

## BOODEYS

Zachariah Boodey's remote progenitors doubtless originated in Eastern Asia. When he came to this country, he brought with him a biblical Christian name, "Zechariah," and a surname spelled in the original Sanskrit language, "Buddha," in the Hungarian or German, "Budae," in French, "Boude," and in English, "Boodey."

According to records, he landed in Boston on a French ship in the year 1695. Deserting his ship, he found his way through the wilderness to Madbury and sought rest in a secluded hovel. Some two or three cows were fed there and he hid in the haymow until the ship departed.

He was very friendly to the Indians, who yielded many acres of land to him in Madbury, enclosing an excellent farm of 175 acres. At that time it was mostly wilderness. Here he built a home and reared a family of eight daughters and one son Azariah.

Within a few feet of Zachariah's grave rests the redman's rock, which is a large oblong one, weighing perhaps eight or ten tons, in which the Indians had chiseled a large mortar, obviously used to grind corn. With the kind permission of John Demeritt, the owner of the property in 1880, it had been moved to its final resting place. To move this monument, it took oxen driven by nine gallant teamsters — Ivory H. Kelley, Charles H. Cockins, A. N. Jackson, James H. Daly, Charles E. Tibbetts, Asa Young, John C. Hanson, Henry Stiles, and E. E. Demeritt.

This rock, beside the Boodey's graves, lies 400 to 500 feet southerly from the Madbury Town Hall. Inscribed on the sides are: "Boodey, 1695:" "King Philip, 1675:" "Demeritt, 1758:" "Caverly, 1880:" and "Foye."

No title deeds to or from the said ancestor, or other record directly concerning him have yet been found; but on the Strafford County registry, there is recorded (Book 1, page 17) a deed bearing the date of November 18, 1758, and in the 31st year of His Majesty's reign, George II, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, a deed of quit-claim from five of his daughters, first named, to his only son, Azariah, in which deed they refer to the land therein described as having descended from their "Honored Father Zechariah Boodey," deceased. He died in 1755.

An old deed was found in the Rockingham registry, one of which was dated June 29, 1759, from Azariah (the son) to Ebenezer Demeritt, of the Parish of Madbury in the Province of New Hampshire. It conveyed to said Demeritt a certain parcel of said estate, including the old homestead, dwelling house, barn, and trees on ye same, together with ye ten acres of common right which was given to his father, Zechariah Boodey, deceased, by the town of Dover. It was at

that time that the entire Boodey estate had, by purchase, fallen into the possession of Ebenezer Demeritt, partly disposed of by the father and partly by the son, after his father's death, for the purpose of raising the means of purchasing farms in the Canaan area of Barrington and other towns where his son and grandsons settled.

Azariah (1720-1803) married Bridget Bushbie. They had eight children: Robert Zachariah, John, Molly, Joseph, Sarah, Azariah, and Betsy.

Robert was born in Madbury April 13, 1743, and settled in New Durham in 1770. He married Margery Hill. He was a clergyman of the denomination of Quakers and in his long lifetime Quakerized many of the inhabitants of Limington and its neighboring towns. In fact, in his ministry, he was the leading spirit of that denomination, both in New Hampshire and in Maine. On the 30th of June 1780, he and his brother Joseph had united with the Reverend Benjamin Randall in the organization of the denomination called Freewill Baptists. They, with Nathaniel Buzzell, Judith Cartel, Margery Boodey (Robert's wife), Mary Buzzell, and Reverend Randall, eight members in all, constituted its first church. Soon afterward, Robert, on September 2, 1780, was ordained to preach and to serve as its first deacon; and Joseph, his brother, and Nathaniel Buzzell were sent forth as ruling elders. Robert Boodey lived a long life as a faithful minister and exemplary townsman. He died at Limington on the 21st of the 4th month 1814. His faithful wife Margery died there also at an advanced age.

Zehariah, born 1745, married Mary Demeritt and settled in New Durham in November 1768. He died of cancer June 14, 1821.

John was born in 1749. He married Susana Langley.

Molly was born in 1749 (a twin) and married Peter Hodgdon. (See the Adams Farm.)

Joseph was born in Madbury May 16, 1752, and married Olive Drew. He resided first at Barrington, in Canaan, and thence in Strafford. His homestead was on the Province Road on the north from Bow Lake. He died in 1824 and his grave is near his homestead. As noted before, he was one of the organizers of the Freewill Baptist denomination.

Sarah, born 1755, married Isaac Waldron.

Azariah died young.

Zechariah, born August 12, 1745, married Mary Demeritt. He settled in New Durham in November 1768. He died of cancer June 14, 1821.

Betsey, the youngest child of Azariah and Bridget Boodey, was born in 1762. She married John Caverly.

One of the members of the fourth generation of the Boodey family, was Reverend Joseph Boodey, the great grandson of the original Zechariah. Joseph's father, also called Zechariah, had moved to New Durham, where Joseph was born April 12, 1773. On November 13, 1800, Joseph married Marcy Pike. He commenced preaching in December 1797 and was ordained on October 18, 1799. He preached his last sermon July 10, 1866, and died May 12, 1867 at the age of 94 years and 1 month. In the History of New Durham, Mrs. Ellen Jennings states that he preached in that town from 1810 through 1851. She also states that the first seed sown on Zachariah's farm was brought in Mrs. Boodey's pocket from Madbury. "When a patch was cleared and burned, the seed was 'hacked in' and watched with more interest than a lady would care for her flower garden now."

Another of the Boodey descendants was the Honorable David Augustus Boodey, born August 13, 1837, in a log cabin in the town of Jackson, Maine. He died January 20, 1930, at the age of 93. He was the last Democratic mayor of Brooklyn, before it was incorporated into the City of New York. He was president of Berkeley Institute; president of the Public Library Association; a senior partner of Boodey, McLelland Company, Wall Street investment bankers. In January 1913, he was a member of the Electoral College that elected Woodrow Wilson President of the United States. He was elected to Congress, but resigned to become Mayor of Brooklyn.

Of the same family of Boodeys, there was Edgar Boodey of the sixth generation who was born in Brooklyn September 19, 1874, and died June 20, 1962. He was governor of the New York Stock Exchange.

In the Canaan area of Barrington, there still live the descendants of Zachariah Boodey, Daniel Boodey (1809-1865), son of John and Suzannah Boodey, married Sarah Wiggin and lived in the old homestead, which has passed on through successive generations of the Boodey family — through John, William E., John H., to the present owner Ralph Boodey.