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THE FAMILY
OF
PUFFER
OF
MASSACHUSETTS.

BY W. S. APPLETON.

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THE PUFFER FAMILY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

CORRECTED AND ENLARGED FROM THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL
REGISTER FOR JULY, 1868.

I HAVE lately been making some attempt to form a genealogy of this family, to which little attention has ever yet been paid. It may be said that the family has deserved no more, never having been of importance or prominence; this, however, is an argument which the true genealogist rejects with scorn, believing that every one who has lived has thereby gained the right to have his pedigree recorded at length. My own interest in this family is caused by the fact of descent from the first of the name. It is indeed pleasant to have the interest of kinship combined with such extreme novelty of research.

24 February, 1640, the town of Boston granted to GEORGE PUFFER land for five heads, that is, twenty acres, at Mount Wollaston, afterwards Braintree. Of him nothing more is known, but the family was continued under the name of Puffer by two persons, who may confidently be called his sons; and the "widow Puffer," who died at Braintree 12 February, 1677, was undoubtedly his relict. Mary Puffer, "an aged woman" who died at the same place, 22 July, 1700, is perhaps more likely to have been his daughter, than the widow of his eldest son.

SECOND GENERATION.

2. II. JAMES PUFFER, probably elder son of George, born about 1624; married at Braintree 14 February, 1656, Mary Swalden (? Spaulding); died at Braintree 25 July, 1692, aged about 68. Children, born at Braintree:

- | | |
|---|---|
| i. Richard, b. 14 March, 1657. | 4 |
| ii. Martha, b. 28 December, 1658; d. 29 March, 1701.* | |
| iii. Mary, b. 12 January, 1660; ? m. at Boston, 26 November, 1700, Philip Blackaler. | |
| iv. James, b. 5 May, 1663. | 5 |
| { Ruth, b. 25 January, 1667; d. 29 January, 1667. | |
| { Rachel, b. 25 January, 1667; m. 7 January, 1695, Eleazer Isgate of Braintree. | |
| vii. Jabez, b. 4 February, 1672. | 6 |

* Marshall's MS. Diary, Mass. Historical Society.

3. II. MATTHIAS PUFFER, probably second son of George; married at Braintree 12 March, 1662, Rachel Farnsworth. Children:

- i. Joseph, b. at Braintree in March, 1663; killed by Indians at Mendon 10 July, 1675.
- ii. John, b. at Braintree 10 October, 1665. 7
- iii. James, b. at Mendon 4 June, 1668. 8
- iv. Esther, b. ———; m. 2 June, 1697, William Sumner of Milton; d. 27 June, 1748; he d. 22 December, 1738.*

His wife was killed by Indians at Mendon 10 July, 1675, and he married secondly at Dedham 11 April, 1677, Abigail, daughter of Richard Everett of Dedham. Children:

- v. Benjamin, b. at Braintree in 1678; probably d. young.
- vi. Jonathan, b. at Dedham 28 September, 1679; m. at Roxbury 18 July, 1717, Abiel Beacon.
- vii. Samuel, b. at Dedham 22 February, 1681; d. 26 December, 1685.
- viii. Eleazer, b. at Dedham 30 January, 1684. 9
- ix. Abigail, b. at Dedham 18 May, 1685; m. 25 March, 1708, William Crane of Dorchester, who d. at Stoughton 20 July, 1742.

His second wife died at Dedham 27 December, 1685, and he married thirdly at Milton 14 May, 1697, Mary Crehore, probably widow of Teague Crehore of Milton. In 1662 he received an allotment of land at Mendon, where he lived a few years, about 1666-75, and was a Selectman 1671, 2; afterwards he lived at Dedham, later at Dorchester, where he belonged at the time of his third marriage. 12 November, 1693, he was admitted to the Church of Milton, but in every other respect seems to have preserved his connection with Dorchester, where he was Surveyor of Highways 1702, and Tythingman 1705. He died there 9 May, 1717. I presume he lived in that part of Dorchester which is now Stoughton.

THIRD GENERATION.

4. III. RICHARD PUFFER, born at Braintree 14 March, 1657; married at Dorchester 23 March, 1681, Ruth, daughter of Richard Everett of Dedham; lived at Wrentham; died 3 August, 1723. Children:

- i. Ruth, b. at Dedham 17 March, 1682; m. 12 December, 1706, John Day of Wrentham; d. 17 March, 1768; he d. 2 April, 1758.
- ii. Mary, b. at Dedham 21 January, 1684; m. 26 December, 1705, Ralph Day of Wrentham; d. 30 December, 1769; he d. in April, 1766.
- iii. William,† b. at Wrentham 17 July, 1686; bapt. at Braintree in 1687. 10

* These were the gr.-gr.-grandparents of the author.

† On Wrentham records he is called son of William and Ruth, undoubtedly by carelessness of the clerk, repeating the name of son.

- iv. Richard, b. at Wrentham 17 July, 1689. 11
- v. Rachel, b. ———; m. 14 June, 1722, Edward Gay of Wrentham;
d. 17 May, 1754; he d. 28 February, 1758.
- vi. Sarah, b. about 1696; m. 12 May, 1741, Samuel Morse of Wren-
tham; d. 8 February, 1772; he d. at Marlboro' 27 December,
1755.
- vii. Beuoni, b. at Wrentham 4 January, 1698; d. 16 January, 1698.

5. III. JAMES PUFFER, born at Braintree 5 May, 1663; married at Braintree 18 September, 1690, Mary Ellis of Dedham; moved to Sudbury, where he died 11 November, 1749; she died 29 December, 1751, aged 80. Children:

- i. James, b. at Braintree 7 November, 1692; d. 17 November, 1692.
- ii. James, b. at Braintree 5 November, 1694; d. at Sudbury 2 April,
1723.
- iii. Joseph, b. at Braintree 5 February, 1697; d. 4 October, 1699.
- iv. Mary, b. at Braintree 7 August, 1699; d. at Sudbury 11 June,
1734.
- v. Joseph, b. at Braintree 2 April, 1702; d. at Sudbury 10 February,
1769.
- vi. Ebenezer, b. at Braintree 7 May, 1705. 12

6. III. JABEZ PUFFER, born at Braintree 4 February, 1672; married at Braintree 3 December, 1702, Mary Glazier; in 1712 bought land at Sudbury, whither he moved, and where he died 5 November, 1746; she died 2 January, 1749. Children:

- i. Martha, b. at Braintree 18 October, 1703; m. at Lancaster 4 August,
1726, Phineas Pratt of Sudbury.
- ii. Jabez, b. at Braintree in 1705. 13
- iii. Samuel, b. at Braintree 12 October, 1707. 14
- iv. Jonathan, b. at Braintree 2 November, 1709; d. 9 November, 1709.
- v. Jonathan, b. at Braintree 22 October, 1711. 15
- vi. Ephraim, b. at Sudbury 22 July, 1716. 16
- vii. William, b. at Sudbury 25 February, 1720. 17

7. III. JOHN PUFFER, born at Braintree 10 October, 1665; married at Dorchester 17 December, 1695, Mary Holbrook of Roxbury; lived in that part of Dorchester which in 1726 was incorporated as Stoughton; died at Stoughton 16 January, 1751, called "old Lieut. Puffer"; she died at Newport, R. I., 16 April, 1736, aged 62. Children, born at Dorchester:

- i. John, b. 5 October, 1698. 18
- ii. Miriam, b. 14 August, 1702; m. 11 January, 1720, Benjamin Wiate
of Dorchester.
- iii. Mary, b. 3 November, 1706; m. at Boston 26 January, 1726, Sam-
uel Belcher.

8. III. JAMES PUFFER, born at Mendon 4 June, 1668; married at Dorchester 17 December, 1695, Abigail, daughter of Ephraim Newton of Milton; died in 1718. Children, born at Dorchester:

- i. Abigail, b. 20 November, 1696; m. 3 March, 1718, Edward Wiate of Dorchester.
- ii. Esther, b. 29 May, 1699; m. 25 March, 1719, Richard Bayly of Dorchester; d. at Stoughton 6 October, 1745; he d. 22 November, 1777.
- iii. Ruth, b. 16 March, 1704; m. 11 March, 1724, Edward Downs of Dorchester; d. at Stoughton 22 April, 1790.
- iv. Hannah, b. 9 November, 1709; m. at Stoughton 9 January, 1728, Isaac Fenno of Stoughton; d. 30 July, 1731.

9. III. ELEAZER PUFFER, born at Dedham 30 January, 1684; married at Dorchester 27 November, 1713, Elizabeth Talbot; lived in that part of Dorchester, which in 1726 was incorporated as Stoughton; died 14 January, 1747. Children:

- i. Elizabeth, b. at Dorchester 24 August, 1714; m. 3 August, 1748, Samuel Rouson of Stoughton.
- ii. Matthias, b. at Dorchester 5 February, 1717. 19
- iii. Benjamin, b. at Dorchester in 1718, bapt. at Milton.
 { Abigail, b. at Dorchester in 1721, bapt. at Canton.
 { Miriam, b. at Dorchester in 1721, bapt. at Canton.
- vi. James, b. at Dorchester 26 February, 1723.
- vii. Dorothy, b. at Dorchester in 1726, bapt. at Milton.
- viii. Lazarus, b. at Stoughton 1 June, 1729.

FOURTH GENERATION.

10. IV. WILLIAM PUFFER, born at Wrentham 17 July, 1686; married 25 May, 1710, Elizabeth, daughter of John Guild of Wrentham; was a proprietor of Keene, N. H.; was living at Wrentham in 1745. Children, born at Wrentham:

- i. William, b. 9 March, 1712. 20
- ii. Timothy, b. 17 January, 1714; probably was of Keene, N. H., perhaps afterwards of Swanzev, N. H.
- iii. Elizabeth, b. 2 January, 1716; m. 27 April, 1737, John Hancock.
- iv. Richard, b. 3 April, 1718.
- v. Sarah, b. 6 June, 1719; m. 6 May, 1746, Joshua Preble.
- vi. Seth, b. 1 July, 1721; perhaps moved to Westmoreland, N. H.*
- vii. Esther, b. in 1727; d. 15 March, 1743.

11. IV. RICHARD PUFFER, born at Wrentham 17 July, 1689; married 11 July, 1719, Anna Hawes of Wrentham; died 12 February, 1758. Children, born at Wrentham:

- i. Anna, b. 19 March, 1720; m. Asabel Holbrook.

* In 1745 his father deeded to him land in Township No. 2, on east side of Connecticut river.

- ii. Ruth, b. 25 June, 1722; m. Moses Holbrook.
- iii. Sarah, b. 27 June, 1723; d. young.
- iv. Richard, b. 6 June, 1724. 21
- v. Abigail, b. 18 August, 1725.
- vi. Mary, b. 20 July, 1727; m. 30 October, 1751, Eli Marsh.
- vii. Mercy, b. 24 December, 1729; m. Gershom Nelson.
- viii. Jabez, b. 30 May, 1732; probably d. young.
- ix. Sarah, b. 23 December, 1734.

12. IV. EBENEZER PUFFER, born at Braintree 7 May, 1705; married at Sudbury 12 June, 1735, Thankful Cutler. Children, born at Sudbury:

- i. Mary, b. 9 May, 1737; m. 21 March, 1759, Asahel Smith.
- ii. James, b. 14 June, 1739.
- iii. Thomas, b. 13 August, 1741; d. in 1796.
- iv. Isaac, b. 10 June, 1744; m. 14 September, 1769, Sarah Wheeler.

13. IV. JABEZ PUFFER, born at Braintree in 1705; married at Sudbury 24 July, 1731, Thankful Haynes. Children, born at Sudbury:

- i. James, b. 11 August, 1734.
- ii. Josiah, b. 21 March, 1736; m. 29 November, 1759, Mary Read; moved to Westminster; Rep. 1787, 91, 2; d. 9 July, 1806, leaving children; she d. 19 July, 1831, aged 90.

His wife died 19 June, 1737, and he married secondly 18 October, 1738, Hannah, daughter of Benjamin Treadway of Framingham. Children, born at Sudbury:

- iii. Thankful, b. in October, 1741.
- iv. Jacob, b. 10 April, 1743. 22
- v. Daniel, b. 2 January, 1746; m. 5 July, 1770, Mary Balcom of Sudbury; d. 13 March, 1829.
- vi. Rebecca, b. 21 February, 1748; m. 15 April, 1766, Stephen Gibson of Stow.
- vii. Sarah, b. in November, 1750; m. Ithamar Rice of Sudbury, who d. 23 October, 1824.
- viii. Reuben, b. 5 January, 1756; Harvard College 1778; Rev., D.D. 1810; was settled at Berlin; d. 9 April, 1829.

His wife died 28 July, 1777, and he married thirdly Sarah ^{Parker} —; was Captain; died at Sudbury, 21 June, 1789.

14. IV. SAMUEL PUFFER, born at Braintree 12 October, 1707; married at Sudbury 12 December, 1732, Dorothy Haynes; died in 1776. Children, born at Sudbury:

- i. Susanna, b. 26 September, 1733; m. Joshua Haynes.
- ii. Samuel, b. 30 May, 1735; m. 12 June, 1760, Olive Rice of Sudbury; d. 24 May, 1811.

- iii. Silas, b. 6 May, 1737; d. 24 October, 1758.
- iv. John, b. 18 August, 1739; d. 6 September, 1759.
- v. Phineas, b. 23 September, 1741.
- vi. Nathan, b. 2 July, 1744.

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15. IV. JONATHAN PUFFER, born at Braintree 22 October, 1711; married at Sudbury 14 January, 1734, Mary Maynard;* lived some years at Concord; moved to Harvard, where he died 1 November, 1782. Children:

- i. Huldah, b. at Sudbury 14 August, 1735.
- ii. Mary, b. at Sudbury 15 August, 1741.
- iii. Sarah, b. at Sudbury 18 June, 1745; d. 2 January, 1748.
- iv. Sarah, b. at Sudbury 30 May, 1748; m. at Concord 21 June, 1770, William Merriam of Lexington.
- v. Jonathan, b. at ——— in 1753; d. at Harvard 2 September, 1789.

16. IV. EPHRAIM PUFFER, born at Sudbury 22 July, 1716; married Mary, daughter of Joseph Darby of Stow; moved to Stow, where he died in 1757. Children:

- i. Jonathan, b. at Sudbury 9 June, 1746.
- ii. Simon, b. at Sudbury 21 February, 1748.
- iii. Catharine, b.
- iv. Ephraim, b.

17. IV. WILLIAM PUFFER, born at Sudbury 25 February, 1720; married 8 June, 1742, Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Treadway of Framingham; moved to Framingham, where he died in 1757. Children:

- i. Jabez, b. at Sudbury 16 July, 1743; moved to Dublin, N. H.†
- ii. Benjamin, b. at Sudbury 2 August, 1746.
- iii. Mary, b. at Framingham in 1747.
- iv. Thankful, b. at Framingham 16 June, 1749; m. John Mixer.

18. IV. JOHN PUFFER, born at Dorchester, 5 October, 1698; married at Boston 14 December, 1725, Abigail Vose of Dorchester; lived at Stoughton; died 21 February, 1765; she died in February, 1774. Children, born at Stoughton:

- i. Hannah, b. 15 October, 1726; m. 29 November, 1744, Elijah Baker of Stoughton.
- ii. Mary, b. in 1728; m. 15 April, 1756, Jonathan Farrington of Dedham.
- iii. Seth, b. 11 March, 1731.
- iv. Sarah, b. 20 May, 1733; m. 1 February, 1754, Samuel Wentworth of Stoughton; he d. 23 December, 1783.

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* Perhaps he had a second wife, for Jonas Puffer of Sudbury married at Concord 12 May, 1757, Mary Dakin.

† For his marriage and children see History of Dublin.

- v. John, b. 13 April, 1735, Lieut. ; d. at Canton 24 October, 1815.
- vi. Abel, b. 27 March, 1737, Doctor ; d. at Canton 20 May, 1813.
- vii. Abigail, b. 26 April, 1739 ; m. 5 March, 1761, James Endicott of Stoughton.
- viii. Joseph, b. 29 May, 1744 ; d. at Canton 8 June, 1818.
- ix. Bathsheba, b. 15 November, 1745 ; m. 5 December, 1765, Jacob Shepard of Stoughton.

19. IV. MATTHIAS PUFFER, born at Dorchester 5 February, 1717 ; married 7 April, 1743, Rebecca Tucker of Stoughton. Children :

- i. Matthias, b. at Stoughton 8 March, 1741. 25
- ii. Benjamin, b. ——— : m. in 1778, Nancy Whitney of Roxbury.
- iii. Rebecca, b. ——— ; m. in 1774, James Smith of Milton.
- iv. Abigail, b. ———.

He lived at Sharon, where his wife died 22 February, 1777, and he married secondly 24 June, 1779, Priscilla Hubbard, who died 13 February, 1790, and he married thirdly 18 May, 1790, Bathsheba French of Sharon ; died in 1806 ; she died 12 June, 1807.

FIFTH GENERATION.

20. V. WILLIAM PUFFER, born at Wrentham 9 March, 1712 ; married 30 August, 1733, Rebecca Ware of Wrentham. Children, born at Wrentham :

- i. William, b. 24 April, 1734.
- ii. Elijah, b. 18 August, 1737.
- iii. John, b. 24 September, 1739 ; d. 8 October, 1743.
- iv. Rebecca, b. 18 November, 1741.
- v. Esther, b. 14 June, 1744 ; m. 3 December, 1772, Jesse Read.

21. V. RICHARD PUFFER, born at Wrentham 6 June, 1724 ; married Jemima ———. Children, born at Wrentham :

- i. Simeon, b. 22 April, 1752.
- ii. Richard, b. 27 November, 1753 ; d. 20 November, 1756.
- iii. Jemima, b. 27 August, 1755.
- iv. Amos, b. 30 March, 1757.
- { Susanna, b. 20 December, 1758.
- { Sarah, b. 20 December, 1758.
- vi. Rachel, b. 2 July, 1761.
- viii. Chloe, b. 18 October, 1765.

22. V. JACOB PUFFER, born at Sudbury 10 April, 1743 ; married Sarah ——— ; lived at Ashby ; died in 1777. Children :

- i. Jacob.
- ii. Sarah.
- iii. Lucy.

23. V. NATHAN PUFFER, born at Sudbury 2 July, 1744; married 29 October, 1770, Katy Clap of Sudbury; died 30 May, 1771. Child:

i. Nathan, b. at Sudbury 15 August, 1771, posthumous.

24. V. SETH PUFFER, born at Stoughton 11 March, 1731; married 5 June, 1755, Patience Tolman; died in 1786. Children, born at Stoughton:

i. Miriam, b. 9 July, 1755.

ii. Sarah, b. 15 October, 1757; m. 31 July, 1777, Nathaniel Tilden of Stoughton.

iii. Eunice, b. 3 April, 1762; m. 10 June, 1784, Mace Tisdale of Easton.

iv. Elijah, b. 22 July, 1764.

v. Hannah, b. 18 January, 1770.

vi. Abigail, b. 11 October, 1772.

25. V. MATTHIAS PUFFER, born at Stoughton 8 March, 1744; married 7 November, 1764, Olive Boyden. Child:



i. Olive, b. at Stoughton 27 February, 1765.

WILL OF MATTHIAS PUFFER.

In the Name of God Amen April the Twenty Third One Thousand Seven hundred and fourteen I Matthias Puffar of Dorchester in the County of Suffolk in Her Majestys Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Yeoman having by the Goodness and Patience of God lived to Old age but being in perfect mind and Memory thanks be to god for it therefore calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to dye Doe make this my Last Will and Testament That is to Say Principally and first of all I Give and Recommend my Soul into the hands of God that give it and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in Decent and Christian manner at the Discretion of my Executor nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the Almighty Power of God, and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God for to Bless me in this life I Give Demise and Dispose of the same in the following manner of form Imprimis I Give and bequeath unto Mary Puffar my dearly beloved wife after my Decease the income of one third of my Estate and Ten pounds in money to be paid to her by my Executors out of my Moveable Estate. Item I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son John Puffar one half of my Meadow lying in the foul meadows and no more because he has had a sufficient portion already. Item I give to my beloved son James Puffar besides what I have given him already out of my Estate the one halfe of my Salt Meadow lying in Dorchester which is three Acres. Item I give to my beloved daughter Hestar Sumnar the one halfe of my fresh Meadow in the foul Meadows. Item I give unto my well beloved Son Jonathan Puffar whom I Constitute and

appoint one of my Executors of this my last Will and Testament one halfe of my Salt Meadow in Milton and fifty Acres of Land lying on the North Side of the Indian line and one halfe of my Sixscore Acres of Land in Dedham near to Wrentham. Item I give to my beloved son Eliazer Puffar whom I also Constitute to be one of my Executors all my housing and the Land thereunto Adjoining which I have not already Disposed of to my Son James and Jonathan & also one halfe of my Salt Meadow in Milton. Item I give to my well beloved Daughter Abigall Crane one halfe of my lot of land in Dedham near Wrentham & I do hereby Utterly Disallow all other Wills and Testaments Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have set to my hand and Seal the Day and year above Written.

Signed Sealed and Declared by
Matthias Puffar in presence of us
SAMUEL ANDREWES.
SAMUEL ANDREWES jun^r
PETER LYON.

ye marke
MATTHIAS  PUFFAR
& a seale 

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