### NOTES ON THE

# PILLSBURYS OF LEEK,

COUNTY STAFFORD, ENGLAND.

By Miss Emily A. Getchell and Eben Putnam.

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# NOTES ON THE PILLSBURYS OF LEEK, COUNTY STAFFORD, ENGLAND.

## CONTRIBUTED BY MISS EMILY A. GETCHELL AND EBEN PUTNAM.

THERE is a tradition that William Pillsbury, who emigrated to Boston, New England, early in 1640, was from Staffordshire. At the time of his migration he was aged about twenty-five years. He eventually settled in Newbury, and from him descend the most if not all of the principal Pillsbury families in America, numbering amongst others, Paul Pillsbury, the inventor of the barkmill and shoe-peg, Parker Pillsbury, the abolitionist, friend of Garrison and Rogers, the famous group of prison officials, with Gen. Amos Pillsbury of Albany, at their head, and of which Louis D. Pillsbury, of Blackwell's Island Penitentiary, is the only living representative, the millionaire flour-millers of Minneapolis, ex-governor John S. Pillsbury, with his brother, George A., and nephews, Charles A. and Fred. C., ex-attorney-general Albert E. Pillsbury, of Mass., Capt. J. E. Pillsbury, U. S. N., whose labors in the field of nautical research are well known, Harry N. Pillsbury, the young chess player, just coming into prominence, and many others.

The historian of the family is Miss Emily A. Getchell, who resides in the Pillsbury house, Newburyport; not the ancient structure in toto, but rebuilt after the fire which

devastated the older building, in exactly the same style as the former. Miss Getchell, a few years ago, obtained from the registry at Lichfield copies of the Pillsbury wills there recorded, which are here printed for the first time. It will be observed that the original spelling and instruction are adhered to.

In 1894, I had an opportunity to verify the copies given below and have here and there read the somewhat and in some cases extremely difficult handwriting, otherwise than Miss Getchell's English agent.

The differences are however of slight consequence and I have contented myself with appending notes which throw a little additional light upon the persons mentioned; this matter is enclosed in brackets.

It will be observed that there is no proof whatsoever that William the emigrant is either one of the Williams mentioned in the latter wills; but at the same time no further information has been found illustrative of the after life of those Williams. Which, if either, was the William who came to America is absolutely unknown. The registers of St. Edward's at Leek have been examined to some extent, but little information found which is of value as proving the identity of William Pillsbury.

It is rather difficult to arrange a satisfactory pedigree from the wills herein given, but it is evident the testators were all related. A careful search for the name among the wills proved at Lichfield by Leek residents also failed to add much to what was already known.

The name in that vicinity is now usually spelled Spilsbury, a corruption of as early a date as the year 1600, as evidenced by two wills presented below.

Besides this Stafford family there was a gentle family of Pillesborough in Hertfordshire, also in Essex, and probably others of the name, so that, except for the tradition above mentioned which may after all be incorrect, there is no reason to suppose but that William of Newbury could have been of some other family than that of Staffordshire.

EBEN PUTNAM.

WILLI: PILSBERY OF NEWBURY, LATE OF DORCHESTER, IN NEW ENGLAND, YEOMAN.

Of the William Pillsbury who landed in Boston with other English emigrants in 1640-1, not much is known. His name first appears in the first volume of the Massachusetts Bay Colonial Records under date of June 1, 1641, in a list of cases presented before a Quarter Court held in Boston at that time. He seems to have committed some offence against the law and order of the community, and was "bound to the good behavior," as the phrase of the day ran, and to "appear at the next court bound in ten pounds." One of his fellow criminals in the dock was a young woman named Dorothy Crosbey; she was also bound over to appear at the next court.

This "next court" was held July 29th, and between times William Pillsbury and Dorothy Crosbey had been married; of their nuptials nothing further is known. Records of the births of two children, a daughter in 1642 and a son in 1643, have been found in Dorchester, and in 1648 William's name is found as an evident holder of property.

In 1651 his name again appears on a deed given him by Edward Rawson, gent., late of Newbury, recording the sale of a house and lands in that town, for which, family tradition says, he gave real estate in Dorchester in part payment. He must have removed immediately to Newbury as the births of seven children after 1651 are found on the town records.

With this exception the family is not heard of until 1671, when William and his eldest son Job, are among the prominent figures on the losing side of the bitter contention over the question of church government in the first parish in Newbury. In 1683 he was made a freeman, and in 1686 he died. His funeral is noted in Judge Sewall's diary, and his will is preserved in the Suffolk Registry of Probate in Boston. He was a man of wealth for his time, owning large tracts of lands, and having money to let, which tradition says he kept secreted under the eaves of his thatched barn. His estate in Newbury, now Newburyport, is owned and occupied by his descendants in the ninth generation.

The parish of Leek is in the northern part of Staffordshire and runs up to the counties of Derby and Chester. It is of great extent, comprising upwards of 34,000 acres, and extends about six miles north and west, and four miles east of the town of Leek. There are in it twelve townships: Stanley, Endon, Longsdon, Leek and Lowe, Tittesworth, Bradnop, Onacote, Rudyard (Rudyerside?), Leek Frith, Heaton, Ruston James, and Rushton Spencer.

Leek (15,000 inhabitants, 152 miles northwest of London) stands on high ground near the head of the valley of the Churnet, and derives its name from the Cymric, "llech," a stone. In the earliest records Lek, or Leke, is variously written "de Leica vel Lecha." The name "llech," a broad, flat stone, may be suggested by the situation at the broad summit of the eminence on which Leek is situated.

Leek belonged to Algar of Mercia, and was at the Conquest given to Hugh the wolf, first earl of Chester. Ranulf de Blundeville, the sixth earl, gave it to Dieulacresse Abbey which he founded in 1215. The site of the Abbey was well chosen; it was a smooth, rich valley

between the high hills. Around it, fostered by the wise administration of the powerful abbots of Dieulacresse, grew up the parish and community of Leek. The Abbey was dissolved in 1539.

Roachegrange, so frequently mentioned in the Pillsbury wills, is in the township of Leek Frith, which signifies a woody vale lying between two hills; and such was this until the monks of Dieulacresse, in the parish, destroyed the wood and improved the land by erecting three granges: New grange, Roache, and Swithamly. Grange is the appropriate name for a farmhouse belonging to an Abbey, or other religious foundation.

The ancient parish church of St. Edward the Confessor, so frequently mentioned in the wills, stands on high ground in the centre of the town. Tradition says that Dieulacresse Abbey, half a mile distant, was formerly connected with the church by a way under the Churnet.

A former church was burned in 1297, according to the annals of William de Shepshered, a monk of Crokysden, who died an abbot at the age of 103, and whose chronicle covers the years between 1066 and 1374. He writes: "Item nocte sequenti combusta est ecclesia de Lek, cum tota villa per infortuniam." The foundation of Leek church is a matter of conjecture; it is guessed to be of Saxon date as the greatest number of such churches are. The present church was probably built about 1300.

"Meerbrooke chapel," mentioned in the will of Thomas Pilsburie of Roachegrange, 1608, is a small church in the village of Meerbrooke, two miles beyond Dieulacresse Abbey, built in 1562, by Sir Ralph Bagenall to whom the Abbey was granted. In Sleigh's History of the Ancient Parish of Leek, it is recorded that one "John Pilsburye, of Roachegrange, yeoman, was made trustee of a chapel, by Ralph Bagenall, knight."

Just over the little winding stream called the Manifold, which is the dividing line between Stafford and Derby, stretches the large parish of Hartington, and on its edge, twelve miles east of Leek across the moors, stands Pillsbury Grange; formerly an appanage to Merivale Abbey in Warwickshire, but now the property of the Duke of Devonshire. It is on the eastern side of a high grove on the side of a high hill in a narrow valley. A member of the Pillsbury family from New England, who visited the Grange in 1894, writes: "We first saw the grange from the heights; the two grey, three-storied farmhouses and stone out-buildings embowered in lofty trees made a charming picture. The place is one of surpassing beauty with its ancient, heavily walled gardens and encircling There was an old sun-dial in the yard.

I remember those gardens of the grange with a sense of translation to a distant past, though they did not differ essentially from other gardens in the neighborhood. We had ample opportunity for observation as we went along the lanes, opening barred gates every few rods, for the grange is half a mile from the highway."

Some unknown Pillsbury in the distant past erected these buildings doubtless and gave the farm its name; whether he or his may have been the progenitors of the young man who came to the new world with the last of the great English emigration before the Civil war, in 1640–1, is a problem which seems little likely of solution, alas!

The contrast between the hills and breezy moors of Staffordshire and the sandy shores, low-lying marshes and pine woods of Massachusetts bay, must have been very great, and imagination asks if the heart of the emigrant never failed or was weary for a sight of the old familiar landscape.

"England hath sunny dales, dearly they bloom, Scotia hath heather hills, sweet their perfume, Yet through the wilderness cheerful we stray, Native land, native land, home, far away. Pilgrims and wanderers, hither we come, Where the free dare to be, this is our home."

EMILY A. GETCHELL.

#### ROBERT PYLLSBERYE OF STONE, CO. STAFFORD.

In the name of god Amen ye xviiith day of Aprill in the yere of oure lord god AMCCCCCxliiiith I Robert pyllsberye sycke in bodye & hole of mynde make thys my last wyll & testament in man<sup>r</sup> & forme following fyrst I bequethe my Soule to allmyte god & to oure blessed ladye & to all ye holy company of heyven & my body to be buryed in ye pyshe church yarde of Stone Also I wyll yt my goods be deuyded into iii parts the one pte for to brynge me honestly home & ye other parts to Jone my wyffe . . . . yd part to my ii chyldren & ye Reste . . . . y part to be equally . . yded betwyxt my wyffe & my iichyld . . . also I wyll yt my executors gyff xs to so . honest prest to synge a tre-tall of masses for ye helth of my . . le & my wyves also I wyll yt eu'y one of my god children . . . ll have iiii . . . . And to se yt thys my last wyll and Testament be p'form . . . . kept I ordayne constitute & make Nyco . . . ndon & Jone . y wyffe my trew & . awful Executors th . . . beyng wyttnesses . . . . . . Ric . . . . & Moor.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield.

Proved June 4, 1544.

[Act. Book, fo. 20, shows that the Will was presented by Johanna relict of Robert Pyllysberie of Stone, 27 June, 1544. In the new calendar, the will given above is noted as "missing." Idid not find it on file in September, 1894. Stone is distant from Leek about 16 miles.—E. P.]

#### JOHN PYLLYSBURYE OF ROACHE GRANGE, LEEK.

In the name of god Amen the viii<sup>th</sup> day of Junye in the yere of our lord god A thowsand fyve hundreth fyftye and syxe I John pyllysburye of the Roache grange w<sup>th</sup>in the p'ish of leke sycke in body but yet holle and of p'fyte Remembrance laude and prayse unto almyghtye god dredynge naturall deth make my testament Conteynynge herein my last will in

man<sup>r</sup> and forme followynge, ffyrst I bequeth my soule unto allmyghtye god and to our ladye Saynt marye and to all the hollye Cumpanye of heyven and my body to be buried in the Church yerd of saint Edward att leke Allso I will yt my mortuarye and heriott shall be payed according to ye Righte of ye lawe Alst I gyffe and bequeth to ev'y on of my chylders chylder on lambe Also I bequeth to Agnes pott on lambe Also I wyll that John my son shall paye of the holle of all my goodes the sume of xviiili xiiis iiid into the hands of my son laurence John Johnson John Sutton and william gentt wthin ye space of vii yeres next after the daye of my deth to be dystributed and gyffin yn to suche of my chylder as they shall thynke by their dyscrecyon to have most nede Also I wyll that after my bodye be buryed my wyll fullfylled and my funerall expences dyscharged all the Resydew of my goodes to remayne uppon John my son paying unto Thomas edmonde Isabell and Katheryne my chyldren and to ev'y on of them the Sume of twentye markes of lawfull money of yngland for ye chylds pt of all my goodes att ye end of the for said vii yeres or att any tyme or tymes wthin the same yeres when they or any of them shall Cume to any helpe by maryage or other p'mocyon And yf yt fortune any of ye said chylderne do deceasse wthin the said vii yeres then I wyll that John my son shall have all his or her pt so deceased Also I wyll grantt and assigne unto the said John pyllysburie my son and to John his son and to ye assignes all that messuage in ye Roche grange aforsaid which I nowe dwell in and occupye wth all landes medowes lessowes pastures and Comons to ye same belonginge And also all such terme of yeres Ryghte tytle Clayme and Interest as I have in ye said messuage and other ye p'mysses or any pt or p'cell thereof And I ordayne and make John my son and John Johnson my true and lawfull executors to execute this my last will and laurence my son and william gentt to be my ov'seers to see yt my last wylbe p'formed and fullfylled as yei shall answere before god Theise beynge wytness. Wyllam Wardle John hyggynbotham John Burkugh wth others.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 17 May 1557. Amount of Inventory £54 11s., taken 8 July, 1556.

[On the 17 May, 1557, see Act Book, fo. 99, the will of John Pillisburie of Leek was presented by widow Joana and also the will of John Pillisberie of Leek, by John Pillsbury.

The inventory of the Estate of John Pyllysburye, of Roache Grange, was taken 8 July, 1556, and shows debts due from John Toft and Robert Heche.—E. P.]

### "JOHN PILLESBURIE OF ROCHGRANGE IN LEEK THE YOUNGER."

In the name of god Amen the xxvth daie of Januarie in the forteth yeare of the Raigne of Our Soveraigne Ladye Elisabeth I John Pillisburie of the Rochgrange in the p'ish of Leeke though Beinge Sicke in Bodye But in good and p'fect remembrance Praysed be god therfore Doe make and Ordayne this my present Will And Testament in mann' and forme following ffyrst I Commytte my Soule to Almightie god, Beleevinge stedfastly by the mercies and merits purchased for me in Christ's Death to be One of those that shall inioye Everlastinge lyfe in the Kingdom of Heaven I Comytte my Bodie to the Earth wherof it came to be Buried in such convenient place as by myne executors hereafter shalbe Named thinke good in that behalfe ITEM my full mynd ys That my Debts & fun'all expenses shall be paid & Discharged of my whole goods ITEM I doe Assigne make & give unto Joanne my wiffe A Lease of the lands & howses in Longnor with all gardens Croftes wth the appurtenances thereto belonginge for the space and terme of foortie yeares, upon & in the said landes weh Willm Shore now dwelleth & occupyeth PROVIDED alwayes that shee pay & Dischardge all my said debts & fun'all expences as aforesaid ITEM I give and bequeth to Robte Pillisburie my godson two sheepe ITEM I give & bequeth to the rest of my god children to ev'ye one of them A sheepe ITEM I give & bequeth to Joanne my reputed daughter eight sheepe ITEM I give & bequethe & my full mynde ys That Joanne my said wiffe shall have all the rest of my goods both movable & unmovable painge & discharginge all such debts as I shall happen to Owe att the day of my death ITEM I ordayne & make for my executor Robte Pillisburie my Brother to see this my last will and testamt p'formed fullfilled & Accomplished According to the trew purport & meaninge therein signified & declarede And also I Constitute & Appoynt Willm Pillisburie & Thomas Pillisburie ov'seers of the same hopinge they will have Care & regard to see the same effected Accordinge to the truste reposed in them in Witness Wherof I have ratified the same in the presence of Robte Broughe the elder Thomas Mallor John Bullocke & Others.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 25 May 1598. Amount of Inventory, £19 18s. 4d. [Taken 3 Feb., 1599.]

Debts owing (amongst others) Thomas Pillisburye my uncle, xx<sup>s</sup>.

[The list of debts shows money due to brothers Ed. Pillsbury and Thomas Pillsbury, and sister Margaret Pillsbury. The mention of Thomas Pillsbury as "uncle"

quite as completely escaped my notice as that of Ed. (probably Edmund) and Margaret did that of Mr. Beadham.—E. P.]

#### THOMAS PILLSBURIE OF ROACH GRANGE.

In the Name of god Amen the xx<sup>tie</sup> daie of october in the yere of our Lord god one thowsand syxe hundreth and Eight I Thomas Pillsburie of Rockgrange in the parish of Leeke & Countie of Stafford husbandman Whole in mynd & of good & p'fect remembrance thanks be to Almyghtie god considering the mutabilitie and unstableness of this transitorie world not willinge to dye untestate, Therefore in the . . . alth of my soole I Provyde and ordaine this my p'sent testament contayninge herein my last will in man' & forme ffollowinge That is to say ffyrst I give & bequeth my soule to almyghtie god my maker and redeemer Trustinge that by the merytes of his bitter death & passion & his precisous bloud sheddinge to be one of his Elect & Chosen att the dreadful daie of Judgment and my Bodie to be buryed in the Church or Churchyard of Leeke ITEM I will that all such dettes duties as I owe of right or Consciens to any p'son or p'sons be well & trulye paid by my Executor John Sutton of gratbyche for to be paid wthout any delaye And after my detts paid & my fun'all expens p'formed THEN I give & bequeth to ffrancis ffayrefield ten pounds Item I give & bequeth to Richard ffairefield ffortie shillings Item I give & bequeth to Elisabeth Sutton daughter of John Sutton of greatbirche her [4—E. P.] children ffortie shillinges Item I give & bequeth to John Taylor half Brother to John Sutton of grebbiche xx<sup>8</sup> Item I give to Richard Barlowe his children xxtie shillings Item I give & bequeth to Ralph Hasall his children xxtie shillinges Item I give & bequeth to Ellen Sutton daughter of James Sutton xxtie shillinges I give and bequeth to James Stoddard Seven shillinges Item I give & bequeth to the children of Edmund Pillisburie of the Rochegrange xxtie shillinges Item I give & bequeth to Thomas Pillisburie son of William Pillisburie of Tetsworth xx<sup>tie</sup> shillinges Item I give & bequeth to Elisabeth Johnson widdowe xxtie shillinges Item I give & bequeth unto Elisabeth Johnson thyongeli three shillinges iiid Item I give & bequeth to James Sutton of gratbach my best Cloak & my best Briches Item I give & bequeth to John Johnson of the banke tofte three shillings four pence Item I give & bequeth to a daughter of Edmund Pootts weh I am godfather unto three shillings foure pence Item I give to a daughter of John Hubbarts iiis iiiid Item I give & bequeth to the poore xxs to be Bestowed at the discretion of my Executor Item I give toward the mayntayninge of Meerbrooke Chappell iis Item my will is, That if there be any goods moneys or Leases after my Legaces be discharged & fun'all expenses p'formed

Then I give & bequeth to John ffeireffyld x<sup>8</sup> And the rest to be equallie devyded amongst viz. ffrancis ffeirefield Richard ffayrefield and Elisabeth Sutton. Also I desire & entreat that John Johnson of the banke tofte wilbe ov'seer that this my will be Trustely trulye and warely p'formed By my Executor alreadie named viz John Sutton of grabbiche.

Proved 23 Nov., 1608.

Inventory: "The whole and just some is ffyftie pounds, xiis viiid"

[Inventory taken 18 Nov., 1608, by Robert Pillsberie et als. There is a debt mentioned as due from Edmund Pillsberie of Rochgrange.

Is not this the will of Thomas a brother of John "the younger," and of Robert, who, together with William who was living in 1608 and had a son Thomas, may be the four children of John of Rudyerside? If this is so then Anne, called sister of Thomas by Margaret (see below), must either have been a posthumous child, or a child not mentioned in his will, of Thomas who died in 1556.—E. P.]

## THOMAS PILSBURY OF THE ROCHGRANGE, WILL DATED SEPTEMBER, 1689.

To be buried at the discretion of my executor. To my wife Barborah eleven pounds yearly during her life which was formerly agreed upon at the day of marriage. To Samuel Lowell my sister's son now tiving with Goodall of Leek frith all my estate in land lying at Rochgrange paying twelve pounds to Henry Dakin my servant and two pounds to Sarah wife of Thomas Titton of Nalehouse in Leek frith and also two pounds to Elisabeth Talor of the Rochgrange and three pounds to my neighbor George Lemas' three sons. A bed and certain other effects to wife and the residue to kinsman Samuel Lowell except my sheep.

The executor is Samuel Lowell and I desire Henry Dakin to be assistant to him. The mark and seal of Thomas Pilsbury.

Witnesses, Thomas Pyott, junior, Thomas Pyott.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved, 9 Sept., 1689. Inventory, £106. 1s. 4d.

#### MARGERIE PYLLSBURYE, WIDOW, 10 NOVEMBER, 1557.

To be buried in the churchyard of Saint Edward's of Leek. Mentions sons of Thomas felker, children of William Beech, John Dale,

John Rudyerd. To the children of John Pyllysburye a pot and a pan equally among them all, and to every one of them a sheep.

"To Thomas Pyllysburye, son of John Pyllsburye, all my part of harness. To Thomas Pyllysburye a "bordclothe" if he live, and if not to Anne his sister." Other small bequests.

Witnesses, John Endon, James Dale, John Rudyerd, with others. Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 9 May, 1558. Amount of Inventory, XIIII£. iiis. iiiid.

[Act Book, fo. 126, shows that the will of Margery Pillsbury of Leek was presented 9 May, 1558, by John Greenhough and John Bamford the executors. These two men were respectively one of the executors and overseers of the will of John of Rudyerside whose will proved 17 May 1557, is printed below.

The papers on file show further that Margaret died 7 March, 1557. The will is in very poor condition. I read the name of the son of John Pyllysburye as John not Thomas, which I think is correct, and failed to make out any bequest to the sister Anne.

I give my abstract below:

"Margery Pyllysburie, widow (deceased 7 Mar., 1557); dated 10 Nov., 1557; proved by John Greenough and John Bamford, executors, 9 May, 1558. To be buried in the churchyard of St. Edward's in Leek; to children of John Pyllysburie; to John son of John Pyllysburie; to Agnes——; to Thomas Pyllysburie.

Others mentioned but none by the name of Pyllsbury. Very poor original."

It is evident that Margery was the mother of John (1557), of Rudyerside, and of Thomas (1556) of Leek, and perhaps the widow of John (1556) of Roachgrange.

—E. P.]

#### JOHN PYLLESBURY OF RUDYERSIDE.

In Dei no' ie Amen the viii<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill in the yere of oure lorde godd one thousand fyue hundreth fyfty and Sevan I John pyllesbury of Rudyerside in the county of Staff' husbond' sycke in body and of good & p'fect memory make this my last will and testam't in mane<sup>r</sup> and

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 17 May, 1557. Amount of Inventory, £XXXV Vs. IIIId.

A debt is apparently due from one John Pillsbury.

Notice that two of the witnesses are the same as those to will of Margery Pyllysbury, q. v.

Is this John the father of John Pillsbury, "the younger?"—E. P.]

#### THOMAS PYLLYSBURY OF LEEK.

In the name of god amen the xth day of September in ye yere of or lord god a thowsand v h'ndreth fyfty & vi I Thomas pyllysbury sike in body but hoole in sowle & of good and p'fyte remembrans make my wyll in man' & forme fowlowyng fyrst I bequ'th my sowle to allmyghty god & to or lady saynt mary & to all ye wully cu'pany of heyven & my body to be buryed in the churche yard of seynt edward's of lek also I wyll yt my goods be devyded in ii p'tes & my wyff to have one pte and an other pte to my childrene amongst them & also I to be brought hoome & my detts payde of ye hoolle of my goods Itm I wyll yt my wyff kepyng my name & John my son shall haue ye terme of my tack & all such entrest as I have or shall have after ye decease of my fatherinlaw & motherinlaw & if my wyf & John my son decesse win ye sayd terme then hit to remayne to thomas my son & if thomas decesse w' in ye said terme then hit to remayne to hugh [or Henry?—E. P.] my son Itm I wyll yt my wyff and my chyldrene shall haue a meydow called windhowse crofte duryg ye said tacke payinge yerelie for ye said meydow iiiid Itm I bequeth xiid to haue xii masses said for my solle & all cryste solls Itm to thomas pyllisbury my godson a shepe I make John pyllisbury my brother & Jone my wyff my executors and John fernyhough and John tukynson ou'seers of ys my last wyll thes beyng wittenes andrew sherard vicar of leke John futton roger sherard and other.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved May 17, 1557. Amount of Inventory, £XVI, iiiis. viiid.

[Inventory taken 8 May, 1557, by John ————, and two others whose names could not be deciphered. Debts due estate from Homfrey Gylbert.—E. P.]

#### ROBERT PILLISBURIE OF TETSWORTH.

In Dei No' ie Amen the fyrst day of November Anno Dni 1591 I Robt Pillisburie of Tetsworth in the p'ish of Leeke husbandman sicke in bodye but of p'fect remembrance thankes be to god for the same knowing nothing more certen then Death and the tyme thereof most uncertayne Doe make this my p'nte Will and Testament as followeth ffirst I bequeth my soule to Almyghtie god my creator and to Jesus Christ my saviour and redeemer and to the hollye ghost my sanctifier and Comforter Trusting that I ame one of his elected children in his kingdom of heaven And my bodie to the earth wherof it was made to be Buried in the Church yard of St. Edward in Leeke debts Legacies and fun'all charges to be taken upp of the whole Then my Will and Testament viz That Margarett my wyfe shall have the thirde pte of all my goods & chattalls whatsoe'r And the other two pts shalbe geven and equalie devided to my two Children viz Willia' Pilsburie & Robte Pilsburie my sonnes (by my executor hereafter named) according to equitie and good conscience Moreov' to execute & prove this my Will and Testament I ordayne and appoynt for my executor and onlie Executrix Margarett my wife to accomplish exe cute and fulfill this my last will and Testament And for my ov'seers and sup'visors I shall desire Willia' Pilsburie and Nicholas Pilsburie my two brothers to to see p'formed & trulie executed this my p'sent Testamt according to the trew intent and meaning herein contayned as my trust ys in them. In Witnes Thomas Davenport Thomas Pilsburie William Gould and Roland Bott in there p'sence published and ratified in the day and yeare above said.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 17 February, 1591-2.

Amount of Inventory, £52, 10s. 8d.

[Taken 3 Nov., 1591, by Robert Pilesbury, Thos. and Richard Davenport, Robert Holme.—E. P.]

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Act Book 10, folio 93. Apud Lich' duodecimo die Septembris 1600.

Comissa fuit administraco bonorū Nicholai Pilsburie p'och' de Leeke defunct' Anne Pilsburie eius relict' in forma iutis iurat' &c.

[Inventory by Wm. Pillsbury, Thos. Gente, Robert Holme, 5 Sept., 1600. Will proved by Anna, his relict, to whom adm. with Wm. Pillsbury as surety.—E. P.]

Apud Lich' xxii die octobris Anno dni 1616.

Comissa fuit administraco bonoru que fuerunt Willimi Pilsburye du vixit p'och' de Leeke defunct' Katerine Pilsburie eius relict' et Willimo Pilsburie filio nāli dict' defunct' iurat' coram mro Banne vicario ibm &c Et habent ad exh' end inventor' citrd festu natalis dni prox' &c.

Act Book 12, folio 192.

[Nicholas and William Pillsbury were brothers and brothers also of Robert of Tetsworth whose will should be referred to.—E. P.]

Apud Vttoxeter xix die Anno Dni 1605.

Comissa fuit administraco bonorū Alicie Pilsbury dum vixit p' och' Bromley Abbotts defunct' Richardo Garratt in forma iuris iurat &c Ad administrandum ead' secundum tenorē et effectū testam<sup>ti</sup> siue ult' voluntat' dict' defunct' tres administrat' annex &c.

Act Book 10, folio 187.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Act Book 9, folio 119.

Apud Lich' vii die Octobris 1594.

Commissa fuit tuicio willimi Pillisburie filii nalis Roberti Pillisburie p'roch' de Leeke defunct' in minore sud etate existen' Willimo Pillesburie de Tetsworth unacu adminis-tracoe bonoru et porconu ad eu pertinen' eius minore etate.

Comissa fuit tuicio Roberti Pillesburie filii nalis p' fati Roberti Pillesburie p'och' de Leeke defunct' in minore sud etate existen' unacu adminis-tracoe bonoru et porconu ad eu pertinen' Roberto Pillesburie de Turners Poole duran' eius minore etate.

Comissa fuit administraco bonorū p' fati Roberti Pillisburie p' och' de Leeke defunct' willimo Pillesburie fratri nāli dict' defunct' ad administrand' secun' tenorem et effectū test' dict' defunct' Lrīs adminstrator annex' Ex eo quod Margaretta Pillisburie relict' et executrix noīat in testo dict' defunct' mortem obiit antequam plane administrasset.

[I take it that the above Robert, whose will and administration we have above, is a cousin of "John Pillsbury the younger."—E. P.]

#### ROBERT PILLESBURY OF LEEK.

In the name of god Amen, the ix<sup>th</sup> day of September in the third yeare<sup>1</sup> of the raigne of our sov'raigne lord James by the grace of god of england france and Ireland & of Scotland the xxxix<sup>th</sup> I Rob<sup>t</sup> Pillesbury of Leek in the County of Staff' husbandman sick in body but of good and p'fect remembrance laude and praise be to god therefore doe ordayne & make this my last will & testament in man<sup>r</sup> & forme followinge ffirst I give and bequeth my soule to Almighty god that gave it & my body to the earth from whence it came to be buryed at the discrecon of my executrix in sure and certaine hope of resurrection throughe Jesus Christ my saviour. I giue and bequeth to Cathren Pillesbury my wyffe all my lands tenem'ts & goods whatsoever (my Legacies and funeral expenses dyscharged) & also I make her my sole executrix of all this which my will is As she will answer me at the dreadful day of judgm't when the secretts of all hearts shall be disclosed.

Witnesses William Pillesbury George Pillesbury wth others. Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 20 Sept. 1605. Amount of Inventory, £XXI, xiis. viiid.

[Inventory taken by William and Thos. Pillsbury, and John Sherrartt. Perhaps a son of the Robert whose will appears above. 18 Sept., 1605.—E. P.]

#### THOMAS PILSBURIE OF LEEK.

In the name of god Amen the xiiii<sup>th</sup> daie of Julie Ano Dni 1622 I Thomas Pilsburie of Leeke sicke in bodie but whole in mynd god be praysed therefor knowinge the certenty of death and the uncertenty of the daye make this my last will and testament in man<sup>r</sup> and forme followinge ffirst I Bequeth my soule to almightie god my Creator and maker and to Jesus Christe his onelie sonne my Redimer and saviour and my bodie to be buryed in the Churchyard of the p'yshe Church of Leeke Itm ffirst I giue & bequet unto thomas Pilsburye my sonne XXs Item I giue unto John Pilsburie my sonne XXs Itm I giue unto Willm Pilsburye<sup>2</sup> my

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1605.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Was he the New England emigrant?

sonne XXs I giue unto Margarett Pilsbury my daughter XXs Itm the rest of all my goods both movable and unmoveable I giue and bequeth unto Elisabeth my wiffe ffor and towards the Education and bringinge upp my Children Itm my will is that all my debts Legacies and funerall expences shall be first taken upp of the whole of my goods.

Itm I ordayne and make my sole executrixe Elisabeth my wif hopinge she will see this my p'nte last will and testament p'formed accordinge to the trust I repose in her these being witnesses to the execution of this my Last and Testamte theise beinge witness I say to the same Ralphe Toft of Leek John Tofte of the mylnestreate Richard Tofte and Peter menall.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 25 July, 1622. Amount of Inventory £XIX, XXd.

[Perhaps the Thomas, son of William of Tetsworth, godson of Thomas Pillsbury, whose will was proved 1608.—E. P.]

[St. Edwards, Leek, Register shows the baptism of Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Rachel Pillsbury, 12 March, 1636-7; also the death of a Thomas Pillsbury of Leek, 1641, who was buried 21 July of that year.—E. P.]

#### WILLIAM PILSBURYE OF HEATON.

In the name of god Amen the Vth day of Aprill in the fliftenth yere of the Raigne of our Soueraigne lord Charles by the grace of god of england Scotland ffrance and Ireland Kinge Defender of the ffaith etc. I William Pils . . . of Heaton in the Countie of Stafford Husbandman sicke in bodey but of good and perfect remembrance praise be to god therefore, doe ordaine and make this my last will and Testament in man' & forme ffollowinge ffirst I give & bequeth my soule to Almighty god that gave it & my bodey to the earth from whence it came to be buried in Leeke Church yarde in sure and certaine hope of resurrection through Jesus Christe my Saviour Imx'mis I giue unto William Pilsberie my eldest soone twelve pence for his Chiles part It I giue unto Robert Pilsberie my soone ffortie Shilinges for his Chiles part It I giue unto Edward Pilsberie my Soone ffortie Shillinges for his Chiles part It I giue unto John Pilsberie my soone ffortie Shillinges for his Chiles part It i giue unto Sarah Plsberie my Daughter fore pounds for her chiles parte After my debtss discharged and finerale expen . . . and will proued i giue unto John Clooes and William Plant my executors all my house goodes and landes all the overpluche of my goodes i give unto the three of my yongest children to be devided amoungth them in equale portiones to p' forme and make this my last will and testament in maner & forme aforesd in witness whereof I have heare unto put my hand and seale in p'sents of William Padmore, William Plante.—Executed by mark.—Seale.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 3 Sept., 1640. Amount of inventory, £5.

#### RALF PYLLSBURYE OF CHEDULTON.

In the name of god amen the vii day of maye in the yere of our lord god on thousand fyve hundreth syxtic and seven and in the ix yere of the Reigne of our Sou'aigne lady Elyzabeth by the grace of god of england france and Ireland quene defender of the faith etc. I Raffe pyllysburye in the p'ishe of Chedulton wever being sicke in bodie but of p'fect Remembrance thanks be to godd make my last will and testament in manner and forme following ffirst I doe give my sole to almyghte god who hath made me and all the world and my bodye to be buried in the Church yard of Chedulton nighe the place where others of my friends do lye Itm I give and bequeth to Katheren my wiffe the thryd pte of all my goodes, so that I will be brought whom upon the whole also I will that after I am honestlye brought whom, my detts payd and my funerall expenses discharged the Rest of all my goodes then Remayninge to be equally devyded among all my chyldren also I ordayn and make constitute and appoynt Kathern my wiffe John Moford and Robert gendwyn to be my true and lawful executors of this my last will and testament and also I desyre thomas mosse and John crystow to be my sup'vysors and ou'seers of this my last will and testament to be truely p'formed and kept according to this my mynde in witnes whereof thomas mosse John mo' ford thomas mo'ford . . . . curat wt others.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 14 May, 1568. Amount of Inventory, £V, viiis. iid. 8 Sept., 1567.

#### RALP PILSBURY, THE ELDER, OF LEEK.

Ralph Pilsbury the elder of Leke more in the parish of Leke and county of Stafford, 20th March, 1699. To be buried at the discretion of my executors. To my son Ralph Pilsbury all the land and house in Derby street formerly purchased of John Johnson he the said Ralph paying to my three daughters Mary Sarah and Ann ten pounds apiece within two years after my decease. To Aaron my son the house and land in Stockwell street in Leek and other land purchased of William Dale.

To my wife a cottage and inclosure if she keep my name and live unmarried but if she change my name then to my son Ralph Pilsbury I give one bond of twenty pounds which Mr. Thomas Mellor of Roache grange oweth unto me unto Richard Meeare and John Johnson my sonsinlaw.

To my five daughters (who are not named) my household goods and other effects. Executors are Mr. John Pelley of Leek shopkeeper and Thomas Bradley of Leek. Executed by mark. Seal.

Witnesses John Devall Elisabeth Malkin Mary Allsopp.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 11 April, 1700. Amount of Inventory, £84, 15s.

[Ralph Pilsberie of Stanley, by wife Ellen or Ellenor, had baptized at Leek, Sara, 21 Sept., 1632; Richard, 2 Oct., 1636.

Ralph Pilsberie of Stanley, buried 11 June, 1644. St. Edward's registers.—E. P.]

#### RALPH PILLSBURY OF LONGNOR.

Ralph Pillsbury of Longnor in the parish of Bradley and county of Stafford yeoman, 13 April 1706. To son John Pillsbury forty pounds and sundry specified effects subject to son Thomas taking the clock at thirty shillings within six months. To son Richard Pillsbury twenty three pounds and to each of his two children twenty shillings.

To the two children of son Thomas forty shillings to be equally divided. To son Matthew Pillsbury twenty three pounds and certain specified effects. To daughter Sarah Goldsmith twenty pounds together with my warming-pan. To each of my daughter Sarah's four children twenty shillings. To daughter Mary's children three pounds to be equally divided. To grandson John Bagnall twenty shillings at 21 years. To granddaughter Sarah Bagnall forty shillings. The sum of twenty two shillings to be yearly paid to my brother Matthew Pillsbury for his life for money formerly given me by him upon condition that I should yearly pay him that sum.

The twenty two shillings to be paid by my son Matthew Pillsbury his brethren John and Richard paying unto him their proportion.

Five pounds to be expended on my funeral. Son Matthew sole executor.

Executed by mark. Seal.

Witnesses, Thomas Greene, John Haffadine, Thos: Rathbone.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 10 May, 1706. Inventory, £139, 11s. 2d.

#### MATTHEW PILLSBURY OF LEEK.

Matthew Pillsbury of Leek in the county of Stafford, husbandman. 18 April, 1724. Aged and weak in body. To be buried at the discretion of my executor. To my kinsman Thomas Pilsbury ten pounds, to my kinswoman Sarah Goldsmith widow, of Wheaton Aston five pounds. To my kinswoman Mary Lea widow, five pounds. To my kinsman John Pilsbury of Mottersall five pounds. To Samuel Adams and Elisabeth Adams son and daughter of Kathrine Adams late of Eaves Lane deceased five pounds equally to be divided. To my kinsman Thomas Pilsbury of Wheaton Aston five pounds. To Thomas Clowes of Knulton five pounds. To Ellen Adams of Baddeley widow five pounds. To Kathrine Copnall one of the daughters of Robert Copnall late of Hanchurch five pounds, and if she die before me then I give the said legacy amongst the rest of the children of the said Robert Copnall. To two of the youngest children of John Clowes late of Endon fifty shillings apiece. To John Bagnall of Millmeese and to his sister fifty shillings apiece. Unto my five nephews sons of my late brother Ralph Pilsbury five pounds apiece. To Abraham Taylor of Leek five pounds. To my said kinswoman Elisabeth Adams the further sum of five pounds. To Mary Evans and John Evans her son fifty shillings apiece. All legacies to be paid within three months after my decease. To all my relatives and friends who are indebted to me by any bond bill or other writing I give the several debts and sums of money owing to me, (the interest only excepted, that shall be due.) Residue to my kinsman James Turner of Baddeley who is sole executor and Abraham Taylor overseer. . . . Executed by mark. . Seal. . . Witnesses, Ann Ridgway, Hum: Ridgway.

Codicil, 20 May, 1725. To Joseph Ball of Uttoxeter five pounds. To Ellen Adams the further sum of fife pounds. To James Turnor's two sons five pounds apiece, and to my kinswoman Elisabeth Adams fifty shillings. Executed by mark. Seal.

Witnesses, Hum: Ridgway, George Ridgway.

Will and Codicil proved in the Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield, 18 November, 1727.

Inventory, £49, 14s. 10d.

#### JOHN PILLSBURY OF WHEATON ASTON.

John Pillsbury of Wheaton Aston in the parish of Lapley in the county of Stafford, yeoman 20 March, 1728. To be buried as executrixes shall think meet. Certain houses and lands at Ashley in the said county now or late in the occupation of William Sutton to my three kinswomen Anne Barlow, Jane Goldsmith and Sarah Barney, my

executrixes, all being daughters of my sister Sarah Goldsmith and to their heirs and assigns forever In trust to sell and out of the monies to arise to pay debts and funeral charges and if none of them nor their husbands think fit to purchase I desire that my kinsman Ralph Pilsbury son of my brother Ralph Pilsbury may have (after them) the first refusal.

To my kinswoman Sarah Ash wife of John Ash twenty shillings. To Elisabeth Pilsbury widow of my brother Ralph Pilsbury and to her two daughters Jane Hands and Mary Adams each of them twenty shillings.

To Matthew Lea, John Lea, Charles Lea, Jane Lea and Mary Lea, five being children of my sister Mary Lea deceased, each of them five pounds.

Residue to Anne Barlow, Jane Goldsmith, and Sarah Barney. Each of them to pay twenty shillings to their mother Sarah Goldsmith for her life. My said three kinswomen executrixes. Executed by mark. Seal. Witnesses, Jos. Edwards, Will Gollier, Tho. Rathbone.

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield. Proved 2 Sept., 1728. Inventory, £171, 14s. 1d.

### [Son of Ralph of Longnor.—E. P.]

Consistory Court of Coventry and Lichfield.

Jane Pilsbury late of the parish of Leek widow deceased. Administration granted 27 Sept. 1706 to William Sutton of Leek, yeoman, principal creditor of the deceased.

William Pilsbury, John Pilsbury and Thomas Pilsbury, children of the deceased were minors above 7 years of age, but under 21.

Ralph Pilsbury late of Muckles ton in the county of Stafford, deceased. . . . Administration granted 1 February 1709 to Hannah Pilsbury of Belleport in the county of Stafford, widow.

George Pilsbury late of Leek deceased. . . . Administration granted 19 April 1722 to Sarah Pilsbury of Leek the widow and relict.

Amount of Inventory, £48, 15s. 8d.

[The following wills are illustrative of the above and were abstracted in the hope of finding some definite statement regarding the New England emigrants. I may state that I worked the side issues pretty thoroughly.—E. P.]

John Fairfield of Holme Mylme, Leek, 3 Mar., 1612; proved 23 Mar., 1612.

Mentions wife Isabel; grandchild Elizabeth Hibborde; godson John

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Probably the "dau. of John Hubbarts," mentioned by Thos. Pilsberie.

Fairfield; grandchildren, daus. of Wm. Lommas; godson John Pott; Richard Gentt; Dau. Joane Hibbarde; dau. Frances Symmes. Son Richard, sons John and Nicholas. Sons Richard and Nicholas to be executors.

Witnesses: Edmund Pott, John Fairfield the younger, Nicholas Fairfield the elder, Nicholas Fairfield the younger, Lawrence Plantt.

Inventory, 9 May, 1612, by Thomas Holmes, the elder; John Fairfield of Mat—; Robert Pillesbury, Lawrence Plannt, Thos. Holme the younger.

John Fairfield of Leek, yeoman; proved 10 Dec., 1646. Brother Wm. Fairfield and his son John and other children. Bro. Richard Fairfield. Sister Marie Watson and her children. Wife Dorothie and (her?) children John and Marie Gent. Daus. Mgaret and Rebecca. Sister Marie, mother Elizabeth Fairfield. Friends. Francis Bon—, clerk, Edward Cladock, John Cooke, yeoman, executors. Wit: Ralph Creswell, Ralph and William Smith.

James Sutton, of the parish of Leek; will dated 8 Feb., 1610. Mentions daughter Ellen Sutton; wife Ellyn Sutton whom executrix.

Witnesses, John Sutton, George —, Jamie Rice.

Inventory, 17 May, 1610, by Richard Holme, Robert Pillesbury, William Pillesbury, Richard Hassell. Cons. Ct. L. & Cov.

Emmott Sutton of Leek, widow; 20 Feb., 1618; proved 8 March, 1618-19. Son James and his wife Katherine; son John; children Thomas, Ralph, and Mary Sutton.

Son Thomas, executor.

Witness: John Sutton; (Alice?) Sutton. Cons. Ct. L. & Cov.

Thomas Sutton, of  $(Raben(f)longhe^1)$ , Leek, yeoman, 14 Jan., 1600; proved 15 Apr., 1601.

Son Thomas, son Edward, Mary Sutton, son-in-law William Sutton's children. Dau. Jane Sutton; dau. Katherine Sutton.

Mentions: — Gardyner, John Addesley, John Hamont, John Gibson, Fannie —, spinster, Katherine Gibson. Cons. Ct. L. & Cov.

Thomas Sutton, of Kingesmeade, near Derby, Esq., 10 May, 1612; proved 5 Mar., 1615-16.

To be buried in All Saints, Derby. Kinsman Experience Bradshawe & his wife Anne. Brother Mr. George Sutton, mentions the wrong "he did unto me some ten years since," prays God may forgive him. Wife Constance Sutton, whom executrix.

Godson Thomas Farneham and Thomas Mundie. Neighbor Adrian Farnham of Leaster, Esquire, and Francis Mundie of Derby, Esq., overseers.

Inventory by Erasmus Steagne, Henry Coulder, Edward Fletcher, Thomas Needham.

Cons. Ct. L. & Cov.

Hugh Sutton of Leek, 9 May, 1579; proved 12 June, 1579. To Lawrence Johnson, Francis Higginbotham, Thos. Sutton, Edward Close; children of brother in law Wm. *Gormmande* (Gem-onde), and Elizabeth, his wife, Robert Allen, John and Edmund, sons of Robert Sutton. Joan Cliffe, Alice Berkley. Cons. Ct. L. & Cov.

John Johnson, of Bancktopp, Leek, husbandman; will dated 20 Jan., 1639; proved 3 Sept., 1640. Mentions wife Anne, to whom 1-3 part of estate; his three youngest children, now under 21; eldest son John. Second son Robert Johnson. Seven children, Elizabeth, Anne, Evans, Peter, Edward, youngest son, John, Robert. Friend James Sutton of Gratbach. John Buxton, Edward Brough.

Witnesses, James Sutton, Edward and Thomas Brough.

Cons. Ct. L. & Cov.

Elizabeth Johnson, of Hasselwood meadow, Leek, widow. April, 1630; proved 7 May, 1630. Son John Johnson and his son James. Dau. Emme Wardle, dau. Anne Shaw. The children of son John Johnson. Son-in-law Hugh Wardle. Dau. Maryreatt Johnson whom executrix. Overseers, James Sutton, of Gratbach, yeo. Witnesses, John Thomson, James Sutton, John Johnson.

Inventory, 14 May, 1630.

Cons. Ct. L. & C.

John Johnson of Amerton, Stow, joyner; proved 15-10-1640. To wife Anne. exec., with son Sampson. Dau. Catherine when 24; son Thos., when 21. Bro. Thos. Alsox; Samson Bould, Geo. Astbury, Thos. Ryett, overseers.

John Spillesbery, of London, goldsmith; 24 Nov., 1592; proved 12 Dec., 1592. Wife Sara, executrix; house where he resides in Adell-streete, parish of St. Albans in Woodstreet in London, after her death to be divided between his two daughters; eldest being Dorothy, the younger Elizabeth, who under 21. Son Nathaniel under 21. Brothers Thomas and Richard Spillesbury; sisters Katherine and Joyce. Mentions father's lands and house, in Shelsle, Co. Worcester. Overseers, friends Thomas Savage and Jeffery Posterne.

Harrington, 91. P. C. C.

John Spilsbury, of Chelton in Shropshire; will dated 20 May, 1654; nunc. Wife Joane. Wit. by John Griffethes and Thomas Spilsbury. P. C. C. Wylett, 337.

<sup>1</sup> See will of Thomas Pillsburie of Rockgrange, 1608.

Stephen Pilborowe, fo. 20, 1471-79. Antonious Pilborough, fo. 38, Lyon, 1569.

P. C. C.

Robert Pilsbury of St. Bottolphs, Bishopsgate, London. Commission issued to relict Edith, Oct., 1608. fo. 75, Act Book, Com. of London. Nunc. will 21 Oct., 1608. He was a haberdasher. Wife Edith executrix, whole estate. He left a son. Vol. 21, fo. 85.

William Pilsburie, will proved 1599. Arch. Surrey, 372 Herr.

Richard Pilbroughe, will proved 1591-2. fo. 230, Com. London.

Henry Pilbrough, alias Daniel, will, 1591. P. C. C. Harrington, 20. late of Blackmore, Essex, gent., 3 May, 1591; proved 9 May, 1591. Bequeathes to Agnes, wife of Thomas Eysam.

Walter Pilbarough, gent., sells land in Hartying, forabury and Little Barhampstead. Feet of Fines for Herts, 1555.

Walter Pylborough, gent., sells to Thos. Johnson, messuage and lands in St. Albans and Sandruge.

Feet of fines for Herts, Trinity term 2 Edw. VI. 1548.

#### CHART TO ILLUSTRATE THE PILLSBURYS OF:

