



To my kinsman

Amos E. Alden

with many thanks for his assistance
in making this little family history a
thing of beauty.

Charles H. Ayres

Dec 30 1905



PLYMOUTH ROCK

As now protected within a beautiful granite canopy.

Ancestors

of

Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers

Including the

Alden, Ayers and Byram Families



Compiled for their descendants by

Charles H. Ayers

Detroit, Mich.

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This Genealogical Record is dedicated
to my beloved father

LEWIS HENRY AYERS,

Grandson of Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers,
whose noble life and character has been its inspiration.

“ Our glorious heritage, ancestral name,
May it be ever kept the same.
Pure, free from blot, untarnished, as of old,
Let others barter character for gold,
Let others run that madcap race,
And forfeit their good name to win a place;
We'll plod along, content and free,
With fullest trust, O, God, in thee.”

B. F. Alford.

PREFACE.

Some few years ago I was prompted to start collecting what information was obtainable in regard to the history of the Ayers family, and with but a few meager facts to start with the search was begun, and by hunting through histories, and genealogical works, and corresponding with some of the older members, a complete record was finally obtained, and as this record is equally useful to several hundred descendants of Silas Ayers and his wife, many of whom have not the time nor opportunity to trace out their history, this book is published with the hope that it may inspire pride in our noble line of ancestors, and create new interest in our respective family histories.

To continue the history of the descendants of Silas Ayers and his wife to the present time would be a very difficult and almost impossible task, as well as bringing into the book much material that would be of interest to only a limited number, and it was deemed best to build simply the foundation, by giving as nearly as possible a complete history of the ancestors of Silas Ayers and his wife, Mary Byram Ayers, and to include blank pages on which each descendant could carry out his own particular line.

The principal sources from which the facts herein set forth have been drawn are the following, "The Pilgrim Republic," by Goodwin; "History of Duxbury, by Justin Windsor; "History of Bridgewater, Mass.," by Mitchell; "Memorial of the Descendants of the Hon. John Alden," by Dr. Ebenezer Alden; "The Early Germans of New Jersey," by Chambers, and the "Combined History of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, N. J.," and "Five Colonial Families," by Murray E. Poole.

I desire to express my appreciation for the assistance rendered by Mrs. Harriet N. Harris, of Glendale, Calif., and also to Mrs. Cornelia Ayers Kingery, of Garden City, Kansas, who departed this life May 11, 1904.

To the Descendants of Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers.

All who have descended through Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers can trace their ancestry to twelve of the Forefathers (those who came in the first three vessels), as follows:

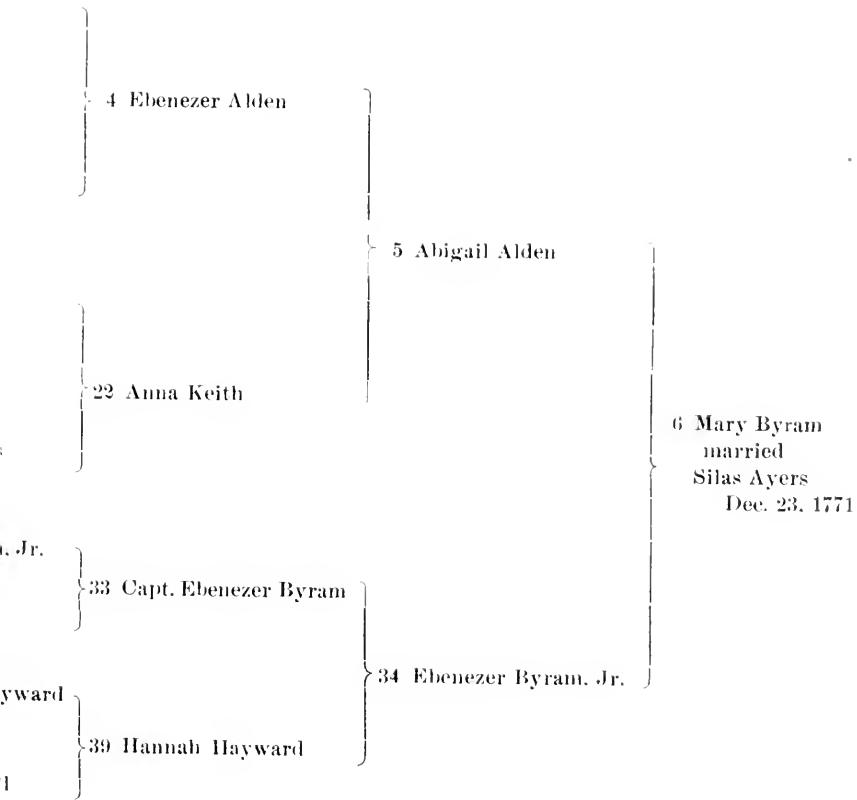
John Alden,)	Mayflower.	Nov. 21, 1620.
William Molines,			
William Molines' wife,)	Fortune.	Nov. 20, 1621.
Priscilla Molines,			
Francis Cook,)	Ann	and the July, 1623.
Moses Simmons,			
Experience Mitchell,)	Little James.	
Jane Cook,			
Hester Cook,)		
Stephen Tracy,			
Tryphosa Tracy,)		
Sarah Tracy.			

All such descendants are eligible to the following societies:

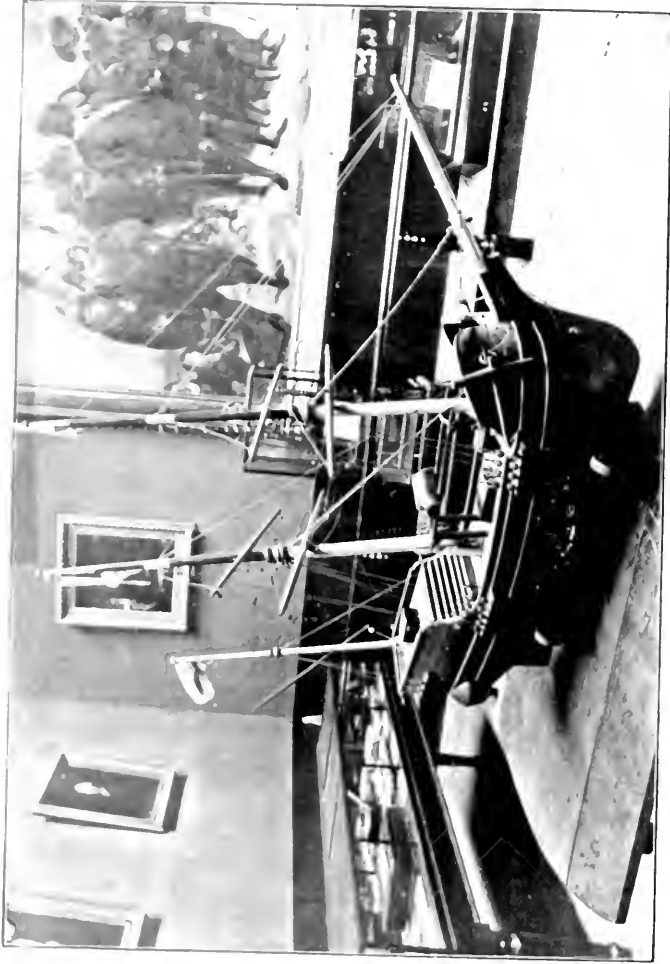
Society of Mayflower Descendants, by right of descent from John Alden, William Molines, his wife, and Priscilla Molines, and from Francis Cook, using the following as reference for proof of descent, from John Alden down to Abigail Alden of the fifth generation; "Memorials of the Descendants of John Alden," by Ebenezer Alden, pages 1-4-8-14-25; also, "History of Bridgewater, Mass.," by Mitchell, pages 83-84; and for reference for the marriage of Mary Byram to Silas Ayers, the "History of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, N. J.," combined register, page 12; also the "Early Germans of New Jersey," by Chambers, page 244.

Society of Colonial Wars, by right of descent from John Alden, Joseph Alden, Francis Cook, Capt. Nicholas Byram, Jr., Samuel Edson, and many others of those early colonists whose names appear on the genealogical chart.

William Molines (Mayflower) Wife (Mayflower)	1 John Alden (Mayflower)	2 Joseph Alden	3 Isaac Alden
	Priscilla Molines (Mayflower)		
7 Moses Simmons (Fortune, 1621)	8 Moses Simmons, Jr. Wife	9 May Simmons	
	10 Samuel Allen Ann		
13 Stephen Tracy (James, 1623) Tryphosa (James, 1623)	15 Geo. Partridge	16 Sarah Partridge	12 Melitable
	14 Sarah Tracy (James, 1623)		
	17 Dea. Samuel Edson	19 Susanna Edson	21 Joseph Ke
	18 Susanna Orcott		
	23 John Fobes	25 Edw Fobes	
	24 Constant Mitchell		
27 Thos. Hayward Wife	29 John Howard	30 Elizabeth Howard	26 Elizabeth
	28 Martha Hayward		
	35 Abraham Shaw Wife	36 Sussanna Shaw	32 Nicholas I
	17 Dea Samuel Edson	18 Susanna Orcott	37 Mary Eds
	27 Thomas Hayward Wife	38 Dea Josep	
	42 Experience Mitchell (Ann, 1623)	41 Jane Cook (Ann, 1623)	43 Hannah M
	40 Francis Cook (Mayflower) Hester (Ann, 1623)		







THE MAYFLOWER (180 Tons)
From Model in Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth



GROUP OF ALDEN DESCENDANTS

Taken at the Reunion of "The Alden Kindred of America," in Duxbury, Mass., 1903.

Sons of the American Revolution and the *Daughters of the American Revolution*, by right of descent from Silas Ayers, who was a Private Minute Man in the Morris County, N. J. Militia; reference, "Soldiers and Sailors of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War," by Stryker, page 494; or, upon request, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, at Trenton, will send you an official certificate stating that the records of his office show that Silas Ayers was enrolled as a Minute Man.

The Alden Kindred of America. This society was organized Sept. 11, 1901, and all persons over sixteen years of age, who are lineal descendants of John Alden and Priscilla Molines, are requested to send their names to the Secretary, Mrs. A. H. Sweet, Norton, Mass., or to Mr. Augustus E. Alden, Boston, Mass., and a blank application will be sent. The registration fee is 25 cents and the yearly dues 50 cents. The Society at the present time has a membership of over 600, and it is hoped to make this noted family organization the leading one in America. Reunions are held each year, that of 1903 was at the Alden house in Duxbury; 1904, in Plymouth, and 1905, in Faneuil Hall, Boston. It is the hope of the Society to purchase the Alden homestead and grounds, and perhaps in time to erect a suitable monument to the noble founders of the family.

ALDEN.

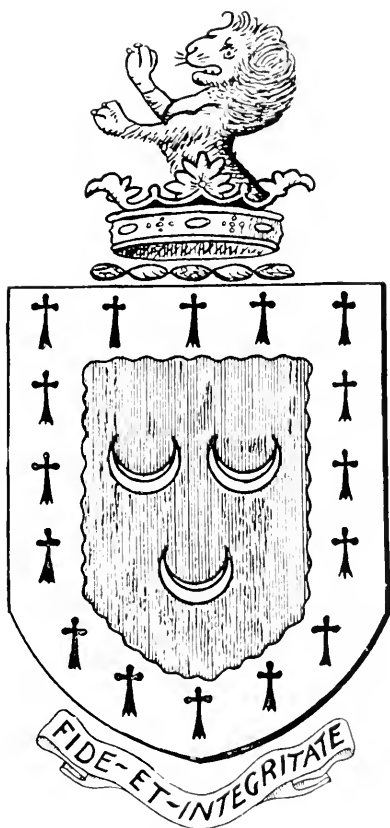
The lines by which descendants of Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers are descended from John Alden and Priscilla Molines, his wife, is as follows:

John Alden married Priscilla Molines, their son
Joseph Alden married Mary Simmons, their son
Isaac Alden married Mehitable Allen, their son
Ebenezer Alden married Anna Keith, their daughter
Abigail Alden married Ebenezer Byram, their daughter
Mary Byram married Silas Ayers

I JOHN ALDEN. 1599-1687

As many able authors and historians have given so much time and research to the history of John Alden, and written so many excellent articles, it would seem that any elaborate account of his manly Christian character, his hardships, and romance, would be unnecessary, and while these features of his life are very interesting and even fascinating, they deserve to be considered at greater length than can be undertaken in this limited history. Mr. Augustus E. Alden, of Boston, has recently issued a book called "Pilgrim Alden," which gives the most complete and interesting account of the life and history of John Alden and Priscilla, that has ever been written, and is a book that every descendant of this noble couple should possess. Briefly told, the important historical facts in the life of John Alden are as follows:

His immediate family are unknown, but it is supposed by many that he was in some manner related to Robert Alden, who was one of the London merchants known as the "Mer-



Alden

chants Adventurers' Co.," who furnished the financial backing for the Mayflower expedition. He possessed an education far above the average at that time, and joined the Mayflower company at Southampton as a cooper. He was the youngest man to sign the Compact made in the cabin of the Mayflower, the day the vessel came to anchor in Provincetown harbor (Nov. 21, 1620), and was the last one of the signers to die. In the assignment of houses and the division into households he was associated with Capt. Myles Standish, whose house was the nearest to Fort Hill. He was married to Priscilla Molines in 1621 or 1622, and their daughter Elizabeth was the first white woman native to New England soil, and from her the poet Longfellow was descended.

About 1627 he removed with Myles Standish and others and founded the town of Duxbury, a short distance from Plymouth. His original house was destroyed by fire and in 1653 his Jonathan built the one which is standing to-day and known as the Alden house. It is one of the oldest houses standing in New England, and can boast of the proud record of having housed a family of Aldens continuously from the time it was built. It is supposed that both John and Priscilla died in this house.

In public office John Alden did his full duty to the Colony. In 1627, when he was only about 27 years of age, he with seven others, assumed the entire indebtedness of the Colony which was owing to those parties in England who had advanced the money for the expedition. He was many times surveyor of highways, and acted as Agent for the Colony in many of its business affairs. He was appointed a member of the Board of Assistants to the Governor in 1632, and continued until his death in 1687.

From 1640 to 1650 he was Deputy from the town of Duxbury. In 1665 he was styled "Deputy Governor." He

was often in the council of war for the Colony, particularly at the time of King Phillips' War in 1667. In 1643 he and his sons, John and Joseph, were enrolled among the eighty men forming the military organization of Duxbury.

John Alden died Sept. 12, 1687, in the 88th year of his age. The place of his burial is unknown, but it was most likely in the first Duxbury cemetery, which was abandoned in later years.

Governor Bradford, in the entry in his Journal in 1651, states that John and Priscilla were the parents of eleven children, but the names of certain of these children are in doubt. Mrs. Chas. L. Alden, in her Alden Genealogy, presents the following list, which is probably as nearly correct as is possible to give:

Elizabeth,	born 1623-4;	married 1641,	William Pabodie.
- John,	" 1626	" 1660,	Elizabeth Everill.
JOSEPH,	" 1627	" 1659,	Mary Simmons.
Sarah,	" 1620	"	Alex. Standish.
Jonathan,	" 1632-3	" 1672,	Migail Hallett.
Ruth,	" 1634-5	" 1657,	John Bass.
Rebecca,	" 1637	"	
Priscilla,			
Zachariah,	" 1641	"	
Mary,	" 1643	" 1667,	Thomas Delano.
David,	" 1646	" 1670,	Mercy Southworth.

Very little is known of the family of Priscilla previous to the sailing of the Mayflower, but it undoubtedly sprung from the Norman family of Molyneux or Molines, but whether from the French or English branch is uncertain. It is generally believed that William Molines and his wife, the parents of Priscilla, were members of a "Walloon," or French Protestant Church at Leyden, and that they sailed from Delfthaven



ALDEN HOUSE, DUXBURY
(Side View)

with the Pilgrims in the Speedwell. The family consisted of William Molines, his wife, their son Joseph, and daughter Priscilla. A son, William, and a daughter, Sarah, remained in England. He is said to have been a man of culture and possessed considerable means for those times.

The father died February 21, 1621, on board the Mayflower, in Plymouth harbor, no doubt due to the hardships and exposure incident to the landing. Shortly after occurred the death of his wife and their son, leaving the maiden Priscilla an orphan in a strange wild land. All who claim relationship to this noble woman must be filled with pity for her at this trying time, when they stop to think of her sorrow and loneliness, as she saw father, mother, and brother buried on the little hill overlooking the sea, and the graves levelled over, that no one might know their resting place. Like others of that courageous and noble little band, she must have had a strong faith and a stout heart, and let us hope that in the honorable and chivalrous lives of her husband and children she found recompense and joy in her later years. She is said to have died in the old Alden house, but the year of her death is not known, although it was some time previous to the death of her husband.

JOSEPH ALDEN 2

Joseph Alden (2) was the son of John and Priscilla Alden, and was born in Plymouth in 1624. He inherited his father's share in the land at Bridgewater, and was one of the early settlers there. He married Mary (9), daughter of Moses Simmons, Jr., (8). His will is dated Dec. 14, 1696, and amounted to 76 pounds. He died Feb. 8, 1697, aged 73 years. He had:

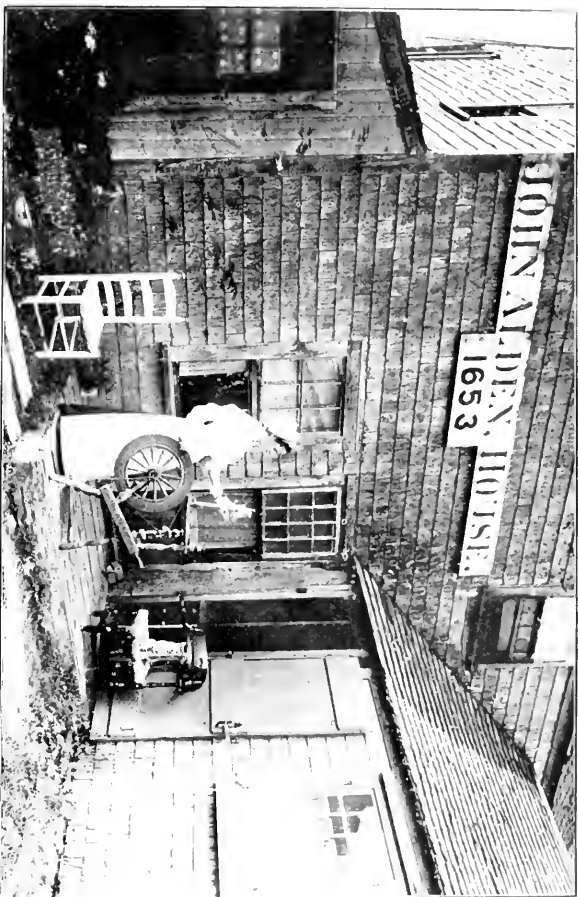
- (3) ISAAC, married Mehitable, daughter of Samuel Allen.
- Joseph, married Hannah, daughter of Daniel Dunham, 1690, died Dec. 22, 1747.
- John, married Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer White, died Sept. 29, 1730.

And is supposed to have had Elizabeth, who married Benj. Snow in 1691 and Mary, who married Samuel Allen in 1700.

ISAAC ALDEN 3

Isaac Alden (3), son of Joseph (2), settled in East Bridgewater and married Mehitable (12), daughter of Deacon Samuel Allen (11), Dec. 2, 1685, and had:

- Mehitable, born March 7, 1687; married Benj. Richards, 1711.
- Sarah, born Sept. 22, 1688; married Seth Brett, 1712.
- Mary, born Feb. 20, 1691; married John Webb, 1720.
- Isaac, born March 10, 1692; bachelor.
- (4) EBENEZER, born June 15, 1693.
- John, born 1694; married Hannah Kingman, 1727.
- Mehitable, born March 7, 1687; married Benj. Richards, 1725.
- Miriam, born July 28, 1699.
- Lebanon, born Jan. 7, 1702; married Deacon Thomas Whitman, 1727.



PRISCILLA MOLINES ALDEN

Ninth Generation

Daughter of John Alden, present occupant of the old Alden Homestead at Duxbury, Mass.
1653-1905

CAPT. EBENEZER ALDEN 4

Capt. Ebenezer Alden (4), son of Isaac (3), was born June 15, 1693. He lived in East Bridgewater, and in 1717 married Anna (22), daughter of Joseph Keith (21). She died in 1775, aged 79 years, and he died in 1776, aged 83 years, and was the last surviving member of the first church in East Bridgewater, gathered in 1724. Their children were:

Anna, born Feb. 19, 1718; married Eleazor Washburn,
Nov. 22, 1738.

Susanne, born April 29, 1719; married Ephraim Cary,
Nov. 22, 1738.

(5) ABIGAIL, born Dec. 27, 1721; married Ebenezer Byram, Jr. (34), Nov. 22, 1738.

Nathan, born Aug. 10, 1727; married Mary Hudson,
1750.

Ezra, born March 9, 1732; married Rebecca Keith, 1756.

Families allied with Aldens.

SIMMONS.

(7) Moses Simmons (sometimes written Symons and Symonson), of Duxbury, was an original proprietor of Bridgewater, and sold his rights to Nicholas Byram. He came over in the ship *Fortune*, 1621. He had:

Moses, Jr. (8); died in Duxbury, 1689.
Thomas.

(8) Moses Simmons, Jr., died in Duxbury, in 1689, had:

John.
Aaron.

(9) Mary; married *Joseph Alden* (2).
Elizabeth; married Richard Dwelly.
Sarah; married Jas. Nash.

ALLEN.

(10) Samuel Allen, of Braintree, his wife, Ann, died 1641; had second wife, Margaret. His will in 1660 names children:

- (11) Samuel, born 1632.
- Joseph, born —.
- James, born —.
- Sarah, born 1639; married Lieut. Josiah Standish.
- Mary; married Nathaniel Greenwood, 1655.
- Abigail, born —; married John Cary, 1670.

(11) Samuel Allen, a deacon, and son of above, settled in East Bridgewater in 1660, and was the second town clerk, to whom we are much indebted for the fullness and perfection of the records. He married Sarah (16), daughter of Geo. Partridge (15), of Duxbury, about 1658. She was born in 1639. He died in 1703, aged 71. He had:

- Samuel, born 1660.
- Essiel, born 1663.
- (12) Mehitabel, born 1665; married *Isaac Alden* (3), 1685.
- Sarah, born 1667; married Jonathan Cary, afterwards Benj. Snow.
- Bethiah, born 1669; married John Pryor.
- Nathaniel, born 1672.
- Eleazer, born 1674.
- Josiah, born 1677.
- Elisha, born 1679.
- Nehemiah, born 1681.

TRACY.

(13) Stephen Tracy, with his wife, Tryphosa, and daughter, Sarah, arrived in the ship *James* in July, 1623. They came from either Leyden or from Great Yarmouth, England. In the Cattle division of 1627, their three names are mentioned,

and also another daughter, Rebecca. They were associated in this division with Francis Eaton and others. They removed later to Duxbury. His daughter, Sarah (14), married George Partridge.

PARTRIDGE.

(15) George Partridge came over in 1636 from the County of Kent, where he was possessed of an estate, and was one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater. He married Sarah, daughter of Stephen Tracy, in 1638. They had:

(16) Sarah, born 1639; married Deacon Samuel Allen (11), 1658.

Mercy.

Tryphosa; married Samuel West, 1668.

Ruth; married Adolphus Thatcher, 1670.

Lydia; married William Brewster, 1672.

John, born 1657.

James.

EDSON.

(17) Deacon Samuel Edson and his wife, Susanna Orcott (18), came from Salem. They were married in 1637. He was one of the first settlers of Bridgewater and owned and probably built the first mill. He died in 1692, aged 80. His wife died in 1699, aged 81. They had:

Samuel.

Joseph.

Josiah.

(19) Susanna; married *Rev. James Keith* (20).

Elizabeth; married Richard Phillips of Weymouth.

(37) Mary; married *Nicholas Byram, Jr.* (32), 1676.

Sarah; married John Dean of Taunton, 1663.

Bethiah; married Ezra Dean of Taunton, 1678.

KEITH.

(20) Rev. James Keith, a Scotchman, was the first minister of Bridgewater. He was educated at Aberdeen, in Scotland; came over in 1662 at about 18 years of age. He was ordained in 1664, and married Susanna (19), daughter of Deacon Samuel Edson (17). It is said his first sermon was delivered from a rock in Mill Pasture, so-called, near the river. He had:

James, born Dec. 5, 1669.

JOSEPH, born Feb. 14, 1675.

Samuel, born 1677.

Timothy, born 1683.

John, born 1688.

Josiah.

Margaret.

Mary; married Ephraim Howard.

Susanna; married Maj. Jonathan Howard.

His house, built in 1662, is still standing on River Street, West Bridgewater, and his grave can be seen in the old graveyard in the same town.

His wife died Oct. 16, 1705, aged 65. He married a second wife, Mary, widow of Thomas Williams, of Taunton, in 1707, and he died July 23, 1710, aged 76.

(21) Joseph Keith, son of the above, married Elizabeth (26), daughter of Deacon Edward Fobes. He was executor of his father's will and had his homestead, and was Representative in 1726. He had:

(22) ANNA, born 1695; married Capt. *Ebenezer Alden* (3), 1717.

Susanna, born 1697; married Jonathan Cary, 1717.

Joseph, born 1699.

Jemima, born 1701; married Deacon James Packard, 1722.

Snow shoe, John Alden
1620



SNOW SHOE given to John Alden by the Indians

HALBERD found in cellar of Alden House, now in Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth, Mass.

FOUNDED AT PLYMOUTH, MASS., 1842

Eleazar, born 1703; married Keziah Kingman,
1726.
Abigail, born 1705; married Robert Howard,
1725.
Ephraim, born 1707.
Ichabod, born 1709.
Martha, born 1711; married Constant South-
worth, 1734.
Mary, born 1713; married Jonathan Kingman,
1732.
Elizabeth, born 1715; married Samuel Lathrop,
1731.

FOBES.

(23) John Fobes (from Duxbury) was one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater, where he died in 1661. He married Constant (24), a sister of Experience Mitchell. They had:

John; died at George Allen's at Sandwich, in
1661.

(25) EDWARD.

Caleb; went to Norwich.
William; married Elizabeth Southworth in 1667.
Joshua.
Elizabeth.

(25) Edward Fobes, son of the above, married Elizabeth (30), daughter of John Howard (29). He died in 1732. They had:

(26) ELIZABETH, born 1677; married *Joseph Keith* (21).

John, born 1679; married Abigail Robinson,
1704.

Mary, born 1681; never married.

Bethiah, born 1683; married Samuel Keith,
1703.

Hannah, born 1686; married Timothy Keith,
1710.

Ephriam, born 1688.

Joshua, born 1689.

Benjamin, born 1692.

William, born 1698.

HAYWARD.

(27) Thomas Hayward came from England in the same vessel with John Ames and settled in Duxbury before 1638. He was made a freeman in 1646. He was an original proprietor and among the earliest and eldest of the settlers of Bridgewater. He died in 1681. His will is dated 1678. No wife living. He had:

Thomas; married Sarah ——.

Nathaniel; married Hannah Willis.

John; married Sarah, daughter of Experience Mitchell.

(38) JOSEPH; married Alice Brett; third wife, Hannah Mitchell.

Elisha.

Mary; married Edward Mitchell.

(28) Martha; married John Howard.

HOWARD

(29) John Howard, with his brother James, came from England and settled in Duxbury. He was among those able to bear arms in 1613. He was young when he came over and, it is said, lived in the family of Capt. Miles Standish. He was a man of much influence in the new plantation, and one of the first military officers in Bridgewater. He took the oath of fidelity here in 1657. His descendants still own and live on the place where he first settled. He died about 1700. He married Martha (28), daughter of Thomas Hayward. He had:

John; married Sarah Lathan.

Nathaniel; married Sarah Dean.

Sarah; married Zaccheus Packard.

Ephraim; married Mary, daughter of James Keith.

James; married Elizabeth Washburn.

(30) ELIZABETH; married *Edward Fobes* (25).

Bethiah; married Henry Kinkman. 7

BYRAM.

The line by which descendants of Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers are descended from Nicholas Byram is as follows:

Nicholas Byram, married Susanna Shaw, their son
Nicholas Byram, Jr., married Mary Edson, their son
Ebenezer Byram, married Hannah Hayward, their son
Ebenezer Byram, Jr., married Abigail, their daughter
Mary Byram, married Silas Ayers.

NICHOLAS BYRAM. 31

Nicholas Byram, according to family tradition, was the son of an English gentleman of some prominence, William H. Byram and his wife, Mary, of the County of Kent, who removed to Ireland about the time this son was born in 1610. His father sent him at the age of sixteen to visit his friends in England in charge of a man who betrayed his trust, robbed him of his money, and took him to the West Indies, supposed to have been Barbadoes, where he was sold to service to pay his passage, and after his term expired he made his way to New England in 1633 or '34, and settled at Weymouth. He married Susanne (36), daughter of Abraham Shaw (35), of Dedham, about 1635. In 1660 he bought three proprietary or original purchase rights in Bridgewater, viz.: Moses Simmons, Phillip Delanos, and George Soules, and settled there soon after. He died in 1688. His wife died April 13, 1688-9. Their children, all born at Weymouth, were as follows:

(32) Nicholas, Jr.; married Mary, daughter of Samuel Edson, January, 1676. He was born about 1640.

Abigail, born 1636 or 1637; married Thomas Whitman, 1656.

Deliverance; married Rev. John Porter, 1660.

Experience; married John Willis.

Susanne; married Samuel Edson, about 1677.

Mary; married Samuel Leach.

CAPT. NICHOLAS BYRAM, JR. 32

Capt. Nicholas Byram, Jr., born at Plymouth about 1640; married Mary (37), daughter of Samuel Edson (17), 1676. He and his wife were the eldest and the first named members of the church first instituted in East Bridgewater in 1724. Both died in September, 1727. Capt. Nicholas Byram (2) was said to have been a sea captain and one of the first settlers of Bridgewater. He is said to have been a brave and fearless man and a great Indian fighter, taking an active part in the Indian War, known as King Phillip's War, 1675. Probably died at Bridgewater. Their children were:

Bethiah, born Oct. 27, 1678; died Nov. 20, 1685.
Margaret., Feb. 26, 1680; died Nov. 20, 1685.
Mehitable, born Sept. 28, 1683; married Elisha Allen, Dec. 3, 1701.

A son, born 1685; died March 19, 1686.

Nicholas, born March 11, 1687; married Ann, daughter of Thomas Snell, March 3, 1708.

Mary, born March 10, 1690; married Major Edward Howard, Feb. 7, 1711.

(33) EBENEZER, born Oct. 1, 1692; married Hannah, daughter of Joseph Maynard, Dec. 9, 1714; died Aug. 9, 1753.

Susanne, born Jan. 15, 1695; married Capt. Jonathan Bass, Oct. 18, 1717.

Josiah, born May 3, 1698; married Hannah Richard, of Plymouth, 1720.

Joseph, born Jan. 18, 1705; married Martha, daughter of David Perkins, 1724.

CAPT. EBENEZER BYRAM. 33

Capt. Ebenezer Byram, son of Nicholas (32), born at Bridgewater, Oct. 1, 1692; married Hannah (39), daughter of Joseph Hayward (38), Dec. 9, 1714. Rev. George Whitfield held services in Byram's barn, being denied the use of the Bridgewater Church. This produced much opposition and probably had something to do with Byram's removal on June 18, 1744, to Rocksiticus, in Morris County, N. J., a new section of the country, afterward called Mendham. He there became Major of the militia and Judge of the County Court. He died at Mendham, N. J., Aug. 9, 1753, aged sixty-one. He was known as Capt. Byram, and was a staunch Presbyterian and a firm supporter of the Colonial Government and of Civil and Moral Law. Hannah Hayward (39), his wife, was born in 1691; died at Mendham, N. J., Jan. 11, 1761. Their children were:

(34) EBENEZER, born 1716; married Abigail, daughter of Capt. Ebenezer Alden, Nov. 22, 1738.

Eliab, born 1718; married Phebe, daughter of Ephraim Leonard, 1741; second, Sarah Leonard, Oct. 23, 1749.

Jophet, born 1720; married Sarah, daughter of Joseph Allen, 1742; had two other wives.

Naphthali, born 1724; married Hannah Pratt, Sept. 24, 1741; died at Mendham in 1747-8.

Hannah, born 1725; married Elisha Baldwin.

Mary, born 1728; married Aaron Thompson, afterward Benjamin Pitney.

Abigail, born 1730; married Daniel Thompson, afterward Benjamin Pitney.

Jephthah, born 1732; married Susanne, daughter of Eleazar Washburn, Feb. 19, 1761.

The village of Mendham is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Morristown. Among the early settlers in the vicinity were the Byram, Cary, Thompson, and Drake families. The gravestone of the

elder Ebenezer Byram, which is now standing in the graveyard, records his death Aug. 9, 1753, aged 61. When he came, the locality bore the Indian name Rocksiticus. The name of a Tavern which he established was "The Black Horse" from its sign. Tradition asserts that the neighborhood was rendered famous by the pranks of a wild crew of fellows who lived there. Mr. Byram having been told the nature of the society he had settled in, replied, "I'll mend 'em," an assertion he carried out literally; hence the name Mendham.

Historical Collections of New Jersey, by Barber and Howe, page 382.

EBENEZER BYRAM, JR. 34

Ebenezer Byram, Jr., son of Capt. Ebenezer Byram (33), was born at Bridgewater, Mass., 1716; died at Mendham, Morris County, N. J., Sept. 14, 1762. He married Abigail Alden (5), daughter of Capt. Ebenezer Alden, and a great-great-grand-daughter of John Alden and Priscilla, at Bridgewater, Mass., Nov. 22, 1738. She was born in 1721 and died in Mendham, Oct. 19, 1762. They moved with his father and other relatives to a new section of Morris County, about eight miles west of Morristown, in 1744. He was much esteemed as a magistrate, a Judge of the Quarter Sessions, Major of the militia, a chief settler, and supporter of the Gospel. They had ten children:

HULDAH, born 1739; died in infancy.

HULDAH, born Nov. 8, 1740; died Feb. 11, 1826, in Mendham, N. J. Married first, Col. Ebenezer Condict, March 16, 1762. He was born 1736 and died from exposure while serving his country, April 2, 1777. Married second, George Phillips, April 18, 1782. He died July, 1784.

- EDWARD, born June 11, 1742; died 1800; married Phebe Coe in New Jersey; moved to Westmoreland County, Pa.; was taken prisoner by the Indians April 7, 1779, with his daughter "Abby." They were not released until the Spring of 1781.
- Ebenezer, born 1744; died —; married Lydia Guerin; no record; moved to Tennessee in 1775.
- Abigail, born Jan. 19, 1745; died Jan. 5, 1823. Married Silas Condict as his second wife in 176-. He died Sept. 6, 1801.
- Naphtale, born March 13, 1749; died June 24, 1812. Married Amy Hedges about 1779-80. She was born Oct. 28, 1746; died May 28, 1828. Both are buried at Morristown, N. J.
- Anna, born Jan. 12, 1751; died July 8, 1826. Married, first, Peter Condict (brother of Ebenezer and Silas). He was born April 3, 1744; died July 14, 1774. She then married Daniel Tichenor, May 6, 1776.
- Joseph, born Aug. 22, 1753; died April 27, 1829. Married Esther Douglass, March 21, 1776. She was born Oct. 1, 1756, and died March 28, 1844.
- (6) MARY, born May 4, 1755; died Oct. 30, 1819. Silas Ayers, Dec. 23, 1771. He was born Dec. 29, 1749; died Dec. 29, 1826.
- Phebe, born 1757-8; died Aug. 22, 1795. Married Edward Mills, May 17, 1778.
- Alden, born Feb. 25, 1757; died young.
- Alden, born Feb. 3, 1761; no record.

Families allied with Byrams.

SHAW.

(35) Abraham Shaw (of Dedham) made free in 1637. His will in Boston records without date; inventory taken in 1638 by Wm. Allen and others; Nicholas Byram and Joseph Shaw, witnesses. His sons were Joseph and John, his daughters, Susanna, Mary, and Martha; John and Martha being infants. There is no wife named, probably dead. The sons had the estate at Dedham, the rest divided among *all* his children. Joseph Shaw and his brother-in-law, Nicholas Byram, granted to Robert Mason all their houses and grounds in Dedham in 1639, and removed to Weymouth.

HAYWARD.

(38) Deacon Joseph Hayward, son of Thomas Hayward (27), married first Alice, daughter of Elder W. Brett, and had Joseph, 1673. He had three wives, and had a daughter Alice, 1683. His third wife was Hannah, daughter of Experience Mitchell, by whom he had:

Mary, born 1685; married Thomas Ames, 1706.

Thomas, born 1687.

Edward, born 1689.

(39) Hannah, born 1691; married Capt. *Ebenezer Byram* (33), 1714.

Susanna, born 1695; married Jonathan Packard, 1719.

Peter, born 1699.

Abigail, born 1702; married Zechariah Snell, 1731.

COOK.

(40) Francis Cook was one of the Leyden congregation, and came in the Mayflower with his son John. He was one of the 41 men to sign the Compact and took an active part in the affairs of the Colony. Goodwin in his "Pilgrim Republic"

says that Francis Cook's wife, Hester, was a "Wallcon," which was a name given the French Huguenots who were sheltered by the Dutch, and given a home on the river "Waal." Hester Cook came over in the ship Ann in July, 1623, with her children, Jacob, Jane, and Hester. Another daughter, Mary, was born later in Plymouth. Goodwin says: "Francis Cook had expended a considerable estate in promoting the Colony. He died in 1663, aged about 81, at which time he had for years been a great grandfather. Hester, his French Wallon wife, survived him. His son John, a boy of the Mayflower, was living in 1694, and was the last surviving male passenger of the Mayflower. Francis Cook's house was one of the first twelve built in Plymouth, and was located between the houses of Allerton and Winslow. The first lot in the Cattle division of 1627, fell to Francis Cook and his company, which was composed of his family, Moses Simonson, Philip Delanoy, Experience Mitchell, John Faunce, Joshua Pratt, and Phineas Pratt. Francis Cook's daughter Jane (41) married Experience Mitchell (42).

MITCHELL.

(42) Experience Mitchell was one of the "Forefathers" (a name usually applied to those who came in the first three ships). He came over in the third ship, the Ann, in 1623. He sold his place in Plymouth to Samuel Eddy in 1631, and removed to Duxbury, where he purchased Wm. Paybody's house and farm in 1650. He was an original proprietor of Bridgewater, but sold his share or property right to Thomas Hayward. He came to Bridgewater late in life with his son Edward. He died in 1689, aged 80. His will is dated 1684. He was at Leyden with the Pilgrims and left a brother Thomas, who lived and died in Holland. He had a share in the first division of lots in Plymouth in 1623 and of

live stock in 1627. He married Jane, daughter of Francis Cook, for his first wife. The wife of his old age was named Mary, but her family name is not known. He had a sister Constant, who married John Fobes. The names of his children as appears from his will, deed, and other written documents, were:

Thomas.

John; married Mary Bonney.

Jacob.

Edward; married Mary Hayward.

Elizabeth; married John Washburn, 1645.

Mary; married James Shaw, 1652.

Sarah; married John Hayward.

(43) Hannah; married *Joseph Hayward* (38).

AYERS.

The name in New England is generally spelled Ayer; in New Jersey, Ayers, and in Old England, Eyre. It is also Eares, Eyer, Eyres, Eires, Eiris, Ayres, and even Hayers. and one of the old New Jersey records has the name of Obadiah Ayers spelled "Obadiah Hoits," which is the Dutch for Ayers.

Origin of the Name.

In Thorpe's catalogue of the deeds of Battle Abbey is found the following:

"Ayres or Eyre—The first of this family was named Truelove, who was one of the followers of William the Conqueror. At the battle of Hastings, A. D. 1066. Duke William was thrown from his horse and his helmet beaten into his face, which Truelove observing, pulled off and horsed him again. The Duke told him, 'Thou shalt be from Truelove called Eyre (or air), because thou hast given me the air I breath.' After the battle the Duke on inquiry concerning him found him severely wounded (the leg and thigh having been struck off). He ordered him the utmost care, and on his recovery gave him lands in Derby in reward for his services, and the leg and thigh armor cut off for his crest, an honorary badge yet worn by all the Eyres in England."

In Vol. 10, first series of Notes and Queries, is the following, taken from Rhodes, Peak Scenery, page 244:

"The Eyres are one of the oldest families in Derbyshire,

where they have continued to reside more than seven hundred years, as appears from the following curious extract from an old pedigree which is preserved at Hassop" (here follows the preceding matter in regard to changing the name), and he then adds, "The seat he lived at he called Hope, because he had hope in the greatest extremity."

The Coat of Arms of the family now at Rampton is, Arg. on a chev. sa. three-quarter foils, or crest: a leg in armour, coupé at the thigh and spur. Mr. Carman says: "I have the coats of arms of all the families in England and they vary but little from the above, and I am inclined to believe that the original Derby family now represented at Rampton is the one from which our Ayer is descended. From the comparison of coats of arms, and some tedious researches in the old country histories of England, I am convinced a family of Eyre of Wiltshire, England, is a branch of the Rampton family, and I give you Eyre of Wiltshire. The old Wiltshire family of Eyre enjoyed for several centuries the highest distinction within its native country, and was of consideration in the State, most of its Chiefs having seats in Parliament, and two of them learned in the law, upon the Bench, one a Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. A branch also emigrated to Ireland and attained the Peerage of that country.

Thomas Eyre, Esq., of New Sarum, lineally descended from Humphrey Le Hoyer of Bromham, Wiltshire, held lands in Wimborn, County of Dorset, in the 21st year of the reign of Elizabeth. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Rogers, Esq., of Poole, and had issue."

1. Robert, his heir, born 1559.
2. Giles, of Brickworth in Wiltshire, from whom came the extinct family of Lord Eyre of Ireland.

3. Christopher, born 1578, founder of Eyres Hospital at Sarum.
4. Thomas, born 1580; Mayor of Sarum in 1610.
5. William, born 1588; Barrister-at-Law.
6. JOHN, born 1587-90; moved to New England 1637.
7. Elizabeth; married G. Tooker.
8. Catherine; married Thomas Hooper.
9. Rebecca; married John Love.
10. Anne; married John Swan.

JOHN AYER I 1587-90—1657

John Ayer was the sixth child and the youngest son of Thomas Eyre, of Wiltshire, England, and his wife, Elizabeth Rogers, which Thomas was 5th in descent from Galpedus Le Heyer, in the time of Edward II.

Among the emigrants arriving in Massachusetts Bay Colony from England during the time that Charles I. ruled without a Parliament were large numbers from the vicinity of Ipswich and Haverhill, in Suffolk, Salisbury, in Wiltshire and Newbury. In establishing themselves in the new country they named the settlements after their English home towns. Thus Ipswich in Massachusetts was founded 1633, Newbury in 1635, Salisbury in 1639, and Haverhill in 1640. Conspicuous among these early settlers was John Ayer, who was born in Wiltshire, England, or possibly in Suffolk, between 1587 and 1590, and died at Haverhill, Mass., March 31, 1657, leaving a wife named Hannah (?) who died July 13, 1686, aged 88 years.

He is thought to have reached New England in 1637, and to have brought with him his wife and several children, and to have settled first at Salisbury, as he was living there in 1640. He moved to Ipswich prior to 1645 and in that year went to Haverhill, where he resided until his death, in 1657. His name generally appears in the Massachusetts records as Ayer, but is also frequently inscribed Eyres.

John Ayer built a house in Haverhill, which, together with its land, was valued in 1646 at 160 pounds, being the largest amount but one on the list of freemen in Haverhill in 1646. The plot faced the main highway on the north, its southern boundary being the Merrimac river. Since that time it has been continuously occupied by his descendants, the late Capt. John Ayer, its last owner having been of the sixth generation.

In 1645 John Ayer was among the 32 land owners in Haverhill, and on Feb. 13, 1647, he was fined for not attending the town meeting in season.

On June 7, 1652, he received eight acres as his portion of the second distribution of town lands. On March 12, 1657, 19 days before his death, he executed his will, which mentions six sons and three daughters, all living at Haverhill. The items of the inventory are here given to show the character of goods possessed by a well-to-do man of that time:

"A true inventory of ye goods and cattell of John Eyers, Sr., of Haverhill, lately deceased, as it was prized by us, Robert Clement and James Dennis, Sr., and Henry Palmer ye tenth of ye second month one thousand six hundred and fifty-seven,

Impremis—Fower oxen	25-00-00
fower cows, 2 steers an calf.....	20-00-00
twenty swine and fower pigs.....	18-00-00
one plough, 2 plough irons, one harrow	
one yoake and chayne and coil of rope..	04-00-00
two howes, two axes, two shovels and	
spade	01-00-00
two wedges, two betell rings, two sickels	
and scope, bo k hangers in chimneys, tongs	
and pot hooker, two pots, three kettles, one	
skilitt, and one fryry pan.....	03-03-00
in pewter	01-00-00
	<hr/>
	72-16-00

three flock beds and bed clothes	18-00-00
12 yds. cotton cloth, cotton wool, hemp and flax	04-00-00
two wheels, three chests and a cupboard . .	01-03-00
wooden stuff belonging to house	01-16-00
two muskets and all that belong to ye . . .	02-10-00
in hooks	15-00
in fresh meats	18-00
about fortie bushells of corne	07-00-00
his wearing apparill	08-00-00
about six or seven acres of grain in and upon the ground	09-00-00
the dwelling house and barns and lands broken and unbroken with all appur- tenances	120-00-00
forks, rakes and other small implements about the house and barne	01-00-00
in debt owing to him	01-00-00
between two or three bushells of salt and so mayls	00-00-00
	<hr/>
	248-05-00

The will was attested by Henry Palmer, the father of the wife of John's son Robert, and a fairly equitable division was made among the children of the real estate, which comprised two dwellings and a number of out-laying parcels of land. His wife was given the homestead during her life, and the major portion of his cattle and personal property.

The homestead at the death of the widow was to go to the testator's son, John, chargeable with certain cash payments to his brothers and sisters. In the above inventory no mention is made of a second house and house lot, which, by the will, was given to his son, Nathaniel, "When his apprenticeship is out

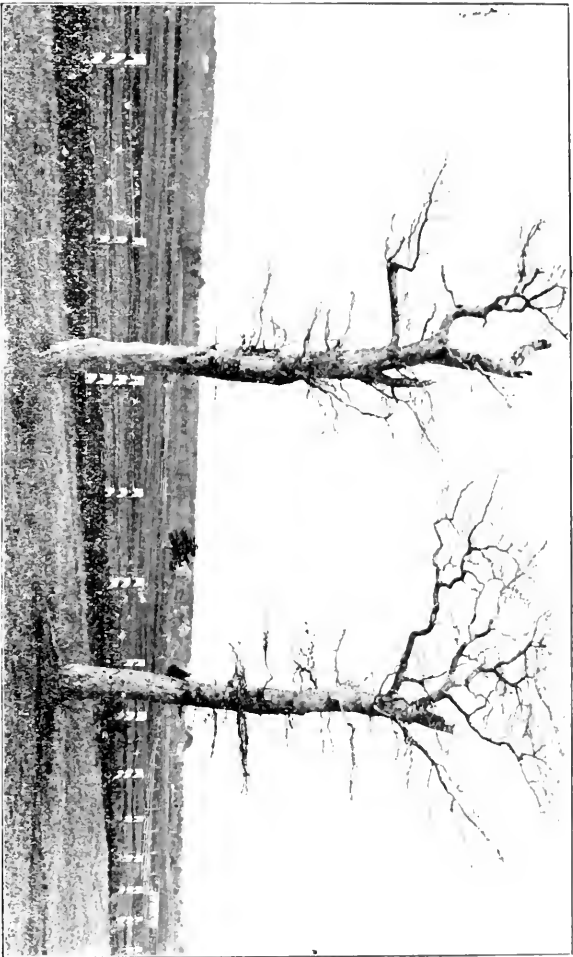
with his master French." During Hannah Ayer's widowhood she appears to have been active in affairs, purchased and sold lands, and previous to 1675 built a new house "on the commons."

His children were, John, Nathaniel, Hannah, Rebecca, Mary, Robert, Thomas, Obadiah and Peter.

OBADIAH AYERS 2 1635-6—1694

Obadiah Ayers, son of John I., was the founder of the Ayers family of New Jersey. He was the fifth son and is supposed to have been born in England in 1635-6 and to have lived with his father in Haverhill, Mass., where he married on March 19, 1661, Hannah Pike, daughter of John Pike, of Newbury. Mr. Mellick in his "Story of an old Farm" states on page 108, "John Pike, Daniel Pierce and seven associates from Newbury, Mass., entered into an agreement on Dec. 11, 1666, whereby on the 3rd day of December, 1667, they received from Gov. Carteret and some of the Elizabeth town associates a grant of land, embracing what is now the town of Woodbridge. They as the representatives, of at least, sixty families, on the first day of June, 1690, were granted a charter creating a township covering six square miles. The name of their new settlement was derived from their pastor, John Woodbridge, of Newbury. Among the persons who were allotted lands were John Pike, Daniel and Joshua Pierce, Obadiah Ayers, Henry Jaques, Thomas Bloomfield, Elisha Parker, Richard Worth, John Whitaker, Jonathan Dunham, Hugh Dun and Robert Van Quellen."

Obadiah Ayers sold his homestead in Haverhill to his brother, Nathaniel, May 5, 1669, and on the 8th of August, the same year received a grant of 171 acres of land embracing 120 acres of upland to the northward of Langston's plains or farms, 30 acres of marsh on the Raritan meadows, 5 acres of meadow



EAGLE TREES

Mentioned in Bradford's Journal, still standing on the Alden Farm

on the north side of the mouth of the Papié creek and a house lot of 16 acres, bounded on the south by the house lot of his brother-in-law, Richard Worth, on the west by the highway, and on the east by a "fresh brook running at the foot of Strabara Hill." This Strabara Hill is the place now owned by Hampton Centre in Woodbridge, and a small creek divides it from the former house lot of Obadiah Ayers. The certificate of survey of these lands recites that the several parcels were laid out "By virtue of the Governor's warrant, for Obadiah Heirs" in like manner his name is spelled on several legal documents, though generally he is mentioned as Ayers. He seems to have been a man of affairs, his name frequently appears as grantee and grantor in conveyances of land. In 1684 he was a member of the Grand Jury and in the same year the town authorities laid out for him an addition of 8 acres of upland at Shingle Hill.

In this survey his name is inscribed as "Obadiah Hayres."

On July 30, 1673, a Dutch Squadron with little or no opposition secured from the English the submission of New York and all its dependencies, including New Jersey. On Sept. 1, 1673, the inhabitants of Woodbridge submitted to the Dutch council of war at Fort William Hendrick the names of six leading citizens, from whom schepens or magistrates were to be selected as representatives of the new government. The three men chosen on Aug. 24 and sworn in on Sept. 1, 1673, were recorded as "Samuel Dennis, Obadiah Hoits and Stephen Kent." The name of "Hoits" was the Dutch rendering of Haires, which was the equally erroneous manner that the name Ayers was submitted to the Council. On Jan. 16, 1686, "Obadiah Hayers" was chosen constable.

His wife, who was Hannah Pike, was the daughter of John Pike, who removed with his family to New Jersey as stated above. John Pike was the son and second child of John Pike, who emigrated from Langford, England, and died in Salisbury.

Mass., in 1654. John Pike—2— married first Mary (?), by whom he had nine children, he married second Elizabeth Randolph, of Piscataway, N. J., in 1685, he died in 1689, and was the ancestor of Gen. Zebulon Pike of the Revolutionary War and of his son, Gen. Zebulon Pike who discovered and named that lofty peak of the Rocky Mountains.

Obadiah Ayers received on his father's rights, certain land in the fifth division of the common land at Haverhill, and his name is mentioned several times in the history of that town. His wife was born April 26, 1643, at Newbury, Mass., and died May 31, 1689, in Woodbridge N. J.

Obadiah Ayers died at Woodbridge Nov. 14 1694, his will is dated Nov. 10, 1694.

Children:

- ✓ John, born March 2, 1663, at Newbury, Mass.
- ✓ Sarah, born March 5, 1665 at Newbury Mass.; died in infancy.
- Son born Nov. 1, 1666, at Newbury, Mass.; died in infancy.
- Samuel, born Sept. 13, 1667, at Newbury, Mass.; died in infancy.
- ✗ Obadiah, born October, 1670, at Woodbridge, N. J.
- Joseph, born April 4, 1674, at Woodbridge, N. J.
- Thomas, born Dec. 17, 1675, at Woodbridge, N. J.
- Mary, born Feb. 16, 1680, at Woodbridge, N. J.; married Wm. Hsley.
- Hannah, born Sept. 7, 1683, at Woodbridge, N. J.
- Sarah, born Sept. 7, 1685, at Woodbridge, N. J.

JOHN AYERS 3 1663—1732

John Ayers (3), son of Obadiah (2), John (1), was born at Newbury, Mass., March 2, 1663. He married Feb. 24, 1689-90, Mary Walker.

He received by his father's will 60 acres of farm land at Woodbridge, N. J., together with his right of commonage, and ten acres of land the father had bought of John Clement. On Feb. 28th, 1708, John Ayers was admitted to membership in the Presbyterian Church at Woodbridge, under the pastorate of Nathaniel Wade, his wife becoming a member on Dec. 26th of the same year. In 1717 he purchased land in Somerset County, N. J., and within three years he removed to and permanently settled at Basking Ridge in Bernards township in that County, where he was undoubtedly among the very early settlers. He was accompanied by all of his children, except his son Thomas, who had married and remained at Woodbridge. John Ayers and his sons became active and leading men in that vicinity, especially in affairs connected with the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church.

In 1731 he conveyed to seven trustees of that congregation, one of whom was his son Obadiah, one and one-half acres of land, in the center of which, surrounded by a grove of trees, stood a log meeting house. This primitive structure was superseded in 1747 by a frame edifice that remained for 90 years. For 120 years John Ayers' descendants were identified with the interests of the congregation, as late as 1818 four families being members of it. Rev. John C. Rankin, in an historical address, delivered Aug. 11, 1872, in speaking of John Ayers and his posterity, says:

“Now the very name has passed away from us; though many of the descendants are doing good in other places. We

owe them a debt of gratitude which should never be forgotten."

John Ayers died without a will, letters of administration having been granted to Andrew Woodman, Nov. 30, 1732, "on estate of John Eyers." The Basking Ridge descendants seem generally to have adopted the spelling of the name Ayers or Ayres.

John Ayers died Oct. 4th, 1732, and his wife Oct. 24th, 1739.

A tombstone which is back of and partly under the Presbyterian Church at Basking Ridge has this inscription:

"Here lies ye body of John Ayers, Esq., who departed this life Oct. ye 4th, 1732, in ye 60th year of his age."

"Both Church and State have suffered loss,
Dear friend, by thy decease,
(evidently a line is lost here)
To thee but endless peace,
Above the skies our friend is fled
Where peace forever reigns,
Though for a while among the dead,
His sleeping dust remains."

Near this stone is one inscribed to Mary, his wife, who died Oct. 24th, 1739, in the 76th year of her age.

Their children were:

- † John, born April 1, 1691.
- † Thomas, born Jan. 21, 1693.
- Obadiah, born 1695.
- Patience, born April 22, 1697.
- Francis, born March 15, 1698.
- Nathaniel, born March 4, 1700.
- Benjamin, born June 19, 1703.
- ~ Moses, born Jan. 3, 1706.
- Aron, born July 14, 1708.

JOHN AYERS 4 1691—1759

John Ayers (4) (John, 3, Obadiah, 2, John, 1), was born at Woodbridge, N. J., April 1, 1691. He was married Jan. 17, 1716-17, to Mary Creshon.

On Oct. 3, 1710, he was admitted to membership in the Second Presbyterian Church, of Woodbridge, located at Metuchen. He removed to Somerset Co., with his father in 1737, and leased from Jas. Alexander, the father of Lord Sterling and John Bird, land at Basking Ridge, with privilege of buying.

John Ayers (4) died at Basking Ridge Oct. 4, 1759—wife died Oct. 24, 1759.

In 1755 he appears to have been a trustee of the Basking Ridge congregation, as in that year Jas. Alexander conveyed lands to him in trust for the Presbyterian Church.

Their children were:

John, born at Basking Ridge, June 4, 1719.

Silas, born at Basking Ridge, 1724; died Sept. 29, 1748.

JOHN AYERS 5 1719—1777

John Ayers (5) (John, 4, John, 3, Obadiah, 2, John, 1), was born at Basking Ridge, N. J. June 4, 1719; he married first Joanna ———, by whom he had the following children:

Enos.

Isaac born 1743; died June 7, 1794.

Mary, born Sept. 21, 1744; married Fred King Nov. 23, 1762; he was the first postmaster of Morris Plains; they had five children; he died April 4, 1796; she died Sept. 28, 1825.

Hannah, born 1746; married Dec. 26, 1771, Epenetus Beach; she died April 14, 1777, of smallpox, also two of her children.

Sarah; married Silas Stiles, Dec. 1, 1768; had two sons.

Silas, born Dec. 29, 1749. See Silas Ayers (6).

The second wife of John Ayers was Sarah Bailey or Bailies, whom he married Jan. 17, 1754, and by whom he had the following children:

Phebe, born 1754; married John Conliff Aug. 10, 1775.

Elizabeth, born 1760; married Rev. Alex. Miller April 25, 1786.

Anne, born 1762; married Jabez Beach July 10, 1774.

Elisha, born 1764; married Hannah Dennis and died Sept. 22, 1798.

John Ayers' name is frequently mentioned in the History of the First Presbyterian Church, of Morristown, N. J., and the records show him to have been a ruling Elder in 1769, and among the subscriptions taken Jan. 5, 1769, for the aid of Princeton College his name appears as contributing nine pounds, which was a large sum for those times.

His name is recorded in the Military records of New Jersey as a Private Minute Man in the Morris County Militia, also Private in the New Jersey State Troops. He died at Morris Plains April 29, 1777, of smallpox, which was very fatal at this time and carried off large numbers of Washington's army, which was encamped at Morristown that winter.

His will, made April 14, 1777, is recorded May 3, 1777, in Trenton Lib. 18 fol. 317



MARY BYRAM AYERS

1755 — 1819

SILAS AYERS 6 1749—1826

Silas Ayers (6) (John, 5, John, 4, John, 3, Obadiah, 2, John, 1), was born at Morris Plains N. J., Dec. 29, 1749. He was married Dec. 23, 1771, to Mary Byram, who was a daughter of Ebenezer Byram, Jr., and his wife, who was Abigail Alden, a great-granddaughter of John Alden and Priscilla, of the Mayflower. Mary Byram Ayers was born May 4, 1755, and died Oct. 30, 1819. They lived at Morris Plains, which is about two miles from Morristown. They were both members of the First Pre-byterian Church of Morristown, and the published records of the church give the date of their marriage admission to membership and the births and date of baptism of their thirteen children. The Military records in the Adjutant General's office of New Jersey show that Silas Ayers served as a Private Minute Man in the Morris County, New Jersey, Militia during the Revolutionary War. He died at Morris Plains, on his birthday, Dec. 29, 1826. Their children were:

- I. ABIGAIL, born Nov. 28, 1772; died, unmarried, Feb. 18, 1812.
- II. EBENEZER BYRAM, born May 11, 1774; married Abigail Byram Nov. 3, 1797. They lived near Morristown, N. J., until 1800, when they moved to Newburg, N. Y., from which place they removed in 1814 to New Lexington, Perry County, Ohio. His wife died here Aug. 23, 1830. Later he married Janett McKeney, who survived him and died at the age of 84 years. He died March 20, 1853. His children were:

1. Phebe, born Dec. 10, 1798; died Sept. 1, 1799.
2. Amy, born Feb. 28, 1800; died —.

3. Mary, born Oct. 22, 1801; married John Cummins.
4. James Corey, born Sept. 19, 1803; died Sept. 26, 1804.
5. Phebe, born Dec. 13, 1804; died, unmarried, Dec. 22, 1888.
6. Amy Hedges, born Dec. 6, 1806; married Jacob Reeder Westerfield, of Eaton, Ohio; removed later to Knoxville, Ill. Both died August, 1852.
7. Huldah Ann, born Feb. 3, 1810; married John D. Miller of Eaton, Ohio, where she died Aug. 6, 1860. He married for his second wife Mrs. Susan D. Cook, who died in 1883. He died in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 23, 1884.
8. James, born Oct. 26, 1811; married Mary Utz.
9. Abby, born May 10, 1814; died June 10, 1814.

III. SARAH, born Nov. 28, 1776; died, unmarried, Jan. 8, 1847.

IV. MARY KING, born March 2, 1779; married John Day, of Morristown, N. J., Jan. 12, 1799. After 1813 they removed to New Albany, Ind. John Day was born Jan. 15, 1775; died Oct. 9, 1837. His wife died Dec. 29, 1852. Their children were:

1. Elizabeth, born Oct. 12, 1799; married Sept. 20, 1819, Lewis Fairchild.
2. Lavina, born July 9, 1802; married Nicholas Allen, May 26, 1820.
3. Joanna Kitchell, born May 6, 1804; baptized Oct. 21, 1804; married Henry B. Shields, June 2, 1825.

4. Mary Byram, born April 28, 1806; died Nov. 3.
5. Mary Byram, born Aug. 2, 1807; married Aug. 18, 1820, Rev. Seth Otwell, of Carlinville, Ill.
6. Jane, born June 2, 1809; died Aug. 12, 1834.
7. Ezekiel Reeves, born Aug. 23, 1811; died March 14, 1900; married first Margaret Bullen; second, Lucinda Myreck; third, Elizabeth Carney, who died April 4, 1903.
8. Silas Condict, born July 29, 1813; married Harriet Newell McClung, Oct. 5, 1837. He died Feb. 17, 1886. His widow is still living (1905) in New Albany, Ind.
9. Abby Ayers, born July 9, 1815; died at New Albany, Ind., Jan. 18, 1896. Married Oct. 5, 1835, to Ferdinand Graham.
10. Amzi Ayers, born Oct. 9, 1820; married Cornelia E. Alexander Nov. 5, 1846. She died Oct. 30, 1866. He died Dec. 27, 1890.

V. HANNAH, born May 12, 1781; married Jan. 3, 1801, to Isaac Pierson, of Morris Plains, N. J. Removed to New Lexington, Ohio, about 1814. She died there in March, 1834. Their children were: Byram, Rebecca, Mary, Timothy, Sarah, Jane, Phebe, Ann, Silas.

VI. HULDAH, born July 17, 1783; died Nov. 15, 1783.

- VII. HULDAH, born Sept. 1, 1784; married John Ayers, Feb. 26, 1820. She died at Flanders, N. J., Aug. 10, 1868. He died May 5, 1867. They had no children.
- VIII. SILAS CONDIOT born Feb. 12, 1787; married Zilpah Laycock, July, 1811. He died Oct. 6, 1842.
- IX. JOHN BYRAM, born March 27, 1789; died at Defiance, O., Oct. 18, 1859. Married Jane Prudden August, 1812; removed from Morristown, N. J., to Ohio in 1817, and some years later went to Texas, where his wife died in 1845. They had the following children:
- Joseph Prudden, born 1813; married (1) Margaret Stiles, (2) Mary Jane Myers. He died 1892.
 - Esther Ann, born April 29, 1815.
 - Alfred A., born 1819; married Clara Porter Jan. 21, 1857.
 - Sarah Louisa; married Pfifer; left no children.
 - Huldah; married Ayers; died about 1870; no children.
 - Silas.
 - Joana.
- X. ELIAS, born March 17, 1791; in early manhood he went to Louisville, Ky., and was one of the early settlers of New Albany, Ind., where he met Miss Mary Ann Silliman, and was married to her July 27, 1819. They had eight children, all of whom died young. He died Jan. 5, 1842; his wife died June 4, 1878.

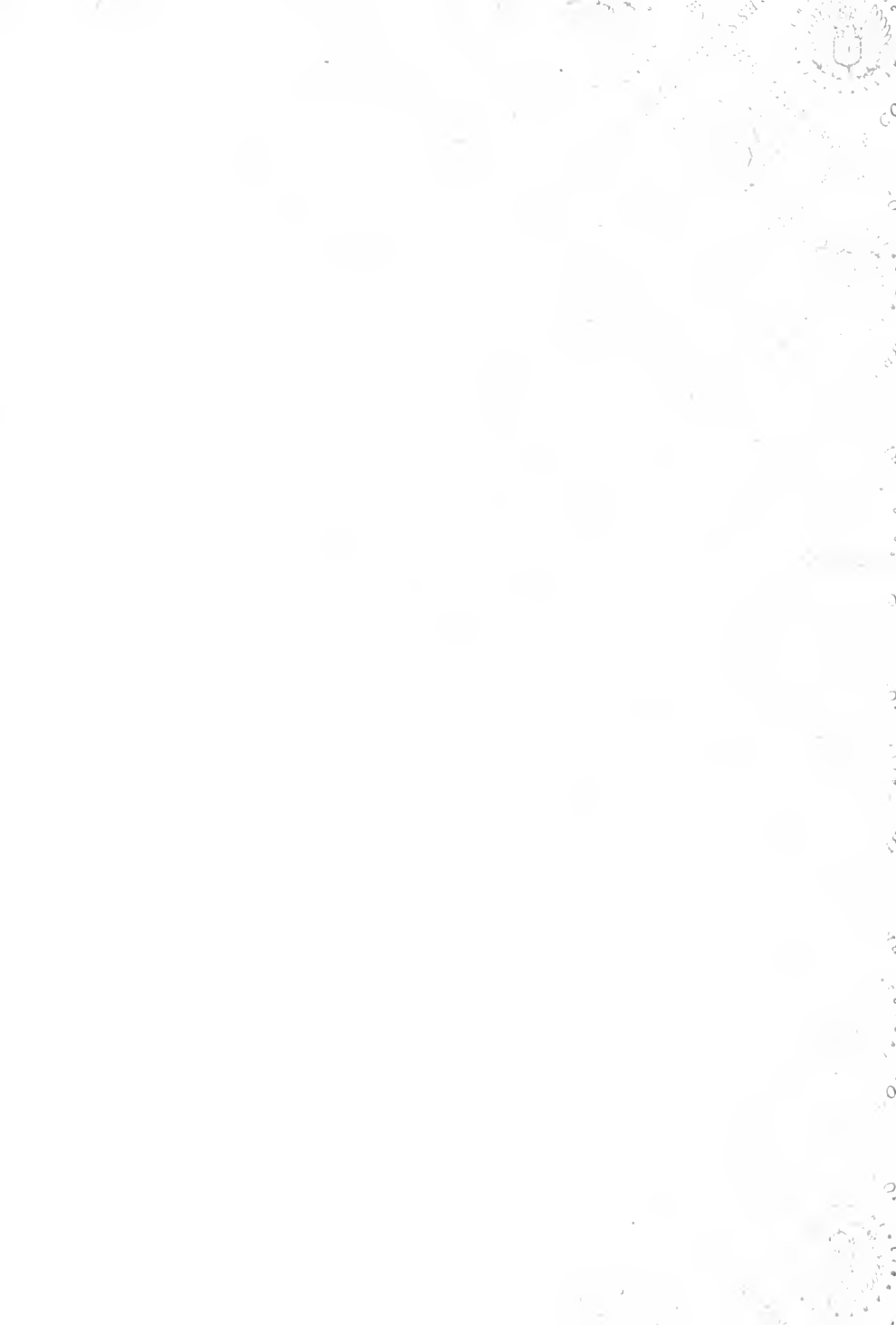
XI. DAVID, born Aug. 10, 1793; married Ann M. Smith Sept. 3, 1815. He removed with his family to Texas, in 1834, and died in Galveston in 1881. They had the following children:

1. George S., born July 7, 1817; died Nov. 25, 1818.
2. Mary Ann, born July 22, 1819; married L. P. Moore.
3. Eliza, born March 26, 1821; married Robt. Alexander Jan. 25, 1838. She died Aug. 30, 1878. He died April 27, 1882.
4. Sarah S., born Nov. 12, 1822; married Maj. Moses Park, Dec. 10, 1840. He died in Galveston in 1856. She died in Laredo, Tex., April 28, 1905. For 25 years she was secretary of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Texas Conference.
5. Caroline M. K. B., born Oct. 28, 1824; married Rufus Campbell.
6. Francis H., born Jan. 26, 1827; married Mrs. Hattie Watson, of Arkansas. They lived at Temple, Texas, where both died previous to 1900, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Annie D. Booker.
7. David Theodore, born July 21, 1828; married Mary E. Hall. Their home was in Galveston, Texas, where he died Oct. 21, 1897, and his wife on Jan. 19, 1901.
8. Crawford P., born July 14, 1844; died Aug. 22, 1844.

XII. PHOEBE, born June 18, 1796; died July 29, 1796.

XIII. LEWIS, born Oct. 6, 1798, at Morris Plains, N. J.; was married to Rebecca Osborn at Geneva, N. Y., Nov. 2, 1824. He removed with his family to Texas in 1834, and took an active part in the Texas War for Independence, being a member of the first Provisional Government and Assistant Quartermaster-General under Col. Fannin. He died in Mobile, Ala., Oct. 11, 1866. His wife died in Detroit, Mich. April 10, 1877. Their children were:

1. Charles Augustus, born Sept. 12, 1825; died June 12, 1826.
2. Mary Elizabeth, born Aug. 27, 1827; died Oct. 7, 1836.
3. Helen Louisa, born Nov. 12, 1829; died Jan. 8, 1896; unmarried.
4. Cornelia Maria, born Jan. 16, 1832; married Theo. P. Robison, May 10, 1853. He died Sept. 22, 1865. She is one of the two grand children of Silas Ayers and Mary Byram Ayers, now living (1905) in Detroit, Mich.
5. Charlotte Sophia, born Jan. 8, 1834; died Oct. 19, 1836.
6. Delia Caroline, born May 16, 1836; died Oct. 26, 1836.
7. Lewis Henry, born Dec. 24, 1837; married Mary I. Riker, Dec. 5, 1864. Both now living (1905) in Detroit, Mich.

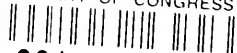


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