

THE FAMILY OF JACOB LEAGER OF
HADLEIGH AND KERSEY, CO. SUFFOLK,
ENGLAND, AND BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS

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In the *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, vol. 69 (1915), pp. 354-6, there appeared an article by Miss Elizabeth French (now Mrs. J. Gardner Bartlett), concerning the family of Jacob Leager (or Leagar), tailor, of Hadleigh and Kersey, co. Suffolk, England, and Boston, Massachusetts. This article contained extracts from the Parish Registers of Hadleigh, a few notes about the Leager family from the Lay Subsidy of 1567-8, and interesting data about the career of Jacob Leager, the immigrant, in New England.

Jacob Leager, the immigrant, was baptized at Hadleigh 4 Sept. 1603. He was the third child and eldest son of Jacob or James Leager. The latter was baptized at Hadleigh 17 Nov. 1568, and was the fourth child and third son of Jacob or James Leager, of Hadleigh, an "alian," who was taxed in the subsidy of 1567-8, and who was probably by birth a Fleming or a Dutchman. The first Jacob Leager probably migrated from the Continent to England because of a connection with the trade in woollen cloth, a trade of tremendous importance both to the Low Countries and to East Anglia. In Suffolk, Hadleigh and the neighboring village of Kersey were particularly noted for this trade. Kersey, which is accounted one of the most beautiful of Suffolk villages, gave its name to the "kerseys" or "corsies," types of woollens woven in this district from about 1250 to about 1650.*

Miss Lilian J. Redstone, of Woodbridge, co. Suffolk, has supplied the present writer with information which has come to light since Mrs. Bartlett's article on the Leager family was written. This information is presented herewith, followed by a revised pedigree of the Leagers.

* *Ex inform.* Miss Lilian J. Redstone.

LEAGER ENTRIES IN THE MARRIAGE LICENSES AT THE
IPSWICH PROBATE COURT OF THE ARCHDEACONRY
OF SUFFOLK, 1613-1674

- 1637, September 30. James Leager of Kersey, widower, and Elizabeth Greene, widow. (Book 15, fo. 18).
1637, October 2. Robert Leacar and Margaret Hickes of Woodbridge, both single, to be married at St. Peter's, Ipswich. (Book 15, fo. 18).

LEAGER ENTRY IN THE PARISH REGISTERS OF KERSEY,
CO. SUFFOLK, 1602-1662

1635. Beniamin Leager ye sonne of Jacob Leager baptized ye 20th of March (1635/6).

LEAGER ENTRY IN THE PARISH REGISTERS OF BELSTEAD,
CO. SUFFOLK

1628. Jacob Leagar maryed to Elizabeth Glamfeild ye fifteenth of October.

LEAGER AND GRIMWOOD ENTRIES IN THE PARISH REGISTERS
OF GREAT BRICETT, CO. SUFFOLK

1543. Richard Grymwood sepult' anno 1543.
1549. Elizabeth Grymwood sepult' anno 1549.
1565. William Grymwood the sonne of Thomas Grymwood and Margery his wife was baptized the . . . of June.
1568. John Grymwood the sonne of Thomas Grymwood and his wife Ma. . . . was baptised the 18th of August.
15— Margaret Gremwood [the daughter] of Thomas Gremwood and mother Margaret [was baptized] the . . . of Aprill *Anno ut supra*.
1573. Prudence Grymwood the daughter of Thomas Grymwood and her mother Margaret was baptised the xvij of July anno 1573.
1583. Lionell Grymwood the sonne of Thomas Grymwood sepult' 25^o November.
1592. Prudence Grymwood the daughter of Thomas Grymwood was buried the 10th of June.
1597. Jacob Legorer and Margaret Grymwood were maryed the 27 of Aprill.
1597. Margaret Grymwood the wife of Thomas Grymwood sepult' 25 of Februarye (1597/8).
1598. Thomas Grymwood and Elizabeth were maryed the 20th daye of November.
1599. Margaret Grymwood the wife of Thomas Grymwood was buried the 12th of Februarye (1599/1600).†
1602. Thomas Grymwood was buried the 14th daye of December.
1639. Edmund Grimwood ye sonne of William Grimwood and Mary his wife was baptized June 30th

* Miss Redstone writes that it is not clear what "ut supra" means. This entry immediately follows one of 1578, which in turn follows several of 1570. The entries following this baptism, moreover, are also for 1570—so Margaret Grimwood was probably baptized in 1570.

† Miss Redstone says that the Registers of Great Bricett were very carelessly kept, and that the entries are in a state of confusion. In the case of the burial of Margaret, wife of Thomas Grimwood and mother of Margaret (Grimwood) Leager, the true date is unquestionably 25 Feb. 1597/8, since Thomas Grimwood married again on 20 Nov. 1598. The second date entered for the burial of Margaret (12 Feb. 1599/1600) must have been due to the mistake of the Vicar or parish clerk at the time.

REVISED PEDIGREE OF THE LEAGER FAMILY

1. JACOB or JAMES LEAGER, of Hadleigh, co. Suffolk, was born before 1540, probably in the Low Countries. As "Jeames Legar, alian," he was taxed in the Lay Subsidy of 1567-8. He was buried at Hadleigh 4 June 1592. His wife ELIZABETH (who may or may not have been the mother of his children) was buried at Hadleigh 24 November 1592.

Children, baptized at Hadleigh:

- i. ABRAHAM (twin), bapt. 2 May 1563.
- ii. SARAH (twin), bapt. 2 May 1563.
- iii. ISAAC, bapt. 12 Aug. 1565; bur. at Hadleigh 15 April 1580.
2. iv. JACOB or JAMES, bapt. 17 Nov. 1568.

2. JACOB or JAMES LEAGER (*Jacob or James*) was baptized at Hadleigh, co. Suffolk, 17 November 1568, and was living there in 1603, but the date and place of his death are not known. He married at Great Bricett, co. Suffolk, 27 April 1597, MARGARET GRIMWOOD, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Grimwood or Grymwood of Great Bricett. She was baptized at Great Bricett in April, probably in the year 1570. The date of her death is unknown.

Children, first three baptized at Hadleigh:

- i. MARGARET, bapt. 17 Aug. 1598.
- ii. MARY, bapt. 1 Feb. 1600/1. She was mentioned as "my sister Marie" in the will of her brother Jacob Leager of Boston, and her children, who were living in England in 1662, were among Jacob's contingent legatees. The name of Mary's husband was not stated.
3. iii. JACOB, bapt. 4 Sept. 1603.
- iv. (*Perhaps*) SARAH, b. ca. 1610-7; d. at Boston 21 Dec. 1695; m. in New England about 1635 ROBERT WALKER of Boston, perhaps the son of Thomas Walker of Higher Ardwick in the parish of Manchester, co. Lancaster, linen-weaver, by his wife Margaret (Bardsley). Thomas and Margaret (Bardsley) Walker had a son Robert, bapt. at Manchester 21 Feb. 1607/8, and there is reason to believe that he is identical with the Robert Walker, linen-weaver, who was in Boston by 1631.* Robert Walker of Boston, linen-weaver (or linen-webster), was a member of the church at Boston in 1631-2, and became a freeman 14 May 1634, and a cow-keeper in 1638. He was "aged 72" by deposition on 10 April 1679, and he d. at Boston 29 May 1687, and was bur. there 31 May 1687. Letters of administration were granted 17 Aug. 1687 to his widow Sarah. Robert and Sarah Walker had twelve children. The reason for thinking that Sarah, wife of Robert Walker, was a sister of Jacob Leager, is that Leager made generous provision for three of the children of Robert and Sarah Walker in his will, though he did not state that the children were his relatives. He provided that if his two daughters should die under age and without issue, then half of their share of his estate was to go to the children of the testator's sister

* N. E. H. & G. Register, vol. 66 (1912), p. 283.

Marie; and the other half was to be divided as follows: Jacob, Joseph and Elishua, children of Robert Walker, were to have £10 apiece, and the residue was to go to the Boston Alms House. Moreover, Robert Walker was made an overseer of Leager's will; and it is worth noting that one of Walker's sons was named Jacob. The inheritance did not actually reach the three Walker children, because Jacob Leager's two daughters did survive, and strangely enough, one of them, Hannah Leager, married about 1676 John Walker, the youngest child of Robert and Sarah Walker, whom we suppose to have been her cousin.*

3. JACOB LEAGER (*Jacob or James, Jacob or James*) was baptized at Hadleigh, co. Suffolk, 4 September 1603. He was a tailor, and resided at Hadleigh, Kersey, and elsewhere in the neighborhood until about 1638, when he emigrated to New England with his second wife Elizabeth and her two children by her former marriage, Solomon and Mary Greene. He settled at Boston, and was admitted freeman 2 June 1641. He died at Boston 24 February 1662/3, leaving a will dated 10 November 1662, which was proved 19 March 1662/3.† In this will, Jacob Leager left one third of his estate to his wife Anna for life. The other two thirds he bequeathed to his two daughters, Bethia and Hannah, to be divided equally between them when they reached the age of 18 or at marriage, whichever came first. In the event of the death of the two girls, unmarried or without leaving issue, Jacob Leager made the interesting provisions to which we have referred above. He wished one of the thirds to go to the children of his sister "Marie" in England; and out of the other third, £10 each was to go to Jacob Walker, Joseph Walker, and Elishua (Walker) Thurston (children of Robert and Sarah Walker), and the residue was to go to the Boston Alms House.

Jacob Leager married (1) at Belstead, co. Suffolk, 15 October 1628, ELIZABETH GLAMFIELD, who died after 20 March 1635/6. He married (2) by license dated 30 September 1637, ELIZABETH (——) GREENE, widow of John Greene of Hadleigh, who made his will in 1634. She came to New England with her husband in 1638, but the date of her death is not known. He married (3), probably at Boston or Dorchester, Mass., about 1650, ANN BLAKE, daughter of William and Agnes (Band) Blake of Pitminster, co. Somerset, and Dorchester, Mass. She was baptized

* For the family of Robert and Sarah Walker, see Donald Lines Jacobus, *Families of Old Fairfield* (New Haven, Conn., 1930-32), vol. 1, pp. 637-641. It should be noted that one of the sons of Robert and Sarah Walker was Joseph Walker, bapt. at Boston 19 July 1648, "aged about 5 days," who was one of the contingent legatees in the will of Jacob Leager in 1662, who d. at Stratford, Conn., in 1687, and who m. at Milford, Conn., 14 Nov. 1667, Abigail Prudden, b. at Milford 13 Feb. 1647/8, d. at Stratfield, Conn., in Jan. 1717/8, daughter of the Rev. Peter Prudden of Milford and his wife Joanna (Boyse). For the Prudden and Boyse families, see articles by S. Allyn Peck and John Inslay Coddington in *THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST*, vol. 16, pp. 1-28, 122-3 and 177-9; vol. 17, pp. 52-5; and vol. 19, pp. 135-41.

† Suffolk County Probate Records, vol. 1, p. 404, Suffolk County Court House, Boston.

at Pitminster 30 August 1618, and died at Boston 12 July 1681, having remarried (William?) Halwell (Hallowell?). Letters of administration on her estate were issued to her brother, John Blake of Boston, on 17 August 1681.*

Only discovered child by the first marriage, baptized at Kersey, co. Suffolk:

- i. BENJAMIN, bapt. 20 March 1635/6; apparently d. young. It seems most probable that Jacob and Elizabeth (Glamfield) Leager had other children, born between 1628 and 1635.

Children by the third marriage, born in New England:

- ii. BETHIA, bapt. at Dorchester 10 Aug. 1651; m. about 1670 FEARNOT SHAW of Weymouth and Boston, Mass., blacksmith, by whom she had issue. He was a son of Joseph and Mary Shaw of Halifax, co. York, and Weymouth, Mass.†
- iii. HANNAH, b. at Boston 14 Nov. 1655, bapt. there 25 Nov. 1655, d. there 13 Oct. 1690, m. (1) at Boston about 1676 JOHN WALKER, youngest child of Robert and Sarah (Leager?) Walker of Boston. He was b. at Boston 14 July 1656, bapt. there 20 July 1656, and d. there between 13 Dec. 1678 (the date of his will) and Feb. 1678/9 (the date of probate). She m. (2) before Feb. 1682/3 THOMAS PHILLIPS of Boston, innholder, who d. between 25 Dec. 1725 (the date of his will) and 9 May 1726 (the date of probate). Child by the first marriage (surname *Walker*): *Hannah*, b. at Boston 25 April 1677, received a bequest from her great-uncle John Blake, 10 Jan. 1688/9; living unmarried in Boston, 21 Aug. 1704. Child by the second marriage (surname *Phillips*): *Hannah*, b. at Boston 7 Sept. 1690, m. (1) at Boston 23 Jan. 1706/7 John Welch of Boston; m. (2) at Boston 18 Aug. 1715 Thomas Chamberlin of Boston, and had issue by both marriages.

* For the Blake family, see Samuel Blake, *The Blake Family* (Boston, 1857), p. 14; Almira Torrey Blake Feano Gendrot, *The Ancestry of Nathan Blake* (Boston, 1916), p. 6; and especially Francis E. Blake, *Increase Blake* (Boston, 1898), pp. 23-27. See also *Suffolk Deeds*, Liber 11, folio 229.

† George Walter Chamberlain, *History of Weymouth, Mass.*, 4 vols. (Weymouth, 1923), vol. 4, p. 612.

