

ANCESTORS
OF
MOSES BELCHER BASS

BORN IN BOSTON JULY — 1735,

DIED JANUARY 31, 1817.

ALSO CONTAINS THE ANCESTORS OF HIS TWO WIVES

ELIZABETH WIMBLE

AND

MARGARET SPRAGUE.

ANCESTORS OF
MOSES BELCHER BASS.

MOSES BELCHER BASS, bapt. July 20, 1735; d. Jan. 31, 1817, married 1st Elizabeth Wimble, Mar. 1769, she died July, 1770; he m. 2d, Margaret Sprague of Hingham, Apr. 29, 1773, dau. John and Margaret Sprague; she died Nov. 22, 1784.

CHILDREN.

1. Elizabeth Wimble, b. Dec. 25, 1769, m. Nathl. Smith.
2. Margaret, b. Feb. 11, 1774, d. Sept. 24, 1774.
3. Moses, b. Feb. 18, 1775, d. Sept. 22, 1776.
4. Elijah, b. Aug. 3, 1776, d. Oct. 2, 1778.
5. Joseph, b. Aug. 26, 1778, d. Dec. 22, 1803.
6. Margaret, b. Feb. 19, 1780, d. Aug. 15, 1781.
7. Margaret, b. Feb. 15, 1782, m. Ebenezer Knowlton.
8. Mary Butler, b. Jan. 4, 1784, m. Elisha Smith.

Mr. Joseph Bass, b. August 26, 1778, son of Moses Belcher Bass was a youth of great promise, but because of failing health he started on a voyage to England, which place he did not reach. Going ashore at Bath, Maine, he died there, Dec. 22, 1803. The following "Elegiac Lines" were composed, by Miss Henshaw of Worcester, a relative, to whom he was engaged to be married.

Thy claims, O Death, now disavow,
The youth must to thy sceptre bow,
And manhood bend to thee;
But yet what anguish rends the heart
To see a kindred soul depart,
And far from mortals flee.

My muse in sable garments drest,
Would view the house that once was blest
 With mirth and social glee.
Alas, how changed ! I see them mourn
A son, a brother, early torn,
 Where mortals ne'er can flee.

The soul resigned to heaven appears,
Shakes off these anxious, gloomy fears,
 And mounts the ethereal skies ;
Celestial angels guard its way,
To regions of eternal day,
 Where seraphs hourly rise.

We mourn, O Bass, thy hasty flight,
To the bright world of endless light,
 And drop a sorrowing tear ;
But why should mortals wish thy stay,
Encumbered in this earthly clay,
 And selfish thus appear.

Methinks I see thy parent's sighs,
Thy lovely sisters' tearful eyes,
 Their hearts with anguish torn ;
Why did he leave us thus, they say,
To try the ocean's surgy way,
 And thus desponding mourn.

An only son ! O Power Supreme,
Support his parent in this scene
 And let him bow to Thee.
'Tis Thou alone can hush his grief,
'Tis Thou can give his soul relief,
 And own Thy just decree.

Long had his lovely partner fled
To the cold mansions of the dead,
 Where, free from grief or woe,
She hails her son to realms on high,
While acclamations fill the sky,
 And joys unceasing flow.

But far from friends we see him pay
Great Nature's debt ; though far away
From all he held most dear.
Methinks we view his spirit rise,
And mount the azure-vaulted skies
Without a sigh or tear.

All bounteous Being thus allay
And strew with flowers the thorny way,
That mortals often fear.
Teach resignation to Thy will,
And bid desponding thoughts be still,
As Thou art always near.

Moses Belcher Bass was son of Moses and Hannah (Butler) Bass.

Moses Bass, b. Oct. 23, 1696, d. Jan. 15, 1780, married Hannah Butler, Feb. 1728, by Joseph Sewell.

Children of Moses and Hannah Butler Bass :

1. Moses Belcher, b. Aug. 27, 1731, bapt. in Brattle Street church.
2. Henry, bapt. Aug. 19, 1733.
3. Moses Belcher, bapt. July 20, 1735.
4. Hannah, bapt. July 2, 1738.
5. Henry, bapt. Mar. 9, 1740.
6. Joseph, bapt. Feb. 1, 1743.
7. Gillam, bapt. April 13, 1746.

The children of Moses Bass were all prominent in the Revolution, Henry being one of the "tea party" and an intimate friend of Samuel Adams. Gillam also was a prominent patriot and an efficient member of the Committee of Correspondence.

"Next south of the alley which divided Rainsford's Lane lived Henry Bass, one of the 'tea party' at whose house Samuel Adams and Major Melville often passed a convivial evening and ate a Sunday dinner."

Moses Belcher Bass also lived on Rainsford's Lane.

Moses Bass was son of Joseph Bass.^v Joseph Bass, b. Oct. 5, 1665, d. November 22, 1733, married June 5, 1688, Mary Belcher of Braintree, ceremony performed by Major Edmund Quincy.

CHILDREN.

1. Mary, b. June 22, 1690, m. a Miller, d. October, 1740.
2. Joseph, b. July 1st, 1692, d. Jan. 9, 1752.
3. Benjamin, b. Dec. 19, 1694, H. C. 1715, d. at Hanover, May 22, 1756.
4. Moses, b. Oct. 23, 1696, d. Jan. 15, 1780.
5. Ruth, b. Mar. 21, 1699, m. a Trott, d. Jan 14, 1752.
6. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 2, 1703, m. Daniel Henshaw, d. at Leicester, Mass., Mar. 30, 1774.
7. Alden, b. Oct. 28, 1705, d. Apr. 1737.

Mary (Belcher) Bass, b. July 8, 1668, d. Nov. 2. 1705, at Boston. Joseph Bass, Sen. m. Feb. 23, 1708, Lois Rogers.

Joseph Bass was son of John and Ruth (Alden) Bass, who were married May 12, 1657, by her father, John Alden of Duxbury.

Children of John and Ruth (Alden) Bass :

1. John, b. Sept. 26, 1658.
2. Samuel, b. Jan. 25, 1660.
3. Ruth, b. Nov. 28, 1662.
4. Joseph, b. Oct. 5, 1665.
5. Hannah, b. Apr. 22, 1667, m. Joseph Adams, grandfather John Quincy Adams.
6. Mary, b. Dec. 11, 1669.
7. Sary, b. Jan. 29, 1672.

John Bass was son of Samuel and Anne Bass, who settled in Roxbury about 1630. Admitted Freeman in 1634. Removed to Braintree, now Quincy, 1640. First deacon of the Church and represented the town twelve years. Died 1694, ae. 94.

Anne, his wife, died 1693, ae. 93.

In the ancient records of Braintree is the following quaint chronicle :

“ Deacon Samuel Bass, aged 94, departed this life upon the 30th day of December, 1694, who had bin a Decon of the church of Braintree for the space of above 50 years, and the first Decon of that Church, and was father and grandfather and great-grandfather of a hundred and sixty-two children, before he died, the youngest whereof was Benjamin Bas, the son of Joseph Bas and Mary, his wife, born seven days before his Death.”

Ruth Alden was daughter of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden of Mayflower fame. He died Sept. 12, 1686. She, Priscilla, died 168—. Am not sure as to the date of her death.

Rev. Edward Bass, D. D., the first Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, descended from Dea. Samuel Bass and Anne, his wife.

Bishop Bass was son of Joseph and Elizabeth Bass, and was born in Dorchester, Nov. 23, 1726. Entered Harvard College at the age of 13, graduated with honors 1744; taught until 1747, when he received his degree of A. M. Was first licensed as a Congregational minister, but finally became Episcopalian, and went to England to take Holy Orders, first as Deacon by Bishop Sherlock of London, at Fulham Chapel, May 24, 1752, and shortly after to the priesthood. He returned to America and was elected rector of St. Paul's church, Newburyport, Mass., which position he held till Sept. 10, 1803, when he died. He was elected Bishop in 1796, and consecrated May 7, 1797.

The first wife of Moses Belcher Bass was Elizabeth Wimble, daughter of Capt. William and Elizabeth (Wright) Wimble. William Wimble and Elizabeth Wright m. Aug. 23, 1747. Of their children of eight only three lived beyond infancy.

1. Rebecca, b. Feb. 24, 1750, m. Gillam Bass, younger brother of Moses B. Bass.
2. Elizabeth, b. Jan. 17, 1754, m. Moses B. Bass.
3. Catharine, b. about 1763, m. Col. Louis Ansart.

William Wimble was son of James and Rebecca (Waters) Wimble, m. Mar. 26, 1724.

CHILDREN.

1. James, b. Dec. 20, 1724.
2. William, b. Jan. 28, 1726.
3. John, b. July 15, 1733, d. Jan. 26, 1736.
4. Thomas, b. Mar. 16, 1735.
5. John, b. Nov. 18, 1737.

Rebecca (Waters) Wimble was dau. of William and Rebecca (Worthylake) Waters, whose children were William, Seward, Rebecca and Abigail.

The will of William Waters shows that for the times he possessed much of this world's goods. It is dated Jan. 1749, and after the usual preliminaries, gives the whole of the estate to his "well-beloved wife, Rebecca," after paying various legacies which he afterwards names. To his eldest son William only 20 s. because, as he says: "Having done considerable for him already and he not having carryed so dutifully and respectfully to me and his mother as might justly and reasonably be expected from a son to his parents but quite the contrary."

After his wife's death his household furniture was to be divided between the children of his daughter Rebecca Wimble and his daughter Abigail Wolcott's children. (A descendant of Mrs. Wimble has a quaint toilet stand of mahogany which undoubtedly came from that source.) After legacies to others and son Seward, the latter is made executor, with authority to "sell and dispose," should there be "occasion and necessity, my negro woman Phyllis and my

negro girl Violet, her daughter, and as my man Caesar has served me faithfully and been very industrious and diligent in my service, after serving my wife till her death, he shall serve my son Seward five years and then be manumitted or set free."

Elizabeth Wright, wife of Captain William Wimble, was daughter of Samuel and Mary (Pym) Wright.

The second wife of Moses Belcher Bass was Margaret Sprague of Hingham (b. Nov. 24, 1744, d. Nov. 22, 1784) dau. of John Sprague (b. in Hingham Mar. 1, 1719-20, d. Apr. 1, 1801), and Margaret Webb, his wife, b. in Hingham, Sept. 5, 1723, d. in Hingham Apr. 23, 1796, m. in Hingham, May 20, 1742.

John Sprague, son of Jeremiah Sprague, born in Hingham, and Priscilla Knight b. 1685, d. Hingham, Aug. 3, 1775.

Jeremiah Sprague, son of Anthony Sprague (b. July 23, 1636, d. September 3, 1719) and Elizabeth Bartlett, his wife, (d. Feb. 17, 1712-13) m. Dec. 26, 1661; said Elizabeth Bartlett, dau. Robert Bartlett and Mary Warren, dau. Richard Warren, one of the passengers of the Mayflower.

The mother of Moses Belcher Bass was Hannah Butler, a woman of a remarkable personality and strength of character, of whom many interesting anecdotes are related as proof of her energy and spirit.

It is said that during the siege of Boston the house of Moses Bass was marked with the fatal cross signifying that it was under the ban of the British soldiers, but Mrs. Bass faced an officer with the plea of a sick husband, which was true, and the house was unmolested.

At one time her son Henry sent his man "Phobie" to his mother with a piece of fine linen for her acceptance, which, after examination she returned to "Phobie" with the words:

"Tell your master if the linen is fine enough for him it is not for his mother."

After her death the carriages of four governors were in the funeral procession.

Hannah (Butler) Bass was daughter of Peter and Mary (Phillips) Butler. Her mother died when she was only nine years old, the eldest of four children, the youngest being only seven months. Mrs. Butler was buried from her father's house and Samuel Sewell in his diary thus alludes to it:

"Feb. 9, 1716. After lecture Mr. Phillips buried his daughter, Mrs. Mary Butler, from his own house. Bearers, Major Fitch, Judge Lyde, Mr. Jeffries, Col. Thos. Savage, Mr. Jno. Cutler, Jun. Mr. Pemberton, Lt.-Gov. had a scarf. Church Episcopal minister. I saw but two of our own, viz., Messrs. Wadsworth and Sewell. Great funeral."

Peter Butler 3d was son of Peter Butler 2d, a famous merchant of the times, who represented a great amount of property. His will, dated 1699, alludes to wife Elizabeth and daughters Elizabeth and Mary, and sons Peter, John, Hezekiah and Alford. "To eldest son, Peter, a double portion," and each of the others a single portion, or seventh. His wife had the largest portion given to her, and for executors "My uncle, John Usher, Esq., and John Additon to be overseers."

The "Inventory" included very elegant furniture, man "Tidy" and negro girl, houses, wharves, warehouses and vessels. The Bass family inherited from him that business part of Boston called "Butler's Row," but lost it for want of a clear title.

If you enter the little passageway just below Merchant's Row, you will find a range of brick buildings bounded North by Chatham street and South by the passageway. This is "Butler's Row," and you may yet see the name cut in the

stone on the Southeast corner of the block. Peter Butler, an old proprietor, had a warehouse and wharf here. Andrew, Peter and Benjamin Faneuil all had warehouses on or bounding on "Butler's Row." These were all merchants of high standing, which marks the locality as one of importance to the mercantile class.

Peter Butler 2d m. Elizabeth Brown, dau. Abraham Brown.

CHILDREN.

1. Peter, b. 1683.
2. Mary, b. Sept 26, 1686.
3. John, b. Jan. 21, 1687.
4. Sam'l, b. March 26, 1690.
5. Eliz, b. May 21, 1691.
6. Mary, b. Feb. 21, 1695.
7. Hezekiah, b. June 10, bapt. June 16, 1695.
8. Alford, b. Feb. 3, 1698-9.

Widow Butler m. as fourth wife Ephraim Savage.

Peter Butler 1st m. Mary, dau. Wm. Alford.

CHILDREN.

1. Peter 2d.
2. Hannah.
3. Samuel.
4. Mary, b. Jan. 21, 1655.

Widow Butler m. Hezekiah Usher as third wife. She outlived a third husband, Samuel Nowell, and died 1693.

Peter Butler 3d and Mary Phillips m. May 9, 1706, by Rev. Eben Pemberton.

CHILDREN.

1. Hannah, b. July 5, 1707.
2. Peter, b. Jan. 21, 1708.
3. Samuel, b. Jan. 12, 1710.
4. Anne, b. July 10, 1715.

Mary Phillips, the wife of Peter Butler 3d was dau. of Samuel and Hannah (Gillam) Phillips.

Samuel Phillips was the most prominent bookseller of his time. An old record of the times (1680) says: "Samuel Phillips, the most beautiful man in Boston, blest with a pretty and obliging wife."

Samuel Phillips b. Mar. 1658, d. 1720. Hannah Gillam,
b. d.

CHILDREN.

1. Mary, b.
2. Hannah, b. Mar. 8, 1682, m. Habijah Savage.
3. Samuel, bapt. May 28, 1693.
4. Gillam, b. Sept. 25, 1685, not bapt. till Oct. 6, 1695, m. Mary Fanueil, sister of Peter Fanueil.
5. Ann, b. Nov. 28, 1701.
6. Henry, b. Feb. 21, 1704. Prob. H. C. 1724.
7. Faith, m. Arthur Savage.

The will of Samuel Phillips disposes of much property, wherein he gives his "loving wife Hannah" the benefit and improvement of one-third of his estate, both real and personal, as long as she shall remain his widow. If she marries, £250 in such stuff as she shall choose, also £60 annually during life over and above the lands and wharves and houses which "I had with her as her portion or inheritance in her father's estate." On her marriage she must deliver to sons Henry and Gillam Phillips all the rest of the estate. He gives to daughter Hannah, wife of Habijah Savage, Esq., £1000; to their children £100 each. To daughter Faith Savage, wife of Arthur Savage £1000; to their son, Samuel Phillips Savage, £50. To the children of his daughter Mary Butler, deceased, £100 each, to be spent for their education when they arrived at a suitable age.

There is one incident connected with the family of Samuel Phillips which the descendants may not be as proud of

as the past glory which shines about some other ancestors. The first fatal duel fought in Boston was between Henry Phillips, the younger son, and Benjamin Woodbridge, son of the "Honorable Dudley Woodbridge, Esq." Both were young men of "high degree," proud of their social position, and willing to do almost anything in defence of their fine (?) sense of honor. They had hung around all day, at a tavern known as the "Royal Exchange," had been drinking and, probably, gambling. At eight o'clock they repaired to the common, and made thrusts at each other with their swords, till in the heat of the quarrel, young Phillips killed Woodbridge. This was July 3, 1728.

One can still see in old Granary Burying Ground, near the street, the stone which marks the spot where "lyes interred the Body of Mr. Benjamin Woodbridge."

What became of Henry Phillips does not appear plain to the present generation.

Samuel Phillips was son of Henry Phillips of Dedham and Boston.

Henry Phillips m. 1st Elizabeth Brock who d. Aug. 1, 1640; 2d he m. Anne Hunting May 1, 1641; 3d m. Mary Dwight, who was buried Jan. 8, 1713.

Henry Phillips' children were:

1. Eleazer, b. Jan. 30, 1642, d.
2. Hannah, b. May 25, 1643.
3. Abigail, b. October 20, 1645.
4. Sarah, b. 1649.
5. Nathaniel, bapt. Apr. 3, 1653.
6. Eleazer, b. Sept. 15, 1654.
7. Henry, b. Oct. 1, 1656.
8. Timothy, b. Sept. 15, 1658.
9. Mary, b. Nov. 28, 1660.
10. Samuel, bapt. Nov. 2, 1662.
11. Elisha, b. May 12, 1665.

12. Jonathan, b. Sept. 12, 1666.
13. Mehitabel, bapt. July 12, 1667.
14. John, b. July 9, 1670.
15. Elizabeth, b. Aug. 9, 1672.
16. Joseph, bapt. Feb. 19, 1674.

The will of Henry Phillips is dated 1684, and disposes of a good deal of property. To his "well beloved wife, Mary Phillips," he gives £100 in money, with all his plate and household goods of "what nature or kind soever," etc., etc. "I also leave in the hands of said wife my whole estate both real and personal whatsoever to be improved by her for her own comfortable maintainance and education of my younger children during her widowhood, she paying as they come of age their respective portions; in case she marry, £10 per annum and the use of house, or £26 per annum. Item: to dau. Abigail East and son Eleazer I have already given £100."

"Item to 3 sons, Timothy, Samuel and John, £100, and it is my desire that son John be educated in learning until he attain his 2d degree at the college, if his inclination be to be a scholar, and that examinations give hopeful encouragement thereto."

To two daughters, Mehitabel and Elizabeth, £100 apiece when twenty-one, or on marriage. (He speaks of money received from the estates of sons Nath. and Henry for these two daughters and "son John.") To son Eleazer £100 and for other sons £50. The rest of estate to be divided among them all, etc., etc.

From the diary of Samuel Sewell:

"Feb. 13, 1685. Mr. Henry Phillips is buried with arms, he having been an ensign at Dedham and in Boston. Captain Hutchinson led the soldiers, Capt. Townsend and Capt. Hill each of them trailed a pike. Snow very deep; 30 inches in the

new burial ground (Copp's hill); 3 paths, 2 for the 2 files of souldiers, middlemost for the relatives. Edw. Correll and Mr. Winchcomb go before the Governour."

"Jan. 8, 1713. Went to the funeral of Mrs. Mary Phillips (widow of Ensign Henry Phillips) within a few months of 80. A good woman."

The wife of Samuel Phillips was Hannah Gillam, dau. of Benj. and Hannah (Savage) Gillam, m, . This Benjamin Gillam, Jr., was born in England. Children of Benjamin and Hannah (Savage) Gillam :

1. Martha.
2. Hannah.
3. Joseph.
4. Faith, b. July 18, 1668.
5. Benjamin, b. Jan. 5, 1677.
6. Dyonisius, b. Feb. 9, 1673.
7. Thomas, b. Aug. 10, 1678.

Benjamin Gillam, Sen., came to Boston 1634, from Somerset (?) England. Made Freeman, May 6, 1635. Left wife Anne at home who came the next year with son Benjamin, one year old. Here were born :

1. Zechary, b. Sept. 30, 1636.
2. Ann, b. Nov. 1638, d. soon.
3. Ann, bapt. Jan. 12, 1640.
4. Eliz, bapt. Jan. 9, 1642.
5. Joseph, bapt. Oct. 13, 1644.

Hannah Savage, who married Benjamin Gillam, Jr., was dau. of Col. Thomas Savage, so prominent in the early history of Boston.

He m. 1st 1637 Faith Hutchinson, dau. of William and Anne Hutchinson.

CHILDREN.

1. Abijah, b. June, 1638, bapt. Aug. 1638, H. C., 1659.
2. Thomas, b. Mar. 28, 1640, bapt. May 17, 1640.
3. Hannah, b. Apr. 28, 1643, bapt. July 28, 1643.

4. Ephraim b. 1645, H. C. 1662.
5. Mary, bapt. June 6, 1647.
6. Dyonisia, b. Dec. 30, 1649.
7. Perez, bapt. Feb. 1652.

The wife of Thomas Savage died the same week. He m. 2d Sept. 1652, Mary, dau. Zachariah Symmes of Charlestown.

CHILDREN.

8. Sarah, b. 1653.
9. Richard, bapt. Aug. 27, 1654.
10. Samuel, bapt. Nov. 25, 1656.
11. Zechariah, bapt. July 4, 1658.
12. Ebenezer, bapt. May 27, 1660.
13. John, bapt. Aug. 18, 1661.
14. Benjamin, bapt. Oct. 12, 1662.
15. Arthur, bapt. Feb. 28, 1664.
16. Eliz, bapt. Nov. 8, 1667.
17. Another Eliz, Feb. 28, 1669.

Faith Hutchinson was daughter of Anne Hutchinson so famous in the early history of our New England for her decided and independent religious views, for which she was banished from the colony, and sought shelter in the island of Aquidneck whither her husband had previously gone. In 1642 her husband died. She then removed to the "Dutch Country" beyond New Haven, and the next year with all her family, save one daughter, was killed by the Indians.

One son was Edward Hutchinson, who fell in battle, and I think Richard was another son.

The son of Edward was Hon. Elisha Hutchinson, who died Dec. 10, 1717, ae. 77, was father of Hon. Thos. Hutchinson, b. Sept. 9, 1711. H. C. 1727, the celebrated historian and unhappy governor of Massachusetts, who died June 3, 1780.