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THE BABCOCK FAMILY.





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# THE BABCOCK FAMILY.



He beareth Argent; three pale Cocks on a Fesse gules, between two Cottises gules. Crest, a Cock's head. Motto, *Deus Spes Mea* (God is my hope).

EXPLANATION.—*Argent*, white. *Fesse*, a broad band crossing the shield horizontally in the middle. *Cottise*, a narrow band parallel to and near the Fesse. *Gules*, red. The Crest is placed on the top of the shield. The arms might be thus expressed in common language: He beareth a white shield, with three pale cocks on a broad red band, crossing the shield horizontally, with a narrower red band on each side of it.

Mention is made of this Family in the earliest history of New England. Traditions and national records have handed down to us a knowledge of JAMES BABCOCK, the first founder in the United States (who changed his name from BABCOCK at the time of his



emigration). He was born in Essex, England, about the year 1580; was one of the Puritans; and in the year 1620, removed with his family to Leyden, in Holland, to emigrate with the Pilgrims to America. He embarked in the ship *Anne*, early in the year 1623, and arrived at Plymouth, Mass., in July, where he lived the residue of his lifetime, and died.

Historians have celebrated, and poets sung, the praises of the Pilgrims. "The Puritans were the most remarkable body of men, perhaps, which the world has ever produced. They were men whose minds had derived a peculiar character, from the daily contemplation of Superior Beings, and eternal interests. Not content with acknowledging, in general, an overruling Providence, they habitually ascribed every event to the will of the Great Being—for whose power nothing was too vast—for whose inspection nothing was too minute. To know him, to serve him, to enjoy him, was with them the great end of existence. These were the men to whom the world owes the preservation of Civil and Religious Liberty."

JAMES BABCOCK, at the time of his emigration, had four children: JAMES, JOHN, JOB, and MARY, who were born in England, from the year 1612 to 1620, and were brought over with their father. He was married again, in Plymouth, about 1650, and had one son—JOSEPH.

JAMES, the first child, JOB, the third, and MARY, the fourth, remained with their father in Plymouth, JOSEPH, the fifth, removed to Connecticut, near Saybrook, where he made settlement.

JOHN BABCOCK, the second son, removed, with a number of others, about the year 1648, into that part of



Rhode Island now called Westerly township, where the company began a settlement, and named the place. Here he remained the residue of his lifetime, and died July 19, 1719, aged over 100 years. He left ten children at the time of his death, whose descendants to the present time, amount to more than five thousand. He was the first Magistrate chosen in Westerly, and held the office many years. He owned nearly all of Westerly, and a part of South Kingston; and much of this land is now in the possession of his descendants, having been in the family almost two hundred years.

Nearly all the offices of the township within the gift of the people, were filled by members of this family, for many years.

JOSHUA BABCOCK (born May 17, 1707; died April 1, 1783) was not unknown to fame. His abilities and integrity as a statesman, in the discharge of several important offices of trust, the public records of his country testify, as do all who knew him. As a physician, he was eminent—in his profession as a Christian, exemplary and worthy of imitation.

Many of the descendants of the BABCOCK family, like their former progenitors, were among the earliest pioneers of the west. They were the first settlers of many towns in different parts of the western States, and have contributed their full share towards the conversion of "the wilderness and solitary places into fruitful fields." They also took an active part in the Revolutionary war of the country, and many of them laid down their lives on the battle field.

HENRY BABCOCK (born April 26, 1736) was a Colonel in the British service, before the war. He com-



manded a regiment in the French war, and was wounded at the battle of Ticonderoga. During the Revolutionary war, he was General of the State Troops of Rhode Island, and distinguished himself on many occasions.

OLIVER BABCOCK, another member of this family, was a Captain in the Revolutionary army. He was at the siege of Fort Washington, on the Hudson, and was so indignant at the surrender by the Colonel, that he broke his sword across a cannon, declaring that it should never be yielded to the British.

ALBERT WELLS.

For the above (with the exception of the figure of the arms, and the explanation, which were added by a friend), I am indebted to Mr. Albert Wells, of Palmyra, N. Y., whose mother's maiden name was Babcock. The industrious research of this gentleman has enabled him to compile a large amount of information relative to the early history of our family, and he has kindly permitted me to copy the above from a sheet printed by *himself*, for his own gratification and amusement. Members of the family having any information to impart respecting the subject matter of the above, will confer an obligation on Mr. Wells by addressing him at Palmyra,—and we may add, that he will cheerfully give any information in his power to those who may require it.

S. BABCOCK.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., 1811.









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