

# Edward Leathers

AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

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# EDWARD LEATHERS

## AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

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Some years ago, say about 1853, a correspondent of the Philadelphia *North American* said that the people named Leathers were gypsies. He discoursed learnedly as follows: "A gentleman emigrating from England to Portsmouth, N. H., a century or more ago, brought with him several of these curious people and endeavored to train them as household servants. He failed in the attempt and his gypsies afterwards betook themselves to the barren and inhospitable plains in the new town of Barrington, where they and their descendants have remained.

It was twaddle. *Edward Leathers*, progenitor of this family, was a reputable citizen of Dover nearly a hundred years before the date given above. He left descendants, who, although not of the wealthiest class, were steady landowners, good citizens and pious church members. Much later some descendants went from Durham to Barrington who had got an unfortunate cross of blood which gave that particular line its notoriety. But the main family was, and is, of good blood, good repute and there was no gypsy streak in the veins of either.

*Edward<sup>1</sup> Leathers* was born, accord-

ing to two depositions, about 1639. He was taxed at Oyster River 1668 and on to 1677, after which our lists are missing. Of the sixty tax-payers in 1668, fifteen were below him in amount; of the forty on the list in 1677, only twenty-two paid a higher tax. In 1682 William Pitman's will made him one of the two "overseers of my wife and children and of my executors." Of whom he purchased land originally does not appear. But, 19 March 1693-4, he had a grant of "Forty Acors of Land Between oyster River and Lamper Ele River on ye East side of ye Path by ye third brooke from oyster River." It was confirmed in town meeting 2 April 1693-4. Of this grant 25 acres appear to have been laid out to John Burnum, 23 June 1726, and, same date, 10 acres of it to John's brother Robert. Whether this implies that their mother was a daughter of Edward Leathers is not quite certain.

In 1699 Edward was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of Durham.

On 25 Dec. 1699, he conveyed to "son William" "all my Lands and Grants of Lands in Oyster River;" and he went to the house of John Wood-

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man, the record says, to acknowledge this deed, 7 May. 1702, which is the last we find of him. But, 10 Jan. 1697-8, he conveyed to Joseph Smith of Oyster River, for £45, beginning on the north side of the creek, "next to Oyster River falls" and running down by river side" 27 1-2 rods. Likewise he deposed 20 Aug. 1709, "that about forty years agoe Thomas Chesley and Phillip Chesley, The Sones of Phillip Chesley sent, mowed and Improved the meddowes Lyeing on Bellamys Banke River, from the Elmes or Beuer Dam and so upwards to Chesleyes Ponds, and alsoe the . . . . Meddoes nere the Hed of Malago River. And Have bin in quiett Possession of said Meddows Ever since, and I also mowed the aforesaid Meddoes & Pastuer with them som yeres." Likewise did Zachery Field, aged 60 or thereabouts testify to the same purpose, on the same day.

When Dr. Belknap obtained at Durham the family traditions as to the sufferers by the Indian massacre of 18 July 1694, Jabez Davis, a well informed son of one of the families attacked, "thinks old Mrs. Leathers and one or two others of that family were killed, the rest escaped."

*William<sup>2</sup> Leathers* is the only child of Edward<sup>1</sup> whom we find. He was a blacksmith as well as farmer. He was of Durham, and possibly later in Madbury. He had a garrison home in wartime; and so did Thomas Willey. He had land as above, from his father. A Dover record also says: "Laid out to William Leathers Twenty acres of Land pursuant to his grant on the north side of the way that leads from

Henry Rice's to madberry from an Ash tree marked W. L., forty rod east northeast to a white pine marked W. L., and thence south southeast fifty two rods to a beach marked W. L., and from thence west southwest Twenty-eight rods to a white oak marked W. L., Lyeing near the Road and so to the first marked tree all which Land is Laid out and bounded" 14 Oct., 1713.

William<sup>2</sup> Leathers was no gypsy. He and wife, Abigail were baptized by parson Hugh Adams, 10 Dec, 1727 and both were received to Durham church 4 Feb., 1727-8. Of course their children could not to be baptized, but most of them were baptized as adults. The grandchildren's names are also frequent in the roll of infant baptisms.

An obituary of a descendant in 1833 gives us the fact that William<sup>2</sup> married Abigail, daughter of Thomas Willey, and says that she lived to the age of one hundred and four. We can safely discount a few years, and still call her life long. But she was no gypsy.

Some conveyances give us the names of various children.

William<sup>2</sup> and wife Abigail, 24 July 1701, gave receipt to Margaret Squire of all dues from the beginning of the world; and John Willey gave one equally majestic. As Abigail was a Willey, we think that Margaret Squire was somehow Willey; and she conveyed, on that same day, her 18 acres at Oyster River to John Drew, whose land her land joined, down by Little Bay.

To his "eldest sons" Edward and Thomas, William<sup>2</sup>, 9 Jan. 1721-2, for

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parental love, and "upon condition of their Dutiful Behaviour to me and their mother Abigail Leathers during our lives and of their paying Each of them ten pounds apeice to their two sisters Abigail & Mary Leathers after my decease," William<sup>2</sup> conveyed to them and their heirs and assigns "within the name of Leathers," as follows: to eldest son Edward<sup>3</sup>, the "farme whereon I now dwell," on the south side of the highway and down to Oyster River low-water-mark; to son Thomas<sup>3</sup>, land upon the north east side of the way that leads to Beach Hill, at a place "called Durtv Slough."

William<sup>2</sup> and wife Abigail, and Edward<sup>3</sup> and wife Sarah, 1 Aug. 1725, for £23, conveyed to Samuel Smith of Durham, 25 acres which had been granted to Edward<sup>1</sup> Leathers, sen., 19 Mar. 1693-4, between Oyster River and Lamprey River. Acknowledged 31 Aug., 1748.

William<sup>2</sup>, with eldest son Edward, conveyed to John Willey, of Dover, for £5, 31 Aug. 1725, 5 acres out of the 40 acre grant to Edward<sup>1</sup>, 19 Mar. 1693-4. Of the wives, William's made her mark.

He conveyed to son Abednego, of Oyster River, for £20, 16 Dec. 1720, land in Rochester. To William Jenkins, of Durham, 3 acres in Durham, for £6, 12 Mar. 1735-6, acknowledged 23 Oct. 1753, recorded 11 Feb. 1756. To son Thomas, of Durham, for £20, 5 Mar. 1738, 20 acres "in Dover & Durham," on the north side of the highway "that leads from Henry Rice's to Madberry;" acknowledged 27 Aug. 1743, recorded 26 Nov. 1745.

William<sup>2</sup> conveyed to Stephen

Leathers of Durham, husbandman, for £30, 13 April 1743, 20 acres in Durham, beginning at the dividing line between Dover and Durham; Mary Willey and Caturah Leathers witnesses. Also to son Stephen, 13 Aug. 1750, for £300 old tenor, 60 acres in Rochester. And to son Edward, of Durham, for £80 old tenor, 60 acres in Rochester, 17 Nov. 1750. To son Edward, of Durham, 18 May 1752, for £100, 10 acres granted by Dover to Edward<sup>1</sup> deceased; recorded 30 Dec. 1772.

William<sup>2</sup> conveyed to Abednego Spencer of Durham, yeoman, for £150 old tenor, 3 June 1752, land in Rochester.

William<sup>2</sup> of Durham (before Madbury was set off), husbandman, for £300 old tenor, conveyed to Jonathan Leathers [his son], of Durham, husbandman, 3 Oct. 1753, "onehalf of my dwelling-house where I now dwell," half of barn and orchard, and eighty acres in Canterbury, N. H. He acknowledged this deed 23 Oct. 1773, and must have lived to a good old age.

Edward Leathers, Thomas Leathers, of Durham, husbandmen, — William Leathers, of Charleston, Mass., cordwainer, — Ezekiel Leathers, Abednego Leathers, Abel Leathers, Ebenezer Leathers, Stephen Leathers, and Benjamin Leathers, of Durham, for £400 old tenor, quit claim, 8 Nov. 1753, to brother Jonathan Leathers of Durham, all right "unto the one-half of the home estate which was our grandfather Edward<sup>1</sup> Leathers, formerly of Dover, deceased, and now in the possession of our Honored father William<sup>2</sup> Leathers"; with "half a ten acre grant which was granted to our aforesaid

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Grandfather and is adjoining to Land now in the Possession of Stephen Jones Junr."

William<sup>2</sup> Leathers appears to have had children as follows:

1. Edward<sup>3</sup>, of whom see below.
2. Thomas<sup>3</sup>, of whom see below.
3. William<sup>3</sup>, of whom see below.
4. Robert<sup>3</sup>, of whom see below.
5. Ezekiel<sup>3</sup>.
6. Abednego<sup>3</sup>.
7. Abel<sup>3</sup>.
8. Abigail<sup>3</sup>, bapt. with her brother Abel<sup>3</sup>, 26 June 1726, evidently then adult, married, in Durham, 20 Nov 1729, Ebenezer Spencer.
9. Ebenezer<sup>3</sup>
10. Stephen<sup>3</sup>.
11. Benjamin<sup>3</sup>.

12 Mary<sup>3</sup>. Probably she should be placed earlier, but we can not tell just where. She married Robert Willey, son of Thomas of Madbury, a relative of her mother, and doubtless Mary's own cousin. The obituary of her dau. Abigail<sup>4</sup>, in 1833, says that Mary<sup>3</sup> lived to the age of one hundred and two. Her dau. Abigail<sup>4</sup> was born in Madbury 27 Mar. (O. S.) 1731, and died in Dover (being widow Abigail<sup>4</sup> Brown) 26 Aug. 1833. She remembered the garrisons of Richard Jones, John Woodman, and Anthony Jones, in Durham; and of Thomas Willey and of her grandfather William Leathers, in Madbury.

13. Jonathan<sup>3</sup>.

*Edward<sup>3</sup> Leathers*, eldest son of William<sup>2</sup>, was bapt. (adult)<sup>3</sup> Dec. 1721; his wife Sarah was bapt. 27 May 1726. They lived in Durham, and he had the homestead in common with brother Jonathan<sup>3</sup>. He was dead in 1773. Va-

rious papers are on record. He had land of Naphtali Kincaid, of Durham, for £25, 2 Sept. 1735, being twelve acres and a half of Commons in Durham. He conveyed to Edward, Jr., (doubtless his son) for £500, 6 April 1753, 40 acres at Newtown, in Durham, —Newtown being, we might as well say, in Lee, on the right hand from the Durham turnpike road to Concord, above Layn's mill. For £5000 old tenor (much like continental), 2 Nov. 1759, he conveyed to "son Robert," of Dover, yeoman, 50 acres in Durham, "where I now live"; 6 acres in Rochester (part of 60 acre tract he bought of "honor<sup>d</sup> father William Leathers, dec<sup>d</sup>."

Edward<sup>3</sup>, of Durham, yeoman, 3 Aug. 1771, for £100 lawful money, conveyed to [his son] Robert Leathers, of Barrington, yeoman, land in Durham: also 18 acres in Lee," the same being bounded as follows, by Land of William Caldwell Easterly from said Caldwell's Land to the Road that leads to New Town saw mill"; also 100 acres in Canterbury; all to Robert for "his Natural Life and after his decease to his eldest son named Robert Leathers." What occasioned this preference for the name of Robert does not appear. A deed to Vowel Leathers, 7 Mar. 1773, speaks of the homestead of "our late Honored Father's William Leathers," and said it was the one "on which the said Jonathan Leathers now lives" and "has been improved in Partnership by him and his brother *Edward Leathers* deceased."

Edward<sup>3</sup> seems to have had children:

1. Olive<sup>4</sup>, bapt. 23 June 1723.
2. Sarah<sup>4</sup>, bapt. 27 Mar. 1726.

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3. Edward<sup>4</sup>, of whom see below.  
 4. Robert<sup>4</sup>, of whom see below.  
 5. Vowel<sup>4</sup>, of whom see below.  
 Thomas<sup>3</sup>, baptized (adult) 3 Dec. 1721; married in Durham, 19 Nov. 1724, Ellizabeth, daughter of Henry Marsh of Oyster River, who (Henry) was dead 10 Mar. 1739, when Thomas<sup>3</sup> and wife Elizabeth for £6, conveyed all right is estate of Marsh to Jonathan Tomson of Durham, who was then in occupation of said estate. Thomas<sup>3</sup> made his mark and was a husbandman.

He conveyed, 23 June 1752, for £150, to Samuel Smith of Durham, 25 acres in Durham, granted him by town committee in 1733-4; also all right in some land at the Hook, on the south side of Lamprey river, being ten acres. For £1000, 17 April 1756, he conveyed to John Jenkins Randel, 20 acres joining land of Simon Randel. Eli (and Tabitha) Demeritt, of Madbury, 22 April 1756, for £500, sold him land at Newtown. Thomas<sup>3</sup> and wife Elizabeth, conveyed, for £18, 10 May 1770, between seven and eight acres in Durham, "part of the farm on which I now live," to Samuel Chesley. He and wife, 9 June, 1776, for £35, 12 sh. conveyed to John Layn of Durham, 10 acres, "part of the land on which I now live" "beginning at the corner of the roads that lead to Durham Fall, Madbury meeting-house & Newtown." For £20, 17 April 1770, he conveyed 10 1-2 acres in Lee to Benj. Bodge. For £2, 13s, he sold to Joseph Hicks, gentleman, 12 May, 1770, 12 acres joining land of Hicks. For £15 1-2, 4 Sept. 1770, he conveyed 7 acres, "part of land on which I now live" to Samuel

Chesley. For £100, 1 Mar. 1772, 20 acres in Durham to Thomas Thompson of Durham. For £17, 15s, 4 July, 1772, 20 acres in Lee to Daniel Tebbets of Madbury. He signed a deed to Vowel Leathers 7 Mar. 1773. Whether he had children, we don't know. He seems to be the Thomas, who was soldier in Col. Blanchard's regiment at Crown Point in 1755.

William<sup>3</sup> baptized as "junior" and "Batchelour" in Durham, 15 Sept. 1723. He was a cordwainer, and was of Charlestown, Mass.; 14 Nov. 1742, when his wife Susanna was admitted to the Charlestown first church. So he was in 1753, when he signed quit claim of his father's estate. Beyond that we have not traced him.

Robert<sup>3</sup> made a deposition of Durham, yeoman, 1 Aug. 1776, aged 75 years, about "the Marsh called Drew marsh adjoining Johnson's Creek," and he says "that he lived at Capt. Stephen Jones's (the family that he lived with having then moved there to Garrison) in Queen Ann's war." This war was from 1703 to 1713. His name is not in the family deed of 8 Nov. 1753. Samuel Chesley testified 16 May 1796, aged 78, that had "all my life time except two years, lived within one hundred rods of where Mrs. William<sup>2</sup> Leathers deceased formerly lived and where Edward<sup>3</sup> Leathers, and Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Leathers, son of said William<sup>2</sup> Leathers lived, and where Robert<sup>3</sup> Leathers, son of said William<sup>2</sup> lived, and where Robert<sup>4</sup> Leathers, sons of said Edward<sup>3</sup> Leathers now lives," William Jackson, aged 81, testified same date, that he had lived all his life "within one hundred rods of where Robert Leathers

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now lives." What became of him we do not know, beyond the deposition of 1776 above.

Ezekiel<sup>3</sup>, bapt. (adult) 28 Nov. 1725, signed the quit-claim to brother Jonathan in 1753 as of Durham. He and wife Abigail, for £2, 2. Feb. 1729-30, quit-claimed land in Canterbury to widow Anna Kincade. The same, of Durham, 29 June 1733, for £20, to Samuel Smith, Jr., "my wife's dowrit and thirds" in estate of James Nock, deceased. (Elder James Nock of Durham, killed by the Indians 1 May, 1724, left widow Abigail, daughter of James Thomas.) Ezekiel<sup>3</sup> and wife Abigail conveyed to Josiah Miles, of Canterbury, land in Canterbury 3 July 1740, for £30. We don't know as to children. But he died in Durham, says an old list of aged people in the *Dover Sun*, in 1801, aged 100 years. He was a soldier in Col. John Hart's regiment at Crown Point in 1755.

Abednego<sup>3</sup>, baptized (adult) 28 Mar. 1725, was a salt-water captain, home always in Durham. He deposed 14 Jan. 1791, aged 85, regarding fence of Rev. Hugh Adams seventy years before; and so he must have been born about 1705. But Jonathan Wordman, Robert Leathers, and eight others, 22 Mar. 1802, petitioned that a "guardian of his person and estate" be appointed, saying that he was reputed to be upwards of a hundred years of age (wherein they were extremely liberal of years), and "incapable of providing for himself," and had "no child and no other relation who is compellable by law to take care" of him. Thomas Leighton was appointed, giving bonds in \$4,000; and the inventory was \$1,673.96.

Various deeds are on record. Abednego Leathers and wife Charity of Durham, were among persons representing six interests, who quit-claimed 18 Nov. 1758, to Azariah Boody, of Madbury, all right in ten acres of land granted by Dover to "our Hon<sup>d</sup> Father Zachariah Boodey" of Dover, deceased. That is, Abednego Leathers of Durham, married, 1<sup>st</sup>, Charity, dau. of Zachariah Boodey.

He conveyed to Paul Tebbetts of Dover, 18 Dec. 1729, for £100, 60 acres in Rochester that had belonged to his father William<sup>2</sup>. To Daniel Warner, of Portsmouth, 25 Feb. 1730-1, for £30, 60 acres in Rochester, formerly his father's. Timothy Jones, of Stratham, innholder, conveyed to Abednego<sup>3</sup>, 4 Sept. 1747, for £370 old tenor, three acres and dwelling house in Durham on the westerly side of Falls Hill, with barn and malt-house, formerly Dr. Joseph Atkinson's. For £500 old tenor, 14 April 1755, he conveyed to Vowel Leathers, of Durham, husbandman, half of a hundred acre lot in Nottingham. He and wife Charity, 4 Aug. 1758, for £500 old tenor, conveyed to Abednego Leathers, Jr., of Durham, half of a hundred acre lot in Nottingham, the same he had bought of Samuel Adams 1 Nov. 1756.

Abednego had other transactions in real estate,—to William Ham of Rochester: he and wife *Hannah* to Stephen Cogan, of Durham, 19 April 1755; from William Ham, of Dover; from Valentine Hill, 1742 3; to Benjamin Jenkins of Durham, 1754; from Benj. Jenkins, 1759, and in 1760; to Robert Boodey, land in New Durham, 1763; to Ebenezer Smith, 1787.



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He of Durham, with Abednego jr., of Nottingham, for £24, 15, 17 Mar. 1790, conveyed to James Leighton of Durham, tailor, land "near the dwelling house of me the Leathers the Elder."

Abednego<sup>4</sup> Leathers, of Nottingham, yeoman, [his nephew], for £20, 18 Dec. 1783, conveyed to Abednego<sup>3</sup> and wife Hannah, life use of four acres and ninety seven square rods in Durham; being, mostly, part of tract bought of Nathaniel Hill. This Nottingham Abednego<sup>4</sup>, 12 May 1767, then "jun.," had bought of Nathaniel Hill, of Durham, for £728 old tenor, some land in Durham, "beginning by said Mast Road opposite to the house of John Layn at a stake and running south twenty seven degrees fifty six rods to the North East corner of Thomas Chesley's land," etc.

Abednego<sup>3</sup> made will 21 September, 1790, proved 15 June, 1802. Real estate to wife Hannah (executrix), for life, afterwards to nephew Abednego's son Abednego<sup>5</sup>; to Charity<sup>5</sup> Leathers, daughter of Abednego<sup>4</sup>, wearing apparel which "belonged to my first wife." Abednego<sup>4</sup> of Nottingham, was appointed executor; inventory, \$1,672.99. And he died without issue. A list in the *Dover Sun* says he died in Durham in 1802 aged 101 years.

Abel.<sup>3</sup> bapt. (adult) 26 June, 1726, signed the deed of 1753, then of Durham. He, then of Nottingham, 5 December, 1768, for £10, conveyed to Jonathan Clough, of Canterbury, land in Canterbury, conveyed to Abel by William<sup>2</sup> in 1753. And this is all we know of him.

Ebenezer<sup>3</sup>, of Durham 1753: of Bar-

ington in 1773, as by deed to Vowel Leathers. An Ebenezer Leathers was drummer in Col. Nath'l Meserve's regiment at Crown Point in 1756. Ebenezer, of Durham, married, 3 April, 1754, Martha Brown.

Ebenezer<sup>3</sup>, of Durham, gave bonds in £200, to Peter Mondor, of Durham, 25 Feb. 1744-5, to support Peter Mondor and wife Mary, who, same date, gave him deed of 60 acres in Durham.

This Peter Mondor's Will was made 18 May, 1738, he being "aged and well stricken in years;" proved 31 May, 1749. Mentions wife Mary; daughters Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Abigail (all Mondor) were to have, each, £5, to be paid by son John four years after he comes of age. This John, 11 Feb. 1749-50, conveyed the lands received by this Will, to John Crocket, for £250 old tenor; and Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> Leathers had given deed of land he held from Mondor, 2 May 1749.

Ebenezer (who made his mark) for £95, conveyed to Daniel Rogers, of Durham, 12 April 1756, land and new dwelling house. To Joseph Smith, right in commons land 2 Dec. 1762. To Joseph Smith, for £1,500 old tenor, 70 acres, on the west side of Little River, where "I now live," 18 Feb. 1764.

And he was of *Barrington* in 1771. Sarah Ellit, of Barrington, 22 April, 1771, for £20, conveyed to Ebenezer Leathers, of Barrington, her right in a small piece of land in Barrington, "that formerly belonged to my father." It was in the "two mile" strip which joined Nottingham and Lee.

Stephen<sup>3</sup>, of Durham in 1753, when he signed the family quit claim. He, husbandman, of Durham, in Sept. 1759,

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quit claimed to Timothy Moses, of Madbury, 5 acres at "Gooseberry marsh at Bellaman's Bank." He and wife Margaret, for £75, conveyed to James Gilmor of Durham, Daniel Meserve of Madbury, and Robert Leathers of Barrington, 4 June 1766, land in Lee, where Stephen "now lives." And, 16 Feb. 1767, he of Lee, to Joseph Hicks, 20 acres which said Leathers purchased of Lieut. Philip Chesley, at Newtown plain, which is all we know of Stephen<sup>3</sup>. But, the name of Stephen, has it not been extant in later years?

*Benjamin<sup>3</sup>*, of the quit claim in Durham in 1753, was of Durham 6 Dec. 1752, when he conveyed to brother Jonathan<sup>3</sup>, of Durham, all right in estate of grandfather. John McCoy, of Nottingham, John Hill and wife Phebe of Barrington, Benjamin Leathers and wife Margery of Barrington, Samuel Emerson of Lee and Lois his wife, and Jonathan Libbey and wife Hannah, 20 June 1789, conveyed to widow Margery McCoy of Nottingham, all right in 25 acres in Nottingham that "our father John McCoy bought of Jeremiah Elkins of Epping." So Benjamin<sup>3</sup> married a McCoy, and lived in *Barrington*. He was a soldier under Col. Blanchard, at Crown Point, in 1755.

*Jonathan<sup>3</sup>*, of Durham, purchased half of the homestead in 1753, and he, and brother Edward had the whole in common up to Edward's death, which was before 7 March 1773, and Jonathan lived on in the same place. Robert Leathers, of Barrington, had mortgage of the Durham land, 4 June 1766, which he released to Jonathan 8 Mar. 1773. Jonathan<sup>3</sup> conveyed, 24 April 1774, be-

ing of Durham, yeoman, to Thomas Leathers, jun., of Durham, for £100 lawful money, land in Durham, including "part of the farm where I now dwell and bounded southerly by land possessed by Stephen Jones, westerly by land of Joseph Atkinson Esq<sup>r</sup> and Lieut. Sam<sup>l</sup> Chesley, & Northerly and Easterly by the highway."

Jonathan<sup>3</sup>, Abednego, and Thomas Leathers, all of Durham, yeoman, and Ebenezer Leathers, of Barrington, yeoman, for £100 lawful money, conveyed to Vowel Leathers, of Nottingham, yeoman, 7 Mar. 1773, all their interest in "the whole Homestead Farm that was our late Honored Fathers William Leathers deceased in Durham aforesaid adjoining Oyster River and is the same farm on which the said farm on which the said Jonathan Leathers now lives and has been improved in partnership by him and his brother Edward Leathers deceased"; it "lays between Oyster River aforesaid and the Highway leading from Durham falls to Dover." Signed also by Keturah Leathers, who made her mark. In fact, Newington records tell us that Jonathan Leathers of Durham and Caturah Trickey of Newington were married 25 Dec. 1746; she was daughter of Lieut. Thomas Trickey of Newington.

That Jonathan<sup>3</sup> had one son, is clear. Thomas<sup>4</sup>, of Durham, yeoman, for £15 lawful money, 16 July 1774, conveyed to Timothy Emerson, of Durham, land in Canterbury, "originally laid out to the right of William<sup>2</sup> Leathers, and which I purchased of my Honored Father Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Leathers.

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*Edward*<sup>4</sup>, apparently son of *Edward*<sup>3</sup>, had 40 acres at Newtown, in Durham or Lee, from his father, 6 April 1753, the son then living on the premises. Simon (and wife Sarah) Rendal of Durham, for £327, 10s, 6d, old tenor, conveyed to him 7 1-2 acres at Newtown. *Edward*<sup>4</sup> of Lee conveyed to John Willey 10 acres at Newtown plains joining land "in possession of Stephen Leathers," and land of Capt. John Layn. He bought of Joseph Smith of Portsmouth, and Daniel Smith of Dover, 4 Oct. 1786, 10 acres in Lee joining land he bought of Simon Rendal, and joining land of John Snell; and he conveyed this land 5 Mar, 1790, to John Leathers of Lee, excepting what "I lately sold to my daughter Hannah" (spinster, 21 Feb. 1790,) "also my dwelling-house where I now live," and he included to John the sixth part of "New Town saw mill and grist mill." *Edward*<sup>4</sup> and wife Elizabeth sold to Matthias Jones, of Lee, land at Newtown plains in Lee, 3 Jan. 1787. Also, *Edward*<sup>4</sup> sold land in Lee, "on the west side of the highway leading from John Snell's to Benjamin Clarke's at Polts's bridge so called." He was in lumber business in 1788. Sold to Smith Emerson 9 July 1789 and 17 Feb. 1790, and then we leave him.

*Robert*<sup>4</sup>, son of *Edward*<sup>3</sup>, was of Durham 27 Nov. 1759, when the father conveyed to him two tracts of land in Durham, with the buildings thereon, and *Robert*<sup>4</sup> gave, same date, life lease to his "Hon<sup>d</sup> father *Edward* Leathers" for one ear of Indian corn annually if demanded. He married 29 Feb. 1756, Deborah Follet of Durham, and he and his wife conveyed, 21 Nov. 1763, to Jonathan Thompson of Durham, 48

acres on the Mast road, "being the farm where Ichabod Follet, late of Durham, deceased, lived," reserving the thirds belonging to widow Prudence Follet.

He was of Barrington 4 June, 1766, as by deed from Stephen<sup>3</sup> Leathers, also of Barrington, 3 Aug. 1771, when his father conveyed to him land in Durham, Lee and Canterbury, "for his Natural life, and after his decease to his eldest son named Robert Leathers." Also, of Barrington 26 Jan. 1773, when as executor in favor cited of Thomas Wallingford was satisfied out of land on Oyster River, part of which was Robert's and part Jonathan's mortgaged to Robert. *Robert*<sup>4</sup> released mortgage to Jonathan 8 Mar. 1773, which Jonathan<sup>3</sup> had given 4 Nov. 1766. He seems to have got back into Durham, as 31 Mar. 1775, he and wife Deborah conveyed to Valentine Smith all right in "the whole real estate of our late Honored Grandfather *Edward* Wakeham, late of said Durham deceased."

*Robert*<sup>4</sup> Leathers and *Vowel*<sup>4</sup> Leathers made division of the old homestead of William<sup>2</sup>, 18 June 1797. A *Robert* of Durham conveys to Samuel Pinkham, of Madbury, 29 Mar. 1790; and 1 Dec. 1792, *Robert*<sup>4</sup> conveyed to *Robert*<sup>5</sup>, Jr., 40 acres in Durham, lying on Oyster River, bounded north by highway from Durham to Dover. Doubtless *Robert*<sup>5</sup> was son of *Robert*<sup>4</sup>.

*Vowel*<sup>4</sup> Leathers, son of *Edward*<sup>3</sup>, went to Nottingham and was a leading citizen there. His uncle *Abednego*<sup>3</sup> (childless) conveyed to him, 10 April 1755, half of a hundred acre lot in Nottingham.

James Gilmore and Daniel Meserve,

# EDWARD LEATHERS.

executors of Will of Joseph Smith, testified 16 May 1796, that they demanded of Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Leathers, then living, payment of debt of £50; that Jonathan, unable to pay, mortgaged his half of estate to Robert<sup>4</sup> Leathers, "joint owner," who became security; that Robert<sup>4</sup> could not pay, and they got out judgment and took Robert<sup>4</sup> to goal; that they met Vowel<sup>4</sup> Leathers, "brother of said Robert<sup>4</sup>," and he became security; for which, Robert<sup>4</sup> released land to Jonathan<sup>3</sup>, and Jonathan<sup>3</sup> conveyed to Vowel<sup>4</sup>, who took possession.

Vowel<sup>4</sup> signed the Revolutionary Association test in 1776. Capt. Vowel Leathers was on committees for war purposes in 1777, 1778, 1779. In 1782 he was on committee to report as to State Constitution. He was a Selectman in 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777 and 1778, and chairman in 1778. In 1806 he paid a large tax, and his son Joseph<sup>5</sup> paid the largest tax but two in Nottingham. He and Robert<sup>4</sup> divided the old homestead in Durham 18 June 1797; having purchased, 17 Mar. 1773, from Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Leathers, Abednego<sup>3</sup>, and Thomas<sup>3</sup>, all of Durham, and Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> of Barrington, all their interest in "the olde homestead farm that was our late Honoured Father's, William Leathers deceased;" it "lays between Oyster River aforesaid and the Highway leading from Durham falls to Dover." Various other purchases are on record.

Vowel<sup>4</sup> Leathers made Will 14 July 1810, proved 13 Nov. 1813. Wife Lydia; son Joseph; grandson Vowel (evidently son of Vowel<sup>5</sup> deceased); grandsons Jonathan<sup>6</sup> Langley, and Joseph<sup>6</sup> Leathers. He had a fine farm, "mansion house," mentions faithful servants, etc.

Samuel, of Durham, and wife Elizabeth, 28 Aug. 1778, for £120, conveyed land in Barrington to Garland Smith, of Barrington.

Jonathan Leathers and Sarah Pinkham, both of Madbury, were married there 6 Aug. 1783. They, of Madbury, for £9 in Nov. 1792, quit claimed to Richard Pinkham, all right in "estate of our father Samuel Pinkham, late of said Madbury," and in dower of Lois Pinkham, widow of said Samuel.

There was *Stephen*, of Lee in 1786; *William*, of Lee 1787; *Samuel*, of Durham, 1778 and 1784; *Aaron*, of Lee, 1787. In Madbury, Benjamin Leathers and Hannah Tuttle were married, both of Durham, Dec. 1782.

As to the Barrington race, of whom each could say, "I have not loved the world, nor the world me."

We have found that *Robert<sup>4</sup> Leathers* was of Barrington in 1766, in 1771, and in 1773. But he is called of Durham in 1775. Perhaps he abandoned the opportunity to be the progenitor of the Barrington line.

Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> was of Barrington in 1771 and in 1773, and tradition speaks of him as remaining. Sarah Ellit conveyed land in Barrington to him 22 April 1771, and it answered well to the Leathers land.

*Benjamin<sup>3</sup>* was of Barrington in 1789, and there is no appearance that he left that town.

From *Ebenezer<sup>3</sup>* or *Benjamin<sup>3</sup>*, or from both, came the Barrington tribe.

We cannot tell which was the father of six distinguished brothers. They were not given to records. The registry of deeds gives no further title to their pine barrens. The church records are sadly silent.

EDWARD LEATHERS.

But there are some marriages on the town records.

Ebenezer Leathers and Eleanor More, 26 Mar. 1777.

Benjamin Carpenter and Hannah Leathers, 17 Mar. 1787.

Benjamin Leathers and Sarah Place, 8 Oct. 1789.

Thomas Leathers and Lydia Sargent of Northfield, 1 July 1795.

Edward Leathers and Anna Leathers, 25 Oct. 1798.

Jonathan Leathers and Betty Giles, 23 Mar. 1801.

William Leathers and Thankful Arnold, 12 Sept. 1802.

Valentine Leathers and Sarah Starbord, 10 Sept. 1803.

Daniel Whitehouse and Polly Leathers, 24 Mar. 1803.

Ebenezer Leathers and Huldah Sawyer, 14 May 1804.

Some years ago there were divers brothers in Barrington, viz: Benjamin, the oldest; Samuel: Ebenezer: Stephen: Daniel, and Robert. Of these, Benjamin took the surname of *Walker*.

Samuel took the surname of *Tyler*.

Ebenezer, who married, 14 May 1804: Huldah Sawyer, was unfortu-

nately implicated, with his son Ebenezer and brother Robert Leathers in an affray in front of his own house, 25 June 1847, which resulted in the death of Ebenezer's brother Stephen. For this, at the trial 22 Jan. 1848, the three were convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced, each to three days solitary, and—Ebenezer Sen. to ten years in State Prison, and Ebenezer, Jr., and Robert each to twenty years. We believe that Ebenezer, sen. an old man, was soon pardoned out. Ebenezer, Jr., died in prison, Jan. 1854, aged 45.

Stephen, who took surname of *Freeman*, and married a Hanscom was killed as just stated.

Daniel took the surname of *Gray*.

The records we have given, trace conclusively the Barrington line to the early emigrant Edward<sup>1</sup> Leathers, and completely answer the nonsense about gypsies. Some bad intermarriages and pine barrens gave peculiar characteristics to the basket making branch, and made that branch an exception in a most excellent, upright and well-to-do family. Complete records would give most interesting testimony as to the potency of a particular streak of blood.