



A MEMOIR OF
DANIEL HOVEY.

PREPARED FOR THE HOVEY REUNION,
AT IPSWICH, MASS.,
AUGUST 21, 1900.

By Rev. Horace Carter Hovey, D. D.,
of Newburyport, Mass.



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At the repeated and earnest request of others the task is now attempted of collating known facts concerning DANIEL HOVEY, the emigrant ancestor of all American Hoveys. In doing this it is taken for granted that omissions may have to be supplied and errors corrected hereafter. Had our common progenitor realized our anxiety for exact information he might have gratified our wishes.

Happily it is proved by a statement appended to his recorded will, that, in A. D. 1691, Daniel Hovey was 73 years of age, and accordingly we know that he was born in A. D. 1618. But we do not know his parentage nor his birth-place. It is assumed that he was a native of England, because his colonial associates were Englishmen, and because the family name still exists in England; being found in Nottingham, Sheffield, and elsewhere. The name also occurs in Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The Hovey seal and Hovey crest are regarded as authentic, having been obtained from the College of Heraldry in London; yet a different coat of arms is

displayed by some of our American kinsmen. Further research may be necessary.* The residence and occupation of our living English cousins fail to throw much light on the events of colonial days, although having a decided degree of interest on their own account.

The origin of the family name is likewise conjectural. The name of "Hové", pronounced in two syllables and with the accent on the terminal, is found in France, Holland, Norway and Sweden. So strongly was the late Rev. George L. Hovey, of Bricksburg, New Jersey, convinced of the identity of the names that he actually changed the pronunciation from Hovey to Hové. His theory was that the "y" was added to prevent the name from being sounded as one syllable. This explanation was also made by the late Gen. Charles E. Hovey, of Washington, D. C., and is favored by Prof. E. O. Hovey, of Newark. The name of Daniel Hove appeared in the Minneapolis directory for 1887, its owner a Scandinavian. The brave Connecticut Yankee who set Sir Edmund Andros at defiance had also the courage to spell his name "Hovie", an exceptional instance. (See the Andros Tracts, Vol. 1., page 150.) Another exceptional case was that of a Mr. Hovey, of New Haven, who was of Dutch parentage, and softened his name from its original form of Hoffenden.

Prof. James D. Butler, D. D., of Madison, Wis., derives our name from the Anglo-Saxon words "Hof", a walled place, and the suffix "ey", an island, and "f" being changed to "v" for euphony. This flatters our family pride, and our gratification would be intensified had this noted antiquarian only located the "walled island".

Allow me to offer still another conjecture for consideration. It is well-known that, etymologically, "f" and "v" are very nearly related, and practically they are often interchanged; for example, in the words "safe" and "save", "calf" and "calve", "half" and "halve", and in such proper names as "Farnam", and "Varnam". My suggestion is that the "Hovey" of colonial days was identical with the "Hoffe", so frequently appearing in the early annals of New England, to the perplexity of Trumbull who assumes it to be the same

*The crest at the head of this Memoir was kindly furnished by my son, Dr. Edmund Otis Hovey, of New York, N. Y., who got it from Mr. James A. Hovey, of that city, and it was first obtained by the late Rev. George Henry Hovey, of Sheffield, England, from the Heraldic office in London. Rev. Henry E. Hovey, D. D., of Portsmouth also has a crest, or seal, which likewise came from England. Miss Jennie L. Smith, a great-grand-daughter of Captain James Hovey, of Revolutionary fame, owns the coat of arms that he got from his father, Rev. John Hovey, the great grandson of Daniel Hovey, who is supposed to have brought it over with him from England.

as "Goffe", and of Savage, who in an equally arbitrary manner makes it identical with either "Haugh", or Hough". Before discarding this new theory consider one or two facts.

Agawam, afterward called Ipswich, though discovered by Capt. John Smith in 1614, and "urged greatly" as a better place than Plymouth in 1620, was settled in 1633 by John Winthrop Jr., with twelve men, "the rest to be supplied at the coming of the next ships". Of these ships the largest was the Griffin, on which Mr. Hoffe was a passenger. That this was not Mr. Goffe is proved by the fact that the latter is repeatedly mentioned by name in Winthrop's correspondence and in a way to show that the men could not have been identical. In 1635 Messrs. Winthrop, Dummer and Hoffe were chosen as assistants to Governor Haynes, another passenger by the Griffin. And again, in 1637, Mr. Hoffe is mentioned along with Messrs. Dummer, Saltonstall and Wheelwright—names familiar in Essex County. It was in that very year that Daniel Hovey first appears in the records of Ipswich as the owner of six acres of land. (See the Essex-county Hist. and Gen. Register, Vol. 1., p. 97.) Winthrop, the founder of the little colony, must have known a comrade so useful and eminent as was our forefather; and it is at least possible, if not highly probable, that he made mention of him under the disguised spelling of Hoffe. He says that "the Great Hope, of Ipswich, being about four hundred tons burden, was driven on ground at Mr. Hoffe's Point". This may have been the old Ipswich of England; and Hoffe's Point may have been somewhere else along the New England coast; yet the coincidence is significant. Somewhere in colonial papers Hovey's Wharf is mentioned as Hoffe's Wharf, although the exact reference has escaped my recollection.

Coming now to recorded facts, we find that the first settlers were located at what is known as Ipswich Neck, adjoining Jeffrey's Neck—names retained to this day. Maskonnomet, the Sagamore of Agawam, who lived on what is still called Sagamore Hill, sold to John Winthrop, in 1638, all the lands, islands, woods, swamps, bays, rivers, and everything else in Ipswich, excepting the Dummer farm, for the sum of twenty pounds, which the people repaid to Mr. Winthrop in 1639, thus securing a title (perfected at a later date), by which they could divide the territory among themselves. Daniel Hovey already, in 1637, owned six acres on Muddy Creek. In 1639 he was granted by the town "an house-lott one acre of

ground on the Southsyde of the Town River", between the lot of William Holdred, on the West, and that of Thomas Sherman, on the East; "also six acres of planting ground lying on Sagamore Hill", between the lot of William Holdred on the East and that of Henry Wilkinson on the West. This deed was "entered the 27th day of March, 1639." The next month he bought from William Holdred half an acre to add to his house-lot. He likewise bought land of William Knowlton, though we find no deed of the transfer. The proof is that, in 1652, the Town granted Daniel Hovey "liberty to set his fence down to the river, at his ground bought of William Knowlton, making a stile at each end", notwithstanding the road was the Town's. In 1665, he had share Number Six in Plum Island, Hog Island and Castle Neck. He, with Thomas Hart and Robert Lord, were a committee to view the Neck (i. e. Ipswich Neck); and he also was one of the committee to view the Castle Neck. These committees reported to the selectmen, and then he and Simon Thomson laid out a number of pieces of land to other settlers. In 1666 he had liberty to fell trees for his son to work at his trade, to fell timber to build a house for his son John and a shop for his son James, and a fence for his land beyond Isaac Foster's house. In 1659 Daniel Hovey had "liberty to build a wharf against the ground he bought of William Knowlton, and such building as may tend to improve thereof; and to build his house". It appears from a deed made by Susanna Ringe, widow, that Daniel Hovey owned land adjoining the estate of Daniel Ringe. (May 2, 1669.) He got permission in 1670 to fell trees to fence his garden "with pales, posts and rayles & make a neb and axel tree."

The Hovey Wharf is mentioned in the list of wharves described in Felt's History of Ipswich, and is dated 1660. It seems to be clearly identified, although having occasionally been confused with other early structures of the kind, particularly Heard's Wharf, which was built in 1818. This ancient landing place, built by Daniel Hovey 240 years ago, is somewhat dilapidated, yet is visible except at flood-tide, and it is in use today by the smaller class of vessels. There is a shade of doubt cast over the Hovey House because it had to be repaired in 1667, and it is argued that a house needing repairs so long ago would hardly have stood the test of time for more than two centuries. Yet none of our family have ever expressed a doubt as to its identity, and it was with genuine sorrow that we learned

of its having been destroyed by fire on the 17th of July, 1894. For seventeen years previously, however, it had been untenanted; its great chimney had been torn down, and at the time of its destruction it was used for the storage of hay. A good many relics from it have been scattered even to distant places; such as bricks from the chimney, tiles from the hearth, "bull's-eye" panes of glass from over the front-door, hinges, bolts, pot-hooks and other bits of iron-ware. The most attractive picture of the home extant was made by E. Whitefield in 1888, and for a lithographed reproduction we are indebted to Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, D. D. It represents a two-story frame with a "lean-to"; nine windows in front and four at the end, with small, square panes. From the front-door a winding walk cuts through the green turf, amid which are rocks and trees; while in the distance Sagamore Hill is visible overlooking the bay. A less pleasing picture was photographed after the house had been dismantled of its adornments and its environs disfigured by rubbish. Oil paintings have also been made, one of which is owned by Mr. Charles L. Hovey, and another by Miss Caroline Hovey. The house was sold, April 1852, by David Andrews to Mark Foss, and afterwards fell to Isaac H. Foss, by distribution.

In May, 1660, a colony from Ipswich went to Quaboag, afterwards named Brookfield, which Daniel Hovey joined in 1668. A deed dated May 8, 1672, conveys to Abraham Perkins of Ipswich a small tract of land from "Daniel Hovey of Quaboag". In 1675 took place the Brookfield Massacre, among the victims of which was James, the 4th son of Daniel; from whom the writer is descended. James had three children, Daniel, James and Priscilla; the first of whom was "brought up" by the grandfather for whom he had been named. After the total destruction of Brookfield, Daniel Hovey went for a time to Hadley, with his sons Joseph and Thomas. Hence we find that, in 1677, "Daniel Hovey of Hadley" sold Ipswich property to John Dane, whose daughter had married James Hovey in 1670. The land sold to Perkins was conveyed by him to Thomas Smith, and by the latter to Robert Knight, who in turn sold it to Ebenezer Hovey, thus bringing it back to the family. We do not know precisely when Daniel Hovey returned to Ipswich; but various business transactions with its citizens show him to have done so. We shall not attempt to set forth these minor details, many of which have been

given by the local Historical Society, whose president, the Rev. Thomas Franklin Waters, has our grateful acknowledgment for data furnished for this communication. Other facts are obtained from the "Hammatt Papers," and the original manuscripts.

It will be seen, from the will of Daniel Hovey, that his territory was much larger than might otherwise appear. His famous "Dwelling-house" is particularly mentioned, besides "other houses". The "planting-lot" was his six acres on Sagamore Hill. He speaks of "three acres on Plum Island". He owned on both sides of the road (Hovey's Lane, not to be confounded with the present Hovey street on the other side of the river), leading down to the Hovey Wharf on "Turkey Shore"; and his property ran back along the road to "Labor-in-vain Creek", still known by that mournful name, that matches Heart-Break Hill. His will mentions estates at Brookfield and Swampfield and Topsfield. The Topsfield estate of twenty acres was sold to him by Mrs. Sarah Stone, June 20, 1660; "being the land that the Townsmen of Ipswich did grant to Richard Lumpkin at that place called Pye-Brooke". According to the executor, Thomas Hovey, his father's personal estate, after paying about 227 pounds of debt, amounted to 606 pounds and ten shillings.

Daniel Hovey evidently was a man of piety and a man of affairs. It is mentioned that he was one of those who subscribed, in 1648, to support Major Dennison as a leader of the colony. The indications are that he loved good books and good people. He was made a "freeman", March 11, 1673. His long and useful life ended April 24, 1692, and he was doubtless laid to rest in the old burying-ground that has been in use ever since 1635, and that contains the dust of so many men and women conspicuous for their noble qualities.

Now a few words concerning *Mrs.* Daniel Hovey. Was her name Rebecca, or was it Abigail? The former is given in Savage's New England Genealogical Dictionary, (Vol. II., p. 470.) We have also seen it stated that Daniel Hovey was married in England. It has been hinted that he was married twice, first to Rebecca and then to Abigail. But these are needless errors. He was only 19 years old when he bought his first six acres "on Muddy Creek", and he was probably married at the age of 23 years. He himself settled the main question as to whom he married when he said, in words entirely simple and touching, on rendering his certificate to the Court as administrator of the estate of

Thomas Andrews, teacher at Ipswich: "More than forty years did I match with his loving and well-beloved sister, Abigail Andrews, by whom the Lord blessed me with six sons and one daughter, five of which sons are yet living". (See records of Court of Probate in Salem, 1683.) His eldest son was born in 1642. The names of his six sons were, Daniel, John, Thomas, James, Joseph, Nathaniel. There were two daughters, instead of one, namely, Priscilla, who married John Ayres, and Abigail, wife of Thomas Hodgkins. It is stated, though on what authority we know not, that there was another son, Matthew, born March 20, 1657, but for some reason not mentioned in the will. These discrepancies are not enough to establish proof of two marriages. We regard Abigail Andrews, the only wife of Daniel Hovey, as the mother of us all, and as such we revere her pleasant memory.

Robert Andrews, the father of Abigail, was the first in all the region to be permitted by act of General Court, Sept. 3d, 1635, to keep an ordinary, or tavern; and the next year he was further allowed to sell wine by retail, "if he do not wittingly sell to such as abuse it by drunkenness". For many years this was the only tavern in Ipswich. A curious passage in a letter written by John Adams, considerably later, describes an inn at Ipswich as kept by a grand-daughter of Governor Endicott. Usually the colonial landlord was a man of versatile gifts and marked respectability. Such we may readily believe our ancestor Robert Andrews to have been. The Rev. Nathaniel Ward, author of "the Simple Cobbler of Agawam", and who formed the first church in Ipswich in 1634, wrote in 1646, that although a very sociable man, moving about in all parts of the colony, he had heard only a single oath, and had seen but one man drunk in twelve years. The early settlers were highly intelligent and pious men, and we may be sure that they were careful in choosing their teachers. Hence, when their choice fell on Thomas Andrews, "the truly loving and well-beloved brother" of Daniel Hovey, we are confident that he was a man of remarkable excellence. We could wish that we might have more than these few random words to light up the memory of what must have been a happy and virtuous pioneer mansion. Yet there was sorrow there, as well as joy, for the record is that Mrs. Abigail Hovey died June the 24th, 1665, leaving her husband to pursue his pilgrimage alone for many weary years. Here again is a discrep-

Note:—Page 7, of “DANIEL HOVEY”.

In saying that “there were two daughters, instead of one”, we followed the error of the Hammatt Papers, No. 4, pp. 158 and 161, repeated in the article on “Daniel Hovey and his descendants”, in the Essex-county Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 1, No. 7; which give, as the daughters of the first Daniel, “Priscilla Ayers, wife of John Ayres, and Abigail Hodgkins, wife of Thomas Hodgkins”. A more careful examination of Daniel Hovey’s will convinces us that he had only *one* daughter, as he had already stated in his certificate to the Court. That only daughter was Abigail, who married John Ayres. The Abigail Hodgkins named was the daughter of the second Daniel and Esther (Treadwell.) The “Daniel grand-child”, named in the will, was brother of James and Priscilla, and these three were children of the first James, who had been killed at Brookfield. This interpretation reconciles the statements of Daniel Hovey, but leaves it an open question whom his grand-daughter Priscilla married.

Please insert the above note at page 7 of my memorial of Daniel Hovey, and oblige the author,

H. C. HOVEY.

ancy of dates, for he himself said that he "Matched with" her for "more than 40 years". Possibly this included their acquaintance in childhood as well as in riper years; for the dates would carry their "matching" back to 1625, when Daniel was but seven years old. Possibly, again, we may be mistaken as to the alleged date of Mrs. Hovey's death, which may have occurred at a later period. Notice however, the tenderness with which the widowed husband mentions his "wife's wearing apparel", leaving it as a precious legacy to his grand-children.

This reminds us that we need to correct somewhat our ideas as to the primitive simplicity of our ancestors. Although they were pilgrims to a wilderness world they did not altogether forget the pomp and vanities of old England. For instance, in the appraisal of the estate of John Hovey, his wardrobe contained: "A crimson jacket, a scarlet jacket, a blue double-breadth jacket, a beaver hat and wig, silver shoe buckles, a blue coat, a black coat, a great coat and sea-clothing". Madam Daniel Hovey no doubt had her finery, as well as other colonial dames of the olden time. We may easily concede that she had beauty, judging from the comeliness of her daughters. Would that we had portraits of those progenitors of our tribe. We only know that their features were marked by strong characteristics, and that their talents and vigor were conspicuous, or else they could not have coped with their times.

We can hardly realise the isolation of such a community as the colonial Ipswich, even though aware that it took rank with the best of the early American settlements. No railways girdled the land, no steamers plowed the seas, no electric wires cut the air nor kindled the domestic lamps, no coaches even traversed the country roads unless owned by grandees, no daily press brought tidings from the ends of the earth. Communication with the outside world was by slow sailing vessels, or by paths newly hewed through interminable forests. Hence our ancestors were thrown almost wholly on their own resources, and had to work out their own destiny with little help or interference from abroad. Those who entertained strangers had to give security for their honesty and ability; and for many years it was the law that strangers should be "warned away, without any respect to their character, profession, or condition". (See Felt's History of Ipswich, page 66.)

Yet from this isolated and exclusive community, that wrought so independently for itself, streams of influence have gone forth to the ends of the earth. Daniel and Abigail Hovey were but noble specimens of the early settlers whose children have multiplied till found in every one of these United States, and over the line in the Canadian Dominion. Many of them won distinction in civil, military and naval life, in the learned professions, and in fields of commerce and finance. Hundreds of the Ipswich youth have been graduated from colleges and universities, and have helped to found churches and institutions of learning elsewhere. Besides the many who have added lustre to the family name in America, we must not forget two who went to England in 1861, rose by merit to places in the British Parliament in 1880 and 1885, were knighted by Queen Victoria for distinguished services, and one of whom is to-day the husband of the Baroness Burdett Coutts. As my informant says, "They can't get away from being descendants of Daniel Hovey". Materials for a Hovey Genealogy have been published in the historical magazines, by the writer and others, as well as in the form of pamphlets for private distribution; and valuable manuscripts exist that work out special lines. All these should be compared, corrected and completed in the form of a permanent volume, as the outcome of our family re-union. Certainly Ipswich has proved itself to be "a city that is set on a hill, and that cannot be hid". It remains for the living descendants of men like Daniel Hovey to obey the inspiration drawn from history and to adorn and glorify the future as their pious ancestors glorified the past.

THE WILL OF DANIEL HOVEY.

I Daniel Hovey, sen'r of Ipswich, considering the changes of man Doe Desyre by the helpe of the Lord to settle my concernes as may be for the glory of God and the good of my family.

my soul I desyre to resigne and commit into the hand of my Loving father in Jesus Christ, who is the Lord my righteousness. My body to be decently buried in earth in hope of a glorious and blessed resurrection by Christ. Amen.

Item. The estate which God of his grace hath given me, I have disposed of as followeth:

To my oldest sons Daniel and John Hovey and my daughter Ayres : I have given them their portion of that estate I had, to our mutual content. The one at Ipswich the other at Topsfield, now in their possession, Abigail paid by my son John to my son Ayres.

Item. to my son Thomas and James his son Daniel, I give all that my Yland called Hovey's Yland, which with the thatch banks and Low marsh belonging to me on the other side of the creek, which I allowed Quarter Master Perkins to improve, holding my possession till I had occasion for the same. Also all that houses and Land in Ipswich that I shall not dispose of before death.

Item. I give to my sons Joseph and Nathaniel Hovey, one hundred rods of ground a piece ; Joseph bounded next to Mr. Emerson's land from the highway to the land of Daniel Ringe. Nathaniel, one hundred rod of my land next to my son Daniel, with the Dwelling house, barn, part of the orchard to butt on Daniel Ringe ; half planting lot, about three acres, with a way to it over the bridge I made to go to it ; three acres at Plum Island also ; which lands I leave in the hands of my executor and overseers that is left after my death, to be disposed of as follows :

The children of Joseph Hovey, to have an equal proportion of what is left after my death as to their father Legase.

The children of son Nathaniel to have an equal proportion amongst them ; only Nathaniel Hovey, the son of Nathaniel Hovey to have a double proportion, if he lives to the age of one and twenty. If not, then to be divided amongst the other children of that family.

Item. My moveables to my son Nathaniel ; those sheep he hath of mine to his children ; my cart and plow, irons, chains, great tramel, great brass kettle, Iron Kettle, little Iron pot.

My pewter porringer, and drinking cup, and my wife's wearing apparel to Nathaniel's children.

The others to Joseph his brothers's children : all my wearing cloaths, my great brass pot, and pewter quart pot.

And my great Bible and books as follows : Come to Christ and Welcome ; Cotton on the Covenant ; Mather's Seven Sermons to Nathaniel children.

To Daniel grand child those sheep with which——and books also : Christian Warfare, Calvin on Job, Ten Divines, The Golden Scepter, with what other books undisposed of by me of mine, and such tools for his trade as are suitable of mine.

To Abigail Hodgkins, wife of Thomas Hodgkins, the brass pan and pewter salt seller.

My part of the mare and colt to grand child Daniel and Ivory.

Item. My interest of Brookfield and Swampfield I give to my son Joseph and Nathaniel children.

Item. I make son Thomas Executor, and would have his nephew [Daniel] in case he lives to age, if capable, to join in the same with him—and he pay out of his part to his brother James and sister Priscilla and John Ayres ten pounds a piece within three years after his possession, and in case of his death, I put James Hovey in his room, and let them four equally divide his part.

My bed, bolster and pillow with my green rug, a pair of blankets with the bedstead, to Daniel grandchild.

I would have my son John at Topsfield to take his possession with his books.

I would appoint my loving sons Daniel Hovey and John Hovey to be over seers of this my last will, and see to discharge my funeral charges, which I allow four pounds estate, and to take an inventory of my estate and discharge all my debts, and make probate of my will, and see his nephews have their equal proportion, Joseph and Nathaniel children who have lately deceased, for which I allow my overseers three pounds a piece for their care and trouble

This is my will as witness my hand and seale :

Daniel Hovey, sen'r, aged 73,

and going into my 74 this 21 of March, 1691-2.

Wit: philemon Dane, Thomas Hodgkins,

Proved October 3, 1692.

By the name of Hovey.



