

**THE CHURCH FAMILY** dates from John at Church (that is, living near a certain church, whence his patronymic.) He lived at Great Parndon, Essex, 1335-96. He married, in 1360, Catherine Winchester, daughter of Richard Winchester. Their son, Robert Church, died in 1420, leaving a daughter, Joan, who married Richard Maistor. John (2) Church, the second son of John at Church, was a resident of the city of Leicester, where he held much property. In 1399 he was a member of Parliament, and also in 1420, from Leicester; from 1402 to 1422 he was mayor of Leicester. He had sons, John (3) and Robert, (the latter a haberdasher in London, and father of Thomas Church, the sculptor), and a daughter, Catherine, who died before July 25, 1450. Of these, John (3) Church, a merchant, had two sons, John (4) and Reynold. Reynold Church, son of John (3) and Agnes Church married, in 1406, Margaret Green, daughter of Robert Green, of Chester. To Reynold Church was given a coat-of-arms. The arms of the Malden, Essex, branch is almost identical with the Nantwick coat-of-arms.

John (5) Church, son of Reynold and Margaret (Green) Church, was alderman and bailiff of Malden, Essex. He married (first) Joan Henkyn; (second) Mary Tyrrell, daughter of Edmond Tyrrell, a descendant of Walter, who slew King William Rufus. This line is closely connected with the Greens of Essex, who also intermarried with the Wrights of Essex, in several instances. William Church, second son of Reynold and Margaret (Green) Church, had a son Richard, who built, in 1575, the half-timbered house still standing at Nantwick, styled "Church's Mansion." Richard Church married Margaret Wright, daughter of Roger Wright, and died in 1592. Robert Church, third son of Reynold and Margaret (Green) Church, born about 1505, in Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire, was a counsellor-at-law, and also steward of the Earl of Oxford (Harleian M. T. 1542).

He had two sons, Bartholomew and John (6). The first married Alice Runner. John (6) Church, brother of Bartholomew Church, was of Sanford county, Essex, and married Catherine Swan, circa 1547; and their children were John and Thomas. The latter married Thomasine (the feminine name of Thomas).

He was warden of St. Clements, Ipswich, 1597. John (7) Church, son of John (6) Church, of Sanford (or Samford), married Joan Titerall; he died before November 4, 1593, leaving several children, of whom Richard Church, born May 9, 1570, married Alice, widow of his brother Henry, and was a merchant tailor. Richard Church, settled in Braintree, Essex, where he was thrown into contact with many subsequent settlers of this country, the Greens, Marshes, Wards and Graves. His son, Richard (2) Church, was the immigrant, and evidently came over with his relatives, John and Nathaniel Marsh, and Isaac Graves, from Braintree, Essex, to Braintree, New England. The father, Richard (1) Church, had five children, who married into these families: Alice, born January 12, 1603, married, May 18, 1624, Thomas Green, of Witham, Essex; John, born May 7, 1607, died July 15, 1638, married Elizabeth Marsh, daughter of Robert Marsh, of Braintree; Henry, born in 1609, married a Browne, but died without issue; Richard (2), already named as the immigrant; and Arnold, born March 23, 1611, married Margaret Ward, sister

26, 1670. No mention of his wife is made at this time, but she was admitted to the church, June 23, 1678. The names of their children are known from his administration and will, and are as follows: Sarah, born in 1659, married George Knight, died in 1730; Richard, of whom further; Mary, died January 30, 1705; John, born in 1670, married Abigail Cadwell, in 1699, died in 1735; Samuel, born in 1671, married Elizabeth Clark, in 1710, died in 1718; and Deliverance, born in 1679.

(III) Richard (3) Church, son of John and Sarah (Beckley) Church, was born in 1663. He married, March 3, 1692, Elizabeth Noble, daughter of Thomas Noble, of Boston, born February 9, 1663. He settled in Westfield Massachusetts, where eight children were born to them. After 1705 they removed to Colchester, Connecticut, where he died April 1, 1730, in his sixty-seventh year. His widow married Deacon Samuel Loomis, and died in Colchester, August 10, 1741, aged seventy-eight years, six months and one day. Their son, James Church, born at Westfield, Massachusetts, October 26, 1696, came to

of Nathaniel Ward, later of Hartford and Hadley.

(I) Richard (2) Church, the immigrant ancestor, born February 6, 1610, married, May 18, 1627, Anna Marsh, daughter of Edward Marsh, of Braintree. In 1636 he came with the Hookes to Hartford, and was one of the original proprietors, and resided on the east side of Burr street (originally known as the road from "Centinel Hill to the Cow Pasture," according to W. L. Porter). "Centinel Hill" is that part of Main street at the head of the present Morgan street, and was originally much higher than it now is. The "Cow Pasture" was in the vicinity of the present Keney Memorial tower, and it was directly east of the "Cow Pasture" that Richard Church lived, his land probably extending down to the present Windsor street. He was a participant in the great controversy which divided the First Church in Hartford, and he sided with the party which opposed the Rev. Samuel Stone, as his signature to a letter to Mr. Stone's remonstrance shows. This letter bears date of March 12, 1655, at which time Richard Church was in Hartford. Probably, in 1659, he removed to Hadley, with the "withdrawers," and there died, December 16, 1667. He left five children: Edward, born February 26, 1628, died September 10, 1704; Samuel, born March 3, 1629, died young; Mary, born November 2, 1632; John, of whom further, Hartford, Connecticut, was born May 9, 1636, died April 3, 1684.

(II) John Church, son of Richard (2) Church, of Hartford, Connecticut, was born May 9, 1636, died October 16, 1691. He married, October 27, 1657, Sarah Beckley, daughter of Richard Beckley, of New Haven ("Hartford town records"). John Church may have gone to Hadley with his father, as no births of his family are found at Hartford. Richard Beckley removed from New Haven (founding the well known family there) to Wethersfield. If John Church did go to Hadley, he returned to Hartford and was admitted to the Second Church, February

Hartford, and married, in 1722, Abigail Stanley, daughter of Caleb Stanley. He was ensign, and was admitted to the South Church, March 28, 1725. He died in 1751. His will, dated March 13, 1750-51, mentioned wife Abigail, and gives to son Joseph the land in Colchester, "it being the lot my honored father lived on, with the buildings." To "my son James, one-half of my dwelling house in Hartford. Son James, who is under age, to be maintained at college; three daughters, Abigail, Jerusha and Mary." Joseph Church, a grandson, is given a hundred acres of land in Litchfield. Lands in the town of Bedford are also mentioned. Children of Richard and Elizabeth (Noble) Church: Hannah, born October 5, 1692; Rachel, born March 1, 1694; John, born January 12, 1695, died June 19, 1754; James, mentioned above; Joseph, born December 7, 1698; Jonathan, of whom further; Samuel, born November 28, 1702; and Elizabeth, born March 26, 1705.

(IV) Jonathan Church, son of Richard (3) and Elizabeth (Noble) Church, was born December 7, 1700, and died October 27, 1761. He was an early settler of North Parish, New London, now Montville, where he came from Colchester. First notice of him is in his marriage, February 24, 1724, to Abigail Fairbanks, born in 1705, daughter of Samuel and Christian (Chapel) Fairbanks, by Rev. James Hillhouse. Soon after this union he purchased a farm in the vicinity of Uncasville, at a place afterwards called "Pennytown." His wife was a woman of considerable ability and moral character. Her mother was a member of the Hillhouse church. These children have been recorded: 1. Jonathan, Jr., born in 1726; married (first) Mary Angell, February 13, 1762, daughter of William and Almy (Harding) Angell, of Warwick, Rhode Island, he served in the Revolutionary War as private in Colonel Erastus Wolcott's regiment at New London, February 28, 1777; married (second) Mary Angel Fairbanks; (third) Jemina Angel; he died previous to 1800; his widow sold out his

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interest in the farm to Levi Lester in 1801 and removed to New York State. 2. Fairbanks, born in 1728. 3. John, born in 1734. 4. Amos, born in 1736. 5. Peleg, of whom further.

(V) Peleg Church, son of Jonathan and Abigail (Fairbanks) Church, was born in 1738. He married Elizabeth Congdon, daughter of Jeremiah and Ann (Chapel) Congdon. He was a blacksmith, and first started a shop on the land bought of Joseph Church, in 1764, in Uncasville, then called "Pennytown." He afterwards removed to the Fort Hill farm at Mohegan, where it is said he lived for over thirty years. He served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Captain Calkins company, General Latimer's regiment, at Saratoga, in 1777. He died before 1805. His children are: Elizabeth, Peleg, Jr., of whom further; Sanford, born in 1768, married Sarah Monroe; John, born in 1770, married Sarah Leach, sister of Mary Leach, wife of Peleg Church, Jr.

(VI) Peleg Church, Jr., son of Peleg and Elizabeth (Congdon) Church, was born in 1766. He married Mary Leach, daughter of John and Mary (Gray) Leach, of Mohegan. His children are: Erastus, of whom further; Peleg, born in 1793, married Jane Harrington; Henry, born in 1795, married Parthena Bradford, in January, 1816, daughter of William Bradford; Nancy, born in 1796, married Ebenezer Story; Maria, born in 1798, married Joshua Rogers; James B., born in 1799, married Julia O'Brien; Lydia, married Joseph Fuller in 1830; Eliza, born April 2, 1800, married Samuel Atwell; William, married Harriet Lucas; and Abby, married George F. Dolheise.

yer, born September 20, 1859, died September 6, 1919. 2. Charles E., born February 14, 1837, died May 23, 1902; married Isabelle Utley Beebe. 3. Nicholas W., born May 24, 1839; married (first) Ellen Congdon, (second) February 2, 1886, Juliet Maynard, born October 14, 1839, died February 28, 1914.

(VIII) Elisha R. Church, son of Erastus and Nancy (Ford) Church, was born April 2, 1816, in Mohegan. He married (first) Augusta ———, March 4, 1844, the Rev. Mr. Potter performing the ceremony. She was born August 14, 1826. He married (second) Melissa S. Williams, daughter of John and Eliza (Brown) Williams, who was born in Montville, October 4, 1841. She died November 5, 1918. He died in Preston, February 6, 1892. Children by first wife: Bishop S., Isabell A., and Charles B. Children by second wife: Theodore N.; Henry E.; Jane E.; Leonard P., of whom further; Elisha, twin brother of Leonard P., died young; Warren W.; Evelyn.

(IX) Leonard P. Church, son of Elisha R. and Melissa S. (Williams) Church, was born April 2, 1868, in Preston, Connecticut, where he spent his boyhood days and received his education. When eighteen years of age he entered the employ of Charles Offenheiser, of Norwich, as bookkeeper, where he remained for one year, after which he was employed by Welcome A. Smith for two years in the same capacity. On December 1, 1889, he entered the Thames National Bank, where he has served continuously since, having reached the position of assistant cashier, which position he now holds.



(VII) Erastus Church, son of Peleg, Jr. and Mary (Leach) Church, was born April 6, 1792. He married (first) Nancy Ford, daughter of John Ford, and had children: 1. Mary, born November 2, 1812, married George Carpenter, and died January 5, 1848. 2. Elisha R., mentioned below. 3. Almira, born April 23, 1821, died September 24, 1822. 4. Emeline, born September 20, 1822, married (first) George Cranston; (second) Dr. King, of Norwich. 5. Eliza, born January 16, 1824, married Nathan Champlin Chappell. 6. Nancy, born December 20, 1826, married Edward Burdette, and died aged forty-one years. Erastus Church married (second) Mrs. Fitch (Comstock) Church, widow of George Whitman Church, and daughter of Ebenezer and Desire (Comstock) Comstock, born in Montville, in 1790. She had five children by her first marriage: 1. Mary Ann, born December 21, 1815, married Mr. Carpenter, of Norwich, Connecticut. 2. Captain James Leander, born January 19, 1819, and died January 15, 1901; married Anstriss Wentworth Sweet, born in 1830, and died June 16, 1900, daughter of Nathaniel and Betsey (Ellis) Sweet, of Providence, Rhode Island. 3. George W. 4. Electa, born August 20, 1821, married (first) John Chapman, and (second) Levi Lester. 5. Dudley, died young. Children by Erastus Church's second marriage to Mrs. Fitch (Comstock) Church. 1. Captain Erastus, born April 13, 1834, died March 5, 1911; married Helen M. Saw-

Mr. Church, in his religious faith, is a Baptist, he and his family belonging to the Central Baptist Church. Politically, he is a Republican, and fraternally, a member of the Arcanum Club since 1890, and a member of the Chelsea Boat Club, serving for many years as treasurer.

On April 5, 1893, Mr. Church married Harriet C. Briggs, born January 17, 1872, daughter of Horace A. and Esther (Green) Briggs, of Norwich. To this union has been born two children: Natalie N., who died at the age of ten years; and Kenneth Briggs, who graduated from Clark College in 1920, and then entered Clark University, and is now employed as a chemist at the Aspinook Company, Jewett City.

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