

Ancestors of
General James M. Ruggles
1818—1901
of
Illinois

By Henry Stoddard Ruggles

Compliments of

MR. H. STODDARD RUGGLES

1846—

Wakefield Mass

Traditional and Historical

From the ancient Stafford line of De Ruggels, dating from the twelfth century, descended it is asserted, the Rugeley family of Stafford, Warwick and Leicester, and the Ruggles race of Essex, Suffolk and Kent, of New England and Canada.

William De Ruggels of Stafford, thirteenth century, was banished by his Sovereign, having killed in a duel a man held in high regard by the King. He went to Flanders, and there remained, though King Edward I, for his great deeds in war soon revoked the edict of banishment. Three of his sons felt the call of the homeland, if not of their native county of the north, and they settled, for reasons not apparent, in Essex. Another

son went to Switzerland. The name De Ruggle became in the lapse of time, Ruggley in Stafford and Flanders, and in Essex and Switzerland, Ruggle.

At a much later period another offshoot from the Stafford house went by the way of Warwick and Lincoln, to Suffolk, appearing in Sudbury in that county, about 1501. Their name there became, like that of the earlier settlers of Essex whose descendants had spread into Suffolk, Ruggle.

Briefly stated, this is all there is of the family legend.

Perhaps the most noted man of the name in the Southern Counties was George Ruggle (1575-1622) a Fellow of Clare College, University of Cambridge, who was also a Brother of the Virginia Company and its most ardent and tireless member. His interest in the welfare of Virginia was ^{further} manifested

after his death, by a bequest in his will for the instruction of the heathen Indian children, living there, in the Christian religion. He was the author of a Latin play, performed by the students of the University before King James, and which won from the Sovereign the high compliment of a second journey to Cambridge for the sole purpose of witnessing its repetition.

In later days the Essex branch had a son (though born in Kent, both his parents were from Essex) Major-General John Ruggles, one of the immortal Lucknow garrison, and afterward the Commander of the brigade whose assault gained the battle of the Stockades in Bhootan in 1865, which victory resulting in the annexation of the Doars to British territory, won his promotion.

The traditions of the two migrations are borne out by circumstantial evidences.

In Rietstap's heraldic work, published in Holland, are found the arms of Rugeley of Flanders, which duplicate those of Stafford. In Switzerland there have been families of the name, Ruggle, in the Cantons of Fribourg, Thurgau and St Gall. John Sydney Hawkins, in his biographical sketch of George Ruggle, in the preface of the printed play, claims the descent from Rugeley of Stafford and the removals to Lincoln and Suffolk, and Wright's History of Essex repeats his statements.

The name Rugeley is now extinct in England, being represented only in the family bearing the Ruggles name; there are however families in South Carolina, Louisiana and Texas named Rugeley, whose ancestor was Colonel Henry Rugeley, Loyalist of South Carolina, who served under Cornwallis and Rawdon.

Acestors

1.

Thomas¹ Ruggles, of Sudbury, Suffolk, England — his will dated June 21, 1547; he had a sister, Isabella, m. Norris, a brother William. His wife's name is unknown.

Children of Thomas Ruggles:

6. — 2. Nicholas, of Sudbury, Suffolk.

3. John, of Stanstead, Suffolk; his will proved May 19, 1566.

4. Ann.

5. Elizabeth.

6. (2)

Nicholas² Ruggles, of Sudbury. His wife's name is unknown.

Children of Nicholas Ruggles:

7. Roger, m. Margery Dandye, Feb. 23,
1573.
8. George, m. Alice Dandye, June 5,
1575; his will proved May 16, 1616,
mentions him as of Sudbury.
14. — 9. Thomas, of Sudbury, Suffolk and
Nasing, Essex.
10. Edward, m. and left issue.
11. William, m. (1) Mary Brundish, Octo.
6, 1577; m. (2) Lucy Grome, Octo.
11, 1585.
12. Robert, of Lavenham, Suffolk; m.
Elizabeth ; he d. June
21, 1605.
13. Margery, m. John Drury, Jan.
19, 1584.
-

14. (9)

Thomas³ Ruggles, of Sudbury, Suffolk
and Nasing, Essex. His wife's name is

unknown.

Children of Thomas Ruggles:

22.—15. Thomas, b. about 1584.

16. John, b. about 1591; d. Oct. 6, 1663;
he had 1st wife Barbara, who d.
Jan. 1636, and 2^d wife, Margery
Hammond, who d. Dec. 6, 1674.
He was freeman of Roxbury,
Mass. April 18, 1637.

17. Mary, bapt. Feb. 13, 1597.

18. Samuel, bapt. July 8, 1599.

19. Nathaniel, bapt. Mch. 15, 1601;
d. Aug. 5, 1601.

20. Nathaniel, bapt. Oct. 1602.

21. Florence, died May 3, 1603.

American Generations

In 1620 a single vessel, the Mayflower, brought the Pilgrims to New England, where they founded Plymouth. In 1630 seventeen ships brought the Puritans, who founded Boston. One might imagine that the earlier and smaller groups would be the one whose descendants would claim to be the more select and exclusive, but the contrary is the fact — to trace to the "ancestral Puritan Colony" rather than the Democratic Pilgrim Colony" has long been the boast of many New England families. The Puritans were mostly men of education and men of substance — it is claimed for them that they were largely gentry, though doubtless usually young or sons; that they voluntarily, many of

them, learned trades before leaving England that in the new country they might be useful. Their theories of life, duties, discipline and government were peculiar, and much that they did is little understood or their motives in doing. They submitted to the rule of their clergy who completely dominated them; for though the freemen of the colony elected their governor, no man could become a freeman until he had first been admitted to membership of the Church.

Few in the beginning had servants in the meaning of the term at the present day, their "help" were from the families of their neighbors and lived on terms of equality with them. In their theories of discipline it was a practice to place a small child, five or ten years of age, one or sometimes two out of a family, into the hands of a friend or relative to be

brought up by such guardian. Perhaps duly to impress upon the child suitable respect for the person into whose charge and family circle he entered, and to instil a proper degree of humility, such child was always designated as "servant." The parents of the child were often enough far better endowed with worldly goods or a step higher in social standing than the new master and mistress, and in many cases such children came to these shores in those families when their own parents remained in England to come later, or had preceded them.

In the later generations there were African slaves in the houses of the well-to-do, and the distinctions of class, by a code partly of their own creation, were scrupulously recognized, down to the days of the Revolution. Clergymen, military officers, judges

and those who had filled superior civil positions in the government found their appropriate places in this system, and Honourable, Esquire, and Mister, as appendages to a man's name, had a real significance and relative values, and Deacon was a title of honor, without the church as within, which, once acquired, endured for life.

Under the royal charter from Charles I which created the colony of Massachusetts Bay, Sir Richard Saltonstall, John Winthrop, Thomas Dudley and Isaac Johnson led the Puritans in their colonisation, and the settlement of Roxbury followed soon after that of Boston, of which city it is now a part.

Thomas Ruggles did not arrive in Roxbury until 1637 — and others of the stock, John, Samuel and George, had preceded him in Boston by seven years, and thus we find the family

represented in the founding of Massachusetts Bay colony as well as in that of Virginia, in which George Ruggle, a Church of England man, some years before had had so prominent a part.

The Ruggles coat-of-arms shown on a later page is a rough pen drawing after the framed painting in the Robert Noxon Toppin Collection of colonial arms of the Historical Society of Old Newbury. The connection of the family with Newbury is found in the marriage of Captain Samuel⁶ to Martha Woodbridge of that place, and also in that of his descendant, James¹⁰ to Elizabeth Toppin. These arms are substantially the same as those which have been found in the different branches of the family at large. A startling exception was however encountered in a branch from Connecticut, in a family of another name, but descended through two female lines from Ruggles. In

the pewter engraved crest of unknown age, instead of a tower, there is a flaming sword erect, point upwards, behind which are two arrows saltirewise, pointing downward — a very striking design but never before seen. The men of that family used this Ruggles crest on signets as their own — for this they have excellent American precedent in the example of John Adams, second president of the United States who claimed always the arms of his mother's family (Boylston) to the exclusion of any Adams coat, and his Adams descendants to the present time so use these Boylston arms. There is noticeable uniformity in the Ruggles armorials as compared with some of their American neighbors, for Governor Winthrop used as his seal a dove with olive branch while his descendants all show a scampering hare for their crest; the American Appletons use to-day a shield with

three apples, and an elephant's head as the crest, yet the only colonial evidence of their ancestor's armorial claim is an old tombstone in Ipswich, Massachusetts on whose shield are pineapples, and a pineapple is the crest. These examples may be extended indefinitely. A seal in the olden days here was often an unsafe guide, for on documents anything was acceptable as a seal — the same man may use his personal seal one day, and on the morrow if he had not it along with him, find any small coin in his pocket a handy substitute. Several men of different family names uniting in the execution of a paper, have ^{all} of them used the same seal, that of the man in whose house the document was signed. Those who maintain that our ancestors were particular in such matters have only to make some researches to make some discoveries.

22. (15)

Thomas⁴ Ruggles, of Nasing, Essex, and Roxbury, Massachusetts Bay Colony, b. about 1584, in Sudbury, Suffolk; d. in Roxbury, Nov. 15, 1644. His will dated Nov. 9, 1644; freeman of Roxbury May 22, 1639; his holdings of real estate scheduled on page 1 of Roxbury Book of Possessions 1639. His house stood opposite the First Church — the building now on its site is numbered 50 John Eliot Square. He m. in Nasing, Nov. 1, 1620, Mary, dau. of Thomas and Mary (Camp) Curtis of Nasing. Children of Thomas Ruggles and Mary Curtis:

23. Thomas, bapt. Aug. 25, 1621; d. y.

24. Mary, bapt. Feb. 15, 1623; d. y.

25. John, bapt. Jan. 6, 1625; m. Abigail, dau. of Griffin Craft, the first settler of Roxbury.

26. Sarah, bapt. Feb. 17, 1628; m. William Lyon.

28. — 27. Samuel, bapt. March 14, 1629

28. (27)

Captain Samuel⁵ Ruggles, of Roxbury, bapt. Mch. 14, 1629 in Nasing; d. Aug. 15, 1692 in Roxbury. Letters

of administration were granted to Anna Ruggles relict of Capt. Samuel Ruggles of Roxbury deceased intestate and to sons Samuel and Thomas Ruggles, dated Sept. 12, 1692. He was captain of Roxbury militia, and active in overthrow of Andros. He m. (1) Jan. 10, 1654, Hannah, dau. of George Fowle of Charlestown - she d. Oct. 26, 1669 in Roxbury. He m. (2) May 26, 1670, Anna, dau. of Henry Bright of Watertown - she d. Sept. 5, 1711 in Roxbury.

Children of Captain Samuel Ruggles and Hannah Fowle:

- 29. Hannah, b. Jan. 21, 1655; d. y.
- 30. Mary, b. Jan. 10, 1656; d. y.
- 44. — 31. Samuel, b. June 1, 1658.
- 32. Joseph, b. Feb. 12, 1660; d. y.
- 33. Hannah, b. Dec. 11, 1661; d. y.
- 34. Sarah, b. Nov. 18, 1663; d. y.
- 35. Mary, b. Dec. 8, 1666; m. (1) Ebenezer Pierpont, (2) Isaac Harris.
- 36. Sarah, b. Aug. 30, 1669; d. y.

Children of Capt. Samuel Ruggles and
Anna Bright:

37. Thomas, b. March 10, 1671 (Rev.
Thomas Ruggles of Guilford, Conn.
Fellow of Yale University 1710 —
1728).

38. Anna, b. Sept. 30, 1672; m. William
Heath of Roxbury.

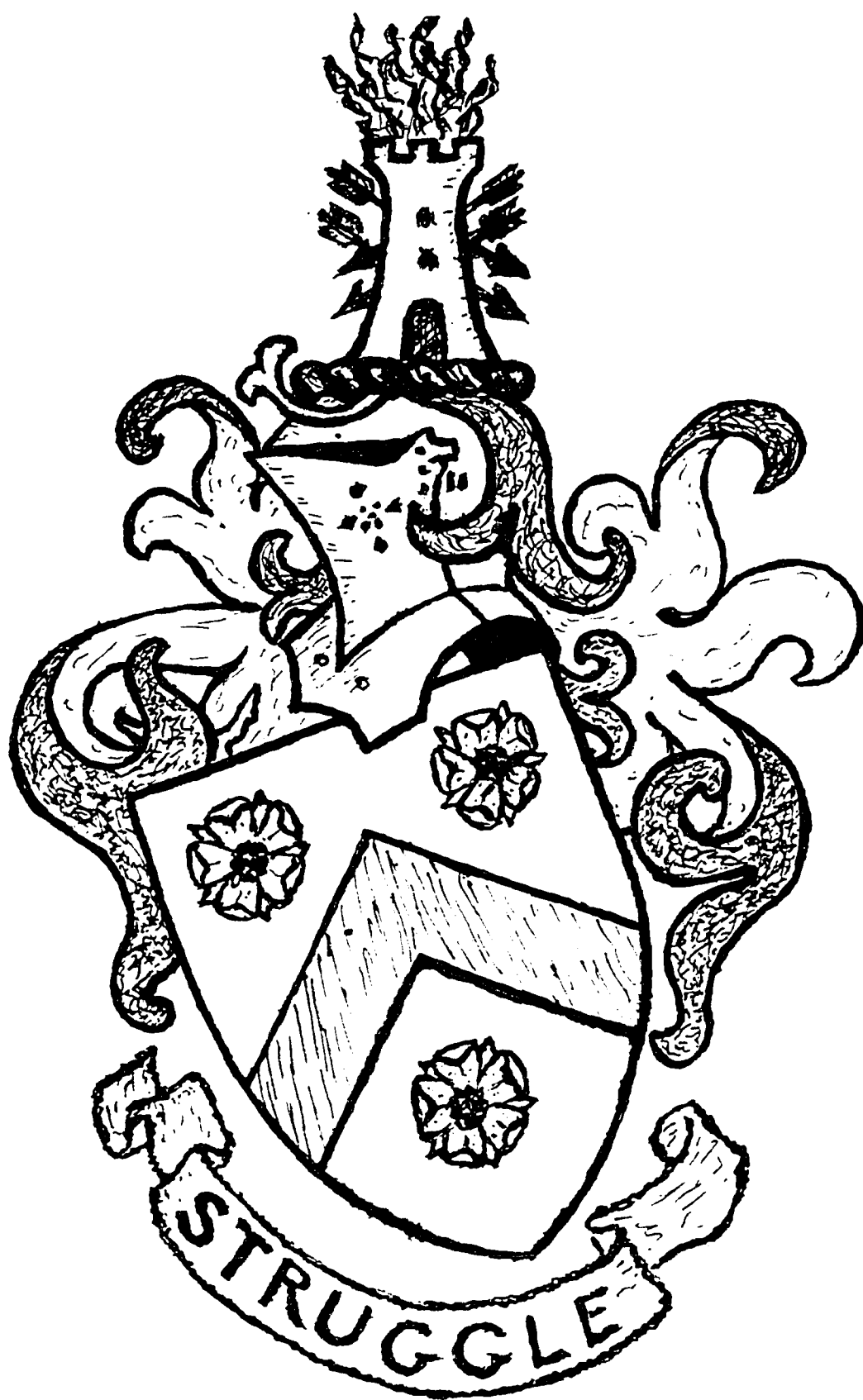
39. Nathaniel, b. Octo. 22, 1674; d. yf.

40. Elizabeth, b. May 1, 1677; m. James
Payley of Newbury.

41. Nathaniel, b. Feb. 9, 1679; d.
unn.

42. Henry, b. July 7, 1681; d. unn.

43. Huldah, b. July 4, 1684; m.
Samuel Hall of Guilford,
Conn.



*Ruggles Arms
(Toppan Collection)*

44. (31)

Captain Samuel⁶ Ruggles, of Roxbury, b. June 1, 1658 in Roxbury; d. there Feb. 25, 1716; owner of large landed estates in Roxbury, Newbury and elsewhere; succeeded his father as Captain of militia; m. July 8, 1680 Martha, dau. of Rev. John Woodbridge of Newbury and his wife, Mercy Dudley, dau. of Governor Thomas Dudley. [A testimonial to this lady's perennial charms is still preserved in a letter written six years after the decease of her husband, by no less a person than Samuel Sewall, Chief Justice of the Province, asking her hand in marriage. This flattering proposal was by her rejected, for the judge married within the year the widow of Robert Gibbs].

Children of Capt. Samuel Ruggles and Martha Woodbridge:

45. Samuel, b. Dec. 3, 1681 (Rev. Samuel

- Ruggles of Fillerica, Harvard Univ. 1702).
46. Lucy, b. Sept. 8, 1683; m. Joseph Stevens.
55. — 47. Timothy, b. Nov. 3, 1685.
48. Hannah, b. April 10, 1688; m. William
Koyes of Newbury.
49. Patience, b. Nov. 9, 1689; m. James
Robinson of Roxbury.
50. Martha, b. Feb. 1, 1691; m. Job Lane.
51. Sarah, b. June 18, 1694; m. John
Holbrook.
52. Joseph, b. July 21, 1696. (Captain
Joseph Ruggles).
53. Mary, b. Sept. 20, 1698.
54. Benjamin, b. July 4, 1700. (Rev.
Benjamin Ruggles of Middlebo-
rough; Yale Univ. 1721 — His
name heads the list of his class
because of the social rank of
his family).
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55. (47)

Rev. Timothy⁷ Ruggles, of Roxbury and Rochester, Mass., b. Nov 3, 1685 in Roxbury; d. Oct 24, 1768, in Rochester; Harvard Univ. 1707. He m(1) Sept 27, 1710, Mary, dau. of Benjamin and Susannah (Coggswell) White of Brookline, who d. Jan. 23, 1749; he m. (2) March 26, 1750, Anne Woodworth.

Children of Rev. Timothy Ruggles and Mary White:

56. Timothy, b. Oct. 20 1711. (General Timothy Ruggles, French and Indian War; the first man of American birth to reach the rank of a general officer; later the famous Loyalist).

57. Benjamin, b. May 19, 1713 (Capt. Benjamin Ruggles of Hardwick, soldier of the Revolution).

58. Samuel, b. July 5, 1715 (of Barre; a

soldier of the Revolution).

59. Joseph, b. June 13, 1717, (of Hardwick).

60. Mary, b. Jan. 1, 1719; m. John Hammond.

61. Susanna, b. Jan. 6, 1721; m. Paul Mandell.

68.—62. Edward, b. Aug. 30, 1723, (Hon. Edward Ruggles of Hardwick).

63. Nathaniel, b. April 12, 1725, (Captain Nathaniel Ruggles of Rochester, a soldier of the Revolution).

64. Thomas, b. July 13, 1727; d. y.

65. Hannah, b. Oct. 18, 1728; d. y.

66. Thomas, b. Mch 2, 1730, (Dr. Thomas Ruggles of Rochester, officer of the "George" French and Indian War, and a soldier of the Revolution).

67. John, b. Sept. 2, 1731; d. unm.

68. (62)

Hon. Edward⁸ Ruggles, of Hardwick,
b. Aug. 30, 1723, in Rochester; d. May 21, 1778,
in Hardwick. He was one of the largest
landholders in that place; his residence
there "Ruggles Hill" was upon the sum-
mit of that elevation. "He was a prom-
inent and useful man." He m. Lu-
cy, dau. of Daniel and Elizabeth
(Ruggles) Spooner, granddaughter of John⁶
and Hannah (Devotion) Ruggles, and lineal de-
scendant of John⁴ Ruggles (No. 16 in this record)
of Nasing, Essex and Roxbury, Mass., the line
being, John⁴, John⁵, bapt. Dec. 28, 1632 in Nas-
ing; d. Feb. 25, 1713 in Roxbury; m. Apr. 3, 1655, Ma-
ry, dau. of John Gibson of Cambridge; John⁶, b. Oct.
16, 1657, in Roxbury, d. Dec. 28, 1711 in Roxbury, m. there
Hannah, dau. of Edward Devotion of Brookline,
May 1, 1679. Edward Devotion [De Vaution] was
a French Huguenot of noble family, from

Rochelle, France.

Children of Hon. Edward Ruggles and Lucy Spooner:

69. Timothy, b. Sept 25, 1748, (Capt. Timothy Ruggles, Continental Army war of the Revolution).
- 77-70. Edward, b. Aug. 26, 1750, (Capt. Edward Ruggles of Hardwick).
71. Elizabeth, b. Octo. 29, 1752; m. Paul Dean of Hardwick.
72. Daniel, b. Jan. 5, 1756, (Hon. Daniel Ruggles of Hardwick, soldier of the Revolution, lieutenant in 1779).
73. Lucy, b. 1765; d. imm.
74. Constant, b. Nov. 27, 1767, (Constant Ruggles of Pelham 1817).
75. James, b. Octo. 30, 1770. (He was one of the founders of the city of Toronto, Ontario, being one of the first settlers in York, the original name — in the year 1834 changed to

Toronto. He was lost, with the other gentlemen in the "Speedy" in the great storm on Lake Ontario in 1804—the first great calamity in the history of Ontario. The passengers were the officials of the Assize Court, and lawyers, on their way to ^{Newcastle, there to} open court. The marriage of "James Ruggles, Esquire and Esther Durham" was the seventh marriage performed and recorded by Rev. George Stuart in York).

76. Nathan, b. May 13, 1774, (Nathan Ruggles, Esq. of New Haven, Connecticut, who bore a striking resemblance to General Lafayette, and that brilliant Frenchman did not excel him in native gentility of manner").

77. (70)

Captain Edward Ruggles, of "Ruggles Hill", Hardwick, b. Aug. 26, 1750, in Hardwick, d. there Jan. 17, 1805; minute-man and sergeant in Continental Army war of the Revolution, and captain of a company in defense of the Government in Shays' Rebellion, 1786-1787. He m. Jan. 12, 1772, Anna, dau. of Paul Dean and sister of Paul Dean, Jr. who married her husband's sister, Elizabeth Ruggles.

Children of Capt. Edward Ruggles and Anna Dean:

78. Paul, b. Dec. 4, 1772, (Rev. Paul Ruggles of Carmel, Maine, a captain in War of 1812).

79. Asa, b. June 28, 1774; lost at sea Octo. 19, 1798.

80. Abel, b. Mch. 26, 1776.

81. Mary, b. Jan. 18, 1778; m. Daniel Thomas, of Kendall, New York.

82. Ezra, b. Jan. 25, 1780; d. unm.
83. Fanny, b. Jan. 7, 1781; m. Timothy Rich of Medford.
84. Lucy, b. 1784; d. y.
85. Ira, b. Oct. 29, 1785, (of Hardwick).
86. Almira, b. Dec. 11, 1787; m. Timothy Wells of Racine, Wisconsin.
87. Lucy, b. April 20, 1791; m. Woodhull Helme of Byron, Ills.
88. Edward, b. Aug. 11, 1793; d. 1810.
91. — 89. Spooner, b. Aug. 4, 1795.
90. Anna, b. Oct. 2, 1799; m. William Barr of Hardwick.

91. (89)
 Hon. Spooner¹⁰ Ruggles, of Rockford, Illinois, b. Aug. 4, 1795, in Hardwick, Mass., d. 1874. He was a soldier of the War of 1812; in 1842, elected to the Illinois State Senate, and three times re-elected; in 1849, Judge

of the County Court. He m. Jan. 28, 1816,
Lydia Drown.

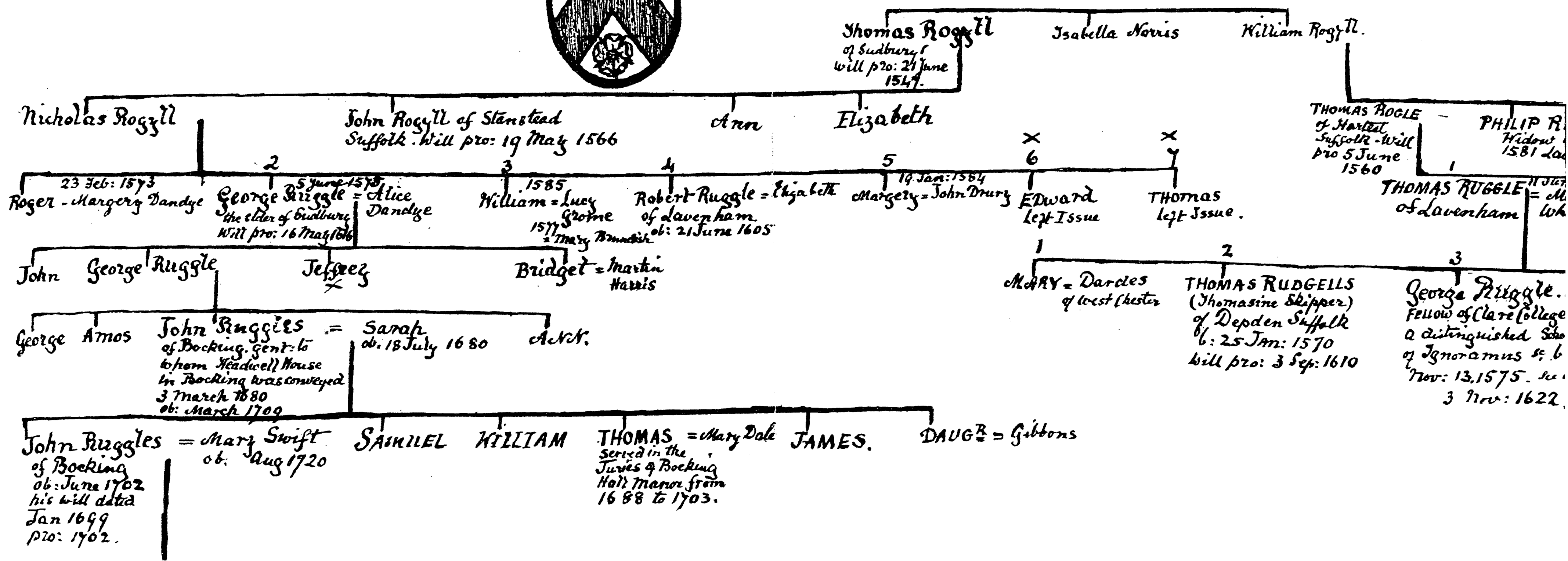
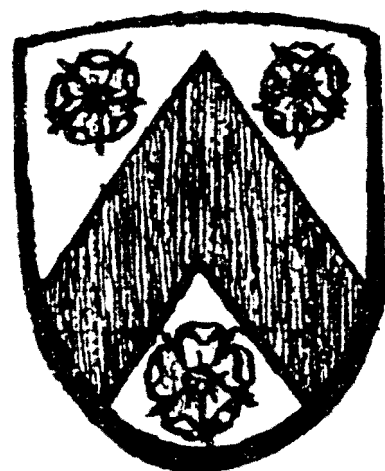
Children of Hon. Spooner Ruggles and
Lydia Drown:

92. Franklin, b. Jan. 3, 1817, (of Path, Ills.).

93. James M., b. Mch. 7, 1818, (General
Ruggles of Havana, Ills. He was State
senator 1852-1856; July 1861, Quarter-
master 1st regiment Illinois Volunteer
Cavalry - he resigned for promotion
as Major 3^d regiment Illinois Volun-
teer Cavalry, Sept. 1861; July 1862 was
promoted to Lieut.-Colonel for bravery
at the battle of Pea Ridge; and brevetted
Brigadier-General to date from March
13, 1865, "for faithful and meritorious
services"; d. Feb. 16, 1901; m. (1) Mary
J. Field, June 27, 1844; m. (2) Elvira
Wheelock, June 28, 1868.

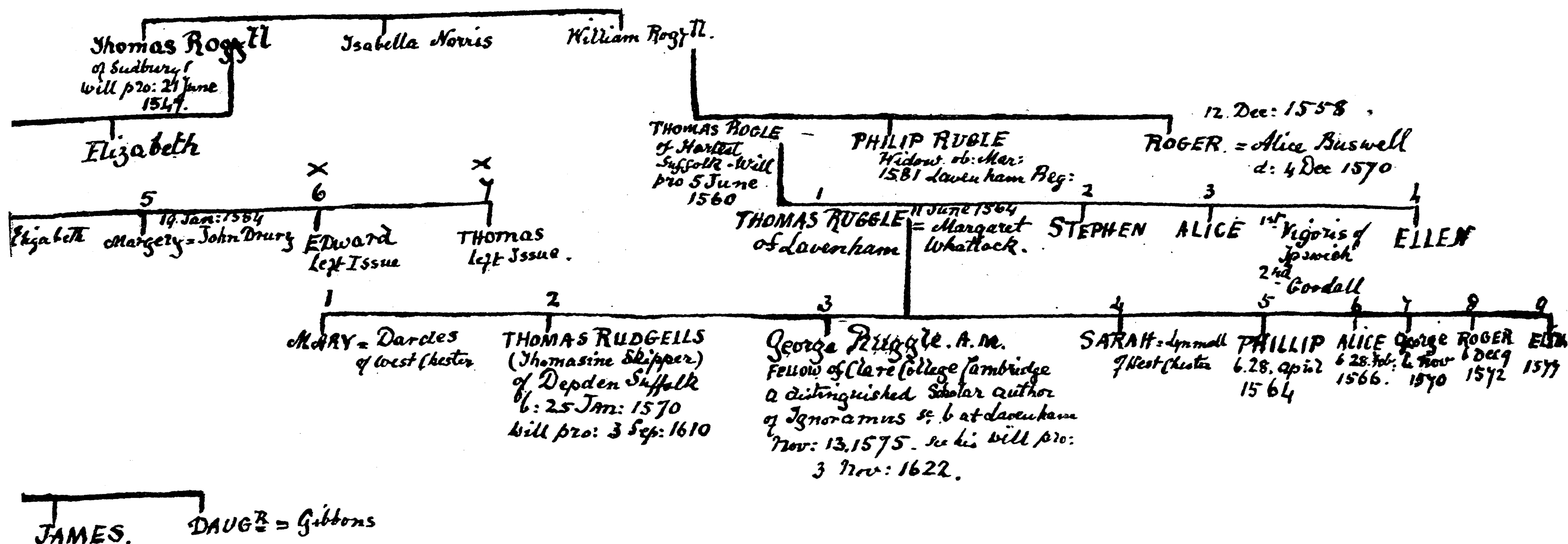
94. Sophia Louisa, b. June 18, 1819;

- m. Samuel Walcutt, of Oregon, Ills.
95. Cornelia A., b. Nov. 6, 1821; m.
Isaac M. Howell of Aurora, Ills.
96. Edward, b. April 15, 1823.
97. Liberty, b. Nov. 15, 1824, (of North-
field, Minn., and Faribault, Wis-
consin).
98. Sarah M., b. Octo. 26, 1826; d. y.
99. Spooner, b. Sept. 18, 1828.
100. William M., b. May 3, 1830, (of
Cherokee, Iowa).
101. Thomas C., b. Sept. 20, 1831.
102. Lydia J. b. Feb. 7, 1834; m.
Lucius B. Clark of Chicago.
-



X American Families Descend From These.

The original of this chart was owned by
Thomas Ruggles, Esq. (1737-1813) of Spains Hall,
and was presented by Lady Marianne
Ruggles-Brise to Mr W. Stoddard Ruggles
of Boston, U. S. A.



X American Families Descend From These.

The original of this chart was owned by
 as Ruggles, Esq. (1737-1813) of Spains Hall,
 who gave it to W. H. Standard Ruggles
 of Boston, U.S.A.

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Wakefield Mass^{ts}
Nov 1 1924

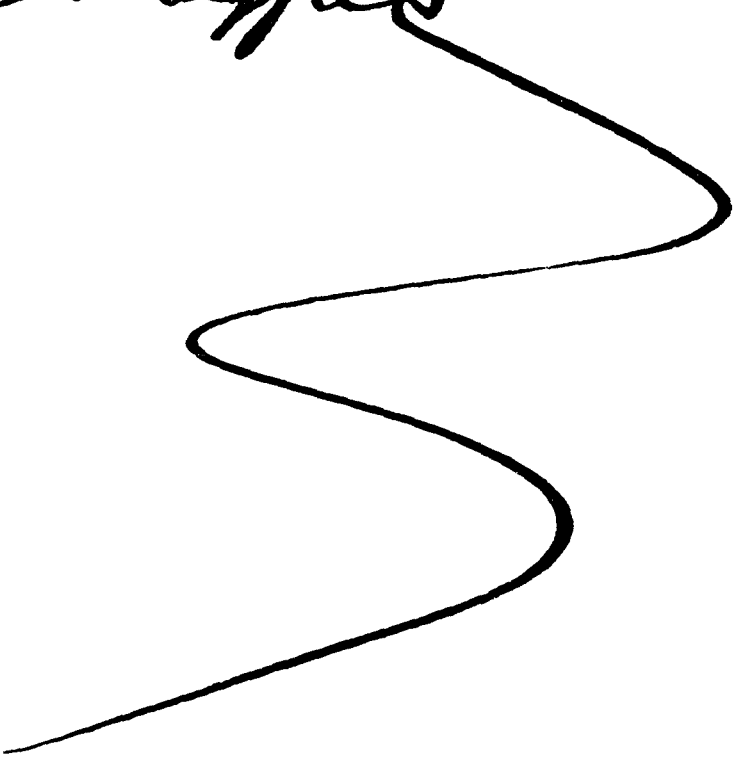
To the Librarian

There have often appeared in print statements that the Ruggles Mansion in Cambridge was built by others than Captain Ruggles — by Marrett and by Fayerweather.

I am enclosing a statement of fact, in the matter, which I beg you to place in your collections where it may be found.

Gratefully Yours

H S Hingles

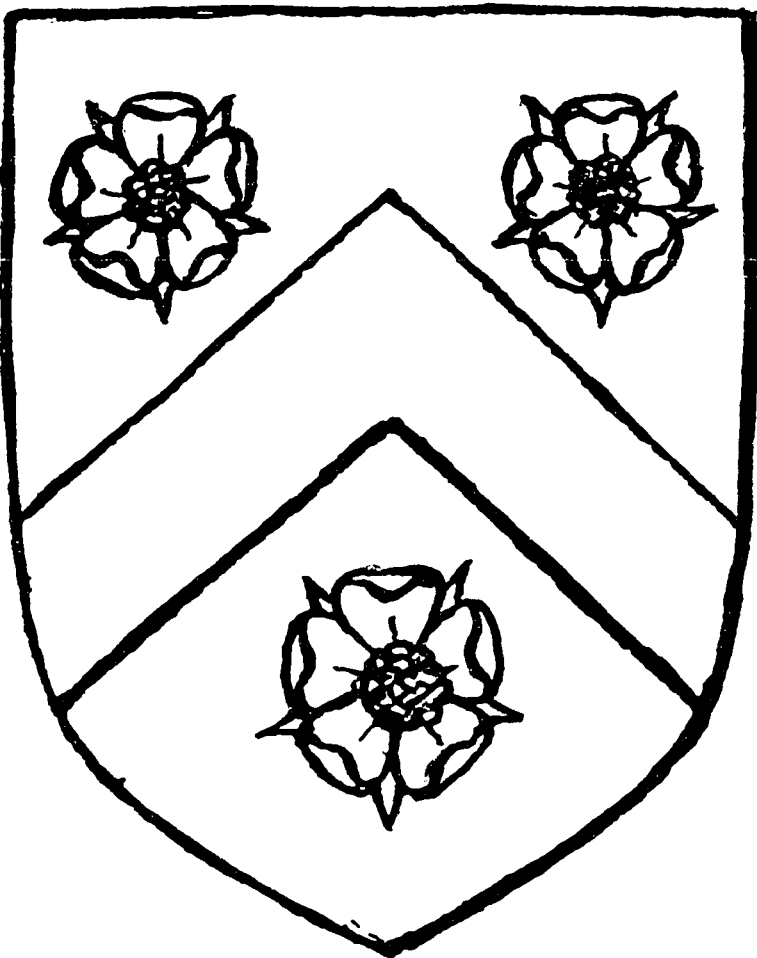




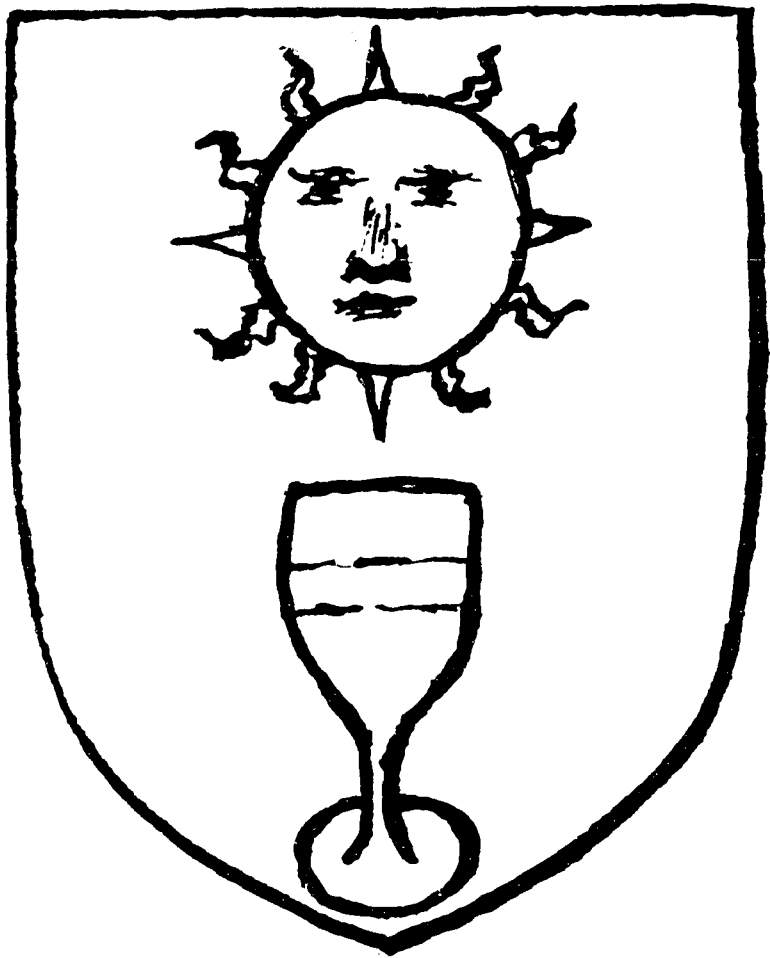
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS — RUGGLES MANSION

Captain George Ruggles — Susanna Vassall

Ruggles



Vassall



George Ruggles's mansion on Brattle Street, Cambridge, is the only one of the ancient Ruggles houses of Boston and its surroundings to remain to our day — the so-called Ruggles house in Milton was built by the Babcock family and was not acquired by its Ruggles owners until the nineteenth century. Captain George Ruggles lived in Boston on Seven Stars Lane. He had pew N° 11 in King's Chapel in 1747. His wife, whom he married in 1743, was the daughter of Major Leonard Vassall of Cambridge. May 1, 1764, "Amos Morrett, yeoman" of Cambridge, conveyed to "George Ruggles, Esquire" of Boston, fifty-five acres of land in Cambridge, on which there was no building. Oct. 31, 1774, Ruggles deeded this land to Fayerweather, "with the houses, edifices and buildings thereon." This house was built by Captain Ruggles in 1764-5, and he occupied it until 1774. Built into the fireplace was his coat-of-arms — this was later removed by Fayerweather and the Fayerweather arms substituted. The Ruggles shield on the opposite page, is copied from the one he used later in England, and is presumably the same as that of the fireplace. He went to Essex, and died there in 1779.* Pictures of Captain Ruggles and his wife, were painted in Boston, were not carried to England, but passed to the Lewis family here — the daughter of Captain Ruggles being Mrs. Ezekiel Lewis of Boston. Probably they now survive somewhere, as unidentified portraits.

* "Uncle Ruggles died in 1779." — Captain Vassall Henslowe, Colchester, England.

