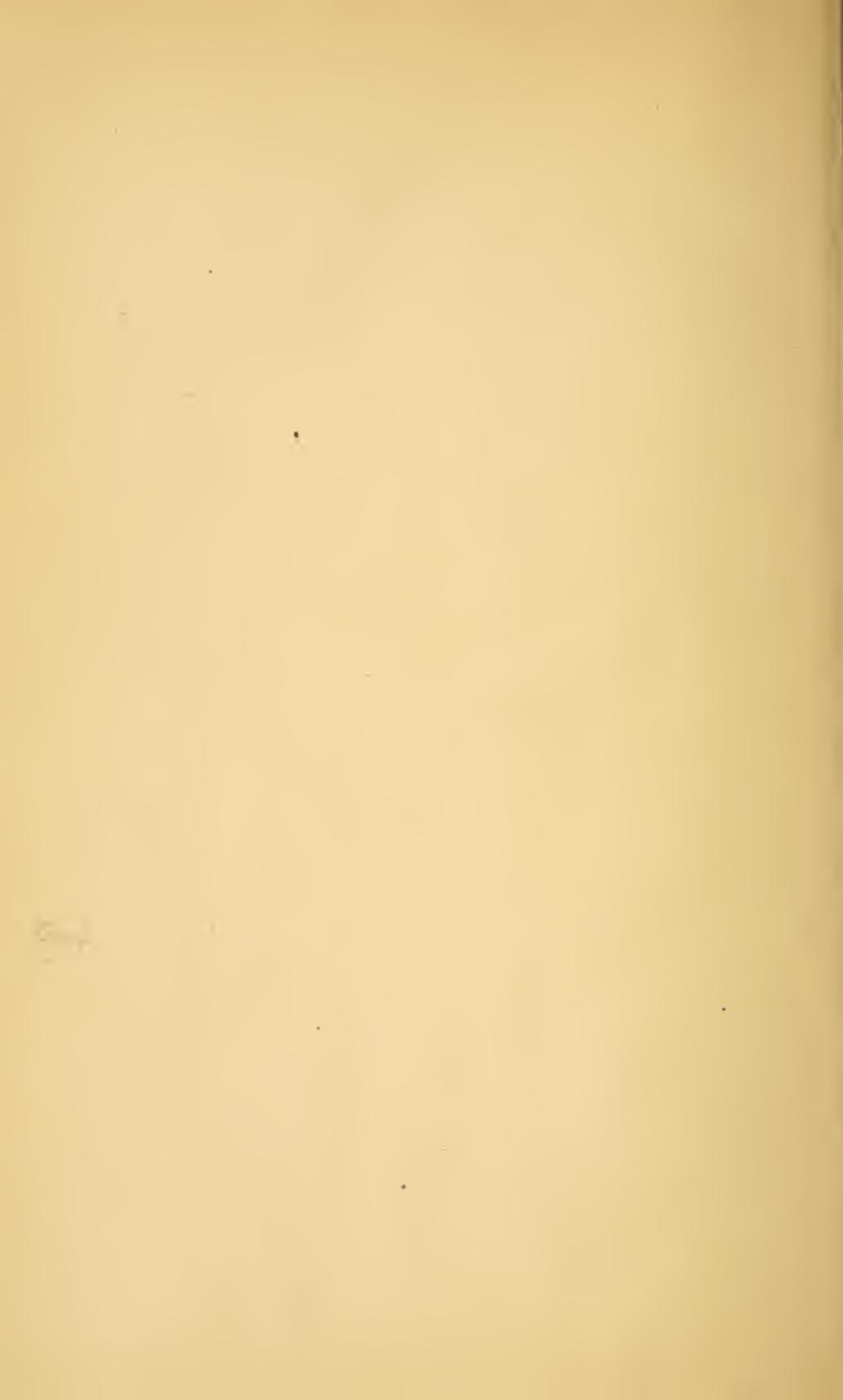
She died April 29, 1861.

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