

A. D. Blodgett

ASAHEL BLODGETT

OF

HUDSON AND DORCHESTER, N. H.

HIS AMERICAN ANCESTORS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

COMPILED BY

ISAAC DIMOND BLODGETT

HIS GRANDSON

BOSTON

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INTRODUCTION



ON December, 1864, my father, Ebenezer⁷ Blodgett, of Rumney, N. H., then near his seventy-eighth birthday, was visiting me at my house in Boston. One evening the conversation turned upon family history, and I was fortunate enough to make some pencil notes of his statement relating chiefly to the family in Hudson, N. H. His memory was almost perfect in regard to the great family of thirteen children, reared by his father Asahel⁶, and he gave a very clear account of his grandfather Jeremiah⁵, and was familiar with the tradition that his great-grandfather Joseph⁴, left Chelmsford, Mass., the original home, settled at Nottingham West, now Hudson, at a period so early that he had to live in a garrison house for protection from the Indians, and that a son of his was the first white child born in the town. I still retain, considerably yellowed by the lapse of more than forty years, the notes of that conversation, and later study of documentary evidence and records verified the substantial accuracy of my father's statement.

About 1893 I received from John Taggard Blodgett, of Providence, R. I., now my esteemed friend and correspondent, and one of the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, an Incomplete List of Certain Lines of the Descendants from THOMAS BLOGGET, who sailed from London for New England in April, 1635, in the *Increase*, and who settled in Cambridge, Mass. This "List," compiled largely from the Town Records of Chelmsford, Mass., and Hudson, N. H., disclosed my descent from the original Immigrant of 1635, as well as that of my esteemed informant.

Prompted by this new light, I prepared a condensed outline of the lineage of myself and my near kinsmen, Judge Caleb Blodgett of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, now deceased; of his brother Judge Isaac N. Blodgett, of New Hampshire, late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that State, also now deceased, and of Hon. Rufus Blodgett, late United States Senator from New Jersey, — which was published in Munsell's *American Ancestry* of 1893.

In the Spring of 1901 I was convalescent after a long sickness, and having withdrawn from business after a continuous mercantile experience of more than half a century, was living temporarily in the vicinity of the Boston Public Library, and began a systematic examination of Town Histories, War Rolls, Genealogical Registers, Family Genealogies, English Visitations, Probate Records, etc. This I continued at the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, handling and examining thousands of volumes, and transcribing everything I found bearing upon my subject. A general correspondence followed, which continues at the

present writing. The family is much more numerous and widely scattered than I could anticipate.

I have found the name in every State of the Union, in Canada, in Mexico, even in far off Hawaii. I have on hand more material than I can expect to arrange properly for publication; my aim is to put in form for preservation, as much as possible of the history of an old and honorable family.

This present little work was projected only in the interest of my own immediate branch of the general family, and for distribution to the descendants of my grandfather Asahel⁶ Blodgett. An afterthought prompts me to add in Part III, *The first four generations of Blodgetts* in America, the family of Daniel² at Chelmsford, and the family of Samuel² at Woburn, Mass.

I. D. BLODGETT.



PART I

THE BLODGETT ANCESTORS

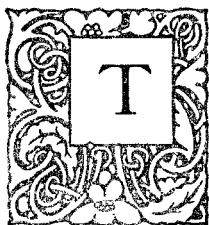
OF

ASAHEL BLODGETT



BLODGETT GENEALOGY

PRELIMINARY



THE Blodgett Family in America is of English origin. In the great tide of immigration between 1630 and 1640, came Thomas Blodgett, "Glover," aged 30, and his wife Susan, aged 37, with two young sons, Daniel, aged four, and Samuel, aged one and a half. The official custom-house record of their departure from London, according to Drake's "Early Founders of New England," Boston, 1865, and Hotten's "Original Lists," New York, 1875, is as follows:*

xviii^o Aprilis 1635.— Theis vnder written names are to be transported to New England imbarqued in the Increase de Lō, Robert Lea M^r The p'te pred having

* Drake, p. 25, differs from Hotten in having viii for xviii.

brought Certificates from the minister & Justices of y^e
Peace of his conformitie to the Church of England.

Tho : Bloggett <i>Glover</i>	30 yeres	
Suzan Bloggett, <i>uxor</i>	37	"
Daniell Blogget	4	} 2 children
Samvell Blogget	1- $\frac{1}{2}$	

The official record gives no suggestion as to the English locality from which the family came. Thomas was evidently a Puritan; the Puritan emigration was chiefly from the eastern Counties, and as the compiler, after a diligent search through the great mass of Harleian Publications, Parish Registers, Heraldic Visitations, Court Records, etc., which are available in the great libraries, has only found the name in the Eastern Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, it seems probable that Thomas, from whom, so far as ascertained, all of the name in this country are descended, was from that part of England; but no definite information has been found as to the locality from which he came, or of his ancestry, and this answers a question frequently asked regarding a coat-of-arms. When the daughter and heir of Richard Blodgett, in the County of Suffolk, Gent., married John Herberd, of Yaxley-Yaxley, 1561, the Blodgett arms were quartered with those of the bridegroom, etc., but we cannot connect our ancestor with Richard, or with Edward Blodgett,

also mentioned about the same time. (See Visitations of Norfolk, 1563, 1589, 1613.)

Thomas arrived in Boston in due course and settled in Cambridge (then "New-Towne"), where he was one of the original members of "Rev. Thomas Shepard's Company," which founded what is now the Shepard Memorial Church. Early in the year 1636 Mr. Hooker and his congregation at Newtowne had removed to Hartford, Conn. In the quaint language of the times the organization of the church which took their place is thus described :

These people and Church of *Christ* being thus departed from Newtowne, the godly people, who came in their roomes, gathered the eleaventh Church of *Christ*, and called to the Office of a Pastor, that gratiois, fweete, Heavenly minded, and foule-ravishing Minister, Mr. *Thomas Shepheard*.*

Thus on the 1st of February, 1636, was formed the first permanent church at "Newtowne" (Cambridge).

Thomas¹ was allotted land March 6, 1636, and made a freeman the same year. A daughter, Susanna,² was born in June, 1637, of whom more below. A son, Thomas,² whose birth is not given, died Aug. 7, 1639, and his death is the seventh recorded in "Newtowne."

* Johnson's "Wonder-working Providence," p. 77.

Thomas Blogget, the father, was apparently a man of some means. He conveyed a house and land in Garden Street in 1638, and also an estate in Dunstan Street in 1639. He died in 1642, and his will, dated 10th August, 1641, was probated in 1643. It was in the following terms:

I, Thomas Blogget, being at this time in my right mind, give to my wife Susan my whole estate after my decease, as well within doors as without. She to bring vp my children in such learning & other things as is Meete for them, & pay oldest son Daniel £15. when one and twenty, or in one month after decease. To my 2^d son Samuel £15. as above. To daughter Susanna £15. Should they have a father-in-law who does not treat them well, my will is that the Deacons & our brother ffeffington & our brother Edward Windship, they, or either of them, should have power to see unto it and reforme it by one means or other.

Written this 10th day of 6th month 1641*

THOMAS BLOGGET

In presence of us

Tho: Harris

John Meena

His widow married Feb. 15, 1644, James Thompson, of Woburn, Mass., and the daughter Susanna² married Nov. 28, 1655, Jonathan Thompson, the son of her step-father. She had seven children,

* In Old Style the year began March 25; this date is therefore equivalent to August 10th.

and her oldest son Jonathan³ Thompson, born Sept. 28, 1663, was the great-grandfather of Sir Benjamin⁶ Thompson, knighted by George III, — the distinguished philosopher better known as Count Rumford, with which title he was honored by the King of Bavaria. He was born at Woburn, March 26, 1753, and died at Auteuil, near Paris, Aug. 21, 1814, in his sixty-second year. The King of Bavaria honored his memory by a statue at Munich, a replica of which occupies a conspicuous site in front of the Public Library at Woburn, the gift of Marshall Tidd of that city.

From the circumstance of their mother's marriage it is probable that the sons Daniel² and Samuel² were brought up in Woburn, although there are no authentic data to confirm this probability. On reaching maturity Samuel, the younger, married and settled permanently at Woburn, where his descendants became numerous, and whence went the first of the name to settle at Lexington and thence to Brimfield, Mass., to Stafford, Conn., Randolph, Vt., etc.

Daniel,² the elder son, who more nearly concerns our present interest, went a little further north and located in what became the West Parish of Chelmsford, Mass., set off in 1729 as the town of Westford. The plantation of Chelmsford was granted May 18, 1653, and incorporated May 29, 1655. The first petitioners for the grant, twenty in number, were of Concord and Woburn,

and of these Daniel Blodgett of Woburn was one. He married and settled there, and his descendants became numerous and prominent. A grandson, Joseph, was one of the first settlers of Nottingham West, now Hudson, N. H.; thence descendants went to Plymouth, Rumney and Dorchester, N. H. Another grandson, Benoni, was the founder of a numerous branch at Windsor, Conn.; thence they went to Amherst, Mass., etc. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the family had become numerous and widely scattered.

They were a patriotic race. They served in the French and Indian Wars; at the siege and capture of Louisburg; in the invasion of Canada; and the names are preserved of more than one hundred Revolutionary soldiers.

Many individuals have conferred honor and distinction on the name. Samuel⁵ Blodgett filled many important offices in civil and military life in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was a friend and correspondent of Washington; was called "The Pioneer of Progress;" and was best known by his great enterprise — for the time — of completing a canal around Amoskeag Falls, at Manchester, N. H. His son, Samuel,⁶ Jr., served on the staff of Washington, and after the National Capital was projected on the banks of the Potomac, he was Chairman of the Commissioners to further the project; he built the first house there; and he furnished the first money (\$10,000), to-

wards laying the foundations of the Capitol and the President's house.

In the eighth generation there have been a United States Senator, a Judge of the United States District Court, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of one New England State, an eminent Judge of the Superior Court of another, a Publicist and Statistician of national reputation, a member of the New York Chamber of Commerce; and in the ninth generation, a Judge of the Supreme Court of a third New England State.

The name has been variously spelt. Genealogical records furnish not less than twenty-four variations, most of them, of course, the offspring of illiteracy; one or two branches have adopted a fanciful termination, perhaps to make plausible the claim that it had a Huguenot origin, but there is no good ground for that; the family came from the eastern Counties of England. The original immigrant wrote the name *Blogget*, and that form prevailed for a century; then *Blodget* was adopted, and about a hundred years ago, *Blodgett* became the form followed by most of the name, and it is interesting to find from the "Visitations," *i. e.*, the Heraldic Records of Suffolk and Norfolk, that this was the correct, and as far as observed, the only English spelling, as far back as 1561, long before the immigrant Thomas arrived in Boston.

It only remains, in this preliminary sketch, to compile an abridged lineage of the ancestry of Asahel,⁶ of Hudson and Dorchester, N. H.

THOMAS,¹ aged 30. Immigrant of 1635. Wife Susan, aged 37, by the custom-house record, probably an error for 27.

Children :

- i. DANIEL,² born in England, 1631.
- ii. SAMUEL,² born in England, 1633.
- iii. SUSANNA,² born in Cambridge, Mass., June, 1637 ; married Nov. 28, 1655, Jonathan Thompson, of Woburn, born Nov. 28, 1635, son of her step-father James Thompson. She had seven children, and died Oct. 21, 1691.
- iv. THOMAS,² birth not stated ; died Aug. 7, 1639.

DANIEL,² son of Thomas¹ and Susan, born in England, 1631 ; died June 28, 1672, at Chelmsford, Mass. From the history of that town it appears that May 19, 1653, Daniel Blodgett was a signer to a petition "To the Hon. John Endicott, with others of the Hon. Magistrates and deputies at the Hon. Court in Boston Assembled," for laying out the town of Chelmsford. He appears to have been a prominent man, as his name repeatedly appears in the early history of the town. He was twice married, first, Sept. 15, 1653, to Mary, daughter of Benjamin Butterfield, by whom he had seven children, Thomas,³ Anna,³ Daniel,³ Ben-

jamin,³ Jonathan,³ Samuel,³ and Nathaniel,³ who died young. The wife Mary died Sept. 5, 1666, and he married second, March 10, 1669, Sarah, daughter of William Underwood, by whom he had two sons, Nathaniel³ (second) and William.³

THOMAS,³ son of Daniel² and Mary (Butterfield) Blodgett, born in Chelmsford, June 25, 1654. He probably died March 30, 1741, *ae.* 87.* He married first, "29th 4th mo., 1682," Mary, daughter of Joseph Parkis, of Chelmsford, born Aug. 10, 1657, by whom he had three children, Rebecca,⁴ Joseph,⁴ Benoni.⁴ He married second, July 8, 1696, Mary Druse, of Groton, Mass., by whom he had four children, John,⁴ Samuel,⁴ Mary,⁴ Anne.⁴

JOSEPH,⁴ son of Thomas³ and Mary (Parkis) Blodgett, born Oct. 10, 1689. He removed about 1710 from the West Parish of Chelmsford, set off in 1729 as the town of Westford, to Nottingham West, now Hudson, N. H., at a period so early that he had to live in a "garrison" for protection from Indians. The date of his marriage is not known, but it is probable that it was after the removal to Hudson, as in 1710 he would have been but 21 years of age. He married Dorothy Perham, born July 9, 1696, a woman of marked ability.† By her he had eight children,

* Westford Records.

† See statement of her descendant, Hon. Caleb⁷ Blodgett, Appendix A.

Joseph,⁵ Ebenezer,⁵ Jeremiah,⁵ Abigail,⁵ Dorothy,⁵ Rebecca,⁵ Jonathan,⁵ James.⁵ Of these, Ebenezer and James were among the early settlers of Plymouth, N. H. Joseph⁴ died Dec. 3, 1761, in his seventy-fourth year; the wife Dorothy died March 6, 1778, *ae.* 82.

JEREMIAH,⁵ son of Joseph⁴ and Dorothy (Perham) Blodgett, born in Hudson, July 20, 1721; died there in 1796; married Miriam Provender, born —; died May, 1800.

In "New Hampshire Revolutionary and Colonial Records," vol. xvi: p. 909, is an interesting entry of him, which is quoted literally below: —

A Muster Role of twenty four Men under the command of John Goff, Jr., Scouting from Merry Mack River to Connecticut River began to Inlist the 10th of 8^r [October], 1745.

	Time of entry	Dismissed	Time in service	
			Weeks	days
Jerem ^h Blodget	Oct. 15	Nov. 26	6	1 <i>£</i> 1. 17s. 6d.

Children :

- i. JEREMIAH,⁶ born May 9, 1751; he removed to Plymouth, where his uncles had previously settled, and married April 15, 1774, Lucy Nevins, and had a daughter.
- ii. EBENEZER,⁶ born Jan. 29, 1753; also removed to Plymouth, where he married May 19, 1775, his cousin Sarah,⁶ daughter of James.⁵ She married second, in 1782, Andrew Hickok. These

brothers, Jeremiah and Ebenezer, both joined the Revolutionary Army, and both died in 1776 of a virulent fever which broke out in the camp at or near Ticonderoga, N. Y. Their father at Hudson, hearing of their sickness, started on horseback to visit them, but when he arrived at the camp both were dead and buried. The father appears to have carried home the contagion, as a younger daughter and son died of the same fever in the early months of 1777.

Strangely enough, the name of Ebenezer alone appears in New Hampshire Revolutionary War Rolls, — a circumstance for which the present compiler, who is the grandson of their brother, is unable to account; but the family tradition is too direct and clear to admit of a doubt that Jeremiah was also in the army and died in the service.

- iii. ASAH⁶EL, born June 19, 1755. (See his lineage, forward.)
- iv. HANNAH,⁶ born Sept. 24, 1757; married Oct. 31, 1776, Stephen Chase, Jr., and died at Topsham, Vt., about 1845.
- v. SARAH,⁶ born May 16, 1760; died Feb., 1777.
- vi. ISAAC,⁶ born May 2, 1762; died Jan. 21, 1777, shortly after the death of his brothers in the army.
- vii. BENIAH,⁶ born March 3, 1765; married Betsey Hamblet, and removed to Dorchester, N. H., where he died Jan., 1830. No issue.

PART II

ASAHEL BLODGETT

AND

HIS DESCENDANTS



ASAHEL BLODGETT

AND

HIS DESCENDANTS



ASAHEL BLODGETT, in the sixth generation of the family in America, was the third son and child of Jeremiah^s and Miriam (Provender) Blodgett. He was born in Nottingham West, now Hudson, N. H., June 19, 1755. The family was one of prominence and influence in a community where the simple manners and rugged features of the early New England life contributed to the development of sterling traits of character. The opportunities for education were very meagre, and the brief terms of the town schools seldom permitted any advance beyond "the three primary R's." He grew up on the paternal farm and arrived at manhood in the early part of the Revolutionary War. Two older brothers died in the

service, as stated in the preliminary sketch. (See ante.)

Asahel¹⁶ entered the service in December, 1776, as appears by the following record in New Hampshire War Rolls, Vol. i: page 438:—

CAPT. WILLIAM WALKER'S COMPANY.

Muster Roll of 42 men raised out of the fifth regiment Militia in the State of New Hampshire by an order of Maj. Gen. Folsom, of Dec. 7, 1776, to reinforce the Continental Army at New York until the first of March, 1777.

This order appears to have been issued in accordance with the following:—

COL. DAVID GILMAN'S REGIMENT, 1776.

In answer to a call from Gen. Washington the Legislature *Voted*, Dec. 4, 1776: "That 500 men be draughted from the several Regiments in the State . . . and sent to New York. The cause of this call was that the time of service of the troops in garrison at Fort George and Ticonderoga would expire the last day of Dec., and if their places are not filled those posts would fall into the hands of Gen. Sir Guy Carlton."

In a Monthly Company Return his name appears as follows:

	One Month's Pay	Billeting to New York	Total amount paid
Asahel Blodgett	3.	2.2	£5. 2s.

"He was taken sick with a fever soon after arriving at Fishkill, N. Y., and getting a furlough went to Danbury,

Conn., where he remained until his short term of service, three months, was out."

He does not appear to have entered the army again, and as he was the only surviving son old enough to manage affairs he remained at home with his parents, and for their support received the Homestead farm. His father Jeremiah,⁵ died in 1796, aged 75, and his mother, Miriam Provender, in May, 1800. He built a house on the ancestral place, which his son Caleb⁷ described somewhat as follows, to his son, the late Judge Caleb⁸ Blodgett of Boston, from whom the present writer received it.

The house was a one-story, frame structure, a cellar under the whole. A door in the centre of the front side opened into an entry from which access was had to the large rooms, one on either side. A huge chimney in the centre had a fireplace in each room, large enough to burn 4-foot wood. There was a brick oven at the side of the fireplace in the kitchen and living room. A pantry, or buttery as it was called, occupied the space behind the chimney, opposite to the entry in front. The cooking was done over the open wood fire; a big crane, with swinging connections, was attached to one side of the fireplace, and from it depended hooks of graduated lengths, from which hung, as occasion required, the various pots and kettles of the kitchen service. The

shovel and tongs, of ponderous proportion, with which the fire was adjusted, leaned against the chimney jamb. Once a week the big oven was heated and a week's supply of bread and pies baked, and the traditional pot of New England beans was seldom omitted. The furniture and furnishings of the house were primitive and simple. A high, corded bedstead supported the straw and feather bed in universal use. Linen sheets were used in summer, while woolen sheets of home-made flannel were found more agreeable for winter; a heavy comforter was added for warmth, and a patchwork quilt covered the whole.

The tables and chairs were of the plainest description. The chairs in common use were such as may even now be seen in old country homes,—of turned posts, a high straight back, the seat of basket-work,—the whole very durable and very uncomfortable. The broom must have mention. To a stout handle hemlock twigs of proper length were bound in successive layers by winding a cord round their stems until proper dimensions were reached, when the cord was securely tied. A broom made in this way did very good work and lasted some weeks. Below the kitchen ceiling poles were suspended, where the housewife hung her skeins of yarn to dry, after scouring; and in the autumn the circlets of pumpkins and the strings of quartered apples were hung to dry for winter use.

Over the lower rooms was an open garret, broken only by the great chimney ; here the older children slept, and here the corn was spread to dry in the fall.

The roof of the house was shingled, but the outside walls were simply feather-edged boards nailed to the frame. It was not clap-boarded on the outside, nor was it lathed and plastered on the inside ; so that only an inch of pine board protected the inmates from the rigor of a New England winter. And this was one of the best houses in the town. It illustrates the manner of life among New England farmers three generations ago.

In 1805 Asahel sold his farm at Hudson and bought one at Dorchester, whither he removed in the spring of 1806. For the motives and results of this removal see the statement of his son Caleb,⁷ Appendix A.

The present compiler visited Hudson in the autumn of 1902, and could not help wondering how his grandfather left so beautiful a town to settle at Dorchester. The site of the garrison house which the first ancestor in Hudson erected was visited. Since that visit this site has, through the public spirit of Kimball Webster, Esq., the historian and antiquarian of Hudson, been appropriately marked by a boulder bearing a bronze tablet, inscribed :

SITE OF BLODGETT GARRISON HOUSE.

Joseph and Dorothy Blodgett:

Their oldest son Joseph born here Feb. 9, 1718,
being the first white child born in the town.

KIMBALL WEBSTER, 1904.

The compiler also visited the ancient "Blodgett Cemetery," where many of the name are interred. A white marble slab of modern design marks the graves of these immediate relatives, and is inscribed as follows:

CATHERINE,

WIFE OF

ASAHIEL BLODGETT,

DIED DEC. 20, 1795

ÆT. 34 YRS.

CATHERINE,

DIED DEC. 10, 1805,

ÆT. 23 YRS.

ISAAC,

DIED OCT. 29, 1816,

ÆT. 29 YRS.

SON & DAUGHTER OF

ASAHIEL AND CATHERINE

BLODGETT.

In these days of strenuous modern life, in the marvelous development of material forces, when the express train carries the traveler as many miles in an hour as he could accomplish in a day's

travel in the olden time ; when the mowing machine in the field and the sewing machine in the house have so greatly reduced the ordinary labors of a rural community, it is interesting and suggestive to recall the conditions and environments in which our ancestors lived in Hudson and Dorchester a hundred years ago.

In 1800, when the Union comprised 17 States, with a population of 5,300,000, there were but five steam engines in the United States, and their joint capacity would not equal the power that propels an Atlantic liner at the present day. Steamboats had not passed beyond the experimental stage ; there was not a mile of railroad nor a locomotive in existence. It was a good day's travel from Hudson to Boston ; it was four days from Boston to New York. It was nearly half a century before the telegraph annihilated distance, and three quarters of a century before the telephone enabled the resident of Hudson to hold conversation with a distant friend. Life at that remote period would seem monotonous and dull even to the resident of the country town at the present day. Now the thrifty farmer of Hudson receives, by rural delivery, the daily city papers which keep him in touch with all the happenings of the world. He lives in a house with comforts and conveniences that the city aristocrat did not have a hundred years ago. His wife has a sewing machine which greatly lightens her

labor. His daughters, perhaps, have a piano in the parlor, and magazines and fashion plates on their tables. When he rides abroad he enjoys a top buggy and a silver-plated harness.

The century which has elapsed since the time we are considering has been emphatically the age of mechanical invention. The wonderful development of machinery has changed the whole course of industrial effort, and in many instances, enabled one man to do the work of ten under the old methods of hand labor. In 1800 cut nails had not been invented; a wrought nail, made by hand, could only be used by first boring a hole with a gimlet in which to drive it. A carpenter was an artisan; he must be able to "lay out" and plan the frame of a building which involved considerable mechanical skill; he must also be able to make a paneled door and even the window sashes, — work now wholly done by machinery in large establishments.

Under similar conditions the blacksmith received his iron in large, solid bars, which he split and laboriously forged into such forms as he required. Every little bolt, and even the nails which fastened the shoe to the hoof of the horse or the ox, were made by hand, one at a time. And so through the whole range of the mechanic arts, as far as there were any mechanic arts. Some of those products of the country blacksmiths, such as hoes and hay-forks, lingered on

the old farms until a period within the memory of the present compiler, who has vivid recollections of their weight and clumsiness.

It has already been shown what a farmer's house was in 1800. It was a winter's work to cut and haul wood for a year's supply. Oxen were exclusively used for farm work. All farming implements were heavy and clumsy; hay was cut with the scythe, and rye and oats with the sickle, and threshed with the flail.

But if the man's work was hard, the woman's was more exacting. Beyond the daily routine of household cares which never end, there was the dairy work, now commonly delegated to the "creameries;" but the clothing for the family, however numerous, was a heavier burden. The farm furnished flax for summer and wool for winter use, and it was the feminine province of wife and grown-up daughters, if there were such—sometimes, of necessity, reinforced by neighbors' daughters—to card and spin and weave the cloth with which the family were to be clothed. The woolen fabrics were sometimes dyed at home and sometimes sent to the fulling-mill to be dyed, scoured and finished. The garments were, of necessity, made by hand; there were no sewing machines in those days of primitive methods. The women made their own garments and the men's every-day clothes, but in the case of the man's Sunday suit, assistance was had from the

professional tailoress, who came with her shears and press-board and goose. It was before the days of "shoddy," and the home-made woolen fabrics were always substantial and sometimes handsome.

The writer plainly remembers his father's wedding "surtout," with graduated capes, which remained in evidence until the boy was well grown; it was made from cloth spun, woven and dyed by the father's sisters so late as 1825. The fabric would be creditable to a modern woolen mill, though the garment would be thought peculiar and picturesque.

Specimens of home-made table linen are still prized by the granddaughters and great-granddaughters of that period, which were creditable alike in design and execution. Shoes for both sexes were usually made in the homes by the itinerant shoe-maker, who came, as occasion required, to make shoes for the family.

The average farmer's family, a hundred years ago, was very frugal; they produced nearly everything they consumed. The staple articles of food were brown bread,—that is, of corn and rye mixed,—beans, peas, potatoes, and a moderate amount of meat, mostly salted. Tea and coffee were not used to any considerable extent; roasted peas and crust coffee were frequently used instead. Their maple orchards furnished sugar. Cider was a home product and universally used.

A man's standing in the community was not impaired by the moderate use of New England rum. The family also had to buy salt, a few spices, perhaps a little calico and coarse cotton cloth, and not much else. The opportunities for mental improvement or recreation were limited. They went to meeting on Sunday, as a matter of course, and heard two sermons, usually of a doctrinal character; during the noon hour the men gathered in groups outside the meeting-house and discussed the weather, the crops and politics; while inside, the women talked of matters of more interest to the feminine mind.

Of books they possessed very few; the Bible, of course; very likely the "Pilgrim's Progress," and probably Fox's "Book of Martyrs," and Josephus's "War of the Jews." The "Farmers' Almanac" always hung in a conspicuous position and was consulted with great regularity. The weekly newspaper of moderate size was just coming in, but at the period we are considering had not attained great circulation or influence; but what these people read they remembered; they had ample time for reflection, and were men of decided convictions and of earnest purposes. If lacking in worldly wisdom and the refinements of society, they developed those hardy and rugged traits of character common to the inhabitants of New England while they remained a homogeneous people, and which exercised so potent an influ-

ence in moulding our institutions in the first half century after the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

Such were the people among whom Asahel Blodgett dwelt, and such the environment in which his large family of eight sons and five daughters were reared, ten of whom lived to attain an average, within a fraction, of four-score years, and three died under thirty.

He married, first, Dec. 13, 1781, Catherine, daughter of Ebenezer and Abigail Pollard, born June 12, 1761. Their children were:

- I. CATHERINE,⁷ born Nov. 24, 1782; died Dec. 10, 1805; unmarried.
- + II. ASAHEL,⁷ born May 15, 1784; died April 11, 1863.
- + III. EBENEZER,⁷ born Jan. 14, 1786; died March 19, 1870.
- IV. ISAAC,⁷ born Aug. 12, 1787; died Oct. 29, 1816; unmarried.
- V. SIBYL,⁷ born Nov. 13, 1789; died in Dorchester, March 6, 1863; unmarried.
- VI. LOIS,⁷ born Feb. 17, 1792; married about 1845, Wales Dole, of Canaan, N. H. No issue. She died at Wentworth, N. H., June 6, 1877, and was interred in "Blodgett Cemetery," Dorchester.
- + VII. CALEB,⁷ born Dec. 13, 1793; died Oct. 5, 1872.

The wife, Catherine, died Dec. 20, 1795, and was interred in the "Blodgett Cemetery" in Hud-

son. He married, second, "in 1796 or 1797," Lois Pollard, sister of his first wife, born Aug. 18, 1771. Their children were :

+ VIII. RUFUS,⁷ born Nov. 12, 1798 ; died March 20, 1881.

IX. LUCINDA,⁷ born Nov. 18, 1800 ; died at Wentworth, Aug. 9, 1879 ; unmarried ; interred in "Blodgett Cemetery," Dorchester.

+ X. ABNER,⁷ born Dec. 5, 1802 ; died Oct. 5, 1889, at Wentworth, and interred there.

XI. BENIAH,⁷ born April 25, 1804 ; died April 8, 1817 ; interred at Dorchester.

+ XII. JEREMIAH,⁷ born March 10, 1806 ; died Aug. 2, 1881, at New Haven, Conn. ; interred at Wentworth.

XIII. BETSEY,⁷ born May 10, 1810 ; died Feb. 23, 1892, at Wentworth ; unmarried ; interred in "Blodgett Cemetery," Dorchester.

All except Betsey were born in Hudson ; she was born after his removal to Dorchester. He died at Dorchester, June 2, 1842, and was buried in "Blodgett Cemetery," about one mile northwest from the Town House.

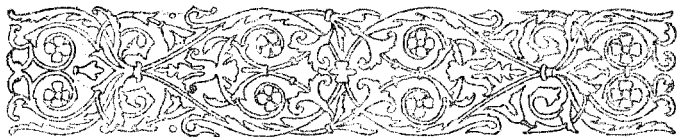
Of the character of the subject of this sketch, one of his grandsons, Hon. Rufus Blodgett, of New Jersey, writes : —

I remember our grandfather quite distinctly, though I was but eight years old at the time of his death. As I recall him he was a man of stern nature, very firm convic-

tions, and, so far as I have been able to judge, of strict integrity. It is possible he possessed more native talent than any of his descendants, . . . but they, both male and female, were a strong people intellectually, though they lacked early education and business training.

The compiler of these pages, when eight years old, made a winter trip of two hundred miles in an open sleigh, with his father, to visit the grandfather, then eighty-one years of age, and vividly recalls his patriarchal appearance as he sat before the great open fire, with a red flannel cap on his head. To the statement that he was an austere man the writer can readily agree, for he remembers but one remark addressed to him during the visit of two or three weeks: "So you have come to see Grandsir, have you?" Not all grandfathers in these days are so undemonstrative. But his children always regarded him with affectionate respect; they addressed him, and spoke of him to each other, as "Sir."

In personal appearance, and perhaps in mental traits as well, his first two sons most resembled him. That he was a man of marked natural abilities can hardly admit of question, for among his children were several of strong character, who, under more favorable conditions as to education and environment, would have been eminent. As it was, it may be fairly said that in both Hudson and Dorchester no family was more prominent and influential.



FAMILY OF ASAHEL.⁷



ASAHEL⁷ son of Asahel⁶ and Catherine (Pollard) Blodgett, born in Hudson, N. H., May 15, 1784; died in Dorchester, N. H., April 11, 1863. He was a farmer; married, about 1804, Polly, daughter of Phineas and Martha (Hamblet) Blodgett, born in Hudson, Dec. 20, 1781; died Nov. 17, 1862. He removed to Dorchester about 1806, and resided there until his death. He was a man of strong individuality, as liberally endowed by nature, perhaps, as any member of his father's family, but circumstances and environment were unfavorable to the development of his natural abilities, and most of his life was spent in the profitless labor of clearing up and bringing into cultivation a large farm in one of the poorest towns of his native State. It is a curious fact, illustrating the decadence of farm property in the hill towns of New Hampshire, that his farm, consisting of about three hundred acres, including an ample wood lot, a sugar or-

chard, and a considerable amount of standing timber; the arable portion well cleared of stones and enclosed by stone walls; a well-constructed farm-house in good repair, painted outside and inside, supplied with flowing water from a spring on the hillside; a good wood-shed and piggery; a barn large enough to hold fifty tons of hay and to house a dozen cattle, were all sold by his grandson in 1890 for one thousand dollars,—a sum which would not replace the house alone.

His descendants were :

I. ELIAS,⁸ born in Hudson, Aug. 9, 1805. A farmer.

He married June 8, 1830, Melinda, daughter of Levi and Betsey (Farrar) Clement, born in Plainfield, N. H., Aug. 18, 1810. He resided in Dorchester, and died there Aug. 6, 1851. His widow married Wolcott Dana, of Wentworth, and died in that town, Feb. 23, 1905. His children, born in Dorchester, were :

i. MARY ELIZABETH,⁹ born Oct. 30, 1835; married Sept. 25, 1866, Fred Simonds; she died May 1, 1867.

ii. ELIAS MILTON,⁹ born Aug. 5, 1838; married May 26, 1861, Wealthy W., daughter of Joseph and Mary (Austen) Leavett, born in Alexandria, N. H., Dec. 14, 1836. They had :

a. *Herbert L.*,¹⁰ born in Dorchester, Jan. 15, 1872; married Nov. 16, 1898, Ardella Florence, daughter of George Henry and Martha (Foster) Brown. They have a son, Chester Merle,¹¹ born May 25, 1900.

ERRATA ON PAGE 38.

Children of ii. ELIAS MILTON⁹ BLODGETT should be

- a. *Herbert L.*,¹⁰ born in Dorchester, June 1, 1868;
died in Wentworth, May 12, 1894.
- b. *Fred W.*,¹⁰ born in Dorchester, Jan. 15, 1872;
married Nov. 16, 1898, Ardella Florence,
daughter of George Henry and Martha (Foster) Brown. They have a son, Chester Merle,¹¹
born May 25, 1900.

- iii. CHARLES BYRON,⁹ born Aug. 23, 1840. He was a mechanic; he married Aug. 26, 1863, Marcia, daughter of Charles and Susan (Batchelder) Avery. They had:

- a. *Ida M.*,¹⁰ born in Hill, N. H., Aug. 26, 1869.
- b. *Charles H.*,¹⁰ born in Hill, April 20, 1874.

- iv. JOHN SCOTT,⁹ born Dec. 21, 1845. A carpenter; he died of pneumonia at Plymouth, N. H., Jan. 14, 1902. He married a widow, Mrs. Mosher, who had several children; he had no issue.

- II. ASAHEL,⁸ born in Dorchester, Nov. 10, 1813; died there Jan. 23, 1878. A farmer. He was educated in the public schools and at New Hampton Institution. He became one of the most useful and prominent citizens of his native town. For a period of thirty years he filled successively about every office in the gift of his fellow townsmen. He was a representative to the State Legislature in 1854-5; selectman, 1850-1; superintending school committee for twenty years; collector of taxes, auditor, surveyor of lumber, justice of the peace, moderator of town meetings, etc. He married Oct. 23, 1838, Sally, daughter of Daniel Clough, of Lyme, N. H., born in Hinsdale, N. H., April 14, 1815. She died Oct. 2, 1887. Their children were:


- i. ASAHEL N.,⁹ born July 22, 1839; died July 8, 1840.
- ii. SALLY MARGARET,⁹ born May 17, 1841; married June 6, 1878, Frank Martin, of Dorchester, and had:

- i. *Mary Belle Martin*,¹⁰ born Sept. 24, 1882.
- iii. ASAHEL,⁹ born Dec. 26, 1843. A farmer; he married Sept. 22, 1889, Monira B., daughter of Josiah R. and Rachel C. (Smith) Plumer, of Hebron. He resided in Dorchester, and about 1890 removed to Ashland, Mass. No issue.
- iv. CATHERINE P.⁹ [Kate], born Aug. 29, 1847. She was educated at the New Hampton Institution, and was for many years an able and successful teacher at Concord, N. H.; unmarried.
- v. ELIAS MURRAY⁹ (known as "Murray E."), born May 30, 1850; died at Concord, Nov. 9, 1903. A mechanic; resided at Dorchester and Concord; unmarried.
- vi. GEORGE A.,⁹ born Oct. 5, 1855. A physician, educated at Dartmouth and Harvard Medical Schools. He married Nov. 28, 1883, Ellen Grace Hazeltine. He died Jan. 18, 1889. No issue.





FAMILY OF EBENEZER.⁷

BENEZER,⁷ son of Asahel⁶ and Catherine (Pollard) Blodgett, was born in Hudson, N. H. (then Nottingham West), Jan. 14, 1786. He removed with his father's family in March, 1806, to Dorchester, N. H., where he co-operated with his father and brothers in clearing off the forest and bringing into cultivation a large farm, which proved of sterile soil, in one of the poorest townships of the State. For a few years after the clearing up of the land good crops of corn, potatoes and rye were obtained, but after the stimulating effect of the ashes had ceased, it was found cold and unproductive. Like many other young men in those days, after coming of age, he went "down country" and for a time worked in and about Boston; but his home was in Dorchester, and here he married, June 21, 1827, Sally Cheever, born in Danvers, Mass., Nov. 29, 1800. She was the daughter of Nathan and Mehitable (Porter)

Cheever, and, through her father, directly descended from Ezekiel Cheever, "the celebrated schoolmaster" of Boston, and, through her mother, from the Porter family of Essex County.

In conjunction with his brother Caleb, he built a house near his father's, and about half a mile north of the present town house in Dorchester; the house was burned several years since. His residence there was brief, however. Business reverses impelled him to seek a new home, and after some wandering he settled at Fort Covington, Franklin County, New York, then a comparatively new country. Thither his wife went to join him in the winter of 1829-30, a distance of two hundred miles, travelling in an open sleigh in the rigors of a northern winter, and carrying her infant son, then about twenty months old; a daughter was born to them in 1831. He continued to reside at Fort Covington until 1845, following his occupation as farmer. For a time he was town constable, and one year collector of taxes.

In 1845 family ties and influences drew him back to New Hampshire, and he lived, 1845 to 1847, in Dorchester, and from 1848 to 1870 in Rumney, where he died, March 19 of the latter year, aged 84 years, 2 months, 5 days. His wife died Nov. 23, 1886, lacking but six days of completing eighty-six years, at New Hampton, N. H., where she spent the last years of her life, a mem-

ber of her daughter's family. The remains of both repose in the village cemetery at Rumney.

It may be permitted to filial affection to record in this brief memorial a few words of grateful tribute to the memory of beloved parents.

The father had no opportunities for early education beyond those afforded by a few weeks annually in the district school in a small New England town at the end of the eighteenth century; but his family was a prominent one in the town of his birth, as well as that where his early manhood was passed, and he had the advantage of a pious ancestry and healthy family influences. In early life he became a professed Christian, and in May, 1811, he was baptized by the Rev. Mr. Bridgeman and united with the Baptist Church in Canaan, a town adjoining Dorchester, where he resided. On the formation of a church in Dorchester he became a member of it, and was made a deacon in 1819. Through all his subsequent life his religion was his inspiration and guide and solace. Orthodox, Calvinistic, and literal in his understanding of the written Word, as befitted the times, and rigid in his construction of Scripture, he was naturally charitable and tolerant in his judgment of others, and never indulged in invective towards those of a different faith. In his old age he ripened and mellowed in his religious views, so that he came to regard those who differed from him with a degree of tolerance that

was hardly consistent with his earlier views. He was a careful student of the Bible and of religious literature, especially that relating to his own denomination, so that he became a power in the church to which he belonged, and, in a sense, a theologian to whom even clergymen came for information and counsel. Duty was his watchword. Until the infirmities of age prevented, he was a constant attendant on the public worship of the Sabbath; and after he had passed the "three score and ten" years of the Psalmist, he frequently walked four miles to and from the third service, and it was seldom that he did not take an active part in the prayer-meeting, speaking from a warm heart and ripe experience. He was for many years the senior deacon of the Baptist Church in Rumney. Always in straitened circumstances as to this world's goods, he was rich in the respect of his neighbors and the affection of his family.

The mother was more favored as to early education, and had a natural facility for acquiring knowledge, and a retentive memory which treasured it. In early life she was a school teacher. She had a natural fondness for literature and great facility of expression. Some papers are still extant, chiefly written in connection with church work, which show considerable literary ability; but after her marriage, the life of a plain farmer's wife gave little opportunity for the exer-

cise of that talent beyond that which familiar and family correspondence permitted. Her letters were models in their way, seldom equalled in these days of hurried and careless writing.

Soon after her marriage she made a public profession of religion and united with the Congregational Church in Dorchester, being baptized, by immersion, by the pastor, the Rev. Increase S. Davis. At Fort Covington, and in all her subsequent life, she and her husband were members of the Baptist denomination. Deeply religious in all her instincts, a naturally cheerful and charitable temperament made her a model wife and mother, discreet, gentle, patient and affectionate. She lived until within a few days of her eighty-sixth birthday; and although the last years were marked by physical infirmities and weakness, her mind remained clear and her mental force unabated. She quietly passed away, leaving to her children and children's children and friends a fragrant memory and a bright example of Christian character.

They were kind and indulgent, yet discreet, parents. They recognized the importance of education, and made sacrifices to give their children the best that their limited means and opportunities permitted; and the modest monument which marks their resting-place in the village cemetery at Rumney bears this inscription: —

Asahel Blodgett

EBENEZER BLODGETT

BORN JAN. 14, 1786 — DIED MAR. 19, 1870.

AND HIS WIFE

SALLY CHEEVER,

BORN NOV. 29, 1800 — DIED NOV. 23, 1886.

The Memory of the Just is blessed.

On reverse :

TO THE MEMORY

OF

BELOVED PARENTS.

Their children :

- I. ISAAC DIMOND,⁸ born in Dorchester, N. H., May 11, 1828. Merchant, of Boston and New York. When he was less than two years old his parents removed to Fort Covington, Franklin County, N. Y., and there his school days were passed. In addition to the opportunities afforded by the common district school, he enjoyed several terms at the Fort Covington Academy, beginning when he was nine years old, and remaining, intermittently, until he was fifteen, amounting in all to perhaps two years' attendance. In 1844, when he was sixteen, his family returned to New Hampshire. The season of 1845 he assisted his father in carrying on a large and sterile farm in Dorchester. The following winter, when he was in his eighteenth year, he taught two district schools, and "boarded round," in the adjoining town of Groton, with such success that he was invited to take both schools again

the following year ; but on May 6, 1846, he began his mercantile experience in a country store at Wentworth, N. H., where he remained nearly four years. In 1850 and part of 1851 he was clerk in a dry-goods store at Salmon Falls and Great Falls, N. H. In October, 1851, he went to Boston, Mass., and entered a wholesale dry-goods house as salesman, in which relation he continued several years. In 1861 the firm of Sweetser, Swan & Blodgett was formed, and from that date, for twenty-three years, he was in business in Boston in various connections. In this period occurred two panics and the great fire of 1872, entailing great loss, but not preventing him from meeting his obligations in full. In 1884 he removed to New York, and became connected with large mercantile interests which continued fourteen years. Upon reaching his seventieth year, and after fifty-one years of arduous mercantile experience, he retired from active business, and, drawn by family ties, returned to the vicinity of Boston.

It may be briefly noted that he was one of the original members of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association at its formation in 1852. He was an original member of the Merchants' Association, and served on leading committees.

In New York he was a member of the New York Chamber of Commerce, a relation which he continued after his return to Massachusetts ; a member of the New England Society, of the Republican Club, and of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In Boston he is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He married, March 16, 1855, Mary L., daughter of Major John B. and Statira (Goodwin) Wentworth, of Rollinsford, N. H.* They had :

- i. CHARLES WILLIAM,⁹ born in Boston, Sept. 14, 1856. Merchant, of Boston; married May 29, 1900, Mabel Constance, born Dec. 11, 1871, daughter of N. Denton and Harriet Emmons (Shelton) Smith, of New York. They had :

- i. *Emmons Wentworth*,¹⁰ born in Brookline, Mass., June 22, 1901; baptized by Rev. Dr. Reuen Thomas, April 6, 1902.

- ii. HARRIETT MARIA,⁹ born in Boston, April 22, 1859.
- iii. FREDERICK SWEETSER,⁹ born in Boston, Nov. 24, 1865; married Nov. 23, 1899, Mae, born Nov. 8, 1875, daughter of Martin V. B. and Hannah Putman, of Canton, Ill. They had :

- i. *Wentworth Putnam*,¹⁰ born in Brookline, Jan. 31, 1901; baptized at West Newton by the Rev. Dr. Theodore P. Prudden, June 8, 1902.
- ii. *Frederick Newton*,¹⁰ born in West Newton, March 26, 1903.

- III. SARAH PORTER,⁸ born in Fort Covington, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1831; married in Rumney, N. H., Nov. 25, 1855, John L. Davis, of Plymouth, N. H., born Jan. 28, 1828. He was for several years a teacher at Milton and Peabody, Mass. About 1865 they removed to Rumney, and lived on the paternal farm, caring for her parents in their

* See Wentworth Genealogy.

declining years. About 1877 they removed to New Hampton, where he died March 18, 1886. She died of acute bronchitis, Jan. 9, 1898. Both are interred in the village cemetery at Rumney. Their children :

1. FRANK LOVELL DAVIS,⁹ born in Milton, Mass., Feb. 2, 1857 ; married April 15, 1886, Belle Spaulding. They had one child :
 - a. *Herbert Charles Davis*,¹⁰ born April 12, 1888 ; died the same day.
2. GERTRUDE M. DAVIS,⁹ born in Milton, Oct. 13, 1861 ; married Dec. 22, 1898, Benaiah S. George, born Dec. 11, 1832 ; residence, Lakeport, N. H.
3. CHARLES HOLDEN DAVIS,⁹ born in Rumney, June 27, 1871 ; married April, 1900, Mary Kelley.



AFTER the sheets of this little work were printed, but before they had gone into the hands of the binder, I was called to meet the most grievous sorrow of my life in the unexpected death of a dear son, and as this Lineage is intended, chiefly, for family distribution, parental affection impels me to insert, although in irregular order, a brief Tribute to the memory of one who as son, brother, husband and father, was loyal and affectionate, and in all the relations of an active business life, was honored and respected.

I. D. B.

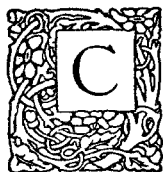


CW Dyer, Jr.



In Memoriam

CHARLES WILLIAM BLODGETT.



CHARLES WILLIAM⁹ BLODGETT was born in Boston, September 14, 1856, the son of Isaac D.⁸ and Mary L. (Wentworth) Blodgett, inheriting through both parents the traditions and characteristics of the early settlers of New England, as well as whatever of honor or prestige attaches to Revolutionary service.

His childhood was uneventful, though his ardent temperament and natural flow of spirits made him an active participant in all boyish sports. His summer vacations were always spent at his grandfather's farm in New Hampshire, where he imbibed that love of country life which impelled him in later years, for many successive seasons, to go to the woods and lakes of Maine for his annual vacations. He was an apt scholar :—when eight

years old he accompanied his father to church one evening, and from the tablets on the wall committed to memory the Ten Commandments, which he repeated correctly after returning home. In recognition of this he received from his father a handsome Bible, appropriately marked. Many years later that Bible, packed in a trunk with other personal effects, was subjected to the ordeal of fire in the loft of his store, and the father, who accompanied him in the examination of the trunk, recalls his expressions of pleasure when he found the Bible had been spared, although the binding was considerably injured by the heat.

At fourteen he graduated from the Dwight Grammar School, at the head of his class; a few months before his eighteenth birthday, he graduated from the English High School, again as "Number One," which place he had maintained, without a lapse, for the two years preceding.

In 1875 he began his business education with his father's firm, Blodgett, Hidden & Swan, and continued with that firm and its successors until its dissolution in December, 1883. A new firm was organized January 1, 1884, in which he was a partner. His application to business was so intense that his health gave way, and in 1886 he made a brief trip to Europe for rest and recreation, and after his return was compelled to take a long vacation; but he never entirely recovered his former buoyancy and vigor; tired nerves and headaches compelled him to take liberal vacations.

In 1895 a reorganization of the business brought him to the head of the firm of Blodgett, Ordway & Webber,

and in the eleven years that succeeded, his ability and application were clearly shown in the success that followed, although he found it necessary to take an annual summer rest of several weeks, which he usually spent in the woods of Maine, away from the haunts of men and the constraints of society.

At the beginning of 1906 some premonitory symptoms of the dread disease which was to terminate his life so soon, added to the nervous fatigue, made a vacation imperative, and guided by the best medical advice of Boston and New York, he, with his family, went to Southern California, in the hope that freedom from care, and the open-air life of a warm climate, would bring improvement. But this hope was not to be realized; he enjoyed the scenery, the flowers and the foliage of that sunny land, but no real improvement was observed. About the first of May, a few days before he was to start homeward, he caught a severe cold, which seemed to precipitate and develop the disease lurking in his system, and brought on immediate and severe prostration and suffering. He made a forced journey across the continent under most distressing conditions, reaching his home May 13th, just three months from the date of his departure, and took his bed from which he was not again to arise; but neither he nor those who loved him realized that the end was so near. During the first few days he enjoyed hearing the newspapers read and seemed anxious to keep in touch with current news; he also talked freely of matters of personal and family interest. But the disease was remorseless and its progress rapid; all that his physicians could say at

the end of a week was that they would make his sufferings as light as possible. With increasing weakness he seemed to realize that the result was inevitable, and feeling that all efforts to avert it were futile, he remarked one day "Nature is inexorable." The next day, when so weak that he could hardly articulate audibly, his mind seemed to be musing on the mystery of suffering and the inscrutable ways of Divine Providence, and he broke out with, — "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how *unsearchable* are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" A moment later he added, "Whatever my shortcomings may have been, I have faith in God and in Jesus Christ." He said but little after this; he recognized those dear to him on Tuesday; — the end came on Wednesday morning, May 23d, and on Saturday, the 26th, his remains were laid to rest in the family lot in Forest Hills. There are left to mourn for him a devoted wife and a little son, — too young to appreciate the loss of a father, — aged parents, a sister and a brother, all overwhelmed with grief.

His funeral was a striking evidence of the respect in which he was held by his business associates, his employees, even by his competitors; while from many distant cities came warm expressions of sympathy, and tributes to his character as a merchant and a man.

His personal friendships, if not lavishly bestowed, were discreetly chosen, and faithfully cherished.

He was a lover of art, and for many years was a member of the Boston Art Club.

He was naturally religious; it was easy for him to accept the cardinal truths of Christianity, and although

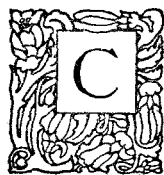
not of a demonstrative nature, his faith was firm and abiding ; — pure in thought and spirit, his daily life reflected the nobility of his character, and the perfect integrity conspicuous in all his business relations had its foundation in the enduring principles of rectitude rather than the shifting suggestions of policy.

He united with the Shawmut Congregational Church in his youth, and when he removed from its neighborhood, he transferred his relation to the Old South Church, of which organization he was a member at the time of his death.





FAMILY OF CALEB.⁷



CALEB,⁷ son of Asahel⁶ and Catherine (Pollard) Blodgett, was born in Hudson, N. H. (then Nottingham West), Dec. 13, 1793; died in Canaan, N. H., Oct. 5, 1872. By occupation he was a farmer, but was much in public life, and for many years was one of the most prominent and influential men in his native State. For an interesting review of his public services and reminiscences see his own statement in Appendix A.

He married, Sept. 7, 1824, Charlotte Piper, born Feb. 12, 1804; died in Canaan, Feb. 1, 1873, daughter of Noah and Jane Piper.

Their children, born in Dorchester :

- I. CATHERINE,⁸ born July 20, 1825; died young (3 or 4 years).
- II. EMILY R.,⁸ born May 13, 1828; married May, 1847, Miles Jackson, born in 1820. She died Aug. 23, 1851, aged 23 years, 3 months and 10

days. He died Oct. 29, 1853, aged 33 years. They had a son :

- i. GEORGE⁹ JACKSON, born in Canaan, April 30, 1848 ; died there Sept. 28, 1848, aged 4 months, 28 days.

III. CALEB,⁸ born in Dorchester, N. H., June 3, 1832 ; died in Canaan, Dec. 11, 1901, aged 69 years, 6 months, 8 days. A lawyer, and Judge of the Superior Court of Massachusetts. He was educated in the public schools of Canaan, at Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N. H., and at Dartmouth College, where he graduated in 1856. His alma mater conferred the degree of LL. D. in 1889. After graduation he taught school a year or two at Fitchburg and Leominster, Mass. He began his legal studies at Canaan, and continued them in the office of Bacon & Aldrich, Worcester, Mass., and was admitted to the bar at Worcester, Jan. 24, 1860. He began practice at Hopkinton, but within a year he removed to Boston and became a member of the firm of Boardman & Blodgett, and this relation continued twenty-one years, until January, 1882, when he was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court by Governor John D. Long. In 1891 he was offered, by Governor Russell, a promotion to the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court, but his health was somewhat precarious, and, acting upon the advice of his friends and physician, he deemed it unwise to accept it. He continued to serve with signal ability upon the bench of the Superior Court

until March, 1900, when his health gave way, and in September following he resigned. It was hoped by his family and friends that complete rest might bring improvement to something like normal conditions, but he lingered with uncertain strength until his death at his country home in Canaan, Dec. 11, 1901. His interment was in the family lot in Canaan.

On March 8, 1902, there was a Memorial Meeting of the Suffolk Bar and the Justices of the Superior Court held at the Court House in Boston, and largely attended, when many of the leading members of the bar paid tribute to his memory. For an abridged account of that meeting, and the various addresses then made, see Appendix B.

He married Dec. 14, 1865, Roxalana B., daughter of Jesse and Emily A. (Green) Martin, of Canaan. They had :

- i. CHARLES MARTIN,⁹ born April 3, 1870; married Oct. 24, 1901, Louisa Katherine, daughter of George W. and Margaret S. Bond, and had :

- i. *Caleb*,¹⁰ born July 14, 1905.

IV. ISAAC N.,⁸ born in Canaan, March 6, 1838; died in Franklin, N. H., Nov. 27, 1905. He received an academic education, studied law in the office of Anson S. Marshall, Concord, N. H., and was admitted to the bar of New Hampshire in December, 1860; practiced law at Canaan, 1860 to 1867, and in Franklin, 1867 to 1880, as a partner of Hon. Austin F. Pike. He was



Isaac A. Hodggett.

a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1871, 1873, 1874 and 1878, and of the Senate in 1879 and 1880; was chairman of the Democratic State Committee in 1876 and 1877, and a member of the Constitutional Conventions of 1876, 1889 and 1903. He received the honorary degree of A. M. from Dartmouth College, 1870, and that of LL. D. from the same college in 1900; he was elected an honorary member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Alpha of N. H. (Dartmouth College), in 1881.

He was a Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, 1880 to 1898, and Chief Justice, 1898 to 1902, and resigned that office July 1, 1902; was elected Mayor of Franklin on the Citizens' ticket, 1903, 1904; President of the Franklin Savings Bank, and Vice-President and Director of the Franklin National Bank.

He married May 24, 1861, Sarah A. Gerould, born in East Alstead, N. H., April 13, 1839, daughter of the Rev. Moses and Cynthia (Locke) Gerould, later of Canaan, and had a daughter :

- i. ANNA G.,⁹ born in Canaan, Aug. 13, 1862.





FAMILY OF RUFUS.⁷



RUFUS,⁷ son of Asahel⁶ and Lois (Pollard) Blodgett, was born in Hudson, N. H., Nov. 12, 1798. He removed with his parents in 1806 to Dorchester, N. H., where he was married about 1826, by Rev. Increase S. Davis, to Ruth Webster Fellows, born June 26, 1796. About 1833 he removed to New York State, and lived for a time in Bombay, Franklin County, but soon settled in Fort Covington, where he continued to reside, as a farmer, until his death, March 20, 1881. His wife died Oct. 15, 1867.

Children, born in Fort Covington, N. Y.:

I. BETSEY,⁸ born May 4, 1836; died Sept. 11, 1901; married January, 1861, William Crangle, born in County Cavan, Ireland, March 16, 1839, and had:

1. WILLIAM RUFUS CRANGLE,⁹ born in Fort Covington, Sept. 14, 1861; married Oct. 15, 1887,

Euretta Jane Ward, born Sept. 1, 1868, in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada. They had:

- a. *Clara E. Crangle*,¹⁰ born in Hutchinson, Kansas, Dec. 18, 1889.
 - b. *Herbert Clemmens Crangle*,¹⁰ born in Hutchinson, March 29, 1891.
 - c. *William John Crangle*,¹⁰ born in Hutchinson, July 5, 1899.
2. JAMES FREDERICK CRANGLE,⁹ born Oct. 31, 1864; married Aug. 29, 1884, Cillian Anna Dickinson, born in Springfield, Mass., Feb. 26, 1864. He resided (1902) at Simsbury, Conn. Children:
 - a. *Alice Louise Crangle*,¹⁰ born in Springfield, July 22, 1885.
 - b. *Frederick Crangle*,¹⁰ born in Fort Covington, June 12, 1888; died Aug. 12, 1888.
 - c. *William Edwin Crangle*,¹⁰ born on Fisher's Island, N. Y., April 22, 1894.
 - d. *Arline Luella Crangle*,¹⁰ born on Fisher's Island, Oct. 5, 1896.
 3. CLARA LOUISA CRANGLE,⁹ born Jan. 4, 1867; married July 4, 1896, Aaron K. Kline; no issue. Resided (1902) on Fisher's Island.
 4. AGNES RUTH CRANGLE,⁹ born Aug. 10, 1874; married May 19, 1899, John Shea. Resided (1902) in Portland, Me. Children:
 - a. *Clara Elizabeth Shea*,¹⁰ born Feb. 17, 1900.
 - b. *William John Shea*,¹⁰ born Aug. 2, 1901.
- II. HARRIET LOUISA,⁸ born Oct. 9, 1840; married Feb. 14, 1872, James McKenna, born in Fort Covington, May 1, 1832. He served in the

Civil War in the 12th New York Cavalry, and lost his left arm at the battle of Chapin's Farm. They lived on her father's homestead farm in Fort Covington. Children, born in Fort Covington :

1. KATHERINE ALICE MCKENNA,⁹ born April 6, 1874; married Dec. 22, 1897, John Willard Webb, born Aug. 10, 1873, and had :
 - a. *Marian Edith Webb*,¹⁰ born Sept. 27, 1898.
 - b. *Robert James Webb*,¹⁰ born Sept. 5, 1900.
2. RUFUS JAMES MCKENNA,⁹ born July 4, 1875; married April 27, 1897, Agnes C. Corrigan, born Oct. 12, 1878; she died Aug. 26, 1899. They had :
 - a. *Gertrude Agnes McKenna*,¹⁰ born July 12, 1898.
3. RUTH GRACE LOUISA MCKENNA,⁹ born March 19, 1880; married Feb. 14, 1899, Francis J. Mulvana, born in Bombay, N. Y., April 28, 1872, and had :
 - a. *James Francis Mulvana*,¹⁰ born June 12, 1900.
 - b. *John Mulvana*,¹⁰ born March 16, 1902.





FAMILY OF ABNER.⁷



ABNER⁷ son of Asahel⁶ and Lois (Pollard) Blodgett, was born in Hudson, N. H., Dec. 5, 1802; died in Wentworth, N. H., Oct. 5, 1889, and was interred there. By occupation he was a farmer. Most of his life was spent in Dorchester, N. H., where he was a prominent and useful citizen. At different times he was town clerk and selectman. In 1847, and again in 1850, he was a representative to the Legislature. A few years before his death he removed to Wentworth. He married, Dec. 9, 1832, his second cousin Persis, daughter of Jabez and Rachel (Pollard) Blodgett, born in Hudson, May 31 (or, according to her daughter, May 19), 1803; she died April 16, 1884; interred at Wentworth.

Children, born in Dorchester:

- I. FRANKLIN,⁸ born July 12, 1833; married Aug. 25, 1862, Eliza M. King, of Langdon, N. H., born in Haverhill, N. H., May 13, 1840, and had:

- i. JERRY,⁹ born April 16, 1867; married in Long Branch, N. J., Oct. 30, 1894, Kate Daly, born in Clarksburg, N. J., Aug. 23, 1870. Children :
 - i. *Chastina Clark*,¹⁰ born Dec. 9, 1896.
 - ii. *Loretta Helene*,¹⁰ born Feb. 27, 1901.
 - ii. WILLIAM KING,⁹ born Dec. 23, 1869; married Jan. 14, 1905, Mrs. Elizabeth Herbert, of Manasquam, N. J.
 - iii. EUNICE MABEL,⁹ born Aug. 15, 1881; died June 2, 1899.
- II. MIRIAM,⁸ born Sept. 26, 1834; died April 2, 1902; married Nov. 15, 1863, in Dorchester, Benjamin Davis, and had :
- i. EMILY FRANCES DAVIS,⁹ born Aug., 1864; died June, 1865.
- III. SUSAN,⁸ born Dec. 11, 1835; died in Wentworth, Aug. 4, 1897; unmarried.
- IV. FRANCES,⁸ born Dec. 6, 1837; married Feb. 23, 1859, George Plumer, born in Gilmanton, N. H., Jan. 4, 1821. Children :
- i. PERSIS MARIA PLUMER,⁹ born Oct. 8, 1860. A graduate of Wellesley College; unmarried.
 - 2. GEORGE FRANKLIN PLUMER,⁹ born Aug. 29, 1862; married Sept. 25, 1895, Nellie E. Emmons, born in New Hampton, N. H., Feb. 4, 1861.
 - 3. LUCINDA BLODGETT PLUMER,⁹ born Feb. 4, 1868; died in Wentworth, April 20, 1896; married Jan. 31, 1889, William H. Rollins, born in Wentworth, March 20, 1864; died April 10, 1902. No issue.

V. ABNER,⁸ born Nov. 4, 1842; married Nov. 26, 1877, Alice E. Hook, born in Concord, N. H., Sept. 26, 1849, and had:

i. JOHN GILMAN,⁹ born Aug. 6, 1881.

VI. JABEZ EBEN,⁸ born Sept. 12, 1844; married, first, Dec. 25, 1876, Abbie J. Fellows, born in Canaan, N. H., Sept. 1, 1856; died in Concord, Nov. 13, 1901. They had:

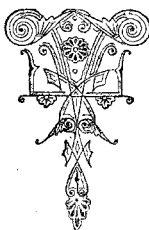
i. HOWARD E.,⁹ born Aug. 23, 1894; died Aug. 26, 1894.

Jabez E.⁸ married, second, Aug. 22, 1904, Mrs. Azlie Burleigh.

VII. LOIS R.,⁸ born July 3, 1848; married in Concord, June 27, 1878, John W. Kirk, born in Alexandria, N. H., Dec. 25, 1845, and had:

1. WALLACE BURLEY KIRK,⁹ twin, born May 24, 1883.

2. WARREN BLODGETT KIRK,⁹ twin, born May 24, 1883.





FAMILY OF JEREMIAH.⁷



EREMIAH⁷ son of Asahel⁶ and Lois (Pollard) Blodgett, was born in Hudson, N. H. (then Nottingham West), March 10, 1806; died in New Haven, Conn., Aug. 2, 1881; and was buried at Wentworth, N. H. When he was but a few months old his parents moved to Dorchester, N. H., where his childhood and youth were passed. At that time the educational advantages of that section of the State were very limited, consisting of a few weeks' schooling during the winter months; but notwithstanding these limitations he succeeded, by diligent effort and application, in acquiring an education sufficient to enable him to engage in teaching district schools in the winter months, while during the summer months he worked at brick-making. At the age of twenty-six he had acquired enough to purchase a good farm in Dorchester and to begin life as a farmer, though

owing to the sterile soil of that town he did not rapidly accumulate property. After a few years he removed to Rumney, N. H., and later to Wentworth. For a more extended account of his subsequent life see a sketch of him by his son, Hon. Rufus Blodgett, of New Jersey, in Appendix C.

He married, first, Nov. 23, 1833, Amanda, daughter of Dea. William and Hannah (Brown) Johnson, of Wentworth, born April 8, 1813. Both her grandfathers were Revolutionary soldiers. She died Feb. 9, 1849, and was buried in Wentworth village cemetery.

Children, born in Dorchester :

- I. RUFUS,⁸ born Oct. 9, 1834. For an extended sketch of him, too long for insertion here, see Appendix D.

He married, first, Nov. 27, 1861, Amanda M., daughter of Charles and Mary (Harriman) Hoyt, of Wentworth, born in Peacham, Vt., July 23, 1836; died in Peacham, Jan. 28, 1879; buried at Wentworth. Children :

- i. AMANDA LOUISA,⁹ born in New Haven, Conn., Aug. 18, 1862; died Jan. 8, 1863; buried at New Haven.
- ii. HARRY THORNTON,⁹ born in Manchester, N. J., Aug. 25, 1867; married April 14, 1890, Bertha, daughter of Stephen and Lena (Schwartz) Gerner. Resides at Long Branch, N. J., in the employ of the N. Y. & L. B. Railroad.

Rufus⁸ married, second, July 28, 1879, Mrs. Chastina Clark Simpson, widow of Henry F. Simpson, daughter of Enoch and Ruth (Harri-man) Clark, born in Piermont, N. H., Dec. 14, 1833. No issue.

II. JEREMIAH, Jr.,⁸ born April 7, 1836; died May 18, 1836; buried at Dorchester.

III. LOUISA JOHNSON,⁸ born March 31, 1837; died May 24, 1837; buried at Dorchester.

IV. BENIAH,⁸ born April 19, 1838; died in Wentworth, Sept. 5, 1852; buried at Wentworth.

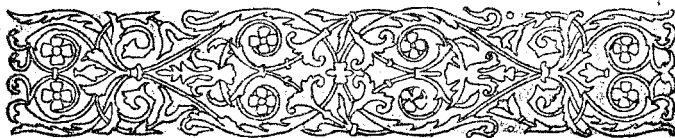
V. LOUISA JOHNSON,⁸ born Sept. 15, 1841; married in New Haven, June 27, 1877, John Atwell, of Peacham. She died at the home of her brother Rufus,⁸ at Long Branch, Nov. 12, 1891. Child:

i. KATE A. ATWELL,⁹ born in Peacham, July 22, 1878.

VI. JEREMIAH, Jr.,⁸ born April 18, 1844; died in Wentworth, Dec. 9, 1859; buried at Wentworth.

VII. WILLIAM JOHNSON,⁸ born in Rumney, Oct. 9, 1846; died in Manchester, N. J., Oct. 26, 1868; buried at Wentworth.

Jeremiah⁷ married, second, Sept., 1850, Ann Blodgett Burns, born in Rumney, Feb. 16, 1804, daughter of Samuel and Ann (Blodgett) Burns. No issue. She died in Manchester, N. H., June 8, 1889; buried at Wentworth. Her mother was a daughter of Jonathan⁶ Blodgett, of Hudson and Rumney.



APPENDIX A.

HON. CALEB BLODGETT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

REMINISCENCES AND REFLECTIONS, DICTATED TO HIS SON,
CALEB, JR., ABOUT 1870.



MY great-grandfather, Joseph Blodgett, settled in Hudson (then Dunstable), N. H., about 1710, on the farm where Calvin Pollard now lives, and was the first settler on that land, and one of the first in town. He was a small man, and was born, I think, in Tyngsborough or Chelmsford, Mass. He went up the Merrimac River in a canoe, and was led to settle where he did from the fact that the lot of land where he built his house was an Indian corn-field. He lived in a garrison-house, of which the old cellar is still to be seen; was often chased by the Indians, and was once or twice saved from capture by the barking of his dog. His wife was a Perham. They had five sons — Joseph, Jeremiah, Ebenezer, Jonathan and James

—and two daughters, possibly three. One of the daughters married a Greeley, and lived to be 95 or 96 years old; and one a Merrill, who was killed in battle in the French war. His widow lived to be nearly 100 years old.

Joseph, Jr., married a Wheeler for his first wife, and Sarah Cross for his second, and died in Hudson at the age of about 87. He had four children by his first wife and one by his second.

Ebenezer and James both moved to Plymouth, N. H., before the War of the Revolution, and died there.

Jonathan married a Provender, from York, Me., and died in Hudson when he was about 96 years old.

Jeremiah was my grandfather, and was born in 1719, and died in 1796. I think I recollect his funeral, and it is the earliest thing I do remember. He died on the old homestead in Hudson, and died younger than any of his brothers or sisters. He was a large, strong man, of light complexion and blue eyes; he was accustomed to carry two bushels of grain on his back three miles, to Lovell's mills in Nashua, to be ground.

He married Miriam Provender, a most excellent woman, who died in May, 1800. It was her practice for many years to raise poultry, and in the fall to take it to Boston, riding one horse and leading another, sell the poultry, then go to Rhode Island, and, with the money received for the poultry, buy wool, which she carried home to Hudson and carded, spun and wove into cloth. Sheep could not be kept at Hudson then on account of wolves. I have often heard my father tell of his mother sitting up till twelve and one o'clock, carding and spinning, the only light being what could be obtained from

burning pine knots and splints. She was a large woman, much resembling my sister Lois, and lived to be about eighty years old. Her children were Jeremiah, Ebenezer, Asahel, Hannah (who married Stephen Chase), Sarah, Isaac, and Beniah.

Jeremiah and Ebenezer both moved to Plymouth, married there, and both died in the army, during the Revolutionary War, while in camp near Ticonderoga. Each left a young daughter. My grandfather, hearing of their sickness, went on horseback to see them, but both died before he got there. On his return to Hudson he was immediately taken sick with typhus fever, and before he had recovered every other member of his family had the same disease, and Isaac and Sarah died of it. Hannah (Mrs. Chase) died in Topsham, Vt., about 1846, and was not far from ninety years old. Beniah married a Hamlet, and died in Dorchester, January, 1830, aged sixty-five, leaving no children.

My father, Asahel, was born June 19, 1755, and died June 2, 1842. He remained at home with his parents, and for their support received the homestead farm. In the winter of 1776 and '77 he went into the army and was sent to Fishkill, N. Y., was taken sick with fever almost immediately on his arrival, and, getting a furlough, he went to Danbury, Conn., where he remained until his short term of service, three months, was out. He married Catherine Pollard about 1781; she died Dec. 20, 1895. His second wife was Lois Pollard, sister of his first wife, to whom he was married, I think, in 1798.

He moved to Dorchester in March, 1806, having bought a farm there the previous fall. He sold his

farm in Hudson in the spring of 1805, but by agreement retained possession for a year after. The Hudson farm contained about one hundred acres, and was sold for \$2,000. The Dorchester farm contained four hundred acres, and the price paid for it was \$2,000. The removal from Hudson to Dorchester was not a change for the better. The farm at Hudson was on a river, easily tilled, and with a market near at hand for any produce the farmer had to sell. The Dorchester farm was in a poor town, seventy miles further north, away from market, schools or churches, with a soil which might be called strong but cold, wet, stony, and hard to till. His family was large, and he wanted more land. The summers of 1804 and 1805 were unusually hot and dry, and the crops at Hudson were seriously injured by drought, and the pastures were so dry that stock suffered greatly. But the heat and drought helped the Dorchester land, so that when my father went there in the fall of 1805 everything appeared to the best advantage, and this, with the desire for more land, induced him to make the purchase. The seasons soon changed. 1806 was a year of about the ordinary temperature, but 1807, '08, '09 and '10 were cold and wet, — 1809 especially, — and that year very little corn got ripe in Dorchester.

md - born in 1781; Asahel, May 15, 1783; Ebenezer, Jan. 14, 1786; Isaac, Aug. 18, 1787; Sibyl, Nov. 13, 1789; Lois, Jan., 1791; and myself, Dec. 13, 1793; and by his second wife, Rufus, Dec., 1798; Lucinda, Nov. 12, 1800; Abner, Dec. 5, 1802; Beniah, April, 1804; Jeremiah, March 9, 1806; and Betsey, May 14, 1810. Catherine

died of consumption at Hudson, Dec. 10, 1805; Isaac, of typhus fever at Nashua, Oct. 29, 1816; Beniah of spotted fever at Dorchester, April, 1817; Sibyl, March 6, 1863; Asahel, April, 1863, and Ebenezer at Rumney, March, 1870.

My brother Asahel did not live at home after he was sixteen or seventeen years old, and was married when he was twenty. When Isaac was sixteen he went to live with his uncle Beniah at Nashua, and remained with him until we moved to Dorchester. He went with us and lived at home one season, but afterwards was generally away. The other children, except when occasionally away at work, remained at home until they became of age. In March, 1812, Isaac and I started for Boston for work; we walked all the way, and carried heavy packs. I went to work for Bowman & Merriam, who were carrying on a teaming business. My work was mainly loading wood that came on the Middlesex canal. The work was too hard for a boy and it strained my stomach, from which I did not recover for four years. I returned to Dorchester Aug. 20, and remained there until March, 1816, when Asahel, Isaac and I left for Boston in pursuit of work. I stopped at Nashua and went to work for Uncle Beniah, Asahel and Isaac going on to Boston. In October following, Isaac was taken sick in Boston with typhus fever; he came up to Nashua, and there he died at Uncle Beniah's. I took care of him and caught the disease, but had it in a mild form. I returned to Dorchester the last of November, and lived there until 1833, when I moved to Canaan.

I was one of the selectmen of Dorchester in 1819, again in 1822, and four or five years after that, the

last year being 1833. I was the representative from Dorchester in the State Legislature in 1823, '24, '25, '26, '29 and '30. In 1833 and '34 I was a member of the New Hampshire Senate from District No. 11. I was appointed deputy sheriff in May, 1833, and in consequence of that appointment I moved to Canaan. In October, 1835, I was appointed sheriff of Grafton County and held the office until 1840, when I was re-appointed deputy sheriff and continued in office until 1855. I was one of the selectmen of Canaan in 1838, '39, '40, '41 and '49, and represented the town in the House of Representatives in 1842 and 1843. I was one of the road commissioners of Grafton County in 1841 and 1842, and a member of the Governor's Council in 1844 and 1845.

The style of living in my father's family at Hudson, and among the people generally in that vicinity, was very plain and simple. Milk, corn and rye bread, and bean-porridge, were the staple articles of food, morning and night, with meat of some kind at noon. Wheat flour was unknown. The first wheat bread I ever saw was at Bow, N. H., on my way from Hudson to Dorchester, when I was twelve years old. Clothing for both sexes was nearly all home made. The shoemaker came to the house, and there made boots and shoes for the family, the customer finding his own leather. Every man who employed a blacksmith found his own iron. Houses were poor, never plastered and usually not clap-boarded. There was little money in circulation at Hudson, and much less in Dorchester.



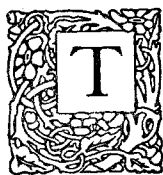
Caleb D. Drett



APPENDIX B.

HON. CALEB BLODGETT.

THE MEMORIAL.



THE members of the Suffolk Bar take this opportunity to make public their sincere appreciation of the judicial services rendered by the late Justice Blodgett upon the bench of the Superior Court of this Commonwealth, and to express their affection for his personal qualities, their admiration for his character and attainments, and their profound sorrow that their personal relations with him have been severed.

Caleb Blodgett, for nearly twenty years a Justice of the Superior Court, was born in Dorchester, N. H., June 3, 1832, was a graduate of Dartmouth College in 1856, and was later in life honored by the same college with the degree of LL. D. He began the study of the law after teaching for two years, was admitted to the bar at

Worcester in 1860, and began the practice of his profession in Hopkinton, removing to Boston in 1860. He continued in active and steadily increasing practice until 1882, when he was commissioned a Justice of the Superior Court, and the real work of his life began. He was later offered a position upon the Supreme Bench by Governor Russell; but his health was such that he deemed it unwise to undertake new duties, and he declined the position. This decision was received with regret by the bar, who desired for him the highest judicial honors, and, knowing his unusual fitness for the office he then held, anticipated for him with confidence a not less useful and brilliant future as a Judge of our highest Court.

He took no part in local or general politics, but devoted his whole strength and energies to the conscientious performance of his official duties. Suffering intensely from a disease of the heart, he resigned from the bench in September, 1900, and died at his summer home in New Hampshire on Dec. 11, 1901.

No better *nisi prius* Judge has sat upon the bench of Massachusetts in this generation. He combined a firm grasp of principle with a thorough knowledge of the decisions and a marked power of lucid statement. He had an eager love for the truth, and was not easily deceived by the evasions of a witness or the sophistries of counsel. His sense of justice was strong, and he did his best to see that it was done in every case that was tried before him. He had a quiet but complete control of all trials before him. He was uniformly patient and courteous to counsel and witnesses, but firm and decided in his rulings, which were the results of proper delib-

erations, and were seldom found to be wrong. He did not shrink from responsibility, but was anxious that whatever ruling he made should be stated so clearly that, if he was in error, it might not go uncorrected, letting no pride of opinion weigh against his sense of justice. He spared no pains to make the jury understand the issues involved in litigation, and he did not hesitate to set aside their verdict when he was satisfied that it was wrong. He was in every essential a model of what a Judge should be. The Commonwealth has been fortunate in having the service of so admirable a magistrate for so many years, but it makes our regret only the keener that his usefulness was not prolonged, and that he was unable to accept the seat on the Supreme Bench which would have made his contributions to the law of Massachusetts more permanent. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of us all while he lived, and it is with the most sincere sorrow that we offer this last tribute to his memory.

CHARLES P. GREENOUGH,
LEWIS S. DABNEY,
MOORFIELD STOREY,
JAMES R. DUNBAR,
JOSEPH A. WILLARD,
Committee.

FROM REMARKS OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL PARKER.

Judge Blodgett was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1856. We men of Massachusetts gratefully recognize the obligations we owe to that institution of learning which has given so much to us. Scan our judicial history, and you will find page after page illu-

mined by the labor of her graduates ; and she speaks to-day from our bench with the same learning, the wise judgment, the spirit of patient and searching investigation, and the influence of high character with which those whom she has trained have been endowed. . . .

The undergraduate life of Judge Blodgett was marked rather by evidences of sterling character, conscientious attention to the work that lay before him, and capacity to master thoroughly the studies he had entered upon, than by brilliancy or ease of achievement. He rightly earned a place among the very first scholars of his class, and had the universal regard and respect of his fellows.

The first forecast of his life-work exhibited a curious unconsciousness of the great power he later developed. Partly, perhaps, from a desire to immediately acquire the means of livelihood, but undoubtedly also because of great interest in the work, he became the principal of the High School at Leominster, in the county of Worcester. And there are many now living in that town, and many more, widely scattered over our country, who gratefully testify to the influence of his example and the benefit of his instruction.

I well remember a summer afternoon, when I went with him from court in Fitchburg, when he made a pilgrimage to those old scenes. With the keenest pleasure he marked and spoke of the beauty of the river, valley, and woodlands he knew, and of the homes in which he had been welcomed. I saw the greetings of those who had known him, full of that affection and cordiality mingled with respect which told that his earlier associations had ripened into lifelong ties. . . .

No judicial life was ever more pure or more exalted in ideals than his. Whatever there was of human frailty in his temperament, it was in court never suffered to appear. Ignorance of procedure or mere lack of knowledge of the law, or even unconscious temerity of counsel, excited in him no manifestation of impatience or irritation. With the utmost consideration he brought out the truth from a dull or frightened witness. Only in case of willful falsehood or plain disclosure of an attempt to pervert justice did his indignation show itself ; and then it was the dignity and power of the law that spoke in crushing denunciation, never tainted by accent of passion or anger. I believe no one of us who ever practiced before him can recall a single instance or occasion when, from the bench, a word of impatience or personal irritation escaped him. He was to my mind the incarnation of deliberate, calm judgment. . . .

His charges to juries were masterpieces, and I think his most memorable service in the efficient and sound administration of the law lay here. His line of thought was beautifully clear and logical, but followed those paths of reasoning along which the minds of the jury could most readily follow him. His choice of language was admirable, simple, yet exact and apt and always perfectly intelligible. His absolute fairness of mind, his evident sincerity of purpose to see absolute justice done, his dignified and impressive appearance, led every jurymen not only to obey his every instruction of law, but as well to realize its reason and its justice. No Judge ever more strictly abstained from invading the province of the jury upon the facts, yet no Judge was more fearless

in the exercise of the inherent power of the Court to set aside a verdict manifestly grounded upon error in their deliberations.

FROM RESPONSE OF HIS HONOR CHIEF-JUSTICE MASON.

Brethren of the Bar:—In our imperfect acceptance of the great facts of life, a tinge of sadness attends a review of the life-work of loved associates who have recently gone from us. The clouds which thus depress the spirit are but the mist of earth shutting out the ever-constant sun of heaven. To the unobstructed vision, death becomes an orderly step in continuous human life, the joyous entrance upon a freer and more delightful stage of manhood.

The contemplation of efficient, manly living in others should be uplifting and stimulative of all which enriches our own lives. The exceptional attainment of Judge Blodgett, which you have portrayed with appreciative commendation, did not spring forth suddenly as you saw it in its full maturity. He had indeed an inheritance of more than usual strength, but the symmetrical vigor of the man was a growth involving lifelong effort with constant vigilance.

It was a sturdy stock from which he sprung. The sterile farms of his native town produced vigorous men, though their other products were meagre. Native thrift and diligence wrested moderate competency from most adverse conditions. Judge Blodgett wasted no early years in aught that poisoned or weakened the sources of character. While he entered heartily into the normal diversions of youth, these were not suffered to prevent

earnest application to serious preparation for the life-work which was to follow.

His early opportunities for the acquisition of knowledge were those of a country boy in a family of limited means. He was accustomed to aid by his own earnings in obtaining advantages which the public school then failed to furnish. From the first he manifested marked aptness for study and conscientious application to improve every opportunity open to him. He secured in the Academy at Canaan, his boyhood home, and at the famous Kimball Union Academy at Meriden, N. H., the best preparation for college to be had in his vicinity; and at the age of twenty he entered Dartmouth, admirably equipped to make the most of the larger opportunity there afforded.

His class-work in college was thorough; but he did not need, nor was he content, to limit his studies to what this required, but read widely and thoughtfully. It was inevitable that he should take high rank at graduation,—he was second in a class of sixty,—but this measured a small part only of what the four years at Hanover had accomplished, in aid of the upbuilding of that sterling character which characterized his after-life.

At graduation he was, in physique, a fit embodiment of the intellectual and moral strength within. It was but the natural manifestation of his sturdy character that he should at once stand upon his own feet and spend two years in teaching. As principal of the High School at Leominster, Mass., he put the whole strength of his young manhood into the work in hand. He enjoyed his temporary service as a teacher, and always retained pleasant recollections of the community in which it was

rendered, and where his administration of the school is still remembered as a model of excellence. . . .

His legal studies were begun at his home in Canaan, but principally pursued in the office of Bacon & Aldrich at Worcester. He was admitted to the bar Jan. 24, 1860, at Worcester. He began practice with his college classmate, the Hon. Henry L. Parker, at Hopkinton; but later in the same year he came to Boston, where for twenty-one years he applied himself closely to practice at the bar, early winning the confidence of an extended *clientèle*, and securing an excellent standing in the profession. While not wanting in forcible and effective presentation of causes to court or jury, his reputation was that of a sound lawyer rather than that of a brilliant advocate. . . .

In January, 1882, he was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court. He found in judicial labor the opportunity for service which was most congenial to his tastes and for which his qualifications were well nigh ideal. For eighteen years he gave himself unreservedly to this service. He strove to make his part in it worthy of the Commonwealth and its best traditions. It was his crowning life-work, and by it we measure his success. . . .

In 1889 the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by Dartmouth College. Two years later he was offered a deserved promotion to the Supreme Judicial Court; but, after consultation with friends and with his physician, he deemed it unwise to make a radical change in his work. . . .

His labors with us continued unbroken until March, 1900, when from physical exhaustion he was obliged to suspend them. They were never resumed, and in the following September he resigned. He lingered with varying degrees of strength until Dec. 11, 1901, when he died at his summer home in Canaan, N. H., in his seventieth year.

To adequately summarize the life of another, one must catch something of his spirit. As a fellow-worker, Judge Blodgett was kindly and helpful. Generous in his appreciation of the best traits of his associates, he seemed to know no other qualities. As we saw him in close intimacy, free from the restraint of publicity or formal functions, our respect for him was in no way diminished.

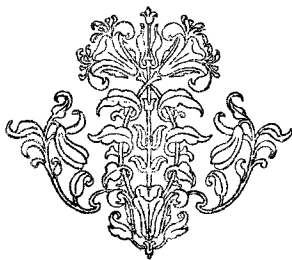
The every-day life, in which he was at home and in perfect freedom, was upon a high plane; yet the prolonged prostration of the final illness revealed even to his most intimate friends a depth and delicacy of feeling which had before been veiled in modest reserve. . . .

His culture was by no means confined to the law. In general knowledge it was broad, and in several lines it was careful and thorough. It cannot be said that his attainments were those of a brilliant, many-sided scholar, but it is true that they were solid and substantial in the lines which he pursued. His reading was in the main serious and thoughtful. He had a keen appreciation of felicity of expression when there was a thought worthy of expression; but he was impatient of empty phrases, however gracefully framed.

With our friend and associate the books of this preparatory life are closed. He has filled out the "six

days" within which the law from which there is no escape requires that all work of the earthly plane shall be done. So far as human judgment may pass upon the record, happy will it be for each one of us, if, when the earthly task is complete, it can be said to furnish like preparation for the higher service of the Sabbath which follows, and like reason for the final word, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The Resolution presented will be entered of record, and the Court will stand adjourned for the day.

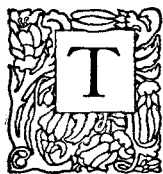




APPENDIX C.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JEREMIAH⁷ BLODGETT.

BY HIS SON, HON. RUFUS⁸ BLODGETT, OF NEW JERSEY.



THROUGH his whole life he took a deep interest in political affairs and was frequently elected to various town offices. He represented the town of Dorchester, N. H., in the Legislature during the years 1842 and 1843. In 1845 he moved to Rumney, N. H., where he continued his vocation of farming until the following year, when he was appointed deputy sheriff for Grafton County.

In 1847 he moved to Wentworth, N. H., where he ever after resided. His appointment as deputy sheriff raised a bitter feeling among the friends of the rival candidate, whom he had succeeded in that office. So determined were his opponents to crush him that Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Rumney, then a prominent member of the bar, refused to allow the business of his office to be transacted by Mr. Blodgett; and in order more ef-

fectually to break down the new sheriff, Mr. Quincy, then a leading member of the Legislature, succeeded in procuring the passage of laws conferring, to a great extent, the powers and duties of the sheriff's office upon constables elected by the different towns. After two years of agitation the objectionable laws were repealed, to which result Mr. Blodgett contributed largely by his influence and exertion. The extreme bitterness which had been manifested against his appointment gradually passed away, so that at the end of his two terms of five years each as deputy sheriff his former opponents became his warmest friends and supporters.

He was prompt and efficient as a public officer, yet generous to a fault, seldom exacting his full legal fees from a poor debtor. He performed his unpleasant duties with the least possible annoyance and expense to parties in litigation, and very frequently sustained loss by his indulgence, often relinquishing his fees rather than add to the burdens of the poor.

His wife died in February, 1849, and was buried in the family burying lot at Wentworth village. He married a second time, in September, 1851, Ann B., daughter of the late Judge Samuel Burns, of Rumney, who survived him. No children were born to him by his last marriage.

Mr. Blodgett was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1850, which was presided over by Franklin Pierce, and contained among its members some of the most distinguished men of the State. He was also a member of the Convention of 1876, which reported the present Constitution of the State. He was also the candidate of his party for the office of Registrar of Deeds for



R. Blaggett

Grafton County in the years 1855, '56, 57, '58, but was defeated, as were those associated with him on the Democratic ticket. During the administration of President Buchanan he was tendered the appointment of inspector at the Boston Custom House, but declined it. He accepted the appointment of mail route agent between Concord and Littleton, serving until relieved by a change of the National Administration. He represented the town of Wentworth in the Legislature during the sessions of 1870, '71, '72, and was elected a member of the Governor's Council in 1875 and 1877.

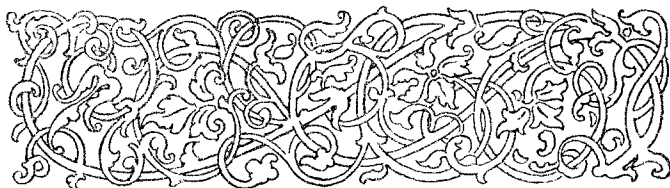
Mr. Blodgett was a pronounced Democrat and never swerved from that political faith. He believed in the Jeffersonian doctrine of State Rights, and voted for Mr. Breckenridge for President, in 1860, because of those views. He was for many years one of the prominent Democrats of the State, his active participation in political and business affairs covering a period of more than half a century. He was endowed with an unusually sound discretion, and lived an active, useful life; but he seemed to enjoy serving others better than himself. Caring little for worldly gain, he loved his books and the knowledge derived from them, and being a great reader, of a remarkably retentive memory, he had become possessed of a store of general and varied information equalled by few. He possessed great force of character and firm determination of purpose, and yet his was the tenderness of a child. An appeal to his charity always met a just response; his sympathy was easily excited and often caused him to make sacrifices for the benefit of others. His attachments were strong and enduring, particularly to his family and kindred. His

friends and intimates were those of kindred spirits, and so keen was his perception of character, that he who once gained his full confidence and respect always retained it.

Having been reared in the strictest Calvinistic faith, he naturally became imbued with the views of his ancestors, and although never uniting with the church, he was in early life in full accord with its teachings. So deeply impressed was he with the importance of the subject that he devoted years to a careful study of the Bible, earnestly invoking Divine aid in search of the truth. His earnest and patient investigation resulted in a change of belief, and he became a pronounced Deist, or Liberal, which latter views he entertained through life.

Mr. Blodgett was a very robust man, enjoying excellent health until within a few weeks of his death, which occurred at New Haven, August 2, 1881, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. The funeral services took place at his late residence in Wentworth, N. H., and was attended by a large concourse of friends and prominent citizens from different parts of the State.





APPENDIX D.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF RUFUS^s BLODGETT



RUFUS^s BLODGETT, of Long Branch, N. J., was born in Dorchester, N. H., Oct. 9, 1834. His parents were Jeremiah and Amanda (Johnson) Blodgett, both descendants of distinguished New England ancestry. He was educated in the public schools of his native State and at the Wentworth, N. H., Academy. He learned the trade of a locomotive builder at the Amoskeag Locomotive Works of Manchester, N. H., beginning while very young. He followed his trade for several years in New Hampshire and afterwards at New Haven, Conn. He was appointed master-mechanic of the New Jersey Southern Railroad in 1866, and in 1874 became its superintendent. In 1884 he was appointed to the position which he still holds — superintendent of the New York & Long Branch Railroad.

As a railroad manager, a politician and a business man he has ranked among the prominent citizens of New Jer-

sey for more than a quarter of a century. As a life-long democrat he has held many of the most important political offices in the gift of his party, and in the councils of the New Jersey Democracy he still exerts a powerful influence in shaping their acts and policy.

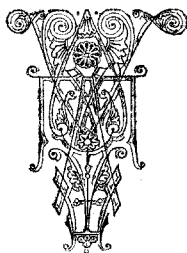
He was elected a member of the New Jersey Assembly in 1877, was re-elected in 1878 and in 1879, and in the latter year he was the candidate of his party for Speaker. In 1880 he was one of New Jersey's district delegates to the National Democratic Convention which nominated General Hancock for the Presidency, and a delegate-at-large to the Convention in 1896 which nominated William J. Bryan. During the presidential contest of 1884 he was chairman of the Democratic State Committee.

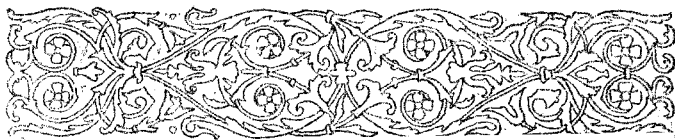
In the Democratic State Convention of 1886, Mr. Blodgett was the strong rival of Robert S. Green for the gubernatorial nomination and was defeated, on a close vote, after an exciting and bitterly fought contest. The following year he was elected United States Senator and served in that capacity until the close of his term in 1893. He was elected Mayor of Long Branch in 1893 and was re-elected each year afterward until 1898.

He assisted in organizing the First National Bank, and the Citizens' National Bank of Long Branch, N. J., and became president of each at its organization. At present he is president of the Citizens' National Bank of Long Branch, a director of the First National Bank of Princeton, N. J., of the First National Bank of South Amboy, N. J., and president of the Tintern-Manor Water Company.

His paternal grandfather was Asahel⁶ Blodgett, a soldier of the American Revolution.

On the maternal side, his great-grandfathers Samuel Johnson and William Brown both rendered distinguished service during the Revolution, the one in the army and the other in the navy, for which service each received a pension from the government up to the time of his death. Samuel Johnson was born in Sutton, N. H., and died at Wentworth, N. H. in 1847. William Brown was born in England about 1753 and came to this country in 1772. He enlisted on board the American frigate "Boston," and sailed from Marblehead under Captain Samuel Tucker. Afterwards his vessel was used to transport to Europe John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams, the former as Minister to France.





APPENDIX E.



ABOUT three-fourths of a mile from the spot where Asahel⁶ Blodgett lived and died,—and perhaps a mile and a quarter in a northwesterly direction from the Dorchester Town House, is a little burying-place of about an acre in extent, commonly known as the “Blodgett Grave Yard.” The inscriptions below are found there.

Asahel Blodgett, died June 2, 1842, aged 87.

Lois Pollard Blodgett, died April 7, 1849, aged 79.

Asahel Blodgett, born May 15, 1784; died April 11, 1863, aged 79.

Polly, wife of died Nov. 17, 1862, aged 81.

Sibyl Blodgett, daughter of Asahel, died March 6, 1863, aged 73.

Lois Blodgett Dole, died June 6, 1877, aged 85.

Lucinda Blodgett, daughter of Asahel, died Aug. 9, 1879, aged 79.

Betsey Blodgett, daughter of Asahel, died Feb. 23, 1892, aged 82.

Beniah Blodgett, son of Asahel & Lois, died April 8, 1817, aged 13.

Elias Blodgett, died Aug. 6, 1851, aged 46.

Dea. Beniah Blodgett, died Jan. 27, 1830, aged 63.

Betsey, his wife, died Nov., 1834, aged 70.



APPENDIX F.



IN the summer of 1904, Kimball Webster, Esq., a public spirited citizen of Hudson, N. H., and the historian and antiquarian of that town, erected, at his own expense, a memorial tablet to mark the site of the "Blodgett Garrison House" built in that town about 1710 by Joseph Blodgett, who went from that part of Chelmsford, Mass., which was in 1730 set off as the present town of Westford.

A description of the memorial, with some genealogical reminiscences, published in the *Nashua Press* of June 1, 1904, is appended:—

GARRISON SITE SUITABLY MARKED.

SITE OF BLODGETT GARRISON HOUSE,

Joseph and Dorothy Blodgett.

Their oldest son Joseph, born here Feb. 9, 1718,
being the first white child born in the town.

KIMBALL WEBSTER 1904.

This is the inscription on a bronze tablet, securely placed on the south front of a granite boulder weighing three tons, supported by a granite foundation in the earth to mark the spot where one of the first three garrison houses was erected

on the east side of the Merrimack river in old Dunstable nearly two hundred years ago.

The location of the boulder is in a field on a line with the Lowell electric, about sixty rods west of the house of P. J. Connell in Hudson. It is a lovely spot where this old home of the first settlers was located. It was built on ground sloping to the south, which borders the Merrimack river, a short walk by trail to the banks. At the north is a fine spring of water which bubbles forth to-day just as attractively as it did when the Blodgett ancestral home was erected and the family visited it to obtain their water supply.

At the west the forest is still in its primeval glory, and looking from the historic spot in either direction one is charmed by the expanse of meadow and beautiful landscape. On Saturday this tablet was placed in position by the efforts of Mr. Webster, assisted by Mr. Connell, and from this time on there will be no further question as to the site of the Blodgett garrison house. The child mentioned lived to be eighty years old, was quite prominent as one of the townsmen, and is buried in the Blodgett yard, a plain slate stone marking his resting place. The tablet and boulder were put in position without formal exercises, the tablet being prepared and set up by T. D. Fuller of this city for Mr. Webster.

This house was one of the four that were built by the first settlers who came from Tyngsboro. North of these there was an unbroken wilderness to the Canadas. These garrison houses were the Fletcher garrison house now located in Tyngsboro, the Blodgett at this point, the John Taylor on the river road near the residence of Mr. Webster, and the Hills garrison house on the extreme north of the settlement. These block houses were all built about the year 1710, and it is supposed that the Hills garrison house was the first to be put up.

The town then had twelve or fourteen inhabitants with trails connecting through the unbroken forests. To-day it has

a population of twelve hundred, with electric cars running within sixty rods of the port-holed mansions built to protect the people from the attacks of hostile Indian raiders. After Captain Lovewell's fight there came peace for these hardy settlers, and soon afterward the savages were driven back toward the Canadian frontiers.

Mr. Webster, in placing a mark on this historical spot at his own expense, is entitled to the thanks of his fellow townsmen.

The history of the Blodgett family and the incidents connected with their home are as follows;—

Thomas Blodgett sailed from London for Boston, April 18, 1635, in the ship *Increase*, and settled in Cambridge. His son Daniel,² born in England in 1631, married Sept. 15, 1653, Mary Butterfield and removed to Chelmsford, Mass.

Thomas,³ son of Daniel,² born June 25, 1654, resided in Chelmsford.

Joseph,⁴ son of Thomas,³ born in Chelmsford Oct. 10, 1689, married Dorothy Perham, and removed to the east side of the river in Dunstable (now Hudson), previous to 1718, where he built a garrison. Tradition says he came up the river Merrimack in a canoe, and settled where the Indians had previously had a cornfield, which was about eight acres of cleared land; that he was a small man, was sometimes pursued by the Indians, and that he was once or twice saved from capture by the barking of his trusty dog. He died Dec. 3, 1761, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. Dorothy, his widow, died March 6, 1778, in the eighty-fourth year of her age.

Joseph,⁵ their eldest child, as recorded in the old Dunstable records, was born Feb. 9, 1719, which evidently should have been recorded 1718, as the inscription on his headstone in the Old South, or Blodgett Cemetery, gives his death as of Aug. 16, 1801, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. This would make his birth in 1718. And further, the birth of

Ebenezer⁵ Blodgett, their second son, is given as Jan. 3, 1720, which would be possible, but not probable.

They had other children: Jeremiah,⁵ born July 20, 1721; Dorothy,⁵ born Feb. 18, 1724; Rebecca,⁵ born Feb. 3, 1728; Jonathan,⁵ born Dec. 5, 1730, as recorded, but from age at death and church records, he was probably born in 1726; James,⁵ born Feb. 17, 1734; Joseph⁵ Blodgett, Jr., married, first, Dorcas Wheeler: they had children, Dorcas,⁶ born Dec. 11, 1757; Joseph,⁶ born Feb. 10, 1760; Phineas Wheeler,⁶ born Oct. 9, 1761; Judah⁶ and Abigail,⁶ twins, born June 25, 1763; Judah died Oct. 15, 1763. Dorcas died June 29, 1763, in the thirty-fourth year of her age, and Joseph married second, Sarah Cross, daughter of Nathan and Sarah Cross, born June 26, 1731.

This Nathan Cross was taken prisoner with Thomas Blanchard, by a party of Mohawk Indians, Sept. 4, 1724, when employed in gathering turpentine, a short distance north of the present Nashua cemetery, and they were carried to Canada as prisoners. They effected their release in the spring of 1725, and returned home through the wilderness.

A very large proportion of the inhabitants of this town, by various names, are descendants of the first Joseph. Judge Isaac N. Blodgett late Chief Justice of New Hampshire, is a descendant of this Joseph⁴ Blodgett. So also is Judge John T. Blodgett of Providence, R. I., the late Judge Caleb Blodgett of Boston, Mass., and the late Jere. Blodgett and Caleb Blodgett, so well known in this State, as well as many other distinguished citizens of our country.



PART III

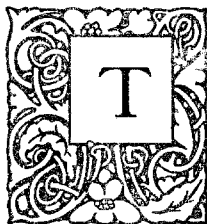
THE FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS

OF

BLODGETTS IN AMERICA



THE FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS
OF
BLODGETTS IN AMERICA



THOMAS BLOGGET,¹ aged 30,
and wife, aged 37, embarked at
London in the ship Increase,
April 18, 1635. They arrived
in Boston and settled in "New-
towne," now Cambridge, Mass.
See ante. Their children were :

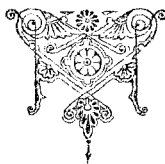
- + I. DANIEL,² born in England, 1631.
- + II. SAMUEL,² born in England, 1633.
- III. SUSANNA,² born in Cambridge, June, 1637.
- IV. THOMAS,² born in Cambridge; died Aug. 7, 1639,
and his death is the seventh recorded in "New-
towne."

Thomas¹ died in 1642, and by his will, probated
in 1643, left to each of his three children £15.
His widow, Susan, married Feb. 15, 1644, James

Thompson, of Woburn, Mass.; and the daughter, Susanna, married Nov. 28, 1655, Jonathan Thompson, the son of her stepfather. She died Oct. 20, 1691. Her oldest son, Jonathan,³ was the great-grandfather of the distinguished philosopher, Sir Benjamin Thompson, knighted by George III, and better known as Count Rumford, with which title he was honored by the King of Bavaria. He was born at Woburn, March 26, 1753, and died at Auteil, near Paris, Aug. 21, 1814, in his sixty-second year.

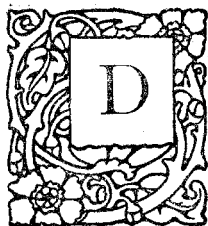
Their children were :

1. SUSANNA THOMPSON,³ born July 4, 1661.
2. JONATHAN THOMPSON,³ born Sept. 28, 1663.
3. JAMES THOMPSON,³ born 1666; "d. soon."
4. JAMES THOMPSON³ (2d), born June 22, 1667.
5. SARAH THOMPSON,³ born June 1, 1670.
6. SIMON THOMPSON,³ born June 15, 1673.
7. EBENEZER THOMPSON,³ born Aug. 18, 1676.





DANIEL,² THOMAS.¹



DANIEL² the eldest child of Thomas and Susan Blogget, was born in England in 1631, and came with his parents to America in 1635. The family settled in Cambridge (then Newe Towne), where Thomas the father died in 1642, and early in 1644 the mother married James Thompson, a prominent citizen of Woburn, Mass., and it seems a natural inference that her sons were brought up in that town, although it appears that Daniel² was, 1652, made a freeman in Cambridge and received a Land Grant of 40 acres, in the division of Shawshine in 1652.*

The Plantation of Chelmsford, Mass., was granted May 18, 1653, and incorporated May 29, 1635. The first petitioners for the grant, twenty in number, were of Concord and Woburn,

* Cambridge Records.

and of these Daniel Blogget of Woburn was one.* He appears to have settled about 1654 in the West Precinct of Chelmsford, which was set off and incorporated as the town of Westford, Sept. 23, 1729. Here he resided until his death, which occurred (according to Savage) Jan. 28, 1672. He received a Land Grant, 1652. He is mentioned in the History of Chelmsford:—"Daniel Bloggett one of Committee appointed by Selectmen to State to every proprietor in the new field their proportion of fence, etc. . . . 12 1st Month 1666-7." In 1659 he had four acres at Little Tadmuck, a part of Chelmsford.†

He married, first, Sept. 15, 1653, Mary, daughter of Benjamin Butterfield,‡ who died Sept. 5, 1666.

Children, born in Chelmsford:

- + I. THOMAS,³ born June 25, 1654; assessed 1720-1721.
- II. ANNA,³ born Nov. 2, 1655.
- III. DANIEL,³ born Jan. 6, 1657.
- + IV. BENJAMIN,³ born in 1658; assessed 1720 to 1732.
- + V. JONATHAN,³ born Sept. 18, 1660.§

* History of Westford.

† Westford Records.

‡ Chelmsford Records give the date of Daniel's² marriage as 1659, an evident error, as four children were born before that date. It should be 1653. If he married a Mary — in 1659, it would mean that he was married three times; but as each of the first two wives would be a Mary, we prefer to assume that the date 1659 is erroneous.

§ Salisbury, Mass.

+ VI. SAMUEL,³ born Oct. 12, 1662.

VII. NATHANIEL,³ born Oct. 22, 1664; died Oct. 27, 1666.*

He married, second, March 10, 1669, Sarah, daughter of William Underwood. Their children were:

+ VIII. NATHANIEL,³ born March 16, 1670.

+ IX. WILLIAM,³ born probably in 1672.

The death of Daniel² does not appear in the Chelmsford Records. The Town Clerk writes: "A note at the end of the earliest records says that when this copy was made from the first 'Book of Records,' in many places it was torn and defaced, and in other places the births and deaths wholly lost, so that all could not be perfectly transcribed." This may account for some names that otherwise could be found.

THOMAS³ (*Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Daniel² and Mary (Butterfield) Blodgett, born in Chelmsford, June 25, 1654; assessed 1720 to 1721. He probably died March 30, 1741, aged 87 years.† He married first, "29th 4th mo." (June), 1682, Mary, daughter of Joseph Parkis, of Chelmsford, born Aug. 10, 1657. The date of her death is uncertain; Chelmsford Records say Sept. 9, 1694,

* Middlesex Births, Marriages and Deaths.

† Westford Records.

an evident error, as a son Benoni⁴ was born Oct. 22, 1694.

Children, born in Chelmsford :

- I. REBECCA,⁴ born April 12, 1684.
- + II. THOMAS, JR.,⁴ born prob. 1686.
- + III. JOSEPH,⁴ born Oct. 10, 1689.
- + IV. BENONI,⁴ born Oct. 22, 1694. Res., Windsor, Ct.

He married second, July 8, 1696, Mary Druse, of Concord, and had

- + V. JOHN,⁴ born Nov. 26, 1698.
- VI. SAMUEL,⁴ born Sept. 27, 1702.
- VII. MARY,⁴ born Jan. 4, 1706 ; prob. married about 1733, Moses Foster.
- VIII. ANNE,⁴ born May 9, 1714.

BENJAMIN³ (*Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Daniel² and Mary (Butterfield) Blodgett, was born in Chelmsford, Mass., but his birth does not appear in the town records. According to Savage he was born 1658. Chelmsford Records have his marriage to Mary Pellat, of Concord, Feb. 4, 1683, and his death April 9, 1708 ; she died June 8, 1749.

Children, born in Chelmsford :

- I. ANNA,⁴ born Jan. 19, 1686/7.
- II. DANIEL,⁴ born "Feb. y^e 1st, 1689/90. Perhaps died April 14, 1761. Funeral April 16."*

* Chelmsford Records.

- III. A daughter, born Oct. 31, 1694.
- + IV. BENJAMIN,⁴ born March 6, 1697.
- V. ELIZABETH,⁴ born Dec. 15, 1699.

JONATHAN³ (*Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Daniel² and Mary (Butterfield) Blodgett, born in Chelmsford, Mass., Sept. 18, 1660, is found at Salisbury, Mass., where he probably married Feb. 7, 1687/8, Mary, daughter of Rev. Joseph Rowlandson. She was admitted to the church in Salisbury, Aug. 20, 1693.

Children :

- I. HANNAH,⁴ born June 15, 1689; baptized Sept. 3, 1693.
- II. DANIEL,⁴ born Sept. 12, 1691; died Sept. 18, 1691.
- III. MARY,⁴ born Oct. 11, 1692; baptized Sept. 3, 1693.
- IV. JOSEPH,⁴ born Aug. 12, 1694; died Nov. 15, 1696.
- V. A daughter, born —; baptized Sept. 30, 1694.*
- VI. SARAH,⁴ born —; baptized December, 1699.

From Records of the First Church in Salisbury: —

1693, 20th August, Goodwife Blodged admitted to full communion.
 1693, 3d Sept., Hannah and Mary daughters of Goodwife Blodged bapt.
 1694, 30th Sept., A daughter of Goodwife Blodged baptized.
 1699, —, Sarah y^e daughter of Jonathan Blodged.

*Possibly this should be son Joseph.

SAMUEL³ (*Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Daniel² and Mary (Butterfield), Blodgett, born in Chelmsford, Oct. 12, 1662. The only subsequent information is derived from Savage, who says, "He died at Woburn July 3, 1687, and Samuel Blodgett, of Woburn, was appointed administrator." This administrator may have been either his uncle Samuel,² or his cousin Samuel;³ there are no data for determining. See record of Samuel,² of Woburn, on page 113 below.

NATHANIEL³ (*Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Daniel² and Sarah (Underwood) Blodgett, born in Chelmsford, Mass., March 16, 1670; married July 17, 1695, Elizabeth Warren of Chelmsford. There is no record of assessment. The "Early History of Hollis, N. H.," says:—"At a meeting of the inhabitants of the West Parish in Dunstable, assembled January 18, 1742, called Mr. Daniel Emerson for their Gospel minister, etc. Nathaniel Blodgett was one of the signers."

WILLIAM³ (*Daniel*,¹ *Thomas*²), son of Daniel² and probably Sarah (Underwood) Blodgett. His birth is not recorded in Chelmsford town records, but it seems probable that he was the second child of Daniel² and Sarah his second wife. That he was the son of Daniel² is beyond reasonable doubt, for there is no other place for him. He was probably born about 1671 or 1672, as his

father Daniel² died, according to Savage, Jan. 28, 1672. In Chelmsford Tax Lists he is called Dea. William Blodgett, and was assessed from 1720 to 1728, indicating that he died about the latter date. There are no Tax Lists extant prior to 1720. He married June 14, 1696, Mary Warren who probably died June 7, 1749.

Children :

- + I. WILLIAM,⁴ Jr., born March 13, 1697.
 - II. SARAH,⁴ born Jan. 6, 1698.
- + III. MARY,⁴ born Jan. 22, 1701. Perhaps married Andrew Foster of Chelmsford, Dunstable and Groton.
- + IV. JACOB,⁴ born March 23, 17—, probably 1703.
 - V. ELIZABETH,⁴ born March 11, 1705.
 - VI. ABIGAIL,⁴ born April 4, 1707.
- + VII. JOSIAH,⁴ born July 27, 1709.*
- VIII. PERSIS,⁴ born March 7, 1712.
- IX. HANNAH,⁴ born Dec. 6, 1715.
- X. THANKFUL,⁴ born April 28, 1719.

THOMAS,⁴ JR. (*Thomas*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and probably Mary (Parkis) Blodgett. This lineage is beset with difficulties, as it involves records both of Chelmsford and Westford. Most of the Blodgetts lived in what was the West Precinct of Chelmsford until it was set off as the town of Westford in 1729; hence the record is in-

* See Westford Recs.

complete, as it is partly in Chelmsford and partly in Westford. He was assessed in Chelmsford 1720 to 1728. There is no record of his birth in either town. That he was the son of Thomas,³ is evident from the fact that in the tax lists of Chelmsford the father is designated as "Senior," and the son as "Junior." From a careful study of all obtainable facts, the compiler concludes that he was probably the oldest son of Thomas,³ and was born about 1686; this assumed date is fortified by the fact of his wife's birth in 1686, as will appear below. The record of his marriage is: "Thomas Blodgett and Tabitha Blanchard, both of Chelmsford, married by Justice Minott, Concord, Sept. 30, 1719."

Their children were probably as follows:—

- I. TABITHA,⁵ born "Jan. y^e 2d, 1719/20."
- II. ABIGAIL,⁵ born —; probably died young.
- III. THOMAS,⁵ born July 28; baptized Aug. 10, 1729.

He is thus mentioned in the History of Westford:

"Thomas⁴ Blodgett, Jr., occupied a tract of 40 acres on the west side of Tadmuck Hill. He lived on the Heywood place, and died 1741."

This statement of his death is erroneous; it was the father, Thomas,³ who died 1741, aged 87 years. Thomas,⁴ Jr., probably died in 1730, but his death does not appear in either Chelmsford or

Westford records. His will, dated May 16, 1730, approved June 26, 1730, is recorded in "Middlesex Wills," Book 19, page 92. In it he mentions wife Tabitha, son Thomas under 21 years of age, daughter Tabitha and daughter Abigail; his wife and Deacon John Fletcher were executors. There is no later mention of him in the tax lists, but the widow Tabitha appears subsequently in several, having been assessed in 1730, 1732, and 1735.

Other papers on file with his will show that "Widow Tabitha died March 1, 1764, aged about 76 years, and that said widow and both daughters were under guardianship as *Non Coms.*" There is no further information concerning the son Thomas.⁵

JOSEPH⁴ (*Thomas*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and Mary (Parkis) Blodgett, was born in Chelmsford, Mass., Oct. 10, 1689.* About 1710 he removed from that part of Chelmsford known as the West Precinct (incorporated as the town of Westford, 1729), to that part of Dunstable which in 1732 became Nottingham, and in 1741, Nottingham West, now Hudson, N. H., a date so early that he had to live in a "garrison" for protection from Indians.†

The date of his marriage is not known, but it is probable that it was after he settled in Hudson,

* Chelmsford Records.

† See Appendix F, p. 87, *supra*.

for in 1710 he would have been but 21 years old, and the birth of his oldest child indicates that he was not married until several years after his removal thither. His wife was Dorothy, daughter of Joseph Perham, born July 9, 1696. He died Dec. 3, 1761, in his 73d year; she died March 6, 1778, aged 82.

There is difficulty in tabulating the children of this family; Hudson Records mention the birth of but two daughters, Dorothy and Rebecca, but have the marriage of an "Abigail." Mr. Kimball Webster, who is an authority on Hudson genealogies, ventures the opinion that Dorothy changed her name and was married as "Abigail." The evidence against this theory is too long to be quoted here, but the family tradition that there were three daughters, is so clear, direct and conclusive, the compiler is forced to adopt that view. It simply means that the birth of one daughter was not recorded, an omission quite too common. Adopting this view, the record of his family may be stated as follows.

Children, born in Hudson :

- × I. JOSEPH,⁵ born Feb. 9, 1718/19.*
- × II. EBENEZER,⁵ born Jan. 3, 1720.†
- × III. JEREMIAH,⁵ born July 20, 1721.

* The descent of Daniel² will not be carried further in the present volume; the × preceding names of the fifth generation indicates that the line has been traced.

† See Plymouth, N. H., Records.

- IV. ABIGAIL,⁵ born probably in 1723; married May 27, 1744, Samuel Greeley,* died March 20, 1818.
- V. DOROTHY,⁵ born Feb. 18, 1724; probably married first, — Thompson, and second, Onesiphorus Marsh, and settled at Plymouth, N. H.
- VI. REBECCA,⁵ born Feb. 3, 1728; married probably, Samuel Merrill, Jr.,† and removed to Plymouth. She lived to be nearly 100 years of age.
- × VII. JONATHAN,⁵ born Dec. 5, 1730.
- × VIII. JAMES,⁵ born Feb. 17, 1734; settled in Plymouth.

In the Town Records of Mason, N. H., is mention of Joseph Blodgett as one of the Grantees of what is now the town of Mason, 1749, and afterward owning an allotted section of the same in his own right. It is probable that this was Joseph.⁴

BENONI⁴ (*Thomas*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and Mary (Parkis) Blodgett was born in Chelmsford, Oct. 22, 1694; went to Windsor, Conn., about 1720, and was the progenitor of the numerous branch of the family in that town. He

* There is a gravestone in "Blodgett Cemetery," Hudson, inscribed "To the memory of The Widow Abigail Greeley, wife of Major Samuel Greeley late of Wilton, dec'd, who died March 20, A. D. 1818, in the 95 year of her age."

† According to Hon. Caleb⁷ Blodgett, of Canaan, N. H., this Merrill was killed in battle in the French war.

married —, Abigail Booth, probably daughter of Simon and Rebecca. He erected a house about 1725, near that of his father-in-law, two miles from the Connecticut river and near the Enfield line. It was occupied by five generations of Blodgetts. He died Feb. 4, 1773, aged 79.

Children, born in Windsor :

- × I. DAVID,⁵ born —.
- × II. JOSIAH,⁵ born —, 1724.
- × III. EBENEZER,⁵ born —.
- × IV. ELIJAH,⁵ born —.
- × V. ABNER,⁵ born —, 1737.
- VI. REBECCA,⁵ born —.
- VII. ANNA,⁵ born —.

JOHN⁴ (*Thomas*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and Mary (Druse) Blodgett, was born in Chelmsford, Nov. 26, 1698; assessed there 1721 to 1725, and in Westford 1730 to 1735; he married Abigail Blanchard; published July 14, 1723.

Children :

- × I. SAMUEL,⁵ born Aug. 28, 1724.*
- II. ESTHER,⁵ born Feb. 6, 1730; a pauper in Westford many years. Child :
 - I. THANKFUL,⁶ born Dec. 29, 1769.
- × III. JAMES,⁵ born Jan. 19, 1733.

* Chelmsford Records.

In Westford Town Proceedings is this entry :—

"Feb. 10, 1776, Pay Dea. Henry Wright the sum of £1 for Milk, Butter and Cheese and six yards of cloath for womans garments, and making them up, for John Blodgett's wife and girl."

BENJAMIN⁴ (*Benjamin*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Benjamin³ and Mary (Pellat) Blodgett, was born in Chelmsford, Mass., March 6, 1697; assessed 1720 to 1732; married by Rev. Willard Hall, Feb. 14, 1733, Elizabeth Fletcher of Westford.* He received a Land Grant in 1717.

May 27, 1735. "Benjamin Blodgett and wife of Litchfield sell for £50 R. E. 3 acres 25 rods."

In records of the First Church of Westford:

Baptisms:— 1737. Jan. 30, Elizabeth Bloggett daughter of Benjamin of Litchfield.

Benjamin Blodgett and Susanna McLain married Jan. 14, 1762.

A Benjamin Blodgett was assessed in Chelmsford 1761-1763.

Was this Benjamin,⁴ or a Benjamin,⁵ whose birth is not shown?

In "Removals from Westford," "To Litchfield, N. H., Benjamin Blodgett, son-in-law of Dea. Joshua Fletcher."

WILLIAM⁴ (*William*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of William³ and Mary (Warren) Blodgett, was born in Chelmsford, Mass., March 13, 1697. He was known as Lieut. William; assessed 1720 to 1729;

* Westford Records.

died May 1779, aged 83. He and Elizabeth Wright, "both of Chelmsford," were published Dec. 10, 1721. Her funeral was on Sept. 13, 1769.*

Children :

- I. ELIZABETH,⁵ born Oct. 4, 1722.
- II. WILLIAM,⁵ born Dec. 1, 1724; died 1774, aged 50.† Assessed in Westford 1754/5, 1758, 1760, 1762.
- × III. SIMEON,⁵ born Feb. 6, 1727.
- IV. EBENEZER,⁵ born July 15, 1729; died Jan. 1, 1733/4.
- V. HANNAH,⁵ born Jan. 9, 1731/2.
- VI. RUTH,⁵ born March 5, 1734/5; died Oct. 15, 1749.
- VII. REUBEN,⁵ born May 25, 1737; died Sept. 22, 1749.
- VIII. ESTHER,⁵ born Nov. 6, 1739; prob. married Aug. 15, 1771, John Robie.
- IX. OLIVE,⁵ born June 27, 1742; baptized July 4, 1742; died Sept. 24, 1749.

JACOB⁴ (*William*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of William³ and Mary (Warren) Blodgett, was born March 23, 170—, (probably 1703,) and assessed in Chelmsford, Mass., 1725 to 1729. He was one of the "Snow-shoe Company" of Chelmsford, in 1724, in Lovell's War. He and his brother

* Chelmsford Records.

† Westford Records.

William⁴ received a land grant, 1721-2. He married —, Mary —.

Children :

- I. ZACHEUS,⁵ born March 17, 1726/7.*
- × II. OLIVER,⁵ born March 24, 1727/8.
- × III. NEHEMIAH,⁵ born —, 1732; he was assessed in Chelmsford, 1757-1760; removed to Farmington, Me.

JOSIAH⁴ (*William*,³ *Daniel*,² *Thomas*,¹), son of William³ and Mary (Warren) Blodgett, was born in Chelmsford, Mass., July 27, 1709, but his subsequent record is found in Dunstable, where there is frequent mention of him.

“Josiah Blodgett protested against location of Meeting House.”

In 1743 he was “Dear Reave to prevent killing of Dear out of season.”

Josiah Blodgett is one “of y^e 14 in account of y^e names of y^e Fifteen Highest Payers which was to Draw y^e Pew Ground as They were voted By y^e Second Parish Dunstable first of all.” [It seems they built their own pews on ground selected as above.]

Josiah Blodgett was on a Committee “to see that the minister has his wood by Jan. 1, 1762 or get it themselves.”

In 1764 he was a “Quirester on y^e Congregation” (to set the tune).

* History of Rindge, N. H., page 97, has this:—“Zacheus Blodgett killed in an attack by Indians July 5, 1748.” This evidently refers to Zacheus,⁵ as this is the only instance of the name.

In 1778 he is credited for Army service £6.

Nov., 1778, "Voted to allow . . . Josiah Blodgett who did service on the Guards at Cambridge five pounds per month for a bounty from the Parish." This last entry may refer to his son Josiah,⁵ although he is usually designated as Junior.

He married April 13, 1737, Jemima Nutting of Groton; he died Feb. 9, 1792, in the eighty-fourth year of his age; she died Nov. 24, 1810, aged 91.

Children, born in the old homestead in Dunstable:

- × I. JOSIAH,⁵ born Nov. 28, 1737.*
- II. JONATHAN,⁵ born May 16, 1743.
- × III. DAVID,⁵ born Dec. 16, 1744. †
- IV. BRIDGET,⁵ born Dec. 31, 1746; died Jan. 15, 1794, æ. 47 years; married July 16, 1767, Oliver Taylor, born Dec. 31, 1746, died æ. 77 years, 4 months, 22 days. Children probably:
 - I. OLIVER TAYLOR,⁶ born ———.
 - 2. CYRUS C. TAYLOR,⁶ born April 1, 1784.
- × V. JACOB,⁵ born Jan. 8, 1748/9.
- × VI. JOHN,⁵ born Feb. 1, 1750.
- × VII. ZEBULON,⁵ born Jan. 29, 1753.
- VIII. SARAH,⁵ born April 13, 1755; married Nov. 24, 1777, Josiah Danforth.

* See Dunstable Records.

† See Mason, N. H., Records.

IX. LYDIA,⁵ (in Dunstable Records Lidia) born October, 1758; married May 11, 1780, Jesse Butterfield, who marched to Lexington on the morning of the battle, was in the Battle of Bunker Hill, and served through the Revolutionary War. She is described as a noble woman of the Puritan stamp. Immediately after the formal declaration of peace, Mr. and Mrs. Butterfield, with their two young children, one an infant in arms, started on their long journey through the wilderness from Dunstable to Sandy River, now Farmington, Me. She died June 12, 1837. Seven children are recorded.*

1. ALLIS [ALICE] BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Dunstable, June 11, 1781.
2. JACOB WARREN BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Dunstable, March 12, 1783.
3. ASA BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Farmington, Me., Aug. 30, 1786.
4. JEMIMA BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Farmington, April 7, 1792.
5. SUSY BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Farmington, May 30, 1794.
6. JESSE BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Farmington, March 28, 1799.
7. OTIS BUTTERFIELD,⁶ born in Farmington, April 30, 1801.

X. JEMIMA,⁵ born Feb. 8, 1760; married July 4, 1793, John Parham of Tyngsboro'.

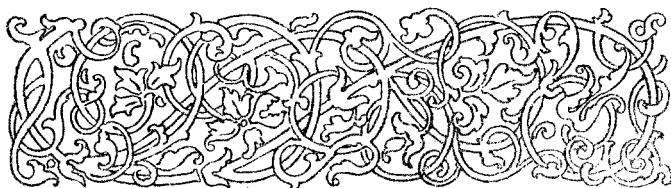
* Butler's History of Farmington, Me.

- × XI. WILLIAM,⁵ born March 3, 1762.
XII. ABIGAIL,⁵ born Sept. 4, 1764; married March 4, or June 15, 1784, John Chaney, Jr., a Revolutionary soldier.

In Dunstable Records is this marriage:—Lieut. John Cheeney and Mrs. Elizabeth Blodgett, July 6, 1777; she must have been of 5th generation, as there does not appear to have been any of 6th generation of marriageable age in Dunstable, in 1777. Was she daughter of Josiah⁴ and Jemima, born between 1737 and 1743? There appears to have been room for her. It would follow that she was first wife of Lieut. John Chaney, or Cheeney, and that after her decease, he married her younger sister, Abigail.

It is a family tradition that four sons of Josiah⁴ were at the siege and capture of Louisburg.





SAMUEL,² THOMAS.¹



SAMUEL,² son of Thomas¹ and Susan Blodgett, was born in England, 1633, and settled at Woburn, Mass., where his descendants became numerous and influential. He was "Deputy to the General Court, 1693," "Commissioner of the Rate, 1692," "Selectman 1681, 1690, 1691, 1693, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1703." *

He was assessed in Woburn, 1666 to 1719, and died there May 21, 1720, aged nearly 87 years. Savage gives his death July 3, 1693, an evident error, as he was assessed until 1719. Woburn Records have the death of Samuel Blodgett, July 3, 1687, but this was probably Samuel,³ son of Daniel,² of Chelmsford, who, according to Savage, died at Woburn July 3, 1687, and "Samuel Blodgett of Woburn was appointed Administrator."

* Woburn Records.

This Samuel may have been his uncle (Samuel²), or his cousin, Samuel,³ then twenty-nine years old. The only objection to this assumption of the death of Samuel,³ son of Daniel,² in Woburn, is that it appears to be the only instance where the Chelmsford (Daniel²) and the Woburn (Samuel²) families fraternized.

It is a curious fact (if the premises are correct), that, with this single exception, the entire family of Daniel² lived in Chelmsford, and the entire family of Samuel² lived in Woburn, yet the histories and records of the families do not show any affiliation.

Paige, in his "History of Cambridge," makes the death of Samuel,² May 21, 1720, aged nearly 87; this is consistent with the date of birth and with an imperfect record of a death in Woburn:—

"Blodgett, s. of ———, May 21, 1720."

He married Dec. 13, 1655, Ruth, daughter of Stephen Eggleton,* and lived in Woburn.

Children, born in Woburn:

I. RUTH,³ born Dec. 28, 1656; married, probably 1673, Thomas Kendall, of Woburn; she died Dec. 18, 1695.

+ II. SAMUEL,³ born Dec. 10, 1658; died Nov. 5, 1743.

* Woburn Records. "Eggledon," in Paige's Cambridge; "Iggleton," Savage.

+ III. THOMAS,³ born Feb. 26, 1661; died Sept. 29, 1740, æ. 80.

IV. SUSANNA,³ born —; married Dec. 29, 1685, James Simonds. Her birth does not appear in Woburn Records, but her marriage does; she must have been the daughter of Samuel,² as there is no other place for her. Judging by her marriage she was probably born between Thomas³ and Sarah,³ say about 1663 or 1664. In "Middlesex Marriages, Births and Deaths," her name is given as Hannah when married, but her birth is not stated. She appears to have had a daughter Sarah,⁴ who married Samuel Wilson, and after his death married Feb. 19, 1755, Deacon Edward Johnson, as his third wife; she died March 12, 1765, æ. 80 years.*

V. SARAH,³ born Feb. 17, 1668; married Jan. 7, 1687, John Hayward of Concord.

VI. MARTHA,³ twin, born Sept. 15, 1673; married April 7, 1696, Joseph Winn.

VII. MARY,³ twin, born Sept. 15, 1673; married Oct. 24, 1693, Joseph Richardson, by Mr. Charles Morton, minister of Charlestown.

SAMUEL³ (*Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel² and Ruth (Eggleton) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Dec. 10, 1658; and died Nov. 5, 1743, aged nearly 85 years. He was known as Samuel, Jr., and Ensign Samuel, and was assessed

* N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, LIX: p. 145.

in Woburn 1682 to 1740. He married April 30, 1683, Huldah Simonds, daughter of William and Judith (Hayward-Phippen) Simonds, born Nov. 20, 1666; died March 14, 1745/6. She was a sister to the James Simonds who married 1685, Susanna^s Blodgett.

Their children were :

- + I. SAMUEL,⁴ born Dec. 2, 1683. Went to Stafford, Conn.
- + II. DANIEL,⁴ born March 24, 1685. His birth is not given in Woburn Records but is found in Wyman's "Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown." His children are recorded at Woburn. Went to Stafford, Conn.
- + III. WILLIAM,⁴ born Jan. 11, 1686.
- IV. HULDAH,⁴ born Feb. 9, 1689; married Ebenezer Reed.*
- + V. CALEB,⁴ born Nov. 11, 1691.
- + VI. JOSHUA,⁴ born Feb. 26, 1694. Went to Stafford, Conn.
- + VII. JOSIAH,⁴ born March 27, 1696; assessed in Woburn, 1716-19. Went to Stafford, Conn.
- VIII. JOHN,⁴ born April 19, 1699; assessed in Woburn, 1723-39; died Aug., 1757; married, May 14, 1722, Sarah Johnson of Woburn. No issue recorded. "Was in Indian and other wars previous to 1750." "John Blodgett, in 1722, served 12 weeks, 2 days."

* Woburn Records.

"In 1758 it was Voted that the Selectmen are hereby directed and empowered to sell and dispose of the Lands and House that were John Bloggets late of Woburn, deceased."*

- + IX. BENJAMIN,⁴ born March 4, 1701.
- + X. NATHAN,⁴ born March 15, 1704.

Samuel,³ Jr., was a man of prominence in the affairs of his time; he represented Woburn in the General Court in 1729, and was several times selectman. One of his sons, William, was a soldier under Major Tyng on his expedition to Canada during the summer of 1709, and later in life was the Dr. William of Plainfield and Preston, Conn. Four of his sons, Samuel, Daniel, Joshua and Josiah, were among the earliest settlers of Stafford, Conn., about 1719.

THOMAS³ (*Samuel,² Thomas¹*), son of Samuel² and Ruth (Eggleton) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Feb. 26, 1661.† He married Nov. 11, 1685, Rebecca Tidd, daughter of John and Rebecca (Wood) Tidd, then of Woburn, afterward of Lexington, born about 1665. She died, according to Woburn Records, March 8, 1750. He died Sept. 29, 1740, aged 80 years.

* Woburn Records.

† Woburn Records. According to "Middlesex Marriages, Births and Deaths" he was born Jan. 25, 1660.

Children :

- + I. THOMAS,⁴ born in Woburn, Aug. 5, 1686.
 II. REBECCA,⁴ born in Woburn, June 5, 1689 ; married —, John Russell,* and had
1. REBECCA RUSSELL,⁵ born June 24, 1711.
 2. ADONIJAH RUSSELL,⁵ born Feb. 25, 1712/13.
 3. ABIGAIL RUSSELL,⁵ born Feb. 15, 1715/16.
 4. JOHN RUSSELL,⁵ born April 16, 1719.
 5. SOLOMON RUSSELL,⁵ born Aug. 5, 1723.
- III. RUTH,⁴ born Oct. 14, 1694. Probably born in Woburn and died young.
- + IV. JOSEPH,⁴ born Sept. 17, 1696.
 V. ABIGAIL,⁴ born Nov. 7, 1698, by Woburn Rec. ; Lexington Rec. have bapt. in Lexington, Nov. 3, 1698. From Second Precinct, now Burlington, Church Record,
- “ Abigail Blodgett admitted to church Aug. 18, 1736.” She married —, Peter Reed. †
- + VI. SAMUEL,⁴ born — ; bapt. June 17, 1702.

The above are all in Woburn Records of births ; in Lexington Records Ruth is omitted altogether, and Abigail and Samuel are recorded baptized in Lexington, as if born there.

In Woburn Record of deaths are :

Child of Thomas and Rebecca, April 13, 1688 ; [probably born between Thomas and Rebecca].

Child of Thomas and Rebecca, —, 1691 ; [probably born between Rebecca and Ruth].

* Paige's History of Cambridge.

† *Ibid.*

Thomas³ appears to have been assessed in Woburn from 1684 to 1689. Although he removed to Lexington some years earlier, his first assessment in that town was in 1691. He was the ancestor of the greater part of the Lexington Blodgetts, and one of the most active and prominent citizens. Capt. Blodgett, as he was familiarly called, was a subscriber to the meeting-house in the Precinct in 1692. He and his wife were added to the church March 5, 1699, by a letter of dismissal from the Woburn church. He was an assessor in 1710, and after the incorporation of the town he filled nearly every place of honor and trust. In 1714, he was chosen one of the selectmen, an office to which he was afterward re-elected. He also represented the town in the General Court.

Among the town offices was that of tythingman, then regarded as of the first moment. Often the leading men of the town; the best and most worthy, were elected to that office, it being esteemed as of even more dignity than that of selectman. At the first town meeting Thomas Blodgett was elected tythingman.

He lived on Adams Street, near the intersection of North Street. It is recorded in Hudson's "History of Lexington," that he gave 1 pound, 10 shillings, towards the first meeting-house, and 5 shillings towards the purchase of Lexington Common, at a meeting held April, 1711. At an-

other meeting, Jan. 9, 1713, it was voted to build a new church on the plan of the one at Concord, and Thomas Blodgett and four others were appointed to carry the measure into effect.

In Hudson's "History of Lexington," the death of the wife Rebecca is given as July 3, 1716; but Paige's "History of Cambridge" says, "In Thomas's³ will, made Oct. 26, 1738, his wife Rebecca and all his children except Ruth are mentioned," and this makes it clear that the Lexington record of her death in 1716 is erroneous.

The will of Thomas³ Blodgett was filed in the Probate Office Oct. 27, 1740, approved Nov. 24, 1740, and is recorded with Middlesex Wills, Book 22, page 34: it mentions wife Rebecca; son Thomas; son Joseph, who had £20 extra; son Samuel; daughter Rebekah Russell, who had £10 extra and daughter Abigail Reed. Sons Thomas and Samuel had extra. Other papers on file with the will show that Abigail's husband was Peter Reed.

SAMUEL⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Dec. 2, 1683, and died at Stafford, Conn., Dec. 12, 1762. His marriage is not recorded in Woburn, but in the record of Births there, are the following children of Samuel and Lydia Blodgett:

- × I. SAMUEL,⁵ born Dec. 27, 1704; went to Stafford, Conn.*
- × II. HENRY,⁵ born June 27, 1708; went to Suffield, Conn.
- III. SARAH,⁵ born July 9, 1713.
- IV. HULDAH,⁵ born Jan. 28, 1717.
- V. A SON,⁵ name not ascertained, born at Stafford about 1721.

In Woburn tax lists, Samuel⁴ is called Samuel Tertius, and after the death of his father, Samuel, Jr. He was assessed in Woburn, 1704 to 1719. About the latter date he and his brothers, Daniel, Joshua, and Josiah, removed to Stafford, Conn., and their subsequent lineage must be traced in that town.

Stafford was surveyed in 1718, and its settlement was begun in the spring of 1719. Among the earliest settlers were four brothers from Woburn, viz.: Samuel, Daniel, Joshua and Josiah Blodgett (or Blogget, as it was then spelled), sons of Samuel³ and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett. The family became very numerous in Stafford. They went thence to Monson, Mass., to Randolph, Vt., Claremont, N. H., Lebanon, N. H., Chelsea, Vt., etc.

In Hinman's "Early Puritan Settlers of Connecticut" there is no mention of Samuel, the eldest brother, whose removal to Stafford is perfectly clear, but he does mention Paul and "Ben-

* The × indicates that the line has been traced.

zen;" there was, however, no Paul until the next generation, — Paul,⁵ son of Josiah,⁴ who was born May 26, 1737. By "Benzen" Hinman probably means Benjamin,⁴ a younger brother of the four above named, born March 4, 1701. He may have gone to Stafford for a few years, but if so, he returned to Woburn, where he was assessed 1729 to 1763. Hinman is clumsy in expression and arrangement.

DANIEL⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett. In Wyman's "Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown," his birth is given as March 24, 1685, but it does not appear in Woburn Records, although his marriage and the births of his children are recorded there. He married April 4, 1709, Mary Mallet.* He was assessed in Woburn 1707 to 1712, but after the latter date he does not appear in the Woburn Records. He removed to Stafford, Conn., about 1719; died there Dec. 15, 1762.

Children:

- × I. DANIEL,⁵ born Jan. 19, 1710.
 - II. MARY,⁵ born June 23, 1711.
- Perhaps others.

WILLIAM⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Jan. 11, 1686. He

* Woburn Records.

appears to have served in the expedition to Canada during the summer of 1709, as his father "Samuel Blogget of Wobourn" petitioned "The Governor, Her Majesties Counsell and Representatives in General Court Assembled" to be reimbursed for expenses attending the sickness of his son William Blogget at Watertown, while on Her Majesty's service, etc., and received forty shillings.

He is next heard of as a physician at Plainfield, Conn., where his credentials appear in Plainfield Town Records as follows:—

Dec 15, 1720. This is to certifie all whome it may concern that we the subscribers having examined William Bloggett doct^r of physick concerning his Method in the practice of physick and According to the Account that he gives we find his method is by good Authority.

in Boston (Patrick Lynch Doct^r

(Edw. Broughton phyⁿ

in providence John Jasper pract^{ion}

in Rehoboth Squire Allen prac. phis.

Rhoadisland Oliver Arnold prac. phis.

1.50

Norbert [illegible]

P. M. Thos. Williams

Gorman Doct^r

Record^r

Rehoboth Thos. Bowen prac. phisⁿ

Brigwater Jont Randall chirurgion

and practioner of phisick.

In Hinman's "Early Puritan Settlers of New England" he is mentioned in these terms:—

Blogget, Dr. William, of Plainfield, was probably at Plainfield as early as 1715, as he had practiced some years be-

fore 1721. He was highly approved of as a physician in Plainfield and Canterbury, and in 1721 he applied to the General Court for license to practice medicine, with full proof of his good moral character, and the satisfaction of the people of the towns aforesaid, of his skill and success; but his petition was negatived on the ground that he was illiterate, and should not be received with the members of any learned profession — [meaning, probably, that he had not had a collegiate education].

He is mentioned as of Plainfield in a transfer of real estate in 1719: —

William Blogget, physician, and Sarah his wife of Plainfield convey to Henry Cob of Plainfield land in Plainfield commonly called Tophet, April 30, 1719.

He is also mentioned as of Plainfield in real estate transfers in 1724, 1726, 1731, 1736. He later appears to have lived in Boston, as Town Records of Stonington, Conn., show that —

January 6, 1737/8. Jonathan Chesebrough and Wife Convey Land (Two Deeds) to William Blodgett of Boston.

February 19, 1739, William Jenison conveys land to William Blodgett of Boston. But April 23, 1739, William Blogget of Preston, doctor, conveys to William Blogget, Jun., his son, 160 acres of land in Preston. He appears to have died in Preston, 1750 or 1751, as shown by various records relating to the settlement of his estate.

He married —, Sarah Hall, daughter of Stephen Hall, of Concord and Stow, and sister of Lieut. John Hall, of Plainfield, which explains why he settled there. In the distribution of the estate of Lieut. John Hall, a share went to "Sarah Blogget, youngest sister, March 28, 1727."

Thomas Stevens as Attorney for William Blogget and his wife Sarah Blogget, sister to Lieut. John Hall, late of Plainfield, Dec'd, gives a receipt for her share of the estate April 3, 1727.*

Children :

- I. WILLIAM,⁵ born —; he married probably Mary Starkweather, for in "Connecticut Marriages" the following record is found: "Wm. Bloget and Mary Starkweather of Preston-Griswold, June 23" [prob. 1738]. "She died April 4, 1785, in the 71st year of her age."† This would make her birth 1715; the natural inference is that the husband, William,⁵ was born as early as 1715, and this is consistent with the birth of his brother Benjamin, which is of record May 17, 1717. He administered on his father's estate 1752.

"William Blodget of Preston, Member of General Assembly at New Haven, Oct., 1760."‡

"William Blogget admitted to Church July 30, 1742."

* Willimantic Probate Records.

† Preston Records.

‡ Colonial Records of Conn.

William Blodgett is named on a list of Freemen Inhabitants of Preston, 1786. He is several times mentioned in conveyances of real estate. No definite record of issue has been found.

× II. BENJAMIN,⁵ born May 17, 1717; died 1781.
See "Lineage of Dr. Benjamin."⁵

III. MARY,⁵ born —; according to Preston Records, married "June y^e 27th day, 1738, Ebenezer Freeman, both of Preston." She died "Aug. y^e 19, 1744." They had a daughter,

I. SARAH FREEMAN,⁶ born "Feb. y^e 7, 1740."

IV. LUCY,⁵ born —; married "Dec. y^e 5th, 1748, Nathan Freeman, both of Preston." They had a daughter,

I. RUTH FREEMAN,⁶ born "Oct. y^e 24, 1749;" died
"April y^e 24, 1751."

V. ESTHER,⁵ born —; married — Pierce, of Plainfield.

The above are all the children of whom mention has been found, but perhaps there were others. As to the daughters, there are no dates of births, and no data to establish their order. The above tabulation is therefore conjectural.

CALEB⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Nov. 11, 1691, and

died June 17, 1745. He was an innholder, and was designated as "Capt." and "Mr.," both titles of respect. He was assessed 1712 to 1744. In 1739 the "Proprietors" met at his house, and he was moderator of "Proprietors' meetings," 1739-1743. In 1744 he was Proprietors' clerk. There is a little uncertainty about his marriages. According to Wyman's "Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown," he married, first, Sarah Wyman, born Jan. 17, 1690/1, by whom there were:

Children:

- × I. SETH,⁵ born Feb. 20, 1718.
- II. CALEB,⁵ born Dec. 1, 1721; probably died Oct. 27, 1733.*
- × III. SAMUEL,⁵ born April 1, 1724 (of Amoskeag fame).
- IV. SUSANNA,⁵ born June 19, 1727.

He appears to have married, second, Aug. 7, 1744, Elizabeth Wyman, a second cousin of his first wife, Sarah, by whom he had:

- V. ELIZABETH,⁵ born Oct. 27, 1744.

But in Woburn Records, in a list of "Epitaphs in First Burial Ground," is this:—

MEMENTO MORI.

FUGIT HORA.

Here lyes y^e body of Elizabeth Blogget wife of Caleb Blogget
Aged about 22 years. Died May 24, 1713.

*"Son of Capt. Caleb and Sarah Blogget, died Oct. 27, 1733."—Woburn Records.

So far as appears there was but one Caleb Blodgett to whom this could apply,—namely Caleb,⁴ whose lineage we are considering. At the time of Elizabeth's death, "aged about 22 years," Caleb⁴ was not quite twenty-two years old; it therefore means an early marriage and an early bereavement; no other explanation seems possible to the present compiler. If the graveyard epitaph is correct, it indicates that there was a wife Elizabeth, who died in 1713, aged about 22 years; that his second wife was Sarah Wyman, and his third wife was Elizabeth Wyman.

In Woburn Records, 1745, is mention of Widow Elizabeth Blodgett, Innholder.

JOSHUA⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Feb. 26, 1694; he was assessed there 1715 to 1719, and married Dinah, probably daughter of John and Dinah (Knight) Morse, of Watertown, Mass. About 1719 he went to Stafford, Conn. (See lineage of Samuel⁴), and was one of the original proprietors of that town.

His children were:

- I. KATHERINE,⁵ born in Woburn, July 31, 1717.*
- × II. JOSHUA,⁵ born probably in Stafford, Jan. 10, 1721/2.†

* Woburn Records.

† Stafford Records.

- × III. JAMES,⁵ born in Stafford, Dec. 12, 1723.†
- IV. MARY,⁵ born in Stafford, April 1, 1727.†
- V. A daughter, unknown.

Tradition relates that Joshua⁴ disappeared from Stafford about 1734, on account of some social defection.

JOSIAH⁴ (*Samuel,³ Samuel,² Thomas¹*), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., March 27, 1696; he was assessed at Woburn, 1716–19, and was one of the original proprietors and settlers of Stafford, Conn., whither he went about 1719. (See lineage of Samuel.⁴) He appears to have married before the removal, as the birth of his first child is recorded at Woburn. "He and his brother Daniel built the old dam at the Furnace." He died at Stafford, 1756; the inventory of his estate was about £160. Hinman gives his wife's name as Margaret, which is probably erroneous, for both Woburn and Stafford records have the name of the mother of his children as Elizabeth; her family name has not been ascertained, as there is no record of his marriage.

Children :

- I. ELIZABETH,⁵ born in Woburn, Jan. 12, 1719.*
- II. RUTH,⁵ born in Stafford, May 20, 1722; married Nov. 9, 1748, Jacob Green, Jr.

* Woburn Records. The Stafford Records have it Jan. 17.

- III. JOSIAH,⁵ born in Stafford, Dec. 24, 1724; apparently died young (see next).
- × IV. JOSIAH,⁵ born in Stafford, Nov. 29, 1726; married Mary —, by Rev. Eli Cotton.
- “Josiah Blogget, Jr., died Dec. 7, 1755.”*
- V. PAUL,⁵ born Aug. 7, 1729; apparently died young, as there was another of the same name born 1737 (see below).
- VI. SUSANNA,⁵ b. —; “dyed May 15, 1732.”†
- × VII. SILAS,⁵ born Jan. 22, 1731/2.
- VIII. SUSANNA,⁵ born Jan. 12, 1733.
- × IX. PAUL,⁵ born May 26, 1737.
- X. SARAH,⁵ born April 4, 1741; probably married March 6, 1769, Aaron Fulton.

BENJAMIN⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., March 4, 1701, and assessed there 1729-30, 1732-4, 1737-63. His life appears to have been spent in Woburn, at least until he was 62 years of age, but there is no record of marriage, children or death. There is in 1745, in Proceedings of Proprietors, this mention of Benjamin Blodgett: “To see if Proprietors will grant or sell him site for Smiths Shop, etc.” And in Record of Deaths is: “Widow of Benjamin (Blodgett) of old age, Sept. 1, 1801.”

As no other Benjamin appears in Woburn Records these items may refer to him.

* Stafford Records.

† *Ibid.*

NATHAN⁴ (*Samuel*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Samuel,³ Jr., and Huldah (Simonds) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., March 15, 1704. He was assessed there, 1725-1746, and died Sept. 24, 1747.* He probably married Abigail Converse, June 4, 1727, and was known as "Ensign" and "Captain."

Children :

- I. ABIGAIL,⁵ born Nov. 23, 1732; died Jan. 13, 1733.†
- II. NATHAN,⁵ born Sept. 10, 1737; died Sept. 13, 1737.
- III. Probably MEHITABLE,⁵ Woburn 2d Precinct (now Burlington) Church records have "Mehitable, dau. of Nathan Blodgett, bap. March 13, 1757."

THOMAS⁴ (*Thomas*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and Rebecca (Tidd) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Aug. 5, 1686. While young, his parents removed to Lexington, Mass., where he was assessed 1744 and 1752/71. He resided with or near his father. He died in Lexington, March 1, 1771. He married — Mary —; she was admitted to the church in Lexington, Feb. 18, 1728, with twenty-two others. She died about 1753.

* "Capt. Nathan, of —, d. Sept. 24, 1747 in his 44th year." — Woburn Record of Deaths.

† Woburn Records.

Children, born in Lexington :

- I. REBECCA,⁵ born Feb. 15, 1716.
- × II. THOMAS,⁵ born April 29, 1717.
- III. EBENEZER,⁵ born March 4, 1721; assessed 1752/71; he was in the French war, 1760.
- × IV. AMOS,⁵ born July 1, 1723.
- × V. PHINEHAS,⁵ born March 8, 1726.
- × VI. JONATHAN,⁵ born June 28, 1729.

JOSEPH⁴ (*Thomas*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and Rebecca (Tidd) Blodgett, was born in Woburn, Mass., Sept. 17, 1696; died Jan. 10, 1783. When he was quite young his parents removed to the neighboring town of Lexington, where he seems to have resided until he was about thirty-five years of age, but no record of assessment in Lexington has been found, nor in Woburn. He married, first, Nov. 5, 1719, Sarah Stone, born in Lexington, Nov. 7, 1700. She was admitted to the church in Lexington, June 19, 1728. They removed to Brimfield, Mass., where he appears to have been a prominent citizen. He was one of the original members of the church there in 1724. In 1736 he was on the "committee to treat with minister relating to his principles and all soe, relating to y^e proposals made by y^e town in order to settlement & sallery." In the same year he gives four acres of land to the minister. In 1739 he petitions the town for per-

mission to erect a horse-shed at the meeting-house.

Children by first wife :

- X I. JOSEPH,⁵ born in Lexington, April 17, 1721.
- II. SARAH,⁵ born in Lexington, Nov. 12, 1722 ; married Sept. 12, 1751, Reuben Twombly.
- III. ANNA,⁵ born in Lexington, April 10, 1724 ; died March, 1820 ; married Sept. 12, 1751, Thomas Sherman, born Sept. 6, 1722 ; died Nov. 22, 1803.* They had :
 - 1. ABIGAIL SHERMAN,⁶ born June 11, 1752 ; married —, Aaron Morgan.
 - 2. SAMUEL SHERMAN,⁶ born March 14, 1754 ; died May 30, 1800.
 - 3. LUCE SHERMAN,⁶ born Sept. 30, 1756 ; married —, Dr. David Ellinwood.
 - 4. JOSEPH SHERMAN,⁶ born March 16, 1759 ; married —, Elizabeth Blodgett, daughter of Thomas⁵ and Margaret (Walker) Blodgett, born in Brimfield, July 26, 1759.
 - 5. ABEL SHERMAN,⁶ born Oct. 9, 1761.
 - 6. SARAH SHERMAN,⁶ born March 28, 1765 ; married —, William Carpenter.
 - 7. THOMAS SHERMAN,⁶ Jr., born Dec. 28, 1766 ; married first, —, Sarah Townsley, who died 1811 ; married second, May 4, 1815, Mary Morgan, who died 1857.
- IV. ABIGAIL,⁵ born in Lexington, July 10, 1726 ; died Oct., 1820.

* Sherman Genealogy.

V. RUTH,⁵ born in Lexington, March 1, 1728; married Aug. 30, 1750, John Davidson, Jr. Brimfield Records make Ruth the last born in Lexington; Benjamin and all later were born in Brimfield.

× VI. BENJAMIN,⁵ born June 19, 1730.

× VII. ABNER,⁵ born June 6, 1732.

× VIII. THOMAS,⁵ born Sept. 26, 1734.

The wife, Sarah (Stone), died May 8, 1735; and he married, second, June 29, 1738, Sarah Ingersoll, who was born in Springfield, Mass., May 17, 1718; died April 24, 1774. They had:

× IX. SAMUEL,⁵ born May 17, 1739.

X. LYDIA,⁵ born Feb. 17, 1741; died Sept. 8, 1808; married Oct. 13, 1762, Simeon Hubbard.

× XI. JONAS,⁵ born Nov. 12, 1743.

× XII. AZUBAH,⁵ born April 12, 1746; probably married Dr. Sherbad Winslow, of Westfield, Vt., and died there June 10, 1821. See "Winslow Memorial."

× XIII. CALEB,⁵ born Nov. 24, 1748.

× XIV. ELIJAH,⁵ born Oct. 25, 1751 (written 1761).

× XV. MARSENA,⁵ born March 4, 1754.

× XVI. NATHAN,⁵ born Nov. 3, 1756.

× XVII. ADMATHA,⁵ born Dec. 15, 1758.

SAMUEL⁴ (*Thomas*,³ *Samuel*,² *Thomas*¹), son of Thomas³ and Rebecca (Tidd) Blodgett, was baptized in Lexington, Mass., June 17, 1702; died

there Jan. 23, 1773, aet. 71 years. He was assessed in Lexington, 1744 and 1752/71. He was probably a farmer. He married June 26, 1726, Mary Russell, probably a daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth; she was born Jan. 1, 1705; baptized Jan. 7, 1705. "Mary Blodgett" (probably the above) "died April 22, 1781, aet. 81 yrs."*

Children :

- × I. SAMUEL,⁵ born April 30, 1727.
- × II. SIMEON,⁵ born June 5, 1730.
- III. JOSEPH,⁵ born Feb. 10, 1732; died June 10, 1733.
- IV. MARY,⁵ born June 20, 1733; married May 2, 1760, Jonathan Perry.
- V. RUTH,⁵ born Aug. 29, 1735; married Oct. 25, 1759, Henry Harrington.
- × VI. JOSIAH,⁵ born Dec. 28, 1737.
- × VII. TIMOTHY,⁵ born Aug. 7, Lex. R. (Aug. 10, Wm. B. B.), 1740.
- × VIII. ISAAC,⁵ born Feb. 1, 1744, Lex. R. (1742 Wm. B. B.)

* Hudson, in his "History of Lexington," makes her the daughter of James and Mary Russell, but that is probably incorrect. There are two Marys of similar age. The evidence seems conclusive that Mary, the daughter of James and Mary Russell, married Benjamin Bailey, of Stow.





INDEX

- Allen, Squire 123
Arnold, Oliver 123
Atwell, John 62
 Kate A. 62
 Louisa J. (Blodgett) 62
Austen, Mary 38
Avery, Charles 39
 Marcia 39
 Susan (Batchelder) 39
Batchelder, Susan 39
Blanchard, Abigail 106
 Tabitha 102
 Thomas 90
Blodgett, Abby J. (Fellows) 59
 Abigail 18, 90, 101-105, 112,
 118, 120, 131, 133
 Abigail (Blanchard) 106
 Abigail (Booth) 106
 Abigail (Converse) 131
Abner 35, 57, 59, 66, 106, 134
Admatha 134
Alice E. (Hook) 59
Amanda (Johnson) 61, 83
Amanda L. 61
Amanda M. (Hoyt) 61
Amos 132
Ann 62
Ann B. (Burns) 62, 80
Anna 16, 96, 98, 106, 133
Blodgett, Anna G. 53
 Anne 17, 98
 Ardella F. (Brown) 38
 Asahel 3, 5, 16, 19, 23, 24, 27,
 28, 34, 37, 39-41, 50, 54, 57,
 60, 65-67, 84, 86
 Asahel N. 39
 Azlie (— Burleigh) 59
 Azubah 134
 Beniah 19, 35, 62, 65-67, 86
 Benjamin 16, 96, 98, 99, 107,
 117, 122, 125, 126, 130, 134
 Benoni 14, 17, 98, 105
 Benzen 121, 122
 Bertha (Gerner) 61
 Betsey 35, 54, 66, 86
 Betsey (Hamblet-Hamlet) 19,
 65, 86
 Bridget 110
 Caleb 4, 17, 25, 27, 34, 42, 50-
 52, 63, 69, 90, 105, 116, 126-
 128, 134
 Catherine 28, 34, 50, 66
 Catherine P. 40
 Catherine (Pollard) 28, 34, 37,
 41, 50, 65
 Charles B. 39
 Charles H. 39
 Charles M. 52

- Blodgett, Charles W. 48, 49a
 Charlotte (Piper) 50
 Chastina C. 58
 Chastina (Clark) Simpson 62
 Chester M. 38
 Daniel 5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17,
 89, 93, 95-101, 104, 113, 114,
 116, 117, 121, 122, 129
 David 106, 110
 Dinah (Morse) 128
 Dorcas 90
 Dorcas (Wheeler) 64, 90
 Dorothy 18, 90, 104, 105
 Dorothy (Perham) 17, 18, 28,
 63, 87, 89, 104
 Ebenezer 3, 18, 19, 34, 41, 46,
 63-67, 90, 104, 106, 108, 132
 Edward 10
 Elias 38, 86
 Elias M. 38, 40
 Elijah 106, 134
 Eliza M. (King) 57
 Elizabeth 99, 101, 107, 108, 112,
 127, 129, 133
 Elizabeth (—) 127-129
 Elizabeth (Fletcher) 107
 Elizabeth (— Herbert) 58
 Elizabeth (Warren) 100
 Elizabeth (Wright) 108
 Elizabeth (Wyman) 127, 128
 Ellen G. (Hazeltine) 40
 Emily R. 50
 Emmons W. 48
 Esther 106, 108, 126
 Eunice M. 58
 Frances 58
 Franklin 57
 Frederick S. 48
 Frederick N. 48
 George A. 40
 Hannah 19, 65, 99, 101, 108, 115
 Harriet L. 55
- Blodgett, Harriett M. 48
 Harry T. 61
 Henry 121
 Herbert L. 38
 Howard E. 59
 Huldah 116, 121
 Huldah (Simonds) 116, 120-
 122, 126, 128-131
 Ida M. 39
 Isaac 19, 28, 34, 65-67, 135
 Isaac D. 5, 46, 49a
 Isaac N. 4, 52, 90
 Jabez 57
 Jabez E. 59
 Jacob 101, 108, 110
 James 18, 63, 64, 90, 105, 106,
 129
 Jemima 111
 Jemima (Nutting) 110, 112
 Jeremiah 3, 18, 19, 23, 25, 35,
 60, 62-66, 79, 83, 90, 104
 Jerry 58
 John 17, 98, 106, 107, 110, 116,
 117
 John G. 59
 John S. 39
 John T. 4, 90
 Jonas 134
 Jonathan 17, 18, 62-64, 90, 96,
 99, 105, 110, 132
 Joseph 3, 14, 17, 18, 28, 63, 64,
 87, 89, 90, 98, 99, 103-105,
 118, 120, 132, 133, 135
 Joshua 116, 117, 121, 128, 129
 Josiah 101, 106, 109, 110, 112,
 116, 117, 121, 122, 129, 130,
 135
 Judah 90
 Kate P. 40
 Kate (Daly) 58
 Katherine 128
 Lois 34, 65, 66, 86

- Blodgett, Lois (Pollard) 35, 54, 57,
 60, 65, 86
 Lois R. 59
 Loretta H. 58
 Louisa J. 62
 Louisa K. (Bond) 52
 Lucinda 35, 66, 86
 Lucy 126
 Lucy (Nevins) 18
 Lydia 111, 120, 134
 Mabel C. (Smith) 48
 Mae (Putman) 48
 Marcia (Avery) 39
 Margaret (—) 129
 Margaret (Walker) 133
 Marsena 134
 Martha 115
 Martha (Hamblet) 37
 Mary 17, 98, 99, 101, 115, 122,
 126, 129, 135
 Mary (—) 96, 109, 129, 131
 Mary (Butterfield) 16, 17, 89,
 96-100
 Mary (Druse) 17, 98, 106
 Mary E. 38
 Mary (Mallet) 122
 Mary (Parkis) 17, 97, 101, 103,
 105
 Mary (Pellat) 98, 107
 Mary (Rowlandson), 99
 Mary (Russell) 135
 Mary (Starkweather) 125
 Mary (Warren) 101, 107-109
 Mary L. (Wentworth) 48, 49a
 Mehitable 131
 Melinda (Clement) 38
 Miriam 58
 Miriam (Provender) 18, 23, 25,
 64
 Monira B. (Plumer) 40
 Murray E. 40
 Nathan 117, 131, 134
- Blodgett, Nathaniel 17, 97, 100
 Nehemiah 109
 Olive 108
 Oliver 109
 Paul 121, 122, 130
 Persis 57, 101
 Phineas 37
 Phineas W. 90
 Phinehas 132
 Polly 37, 86
 Rachel (Pollard) 57
 Rebecca 17, 18, 90, 98, 104-106,
 118, 120, 132
 Rebecca (Tidd) 117-120, 131,
 132, 134
 Reuben 108
 Richard 10
 Roxalana B. (Martin) 52
 Rufus 4, 35, 54, 61, 62, 66, 79, 83
 Ruth 108, 114, 118, 120, 129,
 134, 135
 Ruth (Eggleton) 114, 115, 117
 Ruth W. (Fellows) 54
 Sally (Cheever) 41, 46
 Sally (Clough) 39
 Sally M. 39
 Samuel 5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17,
 93, 97, 98, 100, 106, 113-123,
 126-131, 134, 135
 Sarah 18, 19, 65, 99, 101, 110,
 115, 121, 130, 133
 Sarah A. (Gerould) 53
 Sarah (Cross) 64, 90
 Sarah (Hall) 124, 125
 Sarah (Ingersoll) 134
 Sarah (Johnson) 116
 Sarah P. 48
 Sarah (Stone) 132, 134
 Sarah (Underwood) 17, 97, 100
 Sarah (Wyman) 127, 128
 Seth 127
 Sibyl 34, 66, 67, 86

- Blodgett, Silas 130
 Simeon 108, 135
 Susan 58
 Susan (—) 9, 10, 12, 16, 93,
 95, 113
 Susanna 11, 12, 16, 93, 94, 115,
 116, 127, 130
 Susanna (McLain) 107
 Tabitha 102, 103
 Tabitha (Blanchard) 102, 103
 Thankful 101, 106
 Thomas 4, 9-12, 15-17, 89, 93,
 95-98, 101-103, 105, 106, 113,
 115, 117-120, 131-134
 Timothy 135
 Wealthy W. (Leavett) 38
 Wentworth P. 48
 William 17, 97, 100, 101, 107-
 109, 112, 116, 117, 122-126
 William J. 62
 William K. 58
 Zacheus 109
 Zebulon 110
 Bond, George W. 52
 Louise K. 52
 Margaret S. 52
 Booth, Abigail 106
 Rebecca 106
 Simon 106
 Bowen, Thos. 123
 Bridgeman, Rev. — 43
 Broughton, Edw. 123
 Brown, Ardella F. 38
 George H. 38
 Hannah 61
 Martha (Foster) 38
 William 85
 Burleigh, Azlie E. (—) 59
 Burns, Ann B. 62, 80
 Ann (Blodgett) 62
 Samuel 62, 80
 Butterfield, Allis [Alice] 111
 Butterfield, Asa 111
 Benjamin 16, 96
 Jacob W. 111
 Jemima 111
 Jesse 111
 Lydia (Blodgett) 111
 Mary 16, 17, 89, 96-100
 Otis 111
 Susy 111
 Carpenter, Sarah (Sherman) 133
 William 133
 Chaney, Abigail (Blodgett) 112
 John 112
 Chase, Hannah (Blodgett) 19, 65
 Stephen 19, 65
 Cheeney, Elizabeth (Blodgett) 112
 John 112
 Cheever, Ezekiel 42
 Mehitable (Porter) 41
 Nathan 41
 Sally 41, 46
 Chesebrough, Jonathan 124
 Clark, Chastina 62
 Enoch 62
 Ruth (Harriman) 62
 Clement, Betsey (Farrar) 38
 Levi 38
 Melinda 38
 Clough, Daniel 39
 Sally 39
 Connell, P. J. 88
 Converse, Abigail 131
 Corrigan, Agnes C. 56
 Cotton, Eli 129
 Crangle, Agnes R. 55
 Alice L. 55
 Arline L. 55
 Betsey (Blodgett) 54
 Cillian A. (Dickinson) 55
 Clara E. 55
 Clara L. 55
 Euretta J. (Ward) 55

- Crangle, Frederick 55
 Herbert C. 55
 James F. 55
 William 54
 William E. 55
 William J. 55
 William R. 54
 Cross, Nathan 90
 Sarah 64, 90
 Dabney, Louis F. 71
 Daly, Kate 58
 Dana, Melinda (Clement-Blodgett) 38
 Wolcott 38
 Danforth, Josiah 110
 Sarah (Blodgett) 110
 Davidson, John 134
 Ruth (Blodgett) 134
 Davis, Belle (Spaulding) 49
 Benjamin 58
 Charles H. 49
 Emily F. 58
 Frank L. 49
 Gertrude M. 49
 Herbert C. 49
 Increase S. 45, 54
 John L. 48
 Mary (Kelley) 49
 Miriam (Blodgett) 58
 Sarah P. (Blodgett) 48
 Dickinson, Cillian A. 55
 Dole, Lois (Blodgett) 34, 86
 Wales, 34
 Druse, Mary 17, 98, 106
 Dunbar, James R. 71
 Eggleton, Ruth 114, 115, 117
 Stephen 114
 Ellinwood, David 133
 Lucy (Sherman) 133
 Emerson, Daniel 100
 Emmons, Nellie E. 58
 Endicott, John 16
 Farrar, Betsey 38
 Fellows, Abbie J. 59
 Ruth W. 54
 Fletcher, Elizabeth 107
 John 103
 Joshua 107
 Foster, Andrew 101
 Martha 38
 Mary (Blodgett) 98, 101
 Moses 98
 Freeman, Ebenezer 126
 Lucy (Blodgett) 126
 Mary (Blodgett) 126
 Nathan 126
 Ruth 126
 Sarah 126
 Fuller, T. D. 88
 Fulton, Aaron 130
 Sarah (Blodgett) 130
 George, Benaiah S. 49
 Gertrude M. (Davis) 49
 Gerner, Bertha 61
 Lena (Schwartz) 61
 Stephen 61
 Gerould, Cynthia (Locke) 53
 Moses 53
 Sarah A. 53
 Gilman, David 24
 Goff, John 18
 Goodwin, Statira 48
 Greeley, — 64
 Abigail (Blodgett) 105
 Samuel 105
 Green, Emily A. 52
 Jacob 129
 Robert S. 84
 Ruth (Blodgett) 129
 Greenough, Charles P. 71
 Hall, John 125
 Sarah 125
 Stephen 125
 Willard 107

- Hamblet [Hamlet] Betsey 19, 65
 Martha 37
 Harriman, Mary 61
 Ruth 62
 Harrington, Henry 135
 Ruth (Blodgett) 135
 Harris, Thomas 12
 Hayward, John 115
 Judith 116
 Sarah (Blodgett) 115
 Hazeltine, Ellen G. 40
 Herberd, John 10
 Elizabeth (—) 58
 Hickok, Andrew 18
 Sarah (Blodgett) 18
 Hook, Alice E. 59
 Hooker [Thomas] 11
 Hoyt, Amanda M. 61
 Charles 61
 Mary (Harriman) 61
 Hubbard, Lydia (Blodgett) 134
 Simeon 134
 Iggleton (see Eggleton)
 Ingersoll, Sarah 134
 Jackson, Emily R. (Blodgett) 50
 George 51
 Miles 50
 Jasper, John 123
 Jenison, William 124
 Johnson, Amanda 61, 83
 Edward 115
 Hannah (Brown) 61
 Samuel 85
 Sarah 115
 Sarah (Blodgett-Wilson) 115
 William 61
 Kelley, Mary 49
 Kendall, Ruth (Blodgett) 114
 Thomas 114
 King, Eliza M. 57
 Kirk, John W. 59
 Lois R. (Blodgett) 59
 Kirk, Wallace B. 59
 Warren B. 59
 Kline, Aaron K. 55
 Clara L. (Crangle) 55
 Lea, Robert 9
 Leavett, Joseph 38
 Mary (Austen) 38
 Wealthy W. 38
 Locke, Cynthia 53
 Long, John D. 51
 Lynch, Patrick 123
 Mallet, Mary 122
 Marsh, Dorothy (Blodgett-Thompson) 105
 Onesiphorus 105
 Marshall, Anson S. 52
 Martin, Emily A. (Green) 52
 Frank 39
 Jesse 52
 Mary B. 40
 Roxalana B. 52
 Sally M. (Blodgett) 39
 Mason, Albert (Chief Justice) 74
 McKenna, Agnes C. (Corrigan) 56
 Gertrude A. 56
 Harriet L. (Blodgett) 55
 James 55
 Katherine A. 56
 Rufus J. 56
 Ruth G. L. 56
 McLain, Susanna 107
 Meena, John 12
 Merrill, Rebecca (Blodgett) 64,
 105
 Samuel 105
 Morgan, Aaron 133
 Abigail (Sherman) 133
 Mary 133
 Morse, Dinah 128
 Dinah (Knight) 128
 John 128
 Morton, Charles 115

- Mosher, Mrs. 39
 Mulvana, Francis J. 56
 James F. 56
 John 56
 Ruth G. L. (McKenna) 56
 Nevins, Lucy 18
 Nutting, Jemima 110
 Parham, Jemima (Blodgett) 111
 John 111
 Parker, — 71
 Henry L. 76
 Parkis, Joseph 17, 97
 Mary 17, 97, 101, 103, 105
 Pellat, Mary 98, 107
 Perham, Dorothy 17, 18, 63, 89,
 104
 Joseph 104
 Perry, Jonathan 135
 Mary (Blodgett) 135
 Phippen, Judith (Hayward) 115
 Pierce, Esther (Blodgett) 126
 Pike, Austin F. 52
 Piper, Charlotte 50
 Jane 50
 Noah 50
 Plumer, Frances (Blodgett) 58
 George 58
 George F. 58
 Josiah R. 40
 Lucinda B. 58
 Monira B. 40
 Nellie E. (Emmons) 58
 Persis M. 58
 Rachel C. (Smith) 40
 Pollard, Abigail 34
 Calvin 63
 Catherine 34, 37, 41, 50, 65
 Ebenezer 34
 Lois 35, 54, 57, 60, 65, 86
 Rachel 57
 Porter, Mehitabel 41
 Provender, Miriam 18, 23, 25, 64
 Prudden, Theodore P. 48
 Putman, Hannah 48
 Mae 45
 Martin V. B. 48
 Robie, Esther (Blodgett) 108
 John 108
 Quincy, Josiah 79, 80
 Randall, Jont. 123
 Reed, Abigail (Blodgett) 118, 120
 Ebenezer 115
 Huldah (Blodgett) 115
 Peter 118, 120
 Richardson, Joseph 115
 Mary (Blodgett) 115
 Robie, Esther (Blodgett) 108
 John 108
 Rollins, Lucinda B. (Plumer) 58
 William H. 58
 Rowlandson, Joseph 99
 Mary 99
 Rumford, Count 13, 94
 Russell, Abigail 118
 Adonijah 118
 Elizabeth (—) 135
 James 135
 John 118
 Jonathan 135
 Mary 135
 Mary (—) 135
 Rebecca 118
 Rebecca (Blodgett) 118, 120
 Solomon 118
 William E. 51, 70
 Schwartz, Lena 61
 Shea, Agnes R. (Crangle) 55
 Clara E. 55
 John 55
 William J. 55
 Shelton, Harriet E. 48
 Shepard, Thomas 11
 Sherman, Abel 133
 Abigail 133

- Sherman, Anna (Blodgett) 133
 Joseph 133
 Luce 133
 Mary (Morgan) 133
 Samuel 133
 Sarah 133
 Sarah (Townesley) 133
 Thomas 133
 Simonds, Fred. 38
 Huldah 115, 120-122, 126, 128-131
 James 115, 116
 Judith (Hayward-Phippen) 115
 Mary E. (Blodgett) 38
 Susanna (Blodgett) 115, 116
 William 115, 116
 Simpson, Chastina (Clark) 62
 Henry F. 62
 Smith, Harriet E. (Shelton) 48
 Mabel C. 48
 N. Denton 48
 Rachel C. 40
 Spaulding, Belle 49
 Starkweather, Mary 125
 Stevens, Thomas 125
 Stone, Sarah 132, 134
 Storey, Moorfield 71
 Taylor, Bridget (Blodgett) 110
 Cyrus C. 110
 John 88
 Oliver 110
 Thompson —, 105
 Benjamin 13, 94
 Dorothy (Blodgett) 105
 Ebenezer 94
 James 12, 16, 94, 95
 Jonathan 12, 13, 16, 94
 Sarah 94
 Simon 94
 Susan (—Blodgett) 12, 93, 95
 Susanna 94
 Susanna (Blodgett) 12, 16, 94
 Tidd, John 117
 Marshall 13
 Rebecca 117, 131, 132, 134
 Rebecca (Wood) 117
 Townsley, Sarah 133
 Tucker, Samuel 85
 Twombly, Reuben 133
 Sarah (Blodgett) 133
 Tyng, Major 117
 Underwood, Sarah 17, 97, 100
 William 17, 97
 Walker, Margaret 133
 William 24
 Ward, Euretta J. 55
 Warren, Elizabeth 100
 Mary 101, 107, 108
 Washington, George 14, 24
 Webb, John W. 56
 Katherine A. (McKenna) 56
 Marian E. 56
 Robert J. 56
 Webster, Kimball 27, 28, 87-89
 104
 Wentworth, John B. 48
 Mary L. 48, 49a
 Statira (Goodwin) 48
 Wheeler, Dorcas 64, 90
 Willard, Joseph A. 71
 Williams, Thomas 123
 Wilson, Samuel 115
 Sarah (Simonds) 115
 Windship, Edward 12
 Winn, Joseph 115
 Martha (Blodgett) 115
 Winslow, Azubah (Blodgett) 134
 Sherbad 134
 Wood, Rebecca 117
 Wright, Elizabeth 108
 Henry 107
 Wyman, Elizabeth 127, 128
 Sarah 127, 128

See "Seth⁶ Blodgett and
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See page 113 - 116 - 126 of this Volume.

