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MEMORIAL :
GENEALOGICAL, HISTORICAL,
AND
BIOGRAPHICAL,
OF
SOLOMON LEONARD,
1637,
OF
DUXBURY AND BRIDGEWATER,
MASSACHUSETTS,
AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

"And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh King of Egypt, and
took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the City of David "
"And Joseph died, and all his brethren and all that generation."
"Tell it to the generation following."

BY
MANNING LEONARD,
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.

I became acquainted (and in some cases intimately) with Mr. Samuel G. Drake, Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, Dr. Winslow Lewis, Mr. Wm. R. Deane, Mr. Wm. B. Towne, (all now deceased), Mr. John W. Dean, Mr. Wm. B. Trask, and others connected with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, of which I became first a resident and then a life member. Through Mr. Drake I received the New England Historical and Genealogical Register until his decease, and from the society since. The perusal of this publication, and the incidents narrated, awakened an interest in genealogical lore and have led to extensive research in order to reconcile the different statements regarding our family, or to learn what is false and what true, and to discover the missing links in our genealogical chain.

For some time I ardently cherished the purpose of publishing a very full and voluminous record of all those in this country bearing our family name, but I have met with so many obstacles that I have abandoned the plan. I am now content to combine, in as intelligible a form as I am able, the substance of what I have gathered by long labor and at considerable expense and leave the work for others to complete.



Manning Leonard.

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EXPLANATION.

Since the death of Mr. Manning Leonard, his children have sought to fill out the record of the *Bridgewater Branch of the Leonard Family*, by supplying some of the data lacking in his manuscript; and, without assuming that the record is complete, they now publish the book, making grateful acknowledgment to all who have so courteously replied to their requests for items.

In addition to the engraved portrait of himself at the age of twenty-four, which Mr. Leonard had modestly provided for the book, an artotype likeness made from his last photograph is given, that his readers may know the man to whom they are indebted for this record.

PREFACE.

While some seem to have little interest, and a few manifest a contemptuous indifference, in regard to their ancestry, most persons feel a desire to know something of their progenitors. There is quite certain to come in the life of every one who attains maturity, a time when he is led to make some inquiry, and perhaps research, into his family genealogy. It usually does not occur until a period when many of those who, from their extreme age were important links with the "long past," have departed; and thus valuable facilities for obtaining veritable information of one's progenitors are lost beyond recovery.

The early settlers of New England were so constantly occupied in subduing the forests, erecting rude dwellings, and procuring a scanty subsistence for their families, that they had but little time for making written records, even if they had the disposition, ability, and facility for doing so. And then, by the sudden attack of the Indians, and often complete destruction of their homes, all that had been written was frequently lost beyond replacement. Duxbury, which was the parent town of Bridgewater, lost all of its town records previous to 1654,—said to have been burnt. The Colony records of births and deaths previous to 1647 were also lost; and in 1838 all of the records of the town of Taunton were destroyed by fire. Though the materials have been so scanty, such has been the interest in family genealogy, and such the industry in gathering items from every source—family bibles, addresses, ecclesiastical and town records—and putting them into accessible and durable form, that most descendants of the Colonists can trace their family connection to the "first settler," with tolerable accuracy.

In my early years I used to listen with deep interest to the conversations between my aged grandmother and my parents in regard to their "connections," and some of them have never been forgotten.

In the year 1846 I was chosen by the heirs of an uncle who had died, childless and intestate, in Natchitoches, La., as attorney to settle his estate. He was of a family of thirteen children, and his eldest brother had a like number. Other brothers and sisters had considerable families, several had deceased,—and in some cases their children also,—leaving issue. To procure legal powers from all the heirs, I had of necessity to become somewhat acquainted with a large number of relatives living in many different states of the Union. About this time I procured a copy of the History of Bridgewater by Hon. Nahum Mitchell, which contains the fullest genealogical history of our branch of the family that has ever been published. I saw at once that his dates and connection of families did not agree with what I had gathered from my father and others. I sought his acquaintance and found he had already discovered errors which had occurred from the frequent repetition of Christian names in different families leading to misconnection, and a lack of carefully verifying dates and statements that had been furnished him. In an appendix to the later bound copies of his history, some of these errors were noted. With his characteristic courtesy and kindness he aided me in my researches and under his own hand gave me valuable information which will appear in its proper place. I had also some acquaintance with Hon. James Savage and sought to have in his great work, which was then in manuscript, a correction of the published errors in regard to our progenitors. Many of them, however, it will be seen, have been perpetuated.

INTRODUCTION.

LEONARD. This is a very ancient name, and has been known for several centuries, both as a christian and surname.

Much has been written and published in regard to the nomenclature of surnames—their derivation and signification. Those who are curious in these matters can examine Camden's British Remains, published in London in 1637. Lower on English Surnames, Chambers', Fesenden's and Brande's Dictionaries. A very interesting article on Individual and Family Names was published in the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register, 1848, Vol. II, page 162. It was written by Rev. William Cogswell, D. D., who was editor of the first volume of the Register, member of this society, also of the American Antiquarian and the Massachusetts Historical Societies, and was well versed in historical and antiquarian lore. He states that this is one of the class of surnames that originated from the christian name. The signification is, Lion-hearted, from *Leo* or *Leon* and *ard*. It seems strange that those who attained the honors of knighthood did not adopt a *lion's* head for their crest instead of a *tiger's*!

While some would say in the words of Cowper:

“My boast is not that I deduce my birth
From loins enthroned, the rulers of the earth,
But higher far my proud pretensions rise—
The son of parents passed into the skies.”

others are ambitious to trace their lineage to the nobility of the old world. For the benefit of such, and of all others interested, an engraved copy of the coat of arms said to belong to the Leonard family is printed with description of that, and of that of the family of Lennard, Lord Daere, which it will be observed are very similar with the exception of the motto.*

* Description of Leonard Coat of Arms: Arms—Or, (gold) on a fesse azure (blue) three fleur-de-lis argent (silver). Crest—Out of a ducal coronet or, a tiger's head argent. Motto—*Memor et Fidelis*.

Description of Lennard (Lord Daere) Coat of Arms: Arms—Or, on a fesse gules (red) three fleur-de-lis of the first or field. Crest—Out of a ducal coronet or, a tiger's head argent. Motto—*Pour Bien Desirer*.

Those bearing the latter title were accustomed to spell the name both ways, and, notwithstanding what has been written to prove the contrary, there is but little doubt that "the Leonards are of the family of Lennard, Lord Daere." Lord St. Leonards was a member of Queen Victoria's privy council and died in January, 1875, aged 93.

St. Leonards is a parish and famous watering place of England, in the county of Sussex adjoining Hastings, on the coast, 73 miles east of London. St. Leonard's Forest is in the same county near Horsham—occupies 10,000 acres and is an enclosed part of the ancient Andredswald or Wood of Anderida.

St. Leonard is a parish in England in the county of Devon, where is the West of England Deaf and Dumb Asylum. It is also a parish in Scotland, county of Fife; and a village in France, and a town near Limoges containing about 4,000 inhabitants. There are numerous villages in France bearing the name of St. Leon. St. Leonhard is the name of several towns in Germany. In this country there is St. Leonards a village in Calvert county, Leonardstown, capitol of St. Mary's county, both in Maryland; Leonardsville, a village in Madison county, New York; Leonardsburg in Delaware county, Ohio; Leonardville, Monmouth county, New Jersey; and Leonardville, Riley county, Kansas.†

The earliest genealogical account of any branch of the Leonard family in this country is that published in the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1794, Vol. III, page 173, by Perez Fobes, LL. D. It is an Appendix to a Descrip-

† The following post-offices in the United States bear the name, viz.:

- Leonard, Cherokee County, Alabama.
- " Taylor County, Iowa.
- " Harlan County, Kentucky.
- " Oakland County, Michigan.
- " Shelby County, Missouri.
- " Madison County, North Carolina.
- " Chester County, Pennsylvania.
- " Fannin County, Texas.
- " Greenbrier County, West Virginia.
- " Cass County, North Dakota.

The last mentioned received its name from Mrs. Mary (Hewett) Watts who gave the name as a compliment to a son of the compiler, who spent the summers of 1878 and 1879 in that locality.

tion of Raynham which contains an account of the Iron Works established by two members of the family in 1652—the friendship exhibited towards them by King Philip on the breaking out of the Indian War in 1675, etc.

This was the most complete family genealogy that had ever been printed in New England, but, beside those of later years, very meagre. It was limited to one branch of the family, which is to be deeply regretted for Dr. Fobes had a knowledge of the relation that the different branches in this country bore to each other. He contemplated publishing a more elaborate history, but died before it was accomplished, and whatever he had written, with other valuable papers, seems to have been lost. Mr. Wm. R. Deane prepared a more full account of this branch which was published in the *Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. V, page 403, 1851, and an appendix in Vol. VII, page 71, 1853. Copies of these articles were stitched in a pamphlet and entitled, “A Genealogical Memoir of the Leonard Family: containing a full account of the first three generations of the Family of James Leonard, who was an early settler of Taunton, Mass.”

This James, with brothers Henry and Philip, it is said, came to this country about 1650 from Pontypool, Monmouthshire, a county of England bordering the Bristol Channel, celebrated for its mines of coal and iron, beautiful scenery, and number of British and mediæval remains. It once belonged to Wales, but was made an English county by Henry VIII, early in the sixteenth century. Henry Leonard removed with his family to New Jersey; Philip settled in Duxbury and died without leaving male descendants.

A genealogy of John Leonard, of Springfield 1639, and descendants was published by Rev. John A. Vinton in the “Giles Memorial,” 1864, page 279. This memoir was mainly compiled from a genealogy made by Mr. Elisha Clark Leonard of New Bedford in 1852. Mr. Leonard is, in the judgment of the writer, one of the most thorough and perfect of genealogists living. He has spent weeks in investigating the county records of Bristol at Taunton making transcripts of

the conveyances by Leonards, etc., and has acquired more knowledge of the "Taunton Branch" of the family than any other person, living or dead. We sincerely hope, and have some reason to believe, that he will publish the result of his extensive researches. With profound gratitude I desire here to repeat my obligations to him for his great assistance and encouragement in my arduous work.*

I shall make no apology for the frequent use of the first person, singular, except that of convenience.

Rice Leonard was in Rehoboth in 1644 and one of the original proprietors of Attleborough in 1661. He had two daughters, Rachel and Sarah, and one son, Samuel, who died without male issue, therefore there are no descendants bearing the family name.

The descendants of Solomon of Duxbury, 1637, John of Springfield, 1639, James of Taunton and Henry of New Jersey are very numerous and are scattered all through this country. The evidences are very cogent, if not entirely conclusive, that all of them were related and from the same not very remote ancestor.

As has been stated, Perez Fobes, LL. D., knew the relation that the different branches of the family bore to each other. He was a native of Bridgewater—a descendant of John Fobes of Duxbury, one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater, and it is thought came to this country with Solomon Leonard. Dr. Fobes had a love for historical and antiquarian investigation and research, and possessed rare facilities for its gratification which he sedulously improved. He once wrote that he was acquainted with a man who had seen King Philip. He aided my father in fitting for college, was one of his professors in Brown University during his college course, and there was great intimacy between them to the close of Dr. Fobes' life, in 1812. He often spoke to my father of the connection between the branches of the family. If any written record was made

*Mr. E. C. Leonard, d. in New Bedford, Mass., September 7, 1894, leaving in manuscript form a large amount of genealogical and historical material of inestimable value. A portion of this was ready for printing, and it is hoped his work will be completed and its publication not long delayed.

of it by my father it has gone to oblivion with that made by Dr. Fobes.

When in Europe in 1864, I visited Monmouthshire in the hope of finding some records of the family before their emigration to this country. I found the old records in Pontypool had been very badly kept and got no satisfactory information from them. Several persons bearing the name were living in the vicinity, and an aged man by the name of John Leonard, took me to the graveyard near the ancient church of Treve- than, not far from the town, where I found inscriptions recording the deaths, at an early date, of those bearing the names John and James.

A prominent gentleman, the acknowledged head of the family of *Leonard*, living in Buckingham Villas, Clifton—the beautiful environ of Bristol—and his family, took much interest in the matter. He bore the christian name of Solomon as did his father and grandfather before him. I was assured that not only this name, but also John, Jacob and Isaac, had been common in the family there for many generations; that they were dissenters and some of the family went to Leyden, and it was believed from there to America. In a correspondence with members of the family, continued for several years, this belief was confirmed.

I.

SOLOMON LEONARD.

The earliest settler in this country, bearing the family name, of whom we have a record, and the ancestor of what has long been known as the "Bridgewater Branch of the Leonard Family," must have been born about 1610 in Monmouthshire, or vicinity, in the southwesterly part of England.

He seems to have emigrated first to Leyden in Holland, probably with his father whose name it is believed was Samuel. There is some probability that they came to this country together—if so, the father must have died soon after. The exact period that Solomon emigrated to this country, and the place from which he embarked, it has been impossible to ascertain. Judge Mitchell, in his History of Bridgewater, says: "In 1629, thirty-five of the Leyden people, with their families, arrived at Plymouth, and in 1630, sixty more came. Many of the Bridgewater proprietors were doubtless among these."

It has been stated that he came with the *family* of Minister Robinson, but late investigations seem to prove that but one of the family, his son Isaac, came in 1631. It has also been stated that he came with Roger Chandler and perhaps Edmund Chandler, who were probably brothers. They were both taxed in Plymouth, (and admitted freemen), in 1633, and soon after were in Duxbury, where both had grants of land.

He was engaged in the service of the Colony Company in Plymouth for a time, but became one of the early settlers of Duxbury. Mr. Justin Winsor, in his history of this town, says it was settled by the people of Plymouth and that they were, many of them, of the highest respectability and in the colony affairs took prominent and active parts. Of the twenty subscribers to the civil compact, signed in the cabin of the Mayflower in November, 1620, who survived the fatal first winter, seven—Elder Brewster, Capt. Standish, Mr. Alden, Mr. Howland, Francis Eaton, Peter Brown and George Soule—became inhabitants of Duxbury. At one time it was of

vast area, including within its bounds Pembroke, Hanson, Marshfield, part of Kingston, and Bridgewater.

The exact date of Solomon Leonard's settlement in Duxbury cannot be fixed. Mr. Winsor says the records show he was there when the town was incorporated, 1637. He had land at "Blue Fish," in what is now the northerly part of the village of Duxbury, near the bay.

The records of that period "that escaped the ravages of fire and flood," and notably of decay, from lack of proper care, are very meagre and imperfect, and so incomplete that the historian of the present day is often sorely perplexed and disappointed in his researches. I have ransacked all the musty archives and records of that period that are accessible and for those who may not have the opportunity of seeing the originals, *verbatim* copies will be given to some extent.

In the "Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England. Court Orders."

Vol. I page 49. { "There was granted to Edmond
"2 January 1636-7." } Chandlor forty acres of land lying on
the east side of Moyes Symonson, where Morris formerly
begunn to cleare for Mr. Bowman.—This was made voyd and
60 acres granted afterwards."

Page 82. { "Three score acres of landf are graunted
"2 April 1638." } to Edmond Chaundler, lying on Duxborrow
side, and to be layd forth for him by Captaine Standish & Mr.
Alden, w^{ch} was accordingly layd forth on the north east side
of the lands graunted Moyes Symons & ranging as his doth
in length north & by east and south & by west from the marked
trees."

Page 83. { "Solomon Lenner is promised lands on
"7 May 1638." } Duxburrow side (in pte of those due to him
for his service) in some convenient place."

Page 112. { "Solomon Lenner is graunted twenty
"4 February 1638-9." } five acres of land to bee layd forth
for him by Edmond Chaundlors, w^{ch} was layd forth for him
on the east side of the lands graunted to Edmond Chaundor,
and ranging as his doth, north east in length, and south & by

west from the marked treeys, and bounded at the vpper end wth a swampe."

"Nov. 2, 1640." "Twenty acres were graunted to Roger Chaundler, that lye northward from Duxborrow Mill. towards Greens Harbour." "Sold to ffrancis Godfrey, February 1644."

Hon. Thomas Spooner, in the "Spooner Memorial," states that Solomon Leonard was admitted freeman in 1643, but his name does not appear in the printed list of those admitted from Duxbury that year. He is enumerated among those "males that are able to beare armes from XVI yeares old to 60 yeares wthin the Towneshipp of Duxborrow 1643."

By the Records of the Colony of New Plymouth—Deeds, Vol. I. page 113, September 16, 1645. "*Memorand* That Morris Truant and Solomon Lenner of Duxborrow came before the Gounor and acknowledged That they have mutually exchanged their now Dwelling houses and vplands and meddowes w^{ch} now they haue in possession or any graunt of The one wth the other So that the said Morris Truant shall haue and enjoy the house vplands and meddow of the said Solomon Lenners w^{ch} he lately bought of Edward Bumpas and all the pcell of Comon land w^{ch} the Towne of Duxborrow graunted the said Solomon lying betwixt the said house & land & purchased of Edward Bumpas as aforesaid and Mr. Aldens.— And likewise That the said Solomon Lenner shall haue and enjoy the house garden & buildings and vplands and meddow w^{ch} apptained to the said Morris Truant at Blew fish Riuer wth all and singuler the app^ttene & to the said p^rmiss belonging."

No record of conveyance of this land "lately bought of Edward Bumpas" can be found, or of the lands of Solomon Leonard when sold by him. It should be stated that in vast number of instances at this period, and for fifty years subsequently, deeds of purchase were never recorded.

Page 153, March the 4th, 1647, is recorded a deed by which "Moris Truante Inhabitant of the Towne of Duxborrow and Jaane my wife haue for diners Reasons and vpon good Conside-
rations sould to John Washburne Inhabitant of the same

Towne." this with other "lands houses out houses—land lying between John Irishes & John Aldens Inhabitants of the same Towne—one peell adioyning to the lands of Phillipe Delanoy Constant Southworth John Irish."

Page 178. { "Gorg Partridg of the towne of Duxbery
"July 28, 1649." } in the Coliny of New Plymouth in New England in america Tayler—in consideration of the Som of fouer pound sterling to him alredy payed by Sergeant William Mericke and John Vobes of the towne aforesaid—sould vnto" them "about five acars or therabouts in Duxbery aforesaid at poulder point betwixt the lands of Gorg Soule on the one side and Solomon Lenerson on the other side."

Associated with the renowned Miles Standish, John Alden, Constant Southworth, William Bradford and others—54 in all—Solomon Leonard became one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater and one of the earliest settlers there: Mr. Savage says as early as 1645, but it must have been some years later. The grant of the plantation by the Court was not made until 1645, and the Indian title to the territory was made by deed of "the good old Massasoit," dated March 23, 1649. The town was not incorporated as a distinct township until 1656. It contained at one time about ninety-six square miles of territory, the greater part of Abington and what is now Hanson, were included within its bounds, as well as the "Four Bridgewaters,"—the North Parish being now the thriving city of Brockton.

The first settlement was made near what is now West Bridgewater. "Each settler had at first a grant of a house lot of six acres on the town river, then called Nuckatest or Nuncketetest, an Indian name in close affinity with that of the pond from which it flows, now called Nippenicket, formerly written Neapnicket or Neapnucket. The first lots were taken up in West Bridgewater, and the first houses built, and first improvements made there: and the settlement was called after the name of the river, Nuncketest, or Nunckety, sometimes Unkety. These Indian names were variously written—in Governor Hinckley's deed of conformation, the pond itself is called Unketest. The plantation bore the more general appellation

of Satucket. These house lots were contiguous and the settlement compact, with a view to mutual aid, when common protection and defence against the Indians should be required, and extended on each side of the river." [History of Bridgewater.] Solomon Leonard's house-lot seems to have been near the center. On this he erected a humble habitation that was probably the dwelling place of himself and family to the close of his life.

After a faithful and indefatigable search of many years it is hard to be obliged to say that no record can be given of the family name of his wife, the date of their marriage, or the births of their children. We only know that she bore the excellent name of Mary, which has been so creditably perpetuated in the families of her descendants. It is sad to realize that so much of our knowledge of the family is dependent upon tradition which is often unreliable.

They were undoubtedly married before 1640 and had a large family of children, most of them probably born in Duxbury and several dying while young. As they had aided in the subduing and settlement of the two towns, their lives must have been filled with almost ceaseless care and labor, with few conveniences and no superfluities. Their dwelling house, like others of that period, was probably made from hewn logs, with the spaces filled with clay: the chimney, of sticks or stones and plastered outside and in with clay, was built against one end on the outside of the house. Their clothing was of homespun woolen, flax, or hemp, supplemented perhaps, with leather made from the skins of deer. Their food consisted of various preparations of Indian corn, beans, rye or wheat bread, a few vegetables, fish, clams, lobsters, wild game, and in their season, the berries and wild fruit that were common in New England: beef and mutton were luxuries seldom indulged in, and neither potatoes, tea, nor coffee had been heard of. Their dishes, doubtless, were few and mainly of wood, with perhaps a plate or two of pewter.*

* A very vivid impression of the lives of the early emigrants to New England may be gained from the accurate and intensely interesting book from the press of Ticknor & Co., "The Pilgrim Republic," written by the late Mr. John A. Goodwin, and also from the stories by Mrs. Jane (Goodwin) Austen.

They were uneducated, and were evidently among the "rude forefathers," but were respectable, honest, industrious, frugal, and thrifty, and these worthy traits have been transmitted to their descendants to the present day.

A church was formed in Duxbury as early as 1632; and Rev. Ralph Partridge, "a man of pious and blameless life, gentleness of spirit, and meekness of heart," was the minister from 1637 to his death in 1658. Whether they were members it is impossible to state, as the records of the church were burned with those of the town. Nor can we tell if they were members of the church in Bridgewater, which was organized on its first settlement. Rev. James Keith was their first settled minister, ordained in 1664, and continued until his death in 1719. He was from Scotland, educated at the University of Aberdeen, "a worthy man, faithful shepherd, and able divine," on intimate terms with Increase Mather, Judge Sewell, and the leading men of that day. He was a fine penman and wrote many of the deeds, wills, etc., of his parishioners, and, without doubt, kept a careful church record, but it cannot be found. If accessible to the historian of that period, what aid it would give!

At the Second Centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of Bridgewater, June 3, 1856, Hon. Emory Washburn,* in an address delivered on the occasion, said,—“In selection of a minister, the town seems to have been particularly fortunate, and he seems to have stamped his own character upon this community.

“Though in the very infancy of the town its inhabitants had shown the interest they felt in the cause of education, by con-

* *John*¹ Washburn was early in Duxbury. He and his s. John were original proprietors of Bridgewater. *John*² b. 1621, m. Elizabeth Mitchell, 1645. *Joseph*³ m. Hannah Latham, whose grandmother on her mother's side was the famous Mary Chilton, said to have been the first female to set foot on the Plymouth shore, 1620. *Joseph*⁴ m. Hannah Johnson. *Seth*⁵ b. 1723, m. 1750, Mary Harrod she d. Sept. 16, 1787. He m. 2d, 1788, Mrs. Sarah (Denny) Sargeant; he d. Feb. 12, 1794. *Joseph*⁶ b. May 18, 1755, m. May 6, 1787, Ruth Davis b. Oct. 8, 1765; he d. Mar. 27, 1807; she d. Mar. 22, 1827. *Emory*⁷ b. Feb. 14, 1800, graduated from Williams Coll. 1817, youngest in his class, studied law at Harvard, admitted to the bar 1821, m. Nov. 2, 1830, Marianne C. Giles; he d. Mar. 18, 1877, at Cambridge, Mass. "The legislature of Massachusetts expressed its deep sorrow at the death of Hon. Emory Washburn, the senior member of the house of representatives, 1826, 1827, 1877, formerly state senator, (1841), and governor (1853), of the Commonwealth."

tributing twelve pounds, in Indian corn, for the benefit of Harvard College. I do not find corporate action for establishing schools within the town till about the year 1700, when 'a scholar who came out from England, whose name is Thomas Martin,' was engaged for four years to keep a school in four places in the town in each year,—three months in each place. But, though entering late into the field, we are warranted, from its whole history, in believing that few towns have been more uniform or consistent in supplying to the young the means of education. Though there were among the early settlers, few who laid claim to much scholarship, there were none who wanted that general intelligence and practical good sense so much more useful to men in their condition. There was in this respect a remarkable uniformity among them, and scarcely if any, less remarkable identity in their religious faith and observance of their moral duties. And, as an evidence of this it is believed by those who have made it a subject of investigation, that drunkenness and its kindred vices were unknown among them; and not a single conviction of an inhabitant of the town, for any crime involving moral turpitude, was had while Plymouth existed as a colony!

"When a better system of religion or of practical faith than this can be discovered, the world may begin to dispense with the old-fashioned notions of Robinson and Brewster. And yet it was not because the men of that day were wanting in spirit or energy or enterprise.

"In speaking of those who gave a character to the first generation, and whose teaching and influence trained up those who were to be worthy to succeed them, I must not pass over the wives and mothers, who came here into the wilderness to give to the spot its strongest attraction, the simple charm of *home*. They came here while the howl of the wolf was yet heard from the deep forest around them at midnight. Often and again did they clasp their little ones, with more than a mother's tenderness, as they saw the shadowy form of the savage stealthily prowling around their scattered dwellings; or waited in fearful suspense for the return of a husband from the bold forays in which they sought for the foe in his lair.

"But history does not tell of a mother's courage that quailed, or a woman's fortitude that shrunk, amidst these dangers."

Hon. Lemuel Shaw,* Chief Justice of Massachusetts, said: "In the first place the founders were actuated and governed, in all their thoughts and in all their movements, by high religious and moral principle. They were not adventurers who had left their country for a time to mend their fortunes and then return; they came to seek a permanent abiding place, to establish a home for themselves and their descendants, which should satisfy their cherished ideas of a pure, religious commonwealth. They came with little property; but the means on which they relied,—and on which, as the event proved, they might rely with success,—next to an undoubting faith in the providence of God, were earnest minds and willing hands.

"But it is not on their religious character, however, that I would dwell; but I do wish to ask your attention to their high moral principles. In my judgment they were truly and conscientiously governed by a principle of strict integrity, a pure sense of exact justice, of strict equality of rights in the distribution and enjoyment of all civil and social benefits and advantages.

"But next to their religious character and the high-toned, strong sense of morality, of justice and integrity, or perfect equality of rights, which marked their conduct in all their social and political dealings and relations with each other, I consider that the remarkable growth in advancing from poverty to competency, to wealth, and to all the refinements of an advanced civilization, are mainly attributable to two qualities,—industry and frugality. Labor, honest labor, even hard and persevering labor, in a laudable and honest calling, brought no discouragement, no want of respect, no loss of social position. This was a general and pervading feeling, and extended to all classes and to both sexes: mothers and daughters, as well as

* Hon. Lemuel Shaw, LL. D., son of Rev. Oakes and Susanna (Hayward) Shaw was b. in Barnstable, Jan. 9, 1781, m. Jan. 6, 1818, Elizabeth dau. of Josiah Knapp of Boston; she d. June 13, 1822. He m. 2d Aug., 1827, Hope dau. of Dr. Samuel Savage of Barnstable; he d. in Boston, Mar. 30, 1861. His genealogy: Abraham Shaw of Dedham, freeman, 1637. John² (1655, of Weymouth). Joseph³ b. 1664. John⁴ b. 1708 in East Bridgewater. Oakes⁵ b. June 10, 1736; d. Feb. 11, 1807.

fathers and sons, were actuated alike by a common self-devotion to useful industry, to advance the common interests of the family.

"I wish to express for myself, and my contemporaries of the present time, a deep feeling of gratitude, veneration, and filial affection, for our female ancestors. Though less conspicuous, their duties were not less important and efficient. Animated by an abiding sense of religious dependence, and sustained by an unshaken faith; governed by an entire devotion to duty, and in self-sacrificing spirit; without display, and without a thought of being applauded or noticed;—they proceeded in the performance of their appropriate duties with a quiet but persevering energy, which did much to mould the characters of their sons and daughters to honor and virtue, and elevate the tone of society by impressing it with something of their own pure and lofty spirit.

"These virtues and characteristics were not rare, exceptional, and occasional, but everywhere abounded as the leading characteristics of the wives and mothers of our early ancestors, and tended to give to society formed under domestic auspices a character of high excellence, though still little advanced in wealth."

Hon. James M. Keith said, "There is a beauty and moral sublimity in the patient devotion to duty, manifested in the daily life of the conscientious Christian minister, which appeals even to what some consider the callous heart of the legal advocate in tones more thrilling than the highest-wrought periods uttered from the rostrum.

"The eloquence of such a life was shown by the Rev. James Keith, the first minister of Bridgewater, for more than fifty-five years, amidst the toils, the privations, and the dangers of a colonial settlement, in the forests around the spot on which we are assembled, in the faithful discharge of the duties of his ministry, till called to his reward in 1719.

"The first minister of Bridgewater did not preach, nor did his hearers practice, a sickly sentimentality, which showed more sympathy for the criminal than love for the observ-

ance of law: but he taught, and they believed in a willing obedience to law, and in the speedy punishment of its violators. They devoutly believed in prayer, and trusted in God: but they also trusted in their own right arms to achieve their defence. When attacked by the Indians, whom they had treated with uniform kindness, they did not abandon their homes, as advised by the timid of other settlements, nor trembling wait for Omnipotence specially to interpose for their deliverance: but, seizing their weapons with resolute hearts, they attacked the foe, and drove him from their settlement."

Although all their lives deprived of the privileges of instruction by the school-master, and the appliances of the schools that afterwards became so common, Solomon Leonard and his family must have acquired instruction and growth in grace, refinement, and virtue, from the daily intercourse with their neighbors, some of whom perchance of more culture and intelligence; and the ministration, instruction, and example, of such pious, faithful and beloved ministers as Rev. Ralph Partridge and Rev. James Keith.

His name appears once more before his death on the Colony Records, Vol. 3, page 160, March 4, 1658-9. "An Inquest was held on the body of an English Man which some Indians took up out of the River of Tetacutt, a little below Nemaskett.

"Wee found noe blemish about the man that should in any way cause his death, but as we conceive was drowned accidentally."

He was associated on the inquest with the following citizens of Bridgewater, nearly all of whom we find prominently connected with the early history of the town. "Samuel Edson, Nathaniell Willis, John Willis, John Vopes, Arthur Harris, John Hayward, sen^r, Mark Laythrope, Thomas Hayard Jun^r, William Snow, Lawrence Willis, Guydo Bayley, Nathaniel Haward, and John Carew."

Soon after this period he seems to have acquired the respectful title of "Goodman Lemmerson," which he bore until his death. It has been impossible to ascertain when this event occurred. He was probably buried in the ancient grave-yard

at West Bridgewater, "but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day:" and, strange as it may seem, the same is true of all the members of his family! Judge Mitchell, in his History of Bridgewater, says he died in 1686, and this error has been repeated by Mr. Savage and by innumerable followers. This seems very strange for both of these gentlemen were familiar with the Court Records of Plymouth, the records of deeds there, and the Proprietor's Records of Bridgewater, either one of which would have shown that he must have died many years before the period named. Judge Mitchell also says, "his estate was settled by his son Samuel and was the first settlement recorded in Plymouth Probate Court." Mr. Savage notices this statement, and seems to take exceptions to it, but makes no explanation. I fail to find any record of the settlement of the estate. But few papers relating to transactions during that period can be found. At the time of King Philip's war, and subsequently, the anticipated or actual raids of the Indians occasioned frequent hasty removals of the Probate and other papers and records, for safety, which resulted in serious loss. For several years the whole country was agitated and absorbed in these Indian wars and nearly everything else seems to have been left to "take care of itself." It is quite impossible, in these peaceful times, for us to have any conception of affairs at that period. The town of Bridgewater ordered the meeting house and minister's house to be fortified, powder and ball to be procured, and pay for soldiers provided. "The fortification about the meeting house to be made with half trees, seven feet high above the ground, six rods long and four rods wide, beside the flankers."

The following shows the action of the colony. Colony Records, Vol. 5, page 176, October 4, 1675. "Memorand: that the Court proclaimed a sollemne day of humilleation, to be observed by fasting and prayer which was observed by their order on the 14th of October 1675 throughout this jurisdiction, to humble our soules, and seeke and begg the Lord's healp in our psent troubles, by reason of the Indians, their psisting on in their hostillitie and barbararous creweltie and outrage against the English.

"It is ordered by the Court, that during the time of publicke danger every one that comes to the meeting on the Lord's day bring his armes with him, and furnished with att least six charges of powder and shott, vntill further order shall be given, vnder the penaltie of 2^s for every such defect, to be leuied by distress, by the constable, by order of any of the comission officers, for the townes vse.

"This Court, takeing into their serious consideration the tremendous dispensations of God towards the people of Dartmouth, in suffering the barborous heathen to spoile and destroy most of their habitations, the enimie being greatly advantaged thervnto by their scattered way of living, doe therefore order, that in the rebuilding or resettling therof, that they see order it as to live compact together, att least in each village, as they may be in a capassitie both to defend themselves from the assault of an enimie, and the better to attend the publicke worship of God, and ministry of the word of God, whose carelesnes to obtaine and attend vnto, wee fear, may haue bine a promocation of God thus to chastise their contempt of his gossell, which wee earnestly desire the people of that place may seriously consider off, lay to hart and be humbled for.—

"Alsoe this Court doth order, that the people of Middleberry doe attend the like course in their rebuilding and resettling, as is ordered for Dartmouth."

The settlement at Dartmouth, 25 miles distant from Bridgewater, was attacked by the Indians several months before this date, many of the houses burned and the inhabitants slain. The people of Middleborough only about ten miles distant, all fled to Plymouth for protection and all their houses were burned. At a later period, Bridgewater was savagely attacked, but the people courageously and successfully defended themselves. Though very many of the men of this town were engaged in the war from the very beginning to its close it has been stated that not one was slain.

In the Records of Deeds of Plymouth Colony, Book 3, page 199, a confirmatory deed from Samuel Leonard to his brother John is recorded which states: "Forasmuch as my father

Sollomon Leonard of Bridgewater while he was living did with my mother fully and firmly bestow on my brother John Leonard fifty acres of land being and bating on the south or south-westerly syde of Punkatest river next adjoining unto Elder Brett his fifty acre Lott that he bought or exchanged with Robert Latham on the one syde and unto my land on the other syde with all the meddow—and not having made Deed of Gift unto my brother John Leonard being prevented by death—Samuell Leonard—confirm—my hand and seal this first of the third month May 1671.

Acknowledged before mee Constant Southworth
Assistant."

Also Book 4, page 5.

" Winslow Gov^r.

" Whereas Nicholas Byram and Sollomon Leonard did exchange land and possess them several yeares before the death of Sollomon Leonard & Samuell Leonard his son doe ratify and confirm the said Exchange " &c.

" Acknowledged by Nicholas Byram and Samuell Leonard before Constant Southworth assistant June 2d 1674."

The following is from Plymouth Colony Records; Court Orders. Vol. 5, page 179, October 27, 1675.

" In reference vnto the dispose of Sollomon Leonardson, of Bridgewater, deceased, the Court have ordered, that such particulars as belong to Samuel Leonardson, the eldest son of the said Leonardson, being firstly sett apart, viz. & fifty acres of vpland, lying on the southsyde of Nneckatateesett River, and twenty more adjoining to it, on the northerly syde therof, and twelue acres lying att the town of Bridgewater, on which the house standeth, and three lotts of meddow, containing two acres and an halfe, or thereabouts, to a lott, and fifty acres of land appertaining to John Leonardson, the second son of the said Sollomon Leonardson, and all debts and dues owing to any from the estate being first payed, the Court doth order, settle and distribute the remainder as followeth:—

" Viz. &, that Samuell Leonardson, the eldest son of the said Sollomon Leonardson, shall have a double portion, with what

hee hath alreddy received from him, of his estate, both real and psonall, according to law, and the remainder to be equally divided amongst the reste of the children in equall and alike proportions, provided that what any of them have received of their fathers estate be likewise reconed onward to them off their ptes.

"This Court have graunted lres of administration unto Samuell Leonardson to adminmester on the estate of Sollomon Leonardson, deceased; and the Court doe request Elder Brett and Mr Samuell Edson to be supervisors and assistant unto the said adminmestrator, in things proueing difficult relating to the pmisses."

In a search which I made at the Probate Office in Plymouth some years ago I found, among the miscellaneous papers that had "escaped the ravages of the war," the original bond given by Samuel Leonard to settle his father's estate. The following is a copy:—

"Know all men by these presents that I Samuel Leonardson of the towne of Bridgewater in the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth, Carpenter, do acknowledge myself hereby to stand bound unto the Govenor and Court of Plymouth aforesaid in the penall sum of one hundred pound for the payment of which sum well and truly to be made I bind myself my heirs executors and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed and given this 27 of October 1675.

"The condition of the above written obligation is such that whereas the above bounden Samuel Leonardson hath obtained letters of administration, to administer on the estate of Solomon Leonardson of the towne of Bridgewater in the Colone aforesaid, weaver. If therefore the said Samuel administrator shall and do pay all such debt accountts, of his said administration, and be redly to give an account, thereof unto the said Court when by them required and keep and save harmless the said Gov. and Court from such damage as may acrew unto them by his said administration That then this obligation to

be void and of non effect or otherwise to remaine in full force strength and vertue.

Samuel leonard {Seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in
the presenece of

*William Bearsstow

Robert Stetson."

Why legal steps were not sooner taken to settle the estate we can only conjecture. Perhaps efforts to do this by agreement were made and failed. Possibly it may have been arranged to defer it until the death of the widow, which had doubtless now occurred, as no mention is made of her and no provision granted in the order of the Court.

In the administrator's bond Solomon Leonard is called "weaver." This is the only instance that has been found where he has been so called. In all legal instruments of that day it was the custom to name the employment of the parties. It is possible that he may have served an apprenticeship at weaving, in his early years and followed it to some extent through life, but more probable that he had become unable to perform the hard work of the farm and the last work he did was weaving.

Although copies of many documents have been given, it seems proper, before proceeding to the history of the second generation, to add the following from the Proprietor's Records of Bridgewater, Book I, page 92:

"The lands of Samnel Leonard John Leonard Isaack Leonard and Jacob Leonard hear in the town of Bridgewater February '79—Imprimis—Samuell Leonard is as followeth, twelve acres of land wheare he now dwelleth be it more or less being

*Wm. Barstow was probably son of Wm. who was in Dedham when his son Joseph was b. 1639 and in Scituate when Wm. Jr. was born Sep. 1652. His first child (wife Sarah,) Rebecca was b. Mar. 12, 1676. His will dated 1711. Both Joseph and Wm. with Joseph Sprague proved "Cornet" Robt. Studson's will, Mar. 1, 1702-3.

Robert Stetson was probably son of the "Cornet," b. Jan. 29, 1653 m. Joanna Brooks 1676. "The same year the Indians burned his house" in Scituate. He lived in Pembroke which was taken from Duxbury and Marshfield. "Here was the first saw-mill in Plymouth Colony," &c.

Barber, p. 517. See John Stetson Barry's Town of Hanover, p. 214. His family of Stetson, p. 92-14.

to sixe acar Lotts eighty pole in length and twenty foure or five in pole in breadth or thereabouts Ranging north and south or thereabouts Butting on the Towne river on the south sid of the River.

" More—twenty acars of uplands on the south side of the Towne River ling betweene the lands of Edward Foabs to the norward and Jacob Leonards to the southward running in length eight score pole and in breadth twenty pole ranging Northeast and Southwest from the river or thereabouts.

" And here follows Samuel Leonards meddow one Lott and a halfe of meddow ling on the south side of the Towne River being between the meddow Lands of Joseph Bassett to the westward and Nathaniel Willis to the eastward and bounded by the River to the norward and by the uplands to the southward.

" More—one lott of meddow in Slashing Cove ling betweene the meddow lands of Mr. James Keith to the westward and Elihu Bretts to the eastward and bounded by the Uplands elsewhere.

" More—one Lotte of meddow on the south sid of the towne river in the Great Meddow running from the river to the Swampe ling betweene the meddow of John Cary Jun^r to the east and Nickols Biram Senior to the west.

" Hear follows the Lands of John Leonard. Being fifty Acres of uplands on the south sid of the Towne river Butting on the River being eight score pole in Length and fifty pole in breadth ling betweene the lands of Elihu Brett to the eastward and his brother Isaacks to the westward running for its Range northeast and southwest nearest.

~ " More—one fifty acar Lott belonging to Isaack Leonard and Jacob Leonard Isaacks part being next his Brother Johns fifty acar Lott to the eastward and Jacob Leonard to the westward being twenty five acars running the same length and bredth with the aforesaid fifty acar Lott of their Brother Johns ranging upon the same point of compas and Butting on the same side of the river Jacobs part of his fifty acres of Lands being twenty five acres lieth to the westward of Isaacks twenty

five acres and bounded by the twenty acre Lott of his brother Samuell Leonard to the westward all the aforesaid lands Butting of the River.

"More—fifty acres of Lands laid out to Samuel Lenerson lying to the southward of the towne river butting on a Ridge and Bounded by a Red Oak westerly and by a White Oake easterly being fifty pole wide and eight score pole in length ranging south and by west nearest, and bounded by the Lands of Samuell Edson Junier to the westward & a great Whight Oake being marked at the head of their lands and by the Commons to the Eastward, A great whight oake being marked there also for his breadth X upon the Horse Plaine.

"More—tenn akers for John Leonord at the head of his twoo fifty aker Lotts where his house stands bounded at the head range by a red oake sapling in a heap of stones and a small white oak bush with a Rock at the foot of it.

"More—for John Lenanard thirteen acres a swamp lott and three acre which hee bought of Josiah Edson lying upon a small brook bordering upon the horse plaine it a bounded by a straight Range from a pine Tree marked on two sides & to a red oake marked on tow sides and from thence to a white oke marked on foure sides standing near the Brook and from thence to an Ash standing neare the swampe & thence to run upon a straight line from the Ashhe to a smalle white oake marked on tow sides and so to the bounds first mentioned.

Laid out by Josiah Edson and Edward Fobes."

At the top of page 93 is entered :

"Lands of Solomon lenord.

Two akars for Solomon lenord at the head of his tow house lots.

A long blank space is then left, apparently to make additional records, and lower down:—

"Five akers for Isrie lenord at the head of his twenty five acres where his house stands."

On page 94 is "A Plan of lands bought of the Leonards by David Perkins, laid out 21 June 1688." I was assured by Williams Latham, Esq., whose researches made him competent

authority in such matters, that this tract covered a part of the grounds of the Bridgewater Iron Works. He also stated that the lands formerly owned by the Leonards covered a considerable part of the present village of Bridgewater.

A grant of land seems to have been made to the family by the Plymouth Colony at "Saconett" after the father's death and as the writer has been unable to trace it, he will give further records in the hope that others may be more successful.

Plymouth Colony Records—Court Orders, Vol. 5, p. 162. March 1, 1674-5. "Vpon the petition of the propriators of the lands att Saconett, and places adjacent, the Court hath granted vnto the said propreators, or the major pte of them, as a towneshipp, to make such actes and orders as shalbe needfull or convenient for the welbeing, settleing, and ordering of the said place or plantation, and especially for the settleing of such a society there as maybe instrumentall for the manning and carrying on of the worship of God, and matters in the comonwealth."

page 265, July 5, 1678.

"This Court haue appointed and impowered John Irish, of Saconett, to serue in the office of a constable att the Saconett, and his libertyes and wardshipp to extent to Punchateesett and places adjacent, and soe to Pocasset, and as farr as the Fall River, and by speciall order haue impower Capt. Benjanine Church to adminmester an oath to him."

Vol. 6, page 18, July 3, 1679.

"Att this Court John Leonard appeered, to request a competency of land for the supply of himselfe and his bretheren in the right of his father being one of the old servants; in answare therof the court haue ginen libertie to him, in the behalfe of himselfe and bretheren, to look out for accomodation in any land that is free, being not conquest land, nor otherwise engaged; and in case they shall not be supplied, that they apply themselves to the Saconett companie att their next meeting, that they may be supplied out of that grant, if the companie shall see reason, or in that which did belonge to Totamumucke."

Vol. 6, page 44, July 7, 1680.

"This Court doth order, that M^r Nathaniel Thomas, Capt Benjamin Church, and William Paybody shall bound out Tatamanuckes thousand acres of land att or about Saconett from the lands of Mamanewett: and the Court haue graunted an hundred and fifty acres thereof, viz. of the said Tatamanuckes land, vnto Samuell and John Leonardson, and an hundred and fifty acres therof vnto William Reynalds his children, the said Reynalds haueing bin one of the companies servants, soe called, formerly, and fifty acres therof, viz. of the said laid, vnto Zaekerialh Padducke, son of Robert Padducke, deceased: these senerall graunts of lands to be layed and bounded vnto them by the said M^r Thomas, Capt. Church, and William Paybody, by the appointment of the Court.

"Alsoe, this Court haue graunted vnto Richard Wright fifty acres of the said land, viz. fifty acres of the thousand acres of land that was Tatamanucks land is graunted vnto the said Richard Wright, to be layed out and bounded for him by the said M^r Thomas, Capt Church, and William Paybody: and in defect of M^r Thomas, Joseph Church is appointed to acte.

"Likewise the Court haue graunted vnto M^r Thomas Hinkley, Seni^r, two hundred acres of land out of the aboue named thousand acres of land att Saconett, and haue appointed M^r Nathaniell Thomas, Capt Church, and William Paybody to bond and laye it out to him, or any two of them: and in defect of M^r Thomas or any other, Joseph Church is appointed to help to laye out M^r Thomas Hinkley his land."

Vol. 6, page 70, July 7, 1681.

"This Court graunted vnto John Cooper, of Barnstable, three-score acres of land out of the land that was Mamanewetts or Tatamonuckes, att or about Saconett: if it be there to be had.

"This Court haue graunted vnto M^r John Done, of Eastham, threescore acres of land out of the aforsaid lands of Mamanewed or Takamanuckes, if it be there to be had.

"Threescore acres of land is graunted by the Court to Capt Josiah Standish lying about Saconett, if it may be had after those graunts there are layed out, and to be layed out by those which are appointed to lay out the other graunts there."

Vol. 6, page 73, October 28, 1681.

"This Court haue ordered Major Bradford, William Paybody, and Joseph Warren to run the line betwixt the lands of Saconett and Puncateesett to Dartmouth bounds, and to lay out Tatamunnukes thousand acres of land, and to make distribution therof vnto those to whom the Court haue graunted it, and alsoe that tract of land that the country are to haue from Mannamutt.

"This was ordered by the Generall Court July, 1681."

Vol. 6, page 83. March 7, 1681-2.

"Wee whose names are under written, being ordered by the Court, October, 1681, to run the line between y^e lands of Saconet and the lands of Pocassit proprietors, haue done as followeth: We began on the westerly end or side of a great spruce swamp, at a white oak tree marked formerly by men appointed there vnto, and caryed it on the same point of compas east northerly through the said swamp, and marked a white oak tree on y^e east end or side of y^e said spruce swamp, hauing a flinty rock and stones on y^e west side of the said tree, and so by a range of trees marked on y^e east and west sides to Cokesit River or Brook, and there marked a white oak tree on two sides with an heap of stones against it. This line was run November, 1681, by vs.

William Bradford.

Joseph Warren.

William Paybody."

Page 88, June 6, 1682. "Vpon the petition of Mr Joseph Church and the rest of the proprietors and inhabitants of Saconett, the Court haue graunted, that the said proprietors and inhabitants that are or shalbe there admitted orderly, according to the laws of this Collonie, shalbe from this time a township, and haue the liberties of a towne, as other townes of this Collonie, and shalbe called by the name of Little Compton."

It will be observed that in the early records the name is written in a variety of ways. Judge Mitchell in his history of Bridgewater, says: "The name was sometimes written Leonardson, Lemmerson, or Lemner, but by the family themselves

always written Leonard." It was quite common at this period to distinguish the son from the father by adding "son" to the name. In some cases the additional syllable was permanently adopted.

Children of Solomon¹ and Mary Leonard:

2. †Samuel,² b. about 1643: m. 1. Abigail Wood.

m. 2. Deborah —

3. †John,² b. about 1645: m. Sarah (Chandler?)

4. †Jacob,² b. about 1647: m. 1. (Phebe Chandler?)

m. 2. Susanna King.

5. †Isaac,² b. about 1650: m. Deliverance —

6. †Solomon,² b. after 1650: m. Mary —

7. †Mary,² b. after 1650: m. Dec. 24, 1673 John Pollard.