

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

—OF—

BARNSTABLE FAMILIES,

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REVISED BY C. F. SWIFT,

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BURSLEY.

JOHN BURSLEY.

Mr. John Bursley, the ancestor of the families of this name, came over very early, probably before Gov. Endicot. From what part of England he came, I have not ascertained. There is a parish in England called "Burslem," and as surnames often originated in the names of places or trades, it is probable that some of his ancestors resided in that parish.* The name is variously written on the old records,—Burslem, Burslin, Burslyn, Burseley, Bursly. When first named, he is styled Mr.—a title of respect in early times. He appears to have been an active business man, engaged in the fisheries, and in trade with the Indians, and a planter.

He may have been a member of the Dorchester Company, that settled at Cape Ann in 1624. In 1629, he was at Wessagusset, now Weymouth, where he was an associate of Mr. William Jeffrey. The following assessment levied to defray the expenses of the arrest and sending of Merton to England in 1628, proves that he was a resident in the country prior to 1629. This is the oldest tax bill on record, and shows the comparative wealth or ability of the different settlements in 1629 :

* Sur-names were often suggested by the appearance, character or history of the individual. Burse is a purse; hence the name of Bursely may have originated thus—"John the Burser," or treasurer, and in course of time contracted to "John Bursley." The importance of signing all legal and other instruments with the Christian name written at full length is not well understood. The "Christian" name is the "signature." It is not, however, so important now as formerly, that it should be written at full length. Legally, the man who writes only the initial letter of his Christian name, only "makes his mark;" he does not "sign" the document.

Plymouth,	-	-	-	-	-	-	£2.10
Naumkeak, (Salem,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.10
Piscataquack, (Portsmouth,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.10
Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Burslem, Wessaguscus, (Wey-							
mouth,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00
Nantascot, (Hull,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.10
Mrs. Thompson, (Squantum Neck,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Mr. Blackstone, (Boston,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Edward Hilton, (Dover,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00
							<hr/>
							£12.7

Mr. Savage says that Mr. Bursley was an early settler at Weymouth; reckoned some three or four years among "old planters." That he was early of Weymouth, is evident from the record of the proceedings May 14, 1634, in relation to his servant Thomas Lane. Lane "having fallen lame and impotent, became chargeable to the town of Dorchester, his then place of residence. The General Court investigated the questions at issue, and ordered that the inhabitants of Wessaguscus should pay all the charges of his support." From this it appears that Lane had previously to 1634, resided a sufficient length of time at Wessaguscus, as the servant of Mr. John Bursley, to make the inhabitants of that place legally chargeable for his support.

Mr. Palfrey, in his history of New England, says the cottages of Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Burslem probably stood at Winnisimmet, now Chelsea. The foregoing abstracts from the records show that he was mistaken in his supposition. It also appears that John Bursley was one of the assessors of Dorchester, June 2, 1634.

From 1630 to 1635, Wessaguscus appears to have been included within the corporate limits of Dorchester. Oct. 19, 1630, Mr. Bursley and Mr. Jeffrey requested to be admitted freemen of Massachusetts, and were sworn in the 18th of May following. They were then called Dorchester men, though residents at Wessaguscus, which was incorporated in 1635, and named Weymouth.

Mr. Bursley was deputy from Weymouth to the Massachusetts General Court, May, 1636, and was appointed a member of the Committee to take the valuation of the estates in the Colony. He and two others were elected to the September term of the Court; but it was decided that

Weymouth, being a small town, was not entitled to send three deputies, and he and John Upham were dismissed. In Nov. 1637, he was appointed by the Court a member of a committee to measure and run out a three mile boundary line. In May, 1639, he removed to Barnstable, in company with Mr. Thomas Dimmock of Scituate, and Mr. Joseph Hull of Weymouth, to whom the lands in Barnstable had been granted by the Plymouth Colony Court. In 1643 and 1645 he was at Exeter; in 1647 at Hampton and Kittery; Sept. 9, 1650, at Neweechwannook; and at Kittery from 1650 to Nov. 1652. Excepting at Kittery, he did not reside long at either of these places,—he visited them and the Isles of Shoals, when his father-in-law was settled in the ministry, and other places on the coast, for the purposes of trade, his family residing at Barnstable. In 1645, he is called of Exeter, yet he was that year chosen constable of Barnstable, sworn at the June Court, and served in that office. In 1647, he is called of Kittery, yet he was that year one of the grand jurors from the town of Barnstable. These facts show that his residence in the eastern country was not permanent.

In 1652, the General Court of Massachusetts appointed a commission to assume jurisdiction over the township of Kittery, and require the inhabitants to submit to the government of that Colony. A meeting of the inhabitants was called on the 15th of Nov., and while the matter was under consideration, “complaints were made against one Jno. Bursly* for uttering threatening words against the Commissioners, and such as should submit to the government of Massachusetts.” “The said Bursly uppon his examination at length in open Court, did confess the words, and uppon

* “One Jno. Bursly.” Mr. Bursley was well-known to the Commissioners, for some of them had been his associates in the General Court of Massachusetts. The right of that Colony to assume the jurisdiction claimed, to say the least of the matter, was doubtful. The Bursleys of the present day are firm and unwavering in the support of their opinions and never yield a point that is just and for their interest to maintain.—Their ancestor it is to be presumed was as firm and unyielding as any of his descendants, and would not be overawed by the Commissioners.—They say in their return—“Bursly submitted.” He resisted their authority and refused to sign the articles of submission which were signed by forty-one of the inhabitants. Their own record shows that he fearlessly exercised his right as a freeman, and the Commissioners vented their spleen by contemptuously calling him “one Jno. Bursly.”

his submission was discharged." After much debate forty-one of the inhabitants submitted; but Mr. Bursly was not of the number. He returned to Barnstable, and it does not appear that he afterwards visited the eastern country.

Mr. John Bursley married Nov. 28, 1639, Joanna, daughter of Rev. Joseph Hull of Barnstable. The marriage was solemnized in Sandwich, no one in Barnstable being then authorized to officiate. He resided in the house of his father-in-law, which stood near where Capt. Thomas Harris' now stands, till about the year 1650, when he removed to the Bursley farm at West Barnstable. His first house was built on the north side of the County Road across the little run of water, and about one hundred yards north easterly from the barn of the present Mr. Charles H. Bursley. The remains of the old chimney and the ancient hearthstone were removed not many years ago. An incident in his personal history which occurred during his residence at the old house has been preserved by tradition. The low land in front or south of the house was then a quag-mire. One day when he was confined to the house with a broken leg, and when all the male members of the family were absent, a calf sunk in the quag-mire, and would have been lost without assistance. The women were alarmed, being unable to extricate the calf. Mr. Bursley directed them to fasten a rope around it, and pass the end into the house. They did so, and with his aid, the calf was drawn out and saved.

The ancient Bursley mansion was taken down in 1827. The John Bursley, then living, born in 1741, said it was one hundred and thirty years old, according to the best information he could obtain. This would give the year 1697, as the date at which it was built. He had no record of the time; he knew its age only from tradition, and was mistaken. A house was standing on the same spot in 1686, when the County Road was laid out, and was then occupied by the Wid. Joanna Davis, who had previously been the wife of the first John Bursley. The description given of the house at the time of the death of the second John Bursley in 1726, corresponds very nearly with its appearance in 1827, showing that few alterations had been made. The style was that of the wealthy among the first settlers. The Bacon house, which has been described, was built in 1642. The style of the Bursley house was the same, only it was

originally a larger and better building. As late as 1690, dwelling houses were built in a very similar style, and there was a general resemblance. Both had heavy cornices, the front roof was shorter and sharper than the rear. The more ancient houses were lower in the walls, especially the chambers, and the sleepers of the lower floors were laid on the ground, leaving the large sills used in those days, projecting into the rooms.

The style of the old Bursley house indicated its early origin, and there seems to be no good reason to doubt that it was built by the first John Bursley, before the year 1660. If it was a matter of any importance, it could be shown by other facts that the house was built before 1660. I have pursued the inquiry thus far mainly to show how uncertain and unreliable is tradition, especially in regard to time.

The Bursley farm at West Barnstable is thus described on the town records :

Forty-five acres of upland, more or less, bounded partly by two rivers that run into Boat Cove, and partly by the Commons, as it is marked out.

Feb. 1655. Eighty acres of upland, more or less, bounded easterly by Boat Cove, westerly by a runlet, adjoining Goodman Fitz Randle's, southerly partly by Mr. Linnell's and partly by ye Commons, northerly to the marsh.

Fifteen acres of marsh, more or less, bounded easterly by Boat Cove, westerly by Goodman Fitz Randle's, northerly to a creek, southerly to his upland.

The eighty acres on the north side of the road, is bounded on three sides by water ; a very desirable location because the water courses saved much labor and expense in building fences. The soil is generally a strong loam, free of rocks, and good grass land. From the first it has been carefully cultivated, and is now one of the most fertile and productive farms in Barnstable. Forty acres of the upland on the north side of the road are now owned by a lineal descendant, Mr. Charles H. Bursley, and thirty by Frederick Parker, Esq.

The first John Bursley died in 1660. The inventory of his estate, taken Aug. 21, of that year by John Smith and John Chipman, amounted to only £115.5. I do not know whether this sum covered both the real and personal estate,

but presume it did. I copy from the Genealogical Register, in which only the gross is given. The same estate was appraised at £137.13.10 in 1726. I have called Mr. Bursley wealthy. Wealth is a comparative term, and when a man is called rich, a great variety of circumstances are taken into account. What was the cash value of Mr. Bursley's farm at the time of his death, has little to do with the question. Eight years after, the Blush farm, now Bodfish's, the next west, excepting one, sold for £5.10. This was worth about one-third of the Bursley farm, exclusive of buildings. A common one-story house at that time cost only about £5. That was the price paid William Chase for building the first Hallett house in Yarmouth. Very little glass, lime, iron or brick, was used in those days, and the expense of lumber was the cost of cutting and sawing it. They were very rudely constructed, and as late as 1700, it was not common for the walls of a house to be plastered. The joints between the boards were filled with clay or mortar. The meeting house built in 1725, in the East Parish, was constructed in that manner. A house like the ancient Bursley mansion would not, when that was built, have cost more than £50 sterling. Very little money was in circulation in those times, and as a consequence prices ruled very low. It is said on good authority, and there can be no doubt of its truth, that in the year 1675, five hundred pounds in money could not be raised in Plymouth Colony; and, for a good reason, there was not so much money in the Colony.

In 1669, the Otis farm, about half a mile east of the Bursley, was bought for £150. The latter was then much more valuable. It was easier land to till, and was in a better state of cultivation. The Bourman farm, not so valuable as the Bursley farm, sold in 1662 for £78. There is apparently a wide difference in these prices of property of the same description, in the same neighborhood at about the same time. But it must be remembered that the value of landed estate depended then very much on the value of the improvements thereon, and on the kind of pay for which the property was sold. The usual consideration being provisions at "prices current with the merchants." Very few contracts were made payable in silver money.

The names of the children of the first John Bursley are not entered on the town or probate records. At the

time of his marriage, Nov. 28, 1639, he was probably forty years of age, and the bride, Miss Joanna Hull, a blushing maid not out of her teens. Their children, as entered on the church records, are as follows :

- I. A child—name not recorded—died suddenly in the night, and was buried Jan'y 25, 1640-1, at the lower side of the Calves Pasture.
- II. Mary, bap'd July 29, 1643, married April 25, 1663, John Crocker. She was his second wife, and was the mother of ten children.
- III. John, bap'd Sept. 22, 1644, buried Sept. 27, 1644.
- IV. Joanna, bap'd March 1, 1645-6, married Dea. Shubael Dimmock, April, 1662; had a family of nine children born in Barnstable. She died in Mansfield, Conn., May 8, 1727, aged 83 years.
- V. Elizabeth, bap'd March 25, 1649, married, first, Nathaniel Goodspeed, Nov. 1666, by whom she had a daughter Mary, who married Ensign John Hinckley. She married, second, Increase Clap, Oct. 1675, and by him had four children born in Barnstable.
- VI. John, bap'd April 11, 1652, married, first, Elizabeth Howland, Dec. 1673, and second, Elizabeth ———.
- VII. Temperance, who married Joseph Crocker, Dec. 1677, and had seven children born in Barnstable, and was living in 1741.

Mr. John Bursley died in 1660, and his widow married Dolar Davis, who died in 1673. The widow Joanna Davis was living in 1686. The date of her death I am unable to ascertain.

John Bursley, 2d, only son of John, was eight years of age when his father died. He inherited the mansion house taken down in 1827, and two-sixths of his father's estate. The right of his sisters it appears that he bought, for at his death in 1726, he owned all the lands that were his father's. He married twice; first, Elizabeth, daughter of Lieutenant John Howland, Dec. 1673, who was the mother of his ten children. His second wife was also named Elizabeth; but her maiden name does not appear on record.

He was a farmer, industrious and enterprising, and died leaving a large estate. The old mansion house he bequeathed to his son Joseph.

Children of John Bursley, 2d, born in Barnstable :

- I. Elizabeth, born Oct. 1674 ; died Oct. 1675.
- II. Mercy, born Oct. 1675 ; died April 1676.
- III. John, born March, 1677-8. He married Mary Crocker, daughter of John, and was living in the year 1741, Feb. 11, 1702, and had three children. Two died in infancy, and the other, Experience, married Benjamin Lothrop. He inherited the southwesterly part of the old farm on which he resided. He was captain of a vessel employed in the whale fishery, and died in Barnstable, 1748.
- IV. Mary, born, 23d May, 1679, married Joseph Smith, after the year 1722.
- V. Jabez, born 21st Aug. 1681. His father in his will gave him the northwest quarter of his farm, since known as Doctor Whitman's farm, and now owned by Frederick Parker, Esq. He married Hannah ———, 1705, and had Benjamin, 21st July, 1706, married Joanna Cannons, July 7, 1735 ; second, Mary Goodspeed, Feb. 2, 1744, and had Jabez, 26th July, 1745 ; Martha, 25th Aug. 1740 ; Elizabeth, 23d Dec. 1744 ; Sarah, 3d Feb. 1748 ; Benjamin, 27th March, 1752, and Lemuel, 17th June, 1755 ; John, born 1st Sept. 1708, married Eliz. Saunders, 1743 ; Elizabeth, born 1st Feb. 1710-11 ; Abigail, 25th Feb. 1714, married Benoni Crocker, Feb. 19, 1736 ; Hannah, Nov. 1715, married Solomon Bodfish, Dec. 17, 1741 ; Joanna born June, 1719, married Charles Connett, 1733 ; Mary, Aug. 1723, and Barnabas, 16th Jan'y 1725, married Thankful Smith, May 16, 1754, and had Hannah, Feb. 3, 1756 ; Thankful, March 29, 1759, and Barnabas, April 24, 1761. Jabez Bursley died in 1732, and names in his will all his eight children. Estate, £1.281.12.6.
- VI. Joanna, born 29th Nov. 1684, married March, 1708-9, Nathan Crocker of Barnstable.
- VII. Joseph, born 29th Jan'y 1686-7, married Sarah Crocker, Nov. 7, 1712, and had Joseph, who married Dec. 20, 1739, Bethia Fuller, and had John, Nov. 1, 1741, grandfather of the present Mr. Charles H. Bursley ; Bethia, born March 2, 1743 ; Lemuel, March 2, 1745, father of the present Mr. Joseph

Bursley of Barnstable; Sarah, born Oct. 24, 1748; Abigail, Oct. 23, 1750, and Joseph, 27th March, 1757.

Joseph Bursley, Sen'r., also had Lemuel, 8th Sept. 1718, and Mercy, 10th July, 1721, married May 22, 1757, John Goodspeed.

VIII. Abigail, born 27th Aug. 1690, married Nath'l Bodfish, March 10, 1713.

IX. Elizabeth, born 5th Aug. 1692, married Nov. 28, 1723, Jon. Crocker.

X. Temperance, born 3d Jan'y 1695. She was of feeble health, and died unmarried Sept. 20, 1734.

John Bursley, 2d, bequeathed to his son Joseph the ancient house then appraised, with the house lot, at £240, and all the easterly half of the estate. John Bursley, 2d, owned at his death in 1726, the same real estate that his father did in 1660, with the addition of shares in the commons, to which his father was also entitled. The estate was appraised at £115.5 in 1660, and in 1727, £3.137.13.10. Presuming that each had the same proportional amount of personal estate, these appraisals show a rapid appreciation of value during the 68 years. After allowing for the depreciation of the currency, £115.5 in 1660, if the appraisal was in sterling money, would be about 520 ounces of silver, and if in lawful money 384 ounces. In 1727, an ounce of silver was worth 17 shillings, and £3.137.13.10, was equal to 3.486 ounces of silver.

CROCKER.

Two brothers named John and William Crocker, were among the first settlers in Barnstable, William came with Mr. Lothrop and his church Oct. 21, 1639, and John the following spring. There was also a Francis Crocker of Barnstable, able to bear arms, Aug. 1643. He was one of the soldiers in the Narraganset Expedition, sent from Barnstable Aug. 1645. He married in 1647, Mary Grant "a kinswoman of Mr. Goggain of Barnstable,"* and removed to Scituate, and from thence to Marshfield. He had a family, and his descendents now write their name Crocker.

John Crocker, the elder brother, left no family; but William's posterity are very numerous. Perhaps no one of the first comers, has more descendants now living. A large majority of all in the United States, and in the British Provinces of the name, trace their descent from Dea. William of Barnstable. The descendants of Francis are not numerous. A Thomas Crocker, born in 1633, settled in New London and had a family. Widow Anne Crocker of Scituate, had a son Moses born in 1650, but it does not appear that he has any descendants. Mr. Savage names an Edward of Boston, who was the public executioner in 1684, and a Daniel who married in 1660, but these were perhaps descendants of Francis.

It is said, on how good authority I have not ascertained, that John and William Crocker came over in 1634, either in the same ship with Rev. Mr. Lothrop, or in another that sailed about the same time, and that they stopped in Roxbury before they settled in Scituate. They did not remain long in Roxbury, for their

*The renowned Capt. John Smith, probably the first white who visited Barnstable harbor, wrote this name as here spelled. The town in England from which our town was named is now written Barnstaple. On his return from his voyage in 1614, he presented to Prince Charles a schedule of Indian names of places, and recommended new ones. For Naembeek, (probably Naumkeag, Salem) he proposed the name of Bastable, for Chaw-um (Shaume) part of Sandwich, Barrwick, (for Accomack, Plymouth, &c. A few of the new names are retained. Mr. John Buley (probably John Bursley) afterwards of Barnstable, owned one-fourth of the two ships which Capt. Smith commanded in 1614.

names do not appear on the Massachusetts Colony Records.

Crocker or Croker as the name is usually written in England, is very ancient. An old proverbial distich record that,

“Crosker, Crewys, and Copplestone,
When the Conqueror came, were at home.”

The family of Crocker, originally seated at Crocker's Hale, and Crokern. For, in Devonshire, became possessed of Lineham, by marriage with the heirs of Churchill. The genealogy of the Crokers of Lineham is accurately recorded and exhibits a descent of eleven John Crockers in almost uninterrupted succession. Members of the family removed to Cornwall, Waterford, and other places. (See Burke.)

JOHN CROCKER.

It incidentally appears by Mr. Lothrop's church records, that John Crocker was an inhabitant of Scituate in 1636. Feb. 1, 1638-9, he and other inhabitants of Scituate took the oath of allegiance. March 3, 1639-40, he is called of Scituate, but he probably removed soon after this date to Barnstable. Mr. Deane says he probably did not remove till 1654; but this is a mistake, for he was certainly of Barnstable Aug. 1643. The account given by Mr. Deane of his family, is erroneous and the fault is perhaps chargeable to his printer, and not to the author, the name of John having been inadvertantly substituted by the printer for that of William. His wife's name was Joan or Jane. The date of his marriage does not appear on record, probably not till late in life. In Mr. Lothrop's list of the householders in Scituate his name does not occur, making it probable that he was not married till after 1637. If he had any children they all died young, for he had none living at his death in 1669.

The farm of John Crocker, now owned by the descendants of his brother William, is at the north-east corner of the West Parish in Barnstable, and is thus described on the town records: “Forty acres of upland, more or less, bounded easterly by Goodman Bearse, westerly by Mr. Dimmock, northerly by the marsh, and southerly into the woods.” He also owned forty acres of salt marsh adjoining his farm on the north; and thirty acres of upland at the Indian pond, the later he sold 24th Feb. 1662-3, to John Thompson. Feb. 10, 1668-9, (the day on which he executed his will) Abraham Blush conveyed to him for £5,10, his great lot containing forty acres of upland and six of marsh. This lot is situated on the east side of Scorton Hill, and is now known as the Bodfish farm. By Blush's deed it appears that John Crocker had formerly owned meadow in that vicinity, then owned by Edward Fitzrandolph.

John Crocker was propounded to be a freeman June 6, 1649, and admitted on the 4th of June following. He was a juryman in 1647, '50 and '54; and surveyor of the highways in 1668.

June 6, 1649, he was licensed to keep an ordinary, the name by which taverns or public houses were then known.

March 2, 1646-7 he made a complaint against Thomas Shaw, which is entered on the Colony Records, and it incidentally furnishes some information that is of interest. This is the first criminal complaint made against a Barnstable man, and is interesting on that account. It shows that John Crocker was a good-liver, that his house was either pallisade built, or surrounded by a pallisade; and that small, as well as large offenders were promptly and severely dealt with. (See Casely No. 33.)

"At a General Court holden March 2d, in the x x i j th year of his Maj'etts now Raigne, of England, &c., 1646-7.

At this Court John Crocker compl. against Thomas Shawe for coming into his house by putting aside some loose pallizadoes on the Lords day, about the middle of the day, and tooke and carried out of his said house some venison, some beefe, some butter, cheese, bread, and tobacco, to the value of x i i d, which the said Thomas Shaw openly in publike Court confessed, submitting himself to the censure of the Court; whereupon, his sureties being released, he was committed to the Marshall's charge; and the Court censured him to make satisfaction for the goods stolen, 1 sh., being so valued, and 14 s, 4 d, a peece to the two men that attended on him to the Court, and to be publikely whipt at the post, which was accordingly don by the publike officer."

John Crocker's house stood near the ancient dwelling-house recently occupied by Joseph and Prince Crocker deceased. Perhaps that house was originally John Crocker's, enlarged by its subsequent owners. It appears by the above extract that the house was either pallisade built or was surrounded by pallisade fence. The nine houses first built in Scituate were small pallisade houses and intended only as temporary residences. They were not built as the log-houses at the West are built, by piling logs horizontally over each other; but with small poles, placed in paralled rows, and filled in with stones and clay. Some of the better kinds were plastered. The roofs were thatched with the long sedge that grows abundantly near the creeks in the salt meadows. The fire-place was built of stone, and the chimney of sticks piled like a cob-house and plastered on the inside with clay. Straw or thatch served for a floor and a carpet. The south-east slope of a hill, near water, was usually selected by the first settlers on which to place their dwellings. By digging into the hill-side a secure back to the fire-place was obtained and the labor of building one side diminished. As a substitute for glass, oiled paper was used. Such houses were called by some of the early writers booths, that is a shelter made of slight materials for temporary purposes. A few such houses were put up in Barnstable, by those who came with Mr. Lothrop in October, 1639. Many of

those who came in the spring of that year had good substantial frame-houses. A saw mill had then been erected in Scituate and lumber, for covering and finishing buildings, could be cheaply procured. **Mr. Hull, Mr. Mayo, Thos. Lumbert, Mr. Dimmock, and others had frame-houses.** According to tradition preserved in the family, the first house built by Gov. Hinckley, and that by his father Samuel, were on the east side of Goggins' pond, had thatched roofs, and were not much better than the booths above described, yet they were the only houses they had for several years.

It is doubtful whether the first comers ever built any houses of the description now known as log-houses. Block houses of a similar construction to a log-house, were built early. They were constructed of hewn timbers, two stories high, and adapted for defence against Indian hostilities as well as for a residence. A block house was built in Yarmouth; but in Barnstable, the lower stories of all the fortification houses were of stone, and have already been described.

Some of the pallisade houses built by the first settlers, were the most comfortable and durable houses built. Elder John Chipman's, I believe, was so constructed, Mr. John Crow's, of Yarmouth, certainly was, and stood nearly two centuries, required but little repair, and, in fact, the recent owners did not know that it was so constructed till it was taken down. This house was built by taking large sticks of timber for sills and plates, boring two paralld rows of holes in each, about six inches apart, excepting where doors or windows were to be placed, and filling between with stones and clay. This formed the walls of the house, which were plastered with shell mortar inside and out. The Crowell house was afterwards clap boarded, which concealed the original construction from sight.

John Crocker's house probably was not so constructed, because it would be difficult for any one to have removed the pallisadoes and entered the house in the manner described. Many of the early settlers built a pallisade around their houses, and John Crocker probably did, as a defence against the Indians, and to keep out intruders and wild beasts. Such pallisades were built of small logs 12 or 15 feet long, sharpened at each end and set or driven into the ground side by side, so as to form a fence ten feet high, which it would be difficult for man or beast to scale.

He died in 1669 leaving a wife Jane, but no children. After providing for his widow he gave his estate to the sons of his brother William, and appointed his nephew Job, his executor. The latter came into possession of the old homestead, and it is now owned by his descendants.

He was a very different man from his brother Dea. William.

He was illiterate, kept a public house where it was customary in early times, for a certain class of people, found in all communities, to assemble to drink, and indulge in low and vicious conversation. Such company and such associations never improve the temper or moral character of a man, or add anything to his respectable standing in society. His treatment of his servant Roger Glass, a very worthy young man, shows that he was a man, "In whose veins the milk of human kindness did not flow." That he belonged to Mr. Lothrop's church, does not appear. He was one of the pioneer settlers in Scituate and in Barnstable. He was not a perfect man. His ashes rest in the old burying-ground beside those of the fathers where it will be well to let them rest in peace.

William Crocker, a younger brother of John, joined Mr. Lothrop's church in Scituate Dec. 25, 1636. He came to Barnstable Oct. 21, 1639, and his daughter Elizabeth, baptized Dec. 22, 1639, is the fourth on the list, showing that he was among the first who came. He built a frame house in Scituate in 1636—the forty-fourth built in that town. June 5, 1644, he was propounded a freeman, but does not appear to have been admitted till after 1652. He was constable of Barnstable in 1644; on the grand jury in 1654, '55, '57, '61, '67 and '75; selectman in 1668; deputy to the Colony Court in 1670, 71, and 74; and surveyor of highways 1673. In the year 1675 he was on the jury which condemned the murderers of John Sassamon, secretary of King Phillip. He was one of the leading men in early times and was often employed in the business of the town and in settling the estates of deceased persons.

He probably settled first in the easterly part of the town, and removed to West Barnstable about the year 1643. The loss of the early records makes it difficult to decide, but it is probable that his first house in Barnstable was on the lot next west of Henry Bourne's. He had a large landed estate, and for many years was perhaps the richest man in town. His sons were all men of wealth. In 1703 his son Joseph was the owner of the largest estate in Barnstable.

In 1655, Dea. William Crocker owned one hundred and twenty-six acres of upland, and twenty-two acres of meadow at West Barnstable, and forty acres of upland at the Indian ponds.* The West Barnstable farm was bounded easterly by the farm of John Smith, now known as the Otis farm, and by the farm of Samuel Hinckley, now owned by Levi L. Goodspeed, southerly

* The Indian ponds are three in number, and form the head waters of the stream now known as Marston's Mill river. Excepting where the water was very high, all these ponds did not originally connect with the mill stream. They were called the Indian Ponds because the Indian land reservation was on their borders. On the town records there is an entry of five dollars, paid for permanently closing one of the passages; and, at some former time a new outlet was excavated at a very considerable expense, probably for the purpose of admitting herring.

it extended into the woods. The southerly part of the farm, in 1654, was bounded on the west by the commons, and the northerly part by lands then owned by Governor Bodfish, and afterwards by Lieut. John Howland. He afterwards added largely to his West Barnstable farm, and to the farm at the Indian pond, the latter containing one hundred acres at his death. The West Barnstable farm was two miles in length from north to south, extending from the salt meadows on the waters at Barnstable harbor to the neighborhood of the West Barnstable meeting-house. The lands he first occupied were the south-easterly part of the farm, the old stone house which, according to tradition, was his first residence, was about a fourth of a mile easterly from the West Barnstable church. This stone or fortification house was taken down many years ago. A few aged persons remember to have seen it in a ruinous state. This part of the farm his son Josiah afterwards owned. There was another stone house on the south-westerly part of the farm owned by the descendants of Eleazer. This was taken down about the year 1815. It was called the old Stone Fort, and stood where Capt. Josiah Fish's house now stands. It was about 25 feet in front and 20 feet on the rear. The walls of the lower story were built of rough stones laid in clay mortar, and nearly three feet in thickness. The upper story was of wood and projected over the lower on the front, about three feet. In this projection were a number of loop holes about six inches square, closed by small trap doors. The windows in the lower story were high and narrow. These and the loop holes in the projection, were intended to be used as port-holes, should the building be assaulted by hostile Indians. The earliest known occupant, to any now living, was Mr. Benoni Crocker, a great-grand-son of Dea. William. He made a two story addition on the south-side, which was occupied by his son Barnabas.

Dea. William Crocker married in 1636 Alice. She was living in 1683, was the mother of all his children; but died soon after that date. He married second Patience, widow of Robert Parker and a daughter of Elder Henry Cobb. He died in the fall of 1692. His age is not stated, but he was propably about 80 years of age. His will is printed below at full length. It is a document that will be interesting to his descendants, and to the public as a specimen of the manner in which those instruments were drawn up in olden times.

The last will and testament of Deacon William Crocker of Barnstable, in New England.

The 6th day of September Anno Dom. 1692 I, William Crocker of Barnstable, being sick and weak in body but throu ye mercy of God of disposing mind and memory, and knowing ye uncertainty of this life on earth, and being desirous to settle

things in order, do make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following, viz: first and principally, I give and committ my soul to God in Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer throw whose pretious death and merriits I hope to find ye free pardon and remition of all my sinnes, and everlasting salvation, and my body to ye earth from whence it was taken, to be buried in such decent manner as to my Executor hereafter named, shall seem meet and convenient, and as touching my wordly estate which God hath in mercy lent unto me, my will is to bestow ye same as hereafter is expressed, and I do hereby revoke and make void all wills by me formerly made and declared and appoint this to be my last will and testament.

Imprimus my will is that all those debts and duties which I owe in right or conscience to any person or persons whatsoever, shall be well and truly contented and paid when convenient by my Executor.

Itt. I give and bequeath unto Patience my loving wife, besides ye liberty to dispose of all ye estate which she brought with her or had at ye time of our intermarriage, and besides ye forty pounds I then promised to give her, in case she should survive me, I give unto her my best bedd and bedstead with all ye ffurniture thereto belonging.

Itt. I give and bequeath to my eldest son John Crocker my now dwelling house and lands both upland and ffresh meadows adjoyning and belonging thereunto now and of late under my occupation and improvement to have and to hold to him his heirs and assignes forever he or they paying to ye s'd Patience my wife twenty pounds of ye fores'd forty pounds she is to receive, and I do also hereby confirm to him my son John his heirs and assignes forever all those parcels of land I heretofore gave unto him and are well known to have been in his quiet possession for sundry years; I further also give and bequeath to him my son John my two oxen which he hath had in his posession some years.

Itt. I give and bequeath unto my son Job Crocker besides ye land I heretofore gave him and known to be in his possession, twenty acres of that fifty acres at ye ponds which I purchased of John Coggin to have and to hold to him my son Job his heirs and assignes forever and that he chuse it on which side of s'd land he please.

Itt. I will and bequeath to my sons Josiah and Eliazer Crocker besides those lands I heretofore gave to each of them and are in their particular knowne possession, all my upland at the marsh together with all ye marsh adjoining thereunto, (except such particular parcel or parcels thereof as I have heretofore given and is possest of late by any other or is in these presents hereafter mentioned,) to be equally divided between them ye s'd Josiah and Eliazer to have and to hold to them their heirs and

assignes forever: Each of them ye s'd Josiah and Eliazer paying seven pounds and ten shillings apiece to ye s'd Patience in paying of ye forty pounds above mentioned. And I further will and bequeath to my sons Josiah and Eliazer to each of them one cow.

Itt. I will and bequeath unto my son Joseph Crocker (besides ye two parcels of upland and one parcel of marsh which I heretofore gave him and is known to be in his possession ye house and land which he hired of me and now lives on) that is to say, so much of my s'd land as he hath now fenced in; together with that parcel of marsh which he hath from year to year of late hired of me; to have and to hold to him ye s'd Joseph his heirs and assignes forever: he or they paying five pounds to ye s'd Patience to make up ye full of s'd forty pounds I promised to her as above s'd.

Itt. I give and bequeath all ye rest of my lands att ye ponds to my grandsons, viz: to Nathaniel, ye son of John Crocker, Samuel, ye son of Job Crocker, and Thomas, ye son of Josiah Crocker to be equally divided between them and to their and each of their heirs and assignes forever.

Itt. my will is and I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty and well beloved son Job Crocker to be my sole executor to see this my last will and testament to be performed, with whom I leave all ye residue of my estate in whatsoever it be, to be equally distributed amongst all my children unless I shall signifie my minde to have such part or parts thereof to be disposed to any in particular.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal.

On my further consideration I signifie my mind before ye ensealing hereof and it is my will that Mr. Russell shall have my two steers which are att Isaac Howlands and that Mr. Thomas Hinckly shall have my nagro boy if he please he paying fourteen pounds to my Executor for him.

WILLIAM CROCKER. [Seal.]

Signed Sealed and declared

In presence of

SAMUEL CHIPMAN,
MERCY CHIPMAN.

Samuel Chipman and Mercy Chipman whose hands are sett as witnesses to this will made oath in Court October ye 19: 1692, that they did see the above said William Crocker now deceased sign seal and declare this above written to be his last will and testament.

JOSEPH LOTHROP: c l.

Examined and duly compared with ye original will and entered October ye 22, 1692.

Attest:

JOSEPH LOTHROP, Recorder.

The division which Deacon Crocker made of his estate in the foregoing will, may perhaps, be better understood by the following description of the shares of each of his five sons. Job had the estate which was his uncle John's homestead, and his father therefore gives him a larger proportion of his estate, not immediately connected with the West Barnstable farm.

John had the great lot of his uncle John, on which he had a house, and therefore, there was no immediate need that he should be provided for. For his other four sons he had provided houses, or they had built on his land.

The present road running north from the West Barnstable Meeting House, to the Cape Cod Rail Road Depot, divides Dea. Crocker's farm into two nearly equal parts. On the east of the road, Josiah had the south part, excepting the portion given to John, and Joseph the north. On the west side, John had the south part, including a strip running north to the meadows, and a strip on the east, adjoining Josiah's land, where Nathaniel Crocker afterwards lived, and Eleazer the north-westerly part. A question arises which will be hereafter considered, and that is, whether or not John's portion extended far enough west to include the old stone fort.

Dea. Crocker died in good old age. For many years he was deacon of the Barnstable Church, and living an exemplary and pious life. He has a clean record. Nothing dishonest or dishonorable was ever laid to his charge. Men who acquire great wealth, often make enemies of the envious; but Dea. Crocker appears to have been beloved and respected by all. When he removed to West Barnstable, the lands there had only a nominal value. He was industrious, economical, and a good manager. His boys were as industrious and as prudent as the father, and that was the whole secret of their becoming wealthy. In early colonial times a large family was considered a great blessing in a pecuniary point of view. The boys assisted the father on the farm, and at seventeen were able to do the work of a man. The girls were also brought up to more than earn their own living. They assisted the mother, spun and wove the flax and the wool, and made their own and their brother's garments, and in hay time and at harvest assisted their brothers. A man with a large family of healthy children was then the most independent of men. From his farm and his household he obtained an abundance of the prime necessities of life. The surplus which he sold was more than sufficient to pay the bills of the mechanic, and to buy the few articles of foreign growth and manufacture then required. There was very little money in circulation, and very little was needed. Taxes were payable in agricultural products, at a rate fixed by law, and if lands or property were sold, without it was expressly stipulated in the contract, that payment should be made

in silver money, it was a barter trade, payable in produce at the "prices current with the merchants."

Aged people often remark that their ancestors estimated that every son born to them added to their wealth a £100, and of every daughter £50. However heterodox this theory may now appear to parents, or to political economists, it was undoubtedly true in early times. The Crocker's, with few exceptions, all married in early life, had large families, and excepting the few who tried to live by trade or speculation, acquired good estates, lived comfortably, and were respectable and honorable members of society.

[The genealogies of the Crocker, Gorham, Hallett, and several other families, I have drawn up in the manner recommended in the Genealogical Register, it is necessary to transcribe them, because the columns of a newspaper are too narrow for such kind of composition, and because the varieties of type required are not kept in a newspaper office. As the same name so frequently occurs in the Crocker family, I shall preserve the serial number in Arabic or common figures, using the Roman numerals as heretofore, to distinguish members of the same family. John and Benjamin are names that frequently occur, and without the serial numbers it will be difficult to distinguish them. At one time there were four John Crocker's in Barnstable, all householders and heads of families. They were, from necessity, distinguished by nick-names; but the use of the serial number will render the repetition of those names unnecessary.]

Family of Dea. William Crocker.

Dea. William Crocker married for his first wife, Alice, who was the mother of all his children. She was living in 1683, but died soon after that date. He married for his second wife, Patience, widow of Robert Parker and daughter of Elder Henry Cobb. He died Sept. 1692, aged probably 80 years. His children were :

2. I. John, born in Scituate May 1, 1637, baptized June 11, 1637.
3. II. Elizabeth, born in Scituate Sept. 22, 1639, baptized in Barnstable, Dec. 22, 1639. She was his only daughter and died in Barnstable unmarried, May 1658, in the 19th year of her age.
4. III. Samuel, born in Barnstable, June 3, 1642, baptized same day. He died Dec. 1681.
5. IV. Job, born March 9, 1644-5, baptized same day.
6. V. Josiah, born Sept. 19, 1647, baptized same day.

It seemed improbable that Dea. Crocker had three children born in succession on the sabbath, and that each was baptized on the day of its birth. Mr. Lothrop, the pastor of the

church, so records the baptisms, and there is no reason to question his accuracy. Gov. Hinckley so makes his return to the Colony Court, and David Crocker, Esq., one of the early town clerks, so transcribes the earlier records. A single instance of this character was noticed in the family of Austin Bearse, (No. 12) and the comments made thereon are equally applicable to this case.

7. VI. Eleazer, born July 21, 1650.

8. VII. Joseph, born 1654.

2. John Crocker, eldest son of Dea. William, resided at West Barnstable. His father, in his will, gave him the south-westerly part of his farm, and the dwelling-house in which he then lived. John Crocker had, at that time, been a married man thirty-three years, and had children and grand-children, and owned lands and a dwelling-house in his own right, independent of the property bequeathed to him by his father. He owned the Bodfish farm, set off to him as his portion of his uncle John's estate, on which there was a dwelling house. One half of that farm he conveyed by deed to his son Jonathan, through whom it came into possession of the Bodfish family.

The lands bequeathed by Dea. William to his son Eleazer, are not clearly defined in the will. Eleazer owned the lands south of the Dexter farm, on Dexter's, now called Fish's Lane, bounded west by the land of Joseph Bodfish, Sen'r, including the land on which the Stone Fort stood. I infer from this, that the house named in the will of Dea. William, as then in the occupancy of Eleazer, was the old Stone Fort, consequently it was not the house given to his son John. Anciently there was another stone house on the Crocker farm, standing about a fourth of a mile easterly from the West Barnstable Church. This was probably built about the year 1643, and as it was on his first grant of land at West Barnstable, made to Dea. William, it is just to infer that it was his residence. His son Josiah afterwards owned it and the land on which it stood. Seth, a grandson of Josiah, built, about the year 1766, a large and convenient dwelling house near the old stone house, in which he had previously resided. Afterwards the latter was used as an out-building. Seventy-five years ago it was in a ruinous condition, and every vestage of it is now removed. It corresponded in size and construction to the fortification house already described. Previously to his death Deacon William built and resided in the large two story frame house on the Meeting House way, afterwards owned and occupied by his grand-children, Nathaniel and Experience. They came into the possession of it soon after the death of Dea. William, who devised it to their father John, after the death of his widow Patience. Neither Nathaniel nor Experience married. Each owned a large real-estate and had, at their deaths, money on hand and money loaned, on bonds payable in silver money. In 1740

the house required repairs, and Experience, before her death, provided lumber, nails, &c., to complete the same, and which she directed to be done after her death. This house was taken down about fifty years ago. The style was that of the first settlers. Two stories in front and one in the rear.

My main object in this inquiry, is to ascertain from records and other sources of information, what was the action of the townsmen of Barnstable under the order of the Colony Court, dated Oct. 10, 1643, requiring them to fortify "a place or places for the defence of themselves, their wives, and children, against a suddaine assault." The committee to enforce this order, were Mr. Thomas Dimmock, Anthony Annable, Henry Cobb, Henry Coggen, Barnard Lumberd, and the constable James Hamblen. The three deacons of the church, Dimmock, Cobb and Crocker, each complied with the order of the court, built fortification houses, and were aided by their neighbors, because in case of a sudden assault by the Indians, the buildings were to be a common place for refuge for all. Who built the stone fort on Dexter's lane, I have been unable to ascertain. In 1692 it was owned and occupied by Eleazer Crocker.*

2. John Crocker, the second of the name, a son of Dea. William Crocker, was born in Scituate May 1, 1637, came to Barnstable with his father 1639. Married in 1659, Mary, daughter of Robert Bodfish. She died Dec. 1662, and he married April 25, 1663, for his second wife, Mary, daughter of John Bursley. He died May 1711, aged 74. His children born in Barnstable were :

9. I. Elizabeth, 7th Oct. 1660, married Dea. Richard Child 1678, died Jan. 15, 1716, aged 56. Her first house was next west of Lieut. Howland's. She afterwards resided as named in the account of her family.
10. II. Jonathan, 15th July, 1662, married Hannah, daughter of John Howland, 20th May, 1686. He died Aug. 24, 1746, aged 84, and is buried in the West Barnstable graveyard.
11. III. John, 17th Feb. 1663-4, married 5th Nov. 1702, Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Bacon. She died March 1710-11, and he married 22d June 1721, Sarah Hinckley. This John

*The earliest land owners in the vicinity of the old stone fort, were William Crocker, Joseph Bodfish, Peter Blossom, Mr. Thomas Dexter, Edward Fitzrandolph, and John Bursley. The old stone fort was impregnable against any force that the Indians could raise, and it is surprising that its history is buried in oblivion. Perhaps some future investigator may be more successful than I have been. In Yarmouth a fort was built near the Cong. Meeting House, on a rising ground known as "Fort Hill," and in the easterly part of the town, on land owned by the late Capt. Samuel Rogers, a block house. That house was formerly owned by Thomas Baxterr. Capt. Rogers, who took it down in 1810, furnishes me with the following description. "It was about 20 feet by 28 feet square, walls of hewn timber, one story high, gambrel roof, windows small, diamond glass set in lead, chimney stone to chamber floor, brick above, all laid in clay mortar. Bricks large; partially burnt. Fire-place in front room, eight feet wide, with a stone hearth. Shingles on the walls and roof cedar, long, and an inch thick. Boards used apparently sawed by hand." Fortification houses were also built in Sandwich. See Freeman's History.

is called Jr., on the early records, and his father Sen'r. He resided on the west side of the road, a short distance north from the present meeting house.

12. IV. Hannah, 10th Oct. 1665, married 1st July, 1686, Samuel Lothrop, a grandson of Rev. John.

13. V. Joseph, 1st March, 1667-8, married 18th Sept. 1691, Ann, daughter of Lieut. John Howland.

14. VI. Benjamin, probably died young. He is not named in his father's will dated 30th April, 1706, or in the division of his brother Jabez's estate, April 3, 1700.

15. VII. Nathaniel, born 1773. He died Feb. 11, 1740-1, in the 69th year of his age, leaving neither wife nor children.

In 1715 his house is described as being near the head of the lane, on the east side, and north of the land on which the West Barnstable church now stands. (Blue) John Crocker afterwards owned it, and subsequently the same estate was owned by the late Stephen C. Nye, deceased. He owned only two fifteenths of the house, his sister Experience owning the other thirteen fifteenths. His estate was appraised at £2,003 10 10. Silver at that time was worth 28 shillings per ounce. His homestead was appraised at £1,100. He had 92 ounces of silver on hand, and £266,5 due him in silver, at his death. He left no will, and his own brothers and sisters contended that Jonathan Crocker and Elizabeth Child's heirs, being only of the half blood, were not entitled to shares. The Judge of Probate, Hon. Sylvanus Bourne, in a very able report on the law, decided that they were equally entitled, and ordered the estate to be divided into seven shares, and distributed to 1, Jonathan Crocker; 2, heirs of Elizabeth Childs; 3, Mrs. Mary Bursley, surviving sister; 4, Children of Capt. Joseph Crocker, deceased; 5, Children of Hannah Lothrop, deceased; 6, Children of John Crocker, deceased; and 7, to heirs of Experience Crocker deceased.

16. VIII. Experience, born in 1674, died single, April 17, 1740-1, in the 67th year of her age, and is buried in the West Barnstable graveyard. She owned thirteen fifteenths, and her brother Nathaniel two fifteenths, of the ancient dwelling house of her grandfather, which has already been described. Besides the estate bequeathed to her by her father, she accumulated a considerable amount by her own industry and prudence. Her estate was appraised at £588 14. Her silver plate were valued at £69 14: 50 ounces at the current rate of silver at that time. In her will she makes bequests to her brothers Jonathan and Joseph; to her sister Mary Bursley; to the children of her sister Elizabeth Childs, deceased; to Benjamin, son of her brother Joseph; to Benjamin and Samuel, sons of her sister Hannah Lothrop; to Moses, son of her brother John; to Mary

Davis, daughter of her sister Hannah Lothrop; to Deborah, daughter of her brother Joseph; to John, son of her nephew Moses; to Elizabeth, daughter of her brother John; to Joseph Lothrop, son of her nephew Joseph, deceased; to the poor of the church of which she was a member; to the church in West Barnstable; and to John, son of the Rev. Jonathan Russell. To her brother John's son John, (called Blue John Crocker) she bequeathed the lower great room in her house, the bed room and the garret, and materials to put the house in good repair. The remainder of the house she bequeathed to her neice Hannah Lothrop, a single woman, then fifty years of age. All the rest of her estate she gave to her sister Mary Bursley, Experience Lothrop, Hannah Lothrop, Abigail Lothrop, and Prudence Gorham, wife of John Gorham, Esq., and daughter of Joseph Crocker.

Miss Experience had some of the good qualities of the Vicar of Wakefield's wife. He said all his wife's cousins even to the fortieth remove, never forget their relationship, and never passed his door without calling, and his table was always well filled with a happy company.

17. IX. Jabez, died in 1700, without issue, and his estate was divided among his brothers and sisters, by the same father and mother, then surviving.
18. X. Mary, married Feb, 11, 1702, John Bursley, Jr.
19. XI. Abigail. Her birth is not recorded on the town records. She died young, leaving no issue.
20. XII. Bathshua, also died young, leaving no issue.

Of the children of John Crocker, his son Joseph is the last whose birth is recorded on the town records. The names of the others are arranged in the order found on the Probate records.

4. Samuel Crocker, son of Dea. William Crocker, born in Barnstable July 3, 1642, died Dec. 1681, aged 39. It does not appear that he married. If he had left issue, his children would probably have been named in their grandfather's will. The cause of his death is stated in the following extract from the Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 6, page 82.

An Inditement.

"Indian James, thou art here indited by the name of James, for that thou, haveing not the fear of God before thyne eyes, on the one and twentyeth day of November 1681, in the town of Barnstable, didst feloniously, willfully, and of mallice forethought, with intent to murder, kick Samuel Crocker, son of William Crocker, of Barnstable, on the bottom of his belley, whereof the said Samuel Crocker three weeks after died; which thou hast don contrary to the law of God, of England, and this collonie, and contrary to the peace of our sou.'r Lord the Kinge,

his crowne, and dignity.

The jury find the prisenor nott guilty of willfull murder."

No Indians were on the jury, as was the usual practice in such cases; and the verdict of the jury shows that impartial justice was dispensed by our ancestors irrespective of caste or race. Against Indian James no further proceedings appear on the records.

5. Dea. Job Crocker. Few men in Barnstable were held in higher esteem in his day, than Dea. Job Crocker. Like his father, he was honest and upright in his dealing, industrious and prudent in his habits, an obliging neighbor, a good citizen. Nurtured by pious parents, in early life he became a member of the church, and through life, his daily walk was in accordance with his profession. The church records say of him, "God and his people having elected and proved our Brother Job Crocker, for the office of deacon in this church, he was solomnly set a part for, and ordained unto that work and office in July 1684; to serve in the deaconship of this church, together with his father." For eight years, during the pastorate of the elder Russell, he and his venerable father were joint occupants of the deacon's seat. It is inscribed on his grave stones, that for thirty and four years he was a deacon of the Barnstable church.

Dea. Job Crocker was a man of good business capacity, was much employed in the business of the town, holding many offices which it is unnecessary here to enumerate. He inhabited the homestead of his uncle John, rocky and hard to cultivate, but an excellent grazing farm. The substantial stone walls built thereon in his day, remain as monuments of his industry and perseverance. His house, a large two story structure, built in the fashion of that day with a heavy cornice in front, and a long low or leantoo roof on the rear, yet remains.* It is situate near the meadows and in close proximity to the Cape Cod Railroad. The first location of the road was between the house and spring from which seven successive generations of Crockers had drawn water. Out of respect to the then venerable occupants, the location was changed to a point below, a concession rarely made by engineers.

Dea. Job Crocker married for his first wife, Nov. 1668, Mary, daughter of Rev. Thomas Walley, the then pastor of the Barnstable church. She was born in London and there baptized April 18, 1644. She came over with her father in the ship Society, Capt. John Pierce, and arrived in Boston 24th of the

*Some doubt may arise whether or not Dea. Job occupied the western or the eastern house. He occupied the most ancient, that is certain, and the decision of the question turns on this point; was the western, the one now standing, the most ancient. The first settlers, with scarce a solitary exception, planted pear trees near their houses and these old button and fall pear trees are their monuments. The trees near the western house were very ancient, while those near the eastern were smaller and not so old. The eastern house was a two story single house built in the style common about one hundred and forty years ago. It was taken down about forty years ago. It was occupied by David Crocker, Esq., son of Job, and I presume was built by him.

3d month (May) 1662. She died about the year 1676, leaving two children.

For his second wife he married, 19th July 1680, Hannah, daughter of Richard Taylor of Yarmouth, called "tailor" to distinguish him from another of the same Christian name. He died March 1718-19, aged 75 years, and is buried in the ancient burying ground. His wife Hannah survived him, and died 14th May 1743, in the 85th year of her age. In her will dated 10th of July 1739, proved 8th July 1743, she names her grandsons in law, Thomas and Walley Crocker, her daughters Mary Howland, Hannah, Elizabeth Allen, and Sarah Lumbert; her sons John Crocker, David Crocker, and Job, deceased; Mary, wife of Isaac Howland; Abigail, wife of Geo. Howland; Hannah, daughter of her son David; grand-daughter Hannah Allen; and her grand-son John Howland.

Children of Dea. Job Crocker.

21. I. A son, born 18, 1769, died in infancy.
22. II. Samuel, 15th May, 1671, married Dec. 10, 1696, Sarah, daughter of Robert Parker, and for his second wife, April 12, 1719, Judeth Leavet, of Rochester.
23. III. Thomas, 19th Jan. 1674, married 23d Dec. 1701, Elizabeth, widow of "John Lothrop, the son of Esquire Barnabas Lothrop."
24. IV. Mary, born 29th June, 1681, married June 19, 1719, John Howland, Jr., his second wife, and had John, 13th Feb. 1720-21, graduate of Harvard College 1741, ordained at Carver, 1746, died Nov. 4, 1804, aged 84; and a son Job, June 1726.
25. V. John, 24th Feb. 1683, called Dea. John.
26. VI. Hannah, 2d Feb. 1685. [A Hannah Crocker of Barnstable, married July 7, 1712, John Holden of Warwick.]
27. VII. Elizabeth, 15th May, 1688, married April 5, 1712, Rev. Benjamin Allen, a native of Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard. He graduated at Yale College 1708, ordained July 9, 1718, as the first minister of the south parish in Bridgewater, where he remained about twelve years. He was afterwards installed at Cape Elizabeth where he died May 6, 1754, aged 65. He was improvident in his habits and in consequence often involved in troubles. One of his grand-daughters by the name of Jourdan, married Rev. Enos Hitchcock, D. D., of Providence.
28. VIII. Sarah, born 19th Jan. 1690-1, married May 27, 1725, Benjamin Lumbard, Jr., died Nov. 1768, aged 76, leaving no issue.
29. IX. Job, 4th April 1694, died May 21, 1731, aged 37. He did not marry.

30. X. David, born 5th Sept. 1697, graduate of Harvard College 1716, married 12th Nov. 1724, Abigail, daughter of David Loring, and Jan. 27, 1757, Mrs. Abigail Stuart. He died in 1764, aged 67.

31. XI. Thankful, born 14th June, 1700, died unmarried Oct. 1, 1735.

6. Josiah Crocker, son of Dea. William, born Sept. 19, 1647, was a substantial farmer, and resided in the old stone house built by his father. He inherited the southeasterly part of his father's estate. In the proprietor's records, it is stated that his heirs owned a house at Cotuit; whether or not it was ever occupied by him, I have no means of ascertaining. At the division of the common meadows in 1697, he was one of the five to whom was awarded seven acres, showing that he was a man of wealth. In 1690 there was laid out to him at Cotuit Neck, forty acres of land formerly the great lot of John Hall, and thirty acres formerly the lot of Thomas and Peter Blossom. In 1698 he exchanged twenty-seven acres of his land at Cotuit Neck with the town, taking land at the same place adjoining Lewis's Pond, now called Lovell's Pond.

In 1688 the town granted him one and a half acres of upland on the south of his barn, bounded north and east by his other land, south and west by the commons. He was not much in public life. He is named as a member of the grand inquest in 1679, and was surveyor of highways in 1682. He married 23d Oct. 1668, Melatiah, daughter of Gov. Thomas Hinckley. He died 2d Feb. 1698-9 aged 51 years. In his will dated on the 28th of the preceding month, he names his wife Melatiah, sons Thomas, Josiah, Ebenezer, Seth, Benjamin, and daughters, Mercy, Mary, Else, and Melatiah.

The Wid. Melatiah Crocker died 2d Feb. 1714-15, aged 66 years. In her will dated Jan. 21, 1613-14, she names her five sons; and daughters Mary, Alice, and Melatiah; also daughter Hannah (wife of her son Thomas) and her grand-daughter Tabitha.

Children born in Barnstable.

31. I. A son, born 20th Aug. 1669, died Sept. 1669.

32. II. Thomas, born 27th May 1671, married 25th March 1696, Hannah Green of Boston. He died April 1728, aged 57 years.

33. III. Mercy, born 13th Feb. 1674, died in early life.

34. IV. Mary, born 10th Sept. 1677, married Nov. 1705, her cousin William Crocker.

35. V. Alice, born 25th Dec. 1679, married 14th June 1711, George Lewis. She died 23d Feb. 1718. Alice does not appear to have been a favorite name with the Crockers. This is the only grand-child of the name, and she did not

give the name to either of her daughters.

36. VI. Melatiah, born 20th Nov. 1681, married Oct. 27, 1729, her cousin Timothy Crocker.
37. VII. Josiah, born 8th Feb. 1684, married April 10, 1711, Desire, daughter of Col. John Thacher.
38. VIII. Ebenezer, born 30th May, 1687, married 22d March, 1715, Hannah Hall of Yarmouth.
39. IX. Seth, born 23d Sept. 1689, died in Harwich, 1623, leaving no issue. His brother Benjamin of Ipswich, was executor of his will.
40. X. Benjamin, born 26th Sept. 1692, graduate of Harvard College 1713. He removed to Ipswich, Mass., and was many years teacher of the Grammar School in that town. He was a representative from Ipswich to the Mass. Gen. Court in 1726, '34 and '36. He was a member of the south church in that town; but as the individuals chosen for its Ruling Elders were not ordained, because Mr. Walley, the pastor, did not believe such officers were required by the gospel, he left, and united with the first church. He was a deacon and occasionally preached. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. William Williams of Weston, and had Mary, who married ——— Gannison, and John, a deacon of the church and a man of note in his day. Dea. Benjamin Crocker died in 1766, aged 75, and his wife who survived him married ——— Cogswell.†

7. Eleazer Crocker, son of Dea. William Crocker, born in Barnstable 21st July 1650, was admitted a townsman in 1681. In 1692 he was one of the committee appointed to draw up a list of the proprietors of the common lands, and determine what was each man's just right therein. After the death of Nathaniel Bacon in 1693, he was "chosen and empowered by the town to be a land measurer to lay out land." He married 7th April 1682, Ruth, daughter of Elder John Chipman. She died 8th April 1698, aged 34. For his second wife he married Jan. 25, 1716-17, Mercy Phinney.

Children of Eleazer Crocker.

41. I. Benoni, born 13th May, 1682, died 3d Feb. 1701.
42. II. Bethia, born 23d Sept. 1683, married John Whiton March 13, 1710.
43. III. Nathan, born 27th April, 1685, married 10th March, 1708-9, Joanna, daughter of John Bursley, and the Barn-

† Alvah Crocker, Esq., of Fitchburg, in a letter says that "upon one of the oldest Grave Stones in St. Anns Church Yard, Newburyport, he finds this inscription, 'Capt. John Crocker born in 1692, died March 19, 1763.'" This Capt. John Crocker was the great grandfather of Alvah Crocker, Esq., and if the inscription on his Grave Stone is accurately transcribed he was not a son of Benjamin of Ipswich. Mr. Crocker says the tradition in his family, is that he is a descendant of Dea. William, but as at present advised I do not preceive how the tradition can be verified.

- stable records say he also married Abigail Bursley March 10, 1713-14, evidently an error of the Clerk.
44. IV. Daniel, born 23d March, 1686-7, died without issue 1723.
45. V. Sarah, born 23d March, 1689, married Nov. 7, 1712, Joseph Bursley.
46. VI. Theophilus, born 11th March, 1691.
47. VII. Eleazer, born 3d Aug. 1693.
48. VIII. Ruth, born 3d Aug. 1693, married Samuel Fuller 1718.
49. IX. Abel, born 15th June, 1695, married April 16, 1718 Mary Isum. The names of his children do not appear on the town records. His wife joined the church Dec. 1723, when her son Daniel and daughter Rebecca were baptized, and Aug. 1725, her son Eleazer. Soon after the latter date the family removed to Plymton, and returned 1757.
50. X. Rebecca, born 10th Dec. 1697, married ——— Robbins.
51. XI. Mercy, by his second wife, and named in his will.

8. Sergeant Joseph Crocker, youngest son of Dea. William, born in 1654, resided at West Barnstable. He inherited the north-easterly part of his father's farm, bounded easterly by the Otis and Hinckley estates. That portion of the ancient Crocker estate, on the north of the County road and bounded easterly by the lands of Mr. John Smith, was not included in his estate.* His house was on the Meeting House road, if I construe the records rightly, not far from the present location of the Cape Cod Railroad Depot. A reservation of three rods in width through his lands was made for that road. In 1703 he was rated the highest, and probably was the most wealthy man in Barnstable. He was admitted a townsman in 1678; but does not appear to have been often employed in town or other public business. He was a sergeant in the militia company, than an office of some honor. In his will dated 20th Feb. 1720-1, he gives to his wife Temperance all his personal estate, and the use and improvement of all his real estate during her natural life. In most of the old wills the phrase used is, "while she remains my widow," on the presumption that the husband can bind the wife after his decease.

To his four daughters he devised all his lands and meadows lying by the mill river; to his son William, "all his housing and

*The same rule was adopted in Barnstable and Yarmouth in the division of the common lands; that is, one third to the townsmen, one third on the estates, and one third to the tenements. In Barnstable only the gross number of shares allotted to each is recorded; in Yarmouth the several particulars are given. Joseph Crocker had 80 shares, James Gorham 74 3-4, John Hamblin 71 3-4, James Hamblin, Sen'r, 69, &c. It will thus be perceived why it was that our ancestors, were so cautious in admitting townsmen. It not only conferred all the rights appertaining to a citizen; but made the party a proprietor of the common lands. If a house stood on the common land, the owner was not entitled to a tenement right. To confer the right, the house had to be on the land of the individual, and the title acquired by him according to the usages of the times.

lands where he then dwelt," and all his wood lots; and to Timothy "all his lands in the timber lands, at a place called Great Hill, all subject to the use and improvement of their mother during her natural life. Noah is not named in the will, and was probably then dead.

Joseph Crocker married Dec. 1677, Temperance, daughter of John Bursley. She survived her husband many years and died very aged.

Children born in Barnstable.

52. I. William, born 25th Aug. 1679, married Nov. 1705, his cousin Mary Crocker.
53. II. Timothy, born 30th April 1681, married Oct. 27, 1709, his cousin Melatiah Crocker.*
54. III. Noah, born Dec. 1683, died young.
55. IV. Joanna, born 18th July 1687, married 9th Feb. 1708-9, Joseph Fuller, Jr., died April 13, 1766.
56. V. Martha, born 22d Feb. 1689.
57. VI. Temperance, 26th Aug. 1694.
58. VII. Remember, 26th Aug. 1699, married Samuel Annable, 3d, May 28, 1719.

Third Generation.

(10) Jonathan Crocker, son of John, owned the land now known as the Bodfish Farm at West Barnstable. He was a substantial farmer, owned a large estate; and, as his father and grand-father had done, he conveyed by deeds a large part of it to his children, reserving only a sufficiency for his comfortable support in old age. His residence on the Bodfish Farm, probably built by his father, was a two story single house, with a leantoo, or "salt box," as they were sometimes called, on the side. This he sold in 1713 to his son-in-law, Benjamin Bodfish. It was taken down in 1819, and the old Bodfish mansion house stands on the same spot.† His will, which is in the hand writing of the Rev. Jonathan Russell, is dated June 1737, and the codicil thereto

* Physiologists may perhaps notice these two instances of the marriage of cousins. William and Mary had eight children. One was still born, and one died aged 21 days. Of the other six, none were distinguished either for physical or intellectual vigor. Timothy and Melatiah had five daughters, distinguished for their intellectual vigor, graceful accomplishments, and business capacity. Beautiful specimens of embroidery wrought by them are preserved by their descendants. A few years since a gentleman well versed in the genealogies of the Nantucket families, attempted to show that the marriage of cousins was not objectionable, and he made out a strong case.

† Since writing the above I have examined the records of the grants of land made in 1716. There is great want of cleanness, in the descriptions. The records says, "Set out to Jonathan Crocker, a piece of land at the head of his own, bounded westerly by the way that goeth up by his house, northerly by his own land to the dividing line between him and John Crocker." John Crocker's land is bounded "easterly," evidently should be westerly, by Jonathan's, and easterly by the way to Nathaniel Crocker's. Out of this grant the three acres on which the West Barnstable meeting house now stands was reserved. The reservation was made in the grant to Thomas; but appears to have been taken from John's. It seems by this that Jonathan Crocker's house in 1716, was on Dexter's Lane, and whether he ever resided in the house he sold to Bodfish is not clear.

June 1742, four years before his death. He provides for the support of his wife Thankful, *giving her the household goods she brought with her, and some bedding she had made since.* He gave his son Isaac £30 and his great chair, names his son James, and James' oldest son, to whom he gave his gun. To the Rev. Jonathan Russell he devised 20 shillings; to the church 20 shillings; and to Mercy Dexter then living with him £5. All the rest of his estate, real and personal, to the children of his three daughters, Lydia, Hannah and Reliance. In the codicil to his will he gives the estate which had fallen to him by the death of his brother Nathaniel, equally, in five shares, to his sons Isaac and James, to the children and heirs of his daughter Lydia Bodfish, deceased, to the children and heirs of his daughter Hannah Fuller, and to the children and heirs of his daughter Reliance Smith, deceased. At the time he made his will all his children, excepting Isaac and James, were dead, and they resided in Connecticut.

Jonathan Crocker married for his first wife, 20th May, 1686, Hannah, daughter of Lieut. John Howland. She was the mother of all his children. After her death he married Feb. 1710-11, Thankful, widow of Mr. John Hinckley, Jr., and daughter of Thomas Trott of Dorchester. He died Aug. 24, 1746, aged 84, and is buried in the West Barnstable grave yard. No monuments are erected to the memory of either of his wives.

Children born in Barnstable.

59. I. Lydia, born 26th Sept. 1686, married Benjamin Bodfish, 10th Nov. 1709.
60. II. Hannah, born 26th March 1688, married 10th 7th month, 1708, Shubael Fuller, of East Haddam, Conn., and removed thither.
61. III. Thankful, born 6th March, 1690, died young.
62. IV. Isaac, born April 4, 1692, married Dec. 13, 1718, Ann Smith, and removed to East Haddam, Conn., where she died June 1725, aged 30. Oct. 31, 1726, he married for his second wife Elizabeth Fuller of Barnstable. In 1729 he removed to Westchester, in the town of Colchester. He died Aug. 8, 1769, at 4 o'clock P. M., aged 77 years, 4 months, and 8 days.

Children of Isaac Crocker born in East Haddam, Conn.

- 1, Hannah, Sept. 22, 1719; 2, Ann, June 29, 1722, died unmarried, March 29, 1772, aged 49; 3, Joseph, Dec. 20, 1724, married Nov. 10, 1748, Sarah, daughter of Rev. Judah Lewis; 4, Elizabeth, Aug. 26, 1727, married as second wife, May, 26, 1747, Simeon Ockley. She died at Williamston Nov. 9, 1797, aged 70; 5, Mary, April 30, 1729; 6, Martha, born at Colchester, March 3, 1731; 7, Abigail, March 10, 1733; 8, a daughter, Sept.

62. 1736, died same day.
63. V. Reliance, born 28th June, 1694, married Joseph Smith, Jr., 5th Oct. 1712; died 4th May, 1704, aged 30.
64. VI. Jonathan, born 28th May, 1696, married Nov. 28, 1723, Elizabeth, daughter of the second John Bursley. He died Sept. 21, 1725, leaving a son Ephraim, who died Oct. 17, 1725, aged one year and 15 days.
65. VII. James, born 3d Sept. 1699, married Nov. 21, 1721, Alice Swift, born in Sandwich July 23, 1698 da'r of Jireh and Abigail Swift. About the year 1724 he removed to Colchester, Conn., and built a house near the Colchester and East Haddam turnpike which, till 1860, was occupied by his descendents. He and his wife were members of the church in the parish of Westchester. She died in Westchester Jan. 15, 1783, aged 84; and he died Nov. 7, 1785, aged 86. They lived in the marriage state over sixty-one years. Their children were: 1, Simeon, the Barnstable records say born at Barnstable, March 22, 1722, the Colchester, Sept. 19, 1722, (the latter probably accurate.) He married March 7, 1751, Dorothy Williams. He died at Westchester Feb. 13, 1778. His death was caused by a fall on the ice, while going from his house to his barn. She died Aug. 4, 1818, aged about 95. 2, Abigail, † born according to the the Barnstable record, Sept. 19, 1724, according to the Colchester, March 25, 1724, married Feb. 23, 1744, John Williams, and 2d, April 23, 1755, Enoch Arnold, died 1771. 3, Hannah, born at Colchester Jan. 17, 1726. 4, Levi, May 11, 1728. 5, Jonathan, March 16, 1730. 6, James, April 20, 1732. 7, Thankful, Jan. 27, 1733-4. 8, Lydia, Jan. 14, 1735-6. 9, Ephraim, Sept. 21, 1739. The last was a physician settled in Richmond, Mass.
66. VIII. Ephraim, born April 1702, died May 1, 1704.
(11) John Crocker son of John, born 7th Feb. 1663-4, was called Junior until 1711, when he was the elder of the name in Barnstable. He married 5th Nov. 1702, Mary, daughter of the second Nathaniel Bacon. She died March, 1710-11, aged 33, and he married for his second wife, Sarah, Nov. 11, 1711, probably a daughter of Ensign John Hinckley.

Children born in Barnstable.

67. I. Sarah, born 4th Jan. 1703-4.
68. II. Moses, born 5th April, 1705, married May 15, 1735, Mary Fish of Sandwich, and had 1, Nathaniel, May 7, 1736; 2, John, March 8, 1737-8, he was 4th and called Tanner. He married Jan. 8, 1761, Thankful Hallett; 3,

† Abigail Crocker was the great grand-mother of my correspondent, D. William Patterson, Esq., of West Winstead, Conn., to whom I am much indebted for information respecting the early emigrants from Barnstable to Connecticut.

Sarah, Aug. 16, 1740; 4, Moody, Feb. 14, 1742; and 5, Edmund, Aug. 17, 1645, also Nathaniel not named in the record.

69. III. Mary, born July, 1707. In a deed dated 37th Aug., styles herself spinster, names her uncle Nathaniel, deceased, and her two brothers, Moses and John.

70. IV. John, born Sept. 1709, called John Blue or Blue Stocking John. In the latter part of his life he was the elder of the four John Crocker's and called first. His house, bequeathed to him by his great aunt, Experience, stood on the easterly side of the road, a little distance north of the West Barnstable church, and was afterwards owned and occupied by Mr. Lemuel Nye. He married Lydia Barker of R. I. (Neither his marriage nor the publication thereof is on the Barnstable town records.) His children born in Barnstable were: 1, Elizabeth, Feb. 28, 1738; 2, Stephen, Dec. 3, 1740; 3, Joseph, Feb. 6, 1842; 4, Allyn, Feb. 18, 1745; 5, Bathseba, Jan. 23, 1747, David Kelley; 6, Lydia, May 12, 1749; 7, David; 8, Hannah, March 13, 1753, Tobey; 9, John, May 12, 1755, called "Young Blue." He was a sea captain, and active and intelligent man. He bought the ancient Hinckley house in which he resided. His son John Barker Crocker is well known. Abigail, 10th child of Blue John Crocker, was born Feb. 1758, Nath'l Jenkins.

71. V. Elizabeth, born March 1710-11.

(13) Capt. Joseph Crocker, son of John, born 1st March, 1667-8, married Ann, daughter of Lieut. John Howland, 18th Sept. 1691. Capt. Crocker was an influential man, and was much employed in public business. About the year 1700 he bought the house of Robert Claghorn, which stood at the east end of Lumbard's pond, and the lands adjoining which he afterwards sold to the Lothrop's. His residence was at Cotuit, and his farm is now owned by Josiah Sampson and others. His residence was a large old fashioned two story double house. It was standing not long since.

Children born in Barnstable.

72. I. Deborah, last of Dec. 1691.
73. II. Prudence, born 26th July, 1692, married Oct. 2, 1712 John Gorham, Esq., of Barnstable. She was the mother of 14 children, 13 of whom lived to mature age. She died in 1778 aged 86.
74. III. Benjamin, born 5th April, 1696, married 17th Sept. 1719, Priscilla, daughter of Dea. Joseph Hall of Yarmouth. He resided at Cotuit, and died 1757, aged 61. His children were 1, Deborah, born June 22, 1721, died early; 2, Desire, born Aug. 9, 1727, married Oct. 3, 1747, Cornelius Sampson of Rochester; and 3, Martha, born June 6, 1732.

(22) Samuel Crocker, son of Job, born 15th May, 1671, married Dec. 10, 1696, Sarah, daughter of Robert Parker. She was the mother of thirteen children, and died in 1718, aged 40. He married for his second wife, April 12, 1719, Judith Leavet of Rochester, by whom he had two children. His farm was at the village now called Pondville, near the Sandwich line and was bounded by the road leading to Scorton.

Children born in Barnstable.

76. I. Samuel, born 12th Dec. 1697, married 2d March, 1723-4, Ruth, daughter of the third James Hamblin. She was born in 1692, and was five years older than her husband. He had 1, Noah, Sept. 12, 1724; 2, Sarah, Jan. 5, 1726, married Shubael Hamblin, Jr., July 16, 1761; 3, Hannah, May 16, 1729, married Jan. 29, 1758, Abel Cushing of Hingham; 4, Anna, May 8, 1731, married Jabez Bursley, Dec. 15, 1747; 5, Joanna, June 4, 1735, died Aug. 7, 1735, 6, Joanna.
77. II. Cornelius, born 24th Oct. 1698, died young.
78. III. Mary, 8th April, 1700.
79. IV. Patience, born 18th April, 1701. She became, in 1727, the second wife of Shubael Davis, sixteen years her senior.
80. V. Elizabeth, born Feb. 1702-3, married James Childs Sept. 27, 1722.
81. VI. Cornelius, born 23d March, 1704. (See account of him below.)
82. VII. Rowland, born 18th June, 1705.
83. VIII. Gersham, born Dec. 1706, died Nov. 26, 1786, aged 80.
84. IX. Ebenezer, born 5th June, 1710, married Ann Eldredge of Falmouth, June 12, 1735, removed to East Haddam, Conn., 1751. Children born in Barnstable, 1, Rowland, June, 8, 1736, married 24th May, 1763, Persis Brown, and had six children; 2, Joanna, born Dec. 8, 1737; 3, Ezekiel, born Nov. 24, 1739, married Feb. 28, 1765, Lydia Arnold of East Haddam. He removed to Richmond, Mass., where he had David, Samuel and Lucy baptized, Aug. 14, 1785. He was one of the early settlers of Broome County, N. Y., a very pious man and regular at family worship. One morning while engaged in his devotions, he saw his cows in the corn, and he broke into his prayer with, "David! Sam! don't you see those cursed cows in the corn? run boys! quick! !" and seeing them well started after the cows, took up his broken prayer, and leisurely finished it. At 80 years he married a girl of 18, promising her, it is said, as her dower, her weight in silver dollars. They lived together but a short time. She