

# RITTER GENEALOGY

A RECORD OF  
FIVE GENERATIONS  
OF THE

## Descendants of Daniel Ritter

OF LUNENBURG, MASS.

By EZRA S. STEARNS

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## THE DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL RITTER OF LUNENBURG, MASS.

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The Ritter family, comprising ten persons and three generations, removed to Lunenburg soon after 1740. They were Daniel and his wife Lydia, and daughters Elizabeth and Anne from Rowley, and Moses, son of Daniel and Lydia, with his wife Hannah, and four sons from Newbury. The families of Ritter in Lunenburg and in other towns have been honest, industrious and respected, responding to every civil and military duty. Five of the sons of Moses and Hannah served in the Revolution and of these, two had previously been soldiers in the French and Indian War. In municipal affairs the sons have been good citizens and faithful to every trust imposed by their fellow townsmen. In many instances the children and grandchildren of the daughters of the family have added tribute to the name of Ritter.

1. DANIEL RITTER, the first of the name in Lunenburg, was born in 1692. He married in Newbury, May 13, 1715, Lydia Bailey, born in Rowley, April 14, 1688, daughter of John and Mary (Mighill) Bailey and granddaughter of James Bailey, the immigrant ancestor of one of the Bailey families of Massachusetts. Her father was a soldier in the historic expedition to Canada, and died during the homeward march, November 19, 1690. Her maternal grandparents were Deacon Thomas and Ann (Parrat) Mighill, who are honored in the annals of Rowley. Byfield parish, including parts of Newbury and Rowley, was organized for the convenience of those who were living at a considerable distance from the first churches of Rowley and Newbury. The Byfield church was embodied in 1706. In this church the four children of Daniel and Lydia (Bailey) Ritter were baptized. After his marriage, it is probable that Daniel Ritter lived on the Newbury side of the parish about twelve years, when he removed to the central part of Rowley. He and his wife were admitted to the First church of Rowley, July 21, 1727. They were dismissed by letters to the church in Lunenburg, August 22, 1742, where they were received in full communion, October 17, 1742. Daniel Ritter of Rowley, weaver,

and his wife Lydia, sold their interest in a small tract of land near Long Hill, July 4, 1739. He removed to Lunenburg in 1742.

He died a few months later. The date of his death is January 23, 1743. His will was allowed January 31, 1743, in which mention is made of his wife, Lydia, son Moses, and daughters Elizabeth and Anne. There is no record of the death of his widow. Four children were baptized at the Byfield church by Rev. Moses Hale.

- i. THOMAS, baptized Sept. 5, 1717, not named in the will of his father. One Thomas Ritter married in Hartford, Conn., March 3, 1743, Mary Everden and had Lydia, Daniel, and John born before 1751.
  2. ii. MOSES, baptized September 5, 1717.
  - iii. ELIZABETH, baptized February or March 22, 1718-19, married in Lunenburg, June 13, 1745, Eliphalet Brown.
  - iv. ANNE, baptized March 5, 1720-1; married in Lunenburg, April 20, 1746, David Pierce, born in Groton, July 19, 1726, son of David and Elizabeth (Bowers) Pierce of Lunenburg. His father died September 19, 1746, and his mother was the second wife of John Fitch. David and Anne (Ritter) Pierce lived in Lunenburg until 1770, when he removed to Fitchburg. He was a soldier in the Revolution.
2. MOSES RITTER, son of Daniel and Lydia (Bailey) Ritter, born in Rowley, 1717. baptized at Byfield church, September 5, 1717. He married in Newbury, March 25, 1741, Hannah Jackman. He lived in Newbury until 1747, when he removed to Lunenburg. He was a worthy man and a useful citizen and his name is frequently met in the town records. He was a surveyor of highways, 1749 and 1763; school committee, 1756 and 1758; sealer of leather, 1756; selectman, 1754; tithingman, 1751 and 1758; constable and collector of taxes, 1759, 1760, 1761, and 1762. He died December 25, 1762. George Kimball was appointed guardian of his son, William, September 25, 1767, and Jacob Gould was the guardian of his daughter Molly and Ebenezer Gowing of the children Sybel, John, and Ezra.
- Hannah, his widow, married, second, June 20, 1771. Thomas Peabody, born in Boxford, July 14, 1715, son of Ephraim and Hannah (Redington) Peabody. They lived in Lunenburg, where he died April 11, 1778. She died February 12, 1812.
- There were eleven children of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter.

3. i. MOSES, born in Newbury, February 17, 1741-2; baptized at Byfield church, March 7, 1741-2.
  4. ii. DANIEL, born in Newbury, July 6, 1743.
  5. iii. DAVID, born in Newbury, May 4, 1745.
  6. iv. WILLIAM, born in Newbury, January 3, 1746.
  - v. HANNAH, born in Lunenburg, February 11, 1749.
  - vi. MERCY, born March 15, 1751; died May 3, 1753.
  - vii. MOLLY, born January 29, 1753; married Joseph Dodge, born 1747, son of Joseph and Mary (Gilson-Irvin) Dodge. They lived in Shirley until 1781, in Hancock, N. H., until 1798, and subsequently in Andover, Vt. He was a soldier from Shirley in the Revolution; town clerk and selectman of Hancock. Both died in Andover. Five children were born in Shirley and nine in Hancock.
  - viii. ABNER, born February 8, 1755; died May 9, 1757.
  - ix. SYBEL, born January 26, 1757; married March 30, 1771, Philip Goodridge, born in Lunenburg, October 4, 1750, son of Philip and Jane (Boynton) Goodridge. They lived in Lunenburg where he died, leaving eight children, March 15, 1796. She married second, July 21, 1806, John Stimpson, born in Charlestown, August 8, 1752, son of John and Susanna (Fosdick) Stimpson. They lived in Watertown. He died December 2, 1828.
  7. x. JOHN, born 1759; baptized July 29, 1759.
  8. xi. EZRA, born 1761.
3. MOSES RITTER, son of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter, born in Newbury, February 17, 1742. In his infancy the family removed to Lunenburg. He married September 5, 1771, Mary Goodridge, probably a daughter of Ezekiel and Rebecca.
- She died December 15, 1785. He married second, December 8, 1791, Elizabeth (Hartwell) Diggins, born in Shirley, April 3, 1753, daughter of James and Jemima (Frost) Hartwell and widow of James Diggins. He lived in Lunenburg, in Shirley, and again in Lunenburg. He was a constable 1773, selectman 1777. He served, 1759, in Col. Oliver Wilder's regiment and in the Revolution he marched to Lexington, April 19, 1775, in Capt. George Kimball's company. He was school committeeman 1781. He died April 20, 1810. Eight children baptized in Lunenburg.
- i. MARY, baptized April 24, 1774; married April 9, 1795, Capt. Isaac Spalding, born in Merrimack, N. H., August 20, 1765, son of Samuel and Sarah (Woods) Spalding. They lived in New Ipswich and in Wilton, N. H. He died June 2, 1830. His wife, Mary, died April 27, 1808. Seven children. In life they were respected and in the lives of their children and grandchildren, their merit

is renewed. Their son, Hon. Isaac Spalding, a prosperous merchant of Nashua, N. H., was foremost in financial, civil, and political affairs. He was one of the governor's council, president of the trustees of the State Asylum, treasurer of the Concord railroad and many years president of the Nashua bank. William Ritter Spalding, Edward Henry Spalding, and John Augustine Spalding, sons of Moses, and grandsons of Capt. Isaac and Mary (Ritter) Spalding, have been successful in business and been prominent in civil and political affairs.

- ii. ELIZABETH, baptized May 22, 1774; married July 12, 1801, William Pearson.
  - iii. PRISCILLA, baptized February 4, 1776. She lived several years in Walpole, N. H., and joined the church there September 4, 1808. She married 1815, Daniel Fisher, a prominent citizen of Newfane, Vt. This was his second marriage. He was born 1776, and died August 7, 1862. She died June 9, 1862.
  - iv. MOSES, baptized January 18, 1778, died June 5, 1780.
  - v. THOMAS, baptized April 2, 1780.
  - vi. MOSES, baptized January 20, 1782, removed to New York city.
  - vii. HANNAH, twin, baptized January 20, 1782; married — Burr.
  - viii. ZEBADIAH, baptized July 1, 1789; died young.
4. DANIEL RITTER, son of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter, born 1743. He was a soldier from Lunenburg, 1760, in Capt. Aaron Willard's company of Gen. Ruggles' brigade. He removed to Walpole, N. H. He was a corporal in Capt. Joshua Hayward's company of Col. David Gilman's New Hampshire regiment in 1776, and April 15, 1777, he enlisted into the Continental service of New Hampshire for three years. He was assigned to Capt. Jason Waits' company of Col. Joseph Cilley's regiment and died in the service, September 1, 1779.
- He married May 25, 1765, Martha Smith of Walpole. She died about 1773. He married second, October 19, 1775, Esther Little, born in Lunenburg, January 30, 1755, daughter of Thomas and Susanna (Wallace) Little. She was admitted to the church in Walpole, November 25, 1776. Three children by first and one by second wife.
- i. DAVID, born October 20, 1766.
  - ii. EUNICE, born February 25, 1770.
  - iii. REUBEN SMITH, born February 14, 1772; baptized April 5, 1772.
  - iv. DANIEL, born March 23, 1777.
5. DAVID RITTER, son of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter, born 1745, married July 7, 1774, Abigail Lowe,

born March 29, 1753, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Perkins) Lowe of Lunenburg. March 23, 1776, he was commissioned a lieutenant in Capt. David Carlisle's company. He was a constable and collector eight years. There is record of the baptism of five children.

- i. SARAH, baptized December 3, 1775; married John Simonds, son of Joseph and Mary (Martin) Simonds.
- ii. ABIGAIL, baptized April 20, 1777; married September 16, 1798, Calvin Carlton, born in Lunenburg, June 26, 1770, son of Asa and Ruth (Bailey) Carlton.
- iii. POLLY, baptized July 18, 1779.
- iv. DAVID, baptized November 20, 1782; died January 28, 1794.
- 9 v. THOMAS, baptized September 23, 1787.

6. WILLIAM RITTER, son of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter, was born in Newbury, 1746. He was in Walpole, N. H., with his brother Daniel, 1770 and 1771, but returned to Lunenburg in 1772. In the Revolution he served on the quota of Lunenburg. He enlisted in April, 1775, in Capt. John Fuller's company, and June 15, 1775, he was transferred to Col. Gridley's regiment of artillery. From July 11, 1778, to April, 1779, he served in Capt. Samuel King's company of Col. Thomas Marshall's regiment at Fishkill, New York. He was a pensioner.

About 1785, he removed from Lunenburg to Bernardston, Mass., where he resided about twelve years, when he removed to Surry, N. H. He died in Surry, March 1, 1827. The name of his wife was Ruth, to whom he was married before 1772.

7. JOHN RITTER, son of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter, born in Lunenburg, 1759. He served on the quota of Lunenburg in Capt. Josiah Stearns' company of Col. Ephraim Doolittle's regiment in the siege of Boston, in 1775. In 1777, he was one of Capt. Joseph Bellow's company, which responded to the Ticonderoga alarm. Later in the same year he enlisted into the Continental service for three years, and was assigned to Col. Jackman's regiment. He was subsequently transferred to an invalid corps and discharged in 1780. He removed at time of his discharge from service to Bernardston, Mass., where he died May 31, 1807. His widow, Mary, removed with her nine children to New Berlin, New York, where she died May 14, 1824. They had nine children born in Bernardston.

- i. LUCINDA, born February 8, 1780, unmarried.
  - ii. GEORGE, born September 22, 1782; married September 25, 1803, Mehitabel Sheldon. He settled in Burlington, New York. Three children; (1) George B., born December 25, 1804, died January 30, 1806; (2) Emerancy Lucinda, born December 25, 1806, died December 3, 1836; (3) George Sheldon, born January 22, 1808, married March 15, 1838, Mary Louisa Comstock. He died September 26, 1854.
  - iii. JOHN, born March 31, 1785; married Melissa ———, who died June 22, 1823. He married second, Mrs. Mary (Warner) Hoag.
  - iv. ARTEMAS, born October, 1787.
  - v. POLLY, born June 8, 1790; married Joseph Waterman.
  - vi. EZRA, born March 18, 1793; married Mary Church.
  - vii. REBECCA, born May 6, 1798, unmarried; died at New Berlin, May 21, 1820.
  - viii. PERMELIA, born March 22, 1800; married Stephen Ambler.
  - ix. HART, born October 6, 1804.
8. EZRA RITTER, son of Moses and Hannah (Jackman) Ritter, was born in Lunenburg, 1761. Probably he was of Rev. David Stearns, who died March 9, 1761, and Rev. baptized during the interregnum between the pastorates Samuel Payson, who was ordained September 8, 1762. The record of his baptism is not preserved in Lunenburg. In 1777, he served nine days in Capt. Joseph Bellows' company and on the company roll his name is written Zerah Ritter. Subsequently he served in the Continental army in Capt. Samuel King's company of Col. Thomas Marshall's regiment from June, 1778, to March, 1779. He was a pensioner.
- In 1786 he removed from Lunenburg to Fitchburg, where he resided nearly twenty years, when he removed to Ludlow, Vermont. He and his wife were foundation members of the Congregational church of Ludlow, which was organized September 25, 1806. In 1820 he removed from Ludlow to Weston, Vermont. He was chosen a deacon of the church of Weston, June 26, 1822. He married, October 7, 1784, Mary Carlton, born in Lunenburg, January 7, 1759, daughter of Abraham and Mary (Clark) Carlton. She was the mother of five children born in Fitchburg. He married second, January 17, 1821, Mrs. Jane Ross of Weston. He died August 6, 1849. His wife, Jane, died August 30, 1855.
- i. POLLY, born January 29, 1792.
  - ii. DANIEL, born November 1, 1793; married Julia Smith. He removed to Ludlow, Vermont. He died December 16, 1866. His widow died April 17, 1874. Their son, David,



born October 12, 1818, married Amanda H. Sargent. They lived in Lawrence, Mass., and in Washington, N. H. In the Civil War he served in the Ninth N. H. Vols. He died of wounds at Petersburg, Va., October 20, 1864. David and Amanda Ritter had three children: (1) Albion L., born in Stratford, Vt., June 25, 1844. He served in Seventh N. H. Vols. Discharged June 26, 1862. He married September 24, 1872, Mary L. Williams of Groton, Mass. Later he lived a few years in Fitchburg. (2) Frank S., born in Lowell, Mass., May 26, 1849. He served in Sixth N. H. Vols. Mustered out July 17, 1865. Lived in Laconia, N. H. (3) Julia L., born August 1, 1853; died October 2, 1867.

- iii. BETSEY, born October 19, 1796.
- iv. CATY, born January 11, 1798; married January 16, 1823, John Ross of Guildhall, Vermont.
- v. EZRA CLARK, born October 4, 1801.

9. THOMAS RITTER, son of Moses and Mary (Goodridge) Ritter, was born in Lunenburg, 1780; baptized April 2, 1780. He was a worthy citizen. He lived in the center of the town and was a constable and collector of taxes ten years, 1809 to 1819 inclusive. He married, May 26, 1803, Anna Brown, born in Sudbury, 1781, a daughter of Philemon and Anna (Rice) Brown of Sudbury, and after 1795 of Lunenburg.

Thomas Ritter died September 20, 1820. Anna, his widow, died November 20, 1850. Inscriptions in South Cemetery. Four children were born in Lunenburg.

- i. PRISCILLA, born August 23, 1803; died October 31, 1820.
- ii. MARY, born September 4, 1805; married James Bourne of Marshfield. He died 1849. She died 1885. Four children. James S., born 1832, died 1833; Martha Anna, born 1834, died unmarried, 1864; Harriet P., born 1839, died 1839; George R., born 1841, died 1842. Headstone in cemetery at the Congregational church of Marshfield.
- iii. ELIZABETH PEARSON, born August 26, 1807, married in Boston, by Rev. Hosea Ballou, February 18, 1838, Abraham Andros-Watson, M. D., born in Cambridge, May 11, 1799, son of William and Catherine (Lopez) Watson. He was a descendant in the sixth generation of John and Ann (Errington) Watson. His mother was a descendant of Rev. Cotton Mather. He graduated at Harvard University, 1823, and was an eminent physician of Boston, and through an honored career he was esteemed by his professional associates and respected by his fellow men. He died in Boston, June 14, 1868. His widow died April 26, 1880. Two children. Their son, William Franklin Watson, born 1840, died unmarried, in Boston, 1899. He was a dealer in real estate. Their daughter, Catherine Elizabeth Watson, is the generous donor of the Ritter Memorial Library of Lunenburg. Her name was given in memory of

her mother, Elizabeth, and her father's mother, Catherine. Her bountiful benefaction honors and perpetuates the name of Ritter. Her wise and liberal provision for the present and future generations will be gratefully remembered by the sons and daughters of Lunenburg.

- iv. THOMAS SULLIVAN, born January 29, 1810; died September 22, 1814.