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THE
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BRECKS

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THE

SHERBORN AND GARDNER, MASS.

BRECKS

DESCENDANTS OF

JOHN BRECK

AND HIS SON THOMAS OF SHERBORN,

1656

WITH NOTES UPON THE NAME IN GREAT BRITAIN

By

ALLEN H. BENT

Member of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society

The dead are still our masters, and a power from the tomb
Can shape the characters of men, their conduct, and their doom
—W. E. H. LECKY

BOSTON:
PRESS OF DAVID CLAPP & SON.
1902.

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Oliver H. Best.

August 25, 1902.

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THE BRECK FAMILY AND NAME IN GREAT BRITAIN.

IN a roll of the inhabitants of West Derby, in Lancashire, England, A. D. 1323, are the names of Robert del Brek and his son Thomas, who were paying rent to the Earl of Lancaster. In 1325 Thomas del Breck paid 2^l. at Liverpool for default in the great court.* The same names, Robert and Thomas Breck, appear both in Lancashire and America 300 to 400 years later. West Derby was directly west of Liverpool, but most of it has been annexed to that city in recent years. Although Breck is no longer known as a family name in and around Liverpool, a recent map discloses the names of Breck House, Breck Road, Breck Side Park, Breckfield Road and Walton Breck Road, and there is a Breck Road station on a branch of the L. & N. W. Ry.

Hugh Breck of Rainford, a little hamlet a dozen miles north-east of Liverpool, died in 1591, leaving four children, Robert, Henry, Edmond and Margett. The marriage of a Thomas Breck in July, 1582, is recorded in Prescott, the parish in which Rainford was then located. During the following century the name appears in Runcorn, now a busy port just across the Mersey in Cheshire, about twelve miles south-east of Liverpool. Thomas Breck, yeoman, died there in 1632, Richard in 1633, Thomas in 1678, Samuel in 1685, and still another Thomas in 1687. Charles Nickson, in his history of Runcorn (London, 1887), refers to a Rev. Thomas Breck who was vicar of the parish, All Saints, during the few years preceding 1662.

The proximity of southern Lancashire to Wales and the place name of Brecknock, borne by a county, a borough and two rugged mountain peaks in Wales, have suggested that the name might be of Welsh origin. There certainly is a Welsh word *brech*, meaning freckled or speckled, and many surnames have come from personal marks. There is evidently a similar word in Gaelic Scotch, for Bracklinn (see Scott's *Lady of the Lake*) means speckled pool. In Dumfriesshire, Scotland, is a ridge called Breckonhill, and in the far off Shetland Islands *breck* is a common place name, usually applied to steep, rocky estates. Two similar names, Brock and Brett, are said to be of Welsh origin.

No connection has as yet been established between the English Brecks and the American Brecks.

* Vol. 41 of publications of Record Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire. 1901.

THE SHERBORN BRECKS.

1. JOHN¹ BRECK was an early settler of Boggistow (Sherborn), Mass., where he soon died, Jan. 3, 1660. The marriage of his daughter, in 1656, is the first definite knowledge we have of the family.

His identity as the father of the following children seems to be established by a deed* of Thomas Jones and John Richardson, who conveyed, in 1727, to John Breck of Sherborn their "whole right and title in the first and second divisions of Land laid out in Sherborn in the Right of John and Thomas Breck late of Sherborn, dec^d," also their "whole right and title in the third and fourth divisions of Land laid out in the Right of John Breck Sen^r late of Sherborn dec^d," Jones and Richardson having bought their right from the "Heirs of Elenor Crane late of Stow dec^d," the Natural sister to the aforesaid John Breck dec^d."

Children :

- i. JOHN,² d. in Sherborn, Aug. 20, 1690; evidently unmarried. His brother settled his estate, which was small: three cows, "one steer coming two years old," Indian corn upon the ground, and a few personal effects.
 2. ii. THOMAS, d. in Sherborn, April 23, 1703.
 - iii. ELINOR, m. Sept. 12, 1656, Benjamin Crane, who had a grant of land in Medfield, in 1651, but sold it in 1652. Nothing further found of them until 1664, when, living in Marlboro', he bought a farm in the next town, Sudbury, where they probably lived until 1682, when he was granted land in the new town of Stow, adjoining. In 1694, Benjamin and Elen Crane convey to Stephen Randall, who "hath married our natural and only beloved Daughter" Mehitable, their farm of fifty acres in Stow. The farm was on Longhill brook, bounded partly by the Lancaster line, now the town of Bolton. No record of the death of Benjamin Crane, his wife or daughter, has been found. Stephen Randall d. in 1737, leaving his estate to his five children: John Randall, Susanna Randall, Samuel Randall, Sarah Bush and Elizabeth Houghton.
2. THOMAS² BRECK† (*John*¹) evidently came with his father, about 1656, to the southern part of what later became the town of Sherborn, where he died, April 23, 1703, aged probably about 70. His farm was a large one, extending from near the Charles River to what is now the town of Holliston, not far from the present line between Sherborn and Millis. At the time of his removal, the region was known by the Indian name of Boggistow, — a name still borne by a pond and a brook tributary to Charles River, — and was very much of a wilderness. Only three or four families, the Woods,

*This was first noted by W. E. Stone, in the REGISTER for Jan., 1897, page 71. The original is in Middlesex Deeds, Vol. 27, folio 111.

†The name on the Sherborn records is as often spelled Brick as Breck, and some of the family adopted that spelling. A few continue it to-day, but the majority have returned to the original spelling, since the publication of General Breck's Genealogy of the Breck family, in 1889.

Holbrooks and Lelands, all from Dorchester, had preceded them. The nearest village was Medfield, four miles away, and thither they were obliged to go to church. In 1662, the fourteen heads of families in Boggistow petitioned the General Court for incorporation, but their prayer was not granted until 1674, when a second petition was presented, setting forth that there were "neere twenty families already settled on farms * * * in this part of the wilderness called Boggestow and neere thereunto," and stating that among other difficulties "the petitioners have not found it our least to goe to meeting on the Lord's day unto Meadfield, by reason not only of the distance * * * but also in regard of the difficulty in passing over the water betwext in winter seasons and times of floods, which sometimes proves hazardous to health and life."* Soon the settlers had to face other difficulties. The very next year King Philip's War broke out, and this isolated little settlement was kept in perpetual terror by the Indians. In 1676, they burnt the neighboring town of Medfield, and attacked the Bullard Garrison (in the north part of what is now Millis), where the inhabitants of Sherborn had hurriedly gathered. The hardy settlers succeeded in driving the savages away, and soon after the war was brought to an end.

Thomas Breck married in Dorchester,† Feb. 12, 1656-7, Mary Hill, who died in Sherborn, Aug. 16, 1726, aged probably about 90. She was a daughter of John Hill, who settled in Dorchester about 1633, and died there in 1664. John Hill, Jr., soon followed his sister to Boggestow.

Children, the first born in Dorchester, the others probably in Sherborn :

- i. MARY,³ b. and d. Dec., 1657.
- ii. MARY, b. about 1659; still living unm. in Sherborn in 1727, when she signed a deed (see Middlesex Deeds, Vol. 27, folio 502).
- iii. SARAH, b. about 1661; d. July 6, 1699; m. about 1687, her cousin, Eleazer Hill, b. 1664 and d. 1725, of Sherborn, son of John Hill, Jr. Five children. His second wife was Rebecca (Clark) Richardson, widow of John Richardson and mother of John Richardson, Jr., who m. Esther Breck (see below).
- iv. SUSANNA, b. Sept. 10, 1663; d. Aug. 25, 1664.
- v. SUSANNA, b. May 10, 1667; d. May 28, 1744, æ. 77; m. about 1695, John Adams, b. 1657 and d. 1751, of Medfield, the part now Millis, his second marriage. Eight children.
3. vi. JOHN, b. March 4, 1671; d. Jan. 3, 1760, æ. 88.
- vii. BETHIAH, b. Dec. 20, 1673; d. Feb. 3, 1754, æ. 80; m. Joseph Daniel, miller, of Medfield, the part now Millis, formerly East Medway. He was b. 1666 and d. 1739, and this was his second marriage.
- viii. HANNAH, b. about 1676; living unm. in Sherborn in 1730, when she bought 40 acres of land in Framingham, and where she was living in 1739, when she transferred it to Sam'l Fairbank.
- ix. ESTHER, b. about 1679; d. "Aug. 17, 1774, in ye 96th. year" (tombstone in Millis burial ground); m. Nov. 8, 1699, John Richardson, Jr., b. 1679 and d. 1759, of Medfield, the part now Millis, adjoining Sherborn. Twelve children.

* The historian of Sherborn assumes that the town was named after Sherborne in Dorsetshire, but there are half a dozen other parishes or villages of the name in England.

† The relationship between the Sherborn Brecks and Edward Breck who settled in Dorchester in 1635 has not been established. Thomas Breck, said to have died in Dorchester in 1657, had no existence. It was Thomas *Birch* who died 3 : 8 : 1657.

- x. NATHANIEL (twin*), b. March 1, 1682; d. before his father, *i. e.* before 1703.
- xi. SAMUEL (twin), b. March 1, 1682; d. in Sherborn, evidently unm., late in 1711 or early in 1712, *æ.* 29. His will, dated Apr. 15, 1706, admitted to probate Jan. 24, 1711-12, gives his estate to his mother and five sisters. He owned upland, meadow and swamp lands, as well as cow-common rights in Wrentham, which at that time included Franklin and part of Bellingham. Estate settled in Suffolk County.
3. JOHN³ BRECK (*Thomas*,² *John*¹) was born March 4, 1671, in Sherborn, Mass., where the whole of his long life was spent on the farm where he was born. He died Jan. 3, 1760, *æ.* 88 yrs. and 10 mos. He married, March 9, 1697, Mehetable, daughter of Capt. Joseph and Mehetable (Wood) Morse, of Sherborn, where she died Jan. 13, 1754, the year of "the Memorable Mortality," as the town records call it.
- Children, all born in Sherborn :
- i. MEHETABLE,⁴ b. Oct. 10, 1698; d. in Sherborn, Aug. 7, 1780, *æ.* 81; m. March 16, 1715-16, Deacon Wm. Leland, b. 1692 and d. 1743, of Sherborn. Six children.
 4. ii. JONAS, b. March 9, 1700-1; d. June 13, 1775, *æ.* 74.
 - iii. ABIGAIL, b. April 19, 1705; d. in Sherborn, March 30, 1775, *æ.* 70; m. Nov. 5, 1730, Jonathan Holbrook, b. 1699 and d. 1754, of Sherborn. Six children.
 - iv. KEZIAH, b. Dec. 14, 1715; d. about 1808, *æ.* 92; m. March 7, 1738-9, Jasper Daniel of Mendon, a native of Needham. They afterwards moved to Hopkinton, where he d. about 1775, *æ.* 60. Seven children.
 5. v. ELIJAH, b. June 22, 1718; d. Feb. 11, 1792, *æ.* 73.

4. JONAS⁴ BRECK (*John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), farmer, was born March 9, 1700-1, in Sherborn, where he died June 13, 1775, *æ.* 74. In 1757, he was in Capt. Joseph Perry's company of militia. He married, Feb. 18, 1734-5, Mary Daniel, born June 30, 1704, died Sept. 14, 1788, daughter of Joseph and Lydia (Adams) Daniel of Needham. She is buried beside her children Jonas and Daniel, in an old burial ground in a pasture just off the Medfield road, near its junction with the Millis road, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of South Sherborn village.

Children, all born in Sherborn :

- i. JOHN,⁵ b. Dec. 1, 1735; served in the Crown Point expeditions of 1755 and 1756; at the time of the Lexington alarm he was corporal in Capt. Benj. Bullard's Co. of minute men, and in 1780, Sergt. in Capt. Joshua Leland's Co. on alarm to R. I. He lived in Sherborn most of his life, but d. in Sterling, Mass., March 18, 1824, *æ.* 88; m. April 20, 1758, Mary Hill of Medway, probably the Mary b. Feb. 15, 1733-4, dau. of Samuel Hill, Jr. Eight children (see Genl. Breck's Genealogy).
- ii. MEHETABLE, b. July 20, 1737; d. unm., in Sherborn, Aug. 30, 1812, *æ.* 75; *non compos mentis* in 1791.
- iii. JONAS, b. June 19, 1739; d. March 2, 1756.
- iv. JOSEPH, b. May 28, 1741; d. June 28, 1820, *æ.* 79; lived in north-west part of Medfield, near Sherborn; m. first, June 29, 1775, Mary Fairbanks, who d. June 27, 1788; and he m. second, Sept. 10, 1789, Hannah Plimpton, who d. at her daughter's home in Woburn, Jan. 25, 1831, *æ.* 74. Five children by first marriage, and two by second marriage (see Genl. Breck's Genealogy).

* Five of six successive generations of the Sherborn Brecks have had twins born to them.

- v. MARY, b. Aug. 31, 1743; d. March 14, 1744.
- vi. DANIEL, b. Feb. 22, 1744-5; d. Jan. 14, 1756.
- vii. THOMAS, b. Feb. 28, 1747-8; d. Nov. 8, 1815, æ. 67; lived on the old homestead in the south part of Sherborn. He was out eleven days at the Lexington alarm, and eleven days on an alarm from R. I. in 1780. He m. Jan. 24, 1770, Mary Death, b. in Sherborn, April 13, 1750, and d. in Sherborn, May 6, 1848, æ. 98, dau. of Henry and Rachel (Leland) Death. She m. second, Samuel Clark. Of Thomas Breck's six children, *Thomas*,⁶ *Jr.*, lived on the old homestead until his death, in 1861, soon after which his widow sold it to Jedediah Mann, whose son George Mann still occupies it. Mrs. Andrew J. Church, grand-dau. of Thomas, Sr., is the only one of the family now in Sherborn.

5. ELIJAH⁴ BRECK (*John*,⁶ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), farmer, was born June 22, 1718, in Sherborn, where he died Feb. 11, 1792, æ. 73. He lived on the easterly part of the original Breck farm, east of the highway from Sherborn to what is now Millis. In 1757, the year Montcalm cast terror into the Colonies by the capture of Fort William Henry, he was in Capt. Joseph Perry's company of militia. Five of his sons, all that were old enough, saw Revolutionary service. A description of three of them exists, showing that they were light complexioned and a little under the average height. He married, Oct. 2, 1751, Sarah Hill, born May 27, 1728, died Nov. 19, 1806, æ. 78, daughter of Jonathan and Hannah Hill, of Medway, the part now Millis. Children, all born in Sherborn:

- i. ELIJAH,⁵ b. July 20, 1753; d. in Sherborn, June 26, 1795, æ. 42; saw service during siege of Boston, 1775, and in R. I. on alarm in 1780. He m. first, May 7, 1789, Hannah Prentiss, who d. Jan. 9, 1791, æ. 35; m. second, Feb. 6, 1792, Mary Pratt of Sherborn. Their only child d. in infancy.
- ii. JOTHAM, b. Dec. 1, 1754; farmer; d. in Sherborn, March 22, 1817, æ. 62. He saw considerable Revolutionary service, two months in 1777, six months in 1779, an alarm to R. I. in 1780; and April 7, 1781, he enlisted for three years. In June, 1782, he was sick in hospital. He was described as 5 ft. 4½ in. in height, with blue eyes. He m. Aug. 25, 1785, Huldah Thayer of Sherborn. She survived her husband, and in 1826 was *non compos mentis*. Four children: 1. *Winlock*,⁶ b. Nov. 25, 1785; d. unm., in Sherborn, in 1821. 2. *Willard*, b. Nov. 17, 1787. 3. *Rachel*, b. Sept. 24, 1789. 4. *Levi*.
- iii. KEZIAH, b. Jan. 14, 1757; d. in Gardner, Mass., July 10, 1824, æ. 67; m. May 14, 1778, Jesse Hill of Sherborn, and moved soon after to what, in 1785, became the town of Gardner, where he d. Dec. 25, 1824, æ. 67. Eight children.
- iv. DANIEL (twin), b. May 12, 1759; d. in Sherborn, Dec. 21, 1838, æ. 79. Saw service in the Continental Army in 1780 and 1781, when he was described as 5 ft. 4 in. in height. He m. Aug. 29, 1790, Patty Learned of Sherborn, who d. Dec. 12, 1843, æ. 81. Eight children, the third and fourth born in Framingham, Mass. (See Genl. Breck's Genealogy.)
- 6. v. JONAS (twin), b. May 12, 1759; d. in Franklin, Mass., Nov. 10, 1822, æ. 63; lived for several years in Gardner, Mass. He was a Revolutionary soldier. He m. Dec. 18, 1782, Judith, dau. of Daniel and Judah (Bullen) Richardson, of East Medway. Nine children.
- vi. ABIGAIL, b. April 23, 1761; m. July 8, 1784, Rufus Kempton, b. 1762; moved in 1780 from Uxbridge, Mass., to Croydon, N. H.
- vii. LUTHER, b. March 27, 1763; farmer; d. in Sherborn, Jan., 1814, æ. 50. He saw service in the Continental Army in 1780 and 1781, when he was 5 ft. 7 in. in height. He m. in Medfield, Aug. 18,

- 1785, Olive Clark. Four children: 1. *Calvin*,⁶ b. 1785; supposed to be in South America at the time of his father's death. 2. *Luther*, b. May 17, 1787; drowned Feb. 3, 1803. 3. *Henry*, b. March 31, 1789; was in the U. S. Army (War of 1812) at the time of father's death. 4. *Hannah*, b. Sept. 10, 1791; living in 1814.
- viii. CALVIN, b. Dec. 13, 1765; d. July 20, 1767.
- ix. JONATHAN, b. Dec. 13, 1767; d. in Holliston, May 18, 1858, a. 90; m. Feb. 16, 1797, Polly Cleveland of Medway, who was b. Aug. 28, 1775, eldest dau. of Samuel and Mary (Daniels) Cleveland. Two children: 1. *Reuben*,⁶ b. in Medway, May 23, 1797; m. in Medway, Nov. 24, 1825, Emeline Littlefield; lived in Roxbury. 2. *Lucinda*, b. in Franklin, April 28, 1803; was living unm., in Medway, in 1844.
- x. ENOCH HILL (twin), b. Feb. 6, 1770; d. young.
- xi. BENONI (twin), b. Feb. 6, 1770; stillborn.

THE GARDNER BRECKS.

6. JONAS⁶ BRECK (*Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), farmer, born in Sherborn, Mass., May 12, 1759; died in Franklin, Mass., Nov. 10, 1822, æ. 63; buried in City Mills cemetery. He saw considerable Revolutionary service, first in the Ticonderoga campaign of 1776, and later in the northern campaign in latter half of 1777, besides responding to two R. I. alarms in April 1777 and August 1778. The last four years of his life he drew a pension. In 1787 or 1788 he moved to the new town of Gardner, Mass., where in 1790 he bought of Ebenezer How 83 acres near the Westminster town line. His declining days were spent with his son Silas, who had located in the N. E. part of Franklin, at the crossing of the Franklin-Medway and City Mills-West Medway roads. He married in Medway, Dec. 18, 1782, Judith Richardson, born in East Medway, now Millis, Feb. 2, 1754; died in Franklin, Nov. 1, 1841, æ. 87, daughter of Daniel and Judah (Bullen) Richardson and a descendant of John Richardson of Medfield, 1679, who was probably son of the John Richardson of Watertown (part now Waltham) 1636-7, Exeter, N. H., 1638, and Webhannet, now Wells, Me., 1643 (See Richardson Memorial by Rev. John A. Vinton, 1876). Mrs. Breck was an expert weaver in the days of hand looms. Her mother, Judah (not Judith), was born in East Medway, May 6, 1722, daughter of David Bullen, who was a grandson of Samuel Bullen, an early settler of Medfield.
- Children, i. to iii. born in Sherborn, the others in Gardner :

7. i. SILAS,⁶ b. July 13, 1783; d. May 25, 1875, æ. 92.
 8. ii. ASAHEL, b. Dec. 12, 1784.
 9. iii. CHARLOTTE, b. Oct. 22, 1786; m. Jonathan Wells.
 - iv. SALLY, b. May 31, 1788; d. unm. in Gardner, May 16, 1865, æ. nearly 77; lame all her life.
 - v. ENOCH, b. June 24, 1790; d. unm. April 7, 1855, in Gardner, where he had always lived, carrying on the manufacture of chairs in a small way. He was always very lame.
 10. vi. ELIJAH, b. April 26, 1792; d. June 27, 1866.
 - vii. JONAS (twin), b. July 31, 1794; d. 1795.
 - viii. JUDITH (twin), b. July 31, 1794; d. unm. in Franklin, Nov. 20, 1882, æ. 88.
 - ix. JONAS, b. Oct. 10, 1796; moved to Rochester, N. Y., and d. in Detroit, Mich. He m. Esther Whitney of Gardner, b. 1797, dau. of Joseph and Sally (Parks) Whitney. Two children: 1. *Mary Ann*. 2. *Esther*.
7. SILAS⁶ BRECK (*Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), wheelwright, born in Sherborn, July 13, 1783, taken four or five years later to Gardner. In early manhood he located in the N. E. part of Franklin, where he died, May 25, 1875, æ. nearly 92. He married in Medway, March 12, 1810, Anna Pike, born in Hopkinton, Mass., May 8, 1791; died in Franklin, Aug. 29, 1849, æ. 58.

Children, i. born in Medway, the others probably in Hopkinton :

- i. ELIZA,⁷ b. March 26, 1811; d. in Gardner, Dec. 29, 1891, æ. 80; m. Oct. 10, 1828, Ephraim Wright, chair m'fr, of Gardner, his 3d. marriage, and moved about 1831 to Boston. About 1848 they returned to Gardner, where he d., April 22, 1866, æ. 65 years, 10 mos. Seven children: 1st b. in Gardner, the 7th in Chelsea, the others in Boston: 1. *William W. Wright*, b. Feb. 5, 1830; d. unm. in Gardner, May 1, 1882. 2. *Edwin*, d. young. 3. *Anna M.*, d. young. 4. *Edwin L. Wright*, b. Nov. 14, 1838; d. in Gardner, Aug. 13, 1890. 5. *Charles Wright*, living in Gardner. 6. *Henry Wright*, living at Santa Cruz, Cal. 7. *Ann Eliza Wright*, m. Walter Pratt of Gardner, where they still live.
 - ii. AMELIA, b. Sept. 24, 1812; d. in Franklin, Aug. 30, 1849; m. in Medway, Sept. 5, 1838, Michael Metcalf of Franklin (his second marriage); b. Aug. 12, 1802; d. June 3, 1854. Two children, both b. in Franklin. 1. *Edmond M. Metcalf*, b. July 15, 1839, living since 1868 in Little Rock, Ark. 2. *Harriet Elizabeth Metcalf*, b. March 21, 1843, living in Haverhill, Mass.; m. Oct. 4, 1863, Wm. B. Cadmas.
 - iii. MARIA, b. Nov. 16, 1814; d. June 1, 1834; m. May 8, 1833, Ezekiel Adams, b. 1805, d. 1851, of Providence, R. I. No children.
 - iv. ANN, b. Dec. 11, 1816; d. unm. in Franklin, May 12, 1877, æ. 60.
8. ASAHEL⁶ BRECK (*Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), carpenter, born in Sherborn, Dec. 12, 1784; taken a few years later to the southern part of Gardner, where the rest of his life was spent; died suddenly at his brother Elijah's, about 1830. He married, first, Betsey Snow of Augusta, Me. She died Nov. 3, 1820, and he married, second, in 1821, Mrs. Betsey (Pearson) Carpenter, born in Sterling, Mass., Oct. 4, 1786; died in Holden, Mass., July 19, 1859, æ. 72.

Children of Asahel by first marriage :

11. i. (ASAHEL) AUGUSTUS,⁷ b. July 14, 1812; dropped the Asahel from his name.
12. ii. (EPHRAIM) SUMNER, b. June 25, 1814; wrote his name Sumner S.
- iii. SUSAN SAWYER, b. 1816; d. 1826.
- iv. JONAS R., b. 1818; d. 1821.
- v. JEROME SNOW, b. Nov. 3, 1820; d. in Gardner, Feb. 14, 1883, æ. 62; worked in the Heywood chair factories in Fitchburg and Gardner; m. Lucy Ann Oliver of Cambridge, who is still living in Gardner. Children: 1. b. in Cambridge, the others in Fitchburg:
 1. *Sarah Elizabeth*, b. May 23, 1843; d. in Gardner, Sept. 3, 1878; m. George W. Marshall of Gardner; one child, Mary Marshall, who m. Geo. R. Lowe of Gardner.
 2. *George S.*, b. and d. 1846.
 3. *Mary Rosanna*, b. April 15, 1849; living in Malden, Mass.; m. Nov. 13, 1872, Daniel M. Rice.
 4. *Hattie M.*, b. March 4, 1854; d. young.
 5. *Frank M.*, b. and d. 1856.

Child of Asahel by second marriage :

- i. BETSEY JANE⁷ (Jane E. she always wrote it), b. March 10, 1822; d. ———; m. April 4, 1844, Paul West Allen, M.D., of Amherst, Mass., a native of Oakham, Mass. They afterwards lived in Barnstable and Fall River, Mass., and about 1867 moved to N. Y. City. Three Children:
 1. *William A. Allen*, physician.
 2. *Charles J. Allen*, chemist.
 3. *Mary Allen*.

9. CHARLOTTE⁶ BRECK (*Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), born in Sherborn, Oct. 22, 1786, brought up in Gardner. Lived after her marriage in Hawley, Mass., where she died in June, 1824, æ. 38. She m. in Franklin, Oct. 13, 1807, Jonathan Wells, b. in Whately, Mass., Oct. 11, 1776.

Children, born in Hawley :

- i. EMMA WELLS, b. Feb. 6, 1809; d. in Hadley, Mass., Feb. 23, 1889, æ. 80; brought up by her uncle, Elijah Breck, in Gardner, where she m. Thanksgiving Day, 1827, Lyman Conant, a native of Gardner; moved to Ashburnham, and afterwards to Shelburne, Mass., where he d. Feb. 4, 1866, æ. 60, leaving four children: 1. *Caroline Conant*, m. Baxter E. Bardwell and lives in Hadley. 2. *Mary E. Conant*, m. Dwight C. Bartlett, and d. in Shelburne Falls, March 27, 1864, æ. 30. 3. *Edward Payson Conant*, living in Boston. 4. *Theodore Lyman Conant*, living in North Hadley, Mass.
 - ii. CHARLOTTE WELLS, b. March 16, 1813; brought up by Dwight W. Cook in Norwich, Conn.; d. in Vesper, N. Y., March 8, 1875; m. in Feb., 1845, William N. Knowles, b. South Kingston, R. I., March 8, 1805, d. in Vesper, N. Y., March 1, 1873. One child, James W. Knowles, living in Coventry Centre, R. I.
 - iii. JUDITH WELLS, b. Aug. 14, 1814; d. unm. in Ashburnham, Mass., April 19, 1849, æ. 34.
 - iv. WILLARD WELLS, b. Aug. 8, 1816; lived with his father in New York and Michigan; enlisted from Mich. in the Civil War and died while home on a furlough from disease contracted in the army.
 - v. WEALTHY WELLS, b. Dec. 6, 1818; living in Easthampton, Mass.; m. in Springfield, May 28, 1848, Charles Baker, b. Hawley, April 24, 1820, d. Hawley, Oct. 18, 1867. Only child, Walter, d. in Easthampton, March 11, 1870, æ. 17. An adopted son, Geo. H. Baker, is librarian emeritus of Columbia University.
 - vi. SARAH WELLS, b. Sept. 2, 1820; d. unm. in June, 1877, in Ind., at the home of her cousin, Mrs. Chas. A. Wilson.
 - vii. ELIZABETH WELLS, b. June 5, 1824; brought up by Perez Alvord in Hawley, where she d. Sept. 10, 1874; m. first, April 7, 1840, Seth Church, Jr., who d. in Hawley, Sept. 30, 1853; she m. second, May 15, 1855, John Vincent King, who d. in Hawley, June 25, 1870, æ. 48. Six children by the first marriage: 1. *Sally Charlotte Church*, m. Andrew J. Gurney and lives in North Amherst, Mass. 2. *Charles Church*. 3. *Mattoon A. Church*. 4. *Willis Church*. 5. *Emma A. Church*, m. Rufus Vining. 6. *Seth Wells Church*. Four children by the second marriage: 1. *John F. King*. 2. *Alfred Lyman King*. 3. *Thera L. King*, d. young. 4. *Thera Janette King*, m. Clarence Gould and lives in Hawley.
10. ELIJAH⁶ BRECK (*Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), born April 26, 1792, in Gardner, Mass., where he died June 27, 1866, æ. 74. He early left the parental roof in the south part of the town and for seven years served as apprentice to James Maltman Comee, just east of Gardner centre, where he learned cabinet and chair making. It was only the year before that Mr. Comee had begun the manufacture of chairs, an industry that has caused the place to grow from 667 inhabitants in 1800 to 10,813 in 1900. At the completion of his term of service in 1813 he went to Hadley, Mass., to work, but in a few months returned to his native town, married a sister of his former master, bought a farm half a mile north of the town centre, extending from the Winchendon road to Crystal Lake, and built a shop opposite his house. Here he continued to work at his trade until failing health prevented. Although slightly lame

from birth it did not prevent him from getting about, and he always teamed his own wares to Boston, Charlestown, Salem and Providence. He retained sole control of his business until the end, saying that he had never seen a man and but one woman with whom he cared to go into partnership.

He married, Aug. 11, 1814, Sarah Comee of Gardner, b. Feb. 12, 1793, d. June 29, 1877, æ. 84, dau. of David and Hannah (Maltman) Comee, and a descendant of David McComie, a Scotch Highlander, who came to New England in 1652.

Children, all born in Gardner :

13. i. ALFRED HARRISON,⁷ b. Jan. 26, 1815.
14. ii. DAVID COMEE, b. March 8, 1817.
- iii. MARY (twin), b. May 18, 1821; d. Jan. 9, 1825.
15. iv. MARIA (twin), b. May 18, 1821; m. Amos B. Minott.
- v. ELIZA, b. Feb. 25, 1823; d. Aug. 2, 1824.
- vi. SARAH, b. July 24, 1826; living since April, 1869, in Roxbury, Boston; m. Nov. 1, 1848, A. Allen Bent, b. Fitzwilliam, N. H., Jan. 29, 1823; still living. Two children, both born in Gardner: 1. *Alice Maria Bent*, b. May 21, 1857, d. March 26, 1863. 2. *Allen Herbert Bent*, b. June 5, 1867, living in Boston; m. March 3, 1898, Cora L., dau. of Daniel H. and Elizabeth (Bannister) Maynard of Attleboro, Mass.
- vii. MARY, b. June 26, 1829; has lived in South Acton and Fitchburg, and since Feb., 1889, in Dorchester, Boston, Mass. She m. June 18, 1860, Charles E. Poole. Two children: 1. *Mary J. Poole*, b. and d. 1862. 2. *Edward Garland Poole*, b. Gardner, Aug. 26, 1864, book-keeper, living unm. in Dorchester.
16. viii. WALTER, b. Jan. 17, 1834.

11. AUGUSTUS⁷ BRECK (*Asahel*,⁶ *Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), born Gardner, Mass., July 14, 1812, moved in 1831 or 1832 to Augusta, Me., where he died Aug. 12, 1846, æ. 34. He was in the harness and saddlery business. He m. March 17, 1836, Eliza Prescott of Norridgewock, Me., dau. of John Lyne and Mary Hunt Prescott. She d. in Somerville, Mass., Sept. 23, 1900.

Children, all born in Augusta :

- i. FRANK AUGUSTUS,⁸ b. Oct. 23, 1837; dry goods merchant; lived in Augusta until 1891, when he moved to Somerville, Mass., where he still lives. He m. May 25, 1862, Augusta Wood Williams of Augusta, Me. Five children: 1. *Charles Albert*, b. April 27, 1863; graduated from Amherst 1888; has preached in Strong, Me., and since 1897 at First Cong. Church, Cotuit, Barnstable, Mass.; m. Sept. 11, 1895, Mary McAllister of Old Orchard, Me.
2. *Jennie Anthony*, b. May 19, 1865; living in Somerville; m. Oct. 1, 1895, Seymour J. Milliken.
3. *Mabel Prescott*, b. and d. 1868.
4. *Martha Hunt*, b. Dec. 31, 1869; m. Sept. 24, 1901, Haskell W. Gleason of Somerville.
5. *Walter Williams*, b. Feb. 27, 1873; living in Somerville; graduated from Amherst in 1895.
- ii. MARY ELIZA, b. May 18, 1839; d. unm. in Augusta, May 12, 1889.
- iii. ANN MARIA, b. Jan. 1, 1842; d. Aug. 17, 1844.
- iv. CHARLES HENRY, b. Jan. 11, 1844; d. May 15, 1887, in Augusta, where he was in business with his brother; m. Jan. 8, 1866, Emma Starrett, still living in Augusta with an adopted daughter, Alice P., b. March 2, 1885.
- v. ALBERT PRESCOTT, b. Dec. 21, 1845; d. Nov. 17, 1846.

12. SUMNER S.⁷ BRICK (*Asahel*,⁶ *Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), painter, born Gardner, Mass., June 25, 1814; moved in the early thirties to Augusta, Me., where he died, Dec. 23, 1891, æ. 77. He

was a musician in 1st Mounted Artillery and later in 3d Maine Inf'y in Civil War. He m. first, Nov. 18, 1834, Eliza A. Carter, b. July 18, 1816, in Augusta, Me. He m. second, June 21, 1873, Mrs. Philena Turner of W. Levant, Me., where she still lives. She is a dau. of Thomas Barwise and widow of James Turner. This family write the name Brick.

Children by the first marriage, all born in Augusta :

- i. EDWARD S.,⁸ b. Oct. 29, 1835; artist; moved about 1870 to Philadelphia, where he d. in Nov., 1883, æ. 48; saw service in the Civil War in a N. Y. regiment; m. Belle V. Marston of Richmond, Me. No Children.
- ii. GEORGE HAMLIN, b. Nov. 15, 1837; saw service in 1st Reg. Maine Mounted Artillery and later in the navy during Civil War; living in National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Togus, Me.
- iii. ISAAC CARTER, b. March 16, 1840; painter; moved about 1871 to Charlestown, Mass., where he d. May 21, 1891, æ. 51; saw service during the Civil War as musician in 1st Maine Cavalry; m. Mary A. Tracy, a native of Coney Island, N. Y.; d. in Boston, June 21, 1895, æ. 53. One child, *William*.
- iv. CAROLINE, d. in infancy.
- v. WILLIAM MORTON, b. Jan. 3, 1845; d. unm. in Augusta, Jan. 5, 1867; saw service as musician in 11th Maine Infantry in the Civil War.
- vi. HATTIE, d. in infancy.
- vii. HENRY AUGUSTUS, b. Feb. 11, 1849; d. in Hallowell, Me., Dec. 20, 1897, æ. 48; after eight years in the express business, on the boat between Boston and the Kennebec, he entered the hotel business and with the exception of a year spent in Dakota was proprietor in succession of the following Maine hotels: Central House, Augusta; Lewiston Exchange and DeWitt House, Lewiston; Johnson House, Gardiner, and Hallowell House, Hallowell. He was at one time president of Maine Hotel Proprietors' Ass'n. He m. Dec. 12, 1872, Anna Marie Pond, b. Oct. 21, 1848, in Augusta, where she is still living. No children.
- viii. Daughter, d. in infancy.

Child by second marriage, born West Levant, Me. :

- i. RALPH LEMONT, b. June 23, 1877; a lumber scaler in the Maine woods.

13. ALFRED HARRISON⁷ BRECK (*Elijah*,⁶ *Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), painter, born in Gardner, Mass., Jan. 26, 1815, living with his daughter in Gill, Mass. He has lived in New Ipswich, N. H., Fitchburg and Gardner, Mass., Hillside, Mich., and from 1873 to 1900 in Winchendon, Mass. He married first, Nov. 24, 1836, Lucy Scollay, born in Gardner, Aug. 26, 1816, died in Fitchburg, Nov. 19, 1846, daughter of James and Dolly (Corey) Scollay, and a descendant of John Scollay, a Scotchman, who settled in Charlestown, Mass., as early as 1665. He married second, March 2, 1847, Martha C. Mahoney, born in Providence, R. I., Dec. 7, 1820, died at Winchendon, March 17, 1900, daughter of Cornelius and Martha C. (Hill) Mahoney.

Children by first marriage, i. and ii. b. in Gardner, iii. in New Ipswich, N. H. :

1. FRANCIS,⁸ b. March 16, 1838; physician; has resided in Worcester, Mass., since 1875; had previously practised in Winchester and Keene, N. H. He m. June 3, 1862, Helen Frances Guild of Attleboro, Mass., b. May 16, 1843, dau. of William G. and Almena F.

(Day) Guild. One child, *Lu Guild Breck*, b. in Keene, N. H., Feb. 29, 1872; unmarried; druggist, in the employ of Gilman Bros., Boston.

- ii. ELIZA, d. young.
- iii. HARRIET SHATTUCK, b. Oct. 23, 1843; has lived since 1889 in St. Louis, Mo. She m. Nov. 29, 1865, Charles A. Wilson, M.D., a native of Templeton, Mass. One child, *Charles Frederick Wilson*, b. Nov. 17, 1867, in Cumington, Mass.; a physician in St. Louis.

Children by second marriage, i. born in Fitchburg, the others in Gardner :

- i. GEORGE ALFRED,⁸ b. July 28, 1848; since Jan. 1886 has lived in Savannah, Ga., with the exception of two years; an ornamental painter most of his life, now supt. of the Kuickerbocker Ice Co. He m. first, Jan. 22, 1872, Ida Jane Sargeant; m. second, Aug. 9, 1884, in Manchester, N. H., Anna Cora Swayze of Easton, Pa. One child by first marriage, *George Sargeant*, b. in Morristown, N. J., Oct. 22, 1872, printer, living in Exeter, N. H., where he m. Oct. 31, 1900, Mary A. Halline. One child by second marriage, *Edward Swayze*, b. in Savannah, June 23, 1894.
- ii. HENRY HARRISON, b. Oct. 20, 1850; d. Oct. 29, 1857.
- iii. CHARLES EDWIN, b. Jan. 2, 1853; living in Brooklyn, N. Y. Has been an ornamental painter and decorator most of his life; m. Dec. 25, 1877, Ada L. Kinsman of Montpelier, Vt., a native of Syracuse, N. Y., dau. of John Allen and Lydia (Dodge) Kinsman. Three children: 1. *Minnie May*, b. in New Haven, Ct., March 5, 1880, m. Oct. 8, 1898, Louis W. Browne of Laconia, N. H., where they still live. 2. *Allen Kinsman*, b. in Unionville, Ct., Sept. 9, 1882. 3. *Florence Edna*, b. in Montpelier, Vt., Sept. 16, 1890.
- iv. HELEN MARIA, b. Dec. 27, 1857; living in Gill, Mass. She m. Nov. 30, 1885, Wm. Marvel. No children.
- v. FREDERICK WALTER, b. Nov. 16, 1863; graduated from the Mass. College of Pharmacy 1887. Since 1883 has made his home in Boston or Charlestown, except about a year, 1887-88, spent in New Haven, Ct. Aug. 9, 1893, he enlisted as hospital steward in U. S. Navy; was on the receiving ship "Wabash" at Charlestown Navy Yard until Sept. 17, 1900, when his sea service began. He m. April 7, 1888, in Boston, Mrs. Cora B. Fisk, a native of Bangor, Me., dau. of Henry and Lucinda Jane (Hines) Mayville.

14. DAVID COMEE⁷ BRECK (*Elijah*,⁶ *Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), painter, born in Gardner, Mass., March 8, 1817, has lived since November, 1892, at the Odd Fellows Home, Worcester, Mass. Most of his active life was spent in Fitchburg, Mass., though he lived a few years in New York City, Greenville and Marlboro, N. H. He married first, May 3, 1838, Sarah Priest, born in Marlboro, N. H., Oct. 1, 1812, died in Gardner, Mass., June 6, 1842, daughter of Daniel and Abigail (Flood) Priest. He married second, early in 1843, Mrs. Hannah Stoddard Kittridge, born in Brookfield, Mass., April 16, 1809, died in Lowell, Mass., Feb. 11, 1890.

Children by first marriage, both born in Gardner, Mass. :

- i. CHARLES AUGUSTUS,⁸ b. June 19, 1839, located in 1872 in Philadelphia, where he still lives. He and his sons write the name Brick. Sept. 16, 1861, he enlisted from Fitchburg as musician in Co. F, 25th Mass. Vols. Followed his father's profession until 1893 when he became connected with the Phila. post office, where he is now money order clerk. He m. in Fitchburg, Sept. 5, 1860, Abbie Alluka Pierce, b. in Lunenburg, Mass., June 18, 1840, d. in Philadelphia, Sept. 23, 1896, dau. of Dr. John and Nancy (Crombie) Pierce. Two children: 1. *Frederick Leon*, b. in Fitchburg, June 9, 1864, living in Phila., where he is an enameleer and decorator;

m. in Williamsport, Pa., June 19, 1888, Mary Louisa Meyers, by whom he has two children, both b. in Phila.; Charles Leon, b. May 9, 1890, and Simon Meyers, b. July 7, 1891. 2. *Harry Walter*, b. in Leominster, Mass., Nov. 7, 1869, living in Toronto, Canada, where he is manager of the Canadian branch of Henry K. Wampole & Co., mfg'g chemists; m. Dec. 21, 1901, Catherine Elizabeth Kelty of Salem, N. J., dau. of Richard and Ruth E. Kelty.

ii. SQUIRE WESLEY, b. March 30, 1842; d. in infancy.

Children by 2d marriage, all born in Fitchburg :

- i. JOHN WESLEY,⁸ b. Nov. 2, 1843; d. in infancy.
- ii. WILLIAM STODDARD, b. March 18, 1847; d. in Dixmont, Alleghany Co., Pa., July, 1900.
- iii. SARAH ADELAIDE, b. April 17, 1852; d. in Fitchburg, June 18, 1901; m. Oct. 14, 1873, Henry W. Mace of Fitchburg, a native of Claremont, N. H., who saw service in 53d Mass. Infy. 1862-63. One child, *Frank Mace*, b. in Cambridge, Feb. 1885, d. in Lynn, July 19, 1894.

15. MARIA BRECK⁷ (*Elijah*,⁶ *Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), born May 18, 1821, in Gardner, Mass., where she died Dec. 3, 1854, æ. 33. She married Nov. 25, 1841, Amos Bradley Minott, born in Westminster, Mass., Jan. 25, 1821, living with his son in (South) Gardner; a descendant of George Minot of Dorchester, Mass., 1634. Amos B. married again, March 20, 1855, Mrs. Nancy D. Brown of Fitchburg, a native of N. H., daughter of Asa and Nabby Davis.

Children, all born in Gardner :

- i. EDWIN MILLS MINOTT, b. Aug. 19, 1843; carpenter; saw four years service in the 25th Mass. Vols. 1861 to 1865; after the war he went to Cal., and when last heard from was living unkm. in Reading, Shasta Co.
- ii. ELLEN MARIA MINOTT, b. April 24, 1845; lived in Gardner, Worcester and Fitchburg; d. unkm. in St. Margaret's hospital, Boston, Aug. 26, 1891, æ. 46.
- iii. WILLIAM HENRY MINOTT, b. July 19, 1848; d. unkm. in Brandon, Vt., Dec. 5, 1876.
- iv. SARAH MINOTT, b. April 24, 1850; d. in Worcester, Mass., Dec. 24, 1878; m. Aug. 26, 1869, Charles Warren, who d. in Brandon, Vt. Four children; all but one b. in Springfield, Vt.: 1. *Ethel Louise Warren*, b. in Worcester, Feb. 19, 1870; graduated from Smith College 1896; m. Oct. 1, 1898, Marcus Allen Coolidge of Fitchburg. 2. *Henry Everett Warren*, b. June 20, 1871; civil engineer in Worcester; m. Jan. 13, 1896, Addie S. Hubbard of Holden, Mass. 3. *Arthur Minott Warren*, b. July 31, 1872; living in Worcester; m. Sept. 13, 1894, Emma Barnes of Rochdale, Leicester, Mass., dau. of Benj. F. and Mary A. (Boardman) Barnes. 4. *Ida Maria Warren*, b. April 21, 1874; an invalid in Baldwinville, Mass. Hospital.
- v. FRANK MINOTT, b. Sept. 21, 1854; living in the south village of Gardner; m. in Boston, Oct. 9, 1876, Phebe, dau. of Joshua S. and Hannah B. Pierce. Six children, all but i. and ii. b. in Gardner: 1. *Ina Sarah Minott*, b. in Lyme, N. H., June 11, 1879; m. May 3, 1899, Waldo Gates Smith of Gardner, and moved to Roslindale, Boston, in 1901. 2. *Edith Phebe Minott*, b. in Lisbon, N. H., June 12, 1881; d. March 19, 1895. 3. *Allen Breck Minott*, b. July 30, 1883, living in Leominster, Mass. 4. *Henry William Minott*, b. Aug. 5, 1885. 5. *Blanche Maria Minott*, b. Aug. 27, 1887. 6. *Grace Ethel Minott*, b. July 7, 1889.

16. WALTER⁷ BRECK (*Elijah*,⁶ *Jonas*,⁵ *Elijah*,⁴ *John*,³ *Thomas*,² *John*¹), ornamental painter, born in Gardner, Mass., Jan. 17, 1834, living in Bloomfield, N. J. He has lived in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Min-

neapolis, Charlotte, N. C., Atlanta, Ga., and other places. He married first, in Manchester, N. H., Feb. 15, 1854, Anna Johnston, born at Brockville, Canada, where she died Nov. 14, 1858, dau. of Thomas and Bessie (Hill) Johnston. He married second, in N. Y. City, Aug. 11, 1859, Phebe Johnston, sister of his first wife.

Children, all by the second marriage, i. born in Baltimore, ii. to iv. in Philadelphia:

- i. ANNA ELIZABETH,⁵ b. May 28, 1860; living in Philadelphia; m. June 9, 1881, Wilson V. Stansbury. Two children: 1. *May Irene Stansbury*, b. May 25, 1887. 2. *Bertha Grace Stansbury*, b. June 10, 1894.
- ii. WILLIAM WALTER, b. Aug. 1, 1864; salesman for the Brooklyn Chair Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.; living in Bloomfield, N. J., since 1895; m. Sept. 3, 1891, Sarah Holman, dau. of Rev. Dr. Samuel A. and Frances (Hazen) Holman of Philadelphia. Two children: 1. *Frances Louise*, b. in Brooklyn, N. Y., April 13, 1894. 2. *Eleanor*, b. in Bloomfield, N. J., July 24, 1901.
- iii. FRANK GARDNER, b. Feb. 23, 1870; jeweller in N. Y. city; m. Jan. 22, 1902, Agnes Helen Crowley of Boston.
- iv. EDGAR JOHNSTON, b. June 30, 1877; travelling salesman; shot in Tallahassee, Fla., March 23, 1901; buried in Tuckahoe, N. J. He m. Jan. 31, 1898, in N. Y. City, Clara Ashman, who is living in Ocean City, N. J.

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