

CLASSIC REPRINT SERIES

---

# EASTERN WORCESTER

---

Its First Settlers and Their Locations;  
Historical and Genealogical, in Three Chapters

---



by  
Caleb A. Wall

Forgotten Books

Forgotten Books

# EASTERN WORCESTER

Its First Settlers and Their  
Locations; Historical and  
Genealogical, in Three Chapters

*by*

Caleb A. Wall

Published by Forgotten Books 2013

Originally published 1891

PIBN 1000894740

[www.ForgottenBooks.org](http://www.ForgottenBooks.org)

Copyright © 2013 Forgotten Books

# Forgotten Books

## eBook Terms & Conditions

[www.forgottenbooks.org](http://www.forgottenbooks.org)

### 1. This eBook\* may be

- a. Distributed without modification or sale.
- b. Copied for personal and educational use.
- c. Printed for personal and educational use.

### 2. This eBook\* may NOT be

- a. Sold individually or as part of a package.
  - b. Modified in any way.
  - c. Reversed-engineered.



This eBook\* and all its content including images are  
Copyright © 2014 FB &c Ltd - All rights reserved.  
Forgotten Books is a registered trademark of FB &c Ltd.

**FB &c Ltd**, Dalton House, 60 Windsor Avenue, London SW19 2RR  
Company number 08720141. Registered in England and Wales.

\*eBook' refers to this PDF and any of its content including pages and images in either electronic or printed form.

The paperback edition of  
this book can be purchased from

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

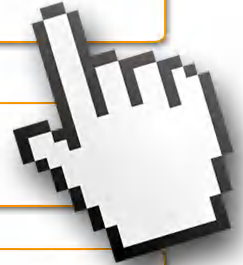
[amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

[amazon.de](https://www.amazon.de)

[amazon.fr](https://www.amazon.fr)

[amazon.es](https://www.amazon.es)

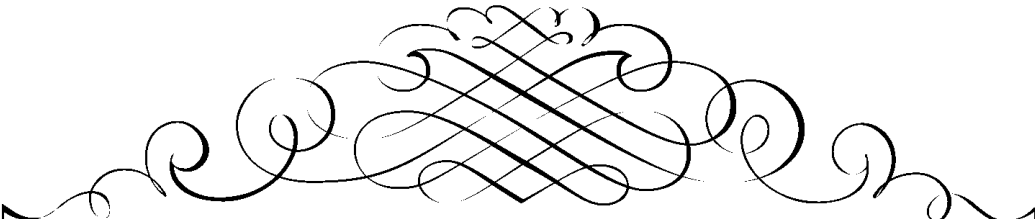
[amazon.it](https://www.amazon.it)



Over 1,000,000 eBooks  
are available to read at

*Forgotten Books*

[www.forgottenbooks.org](http://www.forgottenbooks.org)



484,473 eBooks  
are available to read at

# Forgotten Books

[www.ForgottenBooks.org](http://www.ForgottenBooks.org)



## Alchemy

*“In changing the base metals into gold and silver by the projection of the Stone, it follows (by an accelerated process) the method of nature, and therefore is natural.”*

The New Pearl of Great Price, by Peter Bonus, 1338 AD

[www.ForgottenBooks.org/Alchemy](http://www.ForgottenBooks.org/Alchemy)



# Forgotten Books

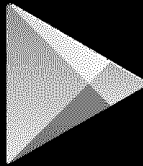
## Free App Download



Available on the  
**App Store**



Windows  
Store



ANDROID APP ON

**Google™ play**

Enjoy

**484,473 Books**

wherever you go

[www.ForgottenBooks.org/apps](http://www.ForgottenBooks.org/apps)



# EASTERN WORCESTER:

ITS

## First Settlers and Their Locations.

---

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL.

---

IN THREE CHAPTERS.

---

By CALEB A. WALL,

Author of "REMINISCENCES OF WORCESTER," "THE PURITANS VS. THE QUAKERS," "NORTH  
WORCESTER: ITS FIRST SETTLERS AND OLD FARMS," ETC.

---

WORCESTER:  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

1801.

F 74  
. W9 W16

(264477)  
Caleb A. Wall.  
June 3/91

## PREFACE.

This publication comprises three historical addresses by the author at three different places in the Easterly section of the City, descriptive of their respective localities and surroundings in the past, from the beginning of the town. Other addresses, given at Burncoat Plain, on 'akachoag Hill, in Pilgrim Hall, and elsewhere, including agatabscot Hill, Quinsigamond Village and Tatnuck, will be printed in due time, in similar style.

C. A. W.

# EASTERN WORCESTER:

## ITS FIRST SETTLERS AND THEIR LOCATIONS.

---

On the second Saturday of June, 1889, and of June, 1890, respectively, and on Saturday, Aug. 16, 1890, Caleb A. Wall held field meetings, at different historic points on the west side of that ancient landmark, Lake Quinsigamond. At these meetings he gave accounts of the first settlers and their locations along the west shore of the lake, and on Plantation street and vicinity. The first of these meetings was held Saturday afternoon, June 15, 1889, in the pavilion in Lake Park, near the highest elevation of land, where are the remains of three old cellars, indicating the locations of the residences of several of the first settlers in that section of the old town, one of them, probably that of Samuel Leonard, whose son Samuel, Jr., was carried off by the Indians during their depredations previous to the beginning of the permanent settlement of the town.

The second of these three meetings was held one year later, Saturday afternoon, June 14, 1890, the 168th anniversary of the incorporation of the town, on the historic old "Coal Mine Farm" of Elliot Swan, on Plantation street, opposite Wigwam hill.

The last one of these gatherings was held Aug. 16, 1890, in the beautiful grove on James Draper's "Bloomingdale Farm" on Plantation street.

## CHAPTER I.

FIRST GRANTS OF LAND FOR WORCESTER, AND FIRST SETTLERS  
ALONG LAKE QUINSIGAMOND.

## MEETING AT LAKE PARK.

At this meeting, held June 15, 1889, on the highest elevation of the land in Lake Park, near the Davis Tower, a goodly representation of persons interested in local history, was present. After an hour spent in viewing the old landmarks, and the beauties of the surrounding scenery, the pavilion was entered at three o'clock, and the meeting organized by the choice of Parks Commissioner O. B. Hadwen for chairman. Mr. Hadwen, after brief welcoming remarks, introduced Mr. Wall, who gave an address on the first grants of land for Worcester, and the earliest settlers along the west shore of the historic old lake which gave the first name to the place which was afterwards, Oct. 15, 1684, named Worcester.

## ADDRESS AT LAKE PARK, JUNE 15, 1889.

The first grant by the General Court of land located in the vicinity of Lake Quinsigamond, or of any part of the territory of Worcester, consisted of 3200 acres, granted May 22, 1650, to Increase Nowell, as executor and afterwards assignee and purchaser of the estate of Isaac Johnson of Charlestown, "to be laid out of the bounds of territory not yet disposed of, so they take it altogether in one place." After the death of Increase Nowell, who had been in distinguished and frequent public service in the Massachusetts colony, as magistrate, secretary, elder of the church, selectman, etc., for 19 years, commissioners were appointed, May 6, 1657, to lay out this land to Mr. Nowell's executors and assignees, John Haines, Josiah Haines and Nathaniel Treadway, and this they afterwards did, and their action was confirmed by the General Court, May 27, 1664. This tract of 3200 acres, consisting of about  $7\frac{3}{4}$  square miles, was all located east of Lake Quinsigamond, except an island of nearly 100 acres, afterwards called Stratton Island, and now Quinsigamond Park, at the south end of the lake, and a small island then just below that, since that time submerged by the dam built at the outlet of the lake. The tract took in a goodly

part of the central territory of Shrewsbury, averaging about 2½ miles square. [A plan of this grant was shown.]

May 22, 1662, a grant of 1000 acres was made "for the benefit of the ministry of Malden," and the General Court, May 3, 1665, located this "about two miles southwesterly from the southwest angle of Lancaster bounds," about 100 acres of it coming within the original bounds of Worcester, which, till 1740, included Holden, and the other 900 acres came within the original bounds of Shrewsbury, which first included both Boylston and West Boylston. Most of this 900 acres comes within the present limits of West Boylston and the remainder in old Boylston. Malden hill and Malden brook received their names from this, though the hill itself did not come within the grant as located, but was west of it, Malden brook running from it.

October 19, 1664, there were granted by the General Court to Thomas Noyes, surveyor, "for service done and money expended, and other respects, 250 acres of land," laid out and located May 23d, 1666, "near a place called by the Indians Quansicamung Pond, near adjoining to lands, formerly laid out to Thomas Noyes, John Haines and others, beginning near the north end and head of said pond, thence S. 4° W. 206 rods, thence W. 4° N. 190 rods, thence N. 4° E. 206 rods, and thence E. 4° S. 190 rods to the place of beginning, with ten or twelve acres added at the last angle to make up the complement of the said 250 acres." [A plan of this tract was also exhibited.]

Under date of May 27, 1668, is this record, signed by Thom<sup>d</sup> Noyes, surveyor, in the old colony records: "Laid out in 1665 to the assignees of Rev. John Norton, late teacher of the church in Boston, 250 acres of land, which were granted to him Nov. 12, 1659, by the General Court, located on the west side of a great pond called and known by the name of Quinsigamond Pond, southward of the bounds of Lancaster, 240 acres of this being in a long square bounded on every side by the country's land, and 10 acres being added on the east side to make up the full complement of 250 acres." John Payne was the assignee of Rev. John Norton, of whom Noyes purchased this land. A plan of this tract was also shown. It included what is now North Park and land on both sides of Burncoat street, running north 160 rods from Melrose and Millbrook streets.

This grant of 250 acres to Rev. John Norton, in 1659, (with another grant of 250 acres in Sudbury,) was made in remuneration to him for his services in writing down the Quakers and aiding in the terrible persecution of these people between the years 1656 and 1661, by which four of them were executed, and numerous others underwent the most inhuman treatment, for their religious opinions, at the hands of the Puritan authorities in Massachusetts, at the instigation of Norton, Gov. Endicott, Rev. John Wilson and others.

The purchase of this 250 acre grant to Norton, by Noyes, was undoubtedly made before the land was laid out or located, and he was the surveyor both of this and the 250 acres laid out to himself; and as the record evidence of the laying out of both grants was in his own hands, a contest subsequently arose as to its validity. Oct. 11, 1665, in response to the petition of Ensign Thomas Noyes, John and Josiah Haines and Nathaniel Treadway, all brothers-in-law, as it would appear, to whom grants of land had been made and located, a committee was appointed by the General Court, consisting of Capt. Daniel Gookin and others, to "view the place and see whether it be capable of making a plantation, what number of families might be accommodated upon it," etc. Owing to the death, soon afterwards, of Ensign Noyes, in 1666, action on this order was delayed. The General Court renewed its action and instructions to the committee May 15, 1667, and Oct. 20, 1668, they made a report to the court on this order, "about the new plantation near Quinsigamond pond," that they had viewed the place therein mentioned, and found it to lie "about 12 miles westward from Marlboro, near the road to Springfield; that it contained a tract of very good chestnut land, a large quantity; but the meadow they find not so much, because a very considerable quantity of meadow and upland, about 5000 acres, is laid out unto particular persons, within this tract of land," etc., the committee's report closing with the recommendation that a prudent and able committee have the charge of the territory to be granted, consisting of eight miles square, and have charge of the settlement of the same till it have a sufficient number of inhabitants, after seven years, to form a town. This was accordingly done, and Captains Daniel Gookin, Daniel Henchman, and George Prentice, and Lieut. Richard Beers, were appointed as that committee. The shape of the plantation, as surveyed by David Fisk by their order, was an oblique angled parallelogram, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide from east to west, and  $11\frac{3}{4}$  miles long from north to south, bounding easterly on Lake Quinsigamond and an extension of that line northerly, the northwest and southeast corners forming an obtuse angle of about  $110^\circ$ , and the other two corners an acute angle of  $70^\circ$ . This constituted about 64 square miles, or 43,000 acres, and included what is now Holden, set off in 1740, and the northeast quarter of Auburn, which was set off in 1778. It will be noticed that this did not include any of the Nowell grant of 3200 acres, and but 100 of the 1000 acres of the Malden grant, but it did include the 500 acres of the Noyes and Norton grants. After the death of Noyes, in 1666, Ephraim Curtis of Sudbury purchased, in 1670, of Mr. Noyes' widow, then Mrs. Bacon, her right to both these lots, and began to build in the fall of 1673, a small house on one of them, the lot granted to Norton, which included what

is now called North Park, and the land on which the Adams square school house stands, corner of Burncoat and Melrose streets.

As the committee appointed by the General Court to have charge of the settlement claimed that the laying out of these two grants (to Noyes and Norton) was subsequent to the time the territory including them was put in their charge, they disputed Curtis' right to proceed farther without authority from this committee. The matter was finally referred by the committee to the General Court for settlement, and in response, under date of June 3, 1674, the court ordered, as a full settlement of the case between the committee and Curtis, after hearing all the evidence on both sides, "that Curtis shall have 50 acres of the land where he hath built, to be laid out and ordered by the committee for said plantation as other lots there are, so it be in one place, with all manner of accommodation appertaining thereto as other inhabitants have, and that he shall have liberty to take up the 250 acres of land without the bounds of said town, provided it be near adjoining thereto, and to be in lieu of the land granted to John Norton." This did not affect the claim to the Noyes grant, upon which Curtis, or his son, Capt. John, afterwards built, and which has ever since remained in the family, where Tyler P. Curtis, great grandson of Capt. John, now lives.

There is the best of evidence that this grant to Norton was on the north corners of what are now Melrose, Millbrook and Burncoat streets, including both sides of Burncoat street, extending 160 rods north of the corner. The fifty-acre section of this on which Curtis built the small house alluded to, and which was afterwards granted to him on the condition of his yielding his right to the remainder and accepting instead of it the 250 acres given him elsewhere, was located on the east corner, fronting 69 rods on the "country road," now Melrose street, and running back northwardly the 160 rod depth of the whole. This includes the land on which the Adams square school house now stands and the Chaffin and Alfred Smith estates, all of which made about 50 acres before Mr. Smith sold off a few years ago a part of his land, since built upon by different parties. This 50 acres run north about to the estate now of Edwin P. Curtis, formerly Walter Bigelow's, and included the present North Park.

[A plan was here shown of the lots of land granted in 1674 in the vicinity of what is now known as Adams square, as compared in the outlines and boundaries with those of the present owners of estates there, to show how many of the ancient boundary lines have ever since been preserved.]

King Phillip's war broke out in 1675, when all the settlements begun here were broken up, and Curtis acted an important part in the war against the Indians as lieutenant. He retired after it was over to Sudbury, and does not appear to have returned

here, but either he or his son, Capt. John, must have built some time before 1734 on the estate which the father that year, he being then, as well as in 1731, of Sudbury, deeded to his son John, and either he or his son Ephraim, Jr., had probably built before 1731 on the Pakachoag Hill estate of 250 acres, which his father that year deeded to him. This 250 acres which Ephraim Curtis, senior, took up in lieu of the remaining 200 acres of the North grant, was located on the easterly border of what now constitutes Auburn, the northern border of Millbury, and the southern border of Worcester, (formerly called a gore), just outside of the original grant of eight miles square. Of this 250 acres which Curtis deeded to his son Ephraim, Jr., in 1731, "with the buildings thereon," the main or original homestead part, including the old house, has ever since been in the possession of the descendants of that branch of the family.

Of the original 250 acres of the Noyes lot, on which Ephraim Curtis, or his son John, afterwards built, as before stated, the father conveyed 150 acres with the buildings to his son, Capt. John Curtis, in 1734, the owners and occupants of this having since been Tyler, John, and Tyler P. Curtis.

In 1745, Ephraim Curtis, senior, then as before of Sudbury, conveyed the remaining 100 acres of this 250, situated south-east of the other, to Othniel Taylor, whose father, James Taylor, was the first settler at the north end of Plantation street, next below or southeast of the Curtis estate.

[A plan was here shown of the location of these old estates, according to the deeds of conveyance.]

There is the best reason for the belief that the first extension of the old "country road" or "Connecticut road" from the above mentioned corner of what are now Melrose and Burncoat streets, where Ephraim Curtis built his first house in the fall of 1673, was westward through what is now Millbrook street and thence in a circuitous route west of Mill Brook, according to a plan which will be shown when the writer comes to speak more particularly of that section of the city; and that the route through what is now Lincoln street, east of Millbrook, was opened about the time of the beginning of the second attempt at settlement in 1684.

I will now refer to the second attempt at settlement, begun in 1683, which was also broken up by the Indians, among those who were driven off by them being the family of Samuel Leonard in 1697, whose residence was near where the meeting was held, and the family of Digory Sergeant, (see Rem. p. 15-17), whose residence was near that of Jonas Rice, the first one to come at the beginning of the third and permanent settlement in the fall of 1713. Jonas Rice's brother, Gershom Rice, soon after joined him, they settling near each other, the former on the northeasterly and the latter on the northerly slope of Saga-

tabscot hill. Jonas Rice's location was where the late Edward L. Ward lived on Heywood street, from 1838 till his decease in 1890, and Gershom Rice's was near the corner of Grafton and Wall streets. Their brother-in-law, Nathaniel Moore, settled just east of Jonas Rice, on what is now the Dr. Heywood heirs' estate on Heywood street. Others followed in different sections of the town. At the beginning of this permanent settlement in 1713 and '14, the country road was extended from what is now Lincoln square southerly to the common, and thence toward Leicester, Sutton and Oxford, by different routes. At the same time, 1713-'14, a new thoroughfare was opened, now called Plantation street, extending from the country road (Lincoln street), near the head of Lake Quinsigamond, in a southwesterly direction, by the new settlements then just begun, of James Taylor, Moses Leonard and others, to and across what is now Grafton street, to the new settlements of Jonas Rice and his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Moore, on what is now Heywood street, and thence westward from Jonas Rice's by the locations, then just granted in the spring of 1714, of his brothers Ephraim, Elisha and James Rice, (see Rem. p. 40), to and across what is now Vernon street, the old road to Sutton, to and through Ward and Cambridge streets to New Worcester, where it joined the old country road from Boston through Worcester, Leicester, Brookfield, and Springfield, to New York.

Gershom Rice removed about 1735 to Pakachoag Hill, in that part of Worcester now in Auburn, and settled on the estate where his great grandson, Edward Rice, died in 1863, aged 90 years, (see Rem. p. 19-40), now owned and occupied by M. L. Hervey.

Mr. Wall then proceeded to speak of the first settlers and their locations on the west shore of Lake Quinsigamond, but as what he said on this point is included in the address he gave one year later, June 14, 1890, at the old Coal Mine Farm, it is printed in connection with that. The address was followed with remarks by Parks Commissioner James Draper, on whose motion a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Wall for the same, with the generally expressed wish that it be printed in full.

## CHAPTER II.

FIRST SETTLERS AND THEIR LOCATIONS ON THE WEST SHORE  
OF LAKE QUINSIGAMOND.

Meeting at the Coal Mine Farm of Elliot Swan, on Plantation street, opposite Wigwam Hill, Saturday afternoon, June 14, 1890.

At this meeting there was a gathering of about fifty ladies and gentlemen interested in the early history of Worcester, on the lawn in front of the ancient farm house occupied by Charles B. Demond, lessee of Mr. Swan's farm. After a half hour of inspection of the localities, including the old mine and its surroundings, Parks Commissioner James Draper was called to the chair, and after opening remarks introduced Mr. Wall, who gave the following address :

## COAL MINE FARM ADDRESS.

This beautiful June day, the 168th Anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Worcester, June 14, 1722, since grown to be a populous city, so long justly recognized as the "Heart of the Commonwealth," whose history dates back to the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock in 1620, may be considered a fitting occasion for the consideration of matters connected with the beginnings of the settlements here, and their progress.

October 21, 1713, upon the petition of Col. Adam Winthrop, Gershom Rice and Jonas Rice, to the General Court, on behalf of themselves and other proprietors of lands within the township of Worcester, setting forth their desire to enter upon a new settlement of the said plantation from which they and others had been driven by the late Indian War, and praying for the appointment of a proper committee to have charge of the same till the place should be of sufficient size to be duly incorporated as a town, the prayer of this petition was granted, and Col. Winthrop, Col. Wm. Taylor of Malden, Col. Wm. Dudley of Boston, Col. Thomas Howe of Marlborough, and Col. John Ballantine of Boston, were appointed said committee, and their first report to the General Court, in recommendation of measures.

to be taken, was made and accepted by the representatives May 26th following, and became a law by the signature of the Governor, Joseph Dudley, June 14, 1714, just eight years before the day of incorporation of the town, and 176 years ago the day of this meeting, which was thus a double anniversary occasion.

### THE TAYLOR FAMILY.

Among those to whom grants of land were made by the above named committee, immediately after their appointment, and they were authorized so to do, were those to the first settlers on the west shore of Lake Quinsigamond, of whom the northernmost one was James Taylor, from Marlboro, whose lands included the place where this meeting is held. James Taylor's original grant of 111 acres, in three adjoining lots, on both sides of Plantation street, were bounded, that portion on the west side of the road, northwest and west by Ephraim Curtis, and southwest by Thomas Binney; and that on the east side of that road was bounded north by Wigwam Hill, east by Lake Quinsigamond, and south by Moses Leonard. This included the central portion of Mr. Swan's farm, and the main portion of the farm of Samuel G. Curtis, south of Mr. Swan's. At James Taylor's death in 1743, he left his estate, then comprising 140 acres, to his son Othniel Taylor, who died in 1779. Their residence, as well as that of Othniel's son, Othniel, Jr., was where Samuel G. Curtis now lives. After the death of Othniel Taylor, Jr., in 1812, his children sold that portion of the estate of their great grandfather, James Taylor, out of the family, it being encumbered with a heavy mortgage, to Dr. John Green and Capt. Samuel Brooks. The next occupant of that estate was William Coes, blacksmith, whose assignees, Dr. Benjamin and Dea. Lewis Chapin, sold it in 1829, then comprising 91 acres, to Benjamin F. Curtis; and since the death of the latter in 1858, his son Samuel G. Curtis has occupied it. Soon after he purchased the estate, the late Benjamin F. Curtis, who was brother of Albert Curtis, Esq., of New Worcester, built the main part of the present house, the rear or kitchen part being a portion of the original house on the estate. Albert W. Curtis, Esq., of Spencer, is another son of Benjamin F. Curtis. There was a blacksmith shop on the opposite side of the road, just over the brook, which was torn down many years ago. Previous to leaving here, Wm. Coes resided on Mechanic street, where he had a blacksmith shop, afterwards occupied successively by Samuel Boyden and Leonard Pool, on the site now of Joseph Sauer's German American House.

The first Othniel Taylor's son William, who died in 1808, and the latter's son James Taylor, who died in 1814, lived on

that portion of the original farm of their ancestor, James Taylor, where we now are. The last James Taylor's sister, Molly, who married Timothy Bragg, and who inherited this estate with her brother from their father, Wm. Taylor, sold it in 1826 to Joel Putnam, who was brother of Charles Putnam, the husband of Mrs. Bragg's daughter Sarah, Mr. Bragg having then deceased. The estate became in 1828 the property of Col. Amos Binney, to operate the mine for its supposed wealth, and his heirs sold it to the present owner, Elliot Swan, in 1850. The first dwelling house on this estate, the main part of the present one, was probably built about 1756, when this portion (60 acres) of the original estate of the first settler, James Taylor, was given to his grandson William Taylor, by the latter's father, Othniel Taylor, senior, by deed, for his settlement in life. In this deed reference is made to the old mine, in the description of the northwest bounds of the farm conveyed as running west to a tree marked W. T., on a hill a little northwest of a mine commonly called "Nackor's Mine," thence extending northerly and northwesterly to Capt. John Curtis' farm, the father, Othniel Taylor, senior, reserving the privilege of flowing the land on which a saw mill then stood. A walk up coal mine brook through this land will show where this saw mill, long ago torn down, probably stood.

James<sup>3</sup> Taylor, born in Marlborough, April 22, 1674, who died in Worcester, February 24, 1743, was son of James<sup>2</sup> Taylor, who resided first in Cambridge and lastly in Marlborough, where he died February 11, 1713, the latter being son of Wm.<sup>1</sup> Taylor, who died in Concord in 1706. By his wife Elizabeth, who died in Worcester, July 11, 1755, surviving her husband twelve years, James<sup>3</sup> Taylor had these seven children, born in Marlborough before 1714, when the parents came here:

1st.—Elizabeth<sup>4</sup>, born February 26, 1696, married September 6, 1722, Nathaniel Joslin.

2d.—Othniel<sup>4</sup>, born October 19, 1698, died July 29, 1779, was three times married, and succeeded to his father's estate south and west of Wigwam Hill, where he had seven children, of whom Othniel<sup>5</sup>, Jr., and William<sup>5</sup> succeeded to different portions of the paternal estate; Othniel<sup>5</sup>, Jr., taking the original homestead, and William<sup>5</sup> the coal mine or northwest section.

3d.—Sarah<sup>4</sup>, born August 26, 1700, married November 18, 1718, Benjamin Mills, and afterwards a Warren.

4th.—Amety<sup>4</sup>, born May 5, 1704, married Thomas Parker, whose farm, on Heard street, near New Worcester, was afterwards owned and occupied by his son William Parker, and subsequently by Deacon Nathan Heard, father of the late General Nathan Heard.

5th.—Hannah<sup>4</sup>, born April 10, 1706, married a Harwood.

6th.—James<sup>4</sup>, born Aug. 1, 1708, died June 31, 1730, aged 22.

7th.—Abraham<sup>4</sup>, born March 24, 1710, died 1739.

Othniel<sup>4</sup> Taylor, (son of James<sup>3</sup> and Elizabeth) married first September 1, 1725, Mary Newton, born in Marlborough, May 10, 1702, daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Morse) Newton and he afterwards married Dinah, who died in 1746, and Hannah, who died in 1772. Othniel Taylor's children were:

1st.—Othniel<sup>5</sup>, Jr., married Mary, and resided on the main part of the old homestead given him by his father, where Samuel G. Curtis now lives, where he had six sons, Samuel<sup>6</sup>, Luther<sup>6</sup>, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>6</sup>, Simeon<sup>6</sup> and Eli<sup>6</sup>, born between 1768 and 1789.

2d.—Bridget,<sup>5</sup> married Thomas Wheeler, deacon of the Old South church from 1783 till his death in 1795, she being his first wife.\*

3d.—William<sup>5</sup>, died in 1808, married Lois Whitney, who died November 10, 1805, aged 69, and resided on the northern part of the old homestead given him by his father, since known as the old Coal Mine Farm, where he had James<sup>6</sup>, Hannah<sup>6</sup>, Molly<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>6</sup> and Lois<sup>6</sup>, born between 1755 and 1780, of whom James<sup>6</sup> and Molly<sup>6</sup> (who married in 1792 Timothy Bragg) succeeded to the old homestead, where Lois<sup>6</sup> died July 6, 1802, aged 22; Hannah<sup>6</sup> died June 13, 1759, aged 16 months; and William<sup>6</sup>, Jr., died March 7, 1779, aged 11 years and 7 months.

4th.—Abraham<sup>5</sup>, married Rachel, resided on a portion of the father's homestead, south of his brother William<sup>5</sup>, and had there Sarah<sup>6</sup>, born March 29, 1762; Hannah<sup>6</sup>, born March 3, 1764; and Timothy<sup>6</sup>, born May 19, 1765, when the father sold his estate to Joseph Hastings†, and moved away.

5th.—Mary,<sup>5</sup> married November 25, 1776, Wm. Johnson, blacksmith, from Westboro.

6th.—James<sup>5</sup>, born 1731, was in the French war, and at the battle of St. George, September 8, 1755, and died February 26, 1756.

7th.—Isaac<sup>5</sup>, born November 17, 1745, died March 26, 1746.

James<sup>7</sup> Taylor, born August 10, 1755, died July, 1814, (son of William<sup>6</sup> and Lois), and resided on the paternal estate with his sister Molly (Bragg).

\* I give this on the authority of the late Mrs. Abigail W. Whittemore, whose mother was neice and adopted daughter of Dea. Wheeler, but I find no corroboration of such marriage on any records.

† This Joseph Hastings came from Watertown to Worcester in 1753 and settled first on land purchased of one of the Rice's on Sagatabscot Hill. His son Ebenezer Hastings succeeded him on the estate purchased of Abraham Taylor on the west side of Plantation street, and Ebenezer's son Simeon Hastings succeeded him, and the latter's son-in-law, Daniel Sargent, succeeded him. In 1825 Sargent conveyed the estate to his son-in-law, the late Wm. Eaton, Jr., father of the present Wm. Eaton. The old house, torn down many years ago, stood opposite the south slope of Wigwam Hill, and the land has a long time belonged to the Swan farm, having been purchased of Mr. Eaton by Mr. Swan.

## THE OLD MINE.

A long time before this portion of the old Taylor farm was sold in 1826, by the last heir, Mrs. Bragg, to Joel Putnam, attention had been called to the matter of utilizing the mineral wealth of black lead or coal, which gave the name to the farm, and more or less efforts had been made to work it or do something with it. It was here before the white settlers came, and its fame may have led to their coming. The black lead was highly prized by the Indians near by on Wigwam Hill, before the white man came; it was here the Indian got his black paint for war dress and other purposes, fancy and domestic. The mine was early known and prized in Boston and other places for the value of its ore as a black lead. As it lay on the surface it was easily obtained by simply pounding it off and putting it in wagons, drawn to Boston and sold. As the demand increased it became more difficult to knock up a load, and there was some work attached to it. In 1803, Wm. Taylor sold two acres of his land, including this mine, to the brothers Ebenezer, Peter and Abel Stowell, at the instigation of parties in Boston, to operate for the utilization of the ore. These Stowell brothers were sons of Cornelius Stowell, who lived on the corner of Park and Orange streets.\* They hired money of Amherst Eaton to operate with, mortgaging this land back for security. Eaton recovered the land on execution after the death of James Taylor in 1815, and sold it in 1818 to Carter Elliot of Millbury, who in 1825 borrowed money of the late George T. Rice of Worcester and Jabez Hall of Millbury, to operate with, giving a mortgage back to them on the property for security. After working it a couple of years, Elliot, too, failed in his enterprise, when a man of more enlarged means, or one who commanded more means with the assistance of others through his social influence, made his appearance on the scene. This was Col. Amos Binney of Boston. He did not come here to live, but hired Col. Charles Brigham of Grafton, a sturdy and energetic practical business man and farmer, to act as his superintendent in the working of the mine for coal. He not only purchased the interest of Elliot and his mortgagees to the premises, but he purchased May 13, 1828, of Samuel Jennson and Francis T. Merrick, the assignees of Joel Putnam, for the consideration of \$3500, the whole farm of 6½ acres formerly belonging to William Taylor and his son James and daughter Mrs. Bragg. As evidence of the public confidence of the leading citizens of the time in the feasibility of the enterprise, at the ensuing session of the General Court in 1829, after the purchase and beginning of operations by Col. Binney, a corporation was constituted, consisting of Samuel B. Thomas,

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 54.

Asahel Bellows, Wm. E. Green, Isaac Davis, George A. Trumbull, Nathaniel Paine and Benjamin Butman, with a capital of \$600,000, and a charter was granted under the name of the "Worcester Railroad Company," with a capital of \$50,000, for the construction of a railroad from this mine to Lake Quinsigamond, and also from these lands to the banks of the Blackstone Canal, then just opened between Worcester and Providence, of which the terminus or main basin in Worcester was on the north side of Central street, on the site of the present Holman machine shop. But what was done by Col. Binney, under the direction of his agent, Col. Brigham, during his two years of operations, was accomplished without the aid of either of these corporations, which seem never to have gone into effect. A large force of men was engaged. The ancient looking structure which we now see in the rear, fast going to decay, was built for the accommodation of the workmen, with a bell upon it to call them to their work and meals, and other arrangements were made for exploring and mining coal. An excavation was made to the depth of some 300 feet, for the ore, which was drawn upon small cars by a windlass. A road was also built from the mine to the highway, platform scales put in to weigh the coal, and the work went tolerably well for a while. But a great hindrance to effective operations was the water at the bottom, which had to be got rid of, very seriously delaying and impeding progress. An aged resident in the vicinity, well remembering the facts, tells me, "Two miners were imported to drive a tunnel from the bottom of the hill to the lead ore to relieve the mine from water. They labored some 18 months and worked a beautiful shaft some 7 feet high and 5 or 7 feet wide, into the rock, 300 or 400 feet deep, when all was quit. The tunnel or shaft was open for a number of years, until one day an unlucky colt went in exploring, and as he could not turn round and would not back out, he finally staid there. After this, the mouth was closed up, and this finished the old Coal Mine. It is said the black lead has some value, but for what I do not know, but I do know it puts a fine polish on those that work it, and it is hard to rub out. As to its burning qualities, I do not apprehend any spontaneous combustion in the mine, and if it should happen, it is lucky there is plenty of water handy to put it out."

The general result of these mining operations while they lasted, was, that several hundred tons of coal, such as it was, were mined and sold at some \$3.00 per ton, a considerable quantity of it being used at the old Worcester Brewery of Trumbull & Ward, on the corner of Washington square and Water street, for the manufacture of malt, and also at the Old Exchange Hotel, then kept by Samuel B. Thomas, Capt. Joseph Sorell's Hotel on the corner of Main and Thomas streets, and a few other places in town.

The late Wm. Lincoln, brother of Governor Lincoln, in his history printed in 1836, under the head of "Mines and Minerals in Worcester," speaking of this deposit of Anthracite Coal about two miles northeast of the centre, says, "It was long converted into paint, under the name of black lead, and furnished a cheap and durable covering for roofs, and for the exterior of buildings exposed to the weather. In 1828, it was partially explored and began to be worked by Col. Amos Binney, and was found to be a valuable combustible, suitable, even in the impure state presented by the upper strata, for furnaces and plates where intense heat and great fires were required. Engagements of business, and local circumstances, induced him to suspend the prosecution of the undertaking. Since his decease, the mineral which might be made to give motion to the wheels of manufacturing and mechanic industry to unlimited extent, has been permitted to rest undisturbed in its bed. The rock in which this Worcester anthracite occurs, is termed by Prof Hitchcock, in his Geology of Massachusetts, printed in 1833, an imperfect kind of mica slate, and called by Humboldt transition mica slate, having a moderate dip to the northeast. Although the coal is considered by him as inferior to that of Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, its specific gravity he said is greater than that from those States. Prof. Hitchcock expresses the opinion that "it will be considered by posterity, if not by the present generation, as a treasure of great value, and added, "I can hardly believe that a coal which contains probably not less than 90 per centum of carbon, should not be employed, in some way or other, as valuable fuel."

The late John Milton Earle, then editor of the old *Massachusetts Spy*, who was well versed in matters of natural history, turned his attention to the subject of this old Coal Mine as early as 1823, when he said: "At the place where it is now open it appears above the surface, and may be procured in vast quantities at an expense almost nominal. It is of the species called anthracite, and is of the same kind as Liverpool glame coal, Rhode Island coal, and Schuylkill and Lehigh coal, etc. We have burned some of it, and found it to ignite readily and produce great heat. It is found to ignite easier than the Rhode Island and Lehigh, but leaves a greater residuum. The result of an experiment with the different kinds of coal mentioned, showed that the Worcester coal maintained its high temperature longer than the others."

The ownership of this old Coal Mine farm remained in the Binney family till 1841, when it was sold by the widow and other heirs of Amos Binney to Joseph Nichols, who sold it in 1850 to Elliot Swan, the latter having since owned it. Including several purchases subsequently made from the owners of surrounding estates, Mr. Swan's farm here now comprises about 230 acres, and is under lease to Mr. Charles B. Demond.

Sorry, this page is  
unavailable to Free Members

You may continue reading on the following page



Upgrade your  
Forgotten Books Membership  
to view this page now  
with our  
**7 DAY FREE TRIAL**

[Start Free Trial](#)

the sites of the two State Lunatic Hospital barns now there. This estate of 180 acres, Moses Leonard sold in 1729 for £850, to Benjamin Townsend of Brookfield, and the latter sold the same in 1731 to Gershom Keyes of Boston, for £1100. Gershom Keyes conveyed the same estate in 1732 to Joshua Child,\* from Watertown, who resided there till 1745, when he conveyed the estate to Nathaniel Adams, from Grafton, previously of Ipswich, the latter residing thereon till his decease in 1776, and his widow, Martha, lived there after him. After Joshua Child, senior, sold out his lake farm to Nathaniel Adams, he purchased in 1745 the Wm. Gray farm on Lincoln street, which he sold the next year to Joseph Wait, and the latter to Capt. John Curtis, and the latter to his son John Curtis, Jr., for the son's settlement in life, as elsewhere referred to.

Nathaniel Adams' grand-daughter Sarah, who married Samuel Porter, occupied the Adams farm with her husband till his decease in 1808, after which time the estate was owned and occupied by Samuel Porter's son, Rufus Porter,† till his decease in 1826, when the estate passed out of the family to the late Maj. Simeon Burt, who sold it in 1838 to the late Charles Bowen, from which time Mr. Bowen owned and occupied it with his family till 1876, when the estate was purchased by the Commonwealth, and became a part of the State Lunatic Hospital estate, and the old house and barn connected with it were then torn down. [A photograph of this old house was here shown.]

This Nathaniel Adams was son of Samuel and Mary (Burley) Adams of Ipswich. Nathaniel's mother died a widow in Worcester in 1772, leaving sons, Nathaniel, Andrew, James, John and Jonathan, and several daughters, most of whom settled in Grafton and vicinity.

Samuel<sup>4</sup> was son of Nathaniel<sup>3</sup> and Mary (Dickinson) Adams of Ipswich, and grandson of Wm. Adams, who was of Cambridge from 1735 to 1738, when he removed to Ipswich. John Quincy Adams is quoted as having claimed that this William Adams of Cambridge and Ipswich, was a son of his emigrant ancestor, the first Henry Adams of Old Braintree.

### THE ANCIENT GATES FARM.

The next estate south, comprising about 180 acres, extending north nearly to what is now Belmont street, east to Lake Quinsigamond, south beyond the Quinsigamond Boat Club House,

---

\* This Joshua<sup>3</sup> Child, born December 30, 1682, was son of Richard<sup>2</sup> and Hannah (Traine) Child of Watertown. He married Sarah Stearns, and had seven children born between 1721 and 1732, of whom Joshua<sup>4</sup>, Jr., born September 26, 1723, married June 2d, 1748, Mary Hinds of Shrewsbury.

† Rufus Porter was brother of Ex-Alderman Samuel A. Porter, and their mother, Sarah, was daughter of Nathan Patch, whose wife, Eunice, was daughter of Nathaniel Adams.

and westerly to Plantation street, was originally granted to Aeneas Salter, and afterwards purchased of his heirs by Capt. Nathaniel Jones, father of Noah and grandfather of Col. Phinehas Jones of the Old Jones Tavern beyond New Worcester. In 1731, Capt. Jones conveyed this 180 acres and buildings to Jonathan Gates, from Cambridge, whose great-great-grandson, Wm. Eaton, still owns and occupies a portion of the original estate, including the old ancestral homestead on Bloomingdale road, where Mr. Eaton's great-grandfather, Capt. William Gates of revolutionary fame, son of Jonathan, was born in 1735, and resided till his decease, July 11, 1811, aged 76 years. Capt. Gates had two brothers, John and Jonathan, Jr., who divided with him the 180-acre farm of their father, after the father's decease in 1756, aged 72, John's portion being on the north, and Jonathan, Jr.'s on the south or southeast side of their brother William, the latter taking the central portion, including the old home.

### THE JOSHUA BIGELOW FARM.

The original proprietor of the estate next south of the above, was Isaac Leonard of Bridgewater, (uncle of the above mentioned Moses Leonard,) to whom 40 acres were granted May 20, 1714, with the right to 100 acres more for a second division, and south of Isaac Leonard, his brother Samuel Leonard had granted to him during the second unsuccessful attempt at settlement, a grant of 140 acres, extending south to the then town border, from which land he was driven by the Indians in 1697, this 140 acres being afterwards, November 18, 1718, taken by Rev. Benjamin Allen of Bridgewater, on Samuel Leonard's right. Isaac Leonard's grant in 1714, was described as bounded on the south by that of Samuel Leonard.

In June, 1724, a committee of the proprietors of the town, Nathaniel Moore and Moses Leonard, conveyed to John Kellogg 30 acres westerly of and adjoining the Isaac Leonard and Benjamin Allen land, above mentioned.

March 2, 1717, Isaac Leonard and his wife Deliverance, of Bridgewater, for £25, conveyed to Nathaniel Jones of Weston, the above mentioned 40 acres, "with the additional 100 acre right, which is already drawn or may be hereafter drawn or laid out, adjoining ye same," etc. The land thus conveyed by Isaac Leonard and wife to Jones, and by the proprietors of the town to John Kellogg, afterwards became the property of John Gray, one of the Scotch Irish Presbyterian emigrants of the name of Gray, elsewhere spoken of, and John Gray conveyed the same June 8, 1730, to his son Samuel Gray, and the latter June 22, 1739, for £750, to Samuel Andrews, with three dwelling houses and a barn thereon.

This Samuel Andrews, from Salem, who was father-in-law of Col. Timothy Bigelow, of revolutionary fame, sold this estate above mentioned, then comprising 100 acres, for £1,000, in 1745, (when he built his last residence opposite the Court House, on Main street,)\* to Joshua Bigelow, who figured so prominently in a civil capacity in our town affairs during the revolutionary period, and until his death in 1792. This estate included the barn occupied for many years by Stephen D. Waite, east of the Boston & Albany Railroad, where "Bigelow Lane," so called, crosses it, including the land where are or were till very recently three old cellar holes, denoting where stood the three dwelling houses mentioned in the deed from Samuel Gray to Samuel Andrews in 1739, which were probably the houses they and the previous owners occupied.

The site of one of these old houses is just east of the west circuit around Lake Park, and just south of the old road in extension easterly of Bigelow Lane, through the Park, formerly an old bridle way leading to the Lake, and probably connecting with the old ancient road from Worcester to Mendon, mentioned in some of the oldest records.

October 22, 1724, Rev. Benjamin Allen, then also of Bridgewater, conveyed his title to the above mentioned 140 acres given to him in 1718, on the right of Samuel Leonard, to Rev. Thomas Foxcroft, pastor of the First Church in Boston, and in 1749, Mr. Foxcroft sold it to Joshua Bigelow, above referred to, who had previously purchased the estate adjoining it on the north. Joshua Bigelow's whole estate here then comprised an extensive farm of over 300 acres, extending from the original Jonathan Gates' farm on the north, to the then town line on the south, † and was bounded easterly on the Lake, and westerly on the farm of the first Francis Harrington, whose residence was on the estate, still owned and occupied by his descendants on Harrington Court. ‡

After the death of Joshua Bigelow in 1792, 180 acres of his large farm, comprising the more northern portion and including the old homestead, became the property of his son Thaddeus, and most or all of the remainder, or about 145 acres, became the property of Nathaniel Harrington, son of the above named Francis, then deceased, whose farm it adjoined from some 130 rods on the west.

This Joshua Bigelow was cousin of Col. Timothy Bigelow, of revolutionary fame in Worcester, they being great grandsons of the emigrant ancestors John<sup>1</sup>, and Mary (Warren) Bigelow of Watertown, and grandsons of the Joshua<sup>2</sup> Bigelow who received

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 46.

† See "Reminiscences," p. 250.

‡ Ibid, p. 362.

grants of land in Worcester and Westminster for his services in King Philip's war in 1675, and settled in Westminster, where he had numerous descendants, among them the late Hon. Abijah Bigelow of Worcester, representative in Congress from Worcester North, clerk of our County Courts, etc. This Joshua<sup>2</sup> Bigelow of Westminster, was father of Daniel<sup>8</sup> Bigelow of Pakachoag Hill, Worcester, who was father of Col. Timothy<sup>4</sup> and Dea. David Bigelow of our revolutionary times. Col. Timothy and Dea. David Bigelow's sister Mercy married in 1706, Lieut. Thomas Garfield of Weston, and their son Thomas Garfield, married in 1742, Rebecca Johnson of Lunenburg, the latter being great-grand parents of the late President James A. Garfield.

Thaddeus Bigelow removed to Rutland in April, 1798, (with his son Joseph, father of Ex-County Commissioner J. Warren Bigelow,) his farm of 180 acres in Worcester then becoming the property of Wm. J. Stearns and his son Thomas, who resided there till their decease, this Wm. J. being son of Capt. Thomas Stearns, keeper of the old "King's Arms Tavern," where the Lincoln House now is.\* The late Wm. D. Fenno, jeweler, of Worcester, whose mother was daughter of Wm. J. Stearns, was born on this old Bigelow estate, one of the old cellar holes spoken of marking the site.

After the Stearns family, this Thaddeus Bigelow estate had several owners, until it passed, about 1850, into the possession of Hon. Isaac Davis, who became owner by successive purchases soon after, of all the land between the Lake and the Boston & Albany Railroad, extending south as far as the old road to Grafton and Shrewsbury, and extending north to Belmont street. This vast tract became in 1884, the property of Horace H. Bigelow, except about 60 acres reserved by Col. Davis' son, Hon. Edward L. Davis, who joined Mr. Bigelow in giving to the city in 1887, the present magnificent Lake Park of 110 acres.

### THE LEONARD FAMILY.

Samuel and Isaac Leonard had a brother Jacob, also of Bridgewater, to whom a forty acre lot, with the usual right to a second division land, was granted Oct. 28, 1714, on the line of what is now Plantation street, where the ancient farm of George S. Howe is, on the south side of what was known as "Bimelech Hill." This whole purchase right Jacob Leonard conveyed, May 9, 1717, for £40, to his nephew Moses Leonard, then also of Bridgewater. A month later, June 12, 1717, Moses Leonard, then of Worcester, conveyed this right to Benjamin Flagg of Worcester, ancestor of five generations of the name in Worcester, the last of the family to reside on this estate being the

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 58.

children of the first Benjamin Flagg's great grandson, Aaron Flagg, who died there in 1836.

Samuel, Isaac and Jacob Leonard, had a brother John, who was father of Moses Leonard. These four brothers were sons of Solomon Leonard, from Duxbury, an original proprietor and one of the first settlers in Bridgewater, (variously written on the ancient records Leonardson, Lennardson, Lennerson and Lenerson.) Solomon died in Bridgewater in 1686, leaving a widow, Mary, and sons Samuel<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Jacob<sup>2</sup>, Isaac<sup>2</sup> and Solomon<sup>2</sup>, Jr., and a daughter Mary<sup>2</sup> who married in 1673 John Pollard. Samuel<sup>2</sup> settled his father's estate in 1686, said to be the first settlement in the records of the Probate Court of Plymouth County. Soon after this, Samuel<sup>2</sup> undertook his settlement at Worcester, from which place he was driven by the Indians in 1697, and his son Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Jr., a youth of 16, was carried off by them, the account of whose captivity, heroic deeds, and fortunate escape, comprises one of the most thrilling incidents of Indian history. John<sup>2</sup> Leonard, (son of Solomon<sup>1</sup>), by his wife Sarah, had John<sup>3</sup> Jr., Enoch<sup>3</sup>, Moses<sup>3</sup> (who settled a while in Worcester), Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, and Sarah<sup>3</sup> who married Thomas Washburn in 1708.)

Jacob<sup>2</sup> Leonard, (son of Solomon), had a grant of land in Worcester in 1714, as before stated, which he sold to his nephew Moses<sup>3</sup>, and died in 1716, leaving a wife Susanna, and daughter Abigail, born in Weymouth in 1680, married Thomas Washburn; Susanna, born in Weymouth in 1683, married in 1714 Ebenezer Hill; Experience<sup>3</sup>; Mary<sup>3</sup>; Sarah,<sup>3</sup> born in Bridgewater in 1699, married in 1721 Wm. Orcutt; Solomon<sup>3</sup>; and Jacob<sup>3</sup>, Jr., born in 1702.

Isaac<sup>2</sup> Leonard, (son of Solomon,) had also a grant of land in Worcester 1714, as before mentioned, which he sold in 1717 to Nathaniel Jones. Isaac<sup>2</sup> Leonard by his wife Deliverance had a daughter Hannah<sup>3</sup> born in 1680, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Jr., Deliverance<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, and other children. The father conveyed his homestead in Bridgewater in 1717 to his son Joseph<sup>3</sup>.

Moses Leonard, (son of John, and grandson of Samuel Leonard,) was a cordwainer by trade. After selling out his estate in Worcester, in 1729, to Benjamin Townsend of Brookfield, Moses Leonard removed to that town, and thence about 1735 to Hardwick, (then called Lambstown.) He resided there and in Rutland, Barre and vicinity, till his decease, at great age, as the historian of Hardwick, Rev. Dr. Paige says. By his wife Mercy, daughter of Moses Newton of Marlboro, whom he married in 1705, Moses Leonard had born there: 1, Moses, Jr., born Nov. 1, 1706, to whom the father deeded 64 acres of land in Brookfield in 1732; 2, Ezra, born Sept. 19, 1711, who married in 1737 Olive, daughter of Benjamin and Experience, (Curtis) Smith of Hardwick, and settled in Barre, where Ezra

was selectman, assessor, etc., had ten children, most of whom had families, and he died in Wilbraham in 1798 with his son-in-law Jonathan Flynt; 3, Mercy, born Oct. 1, 1714, married in 1732 Samuel Robinson, one of the first and most prominent settlers in Hardwick, and had a large family there. Moses Leonard's first wife Mercy died in 1715, and he married Aug. 8, 1716, Hannah, daughter of John Woods, and widow of Thomas Wetherbee of Marlboro, by whom he had Jonas, born Oct. 19, 1717, in June of which year he removed to Worcester, and had here Andrew, born Nov. 20, 1719. Ezra, son of Moses, was selectman, assessor, etc., had ten children, most of whom had families, and she died in Wilbraham in 1798 with his son-in-law, Jonathan Flynt; 3, Mercy, born October 1, 1714, married in 1732 Samuel Robinson, one of the first and most prominent settlers in Hardwick, and had a large family there. Moses Leonard's first wife, Mercy, died in 1715, and he married Aug. 8, 1716, Hannah, daughter of John Woods, and widow of Thomas Wetherbee of Marlboro, by whom he had James, born October 19, 1717, in June of which year he removed to Worcester, and had here Andrew, born November 20, 1719.

Ezra, son of Moses, was selectman, assessor, etc., in Hardwick, and was ensign of Capt. Joseph Warner's company of that town which marched for the relief of Fort Wm. Henry in 1757. Ezra's son Nathan, was captain of militia and member of the company of "minute men" which marched to Lexington April 19, 1775, and in 1778 he was captain in Col. Nathaniel Wade's regiment in the revolutionary service.

### MONUMENT TO THE PIONEER.

Near the highest point of land in Lake Park, just inside the west circuit, and about three hundred feet south of the ancient road before spoken of where several old cellar holes designate the locations of several of the first settlers in that section of the old town, one of the munificent donors of this Park, Hon. Edward L. Davis, erected in 1888 the majestic tower which commands such a magnificent view of the surrounding country from its summit. The next most appropriate thing to be done, is the erection, on the most appreciate spot, of the monument, already prepared, commemorative of the heroic deeds of the son of the first settler, Samuel Leonard, Jr., then a youth of 15, who was taken prisoner and carried off in March, 1697-8, by the same Indians who on their way to Canada with him captured Mrs. Hannah Dustin and Mrs. Mary Neff of Haverhill in the attack on that town by the savages. Of the tragic events relating to the capture and escape of these prisoners, Cotton Mather has the following account, given him, as he says, by Mrs. Dustin herself :

“March 15, 1697-8, the savages made a descent on the skirts of Haverhill, capturing and murdering about 39 persons, and burning about half a dozen houses. A body of twelve Indians, during their bloody devastations, drew near to a house in which lay Hannah Dustin, with her young babe, only a week old, attended by her nurse, Mary Neff, daughter of George Corliss, and widow of Wm. Neff, who died in the army at Pemaquid in February, 1688. Mr. Dustin, seeing the enemy approach the house, hastened home from his work in the field to protect his distressed family; and first bidding seven of his eight children, 2 to 17 years old, to go as fast as they could to some place of shelter, he went to inform his wife of the horrible distress coming upon them. Ere she could get up, the fierce Indians were so near, that utterly despairing to be of any service to her, he ran out after his children, resolving that on the horse he had with him he would ride away with *that* child his affections were most pitched upon in his extremity, and leave the rest to Divine Providence. He overtook the children about forty rods from his door, but then such was the strength of his parental affection that he found it impossible for him to distinguish any one of them from the rest; therefore he took a courageous resolution to live or die with them all. A party of Indians came up with him, and now, though they fired at him and he fired at them, yet he manfully kept at the rear of his little army of unarmed children while they marched off with the pace of a child five years old; until, by the singular Providence of God he arrived safe with them about a mile or two from his house. But in the house, the nurse trying to escape with the new-born infant, fell into the hands of the savages, who coming into the house, bid Mrs. Dustin to rise, which she did, and sitting down in the chimney place, saw the raging dragons, rifle all they could carry away, and set the house on fire. The Indians then led them away with half a score of other English captives, but ere they had gone many steps they dashed out the brains of the infant against a tree; and several of the other captives, as they began to tire in their sad journey, were soon sent unto their long home. The savages would frequently bury their hatchets in their brains, and leave their carcasses on the grounds for birds and beasts to prey upon. However, Mrs. Dustin with her nurse, notwithstanding her present condition, traveled that night about a dozen miles, and then kept up with their new masters in a long travel of 150 miles within a few days without any sensible damage to their health from hardships, scanty and poor diet and lodging, etc. Before starting on this long journey, Mrs. Dustin was barely allowed time to dress, and was compelled to go with only one shoe to her feet. That Indian family, the captors of those persons, consisted of twelve persons, two stout men, three women, and seven children. They

Sorry, this page is  
unavailable to Free Members

You may continue reading on the following page



Upgrade your  
Forgotten Books Membership  
to view this page now  
with our  
**7 DAY FREE TRIAL**

[Start Free Trial](#)

bounty than Col. Nicholson, the Governor of Maryland, who hearing of their action, sent them a very generous token of his favor."

After performing the bloody work, Mrs. Dustin, according to the account, gathered up what little provisions there were in the wigwam, taking the gun of her dead master and the tomahawk with which she killed him, and scuttling all the canoes except one, she embarked in that with Mrs. Neff and the Leonard boy, on the waters of the Merrimack, to seek their way to Haverhill. They had not proceeded far, however, when Mrs. Dustin, perceiving that they had neglected to take the scalps, and fearing lest her neighbors—should she ever arrive at her home—would not credit her story, she hastened back with her companions to the scene of death, took off the scalps of the slain, and wrapped them in a piece of linen cloth that was taken from her house at the time of her capture.

This cloth she afterwards divided among her daughters, and a part of it is still preserved by some of her descendants.

With these bloody witnesses of their feat, the escaped prisoners hastened again on their downward course to Haverhill, each alternately rowing and steering their little bark. They were thinly clad. In the night two slept while the other rowed. Thus they pursued their journey till they arrived unexpectedly with their trophies at their homes, totally unexpected by their mourning friends who supposed they had been killed by the Indians. It was an affecting scene for Mrs. Dustin to meet again her husband and children, who she had reason to suppose had been killed by the savages.

After recovering from the fatigues of the journey, Mrs. Dustin and her two companions, (her nurse and the boy Leonard,) accompanied by Mr. Dustin, started for Boston, where they arrived April 21. They carried with them the gun and the tomahawk, and their ten scalps, witnesses that would not lie. Soon afterwards, Dustin presented a petition to the General Court, "Setting forth the claims of his wife and Mrs. Neff and the boy Leonard to recompense from the public" for their action, etc. The petition was read in the House of Representatives June 8, 1698, 191 years ago, when it was voted "That the above named Thomas Dustin, in behalf of his wife, shall be allowed and paid out of the public treasury, £25; Mary Neff the sum of £12 and 10s., and the young man (named Samuel Leonard) concerned in the same action the like sum of £12 and 10s.," making in all £50, as before related.

Thomas Dustin, with question of life or death for himself and cruel captivity for his children, directly before him, heroically staked his life for his children.

The gun referred to continued in possession of the male line of Dustin's descendants to 1859, when it was presented to the

Dustin Monument Association of Haverhill, by Mrs. Lydia H. Dustin, widow of Thomas Dustin, of Henniker, N. H., and acknowledgment of the same was given her at a meeting July 9, 1859, as stated by the historian of Haverhill, the late George W. Chase.

Hannah Dustin was the oldest daughter of Michael and Hannah (Webster) Emerson, and oldest of fifteen children. She was born December 23, 1657, and was married to Thomas Dustin December 3, 1677, by whom she had thirteen children. Their house stood 20 feet N. W. of the "Dustin Monument," recently erected in Haverhill. Their house was the first one attacked by the Indians, who made such terrible havoc and destruction in Haverhill in 1698.

The precise spot where Samuel Leonard located his dwelling during his brief residence, or attempt to settle here, does not appear for certain, but there is every reason to think that it was on the line of this old road, the extension eastward and southward of Bigelow Lane, but there are no remains of any former habitation between the three old cellar holes before alluded to in Lake Park and the old town line, so it seems most likely that Samuel Leonard's residence in Worcester was on one of those spots. It is certainly known that Joshua Bigelow, who bought the old Samuel Leonard and Benjamin Allen estate or grant, as well as that of Samuel Andrews, who bought his estate of Samuel Gray, was on one of those sites, and most likely on the highest one, just inside the west circuit of Lake Park, as that is the oldest spot, where an ancient house was torn down over fifty years ago, which bore the appearance of having been a garrison house in the early Indian times.

The monument, already prepared and awaiting its location on that ancient site, consists of a huge statue in brown stone, representative of the characteristics of the early pioneer, the work of the sculptor, E. A. O'Connor. It is 34 feet in height, standing on a granite pedestal 18 by 15 feet. The design is typical of events of the early times. The statue represents the sturdy pioneer rolling up his sleeves, preparing to begin the work of cultivation with the spade. One of the panels represents a savage stealthily approaching a boy to carry him off. On the other panel, in contrast with this, is a sculptured scene, illustrating the fruits of the pioneer's toil, peace, security, education and domestic happiness, as represented by a mother with her child asleep in her arms, while the little one is listening to an elder child reading from a book.

The first proprietor of the land westerly of the lake and south of the old Worcester line or of the grant to Rev. Benjamin Allen on the original right of Samuel Leonard, was Wigglesworth Sweetser, shopkeeper of Boston, who deeded his grant, comprising "300 acres south of the town of Worcester and west

of the south end of Worcester pond, sometimes called Quinsig-amond Pond," to Robert Kelley, trader of Boston, Nov. 22, 1734, for £300 public bills of credit, reserving 11 acres for a highway through the same, as was in the original grant.

Robert Kelley deeded the same, with buildings thereon, etc., for £500, current money, to James Moor, of Grafton, husbandman. Moor deeded the same Jan. 24, 1741, for £620 bills of credit to Isaac Morse of Holliston, and he in 1745 conveyed 50 acres of it to his son Isaac and 40 acres to Obadiah Newton. On the death of Isaac Morse, senior, in 1750, his son Isaac, as administrator, sold at public auction 184 acres of the remaining portion of the paternal estate to Palmer Goulding and Wm. Johnson, for £137, and the latter for £74 conveyed 90 acres of this bordering east on the lake to Bezaleel Stearns in 1753 for £74. This land, extending south to the old road to Grafton and Shrewsbury, afterwards became the property of Benjamin Newton and others, till the late Hon. Isaac Davis purchased that portion between the lake and the railroad, and since 1884 it has been owned by H. H. Bigelow. Bezaleel Stearns, who married Thankful Davis in 1749, was son of the first John Stearns of Worcester, and several of his brothers and nephews, as well as his father and himself lived in that section of the old town, between the old Grafton road and the lake. A more particular account of the Stearns family, formerly so numerous here and in other sections of the old town, will be included in a future publication.

## CHAPTER III.

## FIRST SETTLERS IN BLOOMINGDALE DISTRICT AND VICINITY.

---

MEETING AT JAMES DRAPER'S.

---

The last one of these three historical field meetings was held Saturday afternoon, August 16, 1890, in the beautiful grove on Parks Commissioner James Draper's Bloomingdale farm and nurseries on Plantation street, and it was a significant success in numbers and interest. More than one hundred persons, including many of our oldest and most prominent citizens were present, comprising a representative gathering of citizens interested in our local history. The day was one of the loveliest of the delightful summer season, and the visitors improved the opportunity to inspect the handsome grounds. The meeting was called to order at the time appointed, half-past three o'clock, by Mr. Wall, in the pretty grove, which was furnished with seats, and His Honor, Mayor Francis A. Harrington, was called upon to preside.

On taking the chair, Mayor Harrington spoke of the importance of the subject under consideration, and the great interest which he, as a native of the old town, where his ancestors for several generations had lived, regarding the investigations made by the speaker of the afternoon into the early history of the place. He expressed the hope that Mr. Wall would continue his work till the whole territory of the city had been covered in a similar way. The Mayor closed by introducing Mr. Wall, who said:

After viewing the attractive surroundings of this beautiful section of the city, all along the ancient thoroughfare of travel opened at the beginning of the old town, from the head of Lake Quinsigamond and Sagatabscot Hill on the south, where also many of the earliest settlements were made, who can wonder the first settlers selected the sites they did on these hills and along these valleys? I have before me a multitude of manuscripts

regarding the first settlers in this section of the city, and their descendants; the location of their estates, and the history of the same from the beginning of the first comers, which I propose to print in book or pamphlet form at an early day, in connection with similar material regarding other sections of the old town. I will begin with the Gates family, of whom the first settler, Jonathan, came here from Cambridge in 1731, and located on the spot on Bloomingdale road, which has ever since been in the family, where his great great-grandson, William Eaton, now lives, and this Jonathan Gates' son John, who was 21 years old when his father came here with him, settled on the spot where we now are.

Mr. Wall then proceeded to give a detailed history of the two estates mentioned, including the two ancient houses respectively which Mr. Draper and Wm. Eaton now own and occupy, from the first settler on each, through all the successive changes of owners and occupants to the present time.

The surrounding estates now of Alderman A. F. Gates, Wm. Henry and Samuel Putnam, George Dana, George S. Howe, the Harringtons on Harrington court, and others, were spoken of in a similar way, and their history given. He said :

#### THE GATES FAMILY.

Jonathan<sup>s</sup> Gates, born in Cambridge, June 22, 1683, who died in Worcester, February 7, 1756, aged 72 years, and was interred in the old Common burial ground, was son of Simon<sup>2</sup> and Margaret Gates of Cambridge, Lancaster, and Marlborough, and grandson of the emigrant ancestors, Stephen and Ann Gates, from Hingham, in old England, who came over in the ship "Diligent," in 1638, with two children and settled in Hingham, Mass., whence they removed to Cambridge, and thence to Lancaster in 1654, and thence again to Cambridge, where Stephen<sup>1</sup> Gates died in 1762, and his wife died in Stowe in 1683. Their grandson, Jonathan<sup>s</sup> Gates, who came to Worcester in 1731, then purchased for £310, of Nathaniel Jones, 180 acres of land which the latter bought of the heirs of the original proprietor, Aeneas Slater, to whom it was granted in 1714, as elsewhere mentioned. This tract of 180 acres was bounded on the east by Lake Quinsigamond, on the west by Plantation street, on the north by land granted to the original proprietor there, Moses Leonard, most of which is now included in the State Lunatic Hospital estate, and on the south by that originally granted to Isaac Leonard, (uncle to Moses Leonard,) and others, which latter land, south of Jonathan Gates', afterwards came into possession of Joshua Bigelow, son of Col. Timothy Bigelow, of revolutionary fame.

Jonathan Gates' wife was Persis, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Ensign) Shepard of Malden, Thomas being son of the emigrant ancestor Ralph Shepard, from Stepney Parish, London, who came over in the "Abigail," in 1635, and settled first in Dedham, and lastly in that part of Charlestown now Malden, where he died September 11, 1693, aged 90 years. Jonathan and Persis (Shepard) Gates had three sons and six daughters, born between 1710 and 1735, among these daughters was Persis, Jr., born in Charlestown, August 1, 1719, wife of Adonijah Rice, born November 7, 1714, the first white child born in Worcester, son of the first permanent settler, Jonas Rice,\* and had eight children in Worcester; and another daughter of Jonathan<sup>3</sup> and Persis Gates, Margaret<sup>4</sup>, born in Charlestown, August 27, 1721, was wife of Wm. Bigelow of Athol, son of Joshua Bigelow of Worcester, elsewhere referred to, who resided near Lake Quinsigamond. Jonathan Gates' wife Persis died July 12, 1776, aged 86 years, and was buried beside her husband in the old cemetery on the Common. At his death in 1756, he divided his great farm of 180 acres among his three sons, John, Jonathan, Jr., and Capt. William, the latter taking the central portion, including the old house where his descendants have ever since resided, John the northern section, and Jonathan, Jr., the southern.

John<sup>4</sup> Gates, who was 21 years old when his father came here in 1731, settled on the estate where we now are, which he purchased, or which his father purchased for him, of David Newton, blacksmith, who came here from Westboro, and bought the same of Moses Leonard. Moses Leonard purchased it of Abraham Wheeler, whose farm of one hundred acres, including Mr. Draper's estate, extended east to Plantation street, south to Bloomingdale road, and west to the farm then of Jacob Holmes, whose house occupied the site of the present Union railroad depot; and Mr. Wheeler's hundred acres extended north to the then Adams, afterwards Putnam farm; the present Henry and Samuel Putnam, sons of the late Samuel Putnam, senior, being descendants of the first settler on Belmont street, Charles Adams,† senior, whose residence was on the corner of Belmont and Adams streets, where five generations of the family have since lived.

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 41 and 960. 3 5 4

† This Charles Adams, senior, was son of John Adams, who was grand-son of the emigrant ancestor, Henry Adams of old Braintree, from whom have descended in the male line two Presidents of the United States. Charles Adams, Jr., succeeded his father on that estate, and the latter's daughter, Martha, who inherited the estate, was wife of Isaac Putnam, a cousin of Gen. Rufus Putnam, of revolutionary fame, Isaac being father of the above mentioned Samuel Putnam, senior.

John Gates, who built the main part of the house where Mr. Draper now lives, over a century and a half ago, lived here till 1771, when he sold the estate to Edward Crafts. The farm then consisted of 20 acres on the west side of Plantation street and north of Bloomingdale road, and 60 acres more on the east side of Plantation street, extending to the Lake, which John Gates' father, Jonathan, senior, willed to him at his death in 1756. Edward Crafts resided here 8 years, till 1779, when he sold the estate, then also comprising 80 acres, to Nathan Patch, who willed it at his decease in 1808, to the children of his son Joshua, born in 1767, whose wife was Rebekah Bemis. They resided here till his decease June 23, 1818, aged 51 years, and his wife and children after him.

The Patch heirs, consisting of the children of Joshua Patch and their representatives, sold the estate in 1845, then consisting of 102 acres, to the late Samuel Putnam, who sold the same January 13, 1846, to the late Wm. A. Draper,\* father of our generous host on this occasion. The estate extended south to Bloomingdale road, and north to the railroad, and easterly of Plantation street to Lake Quinsigamond.

Since the elder Mr. Draper began operations here, forty-five years ago, how extensive have been the changes and improvements! Where formerly nature was in its wildness, we now see, under the hand of its present enterprising owner, a blooming garden rise up, with the beautiful attractions we see around us, with innumerable varieties of trees and fruits, and flowering shrubs, and pleasure grounds for every kind of amusements and rational entertainments, which might satiate the appetite of the most devoted pleasure seeker at our seashore and mountain resorts.

Where formerly was but one vast farm of 102 acres, we see now nine different estates, which, with those into which the other sections of the original Jonathan Gates farm of 1756 have been divided, the whole comprise now quite a thriving little village, appropriately named by Mr. Draper the "Bloomingdale District."

Mr. Draper has reserved to himself the meadows and best portion, comprising 15 acres of the original John Gates farm, including the ancient house. The original house, comprising the main part of the present one, was in the old fashioned square form, with the usual big chimney in the middle, as may

---

\* Wm. A. Draper, born in Spencer, December 28, 1806, whose wife was Calista, daughter of Asa B. Watson of Leicester, was son of Lenas and Jemima (Allen) Draper of Spencer, and great grandson of James Draper, born in Dedham in 1720, who was one of the first settlers in Spencer, and whose descendants have been numerous and prominent there and elsewhere. Wm. A. Draper's sister, Eliza, married Silas Grout of Spencer, and their daughter Anna, is wife of our honored mayor, Francis A. Harrington, and first cousin of our respected host, James Draper.

Sorry, this page is  
unavailable to Free Members

You may continue reading on the following page



Upgrade your  
Forgotten Books Membership  
to view this page now  
with our  
**7 DAY FREE TRIAL**

[Start Free Trial](#)

settlers in Worcester (see Rem., p. 40-43.), and Mary being daughter of Ralph Earle who removed from Newport, R. I., to Leicester, Mass., in 1717, where he was one of the first settlers, and ancestor of all the Earles in this county.

John<sup>4</sup> Gates died at his last residence on Fowler street, in Tatnuck, Nov. 27, 1797, aged 87 years, and was buried in the old Mechanic street cemetery; his wife, Violata, died Feb. 10, 1801, aged 79 years, and was buried by his side. Their remains were afterwards removed, with others, in 1877, when that burial ground was broken up by the city, to Rural Cemetery. John and Violata (Rice) Gates left at their decease, 12 children, 97 grand children, and 32 great grand children. Their eleven children, all born on the old homestead on Plantation street, before the removal to Tatnuck, were: 1st, Prudence,<sup>5</sup> born July 12, 1743, married Luke Rice, son of Hezekiah and Mary (Taylor) Rice of Shrewsbury, and brother of Lemuel Rice, the first keeper of the old stone jail and jail tavern on the south side of Lincoln square from 1788 to 1798; 2d, John Shepard<sup>5</sup> Gates, born March 11, 1745, married Hannah Moore, daughter of Asa and Sarah (Heywood) Moore, of Tatnuck; 3d, Persis,<sup>5</sup> married in 1767 John Moore, born May 3, 1746, brother of the above mentioned Hannah Moore, and resided first on the farm of the late Gen. Wm. S. Lincoln, and last on the estate of his son and grandson, Levi Moore, and Levi Moore, Jr., in Tatnuck; 4th, Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, born March 2, 1749, married Sarah Wiswall, daughter of Ebenezer Wiswall, and succeeded to the estate of his father on Fowler street, in Tatnuck, where he was himself succeeded by his son Ebenezer Gates, as elsewhere stated; 5th, Daniel<sup>5</sup>, born March 2, 1751, married Sarah Moore, sister of the above mentioned Hannah and John Moore; 6th, Mary<sup>5</sup>, born May 11, 1753, married Joel Howe of Tatnuck, Worcester, a deputy sheriff, afterward removed to Damariscotta, Me., and died there; 7th, Sarah<sup>5</sup>, born July 20, 1755, married her cousin, Ralph Earle, Jr., a tory, who fled his country, her second husband being Oliver Pierce of Boylston, where both died; 8th, Silas<sup>5</sup>, born January 29, 1757, married Irene Wiswall, sister of the above mentioned Sarah Wiswall, and removed to Black River, Vt.; 9th, Martha<sup>5</sup>, born April 20, 1759, married Ebenezer Whitney of Worcester, and resided lastly on Leicester street, where she died September 18, 1847, aged 87½ years, and he died June 17, 1836, aged 77 years, they being parents of Mrs. Wm. Hovey and Mrs. Oliver Eager, and two unmarried daughters, Polly and Betsy, who resided on the estate of their parents; 10th, Phinehas<sup>5</sup>, born January 20, 1760, married Rebecca, daughter of Uriah Ward of Worcester; 11th, Lydia, born July 23, 1762, married Thomas Martin of Paxton, and settled in Whitehall, N. Y.; 12th, Nathaniel<sup>5</sup>, born March 29, 1770, died in consequence of a fall in his barn Decem-

ber 10, 1824, married in 1819, Lucy, born April 10, 1770, daughter of Peter and Lucy (Brewer) Goulding of Worcester, and succeeded to the estate of her father, Peter Goulding, in Tatnuck, which her daughter, Mary, who married the late Capt. Erastus Tucker, afterwards owned and occupied. Lucy Gates, wife of Nathaniel Gates, died June 15, 1855, aged 85 years, and her son, the late Levi Gates of Tatnuck, who was born in 1790, died in 1878, aged 88 years, and Levi Gates' brother-in-law, the late Capt. Erastus Tucker, born in Shrewsbury, October 19, 1793, died in Tatnuck in 1887, aged 94 years.

Capt Wm.<sup>4</sup> Gates, the youngest of nine children of Jonathan<sup>3</sup> and Persis (Shepard) Gates, was born in the present house of his great-grandson, Wm. Eaton, March 27, 1735, and married November 7, 1764, Joanna Stearns, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Spring) Stearns of Worcester. Ebenezer Stearns was a clothier, great-grandson of the emigrant Isaac Stearns of Watertown, uncle of the emigrant Charles Stearns. Capt. William Gates was sergeant in Capt. (afterwards Col.) Bigelow's company of minute-men, who marched from Worcester on the alarm of April 19, 1775, and he was lieutenant in a company under Capt. Jonas Hubbard, who served three months near Boston the same year, and captain of a company organized September 4, 1776, that were in Col. Jonathan Holman's regiment in the revolutionary service. Capt. Wm. Gates died July 7, 1811, aged 76 years, in the house in which he was born, and his tomb stone on the old Common, now beneath the surface, bears this inscription :

We'll cease, then, to weep for the dead,  
For low is the couch of repose;  
But sweet is the thought that their head  
In triumph and glory arose.

Strive ye to make Jesus your friend;  
Like him, then, you'll gloriously rise,  
And triumph o'er death and the tomb,  
In regions above yonder skies.

Capt. Gates had four daughters, Lucretia, Anna, Eleanor and Mary, and an only son, Wm. Gates, Jr., who married Betsy Stearns, and succeeded his father in the estate. The second one of the daughters above mentioned, Anna, born January 22, 1767, married Hon. Wm. Eaton, born September 10, 1766, and their son, Wm. Eaton, Jr., born June 13, 1788, was the next owner and occupant of this estate, succeeded by his son, Wm. Eaton, 3d, the present one, who is of the fifth generation in descent from the first Jonathan Gates.

Coming now to the history of the estate of Alderman A. F. Gates, on the corner of Plantation and Belmont streets, it may be stated that Moses Leonard, in 1726, then of Worcester, for £360 conveyed to Wm. Caldwell, one of the Scotch Irish Pres-

byterian emigrants of 1718, thirty acres of his land, "upland and swamp, on the road from Quinsigamond pond to the house of Jonas Rice." This included land on both sides of Plantation street, and it adjoined the 180 acres which Moses Leonard sold to Benjamin Townsend of Brookfield, in 1729, and which afterwards came into possession successively, of Joshua Child, Nathaniel Adams and others, as elsewhere stated. Wm. Caldwell appears to have been the first settler on this estate, which he purchased of Moses Leonard. When Wm. Caldwell went to Barre, (then Rutland, north-west district, his son James having preceded him there,) in 1742, he sold for £670 this estate of his in Worcester to James Goodwin, housewright, from Reading; afterwards captain in the French and Indian War in 1755. Capt. Goodwin was son of Dea. John and Mary (Pearson) Goodwin, and grandson of Ensign Nathaniel and Mary (Lund) Goodwin of Reading. Capt. Goodwin also purchased in 1755 for £333 6s. 8d., of Margaret Binney, widow of Thomas Binney, an original proprietor of Worcester, 120 acres of land granted to Thomas Binney in 1714, located on the north-west corner of Plantation and Belmont streets, and including the site of the present State Lunatic Hospital building.

After the death of Capt. Goodwin, June 2, 1776, aged 61 years, his heirs sold his estate, then consisting of 171 acres, and including where Alderman A. F. Gates now lives, to A. Holbrook, from Sherburne, a teamster in the revolution and brother of Eleasar Holbrook, elsewhere spoken of, both of whose married sisters, Lydia and Kesiah Leland, respectively. A. Holbrook's heirs sold the estate in 1789 to Samuel Gates, son of the Solomon<sup>4</sup> Gates who settled east of his brother Simon near New Worcester; this Solomon<sup>4</sup> and Simon<sup>4</sup> Gates, brothers of Simon<sup>3</sup> of Marlboro, who was brother of the first Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Gates of Worcester. This Samuel<sup>5</sup> Gates born in Worcester, January 1, 1751, who died December 19, 1831, (son of Solomon,) married August 15, 1781, Lucy Chadwick, who died September 22, 1819, aged 56. Samuel<sup>6</sup> and Lucy (Chadwick) Gates had Joel<sup>6</sup> (father of the late John Gates, lumber dealer), Polly<sup>6</sup>, Joshua<sup>6</sup>, Willard<sup>6</sup>, Henry<sup>6</sup> and Nahum<sup>6</sup> Gates born between 1782 and 1797. The father built for his son Joshua<sup>6</sup> Gates, born June 19, 1787, who married Betsey Flagg, the house on the south-west corner of Plantation and Belmont streets, for the last 20 years owned and occupied by Thomas A. Dickenson, which, with a small lot of land around it, Samuel Gates deeded in 1820 to his son Joshua's children, Benjamin F., Rufus P., Ruth F., Emily F. and Elizabeth F. Gates. At the same time the father deeded to his other sons, Joel, Willard, Henry and Nahum Gates, the whole of the remainder of his estate, comprising 140 acres, with the buildings thereon, reserving to himself the privilege of living there. This

140 acres and buildings afterwards in 1830, became the property of Edmund Munroe of Shrewsbury, who sold the same November 1, 1832, to the late Henry Prentice and Jonas Bartlett, who lived there about eleven years, each occupying one-half of the house, and they sold the estate in 1843 to the late Samuel F. Gates,\* whose widow, Maria (Fay) Gates, and son, the present Alderman, Asa F. Gates, now own and occupy it.

### THE CALDWELLS.

Wm. Caldwell was 34 years old when he came to this country in the spring of 1718, with his fellow Scotch Irish Presbyterian emigrants. He was accompanied by his wife, Sarah Morrison, and sons James and John, and perhaps other children. He brought with him a certificate of good character for his household, for admission to church privileges here, signed by James Woodside, Jr., minister, and dated April 9, 1718, at Dunboe parish, in the barony of Coleraine, county of Londonderry, in the north of Ireland. The original certificate was in the possession of the late Seth Caldwell of Worcester, a great grandson, whose three daughters became wives, respectively, of Edward A. Goodnow, Charles E. Stevens, and the late Dea. George H. Kendall of Worcester. The first Wm. Caldwell died in Barre in 1783, aged 99 years, and his son John lived to be nearly a century old. Wm. Caldwell, sheriff of this county from 1793 till his death in 1805, was grandson of the first William.

### THE DANA FARM.

Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Gates, great grandson of the first Stephen Gates, and a second cousin of the John<sup>4</sup> Gates above mentioned, was the first settler on the farm now of George Dana, on Plantation street, west of the Harrington farm, and south-west of the ancient Jonathan and John Gates' estates, where Wm. Eaton and James Draper now live. Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Gates sold out in 1747 to Matthias Stone, from Newton, who married November 17, 1749, in Worcester, Susannah Chadwick, daughter of the first John Chadwick of Worcester, and Matthias and Susannah (Chadwick) Stone's daughter Susannah, born on this estate, was wife of David Curtis, the latter being parents of George Curtis, father of George Wm. Curtis of New York. Benjamin Gates removed to Rutland north-west district (Barre), where

---

\* This Samuel<sup>7</sup> F. Gates, who died May 30, 1867, aged 51, was son of a Samuel<sup>6</sup> Gates who settled on the farm now of Elliot Moore, near Tatnuck, and who was son of Paul<sup>5</sup> Gates, a brother of the Samuel<sup>5</sup> Gates who married Lucy Chadwick, and settled on the estate which his grand-nephew, the late Samuel<sup>7</sup> F. Gates purchased in 1843 of Messrs. Prentice & Bartlett, as above stated. The present Leonard<sup>7</sup> and Charles<sup>7</sup> Gates, butchers, of Worcester, are brothers of the late Samuel<sup>7</sup> F., and another brother, the late Lewis Gates, lived where the father did, where Elliot Moore now lives.

he died in 1756. His wife, whom he married in 1727, after he came to Worcester, was Bethulia, daughter of Jonathan and Anna (Derby) Rice of Sudbury, and second cousin of the Violata Rice, who married the above mentioned John Gates. Of Benjamin and Bethulia (Rice) Gates' eight children, all born in Worcester, two, Israel and William, went to Cornway, and one, Benjamin, Jr., born November 27, 1737, was father of Capt. Benjamin Gates, born in Barre in 1778, a prominent man there and father of Hon. Horatio Gates, who went to Montreal, where he became a distinguished member of the legislative council of the Province of Lower Canada, and died there April 11, 1834, aged 56 years. Horatio's brother, Samuel, who remained in Barre, left by his will at his decease \$500 for the founding of a Free Public Library there, provided a like sum should be appropriated by the town for that purpose, which was done, and this was the foundation of the present Free Public Library in Barre.

Matthias Stone sold out this estate in 1760, then comprising 80 acres, to Luke Brown, the first keeper of the old jail and jail tavern on Lincoln street, and removed to Barre, and afterwards to Claremont, N. H. Luke Brown in 1765 conveyed this estate to his son, Samuel Brown, whose heirs sold the same in 1797 to Samuel Curtis, Jr., father of our venerable and esteemed fellow citizen, Albert Curtis, who was born there July 13, 1807, 83 years ago. After the death of Samuel Curtis, Jr., in 1814, the farm came into the possession of his son-in-law, Ebenezer Reed, Jr., and after the death of the latter in 1837, it was sold to Ebenezer Dana, from Oxford, whose son George is the present owner.

### THE GOULDING FAMILY.

Peter Goulding, ancestor of the Gouldings in New England, was one of the earliest proprietors of Worcester, before the beginning of the permanent settlement. His presence in this country is not traced farther back than 1665. He appears to have been a man of a good deal of note in his day mentally and physically, stalwart and persistent. The grant of fifty acres made to Benjamin Chase of Boston, in 1675, and resigned by him, was given to Peter Goulding at the beginning of the second unsuccessful attempt to settle the place in 1683 from which he was driven by the Indians in 1694, and to which his son, Palmer Goulding succeeded at the beginning of the permanent settlement in 1713. The location was just south of the spot where we now are, and included both sides of Plantation street, south of Bloomingdale road. This grant included the usual right to after divisions. The old Goulding house, many years ago torn down, stood in the corner of land between Bloomingdale road and Plantation street, near where Wm. Putnam,

now lives, an old cellar hole several years ago marking the spot, now cultivated for a garden by Mr. Putnam.

After being driven by the Indians from his attempt at settlement here, like old Ephraim Curtis, Peter Goulding retired to his old home in Sudbury, where he waited an opportunity to re-occupy in safety his estate in Worcester, but he died in 1703, before he had opportunity so to do, leaving by will all his real estate to his sons, Thomas, Peter, Jr., and Palmer. The two former, who went to South Carolina, disposed of their share in their father's estate to their brother, Palmer Goulding, whose residence was as before stated, near where Wm. Putnam now lives.

Peter Goulding married for his second wife Sarah Palmer, sister of the celebrated real estate proprietor of lands in Worcester and elsewhere, Judge Thomas Palmer of Boston, of the ancient real estate firm of Palmer, Oulton & Waldo. By her he had the last eight of his 13 children, all born between 1665 and 1695, of whom Capt. Palmer<sup>2</sup> Goulding was the youngest, the fourth child, Martha, being the wife of John Smith, from Hadley, and the fifth, Elizabeth, born in 1673, was wife of Judge William Jennison; both Smith and Jennison being extensive original proprietors of Worcester.\*

Capt. Palmer Goulding, in 1753, sold his farm here, then comprising 116 acres, to Thomas Stearns, hotel keeper, and Wm. Johnson, blacksmith, brothers-in-law, for £295. All but the 8 acres in Pine Meadow, was located south of what is now Bloomingdale road and on both sides of Plantation street and the road leading therefrom to the Harrington estate, now called Harrington court, and it included land afterwards purchased and still owned and occupied by the Harringtons, and that owned by Wm. Putnam, south of Bloomingdale road.

Wm. Johnson sold his half of the old Palmer Goulding estate to Thomas Stearns, and the latter disposed of it, or the main part, including the old house, to Eleazar Holbrook, brother of Abel Holbrook, elsewhere mentioned. After Eleazar Holbrook's death in 1777, the estate was purchased by Samuel and Stephen Salisbury, and it became subsequently merged in the different surrounding estates, Wm. Putnam's present estate including a part of it.

Palmer Goulding seems afterwards to have lived in Holden, where he died February 11, 1770, aged 75 years, and he was interred in the burial ground on the old Common in Worcester. No record appears of the settlement of his estate, for the reason, as I suppose, that he had disposed of all his real estate before his death, his son Windsor, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Zebadiah Rice of Worcester, succeeding to his estate in Holden,

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 48—52, and p. 56—60.

east of the Worcester reservoir there, where Winsor Goulding's son-in-law, Paul Shepard, father of the late Russel R. Shepard of Worcester, lived for awhile, before he came to Worcester.

Capt. Palmer<sup>2</sup> Goulding's brother, Capt. John<sup>2</sup> Goulding, who married Abigail Curtis of Sudbury, a niece of old Ephraim Curtis, settled in that part of old Sherborn, now Holliston, where they had seven children. He was a man of great size and almost superhuman strength.

Of Capt. Palmer<sup>2</sup> Goulding's nine children, his oldest, Palmer<sup>3</sup>, Jr., who married Abigail Heywood, daughter of Deacon Daniel Heywood of the Old South Church, resided in the old house which occupied the site of the present Waverly House on Front street, where Palmer Goulding and his son, Capt. Daniel, kept a hotel, afterwards kept by Nathaniel Eaton and others, known as the Elephant Hotel.\*

Palmer<sup>2</sup> Goulding's second son, Col. John<sup>3</sup> Goulding, settled in the north-east part of Grafton, where he had ten children, of whom the fifth, Ephraim<sup>4</sup> born in 1765, and died in 1838, was father of Palmer,<sup>5</sup> born there in 1809, who was father of our honored fellow citizen, Francis Palmer Goulding, Esq., city solicitor.

#### THE WHEELER FAMILY.

Abraham Wheeler, whose farm originally included the spot where we now are, was born in Medfield in 1700, son of Isaac Wheeler, who had a grant of 40 acres of land given him here in 1714, and 55 acres more in 1718, to all of which son, his Abraham, who added more to it, succeeded. Among the tomb stones-buried beneath the surface of the ground on the old Common, is one inscribed, "Abraham Wheeler, died October 20, 1780, aged 80." His wife was Hannah, born June 3, 1702, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Woods) Witherbee of Marlborough, by whom Abraham Wheeler had in Worcester: 1st, Thomas, born Sept. 23, 1728, deacon of the Old South Church from 1783 till his death, January 12, 1795, who succeeded to the paternal estate; 2d, Jabez, born July 24, 1731; 3d, Abraham, born July 3, 1735, died February 25, 1746; 4th, Mary, born April 15, 1743, married Ebenezer Millet of Holden, and had in Worcester, Thomas W., Elizabeth and Susan Millet, adopted by their uncle, Dea. Thomas Wheeler, as his children, and he, having no children of his own, left them his farm at his decease in 1795. Of these three children, Elizabeth Millet, born in 1764, married Ebenezer Williams, born in Newton, November 28, 1758, son of Isaac and Sarah (Stratton) Williams, and of Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Millet's) children, one daughter was wife of Aaron Earle of Leicester, and another daughter, Abigail, born Novem-

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 50.

Sorry, this page is  
unavailable to Free Members

You may continue reading on the following page



Upgrade your  
Forgotten Books Membership  
to view this page now  
with our  
**7 DAY FREE TRIAL**

[Start Free Trial](#)

This Dea. Thomas Wheeler's name does not appear among those recorded as buried in the ancient cemetery on the old Common, where his father's burial is recorded, and this fact may justify a reference to him, as interred in accordance with an old custom in many localities, on a portion of his own grounds, through which formerly meandered an ancient stream or brook, called Pine Meadow brook, now merged in the city's system of sewage.

In tribute to him, as a model farmer and good deacon of the ancient time, the following lines written many years ago, may be appropriately quoted :

On a green grassy knoll, by the banks of the brook  
That so long and so often has watered his flock,  
The old farmer rests in his long and last sleep,  
While the waters a low, lispng lullaby keep.

The blue bird sings sweet on the gay maple bough,  
Its warbling oft cheered him while holding the plow ;  
And the robins above him hop light on the mould,  
For he fed them with crumbs when the season was cold.

Yon tree that with fragrance is filling the air,  
So rich with its blossoms, so thrifty and fair,  
By his own hand was planted, and well did he say,  
It would live when its planter had mouldered away.

There's the well that he dug with the water so cold,  
With its wet dripping bucket so mossy and old,  
No more from its depths by the patriarch drawn,  
For "the pitcher is broken," the old man is gone!

'Twas a gloom-giving day when the old farmer died ;  
The stout-hearted mourned, the affectionate cried ;  
And the prayers of the just for his rest did ascend,  
For they all lost a *Brother*, a *Father*, and *Friend*.

For upright and honest the old farmer was ;  
His God ne revered, he respected his laws ;  
Though fameless he lived, he has gone where his worth  
Will outshine, like pure gold, all the dross of this earth.

### THE MOORE FAMILY.

Among the earliest proprietors of Worcester, at the beginning of the permanent settlement were five persons by the name of Moore, relatives, Dea. Nathaniel, Jonathan, James, Isaac, and Collins Moore, two or more of them brothers, grandsons of the emigrant ancestor, John Moore of Sudbury. Of these five Moores, one, Jonathan, had extensive grants of land given to him, as far back as 1719, one of them over 100 acres, south of and adjoining the original Gates and Goulding estates, on which 100 acres this Jonathan Moore then settled, his location including that on Harrington court, which five generations of the Harrington family have owned and occupied during the last one hundred and fifty years.

This Jonathan Moore, who married Mary Fullam, daughter of Hon. Francis Fullam of Weston, died in Worcester, in 1730, leaving his wife with several small children. Joseph Dana, from Oxford, married the widow and succeeded to the estate, which he sold in 1740, to Francis Harrington, whose descendants for five generations have since owned and occupied that estate.

The youngest of the children of this Jonathan Moore, was Judah, born in Worcester, May 24, 1730, who married Mary, daughter of Zephaniah Swift of Sandwich, and Judah and Mary were parents of Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore, D. D., born in Palmer, November 20, 1770, who was the predecessor of Rev. Dr. John Nelson, as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Leicester, from 1798 to 1812, afterwards Professor of Languages in Dartmouth College, and President in succession of Williams and Amherst Colleges.

Rev. Dr. Moore's wife was sister of Rev. Edmund Mills, pastor of the old church in Sutton, from 1790 to 1825, and the latter's son, Edmund J. Mills, born 1791, related to me interesting incidents about his going, when a boy of six years, with his father to attend the ordination of his uncle, Rev. Dr. Moore, on Leicester hill, January 7, 1798, amid a driving snow storm.

The other branches of the Moore family will be noticed at length when speaking of the sections of the town in which they respectively settled, in Tatnuck, on Sagatabscot hill, and elsewhere.

#### THE HARRINGTON FAMILY.

Francis<sup>8</sup> Harrington, born in that part of Watertown, afterwards Waltham, June 11, 1709, who died in Worcester, July 18, 1793, aged 84 years, was son of Edward<sup>2</sup> and Mary (Ocington) Harrington, and grandson of the original emigrants, Robert and Susanna (George) Harrington of Watertown. Francis' two cousins, Joshua<sup>8</sup> and Josiah<sup>8</sup> Harrington, born in Waltham, June 12, 1709, one day later than Francis<sup>8</sup>, also came to Worcester, Josiah<sup>8</sup> in 1754, and Joshua<sup>8</sup> in 1773. Josiah<sup>8</sup> settled on Grafton street, on the estate where Gershom Rice first settled, next east of the farm of Jacob Holmes, where Josiah's son Silas,<sup>4</sup> and grandson Jeremiah<sup>5</sup> Harrington afterwards lived, and Josiah's twin brother, Joshua<sup>8</sup> Harrington, settled on what is now Blithewood avenue, where his son, Joshua Harrington, Jr., and Samuel Sturtevant, afterwards lived.\*

---

\* Joshua<sup>8</sup> Harrington, senior, also had a son Samuel<sup>4</sup>, hotel keeper, who settled on the old hotel estate which he purchased of Wm. Jennison, on what is now Harrington street, north of Blithewood avenue, between Allbury avenue and Grafton street, and formerly a part of the old Grafton road, who had a son Samuel<sup>6</sup> Harrington, Jr., formerly town sexton and funeral undertaker; another son of Joshua<sup>8</sup>, senior, was Noah<sup>4</sup> Harrington, who settled near his brothers on Grafton street, near the junction with Harrington street, Noah<sup>4</sup> being father of the late William<sup>5</sup>, Luke<sup>5</sup> and Thomas<sup>5</sup> J. Harrington.

Francis<sup>8</sup> Harrington married November 16, 1736, Prudence Stearns, born April 27, 1713, daughter of Lieut. Samuel<sup>8</sup>, Jr., and Mary (Hawkins) Stearns of Watertown, and removed first to Grafton, and about 1740 to Worcester, where Prudence died in 1752, aged 38 years. Francis<sup>8</sup> then married November 14, 1752, Deborah Brigham of Westboro, who died April 20, 1799, aged 84 years, six years after her husband. Francis<sup>8</sup> Harrington had but two children, both by his first wife: Francis<sup>4</sup>, Jr., born in Grafton in 1737, who died in Worcester, April 26, 1768, unmarried, and Nathaniel<sup>4</sup>, born in Worcester in 1742, who succeeded to his father's estate on Harrington court, and died there February 28, 1831, aged 89 years.

Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> Harrington married Ruth Stone, (born in 1748, and died in 1817,) daughter of the first Jonathan Stone of Auburn, and their oldest son, Francis<sup>5</sup> Harrington, born May 3, 1777, who died October 17, 1841, on the paternal homestead, married May 13, 1801, Lydia Perry, born February 20, 1778, who died October 27, 1808, daughter of Josiah, and grand-daughter of the first Nathan Perry of Vernon street, Worcester, who was deacon of the old South Church from 1783 to 1806.\*

Francis<sup>5</sup> and Lydia (Perry) Harrington, had these six children born on the old homestead: 1st, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, born October 4, 1802, died September 11, 1863, married March 27, 1828, Clarissa Gray, born August 23, 1809, who died June 6, 1884, daughter of Nathaniel and Patty (Dickman) Gray, and succeeded to the estate of his father, Francis<sup>5</sup>; 2d, Mary<sup>6</sup>, born March 20, 1804, died February 18, 1869,, married December 8, 1823, Capt. and Dea. Samuel Perry, born November 26, 1796, died February 12, 1878, and had ten children on the old Perry homestead on Vernon street; † 3d, Hannah<sup>6</sup>, born February 12, 1806, died July 14, 1823; 4th, Joseph<sup>6</sup>, born February 27, 1808, died April 13, 1812; 5th, Francis<sup>6</sup>, Jr., born August 11, 1811, died July 2, 1881, married April 6, 1841, Harriet W. Robbins of Littleton, born April 19, 1818, who died September 26, 1842, and he then married Frances J. Moore, born August 12, 1813, daughter of Col. Henry Moore of Newport, R. I., this Francis<sup>6</sup> and Harriet W. Robbins<sup>7</sup>, daughter of Harriet<sup>7</sup> A., born February 5, 1842, being wife of her second cousin, Benjamin F. Harrington, son of Benjamin; 6th, Lydia<sup>6</sup> F., born December 12, 1814, married April 13, 1842, Nahum Flagg, born April 27, 1812, son of John and Sarah (Ward) Flagg, and had Albert D., born August 22, 1844, and Ellen M., born October 4, 1847, residing with their parents on the estate on Grafton street, next east of George H. Rice's.

Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Harrington, born October 31, 1779, who died May 4,

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 110.

† See "Reminiscences," p. 111.

1854, (son of Nathaniel<sup>4</sup>,) divided with his brother Francis<sup>5</sup>, the estate of their father and grandfather, on different portions of which they and their children settled, Francis<sup>5</sup> taking the south-western, and Jonathan<sup>5</sup> the north-eastern section. Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Harrington married in 1804, Mary Flagg, born January 9, 1780, died September 11, 1868, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah (Stearns) Flagg, and grand-daughter of Col. Benjamin and Abigail (Chadwick) Flagg. Jonathan<sup>5</sup> and Mary (Flagg) Harrington had but one child, Benjamin<sup>6</sup>, who was born April 8, 1805, and died August 15, 1873, his residence being side by side of that of his cousin, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, on Harrington court. Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Harrington married in 1834, Lucretia, born July 15, 1805, died November 4, 1889, daughter of Abel and Susannah (Harrington) Flagg, and had these four children: 1st, Mary<sup>7</sup> E., born January 25, 1836, married April 15, 1873, Samuel G. Curtis, son of Benjamin F. Curtis, and resided on the original Taylor estate on Plantation street, elsewhere spoken of; 2d, Benjamin F., born September 7, 1838, married November 18, 1875, his second cousin, Harriet W., daughter of Francis Harrington, Jr., and reside on the paternal estate with his brother, Henry A.; 3d, Henry Augustus, born September 8, 1846, married October 17, 1842, Delia M. daughter of Salem Griggs, and divided with his brother, Benjamin F., their father's estate; 4th, Sarah Amelia, born April 6, 1850, married January 10, 1878, Gonsalo Buxton, and resides in Kansas City, Mo.

Daniel<sup>6</sup> and Clarissa (Gray) Harrington had these nine children: 1st, Joseph, born October 6, 1829, died December 4, 1875; 2d, Emily<sup>6</sup>, born October 23, 1831, died in 1883, married in 1873, George Sumner Battelle, his second wife; 3d, Charles<sup>6</sup> A., born May 20, 1834, (of the firm of Garfield & Harrington, coal and ice dealers, on School street, Worcester,) married Lucy Goulding, daughter of Lewis and Lucy (Adams) Goulding, and had Elenor W. and Herbert H. Harrington, in the employ of Garfield & Harrington; 4th, Henry<sup>6</sup> M., born March 20, 1836, died August 6, 1837; 5th, Delia<sup>6</sup> A., born March 21, 1841, married in 1863, George B. Andrews, stable keeper, Clinton; 6th, Maria<sup>6</sup> A., born September 2, 1843, married the late Edward W. Wellington, brother of Col. Fred W. Wellington, and had three children; 7th, Francis<sup>6</sup> A., born November 17, 1846, Mayor of Worcester, (with his brother Daniel A., in the firm of Harrington & Brothers, Metropolitan stables, Central street,) married in 1871, Anna M. Grout, daughter of Silas and Eliza (Draper) Grout of Spencer, and have three children, Charles A., Frank C., and Mary E. Harrington; 8th, George<sup>6</sup> A., born July 8, 1849, died in 1885; 9th, Daniel<sup>6</sup> A., born May 8, 1851, in company with his brother, Francis A., in the Metropolitan stables, Central street, married in 1873, Jennie A. Spiers, daughter of John Spiers of Worcester, and have Clara A., Josie A., John S. and Daniel A., Jr., born between 1874 and 1882.

## THE OLD FLAGG ESTATE.

The next ancient estate on Plantation street, south or south-west of that now owned and occupied by George Dana, on which the first settler was Capt. Benjamin Gates, above mentioned, was that of the first Benjamin Flagg of Worcester, on which he was the first settler as far back as 1717, and which his grandson, Col. Benjamin Flagg, of revolutionary fame, afterwards owned and occupied, and after him his son, Aaron Flagg. After the latter's decease in 1836, his heirs occupied and leased the farm for awhile, till they sold it about 1850 to George S. Howe, the present owner. Considering that Col. Benjamin Flagg, at his decease October 8, 1818, aged 95 years, left four children, forty-two grand-children, and eighty-three great grand-children, any one would naturally have supposed that the descendants of this old revolutionary veteran would have longer continued this ancient estate in the family, after it had thus been there one hundred and thirty-one years. Other branches of the family will be noticed when speaking of the sections of the old town in which they settled.\*

## THE STEARNS FAMILY.

The next estate south or south-west, bordering on the latter, was that of old Daniel Stearns, now owned and occupied by George H. Rice, which the latter's father, the late Darius Rice, purchased of the mortgagees of Daniel Stearns in 1831. Daniel Stearns, who died at the poor farm in 1835, aged over four score years, was son of John Stearns, Jr., whose father, John Stearns, was an original proprietor of various lands in different sections of the town, including the estate on which his descendants here lived, who inherited it from him. This Daniel Stearns married in 1780, Mary Wheelock, daughter of Paul Wheelock, who lived just this side of the Millbury Branch Railroad, on the road to Grafton. Among Daniel Stearns' children, he had a son, Daniel, who went west, and a daughter, Mary, or Polly, who married a Tucker, and resided last in the small old house which stood on the north-east corner of Plantation and Belmont streets, and was torn down after her death a few years ago by the State Lunatic Hospital Trustees, who purchased the estate. Other children of the first John Stearns of Worcester, formerly occupied several estates in the south-east section of the town, but their descendants, in the male line at least, are not now to be found there. This first John Stearns of Worcester, was brother of Capt. Thomas Stearns of the old King's Arms tavern, where the Lincoln House now is, and they were grandsons of the emigrant ancestor, Charles Stearns, who came from England and settled in Watertown before 1646.

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 106.

## THE GRAY FAMILIES.

Among the earliest settlers in Worcester, were many families of Scotch-Irish Presbyterian emigrants of 1718,\* including several of the name of Gray,—John, Matthew, Robert, William and James,—brothers or near relatives, with their families. Of these, John Gray first settled southerly or rather south-westerly of Adams Square, on an estate that he sold to his son John, and which the latter sold in 1739 to John Chadwick, ancestor of the Worcester Chadwicks. John Gray, senior, after selling that estate to his son John, Jr., settled on the estate west of Lake Quinsigamond, which he purchased of Isaac Leonard and John Kellogg,† and which he afterwards, in 1730, sold to his son, Samuel Gray, and the latter, in 1739, to Samuel Andrews, father-in-law of Col. Timothy Bigelow, as before related.

Matthew Gray settled early as 1729, on the estate south of the Harrington and west of the original Benjamin Flagg estate, where the late Edward E. Bliss lived, east of Nahum Flagg's, on a Court now called Woodland place, leading east from Grafton street. This estate of 55 acres, Matthew Gray purchased in 1729 of the original proprietor, Jonathan Moore, who settled north of it, on the estate which his widow sold in 1732 to Joseph Dana, afterwards her husband, and the latter to Francis Harrington, as before stated.

This estate Matthew Gray deeded in 1735 to his son, Matthew Gray, Jr., and the latter in 1772 to his son Reuben, and the latter, in turn, to his son Matthew, the sons in succession by written agreement taking care of their parents on the old homestead till their decease. About 1829, the estate passed out of the family under mortgages, after four generations had owned and occupied it, the last Matthew Gray mentioned above removing from the place to the north side of Shrewsbury street, near Belmont street, and thence to the house of the late Dea. Alpheus Merrifield, opposite the jail on Summer street, where he died September 20, 1858, and his son, William Gray, who married Mercy Slade of Paxton, died there February 21, 1857, the latter being parents of Arthur E., George A., and Miss Sybil M. Gray of Worcester.

Reuben Gray was killed by a stroke of lightning, on his farm, May 23, 1814. By his wife, Lydia Millet, a daughter of the Ebenezer Millet, elsewhere mentioned, he had these eleven children: 1st, Reuben, Jr., born in 1787, who was drowned July 12, 1807, aged 20 years; 2d, Moses born in 1790, killed

---

\* See "Reminiscences," pp. 127 and 128.

† This John Kellogg was probably another of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian emigrants, and his daughter Rachel, who died soon after he came here, is the first white person on record as buried in Worcester after the beginning of the permanent settlement. See "Reminiscences," p. 199.

by fall from a tree, March 26, 1808, aged 18; 3d, Nathaniel, died July 29, 1823, married Patty Dickman of Hopkinton, their daughter Clarissa being wife of the late Daniel Harrington, and mother of our present mayor, Hon. Francis A. Harrington, and Charles A. and Daniel A. Harrington, all present here to-day; 4th, Mary, born June 12, 1777, married in 1806, Samuel Sturtevant, they being parents of Leonard W. Sturtevant, just deceased, and Mrs. Estes Smith of Worcester, Levi Sturtevant of West Boylston, Luke G. Sturtevant of Norwich, Ct., formerly of Leicester, and the late Estes and Harvey Sturtevant of Worcester; 5th, Luke, one of whose daughters was wife of Daniel Chadwick, Jr., and another was wife of his cousin, Leonard W. Sturtevant; 6th, Matthew, married Millicent Dickman, and succeeded to the paternal homestead, as before stated; 7th, Lydia, married Rev. Baxter Perry, brother of the late Capt. Samuel Perry of Worcester, one of their children being Prof. Arthur L. Perry of Williams College, and another, Baxter Perry, Jr., a lawyer in Boston; 8th, John, went to New York after the death of the father, and has descendants there; 9th, William, died out west about 1872, and has descendants there; 10th, Samuel, resided in Providence, R. I., by wife Lucy, had a daughter Sally, who married in 1837, Andrew Jackson Sumner of Milford, whose son, Arthur E. Jackson, was partner in business there with the father; 11th, Betsy, married Moses Cutler of Grafton.

I must relate in this connection an incident related to me by some of the descendants of Reuben Gray, of an occurrence at his funeral at the Old South Church. Taking those three sudden deaths in the family as not merely accidental, but Providential, for some cause, the then pastor of that church, Rev. Dr. Austin, at the funeral made a very peculiar allusion, for these days, to the deceased. Leaning over the pulpit, in front of which were the remains of the unfortunate man, while the widow, children, and other mourning relatives were around the coffin, the minister said, "In all probability, my hearers, our friend whose body lies before us, is at this moment suffering the torments of the damned."

The sensation among the mourning relatives may be better imagined than described.

Of the others mentioned of the name of Gray, who came to Worcester about the same time, and had large families here, Robert Gray was the first settler on the estate on Hadwen lane, afterwards owned and occupied by his son, Robert, Jr., and the latter's son, Thomas Gray, who sold it in 1803 to Rufus Paine. The heirs of the latter sold to Wing Kelley, and the latter or his assignees in 1835 to the late Charles Hadwen, who owned and occupied the estate from that time until his decease, Feb. 8, 1881, aged 84 years, and the main part of it is still in the family, occupied by Mr. Hadwen's grandson, Wm. E. Hadwen.

Sorry, this page is  
unavailable to Free Members

You may continue reading on the following page



Upgrade your  
Forgotten Books Membership  
to view this page now  
with our  
**7 DAY FREE TRIAL**

[Start Free Trial](#)

part of the year 1718, and settled in Worcester the same year, or soon after. They were Scotch-Irish, whose ancestors in the early part of the seventeenth century went from Argyleshire, in Scotland, and settled in Londonderry, in the north part of Ireland, the cause of their leaving their country, being religious persecutions, but they suffered still more in the place to which they went. Londonderry is famous for the memorable siege it sustained in 1689 against the forces of James II, sent to compel them to submit to that arbitrary tyrant, who was dethroned to make way for William III, of Orange. Londonderry continued for a long period after that to be headquarters of Protestantism in the North of Ireland. It is a shame that the descendants of such persons, when they came to Worcester were not allowed to organize a church and build a separate edifice of their own Presbyterian faith. As a consequence, a large number of these Scotch-Irish Presbyterian families, including most of the Grays, except Robert, Matthew, and James, above mentioned, left Worcester about 1740, and settled in Pelham, where they had purchased and organized a township. The contract for the purchase was made September 26, 1738, after which arrangements were immediately made to organize the proprietors, most of whom, comprising about thirty-eight families, were from Worcester. The deed was given January 1, 1739, to them, naming each person or head of a family, and the proportion of land each should hold. The first meeting of the proprietors was held February 26, 1739, at the hotel of Daniel Heywood, which stood where the Bay State House now is,\* when a committee, consisting of Robert Peebles, alluded to in my address at North Worcester, and James Thornton, whose location in Worcester was south of Matthew Gray, were chosen to survey the territory and lay out the lots for the settlers, which each one drew. All subsequent meetings of the proprietors were held in Worcester till August 6, 1740, when a meeting was held at the house of John Ferguson, in the new township, named by the proprietors "Lisbon," or "New Lisbourne." By this name, with its variations and various spelling, it was known until the incorporation of the town, January 15, 1743, with its present name, Pelham. The first minister they called was Rev. Wm. Johnston, one of the Worcester Presbyterians from Londonderry, Ireland, who was their pastor here, whom the Old South Church refused to fellowship or admit into their pulpit. For some reason, he declined the pastorate at Pelham, and another of the Presbyterian emigrants, Rev. Robert Abercrombie, was then called and settled. At his installation the sermon was preached by the celebrated Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton, who exhibited a different feeling towards these

---

\* See "Reminiscences," p. 30.

Presbyterians than that shown towards them by his brother orthodox pastor of that time in Worcester, Rev. Isaac Burr, and his people here, who not only declined any recognition of them as fellow Christians, but so persecuted them as to lead to the tearing down of the house of worship which they were building for themselves to meet in, after being denied the use of the one on the Common, alternately with, or when not occupied by the regular church.

It is a very pleasant reminder of the progress of religious toleration and Christian unity during the last century and a half, to note with what avidity the present orthodox Congregational churches of Worcester seek the ministrations of Presbyterian pastors by extending calls to them, including the Old South Church itself, which has just settled Rev. Arcturus Z. Conrad, from the Ainslie St. Presbyterian church of Brooklyn, N. Y., as its pastor, and Plymouth church has also just settled Rev. Archibald McCullagh, from Ross Street Presbyterian church in the same city, as its pastor. Whatever may have been the technical differences in belief between New England Puritanism and the old fashioned Presbyterian faith, Worcester is to be congratulated on the accession of such men to its pulpits, as an evidence that the Christianity of to-day is broader than the denominational limitations of the past, when Puritanical Massachusetts banished the Quakers and Baptists from her territory and a Presbyterian church was not tolerated in Worcester.

Remarks full of reminiscences suggested by the address and the occasion, followed by the venerable Albert Curtis, who was born 83 years ago in that vicinity, on the Dana estate; Joseph Lovell, who built in 1830 the chimney for the north addition then made to Mr. Draper's house when owned and occupied by the Patches; President E. B. Crane of the Society of Antiquity, who spoke of his interest in the investigations being made by Mr. Wall into the history of the old families and their estates; Ex-Mayor Samuel Winslow, who made interesting reference to his recent tour among the farmers in the old world, contrasting their condition, as mere tenants of the lands they cultivate with the farmers in New England. They, as well as Col. E. B. Glasgow, Wm. H. Earle, O. B. Hadwen, and Librarian Thomas A. Dickinson of the Society of Antiquity, spoke of the importance of a collection and publication of the historical facts presented by Mr. Wall. Mr. Draper extended his hearty thanks to the visitors for their attendance on this occasion, and invited all present to view his grounds, which they did, rambling over the fine estate and stopping at the

pavilion, where refreshments were served. Among the old citizens present were: Charles Munroe, now in his 91st year; Wm. T. Merrifield and Albert Curtis, each 83; Wm. Eames, 81; Joseph Lovell, 79; Nahum Flagg, 78; and many others approaching, if not exceeding the latter limit. Among 100 others were: Alderman L. A. Ely, Ex-Alderman Wm. H. Sawyer and Warren Williams, B. W. Potter and wife, S. A. Burgess and wife, G. K. Mellor and wife, Joseph E. Bond and wife, Samuel A. Pratt, Daniel Seagrave, James L. Estey, Daniel Logan of Cherry Valley, H. H. Bigelow, Dea. Alfred Holden, Charles Belcher, F. M. Marble, Pardon A. Lee, Henry M. Wheeler, A. G. Mann, Henry H. Mecorney, John B. Harrington of Shrewsbury, and James A. Colvin.

### CONCLUSION.

In a future number, will be included an outline map of the oldest roads, with the locations of the first settlers denoted thereon, in the different sections of the old town. In the district included in the present publication, the oldest roads were, Plantation street from Lincoln street, near the head of Long Pond, to and across Grafton street, to the settlement of Jonas Rice and others on Sagatabscot hill and beyond; the old Pine Meadow road, from what is now Washington Square, to Plantation street, and beyond, to Harrington court, and the Lake; and the route over what are now Putnam lane and Adams street, from the old Pine Meadow road north to what is now Belmont street. Also, Grafton street, from Washington square southeast to the old town line near the south end of the Lake, where it connected with the extension of the old road from the Harrington and Joshua Bigelow estates south.

WORCESTER, January 1, 1891.

Copyright, 1891, by CALEB A. WALL.

**This book is a preservation facsimile.  
It is made in compliance with copyright law  
and produced on acid-free archival  
60# book weight paper  
which meets the requirements of  
ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (permanence of paper)**

**Preservation facsimile printing and binding  
by  
Acme Bookbinding  
Charlestown, Massachusetts**



2007





BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



**3 9999 05266 955 1**

Sorry, this page is  
unavailable to Free Members

You may continue reading on the following page



Upgrade your  
Forgotten Books Membership  
to view this page now  
with our  
**7 DAY FREE TRIAL**

[Start Free Trial](#)

