

THE  
**WEARE FAMILY,**  
OF  
HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
AND  
NORTH YARMOUTH, MAINE.

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[WILLIAM M. SARGENT.]

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“OLD TIMES” OFFICE,  
YARMOUTH, MAINE.

1879.



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Explanation of the Plate.

The signature marked (1), is that of Chief Justice Nathaniel Weare, (No. 3 in the Genealogy), at the age of 67, and together with that marked (3) of his son, Colonel Peter Weare, is taken from an original power of attorney from said Peter to Capt. John Pickering, of the date shown, to prosecute against Richard King, of Kittery, such claims as accrued to him in right of his (second) wife, the daughter of Gabriel Tetherly, of Kittery, and widow of John West.

The signature marked (2), is that of Hon. Nathaniel Weare, (No. 13), at the age of 64, taken from his official acknowledgment of a deposition, now in the Willis MSS. collection.

That marked (3), is the signature of Colonel Peter Weare, (No. 10), sealed with the fragmentary family coat-of-arms, as shown, at the age of 38, obtained as explained above: that marked (4), is his signature at the age of 62, obtained from an original deed, also accompanied with a fragmentary impression of the family coat-of-arms, as shown.

That marked (5), is the signature of Capt. Peter Weare, (No. 21), at the age of 40, obtained from an original deed.

That marked (6), is the signature of Joseph Weare, (No. 41), at the age of 15 : that marked (7), is his signature at the age of 23 ; both obtained from original documents.

All the members of this family have always and invariably spelled their names WEARE, and any variations of it have been recorded through the ignorance or carelessness of others. A reference to the coat-of-arms used by them in 1698, and a consultation of "Burke's Armory," leads to the inevitable conclusion that this family was of English origin, and not of Scottish, as might be inferred from the article printed in the "Genealogical Register," Vol. 25, p. 246. An English writer says the name was formerly DeVere<sup>(1)</sup>, but this perhaps needs further confirmation.

The first of this family in this country, according to record, was

1 NATHANIEL WEARE, an early proprietor of Newbury, Massachusetts, where his name is of frequent occurrence in the town records early in 1638, and for twenty years afterwards<sup>(2)</sup>. He removed, probably as early as 1659, to Nantucket, in which he was interested as a purchaser, and died there March 1, 1680-1, (Gen. Reg., Vol. 7, p. 182.)

His children were, by his wife Sarah \_\_\_\_\_,—

2 Esther<sup>(3)</sup> (or Hester) ; b. 1629(?) ; m., 1st, Benjamin Sweet, 1 Nov. 1647<sup>(3)</sup>, and had by him 11 children ; m., 2d, Steven Greenleaf.

3 Nathaniel<sup>(3)</sup> ; b. about 1631, in England. (See below after No. 8)

The above were certainly his children, as is abundantly proven by various records. It is thought by excellent authority that he had also the following children :

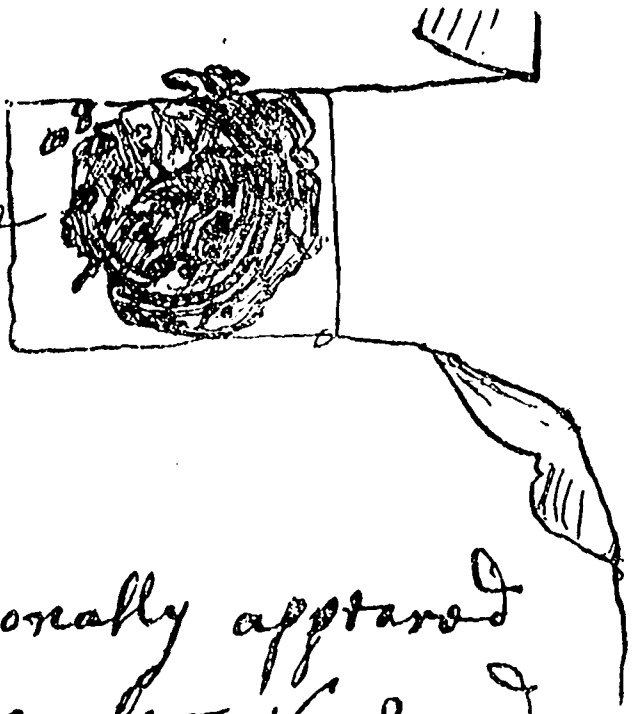
4 Robert.

5 Daniel.

6 Peter. He was probably the "Peter Wyer" who "died Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1653," as the entry stands on the Newbury records. He certainly was not the father of the children first given above, as both Coffin, Farmer and Thornton (Gen. Reg. Vol. 6, p. 49, and Vol. 13, p. 272) have stated, as has been abundantly and satisfactorily shown by the more careful investigations of the Hons. S. D. Bell and Joseph Dow. Indeed the proof that the Massachusetts genealogists were wrong, exists upon the records themselves, for the last named Nathaniel Weare, being then of Hampton, N. H., in his deposition (Gen. Reg. Vol. 6, p. 50) calls the Benjamin Sweet, above, his brother-in-law ; so that either their wives were sisters, or, one of these men must have married a sister of the other : but the records show that "Nathaniel Weare and Elizabeth Swayne was married Dec'r 3, 1656"<sup>(3)</sup>. Sweet did marry a Weare, and she must have been a sister of the above Nathaniel, in order to

Peter Weare

③



New Hampshire

Left Peter Weare personally appeared  
this 29<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1698 and  
acknowledged the above written letter  
of attorney to be his act & deed before  
me Nath<sup>l</sup> Weare of counsel

①

4 April 1733.

② Nath<sup>l</sup> Weare Justice  
of peace

Peter Weare

④



From a Deed, dated,  
13 Feby 1721/2

From a Deed 23 May 1735

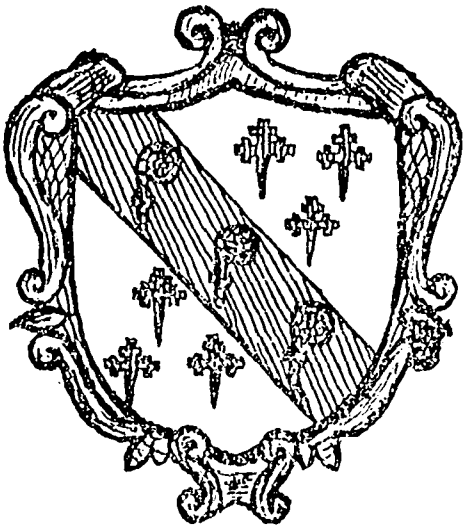
⑤ Peter Weare

11 Oct. 1752 - Joseph Weare

⑥

31 Mch 1760.. Joseph Weare

⑦



The fragmentary arms, as shown  
on the above seals, should in their  
entirety, be tricked thus:  
Compare with "Burke's Armory,"  
which gives this description of the  
arms of Weare, of Near. Gifford  
County of Devon:

"Argent, on a bend vert, between six crosses crosslet  
fitchée gules, three croziers or."

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establish the relationship he deposed to as above; and of course her father was his father too. What was this father's name? The record of her marriage gives the solution, viz: "Benjamin Sweett was married to Hester, daughter of Nathaniel Weare, 1 Nov. 1647<sup>(3)</sup>).

7 Mary; b. ———; m. John Swayne, and removed to Nantucket<sup>(2)</sup>.

8 Mehitable; b. ———; m. Daniel Tilton.

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Hon. Nathaniel Weare (3), m., 3 Dec. 1656<sup>(3)</sup>, Elizabeth, daughter of Richard and Basselle Swayne, of Hampton. He lived in Newbury a few years after his marriage, and his first two children were born there. In 1662, he removed to Hampton, N. H., having had a conveyance of land there, 31 Oct. 1661<sup>(4)</sup>, from his father-in-law, Richard Swayne, who describes himself therein as "late of Hampton," (he had removed with his two younger sons to Nantucket). He became one of the most influential men, not only in that town but throughout the Province. He went twice to England, with the remonstrances of his fellow-townsmen and all those in the Province who were opposed to Cranfield and Mason, and who were oppressed by them, and acted as their agent to prosecute the appeals against Mason's judgments, before the King in Council.

Besides minor offices that he held, he was a Councillor of the Government of New Hampshire from 1692 to January, 1698-9, and again from 31 July 1699, to 24 Dec. 1715, when he voluntarily resigned, "in consideration of his age and remote living." He was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1694-5. He was a Justice of the Peace, occasionally, till 1699, and after that, Justice of the Quorum till his retirement in 1715.

His wife, Elizabeth, died 10 Feb'y 1712: he died 13 May 1718, in his 87th year<sup>(2)</sup>.

Their children were:

9 Elizabeth; b. 5 Jan'y 1657-8, at Newbury<sup>(3)</sup>; m. Thomas Cram, and had 4 children.

10 Peter; b. 15 Nov. 1660, at Newbury<sup>(3)</sup>. (See below after No. 15).

11 Mary; b. 23 Sept. 1663, at Hampton<sup>(9)</sup>; d., unmarried, 6 Sept. 1682, aged 19.

12 Sarah; b. 11 Aug. 1666.

13 Nathaniel; b. 29 Aug. 1669. (See below after No. 19).

14 Hannah; b. 7th 11 mo. 1672 (i.e. 7 Jan'y 1673<sup>(6)</sup>).

15 Abigail; b. 13 Sept. 1676<sup>(6)</sup>.

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Hon. Peter Weare (10), called also "Colonel" in his latter days,

was also an important man in the Province, although apparently not always on the popular side. He was a large dealer in real estate, both here [N. H.] and in Maine. He kept the principal inn outside of Portsmouth. He succeeded his father as a Councilor of the Province. He was also for four years a Justice of the Superior Court.

He married, 1st, 6 Jan'y 1692<sup>(5)</sup>, Elizabeth Wilson, of Exeter, who died 29 June of the same year<sup>(6)</sup>. He married, 2d, before 1698, Widow Elizabeth West, (daughter of Gabriel Tetherly, and widow of John West<sup>(8)</sup>). He died subsequent to Sept. 1744.

His children were :

16 Peter ; b. 22 Dec. 1698.

17 Nathaniel ; b. — — — 1700.

18 Susannah ; b. 1 May 1702 ; m., 4 March 1722, Captain Nathaniel Healey.

19 Ebenezer ; b. 4 March 1708.

There are now no descendants of Colonel Peter Weare who bear his name.

Hon. Nathaniel Weare (13), called also "Deacon" and "Judge," was also a man of mark, and his retirement from the bench was, no doubt, connected with the revival of Mason's proprietary claim, which his father had so long and actively opposed. He was for eight years a Justice of the Peace, and for four years a Justice of the Superior Court. He was largely interested in purchases of land at the Eastward, buying of Sir William Pepperell, at Biddeford<sup>(9 10)</sup>, and at North Yarmouth, of Gedney<sup>(11 12)</sup>. He is termed "millwright," in the Pepperell deed, and he built a mill at North Yarmouth as early as 1719, by one account<sup>(11)</sup>, or 1715, by another<sup>(12)</sup>.

He married, 1st, 17 Nov. 1692<sup>(6)</sup>, Huldah Hussey who died 2 May 1701<sup>(6)</sup>. He married, 2d, 24 Aug. 1703<sup>(5)</sup>, Mary Wait. He died 26 March 1755, probably in that part of Hampton now called Hampton Falls, and his will was proved 24 April following.

By his first wife he had :

20 Daniel ; b. 12 Sept. 1693<sup>(6)</sup>.

21 Peter ; b. 16 Jan'y 1695<sup>(6)</sup>. (See below after No. 32).

22 John ; b. 12 Nov. 1696<sup>(6)</sup>.

23 Hannah ; b. 12 Jan'y 1699<sup>(6)</sup>.

24 Huldah ; b. 16 Jan'y 1701<sup>(6)</sup>.

By his second wife he had :

25 Nathan ; b. 22 Sept. 1705<sup>(6)</sup> ; d. unm., 17 June 1725.

26 Mary ; b. 19 Dec. 1706 ; m. Jeremiah Brown, 7 Dec. 1728.

27 Mercy ; b. 22 March 1708<sup>(6)</sup> ; d. 18 March 1722-3.

28 Sarah ; b. 5 July 1709-10<sup>(6)</sup>.

29 Elizabeth ; b. 11 Oct. 1711<sup>(6)</sup> ; mar., 13 Dec. 1733<sup>(6)</sup>,



Joseph Tilton.

- 30 Meshech ; b. 16 Jan'y 1713<sup>(6)</sup>. (See below after No. 42).  
 31 Abigail ; b. 17 May 1716<sup>(6)</sup>.  
 32 Mehitabel ; b. 18 Dec. 1720<sup>(6)</sup>.

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Capt. Peter Weare (21), (No. 88, 1st Ch. Cat.), removed to North Yarmouth, Maine, and, as he himself deposed, married there, 30 May 1720, Sarah Felt, (No. 48, 1st Ch. Cat.), and was at that time Town Clerk<sup>(14)</sup>. He rebuilt, for the third time, the saw-mill, about this date<sup>(12)</sup>, which he received from his father, Nathaniel, above. He was drowned while crossing the river, near his house, 13 April 1743, and his body was found and interred 5 May following<sup>(14)</sup>, although the inscription from his gravestone, as printed on p. 5, "OLD TIMES," makes his death occur just one month earlier. His widow died 3 Jan'y 1768<sup>(14)</sup>.

Their children were :

- 33 Huldah ; b. 14 Nov. 1721 ; m., 19 Apr. 1737, Richard Mitchell, of Kittery<sup>(14)</sup>.  
 34 Sarah ; b. 27 Feb'y 1723, at Hampton<sup>(14)</sup>.  
 35 Lydia ; (No. 124, 1st Ch. Cat.) ; b. 21 Aug. 1726, at Hampton ; m., 13 July 1743, Jacob Brown<sup>(14)</sup>.  
 36 Content ; b. 7 Jan'y 1728, at North Yarmouth ; d. 8 Oct. 1737<sup>(14)</sup>.  
 37 ——— ; b. and d. in March, 1731<sup>(14)</sup>.  
 38 Peter ; b. 29 May 1732<sup>(14)</sup> ; d. 24 Sept. 1737<sup>(14)</sup> ; (See p. 5, "OLD TIMES").  
 39 Daniel ; b. 14 Nov. 1734<sup>(14)</sup> ; d. 24 Sept. 1737<sup>(14)</sup> ; (See p. 5, "OLD TIMES").  
 40 Joseph ; b. 9 March 1737<sup>(14)</sup>. (See below after No. 30).  
 41 Elijah ; b. 29 Oct. 1739<sup>(14)</sup>. (See below after No. 51).  
 42 Hannah ; b. 22 Aug. 1742<sup>(14)</sup>. Intention of marriage with Winthrop Baston, of Wells<sup>(14)</sup>.

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Hon. Meshech Weare, (30), was graduated from Harvard College in 1735 : was Colonel of a militia regiment : Speaker of the House of New Hampshire, in 1752 : Commissioner to the Congress at Albany, in 1754 : a Justice of the Superior Court, and, in 1777, Chief Justice, and President of the Council. During the Revolutionary period, he held the highest offices, legislative, judicial, and executive : and under the new Constitution was elected the first President, which office he resigned before the close of the year 1784<sup>(13)</sup>.

He was twice married ; 1st, to Elizabeth Shaw, 20 July 1738, by whom he had two children<sup>(7)</sup> ; and, 2d, to Mehitabel Wainwright, 11 Dec. 1746, by whom he had eight children<sup>(7)</sup>. He

died 15 Jan'y 1786, in his 73rd year. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A monument, said to be the largest in the State, has been erected at Hampton Falls, by order of the Legislature, to the memory of this distinguished man. The town of Weare, N. H., was named for him.

Joseph Weare, (40), will probably forever be known by the sobriquet of "the Indian-Killer." Just what part of the traditions of his righteous vengeance and prowess as exemplified upon the savage destroyers of his relatives is true, and what is fictitious, will probably never be accurately ascertained; but one has only to read some of these stories as printed on pp. 15 and 16, of "OLD TIMES," and in that early collection of Indian tales and adventures called "Forest and Shore," purposely made to be thrilling at whatever disregard of historical facts, and then to compare them with such facts as the records show, as printed on pp. 152 and 153, "OLD TIMES," to see how succeeding generations amplify and exaggerate whatever comes to them in traditional form.

A reference to the extracts from his private journal, as given in the first mentioned article, enables one to evolve from the mists of unwritten history the conclusion that he was a God-fearing man, who by making these enemies of civilization the objects of his personal attention whenever they crossed his path, aided in securing to his community freedom from such savage inroads.

He married, 20 March 1760<sup>(15)</sup>, Mary Noyes, (No. 229, 1st Ch. Cat.), of Falmouth.

Their children were:

43 Nathaniel; b. 11 Dec. 1760; d. 19 Dec. 1760<sup>(17)</sup>.

44 Sarah; b. 14 Nov. 1761<sup>(14 17)</sup>.

45 John; b. 27 June 1764; d. 18 June 1767<sup>(14 17)</sup>.

46 Andrew; b. 21 Sept. 1765<sup>(14 17)</sup>.

47 Mary; b. 12 Jan'y 1768; d. young<sup>(17)</sup>.

48 Nathaniel; b. 12 May 1769<sup>(14 17)</sup>.

49 Mary; b. 12 May 1769; m. Capt. John March, of Falmouth; d. — Aug. 1847<sup>(14 17)</sup>. From this union the compiler is descended in the third generation.

50 Joseph; b. 12 May 1772<sup>(17)</sup>.

51 Huldah; b. 29 Aug. 1774<sup>(17)</sup>.

He died shortly after this last date, while absent on a trip to Boston. His widow m., 2d, Deacon Humphrey Merrill, of Falmouth, and died there.

Elijah Weare, (41), (No. 232, 1st Ch. Cat.), published his intention of marriage, 18 Aug. 1761<sup>(14)</sup>, with Susannah Bangs,

(No. 233, 1st Ch. Cat.), of Falmouth.

Their children were:

52 Peter; b. 3 Dec. 1761<sup>(14)</sup>. (See below after No. 55).

53 Mehitabel; b. 9 May 1764; m., 30 Apr. 1795, John Mann, Jr., of Freeport<sup>(14)</sup>.

54 Elijah; b. 24 June 1767<sup>(14)</sup>. (See below after No. 63).

55 Enoch; b. ———; m. Statira ———, before 1797<sup>(16)</sup>.

Elijah, Senior, died 28 Nov. 1770. His widow m., 2d, 12 Oct. 1772, Joseph Mann<sup>(16)</sup>.

Peter Weare, (52), m., 30 Aug. 1781<sup>(14)</sup>, Phebe Drinkwater, [Hannah Drinkwater, on p. 387, "OLD TIMES"].

Their children were:

56 Susannah; b. 5 Apr. 1782<sup>(14)</sup>.

57 Huldah; 3 Oct. 1783<sup>(14)</sup>.

58 Phebe; b. 27 Jan'y 1785<sup>(14)</sup>; intention of mar. 20 Aug. 1808, with Timothy Worthley<sup>(14)</sup>.

59 Polly; b. 25 Sept. 1786<sup>(14)</sup>.

60 Hannah; b. 5 May 1788<sup>(14)</sup>.

61 Apphia; b. 3 Aug. 1790; d. 17 Aug. 1790<sup>(14)</sup>.

62 Peter; b. 3 Aug. 1790<sup>(14)</sup>.

63 Apphia; b. ———<sup>(14)</sup>.

Elijah Weare, (54), m. ———. They had,—

64 Mehitabel; b. ———; who was under the guardianship of her step-grandfather in 1803<sup>(16)</sup>.

#### NOTES and REFERENCES.

(1) Chambers' Journal, p. 178, for March 24, 1877.

(2) Life of Councillor and Chief Justice Nathaniel Weare, by Chief Justice S. D. Bell; Vol. 8, N. H. Hist. Coll., pp. 380-94.

(3) Newbury Records.

(4) Norfolk County Records.

(5) Church Records of Hampton.

(6) Hampton Records.

(7) Hampton Falls Records.

(8) A Power of Attorney from Colonel Peter Weare to John

Pickering, dated 9 Dec. 1698, (from which the upper fac-simile is taken, and which shows his own and his father's autographs.

(<sup>9</sup>) Folsom's History of Saco and Biddeford.

(<sup>10</sup>) Biddeford and Saco Records.

(<sup>11</sup>) General Edward Russell's History of North Yarmouth; Vol. 2, Maine Hist. Soc. Coll., p. 174.

(<sup>12</sup>) Rev. David Shepley's History of North Yarmouth; First Church Catalogue.

(<sup>13</sup>) Hon. Paine Wingate's sketch of Hon. Meschech Weare; Vol. 5, N. H. Hist. Coll., p. 243.

(<sup>14</sup>) North Yarmouth Records.

(<sup>15</sup>) Falmouth Records.

(<sup>16</sup>) Cumberland County Records.

(<sup>17</sup>) Joseph Weare's Private Journal; "OLD TIMES," pages 15 and 16.

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