





Edsons in England and America

and

Genealogy of the Edsons

By

JARVIS BONESTEEL EDSON

Of the City of New York

“The highest tribute a man can render his ancestors is to reproduce their best qualities, and so help to give them an earthly immortality.”

GOETHE.

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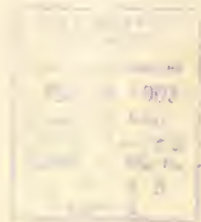
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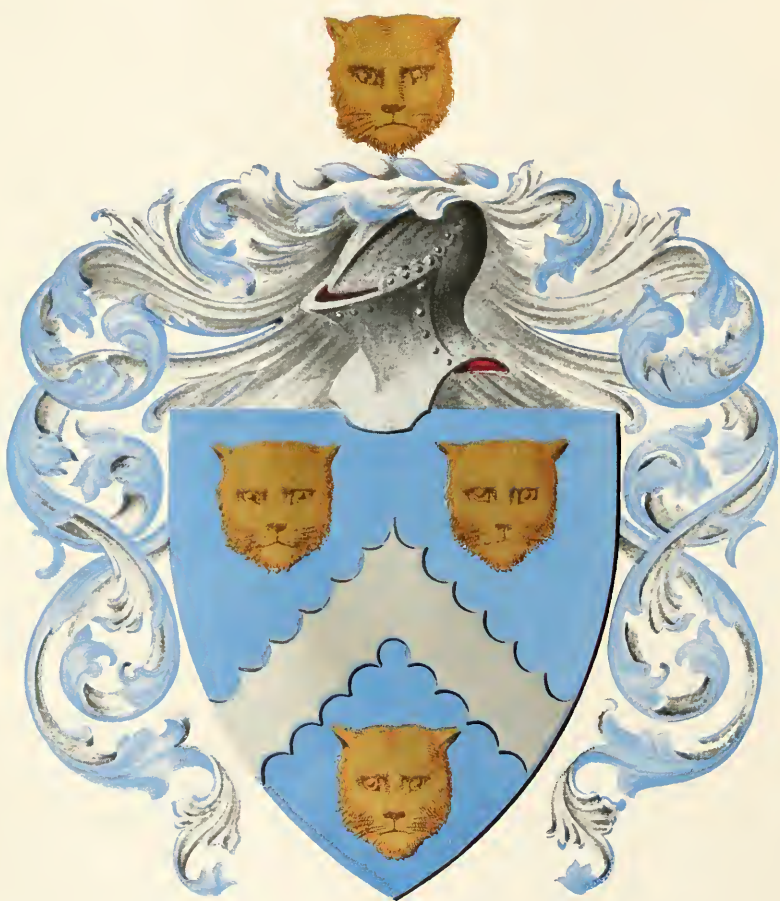
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TO PERPETUATE THE
MEMORY OF
MARMONT BRYAN EDSON
THIS WORK IS DEDICATED
BY HIS SON
JARVIS BONESTEEL EDSON

Preface

THE only work published in this country respecting the Edsons of New England and their extraction was printed in Lowell, Mass., in 1864, and entitled *A Genealogical Account of the Edsons Early Settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices*. This contribution of valuable *memorabilia* is a summary of traditions and facts compiled successively by Captain Josiah Edson (1682-1762), Elijah Hayward (his great-grandson), the Rev. Theodore Edson, S.T.D., and John Edson (his brother), and Nahum Mitchell (author of the *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater*).

The conclusions advanced in the initial paragraph and the two footnotes on the third page of the pamphlet regarding the name Edson being "a contraction from a word of three or more syllables," and the improbability of finding a native of England bearing it as a surname, were generally accepted, until recently, as determining the uselessness of all further attempts to ascertain anything to the contrary. The allegation that "it is certainly not found in any book of heraldry" was evidently left unchallenged at that time for want of enlightenment, although there was then among the priceless heraldic manuscripts of Queen's College, Oxford, one in which the name of "Thomas Edson of Adderbury" was so written. As printed in the Lowell pamphlet, the paragraph reads:

"The name of Edson is most probably a contraction of Edwardson, Edmonson, Edwinson, or that of some other

name of three or more syllables beginning with *Ed* and ending with *son*. Previous to the year 1600, the word Edson as a personal appellation is not to be found in the English vocabulary of proper names; and it is much doubted if it can be found in England, unless connected with some person in or from the United States. It is certainly not found in any book of heraldry, wherein are entered the family names of nearly every other person who has emigrated from England and settled in the American colonies. Whether this contraction was made or adopted by Samuel Edson, the common ancestor of all of that name in this country, it is impossible to ascertain."

The pamphlet, referred to above, suggests that the name Edson may be a corruption of Addison. "It is, in fact, often pronounced Addison and Eddison by most uneducated foreigners who have occasion to use the name, and they often conform the orthography thereto. . . . The fact that the name can be clearly traced to him, and no further, is strongly corroborative of the opinion that its present form was assumed in his time."

The historical proof of the groundlessness of these suppositions appeared necessary, and, readily perceiving the value of it, I secured the services of an experienced gentleman to prosecute for me adequate searches for information concerning the ancestry and posterity of the Edsons in England and America that would serve for an authentic history of the Edson Family.

This investigation in different parts of England, particularly in the Library of the British Museum in London, and the registry and probate offices in Lichfield and York, examinations of parish registers at Adderbury in Oxfordshire, at Knaresborough, Whixley, and Easingwold in Yorkshire, at Bedworth, Berkswell, Over Whiteacre, Nether Whiteacre, Kingsbury, and Fillongley in Warwickshire, together with interviews with James Edson at Ottringham, George Edson at Pickering, and Joseph A. Edson at Otley,

in Yorkshire, were, as will be seen, richly rewarded. The noteworthy success attending the researches in this country also revealed many interesting historical particulars of the careers of certain Edsons early identified with the political affairs of the colonists of New England. Letters of inquiry to members of Edson families residing in different parts of the United States were the means of eliciting much of the serviceable *data* of the genealogical division of this work.

My purpose in publishing so comprehensive a history as this of the Edsons in England and America was mainly to enlighten and benefit their living descendants with such knowledge, of the conscientious, stalwart, patriotic, and godly character of their ancestors, as might impress them with an abiding sense of their obligation to be men as indomitable, diligent, public-spirited, and honored as their forefathers were in their day and generation. The embellishment of the historical part of the work with engravings of places and objects still distinguishing the seats of the ancestral homes of Edsons in England and America was prompted by a consideration of the enjoyment they might afford to persons desirous of acquiring all the knowledge to be obtained regarding the natural and artificial features of the landscapes environing the habitations of their early kinsmen.

It was my good fortune to become the possessor of one (No. 26) of the fifty-seven copies that were printed, in 1893, of the *Transcript of the Old Parish Register of the Parish Church of S. Mary and All Saints, Fillongley, County Warwick, 1538-1653*, containing the entry of the baptism of Samuel Edson, son of Thomas Edson, on September 5, 1613, as well as entries of baptisms, marriages, and deaths of other and earlier ancestral kinsfolk. The Rev. Arthur Bicknell Stevenson, Vicar of Fillongley Church since May 8, 1888, kindly sent me for souvenir canes two pieces of a broken branch of the venerable yew which has long been a picturesque feature of the ancient churchyard. To this

obliging and courteous clergyman I am greatly indebted for the gift of the much-prized mementos and for the pains taken by him to provide me with desired photographs of the interior and exterior of the church, in the sacred precincts of which, four centuries ago, more than one of my ancestors had worshipped.

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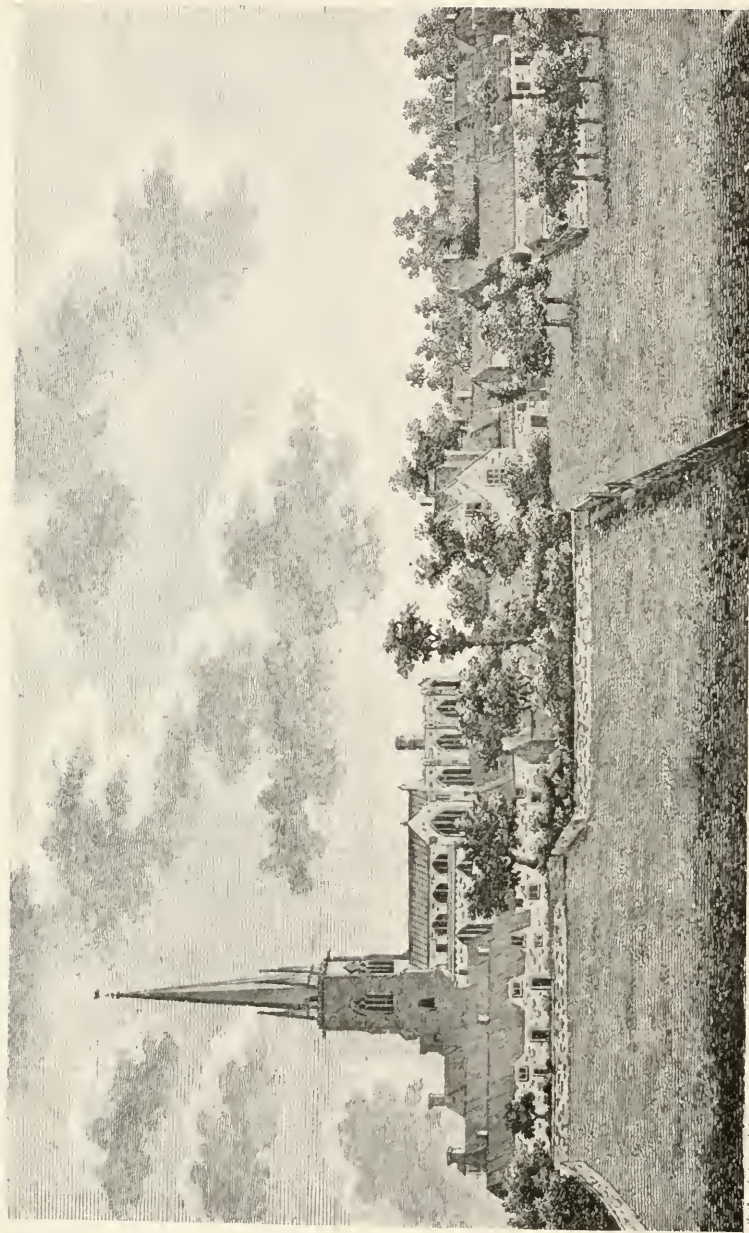
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S. E. VIEW OF ADDERBURY CHURCH, OXFORDSHIRE
(From *The Gentleman's Magazine*, March, 1800, p. 209)

EDSONS

in

England and America

Chapter I

Thomas Edson of Adderbury

1480-1540?

THE name Edson is of Anglo-Saxon origin. It is a combination of two words: *Ed*, a variation of the spelling of the ancient term *Ead*; and *son*, an explanatory suffix, establishing the relationship of a child to a parent known as *Ed*.

Ead, as an Anglo-Saxon noun, signifies wealth, prosperity, happiness, joy, or bliss. In the early poetical compositions of the Anglo-Saxons, *cad* is the initial syllable of such compounds as *cadjuma*, author of prosperity; *cadgicfa*, giver of prosperity; *cadlufe*, love; and *cadwecla*, riches. It has similar precedence in compound names, as is shown in *Eadmund*, a protector of riches; *Eadward*, a guardian of property; and *Eadwin*, a gainer of happiness.

The Anglo-Saxons at a very remote period distinguished their offspring by such descriptive names as *Deor* (dear), *Athel* (noble), *Brun* (brown), *Whit* (white), *Ead* (rich), as did the Hebrews of old, as instanced by the titles *David* (beloved), *Amos* (strong), *Ashur* (black), *Laban* (white).

Subsequently the Anglo-Saxons originated a mode of expressing the relationship of a child to a parent by adding the term *ing*, signifying offspring, son, or descendant, to the name of the parent or sire, as presented in the compound names *Dcoring*, son or child of *Dcor*; *Atheling*, son or child of *Athel*; *Bruning*, son or child of *Brun*; *Whiting*, son or child of *Whit*; *Eading*, son or child of *Ead*. The use of *ing* as a patronymic suffix is clearly disclosed by the following lines forming a part of the *Saxon Chronicle* of the year 547, and showing the line of descent of an Anglo-Saxon, named Ida, from a great-great-grandfather, Angenwit.

“ <i>Ida wæs Eopping,</i>	“ <i>Ida was Eoppa’s son,</i>
“ <i>Eoppa wæs Esing,</i>	“ <i>Eoppa was Esa’s son,</i>
“ <i>Esa wæs Inguing,</i>	“ <i>Esa was Ingwy’s son,</i>
“ <i>Ingui, Angenwiting.</i> ”	“ <i>Ingý, Angenwit’s son.</i> ”

“In the year 804,” says a learned English etymologist, “we find among several *Eâdberhts* in the same court, that one is pointed out as *Eâdgâring*, or the son of *Eâdgâr*; among several *Æthelheâhs*, one is *Esning*, or son of *Esne*.”¹

The use of *ing* as a patronymic led not a few heads of Anglo-Saxon families to add it to their family names. This practice in time brought into use surnames so formed, many of which, by corruptions of spelling, were so changed that such family names as *Dcoring*, *Bruning*, *Whiting*, and *Eading* came to be written *Doring*, *Browning*, *Witting*, and *Eding*.

¹ *The Student’s Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*, by Henry Sweet, M.A., Ph.D., LL.D. Oxford Press. London, 1897. Pp. xii., 46.—*Remaines concerning Britaine*. Written by William Camden. London, 1673. Pp. 67, 106.—*English Surnames. Essays on Family Nomenclature, Historical, Etymological, and Humorous*. By Mark Antony Lower. London, 1842. Pp. 10, 11, 12, 13. Also Fourth Edition, enlarged. London, 1875. Vol. i., pp. 21, 22, 23.—*Words and Places; or, Etymological Illustrations of History, Ethnology, and Geography*. By the Rev. Isaac Taylor, M.A. Second Edition. London and Cambridge, 1865. Pp. 124, 125, 126.

On the root *ing*, see Forstemann, *Alt-deutsches Namenbuch*, vol. ii., p. 835; Kemble, *Saxons in England*, vol. i., pp. 56–63, and 445–480; Pott, *Personen-Namen*, pp. 169, 247, 553; Wright, *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, pp. 438–441.

In tracing the seats of residence in England of the descendants of Anglo-Saxon families so named, the observant author of *Words and Places* remarks:

"Some families seem to have spread much more widely than others. Of many only an isolated local name bears witness; some are confined to a single county, while the names of others, as the *Æscings* and the *Billings*, are spread far and wide throughout the island.

"The *Cyllings* and the *Wealings* are found in twelve places; the *Dodings*, the *Wittings*, and the *Willings* in eleven; the *Ofings* in ten; the *Donings* and the *Sillings* in nine; the *Edings*, the *Ellings*, the *Hardings*, and the *Lings* in eight; the *Fearings*, the *Hemings*, the *Herrings*, the *Holings*, the *Hornings*, the *Newings*, the *Serings*, and the *Wasings* in seven; the *Cannings*, the *Cerrings*, the *Hastings*, the *Lullings*, the *Hannings*, the *Stannings*, the *Teddings*, the *Tarings*, and the *Withings* in six; the *Bennings*, the *Bings*, the *Bobbings*, the *Cædings*, the *Collings*, the *Gillings*, and the *Stellings* in five; and the remaining four or five hundred patronymic families in four or a smaller number of places."¹

The retention of the original designation *Ead* as a family title by some of the descendants of the ancient progenitor distinguished by that name caused it to be used subsequently as a surname with such modifications of its etymology that it ultimately obtained such diverse and permanent forms as *Ed*, *Ede*, *Eade*, and *Eede*. The cognomens *Ede*, *Eade*, and *Eede* are still perpetuated by families living in England in the counties of Bedford, Middlesex, and Suffolk.

In the tenth century, as is authenticated by records of that period, the explanatory word *son* began to be substituted for the suffix *ing* which had early been appended to many Anglo-Saxon family names. Members of the *Doding* family began writing their cognomen *Dodson*, some

¹ *Words and Places*. By the Rev. Isaac Taylor. Second Edition. London and Cambridge, 1865. P. 129, and footnote 2.

of the *Willing* family changed theirs to *Wilson*, some of the *Wasing* family theirs to *Wason*, and certain *Bennings* theirs to *Benson*, while representatives of the *Gilling* family altered theirs to *Gillson*, and those of the *Eding* to *Edson* and *Edeson*.

“Towards the close of the tenth century and the commencement of the eleventh, when the number of persons bore a great disproportion to the number of personal names, it was found necessary to add in all public acts a distinctive appellation for the sake of identifying individuals. Such names figure in great numbers in the records of all the kingdoms of Christendom up to the fourteenth century. By degrees, this means of remedying the confusion became insufficient. Those sobriquets which described physical and moral qualities, habits, professions, the place of birth, etc., might be imposed upon many who bore the same name of baptism, and thus the inconvenience was rather augmented than diminished: a total change in the system of names became indispensable—and *hereditary* surnames in most countries became general.”¹

“In England, when the *patronymic* was used, the word *son* was usually affixed, as John Adamson.”

“Grimaldi, in his *Origines Genealogicæ*, speaking of the Winton Domesday, a survey of lands belonging to Edward the Confessor, made on the oath of eighty-six burgesses of Winchester, in the reign of Henry I. (1100–1135), says: ‘The most remarkable circumstance in this book is the quantity of *surnames* among the tenants of Edward (1042–1066), as *Alwinus Idessone*, *Edwinus Godeswale*, *Brumanus de la Forda*, *Leuret de Essewem*, which occur on the first page.’”

“It would, however, be preposterous to assert that surnames universally prevailed so early as the eleventh cen-

¹ “Of ‘*Sur*’-names, Du Cange says, they were at first written ‘not in a direct line after the Christian name, but above it, between the lines,’ and hence they were called in Latin *Supranomina*, in Italian *Supranome*, and in French *Surnoms*,—‘over-names.’”—*English Surnames*. By Mark Antony Lower. Fourth Edition, London, 1875. Vol. i., p. 14.

ture: we have overwhelming evidence that they did *not*; and we must admit that although the Norman Conquest did much to introduce [into England] the practice of using them, it was long before they became very common."

"Whatever may be advanced in favour of an earlier adoption of family designations or surnames in particular cases, it is certain that the practice of making the second name of an individual stationary, and transmitting it to descendants, came gradually into *common* use during the eleventh and three following centuries."¹

The ancient family of *Ead*, whose Anglo-Saxon descendants were distinguished by such diversely spelled names as *Eade*, *Ed*, *Ede*, *Eedes*, *Eading*, *Eding*, *Edson*, and *Edeson*, early acquired distinction in Britain through its male representatives by martial prowess and knightly valor. "There never was a reigning king of that country," according to a long-current tradition, "that was not served by one or more of them mounted, from the coming of the first progenitor titled *Ead* into Britain to the end of the Middle Ages." Being well born and of official rank, they, when afield in war, had coats of mail, helmets, and shields, on each of which the armorial ensigns of the family were distinctively displayed. These designative emblems, heraldically titled their arms, had descended from an early point of time to each successive generation, by right of inheritance, and not by special grant or confirmation, for they were possessed long before King Richard III. founded by letters patent, on March 2, 1483, "The College of Arms," or, as it is more commonly called, "The Heralds' College."

"Notwithstanding the numerous traditions relative to the granting of arms by monarchs in very early times," says Lower, "it seems to have been the *general* practice before the reigns of Richard II. (1377-1399), and Henry IV. (1399-1413), for persons of rank to assume what ensigns

¹ *English Surnames*. By Mark Antony Lower. Fourth Edition. London, 1875. Vol. i., pp. 15, 19, 30, 31.

they chose. But these monarchs, regarding themselves as the true 'fountains of honour,' granted or took them away by royal edict. The exclusive right of the king to this privilege was long in question, and Dame Julyan Berners, so late as 1486, declares that 'armys bi a mannys auctorite (if no other man have not borne theym afore) be of strength enogh.' The same gallant lady boldly challenges the right of heralds: 'And it is the opynyon of moni men that an herod of armis gyve armys. Bot I say if any sych armys be borne . . . thoos armys be no more auctorite then thoos armys the wich be taken by a mannys awne auctorite.'"

The family arms of the *Eads*, *Eades*, *Eds*, *Edes*, and *Eedes*, as described by Sir Barnard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, the distinguished author of *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales*, are "azure, a chevron engrailed between three leopards' faces argent."

Of the symbolic meaning of the colors of the shield and the chevron, the azure is said to signify "courtesy and discretion," and the argent or silver, "chastity, charity, and a clear conscience." The leopards' (or lions') faces, styled common charges, are accepted as expressing "fearlessness and courage." The chevron, known as an ordinary charge, is regarded as implying military service; its shape being that of a bow or arch of a saddle. The engrailed or scalloped border of the chevron differences that bearing from one otherwise edged.¹

Leopards, according to the most eminent authorities on heraldry, were among the earliest devices or emblems used as charges for coats-of-arms. The metrical history, in Norman French, of the siege and capture, in 1300, of the fortress of Caerlaverock, on the north shore of Solway Frith, in Scotland, describes the blazonry of the arms of King Edward I.:

¹ *The Curiosities of Heraldry*. By Mark Antony Lower. London, 1845. Pp. 35, 36, 111.

On his banner were three leopards
 Of fine gold, set on red,
 Courant, fierce, haughty, and cruel;
 Thus placed to signify that,
 Like them, towards his enemies
 The King is dreadful, fierce, and proud;
 For none experience his bite
 Who are not envenomed by it.
 Nevertheless he is soon reanimated
 With gentle kindness,
 If they seek his friendship,
 And are willing to come to his peace.¹

"A lion walking and looking about him, the early heralds held to be acting the part of a leopard: consequently when he was in any such attitude they blazoned him as 'a leopard.' The animal bearing that name bore it simply as a heraldic title, which distinguished a lion in a particular attitude. These heraldic 'leopards' were drawn in every respect as other heraldic 'lions,' without spots or any leopardish distinction whatever. This explains the usage, retained till late in the fourteenth century, which assigned to the lions of the royal shield of England the name of 'leopards.'"²

The early use by the *Ead* family of "a leopard's face"

¹ *En sa banier trois lupart,
 De or fin estoient mis en rouge,
 Courant, jeloun, fier, e haronge;
 Par tel signifiace mis,
 Ke ainsi est vers ses enemis
 Li Rois fiers, jelons, e haustans;
 Car sa morsure ne est tastans
 Nul, ki ne en soit envenimez.
 Non porquant tast est ralumez
 De douce debonaireté,
 Kant il requerent se amisté,
 E à sa pais vuelent venir.*

The Roll of Arms of the Princes, Barons and Knights, who attended King Edward I. to the Siege of Caerlaverock, in 1300. Edited by Thomas Wright. London, 1864. P. 9.

² *English Heraldry.* By Charles Boutell, M.A. Fifth Edition. London, 1883. Pp. 12, 13, 84, 267.

as its crest is regarded as heraldic evidence of its ancient distinction, inasmuch as that emblem formed one of the principal charges of the family coat-of-arms. "The right of bearing a crest," says Cussans, "was considered more honourable than that of coat armory; for to the latter a noble would succeed by birth, but to obtain the former he must have been a knight in actual service."¹ That representatives of the *Ead* family had repeatedly rendered such service to successive sovereigns of England is not only affirmed by its long perpetuated tradition but also by the emblematic chevron embellishing its escutcheon.

Although the color of the leopard's (or lion's) face forming the *Ead* crest was originally the same as that of the leopards' (or lions') faces on the shield, argent or silver was afterward adopted by some of the *Eade* descendants for the tincture of their crests. Describing the arms of the *Eades* of the county of Middlesex, and of Saxmundham, in the county of Suffolk, England, as *azure, a chevron engrailed between three leopards' faces argent*, Burke particularizes the crest possessed by them as being "*a leopard's face argent*." Ascribing to the *Eades* of Bedfordshire the same arms as those of the *Eades*, he sets forth the fact that the crest displayed by them is "*a lion's gamb erect or, enfiled with a chaplet vert*." Although the arms of the Very Reverend Doctor Richard Eedes, Dean of Worcester from 1597 to 1604, were, as represented by Burke, the same as those of the *Eades* and *Eedes*, yet the crest of this gifted chaplain of Queen Elizabeth and King James I. was dissimilar, it being "*a lion's foot argent out of a laurel vert*." In Fairbairn's *Book of Crests*, it is said that "Sir Peter Eade, of Norwich, uses *a leopard's face argent*" for a crest.²

¹ *Handbook of Heraldry*. By John E. Cussans. Fourth Edition. London, 1893. P. 186.

² *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales*. By Sir Barnard Burke, C.B., LL.D., Ulster King of Arms. London, 1884. Pp. 311, 314, 318.—*The Visitations of Bedfordshire, annis Domini 1566, 1582, and 1634*. Edited by Frederic Augustus Blaydes, Heralds' College.

The invasion and occupation by the Saxons of that part of Britain, now known as Oxfordshire, began about the end of the sixth century. In the ninth, the fierce conflicts between the Saxons made it the scene of many bloody struggles for the possession of its territory. The city of Oxford, it is said, was four times reduced to ashes during the time of this warfare.

Geographically Oxfordshire "is bounded on the north-east by Northamptonshire, north-west by Warwickshire, west by Gloucestershire, south-south-west and south-east by Berkshire, and east by Buckinghamshire. In shape it is very irregular, its breadth varying from about seven to twenty-seven and one-half miles, and its greatest length being about fifty-two miles. The total area of the county is 483,621 acres, or about 756 square miles." Although Oxfordshire lies in the latitude of fifty-two degrees north of the equator, its climate is moderate and salubrious. The chief products of its fertile soil are wheat, barley, oats, beans, and turnips.

"Oxfordshire comprises fourteen hundreds [or districts], the municipal boroughs of Banbury and Chipping Norton, the greater part of the city of Oxford, of which the remainder is in Berkshire, and a small portion of the municipal borough of Abingdon, of which the remainder is also in Berkshire."¹

The village of Adderbury, in Bloxham Hundred, lies five miles south of Banbury, twenty north of Oxford, and eighty-four northeast of London. The meandering Sorbrook, spanned by a bridge near the village church, is a picturesque feature of the place.

In the time of William the Conqueror, Adderbury was called *Edburberic*, a name strikingly suggestive of its

London, 1884. Pp. 102, 103.—Fairbairn's *Book of Crests of the Families of Great Britain*. New edition. By Arthur Charles Fox Davis. Edinburgh, 1892. Vol. i., p. 143; vol. ii., plate 22:2.

¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

having an origin closely identified with the *Ead* or *Ed* family.



BANBURY CROSS, BANBURY
Street on the left enters road running southward to Adderbury

The acquisitive Norman, having in 1066 taken the sceptre of England, "had a great council, and very deep speech with his '*witan*' [wise men] about this land, how it was peopled, or by what men; then he sent his men over all England, into every shire, and caused to be ascertained how many hundred hides were in the shire, or what land the king himself had, and cattle within the land, or what dues he ought to have, in twelve months, from the shire. Also he caused to be written how much land his archbishops had, and his suffragan bishops, and his abbots, and his earls; and what or how much each man had who was a holder of land in England, in land, or in cattle, and how much money it might be worth. So very narrowly

he caused it to be traced out, that there was not one single hide, nor one yard of land, not even—it is a shame to tell, though it seemed to him no shame to do—an ox, nor a cow, nor a swine, was left, that was not set down in his writ. And all the writings were brought to him afterwards.”

The term *hide*—appearing again and again in the curiously abbreviated text of the census taken by order of William the Conqueror, presented in *Domesday Book*; or, *The Great Survey of England*,¹—signifies as much land as was cultivatable in a year with a single plough, or an extent of land equal to one hundred and twenty acres. The money then in use had thirty times the denominational value that it has at present.

Under the name of *Edburgberie*, Adderbury is three times mentioned in *Domesday Book*:

“The king holds *Blochesham* (Bloxham) and *Edburgberie*. There are thirty-four hides and a half there. In King Edward’s time there were forty-eight ploughs there. There are now thirteen in the demesne, and twenty-six bondmen; and seventy-two villanes [tenants] with sixteen bordars [farmers] having — ploughs. There are six mills [with dues] of fifty-six shillings and four pence. The meadow land is two miles and five quarentens long, and four quarentens broad. The pasture land in length and breadth is two miles. The wood land is thirteen quarentens and a half in length and nine quarentens broad. For wool and cheeses [there are dues of] forty shillings. For pannage [food for swine in the woods, as beech-nuts and acorns,] [there are dues of] twenty-four shillings and seven pence; and forty hogs when charged; but formerly sixty-six hogs. For a year’s produce of the harvest, [there are dues of] twenty-eight pounds and ten shillings. The soke

¹*Domesday Book*; or, *The Great Survey of England*, made by order of William the Conqueror, in 1086 is contained in two volumes, one a great folio of 760 pages, the other a large octavo of 900 pages.

[exclusive privilege] of two hundreds [districts] belongs to this manor. Earl Edwin held this manor. It paid in King Edward's time [dues of] fifty-six pounds; now sixty-seven pounds.

"The same bishop [Bishop of Winchester] holds *Edburgberic*. It belonged and belongs to the church. There are fourteen hides and a half there. There is land to twenty ploughs. Now in the demesne four ploughs, and nine bondmen, and twenty-seven villanes, with nine bordars, having nineteen ploughs. There are two mills of [dues of] thirty shillings; and thirty-six acres of meadow of [dues of] ten shillings. The whole tract is three miles and three quarentens long, and one mile and a half broad. In King Edward's time it was worth twelve pounds, now twenty pounds.

"Robert [de Stratford] holds of Robert one hide in *Edburgberic*. There is land for one plough. He has this demesne with one bondman; and one villane and three bordars. There are four acres of meadow. It was worth twenty shillings; now thirty shillings."¹

Adderbury was the home of Thomas Edson, the earliest of the identified ancestors of the Edsons in England and America. Of him there would probably be more particulars extant than those hereafter presented, had not the effacing hand of time obliterated the inscriptions of the once deeply lettered tablets covering the numerous tombs beneath the slab flooring of the ancient parish church of Adderbury, and at the same time crumbled into dust the memorial stones that originally marked the early graves in the burial ground environing the venerable edifice. The richly colored imagery and the elaborately emblazoned coats-of-arms that illuminated in days of yore the glass of the great windows of the lofty structure have also disappeared.

¹A Translation of the Record called Domesday, as far as relates to the counties of Middlesex, Hertford, Buckingham, Oxford, and Gloucester. By the Rev. William Bawdwen. Doncaster, 1812. Pp. 8, 11, 33, 34.



NORTHWEST VIEW OF ADDERBURY CHURCH FROM THE SORBROCK

Of the ancient church records there is now neither trace nor tradition. Hence there are no available means by which to elicit any knowledge of the names of the worshippers who congregated beneath the high-vaulted roof of the stately sanctuary during the first four centuries of its existence.

Moreover, it should be remembered that searches for *data* to determine lines of descent from English ancestors cannot be prosecuted at the present time with any measure of success farther back than the century preceding that in which Thomas Edson had his birth, who probably was born about twelve years before the discovery of America by Columbus. As Cussans asseverates, "except in a few rare instances, it is utterly impossible to trace a pedigree beyond the time of Richard the Second," (1377-1399).¹

The village of Adderbury is historically mentioned as early as 1222 as the place of the execution of a blasphemous impostor, who, pretending to have the wounds of the Saviour, was condemned to be crucified there by a council of bishops held that year at Oxford.

The attractive Gothic features of the conspicuous village church, built early in the thirteenth century, were multiplied by the skill and munificence of William of Wykeham, a distinguished and wealthy architect, born in Hampshire in 1324, and also known as Bishop of Winchester, Lord Chancellor of England, and founder of St. Mary's or New College, at Oxford, who died in 1404.

The plan of the noble building is cruciform, having, at the west end, a tower and steeple, one hundred and sixty feet in height, of admirable strength and simplicity. The early chime of six heavy bells, two being broken, was recast into eight, in 1789. The present tenor bell weighs two thousand six hundred pounds. The greater part of the original edifice, erected during the reign of King Edward

¹ *Handbook of Heraldry*. By John E. Cussans. Fourth Edition. London, 1893. P. 287.

II. (1307-1327), is comprised in the transepts. William of Wykeham rebuilt the chancel, the length of which is forty feet, with a breadth of twenty and a height of thirty.

"An Architectural Antiquary," in a review of the work of William of Wykeham, writing eight and threescore years ago, says: "This building is worthy of the exalted taste and abilities of him whose cognizances it exhibits in a multiplicity of sculptures, both in wood and stone, but it is treated with no respect, and I must observe, that this church furnishes a deplorable instance of the economy which seeks to avoid expense of repair by the total destruction of its object. No consideration was here entertained, save the narrow one of bestowing as little upon the fabric of the church as might be deemed consistent with decency and neatness; but surely propriety,* and with it every good and generous feeling, is outraged by the deliberate destruction of the architectural features of a building for the sake of saving the cost of needful repairs. This disgraceful course has been permitted at Adderbury, and consequently its windows, which are unusually spacious, present empty chasms. No more reverence was paid to the beautiful chancel built by Wykeham, than to the splendid architecture of Edward the Second's age. The work of both periods is so extremely grand, and so delicately finished, that one would have thought that the hand which was uplifted would have paused ere it descended to commit violence upon the requisite ornaments of the sacred edifice, and would at length have refused the thankless and unholy toil.

"The celebrated sculptures on the exterior of the nave remain in perfect preservation. Their size and situation prove that they were designed and carved to attract attention, and secure a more than casual inspection, which is all that was generally bestowed upon the accessory ornaments of architecture. These remarkable devices have escaped unhurt, and to render them as conspicuous as

possible have been coloured; while the architecture of which they were the subordinate embellishments has been barbarously defaced. It is well and commendable to protect every feature of the architecture of our ancient churches; but who can commend the taste and discrimination which, while they urge the careful defence of grotesque sculptures, unfeelingly permit the destruction of more elegant and important ornaments? Recent discoveries have



LICH-GATE ON EAST SIDE OF CHURCHYARD

proved that the windows in the body of the church were rich in patterns of flowing tracery; and those of the chancel were walled up with their own ruins, and with those created by the sacrilege which was at the same time committed around the altar. These are abatements to our unqualified admiration of this church. . . .

“The six noble windows—I speak of what they have been, rather than what they now are—occupying more than one-half of the superficies of the walls, admitted a flood of light to the interior, which must have exhibited a spectacle of uncommon splendour when the lofty compartments,

and the rich tracery glowed with painted glass, and reflected their lustre upon the walls, themselves covered with enrichments in painting and gilding; and upon the floor, inlaid with sculptured brasses, and the various kinds of sepulchral records which pride or humility called into fashion. . . .

“Recent discoveries have brought to light many original ornaments which, for a long period, have been concealed from view. The stone altar was utterly destroyed. It was elevated upon a pavement thirteen feet broad, and seventeen inches above the level of the floor, and was recessed eighteen inches within the opening of the window, the retreating jambs of which descend to the pavement. The altar occupied a space thirteen feet one inch in width, and three feet eight inches in height. The wall over it is adorned with fourteen canopied niches of exquisite beauty. The freshness of their gilding and painting is remarkable. A few injuries wilfully committed, for the sake of expunging the names of the statues which once tenanted the recesses, alone detract from their perfection. St. Bartholomew, St. Simon, St. John, and some others, are visible; but the names of two effigies, more obnoxious than those of the Apostles, have been quite obliterated. . . .

“The sumptuous stalls, for the officiating priests, and the *piscina*,¹ both on the south side, are worthy to be classed with the most beautiful, and the most savagely defaced specimens of ancient architecture in England. . . . The pedestal of the *piscina* is three feet eight inches in height, thence to the canopy three feet six inches; this space is divided by a ledge or shelf of stone. The back is panelled, and the groined roof exhibits a rose in the centre. The cornice under the windows terminates at the stalls with a small figure, supporting the arms of Wykeham and

¹A Latin name for cistern, or fish-pond, used to designate a niche in the south wall of ancient Roman Catholic churches, near the altar, in which is a basin, connected with a drain pipe, into which is emptied the water with which the chalice has been rinsed.

standing on a crowned head as a pedestal. This is one of the most attractive ornaments in the building. . . .

“The arch of the east window is supported by the busts of a king and a bishop; that over the stalls by the head of a venerable man bearded and an angel whose shield is charged with the arms of the see of Winchester. The second window, on the same side, presents two angels bearing the arms of Wykeham, and the cross of St. George.”¹

The mutilation of the sculptured ornamentation, ecclesiastical imagery, and armorial insignia of the church was partly the work of the agents of King Henry VIII., who, after Pope Clement's refusal to sanction his divorce from Katharine of Aragon, began changing the Roman system of religious worship in England, and, at the same time, suppressing the numerous monasteries founded in different parts of the kingdom. The ruthless destruction or defacement of everything suggestive of the Pope's jurisdiction, and the enforced surrender to the Crown of the houses, churches, chapels, colleges, and hospitals held by the Augustinian, Benedictine, Cistercian, and other holy orders of the Roman Church, soon followed.

“The actual proceedings in the work of destruction varied but little. The surrender once signed, the church was ‘defaced’—that is, the painted glass was broken, the stalls and screenwork were pulled down, and the church generally put in such a state as to render it impossible for the monks to return and repair it. This was done with the greatest haste, for the king wished the step that he was taking to be irrevocable. Special attention was paid to the destruction and dishonouring of ‘reliques and such rotten bones.’ An inventory was made of the vestments, plate, and jewels. Some were sold on the spot, some were sent to London for the Treasury, and a large proportion were embezzled by the commissioners and by

¹ *The Gentleman's Magazine*. London, 1834. Vol. i., new series, pp. 159, 161, 162, 163, 164.

the crowd of local pilferers (gentle and simple) that hovered like vultures over the carcasses of the dead houses.

“Then the land was strewn with ruined books from the monastic libraries. The leaves of priceless manuscripts were blown about the Oxford quadrangles. . . . Missals were sent out of the country ‘by shiploads’ to be used for book-binding, while ‘one merchant bought the contents of two noble libraries for forty shillings,’ and used them for wrapping his wares. ‘This stuff,’ adds John Bale, ‘hath he used instead of grey paper by the space of more than ten years, and hath yet in store enough for as many years to come.’”

“It was the same with the plate and vestments. ‘Many private men’s parlours were hung with altar-cloths, their tables and beds covered with copes instead of carpets and coverlids; and many made carousing-cups of the sacred chalices, as once Balshazzar celebrated his drunken feast in the sanctified vessels of the temple. It was a sorry house and not worth the naming which had not somewhat of this furniture in it, though it were only a fair large cushion made of a cope or altar-cloth to adorn their windows or make their chairs to have somewhat in them of a chair of state.

“What Henry the Eighth’s myrmidons spared, Edward the Sixth’s spoiled. It is difficult to say which did most harm and to whom the palm of mischief should be awarded, for whereas the zeal of Henry’s commissioners was directed chiefly against monasteries, the zeal of Edward’s was directed against every parish church in England. The one were specialists, and devoted their attention to wrecking anything that savoured of monks or friars or of the Pope; the others were iconoclasts in general, and ran amuck at Catholicism itself by destroying everything that had pretension to beauty or value. The hands of such men itched for plunder, and their eyes were wonderfully quick to detect superstition in anything valuable. . . .

“The bells were generally broken up and melted for gun metal; but now and then some pious person bought one or two for a present for another church. . . . Here and there, too, some generous local benefactor bought the abbey church outright, and presented it to his parish; and oftener the townsmen paid the price for it themselves, or, if they could not afford the whole, bought the nave, or sometimes only an aisle, in which they might worship as before.”

The distress and poverty of the thousands of houseless and vagrant monks and nuns, the tribulation and humiliation of the idle priests interdicted the performance of religious services and holy offices which had long been their duty and habit, the dismay and sorrow of the devout laity viewing the spoliation of the sacred vessels and vestments of the local sanctuaries,—all brought about by the implacable resentment and uncurbed enmity of King Henry VIII. toward the Roman Pontiff and those acknowledging his spiritual authority,—constitute an episode of the history of the English Catholics extremely harrowing and memorable.

The changes instituted in the form of worship in the churches of England by Henry VIII. were, on the accession of Edward VI., in 1547, largely sanctioned by him, while others made by him were openly and defiantly opposed in many parts of the kingdom. Revolts of an exceedingly formidable character, caused by these later innovations in the form of religious worship, in Devonshire, Somersetshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire, could not be suppressed in many instances except by the use of military force. Among the refractory Catholics of the rural districts whose persistent obduracy in nonconformity cost them their lives were the Vicar of Chipping Norton (a village not far from Adderbury) and the parish priest of Bloxham (a village three miles distant from Banbury), both of whom were hanged on the steeples of the churches in which they had been accustomed to conduct services.

In this manner, it is said, "the Oxfordshire papists" were "at last reduced" to conformity, "many of them being apprehended, and some gibbeted, and their heads fastened on the walls."¹

As the field of the career of Thomas Edson of Adderbury covered a part of the scene of these memorable events, he may possibly have been made to feel some of the many distressing afflictions of the vindictive spirit of this unjust persecution that may have been directed against him be-

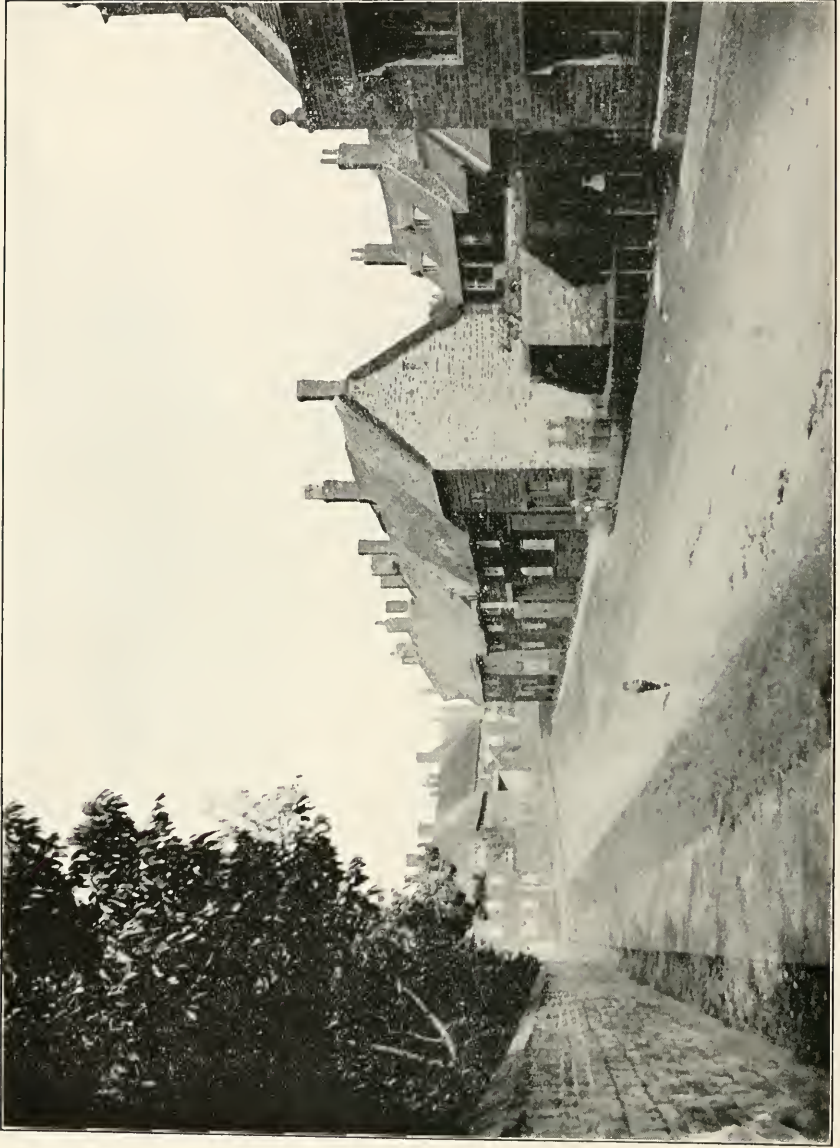


NORTH END OF STREET IN ADDERBURY
Church on west side beyond the rise of the street

cause of his unwillingness to abandon the use of a form of worship to which he had long been accustomed and to which he may have adhered until the end of his life, believing that his conscientious scruples were right and in no way subordinate to the will of a despotic king.

One of the landed gentry of Adderbury, contemporary with Thomas Edson, was John Bustard, whose immediate

¹ *A History of Oxfordshire.* By J. Meade Falkner. London, 1899. Pp. 160, 161, 162, 164, 172, 173.



DESCENT OF STREET IN ADDERBURY FROM THE NORTH
Churchyard wall on west side

ancestors were descendants of the ancient family of Bustard, of Nether-Ex, in Devonshire.¹

The surname Bustard was derived from a so-called bird, one of the largest land birds of the temperate regions of Europe, of the genus *Otis* of the ostrich species, now nearly extinct in England, and ornithologically titled *Otis tarda*.

In the fifth volume of the publications of the Harleian Society are to be found "The Visitations of the County of Oxford, taken in the years 1566 by William Harvey, Clarencieux; 1574, by Richard Lee, Porteuillis, deputy of Robert Cooke, Clarencieux; and in 1634, by John Philpott, Somerset, and William Ryley, Bluemantle, deputies of Sir John Borrough, kt., Garter, and Richard St. George, kt., Clarencieux. Together with the Gatherings of Oxfordshire, collected by Richard Lee, in 1574. Edited and annotated by William Henry Turner. London: 1871." On pages 196 and 197 are transcriptions from page 82 of the Queen's College copy of Anthony à Wood's manuscript, which appear under the heading: "(Bustard, of Adderbury.)²

"ARMS. *Argent, on a fess gules between three pellets as many bustards or, within a bordure engrailed azure* [Bustard], *impaling, Quarterly, 1 and 4. Argent, a chevron engrailed gules between three unicorns' heads erased azure.* [Horne.] *2 and 3. Ermine, three fleurs-de-lys gules within a bordure engrailed of the last.* [Fabian.]

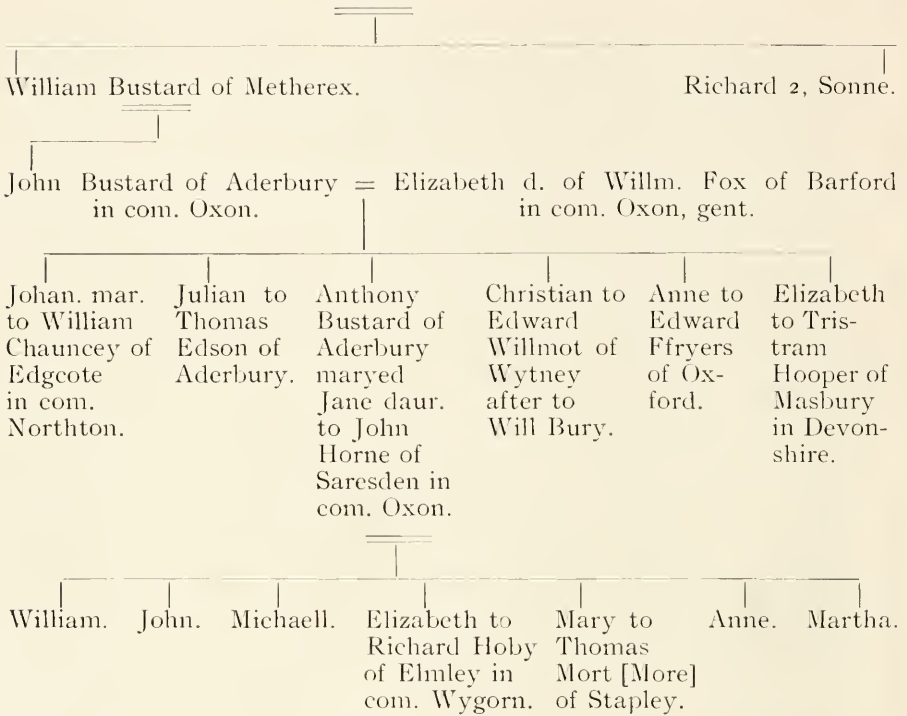
"CREST. *A bustard's head argent between two wings, between the neck and wings as many ears of corn gules.*

¹ "Nether-Ex shall be next, whose low Situation well brooks its Name, which with Up-Ex, a Hamlet at Hand, received their compound Names from the River Ex; both which, through Time, have suffered much Mutation, being in ancient Evidences written *Up-Exse* and *Nether-Exse*.—Additions to the Account of the Gentry, especially of the more Ancient of Devonshire, with their several Coates of Arms blazoned."

"*Bustarde, Gules on a Fess betw. 6 Annulets Arg. 3 Mulletts, sab.*"—*The Chorographical Description, or Survey of the County of Devon, with the City and County of Exeter.* Collected by the Travail of Tristram Risdon, of Winscot, Gent. London, 1714, pp. 162, 166. A Continuation of the Survey of Devonshire. Second volume, p. 118.

² Anthony à Wood, an English antiquary, 1632–1697.

“Tho. Bustard of Methereux [Nether Ex?] in com. Devon.



“NOTE.—In a chappelle on ye south side of the Church of Adderbury are the following inscriptions:—

“On a great stone monument.

“Near unto this tombe lyeth buried the bodyes of John Bustard, Esq̄. & Elizabeth his wife & Jane Bustard, wife to Anthony Bustard, son & heir to ye said John: which John had by the said Elizabeth xvii. children. And the said John dyed an. dom. 1534. the said Elizab. an. 1517, & ye said Jane an. 1568.

“Under the effigies of a man and woman praying:—

“This is the representation of Tho. More gent., who deceased 2 Jan. 1586, & of Mary his wife dau. to Anthony Bustard, Esq̄. who caused this monument to be made in testimony & certaine believe of ye resurrection of their bodies wch are laid hereby.

“ On a pillar at ye lower end of the church:—

“ *Neare this font lyeth Elizabeth wife to Richard Blount & John Horne, Esquiere, heir to Delaford & mother to Jane Bustard wch Elizab. died an. dom. 1554.*”

“ *Wood MSS E. 1 p. 222.*”

As is narrated in the same publication of the Harleian Society, Edward Frere, who married Anne Bustard, died on the thirteenth day of January, 1564, at Oxford, where the remains of both were interred in the old church of All Saints. The tomb of Edward Wilmot, who married Christiana Bustard, is still to be seen in the old church at Whitney, eleven miles from Oxford.

Some time after the death, in 1517, of his first wife, John Bustard married Margaret Yate, the widow of William Pope, of Deddington, a village two miles south of Adderbury. In the church of Wroxton, near Banbury, there formerly was a brass plate on a tombstone bearing the inscription: “ Here lyeth under this stone buried Margaret Bostard, wydowe, sometyme the wyl of William Pope, of Dedington, in the county of Oxford, gent., and afterward married to John Bostarde, of Atterbury, in the said county, which Willyam and Margaret were father and mother to Syr Thomas Pope, knight, and John Pope, Esquire; and the said Margaret departed out of this worlde the xxv day of August, Ano. Dni. MDLVII, and hopeth to ryse and lyve with Christe eternally.”

Besides the children named by Wood as the offspring of John Bustard, two other—Fraunce (Francis) and John—are mentioned in their father's will. In addition to the proof which it furnishes of John Bustard being a man of large property and a devout English Catholic, the quaintly written instrument affords in the variously contracted forms of some of its words a style of abbreviation much in vogue in the Middle Ages, making the decipherment of manuscriptal caligraphy of that period difficult for persons

of this, who may be unacquainted with it. As is shown in the contracted form of the surname Edson, the line passing through the stem of the d indicates that there is an omission of the letter s after that letter. Therefore, in reading a transcript of a manuscript of the period ending with the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it should be remembered that a line through the stems of such letters as d, h, and p, or over a low letter, as an i, m, and n, indicates an omission of one or more letters after each of them.

“ In the name of God amen.

“The day of the Conception of our Lady In the yere of our Lorde God a Thousande fyve hundreth thirtie and foure And in the xxvjth yere of the Reigne of our Soueraigne Lorde Kynge, Henry the eight, I, John Busterd, hole of mynde, thanked be god, bequeth my soule to almighty god my maker and to the blissed Virggyn Mary and to all the Saints in Hevyn, my body to be buried where it shall please God. And I bequeth to the moder [mother] Church of Lincoln iiij^d and to our Lady aulter [altar] of the Parishe Church of Dadyngton a paire of vestments of white damaske, the name of Sir Richard Collyns to be written upon the Crosse of the same Vestments. Item. I geve to the High aulter of the Pīshe Church of Adderbury a paire of Vestments of white damaske, the name of Sir Richard Collyns to be written upon the Crosse of the same Vestments. Item. I geve and bequeth to every aulter in the forsaid Church of Adderbury to the repaicions [reparations] and mayntegnyng of the same a quarter of malte. Item. I geve to the bells there for their maynteñnce and repaicions a quarter of malte. Item. I will that my executours do fynde or cause to be founde a preest to singe in the said Church of Adderbury by the space of a yere [and] to pray for me and my [deceased] wife and to have for his stipende or wage, that yere, eight m̄rcs.

“Item. I wille that Margaret my wife haue her joyn-

tour according to a dede [deed] to her by me made and my londes [lands] in Ilbury that I bought of my Lorde Zouche for [the] terme of her lyfe, in full satisfaction of her dowere and joyntour of all my londes and tenements. And also that she shal haue of my goodes, cattalls [chattels] or in redy money, at her choise; by this my bequest, foure score pounds, and also a doseyn siluer spones with mayden heds. And also the bedde we were wonte to lye in, with all such stufte thereto accustomed.

“Item. I geve to John Pope her sonne tenne pounds sterlinge.

“Item. I will that if my said wife take away or imbesell any parte of my goodes whiche was her husband’s, Willm Pope, or myn, more than is before expressed, that then this bequest, made to her, be voide and of noon effect.

“Item. I bequeth to Alice Pope twenty and eight pounds sterlinge, in full recompens and satisfaction of her father’s bequest. And to Jane Pope, xlvij.^{li} in full recompens, also of her father’s bequest.

“Item. I geve to Fraunce Busterd, oon [one] of my sonnes, of my goodes and cattalls or in redy money, thre score pounds sterlinge. And to him and to his heires, males of his body lawfully begotten, Ilbury Myll [Mill], my londes in Dunstone and Barton and South Newnton, in the Countie of Oxforde. And for lack of suche yssue, to remayne to the right heires of me, the said John Busterd, forever.

“Item. I bequeth to John Busterd, my yongest sonne, of my goodes, cattalls or in redy money, thre score pounds sterlinge. And to him and to his heires, males of his body lawfully begotten, my londes and tenements in Overworton and Swarforde. And for lack of suche yssue, to remayn as is aforsaid, Provided always that this my bequest of said londes and tenements vnto the aforsaid Fraunce and John, my sonnes, Except the londes in Newnton and Swarforde, which shall take effecte immediately

after my decease, according to my said bequest, doo take effecte after the death of Margaret my said wife and not afore. And that the said dede to her made by me, for her jointure, as is afore said, was to her owne vse during her lyfe.

“Item. I geve to Anne Busterd, Christian Busterd, and Elizabeth Busterd, my daughters, as yet vnmarrid, euey of them of my goodes and cattalls, thre score pounds sterlinge.

“Item. I geve to Thomas Eðon and to his wife ten pounds sterlinge.

“Item. I bequeth to Margaret Eðon, daughter of the said Thomas Eðon, twenti shepe.

“Item. I geve and bequeth vnto Antony Yate, my ſuñt [servant], xl^l

“Item. I bequeth to Anthony Busterd, my sonne, foure hundreth marks of my said goodes and cattalls, and all my apparell, whiche Anthony Busterd, I make and ordeyn to be my sole executour of this my last will and testament. To whom I geve all the residue of all my goodes and cattalls to the payment of my detts and pfourmaunce of this my last will and testament.

“Item. I will that the said Anthony Busterd, as myn executour, take the profits of all my londes and tenements, in all places except before excepted, by the space of thre yeres next after my death, towards the payment of my detts and perfourmance of this my last will and testament. And after that to haue and enjoye all the said londes and tenements to him and to his heires freely foreuer.

“Item. I will that my ferme that I dwell in here, in Adderbury, that my said wife and Anthony my said sonne shal haueand occupye it togider soo longe as she is sole widowe. And afterward that Anthony Busterd haue it alone.

“Item. I will that all my feoffees stande and be leasid of all my londes and tenements to uze thuse of the pfourmance of this my last will.

“Item. I will that Margaret my said wife and Anthony my said sonne shal haue and enjoye togider the ferme of

Milcombe and Mollyngton, which Maister Byllyng and I toke joyntly of Maister Beket for [the] term of yeres as it apperith more playnly by an Indenture therof made.

“Item. I make and ordeyn Maister William Fermer, Esquire, and James Bury, Gentlemen, the ouerseers and supusours of this my said will and testament, to whom I bequeth and geve to every of them, xl^s

“These being then present—Thomas Eðon, John Bridgewater, John Adkyns, and John Cocks.”

“Proved at Lambhith, 5th May, 1535.”¹

In *The Gentleman's Magazine* of February, 1792, is a short description of the Bustard monuments and several stanzas commemorative of the character of the once-flourishing family, written by the Rev. W. Woolston, Vicar of the parish of Adderbury, then occupying the manor-house and the church-pew of the deceased Bustards.

“Yes, once they liv'd the guardians of the place,
The village poor in them kind patrons found;
Imagination now would fondly trace
How gay their num'rous offspring smil'd around.

“Num'rous indeed? and lives there none that bears
The once respected Bustards' ancient name?
If not, awhile I'll guard the stone that rears
To late posterity their virtuous fame.”

In *The Gentleman's Magazine* of March, 1800, is the “Southeast view of Adderbury Church,” seen opposite the initial page of this chapter, as sketched, in 1797, by the same gifted clergyman, who, seated

“At ease beneath the spreading shade
Of clustering beeches on a hill's steep brow,
Where Sorbrook's silver stream glides soft below,”

heard the peeling bells in the conspicuous church tower, and wrote:

¹ Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice. Somerset House, London. Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. 24 Hogen, 1535.

"The sounds direct my eye along the vale
 To where the venerable structure rears
 Its elevated spire, which long has brav'd
 The pelting fury of the brumal storms.
 Yes, centuries of years the pile has stood,
 And mark'd the place where generations sleep
 Which once possess'd the spot which now we tread,
 Beneath their grassy hillocks quite forgotten;
 Except, indeed, where many a stone, uprear'd,
 Tell us who lies below. Memorial frail!
 For, oh! not one in ten scarce fifty years
 Can number from its date, and hardly one
 Has seen the seasons roll a cent'ry round.
 Now busy Fancy turns to other days,
 And raises forms from long-forgotten dust,
 Enquiring when, and who, with pious zeal,
 Laid the foundations of these holy walls.

.
 Around the venerable walls are seen
 Fair records spread, plain tablets some, and some
 With various sculpture deck'd, and marshall'd arms.
 Here on the right the antient Bustards rest;
 A family, the village pride and boast,
 Wide-branching once with names of fair renown,
 Now quite extinct, not one remains to guard
 These monumental stones from sad decay.
 The floor presents the eye with many a name
 No more remember'd, save that here they rest;
 The stone informs us who, and when they dy'd:
 While numbers more, some e'en engrav'd on brass,
 Th' obliterating hand of Time has ras'd."

The causes leaving the names of the nine other children of John and Elizabeth Fox Bustard

"To dumb forgetfulness a prey,"

were probably the same that abandoned to oblivion the names of the other offspring of Thomas and Juliana Bustard Edson. Some of the Edsons, living later in Warwickshire, in the same century, may have been of the number of their immediate descendants.



ADDERBURY CHURCH, LOOKING SOUTHEASTWARD FROM THE SOBROOK

The gift of twenty sheep to Margaret Edson by her grandfather, John Bustard, is highly suggestive that it was a token of remembrance that she bore the baptismal name of his second wife.

Thomas Edson's alliance by marriage with the Bustard family indicates that, besides being well born, he was also a man of considerable fortune. That no information is extant of his personal possession of a coat-of-arms, seems referable to various causes, the first and most evident of which was the destruction of all the contemporary sources from which that knowledge might have been derived. The second, and no less reasonable, was that he, as well as his immediate descendants, cared little for the distinction which the possession of the ancestral arms conferred. The third, and highly probable one, was the remissness of the heralds, when visiting Oxfordshire, to ascertain whether he was in possession of arms to which he was legitimately entitled.

Describing the character of the searches made by the heralds in order to register the names of the nobility and gentry having the right to display armorial emblems, Falkner writes:

“In the same year [1566] that Elizabeth paid her first visit to Oxford, a heraldic visitation of the county was commenced. The visitation was undertaken generally throughout England about the same time, and consisted in one of the ‘Kings of Arms’ making a circuit through a county, visiting the various houses and churches, noting what arms appeared in painted windows or on sepulchral monuments, and afterwards holding a sort of court in each principal town to which the neighbouring gentry were summoned to ‘give proof of their arms.’ If the proof of their right to such arms was satisfactory, they had to pay a substantial fee for using them. If the arms were ‘false,’ they were broken or defaced. There is more than a suspicion that the collection of fees was the point to which most attention was

paid, and visitations were no doubt a convenient way of raising a little money.

“Such a visitation was begun through Oxfordshire in 1566, by William Harvey, Clarencieux King of Arms; but he never lived to complete it. His work was taken up by Richard Lee, Portcullis and deputy to Robert Cooke, Clarencieux, and by him finished in 1574.

“In this visitation much valuable and authentic information is given as to Oxfordshire society towards the close of the sixteenth century. There are the names of one hundred and twenty ‘commoner’ families recorded as entitled to bear arms, and in most cases a pedigree is given. But the record is by no means an exhaustive one, and the first thing that strikes any one in looking through the list is the absence of the names of certain great, though untitled, county families which ought undoubtedly to be there. The explanation of these omissions is easy. So far from there being any eagerness to register as gentry bearing arms, most people seem to have tried to avoid putting in an appearance, in hope of saving their fee. Every excuse was made use of, and many who found no excuse simply absented themselves on the chance of ultimately escaping notice. The University claimed exemption from the visitation altogether, under privileges given them by Henry the Fourth and Henry the Eighth. Thus the visitation, though of great value as regards the families mentioned, is not of the same value as showing that a family did not exist or did not bear arms, because no mention of it is here found. . . .

“A comparison of the 1634 list of gentry with that of 1574 gives rise to some curious questions. One would have expected that in the interval of sixty years of quiet the numbers of the country gentry would have increased, or at least remained stationary. Yet the visitation lists of 1634 only show ninety-seven families, as against one hundred and twenty in 1574. Again, we should expect to find in

the main the same names in the register of 1634 that appeared in 1574. Two generations must, of course, make a certain change. Some old families would have moved or become extinct; some new families would have filled the houses thus made empty; but there is certainly nothing in the period to lead us to expect abnormal change. The bloody wars of the Roses had been over a century, the wild religious vicissitudes of the Reformation were quieting down, the havoc of the Civil War had not begun, and yet out of the one hundred and twenty families that were recorded in 1574 we find only twenty-nine reappearing in the smaller muster-roll of 1634. After making every allowance for laxity or negligence on the part of the heralds, and for evasion on the part of the gentry, these figures are still remarkable, and the great change in the constitution of the county society is very difficult to account for. It was due in some measure perhaps to the rigour of the penal statutes against Catholics, but probably much more to the commercial activity which was so marked a feature of Elizabeth's reign, and which led many of the smaller gentry to sell their lands and embark the proceeds in mercantile enterprises."

The pedigrees of families living in England in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries would no doubt be less obscure had the ecclesiastics in charge of the different congregations begun earlier the registration of the names of all the persons baptized, married, and buried by them. It was, however, not done until Thomas Cromwell, the Vicar-general of Henry VIII., on the twenty-ninth of September, 1538, imposed that duty on them by the following enjoinder:

"That you and every person, vicar, or curate within this Diocese, for every Church keep one Book or Register, wherein he shall write the day and year of every Wedding, Christening, and Burial, made within your parish for your time, and so every man succeeding you likewise, and also

there insert every person's name, that shall be so wedded, christened, and buried. And for the safe keeping of the same Book, the parish shall be bound to provide of their common charges one sure coffer, with two locks and keys, whereof the one to remain with you, and the other with the Wardens of every parish wherein the said Book shall be laid up, which Book you shall every Sunday take forth, and in the presence of the said Wardens, or one of them, write and record in the same, all the Weddings, Christenings, and Burials made the whole week afore, and that done, to lay up the Book in the said coffer as afore; and every time that the same shall be omitted, the party that shall be in the fault thereof, shall forfeit to the said Church iij^s iiij^d, to be employed on the reparation of the said Church." ¹

In 1830, there were 812 church registers extant in England, having entries beginning with the year 1538. The register of Adderbury Church, with initial entries of a later date, discloses no baptisms, marriages, nor deaths of persons surnamed Edson.

The marriage of Thomas Edson and Juliana, daughter of John and Elizabeth Fox Bustard, of which no date appears extant, was blessed, as is known, by the birth of two children—a son, Robert, and a daughter, Margaret. The date of the death of the father, Thomas Edson of Adderbury, is unknown. The inference that he died about the year 1540 seems deducible from the supposition that his life possibly compassed a period of three score years. The dates of the deaths of his wife and daughter, for a similar want of knowledge, must be left unpublished.

¹ The publications of the Harleian Society, London, 1871, vol. v., pp. 45, 138, 140, 151, 152, 196, 197; *The Gentleman's Magazine*, London, 1792, vol. lxii., part 1., pp. 111, 112; vol. lxx., part 1., pp. 209, 210; *History of Oxfordshire* (Falkner), pp. 195, 196, 197, 198; *The History of Parish Registers in England*, by John Southerden Burn, second edition, London, 1862, pp. 17, 18.

Chapter II

The Edsons of Fillongley

1494-1640

WARWICKSHIRE, on the northwest side of Oxfordshire, is bounded on the north by Staffordshire and Derbyshire, on the northeast by Leicestershire, on the southeast by Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, on the southwest by Gloucestershire, and on the west by Worcestershire. The county is irregularly shaped. Its greatest length from north to south is fifty miles, with a breadth of thirty-three. Its total area is 579,885 acres. In 1891, its population was 838,030; the number of inhabited houses being 172,336.

Camden described Warwickshire about three centuries ago as "divided into two parts, the *Feldon* and *Woodland* [or *Arden*], that is into a plain champain and a woody country; which parts, the Avon, running crookedlie from north-east to south-west, doth after a sort, sever one from the other."

The climate is mild and healthy. The soil, consisting of various loams, marls, gravels and clays, is generally fertile, and yields excellent crops of wheat, barley, oats, rye, beans, peas, turnips, and potatoes. The shire is rich in pasture land. It has fine orchards and market gardens, and is diversified by large and attractive forests.

As registered in the *Return of Owners of Land in Warwickshire*, in 1873, the population of the county was then 51,516, "possessing 54,022 acres, with a gross annual

rental of £3,318,304, or about £6, 2s. 8d. per acre all over. Of these owners of land only 4,622 had one acre and upwards. The persons severally possessed of more than five thousand acres: Lord Leigh, 14,892 acres; Lord Willoughby de Broke, 12,621; Earl of Aylesford, 12,159; Marquis of Hereford, 10,282; Earl of Craven, 8,448; Earl of Warwick, 8,263; Sir N. W. Throckmorton, 7,619; Duke of Buccleuch, 6,881; H. T. Lucy, 5,766; W. S. Dugdale, 5,689; Sir G. R. Philips, 5,397; and C. N. Newdegate, 5,318."

Among its most eminent inhabitants may be mentioned William Shakespeare, John Rogers (the English divine and martyr), Sir William Dugdale (antiquarian), the Rev. Doctor Samuel Parr (critic), Doctor Joseph Priestley (chemist and physicist), Matthew Boulton (civil engineer), John Baskerville (letter-founder and printer), Walter Savage Landor (author), and Marian Evans ("George Eliot").

The county contains 251 civil parishes, with parts of twelve others. Hemlingford Hundred, in the northern part of the shire, includes the division known as Coleshill, in which are the villages of Fillongley, Meriden, Nether Whitacre, Over Whitacre, and Shustoke. The hundred also embraces the division bearing the name of Solihull, in which are the villages of Berkswell and Knowle. Knightlow Hundred, in the southeastern part of the county, includes the Kirby division, in which lie the villages of Arley and Bedworth.

Bedworth, five miles northeast of Coventry, and Berkswell, six miles west of that famous city, (the one titled "*Bedeworde*" in *Domesday Book*, and the other "*Berchewelle*"), were in the sixteenth century the seats of several generations of Edsons, of whom more hereafter.

Fillongley, which in *Domesday Book* is variously titled *Felinglei*, *Filinglei*, *Filinglie*, *Filingelic*, and *Filunger*, is described in a recently published directory of Warwickshire as "a considerable parish and village, with farms very much scattered, about one and a quarter miles south from

the Arley station of the Birmingham and Nuneaton section of the Midland Railway, six miles northwest from Coventry, and the same distance east from Coleshill, sixteen from Birmingham, and ninety-eight from London." The parish is further described as being in the "Coventry county court district, rural deanery of Atherstone, arch-deanery of Coventry, and diocese of Worcester."

At the time of the compilation of *Domesday Book* (1086), particular tracts of land, then lying within the bounds of the parish of Fillongley, were divided among a number of Saxon and Norman subjects of William the Conqueror.

The names of the Saxons thus honored were Alsi, Lewin and Alwin, "probably noblemen in the court of Edward the Confessor, who joined William the Conqueror on his landing, or victory at Hastings (1066), and whom it was not safe to dispossess of their property."

"Another grantee was Robert Dispensator, William the Conqueror's steward, and brother of the great Norman captain, Urso d'Abetôt. Robert held lands besides in Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire.

"A tract lying in the parish of Fillongley was granted to the Bishop of Coutances, who held land in no less than fifteen counties. He was Geoffrey, a Norman, and was elected to the See of Coutances in 1048. He was a fighting bishop, fought at Hastings, and served William in several other battles against the English and Danes."

A section of land "identified with Old Fillongley, was assigned to the abbey of Coventry. This abbey was founded by Earl Leofric and his wife the Countess Godiva, about the year 1043. Here they placed a prior and twenty-four monks of the Benedictine order, and endowed it with twenty-four manors. In 1541, Henry VIII. directed that the noble abbey should be levelled with the ground."

The site of Fillongley Church, being a part of the tract given to Robert Dispensator, the following translation of the

paragraph in *Domesday Book* particularizes the antique features of the gift. "The same Robert owns half a hide in Filingelei. The arable employs two ploughs. There are four villeins with a priest, and one bordar; they have two ploughs. There is one acre of meadow wood two miles long and one mile broad. It was worth ten shillings, now twenty."

The chief information relating to the priest, residing at Fillongley eight centuries ago for the purpose of enlightening its few inhabitants regarding the salvation of their souls, discloses the first practical endeavor probably for making the locality a parish in which to erect a building consecrated to the service and worship of God. To the missionary zeal of that obscure evangelist and of the devout men his successors, no doubt, can be ascribed the founding in the thirteenth century of the unpretentious church, the original masonry of which is partly incorporated with the present foundation and walls of the reconstructed and enlarged edifice.

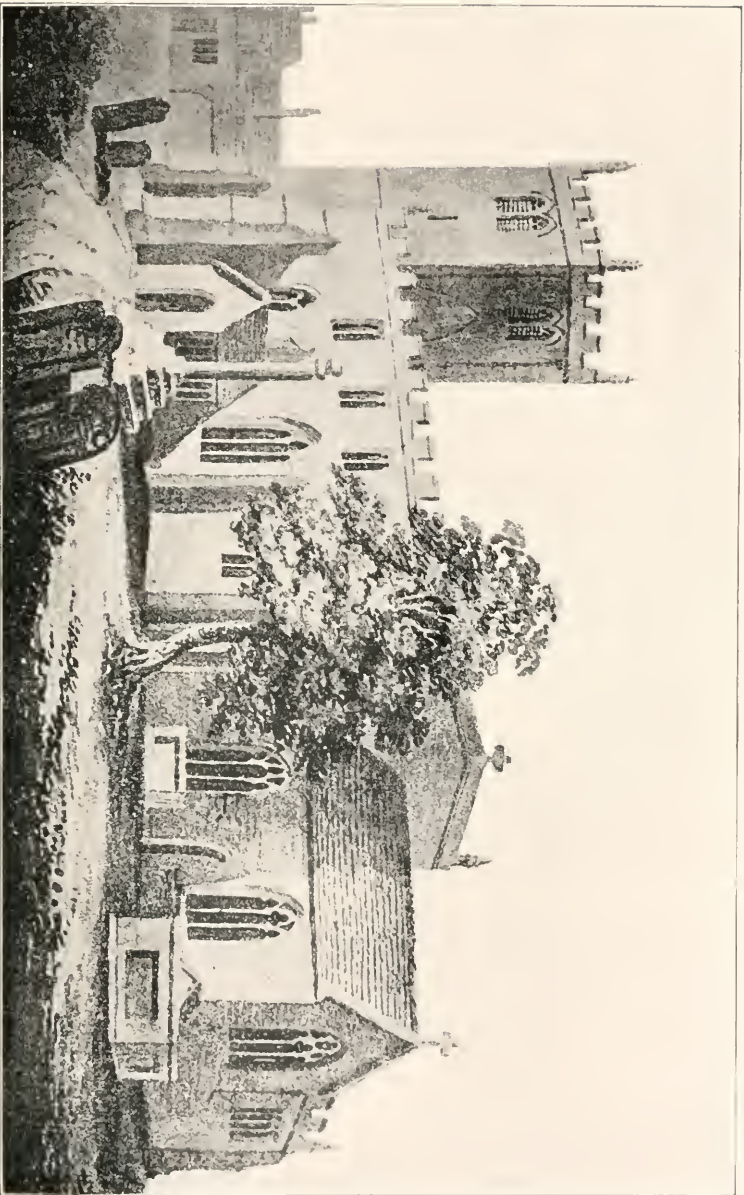
"In Henry the Third's time [1216-1272], eight shillings per annum were assigned by one Nicholas Burbache, clerk, (out of certain lands lying in this parish), for the maintenance of a lamp burning in the body of the church to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, the said annuity having been appointed to be disposed of by Sir Thomas de Hastings, who for the souls of his ancestors gave to the same Nicholas Burbache those lands, out of which it was so charged, and upon that condition."

As related by another well-informed local historian, the church in Fillongley, "dedicated to Saint Mary and All Saints, was, in 1291, valued at sixteen marks. The advowson [right of nominating a clergyman to the charge of the church whenever vacant] was sold by Laurence de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, to William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon. In 1336, he gave the advowson to his newly-founded priory of Maxstoke. The prior and canons of Maxstoke

soon obtained an appropriation of it, and it continued in the possession of that religious house until the time of the Dissolution [in the reign of Henry the Eighth].”

In the Solihull division of Hemlingford Hundred is the village of Knowle, or Knoll, “situate, as the name implies, on elevated ground,” about eight miles southeast of Adderbury. There, near the end of the reign of Richard the Third (1377-1399), Walter Cooke, a canon of Lincoln, erected at his own expense, for the benefit of his own and his parent’s souls, a chapel, about a mile distant from the parish church, with a tower and steeple, and bells, dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, Saint Laurence the Martyr, and Saint Anne. In 1403, the fourth year of the reign of Henry IV., he founded for it a chantry of one or two priests. In the fourteenth year of the same king’s reign, he procured a license from His Majesty to institute a “fraternitie and gild” within the chapel, of which, it is said, “many noble and celebrated men became members.” From the year 1451 to 1535, when the guild was suppressed, not a few of the principal inhabitants of Fillongley joined it. In 1451, the last entry on the list of “brothers and sisters” of the fraternity is: “*Joñes Tede de Filongley et Alicia uxor ejus*”; (John Tede of Fillongley and Alice his wife.) In 1464, “*Thomas Grene de Fynyngley, Thomas Avery de eodem villa Robertus Whatcock, Joñes Benett*”; (Thomas Green of Fillongley, Thomas Avery of the same village, Robert Whatcock, John Bennett). In 1494: “*Henricus Edson et Katina ux: eĩ: de Filongley*”; (Henry Edson and Katharine his wife, of Fillongley). In 1523: “*Thomas edson t alicia ux: eĩ*”; (Thomas Edson and Alice, his wife).

The chapel is described as “a building of much beauty, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. In the south wall are four stone seats or recesses, beneath embellished arches; and farther on towards the east, is a handsome *piscina*. On the north side are seven stalls, and on the south side, six. . . . Over the rood loft are some



FILLONGLEY CHURCH. FRONTPIECE OF THE "TRANSCRIPT OF THE OLD PARISH REGISTER"
From a sepia drawing (executed about the year 1821) in the very valuable Aylesford Collection in the Birmingham Free Library

remains of paintings, comprising whole lengths of the Virgin Mary, another saint, and an angel. Some of the pews are embellished with carvings, and in the windows are still preserved some fragments of ancient painted glass."

The entry upon the roll of members of Saint Anne's Guild at Knowle, in 1494, of the names of Henry and Katharine Edson of Fillongley, reveals the fact that not only Adderbury, in Oxfordshire, but also Fillongley, in Warwickshire, less than thirty-five miles distant one from the other, were places of the contemporaneous abode of the earliest identifiable ancestors of the Edsons in England. If Henry Edson were the brother of Thomas Edson of Adderbury, the inferences, that Thomas, the son of Henry and Katharine Edson, had been so named in honor of his father's father, and that Thomas Edson of Adderbury had also been so christened in honor of his father, seem evidently to be well grounded.

As at Adderbury, so at Fillongley, the inhabitants were witnessing with approbation, dissatisfaction, or unconcern, the legalized acts to eradicate the evidences of the ascribed right of the Pope to control the religious belief and worship of the people of England. The most conspicuous effigies, emblems, and decorations in the parish church of Fillongley, expressive of the recent sway of papal authority, were either removed or mutilated, and the old forms of worship altered in various ways to further the extinction of it. Conforming, as most of the inhabitants were, to the rites and ceremonies of the Catholic Church, as their ancestors had been for centuries, it was difficult for them to turn abruptly to the observance of the new. Habit and prejudice governed them as they govern the people of the present day, and it was neither singular nor remarkable that they should be unwilling and slow to abandon practices which certainly had then the approval of their consciences.

In the sixth year of His Majesty's reign (1547-1553), King Edward VI. ordered commissioners to go to the differ-

ent parishes and examine the plate, jewels, and other furnishings that were in the churches. "The visitors were to leave in every church one or two chalices of silver, with linen for the communion-table and for surplices, but to bring the best of the church-furniture into the king's treasury; and to sell the linen copes, altar-cloths, etc., and give the money to the poor."

The inventory taken of the plate, linen, and vestments possessed by the Fillongley Church, in 1553, enumerated the following property:

"Two chalices, iiiij^{or} bells, a hand-bell, and a sacring-bell. A pix, coper-gilt. A crosse, wth half of the staf cop^r gilt. A cope, velvet. V vestments, with iiiij^{or} albes, all silke saving ooñ w^{ch} is saye. Viii Altar clothes lynen. Iij^{or} Towells. Ii old pillowes. Iij corporys cases. Iii valens wth iii black upper clothes hanging before th' altars. Two candlesticks latyn [a kind of brass or bronze]. Ooñ crosse-clothe silke. V bany clothes. Ii strea^ms, a paire of cruets, a pax latyn."

Richard, the son of Thomas Edson of Adderbury, was at that time living at Fillongley, and, by his wife Agnes, had three children, two daughters and one son. The daughters, Christiana and Anne, bore the baptismal names of their aunts, Christiana and Anne Bustard, and Thomas, the son, that of his grandfather.

Richard Edson was a prosperous cultivator of a farm lying near the village, belonging probably to a manorial lord. He was of that class of agriculturists known as yeomanry, who were severally termed husbandmen, freeholders, and farmers. "Men of free Nature and good Condition," as remarked by Risdon, "some of which have Inheritance of their own; others hold Land by Lease for a Rent, of whom many possess fair Estates, keep up good Hospitality, and afford the very Stranger hearty Welcome. For his Rent, which he payeth, being small, . . . he liveth as merrily as doth his Landlord, but according to

his Calling. His chief Travels [labors] be in Matters of Husbandry, whether it be by Grazing, buying and selling of Cattle, or Tillage, wherein they are found nowhere more industrious and skilful in suiting every Soil with Improvement answerable to its Quality."

"This kind of Life, I mean Husbandry, the Romans have so much praised, that Cicero affirmeth nothing to be meeter for a free-born Man than it, as being the Nurse of all Arts; other Sciences being only Helpers and Attendants to it."

Most of the extant particulars relating to the life of Richard Edson are to be found in his last will and testament, proved, on the 20th of April, 1559, "by Agnes, the Relict," in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, now preserved in the office of Probate, at Litchfield.

The expression in the unique instrument, "I bequeathe my soule to Almyghty god, or [our] blessed lady Sainct Mary, & to all the holy company of heaven," evidently indicates that he was a devout Catholic and held to the faith in which he had been reared.

"In the name of God Amen, the eighte daye of August, in the yeare of o^r Lorde god, a thowsand fyeve hundreth fyevely & eighte, I, Richard Edson of Fyllingley, sycke in body but not wthstandyng, thankes be geven to Almighty god, hole and perfecte, of wrytt mynde & reason, Doo make my testament conq[er]nyng my last Will in maner & forme followyng: ffryste I bequeath my soule to Almighty god, o^r blessed lady Saincte Mary, & to all the holy company of heaven, & my body to be buryed wthin the church or churchyarde of all Halowes in Fyllongley.

"Itm. I bequeathe to my too doughters Chrystyan & Anne eithere of them twenty poundes a pece. Furthermore, I brought howme, honestly my will pformed, & my debtes paid, all the resydewe of my goodes, moveable & unmoveable, I geave & bequeathe to Annas my wife whome I make my sole executryex, & also I ordeyn & make

Thomas Edson my sone & Ric. Walker ovseers [overseers] to see thys my last Will pformed, & I geve to the saide Ric. for his paynetakyng thre shylynges & foure pence. Thyes beyng wytteneses: S^r Raffe Brooke curate at Astely, Thomas Walker & John Smythe."

The inventory of Richard Edson's possessions is an instructive document that not only designates the different kinds of household furniture and utensils of a yeoman's home three hundred and forty-three years ago, but also those of live-stock and agricultural implements owned by a well-to-do English farmer of that period.

"An Inventory, taken the seconde day of January, in the yeare of our Lord God 1559, of the goodes & cattals of Richard Edson, late of Fillongley, in the countie of Warwicke, husbandman, deceased, as enseweth:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| “ Imp ^r mis, the hanginges in the hall, w th | } vs. |
| ij bankers [cushions or seat-covers] | |
| Itm. a table w th a forme [bench], a | } ijs. |
| chayre, iij stooles | |
| Itm. 1 feather bedd, ij matters [mat- | } iij li, vis. viijd. |
| tresses], ij other beddes w th all
their cov[er]ing, blanketts, sheets
& twillyes [twills]. | |
| Itm. iiij payer of flexen [flaxen] sheets. | xxs. |
| Itm. iiij payer of canvas sheets. | xiijs. viijd. |
| Itm. iij coffers [chests]. | xiijs. iijd. |
| Itm. xxti peces of pewter, a bacen [bason] | } xxs. |
| of Latten [brass or bronze], ij can- | |
| del-stickes of Latten, ij saultes
[saltcellars] of pewter | |
| Itm. iiij pottes, iij panss of brasse, ij | } xls. |
| kettells, ij skylletts w th skymer. | |
| Itm. a broche [spit], a payer of cobbards | } iiijs. |
| [spiders], a payer of potte hookes, a | |
| brunde [brand] Irne, a gridirne,
beinge of Irne | |

Itm. for hempe & flaxe	vis. viijd.
Itm. for hay, & corne [wheat].	iiij <i>ti</i> .
Itm. iiij kyne, i heyford [heifer]	iiij <i>ti</i>
Itm. ij steres [steers], ij heyfords	liijs viijd
Itm. v calves	xxvis viiid.
Itm. xxxi sheepe	xls.
Itm. ij pigges	iijs. iiijd.
Itm. ij mares, a colte	xls.
Itm. a wayne [a wagon], a plowghe, an oxe harrowe, ij yokes, & a tewe [a chain], ij ladders.	} xls.
Itm. a fatte [vat or tub], iiij loomes, iiij payles, a kymbnell [tub], a lan- thorne [lantern], w th trenches & spoones of wood	
Itm. a coke [cock] & iiij henns	xijd.
Itm. his apparrell	xxs.
Sum̄ totalis	xxvij <i>ti</i> ijs. vijd.

“Praysers: Thomas Walker, senior, Barnabye Holbach, sen^r., Ric. Walker, John Smythe.”

The earthly career of Richard Edson began most likely not long after Henry VIII.'s accession to the throne of England in 1509, and terminated shortly after the death of Queen Mary I. on the seventeenth of November, 1558. Five years before Richard Edson's death, the changes instituted by Henry VIII. and Edward VI. in the forms of public worship were speedily set aside by Queen Mary, who made use of the same power to turn back into its former channels the observance in England of the rites and ceremonies of the Catholic Church. “This was begun by proclamations and orders of council, till her majesty could procure a parliament that would repeal King Edward's laws for religion, which she quickly found means to accomplish. It is strange indeed,” as said by Neal, “that when there were but seven or eight peers that opposed the laws made in favour of the Reformation under King Edward, the same

House of Lords should nearly all turn Papists in the reign of Queen Mary; but as to the Commons, it was less wonderful, because the members of it were changeable, and the Court took care to model anew the magistrates in the cities and corporations before the elections came on, so that hardly one was left that was not a Roman Catholic."

The bill passed by Parliament in November, 1553, repealed "in general all the late statutes relating to religion." "Severe punishments were decreed against such persons as should interrupt the public service, as should abuse the holy sacrament, or break down altars, crucifixes or crosses. It was made felony for any number of persons above twelve, to assemble together with an intention to alter the religion established by law."

Queen Mary "was perfectly blind in matters of religion, her conscience being absolutely directed by the Pope and her confessor, who encouraged her in all the cruelties that were exercised against the Protestants, assuring her that she was doing God and his church good service."

The registration of baptisms, marriages, and burials was, as ordered in 1538 by the vicar-general of Henry VIII., begun that year by the Rev. John Nicholson, vicar of Fillongley Church. The entries in the Church Register were originally written in Latin. The person who was baptized was registered, being a male, *baptizatus fuit*; being a female, *baptizata fuit*. They who were married, *nupti fuerunt*. He that was buried, *sepultus fuit*; she, *sepulta fuit*.

The first presentation of the surname Edson, in the old register of the parish church of Saint Mary and All Saints, in Fillongley, is in the entry in the year of the Lord, 1556, on the twenty-first of March, when John (Johannes) Edson, son of John Edson, was baptized:

"Anno Dni. 1556.

"Martii 21. Johes Edsun filius Johes Edsun, bapt. fuit."

TRANSCRIPT
OF THE
Old Parish Register
OF
THE PARISH CHURCH
OF
S. Mary and All Saints
FILLONGLEY

COUNTY WARWICK

1538—1653

WITH

A short Account of the Church, the Bells, Monuments, &c.

FIFTY-SEVEN COPIES (ONLY) PRINTED BY SUBSCRIPTION

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W. HENRY ROBINSON

STEAM PRINTING WORKS

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FAC-SIMILE OF THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE "TRANSCRIPT OF THE OLD PARISH REGISTER"

The marriage of Thomas Overton and Elizabeth Edson, on the thirtieth of October, 1558, is entered:

“*Anno Dni. 1558.*

“*Octobris 30. Thomas Overton et Elizabeth Edsun, nupt. fuer.*”

The burial, on the twenty-fourth of February, 1560, of Isabella, wife of Thomas Edson, is entered:

“*Anno Dni. 1560.*

“*Februarii 24. Isabella uxor Thome Edsun, sepult. fuit.*”

The baptism of Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Edson, on the twenty-first of August, 1562, is registered:

“*Anno Dni. 1562.*

“*Augusti 21. Elizabeth Edsun filia Thome Edsun, bapt. fuit.*”

Thomas Edson, the father of Elizabeth, baptized on the twenty-first of August, 1562, was the son of Richard Edson, who died in 1558. He and his wife Ellen were the parents of this daughter and of four sons: Nicholas, Richard, Thomas, and William. All are mentioned by the father in his last will and testament, except William, who lived only twenty-one days after his baptism on the first of November, 1576.

Thomas Edson appears to have taken the same farm which his father was cultivating at the time of his decease. Three years later, as it seems, he took unto himself the wife, who, in 1562, bore him Elizabeth, their first child. The responsibilities of a married man were, therefore, assumed by him in the third year of Queen Elizabeth's reign (1558-1603), in which also he ended his earthly life in 1588.

The people of the rural districts of England, no less than those living in the cities, apparently learned with a natural contrariety of feeling, either of joy or displeasure, or unconcern, the character of Queen Elizabeth's behests regarding

the religious belief and form of worship that they would be required to accept and observe.

As is related, "the public religion continued for a time in the same posture the queen found it; the Popish priests kept their livings, and went on celebrating mass. None of the Protestant clergy who had been ejected in the last reign were restored; and orders were given against all innovations without public authority. Though the queen had complied with the changes in her sister's reign, it was well known she was a favourer of the Reformation; but her majesty proceeded with great caution for fear of raising disturbances in her infant government. No prince ever came to the crown under greater disadvantages. The Pope had pronounced her illegitimate; upon which the Queen of Scots put in her claim to the Crown. All the bishops and clergy of the present establishment were her declared enemies. The nation was at war with France, and the treasury exhausted; the queen, therefore, by the advice of her privy council, resolved to make peace with her neighbours as soon as possible, that she might be more at leisure to proceed in her intended alterations of religion, which, though very considerable, were not so entire as the best and most learned Protestants of those times desired. The queen inherited the spirit of her father and affected a great deal of magnificence in her devotions, as well as in her court. She was fond of many of the old rites and ceremonies in which she had been educated. She thought that her brother [Edward VI.] had stripped religion too much of its ornaments; and made the doctrines of the church too narrow in some points. It was therefore with difficulty that she was prevailed on to go the length of King Edward's reformation."

By an act of Parliament in 1559, no person could be punished for exercising the religion prevailing in the last year of King Edward's reign. It was also enacted that all persons in any public employment, whether civil or ecclesi-

astical, should be "obliged to take an oath in recognition of the queen's right to the crown, and of her supremacy in all causes ecclesiastical and civil, on penalty of forfeiting all their promotions in the church, and of being declared incapable of holding any public office."

In 1559, Queen Elizabeth enjoined upon her loving subjects obedience to fifty-three articles, of which the following may here be presented as exemplifying their character

"1. All ecclesiastical persons shall see that the act of supremacy be duly observed, and shall preach four times a year against yielding obedience to foreign jurisdiction. 2. They shall not set forth or extol the dignity of any images, relics, or miracles, but shall declare the abuses of the same, and that all grace is from God. 3. Parsons shall preach once every month upon works of faith, mercy, and charity, commanded by God; and shall inform the people that works of man's devising, such as pilgrimages, setting up of candles, praying upon beads, *et cct.*, are offensive to God. 6. Within three months every parish shall provide a Bible, and within twelve months Erasmus's paraphrase upon the Gospels in English, and set them up in their several churches. 20. Holy days shall be strictly observed, except in harvest time after divine service. 23. Also, they [the curates] shall take away, utterly extinguish, and destroy all shrines, coverings of shrines; all tables, candle-sticks, trindals (tapers), and rolls of wax, pictures, paintings, and all other monuments of feigned miracles, pilgrimages, idolatry, and superstition, so that there remain no memory of the same in walls, glass windows, or elsewhere, within their churches and houses; preserving, nevertheless, or repairing, both the walls and glass windows; and they shall exhort all their parishioners to do the like in their several houses. 46. Overseers in every parish shall see that all the parishioners duly resort to church; and shall present defaulters to the ordinary. These injunctions were

ordered to be read in the churches once every quarter of a year."¹

Thomas Edson, as evidenced by the introductory clause of his last will and testament, was a devout English churchman, wisely regulating his life in accordance with his loyalty as a subject of Her Majesty the Queen. He, as would seem, martially served Her Majesty in one or more of the wars which England waged during the period of his manhood. The two swords and the dagger which he possessed, together with the saddle, bridle, the boots and spurs, seem to verify the tradition long current with the Edsons in England that there was never a sovereign of that country whom one or more of their ancestors had not served in a war as a mounted soldier.

His last will and testament, as that of his father, is a quaint and valuable memorial of his day and generation:

"In the name of God Amen, the xiiiith day of Marche, in the yere of our lorde god, 1586, I, Thomas Edsun of Fillongley, in the countie of Warwicke, husbandman, beyng sycke in bodie but whole in mynde and of good and perfect remembrance, do ordayne and make this my last wyll and testament in manner and forme followyng: Fyrst I bequeth my soole unto Almightye God, trustyng to the merites of Jesus Christ to be saved and my bodye to be buryed where yt [it] shall pleyse god and my friends.

"Also I gyve and bequethe unto Richarde my sonne iiij poundes. Also I gyve and bequethe unto Thomas my sonne iij poundes. Also I gyve and bequethe unto my doughter Elizabeth x poundes. Also I gyve and bequethe unto Nicholas my sonne all my yron ware that belongeth to husbandry with waynes [wagons], plowes, harrowes, yokes, tewes [chains], culter [coultter, front part of a plow], shares [blades of a plow], wayne rope, nagers [augers], gowges [gouges], chesylls [chisels], a mattoche, and a spade.

¹ *The History of the Puritans or Protestant Nonconformists.* By Daniel Neal. London, 1837. Vol. i., pp. 85, 86, 88, 89, 103, 104, 105, 106.

“Also I gyve and bequethe unto Thomas Melodye *xiiid.*

“The rest of my goodes unbequethed, my dettes payd, and my bodye honestly brought whome [home], I gyve and bequethe them unto Elyn my wyffe and Nicholas my sonne, whome I make Executors of this my last Wyll and Testament, and I wyll that Thomas Oughton, Martyn Holbache, and John Farmer shal be overseers of this my last will & testament, and I wyll that they shall have for theyr paynes-takyng, every one of them, *xiiid.* These beyng witnesses: Thomas Gilbert, vicar, Martyn Holbache, and Thomas Oughton, with other *ms.*”

The instrument was proved on the twelfth of February, 1587-8, by both executors.

The Rev. Thomas Gilbert, Vicar of Fyllongley church, was in charge of it from the fourteenth of March, 1586, to 1608.

The property of which Thomas Edson was possessed at the time of his death, in 1588, was in part that which he had inherited from his parents, and the remainder that which he had later acquired. The items of the inventory, as also do the names of several apartments of his home, afford good grounds for the inference that he was a man of considerable wealth and importance, besides a yeoman of intelligence and ability.

“A trewe Inventory of the goods & cattells of Thomas Edsune of Fyllyngley, in the county of Warwyck, husbandman, late dessessed—taken & praysed by Martin Holbache of Fyllyngley, Wyllyam Walkar of the same, barnabe brereley of the same, taken & praysed the *xviii*th day of Marche in the *xxix* yeare of oure soveran Lady, Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England Fra. & Ire., queene.

“Imps. in the haule [hall], two tabls wi th	
fourmes [seats] & benches	<i>xix. viiid.</i>
Itm. <i>iiij</i> chears, <i>iiij</i> stooles	<i>iijs. iiijd.</i>
Itm. the paynted clothes [hangings] in the hawle,	<i>iijs. iiijd.</i>

Itm. the copbord [cupboard] in the hawle,	xs.
Itm. in brase: fowre pots, iiij panes, five kettels, one dobnet, two chafyng dysseys, one scymer,	iiij <i>ti</i> .
Itm. foure candlestykes	iiij <i>s</i> .
Itm. in pewter: xi platters, vii pewter dysseys, vi saucers, two salts, one pot, vi porringers, vi tin spones,	xxi <i>js</i>
Itm. to [two] pewter bols [bowls],	vii <i>jd</i> .
Itm. in the parlor: one cupboard, too standyng beds	xxv <i>s</i> .
Itm. vi cofars [chests] and one forme	xx <i>s</i> .
Itm. payntel clothes [hangings] in the parlor,	ii <i>js</i> .
Itm. foure bedhylllyngs [coverings], one blanket, fowre twyles [twills]	xxv <i>s</i> .
Itm. too feather beds, foure matres, fyve bolstars, iiij pyllars,	iiii <i>i</i>
Itm. in wearyng clothes: one cloke, too coates, iiij. dowblets, one payr of hose, too hats,	xxvi <i>s</i> . viii <i>d</i> .
Itm. v yerds of grene clothe for quys- sens [cushions],	vs.
Itm. one purse, one gyrdell	viii <i>d</i>
Itm. one forme [bench], too bourds [boards], a standynd [stained ?] stole, a paire of valances	iii <i>js</i> .
Itm. thre hechils [hatchels for combing flax or hemp],	xviii <i>d</i> .
Itm. one boultynge [bolting-cloth, sifter] whiche a knedyng troghe [kneading trough], thre theles [thills, boards,] and a stock [rolling-pin ?],	xs.
Itm. iiij barrels, v lomes [looms], two chornes [churns], & other imple- ments	xx <i>s</i> .

Itm. v. chesfats [cheese vats or tubs], iij shuters, one lanterne	ijs. vid.
Itm. in the hygh chamber, ij bedstyds, too tables, too peir of testels [testers], two fats [tubs], and a barel, & paynted clothes	xis.
It. foure spyng wheles	—
Itm. a saddell, a brydell, one peir of boots, one peir of spurs,	iijs
Itm. thre flytches of bakun [bacon] and thre of befe [beef],	xvis.
Itm. too swords, and a dagger	iijs.
Itm. in wole [wool] & yerne [yarn] xvi pound.	vs. iiijd.
Itm. v flaxen shetes, seven canvas shetes, a dozen & a half of table napkins, iij bord [table-board] clothes, too towels,	iiij ti.
Itm. foure pillow beirs [slips].	iiijs.
Itm. one steepyng fat [vat or tub], a garner, a chese presse, thre tryne of fellyes, xii shelbords, too hundreth of lath,	xxis.
Itm. ij laders, too bords, one forme,	vis.
Itm. in the barne, Rye, otes, & hay	liijs. iiijd.
Itm. one Iren-boud wayn, too carts, one wayn body, & a Barle Roule [Rowel ?]	iiij ti.
Itm. plowes, & harrowes, & sleds,	xxs.
Itm. too cartrops [cart-ropes],	xiiid.
Itm. viij yokes, iij Irentewes,	viijs.
Itm. foure axell treese,	xvid
Itm. too axes, thre hatchets, fyve bylls, one ads, one cuttynge sawe, one hand sawe, & other Implements of Iren,	xs.

Itm. vi strik [strike] of ots [oats],	vis.
Itm. vi nawgars, chissels, & fyles, loks, & fitters, with other implements of Iren.	xiijs. iiijd.
Itm. iij colters, too shares	vs.
Itm. too broches, one peir of cobbards, one brandiron, one gridiron, one frying pan, one peire of tongs, one fyer shouel, pothokes, & pothangers	viijs.
Itm. in sawen bords & montens [fen- cing],	iijs. iiijd.
Itm. thre sakes, too lyttell bagges, a wyndow shete, & a heare [hair] clothe,	vis.
Itm. foure wayles, one dissen of dishes, a dosen of trenchers	xvid.
Itm. one handiron	iis.
Itm. in tymber & fyer wood, one grynde- ston	xiijs. iiijd.
Itm. viij pykforkes [pitchforks], one dong fork, one mattock, too show- els, one spade,	vs.
Itm. a peir of slead brydels,	
Itm. in lynnen yern, thre guyshens, two peir of showes	vs.
Itm. foure hennes & a coke	iis.
Itm. one oxe, too steares	viii. xiiis.
Itm. too mares	iiij <i>ti</i> .
Itm. foure kyne, thre heyfars,	xiiij <i>ti</i> .
Itm. foure calves	xlis.
Itm. vi shepe, and too swyne	xxviijs.
Itm. the Rye of the grownd	xlis.
Itm. Ots on the grownd	xxxxs."

In the same century there were living at Berkswell, in Warwickshire, certain kinsmen of the Fillongley Edsons.

One of the Berkswell Edsons, John Edson, whose remains were interred in the churchyard in that place, in his last will and testament, proved by his wife Elizabeth, the executrix, on the twenty-sixth of April, 1563, named in it his elder son, John, and his younger son, William, and his brother, Simon Edson. One of the appraisers of his property, inventoried on the sixteenth of December, 1562, was Rafe Shakespere.

Another family, that of Richard Edson, resided at Bedworth, in Warwickshire. In the will made by him, on the second of January, 1579, and proved on the fifteenth of October following, he expressed a wish to have his body entombed in the churchyard of Bedworth. Among the heirs named in his will are those of Richard Edson, the son of his brother, Nicholas Edson; Robert, the son of the same brother; and Johan, daughter of his brother, Thomas Edson, the three children being at that time under age. He bequeathed to his brother, William Edson, his apparel. His father-in-law was Humphrey Townsend of Bedworth, whom he appointed one of his executors. His brother, Nicholas Edson, was a witness of his signing the will.

The wills and inventories of the Edsons of Fillongley, Berkswell, and Bedworth, are preserved in the office of probate at Litchfield, in Staffordshire, sixteen miles north of Birmingham, where, under the several given dates, they were proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Lichfield.

Thomas, the third son of Thomas and Ellen Edson, baptized at Fillongley on the seventh of September, 1572, was married there, by the Rev. Thomas Gilbert, on the first of November, 1596, to Elizabeth Copson, as is entered in the parish register in Latin:

“Anno Dni. 1596.

*“Novembr. I. Thomas Edsun et Elizabeth Copsun, nupt.
fuer.”*

Seven children were born to them there, two daughters and five sons: William, baptized on the fourth of March, 1598; Anna, on the twenty-second of August, 1602; Nicholas, on the sixth of March, 1607; Amphillis, on the twelfth of August, 1610; Samuel, on the fifth of September, 1613; Joshua, on the second of February, 1616; and Walter, on the thirtieth of January, 1619.

Nicholas, their second son, died at Fillongley on the fourth of April, 1608, and Walter, their fifth, on the first of December, 1633.

The father, Thomas Edson, born in the thirteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, lived through the remainder of it, and through the whole of that of James the First (1603-1625), and probably that of Charles the First (1625-1649). When fifteen years old, his youthful imagination was intensely excited by the startling reports of the fitting out by Spain of 129 ships and transports carrying 3000 cannon and 20,000 seamen and marines, that were to be augmented by a force of 34,000 land soldiers from the Netherlands, for the invasion of England and the dethronement of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Then shortly followed the thrilling intelligence that thirty English vessels of war of less formidable armaments, under the command of Admiral Charles Lord Howard of Effingham, had, in July, 1588, attacked the Invincible Armada in the English Channel and rendered the stupendous undertaking of Spain ingloriously futile. He was intimately acquainted with some of the immediate kinsfolk of the famous poet and dramatist, William Shakespeare, whose birthplace was at no great distance from Fillongley. The gunpowder plot of 1605, the execution of Sir Walter Raleigh, and the outbreak of civil war between King Charles the First and his supporters the Cavaliers, on the one side, and the Parliament and its adherents on the other, in 1642, were events with which he was contemporary. He recognized, no doubt, as one of his kindred, Henry Edson, one of the "eighteen gentle-

men of the ordnance," at that time an officer in the Royal Army.¹

Nicholas Edson, the brother of Thomas, was, in 1590, appointed one of the supervisors of the parish of Fillongley, whose duty it was to have the care of the roads, the poor, and other parochial affairs. In 1591, Nicholas Edson was appointed a warden of Fillongley Church, and again appointed one of the parish supervisors, as he was afterward in the years 1606, 1607, 1608, and 1618, and alternately to the office of churchwarden. His brother Richard, in 1604, received the appointment of parish clerk.

Thomas Edson, at the age of sixty-four years, was honored with the office of churchwarden. After the year 1636, nothing more is recorded of him.

¹"The Lift of the Army Raifed under the command of his Excellency Robert, Earle of Essex and Ewe, Viscount Hereford, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, Bourchir and Loraine: Appointed Captaine General of the Army Employed for the defence of the Protestant Religion, the safety of his Majesties Person and Parliament, the preservation of the Lawes, Liberties and Peace of the Kingdom and protection of his Majesties Subjects from Violence and oppreffion.

"With the names of the severall Officers belonging to the Army. . . .

"Eighteen Gentlemen of the Ordnance.

1 Tho. Holyman.	10 Joshua Sing.
2 Robert Barbar.	11 George Ranfom.
3 Patrick Strelay.	12 Samuel Barry.
4 Adward Wafe.	13 Daniel Barwick.
5 Anthony Heyford.	14 Tho. Rawfon.
6 Robert Bower.	15 Tho. Sippence.
7 Henry Edson.	16 Tho. Crosse. ⁹⁸
8 James Franckline. ⁹⁸	17 Tho. Ayres.
9 Richard Honey.	18 William Hickson.

⁹⁸ Slain at Exeter. ⁹⁹ Slain at the fiege of Sherborne Castle, Aug. 15, 1645.

" . . . "At Surrexfey. . . . Serjeant Eeafon."

"The List of the Armie.* *This lift of the Parliament Army exists in a separate form as a small 4to. of twenty pages. It varies from the document here represented but slightly."—From *The Army Lists of the Roundhead and Cavaliers*, containing the names of the officers in the Royal and Parliament Armies of 1642. Edited by Edward Peacock, F.A.A. Second edition. London, 1874. Pp. 24, 93.

Anno Dni. 1613.

Aprilis	2.—Anna uxor Radulphi Allen	sepult fuit
„	6.—Johes filius Gulielmi Tarlton	bapt fuit
„	8.—Tho : Stone	sepult fuit
„	18.—Tho : filius Danielis Oughton	bapt fuit
„	25.—Gulielmus filius Gulielmi Holbech	„ „
„	25.—Isabella filia Gulielmi Kenon	„ „
„	26.—Isabella uxor Johis Wright	sepult fuit
Maii	10.—Isabella Bremer	„ „
Junii	7.—Margarita uxor Johis Rockett	„ „
Augustii	8.—Elizabetha filia Sampsonis Butler	bapt fuit
„	29.—Leonardus filius Rich : Greene	„ „
Sep̄bris	5.—Katherina filia Gulielmi Willes	„ „
„	5.—Samuel filius Tho : Edson	„ „
„	16.—Elizabetha filia Gulieimi Smith	„ „
„	19.—Richardus filius Rich : Morell	„ „
„	19.—Gulielmus filius Johis Capper	„ „
„	26.—Richardus filius Michaelis Kimberlye	„ „
Octobris	17 — Robertus filius Henrici Breerlye	„ „
Novembris	2 — Elnar Shaw	sepult fuit
„	21.—Robertus filius Gulielmi Goddard	bapt fuit

FAC-SIMILE OF THE LOWER PART OF PAGE 58 OF THE "TRANSCRIPT OF THE
OLD PARISH REGISTER "

The baptism of his third son, Samuel, is entered in the "*Old Parish Register*" under the Latin heading:

"*Anno Dni [Domini], 1613.*"

"*Sepbris 5.—Samuel filius Tho: Edson bapt. fuit.*"
[September 5.—Samuel son of Thomas Edson was baptized.]

The descriptive sketch of the church contained in the *Transcript of the Old Parish Register* was "compiled from notes kindly supplied by Thomas Garner, Esq. (of Messrs. Bodley & Garner, the eminent architects)."



SOUTH SIDE VIEW OF FILLONGLEY CHURCH AND THE OLD YEW IN THE CHURCHYARD

From a recent photograph

"The church of Fillongley is an interesting one and has some remarkable features.

"It consists of a chancel and a chapel on the north side, a nave without aisles, and a western tower.

"The earliest part of the building is the east end, in

which the remains of what was probably a Norman triplet were discovered during the restorations, and which may be seen in the wall on the south side of the decorated east window. Only the southern jamb, a plain, wide splay remains, and there is no detail which would enable one to fix the date. There are some traces of painting on it. The chancel seems to have been several times repaired, and nearly rebuilt, and cannot have been well constructed in the first instance.

“The east window is of the first half of the fourteenth century, and resembles in character the window of the nave. It may have been done at the same time. The south wall seems to have been quite rebuilt, and very late and debased perpendicular windows inserted, most likely towards the middle of the sixteenth century. They were unfortunately dreadfully shattered, and have had to be much renewed.

“The chapel on the north side is also late perpendicular, but earlier than the chancel. It has some fragments of glass in the north window. The east window of the chapel is late, and has been blocked in the lower part, forming a sort of reredos.

“The arches between the chapel and chancel had been removed in modern times, and there is nothing left to show what the ancient ones were like.

“A rude hole had been cut through the northeast corner of the nave, to form a communication with this chapel, so that new arches had to be made in these cases; and the chancel roof, which was also of modern and very bad construction, was renewed.

“The nave is the finest and most interesting part of the church. It is unusually wide, being nearly thirty-one feet span, and seems to have an imposing and very high pitched roof. It is very similar to the neighbouring church of Shustoke, and has, like that, been well built with ashlar inside and out. It is good plain, decorated work, and belongs to the first half of the fourteenth century.

“The chancel arch, as is generally the case with these wide-span churches, is somewhat narrow, in order to leave space for the altars on each side. The brackets for the images remain in the south side, but have been destroyed on the north side by the before-mentioned hole in the chapel at the side of the chancel.

“Pretty little brackets with heads remain at the springing of the chancel arch for the rood beam, and similar brackets existed at Shustoke before the fire. There seems to be some indication of the stone base of a screen.

“The side windows are good triplet lights, the centre one rising to the head of the window, and have some very



INTERIOR OF FILLONGLEY CHURCH LOOKING EASTWARD TOWARD THE CHANCEL

fine fragments of stained glass, canopies, etc., and rich borders.

“There are two doors opposite each other (the one on the north side has been blocked up), and west of these the windows are two lights of similar character to the three lights. The high pitched decorated roof is quite gone, but its shape can be traced by the weather moulding on the tower. . . .

“A late perpendicular clerestory has been added to the walls, raised considerably. Nothing remains of the perpendicular roof, which seems to have had some good carved bosses, as it was removed early in this century, and replaced by a modern slated roof. A panelled ceiling was added at the restoration in 1887.

“The principal features of the restoration in 1887 may be summarised in the substitution of open work sittings for the unsightly pews and gallery which before existed; a handsome panelled wood ceiling for one of plaster, and an entirely new open roof in the chancel; while the whole church was entirely new floored, and plaster removed from the walls and windows. The exterior of the church was also much repaired. The church has been enriched by many beautiful gifts of parishioners and friends. The whole cost of the work of restoration, with fittings, was £2,649. It was carried out by Messrs. Bodley & Garner.

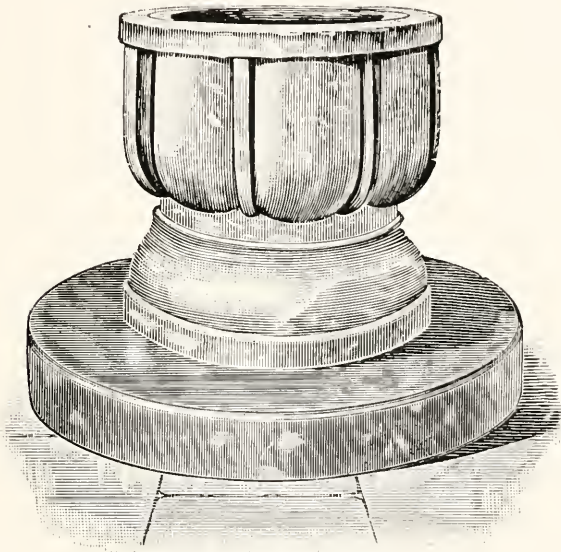
“The old battlements were removed at the time when the new roof was done, but an old drawing (in possession of Mr. R. Hollick) has preserved their general appearance, and they have now been reproduced as nearly as possible.

“There are some remains of late, but rich and handsome, wood-work, and one very good square bench end, which is valuable as shewing the designs of the old seats.

“The tower is very early English in its two lower stages, but quite plain; so that it is difficult to say much about its date, though it is most likely twelfth century. A pair of very good perpendicular belfry windows have been added on each face of the upper stage, and, with the battlements, make a very pleasing tower.

“There are some interesting minor details in the church. On the wall of the tower in the interior is a slab of stone with the words, ‘*Exstructum Fuit, 1594*’; and on two shields below are the initials, ‘W. H. & R. S.,’ which are supposed to be those of William Holbech and Ralph Smith, churchwardens at that time.

The ancient font is described as "a plain cylindrical bowl, of Norman date. It was removed from the church about fifty-six years ago, and taken to a garden in the parish, where for some time it was used as a flower stand. Some years ago it was restored to the church, but stood for some time unused. At the recent restoration it was once more placed in its proper position." It has a lead lining.



OLD FONT IN FILLONGLEY CHURCH

"The tower contains a peal of five good bells; the date of the oldest now there is 1628, though, of course, the church before that time possessed a peal. The inscription on the oldest bell is, '*I. H. S. Nazareus Rex Judæorum Fili Dei Misere mei 1628.*' On another, in order of time, '*Soli Deo gloria. Pax hominibus, 1654. Edward Holbach, Thomas Brearle.*' On a third, bearing the date of 1658, '*Bryanus Eldridge fecit me.*' On a fourth, of 1791, '*John Fletcher, vicar; Thomas Lovett, and William Lakin, churchwardens; Edward Arnold, Leicester, fecit.*' The bell known as the third has this inscription on it, '*T. Lovett, and J.*'

White, churchwardens; Edward Arnold, Leicester, fecit, 1795.' "

There are several mural tablets in the chancel and a number of memorial stones in the floor of it bearing inscriptions to the memory of highly esteemed parishioners and officers of the church, as also are others on the wall of the chapel and in the floor of the nave, whose remains are entombed there. Quaint and interesting epitaphs are on the monuments and headstones on the numerous graves in the churchyard. The effacing and destructive hand of time has left there none of the memorial stones once marking the graves of members of the ancient Edson families of the parish. A venerable yew-tree, with wide-spreading, twisted branches, growing near the church door, is an attractive and unique feature of the place.

The registers of the parish contain entries from the year 1538, the first record-book having them to the year 1653. The next contains entries of baptisms and burials from October, 1653, to 1678, and those of marriages from 1654 to 1715. The third book, which comprises the fragmentary entries of two earlier books has records of baptisms and burials from 1678, and of marriages from 1679 to 1750. Another, those of marriages from 1754 to 1789; and another, those of baptisms and burials from 1759; and another, those of baptisms and burials from 1790 to 1812; and another, those of marriages from 1813 to 1837; and another, those of baptisms and burials from 1809 to 1812.

In 1546, the people of the parish were afflicted by a plague, when there were no less than sixty-three burials recorded of its victims in the space of a year. These are entered under the heading, "*In tempore plage.*" In 1666, there was another affliction of many deaths in the parish, the church register having entries of twenty-nine burials.

The two volumes of churchwardens' accounts, beginning with the year 1581, contain mention of events of considerable importance to writers of histories of families living

at early times in the parish. "As has been well said, 'the history of even a remote village is but the history of the nation in little.'" In these accounts, besides the money expended, can be learned "how national victories were announced by the ringing of the church bells, and how national sorrows and disasters by the proclamation of a form of prayer or of a fast." The King's birthday, and the "holyday," and "the fifth of November," were duly celebrated yearly by the ringing of the bells. They were rung "the day that Monmouth was taken," 1685; for "the victory in Ireland and the King's return," in 1690; at the



SOUTHWARD VIEW OF THE STREET ON WEST SIDE OF FILLONGLEY CHURCH

time of the "Thanksgiving, held for the reduction of Ireland," in 1692; "for the victory of Cattalona," in 1707; and "for the victory in Spain," in 1710.

The parish constables' accounts likewise contain interesting entries, such as relate to the "Towne Armor" and "Artillerie," "the Press Money," "the Butts," "the whipping of vagrants," and "the repairing of the Stocks."

In the "List of the Vicars of the church of Saint Mary and All Saints, Fillongley, A.D. 1248-1888," are entered:

"John Taylor: In the list of the Brethren of the Gild of St. Anne, of Knowle, his name occurs in the roll for the year 1483—'*Domine Johes Tailour, Vicar: de Fynyngley.*' [Patrons]: the Prior and Canons of Maxstoke."

"Richard Deppyng. 20th May, 1487.

"He also joined the Gild of St. Anne. His name occurs in the list for the year 1513—'*Dominus Ricard Deppyng, Vicar: de Fynyngley.*'

"Thomas Palmer, 16th April, 1529. *Dominus.*

"John Nicholson, 5th April, 1531. "

"Thurstanus Morrey, 31st December, 1556. George Coldwell, gent. [patron]."

"Thomas Graunger, 2nd March, 1581. Sir Nicholas Strange [patron]."

[Thomas Gilbert, 14th March, 1586.]

"Christopher Forde, 24th September, 1608. The Crown [patron]."

"Josiah Packwood, 1641. The Crown [patron]."

"Charles Chetwode Hamilton, 28th August, 1884. The Crown [patron]."

"Arthur Bicknell Stevenson, 8th May, 1888. The Crown [patron]."

Chapter III

Samuel Edson of Old and New England

1613-1692

AS a worthy son of a worthy sire, Samuel Edson, having passed his youth upon the farm of his father at Fil-longley, and having obtained, as was the custom, the education fitting him for the sphere of life into which he was born, he took part in such daily work as gradually advanced him in the knowledge of the art of husbandry. He there acquired great skill in farming, which his subsequent prosperity and distinction fully evidenced. While still in his minority, a number of young men of the parish, as well as older with families, emigrated to New England to better their fortunes. Considerable information was conveyed to him regarding the different settlements in which they were living by the letters written by them to their kinsfolk and friends in Warwickshire. Some, being Independents or Separatists, had settled in the Colony of New Plymouth; others, being Puritans or adherents of the Church of England, had seated themselves in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

The Earl of Warwick, having become interested in aiding the New England Company organized for the planting of settlers within the bounds of Massachusetts Bay, the people of the rural districts of Warwickshire began taking into consideration, more than they had previously, the means of participating in reaping the advantages that were extended to them by the energetic founders of the company.

In 1628, a body of English yeomen, single and married, had been settled at Naumkeag, in Massachusetts Bay, under John Endicott, the most honest and prudent of whom were Roger Conant, John Woodbury, John Balch, and Peter Palfrey.

In the spring of 1629, a still larger emigration to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay eventuated. A number of vessels were chartered and provisioned to transport the great company of English farmers that had engaged themselves in different parts of the kingdom to go there. Among those who were to occupy positions of dignity and influence was the Rev. Francis Higginson of Leicestershire, "a graduate of Emanuel College, and a man mighty in the Scriptures and learned in the tongues," and his two associates in the ministry, the Rev. Samuel Skelton, "of gracious speech and full of faith," and the Rev. Francis Bright. The Rev. Ralph Smith, presumably a son of Ralph Smith, who was, in 1594, a warden of Fillongley Church, had likewise been granted passage in one of the ships, but as he was discovered to be a Separatist, "order was given that, unless he would be 'conformable to the government of the colony,' he should not exercise his ministry within its jurisdiction."

The Rev. Francis Higginson, who had agreed to serve the New England Company as a clergyman on the plantation, made the incidents of his passage to America the subject matter of *A true Relation of the last Voyage to New-England*, written on the twenty-fourth of July, 1629. He was also the author of a little work, *New Englands Plantation. Or a Short and True Description of the Commodities and Dis-commodities of that Country*, printed in London, in 1630.¹ This last-named pamphlet widely advertised the advantages accruing to persons settling in the plantation of Massa-

¹ *A true Relation of the last Voyage to New England, declaring all circumstances, with the manner of the passage we had by sea, and what manner of country and inhabitants we found when we came to land; and what is the present state and condition of the English people that are there already.*

Faithfully recorded to the very truth, for the satisfaction of very many of

achusetts Bay, and incited many discontented and ambitious English people, in England and the Netherlands, to go there as soon as it was practicable for them.

Of the arrival of the *Talbot* off the coast of Massachusetts Bay, on June 26, 1629, the Rev. Francis Higginson writes:

“We saw many schools of mackrill, infinite multitudes on every side of our ship. The sea was abundantly stored with rock weed and yellow flowers, like gilly flowers. By noon we were within 3 leagues of Capan [Cape Ann], and as we sailed along the coasts, we saw every hill and dale and every island full of gay woods and high trees. The nearer we came to the shoare, the more flowers in abundance, sometymes scattered abroad, sometymes joyned in sheets 9 or 10 yards long, which we supposed to be brought from the low meadowes by the tyde. Now what with fine woods and greene trees by land, and these yellow flowers paynting the sea, made us all desirous to see our new paradise of New-England, whence we saw such forerunning signals of fertilitye afarre off.”

As they passed into “the large spacious harbour of Naimkecke” (Naumkeag), on Monday, June 29, the delighted minister declares, “it was wonderful to behold so many islands replenished with thicke wood and high trees and many fayre greene pastures.”

Speaking of the length of the voyage, he says: “Our passage was short and speedy, for whereas we had 1000

my loving friends, who have earnestly requested to be truly certijyed in these things.

Written from New-England, July 24, 1629.

If any curious criticke that looks for exactnes of phrafes, or expert seaman that regards propriety of sea-terms, may be disjappointed.

NEW-ENGLANDS PLANTATION. *Or a Short and True Description of the Commodities and Discommodities of that Country.* Written by Mr. Higgeson, a reverend Divine now there resident. Whereunto is added a Letter, sent by Mr. Graues, an Enginere, out of *New-England.* The third Edition, enlarged. LONDON. Printed by T. and R. Cotes for Michael Sparke, dwelling at the Signe of the Blew Bible in Greene Arbor. 1630.

leagues, that is, 3000 miles English, to fayle from Ould to New England, we performed the same in 6 weeks and 3 days." He further remarks: "We had a pious and christian-like paffage; for I fuppose paffengers fhall feldom find a company of more religious honest and kynd seamen than we had. We constantly ferved God morning and evening by reading and expounding a chapter, singing and prayer. And the Sabbath was folemly kept by adding to the former, preaching twife and catechifing. And in our great need we kept 2 folemne fafts, and found a gracious effect. Let all that love and use fafting and praying take notife that it is as prevaileuble by fea as by land, wherefoever it is faithfully performed. Befides, the fhip mafter and his company ufed every night to fett their 8 and 12 a clocke watches with finging a pfalme and [making a] prayer that was not read out of a booke."¹

Of the land in and about Naumkeag, he fays: It "is neither too flat . . . nor too high," and is naturally "fit for pasture, or for plow or meddow ground, as men please to employ it: though all the countrey bee as it were a thicke wood, . . . yet in divers places there is much ground cleared by the Indians, and efpically about the plantation: And I am told that about three miles from us a man may stand on a little hilly place and see divers thousands of acres of ground as good as need to be, and not a tree in the same. It is thought here is good clay to make bricke and tyles and earthen pots as need be. At this instant we are setting a brick-kill [brick-yard ?] on worke to make bricke and tyles for the building of our houses. For stone, here are plentie of slates at the Isle of Slate in Masathulets bay, and lime-stone, free-stone, and smooth-stone, and iron-stone, and marble-stone.

"The fertilitie of the soyle is to be admired at, as appeareth in the aboundance of grasse that groweth everie where,

¹ *The Publications of the Prince Society. The Hutchinson Papers.* Albany, 1865. Vol. i., pp. 47, 48, 49, 50.

both verie thicke, verie long, and verie high in divers places. But it groweth verie wildly with a great stalke and a broad and ranker blade, because it never had been eaten by cattle, nor mowed with a sythe, and seldome trampled on by foot. It is scarce to bee beleevd how our kine and goates, horses and hogges, doe thrive and prosper here. . . .

“The abundant increase of corne proves this countrey to bee a wonderment. . . . It is almost incredible what great gaine some of our English planters have had by our Indian corne. Credible persons have assured me, and the partie himselfe avouched the truth of it to me, that of the setting of 13 gallons of corne hee hath increase of it 52 hogsheads, every hogshead holding seven bushels of London measure, and every bushell was by him sold and trusted to the Indians for so much beaver as was worth 18 shillings; and so of this 13 gallons of corne, which was worth 6 shillings 8 pence, he made 327 pounds of it the yeere following. . . . There is not such greate and plentifull eares of corne I suppose any where else to bee found but in this country: Being also of [a] varietie of colours, as red, blew, and yellow, &c., and of one [car of] corne there springeth four or five hundred. . . .

“This country aboundeth naturally with stores of roots of great varietie and good to eat. Our turnips, parsnips, and carrots are here both bigger and sweeter than is ordinary to be found in England. Here are stores of pumpions [pumpkins], cowcombers, and other things of that nature which I know not. Also divers excellent pot-herbs grow abundantly among the grasse, as strawberrie leaves in all places of the countrey, and plentie of strawberries in their time, and pennyroyal, winter-saverie, sorrell, brookelime, liverwort, carvell, and watercresses, also leekes and onions are ordinarie, and divers physical herbs. Here are also abundance of other sweet herbs delightful to the smell, whose names I know not, and plentie of single damaske roses verie sweete; and two kinds of herbes that bare two

kinds of flowers very sweet, which, they say, are as good to make cordage or cloath as any heme or flaxe we have.

“Excellent vines are here up and downe in the woods.”

“Also, mulberries, plums, raspberries, corrance, chesnuts, filberds, walnuts, smalnuts, hurtleberies, and hawes of whitethorne neere as good as our cherries in England, they grow in plentie here.

“For wood there is no better in the world I thinke, here being foure sorts of oke differing both in the leafe, timber, and colour, all excellent good. There is also good ash, elme, willow, birch, beech, saxafras, juniper, cipres, cedar, spruce, pines, and firrs that will yeeld abundance of turpentine, pitch, tarre, masts, and other materials for building both ships and houses. Also here are stores of sumacke trees, they are good for dyeing and tanning of leather, likewise such trees [as] yeeld a precious gum called white benjamin [benzoin], that they say is excellent for perfumes. Also here be divers roots and berries wherewith the Indians dye excellent holding colours that no raine nor washing can alter. Also, wee have materials to make sope-ashes and salt-peter in abundance.

“For beasts there are some beares, and they say some lyons also; for they have been seen at Cape Anne. Also here are several sorts of deere, some whereof bring [into the world] three or foure young ones at once, which is not ordinarie in England. Also wolves, foxes, beavers, otters, martins, great wild cats, and a great beast called a molke [moose], as big as an ox. . . . Also here are great stores of squerrels, some greater and some smaller. . . .

“The abundance of sea-fish is almost beyond beleaving, and sure I should scarce have beleaved it, except I had seene it with mine owne eyes. I saw great store of whales, and grampuses, and such abundance of mackerils that it would astonish one to behold, likewise cod-fish in abundance on the coast, and in their season are plentifully taken. There is a fish called a basse, a most sweet and wholesome

fish as ever I did eate. . . . And besides basse we take plentie of scate and thornbacks, and abundance of lobsters. . . . I have seene some myselfe that have weighed 16 pound, but others have had at divers times so great lobsters as have weighed 25 pound, as they assure mee. Also here is abundance of herring, turbot, sturgeon, cuskes, hadocks, mullets, eeles, crabbes, muskles, and oysters.

“ Besides there is probability that the countrey is of an excellent temper for the making of salt: For since our coming, our fishermen have brought home very good salt which they found candied by the standing of the sea water and the heat of the sunne, upon a rocke by the sea shore: and in divers salt marshes that some have gone through, they have found some salt in some places crushing under their feete and cleaving to their shooes.

“ And as for fresh water, the countrey is full of dainty springs, and some great rivers, and some lesser brookes. . . . And neere Salem they have as fine cleare water as we can desire, and we may digge wells and find water where we list. . . .

“ The temper of the aire of New-England is one speciall thing that commends this place. Experience doth manifest that there is hardly a more healthfull place to be found in the world that agreeth better with our English bodyes. Many that have beene weake and sickly in old England, by coming hither have beene thoroughly healed and growne healthfull and strong. . . .

“ I, that have not gone without a cap for many yeeres together, neither durst leave off the same, have now cast away my cap, and doe weare none at all in the day time. And whereas beforetime I cloathed myselfe with double cloaths and thicke waisteoates to keepe me warme, even in the summer time, I doe now goe as thin clad as any, onely wearing a light stufte cassocke upon my shirt, and stufte breeches of one thicknesse without linings. . . .

“ In the summer time, in the midst of July and August,

it is a good deale hotter than in Old England. And in winter, January and February are much colder, they say. But the spring and autumnne are of a middle temper. . . .

“Fowles of the aire are plentiful here, and of all sorts as we have in England, as farre as I can learn, and a great many of strange fowles which we know not. . . . Here are likewise abundance of turkies, often killed in the woods, farre greater than our English turkies, and exceeding fat, sweet, and fleshy, for here they have abundance of feeding all the yeere long, as strawberries, in summer all places are full of them, and all manner of berries and fruits. In the winter time I have seene flockes of pigeons, and have eaten of them. They doe fly from tree to tree as other birds doe, which our pigeons will not doe in England. They are of all colours as ours are, but their wings and tayles are far longer, and therefore it is likely they fly swifter to escape the terrible hawkes in this country. In winter time this country doth abound with wild geese, wild ducks, and other seafowle, that a great part of the winter the planters have eaten nothing but roast meate of divers fowles which they have killed. . . .

“Though it bee here somewhat cold in the winter, yet here we have plenty of fire to warme us, and that a great deale cheaper than they sell billets and faggots in London. Nay, all Europe is not able to afford to make so great fires as New-England. A poore servant here that is to possess but 50 acres of land, may afford to give more wood for timber and fire, as good as the world yeelds, than many [a] nobleman in England can afford to do. Here is good living for those that love good fires.

“And although New-England has no tallow to make candles of, yet by the abundance of the fish thereof, it can afford oil for lampes. Yea, our pine trees, that are the most plentiful of all wood, doth allow us plenty of candles which are very usefull in a house. And they are such candles as the Indians commonly use, having no other, and

they are nothing else but the wood of the pine tree cloven in two little slices, something thin, which are so full of the moysture of turpentine and pitch that they burne as cleere as a torch."

Among the discommodities of New England mentioned by him, "musketoës" are the first, being the same "little flyes" with which they were troubled in Lincolnshire, and "which, except they bee smoked out of the houses, are troublesome in the night season."

The extreme coldness of the winters was another source of discomfort to the settlers.

The frequency of rattlesnakes in the fields and woods was also considered a circumstance of danger attending their going about the plantation.

The greatest drawback of all appears to have been the want of a large immigration of settlers "to bring with them horses, kine, and sheepe, to make use of that fruitfull land." It is a great pity, he remarks, "to see so much good ground for corne and for grasse as any under the heavens, to ly altogether unoccupied, when so many honest men and their families in Old England, through the populusnesse thereof, do make very hard shift to live one by the other."

His brief description of the savages of New England and their manner of living contains the following particulars:

"For their governors they have kings, which they call Saggamores, some greater and some lesser, according to the number of their subjects. The greater Saggamores about us cannot make above three hundred men, and other lesse Saggamores have not above fifteen subjects, and others neere about us but two. Their subjects above twelve years since were swept away by a great and grievous plague that was amongst them, so that there are verie few left to inhabite the country.

"The Indians are not able to make use of the one fourth part of the land, neither have they any settled places as townes to dwell in, nor any ground as they challenge for

their possession, but change their habitation from place to place.

“For their statures, they are a tall and strong limmed people; their colours are tawney; they goe naked, save onely they are in part covered with beasts skins on one of their shoulders, and weare something before their loins. Their haire is generally blacke, and cut before, like our gentelewomen, and one locke longer than the rest, much like to our gentlemen, which fashion I thinke came from hence into England.

“For their weapons, they have bowes and arrowes, some of them headed with bone, and some with brasse. . . .

“The men for the most part live idely; they do nothing but hunt and fish. Their wives set their corne and doe all their other worke. They have little household stuffe, as a kettle, and some other vessels like trayes, spoones, dishes, and baskets.

“Their houses are verie little and homely, being made with small poles pricked into the ground, and so bended and fastned at the tops, and on the sides they are matted with boughs, and covered on the roof with sedge and old mats; and for their beds that they take their rest on, they have a mat.

“They doe generally professe to like well of our coming and planting here, partly because there is abundance of ground that they cannot possesse nor make use of, and partly because our being here will bee a means both of relief to them when they want, and also a defence from their enemies, wherewith (I say) before this plantation began, they were often indangered.

“For their religion they do worship two Gods, a good God and an evil God. The good God they call *Tantum*, and their evil God, whom they fear will doe them hurt, they call *Squantum*.

“For their dealing with us, we neither fear nor trust them, for fourtie of our musketeeres will drive five hundred

of them out of the field. We use them kindly. They will come into our houses sometimes by half a dozen or half a score at a time when we are at victuals, but will ask or take nothing but what we give them.”¹

Settling at Naumkeag, then recently named Salem (place of consolation), the Rev. Francis Higginson's description of the place in 1629, about the time of the first seating of colonists there, makes it historically highly valuable.

“When we came first to Naimkeck, we found about half a score houses built: and a fayre house newly built for the governour, and we found also abundance of corne planted by them excellent good and well liking. We brought with us about 200 passengers and planters more which by common consent of the ould planters are all now combyned together into one body politique under the same governour.

“There are with us in all, ould and new planters, 300, whereof 200 of them are settled at Naimkecke, now called Salem, and the rest have planted themselves at Mafathulets bay, beginning to build a towne there which wee do call Charleifton or Charleftowne.

“We that are fettleed at Salem make what hafte we can to build houses, so that within a short tyme we shall have a fayre towne.”²

By the charter, granted on the fourth of March, 1629, by King Charles the First, “The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England,” Captain John Endicott, and the twelve men chosen as his councillors, then resident upon the plantation at Naumkeag, were, at a General Court, held in London on the thirtieth of April that year, denominated “The Governor and Council of London's plantation in the Massachusetts Bay in New-England.”

¹ *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for the Year 1792.* Boston, 1806. Vol. i., pp. 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123.

² *The Publications of the Prince Society. The Hutchinson Papers.* Albany, 1865. Vol. i., pp. 51, 52.—*Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for the Year 1792.* Boston, 1806. Vol. i., pp. 123, 124.

At another General Court of the Governor and Company, held in London on the twenty-ninth of August that year, it was determined that the charter and government of the plantation should be transferred to New England.

At another General Court, held in London on the twentieth of October, "the government being transferred into New England," the election of a new governor, deputy-governor, and assistants was effected. Mr. John Winthrop, being by "his integrity and sufficiency well fitted and accomplished for the place of governor," was by an "erection of hands" chosen to discharge the duties of that office "for the ensuing year," beginning that day, and who "thereupon took the oath to that place appertaining." "And in like manner, and with like free and full consent, Mr. John Humphrey was chosen deputy-governor."

Eleven vessels were provided for the transportation to Massachusetts Bay of the large efflux of settlers that were to go out to the plantation with the newly chosen officers. "The whole fleet was 'filled with passengers of all occupations, skilled in all kinds of faculties, needful for the planting of a new colony,' who set forth 'some from the west of England, but the greatest number came from about London, though Southampton was the rendezvous where they took ship.' "

Seldom is there to be found a memorial couched in such terms of tender and sincere affection and remembrance as the following, in "The Humble Request" of these departing officials and their associates, "to the rest of their brethren in and of the Church of England."

"We beseech you, therefore, by the mercies of the Lord Jesus, to consider us as your brethren, standing in very great need of your help, and earnestly imploring it. And howsoever your charity may have met with some occasion of discouragement through the misreport of our intentions, or through the disaffection or indiscretion of some of us, or rather, amongst us, for we are not of those that dream of

perfection in this world; yet we desire you would be pleased to take notice of the principals and body of our Company, as those who esteem it our honour to call the church of England, from whence we rise, our dear mother: and cannot part from our native country, where she specially resideth, without much sadness of heart and many tears in our eyes, ever acknowledging that such hope and part as we have obtained in the common salvation, we have received in her bosom, and sucked it from her breasts. We leave it not, therefore, as loathing that milk wherewith we were nourished there; but, blessing God for the parentage and education, as members of the same body shall always rejoice in her good, and unfeignedly grieve for any sorrow that shall ever betide her, and while we have breath sincerely desire and endeavour the continuance and abundance of her welfare, with the enlargement of her bounds in the kingdom of Christ Jesus."

On April 8, 1630, the *Arbella* set sail for New England, and "after a cold and tempestuous voyage of sixty-one days, came in sight of Cape Anne," on the eleventh day of June. On the following day the vessel cast anchor in the harbor of Naumkeag. Captain John Endicott, the Rev. Samuel Skelton, and several other representative men of Salem went aboard to welcome Governor Winthrop and other of their friends and acquaintances. Speaking of the kind greetings tendered them, Governor Winthrop says: "We that were of the Assistants and some other gentlemen, and some of the women, and our captain, returned with them to Nahumkeck, where we supped with a good venison pasty and good beer, and at night we returned to our ship, but some of the women stayed behind." He further observes: "In the mean time, most of our people went on shore upon the land of Cape Ann, which lay very near us, and gathered [a] store of fine strawberries."

"Salem was already well supplied with inhabitants; and, as it 'did not suit for the capital town,' the extension of

the area of the settlement towards the Bay was advised. Hence, three days after the arrival of Governor Winthrop, he, with others, sailed 'up the Mistick' where he found 'a good place,' " and spent a night. " He returned at the end of two days by the way of Nastasket." " A second party followed the first, 'to approve or dislike their judgment,' and found a place which suited them better, 'three leagues up Charles river.' " " The removal from Salem being resolved upon, in July most of the emigrants landed at Charlestown; the governor and the principal men dwelt in the 'Great House,' and the multitude set up cottages, and tents about the 'Town Hill.' "

Among the incidents forming the history of Salem was the death, by a fever, of the Rev. Francis Higginson, late in midsummer. He had been ordained there on August 6, 1629, and, it is said, he preached his last sermon at Salem to a congregation of which Governor Winthrop and other officials of the colony were a part; his text being: "What went ye out into the wilderness to see?"¹

In 1634, the following description of Salem appeared in *New-Englands Prospect*,² printed in London that year, of which William Wood was the author, he having made a voyage, in 1629, to New England.

¹ *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England. Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.* By Alexander Young. Boston, 1846. Pp. 66, 67; 87; 88, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107; 125, 126.

THE HUMBLE REQUEST of His Majestic's loyall Subjects, the Governour and the Company late gone for NEVV-ENGLAND; To the rest of their Brethren, in and of the Church of England. For the obtaining of their Prayers, and the removall of suspitions, and misconstructions of their Intentions. London. Printed for John Bellamie. 1630. *Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, pp. 294-298.—*Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2d Series. Cambridge, 1815. Vol. v., 156, 157.—*The History of Massachusetts. The Colonial Period.* By John Stetson Barry. Boston, 1855. Pp. 187, 188, 189, 192.

² NEVV-ENGLANDS PROSPECT. A true, lively, and experimentall description of that part of America, commonly called NEVV ENGLAND: discovering the state of that Countrie, both as it stands to our new-come *English* Planters; and to the old Native Inhabitants. Laying downe that which may both enrich the

“Salem,” as he writes, “stands on the middle of a necke of land very pleafantly, having a South river on the one fide, and a North river on the other fide: upon this necke where moft of the houfes stand is very bad and fandie ground, yet for feven yeares together it hath brought forth exceeding good corne, by being fished but every third yeare; in some places is very good ground, and very good timber, and divers fprings hard by the fea fide. Here likewise is ftore of fish, as Baffes, Eels, Lobsters, Clammes, &c.

“Although their land be none of the beft, yet beyond thofe rivers is a very good foyle, where they have taken farms, and get their Hay, and plant their corne; there they croffe thefe rivers with fmall Cannowes, which are made of whole pine trees, being about two foot and a half over, and 20 foot long: in thefe likewise they goe a fowling, fometimes two leagues to fea; there be more Cannowes in this towne than in the whole Patent: every houfehold having a water-houfe or two. This Towne wants an Alewife river, which is a great inconvenience.

“It hath two good harbours, the one being called Winter, and the other Summer harbour, which lyeth within Derbies Fort, which place, if it were well fortified, might keepe fhippes from landing of forces in any of thofe two places.”¹

The assignment of land to the settlers in and near Salem was not restricted to a uniform area, although lots of ten acres were commonly allotted to many. Those having grants of land of greater extent were required to cultivate or make use of them, as is difclosed by the following court-order of April 1, 1634:

knowledge of the mind-travelling Reader, or benefit the future Voyager. By WILLIAM WOOD. Printed at London, by Tho. Cotes, for John Bellamie, and are to be fold at his fhop, at the three Golden Lyons in Corne-hill, neere the Royall Exchange. 1634.

¹ *The Publications of the Prince Society*, Boston, 1865.—Wood's *New-England's Prospect*, p. 48.—*Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, by Alexander Young; Boston, 1846. Pp. 390, 409, 410.

“It is ordered, that if any man that hath a greate quantitie of land graunted him and doeth not build upon it or improve it within three yeares, it shal be free for the Court to dispose of it to whome they please.” Again, on January 9, 1635, a resolution was adopted by the authorities, “that the least family shall haue 10 acres, but great families may haue more.”

Another order was made on August 22d, that year, requiring the land-holders to have surveys made of their respective allotments and have the same visibly defined under a penalty of ten shillings:

“It is ordered that all the inhabitants of this towne of Salem y^t [that] haue fearmes greater or lesse, or any quantitie of land granted to them, or any ten acre lott, medoes, or marshes, be they more or lesse in quantity, shall repaire to the men appoynted to lay out bounds, and by the last of y^e [the] 3. mo: [month] to haue all y^r [your] ten acre lotts bounded. And all others that haue fearmes, or meadoes, or marshes: by y^e first of y^e 9. mo: next ensueing; and all y^r lands being bounded, to make such marks or bounds, either by staues or deepe holes. And that eurie mans bounds may be recorded upon y^e penaltie of xs., provided that those deputed to lay out bounds be paid for y^r [their] paynes.”

On November 16th, that year, five overseers and surveyors of land were appointed for the precinct of Salem, who for their “paynes” in laying out land were to receive four pence “the acre for small lotts,” and ten shillings “the hundred for great lotts.”¹

The dwellings erected by the first settlers were built of logs; the better ones being of dressed timber or logs chipped flat by a dexterous use of the adze. The spaces between the logs were filled with the chips of the trimmed timber or

¹ *Town Records of Salem, October 1, 1634, to November 7, 1659.* Salem, 1868, Pp. 8, 10.—*Annals of Salem*, by Joseph B. Felt. Salem, 1845. Vol. i., pp. 181, 182.

with small stones or pieces of brick, plastered inside and outside with mortar. The roofs, high and steep for rapid shedding of rain or sliding of snow, were either thatched with straw, reeds, or boughs of trees, or covered with tiles. The fire-places, constructed of stone or brick set in mortar, were made wide and deep, in order to admit the burning in them of thick and long pieces of wood, and to afford room for the convenient adjustment of chains, trammels, cranes, and other iron appendages on which to suspend kettles, pots, and such like culinary utensils of iron over the burning fuel. The chimneys, rising from the fire-places at the gable-ends of the rudely fashioned houses, were commonly built with pieces of splitted wood, placed one above the other at right angles, and thickly plastered on the inner side with clay to keep the chimney from catching fire; from which manner of plastering them, they obtained the name of catted chimneys.

Light was admitted into these log or frame houses through small windows of oiled paper, and into those of better construction, through small panes of lozenge-shaped glass set in lead frames. The windows thus latticed with lead "were from two and a half to three feet in length, and one and a half to two in width. Sometimes they were made in halves. They opened either outwardly, or inwardly, on hinges."¹

The doors were mostly made at first with pieces of splitted wood, afterward of sawed timber. Each settler was then his own carpenter and mason, and with the few tools and implements in his possession accomplished the erection and completion of his dwelling, barn, and out-buildings.

The Rev. Francis Higginson's experience as a pioneer-settler was such, that in a letter addressed to his friends in England who had in contemplation the settling of themselves

¹ *Annals of Salem*, by Joseph B. Felt. Salem, 1845. Vol. i., pp. 401, 402, 403.

in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, he gave them the following timely advice: "No man hath or can have a house built for him here unless he comes himselfe, or else sends servants before to do it for him. . . . They [that come] shall indeed have so much land allotted to them," "but if they will have houses, they must build them. . . ."

"All that come must have victualls with them for a twelve-month. I meane they must have meale, oatmeale, and such like sustenances of food, till they can gett increase of corne by their owne labour. . . ."

"Before you come, be carefull to be strongly instructed what things are fittest to bring with you. . . . For when you are once parted with England you shall meete neither with taverns, nor alehouses, nor butchers, nor grocers, nor apothecaries shops; . . . here are yet neither markets nor fayres to buy what you want. Therefore be sure to furnish yourselves with things fitting to be had, before you come; as meale for bread, malt for drinke, woolen and linnen cloath, and leather for shoes, and all manner of carpenters tools, and a good deale of iron and Steele to make nails, and lockes for houses, and furniture for ploughs and carts, and glasse for windowes, and many other things, which were better for you to think of them there than to want them here."¹

The first building used for a meeting-house from 1629 to 1638, having, as it seems, become unsuited to the needs of the congregation, the following agreement was made on February 4, 1638, with John Pickering, to erect a new house of worship:

"first hee is to build a meetinge howse of 25 foote long, the breadth of the old buildinge, wth a gallerie answerable to the former: One Catted Chimney of 12 foote long and 4 foote in height aboue the top of the buildinge. The back

¹ "Some brief collections out of a letter that Mr. Higginson sent to his friends at Leicester." *The Publications of the Prince Society*. Albany, 1865. *The Hutchinson Papers*, vol. i., pp. 52, 53, 54.

whereof is to be of brick or stone. The buildinge is to haue six sufficient windowes, 2 on each side & 2 at the end, & a paire of staires to ascend the galleries suteable to the former.

“This buildinge is to be couered wth inch & halfe planck, & inch board vpon that, to meete close: And all this to be sufficientlie finished wth daubinge, & glasse, & vnderpinninge wth stone or brick, wth cariage, and all things necessary, by the said John Pickeringe:

“In consideration whereof the said John Pickeringe is to haue 63*l.* in money, to be paid at 3 paym^{ts}. The first payment, 21*l.*, at the begininge of the worke. The 2^d paymt., 21*l.*, when the frame is reared. The 3^d paymt. is 21*l.*, w^{ch} is to be paid at the finishing of it.

“And it is agreed That if it be found by indifferent men that the said John Pickeringe hath deserued 3*l.* more, Then the towne is to pay it him. If it be found that the said John hath deserued 3*l.* lesse, hee is to abate it: And the said John Pickeringe doeth Couenant to finish it by the 15th day of the 4th moneth [June] next ensuinge the date hereof.”¹

The Cape Ann side of the mainland, lying immediately north of Salem, and separated from it by an expanse of water about two tenths of a mile wide, now called Beverly Harbor, was early resorted to by the first settlers of Salem to procure thatch for the roofs of their dwellings. Richard Brackenbury, who had arrived there in 1628, in the *Abigail*, with Governor John Endicott, attests this fact in a deposition, in which he avers: “The same yeare wee came ouer, it was that wee tooke a farther possession on the north side of Salem ferrye, comonly caled Cape An Side, by cutting thach for our houses, and soone after laid out lotts for tilage land on the said Cape An Side, and quickly after sundry houses were built on the said Cape An Side.”

The ferry, it appears, was established on December 26,

¹ *Town Records of Salem.* Salem, 1868. Pp. 81, 82.

1636, as seems evident from the following record under that date: "It is agreed, That John Stones shall keepe a fferry (to begin this day) betwixt his house, on the neck vpon the North point, and [the] Cape Ann Syde, & shall giue dilligent attendance thervpon, dureing the space of three yeares, vnless he shall giue iust occation to the Contrary, and in Consideracon therof he is to haue two pence for a stranger, and one penny from an inhabitant: moreouer the sd. Jn^o. Stones doth p[ro]mis[e] to p[ro]vide a convenient boat for the sd. purpose betwixt this & the first month next coming after the date hereof."

Winter Harbor, later called Cat Cove, was bounded on the west and north sides by the land forming the short and wide peninsula known as Salem Neck. Immediately southeast of the well-sheltered haven lay Winter Island. Among the early possessors of land at or near Cat Cove were Humphrey Woodbury, Roger Conant, Henry Bayley, John Browne, Richard Hollingworth, Joseph and Christopher Young, Peter Woolf, John Pride, and Henry Swan.

Opposite the north point of Salem Neck, about three fourths of a mile northward of it, and on the Cape Ann side of the town of Salem, lay another but a more spacious bay called Mackerel Cove, which now bears the name of Beverly Cove. The first of the early settlers to seat themselves on the mainland margining Mackerel Cove were Jeffry Massey, Richard Brackenbury, William Woodbury, Nicholas and Edmund Patch, and John Lovett.

The evident purpose of the settlers who obtained allotments of land at or near Cat and Mackerel coves, was to engage in the catching and curing of fish for exportation, which business, when diligently pursued, was a highly profitable one at that time.

About a mile northward of Mackerel Cove was a rise of ground, probably not more than a hundred and fifty feet in height above the level of the sea, called Snake Hill. Between it and Mackerel Cove, the land, although in places

rocky and swampy, was considered valuable for cultivation, and not a few of the settlers obtained tracts of it, on which they built themselves homesteads, where many of their descendants still live. Near the western foot of Snake Hill is a chalybeate spring, which obtained the name of the Iron-Mine Spring. It is said that iron ore was found near it, and for a time a mine was worked there, "but not with sufficient profit to warrant a continuance of the business."¹

In 1638, when Samuel, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Copson Edson, was five and twenty years old, a settler from the colony of Massachusetts Bay arrived at Fillongley, "who," as recorded in one of the parish books, "came out of New England with a pass." His description of the natural attractiveness of the region of Massachusetts Bay, and the many enticing advantages which it presented to settlers, at once engaged the thoughts of Samuel Edson. He realized that however long he might labor to acquire land or other property in England, his efforts would nevertheless be futile by reason of the unwillingness of the large and the small landowners to part with any they possessed, and that the only opportunity which he might have for advancing his interests there, lay, evidently, in a chance of his becoming a tenant of a small farm of a limited acreage. Considerations such as these gave additional force to the pleas that were made to induce young men to become settlers in New England, where they could have innumerable advantages for furthering themselves in the possession of property and in a far wider and freer exercise of political and social privileges.

Samuel Edson, furthermore, saw that his determination to become a colonist of Massachusetts Bay would permit his immediate marriage to Susanna Orcutt, with whom he had

¹ *Annals of Salem*. By Joseph B. Felt. Salem, 1845. Pp. 208, 231.—*Town Records of Salem* (printed), Salem, 1868. Pp. 12, 26, 29, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 55, 63, 65, 66, 67, 72, 76, 78, 80, 86, 90.—*History of Beverly*. By Edwin M. Stone. Boston, 1843. P. 5.

plighted troth before he had given any thought to his going to New England. The Orcutt family, as the Edson, had long been seated in Warwickshire. The surname appears to be an etymological modification of the French compound, Orcote, which in England became corrupted into Alcott, Orcutt, Aucott, and Howcote. Although many descendants of this long-known and highly respected family still reside in several of the parishes adjoining the parish of Fillongley, no trace of Susanna Orcutt's parents seems now to exist. The church register in which their baptism and marriage may have been entered is in all probability no longer extant.

Samuel Edson and his wife likely took passage in a ship which set sail from England for Salem either about the end of May or the beginning of June, 1639. Their voyage thither doubtless followed their marriage, and was the more enjoyable because of the various expectations and plans they then formed of making a home under a roof-tree of their own planting.

Arriving at Salem about the middle of July, they were the recipients of hearty welcomes from their Warwickshire friends and acquaintances settled there, as well as from the other inhabitants, including the Rev. John Fisk, the fourth minister in successive charge of the church of that plantation, and the local officers, styled "the Townsmen."

On the twenty-fifth of July, they, "the Townsmen"—ex-Governor John Endicott, William Hathorne, John Woodbury, Lawrence Leach, Roger Conant, and John Balch—took into consideration the application made by Samuel Edson for the grant of a site for a dwelling and of a parcel of land. As recorded on the forty-ninth page of the "Town-Book,"¹ the following minute sets forth their action respecting his request:

¹ The early records of the town of Salem are contained in two volumes: the "Town-Book," beginning December 26, 1636, and the "Book of Grants," beginning October 1, 1634.

25th day of Apr 5th Monday 1639 .

Sawyer before is indertayned to Ge an inda Grant of 10th m
his friends and self an area of ground in the
line next to the house of 5 acres more for plantings
ground .

“25th day of the 5th moneth 1639.

“Samuell Edson is intertayned to be an inhabitant within this towne, and halfe an acre of ground is graunted him neere Catt Cove & 5 acres more for plantinge ground.”¹

The penmanship of the clerk who made the minute in the “Town Book,” it may be pertinent to remark, is similar to the calligraphy of the most of the legal documents and church registers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The general uniformity of the chirography in legal documents of an early date is said to be due to the fact that all such records were “prepared by the clergy, who throughout Europe formed one body; but as the art of writing became more general amongst the laity, other styles were introduced.”²

The phraseology of the introductory words of the minute, “intertayned to be an inhabitant,” suggests the inference that Samuel Edson had not fully determined to settle permanently at Salem, but possibly might, should circumstances thereafter incline him. The grant of a half acre of ground near Cat Cove it may be said affords good ground for the supposition that it was his intention to engage experimentally in the business of catching and curing of fish for exportation.

Cat Cove early bore the name of Winter Harbor, extending northeastwardly between Salem Neck and Winter Island, the two being now connected by a narrow causeway, built, as early as 1667, at the northeasterly end of Winter Island. “Previous to the building of this causeway,” it is said, “there was a good passage for vessels between the island and the Neck. Winter Island and Salem Neck were, in the early days, especially devoted to the fishing business and to ship building. A small village of fishermen occupied the island, which with the fish flakes, presses, and fish-

¹ *Town Records of Salem.* (Printed) Salem, 1868. P. 89.

² *Handbook of Heraldry.* By John E. Cussans. Fourth Edition. London, 1893. P. 291.

houses presented at times a lively appearance.”¹ The causeway now uniting the Salem Neck and Winter Island forms two inlets; the larger being the haven early known as Winter Harbor and Cat Cove.

The log dwelling erected by Samuel Edson was no doubt in its architectural proportions and features somewhat similar to those of the other rudely built houses neighboring it. Upon seeing the smoke of the initial fire kindled on its hearthstone issuing from the catted chimney of this their first home in New England, the gratified occupants may have regarded it as votive incense rising heavenward from an altar of thanksgiving. The birth of their first child beneath the thatch of this humble habitation was one of the happy associations that long endeared it to them by remembrance.

Samuel Edson's intention of wholly devoting his time and attention to the cultivation of a farm seems evident from the following minute of the action of the "Townsmen," in August, 1642.

"Granted to Samuel Edson 25 acres of land joyning to Humphrey Woodbury's farme in Mackerell Cove & 2 acres of medow where he can fynd y^t thereabout, to be laid out by the towne."

The location of the smaller parcel of land was, in December, 1643, more definitely described in the following order of the town authorities: "The twoe acres of meadow that were formerlie granted to Samuella Edson are ordered to be layed out in the pine meadow neere Mr. Kenniston's farme."²

The assignment to him of these two parcels of land lying on the Cape Ann side of the town led him to erect a dwelling on an eligible part of the larger tract overlooking Mackerel Cove, to which he moved his family and household goods from Cat Cove.

¹ *Old Naumkeag. An Historical Sketch of the City of Salem.* By C. H. Weber and W. S. Nevens. Salem, 1877. P. 221.

² *Town Records of Salem.* (Printed) Salem, 1868. Pp. 113, 122.

The physical features of the mainland immediately north of Mackerel Cove evidently made it a more attractive locality for a homestead than the low and unengaging surroundings of Cat Cove. The extensive prospect of hills and undulating land southward of the rocky summit of Snake Hill not only embraces a wide view of the curvature of the coast forming the recess early known as Mackerel Cove, but also of the island-dotted bay beyond it.

As much of the diverse and interesting information contained in many of the entries in the "Town-Book" relates to the contemporary life and customs of the people of the town of Salem, when Samuel Edson was one of its inhabitants, the following orders seem sufficiently noteworthy to be quoted:

"Ordered that twoe [persons] be appointed euey Lords day to walke forth in the time of Gods wo^rshippe, to take notice of such as either lye about the meeting house wthout attending to the word or ordinances, or that lye at home or in the fields, wthout giuing good account thereof, and to take the names of such psons & to present them to the Magistrate, whereby they may be accordinglie p^rceeded against."

"Ordered that there shall be no buriall wthin the towne but that there shall be word giuen to the keep[er] of the meeting howse to ring the bell whereby notice may be giuen to the towne thereof a little before the buriall."

"Ordered that a note be published on the next Lecture day [in September, 1644,] that such as haue children to be kept at schoole would bring in their names & what they will giue for one whole yeare & Also That if any poore body hath children or a childe to be put to schoole & not able to pay for their schooling That the Towne will pay it by a rate."

"Ordered & Agreed that all such as God stirres vp their hearts to contribute to the aduancemt of learning ffor the maintayninge of poore skollers at the Colledge at Cam-

bridge, that they bringe in to Mr. Price wthin one moneth what they please to giue to enter their names wth Mr. fflagge & what they giue or contribute."

"It is pmitted that such as haue fishing lotts about Winter Harbo^r [Cat Cove] & the Iland shall haue libertie to fence in their lotts to keepe off the swine & goates from their fish, soe that they leaue it open after harvest is in."

"Ordered that if Any man wthin the towne of Salem shall take any wolfe wthin the precincts of Salem, And bring him to the meeting house aliuie he shall haue for eu^ry such wolfe 15s. And for eu^rie wolfe that hee killeth hee shall haue 10s. to be paid vnto him by the towne."¹

Marblehead—so open to view from the Cape Ann side of the town, which Wood described in his *New-England's Prospect* as "a place which lieth four miles full south from Salem, and is a very convenient place for a plantation, especially for such as will set upon the trade of fishing,"—was made a town on March 12, 1648.

Although neither the name of Samuel Edson nor that of his wife appears on any of the published lists of the early members of the church at Salem, there is no evidence ad-ducible to warrant an assertion that they were not. Like-wise there is no information ascertainable to substantiate the baptism there of any of the six children that were born to them. On the contrary, the assumption that they were not baptized there by the Rev. Edward Norris, the pastor of the church at Salem from March 18, 1640, to 1657, seems wholly indefensible for the same want of evidence. Nothing is known, moreover, of the motives causing Samuel Edson to move from the town with his family, as he did in 1651, after residing on his farm at Mackerel Cove nine years. In the deed by which he conveyed, on September 24, 1655, his property there to William Browne, he speaks of himself as "late of Salem, in the Countie of Essex, in New England."

As set forth by the instrument of conveyance, he parted

¹ *Town Records of Salem.* Salem, 1868. Pp. 131, 144, 132, 135, 92, 107.

with his real estate in the town of Salem, "for and in consideration of thirty-eight pounds sterling." His property embraced "one dwelling-house, a barn, and ten acres of upland, . . . with all the appurtenances thereto belonging, . . . on the Cape Ann side, . . . between the land of Robert Lemon on the west, and the land and house of John Black on y^e east. . . . Alsoe twenty-five acres of upland, between Snake Hill and y^e land of Humphry Woodbery. Alsoe two acres of medow, . . . lying . . . betweene the meddow of Wm. Dodg[e] on ye south, and Mr. Roger Conant on the north. Moreover twenty acres of upland, w^{ch} was Thomas Bracketts, given by y^e towne of Salem to John Ward, his pr'decessor, and is adjoining to y^e land of Osmand Trask, which he bought of Jonathan Porter, with two acres of meddow belonging to it, butting upon y^e meddow of Jeffrey Massey, in a meddow called Wenham meadow. As alsoe four acres of med[dow] in ye aforstd. Wenham meddow, and was formerly ye medow of John Bushnell, given him by y^e towne of Salem, all of w^{ch} sd. p'cells of land are in y^e township of Salem aforesd." ¹

¹ *Essex County Registry of Deeds, South District.* Book ii., pp. 212, 213.

Chapter IV

Samuel Edson, a Freeman of Bridgewater

1651-1692

THE territory originally lying within the bounds of the town of Bridgewater was granted, in 1645, by the General Court of the Colony of New Plymouth to the inhabitants of the town of Duxbury for a plantation. The Indian right and title to it was conveyed on March 23, 1649, to Captain Miles Standish, Samuel Nash, and Constant Southworth, representatives of the townsmen of Duxbury, by a chief called Ousamequin (Massasoit), Sachem of the Country of Poconocket, for seven coats (a yard and a half of cloth in a coat), nine hatchets, eight hoes, twenty knives, four moose skins, and ten and a half yards of cotton cloth. The tract, named by the natives Satucket, was about seven miles square.

The land forming the plantation was apportioned to fifty-four proprietors, of whom only sixteen became occupants of their shares: Thomas Hayward, Nathaniel Willis, John Willis, William Bassett, John Washburn, junior, John Ames, Thomas Gannett, William Brett, John Cary, Samuel Tompkins, Arthur Harris, John Fobes, Experience Mitchell, John Haward (Howard) and Solomon Leonard.

The principal stream irrigating the plantation was titled Nuncketest, or Nuncketettest, by the Indians. Now geographically denominated the Town River, it flows northeasterly from a pond known as the Nippenicket, until at its most northern reach, where now is the village of West

Bridgewater, it meanders southeasterly to the larger stream denominated in later years the Taunton River.

As described by recent writers, the soil in so wide an area of country is of different kinds. In certain parts of the town, and particularly along the rivers and brooks, "it is of a good quality and very productive." On what are named "the plains," it is of "a light mould," arable, and yields "good crops of grain." The meadow lands contiguous to the water-courses and swamps are highly valued for the large quantities of hay annually derived from them.

The earliest occupation of the plantation by New England colonists was begun in 1651. That year, Samuel Edson of Salem was numbered among its first settlers,¹ each of whom, when proprietors, was allotted six acres of land along the northernmost reach of the Nuncketest or Town River on which to erect a homestead. The site of the first allotted "house-lots" cannot be determined with any exactitude of metes and bounds from any of the particulars relating to them in the records of the town of Duxbury and those of the town of Bridgewater.

How and by whom Samuel Edson was influenced to make the Duxbury Plantation his second place of settlement, there is no tradition nor writing to afford information. The name of William Brett, one of the original proprietors, a descendant of ancestors living in the vicinity of Fillongley, Warwickshire, in the sixteenth century, may be a clue to the discovery of an answer to the pertinent interrogation. From him Samuel Edson appears to have obtained his first proprietary right to a share in the lands of the plantation, as is disclosed by the following deed, bearing date of "December the 10th, anno domini, 1652":

"Know all men by these presents that I, William Brett of Bridgewater, planter in the pattend of New Plymouth in

¹ Williams Latham, an acknowledged authority on matters relating to the early history of the town of Bridgewater, says that Samuel Edson settled there in 1651.

New England, do with the free and full consent of Margaret my wife, sell, make over, and fully confirm unto Samuel Edson, sometime inhabitant of the town of Salem in the Massachusetts government, now inhabitant of the town of Bridgewater, all my right and interest in full and complete purchase of land purchased by me the aforesaid William Brett of Constant Southworth of Duxbury in the pattent of New Plymouth, the house lot containing about five acres only excepted and remaining still my proper land, I say all the rest of the land, upland and meadow lands, and with the rest undivided in the township of Bridgewater, with all the immunities and privileges belonging thereunto, and do, by these presents, discharge myself, heirs, inheritors, and assigns, or any of them, from having any right, interest or title thereunto, and engage myself to defend the sale of it in support of the fore named, his heirs, and do wholly make over and confirm the said lands unto Samuel Edson, him, his heirs, inheritors, and assigns forever.

"In witness whereof, I have set to my hand and seal, the day, month, and year above written.

"Witness hereunto

"WILLIAM BRETT

"ARTHUR HAINS his H mark

"MARGARET BRETT

"WILLIAM BRETT

"her mark M.

Seal.

"23 July 1660. This deed was acknowledged before me,

"CONSTANT SOUTHWORTH, Assistant." ¹

"Note by J. Fobes.—The Constant Southworth before whom this deed was acknowledged, was one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater, and he with Miles Standish and Samuel Nash took the deed of Ousamequin, the Indian chief. He was born before the arrival of his mother, the Widow Alice Southworth, at Plymouth, which was in 1623. He was a distinguished man in the colony, and at the time of his affixing his signature [to the deed], was one of the Governor's assistants or counsellors. His mother married Gov. Wm. Bradford, and one of Southworth's daughters married Capt. Benj. Church, distinguished in Philip's War."

¹ *A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell: Thos. C. James, printer, 27 Merrimack Street, 1864. Appendix, No. 2, p. xi.

On June 3, 1656, the plantation, then known for a number of years as the town of Bridgewater, was incorporated a separate town by the General Court, as is set forth in the following act: "Ordered, that henceforth Duxburrow New Plantation bee allowed to bee a townshipe of y^t selfe, distinct from Duxburrow, and to bee called by the name of Bridgewater, prouided that all publicke rates bee borne by them with Duxburrow vpon equall proportions." On July 3, that year, the General Court further ordered that the rates should "bee paied to the cheife marshall, the one halfe in wheat, and the other halfe in Indian corn," and that the town of Bridgewater should "beare one pte [part] of three with Duxburrow, . . . for the officers wages and the publicke charges." Complying with the order, the town of Bridgewater paid that year into the treasury of the colony taxes amounting to two pounds and three pence, and the town of Duxbury six pounds nine pence.

The first and only town officer elected that year, under the act of incorporation, was John Cary, constable. In May, 1657, the following officers were chosen to serve the town: John Willis, deputy to the General Court; Lawrence Willis, junior, member of the Grand Inquest; Samuel Tompkins, constable; Arthur Harris and John Haward (Howard), surveyors of highways.

The first of the settlers of the town to be distinguished by the title of "Freeman," consequent upon their taking the prescribed oath acknowledging themselves subject to the government of the Colony of New Plymouth and promising obedience to the orders and commands of the officers entrusted with the administration of its affairs, were Thomas Hayward, John Willis, William Bassett, William Brett, John Cary, Samuel Tompkins, Arthur Harris, Lawrence Willis, Thomas Hayward, junior, and Josiah Standish. The same title was acquired afterward by taking "the Oath of Fidelity" to the government. In 1657, the following inhabitants of the town of Bridgewater were registered as hav-

ing taken it: Samuel Edson, Lawrence Willis, Francis Godfrey, John Ames, Guido Bayley, Mark Lathrop, Thomas Howard (Howard), William Snow, and John Haward (Howard).¹

Being one of the proprietors of the town of Bridgewater, Samuel Edson, in 1654, was apportioned twenty acres of upland and two and one half acres of meadow in that year's division of the undivided lands. As evidenced by the tenor of the following deed, "Dated May ye 17th, Anno Domini, 1656," he became the owner of another proprietary right in the lands of the town, and the possessor of a house, two saw-mills, and two house-lots:

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Joshua Rea of Salem in New England parts of America, late inhabitant in Bridgewater, formerly called Nuncketetest, in the pattennt of New Plymouth, with the free and willing consent of Sarah Rea my wife, have sold unto Samuel Edson in Bridgewater, that is to say, my house with the two house lots thereunto adjoining, with all my full purchase or share of lands and meadows that are already laid out or shall be further laid out, with all the appurtenances appertaining unto the same within the bounds and territories of Nuncketetest *alias* Bridgewater, to have and to hold the said house and saw-mills unto the aforesaid Samuel Edson and his heirs and assigns forever. And I, the said Joshua Rea, for me and my heirs, do award the said house and Lands with all the appurtenances belonging unto the same unto Samuel Edson and his heirs;—in witness whereof I have set my hand.

"Witness: NATHANIEL WILLIS,

" JOSHUA REA.

" JOHN HAYWARD." ²

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater, in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, including an extensive Family Register.* By Nahum Mitchell. Boston: printed for the author by Kidder & Wright, 32 Congress Street, 1840. Pp. 9, 11, 12, 25, 26, 27, 28.—*Records of the Colony of New Plymouth.* Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff. Boston, 1855.—*Court Orders*, vol. iii., pp. 99, 101, 106, 115.—*Records, etc.*, 1857.—*Miscellaneous Records*, p. 185.

² *A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Appendix No. 2, p. xii.

The advantages of having saw-mills in the town shortly after the coming there of the first settlers soon acquired for it an importance that largely influenced other colonists and immigrants to seat themselves within its borders. Using sawed lumber in the construction of their dwellings and barns, instead of timber dressed and shaped by axes and adzes, they were consequently enabled to make them more



SITE OF DEACON SAMUEL EDSON'S MILLS AT WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASS

attractive in appearance and to frame them more closely, whereby they were less uncomfortable in winter, either as dwellings sheltering families or buildings stabling cattle and horses. The practical turn of Samuel Edson's thoughts led him to infer that, with a steady influx of settlers occupying land in the vicinity of the mills, an increased demand would be made upon them for beams, girders, joist, plank, and other parts of buildings, and as a result the purchase of the mills would be a remunerative investment.

Tradition says that the two saw-mills occupied in part the site of the saw-mill now at West Bridgewater, on the north bank of the Town River, between South and Main streets. The operating machinery of these early-built saw-mills was no doubt similar to that described by the Bishop of Ely, ambassador from Mary, Queen of England, to the Court of Rome, inspected by him, in 1555, in a saw-mill near the city of Lyons.

“The saw-mill is driven with an upright wheel, and the water that maketh it go is gathered whole into a narrow trough, which delivereth the same water to the wheel. This wheel hath a piece of timber put to the axle-tree end, like the handle of a brooch, and fastened to the end of the saw, which being turned with the force of the water, hoisteth up and down the saw, that it continually eateth in, and the handle of the same is kept in a rigall of wood from swerving. Also the timber lieth, as it were, upon a ladder, which is brought by little and little to the saw with another [de]vice.”

At that time saw-mills had not been introduced into England, but were before the close of the sixteenth century. The first in Holland was erected, it is said, in 1596, at Saardam.¹

Perceiving by the patronage given his saw-mills that he could in like manner personally benefit the people of the town by erecting, near the flume feeding his saw-mills, a grist-mill, Samuel Edson, about the year 1660, undertook the building of one. Importing from England such parts of the iron machinery as were needed to operate a run of stones, he had a pair properly made from a good quality of millstone-grit, quarried not far west of the settlement. Fragments of the first bed-stone and runner that were used for many years by him, are still to be seen imbedded in the ground on the site of the original grist-mill. Tradition relates that the proprietors of the town, desiring to afford him

¹ *Knight's American Mechanical Dictionary*. By Edward H. Knight. Boston, 1882. Vol. iii., p. 2041.

a suitable attestation of their appreciation of his public spirit and enterprise in erecting the first grist-mill within its bounds, presented him with a full and complete share in its land. The grist-mill continued in his possession until January 15, 1688-9, when he conveyed it, with other property, to his five daughters. In the deed given them, it is styled his "corn-mill."¹

The people of the town did not enjoy the ministrations of a clergyman until about the beginning of the year 1660. A Rev. Mr. Bunker then visited the settlement, and preached so acceptably that they formally tendered him an annual salary of thirty pounds, or in lieu of that sum, his boarding, termed "diet" in the call, and twenty pounds.

Inasmuch as he could not be induced to accept the offer, they projected the erection of a house which they intended to present as a gift to the minister who should become their pastor, as is particularized by the minutes of the meeting held in 1661, on "the sixth and twentieth of December," when it was agreed that there should be "a house built for a minister upon the town's lands," where it should "be thought most convenient," and that it and the grounds thereof should "be freely given to that minister" who should "live and die" among them, "being called by the towne to the work of the ministry, or by a church gathered according to the order of the Gospel, with the consent of the towne." It was also agreed at the same meeting that the said minister should be given "also a compleat purchase" right or share in the town lands, "as other townesmen" had been privileged to enjoy.

Thereupon the building of the house was begun, but the work progressed slowly, as appears by the date and provisions of the following contract:

"An agreement made between the towne and John

¹ The deed was not recorded until April 19, 1736. *A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 6, 7.

Willis, seynior, and John Ames, for the finishing of the chimnies, backs, hearths, and ouen [oven] belonging to the minister's. And they are to find all and draw all, both clay, stones, and 200 bricks, for the aforesaid chimnies, backs, and ouen and hearths, and to do it sufficiently; and the towne, for their paines, are to pay to them next haruest, twenty bushells of good marchantable corne, and the work to be finished by the last of August insuing; the date hereof being now the 13th, thirteenth of May, 1664; to be paid when Indyan corne is marchantable."

The venerable, reconstructed, enlarged, renovated, and occupied building stands at a close remove from the Town River, on the north side of River Street (originally a road leading to the Great Meadows), and not far west of the intersection of that thoroughfare and Howard Street. The house was originally two stories high in front and one story in the rear, with a gable roof, having a longer, but not as steep a slope as the front section. The entry, or passage, on which the front door opened, was five feet wide. A steep stairway, about eight feet from the front door, ascended to the upper-floor chambers. On the lower floor, in the southeast corner of the house, was a front room ten by twelve feet, and back of it a bedroom, and beyond it a kitchen and pantry. The chimney was on the east side of the house. Besides the passage on the upper floor at the head of the stairs, there was a front room, and back of it a sleeping chamber.¹

Through the agency of the Rev. Increase Mather, the people of the town, in 1662, learned that the Rev. James Keith, a student of divinity, eighteen years of age, educated at Aberdeen, Scotland, had arrived at Boston, whose services as a pastor might be secured should they extend him an invitation to improve "his gifts amongst them in the work of the ministry." This they speedily requested him

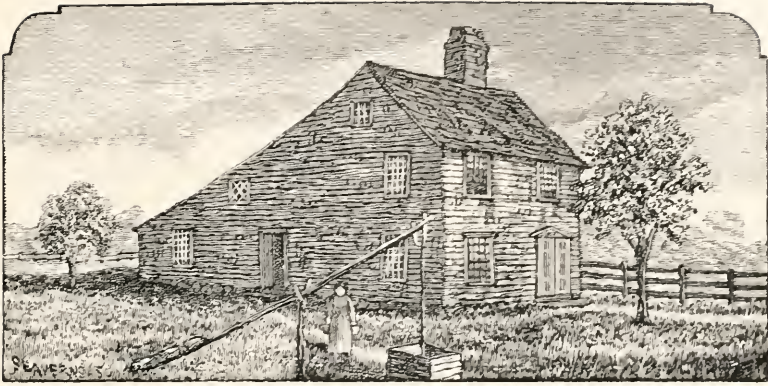
¹ *Epitaphs in Old Bridgewater, Massachusetts*. By Williams Latham. Bridgewater, 1882. Appendix, pp. 238, 241.

to do, and he, going there, did improve his gifts, both mental and spiritual, with such marked ability and success, that, having the "approbation, by the testimony of the reverend elders of other churches in Christ, to whom he was known," they determined to engage him for the pastorship of the congregation which he had organized while passing his candidature among them.

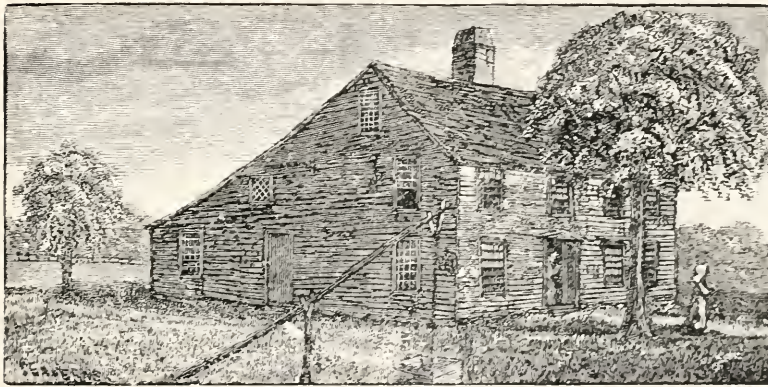
The first sermon preached by him in the town was delivered from a broad and conspicuous rock in a pasture-field bordering southwardly upon the Town River, not far eastwardly of Samuel Edson's mills. His text was taken from the Book of Jeremiah, i., 6: "Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a child." The young evangelist's eloquence at once engaged the attention of the throng of standing men, women, and children, and the spiritual message that he gave to them of the love and goodness of God was strikingly confirmed by the luxuriant herbage on which their cattle were feeding in the contiguous meadows, by the golden cast of the ripening grain, presaging an abundance of bread for themselves and other colonists; by the berry-jewelled vines, proffering them dainties more wholesome than those confectioned by men; these and other of the lavish and perfect gifts of the Heavenly Father of which he reminded them, he declared, daily appealed to them for thanksgiving and joyful appreciation.

He was duly settled as pastor of the congregation on February 18, 1664, and was given the parsonage and the double house-lot of twelve acres on which it had been built, a proprietary right in the town lands, and an annual salary of forty pounds, twenty to be paid at Boston in money, and twenty in the town. In 1667, thirty cords of wood were voted as an annual addition to his salary.

The marriage of the Rev. James Keith and Susanna, the eldest daughter of Samuel and Susanna Orcutt Edson, on May 3, 1668, elicited from the different members of the congregation many honoring expressions of joy and affection.



OLD HOUSE OF REV. JAMES KEITH. 1662



HOUSE ENLARGED. 1678



PRESENT HOUSE. 1837

(FROM "EPITAPHS IN OLD BRIDGEWATER," BY WILLIAMS LATHAM)

The site of the first meeting-house, erected by the people of the town in 1661, on the west side of the Boston Road, is now designated by a stone monument, about five feet high and a foot square at the base, planted south of the gate of the yard in front of the residence of Francis E. Howard, at the inner edge of the sidewalk on the west side of Howard Street. One of the inscriptions on the stone perpetuates the following information: "The first meeting-house probably stood within a few rods of this spot, 1661-1674." Another: "Supposed centre of the first burying-ground in ancient Bridgewater previous to 1700."

Samuel Edson, being in 1657 the proprietor of two shares in the town lands, was apportioned that year one hundred acres of the undivided lands, and, in 1665, then the owner of three shares, thirty; and, in 1666, sixty. These apportionments, including the twenty-two and one half acres assigned him in 1654, made him the possessor of two hundred and twelve and one half acres, exclusive of the land which he had purchased, in 1652, of William Brett, and that which he had bought, in 1656, of Joshua Rea.¹ The cultivation of these different tracts was not immediately begun, for it is likely a number of years intervened before the more arable sections of them were wholly cleared of bushes and trees, and rendered fit for ploughing. The meadow-land also required the removal of a great variety of wild vines, and no little ditching in places to free it from standing water. The value of the property proportionally increased as the land became productive of larger crops of grain and hay.

It was the good fortune of the early settlers of the town of Bridgewater to enjoy their possessions many years without molestation, either by hostile bands of predatory Indians or invading forces of a foreign enemy. In 1667, when

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater, in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, including an extensive Family Register.* By Nahum Mitchell. Boston, 1840. Pp. 32, 33, 42, 43, 44, 61, 62.

the war then existing between England and the Netherlands was threatening the peace of the New England colonists, and when the belligerent attitude of France seemed to presage consequences of danger for them, considerable anxiety began to be felt concerning the issue of events. Fearing that the common enemy might suddenly descend upon one or the other of the settlements along the coast, the government of the Colony of Plymouth issued orders, in the early part of the year, to the authorities of the different towns to be prepared to answer any call for men for defence. On April 2, that year, the Council of War, in session at New Plymouth, appointed Samuel Edson, Nicholas Byram, and John Willis, with the commissioned military officers of the town, the Bridgewater Council of War, and sent them such instructions regarding their duties as would enable them to perform the same in a satisfactory manner.

“The councell of warr haue determined that during any appearance of danger a milletary watch [shall] be kept in each towne, in the most convenient place or places for taking and passing an alarum, according to the descretion of the commanders and councell in each towne, and according to the danger that p[re]sents.”

“That the firing of three musketts shall make an alarum in the night, and that fiers be alsoe made in the night att the place where the alarum did rise.”

“That the troop in each towne [shall] be ordered by their owne officers, and where such are not, by such as are of the grand councell in that towne, to be redy att all times to goe forth as scouts vpon discouery, to carry intellegence from place to place as there may be occasion, and to doe such seruice further as need may require, vntill by speciall order of their cheife commanders they are called off.”

“It is determined, that Dutch and French [shall] be looked vpon as our comon enemy whiles soe to our nation, and shal be resisted, opposed, and expelled by forces of this

jurisdiction to their utmost power, and that all advantages shall be used to that end."

"That there [shall] be noe shooting att pigeons or any other game by day or night whiles danger p[re]sents, but onely att anemie."

"That every towne [shall] provide som place of retire[ment] for their weomen and children in case of an alarum, as the descretion of each place may giude them, that soe the men may with lesse distraction face anemie."

"That all p[er]sons in any township, although aboute sixty yeares of age, and otherwise vncapable of bearing armes, but are of competent estates, and shall be so judged by their commanders and councill of that towne, they shall be lyable to find a man to watch and ward as occation may be, and it [shall] be required of them."

"That it shall be in the power of such as are appointed a councill, in every towne, in any exigent or sudden occation, to dispose of the generall stocke of armes and amunition in that towne or any p[ar]te of it as occation may require."¹

At that time, the towns in the Colony of New Plymouth were New Plymouth, Duxbury, Scituate, Marshfield, Sandwich, Taunton, Rehoboth, Yarmouth, Barnstable, Eastham, and Bridgewater.

The inhabitants having formally petitioned to have several legally defined highways made through certain parts of the town, the General Court, on June 5, 1667, named the following persons "to be impaneled to lay out all waies requisitt" therein: Nicholas Byram, Samuel Edson, Thomas Hayward, senior, Samuel Packard, Nathaniel Willis, Lieutenant Thomas Hayward, Arthur Harris, John Cary, Ensign John Haward (Howard), Mark Lathrop, Robert Latham, and Joseph Alden; and if by Providence any of these should be hindered from serving, Samuel Allen and

¹ *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth*. Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff. Boston, 1855.—*Court Orders*, vol. iv., pp. 144, 145, 146.

John Ames were to represent such townsmen. The report made to the General Court by the jury, on July 7, 1668, contained the following paragraph:

“It is agreed alsoe by vs, that the way to the great meddow shall come out of Taunton way att the head of Edward Vobes’ [Fobes’] his six acree lot, and soe at the head of Samuel Edson’s six acree lots, to William Snowe’s and then between the said Edson’s and Snowe’s lands vnto the



SITE OF DEACON SAMUEL EDSON'S HOMESTEAD AT WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.
(Center of cellar where Francis E. Howard, Esq., stood when photographed)

comon, and then to the riuer. These waies were laid out by vs att seuerall times as in the yeares 1667 [and] 1668.”

The six-acre lots belonging respectively to Edward Fobes, Samuel Edson, and William Snow, were, in 1686, the sites of the dwellings of the said owners, as is verified by the following order of the town, made that year:

“Ten acres wood land to be laid out to each purchaser [or proprietor of town lands] nearest to their habitations as the land will afford it to be laid out, viz:—

“*Lots on the south side of Town River, below Goodman*

Alden's, namely, to William Snow, Samuel Edson, Edward Fobes," and eight other residents.

Tradition also testifies that the homestead in which Samuel Edson died stood about five hundred or more feet south of Town River (nearly opposite the dwelling of the Rev. James Keith, north of the stream), and somewhat conspicuously on a rise of ground midway between the homes of Deacon Edward Fobes and William Snow, or about halfway between that part of the Taunton Road, now bearing the name of South Street, and the highway called Forrest Street.

On the same day that the General Court named the Highway Commissioners who made, on July 5, 1668, the report relating to the roads laid out by them, Samuel Edson and Samuel Packard were appointed surveyors of highways for the town of Bridgewater.

The establishment of a boundary line between the town of Bridgewater and the town of Middleborough having become a matter of local importance to the settlers of the older town, the following action is recorded as having been taken by them: "The Towne being mett together the 23 of June, 1671, made choice of Goodman Edson and Deacon Willis to goe dow[n] to the Court [at New Plymouth] as Agents in the behalfe of the Towne to mannage the Towne's affaires betweene the Towne of Middle Berre and vs, in reference to our line or the bounds of our lands between vs & them, and the Towne hath giuen them full powre to act according to their discretion as they shall se cause when they are at the Court, and they are to be satisfied for their paines."

A matter of greater interest engaged the attention of the people following the action taken at the town meeting held on October 11, 1671, to provide them with a more commodious and better constructed house for religious purposes. As recorded, the towne agreed "that there should be a new Meeting House built, 40 foot long & 26 foote wide,

and 14 foot stud. And the Towne then chose 5 or 6 men to consider of it, namely, Goodman Edsonn, Nickolas Byram, Deacon Willis, John Washborne, Samuel Alline & John Ames, and they weare to treat with a workman aboute it to se whearabouts the price will be or what the Meeting House may come to, & so to bring in their answeere the next Towne Meeting."

"It was also agreed vpon at the same Towne Meeting that Samuel Edsonn, seynior, should haue a 100 pole in breadth, according to the breadth of his lands laid out to hime going to Tauntown, which lands lie this side the Deacon's field, on the left hand going, and to runn fowr score pole in length, according to the selfe same rang[e] of his former laid out lands, & to remoue his 10 acares of land from the right hand of the path [or road] going to Tauntown, whear it was laid out, that according to his graunt he might joyne it to some other of his lands on the other side of 4 mile brook, to make way for the placing in of the fore named 100 roods of land, to face or rang[e] with his former lands laid out, and he is to allow for it in his [or the] next deuision [of land].

"And Deacon Willis had the same graunt wth Goodman Edsonn at the same Towne Meeting, according to his proportion of lands which he haue next beyond Goodman Edsonn's, and [he] must be accountable for it in his [or the] next deuision [of land]."

The title of "Deacon" with which Samuel Edson is honored in the preceding resolution, was evidently derived from the office to which he had then recently been elected by the members of the Bridgewater church. The prefix, "Goodman," was an appellation of respect acquired by highly esteemed men, and made popular in the American colonies by an adherence to an old English custom.

"The first separate or distinct meeting held by the proprietors" was convened on July 9, 1672, when "they chose a large committee 'to consider the manner to be adopted in

future for laying out lands' in the town, which was ordered to make a report of the same in the month of October. Among other resolutions voted upon at the July meeting was one that the town clerk should enter the determination of the collected body of proprietors in the record-book, whereby that official was afterwards "clerk of the proprietors."

In 1674, the town "ordered that a new book for the recording of lands should be procured, and a committee appointed to see that the records were made and transcribed correctly."

In order to possess clear and defensible titles to the different tracts of land forming the territory of the town of Bridgewater, the proprietors, from time to time, purchased such as were claimed by the Indians by right of prior possession. One of the last tracts bought by the town lies on the north side of the Titicut River. Having petitioned the General Court for permission to buy it, the proprietors obtained the consent of that legislative body which appointed Nicholas Byram, Samuel Edson, and William Brett to acquire the tract. On November 20, 1672, Pomponoho, an Indian, living at Titicut, "sold for the full sum of sixteen pounds, viz. six pounds of current money of New England, and ten pounds in good merchantable corn, . . . all the lands lying on the north side of Titicut River within the bounds of Bridgewater," excepting one hundred and ten acres, to Nicholas Byram, senior, Samuel Edson, senior, and William Brett, senior, "in and for the use of the townsmen of Bridgewater, joint purchasers with them." The reserved one hundred and ten acres, it is said, were afterward purchased by individuals settled in the town.

The first to marry of the eight children of Samuel and Susanna Orcutt Edson was Elizabeth, their third daughter, who, in the spring of 1663, became the second wife of Richard, son of Nicholas Phillips of the town of Weymouth, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. Sarah, their second

daughter, and John, son of John and Alice Dean of the town of Taunton, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony on November 7, 1663.¹ As has been mentioned, Susanna, their eldest daughter, and the Rev. James Keith were married on May 3, 1668. In 1673, Josiah, their third son, became the husband of Elizabeth, daughter of John and Alice Dean.

The minutes of the trial of an Indian for murder, on October 27, 1674, when "Mr Samuel Edson" served as one of the twelve jurors, quaintly set forth the proceedings in the following way: "Att this Court, a natiue named Matthias, allies [*alias*] Achaweheet, was indicted for killing of another natiue named Joseph, allies Chackapanuche. Hee put himselfe on tryall by God and the countrey.

"The verdict of the jury was,—

"Wee find him guilty of manslaughter by way of chaunce medley [*chance mêlée*].

"The verdict being accepted by the Court, the said Matthias was openly cleared of being guilty of wilful murder, and was released."²

In 1675, at the outbreak of King Philip's War, the inhabitants of New England numbered about one hundred and twenty thousand of whom probably sixteen thousand were able to bear arms. The different tribes of Indians at that time in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, the Colony

¹ John and Walter Dean came from England to America in 1637. "They arrived," says the late Rev. Samuel Deane of Scituate, Mass., "at Boston first; stopped a year, or nearly, at Dorchester, and then came with others to Taunton." The two brothers took the Freeman's oath at Plymouth, December 4, 1638. John, born about 1600, died in Taunton in 1660. His wife, Alice, survived him, probably, as late as 1668. Walter, born between 1615 and 1620, married Eleanor, a daughter of Richard Strong of Taunton, England.—*Brief Memoirs of John and Walter Deane, two of the first settlers of Taunton, Mass., and of the early generations of their descendants.* By William Reed Deane, assisted by others. Chicago, 1893. Pp. 8, 10, 14.

² *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth.* Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff. Boston, 1855.—*Court Orders*, vol. iv., pp. 155, 193; vol. v., pp. 93, 105, 156.—*First Book of Records of the Town of Bridgewater*, pp. 62, 63.—*History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 18, 19, 29.

of New Plymouth, and the Colony of Rhode Island were probably represented by ten thousand warriors, of which those of the Narragansett tribe were estimated as numbering two thousand. The savages living within the bounds of the Colony of New Plymouth did not exceed, it is thought, four thousand souls.

Philip, or Metacomet, son of Massasoit, was the chief or king of the Wampanoags or Poconockets, a tribe of Indians occupying the region bordering upon the northern part of Narragansett Bay, which included the site of the city of Bristol, called by the aborigines Poconocket.

Alexander, the brother of Philip, being the elder, assumed the kingship of the Wampanoags on the death of the father. It was soon discovered that he was plotting with the Narragansetts against the English. Thereupon the Court at New Plymouth requested his presence there, to have him answer the allegations made respecting his treacherous conduct. He went, and after explaining the nature of his communications with the Narragansetts, he returned home, and shortly afterward, probably in 1657, died.

Philip, upon succeeding him as chief of the tribe, began negotiating with the Narragansetts to take up arms with him and the Wampanoags against the New England colonists. He, however, renewed treaties of peace and amity with the English governors until 1671, when he loudly but falsely declared that some of the colonists had trespassed upon and damaged his land.

In consequence of the hostile appearance of Philip's men, deputies of the Colony of New Plymouth and the Colony of Massachusetts Bay were assembled at Taunton. "Philip was sent for to give reasons for such warlike appearances. He discovered [disclosed] extreme shyness, and for some time would not come to the town, and then with a large band of his warriors with their arms. He would not consent to go into the meeting-house, where the delegates

were, until it was agreed that his men should be on one side of the house, and the English on the other.

“On being questioned, he denied having any ill designs upon the English, and said that he came with his men armed to prevent any attacks from the Narragansetts; but this falsehood was at once detected, and it was evident that they were united in their operations. It was also proved before him that he had meditated an attack on Taunton, which he confessed. These steps so confounded him that he consented to deliver all his arms into the hands of the English as an indemnity for past dangers. All the guns which he brought with him, about seventy, were delivered, and the rest were to be sent, but never were. . . . This [transfer of fire-arms] prevented immediate war, and it required several years to repair their loss.

“Philip was industrious to do this, and, at the same time, used his endeavours to cause other tribes to engage in his cause. He was not ready when the war did begin, which, in some measure,” led to its “failure. Three of his men were tried and hanged for the alleged murder of John Sassamon [an Indian who had professed conversion to Christianity], whom Philip had condemned as a traitor. It so exasperated Philip and his men that their friends should be punished by the English, that they could no longer restrain their violence.”

The fire-arms first owned by the Indians, it is said, were obtained from time to time from French fur-traders. Subsequently, no doubt, they were surreptitiously exchanged by English adventurers for peltry. The murderous use of them by the savages did not restrain some of the more avaricious colonists, who had begun clandestinely to provide the Indians with guns and ammunition, from continuing with painstaking secrecy the unlawful practice. It cannot be gainsaid that the booty of plundering and massacring bands of savages was not unfrequently taken in exchange for fire-arms, powder, and bullets, by settlers whose riches were

mostly acquired by villainous dealings of this kind with crafty Indian chiefs and their subtle subjects.

The initial evidences of the hostile attitude of the New England Indians became more distinct on Sunday, June 21, 1675, when some of the inhabitants of Swansey, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, alarmed by a rumor of an intended attack by the Wampanoags, under the leadership of Philip, hastily quitted their homes and fled to places of nearest refuge. Apart from plundering a few of the deserted houses, the savages neither committed any act of violence, nor killed any of the people that remained at the settlement. One of the settlers having shot at an Indian and wounded him, King Philip used the incident as a justifying pretext for his and his tribe's subsequent atrocities.

This premonition of impending war caused the government of the Colony of New Plymouth to take timely action to have the people of the outlying towns alert and defensive. On February 28, 1675, at a meeting of the Colonial Council of War, at Marshfield, William Brett, Samuel Edson, and John Willis, senior, were appointed a Council of War for the town of Bridgewater. The other towns which were at that time distinguished by the appointment of local councils of war, were Plymouth, Scituate, Duxbury, Barnstable, Sandwich, Taunton, Yarmouth, Marshfield, Rehoboth, and Eastham. Among the duties of the members of the town councils of war, the following were set forth in the orders sent them:

“The said towne councells, together with the comission officers, or the major p[ar]te of the whole concurring, shall haue power to order all watches and wardings and garrisons in their respective townes, and the setting forth of scoutes for the safty of the townes, and to take care that the townes stocke of amunition, to which they belong, may be supplied, and haue power to call the towne together to make a rate [of taxation] to defray the charge therof as occasion may require, and to dispose the said stocke into such places

as they shall judge most convenient; and whosoever shall neglect or refuse to watch or ward, being required and ordered so to doe, shall forfeite five shillings for every default, to be levied by distresse on his estate, if hee have any to answere it; and if noe estate, then to be sett necke and heeles, by order of the comission officers, not exceeding halfe an houre."

There were other "actes and orders" made and concluded by the Colonial Council of War from time to time, during this period of hostilities, which plainly express the general anxiety that then prevailed in the colony regarding the safety of the inhabitants of the more exposed settlements.

"Many of the early settlers of Bridgewater," remarks an authoritative writer, "were young men born in this country, well acquainted with the Indian character, and therefore well calculated to encounter the troubles and dangers of the savage warfare they were soon to experience. Being wholly an interior settlement, remote from their friends on the seaboard, 'they were strongly urged to desert their dwellings, and repair to the towns by the sea side.' They, however, resolutely kept their ground, and defended their settlement, and encouraged and assisted other towns to do the same. They erected a stockade or garrison on the south side of the river, and also fortified many of their dwelling houses. At the commencement of hostilities, June 21, 1675, seventeen of their number, 'well armed and furnished with horses, the first that were on the march in all the country,' went to Metapoiset, a small settlement about twelve miles from Swansey, 'to strengthen the garrison at that place.' They were met by people from Swansey, driven from their habitations and filled with terror, who advised them to return; but they fearlessly pursued their course and accomplished their object. They were in many perils while there, but returned safe after the greatest part of the garrison, consisting of seventy persons, most of whom

were women and children, were safely conducted on to Rhode Island. Six persons of that vicinity, who were killed at that time, while they were with their teams conveying their corn into the garrison, were the first that fell in that war."

There were, at that time, in the town, sixty-four "householders and male children twenty years old and upwards."

"It was agreed by the Towne meet togeyther [on] the first of November, 1675, that there should be a fortification aboute the Meeting House, for the safty of the Towne in the time of danger, to be made with halfe trees seuen foot hie aboute the ground, 6 rood long and 4 rood wide, besides the flankers; euery quarter or squaderon [of men] to doe each of them a sid[e] or an end, and they that doe the ends must make [in] each of them a doore and [on] each of them a flanker, and this worke to be finished and donn by the 6th of Nouember, insuing the date hearoff."

Another precautionary act of defence, timely taken for the protection of the settlement, is set forth in the following resolution: "It was agreed vpon by the Town mett togeither the 20th of Nouember, 1675, that there should be a Garrison made about Mr. Keith's house, and the Counsell [of War] should take notice of what was to be donn and to deuide to euery squadron [of men] their share [of the work]."

The year 1676 recorded a series of startling massacres and harrowing acts of savagery surpassing description. The aggressive enemy, about the end of January, invaded the Colony of Massachusetts Bay to the great consternation of the people of the defenceless interior settlements. As briefly related by a well-informed chronicler, "on the tenth of February, several hundred of the foe fell upon Lancaster; plundered and burned a great part of the town, and killed or captivated forty persons [King Philip probably leading the attacking Indians]. On February 21st, nearly half of the town of Medfield was burned, and on the twenty-fifth, seven or eight buildings were also burned at Weymouth. On

March 13th, Groton was all destroyed, excepting four garrison houses. On the seventeenth, Warwick had every house burned save one. On the twenty-sixth, Marlborough was nearly destroyed, and the inhabitants deserted it. The same day Captain Pierce of Scituate, with fifty English and twenty friendly Indians, was cut off with most of his men. On the twenty-eighth, forty houses and thirty barns were burned at Rehoboth [in the Colony of New Plymouth]; and the day following, about thirty houses in Providence. The main body of the enemy was supposed then to be in the woods between Brookfield and Marlborough, and the Connecticut River."

On Sunday, April 9th, "the enemy burnt a house and barn in the east part of the town" of Bridgewater. The Rev. James Keith, in a letter, dated April 17, 1676, describes the circumstances in the following words: "God hath now begun to pour out upon us the cup of trembling; yet the Lord doth remember us still with mercy, yea very great mercy.

"The 9th of this instant, being the Lord's Day, as we were assembling in the forenoon, we were alarmed by the shooting of some guns from some of our garrisons upon discovery of a house being on fire, which was Robert Latham's; his dwelling house and barn are wholly consumed. The house was deserted but a few days before. He had considerable loss in lumber. The corn and chief of his goods were saved. There were divers other out-houses rifled at the same time, but no more burnt. There was a horse, or two, killed; three or four carried away; and some few swine killed.

"We sent out a party of men on the Lord's Day night upon discovery, who found their trackings. Our men judged there might be about ten of them. They followed them by their tracks several miles, but having no provision, they were forced to leave the pursuit. We are in expectation every day of an assault here. The Lord prepare us for our trial."

On Monday, April 17th, while the Rev. James Keith was writing the letter describing the enemy's appearance, rapacity, and vindictiveness in the town, a party of Indians burned the buildings at Marlborough, left undestroyed by those wreaking their enmity upon the inhabitants on the twenty-sixth of March. On Tuesday, April 18th, the savages fell upon Sudbury, in an adjoining town, and burned a number of dwellings and barns, and killed several persons. Ten or twelve men who had gone there armed from Concord to succor the inhabitants "were drawn into an ambush and were all killed or taken" captives. "Near the end of April, Scituate, about thirty miles from Boston, on the bay, had nineteen houses and barns burned. The inhabitants meanwhile made a gallant resistance, and finally put the enemy to flight."

On Monday, the eighth of May, the town of Bridgewater was entered by a formidable body of savages, whose revengeful acts are summarized by a local historian as follows: "About three hundred Indians, with Tispaquin for their leader, made another assault on the east end of the village on the south side of the [town] river, and set fire to many of the houses, but the inhabitants issuing from their garrison houses, fell upon them so resolutely, that the enemy were soon repelled; and a heavy shower of rain falling at the same time, the fires were soon extinguished. The attack was then renewed on the north side of the river, but it was soon defeated, and the next morning the enemy entirely disappeared, after having burnt two houses and one barn.

"On these several occasions thirteen houses and four barns only were burnt, and but five of these were in the village; the rest were on the borders of the settlement and deserted at the time. Excepting the garrison houses, it is said, every house but one in the town was burnt. These were probably the out dwellings only on the skirts and not in the village, where the houses were all in some measure

fortified. The house excepted is said to have been Nicholas Byram's, which was in the east, . . . and quite remote from the principal settlement."

On Tuesday, the eleventh of May, sixteen houses and barns were burned by the enemy in the town of New Plymouth, and two days afterward nine more buildings. "Middleborough, thirty-eight miles from Boston, had its few remaining houses burned the same day."

On Saturday, the twenty-ninth of July, Captain Thomas Hayward, Sergeant Samuel Packard, junior, John Willis, and Isaac Harris went from the settlement to determine the truth of a report that a body of Indians had been seen hostilely lurking in the vicinity of the town of Bridgewater. At some distance from the settlement, it is said, "they saw an Indian, which made them think the enemy was at hand; and they immediately pressed Comfort Willis and Joseph Edson to go post" to Governor Winslow, at Marshfield, a few miles north of New Plymouth, which they did the same night. Governor Winslow went with them the next day to New Plymouth to order Captain Benjamin Church to go with his company of volunteers in search of the Indians. That officer, with some of his men, went with Comfort Willis and Joseph Edson the same day, which was Sunday, as far as Monponset Pond, and seeing no Indians, he returned to New Plymouth, promising to go with them on Monday, the last day of July, for a further search for the savages. Thereupon the two scouting couriers returned that night to the settlement with the message given them by Captain Church.

On Monday, under the command of Ensign John Howard (Howard), Samuel, Joseph, and Josiah Edson (the three sons of Deacon Samuel Edson), John, Samuel, and Thomas Washburn, John Field, Nicholas Byram, Samuel Allen, Samuel Allen, junior, John Gordon, John Hayward, John Packard, John Ames, Comfort Willis, Guido Bayley, Nathaniel Hayward, John Whitman, and Samuel Leach, "went out, supposing to meet with Captain Church. They came

upon the enemy, and fought with them, and took seventeen of them alive, and also much plunder. And they all returned, and not one fell by the enemy, and received no help from [Captain] Church."

While skirmishing with the Indians, the valorous volunteers, it is said, killed a number of King Philip's "special friends," and the uncle of Philip, "who fell by his side." Had the Bridgewater men known that the famous chief was one of the savages with whom they were fighting, probably, as remarked by a writer, "Philip himself might have fallen, and the war thus have been brought to a more speedy and less disastrous result, but 'the cunning fox escaped them that time.'"

"Captain Church joined them the next day, and pursued the enemy till the third of August, when, 'having no provision but what they took from the foe, they hastened to Bridgewater, sending an express before to provide for them—their company being then very numerous—having killed and taken one hundred and seventy-three [Indians]. The gentlemen of Bridgewater met Captain Church with great expressions of honor, and thanks, and received him and his company with all due respect and kind treatment.'"

The prisoners were confined that night in the town pound, and on the following day taken by Captain Church and his men to New Plymouth.

Having learned that King Philip, with a band of trusty followers, had been driven to a swamp near Mount Hope, not far from the site of the city of Bristol in Rhode Island, a number of officers in command of companies of volunteers placed themselves and their men, on Saturday, August 12, 1676, in advantageous ambuscades about the swamp for the purpose of killing or capturing the noted chief. On the firing of the first gun, the wary warrior, it is said, threw his "*petunk*" and powder-horn over his head and caught up his gun, and unwittingly ran toward one of the ambuscades, and was shot through the heart. As further related, "he

fell upon his face in the mud and water, with his gun under him."

The Rev. Cotton Mather commenting upon the good fortune which fell to the inhabitants of the town of Bridgewater, while subject to their disquieting fears in this period of Indian hostilities, remarks: "Not an inhabitant was lost by this town during the war, neither young nor old; that when their dwellings were fired at this time, God, from heaven, fought for them with a storm of lightning, thunder, and rain, whereby a great part of their houses were preserved."

King Philip's wife and son having, as prisoners, fallen into the hands of the government of the colony, a question arose concerning the disposition to be made of them. It is said that the Rev. James Keith was written to for an expression of his opinion. In a letter to the Rev. John Cotton, he declared himself "in favor of mercy," a conclusion differing from that of many other eminent men in the colony, and which "had," it is asserted, "great weight, if indeed it was not decisive on the occasion. The boy's life was spared, and with his mother, he was sent out of the country, and probably to the Bermudas."

The calamitous character of the war awakened so extensive a sympathy among the people of Ireland that they speedily forwarded a generous subscription to New England to succor the distressed inhabitants. On March 6, 1677, the General Court expressed its views respecting the proper apportionment of the gift of one hundred and twenty-four pounds and ten shillings among the towns ravaged by the Indians: "The order and distribution of this collonies p[ar]te of the contribution made by diuers Christians in Ireland for the releiff of such as are impouerished, destressed, and in necessitie by the late Indian war, was, as it respects this collonie, proportioned as followeth [to the different towns]." The sum of seven pounds placed in the hands of "Elder Brett, Deacon Willis," and "Mr. Samuel Edson,"

the Bridgewater committee appointed by the Court, was duly distributed by them among the sufferers by the war living in the town.¹

In 1683, "the outermost mile of the 'original four-mile grant' " of the town's territory, or one mile all around the inner three miles circumjacent land, was divided into four tracts, one on each side of the town, and severally apportioned to the fifty-six proprietors [Samuel Edson and the Rev. James Keith being added to the original fifty-four], seventeen of whom were assigned the tract on the north side, fifteen that on the east, fourteen that on the west, and ten that on the south; and each group of proprietors being authorized to lay out its division in such a manner as should thereafter be determined by those belonging to it. The following record discloses the action taken to effect this division of the town land:

"The purchasers being generally met together upon this 24th of December, 1683, it was then proposed to them the laying out of [the several] great divisions of land to every purchaser [or proprietor] round the outside of the town in the four miles, or fourth mile from the centre and it was to be done by casting of lots for them. After some agitation about it, silence was desired, and this proposition was publicly and openly there propounded twice, and after proposal they were desired to declare their assent to it by their usual way of holding up their hands, which was done, and the major part, by many, did declare their assent to it.

"The order of this division of land is: that it should be laid out a mile inward in breadth from the four miles square

¹ *The History of the Great Indian War of 1675 and 1676, commonly called Philip's War. Also, of the old French and Indian Wars, from 1689, to 1704.* By Thomas Church. With numerous notes and an appendix, by Samuel G. Drake. Revised edition. Cooperstown, 1846. Pp. 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 64, 65, 109, 116, 117, 121, 122, 123.

Records of the Colony of New Plymouth. Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, Boston, 1855.—*Court Orders*, vol. v., pp. 186, 223.—*History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 63.—*First Book of the Records of the Town of Bridgewater*, p. 71.

from the centre, and whatsoever purchaser in Bridgewater having any former lots of land laid out within this fourth mile should not be molested by this great division. Further, the order of this great division is: that there should be ten on the south side of the town, and fourteen on the west, and seventeen on the north, and fifteen on the east side; and every purchaser was to have his division of land as it fell to him by lot, the lots being drawn. Their names and lots are in the order as followeth:

“Those, whose lots fell out on the north, were to begin at the west, at the line betwixt Taunton (now [1840] Easton) and Bridgewater, and to run seven miles east in length, and one mile in breadth from the north line southward.

“Names of the men of the north [side].

“ Robert Latham,	Mark Lathrop,
Nicholas Byram, } 2 lots.	Guido Bayley,
Nicholas Byram, }	Samuel Edson, jr.,
Joseph Alden,	Giles Leach,
William Bassett,	Joseph Wadsworth,
John Cary,	Widow of (Samuel) Wadsworth,
Joseph Hayward,	John Willis, jr.,
Mr. Nathaniel Willis,	Widow (of John) Robbins.
Samuel Packard,	— 17 lots —

“And from the extent of this seven miles of those on the north, those on the east are to begin on the north line, and to run a line due south till it meets with Mr. Alexander Standish’s land, or Middleborough (now Halifax) bounds. All the lands lying easterly betwixt the above said line so run, and the line that was run by the agents of Bridgewater and Middleborough (now Halifax), and the Major’s purchase (now Hanson), belongeth to these fifteen men whose names and lots as they fell out are in order as followeth:—

“The names of the men on the east [side].

“ Nicholas Byram, jr.,	John Ames,
John Hayward,	Josiah Edson,

Ensign (John) Haward,	Nathaniel Hayward,
[Howard]	John Washburn, } 2 lots.
George Turner,	John Washburn, }
Mr. (James) Keith,	Widow (Samuel) Wadsworth,
Samuel Packard,	Nathaniel Packard.
Benjamin Willis,	— 15 lots —
Edward Fobes,	

“And those fourteen on the west are to begin at the end of the mile in breadth at the north end, and to run along in the line betwixt Taunton (now Easton and Raynham), and Bridgewater, till it meet with a cove in the pond that cuts the line betwixt Taunton (now Raynham) and Bridgewater; and are to have a mile in breadth inward from the west line, as those have upon the north line, except it be against the great meadow.

“Their lots and names are as followeth:—

“Thomas Whitman,	Widow Faxon, (formerly
Samuel Allen,	w[ife] of Thomas Gannett,)
William Brett,	William Snow,
Jonathan Hill,	William Orcutt,
Thomas Snell,	Joseph Bassett,
Deacon John Willis,	Elisha Hayward,
John Washburn,	Deacon Samuel Edson.
Joseph Wadsworth,	

“And the ten on the south are to begin at Taunton, (now Raynham) line, and to run east till it meet with the great river for length, and is to be a mile in breadth inward, as it is on the north.

“Their names and lots, as they were drawn forth, are as followeth:—

“Isaac Harris,	Lawrence Willis,
John Whitman,	John Washburn,
Lieutenant (Thomas) Hay-	Joseph Edson,
ward,	James Cary,
Samuel Tompkins,	John Field.
Samuel Leonard,	— ten in all.—”

“Of these persons, whose names are contained in these four divisions, it appears that John Washburn at this time owned four lots, and of course four proprietary shares, Nicholas Byram two, Joseph Wadsworth two, Widow Wadsworth two, and Samuel Packard two, all the rest one share each. They were all inhabitants of the town except the Wadsworths, who retained their shares much longer than any of the non-residents, and were the last of the Duxbury proprietors to relinquish them. At this period forty-nine persons owned the entire original grant.”

The land purchased at Titicut from the Indians in 1672 was ordered by a vote of the town to be divided into lots and apportioned to such householders and male children as were twenty years old and upward, then sixty-four in number. They were to be recognized thereafter as proprietors and full purchasers of the said lots, but none were apportioned until 1685.

In 1686, ten acres of woodland were voted to be laid out to each proprietor of the town, and as near to his habitation as the location of the land might permit.

The proprietors of the town who, at that time, owned more than a single share in its lands, were Nicholas Byram, five shares; John Washburn, four; Samuel Edson, two (he having earlier had three, one of which he had, in 1673, transferred to his son Josiah); Samuel Packard, two; Thomas Hayward, two; Thomas Whitman, two; Samuel Wadsworth, two; and Joseph Wadsworth, two.¹

Roads of advantageous grades, practically direct, and properly bridged, were early regarded as necessary for facilitating the passage of people, live stock, and vehicles from one point of the town to the other, as well as to destinations beyond its boundaries. The laying out of such roads as were most needed was undertaken shortly after the incorporation of the town. “A way towards Plymouth,”

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 65.

one "towards Boston," and one "to Taunton" were projected in 1667.

The same year a jury was ordered to lay out "a way to the great meadows, viz: to come from out of Taunton way at the head of Edward Fobes' six acre lot—so to the head of Samuel Edson's six acre lots to William Snow's—then between said Edson's and Snow's lands to the common—then to the river."

In 1690, another order specified "a way" to be laid out "from John Aldrich's to the corner of Goodman Edson's field, where it meets with the way that comes from the town: the way is to be where it's beaten."

That year "a way from Goodman Bayley's farm and South Brook" was "agreed upon, viz: the way now goes from South Brook to Samuel Washburn's, where the way now is, it runs on the north side of the barn to a tree where it meets with a way that comes from South Brook below Goodman Ames' meadow, where the way goes over the brook to the said tree—and thence to a white oak—thence in the way over a small run—thence to John Leonard's house—thence with the way to Samuel Edson's land, and down on Comfort Willis' land, and across Samuel Edson's land to John Willis' land—then to a wild cherry tree—then to a rock near the outside of John Willis' land—then through Samuel Edson's land to marked trees—and then to town."

About the year 1683, the proprietors of the town voted "one aker for a burying place" on the east side of Taunton Road, leading from Town River southwardly to Mile-Brook bridge, now titled South Street. About 1840, the original plot of ground "was enlarged by an addition of land on the north and east sides, making it nearly a triangular lot, comprising "one acre, one quarter and eleven rods of land." It is said that "Deacon Edward Fobes, son of John Fobes, an original proprietor, then [in 1681] lived where Dwelly Fobes now [in 1882] lives and owned two house or garden lots,

24 x 80, twelve acres, bounded west by Samuel Edson and east by the road to Taunton, being the present [1882] road by his house and the burying-place." "Opposite the dwelling house of [the] said Edward Fobes," were the two house-lots, 24 x 80, "owned, occupied, and lived upon by John Cary, junior, son of the old and first town-clerk."¹

The fifth of the eight children of Samuel and Susanna Orcutt Edson to marry, was Mary, their fourth daughter, who, in 1676, became the spouse of Nicholas, son of Nicholas and Susanna Shaw Byram. Bethiah, their fifth and youngest daughter, and latest-born child, married, on December 17, 1676, Ezra, son of Walter and Eleanor Strong Dean. Samuel, their eldest son, took, in 1678, for his wife, Susanna, the sister of Nicholas Byram, who was the husband of his sister Mary. Joseph, their second son, wedded, in 1678, Experience Field of Rhode Island, who died in 1685, and he married, in the following year, Mary, daughter of George Turner of the town of Bridgewater.

On July 19, 1692, Samuel Edson calmly terminated his earthly career of four score years; one half of which space of time had been passed by him in the town of Bridgewater. His widow, then in the seventy-fourth year of her age, and all the children born to them (the youngest being forty years old), followed his remains, a few days later, to the burial-ground east of the Taunton Road, an eighth of a mile distant southeasterly from the homestead that commanded a view northeastwardly of most of the dwellings forming the settlement along the banks of the Town River.

Assuming that his mortal life could not have much longer continuance, Samuel Edson prudently made a will in which he expressed in the following brief and explicit way the evidence of his affection for his aged consort and surviving offspring:

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 69, 70, 71, 72.—*Epitaphs in Old Bridgewater, Massachusetts.* By Williams Latham. Illustrated with Plans and Views. Bridgewater, Mass., 1882. Pp.

“ This fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eighty-eight or eighty-nine, I, Samuel Edson, sen., Inhabitant of the Town of Bridgewater, in the county of Plimouth, in New England, Being of perfect understanding and memory, Praysed be God for the same, do make and declare my last Will and Testament in maner and forme following:

“ Having already disposed of moste of my Lands and a Great part of my estate to my children as By their Deeds doth appear, I do now Will and Bequeath to my eldest son, Samuel Edson, my fflowing piece, and to my other two sons, Joseph Edson and Josiah Edson, my musket, sword, and Bandaleers.

“ Item. I Give and Bequeath to my three sons, Samuel Edson, Joseph Edson, and Josiah Edson, to each of them, a draught chaine and also a Logg-chain, and all my wearing cloaths to be divided among them.

“ Item. I Give and bequeath to my Loving Wife, Susanna Edson, all the rest of my estate, Both Personal and reall, housing, Lands, chattels, cash, all within doors and without, whatsoever I have not otherwise disposed of, to be wholly at her dispose during her naturall Life, and what is Left at her decease and mine, either Housing, lands, chattels, or cash, all without doors, to be equally divided among my three sons, Samuel Edson, Joseph Edson, and Josiah Edson, their heirs and Assigns. And all within doors, all my household Goods and cash to be equally divided among my five daughters, Elizabeth, Susanna, Sarah, Mary, and Bethiah, their heirs and assigns. And I do hereby nominate and appoint my Loving Wife, Susanna Edson, to be my executrix and my son Samuel Edson and my son Josiah Edson to be Joyned with her as executors of this my last Will and Testament. And I do further Will and desire Mr. James Keith, John Kingman, sen^r, and Thomas Snell of Bridgewater to be overseers of this my Last Will and Testament to see it faithfully performed, hereby appoint-

ing my executrix and my executors above mentioned to receive all my just debts and to pay whatever I owe any p[er]son, discharging my funeral's [expenses].

"In witness whereof I, the abovesaid Samuel Edson, sen^r, have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

"SAMUEL EDSON, sen^r, (seal)."

"Readd, signed, sealed, Published

"and declared to be his Last

"Will and Testament in the

"Presence of us. Witnesses:

"JOHN FFIELD,

"JOHN AMES,

"SAMUEL KINSLEY."

"John Ames and Samuel Kinsley, two of the Witnesses here named made oath before the Court at Plymouth, September ye 20th, 1692, that they were present and saw the above named Samuel Edson, sen^r, now deceased, sign, seal, and heard him declare the above-written to be his last Will and Testament. And that, to the best of their judgment, he was of sound mind and memory when he did the same.

"Attest: SAM^t SPRAGUE, Clerk."¹

The father's bequest of his "fowling piece" to his son Samuel was in conformity with an ancient English custom that specialized a father's love for his eldest son, who by primogeniture was commonly made the recipient of a particular keepsake. The use of two small f's in spelling fowling instead of a capital F was also in keeping with an ancient practice, as is evidenced in the writing of such proper names as France, "ffrance"; and as has been seen in a preceding quotation of an entry in the Town Book of Salem, where the surname Flagg is written "fflagge."

Tokens of remembrance, as shown by the will, were bequeathed the other two sons—one receiving his father's

¹ *Registry of Wills*. Book i., p. 143. Office of Probate, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

musket and a bandoleer (a broad piece of leather worn over the right shoulder and passing under the left arm to support the musket when priming it with the right hand); the other son, his father's sword, and a bandoleer, to which the scabbard was attached.

The drawing of heavy loads of stone or other material in winter on sledges by oxen, or of long and cumbrous pieces of timber bound together with log-chains, necessitated at that day the use of a draught-chain, which was considered an invaluable possession by the pioneer farmers of New England. The chains bequeathed by Samuel Edson to his sons were probably made in England and imported by him for use on his different farms.

Ten days after his death, an inventory was taken of his household goods, farming implements, and other property, of which the following instrument of writing exhibits the appraised value:

"The Inventory of Samuel Edson, sen^r, who deceased the 19th day of July, 1692, is as followeth:

	£.	s.	d.
" Imp ^{rs} . One bed and ffurniture to it	7	00	00
Six paire of sheets	2	00	00
Twenty six yards of Linnen cloth,	1	16	00
Twenty eight napkins and a Tablecloth,	1	01	08
One Bed, sheets and coverings,	2	05	00
One Bed more, Boulster, sheets & coverings,	5	00	00
One Bed more, sheets and coverings,	1	15	00
Three coverlets, one Rugg, and Blankets, }	5	17	00
Woolen cloth, twenty nine yards, }	5	17	00
more and Bed,	1	00	00
Cushings, half a coverlet, and chests,	0	13	00
Brass vessels and Iron,	2	11	00
Pewter vessels and Iron.	3	10	00
Wooden, earth, and tin vessels,	1	10	00
Books, and Arme chaires and stooles.	2	14	00
Wheels, Wool, Woolen and Linnen yarn	2	16	00

In wearing cloaths	10	00	00
Saddle, Brydle, Pillion, and cloath, & iron tooles,	1	14	00
In silver money,	30	00	00
In house and Land	50	00	00
Cows, mare, sheep and swine,	9	00	00
Debts and dues from several persons	6	12	00

Sum totall is 148 14 08

“And taken this 29th of July, 1692: By SAMUEL ALLIN, sen^r,
“and by WILLIAM BRETT.

“Samuel Edson and Josiah Edson, the sons of sd. deceased, made oath Before the Court at Plimouth, September 20th, 1692, that the above written is a true Inventory of the estate of their said flather, Samuel Edson, deceased, so far as they know, and if more shall be discovered to them, they will make it known.

“Attest: SAML. SPRAGUE, Clerk.”¹

Some of the items of the inventory bear unequivocal testimony to the industry of the capable mother and daughters. The entry: “Wheels, Wool, Woolen and Linnen yarn,” is clearly significant of the frequent use made by them of the spinning-wheel, then a necessary possession of every thrifty New England household. The mention of “Woolen and Linnen yarn,” coupled with the item of “Twenty-six yards of Linnen cloth,” and that of “Woollen cloth, twenty-nine yards,” further suggests their knowledge of the art of weaving yarn into cloth, in order to provide the family with wearing apparel, bed sheets, coverings, and table linen.

While the possession of “twenty-eight napkins” may be regarded as indicative of the refinement of the family, the fact must not be forgotten that table knives and forks were not then in common use in the Colony of New Plymouth, and that the inhabitants at that time were conveying food

¹ *Registry of Wills*. Book i., pp. 143, 144. Office of Probate, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

to their mouths either with pewter or wooden spoons, or with their fingers; which last-mentioned custom necessitated the use by well-bred people of napkins. It was not until about the close of the seventeenth century that two-tined iron or silver table-forks began to be used by the wealthy colonists of New England. It is said that Governor John Winthrop had, in 1633, the first table-fork brought to America, which was then considered a possession so rare and valuable that it was kept in a leather case.

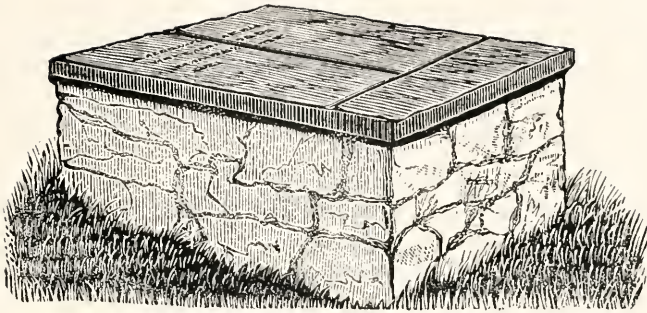
The itemed "Saddle, Brydle, Pillion, and cloath" attests the fact that the male members of the family not only rode on horseback, but also the female, who, in riding double with one of the male members, sat behind on the pillion, a broad pad attached to the saddle and stuffed commonly with such soft substances as hair, wool, or straw.

Susanna Orcutt Edson survived her husband six years and seven months, and died, on February 20, 1699, aged one-and-eighty years. Her remains, as his, were interred in the burial-ground on the east side of the Taunton Road, south of the northernmost reach of the Town River.

Their graves have for many years been marked by a dark granite slab, five feet seven inches long, four feet three inches wide, and five inches thick, resting on a foundation of natural broken stone, rising one and a half feet above the surface of the ground about it. Lengthwise on the slab is a quaintly-lettered inscription, somewhat obliterated by the defacing action of rain, frost, ice, and snow.

The date of Samuel Edson's death was evidently erroneously inscribed, as is confirmed by the information set forth by the introductory line of the inventory of his estate, which discloses it in the words: "Samuel Edson, sen^r, who deceased the 19th day of July, 1692."

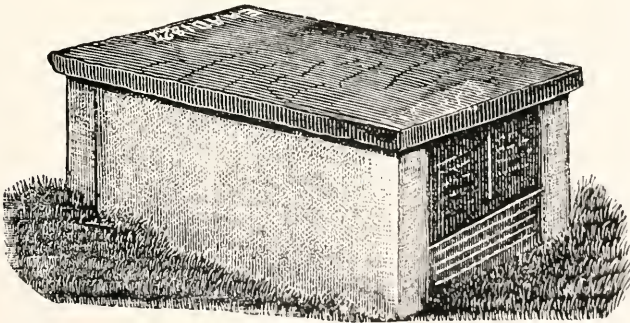
As indicated by the condition of the white marble head-



EDSON'S TOMB

SAMUEL & SYESAWAH	EDSON
ENTERED HEIVLY 5 ^o 1692	& SHE
FEBRVAREY 2 ^o 1699 HE	AGED
80 & SHE AGED 81	
YEARS	

INSCRIPTION ON EDSON'S MONUMENT,

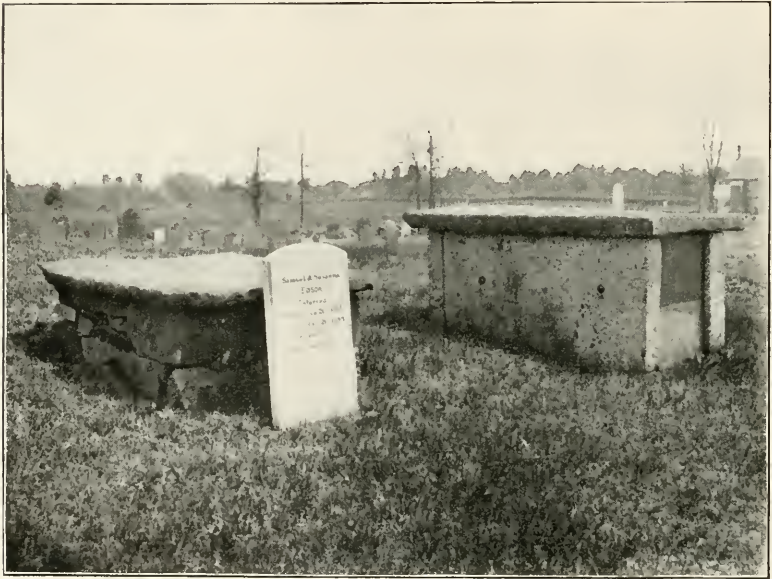


KEITH'S TOMB

stone now standing in front of the antique tomb, this last token of remembrance was erected not many years ago.¹

Samuel Edson, the recognized progenitor of the Edsons in America, was a man of excellent characteristics, of unblemished reputation, and notably enterprising. It is historically evident that he was in every sense of the term a man of affairs.

In 1667, 1670, 1672, 1674, and 1680, he served as a jury-



TOMB OF DEACON SAMUEL AND SUSANNA ORCUTT EDSON IN OLD GRAVEYARD
AT WEST BRIDGEWATER MASS. NEAR IT THAT OF JAMES KEITH

man on important court trials at New Plymouth, the seat of government of the Colony of New Plymouth. From April 2, 1667, to the end of King Philip's War, he was an active member of the Bridgewater Council of War. In 1672, he was chosen one of the two surveyors of highways serving that year the town of Bridgewater. On October 31, and on November 1, 1676, as a deputy from the town,

¹ *Epitaphs in Old Bridgewater, Massachusetts.* By Williams Latham. Illustrated with Plans and Views. Bridgewater, 1882. Pp. 18, 19.

he was in attendance at the General Court, in session at New Plymouth. He was elected one of the selectmen of the town and acceptably performed the diverse duties of the office in 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1681, 1682, 1684, 1685, and 1686.

A strong individuality made him capable to meet with fortitude the trials and hardships incident to the life of a pioneer settler. The spirit of his patience seldom permitted his mind to sink into states of despondency of any long continuance, nor did his sanguine temperament often privilege any stroke of adversity to weaken his energies while uncontrollable circumstances deferred the accomplishment of an advantageous undertaking. Stern and resolute, he was also magnanimous. He readily forgave injuries done him by ignorant people, nor did any stress of temper unfit him for a discriminating valuation of the opinion of those upholding a matter contrary to his view of it. His arguments were forcibly presented, and when called upon to give his opinion regarding a question of public concern, he usually spoke with great deliberation, using plain but cogent language. His advice was not infrequently sought in the adjustment of differences arising between neighbors. His counsels to young men were never egotistically consequential. His daily fellowship with men with whom he was long intimate was distinguished by numberless evidences of an enduring solicitude for their welfare. His personal integrity was beyond reproach. He faithfully served as a deacon the church of which he was an influential and exemplary member. His education was in keeping with the general attainments of the intelligently and prudently reared sons of the English yeomen of his day. The forty years of his settlement in the town of Bridgewater had impressively disclosed his individual worth and virtues to the contemporary inhabitants of the settlement, who justly admired and esteemed him.

He was a strong and robust man, nearly six feet in height, with facial lineaments indicating an indomitable

will which fitted him to meet the trying responsibilities of a settler with supreme courage, and a ready adaptability to endure the various hardships incident to the life of a pioneer.

Susanna Orcutt Edson as a wife was a generous giver of sympathy and encouragement; as a housekeeper, notably cheerful, frugal, and industrious; as a mother, joyously affectionate, admirably discreet, and religiously devout. She had a commanding presence and a graceful art of winning the admiration of all with whom she associated. Her daughters inherited her happy disposition and modesty of deportment. They, as she, had a charm of manner and a dignity of deportment that attracted attention and made them socially distinguished. Many of the traits of the father and the mother descended as heritages to the three sons, who were similarly self-reliant and practical, social, and frugal.

The cycle of time compassing the two score years spent in the town of Bridgewater by Samuel Edson cannot but be recognized as the foundation-period of its history. The following noteworthy remarks from Increase and Cotton Mather, (the writers of the first preface of *Bridgewater's Monitor*, the title of the sermon preached by the Rev. James Keith on June 14, 1717, at the dedication of the first meeting-house erected in the south parish of the town,) pertinently portray the religious character of the inhabitants of the town at that time:

“The New English Bridgewater has been a town favored of God; yea, some favors of Heaven unto it, have been distinguishing.

“It was planted a noble vine.—And may no more of the text from whence this phrase is borrowed, ever be applied unto it! The first planters of it were a set of people who made religion their main interest; and it became their glory. There was a time when it stood in a land of un-walled villages, with fierce armies of bloody Indians destroying round about them; and the dispensations of God, our

saviour, towards it at this time, were so wonderful, that the short report thereof, given in the *Church History of New England*, is not unworthy to be here transcribed and repeated.

“ ‘ Remarkable was the fate of Bridgewater, a most praying and a most pious town, seated in the very midst of the dangers of the war; that although they were often assaulted by formidable numbers of their enemies, yet in all their sharp assaults they never lost one of their inhabitants, young or old. They were solicited strongly to desert their dwellings, but they resolved that they would keep their stations. And now, on May 8th, 1676, the Indians began to fire the town, but the inhabitants with notable courage issued forth from their garrisons to fight the enemy; and God from Heaven at the same time fought for them, with a storm of lightning, thunder, and rain, whereby a considerable part of their houses were preserved. Thou, Church of Bridgewater!

“ ‘ *O nimium dilecta Deo, cui militat æther!* ’—‘ O, how beloved of Heaven, whom storms defend!’ One that was no Christian, so sang the favors of Heaven to the Emperor Theodosius, and so might the Pagan foe now sing of thy salvation!

“ Ever since that memorable day the town has been proceeding, with the smile of God upon them and upon the intentions of his gospel among them, until they are now become two bands. . . .

“ It has been a singular felicity unto this good people, that from the very infancy of their plantation, they have sat under the ministry of that gracious, faithful, humble servant of God, who continues with them to this day. He has been a precious gift of our ascended Lord unto them; and they have hitherto rejoiced in his light; and we rejoice with them, that after fifty-four years, his light yet shines with such brightness among them.”¹

¹ *A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; Appendix No. 1, p. x.—*History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Appendix, pp. 395, 396.

Chapter V

Samuel Edson, second, of Bridgewater

1651-1719

THE accession of James the Second, in 1685, was followed by events that in a great measure changed the former course of affairs, both in England and the American colonies. The evident purpose of the reckless monarch to afford the Roman Catholics in his realm more liberty in matters of faith and ritual, caused those of his subjects, who were adherents of the Church of England, to take steps to release themselves from the fear of being dispossessed of the ecclesiastical rights and immunities which they had been enjoying. In brief, a revolution was inaugurated in England for the king's dethronement.

William, Prince of Orange, the popular Stadtholder of the United Netherlands, having been petitioned to come to England and assist the urgent revolutionists in maintaining the supremacy of the Protestant religion, landed at Torbay, in Devonshire, on November 5, 1688. Many men of rank and martial distinction soon placed themselves under his leadership, and King James, fearful of becoming a prisoner, fled, in December, to France, where he claimed the protection of Louis the Fourteenth, an ardent Papist.

The settlers of New England, having been dominated for many years by a growing desire to continue in the enjoyment of their religious liberty untrammelled by hier-

archical restrictions, were greatly alarmed by the reported Roman Catholic favoritism of King James the Second. The intelligence of the Dutch Prince's landing in England, and of the marshalling of a formidable army of Protestants under his banner, largely abated their immediate apprehensions of a loss of their religious liberty. Nevertheless, a body of the citizens of Boston, moved by a deepening impression that Sir Edmund Andros, then governor of New England, by commission of King James, might clandestinely undertake, with the help of the French Romanists of Canada, to bring them into subjection to Louis the Fourteenth, in order to secure to France the fur trade of the Massachusetts Indians and other neighboring tribes, as well as the traffic of the colonies, and also for the furtherance of the Roman Catholic religion in New England, sent on April 18, 1689, representatives to the English Governor to demand the relinquishment of the office held by him. The contemptuous manner with which he declined to accede to the request so exasperated the excited people that they forthwith put him in prison to debar him from exercising the power with which he had been vested by King James as governor. A committee of safety was thereupon elected and intrusted with the preservation of the peace, being allowed the use of such means as would insure the protection of life and property until orders should be received from England, by the institution of a form of government sanctioned by the government consequent upon the results of the revolution.

The news of the elevation of Prince William of Orange and the Princess Mary to the throne of England, on February 13, 1689, reached New England in June, when it was also learned that the order of the Privy Council for proclaiming the King and Queen in the plantations, issued on February 19, did not include New England, which "was passed over, the further consideration being respited until the business of taking away the charter there" should

be determined. The new charter, granted on October 7, 1691, gave a wide geographical distinction to the name of New England, which then became "a province called Massachusetts Bay, comprehending the old colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth, and the territories of Maine and Nova Scotia, with all lands lying between the two last-named jurisdictions. Thus, except for the little interruption at the mouth of the Piscataqua, the coast line of Massachusetts as now constituted extended from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket at the south to the mouth of the St. Lawrence at the north, while, with the exception of a narrow strip along the Hudson, recognized as belonging to New York, her territory reached westward to the Pacific Ocean."

"The charter provided that there should be a governor, lieutenant-governor, and secretary, to be appointed from time to time by the king. There was to be a legislature or general court in two branches; namely a house of representatives, chosen as heretofore, annually by the towns, and a council consisting of twenty-eight members, to be selected in the first instance by the king, and afterwards, from year to year, on the last Wednesday in May, by the General Court, subject to the governor's refusal. Eighteen, at least, of the counsellors were to be inhabitants or landholders in Massachusetts proper, four in what had been Plymouth colony, three in Maine, and one in the country between the Kennebec and Nova Scotia; and seven were to be a quorum. It was required of the representatives to be freeholders, and each town for the present was to have two representatives and no more; but this arrangement was made subject to be changed by law. . . .

"The governor was to be commander-in-chief of the militia, and to appoint military officers. He was also, with the consent of the council, to appoint judges and all other officers connected with the courts. The General

Court was to constitute judicial courts (except courts of admiralty, which were reserved for the jurisdiction of the crown, and except probate courts, which were to be constituted by the governor in council); to appoint, with the governor's concurrence, all officers, besides such as were military or judicial; and to levy taxes on all proprietors and inhabitants. A general court was to come together on the last Wednesday in May of every year, and at other times when summoned by the governor, who might also adjourn, prorogue, or dissolve it.

"A great step was, that the religious element was eliminated from the government; the qualification of a voter was no longer to be membership of a church, but the possession of a freehold worth two pounds sterling a year, or of personal property to the amount of forty pounds sterling. Liberty of conscience and of worship was secured to all Protestants; and it was provided that, in litigated civil cases not affecting real estate, appeals might be made from the courts to the King in council, when the amount in controversy exceeded three hundred pounds. Natives and inhabitants of the province were to enjoy 'all liberties and immunities of free and natural subjects' . . . as if they were born within the realm of England. . . .

"The province of Massachusetts Bay, as now constituted, may have contained sixty thousand inhabitants. These were distributed in seventy-five towns, seventeen of which belonged to Plymouth; and the number of Congregational churches was nearly the same, almost all the churches having one minister, and some being served by two. Boston had not far from seven thousand inhabitants, being much the most considerable place on the continent. Other principal commercial and fishing towns were Salem, Charlestown, Ipswich, Newburg, and Plymouth. . . .

"With the revolution which seated the Prince of Orange on the English throne, the commercial interest in

England obtained new importance, and the colonial system was vigorously developed. The colonial empire of England, now so vast, at that time comprehended not very much more than the settlements on the eastern seaboard of North America between Florida and Newfoundland, and a few islands of the West Indies, though already there were factories and forts on the Spanish Main, on the Gold Coast of Africa, and on both sides of the peninsula of Hindostan."

The purpose of England to derive all possible advantages from her American colonies, even in their very infancy, is clearly established. The "Act for Increase of Shipping and Encouragement of Navigation," known as the "First Navigation Law," besides prohibiting, in 1651, the colonies from shipping their goods in vessels of other nations, also precluded them from bargaining "for freight wherever it could be had on the most favorable terms."

"From regulating the carrying trade, the legislation of Charles the Second passed to regulating the destination of the cargoes. By an act of the first year [1660] after his restoration, the colonial produce could be carried nowhere else till it had first been landed in England; in other words, the colonial producer was obliged to sell his property on such terms as he could get from the native Englishman, or else to charge himself with a double freight, and with port dues and other expenses for entry and clearance in England.

"From thus compelling the colonists to sell in England the next step was to compel them to buy from that country which was done [in 1663] by another law forbidding importations into the colonies of 'any commodity of the growth, production, or manufacture of Europe,' except from 'England, Wales, or Berwick-upon-Tweed,' and in vessels built in England. To a strict execution of these laws the colonial governors were bound by their official oath, and the local revenue officers appointed in England for the colonies had all the same powers as in the pa-

rent country. The cupidity of the landholder was stimulated by that of the merchant. An apprehension arose that the industry of the colonial grazier and weaver would 'sink the value of English land,' and an act of Parliament in one of the last years [1699] of King William forbade the loading 'in any ship or vessel,' or 'upon any horse, cart, or other carriage,' of 'any wool, or manufacture made or mixed with wool, being the produce or manufacture of any of the English plantations in America,' to be conveyed 'to any other of the said plantations, or to any other place whatsoever' ''¹

Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Susanna Orcutt Edson, born in the town of Salem, in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, in 1645, had, at the time of the death of his father, been an inhabitant of the town of Bridgewater seven-and-forty-years. The fact that he had considerable executive ability, was affirmed by his appointment, on June 3, 1673, as the town's constable. That he was naturally endowed with courage equal to that of his two brothers, Joseph and Josiah, seems attested by the incidents of his and their association with eighteen other hardy sons of Bridgewater settlers, who, on Monday, August 1, 1676, having discovered a formidable body of Indian warriors skulking along the borders of the settlement, unhesitatingly attacked the hostile band, killing a number of the surprised savages, capturing seventeen and recovering a large quantity of plundered property. Afterward, being joined by a company of volunteers, they pursued the fleeing enemy until the following Wednesday, when, being in want of provisions, they returned to the settlement, having killed and captured one hundred and seventy-three of the bloodthirsty warriors whom King Philip had incited to

¹ *A Compendious History of New England from the Discovery by Europeans to the First General Congress of the Anglo-American Colonies.* By John Gorham Palfrey. Boston and New York, 1883. Vol. iii., pp. 13, 14, 15, 16, 54, 55, 71, 72, 73, 81.

take up arms against the colonists of New England. The importance of this extraordinary achievement was rendered still more remarkable by the fact that all the valorous volunteers returned to their homes unhurt.

In 1678, Samuel Edson, second, was united by marriage to Susanna, the fourth daughter of Nicholas and Susanna Shaw Byram, born, in 1648, in the town of Weymouth, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. Her father, son of a gentleman of the county of Kent, England, who shortly after the birth of Nicholas changed his residence to Ireland, was sent, when sixteen years of age, in charge of a man, to visit certain relatives in England. The person having him under his care on the way to their destination robbed the boy of his money and then placed him on board a ship sailing to the West Indies. On arriving there, he was sold by the captain of the vessel to obtain the amount of money requisite for the payment of the lad's passage. On the expiration of the term of his temporary bondage, Nicholas Byram secured passage on a ship clearing for New England. He settled in the town of Weymouth, but hearing of the agricultural advantages which the town of Bridgewater afforded, he bought, in 1660, the rights of three proprietors or holders of shares in the town lands, and thereupon became an inhabitant of the prospering town.

The gift of a proprietary share in the town lands and of forty acres of an acquired tract, which Deacon Edson presented his son Samuel on the eve of his marriage to Susanna Byram, included the site of the house in which his son Samuel's two daughters and son were reared. According to present landmarks, it is now the seat of a modern two-story frame dwelling near the southwest corner of Columbus Avenue and Keenan Street, a short distance west of the electric railway running through Bridgewater, and West Bridgewater from Taunton to Brockton, and about one and a quarter miles southeast of the monument in the Square at West Bridgewater. The rudely-covered well from which

water is still drawn by a windlass, is a prominent object in the foreground of the one-story wooden building, once the kitchen of the old homestead.

The high esteem in which the freeholders and property-possessing electors of Bridgewater held Samuel Edson, second, as a townsman, caused them, in the years 1697 and 1713, to send him as their representative to the General Court at Boston. They also elected him in the years 1709, 1712, and 1719 one of the town's selectmen.

Susanna, his eldest daughter, at the age of twenty years, married John, the eldest son of John and Sarah Mitchell Hayward, and, seven years later, Elihu, the only son of Elihu and Ann Brett. Elizabeth, his second child, became, on May 24, 1705, the wife of Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Elizabeth Lathrop Packard. Samuel, his only son, at the age of eighteen, wedded Mary, the fourth child and the third daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Williams Dean, of the town of Taunton.

Perceiving that the end of his life on earth was near, "Samuel Edson, of Bridgewater, in the County of Plymouth, in New England, yeoman," on March 16, 1719, twenty-five days before his decease, made his last will and testament, containing the following bequests:

"Item. I give unto my beloved wife Susanna, Sixty pounds in Silver money, . . . also all my moveables, . . . and the Improvement [use] of One half of my homestead or Home living during her Life, and the Improvement of my negro man George and my negro woman Sarah, during her natural life.

"Item. I give unto my grandson, Samuel Packard . . . one hundred acres of Land lying at a place called Pochaug neck, in Bridgewater, . . . also five or six Small Titicut Lots adjoining the said hundred acres, . . . a lot of meadow lying at a place called Calling Cove, . . . also the one half of five hundred acres of Land that I have in the colony of Connecticut, . . .

also one half of halfe a share of Cedar Swamp, in the West Cedar Swamp.

“Item. I give unto my Two Grandsons, Paul and Job Packard . . . Two Lotts of Land, neare to the Land of Josiah Washbourn, in Bridgewater, containing by estimation One Hundred & fifty acres more or less, . . . also Ten pounds in Silver money. . . .”

“Item. I give unto my Granddaughter Bethiah Packard Twenty Pounds in Silver money.

“Item. I give unto my daughter Susanna Brett . . . a Ten acre Lott of Land near to the land whereon now she dwelleth, . . . also a small Lot of Land lying at the stead [place] of their Lands, . . . also a Lot of Land lying near the lands of Richard Jennings containing by estimation, seventy-five acres, . . . and about twenty-four acres nigh to the lands of John Kingman, . . . also the one-half of a five hundred acre Right of Lands I have in the colony of Connecticut, . . . one hundred and twenty pounds in money, partly paper and partly silver.

“Item. I give unto my son Samuel Edson, whom I appoint executor . . . all my Homestead or Home living, the one-half at my decease, the other half at my wife's decease, . . . and all my other lands, . . . also one hundred pounds in silver money partly and partly paper towards bringing up his son Samuel to the Colledge, . . .”

The will, it appears, was not probated until February 1, 1720. An appraisement of his household goods, farming implements, and other personal property was made, as is disclosed by

“An Inventory of the personal estate of Mr. Samuel Edson of Bridgewater, in the county of Plymouth, who deceased April 10, 1719.

“Impr^{ms}. In silver money at 17^d weight . . . £178 15 7

“Item. In Cattle, Horses, Sheep, &c., . . . 70 03 0

"Item.	In ploughs & plow Irons	£3	02	6
"	In Iron vessells	2	16	0
"	In Wooden " as Tubs, &c	0	04	0
"	In pewter £1 s.16 Item. In Silver spoons £2 s.5.	4	01	0
"	In Alquamy spoons 1/ Item. In Bookes 14/	0	15	0
"Item.	In Trammels, pothooks, fire shovell, &c.,	1	11	0
"	In Axes, adse & auger & Hammer.	0	18	0
"	Two Cart boxes, hoop cops, a sled, an Iron tooth Harrow, } ox yoaks, Grindstone. }	3	11	0
"	To Two Gun Barrells	0	10	0
"	To Horse gears & Old Iron	1	15	0
"	To an Iron Hand-bar, & five hoes, A spade and an Iron spit	0	09	0
"	To a Log Chain & a draught chain	1	08	0
"	To an Iron Sledge & prize [lever].	0	05	0
"	To a collar, Rag-Wheel, Two drawing knives, two bails, } three iron wedges, }	0	14	6
"	To a piece of Bar Iron, Clevis & Pin,	0	09	6
"	In Cloathing & Linnen Damified } in the fire, To lustre sheets, } Pillow beirs, & Napkins, }	0	10	0
"	One Coat & Breeches	0	10	0
"	To 20 yards of Woolen Cloath,	4	08	0
"	To Linnen Cloath	0	12	6
"	To three Calve skins	0	10	0
" Debts due to the estate:				
"Item.	In silver money at 17 ^d weight	30	00	0
"Item.	In silver money at 15 ^d weight,	41	00	0
"	In Bills of Public Credit	255	00	9

“ Funerall Expenses, & other debts justly due
from the Estate, £5 5 1.

“ Since added: Bills received for

“ Silver, Pewter, melted up, £1 02 6
“ ”¹

Susanna Byram Edson survived her husband twenty-two years, she dying in 1741. It is highly probable that their remains were interred in the burial-ground on the east side of the Taunton Road (now South Street), in West Bridgewater, and that the headstones originally marking their graves were in the course of time destroyed and that no others were thereafter substituted for them.

That Samuel Edson, second, was recognized by the inhabitants of the town of Bridgewater as a wealthy man appears to be affirmed by the various bequests of the will and by many of the items of the inventory of his personal property. The land on which the homestead stood, the five or six small Titicut lots, the Calling Cove meadow, the Cedar Swamp land, the small lot at the Brett-stead, and the “other lands” so named and left to his son Samuel, probably aggregated not less than seven hundred acres, which, added to the eight hundred and fifty-nine willed to the different heirs, amounted to more than fifteen hundred acres. The bequests of money, amounting to three hundred and ten pounds, were, it would seem, amply provided for by the silver money itemized in the inventory at £178 15s. 7d.; debts due the estate, £71; and by Bills of Public Credit, £255 9d; in all, £504 16s. 4d.

The reversion of the use, service, or “improvement” of the negroes, George and Sarah, to the widow during her

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 30, 36, 39, 40, 65, 76.—*Records of the Colony of New Plymouth.* Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff. Boston, 1855.—*Court Orders*, vol. v., p. 115.—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 13, 14, 15, Appendix No. 1, p. x.—*Registry of Wills.* Book iv., pp. 260, 261, 262, 263. Office of Probate, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

natural life, evidently substantiates the fact that the two servants were slaves, and probably married. As remarked by a writer concerning the early conditions of bondage in the colonies, "from the reverence entertained by the fathers of New England for the nuptial tie, it is safe to infer that slave husbands and wives were never parted." In 1716, according to the information in possession of England's Board of Trade, there were then in the province of Massachusetts Bay two thousand negroes, the white people numbering ninety-four thousand.

The legacy of "one hundred pounds in silver money partly and partly paper" towards the education of his grandson Samuel at Harvard College, in Cambridge, was no doubt a consequence of the interest taken by the colonists in the founding and prosperity of the institution and in the higher education of such male children as gave individual evidence of intellectual power. It is related that the Rev. James Keith and Elder William Brett procured, in the very infancy of the town of Bridgewater, "a subscription of about £12, to be paid in Indian corn, for the college."

Samuel Edson's possession of the bills of credit, of the value of £255 9d., is traceable no doubt to the establishment, in 1714, of "The Public Bank," as it was styled, "with a capital provided for it by the General Court, consisting of fifty thousand pounds in bills of credit. Its management was committed to five trustees, who were authorized to lend the bills for periods not to exceed five years, for an interest of five *per centum* annually, and a payment each year of one fifth part of the principal sum; the payments to be secured by mortgages of real property."

The entry in the inventory, "Cloathing & Linnen Damned in the fire," justifies the inference that the family had suffered a loss of property by a recent fire. This conclusion seems tenable by the absence from the inventory of such items as beds, bedding, tables, chairs,

and other furniture, and by the enumeration of many implements and utensils made of iron that the flames could not consume. The item of "Two Gun Barrels," the wooden gunstocks having been burnt—one of the guns probably being the "fowling piece" inherited from his father—afford further evidence of the probable destruction of Samuel Edson's house and barn by fire. That his dwelling, together with his barn, was burned by the Indians in 1676, two years before his marriage, is an assertion that requires more substantial testimony than that of a mere hearsay of traditional currency.¹

Joseph, the second son of Deacon and Susanna Orcutt Edson, born in the town of Salem, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, about 1649, was one of the twenty-one volunteers, as has been related, who, in 1676, bravely encountered and courageously attacked a large body of Indians found by them prowling on the borders of the town intent upon a stealthy descent upon the Bridgewater settlement.

It is said that he married, in 1678, Experience Field,² of Providence, in the Colony of Rhode Island, by whom he had two sons, Joseph and Josiah, and one daughter, Experience. He was a proprietor or holder of a share in the town lands, and, on December 24, 1683, was one of the ten to whom was assigned a tract of land on the south side of the town, beginning at the Taunton (now Raynham) line

¹ "His dwelling-house stood near Mr. Simeon Edson's, and was burned with his barn in 1676." *—* "Judge Mitchell (in article 'Bridgewater' of Mass. Historical Collections) says that on April 9, 1676 (the time of Philip's war), being Sunday, a party of Indians burned a house and barn during the time of public worship. In Church's *Philip's War*, page 65, it is stated that on 'May 8' they (the Indians) burned seventeen houses and barns at Bridgewater, a large town about twenty miles south of Boston."—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices*. Lowell, 1864. P. 14.

² This may be untrue, for it is said that his wife was Experience Holbrooke, the sixth daughter of Captain John and Elizabeth Stream Holbrooke. Her father was the son of Thomas Holbrooke of Weymouth, England, who, with his family, settled in New England in 1635-36. *Vide: Soldiers of King Philip's War*. By George Madison Bodge. Leominster, Mass., 1896. P. 280.

and running thence eastwardly to the Taunton River, and being a mile in width.

When, in 1686, ten acres of woodland were ordered to be laid out near the habitation of each proprietor, his, as is described, was "on the easterly side of Stony Brook, at the Centre Tree." According to later and more definite landmarks, "he resided near Brett's Corner, at what is now [in 1864] called the 'Old Muster-field,' in East Bridgewater."

On August 22, 1687, when a warrant was sent him for choosing commissioners for taking a list of the male inhabitants of the town, from sixteen years old and upward, and for valuing estates in it, he was constable of Bridgewater.

Experience, his first wife, who died in 1685, "was," as is related, "a woman of unusually happy disposition, graceful in her manners, of a cheerful flow of spirits, and a ready wit; but that wit which moderately elevates, imparting pleasure and exciting mirth without offending. A refinement and delicacy of sentiment seemed to pervade all her conduct and conversation, but which created no rivalry and excited no envy. Lovely and beloved, she numbered as many friends as acquaintances, and her early death was deeply lamented by the whole town. Her visitors were always received with smiles, entertained with unaffected good-will, and made happy in the enjoyment of her social faculties; and she was most happy when communicating happiness to others. Her most intimate associates never saw her angry, or excited to vexation, and love and friendship both united in doing homage to her person and character. She made her family circle the temple of Peace, the fountain of social affections, and the scene of the purest of domestic enjoyment. Her children were young when she died—the oldest about five years, and the youngest, an infant but a few weeks old."

In 1686, Joseph Edson married Mary, daughter of George Turner, who bore him three sons—Benjamin,

Samuel, and Timothy; and two daughters, Mary and Susanna.

Joseph Edson was known as a man of strict integrity, disposed to be domestic, of unobtrusive manners, avoiding public distinction, and contented in the possession of those moral and religious characteristics that distinguish an honest man and a sincere professor of Christianity.

As disclosed by the preamble of the inventory taken of the "Estate of Mr. Joseph Edson of ye Town of Bridgewater," on "November ye 19th, 1711," he died on "October ye Third," that year. Mary, his widow, on February 15, 1712, as administratrix, made oath that the inventory was a true one, the value of the appraised personal property being set at £85.¹

The remains of Joseph Edson and his two wives were doubtless entombed in the burial-ground at West Bridgewater, on the east side of the Taunton Road, although no information relating to the place of their graves is extant.

Josiah, the seventh child and the third and youngest son of Deacon Samuel and Susanna Orcutt Edson, born in Duxbury Plantation, in the Colony of New Plymouth, in 1651, was just entering upon the twenty-second year of his age and was about to marry, when his father affectionately conveyed to him on February 6, 1673, "one full and complete purchase or share of lands" of the town of Bridgewater, upland and meadow land, divided and undivided, wanting five acres of being a full share, lying and being in the township of Bridgewater. The particular parcels of divided land belonging to this share were the following: "first an hundred acres of upland, butting on [the] Taunton path [or road] on the southwest end, bounded by the land of John Willis, senior, and Edward Fobes' land on the north-

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 30, 32, 39, 40, 65, 66.—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 15, 16, 17, 18.—*Registry of Wills.* Book iii., pp. 122, 123. Office of Probate, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

west, and running in length as the other lots there do." Also a meadow, lying on the south side of the river "below the mouth of the Great Meadow," "bounded by the meadows of Edward Hooper on the west, and a trench on the east side." Also two lots of meadow, lying in the Great Meadow, "bounded by the river that runneth out of the pond on the north" and a "meadow on the west."

— Josiah Edson's sister Sarah's marriage, in 1663, to John, the eldest child and son of John and Alice Dean, of the neighboring town of Taunton, evidently led to his intimacy with their youngest child and only daughter, Elizabeth, who became his wife in 1673.

Neither of his two brothers, Samuel and Joseph, was married when he and they went, in 1676, with eighteen volunteers in search of the hostile body of savages which was reported to be lurking on the outskirts of the town and which they found and vigorously attacked, killing many and taking others prisoners.

Josiah Edson, being one of the proprietors of the town, was one of the fifteen who, on December 24, 1683, was apportioned a section of land on the east side of the town which they were afterward to divide among themselves. His possession of real estate was further increased on January 9, 1688, when his father gratuitously conveyed to him a meadow in the Great Meadow tract, bounded on the northeast by a meadow that had been owned by Samuel Packard, senior, and on the southmost side by one belonging to John Washburn. His father also gave him then ten acres of upland, lying on the westmost side of the Taunton Road, as also one of his five shares in the lands at Titicut, and also one of his little lots on the westmost side of the way, being the southmost of his little lots.

In 1689, Josiah Edson was appointed, with Nicholas Byram and Edward Mitchell, "to issue the difference between the town and John Soule and Joseph Barstow about the [location of the] four-mile line."

His wide popularity and eminent qualifications led to his election in 1691 as a representative to the General Court of the Colony of New Plymouth, as also in 1692, 1698, 1699, and 1714, as a representative to the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, at Boston.

In 1694, he was first sergeant in the town military company of which Thomas Hayward was captain; John Haward (Howard), lieutenant; Samuel Packard, ensign; Samuel Washburn, Edward Mitchell, and Nicholas Byram, sergeants. Although it is said that he never held a higher position in the organization than that of first sergeant, it may be true that he was precluded from advancement by reason of the first-elected officers retaining their respective positions while he was connected with the company.

In 1715, when sixty-four years of age, he was elected one of the selectmen of the town, in which office he was continued to 1729, a period of fourteen years. He was also for many years one of the deacons of the church, and was serving in that office at the time of his decease.

The first abode of himself and wife after their marriage, in 1673, is said to have been "in West Bridgewater, on the south side of Town River, and east of his father's" house, "some four or five six-acre lots intervening." This assertion is supported by the fact that, in 1686, when ten acres of woodland were to be laid out to each proprietor as near to his habitation as the location of such land would admit, he is named as living, as was his father, "on the south side of Town River, below Goodman Alden's." In 1698, it would seem that he still had his residence there and was then one of five co-partners operating the saw-mill on the stream, as is disclosed by the following action taken that year:

"The town agreed to make a cart-bridge over the town river at Lieutenant Haward's [Howard's,] and the owners of the saw-mill, viz:—Josiah Edson, Edward Fobes,

Ephraim Haward [Howard], Thomas Snell,¹ and Joseph Hayward agreed to do their parts to it over and above what the rest of the town did, because their mill pond made a necessity for the bridge."

The territory of the town of Bridgewater continued to bear that geographical designation until 1716. Certain inhabitants of the easterly part of the town, desiring the privilege of having a meeting-house there, petitioned the General Court, in 1715, to have that section of the town made a separate precinct. "A viewing committee was appointed consisting of John Cushing and Edmund Quincy of the Council, and George Leonard, Henry Hodges, and Jacob Thomson of the House of Representatives. They made a favorable report on April 18, 1716, which was accepted and an act of incorporation passed," on June 1, "with this condition: 'that the whole town stand obliged to an honorable maintenance of the Rev. Mr. Keith, their present aged minister, if he should outlive his powers and capacities of discharging the office and duty of their minister.'

"The dividing line began 'at the brook, called the Mile Brook, where the road from Boston to Taunton crosseth the said brook, and from thence by a line running easterly in the midway, between the dwelling-house of William Hudson, and the dwelling-house of David Perkins, jr., and from thence the said line to be continued in the midst, between the dwelling-house of Edward Mitchell and the dwelling-house of Nathaniel Hayward, and from thence the said line to be continued easterly in the midst, between the dwelling-house of James Latham and the dwelling-house of Joseph Washburn, jr., and from thence by a line due east to the extent of the said township.'

"The new parish was called the South Precinct, and the old parish, the North Precinct. The largest part of the town remained with the North Precinct, as it was suggested

¹ Thomas Snell, it is said, was a nephew of Deacon Samuel Edson.

that there might be need of a third meeting-house. It was recommended that the new meeting-house should be erected 'on the high or rising ground on the southerly side of the highway going by John Washburn's house, being the easterly part of his field,' and 'that the old meeting-house remain where it was, for five years, and then be removed down to Isaac Johnson's field,' where divers roads met convenient for access to it.

The new meeting-house, erected in the South Precinct, was dedicated on June 14, 1717; on which occasion the Rev. James Keith delivered the sermon that was subsequently printed under the title of *Bridgewater's Monitor*.

Before the time arrived for removing the old meeting-house in the North Precinct (or in West Bridgewater), the inhabitants of the eastern part of the town, who were then contemplating the building of a meeting-house, assisted with their contributions in repairing the old house of worship, with the understanding that the money which they had expended in its reconstruction should be refunded them when they undertook the erection of their meeting-house.

On December 14, 1723, the settlers in the east end of the North Precinct, together with nine persons of the South Precinct, with their families and estates, were constituted a precinct called the East Parish. The boundary on the west was a due-north line from the South Parish or Precinct through the Centre Tree. The erection of the first meeting-house in the East Parish was begun on March 14, 1720.

The Rev. Benjamin Allen, the first pastor of the church in the South Parish or Precinct, a native of Tisbury, of Martha's Vineyard, and a graduate of Yale College, was ordained on July 9, 1718. His pastorate in the parish covered a period of thirteen years. He preached his first sermon in the new meeting-house on August 18, 1717, and his last on October 11, 1730.

The Rev. James Keith's service of fifty-six years as

pastor of the Bridgewater Church ended with his death on July 23, 1719, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. His successor, the Rev. Daniel Perkins, a graduate of Harvard College in 1717, was ordained on October 4, 1721. He died on September 29, 1782, aged eighty-six years, and in the sixty-second year of his ministry, which, as said, was not only long but peaceful and efficacious. The Rev. John Angier, the first pastor of the church in the East Parish, was a graduate of Harvard College in 1720. He was ordained on October 28, 1724. He died on April 24, 1787, aged eighty-six, and in the sixty-third year of his ministry.

Josiah Edson probably had been a resident in the South Parish a score of years before his death, living, it is said, "where Solomon Ames lived and after him Captain Asa Pratt, and now (in 1854) Philo Mitchell." He was a justice of the peace for a long time, and until the close of his life.

By his will, made on September 5, 1733, his wife Elizabeth; Sarah, the wife of his nephew Josiah, son of Joseph and Experience Field Edson; Josiah, the son of the said nephew, and Josiah's brothers, Abiezer and Elijah; and their sisters—Abiah, Huldah, and Freelove—were severally his heirs.

Justice Edson died in the South Parish of the town of Bridgewater, on October 4, 1734, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, where also his wife died, on November 25, 1737, in the eighty-sixth year of her age, without offspring. Their remains are entombed in the "Old Graveyard," near the Unitarian Church, the first burial ground in the South Precinct, now known as Bridgewater.

Justice Edson possessed a large property. In 1704, he conveyed a considerable part of his real estate to his nephew, Captain Josiah Edson, "on condition that he should support him and his wife during life." On May 28, 1722, Justice Edson, "for and in consideration of the love, good-will, and affection" that he had and bore towards his neighbors and friends in the South Precinct, and for the promotion

and encouragement of learning among them, conveyed to them "a certain tract or parcel of land lying nigh to the dwelling-house of Samuel Edson, in said Bridgewater, containing by estimation twenty acres," more or less. Lest his "design and intent" in this gift might be frustrated, he nominated and appointed his "trusty and well-beloved friends, Nathaniel and Benjamin Hayward," the assessors that year of the South Precinct, and "their successors after them in said office forever, to take ye care of said land, that the profits and income of it" might "be laid out towards defraying ye charge of a school or schools in said precinct."

By his deed, dated November 28, 1722, he gave the town of Bridgewater one great lot and two small lots, called Titicut lots, for the encouragement of a grammar school, and appointed his well-beloved friends, Captain J. Field, Nathaniel Brett, Nathaniel Hayward, and Joseph Edson, selectmen, and their successors, to take charge of the above-named land, the profits to be used towards the expenses of a grammar school, with liberty to sell the same if they should find it to the advantage of said school.

No man in Bridgewater, living there when he was a resident of the town, enjoyed a larger share of the public confidence and esteem than Justice Edson. "His intellectual ability was above mediocrity. His presence was noble and commanding; his deportment easy and dignified; his voice deep, mellow, and impressive; and the expression of his countenance gave assurance of a generous, beneficent heart. In every prominent act of his life, he gave evidence of a sound mind and a discreet judgment, combined with a liberal and magnanimous charity; always exhibiting the complacent manners of the gentleman and the humility of the Christian.

"His wife was the most accomplished lady of the town. Her animated conversation and lively flow of spirits delighted all who participated in the fascination of her wit and the brilliancy of her colloquial powers. She united in

a remarkable degree the artless simplicity of a child with those delicate and undefinable qualities of person and manners which engross the mind without disturbing the senses. In her conversation there was a combination of ingenuousness, wit and humor—an amiable tenderness—a secret spell—imparting goodness, which it was impossible to resist; yet all was perfectly natural, nothing affected. . . .

“Elegant in person, graceful and dignified in her deportment, courteous to her inferiors, complacent to equals, assuming no superiority over any but familiar with all, she lived through a long life, respected and beloved by every acquaintance. To the close of her life, she retained the vivid traits of a beautiful and elegant person.”¹

¹ *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater*. Mitchell, Boston, 1840. Pp. 31, 36, 39, 40, 45, 46, 47, 48, 65, 67, 73.—*Records of the Colony of New Plymouth*. Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, Boston, 1855.—*Court Orders*, vol. vi., pp. 263, 268.—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices*. Lowell, 1864. Pp. 18, 19, 20, 21. Appendix No. 2, pp. xii., xiii., xiv. *Registry of Wills*. Book vii., pp. 71, 72, 73. Office of Probate, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Chapter VI

Samuel Edson, third, of Bridgewater

1690-1771

ON the seating of George the First on the throne of Great Britain, in 1714, the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, as it was both customary and politic for the American dependencies to do when a new king began wielding the sceptre to which the colonists were subject, tendered in due form an address to His Majesty, praying, first, for a continuance of the privileges granted them by the charter of the province; second, for the encouragement of the production of naval stores within the limits of the province; and, third, for the prevention of the enlargement of the settlements on Cape Breton Island by the French, who, after their loss of Nova Scotia, might seat themselves there in great numbers, to the disadvantage of the people of the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

In 1721, the British Board of Trade, in a report to King George the First, described with considerable detail the condition of affairs in the province, remarking that the militia was estimated at sixteen thousand men; that within the limits of the dependency there were twelve hundred converted or friendly Indians; that the productions of the province fitted for the use of Great Britain were principally timber, turpentine, tar, pitch, masts, cask and hogshead staves, whale oil, and some furs; that the trade it had with "the foreign plantations in America" such as Surinam, and "Martinico and other French islands" consisted chiefly in

horses, and that from those places the returning vessels came laden with sugar, molasses, and rum, which was "a very great discouragement to the sugar-planters in the British islands."

The report particularized not a few noteworthy facts concerning the industrial activity of the colonists of the province, setting forth the one that the people had "all sorts of common manufactures," spinning and weaving 'their own wool into coarse cloths, druggets, and serges,' besides making 'homespun linen, which was generally half cotton.'" No little prominence was given to the fact that "the branch of trade which was the greatest importance to them, and which they were best enabled to carry on, was the building of ships, sloops,' and other craft; that about a hundred and fifty vessels were built in a year, measuring six thousands tons; that most of these were built for sale abroad, but that there belonged to the province 'about a hundred and ninety sail, which might contain six thousand tons, and were navigated by about eleven hundred men; besides a hundred and fifty boats, with six hundred men, employed in the fisheries on their own coast.'"

On the death of King George the First, in 1727, the sceptre of Great Britain passed into the hands of his son, who, as King George the Second, reigned until 1760. During their reigns, three members of the Edson family represented the people of the town of Bridgewater at the General Court: Justice Josiah Edson, in 1714; Captain Josiah Edson, in 1735, '36, '39, '43, and '45; and Colonel Josiah Edson, from 1746 to 1750. Their presence in Boston, while attending the sessions of the House of Representatives, consequently afforded them excellent opportunities of acquiring the latest intelligence regarding both foreign and domestic affairs. On returning to the town of Bridgewater, they naturally became popular servitors of the inhabitants by dispensing such information as was sought after in matters appertaining to the welfare of the colonists and the

disposition of the reigning sovereign for the furtherance of the interests of his subjects in America.

Samuel, the youngest of the three children, and the only son of Samuel and Susanna Byram Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, on January 14, 1689-90, when eighteen years old, or, on January 1, 1707-8, was united by marriage to Mary, the fourth child and third daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Williams Dean, of Taunton, who was three years older than her husband.

The only political office held by him was that of coroner of the town of Bridgewater, to which he was appointed on June 22, 1733. At that time the office was regarded, as it had been anciently, as one of considerable importance. As represented by an old statute, none but lawful and discreet knights, possessing real estate of the value of twenty pounds, were eligible to the office of coroner. From a very early date in England coroners have been elected by the county freeholders, although, in certain liberties and franchises, they have been appointed by the Crown, or by lords holding a charter from the Crown. In the mother country, as well as in New England, it was the duty of those holding the office to inquire the cause of the sudden or mysterious death of any inhabitant or stranger in the fields of their jurisdiction, and to impart such facts or circumstances known to them regarding the same to an inquest or jury of twelve properly qualified men in sight of the body of the dead person, and, if practicable, at the place where the remains were found, and to make public the verdict of the jury.

The majority of the settlers of New England, fearful that the liberty of worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences might be denied them by the arbitrary act of a Popishly inclined king, or by the political influence of the clergy of the Church of England desiring the establishment of an Episcopal form of religious service in the American dependencies of Great Britain, were

disposed to look with distrust upon any change of regal power and to watch with suspicious misgivings the slightest tendency towards the introduction of an Anglican bishop or clergyman within the territorial limits of the colonies.

The arrival of the first clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. Robert Ratcliffe, on the frigate *Rose*, on Saturday, May 15, 1686, commissioned to officiate in Boston according to the ritual of the English Church, was an event that caused no little unfriendly comment as well as foreboding of evil among the strenuous upholders of Congregationalism. He was allowed the use of an east room in the Town House (which then stood where afterwards the Old State House was built), until those who desired to attend his ministrations should provide a fitter place. There the English liturgy was read, and, on June 15, 1686, a "Church of England as by law established" was organized in Boston, as is set forth by the initial entry in the parchment-bound folio containing the earliest records of King's Chapel. On Friday, March 25, 1687, Sir Edmund Andros, governor of New England, had the door of the South Meeting-house opened, and on that day, and subsequently for several years, the Rev. Robert Ratcliffe conducted religious services there as opportunity offered, but not without frequent protests from the Congregationalists owning the edifice, who statedly worshipped in it.

In the fall of 1688, the Church of England congregation in Boston laid the foundation of its first house of worship, in which, on Sunday, June 8, 1689, services began to be held. It was erected on the old burial-ground covering the space now occupied by the tower and front part of the present building known as King's Chapel, on the northeast corner of Tremont and School streets. It was built at a cost of £284 16s., or \$1,384. To defray the expense of its erection, ninety-six colonists contributed £256 9s., the remainder being given by British officers. On April 18, 1689, the news having been received from England of a

rebellion inaugurated there against King James the Second—who, on the landing of William, Prince of Orange, had betaken himself to France—some of the excited citizens of Boston, fearing that Sir Edmund Andros might be instigated by the Roman Catholics to surrender the city to the French, forthwith imprisoned the governor. The tumultuous proceeding so terrified the rector of the English Church that he speedily quitted the country, and the holding of Episcopal services was discontinued for several months. On June 30, 1689, the fifth Sunday after Trinity, King's Chapel was again opened for religious worship, the Rev. Samuel Myles becoming the successor of the Rev. Robert Ratcliffe.

The Rev. Thomas Bray, perceiving that the spiritual needs of the colonists in the American dependencies of Great Britain might in part be lessened by the missionary services of clergymen of the Church of England, earnestly exerted himself to obtain a Royal Charter instituting a religious body to undertake such work in a devout and advantageous manner. Having secured one establishing "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," the founders held their first meeting at Lambeth Palace, in London, on June 27, 1701.

The object of the society, as particularized by the instrument of institution, was twofold: "First, the provision of 'learned and orthodox ministers' for 'the administration of God's Word and Sacraments' among the King's 'loving subjects in the Plantations, Colonies, and Factories beyond the Seas belonging to our Kingdom of England'; and, Secondly, the making of 'such other provision as may be necessary for the Propagation of the Gospel in those places where English settlements had been made.' 'Atheism and Infidelity,' on the one hand, and 'Popish Superstition and Idolatry' were to be guarded against among the people of the plantations by the institution of this society, and a 'maintenance for ministers and the public worship

of God' was deemed 'highly conducive for accomplishing these ends.' "

The zeal and teachings of the society began to be apparent wherever its missionaries labored in the different provinces, colonies, and plantations subject to Great Britain. As soon as the people in a settlement who had been spiritually instructed by them were sufficient in number to be organized into a worshipping body, they were constituted a church, which was either assigned to the care of the local missionary or placed under the charge of a resident clergyman. Gifts of money as well as of land were from time to time made to the society by prosperous and influential colonists, and here and there in the various towns of New England Episcopal churches, known as those of the Church of England, began to rise and flourish, even when regarded as sanctuaries of bigots and enemies of Christian liberty.

On April 15, 1723, the corner-stone of Christ Church was laid in Boston, and on December 29, that year, it was opened for worship. Known now as the oldest church edifice and next to the oldest public building in the city, it still stands as a venerable landmark on the northeast corner of Salem and Bennet streets. As further described, "the brick walls of the church are two feet and a half thick; its spire is a hundred and seventy-five feet high; and from its steeple the lanterns were displayed which guided Paul Revere on his ride, on the night of the eighteenth of April, 1775, from Boston to Concord. The first rector of Christ Church was the Rev. Timothy Cutler, who had been converted to Episcopacy while rector of Yale College, and who, resigning his position there, went to England, and was ordained in London, in March, 1723. He was appointed missionary by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and began his rectorship [of Christ Church] on the twenty-fourth of September, 1723, continuing in this office forty-two years. Eighty families

and forty communicants formed the congregation at the beginning, which increased afterwards to eight hundred persons."

It seems evident that Coroner Edson formed an acquaintance with one or more of the missionaries of the society, and, having no bitterness of heart to incline him to be unfriendly toward the zealous and exemplary clergymen whose field of evangelization embraced the town of Bridgewater, extended them welcome and entertainment under his roof-tree near the southern limits of the precinct of West Bridgewater, and not far from the place where, in 1854, Simeon Taylor was living. He and his wife, besides enjoying the acquaintanceship of these devout men gradually grew interested in the success of their work, particularly as the ancestors of the Edson and Dean families had been churchmen of good standing in England, and of whom there was still extant considerable information among their descendants in New England.

Prompted by a wish to have a portion of his real estate set apart as a memorial of his and his wife's knowledge of their ancestors' affection for the Church of England and of their own personal desire to further the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, he, on January 23, 1747, conveyed to it fourteen and a half acres of land "for ye use, benefit, and behalf of a minister of ye Episcopal Church of Bridgewater for ye time being and his successors forever, and to build a church upon, and for a churchyard, and to and for no other use whatever"; the plot being in the South Precinct or Parish of the town, now known as Bridgewater, and on the East side of Main Street, north of Wall. Sufficient money was subscribed by a number of interested persons to erect on the lot a house of worship in 1748, a frame building now standing on the north side of the churchyard. Thereafter, until their deaths, it is said, Samuel Edson and his wife Mary Dean regularly attended the services conducted in the plainly

built edifice; a simple wooden altar in a narrow, undecorated chancel separated from the body of the church by a low, unpretentious railing of wood being the only object of any prominence in it.

In April, 1812, the plot of ground was formally conveyed to the Trustees of Donations, in Boston, who leased it for nine hundred and ninety-nine years to John Edson for an annual rent of twenty-one dollars. Under the name of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church of Bridgewater, the organization was incorporated on June 14, 1815.



THE FIRST AND THE SECOND PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN BRIDGEWATER

The house of worship having been repaired, and an assessment having been laid for the support of public worship in it, the building was consecrated on June 12, 1816, by the Right Rev. Alexander Viets Griswold, D.D., bishop of the eastern diocese of Massachusetts, assisted by the Rev. John Lauris Blake and Nathan Bourne Crocker.

Trinity Church burial-ground, described as comprising forty-four square rods of land, extends one hundred and twelve feet along the east side of Main Street, in the northern part of the village of Bridgewater. A low stone wall protects it from intrusion on the west side. A few interments

were made in it during the first twenty or thirty years of its use. In 1873, it was enlarged by a gift of about one acre and sixty rods by Mary, the widow of John Edson. The church lot is on the south side of the burial-ground. The first house of worship was moved to the north side of the graveyard to afford a site for the second edifice, which for many years stood on the south side of the burial-ground. The church in which the present congregation worships is on the same side of Main Street, but at a considerable distance southward from the original house of worship, now used partly as a painter's shop.

Three marble monuments, each inclosed by an iron fence with stone posts, were severally erected in the graveyard, in 1850, by John Edson, Increase Robinson, and Jacob Robinson. The iron fence erected by John Edson incloses a space eleven feet square, on which a marble monument, twenty inches square and four feet high, displays on its west side the following inscription:

"Samuel Edson, who died December 27, 1771, in the eighty-second year of his age, gave the land known as the glebe, in 1747, on which the church was built wherein he was a worshipper about twenty years."

On the weather-beaten headstones marking the graves of Samuel and Mary Dean Edson, the following inscriptions were once deeply engraved:

"Here lies buried Mr. Samuel Edson, who died Dec. 27, 1771, in ye 82d year of his age."

"Here lies buried Mrs. Mary Edson, wife of Mr. Samuel Edson, who died Feb. 5, 1770, in the 83d year of her age."

They were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom married and reared large families, their grandchildren being more than three score in number. When they died, five of their six daughters and all their sons were living; Bethiah, their second child and daughter, the wife of Ezra, son of Walter and Eleanor Strong Dean, being deceased.

Six months after the death of his wife (whom he sur-



TOMB OF SAMUEL EDSON, THIRD, IN TRINITY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH GRAVEYARD

vived one year and ten months), Samuel Edson made his last will and testament, bearing date of August 23, 1770. In the preamble of the instrument, he is styled a resident "of Bridgewater, in the County of Plymouth, in New England, gentleman." The different bequests made to his children attest the fact that he was possessed of considerable property. The site of certain lands belonging to him he describes as "lying between James Hooper's and Ebenezer Keith's, in said Bridgewater."

Elizabeth, his eighth child and fourth daughter, married, in 1745, Benanuel, son of Benjamin and Hepzibah Washburn Leach, and, in 1756, Caleb Washburn. Whether she was alive or dead at the time of the making of the will, he had no knowledge.

His bequests are specified as follows:

"Item. I give and bequeath to my son Samuel, . . . all the lands belonging to his homestead, described in a deed,—also one third part of my meadow on the west side of the brook at Coaster's Kitchen (so called) lying by Lathrop's line; and one sixth part of my cedar swamp, and a piece of land on the northerly side of mile brook; and my right in undivided land in said Bridgewater.

"Item. I give unto my son Nathan . . . in his life time thirty acres of land, as may appear by a deed of gift.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my son Abel . . . the homestead where he now liveth, described by a deed, also about thirty-four acres of land, more or less, lying between the land of Isaac Willis and the land of Solomon Ames's heirs,—also one third part of my meadow on the west side of the brook at Coaster's Kitchen, the westerly end of the meadow, together with one sixth part of my cedar swamps.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my son Obed, . . . besides what I have already given him by deed, one sixth part of my cedar swamps.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my son Ebenezer, be-

sides what I have already given him by deed, one sixth part of my cedar swamps. . . .

“Item. I give to my son John, . . . besides what I have given him by deed, a piece of land lying westward of [the] Church in said Bridgewater, running to the westward to the road that leads by Aldrich’s old place (so called), also one sixth part of my cedar swamps. . . .

“Item. I give and bequeath to my son Ezra, . . . besides what I have already given him by deed, my land and orchard on the west side of the road that leads by Aldrich’s old place (so called), together with one sixth part of my cedar swamp.

“Item. . . . to my sons John and Ezra, . . . forty acres of land at a place called the rocky-mine beds, joining to the land of James Perkins and Samuel Dunbar, and partly by my son Samuel’s land. . . .

“To my daughter Susanna, . . . eight pounds, to be paid in cattle, within a year after my decease, by my son Ezra, out of the estate given him. . . .

“To my grandchildren, children of my daughter Bethiah, late wife of Ezra Dean, . . . eight pounds.”

“To my daughter Mary, . . . eight pounds. . . .

“To Elizabeth, my daughter, her heirs or assigns, not knowing whether she be dead or alive, five shillings. . . .

“To my daughter Silence, eight pounds. . . .

“To my daughter Sarah, eight pounds. . . .

“To my son Ezra about two acres of meadow land lying on the westerly side of Nippenicket pond, which land I bought of Benjamin Leach, jr., and Hannah, his wife.”

“To my sons, Samuel, Abel, Obed, John, and Ezra, all my other lands that I have not already disposed of.”

The will was probated on January 6, 1772, ten days after the death of the maker.

The ascription of “gentleman” indubitably expressed the reputation of Samuel Edson, third, as a citizen, an

officer, and a churchman. Unostentatious and yet dignified, he was evidently one of Nature's noblemen.

The conflict between England and France, known as King George's War, which began in 1744, and closed by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, signed on October 7, 1748, was not participated in to any great extent by the colonists of New England. Nathan, the second son of Samuel and Mary Dean Edson, served from March 25, that year, as a "centinel" in Captain Thomas Henderson's company until December 21, a period of thirty-eight weeks and six days; the company being for a time stationed at "Pleasant Point."¹

¹ *A Compendious History of New England from the Discovery by Europeans to the First General Congress of the Anglo-American Colonies.* By John Gorham Palfrey. In four volumes. Boston and New York, 1883. Vol. iii., pp. 355, 398, 399.—*History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater.* Mitchell. Boston, 1840. Pp. 36, 51.—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, early settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 19, 22, 25, 32; Appendix No. 1. Pp. ii., iii., vii., viii., x.—*The Massachusetts Civil List, for the Colonial and Provincial Periods, 1630-1774.* By William H. Whitmore. Albany, 1870. P. 157.—*The Memorial History of Boston, including Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 1630-1880.* Edited by Justin Winsor. In four volumes. Boston, 1881. Vol. i., pp. 200, 201, 211, 215.—*The History of the American Episcopal Church, 1587-1883.* By William Steven Perry. In two volumes. Boston, 1885. Vol. i., pp. 178, 190, 197, 198.—*A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.* By Charles C. Tiffany. New York, 1895. Pp. 101, 102.—*Epitaphs in Old Bridgewater.* By Williams Latham. Bridgewater, 1822. Pp. 145, 146, 148.—*Plymouth Registry.* Book xxxix., p. 72.—*Registry of Wills.* Book xxi., pp. 64-65. Office of Probate, Plymouth, Massachusetts.—*Massachusetts Archives. Muster Rolls,* in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston. Vol. xcii., p. 195.

Chapter VII

Edsons in the French and Indian War

1754-1763

THE ambition of the French to enjoy and control the entire fur-trade of the aboriginal inhabitants of North America, and to restrict Great Britain from acquiring governmental power over domain other than that within the bounds of her American colonies, incited that emulous nation to renew with greater ardor about the middle of the eighteenth century its prolonged efforts to accomplish that which it had for many years been intent on doing. Overtures of amity and barter were repeatedly made in secret ways to the different tribes of savages popularly known as the Six Nations,—the Mohawks, Onondagas, Oneidas, Cayugas, Senecas, and Tuscaroras,—having hunting-grounds along the Mohawk River and the lake region of the Province of New York, while leagues of friendship and traffic were cemented with other Indians occupying more distant hunting-grounds. Forts and stockaded trading-houses were built by the energetic competitors of the English to form a chain of defensive outposts along the south side of the St. Lawrence River, about the interior lakes, and at eligible points on the banks of the Ohio, Illinois, and Mississippi rivers, or, in other words, at advantageous places on the vast extent of territory lying between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico.

England, short-sighted and parsimonious, seeking to enlarge her revenues by duties and restrictions imposed

upon the inhabitants of her colonies, gave little attention to the political and commercial advantages that France was securing elsewhere in North America. His Excellency, William Shirley, Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, cognizant of Great Britain's shortcomings and want of circumspection in matters relating to the welfare of the people of New England, disclosed, in the spring of 1754, his knowledge of the aggressiveness of the French by writing as follows to representatives of the English government: "The French claim all the country lying to the westward of the Appalachian or Alleghany Mountains. . . . They seem to have advanced further towards making themselves masters of this continent within these last five or six years than they have done ever since the first beginning of their settlements upon it."

Some months later, desiring the British ministry to provide the militia of the Province of Massachusetts Bay with two thousand stand of arms, he prudently presented to their consideration a number of pertinent facts respecting the necessity of making Nova Scotia an English outpost. "'When Nova Scotia is lost,' he declared, 'the French may be looked upon to be in the end masters of the continent.' Their great embarrassment, he said, was the difficulty of subsistence. The soil of Canada did not yield enough to feed its own people. Cape Breton [Island] was scarcely better. Nova Scotia was fertile and productive. The possession of Nova Scotia would give to the French easy communications with Canada by the Bay of Fundy on the one side, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the other, and would offer to them a conquest of New England as far as the Merrimack. It 'would open an entrance for as many troops as they should think fit to pour in from Old France,' and, New England overrun, there could, he argued, be no further resistance; for 'the western colonies' were always exposed and weak by reason of their holding slaves. 'Nova Scotia abounds with safe and commodious harbors, capable

of entertaining larger squadrons than the same extent of sea-coast in any other part of the world.' With Nova Scotia, New Hampshire would be lost, 'from whence the royal navy is almost wholly supplied with masts, yards, bowsprits,' and other ship-building material."

The erection and occupation by the French of forts and trading stations along the Ohio River ultimately brought the armed forces of England into open conflict with those of France. That the long series of battles, massacres, and burnings of comfortable homes and provender-filled barns, historically titled "the French and Indian War," beginning in 1754 and continuing nine years, "should be conducted," as remarked by Palfrey, "with punctilious humanity on either side was not to be expected in the circumstances. The brutal Indian would not certainly be more merciful than the civilized soldiers who led him into the field. In the long course of these wars the ferocity which is one permanent element in the French character had been conspicuously displayed, and the bloodthirstiness of Popish zeal had lent its aid to invest the assaults upon the English with all circumstances of inhumanity and horror.

"The people of the New England colonies—especially of Massachusetts, which was chiefly concerned—believed that they should have no more trouble with the Indians, if the French were only out of the way. And with perhaps no sanguine hope after such dismal disappointments, yet with a stern resolve to bring about that all-important consummation, they engaged once more in costly conflict. A prodigality of money and blood was not to be shrunk from, so it should relieve their posterity from the nuisance of such neighbors. And if at this calmer time they seem to us even to have resorted to any measure involving more than the customary rigors of war, it is fit we should consider whether, however repulsive in its severity, it may not justly or naturally have been considered as due to the necessity of self-preservation."

On April 14, 1755, at a council of war held at Alexandria, Va., at which General Edward Braddock, Governor William Shirley, and other English governors and officers were present, it was determined that the military operations of Great Britain and the Anglo-American colonies should at first be directed against the French forces holding Fort Duquesne, on the Ohio River, now the site of Pittsburg; Fort Niagara, at the mouth of the Niagara River, on Lake Ontario, which, "with the work at Oswego, a hundred and twenty miles to the east of it, commanded that lake, and the relations of the two to Montreal, on the one side, and to Fort Duquesne on the other, kept up the communication of Canada with the Ohio, and so with the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. Further east and close at hand, the French menaced the New England settlements from Lake George and Lake Champlain, where they held Crown Point and Ticonderoga; while in Nova Scotia they continued to maintain a disturbing familiarity with the turbulent rout of eastern Indians."

General Braddock, who intended attacking and capturing Fort Duquesne, departed, on April 20, 1755, from Alexandria, Va., with 1,460 troops. Having, on July 9, crossed the Monongahela River, eight miles from the fort, he fell into an ambush of Indians, in which 456 of his men were killed and 421 wounded; the rash commander having four horses shot under him, and being himself fatally wounded. It is said that only a small force of French soldiers took part in the attack upon the English. The disorderly retreat of the demoralized remnant left many prisoners in the hands of the savage allies of the French. The horrors of the disastrous defeat were rendered the more vivid by the appalling accounts of the frantic orgies of the exultant savages. They, after nightfall, stripped many of their prisoners, cut and slashed their naked bodies, burned them with powder and coals of fire, scalped the tortured, shrieking victims, who, after hours of indescribable suffering, gladly welcomed death.

Early in the spring of 1755, the enlistment and impressment of men to take part in the expedition against the French outpost, Fort St. Frederic, at Crown Point, at the south end of Lake Champlain, about one hundred and ten miles from Albany, was actively begun in New England. In the town of Bridgewater, among the first of the loyal inhabitants to enlist in His Majesty's (King George the Second's) service was Ebenezer, the fifth son of Samuel and Mary Dean Edson, then twenty-seven years old. He served as a private in the company in command of Captain Nathaniel Gilbert from the time of his enlistment to September 8, and thereafter until November 20, 1755, when the company was under the command of Captain Nathaniel Blake; the organization being in Colonel Timothy Ruggles's regiment of Massachusetts Bay provincials, that formed a part of the army of which Major-General William Johnson of the Province of New York had command.

The troops to attack Fort St. Frederic assembled in June and July at Albany. About the end of July, Major-General Phineas Lyman of Connecticut, with about six hundred men, preceded the main body, in order to make the road northward passable for it. On the tenth of August, the army of English regulars and provincials quitted Albany to march to its destination; Major-General Johnson following with the artillery, stores, and baggage.

On reaching the Great Carrying Place, between the Hudson River and Lake St. Sacrament¹ (Lake George), on the fourteenth of August, Major-General Johnson reported the number of men of his entire force "fit for marching to Crown Point," as not exceeding 2,850. At a council of war, held on the following day, it was considered necessary that reinforcements should be requested of the governors of the provinces of New York and Connecticut, and that the

¹ *Lac du Saint Sacrement* (Lake of the Holy Sacrament), a French name given it by the Jesuit Missionary, Father Isaac Jogues, on the festival of *Corpus Christi*, in May, 1646. The south end of the Great Carrying Place, now known as Fort Edward, is fifty-six miles from Albany.

governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay be urged to divert the attention of the French by sending a force of five hundred troops down the Chaudière River, toward Quebec, to menace the enemy's outposts on it.

The commanding general, in reporting the operations of the army at the Great Carrying Place, wrote, on the twenty-fourth of August, that "the road is now making from this place to Lake St. Sacrament, where I propose to build magazines and raise a defensible fortification, either as a safe retreat in case we should find the enemy too strong for our force, and be obliged to quit our ground, or upon well-grounded intelligence find it the most prudent measure to halt there till we receive reinforcements." He remarks further: "I propose to march to-morrow or next day with the first division of about fifteen hundred men, and some Indians, and a few field pieces." Having gone into camp at the head of the lake, he had a considerable compass of woodland there cleared under the supervision of Colonel Ephraim Williams, who, while at Albany, had made his will, with provisions for the establishment of a school, which later became Williams College.

In a letter to the Lords of Trade, dated at Lake George the third of September, General Johnson particularizes certain undertakings connected with the advance of his army:

"About 250 Indians have already joined me, and as small parties are every day dropping in, I expect, before I can be able to leave this place, to have 300. . . . Our Indians appear to be very sincere and zealous in our cause, and their young men can hardly be withheld from going out scalping. . . .

"I am building a fort at this lake, which the French call Lake St. Sacrament, but I have given it the name of Lake George, not only in honour of His Majesty but to ascertain his undoubted dominion here.

"I found it a mere wilderness, not one foot cleared. I have made a good Waggon Road to it from Albany, dis-

tance about 70 miles; never was house or fort erected here before. We have cleared land enough to encamp 5000 Men. The Troops now under my command and the reinforcements on the way will amount to near that number. Thro' our whole march from Albany, tho' parties of the French have been hovering round us, we have had but one man scalped and one taken prisoner. . . .

“When the battoes (certain small boats so called) are brought from the last fort, caused to be built at the great carrying place, abt. 17 miles from hence, I propose with a part of the Troops to proceed down the Lake, at the end whereof is an important pass called Tionderogue [Ticonderoga], about 50 miles from hence, and 15 miles from Crown point, and there endeavor to take post till the rest of the Forces join me, and then march to the attack of Crown point, all which I hope to effect in about three weeks.”

At that time about a thousand French veterans from France and two thousand Canadians and Indians were at no great distance from the English army. Baron Ludwig August de Dieskau, commanding the French forces, had, on the second of September, reached the lower waterfall of the outlet of Lake George, on the west side of Lake Champlain. On the fourth, as ordered by him, M. de St. Pierre advanced southward with a force of Canadians and Indians as far as the great marsh, near the site of Whitehall. Leaving eighteen hundred of his men at Ticonderoga, General de Dieskau followed him with a flying corps of six hundred Canadians, and as many Indians, besides three hundred regulars, including two companies of grenadiers, a detail of twelve marines, and a squad of artillerymen and bombardiers, and arrived on the fifth, at the head of South Bay, on Lake Champlain, not far north of the site of Whitehall, and five or more miles east of Lake George.

On the sixth of September, the French army continued its march southward. Scouts that had been sent in advance to discover the whereabouts of the English forces

returned that night reporting the rising of thick smoke at different points beyond the places at which they had made observations. On the seventh, the French troops, still preceded by scouts, went forward. That day the reconnoitring parties which had viewed the surroundings of the reconstructed English outpost, named Fort Lyman, in honor of Major-General Phineas Lyman, covering a small space of ground immediately north of the creek debouching into the Hudson, at the site of the village of Fort Edward, returned with the intelligence that near the fort they had seen about fifty tents of the English. General de Dieskau thereupon hastened the advance of his troops and that night encamped about three miles north of Fort Lyman.

Early the next morning a bearer of dispatches was seen riding rapidly in the direction of the fort. He was at once shot at and killed, and the communications that he was to deliver being read, were found to contain information disclosing the approach of the French army and cautioning the commandant of the fort to be alert and to act on the defensive. From two prisoners later taken, considerable knowledge was derived regarding the number and disposition of the English troops at the head of Lake George.

Finding that the Iroquois Indians forming a part of his army preferred to turn back and attack the main body of the English at the head of Lake George, General de Dieskau without delay moved into the road recently constructed by Major-General Johnson's troops, and began marching northward; the French regulars composing the middle column, which was flanked by a column of Canadians and a column of Indians.

The intelligence that a body of the enemy had been seen a few miles north of Fort Lyman having been brought to Major-General Johnson, a council of war was called early on the morning of the eighth of September to determine a plan for immediate action. It was speedily concluded that Colonel Ephraim Williams, having command of a thousand

provincials, and that Soiengarahtah, known as King Hendrick, the famous chief of the Mohawks, with two hundred of his warriors, should advance upon the French, then supposed to be in the immediate vicinity of Fort Lyman.

The new road "followed the course of a ravine extending from the head of Lake George nearly due south for a distance of several miles. The detachment headed by Colonel Williams took this route at nine o'clock in the morning, and in consequence of the intelligence received at midnight" regarding the presence of the enemy farther southward, less precaution was taken to guard against a surprise. "At a point about two miles south of the encampment," Colonel Williams "halted, and was joined by the detachment of Mohawks, who, with their chief, passed to the front, and at ten o'clock resumed the march."

"About one-third of a mile south of Bloody Pond the ravine, through which Colonel Williams's detachment proceeded, is narrowed by the abrupt shoulder of a hill projecting from the west, while on the east the sharp acclivity and rugged sides of French Mountain abut the narrow defile." There the foe was unexpectedly found in ambush, his presence being disclosed by a sudden outburst of savage war-whoops and a death-dealing volley of musketry. Colonel Williams undertook to extricate his provincials from their disadvantageous position, but was shot dead while attempting the accomplishment of his intention. The command of the force having then fallen to Lieutenant-Colonel Whiting, that intrepid officer succeeded in making a temporary rally of the fleeing men. Compelled by the numerical strength of the French, he was forced to retreat, "holding the pursuers in check by a scattering but well-aimed fire from every cover which could be made available."

The sound of the protracted firing having been heard at the encampment at the head of Lake George, hurried preparations were made to render it defensible, "for as yet no line of intrenchments had been thrown up, nor any cover,

redoubt, rifle-pit or fortification constructed" there. The trunks of trees that had been felled "were hastily piled up as a sort of rude breastwork in front, while the flanks and rear" of the camp "were protected by seven field pieces and two mortars. The roadway was also commanded by four large cannon advantageously posted. While these dispositions were making, Lieutenant-Colonel Cole was dispatched with three hundred men to the assistance and relief of the retreating detachment. He met the flying troops a little to the north of Bloody Pond, and checked, by a well-timed volley, the pursuing enemy, and covered the retreat of the fugitives into the camp."

In this short but bloody engagement the English sustained a loss of two hundred and sixteen officers and men killed and ninety-six wounded. The French and their Indian allies suffered a loss of many killed and wounded. Among their dead was M. de St. Pierre. The loss of their chief, Soiengarahatah, dismayed so greatly the Mohawks that they declined to take part in the later action of that day, they having had thirty-eight of their warriors killed and twelve wounded.

Intent upon following up his success, General de Dieskau pressed on at the head of his regulars, who moved steadily forward in the narrow roadway, until they halted, about half past eleven o'clock, five hundred or less feet from the breastwork of the English, from which point they began their attack, the Canadians and Indians taking positions along the sides of the camp.

Describing the action that followed, Major-General Johnson wrote: "The enemy's fire we received first from their regulars in platoons, but it did no great execution, being at too great a distance, and our men defended by the breastwork. Our artillery then began to play on them, and was served under the direction of Captain [William] Eyre, during the whole engagement, in a manner very advantageous to his character, and those concerned in the management of it.

“The engagement now became general on both sides. The French regulars kept their ground and order for some time with great resolution and good conduct, but the warm and constant fire from our artillery and troops put them into disorder; their fire became more scattered and unequal, and the enemy’s fire on our left grew very faint. They moved then to the right of our encampment, and Colonel Ruggles’s, Colonel Williams’s, and Colonel Titcomb’s regiments, where they maintained a very warm fire for near an hour, still keeping up their fire on the other parts of our line tho’ not very strong. The three regiments on the right supported the attack very resolutely, and kept a constant and strong fire upon the enemy. This attack failing, and the artillery still playing along the line, we found their fire very weak, with considerable intervals. This was about four o’clock, when our men and the Indians jumped over the breastwork, pursued the enemy, slaughtered numbers, and took several prisoners, amongst whom was the Baron de Dieskau, the French general of all the regular forces lately arrived from Europe, who was brought to my tent about six o’clock, just as a wound I had received [in one of my hips] was dressed. The whole engagement and pursuit ended about seven o’clock.”

The notable part taken in this action by Colonel Timothy Ruggles’s regiment, that included the company in which Ebenezer Edson was serving as a private, reflected no little honor upon the officers and men belonging to it. Captain Nathaniel Gilbert, commanding the company of which Ebenezer Edson was a member, was either killed or wounded in the engagement, for from that time Captain Nathaniel Blake is recorded as having command of the company until January 7, 1756.

The necessity of reinforcing Major-General Johnson’s army was imperative at this turn of affairs, and enlistments of men belonging to the militia regiments was speedily begun in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Obed, the

fourth son of Samuel and Mary Dean Edson, an elder brother of Ebenezer, was then a private in Colonel Estees Hatch's regiment. An order of Lieutenant-Governor Spencer Phips, calling for men for reinforcing the army under Major-General William Johnson, influenced him to enlist out of that regiment on the fifteenth of September into Captain Samuel Clark's company, which soon afterward departed for its destination—the camp of the English forces at the head of Lake George.

On the sixteenth of September, while waiting for the reinforcements sent to him, the wounded commander of the expedition against Crown Point wrote: "Our Expedition is likely to be extremely distressed and I fear fatally retarded for want of Waggons. The People of the County of Albany and the Adjacent Counties hide their Waggons and drive away their Horses. Most of the Waggons [wagons ?] taken into this Service have deserted, some [of the] Horses are quite jaded, and some few [have been] killed by the Enemy, and several [have] run away. Most of our Provisions are at Albany."

Perceiving the military advantage of having a defensible outpost on the site of the encampment, General Johnson employed a part of his army in the construction of one, which, on its completion, he named Fort William Henry. The two brothers, Ebenezer and Obed Edson, were no doubt often in the same working parties that were detailed from time to time to accomplish the erection of the fort thereafter associated with many of the important events of the long struggle of the two nations for governmental supremacy in North America.

Finding it impossible before the beginning of winter to provide his army with provisions and munitions, while advancing to attack Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point, General Johnson concluded, as was determined by a council of war, to abandon the project and disband the troops. Leaving six hundred men to garrison Fort William Henry, he re-

turned with the others to Albany, where they dispersed to return to their different places of abode. Ebenezer Edson's term of service, twenty-eight weeks and four days, having ended on the twentieth of November, privileged him to receive an earlier welcome from the Bridgewater people than his brother Obed, whose term of service of thirteen weeks and two days as a corporal did not terminate until the sixteenth of December; he being allowed two weeks and three days' subsistence while travelling from Albany to his home.

Josiah, the eldest son of Colonel Josiah and Ruth Bailey Edson, is recorded as serving in September and October, 1755, as a commissary of musters under a commission of Lieutenant-Governor Spencer Phips.¹

The capture of Fort Niagara having been entrusted to Governor William Shirley, he, in midsummer began his march westward from Albany by moving along the Mohawk River from Schenectady—the stream being more or less navigable by bateaux and canoes—to a portage of four miles to Lake Oneida, and thence along the Oswego River flowing into Lake Ontario. “He had with him about fifteen hundred troops, nearly all of them regulars. Fearing that an attack might in his absence be made from Frontenac (Kingston), on the opposite side [of Lake Ontario], he determined to leave two thirds of his force for the security of Oswego [at the mouth of the Oswego River], while with the rest, and with the necessary siege artillery, he should proceed on the lake to Niagara. Heavy rain set in, which delayed the movement for three weeks. . . . Meanwhile the Indian guides became discouraged; sickness spread in the camp;

¹ *A Compendious History of New England*. Palfrey. Boston and New York, 1883. Vol. iv., pp. 199, 200, 207, 208.—*Documentary History of the State of New York*. Vol. ii., pp. 682, 693.—*Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York*. Vol. vi., pp. 994, 1014, 1021.—*A History of the Town of Queensbury in the State of New York*. By A. W. Holden. Albany, 1874. Pp. 281–298.—*Massachusetts Archives*. *Muster Rolls*, in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston. Vol. xciii., pp. 193, 231; vol. xciv., pp. 69, 110.

and in a council of war it was unanimously resolved to put off the undertaking to the following year, to build works for the security of Oswego and garrison it with seven hundred men, and to withdraw the rest of the army into quarters at Albany."

The expedition against several French forts in Nova Scotia was assigned to Colonel Monckton of the British army; Colonel John Winslow of Massachusetts Bay commanding the provincial troops. The forces set sail about the end of May, 1755, from Boston harbor, and arrived off the mouth of the Missaquash, at the northern end of Chignecto Bay, where, opposite the English stronghold, Fort St. Laurence, on one side of the estuary, stood the French fortress, Beauséjour. After a short siege, Fort Beauséjour capitulated. Colonel Winslow, having crossed the narrow isthmus to the north shore of the mainland, took possession of Fort Gaspereau on Bay Verte.

About the middle of July, the troops under Lieutenant-Governor Lawrence of Nova Scotia, and Colonel Winslow, "were divided into four or five bodies, and marched through the province to the chief centres of population, which were mostly on the western shore. The object in hand was kept a dead secret from all but the leading British officers. . . . The fifth of September was the day decided upon for action, when the officer of each district was to summon all its able-bodied men to come and hear the intentions of the King towards them. . . .

"The parish church in most cases was the appointed rendezvous, and there the King's orders were read aloud to them by the officer in command. These were to the effect that all such Acadians as had not already taken the oath [of allegiance to King George the Second] were to be shipped out of the country with their families; that their lands and stock . . . were [to be] forfeited to the Crown. Their money only, and such household goods as there might be room for in the ships, they were to be allowed to take.

“The wretched Acadians were dumbfounded. . . . Many refused to believe it. They were, however, prisoners. . . . There was no escape, for outside the churches stood the New England soldiery, in their blue uniforms, with loaded muskets.

“The number of Acadians secured on the fifth of September varied in the several districts. Everywhere, however, it was supplemented by forays of the British troops, which became no easy matter when the direful news spread abroad.”

The details of this melancholy deportation afford a distressing picture of its painful circumstances. “All the women and children who so desired could go, and every care was taken to keep together not only families but so far as possible neighbours. Many did not believe the sentence would be actually carried out till the first detachments were marched on board ship at the bayonet’s point. The whole wretched business occupied over two months. About six thousand in all were deported, while more than half that number were left behind in Acadia, to say nothing of as many more who had fled into French territory. . . .

“The hapless emigrants were distributed throughout the English colonies. That people so profoundly ignorant and bigoted as the Acadians did not flourish when pitchforked thus on alien soil, is not surprising. Nor is it more so by the same token that the British colonists upon whom they were unceremoniously precipitated showed no alacrity to receive them.

“At the beginning of winter, a thousand of them were brought to Massachusetts, as unexpected as undesired. Their removal had not been made under colonial authority, and there had been no arrangement for their reception and maintenance. The General Court, after some delay, passed a resolve, permitting them all to be landed, and directing them to be distributed among interior towns, there to be employed in getting their living under the superintendence

of the municipal magistrates. Many elderly and infirm people, and such as had been of the wealthier sort, received gratuitous support. It was proposed to them to settle in a body on some of the province lands, but they refused, expecting confidently to be restored to their homes when peace should be made. . . .

“Though their worship with their families, and even in larger assemblies, was not interfered with, they were interdicted from the presence of priests of their persuasion, and this, with their feelings, was the last aggravation of misery. Some got away to the West Indies; some to Canada, where, however, their reception greatly disappointed them; and some even as far as the Falkland Islands, by Cape Horn. In the desperation of their homesickness a number of those who had been conveyed to the southern colonies built boats, and in them crept along the coast from Carolina and Georgia as far as Massachusetts, where they were stopped in consequence of a message from the governor of Nova Scotia, who had information of their proceeding. These, a hundred in number, were, like their friends who had come earlier, dispersed among the towns. . . . When peace at length took place, some had become reconciled to a permanent residence where they were, but most of the survivors, their movements being no longer obstructed, removed to Nova Scotia or to Canada, where their posterity exists to this day.”

The town of Bridgewater was too near the seat of government to escape recognition as an available asylum for some of the exiled Acadians, and a number were sent there to find employment upon different farms lying within its bounds. The stirring events of the year afforded, during the following winter, the inhabitants of the town of Bridgewater many interesting incidents for review, while curiously conjecturing the character of the plans then under consideration for a renewal of the attempts to get possession of the frontier forts of the French.

Governor William Shirley, having been commissioned

by King George the Second commander-in-chief of the forces in North America, "summoned the governors of all the colonies to a conference at New York, but was met there by only the governors of Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The result of their deliberations was [the conclusion] that the campaign of the next year ought to proceed upon an enlarged scale; that no less than ten thousand troops should be employed against Crown Point, six thousand against Fort Niagara, and three thousand against Fort Duquesne. . . .

"The plan of operations for the next year . . . was not cordially received by the General Court of Massachusetts. The expense which it would bring upon that province was said to be of an amount altogether unmanageable. The most which the court would consent to do was to raise the province's quota of men, if the governor would make present provision of money sufficient for the pay of the soldiers who had been in the field the last year, and for bounties for the enlistment now contemplated. The governor acceded to the proposal so far as to lend the province thirty thousand pounds of the King's money deposited with him as commander-in-chief—the loan to be reimbursed from any allowance which should be made by Parliament, or, failing such allowance, from the avails of colonial taxes to be laid and collected in the next two years. On the strength of this arrangement, the province voted to raise thirty-five hundred men for service against Crown Point."

The Earl of Loudon having been commissioned, in May, 1756, to succeed Governor Shirley as commander-in-chief, did not arrive at Albany until the beginning of August, where he received intelligence of the capitulation, on the thirteenth of that month, of the fort at Oswego to the French, which caused him to arrest the operations in progress for an attack on Crown Point, and, as a consequence, nothing of any advantage to the English resulted from the campaign of 1756.

The campaign of 1757 was opened by the commander-in-chief, Lord Loudon, who, on the twentieth of June, set sail from the bay of New York with six thousand men to make a descent on Louisburg, with the aid of the English fleet, to arrive at Halifax on the ninth of July. Learning there that the French were protecting Louisburg with "seventeen line-of-battle ships, and a force of regulars more than half as great as his own, he lost no time in returning to New York."

Meanwhile, the Marquis de Montcalm, who had succeeded Baron de Dieskau in command of the French forces in North America, suddenly attacked, with more than eight thousand men, including two thousand Indian allies, on the fourth of August, Fort William Henry, then garrisoned by two thousand five hundred troops under Colonel Monro. The fort was bravely defended until the ammunition in its magazines began to fail, and all hope was gone of successfully resisting much longer the assaults of the beleaguering enemy. By the articles of capitulation, signed on the ninth of August, the provincials were allowed to march out with their firearms and no cartridges, having promised not to serve against the French within the space of eighteen months from the day of surrender.

"The morning after the capitulation was signed," says Captain Carver of the Connecticut troops, "as soon as day broke, the whole garrison, now consisting of about two thousand men, besides women and children, were drawn up within the lines, and on the point of marching off, when great numbers of the Indians gathered about and began to plunder. We were at first in hopes that this was their only view, and suffered them to proceed without opposition. Indeed, it was not in our power to make any, had we been so inclined; for though we were permitted to carry off our arms, yet we were not allowed a single round of ammunition. In these hopes, however, we were disappointed; for frequently some of them began to attack the sick and

wounded, when such as were not able to crawl into the ranks, notwithstanding they endeavored to avert the fury of their enemies by their shrieks or groans, were soon dispatched."

"The little army then began their march toward Fort Edward according to the terms of capitulation, but they looked in vain for the escort of French troops to protect them. Dense masses of dusky savages hung about, exasperated and disappointed, for they had been promised plunder and revenge by the French. The prize seemed slipping from them; they grew bold, and the blood and cries of the few wounded served only to madden them; they began to plunder on the skirts of the army, and then all restraint, all fear, were abandoned; the whole body of Indians threw themselves, tomahawk in hand, shouting the war-whoop, upon the defenceless men. Colonel Monro and some others were able to get back to the French lines, where they vainly tried to have a guard sent, to keep off the savages.

"Through the whole day, the carnage and plunder went on, and the Indians rioted in destruction. The troops had no ammunition, they had no leaders—every man was for himself; they broke up into small bodies, trying to escape; here and there individuals fled and concealed themselves in the bushes; many of whom perished with hunger and fatigue, before reaching a place of succor. Numbers of the whites were carried away captives, of whom few ever came back. It is computed that one thousand five hundred persons were this day either murdered, carried off, or lost in the forests. One by one the survivors dropped in upon the outlying plantations with their story of horror, and the hearts of men were palsied.

"There is absolutely nothing to be said in defence of the French in this affair. That they did not dare to run the risk of offending and alienating their Indians is, of course, the explanation, though surely no extenuation of such ignoble conduct. It is one of the worst stains upon the

annals of their arms in America. They would have been bound by humanity only in the storming of a fort, but after a formal capitulation, they were bound not merely by humanity, but by the most elementary rule of military honour, and it is satisfactory to think that they paid dearly for it. The British Government, as a matter of course, repudiated their part of the contract, and not a French prisoner was sent to Montreal, nor was the parole of the garrison taken any account of. The memory of the massacre drove many a bayonet home in the coming years of British success that might otherwise have been stayed in mercy, and many a Canadian sued in vain for his life at the hands of the New England Ranger who might formerly have been spared. '*Remember Fort William Henry*' became a terrible war-cry in many a battle and in many a bloody backwoods' skirmish. The French knew it well and felt that it added a fresh terror to defeat. The first impulse of a disarmed or captured Canadian was to protest by voice and gesture that he had not been present at that accursed scene.

"The growing scarcity of food in Canada saved the forts on the Hudson, and, probably, the flourishing town of Albany itself, from being captured and sacked by the French. Word was sent that it was of the first necessity that the now ripening harvest should be gathered, and there were not men to do it. So the French turned their attention to the destruction of the British fort and all its dependent buildings. Great bonfires were made of the logs forming the ramparts, and into them were cast those bodies of the dead which had not been buried. As a fortress the place ceased to exist.

"It was a gloomy enough winter, this one of 1757-58, in the British provinces. . . . It was the lowest point ever touched by Anglo-Saxon fortunes in America. Oswego and William Henry were scenes of desolation; Louisburg was contemptuous and defiant behind bristling rows of cannon and massive ramparts; the colonists even of New

England were disheartened and disillusioned as to the invincibility of British troops, and sore both with their generals and their officers. The frontiers of the more southern colonies still ran with blood, and the labours of a generation on a belt of country nearly four hundred miles in length had been swept away." Washington, who had "been over two years at the frontier village of Winchester, in the valley of Virginia, eating his heart out in vain endeavours to stem the hordes of Indians led by Frenchmen, who swarmed across the stricken borders of the middle colonies," had written, in the spring of 1757, of his inability, for want of adequate support, to defend them, declaring: "I have been posted for more than twenty months on our cold and barren frontiers to perform, I think I may say, an impossibility; that is, to protect from the cruel incursions of a crafty savage enemy a line of inhabitants more than three hundred and fifty miles in extent, with a force inadequate to the task." "Nothing," he asserts, "keeps me from resignation but the imminent danger to my country. The supplicating tears of the women and the moving petitions of the men melt me into such deadly sorrow, that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease."

"Great Britain was sunk in despondency. Chesterfield declared we were 'no longer a nation.'" William Pitt, the leader of the British Ministry, "appealed with impassioned fervour to the heart of England, and by a genius, unequalled in its history, . . . brought an apparently half-moribund nation into an ecstasy of patriotic ardour. Every one who approached the great statesman caught the inspiration, and every man in England who had a heart at all felt the blood coursing more briskly through it. Those whom Pitt called especially to serve him and maintain the nation's honour went to the camp or to the wilderness with an enthusiasm for their chief and country, and a sense of

exhilaration that had for long been almost wholly lacking."

The campaign of 1758 embraced attacks on Louisburg, Fort Carillon at Ticonderoga, and Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point, and Fort Duquesne. General Jeffrey Amherst, having under him Brigadiers James Wolfe, Lawrence, and Whitmore, and co-operated with by Admiral Boscawen, was assigned the task of obtaining possession of Louisburg. On the twenty-eighth of May, Amherst arrived at Halifax, the fleet consisting of twenty-two ships of the line and fifteen frigates, the army of ten thousand men. The light-house battery on the northeast side of the entrance to the harbor of Louisburg was taken by Wolfe on the morning of the twelfth of June. On the twenty-third, the English battery began firing upon that of the French on the island lying near the middle of the entrance to the harbor. Three of the French ships were burned on the twenty-first of July by the English, and on the night of the twenty-fifth, another. Louisburg was then "a heap of ruins." On the twenty-sixth the place capitulated. Five thousand six hundred and thirty-seven prisoners fell into the hands of the English, as also two hundred and forty cannon and mortars, and a great quantity of ammunition.

The appeal made by the great English commoner, William Pitt, to the Northern colonies, including New York and New Jersey, for a force of twenty thousand men for the reduction of Canada, was promptly answered by their putting into the field 17,480 men, 7,000 of whom were furnished by the Province of Massachusetts. Among the towns represented by companies organized under this call was Bridgewater, which early in the spring began forming one, having for its officers: Simeon Cary, captain; Lemuel Dunbar, 1st lieutenant; Josiah, the eldest son of Josiah and Sarah Packard Edson, 2d lieutenant, who entered into the service of King George the Second on March 13, 1758. The two brothers, Joseph and Daniel Edson, the first and third sons of Joseph and Lydia Cary Edson, severally enlisted as

“centinels” on the eleventh and fourteenth of April. The company was mustered into Colonel Thomas Doty’s regiment of Plymouth County provincials, which marched to Albany for incorporation in June, with the army collected there by Major-General James Abercrombie, commander of King George’s forces in North America. The entire force embraced six thousand three hundred English regulars and nine thousand provincials, including bateaux men. On the eighth of June, Lord George Howe, with one half of the army, reached Fort Edward, where not long afterward the commander-in-chief, with the remainder, arrived.

On the fifth of July, the entire army embarked at the head of Lake George to pass northward to the landing place at the navigable end of it. “On this memorable July morning twelve hundred boats, laden with troops and munitions of war, stretched like a vast armada across the bosom of the lake. The summer dawn was brilliant and cloudless. The sun had just risen over the mountain tops, and chased away the mists that night had gathered along the swampy shores. Not a breath of air was stirring on the water, not a ripple ruffling the silver sheen of its surface; nor from that illimitable sea of woodland, which swept upwards in successive waves from the island-studded shores, came breeze enough to move a blossom or a leaf. With regular precision, its wings stretching to right and left, and as the narrow lake grew narrower, reaching almost from bank to bank, the splendid pageant swept slowly northward. In the centre were the British regiments, all gay in scarlet and white and gold. Upon the right and left and in the rear went the colonial troops, in blue and red. In front was the gallant Bradstreet, with his sailors and axemen, in soberer guise; and Gage’s light infantry, with their strange caps and short jackets and moustachioed faces.

“From the whole dense flotilla come the glint and flash of burnished arms, and above the boats, at intervals, hung the standards of famous regiments, impatient to inscribe

some American triumph on their folds, while the brave show of over a thousand tartans—those of the ‘Black Watch’—filled in the picture. Ten thousand oars, with measured beat, caught the sunlight, and the bands of various regiments, with their martial music, woke the echoes of the mountains, which, as the lake narrowed, lifted high above it, upon either hand, their leafy sides and rocky crests.”

The British and American forces disembarked on the following morning at the foot of Lake George without meeting there any opposing body of French and Indians. Having left a strong guard with the bateaux, the commander-in-chief ordered Lord Howe to go forward with his rangers and light infantry, while he with the other troops followed; the English regulars in the centre and the provincials on the flanks. It was not long before Lord Howe, in penetrating a wild waste of fallen timber and thick underbrush, came suddenly upon a small body of the enemy, whereupon a sharp skirmish ensued. In eagerly advancing upon the discovered position of the foe, Lord Howe was killed by being shot through the heart. That night the army bivouacked in the woods, and on the following morning returned to the landing place.

On the north side of the outlet of Lake George, running first northward about two miles and then southeastward about the same distance before entering Lake Champlain, stood Fort Carillon, having Lake Champlain on its east side, and on the south, the bay formed by the confluent waters of the outlet, the lake, and Wood Creek. At the north of the fort was a wide stretch of marshy meadows; the only land-approach to it being from the northwest.

Aware of the intention of the British general, the French commandant of Fort Carillon, the Marquis de Montcalm, immediately began obstructing the land passage to it. “On the morning of the eighth, the drums of the French beat to arms, that the troops, now thirty-six hundred and fifty in number, might know their stations, and then they resumed

their work; the right of their defences rested on a hillock, from which the plain between the lines and the lake was to have been flanked by four pieces of cannon; but the battery could not be finished; the left extended to a scarp surmounted by an abattis. For a hundred yards in front of the intermediate breastwork, which consisted of piles of logs, the approach was obstructed by felled trees with their branches pointing outwards, stumps, and rubbish of all sorts."

Leaving the most of his artillery at the landing place, General Abercrombie, on the evening of the seventh of July, again advanced northward, bivouacking for the night about two miles distant from Fort Carillon. The next morning, having received information that the formidable breastwork could be carried by assault, he decided to force his way beyond it at the point of the bayonet. But this was a most senseless blunder, for it is said had he made use of his artillery from a neighboring eminence, "he could then have pounded the huddling mass of Frenchmen within the entrenchment at will, or knocked their defences about their ears in an hour; for they were not strong enough to venture an attack. They had only a week's provisions, and were nearly two hundred miles from their base. Even if no artillery had been available, the British general, with his fifteen thousand men, could have surrounded them, and starved them out without firing a shot.

"Forcing their way through the tangled chaos of tumbled trees, the front lines of British infantry pressed on as best they could, with orders to carry by steel alone those bristling barriers behind which over three thousand Frenchmen lay invisible and secure, with levelled muskets. As the British approached the abattis, a sheet of flame and smoke burst from the eight foot log breastwork which lay behind it, and a fierce storm of bullets, mixed with grape-shot, swept through the advancing ranks. In vain the survivors of that withering discharge tried to force their way

through the dense network of opposing boughs and reach the foot of the wooden wall beyond.

“The order to withhold their fire, however, was soon treated by the troops with the contempt which, under the circumstances, it deserved; but this availed them little. . . . Regiment after regiment struggled desperately on against that fatal barrier; but as each rush of men strove to tear their way through the immovable *frise* of branches, it was met by a storm of lead, such as no troops could face and live. As each shattered column fell sullenly back, leaving a fearful tribute of dead and wounded, fresh ones came rolling on like the waves of the sea, and to break as surely at the foot of that flaming parapet. Thus went on the futile heroism and the useless slaughter. . . .

“Now and again there was a lull, born of sheer exhaustion, the smoke lifted from the deadly clearing, and men may well have looked for some word from their sphinx-like general; but Abercrombie gave no sign, except, with imperturbable fatuity, to persist in his mad course. Fresh troops were ordered forward, and with them returned to the charge the survivors of the last attacks. There was no sign of hesitation throughout the whole of those terrible four hours, and never was greater gallantry shown in an effort so lamentably superfluous.

“‘It was in vain at last,’ says Warburton, ‘as it was at first; and upon that rude barrier, which the simplest manoeuvres would have avoided, or an hour of well-plied artillery swept away, the flower of British chivalry was crushed and broken.’

“‘The scene was frightful,’ writes Parkman; ‘masses of infuriated men, who could not go forward and would not go back, straining for an enemy they could not reach, and firing at an enemy they could not see.’

“It was five o’clock, and nearly four hours of this insensate work had not daunted the spirit of these gallant men. For it was at this moment that the most furious onslaught

of the whole day was made upon the French right. Then, and then only for a few brief minutes, was Montcalm's position in danger, and he had to hurry in person with a strong support to where a group of Highlanders, with superb indifference to death, were making their way up and over the parapet. But the gallant effort was fruitless. . . . One or two more half-hearted and despairing attempts were made upon the deadly lines, when the commanding general, recognising at six o'clock what he should have seen at one, gave the order to retire. . . .

"There were some other incidents in the battle, but they pale into insignificance compared with the sustained frontal attack. The strips of densely wooded swamp on either side of the entrenchment were guarded by Canadians and Indians, and Abercrombie's provincials made several futile attempts to dislodge them. Bradstreet, too, had brought some bateaux overland from Lake George, and these were filled with riflemen and floated on the river [or outlet], on the flank of the French position, but cannon were brought [by the wary defenders] to bear on the crowded boats, to their complete discomfiture, two or three of them being actually sunk.

"The cost of the errors of the commander of the British and provincial forces was frightful. Very nearly two thousand men had fallen in a short quarter of a summer day, and the greater part of these were of the six thousand regulars, who had borne the chief part of the assault. Three hundred provincials only figure in the returns [of the sustained losses]; but no half-disciplined militia, without bayonets, however brave, could have been launched upon a task so obviously hopeless.

"'Had I to besiege Fort Carillon,' said Montcalm, 'I would ask for but six mortars and two pieces of artillery.' But Abercrombie, a victim to the 'extremest fright and consternation,' hurried the army that same evening to the Landing Place, with such precipitancy that, but for the

alertness of Bradstreet, it would, at once, in a mass, have rushed into the boats. On the morning of the ninth, he embarked, and did not rest till he had placed the lake between himself and Montcalm. Even then he sent artillery and ammunition to Albany for safety."

"Such was Ticonderoga, the least remembered though one of the bloodiest, most desperate, and most dramatic battles in English history, at once a glory and a shame."

The capture of Fort Frontenac, at the outlet of Lake Ontario, then an important way-station between Montreal and the western forts of the French, had for some time been occupying the thoughts of Colonel John Bradstreet. The disastrous turn of affairs at Ticonderoga emboldened him to solicit the command of a force adequate to accomplish the project, which to him seemed feasible. The unsuccessful commander-in-chief, conceiving that his urgent subordinate might be able to dispossess the French of that depôt of supplies, then known to be garrisoned by a small body of men, consented to his making the attempt. He thereupon put under his command three thousand troops, all of them provincials except two hundred regulars, three hundred bateaux men, and seventy Indians.

About the middle of August, the expeditionary force began its toilsome advance through the Mohawk Valley. At the Oneida Carrying Place, they found General John Stanwix busily engaged in constructing the fort that for many years bore his surname. On the twenty-second of August, the little army encamped on the site of Oswego, overlooking Lake Ontario. Although his force was greatly decimated by sickness, the resolute New England officer wrote to General Abercrombie that if he had only a thousand men fit for duty he would still persist in carrying out his undertaking.

"Launching his bateaux and whaleboats upon the lake, he in four days landed his men and guns within sight of Fort Frontenac, and on the following morning mounted a

battery within point-blank range of its walls, and had the garrison at his mercy. . . . Resistance was hopeless, as a few discharges of artillery soon made it evident. There were only a hundred men in the fort, with their women and children, and they promptly surrendered," on the twenty-seventh of August.

"The booty taken and destroyed at Frontenac was very great, and the loss to the French, they themselves declared, was worse than that of a battle. There were nine vessels, carrying over a hundred guns, most of which were burned, together with the fort itself, and everything inside it that could not be moved. Sixty pieces of artillery were carried away, besides an immense amount of valuable furs, stores, and provisions, valued at nearly a million *livres*. Bradstreet, to crown the honour of his achievement, refused any share in the booty, his portion being divided among his troops."

In midsummer, reports of the weakness of Fort Duquesne having been received, Brigadier John Forbes, a distinguished officer in the British army, having been furnished with a body of provincials numbering about four thousand two hundred men, provided by the provinces of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, and several regiments of English regulars, probably representing two thousand, set out in August, through Pennsylvania, for the interior fort west of the Alleghanies. Adverse circumstances delayed his arrival there until late in November. During the last stages of the advance of his troops upon Fort Duquesne, "the army moved in three divisions with caution and in open order, guided through the thick forest by the monotonous tapping of their own drums, which were beat without ceasing at the head of each company. Thinly clad, and with a single blanket to cover them at night, the men pressed cheerily forward through the mysterious mazes of the woods, till on the twenty-third of November the guides had brought them within twelve miles of the fort. Here the unexpected news was received that it had been

abandoned. They halted a day to confirm the report, and on the twenty-fifth moved forward to find the backwoods fortress, so long the curse of British America, standing silent and deserted amid a fringe of fire-scorched ruins. . . . Thus fell, without a protest from rifle or cannon, the very stronghold and hope of French empire in the West, and the scourge of the British frontier.

"It now only remained to make the fort good for the reception of a winter garrison, and to rename it. . . . A new and suitable name for the conquered fortress was not hard to find, and Duquesne became Fort Pitt, after the great minister, whose spirit had here, as everywhere, been the source of British triumph."

The service of Lieutenant Josiah Edson, in the army commanded by Major-General Abercrombie, eight months and four days, terminated on the twenty-sixth of October, 1758, on his arriving home—sixteen days having been allowed him for travelling to it. Joseph Edson's service, under the same commander, ended also with his return home on the twenty-ninth of September, having been honorably discharged on the thirteenth, and allowed sixteen days for travelling to Bridgewater. His brother Daniel, who had also taken part in the assault upon Fort Carillon, received his discharge on the ninth of September, and was likewise allowed sixteen days for reaching home. It is highly probable that these three members of the Edson Family had also been with the force of provincials sent against Fort Frontenac under Colonel John Bradstreet.¹

¹ *A Compendious History of New England*. Palfrey. Boston and New York, 1883. Vol. iv., pp. 214, 215, 216, 220, 221, 222, 223, 229.—*The Fight With France for North America*. By A. G. Bradley. New York, 18—. Pp. 128, 129, 130, 197, 198, 202, 203, 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 242, 243, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 257, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 282, 283.—*The New England History*. By Charles W. Elliott. In two vols. New York, 1857. Vol. ii., pp. 104, 105.—*History of the United States*. By George Bancroft. Boston, 1852. Vol. iv., pp. 304, 306.—*Massachusetts Archives. Muster Rolls*, in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston. Vol. xcvi., pp. 148, 355, 520.

The possession of North America had now become the supreme object of Great Britain. "With astonishing unanimity, Parliament voted for the year 1759 twelve millions sterling, and such forces, by sea and land, as till those days had been unimagined in England. 'This is Pitt's doing,' said Chesterfield, 'and it is marvellous in our eyes. He declares only what he would have them do, and they do it.' "

"In America success depended upon union. The Board of Trade was compelled to adjourn questions of internal authority; while Pitt won the free services of the Americans by respecting their liberties and alleviating their excessive burdens from the British exchequer. Every colony north of Maryland seconded his zeal. The military spirit especially pervaded New York and all New England, so that there was not one of their villages but grew familiar with war from the experience of its own people. Massachusetts, though it was gasping under the fruitless efforts of former years, sent into the field, to the frontier, and to the garrisons, more than seven thousand men, or nearly one sixth part of all who were able to bear arms. . . . The whole continent was exerting its utmost strength, and eager to prove its loyalty."

Three purposes determined the initial movements of the British and provincial forces at the beginning of the campaign: Brigadier-General James Wolfe to ascend the St. Lawrence River, and, aided by a fleet, attack Quebec; Major-General Jeffrey Amherst, commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America, to undertake the capture of Fort Carillon and Fort St. Frederic; and Brigadier-General John Prideaux to attempt the reduction of Fort Niagara.

Albany became the point for the concentration of the troops which Sir Jeffrey Amherst and Brigadier-General Prideaux were to lead against the three strongholds of the enemy. In July, the army to operate along the west side

of Lake Champlain began marching northward. On the twenty-third of July, Amherst, having six thousand regulars and nearly five thousand provincials, reached Ticonderoga, and found the undestroyed redoubt, that had been the scene of the bloody assault of the preceding year, abandoned. Although the British general began at once making preparations to besiege the stone fortress then held by a French force of nearly four thousand men, General de Bourlamaque, on the night of the twenty-sixth, quietly embarked its garrison to retire to Fort St. Frederic. "After the last man had left, a dull roar, followed by a loud explosion, burst on the summer night as a part of the masonry of the fort was hurled skywards. Sheets of flame flared from the débris, making a grand and weird spectacle, while against the light of the flames the abandoned French flag was seen streaming in the wind. A sergeant, with four privates, rushed forward and achieved the perilous task of snatching the trophy from the blazing building. Thus dramatically fell Ticonderoga, for years the armed gate of Canada, the barrier to invading armies, and the scourge of the northern frontiers as Duquesne had been to those of the lower colonies."

On reaching Crown Point, on the fourth of August, Amherst found Fort St. Frederic partly destroyed and abandoned. Writing from there on the eighth, he says: Here "I propose building such a stronghold as shall most effectually cover and secure all this country."

The enthusiastic commander-in-chief was delighted to get, on his arrival at Crown Point, the intelligence of the fall of Fort Niagara, of which he wrote on the eighth of August:

"The night of my arrival here I received letters from Sir William Johnson, with the additional good news of the success of his Majesty's arms at Niagara, which surrendered, by capitulation, on the twenty-fifth [of July] to Sir William Johnson, upon whom the command had devolved by the

demise of poor Brigadier-General Prideaux, killed in the trenches on the night of the twentieth. The garrison consisting of six hundred and seven men, being prisoners of war, are now on their march to New York, together with seventeen officers and one hundred and sixty men more, part of a corps of twelve hundred assembled at Detroit, Venango, and Presqu' Isle under the command of Messrs. Aubry and Delignery, for raising the siege, but Sir William Johnson, having intelligence of their approach, provided so properly for their reception that, on the morning of the twenty-fourth when they meant to march straight to the fort, they met with such an opposition as they little expected, being entirely routed with the loss of all their officers, and a great number of their men killed, whilst the loss on our side is inconsiderable."

In March, 1759, Sir Jeffrey Amherst, having by dispatches from England been informed that Cape Breton Island had been designated for the rendezvous of the troops being sent from England, "for the expedition against Quebec, under the direction of Brigadier-General Wolfe, whom the king had appointed for that service," and who was "to have the rank of major-general for the expedition only," wrote, on the sixteenth, to Brigadier-General Charles Lawrence, Governor of Nova Scotia, instructing him to be prepared to embark the forces under his command as soon as the transports, which he (Sir Jeffrey) had hired at Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, should arrive at Halifax, for fear that those which had been ordered from England might not reach there in due time.

The circumspect commander-in-chief, recognizing the urgency of the orders received by him, adds: "I have written to Governor [Thomas] Pownell [of the Province of Massachusetts Bay] for fifteen hundred provincials to joyn the five hundred that will be detached from Monckton's and Lawrence's battalions for the protection of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the Bay of Fundy, and that there may

be no loss of time I shall order the provincials to be embarked at Boston, and to proceed directly to the different garrisons in the Bay of Fundy.”

The fall of Louisburg in 1758 afforded the British the use of it as a base of supply during the operations of the land and naval forces sent to take Quebec. At the beginning of the campaign of 1759, both Louisburg and Halifax were garrisoned by troops destined to be incorporated with the forces intended for the taking of Quebec, as is disclosed by the instructions of Sir Jeffrey Amherst to Brigadier-General Lawrence, Governor of Nova Scotia, concerning the filling of their places with the fifteen hundred provincials ordered to go on the transports hired by the commander-in-chief to convey them to Halifax and Louisburg, and to points in Nova Scotia, and along the Bay of Fundy, which might be attacked by French forces dispatched from France.

The harbor of Boston was at that time guarded by a fortification bearing the name of Castle William, and by two lesser works, known as the North Battery and the South Battery. They were also to be provided with detachments of provincials to substitute such regulars as had been holding them.

The four brothers, Samuel, Abel, Obed, and Ebenezer, sons of Samuel and Mary Dean Edson, loyally responded to the call for troops for the invasion of Canada; the first three named becoming members of Captain Lemuel Dunbar's company, in Colonel John Thomas's regiment, and the last in Captain James Reed's company in the same regiment. Obed Edson enlisted on the thirtieth of March, 1759, Ebenezer on the second of April, and Samuel and Abel on the sixth. As recorded, Ebenezer Edson was at Castle William on the seventh of June, and served until the thirtieth of November. The other three brothers—Obed being a corporal and later promoted to the position of sergeant—were sent with the company to Halifax, where

they were on garrison duty until honorably discharged on the first of November.

Daniel, the third son of Joseph and Lydia Cary Edson, was also a member of Captain Lemuel Dunbar's company, having enlisted on the second of April, and served until the first of November.

In a communication addressed by the commander-in-chief to Governor Lawrence, from New York, on the fourteenth of April, Sir Jeffrey Amherst advised him, saying: "I have ordered that all the provincials allotted for Louisburg and Nova Scotia should be provided with arms, which they will be before they embark at Boston." He adds: "I am greatly pleased with your resolutions for building a lighthouse; the temporary one may save the lives of some poor souls until the new one can be finished; this and the yard for the navy, tell me that Halifax will flourish, the thoughts of which are very agreeable to me." He further remarks: "I have directed the transport vessels shall sail directly from hence for Halifax as soon as they arrive here and can be ready to go."

On the twenty-sixth of June, the British fleet and forces arrived off the Isle of Orleans about three and a half miles east of the city of Quebec, and on the following day disembarked. "A little south of west, the cliff of Quebec was seen distinctly, seemingly impregnable, rising precipitously in one of the grandest scenes in nature. To protect this guardian citadel of New France, Montcalm had of regular troops no more than six wasted battalions; of Indian warriors few appeared, the wary savages preferring the security of neutrals; the Canadian militia gave him the superiority in numbers; but he put his chief confidence in the natural strength of the country. Above Quebec, the high promontory on which the upper town is built expands into an elevated plain, having towards the river the steepest acclivities. . . .

"As Wolfe disembarked on the Isle of Orleans, what

scene could be more imposing? On his left lay at anchor the fleet with the numerous transports; the tents of the army stretched across the island; the intrenched troops of France, having their centre at the village of Beauport, extended from the Montmorenci to the St. Charles; the city of Quebec bounded the horizon. . . .

“Wolfe was eager for battle; being willing to risk all his hopes on the issue. He saw that the eastern bank of the Montmorenci was higher than the ground occupied by Montcalm, and, on the ninth of July, he crossed the north channel [of the St. Lawrence] and encamped there, but the armies and their chiefs were divided by the [Montmorenci] river precipitating itself down its rocky way in impassable eddies and rapids. Three miles in the interior, a ford was found; but the opposite bank was steep, woody, and well intrenched. Not a spot on the line of the Montmorenci for miles into the interior, nor on the St. Lawrence to Quebec, was left unprotected by the vigilance of the inaccessible Montcalm.”

A futile attempt was made by Wolfe on the last day of July to effect a landing of a body of troops on the west bank of the Montmorenci, but a repulse followed with a loss of about four hundred of his men. Several other undertakings in the month of August to gain positions for his troops on the north shore of the St. Lawrence were likewise abortive. Recognizing the fact that he was opposed by a strong force of the enemy, and that the fleet could little aid him on account of the physical features of the channel of the St. Lawrence, he perceived that he had little chance of accomplishing that which he had set himself to do. “‘In this situation,’ wrote Wolfe to Pitt, on the second of September, ‘there is such a choice of difficulties, that I am myself at a loss how to determine. The affairs of Great Britain require most vigorous measures; but then the courage of a handful of brave men should be exerted only where there is some hope.’ England read the dispatch with dismay, and feared to hear further tidings. . . .

“Securing the posts on the Isle of Orleans and opposite Quebec, he marched, with the army, on the fifth and sixth of September, from Point Levi [opposite the Isle of Orleans, and on the south bank of the St. Lawrence], to which he had transferred all the troops from Montmorenci, and embarked them in transports that had passed the town for the purpose. On the three following days, Admiral Holmes, with the ships, ascended the river to amuse Bougainville, who had been sent up the north shore to watch the movements of the British army and prevent a landing. New France began to feel a sentiment of joy, believing the worst dangers of the campaign over. . . . Summer, which in that climate hurries through the sky, was over; and the British fleet must soon withdraw from the river. ‘My constitution,’ wrote Wolfe, on the ninth, to the English Secretary of State, Lord Holderness, ‘is entirely ruined, without the consolation of having done any considerable service to the state, and without any prospect of it.’

“But, in the meantime, Wolfe applied himself intently to reconnoitring the north shore above Quebec. Nature had given him good eyes, as well as a warmth of temper to follow first impressions. He himself discovered the cove which now bears his name, where the bending promontories almost form a basin with a very narrow margin, over which the hill rises precipitously. He saw the path that wound up the steep, though so narrow that two men could hardly march in it abreast; and he knew, by the number of tents which he counted on the summit, that the Canadian post which guarded it could not exceed a hundred. Here he resolved to land his army by surprise.

“Every officer knew his appointed duty, when, at one o’clock in the morning of the thirteenth of September, Wolfe, with Monckton and Murray, and about half the forces, set off in boats, and, without sail or oars, glided down with the tide. In three quarters of an hour the ships followed, and, though the night had become dark, aided by the rapid

current, they reached the cove just in time to cover the landing. Wolfe and the troops with him leaped on shore; the light infantry, who found themselves borne by the current a little below the intrenched path, clambered up the steep hill, staying themselves by the roots and boughs of the maple and spruce and ash trees that covered the precipitous declivity, and, after a little firing, dispersed the picket which guarded the height. The rest ascended safely by the pathway. A battery of four guns on the left was abandoned to Colonel Howe. When Townshend's division disembarked, the English had already gained one of the roads to Quebec, and, advancing in front of the forest, Wolfe stood at day-break with his invincible battalions on the Plains of Abraham, the battlefield of empire. . . .

"Before ten [o'clock] the two armies, equal in numbers, each being composed of less than five thousand men, were ranged in presence of one another for battle. The English, not easily accessible from intervening shallow ravines and rail fences, were all regulars, perfect in discipline, terrible in their fearless enthusiasm, thrilling with pride at their morning's success, commanded by a man whom they obeyed with confidence and love. The doomed and devoted Montcalm had what Wolfe had called but 'five weak French battalions,' of less than two thousand men, 'mingled with disorderly peasantry,' formed on ground which commanded the position of the English. The French had three little pieces of artillery; the English one or two.

"The two armies cannonaded each other for nearly an hour; when Montcalm, having summoned Bougainville to his aid, and dispatched messenger after messenger for De Vaudreuil, who had fifteen hundred men at the camp, to come up, before he should be driven from the ground, endeavored to flank the British and crowd them down the high bank of the river. Wolfe counteracted the movement by detaching Townshend with Amherst's regiment, and after-

wards a part of the loyal Americans, who formed on the left with a double front.

“Waiting no longer for more troops, Montcalm led the French army impetuously to the attack. The ill-disciplined companies broke by their precipitation and the unevenness of the ground, and fired by platoons, without unity. The English, especially the Forty-third and Forty-seventh, where Monckton stood, received the shock with calmness; and after having, at Wolfe’s command, reserved their fire till their enemy was within forty yards, their line began a regular, rapid, and exact discharge of musketry. Montcalm was present everywhere, braving danger, wounded, but cheering by his example. The second in command, De Sennebergues, an associate in glory at Ticonderoga, was killed. The brave but untried Canadians, flinching from a hot fire in the open field, began to waver; and, so soon as Wolfe, placing himself at the head of the Twenty-eighth and the Louisburg Grenadiers, charged with bayonets, they everywhere gave way. Of the English officers, Carleton was wounded; Barre, who fought near Wolfe, received in the head a ball which destroyed the power of one eye, and ultimately made him blind. Wolfe, also, as he led the charge, was wounded in the wrist, but still pressing forward, he received a second ball; and, having decided the day, was struck the third time, and mortally, in the breast. ‘Support me,’ he cried to an officer near him, ‘let not my brave fellows see me drop.’ He was carried to the rear, and they brought him water to quench his thirst. ‘They run, they run!’ spoke the officer on whom he leaned. ‘Who run?’ asked Wolfe, as his life was fast ebbing. ‘The French,’ replied the officer, ‘give way everywhere.’ ‘What!’ cried the expiring hero, ‘do they run already? Go, one of you, to Colonel Burton; bid him march Webb’s regiment with all speed to Charles River to cut off the fugitives. Now, God be praised, I die happy.’ . . .

“The day of the battle had not passed, when De Vau-

dreuil, who had no capacity for war, wrote to De Ramsay, at Quebec, not to wait for an assault, but, as soon as his provisions were exhausted, to raise the white flag of surrender. 'We have cheerfully sacrificed our fortunes and our homes,' said the citizens, 'but we cannot expose our wives and children to a massacre.' At a council of war, Fiedmont, a captain of artillery, was the only one who wished to hold out to the last extremity; and, on the seventeenth of September, before the English had constructed batteries, De Ramsay capitulated."

The British provinces, colonies, and plantations in North America "rung with exultation; the towns were bright with illuminations, the hills with bonfires; legislatures, the pulpit, the press, echoed the general joy; provinces and families gave thanks to God. England, too, which had shared the despondency of Wolfe, triumphed at his victory and wept for his death."

Brigadier-General Monckton having written on the twenty-fifth of September to Sir Jeffrey Amherst that it would not be prudent to diminish the strength of the forces at Quebec in order to garrison the places then occupied by detachments of provincial troops, the thoughtful commander-in-chief, on the twenty-fifth of November, communicated this information to Governor Pownall, of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and at the same time expressed his opinion that it "would be of the utmost bad consequences to leave those posts without troops," which the provincials, particularly those of Massachusetts Bay, had been garrisoning, as he feared that the French "would not fail to avail themselves by coming to seize upon them with impunity." He then urgently adds: "To prevent which, if it has not already been done, I must beg the favor of you to represent to your assembly the fatal effects the leaving those posts naked and defenseless would be attended with." He then requests him, "To move them [the members of the assembly] to make a further provision for

such of their troops, as are there for the whole winter." "And," as he continues, "I must beg the favor of you, that so soon as you have obtained their assent to this so necessary and pressing measure, you will be pleased to cause the same to be signified to every one of the commanding officers of those different posts for them to communicate it to their men, who, upon this emergency, will, I dare say, gladly stay."

It seems evident that Samuel, Abel, and Obed Edson, realizing that this exigency demanded their stay at Halifax, severally, after receiving their discharges on the first of November and after returning home for a short visit, enlisted again, on the first of January, 1760, in Captain Lemuel Dunbar's company, which was assigned to the regiment commanded by Colonel Nathaniel Thwing on duty that year in Nova Scotia. Daniel Edson, who had received his discharge on the first of November, 1759, also enlisted again in the same company, on the first of January, 1760. Abel Edson was discharged from service on the twentieth of July; Obed, on the fifteenth of September, and Samuel and Daniel on the seventeenth of December. Ebenezer, the brother of Samuel, Abel, and Obed, did not re-enlist after being discharged on the thirteenth of November, 1759.

The principal and most important undertaking of the military and naval forces of Great Britain in North America in 1760 was the capture of Montreal. In midsummer, Sir Jeffrey Amherst, having an army of ten thousand men, exclusive of a body of seven hundred Indians under Sir William Johnson, at Oswego, began moving down the St. Lawrence toward the city; Brigadier-General Murray, with a force of veterans and a fleet, proceeded from Quebec to join the commander-in-chief; and Brigadier-General Haviland, moving northward from Lake Champlain, likewise advanced to unite his troops with Sir Jeffrey Amherst's army.

"With a vast fleet of bateaux and whaleboats, and a

few armed craft," the ambitious commander of the British forces in North America "passed out of Lake Ontario, and down through the Thousand Islands." The passage of the rapids caused him no little anxiety regarding the navigation of his eight hundred or more boats, laden with heavy stores and crowded with troops. Sixty-six boats, with their freight, were lost, and eighty-four men drowned in descending them. On the sixth of September his army landed at Lachine, and before nightfall was encamped within sight of Montreal, Brigadier-General Murray and Brigadier-General Haviland being in communication with each other on the eastern side of the last stronghold of the French on the St. Lawrence River.

"Montreal was not a natural fortress like Quebec. It had, of course, the St. Lawrence on one side of it, and on the three others a deep ditch full of water. It was surrounded by a high and thick wall, but covered too much ground, from the scattered nature of the houses, to be defended by a small force. . . . Here, within or around the city, if importance in lieu of population can justify the term, were gathered all the civil and military chiefs of Canada, for once, at least, united in the conviction that all hope had fled. . . . Since the near approach of the British a rapid dissolution of the French army had set in. The Indians had entirely repudiated their ancient allies and patrons, while the militia had gone home to a man. The married soldiers of the colony regulars had in great part deserted, while many of the French linesmen who had married in the country had done the same. Only two thousand five hundred troops, mostly French regulars, now remained. . . . They had provisions for a fortnight, and represented the entire resisting force of the colony. Amherst, Murray, and Haviland lay outside the town with seventeen or eighteen thousand men, mostly veterans.

"Vaudreuil held a council of war on the sixth, which was naturally unanimous on the necessity of an imme-

diate capitulation." However, "a proposal to suspend hostilities" for a month was sent to Amherst. "Vaudreuil perhaps felt ashamed of it as he quickly followed with an offer of capitulation." "There were forty-five clauses, most of which Amherst agreed to, though a few were summarily rejected." "Amherst bluntly insisted that the troops should lay down their arms unconditionally as prisoners, and to undertake not to serve in Europe during the war. . . . On the eighth of September the capitulation as amended by Amherst was formally signed. Thus, by a stroke of the pen, Canada was transferred to the British crown, and, save for the small settlement of New Orleans, far away, in the remote South, on the Gulf of Mexico, the French power, previously so potent and so threatening, disappeared forever from North America."

George the Second died on the twenty-fifth of October, 1760, in the seventy-seventh year of his age and the thirty-fourth of his reign, and his grandson, then but twenty-two years old, ascended the throne as George the Third. "The man at maturity is but the continuation of the youth," as remarked by an eminent historian; "from the day of his accession, George the Third displayed an innate love of authority, and, with a reluctant yielding to present obstacles, the reserved purpose of asserting his self-will, which doomed him in a universe of change to oppose reform, and struggle continuously, though hopelessly, against the slow but resistless approaches of popular power."

The concluding act of the bloody and costly drama of the French and Indian War was made highly exciting by Spain becoming an ally of France, causing Great Britain to declare war against that power early in January, 1762. Havana, the seat of Spanish power in America, influenced the British ministry to support the attempt to carry it by siege. The fleet and transports, under command of Admiral Pococke, arrived off the harbor of the city on the sixth of June. The Spanish forces defending the place

numbered about forty-six thousand. The English brought there eleven thousand men fit for duty, who were greatly advantaged in the siege of the city by having the manual assistance in making their approaches upon Morro Castle of two thousand five hundred negroes from the Leeward Islands and Jamaica. During the month of July, provincial troops from New York and New England reinforced the besieging army, many of whom were never to return to their homes. Conducted, as the siege was, in midsummer, beneath the rays of a tropical sun, the experiences of those engaged there were exceedingly trying, and often ended in death. The rocky surface of the site of Morro Castle made the toil of the men rearing defensive barriers extraordinarily fatiguing.

“To bind and carry the fascines was, of itself, a work of incredible labor, made possible only by the aid of African slaves. Sufficient earth to hold the fascines firm was gathered with difficulty from crevices in the rocks. Once, after a drought of fourteen days, the grand battery took fire, and, the flames crackling and spreading where water could not follow them, nor earth stifle them, was wholly consumed.

“The climate spoiled a great part of the provisions. Wanting good water, very many of the besiegers died in agonies from thirst. More fell victims to a putrid fever, of which the malignity left but three or four hours between robust health and death. Some wasted away with loathsome disease. Over the graves the carrion-crows hovered, and often scratched away the scanty earth which rather hid than buried the dead. Hundreds of carcasses floated on the ocean. And yet such was the enthusiasm of the English, such the resolute zeal of the sailors and soldiers, such the unity of action between the fleet and army, that the vertical sun of June and July, the heavy rains of August, raging fever, and strong and well-defended fortresses, all the obstacles of nature and art, were surmounted, and the most decisive victory of the war was completed.

"On the thirtieth of July, after a siege of twenty-nine days, Morro Castle was taken by storm. On the eleventh of August, the governor of Havana capitulated, and the most important station in the West Indies fell into the hands of the English. At the same time, nine ships of the line and four frigates were captured in the harbor. The booty of property belonging to the King of Spain was estimated at ten millions of dollars."

The fall of Havana hastened a termination of the hostilities so long carried on by France and England in North America. On the third of November, 1762, articles of peace were signed by the representatives of France and Spain on the one side, and England and Portugal on the other. "To England were ceded, besides islands in the West Indies, the Floridas; Louisiana to the Mississippi, but without the island of New Orleans; all Canada; Acadia; Cape Breton and its dependent islands; and the fisheries, except that France retains a share of them, with the two islets St. Pierre and Miquelon as a shelter for their fishermen. For the loss of Florida, France on the same day indemnified Spain by ceding to that power New Orleans and all Louisiana west of the Mississippi, with boundaries undefined." On the tenth of February, 1763, the treaty was ratified.

The other members of the Edson family, and several of those already mentioned, whose loyalty prompted them to bear arms in the cause of the crown of Great Britain after the enlistments of those heretofore named, but of whose fields of service it seems impossible now to obtain exact information, were the following, according to the order of time of their enrollment:

Elijah, the third son of Josiah and Sarah Packard Edson, enlisted as a private in Captain Silvester Richmond's company, in Colonel John Whitcomb's regiment, on the sixth of March, 1760, to go on the "expedition to the westward." He served until the second of November that year. He

was titled "doctor," and was allowed one hundred and sixty miles travel homeward.

Nathan, the eldest son of Nathan and Mary Sprague Edson, enlisted as a private on the sixth of May, 1761, and served, until the seventh of December, in Captain Lemuel Dunbar's company. He enlisted again, on the twenty-third of March, 1762, and served in Captain Josiah Dunbar's company until the twentieth of November that year.

Elijah, the eldest son of Elijah and Anne Packard Edson, began serving as a private in Captain Lemuel Dunbar's company on the twenty-fifth of May, 1761, in which he remained until his discharge on the seventh of December.

Obed, the fourth son of Samuel and Mary Dean Edson, again enlisted, and as a corporal served in Captain Josiah Dunbar's company from the eleventh of July to the eleventh of December, 1761, and subsequently until the twenty-seventh of that month in the company commanded by Ensign Joseph Byram, when he was with the invalids left at Crown Point.

Jesse, the second, and Obed, the third, and Lewis, the fourth son of Obed and Keturah Willis Edson, enlisted on the eleventh of July, 1761, as privates, in Captain Josiah Dunbar's company. Jesse served until the twenty-seventh of December, and Obed and Lewis until the tenth of that month. The three brothers again enlisted, on the twenty-third of March, 1762, as privates in Captain Josiah Dunbar's company; Obed and Lewis being discharged on the twentieth of November, that year, and Jesse, on the third of January, 1763.

Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Martha Perkins Edson, entered Captain Josiah Dunbar's company as a private on the twentieth of March, 1762, and served in it until the third of January, 1763.

Daniel, the third son of Joseph and Lydia Cary Edson, enlisted in the same company as a private on the twenty-third of March, 1762, and served until the first of December.

Abiezer, the second son of Josiah and Sarah Packard Edson, was commissioned, in 1762, captain of the Second Bridgewater Company, in the Second Regiment of Plymouth County Militia, commanded by Colonel Thomas Clapp.

Josiah, the eldest son of Josiah and Sarah Packard Edson, having been commissioned major in the Second Regiment of Plymouth County Militia, in 1762, was, on the eighth of September, that year, appointed lieutenant-colonel in the same regiment, which was under the command of Colonel Thomas Clapp.¹

The war cost the colonies not less than ten millions of dollars, as expressed by the value of money current in the United States. The lives of nearly thirty thousand inhabitants were sacrificed, while the loss of property at the hands of plundering and ruthless savages was beyond calculation.

A year before the ratification of the articles of peace, or on the sixteenth of January, 1762, at the age of four-score years, died Captain Josiah Edson, the second son of Joseph and Experience Edson. "From his early manhood to almost the close of his life, he was in some official station of trust and importance, sustaining many local and honorable offices, mostly elective, the duties of which he discharged with ability and fidelity, to the satisfaction and approbation of the public. His principal occupation, however, was that of an agriculturist, improving the largest and best cultivated farm in the town of Bridgewater. He was thirty years a selectman, between the years 1704 and 1756; a long time captain of a military company; many years a

¹ *History of the United States*. By George Bancroft, Boston. 1852. Vol. iv., pp. 315, 319, 325, 326, 327, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 386, 444, 445, 452.—*Fight with France for North America*. By A. G. Bradley, New York, 18—. Pp. 48, 339, 340, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382.—*Selections from the Public Documents of the Province of Nova Scotia*. Edited by Thomas B. Akins. Halifax, 1869. Pp. 441, 442, 443, 445, 446, 448, 449, 451, 452.—*Massachusetts Archives*. *Muster Rolls* in the office of Secretary of State, Boston. Vol. xcv., p. 67; vol. xcvii., pp. 133, 134, 230, 280, 310; vol. cxviii., pp. 223, 383, 462; vol. cxix., pp. 45, 46, 125, 170, 217.

justice of the peace; a deacon of the church; and a representative in the General Court of Massachusetts Colony for the years 1735, '36, '39, '43, and '45.

“Captain Edson was a man of large stature, rather above the medium height, of dignified deportment, of easy and conciliating manners, not studied by rule or cultivated by art, but the outward expression of a mind well disciplined and void of hypocrisy, and with all his natural and official dignity was one of the mildest of men and the humblest of Christians. Without any apparent effort to please or flatter, he enjoyed the confidence of the wise and good, and commanded the respect even of the vicious and profane. He was remarkable for his knowledge of human nature and of character. Under his scrutinizing eyes, the deceitful man lost confidence and the hypocrite retired. His ambition was only that which is identified with the reward of merit and the applause of the virtuous. These he acquired in an eminent degree, and descended to the grave ripe and full of years, a candidate for higher honors in the kingdom of his Redeemer.

“His wife was a woman of domestic and retiring habits, amiable and forgiving in her disposition, and ambitious only to promote the welfare and happiness of her husband and children.” She was the mother of seven children, three sons and four daughters. The remains of Captain Josiah Edson and his wife, Sarah Packard, are entombed in the old graveyard in Bridgewater, near the Unitarian Church. The family residence was in the south parish, on land conveyed to him by his uncle, Justice Josiah Edson; the site of the homestead being about two hundred feet north of the dwelling of Philo Mitchell in 1864.

“Captain Josiah Edson, some years before he died, collected the materials, and compiled a valuable work, which has been supposed he left in existence with his other papers and documents at his death in 1762, containing a short biography and a genealogy of the several families, the first and

early settlers of Bridgewater and of their descendants down to their own generation, with a brief delineation of their individual characters.

“When a youth and a young man, I [Elijah Hayward] often heard the Rev. Perez Fobes, who had read the manuscript, converse about it, and of the character of the persons as therein described, some of whom survived Captain Edson. I also often heard my grandmother [Freelove, the fourth daughter of Captain Josiah and Sarah Packard Edson, who married, on March 5, 1739, Josiah, son of John and Abigail Fobes] Hayward mention her ‘father’s book’ as she called it, lament its loss, and relate its contents. On the death of Captain Edson, I have been informed, all his papers came into the hands of his son, Colonel Josiah Edson, and but a very small portion of them have since been seen. It was a matter of regret to those who spoke of it, that this manuscript work could not be found among the papers left by Captain Edson, and it is not now probable that it will ever be found. Whether it contained sentiments and opinions not in accordance with those subsequently entertained by Colonel Edson, and he destroyed it, or it was lost or destroyed by accident, has not been ascertained.

“The Rev. Perez Fobes was twenty; my father nineteen [twenty-one?]; and my grandmother forty-nine years of age, when Captain Edson died in 1762. The Rev. Mr. Fobes died in 1812, aged seventy; my father [Elijah] in 1815, aged seventy-four, and my grandmother in 1800, aged eighty-seven. I was born in 1786. It was from my recollections of their conversation in relation to that work, and from information of a similar import received from aged inhabitants fifty years ago, that I am indebted [now in 1853] for the characters I have described of some of the first three generations of those who made early and permanent settlements in the town. . . .

“It is a source of much regret to many of the present generation, descendants of the fathers of the town, that

this manuscript work of Captain Edson's has not been preserved. It no doubt contained, besides a register of births, marriages, and deaths, many important facts, a narrative of many interesting events, and a description of many persons and things, not now to be obtained, illustrative of the manners, customs, and peculiar habits of that primitive age of Bridgewater.—June 1, 1853. ELIJAH HAYWARD." ¹

¹ *A Genealogical Account of the Edsons Early Settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 24, 25, 26, 27, 39-41.

Chapter VIII

Josiah Edson, the Loyalist

1768-1778

THE Treaty of Paris of 1763 brought great joy to the American colonists, not only because it terminated the calamitous war which had sorely afflicted them for nine years, but also that it afforded them an opportunity to pursue their different callings with bright expectations of acquiring such gains as would pecuniarily place them at no distant day in the enjoyment of prosperity. This pleasing prospect of being privileged to better their fortunes by energetic toil and industrial thrift was suddenly darkened by the intelligence that the British Parliament was about to pass an act for imposing stamp duties upon them without any recognition of their right of questioning the exercise of a power so arbitrary and despotic. Although the colonists made timely protests against the passage of the proposed act, both in meetings at home and by representatives in England, little heed was given their remonstrances and arguments by King George the Third and his ministers. A member of the House of Commons, who voted against the resolution for taxing the colonists, spoke as follows in their behalf, on the sixth of February, 1765:

“The Parliament may choose whether they will tax America or not; they have a right to tax Ireland, yet do not exercise that right. Still stronger objections may be urged against their taxing America. Other ways of raising the moneys there requisite for the public service exist, and

have not yet failed; but the colonies in general have with alacrity contributed to the common cause. . . . Parliament is undoubtedly the universal, unlimited legislature of the British dominions; but it should voluntarily set bounds to the exercise of its power; and if the majority of Parliament think they ought not to set these bounds, then they should give a share of the election of the legislature to the American colonies, otherwise the liberties of America, I do not say will be lost, but will be in danger; and they cannot be injured without danger to the liberties of Great Britain."

Isaac Barré, having taunted the House for its ignorance regarding the affairs of the colonies, Charles Townshend, who claimed to know the character of the colonists, avowed himself as favoring their taxation, declaring that they "had borne but a small proportion of the expense of the late war, and had yet obtained by it immense advantages at a vast expense to the mother country, 'and now,' he asked, 'will these American children, planted by our care, nourished up by our indulgence to a degree of strength and opulence, and protected by our arms, grudge to contribute their mite to relieve us from the heavy burden under which we lie?'"

When he had finished, Barré, "the companion and friend of Wolfe, sharer of the dangers and glories of Louisburg and Quebec," arose, and with reproachful eyes and with ringing words began an unpremeditated defence of the colonists, saying:

"*They planted by your care!* No; your oppressions planted them in America. They fled from your tyranny to a then uncultivated, inhospitable country, where they exposed themselves to almost all the hardships to which human nature is liable, and among others to the cruelties of a savage foe, the most subtle, and I will take it upon me to say, the most formidable of any people upon the face of God's earth; and yet, actuated by principles of true English liberty, they met all hardships with pleasure, compared

with those they suffered in their own country, and from the hands of those who should have been their friends.

“*They nourished up by YOUR indulgence!* They grew by your neglect of them. As soon as you began to care about them, that care was exercised in sending persons to rule them in one department and another, who were, perhaps, the deputies of deputies to some members of this House, sent to spy out their liberties, to misrepresent their actions, and to prey upon them; men whose behavior on many occasions has caused the blood of those sons of liberty to recoil within them; men promoted to the highest seats of justice, some who, to my knowledge, were glad, by going to a foreign country, to escape being brought to the bar of a court of justice in their own.

“*They protected by YOUR arms!* They have nobly taken up arms in your defence; have exerted a valor amidst their constant and laborious industry, for the defence of a country whose frontier was drenched in blood, while its interior parts yielded all its little savings to your emolument.

“And believe me—remember I this day told you so—the same spirit of freedom which actuated that people at first will accompany them still. But prudence forbids me to explain myself further; God knows I do not at this time speak from motives of party heat; what I deliver are the genuine sentiments of my heart. However superior to me in general knowledge and experience the respectable body of this House may be, yet I claim to know more of America than most of you, having seen and been conversant in that country. The people, I believe, are as truly loyal as any subjects the king has; but a people jealous of their liberties, and who will vindicate them, if ever they should be violated.”

The Stamp Act passed the House of Commons on the twenty-seventh of February, 1765, and on the eighth of March it met the approval of the House of Lords. In lieu

of the personal assent of his Majesty King George the Third, it was subscribed for him by a commission, on the twenty-second of March. The revenue to be derived by it was the receipts of the sales of stamps that established the validity of the instrument of writing to which they were affixed. "Unless stamps were used, marriages would be null, notes of hand valueless, ships at sea prizes to the first captors, suits at law impossible, transfers of real estate invalid, inheritances irreclaimable."

The industry, enterprise, and advantages of the North American colonists were not only injuriously restricted at that time by laws of navigation and trade, but also disastrously weighted by taxation. "They could not export the chief products of their industry, neither sugar, nor tobacco, nor cotton, nor wool, nor indigo, nor ginger, nor fustic, nor other dyeing woods; nor molasses, nor rice, with some exceptions; nor beaver, nor peltry, nor copper ore, nor pitch, nor tar, nor turpentine, nor masts, nor yards, nor bowsprits, nor coffee, nor pimento, nor cocoanuts, nor whalefins, nor raw silk, nor hides, nor skins, nor pot or pearl ashes, to any place but Great Britain, not even to Ireland. Nor might any foreign ships enter a colonial harbor. Salt might be imported from any place in New England, New-York, Pennsylvania, and Quebec; wines might be imported from the Madeiras and the Azores, but were to pay a duty in American ports for the British exchequer; and victuals, horses, and servants might be brought from Ireland. In all other respects, Great Britain was not only the sole market for the products of America, but the only storehouse for its supplies.

"The colonists abounded in land, and so could feed flocks of sheep. Lest they should multiply their flocks, and weave their own cloth, they might not use a ship, nor a boat, nor a carriage, nor not even a pack-horse, to carry wool or any manufacture of which wool forms a part, across the line of one province to another. They could not land wool

from islands in the harbor, or bring it across a river. A British sailor, finding himself in want of clothes in their harbors, might not buy there more than forty shillings' worth of woollens.

"Where was there a house in the colonies that did not cherish and did not possess the English Bible? And yet to print that Bible in British America was prohibited as a piracy; and the Bible, except in the native savage dialects, was never printed there till the land became free.

"That country, which was the home of the beaver, might not manufacture its own hats; no man in the plantations could be a hatter, or a journeyman at that trade, unless he had served an apprenticeship of seven years. No hatter could employ more than two apprentices; nor might a negro assist at the work. No American hat might be sent from one plantation to another, nor be loaded upon any horse, cart, or carriage for conveyance.

"America abounded in iron ores of the best quality, as well as in wood and coal; slitting mills, steel furnaces, and plating forges, to work with a tilt-hammer, were prohibited in the colonies as 'nuisances.'

"While free labor was debarred of its natural rights in the employment of its resources, the slave trade was encouraged to proceed with unrelenting eagerness; and in the year that had just expired, from Liverpool alone, seventy-nine ships had gone in that trade to Africa, and had borne to the West Indies and the continent more than fifteen thousand three hundred negroes, two thirds as many as the first colonists of Massachusetts.

"And now taxation, direct and indirect, was added to colonial restrictions; and henceforward both were to go together. A duty was to be collected on foreign sugar, molasses, indigo, coffee, Madeira wine, imported directly into any of the plantations in America; also a duty on Portugal and Spanish wines, on Eastern silks, on Eastern calicoes, on foreign linen cloth, on French lawn, though

imported directly from Great Britain; on British colonial coffee shipped from one plantation to another. Nor was henceforward any part of the old subsidy to be drawn back on the export of white calicoes and muslins, on which a still higher duty was to be exacted and retained. And stamp duties were to be paid throughout all the British American colonies, on and after the first day of the coming November.

“These laws were to be enforced, not by the civil officers only, but by naval and military officers, irresponsible to the civil power in the colonies. The penalties and forfeitures for breach of the revenue laws were to be decided in courts of vice-admiralty, without the interposition of a jury, by a single judge, who had no support whatever but from his share in the profits of his own condemnations.”

The Stamp Act had a short existence. It was universally decried by the colonists of America as arbitrary and unconstitutional, a common determination to oppose and hinder its execution was widespread in the provinces, the persons and property of those upholding it being publicly menaced by mobs that were too dangerous to be defied.

On the first day of November, 1765, when the Act was to go into operation in the American colonies, there was no officer to execute it, nor a stamp offered for sale. For a time there was doubt concerning the proper formalities to be given to commercial and legal proceedings, and as a consequence the provincial courts were suspended, and the owners of ships were deterred from getting clearance papers for their vessels. However, it was not long before old forms of procedure were returned to, and ships began voyages and customs were collected in the ways that were previously considered legal.

As a consequence of the fearlessness of the colonists in declaring themselves “Sons of Liberty” and unwilling to become slaves of Great Britain, a vote for the repeal of the Stamp Act was taken in the House of Lords on the morning of the twenty-second of February, 1766; two hundred and

seventy-five of its members assenting to it and one hundred and sixty-seven dissenting. On the nineteenth of March, his Majesty, the King, signed the act annulling the obnoxious measure.

When the intelligence of the repeal of the Stamp Act reached Boston, the nineteenth of May was set apart for its celebration. The day was ushered in shortly after midnight by the church bells joyously ringing in every part of the city, and early that morning the citizens began hanging in conspicuous places flags and mottoes; many of the inscriptions being "Liberty, Property, and no Stamps." "Gay streamers were run up on every house-top and along the steeples, and the great Liberty Tree was covered with them. Bands of music in different parts of the town played stirring airs, and now and then a crowd would take up some patriotic song and sing in chorus. John Hancock and other rich citizens kept open houses and dispensed a large hospitality. Subscriptions were made in various parts to release poor debtors who were then imprisoned, so that liberty became something more than a word to them." It was remarked at the time by an eminent citizen: "'We have never seen so sudden a transition from the depths of sorrow to the heights of joy.'

"The night came and then every house blazed with light; skyrockets and fireworks sparkled on the Common; and the broad old 'Liberty Tree,' hung with lamps, illuminated the crowd which gathered about it. When midnight came, the tap of the drum was the signal for repose, and then every one went home."

The imposition of new duties upon the people of the American colonies, under the act of May, 1767, to afford an increase of revenue to Great Britain, was regarded as a dangerous innovation, and one unsupported by ancient precedents. "We being obliged to take commodities from Great Britain," as argued by the conservative author of the *Farmer's Letters*, "special duties on their exportation to us

are as much taxes upon us as those imposed by the Stamp Act. Great Britain claims and exercises the right to prohibit manufactures in America. Once admit that she may lay duties upon her exportations to us, for the purpose of levying money on us only, she then will have nothing to do but to lay those duties on the articles which she prohibits us to manufacture, and the tragedy of American liberty is finished. We are in the situation of a besieged city, surrounded in every part but one. If that is closed up, no step can be taken but to surrender at discretion.

“I would persuade the people of the colonies immediately, vigorously, and unanimously to exert themselves in the most firm but the most peaceable manner, for obtaining relief. If an inveterate resolution is formed, to annihilate the liberties of the governed, English history affords examples of resistance by force.”

For the purpose of obtaining a favorable consideration of the proposed character of the opposition to be made against the execution of the act for the collection of new duties, a circular letter, drafted by Samuel Adams, having been read in the House of Representatives of the province of Massachusetts Bay, and almost unanimously accepted by its members, on the eleventh of February, 1768, was sent to each legislative body of the different colonies and plantations in North America.

The particulars relating to this action of the House of Representatives of the province of Massachusetts Bay reached the British ministry on the fifteenth of April. Lord Hillsborough, fearing that the contents of the circular letter might influence the representatives of the other twelve colonies to place themselves in an attitude of contempt which might estrange them from a position of loyalty to King George the Third and the administrators of the government of the provinces and plantations, wrote at once to the governors of each of them, disapproving of any consideration being given to the matters set forth in the con-

munication sent to their assemblies, which, as described by him, was “‘of a most dangerous and factious tendency,’ calculated ‘to inflame the minds’ of the people, ‘promote an unwarrantable combination, and to excite open opposition to the authority of Parliament. You will therefore,’ he said, ‘exert your utmost influence to prevail upon the assembly of your province to take no notice of it, which will be treating it with the contempt it deserves. If they give any countenance to this seditious paper, it will be your duty to prevent any proceedings upon it by an immediate prorogation or dissolution.’ ”

The Governor of the province of Massachusetts Bay was commanded to require “the House of Representatives in his Majesty’s name to rescind the resolution which gave birth to the circular letter from the Speaker, and to declare their disapprobation of that rash and hasty proceeding.”

On the twenty-first of June these instructions were communicated by the Governor to the House of Representatives, which nine days later accepted a letter written by Samuel Adams and addressed to Lord Hillsborough, “in which they showed that the circular letter of February was indeed the declared sense of a large majority of their body; and expressed their reliance on the clemency of the King, that to petition him would not be deemed inconsistent with respect for the British Constitution, nor to acquaint their fellow-subjects of their having done so, be discountenanced as an inflammatory proceeding.”

“Then came the great question”; the answer to it being ascertained in one of the fullest attended sessions of the House ever known. The votes were declared by word of mouth, seventeen of the members announcing their willingness to have the resolution relating to the circular letter rescinded, and ninety-two their resolution to adhere to it. A message particularizing the proceedings of the session was then sent to the Governor, who, on learning that the House

had determined not to rescind the resolution, dissolved it as ordered.

One of the seventeen representatives who voted to rescind the resolution was Colonel Josiah Edson, the eldest son of Captain Josiah and Sarah (Packard) Edson. He was fifty-nine years old, and a lieutenant-colonel of a regiment of Plymouth County militia. Although graduated in 1730 from Harvard College, and "distinguished for strong natural abilities and extensive literary acquirements," he studied nothing to fit him for any profession, "but devoted most of his time to agricultural pursuits." Besides being honored with different town and parish offices, he was elected eight times, beginning with the year 1746, to discharge the duties of a representative of the people of the town of Bridgewater, and four times after the year in which he had cast the vote that acquired for him a still greater distinction of being a man governed by a personal conviction of doing that which he thought was right. Having repeatedly taken the oath of allegiance to the British Crown, he conscientiously believed it to be his bounden duty, upon learning the commands of Lord Hillsborough, his Majesty's minister, to vote conformably to "the express orders of the King." The odium of being numbered with so small a minority of the representatives who dared to be loyal and had the courage to maintain the power of the existing government was not then, as it was a few years later, popularly regarded as ignominiously blemishing his otherwise untarnished reputation.

"Massachusetts was left without a legislature. Its people had no intention to begin a rebellion; but only to defend their liberties, which had the sanction of natural right and of historic tradition."

"When, on the nineteenth of August, England heard that Massachusetts had, by a vast majority of its representatives, refused to rescind the resolutions of the preceding winter," one of the British ministers held the opinion that the disobedient members of the Massachusetts Bay

House of Representatives "should be sent for, to give an account of their conduct, and that all the rigors of the law should be exercised against those who should persist in refusing to submit to Parliament. 'Where rebellion begins,' said he, 'the laws cease, and they can invoke none in their favor.' "

The legislative rights of the people of the province of Massachusetts Bay having been suspended, and the news having been received that three regiments were coming from England to suppress further disloyal acts on the part of the rebellious subjects of King George III. in that colony, the Selectmen of Boston, on the fourteenth of September, sent invitations to every town in the province, requesting them to send committees to a convention to be held in Faneuil Hall, where they might give "sound and wholesome advice" concerning the matters to be brought before them, and to "prevent any sudden and unconnected measures."

"On the appointed day, Thursday, the twenty-second of September, the anniversary of the King's coronation, about seventy persons, from sixty-six towns, came together in Faneuil Hall in convention, and their number increased till ninety-six towns and eight districts, nearly every settlement in the colony, were represented. By the mere act of assembling, the object of the convention was accomplished. It was a bold and successful attempt to show that, if the policy of suppressing the legislature should be persisted in, a way was discovered by which legislative government could still be instituted, and a general expression of opinion and concentration of power be obtained. They marked their own sense of the character of this meeting by electing the Speaker and Clerk of the late House of Representatives to the same offices in their own body."

"The convention, which remained but six days in session, repeated the protest of Massachusetts against the taxation of the colonies by the British Parliament; against a

standing army; against the danger to 'the liberties of America from a united body of pensioners and soldiers.' They resolved to preserve good order, by the aid of the civil magistrate alone. 'While the people,' said they, 'wisely observe the medium between an abject submission under grievous oppression on the one hand, and irrational attempts to obtain redress on the other, they may promise themselves success in recovering the exercise of their just rights, relying on Him who ruleth according to His pleasure, with unerring wisdom and irresistible influence, in the hearts of the children of men.' They then dissolved themselves, leaving the care for the public to the Council.

"When the attorney- and solicitor-general of England were called upon to find traces of high treason in what had been done, each declared that none had been committed. 'Look into the papers,' said the attorney-general, 'and see how well these Americans are versed in the Crown law; I doubt whether they have been guilty of an overt act of treason, but I am sure they have come within a hair's breadth of it.' "

Step by step, year by year, the people of the thirteen colonies were advancing toward that point of time at which there would be no other resource for a release from their grievances than that of taking up arms in defence of their political liberty.

"'With ten thousand regulars,' said the creatures of the British ministry, in 1774, 'we can march through the continent.' To bring 'Boston on its knees and terrify the rest of America by the example,' Thomas Gage, the military commander-in-chief for all North America, was also commissioned the civil governor of Massachusetts, and was sent over with four regiments to enforce submission." On the twenty-eighth of April, 1774, a bill was introduced into Parliament that abrogated so much of the charter of the province of Massachusetts Bay "as gave to its legislature the election of the members of the Council; abolished town

meetings except for the choice of town officers, or on the special permission of the Governor; conferred on the executive the power of appointing and removing the sheriffs at pleasure; and transforming the trial by jury into a snare for the people, it intrusted the returning of juries to the dependent sheriff. The bill passed the House of Commons by a vote of more than three to one."

His Majesty King George the Third, it is said, was so eager to give effect to the law which subverted the charter of Massachusetts that, acting upon information confessedly insufficient, "he with the assistance of one of his ministers," made out for that province, "in May, 1774, a list of the names of such men of ability and distinction in the colony as he assumed would serve as members of the provincial Council. Commanded to perform the service required of them, they became known as *mandamus* councillors. In number they were thirty-six."

The act "for the better regulating the province of the Massachusetts Bay," which had received his Majesty's signature on the twentieth of May, became operative on the ninth of August, on its reception at Boston. "Within a week, eleven of the *mandamus* councillors took the oath of office, and were followed in a few days by fourteen more.¹ They were persuaded that the province could by no possibility hold out; the promise of assistance from other colonies was scoffed at as a delusion, intended only to keep up the spirit of the mob."

¹ "The first ten, marked with a star, alone took the office.

"Thomas Flucker.*
Foster Hutchinson.*
Harrison Gray.*
Joseph Lee.*
Isaac Winslow.*
William Browne.*
James Boutineau.*
Joshua Loring.*
William Pepperrell.*
John Erving, jr.*
Thomas Oliver.

Thomas Hutchinson, jr.
Samuel Danforth.
James Russell.
Timothy Ruggles.
Israel Williams.
George Watson.
Nathaniel Ray Thomas.
Timothy Woodbridge.
William Vassall.
Joseph Greene.
Andrew Oliver.

Only ten of the *mandamus* councillors entered upon the duties of the office. Before them, Governor Gage brought for consideration the matter of restricting the holding of town meetings by the people of the province as enjoined by the received act of Parliament. "It is a point of law," said the members of the new Council, 'and should be referred to the Crown lawyers.' He asked their concurrence in removing a sheriff. 'The act of Parliament,' they answered, 'confines the power of removal to the Governor alone.' " They were in no mood to give him either encouragement or advice. The waves of public indignation were already billowing high about them, and they could not but perceive how helpless they were upon that perilous sea of unpopularity then so alarmingly tumultuous and threatening.

Israel Williams of Hatfield was too prudent to accept the office, and so was John Worthington of Springfield. "If you value your life, I advise you not to return home at present," was the warning received by Timothy Ruggles from the town of Hardwicke, whose freemen, with those of New Braintree and of Greenwich, so resented his accepting a place in the Council, that they vowed he should never again pass the great bridge of the town alive.

"By nine o'clock, on the morning of the twenty-sixth of August, more than two thousand men marched in companies to the Common in Worcester, where they forced Timothy Paine to walk through their ranks with his hat off as far as the centre of their hollow square, and read a written resignation of his seat at the Council board.

Peter Oliver.

John Erving, jr.

Richard Lechmere.

John Worthington.

Timothy Paine.

Jeremiah Powell.

Jonathan Simpson.

Fosiah Edson.

John Murray

Daniel Leonard.

Thomas Palmer.

Isaac Royall.

Robert Hooper.

Abijah Willard."

The Massachusetts Civil List for the Colonial and Provincial Periods, 1630-1774, p. 64. By William H. Whitmore. Albany, 1870.

“A large detachment then moved to Rutland to deal with John Murray. The next day at noon Wilder of Templeton and Holden of Princeton brought up their companies, and by three in the afternoon, about fifteen hundred men had assembled, most of them armed with bludgeons. But Murray had escaped on the previous evening, just before the sentries were set round his house and along the roads; they therefore sent him a letter requiring him to resign. The temper of the people brooked no division; they held every person that would not join them an enemy to his country. ‘The consequences of your proceedings will be rebellion, confiscation, and death,’ said the younger Murray; and his words were as oil to the flame. ‘No consequences,’ they replied to him, ‘are so dreadful to a free people as that of being made slaves.’ ‘This,’ wrote he to his brother, ‘is not the language of the common people only; those that have hitherto sustained the fairest character are the warmest in this matter; and among the many friends you have heretofore had, I can scarcely mention any to you now.’

“One evening in August, the farmers of Union, in Connecticut, found Abijah Willard of Lancaster, Massachusetts, within their precinct. They kept watch over him during the night, and the next morning five hundred men would have taken him to the county jail; but after a march of six miles he begged forgiveness of all honest men for having taken the oath of office, and promised never to sit or act in the Council.

“The people of Plymouth were grieved that George Watson, their respected townsman, was willing to act under his appointment. On the first Lord’s day after his purpose was known, as soon as he took his seat in meeting, his neighbors and friends put on their hats before the congregation and walked out of the house. The extreme public indignity was more than he could bear. As he passed his pew, he hid his face by bending his head over his cane, and

determined to resign. Of the thirty-six who received the King's summons as councillors, more than twenty declined to obey it or revoked their acceptance. The rest fled in terror to the army at Boston, and even there could not hide their sense of shame."

Colonel Josiah Edson, whose loyalty to the British Crown had been evidenced, in 1768, by his vote as "a rescinder" in the House of Representatives, was one of the number of councillors nominated by King George the Third. As said of him, "being a loyalist from principle and habit, as most of the eminent and distinguished colonists were at that day, and having repeatedly taken the oath of allegiance to the British Crown, and not believing that he could be released from its obligations by any act of usurpation of the government, he could not conscientiously concur in any hostile measures on the part of the colonies; yet no one more sincerely lamented or more heartily disapproved of the conduct of the Parliament as unjust and inexpedient, though he did not doubt its strict right, according to the theory of the English Constitution, to tax the colonies in all cases whatsoever. Besides, he was solemnly impressed with the idea that the power of England was irresistible, and that any attempt to oppose its measures by arms, however odious those measures might be, would result in defeat, disgrace, and the most abject submission. He was then a colonel of a full regiment of the militia, with nearly all the rank and file of which he was personally acquainted and on terms of social and friendly intercourse; and such had been his previous great popularity, founded on meritorious conduct, there can be no doubt that had he espoused the cause of the colonies he would have been among the foremost, in either civil or military rank, during the Revolution."

Unfortunately for him, he could not be induced to change his determination of adhering to the oaths of allegiance which he had so often taken. Very few of his kinsfolk

and friends in the town of Bridgewater approved of his resolution. Disinclined to subject himself to the further contempt and censure of those of the townsmen whose political sentiments were the opposite of his own, he quitted his home, family, and friends, and made Boston his abode, in order to have the protection of the British troops garrisoning the castle and fortifications in and about the city.

About the beginning of autumn, a few weeks before his departure from Bridgewater, an excited concourse of men, many of them young, gathered at a late hour one night around the home of Colonel Edson, having gone to it with an intention of taking him before the town Committee of Safety for examination. Awakened by the tumult, he arose from his bed, and inquired from an open window the purpose of their coming there. Learning their object, he dressed himself and appeared at the front door, where he extended an invitation to the leaders of the party to come into the house. Finding that they would not enter, he began expostulating with them regarding the unseemly and tumultuous character of their visit, saying: "If you insist upon taking me to the Committee of Safety I shall go with you, but you act inconsistently. You claim the liberty of enjoying your own opinions, and at the same time would deprive me of the exercise of mine. Is this right? If you think so, take me with you. But why have you assembled here in the night-time and in a riotous manner, when you all know that I have never concealed myself from your notice and observation? Were you ashamed to approach me in the light of heaven?" Such had been their previous respect and esteem for his person and character," writes the well-informed chronicler of the occurrence, "that after a brief consultation among themselves, they returned to their homes without any further disturbance or molestation of him."¹

¹ This information was derived "from Captain Jacob Leonard and others who were present on the occasion."

“When he had completed his arrangements for joining the British in Boston,” as the same writer narrates, “and it was known when he would leave his residence for that purpose, and had commenced his journey on horseback, about one hundred of his townsmen, many of whom were armed, assembled on each side of the bridge in West Bridgewater, over which he would pass, with a view of arresting him as a tory for trial and punishment. When he came in sight of the bridge and saw the forcible array of men met to oppose his progress, he walked his horse moderately, and approaching them in his usual complaisant and dignified manner, accosted them: ‘Good-morning, gentlemen. I am as much the friend of your rights and liberties as you are yourselves; but you are engaged in an unfortunate cause, and must be defeated. You will repent of your conduct—mark my words, this day. Good-bye, gentlemen.’ He then passed through their lines, not one of them molesting him, not even seizing the reins of his horse. Had he manifested any fear, or much excitement, he would no doubt have been arrested; but he had long possessed their confidence, and until the beginning of the difficulties between the colonies and the mother country, was by far the most prominent and popular man in the town.¹

“The character of Colonel Josiah Edson in private life was most amiable and virtuous. . . . He had a most exalted opinion of the order, discipline, and courage of the British army, and of the skill of its officers, and underestimated the resources, enterprise, and genius of the colonies. He believed there were no troops in the world that could successfully contend with the British grenadiers; hence he was firm in the faith that any effort on the part of the colonies to coerce England would be unavailing, and that defeat and disgrace would be inevitable. It is not improbable, therefore, that his political course in the great

¹ “This information was received from Colonel Edward Howard and others, who witnessed the occurrence.”

controversy was more influenced by his fears than by any voluntary choice. The splendors of royalty had not dazzled his mind nor tempted his aspirations for fame. He had neither his fortune to make nor honorable distinction to win, for he had acquired both in an eminent degree. At the time he fled for protection to the British army, the idea of colonial independence had not been discussed as a question seriously proposed, and had he taken no part in the exciting debates of the day, but had given his attention only to his private concerns, as many others of the same views and apprehensions did, it is more than probable that after the fourth of July, 1776, he would cordially have supported that grave and dignified measure. But he had placed himself in a position from which he could not recede; he had fixed his own destiny of grief, sorrow, and repentance, had been proscribed and banished for his political opinions, and had become a wanderer, an outlaw, and an exile from home, and from all the endearments of social and domestic life.

“In the early part of 1776, he accompanied the British army from Boston to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and thence to Newport, Rhode Island, and thence to Long Island, where he died, on the twenty-sixth of December, 1778, depressed in spirits and broken-hearted. He had become convinced of his errors, and his contrition was deep and oppressive, so much so that Death was to him a welcome messenger.”

His property, which should have been enjoyed by his wife and children, was appropriated by the General Court to the use of the province, upon the apologetic grounds that he had forfeited it by his fidelity to the British government. The confiscation of his property was “in pursuance of a resolve of the Great and General Court, passed the nineteenth of April, 1776.” In the communication, addressed to the “Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives for the colony of Massachusetts Bay,” which bears the attesting

signature of "Nathaniel Reynolds, chairman," the particulars of the sequestration are set forth by the Committee authorized to accomplish it.

"We, the Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection of Bridgewater, have taken into our possession all the real and personal estate that we can find which belonged to Josiah Edson, Esq., and which he left in Bridgewater when he fled to Boston. The real estate we have leased to (his son) Josiah Edson, junior, for and until the nineteenth day of April next, after date, for the sum of fifty-four pounds, payable partly by his note of hand (bearing even date with this) to the chairman of the Committee for the use of the colony, and also the said Josiah Edson, junior, to take care of and provide for his aged mother (wife to the said Josiah Edson, Esqr.), a comfortable support during the term. The Committee have also in their possession a note of hand given by Josiah Edson, junior, for the sum of fifteen pounds, for the use of his father's estate, real and personal, the year past, by agreement between him, the said Josiah Edson, junior, and the Committee then of Bridgewater, in consequence of a certain resolve of the Province Congress."

An inventory of Colonel Edson's property, taken on the twenty-seventh of May, 1776, accompanied the communication. Among the items listed that define the circumstances of the ostracised loyalist are "one negro man, one negro woman, six cows, two heifers one year old each, fifteen sheep and nine lambs, . . . one pew in the meeting-house, one silver tankard, six silver tea-spoons, eleven pewter dishes, two dozen pewter plates, one pewter tankard, two pewter measures, two pewter porringers, one clock, one desk with a bookcase, three tables, eighteen chairs, five feather beds and furniture, one large looking-glass, one case of twelve bottles, three iron spiders, one pair of iron [fire] dogs, one fire pan, three iron trammels, one warming pan, three brass candlesticks, one tin candlestick, one pair of

bellows, one case of knives and forks, one case with forty-two volumes on divinity, history, and law, twenty sermon books and pamphlets, notes of hand of the value of fifteen pounds nineteen shillings and seven pence."

In this manner "before his death, without notice, without any specification of crime, and without even the form of a trial, or an opportunity for defence, by a public law, in which he was named with three hundred and seven others, his large estate was confiscated, and he was forbidden to return to the colony without leave, under penalty of transportation and imprisonment, and if he should afterwards return without leave he was to be punished as a felon by death.

"A committee was appointed and directed by a resolve of the General Court, passed on the twenty-third of September, 1779, to make sale of the confiscated estate of Josiah Edson, Esq., late of Bridgewater, an absentee. Thus he was made a victim to his loyalty and personal integrity, without having taken up arms against the colonies, a retribution repulsive to both justice and mercy, painfully cruel in its effects, and greatly disproportioned to his offence, more consonant with the tyranny of a crowned despotism than with the benign principles of a free republican government."

The derisive character of the metrical metaphor—"That old simplicity of Edson"—bestowed upon Colonel Edson, a "*mandamus* councillor," by Trumbull in his epic entitled *McFingal*, cannot be regarded as applicable to the reputation of the distinguished and conscientious loyalist.

" And look our list place men all over,
 Did heav'n appoint our chief Judge, Oliver,
 Fill that high bench with ignoramus,
 Or has it councils by mandamus?
 Who made that wit of water-gruel
 A judge of admiralty, Sewall?
 And were they not mere earthly struggles
 That raised up Murray, say, and Ruggles?"

Did heav'n send down, our pains to medicine,
 That old simplicity of Edson,
 Or by election pick out from us
 That Marshfield, Nat. Ray Thomas;
 Or had it any hand in serving
 A Loring, Pepprell, Browne, or Erving?"¹

¹ *History of the United States*. By George Bancroft. Boston, 1850. Vol. v., pp. 238, 239, 240, 241, 252, 265-267; Boston, 1854. Vol. vi., pp. 106, 125, 126, 127, 143, 144, 165, 166, 182, 199, 202, 203, 205, 206; Boston, 1858. Vol. vii., pp. 97, 98, 103, 104, 105.—*The New England History*. By Charles W. Elliot. New York, 1857. Vol. ii., pp. 262, 263.—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons Early Settled in Bridgewater*, with Appendices. Lowell, 1864. Pp. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.—*Massachusetts Archives*. "Revolutionary Royalists, 1775-1784." Vol. i., p. 57; vol. ii., pp. 364, 365; in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston.—*McFingal: An Epic Poem in Four Cantos*. By John Trumbull, Esq. Philadelphia, 1791. Canto First: "The Town-Meeting," p. 19.

Chapter IX

Edsons in the Revolutionary War

1775-1777

THE evidences of things seen in New England, at the close of the year 1774, were no less striking than peculiar. "The condition of Massachusetts," as remarked by an eminent historian, "was anomalous: three hundred thousand people continued their usual avocations, and enjoyed life and property in undisturbed tranquillity without a legislature or executive officers; without sheriffs, judges, or justices of the peace. As the supervision of government disappeared, each man seemed more and more a law to himself; and as if to show that the world had been governed too much, order prevailed in a province where in fact there existed no regular government; no administration but by committees; no military officers but those chosen by the militia. Yet never were legal magistrates obeyed with more alacrity. The selectmen continued their usual functions; the services in the churches increased in fervor. . . .

"But what most animated the country was the magnanimity of Boston: 'suffering amazing loss, but determined to endure poverty and death rather than betray America and posterity.' Its people, under the eyes of the General, disregarding alike his army, his proclamations against a provincial congress, and the British statute against town-meetings, came together according to their ancient forms."

The British ministry, advised of the increasing laxity of

the people of the colonies in heeding the behests of his Majesty King George the Third, became more urgent to coerce them into yielding obedience to his commands. In January, 1775, General Gage, who had previously written for a reinforcement of at least twenty thousand men, assured the ministerial officers that "if a respectable force of troops were to be seen in the field by the rebellious colonists, the most obnoxious of the leaders seized, and a pardon proclaimed for all others," the government would "come off victorious, and with less opposition than" could have been "expected a few months" prior to that time.

"The ministry were self-willed and strangely confident. The demand of Gage for twenty thousand men was put aside with scorn. 'The violence committed by those who have taken up arms in Massachusetts Bay,' wrote" one, "in the King's name, 'have appeared to me as the acts of a rude rabble, without plan, without concert, and without conduct; and therefore I think that a smaller force now, if put to the test, would be able to encounter them. The first and essential step to be taken towards re-establishing government would be to arrest and imprison the principal actors and abettors in the provincial congress, whose proceedings appear in every light to be treason and rebellion. If means be devised to keep the measure secret until the moment of execution, it can hardly fail of success. Even if it cannot be accomplished without bloodshed, and should be a signal for hostilities, I must again repeat, that any efforts of the people, unprepared to encounter with a regular force, cannot be very formidable. The imprisonment of those who shall be made prisoners will prevent their doing any further mischief."

"The first step towards inspiring terror" taken by the British ministry, "was to declare Massachusetts in a state of rebellion, and to pledge the Parliament and the whole force of Great Britain to its reduction; the next, by prohibiting the American fisheries, to starve New England; the

next, to call out the savages on the rear of the colonies; the next, to excite servile insurrection."

On Thursday, the ninth day of February, 1775, when King George the Third, having received the address of Parliament "that amounted to a declaration of war,' pledged himself speedily and effectually to 'enforce obedience to the laws and the authority of the supreme legislature,' the members of the second Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, about two hundred and fourteen in number, appointed eleven men as their Committee of Safety, charged to resist every attempt at executing the acts of Parliament. For this purpose they were empowered to take possession of the warlike stores of the province, to make returns of the militia and minute-men, and to muster as many of the militia as they should judge necessary. General officers were appointed to command the force that should be assembled."

"'Resistance to tyranny,' the Provincial Congress proclaimed to the inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay, 'becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. Fleets, troops, and every implement of war are sent into the province, to wrest from you that freedom which it is your duty, even at the risk of your lives, to hand inviolate to posterity. Continue steadfast, and with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which Heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us.'"

"On Sunday, the second of April, 1775, two vessels arrived at Marblehead with the tidings, that both Houses of Parliament had pledged to the King their lives and fortunes for the reduction of America, that New England was prohibited from the fisheries, and that the army of Gage was to be largely reinforced. The next morning, the Congress required the attendance of all absent members, and desired the towns not yet represented to send members without delay.

"A code for its future army was adopted, and the Committee of Safety was authorized to form and pay six companies of artillery. . . . It enjoined every town to have

a Committee of Correspondence; ordered a day of fasting and prayer for the union of the American colonies and direction to such measures as God would approve; encouraged the poor of Boston to move into the country; sent special envoys to each of the other New England colonies to concert measures for raising an army of defence; and urged 'the militia and minute-men' in the several towns to be on the alert. It forbade every act that could be interpreted as a commencement of hostilities, but resolved unanimously that the militia might act on the defensive. If the forces of the colony should be called out, the members of the Congress agreed to repair instantly to Concord. Then, on the fifteenth of April, it adjourned, expecting a long and desperate war with the mighty power of Great Britain, yet with no treasury but the good-will of the people; not a soldier in actual service; hardly ammunition enough for a parade day; as for artillery, having scarce more than ten cannon of iron, four of brass, and two cohorns; with no executive but the Committee of Safety; no internal government but by Committees of Correspondence; no visible centre of authority; and no distinguished general officer to take command of the provincial troops.

"Gage, who himself had about three thousand effective men, learned through his spies the state of the country and the ludicrously scanty amount of stores collected by the provincial committees at Worcester and Concord. The report increased his confidence as well as the insolence of his officers; and as soon as the members of the Congress had gone to their homes, he resolved on striking a blow, as the King desired."

The Edsons in New England exemplified their loyalty to each of the successive British sovereigns ruling the American colonies, as has already been shown in many distinct ways, as industrious and enterprising settlers, as trustworthy and dutiful civil officers, and as brave and faithful volunteers and scouts. Not only were they valorous

defenders of the places in which they had their homes, but also generous contributors of their means to defray the expenses of the several wars imperiling the peace and prosperity of the colonists. Three participated in expeditions against the savages on the warpath with King Philip; one in King George's war; and fifteen in the long struggle with the French and their Indian allies. With no record of any member of the Edson family taking up arms against their countrymen during the war of the Revolution, forty-four members of it and three of their African servants are registered as having battled for the political rights and immunities that they and the other liberty-loving inhabitants of the thirteen colonies desired to enjoy and have descend to their offspring while having homes in North America.

Particulars of the engagements in which the four-and-forty Edsons took part will be presented in this and the following chapter, together with such designations of parents as will, it is believed, serve to establish the identity and kinship of these patriotic soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

"The Lexington alarm," inaugurating the war of the Revolution, was preceded by a series of events that sorely tried the temper of the colonists who were anxiously waiting the coming of the day for taking up arms in defence of their liberty.

On the afternoon of the fifteenth of April, 1775, when the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay adjourned, "General Gage took the light infantry and grenadiers off duty" in and around Boston, "and secretly prepared an expedition to destroy the colony's stores at Concord," about eighteen miles northwest of Boston. "But the attempt had for several weeks been expected; a strict watch had been kept; and signals were concerted to announce the first movement of troops for the country." Being timely warned, "the Committee of Safety removed a part of the public stores and secreted the cannon."

On the afternoon of Tuesday, the eighteenth of April,

General Gage sent a number of sergeants in disguise "through Roxbury," and "over the ferry, through Charlestown, to reconnoitre and watch the movements of the people, and, at a proper time, to seize and detain all persons on the road, whom they might suspect of being engaged in carrying intelligence of the intended march of his troops to Concord." About ten o'clock that night, "the grenadiers and light infantry, not less than eight hundred in number . . . crossed in the boats of the transport ships from the foot of the common to East Cambridge. There they received a day's provisions, and near midnight, after wading through wet marshes . . . they took the road through West Cambridge to Concord."

Meanwhile, and before ten o'clock, Dr. Joseph Warren, one of the Committee of Public Safety, empowered by the second Provincial Congress, "to assemble the militia whenever it was required to resist the execution of certain acts of Parliament," "despatched William Dawes through Roxbury to Lexington, and at the same time desired Paul Revere to set off by way of Charlestown."

"On the morning of the nineteenth of April, between the hours of twelve and one, the message from Warren reached" Samuel Adams and John Hancock, at Lexington, "who divined at once the object of the expedition." "The alarm had spread so rapidly through Lexington that by two o'clock on Wednesday morning the militia company had nearly all assembled. Captain John Parker commanding it ordered the roll to be called, and every man to charge his gun with powder and ball. After remaining on parade for some time, one of the messengers, who had been sent toward Boston, returned and reported he could not learn that the British regulars were coming. The weather being cool, the company were dismissed with orders to appear again at the beat of the drum. Some of them, whose houses were in the immediate neighborhood of the place of parade, went home, but the greater part of the

company went into Buckman's tavern, near the meeting-house.

"Adams and Hancock, whose proscription had already been divulged, and whose seizure was believed to be intended, were compelled by persuasion to retire towards Woburn."

In Concord, "about two o'clock in the morning, a peal from the belfry of the meeting-house called the inhabitants of the place to their town hall. They came forth, young and old, with their firelocks, ready to make good the resolute words of their town debates."

When intelligence of the close approach of the British troops to Lexington was received, "Captain Parker ordered alarm guns to be fired and the drum beat to arms." Sixty or seventy men were thereupon paraded in two ranks a few rods north of the meeting-house. Shortly before five o'clock the enemy appeared, and discovering the paraded men, came to a halt, charged guns, doubled ranks, and advanced at double-quick time. The British officer in command, having cried to the motionless militia to lay down their arms and disperse, and seeing that they did not do as they were bidden, ordered his men to fire. The command "was instantly followed, first by a few guns, which did no execution, and then by a heavy, close, and deadly discharge of musketry.

"In the disparity of numbers," Lexington "common was a field of murder, not of battle; Captain Parker, therefore, ordered his men to disperse. Then, and not till then, did a few of them, on their own impulse, return the British fire. These random shots of the fugitives or dying men did no harm.

"Jonas Parker, the strongest and best wrestler in Lexington, had promised never to run from British troops; and he kept his vow. A wound brought him on his knees. Having discharged his gun, he was preparing to load it again, when as sound a heart as ever throbbed for freedom

was stilled by a bayonet, and he lay on the post which he took at the morning's drum beat. So fell Isaac Muzzey, and so died the aged Robert Munroe, the same who, in 1758, had been an ensign at Louisburg. Jonathan Harrington, junior, was struck in front of his own house, on the north of the common. His wife was at a window when he fell. With the blood gushing from his breast, he rose in her sight, tottered, fell again, then crawled on hands and knees toward his dwelling; she ran to meet him, but only reached him as he expired on their threshold. Caleb Harrington, who had gone into the meeting-house for powder, was shot as he came out. Samuel Hadley and John Brown were pursued, and killed after they had left the green. Asahel Porter, of Woburn, who had been taken prisoner by the British on the march, endeavoring to escape, was shot within a few rods of the common.

"About seven o'clock, the British marched with rapid step under the brilliant sunshine into Concord, the light infantry along the hills, and the grenadiers in the lower road. Left in undisputed possession of the hamlet, they made search for stores. To this end, one small party was sent to the south bridge over Concord River; three companies, comprising a hundred or more soldiers, were stationed as a guard at the north bridge, while three advanced two miles farther, where arms were thought to have been concealed. But they found there nothing to destroy except some carriages for cannon.

"Between nine and ten o'clock, the Concord and Lincoln companies of minute-men on the rising ground above Concord Bridge had increased to more than four hundred. Of these there were twenty-five minute-men from Bedford, others from Westford, others from Littleton, from Carlisle, and from Chelmsford. The Acton company came last, and formed on the right.

"Near the base of the hill, Concord River flows languidly in a winding channel, and was approached by a

causeway over the wet ground of its left bank. The by-road from the hill, on which the Americans had rallied, ran southerly till it met the causeway at right angles. The Americans saw before them within gunshot British troops holding possession of their bridge, and in the distance a still larger number occupying their town, which from the rising smoke seemed to have been set on fire.

“ In the yard of an inn the British found two twenty-four pounders and these cannon they spiked. They also discovered sixty barrels of flour which they partly damaged in their attempts to shatter the barrels, and into a mill-pond they threw five hundred pounds of ball ammunition. They burned a liberty pole and several artillery carriages, and rifled a number of private dwellings. The court-house was set on fire, but was not much injured as the flames were soon extinguished.

“ Seeing the smoke ascending from the fires in the place, the American minute-men and militia, by a common impulse to protect the property of the inhabitants, descended to the causeway leading to the bridge held by the British. They, perceiving the intention of the Americans, began tearing up the planks to prevent their passage over the bridge, and, to deter them, fired several shots at the advancing colonists, that were followed by a volley. Then the Americans returned the fire, killing two of the invaders and wounding several; and losing themselves two killed and two wounded.

“ At noon the British began retreating toward Lexington. When passing Merriam’s Corner, a mile or more east of Concord, they encountered a company of Reading minute-men and one of Billerica militia which had been joined by a part of the armed Americans from Concord, and faced about and fired a volley at them. This led to an engagement, which became an intermittent battle thence to Charlestown, ‘carried on with little or no military discipline or order on the part of the Americans during the remainder of

the day. Each sought his own place and opportunity to attack and annoy the enemy from behind trees, rocks, fences, and buildings as seemed most convenient.' Accessions of companies of minute-men and militia from Lexington, Sudbury, Woburn, Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester, Brookline, Needham, Watertown, Dedham, Medford, Charlestown, Lynn, Danvers, and other towns, from hour to hour greatly increased the jeopardy of the fleeing and fighting British force. Its retreat along the highway to Charlestown finally became a humiliating and disastrous rout. The pursuit of the fatigued and harassed regulars ended about sunset.

"The actual loss to the British in this expedition was seventy-three killed, one hundred and seventy-four wounded, and twenty-six missing—the greater part of whom were taken prisoners. Of the whole loss, eighteen were commissioned officers, and two hundred and fifty non-commissioned officers and men. The loss of the Americans was forty-nine killed, thirty-nine wounded, and five missing.

"Darkness closed upon the country and upon the town, but it was no night for sleep. Heralds on swift relays of horses transmitted the war-message from hand to hand, till village repeated it to village, the sea to the backwoods, the plains to the highlands; and it was never suffered to droop, till it had been borne north, and south, and east, and west, throughout the land.

"The people of Massachusetts had not waited for the call of their Committee of Safety on the morning of the twentieth of April. The country people, as soon as they heard the cry of innocent blood from the ground, snatched their firelocks from the walls; and wives, and mothers, and sisters took part in preparing the men of their households to go forth to the war. Their country was in danger; their brethren were slaughtered; their arms alone employed their attention."

From the town of Bridgewater, "on the alarm of the

nineteenth of April," marched Captain Josiah Hayden's company of minute-men, in which Barnabas, the third son of James and Esther (Allen) Edson, was a private; Jacob, the eldest son of Benjamin and Ann (Thayer) Edson, was also one; and Nathan, the eldest son of Nathan and Mary (Sprague) Edson, also served in the same position. From that town also marched, at the same time, Captain Robert Orr's company of minute-men, in which, as a private, was John, the eldest son of John and Hannah (Allen) Edson. From the town of Brookfield, marched, on the nineteenth of April, Captain Jonathan Barns's company of minute-men, in which, as a fifer, was Hosea, the fourth son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson; and probably from the same place, and on the same day, Captain John Crawford's company, in which was, as a private, Nathan, the eldest son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson. From the town of Springfield, marched, on the twentieth of April, Major Andrew Colton's company of minute-men, in which, as a private, was Abijah, the eldest son of Abijah and Susanna (Snow) Edson; and in which also, as a private, was Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Martha (Perkins) Edson. From the town of Ashburnham, marched, on the alarm of the nineteenth of April, Captain Jonathan Gates's company of minute-men, in which, as a private, was Daniel, the third son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson; and from there also marched, on the nineteenth of April, Captain Deliverance Davis's company, in which, as a drummer, was their eldest son Elijah. From the town of Stoughton, marched, on the alarm of the nineteenth of April, Captain Peter Talbot's company, in which, as a private, was Daniel, the third son of Abel and Margaret (Conant) Edson. And from the town of Hatfield, marched, on the twenty-first of April, in response to the alarm, Perez Graves's company, in which, as a private, was Jonathan, the second son of Jonathan and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson. "For the relief of Boston in the Lexington alarm," marched Zephaniah Alden's

company, from the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, in which company was Nathan, the second son of Abijah and Susanna (Snow) Edson.¹

These thirteen patriotic kinsmen served with their respective companies terms of enlistment varying in time from two to nineteen days. They, as has truthfully been said of the New England volunteers, "were men of substantial worth, of whom" five "represented a household. The members of the several companies were well known to each other as brothers, kindred, and townsmen; known to the old men who remained at home, and to all the matrons and maidens. They were sure to be remembered in the weekly exercises of the congregations, and morning and evening in the usual family devotions, they were commended with fervent piety to the protection of Heaven. Every young soldier lived and acted, as it were, under the keen observation of all those among whom he had grown up, and was sure that his conduct would occupy the tongues of his village companions while he was in the field, and perhaps be remembered his life long. The 'Camp of Liberty' was a gathering in arms of schoolmates, neighbors, and friends; and Boston was beleaguered round from Roxbury to Chelsea by an unorganized, fluctuating mass of men, each with his own musket and his little store of cartridges, and such provisions as he brought with him, or as were sent after him, or were contributed by the people round about.

"The British officers, from the sense of their own weak-

¹ *History of the United States*. By George Bancroft. Boston, 1858. Vol. vii., pp. 184, 185, 209, 210, 218, 219, 222, 227, 228, 229, 278, 280, 281, 282, 288, 289, 290, 292, 293, 294, 298, 299, 300, 302, 311, 313.—*History of the Battle at Lexington*. By Elias Phinney. Boston, 1825. Pp. 15, 18, 19.—*History of the Town of Lexington*. By Charles Hudson. Boston, 1868. Pp. 194, 211.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. A compilation from the Archives prepared and published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In accordance with chapter 100. Resolves of 1891. Boston, 1899. Pp. 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230.—*The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783*. Edited by Henry P. Johnston. Hartford, 1889. P. 21.

ness, and from fear of the American marksmen, dared not order a sally. Their confinement was the more irksome, for it came of a sudden before their magazines had been filled; and was followed by 'an immediate stop to supplies of every kind.' The troops, in consequence, suffered severely from unwholesome diet; their commanders fretted with bitter mortification. They had scoffed at the Americans as cowards who would run at their sight; and they had saved themselves from destruction only by the rapidity of their retreat. Reinforcements and three new general officers were already on the Atlantic, and these would have to be received into straitened quarters by a defeated army. They knew that England, and even the ministers, would condemn the inglorious expedition which had brought about so sudden and so fatal a change. As if to brand in their shame, the officers shrunk from avowing their own acts; and though no one would say that he had seen the Americans fire first, they tried to make it pass current that a handful of countrymen at Lexington had begun a fight with a detachment that outnumbered them as twelve to one.

“Without stores, or cannon, or supplies even of powder, or of money, Massachusetts, by its congress, on the twenty-second of April, resolved unanimously that a New England army of thirty thousand men should be raised, and established its own proportion at thirteen thousand six hundred. The term of enlistment was fixed for the last of December.

Under this act, Samuel Edson, on the twenty-ninth of April; Nathan, the eldest son of Nathan and Mary (Sprague) Edson, on the first of May; Jonathan Edson, on the second; Hosea, on the third; Abijah Edson, on the sixth; and Daniel, the third son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, on the seventeenth of July; enlisted and again went into the field and took part in the siege of Boston. The six had three other of their kinsmen with them there: Thomas, the eldest son of Obed and Martha Thomas Edson, of the

town of Taunton, who, on the second of May, enlisted as a private in Captain Silas Cobb's company in Colonel Timothy Walker's regiment; Caleb, the fifth son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, of Cockermonth (Groton), New Hampshire, who enlisted on the eighth, and became a fifer in Captain Aaron Kinsman's company in Colonel John Stark's regiment; Ebenezer, the eighth son of Benjamin and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, of the town of Bridgewater, who enlisted on the thirtieth of June, and served as a private in Captain John Porter's company in Colonel Paul Dudley Sargent's regiment. In response to the call of the Legislature of the colony of Connecticut, Nathan, the second son of Abijah and Susanna (Snow) Edson, enlisted on the ninth of May and served as a private in Captain Roger Enos's company in General Joseph Spencer's regiment to the eighteenth of December.

"Of the men of Massachusetts who first came down as volunteers, the number varied from day to day. Many of them returned home almost as soon as they came, for want of provisions or clothes, or because they had not waited to put their affairs in order. Of those who enlisted in the Massachusetts army, a very large number absented themselves on furlough."

"The inhabitants of Boston suffered an accumulation of sorrows, brightened only by the hope of the ultimate relief of all America. Gage made them an offer that if they would promise not to join in an attack on his troops, and would lodge their arms with the selectmen at Faneuil Hall, the men, women, and children, with all their effects, should have a safe-conduct out of the town. The proposal was accepted. For several days the road to Roxbury was thronged with wagons and trains of wretched exiles; but they were not allowed to take with them any provisions; and nothing could be more affecting than to see the helpless families come out without anything to eat. The provincial congress took measures for distributing five thousand

of the poor among the villages of the interior. But the Loyalists of Boston, of whom two hundred volunteered to enter the King's service, desired to detain the people as hostages; Gage therefore soon violated his pledge; and many respected citizens, children whose fathers were absent, widows, unemployed mechanics, persons who had no protectors to provide for their escape, remained in town to share the hardships of a siege, ill provided, and exposed to the insults of an exasperated enemy. Words cannot describe their sufferings."

"No choice was left to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety but to drive out the British army, or perish in the attempt."

"On the twenty-fifth of May, Lieutenant-General William Howe, Lieutenant-General Henry Clinton, and Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne, arrived at Boston with re-inforcements. They brought their angling rods, and they found themselves pent up in a narrow peninsula; they had believed themselves sure of taking possession of a continent with a welcome from the great body of the people, and they had no reception but as enemies, and no outlet from town but by the sea."

"Massachusetts selected Artemas Ward to be general-in-chief, John Thomas to be lieutenant-general, and Richard Gridley, an experienced soldier and engineer, to organize artillery and act as engineer-in-chief."

The second general congress of the representatives of the people of the thirteen North-American colonies took the first steps to organize the American Continental army, by appointing, on the fifteenth of June, George Washington general and commander-in-chief of "all the continental forces, raised or to be raised for the defence of American liberty." Two days later, Artemas Ward of Massachusetts was chosen first major-general, Charles Lee of Virginia, second major-general, and Horatio Gates, also of Virginia, adjutant-general, having the rank of brigadier-general. On

the nineteenth of June, Philip Schuyler of New York was appointed third major-general, and Israel Putnam of Connecticut, fourth major-general. Six days after his appointment, General Washington departed from Philadelphia for Cambridge, and, on the third of July, took command there of the Continental army.

Meanwhile the report that General Gage intended to occupy the heights at Charlestown and Dorchester having been considered by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety and the Council of War, a joint committee was appointed to view them, especially the heights at Charlestown. The committee on the twelfth of May, besides advising the construction of breastworks at several points, recommended the building of "a strong redoubt on Bunker Hill, provided with cannon to annoy the enemy either going out by land or by water." On the fifteenth of June, the Committee of Safety passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, it appears of importance to the safety of this colony, that possession of the hill called Bunker's Hill, in Charlestown, be securely kept and defended; and also, some one hill or hills on Dorchester Neck be likewise secured: therefore, resolved, unanimously, that it be recommended to the Council of War, that the above mentioned Bunker's Hill be maintained, by sufficient forces posted there; and as the particular situation of Dorchester Neck is unknown to this committee, they advise that the Council of War take and pursue such steps, respecting the same, as to them shall appear to be for the security of this colony."

The right wing of the American army lay, at that time, at Roxbury, under Lieutenant-General John Thomas, where were stationed the Massachusetts regiments severally commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John Bailey (earlier by Lieutenant-General Thomas), Colonels Ebenezer Learned, John Fellows, Theophilus Cotton, Timothy Walker, Timothy Danielson, Joseph Read, and Lemuel Robinson; the Rhode Island forces under Brigadier-General Nathaniel

Greene, and the greater part of Brigadier-General Joseph Spencer's regiment of Connecticut troops, at Jamaica Plains. The centre of the army, consisting of fifteen Massachusetts regiments, severally under the command of Colonels William Prescott, James Frye, Ebenezer Bridge, Moses Little, Ephraim Doolittle, Samuel Gerrish, Thomas Gardner, Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Ward, Colonels Jonathan Brewer, John Nixon, Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge, Asa Whitcomb, James Scammon, John Mansfield, and John Patterson; the artillery battalion under Colonel Richard Gridley, and Brigadier-General Israel Putnam's regiment, with other Connecticut troops, lay at Cambridge, where Major-General Artemas Ward had his headquarters; the left wing was somewhat scattered: three companies of Colonel Samuel Gerrish's regiment were at Chelsea, Colonel John Stark's regiment was at Medford, and Colonel James Reed's at Charlestown Neck, with sentinels reaching to Penny Ferry and Bunker Hill.

Abijah, Caleb, Hosea, Jonathan, Nathan of Bridgewater, Nathan of Stafford, Samuel, and Thomas Edson, having enlisted in companies which were in the regiments severally commanded by Colonels Jonathan Brewer, John Stark, Ebenezer Learned, Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge, Timothy Danielson, Timothy Walker, Joseph Spencer, and Lieutenant-Colonel John Bailey, it seems evident that the eight patriots bearing the surname of Edson were actively engaged in the ever-memorable battle of Bunker Hill.

By his later enlistment, on the thirtieth of June, in Captain John Porter's company, Ebenezer Edson was associated as a private with Colonel Paul Dudley Sargent's regiment, and Daniel Edson, by enlisting on the seventeenth of July, in Captain David Wilder's company, with Colonel Asa Whitcomb's regiment.

Friday, the sixteenth of June, having been designated for the construction of fortifications on Bunker Hill, parts of the regiments of Colonels Prescott, Frye, and Bridge, and

a fatigue-party of two hundred Connecticut troops, together with Captain Gridley's artillery company, aggregating about twelve hundred men, under the command of Colonel William Prescott, left Cambridge Common, about nine o'clock at night, for Charlestown. After a consultation on arriving there, it was determined that Breed's Hill was a better position for a line of intrenchments, and the work of making the same was begun about midnight on that rise of ground. The earthworks, six feet in height, that were thrown up, were discovered by the British at daylight, on the seventeenth of June. Fire was opened immediately upon them by one of the British men-of-war anchored in sight of Breed's Hill. Not long afterward a British battery of six guns and howitzers on Copp's Hill, in Boston, and several English men-of-war, within gunshot of the intrenchments, began firing upon them, but with little harm to them or the men engaged in strengthening them.

About eleven o'clock, the regiments of Colonels John Stark and James Reed of New Hampshire were sent forward to reinforce Colonel Prescott's body of troops. About noon a small force of Americans began throwing up a breastwork on Bunker Hill. Meanwhile a number of British regiments and companies of grenadiers and light infantry under General William Howe were embarking on barges to attack the American intrenchments on Breed's Hill.

"The sun was shining in meridian splendor; and the scarlet uniforms, the glistening armor, the brazen artillery, the regular movements of the boats, the flashes of fire, and the belchings of smoke formed a spectacle brilliant and imposing. The army landed in good order at Moulton's Point, about one o'clock, without the slightest molestation, and immediately formed in three lines. General Howe, after reconnoitring the American works, applied to General Gage for a reinforcement, and while waiting for it to arrive, many of his troops quietly dined.

“When the intelligence of the landing of the British troops reached Cambridge, there was suddenly great noise and confusion. The bells were rung, the drums beat to arms, and adjutants rode hurriedly from point to point, with orders for troops to march and oppose the enemy. General Ward reserved his own regiment, Patterson’s, Gardner’s, and part of Bridge’s regiments, to be prepared for any attack on Cambridge, but ordered the remainder of the Massachusetts forces to Charlestown. General Putnam ordered on the remainder of the Connecticut troops. Colonel Gardner’s regiment was directed to march to Patterson’s station, opposite Prospect Hill. A large part of these forces, owing to various causes, failed to reach the lines.”

“The movements of the British, along the margin of Mystic River, indicated an intention of flanking the Americans, and of surrounding the redoubt. To prevent this, Colonel Prescott ordered the artillery, with two field-pieces, and Captain Thomas Knowlton with the Connecticut troops, to leave the intrenchments, march down the hill, and oppose the enemy’s right wing. Captain Knowlton took a position near the base of Bunker Hill, six hundred feet in the rear of the redoubt, behind a fence, one half of which was stone, with two rails of wood. He then made, a little distance in front of this, another parallel line of fence, and filled the space between them with newly cut grass lying in the fields.

“While Captain Knowlton’s party was doing this, between two and three o’clock, Colonel John Stark, with his regiment, arrived at the Neck, which was then enfiladed by a galling fire from the enemy’s ships and batteries. Captain Henry Dearborn, who was by the side of the Colonel, suggested to him the expediency of quickening his step across; but Stark replied, ‘One fresh man in action is worth ten fatigued ones,’ and marched steadily over. General Putnam ordered part of these troops to labor on the works begun on Bunker Hill, while Colonel Stark, after

an animated address to his men, led the remainder to the position Captain Knowlton had taken, and they aided in extending the line of the fence breastwork to the water's edge, by throwing up a stone wall on the beach. Colonel Reed left the Neck, and marched over Bunker Hill, and took position near Colonel Stark, at the rail fence.

“The defences of the Americans, at three in the afternoon, were still in a rude, unfinished state. The redoubt on the spot where the monument stands was about eight rods square. Its strongest side, the front, facing the settled part of the town, was made with projecting angles, and protected the south side of the hill. The eastern side commanded an extensive field. The north side had an open passageway. A breastwork, beginning a short distance from the redoubt, and on a line with its eastern side, extended about one hundred yards north towards a slough. A sally-port, between the south end of the breastwork and the redoubt, was protected by a blind. These works were raised about six feet from the level of the ground, and had platforms of wood, or steps made of earth, for the men to stand on when they should fire. The south corner of the fence already described was about two hundred yards, on a diagonal line, in the rear of the north corner of the breastwork. This line was slightly protected; a part of it, however,—about one hundred yards,—between the slough and the rail fence, was open to the approach of infantry. It was the weakest part of the defences. On the right of the redoubt, along a cartway, a fence was made similar to the one on the left. The redoubt and breastwork constituted a good defence against cannon and musketry, but the fences were hardly more than a shadow of protection.

“These defences were lined nearly in the following manner: The original detachments, under Colonel Prescott, except the Connecticut troops, were at the redoubt and breastwork. They were joined, just previous to the action, by portions of Massachusetts regiments, under Colonels

Brewer, Nixon, Woodbridge, Little, and Major Moore, and one company of artillery—Callender's. General Warren took post in the redoubt. Captain Gridley's artillery company, after discharging a few ineffectual shot from a corner of the redoubt towards Copp's Hill, moved to the exposed position between the breastwork and rail fence, where it was joined by the other artillery company under Captain John Callender. Captain Benjamin Perkins' company, of Little's regiment, and a few other troops, Captain John Nutting's company,—recalled from Charlestown after the British landed,—and part of Captain Nathaniel Warner's company, lined the cartway on the right of the redoubt. The Connecticut troops, under Captain Knowlton, the New Hampshire forces, under Colonels Stark and Reed, and a few Massachusetts troops were at the rail fence. General Putnam was here when the action commenced, and General Seth Pomeroy, armed with a musket, served here as a volunteer. Three companies—Captain Adam Wheeler's, of Doolittle's regiment, Captain Josiah Crosby's, of Reed's regiment, and a company from Woodbridge's regiment—were stationed in Main Street, at the base of Breed's Hill, and constituted the extreme right of the Americans. Though this statement may be in the main correct, yet such is the lack of precision in the authorities that accuracy cannot be affirmed. The Massachusetts reinforcements, as they came on the field, appear to have marched to the redoubt, and were directed to take the most advantageous positions. In doing this, parts of regiments, and even companies, that came on together, broke their ranks, divided, and subsequently fought in various parts of the field, in platoons or as individuals rather than under regular commands."

"Asa Whitcomb's regiment, of Worcester, had but few companies in the battle. One account, by a soldier, states that Captain Benjamin Hastings, belonging to it, led on a company of thirty-four, and took post at the rail fence.

This name does not occur in a return dated June 3d. Two companies, Captains Gideon Burt's and David Wilder's, were probably in the battle."

Colonel Timothy Walker's regiment, which just before the action had been stationed at Roxbury, evidently took part in it.

"Before General Howe moved from his first position, he sent out strong flank guards, and directed his field-pieces to play on the American lines. The fire from Copp's Hill, from the ships, and from the batteries, now centred on the intrenchments; while a furious cannonade and bombardment from Boston occupied the attention of the right wing of the American army, at Roxbury. The fire upon the lines was but feebly returned from Gridley's and Callender's field-pieces. Gridley's guns were soon disabled, and he drew them to the rear. Captain Callender, alleging that his cartridges were too large for his pieces, withdrew to Bunker Hill. Here he met General Putnam, who ordered him to return. Callender returned; but soon left his post, and was soon deserted by his men. About this time, Captain John Ford's company, of Bridge's regiment, came on the field, and, at the pressing request of General Putnam, drew the deserted field-pieces to the rail fence. Meantime Colonel Prescott detached Lieutenant-Colonel John Robinson and Major Henry Wood, each with a party, to flank the enemy. Both behaved with courage and prudence. Captain Benjamin Walker, with a few men, probably of one of these parties, met with the British near the navy yard, and fired from the cover of buildings and fences."

"The general discharge of artillery was intended to cover the advance of the British columns. They moved forward in two divisions,—General Howe with the right wing, to penetrate the American line at the rail fence, and cut off a retreat from the redoubt,—General Pigot, with the left wing, to storm the breastwork and redoubt."

"General Howe, in the meantime, led the right wing

against the rail fence. The light infantry moved along the shore of Mystic River, to turn the extreme left of the American line, while the grenadiers advanced directly in front. The Americans first opened on them with their field-pieces (Callender's) with great effect, some of the discharges being directed by Putnam; and when the advancing troops deployed into line, a few, as at the redoubt, fired without waiting for the word, when Putnam hastened to the spot, and threatened to cut down the next man who disobeyed. This drew the enemy's fire, which they continued with the regularity of troops on parade; but their balls passed over the heads of the Americans. At length the officers gave the word, when the fire from the American line was given with great effect. . . . So great was the carnage, that the columns, a few moments before so proud and firm in their array, were disconcerted, partly broken, and then retreated. Many of the Americans were in favor of pursuing them, and some, with exulting huzzas, jumped over the fence for this purpose, but were prevented by the prudence of their officers.

“And now moments of joy succeeded the long hours of toil, anxiety, and peril. The American volunteer saw the veterans of England fly before his fire, and felt a new confidence in himself. The result was obtained, too, with but little loss on his side. Colonel Prescott mingled freely among his troops, praised their good conduct, and congratulated them on their success. He felt confident that another attack would soon be made, and he renewed his caution to reserve fire until he gave the command. He found his men in high spirits, and elated by the retreat. In their eyes the regulars were no longer invincible.”

General Howe in a short time rallied his troops, and immediately ordered another assault. They marched in the same order as before, and continued to fire as they approached the lines. But, in addition to the previous obstacles, they were obliged to step over the bodies of their

fallen countrymen. The artillery did more service in this attack. It moved along the narrow road, between the tongue of land and Breed's Hill, until within three hundred yards of the rail fence, and nearly on a line with the breast-works, when it opened a severe fire to cover the advance of the infantry. The American officers, grown confident in the success of their manœuvre, ordered their men to withhold their fire until the enemy were within five or six rods of the works.

“Charlestown, in the meantime, had been set on fire,—in the square by shells thrown from Copp's Hill, and in the easterly part by a party of marines from the British man-of-war *Somerset*. As the buildings were chiefly of wood, the conflagration spread with great rapidity.”

“The burning of the town neither intimidated the Americans nor covered the attack on their lines. The wind directed the smoke so as to leave a full view of the approach of the British columns, which kept firing as they advanced. Colonels Brewer, Nixon, and Buckminster were wounded, and Major Moore was mortally wounded. In general, however, the balls of the British did but little execution, as their aim was bad, and the intrenchments protected the Americans. At length, at the prescribed distance, the fire was again given, which, in its fatal impartiality, prostrated whole ranks of officers and men. The enemy stood the shock, and continued to advance with great spirit; but the ceaseless stream of fire that issued from the whole American line was even more destructive than before. General Howe, opposite the rail fence, was in the hottest of it. Two of his aids, and other officers near him, were shot down, and at times he was left almost alone. His officers were seen to remonstrate and to threaten, and even to prick and strike the men to urge them on. But it was in vain. The British were compelled again to give way, and they retreated in even greater disorder than before,—many running towards the boats. The ground

in front of the American works was covered with the killed and wounded.

“So long a time elapsed before the British came up again, that some of the officers thought they would not renew the attack. General Putnam was on Bunker Hill and in the rear of it urging forward the reinforcements. While at Bunker Hill, at this time, there were many evidences of serious complications arising from unserved orders, misdirection, and demoralized bodies of retreating men; good order prevailed at the redoubt. Colonel Prescott remained at his post, determined in his purpose, undaunted in his bearing, inspiring his command with hope and confidence, and yet chagrined, that, in this hour of peril and glory, adequate support had not reached him. He passed round the lines to encourage his men, and assured them that if the British were once more driven back they could not be rallied again. His men cheered him as they replied, ‘We are ready for the redcoats again!’ But his worst apprehensions, as to ammunition, were realized, as the report was made to him that a few artillery cartridges constituted the whole stock of powder on hand. He ordered them to be opened, and the powder to be distributed. He charged his soldiers ‘not to waste a kernel of it, but to make certain that every shot should tell.’ He directed the few who had bayonets to be stationed at the points most likely to be scaled. These were the only preparations it was in his power to make to meet his powerful antagonist.

“General Howe, exasperated at the repeated repulses of his troops, resolved to make another assault. The British general had learned to respect his enemy, and adopted a wiser mode of attack. He ordered the men to lay aside their knapsacks, to move forward in column, to reserve their fire, to rely on the bayonet, to direct their main attack on the redoubt, and to push the artillery forward to a position that would enable it to rake the breastwork.

“When Colonel Prescott saw the new dispositions of his

antagonist, the artillery wheeling into its murderous position, and the columns withholding their fire, he well understood his intention to concentrate his whole force on the redoubt, and believed that it must inevitably be carried. He thought, however, that duty, honor, and the interest of the country required that it should be defended to the last extremity, although at a certain sacrifice of many lives. In this trying moment, he continued to give his orders coolly. Most of his men had remaining only one round of ammunition, and few more than three rounds, and he directed them to reserve their fire until the British were within twenty yards. At this distance a deadly volley was poured upon the advancing columns, which made them waver for an instant, but they sprang forward without returning it. The American fire soon slackened for want of means, while the British columns of Generals Clinton and Pigot reached a position on the southern and eastern sides of the redoubt, where they were protected by its walls. It was now attacked on three sides at once.

“Prescott ordered those who had no bayonets to retire to the back part of it, and fire on the enemy as they showed themselves on the parapet. A soldier of noble bearing mounted the southern side, and had barely shouted, ‘The day is ours!’ when he was shot down, and the whole front rank shared his fate. But the defenders had spent their ammunition, another cannon cartridge furnishing the powder for the last muskets that were fired; and its substitute, stones, revealed their weakness, and filled the enemy with hope. The redoubt was soon successfully scaled. General Pigot, by the aid of a tree, mounted a corner of it, and was closely followed by his men, when one side of it literally bristled with bayonets. The conflict was now carried on hand to hand. Many stood and received wounds with swords and bayonets. But the British continued to enter, and were advancing towards the Americans, when Colonel Prescott gave the order to retreat.

“The retiring troops passed between two divisions of the British, one of which had turned the northeastern end of the breastwork, and the other had come round the angle of the redoubt; but they were too much exhausted to use the bayonet effectually, and the combatants, for fifteen or twenty rods of the redoubt, were so mingled together that firing would have destroyed friend and foe. The British, with cheers, took possession of the works, but immediately formed, and delivered a destructive fire upon the retreating troops.

“In the meantime, the Americans at the rail fence, under Stark, Reed, and Knowlton,” having been reinforced, “maintained their ground with great firmness and intrepidity, and successfully resisted every attempt to turn their flank. This line was nobly defended. The force here did a great service, for it saved the main body, which was retreating in disorder from the redoubt, from being cut off by the enemy. When it was perceived at the rail fence that the force under Colonel Prescott had left the hill, these brave men ‘gave ground,’ but with more regularity than could have been expected of troops who had been for so short a time under discipline, and many of whom never before had seen an engagement.

“The British troops, about five o’clock, with a parade of triumph, took possession of the hill.” They had little cause for exultation, for they had lost in the short action 226 killed and 828 wounded, forming a total of 1054, while the Americans had suffered a loss of 115 killed, 305 wounded, and 30 captured, aggregating 450.

“The extraordinary news of the battle of Bunker Hill naturally created astonishment and alarm; and the day following—Sunday, the eighteenth of June—was characterized around Boston by exciting rumors, intense anxiety, and painful suspense. A circular of the Committee of Safety, stating that the British troops were moving into the country, and calling upon the militia to march forthwith to Cambridge, though soon countermanded, served to increase

the excitement. The militia promptly repaired to the camp. Thousands accompanied them to verify the grave reports, or to learn the fate of friends, or to aid in preventing further inroads of the enemy.

“In Boston, there was hardly less distress or less alarm. The remains of the gallant officers, the hundreds of as gallant privates, that were borne through the streets, together with the lamentations of the mourners, made up heart-rending scenes. They had a depressing effect upon all. It was in vain the soldiers called to mind their victory, if victory it could be called. The officers felt that it had been purchased at too dear a price, and there was an air of dejection in their looks. This dejection was also seen in the men. Bitter were the reflections that were cast on the policy that had cut down the flower of the troops.

“Charlestown presented the melancholy evidence of the complicated horrors of the battle-field. A few persons were allowed to visit it from Boston. The smoke of its dwelling-places still rose on the air; the dying and the dead still lay upon its hills.

“Besides the militia which poured into the American camp, General Ward was reinforced by regularly enlisted troops. . . . The Massachusetts regiments were soon filled up and commissioned. . . . ‘Our troops are in high spirits,’ one writes, ‘and their resolution increases; they long to speak with them [the British] again.’ ‘This battle has been of infinite service to us,’ another writes, it has ‘made us more vigilant, watchful, and cautious.’ ‘I wish we could sell them another hill at the same price,’ writes General Greene. ‘The enterprising genius and intrepidity of these people,’ writes a Virginian, of the New Englanders, ‘are amazing. They are intent on burning Boston, in order to oust the [British] regulars; and none are more eager for it than those who have escaped out and who have left their whole property in it.’ ”

The different positions occupied by the American troops

after the battle were at once protected by defensive works. A series of alarms, skirmishes, and cannonades followed, which kept the forces of the two armies alert and active. When General Washington, on the third of July, took command of the American army, "he found himself at the head of a body of armed men, rather than of regular ranks of soldiers,—of men grown rugged in the cause of labor, patriotic, true to the American cause, but with high notions of independence, and hence impatient of the necessary restraints of a life of war. Discipline was lax, offences were frequent, there was no general organization, and worse than all, hardly powder enough in the camp for nine cartridges to a man. Washington felt the difficulty of maintaining with such material a line of posts so exposed against an army of well-disciplined and well-supplied veterans. He was obliged to keep every part of his extended works well guarded, while the enemy could concentrate his force on any one point, and without an hour's notice could make a formidable attack. It was under such circumstances that he was obliged to remodel his army, and summon order to arise out of confusion.

"General Washington on the ninth of July called a council of war, consisting of the major-generals and brigadier-generals. They estimated the force of the British at eleven thousand five hundred, and that at least an army of twenty-two thousand was necessary to act successfully against it; whereas there were only seventeen thousand enrolled, including the sick and the absent, and only fourteen thousand five hundred fit for duty.

"The army was arranged in three grand divisions, each consisting of two brigades, or twelve regiments, in which the troops from the same colony, as far as practicable, were brought together.

"The right wing, stationed at Roxbury and its southern dependencies, under Major-General Ward, consisted of two brigades, as follows:

I.—BRIGADIER-GENERAL THOMAS.

<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
General Ward . . .	453	Mass.	Colonel Cotton . . .	500	Mass.
“ Thomas . . .	500	“	“ Davidson . . .	493	“
Colonel Fellows . .	434	“	“ D. Brewer . . .	374	“
“ Learned . . .	489	“			

2.—BRIGADIER-GENERAL SPENCER.

<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
General Spencer, } Colonel Parsons, } “ Huntington, }	2333	Conn.	Colonel Walker . . .	491	Mass.
		“	“ J. Read . . .	495	“
		“	Independents . . .	239	“

“The left wing was placed under the command of Major-General Lee, who had under him Brigadier-General Greene, stationed at Prospect Hill, and Brigadier-General John Sullivan at Winter Hill. These brigades were as follows:

I.—BRIGADIER-GENERAL SULLIVAN.

<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Colonel Stark, } “ Poor, } “ Reed, }	1664	N. Hamp.	Colonel Nixon, 412	Mass.	
		“	“ Mansfield . . .	470	“
		“	“ Doolittle . . .	333	“

2.—BRIGADIER-GENERAL GREENE.

<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Colonel Varnum } “ Hitchcock } “ Church . . . }	1085	R. Isl.	Colonel Whitcomb . .	523	Mass.
		“	“ Gardner . . .	417	“
		“	“ J. Brewer . . .	301	“
			“ Little	472	“

“The centre, stationed at Cambridge, was commanded by Major-General Putnam. These brigades were as follows:

I.—BRIGADIER-GENERAL HEATH.

<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>			
General Heath . . .	483	Mass.	Colonel Phinney . . .	319	Mass.		
Colonel Patterson,	409	“	“	Gerrish . . .	498	“	
“	Scamman,	456	“	“	Prescott . . .	430	“

2.—SENIOR OFFICER.

<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		<i>Regiments.</i>	<i>Total.</i>		
General Putnam . . .		Conn.	Colonel Bridge . . .	470	Mass.	
Colonel Glover . . .	454	Mass.	“	Woodbridge,	366	“
“	Frye	406	“	“	Sargent	“

“Of these regiments, General Heath’s was ordered to take post at No. 2, Colonel Patterson’s at No. 3, Colonel Scamman’s at No. 1 and the redoubts between that and No. 2, Colonel Prescott’s at Sewall’s Point, and Colonel Gerrish’s to furnish the companies for Chelsea, Malden, and Medford.

“The total of the above, as returned, without including Colonel Sargent’s regiment, which had not been completed, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and seventy. To this must be added the regiment of artillery, under Colonel Richard Gridley, of four hundred and eighty-nine men; and Major Train’s company of Rhode Island artillery, of ninety-six men.”

The features and regulations of the camp, as described by the Rev. William Emerson, were the following:

“There is great overturning in the camp, as to order and regularity. New lords, new laws. The generals, Washington and Lee, are upon the lines every day. New orders from his excellency are read to the respective regiments every morning after prayers. The strictest government is taking place, and great distinction is made between officers and soldiers. Every one is made to know his place, and keep in it, or be tied up and receive thirty or forty lashes, according to his crime.

“Thousands are at work every day from four to eleven o'clock in the morning. It is surprising how much work has been done. The lines are extended almost from Cambridge to Mystic River, so that very soon it will be morally impossible for the enemy to get between the works, except in one place, which is supposed to be left purposely unfortified to entice the enemy out of their fortresses.

“It is very diverting to walk among the camps. They are as different in their form as the owners are in their dress; and every tent is a portraiture of the temper and taste of the persons who encamp in it. Some are made of boards, and some of sail-cloth. Some partly of one and partly of the other. Again, others are made of stone and turf, brick or brush. Some are thrown up in a hurry, others curiously wrought with doors and windows, done with wreaths and withes, in the manner of a basket. Some are your proper tents and marquees, looking like the regular camp of the enemy. In these are the Rhode Islanders, who are furnished with tent-equipage, and everything in the most exact English style.”

“I have been much gratified this day,” remarks another observer, on the twentieth of July, “with a view of General Washington. His excellency was on horseback, in company with several military gentlemen. It was not difficult to distinguish him from all others; his personal appearance is truly noble and majestic, being tall and well-proportioned. His dress is a blue coat with buff-colored facings, a rich epaulette on each shoulder, buff underdress, and an elegant small sword; a black cockade in his hat.”

The siege of Boston was a task that greatly taxed the patience of the beleaguering army. “Washington was compelled by circumstances around him to pursue an inactive defensive policy. This together with the condition of his army, more especially as to enlistments, weighed heavily on his mind. The Connecticut and Rhode Island troops were engaged only until the first of December, 1775,

and those of Massachusetts only until the first of January, 1776, and he was desirous, before that time, by 'some decisive stroke' to drive the enemy from Boston, and thus to relieve the country from the expense of an army."

On the first day of the year 1776, King George's speech at the opening of the British Parliament was brought to the American camp. "It declared that the 'rebellious war' was 'manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire.' It announced that the spirit of the British nation was too high, and its resources were too numerous, to give up so many colonies, which it had planted with great industry, nursed with great tenderness, and protected with 'much expense of blood and treasure.' It had become the part of wisdom and clemency to put a speedy end to the disorders in America by the most decisive exertions. Hence the navy had been increased, the land forces had been augmented, and negotiations had been commenced for foreign aid."

That day the American army beheld for the first time the hoisting of the Union flag of thirteen stripes in compliment to the thirteen united colonies. The army was then "weaker than at any other time during the siege." Thousands of the troops belonging to the old regiments were returning home. "A large number had brought into the field their own fire-arms." Owing to the scarcity of muskets and rifles, "they were ordered to be prized by inspectors, paid for accordingly, and retained for service. Some of the soldiers, dissatisfied with the value affixed to their property, regarded this measure as unjust and tyrannical."

Washington, on the fourth of January, wrote: "Search the volumes of history through, and I much question whether a case similar to ours is to be found; namely, to maintain a post against the flower of the British troops for six months together, without powder, and then to have one army disbanded, and another to be raised, within the same distance of a reinforced army."

This dismal condition of affairs, however, was soon to be changed to one of bright prospects. On Sunday morning, March 17, 1776, the troops which the British had at Bunker Hill were seen leaving it, and, with the other forces in and about Boston, embarked before noon on the men-of-war and transports at anchor in the harbor, which then weighed anchor, broke sail, and stood seaward. Finding that General Howe had evacuated the city, General Putnam, by the order of General Washington, in the name of the thirteen American colonies, took possession of all the forts, defences, and stores left by the enemy.

“General Howe’s effective force, including seamen, was about eleven thousand men. More than a thousand refugees left Boston with the army, as follows:—members of the council, commissioners, custom-house officers, and other persons who had been in some official station, one hundred and two; clergy, eighteen; persons from the country, one hundred and five; merchants and other inhabitants of Boston, two hundred and thirteen; farmers, traders, and mechanics, three hundred and eighty-two; total, nine hundred and twenty-four. All these returned their names on their arrival at Halifax. About two hundred others did not return their names.”

Of the two hundred and fifty cannon left by the British, about one half of them were in a serviceable condition. During the investment of Boston by the American forces “less than thirty lives had been lost.”¹

General Washington, assuming that the city of New York would be the next point of the operations of the enemy’s main army, began sending there, on the eighteenth

¹ *History of the United States.* By George Bancroft. Boston, 1858. Vol. vii., pp. 314, 317, 318, 320, 321, 362, 363.—*History of the Siege of Boston, and of the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill.* By Richard Frothingham. Fourth edition. Boston, 1873. Pp. 115, 116, 117, 118, 131, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 183, 192, 193, 194, 207, 208, 209, 210, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 244, 283, 284, 285, 311.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War.* Boston, 1899. Pp. 224, 226, 227, 229, 231.—*Rolls of the Soldiers* [of the State of New Hamp-

of March, 1776, a part of his forces, and the rest followed on the fourth of April, with the exception of five regiments which were left at Boston, under the command of General Ward, to garrison its defences. On the second of July, General Howe's army from Halifax, on one hundred and twenty-seven transports and men-of-war arrived in the roadstead at Sandy Hook, and on the fifth landed on Staten Island. Generals Clinton and Cornwallis with their commands reached there on the first of August. On the twenty-sixth of that month, the American troops in and around New York, including the sick and those without arms, numbered twenty-seven thousand. The rank and file of the British army in the vicinity of the city, as reported by General Howe on the following day, aggregated twenty-six thousand two hundred and forty-seven men, exclusive of a battalion of Royalists.

“Of the batteries by which New York was protected, the most important was the old Fort George on the south point of the island; a barrier crossed Broadway near the Bowling Green; a redoubt was planted near the river, west of Trinity Church; another, that took the name of Bunker Hill, near the site of the present [1866] Centre Market. Earthworks were thrown up here and there along the East and Hudson rivers within the settled parts of the town, and at the northern end of the island, on hills overlooking King's Bridge.

“The American lines in Brooklyn, including angles, and four redoubts which mounted twenty large and small cannon, ran for a mile and a half from Wallabout Bay to the marsh of Gowanus Creek cove; the counterscarp and parapet were fraised with sharpened stakes. A fortress of seven guns crowned Brooklyn Heights. The entrance into

shire] *in the Revolutionary War, 1775, to May, 1777.* Vol. i. of *War Rolls*, vol. xv. of the series. Compiled and edited by Isaac W. Hammond. Concord, 1885. Pp. 210, 214, 217, 219-221.—*The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783.* Edited by Henry P. Johnston. Hartford, 1889. P. 47.

the East River was guarded by a battery of five guns at Red-Hoek."

The twenty thousand and more British troops which came into conflict on Long Island, on the site of Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, with eight thousand American volunteers and militia, on the twenty-seventh of August, 1777, and succeeded in making the latter retreat with a loss of less than a thousand officers and men, of whom three fourths were prisoners, sustained a loss of "five officers killed and twenty-one wounded and missing; fifty-eight non-commissioned officers and men killed, and three hundred and sixteen wounded and missing."

On Sunday, the fifteenth of September, the advance troops of the British force entered the city of New York, which was at once occupied by Sir William Howe, and the British flag hoisted over the walls of old Fort George.

"For nearly four weeks Washington and the main body of his army remained on the heights of Harlem. There existed no highway from the south, except the narrow one," which, near the site of One Hundred and Forty-fourth Street, then wound up Breakneck Hill. "The approach from that quarter was guarded by three parallel lines, of which the first and weakest ran from about the site of One Hundred and Forty-eighth Street on the east to the site of One Hundred and Forty-fifth on the west; the second was in the rear, at the distance of two fifths of a mile; the third, one quarter of a mile still farther to the north; so that they could be protected, one from another, by musketry as well as cannon. A little farther than the third parallel, the house which Washington occupied stood on the high ground overlooking the plains, the hills above Macgowan's Pass, the distant city, and its islands."

North of the headquarters of the commander-in-chief was seen the steep rise of ground known as Mount Washington, the summit of which was "crowned by a five-sided earthwork called Fort Washington, mounting

thirty-four cannon, but without casemates, or strong outposts."

Washington, seeing that Howe contemplated getting north of his position in order to secure the surrender of the American army on Manhattan Island, "began the evacuation of New York island by sending a brigade before nightfall, on the eleventh of October, four miles beyond King's Bridge, and detached a corps to White Plains, to which place he ordered his stores in Connecticut to be transferred."

"In the march to White Plains, the Americans had the advantage of the shortest distance, the greatest number of efficient troops, and the strongest ground."

On the twentieth of October, the British army moved northward and encamped at Scarsdale, its right wing being within four miles of White Plains. On the twenty-eighth the two armies confronted each other. In the action at White Plains on that day, the Americans sustained a loss "in killed and wounded that was less than one hundred while that of the English and Hessians was at least two hundred and twenty-nine."

The British attacked Fort Washington on the sixteenth of November, and before nightfall compelled its outnumbered defenders to capitulate. The royal army's loss was about five hundred in killed and wounded, and that of the American not more than one hundred and fifty. The surrender of the fort gave to the British the valuable artillery used in its defence and about two thousand six hundred men that garrisoned it.

Fort Lee was abandoned, where two officers, a quartermaster, three surgeons, and ninety-nine privates were taken prisoners by the British.

Washington retreated into New Jersey, moving southward from Newark to New Brunswick, thence to Princeton, and then to Trenton, where he arrived on the third of December. Lord Cornwallis followed and reached Trenton

just as the rear guard of the American army had crossed the Delaware River on the eighth of December. The surprise of the Hessians at Trenton, on the twenty-sixth, by Washington, caused them a loss, in the short action of thirty-five minutes, of ninety-five killed and wounded, and of prisoners, nine hundred and forty-six, thirty of whom were officers. The American casualties were two killed and three wounded. Twelve hundred stand of small arms, six brass field-pieces, four sets of colors, twelve drums, many blankets, and garrison stores were among the trophies gained by the notable strategy of Washington.

“Until that hour, the life of the United States flickered like a dying flame,” for up to that time the United States Congress had left on its journals the suggestion that a reunion with Great Britain might be possible. However, before the victory at Trenton was known, it voted to “assure foreign courts that the Congress and people of America are determined to maintain their independence at all events.”

On the thirtieth of December, 1776, the term of the enlistment of the men of the New England regiments came to an end, but they were induced to remain in the field six weeks longer. The garrison at Ticonderoga, which in November consisted of about twenty-five hundred men, was also to be lessened, on the fifth of January, 1777, by the expiration of the time of many of the men there.

During the campaign of 1776, fifteen members of the Edson family and three of their African servants were in the field: Hosea, the fourth son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, on the first of February began serving as a bombardier in Captain William Todd's company in Colonel Thomas Craft's artillery regiment, and continued in that position until the eighth of May, covering a period of three months and seven days. Daniel, the third son of Abel and Margaret (Conant) Edson, as a corporal in Captain Simeon Leach's company in Colonel Benjamin Gill's regiment, marched with the company on the fourth of March from

Stoughton to fortify Dorchester Heights, which kept him in service five days.

David, the fourth son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, as a private in Captain Nathan Packard's company in Colonel Edward Mitchell's regiment, who marched, on the fourth of March, with the company on an alarm at Squantum, served five days; he, with his son David, was credited with ten days' service three. Barnabas, the third son of James and Esther (Allen) Edson, was also a private in the same company and also served with it on the same alarm; as also did Jacob, the eldest son of Benjamin and Ann (Thayer) Edson, as a drummer.

Daniel, the third son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, and Polycarpus, the fourth son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson, as privates in Captain Abram Washburn's company, in Colonel Edward Mitchell's regiment, marched on the fourth of March, from Bridgewater to Horse Neck in the town of Braintree, and served five days. John, the eldest son of Joseph and Abigail (Forrest) Edson, enlisted as a private in Captain Isaac Thayer's company, in Colonel Thomas Marshall's regiment, on the tenth of July, and served twenty-one days.

Among the Massachusetts regiments in the field in and about the city of New York, in August, was the Plymouth and Barnstable regiment, commanded by Colonel Simeon Cary. In it was Captain James Allen's company, in which as privates were James, the sixth son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, who enlisted on the twenty-fifth of May, and served until the first of December, 1776; David, their fourth son, who served five months at New York, fifteen days on the Bedford alarm, and three months at North Kingston; Calvin, the second son of Dr. Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson; and John, the eldest son of John and Hannah (Allen) Edson; the four being in camp, near New York, on the ninth of August.

In Captain John Couch's company, in Colonel Philip

Burr Bradley's Connecticut regiment, was Terance Edson, who enlisted on the sixteenth of August, and served until he was discharged on the twenty-ninth of December. The regiment was stationed the greater part of the summer and early fall at Bergen Heights and Paulus Hook. In October it moved up the Hudson River to the vicinity of Fort Lee. In November most of the regiment was sent across the river to assist in defending Fort Washington, which was taken by the British on the sixteenth of November. He appears to have escaped capture, for his name is not on the list of prisoners.

Polycarpus, the fourth son of Abiezer and Mary D. (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the twentieth of September, and served as a private fifty-nine and one half days, in Captain Abram Washburn's company, in Colonel John Cushing's regiment; the company being stationed at Newport, R. I.

Of those who marched to Rhode Island, on the alarm of the eighth of December, were: John, the eldest son of John and Hannah (Allen) Edson, a corporal in Captain Nathan Alden's company, commanded by Lieutenant John Whitman, in Colonel Edward Mitchell's regiment, serving sixteen days in the field; Benjamin, their second son, a private, in Captain Josiah Packard's company, in the same regiment; Barnabas, the third son of James and Esther (Allen) Edson, a private in the same company; and Ebenezer the eighth son of Benjamin and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, also a private in the same company; each of whom was in the field sixteen days. The last-named patriot is also credited with twenty-two days' service on the British alarm in 1776. Joseph, the eldest son of Jesse and Lydia Titus (Packard) Edson, a corporal in Captain Elisha Barney's company, in Colonel George Williams' third Bristol County regiment, which marched to Warren by the way of Rehoboth, on the alarm in Rhode Island, on the eighth of December, was in the field five days on that occasion.

James, the sixth son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, on his discharge on the first of December from service in Captain Josiah Smith's company, enlisted, on the twenty-fifth of that month, in Captain Daniel Cadwell's company, in Colonel Timothy Robinson's Hampshire County regiment, and served at Ticonderoga until discharged on the second of April, 1777.

Gad Edson served also in the campaign of 1776, being a private in Captain Abiel Peirce's company, in Colonel Nicholas Dike's regiment. His service was credited to the town of Bridgewater, as was that of Radieba Edson, a private in the same company.¹

¹ *History of the United States*. By George Bancroft. Boston, 1860. Vol. viii., pp. 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196; vol. ix., Boston, 1866, pp. 81, 82, 85, 90, 95, 157, 158, 165, 166, 175, 177, 180, 182, 193, 235, 237, 240.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Boston, 1899. Pp. 153, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 388.—*The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783*. Edited by Henry P. Johnston. Hartford, 1889. P. 419.

Chapter X

Edsons in the Revolutionary War

1777-1783

WHATEVER may have been regarded by the British ministry as evidence of success in subduing the rebellious people of the American colonies, there was certainly no satisfying proof at the beginning of the year 1777 of the actual re-establishment of the authority of the British Crown in any of the disaffected provinces. Nor were there any great spaces of territory within the bounds of the revolting colonies occupied at that time by the troops of Great Britain. As pertinently said by Bancroft: "New England except Rhode Island, all central, northern, and western New York except Fort Niagara, all the country from the Delaware River to Florida, were then free from the invaders, who had acquired only the islands that touched New York harbor, and a few adjacent outposts, of which Brunswick [in New Jersey] and the hills round King's Bridge were the most remote."

The troops under the immediate command of Washington, in the spring of 1777, at Morristown, about eight thousand fit for duty, were organized in five divisions of two brigades each, and included forty-three regiments from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The New York and New England regiments were mainly at stations near Peekskill on the Hudson, and several at Ticonderoga.

In his *Military Journal*, under the heading of "June,

1777," Doctor James Thacher writes: "Congress has appointed Major-General Philip Schuyler to command in the northern department, including Albany, Ticonderoga, Fort Stanwix, and their dependencies, and Major-General Arthur St. Clair has the immediate command of the posts of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. It is also understood that the British government has appointed Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne commander-in-chief of its army in Canada, consisting, it is said, of eight or ten thousand men. According to authentic reports, the plan of the British government for the present campaign is, that General Burgoyne's army shall take possession of Ticonderoga and force its way through the country to Albany, and to facilitate this event, Colonel Barry St. Leger is to march with a party of British, Germans, Canadians, and Indians to the Mohawk River, and make a diversion in that quarter [on Fort Stanwix]. The royal army at New York, under command of General Howe, is to pass up the Hudson River, and, calculating on success in all quarters, the three armies are to form a junction at Albany. There, probably, the three commanders are to congratulate one another on their mighty achievements, and the flattering prospect of crushing the rebellion. This being accomplished, the communication between the Southern and Eastern States will be interrupted, and New England, as they suppose, may become an easy prey. Judging from the foregoing detail, a very active campaign is to be expected, and events of the greatest magnitude are undoubtedly to be unfolded. The utmost exertions are now making to strengthen our works at Ticonderoga, and if possible, to render the post invulnerable. Mount Independence, directly opposite to Ticonderoga, is strongly fortified and well supplied with artillery."

Writing, on the second of July, at Ticonderoga, where he had charge of the garrison hospital, the observant diarist remarks: "The British army is now approaching; some of their savage allies have been seen in the vicinity of our out-

works, which, with the blockhouse beyond the old French lines, have this day been abandoned. . . . There seems to be a diversity of opinion whether General Burgoyne intends to besiege our garrison, or to attempt to possess himself of it by assault on our lines. . . . At about twelve o'clock, in the night of the fifth instant, I was urgently called from sleep, and informed that our army was in motion, and was instantly to abandon Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. It was enjoined on me immediately to collect the sick and wounded, and as much of the hospital stores as possible, and assist in embarking them on board the bateaux and boats at the shore. Having with all possible dispatch completed our embarkation, at three o'clock in the morning of the sixth, we commenced our voyage up the South Bay to Skeensborough, about thirty miles. At three o'clock in the afternoon we reached our destined port at Skeensborough."

There, two hours later, they were surprised by a number of British troops and savages, and forced to beat a retreat to Fort Ann, "a small picket fort of no importance." Having had orders to set it on fire, the retreating party departed on the eighth for Fort Edward, on the banks of the Hudson River, thirty miles southward.

"General St. Clair, with his main army from Ticonderoga, took a circuitous route through the woods to Hubbardtown, and Charlestown, in the New Hampshire grants, and being pursued by a strong detachment from Burgoyne's army, his rear guard" "was overtaken, and on the seventh instant a very close and severe engagement took place." "On the twelfth, General St. Clair arrived at Fort Edward with the remains of his army, greatly distressed and worn down by fatigue. General Schuyler is commander at this post; he has a small army of Continentals and militia, and is making every possible exertion, by taking up bridges, throwing obstructions in the roads and passes, by fallen trees, etc., to impede the march of Burgoyne's army towards Albany."

Under the date of the eighth of August, he writes: "We have just been apprized, by express from the Mohawk country, that Colonel St. Leger, and Sir John Johnson, with a body of Britons, Canadians, Tories, and Indians, had invested Fort Schuyler [Fort Stanwix], one hundred and ten miles from Albany." Hearing that a large force of American troops was on its way to relieve the small garrison there, the Indian allies deserted St. Leger, who, deeming himself too weak to encounter it, "decamped in the greatest hurry and confusion, leaving his tents with most of his artillery and stores in the field."

Under the date of the thirtieth of August, the well-informed surgeon again writes: "Our army under General Schuyler, has left its unimportant station at Fort Edward, and having made a stand for a few days at Saratoga, fell back to Stillwater, twenty-five miles above Albany, where it has taken its station, and is daily receiving reinforcements of militia and some Continental troops." "Being informed that a large quantity of stores, corn, cattle, etc., were deposited at Bennington, in the New Hampshire grants, General Burgoyne planned an expedition for the purpose of possessing himself of this treasure. He dispatched Colonel Baum, a German officer, with a party of five hundred Hessians and Tories, and one hundred Indians, with two field-pieces. . . . It was a providential circumstance, that General Stark was at or near Bennington, with about eight hundred New England militia." On the sixteenth of August, General Stark, aided by Colonel Seth Warner's regiment, attacked the British force, and with such success that the German troops, although reinforced, were routed, and suffered a loss of nine hundred and thirty-four in killed, wounded, and prisoners; "one thousand stand of arms, four brass field-pieces, two hundred and fifty dragoon swords, eight loads of baggage, and twenty horses."

"Major-General Horatio Gates has succeeded General Schuyler as commander-in-chief of the northern depart-

ment, and has passed through this city [Albany] on his way to Stillwater."

On the sixth of October, he writes: "An express passed through this city, on his way to General Gates' headquarters, with the information, that a detachment of troops from New York, supposed to be about four thousand, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton and Major-General John Vaughan, have undertaken an expedition up the North River. Their object undoubtedly is, to possess themselves of Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton, in the Highlands, and to make a diversion in favor of Burgoyne. General Putnam was stationed at Peekskill with a small force, but, being totally unable to cope with the enemy, has retired to some distance."

Under the date of the eighth of October, he observes: "The anticipated important intelligence has just reached us that a most severe engagement took place yesterday between the two armies, at a place between Stillwater and Saratoga, called Bemis' Heights."

On the fourteenth, he details the particulars of the British movement up the Hudson River: "We have now a confirmation of the intelligence that Sir Henry Clinton and General Vaughan have pushed up the North River, and made a successful attack on our forts at the Highlands. Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton are near each other, on the western bank of the Hudson. They have been considered of great importance as defensive posts against the passage of the enemy up the river. In addition to these forts, a strong boom, and an iron chain of immense size, were stretched across the river, and a frigate and two galleys were stationed among them. By these means it was always supposed that the position was invulnerable, provided a proper number of troops were posted in the forts; but it unfortunately happened that most of the continental troops were necessarily called off to join General Gates' army. The enemy came up the river, landed, and appeared un-

expectedly, and demanded a surrender of the forts, which, being resolutely refused, were taken by assault, though not without a firm and brave resistance. General Putnam, who commanded at Peekskill in the vicinity, having a small force only to guard the deposit of stores, was obliged to retire, and the barracks, stores, and provisions, to a very considerable amount, fell into the hands of the enemy and were destroyed."

"It is the prevalent opinion here [in Albany], that by taking advantage of wind and tide, it is in the power of Sir Henry Clinton to convey his forces to this city within the space of five or six hours, and, having arrived here, a march of about twenty miles will carry him without opposition to Stillwater, which would involve General Gates in inexpressible embarrassment and difficulty, by placing him between two armies, and thereby extricating Burgoyne from his perilous situation."

"We have the most flattering accounts from camp. Our army is now posted within musket-shot of the enemy at Saratoga [Schuylerville], and is forming a circle round them."

Under the date of the fourteenth of October, Doctor Thacher tells of the arrival of a courier from the camp at Schuylerville, with the intelligence: "Burgoyne has this day made proposals to General Gates to enter into a treaty for the surrender of his army. He desires a cessation of arms till the preliminary terms can be settled, to which General Gates has assented."

On the morning of the seventeenth of October the American troops "marched into the lines of the British to the tune of *Yankee Doodle*, where they continued till the royal army had marched to the place" where their arms and artillery were to be left, and there relinquished them.

"The trophies which we have achieved by this great event, are, officers and soldiers, five thousand seven hundred and ninety-one. It has been estimated that Burgoyne's

army, at the commencement of the campaign, was full the thousand strong; the deficiency now must be accounted for by the killed, loss by sickness, prisoners, and deserters. The train of brass artillery and other ordnance is immensely valuable, consisting of forty-two pieces of brass ordnance, besides seven thousand muskets, with six thousand dozen cartridges and an ample supply of shot, shells, etc. To these are added, clothing for seven thousand men, a large number of tents, and other military stores."

This surprising result was attributed to the patriotism, courage, and hardihood of the American troops. "So many of the rank and file," as said by Bancroft, "were freeholders or freeholders' sons, that they gave a character to the whole army. The negroes, of whom there were many in every regiment, served in the same companies with them, shared their mess, and partook of their spirit. In the want of a commander of superior ability, next to the generous care of Washington in detaching for the support of that quarter troops destined against Howe, victory was due to the enthusiasm of the soldiers."

The occupation of the island of Rhode Island by British forces, begun early in the month of December, 1776, made that State for nearly three years the scene of frequent engagements, surprises, and alarms, where the enemy and the American troops, Continental as well as New England militia, sustained losses, at different times, of considerable magnitude, without any decisive results. The first disembarkation of the enemy's troops, about three thousand in number, under Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, took place on the eighth of December, and on the following day Newport became one of the principal seats of the quarters of the British during the winter. The islands Conanicut and Rhode Island being in the possession of the enemy, the Rhode Island regiment commanded by Colonel John Cook took post at Tiverton, and the troops under Brigadier-General William West at Bristol. "From Massachusetts,

the Bristol and Plymouth County brigades under General George Godfrey and General Joseph Cushing, with three regiments and a train of artillery from Worcester and Boston, were dispatched by the legislature; and from Connecticut three regiments and five companies, with a small body of cavalry, were sent by Governor Jonathan Trumbull. These were quartered at all the defensible points on each side of the bay. The State and islands were two great and hostile camps."

In March, 1777, a project to attack the British on the island bearing the name of Rhode Island was formed; "the militia was called out to serve till the twentieth, and volunteers in the neighboring towns of Massachusetts were called upon, to meet at Tiverton, on the twelfth of the month. Large rewards were offered for prisoners taken from the enemy. But the States were deficient in the quotas assigned to them," and "the attempt was, therefore, reluctantly deferred."

The United States Congress in April "recommended to the State of Rhode Island to make another attempt to dislodge the enemy, but some months passed before the effort could be renewed."

Major-General Richard Prescott, the British commander of the enemy's forces on Rhode Island, was, at the beginning of July, "quartered with an aide-de-camp, at a house in Portsmouth, on the west road, about five miles from Newport. Lieutenant-Colonel William Barton, commanding the First Rhode Island Regiment, was stationed at Tiverton. Selecting six trusty officers and thirty-four men, the party rowed to Bristol, in five whale-boats, on the fourth of July, and thence, on the night of the sixth, to Warwick Neck, where a storm detained them for two days. On the third night afterward, they again embarked. With exacted silence the boats were pulled between Prudence and Patience Islands, and on landing on the Portsmouth shore, about a mile from their destination, the party marched in

five divisions to the house. The sentinel on guard was secured by stratagem, one division watched the road, while three others entered at the different doors. The general was taken in bed, his aide-de-camp leaped from a window but was captured, and the whole party with the prisoners silently returned to the boats. They passed the ships before any alarm was given, and at daylight reached Warwick Neck. The whole affair occupied six and a half hours. General Prescott and his aide were carried in a coach to Providence, and four days later, for greater safety, were sent, on parole, to Connecticut to be placed in charge of Governor Trumbull. Congress voted a sword to Colonel Barton for this gallant act."

In September another project was "planned to drive the enemy from Rhode Island. Massachusetts had resolved to send three thousand troops and artillery in addition to her two regiments then in Rhode Island." In October, "the forces gathered for the attack on Rhode Island amounted to about nine thousand men. A large number of boats were collected at Tiverton under charge of Major Nathan Munro, but on the night of the sixteenth, fixed for the attack, some preparations remained incomplete. A storm delayed the attempt for three days, when it was renewed, but the wind proving unfavorable and some of the boats being seen and fired upon by the enemy, the attempt was again postponed four days, and the place of attack was changed to a point farther north, above Fogland Ferry. Again the weather proved unfavorable. These delays disaffected the troops, and many withdrew. Scarcely five thousand could be mustered on the last night assigned for the embarkation. A council of officers decided that it was inexpedient to make the attempt, and the expedition was abandoned."

The British troops under Lieutenant-General Charles Cornwallis having occupied Philadelphia on the twenty-seventh of September, the United States Congress there-

upon ordered Major-General Israel Putnam, who was inconsequently attempting to dislodge the British from their outposts on the Hudson, near New York, to send fifteen hundred Continental line troops to reinforce Washington's army, and cautioning him so to use the militia under his command "that the posts in the Highlands might be perfectly safe."

Sir William Howe, assuming that the American troops encamped at White Marsh, about fourteen miles from Philadelphia, might be successfully attacked, moved there on the cold night of the fourth of December, with a force of fourteen thousand men. On the following day a sharp skirmish ensued between the two confronting forces. On the seventh, a body of British troops, led by Major-General Grey, became engaged at Edge Hill in a sharp action with Brigadier-General Daniel Morgan's corps, then recently arrived from the department of the North, and the Maryland militia, under Colonel Mordecai Gist, in which the enemy lost eighty-nine in killed and wounded, and the Americans twenty-seven. On the eighth, General Howe returned with his force to Philadelphia.

On the nineteenth of December, Washington's army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, on the Schuylkill River, twenty-one miles southwest of Philadelphia. "As the men moved towards the spot selected for their winter resting-place, they had not clothes to cover their nakedness, nor blankets to lie on, nor tents to sleep under. For the want of shoes their marches through frost and snow might be traced by the blood from their feet, and they were almost as often without provisions as with them. Washington's unsleeping vigilance and thorough system for receiving intelligence secured them against surprise; love of country and attachment to their general sustained them under their unparalleled hardships; with any other leader the army would have dissolved and vanished."

During the campaign of 1777, twenty members of the Edson Family were in the field. James, the sixth son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, in Captain John Russell's company in Colonel Gamaliel Bradford's Fourteenth Massachusetts Continental Line Regiment, enlisted on the sixteenth of January, 1777, and served until the twenty-first of March. The company marched from Boston to Bennington. Nathan, the second son of Abijah and Susanna (Snow), and Joseph, enlisted on the twenty-fifth of January, for three years; Josiah, the fifth son of Timothy and Lydia (Joy) Edson, enlisted on the twenty-sixth of January, for three years; and Benjamin, the second son of Seth and Irene (Howard) Edson, enlisted on the twenty-first of April, for eight months. These four resided in the town of Stafford, Connecticut, and were in Captain Amos Walbridge's company in the Second Connecticut Line Regiment. Assembled at Danbury in April, the company was first stationed at Peekskill, served during the summer and fall along the Hudson under Major-General Putnam; ordered on the fourteenth of November to join the army under Washington; on the eighth of December engaged in the action at White Marsh, Pennsylvania, and wintered at Valley Forge. Joseph Edson died on the second of October, 1777. Benjamin Edson received his discharge on the first of January, 1778. Abijah, the eldest son of Abijah and Susanna (Snow) Edson, served from the fifth of March, 1777, to the fifteenth of April, in Captain Hugh Maxwell's company in Colonel John Bailey's Second Massachusetts Line Regiment. The company wintered at Valley Forge, where Abijah Edson was reported as having died on the fifteenth of April, 1778. Ebenezer, the second son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson, served in Captain Benjamin Frothingham's company in Colonel John Crane's regiment of Continental artillery from the ninth of April, 1777, to the thirty-first of December, 1779. Ichabod, the seventh son of Benjamin and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, is credited with service in the

tenth company of a Plymouth County regiment, at Roxbury, eight months; at New York, twelve months; and with Minute-men, one month, in April, 1777. Nathan, the eldest son of Nathan and Mary (Sprague) Edson, as a sergeant in Captain Edward Cobb's company in Colonel Jonathan Titcomb's regiment, marched on the twenty-first of April, 1777, and served two months at Bristol, Rhode Island; also enlisted on the ninth of July, and served five months and twenty-two days, in Rhode Island, in Captain Edward Cole's company in Colonel Thomas Robinson's regiment. Thomas, the eldest son of Obed and Martha (Thomas) Edson, served as a sergeant in Captain Israel Trow's company, in Colonel Josiah Whitney's Bristol County regiment in Rhode Island, from the fourteenth of May to the sixth of July. Jonas, the second son of Samuel and Martha (Perkins) Edson, served five days in Captain John Cole's company in Colonel Samuel Ashley's New Hampshire regiment, from the twenty-eighth of June to the third of July. Peter, the third son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the sixth of July, in Captain Joseph Cole's company in Colonel Timothy Robinson's regiment, and served in Rhode Island, until the first of January, 1778. Jonathan, the second son of Jonathan and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson, enlisted on the ninth of July, in Captain Seth Murray's company in Major Jonathan Clap's regiment, and served one month and ten days, the company being on the expedition to Fort Edward and Moses' Creek. Nathan, the eldest son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the twenty-third of July and served four days on an alarm in Rhode Island, in Captain John Crawford's company in Colonel James Converse's regiment. He enlisted on the seventh of September, in Captain John Crawford's company in Colonel Job Cushing's regiment, and served in it until the twenty-ninth of November. Cushman, the eldest son of Abijah and Hannah (Ruggles) Edson, enlisted on the twenty-seventh of July in Captain Edmund Hedges' company in Colonel Job Cushing's regi-

ment, and was in the field at the northward one month and seven days. He enlisted on the seventh of September, in Captain Ebenezer Newell's company in Colonel Danforth Keyes' regiment, for service in Rhode Island, in which he served until the fourth of January, 1778. Abiezer, the eldest son of Abiezer and Jael (Bennett) Edson, enlisted on the seventeenth of August, in Captain David Cowden's company, which marched with the Fourth Hampshire County regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge, on the alarm at Bennington, being in the field six days. John, the eldest son of John and Hannah (Allen) Edson, and Seth the second son of William and Martha (Howard) Edson, enlisted on the twenty-fifth of September in Captain Joseph Keith's company in Colonel Theophilus Cotton's Plymouth County regiment; as also Abiel, the eldest son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson, in Captain Job Peirce's company in the same regiment, and marched on a secret expedition to Rhode Island; the two first-named serving thirty-five days, and the last, twenty-five. Caleb, the fifth son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, served from the twenty-eighth of September to the thirty-first of October, as a musician in Captain Thomas Newcomb's company in the same regiment, and marched on the same secret expedition to Rhode Island.

Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Mary (Dean) Edson, having imprudently expressed his adverse convictions regarding the action of those of his relations who had taken up arms in support of their political rights, and vindictively declared his opposition to the war, in the spring of 1777, after having brought upon himself not only the condemnation of most of his friends and acquaintances in the town of Bridgewater, but the disapprobation of his patriotic kinsmen, was arrested and convicted of being hostile to the interests of his countrymen. He was then sixty-three years old.

“Massachusetts State,
Plymouth, ss. } “To SIMEON LEONARD,
Bridgewater. } Constable of the Town of Bridge-
water.

“Whereas Samuel Edson of Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth, stands Convicted before a Court of Special Sessions of the Peace held at said Bridgewater on the 20th Day of June Instant of Being inimically disposed towards This, and the other United States of America; that his further Residence in this State is Dangerous to the Public Peace & Safety: You are Therefore Commanded in the Name of the Government and People of said State Forthwith to take the said Samuel Edson into your Custody and him Safely Convey to the Honorable Board of War of the State of Massachusetts Bay (now sitting in the Town of Boston) to be by them Transported off the Continent of America. For the Doing of which this shall be your Sufficient Warrant.

“Given under our Hands & Seal at Bridgewater this 20th of June, 1777.

“DANIEL JOHNSON,
“BENJ^N WILLIS, JUN^R } Justices of the Peace of
the County of Plym^o
Quorum un ms.

His brother John was likewise sentenced. He was then forty-eight years of age, and is described as “a man of more than ordinary talent, amiable in his disposition, of affable manners, and withal a pious and exemplary christian and attached to the Church of England.” On reaching Boston, he and his brother Samuel “were placed on board of a guardship for safe-keeping.” Confinement there seriously affected the health of John, as is disclosed by the following certificate:

“These may Certify that I have examined into the State of Health of Mr. John Edson, and find him an unfit subject for Confinement on board the Guard Ship.

“THOS. BULFINCH, M.D.

“Boston, August 15, 1777.”

He was shortly thereafter "removed to the dwelling-house of a Mr. Pierpont, where he was kindly treated, being permitted to walk upon the roof of the house, and occasionally to visit the family. There, in the latter part of 1777, he took the smallpox, with which he died."

On the seventh of November, 1777, Samuel Edson gave a bond, with Robert Pierpont, and Joseph Dobel, mariner, both of Boston, of one thousand pounds, to the Honorable Board of War of the State of Massachusetts Bay, to "keep within the limits of the said town of Bridgewater and not depart therefrom, and to be of a peaceable and good behaviour towards the inhabitants of this and the other United States of America, pay charges and be forthcoming to the said Board of War in three months from the day of the date hereof or sooner if they shall require it, then the above obligations to be void and of none effect, but in default thereof to abide and remain in full force and virtue."

Samuel Edson, it appears, faithfully conformed to these requirements, and continued residing with his family in the town of Bridgewater until his death, on the twenty-fifth of February, 1801.¹

On the sixth of February, 1778, the United States of

¹ *History of the United States.* By George Bancroft. Boston, 1866. Vol. ix., pp. 254, 400, 421, 453, 454, 458, 459.—*A Military Journal during the American Revolutionary War.* By James Thacher, M.D. Boston, 1823. Pp. 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 120, 121, 125, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131.—*History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.* By Samuel Greene Arnold. New York, 1860. Vol. ii., pp. 388, 389, 390, 398, 402, 403, 406, 407, 408.—*Battles of the American Revolution.* By Henry B. Carrington. New York, 1876. Pp. 384, 397.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War.* Boston, 1899. Pp. 153, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231.—*The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution.* Edited by Henry P. Johnston. Hartford, 1880. Pp. 31, 47, 159, 161, 587, 639, 642.—*Rolls of the Soldiers [of the State of New Hampshire] in the Revolutionary War.* Compiled and edited by Isaac W. Hammond. Concord, 1885. Vol. iii. of *War Rolls*; vol. xvi. of the series. P. 607.—*Revolutionary Royalists, 1775-1784.* Massachusetts Archives, vol. i., pp. 131, 147, 201.—*A Genealogical Account of the Edsons, Early Settled in Bridgewater, with Appendices.* Lowell, 1864. Pp. 29, 30.

America and Louis the Sixteenth, King of France, entered into a treaty of amity and commerce, by which "the absolute and unlimited independence of the United States" was recognized as "the essential end" of the defensive stipulations of the alliance, "and the two parties mutually engaged not to lay down their arms until it should be assured by the treaties terminating the war. The United States guaranteed to France the possessions then held by France in America, as well as those which it might acquire by a future treaty of peace; and in like manner the King of France guaranteed to the United States their present possessions, and their acquisitions during the war from the dominions of Great Britain in North America."

The only important northern seats of British occupation at the end of June, 1778, were those of the city of New York, Staten Island, and Newport. After the battle of Monmouth on the twenty-eighth of the month, General Washington moved with his army to New Brunswick, from which place he circumspectly advanced northward to the Hudson, crossed it, and established his headquarters, on the twenty-second of July, at White Plains.

Major-General John Sullivan, having been invested with the command of the American troops in Rhode Island by General Washington, reached Providence on the seventeenth of April. On the arrival off Newport, on the twenty-ninth of July, of the French fleet, consisting of twelve ships-of-the-line and four frigates, commanded by Lieutenant-General Count Charles Hector D'Estaing, "the British garrison on Conanicut Island withdrew to Newport, and the enemy's ships sought refuge in the harbor."

"Washington then directed Major-General Sullivan to call in the New England militia for a combined movement against Newport and its defences, assigned Major-General Nathaniel Greene and the Marquis de La Fayette to command divisions, and ordered the brigades of Brigadier-Generals James Mitchell Varnum and John Glover to join

La Fayette's division. The American force which assembled at Providence was about ten thousand men." The British garrison under Major-General Pigot comprised about six thousand troops. On the fifth of August, two French ships entered the Narragansett passage, and two frigates passed in through the eastern, or Seaconnet, channel. The British frigates, which had secured the garrison from attack up to that time, were destroyed to prevent their capture."

"Volunteers began to pour in from the neighboring States, and Major-General Sullivan proceeded to the camp at Tiverton on the seventh to take command. D'Estaing, with twelve ships-of-the-line, under a heavy cannonade from the British batteries, entered the harbor of Newport on the eighth to co-operate with the American army. The British then destroyed their two remaining ships. The next morning Major-General Sullivan, with about ten thousand troops, began to cross from Tiverton to the north end of Rhode Island, and the French troops destined for his support were disembarked upon Conanicut Island. On the same evening, Lord Howe, with thirty-six sail, of which thirteen were ships-of-the-line and seven frigates, appeared off Point Judith. It had been agreed that D'Estaing should land four thousand men on the west side of Rhode Island to co-operate with General Sullivan, but this event deranged the whole plan. That night the French troops were embarked and the next morning D'Estaing, eager for battle, put to sea. Sullivan took possession of the forts at the north part of the island, which were abandoned by the enemy." From the tenth to the thirtieth of August, by various misunderstandings, stormy weather, unsuccessful engagements, the different plans projected for the capture of the British fleet and troops proved abortive, and on the thirtieth the main part of the American forces were again inside the defensive works at Tiverton.

Major-General Sullivan's army consisted on the second

of September of twelve hundred Continental and two thousand State troops, besides some companies of militia whose terms of service were about to expire, while that of the enemy, just reinforced, numbered nearly eleven thousand. In this situation, General Sullivan solicited Governor Trumbull of Connecticut for further aid, as an attack on Providence was expected. But the enemy's force was about to be employed in another direction. A fleet of forty ships and transports sailed for New Bedford, in the town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts Bay, and, landing four thousand troops, burnt it, on the fifth of September, and a part of Fair Haven, opposite, and much shipping at the wharves.

During the campaign of 1778, fourteen members of the Edson Family severally went into various fields of action against the enemy, where they not infrequently met those of their kinsmen who had previously enlisted for the war serving in Continental line regiments. On the first of January, 1778, Peter, the third son of Ebenezer and Luey (Packard) Edson, enlisted in Captain Joseph Cole's company in Colonel John Jacobs's regiment, and served twelve months and two days in Rhode Island; Cushman, the eldest son of Abijah and Hannah (Ruggles) Edson, went into camp as a private in Captain Israel Hicks's company in Colonel John Daggett's regiment on the second of January, and served in Rhode Island until he was discharged on the thirty-first of March. On the second of July, he enlisted in Captain Nathan Leonard's company in Colonel Nathaniel Wade's regiment, and also served in Captain John Cutler's company in the same regiment until the first of January, 1779, in Rhode Island. Nathan, the eldest son of Nathan and Mary (Sprague) Edson, enlisted on the first of January, and as a sergeant in Captain Joseph Cole's company in Colonel John Jacobs's regiment served nine months and two days in Rhode Island. Ebenezer, the second son of Ebenezer and Luey (Packard) Edson, joined, in February, Captain

Isaiah Bussey's company in Colonel John Crane's Continental artillery regiment, for three years' service. Abel, the eldest son of Abel and Margaret (Conant) Edson, drafted out of Colonel Edward Mitchell's Third Plymouth County Regiment, on the thirtieth of March, for eight months' service in the Continental army, was in the field until the first of December; as also was Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Martha (Perkins) Edson; and likewise Polycarpus, the fourth son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson. Caleb, the fifth son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, served from the twenty-sixth of June to the twentieth of July, in Captain John Ames's company in Colonel Nathaniel Wade's regiment, in Rhode Island, as also Seth, the second son of William and Martha (Howard) Edson. Jonathan, the second son of Jonathan and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson, served nine months in Captain Joshua White's company in Colonel Israel Chapen's Hampshire County Regiment, from the twentieth of July, in the field at Fishkill. John, the eldest son of John and Hannah (Allen) Edson, enlisted on the twenty-fifth of July, and served in Rhode Island until the ninth of September, in Captain Nathan Packard's company in Colonel Thomas Carpenter's regiment. Daniel, the second son of Joseph and Abigail (Forrest) Edson, served from the thirtieth of July to the thirteenth of September, in Rhode Island, in Captain William Thurlo's company in Colonel Josiah Whitney's regiment. Abiel, the eldest son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the sixth of September in Captain Joshua White's company in Colonel Ebenezer Sprout's regiment, at the alarm at New Bedford, in the town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts Bay, and marched to Rhode Island, and served six days.¹

¹ *History of the United States*. By George Bancroft. Boston, 1866. Vol. ix., pp. 481, 482.—*History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. By Samuel Greene Arnold. New York, 1860. Vol. ii., pp. 415, 421, 422, 423, 424, 431.—*Battles of the American Revolution*. By Henry B. Carrington. New York, 1876. Pp. 448, 449, 450, 451.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Boston, 1899. Pp. 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231.

As the principal operations of the British, in 1779, were in the South, those conducted in the North, by the American generals in command of the troops in New England and in the State of New York, were mostly defensive. The use of the irredeemable paper money was a sore affliction not only to the toiling people but likewise to the patriotic officers and men confronting the enemy.

Washington, in one of his letters to a corresponding friend, frankly wrote, near the end of the month of March, saying: "I have seen without despondency, even for a moment, the hours which America has styled her gloomy ones; but I have beheld no day, since the commencement of hostilities, that I have thought her liberties in such imminent danger as at present."

Of the eighty battalions of infantry required by Congress, Pennsylvania was to furnish eleven and Massachusetts fifteen.

On the thirtieth of May, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton with a detachment of troops ascended the Hudson River, and obtained possession of the fortifications at Stony Point and Verplanck's Point. "The British fortified and garrisoned the two posts which commanded King's Ferry, and left the Americans no line of communication between New York and New Jersey, south of the Highlands."

"A pillaging expedition, sent to punish the patriotism of Connecticut, was intrusted to Governor William Tryon. The fleet and transports arrived off New Haven, and at two in the morning of the fifth of July, one party landed suddenly on the west of the town, another on the east. Everything was abandoned to plunder: vessels in the harbor, public stores, and the warehouses near the Sound, were destroyed by fire. The soldiers, demoralized by license, lost all discipline, and the next morning retired before the Connecticut militia." "At East Haven, dwelling houses were fired, and cattle wantonly killed; but the enemy's troops, were in like manner driven to their ships. On the afternoon of the

seventh, the expedition landed near Fairfield." "The Hessians were the first who were let loose to plunder, and every dwelling was given up to be stripped. Just before the sun went down, the firing of houses began, and was kept up through the night with little opposition, amidst the vain 'cries of distressed women and helpless children.' Early the next morning the conflagration was made general. When at the return of night the retreat was sounded, the rear-guard, composed of Germans, set in flames the meeting-house and every private habitation that till then had escaped. At Green Farms, a meeting-house and all the dwellings and barns were consumed.

"On the eleventh, the British appeared before Norwalk, and burned its houses, barns, and places of public worship. Sir George Collier and Tryon, the British admiral and general, in their address to the inhabitants of Connecticut, said: 'The existence of a single habitation on your defenceless coast ought to be a constant reproof to your ingratitude.' The British had already lost nearly a hundred and fifty men, but the survivors were gorged with plunder. The town of New London was selected as the next place of visitation, but Governor Tryon was recalled to the city of New York, on the taking of Stony Point, on the sixteenth, by Major-General Anthony Wayne.

"The winter set in early and with unwonted severity. Before the middle of December, and long before log huts could be built [at Morristown], the snow lay two feet deep in New Jersey, where the troops were cantoned; and they only saved themselves with difficulty from freezing by keeping up large fires. Continental money was valued at no more than thirty for one, and even at that rate the country people took it unwillingly. The credit of Congress being exhausted, there could be no regularity in supplies. Sometimes the army was five or six days without bread; at other times as many without meat; and, once or twice, two or three days without either. It must have been disbanded, but

that such was the honor of the magistrates of New Jersey, such the good disposition of its people, that the requisitions made by the commander-in-chief on its several counties were punctually complied with, and in many counties exceeded. All accounts agree that, in the coldest winter of the century, the virtue of the army was put to the severest trial; and that the sufferings of its men for want of food, and of clothes and blankets, were borne with the most heroic patience."

During the campaign of 1779, seven members of the Edson Family served in the field against the enemy, in addition to those then belonging to regiments of the Continental line. Seth, the second son of William and Martha (Howard) Edson, enlisted on the third of February, 1779, in Captain Abner Crane's company, and served to the fourth of May, with guards at Boston. He was also of the number of men raised in 1779 to serve in the Continental army, and entered, probably on the twenty-fifth of July, into that service, in Captain Luther Bailey's company in Colonel John Bailey's Second Massachusetts Line Regiment, and served until about the twenty-fifth of April, 1780. James, the sixth son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, enlisted on the sixth of April, for Continental service, in Captain Charles Colton's company in Colonel John Greaton's Third Massachusetts Line Regiment, to serve till the first of January, 1780. Samuel, the eldest son of Samuel and Martha (Perkins) Edson, similarly served in the same company. Peter, the third son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the eighth of July in Captain Jacob Haskins's company in Colonel John Jacobs's regiment, with which he served until the thirty-first of January, 1780. Abiezer, the eldest son of Abiezer and Jael (Bennett) Edson, enlisted on the twentieth of July in Captain Elijah Dwight's company in Colonel Elisha Porter's Hampshire County Regiment, to serve at New London, and was discharged on the twenty-fifth of August. Jonathan, the second son of Jonathan

and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson, also enlisted then for the same purpose, in Captain Joseph Cook's company in the same regiment, and received his discharge after serving one month and thirteen days. Calvin, the second son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, entered into Continental service on the twenty-fifth of July, in Captain L. Bailey's company, in Colonel John Bailey's Second Massachusetts Continental Line Regiment, from which he was discharged on the twenty-fifth of April, 1780.¹

While the British forces in the Southern States were operating with considerable success during the campaign of 1780, those in the Northern were for the most part engaged in movements that gained them no important advantages.

On the eighteenth of March, a new plan was adopted by the United States Congress to arrest the depreciation of its paper money, at that time sunk to forty for one of specie. The old bills were to be cancelled as fast as they were returned to the Treasury by a monthly State taxation of fifteen million dollars, and new bills issued to one twentieth of the amount; the "new bills to be based on the credit of the separate States in fair proportion, to draw interest at five per cent., and to be redeemed by the States in six years. One dollar of these new State bills was equal to forty of old Continental money, of which the amount then in circulation was two hundred millions. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Delaware were the only States that met the heavy demand without delay."

On the return of Count D'Estaing to France, he urged the French ministry to send twelve thousand men to the United States in order to prosecute the war more actively against the forces of Great Britain. In compliance with his suggestions, Lieutenant-General, the Count de Rocham-

¹ *History of the United States.* By George Bancroft. Boston, 1874. Vol. x., pp. 207, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 234, 235.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War.* Boston, 1899. Pp. 224, 225, 228, 229, 230, 231.

beau was placed in command of the French force, and he, on the tenth of July, arrived at Newport with nearly six thousand men, constituting the first division of the corps of twelve thousand. Admiral de Ternay had command of the French fleet, which comprised nine ships and thirty-two transports. Sir Henry Clinton, having, on the thirteenth, received an accession to the British fleet at anchor in the bay near the City of New York, embarked about eight thousand men for an attack upon the French and American forces in Rhode Island. "Supported by militia from Massachusetts and Connecticut, the French longed for the threatened attack, but the expedition proceeded no farther than Huntington Bay, on Long Island, where it idled away several days, and then returned to New York."

The need of troops to keep the American forces in the field in New England and New York sufficient for defensive purposes during the year 1780 influenced thirteen members of the Edson Family to enter into Continental service or the service of the States in which they were inhabitants, as also one of their African servants. On the nineteenth of February, 1780, Cushman, the eldest son of Abijah and Hannah (Ruggles) Edson, enlisted in Captain Ephraim Hartwell's company of guards which was stationed at Rutland, and served in it two months and four days until the twenty-third of April. On the fifteenth of June, he was of the number of men enlisted to reinforce the Continental army, and served until the fifteenth of December, as a sergeant, in Captain William Treadwell's company in Colonel John Crane's Continental artillery regiment. James, the sixth son of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson, served from the fourteenth of April, as an artificer, at Springfield, to the end of the year, being then a member of Captain William Howe's company. Peter, the third son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson, entered, on the fourth of July, the field for six months' service in the Continental army, and marched that day for West Point. Amasa, the

third son of Jonathan and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson, enlisted on the sixth of July for Continental service, from which he was discharged on the nineteenth of December. Josiah, the second son of James and Esther (Allen) Edson, enlisted on the thirtieth of July in Captain Nathan Packard's company in Major Eliphalet Cary's regiment, which marched to Rhode Island on the alarm there, and served until the first of August. He is credited with twenty-one days' service at Providence, and five days on an alarm in Rhode Island. Barnabas, the third son of James and Esther (Allen) Edson (who, it is said, died in the army), enlisted in the same company, on the thirtieth of July, and served to the ninth of August, on the Rhode Island alarm, as also did Ebenezer, the eighth son of Benjamin and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, and Seth, the second son of William and Martha (Howard) Edson. Calvin, the second son of Doctor Elijah and Anne (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the thirtieth of July, and served to the ninth of August, in Captain James Allen's company in the same regiment; and Joel, the fifth son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson, in Captain Nathan Alden's company in the same regiment, and served from the thirtieth of July to the ninth of August, on the same alarm; Abiel, the eldest son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson, served from the first of August to the ninth in Captain Joshua White's company in Colonel Ebenezer Sprout's regiment, and marched to Tiverton, on that alarm, as also did Teal Edson, in Lieutenant Samuel Dunbar's company in Major Eliphalet Cary's regiment. Abiel Edson also enlisted on the twenty-ninth of August, and served until the first of November, in Captain Edward Sparrow's company, in Colonel John Jacobs's regiment, the company being detached to reinforce the Continental army. Nathan, the eldest son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard) Edson, served seven days, from the third of August to the ninth, in Captain Nathan Packard's company in Major Eliphalet Cary's regiment, on the Rhode Island alarm, as did John, the eldest

son of John and Hannah (Allen) Edson, in Captain Nathan Alden's company in the same regiment.¹

The military and naval operations of the contending armies in North America in 1781 brought the patriotic struggle of the thirteen States to its end.

The active operations of the British and American forces terminating the war were mainly those causing the battles of Cowpens, Guilford, Hobkirk's Hill near Camden, and Eutaw Springs, in South Carolina; the siege of Yorktown, and the minor operations before Jamestown, Petersburg, and Richmond, in Virginia, and at New London, in Connecticut. The last member of the Edson Family called into service in the war was Caleb Edson, who served in the first Connecticut Continental Line Regiment, commanded by Colonel Durkee, joining it on the eighth of August, 1781, and being discharged on the fifteenth of December, that year.

Of the members of the Edson Family who engaged themselves for service during the year 1781, the following seven, with an African servant, named Cæsar, are recorded as being in the field with those who had previously enlisted for the war in the Continental line regiments: Cushman, the eldest son of Abijah and Hannah (Ruggles) Edson, enlisted on the sixteenth of January in Captain John Allen's company in Colonel Jonathan Grout's regiment, to serve for three years in the Continental army, as also did Cyrus Edson, for the town of Barre, in Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the twenty-second of February. Abiel, the eldest son of Abiezer and Mary (Packard) Edson, enlisted on the tenth of March in Captain Abram Washburn's company in Colonel Theophilus Cotton's regiment, and marched to Newport, Rhode Island, and served twenty-two days; as also Peter, the third son of Ebenezer and Lucy (Packard)

¹ *History of the United States*. By George Bancroft. Boston, 1874. Vol. x., pp. 275, 276.—*History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. By Samuel Greene Arnold. New York, 1860. Vol. ii., pp. 453, 460, 461, 462.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Boston, 1899. Pp. 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 396.

Edson. Nathan, their eldest son, served from April, 1781, to the thirtieth of June, 1783, first in Captain John Carpenter's company of guards at Springfield, twenty-two months, and in Captain Thomas Cushing's company, three months, at Castle Island. Ebenezer, their second son, enlisted on the third of September, 1781, and served as sergeant in Captain Luke Bicknell's company in Lieutenant-Colonel Enoch Putnam's regiment, at West Point, as also did Cæsar, Edson's servant. Seth, son of Seth and Irene (Howard) Edson, of Stafford, Connecticut, served in Captain John Cook's company in Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Canfield's Connecticut militia regiment, and was with the company at West Point, in September, 1781.¹

On the termination of hostilities in 1781, the army under Washington went into winter quarters at the places near the city of New York, where they had cantoned the preceding year. During the year 1782 not a gun was fired between the two armies, and the prospect of peace was so promising in September that Congress resolved to discharge the greater part of the forces in the field, and issued a proclamation for their disbandment, declaring this purpose by announcing that the "part of the army, which stood engaged to serve during the war, and by several acts of Congress had been furloughed, should be absolutely discharged after the third of November from said service, and that the further service in the field of the officers deranged and on furlough are now dispensed with, and they have permission to retire from service, no more to be called to command."

"The mode of disbanding the army was well calculated to prevent any disorders, which might have been the consequence of dismissing a large number of men in a body.

¹ *Battles of the American Revolution*. By Henry B. Carrington. New York, 1876. P. 536.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Boston, 1899. Pp. 153, 224, 225, 226, 227, 230.—*The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution*. Edited by Henry P. Johnston. Hartford, 1889. P. 581.—*Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*. Hartford, 1901. Vol. viii., p. 93.

The advice of Washington and the resolves of Congress to pay and compensate them in such manner as the ability of the United States would permit, operated to keep them quiet and prevent tumult. Painful indeed was the parting scene, no description can be adequate to the tragic exhibition. Both officers and soldiers, long unaccustomed to the affairs of private life, turned loose on the world to starve and become a prey to vulture speculators. Never can that melancholy day be forgotten when friends, companions for seven long years in joy and in sorrow, were torn asunder, without the hope of ever meeting again, and with prospects of a miserable subsistence in future."

The conclusion which the British ministry reached had its consummation on the third of September, 1783, when the treaty of peace was signed at Paris, which established the independence of the United States of America.

"On the twenty-fifth of November, 1783, the British army evacuated New York, and the American troops, under General Knox, took possession of the city. Soon after General Washington and Governor George Clinton, with their suites, made their public entry into the city on horseback, followed by the lieutenant-governor, and the members of the council for the temporary government of the southern district of the State, four abreast; General Knox and the officers of the army, eight abreast; the speaker of the assembly and citizens on foot, eight abreast. The governor gave a public dinner, at which the commander-in-chief and other general officers were present. Magnificent fireworks, infinitely exceeding everything of the kind before seen in the United States, were exhibited at the Bowling Green, in Broadway, on the evening of Tuesday, the twenty-seventh, in celebration of the definitive treaty of peace. They commenced with a dove descending with an olive branch, and setting fire to a marron battery." ¹

¹ *A Military Journal during the American Revolutionary War.* By James Thacher, M.D. Boston, 1823. Pp. 420, 421, 422.

Chapter XI

Obed Edson and his Son Thomas

1768-1836

THE desire of bettering their opportunities for the acquirement of wealth not infrequently influenced some of the early inhabitants of New England to part with long-possessed property in one locality and seat themselves in another at no great distance from their former abodes. The discovery of tracts of land of greater fertility than those forming their own farms induced others to dispose of them and purchase more productive ones. Nearness to better markets also caused changes to be made to places close to rapidly growing centres of trade and industry.

Obed, the fourth son of Sameul and Mary (Dean) Edson, who, as already mentioned, had served in the positions of corporal and sergeant in several expeditions against the French at Crown Point and in Nova Scotia, learning, about the beginning of the year 1768, five years after the French and Indian War, that an attractive and cultivated farm was purchasable in the town of Taunton in Bristol County, near the town of Norton, about eight miles southwest of the one owned by him in the town of Bridgewater, determined to buy it and move there with his family; his last and tenth child and sixth son, Isaac, being then in his eleventh year, having been born on the second of February, 1758.

Obed Edson, by his first wife, Keturah, daughter of Jonathan and Abigail (Stoughton) Willis, had four sons and

one daughter; and by his second wife, Martha (Thomas), three daughters and two sons. All of his children were born, as it seems, on the farm given him by his father on the twenty-first of January, 1744, "for and in consideration of the love, good-will, and natural affection" he bore him. The property, described by the instrument of conveyance, was "a certain piece of land in the southerly part of [the town of] Bridgewater," on which "the dwelling-house of the said Obed Edson" was then standing, "containing by estimation thirty-two acres, one quarter, and thirty-five rods, adjacent to the land at that time owned by William Snow. To this property Obed Edson, on the twenty-sixth of February, 1759, added thirty-six acres of land purchased of Ichabod Packard. On the twenty-seventh of April, 1761, Samuel Edson, his father, gave him "a certain piece of land in the southerly part of [the town of] Bridgewater," twenty-five acres in extent, adjoining "the southerly side of the land" on which he was living, and that belonging to Robert Gilmore. In his last will and testament, made on the twenty-third of August, 1770, his affectionate father bequeathed him one-sixth part of his cedar swamps.

Perceiving, as has previously been observed, that he would be advantaged by possessing and occupying the farm in the town of Taunton, Obed Edson, on the thirteenth of February, 1768, conveyed to John Fobes of the town of Bridgewater, for one hundred and fifty-three pounds and seventeen shillings, his homestead in that town, being on the side of the road opposite the dwelling and farm where Alexander Ames lived. As described in the deed, the bounds of his farm began on the east side of the road in Captain Josiah Edson's range, and then ran by many courses to the land had of his father Samuel, thence to Ichabod Packard's land, and thence by many courses to Captain Josiah Edson's land, reserving a country road across the same and also a driveway to Ebenezer and Beriah Willis's farms.

A month later, or on the twelfth of March, 1768, Samuel Morey and his wife Mary, of Norton, county of Bristol, Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, yeoman, for and in consideration of one hundred and five pounds six shillings and eight pence, conveyed to Obed Edson of Bridgewater, county of Plymouth, yeoman, a certain tract of land in the town of Taunton, county of Bristol, containing by estimation forty acres, more or less, on the east and west sides of a road, at a corner of the same, going towards Samuel Blake's farm.

While Obed Edson was engaged in tilling the land and harvesting the crops of his Taunton farm, the war of the Revolution began. His patriotic son Thomas, then twenty-two years of age, enlisted on the second of May in the following year, at Taunton, in the company of which Silas Cobb of the neighboring town of Norton was captain; Isaac Smith, lieutenant; and Isaac Fisher, ensign. The company formed a part of Colonel Timothy Walker's regiment, which was stationed at Roxbury, prior to the battle of Bunker Hill on the seventeenth of June, 1776, and was engaged in the valorous action of that memorable day. Thomas Edson afterward participated, until the ninth of August, with the company, in the initial part of the siege of Boston. On the fourteenth of May, 1777, he enlisted in the town of Norton, in Captain Israel Trow's company, of which Isaac White and Jonathan Pratt were lieutenants, John White, Jacob Newland, Amos Martin, and he, sergeants. The field of his service of fifty-four days was in Rhode Island, of which the particulars have been given on preceding pages.

Obed Edson, as owner of the Taunton farm, held lawful possession of it until the seventeenth of June, 1776, in the sixteenth year of the reign of George the Third, when he conveyed it to John Crane of Norton, gentleman, for one hundred and nine pounds and nine shillings. The property, as described in the deed, embraced "a certain tract or

tracts of land lying in said [town of] Taunton, it being my homestead farm, containing by estimation thirty-four acres and one hundred and twenty rods of land, lying in two pieces." The first parcel, embracing thirty-one acres and one hundred and forty-three rods, "with ye dwelling house standing thereon," lay on the east side of the road, adjoining a corner of land belonging to the heirs of William Thayer, at another point the land of David Long, at another that of Daniel Lincoln. The second piece of two acres and one hundred and thirty-seven rods lay on the west side of the road. The conveyance was signed by Obed and Martha Edson, in the presence of their two sons Lewis and Thomas, and two other witnesses. It was acknowledged by Obed Edson at Taunton, Bristol County, on the ninth of November, that year, but was not recorded until the twenty-third of September, 1785.

Silence, the third daughter of Obed and Martha (Thomas) Edson, was married, in Taunton, on the eighteenth of October, 1782, to James Trupwell. More particulars relating to Obed Edson's family, while living in the town of Taunton, might have been presented here had not the early records of the town been partly destroyed by a fire.

Whether Obed Edson, after selling his Taunton farm in 1776, held it subsequently as a lessee, or moved immediately to another locality, cannot be determined. Inasmuch as it is known that his wife, Martha, died on the sixth of December, 1795, in the town of Richfield, Otsego County, New York, and he also there, on the eighth of September, 1804, in the eighty-third year of his age, possibly he may have been one of the pioneer settlers of that part of Otsego County.¹

¹ *Book of Deeds*, No. 39, p. 72; No. 46, p. 240; No. 54, pp. 54, 55, office of Registry, Plymouth, Massachusetts; No. 51, pp. 142, 143; No. 64, pp. 298, 299, office of Registry, Taunton, Massachusetts.—1 *History of the Town of Norton, Bristol County, Massachusetts*. By George Faber Clark. Boston, 1859. Pp. 396, 402, 403.—*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. A compilation from the Archives prepared and published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Boston, 1899. P. 231.

Berkshire County, bordering westerly on Rensselaer and Columbia counties, New York, was made a separate and distinct division of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in May, 1761. There were then four incorporated towns and six plantations in it. Of the last-named, one was New Framingham, now Lanesborough, in the northwestern part of the county. Settlers began seating themselves within its limits about the year 1755, who gave the tract of land the name of Richfield. The town of Lanesborough was incorporated on June 20, 1765, when its territory included a large part of that of the present town of Cheshire.

At that time the inhabitants of the town of Lanesborough were contemplating the building of a meeting-house. As the majority of them were Congregationalists, and would desire to have the services conducted after the custom of that denomination, the adherents of the Church of England were unwilling to be taxed for the erection of the edifice and the support of a minister of a different creed, William Bradley, Joel Sherman, Asa Barnes, Asahel Beach, Reuben Garlich, Abraham Bristol, William Jarvis, and others, who thought that the Church of England was more closely modelled after the apostolic one, began assembling and holding religious services at the house of William Bradley, who on such occasions read the prescribed prayers and lessons and a selected sermon. A schoolhouse having been built on the northeast corner of his farm, they afterward used it as a place of worship, until about the year 1769, when they began worshipping stately in their first church, erected on a plot of ground lying a little south of the present rectory.

The Rev. Samuel Andrews, of Wallingford, Connecticut, in the fall of 1767, when journeying "to the northward," tarried several days in the town of Lanesborough. On October 2d, he presided at a meeting held at the house of William Bradley, where, on that day, was organized "the Church of England," of which William Bradley and Joel

Sherman were elected wardens, and Abraham Bristol, clerk. The zealous clergyman speedily commended the infant church to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which in 1770 made Lanesborough "one of the four stations of a new mission, with its centre at Great Barrington, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick," who, having been "ordained a priest in London, on the eleventh of March, 1770," actively began his missionary work at Lanesborough on the twenty-sixth of June, that year, when he presided at a meeting held there for the election of church officers. His extensive circuit allowed him to give but one Sunday in each month to Lanesborough. In the following September, he reported thirty families as having connection with the Lanesborough Church.

Obed, the third son of Obed and Keturah (Willis) Edson, on attaining his majority, married, on April 22, 1769, Prudence, daughter of Wyllys Howe. They, as it seems, first resided at Ashfield, in Franklin County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, where their first two children were born, Prudence and Obed; the daughter on March 4, 1771, and the son on May 16, 1772. Thence they moved to Lanesborough, where the two children were baptized, by the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, on April 4, 1773. Obed Edson's cultivated voice and knowledge of music led there to his election, on the tenth of the following month, to the position of chorister in the Church of England in Lanesborough, Joseph Hall having, on the same day, been chosen an associate chorister. The excellent vocalization of Obed Edson (2d) as a church chorister caused his re-election as such in the three succeeding years.

Lewis, the fourth son of Obed and Keturah (Willis) Edson, at the age of twenty-two years married, in the town of Bridgewater, on January 30, 1770, Hepzibah, daughter of Jonathan and Thankful (Newton) Washburn. They resided on the Taunton Road, opposite the dwelling of Deacon

John Robinsons—83

THE ORGANIST'S COMPANION, OR Church Music Revised.

—CONTAINING—

- 200 Besides the Vestibule, Rules of Psalmody; &c.
- A Variety of Plain and Fuging Psalm Tunes; Together with
- A Collection of approved Hymns and Anthems.

Many of which, never before printed.

Amos Dehile, Sculp. 1786

NEW HAVEN, Printed and sold by SIMEON JOCELAN and AMOS BOULTLEE.

Fobes, about one and a half miles from William Latham's house. On June 14, 1776, he sold to Ezra Fobes his homestead of twenty-five acres one quarter and twenty-one rods, together with the dwelling. His mother-in-law was a witness to the deed made by him of that date, she having relinquished her right of dower in the homestead sold by Lewis in 1772. He moved to Lanesborough, probably in 1778, where, on May 17, 1779, he was elected a chorister of the Church of England, as also he was in the three following years. Within that space of time he composed the hymn tunes long and still popular in this and other countries, bearing the town titles of "Bridgewater," "Lenox," "Greenfield," and "Suffield," first published, in 1782, in the rare work: *The Chorister's Companion, or Church Music Revised. Containing,—Besides the Necessary Rules of Psalmody; A Variety of Plain and Fuging Psalm Tunes: Together with A Collection of approved Hymns and Anthems. Many of which, never before printed. Amos Doolittle, Sculpt., 1782. New Haven. Printed for and Sold by Simeon Jocelin and Amos Doolittle.*

The preface, by "The Editors," is dated "New Haven, December 16, 1782." The four tunes, adapted to the words of the Thirty-ninth, Forty-sixth, Fifty-ninth, and Ninety-fifth Psalms, as arranged by Doctor Isaac Watts, Brady, and Tate, are in common, particular, and long metre, or measure, and are to be found in *The Chorister's Companion* under the abbreviated headlines and on the pages here given: "Suffield. Pf. 39th Dr. W. C. M. 33.;" "58* Greenfield. Pf. 46th B. and T. P. M.;" "* Lenox. Pf. 148th Dr. W. P. M. s. 59"; and "62 * Bridgewater. Pf. 95th B. & T. L. M."

As entered in records of the Lanesborough Church of England, Obed Edson (2d) was elected warden, on April 30, 1781, as he was in 1782, 1783, and 1786.

Thomas, the first son of Obed and Martha (Thomas) Edson, was no doubt influenced to become an inhabitant of the town of Lanesborough by his two half-brothers, Obed

* Lenox. Pf. 148th D: W. P. M. 359

Ye tribes of Adam join With heav'n's depth & seas, And offer notes divine To your Creator's praise. g.

Ye ho-ly throng of an-gels bright, In worlds of light &c.

Ye ho-ly throng of an-gels bright, In worlds of light Begin the song. g.

Ye ho-ly throng of an-gels bright, Ye ho-ly throng of an-gels bright, In worlds of light &c.

and Lewis. He probably moved from the town of Taunton, Bristol County, Mass., shortly after serving in the summer of 1777, in Rhode Island, in an expedition against the British then occupying the islands between the channels forming Narragansett Bay, as already narrated.

Among the early settlers of the town of Lanesborough was William Jarvis, son of Thomas and Abigail (Smith) Jarvis, born on March 29, 1727, who, as mentioned, was one of the original members of the local Church of England. He had served as an officer in the French and Indian War. He was united in marriage with Mary Wright, in 1751, who bore him eleven children, six sons and five daughters. He died, at Brainerd's Bridge, Albany County, Province of New York, on June 15, 1772, in the forty-sixth year of his age, survived by his wife, four sons, and four daughters.

Shortly after arriving in the town of Lanesborough, Thomas Edson made the acquaintance of Mary, the second daughter of William and Mary (Wright) Jarvis, born there on May 12, 1762, and they were married June 17, 1780. The fruit of their marriage was nine children, four daughters and five sons, seven of whom were born in the town of Lanesborough.

The congregation of the Church of England in Lanesborough built a second house of worship, in 1785, which is described as one "of wood, fifty-five feet by thirty, standing sideways to the street, with galleries on three sides, and a tall spire at the south end. The communion table, since used for a bier, was an ordinary dressing-table; the communion vessels were of pewter. The pews were partly square and partly oblong. Above and below three hundred persons could sit comfortably.

The successor of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick was the Rev. Daniel Burhans, the second son of Henry and Zeria (Hall) Burhans, born at Sherman, Conn., on July 7, 1762. He early evinced a desire for study and began preparing for entering college under a teacher who offered to furnish him

62 * Bridg-water. Pl. 9th.

B. & T.

L. M.

The musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) voice, the second for the Alto (A.) voice, the third for the Tenor (T.) voice, and the fourth for the Bass (B.) voice. The lyrics are: "For we —", "O com-pleat them &c —", "For we —", and "When —". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

the means of support while there. "In the fall of 1782 he visited his patron that he might be examined. He found the one on whom the hopes of a liberal education depended upon his death-bed." About that time his father moved with the family to the town of Lanesborough, where Daniel "worked for his board with the privilege of attending school." The teacher was discharged and Mr. Burhans urged to take his place, which he did. He had been "educated in the creed of Calvinistic Congregationalism," but changed his belief after receiving religious instruction from the Rev. Gideon Bostwick whom he had sought to obtain the same. On Whit-Sunday, 1783, he became a communicant. "He does not seem to have remained continuously in Lanesborough, as he mentions living with a friend and teaching his children for his board and lodging, and afterward teaching a district school for five months."

Of his residence in Lanesborough, he furnishes the following account: "My health having much improved, I finally concluded to seek contentment and support by teaching school in which I had been for some time past remarkably successful in Lenox, the county town, where they were anxious I should [remain]. My friends in Lanesborough in a few months erected a handsome brick building, which I opened as an independent school. In a few months, the number of scholars exceeded one hundred, and in less than a year amounted to one hundred and fifty, as many as could be accommodated, which remained undiminished for six years.

"[On] October 12, 1788, I was married to Prudence Edson, in Saint Luke's church, by the Rev. Gideon Bostwick.'

"Mr. Burhans was a successful teacher, and the school gave him an income of two hundred dollars a year besides a comfortable support. Mrs. Burhans was an indefatigable helpmeet in spite of the asthma with which she had been afflicted from her childhood.

“About the year 1791, (having, as has been remarked read, in the absence of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, on Sundays, the church service and a selected sermon,) I found, as it was suggested by some, that I had better close my school and take holy orders. . . .’ In the course of a few weeks, [while] in conversation with the Rev. Mr. Bostwick, he said to me: ‘I have been thinking for some time of introducing another clergyman into the county, proposing that you should take deacon’s orders, and retire an old man from traveling twenty-five miles to baptize a sick child, or to perform any office belonging to that degree in the ministry. I finally consented.’ ”

Meanwhile “Mr. Burhans was busily preparing himself for ordination. Besides his lay-reading in Lanesborough, he officiated during 1792, at New Lebanon Springs, then a place of great resort, where there were a few families belonging to the [Episcopal] Church. The services were very largely attended, and an effort being made to build an Episcopal church at the Springs, the members of the Congregational Church, then vacant, became alarmed and asked Mr. Burhans to officiate in their meeting-house on Sunday afternoons, which he did several times. The result was that the Congregational society formally called him to be their minister, ‘on condition,’ as he says, ‘that I should pray without book one-half of the day.’ ”

Concerning his ordination, he writes: “In the spring of 1793, I closed my theological studies which had been only for a year.

“On the first of June, I accompanied the Rev. Mr. Bostwick to Middletown, Connecticut, to attend the annual convention of that diocese, who introduced me as a candidate for holy orders. The next morning, I was examined in the presence of the bishop by the late venerable Richard Mansfield, D.D., the Rev. Dr. Hubbard, and the Rev. Mr. Fogg. I received the order of deacon, on June 5, 1793, in the thirtieth year of my age.”

Shortly after his return to Lanesborough he received the sad news of the death of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, at New Milford, Connecticut, on June 13, 1793, in the fifty-first year of his age. He became thereupon the minister of Saint Luke's church, Lanesborough, and continued his services at New Lebanon Springs, twelve miles distant, throughout the summer and fall. . . . "On the first of November," as he writes, "I, with deep regret, closed my school much against the ardent wishes and desires of pupils and patrons. . . . At this period I ceased to preach at New Lebanon, and organized a parish at Lenox, the county town, of ten families, and officiated one-half of my time."

In 1794, the Rev. Daniel Burhans was ordained a priest by the Right Rev. Samuel Seabury, bishop of Connecticut. "In the spring of 1799, Mr. Burhans, was induced to listen favorably to the proposals of the vestry of Trinity Church, Newtown, Connecticut, to become its rector. He moved thither in October, and served that church as pastor for thirty years. On May 5, 1803, he was bereft of his amiable and esteemed wife by death."¹

Doctor William ("Bill") Jarvis, the second eldest brother of Mary, the wife of Thomas Edson, through the inducements proffered him by William Cooper, the father of James Fenimore, abandoned his practice of medicine, surgery, and land-surveying in the town of Lanesborough, and settled, in 1787, on Fly Creek, a tributary of Oak Creek, in the town of Otsego, Otsego County, about four miles northwest of Cooperstown. Married, on August 30, 1780, to Mary, daughter of James White, he was, at the time of his settlement, the father of two children, a son and a daughter. His brother, Asahel, four years his junior, then unmarried, accompanied the family. A son was born to

¹ *The Protestant Episcopal Church in Berkshire*. By Rev. Joseph Hooper, Lebanon Springs, New York. *Book of Berkshire*. Papers by its Historical and Scientific Society. Published by the Society, Pittsfield, Mass., 1889. Pp 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197-200, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 211.

Doctor William and Mary (White) Jarvis, on August 25, 1787, who, having been christened William Cooper, in honor of the patentee, was given by the pleased godfather fifty acres of land as a token of remembrance.

The village of Lanesborough, lying five miles north of Pittsfield, commands a wide view of many lowland and upland farms and the westward heights of the Taconic Mountains. A mile or more south of its long stretch of attractive dwellings, standing in flower-planted yards, is a considerable expanse of water known as Pontoosic Lake, from which the Housatonic River flows southward into Connecticut.

The seat of the home of Thomas and Mary (Jarvis) Edson was evidently not far from that of Obed and Prudence (Howe) Edson, probably two or three miles distant from Saint Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, for, on June 15, 1782, Thomas Edson sold to Simeon Chittenden, for eighty pounds, six acres of land, in the town of Lanesborough, off the south side of the first division lot, number 53, five rods wide at its eastern end and extending through the whole length of lot eight; and, on the same day, Simeon Chittenden sold to Obed Edson, Junior, for the same sum, one third of division lot, number 10, and the wantage land arising on the first division of lot 52. On November 11, 1785, Jason Newton conveyed to Obed Edson, Junior, for one hundred and sixty-eight pounds, thirty-two acres and the buildings standing on the land, off the first division lot number 92, bounded on the south partly by land owned by William Noble and partly by land owned by Thomas Edson, and on the west and north by land belonging to Obed Edson, Junior.¹

In the list of baptisms contained in the partly extant records of Saint Luke's (Church of England) Protestant Episcopal Church of the town of Lanesborough, the last

¹ *Book of Deeds*, No. 15, pp. 370, 371; No. 17, p. 599; No. 19, pp. 563, 564, in the Registry office of Berkshire County, in Pittsfield, Mass.

entry to be found of the christening of the children of Thomas and Mary (Jarvis) Edson, is that of their daughter Sally, on February 8, 1795.

Doctor William Jarvis and his brother Asahel, finding that there were more means of furthering a settler's prosperity in Otsego County, N. Y., than in Berkshire County, Mass., began urging in 1796 their brother-in-law, Thomas Edson, to move thither with his family, whose nephews, Obed, the son of Obed and Prudence (Howe) Edson, and Lewis, the son of Lewis and Hepzibah (Washburn) Edson, had then recently seated themselves in that inviting region of fertile valleys and arable hills. The persuasive logic of their enthusiastic descriptions of the natural richness of the soil and the generous inducements extended by Judge Cooper to worthy and intelligent settlers contained in the communications sent them, finally led Thomas and Mary (Jarvis) Edson to part with their property in Berkshire County, and with Obed and Prudence (Howe) Edson, and their several households, cast their lots with their kinsmen by settling in Otsego County, the one family at Fly Creek, within the bounds of the Cooper Patent, and the other within the limits of the Schuyler Patent, near Canaderaga Lake. The name of "Mary Edson," in the list of letters remaining in the post-office, at Cooperstown, on January 1, 1798, evidently indicates that Thomas Edson and his wife, Mary, were then residing in Otsego County, where, it would appear, their last two children were born; Theodatus (God-given), born on July 7, 1798, and Elizabeth, on September 15, 1801.

The inhabitants of Cooperstown and those of its vicinity were then sending and receiving letters through the post-office established in the village on June 1, 1794. At first the mail arrived and departed once a week for a number of years, and later twice, afterward thrice, and in 1821, daily.

The first regularly settled minister of the Gospel in

Cooperstown was the Rev. Isaac Lewis, who became pastor of the congregation of Presbyterians and Congregationalists on October 1, 1800. The Rev. Daniel Nash, popularly known as "Father Nash," a devout and zealous Protestant Episcopal missionary, who, not long after his ordination as a deacon in 1797, began visiting from time to time the different Episcopalian families living in Otsego County, was always a heartily welcomed guest at the homes of the Edsons, who not infrequently entertained his amiable wife. In 1807, the Episcopalians erected a house of worship in the village of Cooperstown, a brick edifice, fifty-four feet long and forty wide. It was consecrated on July 8, 1810. The congregation was organized under the title of Christ Church, on January 1, 1811, and on the same day the Rev. Daniel Nash was chosen to be its rector.

"Between the years 1795 and 1803, the growth of Cooperstown was gradual and steady. A document exists to show that in January of the latter year, the village contained seventy-five dwelling houses, thirty-four barns, and three hundred and forty-nine inhabitants."

On Thursday, March 24, 1796, appeared in *The Otsego Herald*, the following announcement:

"LEWIS EDFON, JUR.,

"Having engaged to ride as a Post, for twelve months, and as his character is such as will entitle him to the confidence of all who may have occasion for his services, the Printer hopes he will remove the disagreeable impressions which the knavery of some and the fickle-nefs of others have left on the minds of the citizens. The inhabitants on his route may rest assured that neither ability nor fidelity will be wanting on the part of Mr. Edfon.—Nothing is now lacking, but a general subscription, to secure a good faithful Post, who will make weekly the circuit of the county, the advantages of which are so obvious, that the most liberal encouragement will be expected, by the Printer."

The following "Advertisement" is in the *Herald*, issued on Thursday, May 19, 1796:

"Notice is hereby given, to all those who are or wish to become members of the Otsego Clothiers' Society, that they will meet at the house [im] of Samuel Huntingdon, esq., in Cooperstown, on the second Thursday in June next, at nine of the clock in the morning; to regulate their prices, and do such other business as shall be thought necessary. By order of the Society.

"O. EDSON, Clerk.

"May 12, 1796."

The first conveyance of land to Thomas Edson in Otsego County, of which any record is preserved in the office of the clerk of the county, in Cooperstown, is that made, on September 19, 1809, by Reuben Whipple and Alexander McCulloch of the town and county of Otsego, who, for six hundred dollars, sold to him three acres, more or less, lying along Fly Creek, on the east side of the highway; and also a fourth of an acre, more or less, beginning "at the corner of the mill-yard," and running south along the mill-pond; and also four acres, more or less, which embraced an "undivided third part of the grist and saw mills and the yard thereunto belonging and of the land flowed by the said pond, on the west side of the said creek."

To be the possessor of another "third part of the grist mill," described in that conveyance, "together with privileges of water and land necessarily occupied for convenience of said mill," Thomas Edson purchased, on June 4, 1811, of Daniel Brown, for one hundred and seventy dollars, the said one third part of the said property. To the ownership of it, he, on December 16, 1812, by the payment of two hundred and eighty dollars to James Lanson of the town of Warren, in Herkimer County, added that of one third of the saw-mill on Fly Creek.

By a deed, dated September 13, 1813, he conveyed to his

brother-in-law, Asahel Jarvis, for eight hundred and eleven dollars and forty-two cents the "two undivided third parts of the saw and the grist mill, on Fly Creek, near Sarah Carter's, with all the privileges thereunto belonging."

As is disclosed by the following advertisement in the *Herald*, of June 6, 1812, Asahel Jarvis had then the superintendence of a carding-mill, on Oak Creek, a stream of considerable water-power, having its rise in Canaderaga Lake, and receiving the water of Fly Creek about a mile south of the site of the mill:

"The subscribers have entered into a Co-partnership in the Carding business, and have furnished themselves with a good Picking-machine, and two Carding-machines, which are entirely new. One of them is covered with the finest kind of cards, suitable for carding Merino wool. The machines are in complete operation at Fairchild's Mills, on Oak Creek, one mile west of Captain North's Inn, in the town of Otsego; said machines are under the immediate direction of Mr. Asahel Jarvis, who is engaged to tend the same through the season, and whose experience in the above business is not surpassed by any in the country. Their accommodations, the complete order their works are in, and the faithfulness of the tender prompts them to warrant satisfaction to all who employ them, and as no other works erected on the dam shall interfere with [our] carding business, different customers may depend on being served with punctuality.

"Most kinds of produce received in payment.

" Otsego,

" June 6, 1812."

" WM. FAIRCHILD,

" WM. C[OOPER] JARVIS,

" JOSIAH STEPHENS.

The extensive and increasing demands for woollen rolls or cardings that frugal and industrious matrons and their daughters spun into yarn of which they wove the greater part of the woollen stuffs made by them into clothing for

the families of which they were members, justified the proprietors of the Oak Creek Mill in the expectation of obtaining sufficient patronage to insure them the success they desired when engaging in that particular branch of business.

The last recorded purchase of land made by Thomas Edson, in Otsego County, was on September 1, 1814, when Samuel Jones and Catharine his wife, for the sum of two hundred and twenty-five dollars, conveyed to him two acres and a half of land lying "on the north side of the turn-pike road and on the east line of John Barley's land," and having a point on its eastern boundary, "five chains and ninety-two links north of a stump near the southwest corner of the shoe-shop" then "occupied by the said Edson"; and "also a piece of land adjoining the southwest corner of the above described lot, twelve feet wide along the road and sixteen feet deep, whereon the shoe-shop" was standing. Whether the shoe-shop had previously been used for the manufacture and sale of shoes, or was then used by the purchaser for conducting in it that branch of business, it is difficult to determine, for there are no other particulars set forth in the instrument of writing to lead one to a satisfactory conclusion regarding the import of the clause, "the shoe-shop now occupied by the said Edson."¹

Assiduously engaged as Thomas Edson had evidently been since his settlement at Fly Creek in the cultivation of his land and the operation of his mills, he had, in 1813, on reaching the age of threescore years, begun releasing himself from the more burdensome cares of active life and devoting a part of his leisure to the furtherance of the welfare of his children, all of whom, except two, had already reached manhood or womanhood.

Under the Act of Congress of June 7, 1832, he was enrolled a Revolutionary War pensioner on May 18, 1833, with an annual allowance of thirty-six dollars and sixty-six

¹ *Book of Deeds*, N, pp. 231, 232, 233; S, pp. 13, 14; Q, pp. 512, 513; in the office of the Clerk of Otsego County, New York, in Cooperstown.

cents from March 4, 1831; his service being described as that of a private of the Massachusetts Continental Line, aged eighty years.

His wife, Mary Jarvis, died in February, 1835, and he in the following year. Their bodies were buried at Fly Creek, and their graves marked by memorial stones, of which now no vestiges remain.

Chapter XII

William Jarvis Edson

1786-1848

THE accessibility of newly settled localities, besides being evidenced by the establishment in them of post-offices and the regular passage of stage-coaches on routes of which they were either termini or relay-points, was also confirmed by such places being made centres of visitation by travelling shows and itinerant concert troupes. The exhibition of Asiatic and African animals and reptiles singly or in small collections prior to the tours of circuses and menageries were incidents that awakened considerable interest in the frontier settlements about the beginning of the present century. The exhibition of an elephant in Cooperstown, in 1813, was announced with the following authoritative comment: "Perhaps the present generation may never have an opportunity of seeing an elephant again, as this is the only one in the United States, and this is, perhaps, the last visit that it may make to this place."

A large concourse of the able-bodied men belonging to the militia and the organized military companies of Otsego County, who had patriotically served at points of defence during the War of 1812-15, gathered on March 1, 1815, at Cooperstown, with other gratified inhabitants, to celebrate the declaration of peace between Great Britain and the United States of America. On that day, as is related, "In spite of snow and cold weather, the streets of the village were paraded by the military, guns fired, and speeches delivered."

On that occasion, no doubt, some of the younger and a few of the older members of the Edson families, residing in that neighborhood, participated in the public rejoicings at the county-seat.

Polly, the eldest daughter of Thomas and Mary (Jarvis) Edson, at that time three-and-thirty years old, was the wife of John C. Marvin, whose parents had settled at an early day upon a farm at Fly Creek, having moved thither from Ballston Spa, in Saratoga County, N. Y.

The marriage of the eldest living son of the same parents, at the age of twenty-three years, was probably the second event of that kind marking the withdrawal of a member of the household to a new home. As announced in *The Impartial Observer*, on Saturday, April 1, 1809, it was solemnized on March 26, that year, and evidently at the house of the bride's parents, Abijah and Sarah (Howell) Fairchild, whose brother, William Fairchild, was one of the proprietors of the carding-mill, in 1812, on Oak Creek.

"Married—At Fly Creek, on the 26th ult., by the Rev. Daniel Nash, Mr. William Jarvis Edson, to Miss Polly Fairchild, both of Otsego.

" May Hymen now propitious prove,
Bestowing naught but joy and love!
Long may they live and love most true,
And taste the joys ordain'd for few!
But should their wayward fate ordain,
That they should suffer grief and pain:
True Love will brighten ev'ry woe,
And give its flames still brighter glow;
Thus they will solace find in each,
More than e'er Wealth or Power could reach."

William Jarvis Edson, inheriting the sturdy energy of his father and the amiable disposition of his mother, was enabled in a few years after his marriage to acquire besides a modest income, sufficient means to buy certain property in the immediate vicinity of his abode. Learning that James

N. and Asahel H. Jarvis were offering for sale three and one fourth acres of land lying along the east bank of Oak Creek and on the west side of the turnpike road; as also one undivided moiety or half-part of a certain piece of land lying south of the grist-mill then in possession of William Fairchild and Joseph Stephens, and west of an island in Oak Creek, and north of the turnpike bridge, and east of the main west bank of the said creek, together with one equal undivided half of the carding establishment erected thereon, and one equal half-right of the privilege of using water sufficient to operate two carding-machines; he, on October 22, 1813, purchased the same for the sum of nine hundred dollars.

Whether he relinquished farming, wholly or partly, and bestowed his time and attention, entirely or at intervals, on the operation of the carding factory, is not known. The long inhibition by Great Britain of the manufacture of cotton and woollen fabrics in the American colonies retarded for some years after the War of the Revolution the establishment of cotton and woollen factories in the thirteen States. "The report of Alexander Hamilton on manufactures in 1791," as is chronicled, "speaks of a mill for cloths and cassimeres as in operation at Hartford, Connecticut, but conveys a doubt whether American wool was suitable for fine cloths. The census of 1810, without making it evident that there was within the State at the time a single woollen manufactory, gives for New York the number of looms (largely in private hands) as 33,068, with 413 carding-machines, 427 fulling-mills, and 26 cotton manufactories."

After nearly two years' possession of the land along Oak Creek and the one undivided half-part of the carding establishment and of the water privilege appertaining to it, William Jarvis Edson, considering it would not be wise for him to retain the ownership of the property, when, as a consequence of the termination of the war between England and

the United States of America, the value of real estate was rapidly depreciating, he judiciously sold it in three parcels; one part to the Oakville Cotton Factory Company, on August 22, 1815, another to William Williams, Junior, and another, on October 21, to the Oakville Cotton Factory Company, for sums aggregating nearly the amount that he had paid for the property.

The decrease of prices to one third their previous quotation, particularly of articles of daily consumption and use, caused losses which reduced many persons to immediate poverty or financial straits that were widely afflictive in their consequences. Kent, a son of Asahel and Abigail (Griswold) Jarvis, born at Fly Creek, on June 13, 1801, in later years often adverted to the distress which some of the settlers in that part of Otsego County suffered by the sudden depreciation of the prices of country produce, manufactured goods, and commodities, in 1815. As related by a biographer, the money which his father, Asahel Jarvis, "had accumulated was lost in the general crash that ruined so many business men after the close of the war with England, in 1815," and his young son Kent "was therefore thrown upon his own resources and forced to seek employment at the age of fourteen, and begin a seven-years' apprenticeship in a woollen factory at Burlington in the same county."

In 1821, having returned to Fly Creek, and being "master of the business of wool-carding, dyeing, and cloth-dressing, he rented the establishment formerly occupied by one of his employers at Oak Creek, then belonging to the estate of Eliphalet Williams, and set up for himself." Although he had not yet attained his majority, he married, on May 17, 1821, Euretta M., a daughter of Eliphalet Williams deceased.

The carding establishment of which William Jarvis Edson was a half-owner in 1815, was operated, in 1837, by Leander Plum, and in 1901, by Delos Comstock; the two carding-machines purchased in 1812 being, it is said, still in use in the factory.

William Jarvis and Polly (Fairchild) Edson lived, as it appears, a short time at Exeter, a village in the town of Exeter, in Otsego County, about five miles northwest of Fly Creek, where, on August 14, 1811, their second son, Clement Massillon, was born; their first child and son, Tracy Robinson, having been born at Fly Creek, on December 12, 1809, where also their third child and son, Marmont Bryan, was born on April 12, 1813. From Fly Creek the family moved to the village of Oxford, in the town of Oxford, Chenango County, N. Y., on the east bank of the Chenango River, thirty-five miles southwest of Fly Creek, and thirty from Binghamton, in Broome County, N. Y., where their first daughter, Mary Augusta, was born on February 1, 1819. Thence the household moved to the village of Oneonta, in the town of Oneonta, Otsego County, twenty-two miles south of Cooperstown, where their fifth and last child, and second daughter, Susan Maria, was born on April 9, 1826. As is related, all their children were baptized by the Rev. Daniel Nash.

The inviting offers made to settlers by the Holland Land Company, having its principal office at Batavia, in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., about one hundred and sixty miles northwest of Fly Creek, two hundred and forty-four west of Albany, and forty northeast of Buffalo, led William Jarvis Edson to purchase, on March 27, 1827, an area of land in the town of Batavia, containing fifty-four acres, more or less, lying along the west side of the Alleghany Road. He was then forty-one years of age. In April, probably, he seated his family upon the farm, which he cultivated seven years, with the assistance of his three sons, the eldest of whom was, at the time of the purchase of it, eighteen years old, the second fifteen, and the third fourteen. Their tasks on the farm, besides strengthening their bodies and invigorating their mental faculties, gave them an experience of toil and its fruits that was of inestimable value to them afterward in the different callings of their manhood.

Individually distinguished as the father was by the possession of a natural musical voice and the art of attractively and effectively using it, he in time became deeply impressed with the belief in his ability to instruct others in the acquirement of vocal skill and the knowledge of the principles of harmony. Governed ultimately by an inclination to afford those who were desirous of cultivating their voices and attaining the art of vocally interpreting tonic characters, he wrote a short exposition of the art of singing, comprising thirty pages, and forming the introductory part of the work, copyrighted on November 5, 1827, and entitled: *Musical Monitor, or New-York Collection of Church Musick*.

Mack & Andrus, the publishers, besides being the proprietors of a bookstore in the village of Ithaca, were also the owners of the *Ithaca Journal and General Advertiser*, in which, on December 23, 1829, they inserted the following announcement:

“The copy-right of the above work having vested in the subscribers, they will continue to publish the same. A new edition, revised and corrected is preparing for the press. It will be well executed and published as soon as practicable. The Class-Book, or introductory part, is a clear, simple, and correct analysis of the Science of Musick, better adapted to the purposes of instruction for which such compilations are principally designed, than any similar work which is now before the publick. The future editions will be revised and corrected, and the publication superintended by Mr. Edson; which is a guaranty that past errors in the selection and arrangement of tunes will be corrected, and that the work will be strictly conformed to the rules of science, and the refined and improving taste of the present day. The patronage of Teachers of Musick and the Publick generally, is therefore confidently invited. Our brethren of the *trade*, whose *aid* we solicit in the premises, and all who purchase to sell again, may rely upon having a *good work*, and upon favourable terms.”

MUSICAL MONITOR,

OR

NEW-YORK COLLECTION

OF

CHURCH MUSICK :

AS IS PREFIXED,

THE ELEMENTARY CLASS-BOOK,

OR

AN INTRODUCTION

TO THE

SCIENCE OF MUSICK,

ARRANGED AND SYSTEMATIZED

BY WILLIAM J. EDSON.



TOGETHER WITH

A CHOICE COLLECTION OF PSALM AND HYMN TUNES, SET PIECES,
AND ANTHEMS,

HARMONIZED FOR TWO, THREE, AND FOUR VOICES.

AND ADAPTED TO PUBLIC WORSHIP



BY EPHRAIM REED.



FIFTH REVISED EDITION, ENLARGED AND IMPROVED

ITHACA.

PRINTED BY MACK & ANDRUS.


1827.

The announcement of the publication of the sixth edition was made on August 11, 1830, as follows:

“New & Improved Collection of Church Musick just published by Mack & Andrus, Ithaca, the Musical Monitor, or New York Collection of Church Musick: being a selection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes of the most approved character. Also, Set Pieces, Anthems and Chants, embracing a great variety of Style, selected from the works of the most Eminent Composers, Together with the Elementary Class-Book, Introductory to the Science of Musick. By William J. Edson. Sixth edition—corrected, enlarged, and greatly improved.

“In the revision and correction of this work, much care has been bestowed by the experienced and scientific editor, and the publishers on their part have spared no pains to render it worthy of the public patronage. Modern taste has been consulted; the genuine improvements of the day have been adopted; and the selections, whether *new* or *old*, are chaste in style and devotional in character.

“The *Class-Book*, or elementary part of the work, is designed to teach by proper steps and gradations the elements of vocal science in a systematick manner, somewhat upon the Monitorial plan, and this, (as originally published in former editions) was the *first* attempt to carry that system into our primary musick schools. The publishers, therefore, invite for the entire work the strictest scrutiny, and solicit the patronage of the friends of vocal science, confident that it will be found as an elementary work for the use of Singing Schools, and as a collection for the use of Musical Societies and Congregations, equal to any work of the class which is now published.

“ For sale by the publishers at their Bookstore in Ithaca.—Also, by Collins & Hanny, and Collins & Co., *New York*; Oliver Steel, and Little & Cummings, *Albany*; N. G. Elliot, *Catskill*; J. C. Kemble, *Troy*; H. & E. Phinney, *Cooperstown*; H. & E. Phinney & Co., *Utica*; Knowlton &

Rice, *Watertown*; Day, Follett & Haskins, *Buffalo*; A. Parker, *Batavia*; E. Peck & Co., and Marshall, Dean & Co. *Rochester*; Morse, Ward & Co., *Canandaigua*; J. Bogert, *Geneva*; U. F. Doubleday, and T. M. Stainer, *Auburn*; Mack & Chapman, *Oxford*; and by Booksellers generally."

The work was copyrighted by Mack & Andrus, under the laws of the United States, on June 3, 1830, as confirmed by "R. R. Lansing, clerk of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of New York."

The public appreciation of the value of the two successive editions of the work, prefaced, as they severally were, by the *Introduction to the Science of Musick*, was immediate and wide-spread. It was a period when the art of singing by note was esteemed an acquirement of more than ordinary distinction. This fact is not only held in special remembrance by the oldest inhabitants of the United States, but is disclosed by numberless published reminiscences of deceased people. Singing-schools, particularly in winter, were flourishing or being organized wherever there were people sufficient in number to sustain them. Persons of vocal ability and proficient as teachers of written music were yearly in great request in the fall, winter, and spring months to take charge not only of bodies of young men and maidens, but of those of middle-aged men and women seeking instruction and practice in the principles of harmony. Each season brought increased demands for the best and latest published tune-books. Part singing, for which large classes were commonly divided according to the distinction of voices into soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, was a notable feature of the singing-schools that drew great numbers of persons, male and female, to engage in it.

The annual concerts given by these schools were entertainments that attracted great audiences of people of the neighborhoods in which they were held. Many bodies of associated singers representing these schools were not infrequently organized, under such names as the Handel

Society, the Haydn Society, and Mozart Society, and displayed their skill from time to time in singing sacred oratorios and popular operas.

Congregational singing was then an attractive feature of the stated services of many churches, and not a few vied with one another in gathering large assemblies of people on Sundays to enjoy such devotional exercises. The innovation of orchestral instruments, such as bass-voils, violins, clarionets, flutes, and brass horns, to support the voices of the members of church choirs when singing, caused not a little discussion and dissension in the congregations. Some of the most prejudiced persons, holding in contempt the use of instruments of music in places of divine worship, reproachfully styled the violins and violoncellos, played in the choirs, "the devil's fiddles."

William Jarvis Edson, finding himself after the publication of the sixth edition of the *Musical Monitor* in growing repute as an author and in wide request as an instructor in the art of singing, determined to devote his entire time thereafter to the compilation and composition of music, religious and secular, and to imparting such knowledge of vocalization and the principles of harmony as should be desired by individuals, choirs, and schools engaging him as an instructor. With this purpose in view, he, on July 1, 1834, sold his property in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., to George Davis, of that county, for the sum of two thousand dollars.¹ Regarding the city of New York as a favorable place of residence, where his two sons, Tracy Robinson and Clement Massillon, were pursuing profes-

¹ *A Condensed History of Cooperstown, with a Biographical Sketch of J. Fenimore Cooper.* By the Rev. S. T. Livermore. Albany, 1862. P. 121.—*History of Otsego County, New York, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers.* Published by Everts & Fariss, Philadelphia, 1878. P. 250.—*Book of Deeds*, T, pp. 446, 508, 509; Y, pp. 128, 129; in the office of the Clerk of Otsego County, New York, at Cooperstown.—*The American Cyclopædia*, 1876. Vol. xvi., p. 716.—*The Jarvis Family.* Hartford, 1879. Pp. 164, 165.—*Book of Deeds*, No. 13, p. 353; No. 32, p. 209; in the office of the Clerk of Genesee County, at Batavia, N. Y.

sions, he, as it would seem, moved thither in the summer of 1834, with his wife, youngest son, Marmont Bryan, two daughters, Mary Augusta and Susan Maria, the last-named being at that time eight years old. The family began occupying a house, known as number 17, on Beach Street, which continued to be their home for eleven successive years; as also it was that of the eldest son, Tracy Robinson, for five. As a professor of music, William Jarvis Edson, the father, found the metropolis to be a highly advantageous field for the exercise of his vocal ability and scientific attainments. A modest but highly popular work, entitled *The Vocal Guide*, of which he was the author, was published, in 1843, by Saxton & Miles, 205 Broadway.¹

Clement Massillon Edson, having acquired an education that gave him a marked distinction as a versatile and attractive writer, became (being in the twenty-third year of his age), in May, 1834, with Lewis Gaylord Clark, the editors and proprietors of the *Knickerbocker, or New-York Monthly Magazine*, a periodical at that time entering the seventeenth month of its publication.

As historically related, at the "Editor's Table," in several issues of the magazine, beginning in the February number of the year 1859: "The first number of the *Knickerbocker Magazine* was issued on the first day of January, 1833, under the editorial charge of Charles Fenno Hoffman, Esq. He chose to adopt the title *Knickerbacker* (with the *a*), as being more consonant with the spelling adopted by the honored families of that name, long resident in the snug nesting-places along the Hudson. It was but a short time, however, before it was made to assume the cognomen of the immortal historian of New York, as given to that worthy by his godfather, Washington Irving. . . .

"Mr. Hoffman continued only for a comparatively brief

¹ *The Vocal Guide, A First Book for Schools and Classes in Vocal Music; etc.* By William J. Edson. Second edition. Published by Saxton & Miles, 205 Broadway; A. V. Blake, 54 Gold Street, Boston. Saxton and Pierce, 1843. Copyright under Act of Congress, 1842.

period to discharge the editorial duties of the *Knickerbocker*: he subsequently became the proprietor and chief editor of *The American Monthly Magazine*, which he conducted for a long time with signal ability. . . . We have never learned why it was that Mr. Hoffman's connection with the *Knickerbocker* ceased as soon as it did; but from what we have heard, we have been led to the inference, that it was owing to some disagreement between himself and the first publisher of the work; a stirring, little business man, smart as a Yankee steel-trap, who knew how to set up his little sails wherever they would 'draw,' singly or all together, the slightest breath of the *aura popularis*. Not but that he meant to make a good work of the Magazine—for Bryant, Sands, Paulding were contributors of excellent papers, in prose and verse, to the very first number: but literary 'puffing' seemed more 'glaring and flaring' at that period than it does at present: and Mr. Hoffman's publisher did not fail to avail himself of the requisite devices, to the fullest extent. . . .

"In the commencement of the Fourth Number of the Second Volume of the *Knickerbocker*, in October, 1833, the Rev. Timothy Flint, then recently from the West, assumed the editorship of the work, . . . 'disavowing any agency in the supervision of the work, up to that time,' he explained briefly his motives for 'taking the burthen upon his shoulders.' In the hope of re-establishing his health, which had become impaired during his residence in the West, he was desirous of trying a change of climate. . . .

"The first 'pen-scratch' of ours which appeared in this Magazine, was published in the number for April, 1834. It was entitled *A Contrasted Picture* and was really what it purported to be, a story founded in the main upon actual fact and 'some' personal observation. We left the manuscript with the publisher at the office of the *Knickerbocker*, then at the corner of Vesey Street and Broadway (for then the Astor House was not, but gentlemen's dwellings). . . .

“One morning, after the publication of the little sketch called *A Contrasted Picture* (it had been printed in that Magazine!), we dropped in, to see the publisher. ‘Community,’ we had no doubt was excited in relation to the article. Upon inquiry, the publisher said that it was even so: community *was* excited, and had asked for the name of the author.

“‘Did you inform the inquirers from whose pen proceeded the article in question?’

“‘I did not: but simply said: “It is from the pen of a person who will make his mark by-and-by.”’

“‘He was right: ‘the mark’ was made, in the shape of a signature—a *joint* signature—whereby Lewis Gaylord Clark and Clement M. Edson became the owners and possessors of the *Knickerbocker Magazine*. (The payment of certain moneys was rendered necessary: and these ‘moneys’ were advanced, for both of us, by the truest, most genial, warm-hearted friends in the world. Gone, some of them, now: but surely, ‘their reward is with them.’)

“‘Well: we commenced the *Knickerbocker*. There was something in the very name of the work which made us *proud*: and that pride, we are not ashamed to say, lingers with us even until now.

“‘We went to our artist-friend, Mr. F. W. Edmonds, of the Mechanics’ Bank, in Wall Street, to prepare for us a design—the head of an authentic Knickerbocker. He did it: pipe, round-crowned hat; cat sleeping under an old-fashioned arm-chair, with a wide look-out for the old Dutch gentleman toward ancient Pavonia, or Communipaw: the ‘House of the Four Chimneys,’ belonging to Van Horn, the First Oysterman, occupying all the visible back-ground.

“‘We are getting a little before our story. Before consummating the purchase of the *Knickerbocker Magazine* from Mr. Peabody—a parched pea, always on a hot shovel—we took counsel from prudent and considerate friends. We went to see Colonel William L. Stone, at the office of the

Commercial Advertiser, in William Street, near the corner of Pine. We remember now the sun shining on the back of a bound copy of Mr. Hezekiah Niles's *Register*.

"We presented a letter to Mr. Stone, from a gentleman in 'old Onondaga,' who had taken the *New York Spectator* for many years. We stated, in very brief and simple words, our business. Mr. Celment M. Edson was with us.

"Colonel Stone knew us, and had a regard for us, especially for our twin-brother Willis, who had written several pieces of poetry for the *Commercial Advertiser*, which had the newness and freshness—'the dew of his youth'—and which had proved widely popular.

"We opened our business to Colonel Stone, after the delivery of the letter:

"'Colonel Stone, you have much experience in literature; and we young men, with great confidence in your mature judgment, have come to ask you for your counsel and advice. We have bought the *Knickerbocker Magazine*; and propose to publish it, and try to make it a good work, which will afford us a living, and perhaps do honor to our periodical literature.'

"'Ah!' said the colonel, putting his long, thin, white fingers to his chin, and then brushing back the 'cow-lick' of his stiff black hair on his forehead; 'you have *bought* it, eh? Then what do you want *advice* about? The deed is *done*, is n't it?'

"We nodded assent. 'I am sorry for it,' said the colonel: 'it is a very precarious dependence. From the very first, there has never been a magazine published in America, which has paid its expenses, from the old *Port-Folio*, down to the present time. I wish you well, *boys*,' added the colonel, (and Mr. Francis Hall, raised his big eye-brows, and gave forth a smile from his thin lips,) 'but I think you have missed it. But be certain of *one thing*, however: whatever I can do for you, in the columns of *The Commercial*, or in

your own pages, I will do. Don't let me *dctain* you: (sly dog!) These are business hours, and *The Commercial* is an evening paper.'

"We left—and Mr. Hall smiled again.

"Well, the deed was done: and from that hour the *Knickerbocker Magazine* became a fixed fact in our existence.

"It was a great pleasure for us to see the name of our periodical inscribed high up on the gable of Messrs. Wiley & Long's, number 161 Broadway. Many and many a time did it give us a thrill of delight, when we had n't twenty-five cents in our pocket. But who *knew* it?

"There had been so much puffing; such an enormous cry, with a limited amount of wool, on the part of the proprietor of the *Knickerbocker*, that we determined, at the outset, that we would at least avoid an imitation of *that* style of literature. So when we commenced, we said the following words, to wit:

"It will be seen, by reference to the imprint of this magazine, that it has passed into other hands, and will hereafter be issued under different auspices than heretofore.

"A brief outline of the course intended to be pursued in the future management of the work, will be pardoned, the more readily, it may be, that our readers are assured that we shall seldom trouble them with mere promises.

"No exertions will be left unemployed, to render the work honorable to American Periodical Literature, and acceptable to the public, whose patronage is only so far solicited, as it shall seem to be deserved.

"The original papers, which it is designed shall be so varied as to form a combination of the solid and the useful, with the entertaining and the agreeable, will be from literary pens of established reputation in different cities and portions of the United States.

"Acceptable original articles will be paid for at such rates as the encouragement of the enterprise shall seem to warrant.

“‘ In addition to the original papers, liberal space will be devoted, under the head of “Literary Notices,” to brief and candid reviews of new works, of proper distinction, with such extracts as may be necessary to add interest, or to evince the justice of the accompanying criticism.’

“Now this Prospectus was well considered. It agitated our whole thimble-full of brains for over a whole night: we woke up on the morning of April first—‘auspicious morn,’ of 1834—and on the following day it was expanded before the public. A *feature*—it *was* a ‘feature,’ as it turned out—was a ‘Monthly Compendium,’ comprising, in a succinct form, all events of importance which might occur during the month, ‘*with such remarks, or illustrative comments, as they might demand.*’ ”

The issue for May, 1834, number five of the third volume, appeared with the changed title-page:

“THE KNICKERBOCKER

OR

NEW YORK MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

vol. III.

New York:

CLARK AND EDSON, Proprietors,
1834.”

By no little expenditure of energy and good judgment, the two enterprising partners were soon delighted to find their venture returning them the means of support more ample than they had been led to expect, and the circulation of the periodical increasing with an ever-growing number of intelligent and appreciative subscribers. It speedily began to be recognized as the leading magazine of the country; its contributors being of the best and

most popular of the contemporary writers of prose and verse in the United States. The zealous and gratified editors and proprietors modestly realized that the high place it had attained in the esteem of the public was due to the fact that it was then the most meritorious periodical published in the city of New York.

Clement Massillon Edson, at the close of the year 1839, sold his interest in the periodical, as was announced in the January number for 1840: "The business department of the *Knickerbocker Magazine* (having changed hands by the purchase of the interest of Mr. C. M. Edson, one of the partners of the late firm of Clark and Edson,) will hereafter be conducted by Mr. James T. Dean." Clement M. Edson did not, however, relinquish his editorial connection with the magazine, it would seem, at that time, but held that position at the office of the publication at 161 Broadway, during a part or perhaps the whole of the year 1840. Then he took up the practice of law, and in the years 1842, '43, '44 had his office at 27 Wall Street, which, in 1845, he changed to 44 Wall Street, where he received his clients until the spring of 1848. At that time, holding the position of Illinois Commissioner, he removed his law office to 2 Hanover Street. In the spring of 1850, he took an office at 35 Wall Street, which he occupied until his death, on the sixth of April, 1853.

The following announcement of it was published in the *New York Daily Tribune*, of Thursday, April 7, 1853:

"Edson.—April 6, Clement M. Edson, Esq., Counsellor-at-Law, aged 42 years.

"Friends of the deceased and of his brother, Tracy R. Edson, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Friday, the 8th instant at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 10 o'clock in the morning, at No. 53 Murray Street."

In the May number of *The Knickerbocker, or New York Monthly Magazine*, for that year, the following tribute to his memory, was given in the "Editor's Table":



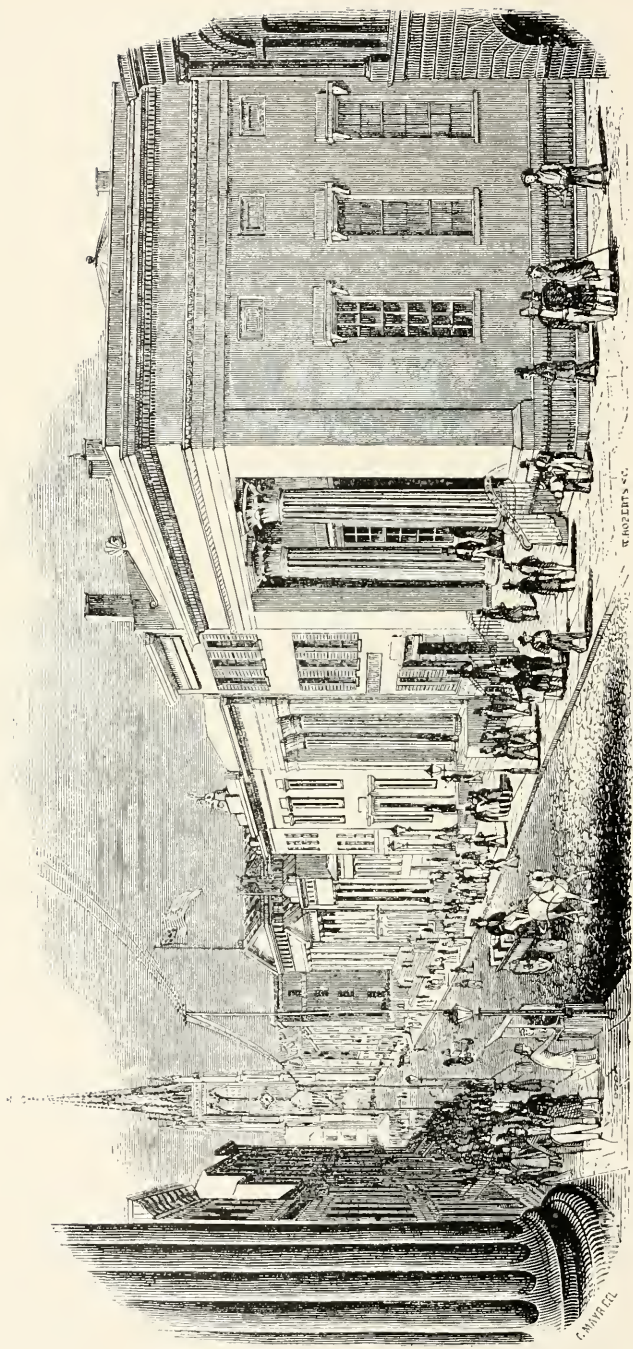
CLEMENT MASSILLON EDSON

"The recent death of Mr. Clement M. Edson, of this city, has been announced in all our public journals. Mr. Edson was for some six years a joint-proprietor with the Editor of this Magazine, and in its success and reputation always took the liveliest interest. For many qualities of head and heart he was held in deserved esteem. He had a quick perception of the humorous and the beautiful, and his judgment in literary matters generally was excellent. After disposing of his interest in the *Knickerbocker*, he commenced the study and practice of the law, in which he was achieving both reputation and success when Death called him hence to be here no more for ever. He was followed to his beautiful resting-place in Greenwood by a large number of attached friends and mourning relatives. May he rest in peace."

Tracy Robinson Edson, the elder brother of Clement Massillon Edson, began his successful business career in the city of New York in 1832, where, on the first of March, that year, he conjointly with Freeman Rawdon and George Whitfield Hatch, severally of that city, and Ralph Rawdon, "Ashel" Clark, and "Neziah" Wright, severally of Albany, N. Y., effected the organization of a partnership of the bank-note engraving firms of Rawdon, Clark & Company, and Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Company; the first-named firm to conduct the business in the city of Albany at 55 State Street, and the second, at 35 Merchants' Exchange Building, in Wall Street, in New York City.¹ From 1835 to 1847, Tracy Robinson Edson of the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Company, resided in New Orleans, Louisiana, in charge of its business in that city.

The art of engraving was at that time rapidly growing into popular favor as a means of perfecting and protecting the value of bank-notes, stock certificates, and bonds. The

¹ The original instrument in Tracy Robinson Edson's handwriting, bearing the signatures of the members of the two firms, is still in the possession of one of the descendants of Charles Toppa of New York City.



NO. 2. ASSIZES NEW-YORK STREET VIEWS

WALL STREET

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS.

skill of counterfeiters in imitating the inferiorly engraved notes of many banks then current brought such ill-repute upon those institutions that prudent people would no longer accept such notes. In order to detect the counterfeit notes in circulation, banks, merchants, and manufacturers were for many years obliged to obtain from regularly published registers of counterfeit money all the descriptive and pictorial particulars respecting that which was in circulation. This inconvenience and the disinclination of the public to further the circulation of poorly engraved although genuine bank-notes speedily brought into high estimation the unexceptionably fine and artistic bank-notes engraved and printed by the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson (so titled in 1847).

An ornately engraved circular, elaborately embellished with twenty handsome vignettes issued by the firm in January, 1854, presented the following information:

“Bank note engraving. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, No. 48 Merchants' Exchange, New York: Offices at Albany, Cincinnati, & New Orleans. Also at Boston, under the name of the New England Bank Note Company, since May 1, 1848.

“The undersigned are prepared, at either of the above places, to execute all orders for Bank Note Engraving and Printing, with promptitude and fidelity, and ample provision is made for the safety of all plates and impressions entrusted to their care. Their specimens embrace a great variety of Vignettes and Ornamented Die work, suitable for Bank Notes, Bonds, Bills of Exchange, Bills of Lading, Deposit & Stock Certificates, Diplomas, Checks, &c., accumulated at great expense, and illustrating almost every subject connected with the business of the country; and the superiority of their style of work, as affording the best possible security against counterfeiting, is established by the success of their efforts, which have been devoted to the attainment of that object, during an experience of thirty years past.”

The critical acumen and administrative energy of Tracy

Robinson Edson had in so many different ways furthered the business interests of the firm that his copartners did not hesitate to co-operate with him in 1858, when he divulged to them his views regarding the advantages that would be realized by the consolidation of all the bank-note engraving companies in the United States, having as a common object



MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE BUILDING, WALL ST., N. Y.—LATER,
CUSTOM HOUSE

the elevation of the character of bank-note engraving and printing for the purpose of making counterfeiting more difficult and detectable. Through his individual efforts the undertaking was successful in securing the co-operation of the leading bank-note companies of the country, and, on April 26, 1858, the American Bank Note Company was organized. The Merchants' Exchange Building, on Wall Street, was heightened two stories to afford the company the use of the rooms on the upper floors; its offices being on the ground floor.

The firms composing the American Bank Note Company were Toppan, Carpenter & Company, Philadelphia; Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, New York City; Danforth, Perkins & Company; Jocelyn, Draper, Welch & Company; Wellstood, Hay & Whiting; Bald, Causland & Company; and John E. Gavit of Albany. The presidents of the company were: Charles Toppan, from 1858 to 1860; Tracy Robinson Edson, from 1860 to 1863; George Whitfield Hatch, from 1863 to 1866; John E. Gavit, from 1866 to 1874; Albert G. Goodall, from 1874 to 1887; and afterward James Macdonough.

“The high position attained by the American engravers is manifested by the confidence reposed in their talents and integrity by foreign governments and corporations, orders having been received at various times, not only from the United States Government, but from Russia, Italy, Spain, Greece, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Australia, Mexico, Honduras, Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Chili, Peru, Ecuador, San Domingo, Hayti, and others.

“The most eminent engravers of the country have devoted their talents to the embellishment of our bank-notes, including A. B. Durant of New York, who became president of the National Academy of Design, a pupil of Peter Maverick; J. W. Casilear of New York, who attained very high rank as a landscape painter; S. Jocelyn of Connecticut; Alfred Jones, born in England, who came to America at an early age; Mosley I. Danforth of New York; James Smillie, a native of Scotland; Felix O. C. Darley of Philadelphia, who as a designer of vignettes had no equal, his drawings being beautiful works of art; F. Rawdon of New York, and many others.”

Hardly had the American Bank Note Company acquired the facilities for furthering its business when the Civil War began, and the United States Government, in order to expedite the increase of its armed forces and to maintain the

troops garrisoning its forts and in camps and in action in different fields of defence and conflict, proposed the issuance of notes, bonds, and other securities in enormous quantities to meet its current expenses. Aware of this intention, and knowing that such certificates would have to be painstakingly engraved and printed to deter counterfeiting, Tracy Robinson Edson promptly went to the seat of the National Government about the end of June, 1861, to obtain for the American Bank Note Company such contracts as might be awarded it. There he became an interested observer of some of the memorable incidents marking the introductory part of the Civil War, of which he made the following mention in a letter addressed to his youngest sister, Susan Maria Edson:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., 4th July, 1861.

"MY DEAR SISTER SUSAN:

"This has been a memorable day in Washington, twenty thousand troops (New-York Volunteers, under the command of Major-General Sanford,) were reviewed at eight o'clock this morning by General Scott and the President; afterwards two flags were raised—one in Lafayette Square, and another at the head of Pennsylvania Avenue, and at twelve o'clock, the two houses of Congress met and organized in extra Session, on account of the Rebellion.

"I visited the Senate, and after they adjourned I went to the House of Representatives, which was then engaged in electing a Speaker. When the Speaker and Clerk were elected, the House adjourned until to-morrow at twelve o'clock, when the President's message will be read.

"There will probably be considerable engraving to be done in connection with the Government loans, and I am waiting here till I can get the contract for it—I may have to remain till Monday or Tuesday next, but I hope not—in either case you must not be anxious about me—I am well, and the weather is fine though warm. Mr. N. P. Willis is

here, also Mr. Beecher, Mr. Weed, Mr. Gavit, and many others that I know. Beecher is still waiting for that appointment, and says he has the promise of it.

"I hope you are all well, and that you have got safely over the 'Fourth.'

"Had I known I should remain here so long, I would have asked you to write me, but I know you know how to communicate with me in case you have occasion, and so I am not anxious.

"Affectionately

"Your brother,

"TRACY.

"With love to Ma, May, & Marmont."

Shortly thereafter the American Bank Note Company was through his agency awarded contracts for making dies and plates for United States notes, bonds, and certificates, and for the printing from the same in large quantities; the notes being sent to the Treasury Department. He individually purchased the patent of a Canadian for an ink of an indestructible green tint that the National Government adopted for the printing in part of its notes, whereby they came to be styled "greenbacks." As a consequence of the use of the ink, he obtained a handsome royalty that laid the foundation of his future wealth. His spirited activity in furthering the interests of the American Bank Note Company greatly advanced the value of its capital stock; the company, according to the certificate of its incorporation, filed on April 29, 1858, in the office of the Secretary of State, having then a cash capital of five thousand dollars, and, at the time of its first contracts with the United States Government, a nominal capital of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, represented by shares which were below par in the market. Not long afterward the company, it is said, made annual dividends of thirty per cent. on its nominal capital.

By an agreement, made on December 27, 1878, the



Tracy R. Edson

American Bank Note Company, the National Bank Note Company, and the Continental Bank Note Company became consolidated under the name of the American Bank Note Company, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars of seventy-two thousand shares, with offices in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Cincinnati, and London, England. At the meeting of the stockholders of the American Bank Note Company, in New York, on January 31, 1879, sanctioning and approving the consolidation, Tracy R. Edson represented six hundred and seven shares; Susan M. Edson, fifty; and Mary A. Edson, fifty. The different certificates were collectively filed in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany, on September 4, 1883.

Tracy Robinson Edson's connection with the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company added noted efficiency and distinct financial advantages to its operations. The company was incorporated on August 16, 1867, with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars. In the following year a number of new stockholders increased its capital to five hundred thousand dollars. Shortly thereafter, Tracy Robinson Edson became one of its largest stockholders. "He," as said by a well-informed writer, "soon began to take an active personal interest in its management, was elected a director in 1869, and has ever since been a member of its executive committee. With much natural tact and persistence, Mr. Edson gave to the development of the company much of his thought and time, and greatly aided the popular and politic administration of its affairs. It was largely through his agency that, soon after his election, the company secured the property and franchises of S. S. Laws, LL.D. (August 27, 1869), and entered into a large and popular development of the business. Mr. Edson also initiated the movement by which the contract made with the Western Union Telegraph Company, through which the business of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company acquired its present [1878] national proportions, was finally effected. . . .

“Mr. Tracy R. Edson, whose exceptionally large interest in the capital of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company made him especially watchful of its affairs, soon perceived the danger to which success under a vigorous and discreet administration had brought his company. It became evident to him, also, that any enlargement of its business by its extension to other cities would have to be accomplished through one of the leading telegraph companies. He therefore, after much careful thought, proposed a plan of co-operative union with the Western Union Telegraph Company by which the mutual interests of both would be conserved. General Marshall Lefferts, quickly perceiving its importance, urged on Mr. Edson the task of attempting its accomplishment. Mr. James H. Banker, then vice-president of the Bank of New York, and at that time one of the most energetic and influential of the executive committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company, cordially offered his co-operation, and the project was promptly presented to the officers of that company.

“Fortunately, circumstances at that time connected with the Western Union Telegraph Company favored the proposal. Its position as a company was powerful and commanding, but the necessary aggressiveness of its movements in the consolidation of its vast property and interests had naturally roused against it many vigilant enemies. These had seized upon the business conducted through the Commercial News Department as evidence of a design on the part of the Western Union Telegraph Company, to traffic on the knowledge of the changes in the markets of the world to the danger and detriment of general commerce. Under the administration of some men such a scheme was apparently possible. This possibility gave plausibility and a kind of dignity to denunciation. The field of operation seemed fruitful and vast, and diatribes on monopoly were many and eloquent. The Western Union Company, conscious of the impossibility of any company being able suc-

cessfully to violate in any such way a great public trust, and satisfied that time would vindicate the uprightness of its general policy, nevertheless perceived the advantage of separating that department from their ordinary business and placing it under the special direction of a separate organization. The proposition, therefore, was made to the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company to turn over to it the entire Commercial News Service, valuable facilities of intercourse with all parts of the continent, the Phelps' machinery, and other important advantages, upon an agreement to issue to the Western Union Telegraph Company an amount of stock then corresponding to the capital of the Gold and Stock Company. This was soon after done, and became the basis of a contract executed May 25, 1871, by which the capital became \$2,500,000. General Marshall Lefferts was retained as president, and William Orton, Horace F. Clark, James H. Banker, and Tracy R. Edson became its executive committee. The operations of the company became at once world-wide, and systems of financial, produce, cotton, and other market quotations were added to its general and metropolitan business."¹

Thomas Alva Edison, the distinguished electrician and inventor, then unknown to fame, came, in 1871, at the age of twenty-four years, from Boston to New York City, and soon afterward became the superintendent of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, having invented the printing telegraphic instrument for the registration of gold and stock quotations. For the manufacture of this valuable piece of mechanism he established a large plant at Newark, N. J., where other of his serviceable inventions were manufactured until 1876, when he occupied his new establishment at Menlo Park, New Jersey. Tracy Robinson Edson soon became greatly interested in the notable skill and practical ingenuity of the young inventor, and forthwith

¹ *The Telegraph in America. Its Founders, Promoters, and Noted Men.* By James D. Reid. New York, 1879. Pp. 607, 608, 612, 613.

largely invested his funds in the manufacture of the gold and stock-quotation printing instruments, as later he did in the stock of the Edison Telephone Company and that of the Edison Electric Light Company.

He also became financially interested in the manufacture of zylonite, more generally known in the United States as celluloid, the discovery of Daniel Spill of England, a hard, durable, and plastic substance, composed of soluble gun-cotton, gum camphor, alcohol, and other ingredients as pigments, and closely resembling ivory. Made as it was in different colors, in imitation of the various hues of tortoise-shells, coral, amber, malachite, and other attractive substances, it was extensively used in the manufacture of numberless useful and ornamental articles.

In all his business ventures, Tracy Robinson Edson was richly repaid for his judicious and large investments, and was recognized by all his compeers as an able and powerful financier, and as such was a leader in each of the enterprises with which he was connected. For many years immediately prior to his death he was treasurer of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church on Broadway, between Tenth and Eleventh streets.

He began residing in the city of New York in 1834, in the house then known as No. 17 Beach Street, which he owned later and occupied until 1854, when he purchased the one designated as No. 16 East 17th Street, where he continued to live, his widowed mother and two sisters with him, until his decease. He never married, nor did either of his sisters, nor his brother, Clement Massillon, whose second title was baptismally bestowed in honor of the eminent French pulpit orator, Jean Baptiste Massillon (1663-1742). His affection for his mother, two sisters, and brother, Marmont Bryan Edson, was unusually developed, and, as disclosed by his last will and testament, his surviving sisters and brother, together with his nephew, Jarvis Bonesteel Edson, and his niece, Fanny Fairchild Edson,

were made the sole heirs of his great wealth as represented by real estate, stocks, and funds.

As set forth in his last will and testament, made in the city of New York, on July 8, 1875, his bequests, wishes, and appointments were the following:

“ 1. My house and lot No. 16 East Seventeenth Street, my pew No. 44, in Grace Church, New York, and my lot of twelve and three-fourth acres of land, in Cornwall, Orange County, New York, I wish sold by my executors, and after paying my just debts, funeral expenses, and the expenses of executing this trust, and the special bequests, together with the proceeds of my life insurance, are to be divided equally between my dear brother, Marmont B. Edson, and my dear sisters, Mary A. and Susan M. Edson, or the survivor or survivors of them, share and share alike. The notes of Marmont B. Edson are to be cancelled and not taken into account. . . .

“ 3. Should I die possessed of any bonds or other securities of the United States, or of any state, or any railroad or other company, or of any city, or of stock in the American Bank Note Company, the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, the Celluloid Manufacturing Company, the Saint Nicholas Bank, the Bank of the Metropolis, the Mercantile Trust Company, the Equitable Trust Company, the Mutual Gas Light Company, the Provident Savings Life Insurance Company, or any other stock, I wish the same to be divided equally as near as may be, share and share alike between my brother Marmont and my sisters, Mary A. and Susan M. Edson, or the survivor or survivors of them. . . .

“ 5. My lot in the village of Cooperstown, I give and bequeath to Mary A. and Susan M. Edson jointly. My seven hundred and eleven, and twenty-six one-hundredths, acres wild land in Arkansas, and my lot, 55 eastern addition to the city of Pontiac, Michigan, I hereby give and bequeath to my dear nephew, Jarvis B. Edson.

“ 6. My lot No. 12,010, in Greenwood Cemetery, I

hereby give and bequeath to my brother Marmont B. Edson, to be used as a burying place for all the members of our family.

"7. I own an undivided one-half interest in the European patents for Edson's Recording Steam Gauge, for which I paid Marmont B. Edson one thousand and sixty-six, and sixty-seven one-hundredths, dollars, such portion of which as will amount to one third interest in the whole, I hereby give and bequeath to my nephew, Jarvis B. Edson, and the remainder of the said one-half interest, I give and bequeath to my brother Marmont B. Edson.

"8. I hereby give and bequeath to my nephew, Jarvis B. Edson, the sum of two thousand dollars, and to my niece, Fanny F. Edson, one thousand dollars, the same to be paid out of the proceeds of my house and lot No. 16 East Seventeenth Street, New York, my pew, No. 44, in Grace Church, my lot of land at Cornwall, and my life insurance, as provided in article the first of this will. . . .

"9. I wish any balance that may be due me at my decease at Messrs. Vermilye & Co.'s, the Saint Nicholas Bank, the Bank of the Metropolis, or elsewhere, to be drawn out by my executors immediately and paid over in equal portions to my brother, Marmont B. and my sisters, Mary A. and Susan M. Edson, or to the survivor, or survivors of them.

"10. My clothing, and my office-desk at the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company's office, I give and bequeath to my brother, Marmont B. Edson, and my furniture, piano, pictures, and books, contained in the house, No. 16 East Seventeenth Street, I give and bequeath to my sisters, Mary A. and Susan M. Edson. . . . My office-desk at the American Bank Note Company's office, I give and bequeath to my nephew, Jarvis B. Edson. . . .

"12. I hereby appoint my friend, John E. Parsons Esq., and my sister, Mary A. Edson, my executors.

"13. In case of default or failure to serve of the first of

my executors above named, I hereby appoint my friend and relative, Hiram F. Hatch, Esq., to act in his stead, and in default or failure to serve of my sister Mary A. Edson, I hereby appoint my sister, Miss Susan M. Edson, to act in her stead."

"TRACY R. EDSON.

"In the presence of Theo. H. Freeland, Orange Junction, New Jersey," and "George C. Brown, 97 Henry Street, Brooklyn." Proved on December 9, 1881.

On Wednesday, November 30, 1881, the following announcement, under the heading of "Deaths," was made in the *New York Daily Tribune*:

"EDSON. On Tuesday, November 29, Tracy R. Edson, in the 72d year of his age.

"His friends and those of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, No. 16 East 17th st., Friday morning, December 2, at 10 o'clock."

In one of the columns of the same journal, issued the same day, the following obituary appeared:

"Tracy R. Edson, who died yesterday at his home, No. 16 East Seventeenth-st., was one of the old business men of New York, and at one time one of the most prominent engravers in this city. He was born at Fly Creek, near Cooperstown, Otsego County, in 1809. He came to New York about fifty years ago, and established himself in the business of an engraver, forming one of the old firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, & Edson, the predecessor of the American Bank Note Company, of which also Mr. Edson was one of the founders and the second president. Mr. Edson continued his connection for many years with the company which began business in the upper part of the Custom House building. Of late he had been connected with several business concerns of this city. He was always considered an upright and accurate business man, quiet and unpretending in his manners. He was never married. The burial will be at Greenwood."

Marmont Bryan Edson, the youngest son of William Jarvis and Polly (Fairchild) Edson, began his business experience in the city of New York, in the spring of 1836, when, at the age of twenty-three years, he entered the employment of Rushton & Aspinwall, druggists, 110 Broadway, and the corner of Barclay Street, to acquire a practical knowledge of the drug business. After applying himself for two years in gaining as much as would qualify him to engage in it, and having heard that the proprietor of a drug-store in the village of Oswego, in Oswego County, N. Y., would sell his stock and good-will, he went thither and purchased, as he subsequently advertised, the stock contained in the building (now 182 West First Street), which he had rented:

“DRUGS AND MEDICINES, PAINTS, OILS, AND DYE-STUFFS.

“The subscriber having purchased the stock in trade of Mr. R. L. Lawrence, is now in receipt of an additional supply of select goods in his line of business, and respectfully invites the attention of old customers, as well as others who desire choice articles. Physicians and Country Dealers will at all times be supplied at the lowest wholesale prices.

“Painters can now be furnished with Saugerties White Lead, Spirits of Turpentine, Linseed Oil, and Paints of every description, and of superior quality.

“Choice Port and other Wines for medical purposes.

“MARMONT B. EDSON.

“Oswego, July 18, 1838.”

In the same newspaper in which he had advertised his business, the *Oswego Commercial Herald*, he inserted, on August 1, 1839, the following notice: “To the Travelling Public. The subscriber, Agent for the Roxbury India Rubber Company—has just received a full assortment of Waterproof Over-Shoes, Over-Coats, and Life Preservers, of first quality; and respectfully invites the attention of

Citizens, Sailors, and Travellers to the same—in which they will find confidence may be placed during the approaching inclement season.

“For sale, wholesale or retail, by Marmont B. Edson, First Street, West Oswego.”

His enterprise and diligence in business have the certification of the conspicuous and various advertisements which are contained in the principal newspapers of Oswego, bearing his name and describing the character and qualities of the drugs, medicines, paints, and other merchandise sold by him. He at once became interested in the affairs of the place, and not infrequently attended public meetings to further its industrial and commercial interests. Aware of the benefits of having the people realize the value of a high standard of intelligent and compensatory farming in the country, he and other enterprising citizens and farmers took an active part in the organization of the Oswego County Agricultural Society, the first meeting for which was held on February 1, 1840.

Realizing that his business venture in Oswego was in several ways incommensurate with his expectations, he disposed of his stock and good-will on the first of December, 1840, as is definitely disclosed by the following advertisement found in the *Oswego Palladium*, of Wednesday, December 9th, that year:

“DRUGS AND GROCERIES.

“The subscriber, having purchased the entire stock in trade of Mr. M. B. Edson, now offers for sale, at his store, in First Street, West Oswego, a large assortment of Drugs & Medicines, Paints, Oils, Groceries, and Fancy Articles, &c.

“DARWIN CANFIELD.

“West Oswego, Dec. 1, 1840.”

“Card.—I have this day disposed of my entire stock in trade to Mr. Darwin Canfield, who will continue the business

in all its branches at the store lately occupied by me, to whom I cheerfully recommend my former customers and all who wish to purchase, assuring them that no exertion will be spared by Mr. Canfield to please even the most fastidious.

“Thankful for the *real patronage* which has been extended to me, I now respectfully request those who are indebted, for an *immediate* settlement, and those who have any demands, to present the same immediately.

“MARMONT B. EDSON.

West Oswego, Dec. 1, 1840.”

Rochester, on the Genesee River, having a population of about twenty thousand souls, founded in 1812, was rapidly growing to be an important centre of manufacture and commerce, and there, in the spring of 1841, Marmont B. Edson rented and fitted up a drug-store, on State Street, the third thoroughfare west of the river. On entering into business in Rochester, he made the following announcement in the *Rochester Daily Democrat*:

“STATE STREET DRUG STORE!!!

“The subscriber has the pleasure of informing the citizens of this city and of Western New York, that he has opened the store, No. 30 State Street, for the sale of Drugs and Chemicals, Paints and Oils, Dye Woods, Fancy articles, &c.

“His stock, which is entirely new, was selected with great care and purchased at the lowest New York prices; he is therefore enabled to sell upon such terms as will please all who may favor him with their patronage.

“*Druggists* and *Physicians* will be supplied at the lowest wholesale prices, with *pure* articles; and all are respectfully invited to call and examine his stock before purchasing elsewhere.

“M. B. EDSON.

“30 State Street, next door to City Bank.

“Rochester, July 1, 1841.”

Having no use for all the buildings on the lot on which his drug and chemical store was standing, he, early in the fall of that year, advertised as follows:

“To Rent. The two-story stone building in the rear of store No. 30 State Street. It is suitable for a dwelling for a small family, but will be rented for a workshop if desired. It will be rented low and possession given immediately.

“M. B. EDSON, 30 State Street.

“Sept. 16.”

While in business in Oswego, Marmont B. Edson made the acquaintance of Margaret Barbara, the daughter of Jacob Nicholas Bonesteel, a prominent dry-goods merchant, and they became engaged, he being twenty-eight years of age and she twenty-two. The announcement of their marriage, as made in the *Oswego Palladium*, of Wednesday, October 13, 1841, following one on the seventh of October, reads:

“In this village, on the same day, by the Rev. Mr. McCarty, Mr. Marmont B. Edson, of Rochester, to Miss Margaret Barbara, daughter of J. N. Bonesteel, Esq., of this village.”

Marmont Bryan Edson, eager to reap all the advantages of business in Rochester that were there to be acquired by him, formed, shortly after his marriage, a partnership with H. J. Perrin, the firm thereupon taking the name of M. B. Edson & Company, druggists, 30 State Street. In April, 1842, the firm opened a second store in a building known as 22 Buffalo Street, to which, in June, that year, the stock of drugs and kindred merchandise in the State Street building were moved. Discovering that he could more satisfactorily and profitably conduct the business by himself, he communicated to his father his need of money should he conclude to terminate the partnership. The answer returned him is a paternal expression of affection and timely admonition. The lustre of the father's love for

his children, not only exhibited in this instance but on many other occasions, had a sustained splendor in its manifestation more noticeable than that of any other natural gift or personal attainment marking his engaging personality. His solicitude for his youngest son's welfare, whose wedded life was then an appreciable factor of consideration, is discernibly implied but not in wordy declaration; the financial aid so generously extended him was the motive of a painstaking care to advantage his son judiciously; the advice tendered him concerning prudence and circumspection was the best fruitage of the father's business experience and knowledge.

“ NEW YORK, 9th May, 1842.

“ DEAR MARMONT:

“ I shall be able to let you have seven or eight hundred dollars, possibly a little more—if absolutely necessary. O. C. will not, I fear, pay more, and that has been obtained by force of law, that is, by compelling him to allow his rents to be paid over to me.

“ I have had hopes of getting much more, but I now think the prospect is not in favor of it. The most of the above is collected, and you can therefore make your arrangements accordingly. I felt sure of being able to give you some assistance for a time, and therefore did not think it best to call on Tracy. His business is by no means as good as it has been formerly in New Orleans.

“ The times are exceeding hard [following the panic of 1837], and the most rigid economy is required from all prudent men, and women too, who intend to avoid the mortification of *coming down*. Habits of extravagance and the indulgence of luxury must be given up, and those who will not do so will fail to pay—therefore mind to whom you give credit. Common sense will probably come in fashion again shortly—and the industrious and the prudent, steady-going business men will have all the business to do.

"We are all in good health through the continued goodness of God, and pray for your welfare and that of your dear wife. We are expecting you now daily.

"Your Father,

"WILLIAM J. EDSON."

In the summer of 1842, Marmont B. Edson, deeming it to his advantage to dispose of his property in Rochester, sold it, and, in the spring of 1843, established himself as a druggist in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory, on the west shore of Lake Michigan, eighty miles north of Chicago. For a number of years prior to 1835, the site of the rapidly growing village "was known only as an Indian trading-post, occupied by a Frenchman named Solomon Juneau, who is generally spoken of as the founder of the city." In 1838, its inhabitants numbered seven hundred; in 1840, one thousand seven hundred and twelve; and, in 1846, nine thousand six hundred and sixty-six.

Tracy R. Edson, when returning to New York from New Orleans, in July, 1843, by the way of Saint Louis, visited Milwaukee, where he had the pleasure of seeing for the first time his sister-in-law, Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson.

The prevalence of fever and ague in and about Milwaukee highly popularized a medicine for the cure of it, prepared by Marmont B. Edson. Its efficacy in alleviating the sufferings of the afflicted people, of whom Solomon Juneau was one, to whose memory a monument has been erected on the lake front of the city, caused the grateful Frenchman to place in the hands of his friend the following testimonial, in order to have the value of the medicine known to those having the malarial malady:

"MR. MARMONT B. EDSON,

"SIR:

"Having witnessed the efficiency of your Compound Vegetable Remedy for Ague and Fever, and believing it

worthy of all praise as a cure for that disease, I unhesitatingly recommend it to the patronage of the public.

“I remain,

“Yours, &c.,

“S. JUNEAU.

“March 16, 1844.”

Under the date of May 17, 1844, William Jarvis Edson, writing to his son, Marmont Bryan, from New York City, prefatorily remarks:

“As an opportunity presents I devote a few moments to write to you. I have nothing of much consequence to say except that we are all in health but Clement, who has some affection of the neck or throat that has been troublesome to him for a few days, nothing however of a serious nature, we presume. . . .

“I do hope you will make your medicine go, although I cannot say that I wish anybody to have the fever and ague. No—but if they do have it, I hope they will buy your drops and be cured and recommend them to others, both as a preventative and a cure.

“It is with great pleasure we read your letters. I am glad to see that you preserve your cheerfulness. As the world did not conclude to burn at Father Miller’s bidding, I learn that Eugene Dibble [probably a believer in the predictions of the terrestrial catastrophe that was to occur in 1843,] has opened a shop somewhere on Greenwich Street. . . . Old Trinity is slowly rearing her lofty spire. . . . May God preserve and bless you both.”

The mention of the unfulfilment of Father William Miller’s prophetic declarations, no doubt recalled very vividly to the remembrance of the son and the daughter-in-law the widely published predictions of the second coming of Christ to the earth in 1843, and the consequent destruction by fire of all things terrestrial, which caused a great number of men and women, who accepted the fanatic’s as-

sertions as inerrant, to prepare themselves becoming robes in which to ascend to heaven, and to dispose of their property and to abandon their occupations in view of the impending annihilation of all mundane objects, animate and inanimate, except those persons who were righteous and redeemed. The confidence of the disciples of Miller, or Millerites, as they were familiarly styled by intelligent and disbelieving people, contagiously subjected not a few unbelievers to startling fears and misgivings regarding their unpreparedness for the dire day. As it did not occur, the Millerites for many years thereafter were the victims of the criticism and burlesque of their less impetuous and imaginative neighbors and acquaintances.

Marmont B. Edson, discovering that Milwaukee did not afford him the advantages which he had been induced to believe it would, moved to Janesville, in Wisconsin Territory, on the west bank of Rock River, sixty miles southwest of the first-named place. The village, which derived its name from Henry F. Janes, who settled on its site in the spring of 1836, and established a ferry opposite his log-cabin overlooking the river, became, in June, 1839, the seat of a store. In July, 1841, Janesville had germinated into a settlement of two stores, ten dwellings, two taverns, with seventy or eighty inhabitants. In December, 1843, thirty-six dwellings and three hundred and thirty-three settlers were then the evidence of its growth; and, in August, 1845, one hundred and fifty-seven dwellings and eight hundred and fifty-five inhabitants distinguished it.

There, on the thirtieth of April, 1845, Jarvis Bonesteel, the first child of Marmont Bryan and Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson, was born.

The proud father and happy mother had their son shortly thereafter christened by the Rev. Thomas J. Ruger, father of General Howard Ruger, U.S.A., who had been sent from the diocese of New York to that part of Wisconsin Territory, in the summer of 1844, by the Domestic Board of

Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church. On the eighteenth of September, that year, this active missionary organized the first congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church of Janesville, when, on that day, two wardens and eight vestrymen were elected to take charge of its affairs. From the beginning of his missionary work in Janesville and its vicinity until the first of January, 1846, the Rev. Thomas J. Ruger conducted services in a small brick school-house. At the end of two years, a parish was fully organized, of which he became rector, and retained that position until 1855. At a vestry meeting, held on July 5, 1847, an affirmative vote authorized the immediate erection of a brick house of worship seventy-two feet in length and forty-five in width. An attractive edifice of those dimensions was accordingly built, and in June, 1848, consecrated. This monument of Christian effort and generosity is still an architectural ornament of the place. Until its consecration, the congregation worshipped in the stone building styled the Janesville Academy. In projecting the erection and furthering the completion of the church, Marmont B. Edson took an active and prominent part, and was a generous contributor to liquidate the debt of three thousand dollars, the cost of the building.

During the ten years of his business career in Janesville as a wholesale and retail dealer in drugs and chemicals, Marmont B. Edson was highly successful. A second son, Henry Augustus, and a daughter, Mary Gertrude, were born to him there, the son on the ninth of April, 1847, the daughter on the seventeenth of November, 1849.

Meanwhile his father and mother had, in 1845, changed their residence from New York City to Utica, N. Y. William Jarvis Edson, as a professor of music, soon acquired there no little local reputation as an instructor in vocalization and the principles of harmony. Prior to a public exhibition of the attainments of the members of one of his classes, he published a musical leaflet of twelve pages, en-

titled: *Hymns and Songs to be Sung at Mr. Wm. J. Edson's Juvenile Concert, on Wednesday Evening, September 17, 1845.* This publication he had entered for copyright, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1845, in the Clerk's office of the District Court for the Northern District of New York. As a foot-note, the following announcement was made by him on a page of the leaflet: "Mr. Edson gives lessons in music to classes and private scholars at his room, 8 Devereux Block, Utica."

This place of instruction was later changed to a more convenient building, as published in the Utica directory for the year 1846, in which, and the directories for the two following years, as a professor of music, he is named as having a room in the Devereux Block, 144 Genesee Street, and a residence at 88 Fayette Street.

In a letter, dated "Utica, May 10th, 1846," with the prefacing address, "Dear Marmont, Margarett, and little J. B. E. Esq." (his grandson being then a year old), he discursively relates—his wife, "Ma," as mentioned by him, having, in another communication, particularized "all the domestic events"—some of the incidents of his professional engagements in Utica, interspersed with such observations and comments concerning personal and public affairs as then came within the range of his thoughts and were regarded by him as worthy of communication:

"I am now engaged in the city schools, that is, eight of them, giving one lesson per week in each, at fifty cents a lesson. I have just commenced an engagement for six months in the First Presbyterian Church as leader and instructor for one hundred dollars. I have just closed a term in the same church from which I realized about sixty-five dollars for, say, four months by way of a concert, given on the twenty-second of April, by which I gained much reputation [in Utica] as a teacher and leader of sacred music, my previous efforts here having been confined to juvenile singing, for I had not been able to effect much with the old

class. The concert was really a good one. The selections were of the highest order. I have some classes and private pupils, but I do not design to continue here very long, as the labor is very hard, and it does not pay.

“What I shall do with my *Improved Notations*, I cannot now say. I have full confidence in the plan, and shall endeavor to do something with it in the course of the summer.

“An acquaintance of mine, Mr. H——, called on me on his return from New York. He is a very clever fellow as you have found out. Be very *cautious* in your business transactions with him, that you may not change your mind. He has always been very friendly, yet I would have you be *cautious*.

“I wish very much to see you all. I do not forget you when I supplicate the Divine favor, but pray that you may be encircled in the arms of the Almighty, and at such moments you seem to be near, and distance is lost in spiritual communion. And such is the state undoubtedly to which we are hastening, when presence will keep company with thought, and spirit will not be encumbered by time or space.

“Sometimes I have thought of proposing a connexion in business as I do not feel inclined to go to farming. The capital I could command would perhaps help you, and the business might afford a living, but then should I go West, or you come East? Aye, that 's a poser—may be I could not get any company to go West—may be you had better stay where you are—may be I had better not have mentioned the thing—may be you will write pretty soon, and say what you please about it—may be you will tell me all about your feelings, thoughts, wishes, prospects; whether you would like me to come out there and look at the country, and whether you would stay there if you could get away, or not. But I am old and cannot stay anywhere but a few years at most, though there are others who are young and might do well in going. I should like to hear what you have to say about these things.

“I do not think I ever wrote such a kind of letter as this before, but I do not think I shall alter it now. I do not think you will show this to anybody else, if you do to Margarete.

“By the way you cover a good deal of paper with your advertisements—hope the printer wants a good many ‘ague drops,’ and such like.

“Seriously, I want you to write a long, particular-meter letter, concerning the various matters floodishly mentioned herein. I wish very much to know what you would do if you could. Here I will stop, for I cannot make out a sentence worthy to be written except it be this last one.

“Affectionately

“Your father,

“W. J. EDSON.”

There is a remarkable impulse of paternal feeling discernible in this communication, particularly in those complex expressions veiling an ungovernable yearning to be with Marmont Bryan, his youngest son, in the years of declining life; the father having reached the advanced age of threescore years. When he lifted his soul heavenward in supplication and felt the inspiration of a divine presence giving guidance to his far-away son, there seemed to him to be no mete or bound to limit the sacred influence of thought and prayer. Without being expressed, there is manifestly a heart-cherished wish enshrined in the wording of the letter to have some agency bring the writer of it and his grandson, the “esquire” of his deeply seated affection, face to face, perhaps to leave the memory with him of having seen his grandfather before his decease.

In the fall of 1847, William Jarvis Edson began to be afflicted with rheumatic pains in the muscles of his throat and neck, from which point of time until his death he gradually became unfitted for the performance of his professional services. His son Marmont was about changing

the place of his residence in Janesville, and his sister Mary Augusta was actively assisting her sister-in-law in preparing the new home for occupation by the household.

Writing from Utica, on January 23, 1848, he styles its members collectively as "Dear Children (for " [as he adds in a parenthetical clause], "I address you all), Marmont, Margarett, Mary, and the young birds"—his grandsons, Jarvis Bonesteel and Henry Augustus, then individually in their third and first years.

"We have been waiting and hoping for a letter for many weeks from Mary, but none has reached us except a few lines written to Tracy by M. from Milwaukee. That communication has relieved the great anxiety which we could not but feel in not hearing from any of you for so long a time, and I feel grateful to the Giver of all good that your health and lives are spared and that another year has begun its course with all the members of our family in health except myself, and I am now rather better than when Mary left home. . . .

"As to my own health I am troubled with a laborious respiration, which is aggravated if not caused by a rheumatic affection of the respiratory muscles. My right shoulder is also considerably affected, but on the whole, as I have said above, nature is, I think, getting the better of both. . . .

"I rejoice to hear that Marmont has succeeded so well in business, yet I cannot *kwite* excuse him for his neglect in writing so seldom. But what shall I say to Mary? Oh! how many inquiries have been made at the post-office! Well! I hope we shall get a letter before this reaches you!

"We hear from New York pretty often, and sometimes see a friend from there. One arrived here last evening, and is 'staying over Sabbath.' . . .

"What next? Oh! the weather! Well, we have as good as no sleighing at all this winter—very mild weather, for this climate, most of the time, but some extreme cold



WILLIAM JARVIS EDSON

days. To-day the sun awoke with a bright shining face, which he has kept on until this hour, three o'clock, P.M., when some untoward occurrence has dashed his setting prospects, and he has retired gloomily behind a wintry cloud.

"Next! about the new house! New carpets! New everything! Well, if Mary is with you, she knows how it's done and can do it; but you must move *kwick*. May you enjoy the conveniences, and find happiness in your new home!

"As you are all in such an overflow of business I must not detain you longer except to wish you health and every earthly enjoyment, commending you to the kind care of a protecting Providence.

"Affectionately,

"Your father,

"WILLIAM J. EDSON.

"Marmont B. Edson, Esq.,
& family.

"P. S. It is a beautiful day, (24th). Mr. Harding is to be married this evening at Dr. Blakley's. We have an invitation. I do not know whether we shall stay here longer than till spring or not."

The character of the contents of this letter presents the assertive nature of the affectionate father's solicitude for the health and welfare of the Janesville household, as well as the spontaneity of his gratitude to God for the knowledge afforded him of the well-being of its members after many days of anxious expectation. The desire of having them believe that he was less a sufferer than they might have reason to assume strikingly discloses his care to have them undisturbed by the mention he makes of his want of health. His laconic exclamations regarding the furnishings of the new home were flashes of an innate spirit of cheerfulness that lastingly illumined his disposition. Realizing as he

always did that God is ever a gracious benefactor, he conformably endeavored to impress from time to time his faith in an all-wise and bounteous Providence upon the minds of his children.

Aware that his ill-health as time passed was certainly bringing his life on earth near its end, he made his last will and testament in the following form:

“I, William J. Edson, of the city of Utica, county of Oneida, and state of New York, while in the enjoyment of a sound mind and considering the uncertainty of this mortal life do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament respecting the management of certain affairs and the disposition of certain property after my decease.

“First. I entrust to my two sons, Tracy R. Edson and Clement M. Edson, the entire direction and control of all property and matters of business which would otherwise of right belong to myself, and I hereby constitute and appoint them my Executors and Trustees for that purpose.

“Second. It is my desire that the sum of Two Thousand Dollars, now in the hands of James Humphrey, Esq., of the city of New York, remain as now invested and secured until circumstances render it necessary and proper otherwise to dispose of it.

“Third. In the final division of my property and estate, I desire that the sum of Five Hundred Dollars for each of my two daughters, Mary Augusta Edson and Susan Maria Edson, be appropriated to their sole and separate use and benefit, and that the sum of Ten Hundred Dollars, or the interest thereof, be appropriated to the use and maintenance and support of my beloved wife, Polly Edson, during her natural life, and if any part of said last-mentioned sum should remain after her decease that it be disposed of in the way first above-named as circumstances may then justify.

“Fourth. I advise and direct that the lands owned by me in the state of Michigan, or elsewhere, and all of them be

placed at the disposal of my two sons above named, to be sold or retained as to them shall seem best, having regard to the rights and interests of all my family and my feelings of love and affection for every member thereof, appending here this remark that the only reason for the omission of the name of my son, Marmont B. Edson, is, that he is supposed neither to require nor to desire any further pecuniary aid or testimony of my affection, and I hereby relinquish and give up all legal claims against him for advances heretofore made or indebtedness incurred.

“Finally, I commit my soul to God in humble dependence on his mercy through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

“In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at the city of Utica, the fourth day of September in the year one thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Eight.

“WILLIAM J. EDSON, L.S.

“The above instrument, consisting of one sheet, was this 4th day of September, 1848, signed and sealed by the said Testator, William J. Edson, in our presence, and was by him then declared and acknowledged to be his Last Will and Testament, and we, at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other affix our names hereunto as witnesses thereof.

“WILLIAM D. HAMLIN, Utica. }

“GEORGE A. KELSEY, Utica. ’ }

“Probated July 8, 1850.”

Twenty-seven days later, the soul of William Jarvis Edson passed from earth brightened with the hope of a fitness for other manifestations of God’s love toward him in the endless ages of eternity. His death and the burial of his remains were announced on Tuesday morning, October 3, 1848, as follows, in the *Utica Daily Gazette*:

¹ *History of Rock County, Wisconsin*. Chicago, 1879. Pp. 532, 533, 556, 557.—*Book of Wills and Testaments*, F, No. 9, pp. 310, 311, in the office of the Surrogate of Oneida County, New York, at Utica.



MRS. WILLIAM JARVIS EDSON

“Deaths: On the morning of the 1st inst., Mr. William J. Edson, aged 62 years and 8 months.

“The funeral will take place from his late residence at 88 Fayette st., on Tuesday, 3d inst., at 3 o'clock, P.M. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.”

William Jarvis Edson, it may truly be said, had a natural ordination to teach those who desired instruction in the art of using their vocal talents for the pleasure and cheer of themselves as well as of those about them. Confident that he was doing the will of his Creator, he had a serenity of mind and an abiding sense of duty that ever led him to meet bravely all the untoward exigencies of life common to men with a satisfying assurance that his harborage was always in a safe roadstead of God's decreeing.

His widow resided in Utica until 1849, and thereafter in New York City, with her son, Tracy R. Edson, 16 East Seventeenth Street, until her decease, on December 24, 1873, in the eighty-sixth year of her age. The funeral service was held at Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, on Broadway and Tenth Street. Her remains were entombed in the family burial plot, in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Chapter XIII

Marmont Bryan Edson

1813-1892

A HALF-century ago, the purpose of a person's "going West" from a home east of the Alleghany Mountains was considered to be highly advantageous, as it was commonly supposed at that time that almost any one having health and sufficient money to meet the expenses of a journey to a destination in one of the several territories then open for settlement could soon launch himself upon a stream of prosperity on which he would, in a few years, reach a haven of rewarded labor and promised wealth undiscoverable elsewhere in the United States of America. In the great exodus of young men and newly married people that then formed a high tide of emigration from New England and the Middle States to the rich valleys and arable plains of the West, the greater number no doubt actually bettered their condition, not only financially but healthfully, and some of the more forward and ambitious speedily acquired substantial riches, either in the ownership of extensive tracts of cultivated and productive land or in the proprietorship of remunerative mills and manufactories.

The new settlements of the Western frontier, regarded as remote from the Eastren States, were not, however, on the habitable bounds of the West for any great length of time. The attention and interest of the inhabitants of those distant populated points were soon awakened by the intelligence that farther beyond them there were still more

attractive and wealth-yielding sections where riches were obtainable with less toil in fewer years of exacted thrift and industry.

Not a few of those hardy pioneers of the far West, whose intelligence and energy had secured them rapid and increasing profits by the successful operations of their mills and factories, or by the advantageous sale of the abundant products of their well-cultivated farms, or by fortunate merchandising in thriving centres of trade and industry, were unable to restrain themselves from selling their possessions, where they were amassing wealth and going to one or the other of the later places of settlement, in order to take advantage of the lauded opportunities offered them for the quick acquirement of riches.

The success which had attended Marmont B. Edson as a wholesale and retail druggist in Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin Territory, did not repress a desire to change his business should he discover an opportunity to undertake another equally or more profitable that would release him from steady confinement indoors. Learning that in Green County, on the east bank of Sugar River, about twenty miles southwest of Janesville, there was purchasable an excellent site for a flouring-mill, which, if built and operated, would be highly remunerative to the owner or owners, he formed a copartnership with John Brown to engage in the business of milling wheat and other grain in the adjoining county.

The two sanguine and resolute capitalists moved thither with their families in 1851, having previously effected the purchase of the mill-property and the water-privilege appertaining thereto.

A part of the tract that formed the seat of the small settlement had been laid out, into building lots, in the spring of 1848 by William Jones, who erected on it a dwelling for his family and soon afterward a hotel to accommodate wayfaring pioneers and houseless settlers. He built a dam

across Sugar River and partly finished the framework of a saw-mill that he had been building near it.

In September, 1848, I. F. Mack came thither and purchased the squatter rights of William Jones, and laid out eighty additional acres into house lots.

In deference to the desire of William Jones the settlement was given, in 1852, the name of Decatur, by an act of the Legislature. Sugar River, flowing southwardly across Green County, was early known as the Sweet Water by the Indians fishing and trapping along it.

Marmont B. Edson and his business associate, having obtained places of abode for their families, began the erection of a flour-mill near the saw-mill which I. F. Mack had bought and put into operation. As soon as they had completed the building of the mill and the planting of the machinery and the construction of a flume from the Sugar River dam, they were overburdened with orders for flouring the grain brought by the farmers of the surrounding country. The most trying of the experiences of the firm in operating the mill was the difficulty of obtaining parts of machinery to substitute for such as broke or could no longer be repaired, they having to wait sometimes for weeks before the new arrived from Milwaukee or from a more eastern point of supply. There were no lines of railway northwest of Chicago at that time, by which such material could be speedily transported to Decatur, the route of transportation thither being from Grand Haven, Michigan, across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee, and thence westward by land, over unmacadamized roads on which heavily laden wagons could move but slowly in the driest weather. Before Decatur had attained the dignity of a village, dressed lumber for building purposes was brought thither from Janesville. It is related that at that time a prejudice prevailed among its early inhabitants against the use of planed lumber from Janesville for the erection of a better and more attractive class of houses than had been built in Decatur; which bitter feeling had incited

a displeased resident to set fire, secretly, to a quantity that had been hauled thither for that purpose.

When Marmont B. Edson became a resident of the place it was exceedingly primitive in appearance, the few buildings in it being mostly frame structures of no architectural attractiveness. The schoolhouse was a one-story log building, not more than twenty feet long and fifteen wide. Moved by his irrepressible spirit of enterprise, he erected a row of buildings in Decatur, with rooms on the first floors for stores, in which a large upper room was used for a number of years as a town-hall. It was in it that Horace Greeley, when on his way to the Pacific coast in the summer of 1859, delivered one of his abolition speeches, which, it is said, helped to elect Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States of America. The ceiling of the hall was not more than eight feet above the floor, and when the stalwart advocate of abolition of African slavery in North America and in other countries where it existed spoke, at one end of the room, from a platform having an elevation of fifteen inches from the floor, his head was not far from the ceiling. The fumes and smoke of tobacco soon fouled the atmosphere and a drowsy languor began to dull the interest of the audience. Aware of the fact, the experienced and politic editor, in order to arouse the assembled frontiersmen to a more animated attention to his remarks, proposed the singing of the national hymn, the *Star-Spangled Banner*. As they were nowise more familiar with its words than they were with the tune, it became necessary for him to line off the verses one by one, after the manner of the Methodists, and to lead the singing, in order to accomplish his purpose.

About the year 1853, wolves were numerous in that wild region of country, and their ferocity and depredations menaced the lives and cattle of the settlers so greatly that the troubled pioneers appointed a day on which to assemble, armed and on horseback, to undertake the extermination

of the aggressive and dangerous animals. Having met at the designated rendezvous, they formed into two lines and deployed across the country at right angles the one line to the other, shooting and killing all the wolves that were found in the woods and thickets and elsewhere, in gun-shot distance, in the direction in which the mounted hunters rode that day.

A third son, John Tracy, blessed the marriage of Marmont Bryan and Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson, on May 26, 1854. The presence of this their fourth child did not brighten long their home in Decatur, for on September 4, 1855, its infantile life on earth terminated, to the great sorrow of the parents.

The milling business of the two active flour manufacturers in time became so burdensome by an excess of orders as to cause them an increasing perplexity to accommodate their numerous patrons, and finally brought the strong wills of the two strenuous and persistent men into such a state of friction, it is said, that they decided to dissolve the partnership and dispose of the property of the firm. They sold the flouring-mill, and likewise a saw-mill owned by them, to a member of the Mack family, who later conveyed the flouring-mill to Thomas and John Hendrie, who, about the year 1863, having settled at Brodhead, a station on the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad, three and one-half miles from Decatur, and erected there the building known as the Brodhead City Mill, and supplied it with water from the Sugar River dam, at Decatur, by a raceway sixty-five feet wide at the bottom, eighty at the top, and eight deep, merged the business of the Decatur mill with that of the new one at Brodhead, and razed the old building.

Marmont B. Edson, having heard of the extraordinary prospects of the budding village of Prairie du Chien, about ninety-five miles northwest of Decatur, on the east bank of the Mississippi River, in Crawford County, Wisconsin, had his family and household goods carried from Decatur in

wagons, in the spring of 1856, to Prairie du Chien, where he engaged in the buying and selling of real estate, based on the rapid growth of the place when the construction of the railroad, extending to it from Milwaukee, one hundred and ninety-eight miles distant, should be completed.

Before any settlers occupied the site of the village, the Fox tribe of Indians, who were using it as a seat for their wigwams, had a chief, bearing the name of Dog, known vernacularly to the Canadian-French fur traders as Chien, whence that part of the plain came to be called Prairie du Chien. The charming character of the physical features of the place, made strikingly picturesque by lofty bluffs on each side of the river, at once engages the eye of an admirer of grand scenery. The sandy, loamy plain on which the city now stretches its numerous thoroughfares is about two miles wide at the south end and runs northward seven miles to a narrow extremity. The homes of the inhabitants, who in 1857 numbered about three thousand, it is said, were then scattered over a space equivalent to seven sections of land. The growth and prospects of the village, as described by a local writer, that year, present in a summary way some particulars relating to the place that may be regarded as historical: "We have one large steam flouring-mill, and one steam saw-mill; we have three lumber yards, five brick-yards, and stone quarries without number. Several millions of brick have been made and laid, during the present season, in [the erection of] dwellings and large stores and warehouses. . . . Three graceful churches, and one in the course of building, together with two other places of divine worship, honor the morals and religious tastes of the people. A high school and a suitable number of district schools supply the wants of our children and youths for educational purposes; and an academy and several more churches are in contemplation. . . . The railroad, at the time of this writing, is finished to a point twenty miles from this place, and the track is being laid at

the rate of half a mile a day. . . . The cars are expected to reach this village in February next.

“During the past season the steamboat arrivals averaged ten or twelve a day, none of which boats were owned at this place. This village offers at this time the greatest facilities for wholesale dealers, for manufacturers, and for all kinds of mechanics and laborers. . . . Flouring, grist, and saw-mills are much needed, and a grist-mill, [run] by water-power, near the town, a good mill-wright and miller, would find good encouragement, from the present prospects.” The first grist-mill was erected there in 1847. In 1856, Alexander McGregor built and operated the first steam ferry-boat conveying passengers and vehicles across the river at that point. In 1857, the first saw-mill for converting hard timber into plank was built near the site of the railroad round-house. On April 14, 1857, the first train of cars arrived at Prairie du Chien on the new line of railway eastward.

The Rev. John H. Egar, a Protestant Episcopal missionary, organized, in June, 1857, a congregation of Episcopalians in Prairie du Chien, of which Marmont B. Edson and wife were zealous and influential members, and for the erection of the house of worship, begun that year, they were among the largest contributors of funds. The Rev. John H. Egar was elected rector of the parish and continued to be until 1859. The vacancy in the rectorship was not filled until 1863, when the Rev. Charles W. Clinton took charge of the parish.

The two sons and daughter of Marmont Bryan and Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson—the elder son being in his fifteenth year, and the daughter in her fifth—affectionately welcomed, on April 16, 1859, the advent of a sister, who, at her baptism, was given the name of Fanny Fairchild. The education of the two sons, that had been begun in the log schoolhouse at Decatur, was continued at Prairie du Chien, in a private school, conducted in a more modern building.

The erection of the railroad station in the southern or lower part of the village of Prairie du Chien instead of the main or upper section, where it had generally been thought it would be built, caused Marmont B. Edson the loss of considerable money by his investments in real estate in the northern part, upon the supposition that on the completion of the railroad the station would be in it. The disappointment of his expectations of realizing profitable returns by the sale of his property at highly advanced prices made him part with it as advantageously as he could, and purchase, in the spring of 1860, a residence in Brooklyn, New York, known as 78 Third Place.

The parental affection and concern of Marmont Bryan Edson for the welfare of his two sons are impressively disclosed in a letter to his son Henry Augustus, at school in Essex, Connecticut, to whom he imparts judicious advice respecting the choice of several optional studies, and communicates the appointment of his brother, Jarvis Bonesteel, as Acting Third Assistant Engineer in the United States Navy. The closing sentences of the letter glow with a fervor of Christian feeling highly consistent with the afflictive character of the Civil War.

"NEW YORK, N. Y., November 5, 1864.

"MY DEAR SON HENRY:

"Your welcome letter was received at noon to-day. I cannot go home to get *Davies' Bourdon* until to-night, and in that case it will be too late to send it by Mr. Taylor, so I will send it in some way at once, or write for you to buy one.

"In reference to your writing, I think it best for you to write for a month or so perhaps, as it is for the purpose of having your attention directed especially to the orthography and not so much to the penmanship, and then he [evidently Mr. Taylor] will probably correct whatever he finds is wrong either in the construction of sentences or the spelling. You can keep me informed, and I can after a few weeks

perhaps have that discontinued. If you cannot attend to French at once for want of time, you may go on without it for the present (as you are the only one), but still I should prefer your studying that, if you could make rapid progress,



HENRY AUGUSTUS EDSON

even if you were to omit geometry (especially if you are to be a diplomatist or a financier). However, geometry will do you no hurt. You might ask Mr. C., which it would be better for you to take of the two (in connection with your other studies and French), geometry or *Davies' Bourdon*.

“I do not wish you to forego the advantage of French, if you can possibly acquire it.

“I hope you will find every facility for learning and study, and will be blessed with good health so as to pursue your studies without interruption.

“I have no news in particular to communicate except that when Jarvis returned home, after leaving you, he found a letter, enclosing an appointment for him, from the Navy Department, Washington, as Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordering him on board the *Fah-Kee* U. S. steamer, at the New York Navy Yard. Accordingly, on Thursday morning, we started for the Navy Yard, and after looking at the ship, he took the usual oath of loyalty on passing his physical examination, and so became an officer of the United States Navy.

“We have been busy as we well could be in getting his outfit of necessary clothing, bedding, &c., &c. He reported on board at 3½ P.M.

“I took leave of him not without many regrets that he was to leave his home where he had always been watched with all the tender solicitude which I was capable of exercising, in order that he might not only be possessed of a fine and manly form, without spot or wrinkle, but also of the requisite accompaniment of a well-balanced, vigorous mind stored with lessons of wisdom, and, by God's blessing, be endowed with heavenly gifts, in order that he might ever be an ornament to any society, however refined, a worthy member of the church militant, and so a useful citizen, in whatever calling it should please God he should pursue. He has gone as it seemed to please him to go, and yet we may, as it is our duty, hope and pray, that he may be preserved ‘from the dangers of the sea, from sickness, from the violence of enemies,’ and from every other danger to which his body may be exposed, and that his mind and heart and soul and strength may be thoroughly purposed, to ‘keep God's holy will and commandments’ all the days

of his life, and that he may finally attain life eternal 'through the merits' of his, and our, only Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

"We miss you both of course, and when we pray God to 'bless all for whom we should pray,' our minds dwell particularly upon our dear sons and brothers, who have just left us. At the same time, we should always bear in mind also 'those who are anyways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate,' as well of others as of relatives and friends, and we should also even pray God to bless our enemies, convincing them of the error of their ways, and bringing them to repentance and better minds.

"My son, bear these things ever in mind, read your Bible daily, and not forget to pray, then and only then can we claim God's blessing according to His promises. May His blessings ever rest upon you, and may you always acknowledge Him to be your only Lord and Master is the prayer of your affectionate father,

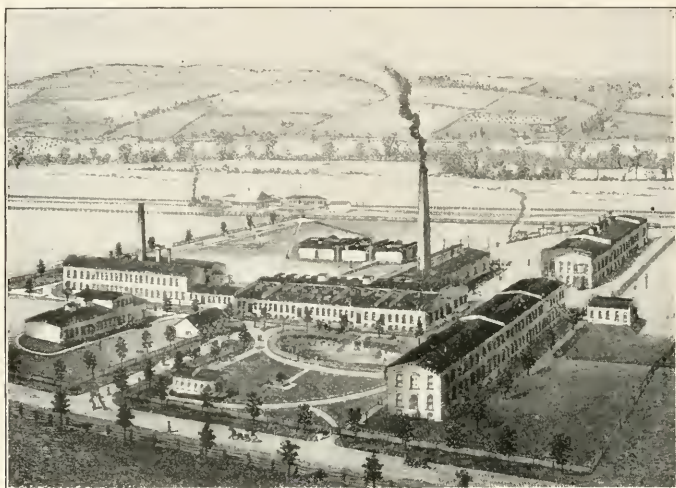
"M. B. EDSON."

He became, in 1865, financially interested in the business of the New York Submarine Wrecking Company, of which he was secretary until 1868, having an office at No. 61 William Street. In 1870, he organized the Edson Recording and Alarm Gauge Company, bearing his surname as a mark of honor, which was formed to manufacture patented instruments for recording fluid pressure, thereby saving life and economizing fuel, and to educate the users of steam in making it serviceable for their purposes. The permanent form of the skilfully designed and valuable instrument was the invention of his son, Jarvis B. Edson. The company, during its existence, had the gratifying success of having a great number of the highly popular instruments placed in mills, manufactories, steamships, and power stations, not only in the United States but also in foreign countries. He served the company as treasurer from 1878 to 1880, and

thereafter as president until his retirement from business in 1886, when he was succeeded by his son, Jarvis B. Edson.

A dark cloud of sorrow lowered over the household, at 78 Third Place, Brooklyn, when, on September 9, 1870, Henry Augustus Edson, for a number of years in delicate health, was taken from it by death.

Marmont Bryan Edson had a special fondness for horses, and as he was an expert driver he highly enjoyed riding on good roads, in vehicles drawn by fleet-footed horses. His



ZYLONITE WORKS, ZYLONITE, MASS.

son, Jarvis Bonesteel, while residing at Zylonite, in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, owned a horse named "Jim," which, although old, had a record and was much admired by the father, who, when visiting there, was in the habit of driving. On the thirty-eighth anniversary of his son's birth, he wrote him the following cheery and affectionate letter:

"NEW YORK, N. Y., April 30, 1883.

"MY DEAR SON:

"In one of your recent letters, you informed me that you had purchased a pair of horses; and that I might contribute the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars as a 'birthday

present' towards the transaction. You did not inform me what they were to do for you or for your dear family. So I am left to conjecture whether it is your intention to compel them to convey you and yours to the hotel or to the church on holy day—to the resorts where the influence of 'spirits of wine' prevails and excludes 'the Spirit Divine.' 'Old Jim' may not inform me if I should interview him, but the new team may enable me to judge should I get a chance to handle the 'ribbons' next summer—so I hope you will put them in training so that the tale they shall tell will do you and yours no discredit.

"I enclose the check. Please accept it as from your mother and sister and me, with best love to you and yours.

"Affectionately your father,

"M. B. EDSON."

A second daughter having been born to his son, Jarvis Bonesteel, and his daughter-in-law, Eliza Ward (Robins) Edson, at Adams, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, on December 15, 1883, they being also the parents of a daughter, Janet DeKay, and a son, Herman Aldrich, severally aged eight and five years, he, on Saturday evening preceding Christmas that year, wrote the happy parents as follows:

"77 LIBERTY ST., NEW YORK, 6 P.M., SATURDAY.

"DEAR JARVIS & LIDA—

"You see it is late, but I will take time to send you each a \$100 check, and to the new member of your family \$5, to Herman \$10, and to Nettie \$10, for a Christmas present—from your mother and me. I hope you are all well and as happy as you can and should be. We are all anxious to hear from you. I have no time to write more but to send best love to you and prayers that our Heavenly Father will continue to you His choicest blessings and hearts of gratitude for all His mercy.

"Affectionately your father,

"M. B. EDSON."

His youngest daughter, Fanny Fairchild, was united in marriage, in Brooklyn, on February 7, 1884, to Edward Maxwell Reid, but lived only to December 13, that year.



MRS. EDWARD MAXWELL REID

From 1871 to 1888, Marmont Bryan Edson was a resident of Brooklyn, New York, at 78, now 98, Third Place, and then moved to New York City, where he and his wife had hotel apartments. He died from a surgical operation, at Hotel Lincoln, on the corner of Broadway and 52d Street, on April 2, 1892, nine-and-seventy years of age, less ten days. He was buried from Trinity Church, on April 5, the funeral services being conducted by the Rev. J. Nevett Steele, assisted by the Right. Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, D.D., LL.D., Missionary Bishop of Wyoming and Idaho, the Rev.

A. B. Kinsolving, and the Rev. T. S. Pycott, of Brooklyn. His remains were entombed in Greenwood Cemetery, in the family plot.



MARMONT BRYAN EDSON

The first term of his Christian name was given him in honor of Auguste Frédéric Louis Viesse de Marmont, Duke of Ragusa, Marshal of France, 1774-1852. Marmont Bryan Edson had many distinctive and highly reputable characteristics. His strong will gave him a vigor of action particularly striking, marking his enterprises with a notable

energy that speedily furthered his interests in all the undertakings with which he was identified. His generosity was ennobling, and his benefactions were fragrant with true liberality. The testimony of the congregations of the different churches of which he was a member in the West honors him with the grateful appreciation of the co-workers with whom he was associated in the erection of much-needed houses of worship in the places where he was a resident. His varied and wide experience in business declared itself in the due and respectful consideration that he always gave to the opinions and predilections of his associates. Prejudices and misconceptions never blinded his mind's eye in discerning men's motives and purposes. Godliness was ever to him a power, sacred and omnipotent, for the betterment of humanity, whether found in the rags of poverty, or in the apparel of wealth. His injunctions to his children embodied the wisdom of Christianity. His sympathies were deep and tender. "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power," never made him envious of those of exalted station, nor discontented with the lot that God had cast for him on earth. As an evidence of his personal interest in the work of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, his gift of fifty thousand dollars towards the erection of "The Church Missions House," on the corner of Fourth Avenue and 22d Street, in New York City, may here be cited.

From the obituaries, published in different newspapers in New York City, at the time of his decease, the following are noteworthy:

"Marmont B. Edson died in New York on the evening of Saturday, the 2d instant. He was born in Otsego County, N. Y., seventy-nine years ago, and was buried from old Trinity Church, New York City, on last Tuesday afternoon. His golden wedding was celebrated on October 7, 1891. Mr. Edson was of an inventive turn, and was chiefly known in the paper trade in connection with the Pressure Recording Gauge, which bears his name. He was

a man of sterling integrity, of broad mind and warm heart, hence he was an exemplary citizen, husband, and father. Of late years, he was possessed of large means, but this



MRS. MARMONT BRYAN EDSON

fact made no change in his daily walk and bearing, except that it enabled him to extend material assistance very often to worthy poor people and toward church work; he once made a single gift of fifty thousand dollars. With this exception his charities were never known to the world. He

left a widow, a son, Jarvis B. Edson, a married daughter, Mary Gertrude (Edson) Aldrich, a host of friends, a large fortune, and an untarnished name, which of itself was the best heritage.

“Always of pronounced views on live issues, he was as conservative and unostentatious in the display of them as in the bestowal of his generous bounties to the many, who will remember his genial nature and practical sympathy, extended alike irrespective of race, color, or creed.

“The death of Marmont B. Edson has removed a most genial and generous friend of missions. A man of sterling character and of large capacity in affairs, Mr. Edson was deeply interested in the progress of the Church, and his purse was ever responsive to his sympathies. His contribution enabled the General Theological Seminary to procure the fine portrait of the venerable Bishop White, which adorns the Seminary library, and a later gift founded a scholarship in the Alexandria Seminary. His munificence toward the Church Missions House following immediately upon a similar noble gift by his sister, Mary A. Edson, placed the project upon a foundation of assured success, and the library in the new building will be called after his name. Mr. Edson was an occasional caller at the Mission Rooms, and his visits always brought sunshine. In response to the card of a missionary bishop, which was handed to him a few days before his death, while he was confined to his bed, suffering severe pain, he said, ‘Give my card to Bishop ——,’ handing out a roll of bills, ‘and tell him that I regret I am not able to see him to-day.’ His playful wit never concealed the earnestness of his heart in the great work of missions, and his generous gifts helped many a good cause.”

The New York *Daily Tribune*, of April 6, 1892, had what follows: “Marmont B. Edson died in this city Saturday evening last from heart failure after a short illness. Mr. Edson was born in Otsego County, N. Y., in 1813. He be-

came a resident of this city early in life. The first years of his married life were passed in the West on account of his poor health. He returned to the East in 1860, residing in Brooklyn until two years ago. Mr. Edson was of an inventive turn of mind, and was prominently identified with the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, the Celluloid Company, the Bell Telephone Company, and many other enterprises of a scientific character. Mr. Edson leaves a wife, and two children, Jarvis B. Edson of Brooklyn, and Mrs. James Herman Aldrich of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Edson celebrated their golden wedding on October 7, 1891. Genial and generous by nature, his strong characteristics were felt wherever he went. His recent gift of fifty thousand dollars, conjointly with one of equal amount by his sister, to the Missions House of the Protestant Episcopal Church, will be remembered, but the many unknown acts of generosity far and near can only be appreciated by those who will miss his unostentatious thoughtfulness. He was identified for a quarter of a century with the Long Island diocese."

On the opening of the new Missions House of the Protestant Episcopal Church Missionary Society, in 1893, the following descriptive clauses were embraced in one of the published accounts of the event:

"The new Missions House stands on the southeast corner of 22d Street and Fourth Avenue, on ground formerly occupied by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It is seven stories in height and is built in the Flemish style of architecture. It and the land cost \$450,000, all of which was given by individual subscribers including J. Pierpont Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt, the late Marmont B. Edson, and Miss Mary A. Edson, his sister.

"Nothing is lacking in the appointments on the second floor of the structure to make it especially adapted to the uses to which it will be put. The hallway is of polished Florentine mosaic, and the floors of the offices are of the parquet pattern. Also on the second floor are rooms for

the library, the Woman's Auxiliary, board room, and chapel. The library and rooms for the Woman's Auxiliary stand as memorials to Marmont B. Edson and Miss Edson, each of whom contributed fifty thousand dollars to the building shortly before their deaths."¹

On the east wall of the room used by the Woman's Auxiliary is a brass plate bearing the following inscription:

"THE MARY A. EDSON HALL,
To the Glory of God, and in Sacred Memory of Mary A.
Edson, one of the largest contributors to this building,
A.D. 1894."

Another brass plate, on the south wall of the library, is inscribed:

"THE EDSON LIBRARY,
To the Glory of God, and in Sacred Memory of Marmont
B. Edson, one of the largest contributors to this building,
A.D. 1894."

Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson, his widow, erected to his memory a large and excellently made organ in Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, on the corner of Clinton and Harrison streets, Brooklyn, N. Y., where, at its opening, on the twenty-second Sunday after Trinity, October 29, 1893, special commemorative services were conducted.

The Right Rev. A. N. Littlejohn, D.D., late Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island, N. Y., in an address in Christ Church, at Sag Harbor, N. Y., on November 8, 1893, said:

¹ The contributions are recorded as follows in the books of the Society:

"1890, May 5th: N. Y., New York, the Rev. W. R. Huntington, Grace Church.—A Member, \$50,000." The member was Miss Mary A. Edson.

"1890, May 26th: L. I., Brooklyn, Marmont B. Edson, \$50,000, 'to be used in the erection of a Church Missions House for The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A., said Missions House to be the headquarters of the said Society, with the stipulation that in the use of the building for the promotion of the interests of Missions and in all its privileges, the Negro and Indian races shall have the same rights as are accorded to the white race.'"

“Marmont B. Edson’s name awakens in me tender and precious memories. For years he was my beloved and faithful parishioner. For a long time we walked together in the things that belonged to our peace. Single-minded,



MARY AUGUSTA EDSON

devout, his heart full of faith and love, and his life quite as much so, of the patience and comfort of the Holy Scriptures and of the Church, he slowly but surely ripened for the skies; and when God took him from us, it was a translation rather than a death. But why should I detain you with these words when, if a word pertinent is to be attempted, it is ready to our hand in the fifteenth Psalm of the Psalter, which I shall ask you to read elsewhere, and, when you read, to believe that Marmont B. Edson, allowing for the

inevitable infirmities of even a sanctified human nature, was not unworthy of that remarkable description of the man of God who shall rest upon His holy hill."

Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson, his widow, now in the eighty-third year of her age, was liberally educated at the Female Seminary in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where she became highly proficient as a pianist and an artist in water-color painting. She is a woman of remarkable physique, strong vitality, and worthily desirous of being loved and honored by her children, and esteemed by those long bound to her by ties of affection and friendship.

Susan Maria Edson, the younger sister of Marmont Bryan Edson, died at No. 16 East 17th Street, New York City, on June 30, 1885. His elder sister, Mary Augusta Edson, also died there, on May 29, 1890. The remains of both repose in graves in the family burial lot in Greenwood Cemetery. Inheriting great wealth as they did, through the will of their brother, Tracy Robinson Edson, with whom they had resided until his decease in 1881, they severally, during their lives, were liberal dispensers of many private benefactions, and at their death left gifts and bequests, exceeding a half million of dollars, for a large number of charitable objects and religious institutions.

The two zealous sisters were actively engaged in large fields of church work. Long-time and devout members of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, they were always liberal in their gifts to promote and sustain its well-known reputation as a Christian organization, prominent and distinguished, for the propagation of the Gospel and the successful accomplishment of the many worthy undertakings of the parishioners. They died unmarried, having affectionately bestowed, in a somewhat exclusive manner, much of their attention and time in promoting the welfare and happiness of their brother, Tracy Robinson Edson. They were fond of reading the works of the best authors of prose and verse, and manifested a strong partiality for history and

biography, as also they did for works narrating the rise and spread of Christianity, and those particularizing the faith and afflictions of sainted men and women. Of strong individualities, and marked manners, they evinced partic-



SUSAN MARIA EDSON

ularly their love for one another by an engaging deference of opinion and judgment, as well as a constant solicitude for each other's health and happiness.

On Wednesday afternoon, May 14, 1902, the cornerstone of White Hall, so named in memory of the Right Rev. William White, D.D., the first Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, was laid; the building being the first of three dormitories to be erected on the grounds of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church

in New York City. As has been announced, "the others will be Edson Hall, in memory of Tracy R. Edson, Susan M. Edson, and Mary A. Edson, who gave large endowments to the Seminary, and Lorillard Hall, in memory of George Lorillard, who left a large legacy to the institution."

Chapter XIV

Jarvis Bonesteel Edson

1845-19—

IN early youth, Jarvis B. Edson was curious when he saw machinery, and showed aptness for understanding the correlation of its parts. This led his father to give him such practical and scientific education, along the line of his inclination, as would best serve to make him a useful and successful man, in new applications of scientific principles.

The fifteen years of his Western frontier life, in which he began acquiring the rudiments of an education in the little log schoolhouse at Decatur, and afterward advanced under more favorable auspices along lines of instruction in a private school at Prairie du Chien, inducted him into many experiences that were of great personal benefit to him, particularly that of an acquaintanceship with the stalwart character of the hardy, toiling pioneers of the Great West, who, with ennobling fortitude, bore the hardships incidental to their straitened circumstances, and by indomitable enterprise and strenuous efforts found themselves in time the possessors of comfortable homes and adequate means for the enjoyment of such happiness as the same afforded them.

When Brooklyn became, in 1860, the residence of the family, his scholarly diligence, while attending the College Grammar School, under the charge of the Rev. Levi Wells Hart, A.M., in the Marble Block, between the City Hall

and Packer Institute, placed his name, in October of that year, on the school's roll of honor, for perfect recitations, he being then in "Grade A." In 1862, he entered as a sophomore the University of the City of New York.

When, in the early summer of 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia, under General Robert E. Lee, crossed the Potomac River into Maryland and invaded Pennsylvania, a spirit of irrepressible patriotism forthwith spread through the State of New York, inciting men, both old and young, straightway to take up arms and hasten southward to oppose the northerly advance of the Confederate forces. Jarvis B. Edson at once left college and volunteered, and was enrolled in Brooklyn, on the 18th of June, 1863, a member of Company D, commanded by Captain Allen L. Bassett, in the Twenty-third Regiment of the National Guard of the State of New York, for service in the United States Army, and departed at once for the seat of war in Pennsylvania. In attempting to reach the field of battle, at Gettysburg, by forced marches during the prevalence of extreme heat, the regiment lost the service of many of its men by the affliction of sunstroke. In order to prevent the retreat of the Confederate Army into Virginia, the regiment, with other bodies of Union troops, was ordered, on the 4th and 5th of July, to bar one of the gaps or passes in the Blue Ridge Mountains, but most of the strategic enemy escaped through several that were found open. This detail, however, kept them from participating in the battle of Gettysburg or in the burial of its dead.

Meanwhile the draft-riots, in the cities of New York and Brooklyn, of the lawless element in the absence of the local militia regiments at the seat of war, made their speedy return imperatively necessary. The Twenty-third Regiment was thereupon ordered to return to Brooklyn without unnecessary delay. In a loyal endeavor to reach a point where transportation by cars could be furnished it, the regiment one day marched the distance of thirty-five miles.

The ability of private Jarvis B. Edson to endure the fatigue of the march is highly gratifying to him as a recollection of the Civil War.

As related by him, the train on which the regiment had passage from Baltimore to Jersey City ran on the track between trains conveying captured Confederate soldiers northward, and as a consequence the members of the twenty-third Regiment, whose uniforms were gray, and much soiled, were assumed to be prisoners of war, to whom not a little sympathy was expressed by disloyal Northern people, especially when passing through New Jersey, where, at different points, men waved to them in open view Confederate flags and handkerchiefs, and women displayed underskirts of similar insignia. The day being Sunday, the passage of the trains bearing the prisoners across the State engaged the attention of throngs of interested people.

Owing to the heavy falls of rain and the inexperience of the regiment's commissary and quartermaster, the officers and men suffered great deprivations, particularly that of the want of rations at different times in the field and in going to and returning from the seat of war. When the regiment reached the warehouses on the Atlantic Docks, in Brooklyn, the members of it were so exceedingly hungry that they impetuously thrust their hands into the kettles filled with boiling meat and pulled it out without waiting to have it distributed. By reason of the expiration of the term of his enlistment, Jarvis B. Edson was honorably discharged from the service of the United States, on the twenty-second of July, 1863, at Brooklyn.

The regiment left the city on June 23, 1863, under the command of Colonel William Everdell, Jr. It was mustered into the service of the United States at Harrisburg, Pa., for thirty days. At Harrisburg and in its vicinity, the regiment was embraced in the third brigade of the first division of the Army of the Department of the Susquehanna, and participated in the engagements with the enemy

at Oyster Point, Pa., on June 28, and at Carlisle, Pa., on July 1, 1863.

The hardships of the short campaign having temporarily unfitted Jarvis B. Edson for continuing his college course, he, following an inclination to be a mechanic, found employment in the fall of that year as an apprentice in the South Brooklyn Steam Engine and Boiler Works, where he was engaged in building engines and putting them in position on a number of government war vessels, embracing the *Mendota*, *Metacomet*, *Nyack*, and *Nipsic*. Afterward he conducted a series of steam-engine expansion experiments, known as the Hecker-Waterman experiments, in a building on Cherry Street, New York, under the supervision of Chief Engineer B. F. Isherwood, U.S.N., chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering in Washington, D. C., who weekly inspected and directed the work in hand. The expense of these experiments was \$25,000, and was borne by Mr. George V. Hecker.

This employment was followed by his serving for a short time as a supernumerary engineer on the steamship *Arago*, of the New York and Havre Line, chartered by the National Government for a transport connected with the North and the South Atlantic blockading squadrons. Having had this experience of sea-service, and aware of the probability of his being drafted into the service of the United States during the continuance of the Civil War, and preferring duty in the Navy, he formally applied for an appointment in the Corps of Engineers. Shortly thereafter he was officially notified of his appointment, on November 1, 1864, as Acting Third Assistant Engineer in the Navy of the United States, and was ordered to report immediately to the commanding officer of the *Fah-Kee*, an armed steamer carrying supplies to the North and the South Atlantic blockading squadrons, then at the New York Navy Yard. As particularized in his father's letter to his brother, Henry Augustus, on November 5, 1864, he repaired in company with his father to the Navy Yard in Brooklyn, where he took the required oath

Report to the Commanding Officer of the
Sak-tu - also to Chief of Navy Department.
Eng. Edson

H. Howard Esq. November 1st 1864

Amos Sturdy
You are hereby appointed an Acting Third
Assistant Engineer in the Navy of the United States, on temporary
service.

Your former receipt of the enclosed oath and returned it to the
Department, with your letter of acceptance, you will report to
Rear Admiral Paulding, Commandant of the
Brooklyn Navy Yard for duty on board the
U.S. Steamer "Sak-tu".

Reported Nov. 3. 64
Francis D. Webb
Acting Master Comdr
of the Department

Reported Nov 3rd/64
Henry Snyder
for Chief Engineer

William Miller

Acting 3rd Assistant Engineer

Jarvis Bonesteel Edson

78. Third Flce. Brooklyn - Ind. Dist.

JARVIS BONESTEEL EDSON'S APPOINTMENT AS ACTING THIRD ASSISTANT ENGINEER

of loyalty to the National Government. Having returned home to get a necessary outfit of clothing, he reported for duty on the *Fah-Kee* in the afternoon.

The letter which his father wrote immediately afterward to his brother Henry Augustus, at school in Essex, Connecticut, is a touching expression of a parent's affection for a son, and merits precious remembrance on the part of him who elicited it.

"I took leave of him, [Jarvis,] not without many regrets that he was to leave his home where he had always been watched with all the tender solicitude which I was capable of exercising, in order that he might not only be possessed of a fine and manly form, without spot or wrinkle, but also of the requisite accompaniment of a well-balanced, vigorous mind, stored with lessons of wisdom, and, by God's blessing, be endowed with heavenly gifts, in order that he might ever be an ornament to any society, however refined, a worthy member of the Church militant, and so a useful citizen, in whatever calling it should please God he should pursue."

His term of duty on the *Fah-Kee* was not of long continuance, and on December 23, 1864, he was ordered to the *Cambridge*, a double-decked gunboat, on blockade service off Charleston, South Carolina. He took passage on the *Newbern* for Norfolk, Va., where he found her and reported for duty.

The *Cambridge* thereafter being with the fleet on blockade duty off the coast of the Carolinas, and within signal distance of the places of capture of the blockade-running vessels, the *Celt*, *Cyrene*, *Deer*, and *Sylph*, Jarvis B. Edson was apportioned a share of the prize-money awarded to the different vessels of the squadron effecting their capture. Being on the *Cambridge* at the time of the surrender of Charleston, he entered Fort Sumter on its evacuation while the candles illuminating the bomb-proofs were still burning, and visited Charleston the same day, where he saw ample evidence of the ruin wrought by the shot and shell of the vessels of the United States Navy in service off the harbor and

the neighboring forts. While on blockade duty, the *Cambridge* was frequently under the fire of the fortifications of Charleston and Wilmington harbors, and that of Fort Fisher.

On January 12, 1865, he passed at sea, south of Cape Lookout, Commodore Porter's great fleet of war vessels on its way to attack Fort Fisher, sailing in three long columns, followed by a reserve division, fifty-two vessels in all, and in its wake a third as many army transports with land forces. The immense squadron of formidable vessels, of different sizes and construction, all in open view, was an engaging and memorable spectacle which he witnessed with intense interest.

At Port Royal, S. C., about the end of April, 1865, he was ordered to take the unseaworthy, little government tugboat *Carnation*, going at the rate of four and a half knots, to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for repairs, which service detached him from duty on the *Cambridge*. The weather being favorable, he made this dangerous sea-voyage successfully.

His service on the United States steamer *Wasp*, to which he was ordered for duty, on July 25, 1865, then at Philadelphia, brought him many noteworthy experiences when cruising in the Caribbean Sea and the South Atlantic Ocean.

The vessel was off Pointe-à-Pître, island of Guadeloupe, of the Leeward Islands, in the autumn of 1865, during an earthquake, and encountered there the force of the resulting West-Indian hurricane and a great tidal wave that wrecked many vessels and destroyed much property on the numerous islands in that part of the Caribbean Sea. The U. S. S. *Housatonic* was thrown by the tidal wave so far inland that it was years before she was re-launched. The prompt aid which the officers and crew of the *Wasp* extended the suffering inhabitants of the island of Marie Galante, a possession of France, was gratefully received by the distressed people, and for which timely assistance Captain William A. Kirkland, commanding the vessel, was at a later date presented with a medal of honor by the French Government.

While the *Wasp* was at anchor, in February, 1868, in the port of Montevideo, the capital of the republic of Uruguay, on the north side of the spacious estuary of the Rio de la Plata, immediately north of the thirty-fifth parallel of south latitude, one hundred and twenty miles from Buenos Ayres, in the Argentine Republic, an insurrection against the administration of Venancio Flores, the President of Uruguay, was begun. On the fifteenth of February, he and his ministers resigned their offices, having in view the settlement of the existing political differences at the approaching election, which was near at hand.

On the afternoon of the nineteenth of February, as related by Acting Third Assistant Engineer Edson, in a letter to his brother Henry Augustus, the ex-President and two of his ministers were fired upon by a party of rebellious *Blancos* (whites), as they were called in Spanish, and killed, and thirty minutes thereafter all business in Montevideo was suspended. The city immediately became the scene of lawlessness and bloodshed. Armed citizens rushed in excited crowds from place to place; rabid and revengeful men forcibly entered the houses of peaceful residents and murdered the inmates: viciously committing acts of violence and cruelty of a most fiendish character.

The flagship of the United States fleet was away at that time from the port of Montevideo, and the captain commanding the *Wasp*, the senior officer present, straightway sent Lieutenant-Commander A. N. Mitchell, the Executive Officer, and Acting Third Assistant Engineer Jarvis B. Edson, with a detachment of fifty men, to take charge of the custom-house (*La Aduana*). Detachments from the English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, and Italian vessels at anchor in the harbor soon came ashore and took part in the protection of the buildings, for they contained the property of foreign subjects. Acting Third Assistant Engineer Edson was shortly thereafter given command of the men assigned to guard the building occupied by the United States Consul,

then a safe sanctuary for the refugees seeking protection there from the violence of the revolutionists, for elsewhere in the city there was none for life or property, either by



LA ADUANA, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

day or by night. The admiral of the French fleet, by right of courtesy and seniority, had command of the various national detachments guarding the custom-house and the consulates.

Asiatic cholera was extremely virulent in the city during the insurrection, and not only did great numbers of the inhabitants die of the dread disease, but many of the officers and men of the European warships, both ashore and aboard ship. Singular as true, none of the officers and men of the United States naval vessels fell victims to it. All the officers and men of the foreign fleets, some of whom were still sick and others fearful of being epidemically afflicted, embarked on their different vessels, which thereupon departed from the harbor, leaving the custom-house and the consular buildings again under the exclusive protection of the United States naval forces.

The insurrection was finally suppressed, and the murderers of the ex-President executed. On the first of March, the General Assembly, by a unanimous vote, elected Colonel Lorenzo Battle, previously the Minister of War, President of the Republic.

During the three years of his cruising in the Caribbean Sea and the South Atlantic Ocean, Acting Third Assistant Engineer Edson repeatedly visited the ports of the north



JARVIS BONESTEEL EDSON

and south coasts of Brazil and those of the Argentine Confederation, and also ascended the Rio de la Plata for a distance of fifteen hundred miles, during the Paraguayan War, to rescue two American citizens. While in Paraguay he received orders to return to the United States, whither he

arrived in the month of August, 1868, after a continuous run of ninety days.

The following transcript of his discharge from the Navy of the United States was sent him from Washington:

“NAVY DEPARTMENT, August 27, 1868.

“The war for the preservation of the Union having under the beneficent guidance of Almighty God been brought to a successful termination, a reduction of the naval forces becomes necessary. Having served with fidelity in the United States Navy, from 1st day of November, 1864, to present date, you are hereby honorably discharged with the thanks of the Department.

“Respectfully,

“GIDEON WELLES.

Secretary of the Navy.

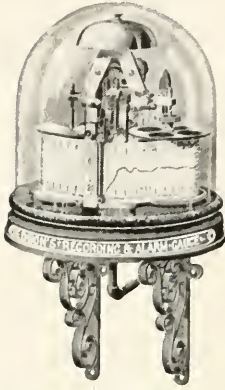
“TO ACTING THIRD ASSISTANT ENGINEER

“JARVIS B. EDSON, U. S. N.,

“NO. 78 THIRD PLACE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.”

His life at sea did not lessen but gave greater stability to the natural bent of his mind toward the exercise of his ingenuity in designing and perfecting mechanical inventions for the more speedy and safe accomplishment of the manufacturing purposes of men. Then three-and-twenty years old, he earnestly turned his thoughts to the perfection of an instrument for recording the pressure of fluids, which he was so successful in doing that a number of patents were issued to him. His highly serviceable inventions received honorable mention and first prizes at a score of expositions at home and abroad, besides the important award by the City of Philadelphia of the John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal, through the trustees of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, and of twenty dollars in gold as an expression of the appreciation to which he was justly entitled “for the excellent development of his pressure recording gauge,” being given “to the most deserving” inventor.

Upon the organization of the Edson Recording Gauge Company, in 1870, of which his father was elected president and he vice-president, the company having its office at 91 Liberty Street, he held that position, and served the company as superintendent, until 1873.



EDSON'S RECORDING AND
ALARM PRESSURE
GAUGE

He then turned his attention to the furtherance of the public use of electric inventions and became associated, at No. 52 Broadway, with Thomas Alva Edison, then acquiring wide fame for the marvelous novelty and general usefulness of the electric instruments and appliances designed by him.

In 1874, Jarvis B. Edson organized the Domestic Telegraph Company, of which he and Thomas Alva Edison and J. T. Murray were trustees. In December, that year, the company was reorganized; General Thomas T. Eckert being elected its president, Thomas Alva Edison its vice-president, D. G. Farwell its secretary, and Jarvis B. Edson its general manager, who, in 1875, was elected its vice-president; the company having then its office at No. 12 Vesey Street. The company was organized for public service similar to that of the American District Telegraph Company. By a signal instrument placed in a dwelling, store, manufactory, bank, office, or other place of business, the company was enabled to provide its patrons speedily with the service of a messenger, policeman, or fireman with a Babcock extinguisher. The messengers, commonly boys, wore lettered and numbered metallic badges and were uniformed in gray clothing with black trimmings, and performed a variety of duties, such as the delivery of letters and notes, making purchases at stores, and calling physicians to attend the sick. The company successfully competed with the American District Telegraph Company for public patronage, and its spirited competition was the means of reducing the cost of that



MRS. JARVIS BONESTEEL EDSON

particular service to one fifth of the rating originally established for it. This company finally sold its business to the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company.

Jarvis B. Edson's fortunate acquaintance with Eliza Ward Robins led to their marriage, which was attended by their relatives and many friends at Christ Protestant Epis-



JANET DE KAY EDSON

copal Church, in Brooklyn, on February 9, 1875; the Rev. L. W. Bancroft, D.D., the rector, uniting them in the bonds of holy matrimony. They resided that year at 396 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, where, on November 2, they were blessed by the birth of a daughter, who soon thereafter was christened Janet De Kay, in honor of her mother's mother, Janet De Kay (Rhoades) Robins, deceased on May 30, 1873.

Having sold his interest in the Domestic Telegraph Company, he devoted ten years to the manufacture of

zylonite, more commonly known as celluloid, and to designing and perfecting machinery with which to advance more speedily and better the processes of its production, coloring, and induration, during which time he obtained



MRS. HARRY SMITH KELTY

thirty or more patents on the machinery and processes devised by him for those special purposes. At the Celluloid Manufacturing Company's works, at Newark, N. J., of which company General Marshall Lefferts was president, he demonstrated, for the first time, the feasibility of getting fresh water from deep wells in the New Jersey salt-water meadows.

While residing in Newark, N. J., a son was born to him on July 7, 1878, who, at baptism, was named Herman Aldrich.

About the beginning of August, 1881, Jarvis B. Edson changed his residence to Adams, Berkshire County, Mass., where he began erecting buildings for the manufacture of zylonite for the American Zylonite Company, of which he

was the superintendent and general manager. There he publicly demonstrated the practicability of getting flowing



MADELON KELTY
(Daughter of Mrs. Harry Smith Kelty)

water from deeply piped wells, where previously all attempts at doing it had proved signal failures.

In the *Scientific American* of September 8, 1883, the success attending his ingenuity in making such an undertaking practicable was editorially cited:

“A new and great advance has been made in sinking deep-well pipes in soil that will resist the sinking of a driven-well pipe.

“The hydraulic pressure system has been successfully applied at Adams, Mass., where sixteen artesian wells are now flowing; one of one hundred and eighty-seven feet in depth, which was sunk in two hours; one of them has a ten-inch diameter pipe, through which four hundred gallons of water flow every minute, having at the surface a discharge pressure of six and one half pounds.

“The penetration of the soil for these wells was accomplished by the boring power of water under pressure; the required pressure being maintained by the agency of a

steam-pump. As a consequence of the different experiments made in perfecting this method of sinking pipes for such wells, the fact was brought to light that a stream of water forced into the top of a pipe penetrating the soil



HERMAN ALDRICH EDSON

would keep an opening around the outside of the pipe for a depth of forty or fifty feet, but when the downward flow of water was stopped in order to penetrate to a greater depth with additional lengths of pipe, sand, gravel, and clay began at once to settle around and wedge the pipe so tightly that no available pressure of water could move the obstructing material. In avoiding this accumulation of clay, sand, and gravel consists the novelty of the discovered method.

“By placing in the line of the pipe at every two lengths of it a three-way cock, and by using two lines of hose, perfect

control of a constant flow of water down the pipe during the entire operation is obtained. The hose being attached to the side outlet of the three-way cock, with the plug of the cock across the upper outlet while the section



HERMAN ALDRICH EDSON

of pipe is descending and the attached hose is touching the ground, another section of pipe is added and another length of hose is attached to a three-way cock as previously, and a pressure of water is put on through another length of hose; the lower cock meanwhile being turned to shut off the water in the lower hose and start a flow of water through the upper hose. In this way a depth of three hundred feet was obtained without difficulty in the space of a few hours."

For this valuable invention, Jarvis B. Edson was granted two foundation-patents, which to him were very remunerative.

At Adams, Mass., the family was increased to five mem-



MARMONT EDSON

bers by the birth, on December 15, 1883, of a second daughter, Ethel Ward Edson.

In the spring of 1884, Jarvis B. Edson returned to Brooklyn, and resided at 199 Saint John's Place, where, on March 27, 1886, the infant daughter, Ethel Ward Edson, died. Thence the household removed in May, that year, to a new home presented by his parents at 812 Union Street, where, on June 10, 1888, the birth of a second son was an event marked with no little joy to its members. In honor of his grandfather, this son was named Marmont.

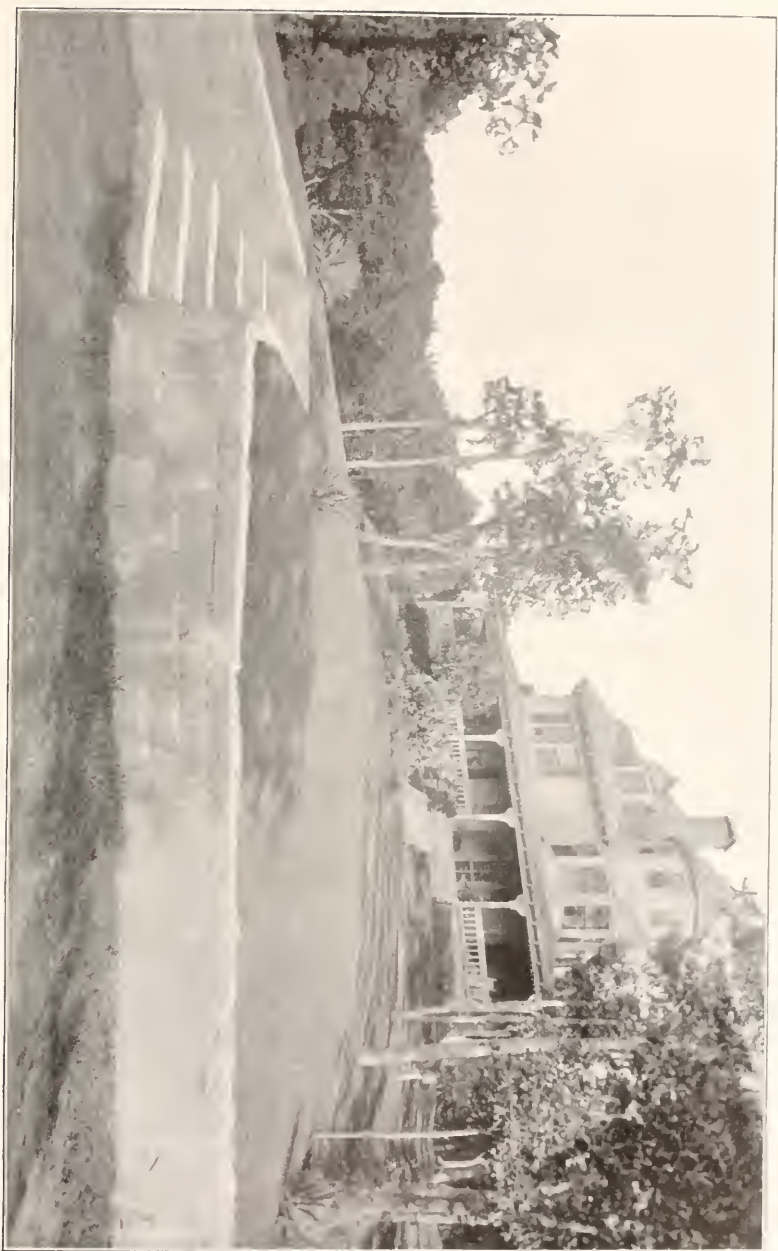
Jarvis B. Edson resumed in 1886, in the city of New York, the manufacture of the Edson Recording Pressure Gauge, at 91 Liberty Street, becoming the sole proprietor of it. His office and manufactory continued there until



MARMONT EDSON

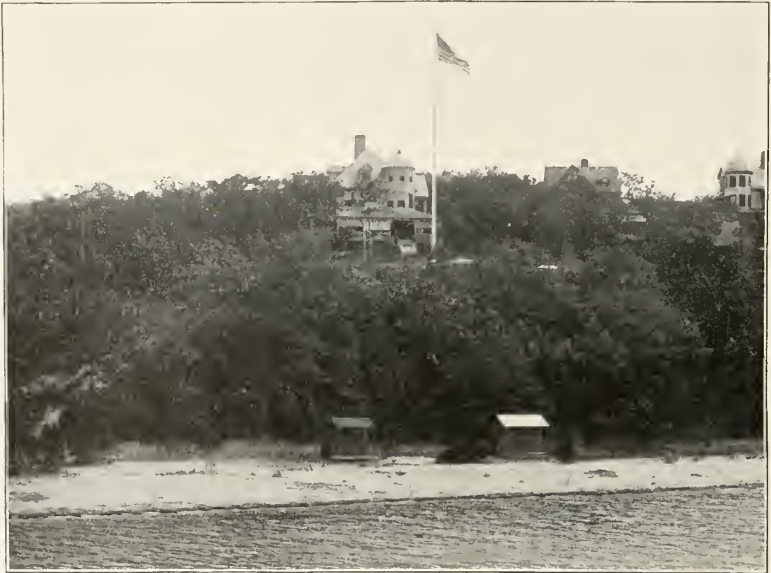
1889, when it was changed to 87 Liberty Street, where it was until 1896, when he sold his rights and interests in the gauge to the Ashcroft Manufacturing Company, and retired from business, owing to ill-health.

In 1890, Jarvis B. Edson purchased a spacious plot of ground on a prominent knoll on the west side of Shelter Island, Suffolk County, N. Y., about one hundred miles east of New York City, where he erected that year a handsome



FRONT VIEW OF EDSON COTTAGE, SHELTER ISLAND HEIGHTS

summer home, having an extensive view of Long Island Sound and Shelter Island Sound and the eastern projection of Long Island. Each year the family enjoys there a respite from the oppressive heat of the summer months, frequently driving on the shaded roadways of the attractive



J. B. EDSON'S RESIDENCE, SHELTER ISLAND, N. Y.

island, or, seated on the awning-covered deck of the fast steam yacht *Claymore*, of the New York Yacht Club, pleasantly plying the waters of the numerous bays and channels environing the picturesque islands clustered easterly of Long Island.

In 1893, having determined to build himself a home in New York City, Jarvis B. Edson purchased a highly eligible and valuable site, on the north side of West 74th Street, between Riverside Drive and West End Avenue, commanding a wide and inviting view of the Hudson River, and the western landscape beyond it, in the State of New Jersey. With deliberate judgment, he resolved to erect a residence differing in many ways in its architecture from the contem-



MAIN HALL, EDSON COTTAGE, SHELTER ISLAND, N. Y.



EDSON RESIDENCE, 313 WEST 74TH ST., NEW YORK



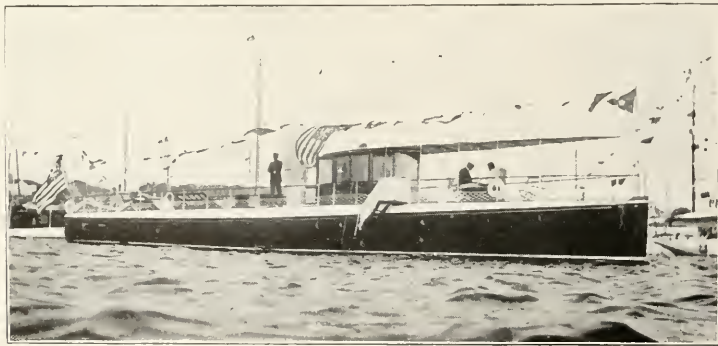
RECEPTION ROOM, 313 W. 74TH ST., N. Y.

poraneous conventional styles, entirely fire-proof, heated by steam, lighted by electricity, cooled by artificial means, having a dining-room and a kitchen on the uppermost



SHOWING FIRE-PROOF CONSTRUCTION OF 313 W. 74TH ST., N. Y.

stories, with requisite elevators and dumb-waiters severally moved by power generated on the premises. Within five years after its erection, no first-class residence in the city



STEAM YACHT "CLAYMORE," N. Y. Y. C. (See p. 436)

was built without reproducing the leading features of its construction. On the completion of the building, in January, 1895, it was occupied by the family, previously residing at 812 Union Street, Brooklyn.

In 1886 the family made a tour of England and the



ENTRANCE HALL, 313 W. 74TH ST., N. Y.

Continent, passage outward and homeward having been taken in the steamship *Adriatic* of the White Star Line.



STEAMSHIP "ADRIATIC," VOYAGE OF 1886

The parents and two sons again went abroad in 1898, visiting England and France, going and returning on the steamship *St. Paul* of the American Line.

Jarvis B. Edson is one of the early members of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, which, on Thursday, December 5, 1901, unveiled a monument erected by it, in Trinity Churchyard, New York City, to the memory of Robert Fulton, the projector of steam navigation on the Hudson River, whose remains are entombed near the base of the granite shaft. Jarvis B. Edson is also a charter member of the Naval Order of the United States, besides being a member of the American Society of Naval Engineers, the Franklin Institute, the United States Naval Institute, the Sons of the Revolution, the Engineers' Club of New York, the Colonial Club of New York, the Montauk Club of



BEDROOM ON THIRD FLOOR OF RESIDENCE

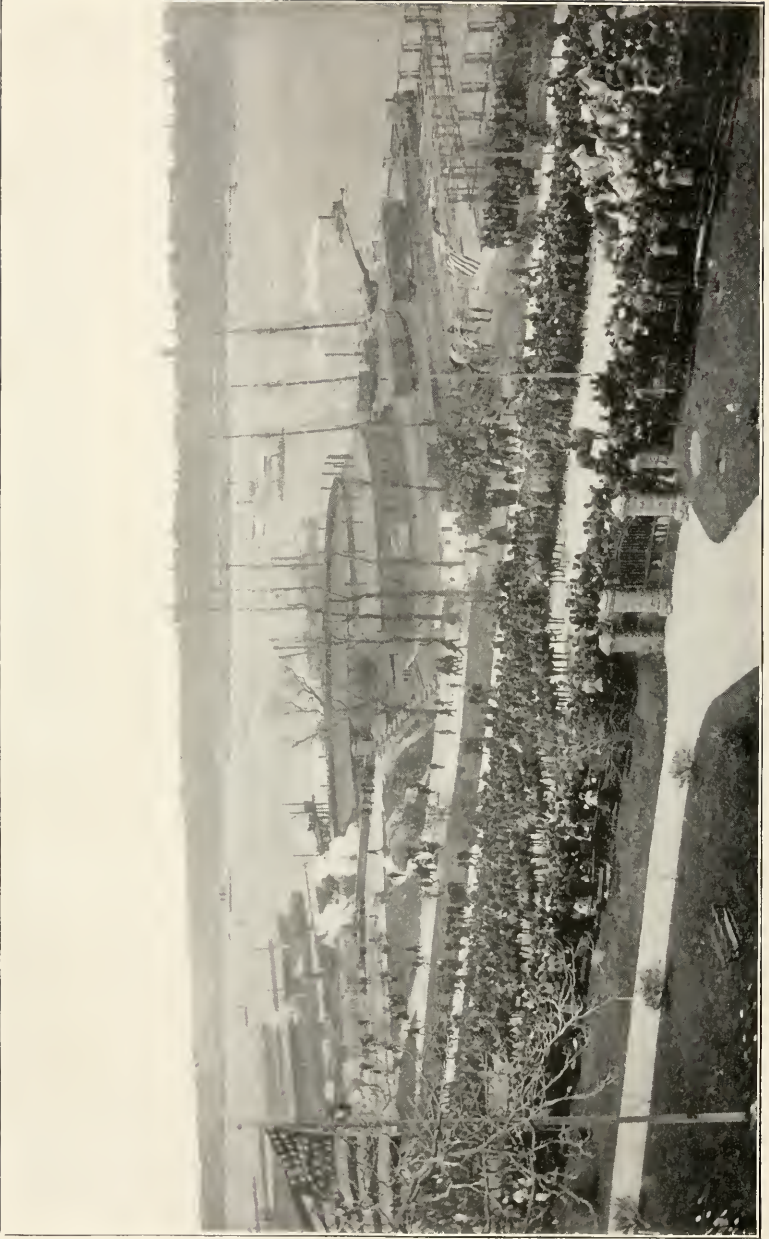


MAIN HALL, 313 W. 74TH ST., N. Y.

Brooklyn, the New York Yacht Club, and of Bedford Lodge, No. 574, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Brooklyn, a member of the Wisconsin Society, and a charter member of the recently incorporated Navy League of the United States. He is a member, as is also his wife, of All Angels Protestant Episcopal Church, New York City, of which the Rev. S. DeLancey Townsend, Ph.D., D.D., is rector. In politics, he is a Republican, as was his father, who previously had been an old-line Whig.

Jarvis B. Edson has the stature of many of his ancestors, being six feet three fourths of an inch in height, and weighing over two hundred pounds. He is distinctively a man of executive ability, an inventor, outspoken, strong in his convictions, of unostentatious manners, sympathetic, and liberal. Catholic in his views of Christianity, he has never been a disparager of the religious faith of others. Good government — national, state, and municipal — he has always upheld by ballot and opinion, vigorously advocating individual responsibility for its maintenance. He has never sought political candidature nor any official position for the sake of honor, either as a civilian, a churchman, or a member of a club. As a husband and a father, he highly esteems the comforts of a well-ordered and attractive home, brightened by joyous and refined expressions of domestic happiness, looking upon them as but the reasonable reward of a life almost wholly spent in activity and struggle.

From early youth he shouldered the work of a man and succeeded. His was work that knew no end, and where many rested he continued, until, after thirty odd years of labor he welcome sa well-earned retirement for the enjoyment of the retrospect so full of the achievements distinguishing the wonderful century in which he lived and of which he formed an integral part.



446 VIEW FROM LIBRARY WINDOW OF PROCESSION HALTING ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT DEDICATION OF GENERAL GRANT'S TOMB

Genealogy of the Edsons

1480-1903

1. Thomas Edson, progenitor, born probably in Adderbury, Oxfordshire, England, about 1480, married Juliana, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Fox) Bustard, of Adderbury.

Children:

2. Richard, born in Adderbury, Oxfordshire.
3. Margaret, born in Adderbury, Oxfordshire.

2. Richard, son of Thomas 1 and Juliana (Bustard) Edson, born in Adderbury, Oxfordshire, England, married Agnes ——. His body was buried, in 1558, in the churchyard of "All Hallowes" (All Saints), in Fillongley, Warwickshire, England.

Children:

4. Christiana.
5. Anne.
6. Thomas, died 1587: married Ellen ——.

6. Thomas, son of Richard 2 and Agnes Edson, born probably in Fillongley, Warwickshire, England, married Ellen ——. His remains were interred in the churchyard of All Saints, in Fillongley, on January 15, 1587.

Children:

7. Elizabeth, baptized in Fillongley, on August 21, 1562.
8. Nicholas, baptized in Fillongley on October 28, 1565.
9. Richard, baptized in Fillongley on May 9, 1568.
10. Thomas, baptized in Fillongley on September 7, 1572.
11. William, baptized in Fillongley on November 1, 1576.

William Edson, the fourth son, died in Fillongley on November 22, 1576.

10. Thomas, son of Thomas 6 and Ellen Edson, baptized in Fillongley, Warwickshire, England, on September 7, 1572: married there, on November 1, 1596, Elizabeth Copson.

Children:

12. William, baptized in Fillongley on March 4, 1598.
13. Anna, baptized in Fillongley on August 22, 1602.

14. Nicholas, baptized in Fillongley on March 6, 1607.
15. Amphilis, baptized in Fillongley on August 12, 1610.
16. Samuel, baptized in Fillongley on September 5, 1613.
17. Joshua, baptized in Fillongley on February 2, 1617.
18. Walter, baptized in Fillongley on January 30, 1619.

Nicholas Edson, the second son, was buried in Fillongley on April 4, 1608. Walter Edson, the fifth son, was buried there on December 1, 1633.

16. Samuel, son of Thomas 10 and Elizabeth (Copson) Edson, baptized in Fillongley, Warwickshire, England, on September 5, 1613; married in Warwickshire, in 1638, Susanna Orcutt, born there in 1618. He was residing in Salem, Mass., in 1639, but removed to the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, where he died on July 19, 1692, aged eighty years; and his widow in the same place on February 20, 1699, aged eighty-one years.

Children:

19. Susanna, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1640.
20. Sarah, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1641.
21. Elizabeth, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1643.
22. Samuel, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1645.
23. Mary, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1647.
- 24.^Δ Joseph, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1649.
25. Josiah, born in Duxbury Plantation, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1651.
26. Bethiah, born in Duxbury Plantation, colony of New Plymouth, New England, about 1653.

Samuel Edson's wife and all his children were living when he made his will, on January 15, 1688-9. He was a deacon in the church. He represented Bridgewater, Mass., in the Plymouth Court, in 1676.

19. Susanna, daughter of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1640, married in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on May 3, 1668, the Rev. James Keith, born in Scotland, in 1644. She died in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on October 16, 1705, aged sixty-five years. He married (2d), in 1707, Mary, widow of Thomas Williams of Taunton,

Bristol County, province of Massachusetts Bay. He died on July 23, 1719, in the town of Bridgewater, aged seventy-six years.

Children by first wife:

27. James Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 5, 1669.
28. Joseph Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 14, 1675.
29. Samuel Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1677.
30. Timothy Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1683.
31. John Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1688.
32. Josiah Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater.
33. Margaret Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater.
34. Mary Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater.
35. Susanna Keith, born in the town of Bridgewater.

James Keith 27 married Mary ——. Joseph 28 married Elizabeth Fobes, born March 20, 1677, daughter of Deacon Edward Fobes. Samuel 29 married, in 1703, Bethiah Fobes, born October 11, 1683, sister to Elizabeth. Timothy 30 married, February 1, 1710, Hannah Fobes, born March 31, 1686, died in 1765, sister to Elizabeth and Bethiah. John 31 married, April 18, 1711, Hannah Washburn, who died in 1766, daughter of Samuel. Josiah 32 married, January 6, 1703, Mary Lathrop, daughter of Samuel. Margaret 33 married ~~John~~ Hunt. Mary 34 married Ephraim Howard, son of John. Susanna 35 married Major Jonathan Howard.

"Rev. James Keith was born in 1644, educated at Aberdeen, Scotland (as tradition says, at the expense of a maiden aunt). At the age of 18 he emigrated to this country. Arriving in Boston in 1662, he was introduced to the church in Bridgewater by Dr. Increase Mather. He is referred to in the records of the church 'as a student of divinity, having at some competent time improved his gifts amongst them, in the work of the ministry, and having also due approbation, by the testimony of the Reverend Elders of other churches of Christ, to whom he was known.' His settlement took place February 18, 1664."

Josiah Keith 32 married, as stated above, Mary Lathrop, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Downer) Lathrop, and granddaughter of Mark Lathrop. Josiah Keith, son of Josiah 32, born February 14, 1706, married, in 1730, Ruth Manly. Their daughter, Milicent Keith, born February 7, 1731, died December 6, 1814, married, July 4, 1753, Benjamin Parris, born August 27, O. S., 1731, died November 18, 1815. Benjamin Parris's descent was as follows: Thomas Parris, of London, England; John Parris, minister at Uxbridge, England; Thomas Parris, who came to New England in 1683, died 1752, married — Rogers; Thomas Parris, born May 8, O. S., 1701, married, in 1724, Hannah Gannett, of Scituate, Mass., born March 28, 1702, died August 4, 1770; and the couple named last had Benjamin, named above.

Benjamin and Milicent (Keith) Parris had a son Josiah, born August 32, 1760, died March 24, 1856, married July 23, 1788, Experience Lowden, born April 15, 1768, died January 4, 1832. Experience was daughter of Nathaniel

Lowden, born in Duxbury, April 6, 1743, married, in 1762, Experience Pratt, born in 1741, died August 30, 1813, and granddaughter of Richard Lowden, who died about 1775, married Mary Ford, of Duxbury. Experience Pratt was daughter of Joshua Pratt, who married, in 1728, Experience Nash, and granddaughter of William Pratt, of Abington, Mass.

Josiah and Experience (Lowden) Parris had a son Virgil Delphine Parris, born February 18, 1807, died June 13, 1874, married, December 30, 1833, Columbia Rawson, born February 27, 1814, and had a son, Edward Lowden Parris, born September 3, 1837, married, September 7, 1876, Mary Ida Du Bois, born June 22, 1850, and had children: Marion, born May 22, 1879; Edward Lowden, born August 3, 1881, died March 21, 1883; and Edward Lowden, born January 20, 1887. Mr. Edward Lowden Parris lives in Manhattan, New York City.

20. Sarah, daughter of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1641; married, in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on November 7, 1663, John, son of John and Alice Dean of the town of Taunton, colony of New Plymouth, New England, born there about 1639. She died in the town of Taunton, Bristol County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on February 18, 1716-7, aged seventy-seven years, during the prevalence of the "Great Snow," and was buried in the graveyard on Summer (or Neck-of-Land) Street, Taunton. He died July 9, 1692. He was brother to the wife of Josiah 25. According to tradition, John Dean was the first white child that was born in the town of Taunton.

Children:

36. Samuel Dean, born in the town of Taunton on January 24, 1667.
37. Sarah Dean, born in the town of Taunton on November 9, 1668.
38. John Dean, born in the town of Taunton on July 26, 1670.
39. Mehetabel Dean, born in the town of Taunton on October 9, 1671.
40. John Dean, born in the town of Taunton on September 18, 1674.
41. Elizabeth Dean, born in the town of Taunton on March 15, 1676.
42. Mary Dean, born in the town of Taunton on July 15, 1680.
43. Susanna Dean, born in the town of Taunton on August 13, 1683.
44. Israel Dean, born in the town of Taunton on August 4, 1685.

Sarah 37 married Jonathan Howard, born 1660, son of John and Martha (Hayward) Howard. John 38 died on August 6, 1670.

21. Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1643, married, in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in the spring of 1663, Richard, son of Nicholas Phillips of the town of Weymouth, colony of Massachusetts Bay, who probably had married in 1659, Mary —.

Children by first wife:

- Mary Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on May 21, 1660.
 Mary Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on May 24, 1661.
 Joshua Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on May 10, 1662.

Children by second wife:

45. Nicholas Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on March 30, 1664.
 46. Elizabeth Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on November 27, 1665.
 47. Richard Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on October 20, 1667.
 48. Samuel Phillips, born in the town of Weymouth on May 7, 1670.

Richard Phillips, of the town of Weymouth, the husband of Elizabeth, took the freeman's oath on May 8, 1678.

22. Samuel, son of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Oreutt) Edson, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1645; married, in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1678, Susanna, daughter of Nicholas and Susanna (Shaw) Byram, born in the town of Weymouth, colony of Massachusetts Bay, in 1648. He died in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on April 10, 1719; and she in the same place, on March 12, 1741-2.

Children:

49. Susanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 15, 1679.
 50. Elizabeth, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 20, 1684.
 51. Samuel, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 14, 1690.

The will made by the father, on March 16, 1719, was probated on February 1, 1720. His daughter Susanna and son Samuel were living at the time of the making of the will, Elizabeth 50, the wife of Samuel Packard, having died in 1716. By the will of the mother, made on October 4, 1732, Samuel inherited the house she had built after the decease of his father.

23. Mary, daughter of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Oreutt) Edson, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, New England, about 1647, married there September 10, 1676, Nicholas, son of Nicholas and Susanna (Shaw) Byram, born in the town of Weymouth, colony of Massachusetts Bay. They both died in 1727.

Children:

52. Bethiah Byram, born October 27, 1678.
 53. Margaret Byram, born February 20, 1680.
 54. Mehetabel Byram, born September 28, 1683.
 54A. (A son) Bryam, born January 18, 1685, died March 10, 1686.
 55. Nicholas Byram, born March 11, 1687.

56. Mary Byram, born March 11, 1690.
57. Ebenezer Byram, born October 2, 1692.
58. Susanna Byram, born January 15, 1695.
59. Josiah Byram, born May 3, 1698.
60. Joseph Byram, born January 18, 1701.

Bethiah Byram 52 died November 20, 1685. Margaret 53 died November 20, 1685. Mehetabel 54 married, December 3, 1701, Elisha Allen, born in 1679, son of Samuel and Sarah (Patridge) Allen. Nicholas 55 married, in 1708, Anne Snell, daughter of Thomas and Martha (Harris) Snell. Mary 56 married, February 7, 1711, Major Edward Howard, born in 1697, son of John. Ebenezer 57 married, in 1714, Hannah Hayward, born in 1691, daughter of Deacon Joseph. Susanna 58 married, October 18, 1711, Captain Jonathan Bass, baptized in 1697, son of Deacon Samuel. Josiah 59 married, in 1720, Hannah Richard of Plympton, Mass. Joseph 60 married, May 13, 1724, Martha Perkins, born in 1704, daughter of Deacon David.

24. Joseph, son of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Salem, colony of Massachusetts Bay, about 1649; married (1st), in 1678, Experience Field of Providence, colony of Rhode Island, New England. She died in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on November 2, 1685; and he married there (2d), November 2, 1686, Mary, daughter of George Turner. He died in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on October 3, 1711.

Children by first wife:

61. Joseph, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1679.
62. Josiah, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1682.
63. Experience, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 6, 1685.

Children by second wife:

64. Benjamin, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1687.
65. Samuel, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 28, 1689.
66. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1691.
67. Susanna, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1693.
68. > Timothy, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1694.

Experience 63 died young.

An inventory of his estate was taken on November 19, 1711. The widow, as administratrix, made oath, on February 15, 1712, that it was a true one.

25. Josiah, son of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in Duxbury Plantation, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1651; married, in 1673, in the town of Taunton, colony of New Plymouth, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Alice Dean of that town, born there in 1650. He died in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay,

on October 4, 1734, in the eighty-fourth year of his age; and she, in the same place, on November 25, 1737, in the eighty-sixth year of her age, without offspring. Their remains are entombed in the old graveyard near the Unitarian Church, town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

"Justice" Edson, by his will made September 5, 1733, bequeathed a great part of his property to the wife and children of his nephew, Captain Josiah Edson.

26. Bethiah, daughter of Samuel 16 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in Duxbury Plantation, colony of New Plymouth, New England, about 1653; married, in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, on December 17, 1676, Ezra, son of Walter and Eleanor (Strong) Dean, of the town of Taunton, colony of New Plymouth. He died between October 28, 1727, and February 15, 1732.

Children:

- 69. Bethiah Dean, born on October 14, 1677.
- 70. Ezra Dean, born on October 14, 1680.
- 71. Samuel Dean, born on April 11, 1681.
- 72. Seth Dean, born on June 3, 1683.
- 73. Margaret Dean.
- 74. Ephraim Dean.

The first daughter, Bethiah 69, died on November 27, 1679. The second son, Samuel 71, died on February 16, 1682-3.

49. Susanna, daughter of Samuel 22 and Susanna (Byram) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on January 15, 1678-9; married (1st), in 1699, John, son of John and Sarah (Mitchell) Hayward, born on April 20, 1667. He died in 1705, and she married (2d), in 1706, Elihu, son of Elihu and Ann Brett. She died in the town of Bridgewater in 1743, and he also died there in 1745.

Children by first husband:

- 75. Susanna Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1699.
- 76. Sarah Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1703.

Children by second husband:

- 77. John Brett, born in 1707.
- 78. Anne Brett, born in 1710.
- 79. Bethiah Brett, born in 1714.
- 80. Elizabeth Brett.

50. Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel 22 and Susanna (Byram) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on August 29, 1684; married there, on

May 24, 1705, Samuel, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lathrop) Packard. They both died in 1716.

Children:

- 81. Samuel Packard, born in 1707.
- 82. Bethiah Packard.
- 83. Paul Packard, born in 1714.
- 84. Job Packard, born in 1716.

The four children became the heirs of their grandfather.

51. Samuel, son of Samuel 22 and Susanna (Byram) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on January 14, 1689-90; married, in the town of Taunton, Bristol County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 1, 1707-8, Mary, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Williams) Dean, born there on June 15, 1687. She died in the town of Bridgewater on February 5, 1770; and he in the same place, on December 27, 1771. Their remains are entombed in Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church graveyard in Bridgewater.

Children:

- 85. Susanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 14, 1708.
- 86. Bethiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 2, 1710.
- 87. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 9, 1712.
- 88. Samuel, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 14, 1714.
- 89. Nathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 14, 1716.
- 90. Abel, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 19, 1718.
- 91. Obed, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 31, 1720.
- 92. Elizabeth, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 16, 1722.
- 93. Silence, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 9, 1726.
- 94. Ebenezer, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 7, 1727.
- 95. John, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 30, 1729.
- 96. Ezra, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 28, 1730.
- 97. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 27, 1732.

Bethiah Edson 86 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on June 26, 1733. By the will of her father, Samuel Edson 51, made on August 23, 1770, her children, she being dead at that time, were bequeathed eight pounds, current money. (See Bethiah 26.) Elizabeth Edson 92 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on June 6, 1745, Benanuel, son of Benjamin and Hepzibah (Washburn) Leach, born in 1718, who had first married, in 1741, Elizabeth Perkins. Ebenezer Edson 94 married (1st), in the town of Bridgewater, on March 4, 1748, Jane Griffin. She died, and he married (2d), on April 27, 1758, Hannah, the widow of David Leach. Sarah Edson 97 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on July 21, 1749, John Cooper.

61. Joseph, son of Joseph 24 and Experience (Field) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1679; married there, on June 7, 1704, Lydia, daugh-

ter of Francis and Hannah (Brett) Cary, born about 1681. She died in the town of Bridgewater on January 24, 1762, in the eightieth year of her age, and he also died there on August 26, 1768, in the ninetieth year of his age. Their remains are entombed in the Powder-House graveyard in West Bridgewater.

Children:

98. Hannah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 16, 1700.
99. Lydia, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 11, 1711.
100. Joseph, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 18, 1712.
101. Bethiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 23, 1715.
102. John, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 3, 1717.
103. Daniel, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 21, 1720.
104. David, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 28, 1722.
105. Jesse, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 28, 1724.
106. James, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 20, 1726.

98. Query. Was this the Hannah who married (1st) Micah Allen; (2d), Thomas Phillips? (see Hannah 126). Lydia 99 died on August 18, 1793. Bethiah 101 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on April 26, 1753, Jonathan, son of Nicholas and Sarah (Vining) Whitman, born in 1710. He died in 1778, and she died in 1805, without offspring. John 102 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on February 7, 1743, Mary, daughter of Matthew and Mary (Bacon) Gannett, born there on August 4, 1721.

Joseph Edson, the father, "resided in what is now called West Bridgewater; he was deacon of the church for a long time before his death; was a selectman of the town for the years 1719-22, and through along life uniformly sustained the character of an honest and useful man, a kind and obliging neighbor, a pious and exemplary Christian."

62. Josiah, son of Joseph 24 and Experience (Field) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1682, married there (1st), on July 27, 1704, Sarah, daughter of Zaccheus and Sarah (Howard) Paekard, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 19, 1692. She died there on February 14, 1754, and he married (2d), in the town of Bridgewater, on April 3, 1755, Abigail Dean. He died there on January 16, 1762, aged eighty years. His and his first wife's remains are entombed in the old graveyard in Bridgewater, near the Unitarian Church.

Children:

107. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 26, 1705.
108. Abiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 6, 1706.
109. Josiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 21, 1709.
110. Huldah, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 3, 1713.

111. Abiezer, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 10, 1715.
 112. Freelove, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 11, 1718.
 113. Elijah, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 28, 1720.

Josiah Edson 62, the father, made his will on January 4, 1762, which was probated on April 15, that year. The devisees of his property, as named in it, were: Abigail, his wife; sons Josiah, Abiezer, and Elijah; daughters Huldah Howard (Hayward), and Freelove (Fobes); granddaughter Sarah Holbrook; grandson Abiezer Edson; and the "children of his deceased daughter Abiah."

64. Benjamin, son of Joseph 24 and Mary (Turner) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1686, married there, on July 14, 1715, Joanna, daughter of William and Jane (Washburn) Orcutt. He died in the town of Bridgewater on May 13, 1758.

Children:

114. Benjamin, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 3, 1716.
 115. Nathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 3, 1718.
 116. Peter, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 17, 1720.
 117. Jacob, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 16, 1722.
 118. William, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 4, 1724.
 119. Seth, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 24, 1726.
 120. Ichabod, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 26, 1728.
 121. Ebenezer, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 16, 1730.
 122. Joanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 9, 1733.
 123. Abigail, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 22, 1736.

Nathan 115 and Jacob 117 probably died young. Peter 116 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on March 28, 1745, Sarah Southworth. He died childless in 1750. His will, made on April 27, 1750, was probated on August 6, 1750.

Benjamin Edson 64, the father, left West Bridgewater to settle in North Bridgewater. In his will, made on January 6, 1758, probated on July 3, 1758, the names of his sons Nathan 115, Peter 116, and Jacob 117, do not appear. He devised to his son William 118 "a sixteenth part of the saw-mill at the forge."

65. Samuel, son of Joseph 24 and Mary (Turner) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of New Plymouth, New England, on August 28, 1687; married there (1st), on March 30, 1721, Mehetabel, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Hayward) Brett, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on August 12, 1692. She died in East Bridgewater, Plymouth

County, on February 20, 1736. He married (2d), in the town of Bridgewater, on March 1, 1737, Mehetabel, daughter of Joseph and Mehetabel (Dunham) Hayward, born there on May 17, 1701. He died there on January 7, 1749; and she on February 28, 1776.

Children by first wife:

124. Samuel, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 2, 1721-2.¹

125. Nathaniel, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 5, 1728.

Samuel 124 died unmarried in the year 1800.

Samuel Edson, the father, resided with his family in East Bridgewater.

66. Mary, daughter of Joseph 24 and Mary (Turner) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1691; married there, on May 23, 1716, John, son of Samuel and Sarah (Downer) Lathrop, born October 16, 1687. She died in 1779.

Children:

126. Mary Lathrop, born October 21, 1720.

127. Sarah Lathrop, born January 26, 1724.

128. Susanna Lathrop, born October 12, 1726.

Mary Lathrop 126 died unmarried. Sarah 127 married, October 16, 1755, in Bridgewater, Mass., Alexander Kingman. Susanna 128 married, in 1747, in Bridgewater, Theophilus Howard, born in 1724, son of Ephraim.

67. Susanna, daughter of Joseph 24 and Mary (Turner) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of New Plymouth, New England, in 1693; married there, on April 2, 1723, Solomon, son of Isaac and Abigail (Leavitt) Johnson, born in 1695. He died in 1771 and she in 1779. Abigail was widow of — Lazell.

Children:

129. Susanna Johnson, born December 23, 1723.

130. Seth Johnson, born May 15, 1733.

131. Josiah Johnson, born September 15, 1735.

132. Nathan Johnson, born April 13, 1738.

133. Mary Johnson, born January 13, 1740.

Susanna Johnson 129 married, in 1747, Jonathan Lathrop. Josiah 131 married Azuba Cary, born in 1740, daughter of Ephraim. Mary 133 married, in 1761, James Lovell.

68. Timothy, son of Joseph 24 and Mary (Turner) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, colony of

¹ This date we should call 1722. The ecclesiastical and legal year in England until 1752 began on Lady's Day, March 25th; but continental usage and popular usage in England and in the British provinces made the year to begin January 1st. Hence the double year.

New Plymouth, New England, in 1694; married there, on February 10, 1719, Mary, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Dunham) Alden, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 10, 1699. He died in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on September 9, 1775; and she also died there on January 20, 1782.

Children:

134. Hannah, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 10, 1720.
135. Timothy, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 19, 1722.
136. Anna, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1723.
137. Abijah, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1725.
138. Jonathan, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1728.
139. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 10, 1730.

The family lived in that part of the town of Bridgewater known as East Bridgewater, near Shaw's Mills, and removed in 1748 to the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England.

On March 31, 1748, James Pease, of the town of Stafford, sold to Timothy Edson, of the town of Bridgewater, one hundred acres of land in the town of Stafford, for ten hundred and thirty pounds.

On April 6, 1748, Ebenezer Metcalf, of the town of Lebanon, New London County, colony of Connecticut, sold to Timothy Edson, of the town of Bridgewater, forty-four and three-fourths acres of land for five hundred pounds.

On September 28, 1748, Seth Payne sold to Timothy Edson, of Stafford, fifty-two acres of land lying south of a highway running "from Broad Street to David Orcutt's mill," for five hundred and eighty pounds.—*Records of the Town of Stafford*, Book II., pp. 207, 208, 231, in the office of clerk of the town, in Stafford, Conn.

85. Susanna, daughter of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on December 14, 1708; married there, on June 17, 1736, Samuel, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Hayward, born in 1706.

Children:

140. Samuel Hayward.
141. (A daughter) Hayward.
142. Elizabeth Hayward.
143. Abigail Hayward.

87. Mary, daughter of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 9, 1712; married there, (1st) on July 4, 1728, George, son of Nathaniel Packard. He died, and she married (2d), in 1740, Jonathan Mehurin. He died in 1757.

Children by first husband:

- 144. George Packard.
- 145. Jonathan Packard.
- 146. Lydia Packard.
- 147. Rebecca Packard.
- 148. Ichabod Packard.

Child by second husband:

- 149. Ephraim Mehurin.

88. Samuel, son of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 14, 1714; married there, on September 26, 1738, Martha, daughter of Nathan and Martha (Leonard) Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater, on December 10, 1717. He died in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on February 25, 1801; and she, in the same place, on April 15, 1803. Their remains are entombed in Trinity (Episcopal) Church graveyard in Bridgewater.

Children:

- 150. Martha, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 3, 1740.
- 151. Samuel, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 18, 1742.
- 152. Eunice, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 10, 1744.
- 153. Lois, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 18, 1746.
- 154. Jonah, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 10, 1751.
- 155. Elizabeth, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 25, 1753.
- 156. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 8, 1755.
- 157. Noah, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 6, 1750.
- 158. Huldah, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 24, 1758.
- 159. Zilpah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 15, 1760.

Martha Edson 150 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on December 27, 1770, Daniel Carr. Eunice Edson 152 married, in 1766, John Chamberlain of Westmoreland. Lois Edson 153 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on May 24, 1765, Jacob Staples of Taunton. Elizabeth Edson 155 married, on July 22, 1784, Andrew White of Middleborough. Sarah Edson 156 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on October 8, 1778, Timothy Richards of Dedham. Huldah Edson 158 married, on May 2, 1782, Thomas Pope: child, Henry.

89. Nathan, son of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 14, 1716; married there,

on February 27, 1738, Mary, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Leavitt) Sprague, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 4, 1722. He died there in 1751, and his widow, Mary, was appointed administratrix. She rendered her final account as "Mary Edson," October 7, 1765.

Children :

- 160. Nathan, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1739.
- 161. Sarah.
- 162. Mary.
- 163. (A daughter.)
- 164. (A son.)

Sarah 161 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on January 31, 1760, Solomon, son of Solomon and Lydia (Sprague) Perkins, born in 1737. The third daughter, 163, married — Kendall, and lived near Black River, in Jefferson County, N. Y. The second son, 164, settled in New Orleans, La., about 1812.

90. Abel, son of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 19, 1717-8; married there, in 1739, Margaret, daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Hains) Conant, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 3, 1722.

Children :

- 165. Rachel, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 13, 1744.
- 166. Abel, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 16, 1750.
- 167. Levi, } born in the town of Bridgewater on March 2, 1754.
- 168. Bethiah, }
- 169. Daniel, } born in the town of Bridgewater on April 12, 1756.
- 170. Elizabeth, }
- 171. Keziah, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 7, 1758.
- 172. Rufus, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 30, 1765.

Abel 166 married in the town of Bridgewater, on May 2, 1771, Elizabeth, daughter of William and Bethiah Trask, born there in 1750. Levi 167 married there, in 1774, Sarah, daughter of William and Abigail Hayward of Raynham, born in 1735. He died of smallpox on January 20, 1777. Letter of administration on his estate was granted on June 2, 1777, to Joseph Hayward of Raynham. Bethiah 168 married, on November 25, 1773, Consider Borden. Elizabeth 170 married Rodolphus Borden of Middleborough. Rufus 172 married, in 1783, Mary Cole of Middleborough.

Abel Edson 90, the father, lived near where Alexander Ames lived in 1847.

91. Obed, son of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on December 31, 1720; married there (1st), on November 11, 1741, Keturah, daughter of Jona-

than and Abigail (Stoughton) Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 11, 1722. She died there on June 4, 1750; and he married (2d), in the town of Middleborough, Plymouth County, on May 2, 1751, Martha Thomas. She died in the town of Richfield, Otsego County, N. Y., on December 6, 1795; and he in the same place on September 8, 1804.

Children by first wife:

- 173. Obed, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 17, 1742.
- 174. Jesse, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 24, 1744.
- 175. (A daughter), born in the town of Bridgewater on December 12, 1745.
- 176. Obed, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 2, 1747.
- 177. Lewis, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 22, 1748.

Children by second wife:

- 178. Keturah, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 23, 1752.
- 179. Thomas, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 3, 1753.
- 180. Lydia, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 13, 1754.
- 181. Silence, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 14, 1756.
- 182. Isaac, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 2, 1758.

The son Obed 173 died on December 10, 1742; and the first daughter, 175, on December 13, 1745. Silence 181 married, in the town of Taunton, Bristol County, Massachusetts, on October 18, 1782, James Trupwell. Isaac Edson 182 died on March 28, 1800.

Trupwell 11

93. Silence, daughter of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on November 9, 1726, married there (1st), on October 6, 1746, Nehemiah, son of Daniel and Mary (Harris) Packard, born in 1727. He died, and she married, (2d) in 1758, Josiah, son of James and Experience (Hayward) Dunbar, born in 1725. She died, and he married, in 1798, Abigail Shurtliff. He died in 1800.

Child by first husband:

- 183. Silence Packard, born in 1750.

Child by second husband:

- 184. Josiah Dunbar, born in 1769.

95. John, son of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 30, 1729; married there, on July 25, 1751, Hannah, daughter of Benjamin and Mehetabel (Cary) Allen, born in April, 1725 or 1735. He died in Boston, in the latter part of the year 1777, of smallpox; and she married, in the town of Bridgewater, on May 25, 1700, Job, son of Job and Rachel Packard, born in 1749.

Children:

185. John, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 4, 1752.
 186. Benjamin, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 12, 1754.
 187. Nehemiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 15, 1758.
 John Edson 185, the eldest son, married, in 1784, Tabitha Keen.

John Edson 95 lived where Ephraim Edson was living in 1864.

96. Ezra, son of Samuel 51 and Mary (Dean) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 28, 1730; married there, on November 18, 1756, Rebecca, daughter of Captain David and Rebecca (Washburn) Johnson, born in 1734. She died in the town of Bridgewater on April 23, 1781, in the forty-seventh year of her age; and he also there on February 19, 1794. Their graves are in Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church graveyard in Bridgewater.

Children:

188. Robert, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 24, 1757.
 189. Ezra, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 13, 1759.
 190. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 15, 1760.
 191. Rebecca, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 26, 1762.
 192. Lavina, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 24, 1765.
 193. Libeus, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 27, 1769.
 194. Ebenezer, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 9, 1772.
 195. Hannah, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 25, 1774.
 196. Cyrus, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 16, 1777.
 197. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 18, 1780.

Robert 188 married, in Bridgewater, on June 6, 1782, Mary, daughter of Josiah and Mary (Dunham) Hayward. Rebecca 191 married, on June 21, 1787, Amos Fisher of Vermont.

Ezra Edson 96, the father, lived in the town of Bridgewater, where, in 1864, Simeon Taylor was living. Letters of administration on his estate were granted in 1794 to his children, Hannah, Sarah, and Cyrus Edson of Bridgewater.

100. Joseph, son of Joseph 61 and Lydia (Cary) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on November 18, 1712; married there, in 1739, Abigail Forrest. She died in 1775.

Children:

198. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 9, 1739.
 199. Daniel, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 16, 1741.
 200. Abigail, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 5, 1743.
 201. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 5, 1746.
 202. John, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 20, 1748.

203. Isaiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 14, 1750.

204. Abigail, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 7, 1752.

Sarah Edson 198 died on October 10, 1775; Abigail 200, on August 16, 1748; Mary 201, on January 27, 1753; Isaiah 203, on February 5, 1753, and Abigail 204, on December 25, 1768.

104. David, son of Joseph 61 and Lydia (Cary) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 28, 1722; married there, (1st) on January 1, 1746, Susanna, daughter of Matthew and Mary (Bacon) Gannett, born in the town of Bridgewater, on November 13, 1723. She died there on November 8, 1755; and he married there (2d) on December 8, 1756, Sarah Southworth, widow of Peter Edson. He died in 1795.

Children by first wife:

205. Susanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 10, 1748.

206. Mehetabel, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 31, 1750.

207. Mehetabel, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 24, 1753.

208. Huldah, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 25, 1755.

Children by second wife:

209. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 14, 1757.

210. David, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 13, 1759.

211. Jonathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 7, 1761.

212. (A son), born in the town of Bridgewater on April 5, 1763.

Susanna 205 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on October 17, 1768, Joshua, son of Daniel and Mehetabel (Byram) Beal of Windsor, born in 1745. Mehetabel 206 died on November 8, 1751; Sarah 209, on December 13, 1768; Jonathan 211 on December 12, 1768; and the unnamed son, 212, on April 8, 1763. Mehetabel 207 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on December 21, 1775, Benjamin Clark of Athol. Huldah 208 married Benjamin Death of Montague.

David Edson, the father, in his will, made on January 5, 1795, probated on February 1, 1796, names as his heirs, Lydia, his wife; David, his son; and his daughters, Susanna Beal, Mehetabel Clark, and Huldah Death.

105. Jesse, son of Joseph 61 and Lydia (Cary) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 28, 1724; married there (1st), on March 26, 1754, Lydia (Titus), widow of Robert Packard. She died in the town of Bridgewater on January 23, 1702, in the thirty-sixth year of her age; and he married there (2d), on January 5, 1764, Rebecca Belcher. He died in the town of Bridgewater on November 18, 1783, and his remains were entombed in the Powder-House graveyard in West Bridgewater.

Children by first wife:

213. Joseph, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 26, 1755.
 214. John, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 25, 1760.

Children by second wife:

215. Jesse, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 27, 1764.
 216. Rebecca, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 7, 1770.

Jesse 215 died on August 12, 1768, and his remains were buried in the Powder-House graveyard in West Bridgewater.

On February 2, 1784, letters of administration on the estate of the father were granted to his son Joseph.

106. James, son of Joseph 61 and Lydia (Cary) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on December 20, 1726; married there (1st), on May 11, 1749, Esther, daughter of Josiah and Mary (Read) Allen, born about 1717. She died in the town of Bridgewater on April 15, 1794; and he married there (2d), on October 24, 1796, Elizabeth Washburn, widow. He died in the town of Bridgewater on September 22, 1808.

Children:

217. James, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 10, 1750.
 218. Josiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 31, 1753.
 219. Barnabas, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 17, 1757.

James 217 died on March 29, 1769. Barnabas 219 the third son, died in the army while serving as a soldier in the War of the Revolution.

The family, while living in the town of Bridgewater, resided on the road leading to South Abington, in the easterly part of the town.

107. Sarah, daughter of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 26, 1705; married, in 1731, Elisha, son of Elisha and Mary (Howard) Pierce of Scituate.

Child:

220. Sarah Pierce.

108. Abiah, daughter of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 6, 1706; married, in 1728, Samuel, son of Joseph and Hannah (Dunham) Alden of Titicut, born on August 20, 1705. She died, and he married, in 1752, Rebecca, daughter of Josiah and Mercy Washburn, born in 1712. He died in 1785.

Children:

- 221. Abiah Alden, born in the town of Titicut in 1729.
- 222. Mehetabel Alden, born in the town of Titicut in 1732.
- 223. Sarah Alden, born in the town of Titicut in 1734.
- 224. Samuel Alden, born in the town of Titicut in 1736.
- 225. Josiah Alden, born in the town of Titicut in 1738.
- 226. Simeon Alden, born in the town of Titicut in 1740.
- 227. Silas Alden, born in the town of Titicut.
- 228. Mary Alden, born in the town of Titicut.
- 229. Hosea Alden, born in the town of Titicut.

The family lived in Titicut.

109. Josiah, son of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on January 24, 1709; married there (1st), September 13, 1737, Ruth, daughter of Joseph Bailey of Scituate, born on December 4, 1709. She died in the town of Bridgewater on May 31, 1743; and he married (2d), in Plympton, in 1746, Mary, daughter of Judge Daniel Parker, born on May 15, 1710. He married (3d), in 1755, Abigail Dean of Taunton, who died on January 21, 1788. He died in the British army, in camp on Long Island, N. Y., on December 26, 1778.

Children by first wife:

- 230. Josiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 22, 1738.
- 231. Caleb, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 13, 1739.
- 232. Ruth, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 15, 1741.
- 233. Calvin, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 3, 1743.

Children by second wife:

- 234. Daniel, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 3, 1747.
 - 235. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 13, 1749.
- Caleb 231 died on September 24, 1754; Ruth 232, on February 15, 1756; Calvin 233, on April 2, 1743; and Daniel 234, on July 27, 1747.

On March 1, 1779, letter of administration on the estate of Josiah Edson, late of Bridgewater, was granted to Hezekiah Hooper of Bridgewater.

110. Huddah, daughter of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on May 3, 1713; married there, on November 18, 1738, Hezekiah, born in 1707, son of Benjamin and Sarah (Aldrich) Hayward. He died on April 27, 1790; and she on July 14, 1800.

Children:

- 236. Elijah Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1741.

237. Huldah Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1744.
 238. Hezekiah Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1746.
 239. Ziba Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1749.
 240. Edward Hayward, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1753.

111. Abiezer, son of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on June 10, 1715; married (1st), on November 17, 1737, in Bridgewater, Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Abial (Lazell) Lathrop of West Bridgewater, born in 1717. She died, and he married (2d), in 1740, Jael Bennett of Middleborough, in Plymouth County. She died, and he married (3d), in the town of Bridgewater, on November 15, 1744, Mary, daughter of Samuel and Anne Packard, born in 1725. She died there on November 27, 1778; and he married in 1781 (4th), Catharine Williams, widow, first of Doctor Lunt and next of ——— Earl of Taunton. Captain Abiezer Edson died in the town of Bridgewater on July 24, 1791.

Children, by second wife:

241. Abiezer, born in the town of Bridgewater. *241 v. 10. Peterson.*

By third wife:

242. Abiel, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 243. Adam, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 244. Rodolphus, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1753.
 245. Polycarpus, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1754.
 246. Joel, born in the town of Bridgewater.

Joel Edson 246 had a collegiate education and received the degree of Master of Arts in 1784 from Yale College; practised as a physician in Albany, N. Y. He married, on December 29, 1774, Lucy Leonard of Middleborough.

112. Freelove, daughter of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 11, 1718; married there, on March 5, 1739, Josiah, son of John and Abigail (Robinson) Fobes, born in 1716. He died in 1794, and she in 1806.

Children:

247. Josiah Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1740.
 248. Perez Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1742.
 249. Jason Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1745.
 250. Abigail Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1747.
 251. Silvia Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1749.
 252. Ezra Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1751.
 253. Freelove Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1754.
 254. Alpheus Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1756.

255. Joseph Fobes, }
 256. John Fobes, } (born in the town of Bridgewater in 1758.
 257. Nathan Fobes, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1761.

113. Elijah, M.D., son of Josiah 62 and Sarah (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 28, 1720; married there, on April 21, 1741, Anne, daughter of Samuel and Anne Packard, born in 1723. He died in 1762, and his widow married in the town of Bridgewater on February 11, 1771. Jonathan Wood.

Children:

258. Elijah, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 259. Calvin, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 260. Daniel, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1744.
 261. Hosea, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 262. Caleb, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 263. Silvester, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 264. Anne, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 265. Olive, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 266. Susanna, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 267. Ruth, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 268. Marshall, born in the town of Bridgewater.

Daniel 260 was a resident of Ashburnham in 1775, and he is found there a short time subsequently.

Caleb 262 married, April 15, 1783, in Taunton, Bristol County, Mass., Sarah Dean of that place. He was a Revolutionary soldier from Groton, aged twenty, in Captain Henry Dearborn's company in Colonel B. Arnold's detachment. As from Cockermonth, he joined the sixth company of Stark's command, to which he had belonged before. He was a fifer.

Susanna 266 married, September 28, 1773, Gershom Richmond.

Elijah 113, the father, was a physician. He made his will November 17, 1762, and it was probated on December 6, 1762.

114. Benjamin, son of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 3, 1716; married, in Abington, province of Massachusetts Bay, on October 1, 1739, Ann, daughter of Richard and Susanna (White) Thayer, born in 1718.

Child:

269. Jacob.
 118. William, son of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 4, 1723-4; married there, on November 27, 1754, Martha, daugh-

ter of Robert and Abigail (Keith) Howard, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 27, 1729. He died there on February 13, 1800.

Children:

- 270. Keziah, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 30, 1755.
- 271. Robert, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 25, 1757.
- 272. A daughter, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 25, 1759.
- 273. Seth, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 6, 1761.
- 274. Martha, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 3, 1763.
- 275. Abigail, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 16, 1765.
- 276. William, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 17, 1767.
- 277. Jennet, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1769.

Keziah Edson 270 married John Harkness. The unnamed daughter, 272, died on April 17, 1759. Martha Edson 274 married, on March 2, 1786, Philip, son of George and Abigail (Esty) Packard, born in 1763. Abigail Edson 275 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on December 20, 1787, John Harris.

William Edson, senior, 118, by the will of his father, Benjamin, made January 6, 1758, became the devisee of "a sixteenth part of the saw-mill at the forge." In the will of William Edson of Bridgewater, yeoman, probated on March 10, 1800, he mentions his wife Martha; sons Robert, Seth, William; daughters Kezia, wife of John Harkness; Matty, wife of Philip Packard; Abigail, wife of John Harris; and "Jenny."

119. Seth, son of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 24, 1726, married Irene Howard.

Children:

- 278. Levi, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on March 27, 1752.
- 279. Joanna, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on September 13, 1754.
- 280. Rhoda, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on March 1, 1757.
- 281. Benjamin, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on January 26, 1758.
- 282. Seth, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on January 12, 1761.
- 283. Irene, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on October 7, 1765.

Rhoda Edson 280 married, in the town of Stafford, on May 13, 1777, Aaron Heath.

On October 30, 1747, Joseph Masey of the town of Woodstock, Windham County, colony of Connecticut, sold to Seth

Edson, of the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, five acres of land in the town of Stafford, for one hundred and seventy pounds, adjoining Josiah Bloggett's and William Orcutt's land.

On September 7, 1748, Josiah Bloggett of the town of Stafford, sold to Seth Edson of that town, one half acre of land, for five pounds.

On November 17, 1750, William Edson, of the town of Bridgewater, sold to his brother Seth, of the town of Stafford, four acres of meadow land, at the north end of the Cedar Swamp, in that town, for seventy pounds.

On January 6, 1751, David Orcutt, of the town of Stafford, sold to Seth Edson, of that town, nineteen and one half acres of land, for two hundred and ten pounds. (*Records of the Town of Stafford*, Book II., pp. 191, 301, 350, 351, in the office of the Town Clerk, in Stafford, Conn.)

120. Ichabod, son of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on September 26, 1728, married there, on July 19, 1759, Jemima, daughter of Deacon James and Jemima (Keith) Packard, born on August 8, 1729. She died in the town of Bridgewater, on January 14, 1803, and he also there on July 6, 1811.

Children:

284. Relief, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 8, 1761.

285. Joanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 20, 1765.

Letter of administration on estate of Ichabod Edson 120, late of Bridgewater, yeoman, was granted on August 5, 1811, to Thomas Packard, the husband of Joanna Edson.

121. Ebenezer, son of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 16, 1730, married (1st), in that place, on November 7, 1751, Lucy, daughter of Seth and Mercy (Bryant) Packard, born on July 26, 1731. She died, and he married (2d), in 1790, Mary, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Nightingale) Warren, born on July 6, 1748. He died in 1829.

Children:

286. Nathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 9, 1753.

287. Ebenezer, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 5, 1755.
 288. Lucy, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 18, 1757.
 289. Levina, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 8, 1760.
 290. Peter, born in the town of Bridgewater.
 291. Ziba, born in the town of Bridgewater.

Ebenezer Edson 287 married, on November 23, 1780, Martha Fobes; Lucy Edson 288 married, on April 3, 1788, Alexander Thayer of Braintree; Levina 289 married Samuel Perkins; Peter 290 married, on September 6, 1784, Rebecca Randall. He was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. Ziba Edson 291 married, on November 29, 1787, Timothy West.

In the expedition against Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, 1745, was Ebenezer Edson [121], private, James Smith, Lieut., in the 8th Mass. Reg't. (*N. E. Hist. & Biog. Record*, vol. xxv., p. 263.)

In the will of Ebenezer Edson of Bridgewater, yeoman, made on May 26, 1821, and probated on February 16, 1829, he names his wife Mary; his daughter Lucy Thayer 288; grandson Benjamin, son of Ebenezer Edson 287, deceased; grandson Allen, son of Nathan 286; grandson Samuel Perkins, Jr., son of his daughter Levina 289 Perkins; his grandson Ebenezer West, son of his daughter Ziba 291 West; grandson Alexander Thayer, Jr., and granddaughter Lucy Thayer.

122. Joanna, daughter of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on September 9, 1733, married there, on May 2, 1754, Isaac, son of Mark and Dorothy (Whipple) Perkins, born on April 27, 1731.

Children:

292. Abraham Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 10, 1755.
 293. Isaac Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 20, 1757.
 294. Joanna Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 8, 1761.
 295. Jacob Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 21, 1763.

The family settled in Titicut.

123. Abigail, daughter of Benjamin 64 and Joanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 22, 1736, married there, on August 17, 1755, Josiah, son of Mark and Dorothy (Whipple) Perkins, born on January 4, 1727/8. He died on August 2, 1798, and she on September 11, 1825.

Children:

296. Mchetabel Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 20, 1756.
 297. Abigail Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 25, 1758.

298. Mark Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 19, 1760.
 299. Josiah Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 9, 1762.
 300. Sarah Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 7, 1766.
 301. Benjamin Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 5, 1768.
 302. Silvia Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 30, 1769.
 303. Jacob Perkins.
 304. Shepard Perkins.

125. Nathaniel, son of Samuel 65 and Mehetabel (Brett) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on May 5, 1728, married there, on March 29, 1758, Joanna, daughter of David and Joanna (Hayward) Snow, born in 1735. He died in the town of Bridgewater, on March 19, 1784, and she in 1802.

Children:

305. Mehetabel, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 24, 1760.
 306. Joel, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 4, 1763.
 307. Eunice, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 4, 1765.
 308. Joanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 18, 1767.
 309. Nathaniel, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 4, 1769.
 310. Lydia, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 23, 1771.
 311. Huldah, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 29, 1774.
 312. Nathaniel, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 9, 1777.

Joanna Edson 308 died on January 27, 1846; Nathaniel 309, on October 4, 1770; and Huldah 311, on February 28, 1793.

Letter of administration on the estate of Nathaniel Edson, late of Bridgewater, yeoman, was granted on May 2, 1785, to Joel Edson of Bridgewater.

134. Hannah, daughter of Timothy 66 and Mary (Alden) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 10, 1720, married (1st), in that place, on February 23, 1736/7, Micah, son of Josiah and Mary (Read) Allen, born in 1708. He died, and his widow married (2d), in 1747, Thomas, son of Benjamin Phillips. She died in 1768.

(But see Hannah 98, daughter of Joseph and Lydia (Cary) Edson.)

Children, by first husband:

313. Mary Allen, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1737.
 314. Micah Allen, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1740.
 315. Joseph Allen, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1742.
 316. Daniel Allen, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1743.

135. Timothy, son of Timothy 66 and Mary (Alden) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of

Massachusetts Bay, New England, on June 19, 1722, married, on March 27, 1745, Lydia, the eldest daughter of John and Lydia (Lincoln) Joy, born in the town of Hingham, Plymouth County, on October 5, 1725. She died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vermont, on August 23, 1806.

Children:

317. John, born in the town of Bridgewater, on September 15, 1746.
318. Huldah, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 13, 1748.
319. John, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on September 16, 1750.
320. Huldah, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, April 23, 1752.
321. Timothy, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, March 26, 1754.
322. Calvin, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, July 14, 1756.
323. Josiah, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, in 1758.
324. Eliab, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on October 27, 1760.
325. Lydia, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, March 4, 1763.
326. Relief, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, March 16, 1765.
327. Mary, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, June 22, 1767.

John 317 and Huldah 318, the first two children, died in the town of Stafford on December 1, 1740. John 319 died there on September 6, 1775. Lydia 325 died in 1801. Relief 326 married, in the town of Stafford, on September 4, 1788, Sylvanus Bloggett, born January 10, 1765, died in August, 1853. She died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on August 22, 1823. They had one child, Orinda Bloggett (or Blodgett), who married, December 29, 1818, Elias Carpenter. Mary 327 married in the town of Stafford, on October 28, 1785, Ebenezer Johnson. He died there, April 2, 1817, and she on January 8, 1848.

On March 26, 1753, Timothy Edson 127, of the town of Stafford, sold to Timothy Edson, junior, of that town, twenty acres of land, for four hundred pounds.

On December 31, 1753, Seth Harney, of the town of Taunton, Bristol County, province of Massachusetts Bay, sold to Timothy Edson, junior, of the town of Stafford, four acres and a quarter of land lying in that town, a little distance southerly from the meeting-house upon the west side of Broad Street, for one hundred and eighty pounds. (*Records of the Town of Stafford*, Book II., pp. 28, 236, in the office of the Town Clerk, in Stafford, Conn.)

137. Abijah, son of Timothy 66 and Mary (Alden) Edson,

born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1725, married there, on September 29, 1747, Susanna, daughter of James and Ruth (Shaw) Snow, born in 1729.

Children :

328. Abijah, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on April 10, 1748.
 329. Nathan, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, in April, 1750.
 330. Samuel, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, in 1752.

On December 7, 1778, Nathan Edson 329 took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut as required by law. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. Under the Act of Congress, of March 18, 1818, he was enrolled, on September 16, 1818, a Revolutionary War pensioner, to receive annually ninety-six dollars from April 7, 1818, having served in the Second Connecticut Continental Line Regiment. He died in Caledonia County, Vermont, on March 16, 1828.

On September 3, 1753, Timothy Edson 66 gave to his son Abijah 137, fifty acres of land lying on the west side of the Willamantic River. (*Records of the Town of Stafford*, Tolland County, Connecticut, Book II., p. 346, in the office of the Town Clerk, in Stafford, Conn.)

138. Jonathan, son of Timothy 66 and Mary (Alden) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1728, married, in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on October 15, 1749, Mehetabel Lilly. He died in Whately, Franklin County, Massachusetts, on February 13, 1805, and she, also there, on June 20, 1805.

Children :

331. Timothy, born in the town of Stafford, colony of Connecticut, in 1750.
 332. Mehetabel, born in the town of Stafford, colony of Connecticut, on May 11, 1751.
 333. Jonathan, born in the town of Stafford, colony of Connecticut.
 334. Hannah, born in the town of Stafford, colony of Connecticut.
 335. Sarah, born in the town of Stafford, colony of Connecticut, in 1756.
 336. Olive, born in the town of Stafford, colony of Connecticut, on March 10, 1759.
 337. Amasa, born in the town of Whately, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 13, 1763.
 338. Mary.
 339. Samuel.

Mehetabel 332 married Martin Graves; Hannah 334 married, on July 22, 1782, Paul Belden; Sarah 335 married Deacon Russell Allis; Olive 336 married

Thomas Smith; Mary 338 married first — Rogers, and second, on March 5, 1792, John Bardwell; Samuel 339 married Miriam Edson.

Jonathan Edson 138, having married, in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, bought, on January 30, 1752, of John Lindsey of that town five acres of swamp land for five pounds.

On February 12, 1753, Timothy Edson 66 of the town of Stafford gave to his son Jonathan 138 sixty acres of land.

On February 13, 1753, James Latham of that town sold to Jonathan Edson 138, for one hundred pounds, five acres of land. (*Records of the Town of Stafford*, Book II., pp. 327, 352, 353.)

Jonathan Edson 138 removed from the town of Stafford to the town of Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, where, in 1764, he represented the town in the General Court as a selectman. At the first annual town meeting, on March 31, 1766, held for the choice of town officers, he and Nathan Chapin were elected wardens. He was named that year one of the seventy-one taxable inhabitants of the town. In 1773, he removed to the town of Whately, in Franklin County, and united with the Congregational Church, with which he and his wife were in full communion in 1782. He built himself a home in Whately, east of the S. C. schoolhouse, on the east side of Chestnut Plain Street, about thirty rods north of Cornelia M. White's residence, in which he was living at the time of his death. The building was torn down about 1825. (*History of the Town of Whately, Mass.*, by J. H. Temple, Boston, 1872; *History of the Town of Whately, Mass.*, by James M. Crofts, Orange, Mass., 1899.)

139. Mary, daughter of Timothy 66 and Mary (Alden) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 10, 1730; married, in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on April 20, 1758, Seth, son of Nathaniel Johnson, born in the town of Haverhill, Essex County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 12, 1720. She died in the town of Stafford, Conn., on August 17, 1790; and he in the town of Floyd, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1804. She was his second wife.

Children:

340. Mary Johnson, born in the town of Stafford, Connecticut, on February 9, 1759.

340A. Sarah Johnson.

340B. Susan Johnson.

Mary Johnson 340 married, February 27, 1777, Joseph Converse, born December 28, 1754, at Stafford, died December 20, 1826, at Randolph, Vt., son of Josiah and Eleanor (Richardson) Converse.

Sarah 340A married Benjamin Moulton.

Susan 340B married Salmon Moulton, brother of Benjamin. The Moultons removed to Floyd, N. Y.

151. Samuel, son of Samuel 88 and Martha (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 18, 1742; married there, on April 30, 1767, Anna Hall of Raynham.

Children:

341. Abigail, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 16, 1768.

342. Chloe, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 17, 1770.

343. Anna, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 1, 1772.

344. Samuel, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 11, 1775.

345. Jane, born in the town of Bridgewater, on November 28, 1778.

346. Alexander, born in the town of Bridgewater, on July 28, 1781.

347. Oliver, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 28, 1784.

348. Hosca, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 3, 1789.

Abigail Edson 341 married in 1787 Azariah Willis, of Oakham. Anna Edson 343 married in 1798 John Winnett.

Samuel Edson 151, the father, having served in the War of the Revolution, was enrolled, under the act of Congress of March 18, 1818, a Revolutionary War pensioner, to receive ninety-six dollars annually from April 6, 1818, having served as a quartermaster sergeant in the Massachusetts Continental Line. Under the act of May 1, 1820, his name was dropped from the pension list. He was then residing in Orange County, Vermont.

154. Jonah, son of Samuel 88 and Martha (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 10, 1751; married Elizabeth Balch. She died in 1846, in the ninety-seventh year of her age; and he in 1848.

Children:

349. Freeman, born in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, on September 24, 1791.

350. Cynthia, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1799.

351. Delana, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1801.

352. Elizabeth, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1804.

353. Chelous, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1806.

354. Sylvanus, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, 1808.

355. Columbus, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1810.

356. Chester, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1813.

357. Esther, born probably in Addison County, Vermont, in 1816.

Freeman 349 may have been born in a later year. The date of his birth was derived from a source different from that of the other children. Columbus Edson 355 died in 1880, unmarried.

Jonah Edson 154 removed from the town of Bridgewater, Mass., to Westmoreland, N. H.

Jonah Edson 154 was in Captain John Giles' camp, of Colonel Ashley's regiment of militia, which marched from Westmoreland on the alarm of June 28, 1777.

Jonah Edson and wife Elysabeth appear as members of the Baptist Church of Lunenburg, Vt., March 6, 1811.

157. Noah, son of Samuel 88 and Martha (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 6, 1756; married (1st), in that place, on June 27, 1782, Elizabeth Richards. She died in the town of Bridgewater on February 21, 1784; and he married (2d), in that town, on June 21, 1787, Mary, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Jackson) Willis of Middleborough. She died in the town of Bridgewater on January 7, 1801, in the forty-fifth year of her age; and he married there (3d), on October 29, 1802, Keziah, daughter of Captain Eliakim and Mary (Howard) Howard, born in 1765. She died in the town of Bridgewater on February 12, 1840, aged seventy-five years; and he also there, on February 11, 1846.

Child by first wife:

358. Zoroaster (afterwards Henry), born in the town of Bridgewater on February 21, 1784.

Children by second wife:

359. Eliphalet, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 24, 1788.

360. Noah, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 29, 1790.

361. Jonah, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 18, 1792.

362. Elijah, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 5, 1794.

363. Ephraim, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 25, 1797.

364. Jacob, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 30, 1799.

Children by third wife:

365. Elizabeth Richards, born in the town of Bridgewater, on August 30, 1803.

366. Simeon Howard, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 17, 1804.

367. Nathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 11, 1806.

368. Elizabeth, born in the town of Bridgewater, on April 28, 1809.

Zoroaster 358 (Henry) married in 1812, Elizabeth Niles Little, of Marshfield; Eliphalet 359 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on January 27, 1810, Mary L., daughter of Nathan and Mary (Johnson) Johnson, and died, in 1859,

in Yarmouth, Mass., where they had lived; Noah 360 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on June 8, 1814, Huldah, daughter of Deacon Joseph and Eunice (Joslyn) Kingman, born in 1795, and died in 1851. They lived in Hadley, Hampshire County, Mass. Elijah 362 married, in 1818, Nancy Clark, of Plymouth, and died in 1841. Simeon Howard 366 married first Alice, daughter of Daniel Bryant, second, Lydia Cheedle, and third, Sarah Cheedle. He moved to Vermont, and died there. Elizabeth 368 married Joel Shedd. They live in Waltham. Nathan 367 died on November 25, 1825.

159. Zilpah, daughter of Samuel 88 and Martha (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, January 15, 1760; married there, on November 12, 1778, Daniel, son of Daniel and Keziah (Willis) Willis, born in 1758. She died in 1821.

Children:

369. Keziah Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1779.
370. Zilpah Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1780.
371. Susanna Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1782.
372. Elizabeth Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1784.
373. Nancy Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1787.
374. Mary Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1790.
375. Roxana Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1792.
376. Daniel E. Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1794.
377. Cyrus Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1797.
378. Galen Willis, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1800.

160. Nathan, son of Nathan 89 and Mary (Sprague) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1739; married there, on September 2, 1766, Mary, dau. of ——— and Anna (Giffins) Hall, born in Ireland in 1740. He died in the town of Smithfield, Madison County, N. Y., on August 16, 1825; and she, in the same place, then the town of Stockbridge, on December 12, 1838. Their remains were interred in a burial-plot on Calvin Edson's farm on the south edge of the town of Lenox.

Children:

379. Anna, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on November 14, 1767.
380. Nathan, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on March 31, 1769.
381. John, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on February 1, 1771.
382. Willard, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on October 14, 1772.
383. Alfred, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on November 13, 1774.
384. Barnabas, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on February 27, 1776.

385. Mary, born in Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on March 24, 1778.
 386. Calvin, born in Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts, June 10, 1780.
 387. Sarah, born in Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts, May 14, 1783.
 388. Olive, born in Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts, May 24, 1785.

Anna 379 married, on February 26, 1786, Robert Willis Seaver, born in Worcester, province of Massachusetts Bay, about 1762. He was a Revolutionary War soldier. He died in Charlotte Center, Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1836, and she also there on March 24, 1852. Nathan 380 married —— White, of Oneida County, N. Y. John 381 married first, Sarah ——; and second, Clarissa ——. Willard 382 was killed by lightning when a boy. Mary 385 married first, in 1793, John Devine; second, Daniel Thurston, and third, Michael Tooke. Sarah 387 married William Devine, a brother of John Devine.

Nathan Edson 160, the father, immediately after his marriage removed to Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, having sold the real estate which he had in part purchased and in part inherited, in the town of Bridgewater. He was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, one of the Minute Men of April 19, 1775; and later sergeant in Captain Edward Cobb's company in the service in Rhode Island. In *The History of Madison County, New York*, by James H. Smith (Syracuse, 1880), the author relates: "The first settlement [in the town of Stockbridge, first Whitestown, 1788; Cazenovia, 1795; Smithfield, 1807; Stockbridge, 1836] was made in 1791, probably by Nathan Edson, who came from New Hampshire [Massachusetts ?] with his sons John, Barney, and Calvin, young unmarried men, and daughters, Nancy 379, Sarah 387, Polly 385, and Olive 388, the first of whom was married to Robert [W.] Seaver, who came with them. Nathan Edson took up the lot next north of the southeast corner lot of the town, and located where Jesse Bridge now lives. In 1820 he removed to a small farm leased to the Indians in the north part of the town, which now forms a part of the Widow Miller's farm, and there resided till his death. John 381 settled in the northeast corner of the lot, and removed, soon after the great eclipse, in 1806, to the locality of Batavia. Barney 384 removed, soon after John, to the same locality, and subsequently to Chautauqua County. Calvin 386 continued to reside in this locality till his death, which occurred in the south edge of Lenox. Alfred 383 came in

about a year later and located on the same lot, where Hiram Clarke now lives. He afterwards removed to the south part of the town, and subsequently leased of the Indians a farm which is now occupied by three or four individuals, the homestead by John True, where he died. Robert [W.] Seaver 379 removed to Alexander, Genesee County, about the same time that John went to Batavia. Sarah 387 married William Devine; and Polly 385, his brother John. Willard 382 kept a tavern a few years on that lot. He afterwards removed to and died in the west part of the State. The marriage of John Devine and Polly Edson 385, in 1793, was the first one contracted in the town. John 381 died young, of consumption, three or four years after his marriage, on the farm allotted to him by his father-in-law. The Devines came in soon after the Edsons. After John's death, Polly 385 married Daniel Thurston, who succeeded him on the same farm but afterwards removed to, and died in, the south part of the town. Olive Edson 388 married Zenas Cole, who bought Calvin Edson's farm. He afterwards removed to Cincinnati [Ohio], and died there. Willard Edson, of Mumsville, son of Alfred 383, is the only one of this name living in the town. Willard Edson was born here, June 4, 1802, in a log-house which stood on the site of Hiram Clarke's residence. His sister Sarah, wife of Madison Alby, is also living in the town. Only one of the name is living in the county, Elam, son of Calvin Edson. Hiram, Marshall, Marquis (the latter two twins), and John Thurston, are the only other grandchildren of Nathan's living in this town" (pp. 707, 708).

162. Mary, daughter of Nathan 89 and Mary (Sprague) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, married there, on January 10, 1758, James, son of William and Mary (Washburn) Snow, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1729. He died there in 1762, and she in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, Connecticut, aged eighty years.

Children:

389. Eliab Snow, born in 1758.

390. James Snow, born in 1761.

"On November 14, 1764, James Snow and Mary 162 his wife conveyed to Solomon Perkins of Easton, all our right and

title, and interest in the Homestead Farm, of which our father Nathan Edson, late of Bridgewater, died seized, said homestead being that where he last dwelt, and contains about thirty acres, be the same more or less, and we, the said James and Mary, by right of heirship, do challenge one fifth part of said homestead, to be our just right, and whence our mother, Mary Edson, widow of said Nathan Edson, has the improvement of one third part of said homestead during her natural life," etc. (From Plymouth Registry records.)

174. Jesse, son of Obed 91 and Keturah (Willis) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on May 24, 1744, married there, in 1768, Susanna, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Gannett) Hayward, born in 1747. He died in Florida in 1834.

Children:

391. Caleb, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 22, 1769.

392. Hannah, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 14, 1770.

393. Jesse, born in the town of Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, February 12, 1773.

↑ Caleb Edson 391 died on December 18, 1770.

In 1771, Jesse Edson 174 removed with his wife and daughter to Ashfield, Mass., where he built a home and reared a large family of children. He and Simeon Philips were the founders of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church. The members of the two households met at the house of Simeon Philips on Sundays and read together the church service. From thence, with other Episcopalians, they went and worshipped in the district school-house, Jesse Edson being the reader. Subsequently the small body of worshippers held services in the town hall. The parish of St. John's Church was first represented in the diocesan convention in 1822. In 1823 it was reported to be prosperous, with thirty-eight families and twenty-five communicants. A house of worship was later erected. Jesse Edson was permitted to see some of the fruit of his early efforts to establish an Episcopal Church in Ashfield. He lived to be ninety years old, and died in Florida, whither he had removed a few years before his decease to be with a son settled in that State. (*Vide A Genealogical Account of the Edsons*, Appendix i., pp. viii., ix.)

176. Obed, son of Obed 91 and Keturah (Willis) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Mas-

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sachusetts Bay, New England, on May 2, 1747, married (1st), in that place, on April 22, 1769, Prudence, daughter of Wyllys Fiske, born on September 4, 1745. She died in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, and he married (2d), probably in 1794, Sarah —. She died in the town of Richfield, Otsego County, N. Y., on October 7, 1824, and he also there on May 9, 1840.

Children:

394. Prudence, born probably in town of Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, March 4, 1771.
395. Obed, born probably in town of Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, May 6, 1772.
396. Keturah, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, June 19, 1774.
397. Stephen Fiske, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, July 9, 1776.
398. Olive, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, June 24, 1778.
399. Hannah, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, August 22, 1780.
400. Wyllys, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, April 22, 1783.
401. Lucy, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, July 25, 1785.

Keturah 396 married Willis Howe, silversmith. She died on October 1, 1853. Stephen Fiske 397 married, on February 2, 1802, Abigail Smith, and died on September 29, 1855. Olive 398 married Seth Tiffany of Cherry Valley, Otsego County, N. Y. She died on September 20, 1807. Hannah 399 married Pomeroy Noble. She died on June 20, 1803. Lucy 401 married Elam Willis. She died on June 14, 1859.

On June 15, 1782, Simeon Chittenden, of Gilford, New Haven County, Conn., conveyed to Obed Edson, junior, 176, of the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., for and in consideration of eighteen pounds, "one third division, lot number 10, in the town of Lanesborough. Also the wantage land, arising on the first division, lot number 52, in said town of Lanesborough." (*Books of Deeds*, 17, page 599, in the office of Registry in Pittsfield, Mass.). By other conveyances, on May 7, 1783, February 23, 1784, August 18, 1784, other parcels of land. On November 11, 1785, he acquired "thirty-two acres and the buildings standing on the same"; and, on February 22, 1788, forty more acres in the said town. (*Books of Deeds*, 18, 10, 26). He also conveyed lands in 1789 and 1790, in the town of Lanesborough. In the *Book of Records of the Church of England* in the

town of Lanesborough, the following entires of elections are found under the given dates: "May 10th, 1773, Obed Edson, and Joseph Hall, choristers"; "April 18, 1774, Obed Edson, chorister"; "April 24, 1775, Obed Edson, chorister;" "April 8, 1776, Obed Edson, chorister"; "April 30, 1781, Obed Edson, jr., church warden; Obed and Lewis Edson, choristers;" "April 8, 1782, Obed Edson, church warden; Lewis and Obed Edson, and Timothy Sherman, choristers"; "April 28, 1783, Obed Edson, church warden"; "May 8, 1786, Obed Edson, church warden."

Under the heading: Baptisms: "August 10, 1794," baptized, "Sally [Sarah] Edson [176], an adult, wife of Obed Edson, jr."

A deed, recorded at Adams, Berkshire County, Mass., shows that Obed Edson conveyed, on December 28, 1797, for £875, one acre of land, to John Powell, jr., both of the town of Lanesborough.

Obed 176 Edson's change of residence to Otsego County, N. Y., is indicated by a deed, made on January 3, 1798, between Levi Beardsley and Sarah, his wife, of Richfield Springs, Otsego County, yeoman, of the first part, and Obed Edson of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, yeoman, of the second part, wherein the first-named parties, for \$1500, conveyed to the last-named person, 113 acres and 151 rods of land, being part of lot 37, in Schuyler's Patent, in the county of Otsego. On May 20, 1799, at a vestry meeting, held at the house of Wyllys Howe, father of his first wife, Prudence, Obed Edson was elected second vestryman of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in the town of Richfield. His name appears for the last time in the proceedings of the vestry in 1814.

The first religious society that was founded in the town of Richfield, Otsego County, was that of the Protestant Episcopal congregation, which was organized as a church by the Rev. Daniel Nash, as pastor, in 1799, at Brewster's Tavern. A meeting-house was not erected until 1803. It stood, as is related, north of the old elms, on the Colwell farm. Christopher Colwell donated the lot. John, Amasa, and Cyrus Pringle, Timothy Hatch, and Obed Edson were some of the prominent Episcopalians of that part of Otsego County. The old church was pulled down; and in 1832, the new St. Luke's, now standing in the village of Monticello, was built.

On May 29, 1828, Obed Edson (2d) 176 of the town of Richfield, sold a part of his property there to his son Stephen Fiske Edson 397. It is said that Obed Edson (2d) lived one half mile north of Monticello, or about two miles southwest of Richfield Springs, on the right side of the road running northward, first in a log house, afterward in a frame dwelling which, later, his son, Stephen Fiske Edson occupied.

177. Lewis, son of Obed 91 and Keturah (Willis) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 22, 1748; married there, on January 30, 1770, Hepzibah, daughter of Jonathan and Thankful (Newton) Washburn. He died in Mink Hollow, town of Woodstock, Ulster County, N. Y., in 1820.

Child:

402. Lewis, born in the town of Bridgewater, on January 23, 1771.

On September 5, 1772, Lewis 177 and Hepzibah (Washburn) Edson, and their mother, Thankful (Newton) Washburn, conveyed to Jost Willis, for sixty pounds, all their "home lands" with their "dwelling house, seven acres," and some land, six acres, near by. The property, it is said, lay about three quarters of a mile north of the house later occupied by William Latham. On June 14, 1776, he sold to Ezra Fobes the homestead of twenty-five acres one quarter and twenty-one rods, with the dwelling-house thereon. His mother-in-law was a witness to the deed, she having relinquished her right of dower in the homestead sold by him in 1772. This property, it is said, was on the Taunton Road, opposite the residence of Deacon Fobes (in 1854, of James K. Leach), about one and a half miles from William Latham's house.

As entered in the *Book of Records of the Church of England*, in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, his name appears under several dates, at the election of church officers: "May 17, 1770, Lewis Edson, chorister"; "April 3, 1780, Lewis Edson, chorister"; "April 30, 1781, Obed and Lewis Edson, choristers"; "April 8, 1782, Lewis and Obed Edson, and Timothy Sherman, choristers." As has been mentioned in the history of *The Edsons in England and America*, by Jarvis B. Edson, New York, 1903, Lewis Edson,

while living in the town of Lanesborough, composed the popular hymn-tunes, entitled *Bridgewater, Lenox, Greenfield, and Suffield*.

Ignatius Thompson, in his *History of the Town of Halifax, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*, adjoining that of Bridgewater, referring to the settlement of the disagreements in the Halifax church, between the years 1769 and 1776, says the members of the church determined to "employ a Mr. Edson of Bridgewater to come there and teach them the Science of Music."

William Latham (now deceased), the author of the work *Epitaphs in Old Bridgewater*, in a letter addressed to Mr. Hubert P. Main, of the firm of Biglow & Main, music publishers, New York City, writes: "I find the music of Edson & Leach, in the fifth edition of *Worcester's Collection of Sacred Harmony*, 1794, and in the *Easy Instruction*, printed at Albany, 1798. I suppose J. Leach is the James Leach, 1762-1798, you speak of."

In *A Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*, compiled and edited by Theodore Baker, New York, 1900, page 164, is the following: "Edson, Lewis, b. Bridgewater, Mass., Jan. 22, 1748, d. Woodstock, N. Y., 1820. Lived in New York, 1801-17, and compiled (with Thomas Seymour), *The N. Y. Coll. of Sacred Music*. Composed the hymn-tunes *Bridgewater, Lenox, Greenfield*, and others. Removed to Woodstock in 1817."

It is related that Lewis Edson, Senior 177 executed a deed, on January 26, 1791, in Albany, N. Y., conveying a parcel of land lying in Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

179. Thomas, son of Obed 91 and Martha (Thomas) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on June 3, 1753, married in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, on June 15, 1780, Mary, daughter of William and Mary (Wright) Jarvis, born on May 12, 1762. She died at Fly Creek, Otsego County, New York, in February, 1835, and he also there in 1836.

Children:

403. Mary, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on March 29, 1781.
404. William, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on July 12, 1783.
405. William Jarvis, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on February 23, 1786.
406. Asahel, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on August 7, 1788.
407. A daughter, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on February 13, 1791.

408. Oramel, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on September 6, 1792.
 409. Sarah, born in the town of Lanesborough, Mass., on January 4, 1795.
 410. Theodatus, born in Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on July 7, 1798.
 411. Elizabeth, born in Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on September 15,
 1801.

Mary (Polly) 403 married I. C. Marvin. William 404 died in the town of Lanesborough, on March 23, 1785. The unnamed daughter 407 died on the day of her birth. Sarah 409 (Sally) died on January 4, 1803. Theodatus Edson 410, lawyer, died intestate in Otsego County, N. Y., and, on February 7, 1835, letter of administration on his property was granted to Eliza Rice.

The following entries contained in *A Book of Records of the Church of England*, . . . *Lanesborough, Oct. 2nd, 1767*, relate to members of Thomas Edson's family: Baptisms: May 27, 1781, "Polly Daughter to Thos. & Mary Edson"; August 31, 1783, "Billy son to Thomas & Mary Edson"; April 9, 1786, "Bill Jarvis son to Thos. & Mary Edson"; Nov. 4, 1792, "Oramel son to Thos. & Mary Edson"; February 8, 1795, "Sally daughter Thomas Edson."

The following *excerpta* relate to the regiments and companies with which Thomas Edson was connected in the War of the Revolution: "Under the resolve of the Massachusetts Congress of April 22, 1775, Bristol County raised a regiment which was placed under the command of Colonel Timothy Walker of Rehoboth; Nathaniel Leonard, lieutenant-colonel; Abial Mitchell, major. Captains: . . . Silas Cobb. The alarm from Lexington reached Norton on the day of the battle, and Captain Silas Cobb and Captain Seth Gilbert, each with a squad, started for the scene on the same day; Cobb had eighteen and Gilbert fifty-two men." On October 6, 1775, the company officers were as reported: Silas Cobb, captain; Irsael Smith, lieutenant; Isaac Fisher, ensign.

In April and May, 1777, Captain Israel Trow had the command of a company of men in Rhode Island service, most of the men from the town of Norton, Bristol County. The officers of the company besides the captain were: Isaac White and Jonathan Pratt, lieutenants; John White, Jacob Newland, Amos Martin, and Thomas Edson, sergeants.

The Hon. Kent Jarvis (born at Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on June 13, 1801, married there on May 17, 1821, Euretta M., daughter of Eliphalet Williams, died in Massillon, Ohio, on January 15, 1877) collected considerable genealogical data

relating to the Jarvis family, but was unable to perfect his lineage beyond William Jarvis, born on March 29, 1727, and who died at Brainard's Bridge, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on June 15, 1772. He had served as an officer in the French and Indian War. His son Kent served as a major in the War of the Revolution, and was killed near Saratoga by Indians.

The following data are in the work entitled *The Jarvis Family; or, The Descendants of the First Settlers of the Name in Massachusetts and Long Island, and those who have More Recently Settled in other Parts of the United States and British America*. Collected and compiled by George A. Jarvis, of New York; George Murray Jarvis, of Ottawa, Canada; William Jarvis Wetmore, of New York; assisted by Alfred Harding, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Hartford: Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company. 1879, pp. 154, 157, 158, 159, 164, 165, 166, 169.

No.	Name.	Born.	Died.	Remarks.
1487	William Jarvis,	Mch. 29, 1727	June 15, 1772	M. Mary Wright.
1488	Mary Wright, 11 children as follows.	Mch 11, 1730	Dec. 22, 1804	D. at Fly Creek, N. Y.
1489	Joseph,	May 14, 1752	Oct. 17, 1806	M. Jan. 12, 1783.
1490	Bill,	Dec. 30, 1753	Feb. 14, 1830	M. Aug. 30, 1780.
1491	Elijah,		Aged 18.	
1492	Kent,			
1493	Elizabeth,	Nov. 10, 1760		M. Jan. 29, 1783.
1494	Mary,	May 12, 1762	Feb., 1835	M. June 15, 1780.
1495	Chloe,		Young.	
1496	Asabel,		Young.	
1497	Asahel, 2d,	Feb. 15, 1768	Sept. 10, 1823	M. Mar. 18, 1790.
1498	Chloe, 2d,	Aug. 15, 1770	About 1846	M. Feb. 19, 1790. John Miles.
1499	Sally,	Aug. 19, 1772	Dec. 16, 1831	M. Feb. 14, 1793.
1532	Thomas Edson, 9 children as follows.	Jan. 3, 1753	1836	M. June 15, 1780.
1533	Polly.	Mch. 29, 1781		I. Marvin.
1534	Billy,	July 12, 1783	Mch. 23, 1785	
1535	William Jarvis,	Feb. 23, 1786		Polly Fairchild.
1536	Asahel,	Aug. 7, 1788		F. Stetson.
1537	A daughter,	Feb. 13, 1791	Feb. 13, 1791	
1538	Ornell [Oramel?]	Sept. 9, 1792		Lydia Wells.
1539	Sally,	Jan. 4, 1795	Jan. 4, 1803	
1540	Theodorus [Theodatus?]	July 7, 1798		Lawyer.
1541	Elizabeth,	Sept. 15, 1801		J. Price.

186. Benjamin, son of John 95 and Hannah (Allen) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of

Massachusetts Bay, New England, on November 12, 1754, married there, on January 3, 1782, Deborah, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Pratt) Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater, on September 12, 1761. He died there on December 5, 1835, and she on January 3, 1848. Their remains are entombed in Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church graveyard, in Bridgewater.

Children:

- 412. Hannah Allen, born in the town of Bridgewater, on February 26, 1784.
- 413. John, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 25, 1786.
- 414. Benjamin, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 22, 1788.
- 415. Allen, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 16, 1791.
- 416. Theodore, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 24, 1793.
- 417. William Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 14, 1797.

Benjamin 414 taught a private school in South Carolina, and while there had typhoid fever, and died, on December 23, 1818, on his way home. Allen 415 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on March 14, 1815, Minerva, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Pratt) Perkins. William Perkins 417 went to New Orleans, La., and died, on March 24, 1831, in one of the states of Mexico.

187. Nehemiah, son of John 95 and Hannah (Allen) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 15, 1758, married there on April 5, 1783, Olive, daughter of Charles and Abigail (Waterman) Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater, on November 4, 1764. He died on January 22, 1821, and she on September 28, 1842.

Children:

- 418. Ptolemy O'Meara, born on November 12, 1785.
- 419. John, born on December 4, 1787.
- 420. Martin, born on April 23, 1790.
- 421. Mehetabel.
- 422. Esther, born on April 3, 1795.
- 423. Lucius, born on January 2, 1797.
- 424. Nehemiah, born on April 18, 1802.
- 425. Benjamin Chase, born on August 5, 1804.
- 426. Charles P., born in Vermont, on January 2, 1809.

189. Ezra, son of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 13, 1759, married there on September 19, 1782, Asenath ("Sena"), daughter of Charles and Abigail (Waterman) Perkins, born in the town of Bridgewater, on September 23, 1766. He died in Rutland, Vermont, on February 27, 1840, and she in the same place on March 15, 1844.

Children:

427. Albertus, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 24, 1783.
 428. Zidon, born in the town of Tomlinson, Windham County, Vt., on November 11, 1785.
 429. Galen, born in the town of Tomlinson, Windham County, Vt., on March 12, 1788.
 430. Ophir, born in the town of Tomlinson, Windham County, Vt., on April 21, 1790.
 431. Abigail, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on March 27, 1792.
 432. Lavina, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on August 3, 1794.
 433. Cyrus, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on March 23, 1798.
 434. Asenath, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on September 28, 1800.
 435. Melinda, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on November 19, 1802.
 436. Alfred, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on January 29, 1806.
 437. Ezra, born in the town of Grafton, Windham County, Vt., on December 7, 1808.

Albertus 427 married, on December 2, 1804, Sarah Colwell.

On April 15, 1785, Ezra Edson 189 of the town of Tomlinson, Windham County, Vermont, bought of Ebenezer Burgess of that town, seventy acres, more or less, of land, being the south part of lot number eleven in twelfth range, for fifteen pounds.

In 1790, Ezra Edson was chosen a highway surveyor of the town of Tomlinson; from 1793 to 1795, he served the town of Grafton as a selectman; in 1793, he was elected a member of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont; and in 1801, he was the constable and collector of the town. He was prominently identified for many years with the political affairs of the town and a large landholder in it. Intending to change his residence he sold his remaining property on October 3, 1833, for eight hundred and fifty dollars.

190. Mary, daughter of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on December 15, 1760, married there on November 2, 1780, Robert, son of Thomas and Susanna (Latham) Wade, born in 1750. He died in 1813.

Children:

438. Celia Wade, born in 1782.

- 439. Sarah Wade, born in 1784.
- 440. Naomi Wade, born in 1787.
- 441. Thomas Wade, born in 1792.
- 442. Calvin Wade, born in 1800.

192. Lavina, daughter of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 24, 1765, married there on June 29, 1783, Captain Ephraim, son of Benjamin and Eunice (Holmes) Sprague, born in 1763.

Children:

- 443. Holmes Sprague, born in 1783.
- 444. Ephraim Sprague, born in 1787.
- 445. Eunice Sprague, born in 1790.
- 446. Lavina Sprague, born in 1799.
- 447. Chloe Sprague, born in 1804.
- 448. Mira Sprague, born in 1806.

193. Libeus [Lebbæus], son of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 27, 1769, married there on October 14, 1793, Johanna Keen, born in 1768. She died in the town of Bridgewater on March 17, 1818, and he also there on January 20, 1819. Their remains are entombed in Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church graveyard, in Bridgewater.

Children:

- 449. Ezra, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1795.
- 450. Charles, born in the town of Bridgewater.
- 451. Joanna, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1801.

Joanna Edson 451 died on March 17, 1818, aged seventeen years.

195. Hannah, daughter of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on June 25, 1774, married there on June 26, 1796, Simeon, son of Abijah and Ann (Fobes) Packard, born in 1770.

Child:

- 452. Simeon Packard.

196. Cyrus, son of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, on August 16, 1777, married there (1st), on March 3, 1797, Hannah, daughter of John and Bethiah (Otis) Hudson, born in the town of Bridgewater, on April 2, 1777. She died in Mendon, Rutland County, Vermont, on May 2, 1850, and he

married (2d) in Hampton, Washington County, N. Y., on September 19, 1852, Laura A. Smith, born in Poultney, Vermont, on June 30, 1786. He died in Mendon, Vermont, on September 23, 1862.

Children:

- 453. Rebecca, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 19, 1798.
- 454. Anna, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 11, 1799.
- 455. Hannah, born in the town of Minot, Me., on December 19, 1802.
- 456. Cyrus, born in the town of Minot, Me., on May 26, 1805.
- 457. Melzar, born in the town of Minot, Me., on October 1, 1807.
- 458. Melvin, born in the town of Minot, Me., on October 1, 1807.
- 459. Susan, born in the town of Minot, Me., on May 18, 1810.
- 460. Ezra, born in the town of Turner, Me., on January 12, 1813.
- 461. Galen Kingman, born in the town of Turner, Me., on June 13, 1815.
- 462. Otis Hudson, born in the town of Shrewsbury, Vt., on August 3, 1818.

Melvin Edson 458 died in Minot, Me., on October 5, 1807. Susan 459 died in Bennington, Vt., on May 30, 1850; married Dr. Silas Wilcox. Otis Hudson 462 died in Hampton, N. Y., on April 11, 1851; married Anne Berry.

197. Sarah, daughter of Ezra 96 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 18, 1780, married there in 1801, Jeremiah, son of Jeremiah and Charity (Pratt) Washburn, born in 1769.

Children:

- 463. Ezra Edson Washburn, born in 1801.
- 464. Eliza Hyde Washburn, born in 1803.
- 465. Ezra Edson Washburn, born in 1806.
- 466. Robie Snell Washburn, born in 1808.
- 467. Anna Edson Washburn, born in 1810.
- 468. Emily Howard Washburn, born in 1812.
- 469. Jeremiah Washburn.

199. Daniel, son of Joseph 100 and Abigail (Forrest) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on October 16, 1741, married there, on October 21, 1765, Olive, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Packard) Fuller, born on October 14, 1740.

Children:

- 470. Isaiah, } born in 1769.
- 471. Reuben, }

Daniel Edson 199 sold his farm of forty-five acres, in 1773, to Josiah Allen.

202. John, son of Joseph 100 and Abigail (Forrest) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on May 20, 1748, married

there, on May 3, 1770, Judith, daughter of Zachariah and Sarah (Packard) Shaw, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 20, 1749. He died in 1814.

Children:

472. Isaac, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 5, 1770.
 473. Martha, }
 474. Mary, } born in the town of Bridgewater on May 24, 1772.
 475. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 3, 1776.
 476. Ruth, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 31, 1778.
 477. Isaiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 10, 1781.
 478. Silvia, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 4, 1782.
 479. Hannah, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 8, 1784.
 480. Jacob, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 2, 1786.
 481. Nehemiah Shaw, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 9, 1789.
 482. Joseph, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 23, 1792.
 483. James, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 25, 1795.

Hannah 479 died on September 27, 1785. Isaac Edson 472 settled in Otsego County, New York, in 1795, and lived for a number of years at Edson's Corners, in that county. He married Sarah —.

210. David, son of David 104 and Sarah (Southworth) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 13, 1759, married there (1st) on March 18, 1783, Lydia, daughter of David Shaw, of Abington. She died, and he married (2d), in the town of Bridgewater, on December 19, 1785, Lydia Bassett of Norton. He died on December 15, 1831, and she, on March 29, 1839.

Children by first wife:

484. Hannah, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 27, 1783.
 485. Jonathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 12, 1785.

Children by second wife:

486. David, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 27, 1789.
 487. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 28, 1791.
 488. Lydia, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 12, 1793.
 489. Mehetabel, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 26, 1795.
 490. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 16, 1797.
 491. Eliza, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 19, 1805.
 492. Rebecca, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 9, 1811.

Jonathan Edson 485 died unmarried on September 13, 1863. Mary Edson 490 married, in 1817, Daniel Burrill, of Abington. Eliza Edson 491 married on July 9, 1829, H. Warren. Rebecca Edson 492 married Ebenezer Alger

213. Joseph, son of Jesse 105 and Lydia (Titus) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on December 26, 1755, married there on January 4, 1786, Mary, daughter of Issachar Vinal, of Scituate, born in 1755. He died in the town of Bridgewater.

on August 27, 1791, and she, in the same place, on March 3, 1807.

Children:

493. Jesse, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 12, 1787.

494. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 3, 1791.

Sarah Edson 494 married, in 1811, Benjamin, son of John and Zerviah (Willis) Keith.

Letter of Administration on the estate of Joseph Edson, Jr., late of Bridgewater, yeoman, granted to Joseph Swan, of Bridgewater, on September 13, 1791.

214. John, son of Jesse 105 and Lydia (Titus) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 25, 1760, married there, on March 15, 1785, Susanna, daughter of Ichabod and Susanna Orcutt of Stafford, Conn.

Children:

495. Fanny, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 20, 1785.

496. Orcutt, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 26, 1787.

497. Packard, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 2, 1789.

498. Osander, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 19, 1792.

499. Oris, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 22, 1794.

500. Oza, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 18, 1797.

501. Susanna.

502. Josiah.

503. Elizabeth Orcutt.

Packard Edson 497 married Lucinda, daughter of Israel and Hannah (Washburn) Howe, of Stafford; Osander 498 married Marcia Johnson, widow of Royal Ellis and daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Edson) Johnson, died July 23, 1871; Oris 499 married Irene Markham, of Longmeadow, Mass., died in Stafford; Susanna 501 married Lyman Spellman, lived and died in Stafford; Josiah 502 married Martha Stebbins, at Stafford, and died there; Elizabeth Orcutt 503 married Charles Thompson, and died at Stafford.

216. Rebecca, daughter of Jesse 105 and Rebecca (Belcher) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on June 7, 1770, married, in 1794, Ezekiel, son of Ezekiel and Mary Reed, born on September 16, 1772. He married, second, Hannah Linfield.

Children:

504. Emma Corbett Reed, born in 1795.

505. Lydia Reed, born in 1797.

506. Josiah Reed, born in 1799.

507. Joseph Edson Reed, born in 1801.

508. Edwin Reed, born in 1804.

509. Charles Briggs Reed, born in 1806.

218. Josiah, son of James 106 and Esther (Allen) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on May 31, 1753, married there on April 2, 1777, Reliance, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Packard) Fuller, born on December 22, 1756. She died on June 26, 1817, and he in 1820.

Children:

- 510. Zilpah, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 2, 1778.
- 511. Susanna, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 31, 1780.
- 512. A son, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 26, 1782.
- 513. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 17, 1783.
- 514. Barnabas, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 5, 1786.
- 515. Esther, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 20, 1788.
- 516. Reliance, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 9, 1792.
- 517. Olive, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 5, 1795.

The first-born son 512 died on the day of his birth.

Josiah Edson 218, the father, yeoman, of Bridgewater, made his will on June 10, 1813, which was probated on January 17, 1820. In it he mentioned his son Barnabas, and his daughters, Susanna Packard, Sarah Hayward, Zilpah Kingman, Esther Kingman, Reliance, and Olive.

230. Josiah, son of Josiah 109 and Ruth (Bailey) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on June 22, 1738, married there, on September 17, 1760, Hannah, daughter of Thomas and Desire Lawrence, born in 1739. He died in the town of Bridgewater on December 25, 1778, and his widow married there, on May 9, 1782, Eliphalet, son of Jonathan and Experience (Carver) Cary, born in 1732. She died on January 22, 1819, and he on March 1, 1820.

Children:

- 518. Caleb, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 20, 1761.
- 519. Josiah, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 31, 1766.

Caleb Edson 518 married in 1783 Sarah Dean, of Taunton.

Letters of administration on the estate of Josiah Edson, Jr., late of Bridgewater, were granted on February 1, 1779, to Hannah, the widow, and Nehemiah Hooker, Jr.

235. Mary, daughter of Josiah 109 and Mary (Parker) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 13, 1749, married there on September 27, 1770, Dr. Jonathan Crane, born in 1737.

She died, and he married, in 1783, Lydia Adams, of Kingston. He died on December 31, 1813.

Children:

520. Daniel Crane, born in 1771.

521. Susanna Crane, born in 1776.

242. Abiel, son of Abiezer 111 and Mary (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, married in 1774, Hannah, daughter of John Norton, of Middleborough. He died in 1823.

Children:

522. Abiel, born in 1775.

523. Cyrus.

524. Oliver.

525. Mary.

526. John.

527. James.

528. Daniel.

529. Josiah.

530. Abiezer.

The family resided in Middleborough. Abiel 522 married Sarah Kibbie.

243. Adam, son of Abiezer 111 and Mary (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, married Mary Hazard.

Children:

531. Henry.

532. George.

533. Eliza.

Adam Edson 243 received a collegiate education and was honored with the degree of Master of Arts in 1775.

244. Rodolphus, son of Abiezer 111 and Mary (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1753, married there on August 14, 1780, Lydia, daughter of Lemuel Crane, of Berkley, born in 1761. He died in Oxford, Mass., on October 5, 1833, and she on January 15, 1841, aged eighty years.

Children:

534. Ephraim, born on May 27, 1781.

535. Elizabeth, born on January 20, 1784.

536. Bradford G., born in Oxford, Mass., on September 21, 1801.

Ephraim 534 died unmarried on June 23, 1851; Elizabeth 535 married John Pratt; Bradford 536 resided unmarried at Oxford, and occupies the homestead, and devoted his time to farming.

Rodolphus Edson 244, the father, went to Oxford, Mass., in 1798, having bought, on June 21, 1797, the present Tyler Hol-

man place. In 1812, being then at Northbridge, he sold this farm. He afterward returned with his sons Ephraim and Bradford G. to Oxford, where he died.

245. Polycarpus, son of Abiezer 111 and Mary (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1754, married there, on March 11, 1778, Lucy Eaton, of Middleborough. He died in the town of Bridgewater on August 21, 1796, and she in the same place on November 12, 1816, in her fifty-sixth year. Their remains are entombed in the Keith or South Street graveyard in Titicut.

Children:

537. Charles.

538. Sarah.

539. Royal, born on February 13, 1784.

540. Charlotte, born on January 12, 1786.

Sarah 538 married in the town of Bridgewater, on September 1, 1803, Zachariah Eddy. Royal Edson 539 died on January 13, 1785. Charlotte 540 died on October 3, 1863.

On September 26, 1796, Jonathan Crane, Esq., of Bridgewater, Joshua White, Esq., of Middleborough, and Solomon Keith, of Bridgewater, were appointed to take an inventory of the estate of Polycarpus, late of Bridgewater, gentleman.

258. Elijah, son of Elijah 113 and Anne (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, married (1st) Nancy Clark, of Plymouth. She died and he married (2d) in the town of Bridgewater, on March 13, 1766, Martha, daughter of Joseph and Deliverance (Orcutt) Washburn, born in 1744.

Children:

541. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater.

542. Oliver, born in the town of Bridgewater.

543. Ziba, born in the town of Bridgewater.

544. Infant, born in the town of Ashburnham in 1775.

The infant died on May 13, 1776.

Elijah Edson 258 removed from the town of Bridgewater, in 1769, to the town of Ashburnham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay. His name appears in the province list of taxpayers in 1770, made by the assessors of the town of Ashburnham, on December 14, 1770.

He was a drummer in Captain Gates' company in 1775.

Elijah and his wife Martha probably removed to New Braintree, Mass., in 1778.

259. Calvin, son of Elijah 113 and Anne (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, married there on February 6, 1766, Lydia, daughter of Lot and Elizabeth (Homes) Conant, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 2, 1746. Both died in 1778.

Children:

545. Calvin, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 19, 1773.

546. Abigail.

547. Lydia.

548. Elizabeth.

Abigail 546 married — Willis, of Springfield. Lydia 547 married in the town of Bridgewater, on April 22, 1789, Thomas, son of John and Abigail (Pratt) Conant, born on March 1, 1766. She died in Westford, Chittenden County, Vt., on September 19, 1864. Elizabeth 548 married first — Nye, of Hardwick, and (second) — Bruce, of Springfield.

The family resided for a time in Oakham, Mass.

261. Hosea, son of Elijah 113 and Anne (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England.

“Minute Men. We the subscribers Inlisted agreeable to the vote of the Provincial Congress as Minute or Picquit men in the town of Brookfield, for the term of six months after the date, &c., under the command of Joseph Gilbert, Captain, William Ayres, 1st Left., Peter Harwood, 2d Left., and Abner How, Ensign, do hereby solemnly covenant and agree that we will muster, exercise, and do our utmost to obtain the art military, and subject ourselves to the command of our said captain and the subalterns of his company by us chosen and appointed; and if any dispute shall arise, or if any of us shall not give such obedience to his or their order as he or they shall think Reasonable and Just, the same shall be Determined by the Major part of the Company; and we severally agree that we will at all times submit to such order, discipline and censure as shall be so determined. Witness our hands this fourteenth day of November, 1774.” [Signed by forty-seven persons including Hosea Edson.]

“A Roll of Minute Men in Col. Jona. Warner’s Regiment, commanded by Capt. Jona. Barnes, that marched from Brookfield on the 19th of April 1775.

"Captain Jona. Barnes, [Time of Service,] 9 days.

"Lieut. Peter Harwood, " 9 "

" " Obed Bartlett, " 7 "

"Fif: Benjamin Gilbert [Time of Service,] 9 days.

" Hosea Edson, " 9 "

"The following List of Brookfield men in Eight Months service, is gathered from Rolls in the State archives.—*In Col. Learned's Regiment*: Capt. Peter Harwood, Lieut. Asa Danforth, Ensign Benjⁿ Pollard. . . . Drummers, Samuel Marsh, Benjamin Gilbert, and Hosea Edson."

"1776. Brookfield men in Capt. Wm. Todd's Co., Col. Craft's Regt. of Artillery. Feb. 1, to May 8, 1776. . . . Hosea Edson."—*History of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, Preceded by an Account of Old Quabaug, Indian and English Occupation, 1647-1676. Brookfield Records, 1686-1783.* By J. H. Temple. With a *Genealogical Register*, published by the Town of Northfield, 1887, pp. 226, 227, 228, 231, 232.

265. Olive, daughter of Elijah 113 and Anne (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, married there on November 4, 1787, Salmon, son of Seth and Susanna (Packard) Richard.

Children:

549. Seth Richard, born in 1788.

550. How Richard, born in 1790.

551. Thomas Richard, born in 1794.

552. Calvin Richard, born in 1796.

553. Salmon Richard, born in 1799.

The family resided in Middleborough.

269. Jacob, son of Benjamin 114 and Anne (Thayer) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, married there on May 14, 1759, Elizabeth, daughter of Abiel and Sarah (Ames) Packard, born in 1739.

Children:

554. Benjamin, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 5, 1750.

555. Anne, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 25, 1761.

556. Elizabeth, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 6, 1764.

557. Jacob, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 20, 1765.

558. Abiel, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 6, 1768.

559. Simeon, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 16, 1770.
 560. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 22, 1772.
 561. Euren, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 5, 1775.
 562. Levi, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 2, 1778.

The family resided for a time in Pelham, Mass.

273. Seth, son of William 118 and Martha (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on June 6, 1761, married in 1784, Theodora Howard, of Braintree. She died on April 26, 1826, and he on September 27, 1848.

Children:

563. Sarah, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 28, 1787.
 564. Jacob, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 11, 1789.
 565. Robert, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 25, 1790.
 566. Elizabeth, born in the town of Bridgewater on September 11, 1792.
 567. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on June 13, 1794.
 568. Anne, born in the town of Bridgewater on July 8, 1796.
 569. Galen, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 19, 1800.
 570. Phebe, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 10, 1802.
 571. Melinda, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 12, 1804.

Jacob Edson 564 moved to Dorchester; Robert 565 to Dedham. Mary (Polly) 567 married in the town of Bridgewater, on May 24, 1829, Jacob, son of Isaiah and Mary (Keyzer) Fuller, born in 1776. He married (1st), in 1800, Abigail Leonard, and (2d), on September 9, 1806, Hannah Orcutt, who died on February 13, 1828. He died on March 6, 1845, and his widow married — Holbrook, of East Randolph. Phebe Edson 570 married Ira Bryant.

276. William, son of William 118 and Martha (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on September 17, 1767, married there on July 11, 1790, Mary Randall. She died and he married in the town of Bridgewater on March 22, 1812, Hannah, daughter of Abiah and Eunice (Howard) Packard, and widow of Zadock Perkins. He died in 1849, and she on February 1, 1852.

Children by first wife:

572. David.
 573. Amasa.
 574. Milly.
 575. Ruby.
 576. Abigail.
 577. Abi.
 578. Patty.
 579. Mary Randall.
 580. Mehetabel White.

Ruby 575 married, in 1814, Samuel Spear, of Randolph; Abigail 576, in 1816, Ebenezer Crocker, of Easton; Abi 577, on May 11, 1823, Cyrus Howard.

William Edson 276, yeoman, of Bridgewater, made his will on April 10, 1818, when all his children were living. The will was probated in November, 1849.

277. Jennet, daughter of William 118 and Martha (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, in 1769, married there, on March 26, 1811, Seth, son of Henry and Abigail (White) Kingman, born in 1757. Seth had married first, in 1787, Judith Washburn, who died in 1809.

Child:

581. Elbridge Kingman, born in 1812.

278. Levi, son of Seth 119 and Irene (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on March 27, 1752, married there on October 29, 1783, Mary Washburn.

Children:

582. Levi, born in the town of Stafford on August 6, 1784.

583. Mary, born in the town of Stafford on August 28, 1785.

584. Sarah, born in the town of Stafford on November 16, 1787.

585. Lucy, born in the town of Stafford on December 22, 1788.

586. Lucy, born in the town of Stafford on May 3, 1791.

587. Huldah, born in the town of Stafford on June 7, 1793.

588. Daniel, born in the town of Stafford on March 24, 1798.

589. Lyman, born in the town of Stafford on March 20, 1800.

On April 9, 1798, Levi Edson 278, the father, took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut as required by law.

281. Benjamin, son of Seth 119 and Irene (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on January 26, 1758, married (1st), in that place, on November 13, 1783, Dinah Washburn. She died in the town of Stafford, on April 25, 1784, and he married there (2d), on February 23, 1786, Anna Johnson. He died in the town of Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on July 1, 1843, and she in the same place, on February 7, 1860, aged ninety-five years eleven months and seven days.

Child by first wife:

590. Dinah, born in the town of Stafford on April 16, 1784.

Children by second wife:

591. Edna, born in the town of Stafford on March 29, 1787.

592. Elam, born in the town of Stafford on May 24, 1789.

593. Irene, born in the town of Stafford on September 26, 1791.

594. Martin, born in the town of Stafford on March 11, 1794.

595. Dorcas, born in the town of Stafford on June 20, 1796.

596. Julia, born in the town of Stafford on June 24, 1797.

597. Caroline, born in the town of Stafford, on April 18, 1802.

598. Freeman Willard, born in the town of Stafford on August 17, 1804.

Edna 591 married James Hewlett; Irene 593 married Joseph Sheldon; Dorcas 595 married (1st) B. Saxbury, and (2d) Joseph Howe; and Caroline 597 married — Hill. Elam 592 lived in Jamestown, N. Y.

On May 1, 1780, Benjamin Edson, the father, took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut as required by law. In 1805, he sold "the Springs property, in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Connecticut, and moved to Tyringham, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, thence, in 1808, to Great Barrington, in that county, and, in 1810, to the town of Huntsville [in 1830, the town of Otego], Otsego County, New York, where he lived until his death. On July 1, 1819, he was placed on the pension list of the National Government, to draw annually ninety-six dollars, beginning on May 1, 1818, having served as a private in the Second Connecticut Line Regiment in the War of the Revolution."

282. Seth, son of Seth 119 and Irene (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on January 12, 1761, married Desire Comstock. She died on December 19, 1843, and he on October 12, 1849.

Children:

599. Mary, born on May 25, 1785.

600. Cyrus, born on May 13, 1787.

601. Cynthia, born on April 21, 1789.

602. Anthia, born on April 22, 1791.

603. Guy, born on March 19, 1794.

604. Harley, born in Tyringham, Berkshire County, Mass., on February 12, 1796.

605. Orrin, born on May 16, 1798.

606. George, born on July 6, 1800.

607. Phebe, born on September 3, 1802.

608. Luther, born on May 8, 1805.

609. Hiram, born on August 24, 1807.

610. Rufus, born on August 27, 1809.

611. James, born on June 10, 1812.

Mary 599 married — Moffit; Cyrus 600 died June 4, 1787; Phebe 607 married David Blatchley.

On June 21, 1837, Seth Edson 282, of Coles Hill, Broome County, N. Y., sold to Hiram Edson, of the same place, for one hundred and fifty dollars, fifty-two acres of land, lying in the town of Colesville, "beginning at the northeast corner of lot

number forty-three, on a tract of land commonly known and distinguished as the Watts Patent."

On July 8, 1837, in a conveyance so dated, Hiram Edson, of the town of Colesville, is named as the party of the first part, and Seth Edson and his wife Desire, the parties of the second part.

Under the act of Congress of June 7, 1832, Seth Edson, of Broome County, N. Y., was enrolled on March 26, 1833, a war pensioner of the National Government, having as a private served in the War of the Revolution in the Connecticut Continental Line regiment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Canfield, at West Point, in September, 1781. He received annually eighty dollars, beginning on March 4, 1831. In the list of pensioners of the census of June 1, 1840, he is named as residing "with S. Edson, Colesville, Broome County, N. Y."

284. Relief, daughter of Ichabod 120 and Jemima (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on September 8, 1761, married there, on November 20, 1777, Oliver, son of Jacob and Dorothy (Perkins) Packard. She died, and he married Amy, daughter of John Hawes, of Stoughton. She died on July 6, 1843, aged eighty-two years.

Children of Relief:

612. Vesta Packard, born in 1778.

613. Jacob Packard, born in 1780.

614. Jesse Packard, born on September 28, 1782.

285. Joanna, daughter of Ichabod 120 and Jemima (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 20, 1765, married there, on October 19, 1788, Thomas, son of Thomas and Mary (Howard) Packard, born on August 20, 1764. He died on December 16, 1818, and she on October 18, 1838.

Children:

615. Azor Packard, born in 1790.

616. Austin Packard, born on January 15, 1801.

286. Nathan, son of Ebenezer 121 and Lucy (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 9, 1753, married there, on May 28, 1778, Susanna, daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Wood) Allen, born in 1761. She died and he

married Martha — probably in 1786. He died in October, 1801, at Rehoboth, Bristol County, Mass.

Children:

- 617. Lucy.
- 618. Allen.
- 619. Nathan.
- 620. Martha.
- 621. Susanna.
- 622. Cromwell.

When Nathan 286 made his will in the town of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Mass., on May 9, 1801, his wife Martha, and the six children were living; Martha, Susanna, and Cromwell being then under fourteen years of age. His will was probated on November 3, 1801.

306. Joel, son of Nathaniel 125 and Joanna (Snow) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 4, 1763, married (1st), in that place, about April 2, 1788, Hannah, daughter of Solomon and Hannah (Bailey) Packard, born in 1764. She died in the town of Bridgewater, on December 7, 1818, and he married there (2d), on January 18, 1820, Lurana Jones, of Pembroke. He died in the town of Bridgewater on April 26, 1830.

Children by first wife:

- 623. Albert, born in the town of Bridgewater on August 20, 1789.
- 624. Pliny, born in the town of Bridgewater in 1790.
- 625. Ard, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 11, 1792.
- 626. Pliny, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 25, 1795.
- 627. Joel, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 2, 1797.

Albert Edson 623 married, in the town of Bridgewater, on November 10, 1817, Abigail, daughter of Uriah and Abigail (Kingman) Brett, born in 1793. She died in 1820. Pliny 624 died on July 9, 1793.

Pliny Edson 626 married (1st) in the town of Bridgewater, on September 23, 1819, Lucy Reed. She died on December 22, 1825, and he married (2d), on June 6, 1826, Mehetabel Reed. They lived in East Bridgewater. Joel 627 died on March 9, 1797.

On May 4, 1830, Letter of Administration on the estate of Joel Edson of East Bridgewater was granted to Lurana Edson of East Bridgewater.

307. Eunice, daughter of Nathaniel 125 and Joanna (Snow) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 4, 1765, married there, on July 14, 1786, Richard, son of Jeremiah and Tabitha (Leavitt) Thayer, born in 1759.

Children:

628. Earl Thayer, born in 1787.
 629. Susanna Thayer, born in 1790.
 630. Huldah Edson Thayer, born in 1795.
 631. Richard Thayer, born in 1798.

312. Nathaniel, son of Nathaniel 125 and Joanna (Snow) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on May 9, 1777, married there, on September 30, 1801, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Gannett) Hayward, born in 1753.

Children:

632. Warren Anson Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on March 22, 1803.
 633. Nathaniel Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 6, 1805.
 634. Elizabeth Howard Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 22, 1807.
 635. Cornelius Warren Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 19, 1809.
 636. Joanna Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 23, 1811.
 637. Newton Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 23, 1814.
 638. Fidelia Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 25, 1817.
 639. Horatio Kendrick, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 2, 1820.

Warren Anson Kendrick 632 died on April 4, 1803.

320. Huldah, daughter of Timothy 127 and Lydia (Joy) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on April 23, 1752, married there, on March 16, 1775, a Peter Edson.

Children:

640. John, born in the town of Stafford on July 5, 1776.
 641. Miriam, born in the town of Stafford on January 10, 1778.
 642. Hannah, born in the town of Stafford on February 12, 1781.
 643. Trine, born in the town of Stafford on June 30, 1784.
 644. Minerva, born in the town of Stafford on May 3, 1780.

On May 1, 1780, Peter Edson took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut as required by law.

Huldah Edson was living in the town of Randolph, Orange County, in 1832.

321. Timothy, son of Timothy 127 and Lydia (Joy) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on March 20, 1754, married there Susanna, daughter of Lieutenant Solomon and Mary (Rockwell) Orcutt, born in the town of Stafford, in 1758. He died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on June 10, 1831, and she also there on February 17, 1847.

Children:

645. Timothy, born in the town of Stafford on March 20, 1778.
 646. Miriam, born in the town of Randolph, Vt., on May 25, 1780.
 647. Leonard, born on February 4, 1783.
 648. Luther, born on March 4, 1785.
 649. John, born on April 9, 1790.
 650. Orrin [Oren], born on January 11, 1793.
 651. Alvin, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., October 10, 1796.

Miriam 646 married Isaac Reed, and died childless. His first wife was Mary Blanchard.

Leonard 647 died in Buffalo, N. Y. He married, February 8, 1807, at Randolph, Vt., Roxalana Woodward, and had a son Hial.

Luther 648 died July 26, 1856, at Randolph, unmarried.

Orrin 650 died at St. Johns, P. Q.; married there, in May, 1842, Orilla Booth, widow of Oliver Carpenter.

Captain Timothy 321 was chosen, in November, 1813, one of a committee to select a site for a schoolhouse in the town of Randolph. He and his wife were members of Christian Church in West Randolph, organized January 4, 1817, by Elder Benjamin Putnam.

322. Calvin, son of Timothy 127 and Lydia (Joy) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on July 14, 1756, married (1st), in that place, on December 7, 1780, Charity, daughter of Martha and Deborah Thompson, born on May 14, 1749. She died in the town of Stafford on October 7, 1797. He married (2d) Azuba Greene, born on May 25, 1777, died September 21, 1827, at Stafford, Conn. She was sister to J. Taylor Greene, who married Eleanor Edson 653. Calvin died November 26, 1828.

Children:

652. Elizabeth, born in the town of Stafford on August 10, 1781.
 653. Eleanor, born in the town of Stafford on February 5, 1783.
 654. Calvin, born in the town of Stafford on August 29, 1791.

Elizabeth 652 died in the town of Stafford on May 9, 1792. Eleanor 653 married John Taylor Greene, born in 1777. She died December 27, 1857, at Stafford, Conn. Calvin 654, the only son, died September 20, 1828, unmarried.

323. Josiah, son of Timothy 127 and Lydia (Joy) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, in 1758, married there, on July 1, 1779, Sarah, daughter of Isaac and Susanna (Phelps) Pinney, born on December 25, 1756. She died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vermont, on December 16, 1805, and he also there on

October 27, 1819, aged sixty-one years. Isaac was a descendant of John Pinney, who came over in 1630.

Children:

655. Alexander, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, on October 19, 1780.
656. Joseph, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on March 3, 1782.
657. Lydia, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on March 10, 1784.
658. Josiah, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on April 13, 1786.
659. Sarah, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on October 27, 1788.
660. Susan, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on December 25, 1791.
661. John Joy, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on May 27, 1794.
662. Harrietta Albina, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on April 13, 1797.
663. Daniel Sherwood, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on March 10, 1799.
664. Lydia Alexander, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., in August, 1801.

Alexander 655 and Lydia 657 died on the same day, March 6, 1801, of the same disease, scarlet fever. A double headstone still marks their grave, with the following inscription, composed by their father:

"In love we lived, together died,
And here we now lie, side by side.
Jesus died our souls to save
And placed our bodies in one grave.
Here we shall sleep till God commands
Us to come forth, with hand in hand."

Lydia Alexander 664, having been born "a few months after the death of her oldest brother and sister," was so named in memory of them.

Susan 660, the third daughter, died unmarried, in 1840, in Auburn, Mich.

Josiah Edson 323, the father, having enlisted on January 26, 1777, in Captain Amos Walbridge's company in the Second Connecticut Continental Line Regiment, was honorably discharged on January 25, 1780. In the following year, he removed to Vermont with his wife and son Alexander 655, and settled in Orange County, on a large tract of land that is known as "the old Edson place." Not long after his settlement in Vermont, he organized a company of volunteers, and, as captain of it, pursued a body of hostile Indians "beyond the frontier." Subsequently he was "elected colonel of the local regiment of militia," which was

highly efficient in defending that part of Vermont from marauding Indians.

In 1791 he was a member of the Vermont Convention, in session from January 10 to February 14, in Barrington, assembled there "for adopting the Constitution of the United States"; he being a representative from Orange County.

In 1792, 1793, 1794, and, 1796 he was a member of the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont. In 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, and 1802, he was sheriff of Orange County, Vermont.

By an act passed by the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont, on November 1, 1798, Israel Converse, Josiah Edson, Stephen Fish, and Timothy Mitchell were granted the exclusive right of running a stage coach from Windsor to Burlington for the term mentioned in the grant.

Under the act of Congress of March 18, 1818, Josiah Edson, residing in the State of Vermont, was enrolled a pensioner, having served in the war of the Revolution in Captain Amos Walbridge's company. He became a corporal on February 1, 1778, and was promoted to the rank of sergeant, on January 9, 1779.

He was a prominent Ancient Free and Accepted Mason, and was for a time Grand Master of the State of Vermont. Upon the death of his wife, in 1805, he entrusted the management of his affairs to his son Josiah, and passed much of his leisure time in Aurelius, New York, where several of his children were living. Dying at the age of threescore and one years, his remains were entombed in the Randolph burial ground, where those of his wife and two children had been entombed.

324. Eliab, son of Timothy 127 and Lydia (Joy) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on October 27, 1760, married there, on August 23, 1787, Prudence Whittaker, born in 1767. She died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on June 20, 1829, and he also there on November 27, 1833.

Children:

- 665. Calvin, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on March 4, 1788.
- 666. Oliver, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on December 20, 1789.
- 667. Eliab, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on February 9, 1792.

668. Elizabeth, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on February 18, 1794.

668A. Alexander, M.D., born in the town of Randolph, Vt., on February 5, 1804. Eliab 667 died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on May 6, 1832. Alexander 668 A died February 13, 1847, New York City.

Eliab Edson 324 the father, took the oath of Fidelity to the state of Connecticut, as required by law, on April 13, 1795.

Under the act of Congress of June 7, 1832, Eliab Edson 324 residing in Orange County, Vermont, was enrolled a Revolutionary pensioner on August 20, 1833, with pay beginning on March 4, 1831, being an annual allowance of forty-four dollars and sixty-five cents. He, as a private, had served in the Connecticut Continental Line.

327. Mary, daughter of Timothy 127 and Lydia (Joy) Edson, born at Stafford, Conn., June 22, 1767, married there, October 28, 1784, Ebenezer Johnson, born April, 1765, and died April 2, 1817. She died in Stafford, January 8, 1848.

Children:

668 B. Clarissa Johnson, born on February 7, 1786.

668 C. Celia Johnson, born on September 23, 1787.

668 D. Mary Johnson, born on October 26, 1788.

668 E. Cyril Johnson, born on July 24, 1791.

668 F. Marcia Johnson, born on November 20, 1793.

668 G. Selenda Johnson, born on December 29, 1799.

668 H. Nathaniel Johnson, born on October 15, 1801.

668 I. Timothy Edson Johnson, born on June 1, 1804.

668 J. Lovisa Johnson, born on August 27, 1807.

668 K. Ebenezer Joy Johnson, born on May 28, 1810.

Clarissa Johnson died January 10, 1864; married, about 1824, Joseph Gold, born in 1794, died February 29, 1844. They had no children.

Celia died December 7, 1787.

Mary died October 3, 1856; married, July, 1811, Eli House, son of Israel and Hannah (Washburn) House. They had seven children.

Cyril died March 8, 1848; married (1st), in July, 1815, Salome Cady, and had a daughter; married (2d), November 30, 1826, Clarissa McKenney, born March 27, 1802, died March 1, 1889, and had nine children.

Marcia died September 30, 1855; married (1st) Royal Ellis, born in 1792, died March 18, 1829, and had seven children; married (2d) Osander Orcutt, born July 19, 1792, died July 23, 1871, son of John.

Selenda died February 26, 1885; married, in 1816, Captain Warren Orcutt, born in October, 1792, son of Stephen and Molly (Washburn) Orcutt, and had nine children.

Nathaniel died August 20, 1872; married, November 16, 1826, Miriam Cady, born March 5, 1804, died January 20, 1871, and had four children.

Timothy E. died September 5, 1884; married, October, 1838, Harriet Sprague, born February 14, 1820, died in 1882, and had one child.

Lovisa died September 13, 1876; married, February 26, 1835, Loren Russell McIntire, born November 13, 1807, died May 29, 1876, and had three children.

Ebenezer J. died May 10, 1837; married Nancy Maria Backus, of Lee, Mass.

328. Abijah, son of Abijah 129 and Susanna (Snow) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, on April 10, 1748, married in the town of Hardwick, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on June 10, 1762, Hannah, daughter of Joseph Ruggles.

Children:

669. Cushman, born on December 11, 1763.

670. Nathaniel, born on April 1, 1765.

671. Susanna, born on March 10, 1767.

672. Timothy Alden, born on August 7, 1769.

Cushman 669, the eldest son, called "colonel," died in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1797.

Abijah Edson was residing in the town of Hardwick, Worcester County, in 1775. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and was reported as having died at Valley Forge, on April 15, 1778.

331. Timothy, son of Jonathan 130 and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, in 1750, married (1st), in Whately, Franklin County, Massachusetts, on December 23, 1790, Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Tute) Bardwell, of Whately, born in 1768. She died there on September 13, 1798, and he married (2d), in Whately, on October 24, 1799, Mercy, daughter of Deacon Oliver and Rebecca (Smith) Graves, born on August 27, 1771. He died in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on September 30, 1834, and she also there on March 25, 1841.

Children:

673. Justus, baptized in Whately, Mass., on July 15, 1793.

674. Sarah.

675. Elijah.

676. Hannah.

677. Linus.

678. Electa.

679. Elizabeth.

680. Chester.

Colonel Justus Edson 673 married (1st) Mary Paine, and (2d) — Chamberlain, a widow; Elijah Edson 675 married Dency, daughter of William White; Hannah 676 married Norman Goodale; Linus 677 married in western New York; Electa 678 married John Pember Edson; Elizabeth 679 married Hiram Webb; Chester Edson 680 married Mary Wilder.

333. Jonathan, son of Jonathan 130 and Mehetabel (Lilly)

Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, colony of Connecticut, New England, married in Whately, Franklin County, Mass., Rebecca, daughter of Deacon Oliver and Rebecca (Smith) Graves, born on October 19, 1756.

Children:

681. Anna, born in Whately, Franklin County, Mass., about 1783.
 682. Salmon, baptized in Whately, Franklin County, Mass., on June 25, 1786.
 683. Jonathan, baptized in Whately, Franklin County, Mass., about 1788.
 684. Sophia, baptized in Whately, Franklin County, Mass., about 1790.
 685. Lucius, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., in 1795.
 686. Elizabeth, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., in 1797.
 Anna 681 married Joel Brown; Salmon Edson 682 married Mary White; Jonathan Edson 683 married Mary, daughter of Captain Amasa Edson; Lucius 685 married Matilda Ainsworth.

Jonathan Edson 333, the father, built, about 1785, a home on Day Hill, in Whately, where Chester Bardwell subsequently lived. He was a Revolutionary soldier from Whately.

337. Amasa, son of Jonathan 130 and Mehetabel (Lilly) Edson, born in the town of Whately, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on April 13, 1763, married (1st), in that place, on December 14, 1786, Hannah, daughter of Oliver and Hannah (Gillett) Morton, born on March 12, 1762. She died in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on July 30, 1826, and he married (2d), in Rochester, Vt., Martha, daughter of Justin Morgan, and widow of ——— Thatcher. She died in Brookfield, on January 6, 1837, and he married (3d) the widow Urzah (Lilly) Torrey, of Bethel, Vt., his cousin. He died on February 9, 1853.

Children:

687. Jerah, born in the town of Whately, Mass., on April 11, 1788.
 688. Harris, born in the town of Whately, Mass., on August 21, 1791.
 689. Mary ("Polly"), born in the town of Whately, Mass., on September 29, 1793.
 690. Oliver, born in the town of Whately, Mass., on September 22, 1796.
 691. Lura, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on September 1, 1798.
 692. Emily, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on December 14, 1800.
 693. Sophila, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on November 13, 1803.
 694. Hannah, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on October 10, 1806.

Oliver 690 Edson died unmarried, in 1873; Lura 691 married Spencer Graves; Emily 692 married Caleb A. Stratton; Sophila 693, Elijah Lyman; and Hannah 694, Reuben Peck.

Captain Amasa Edson 337, after serving in the War of the Revolution, returned to the town of Whately, Franklin County,

Mass., where he married Hannah Morton, and whence he moved in 1797, with his family, to Brookfield, Orange County, Vt. There he purchased four hundred acres of land and for fourteen years gave his attention to the cultivation of it. He then opened a public house which he kept for more than forty years. His eight children settled in Brookfield, within three miles of the homestead, and for more than forty years attended the same church with their father. "Captain Edson was a man of much energy and perseverance, and of good religious principles; public-spirited, zealous in the cause of education, prompt in supporting the Gospel, and liberal to all objects of Christian charity."

Under the Act of Congress of June 7, 1832, he was enrolled on October 25, 1832, a Revolutionary War pensioner, having served as a private in the Massachusetts militia. From March 4, 1838, he annually received twenty dollars.

344. Samuel, son of Samuel 151 and Anna (Hall) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 11, 1775, married (1st) in that place, on January 20, 1797, Hannah Ripley, of Easton. He married (2d), in 1801, Mary Barnes.

Child:

695. Lucinda.

349. Freeman, son of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth Edson, born in Westmoreland, N. H., on September 24, 1791, married (1st), in Keene, N. H., Judith Mason. She died and he married (2d), in Scottsville, Monroe County, N. Y., Mary Hanford. He married (3d) Thankful Olmstead Goodrich. He died in Scottsville, in 1883.

Children by first wife:

696. Freeman Mason.

697. Emeline.

By second wife.

698. Elizabeth M.

699. Hanford Abram.

Emeline Edson 697 married Elmer H. Garbutt; Elizabeth M. 698, Asa C. Finney. Rev. Hanford A. Edson 699 was mentioned, as were the two married daughters, in the will of the father, made at Scottsville, on September 29, 1873, and probated on August 16, 1883.

Freeman Edson 349 began studying medicine in the office of Dr. Amos Twitchell, in the town of Keene, N. H., and completed his course in Yale College, in 1814. He settled in Scottsville,

town of Caledonia, Monroe County, N. Y., where he built himself a home in 1816, and practised his profession for nearly seventy years. On the organization of the Monroe County Medical Society, on May 9, 1821, he was elected its censor.

350. Cynthia, daughter of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth (Balch) Edson, born, probably, in Addison County, Vt., in 1799, married in 1818, Elkanah Blakesle. She died in 1871.

Children:

700. Freeman Blakesle, born in 1819.

701. Mary Blakesle, born in 1821.

702. Sylvanus Blakesle, born in 1825.

703. Elizabeth Blakesle, born in 1827.

704. Merritt Blakesle, born in 1831.

705. Dean Blakesle, born in 1837.

Freeman 700 married Mary A. Woodward; Mary 701 married, in 1841, Truman Potter; Sylvanus 702 married, in 1851, Mary Mills; Elizabeth 703 married, in 1847, Oscar Potter; Merritt 704 married, in 1854, Emily Hartson; Dean 705 married, in 1860, Prudy Negus. These children all were alive in 1894; Truman Potter and Oscar Potter were dead.

351. Delana, daughter of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth (Balch) Edson, born, probably in Addison County, Vt., about 1801, married (1st), William Hubbell, and married (2d) — Goodrich, and died about 1869.

Children:

706. Almira Hubbell, born in 1818.

707. Henry Hubbell.

708. William Hubbell.

709. Mary Hubbell.

710. Eli Hubbell.

711. Olive Hubbell.

712. Lewis Hubbell.

352. Elizabeth, daughter of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth (Balch) Edson, born probably in Addison County, Vt., about 1804, married — Lilly. He died and she married Zelotus Lewis. She died in 1882.

Children:

713. Chloe Lilly.

714. Harlow Lilly.

353. Chelous [Chellus], son of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth (Balch) Edson, born probably in Addison County, Vt., in 1806, married, in 1827, Juliana Bloomfield. He died in 1860, and she in 1890.

Children:

715. Philander born in 1828.

- 716. Phidelia [Fidelia], born in 1830.
- 717. Delana, born in 1831.
- 718. Abner Balch, born in 1833.
- 719. Eber, born in 1835.
- 720. Lafayette E., born in 1837.
- 721. Juliaette, born in 1839.
- 722. Sarah, born in 1841.
- 723. Rachel, born in 1843.
- 724. Eliza, born in 1845.
- 725. Mary Elizabeth, born in 1847.
- 726. Matilda, born in 1849.
- 727. Perly, born on April 6, 1852.

Abner Balch Edson 718 was in the Eighty-third Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, for three years and ten months, coming out a captain. Eber Edson 719 was an early gold hunter, crossing the plains with an emigrant train. Perly Edson 727, postmaster at Lincolnville, Crawford County, Pa.

Chelous 353 Edson was postmaster in Bloomfield Township, Crawford County, Penn. Also a justice of the peace.

356. Chester, son of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth (Balch) Edson, born probably in Addison County, Vt., about 1813, married Mary Fuller. He died in 1839.

Children:

- 728. A son.
- 729. Thomas.

Thomas Edson 729 removed to the West and died there, leaving one son, C. P. Edson, Aberdeen, S. D.

357. Esther, daughter of Jonah 154 and Elizabeth (Balch) Edson, born probably in Addison County, Vt., about 1816, married David Hartson. She died on November 10, 1841.

Child:

- 730. Emily Hartson.

361. Jonah, son of Noah 157 and Mary (Willis) Edson, born probably in West Bridgewater, in Plymouth County, Mass., on March 18, 1792, married, in East Bridgewater, on April 27, 1819, Jennet, daughter of Daniel and Jennet (Mitchell) Bryant, born in Falmouth, Cumberland County, Me., on January 9, 1795. He died in East Bridgewater on December 7, 1874, and she in the same place on February 4, 1880.

Children:

- 731. Fanny Bryant, born in East Bridgewater on June 27, 1820.
- 732. Henry, born in East Bridgewater on September 2, 1822.
- 733. James, born in East Bridgewater on May 9, 1824.
- 734. George born in East Bridgewater on August 2, 1827.
- 735. John, born in East Bridgewater on October 24, 1829.
- 736. William, born in East Bridgewater on April 30, 1832.

737. Seth Bryant, born in East Bridgewater on April 24, 1835.

James 733 died in East Bridgewater, in October, 1826; and John 735, also there, on August 27, 1856; George 734 married in Hallowell, Me., on October 9, 1861, Mary Ann Parker Weld, daughter of Ezra Greenleaf and Mary Ann (Parker) Weld, born in Gardiner, Me., on February 26, 1831. He died in East Bridgewater, Mass., on April 14, 1865.

363. Ephraim, son of Noah 157 and Mary (Willis) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on January 25, 1797, married there, in September, 1823, Mary, daughter of Simeon and Hannah (Bartlett) Howard, of West Bridgewater, born on May 3, 1797. She died in 1855, and he in 1885.

Children:

738. Charles, born in the town of Bridgewater on February 8, 1827.

739. Martha, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 22, 1829.

740. Nathan, born in the town of Bridgewater on April 13, 1831.

741. Theodore, born in the town of Bridgewater on May 4, 1834.

742. Mary, born in the town of Bridgewater on October 19, 1836.

743. Ephraim Davis, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 24, 1841.

744. Sibyl, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 27, 1845.

Charles 738 died in 1853, and Martha 739, in 1844.

The house where Ephraim 363 Edson lived is now owned by Mary Edson, but is not occupied by her. It is one and a half miles south of the first meeting-house in Old Bridgewater; half a mile from the place where the house stood that had been occupied by his father Noah 157.

383. Alfred, son of Nathan 160 and Mary (Hall) Edson, born in Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on November 13, 1774, married (1st), in 1796, Eunice Snow, and (2d), in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y., Lydia, daughter of Oliver and Cynthia (Jacques) Stewart, born in Stockport, Madison County, in 1785. She died there about 1823, and he also about 1826.

Children:

745. Eunice, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

746. Robert S., born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

747. Sarah, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

748. Henry Wells, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

749. Willard, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y., on June 4, 1802.

750. Oliver Stewart, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y., on August 1, 1813.

751. Lydia, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

752. Charlotte, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

753. Lavina, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

754. Samuel S., born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

755. Rudolphus, born in Stockport, Madison County, N. Y.

384. Barnabas, son of Nathan 160 and Mary (Hall) Edson, born in the town of Petersham, Worcester County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 27, 1776, married, in Oneida County, N. Y., in 1798, Anna, daughter of James Walsworth, born in 1782. She died in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, New York, on March 12, 1844, and her remains were interred in the graveyard in Bethany, Genesee County. He died in the town of Batavia, on March 20, 1860, and his body was buried in the cemetery at Davis' Corners, in the same county.

Children:

756. Mary (Polly), born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., September 29, 1800.

757. Gamaliel, born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1802.

758. James L., born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y.

759. Lewis Morgan, born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., on February 22, 1807.

760. Barnabas Hall, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on May 16, 1811.

761. Cyrenus Chapin, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on December 1, 1813.

762. Clarissa Ann, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on February 8, 1816.

763. Lucinda, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on August 29, 1817.

764. Armina, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on February 4, 1821.

James L. 758 went to Michigan.

The territory of Chautauqua County formed a part of the tract belonging to the Holland Land Company and they, to induce settlers to occupy it, offered sections of it for sale at prices ranging from one dollar and fifty cents to four dollars an acre. The town of Pomfret, taken from the town of Chautauqua on March 11, 1808, embraced the territory from which the town of Gerry was taken on June 1, 1812, and from it the town of Charlotte was taken, in turn, on April 18, 1829. The land of this town formed the fourth township in the eleventh range. Among the original purchasers of lots in this township in 1809 were in April, that year, Barnabas Cole, who bought lot thirty-six; in May, Robert W. Seaver 379 and Barnabas Edson 384, lot thirty-seven, and William Devine, lot twenty-nine. "Charlotte Center was first settled by Robert W. Seaver, a soldier of the Revo-

lution. He, in the spring of 1809, with Barna. Edson, explored the town, then a wilderness, and selected ninety acres of land, which included the home of the late John Edmonds. Here Mr. Seaver settled. . . . In the spring of 1809, William Devine also came in and settled upon the west part of lot twenty-nine, where he built a log house between the present site of the school-house and the highway. It was the first building erected at the Center." In 1811 Barney Cole died and was buried at the Center. He was the first male person who died in the town. (*History of Chautauqua County, New York.* By Andrew W. Young. Buffalo, N. Y., 1875, pp. 253, 254.)

On December 2, 1833, Willem Willink and others of the Holland Land Company conveyed to Barney Edson, of Genesee County, N. Y., for two hundred and forty-six dollars and fifty cents, sixty acres of land, being part of lots eight, ten, and twelve, in the ninth section, in township twelve, first range.

On February 13, 1836, Barney Edson, and his wife Anna, of the town of Batavia, Genesee County, conveyed the same land, for two thousand four hundred dollars, to James P. Pendill. (Deeds, Book xxiv., p. 528; Book xxxviii., p. 85. Office of the Clerk of Genesee County, N. Y., in Batavia, N. Y.)

386. Calvin, son of Nathan 160 and Mary (Hall) Edson, born in the town of Petersham, Worcester County, Mass., on June 10, 1780, married Dorothy May, born on December 5, 1782. He died and she married — Inman, but had no child by him. She died on December 12, 1882, aged one hundred years and seven days.

It has been suggested that there were sixteen children; only a few of them have been identified.

Children:

765. Calvin, born on September 10, 1805.

766. John Gridley, born on December 5, 1830.

767. Lucy V., born about 1834.

Calvin 765 married Margaret Vredenburg. His son, Calvin Riley Edson, died September 4, 1880, aged forty-eight. (Born 1832.) His son, E. R. Edson, lives in Cleveland, O.

John Gridley 766 lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lucy V 767 married Theodore Sedgebur, and lives in Cleveland.

Calvin 386 removed from Oneida County, N. Y., to Cleveland, in 1836.

388. Olive, daughter of Nathan 160 and Mary (Hall) Edson,

born in the town of Petersham, Worcester County, Mass., on May 24, 1785, married, in Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., Zenas Cole, born in Chesterfield, Mass., on February 8, 1789. He died in Springfield, Clark County, O., on April 22, 1850, and she in the same place on March 4, 1851.

Children:

768. Zenas Cole, born in Smithfield, Madison County, N. Y., on September 3, 1815.

769. Mary Montague Cole, born in Smithfield, Madison County, N. Y., on September 1, 1818.

Zenas Cole 768 died in Smithfield, on September 19, 1817.

Mary Montague Cole 769 was married in Cazenovia, Madison County, N. Y., on September 15, 1836, by the Right Rev. Beverly Waugh, Bishop of the Methodist Protestant Episcopal Church, to the Rev. Perlee B. Wilber, born at "Wilber Hill," near Millbrook, Dutchess County, N. Y., on December 21, 1806. He was president of Wesleyan Female College, at Cincinnati, O., from September, 1842, to June 11, 1859, where he died on June 11, 1859. His widow died in Cincinnati, O., on July 16, 1894.

393. Jesse, Rev., son of Jesse 174 and Susanna (Howard) Edson, born in Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 12, 1773, married, on September 28, 1794, Rebecca, daughter of Lemuel and Abigail (White) Taylor, born in Buckland, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on August 23, 1774. He died in Halifax, Vermont, on December 14, 1805. She married, (2d.) on September 2, 1810, Captain Edward Adams, of Coleroin, Mass., and died on April 9, 1847.

Children:

770. Rowena.

771. Rebecca, born on November 26, 1799.

772. Amanda, born on July 10, 1801.

773. Almira.

774. Susanna.

Rebecca Edson 771 died on February 19, 1805, and Amanda 772 on March 28, 1810.

Rev. Jesse Edson 393 was graduated from Dartmouth College, on August 27, 1792; licensed, in 1795, to preach, and ordained at Halifax, Vermont, November 23, 1796.

394. Prudence, daughter of Obed 176 and Prudence (Fiske) Edson, born probably, in the town of Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on March 4, 1771, married, on October 12, 1788, in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., Rev. Daniel Burhans, second son of

Henry and Zeria (Hall) Burhans, born in Sherman, province of Connecticut, on July 7, 1762. She died in Newtown, Conn., on May 5, 1803 (?), and Mr. Burhans married (2d), on November 4, 1804 (?), Catharine Silvester, daughter of Hon. Peter Silvester and Jane Van Schaack, of Kinderhook, New York, who died on March 16, 1823. On November 19, 1823, he married (3d) Hannah Mansfield, daughter of Doctor Mansfield, and widow of the Rev. Edward Blakeslee, who died, on March 12, 1840. He married (4th), on May 20, 1852, in Philadelphia, Penn., Anna Lane, widow of Doctor Noxon.

Children:

775. Prudence Sophia Burhans, born in the town of Lanesborough on December 11, 1789.
 776. Daniel Edson Burhans, born in the town of Lanesborough on October 20, 1791

The degree of doctor of divinity was conferred on the Rev. Daniel Burhans by Trinity College in 1831. In 1832 he took charge of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, in Plymouth, Conn., and after a few years left Plymouth for Oxford, where he remained until 1839. He remained in the ministry until his eighty-first year, and died at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on December 30, 1853, in the ninety-first year of his age, being then the oldest clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America.

395. Obed, son of Obed 176 and Prudence (Fiske) Edson, born probably in the town of Ashfield, Franklin County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on May 6, 1772, married (1st), prior to 1793, Aurora Higgins. She died of smallpox, in Cooperstown, Otsego County, N. Y., and he married (2d), in that place, probably in 1795, Fanny, daughter of Elisha and Thankful (Beebe) Bigelow, born in the town of Colechester, New London County, Conn., on April 7, 1777. He died in the town of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., on August 16, 1804, and his widow married, in the town of Hamilton (later Eaton), on March 14, 1805, Major Samuel Sinclear, son of Colonel Richard and Polly (Cilley) Sinkler, born in Nottingham, New Hampshire, New England, on May 10, 1762. His first wife, whom he married at Vassalboro, Maine, on February 8, 1785, was Sally Perkins, who died in the town of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., on May 14, 1804. Mr. Sinclair died in Sinclairville, town of Charlotte,

Chautauqua County, New York, on February 8, 1827, and his widow in the same place, on January 12, 1852.

Children:

777. Obed, born in the town of Richfield, Otsego County, N. Y., on September 11, 1796.
 778. John Milton, born in the town of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., on July 30, 1801.
 779. Fanny Aurora, born in the town of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., on October 27, 1803.

It is said that Obed Edson 777 removed to Otsego County, N. Y., in 1793.

The following advertisement in *The Otsego Herald or Western Advertiser*, of Thursday, May 19, 1796 (the first number of which newspaper was issued at Cooperstown, N. Y., on April 3, 1795, by its editor and proprietor, Elisha Phinney), presents the fact of the employment there of Obed Edson 777 in the clothing business:

“Notice is hereby given to all those who are or wish to become members of the Otsego Clothiers’ Society, that they will meet at the house [inn] of Samuel Huntingdon, esq., in Cooperstown, on the second Thursday in June next, at nine of the clock in the morning; to regulate their prices, and do such other business as shall be thought necessary. By order of the Society.

“O. EDSON, Clerk.

“May 12, 1796.”

On August 21, 1798, “Obed Edson [777], of the town of Richfield, county of Otsego, merchant,” gave a mortgage unto George Fraligh and John Bartlett, of the town of German Flatts, in the county of Herkimer, New York, merchants, to secure the payment of seven hundred and forty-seven dollars and fifty-four cents, on several pieces of land lying in the town of Richfield, in Schuyler’s Patent.—*Vide*: Book of Mortgages, B. 129, in the office of the Clerk of Otsego County, Cooperstown, N. Y.

It is said that Obed 395 bought on January 17, 1801, an acre of land, on the Chenango River, in the town of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., and erected there cloth-dressing works.

His widow bore to her second husband, Major Samuel Sinclair, the following children:

- i. Nancy Sinclair, born in the town of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., on January 24, 1806.

- ii. David Bigelow Sinclair, born in the town of Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., on March 10, 1807.
- iii. Joseph Sinclair, born in the town of Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., on March 15, 1809.
- iv. George Washington Sinclair, born in the town of Pomfret, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on July 4, 1811.
- v. Orlinda Sinclair, born in the town of Gerry, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on May 10, 1813.
- vi. Virtue Elvira Sinclair, born in the town of Gerry, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on February 3, 1816.
- vii. Hiram Sinclair, born in the town of Gerry, Chatauqua County, N. Y., on August 29, 1817.

Major Samuel Sinclair, an officer of the Revolutionary War, and later a resident of the town of Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., having, in November, 1809, purchased lot 41, in the town of Pomfret, Chautauqua County, N. Y., which embraced the site of Sinclairville, at the place where now the roads intersect at Sinclairville,—the one running thence to Charlotte Center, the other to Cherry Creek,—partly erected a log house, miles away from any road and environed by woodland. In March, 1810, Major Sinclair, William Berry and his family, John Sinclair with Chauncey Andrews, a hired man, arrived at the unfinished building, the snow being deep and the weather cold. The members of the party "occupied for two days and nights a wigwam made of poles and hemlock boughs," until the men were able to complete the log house. In the fall of 1810, Major Sinclair "cut a wagon road from Fredonia" to the site of his log dwelling, whither, on the twenty-second of October, 1810, his family, including his two stepsons and stepdaughter, arrived. During the preceding summer he had erected a grist-mill, and in the fall of 1810 he built a frame dwelling which was for many years the village tavern, and in 1811, a grist-mill. Such were the beginnings of Sinclairville.

397. Stephen Fiske, son of Obed 176 and Prudence (Fiske) Edson, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., on July 9, 1776, married Abigail Smith.

Children:

- 780. Eben D.
- 781. Wyllys.
- 782. Abigail.
- 783. Olive.
- 784. Lucy.
- 785. Eunice.

786. Desiah [Desire?].

787. William.

Olive 783 married John S. Van Alstine.

Stephen F. Edson 397, of Richfield, Otsego County, N. Y., made his will on December 30, 1842, which was proved on December 7, 1855.

400. Wyllys. M.D., son of Obed 176 and Prudence (Fiske) Edson, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., on April 22, 1783, married in New Lisbon, Otsego County, N. Y., on November 5, 1808, by the Rev. Daniel Nash, Sally, daughter of Elnathan Noble, born about 1784, at Unadilla. He died in Unadilla, Otsego County, N. Y., on August 14, 1823, and she also there in the seventy-fifth year of her age, in the summer of 1858 or 1859.

Children:

788. Darwin Noble, born in New Lisbon, N. Y., on March 25, 1809.

789. Adelia.

790. Wyllys Fiske.

791. Sally Maria.

792. Curtis.

793. William Bostwick, born in Unadilla, N. Y., on April 7, 1824.

Adelia Edson 789 married Thomas Hayes, by whom she had a daughter Julia. Curtis Edson 792 died unmarried in California.

Doctor Wyllys Edson 400 was elected, in 1807, a member of the Otsego County Medical Society, organized in Cooperstown, in that county, on July 1, 1806.

On March 6, 1806, Dr. Wyllys Edson, of the town of New Lisbon, Otsego County, N. Y., purchased fifty-two and a half acres of land of Oliver and Peter Canfield, for \$950, lying in the town of New Lisbon, in Wells' tract, Crogkan's Patent, at the northeast corner of Elnathan Noble's lot, No. 28, Wells' tract.

402. Lewis, son of Lewis 177 and Hepzibah (Washburn) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, on January 23, 1771, married (1st) Elizabeth Beebe. He married (2d), in 1799, Orilla Mead. He died in Bristol, in the town of Woodstock, Ulster County, N. Y., on May 23, 1845, and his remains were interred in the family burial ground, in Mink Hollow, in that town.

Children by second wife:

794. Virgil James, born in Danbury, Conn., on January 9, 1800.

795. Clarissa, born in New York, N. Y., in 1802.

796. Milton Lewis, born in New York, N. Y., in 1805.

In 1795, Lewis Edson 402 was an inhabitant of Otsego County, New York, as is evidenced by the following announcement made on Thursday, November 19, that year, in *The Otsego Herald*, published in Cooperstown:

“SINGING SCHOOL.

“The Subscriber intends to open his Singing School on Monday next;—The subscribers, and others who wish to become subscribers, are requested to meet at the Court-House at 6 o'clock, P.M. L. EDSON, Jun.

“N. B. Gamuts to be sold, by the dozen or single, with or without blanks.”

In the issue of the same newspaper, on Thursday, February 25, 1796, the following advertisement appeared:

“Masonic Information. The Members of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, in this County, are respectfully notified that Otsego Lodge will be opened on Tuesday next [March 1], at the house of Joseph Griffin, Innkeeper, in Cooperstown, [at] 3 o'clock P.M., at which time and place all concerned are requested to attend.”

At this first meeting of Otsego Lodge, No. 40, organized under a warrant of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, given on August 14, 1795, the following officers are recorded as present: Elihu Phinney, W. M.; Rowland Cotton, S. W.; James Fitch, J. W.; Benjamin Gilbert, Treasurer; Richard Edwards, S. D.; Lewis Edson, J. D.; Stephen Ingalls, S. S.; Levi Collar, J. S.; and Ezra Eaton, Tyler.

In *The Otsego Herald*, of Thursday, March 24, 1796, under the head-line of “Lewis Edson, jun.,” the following notice was inserted:

“Having engaged to ride as a Post, for twelve months, and as his character is such as will entitle him to the confidence of all who may have occasion for his services, the Printer hopes he will remove the disagreeable impression which the knavery of some and the fickleness of others have left on the minds of the citizens. The inhabitants on his route may rest assured that neither ability nor fidelity will be wanting on the part of Mr. Edson.”

Nothing is now lacking but a general subscription to secure a good faithful Post, who will make weekly the circuit of the county, the advantages of which are so obvious that the most liberal encouragement will be expected, by the Printer."

The town of Middlefield, Otsego County, having been set off from the town of Cherry Valley, in that county, on March 3, 1797, the first town-meeting there was held on April 4, that year, at which Lewis Edson was chosen one of the three commissioners of schools then elected by the town.

It would seem that he intended removing from Otsego County by his offering for sale the following property, in *The Otsego Herald* of Thursday, January 18, 1798:

"A Bargain. A Farm for sale, within two and a half miles of Cooperstown, on the main Post road from thence to Cherry Valley; said farm contains ninety acres of land, twenty of which are under good improvement. . . . There is a very convenient Log House with two rooms. . . . For particulars enquire of the subscriber, living on the premises.

"LEWIS EDSON.

"MIDDLEFIELD, Jan. 15, 1798."

From 1801 to 1812 his name and profession as a teacher are given in the directories of the city of New York, and from 1813 to 1815 he is named in them as a nail manufacturer.

It is said that he was the clerk of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, in Ann Street, New York, for several years from 1806. It is also said that he built five houses in New York City, and that he traded one of them for the farm and homestead of his father in Mink Hollow, town of Woodstock, Ulster County, N. Y., where he lived for a number of years, and later, probably in 1830, moved to the village of Bristol, now known as Shady, in that town. He was a vestryman of Christ Lutheran Church, in the village of Woodstock, in the town of Woodstock, having been elected to that office in 1811.

405. William Jarvis, son of Thomas 179 and Mary (Jarvis) Edson, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., on February 23, 1786, married at Fly Creek, in the town of Otsego, Otsego County, N. Y., by the Rev. Daniel Nash, on March 26, 1809, Mary (Polly), daughter of Abijah and Sarah

(Howell) Fairchild¹ born in Sugar Loaf Valley, in the town of Warwick, Orange County, N. Y., on March 11, 1788. He died in Utica, Oneida County, N. Y., at 88 Fayette Street, on Sunday morning, October 1, 1848, and she in New York City, on December 24, 1873.

Children:

797. Tracy Robinson, born at Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on December 12, 1809.
 798. Clement Massillon, born at Exeter, Otsego County, N. Y., on August 14, 1811.
 799. Marmont Bryan, born at Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 12, 1813.

¹ FAMILY OF FAIRCHILD.

¹ Abijah Fairchild, son of David and Catharine (Gregory) Fairchild, born in Morristown, Morris County, N. J., on September 2, 1758, married there, on October 7, 1779, Sarah, daughter of Silas Howell, born October 8, 1759. He died in Cooperstown, Otsego County, N. Y., on January, 1851.

Children:

- William, born in Morristown July 24, 1780.
 Catharine, born in Morristown March 6, 1782.
 Gabriel, born in Morristown May 21, 1784.
 John Flavel, born in Morristown May 18, 1786.
 Eunice,
 Mary ("Polly") } born in Sugar Loaf Valley, N. Y., March 11, 1788.
 David, born in Sugar Loaf Valley, N. Y., August 1, 1791.
 Nance ("Nancy"). born in Sugar Loaf Valley, N. Y., March 7, 1794.
 Phebe, born in Sugar Loaf Valley, N. Y., April 4, 1798.

Mary Fairchild, mentioned above, married William Jarvis Edson 405, on March 26, 1809.

Abijah Fairchild enlisted, as a private, on April 30, 1777, in Captain Samuel Sanford's company, in Colonel John Chandler's battalion in the Eighth Connecticut Regiment. He also served as a private in Captain Ezekiel Hull's company of Light Dragoons in Major Skinner's Eighth Connecticut Regiment. He had previously served as a private, for fifteen months, in Captain Silas Howell's company, in Colonel Sterling's regiment of New Jersey troops.

William Fairchild, on June 6, 1812, was, with William C. Jarvis and Josiah Stephens, a proprietor of Fairchild's Mills, on Oaks Creek, in town of Otsego, Otsego County, N. Y. Catharine Fairchild married — Jones. John Flavel Fairchild married Flavia Merrill. He continued the publication of *The Republican Monitor*, begun at Cazenovia, N. Y., in September, 1823, by L. L. Rice, at that place, from April, 1825, to January, 1832; from that time to July, 1840, it was continued by John F. Fairchild & Son; and thereafter, until March 4, 1841, by John F. Fairchild, when its publication was discontinued. He died in Cooperstown, N. Y., on January 5, 1864, and his widow, that year, at Cazenovia, N. Y. Children: 1. Sidney Thompson, born at Norwich, N. Y., on November 15, 1808, graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., about 1830, followed the profession of a lawyer, was for a time president of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cazenovia, N. Y., married on August 20, 1834.

800. Mary Augusta, born at Oxford, Chenango County, N. Y., on February 1, 1819.

801. Susan Maria, born at Oneonta, Otsego County, N. Y., April 9, 1826.

All the children were baptized by the Rev. Daniel Nash, of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Tracy R. 797 died in New York City November 29, 1881. (See historical part.) Mary 800 died May 27, 1890, unmarried. Susan 801 died June 30, 1885, unmarried.

406. Asahel, son of Thomas 179 and Mary (Jarvis) Edson, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., on August 7, 1788, married Fanny Stetson, born on June 17, 1788. He died in Belvidere, Illinois. He was a zealous Episcopalian, and was a gifted vocalist.

The following letter was written by him to his sister-in-law, Mrs. William Jarvis Edson, when he was postmaster in York, Michigan:

"YORK, WASH. CO., MICH., March 16th, '63.

"DEAR 'SISTER,'

"Yours of the 13th rec'd last evening. We are thankful that there is one left that can call us Brother and Sister—thankful for your kind remembrance and for the money sent—hope to be able (as we now are) to earn a living without being burdensome to our friends—the generosity of yourself and family will be gratefully remembered. We are yet well, excepting Fanny's lame arm, which is much better since the coldest weather of the winter. The Ypsilanti friends are well. Fanny was 74 years old on the 17th of June last; Asahel 74 years, 7th of August,

Helen Childs. He died at Cazenovia, Madison County, N. Y., on February 15, 1889. 2. Lewison, who married Clara L. Dow. 3. Miranda. 4. John.

Eunice Fairchild married William Angel.

David Fairchild married, and on July 20, 1810, was received as a member of Presbyterian Church, at Cooperstown, N. Y., and removed in 1826 to Milton. He died in California in 1866. His daughter, Mrs. Caroline (Fairchild) Ford, wife of DeWitt Ford, resides in Oneonta, N. Y.

Nancy Fairchild married ——— Graves.

Phoebe Fairchild married Stephen Gregory. She on July 20, 1810, was admitted a member of the Presbyterian Church at Cooperstown, N. Y.

Charles Stebbins, son of Sidney Thompson and Helen (Childs) Fairchild, born in Cazenovia, N. Y., on April 30, 1842, was graduated, in 1863, from Harvard College; was assistant attorney-general of the State of New York in 1874-76; attorney-general of the State of New York in 1876-78; assistant secretary of the United States Treasury in 1885-87; secretary of the United States Treasury, April 1, 1887; married, on June 1, 1871, Helen, daughter of Ledyard and Helen Clarissa (Seymour) Lineklaen.

1862. Your arrival here as a visitor would cheer us much. A visit from any or all the family would be joyfully accepted—the freedom of all the sap-bushes would be tendered you by an overwhelming majority of the voters in York. Glad to hear that Mary has gone into the church.

We can remember the time when no other than that, organized under the supervision of the Apostles, was called a church; to mix with other denominations was going to meeting. Had Christ's requirement, to be 'one even as he was one with the Father,' been faithfully observed by professing Christians, and St. Paul's injunction been heeded, when he said, 'Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions, contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them,' we should have but one church in this 19th century—and the necessity of a valid ministry universally acknowledged. God grant the fulfillment of the Scripture prophecy may



ASAHEL EDSON AND WIFE FANNY.

soon take place, when they shall 'return and become one fold under one Shepherd.' Then, and not until then, will the 'nations learn war no more.' Sorry to hear of Susan's illness. Glad to hear of her anxiety to serve God acceptably. The Sermon, I think, excellent. It only reiterates, (in a better form,) what I have tried to promulgate during the last two years, but even my Scripture quotations in support of the position are sometimes met with: 'Well, I don't believe the Almighty has anything to do with this war.' Our chastisement cannot reasonably be expected to cease while our rebellion against the laws of God is so fearfully predominant in this nation.

“We have Post Office business, which together with small dealing in patent medicines, and a few trinkets, is sufficient to furnish us with the necessaries of life. We may retain the Post Office unless the ‘Copperheads’ succeed in dethroning President Lincoln.

“If I could think as fast as you, I might weary you with long letters. Respects and love to you and all the family. God bless and guide us all in the path of duty through life.

“A. & FANNY EDSON.

“Do you know where Ann R—— is? We pity her, but cannot see any way to aid her.”

408. Oramel, son of Thomas 179 and Mary (Jarvis) Edson, born in the town of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Mass., on September 9, 1792, married, in Portlandville, town of Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., Mrs. Lydia Wells. He died in Portlandville.

Child:

802. Mary C., born in Portlandville.

411. Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas 179 and Mary (Jarvis) Edson, born on September 15, 1801, married Joseph Rice. She died in Cooperstown, Otsego County, N. Y., in 1848.

Children:

803. Joseph Marcus Rice.

804. Ann Maria Rice.

412. Hannah Allen, daughter of Benjamin 186 and Deborah (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on February 26, 1784, married there on May 11, 1812, Increase, son of Dyer and Abigail (Stetson) Robinson, born on December 25, 1789. She died on November 30, 1849, and he on July 17, 1869. Their remains are interred in Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church graveyard.

Child:

805. Thomas Perkins Robinson died June 7, 1822, aged six years, of hydrophobia.

413. John, son of Benjamin 186 and Deborah (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on March 25, 1786, married, in 1825, Mary Bass, born in Quincy, Norfolk County, Mass., on September 20, 1804. He died in Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on October 23, 1865, and she in Lowell, Mass., on September 20, 1885.

Children:

806. John, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on June 27, 1827.
 807. Mary, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on January 21, 1829.
 808. Mark, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on February 22, 1830.
 809. Samuel, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on March 28, 1835.
 810. Benjamin, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on January 18, 1837.
 811. Theodore, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on March 23, 1839.
 812. Josiah, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on September 17, 1841.
 813. William Perkins, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on April 11, 1845.

John 806 was graduated from Harvard University in 1848, studied civil engineering, was an architect in New York City from 1851 until his death on April 29, 1857. Mark 808 married in Portland, Me., on April 25, 1867, Emma J. Leavitt. He died in New York City on October 2, 1893. Benjamin 810 is librarian of the Supreme Court of California, in San Francisco. William Perkins 813 resides in the West.

John Edson 413, the father, while serving his apprenticeship with a millwright, was privileged the use of a candle at night, and being inclined at the close of each day's work to withdraw himself from his associates, he commonly spent the hours before bedtime in reading and studying, and as a consequence gained a knowledge of many things that were of great advantage to him practically and mentally, so that at the end of his term of service as an apprentice he was better educated than many other young men of his age, who had more time and means for acquiring an education. As a millwright his reputation gained for him a wide field of employment, and for a number of years he was occupied in superintending the construction of mills in the Middle and Southern States, as well as in New England, and in fitting them with the most improved machinery of the period. His extensive reading obtained for him an acquaintance with the works of the most distinguished English writers, and his theological knowledge was, it is said, equal to that of many clergymen of his day. His younger brothers were assisted financially by him, and he made his parents comfortably enjoy their old age. He was a popular and prominent member of the order of Freemasons. He was made a Master Mason on January 25, 1810, and was elected Worshipful Master of Fellowship Lodge, Bridgewater, in 1812. "Having manifested his skill and excellency in the three first degrees of Masonry, he was advanced to the degrees of Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and afterward to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Mason in St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter, holden at Boston, on April 25, 18—," and he

became District Deputy Grand Master on December 27, 1855. One of the masonic jewels given him is inscribed "Mt. Zion R. A. Chapt. to John Edson, past high priest." He was a High Churchman, and when the "Oxford Movement," which began in England, reached the American Church, it had his hearty sympathy and co-operation. The Church was his home, and he zealously labored for its growth and bestowed upon its work his warmest affection. His standing among Protestant Episcopal laymen was as high as that of his brother Theodore among the clergy, and he was a member of the Diocesan Convention until the end of his life. He had, as had his brother Theodore, a cheerful disposition and a keen sense of humor; and while religion was the mainspring of their lives, they were never gloomy nor austere. A picture of his residence is given below.



HOMESTEAD OF JOHN EDSON IN BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

416. Theodore, Rev. Dr., son of Benjamin 186 and Deborah (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on August 24, 1793, married in Boston, on November 29, 1824, Rebecca Jane, daughter of the Right Rev. Samuel Parker, D.D., the second Protestant Episcopal bishop of the diocese of Massachusetts, and Anne Cutler, his wife, born in Boston, on April 19, 1790. She died in Lowell, Mass., on August 10, 1876, and he also on June 25, 1883.

Child:

814. Elizabeth Mason, born in Lowell, Mass., on June 23, 1826.

Theodore Edson 416 was an ardent reader of books on religious subjects while he was a boy. He entered Phillips Academy, at Andover, Mass., in 1816, and Harvard College in 1818,



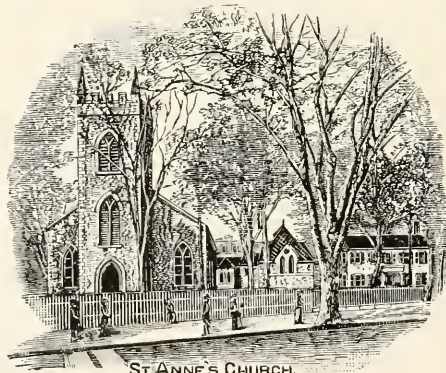
REV. DR. THEODORE EDSON, 1793-1883.

and was graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1822. An entry in his journal, in September, 1818, shows that he was chosen Superintendent of the Sabbath School of Christ Church, Boston, but that he declined the office because his time was otherwise fully occupied. He served as lay reader in St. Matthew's Church, South Boston, from 1819, and for a year after his graduation. As

there was no Episcopal seminary at that time, he pursued theological studies with Rev. Dr. John Farmer Jarvis, rector of St. Paul's Church, Boston. He was admitted to Deacon's orders, on September 11, 1823.

The founders of the cotton-cloth mills known as the "Waltham System" established a mill at Pawtucket Falls, in 1823, and they invited Mr. Edson to take pastoral care of the operatives, and he gladly accepted, and entered upon the work, on March 6, 1824, at East Chelmsford. He had charge also of the company's day school. His labors here resulted in the construction of a stone building, of which the corner-stone was laid May 20, 1824, and it was consecrated as St. Anne's Church, March 15, 1825, at which time Mr. Edson was ordained to the priesthood.

The village of East Chelmsford was renamed, March 1, 1826, and was called Lowell, and the private school then became a public school, and Mr. Edson passed from the superintendence into the School Board, and served as a member for many years. The establishment of the North and South Grammar schools, now the Bartlett and Edson schools, is credited to his earnest efforts.



ST. ANNE'S CHURCH.
LOWELL, MASS.

In 1826, the Merrimack Manufacturing Company provided a residence for Dr. Edson as rector of St. Anne's Church. In 1827, the management of the church property and affairs was turned over to the church officers. A Sunday-School building was erected, and the school grew from two hundred members to six hundred and fifty-one.

A colony from this church, on August 24, 1841, organized the mission church of St. Luke's.

St. Anne's Church purchased its site and building on November 23, 1843. It had previously been leasehold property. Dr. Edson, on October 26, 1850, purchased a cottage, over-

looking the Merrimack River, and denominated it "The Manse." In 1855, the debt upon the church property was extinguished. In 1865, a rectory was purchased for seventeen thousand dollars; and a chapel was built and furnished, in 1868, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. Dr. Edson, in 1875, established a home for destitute children, at his own expense, which was incorporated, on April 20, 1876, as the "St. Mary's Orphanage."

The conspicuous stone edifice, now known as All Saints Church, in the village of Chelmsford, southwest of Lowell, grew out of Dr. Edson's Christian enterprise. He had preached to a small congregation, on July 15, 1860, and he made frequent visits to them thereafter, and the church of St. Anne's in Chelmsford was consecrated on December 20, 1882, and its name was changed to All Saints in 1888.

A prominent row of buildings in Lowell was named the "Edson Block," and the burial-ground was called the "Edson Cemetery."

Hobart College, in Geneva, N. Y., conferred upon Mr. Edson, in 1847, the degree of S.T.D. Just before his decease, he was made Dean of the Eastern Diocese of Massachusetts.

He was considered indispensable at anniversary celebrations and public meetings, and at the installation of municipal officers he was, for a long period, called upon to invoke Divine favor and direction. He was President of the Lowell Institution of Savings, from its incorporation in 1829.

He wrote an expository work, entitled *Scripture Proofs of the Church Catechism*, which was published in 1849; also a *Memoir of Warren Colburn*, the mathematician.

He was one of the oldest members of the order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in the city of Lowell, having on July 13, 1826, taken the first degree, in Pentucket Lodge. In the following year he was received into Mount Horeb Royal Arch Chapter, and on February 20, 1828, he took orders in Templar Masonry in the Boston Commandery. He took thirty-two degrees in the Scottish Rite. He was a charter member of Kilwinning Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons, Mount Horeb Royal Arch Chapter, and of Pilgrim Commandery. He was for many years a member of the Old Residents' Historical Association of Lowell.

Enfeebled by a month's illness, the Rev. Theodore Edson, S.T.D., died in the rectory of St. Anne's Church, at ten minutes of nine o'clock, on Monday morning, June 25, 1883, aged eighty-nine years and ten months. While the body of the deceased clergyman lay in state in the church, not less than four thousand people came there to take a last look at the face of the beloved rector. The funeral services at the church, on Thursday afternoon, at two o'clock, drew to the edifice a large concourse of men, women, and children, who not only occupied all the available seats and standing room in the building, but stood in throngs about its doors and on the sidewalks leading to them. There was no sermon nor any addresses on the occasion. The vested clergy, who participated in the solemn exercises, were forty-two in number, embracing the Right Rev. Benjamin Henry Paddock, D.D., the fourth bishop of the diocese of Massachusetts. Seated with the family, unvested, were the Rev. Samuel Edson, the Rev. Stevens Parker, D.D., the Rev. William Lawrence, and the Rev. John Richmond.

"The Rev. Doctor Edson," as remarked by the writer of an obituary of four and a half columns in one of the daily journals of the city of Lowell, "had been a conscientious Christian leader from his youth; had always been a zealous guardian of the poor and afflicted; had sacrificed self when opportunity presented itself to promulgate the Gospel and do the will of his Master. He never murmured when adversity came, nor exhibited a spirit of haughtiness in times of prosperity. His whole object seemed to be to watch carefully over the lambs of his fold, and if success attended his efforts God received the praise. The Rev. Doctor Edson always observed a strict deportment of life. His habits were regular; his hours of devotion and study were thoroughly systematized, and in consequence of this, and notwithstanding the fact that he was frail in general appearance, he lived until he became like the sheaf which is fully ripened for the garner. . . . Volumes might be written of this good man, but the pen of the most eloquent writer could not do justice to him; and only his works, which follow him, can stand as an everlasting monument to his name and noble philanthropic deeds."

"His strong point," said another writer, "was his unwavering faithfulness as a parish priest. His distinguishing trait as a

clergyman was a remarkable insight into the religious life, which made him a true spiritual teacher. Few clergymen have ever lived more truly for their people. Down to his last sickness, this aged man was to be found constantly among the sick and needy members of his flock, ministering to their wants as a true shepherd. He was the patriarch of the Lowell clergy, and enjoyed the respect and reverence of all who knew him. He had saintliness of character. His life was a visible walk with God. He was a devoted and consistent churchman. . . . He had the courage of his convictions; was absolutely fearless in the discharge of his duty; and, while a man of strong will, no one could excel him in unselfish living, in tenderness of heart, in devotion to duty, in those great but simple virtues which distinguish the Christian gentleman."

426. Charles P., son of Nehemiah 187 and Olive (Perkins) Edson, born in Vermont, on January 2, 1809, married, on May 15, 1828, Amy Caroline, daughter of George W. and Hannah Fox, born in —, N. Y., on April 28, 1807. He died in Van Wert, Ohio, on February 22, 1885, in the 77th year of his age, and she also there on April 17, 1894, in the 87th year of her age. Their remains were interred in Woodland Cemetery, in Van Wert, Ohio.

Children:

815. George F., born in Brimfield, Portage County, O., on July 28, 1829.
 816. Emily Marcella, born in Brimfield, Portage County, O., on June 4, 1834.
 817. Charles Waterman, born in Brimfield, Portage County, O., on April 28, 1836.

Emily Marcella Edson 816 married in Van Wert, O., on May 12, 1858, Simeon B. Conn. She died there on June 7, 1859, in the twenty-fifth year of her age, and her body was buried in Woodland Cemetery. Charles Waterman 817 died also there on October 28, 1854, and his remains were also buried in Woodland Cemetery.

Charles P. Edson 426 was in 1849 a member of the legislature of Ohio, when that body elected the Hon. Salmon P. Chase, United States Senator. He was for a time the prosecuting attorney of Van Wert County, and was one of the oldest lawyers in that section of Ohio.

428. Zidon, son of Ezra 189 and Asenath (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Tomlinson, Windham County, Vt., on

November 11, 1785, married ——. He died in Aurora, Ill., on April 6, 1870.

Children:

- 818. Galen.
- 819. Lavina.
- 820. Cyrus.
- 821. Asenath.
- 822. Melinda.
- 823. Alfred.
- 824. Ezra.

Galen 818 died on August 29, 1813; Lavina 819 married — Allen, and lived at Amosa, Ill.; Cyrus 820 died on April 25, 1821; Asenath 821, on June 23, 1821; Melinda 822, on December 22, 1821; Alfred 823, on October 18, 1890, and was buried in Aurora, Ill.; and Ezra 824 on April 14, 1884, and was buried in Manchester, Vt.

Zidon Edson 428 was one of the early settlers of Parkers-town, Rutland County, Vt., which obtained that name on November 7, 1804. That designation was changed on November 6, 1827, to Mendon. In 1810, he built the first sawmill in the town, which was swept away by a freshet in July, 1811. That year he became a freeman, and served as town-clerk. He was elected in 1813 a member of the House of Representatives of Vermont. In 1814, he was a delegate to the Vermont Constitutional Convention. In 1822, '25, and '26, he represented the town of Shrewsbury in the General Assembly of Vermont. He was one of the building committee of the Rutland Baptist Church, organized on February 27, 1827. His dwelling was on the road from Rutland to Woodstock. He removed to the West in 1850. Later, he resided in Aurora, Ill.

430. Ophir, son of Ezra 189 and Asenath (Perkins) Edson, born in the town of Tomlinson, Windham Co., Vt., on April 21, 1790, married (1st), in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., in September, 1812, Clarissa Shurtliff. She died and her remains were buried in Chester in 1814. He married (2d), in the town of Chester, on December 24, 1816, Soviah, daughter of Othniel and Dorcas (Field) Williams, born in Chester on April 9, 1792. She died there on April 19, 1875, and he also, on February 25, 1879. They were buried in Chester Cemetery.

Child by first wife:

- 825. Clarissa, born in Chester, Vt., on August 11, 1813.

Children by second wife:

- 826. Othniel Williams, born in Chester, Vt., on January 7, 1818.

827. Albert Henry, born in Chester, Vt., on March 11, 1819.
 828. Cyrus, born in Chester, Vt., on October 14, 1820.
 829. Ezra Franklin, born in Chester, Vt., on November 21, 1825.
 830. Alexander, born in Chester, Vt., on July 31, 1827.
 831. Melinda Dorcas, born in Chester, Vt., on April 10, 1829.
 832. Franklin, born in Chester, Vt., on April 5, 1832.
 833. Althine Soviah, born in Chester, Vt., on August 14, 1834.
 834. Abigail, born in Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., on November 23, 1836.

Albert Henry 827 died in Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., on May 7, 1838, unmarried; Ezra Franklin 829 died on July 4, 1827; Althine Soviah 833 died unmarried.

449. Ezra, son of Libeus 193 and Joanna (Keen) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., in 1795, married there, on April 3, 1819, Eliza Wentworth. He died in the town of Bridgewater, on October 4, 1828, aged thirty-three years.

Child:

835. Joanna, born in March, 1820.
 Joanna 835 died April 26, 1821, aged thirteen months.

456. Cyrus, son of Cyrus 196 and Hannah (Hudson) Edson, born in the town of Minot, Me., on May 26, 1805, married (1st), in Stockbridge, Vt., on November 22, 1831, Sibyl Wilcox, born in Royalton, Vt., on May 3, 1804, daughter of Amos and Sarah (Rogers) Wilcox. She died, in Mendon, Rutland County, Vt., March 14, 1845. He married (2d), in Wallingford, Vt., on June 1, 1845, Abigail W. French, born in Wallingford, on September 10, 1810, and died there, May 17, 1871. He died in Bennington, Vt., on October 2, 1892.

Children by first wife:

- 835 A. Melvin, born in Mendon on June 21, 1833.
 835 B. Sarah, born in Mendon on May 21, 1835.
 835 C. Amos Wilcox, born in Mendon on September 25, 1838.
 835 D. Albert Williams, born in Mendon on June 19, 1844.

Children by second wife:

- 835 E. Sibyl, born in Mendon on December 3, 1846.
 835 F. Isaac Galen, born in Mendon on June 3, 1848.
 835 G. Louisa, born in Mendon on May 29, 1851.
 835 H. Emma, born in Mendon on May 29, 1852.
 835 I. Ira Otis, born in Mendon on February 11, 1856.

Melvin married, in Rutland, Helen Harris. Sarah married, in Mendon, on January 14, 1862, Edward Norton. Amos married, in St. Albans, Vt., Esther Jaques. He died in Creston, Ia., August 15, 1898. Albert married, in Norfolk, Va., Caroline Vaughan. He died in Rutland, August 17, 1898.

Sibyl died June 11, 1847; Isaac died March 3, 1851; Louisa died October 9, 1851; Emma died May 28, 1853.

460. Ezra, son of Cyrus 196 and Hannah (Hudson) Edson, born in Turner, Me., on January 12, 1813, married, in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., Angelina Washburn.

Children:

836. Lucien, born in the town of Bridgewater, Mass., on May 15, 1840.

837. Lucien Otis, born in the town of Mendon, Rutland County, Vt.

838. Hannah Whitman, born in the town of Mendon, Rutland County, Vt., on July 26, 1845.

839. Mary Jane, born in the town of Mendon, Rutland County, Vt.

Lucien 836, the first son, died on June 1, 1842.

Ezra Edson 460, when four years old, came with the other members of his father's family to the town of Shrewsbury, Rutland County, Vt., from Turner, Me. In the early part of his life he became a member of the Rutland Baptist Church, with which he was connected until his death. In 1838 he went to learn the trade of a blacksmith with the Ames Company, in West Bridgewater, and while there was captain of a militia company.

461. Galen Kingman, M.D., son of Cyrus 196 and Hannah (Hudson) Edson, born in Turner, Me., on June 13, 1815, married, in Rutland, Rutland County, Vt., on October 9, 1837, Lucy, daughter of Daniel Hudson, born in Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on October 23, 1814. She died in Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., on May 31, 1866.

Children:

840. Charles Edwin, born in Rutland, Vt., on September 6, 1839.

841. Galen Romain, born in Le Roy, N. Y., on July 16, 1845.

842. Hadley Judson, born in Le Roy, N. Y., on January 14, 1851.

843. Lucy Matella, born in Le Roy, N. Y., on July 15, 1857.

Galen Kingman Edson 461 settled in Le Roy, town of Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., in 1842, where he practised medicine until 1878.

462. Otis Hudson, son of Cyrus 196 and Rebecca (Johnson) Edson, born in Shrewsbury, Vt., on August 3, 1818, married Anne Berry. Whether there was more than one child has not been ascertained.

Child:

844. Alondo B., born in Whitehall, N. Y., December 31, 1844.

474. Mary, daughter of John 202 and Judith (Shaw) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on May 24, 1772, married there, on October 7, 1817, John Bisbee. He had married (1st),

Rebecca, daughter of Josiah Keith and widow of Isaac Alden; and (2d), Huldah, daughter of Ebenezer Shaw. He died in 1817, and Mary, his widow, in 1833. There were several children; two have been identified.

Children of Mary:

845. Ziba Bisbee.

846. Chandler Bisbee.

480. Jacob, son of John 202 and Judith (Shaw) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on November 2, 1786, married (1st), — Lee, and (2d), in Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., by the Rev. Benjamin G. Paddock, Sophronia Bowen, of that place.

Jacob Edson 480 was the clerk of the town of Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., in 1812 and 1815. He subsequently removed to Harpersville, in Broome County, N. Y.

481. Nehemiah Shaw, son of John 202 and Judith (Shaw) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on January 9, 1789, married there Parnel —, born on September 11, 1798.

Children:

847. John, born on January 22, 1812.

848. Lydia, born on August 27, 1815.

849. Elijah, born on July 5, 1817.

850. Barzillai, born on August 20, 1818.

851. Ruel, born on January 15, 1822.

852. Lucy, born on September 15, 1825.

853. Joseph, born on April 10, 1827.

854. Damon, born on August 20, 1829.

Lydia 848 married Seth Rowland, and Lucy 852, Elias Balcome, prior to the making of the will. Damon 854 married Aressa M. — and had three children.

On January 26, 1857, Nehemiah Shaw Edson 481 of the town of Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., made his will, which was probated on October 29, 1861.

482. Joseph, son of John 202 and Judith (Shaw) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on December 23, 1792, married Cynthia —. He died in the town of Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., in 1823.

Children:

855. Joseph L.

856. Emily.

857. Sylvia.

Joseph Edson, 482, of Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., made his

will on October 22, 1822, which was proved at Cooperstown, Otsego County, N. Y., on February 4, 1823. The three children were then under age.

484. Hannah, daughter of David 210 and Lydia (Shaw) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on November 27, 1783, married there on November 29, 1804, John, son of John Smith, of Canton, Norfolk County, Mass.

Children:

- 858. Albert Smith.
- 859. Harrison Smith.
- 860. Salome Smith.
- 861. Rachel Smith.

They lived in North Bridgewater.

486. David, son of David 210 and Lydia (Bassett) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on January 27, 1789, married (1st), on April 26, 1827, Clintha Sylvester. She died, and he married (2d) Mehetabel Fullerton of Abington.

Child:

- 862. Emily. She married, April 6, 1859, Edward E. Bennett.

487. Sarah, daughter of David 210 and Lydia (Bassett) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on June 28, 1791, married there, on June 18, 1816, John, son of John Burrell. She died in 1865.

Children:

- 863. Nicholas Burrell, born in North Bridgewater, Mass., on May 23, 1817.
- 864. Henry Burrell, born in North Bridgewater, Mass., on May 29, 1819.
- 865. Sarah Burrell, born in North Bridgewater, Mass., on April 12, 1823.

489. Mehetabel, daughter of David 210 and Lydia (Bassett) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on August 26, 1795, married, on February 5, 1823, Nehemiah Lincoln, son of Gideon and Martha (Perkins) Lincoln, born on November 8, 1782. He had married (1st), on January 10, 1802, Martha, daughter of Simeon Packard. He died on March 7, 1861.

Children:

- 866. David Edson Lincoln, born on November 8, 1823.
- 867. Nehemiah Lincoln, born on July 21, 1824.
- 868. Daniel Lincoln, born on June 19, 1826.
- 869. David Lincoln, born on November 29, 1828.
- 870. Amelia Lincoln, born on December 25, 1832.

493. Jesse, son of Joseph 213 and Mary (Vinal) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on July 12, 1787, married there, on July 4, 1811, Anne, daughter of Josiah and Hannah (Kingman) Williams, born in 1789.

Children :

871. Stillman Williams, born in the town of Bridgewater on December 8, 1812.

872. Alanson Sumner, born in the town of Bridgewater on November 14, 1813.

873. George Francis, born in the town of Bridgewater on January 29, 1816.

George Francis Edson 873 died on March 2, 1816.

510. Zilpah, daughter of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on March 2, 1778, married there, on November 26, 1801, Eliphalet Kingman, son of Matthew and Jane (Packard) Kingman, born there on February 18, 1775. She died in North Bridgewater, on March 31, 1853, and he on October 31, 1856.

Children :

874. Lucius Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on January 23, 1803.

875. Matthew Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on February 24, 1807.

876. Adeline Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on October 2, 1809.

877. Isaac Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on December 12, 1811.

878. Davis Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on February 27, 1814.

879. Lucia Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on September 14, 1816.

880. Eliphalet Kingman, born in North Bridgewater on February 18, 1821.

511. Susanna, daughter of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on May 31, 1780, married there on December 27, 1801, Israel Packard, son of Jonathan and Susanna (Alger) Packard, born in 1779. She died on January 15, 1855, and he on January 17, 1856.

Children :

881. Josiah Packard, born on March 22, 1803.

882. Melvin Packard, born on January 1, 1804.

883. Sidney Packard, born on January 23, 1806.

884. Liberty Packard, born on July 29, 1808.

885. Arvilla Packard, born on Sept. 7, 1810.

886. Israel Packard, born on February 23, 1813.

887. Alpheus Packard, born on July 19, 1815.

888. Henry A. Packard, born on April 22, 1818.

889. Susanna Packard, born on May 6, 1821.

890. David Cobb Packard, born on April 30, 1824.

513. Sarah, daughter of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on November 17, 1783, married there, on April 3, 1806, Ira Hayward, son of Waldo and Lucy (Bartlett) Hayward, born

on September 18, 1782. She died on June 29, 1819, and he married, in 1820, Susanna Fish, widow. He died on February 14, 1850.

Children of Sarah:

- 891. Otis Hayward, born on December 6, 1806.
- 892. Ambrose Hayward, born on January 10, 1810.
- 893. Sumner Augustus Hayward, born on July 20, 1812.
- 894. Julia Hayward, born on October 4, 1814.
- 895. Sarah Reliance Hayward, born on March 8, 1818.

514. Barnabas, son of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on March 5, 1786, married there, on January 1, 1815, Elizabeth Gurney, daughter of Zechariah and Matilda (Packard) Gurney, born in 1790. He died on May 30, 1859.

Children:

- 896. Harriet Allen, born on September 29, 1815.
- 897. Sarah Hayward, born on November 17, 1819.
- 898. Josiah, born on March 27, 1822.
- 899. James, born on August 15, 1824.
- 900. Matilda Gurney, born on April 3, 1827.

Harriet Allen Edson 896 married, on October 7, 1838, Andrew Murdock; Sarah Hayward Edson 897 married, on October 14, 1858, Amos Dunbar; James Edson 899 married Charlotte Curtis, of Scituate; and Matilda Gurney Edson 900 married, on November 18, 1860, Wilson Morse.

515. Esther, daughter of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on July 20, 1788 married, on November 29, 1810, Ambrose Kingman, son of Seth and Judith (Washburn) Kingman, of Reading, born in North Bridgewater, on March 20, 1789. She died there, on June 12, 1838, and he married, on November 29, 1838, Ruth, daughter of Daniel Pratt, of Reading, Mass., who died on February 27, 1845. He married (3d), on December 23, 1845, Mary, daughter of William Richards, of Falmouth, Me., who died in 1862. He married (4th), on March 30, 1864, Roxana, daughter of Abiel Brown, of Tewksbury, Mass.

Children of Esther:

- 901. Francis Kingman, born on September 5, 1811.
- 902. Nancy Adams Kingman, born on November 7, 1813.
- 903. Esther Elvira Kingman, born on June 19, 1815.
- 904. Alden Bradford Kingman, born on August 29, 1817.
- 905. Josiah Edson Kingman, born on September 25, 1819.
- 906. Sarah Jane Kingman, born on September 23, 1822.
- 907. Josiah Alden Kingman, born on November 22, 1823.
- 908. Dianthe Jane Kingman, born on October 11, 1825.
- 909. Susan Adeline Kingman, born on January 22, 1830.

516. Reliance, daughter of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on February 9, 1792, married there, on December 7, 1818, Joel Ames, son of Job and Mary (Dike) Ames, born in 1787.

Children:

910. Horace Ames, born on June 22, 1821.
 911. Abigail Ames, born on September 22, 1822.
 912. Sarah Fuller Ames, born on September 3, 1826.
 913. Luther Ames, born on March 2, 1828.
 914. Olive Noyes Ames, born on August 6, 1832.

517. Olive, daughter of Josiah 218 and Reliance (Fuller) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on May 5, 1795, married there, on December 28, 1818, Jacob Noyes, son of Ephraim and Sarah (Dike) Noyes, born on March 5, 1795. She died on April 13, 1853.

Children:

915. Henry Augustus Noyes, born in North Bridgewater on September 28, 1820.
 916. Lewis Ellingwood Noyes, born in North Bridgewater on July 23, 1823.

519. Josiah, son of Josiah and Hannah (Lawrence) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on January 31, 1766, married there, on February 9, 1791, Susanna Richards.

Child:

917. Joshua.

Joshua Edson 917 married, on August 16, 1820, Clarissa C. Osborn, of Bridgewater.

522. Abiel, son of Abiel 242 and Hannah (Norton) Edson, born in 1775, married, in Somers, Tolland County, Conn., on February 5, 1795, Sarah Kibbie. He died in Randolph, Vt., on January 28, 1852, and she also there on September 22, 1852.

Children:

918. Loring, born on November 27, 1795.
 919. Sophronia, born on June 20, 1799.
 920. Olive, born on April 10, 1802.
 921. Loring Abiel, born on December 24, 1803.

Loring Edson 918 died on July 5, 1800. Olive Edson 920 married Titus Eastman of Randolph, Vt. Loring Abiel 921 married, March 18, 1847, Harriet Story.

545. Calvin, son of Calvin 259 and Lydia (Conant) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on July 19, 1773, married (1st), in 1797, Martha Dunbar, of the town of Bridgewater, born

on September 19, 1777. She died on October 11, 1830, and he married (2d), on December 3, 1835, Rebecca Crosby, of Springfield, Mass.

Children:

- 922. Alice Alger, born in Oakham, Mass., on October 21, 1798.
- 923. Harriet, born in Oakham, Mass., on July 14, 1802.
- 924. Hiram, born in Oakham, Mass., on November 27, 1804.
- 925. Silas Dunbar, born in Oakham, Mass., on March 3, 1807.
- 926. Eliza, born in Oakham, Mass., on June 10, 1810.
- 927. Mary Ann, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on September 3, 1813.
- 928. Lavinia, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on April 3, 1816.
- 929. William Fiske, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on December 4, 1818.

557. Jacob, son of Jacob 269 and Elizabeth (Packard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, on February 20, 1765, married, in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on November 29, 1792, Eunice Bradley.

Children:

- 930. Royal, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on September 10, 1793.
- 931. George, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on June 23, 1795.
- 932. Eunice, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., July 12, 1798.

Royal Edson 930 married, in the town of Stafford, on August 21, 1820 Levina Rose.

On April 7, 1788, Jacob Edson 557 took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut, as required by law.

563. Sarah, daughter of Seth 273 and Theodora (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on February 28, 1787, married there, on December 1, 1808, Nathaniel, son of Isaac Shepardson, of Dedham, born on October 5, 1784. She died in the town of Bridgewater, on August 27, 1812, and he married (2d) her sister Anne 568. She died, and he married (3d), on October 5, 1817, Sally, daughter of Manasseh Dickerman. She died on September 16, 1843, and he married (4th), on August 21, 1852, Polly Reynolds, daughter of Isaac French of Stoughton, Mass. He died in Aurora, Ind., on March 12, 1857, and his widow married, on November 27, 1862, Elisha Washburn.

Children of Sarah:

- 933. Mary Wood Shepardson, born on April 14, 1810.
- 934. Nathaniel Shepardson, born on September 2, 1811.

568. Anne, daughter of Seth 273 and Theodora (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on July 8, 1796. She married, on March 4, 1815, Nathaniel Shepardson, who had been husband of her sister Sarah, and died on September 29, 1816. Shepardson married twice afterward. (*See Sarah 563.*)

Child:

935. Sarah Ann Shepardson, born on April 11, 1816.

569. Galen, son of Seth 273 and Theodora (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on February 19, 1800; married, on October 10, 1822, Mary Ann, daughter of John Oliver, of Lynn, Mass. He died on September 18, 1852.

Children:

936. Mary Ann, born on August 19, 1824.

937. Seth, born on April 18, 1828

938. Mary Ann, born on January 16, 1830.

939. Caroline Howard, born on March 6, 1832.

940. Galen, born on September 26, 1833.

941. Ann Sophia, born on June 20, 1835.

942. John, born on April 26, 1837.

943. Emily B., born on October 16, 1838.

944. Ann Sophia, born on August 30, 1840.

945. William, born on December 6, 1843.

946. Mary, born on July 2, 1845.

Mary Ann 936 died on September 26, 1828; Mary Ann 938 on March 16, 1832; Ann Sophia 941 on September 14, 1836; Emily B., 943 on September 8, 1841; Ann Sophia 944 on September 10, 1841; William 945 on March 1, 1847; and Mary 946 on October 2, 1847.

Galen Edson 940 married Harriet Wash. In the Civil War he was in Company F, Twelfth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, and died at Culpeper Court House, Virginia.

573. Amasa, son of William 276 and Mary (Randall) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., married, on April 22, 1838, Mary, daughter of Jacob Edson.

Child:

947. Hiram Allen, born on February 8, 1839.

574. Milly, daughter of William 276 and Mary (Randall) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., married there, on July 7, 1817, Hosea Alden, son of Samuel and Hannah (Williams) Alden, of Abington. He died on March 5, 1837, and she on June 3, 1851.

Children:

948. Daniel Randall Alden, born in 1825.

949. Abigail Williams Alden, born in 182—.

950. Luther Edson Alden, born on September 24, 1830.

598. Freeman Willard, son of Benjamin 281 and Anna (Johnson) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Tolland County, Conn., on August 17, 1804; married, in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on December 31, 1829, Sarah Sheldon, daughter of Henry and Joanna (Peckham) Sheldon, born there, on June 24, 1808. She died in Otego, on March 5, 1895, and he also there, on March 30, 1896.

Children:

951. Benjamin, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on May 26, 1831.

952. Henry Sheldon, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 9, 1835.

953. Martin Austin, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on August 5, 1846.

954. Joanna, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on July 2, 1855.

Martin Austin Edson 953 married in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 15, 1869, Nancy, daughter of Elkanah and Atilda (Hathaway) Mead, born in Otego. Joanna 954 married in the town of Butternuts, Otsego County, New York, on September 20, 1880, Silas, son of Aaron and Rachel (Poster) Rider, born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, N. Y., on December 25, ——. His first wife Helen Clark, died in January, 1880.

603. Guy, son of Seth 282 and Desire (Comstock) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on March 19, 1794, married there Rhoda Packard, born on August 17, 1796. She died in Readstown, Wis., on June 14, 1864, and he in Soldiers Grove, Wis., on October 18, 1883.

Children:

955. Mary, born on October 1, 1815.

956. Rufus, born on January 30, 1820.

957. William, born on June 22, 1822.

958. Jane, born on February 24, 1825.

959. Seth, born on July 7, 1827.

960. Hannah, born on March 14, 1832.

961. Eliza, born on October 15, 1834.

962. Lydia, born in Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on September 23, 1838.

William 957 married Lucy Norton, of Union Center, N. Y., and died November 9, 1902. His son, Wynman L., lives at Union Center, and is a Justice of the Peace. Jane 958 married George Smith. Her daughter, Mrs. Helen (Smith) Harriman, lives at Hampton, Iowa. Seth 959 lives at Readstown, Wis. Eliza married N. Brigham, and lives at Soldiers Grove, Wis. Lydia married William Raymond, and lives in Los Angeles, Cal.

William 957 had other children: Charles W., living in Elmira, N. Y.; Elmer B., living in Dunkirk; Lewis E., living in the same place.

604. Harley, son of Seth 282 and Desire (Comstock) Edson, born in Tyringham, Berkshire County, Mass., on February 12, 1796; married, in Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on October

23, 1817, Phoebe Heath, daughter of Joseph and Patience Heath, born in Massachusetts, on February 25, 1800. He died in Windsor, N. Y., on March 7, 1838, and she married (2d) Ebenezer Weeks. She died on May 19, 1890.

Children:

963. Joseph C., born in the town of Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on August 3, 1818.
 964. Isaac C., born in the town of Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on July 3, 1823.
 965. Emily D., born in the town of Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on September 1, 1829.

Joseph C. Edson 963 died in Windsor, N. Y., on March 12, 1843. Emily D. Edson 965 married (1st), in Windsor, N. Y., on November 11, 1847, Garry Stillson; and (2d) Lyman Treadwell.

634. Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Nathaniel 312, and Elizabeth (Hayward) Edson, born in Bridgewater, Mass., on January 22, 1807; married, on November 18, 1829, Joseph Kingman, born March 14, 1799. He had married previously, in 1821. He died October 13, 1876. His widow died April 20, 1899.

Children:

- 965 A. Martha Kingman, born on March 9, 1833.
 965 B. Elizabeth Kingman, born on April 30, 1836.
 965 C. Lucy Kingman, born on March 14, 1839.
 965 D. Horace Mann Kingman, born on October 29, 1848.

Martha 965 A married, February 12, 1861, Alpheus Crosby, and she was living, in April, 1902, in the old home of the Kingmans in West Bridgewater, Mass. Elizabeth 965 B was living in the same place, unmarried. Lucy 965 C died, January 31, 1870, unmarried. Horace 965 D died May 23, 1850.

645. Timothy, son of Timothy 321 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Stafford, Hartford County, Conn., on March 20, 1778; married Mary Downer. He died in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on February 18, 1801. The widow married James Robinson. She died, about 1821, at Middlebury, Vt.

Children:

- 965 E. Timothy, born in Bethel, Windsor County, Vt.
 966. Susan, born in Bethel, Windsor County, Vt., on July 15, 1799.
 Timothy 965 E died in Randolph, Vt., January 19, 1809.

649. John, son of Timothy 321 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born April 9, 1790, married, at Randolph, Vt., September 7, 1815, Emily Perlee Clemens, or Clement, born in Norwich, Conn., in 1799, daughter of a professor in Yale College. John enlisted in the War of 1812.

Children :

967. George Dwight, born on October 14, 1816⁴
 967 A. Elizabeth Jensatta, born in 1821.
 968. Pascal Paola, born in 1824.
 969. Emily Juanna Catharine, born in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., August, 1829.

George Dwight Edson 967 married Isabelle Graham Kimball, and died in Illinois, either at Mount Sterling or at Rockford. They had children: (a) Frances Isabella, born July 18, 1846, died September 11, 1877, married Charles Van Inuregan, but had no child; (b) George Alvin, born January 22, 1848, died October 26, 1895, married, November 25, 1873, C. Minnick, and had children: Edna Belle, born at Richford, Ill., September, 1874; Alvin Hiram, born October, 1876; Dwight Clement, born July, 1881; Charles, born Omaha, Neb., March, 1885; and Jessie, born Albion, Neb., September, 1888; (c) Ida Elizabeth, born October 18, 1853, lives at Sewickley, Pa.; (d) Edward Holyoke, born February 7, 1856, married Mary E. Holmes, but has no child; (e) William Frederick, born September 18, 1858, died September 12, 1859; (f) Lilla Emma, born October 21, 1861, married April 1, 1884, Charles Gilbert Allen, and had: Merle Louise, born Omaha, July 4, 1885, died December 28, 1885; Eunice Belle, born Ainsworth, Neb., September 12, 1894; William Dwight, born July 6, 1895.

Elizabeth Jensatta 967A died in October, 1851, unmarried.

Pascal Paola 968 died in 1874, in Illinois, either at Mount Sterling or at Rockford. He married Elsie Hazard. They had children: (a) Florence, born in 1852, married, in 1874, Edgar Swan, and resides in Winnebago, Ill.; (b) Elma, married —; (c) Royal, married —, lives in Iowa; (d) Clement; (e) Ernst.

Emily Juanna Catharine 969 married (1st), in September, 1849, Douglas Ritchie Bashnell, born in Norwich, Conn., June 17, 1824, was killed, November 27, 1863, at the battle of Ringgold, Ga. He was a major of the Ninth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers in the War for the Union. She married (2d), in 1871, Major Miles S. Henry, born in Geneva, N. Y., in 1817, died in 1878. They resided in Rockford, Ill. She had children by her first husband: (a) Emma Louisa, married John H. Lawrence; (b) Grace Edson, married Chester Noble Clark; and (c) Cora Douglas, married Edward C. Underwood. Mrs. Emma L. Lawrence had children: Louise H., married Chester Willoughby Shoch; Ethel Douglas, Douglas H., and Mildred H. Mrs. Grace E. Clark had children: Virginia, who died October 22, 1897, and Beulah Henry. Mrs. Cora D. Underwood had children: Milo C. and Nathan, twins.

651. Alvin, son of Timothy 321 and Susanna (Orcutt) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., October 10, 1796; married, in Charlestown, Mass., on April 27, 1829, Catharine Henley Soley, daughter of John and Rebecca Tyng (Henley) Soley, baptized in Charlestown, on March 2, 1806. She died at the Navy-Yard, Portsmouth, N. H., in 1837, and he, of yellow fever, on board of the United States frigate *Raritan*, on her passage from Havana to Norfolk, Virginia, July 15, 1847, after the expiration of his term of service.

Child:

970. John Henry, born in the Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y., on January 18, 1830.

Alvin Edson 651 entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., in 1817, and after two years' attendance there he was induced to resign and take part in the survey of the Northwest Territory. While so engaged he was, on May 7, 1822, appointed Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. General Atkinson presented him a cane with silver mountings, which is still in possession of his son as an heirloom. On March 14, 1829, he was made First Lieutenant, and on October 6, 1841, Captain. In March, 1847, in the siege of Vera Cruz, and other operations in the Gulf of Mexico, he won high distinction for his military ability and bravery.

In the Census of Pensioners, on June 1, 1840, he is named as forty-three years of age and as residing with Luther Edson, in Randolph, Orange County, Vt.

656. Joseph, son of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on March 3, 1782, married, on September 29, 1802, Sarah, daughter of Nathaniel de Troope (or Throop), born on June 28, 1783, in the town of Bethel, Windsor County, Vt. He died in Randolph, Vt., on March 7, 1832, and she also there, on June 20, 1863.

Children:

971. Elizabeth, born in Randolph, Vt., on April 23, 1804.

972. Sarah, born in Randolph, Vt., on June 2, 1806.

973. Nathaniel, born in Randolph, Vt., on October 11, 1808.

974. Royal, born in Randolph, Vt., on January 5, 1811.

975. Olivia Chase, born in Randolph, Vt., on January 15, 1824.

Nathaniel 973, a graduate of Union College, at Schenectady, N. Y., studied law in Albany, N. Y., and with the Hon. Judge Dudley Chase, in Randolph, Vt. "He settled at Boston, but subsequently removed to New York City, where he died suddenly of heart disease, April 2, 1853. He never married.

Royal 974 married Adeline Arnold and resided in Woodstock, Vt., where he was merchandising when he died on April 12, 1840, leaving one child, Luna, who never married. The widow and daughter, who subsequently resided with Mrs. Edson's uncle, Governor — Converse, "died within a week of each other."

Joseph Edson 656, the father, resided until his death in Randolph. In 1805, he was elected constable, which office he filled for four years. In the years 1812, '13, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '21, and '22, he was sheriff of Orange County. From 1815 to

1821, he was one of the school trustees of the town of Randolph. From 1825 to 1829, he was United States Marshal for Vermont, receiving the appointment from President John Quincy Adams.

The descent of the British upon Plattsburgh, in September, 1814, caused a call for volunteers to be sent to Randolph, Vt., on Friday, the 9th, which reached the place about nightfall. Major Joseph Edson and other officers of the local militia determined to comply with the request, and during the night the necessary preparations were made to march on Saturday to Montpelier. Arriving there in the afternoon, and having been supplied with arms and ammunition, the force pushed on to Waterbury, where a stay overnight was made. Early on Sunday morning, the 11th, when the company was ascending the hill near Richmond, the report of guns in the direction of Lake Champlain intimated that an engagement was begun. On reaching Burlington, it was discovered that no craft was in port to carry the force across the lake. Late on Sunday evening the intelligence of Commodore MacDonough's victory was brought to Burlington, causing no little surprise and much rejoicing. The body of militia and volunteers from Randolph attempted on Monday to sail to Plattsburgh on an old sloop, but, having stranded on the rocks near Juniper Island, the effort was abandoned. On Tuesday, the scene of the ruined buildings in the village was curiously viewed, and the particulars of the engagement with the enemy there eagerly heard. The company, commanded by Captain Libbeus Egerton, comprised ninety-two men, eighty-five of whom were from Randolph, among whom were Sergeant John Joy Edson and his brother, Josiah Edson, junior.

On October 30, 1818, Joseph Edson was selected a brigadier-general by the governor and council of Vermont, and on October 25, 1822, major-general of the Vermont Militia. He was, as was his father, a prominent Mason, and for a number of years Grand Master of the Order in the State of Vermont.

658. Josiah, son of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on April 13, 1786, married Elizabeth Porter, born in 1787, half-sister of George B. Porter, who was governor of Michigan in 1831. They settled in Ohio, where he died, about 1827. The family returned

to the town of Randolph, where his widow died on March 18, 1832, aged forty-five years.

Children:

976. William, born in the town of Randolph, on April 23, 1811.

977. Susan, born in the town of Randolph, in 1815.

978. Joseph, born in Ohio in 1819.

979. Mary Ann, born in Ohio in 1823.

William 976 married, in August, 1844, Martha Story, of the town of Randolph. For a number of years before his marriage he was a pilot on the Mississippi River. After his mother's death his brother Joseph 978 and two sisters, at his invitation, made their home with him in St. Louis, Mo. He had no offspring. The date of his death is not known. His wife is still living.

Susan 977 married, in December, 1844, L. J. Garrison, of St. Louis, Mo. Children: William, Olivia, Elizabeth, and Tappan.

Joseph 978 died in October, 1848, unmarried, in St. Louis.

Mary Ann 979 married in St. Louis, Tully W. Strobridge, a native of Vermont. They removed, in 1840, to California, and lived many years in Los Angeles, where she died, in October, 1863, aged seventy years.

659. Sarah, daughter of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on October 27, 1788, married, in 1808, Parker Whitney of Aurelius, N. Y. She died in 1827.

Children:

980. Chauncey Parker Whitney, born in Aurelius, N. Y., in 1812.

981. Constant Whitney, born in Aurelius in 1815.

661. John Joy, son of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on May 27, 1794, married, in October, 1816, Sarah Barnes. He died in 1823, in Aurelius, Cayuga County, N. Y.

Children:

982. Chauncey Barker, born in Aurelius on April 24, 1817.

983. Sarah Philena, born in Aurelius on November 5, 1819.

984. Joseph Josiah, born in Aurelius on January 24, 1821.

985. Susan Ann, born in Aurelius on June 24, 1823.

Joseph Josiah 984 married Mary Munger, and as a physician practiced medicine in Geneva, O. The fruit of their marriage was a daughter, Estelle, who died young. Susan Ann 985 was "one of the first women to study medicine as a profession, and many were the difficulties with which she had to contend. But her will was indomitable, and she succeeded, and established a good practice at Jefferson, O. When the Rebellion broke out she offered her services, which were gladly accepted, and as a nurse, physician, and surgeon, she served at Washington and Fortress Monroe during the whole war, making a record for herself second to none. After the war she returned to Washington and resumed her practice, where she gained the summit of success in her profession. She never married, but was an important factor in the bringing up of her sister's children, and made her pleasant home a welcome resting-place for her mother and half-sisters and other relatives. Hers was the warm heart

and the generous hand. Her health was greatly impaired by her devoted services to President Garfield, whose family physician and long-time friend she was. She died at her home in Washington November 14, 1898, after a short illness."

662. Harriette Albina, daughter of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on April 13, 1797; married, in Aurelius, Cayuga County, N. Y., on January 3, 1821, Milton Hyde. He died at Grosse Isle, near Detroit, Mich., on June 9, 1866, and she also there on August 30, 1879. Milton was a descendant of William Hyde, of Norwich, Conn.

Children:

- 986. Joseph Edson Hyde, born in Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., on June 16, 1822.
- 987. Susan Adeline Hyde, born in Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., on September 6, 1823.
- 988. George Randolph Hyde, born in Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., on July 24, 1825.
- 989. William Augustus Hyde, born in Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., on February 25, 1827.
- 990. Mary Sophia Hyde, born in Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., on December 14, 1828.
- 991. Sarah Maria Hyde, born in Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., on December 14, 1828.
- 992. Lydia Albina Hyde, born in Auburn, Oakland County, Mich., on April 24, 1831.
- 993. Lydia Elizabeth Hyde, born in Auburn, Oakland County, Mich., on September 1, 1833.
- 994. Harriette Isabella Hyde, born in Auburn, Oakland County, Mich., on April 15, 1836.
- 995. Charles Milton Hyde, born in Auburn, Oakland County, Mich., on December 21, 1838.
- 996. Julia Josephine Hyde, born in Auburn, Oakland County, Mich., on June 28, 1841.

663. Daniel Sherwood, son of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on March 10, 1799, married Mrs. Dorothy (Goodale) Pease, eleven years his senior. He died about 1850. She lived to be ninety years old, and died at Grand Lodge, Mich.

Children;

- 997. Daniel Sherod, born in Springfield, Mass., on January 2, 1825.
- 998. Dorothy Ann, born in Ware, Mass., on October 27, 1826.
- 999. Sarah Albina, born on November 15, 1830.

664. Lydia Alexander, daughter of Josiah 323 and Sarah (Pinney) Edson, born in the town of Randolph, Orange County, Vt., in August, 1801, married, in 1817, Ebenezer Smith, of

Fleming, Cayuga County, N. Y., born in May, 1795. She died in Wacousta, Clinton County, Mich., in 1859, and he in March, 1863.

Children.:

1000. Sarah Pinney Smith, born in Fleming, N. Y., on November 5, 1818.

1001. Josiah Edson Smith, born in Fleming, N. Y., on January 2, 1820.

1002. Adoniram Judson Smith, born in Auburn, Oakland County, Mich., on March 24, 1828.

684. Sophia, daughter of Jonathan 333 and Rebecca (Graves) Edson, born in Whately, Franklin County, Mass., about 1790; married (1st) Horatio Crane, son of Joseph and Eleanor (Buck) Crane, born on February 23, 1795. He was killed on his farm in the town of Jericho, Chittenden County, Vt., on March 10, 1828, while clearing a piece of land. She married (2d) Simon Cotton.

Children:

1003. George H. Crane, born in the town of Williamstown, Orange County, Vt., on October 6, 1823.

1004. Sophia Crane, born in the town of Williamstown, Orange County, Vt., in January, 1827.

Horatio Crane 684 was a farmer, and lived until 1827 in the town of Williamstown, Orange County, when he purchased a farm in the town of Jericho, Chittenden County, where he met his death, as mentioned.

685. Lucius, son of Jonathan 333 and Rebecca (Graves) Edson, born in the town of Brookfield, Orange Co., Vt., in 1795, married Matilda Ainsworth, born in the town of Brookfield, in 1802.

Children:

1005. Marshall L., born in the town of Northfield, Washington County, Vt., in 1830.

1006. Alice J., born in 1833.

1007. E. Annette, born in 1836.

Lucius Edson 685 removed from the town of Brookfield to the town of Northfield in 1822. He and Arba Crane bought from Solomon Dunham the cloth-dressing business in which he was engaged, in Captain Jesse Averill's district, near Judge Paine's grist-mill. They pursued the business there for a time, and then Lucius Edson withdrew and went to the south village, where he added wool-carding to the cloth-dressing business, which he successfully followed.

687. Jerah, son of Amasa 337 and Hannah (Morton) Edson, born in the town of Whately, Franklin County, Mass., on April 11, 1788, married there, on August 12, 1809, Sophia Stiles,

daughter of Lewis and Electa (Pomeroy) Stiles, born in the town of Whately, on November 7, 1786. She died in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on October 11, 1857, and he married (2d) Laura Abbott of Brookfield. He died there, in March, 1870.

Children:

- 1008. Shepard, born in Brookfield, Vt., on July 25, 1810.
- 1009. Henry, born in Brookfield, Vt., on May 8, 1812.
- 1010. Amasa, born in Brookfield, Vt., on August 29, 1814.
- 1011. Electa Pomeroy, born in Brookfield, Vt., on May 31, 1816.
- 1012. Edward, born in Brookfield, Vt., on May 31, 1819.
- 1013. Marshall, born in Brookfield, Vt., on November 21, 1821.
- 1014. Jerah, born in Brookfield, Vt., on June 5, 1825.
- 1015. Sophia, born in Brookfield, Vt., on October 11, 1827.

Jerah Edson 687 was a farmer and a man greatly esteemed by his neighbors and acquaintances.

Shepard Edson 1008 died on August 24, 1844; Amasa Edson 1010, on January 12, 1815; Edward Edson 1012 died on November 14, 1839; Marshall Edson 1013 died on January 7, 1858; Sophia Edson 1015 married Leonard F. Davis, and died in November, 1853. They had children: Helen S. Davis, who married Walter S. Roberts, and lived at Oakland, Kan.; Elsie Davis, who married Edwin R. Sweet, of Alden, Minn., and died in 1900; and Marshall Davis, who died in 1858.

688. Harris, son of Amasa 337 and Hannah (Morton) Edson, born in the town of Whately, Franklin County, Mass., on August 21, 1791, married (1st) Mary Thacher. She died on September 8, 1834, and he married (2d), on January 29, 1835, Emily Thacher. She died on August 15, 1867, and he on November 9, 1872.

Children by first wife:

- 1016. George Harris, born on August 30, 1826.
- 1017. Martha Morgan, born on May 26, 1828.
- 1018. Eliza, born on February 24, 1831.
- 1019. Mary, born on March 4, 1833.
- 1020. Albert Edgerton, born on February 10, 1834.

Children by second wife:

- 1021. Charles Morgan, born on January 5, 1836.
- 1022. Catharine Trask, born on June 11, 1837.
- 1023. Henry, born on November 13, 1839.
- 1024. Charles Albert, born on December 14, 1840.
- 1025. Martha Ann, born on May 19, 1843.
- 1026. Edwin Thacher, born on August 31, 1848.

George Harris 1016 died on May 1, 1865; Martha Morgan 1017, on July 8, 1831; Eliza 1018, on August 6, 1857; Mary 1019, in September, 1834; Albert Edgerton 1020, in January, 1836; Charles Morgan 1021, on June 6, 1838; Catharine Trask 1022, on October 25, 1865; Henry 1023, on December 18, 1839; Charles Albert 1024, on March 7, 1864, in service in the Civil War; Edwin Thacher 1026, on September 6, 1856.

691. Lura, daughter of Amasa 327 and Hannah (Morton) Edson, was born in Brookfield, Vt., September 1, 1798, and died May 13, 1879. She married Spencer Graves.

Children:

- 1026 A. Frances H. Graves, born in Brookfield, Vt., on January 10, 1827.
- 1026 B. Elizabeth Graves, born in Brookfield, Vt., on January 22, 1829.
- 1026 C. William Spencer Graves, born in Brookfield, Vt., on March 27, 1831.
- 1026 D. Harriet Graves, born in Brookfield, Vt., on January 29, 1834.
- 1026 E. Maria Graves, born in Brookfield, Vt., on September 22, 1837.
- 1026 F. Albert Graves, born in Brookfield, Vt., on October 5, 1840.

Frances H. Graves 1026 A died November 11, 1900, unmarried; Elizabeth Graves 1026 B died in August, 1878, unmarried; William Spencer Graves 1026 C, born March 27, 1831, married, March 25, 1855, "Orpha" [Orpah] Howe; Harriet Graves 1026 D married (1st), March, 1859, Henry Dutton, (2d) November, 1882, Charles Dutton; Maria Graves 1026 E married, December 4, 1862, Terence Calogan; and Albert Graves 1026 F died October 27, 1853.

692. Emily, daughter of Amasa 327 and Hannah (Morton) Edson, was born in Brookfield, Vt., December 14, 1800, and died on April 7, 1868. She married, May 7, 1828, Caleb A. Stratton.

Children:

- 1026 G. Emily M. Stratton, born in Brookfield, Vt., November 13, 1830.
- 1026 H. Cornelius Stratton, born in Brookfield, Vt., January 9, 1834.
- 1026 I. Martha A. Stratton, born in Brookfield, Vt., August 25, 1836.
- 1026 J. Harriet A. Stratton, born in Brookfield, Vt., October 22, 1838.
- 1026 K. Lucia A. Stratton, born in Brookfield, Vt., August 30, 1840.
- 1026 L. Carlos E. Stratton, born in Brookfield, Vt., June 12, 1844.

Emily 1026 G married (1st), December 5, 1862, Nelson Graves, (2d), April 10, 1901, John Kerr; Martha 1026 I married, September 20, 1858, Elias Holt, and died May 1, 1891; Harriet 1026 J married, July 19, 1899, George Cook; Lucia 1026 K married Frank Hoadley in December, 1868, and died July 31, 1895; and Carlos 1026 L married, September 5, 1866 Annie Brown, and died February 14, 1890; Cornelius 1026 H married, February 3, 1879, at Marysville, Cal., Addie Ackley.

693. Sophila, daughter of Amasa 327 and Hannah (Morton) Edson, was born in Brookfield, Vt., November 13, 1803, and died May 13, 1870. She married, in 1828, Elijah Lyman. Four of their children died in early infancy.

Child:

- 1026 M Annette Lyman, born in Brookfield, Vt., on June 13, 1837.

Annette Lyman married, January 1, 1862, John A. Griswold, and resides at Plainfield, Vt.

694. Hannah G., daughter of Amasa 327 and Hannah (Morton) Edson, was born in Brookfield, Vt., in 1803, and died February 15, 1860. She married, June 26, 1829, Reuben Peck.

Children:

- 1026 N. Marcus Peck, born in Brookfield, Vt., on June 26, 1834.
 1026 O. Aurelia B. Peck, born in Brookfield, Vt., on April 10, 1836.
 1026 P. Cassius Peck, born in Brookfield, Vt., on March 3, 1842.
 1026 Q. Marshall Reuben Peck, born in Brookfield, Vt., on August 22, 1846.
 Marcus Peck married (1st), June 26, 1850, Mary Elizabeth Wilcox (2d), January 2, 1873, Adeline M. Wheatley; Aurelia B. Peck married, March 31, 1861, George May, and died September 10, 1867; Cassius Peck married, April 30, 1868, Luna A. Sprague; and Marshall Reuben Peck married, in July, 1875, Nellie Nelson, and died August 7, 1876.

695. Lucinda, daughter of Samuel 344 and Hannah (Ripley) Edson, married, on May 27, 1828, Ziba Bass Bryant, son of Oliver and Nabby (Ames) Bryant, born October 16, 1804.

Children:

1027. Lucinda Adeline Bryant, born on February 23, 1829.
 1028. Ziba Hiram Bryant, born on May 27, 1830.
 1029. Franklin Edson Bryant, born on May 10, 1833.
 1030. Danville Foster Bryant, born on January 29, 1836.
 1031. Henry Gifford Bryant, born on April 14, 1839.
 1032. Albert Francis Bryant, born on June 28, 1841.
 1033. Ellis Bryant, born on March 17, 1845.

Ellis Bryant 1033 died July 7, 1845.

731. Fanny Bryant, daughter of Jonah 361 and Jennet (Bryant) Edson, born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on June 27, 1820, married there, on October 28, 1840, Levi B. Parker, son of Levi and Hannah (Giddings) Parker, born in Lunenburg, Mass., on May 25, 1811. She died in East Bridgewater, on March 26, 1880.

Children:

1034. George G. Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., in June, 1841.
 1035. Frank G. Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on October 27, 1842.
 1036. Abbie Curtis Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on January 14, 1845.
 1037. Jennet Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., in 1847.
 1038. Alfred Bryant Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on October 10, 1849.
 1039. George B. Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., in 1852.
 1040. Abhatt Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on September 12, 1855.
 1041. William Parker, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on August 26, 1861.

George G. 1034 died on November 6, 1841; Abbie Curtis 1036, on October 4, 1868; Jennet 1037, on August 10, 1849; and George B. 1039, on May 3, 1855.

732. Henry, son of Jonah 361 and Jennet (Bryant) Edson, born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on September 2, 1822; married, in Brockton, Mass., on July 26, 1847, Mary Alice Stetson, daughter of Ethan Allen and Hannah (Baker)

Stetson, born in Hanson, Mass., on November 3, 1826. They are living in East Bridgewater.

Children:

1042. Charles Henry, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on September 3, 1848.
 1043. Emma Clifford, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on June 14, 1851.
 1044. Mary Alice, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on December 1, 1855.
 1045. Jennie Stetson, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on June 2, 1858.
 1046. Nellie Maria, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on February 13, 1866.

736. William, son of Jonah 361 and Jennet (Bryant) Edson, born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on April 30, 1832; married, in East Bridgewater, by the Rev. T. O. Paine, on June 14, 1860. Anne Isabella Mackinnon, daughter of Colin R. and Rhoda (Kenney) Mackinnon, born on March 20, 1834.

Children:

1047. Wilfred, born in Charlestown, Mass., on June 22, 1863.
 1048. Mabel F., born in Stoneham, Mass., on November 12, 1871.
 1049. Amy Violet, born in Stoneham, Mass., on April 5, 1876.

Wilfred died on March 7, 1873.

William Edson 736 is a graduate of Brown University, and, as an expert in patent causes, devotes special attention to electrical and chemical inventions; his office being Room 32, No. 12 Pearl Street, Boston, Mass.

737. Seth Bryant, son of Jonah 361 and Jennet (Bryant) Edson, born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on April 24, 1835; married there, on June 4, 1867, Elizabeth D., daughter of George and Elizabeth (Devlois) Bryant, born in East Bridgewater, on June 12, 1844. She died there, on June 4, 1887.

Children:

1050. Albert B., born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on December 13, 1869.
 1051. John, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on April 4, 1873.
 1052. Frederick C., born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on January 14, 1877.

John Edson 1051 married, in Bridgewater, Mass., on May 8, 1902, Sadie F., daughter of Mary A. Barnes.

740. Nathan, son of Ephraim 363 and Mary (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on April 13, 1831; married, in West Bridgewater, on November 27, 1862, Eunice A. Ryder of that place.

Child:

1053. Alice, born on May 9, 1866.

They reside in Charlestown, Mass.

741. Theodore, son of Ephraim 363 and Mary (Howard)

Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on May 4, 1834; married Mattie Hannold of Boston, Ohio.

Children:

1054. Charles Allen, born on February 25, 1863.

1055. Mary, born in September, 1865.

1056. Elizabeth, born in 1868.

Charles Allen 1054 died on March 21, 1866; Mary 1055 on February 28, 1884.

The family lives in Lockland, Ohio.

743. Ephraim Davis, son of Ephraim 363 and Mary (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on December 24, 1841; married, on July 29, 1862, Margaret Ferguson of Bridgewater. He died in 1866.

Children:

1057. Amie Maria, born on September 24, 1863.

1058. Mary Davis, born on August 2, 1866.

Annie Maria 1057 married Roderick Douglas Hall. They reside in Wollaston, Mass.

Mary Davis 1058 married George B. Damon, of Bridgewater, and resides there.

744. Sibyl, daughter of Ephraim 363 and Mary (Howard) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on January 27, 1845; married, in West Bridgewater, on November 12, 1871, Zeno Benson, son of Cyrus and Lydia W. (Leonard) Benson, born in the town of Pawtucket, Mass., now Rhode Island.

Children:

1059. Charles Aubrey Benson, born in West Bridgewater on March 1, 1874.

1060. Ada Louisa Benson, born in West Bridgewater on April 30, 1876.

1061. Cyrus Benson, born in Bridgewater on May 21, 1880.

1062. Nathan Benson, born in Bridgewater on January 31, 1882.

1063. Arthur Davis Benson, born in Bridgewater on October 31, 1884.

745. Eunice, daughter of Alfred 383 and Lydia (Stewart) Edson, born in Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y.; married

— Gregg.

Children:

1064. Nathaniel Gregg.

1065. Rebecca Gregg.

1066. Solomon Gregg.

1067. Alfonso Gregg.

748. Henry Wells, son of Alfred 383 and Lydia (Stewart) Edson, born in Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., about 1809; married Mehetabel Orcutt. He settled early in Wisconsin.

Children:

1068. John.
 1069. Silence.
 1070. Robert.
 1071. Alfred, born in 1844.

Alfred Edson 1071 was killed in the battle of Shiloh, (Pittsburg Landing), Tennessee, on April 6, 1862.

749. Willard, son of Alfred 383 and Lydia (Stewart) Edson, born in Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., on June 4, 1812; married, in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on June 10, 1832, Mary A. Ferguson, born in Claverack, Columbia County, N. Y., on January 19, 1810. She died in Munnsville, Madison County, N. Y., on March 16, 1884, and he also there, on December 23, 1886.

Children:

1072. Lavinia.
 1073. Julia M.
 1074. Willard.
 1075. Elizabeth.
 1076. Ellen.
 1077. Fidelia.
 1078. Alfred.
 1079. Olive.
 1080. Samuel.
 1081. Sarah.

Lavinia Edson 1072 died in 1877, and Elizabeth 1075 in July, 1884.

750. Oliver Stewart, son of Alfred 383 and Lydia (Stewart) Edson, born in Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., on August 1, 1813; married there, on October 27, 1841, Henrietta Alden, daughter of Gilbert and Rachel (Smith) Alden, born in Stockbridge, on February 15, 1821. He died in Olathe, Johnson County, Kan., on August 11, 1897.

Children:

1082. Oliver Cromwell, born in Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., on July 31, 1843.
 1083. Montrose, born in Dane County, Wis., on September 13, 1845.
 1084. Azelia, born in Dane County, Wis., on February 12, 1847.
 1085. Angeline, born in Dane County, Wis., on April 4, 1849.
 1086. Emergene [Imogene?], born in Dane County, Wis., on January 6, 1851.
 1087. Rowena, born in Dane County, Wis., on April 25, 1852.
 1088. William, born in Dane County, Wis., on February 7, 1854.
 1089. James Bassett, born in Dane County, Wis., on September 5, 1855.

Angeline Edson 1085 married, in Blairstown, Benton County, Ia., on June 24, 1873, Milton Luther Allison, born in LeRoy, Genesee County, N. Y., on November 19, 1846.

Oliver Stewart Edson moved with his family from Stock-

bridge, Madison County, N. Y., in May, 1846, to Dane County, Wis., being one of the early settlers of the State.

754. Samuel S., son of Alfred 383 and Lydia (Stewart) Edson, born in Stockbridge, Madison County, New York; married Mary Green.

Children:

1090. Florentia.

1091. Rosalie.

1092. Daniel.

Samuel S. Edson, of the town of Stockbridge, Madison Co., N. Y., conveyed a parcel of land, on January 21, 1846, to Jonas Bridge.

756. Mary ("Polly"), daughter of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., on September 29, 1800; married, on October 24, 1819, John W. Rosecrance. She died in New Milford, Ill., on June 22, 1885.

Children:

1093. Charles Rosecrance, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on January 9, 1823.

1094. James E. Rosecrance, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on October 19, 1825.

1095. Edwin Rosecrance, born on April 23, 1828.

1096. Jane E. Rosecrance, born in 1831.

1097. Daniel Rosecrance, born in 1838.

Charles 1093 died on November 19, 1859; James E. 1094 married on November 27, 1871, Fannie Rogers of New Milford, Ill.; Edwin 1095 married Adelisa Norton, of Elba, New York; Jane E. 1096 died on May 5, 1838; and Daniel 1097 on January 27, 1864.

757. Gamaliel, son of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1802; married, on April 28, 1823, Hannah Boylan, born in Stafford, Genesee County, N. Y., on November 30, 1807. She died in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on January 3, 1864, and he also there, on August 14, 1879.

Children:

1098. Elizabeth Ann, born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on July 4, 1827.

1099. Alonzo James, M.D., born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on April 7, 1830.

1100. Maryette Genette, born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on March 22, 1832.

1101. Amanda Malvina, born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on April 5, 1842.

Amanda Malvina Edson 1101 died in Genesee County, N. Y., on July 7, 1842.

On November 8, 1838, Gamaliel Edson 757 and Hannah, his wife, of the town of Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., for the sum of one hundred and seventy-five dollars, conveyed to Minor N. Bradley, of Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., one acre and eight rods of land in township twelve, first range, in the towns of Elba and Stafford. (*Deeds*, Book 58, p. 106, office of the Clerk of Genesee County, N. Y., in Batavia, N. Y.)

759. Lewis Morgan, son of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y., on February 22, 1807; married, in Richville, Genesee County, N. Y., on March 28, 1832, Sarah ("Sally") Ames Flint, daughter of Elijah and Lydia (Jones) Flint, born in the town of Pembroke, Genesee County, N. Y., on September 8, 1814. He died in Akron, Erie County, N. Y., on February 28, 1859, and she in the the same place, on July 13, 1899. Their remains are entombed in the new cemetery in Akron, N. Y.

Children:

- 1102. James La Fayette, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on July 31, 1834.
- 1103. Elizabeth, born in the town of Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on January 31, 1839.
- 1104. John Milton, born in the town of Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on February 22, 1842.
- 1105. Dallas Morgan, born in the town of Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on May 17, 1845.
- 1106. Carrie Adclaide, born in the town of Akron, Erie County, N. Y., on October 16, 1856.

Elizabeth 1103 married in Akron, N. Y., on October 18, 1859, Charles Milton Rich. John Milton 1104 served in the Civil War as an orderly sergeant in Company F, — Regiment of New York State Volunteers. He died of malarial fever, on October 17, 1862, in Hampton Hospital, Fortress Monroe, Va. Dallas Morgan 1105 enlisted, and went to Buffalo, N. Y., with the Home Guard, was taken sick, returned to Akron, and died suddenly, on February 12, 1863, from an attack of erysipelas.

Lewis Morgan Edson 759, the father, while visiting in the Southern States, was afflicted with yellow fever, which greatly impaired his health thereafter. As a consequence, he frequently changed the place of his residence in seeking a salubrious climate.

760. Barnabas Hall, son of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on May 16, 1811, married in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on December 28, 1837, Julia Maria Ames, born in Hancock, N. H., on September 13, 1813. He died at Cherry Creek,

Chautauqua County, N. Y., on February 18, 1892, and she also there on July 8, 1892.

Children :

1107. Edwin Homer, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on January 29, 1839.
 1108. Lois Maria, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on January 30, 1843.
 1109. Anna Elizabeth, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on August 16, 1845.
 1110. Silas Hardy, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on July 7, 1847.
 1111. Sarah Hardy, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on September 11, 1849.
 1112. Ellen Arminda, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., in February, 1853.

Anna Elizabeth Edson 1109 married, on March 13, 1867, Cyrus Gibson. She died in Michigan on June 8, 1891. Silas Hardy Edson 1110 married, in 1883, Carrie McCullough, and died in Charlotte, N. Y., on March 20, 1897. Sarah Hardy Edson 1111 married, on December 28, 1878, David McClaren. She died on May 8, 1880. Ellen Arminda Edson 1112 died on March 20, 1857.

761. Cyrenus Chapin, son of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on December 1, 1813; married, in Eagle, Allegany County, N. Y., on September 3, 1836, Huldah Nichols, born on November 18, 1817. He died on August 1, 1878.

Children :

1113. Ellen, born on January 10, 1839.
 1114. George W., born in Eagle, Allegany County, N. Y., on September 6, 1843.
 1115. Barnabas, born on September 13, 1846.
 1116. Myron, born on October 26, 1850.
 1117. Elbert, born on July 12, 1854.
 1118. Elva, born on May 10, 1857.
 1119. Welley, born on March 20, 1863.

Ellen Edson 1113 died on October 2, 1885; and Myron 1116, on November 14, 1863.

762. Clarissa Ann, daughter of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on February 8, 1816; married, in Charlotte, N. Y., on December 28, 1839, David H. Ames, born in Hancock, N. H., on May 24, 1817. She died in Charlotte, N. Y., on November 11, 1888, and he also there on November 23, 1891.

Children :

1120. Edson David Ames, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on October 14, 1840.
 1121. Homer A. Ames, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on July 3, 1842.
 1122. Adaline A. Ames, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on October 11, 1844.
 1123. Jonathan M. Ames, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on September 1, 1846.

1124. Charles L. Ames, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on October 30, 1850.

1125. Mary A. Ames, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on January 6, 1857.

763. Lucinda, daughter of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on August 29, 1817; married (1st), in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on June 1, 1838, William Devine. He died on June 14, 1851, and she married (2d), on November 25, 1855, Daniel Drayton Bartholomew. He died on May 29, 1882, and she married (3d), on September 2, 1888, the Rev. William Spencer. She died in Sycamore, Ill., on November 10, 1896.

Children by first husband:

1126. Sarah Arabelle Devine, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on August 29, 1839.

1127. Emily Lucinda Devine, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on September 30, 1841.

1128. William La Fayette Devine, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on June 14, 1845.

1129. Mary Arminda Devine, born on August 10, 1850.

By second husband:

1130. Adda Estelle Bartholomew, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on May 16, 1858.

Mrs. Emily Lucinda Barnham 1127 lives at Akron, O. William La Fayette Devine 1128 enlisted for the War for the Union, but died, before being called into action, at Pavilion, Genesee County, N. Y., on August 29, 1864.

764. Arminda, daughter of Barnabas 384 and Anna (Walsworth) Edson, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on February 4, 1821; married, in Bethany, Genesee County, N. Y., on January 1, 1846, Augustine Sornberger, born on December 26, 1821. She died on August 19, 1877.

Children:

1131. Mary R. Sornberger, born on June 26, 1847.

1132. George H. Sornberger, born on July 16, 1855.

Mary R. Sornberger 1131 died on December 8, 1866.

766. John Gridley, son of Calvin 386 and Dolly (May) Edson, born on December 5, 1830; married, on December 24, 1850, Sarah M. Taylor, born on August 30, 1830. She died on December 29, 1876.

Children:

1133. Calvin R., born on September 9, 1852.

1134. Gridley G., born on October 11, 1854.

1135. Franklin E., born on August 19, 1858.

1136. Lucy J., born on August 6, 1860.

Calvin R. Edson died on September 12, 1879. Gridley G. Edson was drowned on June 12, 1867. Lucy J. Edson, died on April 12, 1900.

777. Obed, son of Obed 395 and Fanny (Bigelow) Edson, born in the town of Richfield, Otsego County, N. Y., on September 11, 1796; married, in the town of Pomfret, Chautauqua

County, February 3, 1816, Sarah Scott, born in Leverett, Franklin County, Mass., on October 6, 1799, and died at Villa Ridge, Pulaski County, Ill., on May 9, 1877. He died, at the same place, September 9, 1877.

Children:

1137. Sophia, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on April 10, 1817.
1138. Hiram Sinclair, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on December 13, 1818.
1139. Willis Bigelow, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on November 16, 1820.
1140. Fanny, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on October 16, 1822.
1141. Walter Scott, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on September 10, 1824.
1142. Nancy, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on April 24, 1827.
1143. John Milton, born in Pine Grove, Warren County, Pa., on October 12, 1832.
1144. Joseph Hewes, born in Pine Grove, Warren County, Pa., April 18, 1835.
1145. Thos. H. Benton, born in Pine Grove, Warren County, N. Y., on September 7, 1837.
1146. Martha Lavina, born in Pine Grove, Warren County, Pa., on September 26, 1840.

Sophia 1137 died in Aurora, Neb. She married, July 12, 1838, at Pine Grove, Henry G. Sargent.

Hiram S. 1138 died, November 23, 1854, at McHenry, Ill. He married, December 6, 1840, at Busti, N. Y., Mary Van Deusen.

Willis B. 1139 married, at Busti, N. Y., Cordelia Curtis.

Fanny 1140 died August 21, 1898, at Keokuk, Ia. She married (1st), February 21, 1841, at Pine Grove, LeGrand F. Van Deusen, who died about 1863, in Illinois. She married (2d), February 12, 1867, at Fredonia, N. Y., Thomas W. Manchester.

Walter S. 1141 died, October 2, 1882, at Kirkwood, Mo. He married, June 28, 1849, at Pine Grove, Marcia A. Van Deusen.

Nancy 1142 married, May 16, 1877, at Langworthy, Ia., Stephen C. Batchelder. She was living in 1902.

John M. 1143 married Elizabeth M. Swails.

Joseph H. 1144 died July 21, 1857, at Johnstown, Pa.

Thomas H. B. 1145 died, August 21, 1851, at McHenry, Ill.

Martha L. 1146 died, February 14, 1847, at Pine Grove, Pa.

Obed 777, the father, was removed, with his mother, and his stepfather, Major Sinclair, to Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1810, and there he married.

About 1827, stages were first run between Fredonia and Jamestown, and they were run by Obed Edson and Reuben Scott. The line was extended afterward, by Obed Edson, to

Warren, Warren County, Pa. He removed to Warren County, and in 1836 he was appointed one of the associate judges of that county. In 1844, he was elected a member of the Assembly of Pennsylvania; and was commissioned a Justice of the Peace, March 8, 1845. He removed to Johnstown, Pa., where he was Director of the State improvements. He was assistant superintendent of the old Alleghany Portage railroad, which ran over the mountains and connected the east and west sections of the old Pennsylvania Canal. He removed with his family, in 1855, to northern Illinois, and thence to Pulaski County, of which county he was an associate justice.

He was prominent in civil, political, and Masonic circles, and for many years a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A

newspaper sketch of him was as follows: "He was ever a firm, consistent observer of truth and justice, and always contributed liberally to charitable objects. For nearly sixty years he was a true and faithful member of the Masonic fraternity, and the large concourse of his brothers, who paid the last sad rites to his memory, gave evidence of the high esteem and regard in which he had lived and died. To his family and friends he leaves a record more lasting than time, more enduring than



OBED EDSON.

marble, simply this: 'An honest man.' In his private life he was kind, considerate, and hospitable, deeply feeling for the woes and afflictions of others. In his public character he was ever found true to the trusts and responsibilities imposed upon him, and fearless in the execution of every duty. Age sat with decent

grace upon him, and worthily became his silver locks; he bore the marks of a life well spent, of virtue, truth, and honor fully tried, and of large and wide experience in all the relations he bore to his family, his kindred, and his friends. Of a truth it can be said to his survivors, and well may we exclaim: 'Weep, ye Fir trees, for the *Cedar* has fallen!'"

778. John Milton, son of Obed 395 and Fanny (Bigelow) Edson, born in the town of Hamilton (since known as Eaton), Madison County, N. Y., on July 30, 1801; married, in the town of Gerry, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on March 6, 1831, Hannah, daughter of Jonathan and Ursula (Church) Alverson, born in the town of Halifax, Windham County, Vt., on June 3, 1804. She died in the village of Sinclairville, town of Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on November 22, 1878, and he in the same place, on August 21, 1885.

Children:

1147. Obed, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on February 18, 1832.

1148. Fanny Ursula, born in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on June 4, 1834.

In the fall of 1810, John Milton Edson was taken, with the other members of the household, by his stepfather, Major Samuel Sinclair, from the town of Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., to the town of Pomfret, Chautauqua County, N. Y., where, at the site of the present village of Sinclairville, they arrived on the 22d of October, and occupied the log house which had been erected for the use of the family. He and Fobes Johnson constructed the first tannery in the town of Gerry, where they also built a grist-mill. On April 18, 1829, the town of Charlotte was taken from the town of Gerry. At the first town meeting held at Charlotte Center, on March 2, 1830, he was chosen for the office of justice of the peace. He served the town as a supervisor in 1852, '53, and '54. When he was a young man, it is said, great interest was shown in the formation of military companies and regiments. "In the regiment organized in the central and eastern portions of the county, he filled most of the regimental offices from lieutenant to colonel, which he received May 22, 1830." Among the offices held by him at different times was that of United States Marshal. On April 17, 1843, he was appointed by his Excellency William C. Bouck, Governor of the

State of New York, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and served until July 1, 1847, when the court as then organized was abolished by the State Constitution of 1846. In politics he was always a Democrat. He was a member and an officer of Sylvan Lodge 303 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in Sinclairville. He resided on a farm near the village.

779. Fanny Aurora, daughter of Obed 395 and Fanny (Bigelow) Edson, born in the town of Hamilton (later Eaton), Madison County, N. Y., on October 27, 1803, married, in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., Horace Potter, on December 9, 1821, born on February 26, 1798.

Children:

- 1149. Horace Sheldon Potter, born on September 21, 1822.
- 1150. Obed Edson Potter, born on June 8, 1826.
- 1151. George Obed Potter, born on March 26, 1828.
- 1152. William Potter, born on March 7, 1832.
- 1153. Charles Potter, born on September 6, 1834.
- 1154. Aurora Fanny Potter, born on July 5, 1836.
- 1155. Viola Bryant Potter, born in Warrenville, Du Page County, Ill., on December 6, 1843.

They resided for a time at Kankakee, Ill.

788. Darwin Noble, son of Doctor Wyllys 400 and Sally (Noble) Edson, born in New Lisbon, Otsego County, N. Y., on March 25, 1809; married, in Unadilla, Otsego County, on June 18, 1833, Hannah, daughter of Clark and Abigail Bliss, born in Newport, R. I., on October 4, 1807. She died in Sidney, Delaware County, N. Y., on December 19, 1882, and he, in the same place, on June 18, 1884.

Children:

- 1156. Willis, born in Hunter, Greene County, N. Y., on April 25, 1834.
- 1157. Clark, born on March 30, 1836.
- 1158. Adelia Mary, } born in Olive, Ulster County, N. Y., on January 7, 1838.
- 1159. William Caley, }
- 1160. Sarah Maria, born in Olive, Ulster County, N. Y., on September 5, 1839.
- 1161. Rufus Palen, born in Olive, Ulster County, N. Y., on September 16, 1842.
- 1162. Edward, born in Olive, Ulster County, N. Y., on September 1, 1843.
- 1163. Curtis Noble, born in Olive, Ulster County, N. Y., on January 20, 1845.
- 1164. William Darwin, born in Wawarsing, Ulster County, N. Y., on October 16, 1840.
- 1165. Elizabeth Spooner, born in Sidney, Delaware County, N. Y., on November 27, 1852.

Clark Edson 1157 died on July 18, 1836. Adelia Mary Edson 1158, unmarried, died in Duluth, Minn., on February 24, 1892. William Caley Edson 1159 died on April 12, 1838. Sarah Maria Edson 1160 died on December 5,

1842. Edward Edson 1162 died on August 12, 1852. Curtis Noble Edson 1163 died on March 11, 1847. Elizabeth Spooner Edson 1165 married Frank Higgins of Allegan, Mich. She died childless.

Darwin Noble Edson 788 was a tanner, and won a number of premiums at the American Institute Fair, in New York City, for his exhibits of excellent leather.

790. Wyllys Fiske, son of Dr. Wyllys 400 and Sally (Noble) Edson, born in New Lisbon, Otsego County, N. Y.; married, in Walton, Delaware County, N. Y., Hannah North. He died in Unadilla, Otsego County, in May, 1871.

Child:

1166. Hannah Cornelia.

Hannah Edson 1166, unmarried, resides in Walton, N. Y.

Wyllys Fiske Edson 790 was a member of the firm of Edson & Hanford, wagon-makers. His will, made at Unadilla, on May 2, 1871, was proved on May 6, 1871.

791. Sally Maria, daughter of Dr. Wyllys 400 and Sally (Noble) Edson, born in New Lisbon, Otsego County, N. Y.; married Robert Savage Hughston.

Children:

1167. Gulian Robert Hughston.

1168. Curtis Edson Hughston.

1169. Isabelle Maule Hughston.

793. William Bostwick, Rev. Dr., son of Dr. Wyllys 400 and Sally (Noble) Edson, born in Unadilla, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 7, 1824; married in New York, N. Y., on January 30, 1859, Isabella, daughter of James and Margaret (Turnbull) Maule, born in Berwick-on-Tweed, Scotland, on July 27, 1831. He died in Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., on December 6, 1892. His widow still resides in Phelps, N. Y. Margaret sprang from the border clan of Turnbull.

Children:

1170. William Noble, born in Forrestville Chautauqua County, N. Y., on May 6, 1862.

1171. Mary J. Holmes, born in Brockport, Monroe County, N. Y., on July 6, 1864.

1172. Julia Isabella (Lillian), born in Brockport, Monroe County, N. Y., on March 14, 1866.

1173. Herbert Wyllys, born in Brockport, Monroe County, N. Y., on January 2, 1868.

Mary J. Holmes 1171 married, on July 5, 1885, Eugene Charles Baeck; child: Eugene Herbert Wyllys, born on July 3, 1886. Julia Isabella 1172 ("Lillian") married on January 28, 1898, Harry Sherwood Hamilton. No children.

The Rev. William Bostwick Edson, S.T.D., 793, having had a preparatory course of education at Oxford Academy, Chenango County, New York, entered Harvard College, from which he was graduated in 1848, and received the degree of Master of Arts, and there he became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. After graduating from the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, N. Y., he was admitted, on July 2, 1854, into the order of Deacons of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in Trinity Church, New York, by the Right Rev. Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright, Provisional Bishop of the diocese of New York. In 1856, he was ordained a priest by the Right Rev. Samuel Allen McCoskry, Bishop of the diocese of Michigan. From 1854 to 1856, he was deacon of, and from 1856 to 1860, rector of, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, N. Y., and of St. Peter's, Forestville, in the same county; from 1860 to 1866, rector of St. Luke's, Brockport, Monroe County, N. Y.; and from 1866 to 1884, rector of the joint parishes of Clifton Springs and Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y. In 1884, the two parishes were divided, and the Rev. Dr. Edson continued rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in Phelps until his decease in 1892. The degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology was conferred upon him by Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., in 1885. In that year he was elected a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science of Philadelphia, Pa. As Professor of Greek, Hebrew, and Sacred Theology, he was associated with the Delancey Divinity School in Geneva, N. Y., from 1883.



REV. WILLIAM BOSTWICK EDSON, S.T.D.

794. Virgil James, son of Lewis 402 and Orilla (Mead) Edson, born in Danbury, Conn., on January 9, 1800; married ——. He died at Lake Hill, on October 22, 1878, aged seventy-eight years nine months and thirteen days.

Children:

- 1174. Lewis Milton, born October 9, 1821.
- 1175. Eliza Catharine, born October 15, 1822.
- 1176. Lewis Gilver, born July 15, 1824.
- 1177. Admiral Warren, born June 24, 1826.
- 1178. Jacob Peter, born May 23, 1828.
- 1179. Albert Clinton, born September 13, 1830.
- 1180. John Wesley, born July 7, 1834.

Lewis Milton 1174 died on December 18, 1821. Eliza C. 1175 married — Harder, and lived in Cairo, Greene County, N. Y., and died in December, 1868. Lewis Gilver 1176 died on April 24, 1849. Admiral Warren 1177 died on December 24, 1844. Jacob Peter 1178 died on December 15, 1849. Albert Clinton 1179 died on January 11, 1850.

799. Marmont Bryan, son of William Jarvis 405 and Polly (Fairchild) Edson, born at Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 12, 1813; married in Oswego, Oswego County, N. Y., on October 7, 1841, by the Rev. John McCarty of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Margaret Barbara, daughter of Jacob Nicholas and Gertrude (Ring) Bonesteel,¹ born at Clermont, Columbia County, N. Y., on March 27, 1819. He died at Hotel Lincoln,

¹ THE BONESTEEL FAMILY.

Nicholas Bonesteel, with his wife, Anna Margretha Kuhns, and several children, settled in that part of Dutchess County, N. Y., now known as the town of Red Hook. The name of Nicholas Bonesteel appears on a list of the taxable inhabitants of the North Ward of the county in 1723, where, it is said, he held by life-leave a farm, bounded northerly by the road leading to Barrytown, easterly by the post road, southerly by the Benner farm, and westerly by the Hans Waldorph farm. A part of the site of the village of Red Hook is on the eastern section of the farm.

Among the number of their descendants were: Nicholas, son of Philip and Elizabeth (Hagedorn) Bonesteel, born in Dutchess County, N. Y., on November 21, 1753; married Margaret Staats, and settled on a farm lying along the post road, between the one hundred and second and one hundred and third milestones; the homestead being owned, in 1881, by Samuel Ten Broeck.

Children:

Philip Nicholas Bonesteel, John Nicholas Bonesteel, Jacob Nicholas Bonesteel, born in Dutchess County, N. Y., on June 1, 1794; and Henry Nicholas Bonesteel.

Philip Nicholas Bonesteel married Alida Van Bramer, and had three children: Virgil D., Margaret, and Catharine Harmena. He was a merchant, magistrate, and postmaster in the village of Red Hook for many years; was colonel of a

corner of Broadway and 52d Street, New York, N. Y., on April 2, 1892.

Children :

- 1181. Jarvis Bonesteel, born in Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin Territory, on April 30, 1845.
- 1182. Henry Augustus, born in Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin Territory, on April 9, 1847.
- 1183. Mary Gertrude, born in Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin, on November 17, 1849.
- 1184. Tracy John, born in Decatur, Green County, Wisconsin, on May 26, 1854.
- 1185. Fanny Fairchild, born in Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wis., on April 16, 1859.

Henry Augustus Edson 1182 died in Brooklyn, N. Y., on September 9, 1870, and Tracy John Edson 1184, in Decatur, Green County, Wisconsin, on September 4, 1855. Fanny Fairchild Edson 1185 married, in Brooklyn, N. Y., on February 7, 1884, Edward Maxwell Reid. She died on December 13, 1885. Their remains are entombed in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y.

807. Mary, daughter of John 413 and Mary (Bass) Edson, born in Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on January 21, 1829; married there, on September 7, 1853, Oliver Edwards Cushing, son of Stephen and Ethelinda (Edwards) Cushing, born in Lowell, Middlesex County, Mass., on March 12, 1829. He died there, on January 17, 1890; and the widow is living there.

Children :

- 1186. Mary Cushing, born in Lowell, Mass., on January 1, 1855.
- 1187. Margaret D. Cushing, born in Lowell, Mass., on July 23, 1857.
- 1188. Angeline Cushing, born in Lowell, Mass., on August 5, 1860.

regiment of cavalry, and for a number of years was a trustee of Hartwick Seminary, in Otsego County, N. Y.

John Nicholas Bonesteel married Anna Maria Elseffer, and had three children: David Nicholas, Margaret E., and Catharine A

Jacob Nicholas Bonesteel, born in Dutchess County, N. Y., on June 1, 1794, married, in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, on January 28, 1816, Gertrude, daughter of Captain Jacob Ring, of Dutchess County, born there on February 9, 1797. She died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory, on November 25, 1843, and he also there on June 26, 1844. Children: William J.; Margaret Barbara, born at Clermont, Columbia County, N. Y., on March 27, 1819, and married, in Oswego, Oswego County, N. Y., on October 7, 1841, Marmont Bryan, son of William Jarvis and Polly (Fairchild) Edson, born at Fly Creek, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 12, 1813; John N., Augustus D.; Mary Gertrude; Henry E.; Fanny A.; and Jacob Peter.

Henry Nicholas Bonesteel married Helen Miller and had five children: Philip H., Peter, Delia Eliza (wife of Jacob W. Elseffer, Esq.), Catharine Augusta, (widow of John Christese, of Minneapolis, Minn.), and Helen Louisa (wife of Rensselaer Platner, M.D., of Clermont, N. Y.)

Mary 1186 married, in Lowell, Mass., on October 2, 1878, Martin Ellsworth Hall, then a lieutenant in the United States Navy, now a commander, retired on account of ill health. Children: Margaret Woodburn, born in Pensacola, Fla., on December 22, 1879; Annie Louise, born also there on January 15, 1881; Wolcott Ellsworth, born in Newport, Rhode Island, on January 3, 1884; and Olive Cushing, born also there, on May 29, 1901. Margaret D. 1187 married in Lowell, Mass., on April 4, 1883, Edward T. Abbott, who died there on September 14, 1895. Children: Daisy Odiorne, born in Lowell, Mass., on January 13, 1885; Elizabeth Grace, born also there on May 24, 1887; and Gertrude Cushing, also there, on February 17, 1889.

Oliver Edwards Cushing 807 was graduated at Exeter Academy, in Andover, Mass., in 1848; studied civil engineering and successfully pursued it for a time as a profession; he engaged in gas engineering, in which he became eminent. He was one of the founders of the New England Association of Gas Engineers and the American Gas Light Association. From 1860, to his decease in 1890, he was the agent of the Lowell Gas Light Company.

809. Samuel (Rev.), son of John 413 and Mary (Bass) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on March 28, 1835; married, in Delphi, Ind., on September 19, 1865, Mary Miranda, daughter of John and Susan (Lyon) Burr, born there on July 31, 1844. She died in Shrewsbury Parish, Kent County, Md., on February 13, 1898.

Children:

- 1189. Mira Burr, born in Galena, Ill., on August 27, 1866.
- 1190. John LeBecter, born in Galena, Ill., on November 17, 1867.
- 1191. Samuel, born in Galena, Ill.
- 1192. Theodore, born in Galena, Ill.
- 1193. William, born in Galena, Ill.
- 1194. Susan, born in Navesink, New Jersey, on April 28, 1880.
- 1195. Herbert Gladstone, born in Navesink, N. J., on February 2, 1882.
- 1196. Mary, born in Newton, N. J., on April 13, 1888.

Mira Burr 1189 a graduate of St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. J., is a teacher in the Department of Design, at School of Industrial Art, at Trenton, N. J.

The Rev. Samuel Edson was graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., in 1855. In 1856, he went to Milwaukee, Wis., studied law, and was admitted to the bar. In 1860, he entered the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, N. Y., and two years later was ordained a priest by the Right Rev. George Upfold, Bishop of Indiana. His first charge was in Crawfordsville, Ind. He was a trustee of Griswold College, at Davenport, Iowa. At present time he is

* rector of Shrewsbury Parish, Locust Grove, Kent County, Md., and St. Andrew's Parish, Galena, Kent County, Md.

811. Theodore, son of John 413 and Mary (Bass) Edson, born in Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on March 23, 1839; married, in Rock Island, Ill., on June 17, 1869, Susan M., daughter of Charles and Lucy (Duke) Buford, born in Scott County, Ky., on July 20, 1846. He died in Rock Island, Ill., on November 16, 1870.

Child:

1197. Agatha Buford, born at West Point, N. Y., on June 4, 1870.

Agatha Buford Edson 1197 married, in Rock Island, on December 14, 1893, Lieutenant Lloyd H. Chandler, U. S. N. Child: Theodore.

The military history of Major Theodore Edson 811 of the United States Army begins with his cadetship at the United States Military Academy, at West Point, N. Y., from July 1, 1855, to July 1, 1860. Upon his graduation, he was promoted to the position of Brevet Second Lieutenant of Ordnance, July, 1860. Served as Assistant Ordnance Officer, at Watertown, Mass., from October 18, 1860; Second Lieutenant of Ordnance, from April 22, 1861, to November 17, 1861. As First Lieutenant of Ordnance, in command of Louisville Ordnance Depot, Kentucky, from November 21, 1861, to October 24, 1862; as Chief of Ordnance in Major-General Rosecrans's Tennessee campaign, from October 24, 1862, to January 28, 1863, being present at the battle of Stone River, on December 31, 1862; made a Brevet Captain on December 31, 1862, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Stone River, Tennessee. In command of Cincinnati Ordnance Depot, from February 1 to July, 1863; on foundry duty, at Cold Spring, N. Y., from July to October, 1863; made Captain of Ordnance on March 3, 1863; in command of Fortress Monroe Arsenal, Virginia, from October 21, 1863, to June 14, 1865, being Chief of Ordnance Department of Virginia and North Carolina from January 1, 1864, to June 16, 1865. Made Brevet Major, on March 13, 1865, for faithful and meritorious services in the Ordnance Department. As Inspector of Powder, from June 14, 1865, to October 20, 1866; as Assistant Ordnance Officer at Allegheny Arsenal, Pa., from October 20, 1866, to June 4, 1867; and at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., from June 4, 1867, to July 7, 1869. Made Major of Ordnance on December 15, 1867. In command of Columbus Arsenal, from

July 7, 1869, to August 1, 1869; at West Point, N. Y., as a member of the Academic Board, and Instructor of Ordnance and Gunnery, from August 1, 1869. While visiting, with his wife and daughter, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles Buford, in Rock Island, Ill., he died of peritonitis, on November 16, 1870. He was buried there with military honors.

812. Josiah, son of John 413 and Mary (Bass) Edson, born in the town of Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on September 17, 1841; married, on December 16, 1901, Rosabelle S. Rider. He is in business in Chicago.

815. George F., son of Charles P. 426 and Amy Caroline (Fox) Edson, born in Brimfield, Portage County, Ohio, on July 28, 1829; married, in Van Wert, Ohio, on March 29, 1857, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Phœbe (Dull) Slater, born on February 7, 1840, in Van Wert, Ohio. He died in Van Wert, on December 5, 1893, in his sixty-third year, and she also there on January 7, 1898, in her fifty-eighth year. Their remains were interred in Woodland Cemetery, in Van Wert.

Children:

1198. Frank Perkins, born in Van Wert, O., on April 22, 1858.

1199. Emma Caroline, born in Van Wert, O., on March 19, 1860.

Emma Caroline Edson 1199 died in Van Wert on April 13, 1899, and her body was buried in Woodland Cemetery.

825. Clarissa, daughter of Ophir 430 and Clarissa (Shurtliff) Edson, born in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on August 11, 1813; married there, on January 1, 1835, Luke, son of Phineas and Jerusha (Marsh) White, born in Springfield, Vt., on May 24, 1800. She died in Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., on March 26, 1849. He died on July 30, 1873.

Children:

1200. Clarissa Ellen White.

1201. Mary Melissa White.

1202. Albert Edson White, born on May 24, 1841.

1203. Sarah E. White.

Albert Edson White 1202, died on October 12, 1873.

Luke White 825 removed to Rockingham, Vt., with his father when about thirteen years of age, living on a farm formerly owned by his grandfather, Josiah White. After his marriage he and his brother William bought it from their father, and lived in the brick house now standing on the place.

826. Othniel Williams, son of Ophir 430 and Soviah (Wil-

liams) Edson, born in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on January 7, 1818, married (1st), in Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., on September 6, 1842, Martha Adeline, daughter of Elias and Susan (Lane) Pulsipher, born in Rockingham. She died in Troy, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on May 28, 1859, and her remains were interred in Albany Rural Cemetery. He married (2d) in Troy, N. Y., on October 2, 1860, Elizabeth L., daughter of George Andrews. He died in Albany, N. Y., on March 5, 1861.

Children by first wife:

1204. Catharine Zada, born in Troy, N. Y., on July 17, 1843.

1205. Starks, born in Chester, Vt., on August 15, 1848.

Child by second wife:

1206. Florence, born in Troy, N. Y., on August 29, 1861.

Catharine Zada 1204 married, in New York, N. Y., on April 19, 1871, Francis A., son of James W. and Abby (Ferris) Davis, of Boston, Mass. He died in Boston, in 1896, and she in Newton, Mass., on January 29, 1898, childless. Their remains are entombed in Forest Hill Cemetery, Boston, Mass. Starks 1205 married at Saxtons River, town of Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., on May 18, 1870, Nellie Sophia, daughter of Stephen and Abbie (Russell) Childs. They were childless. Florence 1206 died in childhood, and was buried in Albany Rural Cemetery.

828. Cyrus, son of Ophir 430 and Soviah (Williams) Edson, born in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on October 14, 1820, married, in Troy, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on October 22, 1846, Martha Davidson Nelson, daughter of John D. and Anna Maria (Orr) Nelson. He died in Albany, N. Y., on May 15, 1856, and was buried in Albany Rural Cemetery.

Children:

1207. Anna, born in Albany, N. Y., on December 17, 1847.

1208. John Tracey, born in Albany, N. Y., on February 15, 1850.

1209. Julia Orr, born in Albany, N. Y., on August 29, 1851.

Anna 1207 married, in St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, in Albany, N. Y., on April 12, 1871, John L., son of Admiral John L. and Olivia Worden. She died in Albany, N. Y., on February 5, 1872, and was buried in Albany Rural Cemetery. He died on May 4, 1873. No offspring.

830. Alexander, son of Ophir 430 and Soviah (Williams) Edson, born in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on July 31, 1827, married, in Sandlake, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on September 17, 1850, Elizabeth, daughter of Charles and Fanny Frothingham. He died in New York, N. Y., on January 23, 1868, and was buried in Albany Rural Cemetery. She died in New York, N. Y., on February 23, 1901, and was buried in Richmond Hill Cemetery, L. I.

Children:

1210. Chauncey Crapo, born in New York, N. Y., on July 25, 1851.
 1211. Alexander, born in New York, N. Y., on February 19, 1853.
 1212. Fanny Frothingham, born in New York, N. Y., on August 29, 1861.
 Alexander 1211 married, in New York, N. Y., on September 12, 1882, Abbie Marie, daughter of John and Fanny (Marston) Maccaffil. No children.

Alexander Edson 830, the father, a resident of New York, N. Y., from 1855 to 1868, made his will on October 3, 1867, which was probated on June 4, 1868.

831. Melinda Dorcas, daughter of Ophir 430 and Soviah (Williams) Edson, born in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on April 10, 1829, married there, in 1850, Hiram E., son of Mark W. Adams, of Rockingham, Vt. She died in Burlington, Vt.

Children:

1213. Frank E. Adams.
 1214. Mark W. Adams.
 1215. Edson Adams.

832. Franklin, son of Ophir 430 and Soviah (Williams) Edson, born in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on April 5, 1832, married, in St. Peter's Church, Albany, N. Y., by the Rev. — Pitkin, D.D., on November 19, 1856, Fanny Cameron Wood, daughter of Benjamin Howland and Helen Ann (Townsend) Wood, born in Bath, Steuben County, N. Y., on March 21, 1835. She died at Fordham Heights, New York City, N. Y., on June 1, 1893, and her remains were interred in Albany Rural Cemetery. He was Mayor of New York City, by election in November, 1882.

Children:

1216. Cyrus, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on September 8, 1857.
 1217. Franklin, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on September 20, 1859.
 1218. David Orr, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on February 17, 1862.
 1219. Henry Townsend, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on August 13, 1864.
 1220. Edith, born in Fordham Heights, N. Y., on October 17, 1870.
 1221. Robert Stewart, born in Fordham Heights, N. Y., on February 5, 1873.
 1222. Ethel Townsend, born in Fordham Heights, N. Y., on August 26, 1877.

Ethel Townsend Edson 1222 married, in St. Bartholemew's Protestant Episcopal Church, New York, N. Y., on June 5, 1902, Arthur Hoffman, son of Charles Holmes and Amelia Chesterman (Henry) Van Brunt, born in New York, N. Y., on June 23, 1865

834. Abigail, daughter of Ophir 430 and Soviah (Williams) Edson, born in Rockingham, Windham County, Vt., on November 23, 1836, married, in Chester, Windsor County, Vt., on November 28, 1860, John H. Coon.

Children:

1223. Edson Coon, born in Troy, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on December 9, 1863.
1224. John H. Coon, born in Troy, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on December 31, 1866.
1225. Albert Edson Coon, born in Troy, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on October 29, 1869.
1226. George Othniel Coon, born in Brooklyn, Kings County, N. Y., on December 1, 1871.
1227. Julia Abigail Coon, born in Brooklyn, Kings County, N. Y., on July 14, 1874.

Edson Coon 1223 died in Troy, N. Y., on January 31, 1866.

838. Hannah Whitman, daughter of Ezra 460 and Angelina (Washburn) Edson, born in Mendon, Rutland County, Vt., on July 26, 1845, married, on October 9, 1866, Marquis Edson Tenney.

Children:

1228. Angie Tryphena Tenney, born in Pittsfield, Vt., on June 22, 1870.
1229. Abbie Elisabeth Tenney, born in Pittsfield, Vt., on October 29, 1876.

840. Charles Edwin, son of Galen Kingman 461 and Lucy (Hudson) Edson, born in Rutland, Rutland County, Vt., on September 6, 1839, married, in Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., on September 20, 1864, Martha Eliza, daughter of Ward and Eliza (Trimbell) Beckley, born in Bergen, Genesee County, N. Y., on October 26, 1840.

Children:

1230. Archie Galen, born in Stafford, Genesee County, N. Y., on December 21, 1865.
1231. Frank Clayton, born in Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., on August 26, 1868.
1232. Charles Leland, born in Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., on April 18, 1870.
1233. Hattie Lucy, born in Blue Rapids, Kan., on April 14, 1872.

Charles Edwin Edson 840 went with his parents to Le Roy, town of Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., in 1842, where he received a common school education. In 1870, with a colony of one hundred people, he went to Blue Rapids, Kan., where he lived five years, and then returned to Le Roy.

844. Alondo B., son of Otis Hudson 462 and Ann (Berry) Edson, born in the town of Whitehall, Washington County, N. Y., on December 31, 1844, married (1st), April 11, 1870, Mary E. Westcott of Pittsford, Rutland County, Vt. She died on May 6, 1881. He married (2d), on May 15, 1883, Nellie, daughter of Alvin and Sarah (Bucklin) Lord, born in the town of Mount Holly, Rutland County, Vt., on July 3, 1856.

Child by first wife:

1234. Harry L., born on August 5, 1871.

Children by second wife:

1235. Walter H., born in Rutland, Rutland County, Vt., on May 21, 1885.

1236. Lucia E., born in Rutland, Rutland County, Vt., on May 19, 1887.

1237. Otis A., born in Rutland, Rutland County, Vt., on May 7, 1890.

The family reside at No. 50 Church Street, Rutland, Vt.

850. Barzillai, son of Nehemiah Shaw 481 and Parnel Edson, born on August 20, 1818, married Ann ———.

Children:

1238. Eugene.

1239. Henry.

1240. Charles.

On June 13, 1878, Barzillai Edson 850 of the town of Oneonta, Otsego County, N. Y., made his will at his homestead on Ford Avenue, in the village of Oneonta, which was proved on September 19, 1879. All the above children are named in the will; also William B., his grandson, son of Eugene 1238.

862. Emily, daughter of David 486 and Clintha or Mehetabel Edson, married, on April 6, 1859, Edward E. Bennett of North Bridgewater. He had married (1st) Nabby Stimpson, who died on July 14, 1858.

Child of Emily:

1241. Edward Bennett, born in North Bridgewater on April 4, 1862.

898. Josiah, son of Barnabas 514 and Elizabeth (Gurney) Edson, born on March 27, 1822, married, on May 1, 1844, Elvirah, daughter of Gibbons Sharp of Middleborough.

Children:

1242. Angeline Augusta, born on September 22, 1845.

1243. Walter Scott, born on May 21, 1848.

1244. Josiah Bradford, born on March 1, 1862.

924. Hiram, son of Calvin 545 and Martha (Dunbar) Edson, born in Oakham, Mass., on November 27, 1804, married, on August 11, 1831, Chloe Moulton of Spencer, born on November 26, 1809. He died in North Brookfield, on July 28, 1882.

Children:

1245. Emily Dunbar, born in North Brookfield on May 12, 1839.

1246. Emily Maria, born in North Brookfield on October 23, 1842.

1247. Mary Ann Susan, born in North Brookfield on July 2, 1845.

1248. Chloe Ellen, born in North Brookfield on June 25, 1848.

Emily Dunbar Edson 1245 died in July, 1840; Mary Ann Susan 1247, on February 14, 1846; and Chloe Ellen 1248 on May 13, 1854.

Hiram Edson 924 was a Representative in the Massachusetts

Legislature from North Brookfield, in 1844, and a selectman of the place.

925. Silas Dunbar, son of Calvin 545 and Martha (Dunbar) Edson, born in Oakham, Mass., on March 3, 1807, married, on November 28, 1833, Sarah Pancoast Saunders of Washington, D.C. He died in Philadelphia, on October 25, 1855.

Children:

1249. William Dunbar, born in Philadelphia, Pa., on September 24, 1834.

1250. Mary Saunders, born in Philadelphia, Pa., on September 4, 1840.

Mary Saunders Edson 1250 married on February 14, 1865, Arthur Miller of Philadelphia, Pa., and died on February 22, 1867.

928. Lavinia, daughter of Calvin 545 and Martha (Dunbar) Edson, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on April 3, 1816, married, on April 7, 1835, Dwight Smith of Hadley, Mass., born on November 9, 1811, and died at Key West, Florida, on February 5, 1868.

Children:

1251. William D. Smith, born in Hadley, Mass., on February 1, 1837.

1252. Ellen Virginia Smith, born in Hadley, Mass., on January 4, 1838.

1253. Laura D. Smith, born in Hadley, Mass., on September 3, 1840.

1254. Mary A. W. Smith, born in Hadley, Mass., on July 1, 1843.

1255. Henry D. Smith, born in Somerville, Mass., on August 6, 1840.

1256. Frederic B. Smith, born in Somerville, Mass., on March 6, 1855.

1257. Charles H. Smith, born in Somerville, Mass., on April 2, 1856.

929. William Fiske, son of Calvin 545 and Martha (Dunbar) Edson, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on December 4, 1818, married, on July 2, 1851, Susan H., daughter of Doctor Gad Hitchcock of Yarmouth, Me., and great-great-granddaughter of General Benjamin Lincoln of Hingham, Mass.

Children:

1258. Alfred Herbert, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on April 4, 1852.

1259. Charles Henry, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on October 28, 1856.

1260. Mary Lincoln, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on September 19, 1859.

937. Seth, son of Galen 569 and Mary Ann (Oliver) Edson, born on April 18, 1828, married Caroline Augusta Blake of Dorchester.

Children:

1261. Samuel Blake, born on January 30, 1854.

1262. Leona Augusta, born on April 12, 1855.

1263. Seth Blake, born on March 30, 1857.

1264. George Temple, born on May 23, 1859.

1265. Mary Caroline, born on December 18, 1860.

1266. Ida Marian, born on November 28, 1863.

Samuel Blake 1261 died on August 23, 1854; George Temple 1264, on August 23, 1861.

Seth Edson 937, the father, in the Civil War enlisted in company F, in the Twelfth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Fletcher Webster.

947. Hiram Allen, son of Amasa 573 and Mary (Edson) Edson, born on February 8, 1839, married, on June 26, 1858, Sarah Jane, daughter of Elias Cook of Guiseborough, N. S.

Child:

1267. Anna Cordelia, born on April 1, 1859.

951. Benjamin (M.D.), son of Freeman Willard 598 and Sally (Sheldon) Edson, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on May 26, 1831, married in Milford, N. Y., on August 18, 1870, Mary, daughter of Simeon and Harriet (Haines) Waters, born in Milford, N. Y.

Child:

1268. Mary Grace, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on July 9, 1871.

Mary Grace Edson 1268 married in Brooklyn, N. Y., on October 19, 1898, William R., son of Robert C. and Jean (Scringeur) Scringeur, born in Brooklyn, on August 12, 1864. Child: Dorothy, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on November 14, 1900.

Benjamin Edson, M.D., 951, of 83 St. Mark's Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., was graduated at the New York University in 1873, and has since been practising medicine, giving special attention to the diseases of children, whereby he has been entitled a "child specialist." He has been a frequent contributor to medical journals, and has assisted in the compilation of several valuable medical works.

952. Henry Sheldon (M.D.), son of Freeman Willard 598 and Sarah (Sheldon) Edson, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on April 9, 1835, married, in Binghamton, Broome County, N. Y., on April 19, 1892, Alta Nettie, daughter of James and Susan (Wait) Terry, born in Otego, Otsego County, N. Y., on January 12, 1870.

Children:

1269. Sarah Ella, born in Cortland, Cortland County, N. Y., on November 2, 1893.

1270. Clara Belle, born in Cortland, Cortland County, N. Y., on September 9, 1896.

1271. Anna Laura, born in Cortland, Cortland County, N. Y., on December 10, 1901.

Henry Sheldon Edson, M.D., 952, was graduated at the Al-

bany Medical College, in February, 1877, and has practised medicine in Cortland, Cortland County, N. Y., since 1879.

964. Isaac C. (M.D.), son of Harley 604 and Phœbe (Heath) Edson, born in the town of Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on July 3, 1823, married there (1st), on September 25, 1841, Lydia A., daughter of Platt and Mary ("Polly") Crofut, born in Colesville, Broome County, N. Y., on April 15, 1822. She died in Cincinnati, Cortland County, N. Y., on December 1, 1845. He married (2d), in Colesville, on October 20, 1851, Sarah, daughter of Gurdon and Laura Knowlton, born there on June 17, 1829.

Children by first wife:

1272. Charles C., born in Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on June 17, 1843.

1273. Ann Lucia, born in Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on June 15, 1845.

Child by second wife:

1274. Ella, born in Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., on January 16, 1861.

Ella Edson 1274 died in Windsor, on February 14, 1879.

When nineteen years old, Isaac C. Edson 964 began the study of medicine, and entered upon his professional career in Cincinnati, Cortland County, N. Y., in 1845, and, in 1846, moved to West Colesville, Broome County, N. Y., and, in 1860, to Windsor, Broome County, where he still practices his profession. In 1861, he was graduated at the Pennsylvania Medical College, in Philadelphia, Pa., and, in 1867, at the Albany Medical College, in Albany, N. Y. He also attended a course of lectures at the New York Polyclinic College. He has been from 1866 a member of the Broome County Medical Society, and, in 1870-71, was the president of it. He represented the town of Windsor for two years in the Board of Supervisors of Broome County, and was coroner for two years. In 1886 and 1887, he was a member of the Assembly of the State of New York. Since 1861 he has been a member of Windsor Lodge No. 442 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

966. Susan, daughter of Timothy 645 and Mary (Downer) Edson, born in Bethel, Windsor County, Vt., on July 15, 1799, married (1st) in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on October 3, 1822, Lund, son of James and Elizabeth (Lund) Tarbox, born there on December 31, 1799. He died in Randolph, on August 23, 1841, and his widow married (2d), on August 3, 1845, Doctor Julius Yemans Dewey, son of Captain Simeon and Prudence (Yemans) Dewey, born in Berlin, Washington County, Vt., on

August 22, 1801, who had first wedded, on June 9, 1825, Mary Perrin, by whom he had Charles, born in Montpelier, Vt., on March 27, 1826. His second marriage was without issue. Susan (Edson) Tarbox Dewey died in Montpelier, on September 11, 1854. Dr. Julius Yemans Dewey married (3d), on March 9, 1855, Susan E. G. Lilley. He died at Montpelier, Vt., May 29, 1877.

Children of Susan Edson Tarbox:

1275. William Lund Tarbox, born in Randolph, on June 21, 1824.

1276. Elizabeth ("Betsey") Tarbox, born in Randolph on May 22, 1829.

William Lund Tarbox 1275 married on October 21, 1847, Charlotte, daughter of Jacob and Charlotte (Hobart) Foster, born in Randolph, on December 29, 1822. He died on June 21, 1849. His widow died at Randolph, November 20, 1902.

Elizabeth (Betsey) Tarbox 1276 married in Montpelier, on May 3, 1848, Charles, son of Doctor Julius Yemans and Mary (Perrin) Dewey, born in Montpelier on March 27, 1826. Children: William Tarbox Dewey, and eight more, most of them living at Montpelier, Vt. William Tarbox Dewey, born September 30, 1852, married, November 9, 1881, Alice Elmore French, born August 7, 1857.

970. John Henry, son of Alvin 651 and Catherine Henley (Soley) Edson, born in the Marine Barracks, in Brooklyn, N. Y., on January 18, 1830, married, in Elizabeth, N. J., on June 8, 1858, Frances Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of General Newman S. and Elizabeth (Durand) Clarke, born in the United States Barracks, in Houlton, Me., on November 1, 1835.

Children:

1277. Frederick Clarke, born in Fort Union, New Mexico, on November 22, 1859.

1278. Catherine Henley, born in Elizabeth, N. J., on August 14, 1864.

1279. Henriette DeWolf, born in Elizabeth, N. J., on November 20, 1867.

1280. Francis, born in Elizabeth, N. J., on February 14, 1869.

1281. Mary Louise, born in Elizabeth, N. J., on August 23, 1871.

1282. Bernardine Russell, born in Elizabeth, N. J., on January 5, 1875.

Catherine Henley Edson 1278 died in Elizabeth, N. J., on November 6, 1871; Henriette DeWolf Edson 1279, on September 6, 1869; and Francis Edson 1280, on September 12, 1869. None of the children have married.

John Henry Edson 970 entered the United States Military Academy, at West Point, N. Y., in 1848, from which he was graduated in 1853. On July 1, 1853, he was assigned as Brevet Second Lieutenant to the regiment then called the Mounted Rifles, now the 3d U. S. Cavalry. After several months' duty at the Cavalry Depot, at Jefferson Barracks, in Missouri, he joined his regiment, and served with it on the Rio Grande frontier of

Texas, and in Arizona and New Mexico. On August 16, 1854, he was made Second Lieutenant, which position he voluntarily resigned on September 1, 1860. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was temporarily connected with the New York Tammany Regiment of Volunteers, and the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry as a Major. On August 27, 1862, when a resident of Montpelier, Vermont, he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of the 10th Regiment of Vermont Volunteers, which he organized, and with which he went to the seat of war. The regiment went into camp at Brattleboro, Vt., on August 15, 1862, and was mustered into the service of the United States on September 1st. It departed on September 6th, going by the way of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington to the front, and on September 8th, arrived at Camp Chase, near Arlington Heights. Prior to the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, in Maryland, the regiment marched to Edward's Ferry, on the Potomac River, at which point the right wing, under Lieutenant-Colonel Edson, did picket duty from the 17th of September to the 11th of October, when the regiment went into camp at the mouth of Seneca Creek. On October 16, 1862, Lieutenant-Colonel Edson resigned, and withdrew from the regiment.

In 1869 and 1870, Colonel John H. Edson was a member of the firm of Parsons & Edson, chemical manufacturers, 542 East 20th Street, New York. From October, 1870, to April, 1879, he held a position in the United States Custom House, in New York City. Since 1860, he has been a resident of Elizabeth, N. J.

971. Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph 656 and Sarah (de Troope) Edson, born in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on April 23, 1804, married the Rev. George H. Williams, born April 13, 1802. She died on January 23, 1850, and he in 1877.

Children:

1283. Mary Williams, born about 1834.

1284. Louisa Williams, born in Pontiac, Mich., on April 4, 1841.

They settled at Pontiac, but the husband was soon called to a chair in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he remained until his death.

972. Sarah, daughter of Joseph 656 and Sarah (de Troope) Edson, born in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on June 2, 1806, married there, on January 8, 1829, Edmund, son of Abner and

Huldah Weston, born in Randolph, on February 18, 1799. She died there on November 20, 1851, and he at West Randolph, on July 14, 1870. After her death, he, the Hon. Judge Weston, married (2d), in 1852, his cousin, Sarah Troope, who died in 1854; and (3d), Amelia, the widow of Dr. Austin Bradford of Virginia. His only children were those born to him by his first wife.

Children:

1285. Edmund Weston, born in West Randolph on February 6, 1830.

1286. Sarah Olivia Weston, born in West Randolph on September 28, 1837.

1287. Mary Elizabeth Weston, born in West Randolph on May 29, 1839.

975. Olivia Chase, daughter of Joseph 656 and Sarah (de Troope) Edson, born in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on January 15, 1824, married, on July 1, 1841, in Pontiac, Mich., the Rev. John A. Wilson, of Baltimore. He died in Ypsilanti, Mich., on May 7, 1883, and she also there on November 12, 1893.

Children:

1288. Mary Clare Wilson, born in Pontiac, Mich., on May 2, 1842.

1289. Henry Spicer Wilson, born in Ypsilanti, Mich., on October 27, 1849.

1290. John A. Wilson, born in Ypsilanti, Mich., on February 23, 1856.

982. Chauncey Parker, son of John Joy 661 and Sarah (Barnes) Edson, born in Aurelius, Cayuga County, N. Y., on April 24, 1817, married, in February, 1834, Rebecca La Rue. He died on January 1, 1841.

Children:

1291. Sarah, born on December 6, 1834.

1292. Mary Jane, born on August 6, 1836.

1293. Harriet, born on June 24, 1838.

Mary Jane 1292 married (1st) John R. Beck, and (2d) Daniel Spencer. Children: Sarah, John, Jacob, Frederick, Walter, Bessie.

The family lived in Charlotte, Mich.

983. Sarah Philena, daughter of John Joy 661 and Sarah (Barnes) Edson, born in Aurelius, Cayuga County, N. Y., on November 5, 1819, "married, but secured a divorce after a few years, because of the unfaithfulness of her husband. He soon married again, after which she took legal measures to have her maiden name restored to her, and to be given also to her children." She died in Washington in 1871.

Children:

1294. John Joy *Edson*, born in Jefferson, O., on May 17, 1846.

1295. Joseph Romanzo *Edson*, born in Jefferson, O., on August 17, 1847.

1296. Sarah Levangia *Edson*, born in Jefferson, O., on June 4, 1849.

Sarah Philena Edson 983 was a woman of marked literary ability, which enabled her to edit for a time a newspaper with distinct success. At the outbreak of the Civil War she volunteered her services to the National Government as a nurse, and made such services not only important and notable in different hospitals in the City of Washington, but also in temporary ones on fields of battle. Her patriotic career as a nurse is interestingly recorded in *Eminent Women of the War*.

985. Susan Ann (M.D.), daughter of John Joy 661 and Sarah (Barnes) Edson, born in Auburn, Cayuga County, N. Y., on June 24, 1823. She died in Washington, D. C., on November 12, 1897, or November 14, 1898. She was graduated, on March 1, 1854, at the Homœopathic College, at Cleveland, Ohio, and established herself as practising physician of that school of medicine in Auburn. At the beginning of the Civil War she volunteered as a nurse, and went to Washington, D. C., where she served in the different army hospitals, and also at Fortress Monroe, and at camp hospitals on the Peninsula. At the close of the war she returned to Auburn and resumed her practice. In 1872, she changed her residence to Washington, D. C., and there gave her professional attention to such calls as the condition of her failing health permitted. When President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau, on July 2, 1881, she was summoned to his bedside, and became a continuous attendant upon the sufferer. Congress voted her three thousand dollars for her services. Previously and subsequently the family employed her as a physician.

997. Daniel Sherod, son of Daniel Sherwood 663 and Dorothy (Pease) Edson, born in Springfield, Mass., on January 2, 1825, married, in Spring Grove, Minnesota, on February 8, 1858, Martha Halverson of Norway.

Children:

1297. Martha Ann, born in Spring Grove on December 13, 1858.

1298. Helen Albina, born in Spring Grove on May 22, 1860.

1299. Rose Ann, born in Spring Grove on February 17, 1862.

1300. Malinda Ann, born in Union, Wis., on May 22, 1864.

1301. Daniel Sherod, born in Little Wolf, Wis., on March 11, 1866.

1302. Mary Elizabeth, born in Little Wolf, Wis., on May 26, 1868.

1303. Oscar Matthias, born in Little Wolf, Wis., on March 6, 1870.

Martha Ann 1297 married, on February 22, 1877, Milan Stedwell, who died on October 8, 1888. Child: Joseph Francis born on September 22, 1888.

Daniel Sherod 1301 died in Little Wolf in 1870. Mary Elizabeth 1302 married, at Hazel, S. D., Louis Hallett. After graduation from Brookings College, S. D., she studied law and was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-two years. She also took a course of oratory, in Boston, Mass. She died in San Francisco on November 1, 1895. Oscar Matthias Edson 1303 married, at Castlewood, S. D., on May 15, 1895, Minnie Karn. He was educated at Brookings College, the State Agricultural College of South Dakota.

Daniel Sherod Edson 997, the father, enlisted on September 4, 1864, in Company E, 5th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers, Captain C. R. Merritt. Having been in a number of battles and skirmishes, he was wounded in both legs in a charge at Petersburg, Va. He was sent to Fort Randall Hospital, in Madison, Wis., where he was honorably discharged on June 8, 1865. In 1880, he removed to South Dakota, taking up one hundred and sixty acres of land given him by the National Government. There he lived until April, 1899, and then removed to Blanchard, Iowa. He has held many official positions, as District Clerk, School Director, Justice of the Peace, and Town Treasurer.

998. Dorothy Ann, daughter of Daniel Sherwood 663 and Dorothy (Pease) Edson, born in Ware, Mass., on October 27, 1826, married, in Huntington, Mass., on June 6, 1853, George W. Lowell of Wacousta, Mich. She died in Wacousta, on March 29, 1896.

Children:

- 1304. Mary H. Lowell, born in Grand Rapids, Mich., on June 2, 1855.
- 1305. Anna G. Lowell, born on March 6, 1857.
- 1306. Thomas J. W. Lowell, born on March 27, 1858.
- 1307. Sarah E. M. Lowell, born on December 23, 1865.
- 1308. George F. Lowell, born on January 30, 1868.

999. Sarah Albina, daughter of Daniel Sherwood 663 and Dorothy (Pease) Edson, born on November 15, 1830, married, in Wacousta, Mich., Calvin J. Covey, a prominent physician of Grand Ledge, Mich., where he died in October, 1896.

Children:

- 1309. Calvin Edson Covey, born in Grand Ledge on July 28, 1859.
- 1310. Dorothy Lucy Covey, born in Grand Ledge on April 23, 1863.
- 1311. Alfred Dale Covey, born in Grand Ledge on June 6, 1869.

1009. Henry, son of Jerah 687 and Sophia (Stiles) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on May 8, 1812, married, in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on September 1, 1835, Clarissa, daughter of Ephraim and Hannah (Sanders) Capron, born in Williamstown, Orange County, on March 1, 1816. She died in

Detroit, Mich., on October 13, 1876, and he in Memphis, Mich., on July 26, 1890.

Children:

1312. Henry L., born in Brookfield, Vt., on July 20, 1839.

1313. Ellen A., born in Brookfield, Vt., on July 31, 1847.

1314. Lucy J., born in Brookfield, Vt., on February 2, 1850.

1011. Electa Pomeroy, daughter of Jerah 687 and Sophia (Stiles) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on May 31, 1816, married there, (1st), on January 1, 1839, Andrew Wheatley Bigelow, son of Seth G. and Lucy (Wheatley) Bigelow, born in Brookfield, Vt., on September 14, 1815. He died there on March 27, 1849. She married (2d) Samuel Milton Bigelow, of East Brookfield, Vt., on October 11, 1854. He died there on October 8, 1855, and she, in Rochester, N. Y., on July 17, 1891.

Children by first husband:

1315. Marcia Sophia Bigelow, born in Brookfield, Vt., on November 5, 1842.

1316. Alice Marian Bigelow, born in Brookfield, Vt., on December 31, 1847.

Marcia married, in Rochester, N. Y., on December 22, 1863, William R. Oatley, who died there on August 12, 1867. Child: Wheatley Tafft, born on June 29, 1867, died August 4, 1867.

1014. Jerah, son of Jerah 687 and Sophia (Stiles) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on June 5, 1825, married Mary Hopkins Wheatley, on July 26, 1848. He died in Brookfield, on January 17, 1884, and she on October 2, 1884.

Children:

1317. Andrew Wheatley, born in Montello, Wis., on December 26, 1851.

1318. Alice Marinda, born in Montello, Wis., on November 24, 1853.

1319. Marcia Louisa, born in Montello, Wis., on May 21, 1858.

1320. Mary Frances, born in Montello, Wis., on October 13, 1860.

1321. Marshall Otto, born in Brookfield, Vt., on May 1, 1865.

Marcia Louisa 1319 died October 29, 1861; and Mary Frances 1320 died in Brookfield, Vt., on August 13, 1871.

Jerah Edson 1014 lived in Montello, Wis., from 1849 to 1863, where he held the office of Register of Deeds and Town Clerk. In 1863, he moved to Brookfield, Vt., where he resided on his old home farm until his death. He was a deacon of the Second Congregational Church.

1025. Martha Ann, daughter of Harris 688 and Emily (Thacher) Edson, born on May 19, 1843, married, on October 8, 1867, Freeman Adkins Crafts of Whately, Franklin County, Mass.

Children:

1322. Charles Edson Crafts, born on July 14, 1869.

1323. Katharine Electa Crafts, born on May 22, 1871.

Charles Edson Crafts 1322 married Margaret Hedrick of Hammonton, N. J. Child: Edson Lindsay, born on August 15, 1899. Katharine Electa 1323 married George F. Pease of Whately, on September 15, 1897.

1042. Charles Henry, son of Henry 732 and Mary Alice (Stetson) Edson, born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on September 3, 1848, married there, on December 24, 1879, Mary Melinda, daughter of Hon. Benjamin W. and Julia A. (Orr) Harris, born in Boston, Mass., on February 10, 1852. They reside in Whitman, Mass.

Children:

1324. Julia Harris, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on March 10, 1881.

1325. Margaret Orr, born in Whitman, Mass., on January 1, 1888.

Charles Henry Edson studied law in East Bridgewater with the Hon. William H. Osborne, and in the Columbian Law School, Washington, D. C. He was admitted to the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, on October 27, 1879, and to practise in the courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at Plymouth, on February 4, 1889. As an attorney and counsellor-at-law his office is at No. 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass.; his home office being at Whitman.

1044. Mary Alice, daughter of Henry 732 and Mary Alice (Stetson) Edson, born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Mass., on December 1, 1855, married there, on April 9, 1874, Walter Curtis, son of Orra P. Winslow and Minot C. Shaw, born in East Bridgewater, on August 9, 1852.

Children:

1326. Richard Edson Shaw, born in East Bridgewater, Mass., on September 8, 1885.

1327. Florence Winslow Shaw, born on November 15, 1890.

1328. Marjorie Shaw, born on October 27, 1893.

1084. Azelia, daughter of Oliver Stewart 750 and Henrietta (Alden) Edson, born in Dane County, Wis., on February 12, 1847, married, in Blairstown, Benton County, Iowa., on December 31, 1873, William C. Henry.

Children:

1329. Alden Edson Henry, born in Wilber, Saline County, Neb., on June 29, 1877.

1330. Margaret Edith Henry, born in Wilber, Saline County, Neb., on June 6, 1879.

1331. Gladys Henry, born in Pawnee City, Pawnee County, Neb., on December 18, 1881.

William C. Henry 1084 served with distinction in the 7th Kansas Cavalry Regiment, and was brevetted Captain for gallant action during the Civil War.

1086. Emergene, daughter of Oliver Stewart 750 and Henrietta (Alden) Edson, born in Dane County, Wis., on January 6, 1851, married, in Blairstown, Benton County, Iowa, on January 19, 1871, James H. Henry, born in Michigan, in November, 1845.

Children:

1332. William Edson Henry, born in Blairstown, Benton County, Ia., on December 29, 1871.
 1333. Elizabeth E. Henry, born in Walnut, Pottawattomie County, Ia., on January 11, 1879.
 1334. Joseph E. Henry, born in Walnut, Pottawattamie County, Ia., on March 5, 1886.

1087. Rowena, daughter of Oliver Stewart 750 and Henrietta (Alden) Edson, born in Dane County, Wis., on April 25, 1852, married, in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, in August, 1876, John Loomis Stevens.

Children:

1335. Olive Stevens, born in the town of Ames, Story County, Ia., on October 20, 1877.
 1336. Genevieve Stevens, born in the town of Ames, Story County, Ia., on May 9, 1881.
 1337. Edith Stevens, born in the town of Ames, Story County, Ia., on July 4, 1883.
 1338. Imogene Stevens, born in the town of Ames, Story County, Ia., on March 19, 1885.
 1339. John Edson Stevens, born in the town of Ames, Story County, Ia., on December 24, 1887.
 1340. Thaddeus Stevens, born in the town of Ames, Story County, Ia., on November 21, 1889.

1089. James Bassett, son of Oliver Stewart 750 and Henrietta (Alden) Edson, born in Dane County, Wis., on September 5, 1855, married, in Wilber, Saline County, Neb., on October 31, 1877, Emma, daughter of John and Catherine (Williams) Thomas, born in the town of Stanton, Goodhue County, Minnesota, on February 26, 1858.

Children:

1341. James Oliver, born in the town of Wilber, Saline County, Neb., on September 9, 1878.
 1342. William Henry, born in the town of Wilber, Saline County, Neb., on December 13, 1879.
 1343. Charles Leroy, born in the town of Wilber, Saline County, Neb., on September 6, 1881.

1344. George Thomas, born in the town of Marcus, Cherokee County, Ja., on January 2, 1884.
1345. Frederic K., born in the town of Cuba, Republic County, Kan., on March 10, 1886.
1346. Henrietta Alden, born in the town of Cuba, Republic County, Kan., on December 30, 1888.
1347. Albert Borchers, born in the city of Sacramento, Sacramento County, Cal., on December 23, 1892.

James Bassett Edson 1089, the father, removed from Wisconsin, in 1875, to Nebraska, thence, in 1883, to Iowa, and thence, in 1885, to Kansas. In 1886, he was defeated in his candidacy for the Kansas State Legislature, on the Democratic ticket. In 1892, he accepted the position of General Manager of the Central Electric Railway Company, in Sacramento, Cal.

1098. Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Gamaliel 757 and Hannah (Boylan) Edson, born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on July 4, 1827, married there, on July 18, 1851, Ancil Foster. He died in Monroe, Ill., on September 10, 1867, and she in Rockford, Winnebago County, Ill., on August 10, 1880.

Child:

1348. Emerson Foster, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on June 12, 1854.

1099. Alonzo James, M.D., son of Gamaliel 757 and Hannah (Boylan) Edson, born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on April 7, 1830, married (1st), in Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on October 4, 1849, Cornelia E. Howe. She died in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 25, 1862. He married (2d), in Rockford, Winnebago County, Ill., on January 2, 1865, Mercy May Banks, born in Canada, on January 17, 1837.

Children by second wife:

1349. Curtis G., } born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on September 10, 1866.
1350. Burtis S., }
1351. George Alonzo, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on October 4, 1868.
1352. Catharine May, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on January 24, 1871.
- Catharine May 1352 married in Rockford, Ill., on January 20, 1892, Gilbert M. Thompson, born in Kemptville, Ontario County, Canada, on April 27, 1868.

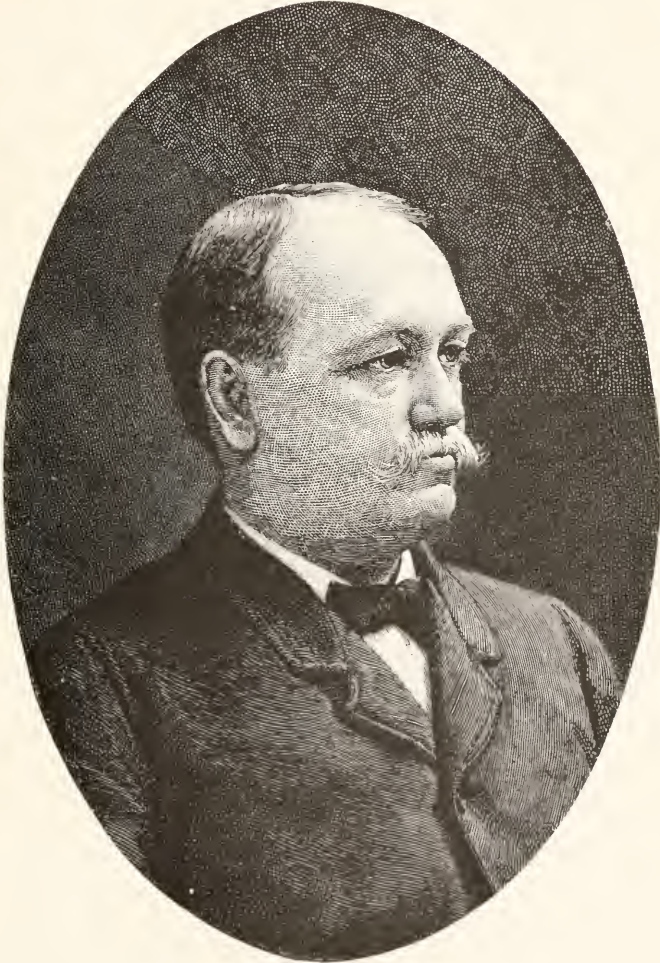
Doctor Alonzo James Edson 1099 removed to Ogle County, Ill., in 1857. His present residence is 327 East State Street, Rockford, Ill.

1100. Maryette Genette, daughter of Gamaliel 757 and Hannah (Boylan) Edson, born in Elba, Genesee County, N. Y., on March 22, 1832, married, in Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y.,

on August 7, 1848, Cyrus C. Hosmer. She died in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on August 14, 1886, and he in Rockford, Ill., on November 4, 1891.

Children:

1353. Rosina Malvina Hosmer, born in Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on October 2, 1853.



JAMES LAFAYETTE EDSON

1354. Alonzo James Hosmer, born in Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on May 12, 1850.

1355. Hattie Cornelia Hosmer, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on August 10, 1859.

1356. Emma C. Hosmer, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on January 15, 18—.
 1357. Albert Edson Hosmer, born in Rockford, Ill., on October 12, 1865.

Rosina Malvina 1353 married on March 21, 1879, Charles Buckland. She died in Byron, Genesee County, N. Y., on May 17, 1896. Hattie Cornelia 1355 married in Rockford, Ill., on January 25, 1883, Theodore C. Johnson. Emma C. 1356 died on October 7, 1872. Albert Edson 1357 married on February 11, 1886, Hannah Martin.

1102. James LaFayette, son of Lewis Morgan 759 and Sarah Ames (Flint) Edson, born in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, N. Y., on July 31, 1834, married, in Detroit, Mich., on August 17, 1857, Julia, daughter of Dennis and Honorah Collins. He died in Detroit, Mich., on August 25, 1895, and she, at Oak Grove Sanitarium, Flint, Michigan. Their bodies are buried in Mount Elliott Cemetery, Detroit.

Children:

1358. Mary Elizabeth, born in Detroit, Mich., on May 5, 1859.

1359. Mary Ames, born in Detroit, Mich., on August 5, 1860.

1360. Ella Elizabeth, born in Detroit, Mich., on September 15, 1862.

1361. James LaFayette, born in Detroit, Mich., on May 10, 1866.

1362. Lilian Emmons, born on October 24, 1868.

1363. Louis LaFayette, born on December 23, 1874.

Mary Elizabeth Edson 1358 was buried in Detroit, Mich., on August 7, 1859. Ella Elizabeth 1360 married, in Detroit, on November 26, 1885, Edward T. Adams. She was educated at academies of the "Sacred Heart," at Detroit, and in Manhattanville, N. Y., at which latter convent she was graduated in June, 1881. Rarely gifted in a musical and literary way she won the admiration of her companions and their hearts by her happy disposition. She died on July 13, 1886. James LaFayette Edson 1361 died in Detroit on May 31, 1866. Lilian Emmons Edson 1362 married, on June 24, 1896, Frank Conger Baldwin, of Detroit, Mich. She was graduated from the Academy of the "Sacred Heart," Manhattanville, N. Y., on June 24, 1886. Louis LaFayette Edson 1363 was buried in Detroit on June 21, 1876.

1107. Edwin Homer, son of Barnabas Hall 760 and Julia Maria (Ames) Edson, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on January 29, 1839, married, on December 28, 1863, Carrie L. McCullough. He died on February 18, 1878.

Children:

1364. Grant W., born on October 27, 1865.

1365. Clinton H., born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on December 29, 1867.

1366. Hattie, born on July 4, 1873.

1367. Edwin, born on August 26, 1878.

Grant W. Edson 1364 married Bernice Strong in March, 1895; Hattie Edson 1366 married Lucius Mathewson in April, 1894.

1108. Lois Maria, daughter of Barnabas Hall 760 and Julia Maria (Ames) Edson, born in Charlotte, Chautauqua County,

N. Y., on January 30, 1843, married, on October 1, 1865, Nelson A. Mansfield.

Children:

- 1368. May Mansfield, born in Charlotte, N. Y., on October 10, 1867.
- 1369. Anna Mansfield, born on November 6, 1869.
- 1370. Julia O. Mansfield, born on October 27, 1871.
- 1371. Alta Mansfield, born on March 23, 1874.
- 1372. Sheldon Mansfield, born on October 30, 1876.
- 1373. Frank W. Mansfield, born on June 26, 1878.
- 1374. Clayton N. Mansfield, born on May 25, 1880.

May married on August 28, 1889, John W. Hooker. Anna married, on February 17, 1889, Delbart W. Penhollow. Julia O. died in 1873. Alta married, on December 25, 1894, Charles G. Ruttenbur. Sheldon married on November 18, 1897, Elsie Stewart.

Mrs. Nelson A. Mansfield 1108 lives at Forestville, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.

1114. George W., son of Cyrenus Chapin 761 and Huldah (Nichols) Edson, born in Eagle, Allegany County, N. Y., on September 6, 1843, married, in Lyons, Ohio, on January 10, 1869, Adelaide, daughter of Colonel W. H. and Emeline (Richardson) Drew.

Child:

- 1375. Mabel Drew, born in Detroit, Mich., on July 8, 1878.

Mabel D. was graduated at the "Liggett School," on June 5, 1900.

George W. Edson served with the 74th Regiment N. Y. S. Volunteers. He was with the Seventh Division Construction Corps at Chattanooga, Tenn. He lives at Detroit, Mich., and is of the firm of Edson, Moore, & Co.

1143. John Milton, son of Obed 777 and Sarah (Scott) Edson, born in Warren County, Pa., October 12, 1832. He removed to Johnstown, with his parents, about 1848. He married, December 7, 1857, at McHenry, Ill., Elizabeth M. Swails.

Children:

- 1375 A. John Milton.
- 1375 B. Willis Scott.
- 1375 C. Daughter.

John Milton, Jr., 1375 A, is with the Armour Company, Chicago. Willis S. 1375 B is on the editorial staff of the A. N. Kellogg Newspaper Company. The daughter is Mrs. H. H. Hammond, of Syracuse, N. Y.

John M. 1143 attended a select school at Johnstown, Pa., and the academy in Indiana County. He entered the office of the *Alleghany Mountain Echo* as an assistant, and was employed on Chicago daily newspapers for three years; edited and pub-

lished newspapers in Illinois, in Du Page, McHenry, De Witt, and Henry, Counties. In 1867, he returned to Chicago, and engaged with A. N. Kellogg, as the first editor employed by him in his newspaper auxiliary enterprise, and has remained in that enterprise ever since, and is editor in chief.

1147. Obed, son of John Milton 778 and Hannah (Alverson) Edson, born in Sinclairville, town of Charlotte, Chautauqua



JOHN MILTON EDSON, 1832-19 . .

County, N. Y., on February 18, 1832, married there, on May 11, 1859, Emily Amelia, daughter of Caleb J. and Emily (Haley) Allen, born in New London, Conn., on November 27, 1835. She died in Sinclairville, on March 1, 1899.

Children:

- 1376. Fanny Allen, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on April 28, 1860.
- 1377. John Milton, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on September 29, 1861.
- 1378. Samuel Allen, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on September 15, 1863.
- 1379. Mary Ursula, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on September 11, 1865.
- 1380. Hannah, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on February 15, 1869.
- 1381. Walter Henry, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on January 8, 1874.
- 1382. Ellen Emily, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on April 21, 1875.
- 1383. Allen Obed, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on September 3, 1880.

Samuel Allen 1378 died in Sinclairville on November 16, 1872; Mary Ursula 1379, on November 27, 1872; Hannah 1380 on December 10, 1881.

Walter Henry 1381, the third son, married in Shunla, town of Pomfret, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on June 27, 1899, Florilla Belle, daughter of Francis Drake and Martha Isabel (Groven) Clark, born in Fredonia, Chautauqua County, on April 19, 1874. He is a graduate of Cornell University and is practising law in Falcener, Chautauqua County.

Ellen Emily 1382 died on February 1, 1887; and Allen Obed 1383 on January 16, 1882.



Obed Edson

The Hon. Obed Edson was admitted to the bar of Chautauqua County on April 8, 1853. In 1874, he was elected a member of the Assembly of the State of New York to represent the Second District of Chautauqua County, which he did at the ninety-eighth session, from January 5, to May 22, 1875. Besides attaining a high reputation as a counselor-at-law, he has won much renown as a local antiquarian and historian. Prominently identified as an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason with

the work of the order in Chautauqua County, he is the compiler of the valuable historical symposium entitled *Masonry in Chautauqua. A Story of Masonic Work from the Year 1815. Together with a Series of Sketches of Various Lodges from the Year 1815*. H. C. Drake, publisher, Sinclairville, N. Y., 1897. The sketches of Sylvan Lodge 394 and Sylvan Lodge 303, in it, were written by him.

The following summary briefly presents information relating to him and his kinsmen as members of the several lodges instituted in the towns in which they were residents. A lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was opened on January 28, 1819, under the name of the "Masonic Society," at the "Major Sinclair" settlement, later known as Sinclairville. Major Samuel Sinclair was the first worshipful master of the lodge. Shortly afterward, Obed Edson, his stepson, became a member of the society. On December 26, 1822, the members of the "Masonic Society" began working under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge, at which time Obed Edson was junior warden. On June 5, 1824, Sylvan Lodge 394 was instituted in the town of Gerry, then comprising the present territory of the towns of Gerry and Charlotte, the "Major Sinclair" settlement being at that time in the centre of the town of Gerry; and on July 7, 1824, the installation of the first officers of the lodge took place, Obed Edson being installed as junior warden, and John Milton Edson, his brother, one of the two stewards. As is related, "the installation was not only an important event to the Masons participating in it, but was esteemed of great interest by the invited guests who witnessed it, and was long remembered. It was on this occasion, probably, that a banquet was held by the Masons in the shade of a grove of wild-plum trees that had been transplanted from the Cassadaga Swamp. Some old trees, relics of this grove, which stood until recently just west of the present hotel, marked the spot. Mrs. Fanny (Edson) Sinclair, wife of Samuel Sinclair, superintended on the occasion. She spread the table and provided the feast. She had been befriended in her early life, in her great need, by the Masons of Madison County. More than once afterwards, on similar occasions, did she show her gratitude for their early kindness."

During the anti-Masonic excitement, between the years 1830

and 1835, the charter of Sylvan Lodge 394 was surrendered. Late in the year 1852, John M. Edson and other former members of the lodge, residing in Sinclairville and the vicinity, exerted themselves to revive the spirit of early Masonry in the county, and obtained the charter of Sylvan Lodge 303, on June 11, 1853, of which John M. Edson was elected the first master and for a number of years afterward, as was his son, the Hon. Obed Edson, in 1863 and in 186-, who had been made a Mason, in 1857, in the lodge in Sinclairville.

The Hon. Obed Edson was one of the founders of the "Evergreen Cemetery Association," organized in Sinclairville, on June 21, 1862. The attractive burial-ground, handsomely ornamented with evergreen shrubs and trees, has a fine and extensive prospect of the surrounding country and the village founded by Major Samuel Sinclair.

The celebration of the centennial of the first settlement within the present bounds of Chautauqua County, at Westfield, in 1902, was marked by a great procession, the delivery of pertinent addresses, and other interesting exercises, in Westfield, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 24th and 25th of June, 1902. The historical address of the Hon. Obed Edson on the enjoyable occasion, of more than eight columns of print in the *Westfield Republican* of June 25, 1902, is replete with valuable information and descriptive features of the origin and growth of the county.

1148. Fanny Ursula, daughter of John Milton 778 and Hannah (Alverson) Edson, born in Sinclairville, town of Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on June 4, 1834, married there, Henry Sylvester, son of Melzar and Anna (Gilmour) Sylvester, born in the town of Gerry, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on July 2, 1828. He died in Sinclairville, on July 13, 1899.

Children:

1384. Anna Gilmour Sylvester, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on January 5, 1856.

1385. Emily Amelia Sylvester, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on November 22, 1857.

1386. Katie Sylvester, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on November 20, 1863.

1387. Frederick Henry Sylvester, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on September 22, 1867.

Anna Gilmour Sylvester married Charles Dingley. Emily Amelia Sylvester married Herbert H. Hunt. Katie Sylvester died in Sinclairville on August 18, 1864. Frederick Henry Sylvester married, at Charlotte, Chautauqua County,

N. Y., on September 22, 1897, Mary Floy, daughter of Congdon and Ruth B. (Burlingame) [Burlingham?] Seaver. He is a lawyer and resides in Sinclairville.

1156. Willis, son of Darwin Noble 788 and Hannah (Bliss) Edson, born in Hunter, Greene County, N. Y., on April 25, 1834, married (1st), in Downsville, Delaware County, N. Y., Catharine Clements, who died about January 1, 1868. He married (2d) Rose Staddle, and (3d) Mrs. Harriet Coolen. He died in Oneonta, Otsego County, N. Y., on January 25, 1896.

Children by first wife:

1388. Cora, born in Downsville, Delaware County, N. Y.

1389. Flora Eliza, born in Downsville, Delaware County, N. Y.

1390. Frederick D., born in Downsville, Delaware County, N. Y.

1391. May Hayden, born in Downsville, Delaware County, N. Y.

1392. George Clements, born in Downsville, Delaware County, N. Y.

Cora died in infancy. Flora Eliza married Albert Gates. They reside in Oneonta. They have one daughter, Catharine. Frederick D. married —, May Hayden married James Wilsey. They reside at Toms River, N. J. George Clements, an alumnus of MacAllister College, Minnesota, was graduated in 1902 at the Theological Seminary in Princeton, N. J. He married, on June 16, 1902, Isabelle Campbell. He is pastor at Cornersville, Pa.

Willis Edson, the father, had for a time a hardware store in Downsville. Later he removed to Oneonta, where he was employed in the shops of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company until his decease.

1161. Rufus Palen, son of Darwin Noble 788 and Hannah (Bliss) Edson, born in Olive, Ulster County, N. Y., on September 16, 1842, married (1st), in Olivet, Michigan, on June 18, 1868, Clara A., daughter of Horace and Cynthia M. Stimson, born in Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, on December 20, 1843. She died in Fergus Falls, Minn., on July 21, 1897. He married (2d), in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, on December 29, 1898, Jennie, daughter of George and Ann Dunoon, born in Wick, Scotland, on April 6, 1855, and widow of George Herbert Barman, who died on February 19, 1894, and by whom she had one child, Ruth, born November 5, 1883.

Children by first wife:

1393. Edward Darwin, born in Kalamazoo, Mich., on April 6, 1870.

1394. William Noble, born in Kalamazoo, Mich., on October 6, 1873.

Edward Darwin Edson 1393 was graduated from Olivet College, Michigan, and later from the Law Department of Columbia College, New York City. His office as a counselor-at-law is in the Washington Life Building, 141 Broadway, New York.

Rufus Palen Edson 1161, the father, practised law in Kala-

mazoo, Mich., seven years; he then removed to Caro, Tuscola County, Mich., where he lived ten years and where, for six years, he was prosecuting attorney for Tuscola County. Thence he went to Duluth, Minn., where he resided thirteen years, and was city attorney there. He has for three years been a counselor-at-law in New York City.

1164. William Darwin, son of Darwin Noble 788 and Hannah (Bliss) Edson, born in Wawarsing, Ulster County, N. Y., on October 16, 1849, married, in Laurens, Otsego County, N. Y., on January 21, 1875, Matilda Allen.

Children:

1395. Frank Aaron, } born in Sidney, Delaware County, N. Y., on November
 1396. Robert Darwin, } 30, 1879.
 1397. William Ray, born on July 7, 1889.

Robert Darwin Edson died on September 20, 1880. William Ray Edson died on December 25, 1889.

William Darwin Edson, after practising law for some time in Unadilla, Otsego County, N. Y., removed to Duluth, Minn., and pursued his profession as a counselor-at-law, and there for the last nine years he has been judge of the Municipal Court.

1180. John Wesley, son of Virgil James 794 and ——— Edson, born on July 7, 1834, was married, in Kingston, Ulster County, N. Y., on May 26, 1855, by the Rev. C. F. Hoes, to ———.

Children:

1398. Evaline C., born on April 28, 1856.
 1399. Virgil James, born on January 5, 1858.
 1400. Lavina, born on May 17, 1860.
 1401. Alferetta, born on September 22, 1862.
 1402. Isabelle, born on February 25, 1865.
 1403. Herbert Harvey, born on June 18, 1867.
 1404. Rose Valerie, born on September 29, 1869.
 1405. Orizon Vandervoort, born on April 7, 1872.
 1406. Milton Lewis, born on March 14, 1875.
 1407. Annette Belle, born on November 19, 1877.

Alferetta married ——— Traub. Isabelle died on March 4, 1871. Orizon Vandervoort married ———. Milton Lewis married ——— on December 20, 1898. Annette Belle married Edgar Palmer. Child: Hubert Main, born December 20, 1899. They reside in Farmington, Conn.

1181. Jarvis Bonesteel, son of Marmont Bryan 799 and Margaret Barbara (Bonesteel) Edson, born in Janesville, Rock County, Wis., on April 30, 1845, married, in Brooklyn, N. Y., in Christ Church (Protestant Episcopal), by the rector, the Rev. L. W. Bancroft, D.D., on February 9, 1875, Eliza Ward, daughter

of James Talmadge Gano and Janet (DeKay) Robins, born in Providence, R. I., on October 1, 1848. He is the compiler of this genealogy.

Children:

1408. Janet De Kay, born at 396 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., on November 2, 1875.
 1409. Herman Aldrich, born in Newark, N. J., on January 7, 1878.
 1410. Ethel Ward, born in Adams, Berkshire County, Mass., on December 15, 1883.
 1411. Marmont, born at 812 Union Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., on June 10, 1888.

Janet DeK. 1408 married Harry Smith Kelty. Herman A. 1409 married Jennie Finch Hutchinson. Ethel W. 1410 died March 27, 1886, at 199 St. John's Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

1190. John LeBeeter, son of Rev. Samuel 809 and Mary Miranda (Burr) Edson, born in Galena, Ill., on November 17, 1867, married, in Brooklyn, N. Y., on June 1, 1892, Margaret Chadwick.

Children:

1412. Margaret, born on March 6, 1893.
 1413. Mary Virginia, born on April 15, 1897.
 1414. Evelyn, born on February 5, 1900.

John L. is in business in New York City, and resides at Montclair, N. J.

1198. Frank Perkins, son of George F. 815 and Elizabeth (Slater) Edson, born in Vanwert, Ohio, on April 22, 1858, married, in Springfield, Ohio, on December 22, 1892, Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of Jesse W. and Mary Ellen (Bush) Baird, born in Vanwert County, Ohio, on July 17, 1874.

Children:

1415. Helen Baird, born in Vanwert, O., on November 25, 1893.
 1416. Horace Walter, born in Vanwert, O., on February 18, 1896.

1208. John Tracey, son of Cyrus 828 and Martha Davidson (Nelson) Edson, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on February 15, 1850, married, in New York, N. Y., on June 23, 1881, Winona, daughter of Elie and Jeannie Van Dyck (Stacey) Charlier.

Children:

1417. Elie Charlier, born in Denver, Col., on March 26, 1882.
 1418. Constance d'Oliver, born in Denver, Col., on November 28, 1886.

1209. Julia Orr, daughter of Cyrus 828 and Martha Davidson (Nelson) Edson, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on August 29, 1851, married, in New York, N. Y., on April 20, 1875,

William R., son of George and Ann (Reed) Manierre. There were several children.

1210. Chauncey Crapo, son of Alexander 830 and Elizabeth (Frothingham) Edson, born in New York, N. Y., on July 25, 1851, married (1st), in Norwich, Queens County, N. Y., Addie Wheeler. She died in Bayonne, N. J., and was buried in Norwich, N. Y. He married (2d), in Alliance, Ohio, Rosa Teeters. He lives in Kansas City, Mo.

Children by second wife:

1419. Edith.

1420. (Baby).

1212. Fanny Frothingham, daughter of Alexander 830 and Elizabeth (Frothingham) Edson, born in New York, N. Y., on August 29, 1861, married there, on September 21, 1882, Abner L. Ely.

Child:

1421. Richard Frothingham Ely, born in New York, N. Y., on February 13, 1886.

1216. Cyrus, son of Franklin 832 and Fanny Cameron (Wood) Edson, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on September 8, 1857, married (1st), in New York, N. Y., on August 5, 1881, Virginia Churchill, daughter of William Rufus and Juliette (Churchill) Page, born in Norfolk, Va., on July 10, 1854. She died in New York, N. Y., on July 29, 1891, and he married (2d), in New York, N. Y., on April 6, 1892, Mary Emma, daughter of Henry and Mary Louise (Dusenbury) Van Velsor, widow of William Howell Quick, born in New York, N. Y., on September 4, 1855.

Children by first wife:

1422. Franklin Churchill, } born in New York, N. Y., on April 18, 1882.

1423. Helen Augusta, }
1424. Florence, born in New York, N. Y., on April 13, 1883.

1425. Ruth, born in New York, N. Y., on March 17, 1886.

1426. William Russell, born in New York, N. Y., on June 4, 1888.

Florence 1424 died in New York, N. Y., on February 28, 1891.

1217. Franklin, son of Franklin 832 and Fanny Cameron (Wood) Edson, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on September 20, 1859, married, in St. Agnes's Protestant Episcopal Chapel, on 92d Street, New York, N. Y., by the Rev. Edward A. Bradley, D.D., on November 23, 1897, Elsie Morgan, daughter of Stuart Craig and Caroline Elizabeth (La Bau) Squier, born in Rahway, Union County, N. J., on December 18, 1876.

Child:

1427. Stuart Franklin, born in Irvington, Westchester County, N. Y., on June 20, 1900.

1219. Henry Townsend, son of Franklin 832 and Fanny Cameron (Wood) Edson, born in Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on August 13, 1864, married, in St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pa., on February 1, 1887, Susan Douglas, daughter of Thomas Jacobi and Margarete M. (Whetharill) Diehl.

Child:

1428. Franklin Diehl, born in Philadelphia, Pa.

1221. Robert Stewart, son of Franklin 832 and Fanny Cameron (Wood) Edson, born at Fordham Heights, New York, on February 5, 1873, married, in chapel of St. John-in-the-Wilderness, Blue Mountain Lake, Hamilton County, N. Y., on July 5, 1899, Fanny, daughter of Charles Henry and Jennie (Hale) Ropes, born in Port Chester, Westchester County, N. Y., on June 21, 1880.

Child:

1429. Fanny Cameron, born in New York, N. Y., on April 1, 1900.

1249. William Dunbar, son of Silas Dunbar 925 and Sarah Pancoast (Saunders) Edson, born in Philadelphia, Pa., on September 24, 1834, married, on May 5, 1856, Jennie Souder.

Children:

1430. Albert Dunbar, born in Philadelphia, Pa., on April 25, 1857.

1431. Frank, born in Philadelphia, Pa., on February 27, 1859.

1432. William Dunbar, born in Philadelphia, Pa., on August 6, 1860.

1258. Alfred Herbert, son of William Fiske 929 and Susan H. (Hitchcock) Edson, born in North Brookfield, Mass., on April 4, 1852, married, on June 19, 1879, Ella Herritage.

Children:

1433. William Hennessey, born on March 24, 1880.

1434. Mabel, born on April 28, 1882.

1298. Helen Albina, daughter of Daniel Sherod 997 and Martha (Halverson) Edson, born in Spring Grove, Minn., on May 22, 1860, married, in Rapseska, Dakota, on June 27, 1883, Harrison S. Dewell.

Children:

1435. Nathaniel S. Dewell, born on August 8, 1885.

1436. Rose Dewell, born on November 26, 1886.

1437. Daniel Sherwood Dewell, born on October 12, 1897.

1299. Rose Ann, daughter of Daniel Sherod and Martha

(Halverson) Edson, born in Spring Grove, Minn., on February 17, 1862, married (1st), on July 3, 1881, Aaron J. Nichols, and (2d), in 1899, James W. Helme of Adrian, Mich. Her first husband, born in Adrian, Mich., in 1860, died on September 25, 1892.

Child:

1438. Alexander Douglas Nichols, born in Huron, S. D., on June 22, 1887.

1312. Henry L., son of Henry 1009 and Clarissa (Capron) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on July 20, 1839, married, in Roxbury, Washington County, Vt., on January 2, 1868, Lucy Steele, born in East Roxbury, Washington County, Vt., on March 1, 1845.

Children:

1439. Mertele M., born on October 10, 1868.

1440. Roselle A., born on August 10, 1874.

Mertelle M., the first daughter, died on May 6, 1884. Roselle A. Edson married, on September 6, 1898, William Stone, of Greensboro, Orleans County, Vt. He died on April 6, 1901.

1313. Ellen A., daughter of Henry 1009 and Clarissa (Capron) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on July 31, 1847) married there, on December 23, 1866, Irving H., son of Noah, and Lydia (Wheatley) Paine, born in Brookfield, on August 21, 1843.

Children:

1441. Henry L. Paine, born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on December 5, 1867.

1442. Clara L. Paine, born in Brookfield, Vt., on May 26, 1869.

1443. Lucy E. Paine, born in Gurley, Col., on August 7, 1872.

1444. Alice B. Paine, born in Gurley, Col., on July 19, 1874.

1445. Ruby H. Paine, born in Gurley, Col., on January 31, 1880.

1446. Velmer Paine, born in Gurley, Col., on March 14, 1891.

Henry L. 1441 died on January 30, 1868. Lucy E. 1443 died on August 27, 1873; and Alice B. 1444 on February 20, 1876.

1314. Lucy J., daughter of Henry 1009 and Clarissa (Capron) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on February 2, 1850, was married, in Detroit, Mich., on October 2, 1874, to Doctor George D., son of John and Mary (Paine) Carnes, born in Pomfret, Windsor County, Vt.

Children:

1447. Eva P. Carnes, born in Covert, Mich., on May 14, 1876.

1448. Thomas H. Carnes, born in Covert, Mich., on June 1, 1878.

1317. Andrew Wheatley, son of Jerah 1014 and Mary Hopkins (Wheatley) Edson, born in Montello, Marquette County, Wis., on December 26, 1851, married, in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on August 20, 1878, Cynthia Francelia, daughter of

Martin and Sophia Diana (Hatch) Paine, born in Brookfield, Vt., on September 15, 1850.

Children:

1449. Pearl Paine, born in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on October 24, 1879.
 1450. Helen Wheatley, born in Randolph, Orange County, Vt., on February 1, 1882.
 1451. Edith Louise, born in Attleboro, Bristol County, Mass., on April 1, 1884.
 1452. Carroll Andrew, born in Worcester, Worcester County, Mass., on December 29, 1891.

Pearl Paine 1449, the son, was graduated at Dartmouth College, June 25, 1902.

Andrew Wheatley Edson 1317 was graduated at the State Normal School, at Randolph, Vt., in 1870; from the Montpelier Seminary, in 1874; and from Dartmouth College in 1878. From 1878 to 1879, he was principal of the West Randolph High School, and from 1879 to 1884, principal of the State Normal School, at Randolph, Vt.; in 1884-5, superintendent of schools in Attleboro, Mass.; 1885-7, superintendent of schools in Jersey City, N. J.; 1887-97, agent of the Massachusetts Board of Education; 1897 to the present time, assistant superintendent of schools in New York City. He was an instructor for ten years in the Summer Schools of Vermont, Washington, and Indiana; and manager of the School of Methods, and instructor in School Management, at Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, for ten years. He was instructor in school management and supervision at the Columbia University Summer School in 1902.

1318. Alice Marinda, daughter of Jerah 1014 and Mary Hopkins (Wheatley) Edson, born in Montello, Wis., on November 24, 1853, married, on August 20, 1878, Edward C. Abbott.

Children:

1453. Clarence Edson Abbott, born in Randolph, Vt., on December 9, 1881.
 1454. Alden Harold Abbott, born in Franklin, Mass., on June 4, 1885.
 1455. Ernest Andrew Abbott, born in Franklin, Mass., on May 17, 1889.
 1456. Alice Mabel Abbott, born in Franklin, Mass., on December 13, 1890.
 1457. Hazel Franckia Abbott, born in Franklin, Mass., on July 12, 1892.

Edward C. Abbott, dentist, is now residing in Franklin, Mass.

1321. Marshall Otto, son of Jerah 1014 and Mary Hopkins (Wheatley) Edson, born in Brookfield, Orange County, Vt., on May 1, 1865, married, in Hanover, N. H., August 23, 1899, Alice H., daughter of Andrew H. and Louise F. (Flint) Warden, born March 23, 1868.

Child:

1458. Mary Louise, born on May 26, 1900.

Marshall Otto Edson 1321 was graduated at the State Normal School in Randolph, Vt., in 1882, from the Academy, in St. Johnsbury, Vt., in 1887, and from Dartmouth College, in 1891. He is now principal of the village schools in East Hampton, Conn.

1349. Curtis G., son of Alonzo James 1099 and Mercy May, (Banks) Edson, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on September 10, 1866, married, on March 18, 1896, Ella Cunningham, born in Guilford, Winnebago County, Ill.

Child:

1459. Neva, born in New Milford, Ill., on February 18, 1897.

1350. Burtis S., son of Alonzo James 1099 and Mercy May (Banks) Edson, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on September 10, 1866, married, in New Milford, Ill., on January 1, 1891, Agnes Blanche Thompson, born in Canada, on July 9, 1870.

Children:

1460. Nina Marie, born on November 14, 1891.

1461. Bernice, born on May 24, 1896.

1351. George Alonzo, son of Alonzo James 1099 and Mercy May (Banks) Edson, born in Monroe, Ogle County, Ill., on October 4, 1868, married, in New Milford, Ill., on January 20, 1892, Marian C. Corlett, born in New Milford, on January 1, 1874.

Children:

1462. Lewis A., born in Monroe, Ill., on December 7, 1892.

1463. Infant son, born in Monroe, Ill., on September 16, 1894.

1464. William Hobart, born in Monroe, Ill., on September 12, 1895.

1465. Catharine Hazel, born in Monroe, Ill., on November 11, 1896.

The second son 1463 died on September 29, 1894.

1359. Mary Ames, daughter of James LaFayette 1102 and Julia (Collins) Edson, born in Detroit, Mich., on August 5, 1860, married there, on July 18, 1888, Frank Ward Smith.

Children:

1466. Edson Hanford Smith, born in Detroit, Mich., on June 20, 1889.

1467. Marie Olean Smith, born in Detroit, Mich., on June 16, 1891.

1468. Frank Ward Smith, born in Detroit, Mich., on September 8, 1892.

Mrs. Mary Ames Smith was educated at the Academy of the "Sacred Heart," Detroit, from which she was graduated on June 25, 1879.

1376. Fanny Allen, daughter of Obed 1147 and Emily Amelia (Allen) Edson, born in Sinclairville, town of Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on April 28, 1860, married there, on October 29, 1884, John Alonzo, son of Joy and Rosina (Flagg)

Love, born in the town of Gerry, Chautauqua County, on February 24, 1861.

Children:

1469. Allen Joy Love, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on August 23, 1885.

1470. Nellie Edson Love, born in Sinclairville, N. Y., on January 2, 1887.

The family reside in Sinclairville, N. Y.

1377. John Milton, son of Obed 1147 and Emily Amelia (Allen) Edson, born in Sinclairville, town of Charlotte, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on September 29, 1861, married, in Minneapolis, Minn., Alma Blanche, daughter of William and Hannah (Abbey) Green, born at Ripley, Chautauqua County, N. Y., on June 20, 1862.

Children:

1471. Arthur Allen, born at New Whatcom, Whatcom County, Wash., on November 2, 1892.

1472. Emily Hannah, born at New Whatcom, Whatcom County, Wash., on June 21, 1897.

1473. William Obed, born at New Whatcom, Whatcom County, Wash., on May 9, 1899.

John Milton Edson is a printer and publisher, and resides in New Whatcom, Whatcom County, Wash.

1394. William Noble, son of Rufus Palen 1161 and Clara A. (Stimson) Edson, born in Kalamazoo, Mich., on October 6, 1873, married, in Otsego, Mich., on June 30, 1896, Cora, daughter of Willard and Clara Martindale, born in Otsego, Mich.

Children:

1474. Willard Herbert, born in Duluth, Minn., on May 5, 1897.

1475. Stanley Martindale, born in Duluth, Minn., on April 28, 1899.

William Noble Edson resides in Menominee, Mich.

1408. Janet DeKay, daughter of Jarvis Bonesteel 1181 and Eliza Ward (Robins) Edson, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on November 2, 1875, married, in All Angels Protestant Episcopal Church, New York, by the Rev. S. DeLancey Townsend, Ph.D., D.D., on June 1, 1897, Harry Smith Kelty, son of William Miller and Marie Louise (Jolly) Kelty, born in New York, N. Y., on November 6, 1872. (Marie Louise Jolly married (2d) Archer Vance Pancoast.)

Child:

1476. Madelon, born in New York, N. Y., on August 2, 1898

1409. Herman Aldrich, son of Jarvis Bonesteel 1181 and Eliza Ward (Robins) Edson, born in Newark, N. J., on January 7,

1878, married, in Jersey City, N. J., on September 14, 1900, Jennie Finch, daughter of John D. and Emily Smith (Finch) Hutchinson, born in Peekskill, N. Y., on May 14, 1869.

UNIDENTIFIED.

1477. Anne Edson, born on December 1, 1803, married, on December 4, 1823, Francis Phillips, son of Samuel, of Ashfield.

Children:

1478. Julia Phillips, born on October 18, 1824.

1479. Francis R. Phillips, born on September 27, 1826.

1480. John E. Phillips, born on November 12, 1829.

1481. Ansel Elmer Phillips, born on July 26, 1836.

1482. Eunice Lestina Phillips, born on April 11, 1840.

1483. Lyman Silvester Edson, son of Lyman S. Edson, of Hamilton, Madison County, N. Y., married, in 1866, Abigail Maria Green, born in Vermont, in 1845, daughter of Henry and Eliza Green.

Children:

1484. Hiram Silvester, born in Lenox, N. Y., in 1868.

1485. Sarah, born in 1871.

Hiram 1484 married Isabella Nye. He is proprietor of the "Barker House," at Morrisville, Madison County, N. Y.

Sarah 1485 married "Cordie Jersey." They live in Detroit, Mich.

1486. — Edson, of New York City, was a Royalist, and went to Nova Scotia [first to St. John, N. B.?] when the American forces took possession of New York.

Children:

1487. Thomas: baptized in 1775 or 1776, in New York City, Trinity Church. He married — Craine, of New Hampshire. Thomas returned to this country, and settled in New Hampshire.

Child:

1488. Thomas: he married —.

Children:

1489. Thomas, manager of the freight business of the Michigan Central Railroad, Detroit. He writes his name Eedson.

1490. Salome, deceased.

1491. Robert. He died childless.

1492. Elijah. He married Aehsah Edna Wright.

1493. James L. He was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of the Geneva Conference, but retired, and was living at Newark, Wayne County, N. Y., at the time of his death, without issue.

1494. Miriam, who married — Hea, and died childless, long ago. Mr. Hea was, at one time, M.P. in Ontario.

1495. Emily, who married — Armstead, of Klineburgh, Ontario, and died long ago, leaving several children.

1496. Rebecca, who married Robert Burns, of Niagara, Ontario, and survived him, and is eighty-four years old.

1492. Elijah, born on land on the bank of Bear River, N. S., in 1812, and died about 1878. He married Achsah Edna Wright, formerly of Pownell, Vt., daughter of Boulwood Wright.

Children:

1497. John Boulwood. He enlisted, on President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, in the Twenty-seventh Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, Colonel Slocum, and served for two years, and was mustered out at Elmira, N. Y., in 1864, and died in the December following.
1498. Albert Henry. He also enlisted, on the President's first call, in the Eighth Regiment, New York Volunteer Cavalry, and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, and was buried in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.
1499. Robert Craine. He lives at Rochester, N. Y., and has a son and a daughter. His mother lives with him.
1500. Elijah, who died in infancy.
1501. Miriam Craine, who married and died several years ago, leaving two sons and one daughter, who are living.
1502. Harriet Emeline, who has three daughters living and has lost one.
1503. Elijah Hamlin, Rev., the youngest, born January 29, 1853, at Cleveland, O. In 1859 his parents removed to Rochester, N. Y., which has been the family home ever since. He married Mary J. Charters, daughter of Robert, of Rochester, and has spent most of his life there. He has served as a priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Western Diocese of New York. He served as a missionary among the Eskimo, at Point Hope, Alaska, on the shore of the Arctic Ocean, part of 1894, all of 1895, and part of 1896. He is now a missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Dakota.

Children:

1504. Sarah Edna.
1505. Ruth Charters.
1506. Alice Cynthia.
1507. Robert Rankin.
1508. Alan Bartle.
1509. Paul Albert.

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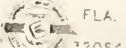
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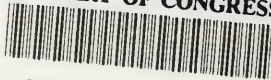


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