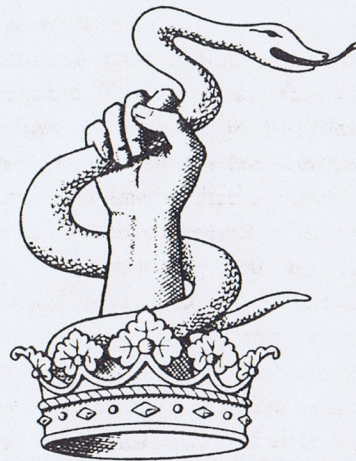


LEACH: A GENEALOGY



A first edition limited to 100 copies,
published privately by Owen Glenn Leach, Jr.
1968

Copy Number **24**

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feeling that their geniality had been betrayed. The English neither feared nor trusted them. The Indians are known to have come in groups to the houses of the early settlers at mealtimes, but they asked for nothing and took only what was given to them.

Their language was that of the Algonquin tribe, and because of its difficulty of pronunciation few of the English in the vicinity were able to speak any of it. It was unwritten.

The chief ruler was called a sagamore, and the government was similar to a monarchy. The right to rule came by inheritance from father to son. If there was no son, the widow reigned as queen. The sagamore about Salem, in 1629, had less than 300 men due to the ravages of disease. Actually, they had no military organization, and found protection among the settlers. Generally, they were idle except when hunting and fishing, and they traded skins and animal flesh with the settlers.

In 1629, the region was practically unoccupied, as the few Indians located there needed but a small portion of the land for cultivation and the chase. It is difficult to appreciate the thoughts of the red men as they saw whole tribes disappear before relentless disease. Despondency settled over them as all hope of future enjoyment was forever banished, their spirit broken. When the English came, no resistance was offered, nor any claim of title to the land made or thought of. The Indians were simply passive, waiting for the end.

It would appear that the wilderness was not quite as forbidding as the settlers had feared.

SOURCE:

Perley, Sidney, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 1-46; 185-6.

GENERATION I

LAWRENCE LEACH

- b. 1579 in England, parish of Ash (Martok), Somersetshire
- d. 24 June 1662 at Salem, Massachusetts, age 83

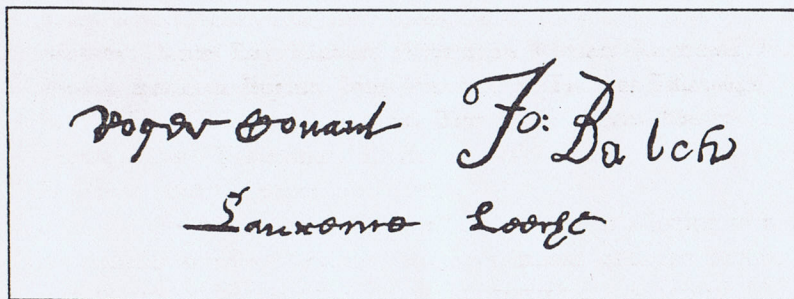
HISTORIANS have often depicted the early settlers of New England as grim, pious and lack-luster people in ignominious circumstances. They have been described as temperate, God-fearing souls who cared for little else than sustenance, peace and the opportunity to work hard.

In general, this picture is true, although far from the extent to which it has been accepted. The mere fact that the *Talbot* carried quantities of beer, wines and brandy to the New England shore dispels the notion that these people were teetotalers. And many, probably including Lawrence Leach¹, had achieved financial success in England. There were, of course, people of ill repute in England who merely wanted to try something new, but for the most part they were unable or unwilling to undertake the hard work required in the New World and soon returned to their native land.

Even the most earnest Puritans were not indifferent to beauty, although they eschewed extravagance. The wardrobes, like the homes of these people, were more colorful than legends have indicated. Elder William Brewster, most venerable of the Pilgrims, owned red and white caps, a violet-colored coat, a blue suit, a green waistcoat, black silk stockings, and green drawers. Governor Richard Bellingham of the Massachusetts Bay Colony owned a scarlet coat as a mantle of respectability and authority, and the records tell of violet-colored petticoats, red breeches, blue aprons, silver buttons and other colorful bits of finery. Only ministers followed the ancient sacerdotal custom of wearing black.

While the earliest arrivals brought little in terms of personal possessions with them, a number of even the first generation of settlers left adequate if not abundant estates — chests, chairs, tables and the like.

"Before you come," wrote Reverend Higginson (*q.v.*), "be careful to be strongly instructed what things are fittest to bring with you for your more comfortable passage at sea, as also for your husbandry occasions when you come to the land. For when you are once parted from England you shall meete neither markets nor fayres to buy what you want. Therefore be sure to furnish yourselves with things fittest to be had before you come: as meale for bread, malt for drinke, woolen and linnen cloath, and leather for shoes, and all manner of carpenter tools, and a great deal of iron and steele to make nails, and locks for houses, and furniture for ploughs and carts, and glasse for windows. . . ."



Autographs of Roger Conant, John Balch, Lawrence Leach¹

Higginson also advised prospective colonists to bring with them complete armor, with a "long piece," a sword bandoleer, and ammunition. Weapons and armor were considered essential equipment for able-bodied emigrants. Settlers at the Massachusetts Bay colony brought plate armor with them. All heavy protection was found to be impractical in wilderness warfare against Indians who fought like savage guerrillas rather than as European soldiers.

In a letter to Captain John Endecott (*q.v.*), "the Governor and

Deputy of the New England Company for a Plantation in Massachusetts Bay, to the Governor and Council for London's Plantation in the Massachusetts Bay in New England," dated 17 April 1629, postmarked Gravesend, England and giving observations and instructions, it was stated: "Wee desire yow to take notice of one Lawrence Leach, whom we have found a carefull & painfull man, and wee doubt not but hee will continue his dilligence; lett him have deserving respect."

Lawrence Leach¹ arrived at Cape Ann in the company of Samuel Sharpe (who could have been sailing on any one of the three vessels that left Gravesend in 1629), who was to have charge of the fortifications; William Dodge, a "skillful husbandman" from Dorchester; Thomas Beard, a shoemaker; George Farr and Robert Moulton, shipwrights; Richard Howard, a "Bedfordshire man"; Richard Ewstead, a wheelwright "who was commended to us by Mr. Davenport for a very able man, though not without his imperfections."

Lawrence Leach's¹ life in America would seem to have fully justified the confidence placed in him by the Massachusetts Bay Company. He signified his desire to become a freeman 19 October 1630, and in a list entitled, "Names of Such as Took the Oath of Freemen," dated 18 May 1631, his name — along with Roger Conant, John Balch and others — was included. According to the Salem Historical Society, it is probable that a great majority of the earliest settlers were neither "gentry" nor indentured servants. In most of the records researched, the first and most prominent requisite of being proposed a freeman was membership in the church.

He was a farmer and miller, living on the south side of what is now Elliott Street, on Rial (Royal) Side, Beverly. He deeded his farm to his son Richard about 1643.

Lawrence was one of 12 jurymen that served at the trial of the first capital case that was heard in Massachusetts, in 1630.

By order of the general court in April, 1635, Lawrence Leach¹ and Richard Ingersoll promised to make a sufficient highway between their lots for carts to "bring home wood."

For the furtherance of fishing and trading, and to avoid the

inconveniences found in granting land for fishermen to plant, the Town voted at its meeting 2 January 1636-7 "that none Inhabiting at Marble Head shall have any other accommodation of land, other than such as is usuallie given by the Towne to fishermen, viz. a howse lott & a garden lott or grownd for the placing of their flakes: according to the company belonging to their families, to the greatest family not above 2 acres: & the comon of the woods neere adioyning for their goates & their cattle."

JOHN Leach, brother of Lawrence, was admitted as an inhabitant about that time, and was granted land. His wife did not emigrate from England, and when he died in the spring of 1658 he gave his small property to his grandnephew, John Leach. It cannot be determined whether this was John Leach³ in the direct line; he might have been a cousin.

The first session of the quarterly court was held in Salem 27 June 1636. There were three civil cases to be adjudicated, but no criminal cases. The 12-man trial jury consisted of Lawrence Leach¹, Jeffrey Massey, Daniel Ray, Richard Waterman, Richard Raymond, Henry Freake, Boniface Burton, John Woodbury, Thomas Talmadge, John Smith, John Sibley and Timothy Tomlins, foreman. Messrs. Leach, Massey, Ray, Waterman, Raymond, Woodbury and Sibley lived in Salem, and the others in Lynn.

In the book of grants of land in Salem, there is a listing of names of persons to whom grants had been made, and the number of acres granted, bearing the date 1636. Included is an entry, "Mr. S. Sharp f. 300" (the "f." symbolizing "freeman"). Following the name of Mr. Sharp was written and then cancelled: "Jno. Horne f. 75 Law: Leach f. 100." Lawrence Leach¹ is listed separately as owning 100 acres, with the notation in shorthand: "John Woodbury did view it and it lyeth along in divers marshes and coves." A further description was added: "over against mrs. Daniels farme with ye marsh neere adioyning upon survey."

Commencing in 1636, the Town's representatives granted land and performed other acts as delegates of the freemen. In 1637, until 19 June, the men who served were Lawrence Leach¹, John Balch,

Jacob Barney, Townsend Bishop, John Endecott, Ralph Fogg, Robert Moulton, Daniel Ray, Thomas Scruggs, Elias Stileman, Philip Verrin and John Woodbury.

On 20 February 1636-7, a warrant was issued by the Town for laying out to Lawrence Leach¹ 100 acres of upland and six acres of marsh "over against Mrs. Daniels."

Philip Verrin, on 17 April 1637, was permitted to cut three loads of hay grass near the property of Lawrence Leach¹, provided that "he burn all the marshes thereabout."

In a list of land grants occupying two pages in the Town records, handwritten by Roger Conant (*q.v.*), there is a notation of the division of the marsh and meadow ordered to be assigned and laid out to the families at a Town meeting 25 December 1637. There is a listing, "5. Lawr: Leach 3." This indicates that Lawrence had five persons in his family at that time, and that he was allotted three acres. The frugality of the early settlers also is evident from the date of the meeting; apparently they were willing to utilize Christmas Day for the purposes of a Town meeting.

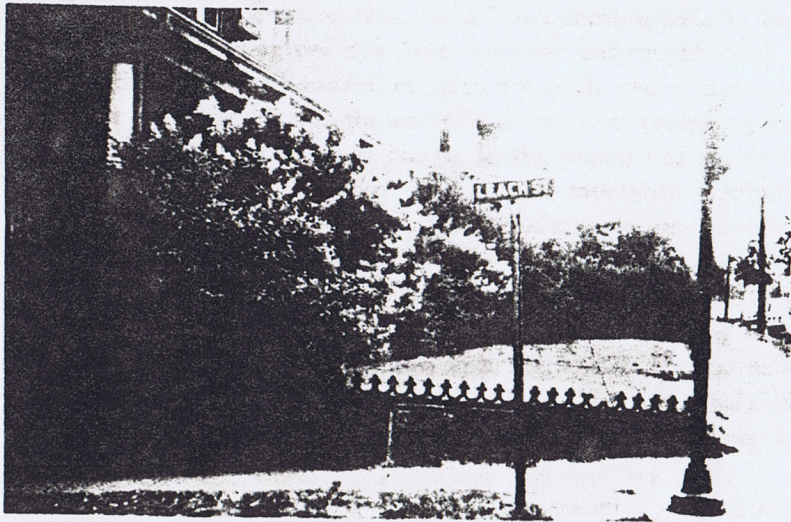
In the Salem quarterly court, 27 March 1638, the Salem jurymen were Lawrence Leach¹, Peter Palfrey, Jeffrey Massey, Richard Davenport, Thomas Venner, George Norton and John Woodbury, foreman. At this court, Abram Whiteire was sentenced to sit in the stocks for one hour for misdemeanors. Richard Lambert was fined 10 shillings and ordered to sit in the stocks on two public days for drunkenness. Robert Morgan was fined one pound, and Edward Hall, servant to a Mr. Friend, was fined 10 shillings, each for being "overseen in drink."

Other degrees of drunkenness at the time were tippling, common tippling, drinking, much in drink, excessive drinking, suspicion of drunkenness, distempered with drink, disguised with drink, overtaken with drink, overcome with drink, and second drunk. It must have been interesting as well as difficult to determine the gradations of the offense.

At a general Town meeting in Salem on 31 December 1638, seven men were chosen to manage the affairs of the settlement for the

coming year. An assumption that these were the most prominent men of the community may be warranted. They were Lawrence Leach¹, John Balch, Roger Conant, John Woodbury, John Endecott, William Hathorne and Jeffrey Massey. All were reelected in 1639.

In 1638, the meeting house became inadequate to accommodate the people who attended religious services, and on 31 December the Town agreed that there should forthwith be created an addition, and that a rate should be levied for payment. It was decided to enlarge the meeting house by lengthening it 25 feet. A fireplace (which must have been about 10 and one-half feet in width) was authorized; this provision for heating of a meeting house was most extraordinary, for few if any other Towns boasted of this convenience at the time. The cost of the addition was 63 pounds, and the builder was John Pickering. In addition to him, the signers of the proposed construction agreement on 12 December 1638 (as witnesses) were Lawrence Leach¹, John Endecott, John Woodbury, Will Hathorne and Roger Conant. The document was subsequently sub-



*Sign designating Leach Street, Salem,
Massachusetts, 1964*

mitted to the Town meeting for approval. Obviously, contractual commitments were carefully overseen and guarded by the early residents of New England.

On 9 December 1639, the Town granted Lawrence another 10 acres of meadow, soon followed on 23 December 1639 by a grant of an additional 15 acres. Earlier, at the Town meeting of 15 May 1639, two of his sons were granted 70 acres, of which seven were to be meadow; they relinquished their former grants of 20 and 30 acres, respectively.

It became evident that land ownership was expanding rapidly by the early 1640's. On 5 February 1643-4, the Town ordered that the lots laid out next to Goodman Leech's, "at the great hill, namely Jacob Barney's and Richard Ingersoll's, should all determine with a straight line, at the top of the hill at the marked tree where Lawrence Leach's lot ends."

By 1646, the settlement of Manchester required better means of transportation and access. The old path to Cape Ann was very poor, and probably nothing had been done to improve it since it was originated. The first spot which was sought to be improved was at a place called Mackarel Cove. Salem was presented to the local Manchester court because there was no sufficient bridge at the Cove, and the Town was ordered to build one. At a Town meeting on 26 October 1646, probably to meet the necessities of the Manchester settlers, the Town of Salem ordered that a way between the ferry at Salem and the head of Jeffrey's Creek be laid out forthwith, by Lawrence Leach¹, William Woodbury, Richard Brackenbury, Ensign William Dixy, Roger Conant and Lieutenant Lothrop, and "that it be such a way as men may travel on horseback and drive cattle; and if such a way may not be found then to take speedy course to set up a foot bridge at Mackarel Cove." Ensign Dixy certified that the committee of Salem, appointed to lay out a way toward Manchester, had done so and made it sufficient, on 30 December 1646.

It is probable that Lawrence had fully earned the confidence of his peers by that time, for he had also served on trial juries in 1639,

1640 and 1642. He was a Grand Juryman in 1642 and 1645.

On 20 March 1647-8 the Town gave Robert Cole liberty to mow the grass bordering the highway between Henry Herrick's rock and the west end of Lawrence Leach's¹ lot yearly, "provided he does not hinder passing through the way."

John Friend erected a grist mill in the early seventeenth century at a point which was, in 1926, the Elliott Street bridge in Salem. After Mr. Friend's death in 1655, his son sold the mill to Lawrence Leach¹, but the deed was not passed until after 1662, the year of Lawrence's death. The mill was appraised at 40 pounds, of which only 30 pounds had been paid.

On 20 November 1657, the Salem selectmen ordered that the way from the meeting house "on Cape Ann-Side to Lawrence Leach and his mill shall be directly in the Country way to Edmund Grover's and from thence to the way lying betwixt the said Grover's land and of Osman Transke and so forward through the land of Henery Hericke."

The last known references to Lawrence Leach¹ occurred a few years before his death in 1662. At a Town meeting held 14 December 1659, it was agreed that "our brethren and neighbors of Cape Ann-Side are thus bounded in reference to the maintenance of the ministry, viz. first, from the east side of the river commonly known by the name of Bass River and so to the swamp that runneth out of Lawrence Leach's meadow where it will meet with Wenham line and so unto Manchester bounds, provided they maintain their poor and make and maintain the highways within the said limits: and so to be free from all charge about our poor or highways and all levies or rates which concern them and all things about ordering of fences shall be made by the select men in being, and if there be no select men or man on their side then they have liberty to make choice of two or three of themselves to join with the select men in the premisses above said."

In 1660, Lawrence was listed as the owner of Plat 100, land approximating 2,500 feet by 500 feet in size, fronting on the Cow-House River.

It was reported in the Phelps Leach source book that Lawrence also had an iron foundry, the first in the colonies, and that his brother John worked there. However, no documentation of the source was offered, and other references consulted by the author made no mention of iron foundry ownership.

Lawrence's will bequeathed all to his wife, Elizabeth, and administration was granted to her. She died 12 years after his death, about 1674.

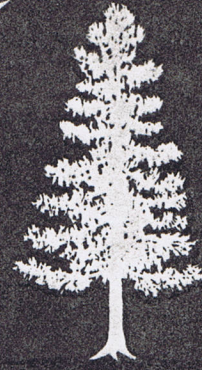
Lawrence Leach¹ is credited with 10 children:

1. Robert, b. 1605 in England; d. 22 May 1688.
2. Clement, b. in England and remained there.
3. John², b. in England; d. 1659.
4. Margaret, b. 1613 in England; arrived on the *Susan and Ellen*, 1635.
5. Ambrose, b. 1616 in England; a carpenter, in America by 1641.
6. Richard, b. 1618 in England; m. Ann Fuller 1639; freeman 1665; d. 9 May 1687 at Rial-side, Salem, Massachusetts, the Leach farm.
7. Edmund (was in New Haven, Connecticut 1647-49).
8. Rachel.
- ✓9. James, b. in Salem; d. 30 June 1697.
10. Giles, b. in Salem, 1632.

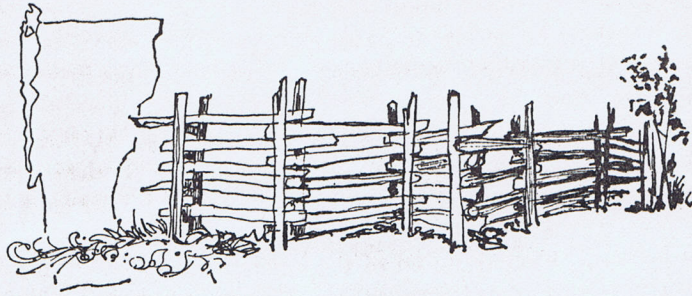
SOURCES:

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- Americana*, op. cit., p. 178.
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- Leach, F. Phelps, op. cit., Vol. I, pp. 3-4.
- Perley, Sidney, op. cit., Vol. I, 1924, pp. 118-119, 127, 197, 293, 316-18, 352-5, 417-19, 423, 428, 454, 459, 463; Vol. II, 1926, pp. 8-10, 62-4, 68, 75, 77, 155, 174-5, 188, 190-1, 231, 408-9; Vol. III, 1928, p. 328.

Vermont History



THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Is there another section of Vermont where descendants of an original settler today maintain such a group of neighboring farms?

The Leach Farms of the Mettawee Valley

By EDWIN L. BIGELOW

FOR many years this writer has frequently travelled on Route 30 in the valley which cuts the Taconic Mountains in southwestern Vermont from their eastern front in the Vermont Valley at Manchester Center to their western face near West Pawlet, a distance of about twenty-three miles.

The western two-thirds of this valley is that of the Mettawee (sometimes spelled Mettowee), a stream which has its source in the north end of Dorset Hollow in the union of two small brooks near the foot of a land mass designated on the topographic map as "The Mettawee." After leaving the Hollow, the stream flows northwestward across the northeast corner of Rupert township to traverse Pawlet and enter New York State.

The portion of the valley that has a special interest attached to its fine farms is a three-mile section traversed by the Mettawee and Route 30 northwestward from East Rupert. Here are eleven large and prosperous dairy farms ranging in size from 300 to 600 acres, and supporting Holstein herds up to 100 head, although one Ayreshire herd has recently invaded the area.

While this valley of the Mettawee may have major scenic and agricultural interest to a traveller, there is also a human factor present because

the Leach family dairy farms.

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the Leach family name is concerned with more than half these eleven dairy farms.

These farms are all outstanding, both in appearance and operation. Their well kept buildings flanked by meadows of lush forage crops enhance the beauty of a lovely valley. They are all large enough to insure profitable operation with good management, and that factor is very evident. In breeding, artificial insemination has been practiced for years, so yearly milk production has steadily climbed as high as 21,000 pounds for individual animals and herd averages of 14,000 pounds per cow.

Not only does a spirit of economic progress characterize the area, but equally important is a trait of generous neighborliness. If a newcomer has trouble, neighborly help is immediately available, and one never hears of inter-family jealousies.

The development of this Leach family agricultural interest all started with James Leach (1759-1835) (hereinafter referred to as James I) of Canterbury, Conn. where he married Sybil Cady, June 15, 1781. Soon that couple migrated to Vermont and settled on a 250 acre tract in Pawlet on which at present (1969) the McNealus brick house stands. Their first child, Lovell, was born in Pawlet November 7, 1785.

*about
July '81*

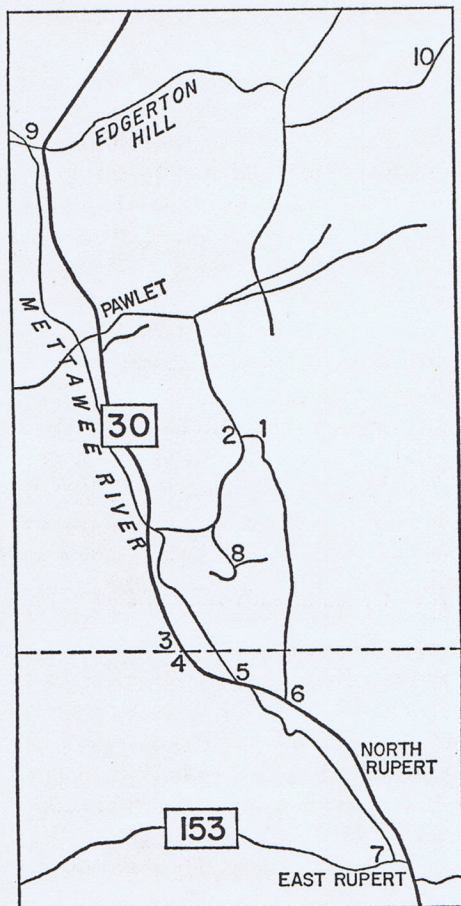
Before coming to Vermont, James had served three enlistments in 1776 and 1777 in the Continental army.

He built a log cabin on his tract in which he and his family lived. Later he built a fine brick house in 1805 according to a brass plate on its front door. He must have been a master builder, as he burned the brick himself, using clay from a nearby bed, and he also prepared the timbers for the structure. Its hand hewn beams testify to his skill with an ax.

According to a letter written by Merrit Leach, a great grandson of James I, the latter was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He is said to have built one of the first frame houses in Pawlet in 1785, and tradition has it that he built three houses in his neighborhood, one of which burned a few years ago, but definite proof is lacking. Merrit Leach's letter also states that James I contracted to build forty barns at \$40 each.

According to a deed dated February 17, 1824 (Vol. 8, page 370, Pawlet Land Records), James Leach sold his land and dwelling, 450 acres, constituting all his property in Pawlet to his three sons, James, Lovell and Ebenezer for \$6,000.

The final transaction seems to have been the sale of the property to James Mason by Lovell, Amy, Martin and Wesley Leach on April 3, 1868, (Vol. 14, page 652, Pawlet Land Records). Thus the original Leach homestead apparently remained in the family's possession about 84 years.



*The Leach Farms
of the
Mettawee Valley*

1. James I (now McNealus) Farm
2. Guy Herrick Farm
3. James W. Leach Farm
4. Robert Graf Farm
5. Griswold Bros Farm
6. Francis Leach Farm
7. Roger Leach Farm
8. Erford Leach (now Fredericks) Farm
9. Herman Moore (Milo Leach) Farm
10. Daniel Hulett Farm

Shortly before the time James I built his brick house, Dr. John Sargent built a very fine house in the Mettawee Valley on what is now Route 30, though at that time it was located on the stage road to Troy, N. Y. Who the artisans were on the job is not known. However, in a town rich in century-old houses, Dr. Sargent's mansion is an outstandingly beautiful structure. It is believed to have been purchased by James Leach, Jr. in 1831, and it has since been occupied by six generations of Leaches.

The front doorway facing Route 30 is of unusual interest with its Christian door, fan light, and side window panels. The charm of its exterior is enhanced by the beading around the top and the wide boards at the corners. The interior structure and furnishings are all that one

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might expect behind the imposing exterior, for the generations of Leaches have preserved its original charm.

This farm now (1969) owned by James W. Leach has 465 acres and supports 100 head of Holsteins. His son, James Harwood Leach, who lives next door on what was the Hiram Leach farm has assumed the purchase and management of the home place. The acreage of the Hiram Leach farm has been absorbed into that of the larger farm. Hiram was a grandson of James I, being a son of Ebenezer, who once owned the place.

Adjoining the James W. Leach homestead on the south is a 600 acre farm owned by Robert Graf, and carrying about 100 Holsteins. This farm also bears the mark of one-time Leach ownership through James Edward Leach, a 4th generation descendant of James I. James Edward married Helen Sheldon, a daughter of Joel Sheldon. Their daughter, Georgia Leach, married Robert Graf, Sr., father of the farm's present owner.

The next farm up the valley adjoining that of Robert Graf and distinguished by its yellow barns is owned by Charles and Paul Griswold. Its Leach connection requires digression into the background of the Hulett family.

Daniel Hulett came from Killingly, Connecticut and settled in Pawlet in 1780. He purchased a lot from James Paul of Johnston, R.I. for 65 pounds lawful money. This was apparently a 640 acre lot originally granted to James Astherson by New Hampshire's governor Benning Wentworth, who granted a good many lots and Vermont towns in the New Hampshire Grants of his day. The site of Daniel's homestead is on the Walnut Hill road between Pawlett and West Danby. Daniel had served as a Revolutionary soldier before coming to Vermont. He is reported to have made his first trip to Vermont in 1780 on foot, drawing a handsled bearing his few supplies.

Daniel had married Abigail Paul who died July 12, 1838, age 83. He died August 27 of the same year, age 90. They lived for twelve years in a log house and then, Daniel, with the help of his sons, built a beautiful house still standing on the Walnut Hill road to West Danby. It is noted for its beautiful doorway and carving about the roof jet.

The couple raised a family of three sons and eight daughters. Son Paul had nine children, Daniel Jr. had ten, while Joshua had eleven. When Daniel Sr. died, he had 104 grandchildren and 105 great grandchildren. Such a heritage resulted in a wide relationship with the Hulett line among Pawlet families. There were at least three contacts with Leach families.

An early contact with the Leach family occurred when Annis Hulett

married John Leach. Annis was a daughter of Dyer Hulett, a grandson of Daniel Sr. while John Leach was a grandson of James I. The couple had eight children, several of whom lived on the large farm on the Mettawee which John purchased from Dwight Taylor October 12, 1865. One of John's daughters, Janie, sold it to Charles and Paul Griswold, its present owners, May 1, 1949.

The Griswold brothers are descendants of Daniel Hulett Sr. as their mother, Minnie May Hulett Griswold, was a daughter of Charles D. Hulett, a great-grandson of Daniel Sr. She was also a niece of John Leach.

This farm of 470 acres, carrying some eighty head of Holsteins, conspicuous because of its yellow buildings, was for some years known as the "Leach boys" farm. While the Griswold brothers own the farm and live there, it is carried on by William Leach, a sixth generation lad from James I.

The present large house was built in 1880 to replace one that stood further back from the road. While this house is not outstanding architecturally, it is furnished with an enviable display of early American furniture, some of the pieces having been handmade by former Leach occupants.

The next farm up the valley south from the Griswolds' is that of Francis W. Leach, a fifth generation from James I. His father, James A. Leach, married Carrie Denio. After a sojourn in the West, he returned to Pawlet, and bought the Denio homestead in 1905. This he later sold to son Francis, who now (1969) lives there and operates the productive farm of 400 acres. It supports a high producing herd of 70 Holsteins with 30-40 head of young stock. Sons Howard and Francis, Jr. assist in carrying on the farm.

Proceeding further south along the valley, and skipping a couple of farms, one comes to a very old farm in the East Rupert area which was awarded a century plaque for being in one family for 100 years or more. It has been known as the Eastman Root farm, but since 1951 it has been operated by Roger Leach.

This farm was settled by Johnathan Eastman about 1767. His first house was made of logs and was off the east side of Route 30 on Hagar Brook. Another house was later built on the west side of the road. It served as a tavern for a time, and was eventually moved across the road to become a cow barn. The present farm house was built by Enoch Eastman Jr. over 135 years ago.

Next, the property passed into the hands of the Root family after Caroline Eastman married William Root in 1850. She was a daughter of

Enoch Jr. Their son lived for some years.

Then Herbert C. Root, son of James I, married H. Leach, present owner of the present generation of Eastman Root. James Leach I. T.

While this article is in operation alone, 1,935 acres of which have been other farms. One of these is a place on a road roughly parallel to this. This was an Erford farm, which was probably once a part of the

Some of the details are difficult to locate. Leach deeded a portion of the southwest corner of various property to that tract.

Anyhow, the farm remained in Leach ownership until his son, sold it to A. Herrick, who apparently bordering it, be operated as a

Another large farm may have been a house on this farm. Mr. Herrick now supplements his own

Mr. Herrick's grandson of Lovell, between the Leach and Libbie Vail, a great-granddaughter of Jennie Leach married the hill joined the farm to the Vail farm property and carried on by sons. Dorson H.

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Enoch Jr. Their son, Frank, and grandson, Eastman, carried on the farm for some years.

Then Herbert G. Leach, son of James A. Leach, a direct descendant of James I, married Annie I. Root, and from that marriage came Roger H. Leach, present owner of the property. Roger represents the 7th generation of Eastman blood, and is a 6th generation descendent of James Leach I. This farm has 364 acres carrying 65 head of Holsteins.

While this article is primarily concerned with the Leach farms now in operation along the Mettawee comprising a total of 2,299 acres, 1,935 acres of which are contiguous, it might be well to note that there have been other farms in Pawlet connected with the Leach name. One of these is a place on the east side of the Valley at the end of a dead end road roughly parallel to Route 30 now owned by Clark Fredericks. This was an Erford Leach farm, he being a great grandson of James I. It was probably occupied by his father, Martin Leach, and perhaps was once a part of the 450 acres that James I disposed of to his three sons.

Some of the descriptions in the Pawlet land records are somewhat difficult to locate on the present landscape. For example, in 1888 Martin Leach deeded a 140 acre tract with its boundaries beginning on the southwest corner of a beech tree, and continuing along the lines of various property owners. It would take considerable research to locate that tract.

Anyhow, the records suggest that Erford Leach's 140 acre farm was in Leach ownership quite a number of years until Fred Leach, Erford's son, sold it to Arthur Rafter in 1924. The last of this 140 acre farm apparently bordered on lands of Leach farms on Route 30. It ceased to be operated as a farm after 1941.

Another large farm adjoining the original James I homestead which may have been a Leach holding belongs to Guy W. Herrick. The old house on this farm, still occupied, is said to have been built in 1797. Mr. Herrick now leases lands of the original James I Homestead to supplement his own 300 acre farm. *my grandfather. I think his name was*

Mr. Herrick's grandfather, William Leach, seems to have been a grandson of Lovell Leach, son of James I. Here occurs another contact between the Leach and Hulett families, for this William Leach married Libbie Vail, a granddaughter of Daniel Hulett Sr. Their daughter Jennie Leach married Dorson Herrick whose homestead property on the hill joined the Leach lands, but after the marriage, he moved down to the Vail farm. It is their son, Guy W. Herrick, who now owns the property and carries on the large farm with the assistance of his three sons. Dorson Herrick was also related to the Eastmans of the Root *mentioned here*

farm at East Rupert now owned by Roger H. Leach.

Milo Leach, son of Wesley Leach, a grandson of James I, apparently occupied the Herman Moore farm on the West Pawlet road for forty-four years, (1897-1941), inheriting it from his mother, Lucinda Colvin Leach. Though bordering the Mettawee, this farm is several miles downstream from the group of farms which are the subject of this article.

A glance at the Beers Atlas 1869 maps of Pawlet and Rupert reveal the Leach name on the roads at different locations than those mentioned above, but they have been omitted because they were apparently never closely connected with the present agricultural enterprises in the Mettawee Valley bearing the mark of Leach ownership.

It would be interesting to know if there is any other section of Vermont where descendants of an early settler maintain a group of prosperous neighborhood farms aggregating some 2200 acres—2,500 counting the Herrick farm where the ownership is descended from both Hulett and Leach families, similar to the Griswold farm.

The Tobacco Habit

“Some 60 years ago, Moses Clafin, a simple man who lived in this town, who occasionally made his home with Mr. R., one evening sat by the fire in a ‘brown study’ and Esq. Robertson sat opposite, quietly chewing, and now and then spitting into the broad fireplace. At last Moses looked up and asked, ‘Squire, what did you learn to chew tobaker for?’ Mr. Robertson replied, ‘Oh, so’s to be a gentleman.’ Moses studied the matter a moment and with great gravity replied, ‘W’al, ye didn’t make out, did ye?’ ”

—from a sketch of Samuel Robertson of Roxbury, Vermont, written by Oramel Richardson and published in *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, Volume IV (The Towns Of Washington County), compiled and edited by Abby Maria Hemenway (Montpelier, 1882).



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