

Sam^d Lenerson late of Preston Dec^d appeared in this Court by her husband Nicholas Williams and having nothing to add to the inventory, nor nothing to charge ye s^d Estate of ye s^d Dec^d moved for a Distribution. Whereupon this Court proceed to Distribute the s^d Estate as follows, viz.: to the s^d Lydia Williams Relict of ye s^d Dec^d, one third part of ye Reall Estate being Eighty pound During her naturall Life and one third part of the Personall Estate being £54. 8. s. 8. d. to be at her Dispose for Ever, and to Ebenezer the Eldest son a Double Portion being £89. 12..s. 5.d. and to each of the other four children namely Lydia, Samuel, Jane and Nathan a Single Portion being £44. 16..s. 2½..d. and this Court appoint Thomas Rose Jun^r Moses Belcher and John Cook of Preston to Divide ye s^d Estate according to this Distribution, to be sworn to that service by the next Justice of the Peace, the charge thereof and of this Court to be p^d by the s^d Relict and her children in proportion to what they are to Receive, and if anything more hereafter appear to belong to the s^d Estate it must be divided amongst the s^d Relict and her children in ye same Proportion.

“Whereas it Certified to this Court under the hand of Mr. Justice Brown of preston that Ebenezer Lenerson, one of ye sons of Sam^d Lenerson late of Preston Dec^d being of age to Choose his Gardian, made choice of his father in Law Nicholas William to be his Gardian w^h choice this Court approves of, and do also appoint the s^d Nicholas Williams to be Gardian to Samuel, Jane and Nathan, three other of the children of the afores^d Samuel Lenerson Dec^d, he giving Bond as the Law Directs.”

Nicholas Williams united with the North Church July 10, 1724, and, with his wife, was a regular contributor to the church funds until 1738. In 1739-40 “the wife of Capt. Williams” contributed. No record of the death of either has been found.

16.

MOSES LEONARD,³ (*John*,² *Solomon*,¹) son of John² and Sarah Leonard of Bridgewater, b —; m. 1, —, 1705 Mercy Newton,* dan. of Moses and Joanna (Larkin) Newton of Marlborough, b, Feb. 16, 1685, d. —, 1715; m. 2, Aug. 8, 1716. Mrs. Hannah Witherbee, widow of Thomas Witherbee and dan. of Det. John and Lydia Woods of Marlborough, b, Aug. 4, 1677; d. Sept. 7, 1751; m. 3, —, published Nov. 25, 1757, Mrs. Sarah Hall, widow of Thomas Hall of Dudley. He settled in that part of Marlborough that is now Southborough about the time

*See foot-note to Mary Leonard (8), p. 49.

of his first marriage. His wife was a sister of David Newton who married his cousin Hannah Leonard,³ and of Edward who married another cousin, Mary Leonard,³ eldest sister of Samuel the hero of Contoocook Island. During most of the time he lived in Marlborough, his family were in constant anxiety on account of the attacks of the Indians. Hon. Charles Hudson in his history of this town gives a graphic account of what the inhabitants suffered from the savages. He says: "Although this war did not at any time seem to peril the existence of the town, like the Narragansett, or King Philip's war, yet from the commencement of the century to the peace of 1713 the inhabitants were kept in a constant state of anxiety and alarm. The stealthy incursions of the guileful foe, the secret ambush, the midnight assault, the murderer of the laborer in the field, or the mother and her infant in the cabin—the dread of the scalping knife and the fear of a hopeless captivity—evils more to be dreaded than open war—to such as those the inhabitants of Marlborough were constantly exposed during this lingering war."

For the safety of the inhabitants twenty-six garrisons were established in the different parts of the town. These were fortified houses to which people could resort in time of danger, each numbered and named, and every family assigned to the one nearest or most accessible to them. Moses Leonard, his neighbor Thomas Witherbee, and three other families, were connected with No. 25, which was the house of his brother-in-law, Jonathan Newton. We have no record of harm coming to him or his family but that he planted, at an early period, one of the orchards for which the town became famous. He was an industrious and thrifty farmer, and had just completed a comfortable and convenient house when his wife, Mercy, died at the birth of her daughter Mercy. As has been previously stated, he bought of his uncle, Jacob Leonard of Bridgewater, his land in Worcester in 1717 and about that time removed there, where he became one of the prominent men of the place. He was Ensign in the militia and selectman as early as 1725.

The records in the Registry of Deeds at Cambridge, and in Worcester after the new county was formed in 1731, show that he bought and sold a great many tracts of land during his long life.

After the act of incorporation of the town of Worcester was passed in 1722, he was one of the committee of five appointed to "procure a supply of the pulpit." At the second annual meeting, he was chosen moderator and elected one of the assessors. By deed dated July 15, 1729, for £850, he conveyed to

Ben. Townsend his farm of 180 acres west of Quinsigamog pond, including houses, barn, and pew in the meeting house, and soon afterward removed to Brookfield. In a deed dated July 26, 1733, for land bought of Benjamin Smith in Lambstown (afterwards Hardwick), he is called "Inholder," which would seem to show that for a time he kept a public house. In a few deeds of subsequent date he is called "Yeoman," in all others "Gentleman." In the spring of 1735, for £1300 he conveys 398 acres in Brookfield to Jonas Clark of Boston and for £1000 receives from him lands in Leicester including house, etc., on "Laws Hill," afterwards known as "Mount Pleasant." He at once removed to this place, but for some reason remained but a short time, selling a part or all of the property to Gershom Keyes of Boston. By deed dated Feb. 20, 1739-40, he calls himself of Rutland, and in consideration of £1000 from his son Jonas, sells him 10 acres there, "with houses, barns, orchard," &c. In all deeds made subsequent to this date he is represented as residing in some part of this town. Apr. 27, 1759 as "late of Rutland West Wing Precinct & now Dwelling in said Rutland District." "Rutland West Wing Precinct," was incorporated as the town of Oakham in 1762; and "Rutland District," previously known as "Rutland North West Quarter," was incorporated a town by name of Hutchinson, in 1774—changed to Barre in 1776. His wife Hannah d. Sept. 7, 1751 and the records of Rutland show that he "entered his intention of marriage with widow Hannah Beaman of Westborough March 3, 1757—Certificate given March 18, 1757." She was probably the dau. of Eleazer and Hannah Howe who m. Eleazer Beaman, Mar. or May 2, 1726, all of Marlborough. Why the marriage was not consummated is not known. In Nov. following he "entered his intention of Marriage with Widow Sarah Hall of Dudley—Certificate given Nov. 25, 1757," and they were soon married. Very little is known about her or her former husband, Thomas Hall. He left a will dated Oct. 24, 1756, which was proved Feb. 1, 1757, and she was appointed executrix. They seem to have had two sons, Samuel and Benajah Hall, and two married daughters, Abigail Dennis and Elizabeth Hinds. After her marriage with Moses Leonard her name was attached to his deeds of conveyance. The last one that we find recorded bears date Feb. 3, 1769: "Moses Lenard Sen^r of the District of Rutland, Gentleman, in consideration of £120, paid by my son Moses Lenard Jr of 2^d District yeoman—the southerly $\frac{1}{2}$ part of house lott No. 8—where I now dwell with a Dwelling house thereon

bounded Easterly on land of said Moses Lenard Jr. Westerly on house lott No. 9—Southerly on part of a house lott in possession of Mr. Josiah Dana." This property adjoins the village of Barre. The last record that can be found of them is a discharge of a mortgage, on the margin of the record in Worcester, Feb. 5, 1770. The mortgage was from Noah Hall to Thomas Hall, both of Dudley, dated Nov. 5, 1756. Discharge by "Moses Lenard of Rutland District, Gentleman—and Sarah Lenard his wife, she being Executrix to the Estate of Mr. Thomas Hall late of Dudley and widow of the said Thomas Hall." At this time he must have been about 95 years of age.

The children of Moses and Mercy—born in Marlborough—were—

- 56. †Moses, Jr.,⁴ b. Nov. 1, 1706; d. Oct. 24, 1788; m. 1, Harriet Beulah —; m. 2, Sept. 22, 1782 Mrs. Hannah (Gassett) Rice.
- 57. †Ezra,⁴ b. Sept. 19, 1711; d. June 29, 1798; m. June 1, 1737 Olive Smith.
- 58. †Mercy,⁴ b. Dec. 1, 1714; d. June 5, 1795; m. May 29, 1732 Samuel Robinson.

Children of wife Hannah were—

- 59. †Jonas,⁴ b. Oct. 19, 1717 in Marlborough; d. Oct. 13, 1757; m. 1, Feb. 21, 1745 Mrs. Eunice (—) Barber; m. 2, —, Abigail —.
- 60. †Andrew,⁴ b. Nov. 20, 1719, in Worcester; d. —; m. 1, Mar. 7, 1744–5 Dorothy Stevens; m. 2, June 13, 1758 Hannah Pierce.

17.

JOSIAH LEONARD,³ (*John*,² *Solomon*,¹) brother of preceding, b. — in Bridgewater; m. 1, Nov. 2, 1699 Marjoram Washburn; m. 2, Nov. 21, (supposed) 1717, Abigail Washburn.* His will, from which much of our knowledge of his family is derived, was dated Feb. 6, 1743, and proved May 21, 1745. His son, Josiah Jr., was sole executor.

His children were—

- 61. †John,⁴ b. —; d. —; m. Nov. 23, 1732 Naomi Curtis.
- 62. †Josiah,⁴ b. —; d. Dec. 25, 1760; m. Jan. 24, 1739 Jemima Washburn.

*It is not known who was the father of Marjoram Washburn (his first wife). Abigail Washburn, his 2d wife, was dau. of John³ and Rebeckah (Lapham) b. 1688; her grandparents were John² and Elizabeth (Mitchell); great grandfather John¹ of Duxbury, one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater.