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#### DANBY, VERMONT

settled by

#### MEN FROM NINE PARTNERS, DUTCHESS COUNTY\*

An over-night stop in the little village of Danby, Vermont, a casual remark about Dutchess County, an inquiry about Nine Partners (where it was and why its name), opened up to me the Town Records of Danby and the story of the Dutchess Pioneers.

In 1760 Jonathan Willard and sixty-seven others, whose names are listed at the close of this article, petitioned Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire for a charter for two townships, each of six miles square. September twenty-fourth of that same year they held a meeting at the house of Nathan Shepherd in Nine Partners. The call was signed by Samuel Rose and Matthew Ford, two of the petitioners. At that meeting Jonathan Ormsby was appointed clerk. The initial steps had already been taken by Capt. William Lamson of Albany and Samuel Rose was authorized to proceed with the business. He was to have twelve shillings a day for his services and find himself. A receipt dated Nine Partners, September 24, 1760, acknowledges the payment of 3 pounds and 2 shillings toward his expenses.

Another meeting was held at Nine Partners in October with Lawrence Willsee as moderator. Jonathan Willard was appointed to see the Governor at Portsmouth in regard to the charter, which, covering two townships (Danby and Mt. Tabor), was granted August 27, 1761. The charter was the same as used for all the grants. It begins: Province of New Hampshire, George the Third, by the Grace of God, King, Dc-

<sup>\*</sup>This article, contributed by Mrs. Theodore de Laporte of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, provides a record of one of the group movements by which land was taken up and settled in the 18th century; and of the contact with the wilderness experienced by the settlers.

fender of the Faith, etc., Greetings. Know ye—for the encouragement of settling new plantations—we have given to those whose names are entered on the grant to be divided among them in 68 equal parts; the tract covering 23,940 acres, to contain 6 miles square and no more, out of which an allowance shall be made for roads and unimprovable lands, rocks, mountains, etc., 1040 acres free.

When fifty families had settled in the township they were to be permitted to have two fairs a year on such days as they selected, one being an annual fair. They were also allowed to hold a market one or two days a week, as may be thought advantageous to the inhabitants." There were certain restrictions. Each grantee, before five years had passed, must cultivate five acres for every fifty. White pine and all pine "fit for masting our Royal Navy" must be saved. Before any division of the land was made they must reserve a tract of land, as near as possible to the center of the tract, laid out in 68 lots of one acre each. Each grantee was to pay annually one ear of Indian Corn on December 25th and one shilling of Proclamation money for each 100 acres. In the book of Charters, Province of N. H., appears a list of the names of the original grantees, dated August 17, 1761. Governor Wentworth reserved (as written on the back of the Charter) 500 acres; one share for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; one share for the Glebe for the Church of England; one share for the first settled minister, and one share for a school.

The provisions of the charter were nullified by the war. The grantees retained their rights but many never settled there.

As the Charter directed, the first meeting was held September 22d, 1761, "at the Great Nine Partners, Crum Elbow Precinct." Jonathan Willard was Moderator, Jonathan Ormsby, Clerk; Samuel Shepherd, Constable and Aaron Bush, Treasurer. Meetings followed at the house of Roswell Hopkins, Esq.; at Jonathan Reynolds', Innholder, Nine Partners; at the Inn of Lewis Delaverne; and at other houses in the Nine Partners. In 1763 they met at Captain Michael Hopkins' in Armenia. At this time they drew from the hat the numbers of their alottments, Abram Finch and Daniel Shepherd "doing the drawing." The last meeting in the Armenia Precinct was with Joseph Mabbitt. The first recorded deed was from John Howard to Benjamin Corey, both of Armenia Precinct.

The first settler in Danby was Joseph Soper. He was the first to

make a clearing. He built the first log house. He traced his way to his new land by marked trees. He came with two horses, bringing his family and effects on their backs. His two brothers settled at the same time in Dorset. His death was tragic. He was caught in a driving storm and was frozen to death. They made a search, found his team, and he himself leaning against a tree. In a hollow log where he fell they buried him.

Timothy Bull came to Danby in 1767 with his son, Crispin, who was the third settler in the town. Timothy was the first Quaker there. Another interesting character was Abraham Chase. His wife was Lydia Allen. He was a man of ability and of superior education for his time and held many important offices in the town. He was also the "beech sealer", a sort of a town-spanker. Minor offenses were expiated at the whipping post, with a beech rod. The feeling against the Yorkers was very strong at this time, as they were holding their claims under the New Hampshire grants. A case of this kind occurred in 1774. A surveyor had been sent out under the authority of New York and, while drinking flip at the tavern of Mr. Chase, was arrested. The committee of safety was soon assembled. In spite of his declaration that he was sent there under orders from New York, he was declared guilty, tied to the whipping post and received 100 lashes and ordered to go back to New York. The whipper wore a false face and was supposed to be-Remember Baker. Later, Mr. Chase moved to Plattsburgh.

Abel Haskins Sr., was another prominent settler. He was but twenty-five when he took up his claim in 1772. He met every hardship that could befall the pioneer yet in a few years he was able to raise enough grain to live upon. His wife was a woman of uncommon energy. She brought an apple tree in her lap at the time of settling at Danby, which was set out and stood for years by the old homestead, being known as the "Nine Partners" apple tree.

Henry Herrick, Sr., soon joined the Nine Partners colony. He was a soldier of the Revolution. He had sold his property, of which he had large holdings, and received pay in Continental money. This soon became worthless and he was left destitute. He brought his family and goods to Danby in an ox-cart. With indomitable courage he won his way back to prosperity.

One part of the town of Danby was known as Dutch Hill, where Henry Signor, the Dutchman, had made his home and given the name.

Soon eighteen families were settled there, among them Henry Lewis of Nine Partners. He was a butcher and weaver by trade. The story is told of him that he "moved a family and butchered an ox and spooled. warped and wove thirty-three yards of cloth in one day." The Lobdells also were men of mark; Darius a man of intelligence and a leader in the community and his son, Jared, afterward a Methodist minister. William Hitt, born in Dutchess County in 1782, came to Danby in 1801. Of him it is said: "He was a sympathetic friend to the unfortunate and a munificent patron of any judicious scheme of benevolent effort." Jesse Irish, who came from Nine Partners in 1768, was the father of seven sons, some of whom, like himself, were reputed to be Tories. In July, 1777, he himself went to General Burgoyne's camp at Whithall and procured protection papers. On reaching the camp he presented himself to Burgovne, saying: "Here is thy servant Jesse and his seven sons." Promising to remain quietly at home or to serve with the British, he was given protection papers.

One of the tragic stories of these first settlers was that of James McDaniels, who was born in Dover, June 27, 1780. His father, Thomas McDaniels, emigrated to this country just before the Revolution and came to Danby, where he married Ruth Bull and soon after moved to Dover. He was a school-teacher and was seized there by the British and taken to Halifax. They never heard from him again. His wife was left destitute and the family was cared for by their relatives. When James was nine years old his mother and he walked from Dover to Danby and then made their home there with her father. Tames was not idle. He worked on a farm at ten cents a day. He saved it. On "General Training" days he peddled ginger-bread that his mother had made. He cleared land and built stone walls. When seventeen he became clerk in the store of Henry Frost and received \$100.00 a year. He was a born trader and inaugurated a system of individual debit and credit in the store finances, in place of the haphazard methods then in use. He lived frugally, believing that spending more than you earn never brought success. He was known as the "checkered merchant" because he always wore a suit of cheap checkered cloth. In all his business transactions he was considered a man of the strictest integrity. We might add to this list, Joanthan Mabbitt, Gilbert Palmer, the gentle Quaker; and Nathan Weller, William Roberts and the Bromleys, all men of courage and men of faith.

#### THE PETITIONERS

Jonathan Willard Benjamin Palimer James Baker Matthew Ford Joseph Soper Lucius Palme John Downing Joseph Marks Moses Kellog Aaron Buck Asa Alger Joseph Browr Jr. Thomas Brov In Noah Gillett Samuel Hunt Noah Pettibor1e Samuel Sheph'erd John Weller Daniel Ford John Nelson

Joseph Brown William T. Barton Jr. John Partilow Lawrence Wilsee Joseph Alger Samuel Alger Jonathan Ormsby William Willard Daniel Miller Daniel Dunham Reuben Knapp William Barton Gideon Ormsby John Willard Ieremiah Palmer William Blunt Nathan Weller Israel Weller Nathan Fellows John Edmunds Richard Joslin William Shaw

Samuel Rose Hugh Paul Wentworth Ionathan Weller Ephraim Reynolds Capt. John Chamberlain Col. Ebenezer Kendall David Willoughby Isaac Finch John Sutherland Jr. Benjamin Hammond Samuel Hunt Jr. Eliakim Weller Nehimiah Reynolds William Kennedy Benjamin Finch Lamson Sheah David Weller Ionathan Palmer Benjamin Palmer

HELEN REED DE LAPORTE.

### DANBY, RUILAND COUNTY, VERMONT

In 1760, Jonathan Willard and 67 others petitioned Governor Benning Wentrth of New Hampshire for a charter for two townships, each 6 miles square. On pt. 24, 1760 the petitioners held a meeting at the home of Nathan Shepard in ne Partners, Dutchess County, New York. Three pounds two shillings were ised toward the expenses of obtaining the charter. Not much happened and in tober at another meeting, £58 6p was raised to send Jonathan Willard to w Hampshire. The charter for Danby was obtained August 27, 1761 and the charr for Pawlet the previous day. At the same time a charter was granted for rwick, now Mt. Tabor. Hemenway lists these 67 grantees, but because so few re first settlers, the list will not be repeated. The township contained out 24,960 acres, being a little over six miles square. Until this time the nd was inhabited only by Indians, bears, wolves and other wild animals.

By charter, 250 acres were called a share, and the proprietors were to two equal shares. The Governor's two shares fell upon the mountains in the buthwestern part of town, land known as "Governor's Right." The provisions of the charter were voided by the Revolutionary War, but the grantees retained neir rights that were given or sold to the actual settlers.

The first proprietors' meeting was held at Nine Partners on Sept. 22, 1761 ith Jonathan Willard as moderator and Jonathan Ormsby as clerk. A committee as appointed, and they left in October for Danby to divide the land. The job as only partly completed in the summer of 1762, and another committee contined the work in 1763. Sixty-eight town lots of one acre each were laid out as ear as possible to the geographical center of town. The lot numbers were laced in a hat and each proprietors drew his number.

Early in 1764 a road from Bennington to Danby was laid out by Darius Lobel and Samuel Rose. They were paid in land. The road was no more than a bridle ath. This route was later used for the road to West Dorset and was the route aken by the first settlers to go to Bennington, the nearest market, and Manchester, the nearest mill.

The first recorded deed is dated February 21, 1763 when John Howard sold, for £20, his rights to Benjamin Corey of Amenia, NY. In May 1764, Joseph Alger's right was deeded to Jeremiah French.

Settlement began in the summer of 1765. Joseph Soper and family came from Nine Partners, finding the way by marked trees and bringing their household goods by horseback. They built a log cabin. Just a few years later, Joseph Soper froze to death just a mile from home on his return from the mill in Manchester with a load of grist. He was the first white man buried in town. Joseph Earl, also from Nine Partners, was the next settler, and settled just west of the Sopers. They were soon followed by Crispin Bull, the first to settle in the east part of town. Luther Colvin and Micah Vail, both from Long Island, settled south of the "corners". These five families were the entire population in the spring of 1766.

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The first log cabins were somewhat rude in appearance, logs hewn only on the inside and pointed with mud, roofs covered with bark through which the storms would beat, having but one door and one window, and enclosing a single room. Boards hewn from logs were the floors.

The next proprietors' meeting was held in February 1766 in the home of Enos Northrup in Charlotte Precinct, as the lands west of the Green Mountains were then called. The area became Charlotte County in 1772 when New York State claimed jurisdiction over the New Hampshire Grants. At that meeting it was voted to give 60 acres to the first person who would erect a mill. It was several years before the offer was accepted.

In the spring of 1767, Timothy Bull, father of Crispin, Stephen Calkins, Seth Cook, Nathan Weller, and Peter Irish arrived, built logcabins and began to clear land. They brought their families, together with cattle and swine. With hard work by all members of the family, they cleared enough land to raise grain and potatoes to sustain themselves. Hay for the cows was short for some years.

Quite a number of settlers arrived in 1768 including Thomas Rowley, John Stafford, Jesse Irish, Daniel Vanolendo, Nathaniel Fisk and Joseph Sprague.

The first town meeting in Danby was held on March 14, 1769 in the home of Timothy Bull. Most of the above named settlers held an office, with Timothy Bull as moderator. At this first meeting it was voted that hogs should not run at large from April 15th to October 15th. In September 1769 they voted to lay out five roads, each 4 rods (66 feet) wide, with the first road running from the notch in the mountain to Joseph Earl's. By 1776 there were ten to twelve roads. After 1773 the meetings were held in the home of Williamson Bull, and later in the home of Micah Vail. Joseph Soule took over as town clerk in 1773. By 1774, Ephraim Seley, William Gage, and William Bromley had arrived in town. Ephraim Mallory, Abraham Chase, Stephen Rogers and Clark Arnold were there in 1775.

Then, as today, speculators often purchased the land of the grantees and sold it to the settlers at the high price of \$15 to \$20 an acre. This, plus the dispute between New Hampshire and New York, slowed the settlement for some years. The settlers met with Ethan Allen, and under his leadership thwarted every attempt by New York to extend that state's rule. The dispute was about to break out in open hostility when the news of the Battle of Lexington reached Vermont. The settlers of Danby were united, and at a moment's notice, were ready to defend their homes. Danby was represented at the Dorset Convention, Sept. 25, 1776, by Micah Vail and William Gage.

After the Battle of Hubbardton, a portion of Burgoyne's army was sent to scour the country and passed through Danby. They supposed that a large portion of the inhabitants on the New Hampshire Grants were opposed to the rebellion and that it was necessary only to march an army through their country and furnish them with arms to bring them over to the royal standard. When word was received that Burgoyne's army was on its way, a company of militia was quickly

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formed and joined Col. Warner at Manchester. They fought in the Battle of Bennington on August 16th, a battle that led to the final defeat of Burgoyne.

The character of these early settlers is shown in an extract of a letter written by General Burgoyne to Lord Germain on August 20, 1777 in which he said, "The Hampshire grants in particular, a country unpeopled and almost unknown in the last war, now abounds in the most active and most rebellious race on the continent and hangs like a gathering storm on my left."

By 1778 there were 101 freeman in Danby, and some others over the age of 21 were known residents. As with so many other Vermont towns, the population rose rapidly until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1817 and other lands in the "west". In 1810 Danby's inhabitants owned 8,118 acres of improved land, 171 houses, 4 stores, 124 oxen, 1,954 cows, and 390 horses. By 1815 the settlers no longer had to walk 15 to 20 miles to a mill, they had more comfortable homes, orchards were producing fruit, and there was ample cleared land for crops. Children no longer went barefoot year round, and the spinning wheels and looms were busy with flax and wool. The summer of 1816 was known as the "cold" summer with frost every month so that grain and grasses were a complete failure.

In 1840, 331 inhabitants were engaged in agriculture, 13 in commerce, 61 in manufacturing, 2 in navagation, and 9 in the learned professions. In the town there were: 358 horses, 3,360 cattle, 8,950 sheep, and 689 swine; the townpeople raised 2,217 bushels of wheat, 65 bushels of barley, 6,094 bushels of oats, 110 bushels of rye, 256 bushels of buckwheat, 4,267 bushels of corn, 4,756 bushels of potatoes, 5,378 tons of hay, 35,715 pounds of maple sugar, and 25,433 pounds of wool. By 1850 the manufacture of marble had become the leading industry. Today tunnels run over 400 feet below the surface. The marble in the \$10 million US Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC came from Danby. In 1851 the railroad was built through the east part of town. This just about wiped out business in the Corners. The population was as follows:

 1791:
 1,206
 1820:
 1,607
 1850:
 1,535
 1880:
 1,202

 1800:
 1,486
 1830:
 1,362
 1860:
 1,440
 1900:
 964

 1810:
 1,730
 1840:
 1,379
 1870:
 1,320
 1910:
 1,019

In 1880 Danby had three stores, two tin shops, one grist mill, one saw mill, one hotel, one church, and two blacksmith shops in the Borrough; while Four Corners, near the center of the township, contained one store, one cheese factory, and one blacksmith shop. Today the railroad still runs, carrying only freight. There are several garages, hotels, and stores. The Corners has one store and one church. One modern industry is the gathering of wild ferns that are stored and sold throughout the year to florists.

The oldest cemetery in the township is on the farm originally owned by Micah Vail and given to the town in 1776. Micah Vail and his wife were the first interred there; they died the same day of measles. The second cemetery (Maple Grove) was west of the Corners on the farm of Ira H. Vail and was given to the town in 1785. The third cemetery was set off from the Lemuel Griffith farm in 1795. The Quaker cemetery (now called Staples Farm) was laid out in 1806 and the first burial was that of Gilbert Palmer. A second Quaker cemetery

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was laid out in the east part of town on the farm of Anthony Nichols. The next cemetery (Sherman-Staples) was near the home of Edwin Staples. Soon after this, cemeteries were laid out in the "Little Villages" in the northwest part of township near Erwin E. Lillie's home, and in Scottsville on the farm of Joseph Bull. The latter one was enlarged in 1860's. In 1865 the Danby Cemetery Association was chartered and a "garden" type cemetery was laid out (Scottsville).

There are only a few beautifully carved early stones in the township. The Lillie-Paull Cemetery contains a number of stones carved by Enos Clark of Middletown Springs bearing the face of a seraph or angel. The old Corners cemetery has some nice stones with urns, hands and drapes. The most interesting old stone is in the Sherman-Staples Cemetery in memory of quadruplets. There are some modern stones with carved scenes of a covered bridge, deer, fishing, a walk in the country, a milk truck, a semi-truck and others. In the years to come they will show life in the 20th century, as the old 18th century stones depict the views of that time on death and eternal life. Besides the Palmers' quadruplets in 1795, the Weeds had triplets in 1799. Three people have lived to age 100 or more: Mary Rogers Phillips, Lizzie B. Stafford Nichols, and Lottie Nyren Derosia.

The first Baptist society was formed in 1781 with Rev. Hezekiah Eastman as first settled minister. The Methodist society was organized and the church built in 1795 west of the Corners, near the burial ground, with Rev. Jacob Lobdel as the first settled minister. A very large number of the first settlers were Quakers, and a society was formed at an early day, with the first church erected in 1785. Because the Quakers believed the names of the months were heathen, they used the months' numbers, thus 3 mo., 6 mo. on their gravestones.

The <u>History of Danby</u> was written in 1869 by J.C. Williams and reprinted in 1976. The book contains many family sketches. Additional information about the early settlement of the town may be found in: Hamilton Child's <u>Gazetteer of Rutland County</u>, 1881, pp. 122ff; Abby M. Hemenway's <u>Vermont Historical Gazetteer</u>, 1877, 3:576ff; and in Smith & Rand's <u>History of Rutland County</u>, Vermont, 1886.

Margaret R. Jenks
January 1988

# NEW ENGLAND FAMILIES

## GENEALOGICAL AND MEMORIAL

A RECORD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER PEOPLE IN THE MAKING
OF COMMONWEALTHS AND THE FOUNDING OF A NATION

COMPILED UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

WILLIAM RICHARD CUTTER, A. M.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND HISTORIAN OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGI-CAL SOCIETY; HISTORIAN OF NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY; AUTHOR OF "THE CUTTER FAMILY," "HISTORY OF ARLINGTON," ETC.

VOLUME III



ILLUSTRATED

NEW YORK LEWIS HISTORICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY 1914

The surname Herrick is of Scandinavian ancient HERRICK very origin, from the baptismal name, Eric, and the spelling is widely varied in form. Tradition says that the family was descended from Ericke, a Danish chief, who invaded Britain in the time of King Alfred. and being defeated was compelled with his followers to live in East Anglia, the government of which he held as a fief of the English crown. At the time of the Norman invasion, Eric the Forester resided in Leicestershire and had extensive domains along the sources of the Severn and on the borders of Wales. He resisted William the Conqueror, but after his defeat held commissions in William's army. The lineage of the American ancestor has been traced to

(I) Eyryk, of Great Stretton and Houghton, Leicestershire, a lineal descendant of Eric the Forester. He lived in the reign of Henry

(II) Alan Eyryk, son of Eyryk, held two

ingates of land at Stretton. (III) Henry Eyryk, of Stretton, son of Alan Eyryk.

(IV) John Eyryk, son of Henry Eyryk, of

(V) Robert Eyryk, of Stretton, married Joanna and they had William, Robert, John

(VI) Sir William Eyryk, knight, of Stretand Adelena. ton, attended the prince of Wales in 1356.

(VII) Robert (2) Eyricke, of Houghton, descended from Sir William Eyryk. Children: Robert and Thomas.

(VIII) Thomas Eyrick, of Houghton, died 1518, settled in Leicester. Children: Nicholas, John and Elizabeth.

(IX) John (2) Eyrick or Heyrick, son of Thomas Eyrick, died April 2, 1589, in Leicester. Married Marie, daughter of John Bond; was mayor of Leicester in 1559; had twelve children.

(X) Sir William (2) Herrick, son of John (2) Eyrick or Heyrick, was born in 1557, and died March 2, 1652-53. He was knighted in 1603: was inclined of Parliament 1601 to 1630; held a position in the Exchequer under Elizabeth; acquired a large fortune and bought Beau Manor Park of the Earl of Essex. county Leicester; was a celebrated goldsmith. principal jeweler to the Crown. At the time of his death William, his son, William, his grandson and William, his great-grandson, were living. He married, in 1506, Joan, were living. He married, Mary (Hilderson) daughter of Richard and Mary (Hilderson) born May, of London. Children: 1597; Robert, 1598; Richard, 1600; Thomas, 1602; Elizabeth, 1603; Henry, mentioned be-

low; Roger, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford; John, 1612; Mary, died aged twenty years; Martha; Dorothy, Elizabeth.

(XI) Henry (2) Herrick, son of Sir William (2) Herrick, was born August 16, 1604, at Beau Manor, Leicestershire. He was the immigrant ancestor. His father wrote as follows concerning his birth: "Thursday, 16th of August, 1604, my wife were brought abead of a fifthe sonne: Sir David Murray, Mr. John Spelman and my Lady Auston, his gossips. He is nursed at Thissilworth at 2s. 6d. a His name is commanded by Prince Henry to be Henry; and Sir John Spelman would need have him John. And that he was named Henry. Lady Aston was wife to Sir Roger Aston, master of the great ward-robe to his Majesty, James I." He came to robe to his Majesty, James I." New England and settled in Salem, where he and his wife were admitted members of the church in 1629. He was admitted a freeman, May 18, 1631, and was a proprietor in 1635. It is said that he was for a time in Virginia. He removed to Wenham and afterward to Beverly, and owned a farm at Bass River. He bought several farms on Birch Plains and Cherry Hill and gave them to his sons. He was among the founders of the First Church of Beverly. His will was dated November 24, 1670, and was proved March 28, 1671. He married Editha Laskin, who was born in 1614, Hugh Laskin. Thomas; Zachariah, baptized December 25, of 1636; Ephraim, mentioned below; Henry, baptized January 16, 1639-40; Joseph, baptized August 6, 1645, died young; Elizabeth, baptized July 4, 1647; John, baptized May 26, 1650; Benjamin, died without issue.

(XII) Ephraim Herrick, son of Henry (2) Herrick, was baptized February 11, 1637-38, and died September 18, 1693. He settled off a farm at Beverly, given to him by his father. He took the freeman's oath, April 29, 1668. He married, July 3, 1661, Mary Cross, of Salem. Children: John, born May 31, 1662; Ephraim, August 13, 1664; Mary, June 14, 1667; Stephen, March 15, 1670; Samuel, mentioned below; Timothy, January 4, 1681; Anna, November 20, 1683.

(XIII) Samuel Herrick, son of Ephraim Herrick, was born at Beverly, June 4, 1675. He settled in 1702 at Preston, Connecticut. He married, in 1608. Mehitable Woodward, of Beverly. Children: Ezekiel, born November 6, 1699; Samuel, March 24, 1703; Stephen, mentioned below; Daniel, December 9, 1708; Joseph, March 1, 1711; Keziah, April 30, 1715; Priscilla, married -

(XIV) Stephen Herrick, son of Samuel