

THE FOSTER FAMILY.

ONE

LINE OF THE DESCENDANTS

OF

WILLIAM FOSTER,

SON OF REGINALD FOSTER,

OF

IPSWICH, MASS.

By PERLEY DERBY, OF SALEM, MASS.

BOSTON: 1872.

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IN Vol. I., p. 352, of the Historical and Genealogical Register, will be found a brief notice of REGINALD FOSTER, of Ipswich, and the descendants of his son Abraham, communicated by the late Hon. Alfred Dwight Foster, of Worcester. There has also been published for private distribution, by Dr. Edward J. Forster, of Charlestown, Mass., "The Pedigree and Descendants of JACOB FORSTER, Senior, of Charlestown," who was a descendant of Reginald Foster, Jr., of Ipswich; and yet another line has been distinctly filled, in manuscript, through JACOB, the youngest son of Reginald, from whom descended Archibald Foster, Esq., formerly cashier of Granite Bank, Portuguese and Brazilian Consul, Boston. The following article gives one line of the descendants of WILLIAM, *fourth* son of Reginald.

FIRST GENERATION.

REGINALD FOSTER,¹ as is generally accredited, was born in Exeter, County of Devon, England, and a descendant of an ancient and respectable family of that city, which was identified with those families in the northern counties of England, who were known by the name of *Forster*,* and had distinguished themselves in their successful achievements against their Scottish foes, and are mentioned in the "Lay of the Last Minstrel," and "Marmion." He came to America in one of the vessels embargoed by King Charles I., accompanied by his wife, Judith, five sons and two daughters, and settled in Ipswich, Mass., about the year 1638, and was one of the earliest inhabitants of that town. He lived near the "East Bridge," which stood where the stone bridge now is. It is supposed that the remains of what is known as the "old Foster house," may have been the site of his residence, and this seems consistent with the fact, that under date of April 6, 1641, there was "granted to Reginald Foster, eight acres of meadow in the west meadow, if any remain there ungranted, in consideration of a little hovel

* "In the earlier records we find the name spelt indifferently Foster and Forster—the former spelling being the more common. The "r" has now been entirely dropped, except by the descendants of Jacob Forster, Sen., of Charlestown, Mass., who was the first, I believe, to write the name always in this manner."—*Edward Jacob Forster, M.D.*

that stood at the new bridge, which was taken away for the accommodating of the passage there." And "4th 11 mo., 1646," he with others "promise carting voluntary toward the East Bridge beside the rate a day work a piece."

December 19, 1645, he subscribes with others his proportion of 3^s, to make up the sum of £24 7^s, "to pay their leader Maior Dennison," who then commanded the military forces of Essex and Norfolk counties, and was for many years Major General of the colony. This year, a law was passed requiring the "youth from ten to sixteen years to be exercised with small guns, half-pikes, bows and arrows;" and that "every town is to have a guard set a half hour after sunset, to consist of a pikeman and musketeer, and to prepare for any sudden attack from the Indians." (*Felt.*) Such was the danger arising from this source, that in 1637 a law was passed in Ipswich, that "no person is allowed to travel alone above one mile from his house, except where houses are near together, without arms."

March 8, 1647-8, he bought of Ralph Dix, Ipswich, "all his six acre lott he" (Dix) "bought of Wm. White" (same day), "lying in the common field on the north side of the river, bounded on land of Thomas Smyth, Humphrey Broadstreet and Robert Lord."

In 1652, there was "Granted Thomas Clark and Reginal Foster, that when they shall have cut through a passage from this river into Chebacco River, of ten feet wide and soe deepe as a lighter may pass through laden, and to make a ford and footebridge over, that then the town have given unto them £10 towards said passage." (*Ipswich Town Records.*)

March 11, 1657-8, he bought for £50, of Roger Preston, his dwelling house, house lot, barn and other buildings. Also his other house lot, with gardens, orchards, &c., which the said Preston bought of Robert Wallis, situated on the North side of the river. Also one planting lot of three acres, on the north side of Town hill, bounded on land of widow Rose Whipple, Andrew Hodges, John Morse and Thomas Treadwell.

He was witness to the will of Wm. Averill, of Ipswich, June 3, 1652, and an appraiser to the estate of Robert Roberts, September 29, 1663. His name is variously written in an abbreviated form, viz.:—Renald, Regnold, Rejnald, Ringdell, Reginold. He signed his will, Renol Foster. It is erroneously supposed by many that he is the sole progenitor of the Fosters of America. There is an account of a William Foster, who was of Ipswich as early as 1635, and had land granted him that year, and

is said to have emigrated to this country from England in 1634, in the ship *Hercules*. In November, 1637, he was disarmed for entertaining the peculiar views and doctrines of Wheelwright and Ann Hutchinson, and warned to depart from the jurisdiction before the sitting of the General Court in March following. A William Foster, living in 1652, at Marblehead, was threatened, by court, with a fine of £20, for "living heare and his wife in England," and warned to "go to her before the end of the 7th mo., 1652." [*Co. Ct. Rec.*] Andrew Foster, an early settler of Andover, died May 7, 1685, at the very advanced age of 106 years. His wife, Ann Foster, was condemned for supposed witchcraft (See Abbott's *History of Andover*, p. 154), but died in prison. Her son Abram petitioned, Sept. 13, 1710:—

"The honorable Committee now sitting in Salem
 * * * * * that the attainer may be
 taken off * * * . The charges which I was
 forced to pay the keeper before I could have the
 dead body of my mother to bury her was £2 10^s;
 money and provisions expended while she was in
 prison, £4. Total expenses six pounds ten shillings.

ABRAM FOSTER, Son of the Deceased."

(*Historical Collection, Essex Institute*, vol. i. p. 57.)

Andrew Foster appears in no way identified with

the Fosters of Ipswich. An account of his descendants may be found in the N. E. H. and G. Register, vol. xx. p. 227.

There were, besides, Bartholomew of Gloucester, Christopher of Lynn, Edward of Scituate, William of Charlestown (of whose family an account was published in the N. E. H. and G. Register for Jan. 1871), Hopestill of Dorchester, and several others contemporary with him; but between whom it is not known that any relation existed.

The will of Reginald was made April 30, 1680, a codicil attached, signed March 5, 1680-1, and approved June 9, 1681. He appears to have been a large owner at Plum and Hog Islands; and among his bequests, he gives to his son William "my six acres of land I had of Thomas Smith, and six acres of marsh at Hog Island." He also mentions his wife Sarah, sons Abraham, Renold, Isaac, Jacob, and daughters Sarah, wife of Wm. Story, Mary, wife of Francis Peabody, and grandchild Hannah Story. He left an estate valued at £744 16s, including real estate at £671. Inventory taken May 30, 1681, by John Whipple and Simon Stace.

Reginald was twice married. First, to Judith —, in England, who died in Ipswich, October, 1664; second, September, 1665, to Sarah Martin,

of Ipswich, who, after her husband's decease, married, September 21, 1682, William White, of Haverhill, whose first wife Mary died Feb. 22, 1681.

Seven children by Judith.

i. ABRAHAM,² born in England, 1622, died at Ipswich, January 15, 1711. He settled in Ipswich, and was a yeoman. September 26, 1698, he was 76 years of age, when he gave his deposition concerning Rev. John Norton's land.

There is no will or administration of his estate, he having disposed of his property among his family by deed dated Dec. 21, 1698 (Essex Deeds, book 13, p. 206), before his decease. He married Lydia, daughter of Caleb and Martha Burbank, of Rowley.

Nine children:—

- i. ISAAC,³ d. February 13, 1717.
- ii. EPHRAIM,³ b. Oct. 9, 1657; removed to Andover, where he died Sept. 21, 1746.
- iii. ABRAHAM,³ b. Oct. 14, 1659; m. Nov. 15, 1693, Mary Robertson. Adm. granted to son Daniel, April 5, 1742.
- iv. JAMES,³ b. June 12, 1662.
- v. BENJAMIN,³ b. about 1670; removed to Boxford, where he was living, 1727.
- vi. EBENEZER,³ b. July 15, 1672; removed to Rowley about 1700. Will proved April 14, 1718.
- vii. MENTABLE,³ b. Oct. 22, 1675.
- viii. CALEB,³ b. Nov. 9, 1677; d. Jan. 25, 1736.
- ix. RUTH,³ m. April 16, 1702, Jeremiah Pearley.

ii. REGINALD,² born in England, —; died Dec. 28, 1707. Date of his decease recorded on his inventory. He lived in Chebacco Parish, Ipswich,

and married Elizabeth, daughter of John Dane, of Ipswich. He left a will, wherein he speaks of his extreme old age, "the craziness and weakness of his body." Inventory of his estate, £326 19^s. Debts, £19 16^s 7^d, £4 1^s 6^d of which were for rum, sugar, spice, gloves and cider for the funeral, a custom quite prevalent in those days.

Eleven children:—

- i. ISAAC,³
- ii. ELIZABETH,³ m. Aug. 8, 1674, Simon Wood, of Ipswich.
- iii. JUDITH,³ b. Jan. 20, 1659-60; d. —; mentioned in her father's will.
- iv. MARY,³ b. June 18, 1662.
- v. JOHN,³ b. 1664.
- vi. REBECCA,³ b. Feb. 25, 1666-7; d. July 1, 1684.
- vii. NAOMI,³ b. May 6, 1669; d. before 1707.
- viii. RUTH,³ b. Dec. 19, 1671; d. Jan. 1, 1671-2.
- ix. ELENOR,³ b. June 14, 1673.
- x. HANNAH,³ b. Oct. 5, 1675.
- xi. NATHANIEL,³ b. Sept. 19, 1678.

iii. ISAAC,² born in England, 1630, and was sixty-two years old when he made his will, proved March 29, 1692. Settled in Ipswich. He married, first, May 5, 1658, Mary Jackson, who died Nov. 27, 1677; second, Nov. 25, 1678, Hannah Downing, who died soon after; third, March 16, 1679-80, Martha Hale, who survived him.

Thirteen children:—

- i. JONATHAN,³ b. Jan. 9, 1658-9; d. May 15, 1661.
- ii. MEDITABLE,³ b. Sept. 19, 1660; d. Feb. 1660-1.
- iii. JACOB,³ b. Feb. 9, 1662-3; will proved April 24, 1758.
- iv. BENJAMIN,³ b. June, 1665.

- v. ELIZABETH,³ b. April 20, 1667.
- vi. MARY,³ b. June 26, 1669.
- vii. DANIEL,³ b. Nov. 14, 1670 ; living 1746.
- viii. MARTHA,³ b. Aug. 1, 1672.
- ix. RUTH,³ b. Feb. 20, 1673-4.
- x. PRUDENCE,³ b. May 23, 1675.
- xi. HANNAH,³ b. Oct. 24, 1676.
- xii. ELEAZER,³ under 21, 1692.
- xiii. SARAH,³ b. March 19, 1687.

2. iv. WILLIAM,² born in England, 1633 ; died at Boxford, June, 1713.

v. JACOB,² born in England, 1635 ; died at Ipswich, July 9, 1710. His will was made two days before his decease. He was deacon of the first church in Ipswich. He married, first, January 12, 1658-9, Martha Kinsman, who died Oct. 15, 1666 ; married, second, February 26, 1666-7, Abigail, daughter of Robert and Mary (Wait) Lord, who survived him.

Fourteen children : —

- i. JUDITH,³ b. Oct. 20, 1659 ; d. Jan. 27, 1659-60.
- ii. JOHN,³ b. 1660 ; d. 1660.
- iii. JACOB,³ May 15, 1662 ; d. June, 1662.
- iv. MARY,³ — ; d. Jan. 11, 1666-7.
- v. SARAH,³ Aug. 3, 1665 ; m. — Caldwell.
- vi. ABRAHAM,³ b. Dec. 4, 1667 ; d. Dec. 20, 1720.
- vii. JACOB,³ March 25, 1670 ; will proved April 24, 1758.
- viii. AMOS,³ b. Aug. 15, 1672 ; d. Oct. 12, 1672.
- ix. ABIGAIL,³ b. July 3, 1674.
- x. NATHANIEL,³ b. Oct. 7, 1676 ; d. before 1710.
- xi. SAMUEL,³ b. Sept. 10, 1678 ; d. before 1710.
- xii. JOSEPH,³ b. Sept. 14, 1680 ; d. Feb. 1754.
- xiii. JAMES,³ b. Nov. 12, 1682.
- xiv. MARY,³ b. Dec. 25, 1684.

vi. MARY,² born in England, ———; died in Topsfield, April 9, 1705. Married, ———, Lieut. Francis Peabody, of Topsfield; "born at St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England. Came to New England in 1635, in the ship Planter, Nicholas Trarice, master. He was one of the original settlers of Hampton, whither he came (probably from Lynn). He was of Topsfield, 1657, one of the prominent men and a large land-holder in that town, Boxford and Rowley. He died Feb. 19, 1697-8.

Fourteen children: —

- i. JOHN PEABODY,² b. 1642.
- ii. JOSEPH PEABODY,² b. 1644.
- iii. WILLIAM PEABODY,² b. 1646.
- iv. ISAAC PEABODY,² b. 1648.
- v. SARAH PEABODY,² b. 1650.
- vi. HEPHESBAH PEABODY,² b. 1652.
- vii. LYDIA PEABODY,² b. 1654.
- viii. MARY PEABODY,² b. 1656.
- ix. RUTH PEABODY,² b. Topsfield, May 22, 1658; d. before 1697.
- x. DAMARIS PEABODY,² b. Jan. 21, 1660; d. Dec. 19, 1660.
- xi. SAMUEL PEABODY,² b. Jan. 4, 1662; d. Sept. 13, 1677.
- xii. JACOB PEABODY,² b. July 28, 1664.
- xiii. HANNAH PEABODY,² b. May 28, 1668; d. before 1697.
- xiv. NATHANIEL PEABODY,² b. July 29, 1669; d. 1715."—
[Gen. of Peabody Family.]

vii. SARAH,² married William Story, of Ipswich, who died January, 1702-3. He was the ancestor of Dr. Story, formerly of Boston, and of the late Judge Story.

Four children : —

- i. SETH STORY.³
- ii. WILLIAM STORY.³
- iii. HANNAH STORY,³ b. Aug. 19, 1662.
- iv. A daughter,³ b. March 4, 1664.

SECOND GENERATION.

2. WILLIAM,² son of *Reginald*,¹ born in England, 1633. He made his will Sept. 3, 1711, when 78 years of age (as stated in his will), which was proved June 15, 1713. He was a yeoman, and removed to Rowley, where he was received as an inhabitant in 1661, and settled in that section of the town know as Rowley Village, and afterwards incorporated under the name of Boxford. Before his removal, he purchased of Joseph Jewett, of Rowley, for £11 13^s 4^d, a seventy-second part of the village lands in said town; but Mr. Jewett died before he gave him a deed of it, and he afterwards received one from the executors, bearing date of May 30, 1661, witnessed by Thomas Dorman, *Francis Peabody* and Gershom Lambert. About the year 1666-7 the village lands were laid out by John Pickard and Ezekiel Northend. Of this land, William Foster, *Francis Peabody* (who married Mary, the sister of said William), Joseph Bixbie and Abraham Reddington, received 800 acres, bounded north by land

of Messrs. Dorman, Cummins and Stiles, west by Andover line, south by Wade's brook, &c., and east by various other lots. This grant consisted of upland, meadow and swamp. It is recorded in the Essex Registry of Deeds, under date of Feb. 27, 1706-7, that he gave his son Samuel one-half of his right in said land, describing the same bounds and parties to whom it was laid out.

April 3, 1695, he, with his sons *William* and Jonathan, and John Kimball, all of Boxford, bought 300 acres of land of Robert Eames, "lying between Five Mile Pond and Moses Tyler's house, on both sides of Ipswich road." Aug. 25, 1710, he gave to his "son David, of Haverhill, all that right which falleth to us in lands, orchards, &c., which our Hon'd Father Wm. Jackson, formerly of Rowley, dec'd, did give to his son John Jackson and John Jackson's son John, William Jackson's grand-son, and in case his grand-son John died childless, then * * * the estate mentioned in said deed * * * to return to our father's three daughters or their children. William Jackson's grandson John dying childless, said lands are divided among said daughters, viz.: Elizabeth How, Mary Foster my wife, and Deborah Trumbull; which land in my right (Mr. Jackson's deed bearing date in Rowley, Dec. 6, 1680), I give to my son David."

Dec. 6, 1680, Mr. Jackson, aforementioned, gave to his daughter Mary Foster, out of his estate, two acres of meadow in the common field, one ox and a heifer, all of the value of £11, and "20^s of which is for her daughter's paines with me and my wife;" or, in other words, for the great care and comfort she had bestowed upon them in their old age, while abiding under their roof. Mr. Jackson died May 1, 1688.

Mr. Foster seems to have been one of the leading men in the town of Rowley, holding many offices of trust, and frequently serving on committees in matters of importance, with great acceptance. In 1675 he, with Joseph Peabody and John Kimball, were appointed collectors of taxes. In 1677 and 1680 he and John Peabody were appointed on part of the village to enforce the strict observance of the Sabbath, "and to have the special inspection of those families nearest their house on either side of them," according to the provisions of a law of the General Court, passed May 23, 1677.

Up to the year 1685, Rowley Village had been subject to the control and government of the town proper, which was contrary to the expectations of the settlers when the Village lands were allotted them, who considered themselves "free from any engagement to the town of Rowley else we had not

purchased it." According to the records, the Village, in 1673, was composed of but sixteen families, and living nearly nine miles distant from the town, and near to the bounds of Topsfield. In 1685, they had increased to forty families, and the lands, containing about eighteen thousand acres, they thought "would comfortably setuate one hundred families ;" and considering the distance from town, and the general difficulties under which they continually labored in their governmental affairs, and other matters owing to their remote situation, they conceived the importance of petitioning the General Court for leave to settle a minister, and grant them "township privilege, that so we might the more comfortably carry on so needfull a work, for the better education of our children that cannot goe fouer miles to meeting." [To Topsfield.] This petition was signed by "Abraham Reddington, Sen., Joseph Bixbee, Sen., Samuel Buswell, Sen., *William Foster* and John Peabody." Dated "27: 3 mo. 1685." The petition was granted June 5, 1685, "Provided it may be with the consent of the Selectmen of Rowley," and which finally resulted in the incorporation of the town of Boxford ; for shortly after the above grant, two committees were appointed, one on the part of Rowley Village (one of whom was Mr. Foster), and the other on the part of Rowley, who met

together July 7, 1685, and agreed upon "a parting line betwixt the town of Rowley and the village," that all the common undivided village land except the minister's farm, shall belong to Rowley, and "that the inhabitants shall be free from all rates to the town, excepting 20^s in silver, to be paid Joseph Bixbee, Sen., John Peabody, *William Foster*, Samuel Symonds and Moses Tyler, yearly * * * * while [or until] they have an orthodox minister settled in the village."

In his will, before referred to, Mr. Foster gives his five sons, Jonathan, *William*, Timothy, Samuel and David, all his *salt marsh* he had of his father Foster, lying in Ipswich, which is to be enjoyed by his wife Mary and son Joseph during her widowhood. Appoints sons Jonathan and Samuel executors.

While of Ipswich, he married May 15, 1661, Mary, daughter of William and Joanna Jackson, of Rowley, born Feb. 8, 1639. Mr. Jackson lived on Bradford street, where, in 1643, a house lot, containing one acre and a half, was laid out to him not far from the meeting-house.

Nine children, all born in Rowley.

i. MARY,³ born March 16, 1661; married Nov. 20, 1682, Samuel Kilburn, of Rowley.

ii. JUDITH,³ born June 19, 1664; married April 13, 1693, John Platts, of Rowley.

Five children :—

- i. MARY PLATTS.⁴
- ii. JAMES PLATTS.⁴
- iii. JOHN PLATTS.⁴
- iv. EBSABA PLATTS.⁴
- v. JOHANNAH PLATTS.⁴

iii. HANNAH,³ married March, 1709–10, Theophilus Rix, of Wenham, who died July 5, 1726. She was his second wife.

Two children :—

- i. SAMUEL RIX,⁴ b. April 7, 1711.
- ii. HANNAH RIX,⁴ b. May 4, 1717.

iv. JONATHAN,³ born March 6, 1667–8; d. at Boxford May 21, 1730. No will or settlement of estate on record. Married Dec. 14, 169–, Abigail, daughter of John and Sarah Kimball.

Three children :—

- i. JONATHAN,⁴ b. Sept. 15, 169–; bapt. 1693 at Topsfield.
- ii. ABIGAIL,⁴ b. Nov. 22, 1697.
- iii. ZEBADIAH,⁴ b. Sept. 28, 1702; bapt. January 17, 1703.

3. v. WILLIAM,³ born 1670; died Andover, Aug. 29, 1755.

vi. DAVID,³ born May 9, 1679; living in 1725. Removed to Haverhill. No will or settlement of estate. He was a joiner and yeoman. Married Mary Black.

Seven children :—

- i. ABIAL,⁴ b. May 2, 1702, at Boxford.
- ii. PHINEAS,⁴ b. June 5, 1704, at Boxford.
- iii. SIMON,⁴ b. June 17, 1707, at Topsfield.

- iv. HANNAH,⁴ b. Oct. 29, 1709, at Topsfield.
- v. LYDIA,⁴ b. Feb. 28, 1712, at Topsfield.
- vi. GRACE,⁴ b. May 20, 1714, at Topsfield.
- vii. DORCAS,⁴ b. April 1, 1717, at Topsfield.

vii. SAMUEL,³ born Feb. 20, 1681-2; died Aug. 30, 1747; married Sept. 2, 1703, at Cambridge, Mercy Macoon, of Cambridge. She died Dec. 6, 1740.

Five children : —

- i. SAMUEL,⁴ b. — ; bapt. Jan. 27, 1705; died young.
- ii. THOMAS,⁴ b. — ; bapt. May 23, 1708.
- iii. MERCY,⁴ b. Oct. 23, 1710.
- iv. WILLIAM,⁴ b. July 22, 1713.
- v. MARY,⁴ b. May 5, 1719.

viii. TIMOTHY,³ born 1672. He was 59 years of age when he gave his deposition, Aug. 13, 1731. He married, first, Mary, daughter of Ephraim and Martha Dorman.

Four children : —

- i. JEREMIAH,⁴ b. May 4, 1701.
- ii. DAVID,⁴ b. Aug. 17, 1704.
- iii. AMOS,⁴ b. — ; bapt. Feb. 1, 1713.
- iv. REBECCA,⁴ b. — ; bapt. June, 1720.

Sept. 4, 1718, he received from his father-in-law, 100 acres of land, for the benefit of his children he had by said wife, she now being deceased; said land being formerly in Coxhall, now Swansfield, Maine, between Wells and Saco. He married, second, Ruth —, before 1722.

- ix. JOSEPH,³ b. in Rowley, 168-; living in 1711.

THIRD GENERATION.

3. WILLIAM,³ son of *William*,² born in Rowley village (afterwards Boxford), 1670; removed to Andover, Mass., about 1697-8, and died there Aug. 29, 1755, in his 86th year. He left a will, made Feb. 9, 1754, proved Sept. 8, 1755, wherein he mentions his wife Margaret, daughters Sarah (Abbot), Mary (Abbot), Hannah (Lovejoy), grand-daughter Lydia (Blunt), son Asa, to whom he gives £13 6^s 8^d, his "*weaver's loom*," a picce of land near Billerica line, and all his right at Wood hill; son *John*, to whom he gives all the remaining land he bought of Heph-sibah Frye, and nine acres in Marble's meadow; grandson Daniel, son of son Asa, to whom he gives his "*Great Bible*."

Sept. 3, 1697, while of Boxford, he bought of William and Eleanor Chandler, of Andover, their homestead of sixty acres, consisting of house, barn, orchard, upland and swamp, lying in Andover; and it must have been soon after this date that he removed there, for we find Nov. 21, 1699, that William Foster, of Andover, *weaver*, bought of John Russ, one-half of his upper meadow, and afterwards, June 5, 1711, he bought of Stephen Osgood, Andover, and Hooker Osgood, of Lancaster, all their rights and proprietorship in Andover, derived by heirship from their father Stephen Osgood,

of Andover. April 3, 1695, before his removal, he, with his father William; brother Jonathan and John Kimball, all of Boxford, bought of Robert and Bethiah Eames, 300 acres of land, "between five mile pond and Moses Tyler's house on both sides of Ipswich road."

The following item appears in the Registry of Deeds for Essex County, book 43, p. 279: "* * * we Jonathan Foster, Timothy Foster and Samuel Foster of Boxford, *William Foster of Andover*, David Foster of Haverhill, Mary Kilburn and John Platts," (who married Judith, daughter of William, Sen., of Boxford), "Theophilus Rix and Hannah Rix his wife, of Wenham * * * for * * * the sum of thirty pounds * * * paid * * * by John Perkins of Andover * * * have sold * * * said John Perkins, his heirs, &c. a certain piece * * * of meadow lying in Andover and Salem, containing by estimation five acres * * * " Feb. 11, 1723-4. It will be seen by the family record that the foregoing enumerates the children and sons-in-law of said William, Sen., of Boxford.

Feb. 1, 1714-15. "William Foster, Andover, weaver," bought of John Lovejoy 50 acres of upland in Andover, bounded by land of John Fry, and meadow of Stephen Barnard, and also by Pond meadow. Also one right in common land. Jan. 20, 1715-16,

he buys of Hephzibah Frye "30 acres, a part of the great division which said Frye's grandfather, John Frie, gave to her father, Benjamin Frie, dec^d." In this deed he is styled "weaver," his identity being preserved from the fact of a bequest made to his son Asa of his "weaver's loom," before referred to. Jan. 15, 1717-18, he and Christopher and Ebenezer Lovejoy bought of James Frye, of Andover, eight acres of land on the west side of Shawshine river. Dec. 23, 1729, he sells to his son John Foster several parcels of land, bounded on John Dane, Marble's meadow, and Crane Meadow Dam. Dec. 20, 1731, he sold to Moses Foster, carpenter, a ten rods right in Capt. Stevens's Dam at Deer Meadow; Robert Walker and Asa Foster, witnesses. Sept. 1, 1744, he gives to his son Asa, five tracts of land, including the homestead, and afterwards, June 3, 1746, he gave him thirty-five acres, bounded on Pond Meadow Dam, and the parsonage land.

Mr. Foster settled in South Andover, and was at first a member of the church at the North Parish, and was one of the thirty-five members who were subsequently dismissed to form and establish the South church, in 1711. He married, first, July 6, 169-, Sarah, daughter of John and Sarah Kimball, of Boxford, born Sept. 19, 1669, died Nov. 6, 1729, in her 61st year. She was sister to Abigail,

who married her husband's brother, Jonathan Foster. Married, second, Nov. 13, 1744, Margaret Gould, who survived him.

Six children by Sarah.

i. SARAH,⁴ born in Boxford, April 20, 169—; bapt. at Topsfield, July 15, 1693; married Nov. 2, 1714, Nehemiah Abbot.

ii. MARY,⁴ born in Boxford, Jan. 2, 1698; married Dec. 9, 1717, Timothy Abbot.

4. iii. JOHN,⁴ born in Andover, Sept. 27, 1701; died June 17, 1773.

iv. HANNAH,⁴ born —; married June 25, 1722, John, son of Ebenezer Lovejoy.

v. LYDIA,⁴ born 1707; married Feb. 14, 1728, David, son of William and Sarah Blunt, born Nov. 18, 1699.

Two children: —

i. DAVID BLUNT,⁵ b. March 9, 1729.

ii. LYDIA BLUNT,⁵ b. April 6, 1731.

vi. ASA,⁴ born June 16, 1710; died July 17, 1787, leaving an estate valued at £830 16^s 7^d. He was the owner of 160 acres of land in Canterbury, N. H., besides large tracts of upland, meadow, &c., in Andover. March 8, 1776, he was appointed one of a Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety. He married, first, Oct. 26, 1732, Elizabeth, daughter of John Abbot, born 1712, died July 4,

1758; married, second, Lucy Rogers, of Ipswich, pub. Dec. 10, 1763, born 1724, died Oct. 17, 1787, in her 64th year.

Nine children:—

- i. ASA,^s b. Aug. 29, 1733. He and his four brothers removed to Canterbury, N. H., at an early period.
- ii. ABIEL,^s b. Aug. 8, 1735; d. Canterbury, Feb. 6, 1806, aged 71 years; H. U. 1756; prepared himself for the ministry, and was ordained at Canterbury, Jan. 21, 1761, where he preached till 1779, when he retired and entered on public business. Was Chief Justice for Rockingham County, and Rep. in Congress from 1789 to 1791, and from 1795 to 1803. Judge Foster married, first, May 17, 1761, Hannah, daughter of Gen. Joseph Badger of Gilmanton, N. H., by whom he had, Hannah,^c William,^c James^c and Sarah.^c Mrs. Foster died Jan. 10, 1768. He married, second, Mary, d. of Samuel and Hannah Rogers, of Ipswich, b. Nov. 1, 1745, d. March 12, 1813. Five children:—Martha,^c Mary,^c Abiel,^c Elizabeth,^c and Nancy.^c
- iii. DANIEL,^s b. Sept. 25, 1737.
- iv. DAVID,^s b. May 7, 1740; d. Oct. 14, 1740.
- v. DAVID,^s b. Dec. 24, 1741.
- vi. ELIZABETH,^s b. April 14, 1744; married Nov. 3, 1768, Gen. Nathaniel Lovejoy. She d. April 24, 1775.
- vii. JONATHAN,^s b. July 28, 1747.
- viii. SARAH,^s b. Feb. 15, 1750; married ——— Bradley.
- ix. LUCY,^s b. Feb. 1, 1765; married ——— Wilson; d. Nov. 1, 1845.

FOURTH GENERATION.

4. JOHN,^s son of William^s and Sarah, born in Andover, Sept. 27, 1701; died June 17, 1773. (He is not a descendant from Andrew, as it is suggested he

may be in the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. xx. p. 308.) He was a yeoman. March 13, 1728-9, he bought of Caleb Johnson, twenty-five acres of land on the west side of Shawshine river, bounded on land of William Foster.

Feb. 7, 1731-2, he and his brother Asa bought of Samuel Peters, 31 acres and 33 poles of land on Blanchard's plain. Sept. 24, 1733, he again purchased of said Peters, 25 acres more, on west side of Shawshine river, which was a part of Allen's farm. In the history of Andover, he is styled Capt. John Foster. He and his brother Capt. Asa were men of sound moral and intellectual attainments, and influence; Oct. 21, 1765, they with others were appointed a committee to draw up instructions for the Representative of the town at General Court to enter a protest against the support of the Stamp Act. The inhabitants of Andover and other towns had already begun to experience the harassing effects of that unwelcome measure. March, 1768, the two brothers were appointed on another committee, to frame resolutions, "to induce the inhabitants to ignore extravagance, idleness and vice, and to promote manufactures, industry, economy and good morals in the town, and discountenance importation and the use of foreign superfluities," and the said committee to make themselves prominent

in the moral enforcement of the foregoing suggestions, by their consistent example. The report was adopted.

Mr. Foster married Jan. 13, 1725, Mary Osgood, who died April 6, 1772.

Eleven children.

i. WILLIAM,⁵ born Sept. 24, 1727; died April 8, 1729.

ii. JOHN,⁵ born March 22, 1729; died April 7, 1729.

iii. WILLIAM,⁵ born March 4, 1730; died Sept., 1803. He was a yeoman. Married Jan. 9, 1755, Hannah, daughter of Capt. George and Mary (Phillips, sister to Rev. Samuel) Abbot, born in Andover, Dec. 14, 1733, died August, 1820.

Four children: —

i. HANNAH,⁶ b. June 20, 1756; m. Feb. 27, 1777, Timothy Rogers, of Tewksbury.

ii. WILLIAM,⁶ b. June 1, 1758; d. Aug. 30, 1843. He was styled Master Foster; and his son William Phillips Foster,⁷ who died Feb. 24, 1871, occupied the farm where his father was born and lived eighty-five years till his decease.

iii. MARY,⁶ b. July 21, 1763; m. Oct. 30, 1783, Timothy, son of Timothy and Sarah Ballard, b. July 28, 1757.

iv. SARAH,⁶ b. Sept. 9, 1765; m. June 8, 1794, Joseph Brown, of Tewksbury.

iv. A son,⁵ born Jan. 13, 1732; died same day.

v. JOHN,⁵ born Feb. 14, 1733.

vi. MARY,⁵ born Jan. 12, 1735; died Dec. 7, 1763.

vii. ISAAC,⁵ born April 28, 1737.

viii. GIDEON,⁵ born Aug. 21, 1739 ; died Aug. 9, 1817. Married March 3, 1768, Elizabeth Russell, born 1745, died Sept. 15, 1820, aged 75 years.

5. ix. OBADIAH,⁵ born May 25, 1741 ; died July 25, 1780.

x. SOLOMON,⁵ born April 14, 1743 ; died June 8, 1790, at Lincoln, Mass. Married Rebecca Brown, of Lincoln.

xi. OSGOOD,⁵ born Nov. 10, 1745 ; died Nov. 13, 1745.

FIFTH GENERATION.

5. OBADIAH,⁵ son of *John*⁴ and Mary, born May 25, 1741 ; died July 25, 1780. Administration on his estate was granted his widow, Hannah, who gave bonds, with Hezekiah Ballard and Gideon Foster, Oct. 2, 1780. His real estate was valued at £1,253 9^s 8^d; personal estate, £2,748 16^s 1^d. Yeoman. He married May 30, 1769, Hannah, daughter of Hezekiah and Lydia Ballard, born Dec. 6, 1748, died Dec. 22, 1838.

Six children.

6. i. JOHN,⁶ born March 3, 1770 ; died at Warner, N. H., April 13, 1846.

ii. OBADIAH,⁶ born Nov. 28, 1771 ; died July 25,

1819. Married Dec. 25, 1800, Phebe Duty, of Salem, N. H.

iii. HANNAH,⁶ born Sept. 15, 1773; died June 15, 1832. Married June 16, 1818, Abijah Cross; he d. Feb. 21, 1848.

iv. FREDERICK,⁶ born July 20, 1775; died Eutaw, Alabama, Aug. 5, 1838. Married, 1802, Nancy Finch, Newberry District, S. C.

v. DORCAS,⁶ born June 9, 1777; died Dec. 21, 1830. Married Oct. 18, 1798, Joshua Chandler, Jr.

vi. GIDEON,⁶ born May 23, 1779; died April 24, 1865, in Charlestown, Mass. Married, first, Oct. 14, 1804, Tabitha Robbins; married, second, March 28, 1814, Pamela Winn; married, third, April 13, 1843, Mrs. Ruth Rose.

SIXTH GENERATION.

6. JOHN,⁶ son of *Obadiah*,⁵ born Andover, March 3, 1770. He lived in Andover and Tewksbury until 1810, when he removed to Nottingham West, N. H. (afterwards called Hudson), and was there engaged in mercantile pursuits until 1830; thence removed to Warner, N. H., where he resided until his decease, April 13, 1846. Mr. Foster possessed a quick and sound judgment, great energy of character and rare virtues. He was mild, frank, manly and determined

in action, urbane and conciliatory in manners, exemplary in habits, and "scrupulously faithful and conscientious in the discharge of all the duties of life." While he had no fondness for, and would rarely accept public office, his kindliness of heart and good judgment drew many to him for suggestions and advice. His influence was widely felt in every community in which he resided.

He married, first, 1799, Mary, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Toothaker) Danforth, born in Billerica, Mass., March 1, 1780, died Nov. 27, 1802. Married, second, 1803, Lucy, daughter of Benjamin and Experience (Ball) Hastings, of Bolton, Mass., born Feb. 26, 1783, died Sept. 10, 1842. Married, third, Jan. 25, 1843, Mrs. Sally Morse Couch, of Boscawen, N. H., who died Jan. 24, 1866.

Two children by Mary.

i. HERMAN,⁷ born in Andover, Oct. 31, 1800. He in early life fitted for college, but a severe disease of the eyes compelled him to abandon his cherished intention. He taught school in several places; studied law with Hon. Henry B. Chase, of Warner, N. H. In the practice of his profession, he settled in Manchester, N. H., 1840, where he still resides. Mr. Foster is a gentleman widely known and much esteemed; he has been many times a member of the New Hampshire Legislature, and has held numerous

other positions of honor and trust. In 1861 he was President of the Senate, and in that year Dartmouth College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. He married Nov. 8, 1826, Harriet Mary Ann Whittemore, of West Cambridge, Mass. (now Arlington). No issue.

ii. SABRA,⁷ born in Andover, May 31, 1802; died Nov. 25, 1858. Married Dr. Isaac Tewksbury, of Hampstead, N. H., Dec. 25, 1822.

Six children by Lucy.

iii. CHARLES,⁷ born in Tewksbury, Mass., May 11, 1804; died Jan. 19, 1850. Married Ann Evans, of Charlestown, Mass., who died Nov. 9, 1851.

Two children:—

i. MARTHA ANN,⁸ b. Nov. 20, 1825; d. Aug. 14, 1870.

ii. BENJAMIN HASTINGS,⁸ b. Nov. 1828; d. April 26, 1870.

iv. MARY JANE,⁷ born in Tewksbury, Nov. 17, 1808; died Nov. 1, 1809.

v. JOHN H.,⁷ born in Hudson, N. H., Dec. 7, 1811; died April 26, 1818.

vi. EMILY,⁷ born in Hudson, N. H., Aug. 25, 1813; married March 8, 1838, Ebenezer Sargent Badger, of Warner, N. H.

vii. JOHN,⁷ born in Hudson, N. H., Dec. 30, 1817. Removed from Warner, N. H., where his parents resided, to Boston, Mass., Sept. 1, 1836, and in 1839 he, with Horace B. Taylor, commenced busi-

ness under the style of Foster & Taylor. The firm is still continued as originally formed. Mr. Foster married July 4, 1843, Harriet Sanford, of Boston.

Three children : —

- i. GEORGE SANFORD,⁸ b. April 26, 1844 ; d. July 29, 1851.
- ii. HARRIET LUCY,⁸ b. Jan. 9, 1849 ; d. March 8, 1851.
- iii. FANNY,⁸ b. June 15, 1852.

viii. GEORGE,⁷ born in Hudson, N. H., Sept. 23, 1821. Married Feb. 7, 1847, Salome F. Little, of Boscawen, N. H. Resides in Bedford, N. H.

Eight children : —

- i. LUCY ALURA,⁸ b. Feb. 6, 1848 ; d. May 30, 1855.
- ii. SARAH MEELE,⁸ b. April 25, 1850.
- iii. JOHN,⁸ b. March 5, 1852 ; now fitting for Dartmouth College, at Manchester, N. H.
- iv. A son,⁸ b. April 27, 1855 ; d. April 28, 1855.
- v. GEORGE SANFORD,⁸ b. July 8, 1857.
- vi. CHARLES ELIPHALET,⁸ b. June 12, 1860.
- vii. HERMAN,⁸ b. Aug. 3, 1863.
- viii. LUCY MARY,⁸ b. April 30, 1865.

NOTE.

- i. ISAAC³ (*Reginald*,² *Reginald*¹), of Ipswich (page 10). Administration on his estate was granted to son Jonathan, Dec., 1741. (*Essex Probate Records*, vol. xxiii., p. 41.)

INDEX.

ABBOT, Elizabeth	23	CLARK, Thomas	6
George	20	COUCH, Sally Morse	29
Hannah	20	CROSS, Abijah	27
John	23	CUMMINS, —	14
Mary	20, 26	DANE, Elizabeth	10
Nehemiah	23	John	10, 22
Sarah	20	DANFORTH, Mary	20
Timothy	23	Samuel	20
AYERILL, William	6	DENNISON, Major	5
BADGER, Ebenezer Sargent	30	DIX, Ralph	5
Hannah	24	DORMAN, Ephraim	10
Joseph	24	—	14
BALL, Experience	20	Mary	19
BALLARD, Hannah	27	Martha	19
Hezekiah	27	Thomas	13
Lydia	27	DOWNING, Hannah	10
Sarah	20	DUTY, Phebe	27
Timothy	20		
BARNARD, Stephen	21	EAMES, Bethiah	21
BIXBEE, Joseph	10, 17	Robert	24, 21
BIXBIE, Joseph	13	EVANS, Ann	30
BLACK, Mary	18	FOSTER, Renol	6
BLUNT, David	23	FORSTER, Edward J.	3, 4
Lydia	20, 23	Jacob	3, 4
Sarah	23	FOSTER, Abial	13
William	23	Abiel	24
BRADLEY, —	24	Abram	7
BROADSTREET, Humphrey	5	Abigail	3, 11, 18
BROWN, Joseph	26	Abraham	8, 9, 11
Rebecca	27	Afred Dwight	3
BURBANK, Caleb	9	Ann	7
Lydia	9	Amos	11, 19
Martha	9	Andrew	7, 24
BUSWELL, Samuel	16	Archibald	3
CALDWELL, —	11	Asa	20, 22, 23, 24, 25
CHANDLER, Eleanor	20	Bartholomew	8
Joshua	28	Benjamin	9, 10
William	20	Benjamin Hastings	30
CHARLES I., king	4	Caleb	9
CHASE, Henry B.	29	Charles	30

FOSTER, Charles Eliphalet 31	FOSTER, Prudence 11
Christopher 8	Rebecca 10, 19
Daniel 11, 20, 24	Regnold 6
David, 14, 17, 18, 19, 24	Rejinald 6
Dorcas 19, 28	Reginold 6
Ebenezer 9	Reginald 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 31
Edward 8	Rejinal 6
Elenor 10	Renald 6
Elenzer 11	Renold 8
Elizabeth 10, 11, 24	Ringdell 6
Emily 30	Ruth 9, 10, 11
Ephraim 9	Sabra 30
Fanny 30	Samuel 11, 14, 17, 19, 21
Frederick 28	Sarah 8, 12, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26
George 31	Sarah Meele 31
George Sanford 31	Simon 18
Gideon 27, 28	Solomon 27
Grace 19	Thomas 19
Hannah 10, 11, 19, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27	Timothy 17, 19, 21
Harriet Lucy 30	William 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26
Herman 20, 31	William Phillips 26
Hopetill 8	Zebadiah 18
Isaac 8, 9, 10, 27, 31	& Taylor 30
Jacob 3, 8, 10, 11	FINCH, Nancy 28
James 9, 11, 24	FYKE, Benjamin 22
Jeremiah 19	Hephzibah 20, 22
John 10, 11, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31	James 22
John H. 30	FRY, John 21, 22
Jonathan 10, 14, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 31	GOULD, Margaret 23
Joseph 11, 17, 19	HALE, Martha 10
Judith 4, 9, 10, 11, 17, 21	HASTINGS, Benjamin 29
Lucy 24, 30	Experience 29
Lucy Alura 31	Lucy 29
Lucy Mary 31	HODGER, Andrew 6
Lydia 9, 19, 20, 23	HOW, Elizabeth 14
Margaret 20	HUTCHINSON, Ann 7
Martha 11, 24	JACKSON, Joanna 17
Martha Ann 30	John 14
Mary 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29	Mary 10, 15, 17
Mary Jane 30	William 14, 15, 17
Mehitable 9, 10	JEWETT, Joseph 13
Mercy 19	JOHNSON, Caleb 25
Moses 22	KILBURN, Mary 21
Nancy 24	Samuel 17
Naomi 10	KIMBALL, Abigail 22
Nathaniel 10, 11	John 14, 15, 18, 21, 22
Obadiah 27, 28	Sarah 18, 22
Osgood 27	KINSMAN, Martha 11
Phineas 18	

LAMBERT, Gershom	13	REDDINGTON, Abraham	13, 16
LITTLE, Salome F.	31	RIN, Hannah	18, 21
LORD, Abigail	11	Samuel	18
Mary	11	Theophilus	18, 21
Robert	5, 11	ROBBINS, Tabitha	28
LOVEJOY, Christopher	22	ROBERTS, Robert	6
Ebenzer	22, 23	ROGERS, Hannah	24
Hannah	20	Mary	24
John	23	Lucy	24
Nathaniel	24	Samuel	24
MACOON, Mercy	19	Timothy	26
MARTIN, Sarah	8	ROSE, Ruth	28
MORSE, John	6	RUSS, John	20
NORTHEND, Ezekiel	13	RUSSELL, Elizabeth	27
NORTON, John	9	SANFORD, Harriet	30
OSGOOD, Hooker	20	SMITH, Thomas	8
Mary	26	SMYTH, Thomas	5
Stephen	20	STACK, Simon	8
PEABODY, Daniels	12	STEVENS, Capt.	22
Francis	8, 12, 13	STILES, —	14
Hannah	12	STORY, Dr.	12
Hephzibah	12	Hannah	8, 13
Isaac	12	Judge	12
Jacob	12	Sarah	8
John	12, 15, 16, 17	Seth	13
Joseph	12, 15	William	8, 12, 13
Lydia	12	SYMONS, Samuel	17
Mary	8, 12, 13	TAYLOR, Horace B.	30
Nathaniel	12	TENKSHURY, Isaac	30
Ruth	12	TOOTHAKER, Mary	29
Samuel	12	TRAUCK, Nicholas	12
Sarah	12	TREADWELL, Thomas	6
William	12	TRUMBULL, Deborah	14
PERKINS, John	21	TYLER, Moses	14, 17, 21
PETERS, Samuel	25	WAIT, Mary	11
PHILLIPS, Mary	26	WALKER, Robert	22
Samuel	26	WALLIS, Robert	6
PICKARD, John	17	WHEELWRIGHT	7
PLATTS, Ebsaba	18	WHIPPLE, John	8
James	18	Rose	6
Johannah	18	WHITE, Mary	9
John	17, 18, 21	William	5, 9
Mary	18	WHITTEMORE, Harriet Mary Ann	29
PRISTON, Roger	6	WILSON, —	24
		WINN, Fanchia	28

