

A GENEALOGY

—OF THE—

DESCENDANTS

—OF—

JOHN BULFINCH

—OF—

BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS

1700 — 1895

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

In an article on Charles Bulfinch, the architect, published in the *New England Magazine* for November, 1890, the writer states that Adino Bulfinch, who settled in Boston in 1681, was the first of the Bulfinch name in this country. Such, however, is not the fact. There was a John Bulfinch who settled in Salem as early as 1640. He was made a freeman, May 18, 1642. In 1640 he was the defendant in an action of debt brought by John Luff, and was awarded damages and costs by the Court. At a general town meeting held in Salem, April 4, 1640, "goodman Bulfinch" was appointed to survey the fences in the field next to the ferry that leaves to Ipswich. February 23, 1643, ten acres of land were granted to "brother Bulfinch." At a general town meeting, held Dec. 4, 1643, John Bulfinch was chosen for the "Jury of tryalls." January 1, 1645, John Bulfinch and John Alderman returned an inventory of the estate of Margaret Pease of Salem.

Savage, in his *Genealogical Dictionary*, says that John Bulfinch removed from Salem, but it is not

known whither he went. A recent search, however, among the Middlesex and Essex County Court Records* has brought to light the fact that he returned to England about the year 1653, and died at Chatham, Kent County, about 1679. Chatham was presumably his native place, and the English home of the Bulfinch family.

It is probable that John Bulfinch of Salem was the ancestor of the John Bulfinch, ship-joiner, who first appears of record in Boston in 1726. It is probable, too, that Capt. Adino Bulfinch and his descendants, among whom are Charles Bulfinch, the architect, and Thomas Bulfinch, the physician, have in him a common ancestor. Capt. Adino Bulfinch was a sail-maker by trade, and his oldest son, John, and his youngest son, William, were also sail-makers; so that in trade, at least, they were near allied to John Bulfinch, the ship-joiner, and his son John, ship-joiner. For a short history of the Adino Bulfinch branch of the family, see Drake's "Boston," Page 663 note, and Bridgman's "Memorials of the Dead in Boston; King's Chapel Burying Ground."

* Jan. 3. 1680, "administration upon the estate of John Bulfinch, lately deced at Chattam in the County of Kent in old Engld, is granted unto Katharine Bell [widow of Abraham Bell of Charlestown] his daughter." *Middlesex Co. Court Records, Volume III., Page 334.* — In Essex Registry of Deeds at Salem, Book 1, Page 19, under date of August 24, 1653, it is recorded that Abraham Bell of Charlestown, waterman, in consideration of 45 shillings hath sold to Jeffrey Massy of Salem, planter, "one tooe acre lott in Salem late in the possession of John Bulfinch adioyning to the lands of francis Skerry and George Ropes as by deed dated the 24 of August 1653 apeth."

FIRST GENERATION.

The branch of the family with which this article has directly to deal begins with John Bulfinch, a ship-joiner by trade, who married Elizabeth Bumstead of Boston, November 3, 1726. Of his parentage nothing is known to the writer. His wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Bridges) Bumstead, and was born in 1706. Mr. Bumstead's diary from 1722 to 1728 was published in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register in 1861. Under date of November 3, 1726, he writes: "My daughter Elizabeth was married to Mr. Bulfinch by Mr. Prince, about 8 att night." Elizabeth, wife of John Bulfinch, died July 3, 1737, and he married, second, May 10, 1739, Mary Peabody, daughter of Joseph Peabody of Boxford, born February 4, 1697.

In 1758, John Bulfinch was assigned to duty by the selectmen of Boston on "Engine No. 7—13 men," and on that account was excused by the Governor "from all Military duty as well as from Serving in any office." In the years 1768 to 1773 inclusive, he was chosen a Surveyor of Boards at the annual town meetings in Boston. In 1774, 1775, 1776 and 1777, his son, John Bulfinch, was chosen to this office.

John¹ Bulfinch died about 1774. By his wife, Elizabeth, he had issue :—

- (1) JOHN², b. July 17, 1727.
- (2) ELIZABETH², b. March 24, 1728, d. November 8, 1730.
- (3) ELIZABETH², b. December 10, 1730, d. a "spinster."*
- (4) SUSANNA², b. June 29, 1732, d. June 19, 1735.
- (5) JEREMIAH², b. May 4, 1734.
- (6) SUSANNA², b. December 22, 1735, d. November 17, 1736.

There may have been other children of John Bulfinch of whom we have no record.

SECOND GENERATION.

John² Bulfinch, son of John¹ and Elizabeth (Bumstead) Bulfinch, born in Boston, July 17, 1727, died in Lynn, February 4, 1812. He, too, was a ship-joiner by trade, and is said to have worked on the frigate Constitution. One of his sons was an officer in the American Navy and died on the prison ship Jersey at Brooklyn. He married Anna Breed, daughter of Amos and Elizabeth Breed of Boston, September 10, 1754.† His name and that of his wife, Anna Bul-

* See deed from John Bulfinch, Junior, ship-joiner, and Elizabeth Bulfinch, "spinster, two of the heirs of Elizabeth Bridges, their grandmother," to Jeremiah Bumstead "Taylor," dated July 19, 1760, and recorded with Suffolk Deeds, in Boston. In this deed, Anna, wife of John Bulfinch, releases dower.

† Records of New North Church. Amos Breed died testate in 1747, leaving a widow, Elizabeth, and children, Elizabeth, Anna and Mary. Elizabeth was born in Boston, May 16, 1725, and Mary, September 29, 1733. The birth of Anna is entered on the Boston Records, but the date of birth is wanting. Mary Breed married Jeremiah Bumstead, and Elizabeth was a "spinster." See deed of mortgage from "Elizabeth Breed, widow, John Bulfinch, ship-joiner, and Anna, his wife, Jeremiah Bumstead, Taylor, and Mary, his wife, and Elizabeth Breed, spinster," to Moses Peck, watchmaker, dated July 5, 1760, and conveying certain property in Boston "being heretofore the Estate of Amos Breed, deceased."

finch, appear in several deeds of land in Boston. In them he is uniformly described as a ship-joiner until 1793, when he is spoken of as a housewright. In deed dated December 1, 1796, John Bulfinch of Malden, housewright, "for the natural love and affection which I have and bear for my son Jeremiah Bulfinch of Boston * * gentleman, and for my grandson, John Bulfinch, son of the said Jeremiah, a minor," conveys certain land in Malden "to the said Jeremiah Bulfinch until the said John Bulfinch shall arrive at lawful age, then to the said John Bulfinch in fee * * saving and reserving to myself the income, use and improvement of the aforesaid described premises for and during the term of my natural life."

In the Boston Directory of 1796 appear the following names :—

BULFINCH, JOHN, ship-joiner, Federal Street.

BULFINCH, JEREMIAH, livery stable, Back Street.*

BULFINCH, SAMUEL, taylor, Kilby Street.

BULFINCH, CHARLES, esq., Middlecott Street.

BULFINCH, THOMAS, physician, Bowdoin's Square.

The three last named in the above list were descendants of Adino Bulfinch. No record has been found of the children of John and Anna Bulfinch.

* Salem Street, as far as Prince Street, was formerly called Back Street.

THIRD GENERATION.

Jeremiah³ Bulfinch, son of John² and Anna (Breed) Bulfinch, born in Boston in 1759, and died in Augusta, Me., November 19, 1846. He kept a livery stable and was the first person in Boston to use a hack and establish a price at twenty-five cents. In a deed from his father John in 1781, Jeremiah Bulfinch is described as a "Trader," and, in 1793, he is referred to as an "Innholder." In later deeds he is spoken of as a "Broker." For many years he lived on Federal Street, in Lynn.* He married, first, July 22, 1787, Rebecca Cheever (born Johnson), and by her had issue:—

- (1) REBECCA⁴, b. June 23, 1788, mar. Timothy Coggeshall.
- (2) SUSAN⁴, b. December 1, 1789, mar. Dr. Daniel Poor, a distinguished missionary, and died in Ceylon, May 7, 1821.
- (3) JOHN⁴,† b. September 29, 1791, d. in Waldoboro, Me., November 23, 1884.
- (4) ELIZA⁴, b. June 1, 1793, mar. John Ireson of Lynn.
- (5) JEREMIAH⁴, b. April 10, 1795, d. in South Carolina, leaving a widow and one child.
- (6) HENRY⁴, b. June 6, 1797, d. in Nahant, January 28, 1853.
- (7) AMOS BREED⁴, b. March 25, 1799, d. in Woburn, Nov. 10, 1884.
- (8) EMILY⁴, b. December 15, 1801, d. April 12, 1828.

* An anecdote about Jeremiah Bulfinch is given in Newhall's History of Lynn, page 418.

† October 25, 1812, after John Bulfinch had become of age, he sold the property in Malden, which his grandfather conveyed to him in 1796. In this deed he is referred to as a "gentleman and bachelor."

Rebecca, wife of Jeremiah Bulfinch, died November 23, 1804, aged 46 years*; and March 19, 1807, he married second, Hannah Flint (b. Newhall). By her he had issue :—

- (9) WILLIAM NEWHALL⁴, b. December 19, 1807.
- (10) THOMAS WITT⁴, b. December 17, 1809, d. July 26, 1811.
- (11) HANNAH⁴, b. November 20, 1811, d. January 1, 1873.
- (12) SAMUEL⁴, b. June 7, 1814, d. May 5, 1815.
- (13) JEREMIAH⁴, b. March 17, 1818, d. March 13, 1893.
- (14) COATES WITT⁴, b. July 17, 1821.

Hannah, wife of Jeremiah Bulfinch, died in Lynn March 25, 1839.

FOURTH GENERATION.

John⁴ (Jeremiah³, John², John¹) born in Boston, Sept. 29, 1791, died in Waldoboro, Me., Nov. 23, 1884. He married, June 28, 1825, Sophronia W. Pike, who was born in Methuen Mass. Jan. 18, 1801, and died Dec. 27, 1859.

John Bulfinch fitted for college in Lynn and entered Harvard in 1808, and was the last survivor of the class of 1812. After graduation he taught school and studied law in Belfast, Me. In 1816, he opened an office in Union. In 1823, he removed to Waldoboro where he continued in the practice of his profes-

* Her gravestone in the Old Burying Ground at Lynn, reads :—
" Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Rebecca Bulfinch, wife of Mr. Jeremiah Bulfinch, who died Nov. 23, 1804, aged 46 years. ' Her children rise up and call her blessed : Her husband, also, he praiseth her.' "

sion, and was engaged in shipping and ship building until he retired from business about 1868. He never held public office, but actively engaged in the educational interests of the town, supporting a high school, with the aid of a few others, for a number of years. He was regarded a sound lawyer and had an extensive practice in the courts of Lincoln County.

He had issue :

- (1) AMALINE REBECCA^b, b. June 6, 1826.
- (2) SOPHRONIA CAROLINE^b, b. Feb. 16, 1828, mar. Harvey H. Lovell of Barnstable, Mass., and d. Aug. 12, 1889. They had one child, John Harvey^b Lovell.
- (3) JOHN JOHNSON^b, b. May 1, 1830, mar. Emeline D. Thurlow September 28, 1870, ~~and~~ d. March 29, 1872. He was graduated at Bowdoin in 1850, and from the Bangor Theological Seminary in 1856. He began preaching in Perry, Me., in 1856, and subsequently held pastorates at Milltown, N. B., Boothbay Harbor, Newcastle, Me. and Freeport, Me., in which latter place he was located from 1870 to 1876. Since then he has resided in Waldoboro, preaching on alternate Sundays in the neighboring towns of Bremen and Washington. He has been supervisor of schools in Waldoboro for several years, and has devoted some of his time to fitting young men for college and for teachers.
- (4) JEREMIAH EVARTS^b, b. Feb. 5, 1833 d. at sea, Aug. 10, 1861. He was master of a bark, died of yellow fever and was buried off Hatteras.
- (5) JOSEPHINE MARIA^b, b. Jan. 25, 1835.
- (6) CLARA ANNIE^b, b. Sept. 5, 1839, d. Dec 26, 1842.
- (7) FRANK^b, b. Aug. 10, 1844. Is unmarried and lives with his brother and sisters at Waldoboro, Me.

Henry⁴ (Jeremiah³, John², John¹) born June 6, 1797, died in Nahant, January 28, 1853. He was graduated from Harvard in 1821, studied divinity, preached occasionally, but most of his time was engaged as a teacher. He was settled over the Methodist church of Marblehead in 1822. He was a very quiet, unassuming man, but quite successful as a teacher. He married his cousin Mary C. Johnson of Nahant, daughter of Caleb and Olive Johnson. She died in Everett, Nov. 28, 1888, aged 67 years, 11 months, 22 days.

They had issue :—

- (1) MARY O.⁵, b. May 26, 1825, d. in Everett May 18, 1892.
- (2) DELIA R.⁵, l. March 12, 1827, mar. ——— Wade who has since deceased.
- (3) ELLEN H.⁵, b. Jan. 6. 1831, mar. S. Martin Johnson and lives in Everett.
- (4) ARTHUR J.⁵, now residing in Chelsea.

Amos Breed⁴ (Jeremiah³, John², John¹) was born in Lynn, March 25, 1799, and died in Woburn, Nov. 10, 1884. His mother, who had intended to give all her children a good education, died when he was about five years old, and he never had the educational advantages of his older brothers. He went to sea when a young man, and also later in life, but gained his livelihood, for the most part, as a shoemaker. In June, 1821, he married Hannah, daughter of Nicholas and Hannah (Miller) Coombs of Marblehead. She was born Sept. 2, 1802, and died in Woburn, Dec. 20,

1883. She was well acquainted with the early family history of the Bulfinches, and with her death much valuable information concerning the family was forever lost. Her father, referred to in the probate records at Salem as a mariner, died in Marblehead in 1809, and was the son of Nicholas and Hannah (Sinecross) Coombs. Her mother was a daughter of John and Mary (Girdler) Miller, and was born in Marblehead, March 18, 1773.

Amos Breed and Hannah Bulfinch had issue :—

- (1) HENRY⁵, b. in Lynn, May 14, 1822, mar. Eliza A. Dolli-
ver, March 30, 1847. She was born in Marblehead,
Sept. 1, 1826. He enlisted twice during the war for
terms of nine months and one year respectively; has
been across the continent three times, and resided in San
Francisco for several years. His present residence is
Woburn. His children, now living, are: HENRY F.⁶
b. July 30, 1848, married, and living with a family of
boys and girls in Woburn; and STEPHEN A.⁶ b. in Win-
chester Nov. 11, 1850; he taught school for several
years in California but is now agent of the Union Ice
Co. of California, and resides at Los Angeles; he mar-
ried Georgianna Gray of Sacramento and they have two
children, both girls.
- (2) SUSAN⁵, b. in Lynn, Oct. 9, 1823, mar. Alvah Buckman of
Woburn, April 14, 1845. He has for years been the
leading retail dealer of boots and shoes in Woburn.
His children now living are: FRANCIS A.⁶ b. Dec. 17,
1849, and SUSAN E.⁶ b. Dec. 28, 1856, mar. Edward
G. Clough Jan. 1, 1879.

- (3) JULIA ANN⁵, b. in Lynn, June 23, 1825, mar. John Johnson of Woburn, July 18, 1846. Their children are: ROSELLA M.⁶ b. Jan. 9, 1849; JOHN W.⁶ b. Oct. 1, 1852; EDWARD F.⁶ b. Oct. 22, 1856.
- (4) HANNAH MARIA⁵, b. in Lynn, July 7, 1828, mar. John M. Merrill of Lynn, Nov. 16, 1856. He was born in Limerick, Me., and is manager of a large hardware establishment in Lynn.
- (5) LUCINDA⁵, b. in Lynn Aug. 11, 1830, d. in Woburn, April 2, 1878.
- (6) ANN⁵, b. in Woburn, May 2, 1833, mar. John E. Tidd of Woburn, July 19, 1864. He served through the war and is now a deputy sheriff and court officer for Middlesex County.
- (7) WARREN⁵, b. in Woburn, Aug. 17, 1837, mar. Libbie Gee, of Port Crane, N. Y., Feb. 16, 1868. He is a farmer and lives at Port Crane. His children: LOUISE⁶, b. in Binghamton, March 23, 1869, d. Feb. 5, 1891; EDWARD⁶, b. in Port Crane, Feb. 28, 1871; CARRIE COOMBS⁶, b. in Port Crane, March 2, 1872; SUSAN⁶, b. in Port Crane, May 25, 1875.
- (8) CHARLES⁵, b. in Woburn, April, 8, 1839, d. there unmar. April 18, 1878. He served nine months in the War of the Rebellion in Co. C, 2d Heavy Artillery. He was a man of generous impulses and even temperament.
- (9) EDWARD⁵, b. in Woburn, Nov. 22, 1842, mar. Jennie M. Blake of Athol, Aug. 30, 1873, and d. in Woburn Sept. 27, 1885. He saw service in the War for nine months in Co. G, 5th Reg't, M. V. M., and for one hundred days, in 1864, in the 6th Reg't. His only child, CHESTER W.⁶ b. in Malone, N. Y. Nov. 25, 1875, is now a student at Dartmouth College, class of '98.

Jeremiah⁴ (Jeremiah³, John², John¹), son of Jeremiah and Hannah Bulfinch, born March 17, 1818, married June 8, 1845, Mary Ann Tilton of Lynn, and died there March 13, 1893. His wife was born Sept. 24, 1825, and died May 30, 1861. He came to Lynn when about ten years of age, and for six years after attaining his majority taught schools in Saugus, Marblehead, Lynnfield, and Danvers. He first engaged in the business of pharmacy with Dr. George Summers, and, in 1851, started a store of his own. He followed this business successfully until the infirmities of increasing years led him to transfer it to his son.

He had issue :

- (1) ELVIR DREW³, b. Nov. 13, 1849, mar. Samuel P. Bancroft Dec. 7, 1871, and d. Feb. 18, 1888. ELLEN⁶, b. Dec. 28, 1876, is the only surviving issue of this marriage.
- (2) CHARLES F.⁵ b. Oct. 22, 1854, mar. Oct. 17, 1883, Ila S. Lawrence of Epsom, N. H. He is a pharmacist, doing business in Lynn. His children are: F. LAWRENCE⁶, b. April 28, 1885, and MARY ELVA⁶, b. Jan. 13, 1889.
- (3) HENRY CUSHING⁵, b. Feb. 16, 1859, mar. Estella Questrom of Swampscott, April 2, 1879. He succeeded to his father's business at Lynn, but resides at Swampscott for which town he has served on the Board of Selectmen. His children are: MARION TILTON⁶, b. Oct. 30, 1880; MILDRED CORA⁶, b. Nov. 24, 1882; and FLORENCE IRENE⁶, b. Dec. 11, 1885.

Coates Witt⁴ (Jeremiah³, John², John¹), son of Jeremiah and Hannah Bulfinch, born July 17, 1821,

married Mary E. Bacon, June 4, 1846. She died December 24, 1886. They had issue :

- (1) GEORGE W.⁵ b. May 17, 1847, mar. Susan W. Lapham, Oct. 27, 1867. Their children are: FLORA MAY⁶, b. June 10, 1868; ALICE MARIA⁶, b. Nov. 3, 1870, mar. Robert Henderson, Sept. 28, 1887; WILLIAM EDSON⁶, b. Jan. 2, 1873; LILLIAN V.⁶ b. Nov. 29, 1876; MARY E.⁶ b. Sept. 19, 1880, and EDGAR F.⁶ b. Jan. 21, 1883.
- (2) EDGAR F.⁵, b. May 5, 1851, mar. Sept. 24, 1871, Hattie E. Wentworth, and d. Aug. 21, 1873. No issue.
- (3) ELLA B.⁵, b. Aug. 8, 1852, mar. Dec. 23, 1871, John T. Kelley. She d. April 11, 1890, leaving one child, WALTER E.⁶ b. Feb. 21, 1874.
- (4) ALVAH P.⁵ b. Sept. 9, 1856, d. Nov. 26, 1858.
- (5) ADDISON N.⁵ b. March 9, 1859, d. Sept. 5, 1859.
- (6) WILLIAM E.⁵ b. July 8, 1863, d. July 27, 1864.
- (7) LIZZIE E.⁵ b. July 8, 1863, mar. June 16, 1885, Charles W. Davidson. One child, ROLAND STERLING⁶, b. Jan. 10, 1889.

The foregoing pages have been published from manuscript prepared five years ago ; but, for six generations, with the possible exception of the issue of the children of Coates Witt Bulfinch, the above genealogy is believed to be as complete to date as, with ordinary diligence, it is possible to make it.

EDWARD F. JOHNSON.

December 25, 1895.

