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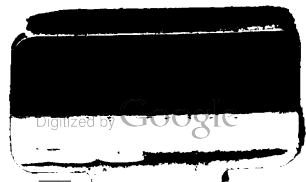
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GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR  
OF THE  
DESCENDANTS  
OF  
CAPT. WILLIAM FOWLER,  
OF  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.





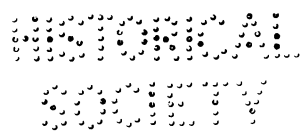


A  
GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR  
OF THE  
DESCENDANTS  
OF  
CAPT. WILLIAM FOWLER,  
OF  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

*(By D. W. Fowler)*



REPRINTED WITH ADDITIONS, FROM MEMOIRS OF HON. JAMES FOWLER, OF WEST  
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## PREFATORY REMARKS.

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“By an instinct of our nature, we all love to learn the places of our birth, and the chief circumstances in the lives of our progenitors.”—*James Savage.*

“Genealogy is the name applied to the science of the origin, sequence, and affinities of families. \* \* \* The earliest traces of genealogy are to be found in the ancestral catalogues of the heroes of the old world. Among the Hebrews there were parties specially appointed to draw up genealogical tables. The absence of criticism, and desire to flatter the great, were the causes of introducing after the fourteenth century, the most ridiculous fables into genealogy. Ancestors were fabricated in the most impudently false manner, and families carried back in an unbroken line, not only to the age of Charlemagne, but even in many cases to the heroes of the Trojan war.

The fact however, is, that hardly any family however distinguished, can trace its ancestors even to the middle of the eleventh century”—the period of the Norman conquest of England. *James Savage*, in his *Genealogical Dictionary of New England*, says, that “nineteen-twentieths of the residents of New England in 1775, were descendants of those found there in 1692 (the era of the arrival of the new charter,) and probably seven-eighths of those, of settlers before 1642. From time of the settlement of American Colonies, to 1776, a purer Anglo-Saxon race could be seen on this side of the ocean, than on the other. From long and careful research, I have judged the proportion of the whole number living here in 1775, that deduce their origin from the kingdom of England, i. e. the southern part of Great Britain, excluding Wales, to exceed 98 in 100.”

Owing to the great influx of foreigners of other races, to our shores, this statement no longer holds true in any portion of the United States. The time is perhaps not far distant when a knowledge of a pure lineage running back to the puritan emigrant of the first half, or even last half of the seventeenth century will be impossible of attainment, except to the

very few, who have been careful to keep and preserve family records, since the emigration of their families from New England, to other States, and since the period when the law became inoperative requiring the registration of births, marriages, and deaths.

It is perhaps to be regretted that so little interest is manifested in keeping up family records, and histories, for the benefit of those who are to come after us. What one who by chance may be personally interested in the "emigrant ancestor" mentioned hereafter, but would willingly give a good price, for a dozen lines of his early history, written by his own hand giving his birth-place, his ancestral traditions, and the leading incidents of his career? Such a contribution for the benefit of posterity is not beyond the ability of the most humble man or woman in our land.

Because ourselves or our ancestors are, or have been, humble, or ignoble need not prevent us; the spirit that would scoff at such efforts, would doubtless consider the history of mankind as needless, and blot out the records of human experience as well.

The compiler of this pamphlet has expended some time and labor in completing the record in his own line of descent, simply for his own pleasure, and that of his *immediate relatives* and friends. For the benefit of others, however, he has caused to be printed entire, the contents of Hon. James Fowler's pamphlet relating to the descendants of Captain William Fowler, which the writer supposes to be but a reprint from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register of July, 1857. To this has been added all the descendants (so far as known to the writer,) of Gurdon Fowler of the fifth generation from William Fowler the magistrate, and the tenth child, and youngest son of "Jonathan Fowler, the Giant," all mention of which has been omitted in the record above referred to. Gurdon Fowler died in Pennsylvania in 1809; his son Austin Fowler, (grand-son of the Giant,) is yet living in Pennsylvania at the advanced age of 83, and through whom many of these facts and traditions have been obtained. The family bible of Gurdon Fowler is still in existence, containing a record, possibly from his own pen, of his father, brothers and sisters, the dates of their births, marriages, and deaths, all of which have been copied into this work, and will doubtless be accepted as good authority on this subject.

To the descendants of this ancestor, this work has been more particularly devoted, and the writer presents to them in the results of his labors,

what he believes to be, their correct lineage for eight generations, and hopes that they will take as much pleasure in its perusal, as he has taken in compiling the same.

For the purpose of bringing more clearly to view the reasons and causes which induced the emigrant ancestor William Fowler, to come to America, together with the part he doubtless took, in common with the others of his cotemporaries, in founding, and subsequently in forming the polity of the New Haven colony, I introduce the following from Dwight's History of Connecticut, Chap. VIII. and IX., as being the most concise, and at the same time, thorough statement of any with which I am familiar:

“Mr. Davenport, Samuel Eaton, Theophilus Eaton, Esq., Edward Hopkins, Esq., Mr. Thomas Gregson, and a considerable number of persons besides, who had left England to escape persecution, and to take up their abode in America, arrived in Boston from London, England, in the month of June, 1637. (Two large ships arrived at this time, one named the Planter, but we are not informed if the company came in one or both.)

Mr. Davenport had been distinguished in England as a Minister of great learning and piety. Messrs. Eaton and Hopkins had been successful merchants in London, and the former had resided *at the Court of Denmark as agent of the King of England.*

Great exertions were made in Massachusetts to induce this wealthy company to remain in that colony. The people of Cambridge proposed to relinquish to them their whole town, and the General Court to give them any place which they might select; but they preferred to penetrate farther into the interior of the country. \* \* \* \* That highly respectable company appear to have had several reasons for not remaining in Massachusetts. Mr. Davenport held the opinion that no reformation in the Church had ever been carried farther than where it was left by those who introduced it; and he probably thought that the system adopted in the new colonies was defective in some points not likely to be improved. He was a decided opponent of Antinomian doctrines, which at that time had progressed in Boston. Besides, he and his associates were apprehensive that the King would soon send out a Governor-General of New England, to whose authority they did not wish to be subject

Fully resolved on making a new settlement at a distance from the others,

in the autumn of 1637 Mr. Davenport, with several of his friends, visited the shores of Long Island Sound, with the commercial and other advantages of which they were much pleased. They selected the place called Quinnipiac by the Indians, and by the Dutch Rocabert; and, having built a hut there, a few of their number spent the winter in it. This was the first habitation known to have been erected there, and, indeed, on any part of the Connecticut coast west of Saybrook fort. The settlement of New Haven, however, did not really begin until the following year. On the 30th of March, 1638, Messrs. Davenport, Prudden, Theophilus and Samuel Eaton, sailed from Boston with their companions. They reached Quinnipiac in about two weeks. On the 15th of April they spent their first Sabbath there, and in a truly christian manner, viz.: in the worship of God, and the strict observance of His holy day. The people assembled in the shade of a large oak tree, at the place where George street now crosses College street; and Mr. Davenport preached an appropriate sermon from the 6th chapter of Matthew, 1st verse: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them, otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in Heaven."

Shortly afterward, a day of fasting and prayer was observed; and at the close of it they formed what they called the "Plantation Covenant," in which they solemnly bound themselves "that, as in matters that concern the gathering and ordering of a Church, so also, in all public offices which concern civil order, as choice of magistrates and officers, making and repealing laws, dividing allotments of inheritance, and all things of like nature, they would, all of them, be ordered by the rules which the Scripture held forth to them." This was intended to be their rule until they should form a more intimate mutual acquaintance, and then they designed to covenant together as christians. \* \* \* \*

#### CHAPTER IX.

\* \* \* — The first Constitution of Connecticut was formed in Hartford, after mature deliberation at a meeting of the free planters of all the towns, who assembled on the 14th of January, 1639. The preamble states, in substance, that they formed one public State or Commonwealth for the establishment of order and government, and that they confederated, for themselves and their successors, to maintain the

liberty and purity of the Gospel, and the discipline of the Churches, according to its institution. \* \* \* It declared all to be freemen who had been received as members of towns, and taken the oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth. The Governor was required to be a member of a regular Church and to have been a magistrate; and he could not be elected more than once in two years. To be a candidate for a magistrate, a man was required to be a freeman, and to be nominated by the freemen or the General Court. \* \* \* "These pure and sincere men, the founders of Connecticut, denied the divine right of Kings, and had been led by their observations, experience, and reflections in England, to the conclusion that man is too frail in judgment and virtue to be safely trusted with the uncontrolled government of others." \* \*



## INTRODUCTION.

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The family of FOWLER, now quite numerous in this country, is derived from different emigrant ancestors, from various parts of England, arriving at different times, of no relationship, or quite remote if any. Tradition would seem to favor a connection, but in most cases it is probably the old story of the "three brothers."

**P**hillip Fowler, is the ancestor of the Ipswich family of that name. He was a freeman, Massachusetts Colony, 3d Sept., 1634; settled at Ipswich, where he was a "clothmaker," and where he died 24th of June, 1679, aged 88, leaving a numerous posterity. His name is on a patent or charter from Lord Sheffield, 1623, to a body of settlers at Cape Ann. These planters afterwards removed to Salem and Boston "for a better soil."

**J**oseph Fowler, is mentioned as a first settler near "Mespatkill," Newton, Long Island, 1655. The "purchasers" gave according to his possessions at the rate of one shilling per acre; Joseph is down for £1. "This place was founded by colonists from New England." [Riker's History of Newtown.]

**R**ichard Fowler, was one of the proprietors of Rye, N. Y., 1662, and signed a letter to the Court at Hartford, 1663, from the inhabitants of that town.

**H**enry Fowler, was one of the first settlers at East Chester, West Chester County, N. Y. The original grantees were from Fairfield, Conn., and the articles of agreement are dated 1665. The descendants of Henry, are quite numerous in Orange and Westchester Counties, N. Y. One of them Dr. Samuel Fowler, of Hamburg, N. J., a member of Congress, now deceased; another is Rev. P. H. Fowler, D. D., of Utica, N. Y.; another is Isaac V. Fowler, once a postmaster of New York City, now dead. It is probable that the first settlers of the

name in New York, went from Connecticut, but whether related to the Fowlers of New Haven, Windsor and Massachusetts, we have not been able to ascertain, although a tradition in the family intimates that they were.

**H**enry Fowler, one of the first settlers of Rhode Island, and according to tradition, related to the New Haven Fowlers, was married in Providence, about 1655. He was a representative in General Assembly, 1672, and left descendants.

**J**oseph Fowler, who died before 1850, in New Orleans, was a native of Maryland, and his ancestors from England. His real and personal estate, was appraised at over one million and a half of dollars. He was never married, and his sisters—three of them—one in District of Columbia, and two in Maryland—inherjt his estate.

**A**mbrose Fowler, whose genealogy has been given by Hon. James Fowler, of Westfield, Mass., (one of his descendants,) was one of the first settlers of Windsor, Conn., and is supposed to be a son of William Fowler, one of the first Magistrates of the New Haven Colony, and a first settler at Milford. Mr Judd, one of the most accurate antiquarians of the Connecticut River Valley, says, "it is possible that Ambrose Fowler, of Windsor and Westfield, was a son of the first William Fowler of Milford; but I have never found any *evidence* whatever of his relation. Very likely they were related to each other, if they were not father and son."

**W**illiam Fowler, the Magistrate, was the emigrant ancestor of all or most of the Fowlers of Connecticut. He arrived in Boston from London, England, June 26th, 1637, in company with Rev. John Davenport, Theophilus Eaton, Peter Prudden, and "others of good character and fortunes." Whether he was the "William Fowler" mentioned in Neal's "History of the Puritans," chap. 8, as imprisoned with others in Bridewell, London, 1592, is not entirely certain. About that time a Puritan congregation was discovered in Islington, a part of London, and fifty-six persons were imprisoned. As families bearing the name of Fowler reside in that locality, he may have been one of the prisoners, though at that time a very young man. He is spoken of as an old man when he settled in Milford. He may have come from Yorkshire or thereabouts, as his minis-

ter Rev. Peter Prudden, came from Edgerton, in that county. There is nothing improbable in the supposition however, that he was the puritan prisoner mentioned, if so, he was probably from Islington, or near London. In this connection we introduce the following from "Weever's Funeral Monuments," of "Monumental remains at Islington, near London." "Here—John Fowler—1538," and "Alis Fowler, wife of Robert Fowler, Esquire, who d.—, 1540;" "Divers of this family lie here interred; the ancestors of *Sir Thomas Fowler*, Knight and Baronet, living 1630."

Mr. Davenport was born in Warwickshire, and removed to London, where he was vicar of St. Stephen's Church. Mr. Eaton, another of the New Haven company, was a member of this church, and also from Warwickshire—the arcestors of both being originally from the county of Chester.

Mr. Fowler, in company with Mr. Davenport and others, sailed from Boston, March 30th, 1638, for Quinnipiac, the Indian name for New Haven, and arrived in about a fortnight. Here he resided a year or more, and was at the famous meeting in Mr. Newman's barn, June 4th, 1639, when the peculiar constitution and policy of Mr. Davenport, which afterwards characterized the New Haven Colony, was agreed upon. Mr. Fowler subscribed to that agreement.

In the spring of 1639, the settlement of Milford had been arranged, and Mr. Fowler, is the first named of the trustees, and the only one bearing the honorable prefix of "*Mr.*" At the first meeting of the Milford Company, he was chosen one of the "Judges." The church was organized in 1639, and he was elected one of the "seven pillars."—Mr. Peter Prudden, Pastor. Mr. Fowler was elected magistrate, and reappointed yearly to 1654.

The deed of Milford was given to WILLIAM FOWLER, EDMUND TAPP, ZACHARIAH WHITMAN and ALEXANDER BRYAN, in trust for the body of planters. It was executed on the 12th of February, 1639. The consideration was 6 coats, 10 blankets, 1 kettle, besides a number of hoes, knives, hatchets, and glasses, (mirrors.)

The instrument was signed by ANSANTAWAE, the Sagamore, by ANACOUSET, ANCHUTA, MANTAQUE, and others.

On November 20th, 1639, "WILLIAM FOWLER, EDMUND TAPP, ZACHARIAH WHITMAN, JOHN ASTWOOD and RICHARD MILES, were chosen Judges in all civil affairs, to try all causes between man and man; and

as a Court to punish any offence and misdemeanor, and to admit inhabitants, and divide lands."

At the second General Court, in Milford, held March 9th, 1640, "it was agreed between WILLIAM FOWLER and the Brethren, that he should build a mill and have her going by the last of September; when the town was to take it off his hands if they saw proper, for £100; or else the Brethren should elect five Judges, who should appoint what toll he should take." For his encouragement the town made him a grant of thirty acres of land, which long bore the name of the mill lot.

They afterwards granted him the permanent use of the stream. The agreement had reference to a grist-mill, but he afterwards added a saw-mill. It was the *first* mill erected in the "New Haven Colony."

"Fowler's Mill" was of so much importance to the community, that upon its being injured by a freshet, in December, 1645, it was voted at the General Court, "that all the town should help Mr. Fowler upon his mill, and he was to call for them, each man, a day, till he should have gone through the town. And if he should not go through the town in one year, the same liberty was granted till he had been through."

On the 26th, of October, 1643, WILLIAM FOWLER and EDMUND TAPP of Milford, were chosen magistrates of the Colony of New Haven; and on the succeeding day the articles of the confederation for the jurisdiction were drawn and passed. The magistrates present, were THEOPHILUS EATON, GOVERNOR; STEPHEN GOODYEAR, Deputy Governor; THOMAS GREGSON, WILLIAM FOWLER, EDMUND TAPP, THURSTON RAYNOR; THOMAS FUGIL, Secretary; THOMAS KIMBERLY, Marshall.

William Fowler, and others who were the members of the church, were enrolled as "Free Planters" in Milford, Nov. 29th, 1639. Those who were not members, were not thus enrolled, and had not the privilege of voting in civil matters. The method of forming the Church of Milford, was the same as forming that of New Haven. It appears that they were both formed on the same day, namely, August 22d, 1639. The "seven pillars" of the Milford church, were PETER PRUDDEN, WILLIAM FOWLER, EDMUND TAPP, ZACHARIAH WHITMAN, JOHN ASTWOOD, THOMAS BUCKINGHAM, THOMAS WELCH. Of these, ZACHARIAH WHITMAN, WILLIAM FOWLER and EDMUND TAPP, were deputed for the imposition of hands upon the Rev. Peter Prudden, at his installation.

Mr. FOWLER died in 1660. His will presented in 1661, to the General Court of the Colony, by his son William Fowler, was not recorded and cannot be found. He was enrolled at New Haven as having property to the amount of £800, and a family of "three persons." His house-lot at Milford, was 7 acres 2 quarters. He left three or four children namely, WILLIAM FOWLER, JOHN FOWLER, MARY FOWLER, and perhaps AMBROSE FOWLER, who removed to Windsor. His children were born before his removal to America, he at the time of his settlement being an old man, and his family of "three" were doubtless himself, wife and one child. The child may have been MARY, who married John Caffing. There is nothing inconsistent in the supposition and tradition that *Ambrose* of Windsor, and *John* who settled in Guilford, were brothers of William<sup>s</sup> Fowler, Jr., (who settled at Milford,) and sons of William Fowler the magistrate.

It is probable that Mr. Fowler was one among those of the first settlers who had received a classical education in his native country. He is reported to have enjoyed a high reputation for wisdom and piety, and had the confidence of the Colony as a magistrate.

**J**ohn Fowler, the second son of William Fowler, Senior, had a "home lot" assigned him at Milford, and was in the list of planters there in 1639, but about ten years afterwards removed and settled at *Guilford*. He was a man of note in the Colony, a deacon and a deputy to the Colonial Court, and died 14th of September, 1676. This branch is now said to be very numerous, and an effort is being made by Prof. John W. Fowler, the distinguished phrenologist of New York, and Prof. William C. Fowler, of Amherst, to collect their genealogy.

For an account of Ambrose Fowler, and his descendants, see memoir of Hon. James Fowler, of Westfield, Mass.

# GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR

OF THE DESCENDANTS OF

## CAPT. WILLIAM FOWLER.

**C**apt. William<sup>2</sup> Fowler, the son of William<sup>1</sup> Fowler, the "magistrate," did not participate with his father in the settlement of Milford, but remained at New Haven, where he took the oath of fidelity, 1644, and was admitted to the General Court, 1645. He was a land holder at New Haven, where he was living, 1655. East Haven, "Fowler's Cove," and "Fowler's Creek," now so-called, were named from him. About two miles from New Haven, now the village of Whitneyville, and on the site of the establishment for the manufacture of fire-arms, erected by Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, Mr. Fowler built a mill, 1645, which the town bought of him, 3d of January, 1659, for one hundred pounds. He was chosen successively, "Sergeant," "Lieutenant," and "Captain," of the "Town Company," and is mentioned in the Colonial Records of Hartford and New Haven, as one to raise troops as a defence against a threatened incursion of the Dutch.

He first m., as early as 1645, Mary, dau. of Edward and Ann Tapp, sister of Jane Tapp, wife of Governor Treat, by whom were born to him all his children. He m. 2d, Nov. 1st, 1670, at Milford, widow Elizabeth (Alsop) Baldwin. She was living at the date of his death, and as we learn from his will, was a "tender, dutiful and loving wife," and he desired that she might continue to "live with his children, to be a guide and help to them as a mother, and head of a family." He removed and settled at Milford, about the time of his father's death, 1660, where a portion of his children were born and baptized.

His will is dated 3d, October, 1682, and probated, June, 1683. He gives property to "his eldest son John, to encourage him to tend the mill

built by his father." Children (10 mentioned in will) born at New Haven, and Milford.

- (2) I. SARAH,<sup>3</sup> b. —, m. John Smith, "ye Smith," 19th July, 1665.
- (3) II. HANNAH,<sup>3</sup> b. —, m. Daniel Buckingham, 21st November, 1661. He was an elder in the church at Milford. Had *Hannab*,<sup>4</sup> b. 11th October, 1663; *Daniel*,<sup>4</sup> b. 28th February, 1665. He was an associate executor to his father-in-law's will, and d. 2d May, 1711-12.
- (4) III. JOHN,<sup>3</sup> (12) m. Sarah Welch.
- (5) IV. JONATHAN,<sup>3</sup> (14) b. at New Haven, 8th February, 1650-51, m. Elizabeth Reynolds.
- (6) V. MARK,<sup>3</sup> (18) bap. at New Haven, 17th January, 1655-56, wife, Mary —.
- (7) VI. DEBORAH,<sup>3</sup> bap. at New Haven, 1st June, 1658, m. Jesse Lambert 10th May, 1685, recently from England; eight children.
- (8) VII. ABIGAIL,<sup>3</sup> b. at Milford, 27th November, 1660, m. at Norwich, 1685, John Elderkin; had seven children. She died March, 1713-14.
- (9) VIII. WILLIAM,<sup>3</sup> (21) b. at Milford, 1664.
- (10) IX. MARY,<sup>3</sup> b. —, d. unm. 1685-6; mention is made in her father's will of her "lameness and weakness."
- (11) X. MERCY,<sup>3</sup> b. 1st April, 1669, m. John Bills, settled in New London, afterwards Lebanon, Ct.
- (12) XI. TEMPERANCE,<sup>3</sup> was probably another dau., though not in father's will, m. Nathan Burwell, son of Lieut. Samuel B., and grandson of John B., one of the first planters.

**J**ohn,<sup>3</sup> (4) m. Sarah, dau. Thos. Welch; was one of the "young men" of Milford who, in 1671, destroyed the Indian Fort; vide following paragraph. He d. previous to 1695, as, in a deed executed at that date by Sarah Fowler, "widow and executor" of John F., her husband is named as executor of his father, William<sup>3</sup> Fowler's will. His will is probated 1693, and mentions his "only son, John," his wife to "take care to bring him up and educate him in the fear of God." He also mentions "my honorable uncle, Robert Treat, Esq., the Governor." From

the records we find "Mrs. Sarah Newton, alias Fowler, d. 5th August, 1723." This was John's widow, m. subsequently to his death to a Newton.

- (13) I. MARGARET,<sup>4</sup> bap. 8th April, 1688, d. 1691.  
 (14) II. JOHN,<sup>4</sup> (26) bap. 5th April, 1691, m. 1st, Susannah Burwell;  
 2d, Abigail Prince.

**J**onathan,<sup>3</sup> (5) the ancestor of the Fowlers of Windham Co., Ct., had lands from his father, at New Haven, where he resided in 1661. He, with his brother John, was one of the "young men" of Milford who, in 1671, destroyed the fort built by the Indians for their defence against the Mohawks. What their object was in destroying it, does not appear, but it was done "with the utmost secrecy, at dead of night," as the records tell us.

The Indians complained of the act, whereupon civil process was issued against them. They were tried before the General Court at New Haven, and fined ten pounds each.

In 1681 or '82 he sold out at New Haven, and was of Norwich, 1683 to 1693, when he removed to Windham with his family, and there died 10th June, 1696.

He m. at Norwich, 3d August, 1687, Elizabeth, dau. of John Reynolds, of Norwich. She was born November, 1666, of a family of eight children. He mentions in his will four children, all recorded at Norwich, as is also his death.

- (15) I. ELIZABETH,<sup>4</sup> (10) March, 1688-9, m. 8th January, 1713, Thomas Loomis, who was b. at Windsor, and who was an original member of the second church at Lebanon, at its first formation, 1729. She united with this church in 1730. They had, besides others, *Desire*,<sup>6</sup> b. 10th July, 1754, m. at Lebanon, Dea. John, son of Ichabod Bartlett, 8th December, 1774, who settled at East Windsor, and whose son, Rev. Shubael Bartlett, deceased 1855, was for fifty years a minister at East Windsor.
- (16) II. JOSEPH,<sup>4</sup> b. 28th September, 1691, m. Elizabeth Powell, 8th January, 1712-13. He was a magistrate and a man of worth. He was deputy from Lebanon from 1726 to 1759. He had a farm of 150 acres at Lebanon, and removed



to East Haddam, 1763, where he was a "corporal" and a "constable," &c., and where he d. 23d June, 1768, and his wife the same year. He had no children, but brought up and educated his nephew, Joseph, son of Jonathan, who was afterwards an eminent clergyman at East Haddam.

- (17) III. SARAH,<sup>4</sup> b. 20th December, 1693, church at Goshen, 1730.  
 (18) IV. JONATHAN,<sup>4</sup> (30) b. 20th May, 1696, wife, Hannah Clark.

**M**ark,<sup>3</sup> (6) was a proprietor at New Haven, 1685, where he d. 1686, leaving a widow, Mary, and three children; will probated in 1687, and in 1702 their father's property was divided among these children, about which time they settled in Lebanon. His widow d. at New Haven, July, 1688, children b. at New Haven.

- (19) I. JOHN,<sup>4</sup> (39) b. 1st March, 1681, bap. 29th May, 1681, wife, Sarah.  
 (20) II. THOMAS,<sup>4</sup> b. 8th January, 1683, removed to Lebanon. His wife was Elizabeth; they probably had children, for at Lebanon was born "*Thomas*, son of Thomas," "19th April, 1714;" also, "Thomas Fowler d. 10th November, 1706."  
 (21) III. MARY,<sup>4</sup> mentioned in father's will, and named in 1702, in division of property.

**W**illiam,<sup>3</sup> (9) who was born at Milford, 1664, made a will, which was probated 1729. His wife was Anna; she d. 25th June, 1740, aged 76, at Milford, at which place "he d. 23d February, 1728-29, aged 65."

- (22) I. ELIZABETH,<sup>4</sup> b. —, m. Nathan Clark, of Milford, 29th June, 1710.  
 (23) II. HANNAH,<sup>4</sup> m. Ebenezer Smith, of Milford, 9th January, 1719.  
 (24) III. MARGARET,<sup>4</sup> b. 4th October, 1698, m. Samuel Smith.  
 (25) IV. WILLIAM,<sup>4</sup> b. 17th March, 1700, m. Eunice Hays, 1st April, 1724. They had *Eunice*,<sup>5</sup> b. 1726. He d. 7th March, 1726-7, aged 26, and his widow m. 2d Stephen Baldwin, 15th September, 1730.

(26) V. JONATHAN,<sup>4</sup> (44) b. 27th October, 1704, m. Hannah Clark.

**C**apt. John,<sup>4</sup> (14) m. 1st, Susannah Burwell, 28th February, 1711-12; she d. 18th March, 1744, and he m. 2d, Abigail, widow of Capt. Josiah Prince. He d. 30th August, 1756. He was chosen town clerk of Milford 1718, which office he held until his death, 1756, when his son succeeded him.

(27) I. SUSANNAH,<sup>5</sup> b. 8th December, 1712, drowned 13th December, 1727.

(28) II. MARGARET,<sup>5</sup> b. 8th June, 1715, m. Joseph Merwin; lived in New Haven; three children.

(29) III. JOHN,<sup>5</sup> (48) b. 7th February, 1717, m. Mary Newton, 9th December, 1742.

(30) IV. SARAH,<sup>5</sup> b. 1st August, 1723, m. Richard Bryan, jr., 13th January, 1742; s. in Milford, and had thirteen children.

**J**onathan,<sup>4</sup> (18) called "Sergeant," and the one so celebrated for his extraordinary size and strength as "Fowler, the giant." See "Fowler's Hereditary Descent," and other works, where wonderful stories are recorded of his contests with bears in the woods, and bullies from Boston, who came to test his strength. The land records of Coventry show that he settled in Coventry, from Lebanon, in 1719. His will is dated 1753; probated 1756. His wife, Hannah, d. at Coventry, 8th October, 1756, aged 59; he d. same year, aged 61. Children ten; the first three born at Lebanon, the others at Coventry. According to the traditions of the Bradford Co, Pa., Fowlers, among whom his youngest son died within the memory of men now living, (1870,) Jonathan Fowler, the giant, was seven feet in height, and weighed something over four hundred pounds. His muscular powers were something enormous. It is reported that he could lift a barrel of cider by the chimes and drink out of the bung-hole; that on one occasion a champion of Boston, having heard of his reputation for great strength, came to wrestle with him; he being indignant at his presumption, (being a man of probity,) pitched him over a stone fence near by, and then lifted the horse which he rode and tumbled it over after him; after which feat the Boston gentleman expressed himself satisfied and retired. It is also related that he could lift and throw clear over a cart, a stone so heavy that two strong men were unable to lift and

place within it. There is, probably, little doubt of the truth of the story "that he attacked and killed a bear with a club," not having any other weapon at the time. His fame spread abroad, and it is reported that George II., then Monarch of England, had a painting made, on the margin of which were these words:—"Jonathan Fowler, the Giant of America, in the act of killing a bear." The painting is supposed to be still in existence at the Whitehall Gallery, in London. Children 10 in number.

- (31) I. JOSEPH,<sup>5</sup> (52) b. 1722, m. Sarah Metcalf.
- (32) II. JONATHAN,<sup>5</sup> (60) m. Abigail Bissell.
- (33) III. HANNAH,<sup>5</sup> b. 24th August, 1725, d. before 1753.
- (34) IV. MARY,<sup>5</sup> b. 30th October, 1727.
- (35) V. DANIEL,<sup>5</sup> b. 3d June, 1729, m. Temperance Rogers, 18th June, 1752; s. at Coventry.
- (36) VI. ICHABOD,<sup>5</sup> (64) b. 28th January, 1731, m. Ruth Grover.
- (37) VII. GURDON,<sup>5</sup> b. 8th March, 1733, d. 24th May, 1737.
- (38) VIII. ELIZABETH,<sup>5</sup> b. 12th November, 1735. *mistakenly educated*
- (39) IX. ISRAEL,<sup>5</sup> (71) b. 3d June, 1736, m. 16th September, 1655, Eunice Bissell.
- (40) X. GURDON, 2d, (75) b. 16th April, 1739, m. 1st, Sarah Rogers, 15th February, 1758; m. 2d, Mary Chapman, 28th December, 1775

John,<sup>4</sup> (19) b. at New Haven, 1st March, 1680-81, was among the first settlers at Lebanon, about 1702. He purchased of John Mason, in the "five mile purchase," land in what is now called Goshen Society. Five generations have lived on the spot, and it is now the property of Gen. Amos<sup>7</sup> Fowler. The old house, built by the first settler, was replaced in 1839, by a new one erected on the spot, and on its completion it was made the occasion of some interesting dedicatory ceremonies, and a discourse was delivered by a descendant, the Rev. and Hon. Orin Fowler, who was born on the spot,—a discourse filled with interesting historical and genealogical incident. His will is dated 5th April, 1743, and probated 1751, and gives to son John 100 acres of land in Coventry. His widow's will is probated 1774, in which year she d., aged 88. Mr. Fowler d. 8th May, 1751, in the 72d year of his age, "having served God and his generation faithfully, being very skilful and successful in the throat distemper."

- (41) I. JOHN,<sup>5</sup> b. 31st October, 1708; removed from Lebanon to Coventry, and d. about 1771. His first wife, Dorothy, d. 10th March, 1751, and he m. 2d, widow Elizabeth Shaw, 16th November, 1753. His children were: *Jerusha*,<sup>6</sup> b. 26th July, 1732; *Thomas*,<sup>6</sup> b. 17th December, 1733, m. Rhoda Clark, 17th April, 1766, at Lebanon, and lived at the "Crank," Columbia; *Mary*,<sup>6</sup> b. 9th January, 1735; *Sarah*,<sup>6</sup> b. 11th February, 1738; *Abraham*,<sup>6</sup> b. 1st November, 1745; *Hannah*,<sup>6</sup> b. 26th May, 1749.
- (42) II. MARY,<sup>5</sup> b. 13th November, 1710.
- (43) III. MARK,<sup>5</sup> b. 7th November, 1712, m. Hannah Chubb, of Ashford, 18th November, 1746, and removed to Salisbury, Ct., where Rev. Joseph Parsons, the first minister at Lebanon, had settled in 1718. He leased 100 acres of land at Salisbury, "for 900 years," "in consideration of 291 ounces of coined silver." He d. previous to 1768, for at that date Rachel Fowler is described as his wife and executrix, probably his second wife.
- (44) IV. DIJAH,<sup>5</sup> (88) b. 10th June, 1717, m. Abigail Bigelow.
- (45) V. SARAH,<sup>5</sup> b. 28th December, 1718, m. Mr. Clark, of Lebanon.

**J**onathan,<sup>4</sup> (26) m. Hannah, dau. Nathan Clark, 9th January, 1728; lived at Milford, where he d. 5th May, 1773, aged 70. He was one of the Dissenters from the Established Church, at Milford, who professed themselves to be Presbyterians, according to the Church of Scotland. Children,—

- (46) I. HANNAH,<sup>5</sup> b. 27th November, 1729, m. Capt. Isaac Clark.
- (47) II. WILLIAM,<sup>5</sup> b. 22d July, 1732, m. Eunice Baldwin, and had *William*,<sup>6</sup> b. 1762, d. unm. 1785; *Elizabeth*,<sup>6</sup> *Emma*,<sup>6</sup> *Catbarine*,<sup>6</sup> *Susan*,<sup>6</sup> *Mary*.<sup>6</sup>
- (48) III. JONATHAN,<sup>5</sup> (95) b. 11th August, 1735, m. Content Baldwin.
- (49) IV. NATHAN,<sup>5</sup> (103) b. 22d July, 1741, m. Susan Miles.

**E**lie. John,<sup>5</sup> (29) who m. Mary, dau. of Fletcher Newton, succeeded his father as town clerk, in 1756, and his wife's death, 28th March, 1774, is the last death recorded by him. He served his country in the Revolution. His will is probated December, 1781.

- (50) I. SUSANNAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 12th August, 1744, m. Daniel Buckingham, 15th May, 1788, and d. without children.
- (51) II. JOHN,<sup>6</sup> (108) b. 21st August, 1748, m. Mary Ann Harpin.
- (52) III. FLETCHER,<sup>6</sup>b. 8th March, 1751, d. same day.

**Rev. Joseph,**<sup>5</sup> (31) Congregational minister at East Haddam, where he s. in 1751; m. 3d February, 1747, Sarah, dau. of Rev. Joseph Metcalf, of Lebanon. Mr. Fowler graduated at Yale College in 1743, and after a ministry of twenty-one years, d. at East Haddam 10th June, 1771. Children,—

- (53) I. JOSEPH,<sup>6</sup> b. 31st December, 1747, m. Margaret Hull, 21st October, 1771, and had, at East Haddam, *Ezra,*<sup>7</sup> b. 20th May, 1774, d. young; *David,*<sup>7</sup> d. young; *Elizabeth,*<sup>7</sup> b. 30th June, 1779, m. Solomon Huntington, of East Haddam, and had children.
- (54) II. ELIZABETH,<sup>6</sup> b. 19th January, 1750, d. 13th February, 1750.
- (55) III. ELIZABETH,<sup>6</sup> b. 17th October, 1751, d. 19th September, 1762.
- (56) IV. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 11th November, 1753, m. 17th October, 1780, Rev. Joseph Vaill, of Hadlyme, where she d. July, 1832, and he 21st November, 1838, aged 88. Of eight children, four lived to adult age, viz: Rev. William Fowler Vaill, of Illinois; Mrs. Sarah Norcross, of Monson, Mass.; Rev. Joseph Vaill, D.D., of Somers, Ct.; and Mrs. Amanda V. Everts, of Killingworth, Ct.
- (57) V. ELISHA ADAMS,<sup>6</sup> (132) b. 29th September, 1755, m. Mary Burr.
- (58) VI. WILLIAM,<sup>6</sup> b. 27th December, 1757, d. 1759.
- (59) VII. WILLIAM,<sup>6</sup> b. 27th September, 1761, d. young.
- (60) VIII. ELECTA,<sup>6</sup> b. 7th July, 1767, m. Dea. Thomas Harvey, of Hadlyme, and had four children.

**Jonathan,**<sup>5</sup> (32) of Coventry, m. Abigail, dau. of John Bissell, 24th September, 1740, and had,—

- (61) I. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 24th July, 1741, d. young.
- (62) II. TABITHA,<sup>6</sup> b. 6th September, 1743.

- (63) III. JOSEPH B.,<sup>6</sup> b. 28th September, 1749, m. Sarah Baldwin, 28th November, 1771, and had, at Coventry, *Lavina*,<sup>7</sup> *Silas B.*,<sup>7</sup> b. 18th May, 1774.
- (64) IV. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 9th June, 1753.

**R**habod,<sup>5</sup> (36) of Coventry, m. Ruth Grover, 4th October, 1753, and had,—

- (65) I. BETTA,<sup>6</sup> b. 2d November, 1754.
- (66) II. HANNAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 20th October, 1757.
- (67) III. RUTH,<sup>6</sup> b. 9th February, 1761.
- (68) IV. ANNA,<sup>6</sup> b. 9th April, 1764.
- (69) V. JEMIMA,<sup>6</sup> b. 30th August, 1766.
- (70) VI. JESSE,<sup>6</sup> b. 31st, August, 1768.
- (71) VII. ASIL,<sup>6</sup> b. 9th February, 1771.

**I**srael,<sup>5</sup> (39) of Coventry, a son of the "Giant," was six feet seven inches in height, and weighed upwards of 300 pounds; he m. 16th September, 1755, Eunice, dau. of John Bissell. He d. at Coventry, 12th June, 1805, and she d. 9th February, 1801, aged 77. Children,—

- (72) I. ABIGAIL,<sup>6</sup> b. 17th September, 1758.
- (73) II. ESTHER,<sup>6</sup> b. 22d August, 1760, d. 2d January, 1776.
- (74) III. EUNICE,<sup>6</sup> b. 25th September, 1762, m. Nathaniel Jeffers, and s. in Luzerne, Pa., and had children.
- (75) IV. JOEL,<sup>6</sup> b. 18th May, 1764, and removed, in 1817, to Aurora, N. Y., where he d., and where his children live.

**G**urdon,<sup>5</sup> (40) of Coventry, Ct., b. 16th April, 1639, m. 1st, Sarah Rogers, 15th February, 1758, by whom he had seven children; m. 2d, Mary Chapman, 28th December, 1775, by whom he had six children.

Gurdon Fowler emigrated to Pennsylvania, to what is now Monroe Township, Bradford Co., in September, 1800. He and his sons Jonathan and Rogers bought lands under Connecticut titles, which afterwards proved worthless, as the lands were claimed by Pennsylvania, together with all the improvements, consisting (besides others) of a saw and grist-mill. Nothing daunted by such adverse fortune, they again purchased lands, on long credit, of the "Holland Purchase Company," and this time were more fortunate;

but it required the most stubborn energy and perseverance to bring forth the fruits of husbandry from a wild and densely wooded region, like that of Northern Pennsylvania.

After nine years of struggle and privation, incident to the settlement of a new country, "the father, Gurdon Fowler, was called to his eternal rest,—freed from hardship and toil." He d. 11th November, 1809. Children, thirteen in number, all b. in Connecticut:

- (76) I. JONATHAN,<sup>6</sup> (141) b. 2d March, 1759.
- (77) II. DANIEL,<sup>6</sup> (141 A) b. 9th September, 1761.
- (78) III. ELIJAH,<sup>6</sup> (149) b. 20th July, 1763.
- (79) IV. ROGERS,<sup>6</sup> (155) b. 8th July, 1766.
- (80) V. ASA,<sup>6</sup> (155 B) b. 15th May, 1769.
- (81) VI. GURDON,<sup>6</sup> (155 C) b. 21st April, 1772.
- (82) VII. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> (155 D) b. 15th December, 1774.

Children by 2d wife, Mary. Chapman, who was b. 21st July, 1750:

- (83) VIII. POLLY,<sup>6</sup> (155 E) b. 31st March, 1777.
- (84) IX. HANNAH,<sup>6</sup> (155 F) b. 7th April, 1780.
- (85) X. RUSSELL,<sup>6</sup> (155 G) b. 15th September, 1782.
- (86) XI. ROXEY,<sup>6</sup> (155 H) b. 16th July, 1786.
- (87) XII. AUSTIN,<sup>6</sup> (155 K) b. 31st May, 1787.
- (88) XIII. BETSEY,<sup>6</sup> (155 L) b. 14th April, 1792.

**C**apt. **Dijah**,<sup>5</sup> (44) m. Abigail, dau. of serg't Isaac Bigelow, of Colchester, 18th December, 1745. She was b. 13th April, 1723, and d. 9th June, 1796, the grand-daughter of Samuel Bigelow, of Watertown, Mass. Capt. Fowler belonged to the military, was a man much in public life, and held high in public estimation for his social and generous nature, and strictly moral character. He d. 14th December, 1804, in his 88th year. Children, b. at Lebanon:

- (89) I. ABIGAIL,<sup>6</sup> b. 1st March, 1747, m. Mr. Skinner, of Woodstock; he d., and she m. 2d, Mr. Dean; descendants in Providence, R. I.
- (90) II. DIJAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 14th August, 1748; wife, Mary; had *Benjamin Beach*,<sup>7</sup> *Lydia*.<sup>7</sup> He d. at Goshen, 29th August, 1777.
- (91) III. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 17th June, 1750, m. Samuel Colt, of Lyme, and had *Martin*,<sup>7</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>7</sup> *Dijab*,<sup>7</sup> *Sarab*.<sup>7</sup>

- (92) IV. LYDIA,<sup>6</sup> b. 7th February, 1753, m. Mr. Bowen, of Woodstock, and had *Amos*,<sup>7</sup> *John*,<sup>7</sup> *Mark*,<sup>7</sup> and others.
- (93) V. JOHN,<sup>6</sup> b. 5th December, 1754, m. Anna Skinner; lived at Lebanon, and was a soldier of the Revolution, at the battle of Bunker Hill; drew a pension, and d. 1834, aged 80, at Woodstock, and where his widow d. October, 1850, aged 97.
- (94) VI. MARK,<sup>6</sup> (111) b. 9th May, 1756, m. Miriam Warner.
- (95) VII. AMOS,<sup>6</sup> (120) b. 19th March, 1758, m. Rebecca Dewey.

**J**onathan,<sup>5</sup> (48) m. Content Baldwin. She was b. 12th September, 1740, and d. 19th June, 1821. They had b. at Milford:

- (96) I. CONTENT,<sup>6</sup> m. Elijah Bryan, 22d August, 1784, and moved to Ohio. Children: *Elibu*,<sup>7</sup> *Content*,<sup>7</sup> *Lucy*,<sup>7</sup> *Amanda*,<sup>7</sup> *Betsy*,<sup>7</sup> *Elijah*,<sup>7</sup> *Patty*.<sup>7</sup>
- (97) II. COMFORT,<sup>6</sup> m. Benjamin Fenn; s. in Talmadge, O.; had nine children.
- (98) III. ABIGAIL,<sup>6</sup> m. Samuel Fenn; s. in Plymouth, Ct.; had two children.
- (99) IV. MARTHA,<sup>6</sup> m. Barnabas Woodcock, Milford, Ct.; had eight children.
- (100) V. HANNAH,<sup>6</sup> m. John Bryan, Orange, Ct.
- (101) VI. JONATHAN,<sup>6</sup> b. 31st August, 1771, d. unmarried, 1829.
- (102) VII. JOSIAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 21st April, 1777, m. Rebecca Clark, 1801; s. at Orange, Ct., and d. 17th February, 1829. Had *Sarah*,<sup>7</sup> m. Ashael Clark; *Josiab Wales*,<sup>7</sup> b. 8th December, 1804; *Nathan Clark*,<sup>7</sup> b. 26th March, 1807, m. Hetty Lambert; *Mary Emeline*,<sup>7</sup> m. 1st, Samuel Clark, and 2d, Benjamin Higby; *Jonathan S.*,<sup>7</sup> b. 1813; *Rebecca W.*,<sup>7</sup> *Charlotte C.*,<sup>7</sup> m. David Beecher, of Orange, Ct.
- (103) VIII. ELIHU,<sup>6</sup> b. 1780, d. 1784.

**N**athan,<sup>5</sup> (49) who m. Susan Miles, s. at Milford, and d. 1818. Children,—

- (104) I. NATHAN,<sup>6</sup> b. 24th February, 1762, m. Sarah Platt, 1788, and had three children.



- (105) II. JOSEPH,<sup>6</sup> b. 13th July, 1775, m. 1st, Abigail Baldwin; 2d, widow Sarah Hull; 3d, Maria Harris; and had *Joseph*,<sup>7</sup> who graduated at Yale College, 1817, and d. 1825, besides others.
- (106) III. HANNAH,<sup>6</sup> b. 9th December, 1763, m. Miles Newton.
- (107) IV. SUSAN,<sup>6</sup> b. 7th March, 1766, m. Joseph Smith.
- (109) V. MARGARET,<sup>6</sup> b. 21st March, 1768, m. Richard Platt.

**C**apt. John,<sup>6</sup> (51) who m. Ann Harpin, 22d October, 1767. She was descended from Dr. John Harpin, who was born in Rochefort, France, about 1690, came to America, s. at Milford, 1710, and m. Mary Camp, 8th January, 1718, and d. 1765. John Harpin, their eldest child, m. Mary Read, and had Mary Ann, (above,) b. 1752, and d. 1798. Mr. Fowler d. 17th August, 1787, aged 39. Children, b. at Milford:

- (109) I. JOHN,<sup>7</sup> b. 7th October, 1769, m. Lucy Mallet. He d. 13th October, 1790. They had *John*,<sup>8</sup> (lost at sea,) m. Elizabeth Curtis, who had a son which d. in infancy; *Luke*,<sup>8</sup> lost at sea.
- (110) II. ANTHONY WILLIAM HARPIN,<sup>7</sup> b. 29th October, 1775, m. Sally, dau. of Charles Pond, 18th December, 1796. She was b. 2d June, 1774, and they had 1st, *Mary*,<sup>8</sup> b. 16th September, 1697; 2d, *Martha*,<sup>8</sup> b. 16th May, 1799; 3d, *Susan*,<sup>8</sup> b. 23d August, 1802, m. Jesse G. Smith; 4th, *Sarah*,<sup>8</sup> b. 28th April, 1804, m. Jonah Platt; 5th, *John William*,<sup>8</sup> b. 5th August, 1807, m. Jane Hyde, of Bridgeport, and they had *Franklin H.*,<sup>9</sup> *Lucille A.*,<sup>9</sup> *Mary Jane*,<sup>9</sup> *Frances Susan*,<sup>9</sup> 6th, *Charlotte*,<sup>8</sup> b. 9th June, 1810, m. O. B. Sherwood; 7th, *Ann Harpin*,<sup>8</sup> b. 21st March, 1813, m. C. W. Cornwall.
- (111) III. MARK,<sup>7</sup> b. 10th November, 1782, m. Abigail Carpenter, and he d. 28th April, 1815, at Brooklyn, N. Y. She d. 9th January, 1850. They had five children.

**M**ark,<sup>8</sup> (94) removed from Lebanon, Ct., to Herkimer Co., N. Y., then the Far West, and, with his numerous family of sons, were the pioneers in clearing the forests and laying the foundations of the

present thriving cities of Central New York. He m. Miriam (Sterling), the widow of Reuben Warner, and d. 27th April, 1813, his widow surviving him to 1843. Children,—

- (112) I. REUBEN W.,<sup>7</sup> b. 13th August, 1778, m. Sybil Sawyer, 1806, s. in Ontario Co., and had *Anna*,<sup>8</sup> *Harvey*,<sup>8</sup> m. Fanny Blair,—six children; *Hervey*,<sup>8</sup> m. Mary Page,—seven children; *Thomas Melvin*,<sup>8</sup> m. Harriet, dau. Judge Everett,—three children.
- (113) II. DAVID,<sup>7</sup> b. 9th June, 1780, m. widow Lavina (Palmer) Hatch, 1803; had, in Steuben Co., *Buel*,<sup>8</sup> *Jerusba*,<sup>8</sup> *Edmund*,<sup>8</sup> all m. and have children.
- (114) III. DIJAH,<sup>7</sup> b. 12th March, 1782, m. Lydia Guild, 1801; had eight children: *Almira*,<sup>8</sup> *Norman*,<sup>8</sup> *Emily*,<sup>8</sup> *Maria*,<sup>8</sup> *Orisville*,<sup>8</sup> *Mary*,<sup>8</sup> *Samuel G.*,<sup>8</sup> *John*,<sup>8</sup> all m. and have families.
- (115) IV. PHILENA,<sup>7</sup> b. 1784, m. 1st, George Bunday, and 2d, Lyman Kinney; eight children.
- (116) V. AMOS,<sup>7</sup> b. 15th November, 1786, m. Achsa Rymond, s. at Litchfield, N. Y., and had *Addison M.*,<sup>8</sup> *Warren R.*,<sup>8</sup> *Leroy Z.*,<sup>8</sup> and four daughters, all m., with families.
- (117) VI. FANNY,<sup>7</sup> b. 21st December, 1789, m. 1st, Jesse Baker, and 2d, Jacob Madole; seven children.
- (118) VII. POLLY,<sup>7</sup> b. 9th May, 1792, m. 1st, Josiah Fuller, and 2d, Charles Ensign; six children.
- (119) VIII. ALVIN,<sup>7</sup> b. 24th January, 1795, m. Olive Lord, 1819; had *Amos*,<sup>8</sup> *Emily*,<sup>8</sup> *Dwight*,<sup>8</sup> *John N.*,<sup>8</sup>
- (120) IX. ABIGAIL,<sup>7</sup> b. 2d June, 1798, m. James Barnard; went to Michigan; nine children.

**C**apt. Amos,<sup>6</sup> (95) m. Rebecca, dau. of John and Rhoda (Gillet) Dewey. She was b. 4th July, 1759, and d. 18th August, 1850. Her father d. 1830, aged 95; the grand-son of Josiah Dewey, the purchaser of Lebanon in 1700, and who came from Windsor, where his grandfather, Thomas,<sup>1</sup> settled in 1639, with Rev. Mr. Huit. Capt. Fowler was a corporal in the Revolutionary Army, was one of Washington's Life Guards, and was in the retreat from Long Island. He served with honor until near the close of the war. He d. 30th November, 1837. Children, b. at Lebanon, Ct.:

- (121) I. CLARISSA,<sup>7</sup> b. 1781, m. Ozias Williams, of Cooperstown, N. Y.; six children.
- (122) II. FANNY,<sup>7</sup> b. 28th June, 1783, m. David Otis, of Colchester, Ct., and had *Alfred*,<sup>8</sup> *Clarissa*,<sup>8</sup> *Emeline*,<sup>8</sup> *Orin*,<sup>8</sup> a clergyman, *Benjamin F.*,<sup>8</sup> *Harriet*,<sup>8</sup> *Horatio N.*,<sup>8</sup> *Sarab*.<sup>8</sup>
- (123) III. SALLY,<sup>7</sup> b. 1785, m. Abial Bingham, of Canajoharie, and had four children.
- (124) IV. RHODA,<sup>7</sup> b. 1787, d. young.
- (125) V. RHODA,<sup>7</sup> b. 1789, m. Ruel Royce, of Lyme, Ct.; had eight children.
- (126) VI. ORIN,<sup>7</sup> b. 29th July, 1791; graduated at Yale College, 1815; became a clergyman, at Plainfield, Ct; s. in Fall River, pastor of the Congregational Church for twenty years; elected to the State Senate of Massachusetts in 1847, and in 1848 was elected to the Thirty-First Congress, where he served two terms, and where he d 3d September, 1854. He m. Amaryllis, dau. of John Howe Payson, and had one child, which d. in infancy.
- (127) VII. JOHN,<sup>7</sup> b. 1793, m Mary C. Bacon, and had, at Woodstock, Ct., six children.
- (128) VIII. AMOS,<sup>7</sup> b. 1795; was a Major General in the military; m. Lydia C. Backus, and had, at Lebanon, nine children.
- (129) IX. HENRY,<sup>7</sup> b. 1797, m. Mary Saxton, at Lebanon; five children.
- (130) X. HARRIET,<sup>7</sup> m. Edmund Harding, of Lebanon.
- (131) XI. DIJAH,<sup>7</sup> b. 1799, d. aged 15.
- (132) XII. ANSON,<sup>7</sup> b. 1803; is s. in Lebanon with his fourth wife.

**D**ea. Elisha Adams Fowler,<sup>6</sup> (57) m. 7th June, 1781, Mary Burr, at East Hadam; removed to East Bethel Vt., and there d. 20th February, 1840, aged 84. He served three campaigns in the Revolutionary War; "A stout, athletic man, of good mental and physical organization, and not confined by disease till past 80 years of age." His wife d. 6th February, 1842, aged 87. They had,—

- (133) I. WILLIAM,<sup>7</sup> b. 15th August, 1782, d. 1784.
- (134) II. MARY,<sup>7</sup> b. 23d July, 1784, m. John F. Pierson, 1803, d. 1817; seven children.

- (135) III. ELIZABETH,<sup>7</sup> b. 22d October, 1786, d. 1806.  
 (136) IV. ELECTA,<sup>7</sup> b. 16th October, 1788, d. 1848.  
 (137) V. LUCINDA,<sup>7</sup> b. 29th March, 1792, d. same year.  
 (138) VI. JOSEPH,<sup>7</sup> b. 27th December, 1793, m. Cynthia Gifford,  
 29th August, 1817, and he d. 1849; had *Norman*,<sup>8</sup> m.  
 Charlotte Marshall; *Lucinda*,<sup>8</sup> *Alonzo*,<sup>8</sup> *Edwin*,<sup>8</sup> *George*  
*A.*,<sup>8</sup> *Joseph L.*<sup>8</sup>  
 (139) VII. ELISHA,<sup>7</sup> b. 16th April, 1796, m. 1st, Edith Gifford, 1821.  
 She d. 1842. He m. 2d, Mary Gifford, and had *Exra*,<sup>8</sup>  
 m. Louisa Abbott; *James G.*,<sup>8</sup> m. Laura Rogers; *Charles*  
*E.*,<sup>8</sup> *Elisba A.*,<sup>8</sup> *Solon*,<sup>8</sup> *Emeline*,<sup>8</sup> *John H.*<sup>8</sup>  
 (140) VIII. LUCINDA,<sup>7</sup> b. 3d April, 1798, m. Samuel Woodsworth,  
 1821.  
 (141) IX. SARA,<sup>7</sup> b. 5th January, 1801, d. 1806.

**J**onathan,<sup>6</sup> (76) b. March 2d, 1759; emigrated to Bradford Co., Pennsylvania, in September, 1800. He was a soldier of the Revolution, and was one of the unfortunates who suffered imprisonment in the "Sugar House," in New York. He d. December 4th, 1834, leaving no descendants in the male line. One dau. living,—*Mrs. Fox*, Towanda, Pa.

**D**aniel,<sup>6</sup> (77 *A*) b. 9th September, 1761. Known as "Major Fowler." He was a man of liberal education, fine personal bearing and address, and extremely fond of military displays. Resided for many years at Hudson, N. Y., where he taught a school, the late ex-President Martin Van Buren being one of his pupils. He died at the residence of his daughter Roxey, (Watson,) in Wolcott, Wayne Co., N. Y., 18th April, 1847, his wife having died a few years previous.

The writer takes pleasure in appending here a letter from Col. Rogers Fowler, of Chicago, his nephew, who was his personal friend and acquaintance during the latter part of his life:

"Daniel Fowler, when a boy, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army, and was taken prisoner and kept for some months in the noted 'sugar house,' in New York, where he suffered untold miseries from both filth and starvation, and barely came out alive; but went into the ranks again with renewed vigor, and was promoted to the rank of Major before the close of

the war, at twenty years of age. He afterwards married and settled in the city of Hudson, N. Y., where he started the first school of importance at that place, called the 'City Academy of Hudson,' and where he reared and educated a family that has done honor to his name. Among his pupils was the late Martin Van Buren, placed under his care, when quite young, by Aaron Burr. The writer had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Fowler intimately during the last fifteen years of his life. Although quite advanced in years, he was hale and vigorous,—a gentleman of the old school,—whig in political principles, and had been an old and intimate friend of Alexander Hamilton. I can say, truthfully, that he was one of the most intelligent and agreeable gentlemen that it has ever been my fortune to meet.

"Chicago, April 8th, 1869."

Major Fowler was m. 23d November, 1785, to Rachel Loomis, who was b. 23d November, 1762. Names of children:

- (142) I. ROXEY,<sup>7</sup> b. 8th September, 1786, m. Joseph Watson; she is still living, and has one son, *George D.<sup>8</sup> Watson*.
- (143) II. ACHSAH,<sup>7</sup> b. 18th December, 1789, m. Jona Frary, d. — Two children.
- (144) III. SYLVESTER L.,<sup>7</sup> b. 10th November, 1790, at West Otis, Mass.; s in Mobile, Ala.; afterwards went to New Orleans, where he resided many years, and carried on business as a "Commercial Broker." During the Rebellion, and since, he has resided at Demopolis, Ala., with his nephew, Daniel Prout. Was never married.
- (145) IV. LESTER,<sup>7</sup> b. 14th December, 1792, d. unm.
- (146) V. DANIEL, jr.,<sup>7</sup> b. 9th February, 1795, in Otis, Mass.; s in Mobile, Ala, 1818; m. Mary A. Coan, and had,—CHARLES S.,<sup>8</sup> b. 26th March, 1827, m. 1st, Miss Vincent; 2d, Miss Graham; no children. JOHN D.,<sup>8</sup> b. 20th March, 1829, m Miss Russell; no children; cotton merchant; resides at Mobile. WILLIAM P.,<sup>8</sup> b. 19th November, 1833; unm. MARY C.,<sup>8</sup> b. 23d March, 1839, m. Kinney Cleveland; no children. JULIA D.,<sup>8</sup> b. 3d October, 1842, m. Amedeo F. Hurtel; one child. EMMA,<sup>8</sup> b. 22d July, 1848, m. J. Fleetwood Foster; one child. Mr. Fowler is still living, (1870.) His wife died in 1859.

- (147) VI. CHARLES S.,<sup>7</sup> b. 30th June, 1797, m. Miss Poor; no children. Charles S. Fowler was a banker at Baltimore and Washington, in 1836. He was a man much beloved for his generosity and nobility of character. He died at Washington City in 1865.
- (148) VII. GEORGE D.,<sup>7</sup> b. 14th September, 1799, d. unm.
- (149) VIII. RACHEL S.,<sup>7</sup> b. 13th August, 1802, m. William Prout, and had *William D.*,<sup>8</sup> b. —, m. Lizzie Waugh, three children; *Daniel F.*,<sup>8</sup> b. —, m. Laura D. Glover, five children; *Mary C.*,<sup>8</sup> b. —; *Fannie*,<sup>8</sup> b. —, m. Thomas Vinson, four children.

**D**r. *Elijah*,<sup>6</sup> (78) b. 20th July, 1763, m. Hannah M. Bird, about 1796-7. His early history is somewhat obscure, but it is known that he was born in Coventry, Ct., and studied for the profession of medicine with Dr. Kingsbury, and succeeded him in Tyringham, Mass., (now Monterey,) in the year 1794, where he continued to reside until his death, 21st March, 1812. He died of an epidemic fever which raged violently in that part of the country at the time. On his tombstone in the "old church" cemetery of Monterey, Berkshire Co., Mass., can still be read these words:

"Ripe for heaven, his soul ascending flew,  
And early bid this sinful world adieu;  
Short was his stay, the longer is his rest,  
In the eternal mansions of the blest."

After his death, his widow, together with her four eldest children, emigrated, in 1814, in company with her father, Col. Bird, to the vicinity of Westfield, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., where she continued to reside until 1833, when she sold her farm and went to live with her sons, Hiram and Henry, who had settled in Dupage Co., Ill. She died in 1834, and is buried at Naperville, Ill. Names of children:

- (150) I. HIRAM,<sup>7</sup> (155 M) b. 9th February, 1798.
- (151) II. CHARLES,<sup>7</sup> d. young.
- (152) III. ALBERT,<sup>7</sup> (155 N) b. 7th September, 1802.
- (153) IV. HENRY,<sup>7</sup> (155 O) b. 26th February, 1804.
- (154) V. AMELIA,<sup>7</sup> (155 P) b. 4th October, 1807, d. 20th August, 1859.
- (155) VI. ELIJAH GURDON,<sup>7</sup> (155 Q) b. 18th November, 1811.

**R**ogers,<sup>6</sup> (79) b. 8th July, 1766. Participated with his father in the settlement of Bradford Co., Pa. He was a Free Mason of note, and a man of prominence in that County; was elected Colonel of a regiment, at the breaking out of the war of 1812, but did not enter the army, as he died soon after, (12th May, 1812.) He left no family. On his tombstone can be read these words, expressive of his religious faith:

“Bound to no sect. I took no private road,  
But walked through nature up to nature’s God.”

**A**ga,<sup>6</sup> (80 **B**) b. 15th May, 1769, d. 5th December, 1840, m. Lavina Forsyth, and s. in Berkshire Co., Mass., where he died. Children: *Gilbert*,<sup>7</sup> d. young; *Sylvester*,<sup>7</sup> now a resident of San Francisco, Cal.; *Caroline*,<sup>7</sup> *Harriet*,<sup>7</sup> *Lucinda*,<sup>7</sup> *Laura*.<sup>7</sup>

**G**urdon,<sup>6</sup> (81 **C**) b. 21st April, 1772, d. 1854. His wife d. in 1868, aged 92. They had: *ACKLEY*,<sup>7</sup> b. 1800, d. 1831, who had *George H.*,<sup>8</sup> resides at New Haven, and *Samuel*,<sup>8</sup> died in the army; *SAMUEL*<sup>7</sup> and *Asa*,<sup>7</sup> lost at sea, 1844; *SARAH*,<sup>7</sup> d. 1831; *ASENETH*,<sup>7</sup> m. *Z. S. Hungerford*, and resides at East Haddam, Ct.; *WILLIAM L.*,<sup>7</sup> resides at East Haddam, Ct., and has *WILLIAM L.*,<sup>8</sup> *HENRY M.*,<sup>8</sup> and *LEONORA*,<sup>8</sup> m. to Clark Edwards.

**S**arah,<sup>6</sup> (82 **D**) b. 15th December, 1774, d. 1812, m. — Sage; two children, *Syvester*,<sup>7</sup> *Russell*,<sup>7</sup> reside in Connecticut.

**P**olly,<sup>6</sup> (83 **E**) b. 31st March, 1777, m. John Fox, and had: *Miller*,<sup>7</sup> *John M.*,<sup>7</sup> who reside at Towanda, Pa. She d. 1855.

**H**annah,<sup>6</sup> (84 **F**) b. 7th April, 1780, m. Daniel Miller, d. 1844-45

**R**ussell,<sup>6</sup> (85 **G**) b. 15th September, 1782, d. 22d August, 1851, Bradford Co., Pa. Children: *Sevellon L.*,<sup>7</sup> b. 9th June, 1809; resides near Cahokia, Clark Co., Mo., and has three children; *ROGERS*,<sup>7</sup> (155 **R**) b. 16th May, 1812; *Samantha*,<sup>7</sup> b. April, 1814, m. James Ridgway; lives at Monroeton, Bradford Co., Pa., and has children; *Eilen M.*,<sup>7</sup> b. —, m. Judge Elwell; resides at Beaver Dam, Wis., and

has children; *Hiram*,<sup>7</sup> b. 10th January, 1826, d. 7th May, 1863, at Menashaunee Wis.; left one or two daughters; *Russell*,<sup>7</sup> b. March, 1828; resides at Jacksonville, Ill., and has a family; *Adeline M.*,<sup>7</sup> b. 1831, m. Lewis G. Kellogg.

**R**oxey,<sup>6</sup> (86 *H*) b. 16th July, 1786, d. 1852, m. Eliphalet Mason; one son, *Col. Mason*, Towanda, Pa.

**A**ustin,<sup>6</sup> (87 *K*) b. 31st May, 1787, living 1870. He m. 1st, Betsey Lawrence, 1814, by whom he had: *Franklin*,<sup>7</sup> *Gurdon*,<sup>7</sup> *William*,<sup>7</sup> and by his 2d wife, *Clarence*,<sup>7</sup> has also three daughters; family resides in Bradford Co., Pa.

**B**etsey,<sup>6</sup> (88 *L*) b. 14th April, 1792, d. 1866, m. Abner C. Rockwell; four sons and one dau., now Mrs. Joseph de la Montanyee, Towanda, Pa.

**H**iram,<sup>7</sup> (150 *M*) b. 9th February, 1798, in Tyringham, Mass., s. in Dupage Co., Ill., 1833, and m. Mrs. Laird, 16th January, 1844; no children living.

**A**lbert,<sup>7</sup> (152 *N*) b. 7th September, 1802. The father of the writer of this memoir came to Chautauqua Co., N. Y., with his mother in 1814, where he remained until 1832, when he determined to remove and settle in the then "Far West." He came by water to Detroit, and from thence by land to St. Joseph, where he took passage in a schooner for Chicago, reaching there in the month of June, of that year. A week or so after he arrived, Gen. Scott and his troops came in the steamboat Sheldon Thompson, from Buffalo, bringing the Asiatic Cholera with them, a scourge until that time unknown in this part of the world. The greatest panic prevailed among the citizens of the place, every one leaving that could get away, and he again took passage on the same schooner that had brought him to Chicago, for St. Joseph; but not being allowed to land there, they proceeded to Mackinac, where they were again refused permission to land, and only after much solicitation could they obtain provisions (which were finally handed to them on the end of a long pole) to enable them to proceed on their voyage to Detroit.



Mr. Fowler again came to Chicago in the spring of 1833, and engaged in speculations in real estate, from which he realized a small sum of money, with which he proceeded to Buffalo, and purchasing a stock of Indian goods, he returned in September, in season to attend the great Indian payment of that year. That being over, he concluded to try his fortunes elsewhere, and emigrated to Milwaukee, reaching that place on the 18th November, 1833, finding there Solomon Juneau, its founder, and the only white man residing there at the time of his arrival. He went into Mr. Juneau's employ, and was engaged in trading with the Indians for some time afterwards. He acquired their language, and was known among them as *MIS-KEE-O-QUONEN*, which signified red cap. He was the first Justice of the Peace, and first Register of Deeds in Milwaukee; was a member of the Convention which formed the present Constitution of the State of Wisconsin. He resided in Milwaukee County until 1853, when he removed to Rockford, Ill., where he was elected Mayor, in 1864-65, and again in 1867, and where he still continues to live, much respected and beloved by his fellow citizens.

Mr. Fowler m. 1st, 11th August, 1836, Emily, dau. of Daniel Wilcox, of Great Barrington, Mass. She died 12th January, 1851, at Milwaukee. They had DANIEL W.,<sup>8</sup> b. 25th February, 1839, at Milwaukee, where he still resides; HANNAH M.,<sup>8</sup> b. 21st February, 1841, m. 14th June, 1863, Edward H. Griggs; resides at Rockford, Ill.; one child, *Ella Frances*,<sup>9</sup> b. 22d June, 1864. He m. 2d, 1852, Lucy Bosworth Fargo, (widow,) of Monterey, Mass. She d. 18th April, 1854; no children. He m. 3d, Emeline Munroe, of Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co., Wis., 7th June, 1855. Children: EMILY EDITH,<sup>8</sup> b. 19th December, 1857, d. January, 1860; ROGERS,<sup>8</sup> b. 19th December, 1861.

**F**erry,<sup>7</sup> (153 O) b. 26th February, 1804; s. in Dupage Co., Ill., 1833, and still resides at Warrenville; m. Esther Carey, 2d November, 1840. Children: FERDINAND,<sup>8</sup> b. 5th September, 1841, d. 19th March, 1863; DANIEL,<sup>8</sup> b. 11th April, 1844, d. 21st March, 1863; NETTIE,<sup>8</sup> b. 22d February, 1847. Ferdinand and Daniel were both members of the 105th Regiment Illinois Volunteers, and participated in the campaign against Gen. Bragg, during his retreat from Kentucky, in 1862. Ferdinand died at home, (having been discharged from the army for disability,) after a lingering and painful illness. His brother died two

days after, in hospital, at Gallatin, Tenn. Their demise overwhelmed their aged parents with sorrow, and taught all who witnessed it, how vastly great are the sacrifices of war.

**A**melia,<sup>7</sup> (155 *P*) m. Edward Sherman Winslow; one child, *Mary*,<sup>8</sup> b. 25th May, 1843. He d. 1848-50; she 20th August, 1859.

**E**lijah **Gurdon**,<sup>7</sup> (155 *Q*) b. 18th November, 1811, m. Julia, dau. of Daniel Wilcox, of Great Barrington, Mass., 2d April, 1835; s. in Milwaukee Co., Wis., in 1836, where they still reside. Children,—

- I. MAURICE W.,<sup>8</sup> b., Monterey, Mass., 14th January, 1836; unm.
- II. CHARLES BIRD,<sup>8</sup> b., in Wisconsin, 17th January, 1841.
- III. JULIA AMELIA,<sup>8</sup> b., in Wisconsin, 10th August, 1843.
- IV. EMILY A.,<sup>8</sup> b. 22d September, 1846, d. 4th August, 1850.

Charles Bird,<sup>8</sup> m., January, 1868, Addie Brown; one child, *Charlotte*.<sup>9</sup> Maurice served in the 45th Wisconsin Volunteers, during the late war. Charles, first in the 20th Wisconsin Volunteers, afterwards as 2d Lieut. in the 48th Regiment.

**G**ol. **Rogers Fowler**,<sup>7</sup> (155 *R*) son of Russell,<sup>6</sup> (85) of Bradford Co., Pa., was born 16th May, 1812, on the same day, and in the same house from which his uncle, Rogers,<sup>6</sup> was buried. The coincidence gave him his name. He engaged in business on his own account at an early age, and being possessed of rare business qualifications, and immense energy, soon achieved success. He was engaged in merchandising and lumbering in Bradford Co., for many years, but meeting with reverses, he concluded to go West. In 1854-55 he organized the New York Lumber Company, and, purchasing a large amount of pine lands in the vicinity of the Menomonee River, of Green Bay, he built near the mouth of it, where stands the present flourishing village of Menekaunee, a mill which had capacity for cutting 150,000 feet of lumber every twenty-four hours.

He soon after opened one of the then largest lumber yards in Chicago. The financial revulsion of 1857 coming on soon afterwards, affected the enterprise disastrously, and he sold out his interest in 1858. Having taken

up his residence in Chicago in 1855-56, he became one of its most enterprising citizens, and at the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, was appointed by Gov. Yates, Commissary General of the State of Illinois, and was instrumental in bringing troops to the defence of Cairo in season to anticipate, and thereby prevent, its intended capture by the rebel forces. He was afterwards commissioned a Colonel by Secretary Cameron, of the War Department, at Washington, and sent West to look after certain interests of the Government in that direction.

In 1865 he went to Texas, and, with others, purchased the franchises of the Memphis and El Paso R. R., and has since labored to effect its completion, with fair prospects of success. The enterprise is one of the grandest in conception of any in the United States; is one of the connecting links of the Great Southern Pacific R. R., which is already commenced and will eventually be completed.

Mr. Fowler is six feet three inches in height, of noble bearing, and fine personal address; of most genial and pleasant manners; has hosts of warm personal friends; and still possesses, at the age of 58, the fire and energy of his most vigorous manhood. Unfortunately, his health has become somewhat impaired, from great exposures, which restrict his opportunities. Mr. Fowler m. 19th September, 1838, H. Almeda, dau. of Judge Morgan, of Pa., and had,—

- I. CLARENCE M.,<sup>s</sup> b. 6th January, 1840, d. 1st January, 1841.
- II. ELLA M,<sup>s</sup> b. 13th August, 1843, m. George W. Adams, 10th January, 1867.
- III. HARRIET M.,<sup>s</sup> b. 19th June, 1846, m. Wm. H. Cutler, 1st May, 1869.
- IV. MARY AMANDA,<sup>s</sup> b. 8th April, 1851.
- V. JESSIE LIND,<sup>s</sup> b. 9th March, 1857.

## ADDENDA.

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An old and rare book, published in the early days of type-setting, contains what I have not seen elsewhere, viz: the origin and signification of all the family names in England. This book said that a Saxon chief, fond of the chase, and being a daring hunter, was called Fowler. This Fowler, accompanied by a numerous band of retainers and followers, went to England about a hundred years before the destruction of the Heptarchy, and the union of all the kingdoms of England into one, under Egbert. He settled in Sussex, and according to this old chronicle, the Fowler family had never failed to have a representative member from the eighth century to that present time of writing, to wit: in the early part of the sixteenth century.

Although the early chronicles of the country speak of several members of the Fowler family as being distinguished for conduct in arms in the local wars of the times, it will be seen that the professions of law, literature and the Church, have been mostly chosen as fields of labor and usefulness, by the descendants of the Hunters and Fowlers.

DR. EDMUND FOWLER,

*New York.*

## JONATHAN FOWLER AND HIS DESCENDANTS.\*

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JONATHAN FOWLER, of Coventry, Ct., was the son of an immensely large woman, of about 300 pounds' weight, and endowed with extraordinary strength, which her son Jonathan inherited, as the following bear story, copied from the Vermont Republican, of Sept. 29th, 1817, and originally taken from the Hartford Times, fully attests:

“The history of Gen. Putnam and the wolf are too well known to need any elucidation. The writer of his life, David Humphreys, has fully delineated the heroism and courage of that veteran, and the many bold and daring enterprises which characterized it, in war and peace. About the same time, as bold and daring an attempt to destroy another savage monster of the forest, was undertaken and accomplished by Mr. Jonathan Fowler, of Coventry. As this uncommon act of bravery has never appeared in print, I will give a short narrative of the affair, so that the youthful part of the community may see what feats of valor their forefathers were capable of performing. Mr. Fowler being on a visit to East Windsor, between seventy and eighty years ago, and walking out one day with several of his friends, they were suddenly surprised by a huge bear, who rushed upon them from his place of concealment. His associates, like a band of choice modern Pettipaug spirits, fled without trying to make the least opposition. The bear came up to Mr. Fowler, who, although a man of great bodily vigor, yet rather inclined to corpulency, did not happen to be quite so nimble-footed as his brave friends were. Finding that he should soon be overtaken, and determining not to be attacked in the rear, very resolutely faced about just as the bear rose on his hind legs to give the sweet Indian hug.

“He, at this instant, with that degree of courage which was ever a prevailing characteristic of our forefathers, seized the bear by the throat with one hand, and held him off. In the scuffle which ensued, the bear had

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\* From “Fowler's Hereditary Descent.”

partly got him down, while he begged his friends to get a club and kill the bear, but, like fixed statues, they remained insensible to his entreaties. At this time the old proverb, 'fortune favors the brave,' was completely verified, for, happening to cast his eyes around, he espied a pine knot on the ground near him, which, with one hand he reached and took, while the other was fast hold of the bear's throat, and with it very deliberately beat out his brains. His brave comrades, after being fully satisfied that the dead bear would not hurt them, ventured to come to the spot.

"His Majesty, the King of England, was so highly pleased with one of his subjects performing so great a feat of valor, that he ordered him to be drawn in the act of killing the bear, in one of the rooms of his palace, where he remains to this day. He was nearly seven feet high, and weighed about 300 pounds. Though very large, he was not fat, most of his flesh being *muscle*."

The bear story is backed by such living and incontestible evidences, as fully to prove its authenticity. The identical pine knot mentioned in the story, and also the skin of the bear killed—and an immensely large skin it is—together with the original painting of Fowler, drawn in the act of killing the bear, and headed "JONATHAN FOWLER, THE GIANT OF AMERICA," have all recently been seen in the British Museum, by a friend of the Bradford, Pa., branch of this bear-killing ancestor, and can doubtless still be seen by any who will make the requisite search for them. Unless a most extraordinary feat of strength and valor had been performed, it would probably neither have reached the ears of the King of England, nor, if it had, been deemed worthy of a historical painting. This identical story, without any material variation, is also in the memories of every old inhabitant of the Connecticut Valley, and of the Northern and Middle States, and told of Jonathan Fowler, of Coventry, Ct. One of the particulars told by the old people, but not mentioned in the extract, is that the father-in-law of Jonathan had found and killed the bear's cubs, and thus enraged her, so that she pursued him with apparent vengeance, when he called to Jonathan to "come and take off this filthy beast."

So renowned was this bear-killer as a wrestler, that those who thought themselves too strong to be thrown by any one, often came hundreds of miles to wrestle with him, but all returned *floored*, while he never found the man who could beat him. As he was about to join issue with one of these wrestling applicants, he invited him to the cider mill to drink cider

with him; when, knocking out the bung of a full barrel, he took hold of its chimes, lifted it to his mouth, drank, and held it *at arm's length*, and told the other to help himself. The latter gave up beat without the wrestle.

An Irish bully, who thought he could whip all before him, on hearing of Fowler's far-famed strength, traveled from Boston to Connecticut—then quite a journey—to challenge the giant to a fight. His rap at the door was answered by Fowler's sister—a very large and strong woman—who informed him that her brother wrestled, lifted, &c., but never fought. Disappointed, but still determined to *provoke* the giant to fight, he met the latter on the highway, and impudently challenged him to fight, which Fowler declined, as contrary to his principles, meanwhile proffering a wrestle. The bully answered that he had come all this distance to have a *fight*, and a fight he *would have*, and upbraided him as a “contemptible coward,” in order to provoke him to fight. Fowler still declining, the bully threatened that he would *make* him fight, at least in self-defence, and at the same time wrung his nose. Jonathan, always remarkably cool, still remained self-possessed, and bore all patiently, while the Irishman, becoming perfectly enraged, made at him, determined to knock him down. Fowler, being very tall and long-armed, caught him by the shoulder as he came up, and holding him in spite of his struggles in one hand, as in a vice, far enough off to avoid his blows, with the other snapped him in the face till he cried “enough!” when he let the conquered bully go, saying to him, “Tell your Boston friends, not that I flogged you, for I will not fight, but that I *snapped* you.”

A strong man, who was loading stones into a cart, had been some time vainly endeavoring to load one too heavy for his strength, when Fowler coming along, caught it up and tossed it clear over the cart, as if it had been a mere pebble, and then loaded it.

An immense shark had been left in a pool near the shore, at Guilford, Ct., by the retiring tide, still alive, though weakened by scarcity of water. Fowler captured, shouldered, and brought it, through mud and water, to shore. It weighed *five hundred pounds*—quite a load for so slippery a commodity and bad a road.

Other stories are told of his wrestling with an Indian, lifting one corner of a small house, which several men tried in vain to do, and many other like feats of strength, all showing that he was one of the strongest men on record.

The bear story is a free-mason's sign, by which all his descendants identify each other. And what confirms our hereditary doctrine is, that these descendants generally have been remarkable, throughout the States and Canada, as the strongest men of their times and places. Thus, Eliphalet Fowler, of Bradford, Canada, who died some thirty years ago, was reputed in his prime, the strongest and most able-bodied man of his time. His nephew, Levi Fowler, formerly of Pompey, N. Y., had the name of being able to roll more logs, and clear more new land in a day, as well as handle larger logs, than any other man in town. He was also a great wrestler while young. The father of Wm. Fowler, of Bradford, Vt., a great-grandson of Jonathan, broke a large iron bar while screwing down a press—the bar having been made and used expressly for turning the screw. And this Wm. F. and also his son William, are very stout men. The Fowlers in Bradford, Pa., are also equally remarkable for their strength and size. So are those of Litchfield, Mass., and in the Connecticut Valley generally."

Henry and Hiram Fowler, of Dupage Co., Ill., Gurdon, of Milwaukee, all brothers, and great-grandsons of Jonathan, are six feet three, six feet two, and six feet one inches in height respectively, and their average weight not less than 175 pounds. Col. Rogers Fowler, of Chicago, another great-grandson of the giant, is six feet three inches tall, and the writer, a great-great-grandson, is two inches taller than his father, Albert Fowler, and measures six feet one.



## ISRAEL FOWLER.

ISRAEL FOWLER, a son of the giant, seems to have inherited his father's physical powers, as well as stature, and a number of incidents are related of his prowess. The most interesting one, however, is the following: During the early part of the Revolutionary war, he was engaged in hauling supplies for the army in the vicinity of Boston, and while in the discharge of his duties, he met a neighbor, who was a soldier in Captain (afterwards General) Putnam's company, who was weeping, and who stated that he had been drawn by lot to stand guard at a certain picket post, from which the sentry had mysteriously disappeared for several nights in succession; he bewailed his sad fate, as being one of certain death. Israel listened to his story, and told him if permission could be got, he would take his place. The privilege was granted, and he was stationed in the vicinity of a reedy marsh. During the night following, he was suddenly surprised by two British soldiers springing upon him from behind, who had quietly approached him under cover of the reeds and tall grass, and who thought to make him an easy prisoner, as they had doubtless done with the others previously. He instantly grasped them about the waist, one with each arm, and his great strength and height (six feet seven inches) enabled him to lift them off their feet and carry them, despite their struggles, to Capt. Putnam's headquarters. They scratched, bit, and pulled his hair severely, but, to use his own words, "they had to come!"

It is told of him that he struck with his fist, killing him at the first blow, a negro slave, who was in the act of taking his master's life.

## DANIEL WILCOX.

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DANIEL WILCOX, of Great Barrington, Mass., the maternal grandfather of the writer, was born in Sandisfield, Mass., 26th October, 1774. His ancestors were among the early settlers of Middletown and Berlin, Ct. His father was a soldier at the age of fourteen, under Putnam, in the old French war, and among the first to enlist in the Revolution, as he fought at the battle of Bunker Hill. He died soon after, of disease contracted in camp, and is reported to have been buried in the old cemetery at Roxbury, now part of Boston. He died at the age of 32, leaving a family of young children. He was a religious and God-fearing man, and in his letters to his wife, from "Camp, near Boston," (some of which are still extant,) he commends his wife and little children to His care and protection.

The grandfather of Daniel Wilcox died in the year 1776, at Berlin, Ct., and his great-grandfather, about the year 1700; at Middletown, Ct.

Mr. Wilcox married Mehitabel Wright, of Sandisfield, Mass., 8th September, 1797, and settled at Winsted, Ct., where he became the owner of a water-power, and engaged in the manufacture of cloths. His mill being destroyed by fire in 1805, he rebuilt it, but sold out his property there in 1813, and removing to Great Barrington, Mass., he purchased what is now known as the "Brookside" farm, the present residence of the Hon. David Leavett, President of the Housatonic R. R.

Here he resided for forty years, engaged in agricultural pursuits and improving and beautifying his estate, which consisted of between three and four hundred acres of mountain, interval and meadow land, altogether forming one of the most charming and picturesque of New England country homesteads. His house was situated a half mile or more from the road, and the avenue thereto was shaded on either side by maples and wide-spreading elms, all of which had been planted by his own hands. The house itself stood on the brow of a hill overlooking the Housatonic river, which poured

its annual floods over his meadows, constantly increasing their fertility. His orchards, after furnishing the household supply, and those of his poorer neighbors, gratis, furnished apples for from one to three hundred barrels of cider annually, a plentiful supply of which always graced the side-board, in "olden time." Here he led the life of an independent, industrious, honored and useful citizen; and for better titles he did not care.

He had a family of four daughters and one son. The two eldest daughters married brothers named Beckwith, who settled in Great Barrington; the two youngest also married brothers, (Fowler,) and settled at Milwaukee. Mr. Wilcox sold out his farm in 1853, to its present proprietor, Mr. Leavett, for \$20,000, and spent his remaining years in the family of his daughter, Mrs. Barzillai Beckwith.

His wife, born 17th July, 1776, died 28th September, 1856, after a married life of almost 60 years. Mr. Wilcox died 20th November, 1859, aged 85.—*Beatæ memoriæ.*

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