

NOTES

ON

RODMAN GENEALOGY

By

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THIS paper is offered to persons of my name and kin as introductory to a fuller study of the subject treated. A large amount of material is in process of accumulation, from which other papers may be constructed should that be deemed advisable. For the present the writer will content himself with some inferences from the study of our history and traditions, not as completed results but as processes rather, towards future action.

Our family name is said to have originated at a very early period, as a general rather than a proper name. Under various forms as Radman, Roadman, Redman, etc., it was applied to "men who by the tenure or custom of their lands were to ride with or for the lord of the manor about his business."¹ Identity in name does not establish consanguinity, nor does diversity in the manner of pronouncing and spelling it disprove a common origin and kinship.

In the "Index of Royalists whose estates were confiscated during the Commonwealth, by Mabel G. N. Peacock, London," we find names which may relate to Rodman genealogy, as follows: John Roddam, Gent., of Little Houghton, Co. Northumberland; Sir John Redman, Knight, Co. of Lancaster; Sir John Redman, late of New Castle, Yorkshire. These acts of confiscation occurred in or about the year 1652. In the preface of this work occurs the following passage: "The spelling of surnames and sometimes the names of places was very irregular, it is still arbitrary in a high degree, and families come of the same stock, at the present time often spell their names in a different fashion."

A family in the county of Northumberland with the name Roddam claims very great antiquity, dating their origin before the Norman conquest.

Roden, the family name of Lord Clanbrasil, has at times been used interchangeably with Rodman, and there are those in Ireland and in this country who respond to either name.

¹ Rees's Cyclopaedia, article Redman. See also Patronymica Britanica by Mark Antony Lower.

The name Redmond is conspicuous in the history of Ireland and is not infrequent in America. Of a family of this name the earliest known ancestor, born in 1712, signed his name on a lease in 1745 as John Rodman. He died in 1781 and was designated on his tombstone as John Redman. At a very early period Redmonds from County Wexford moved to the North of Ireland and became Protestants, but we cannot as yet connect them with the Rodmans.

In 1660 Hugh Rodam and Cuthbert Rodam were imprisoned as Quakers in Co. Durham, England.²

These several names have at times been used interchangeably with the name Rodman as we spell it. Whenever names of this class have hitherto been found the family traditions refer them to English descent. Tracing them to that country, in nearly every instance we are led to the northern counties. The situation of these counties, especially of Northumberland, on the Scottish border, will help us understand the theory as to the origin of the family name.

"In former times the lands of Northumberland were held of the king by knight's service. The barons and people of higher condition dwelt in castellated mansions or moated towers. The middling class of people held their lands of the barons chiefly in socage tenure, and resided in buildings called peels or piles, consisting of a ground floor in which their cattle were kept during the night, with a floor above occupied by the family. The lower orders in common with the middle class, were subject to the grievous service of keeping night-watches at all the fords, passes and inlets of the valley, to guard against the incursions of the borderers or of the Scots during hostilities. When either a troupe of banditti or an enemy made their appearance, every man within hearing of the horn was bound under pain of death, to rise and assist in the protection of the country."³ It would be difficult to imagine circumstances better adapted to form a hardy race. Strength, courage and hardihood would thus be developed and were transmitted for several generations, even after peaceful times and the enervating influences of modern civilization had changed the conditions of human life.

The authentic history of our family is supposed to start with the banishment of the Quaker John Rodman from Ireland in 1655.⁴ We know nothing of him previously.

² See Besse's History of the Sufferings of the Quakers.

³ Rees's Cyclopaedia, article Northumberland.

⁴ The earliest account yet found and written not more than sixteen years after the transaction is in the following words: "John Rodman being called into the Court at the assizes in New Ross, was for not taking off his hat committed to Gaol by Judge Louder where he was kept a prisoner three months and then banished that country." This is found in *A Compendious View of Some Sufferings of Quakers in Ireland*, by A. Fuller and T. Holmes, Anno 1671. My edition was printed in Dublin in 1731.

Uniform tradition and the family names lead to the inference that he was of English extraction and not long a resident of Ireland. For a short period about this time, English Quakers, or, as they called themselves, Friends, came to Ireland as missionaries and hoping to escape persecution. William Edmundson, subsequently the apostle of Quakerism in Ireland, having come from England in 1652 and settled in Antrim,* commenced to preach two or three years later. He and his associates were upright and zealous but inclined to railing and invective. They made enthusiastic converts and created bitter antagonism. Those who became Quakers found that "conformity to the profession was in most cases purchased by the loss of friends, contempt and hardships."

The name Rodman was at this time new in Ireland. As we spell it, it was not the name of an Irish family. It is not found in O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees," nor in his "Irish Landed Gentry when Cromwell came to Ireland." Prendergast's "Cromwellian settlement of Ireland" contains no Rodman names. An elaborate search in various directions brings to light no Rodman families in Ireland, previous to the banishment of our progenitor. Near the close of the century, such families do appear, as strangers, several generations passing before any distinctively Irish names are found among them. Similar researches and a study of the history of the country, lead also to the conclusion that there has been no important immigration of Rodman families into Ireland since the death of Cromwell, in 1658. Thus definitely can the introduction of the family name into Ireland be determined.

The next trace of our ancestor is found in the island of Barbadoes. This was one of the earliest of the English colonies. As such it was prosperous before the English settlements on our continent assumed importance. Outside the British islands, Barbadoes was the first place of refuge found by the Quakers for voluntary or involuntary exile. Even there they thought themselves hardly dealt

* Antrim was largely inhabited by Scotch and English people, Presbyterian in religion.

with, in being compelled to submit to laws at variance with their principles and religious tenets.

We have no record of the life of John Rodman as a planter. He died in 1686, when the island was under the administration of Governor Edwin Stead. (An error of copyists has sometimes made this Edwin Hood.)

John Rodman had two sons Thomas and John, and two daughters Ann and Katherine. Thomas is said to have been born in 1640, John in 1653. We do not know whether the family accompanied the father in the voyage to Barbadoes. It may be presumed the younger children did so, and we find that John, the younger son, resided on the island until he was nearly thirty years of age. The two sons became educated and practicing physicians. They were earnest and active members of the Society of Friends. In 1675, Dr. Thomas Rodman settled in Newport, Rhode Island, coming from Barbadoes with William Edmundson who was recently from Ireland "on a religious visit." Dr. John Rodman the younger brother, came to Newport several years later. Here again, the change of residence tended towards greater religious freedom. Dr. Thomas Rodman seems to have been a man of practical sagacity, of uniform stability of character and of kindly sympathetic nature. He was well educated as a physician and devoted to the practice of his profession in which he became eminent. Dr. John Rodman was born and grew up when the Quaker excitement was at its greatest intensity. Of the brothers, the younger was more versatile, more conspicuous in public affairs, and was noted as a Quaker preacher. He was very demonstrative in his religious professions, reiterating his advice and spiritual exhortations after the most approved Quaker fashion. The brothers were men of means, they commanded the public esteem to an eminent degree and left large families whose descendants number many thousands.

Dr. Thomas Rodman died in Newport in 1727, aged 87 years. He had been married three times. "Tradition

* In his Journal, William Edmundson says, "Thomas Redman a Friend and Doctor went with me."

says that he had a wife when he first came to Newport, but there is no record of her death on Friends records" (J. S. Gould). If Barbadoes was the home of the Doctor previous to his coming to Newport, we may presume his first wife died on the island. This has been taken for granted hitherto, without evidence on the subject. At present we can give no account of this first wife beyond the fact that her name was Sarah. The second marriage, June 7, 1682, when he was 42 years of age, was to Patience, daughter of Peter Easton and widow of Robert Malins.¹ The third wife to whom he was married Nov. 26, 1691, was Hannah, daughter of Governor Walter Clarke of Rhode Island. Of his second wife were born Thomas and Ann. The children of the third wife were Hannah, Clarke, John, Samuel, Patience and William.

The family records of the Friends were kept with scrupulous exactness. It is singular that no record has been found of the family of Dr. Thomas Rodman by his first wife. Our only knowledge comes from tradition and from a clause in the Doctor's will. The early explorers of our family history found traditions of a son and of a daughter Mary, who was reported as having married in 1700. In his will he bequeathed "a sum of money to (his) former wife Sarah's son to acquit him" (J. S. Gould). These are all the glimpses as yet obtained of the Doctor's history before he came to Newport at the age of 35 years. We know nothing of his wife Sarah, her parentage or her history. No recognition of herself or her offspring have left any trace. The scanty notice in the will is all that remains. The most common of all memorials at the time, the retention of her name among the granddaughters and the nieces of the family was omitted, judging by the records transmitted to us.

Who was the son of Sarah and what can be learned of him is at present *the problem* of Rodman genealogy. In the absence of documentary evidence, and until researches

¹ The name Robert Malins, with variations in spelling, frequently occurs in the history of Quakerism in Ireland and in Barbadoes. See *Sufferings of the People called Quakers*, by Joseph Besse, London, 1753.

now in progress shall either help or utterly fail us, we are compelled to seek such indirect evidence as circumstances afford. It is hoped that some of those to whom this paper is sent will aid in the solution of the problem. This son of Thomas by his wife Sarah, must have been some sixty years old at the time of his father's death. If he was like his kinsmen he had a wife and a family of children, and traces of them should exist somewhere. Presumably he was not a resident of Newport nor of Barbadoes. We suppose he was born in Ireland and remained there. The absence of any notice of him, documentary or traditional, suggests the idea of estrangement of some sort, which the curt mention in the will accords with. It may be that this eldest son and his mother did not share the religious opinions of the other members of the family. If he grew up in Ireland and not in sympathy with Quakerism, we have a natural explanation of the situation. Considering the period and the circumstances, such a difference in religion is the most probable cause of a family rupture. Anything else so serious would have been matter of record or of tradition. But adherence to Quakerism or its rejection was so identified with the life and history of the family, that no statement was needed to explain the alienation.

The custom of retaining names in the family was never more constant than among our ancestors. The name of the eldest son of Dr. Thomas may reasonably be presumed to have been either a common Rodman name, or one prominent in the mother's family. We may also conclude that his name would be found among his own children, and reproduced in their families.

The names Thomas, John, Samuel and William, are found in the younger sons of the Doctor, and consequently these may be excluded. If the supposition is correct that there were serious differences between the two families, we may presume that, subsequently the name of the eldest son would be rare in one and common in the other.

The researches already alluded to concerning the origin of the Rodman families in Ireland, include inquiries of eminent Irish genealogists, numerous applications to individuals in the three kingdoms, and some examinations of catalogues in British and American libraries.

It is learned that about 1680 to 1690, a family or race of Rodmans was to be found in the North of Ireland. They were new to the country, and were traditionally of English descent, Scottish Presbyterians in religion, intermarrying constantly with the Scotch, and introducing Scottish baptismal names. They had no previous connection with Ireland, and slowly gained affinity thereto. Their most common names were William, John, James, Thomas, Hugh, Robert, Samuel and Alexander. They, and for a while their descendants, were of large stature, strong and manly. They were farmers and mechanics, industrious and frugal. They did not have the advantages of wealth and culture. Their traditions are sombre with the distressing memories which have filled the history of Ireland. At various times they sent emigrants to this country. At first these were exclusively engaged in agriculture and mechanical pursuits. Under changes made by the lapse of time, some became merchants and traders. Under fuller education they inclined to the medical profession, and a large number have become physicians. There have been a few lawyers among those who retain the Rodman name, and the number of clergymen has been small.

Of these Irish (or, by descent, Anglo-Scottish) families, the following lines are held as subject to further investigation :

1. The earliest member that can be definitely fixed upon is *William Rodman*, born 1684-87, said to have been of English origin, but settled in the North of Ireland. He married a Miss Lisle of Scottish parents. His home and that of his family was near Coleraine. He died aged 84 years. A son of his named Thomas married a Miss Niel, also Scotch. They had children, John, b. 1750, James, Samuel, Adam, William, Thomas and Mary. Some of these came to America.

2. *John Rodman*, said to have "settled near Coleraine as a small farmer some 200 years ago." Some of his descendants came to America. Others remained in Ireland. One of them, named John, married Mary. Ann Sterling, and had sons William, Hugh, b. 1785, James, Thomas and Alexander, and daughters Mary, Martha, Jane, Nancy, Margaret and Sarah. Sons of Hugh named John and William are now living near Coleraine.

3. *James Rodman*, lived near Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. His son Robert, b. 1767, moved to Scotland and had children James, Robert, William, John, Alexander, David, Katherine, Sarah and Thomas.

4. *William Rodman*, came from the North of Ireland in the first half of the last century, and settled in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. He married Martha Ferrier, daughter of Jane Polk, and had sons Hugh, James, William, Thomas, John, Alexander, Samuel and Benjamin, and a daughter Jane. James, a brother of his, supposed to be the eldest, died without issue. David, a much younger brother, married Esther Walker (or Barnes) and had children Jane, David, James and Dollie. These families are doubtless closely related to those named in No. 2 of this schedule.

5. *Robert Rodman*, first found in Ayrshire, Scotland, married Mary Stephenson. He had sons James and William. The names of their descendants, as far as ascertained, are John, William, James, Alexander, Jane, Elizabeth and Mary. Some are in Scotland, but the greater part, so far as known, are living in Belfast, Ireland, and its neighborhood.

Families who call themselves Rodman but spell their name in other ways are reserved for future study.

The attempt to organize these Rodman families and to place them in their natural relations, if such exist, would

at this time be premature. They did not keep up their records as did the Quakers of the Barbadoes branch. The study of their pedigrees, their nomenclature, their traditions, their characteristics and their history is only just begun. Some points of connection, with a degree of probability, can be determined.)

The early Rodman names may be divided into three classes. The first class includes John, William and Thomas. These are found everywhere constantly repeated, alike in the Barbadoes and in the Anglo-Scottish-Irish branches. The second class includes names less frequently occurring, but common in both branches. Such names are Robert, Samuel and Joseph. The third class consists of names more recently introduced by marriage and restricted to the branch where they first occur. Instances may be cited as Clarke and Scammon on the one side and James, Hugh, Alexander and David in the Scottish line.

A study of these names, with the accompanying circumstances, makes it seem nearly certain that the Irish-Scotch families constituted a definite group starting near Coleraine about 1660-65 from a source closely related to our own ancestral stock. Additional evidence that the two branches were near akin will be adduced hereafter. What is the relationship thus outlined may be a matter of question.

It is now proposed to group the series of facts thus presented into a Theory of Rodman Genealogy, which may furnish channels for investigation and stimulate inquiry. New facts are continually coming in. The theory assumed may receive confirmation or rejection. Some of its details will doubtless require modification. It is hoped that it will not be displaced except by some conclusion more nearly positive.

It would appear as most probable that our common ancestor, John Rodman (with various possibilities as to the spelling of his name) came from the North of England and was of good family but not noble. He was well edu-

cated, well to do, and a religious man. He became a convert to the teachings of George Fox and accepted the attempt to introduce vitality and spirituality into religion. About the year 1654, a time of trouble, social, civil and ecclesiastical, he went to Ireland, just then a refuge for the persecuted and a missionary field for the zealous. He would naturally make his home in the North of Ireland, where already dwelt his countryman and life-long friend, William Edmundson. Everywhere, fines and imprisonment awaited those who testified for the truth as held by the Quakers. Such an interruption to his plans must speedily have overtaken our itinerant progenitor, as is shown by the brevity of the notice of him in the annals of the Friends, generally very voluminous and minute. When about forty years of age, his oldest son being about fifteen years, he found himself sailing for Barbadoes, the only available refuge for the afflicted of his austere creed.

I suppose that the children of John Rodman were wholly or in part by a first wife, Ann, who died in Barbadoes. In the clause of his will giving directions as to his burial—"I bequeath my body to the earth from whence it came, decently to be buried in the old church yard as near to my wife as may be deceased, with Christian burial which I leave to the discretion of my beloved wife,"—the transposition of the word "deceased," or the insertion of a comma before it, would give a natural and touching allusion to a first wife, instead of the very unpleasant terms, as printed. The name Ann is taken conjecturally, being that given to the eldest daughter, and being reproduced in the families of both the sons. Of the sons, John resided for some years in Barbadoes. There is less reason to suppose that Thomas did so, and we have no knowledge as to the time in which he sailed from Ireland. At the time of the banishment, the oldest son is likely to have remained in Ireland to look after his father's interests, and ere long to have gone to Scotland to complete his education. Quakerism was not the religion of his boyhood as it was that of his brother's. He is supposed to have married early, possibly before his religious profession, having

by this first marriage *the son* of whom we know so little, and one or more daughters. Like his father this son may have been left in Ireland, and unlike him he may have remained there.

There seems to have been division in the family, but we know not the cause of the rupture. No trace or suggestion has been found of anything contrary to the good repute of the parties. Nothing could be more exacting or misleading than the bitterness which in that iron age led good people of different creeds to mistake prejudice for duty.

Why may not this son of Dr. Thomas Rodman by his first wife Sarah be the link of connection between the Anglo-Scottish and the Barbadoes branches? is the question now submitted to the friends of Rodman genealogy. In the history of John Rodman¹ and his sons we have no notice of any other relationship whereby a theory alternative to this could be plausibly suggested. As yet we can not give the name of the son, from documentary evidence. If taken from the father's side it would naturally have been either John, Thomas, Samuel or William. But it could not have been any one of these, for they are all found in the children of Dr. Thomas by his second and third marriages. Estimating the probabilities and excluding one by one other possible conjectures, we are led to fix upon *James*, that being the one additional name everywhere distributed throughout the Scotch-Irish families and their descendants. Of all Scottish names James is one of the most common. In the early generations of the Barbadoes branch it does not occur. Its first appearance as a Rodman name marked an epoch in our genealogy.

Continuing, tentatively, the study of the family history, and applying this hypothesis as a working theory, it is now proposed to notice a few individual Rodmans, *including some of our presumptive kinsmen*. There is a pleasure in opening these pages to them. It is hoped their right to the recognition and relationship will hereafter be fully established. In giving them a place in the genealogical

scheme the names *assumed provisionally* will be indicated by square brackets, as John,⁶ Thomas,⁵ William,⁴ [James³], Thomas,² John.¹

It seems natural to begin our selections with a continuance of the domestic history of *Dr. Thomas Rodman*² (John¹). By Patience, his second wife, he had one daughter, *Ann*. Her story occupies but a few lines in our records. One of the Quaker Annalists has given us a picturesque introduction to her, which is here reproduced, as misquotation has sometimes marred the quaintness of the ancient speech and phrase. In the "Life and Travels of Samuel Bownas" occurs this passage:

"Coming into Narragansett we were among friends again, so we went for Rhode Island, and there Friends were very numerous and we had large meetings indeed. There was a marriage of a young man, his name was Richardson, with a daughter of Thomas Rodman, a man of the first rank in the Island, so that we had the Governor, (his name was Samuel Cranston) and most of the chief men in the Government at the marriage, and we had a precious living time, which gave me great encouragement."

Genealogically, her record may be thus stated:

*Ann Rodman*³ (Thomas,² John¹), born Nov. 16, 1686, (her mother died Nov. 21, 1690.) At the age of seventeen she married John Richardson, Feb. 20, 1704. He died at Antigua, Sept. 26, 1706, aged 23 years. A son, *John Richardson*, their only child, was born May 9, 1707, and died aged seven years, June 7, 1714, at the house of his grandfather, Dr. Thomas Rodman. She died June 25, 1714.

This is no romance, but actual life. Nearly two centuries have passed, but the tear will surely fall at the thought of this young Rodman daughter, wife, and mother. Her breaking heart increases our interest in our race, and keeps our sympathies alive to the sufferings to which our nature is subject.

We have seen that there was some trouble or estrangement in the youthful family of Dr. Thomas Rodman. A few years later, his only daughter by the second wife, died at his house under very distressing circumstances. Can we obtain any glimpses of the effect upon him of the sad

elements in his history? A letter written by him to Samuel, his youngest son by the third wife, is introduced with that hope. Samuel was in Flushing, L. I., with his uncle Dr. John Rodman, and had gained the affections of Mary, daughter of Col. Thomas Willett.

"Rhoad Island ye 9th of y^e 12th mo 1722, 3.

Deare Child

This oportunity of Thomas Markes coming I thought the would be willing to heare from home not y^t I haved any great matter to write about but Let the know y^t through marcy we are all in pretty good health. I have much of late greatly desired to a received a few lines from the giving some account of thy affairs theare. Of late I have heard y^t y^e young woman is sent away to shunn thy company & if soe it must be by her own consent. I desire y^e Lord may give the wisdom to keep in his Counsell & yn all things will prove well in y^e end. Doe not look at present Inioyments soe much as at fiutor Inioyment for Ever. If thou art crossed in thy expectation doe not strive but leave it to y^e Lord who knows what is for thy etarnell welfair and come home where the shall be kindly entertayned according to our abilatey. Of late I have been tould that she wore hooped peteycots and weares mourning clothes for y^e dead wh I am sorry to heare, it being contrary to y^e first acco't I had of her. I wish y^e wast well home again. I wroght a few lines to brother about it I not knowing how things are but have a godly Jealosity y^t things are not altogather as I could desire makes me & thy mother soe desirous to heare from the. And Soe leaving the whole matter desiring & hoping y^e Lord will not leave the nor forsake the but give the wisdom and patience under every affliction to whom I comitt the & take leave & desire thy welfare in y^e blessed truth

Thy affectiopate ffather

THOS. RODMAN.

mind my kind Love to thy Unk^l & aunt & to all our Cousins & relations."

The young people were married within a few months and lived to have fourteen children.

The subjects of the following historical sketch are doubtless the family of *Joseph Rodman*⁴ (Joseph,³ John,² John¹).

It is taken from the "History of New York during the Revolutionary War," by Thomas Jones.

³ Joseph Rodman (3), b. Apr. 11, 1685, mar. Mar. 1, 1707, Sarah Laurence ; Joseph Rodman (4), b. Aug. 6, 1708, m. Judith Bowne.

"Joseph Rodman, a reputable farmer at Flushing upon Long Island, died many years before the rebellion, and by his will devised his real estate to his wife during her natural life, and after her death to his eldest son in fee. The widow was in full life and an old Quaker preacher. She had nothing to do with the rebellion. The eldest son, a giddy youth, was prevailed upon to act as Committee man, left Long Island with the rebels in August, 1776, and died the same year under age and without issue. The youngest son was a Quaker of principle, and a steady Loyalist. He was entitled to the estate upon his mother's death. The mother and son lived together upon the estate within the British lines and under the protection of the Crown. Notwithstanding which, because the first remainder man had been a rebel, though then dead, the mother in possession as tenant for life, and she and her son both loyal, the estate was seized upon as rebel property. The poor old widow was turned out of doors, and obliged to be maintained by her friends, and a parcel of refugees put in possession, who cut down the wood, sold it, and appropriated the produce to their own use, burnt up the fences, ruined the orchards, and in a great measure destroyed the buildings."

*William Logan Rodman*⁷ (Benjamin,⁶ Samuel,⁵ Thomas,⁴ Samuel,³ Thomas,² John,¹) was born in New Bedford, March 7, 1822. He was a descendant of the Mary Willett Rodman who wore "hooped peteycots." When twenty years of age he was graduated at Harvard University. He was a Member of the Massachusetts Legislature from his native town when the civil war broke out. Returning home he raised a company and was elected its captain. In active service he was rapidly promoted, being appointed Major of the 38th Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry, August 19, 1862, and Lieutenant Colonel Dec. 14, 1862. In the attack on Port Hudson, La., he was killed by a sharpshooter, May 27, 1863. He had gained the esteem and confidence of his associates, which his gallant conduct in action intensified. He was an only son and the idol of his family.

Any study of Rodman genealogy would be incomplete that did not give to him the credit of having undertaken to construct a history and record of the Barbadoes family. His educated literary tastes, accompanied with enthusiasm and industry, enabled him to inspire others with the interest felt by himself. The work so well begun by him has hardly yet recovered the loss caused by his untimely death. All subsequent collectors are indebted to his explorations.

Among the descendants of William Rodman (born 1684-87), first found near Coleraine, is *Robert W. Rodman*, Esq., of New York City. His pedigree we assume as follows: *Robert W.*,⁷ John,⁶ Thomas,⁵ William,⁴ [James,³] Thomas,² John.¹ In 1860 he informed (Col.) William Logan Rodman that their "papers respecting the Rodman family had been lost," but that his "father could trace a relationship with John Rodman, a lawyer of this city previous to 1820, and removed to Florida about 1821." This is an important fact or tradition. The lawyer John Rodman is of well known descent, as *John*⁵ (John,⁴ Thomas,³ John,² John¹). It is quite credible that a relationship might be traced where the great-grandfather of one was cousin to the grandfather of the other. To have traced a more remote relationship would involve the existence of genealogical records, which we may be sure did not exist. A relationship less remote would be irreconcilable with our authentic pedigrees.

Mr. Robert W. Rodman has given me additional information respecting his family, but nothing inconsistent with the presumptions already reached. Their earliest traditions refer to "the family as being of the highest respectability in England."

At several times I have received statements of a personal resemblance between individuals representing the different branches. The most emphatic instances have been those who descended from the Irish-Scottish branch on the one side, and on the other the Narragansett line, or those from Dr. Thomas Rodman by the second wife. On the supposition that [James,³] (Thomas,² John,¹) and Thomas³ (Thomas,² John,¹) were half brothers, a resemblance between their early descendants might naturally be looked for.

*Dr. James Rodman*⁸ (John,⁷ Hugh,⁶ William,⁵ [James,⁴] [James,³] Thomas,² John,¹) is Superintendent of the Western Kentucky Lunatic Asylum. He has taken much interest in the history and relations of his family. In a letter dated February 18, 1885, he called my attention to a remarkable resemblance between his brother, Dr. Hugh Rodman, late of Frankfort, Ky., and Dr. Edward R.

Mayer, of Wilkesbarre, Penn. Edward Rodman Mayer⁷ (Lucy Rodman Mayer,⁶ Daniel,⁵ Samuel,⁴ Thomas,³ Thomas,² John,¹) descends from the Narragansett branch.

This *Dr. Hugh Rodman* was one of the most eminent physicians of Kentucky. His popularity and personal influence were extraordinary. His death occurred Feb. 11, 1872, and was in consequence of injuries received in being thrown from his carriage. The Kentucky Legislature and the Courts adjourned to attend his funeral.

John Hurst Rodman, Esq., of West Louisville, Ky. (Hugh,⁷ Hugh,⁶ William,⁵ [James,⁴] [James,³] Thomas,² John,¹) has given much information as to the history and traditions of his branch of the family. His recollection of persons and of incidents is remarkable. Suggestions received from him have greatly assisted our researches in this country and in Ireland. A fair pedigree of the descendants of his great great grandfather can now be constructed.

*Dr. Andrew J. Rodman*⁷ (Asa,⁶ Joseph,⁵ Joseph,⁴ Thomas,³ Thomas,² John,¹) of Delaware, Wisconsin, has given me information bearing on the questions raised in this paper. He has called attention to the resemblance between his relatives and persons who we know were of the Scotch-Irish branch. This resemblance included the personal appearance and the large size and great bodily strength of the individuals. He specified an instance in which mistakes in identity were repeatedly made. Equally decisive is the following statement, that when a lad he was told by his father that "the first Rodman came from the North of Ireland and was a Scotch-Irishman." The existence of a distinct tradition to this effect, fifty years ago, in a family of the Hillsdale branch, is to say the least a noticeable fact. These statements were made by Dr. Rodman some years before any of us had thought of turning our researches in this direction.

Jane Rodman Murray, whose pedigree we assume to be, *Jane Rodman Murray*⁶ (David,⁵ [James,⁴] [James,³] Thomas,² John,¹) was born in the North of Ireland about 1770. She came to Pennsylvania when sixteen years of age, and mar-

ried Charles Murray who was born in Co. Antrim, Ireland. They removed from Pennsylvania to Springfield, Kentucky, and had ten children. She was the life and centre of a happy home, a woman of great intelligence and strong will, and much admired and respected. She was a zealous Presbyterian and anti-slavery in sentiment. She exerted an extraordinary influence within her own circle, and outside of it. She died in 1843. Her descendants have held conspicuous positions official, financial, and social. Eli H. Murray, Esq., late Governor of Utah is her grandson. In these western lines we have notes of other Rodman daughters who may well take rank with the best who share the name.

No one has done more to extend our family name than *Gen. Thomas Jackson Rodman*⁸ (James,⁷ Hugh,⁶ William,⁵ [James,⁴] [James,³] Thomas,² John¹). He was born July 1, 1816, was graduated at West Point Military Academy, commissioned Brev. 2d. Lieut. of Ordnance in 1841, and subsequently promoted to Brigadier General. He was the inventor of the 15-in. and the 20-in. smooth bore guns made by hollow casting, and also of improvements in the manufacture of gunpowder. He was a man of a high order of intellect, and famous in his special department. He died in the U. S. service at Rock Island, Illinois, June 7, 1872. His son, Lieut. John B. Rodman, in a letter dated June 12, 1884, used these words: "I have heard him say that our branch of the family has been traced back through Virginia until it joined the Rhode Island branch."

Among those who have taken an active interest in the subject of Rodman genealogy, was *John Stanton Gould*⁷ (Hannah Rodman⁶ Gould, Clarke,⁵ Joseph,⁴ Clarke,³ Thomas,² John¹). He was born March 14, 1812, and grew up an only child, the only other child of his parents having died in infancy. Early in life he entered upon the study of chemistry, and devoted himself to its applications, at first to the arts, and subsequently to agriculture. He became non-resident Professor of Agriculture in Cornell University, and held this position until his death, which

occurred at his home in Hudson, N. Y., August 8, 1874. He was a man of extensive learning, and remarkable for the natural simplicity of his tastes and pleasures. He was enthusiastic in historical and genealogical researches, and did much by public lectures and in other ways, to interest and instruct. His father, Stephen Gould, had paid great attention to these subjects, and made large collections of family memoirs, to which the son made addition. It is to their researches that I am indebted for the knowledge of the clause of the will of Dr. Thomas Rodman, which has been the key-note of this paper.

The development of Rodman genealogy is much indebted to *Thomas Rotch Rodman, Esq.*,⁷ of New Bedford, Mass. (Samuel,⁶ Samuel,⁵ Thomas,⁴ Samuel,³ Thomas,² John.¹) He has greatly aided the present writer by furnishing material and none the less by cordial coöperation and suggestion. In a work of this kind, there is continually needed the ability to weigh evidence, to correct mistakes and in general to overcome the difficulties left unsolved by the original explorations. In these respects the assistance of Mr. Rodman has been highly valued.

Charles Henry Jones⁷ (J. Glancy Jones and Anna Rodman⁶ Jones, William,⁵ William,⁴ John,³ John,² John,¹) is a lawyer of distinction in Philadelphia. He has taken much interest in the genealogical history of his mother's family. He is author of a memoir of his grandfather William Rodman and of "Genealogy of the Rodman Family, 1620-1886," a work which embodies the researches of several students of our history and presents a large amount of material which will be useful to future explorers.⁹

⁹ This work of Mr. Jones is a handsome volume of 287 octavo pages, amply illustrated with family portraits. Typographically it is all that the most fastidious need desire. The genealogical plan is perspicuous and liberal, and is carried out with such detail as would do credit to a professional genealogist. A large proportion of the work is devoted to our kinsmen by female descent and in parts the Rodman name is little more than a connecting link. The refined and wealthy families who share our blood will readily trace their lines and connections. As to the more important requisites in a work of this kind, accuracy and completeness, we must not be too exacting. In many instances our family histories are still undeveloped and

The family of our ancestor John Rodman branched into four principal divisions with numerous subdivisions in natural sequence. We have, *First*, the presumptive line from Dr. Thomas, and his wife Sarah, supposed to include the Irish-Scottish families and their American descendants. *Second*, that of Dr. Thomas and Patience, his second wife, the Narragansett branch, including the Rhode Island and the Hillsdale subdivisions. *Third*, the line descending from Dr. Thomas and his wife Hannah, largely represented by the Newport and New Bedford families. *Fourth*, the descendants of Dr. John (brother of Dr. Thomas), and his wife Mary Scammon,—extending from Flushing, Long Island, to New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

A comparative study of these lines as found in our records, suggests interesting topics. The first of these divisions consists largely of Rodman names. The Scotch-Irish lists are almost exclusively limited to male lines. The same fact is true, though less obviously so, of the Narragansett branch. The third division in our lists gives a larger proportion of lines through female descent, while in the fourth division the proportion is still further changed, and the Rodmans are overwhelmed in the extended lines of other names.

Coincident with this disproportion of the male and the female lines whether as cause, or consequence or concomitant, are to be found corresponding differences in other respects. Plain living and hard work of the hands and muscles have been associated with extended male lines. The younger branches and the later generations show an advance in wealth and culture with a gradual thinning out of the Rodman name. Is it elsewhere true, that ease, abundance, refinement and luxury, *continued for several generations* alter thus the proportion between the sexes?

require a great amount of labor. Whether this work will be pronounced satisfactory as an authority will depend, perhaps, upon the point of view taken. Except in the families centering at Philadelphia there are numerous errors and omissions in the pedigrees as given by Mr. Jones. As he confines himself to the Barbadoes branch, no notice is taken of the Scotch-Irish families that have made the Rodman name conspicuous and honored throughout the Western States.

These very circumstances, moreover, develop the taste and give the opportunity for genealogical researches, and lead to the gradual extension of the pedigrees through female descent.

A difference between the families, marked by similar gradations, pertained to their religious history. The first section started as Presbyterians. Some at least maintaining their views with much zeal and tenacity. The second subdivision were Friends or Quakers, but never prominently or aggressively so, and in a few generations passed entirely to other creeds. In the third branch the Quaker element was more pronounced and more lasting. Eminent Quaker preachers are found in their lists. In the fourth and last division, Quakerism reached its fullest intensity and power. Dr. John Rodman² was more conspicuous and eminent as a preacher than as a physician. His descendants have retained longest the peculiar impress, and to this day include those who hold to the doctrines and the virtues, but not the austerity of our ancestors.

In all the branches the early generations had large families, and as a rule they were long lived. Perhaps it was from excess of courage, or recklessness, but there were many deaths from accidental causes, especially in the two older of the four branches. In many of the early Rodmans were blended the strength, the tenacity, and the elasticity of the British yeomen when at their best. Modern civilization, with changes in education, employment and food, together with some insidious causes, has wrought a physical degeneracy here as elsewhere.

We are repeatedly told of the great size of the early Rodmans, especially the American descendants of the Irish-Scottish branch. They were full of strength and force of character, truthful and liberal. The commanding appearance of the men and the beauty of the women seem to have been remarkable. Some of the branches are said to be "clannish, warm friends, and bitter enemies." One of their descendants says, "the general characteristic of grandfather's family was to be rather careless of small things, but they were good at a large undertaking or job,

one that furnished interest and excitement." Of another branch it has been said, "they are regarded as somewhat peculiar, kind hearted, well disposed, easy going, and more than usually congenial in their domestic relations." One lady says of those with whom she is connected, "they have brains and beauty, and more characteristics than cash."

In so vast a membership no generalizations can be altogether inclusive.

The question submitted in this paper involves the mutual recognition of the Anglo-Irish-Scottish families and the Barbadoes families as accepted kinsmen. Its solution will depend largely upon investigations still in progress, and not upon the vote of those interested. But the writer will esteem it a favor to receive expressions of opinion respecting it. He solicits from our friends in Ireland, Scotland and England, and throughout the United States all possible information bearing upon the facts and suggestions here presented, and indeed upon the *entire range of Rodman Genealogy*. Should subsequent researches confirm the inferences of this paper there will be added at once to our lists, from a single source, a thousand names with unlimited extension in the future. Many of these persons are as worthy of the Rodman name as any who share it. Their sons are perpetuating it with an unusually vigorous progeny. Their daughters are allying it to other names where it is the most welcome of adjuncts.

If our researches shall result in some other solution of the Rodman problem, it is hoped they will still be of service. The development of the family genealogies may go on as separate works. Their limitation by lines definitely determined, and the opportunity for mutual acquaintance and respect, should prove an advantage and pleasure to all concerned.

So far as is known to the writer this is the only attempt ever made to determine the relations of all the Rodman families in this country. It is safe to conclude that if this

undertaking fails, no subsequent one can be expected to succeed. The constantly increasing difficulties from the lapse of time, the death of the only parties conversant with the facts, the destruction of documents, and the loss of traditions, will soon make that quite impossible which is now nearly so.

In soliciting assistance and coöperation in this work the following suggestions are made as to matters of detail.

1. It is important to notice variations in spelling the family name. Redmond, Redman, Rodden and Roden are known to have been used at times, interchangeably with Rodman. Rothman, Rodham, and other forms are not to be overlooked, if found where they might apply to our kinsmen. It is hoped that under these or other disguises the secrets of our prehistoric genealogy are awaiting, in the northern counties of England, the scrutiny of future explorers.

2. As far as possible, definiteness in names and dates should be secured. Full names without contraction are best. *Dates* of birth, marriages, and deaths, are the constant and essential *desiderata* of the genealogist, and when practicable they should include the day of the month, and the residence at the period of the event recorded.

3. Every attempt should be made to individualize the persons named. To this end, birth-places, residences, and employments should be given. Personal characteristics and biographical incidents are to be sought with amplitude and detail. Facts and anecdotes are everywhere wanted. The lives we would sketch may be neither heroic nor romantic, and yet may interest and instruct. They are part of ourselves, being those of our kinsmen, and what our own might have been under slight changes of circumstance and opportunity. At best, all we can gather is a small part of what has been experienced, but that little may be suggestive, and its record lead others to produce similar materials, and enrich our dry pedigrees.

4. You are requested not to be deterred from sending information because it may happen to be incomplete. What you possess may be the very thing lacking to en-

large or to complete imperfect information already on hand. A single date or a trivial fact may have unexpected relations to some difficult question. Names given to children, even though these die unmarried, will sometimes help us. You are particularly requested to send any traditions current in your family. Taken by itself each may seem unimportant, but when they are collected and combined they may as by a phosphorescent light, enable us to grope amid the dark passages of our history.

To those willing to coöperate in this work, tabulated schedules and charts will be furnished, showing what we already know, and what we wish to obtain in the particular department under consideration.

In these researches, great assistance has been rendered by Rodman daughters, often under other names. To them and to others, this is suggested as a field of labor worthy of woman's appreciation and effort.

It is hoped that this presentation of our genealogical relations will prove of interest, and also that some general considerations on the subject will commend it to our kinsmen.

The study of genealogy impresses itself more and more favorably upon those who heartily engage in it. With infinite complexity of relation, and in innumerable directions, it may be made to illustrate problems in social science and individual experience. Questions of longevity, heredity, the transmission of physical and mental peculiarities, physiological and pathological laws, indeed everything pertaining to man's nature and destiny, may here find suggestion. These questions are too complex to be settled speedily, and it is the more important to gather material for future generalizations. Collecting material is humble work. But no one can tell how soon latent relations, among apparently incongruous elements, may become manifest. Galton is showing how possibly and eventually such materials may disclose the germs of results astounding and transcendent.

In less ambitious spheres this subject is equally important. The extending the feeling of kinship must aid the settlement of many social difficulties. That is a restricted idea of genealogy which limits it to the depicting the success of certain family lines who happen to be favored of fortune, or rewarded for their wisdom and virtues. On the contrary it should include the determining the relations of a race. Poverty, misconduct, and disgrace, should not debar from recognition those whom the ties of blood include. To the poor worker it must be an encouragement under life's burdens, and it may be a restraint to him or to her, around whom the Spirit still hovers with a pleading hitherto disregarded, to be reminded that links of relation can be traced, and are recognized with those whom fame and fortune and God's Providence have abundantly blessed.

In still humbler ways the study of genealogy is doing good. It helps us to estimate aright the daily incidents of life, which are apt to pass unheeded, but are really the materials for history. To embody them in language and to preserve their record is to benefit ourselves and others. Such records may have important relations to persons and property. The collections of the writer have repeatedly been the means of restoring brothers and sons who have long been separated by adverse fate, or by criminal neglect.

As a mere study or mental exercise it is eminently useful. It develops intellectual activity, bringing into constant play keenness of perception, and powers of combination and construction. What a pleasure it is to take trivial facts, and by a change of relation make them matters of dignity and importance.

As a solace amid the cares and distresses of life, few things are more effective. The mind can find immediate diversion by turning from its own troubles to the experiences, joyful and sad, of other persons, and these not indifferent ones, but those whose kinship gives occasion for sympathy. Temporarily relieved, the brain is enabled to resume its burdens with renewed energy, and again when occasion arises, will find its alternative work or pastime

ready with its soothing refreshment. It is often better to have one resource always at hand, for the purposes of relaxation rather than the dissipating effect of diverse methods, just as a continuous story, taken up on occasion, is more recuperative to the invalid than a number of disconnected topics of incident or suggestion.

To some extent and on a broad scale, the interest taken in this class of subjects measures the dignity and worth of the individual. Regard for others and appreciation of character and of incident are favorable to these studies, and in turn are fostered by them. The man who lacks the capacity and the sensibility for these emotions is a fair object of pity, but hardly of hope. Selfishness, degeneracy, and decay, mark the families where the ties of kin are ignored.

Here is a science with unlimited relations, a study adapted to every capacity, a pastime for every condition. It expands the intellect, enlarges the sympathies, and ennobles the nature.

To extend its advantages and contribute to its development is one object of this paper.

