

THE
LAWRENCE FAMILY
OF GROTON, MASS.

By

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THE following account of several Groton families is furnished in order to correct certain errors which appear in the Rev. John Lawrence's "Genealogy of the Family of John Lawrence" (Boston, 1869). The leading error is printed on page 79, where it is said that John Lawrence, born at Groton, Nov. 13, 1741, married Sarah ———, and had seven children. According to the author "Mr. John Lawrence died Dec. 26, 1799, having been thrown from a sleigh in Cambridge, in the sixtieth year of his age, the same person, *it is believed* [Italics mine], who was born in Groton, 1741. The widow Sarah died Nov. 16, 1810, aged sixty-five years." This belief on the part of the author, based on an entire misapprehension of facts, has led to much confusion in the record of many families, as printed in the book. In fact it breaks utterly the connection of these families with this line of descent, and without authority adds another line of descendants.

Without attempting to trace the various branches as there mentioned, I will give the correct record of John Lawrence, together with an account of some of his descendants. The facts in the main are taken from the family Bible, now in the possession of Abel Lawrence, a grandson.

Nathaniel Lawrence, Jr., and Dorothy Chamberlain, both of Groton, were married by the Rev. Caleb Trowbridge, on Feb. 4, 1728-9; and they had eight children, of whom John was the youngest son, born Nov. 13, 1741, and died Nov. 26, 1822. See Groton Historical Series (III. 388) for a reference to the funeral of "Widow Lawrence y^e mother of John Lawrence aged 83 years," which took place in April, 1790. John married Abigail, eldest daughter of Ezekiel and Abigail (——) Nutting, born Oct. 10, 1753, and died July 10, 1847; and they had eight children, as follows:

John, born April 4, 1777, died July 9, 1834. On July 16, 1799, he married Margaret Gragg, who died May 20, 1845. (See Groton Epitaphs, p. 183.)

Nathaniel, born April 28, 1779, and died June, 1779.

Nathaniel, born July 25, 1780, and died July 1, 1831; his widow Sally died Sept. 19, 1840.

Ezekiel, born July 20, 1783, and died Sept. 30, 1789.

Abigail, born Sept. 6, 1786.

Abel, born June 12, 1789, and died May 4, 1835.

Sarah, born April 8, 1792, and died Oct. 26, 1822.

Mary, born April 1, 1795.

Nathaniel, son of John and Abigail (Nutting) Lawrence, was married to Sally Shattuck, daughter of Job and Elizabeth (Blood) Shattuck, born May 2, 1790. He died July 1, 1831, and his widow, Sept. 19, 1840.

Their children were :

Nathaniel, born August 4, 1808, married Eliza Hubbard, had two children, and died about sixty years ago.

Abigail, born Jan. 3, 1811, and died Aug. 23, 1812.

John, born Feb. 26, 1813, and died Aug. 13, 1816.

Daniel, born June 14, 1815, and died May 15, 1843.

Abigail, born Aug. 11, 1817, and died in Lowell, June 15, 1835.

John, born Sept. 22, 1819, and died unmarried in Townsend, Sept. 7, 1897.

Elizabeth, born Dec. 26, 1821, married Aug. 31, 1849, Alvin Davis, son of Silas and Patty Davis, of Hubbardston. They lived for fourteen years in Elmira, N. Y.; and after her husband's death she returned to Groton, and is now (1907) living with her brother Abel, on Hollis Street.

Abel, born Aug. 5, 1824, was married, March 5, 1849, at Townsend, by the Rev. Luther H. Sheldon, to Eliza, daughter of Minot and Sophronia (Hall) Baldwin, of Townsend. His wife died at Groton, Sept. 14, 1893.

William, born Dec. 9, 1827, and now living at Laconia, N. H. He has been married, and has had two daughters, but the wife and both children are dead.

The children of Abel and Eliza (Baldwin) Lawrence are Abel Lorenzo, born at Groton, March 2, 1850, married Nelly Payne, of Detroit, Mich., and died there, Sept. 12, 1893, leaving two sons, both married, of whom one, Harold Payne Lawrence, took the degree of M.D., at the Detroit College of Medicine in May, 1905; and

Charles, born at Townsend, April 23, 1851, married, Aug. 18, 1880, Fanny D. Marsh, daughter of Charles D. and Margaret (Quackenbush) Marsh, of Marlboro; now living at Groton, no children.

The will of the first Nathaniel, here mentioned, is on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge. It is dated August 30, 1775, and was received at the office on October 4, 1775; and his death must have taken place between those dates. It was not probated at Cambridge,—where the office then was,—until May 28, 1776. The delay, doubtless, was due to the confusion in the neighborhood during that Revolutionary period when the town was occupied by the American troops. The assent to its probate was signed by five of the children, and by a grandson Nathaniel, only son and surviving heir of Nathaniel, Jr. In his will he mentions son John, whom he made executor, daughter Dorothy Hudson, sons Thomas and Isaac, daughter Abigail Gilson, and daughters Eunice and Martha. His daughter Dorothy was married to Benajah Hudson, of Pepperell, on March 7, 1754, and his daughter Abigail, to Nehemiah Gilson, of Groton, probably in the year 1765; and they both had large families.