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CLEMENT TOPLIFF
AND HIS DESCENDANTS



CLEMENT TOPLIFF

AND

HIS DESCENDANTS IN BOSTON

BY

ETHEL STANWOOD BOLTON

BOSTON

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TO
MARY MINDWELL TOPLIFF

CLEMENT TOPLIFF
AND HIS DESCENDANTS

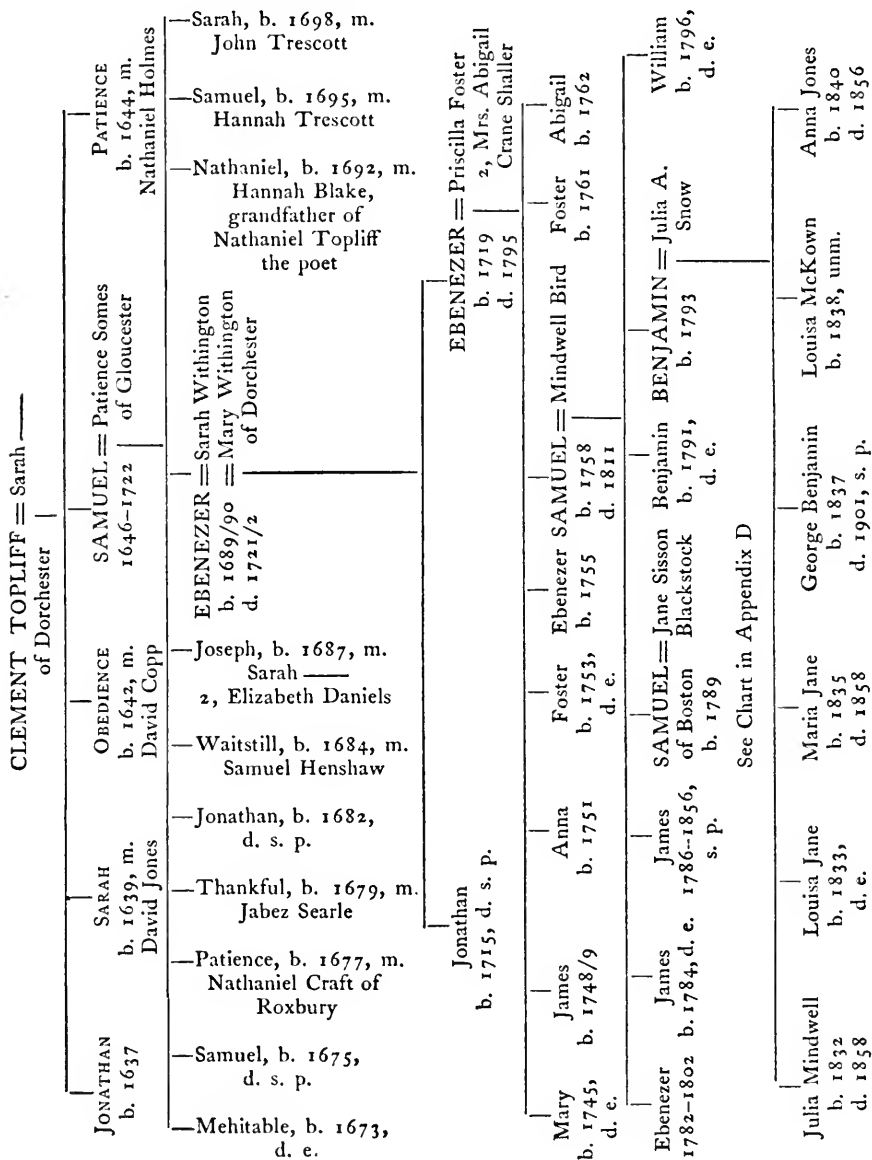
CLEMENT TOPLIFF AND HIS DESCENDANTS

SOME time between 1635 and 1637, probably in the "Second Emigration" with Richard Mather, Clement Topliff came to Dorchester, bringing with him his wife Sarah. It is said that nine-tenths of the emigrants of these years came from Essex, Suffolk, and the near-by counties in England. There are Topliffs to be found in Ipswich, Essex County, although there has been no proof found so far that Clement was one of that family. One other clue, and perhaps two, exist, which may some time lead to tangible results. Clement in his will makes his "Cozen Peleg Heath" one of the overseers. This nephew of his, Peleg Heath, was the son of William Heath of Dorchester, who came from Nazeing, County Essex, England, and previously from Widford, Hertfordshire. The Eliots also came from Widford and Nazeing to Dorchester. William Heath had been twice married, and Peleg was the son of his second wife Mary. The relationship is susceptible of three explanations: Clement Topliff married a sister of William Heath or a sister of Mary Heath, or William Heath married a sister of Clement Topliff. This implies that in all probability Clement Topliff or his wife came from this part of Essex, especially when taken in conjunction with the fact that the name "Topliff" was to be found in Ipswich at the time.

The second clue has come through a query in the "Transcript," as to why Sarah Topliff was buried out in Dorchester in the lot that belonged to Thomas Trott, and not with her husband, Clement, who was buried near by. The querist wishes to know if Sarah was a sister of Thomas Trott. The records seem to be silent on the matter, as little is known of Thomas Trott and his family.

Clement Topliff was born on November 17, 1603, and his wife during the year 1605, so that they were no longer a very young couple when they came to Dorchester. If they were married and had children before they emigrated, these had either died or been left behind, for no record appears in this country of any older than Jonathan, born in Dorchester in April, 1637. On March 18, 1637, land on the Neck was laid out to the "p'sent inhabitants of the Towne of Dorchester" in a

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proportion which had been agreed upon on May 9, 1636. According to this agreement, "every hoame lott that hath a dwelling house thereon or inhabitant incumbant in the 'Towne ; he or it shall haue one acre to the sayd lott, and other hoame lotts halfe an acre ; then the remayner to belong to the same planters by this rule. Three fifts to mens estates owne p'p' as usual they have burden ; and 2 fifts to p'sons equally thus Counted. All men with their wiues and Children in the Plantation vnder their p'sent gouerment in famalyes to be Counted ; Provided allowance be made where house and lotts are intire allbeit for p'sent they haue no p'sons incumbant according to the p'portion of such as Lately did inhabit them."¹ In accordance with this rule "2 akers, 1 quarter and 4 rodes" were set off to "Good : Topley," and the same amount in the "Rest of the Division of other land," that is land neither on the "Neck" nor in the "Cowes Pasture." Clement Topliff's "hoame lott" was near what is now Columbia Road in Dorchester. The new street which was laid out through the old farm is called "Topliff" after the first settler.

Clement Topliff's public life in the town was that of a man of good standing with his neighbors, but of no great prominence. He was admitted to membership in the First Church on June 12, 1639, and the following year, on May 13th, he was made a freeman. For fourteen years he took no more part in town affairs than the ordinary citizen, and when in 1653 he was mentioned in the town books once more, it was merely to enter into an agreement with the selectmen for the care of the Cattle of the town. The agreement is interesting as a picture of one phase of farming in those early days, and shows how laboriously and with what care for detail the forefathers planned their lives. Perhaps all these customs, which seem strange and clumsy to us now, were the adaptation of old country ways to the conditions of land so lately cleared.

"Dorchester this 28 day of the i: mo: 53. It is covenanted and agreed by and betweene the Select men of the said towne for this p'sent yeare for and in behalfe of the said towne, And Clement Topley and Beniamyn Bates both of Dorchester That the said Clement and Beniamyn shall and will keepe the Cowes and heffers that shalbe comitted vnto them this p'sent yeare in the ordinary Cow pastuer or Cow walke after the vsual maner from the 15 day of the second moneth next insueing vntill the 28 day of the eight moneth following. The said keepers one of them to blow their horne at or before halfe an hower by sonne in the morneing at the meeting howse and so along

¹ Dorchester Town Records, p. 23.

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the town vntill he com to John Minots and eūy man on the north side of the towne to bring their cowes before the meeting howse within halfe an hower after the horne is their blowed.

“And that keeper there to take them at the same tyme, the other keeper at or about the same tyme to goe vp to the burying place and take the Cowes and such other cattell not p’hibited that ar their left for them aney wheare about the Commons betweene Augustin Clements lote which was M^r Makepeace and the said buring place so that both keepers may meete on the Rockey hill or at the gat by John Minots to goe forth with the whole heard and not to stay beyound their appointed tyme of going forth Vidēlt one hower and halfe after the sonne riseing. And bring those cowes that belong to the back side of the towne agayne to Lawrence Smith barne.

“And for their faithfullnesse and care herein The said Clement Topy and Beniamyn Bates — is to haue — thirty poundes to bee p’portioned with the Bull money vpon soe many Cattell as ar put to heard on goeing vpon the Coṃons or Cowe walke afore-said, one thurd there of to be paid them at or about the begining or first putting forth, on other thurd at halfe the tyme the remaynder at the End of the sayd tyme.

“CLEMENT	}	herdsmen
TOPLIF		
BENIEMAN		
BATES		

“ROBERT HOWARD in the name of the rest of the Select men.”¹

During the same year, 1653, the Town for various purposes disbursed “40^{lb} 14^s 11^d,” one item of which was “for making the fence by Goodman Toplens o 7 6.”¹

Mr. Topliff held but one other office in the town, that of fence viewer of the twenty acre lots in 1656, in company with Thomas Sweff. He was one of the signers of the Thompson’s Island agreement in 1641.

Clement Topliff died December 24, 1672, in Dorchester, and was buried in the old burying ground at the corner of the present Stoughton Street and Columbia Road. His widow Sarah died July 29, 1693, aged eighty-eight years. Their gravestones still stand in the Cemetery.

¹ Dorchester Records, pp. 61, 62, 69.

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“CLEMMENT TOPLIFF, | AGED 69 YEARS | DYED THE 24 DAY | OF DECEMBER 1672.”

“SARAH TOPLIFF | WIDDOW | AGED 88 YEARS | DIED Y^r 29 OF | JULY 1693.”¹

Clement and Sarah Toppliff had five children, two boys and three girls. The eldest son, Jonathan, died early, but the other son, Samuel, lived to grow up. Of the daughters, the oldest, Sarah, was born in May, 1639; she married David Jones, May 11, 1659. They had at least five children, four sons and a daughter, of whom the youngest bore the fervid name of Praise-ever. Mrs. Jones died October 13, 1683.

Obedience, the second daughter of Clement, was born in July, 1642, and married when she was seventeen David Copp, or Cope, of Boston. The ceremony was performed on February 20, 1659, by Major Humphrey Atherton, and is recorded both in Boston and Dorchester. David Copp was the son of the owner of Copp's Hill, and the gravestone to his two children, David and Thomas, is the earliest stone still standing in the burying ground on that hill. It was found beneath the ground in 1878, and bears the date 1661. In the volume on Copp's Hill issued by the Cemetery Department of the City of Boston a short biography is given of David Copp, who, it says, “was the most notable member of the family. He was an Elder in Cotton Mather's Church, and of considerable prominence in the North End, dwelling in a brick House at the head of Hull Street. He died November 20, 1713, Aged 78. The stone is left standing to record the name of his first wife who was Obedience Toppliff.”² Judge Samuel Sewall mentions him often in his Diary, once recording a call made on Elder David Copp. All the other entries are references to the Elder having been a “Bearer” at some funeral. On November 19, 1713, Sewall writes, “Elder Copp pray'd for as dangerously sick.” He died the next afternoon, and was buried, according to Sewall, on the twenty-fourth, “in the North. Bearers Mr Thomas Oakes, Mr Thornton; Capt. Atwood, Mr Maryon; Deacon Tay, Deacon Hubbard; Follow'd the Mourners, Mr Cook, Hutchinson; Sewall, Col. Lynde; E^m Hutchinson, Col. Townsend; Dr C. Mather, and Mr Wadsworth there. A pretty many Men but few Women”³ Obedience Copp died many years before her husband and just five years after the birth of her youngest child, on May 30, 1678. David and Obedience Copp left at least four sons and one daughter: David, Jr., and Samuel, of Boston, Jonathan of Stonington and John of Norwalk. The sons divided his estate in 1714.

¹ Annual Report Cemetery Dept., 1904, pp. 188, 189.

² “Historical Sketch of Copp's Hill Burial-ground,” Boston, 1901, p. 11.

³ Sewall's Diary, Mass. Hist. Soc. Col., Vol. 46, p. 409.

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Savage adds a daughter, Sarah, and the fact that the first child was a son, David, who died when very young. The gravestone mentions Thomas in addition.

Patience, the youngest daughter of Clement Topliff, was born in July, 1644. She married, March 27, 1667, Nathaniel Holmes of Roxbury. They had eleven children. She died March 11, 1697.

Clement Topliff was a well-to-do man for his time, as his inventory proves; he was also a loving husband and father, as his will shows vividly. It is a very individual will, and is apparently so characteristic of the man, that it would be valuable for that reason, if no interest attached to it as the will of the founder of the family in Massachusetts. The will was probated in Boston, and is recorded in the Suffolk Probate, Volume VII., page 281. This copy is from the original.

“ The Lord having visited me with much infermity & weaknes and I being at this time very weake in body yet having the perfet use of my understanding and Memorey, yet not knowing how it may please god to dealle with me, I doe make this as my last will and testament committing my Soule into the hands of my most mercyfull Saviour & Leaving my body unto my deare wife & loving children to be by them decently beuried, I doe dispose of that estate that god hath mercifully given me as followeth

“ 1ly my will is that my funerall expences be Satisfied out of my estate and that all my debts should be payed

“ 2ly I doe give unto my Loving and deare wife Sarah Toplef all my household goods after my decease and allso the use and benifet of all my housing and lands and cattell and whatever I die posed of after the payment of my debts for her comfortabl Subsistance duering the wholl time of her naturall life, provided that she Remaines a widdow but in case she marrie againe then my will is that what I have left her returne to my children againe.

“ 3ly. I doe give unto my loving Sonne Samuel Toplif all my housing and lands lying in Dorchester or any wher else and all my estate not before disposed, by him to be posed after his mother Sarah Toplef is desceased ingaging him to pay out of it the legacess following within two yeares after he is posed of the estat or Sooner if he can.

“ 1 To my loving sonn David Jones five pounds

“ 2 To my loving sonn David Cope five pounds

“ 3 To my loving daughter Patience Topliff which is not married five pounds,

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allso I doe enjoyne him the said Samuell Toplif my sonn to have a dutyfull and tender Respect to and of his deare mother and to be helpfull what he can for her comfortabl Subsistence while she lives, which is one cause that moves me to give him so much of my estate.

“ 4ly My will is that my Loving Sonn Samuell Toplef be and I doe make him my Soll Excutor

“ Lastly I doe make my two loving frends John Minott and my Cosen Peleg Heath to be my Over Seer's of this my last will and testament, Dated the twenty first of January one thousand six hundred sixty & six

“ CLEMENT TOPLIF.”

“ Witnesses

“ SAMUELL PROCTER ”

“ THOMAS DAVENPORT ”

(Probated February 14, 1672)

“ AN INVENTORY OF THE LANDS GOODS & CATTELL OF CLEMENT TOPLIFE OF
DORCHESTER LATELY DESESED 8 OF JANUARY 1672

	£	s.	d.
In primis his wearinge aparell of all Sorts	02	07	06
It. a ffether bed with the ffurnituer	04	19	00
It. Brase & Pewter	03	04	00
It. an ould pot, tramell & Toungs	00	11	00
It. Napkins & pillow bears	00	09	00
It. in Books	02	05	06
It. two Small Tabells two Small Chests & box	00	11	10
It. in Lumber	00	11	06
It. a payer of ould wheels & husbandry imployments	02	07	06
It. a house & Barn & orchard	30	00	00
It. a plowinge land three akers	15	00	00
It. Pasture land three akers	15	00	00
It. Six akers of Salt Marsh	36	00	00
It. Eleven akers in Comon	06	10	00
It. Horses, Sheep, Cattell & Swine	33	15	00
Itt. in Debts dew to the Estat			
Dew from David Jones in Mony	01	00	00
It Dew from David Jones ffor Barly and weate lent	01	16	00
	£	156	07 : 06

“ Richard Hall

Enoch Wiswell ”

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CHILDREN OF CLEMENT AND SARAH TOPLIFF

- i. JONATHAN, b. April, 1637; probably died early.
- ii. SARAH, b. May, 1639; d. October 13, 1683.
- iii. OBEDIENCE, b. July, 1642; d. May 30, 1678.
- iv. PATIENCE, b. July, 1644; d. March 11, 1696.
- v. SAMUEL, b. May 7, 1646; d. October 12, 1722.

SAMUEL² TOPLIFF, the only one of Clement Topliff's sons who grew to manhood and married, so far as is known, was the youngest child, and was born May 7, 1646. He was a more prominent man than his father, partly, perhaps, from his natural abilities, and partly because his father left him very well-to-do. Clement Topliff's estate footed up to £286, of which only fifteen pounds had to be paid out by Samuel to his brothers-in-law. The main estate or homestead was on Bowdoin Street,¹ and included the land on which St. Mary's Church stood in 1859. Mr. Orcutt, in his "Good Old Dorchester," described him as "prominent in Church and town affairs. He was elected elder in 1692, and presiding elder in 1701, — which latter office he retained until his death. He filled every town office from Constable to Selectman, including that of town clerk. He was one of the 'twenty proprietors' 'incorporated into a distinct body with power to lay out and fell land,' etc., in the grant known as the 'Ponkapoag Plantation.' The records of the first Church bear ample evidence of his activity and zeal."²

Hopstill Clap and Samuel Topliff were elected constables in March, 1678/9, and from that time Samuel Topliff rose year by year through the list of town offices. In 1681 he was tything-man; in 1686 he was rater, or, as the records put it, "Ratter"; in 1690 he was sealer of weights and measures. The Dorchester records give a full description of his receiving this last office; "the: 13th febre; 1690 there was delivered to Sarg^{nt} Samuel Topliff, the weights and mesurs, that weir the town's Standerds, to trye weights and mesurs by." There were two kinds of weights and one set of measures. The first set were bell-shaped, and included 56, 28, 14, 7, 4, and 2 pound weights; the second were "flat brass weights" of 1, ½, ¼, and ⅓ pounds, and 1, ½, ¼, and ⅓ ounces. The measures were,

¹ "History of Dorchester," Dorchester Historical Society.

² Page 110.

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“one halfe bushell, one peck, one ell, one yearden, one eale quart, one wine pint, two sealling eirons.” This reference gives one fact which is nowhere else mentioned, that Samuel was a Sergeant in the militia company. In 1691 he was elected selectman, and served for two years without re-election, as did all the board chosen that year. He served again in the same capacity in 1696, 1697, and 1699. Samuel Toppliff’s activities were not all turned to office-holding; twice he received two shillings “for a dayes worke schoole house,” and again a shilling for “Wading Election day.” In 1680 many persons were paid “for keeping Frances,” and among them Samuel, who received four shillings sixpence “for keeping frances 3 weeke.”

In the church his energies were equally well directed. The church plate was turned over to him to keep in 1692 when he was ordained a deacon. This consisted of “4 flagons: 3 Silvar Bools: 3 silvar Beakers: 4 pewter cups 1 pewter pint pott 4 pewter platters 3 small table clothes 2 Baskets.” On February 3, 1701/2, he was chosen ruling elder. Even in those days, when there was much land and luxuries were few, when tastes were simple, and each man literally earned his bread by the sweat of his brow, there were poor, whom the more well-to-do had to aid. In 1689, again in 1691, and in other years, contributions were levied for their assistance, and in each of these general contributions Samuel Toppliff gave a barrel of corn.

In October, 1671, Deacon Toppliff married in Boston Patience Somes, a Gloucester girl who had come with her brother John to live in Boston. She was the daughter of Morris Somes of Gloucester, and Elizabeth, daughter of John Kendall of Cambridge. This marriage record of an Essex County girl to a Suffolk County man is filed among the papers of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace in Middlesex County. The unearthing of Patience’s maiden name is due to Mr. J. Gardner Bartlett. This document was used in some case in Court in October, 1678, seven years after the marriage.

“These are to Certefy all Persons whom it may concern that Samuell Topplife of Dorchester and Patience Soms of Boston have been published three severall times according to Order without any Opposition as is attested

“ by me

“ RICH: TAYLOR

“BOSTON October 5th 1671.”

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Elder Samuel and Patience Topliff had at least eleven children. The eldest child, a daughter, Mehitable, was born August 15, 1673, and probably died early, though no record of her death has been found. A son, Samuel, followed, born August 19, 1675, who died August 30, 1694, at the age of nineteen. His gravestone still stands in the old Dorchester burying ground. Patience, born in 1677, married Nathaniel Craft of Roxbury in 1701, and Thankful, born two years later, married Jabez Searle in 1704. The fifth child was a son, Jonathan, who was born in 1682, and lived to be eighteen, when he died leaving no issue. Waitstill was born in 1684, and married Samuel Henshaw. There followed four brothers, Joseph, Ebenezer, Nathaniel, and Samuel, and a sister, Sarah, born in 1698, who married John Trescott, a brother of her brother Samuel Topliff's wife, Hannah.

The eldest of these four brothers was Joseph (*Samuel*²), who was born in Dorchester April 10, 1687. He married first, in 1710, Sarah —, who was the mother of his two sons, Samuel and Amariah. His second wife was Elizabeth Daniels, whom he married April 13, 1746. Joseph Topliff removed to Stoughton some time between 1725 and 1727, where he afterward became Town Treasurer and Deacon of the Church. He was a mill-owner, and the proprietor of a large tract of land. He bought one hundred and eight acres of the Indians, which he added to the already large tract of land in Stoughton inherited by him from his father. He died January 13, 1749, and the administration of his estate was granted to his brother, Nathaniel Topliff, of Dorchester, on March 13th of that year. The inventory showed an estate valued at £3102 : 9 : 0, of which the dwelling house, barn and homestead were estimated at £2500. His fourth interest in a saw-mill was appraised at £100. (Suffolk Probate, Vol. 43, p. 416.)

Nathaniel Topliff (*Samuel*²), born in Dorchester, September 7, 1692, was the ancestor of the branch of the family who remained in Dorchester. He married, May 23, 1723, Hannah Blake. Like his elder brother, he was a Deacon of the Church. He was a weaver by trade and a man of affairs. On March 11, 1734, Joseph Topliff, yeoman, of Stoughton, Samuel Topliff, housewright, of Milton, Samuel Henshaw, yeoman, of Milton, and Waitstill, his wife, Thankful Searle, widow, of Dorchester, John Trescott, Jr., yeoman, of Dorchester, and Sarah, his wife, children and heirs of Elder Samuel Topliff, quitclaimed their rights in their father's estate for £350 to Nathaniel Topliff, his executor. (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 56,

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p. 156.) Later, Ebenezer Topliff, Jr., quitclaimed his rights in his grandfather Elder Samuel's estate to Nathaniel for £300. (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 61, p. 94.) Nathaniel⁸ Topliff was survived by one son, Samuel⁴, born May 24, 1728. Samuel⁴ Topliff married in 1754 Mary Hall, and became the father of the only poet the family has so far boasted. Nathaniel, the poet, was born in Dorchester, September 4, 1757. In 1809 he published a small volume of "POEMS, *moral, descriptive, and political.*" Dr. Thaddeus Mason Harris of the First Church in Dorchester, who preached his funeral sermon, says of them: "The caustic satire of some of the pieces, the want of polish, and perhaps the ardor of political feelings, rendered the little book rather unpopular; but, when considered as the production of one who had not enjoyed the advantages of education, and written after he was fifty years old, it will be allowed no inconsiderable merit. — The Hymn which he composed, and which was sung at the dedication of the new meeting house in the first parish in Dorchester, has been printed, as have one or two other occasional pieces."¹

Elder Samuel Topliff's tenth child, Samuel⁸ (*Samuel*²), was born in Dorchester May 30, 1695. He married, February 8, 1715, Hannah Trescott. After the birth of their fifth child, Clement, they moved to Milton, where they remained until about 1736. In 1729 Hannah was deeded her father's estate in Dorchester, and later Ebenezer Trescott sold his father's lands in Milton to his brother-in-law Samuel Topliff for £600.² Samuel migrated to Lebanon, Connecticut, and again in 1740 to Willington in the same State, where he died in 1754. He had nine children, three of whom were sons who reached mature years and had children. By far the largest branch of the family is descended from the Connecticut line. Samuel Topliff's youngest sister and her husband, John Trescott, also went to Connecticut.

Elder Samuel² Topliff died October 12, 1722, leaving a will, in which he mentions his children Patience Craft, Thankful Searle, Waitstill Henshaw, Sarah Topliff, Ebenezer, and Nathaniel. (Suffolk Probate, Vol. 22, p. 740.) Nathaniel and Ebenezer were executors. The inventory first shown estimated the estate at £503 : 03 : 01. The house and land were appraised at £400. In 1722, more lands were found to belong to his estate, estimated at £52 : 17 : 8. Again, on February 1, 1727/8, further lands were inventoried and returned.

¹ Appendix A.

² Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 44, p. 288, and Vol. 48, p. 305.

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“ ADDITIONAL LANDS OF ELDER SAMUEL TOPLIFF IN STOUGHTON

“ Imprimis an Additional Lort in the 25 Division laid out to Clement Topliff containing 25 acres at 15/ an acre	}	18 : 15
Item one acre and Quarter of Cedar Swamp laid out to Clement Topliff in Ponkapoag Cedar Swamp	}	3 : 15
Item one acre and half of meadow in trout meadow	}	4 : 10
		£27 : ”

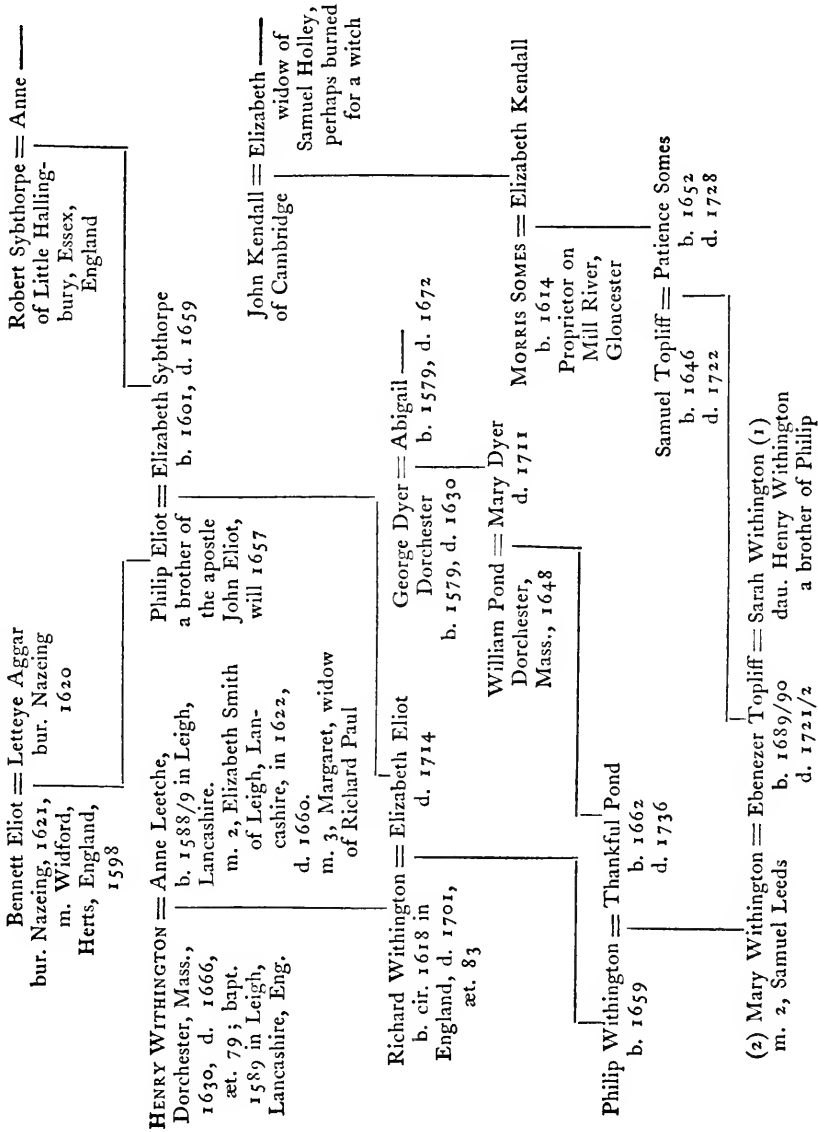
This was the land which probably fell to the share of Joseph Topliff. Elder Samuel Topliff was much respected by all, and is described by a contemporary as a man “ of piety, parts and worth.”

CHILDREN OF ELDER SAMUEL AND PATIENCE TOPLIFF

- i. MEHITABLE, b. August 15, 1673 ; probably died early.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. August 19, 1675 ; d. August 30, 1694.
- iii. PATIENCE, b. January 24, 1677 ; d. March 20, 1720.
- iv. THANKFUL, b. February 22, 1679 ; d. May 1, 1747.
- v. JONATHAN, b. September 23, 1682 ; d. September 8, 1700.
- vi. WAITSTILL, b. November 6, 1684 ; d. May 17, 1737.
- vii. JOSEPH, b. April 10, 1687 ; d. January 13, 1749.
- viii. EBENEZER, b. February 14, 1689/90 ; d. February 5, 1721/2.
- ix. NATHANIEL, b. September 7, 1692 ; d. December 15, 1751.
- x. SAMUEL, b. May 30, 1695 ; d. November 1, 1754.
- xi. SARAH, b. November 4, 1698 ; d. April 17, 1784.

EBENEZER³ TOPLIFF, eighth child of Elder Samuel Topliff and Patience his wife, was born in Dorchester February 14, 1689/90. His life was short and uneventful, so far as holding town and church offices were concerned. He was a cordwainer by trade. On January 22, 1712/3, he married Sarah, daughter of Henry Withington, who must have died almost immediately and without issue. About 1714 he married Mary, daughter of Philip Withington, a cousin of his first wife. Mary Topliff had two sons, Jonathan, born July 14, 1715, who died May 28, 1720, and

WITHINGTON AND SOMES



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Ebenezer, born September 16, 1719. On February 5, 1721/2, Ebenezer Topliff, the father, died, leaving his widow, Mary, and one son. Mary Topliff, the widow, administered the estate of her husband. The inventory was made by John Baker, Hopestill Clapp, and Preserved Capen; and was as follows (Suffolk Probate, Vol. 22, p. 754)

“ Impr His Apparel Armour & Books	15 : 1 : 00
Item His Bedding	19 : 10
Item His linen, Chist, Chairs & Tables	18 :
Item His puter brass & iron	15 : 7
Item His leather and working tools	11 : 12
Item His Flax Woolen Cloth & Wheel & other utensils	8 :
Item His Cattle Horses & Sheep	49 : 1
Item one Horse and Two Swine	13 : 10
Item his Shop	15 :
Item his Province Bills & Cash	14 :
Item one Acre of Woodland	2 : 10

The sum Total £181 : 19 "

Mary Topliff married Samuel Leeds May 16, 1728, and lived until August 19, 1734.

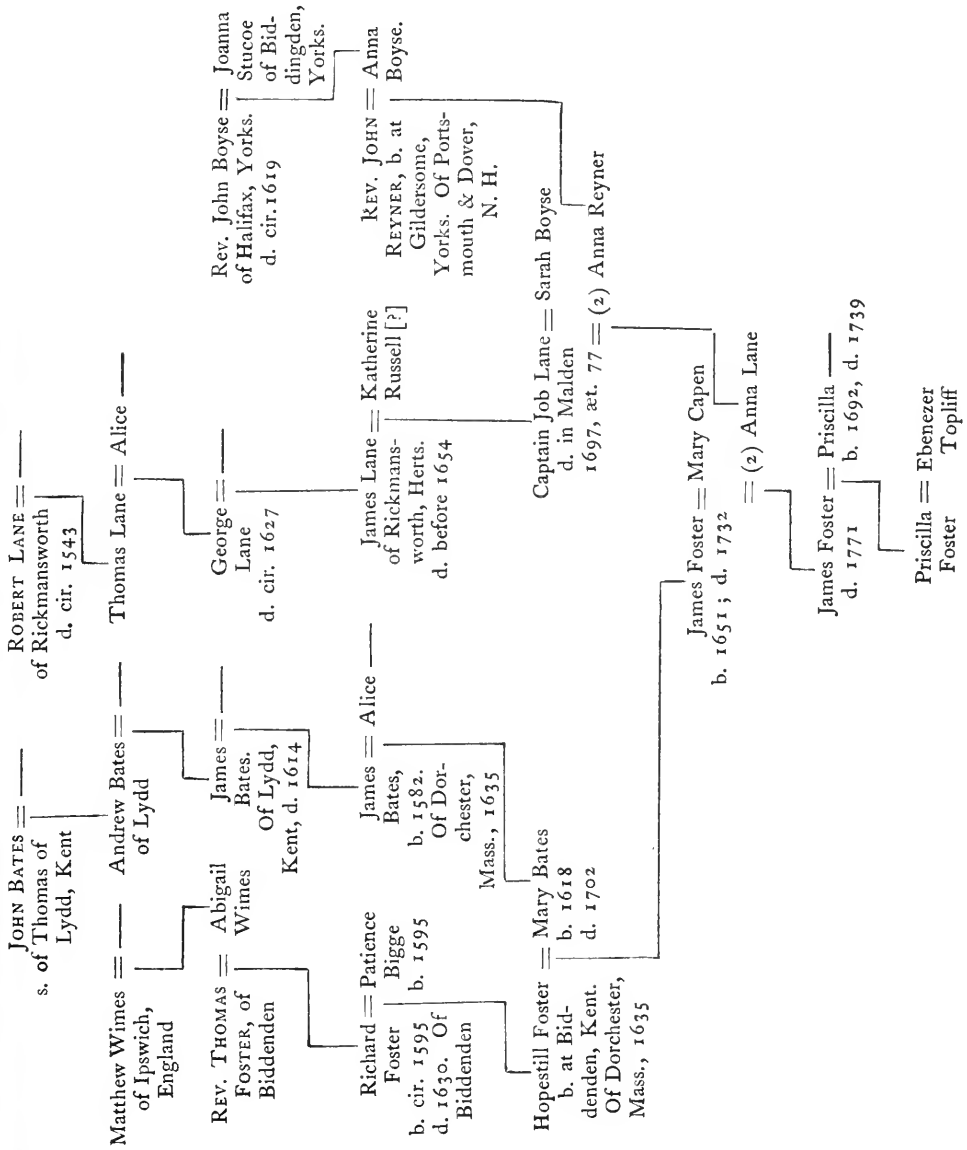
CHILDREN OF EBENEZER AND MARY TOPLIFF

- i. ONATHAN, b. July 14, 1715; d. May 28, 1720.
- ii. EBENEZER, b. September 16, 1719; d. September 24, 1795.

EBENEZER⁴ TOPLIFF, only surviving son of Ebenezer Topliff, was born in Dorchester September 16, 1719. His father died when he was between two and three years old, and his mother when he was about five. According to the Suffolk Probate records he had a guardian appointed after his mother's death, but the record is lost. The guardian, however, was probably his uncle Ebenezer Withington, who represented Ebenezer Topliff in the agreement of the heirs of Philip Withington. Philip Withington,¹ the father of Mary Topliff, died in 1736. His will was made on December 31, 1734, with Nathaniel and Hannah Topliff as witnesses. Among the other items appears the following: "It. I give to my Grandson Ebenezer Topliff an equal share of Moveables with the Rest of my Children and Twenty & five pounds in Province Bills or the value thereof as afore^d in full of his portion

¹ See Appendix B.

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CLEMENT TOPLIFF

out of my estate." Philip Withington's wife Thankful died also in 1736, and her portion was also divided. (Suffolk County Probate, Vol. 33, p. 41.) On May 29, 1744, Ebenezer Topliff married Priscilla, daughter of James and Priscilla Foster of Dorchester.¹ She was born November 18, 1722. Ebenezer was a rolling stone, and lived in Weymouth, 1745, in Boston from 1748 to 1762, in Milton about 1776, and at last settled in Stoughton in 1779. He was chiefly renowned in that town for having owned the first "chaise." He was in the Dorchester Company under Captain Robert Oliver in 1743, on duty at Castle William, now Fort Independence.

Priscilla Topliff was buried in the old cemetery at the South end of Boston Common, near the Boylston Street Mall. The stone reads as follows :

“ HERE LIES BURIED THE REMAINS OF MRS PRISCILLA TOPLIFF THE CONSORT OF MR EBENEZER TOPLIFF, WHO DIED JULY 21st 1772 IN THE 49th YEAR OF HER AGE

“ Blessed are the dead that praise
thier maker with thier breath
Until thier life is lost in death.”

Ebenezer took for his second wife Abigail, the widow of “ William Shaller, the great rattle-snake killer.” She was Abigail Crane of Milton, and had married William Shaller about 1770. Ebenezer Topliff died on September 24, 1795, and his widow survived him thirty-one years. She died June 28, 1830, aged one hundred years, ten months, and one day. “ To her home on the Centennial anniversary of her birth came the Rev^d Samuel Gile from Milton to celebrate the occurrence with appropriate exhortation and prayer.”

Ebenezer and Priscilla Foster had eight children ; the eldest, Mary, and the fourth, Foster, died early. Of the five other children, James, Anna, Foster, Ebenezer, and Abigail, nothing is known.

CHILDREN OF EBENEZER AND PRISCILLA TOPLIFF

- i. MARY, b. May 23, 1745 ; d. early in Weymouth.
- ii. JAMES, b. March 12, 1748/9.
- iii. ANNA, b. October 6, 1751.

Captain James Foster's will mentions his daughter Priscilla Topliff and his grandson James Topliff. (Suffolk County Probate, Vol. 61, pp. 350, 351.)

Elizabeth Foster, James Foster's second wife, also remembered her husband's daughter, Priscilla Topliff. (Suffolk County Probate, Vol. 70, pp. 344-346.)

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

- iv. FOSTER, b. September 23, 1753 ; d. 1754.
- v. EBENEZER, b. April 6, 1755.
- vi. SAMUEL, b. May 7, 1758 ; d. August 6, 1811.
- vii. FOSTER, b. January 28, 1761.
- viii. ABIGAIL, b. November 4, 1762.

SAMUEL⁵ TOPLIFF, the sixth child of Ebenezer and Priscilla (Foster) Topliff, was born May 7, 1758, in Milton. When he was eighteen he joined the Stoughton Company of Volunteers, but was in active service during the Revolution only nine months in 1778. After the close of the war he went to sea, and became part owner of the ship which he commanded at the time of his death. He had, previous to the "Embargo," acquired an independent fortune. This he subsequently lost through his mistaken judgment in endorsing notes for his friends. The effect of the Embargo caused many failures in Boston, and Captain Topliff's friends' notes went to protest, and he was forced to liquidate them. He saved enough to purchase half ownership in a brig, and returned to the field of his former ventures in the West Indies.

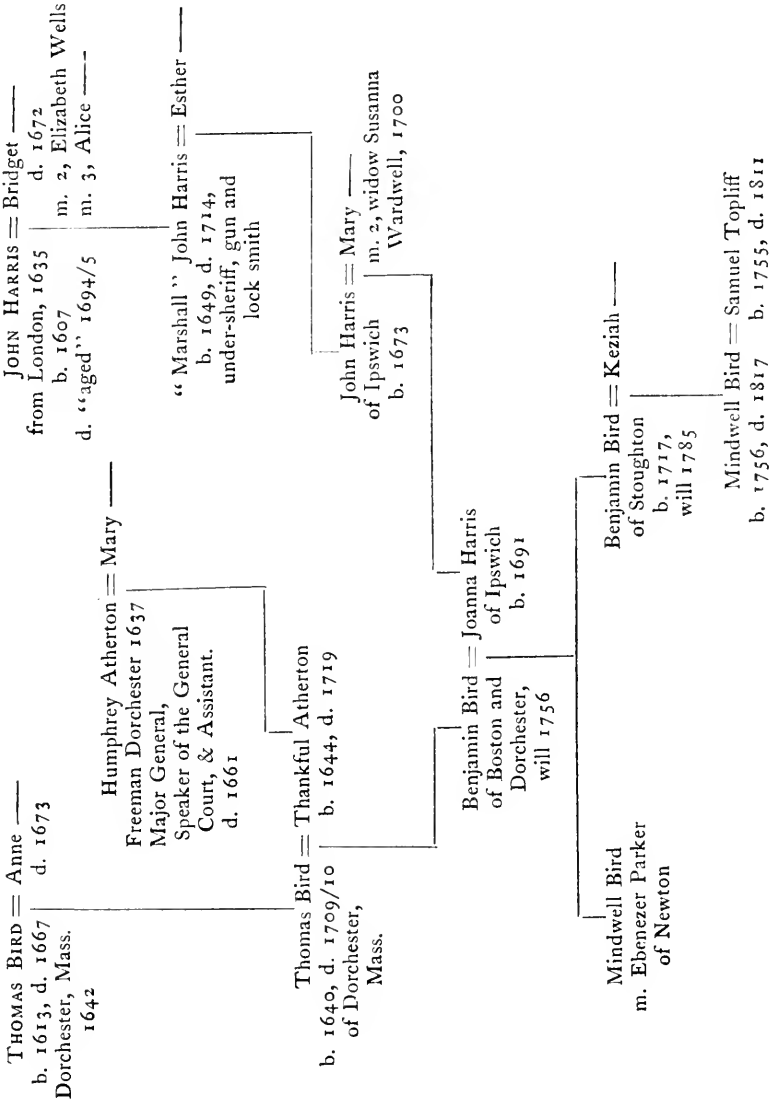
In 1774, three sisters, Chloe, Keziah, and Mindwell Bird, were registered as singers in William Billings's singing class in Canton. The youngest of these sisters, Mindwell, daughter of Benjamin and Keziah Bird¹ of Stoughton, married, September 27, 1781, Captain Samuel Topliff, and became the mother of seven sons. Mindwell (Bird) Topliff's birth is nowhere recorded, but her father, Benjamin Bird, in his will gives to his "Daughter Mindwell Topliff three pounds lawful money in things for house keeping as soon as conveniently may be." (October 29, 1785, Suffolk County Probate, Vol. 86, p. 612.) In 1798 Captain Topliff owned and occupied a wooden house on the east side of Orange Street in Boston, having for neighbors Mrs. Simpson on the north and William Wyman on the south. The land was a lot of 3,360 square feet. The house was of three stories, with twenty-five windows, and covered an area of 1,026 square feet. There was also a one-story wooden shed containing 180 square feet. The whole establishment was valued at \$2,200.

Captain Topliff was murdered at sea by a mutinous crew on August 6, 1811. The "Palladium" for Tuesday, September 24, and the "Boston Patriot" for the next day, contain the following blood-curdling announcement: "At Sea, about the month of August last, Captain Samuel Topliff, of Boston, aged 54, was, by his

¹ See Appendix C.

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

BIRD AND HARRIS



AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Savage crew, murdered in a horrid manner. His loss to his family and friends is irreparable.”

The cook of the crew, Nicolas Jose Monterio, turned State's evidence, and the mutineers were brought to trial. The schooner, the “Syren,” had been burned, and the money received from the last cargo divided among the murderers. When they were arrested the money was found upon them, and was seized and retained by the authorities at Nassau. The only article that ever reached his family was Captain Topliff's watch. The cook's evidence at the trial gives a very full account of the mutiny.

“*Mutiny of the Crew of the Syren.*”

“NASSAU NEW PROVIDENCE Aug 7 1811

“STATEMENT of Affairs which took place on board of the Schooner Syren Will^m Holbett Master on her passage from Eleuthera with a Cargo of pine Apples and braze[lian ?] Wood bound to New York Remarks on board. Aug^t 5,

— Given by one of the prisoners —

“Aug 5th Sailed from Eleuthera one of the bahama Islands for New York with a fine SS West Wind with a pilot on board And on the 6th At 5 p m Discharged the pilot and at 6 the North part of Egg Island bore s by E Distance 2 Leagues. Nothing Remarkable took place Untill about Nine Oclock. As the Cap about one hour before was a Counting over his money to ascertain what was left after paying for the *Cargo*. the Cook being in the Cabin at the time seeing the money. and *money* being of A tempting Nature. he immediately Goes on Deck and makes known to his ship mates the money he had seen the Cap^t have. and in Order to get the money a plan was immediately Contrived. saying among themselves when the watch is Called for Eight Oclock it will be Cap *Topliff's* watch on Deck. and the first Opportunity they had. they would take the Life of him. and Cap *Holbett*. who was below in his birth. both Equal Owners in the property. saying if they murdred one. they must the *Other* In which they Caried into Execution their Cruel and wicked Desighn. about Nine Oclock as Cap^t *Topliff*. was sitting a Longside of the Companion with his head. lying on the *Companion*. as was supposed. *asleep*. a spaniard by the Name of Antonio Lorego A mexican who but a few minutes before was at the helm and Called to the Cook. Nicholas Jose Monterio. a spanis Indian for to Come and take the helm from him. and he would go forward and get a hatchet. that he had in his Chest and

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

Carry into Execution the buisness proposed on — which Accordingly did by striking Cap Topliff a most severe blow with the hatchet on the back part of his Neck in which almost, severed his head from his Body, then a Cross his head — and finally ran a large Knife through his Neck and pined him down to the leaf of the Companion stripping his wercoat off of him, plundering his pockets of five Doubloons and his watch, and then threw him Overboard — Nicholas Zauney the Greek at the same time going — below to murder Cap' Holbett with a knife in his hand as he was lying in his *birth*, in attempting to stab him in his body, and Cap' Holbett struggling with him he ran his Knife in to his thigh which broke off quite up to the handle and left it in his *thigh*, not seeming much to *mind it*, sprang out of his birth and seised him by the throat and threw him on the floor, and was just ascending up the steps to Go on Deck hearing Considerable — scuffling just *before*, and was Attacked by this Antonio — Lorego with a hatchet in hand which struck him a blow in his head, in which he fell backwards into the Cabin, and the said antonio following after pierced him through the body five or six times, and Cut him open so as to lett his bowells out, and then made a line fast to him and hawled him up on Deck, and threw him Overboard then all hands went to work to breaking open the trunks which Contained the *money* — and sharing it among them and taking the Coularis — and, stiching the Doubloons two and three together between the Cloth to prevent them from making a Noise. Likewise in their shoulder Braces — and wound them round their Bodys, and Legs, then went to sleep, leaving one man at the helm steering — as was supposed for the *Florida* — at four oclock on the 7th Discovered a sail bearing down upon them, and in their Near approach, found her to be the brig Moselle Captain Boyce of Eighteen Guns on a *Cruse* from New providence — Knowing their fate if Taken by them wore Ship and stood in for *the land*, Eleuthera then in sight, and under their Lee — the brig pursued after them as far as was prudent for them to run, uppon the account of shoals — not overhauling her, she hawled her wind — and stood off — they then run the schooner on Egg Island Reef got out the boat took what Valuable Articles was on board and made off for Andrews Island — in seeing a small fishing smack lying off to Anchoir, supposed some people to live on the Island — they had but just Landed before they saw a man on the beach. In which they went up to him and made known their deplorable and unfortunate *situation*, in telling him they was Cast a way on one of the Keys two or three days before and had lost Every thing in the world.

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

and almost starved to Death — and desired that he would be so kind as to Give them something to Eat as they had. had Nothing to Eat since first being Cast away. they telling a very plausible Story. he had Every reason in the world to believe them and says to the Cook Come if you will go up to my — house with me I will send them down something to Eat and Drink — but on their way up to the house — the Cook made Every thing Known. upon account of his not having so much money as the rest. which he did — not very well Like — by saying if I will save your life will you save *mine* — at that the planter asked him what he meant by that — and he Immediately says these men are not what they pretend to be. they are Murderers but two or three Days ago they Murdred the Cap and mate of their Vessel to which they belonged to — and seeing a man of War brig in Chace of them they run the Vessel ashore on the rocks and left her after plundering her of Every valuable article — and have come *here* — seeing your boat a lying off here — they thought they would make known to you their Distrest situation — and see if you would not Cary them to Nassau. making you believe that *place* was where they wished to go — and in Case you are willing to Cary them as Ever you get off from the Land they mean to murder you and your *negroes* — take the boat and go over to Cuba where they think they shall be safe — the planter says if that be the Case I shall send nothing Down to them but Collected his Negroes to gether about fourteen in Number — armed them and went Down to them through the woods. fearing if they went Down in Open view and the *Villians* see them Coming would mak off in their boat — Caught them and tied their hands behind them and made them fast to some logs of wood — untill he could go up to his house get his sails bring down and bend them. then took the Villians on board and — proceeded on his way for Nassau — on the passage the Villians Desired him not to Care. them to *Nassau* as they Did not wish to go there — he told them to be quiet for they were murdrers and he should have them put into prision as Ever he got there. they acknowledged their Guilt and offered him all the *money* they had. not to go to *Nassau*. but he refused taking any of it. when Getting to providence — they was Examined before the police Officer the money taken from them and deposited in the public Chest in the *Treasury*. and they sent to jail for trial at November Court — the Said Antonio Lorego the Cheaf perpetrator — says he murdred his mother and brother about Nine months Since. Not a particle of Dought Remains but Law and Justice will take place and they receive that punishment Reserved for such Villians —

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

“ Names of the Villians and what Countrymen

“ Antonio Lorego a Spaniard

Nicholas Zauney Greek

Frances Davamett Frenchman

Nicholas Jose Monterio Cook Spanish Indian ”

The “ Columbian Centinel ” for Wednesday, December 4, has an item from Nassau, dated November 3: “ The Admiralty Session Court will meet on Tuesday which is the day assigned for the Trial of the men arraigned for the murder of the master and mate of the Am. Sch. Syren. — [The two men who murdered Captains Topliff and Holbert on board the Sch. Syren, were executed at Nassau, on the 8th Nov.] ”

On the next day a fuller account of the end of the murderers was published.

“ DEATHS — FOREIGN. In New Providence 8th ult Nicholas Zamry, a native of the Seven Islands, and Antonio Lorego, a Campechino; both executed for the murder of W^m. Holbert, the master, and Sam^l Tapliff (of this town), part owner of the Sch. Syren. The Greek appeared very penitent; but the Spaniard was a most hardened villain, and after abusing the officers of justice for delaying his execution three days, and confessing he had before murdered two other persons (his mother and brother !) he was launched into eternity, whilst regretting that the cook (who had turned State’s Evidence) did not share his fate.”

The widow Mindwell Topliff, and three sons, James, Samuel, and Benjamin, survived Captain Topliff. Mindwell Topliff was made administratrix of the estate, which amounted to very little, since the schooner was burned, and nothing could be recovered. The personal property was appraised at only \$226.72, of which \$102.37 was spent for mourning and fees. The rest, \$124.35, the widow petitioned the court might be given her for support. This was granted. In 1813 the estate was declared insolvent, and the widow again petitioned the court of probate, this time that commissioners be appointed to settle the estate. John Heard, Jr., and Joseph Pierce were named by the court. They brought forward a long list of notes signed almost without exception in Labrador, which, with some bills of exchange, were declared worthless. Some payment of the creditors was made later, but it is impossible to tell whence the money came.¹

¹ Suffolk County Probate, Vol. 110, pp. 54, 524; Vol. 111, p. 260.

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND MINDWELL TOPLIFF

- i. EBENEZER, b. June 21, 1782; d. December 12, 1802.
- ii. JAMES, b. February 5, 1784; d. August 17, 1784.
- iii. JAMES, b. July 20, 1786; d. June 8, 1856.
- iv. SAMUEL, b. April 25, 1789; d. December 11, 1864.
- v. BENJAMIN, b. March 7, 1791; d. December 11, 1791.
- vi. BENJAMIN, b. June 17, 1793; d. March 31, 1870.
- vii. WILLIAM, b. April 3, 1796; d. September 2, 1796.

SAMUEL⁶ TOPLIFF (*Samuel*⁵) was born in Boston April 25, 1789. He married in Providence, December 2, 1829, Jane Sisson Blackstock, daughter of William and Eliza (Maxwell) Blackstock. He died in Boston December 11, 1864. She died March 28, 1860, aged fifty-three years and six months. A memoir of him is appended to his letters of travel printed by the Boston Athenæum.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND JANE TOPLIFF

- i. SAMUEL BIRD, b. December 2, 1830; d. October 29, 1854, unmarried.
- ii. WILLIAM BLACKSTOCK, b. March 24, 1832; m. June 12, 1873, Mary Webster Stanwood; living in Evanston, Illinois.
- iii. SARAH JANE, b. May 4, 1834; m. May 19, 1859, William Stevens Houghton, merchant of Boston. She died December 31, 1886.
- iv. MARY MINDWELL, b. February 27, 1836. Died March 14, 1905, in Boston.
- v. JAMES CLEMENT, b. January 14, 1838; m. April 15, 1885, Virginia Walton; living in Arkansas City, Kansas.
- vi. ELIZA MAXWELL, b. October 10, 1839; m. November 16, 1870, Edward Stanwood of Boston; living in Brookline, Massachusetts.
- vii. GEORGE FRANCIS, b. September 11, 1841; m. February 24, 1881, Harriet Luella Billings; living in Boston.
- viii. EBENEZER, b. November 18, 1848; d. November 27, 1848.

BENJAMIN⁶ TOPLIFF (*Samuel*⁵) was born in Boston on June 16, 1793. He was his brother's partner for the last eighteen years of his proprietorship in the Merchant's News Room. He married Julia A. Snow, September 10, 1830. She died August 25, 1875, aged seventy-six years. He died March 31, 1870.

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN AND JULIA TOPLIFF

- i. JULIA MINDWELL, b. 1832 ; d. November 7, 1858.
- ii. LOUISA JANE, b. April 18, 1833 ; d. July, 1833.
- iii. MARIA JANE, b. 1835 ; d. August 26, 1858.
- iv. GEORGE BENJAMIN, b. March 15, 1837 ; d. May 7, 1901.
- v. LOUISA MCKOWN, b. October 16, 1838 ; unmarried.
- vi. ANNA JONES, b. June, 1840 ; d. April 26, 1856.

Mar. 1. 1835

Dear Sir

I have rec^d your note,
I shall be very glad to see
you at my lodgings, any time
today. If you are at leisure,
on the receipt of this, the bearer
will show you the way:—

I looked for you yesterday, in
the Senate; have been engaged
at the moment when you
sent in your name —

Yrs with regard

Daniel Webster

Mr Topliff

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

HYMN BY NATHANIEL TOPLIFF, OF DORCHESTER, SUNG AT
THE DEDICATION OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN DORCHESTER,
DECEMBER 2, 1816

I

GREAT architect divine
Who rais'd all Nature's frame,
Accept and own as thine
The house built for thy name !
Arise, O Lord,
Into thy rest
And here afford
What makes us blest !

2

Thy Temple is all space,
But still thy wond'rous love
And condescending grace
Assembling crowds shall prove.
Thou fillest all,
Thou God alone ;
And Seraphs fall
Before Thy throne.

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

3

Though Heaven cannot contain
Thy glory, Lord of all,
No humble soul in vain
Upon his God shall call.
Where two or three
Are well agreed
In seeking thee,
They shall succeed.

4

A house for God we found,
And in it we appear
To hear the joyful sound
Of free salvation here ;
And to receive
The joyful news,
Obey, believe,
And not abuse.

5

Here grant thy presence, Lord,
And smile on our design ;
And bless thy holy word,
With Energy divine !
Here may we find
Our souls renewed
Our graces shined
Our sins subdu'd.

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

6

Dear Lord, we praise the Grace
That show'd our feet the way
To such a blessed place ;
Let us abide and stay :
Or when we rise
Be so improv'd
As 'bove the skies
To meet below'd !

7

O gather all mankind
Unto thy temple, Lord,
And happy may they find
How well thy house is stor'd.
Full chorus swell
From every tongue,
And grace to tell
Be all their Song !

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

ELIOT

PHILIP ELIOT was baptized at Widford, County Herts, England, April 25, 1602. Came in the "Hopewell" to Roxbury in 1635; freeman, 1636; member of the Artillery Company, 1638; Deputy to the General Court, 1654-57; Deacon of the Church in Roxbury; Feoffee of the Public School in Roxbury.

' Oct 20, 1624. Philip Eliot of Nazeing, Essex, husbandman, a bachelor aged out 22, and Elizabeth Sybthorpe of Little Hallingbury in Co. Essex, maiden, about 23, daughter of Robert Sybthorpe, deceased: there appeared William Curtis of Nazeing aforesaid, husbandman, and testified the consent of Anne Sybthorpe, widow, mother of the said Elizabeth, at Nazeing or Little Hallingbury.'" — *Bishop of London Marriage Licenses*.

" Philip Eliot he dyed about the 22^d of the 8^t month: 57. he was a man of peace, & very faithful, he was many years in the office of Deakon w^h he discharged faithfully. in his latter years he was very lively usefull & active for God, & his cause. The Lord gave him so much acceptanc in the hearts of the people y he dyed under many of the offices of trust y^t are usually put upon men of his rank, for besides his office of a Deakon, he was a Deputy to the Gen. Court, he was a comissioner for the govnm^t of the towne, he was one of the 5 men to order the prudential affairs of the towne; & he was chosen to be Feoffe of the Public Schoole in Roxbury.'" — *Roxbury Church Records*, p. 81.

Elizabeth Eliot, his eldest daughter, was baptized at Nazeing, April 3, 1627; m. cir. 1649, Richard Withington, and d. April 18, 1714.

APPENDIX C

APPENDIX C

BIRD

CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN AND KEZIAH BIRD

- i. ELIZABETH, b. April 29, 1743.
m. Benjamin Hayward, Jr., in Braintree, 1764.
- ii. BENJAMIN, b. April 15, 1744.
- iii. LEMUEL, b. September 30, 1745.
- iv. ISAAC, b. December 25, 1746.
- v. ELIJAH, b. December 6, 1748; d. January 16, 1749.
- vi. RUTH, b. January 5, 1750; d. before 1785.
- vii. CHLOE, b. August 9, 1753, O. S.
m. 1781, Joshua Clark of Braintree.
- viii. KEZIAH, b. February 7, 1755.
m. 1774, William Crane.
- ix. MINDWELL, b. 1756.
m. 1781, Samuel Topliff of Boston.
- x. SAMUEL.
- xi. ASA, b. June 12, 1765.
- xii. HANNAH, m. 1783, George Wadsworth.
- xiii. NANNY.

Benjamin Bird held land in Ashburnham in right of his uncle Thomas Bird. In 1736 he was on a committee to lay out the first division of lots, and was made Proprietors' Clerk, and took the oath of office as such. The following year he was chosen Treasurer, but was succeeded in 1738 by Timothy Green.

In 1782 he deeded all his stock, buildings, &c., to his son Samuel Bird, in exchange for a life maintenance of himself and his wife Keziah, and their decent burial. In the deed he mentions his sons Isaac, Lemuel, and Benjamin. (Suffolk County Deeds, Vol. 141, p.176.)

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

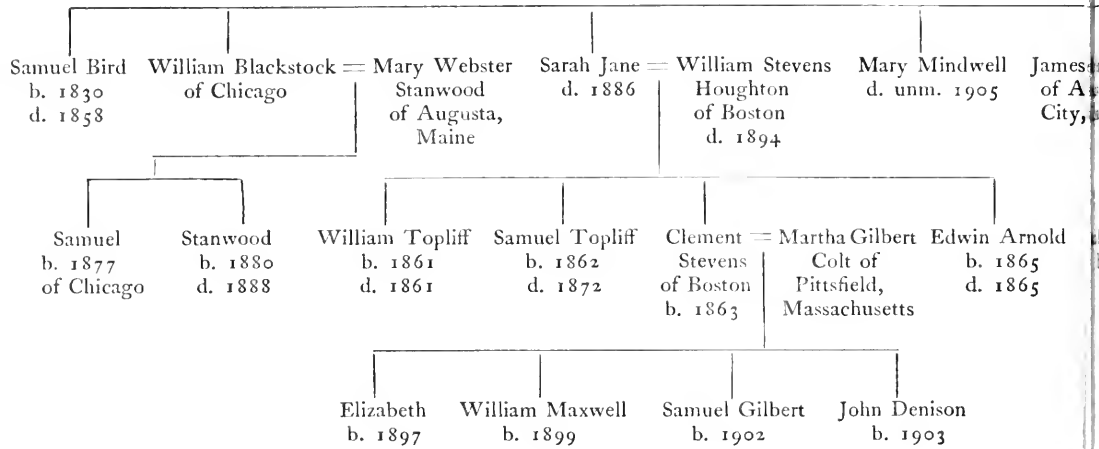
Benjamin Bird of Dorchester, father of the above, made a will in 1756 in which he mentions his wife Johanna, his sons Jonathan, Benjamin, Samuel, and John, his daughters Mindwell Parker, Mary Pierce, Ann Ireland, Hannah Clark, Susanna Bird, Sarah Haws. (Suffolk County Probate, Vol. 52, p. 241.)

He quitclaims land as heir of Major Humphrey Atherton. (Suffolk County Deeds, Vol. 45, p. 54.)

APPENDIX D

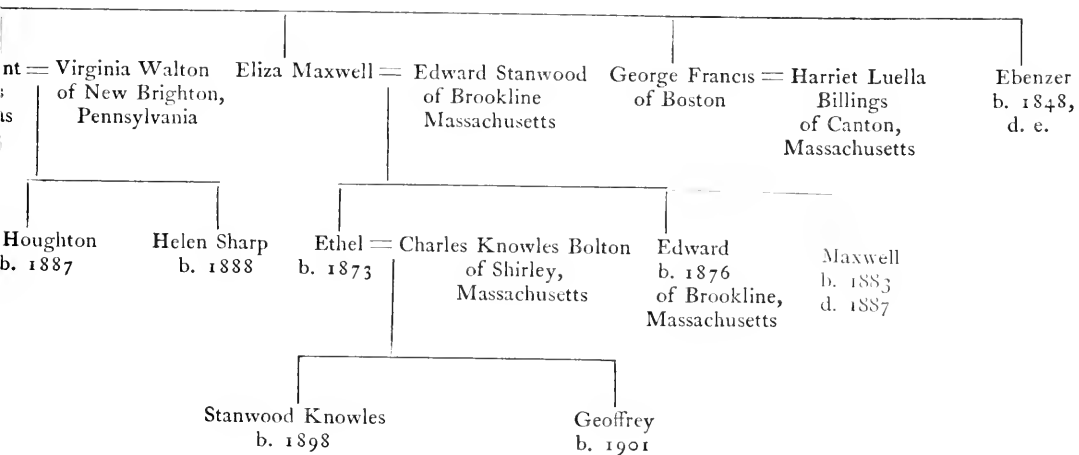
APPENDIX

SAMUEL TOPLIFF =



DIX D

SISSON BLACKSTOCK



APPENDIX E

APPENDIX E

TOPLIFFS IN ENGLAND AT THE TIME OF CLEMENT TOPLIFF'S EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

MR. RICHARD TOPLIFF, Vicar of Aldeburg, wid'r & Elizabeth Mason of Aldeburgh, singlewoman, married at Bucklesham, September 1, 1640.

AT ST. MARTINS IN THE FIELDS, LONDON

Radulphus Topley and Katherina Reynolds, m. May 20, 1593.

John Topliff, bapt. April 28, 1594; d. February 23, 1594/5.

Francis Topliff, bapt. August 1, 1596; d. May 8, 1597.

Priscilla Topliff, bapt. February 12, 1597.

Anna Topliff, bapt. November 11, 1599.

Radulphus Topliff, d. September 19, 1606.

AT ST. BOTOLPH'S, LONDON

Nicholas, son of Nicholas and Elizabeth Toplift, b. October 4, 1668.

AT ST. VEDAST, FOSTER LANE, LONDON

Stephen Bredwell and Frances Topliff were married the Twelveth daie of December 1615.

Robert Cottrell and Margaret Topliff, m. September 30, 1604.

James Merrell and Elee Toplis, m. February 15, 1606.

AT KIPPAX, YORKSHIRE

Thomas Topliff, b. March 8, 1590; d. March 11, 1590.

AT KIRK ELLA, YORKSHIRE

John Thornton and Kathrina Topliffe, m. July 2, 1566.

CLEMENT TOPLIFF

AT ST. NICHOLAS, IPSWICH

- John Topliff and Margery Cage, m. May 16, 1568.
John Topliff and Prudence Johnson, m. December 21, 1608.
Mary, dau. of Thomas Topliff, bapt. December 3, 1581.
John, son of — Topliff, bapt. September 3, 1612.
Alice, dau. of John and Prudence Topliff, bapt. September 4, 1613.
— w. of Thomas Topliff, burd. February 2, 1611.
Thomas Topliff and Joan Mansfield, widd., m. August 27, 1613.
William Topliffe hurt by souldie^{rs} was buried, 1627.
Prudence, w. of John Topliff, buried October 3, 1617.
Clement Tokelie and Ann Jones of Frostenden, both single, m. at Frostenden
February 3, 1622/3.

CALENDAR OF WILLS AT IPSWICH

- JOHNIS TOKCLIFF de Stonham Aspal, 1531-34. Folio 14.
CLEMENSIS TOKELOVE of Hasketton, 1567-8. Folio 266.
GEORGH TOCKLIFF of Wenhaston, 1596-7. Folio 567.

CANTERBURY MARRIAGE LICENSES

- TOPLIFF, THOMAS, of Harrietsham, clothier, ba., about 23, and Ann Bishop of Sutton
Valence, maiden, about 23, dau. of Edward Bishop. At St Andrews, Canter-
bury, September 22, 1623.
STONEHOUSE, ROBERT, of Broughton Malherbe, yeom. wid^r and Aphra Tapcliff, v.
about 30, dau. of Mary Tapcliff. At St. Margarets, Canterbury. Thomas
Topcliff of Ashford, glover, and Richard Topcliff of Canterbury, cordwainer,
bondsmen. January 27, 1633.
BRODNAX, RICHARD, of Cheriton, abt 23, and Elizabeth Topcliff maiden, abt 30,
dau. of Richard Topcliff, dec^d, now abiding with Alice Topcliff her mother.
September 28, 1619.
TOPLIFF, RICHARD, of Ashford, cordwainer, ba., about 24 and Elizabeth Wattes of
Kingsnorth about 18. At Boughton Malherbe, April 10, 1635.
CLARKE, CHRISTOPHER, of Ruckinge, wid^r and Elizabeth Topcliff, v. abt 34. St.
Margarets, Canterbury, October 5, 1629.
HOWLING, STEPHEN, of Ashford, cordwainer, abt. 22, and Grace Topcliff^e of Sturry,
abt. 24. April 7, 1642. Richard Topliff^e of Ashford, cordwainer bondsman.

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

- TOPLEY, JOHN, of Boughton Aluph, husb., ba., about 32, and Ann Smith, d. of Robert Smith. At St. Margarets, Canterbury, February 28, 1638.
- SMITH, THOMAS, of Borden, husbandman, wid' and Ann Topcliffe, of Broughton Aluph, w. of John Topcliff dec^d November 17, 1641.
- TAPCLIFF, RICHARD, clerk, rector of Cheriton, and Alice Godwin of Folkestone. February 20, 1584.
- TAPLEY, EDWARD, of Harrietsham, and Alice Wood, of Leeds, December 18, 1592.
- TOPLEY, THOMAS, of Ashford, fellmonger, about 27, and Elizabeth Drawbridge, of Mersham, w. of Robert Drawbridge. At St. Margarets, Canterbury. Richard Topley of Ashford cordwainer, bondsman. February 9, 1635.

LINCOLN MARRIAGE LICENSES

- September 14, 1623. Anthony Barker of Ashbie de la Land, yeom. aet 21, & Essa Toplidge of same sp^r act. 30. Her parents are dead. Appln. by Eliazer Glenn of Dirrington, gent. [St. Botolph].
- RICHARD TOPLIDGE, of ffolkingham, salter, act. 26, & Jane Eldredge, of Aslackby, sp^r, aet. 19, m. July 28, 1619.
- Will of William Hutchinson, Aldeman of Lincoln January 4, 1556, mentions lands lately purchased of Richard Topcliff of St. Botolph Lincoln. [William Hutchinson's great-nephew William, came to Boston in 1634, with his wife Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson.]

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE

- JAMES HARCASTELL & Elyn Toplyfe, m., 14 Jan. 1594.

WILLS OF THE PREROGATIVE COURT, CANTERBURY

- JOHN TOPLIFF, Clothier, Ipswich, Suffolk. 62 Harte.
- ELLIS TOPLEFE, of Longbridge Deverill, Wilts. May 31, 1638. Relict Joan.

IN THE DIOCESE OF DUBLIN

- TOPCLIFFE, CHARLES, & Elizabeth Cottrell. Marriage license, 1641.
- TOPCLIFFE, CHARLES, of Dublin, Gent. 1664. Intestacy. Elizabeth, of Dublin, widow 1673. Intestacy.

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