

Willard Memoir.

SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE OF MAJ. SIMON WILLARD.

WITH

NOTICE OF SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS TO
THE NINTH GENERATION.

COMPILED BY

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CINCINNATI:

PRESS OF ROBERT CLARKE & CO.

1879.

MAJOR SIMON WILLARD.

SIMON WILLARD was born in the parish of Horsmonden, in the county of Kent, England, probably in the early part of the year 1605; and was baptised in the church at that place, April 7, 1605.

The record of his baptismal consecration, as recorded in the parish register, runs thus, viz :

Anno 3 R. Jacobi.

Ano. Dni. 1605. The vijth day of Aprill Simon Willarde sonne of Richard Willarde was christenede.

EDWARD ALCHINE, Rector.

His first wife was Mary Sharpe, of Horsmonden, who was born there in 1614 (baptised October 16, 1614), and was the daughter of Henry Sharpe and Jane Ffeylde, of that place, married there September 24, 1610.

He embarked from England in April, 1634, accompanied by his wife, then twenty years of age, and arrived at Boston about the middle of the month

of May, after a short and very prosperous voyage. He established himself first in Cambridge.

The date of the death of his first wife is not known, nor is the date of his second marriage. His second wife was named Elizabeth Dunster, sister of Rev. Henry Dunster, president of Harvard College. She died about six months after her marriage.

The name of his third wife was Mary Dunster, but whether she was a sister or a cousin of the above Elizabeth is not definitely known. She survived her husband, and married, second, Deacon Joseph Noyes, of Sudbury, July 14, 1680, and died there, December, 1715.

The following is a correct list of all of Major Simon Willard's children, in the order of their births:

1. MARY, daughter of Simon and Mary Sharpe.
2. ELIZABETH*, " " "
3. ELIZABETH, " " "
4. DOROTHY, " " "
5. JOSIAH, son " "
6. SAMUEL, " " "
7. SARAH, daughter " "
8. ABOVEHOPE, " " "
9. SIMON, son " "

*Died in infancy.

10. MARY, daughter of Simon and Mary Dunster.
11. HENRY, son " " "
12. JOHN, " " "
13. DANIEL, " " "
14. JOSEPH, " " "
15. BENJAMIN " " "
16. HANNAH, daughter " " "
17. JONATHAN, son " " "

" Of the Major's large family, all the sons, nine in number, and five of his eight daughters, arrived at mature age, were married, and had issue. The number of his descendants in the eighth generation has been carefully estimated at 239,057.

" Major Willard, from the time of his arrival in Boston, in 1634, to the time of his death, Monday, the 24th day of April, 1676 (old style, corresponding to May 4, new style), a period of forty-two years, took an active and influential part in all the affairs of the colony, civil, military, and ecclesiastical.

" He was for thirty-seven years a member of the general court, clerk of the writs nineteen years, surveyor of arms, deputy, or representative fifteen years, commissioner in numerous special cases, superintendent of the fur trade with the

Indians, associated with the celebrated preacher, Eliot, in the conversion of the Indians, etc.

“In 1653 he was elected sergeant-major of the county of Middlesex. The sergeant-major was the chief military officer in his county, and was next in rank to the sergeant-major-general, who had command of all the military forces of the colony. (The prefix, sergeant, fell gradually into disuse in the latter days of the colony.) In 1668 the general court confirmed his commission, and he held it to the day of his death, having seen many years of active service with the Indians. (He had been a captain in England.)

“Major Willard was a conscientious, religious man—a character out of which all good proceeds. Contemporaneous history and his own correspondence bear uniform and explicit testimony that he possessed strong religious convictions, a devout, humble, and earnest spirit.

“He was a man of sound and enlightened understanding, of discreet wisdom, or he could not have challenged and received that entire and unwavering regard which he enjoyed. He was a man of brave and enduring spirit; not boastful, but possessing that true courage which belongs to a modest and generous nature, and is ready at the call of duty to sacrifice ease and comfort—yea, life itself—in defense of the public weal. As he

once wrote to the governor and council, opposing their designs in a certain matter, ' You may haply think we (the soldiers) are afraid.' ' We will not boast thereabout; but we dare say our lives are not dear unto us in any way that God shall call us to.' "

GENEALOGY.

1. SIMON WILLARD, born at Horsmonden, in the county of Kent, England, in 1605; baptised April 7, 1605; married first Mary Sharpe, daughter of Henry and Jane (Ffeylde) Sharpe, baptised October 16, 1614, and died leaving issue; second, Elizabeth Dunster, who died about six months after her marriage; third, Mary Dunster. She survived her husband, leaving issue; and married, second, Deacon Joseph Noyes, of Sudbury, July 14, 1680, and died there, December, 1715.

2. ¹JOSIAH², * born after 1634; married, March

* The figure before and above the name, designates the eldest son, and his respective descendants for any number of generations: the figure after and above the name, the particular generation from the Major. Thus, take 'Salmon', shows that Salmon is descended from the first son, and is of the seventh generation from the Major.

20, 1656-7, Hannah Hosmer, daughter of Thomas Hosmer, a distinguished citizen of Hartford, and died, at Weathersfield, in 1674.

3. ¹SAMUEL³, born at Hartford, September 19, 1658; married, June 6, 1683, Sarah Clarke. He died (at Saybrook) in 1713 or 1714.

4. ¹JOSEPH⁴, born at Saybrook; graduated at Yale College, 1714; Master of Arts, Harvard College, 1723; married Susanna Lynde, born April 11, 1700, daughter of Nathaniel and Susanna (Willoughby) Lynde. Nathaniel was son of Simon and Hannah (Newdigate) Lynde, and grandson of Enoch and Elizabeth (Digby) Lynde. Mr. Willard was settled at first in Sunderland. After his connection with the church in that town was dissolved, he removed to Rutland; and, having previously sold his inherited estate in that town, he purchased another "on the Meeting-house Hill," January, 1722, adjoining the homestead of his relative, Captain Samuel Wright. After preaching in Rutland for a considerable time, he was invited to settle there in the ministry. He accepted the invitation, and the day was appointed for his installation. But, on the 23d of August, 1723, before the time arrived for his induction into office, the Indians made a sudden and furious

attack upon the town, and, among other persons, fell upon Mr. Willard, who had left his house, and was engaged at a distance in hunting. The enemy encountered unexpected resistance from a brave man—one determined not to yield himself a victim to their savage cruelties. We are not told that he made any effort to escape; but it is stated that he fought manfully, and slew the first Indian who ventured to approach, and wounded another, when, overpowered by numbers, he himself was slain and scalped.

5. 'JOSEPH', second son of Reverend Joseph and Susanna; married Huldah Willard. (She was a daughter of Lieut. Moses Willard, grandson of Henry, the fourth son of Major Simon Willard) In September, 1760, Joseph, living in Charleston, N. H., was taken prisoner with this wife and children. Mrs. Willard was sister to Mrs. Johnson, the famous Indian captive, and daughter of Lieut. 'Moses Willard', who was killed by Indians, June 18, 1756. Joseph was a posthumous son, born about three months after his father's death.

6. 'FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY', eldest son of Joseph, 2nd and Huldah; married Deborah Blood, in Charleston, N. H., December 3, 1772.

7. 'SALMON', son of Francis Willoughby and Deborah, was born in Charleston, N. H., May 13, 1786; married, July 19, 1812. Philena Parker (born at Chester, Vermont, January 9, 1793). He died at Cuba, Allegany county, N. Y., September 17, 1854. Philena, his wife, died at Cuba, N. Y., August 29, 1864. They had six children: Harriet Miranda, born July 23, 1813; Fanny Maria, born July 23, 1815, died September 4, 1868; George Washington, born October 10, 1819, died February 26, 1866; James Alexander, born October 13, 1822, died June 3, 1874; Philena Elizabeth, born April 19, 1825, died September 9, 1849; Duston Homan, born December 23, 1832.

8. 'DUSTON HOMAN', third son of Salmon and Philena; born at Claremont, N. H., December 23, 1832; married, in Marietta, Ohio, November 24, 1857, Eliza Wallen Steece, born at Mt. Vernon Furnace, Decatur township, Lawrence county, Ohio, September 23, 1835. She was the daughter of George and Mary (Burkett) Steece.

9. 'CHARLES PARKER', first son of Duston Homan and Eliza Wallen, was born in Zanesville, Ohio, March 11, 1859, on North Third street, n. e. corner of Fountain alley.