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LEATHERS FAMILY

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Edward Leathers

and his

descendants

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by

Alonzo Hall Quint





# EDWARD LEATHERS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

BY A. H. QUINT, D.D.

DOVER, N. H., 1888.

1173291

Some years ago, say about 1853, a correspondent of the Philadelphia NORTH AMERICAN said that the people named Leathers were gypsies. He discoursed learnedly as follows: "A gentleman emigrating from England to Portsmouth, N. H., a century or more ago, brought with him several of these curious people and endeavored to train them as household servants. He failed in the attempt and his gypsies afterward betook themselves to the barren and inhospitable plains in the new town of Barrington, where they and their descendants have remained to this day."

It was twaddle. EDWARD LEATHERS, progenitor of this family, was a reputable citizen of Dover nearly one hundred years before the date given above. He left descendants, who although not of the wealthiest class, were steady land owners, good citizens and pious church members. Much later some descendants went from Dover to Barrington (15 miles) who had got an unfortunate cross of blood which gave that particular line its notoriety. But the main family was, and is, of good blood, good repute, and there was no gypsy stock in the veins of either.

EDWARD—(1)—LEATHERS was born, according to two depositions, about 1639. He was taxed at Oyster River (near Durham) in 1668 and on to 1677, after which our lists are missing. Of the sixty tax payers in 1668, fifteen were below him. Of the forty on the list in 1677, only twenty-two paid a higher tax.

In 1682 Wm. Pittman's will made him one of the two "overseers of my wife and children and of my executors." It does not appear of whom he purchased land originally. But, 19th March, 1693-4 he had a grant of "forty acres of land between Oyster river and Lampert Ele river on ye East side of ye path by ye threbrook from Oyster River." It was confirmed in town meeting 2d April, 1694. Of this grant twenty-five acres appear to have been laid out to John Burnum, 23 June, 1726, and, same date, ten acres of it to John's brother Robert. Whether this implies that their mother was a daughter of Edward Leathers is not quite clear.

In 1699 Edward was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of Durham.

On 25th December, 1699, he conveyed to "son William, all my lands and grants of land in Oyster river," and he went to the house of John Woodman, the record says, to acknowledge this deed, 7th May, 1702, which is the last we find of him. But 10th January, 1697-8, he conveyed to Joseph Smith of Oyster River, for £45, beginning on the north side of the creek "next to Oyster River Falls," and "running down by river side" twenty-seven and a-half rods. Likewise he deposed 20th August, 1707, "that about forty years agoe Thomas Chesley and Phillip Chesley, the sons of Phillip Chesley, Sr., mowed and improved the meadows lying on the Bellamays Banke River, from the Elmes, or Bever Dam and so upwards to Chesleyes Ponds, and also the Meddoes nere the Hed of Malago River: And have bin in quiett Possession of sd Meddoes eversince, and I alsoe mowed the aforesaid Meddoes & Pastures with them some yeres." Likewise did Zachary Field, aged 60, or thereabouts, testify to the same purpose on the same day.

When Dr. Belknap obtained the traditions at Durham as to the sufferers by the Indian massacre of 18th July, 1694, Jabez Davis, a well informed son of one of the families attacked, "thinks old Mrs. Leathers and one or two others of that family were killed, the rest escaped."

WILLIAM—(2)—LEATHERS is the only child of Edward whom we find. He was a blacksmith as well as a farmer. He was of Durham and possibly later of Madbury. He had a garrison home in war time, and so did Thomas Willey. He had land as above from his father. A Dover record says: "Laid out to William

Leathers 20 acres of land pursuant to his grant on the north side of the way that leads from Henry Rice's to Madbury from an ash tree marked W. L., forty rod east northeast to a white pine marked W. L., and thence south, southeast fifty two rods to a white oak marked W. L., lying near the road and so to the first marked tree, all which land is laid out and bounded" 14 Oct. 1713.

WILLIAM—(2)—LEATHERS was no gypsy. He and wife, Abigail, were baptized by parson Hugh Adams, 10th December, 1727, and both were received to Durham church 4th February, 1727-8. Of course their children could not be baptized, but most of them were baptized as adults. The grandchildren's names are also frequent in the roll of baptisms.

An obituary of a descendant in 1833, gives us the fact that William (2) married Abigail, daughter of Thomas Willey, and says that she lived to the age of 104 years. She was no gypsy.

WILLIAM—(2)—and wife Abigail, 24th July, 1701, gave receipt to Margaret Squire of all dues from the beginning of the world; and John Willey gave one equally majestic. As Abigail was a Willey we think that somehow Squire was sometime a Willey; and she conveyed on that same day, her eighteen acres at Oyster River to John Drew, whose land her land joined down by Little Bay.

To his eldest sons, Edward and Thomas, William (2), 9th January, 1721-2, for parental love, and "upon condition of their dutiful Behavior to me and their mother Abigail Leathers during our lives, and on their payment each of them ten pounds apiece to each of their two sisters, Abigail & Mary Leathers after my decease," William (2) conveyed to them, their heirs and assigns, "within the name of Leathers", as follows: To eldest son, Edward (3), the "farm whereon I now dwell," on the south side of the highway down to Oyster River, low water-mark; to son Thomas (3) land upon the northeast side of the way that leads to Beech Hill, at a place called 'Durdy Slough.'

WILLIAM—(2)—and wife Abigail, and Edward (3) and wife Sarah, 1st August, 1725, for £23, conveyed to Samuel Smith of Durham, twenty-five acres, which had been granted to Edward Leathers, Sr., 19th March, 1693-4, between Oyster River and Lampsey River. Acknowledged 31st August, 1748.

WILLIAM—(2)—with eldest son Edward, conveyed to John Willey of Dover for £5, 31st August, 1725, five acres out of the forty acre grant to Edward, 19th March, 1693-4. William's wife made her mark in signing deed.

William conveyed to son, Abednego, of Oyster River for £20, 16th December, 1729, land in Rochester; to William Jenkins of Durham, three acres for £6, 12th March, 1735-6, acknowledged 23d October, 1753; recorded 11th February, 1756. To son Thomas of Durham for £20, 5th March, 1738, twenty acres "in Dover and Durham," on the north side of the highway "that leads from Henry Rice's to Madbury." Acknowledged 27th August, 1743; recorded 26th November, 1745.

WILLIAM—(2)—conveyed to Stephen Leathers of Durham, husbandman, for £30, 13th April, 1743, twenty acres in Durham, beginning at the dividing line between Dover and Durham; Mary Willey and Caturah Leathers, witnesses. Also to son Stephen, 13th August, 1750, for £300, old tenor, sixty acres in Rochester. And to son Edward of Durham for £80, old tenor, sixty acres in Rochester, 17th November, 1750. To son Edward of Durham, 18th May, 1752, £100, old tenor, ten acres granted by Dover to Edward (1), deceased; recorded, 30th December, 1772.

WILLIAM—(2)—conveyed to Abednego Spencer of Durham, yeoman, for £150, old tenor, 3d June, 1752, land in Rochester.

WILLIAM—(2)—of Durham, before Madbury was set off, husbandman, for £300, old tenor, conveyed to Jonathan Leathers, his son, of Durham, husbandman, 3d October, 1753, "one-half of my dwelling house where I now dwell," half of barn and orchard and eighty acres in Canterbury, N. H. He acknowledged this deed 23d October, 1773, and must have lived to a good old age.

Edward Leathers, Thomas Leathers of Durham, husbandman, William Leathers of Charleston, Mass., cordwainer, Ezekiel

Leathers, Abednego Leathers, Abel Leathers, Ebenezer Leathers, Stephen Leathers, and Benjamin Leathers, of Durham, for £400, old tenor, quit claim, 8th November, 1753, to brother Jonathan Leathers of Durham, all right "unto the one-half of the homestead, which was our grandfather Edward (1) Leathers, formerly of Dover, deceased and now in possession of our honored father, William (2) Leathers;" with "half a ten acre grant, which was granted to our aforesaid grandfather and is adjoining to land now in possession of Stephen Jones, Jr."

WILLIAM—(2)—Leathers appears to have had children as follows: I—Edward (3), II—Thomas (3), III—William (3), IV—Robert, V—Ezekiel (3), VI—Abednego (3), VII—Abel (3), VIII—Abigail, baptized with her brother Abel, 26th June, 1726, evidently then adult; married in Durham 20th November, 1729, to Ebenezer Spencer; IX—Ebenezer (3), X—Stephen (3), XI—Benjamin (3), XII—Mary (3), probably she should be placed earlier, but we cannot tell just where. She married Robert Willey, son of Robert of Madbury, a relation of her mother, and doubtless her own cousin. The obituary of her daughter Abigail (4) in 1833, says that Mary (3) lived to the age of 102 years. The daughter Abigail (4) was born in Madbury, 27th March [O. S.] 1731, and died in Dover, being widow Abigail (4) Brown, 26th August, 1833. She remembered the garrisons of Richard Jones, John Woodman and Anthony Jones, in Durham; and of Thomas Willey, and of her grandfather, William Leathers in Madbury. The thirteenth and youngest son of William (2) was Jonathan (3).

EDWARD—(3)—LEATHERS, eldest son of William (2) was baptized (adult), 3d December, 1721; his wife Sarah was baptized 27th May, 1726. They lived in Durham and had the homestead in common with brother Jonathan (3). He was dead in 1773. Various papers are on record. He had land of Nophtali Kincaid of Durham for £25, 2d September, 1735, being twelve and one-half acres of Commons in Durham. He conveyed to Edward, Jr. doubtless his son, for £500, 6th April, 1753, forty acres at Newtown in Durham, Newtown being, we might as well say, in Lee, on the right hand of the Durham turnpike road to Concord, above Layn's Mill. For £5000, old tenor, much like continental money, 2d November, 1759, he conveyed to his son, of Dover, yeoman, fifty acres in Durham "where I now live"; six acres in Rochester (part of the sixty acre tract he bought of 'honored father, William Leathers, deceased.')

EDWARD—(3)—of Durham, yeoman, 3d August, 1771, for £100, lawful money, conveyed to his son Robert Leathers of Barrington, yeoman, land in Durham, also eighteen acres in Lee, the same being bounded as follows: "By land of William Caldwell, easterly from said Caldwell's land to the road that leads to Newtown saw mill; also one hundred acres in Canterbury, all to Robert for "his natural life and after his decease to his eldest son, named Robert Leathers." What occasioned this preference for Robert does not appear. A deed to Vowel Leathers, 7th March, 1773, speaks of the homestead of "our late honored father, William Leathers," and said it was the one "on which said Jonathan Leathers now lives," and "has been improved in partnership by him and his brother, Edward Leathers, deceased."

EDWARD—(3)—seems to have had children as follows:

- (1) Olive (4), bapt. 23 June, 1723.
- (2) Sarah (4), bapt. 27 March, 1726.
- (3) Edward (4) of whom see below.
- (4) Robert (4) of whom see below.
- (5) Vowell (4) of whom see below.

THOMAS—(3)—bapt. (adult) 3d Dec., 1721; m. in Durham 19 Nov., 1724, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Marsh, of Oyster River, who (Henry) died 10 March, 1730, when Thomas and wife Elizabeth for £6 conveyed all right of this estate of Marsh to Jonathan Thompson, of Durham, who was then in occupation of said estate. Thomas (3) made his mark and was a husbandman.

He conveyed, 1752, for £150, to Samuel Smith, of Durham, twenty-five acres in Durham, granted him by town committee in 1733-4; also all right in some land at the Hook, on the south side of Lampsey river, being ten acres. For £1,000, 17 April, 1756, he conveyed to John Jenkins Randel twenty acres joining land of

Simon Randel. Eli and Tabitha Demeritt, of Madbury, 22 April, 1756, for £500 sold him land at Newtown. Thomas (3) and wife Elizabeth conveyed for £18, 10 May, 1770, between seven and eight acres in Durham "part of the farm on which I now live" to Samuel Chesley. He and wife, 9 June, 1776, for £35 12s, conveyed to John Layn, of Durham, ten acres "part of the land on which I now live," "beginning at the corner of the roads that lead to Durham Fall, Madbury meeting house and Newtown." For £20, 17 April, 1770, he conveyed 10½ acres in Lee to Benjamin Bodge. For £2 13s, he sold to Joseph Hicks, gentleman, 12 May, 1770, twelve acres joining Hick's land. For £15½, 4 Sept., 1779, he conveyed seven acres, "part of land on which I now live," to Samuel Chesley. For £100, 1 March, 1772, twenty acres in Durham to Thomas Thompson in Durham. For £15-17s, 4 July, 1772, twenty acres in Lee to Daniel Tibbitts of Madbury. He signed a deed to Vowel Leathers, 7 March, 1773. Whether he had children, we don't know. He seems to be the Thomas who was soldier in Col. Blanchard's regiment at Crown Point, in 1755.

WILLIAM—(3)—bapt. as "Junior" and "Batchelor" in Durham, 15 Sept. 1723. He was a cordwainer, and was of Charlestown, Mass., 14 Nov., 1742, when his wife Susannah was admitted to the Charlestown First Church. So he was in 1753, when he signed quitclaim to his father's estate. Beyond that we have not traced him.

ROBERT—(3)—made a deposition of Durham, yeoman, 1 Aug., 1779, aged 75 years, about "the Marsh called the Drew Marsh, adjoining Johnson Creek," and he says that "he lived at Capt. Steven Jones' (the family that he lived with having then moved there to Garrison) in Queen Ann's war." This war was from 1703 to 1703. His name is not in the family deed of 8 Nov., 1753. Samuel Chesley testified, 16 May, 1776, aged 78, that had "all my lifetime, except two years, lived within 100 rods of where Mrs. William (2) Leathers, deceased, formerly lived, and where Edward (3) Leathers and Jonathan (3) Leathers, sons of William (2) Leathers, lived, and where Robert (3) Leathers, son of said William (3), lived, and where Robert (4) Leathers, son of said Edward (3) Leathers, now lives"; William Jackson, aged 81, testified same date, that he had lived all his life "within 100 rods of where Robert Leathers now lives." What became of him we do not know beyond the deposition of 1776 above.

EZEKIEL—(3)—bapt. (adult), 28 Nov., 1725, signed the quitclaim to Jonathan (3) in 1753 as of Durham. He and wife Abigail, for £2, 2 Feb., 1729 30, quitclaimed land in Canterbury to Anna Kincaid. The same of Durham, 29 June, 1733, for £20 to Samuel Smith, Jr., "my wife dowrit and thirds" in estate of James Nock, deceased. (Elder James Nock, of Durham, killed by the Indians 1 May, 1724, left widow, Abigail, daughter of James Thomas.) Ezekiel (3) and wife Abigail conveyed to Josiah Miles, of Canterbury, land in Canterbury, 3 July, 1740, for £30. We don't know as to children. But he died in Durham, says an old list of aged people in the *Dover Sun*, in 1801, aged 100 years. He was a soldier in Col. John Hart's regiment at Crown Point in 1755.

ABEDNEGO—(3)—baptized, (adult), 28 March, 1725, was a salt-water captain, home always in Durham. He deposed 14th January, 1791, age eighty-five years, regarding fence of Rev. Hugh Adams seventy years before; and so he must have been born about 1705. But Jonathan Woodman, Robert Leathers and eight others, 22d March, 1802, petitioned that a "guardian of his person & estate," be appointed, saying that he was reputed to be upwards of a hundred years of age, (wherein they were extremely liberal of years) and "incapable of providing for himself" and "had no child and no other relation who is compelled by law to take care of him," Thomas Leighton was appointed, giving bond in \$4,000; and the inventory was \$1,673.96.

Various deeds are recorded. Abednego Leathers and wife Charity of Durham, were among persons representing six interests, who quit-claimed, 18th November, 1758, Azariah Boody of Madbury, all right in ten acres of land granted by Dover, to "our Hon'd. Father Zachariah Boody" of Dover, deceased. That is

Abednego Leathers of Durham married, First, Charity, daughter of Zachariah Boody.

He conveyed to Paul Tibbetts of Dover, 18th December, 1729, for £100, sixty acres in Rochester that belonged to his father, William (2). To Daniel Warner of Portsmouth, 25th February, 1730-1, for £30, sixty acres in Rochester, formerly his father's. Timothy Jones of Stratham, Inn-holder, conveyed to Abednego (3), 4th September, 1747, for £370, old tenor, three acres and dwelling house in Durham, on the West side of Falls Hill, with barn and malthouse, formerly Dr. Joseph Atkinson's. For £500, old tenor, 14th April, 1755, he conveyed to Vowel Leathers, of Durham, husbandman, half of a hundred acre lot in Nottingham. He and wife Charity, 4th August, 1758, for £500, old tenor, conveyed to Abednego Leathers, Jr., of Durham, half of a hundred acre lot in Nottingham, the same he bought of Samuel Adams, 1st November, 1756.

Abednego had other transactions in real estate. To William Ham, of Rochester; he and wife Hannah to Stephen Cogan, of Durham, 19th April, 1785; from William Ham, of Dover; from Valentine Hill, 1742-3; to Benjamin Jenkins, of Durham, 1754; from Benjamin Jenkins, 1759 and 1760; to Robert Boody, land in New Durham, 1763; to Ebenezer Smith, 1787.

He of Durham, with Abednego, Jr., of Nottingham, for £24, 15s, 17th March, 1790, conveyed to James Leighton, of Durham, tailor, land "near the dwelling house of the Leathers the Elder."

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ABEDNEGO—(4)—LEATHERS, of Nottingham, yeoman, [his nephew] for £20, 18th December, 1783, Abednego (3) and wife Hannah, life use of four acres and ninety-seven square rods in Durham, being mostly part of a tract bought of Nathaniel Hill. This Nottingham Abednego (4), 12th May, 1767, then "Junior," had bought of Nathaniel Hill, of Durham, for £728, old tenor, some land in Durham, "beginning by said Mast Road, opposite the house of John Layn, at a stake and running south 27 degrees 56 rods to the North-East corner of Thomas Chesley's land," etc.

ABEDNEGO—(3)—made Will 21st September, 1790; proved 15th June, 1802. Real estate to wife, Hannah, (executrix) for life, afterwards to nephew, Abednego's son, Abednego (5); to Charity (5) Leathers, daughter of Abednego (4), "wearing apparel which belonged to my first wife." Abednego (4) of Nottingham was appointed executor; inventory, \$1,672.99. And he died without issue. A list in *The Dover Sun* says he died in Durham in 1802, age 101 years.

ABEL—(3)—baptized (adult), 26th June, 1726; signed the deed of 1753, as then of Durham. He then of Nottingham, 5th December, 1768, for £10, conveyed to Jonathan Clough, of Canterbury, land in Canterbury; conveyed to Abel (3) by William (2) in 1753. And this is all we know of him.

EBENEZER—(3)—of Durham 1753; of Barrington 1773, as by deed to Vowel Leathers. And Ebenezer Leathers was drummer in Colonel Nathaniel Meserve's regiment at Crown Point in 1756. Ebenezer of Durham married 3d April, 1754, Martha Brown.

EBENEZER—(3)—of Durham gave bond in £200 to Peter Mondor of Durham, 25th February, 1744-5, to support Peter Mondor and wife Mary, who same date gave him deed of sixty acres in Durham.

This Peter Mondor's Will was made 18th May, 1738, he being "aged and well stricken in years"; proved 31st May, 1749. Mentions wife Mary; daughters Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth and Abigail (Mondor) were to have each £5, to be paid by son John four years after he becomes of age. This John, 11th February, 1749 50; conveyed the lands received by this Will to John Crockely for £250, old tenor, and Ebenezer (3) Leathers had given deed of land he held from Mondor, 2d May, 1749.

Ebenezer, who made his mark, for £95, conveyed to Daniel Rogers, of Durham, 12th April, 1756, land and new dwelling house. To Joseph Smith right in Commons land, 2d December, 1762. To Joseph Smith for £1,500, old tenor, seventy acres on the West side of Little Harbor, "wher eI now live," 18th February, 1764.

And he was of Barrington in 1771. Sarah Ellit, of Barring-

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ton, 22d April, 1771, for £20, conveyed to Ebenezer Leathers, of Barrington, her right in a small piece of land in Barrington, "that formerly belonged to my father." It was in the "two mile strip which joined Nottingham and Lee."

STEPHEN—(3)—of Durham in 1753, when he signed the family quit-claim. He, husbandman of Durham, in 1759, quit-claimed to Timothy Moses, of Madbury, five acres at "Gooseberry Marsh at Bellaman's Bank river." He and wife Margaret, for £75, conveyed to James Gilmor, of Durham, Daniel Meserve, of Madbury, and Robert Leathers, of Barrington, 4th June, 1766, land in Lee where Stephen "now lives." And 16th February, 1767, he of Lee to Joseph Hicks, twenty acres, which said Leathers purchased of Lieutenant Philip Chesley at Newtown plain; which is all we know of Stephen (3). But the name of Stephen, has it not been extant in later years? He was the father of the so-called tribe of Barrington gypsies.

BENJAMIN—(3)—of the quit-claim in Durham in 1753, was of Durham, 6th December, 1752, when he conveyed to brother Jonathan (3) of Durham, all right in the estate of their grandfather. John McCoy, of Nottingham; John Hill and wife, Phebe, of Barrington; Benjamin Leathers and wife Margery, of Barrington; Samuel Emerson, of Lee, and Lois his wife, and Jonathan Libley and wife, Hannah, 20th June, 1789, conveyed to widow Margery McCoy, of Nottingham, all right in twenty-five acres in Nottingham that "our father, John McCoy, bought of Jeremiah Elkins, of Epping." So Benjamin (3) married a McCoy and lived in Barrington. He was a soldier under Colonel Blanchard at Crown Point in 1755.

JONATHAN—(3)—of Durham, purchased half of the homestead in 1753, and he and his brother Edward had the whole in common up to Edward's death, which was before 7th March, 1773, and Jonathan lived on in the same place. Robert Leathers, of Barrington, had a mortgage of the Durham land, 4th June, 1766, which he released to Jonathan, 8th March, 1773. Jonathan (3) conveyed, 24th April, 1774, being of Durham, yeoman, to Thomas Leathers, Jr., of Durham, for £100, lawful money, land in Durham, including "part of the farm where I now dwell, and bounded southerly by land possessed by Stephen Jones, easterly by land of Joseph Atkinson, Esq., and Lieutenant Samuel Chesley, and northerly and westerly by the highway."

JONATHAN—(3)—, Abednego, and Thomas Leathers, all of Durham, yeomen, and Ebenezer Leathers, of Barrington, yeoman, for £100, lawful money, conveyed to Vowel Leathers, of Nottingham, yeoman, 7th March, 1773, all their interest in "the whole homestead farm which was our late Honored Father's, William Leathers, deceased, in Durham aforesaid, adjoining Oyster River, and is the same farm on which the said Jonathan Leathers now lives, and has been improved in partnership by him and his brother Edward Leathers, deceased;" it "lays between Oyster River aforesaid and the Highway leading from Durham Falls to Dover," signed also by Keturah Leathers, who made her mark. In fact Newington records tell us that Jonathan Leathers, of Durham, Caturah Trickey, of Newington, were married, 25th December, 1746. She was daughter of Lieutenant Thomas Trickey, of Newington.

That Jonathan (3) had one son is clear. Thomas (3), of Durham, yeoman, for £15, lawful money, 16th July, 1774, conveyed to Timothy Emerson, of Durham, land in Canterbury "originally laid out the right of William (2) Leathers, and which I purchased of my Honored Father, Jonathan (3) Leathers."

EDWARD—(4)—apparently son of Edward (3), had forty acres at Newtown, in Durham or Lee, from his father, 6th April, 1753, the son then living on the premises. Simon and wife, Sarah Rendall, of Durham, for £327-10-6, old tenor, conveyed to him seven and one-half acres, at Newtown. Edward (4), of Lee, conveyed to John Willey, ten acres at Newtown plains, farming land "in possession of Stephen Leathers," and land of Captain John Layn. He bought of Joseph Smith, of Portsmouth, and Samuel Smith, of Dover, 4th October, 1780, ten acres in Lee, joining land he bought of Simon Rendal, and joining land of John Snell, and he conveyed this land, 5th March, 1790, to John Leathers, of

Lee, excepting what "I lately sold to my daughter Hannah," [Spinster, 21st February, 1790.] "also my dwelling house where I now live," and he included to John the sixth part of "Newtown saw-mill and grist-mill." Edward (4) and wife Elizabeth, sold to Matthias Jones, of Lee, land at Newtown plains in Lee, 3d January, 1787. Also Edward (4) sold land in Lee "on the west side of the highway leading from John Snell's to Benjamin Clark's at Pott's bridge, so called." He was in lumber business in 1788. Sold to Smith Emerson, 9th July, 1789, and 17th February, 1790, and then we leave him.

ROBERT—(4)—son of Edward (3) was of Durham, 27th November, 1759, when the father conveyed to him two tracts of land in Durham with the buildings thereon, and Robert (4) gave, same date, life lease to his "Honored Father Edward Leathers" for one ear of Indian corn annually, if demanded. He married, 29th February, 1756, Deborah Follet, of Durham, and he and his wife conveyed, 21st November, 1763, to Jonathan Thompson, of Durham, forty-eight acres on the Mast Road, "being the farm on which Ichabod Follet, late of Durham, deceased, lived," reserving the thirds belonging to the widow Prudence Follet.

He was of Barrington, 4th June, 1766, as by deed from Stephen (3) Leathers; also of Barrington, 3d August, 1771, when his father conveyed to him land in Durham, Lee and Canterbury "for his natural life, and after his decease to his eldest son named Robert Leathers." Also of Barrington, 26th January, 1773, when as executor in favor cited of Thomas Wallingford was satisfied out of land on Oyster River, part of which was Robert's and part of which was Jonathan's mortgage to Robert. Robert (4) released mortgage to Jonathan, 8th March, 1773, which Jonathan (3) had given, 4th November, 1766. He seems to have got back into Durham, as 31st March, 1775, he and wife Deborah conveyed to Valentine Smith all right in "the whole real estate of our late Hon'd Grandfather, Edward Wakeham, late of Durham, deceased."

ROBERT—(4)—LEATHERS and Vowel (4) Leathers made a division of the old homestead of William (2), 18th June, 1797. A Robert Leathers, of Durham, conveys to Samuel Pinkham, of Madbury, 29th March, 1790, and, 1st December, 1792. Robert (4) conveyed to Robert (5), Jr., forty acres in Durham, lying on Oyster River, bounded northly by highway from Durham to Dover. Doubtless Robert (5) was son of Robert (4).

VOWELL—(4)—LEATHERS, son of Edward (3) went to Nottingham and was a leading citizen there. His uncle, Abednego, childless, conveyed to him, 10th April, 1755, half of a hundred acre lot in Nottingham.

James Gilmor and Daniel Meserve, executors of the Will of Joseph Smith, testified, 16th May, 1796, that they demanded of Jonathan (3) Leathers their living, payment of debt of £50; that Jonathan, unable to pay mortgaged one-half of his estate to Robert (4) Leathers, "joint owner," who became security; and Robert (4) could not pay and they got out judgment and took Robert to goal; that they met Vowell (4) Leathers, "brother to said Robert (4)," and he became security, for which Robert (4) released land to Jonathan (3), and Jonathan (3) conveyed to Vowell (4), who took possession.

VOWEL—(4)—LEATHERS signed the Revolutionary Association Test in 1776. Captain Vowel Leathers was on committee for war purposes in 1777, 1778 and 1779. In 1782 he was on committee to report as to State Constitution. He was one of the Selectmen of Nottingham in 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777 and 1778, and chairman in 1778. In 1806 he paid a large tax and his son Joseph (5) paid the largest but two in Nottingham. He and Robert (4) divided the old homestead in Durham, 18th June, 1797, having purchased, 17th March, 1773, from Jonathan (3) Leathers, Abednego (3) and Thomas (3), all of Durham, and Ebenezer (3), of Barrington, all their interests in the "olde homestead farm that was our late Hon'd Father's, William Leathers, deceased;" it "lays between Oyster River aforesaid and the highway leading from Durham Falls to Dover." Various other purchases are on record.

VOWEL—(4)—LEATHERS made a Will, 14th July, 1810, proved, 13th November, 1813. Wife Lydia; son Joseph; grandson Vowel, [evidently son of Vowel (5), deceased;] grandson Jonathan (6) Langley, and Joseph (6) Leathers, [who afterwards had his name changed to Banks, because the Leathers tribe in Barrington had rendered the name "Leathers" notoriously base.] Vowel (4) Leathers had a fine farm; immense tracts of lumber lands; a mansion house, and numerous servants.

Samuel Leathers, of Durham, and wife, Elizabeth, 28th August, 1778, for £120, conveyed land in Barrington to Garland Smith, of Barrington.

Jonathan Leathers and Sarah Pinkham, both of Madbury, were married, 6th August, 1783. They of Madbury, for £9, in November, 1792, quit claim to Richard Pinkham all right in "estate of our father Samuel Pinkham, late of said Madbury," and in dower of Lois Pinkham, widow of Samuel.

There was Stephen, of Lee, in 1786; William, of Lee, 1787; Samuel, of Durham, 1778 and 1784; Aaron, of Lee, 1787. In Madbury Benjamin Leathers and Hannah Tuttle were married, both of Durham, December, 1782.

As to the Barrington race, of whom each could say, "I have not loved the world nor the world me."

We have found that Robert (4) Leathers was of Barrington, 1766, 1771 and 1773. But he is called of Durham in 1775. Perhaps he abandoned the opportunity to be the progenitor of the Barrington line.

EBENEZER—(3)—was of Barrington in 1771 and 1773 and tradition speaks of him as remaining there. Sarah Ellit conveyed land to him in 1771, and it answered well to the land occupied by the famous "Leathers City."

BENJAMIN—(3)—was of Barrington in 1789 and there is no appearance that he left that town.

From Ebenezer (3) or Benjamin [3], or both came the famous Barrington tribe of basket makers and fortune tellers, whose fame was known throughout New England.

We cannot tell which was father of six distinguished brothers. They were not given to records. The Registry of Deeds gives no further title to their pine barrens. The church records are sadly silent.

But there are some marriages on the town records of Barrington, viz:

Ebenezer Leathers and Eleanor More, 26th March, 1777; Benjamin Carpenter and Hannah Leathers, 17th March, 1787; Benjamin Leathers and Sarah Place, 8th October, 1789; Thomas Leathers and Lydia Sargent, 1st July, 1795; Edward Leathers and Anna Leathers, 25th October, 1798; Jonathan Leathers and Betty Giles, 23d March, 1801; William Leathers and Thankful Arnold, 12th September, 1802; Valentine Leathers and Sarah Starbord, 10th September, 1803; Daniel Whitehouse and Polly Leathers, 24th March, 1803; Ebenezer Leathers and Hulda Sawyer, 14th May, 1804.

Some years ago there were divers brothers in Barrington, viz: Benjamin, the oldest; Samuel, Ebenezer, Stephen, Daniel, and Robert. Of these, Benjamin changed his name to Walker. Samuel had the general court change Leathers to Tyler. Stephen took the name of Freeman. Others changed to other *Sir-names*; they had become disgusted with the name Leathers.

The records we have given, trace conclusively the Barrington line to the early immigrant Edward [1] Leathers and completely answers the nonsense about gypsies. Some bad intermarriages and poor land, gave peculiar characteristics to this tribe, and made this branch an exception in a most excellent, upright and well-to-do family. Complete records would give most interesting testimony as to the potency of a bad streak of blood.

“FINIS.”

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