

THE
FOUNDERS
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY.

*A CAREFUL RESEARCH OF THE EARLIEST RECORDS OF MANY OF THE
FOREMOST SETTLERS OF THE NEW ENGLAND COLONY: COM-
PILED FROM THE EARLIEST CHURCH AND STATE RECORDS,
AND VALUABLE PRIVATE PAPERS RETAINED BY
DESCENDANTS FOR MANY GENERATIONS.*

BY
SARAH SAUNDERS SMITH.

ILLUSTRATED.

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1622, JUNE—THE WEYMOUTH COLONY.

Under the above date, the colonial records of the Plymouth colony note: "Came unto our harbor two ships of Mr. Westons. *The Charity*, 100 tons; *the Swan*, 30 tons; with letters of April 10th, and fifty or sixty men, *sent at his own charge*, under Capt. *John Sanders* overseer, to settle a plantation in the Massachusetts bay, *for which he has procured a patent.*"

"They sailed the last of April, the *Charity*, the bigger ship leaves them, having many passengers for Virginia."

Note the record: "Two ships sent by Mr. Weston for which he has procured a patent." This little colony arrives as a private enterprise.

Mr. Weston, assisted probably by the influence of the colonization fraternity, Sir Edwin Sandys and Sir Ferdinando Gorges, procures a patent. He risks the united Capital, upon a venture of the future success of the colony, and places Capt. John Sanders, possibly a brother of George Sanders and nephew of Sir Samuel Sanders, as overseer of the enterprise; and because it was a *private enterprise*, and not inspired by the bond of mutual benefit lottery affairs of the first colony at Plymouth, there was a prejudice against it, which has its origin in these earliest records, and which has been enlarged upon by Prince and Hubbard, until one can hardly recognize the malice and disparagement of this unfortunate venture, as coming from the Puritanical records of 1622, even though in their jealous proprietorship, they felt that the mistaken spot of their *own patent*, needed a protection against intruders.

Again the Plymouth records say: By Mr. Weston's ship comes a letter from Mr. John Pierce, in whose name the *Plymouth patent* is taken."

1622—September. Plymouth records: "Mr. Weston's largest

ship sails for England, leaving what was supposed sufficient for this colony."

1622, November, is recorded: "Shortly after harvest, Mr. Weston's people at the Massachusetts, having by disorder much wasted their provisions, begin to perceive a want approaching, and hearing we had *bought commodities* and designed to trade for corn, they write to the Governor to join with us, offer their small ship for the service, and pray to let them have some of our commodities, which the Governor *condescends to*, (note the animosity,) designing to go round Cape Cod to the southward, where store of corn may be obtained; but we are often crossed in our purposes."

The Plymouth Colony for various reasons are deterred, but Governor Bradford writes: "They got twenty-six or twenty-eight hogshead of corn and bread in all, for both plantations." This was at the end of harvest.) Note the remark "having by disorder wasted their provisions."

This Plymouth Colony had at this time not more than three-quarters of an hundred souls, having lost more than a third of their number the first winter, and deaths following constantly; we find they were, in fact, scarcely larger than the Weymouth Colony, just arrived.

Having been in the country two seasons, they had had time to house themselves, raise crops and store their fish and corn, and yet they, with all their thrift, economy and experience, were obliged to often make shift, as they expressed it, for substance. How then could they have supposed that a new colony of fifty to sixty men, with no housing except such as they could rudely construct in a few weeks, with scant provisions at the most, have been in a better condition than they themselves were as regards their substance.

The animosity of their sentiments is most apparent.

In March, 1623—previous to the appeal from Capt. Sanders for assistance, is the following record in the Plymouth records:

1624, March b. "The captain, having refreshed himself, takes a schallop and goes to Maromet for the *corn the Govern. or has bought.*"

1623, March 4. The records read, "An Indian comes in from Capt John Sanders, the overseer of the Weston colony, with a letter showing the great wants they had fallen into, having spent all their bread and corn; would have borrowed a hogshead of the natives, but they would lend none. *He desired advice*, whether he might take it by force to support his men, till he returned from Wenham, where is a plantation of Sir Ferdinando Gorges *whither he is going to buy bread.*"

We note here the decision of John Sanders to see his friend Sir Ferdinando Gorges for relief, and the consideration he shows towards his neighbor, the Indian, and the manner of expressing his wish for assistance; his deference to the judgment to the older colony.

It was mid-winter; his men were starving, the provisions had been insufficient. The colony settled at Weymouth in the fall of the year. There was no protection for winter, but such as they could rudely construct. The appeal had not been made to the Plymouth colony until March, five months after the departure of the Charity, and yet Prince and Hubbard, and the early colonial records, themselves, show how unwilling assistance was given, except at the last, and then only upon assurance of their departure for England again.

From the colonial records of March we note, "but the *Governor, with others, despatched the messenger with letters to dissuade him by all means from such a violence, exhorting him (Capt. Sanders) to make shift as we, who have so little left, must do.*"

(Very good advice for the protection of the Plymouth colony, but to *starving men, good advice with no substance* besides, was scarcely a stimulus to good behavior.)

THE RECORDS—"upon receiving *our letters*, Mr. Sanders alters his purpose, and comes first to Plymouth, *when notwithstanding our necessities, we spare him corn.*"

(Not until personal appeal, was scant necessity offered him.)

RECORDS—"Next day comes one of Weston's men with a sad tale of suffering want, and *near dead with cold and hunger.*"

One in getting shell fish was so weak that he stuck upright in the mud, and was found dead in the place."

(Not until a last resort was appeal made for help)

RECORDS.—“The next day Capt. Standish arrives at Weymouth; is threatened by the savages, rumors of an attack upon the helpless colony having been made.”

RECORDS.—“Standish, watching his opportunity, falls upon the Indians, killing many, but releases the Indian women, and would not take even their beans and goats nor suffer the least discourtesy to be offered them.”

“Upon this they resolve to break up the colony.”

“The men are sick, disheartened and turbulent, and have many conferences.”

“They desire Captain Sanders to let them have corn and they *would go with him* in their small ship (the Swan, thirty tons,) to Winhiggin, where they may hear from Mr. Weston, or may have some supply from him, seeing the time of year is come for the fishing ships to be there; or otherwise would work with the fishermen for their living or get passage to England.”

RECORDS.—“So they ship what they have, what corn Captain Standish has he gives them, scarcely keeping enough to last him home, (about two or three hours time.) He sees them under sail well out of the harbor, not taking of them the worth of a penny, (to the regret of the narrator, it would seem.) With some few who desire it he returns to Plymouth, bringing the head of Vetuwamet, an Indian, which he sets up in the fort.”

And yet at this date, March 6. we read, “The Captain, having refreshed himself, takes a schallop and goes to Wacomet for the corn the Governor has bought.”

RECORDS.—“Shortly after Mr. Weston’s people went to the eastward he comes there himself, with some fishermen, under another name, and disguised as a blacksmith, when he heard of the ruin of his plantation.” (Mr. Weston had come to their relief; his ship was cast ashore at Ipswich.) “He took a schallop with a man or two, and comes over to see how things are; but in a storm is cast away in the bottom of the bay, between

Pascataquak and Merrimack river, and hardly escaped with his life. Afterwards he falls into the hands of the Indians, *who pillage him of all he saved from the ship*, and stripped him of all his clothes to his shirt; at length he gets to Pascataquak, borrows a suit of clothes, and finds means to come to Plymouth.”

(It can scarcely be wondered that the gentleman presented a false name, when he finds his plantation ruined, his men adrift in a starving condition, and himself disguised in the raiments of a blacksmith.)

1623—April recorded: “Thus this plantation is broken up in a year, *and this is the end of those who, being able bodied men, had boasted of their strength, in comparison of the people at Plymouth who had many women and children, and weak ones with them.*”

One very early historian says: “It was the *judgement of God* for their conceit in thinking they could successfully conduct a *private enterprise.*”

The records following express *no anxiety* for the *safety of the ship*, and its half starved burden, who at the most treacherous time of the year, departed with scarcely food sufficient for a few days, to cross the ocean; *no prayers* were apparently uttered for their safe delivery, from envy, hatred and malice, nor from lightning, and tempest, nor from plague, pestilence, and famine, or from sudden death; but God in his almighty benevolence, had pity upon their infirmities; and they found deliverance and a safe harbor, though after weeks of storm and tempest and sufferings, having fallen in with another ship, who assisted them as far as it was possible in their extremity.

1623, MAY 23—COLONIAL RECORDS AT LONDON.

“Captain Sanders and company arrived at Southampton,” and thus ended the disaster of the Weymouth plantation.

Mr. Weston and Sir Ferdinando Gorges were not discouraged however; in September of the same year, 1623, “Capt. Robert Gorges, son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, with Mr. Merrill, an *Episcopal* minister, and sundry passengers and families arrive in Massachusetts bay and begin a plantation. “They pitch upon the same place Mr. Weston’s people had forsaken.” He had a commission from the council for New England to be their lieutenant governor or general governor of the country.”

1624 RECORD.—“Toward the spring after Capt. Gorges and Mr. Weston had been at Plymouth, Mr. Weston comes again and then sails for Virginia.”

RECORD.—“Capt. Gorges not *finding the state of things to answer his quality*, with some who depended upon him, returns to England. Some of his people go to Virginia, some *few* remain, who are *helped with supplies from hence*.”

This last record speaks for itself, and shows an animosity towards Gorges, and a declaration *almost* that supplies *could not* have been obtained from them. Rev. Mr. Merrill had a hard time, remaining with this Plymouth settlement; he was considered in the light of a spy; his religion, declared *Episcopalian*, was contrary to their principles; he was arrested and confined by the Governor, but later leaving the colony, returned to England the following year.

One more record, and I will close this sketch of the first two settlements in Massachusetts Bay.

1624, March.—“Mr. Winslow, our agent, comes over in the ship *Charity*, and brings a pretty good supply of clothing * * * * *The ship comes a fishing, a thing fatal to this planta-*

tion. He also brings a bull and three heifers, the first cattle in the land ; but there is a sad account of a *strong faction among the adventures against us*, and especially against the coming of Mr. Robinson and the rest at Leyden." (This is the first mention of the Colony of Weymouth. They are called adventures.)

"By Mr. Winslow we have several letters from the Governor dated December 19, 1623, whereof he writes with great concern about the killing of the savage conspirators at the Massachusetts. He says: 'Oh, how happy a thing had it been that you had *converted* some before you had *killed any*.'"

Thus it would seem that there was some reason for prejudice toward the Plymouth Colony, since the failure of the two sister plantations, the unfortunate reception of the Rev. Mr. Merrill, and the scant welcome of the second visit of the "Charity" in the records.

"The ship comes a fishing, a thing fatal to this plantation."

When we read the records of the new colonies as inscribed at London, and notice the intimate connection of the Gorges and Sanders families one is assured that in a very near way the interests of John Sanders—(Saunders,) the ancestor of many branches of the family now in America, must have been advanced by more than personal favor. From deeds and his will, well preserved in the Probate Records of Massachusetts, we find that he describes himself as coming from Weeke in ye parish of Downton, in ye County of Wiltz, England. This will was sealed with the crest of the Saunders arms, and I can but conclude that John Sanders had a lineal right to that crest, or he would not have assumed the use of it upon so sacred a document as a will, and at a time in the sixteenth century when goldsmiths were unknown in America.

In the English Record of Heraldry we notice: "Edward Marsh quarters his arms with his family, those of Nethersol and Sanders ; the former in right of marriage of his ancestor, Thomas Marsh of Brandred, with Anna, daughter of John Nethersol, Esq., and the latter in right of marriage, 1637, of

another ancestor, John Marsh, Esq., with Anna, daughter and heir of Henry Sanders of Canterbury. In the Marsh arms we find Sanders arms, the same domestic boar, as in Sir Edwin Sanders, Edward Marsh, Esq., Snare Manor, and Ivy Manor, County Kent."—(*Burke.*)

In this last record we note that in 1637 John Marsh, Esq., married Anna, daughter of Sir Henry Sanders, and united the arms of the two families. In our Colonial Records we find that at Salem, Mass., in 1637, *John Marsh, Esq.* with wife, *Anna (Sanders.)* received under "Grant No. 260, a tract of twenty acres, to be laid out by the town."

1640-30-1. "John Marsh, Esq., receives thirty acres more of meadow land."

1655-10-Nov. "It is ordered that John Marsh and John Kitchen are chosen searchers and sealers of leather for the year ensuing."

Elizabeth Kitchen, sister of said John Kitchen, became wife of William Sanders, who came to the colony 1637, and later was one of the founders of North Carolina.

SANDERS LINEAL LINE.

FIRST GENERATION.

DOWNTON PARISH REGISTER, WILTZ COUNTY, ENGLAND.

BURIELS' EARLIEST BOOK OF RECORDS, 1602.

1609. ALES SAUNDERS, *the wife of* John Saunders of Weeke, 29 December.

MARRIAGES.

1610. JOHN SAUNDERS and Ales Coles were married the fourth day of February.

BAPTISMS.

1613. JOHN, *son of* John Saunders of Weeke, baptized 26 March.

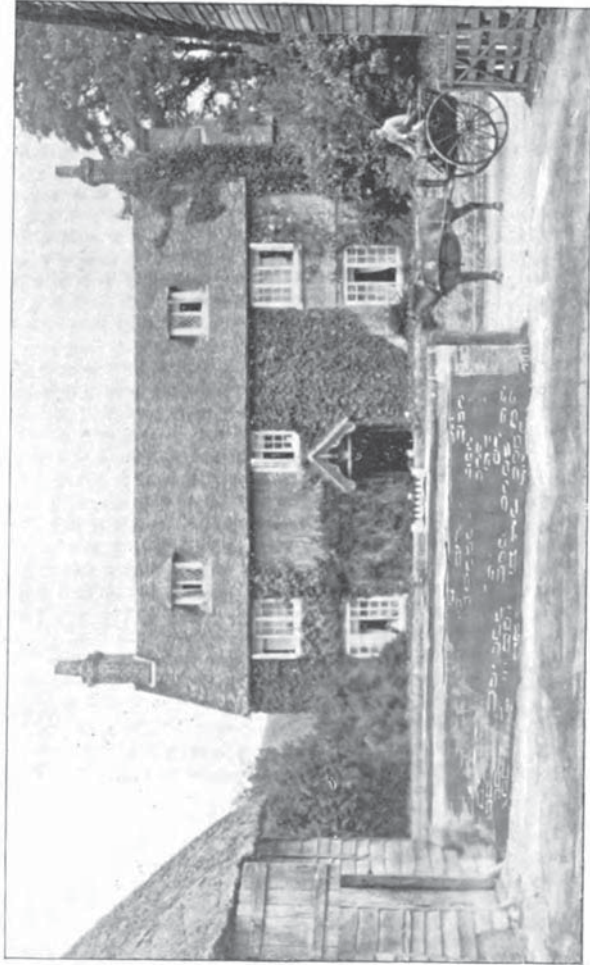
1614. ELIZABETH, *daughter of* John Saunders.

1615. SARAH, *daughter of* John Saunders.

1617. JOSEPH, *son of* John Saunders.

1622. MOSES, *son of* John Saunders.

"WEEKE," or WICK as it is now called, signified a place of residence in the parish of Downton, Wiltshire, England. It consisted of two large old houses, substantial and of importance, one having been pulled down to give place to a larger house. The ground and belongings to the Hamlet of Weeks consisted of 1184 acres. This track was in possession of the family of Sanders and through the marriage of Thomas Duncombe to Isabel, daughter of Thomas Saunders, and the marriage of William Duncombe to Ellen Saunders it became by purchase and inheritance a portion of the estate of the family of Duncombe, of whom Lord Feversham was a descendant. In the last century it was purchased by Jacob, Earl of Radnor, a descendant by marriage of Anthony Duncombe.



"WEERE," DOWNTON PARISH, ENGLAND.
(HOME OF JOHN SANDERS.)

JOHN SAUNDERS.

John Saunders of "Weeke," the ancestor of the Saunders branch of this genealogy, seems to have been undaunted by his failure of 1623, to establish the Weymouth colony. During the following five or six years, he made several voyages to the Virginia settlement, generally it seemed in command of his ship and supposedly in the interest of the home government.

It is not until 27 July, 1635, that we note John¹ Saunders returns to the New England colony, and then it is as passenger in the Merchant, "Hope," Hugh Weston commander. He came probably this time to see his son John² Saunders (who came with Endicott's colony in 1628-9 and had remained in the settlement) and also to establish new enterprises as follows:

During the years 1635 to 1638, there were so many of the name of Sanders, who came to the new settlement, their advent so united, their means so liberal, and their ability so acknowledged, that one can but infer that they were members of one family and were forced to emigrate from some unusual family trouble; this family trouble I conceive to have been the failure of the Virginia company, of which Sir Edwin Sanders was treasurer; and of his banishment from England. At this time Sir Richard Sanders of Downton was also deprived of his estates, and many unfortunate failures had occurred from these foreign investments.

I will briefly note the different branches of the Sanders family who sought the new world at this time, and then continue the history of John¹ Sanders, the lineal ancestor of this genealogy.

First came to New England—

1623—JOHN¹ SANDERS of Weeke, in charge of Weymouth Colony.

1628-9—JOHN² SANDERS, in ship "Margaret."

1635—JOHN SANDERS of Weeke, in merchant "Hope,"
Hugh Weston, master.

1635—EDWARD SANDERS arrived at Boston in ship "Safety" with daughter, Jane, wife of Thomas Parker of Horley, Essex, born 1614. Thomas Parker was a descendant of the celebrated divine, Mathew Parker, who was Queen Elizabeth's first Protestant bishop, consecrated 1560. (At a little later date, April 19, 1562, we notice that "Sanders and about twenty-two others were consecrated bishops, Kitchen, however, refusing to take oath." (See Pierce and Styppe, English Ecclesiastical History.)

Edward Sanders, father of Jane Parker, is described as coming from Charlewood, commoner Surry, England, a widower.

Edward Sanders was appointed by Gov. Winthrop as member of an important colony about to found a plantation at Charlestown, South Carolina. Ancestors of this line were scattered through Kentucky and Tennessee and Mississippi. Of this family there are many college graduates. One governor (of the Mississippi colony,) Ralph Sanders of Kentucky, a distinguished lawyer and literary man, is of this line. Also Daniel, a lawyer and writer of great reputation.

1635. Arthur Sandys or Sanders, said by early historians to have been the son of Sir Edwin, came to Marblehead, and engaged in the fisheries.

1638-23-10 he was granted by the general high courts 20 acres to plant in. At this time Marblehead was a part of Salem, Mass.

1635. At Boston is recorded Elizabeth Sanders, who came as the wife of Henry Walcott, magistrate of England. He was second son of Sir John Walcott of Tollard, County of Sommerset. He inherited Golden Manor, Tollard, at the decease of his brother Christopher. He bore the arms, common to his family from Sir John de Walcott. Tempo Richard II. At the time of his advent to Massachusetts Colony, a grant had been obtained for a settlement in Connecticut. Magistrate Henry Walcott was selected as one of the proprietors.

Magistrate Henry Walcott, born 1578, died May 30, 1655, and Elizabeth Saunders were married in 1607 and had the following children born in England. Anna, Henry Jr., George, Christopher, Mary and Simon. Mrs. Elizabeth Saunders Walcott survived her husband. His son, Honorable Roger Walcott, became governor of Connecticut.—(*Samuel Walcott's memoirs*, 1881).

At Tollard, Royal Hundred of Chalk, Wiltzshire, England, we find at the registry under date 1677 that George Sanders and John Everyn were church wardens.—(*Hoare's History of Wiltzshire*).

1636. John¹ Sanders returns to New England, and in conjunction with William Sanders, William Wentworth, William English, John Clifford and others received the grant and founded the colony of Hampton, Mass.

1637. Henry Sanders, said to have been a brother of Arthur Sanders, was in Salem and Rowley, and afterwards at Boxford, where together with John¹ Sanders they received a grant of 200 acres. Henry Sanders came with wife Sybill, had born to him at Rowley, 1639-4-20, Samuel, son of Henry and Sybill—1642-1-24, Mercy, daughter of Henry and Sybill. Rowley was then a part of Salem, Mass. 1636 John¹ Sanders was made freeman.

In 1638. John¹ Sanders is supposed to have been sent to England on important business for the colony. He returned in the "Confidence" with daughter Sarah Sanders, (not as some historians have said, as wife).

SARA SANDERS became the wife of Major Robert Pike April 3, 1641, of Salisbury, Mass. He was a member of the General High Court, 1648, and for many years following. He became lieutenant, captain, major in command of one of the Essex regiments. He was assistant in 1682, was one of the Council of Safety in the overthrow of Andros, 1689, and also a member of the council in the William and Mary Charter, 1691. His rapid advance to power and popularity was most marked, and by many he has been styled the "Cromwell of America." Sarah Sanders, wife of Robert Pike, I place as neice to Eliza-

beth, wife of Henry Walcott of Connecticut. Robert Pike was son of John Pike, who came in the "James" from Langford, Wiltz County, England, (a descendant of the Archbishop of Litchfield,) and was brother to Israel Pike, who became the wife of Henry Trew. A lineal descendant of Henry Trew (Nancy Trew,) married, in 1835, Philip Henry Saunders of Salem, Mass., who was a lineal descendant of John¹ Sanders, and *they* were the parents of the author of this history.

1635, April 6, we note from the records of the Planter, Nico Tracie, Mr. bound thither.

MARTIN SAUNDERS, age 40.

RACHEL SAUNDERS, age 40.

LEA SAUNDERS, age 10.

JUDITH SAUNDERS, age 8.

MARTIN SAUNDERS, age 4.

MARIA FULLER, age 17.

RICHARD SMITH, age 14.

RICHARD RIDLEY, age 16.

Three children.

Three servants.

dy —

*John m^r, Peter Bra chett had d^r Peter Richard to Rachel * Jonathan d^r*

also son John Mary

** m^r Francis Newcomb*

MARTIN SANDERS with his family arrived in Boston 1635, moved to Mount Walliston, now Quincy. 29 Sept., 1639, with several others, they founded the first church at Mount Walliston. He was made freeman May 13, 1640. He died August 4, 1658, having two sons and two daughters.

In 1638 Christopher Sanders, who with wife, Mary Clark, daughter of Daniel Clark, former Governor of Barbados, assisted in settlement of Windsor, Connecticut.

During many years following he was actively engaged in these settlements, and expended much money in the defence of his grants. He died in Boston September 1, 1708, a very wealthy man. His will, which covers three full pages of foolscap, written in his own fine handwriting, is the most interesting document I have read. It is full of religious faith and pathos, and in every thought and consideration marks the gentleman most conclusively. After providing for the future of his wife, giving bequests to his servant, he leaves, at his wife's death, the whole of his estate, both real and personal, consist-

ing of lands, housings, moneys and plate, to his son Daniel, reserving £100 as a legacy to his nephew, Joshua Lamb, son of Capt. Joshua Lamb of Roxbury, but in case of his son Daniel should not return home, nor any certain advice of his being in the land of the living be received, then he gives and bequeaths unto his grandson, Joshua Lamb, son of Capt. Joshua Lamb of Roxbury, Gentleman, and Susanna, his wife, his daughter, all the remainder of his estate, both real and personal."

Witness, JAMES WOOD,
EDWARD WEAVER, SEN.

He appointed his respected friend, Samuel Lynde, Esq., and loving wife executors.

I nominate and request my beloved friend, Mr. Robert Howard of Boston, Merchant, to be overseer.

February, 1708.

(Signed with a seal with an impress of the crest of the Saunders Coat of Arms.) (The Elephant's Head.)

CHRISTOPHER SANDERS.

1638. DANIEL SANDERS arrives at Cambridge. He died 1639-27-12.

1658. Also came Tobias Sanders, one of the King's life guards, and brother of Christopher. He came to Boston, but 1643 settled at Newport, R. I.

1639. He married Mary, daughter of Joseph Clark, who was a niece of Deputy Governor John Clark of that state.

1639. ROBERT SANDERS arrived at Boston, is a magistrate and executes wills. From 1639 to 1642 he is a member of the General High Court, was afterward one of the proprietors of Rye, N. H., then a part of the settlement of Hampton, where were previously John¹ and William Sanders.

1640. GEORGE SANDERS comes to Boston, establishes himself as a merchant, trading largely with the Barbados, having his uncle, Stephen Spicer, as agent at Barbados. Descendants settled in North Carolina.

1656. We have JOSEPH SANDERS, supposed to have been son of John at Dover, N. H. He was killed by the Indians in

the great massacre, June 27-8, 1689. Thus we find in America during its earliest settlements

MARGARET SAUNDERS, daughter of Sir Samuel and wife of Governor Sir Francis Wyatt of Virginia.

GEORGE SANDERS, her uncle, secretary of Virginia Colony.

REV. DAVID SANDERS in Virginia.

CAPT. JOHN¹ SANDERS of Weeke, Wiltz County, England, in New England.

JOHN² SANDERS, of Weeke, in New England.

ARTHUR SANDYS, or Sanders, in New England.

HENRY SANDYS, or Sanders, in New England.

WILLIAM SANDERS, Downton Parish, in New England.

ELIZABETH SANDERS WALCOTT in New England.

JANE SANDERS PARKER in New England.

EDWARD SANDERS in New England.

SARAH SANDERS PIKE in New England.

TOBIAS SANDERS in New England.

CHRISTOPHER SANDERS in New England.

CAPT. CHARLES SANDERS, who in 1649 applied to General Court for certificate of the destruction of his ship.

ALICE SANDERS, wife of Thomas Eastman, in New England.

DANIEL SANDERS in New England.

MARTIN SANDERS in New England.

ROBERT SANDERS in New England.

JOSEPH SANDERS in New England.

A large representative of settlers of the same name and each prominent in their individual location. Their advent was so united, their means so liberal and their ability so acknowledged that we can but conclude they were members of one family and were forced to emigrate from some unusual family trouble. The probable cause of emigration I have before mentioned.

I will now follow the brief history of John² Sanders, who came to Salem with Endicott's Colony, and then continue the life of John¹ Sanders, which was a long and prominent one.



DOWNTON PARISH CHURCH, ENGLAND.

SECOND GENERATION.

DOWNTON PARISH, REGISTER WEEKS, COUNTY OF WILTZ, ENGLAND.

BAPTISMS.

1604. RICHARD, *son of* John Sanders.
 1603. ELLEN, *daughter of* William Saunders.
 1605. RICHARD, *son of* William Saunders.
 *1606. DOROTHA, *daughter of* John Sanders of Weeke.
 August 17.
 1611. ELLINOR, *daughter of* William Sanders.
 *1613. JOHN, *son of* John Saunders of Weeke, 26 March.
 *1614. ELIZABETH, *daughter of* John Saunders.
 *1615. SARAH, *daughter of* John Sanders.
 *1617. JOSEPH, *son of* John Sanders.
 1622. MOSES, *son of* John Saunders.

BURIALS.

1604. ELLEN, *daughter of* William Sanders, April 10.
 *1609. ALES SAUNDERS, *wife of* John Saunders of Weeke,
 29 December.
 1621. ALICE SANDERS, *wife of* Richard Sanders, 21 April.
 1626. RICHARD SAUNDERS, 27 September.
 1628. ELINOR SAUNDERS, *wife of* William Saunders, 2
 August.
 1644. ELIZABETH, *daughter of* William Sanders of Plait-
 ford, 21 June.
 1646. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, February 13.

MARRIAGES.

- *1610. JOHN SAUNDERS of Weeke and Alice Coles were
 married 4th February.
 1634. THOMAS EASTMAN and Alice Saunders were married
 21 October.
 1636. RICHARD SAUNDERS and Elizabeth Michell, 1st No-
 vember.

JOHN² SANDERS.

JOHN² SANDERS, son of John Sanders of Weeke, baptized March 23, 1613, in the Parish of Downton, County of Wiltz, England, came to New Salem, in New England, in the "Margaret" from Plymouth, Hugh Weston, master, in company with John Endicott and his colony, June 28, 1628-9. He is recorded as a lad about eighteen, but we perceive by the above record that he was scarcely sixteen at that time. From the parish records we perceive that he had two sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah, who a few years later came to the colony, and respectively became the wives of Henry Walcott and Robert Pike.

JOHN² SANDERS was son of John Sanders of Weeke, by his second wife, Ales Coles, married February 4, 1610.

John² Sanders came to the colony under the protection of Robert Coles, probably his uncle, and received a grant of 40 acres adjoining Mr. Coles. Mr. Robert Coles was one of the wealthiest investors in the colony at that time.

John² Sanders united with the first church in Salem, 1629.

1636. John² Sanders was made freeman, and granted 40 acres freeman's land, grant No. 2385.

"The freeman of Plymouth were an aristocratic class. They were empowered to choose a Governor, Deputy Governor and eighteen assistants. The freeman could administer oaths of supremacy and allegiance. It is worthy of note that the governing body thus constituted was at once a legislative body and a judicial body, like the English county court, which served as its model. This government at this time, was virtually a republic.—(*Fisk's Civil Gov.*)

About 1636, John² Sanders, was married to Priscilla Grafton, daughter of Capt. Joseph Grafton, and wife Mary; a

family much respected and often mentioned in our earliest records.

The grant of land to John² Sanders is the present location of the south side of Washington Square in Salem, Mass., adjacent to the common, extending along the Main street (Essex street) beyond the Pickman house and East India Marine society to the foot of Liberty street, at ye point of the burying ground. A portion of this land remained in the family for many generations.

Upon the knoll side of the lot, facing the common, but what was then the Public pasture land or training ground, John² Sanders built his house.

The house must have been a substantial one and well fenced in, for at a general town meeting held the fourth day of the second month, 1640, it was ordered "that all fences as well general as particular about the town shall be continued sufficient made and maintained all the years as well in winter as in summer. And if any person be defective in their fences, they are to pay two shillings for every day it is poised they are defective, twelve pence thereof to be given to the surveyor that finds it out, and gives notice of it to the p'tie so defective, and twelve pence to the town. And further the said p'tie shall be lyable to pay all damages besides, that shall be don by any cattle or swine by reason of that defect."

1640. Same day John² Sanders was appointed surveyor. Voted, "at a general court town meeting, held the day aforesaid in the field where Mr. Williams' house is, Mr. Kenniston and Mr. John² Sanders are appointed overseers, to survey the fences in that field." He had been already appointed freeman at this time, and the monthly meeting of the seven selectmen, together with the Freemen's meeting at the General Court every two weeks, seems to have been all that was necessary for the self government of this little settlement.

1639-1640. John² Sanders served as a member of the grand jury at the Court.

The following orders are well worthy of notice.

“That worthy gentleman, Mr. Endicott, coming over for Government of the Massachusetts, visits the people of Merry Mound, causes the *May Pole to be cast down*, rebukes them for their profanities, admonishes them to look *there be better* walking, and the name is changed to Mound Dagon.”

1642-3-2. “Ordered that there shall noe more trees be felled by any man within the lymits of Salem unless it be in men’s appirtyes, upon the payne or penalty of 20s for everie such tree felled by any one man, whether inhabitant or stranger, and that this order be p’sently published and notice given to such as sete them, or worke, provided that this order extend not to any that shall fell any timber for his own building or fencing or building of ships here with the lymits of our towne, without spitial lycence from a magistrate.”

Ordered, “That two be appointed every Lord’s day to walke forth in the time of God’s worshippe, to take notice of such as either lye about the meeting house, without attending to the word or ordinance, or that lye at home or in the fields, without giving good account thereof, and ask or take the names of such persons and to present them to the magistrate, whereby they may be accordinglie p’ceeded against.”

The life of John ² Sanders in this little colony was very short, but for a young man of his age he certainly received recognition from the colony of his ability and integrity, having been appointed juryman, surveyor and freeman to the General Court. He died 1643, 10m., leaving wife, Priscilla Grafton, and one son, John ³, baptized in the first church 1640—1m. 9d.

The will of John ² Sanders, dated Oct. 12, 1643. Probated at Salem Court house, 10m., 1643.

“SAGAMORE, Jan. 21st.

JOHN SANDERS, inhabitant of town of Salem.

I do leave unto me son, John Sanders, my ten aker lot, with me house now built, on the commons side front knoll over against, solon he comes to the one twenty-five or at the death of his mother, with the aker and pasture of meadow bound alonging it, and I do make my father, Joseph Grafton and Goodman Hardie to admr. this my will and deed, the 12 of October.

12 October. I of sed boon oaks in county wit Nathaniel Porter, Ex. also that the sed John Sanders left Gerge Ramell all the rest of the estate to his wife.

The last will and testament of JOHN SANDERS received. (Endorsed.)
COURT 23, 10m., 1643.

This will is one of the earliest filed at the Court of Records.

John² Sanders, dying at the early age of thirty years, could scarcely be called a promoter of the colony, though his church records and his freeman's duties honorably performed for the few years he lived in the colony, denote him a young man much respected both in church and state.

Priscilla Grafton, the widow of John² Sanders, was married 1654, February 20, to John Gardner of Salem, Mass., having but one child by her deceased husband.

John Gardner and his brother Richard had been in the colony previous to John² Sanders death, having received grant of land, 10 acres each, in 1632-9-29. John Gardner became rather an important man at this time, being Surveyor and Deputy to General Court, called Senator. Priscilla Sanders Gardner survived her second husband and was married later in life to Deacon William Goodhue.

We are obliged to return in our narrative to the year 1636-8 when John¹ Sanders, having lost his second wife, is sent to England. He returns to the colony with daughter Sarah, who soon after married Robert Pike, as before mentioned. During the year 1639 John¹ Sanders takes unto himself a third wife, Hester, whom he possibly married at Salisbury in England. He was then about 60 years old. Historians state that he married *Hester Roll* or *Rolfe* from Melchit Park, Wiltzshire. Hester Rolle was possibly kinswoman to Sir Francis Roll Knight, whose daughter Mary had previously married Sir Richard Sanders of Northbourne.

Sir Richard Sanders of Northborne was son of Sir Richard, who married *Hester*, daughter of Edwin Archer, second son of Anthony Archer, Esq., of Bourne.—(*English Heraldry*.)

Samuel Archer, supposed also to have been a kinsman, came to the colony in 1636 with John¹ Sanders, was made freeman Dec. 26, 1636, and received grant of land of forty acres.

From our Colonial Records at Custom House, Southampton, England, 1638, we find that "John Rolle or Rolfe (as some historians write it) was aged 50, husbandman, from Melchit Park, Wiltzshire, and with wife Ann and daughter Hester, wife of John^l Sanders, and Thomas Whittier, servant, (so recorded, but whom in his will he designates as kinsman) took passage for the Colonies."

Mr. Somsby in General History, Vol. 5, thinks the name was Rolf. Mr. Drake in General History XIV, p. 325, thinks the name Roafe. As near as one can judge by the writing it is Rolfe. In the Salisbury records it seems spelt Rolfe.

At St. Stephen's church, Hetfordshire, England, against the south wall, is inscribed a tablet in memory of John Rolfe, Esq., official of the archdeanery of St. Albans, commissary of the archdeanery of Huntington, and one of the masters of chancery, died aged 65, Oct., 1630.—(*Zieber's Heraldry.*)

John Rolfe, our American ancestor, is supposed to be son of the above.

At any rate John Roll or Rolfe was an important man both at the home office in England, as also in the colony.

John Rolfe, together with his brother Henry, who also came to the colony about this time, were among the original proprietors of Salisbury and Newbury. Hannah Roll or Rolfe, daughter of Henry of Newbury, was wife of the first Richard Coles. Robert Coles, the first emigrant, was one of the richest men in the colony. John Roll or Rolfe remained in Salisbury but a few years, however, and at his death willed his homestead to John^l Sanders, which he, in conjunction with his wife, Hester, deeded to his brother-in-law, Richard Coles, as attorney. The disaster of the Weymouth Colony did not deter either Gorges or Sanders from their interest of speculation and enterprises in the new colony. It was supposed that John^l Sanders was sent to England in 1638 to obtain a patent for the foundation of another colony; that this was accomplished was proven by the following records:—

1638. "John Sanders, together with Simeon Bradstreet, Daniel Dennison, Christopher Bailey, Samuel Winsley and Samuel

Dudley, were *granted* a plantation to be called Merrimack, afterwards changed to Salisbury.

Of the proprietors of this township, we have first: Simeon Bradstreet, Esq., son of a minister in Lincolnshire, born at Horbling, March, 1603; his father was son of a Suffolk gentleman of fine estates, and was one of the first fellows of Emanuel college. Simeon Broadstreet was married to Ann, sister of John Winthrop, Governor of the colony."

Secondly. We have Samuel Dudley, son of the Deputy Governor of the colony, who was born at Northampton, 1574. He was the only son of Roger Dudley, who married a gentle lady of large estates of the house of Dudley.

Samuel Dudley was married to Mary, daughter of Governor Winthrop.

Daniel Dennison was third in proprietorship and was Major General of the colony.

Christopher Ball, the fourth man associated with John¹ Sanders in his enterprise, was son of Robert Ball, whose father was Rector of Newton Toney, Wiltshire, England, in 1594-1617. At this same time Fortunatus Sanders—Saunders succeeded him at the Rectory.—(Private letters from George Phillip, present Rector of Newton Toney, Wiltz).

Christopher Ball had been in Salem for a few years previous to the organization of this new plantation. He was a civil engineer, built several bridges, and a wharf at Batts point, opposite Derby Wharf.

We perceive by the social standing of these gentlemen that John¹ Sanders was recognized as an influential leader among them.

This grant of Merrimack or Salisbury, as it was afterwards called, covered an extent of 75 miles; bounded by the Atlantic ocean on the east, it included what is now Amesbury, Seabrook, Newton, Southampton, Kensington, East Kingston, and part of Harverhill. Extending from the Atlantic ocean to the Merrimack and Hampton river.

This was a royal grant, and a royal sub-division for each of the proprietors.

1640-4-2. John¹ Sanders was appointed surveyor to make rates, to settle disputes and to lay out highways. He built a house and occupied the different important positions of public trust in the town, but at this time George Gorges, brother of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, had commenced a plantation at Wells, Maine, and offered such inducements to John¹ Sanders that we find in 1643-4 he makes an exchange of part of his property at Salisbury, including his house, with Ezekiel Knights of Wells, taking the latter's house and lands at Wells, where he removed in charge of the Gorges Colony. This deed from Ezekiel Knights was signed by wife, Ann. Rev. John Wheelwright was a witness. Ezekiel Knights had previously received grants of land at Salem, Mass. After remaining a short time at Salisbury he returned to Salem, Mass.

Before permanently removing to Wells, 1644, 30 Oct., "it was ordered by General Court that "Mr. Samuel Dudley, Mr. Carlton and Mr. John Sanders of Salisbury shall be commissioners to hear and examine all matters concerning Mr. Batcheller (the minister), who had come to the colony from Newton Stacy, Hants. Rev. Mr. Batcheller was a very aged minister at this time; the company at Hampton was without a minister and they very much desired Rev. Mr. Batcheller to assist in founding that colony. From Hampton records we find, 1643-4, granted "to John¹ Sanders, as well as to William English, ten acres for a house lot to January, if he comes within six weeks."

"Granted ten acres also to William English (he was a wealthy ship owner) if he comes within same * * * eleven acres * * * one-half of * * * one-half near, one-half further off." This colony was formed by Rev. Stephen Batcheller, then 70 years old. He had great charges for the furtherance and upholding of the same, yet never had any maintenance from then whatsoever."