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REPORT OF ❁❁❁  
SECOND REUNION  
OF THE ❁❁❁❁  
BASSETT FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION ❁❁

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~~1898/99~~

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B36  
1897  
2nd - 3rd



PLYMOUTH ❁❁❁❁  
SEPTEMBER SIXTEENTH  
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED ❁❁  
AND NINETY-EIGHT ❁❁



*2950*



*"The pioneers of two great nations."*

# REPORT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND REUNION

OF THE

# BASSETT FAMILY ASSOCIATION

OF AMERICA

HELD AT

## SAMOSSET HOUSE

PLYMOUTH, MASS.

SEPTEMBER SIXTEENTH

1898

NEW HAVEN, CONN.:

PRESS OF THE PRICE, LEE & ADKINS CO.

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B36  
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## REPORT OF THE SECOND REUNION

OF THE

### BASSETT FAMILY ASSOCIATION.



THE second reunion of the Bassett Family Association of America was held at the Samoset House, Plymouth, Mass., September 16, 1898. Dinner was served to ninety members of the Association and their friends. After the board was cleared, the post-prandial exercises were entered upon. At the request of President Dickerman M. Bassett, Mr. Abbot Bassett, of Boston, acted in the dual capacity of presiding officer and toastmaster.

*Toastmaster.*—Is Mr. Bassett in the room?

*Many Voices.*—Yes! yes!

*Toastmaster.*—If that be so, he is requested to come to order and to persuade his wife, his sister and his aunt to do likewise.

Our President is a very bashful man. So bashful, in fact, that he can't drive speech past the blushes on his cheeks when he rises to speak. He looked about him to find a man who was a stranger to diffidence and he thinks he found him in me. That is why I am here.

This is a joyful occasion. Good Mother Nature has given us a beautiful day, the skies shine brightly upon us, and the earth has put on its mantle of green, dotted with the gorgeous golden rod of autumn. In the grand symphony of our rejoicing we hear no discordant note. We are here in the spirit of pure patriotism. The generally accepted definition of patriotism is love of country, but to my mind the word has a broader and a more comprehensive meaning. It is a love that includes not only one's country, but familiar scenes and places, congenial friends, home and its institutions, and we feel to-day that it embraces pride of race and family. Like a man's love for a woman, patriotism may be true or false, ennobling or degrading, salutary or ruinous, according as the object be worthy or unworthy.

The Bassetts have much to be proud of in what is known of their ancestry, and they have nothing to be ashamed of. The best blood of England flows in Bassett veins, and the pages of English history contain much that tells of worthy deeds and grand achievement on the part of those who bear our name.

We are all here for purposes of our own. Some of you come with well established lines of ancestry leading back to William of Plymouth, to William of Lynn, or to John of New Haven, and your bosom swells with pride as you point to the record. Others, like myself, go back to grandmothers not at all remote, and we are here to establish a record if it be possible.

I am in serious trouble myself, and I am looking for aid from this association to get me out of it. On the one hand, the Abbott family comes at me and says: 'What are you parading about with but one T for? Take more T and be a true Abbott.' I suggest to them that the Abbots who lived in monasteries a long time ago were frugal of T, and, moreover, I find that there was an Abbot (one T) Bassett who lived in England as far back as 1521. And then the Lynn Bassets come at me and tell me that I have too many Ts in my last name, and they say: "Emulate the example of the colonial fathers and throw the extra T overboard."

My struggle with the two Ts reminds me of the story of the Irishman who served on a jury.

*Mike.*—Pat, I hear ye do be doin' jury work. Do it be hard work?

*Pat.*—Sometimes it do be hard, and sometimes it doon't. When wan of the people is Irish we know phat to do, but when the two o' dem be Irish we have the devil's own time decidin'.

If this association does no more than get me out of the T business it will have paid me well to join it. I am a man without a pedigree that is worth talking about. My pedigree is not yet out of swaddling clothes and I am carefully nursing it in hope that it may grow. Some of you, if not all, have been fishing, and you know what a delicious moment it is when you feel a big fish nibble at the bait. There are people who will hold a line overboard a whole day in anticipation of the delicious moment, and often their whole pleasure is in the expectation. I had a nibble at my pedigree the other day, and I experienced a delight somewhat like the fisherman's. In correspondence relating to this meeting I found a lady in my line. We go back four generations and meet in a common grandmother. I am encouraged. From this nibble I expect to go on, and one day land a pedigree which I shall be proud of.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is quite time for you to be welcomed. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Mr. I. Austin Bassett, of Boston, who will extend to you the right hand of fellowship.

#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

BY I. AUSTIN BASSETT, OF BOSTON, MASS.

"In Novembe", about y<sup>t</sup> time twelfe month that them selves came, ther came in a small ship to them unexpected or loked for in which came M<sup>r</sup>. Cushman (so much spoken of before) and with him 35 persens to remaine and live in y<sup>e</sup> plantation; which did not a little rejoyce them. And they when they came a shore and found all well, and saw plenty of retails in every house were no less glade. For most of them were lusty younge men, and many of them wild enough, who little considered whither or aboute what they wante, till they come into y<sup>e</sup> harbore at Cap Codd and ther saw nothing but a naked and barren place. They then begane to thinke what what should become of them, if the people here were dead or cut of by y<sup>e</sup> Indians. They begane to consulte (upon some speedies that some of y<sup>e</sup> sea-

men had cast out) to take y<sup>e</sup> sayle from y<sup>e</sup> yeard lest y<sup>e</sup> ship should gett away and leave them ther. But y<sup>e</sup> in<sup>r</sup> hereing of it, gave them good words, and tould them if any thing but well should have befallene y<sup>e</sup> people hear, he hoped he had vitails enough to carry them to Virginia, and whilst he had a bitt they should have their parte; which gave them good satisfaction. So they were all landed; but there was not so much as bisket-cake or any other victials for them, neither had they any bedding, but some sory things they had in their cabins, nor pot, nor pan, to drese any meate in; nor overmany Cloaths, for many of them had brusht away their coats and cloaks at Plimoth as they came. But ther was sent over some burching-lane suits in y<sup>e</sup> ship, out of which they were supplied. The plantation was glad of this addition of strength, but could have wished that many of them had been of beter condition, and all of them beter furnished with provissions; but y<sup>t</sup> could not be helpte." Such is the record of the welcome to the first Bassite who arrived in the good ship Fortune on the 9th of November, 1621, as given in "Bradford's History of Plimoth Plantations." Cold and hungry, in poverty and want, they were gladly, affectionately welcomed by the remnant of a little band who in one short year have buried half their number, leveling the graves over their loved ones, to conceal their weakness from the hostile Indians, yet bravely happy and contented; in the words of William Hilton, one of the passengers on the Fortune, "all these good things we have, of which and of what we list in their seasons for taking. Our company are for most part very religious, honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath; so that I know not anything a contented mind can here want."

It is extremely pleasant for me to be called upon to welcome you all to this historic, this sacred spot, this September afternoon; a lineal descendant of John of New Haven, the seventh in a line, four of whom were born, lived and died, in Connecticut, while three have made Massachusetts their home; born within a few miles of the harbor where the Mayflower and the Fortune first cast anchor, just across the bay from Plymouth, I feel that I may consider myself as almost a connecting link between the Bassetts of Massachusetts and those from the rest of the world, whether they elect to spell their names with a single or double terminal. What an hour is this in the history of the Bassetts. For the first time in 277 years representatives of all lines of the Bassett family have been invited to meet together to do honor to the first of their name who landed upon the shore of the new world. Would that I could find language to lift you to the inspiration of the hour. What memories the holy associations with which we are surrounded awaken. The beautiful bay, unchanged as when it reflected the stars upon its icy bosom that first cold November night spent by William and Elizabeth, not far from the place where we are now gathered. Would that we could identify the spot, that we might linger a moment and fly in fancy backward through the cycles that have vanished.

Plymouth Rock! Iconoclasts have tried in vain to dispute the accuracy of its historic interest.

Burial Hill! where stood the first fort and meeting house, its site distinctly marked, and where a few handfuls of dust alone remain of Governor Bradford and family, John Howland and wife, and others of the old heroes.

No stone marks the grave of one of those who came in the ship *Fortune*, excepting that of Thomas Cushman, who for forty-three years was Ruling Elder. The site on which the Cushman monument stands is the identical spot selected for the burial place of Elder Cushman, by his bereaved friends and religious associates.

Pilgrim Hall! The day could be spent among its interesting memorials. Pictures and portraits, a chair of Governor Carver's, Miles Standish's sword, iron pot and pewter dish. The gun barrel with which King Philip was killed. Numberless other relics of great historic value.

Cole's Hill is an open green spot fronting the harbor, a short distance above Forefather's Rock, commanding a beautiful view of the ocean and highlands by which the bay is encircled. It was the first burial ground of the Pilgrims. About fifty of those who came in the *Mayflower* were buried on this spot, near the foot of Middle street. Among them were Governor Carver, William White, Rose Standish, the wife of Captain Standish; Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Winslow; Christopher Martin, John and Edward Tilley, Thomas Rogers; Mary, the wife of Isaac Allerton.

The spot where the remains were found is now level, but was originally a slope, which was filled up for the purpose of a road. A foot and a half beneath the surface a stratum of black soil was exposed, overlying the bones, and confirming the tradition that the place had been cultivated by the Pilgrims. The bodies had been buried in a horizontal position, with the heads to the west, and lying upon their backs. No traces of coffins were found—a circumstance, considering the period of the interment, casting no doubt upon the identity of the remains, as the absence of heads, pipes, arrow-heads, etc., rendered it certain that they were not those of Indians.

Before you go to your homes to-night visit the Doten house, on Sandwich street, built in 1660, the oldest house in Plymouth. This house is doubly interesting to us by its antiquity and the marriage of a descendant of the Dotens into the family of the Bassetts.

Contrast the welcome given William, by the fifty survivors of the *Mayflower*, with this day's greeting. Contrast the "Welcome, Englishmen," from the lips of Samoset, the uncivilized, with the welcome we have received from mine host Maynard of this Samoset. Neither hungry or cold, wanting naught for our bodily comfort, we look with grateful pride upon those who, for our sakes, suffered and were strong, laying the foundations of this great republic. I welcome you to an emulation of their heroism for principle, their loyalty to truth, their consecration to righteousness and justice.

I welcome you all to the amenities of this occasion. I welcome you to this kindly and cordial exchange of fraternal greeting. As a citizen of Massachusetts, I welcome you to this Mecca of all patriotic Americans. It was my privilege to say, a year and a week ago to-day, at the first reunion at New Haven: "Let me suggest that we make a pilgrimage to Plymouth, Massachusetts, and there, on the historic rock, our eyes looking out upon the beautiful bay, beneath whose blue waters the anchor of the good ship *Fortune* made the plunge, holding fast to the shores of the new world, celebrate the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers. The pleasure that I have in the realization of my expressed wish is deep and sincere. That you all have already, and may, until the setting of the sun, experience, to the full, your

fondest anticipation of this hour, and may carry away memories that shall be filled with unalloyed pleasure, and shall never fade, is my greeting to you all.

*Toastmaster*—Now we will have a little business, and I am going to ask the Treasurer what he has done with all the money he has received.

The Treasurer's report was then read.

C. E. P. SANFORD, *Treasurer*, in account with The Bassett Family Association.

1897.		<i>Dr</i>	
Sept. 9.	To balance,	- - - - -	\$ 71.59
1898.			
Sept. 14.	Received from the Secretary for Membership Fees,		
	etc.,	- - - - -	119.10
			————— \$190.69
1897.		<i>Cr.</i>	
Oct. 13.	By paid W. C. Sharpe, printing,	- - - - -	\$ 24.50
Dec. 21.	“ Postage for Secretary,	- - - - -	31.00
1898.			
March 19.	“ Printing reports,	- - - - -	119.70
Sept. 14.	“ Engrossing certificates,	- - - - -	6.93
			————— \$182.13
	Balance in treasury,	- - - - -	8.56

C. E. P. SANFORD, *Treasurer*.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Sept. 14, 1898.

*Toastmaster*—Well, it seems that we have got something, after all. We haven't much money, but we have a very good deficit. The Bassetts always pay their bills, and before we go home to-night we must wipe out that record.

I told you before that I was a man without a pedigree. Now, a pedigree is a good thing to have in the house. I want to get one through this association, if for no other purpose than to harmonize my domestic relations. My wife has a pedigree eighteen carat fine, all wool and a yard wide. When we come down to Plymouth she stands on Plymouth Rock and tells me she goes back to the Mayflower on both sides of her house, and again, when the Fourth of July comes around, and the booming of cannon, the snap of the cracker and the sky-searching rocket, reminds us that we are a free and happy people, she points the cold, unmoving finger of scorn at me and says: "My ancestors fought in the Revolution." It's hard work keeping the family in balance when the pedigree is all on one side. Now, we have come down here to see what we can do. We brought her pedigree in a freight car and mine in my vest pocket.

But, speaking of pedigrees, we have a man with us to-day who has a pedigree to be proud of. He has fifty-six grandmothers that he can call by name, and he is going to look over his collection and see if he can't share one of them with me. I take great pleasure in introducing Mr. David H. Brown, of Boston, who will tell you of the great value a grandmother has on one's ancestral tree.

ADDRESS BY DAVID H. BROWN, OF WEST MEDFORD, MASS.

*Mr. President:*

As the young lady said, "This is so sudden." I am glad, however, to express my pleasure in being here to-day to do honor to our Bassett ancestors.

I am a lineal descendant of William Bassett, of the Fortune, but I am obliged to go back six generations before I can claim an ancestor of the Bassett name. Ruth Bassett, a daughter of Joseph and a granddaughter of William Bassett, was one of my great-great-great-great-grandmothers. If I had not traced my maternal ancestral lines I should not have known that I was a Bassett, and if we do not carefully look up our grandmothers and find out their full family names, and ascertain their lineage, we cannot know to what families of the founders of New England we belong. I lost a grandmother a few weeks since, and, paradoxical as it may seem, she had been dead two hundred years. Like many other descendants of Joseph Bassett, I supposed that Martha Hobart, of Hingham, was Joseph Bassett's first and only wife. From the probate records at East Cambridge, I recently ascertained that my ancestor, Ruth (Bassett) Whittemore, was born in 1671, and by the diary of the Rev. Peter Hobart, of Hingham, I found that Joseph Bassett and Martha Hobart were married in 1677. Martha was, therefore, a second wife, and Ruth and her twin sister, Lydia, and without doubt their brothers, Joseph and William, were children of the first wife.

I am, therefore, in search of a grandmother, and I invite others who belong to this branch of the family to assist me in trying to ascertain the full family name and lineage of the first wife of Joseph Bassett, the son of William Bassett, of Plymouth.

The object of this association should commend itself to all of the Bassett name and blood. We should try to widen the circle by tracing the lineage of the different branches of the family and assist our honored Secretary and historian in endeavoring to ascertain the relation of the different early Bassett settlers to each other. We are under very great obligations to him for his unremitting zeal and successful efforts, but much remains to be done.

William Bassett was one of the brave souls who stood for religious liberty in Holland and in New Plymouth. Circumstances did not allow him to sign the immortal compact in the Mayflower, but he came to Plymouth in the darkest days of her history, and stood shoulder to shoulder with those who had survived the deadly perils of the first winter. He lived in Plymouth seventeen years, his house being on the west side of Main street, some 400 feet north of the Samoset House, where we are now assembled.

The bounds of Plymouth soon became too narrow for the increasing colonists, and they started new towns and extended their interests and business enterprises along the coasts and into the interior.

About 1638 William Bassett removed to Duxbury and assisted Miles Standish, John Alden and others in building up that settlement. In 1652 he became one of the founders of Bridgewater and was one of the largest land proprietors of that town. According to the records of the Colony he was a

a deputy to the General Court for several years. He also filled various town offices and was a member of Capt. Miles Standish's military company. The Bassetts have been among the founders of towns and states. They have been patriotic citizens, shouldering their muskets for the common defense in all the wars from the earliest days. They have stood for liberty and justice, temperance, religion and education.

May we be worthy descendants of our patriotic ancestors and show the same devotion to duty that they exhibited.

*Toastmaster.*—One other little matter of business it will be necessary for us to transact to-day, and that is the election of officers for the ensuing year. I think the best way to expedite the business will be to select a committee to retire and nominate a list of officers to be voted for. I will appoint on that committee Mr. J. Gardner Bassett, of Bridgewater, Mr. John I. Bassett, of Boston, and as this association always recognizes the ladies in its deliberations, I will give them their legal third and appoint Mrs. Joel E. Bassett, of North Haven. Our meeting to-day would not accomplish its purpose did we not have the historical address. We appreciate very highly the work of our historian, and we are gratified that he is willing to give us so much of his time and endeavor in looking up records and in historical research. We hope he finds compensation for his work in the satisfaction which he derives in results obtained. I have no need to introduce him, for every one knows Frank G. Bassett.

## HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

By FRANK G. BASSETT, THE HISTORIAN OF THE ASSOCIATION.

*My Dear Kinsmen:*—In my report of last year I mentioned the houses of Drayton, Sapcote, Uumberleigh and Tehidy, as being presided over by members of the Bassett family. I wish now to extend the list as follows, viz.: Hedrington, Hedenden, Weldon, Wycombe, Colton, Hedington, Bucks, Rissington, Fredborough, Chedle, Blore, Schidy and Buckingham.

In the Conquerors Survey, Thurstan, the Norman, held six hides of land in Drayton county, Stafford. Ralph his son was Justice of all England, which fact I stated in my report of last year. I have been trying to find whether Ralph was Thurstan's only child, but thus far my labors have been in vain, yet I trust we may be able to discover the true facts in the near future.

I have found the following names who were without doubt children of Ralph Bassett, viz.: Thurstan, Thomas, Richard, Nicholas and Gilbert.

Ralph Bassett was evidently a Norman by birth; he was raised to the barony of Welden, in Northamptonshire, by Henry I., and had large possessions in the Midland Counties, and was invested with great power under Henry I. There may be some doubt as to whether the four sons that I have mentioned were his only children.

His son Richard succeeded him to the barony of Welden, in Northamptonshire, and from a very early period in Richards life he was attached to the courts and assisted in the administration of justice. He married Matilda, daughter of Sir Godfrey Ridel.

Richard and his wife gave freely from their wealth for the support of the Christian religion. The historian states that they built no less than fifteen churches, some of which they endowed. Their sons were Godfrey, Ralph and William. Their son Godfrey assumed his mother's maiden name of Ridel.

Richard's son Ralph was Lord of Drayton, in Staffordshire. It is believed by some of the historians that William Bassett, who was Justice of England in the reign of Edward III., was a direct descendant of this Ralph. He was raised to the bench of Common Pleas, October 28, 1337, which court he exchanged for that of the King's Bench.

Richard's son William was Lord of Sapcote in Leicestershire. William was Justice in the reign of Henry II., he was Justice itinerant from 1168 to 1180, and in that time he acted in no less than twenty-four counties. He died about 1184. William had at least three children, viz: Simon, Ralph and a daughter. William was succeeded to the barony by his son Simon.

From this William some of the Bassetts in this country claim to descend, but I have not found anything in my search that would justify their claim. His son Simon married Elizabeth, daughter of William Armel, of Hadden in the Peak, he was Justice itinerant in the reign of Richard I., 1197. He died, and I have found no mention in my search of any descendants. He was succeeded in the barony by his brother Ralph. Ralph died about 1217, leaving two daughters, since which time the house of Sapcote has not been presided over by a Bassett by name. These facts lead me to the conclusion that as there were no male descendants from Ralph, the last of the barons of Sapcote by the name of Bassett, that it would be impossible for any to be living to-day descendants of this branch of the family, by the name of Bassett.

A record of a William Bassett has been found by some recent writers, who state that there is little doubt but that he was a son of Simon Bassett. The reason given for the above statement is that Simon Bassett's widow gave to her son William the barony of Buckingham and also landed possessions in Leicester, Derby, Lincoln and Stafford counties. These gifts were confirmed by Henry III., when he (William) acknowledged his fealty to the King. He was itinerant Justice for Leicester, Derby, Lincoln, Stafford, Warwickshire and Nottingham. He died about 1249.

This same writer states that he was succeeded by his nephew, Robert Bassett. Now, he must have had a brother in order to have had a nephew. Now, that being the case, why was it that Simon's sons did not succeed to the barony of Sapcote, instead of Ralph, Simon's brother? The claims of our friends need a little more investigation and stronger evidence produced to sustain their claim, before we can accept it as an unimpeachable fact.

I would state here that I was informed that the majority of the Bassetts in the United States were descendants from the Sapcote branch of the family, and I in turn communicated the above statement to others, believing it to be correct. Since our last reunion I have made some investigation in English history which has convinced me of my error. In my opinion it is better for us not to make any claim until we can confirm it with evidence of which there is no reasonable doubt. Our descent, without doubt, is from some of those early and prominent Bassetts of England, but which branch



I do not believe we are in a position at this time to state without a possibility of impeachment. Let us continue our investigation and ascertain for ourselves the true facts in the case, then that which is now in darkness will become as clear as day.

Gilbert, another son of Ralph, had a son Thomas, who married Alice, daughter of Sir de Dustanville, and had the following children, viz.: Gilbert, Thomas, Alan, and a daughter, who married Albert de Grette.

Thomas was lord of the house of Hedendon, which was given him by King Henry II. for his military service which he rendered in the interest of the King. Thomas died about 1182 and was succeeded by his eldest son Gilbert, who had one son, who died, leaving an only daughter. She married Richard de Cranville. This Gilbert founded the Priory of Burecster or Bicester, in Oxfordshire. After his death the barony of Hedendon reverted to his younger brother Thomas, who was Justice on the King's Bench (Henry II., 1262). Thomas died about 1264.

Alan, the youngest son of Thomas and Alice (de Dustanville) Bassett, was a justice in the reign of Henry III. He was the sixth in that family who is mentioned in connection with the administration of justice. His children so far as known were, Gilbert, Fulk and Philip. He was Baron of Wycombe.

His eldest son Gilbert, who should have succeeded his father as Baron of Wycombe, died 1240, leaving an only son, who soon followed his father to the grave.

Alan's second son, Fulk, was Bishop of London and died 1258, without issue.

After Alan's death King Henry III. appointed his youngest son Philip, who was Chief Justice of England, to the Barony of Wycombe, 1262. And from my investigations I believe we have a better claim to a descent from this branch of the family than from the Sapeote branch. I will continue my investigations on this line and report to you my findings later.

## THE AMERICAN BASSETTS.

During the year, in our search for facts, we have found the following Bassetts, who have located in this country, in addition to those given in my report of last year, as follows: Edward Bassett, a ship carpenter, who married ——— Breed, and from him descended our kinsman, Abbot Bassett, who has so kindly and ably assisted in arranging for this reunion.

Also, a Benjamin Bassett, who was born in Yorkshire, England, and removed to this country in 1815. He married Elizabeth Heughet. He and his wife came in a sailing vessel. The voyage was a very rough and stormy one. It occupied two months and two days from England to New York, and after a few years' residence in this country he became blind and died in 1824. He had the following children: John, William and Wilson T. John became a prosperous farmer at Garrattsville, Otsego County, New York, where he died a few years ago. William was a physician and practiced at Binghamton, New York. Wilson T. is also a practicing physician. His residence is at Cooperstown, N. Y. During the War of the Rebellion he

treated the soldiers and their families free of charge. He is a member of the Otsego Medical Society and also a prominent member of the State Medical Society of New York. He married Mary Augusta, daughter of William and Harriet Ostrander, of Albany, New York, April 12, 1835.

Wilson T. was born Feb. 2, 1821, at New Lisbon, N. Y.

Harriet " " March 28, 1825; died Feb. 26, 1893.

#### CHILDREN.

Liston B., Emma Hortense, and M. Imogene.

Mr. W. W. Kellogg writes me that he found in the merchant tailors' record the following entry: George Bassett, a merchant, gave five shillings towards the honorable plantation in Virginia, April 29, 1609. The colony of Virginia was founded May 13, 1607, by 105 persons, sent out by a London company under Christopher North. This would make George Bassett over eleven years earlier in this country than William, of the Fortune, if the statement can be verified.

There are others in this country, but the data I have of them is so meagre that I do not feel justified in speaking of them at any length at this time.

A record published by the Rev. H. M. Dexter, translated from the records of the city of Leyden, Holland:

On the 19th of March, 1611, were affianced William Bassett from Sandwich, England, the widower of Cecelia Leight, accompanied by Roger Wilson and William Brewster, his friends, and Margaret Butler, a young maid (never before married) from Norwich, England, accompanied by Anna Fuller and Rose Leslie, her acquaintances. The bride died before the third reading. (The records of St. Peter's church record the interment of Maggie Butler as April 9, 1611.) On the 29th day of July, 1611, were affianced, and on August 13, 1611, were married, William Bassett, an Englishman, and widower of Cecelia Leight, accompanied by Roger Wilson and Edward Southworth, his friends, and Margaret Oldham, a young maid from England, accompanied by Wybra Pauties and Elizabeth Neil, her acquaintances.

But when and where he married Elizabeth Tilden, or when or where Cecelia Leight and Margaret Oldham died, I have no knowledge. The last will and testament of William Bassett exhibited to the Court holden at Plymouth, the first day of June, A. D. 1667, on the oaths of William Brett and John Carey.

The third of the second month, A. D. 1667, the last will and testament of William Bassett, being weak and sick, and having spoken to his wife and said, Wife, I must leave thee, but I shall leave thee with the Lord. If God had lengthened out my life it might have been that thou migtest have been more comfortably provided for. But it being demanded of him by one who was acquainted with his mind about disposing of his estate, whether his mind was as formerly, that he would give his movable goods, with his chattels to his wife. Answer. Yes, it was his mind, and that she should have the house and grounds, till she died, if she married not, and then he would

will it to his son, William's son (his grandson), and his tools to his son Joseph. And being demanded about his books which he formerly took care about, answered, he could not now do it.

To satisfy as soon as we may.

Present then with him we have set our hands as witnesses to the above writing so far as we know.

Witness hereunto:

WILLIAM BRETT.

JOHN CAREY.

Plymouth, ss., May 10, 1672. The foregoing is a true copy from the old Colony record of will book, 2, part 2, page 37.

William Bassett first settled in Plymouth, then in Duxbury, from which town he was deputy to the General Court in 1640-'43-'44-'45 and '48. He was one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater, and among the first settlers of that town, where he died 1667. He was very useful in the early settlement of the Colony, and was a member of the land committee who rendered very important service to the Colony.

His name is included in the list of purchasers (or old comers, as they are called) subjoined to the records of December 1, 1640, and was rated among the highest on the tax list.

Most of the records that have been found states he was a blacksmith by trade, while one or two have credited him with being a mason. But from my research I am convinced that his business was blacksmithing, for the reason that I find recorded in the records the fact that the tools of and implements of iron used by the settlers were taken to William Bassett for repairs, and on one occasion he was fined by the General Court for neglecting to repair the firearms in proper time, which fact might indicate he was a gunsmith.

It is stated that he owned the largest library of any of the Colonists.

William, son of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, married Mary, daughter of Hugh Burt, of Lynn. William was one of the early settlers of Sandwich, which town he represented in the General Court at Plymouth. He died 1670, leaving two children, viz.: Mary, born May 21, 1654, who had for a guardian Major Winslow, who was subsequently Governor of the Colony.

William, born 1656, and had for guardian Mr. Hinkley, who was also Governor of the Colony.

Mary married John Redding, August 22, 1676.

William married Rachel Willison, of Taunton.

Elizabeth, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, married Thomas Burgiss, Jr., from whom she was divorced about 1654, and it is stated by some that she married for her second husband a William Hatch.

At this time I am unable to state whether Elizabeth had any children or not.

Nathaniel, son of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, married for his first wife Mary (or Dorcas), daughter of John Joyce, of Yarmouth, and for his second wife he married Hannah ———.

He died January 16, 1710.

His second wife, Hannah, died 1709.

His will was dated January 10, 1709-10, and witnessed by the Rev. Daniel Greenleaf, Experience Ryder and his nephew, Col. William Bassett.

His children, I believe to be all by his first wife were, as follows:

Mary, born —; married Thomas Mulford of Truso, Oct. 28, 1600.

Nathaniel, born —; married Joannah Borden, Dec. 16, 1695, and located at Windon, Conn.

Joseph, born —; married (1) Susannah Hawes; (2) Thankful Hallett.

Ruth, born —.

Samuel, born —.

Hannah, born —; married — Covell.

Sarah, born —; married — Nickerson.

Nathan, born —.

Dorcus, born 1676; died June 9, 1707, aged 31 years.

William, born —; married Martha Godfrey, Feb. 10, 1710.

Joseph, son of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, married for his first wife —.

Married for his second wife Martha, daughter of Edmond Hobert, of Hingham, October, 1677.

I state that he was twice married for the reason that it would be impossible for his children to be married at the date given, if they were children of Martha Hobert. I also have records which have been sent to me by descendants of Lydia and Ruth, his daughters, that indicate that they were born between the years 1670 and 1673, from four to six years before he married Martha Hobert. I am of the opinion that Jeremiah was the only child by Martha Hobert.

Joseph died 1712. After his death, his widow (Martha Hobert) and his children removed from Bridgewater to Norton, where she died March 14, 1716-17.

#### CHILDREN.

Joseph, born —; married Bethiah Eaton, Nov. 5, 1691.

William, born —; married (1) Sarah Sweetland, 1603; (2) Mary Bump.

Elnathan, born —; married Mary Hill, 1702.

Lydia, born —; married Daniel Whittimore, 1692.

Ruth, born —; married John Whittimore.

Jeremiah, born —; married Mary Felch.

Sarah, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, married Peregrine White, and it is said that her third child, Jonathan, was the ancestor of the White family at Yarmouth.

The names of all of her children I have not been able to secure.

Ruth, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, married John, son of Francis Sprague. John was killed at the fight of Pawtucket in King Philip's war, March 26, 1676.

They had three sons and four daughters, and the historian states that one of the sons located at Lebanon, Conn.

Jane, who is given by many of the historians as one of the daughters of William and Elizabeth (Tilden) Bassett, is doubted by Mr. Arthur H.

Bassett, who has made quite an extensive search of the records at Bridgewater, Duxbury and Plymouth. He is of the opinion that there was no Jane that lived to maturity. It is also stated that Jane married a Thomas Gilbert. Mr. Arthur H. Bassett made an examination of the record that contained the marriage of Mr. Thomas Gilbert, and he found that the name of the lady that he married was spelled Rossetter, not Bassett. This matter I will leave for further investigation.

William, of Lynn, who is believed to be the William who came on the ship Abigail, 1635, at nine years of age, is mentioned in the records of Lynn in 1640. He was a farmer, and was elected selectman, or prudential man, as the office was called at that time, in 1678. He was elected collector of taxes in 1679; quartermaster in 1680. He was one of the persons chosen for arranging the deed of purchase of Lynn from the Indians, September 4, 1686 (see History of Lynn, p. 49). He was in the swamp fight with Captain Joseph Gardiner, February 29, 1675, and for his services the General Court gave him a grant of land.

William, son of William and Sarah (Burt) Bassett, married Sarah Hood, October 29, 1675, and had children as follows:

Sarah, born Dec. 6, 1676; married (1) Joseph or Nathan Griffin, June 13, 1696; (2) ——— Newbold.

William, born Oct. 2, 1678; married Rebecca Berry, Nov. 4, 1703.

Mary, born June 13, 1680; married (1) Andrew Geames, Feb. 15, 1706; (2) ——— Hill.

John, born Sept. 8, 1682; married

Hannah, born Feb. 2, 1685; married John Estes, Feb. 15, 1705-6, of Salem.

Ruth, born March 16, 1689; married Abraham Allen, Jan. 6, 1713, of Marblehead.

Joseph, born Dec. 15, 1692-3; lost at sea.

Deliverance, born Aug. 2, 1695; married Samuel Breed, June 25, 1719-20. Settled at Nahant.

Abigail, married Samuel Alling, 1728.

Elisha, son of William and Sarah (Burt) Bassett, married Elizabeth ———.

He removed from Lynn with his family to Pelesgrove, Salem County, New Jersey, in 1691.

#### CHILDREN.

Zebedee, born 1680; married Rachel ———.

Elisha, born April 21, 1682; married Abigail Elizabeth Davis.

William, born 1685; married Rebecca ———.

Benjamin, born 1686-7; probably died unmarried.

Hannah, born Dec. 15, 1689.

Elizabeth, born April 25, 1691; married Peter Keene.

Daniel, born Oct. 20, 1694; married Mary Lawrence.

Elizabeth, daughter of William and Sarah (Burt) Bassett, married for her first husband John Proctor, who was executed for witchcraft.

She married for her second husband ——— Richards.

Sarah, daughter of William and Sarah (Burt) Bassett, married Thomas Ewell, November 23, 1675, and removed to Salem, New Jersey, where some of her descendants live at the present time.

Rebecca, daughter of William and Sarah (Burt) Bassett). I have no record.

John, son of William and Sarah (Burt) Bassett. We have no positive information about him.

Mr. W. W. Kellogg, of Newtonville, found a record at Marblehead which leads us to think that the John Basset mentioned in the record at Marblehead was John, the son of William, of Lynn. The records state that a John Bassett married Charity Curtiss, November 26, 1712. Now, whether this was John, son of William, Sr., of Lynn, or whether it was John, son of William, Jr., whose wife was Sarah Hood. This John was born September 8, 1682; he would have been thirty years of age; while John, son of William of Lynn, would have been fifty-nine years of age November 26, 1712, the time Charity Curtiss was married.

Mr. Kellogg also found a will of a John Bassett, dated 1735, and in this will he mentioned his children as follows:

John,	born	—.	
William,	"	—.	
Michael,	"	—.	
Sarah,	"	—; married	— Fortune.
Miriam	"	—; "	— Fryer.
Deborah,	"	—; "	— Andrews.
Abigail,	"	—; "	— Andrews.
Hannah,	"	—; "	— Pierce.

The will was witnessed by Simon Proctor.  
Sarah Proctor.  
Francis Bowden.

You will remember that Elizabeth, sister of John Bassett, married John Proctor, who was executed for witchcraft. Now, I am of the opinion that possibly Simon and Sarah Proctor were children of Elizabeth. You will also observe that his oldest son is William, his oldest daughter is Sarah, after her grandmother, Sarah Burt. His second daughter is Miriam, after another sister. These facts will assist us in establishing the fact that John Bassett who made the will, and John son of William, of Lynn, are one and the same person. Now, I trust, if there are any here to-day—any who descend from the Marblehead Bassetts—that they will take it upon themselves to search the records and unravel the mystery.

Miriam, Mary, Hannah, Samuel and Rachel, children of William, of Lynn, I have no record except that which I gave in the report of last year.

Thomas Bassett, who located and died at Fairfield, Conn., had a son Thomas, who married Sarah, daughter of John Baldwin, of Milford, Conn., where he located.

#### CHILDREN.

John, born	1688; married	Mary	—.
Josiah, "	1690	"	Alice Canfield, April 25, 1717.
Mercy, "	1693	"	Azaiah Canfield, Feb. 27, 1719.
Abigail, "	1695		
Sarah, "	1697	"	Walter Lewis, Nov., 1728.
Thomas, "	1699	"	1 Sarah Pearson, Aug. 24, 1727.
			2 Anne Burwell, a widow.
Jerusha, "	1701		

They were all baptized in the old Plymouth Church at Milford, Conn., October 24, 1703.

John Bassett, who located at New Haven, Conn., with his son Robert and wife Margrey, came from Boston to New Haven with one Eustice, who had secured employment for him with Mr. Goodyear, but on arriving at New Haven, John was found to be too old and feeble to do the work that Mr. Goodyear wanted done; he was therefore thrown upon his own resources, and we find him employed in repairing the old church building, and at the fort mounting the cannon.

He died, February 15, 1653.

Margrey died 1756.

John's will was dated at New Haven, Conn. He gave his property to his wife during her life, and at her death it went to their son Robert, who was at that time residing at Stamford, Conn.

The will was witnessed by Richard Miles and John Harimon.

Robert, son of John and Margrey Bassett, was a shoemaker by trade; he is better known in history as Robert Bassett the drummer. He seemed to be a man with a mind of his own, and when he saw anything he thought ought to be done, he did it without asking the consent of anyone. This independence of his caused him a great deal of trouble. On one occasion the General Court ordered him to place a ladder upon his house, which he refused to do, and was accordingly fined. At another time we find him raising an army for the purpose of driving the Dutch out who had taken possession of the western part of Connecticut, for which act he was arrested, but subsequently released on a bond. And while a resident at Stamford there was an electors' meeting called for the purpose of electing deputies to the General Court at New Haven. The law of the New Haven colony denied the right of franchise to all who were not members of the established Church of the colony. Robert appeared to be one of those who was not a member of the Church, and was therefore denied the right to vote, although a taxpayer. He appeared at this meeting and demanded to know what the meeting was for. On being informed that it was for the purpose of electing deputies to the General Court at New Haven, Robert then said, in substance: We know no New Haven court or its laws. We only know the laws of England, which we are willing to obey. They give us the right to vote, and we now demand our rights. The laws of the New Haven court are laws of tyranny, not laws of right and justice. Give us our votes which we have a right as taxpayers to demand. We are mere donkeys for fools to ride, and our backs are wellnigh broken. You make laws when you please and what you please; you lay what rates you please and give what reasons you please. We are bondsmen and slaves, and there will be no better times for us until our taskmasters are well out of the way.

The record states that he was arrested and convicted of insubordination and imprisoned over the powder house for thirty days. The records also state that he apologized, and was liberated.

After his liberation he was appointed drum major. He was the only man in the New Haven colony that there is a record of as holding office that was not a member of the established Church.

The records state that the plea he made in his behalf was the most eloquent ever heard in the court.

He removed from Stamford, Conn., to Hemstead, Long Island, where he died about 1670.

His children, as far as known, were:

John, born 1638, died at Milford, Conn.; unmarried.

Robert, born 1640; married Elizabeth Riggs, and located at Stratford, Conn.

Elizabeth, born 1642; married Isaac Finch, Jan. 8, 1658; resided at Stamford, Conn.

Mary, born March 8, 1649; died March 17, 1649.

Having now called your attention to some of the leading or early comers of the family, and occupations and various relations and stations in life, and as a whole they have been an eminently respectable people, hardy, wiry and enduring; many have lived to an advanced age, one hundred years or more.

As citizens they have been peaceable, law-abiding, lovers and promoters of good order, and interest in the general welfare. Black sheep have been rare among them. They have been intelligent, self-respecting, fairly educated, and not a few have sought the advantages of college training in the best institutions.

Though not given to office-seeking, they have been frequently sought out for positions of trust. In these positions they have discharged their responsibility with conscientious fidelity, and have shown themselves to be possessed of efficiency and ability. They have been preëminently patriotic, responding promptly when their country has called, and in every case acquitted themselves with great credit.

In view of all these, we should be inspired with a new and lasting interest in whatever pertains to the history of our family—a kind of Gulf Stream to us in the great ocean of humanity about us; in the forthcoming work of our genealogy this ought to make us, as members of this great family, desirous that every item or data pertaining to the family should be recorded, but it cannot be done without each member does their part. And when every part is gathered and placed in its proper place we may rejoice in the fact that this great family is again united under one cover.

Now when I look upon the assembly of Bassetts, my mind goes back to William Bassett, who landed on this beautiful shore 276 years ago. I am prompted to believe, that could he come back to-day, and behold his children, he would fold them with a just pride to his breast, and with a paternal love crown you with the benediction of peace.

At the conclusion of the Historian's address, Mr. J. Gardner Bassett presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

*Mr. Bassett* :—The committee nominated to appoint officers for the ensuing year beg leave to present the following report. We have thought it best to put a man in nomination for President who has several qualifications for the office. In the first place, he comes from Boston, where there are many Bassetts who are indifferent to our association, and I hope that he may awaken an interest among them; in the second place, he is possessed of the



address and the ability required of a presiding officer; and in the third place, we hope the position will help him to brush up his pedigree. We offer the following:

*President.*

ABBOT BASSETT, - - - - Boston, Mass.

*Vice Presidents.*

I. AUSTIN BASSETT, - - - - Boston, Mass.  
 HOMER F. BASSETT, - - - - Waterbury, Conn.  
 SAMUEL A. BASSETT, - - - - New Haven, Conn.  
 ARTHUR H. BASSETT, - - - - Barre, Mass.  
 JOHN J. BASSETT, - - - - Boston, Mass.  
 J. GARDNER BASSETT, - - - - Bridgewater, Mass.  
 J. COLBY BASSETT, - - - - Winslow, Maine  
 JUDGE WILLIAM G. BASSETT, - - - - Northampton, Mass.  
 SHELDON B. THORPE, - - - - North Haven, Conn.  
 EDWIN P. BASSETT, - - - - New York City.  
 H. C. HURLBERT, - - - - New York City.  
 HARRISON W. BASSETT, - - - - Saline, Mich.  
 JAV BASSETT, - - - - Detroit, Mich.  
 A. L. BASSETT, - - - - Cleveland, Ohio.  
 SAMUEL BASSETT, - - - - New Britain, Conn.  
 CARROLL P. BASSETT, - - - - Summit, N. J.  
 JUDGE C. F. BARRETT, - - - - Proctorville, Vt.  
 EDWARD D. BASSETT, - - - - Providence, R. I.  
 NEWCOMB M. BASSETT, - - - - New Haven, Conn.  
 JOSIAH BASSETT, - - - - Philadelphia, Pa.  
 SIDNEY G. BASSETT, - - - - Fort Valley, Ga.  
 GEORGE BASSETT, - - - - Lady Lake, Fla.  
 H. E. BASSETT, - - - - Colorado Springs, Col.  
 JAMES A. BASSETT, - - - - Mt. Sterling, Ky.  
 HON. ISAAC N. BASSETT, - - - - Aledo, Ill.  
 JUDGE JOHN R. BASSETT, - - - - Burlingame, Kan.  
 W. J. BASSETT, - - - - Duluth, Minn.  
 GEORGE J. BASSETT, - - - - New Haven, Conn.  
 CHARLES W. BASSETT, - - - - Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 HIRAM BASSETT, - - - - Indianapolis, Ind.  
 GEORGE K. BASSETT, - - - - Baltimore, Md.  
 GEORGE C. GORHAM, - - - - Washington, D. C.  
 FRANK L. BASSETT, - - - - Swathmore, Pa.  
 GEORGE G. BASSETT, - - - - Salem, N. J.

*Secretary.*

FRANK G. BASSETT, - - - - Seymour, Conn.

*Treasurer.*

CHARLES E. P. SANFORD, - - - - New Haven, Conn.

*Historian.*

FRANK G. BASSETT, - - - - Seymour, Conn.

The meeting voted unanimously for the election of the list as presented.

*President Bassett*:—I am truly grateful for this unexpected manifestation of your appreciation. The honor comes to me unexpectedly, because I appointed a committee composed of men who knew me so well that I expected them to hold that contempt which familiarty breeds. I have in mind several things which I think we as an association ought to do, and these I shall try to carry out. I promise you an energetic administration and I shall not be satisfied with meagre results. I do not care to say more than this, and so I will resort to the conventional and say that I thank you for your generous favor and I will perform the duties of the office to the best of my ability.

We often hear it said that every American can make a speech. I think Ananias must have originated that remark, for it is worthy of his record. Speechmakers are rare. We all think great thoughts, but few of us can utter them. Language is the garb with which we clothe our thoughts. Modesty keeps many great thoughts hidden from view.

But there is one class of men which has speeches always ready at hand. When a toastmaster is in search of speechmakers a clergyman has no rights which he is bound to respect. We have with us to-day the Rev. Frederick G. Bassett of Providence, R. I., and I am going to ask him to open his barrel of speeches and produce one of his best ones for our edification.

#### ADDRESS OF THE REV. FREDERICK J. BASSETT, OF PROVIDENCE, R. I.

*Mr. President and Kinsmen*:—On the theory that a clergyman can readily “turn over his barrel” and find something to say at any time and upon any subject, I am bidden by the Chairman, without special preparation, to rise and speak. It is certainly complimentary in him to take for granted the possession by me of the gift of extemporaneous speech, especially when one recalls the familiar story of the backwoodsman who, upon hearing an extemporaneous sermon from a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, said: “I like that preacher. But he is the first one I ever saw of those petticoat fellows that could shoot without a rest.”

A Rhode Islander not by birth, but by adoption, it is with much pleasure, though without surprise, that I have found our family name an honored one in that State. The family, however, is not perhaps specially numerous there. But our kinsmen from adjacent States, accustomed to make merry at the expense of their little neighbor, would probably ask, “How could it be otherwise in so diminutive a State as Rhode Island, without incurring the danger of crowding somebody into the waters of Narragansett Bay?”

The Bassetts of Rhode Island, if I may speak for them, give you greeting on this occasion. There is no need of a prolonged speech. The occasion and the place of our gathering are sufficient of themselves to suggest appropriate reflections. It is good for us to be here to-day. It is wholesome and helpful to visit this spot sacred to the memory of our Puritan ancestors. It is wise to cultivate the historic sense. A family, as well as a nation, a race, a church, should value “historic continuity.” To take an interest in the Apostolic succession, so to speak, in one’s family pedigree, is an earnest

and a token of the individual's purpose to jealously guard and maintain the honor of the family name, to be true to its highest ideals, and to preserve and transmit its best traditions and traits. This, I take it, is the meaning and the spirit of such a gathering as this. It is a tacit and voluntary pledge of our interest and concern in making the records of the Present the suitable sequence of an honorable Past.

*Toastmaster.*—The hour is getting late and we have much to do before train time. It is always better to rise from a feast a little hungry, and it is better to wish for more of a thing than to feel that we have had too much. We have many with us to-day who are willing and ready to say a word to us, but among so many I cannot choose, and we have not time for them all. We have had a successful meeting and a joyful time. New friendships have been made and old ones have been renewed. I think we shall all feel that it has been good for us to have been here, and that what we have passed through will whet our appetite for the meeting of next year. I bid you, one and all, good bye, and say to you :

“Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,  
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.”

The President has since appointed the following Standing Committees:

*Reunion Committee.*

I. Austin Bassett, Dorchester, Mass.  
Dickerman M. Bassett, Derby, Conn.  
Charles F. Bassett, Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Historical Committee.*

Sheldon B. Thorpe, North Haven, Conn.  
Arthur H. Bassett, Barre, Mass.  
Jay Bassett, Detroit, Mich.  
B. Frank Leeds, Hackettstown, N. J.  
Rev. Frederick J. Bassett, Providence, R. I.  
H. C. Hurlbert, New York City.  
Newcomb M. Bassett, New Haven, Conn.  
Mrs. C. A. C. Hadselle, Pittsfield, Mass.  
Mrs. Rosalie Caldwell, Buffalo, N. Y.

*Auditing Committee.*

John I. Bassett, Boston, Mass.  
George J. Bassett, New Haven, Conn.  
Charles W. Bassett, Allegheny, Penn.

Attest:

FRANK G. BASSETT, *Secretary.*

SEYMOUR, CONN., April 25, 1899.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE REUNION.

*President.*

DICKERMAN M. BASSETT, Derby, Conn.

*Vice President.*

ARTHUR H. BASSETT, Barre, Mass.

*Secretary.*

FRANK G. BASSETT, Seymour, Conn.

*Historian.*

FRANK G. BASSETT, Seymour, Conn.

*Members.*

Mrs. Julia A. Bassett Clark,	-	-	-	New Bedford, Mass.
Mrs. H. H. Burnham,	-	-	-	Putnam, Conn.
Abbot Bassett,	-	-	-	Newtonville, Mass.
Mrs. Abbot Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Marian Drew Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Rev. Frederick J. Bassett,	-	-	-	Providence, R. I.
Joel E. Bassett,	-	-	-	North Haven, Conn.
Mrs. Joel E. Bassett,	-	-	-	" " "
William W. Clemence,	-	-	-	Terryville, Conn.
Mrs. Mary Bassett Clemence,	-	-	-	" "
Levi Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Mrs. Lydia M. Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
David H. Brown,	-	-	-	West Medford, Mass.
Charles E. Bassett,	-	-	-	Chelsea, Mass.
Mrs. S. W. Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Mrs. Sarah Basset Kellogg,	-	-	-	Newtonville, Mass.
Caroline H. Stimson,	-	-	-	Salem, Mass.
Genevie S. Foster,	-	-	-	" "
Mrs. Catherine Bassett Dill,	-	-	-	Newton, Mass.
Joshua M. Dill,	-	-	-	" "
William Bassett,	-	-	-	Bridgewater, Mass.
Abbie M. Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
J. Gardner Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Annie H. Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Elizabeth Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Mrs. Jennie Bassett,	-	-	-	Boston, Mass.
John I. Bassett,	-	-	-	" "
Mrs. Louise Bassett Umberfield	-	-	-	New Haven, Conn.
D. Umberfield,	-	-	-	" " "
Mrs. Seth Bassett Caldwell,	-	-	-	Buffalo, N. Y.
Charles L. Bassett,	-	-	-	Derby, Conn.
Mrs. Charles L. Bassett,	-	-	-	" "

J. M. Bassett,	-	-	-	Worcester, Mass.
Mrs. J. M. Bassett,	-	-	-	“ “
Mrs. George M. Bassett,	-	-	-	“ “
Mrs. Mary Bassett Lum Carpenter,				Waterbury, Conn.
Mrs. E. F. Fletcher,	-	-	-	Worcester, Mass.
Master Raymond Bassett Fletcher,				“ “
Miss Mary A. Bassett,	-	-	-	Berlin, Mass.
Miss Hannah Williams Bassett,	-			Bridgewater, Mass.
Mrs. M. Jennie Bassett Dean,	-	-		Taunton, Mass.
Mrs. Susan A. Bassett Lincoln,	-			Lyons, Iowa
Miss Flora Disbrow,	-	-	-	“ “
Mrs. Mary Baker Smith Fox,	-			Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Hannah B. Belcher,	-	-		Randolph, Mass.
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Nye,				Sandwich, Mass.
Abbie M. Holway,	-	-		East Sandwich, Mass.
Annie B. Holway,	-	-		Boston, Mass.
Burdette R. Tuttle,	-	-	-	Wallingford, Conn.
I. Austin Bassett,	-	-	-	Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Minnie M. Bassett,	-	-	-	“ “
Mrs. Gertrude M. Doten,	-	-	-	“ “
H. C. Hurlbert,	-	-	-	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Charles F. Bassett,	-	-	-	“ “
William Bassett, Jr.,	-	-	-	Arlington, Mass.
Mrs. D. M. Bassett,	-	-	-	Derby, Conn.
Lillie M. Bassett,	-	-	-	“ “
Harriet E. Bailey,	-	-	-	New Haven, Conn.



*Book 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> in V.*

REPORT OF THIRD  
REUNION OF THE  
BASSETT FAMILY\*  
ASSOCIATION\*\*\*

~~\*CS71~~

~~B36~~

~~2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup>~~

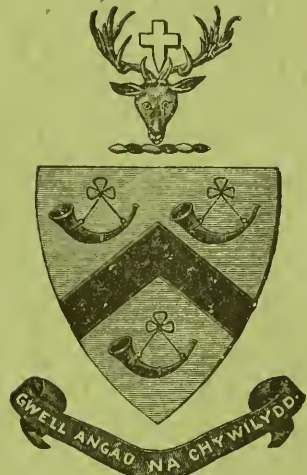
1898/99

\*CS71

B36

1897

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>



Bassett

WOODMONT, CONN.  
SEPTEMBER EIGHTH  
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED  
AND NINETY-NINE\*





"The pioneers of two great nations."

# REPORT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD REUNION

OF THE

# BASSETT FAMILY ASSOCIATION

OF AMERICA

HELD AT

COLONIAL PARK

WOODMONT, CONN.

SEPTEMBER EIGHTH

1899

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NEW HAVEN, CONN.:  
PRESS OF THE PRICE, LEE & ADKINS CO.



ABBOT BASSETT, PRESIDENT.



FRANK G. BASSETT, SECRETARY.



THE third reunion of the Bassett Family Association of America was held at Colonial Park, Woodmont, Conn., Friday, September 8, 1899. The dinner was served at the Colonial Inn, adjoining the Park, and the exercises were held in the Connecticut Building, the chief feature of Colonial Park, and which was removed to its present position at the close of the World's Fair at Chicago, in 1893. Although the reunion was not the largest in point of numbers, it was still a great success, members of the family being present from many distant States, and all who attended were enthusiastic in their praise both of the spot and of the arrangements. After the dinner was served the members adjourned to the Connecticut Building, where the following exercises were held.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Abbot Bassett, of Boston, who made the following remarks:

#### ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

To-day the Bassett family meets under the most pleasant auspices to add one more delightful occasion to the list of pleasant family gatherings that it has enjoyed. Let us hope that it will be no less joyful than those which have preceded it, and let us one and all lend our energy and enthusiasm to make it memorable. All nature smiles upon us and we are privileged to meet in the open air, with a delightful prospect of land and sea stretching out before to delight the eye, while our ear is gratified by what we shall hear.

Long years ago in old Granada, when, by the triumph of Spanish arms, the ancient Moors were driven from their homes and forced into exile across the great sea, it is related that each householder locked the door of his dwelling and put the key in his pocket. He could not believe that Allah, the doer of all good things, would for a long time divorce him from the home which was to him one of the sacred places of earth, and he said to himself: "Some day I will return and once more live surrounded by my household gods in the home that I have made for them, and once more I shall breathe the beautiful air of fair Andalusia in the valley that is smiled upon by the Alhambra."

And so with sorrowing heart and tearful eyes he turned from his doorway and went into that long exile which to this day has known no end. And if you should go to Tangiers or to Morocco you would see the keys, brought from Granada, still hanging by the firesides in the old Moorish dwellings. They are held to be the most precious of all heirlooms, and they have been handed down from father to son through centuries. They link the present to the past, and teach the lesson of love for the home in a manner more forceful than could be conveyed by the written or spoken word.

It is a pretty story and it appeals to us especially to-day.

Man builds four walls on the earth, puts a roof above them and lights a fire within, but it is not yet his home. Home is the place of peace and good will. Too many a dwelling place is not of this kind.

Woman comes to the house which man has erected, and she glorifies it by making for him the home which his heart longs for.

There are no three words in the English language more sacred than those which woman gives to us in her three capacities of Mother, Wife and Daughter. Happy is the man who has enjoyed her in all of these relations. Happy is the man who, amidst the sweet influences of the home which a true woman has made for him, can take her to his heart of hearts and say with the poet:

“ Why man, she is mine own!  
And I as rich in having such a jewel  
As twenty seas, if all their sands were pearls,  
Their waters nectar, and their rocks pure gold.”

Our mission as an association is to reach back into the past and discover, if we may, the homes which have been made and the families which have been reared by those who bear our name. It is a good thing to get together. It is a good thing to meet for work in a common cause. In our communion we shall get to know and esteem one another. We may exchange facts which shall be gathered and interwoven to make a complete whole. We shall celebrate the past and profit by its successes. And while we are doing all, we shall learn to know the good that is in ourselves and enjoy what we may get one from the other.

We have come this year to Connecticut from places remote, and from places near at hand. Connecticut welcomes us to her hospitality, and she will give expression to her welcome through one of her sons. I take great pleasure in introducing Mr Samuel Bassett, of New Britain, who will give the address of welcome.

#### ADDRESS OF SAMUEL BASSETT.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distant Relatives possibly, but Friends I feel assured:*

Upon me devolves the pleasant duty of welcoming you in the name of the Bassetts of Connecticut to the shores of our State once more. Surely no more appropriate spot could have been selected than this, so near the homes of a large number of our ancestors, for the doughty John, probably with doubt and uncertainty in his heart, entered the then small hamlet which proved to him a haven and a home. In this vicinity the irrepressible William, with his “foole gunne,” made trouble for himself and doubtless for others. No doubt during his rambles he has trod this very spot and these shores have resounded with the report of that gun. This reminds me of an incident. When I first settled in New Britain over twenty-seven years ago, Squire O. B. Bassett, whose aged widow is with us to-day, requested me to spend an evening with him, as he would like to talk over family history. One of the first questions he asked was, “Where is that gun?” In surprise I asked him, “What gun?” He then informed me that

it was one of the traditions of the family that the oldest son of the oldest son was named Sam, and to him was committed the custody of the family gun. Like a flash it came over me that in my early boyhood days an old great-aunt told me about a gun which I must always treasure, but unfortunately soon afterward our family was separated, and I thought no more of the gun until the good old squire's remark. But I digress. My province is but to welcome you, and I beg the pardon of our worthy, able and indefatigable historian for intruding on his territory. Would that my duty had fallen upon a more able and eloquent representative of our name, but I assure you none could be more sincere in extending to you a hearty welcome. May the day prove so enjoyable that its memories will linger long with you, and may the great spirit above bring you safely to your homes and guard and care for you in your various walks in life. Welcome, thrice welcome.

THE PRESIDENT: In the name of and in behalf of the Bassett family I accept with pleasure the welcome that has been conveyed. We appreciate the spirit of hospitality which prompts what has been said, and we do not doubt we shall profit by our sojourn with your people. And now we come to the principal paper in our collection, and I commend it most earnestly to your careful attention. There is an old story of the hod carrier who carried bricks to the man above who did all the work. It is for us to carry the bricks of fact to our historian, who will use them to erect the structure of history upon which he is working. It is unnecessary for me to introduce one who is known to us all, and so I will simply call upon the historian to tell us what is new in the line upon which we are all working.

#### ADDRESS OF THE HISTORIAN.

In my report of last year I mentioned some of the facts connected with the house of Sapcote, and my opinion as to the possibility of the American Bassetts being descendants of that house. I have thought it advisable to give you a more extended account of that family at this time, that you might more fully understand the reasons that lead me to the opinion that I expressed in the report, and also give you an opportunity to form your own conclusions as to whether it was possible for the Bassetts on this side of the water to be descendants of that house.

William's son (or grandson of Richard; some of the historians give it son, while others give it grandson) settled in Sapcote, and was deputy sheriff to his brother Ralph, 1163. In the following year he was justice itinerant and was sheriff of Lincoln from 1177 to 1184.

William's son Simon succeeded him in the barony of Sapcote. Simon married a daughter of William Armel. Simon's son Ralph married a daughter of Robert de Chancombe for his first wife, and for his second he married Elizabeth de Colvill, sister of Edward de Colvill. He also succeeded his father in the barony of Sapcote. Ralph was sheriff of Lincoln in the reign of Edward.

The Earl of Warwick was made Chamberlain of the Exchequer. He appointed Ralph Bassett to act for him in the Court of Great Exchequer. In 1248 he went on a pilgrimage to St. James in Galicia.

In 1258 he was commanded to attend the King at Chester with a large force to act against the Welsh, who were committing outrages on the border. In 1262 he was made Governor of Northampton Castle. In 1264 he sided with the rebellious Barons and fought with them at Northampton. He was in the fight at Evesham, being there opposed by his kinsmen, who took sides with the King. He was called to Simon Montfort's Parliament, but he did not receive the royal sanction. But his son Ralph, by his second wife, who succeeded him in the barony, was summoned in 1294 to attend the King wherever he should be, to advise touching the "weighty affairs of the Realm," and shortly after was ordered to Portsmouth, well furnished with horse and arms, to accompany him to Laskney.

He died in 1296, two years after he was called by the King.

His son Ralph, who succeeded him in the barony, was in the wars in Scotland, in 1310. In 1314 he attended the King with a military force to New Castle.

He died 1326.

Simon, his son, married a daughter of Lord William Boteler.

Ralph, his son, who succeeded to the barony, was, in 1339-40, with Edward III., in the wars of France and Flanders.

In 1346 he was with the King at the siege of Aquillon, and in the same year fought in the famous battle of Greycy, after which he served at the siege of Calais, and was sent with Sir Walter Manny to arrange the terms of surrender with the commander of the garrison.

In 1359 and 1369 he was in France.

In 1369 the Manor of Balingfield (Northampton) was bequeathed to him by his relative, Robert Colvell; and as he was serving abroad in the interest of the King, the King excused him from rendering homage on his accession to the Manor.

In 1372 he was again in France with an expedition under the Duke of Lancaster.

In 1376 he built a chantry against the north side of the Church of Sapcote.

He died 1378, leaving no sons, at which time the title of Lord of Sapcote became extinct, and the estate passed to his daughter, from whom descended the present Earl of Harrington, Earl Fitz William, Earl de Gray, Earl Gray de Wilson, and many others.

These are the facts as I have found them in the histories that I have had access to in my research, but it is possible that there were other sons born to that branch of the family in the various generations which are not mentioned in history; in that day and time the oldest son inherited the title and property from whom the Bassetts of America might have descended.

I trust that this question may be solved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. It is my desire to see the record traced back to Normandy in an unbroken chain, the links of which being forged on the anvil of facts that no storm of criticism or the torrent of research can break one link.

I am led to believe that we can accomplish the forging of the links of facts into a chain leading back to Normandy many years before the Conqueror invaded England, from records now existing, the correctness of which cannot be disputed, and in support of my belief I will give you

some facts, found by Mrs. G. B. Van Norman, of Chicago, Ill., entitled notes from the Norman people.

Basset, from its ancestor, Bathet, or Baset, Duke of the Normans of the Loire, 895-905. He acquired Oreilly Bassett and Normanville, in 912, and had issue.

Norman, father of Osmond, Viscount of Vernon, 960. Hugh Bassett, oldest son of Osmond, was Baron of Chabeau Bassett, held from the Abbey of St. Denis, in the time of Hugh Capet, which barony, by his widow, went to the house of Montmorency, 990.

Tulco De Alneto was father of

1. Osmond.
2. Robert D'Ouilly, ancestor of the Doyleys.
3. William de Lisures, ancestor of the house of Lisures.
4. Tulco, or Fulcelin D'Alnet, ancestor of the Dawnays.

Osmond Basset accompanied the Conqueror, 1066, and had issue.

1. Hugh Fitz Osmond, ancestor of the family of Normanville and Basset of Normandy.
2. Norman, Sire de Montrevel.
3. Anchebie Fitz Osmond, ancestor of the Palmers.
4. Ralph Fitz Osmond, ancestor of the Lords of Drayton.
5. Richard Bassett, ancestor of the Bassets of Devon.
6. William Bassett, ancestor of the Bassetts of Essex and Wales.

D'Oyley, a baronial family from Pont Dolly, or Duilly, Normandy, a branch of the Bassets.

Robert of Pont Drylby, brother of Osmond Basset, Baron of Normanville, had issue.

1. Robert.
2. Nigel, and other sons, who went to England, 1066, from whom descended the barons and baronies Doyley.

Dannay or De Alneto, a branch of the baronial house of Basset, deriving from *Fulco or Fulcelin de Alneto*, brother of Osmond, Baron of Normandville, who witnessed a charter with him in Normanville, 1050. He had issue.

Ingelram (sometimes called Paganus) D'Alnai, who is mentioned at the battle of Hastings, as Sire d'Alnai. He granted the church of Alneto to St. Stephen Cam, 1082.

Berenger de Alnai, son of Ingelram, witnessed a charter of Stephen, Count of Albermarle, and Gauther, his brother, had custody of Bayeux, 1106.

William de Alneto, son or grandson of Berenger, held fiefs in Devon, 1165.

William D'Annay accompanied Richard I. to Palestine.

Fulco and Hugh de Alneto occur in Devon in the 13th century.

John de Alneto was father of Nicholas, summoned by writ, as Baron, 1326.

Thomas, his son, married an heiress in York, where the family settled, and from them descended Viscount Downe.

Normanville, a branch of the Bassets of Normandy, from Hugh Fitz Osmond, who held in Capete Hauk, 1086. From him descended the Barons of Normanville, a younger branch of whom (the Bassets) held the barony until 1500.

Gerold de'Normanville held possession in Sussex, in the time of Henry I.

He also witnessed a charter of Humet, time of Henry II.

Norman de'Normanville was a baron in Sussex, 1165.

Sir Ralph de'Normanville lost his Norman barony, time of John, and had grants in Lincoln, and from him descended the great family of Normanville in York and Lincoln.

The Palmers of Hauk and Sussex were a branch of the Bassets, deriving from Auchebil Fitz Osmond, or Bassett, Lord of Cosham, Hauk, 1086, who went to Palestine, 1096, and appears, 1110, as Auchebil Palmericus, at Winchester.

Geoffry Fitz Auchebil, or Basset, was son of Auchebil Fitz Osmond, living 1103; this son was Herbert Fitz Geoffrey, or Palmericus, 1148, and father of Herbert Fitz Herbert of Hauk, 1165, who had issue.

1. Peter de Cosham, mentioned in Normandy as Pout Doylly.
2. William de Paumer, or de Casham, time of John. Had issue.

Sir William Basset of Sussex, Knight (where the family had long held estates called Basset Fee in Bellinghurst, from the Abbey of Fescamp, Normandy, whose daughter Lucy was admitted a nun at Easeborne, by letter of Archbishop Peckham.

Ralph and Adam Basset, sons of Sir William, occur in Sussex, 1281. They were subsequently residing at Steyning, bearing the name of *Palmer*. From Ralph descended the Palmers of Augmering, who bore the Basset Arms.

You will see by the above that the name of Thurstan is not mentioned, but I have found a record which states that Bishop Littleton had an MSS., written by many hands, which states that Thurstan Basset confirmed Newbold, the gift of his father Osmond, to the Abbey of Evesham, and this statement is confirmed by the records of Evesham.

The above facts confirms the statement made by W. J. Saxton, that he found the name of both Osmond and Thurstan, and that Thurstan was a son of Osmond.

#### THE AMERICAN BASSETTS.

I mentioned in my last report that there was an Edward Bassett, a ship carpenter, who landed at Boston. The date of his arrival I am unable to give, but it was before 1683.

Edward married Elizabeth, daughter of Allen Breed, of Lynn, and it is supposed he had the following issue:

David, born.

Daniel, "

David married Mary ——, and had the following issue:

Mary, born Feb. 20, 1683.



David, born Sept. 3, 1687.  
 Edmund, "  
 Zephaniah, " who married Mary ——, and had issue.  
 John, " Jan. 6, 1732; died Jan. 8, 1732.  
 Abigail, " Feb. 2, 1733; died Jan. 8, 1735.  
 Mary, " Dec. 8, 1735.  
 Abigail, " Nov. 26, 1737.  
 Hannah, " Nov. 4, 1739.  
 Edward, " April 15, 1742.  
 Zephaniah, " July 27, 1744; died 1745.  
 Zephaniah, " May 5, 1746.  
 John, " Jan. 23, 1750.  
 Joseph, " May 23, 1752.

Edward, son of Zephaniah, married Huldah Cleverly, of Braintree, Mass  
 Edward died Aug. 26, 1821, aged 86 years.

*Issue.*

Zephaniah, born; baptized Oct. 4, 1772.  
 Edward, "  
 Samuel, "  
 Mary, "  
 Hannah, "

Samuel, son of Edward, married Elizabeth Scott, Jan. 10, 1802.  
 Samuel died at Danvers, Mass., June 23, 1858.  
 Elizabeth died at Boston, May 14, 1814, aged 39 years.

*Issue.*

Elizabeth, born.  
 Samuel, "  
 Zephaniah, "  
 William, "  
 Edward, " Jan. 4, 1809, at Boston; was father of our President,  
 Mr. Abbot Bassett.

I have brought this branch of the family down to the present generation in hopes that the members of this branch might become interested enough to assist our President in establishing a pedigree in order that he may stand upon the same level with his better half.

I have during my research found a number of Bassetts who came to this country in recent years, but they have failed thus far to give me an account of their family, consequently I am unable to give any record of them at this time, but I trust your historian in the future may be able to do so.

The following named Bassetts were officers in the English army and stationed in New England:

Lieut. Thomas Bassett, 1715.  
 Lieut. C. Bassett.  
 Major Henry Bassett, 1765.  
 Lieut. James Bassett, 1764. He was present at the Kings street riot,  
 1771.  
 Ensign Richard Bassett, 1771.

William Bassett, the ward of Governor Bacon of Virginia. He was the ancestor of the Bassets in Virginia. He was born previous to 1692.

The Governor makes mention of him in his will; he also built Eltham Mansion for his ward, William Bassett, the bricks of which it was built being brought from England.

The Governor died 1692.

William was the father of Col. Burwell Bassett, and undoubtedly other children.

Colonel Burwell married Annie Dandridge, a sister of Martha Washington, and had the following issue:

Ann, born about 1748.

Elizabeth, born about 1750; married Benjamin Harrison; their son William Henry was born February 9, 1773; was inaugurated President March 4, 1841, and died April 4, 1841.

John, born 1752-3; married Betty Carter.

The above facts I have found in various books and papers. The reason for incorporating them in this report was in the hopes that it might stimulate the descendants of this branch to labor diligently in searching for the history of their family (that is written in the Church, Town and Probate records of Virginia) until they have a complete record.

In order not to make my report too lengthy, I have thought it best not to give you record of each branch, but to give you some facts as regards the branches I neglected to give last year.

John, the son of Thomas, Jr., and Sarah (Baldwin) Bassett, married Mary ——, 1712.

John died 1759.

Mary died Oct. 23, 1752.

*Issue.*

John, born Sept. 13, 1713.

Mary, " 1715; died unmarried, Sept. 19, 1802.

Hannah, " 1717; married John Jones, of New Haven, Conn., Oct. 6, 1738.

Abigail, " June 20, 1720.

Sarah, " July, 1723; married Edward Green.

Enoch, " March, 1725. These four children were not mentioned in their father's will; undoubtedly died young.

Joel, " June, 1727.

Abraham, " 1729.

Isaac, " 1730-31.

Josiah, son of Thomas, Jr., and Sarah (Baldwin) Bassett, married Alice, daughter of Jeremiah Canfield, April 25, 1717.

*Issue.*

Josiah, born Oct. 14, 1719.

Abigail, " Dec., 1720; married Caleb Turrell.

Samuel, " 1723; married Susanna Morris, May 17, 1746.

Eunice, " 1725; " Richard Baldwin, May 30, 1745.

Edward, " 1727; " Sarah Sanford.

Thomas, son of Thomas and Sarah (Baldwin) Bassett, married, first, Sarah Pearson, Aug. 24, 1727; married, second, widow Ann Burwell.

Thomas died 1756, at Fairfield, Conn.

*Issue.*

Elylay, born Jan. 11, 1729, at Derby, Conn.; died young.  
Joel, " Jan. 11, 1734 " " " married ——— Burwell  
and removed to Vermont.  
John, " Aug. 6, 1738, at Derby, Conn.  
Susannah, " Oct. 12, 1741, " " "  
Henry, " Jan. 9, 1744, " Stratford, Conn.  
Samuel, " Sept., 1746, " " "

Robert, Jr., son of Robert and grandson of John and Margarey Bassett 1642-3, married Elizabeth, daughter of Ensign Samuel and Sarah (Baldwin) Riggs, 1687-88.

Robert, died at Stratford, Conn., Aug. 5, 1720.  
Elizabeth, " " " " March, 1744.

Robert came to Stratford and bought his first land November 6, 1881, and February, 1682, he purchased a house lot from John Wells, and in 1683 he built a house on this lot, placing a stone near the mantelpiece in the ceiling, with the following letters and figures: "R. B., 1623." When the house was taken down by John McEwen and another built on the same site in 1723, this stone was placed on the cellar wall, where it may still be seen.

*Issue.*

John, born June 23, 1689; died young.  
Samuel, " Nov. 28, 1692; married Deborah Bennett.  
Jonadab, " July 20, 1695; " Mary Phippeny, May 28, 1819.  
Robert, " July 11, 1699; " (1) Eunice Clark; (2) Obedience  
Sherman.  
Elizabeth, " Dec. 15, 1701; " Francis Whitmore.  
Ebenezer, " Jan. 31, 1707; " Sarah Tomlinson.

On reading a pamphlet entitled "Signers of the Mayflower Compact," by Anne Arnoux Huxton, I found the following comment on the Bassetts:

"The Bassetts are in the right line for almost anything; it is a field worthy of fine searching, and surely will reward the time spent upon it."

This is not all, however, for William Bassett's family relations, as "in the division of the lands by the General Court of Colony on the 22d of May, 1627, the name of the wife of William Bassett is given as Elizabeth, as there are two of that name mentioned in the family.

In the history of Duxbury she is given as Elizabeth Tilden(?).

This has a historical ring, as Thomas Tilden, who arrived on the Ann, probably brought out wife and children, as evidenced by his three shares in the cattle division of 1623, and there being none of his name in the allotment, 1627, it seems as if they were daughters who had merged their rights in other families by their marriages.

The Adams' and Bassetts' marriage relations bring them together into the families of William Vassal, William White and the Winslows, taking in the hundreds of Bassetts which filled the northeast corner of Nottinghamshire, striking Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, from which we bring the Mortons, Southworths, Cooks, Bradfords and Canns.

Take William Bassett to Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, or any surrounding country reached by the various roads to the Great Northern, let him renew his acquaintance with George Morton and Edward Southworth, the merchants, and history may prove him as well born and bred, quite enough so to have his descendants feel a natural pride in the citizenship which dates back to the arrival of the Fortune in 1621.

It is her belief that midway in this Great Northern Post Road was where the strength and power of the Pilgrim movement was located, and it was from there that Edward Southworth came, the friend of William Bassett.

These few suggestions of Mrs. Huxton may assist us in locating the English home of the early Bassetts that came to New England.

We have come to-day to meet old friends and to make new ones. A door has been left open for our reception. We hear familiar voices, see friendly faces, and clasp the hands of those in whose breasts beat the heart of a Bassett, which I trust contains the noblest of human virtues and the gentlest of human feelings; and as we meet from year to year, may we brighten and broaden the chain of friendship which unites us in one family, and as we separate to-day and go to our homes, let us remember that this organization was not organized for our pleasure alone, but to cement the family ties more firmly, and let us hand it down to our posterity filled with the love of family and name, that it may be an incentive to encourage those who follow us to labor diligently to reach that higher plane of manhood which is perfection or godliness.

THE PRESIDENT: The Bassett family seems to have been able in the past to carry the burden of titles of every degree. I hope you will remember the full details of what you have heard and preserve it in your memory, till one day you shall have it in book form. We had with us last year a very bright woman from Western Massachusetts, with whom we were all charmed. She is unable to be with us to-day, but she has sent a representative in the shape of a poem which I shall take great pleasure in reading. It is by Mrs. C. A. C. Hadselle, of Pittsfield, Mass.

POEM BY MRS. HADSELLE.

My dear Cousins Bassetts, annexes and all,  
A greeting I send you—a far-away call  
From the Hills of Old Berkshire, whose towering crest  
Rises high, in its majesty, over the rest  
Of that part of New England lying south, east and west.  
*Down*, then, to New Haven on wings of the wind  
My message I send, and, if mind acts on mind,  
    Over spaces like this,  
    Why then you'll not miss  
    My presence. I'm *there*,  
    And, with a nod to the Chair—  
To the Chair, to the Sec., and, in fact, the whole lot  
    Where the toasts are kept hot  
And waiting the moment when, the inner man full,  
There comes o'er the crowd an ominous lull;  
(The knives and the forks have ceased their rude clatter,  
The cat in the kitchen is licking the platter),  
There's a clearing of throats and a wiping of chins,  
A settling back com'f'tably and the fun begins.  
Just here my next neighbor gets in on the sly:  
    "O my!  
Wasn't that a good dinner?" To which I reply,  
    "Why, yes; but if I  
Remember correctly, the one last year  
At the 'Samonset House' was as good and as dear."  
    To this plat-  
    tude he,  
    Iambically  
Says, "Um, um, may be;  
But recollection's dim,  
And while *that* wasn't slim,  
    I'm to-day  
    Free to say,  
I 'njoy this more'n that."  
    But a rat-a-tat  
    On the table close by  
Calls to order. Now, it's no use to try  
To follow that program; no man knoweth it,  
Yet I'll venture a guess that it's choke full o' wit.  
(You see, being a Yankee, I'm privileged to *guess*.)  
There's the President—now for a year, a week less,  
He's been bottling up good things for this very day,  
And when the cork's drawn—well, I will not say  
    There'll be the — somebody to pay.  
    But you'll laugh till you cry,  
    And you'll wonder why  
    You co'dn't say things like that,  
    But you can't, and that's flat.  
There are thirty-four "Vices;" every one wears a hat!  
Now, really! brothers! co'dn't you do better'n that?  
There *were* a few women that braved the bleak wind  
Of this New England coast! They left all behind;

Shared all the hardships; otherwise—my blushes are hid—  
That Colony wo'dn't have grown as it did.

All which leads me to write  
That, considering this,  
If you'd 'a' sprinkled a Miss  
Or a "Mrs." in that long list of Misters,  
'Twouldn't have hurt you a mite  
And wo'd 'a' suited the sisters.  
"Sore?" Not at all!  
*I'm* not to the wall!  
Fact is, I'm feeling my *outs*  
For, of the forty to fifty  
Officers and committee  
Just two wear petti—, I mean flowers;  
And, *Ahem!*  
*I'm* one o' them!

Now comes the Historian; poor man! if he  
Doesn't find an asylum in that pedigree  
'Twill be strangest of all things that ever I knew.  
Demented long since I'd 'a' been; wo'dn't you?  
But he's patient and kind,  
So I know he won't mind  
If I ask him to hurry the "book" up a bit,  
We're all so anxious for a look at it!

And some of us will—now I'm sure as can be  
By no remote possibilit-ee,  
The last half year of the next century see.  
And that but reminds me that this one in time  
Will come to an end; so, then, must my rhyme.  
Moreover, Cousin Abbot, I think  
There's a puncture!  
Did you wink  
Or make a grimace  
At this juncture?

As much as to say, "If your tire, *Madame*,  
Is all right, ours isn't. And I am  
Free to announce that you're out of the race!"  
Very well, I'm good-natured; now who'll take my place?

Really, friends, I beg your pardon. I didn't mean to write that doggerel. Like the boy's whistle in school, "it did it itself." I'm very sorry not to be with you to-day. The doctor's mandate alone prevented. Next year, if I'm living, I'll try to be at the "Meet." If not, here's a parting hand to each of you and a parting word to all:—"Keep up the Association." It has an uplifting influence. There is in it an incentive to live up to that grand family motto, "Death rather than Dishonor!" I would rather my child lived up to that than be crowned king—as kings run. The family has certainly a remarkable record. In a long life and a wide circle of acquaintances, I have never known a convicted criminal with a drop of Bassett blood in him! I will not say that some of them, had I been judge or jury, would not have met swift punishment; but they were smart enough to stop just outside the clutches of the law, and for this we should be truly thankful.

On the other hand, many have reached, others are climbing, to positions of trust and honor. For higher reasons than selfish pride, these, I think, should go on record. For the encouragement of this and coming genera-

tions, shall we start a "Roll of Honor?" Here is a name, Hon. Howard J. Rogers, first deputy under Commissioner Peck at the World's Fair at Paris in 1900, where he has entire charge of the United States Educational Department. He held the same office for New York State at Chicago in '93, and his report of same is not second to any issued. He is a graduate of "Williams;" office, Capitol, Albany, N. Y.

One other, Hon. Frank A. Hadselle, whilom member Legislature, upper house; served successive terms as high sheriff over a county only a little larger than the State of Massachusetts—they *do* have such big things "out West"—and last year was appointed United States Marshal of the Southern District of Wyoming; office, Cheyenne. (A word of warning. If you call on him, *don't* say anything against President McKinley. They lynch people for smaller offenses out there, and I don't believe he'd *try* to save you.)

These men are respectively grandson and great-grandson of Polly Bassett Chapman, daughter of James Bassett, of Voluntown, Conn., and who was the sixth in line from William and Elizabeth Tilden Bassett, of the good ship "Fortune," 1621.

And now, with poor "Old Rip," as impersonated by dear old Joe Jefferson, "'ere's 'ealth and long life to every one of you"

CELIA ANTOINETTE CHAPMAN HADSELLE.

18 CHURCH STREET, PITTSFIELD, MASS., September 5, 1899.

THE PRESIDENT: It is now necessary to choose officers under the new Constitution. Anticipating this action I went about and tried to find three men who would serve on a nominating committee. My quest was unsuccessful. This determines me to look elsewhere than among the men. Where man is weak woman is sure to be strong. I am going to appoint a committee entirely composed of ladies. I appoint Mrs. Joel Bassett, of North Haven; Mrs. Homer F. Bassett, of Waterbury, and Mrs. L. B. Umberfield, of New Haven. They will retire and prepare a list for presentation to the meeting. We have with us one who has devoted a great deal of time to the study of our history and he always has for us a word of cheerfulness. We shall all be glad to hear from Sheldon B. Thorpe.

#### ADDRESS OF SHELDON B. THORPE.

I had no expectation, Mr. President, of being called up at this time, and I do not know why I am, unless that the Bassetts may look at me. After listening to the Secretary's paper, with its prodigious array of names, dates, facts and traditions, it seems to me that as supplementary to the felicitous remarks with which you introduced him, you might have added the words of the venerable bishop, who, presiding over one of the great Methodist Conferences, announced that a brother would read a paper upon the devil, and added that he hoped great attention would be paid, for the author had spent much time upon it and was full of his subject.

Try as I may, my kinsman, I cannot lift myself to the genealogical level of this occasion; I am yet too near the present gathering of the vet-

erans of the Grand Army of the Republic in Philadelphia, from which I have just returned. Although here is everything attractive in nature and lovely in woman, yet my thoughts are far away with that royal line in blue, with its old battle-flags, swinging down one of the fairest avenues of the new world, packed from curb to cornice with waves of people, shouting, clapping, cheering, waving a triumph of welcome that shall endure in memory until the last soldier of the Civil War is carried over the border and mustered into the camp of eternity.

For this reason I trust you will pardon any seeming lack of interest in this gathering, for it is but seeming. I am loyal to this clan. It is an honor to be a part of it, and I close using the words of an army friend, who, when he was appointed chaplain to the Connecticut State penitentiary, said on addressing his first congregation, "I am glad to see so many here."

MR. PRESIDENT: Not a great way from where we now are is a great big village that has been annexing other big villages with the hope that one day it will be as big as Chicago. We have with us a member from Greater New York, and it is my great privilege to introduce to you Mr. Edward M. Bassett, of New York.

#### ADDRESS OF EDWARD M. BASSETT.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—When I arrived here a little before dinner, and our general manager, Frank Bassett, had tagged me, taxed me, fined me, and issued me a certificate to prove that I was a genuine and authentic Bassett, he coolly informed me that I would have to make an address after dinner. Your President makes my position doubly embarrassing by intimating that because I am a lawyer and a Bassett, I must be unusually eloquent. Well, that's where he makes a mistake. I am not a Connecticut Bassett, like most of you, who from the samples we have had, can make good extemporaneous speeches on two hours' notice. I am from the Massachusetts Bassetts, who need three or four days' notice to make any kind of an extemporaneous speech. Then, too, that dinner we have just survived was enough to take the eloquence out of any man. That tempting succession of clams, crabs, lobsters and other tough things from the sea was exactly calculated to produce the "ominous lull" referred to by our poet. That same "ominous lull" seized me right after dinner, and its effects have not entirely disappeared. Still, here I am, and I suppose I am expected to talk about the Bassetts and their descent. You would think I should find this a prolific subject, because I have been a Bassett all my life, but at just this minute it seems to be the hardest subject I ever stood up against. We have been hearing and talking a great deal to-day about that ancient William Bassett, who must have been such a wonderful man because he came over in the ship *Fortune* and landed at Plymouth Rock. Surely it has been a great descent from him down to us. I am reminded of the Irish immigrant who was seized upon by the cheap suit selling Hebrew in Baxter street. The merchant remarked that he was descended from David, the King of the Jews. "Shure, and thot's a divil of a descint," says Patrick.



Have you ever noticed that the further we are away in point of time from any particular ancestor the greater he appears to be. This may be an optical delusion. Perhaps the first William was quite an ordinary man and considered by his contemporaries very much the same as the highly respected citizens here present are considered by their neighbors. Perhaps in some respects our President, for instance, is a more commendable man than William the Pilgrim. Those Pilgrims are said to have been severe, stern men, and a perfect terror in the household. They get all the credit for enduring hardships, and we don't hear their wives mentioned very often. We should more highly honor the Pilgrim mothers. They not only had to endure all the hardships that befell the Pilgrim fathers, but they had to endure the Pilgrim fathers, too.

I will now endeavor rapidly to trace my line from the aforesaid William, and to explain the reason thereof. From William down, my particular line has been hunting, Yankee like, for an easy thing. They went to Cape Cod to find more fertile fields and greener pastures. Now, Cape Cod has a reputation for fertility, but my line of ancestors was looking for something easier than Cape Cod, so they migrated west, to the boundless and productive west, and settled at Ashfield, in Franklin Co., Mass. The hill country was rather easy, easier, at least, than Cape Cod, but before long some of the Bassett young men began to think that farming was a rather hard business, anyway, and to cast about for something else to do. The peddling business appealed to some, especially peddling among the guileless Dutchmen over in York State. Maybe it was a Bassett pack-peddler of my line that Washington Irving tells about when he relates how the wife of Rip Van Winkle died from bursting a blood vessel in a dispute with a Yankee peddler. Or perhaps it was a Connecticut Bassett. They are known to be second to none in the race of Bassett in turning an honest dollar.

By some such process my own father left the granite hills of Massachusetts and finally brought up in that big town which our President states is competing with Chicago for supremacy. He became a New York business man, and perhaps he found an easier thing than farming in Franklin County or Cape Cod, and then again perhaps he didn't. He is not here to say. True to the instincts of his race, the Bassett who is now addressing you sought to improve on his ancestors in the line of something easy, and became a lawyer. He might have done better, and doubtless some descendant will hereafter strike a better thing.

But to be serious, if we may consider that what I have said is not sufficiently serious, we should be proud to belong to the Bassett family. It is one of the good old New England families that has spread over the whole country and helped to make this land what it is. The descendants of the early colonists have been added to by a multitude from every nation, but they have formed and still form the real basis of our civilization. Just so the English language is still the Anglo-Saxon, although new words have been added from all languages. Take away the new words, and the language is still all there. But not only are these old families the structural basis of the nation, but the Pilgrim families, Bassett and others, have helped to teach and to exemplify the industry and perseverance, the progressiveness and thrift,

the high principle and piety, the modesty and honesty, that have been important factors in the building up of the American people.

THE PRESIDENT: And now I am going to bring before you for consideration an entirely new code of laws. It has seemed to me that we are not working in a way to produce the best results. We have a meeting once a year, which is supposed to bring together all the Bassetts in America, but it does nothing of the kind. If we meet in Connecticut we get a preponderance of Connecticut people. If we meet in Massachusetts we see only Massachusetts faces. Our members cannot afford to go great distances to meetings of this kind. My new Constitution provides that we shall be divided into branches and each branch shall have officers of its own and meet yearly. The National body shall meet once in three years. Other changes will appear.

The President read the Constitution, which is hereunto appended, and it was adopted unanimously.

The Nominating Committee being ready to report, Mrs. Joel Bassett, for the Committee, presented the following names:

*For President:* ABBOT BASSETT, of Boston, Mass.

*For 1st Vice President:* SAMUEL BASSETT, of New Britain, Conn.

*For 2d Vice President:* MRS. C. A. C. HADSELLE, of Pittsfield, Mass.

*For Treasurer:* GEORGE J. BASSETT, of New Haven, Conn.

*For Secretary and Historian:* FRANK G. BASSETT, of Seymour, Conn.

On motion the list, as presented, was unanimously elected.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanking you all for this renewed expression of your confidence, I can only say that I shall in the future, as I have in the past, endeavor to deserve it.

And now we have come to that portion of our proceedings when we are called upon to approach the moment of parting. We have not many orators in our company, and formal speech-making is impossible to the greater number. We are more at ease when we address each other informally, and so let us pass from the formal to the informal, and while the day is yet with us talk and chat to our full bent. Though we adjourn the meeting we should not disperse. It will be three years before we meet again. I hope to see at the next Association meeting all who are with us to-day and many more besides. I hope that Father Time will deal kindly with us all and that we shall come together again with no less enthusiasm than we have given evidence of on this occasion. Till we meet again, then, Good-Bye.

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In closing this report I wish to say a few words in regard to the family genealogy. It was the great desire of all those present at the reunion that the genealogy should be completed as soon as possible, but it will be impossible for your Historian to complete this work unless he has the assistance

of other members of this large and scattered family, in looking up the local records of each particular branch and sending them to him for classification. I would therefore urge upon the members of the family the necessity of looking up their family records as soon as possible and sending them to me. This work is worthy of your earnest labor, and when the history is completed we believe that it will be one of which you will be justly proud. You can assist me greatly in compiling it, as you will undoubtedly have access to records which it will be impossible for me to find. The records of your old churches and the records of the Probate Courts in the different towns in which Bassetts have lived will throw valuable light upon both the early and recent history of the family.

Let us all, therefore, make this a banner year in the way of progress towards the completion of our family history, and it is my earnest hope that all members of our Association will do all in their power to accomplish this end.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK G. BASSETT,

*Secretary and Historian.*

SEYMOUR, CONN., *November 1, 1899.*

# APPENDIX.

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## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be the Bassett Family Association of America.

### ARTICLE II.

The object of this Association shall be to promote good fellowship and genial companionship by pleasant association at reunions and social gatherings, whereby the members of this widely scattered family may be brought together for social intercourse and the interchange of information concerning family history and tradition, with the ultimate object of compiling and publishing a complete history of the family.

### ARTICLE III.

Any person who is connected, either by birth or marriage, with the Basset or Bassett Family in America, is eligible to membership.

### ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The annual dues shall be fifty cents, payable September 1 in each year, and all memberships shall expire on August 31 in each year, unless renewed before that date.

SEC. 2. All payments of dues, whenever made, shall date from September 1 preceding the payment, and the membership thus created or renewed shall expire on August 31 next succeeding. Provided, however, that a member who forfeits his membership by non-payment of dues may not be renewed under the original date of entry except he pay full dues for each year of absence.

### ARTICLE V.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a First and Second Vice President, a Secretary, who shall also be the Historian, and a Treasurer.

### ARTICLE VI.

There shall be the following Standing Committees:

1. Executive and Finance, to consist of the five officers.
2. Historical.
3. Reunion.
4. Auditing.
5. Transportation.

## ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. This Association shall be sub-divided for convenience in government and administration into State Branches, which shall take the name of the States in which they are located.

SEC. 2. When there shall be ten members of the Association in any State or Territory, a Branch shall be constituted and the President shall appoint a Parent, a Scribe and Historian from its membership. The officers thus appointed shall serve till the election or appointment of their successors, and shall constitute an Executive Board for the Branch.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall pay to the Scribe of each State Branch twenty-five (.25) cents from each fee received from a member connected with the State Branch of which the Scribe is an officer, but no rebate shall be given on fees received before the constitution of the State Branch.

## ARTICLE IX.

The Association shall hold a reunion once in three years, beginning with the year 1902, at such time and place as the Executive Committee may determine.

## ARTICLE X.

The officers of the Association shall be elected at the reunion, and a plurality of votes shall determine the choice.

## ARTICLE XI.

Twenty-five persons present and voting shall be a quorum for the transaction of business at the reunions.

## ARTICLE XII.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any reunion of the Association, provided that all such amendments shall be sent to the Secretary at least thirty days prior to such reunion.

# BY-LAWS.

## ARTICLE I.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association; shall appoint all committees not otherwise ordered; may fill vacancies in any office or committee not otherwise provided for; shall have a general supervision over the affairs of the Association; shall approve all bills before they are paid, and shall have the power to call special meetings upon the request of five members.

SEC. 2. The Vice Presidents, in the order of their priority, shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President, and shall succeed to the office of President in the order of their priority in a case of a vacancy in that office. They shall assist and advise with the President in the discharge of his duties.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee; he shall conduct the correspondence of the Association and issue all notices of meetings, elections and appointments.

SEC. 4. The Secretary, in his capacity as Historian, shall be Chairman of the Historical Committee. He shall, in conjunction with the Historians of the State Branches, collect and classify whatever facts and statistics may be obtainable relating to the family, and at each reunion he shall give an account of his work and its results.

SEC. 5. The Treasurer shall collect and receipt for all dues and other money due the Association, and shall deposit the same in an institution agreed upon by the Executive Committee and to the credit of the Association; he shall issue a ticket of membership to each full paid member, and this ticket shall plainly indicate the date when the membership that it represents shall expire; at frequent intervals he shall report to the Scribe of each established Branch the names and addresses of the members of the Branch, paying to the Scribe the amount of money due him under Article VIII of the Constitution; he shall also make report and payment in the case of renewal of membership each year; his books shall be open to the inspection of the Executive Committee at any time, and he shall prepare and submit to the Executive Committee for audit before September 1 in each year a detailed financial statement. He shall perform all other duties usually pertaining to his office.

## ARTICLE II.

### DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The Executive and Finance Committee shall have the general management and control of the affairs of the Association; shall regulate and direct all matters of revenue, disbursement and investment; fix

the place for all reunions and determine all questions of detail arising in the conduct of the Association.

SEC. 2. The Historical Committee shall consist of the Historian of the Association, who shall be Chairman, and the Historians of the State Branches. It shall be the duty of this Committee to co-operate in the work appointed for the Historian of the Association.

SEC. 3. The Reunion Committee shall consist of three members. It shall arrange for the reunions and shall have power to appoint sub-committees to assist in the work.

SEC. 4. The Auditing Committee shall consist of three members. It shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer and report its finding to the Executive and Finance Committee.

SEC. 5. The Transportation Committee shall consist of two members, who shall have the power to appoint a third member located at place of meeting. It shall be the duty of this Committee to make arrangements for the transportation of members to the reunions, at such reductions of fare as it may be able to secure.

### ARTICLE III.

#### POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BRANCHES.

SECTION. 1. Each State Branch of the Association shall have power to make Rules and Regulations for its own government, and such Rules and Regulations must be consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

SEC. 2. Each State Branch shall hold an annual reunion at such place and time as may be determined by the Executive Board.

SEC. 3. At the time and place of the reunion of the State Branch there shall be an election of officers, and a plurality of votes shall decide the choice.

SEC. 4. At the time and place of the reunion, the State Board shall take all necessary steps to formulate or amend a code of Rules and Regulations, which shall be consistent in every particular with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

SEC. 5. If at any time a State Branch shall fail to hold an annual reunion, its officers for the ensuing year shall be appointed by the President of the Association.

SEC. 6. One-tenth of a membership of a State Branch, but not less than five members, shall be a quorum for the conduct of all business.

### ARTICLE IV.

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of all the members present at any reunion of the Association; provided, that all such amendments shall be sent to the Secretary at least thirty days before date of meeting.

## STATE BRANCHES.

The following branches have been organized in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the Bassett Family Association of America, at its reunion held at the Colonial Inn, September 8, 1899:

### CONNECTICUT.

Organized September 8, 1899.

Parent, Samuel Bassett, of New Britain, Conn  
 Scribe, Frank G. Bassett, of Seymour, Conn.  
 Historian, Sheldon B. Thorpe, of North Haven, Conn

### MASSACHUSETTS.

Organized September 12, 1899.

Parent, John I. Bassett, of Boston, Mass.  
 Scribe, Marion D. Bassett, of Newtownville, Mass.  
 Historian, Arthur H. Bassett, of Barre, Mass.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

C. E. P. Sanford, Treasurer, in account with The Bassett Family Association.

	DR.		
1898.			
September 15.	To Balance, . . . . .		\$ 8.56
	Received from Secretary for Membership Fees and Contributions, . . . . .	\$ 70.25	
	Received from Secretary for Dinner Tickets sold, . . . . .	112.50	182.75
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$191.31
1899.			
September 8.	Received from Secretary for Membership Fees and Contributions, . . . . .	\$133.00	
	Received from Secretary for Dinner Tickets sold, . . . . .	152.25	285.25
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$476.56
1898.			
September 17.	By paid for Dinner at Samoset House, . . . . .		
	Plymouth, . . . . .	\$103.75	
	By paid for Printing, Postage, etc., . . . . .	87.70	
		<hr/>	
			\$191.45
1899.			
September 8.	By paid for Printing, Postage, etc., \$138.40		
	“ “ “ Dinner at Colonial Inn, 101.50	\$239.90	431.35
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Balance, . . . . .		\$45.21



## DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM BASSETT.

The following numbers are given to correspond with those in the manuscript volume of William Bassett and his descendants. The closest criticism is solicited to correct errors and misstatements.

William Bassett came to New England in the ship *Truelove*, 1624, in company with the Rev. Peter Hobert, and among their shipmates were John Cooper, William Ives, Abraham Dickerman and others, who located at New Haven, Conn.

### WILLIAM BASSETT.

#### NEW HAVEN COLONY.

William Bassett first appears in the New Haven Colony in 1642. He came from Massachusetts, but his exact relation to the Bassett families there is not yet determined. The name of "William" is common to the records of Plymouth, Lynn, Duxbury and other colonial towns. He married Hannah, widow of William Ives, November 7, 1648, and died August 29, 1684.

#### *Children.*

- 100. Hannah, born Sept. 13, 1650.
- 101. John, " Dec. 24, 1652.
- 102. Samuel, " 1654.
- 103. Abiah, baptized Feb. 7, 1658.

#### 100.

#### HANNAH.

Married John Parker (born October 8, 1648; died 1711), Nov. 8, 1670. She died June 7, 1726. They had

- Hannah, married William Andrews, Jan. 12, 1692.
- Thankful, " Matthias Hitchcock, Dec. 27, 1710.
- Matthias, " Eunice Hull, Jan. 28, 1712.
- William, " Phebe Hotchkiss.
- Nancy, " Joel Osborne.
- Catherine, " Charles Ives.

#### 101.

#### JOHN

Married Mercy, daughter of Christopher and Grace Middlebrook Todd, about 1675. John died Feb. 8, 1714. Mercy died April 8, 1717. Christopher Todd and wife were among the first settlers of New Haven. They came from Pontrefact, England. They had

- 110. Mercy, born Dec. 15, 1676; married Benjamin Miller, of Middlefield, Conn.
- 111. Hannah, " Oct. 3, 1679; " Ebenezer Mansfield, of New Haven, Conn.
- 112. Sarah, " June 3, 1862; Daniel Bradley, of Hamden, Conn.
- 113. Lydia, " Aug. 10, 1665; " Stephen Munson.
- 114. Abigail, " March 15, 1688; " Phineas Clark, of North Haven, Ct.
- 115. John, " July 11, 1691; " Elizabeth Thomson.
- 116. Joseph, " April 19, 1694; died young.
- 117. Rebekah, " March 14, 1695.
- 118. Joseph, " Dec. 14, 1697; married Miriam Bradley, of N. Haven, Ct.

## SAMUEL.

Married Mary, daughter of Abraham Dickerman, June 21, 1677. Samuel died April 8, 1716. Mary died November 28, 1728. (See monuments in cemetery at North Haven, Conn.) They had children.

- |      |           |      |       |     |       |         |   |
|------|-----------|------|-------|-----|-------|---------|---|
| 200. | Mary,     | born | Feb.  | 14, | 1678; | married | Capt. Daniel Sherman.   |
| 201. | Phebe,    | "    | Oct.  | 9,  | 1681. |         |   |
| 202. | Abiah,    | "    | Dec.  | 1,  | 1684; | "       | John Hitchcock.   |
| 203. | Samuel,   | "    | March | 16, | 1687; | "       | Mary Hitchcock.   |
| 204. | John,     | "    | March | 3,  | 1690; | "       | Lydia Holt.   |
| 205. | Abram,    | "    | Nov.  | 9,  | 1692; | "       | Mehitable Street.   |
| 206. | Martha,   | "    | Sept. | 8,  | 1695; | "       | David Yale, of North Haven<br>Conn.   |
| 207. | Amos,     | "    | Feb.  | 19, | 1698; | "       | Mary Gilbert, of Hamden, Conn.  |
| 208. | Ebenezer, | "    | May   | 12, | 1700; | died    | unmarried, 1722.  |
| 209. | Thankful, | "    | Oct.  | 10, | 1702; | married | Nathaniel Yale, of North Haven;<br>married, second, Nathaniel Heaton, of New Haven. |

## ABIAH.

Married Ralph Lines (son of Ralph) April 27, 1681. (See Dickerman Ancestry, page 181.) They had children.

- |  |           |      |       |     |         |
|--|-----------|------|-------|-----|---------|
|  | Hannah,   | born | July  | 28, | 1684.   |
|  | Joseph,   | "    | Feb.  | 20, | 1685.   |
|  | Phebe,    | "    | June  | 18, | 1687.   |
|  | Alice,    | "    | Feb.  | 27, | 1689.   |
|  | Ralph,    | "    | Sept. | 23, | 1690.   |
|  | Benjamin, | "    | Jan.  | 1,  | 1694-5. |
|  | Abiah,    | "    | Feb.  | 7,  | 1696-7. |
|  | Rebecca,  | "    | Feb.  | —,  | 1698-9. |
|  | Ablis,    | "    | March | 1,  | 1702.   |

NAMES OF THOSE PRESENT AT THE THIRD  
REUNION.

Cullen B. Foote, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
S. T. Hitchcock, . . . . .	Wolcott, Conn.
Mrs. S. T. Hitchcock, . . . . .	“ “
Eugene M. Tolles, . . . . .	South Norwalk, Conn.
Mrs. Julia E. Bassett Tolles, . . . . .	“ “ “
Robert J. Bassett and son, . . . . .	Litchfield, Ky.
Wilson M. Bassett, . . . . .	“ “
Mr. and Mrs. Nestor F. Richardson, . . . . .	Portsmouth, Va.
Mrs. Mary Bassett Foote Griggs, . . . . .	Waterbury, Conn.
Lewis B. Tucker, . . . . .	Plainville, Conn.
Levi H. Dunbar, . . . . .	Plymouth, Conn.
Stillman Bassett Doolittle, . . . . .	Wallingford, Conn.
Tallmadge Swift, . . . . .	Hartford, Conn.
Mrs. Dennis Fenn, . . . . .	Milford, Conn.
Miss Olive Rose, . . . . .	Wallingford, Conn.
Samuel B. Bassett, . . . . .	New Britain, Conn.
Herbert Swift, . . . . .	“ “ “
Mrs. Emeline Eno Bassett, 94 years of age, . . . . .	“ “ “
Lottie B. Bassett, . . . . .	“ “ “
Mrs. Samuel Bassett, . . . . .	“ “ “
Samuel Bassett, . . . . .	“ “ “
Judge William G. Bassett, . . . . .	Northampton, Mass.
Mrs. Mary C. Bassett, . . . . .	“ “
Mrs. Julia D. Brown, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
Helen E. Brown, . . . . .	“ “ “
Bessie F. White, . . . . .	Seymour, Conn.
Mrs. Juliette Bassett, . . . . .	Ansonia, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Wadham, . . . . .	West Haven, Conn.
Miss K. A. Prichard, . . . . .	Waterbury, Conn.
Miss Sarah Wadham, . . . . .	West Haven, Conn.
Mrs. Julia P. Bassett, . . . . .	“ “ “
Marshal L. Bassett, . . . . .	“ “ “
Frank Bassett, . . . . .	Huntington, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. Abbot Bassett, . . . . .	Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Delia Bassett Tolles, . . . . .	Terryville, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. Bassett, . . . . .	Green Island, N. Y.
Henry Atwater, . . . . .	Derby, Conn.
Mrs. M. A. Lewis, . . . . .	New York City, N. Y.
Herbert H. Bassett, . . . . .	New Britain, Conn.
Mrs. Lucy B. Mitchell, . . . . .	New York City, N. Y.
Jesse Bassett Goodsell, . . . . .	North Haven, Conn.
George L. Gordon, . . . . .	Plymouth, Conn.
Mrs. Florence Bassett Williams, . . . . .	Bridgeport, Conn.

Mrs. Philo L. Bassett, . . . . .	Stratford, Conn.
Joel E. Bassett, . . . . .	North Haven, Conn.
Mrs. Joel E. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon B. Thorpe, . . . . .	" " "
Mrs. J. T. Jacobs, . . . . .	" " "
Miss Bertha M. Lane, . . . . .	South Norwalk, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. Levi Bassett, . . . . .	Terryville, Conn.
Mrs. I. L. Doolittle, . . . . .	North Haven, Conn.
Miss Catherine A. Smith, . . . . .	" " "
Mrs. Nelson E. Goodsell, . . . . .	" " "
Fred. L. Mansfield, . . . . .	" " "
Mrs. Hattie E. Bailey, . . . . .	Derby, Conn.
Mrs. Alma Bassett Curtis, . . . . .	Ansonia, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. P. Sanford, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
Mrs. C. M. Squires, . . . . .	North Haven, Conn.
Mrs. William J. Dorsey, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
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Charles F. Bassett, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
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Mrs. Jennie Bassett Sawyer, . . . . .	Derby, Conn.
Charles L. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Mrs. Charles L. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Miss Lillian M. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
D. M. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Mrs. D. M. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Royal M. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Samuel A. Bassett, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
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Philo L. Bassett, . . . . .	Stratford, Conn.
Mrs. J. P. Lawler, . . . . .	Waterbury, Conn.
Mrs. Mary E. Bassett Wooster, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
Cornelia A. Bassett, . . . . .	" " "
Miss Ethel M. Wright, . . . . .	" " "
Mrs. Jennie L. Bassett Wright, . . . . .	" " "
Miss Ida M. Wright, . . . . .	" " "

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Thomas J. Brown, . . . . .	“ “
Mrs. Lois Bassett Coe, . . . . .	Terryville, Conn.
Clara L. Jacobs, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Bassett, . . . . .	Brooklyn, N. Y.
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Franklin B. Scott, . . . . .	“ “
Miss Anna M. Fenn, . . . . .	Milford, Conn.
Mrs. Nathan H. Fenn, . . . . .	“ “
Walter F. Tolles, . . . . .	Terryville, Conn.
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William F. Dean, . . . . .	“ “
Erskine B. Bassett, . . . . .	Hopkinsville, N. Y.
Albert F. Bishop, . . . . .	New Haven Conn.
Mrs. Antionette Bassett Thatcher, . . . . .	“ “ “
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Samuel L. Bassett and wife, . . . . .	Seymour, Conn.
Francis H. Bassett and family, . . . . .	Bridgeport, Conn.
Mrs. Frederick Clemons, . . . . .	Shelton, Conn.
Mrs. Frank G. Bassett, . . . . .	Seymour, Conn.
W. J. Tuttle and wife, . . . . .	New Haven, Conn.
Homer F. Bassett, wife and daughter, . . . . .	Waterbury, Conn.
Mr. Charles R. Jordon, . . . . .	Kamms, Ohio.
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Bassett Jordon, . . . . .	“ “
Loren D. Nichols, . . . . .	“ “
Mrs. Marilla J. Bassett Nichols, . . . . .	“ “
Frank G. Bassett, . . . . .	Seymour, Conn.

## REUNION SONG.

*Air* — ANNIE LAURIE.

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Three years have passed so swiftly,  
We cannot trace their flight,  
Since first we met together  
In the Autumn's golden light—  
In the Autumn warm and bright,  
And ne'er shall we forget  
Our joyous first Reunion—  
Its halo lingers yet.

Dear friends have since departed,  
We miss them sadly here,  
Their presence, all-inspiring,  
Their friendly words of cheer—  
Our eyes are dimmed with tears,  
As we think of each dear face—  
We'll ever keep their mem'ry green,  
Which time can ne'er efface.

Since the landing of "The Fortune,"  
Down to the present time,  
Our "clan" has grown and flourished,  
And dwelt in every clime—  
And proudly do we greet them,—  
Many are known to fame—  
Our motto from our Heraldry  
Is "Rather Death than Shame."

M. JENNIE BASSETT DEAN.

TAUNTON, September 8, 1899.



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