

THE
FAMILY,
ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS,
OF
CAPTAIN JOHN FRENCH,
OF
STOUGHTON, MASS.
BY
SIDNEY FRENCH.

RANDOLPH, MASS.
PRINTED BY SAMUEL P. BROWN.
1870.

ARRANGED

BY

E. ALDEN, M. D.

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FRENCH FAMILY.

1. JOHN FRENCH¹, progenitor of the Family commemorated in this Memorial, was born in England about 1612; came to this country and resided for a short time in Dorchester. As early as 1640, Vinton supposes, he removed to Braintree; for in that year, Feb. 24, 1639—40, he had a grant from the town of Boston of forty acres of land in that place for five persons in his family.

His first wife was Grace ———, who was the mother of all his children. She died Feb. 1, 1680, a. 59. He survived until Aug. 6, 1692. Thayer's Memorial contains a full account of their descendants, and Vinton's Memorial of those connected with the Vinton family, but neither of them mention his second marriage to Eleanor, widow of William Veazie, which occurred in 1683.

The marriage covenant agreed to between the parties is a curious relic of the "*olden time*," and was discovered among some old papers in the hands of one of the descendants of John French, and published in the Randolph Transcript of Feb. 13, 1858, from which it is here copied. It is in the handwriting of Samuel, son of Rev. William Tompson, and witnessed by him and his brother Benjamin Tompson, the far-famed poet, physician and schoolmaster of Braintree and Roxbury.

A MARRIAGE COVENANT.

"A covenant of marriage being proposed and intended between John French and Eleanor Veazie of Braintry in Newengland, made and concluded this eighth day of July Anno Domini one thousand six

hundred eighty three, doe witness that the said John French doth pre-engage unto the said Eleanor Veazie not to meddle with, or take into his hand, any part of her estate, wherein shee is invested by her former husband William Veazie, or any otherwise; nor any wise weakening her right or claim to the same. The said John French doth hereby engage and covenant to pay to the said Eleanor Veazie after my decease four pounds per annum annually, to be paid each year immediately ensuing after the said John French's decease, by his lawful Administrators, Executors, or Assigns, at her dwelling house; the specie of which payment shall bee paid in cord wood, Porke, Beefe, Malt or Corn proportionably of each at prices current. And that she the said Eleanor Veazie shall have, hold, possess and enjoy the New end of the dwelling house in which the said French now dwelleth with the cellar appertaining, during the time of her widowhood. Bat the four pound annuity to bee and continue to her and her heirs or assigns during the term of her Natural life. To the true performance whereof the said John French doth hereunto set hand this eighth day of July Anno Domini, one thousand six hundred Eighty three. *Of each, interlined line twelfth; hold and possess line 13th. a word defaced line 15, before signing.*

And shee shall have apples what she please for spending. and a place for a garden plot.

Signed and concluded on
before us

John French.

Samuel Tompson.

Ben. Tompson."

A petition to the Judge of Probate for a division of his estate among his heirs, of which a copy is here inserted shows the condition of his family at that time.

A PETITION.

"To the Hon. William Stoughton Esq. Judge of the probate of Wills and Testaments and granting Administrations &c.—The humble request of Jno. French and Dependence French Administra-

tors to the estate of John French, late of Braintree deceased, their father.

Humbly sheweth, praying that your Honor will please to appoint Christopher Webb, John Baxter senior, Joseph Peniman senior, Samuel Peniman, Nathaniel Wales, or any three of them, to divide said estate, and set out to each person concerned their part and proportion, that so the estate may be preserved, which otherwise will be ruined and come to nothing; housing and fences decaying and running out of repairs, which, if every one knew their part, would be prevented.

—The persons concerned in said estate are John French the oldest son, Dependence French, Thomas French, Samuel French, William French, the orphan of William French deceased: two daughters, viz.: Temperance Bowditch wife of John Bowditch, Elizabeth Wheelock of Mendon, children of Mary Lamb deceased are Mary Poole, Alice Thayer by her first husband Poole, and John Lamb, Samuel Lamb, Margaret Lamb, Mary Lamb, Grace Lamb, Hannah Lamb, which, if your Honor shall please to grant will greatly oblige your humble servants."

John and Grace French had children:

1. John, Feb. 28, 1641, who m. Experience Thayer.
 2. Thomas, July 10, 1643; d. Oct. 28, 1656.
 3. Dependence, March 7, 1648—9.
 4. Temperance, March 30, 1651, who m. John Bowditch.
 5. William, March 31, 1653, who m. Rachel Twells.
 6. Elizabeth, Sept. 29, 1655. —
 7. Thomas, March 10, 1657—8.
 8. Samuel, Feb. 22, 1659—60, who m. Anna Marsh.
2. DEPENDENCE FRENCH², (*John*¹,) Braintree, m. 1, Mary Marsh and had
1. Mary, March 30, 1684, who m. Samuel Savil in 1707.
- m. 2, Rebecca ——— and had
2. John, March 10, 1688—9.
 3. Dependence, April 15, 1691, who m. Anna Thayer.
 4. Rebecca, May 13, 1694, who m. John Thayer.
 5. David, } Mar. 4, 1698—9.
 6. Elizabeth, } " " " who m. Capt. Samuel Vinton.

NOTE.—Dependence French, April 3, 1717, conveyed to his sons John and Dependence

3. JOHN FRENCH³, (*Dependence*², *John*¹.) Braintree, South Precinct, now Randolph, m. Feb. 19, 1710—11, Mary, dau. of John Vinton. They had

1. Mary, 1713, m. Josiah French.
2. John, } Dec. 25, 1714.
4. 3. Dependence, } " " " "
4. Hannah, Sept. 17, 1718.
5. Elizabeth, Jan. 1, 1722.
6. Abigail, Dec. 6, 1725.
7. Mebitable, Oct. 14, 1727, m. Micah Thayer.
8. Rebecca, June 11, 1728.
9. Abiathar, April 7, 1732, m. Margaret Niles.
10. Joshua, 1734, m. Esther Wales.

4. DEPENDENCE FRENCH⁴, (*John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1714: settled in East Stoughton: m. May 28, 1738, Mary, dau. of William Linfield sen.: d. in 1803, a. 89. They both united with Rev. Elisha Eaton's church, now the first church in Randolph, in 1741. They had

1. Dependence, April 21, 1739; m. Rebecca Hammond.
2. Experience, bap 1740.
3. Levi, April 27, 1740; m. Amy Packard.
4. Deliverance, Jan. 31, 1742.
5. Mary, Oct. 7, 1744; m. Jeremiah Beals.
6. Martha, July 24, 1747; m. Samuel Chessman.
5. 7. John, Jan. 26, 1749.
8. William, Nov. 2, 1751; m. Mary Perkins.
9. Elizabeth, m. Seth Bryant.
10. Silence, Nov. 14, 1756.
11. Martha, Feb. 14, 1759.
12. Olive, April 5, 1761.

5. CAPTAIN JOHN FRENCH⁵, (*Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) resided in Stoughton; m. Jan. 20, 1779, Damaris, dau. of Barnabas Howard Esquire. She d. July 18, 1795. He m. 2, Eunice, dau. of Dea. Nathaniel Wales. He d. July 24, 1806.

His children by Damaris Howard were

6. 1. Zelopha, May 23, 1780.
2. Artemas, Sept. 23, 1781: d. unm. Nov. 14, 1833, a. 85.
7. 3. Olive, May 10, 1784.
8. 4. Daniel, Oct. 15, 1786.
9. 5. Sidney, Dec. 12, 1788.

and to their heirs, "one share of land lying in Braintree at Cochato, being one-fifth part of land in the tenth division, as also the first lot in the second division, and the ninth lot in the third division." He d. Oct. 12, 1792.

10. 6. John, Dec. 18, 1790.

11. 7. Anna, Jan. 7, 1793.

6. ZELOPHIA FRENCH⁶, (*John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1780; m. Oct. 15, 1803, Benjamin Ames of North Bridge-water, who was b. 1781: d. May 27, 1850.

They had

1. Damaris, Sept. 29, 1804.

2. Nancy, Jan. 30, 1806, who m. 1826, Galen Pratt; d. May 2, 1842.

3. Daniel French, April 8, 1809: m. Sally Packard; d. Oct. 9, 1848.

7. OLIVE FRENCH⁶, (*John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1784; m. about 1806, John Cobb, of Abington; d. 1830.

They had

1. Nelson, March 15, 1808.

2. Zelopha, Jan. 29, 1809; d.

3. Charles A. May 12, 1810.

4. Anna, June 10, 1811; d.

5. John F. Aug. 15, 1814.

6. Anson, May 10, 1816; d.

7. Samuel N. March 3, 1818.

8. Clintha, April 22, 1821.

9. George W. Jan. 22, 1823.

He d. Feb. 18, 1860.

8. DANIEL FRENCH⁶, (*John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) of Stoughton, b. 1786; m. Jan. 28, 1810, Joanna, dau. of Capt. Joshua Wales. She d. May 28, 1819.

They had

1. Joanna, June 14, 1811: d. same day.

12. 2. Daniel, June 7, 1812.

3. Joanna, Feb. 6, 1815; d. March 24, 1835.

4. Lophia, July 29, 1817; d. April 19, 1819.

He m. 2, Sept. 12, 1819, Phebe, dau. of Nathaniel Hunt. She d. Sept. 2, 1867. They had

13. 5. John, } March 14, 1821.

6. Phebe, } " " "

7. Hannah, Nov. 19, 1823; d. Nov. 15, 1853.

8. Sally, March 5, 1827; d. April 17, 1834.

He d. April 16, 1860, a. 74.

9. SIDNEY FRENCH⁶, (*John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) of Randolph, b. 1788; m. Dec. 1, 1808, Susan, dau. of Capt.

Eleazer Beals. She d. March 9, 1852. He d. Feb. 26, 1863.

They had

1. Anna, July 12, 1809 : d. May 19, 1814.
14. 2. Ansel Beal, March 4, 1811.
3. Louisa, Oct. 11, 1812 : d. Nov. 12, 1815.
15. 4. Sidney, May 7, 1815.
16. 5. Ann Eliza, Oct. 14, 1816.
17. 6. Mary, Nov. 5, 1818.
18. 7. Maria, May 9, 1820 : d. July 11, 1836.
8. Lewis Thayer, Apr. 7, 1822 : d. Oct. 30, 1822.
9. Emily, Oct. 18, 1823 : d. Aug. 19, 1843.
19. 10. Eunice Ann, Aug. 22, 1825.
11. Caroline Beal, March 12, 1827 : d. Oct. 29, 1844.
20. 12. Ellen, Oct. 2, 1833 : d. July 11, 1861.
21. 13. Louisa, May 12, 1836.

He m. 2, Dec. 8, 1853, Dorothy Croix.

10. JOHN FRENCH⁵, (*John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) Randolph, b. 1790 ; m. July 31, 1808, Betsey, dau. of Eleazer Beal. She was b. Dec. 31, 1780 : d. Oct. 11, 1845. He d. Sept. 1, 1849. They had

22. 1. James Madison, June 25, 1809.
23. 2. John, Dec. 22, 1812 : d. 1849.
24. 3. Sarah Beals, Sept. 1, 1815 : d. 1848.
25. 4. Eliza Ann, Dec. 23, 1817 : d. 1849.
26. 5. Henry, Nov. 2, 1819 : d. 1846.

11. ANNA FRENCH⁶, (*John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1793 : m. Sept. 25, 1810, Isaac Keith, North Bridgewater, son of Seth. He d. March, 1824. They had

1. Damaris Ann, Sept. 24, 1813 : d. July 23, 1846.
2. Isaac, Nov. 12, 1815 : d. Jan. 1, 1826.
3. Howard, Jan. 26, 1818.
4. Aberdeen, March 19, 1821.

She m. 2, Dec. 28, 1825, James Easton, who d. 1838. They had

5. Joshua, July 24, 1826.
6. James Hiram, April 13, 1828.

12. DANIEL FRENCH⁷, (*Daniel*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1812 ; m. Jan. 5, 1841, Harriet Augusta Page, of New Hampshire. They had

1. A child, March 20, 1844 : d. same day.
2. Emily, April 26, 1845 : d. Aug. 28, 1845.
27. 3. Wales, Sept. 11, 1847.

4. Elmer. } Sept. 12, 1851. d. Aug. 4, 1853.
5. Elney. } " " " " July 23, 1853.
6. Hattie, Feb. 7, 1859.

13. JOHN FRENCH⁷, (*Daniel⁶, John⁵, Dependence⁴, John³, Dependence², John¹*.) Stoughton, b. 1822; m. Dec, 17, 1856, Lucy Ellen Billings of Sharon. They had

1. Emma, Sept. 11, 1857.
2. John Myron, May 9, 1860; d. Sept. 17, 1861.
- 3. Clarence Minot, Aug. 30, 1863.
- 4. John, March 10, 1870.

14. CAPTAIN ANSEL BEAL FRENCH⁷, (*Sidney⁶, John⁵, Dependence⁴, John³, Dependence², John¹*.) Randolph, b. 1811; m. May 31, 1832, Hannah, dau. of Zeba Howard. He d. Mar. 28, 1852. They had

1. Angelet, July 28, 1833; d. April 15, 1835.
28. 2. Henry, April 6, 1835.
3. Infant, June 30, 1837; d. Nov. 23, 1837.
29. 4. Ansel, Dec. 12, 1838.
5. Angelet, Feb. 6, 1842; d. May 24, 1844.
6. Charlotte, May 21, 1846; d. Mar. 3, 1851.

15. SIDNEY FRENCH⁷, Boot manufacturer, Randolph, (*Sidney⁶, John⁵, Dependence⁴, John³, Dependence², John¹*.) b. 1815; m. Sept. 30, 1850, Louisa, dau. of Moses Burrell. She d. July 5, 1859.

They had

1. Austin Stanley, Aug. 25, 1851; d. Sept. 7, 1852.
- 2. George Weston, April 10, 1856.

He m. 2. Apr. 14, 1864, Elizabeth, dau. of James Adams of Milton.

They had

3. Frederic Adams, Feb. 24, 1865.
4. Walter, Dec. 6, 1869.

16. ANN ELIZA FRENCH⁷, (*Sidney⁶, John⁵, Dependence⁴, John³, Dependence², John¹*.) b. 1816; m. 1832, Benjamin F. Bryant.

They had

1. George Bingley, Dec. 13, 1832.
2. Ann Maria, March 13, 1834; d. June 29, 1834.
3. Ann Maria, Aug. 26, 1835.
4. Charles French, June 8, 1838; d. March 24, 1857.
5. Elsenia, Oct. 8, 1840; d. Feb. 14, 1867.
6. Emily French, Aug. 12, 1843; d. Aug. 12, 1844.
7. Emma, June 12, 1849; d. Dec. 9, 1866.
8. Horace, June 27, 1851.

17. MARY FRENCH⁷, (*Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1818; m. Jan. 5, 1837, Ansel Belcher, son of Jeremiah Belcher. No ch.

18. MARIA FRENCH⁷, (*Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1820; m. Nov. 9, 1834, Solomon Lawrence White. She d. July 11, 1836. They had

1. Lawrence, June 14, 1836.

19. EUNICE ANN FRENCH⁷, (*Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. Apr. 2, 1848, William D. S. Fernald. No ch.

20. ELLEN FRENCH⁷, (*Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. June 30, 1854, William Porter. They had

1. Frederic Arthur, June 24, 1861; d. May 2, 1865.

She d. July 11, 1861.

21. LOUISA FRENCH⁷. (*Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. Nov. 13, 1854, Henry Perkins Niles. No ch.

22. JAMES MADISON FRENCH⁷, (*John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. Apr. 1832, Louisa, dau. of John Arnold. She d. Mar. 8, 1834. They had

1. Arnold, Feb. 8, 1834, d. in California in 1854.

He m. 2, 1838, Lydia Penniman. Had no ch.

23. JOHN FRENCH⁷, (*John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) of Randolph, m. May 26, 1832, Maria Belcher. She d. Mar. 15, 1833. No children. He m. 2, Oct. 31, 1834, Ellen M Gorham. They had

30. 1. Charles Lewis, Aug. 23, 1835; supposed d. in battle June 3, 1864.

31. 2. Thomas N. Aug. 14, 1837.

32. 3. David Gorham, Feb. 8, 1841.

33. 4. Hannah Maria, Feb. 14, 1843; d. Nov. 5, 1869.

5. George Frederick, Jan. 2, 1845.

34. 6. Henry Allen, Aug. 12, 1847.

35. 7. Sarah Elizabeth, Oct. 9, 1849; d. June 10, 1869.

36. 8. Horace Marcus, Oct. 29, 1856.

24. SARAH B. FRENCH⁷, (*John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1815; m. Feb. 1835, Samuel F. M. Capen. He d. She d. March 9, 1848. They had

1. Samuel A. Aug. 10, 1836.

2. Charles, Oct. 11, 1839.

She m. 2, Apr. 1846. David E. Lane. They had

3. Ann Elizabeth, July 4, 1847.

25. ELIZA ANN FRENCH⁷, (*John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1817; m. Oct. 1839. Martin R. Gay, and d. without issue May, 1840.

26. HENRY FRENCH⁷, (*John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1819; m. Jan. 28, 1841, Amelia, dau. of Zeba Howard. He d. March 16, 1846. They had

1. Eliza Ann, April, 1843; d. Aug. 30, 1843.

2. Elizabeth Chase, Dec. 23, 1844; d. Oct. 10, 1856.

27. WALES FRENCH⁸, (*Daniel*⁷, *Daniel*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1847; m. Jan. 8, 1870. Abby F. Monk, of Sharon.

28. HENRY FRENCH⁸ (*Ansel B.*⁷, *Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) b. 1835; m. Feb. 6, 1862, Bessie T. Cole.

They had

1. Charles Elwell, Nov. 10, 1862.

2. Grace Lurena, July 8, 1866.

29. ANSEL FRENCH⁸, (*Ansel B.*⁷, *Sidney*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. July 7, 1862, Sarah Jane Dyer.

They had

1. Lizzie Lena, Nov. 24, 1863.

2. Jennie Agnes, March 31, 1866.

30. CHARLES LEWIS FRENCH⁸, (*John*⁷, *John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. Sept. 21, 1853, Charlotte E. Tirrell, who d. June 25, 1854. He m. 2, Feb. 1857, Aurelia A. Atwood.

They had

1. Henry Clifford, Oct. 20, 1858; d. June 1, 1864.

He d. June 3, 1864. It is supposed killed in battle at Cold Harbor, Va.

31. THOMAS N. FRENCH⁸, (*John*⁷, *John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹.) m. May 1, 1856, Charlotte N. Thayer dau. of ———. They had

1. Sidney W. Sept. 25, 1856 ; d. Aug. 1859.
2. Harriet A. June 16, 1858 ; d. March, 1861.
3. Walter E. May 1, 1861.
4. Harriet E. Dec. 31, 1863 ; d. Sept. 1864.
5. Arthur, Jan. 14, 1866.

32. DAVID GORHAM FRENCH⁸, (*John*⁷, *John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹,) b. 1841 : m. Nov. 29, 1863, Martha Rogers, dau. of Caleb : had

1. Henry Clifford, March 13, 1868.
2. John Gorham, Sept. 15, 1869.

33. HANNAH MARIA FRENCH⁸, (*John*⁷, *John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹,) m. Wm. H. Wood, July 3, 1859. She d. Nov. 5, 1869.

34. SARAH ELIZABETH FRENCH⁸, (*John*⁷, *John*⁶, *John*⁵, *Dependence*⁴, *John*³, *Dependence*², *John*¹,) m. Apr. 19, 1867, George M. Clark. She d. June 10, 1869. They had

1. Charles Everett, July 29, 1867 ; d. Aug. 5, 1868.
2. Ellen Maria, Sept. 3, 1868.