

JAMES ROGERS

OF

NEW LONDON, CT.,

AND

HIS DESCENDANTS.

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BY

JAMES SWIFT ROGERS,

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BOSTON:

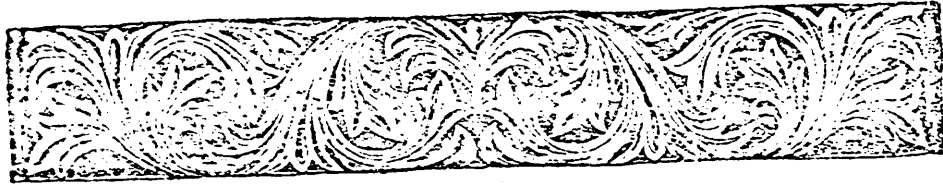
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# JAMES ROGERS AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

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**A**MONG the manuscripts preserved in the Public Record Office, in England and which are printed in Drake's "Founders of New England," there is a copy of a "licens to go beyond the seas," dated April 15, 1635; and among others "to be transported to New England imbarqued in the Increase," is named "JAMES ROGER, 20 years."

Although this immigrant may have been the James Rogers of Newport, R. I., who was admitted a freeman of Newport in 1640, and who occupied many offices of trust there for a number of years, he is generally conceded to have been the James Rogers of New London, Ct., and nothing has thus far been found to warrant any other conclusion.

In 1637 James Rogers was one of six men from Saybrook, who, under Capt. John Underhill, took part in the Pequot war. A few years later he is recorded as of Stratford, where he acquired property and married Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Rowland.

He went from Stratford to Milford, where he joined Mr. Prudden's (Congregational) church in 1652. His wife had joined the same church in 1645, and some of their children were baptized there. In the records of the General Court of Milford

is the following: Nov. 22, 1645. "Ordered that James Rogers have a home lot adjoining that of Mr. Fowler's."

In 1646 James Rogers "hath three acres more or less." In 1648 the Court orders that James Rogers have a piece of land against his lot. In 1655 complaint was made to the General Court of the inferior quality of biscuit he was furnishing for Virginia and the Barbadoes.\* At that period there was considerable emigration to those points, as is shown by the lists still preserved, and the inference is that James Rogers was a baker and tradesman of no small importance at and before that date.

On Nov. 17, 1656, the Court ordered that James Rogers hath grant of his warehouse given him by the town and hath full power to make a sale thereof or of any other of his "horiditaments," provided it be improved only for a warehouse.

He had dealings in New London as early as 1656; between that time and 1660 he became an inhabitant of that town, and was made freeman Mar. 14, 1660-61.

Both he and his wife joined the church in New London and became prominent in church affairs. Rate lists for the ministry tax are extant for the years 1664, 1666 and 1667. In the list of 1664 the number of names is one hundred and five. This includes non-residents who owned property in the town. In this list the amount of each man's taxable property is given and the rate levied upon it is noted. He is assessed for £548 and his rate is £7, 19s., 10d. The next largest property holder is "John Winthrop Esquire" who is assessed for £185, and his rate is £2, 14s.

The fact that James Rogers was chosen by his townspeople to fill many important positions in church and state, shows the estimation in which he was held by the community; proving more strongly than it would at the present day, his high character and intelligence. He was deputy to the Court of

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\* In answer to the complaint regarding the biscuit it is but justice to James Rogers to say that he stated to the Court, that the flour furnished by the miller was of inferior quality, and the miller acknowledged that, at the time, he did not understand the proper manner of grinding.

Elections, May, 1661, and May and October, 1662. Corn Commissioner for New London in 1662, and Representative to the General Court seven times between 1662 and 1673, and, with his son Samuel, was on the committee of fortifications for New London. He was intimately associated with Matthew Griswold and served with him on many important committees of church and state. Governor Winthrop showed his esteem for him in many ways and was engaged with him in land and other transactions.

Before Mr. Winthrop's removal to Hartford, he leased the town mill to Mr. Rogers, and, as an accommodation in point of residence, transferred to him a building spot from the north end of his (Winthrop's) home lot, next to the mill. Upon this lot Rogers erected a dwelling house and bakery, both of stone.

Miss Caulkins says :

The mill, being a monopoly, could not fail to become a source of grievance. One mill was manifestly insufficient for a growing community, and the lessee could not satisfy the inhabitants. Gov. Winthrop subsequently had a long suit with Mr. Rogers for breach of contract in regard to the mill, but recovered no damages. The town likewise uttered their complaint to the General Court, that they were not "duely served in the grinding of their corn," and were thereby "much damnified"; upon which the Court ordered that Mr. Rogers, to prevent "disturbance of the peace," should give "a daily attendance at the mill."

After 1662, the sons of the governor, Fitz-John and Wait-Still Winthrop returned to the plantation and became regular inhabitants. Between the latter and Mr. Rogers a long and troublesome litigation was maintained in regard to bounds and trespasses, notices of which are scattered over the records of the County Court for several years.

In 1669 Capt. Wait Winthrop set up a bolting mill on land claimed by Mr. Rogers, who, as an offset, immediately began to erect a building on his own land, but in such a position as wholly to obstruct the only convenient passage to the said bolting mill. This brought matters to a crisis. Richard Lord, of Hartford, and Amos Richardson, of Stonington, were chosen umpires, and the parties interchangably signed an agreement "as a final issue in all disputes, suits at law and controversies, from the beginning of the world to the date thereof."

Winthrop paid for the land on which the mill stood; Rogers took down his partially erected building frame, and threw the land into the highway, and all other differences were arranged in like amicable manner.

For many years prior to 1666 (when he retired from active business in favor of his son, Samuel), James Rogers carried on by far the most extensive foreign and domestic trade of any man in New London. His real estate holdings were very large. He owned several hundred acres of land on Great Neck, and the fine tract at Mohegan called Pamechaug farm, which was one of the first grants of land within the Mohegan reservation north of New London, and was made to James Rogers by Uncas, in August, 1658. He also owned several house lots in the town proper, and, in partnership with Col. Pyncheon of Springfield, Mass., twenty-four hundred acres east of the river. His home farm for some years previous to his death was on that portion of the Great Neck called Goshen.

There is a place having the appearance of a grave, a little northwest from the rock on the beach mentioned in James Rogers' will, where it is supposed that his wife was buried. It is on the Jonathan pasture of the James Rogers estate, near the pond. (L. T. R.)

The Rogers homestead by Mill Cove was purchased by Madame Winthrop in 1713 and reunited to the original estate. John Winthrop, Esq., son to Capt. Wait Winthrop, about that time removed to New London and fixed his residence on this spot. (Caulkins.)

Three cellars are said to have been found when the Winthrop house was removed for this site.

James Rogers was one of his son John's early converts and a member of the church of which John was pastor. He and his wife and his daughter, Bathsheba Smith, were baptized in 1676. For this offence they were summoned to appear before a magistrate but were soon released. Throughout the rest of his life he was subjected to fines and imprisonment for non-conformity to the rules of the Established Church.

Endowed with wealth and education far above the average, he enabled his children to secure the same, and increasing ad-

vantages arising therefrom. Being a man of unimpeachable integrity, and adhering rigidly to his convictions of right and duty, regardless of sacrifice, he transmitted these traits of character to his children and they, in turn, to their descendants.

### WILL OF JAMES ROGERS.

The last will & testament of James Rogers Senior, being in perfect memory & understanding; but under the the (*sic*) hand of God by sickneffe.

This I leaue w<sup>th</sup> my Wife, & all my Children, Sonnes & Daughters; I being old & knowing y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> time of my departure is at hand.

What I haue of this world, I leaue Among you, desiring you not to fall out or contend about it; but lett y<sup>r</sup> loue one to another appear more; then to the Eftate I leaue w<sup>th</sup> you w<sup>c</sup> is but of this world.

And for y<sup>r</sup> comfort I signifie to you, y<sup>t</sup> I haue A perfect affurance; of an interest in Jesus Christ, & An Eternal happy Eftate in y<sup>e</sup> world to come, and do know & see y<sup>t</sup> my name is written in y<sup>e</sup> book of life; & therefore mourn not for mee: as they y<sup>t</sup> are without hope.

I committ my spirit into y<sup>e</sup> hand of God almighty, desiring y<sup>t</sup> my body it may be buried (hopeing for A resurrection) and w<sup>t</sup> is Expended there upon let it be paid out of y<sup>e</sup> Eftate I leaue.

¶ I desire y<sup>t</sup> all my debts may be paid out of y<sup>e</sup> Eftate, I leave, I know of no old Debts unpaid, nor any great matter of Debts that I owe.

¶ My land at mistick I bequeath to my three Eldest sons Samuel Joseph & John; it being first (by y<sup>m</sup>) Equally divided into three partes. & then let it be divided to y<sup>m</sup> by lot y<sup>t</sup> Each one may know w<sup>c</sup> his part is: for as y<sup>e</sup> lot fals so shal Each ones part be. They paying to my daughter Elizabeth twenty pounds.

¶ To my son James I bequeath, Gofhon neck & y<sup>t</sup> he shal haue A high way to it, over y<sup>e</sup> pond where I now goe.

¶ To my son Jonathan my Houfing: & land so farr as Magunck fence w<sup>c</sup> life within my field fence; & y<sup>e</sup> bounds between my son James & son Jonathan y<sup>t</sup> is to say between Gofhon & my field: shal be y<sup>e</sup> great Rock w<sup>c</sup> lise between y<sup>e</sup> pond and y<sup>e</sup> sea, on y<sup>e</sup> north side of y<sup>e</sup> beach A line being run north & south from y<sup>e</sup> sd Rock shal be the bounds between them.

¶ To my son Jonathan I bequeath twenty Acres in y<sup>e</sup> new paster; Joyning to his houfe & running on y<sup>e</sup> north side of my field fence: & bounded on y<sup>e</sup> East w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> lane running between y<sup>e</sup> head of my son James his home lot & my son Jonathan his now dwelling houfe.

¶ To my son James & son Jonathan I bequeath al y<sup>e</sup> rest of my land lying in y<sup>e</sup> new paster as also al y<sup>e</sup> rest of my land lying in y<sup>e</sup> General neck: it being divided by y<sup>m</sup> into two parts first, & then as y<sup>e</sup> lot comes forth shal Each one know which his part is, (And my will is y<sup>t</sup> my son James pay to my daughter Elizabeth twenty pounds within a year after the death of his mother, my wife,) And y<sup>t</sup> my son Jonathan pay to my daughter Elizabeth fifty pounds within three years after y<sup>e</sup> death of my Wife ten of it y<sup>e</sup> first year: after her death.

¶ To my son Joseph I bequeath y<sup>e</sup> land y<sup>t</sup> I had of Obadiah Bruen Called bruens neck.

¶ To my son, John I leaue y<sup>e</sup> land y<sup>t</sup> I had of Robert Allyn lying on y<sup>e</sup> East side of y<sup>e</sup> River y<sup>t</sup> goeth to Norwich he paying to his sister my Daughter Bathshua y<sup>e</sup> sum of twenty pound: within a year after y<sup>e</sup> death of my wife, & if he sees cause not so to do, my Daughter Bathshua shall haue y<sup>e</sup> f<sup>d</sup> land.

¶ And all y<sup>e</sup> rest of my Estate, as cattel household goods Debts & parfonable Estate I leaue w<sup>th</sup> my wife to dispose of as shee sees good: only to pay to my daughter Elizabeth ten pounds if shee sees good w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> advice of my sonne John: I also giue liberty to my Wife to sell or dispose of any part of my land or Estate here willed if shee sees cause so to do, without offence to any of my Children: & to haue y<sup>e</sup> use of my housing during her life time to liue in or let out.

Some Cattel was left w<sup>th</sup> me by my son John, to use as my own not giving me power to giue or will y<sup>m</sup> away but did promise me y<sup>t</sup> what I sould or killed for y<sup>e</sup> families use he never would demaund pay for, but only those y<sup>t</sup> should be remaining in my hand,

The Chamber where my son John now liues I leaue w<sup>th</sup> him w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Roome under it for him to liue in during his life time: if my wife sees cause not to order it other wife.

If any difference should arife about my land here willed or Any parte of my Estate for want of a plain discovery whether about bounds or other wife, my wil is y<sup>t</sup> there shall be no lawing amonge my children before Earthly Judges but y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Controverfie be ended by lot & so I referr y<sup>e</sup> Judgment to god: & as y<sup>e</sup> lot comes forth so shal it be: And this I declare to be my last will & testament as witness my hand this Eleventh day of y<sup>e</sup> ninth month one thousand six hundred eighty & three

Witnes

James Rogers

Sam Beebee. Sn<sup>or</sup>

Mary Beebee





I leaue thirty six Akers of land to my dafter bathshewa on the neck  
A bout the fresh meadow & ther A bout to her & hers for euer

James Rogers

for thengs A bout the house James & bathshewa must tak ther frst  
before the other be decuded the other estat to giue as John & James  
& bathshewa to despos of of (*sic*) as [they] fe Cause to Amonks them  
and to remember Adam 1686

James Rogers

The I land to James

Jonathan his land to go to the swamp & fo between the swamp &  
to magonk fenc : to James & Jonathan to Jonathan all my land that  
is in his land the fenc to runn as James haue fet to the wood at the  
east side of the lane is the land

& Jonathan & James to kep bathshewa three Cows wenter & fumer  
for her life time & she to haue A rom in this house wile she liue &  
John to haue the lanto at the east end of the barme to lay his bark in  
or leberity to buld what he will next his tann yard of forty rod of  
land that forty rod to be his for euer

to my dafter Elizabeth I leaue her three Kows affter her mother  
defef I leaue all my estat to John & bathshewa for to fe my wife  
be well maintaned af long af she liue.\*

Recorded in the 3d Book of Wills for New London County this  
22<sup>d</sup> Day of July 1703.

P<sup>r</sup> George Denifon *Clerk*

AN INVENTORY OF THE ESTAT OF MR JAMES ROGERS SEN<sup>R</sup>

	£.	s.	d.
Ris Land Goshon being a grant of 13 Acrs . . . .	7	10	—
In the ffield of Improved Land and Meadows, 33 Acrs . . . .	16	10	—
More in the ffields of Improved Land. 10 acrs . . . .	3	15	—
More within ffence for pasture 150 acres . . . .	37	10	—
376 acres of Land lying Comon in the Gen <sup>ll</sup> Neck . . . .	94	—	—
One acre of Land bought of James Rogers Jun <sup>r</sup> . . . .	—	7	6
A Little Island by Estimation one acre and halfe Land . . . .	1	—	—

\* The above rendering of the codicil to the will of James' Rogers has involved a great deal of careful study, not only of the manuscript but also of inventories and deeds. It differs very materially from the alleged copy on the New London probate records, where, in some instances, words and sentences are omitted, and, in other places, words of totally different meaning are employed. To avoid all controversy, a photograph of the original document with the codicil, is here presented. Owing to the illegibility of the latter, the will has generally been printed without it. The evident attempt to alter the body of the will has been disregarded in the above copy, since there is nothing to show that any attention was paid to it in the distribution of the property.

One Copper Kettle 30s. one brass Kettle 10s . . . . .	2 : — : —
One Iron Kettle and 3 Iron pots one of them broken . . . . .	— : 15 : —
3 Small pewter platters 3 Basons 3 plates . . . . .	1 : — : —
One feather bed and furniture . . . . .	5 : — : —
One Other Bed and bedding and B-d Stead . . . . .	1 : 10 : —
Chest and Chaires and Wooden Ware . . . . .	— : 15 : —
Husbandry utensills 2 Ax-s two Chaines One pair of Plow Irons Iron Crow three hoes Cart and wheels a harrow and Scythes . . . . .	2 : 10 : —
The house and barn . . . . .	40 : — : —
An Indian Servant and his wife a negro woman having about 3 years to serve Valued at . . . . .	8 : — : —
Adam a Malotta Servt about 3 years to Serve . . . . .	5 : — : —
A Negro woman Deaf and Dumb . . . . .	2 : — : —
One Ox and Six Cows at . . . . .	15 : — : —
2 Steers 3 years old, at . . . . .	4 : — : —
2 heifers at two year old and vantage . . . . .	3 : — : —
2 heifers and one bull year old and vantage . . . . .	3 : — : —
Six Cattle one year old in the Spring . . . . .	3 : — : —
One horse and one Mare . . . . .	4 : 10 : 10
44 Sheep old and young . . . . .	11 : — : —
2 Sows & nine Shoats . . . . .	3 : 15 : —
40 bushels of Indian Corn by estimation . . . . .	3 : — : —
10 bushels of pease 8 bushels of meslin 5 bushels barley . . . . .	3 : — : —
3 barrels of beef. & one barrel of Porke . . . . .	6 : — : —
30 acres of Land on the East side the River . . . . .	8 : — : —
40 rodd of Land by a Tan yard included in ye other land. 2 P of pothangers a Grindstone & Still yards . . . . .	— : 10 : —
One horse & one Cow . . . . .	4 : 10 : —
One barrel of Molasses one firkin of butter . . . . .	2 : 10 : —
One large platter & wearing apparel . . . . .	2 : 15 : —
20 yards of Kersey Coverlids & blankets . . . . .	3 : — : —
a warming pan 2 spits 2 bibles & a bedstead . . . . .	1 : — : —
3 Stacks of hay a barrel of a musquet . . . . .	3 : — : —

This Inventory taken the  
15th of feeb. 168<sup>7</sup>.

EDWARD PALMER }  
DANIEL WETHEREL } *Townsmen.*

Letters of Administration Granted to Sam<sup>ll</sup> Rogers on the Estate  
of his father James Rogers Deceased.

Sir Edmund Andros Kn<sup>t</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Generall and Govern<sup>r</sup> in Chief of  
his Majesties Territory and Dominion of New England To Samuel  
Rogers of New London in the County of New London Baker Eldest  
Sonne of James Rogers of the same place yeoman Deceased Whereas  
the said James Rogers haveing while hee Lived and at the time of his  
Death goods rights and Creditts In Divers places within this Domin-  
ion now Lately Dyed Intestate by Vertue whereof the power of Ad-  
ministration and full Disposition of all and Singuler the goods rights

and Creditts of the said Deceased And alsoe the hearing Examineing and allowing the accounts of the administration of the same appurtains unto me I Being Desirous that the goods rights and Creditts of the said Deceased should be well and faithfully administred Doe therefore Trusting in your fidelity by vertue of these presents Comitt unto you full power to administer the goods rights and Creditts of the said Deceased and well and faithfully to Dispose of the same And also to ask gather Leavye and require whatsoever Creditts of the said Deceased which to him while hee Lived and att the time of his Death did appurtaine And to pay all Debts in w<sup>ch</sup> the said Deceased att the time of his Death stood bound as farr as his goods rights and Creditts can extend akording to the Value thereof And to make a Full and exsect Inventory of all and Singular the goods rights and Creditts of the said Deceased And to Exhibite the same unto the Secretaryes Oñce att Boston the Second day of September next ensueing And alsoe to render a playne and true account of yo<sup>r</sup> Administration upon Oath The Second day of March w<sup>ch</sup> shall be in the yeare of Our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty & Eight And I Doe by these presents Ordaine Depute & Constitute you Administrator of all & Singular the goods rights and Creditts afores<sup>d</sup> In Testimony whereof I have hereunto sett the Seale of the Oñce for Probate of Wills & Granting administrations.

Dated the first day of March One thousand Six Hundred Eighty and Seaven.

At the time of James Rogers' death the government of the Colonies was vested in Sir Edmund Andros, with headquarters at Boston, Mass. For this reason the appointment of Samuel Rogers as administrator on the estate of his father, James Rogers, of New London, was made by the Court in Boston and so recorded there, together with the inventory of the estate. The will, however, was recorded in New London, and the court at New London appears to have set aside this appointment in accordance with a request made by all the children of James, that the estate should be settled according to an agreement made between themselves in conformity to their father's request. By this agreement *between the heirs*, John Rogers was appointed executor, with his sister Bathsheba, of his father's estate, and guardian, with her, of their mother, the latter being incapacitated, by some disease, previous to the death of her hus-

band, which rendered a codicil to his will necessary. Yet the widow herself executed a deed of trust in 1692 by which she placed all her interest in her husband's estate in the hands of John and Bathsheba.

1703. Samuel Beebe, husband of Eliz. Rogers, wishes record to be made of the agreement of the children of James Rogers Sr. to the terms of his will, which record had been neglected,—*said agreement bearing date 27 of 7 mo, 1688.* [N. L. Probate Journal.]

The court find that the estate was settled by an agreement among the children, which agreement was approved by the General Court held at Hartford *May 12, 1692.* [*Ibid.*]

It will be seen that the will does not give so much to Samuel as to the others. Upon the settlement of a residue of the estate in 1712, a double portion was accorded to him (by the Court) as eldest son, but he stated to the Court in writing that he had already received what was due to him from his father's estate, and declined to accept anything more.

Although the will was not recorded until 1703, the following statement from his son, John Rogers, shows that the execution of the will had fairly begun before 1692.

These presents are to signifie that I have let to my brother, James Rogers, during my mother's lifetime, all the lands which by my father's last will & testament is given to him or willed after my mother's decease, of which Goshen I judge to be the best, all within the Goshen fence which my father left,—my brother James paying £12, 10s. yearly in current provision pay during my mother's lifetime, & so to possess the same forever & ever by will, & this I do by power from my father's will & our agreement also, confirmed by the General Court.

Samuel Rogers.  
Israel Dodge.

JOHN ROGERS.  
22<sup>nd</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> mo. 1692.

Goshen appears to have been the home farm of James' Rogers at the time of his death. It was one of his farms, as stated by Miss Caulkins, and was originally a grant to Robert Hempstead. It is a sort of peninsula — called "Neck" in the old writings — lying between Alewife Cove and Jordan Cove, and at this date

(1902) called Goshen or "Goshen Farms." It borders the Sound just west of Ocean Beach, and is occupied at present by three wealthy men who have fine residences there. A part of it, which belonged to the Gilbert Rogers family, was recently sold for golf grounds.

James<sup>2</sup> Rogers gave his son James,<sup>3</sup> in his will, the island referred to in the codicil of will of James,<sup>1</sup> and James<sup>3</sup> sold it to Philip Tabor. "1727. sold to Philip Tabor for £2970 farm and housing south-east part of General (*sic*) Neck by Salt Water and Robin Hood's Bay, also a small island out of said bay." [N. L. Record.]

This farm was not Goshen, but by Robin Hood's Bay — now Jordan Cove — at the place called Pleasure Beach.

New facts brought to light by a thorough investigation of court records and other evidences of the period, afford distinct proof of the erroneous character of the statement made by Miss Caulkins, that the children of James Rogers, in spite of their father's express desire that they should refrain from appeals to the court in the settlement of his estate, "engaged in bitter controversies regarding boundaries." With a single exception, the lawsuits which Miss Caulkins found upon the court records were not instituted by children of James Rogers, but were due to irregular proceedings on the part of his widow whose mind had become impaired before his decease. They were principally concerning slaves belonging to the estate. These slaves had been freed by the executor, John Rogers, "without detriment to the estate," but were claimed by other parties,\* as gifts from said widow, although she had no legal power to dispose of any of the estate, on account of the clause in the codicil of the will which was sustained by the agreement of the children and by the action of the court regarding the executorship of John and Bathsheba, and also by the deed of trust made by herself in 1692.

The one appeal to court decision by a child of James Rogers in regard to the estate, was in the case of his son Joseph, who

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\* These parties were Samuel Beebe and Naomi, wife of John Tinker. Also the claim of Joseph to the house and land accorded to Jonathan, was instituted by his wife, Sarah, through objections made by her to a deed, which objection was recorded under said deed by the town clerk.

complained that a farm with house thereon, which he had supposed to be his, previous to the death of his father, had, through some error in a quit-claim deed, been included in his father's estate, and in the division of that estate by those appointed by the court for the purpose, had fallen to the share allotted to his brother Jonathan.

### JAMES' ROGERS.

1. The parentage of James' Rogers has not been ascertained and the place and date of his birth are unknown. Many of his descendants firmly believe the tradition that he himself said he was the great-grandson of John Rogers the martyr. He was probably a native of England and is supposed to have been born about 1615. He died —, 1687, in New London.\* He married Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Rowland, in Stratford, Ct. No record of her birth has been found. She died about 1709 and was said by her grandson James,<sup>3</sup> who was her executor, to have been very aged.

The births of the children are recorded in Milford, Ct., but this is not proof that they were all born there, as it was not unusual to record the names and birth-dates of children in the town to which the family removed, regardless of the place of birth, and it is probable that some of the children of James' Rogers were born in Stratford, Ct.

They were as follows :

- 2 Samuel,<sup>2</sup> b. prob. 1640; m. (1) Mary Stanton; m. (2) Joanna Williams.
- 3 Joseph, b. May 14, 1646; m. Sarah —.
- 4 John, b. Dec. 1, 1648; m. (1) Elizabeth Griswold; m. (2) Mary Ransford; m. (3) Sarah Cole.
- 5 Bathsheba, b. Dec. 30, 1650; m. (1) Richard Smith; m. (2) Samuel Fox.
- 6 James, b. Feb. 15, 1652; m. Mary Jordan.
- 7 Jonathan, b. Dec. 31, 1655; m. Naomi Burdick.
- 8 Elizabeth, b. April 15, 1658; m. Samuel Beebe.

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\* It is worthy of note that Mr. Blinman, who was a friend of James Rogers, possibly of old date, settled first at Marshfield, Mass. Many similar coincidences, and the fact that up to this time neither the parents of John of Marshfield, nor those of James of New London, nor those of William of Branford, Ct., have been found, lead the compiler of this work to suspect that these three progenitors of so many people may have been brothers.

## SECOND GENERATION.

2. SAMUEL<sup>2</sup> ROGERS (*James*<sup>1</sup>), born prob. 1640\* in Stratford, Ct.; died Dec. 1, 1713, in N. L.; married (1) Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann (Lord) Stanton of Hartford, Ct. Mary Stanton was called "of Stonington" at date of her marriage. He married (2) Joanna, widow of Thomas Williams of N. L. She died Sept. —, 1744, aged over ninety, and was mother of Thomas Williams 2d, who married Sarah, daughter of Joseph<sup>2</sup> Rogers, and of Grace who married Daniel<sup>3</sup> Rogers.†

Records of dates of death and marriage of Samuel differ somewhat; his death by the D. R. record is given as Dec. 1, 1713, while H. D. calls it Dec. 31, 1713. The date of his first marriage is stated by some as Oct. 13, and by others as Nov. 17, 1662. It is more than likely that the former is date of "publication," and the latter that of marriage. James, the father of Samuel, and Thomas Stanton, the father of Mary, each gave two hundred pounds sterling to the young couple, on their marriage. Samuel's father gave him the stone house and bakery at the head of Winthrop's Cove. Here he began housekeeping, conducting the bakery for many years, and was finally succeeded in business by his son Samuel.

About 1680 he removed to what was then called Mohegan, and became the first actual settler. He had been for years on intimate terms with Uncas, chief of the Mohegans, and both Uncas and his son Owaneco gave him lands in consideration of

\* The birth of Samuel has not been found on record, but his will, dated Feb. 12, 1712-13, states his age to be "72 and upwards," which will place it in 1640.

† Thomas Lord of Hartford, Ct., came to New England, April 29, 1635, at the age of fifty, in the "Elizabeth & Ann," with his wife Dorothy, aged forty, and seven children. Among these was: Anne, aged 14 in 1635; m. Thomas Stanton, and Amie, aged 6 in 1635; m. John Gilbert.

Thomas Stanton, aged 20, was a passenger for Virginia from London, 1635. Stopped in New England. Went from Boston in 1636 as Winthrop's interpreter to the Indians, and being also Indian interpreter to the General Court his name is connected with almost every Indian transaction from 1636 to 1670. He d. in Stonington, Ct., 1678. His wife, Anne Lord, daughter of Tho's Lord, d. 1688. (Thurston Gen.)

Samuel Rowland, previous to 1662, left by will, a farm in Stratford, Ct., to Samuel Rogers, son of James Rogers. At that date, record by Samuel Rogers is found concerning this farm received from his grandfather, Sam<sup>l</sup> Rowland, and sold to Francis Hall.

friendship and services rendered to themselves and their tribe. One of these tracts was a valuable farm on Saw-mill Brook, and Uncas being desirous to have Rogers settle there, promised to protect him with all his warriors, in case of emergency.

The following anecdote is related by Miss Caulkins :

On this tract Rogers built a house of hewn plank, surrounded with a wall, and mounted a big gun in front. When prepared for the experiment, he fired a signal of alarm, which had been concerted with his tawny friend, in case either should be disturbed by an enemy ; and in half an hour's time grim bands of warriors were seen on the hills, and soon came rushing down, with the sachem at their head, to the rescue of their friend. Rogers had prepared a feast for their entertainment, but it was probable that they relished the trick nearly as much as the banquet. It was one of their own jests ; they were always delighted with contrivance and stratagem.

Samuel Rogers owned a great deal of real estate, and his transactions in land — as shown by the books of land records — far outnumbered those of any other man in the Colony.

Although there is no record to show that he united with the Rogerene church, he was, by many proofs, in sympathy with the Rogerenes and in close friendship with his brother John.

His house stood about three-quarters of a mile south of the Congregational meeting-house, on a plain now owned by Albert A. Rogers, one of his descendants. A short distance east is a burying-ground of the Rogers families and their near relatives. Nearly one hundred graves are to be found there.

The following is an extract from his will :

I bequeath my spirit to the ever living God. To my grandchild Elizabeth Stanton . . . . . to her brother Theophilus, . . . . . To my son Jonathan my great Bible and my great book of accounts in folio. To my dear and loving wife Johana Rogers I give all my household stuff and bedding and all my horse kind, cattle and sheep, except one cow and six sheep which I order to be delivered unto my cousin John Rogers, son of brother John Rogers, to be disposed of as I have ordered him. I appoint my wife executrix to act with advice of John Rogers abovesaid and Samuel Fox, eldest son of my brother Samuel Fox.

Children, all born in New London :

- Ann<sup>s</sup> b. —, 1666 ; d. young.  
 9 Mary, b. April 17, 1667 ; m. Capt. Samuel Gilbert.  
 10 Samuel, b. Dec. 22, 1669 ; m. Abigail Plumb.  
 Joseph, b. —, 1670.  
 11 Elizabeth, b. May 8, 1673 ; m. (1) Theophilus Stanton ; m.  
 (2) Asa Harris.  
 Anna, twin to Elizabeth ; d. July 26, 1689.  
 12 Sarah, b. Aug. 9, 1676 ; m. James Harris.  
 13 Jonathan, b. ab. 1680 ; m. Elizabeth Pemberton.  
 14 Daniel, b. — ; m. Grace Williams.

3. JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> ROGERS (*James*<sup>1</sup>), born May 14, 1646, in Milford, Ct. ; died —, 1697 ; married about 1670, Sarah — ; she died Aug. 17, 1728. They lived on Bruen's Neck in Waterford, Ct., on the place formerly owned by Obadiah Bruen, the first Town Clerk of New London. He also had a farm in Poquaoag which consisted originally of three grants to James Bemas, Samuel Beebe and John Elderkin. He died intestate. The Lyme inventory taken May 8, 1697, by John Chapman and William Ely, gives farm with land and meadow, corn-mill and saw-mill. Total £136 sterling.

The N. L. property consisted according to inventory, of 34 acres on Great Neck, with house and orchard (1st tier, 2d division), £70 ; Farm and house on Bruen's Neck, £110 ; Farm-house and barns at Poquaoag with 16 acres of land, formerly E. Stallion's ; 10 acres formerly John Glazer's ; 10 acres originally Thomas Stanton's ; 6 acres originally Messenger's and a piece of land east side of Bruen's Cove, £142. Also household articles. Total of N. L. and Lyme, after deducting all debts and losses, £640.

"1719. On return from Southold in whale boat, got ashore at Poquaoag about sunset." (H. D.)

Children, all born in Great Neck :

- 15 James.<sup>3</sup> b. —, 1672 ; m. Sarah Stevens.  
 16 Samuel, b. — ; m. (1) Elizabeth.<sup>3</sup> dau. James<sup>2</sup> (6) Rogers ; m. (2) Patience (Potts) Pendleton.  
 Joseph, b. ab. 1674 ; d. —, 1724, unm. "Jan. 1724, Joseph Rogers a bachelor of about 50, of New London, died." (H. D.) Records show inventory of estate of Joseph Rogers,

14. DANIEL<sup>3</sup> ROGERS (*Samuel*,<sup>2</sup> *James*<sup>1</sup>), born —, in New London; died about 1772, "aged 105"; married Sept. 24, 1702, Grace, daughter of Thomas and Joanna Williams of North Parish, born, according to Thurston Genealogy, 1677-78. She was admitted to the church in Montville, Ct., Sept. 9, 1733. One of his descendants writes: "His long life, endurance and good sense were history in the family."

Tradition says that his appearance in the last years of his life was that of a venerable old man, his long gray hair covering his shoulders; and when seen in the field without a hat upon his head, which was his usual custom, he had the appearance of an old prophet.

Deeds from him to his sons are in the possession of his descendants. One is dated Jan. 24, 1753, to his son Thomas; another, of April 16, 1771, "for consideration of love, good will and fatherly affection I have and do bear unto my well beloved sons, Alpheus and Thomas," he conveys to them certain tracts where he "now lives," including the homestead. (Baker.)

Daniel Rogers, the centenarian, my grandfather's great-grandfather, — was one of the sturdy farmers of New England. He could do a full day's mowing in the meadow with the scythe when he was 95 years old. At the age of one hundred he ran away from home a distance of four miles, to visit a friend. It was in the busy haying season, and the children would not take the trouble to accommodate him with any means of conveyance. That same year he was presented with his first pair of spectacles. He died in 1772 at the age of 106 years. His wife lived to be 98 years old. (A. C. R. Betts.)

1706. Samuel Rogers gives son Daniel, a tract of land between N. L. and Colchester, near land of Samuel Rogers, Jr., by the great pond and several runs of water. (N. L. R.)\*

1791. Ebenezer Rogers\* of Montville, makes return of sales of land belonging to heirs of Daniel Rogers, made in pursuance of act of Assembly, £13: balance to be divided between heirs. Double share to heirs of Daniel Rogers, heirs of Grace Mirick, heirs of Ebenezer Rogers, heirs of Mary Bolles, heirs of Anna Baker, heirs of Alpheus Rogers, and to Thomas Rogers. (Prob. R.)

Daniel Rogers inherited a large tract of land in North Parish, and from time to time purchased other lands in the vicinity. The house

\* Above Ebenezer who "makes returns" is probably the son of Daniel (Daniel, Samuel, James); "to heirs of Ebenezer" is evidently the Ebenezer of Daniel, Samuel, James.

in which he lived at the time of his death stood on the south side of the highway leading from the Congregational church in Montville to Haughton's house, a short distance south of the present residence of A. A. Parker, Esq. (Baker.)

May, 1788. Upon memorial of Nathaniel Rogers, Jabez Rogers and Ebenezer Rogers, all of Montville, and James Rogers of Norwich, being heirs of Daniel Rogers late of N. L., deceased — showing there is a piece of land partly in Montville and partly in Colchester containing about 25 A., which said Daniel Rogers purchased of Jonathan Harris, May 30, 1764, which land descended and now belongs to the memorialists and the rest of the said heirs, being about 100, many of them femi-coverts and many under the age of 21, and dwellers in different states,— Capt. Ebenezer Rogers authorized to dispose of said land and render account to Judge of Probate, and secure to said heirs their proportion. (N. L. Prob. R.)

Children (probably not in order of birth) :

- 42 Daniel,<sup>4</sup> b. ab. 1708; m. Sarah Williams.
- 43 Nathaniel, b. ab. 1709.
- 44 Ebenezer, b. —; m. Dorothy Denison.
- 45 Grace, b. —; m. Elisha Mirick.
- 46 Mary, b. —; m. Thomas Bolles.  
Anna, b. —; m. — Baker.
- 47 Alpheus, b. —; m. Delight<sup>4</sup> Harris. [See 12.]
- 48 Thomas, b. —; m. Sarah Fitch.

There appears to have been a James in the family, as the records show that among the members of the Montville church who "went off to the Baptists" in 1747, were Daniel Rogers, Jr., Nathaniel Rogers and James Rogers; a James Rogers of Norwich, also appears among the heirs of Daniel Rogers.

It is quite probable that there was a son Lebbeus, as a deed to Lebbeus Rogers of Colchester, from Alpheus Chapman of N. L., is in the possession of a descendant of Daniel, and an inventory of Lebbeus Rogers, recorded in 1763, is traceable to none other than Lebbeus, son of Daniel.

15. JAMES<sup>2</sup> ROGERS (*Joseph,<sup>2</sup> James<sup>1</sup>*), born 1672, in New London; died July 20, 1721.\* He was killed by the discharge of a gun set by the Indians to kill a fox; married Mar. 27, 1699,

\* The gravestone in old burying ground at N. L. has inscription "James Rogers son of Joseph, d. July 21, 1721, aged 49 yrs." N. L. R. have July 20.

- 99 Joseph, b. Aug. 10, 1761; m. Esther Church.  
 100 David, b. June 22, 1765; m. Lucinda Gardner.  
 Frances, b. Sept. 24, 1766; d. Dec. 22, 1832; m. James, son  
 of James and Amy (Church) Comstock, b. —, 1774; d.  
 June 20, 1827. Children (Comstock): *Nancy*,<sup>6</sup> b. Oct. 11,  
 1799; d. Jan. 11, 1840, unm.: *Fanny*, b. —, 1802; d. Nov.,  
 1888, unm.: *Almira*, b. —, 1804; d. Oct. 11, 1865, unm.:  
*James Nelson*, b. —, 1808; m. Mary A. Buddington.

42. DANIEL<sup>4</sup> ROGERS (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>2</sup> *James*<sup>1</sup>), born about 1708, in Montville; married July 26, 1738, Sarah, daughter of Ebenezer Williams of Montville. She was baptized Nov. 14, 1724, and died before 1784. He settled in New Salem Society, now in the town of Salem, Ct.

Children:

- 101 Gurdon,<sup>5</sup> b. —; m. (1) Elizabeth Bliss; m. (2) Lucretia Rogers. [See 105.]  
 102 Ebenezer, b. Jan. 3, 1744; m. Elizabeth Gates.  
 Delight, b. —.  
 Jabez, b. —.

The following records are all the proofs thus far found to show authority for calling the above the children of Daniel<sup>4</sup>:

Dea. Ebenezer Williams of Montville mentions "Delight Rogers, daughter of Sarah deceased," in his will made in 1784.

1786. Daniel Rogers gives son Gurdon of Montville, land in Society of New Salem, beginning at corner of the land "I gave my son Ebenezer."

1787. Gurdon Rogers of Montville, and his brother Ebenezer, receive gift of land from their father, Daniel of Montville.

1788. Jabez Rogers was one of the heirs of Daniel Rogers, Jr. (N. L. Prob. R.)

43. NATHANIEL<sup>4</sup> ROGERS (*Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>2</sup> *James*<sup>1</sup>), born about 1709. In 1747, Nathaniel Rogers, referring to the Congregationalists, said: "There is no more God in this assembly than there is in a black dance." (Montville Church R.)

Children:

- 103 Nathaniel,<sup>5</sup> b. prob. 1753.  
 David, b. —.