

The Gile Memorial.

GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS

OF THE

FAMILIES BEARING THE NAMES

OF

GILES, GOULD, HOLMES, JENNISON, LEONARD,
LINDALL, CURWEN, MARSHALL, ROBINSON,
SAMPSON, AND WEBB;

ALSO,

Genealogical Sketches of the Pool, Verry, Carr,
and other Families,

WITH A HISTORY OF PEMAQUID, ANCIENT AND MODERN; SOME
ACCOUNT OF EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN MAINE; AND
SOME DETAILS OF INDIAN WAREFARE.

"All human beings, not utterly savage, long for some information about past times."—LORD
MACAULAY.

"It is wise for us to recur to the history of our ancestors. Those who are regardless of their
ancestors do not perform their duty to the world."—DANIEL WEBSTER, Speech, Dec.
22, 1845.

BY JOHN ADAMS VINTON,

AUTHOR OF THE VINTON MEMORIAL;

MEMBER FOR LIFE OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AND CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN.

BOSTON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY HENRY W. DUTTON & SON,

Nos 90 & 92 WASHINGTON STREET.

1864.

THE WEBB FAMILY OF BRAINTREE.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS.

THERE were several families of the name of Webb, among the early settlers of New England. Francis Webb and Thomas Webb were members of the Massachusetts Company in England. Whether they ever came to these shores does not appear, though Francis was one of the active promoters of the plantation.

Richard Webb of Weymouth had Joseph, b. Aug. 19, 1640, and Nehemiah, b. Oct. 19, 1641. He removed to Boston, probably in 1644; was a shoemaker, and was chosen by the town of Boston sealer of leather, 1649. He died July 2, 1659. He had no other sons living at that time, for he says in his will, "my two sonnes." His son Joseph² (lived in Boston; d. Oct. 9, 1698) had by wife Grace, *Joseph*,³ b. March 10, 1666; *Mary*,³ b. Aug. 27, 1671; *Sarah*,³ b. Oct. 14, 1673; *Elisha*,³ b. Feb. 13, 1675. Sarah,³ just mentioned, m. May 26, 1699, John Marshall,³ b. March 19, 1678, son of Samuel,² and grandson of John¹ and Sarah Marshall of Boston.—See p. 346 of this volume.

The last named [Deacon] Joseph Webb³ (a maltster or brewer, b. 1666; d. 1746) had by wife Lydia, Joseph,⁴ b. Feb. 18, 1698-9; a baker; d. Oct. 10, 1762; m. Abigail Torrey, Oct. 26, 1721, and had fourteen children; of whom seven d. in infancy. Two sons, Nehemiah⁵ and John,⁵ and five daughters, Abigail, Lydia, Deborah, Grace, and Persis, are not recorded as dying thus early.

HENRY WEBB of London came to this country with his father, who was of Salisbury, Eng. He was at Boston previously to Sept. 25, 1637, when he had leave from the town to "buy the house where he now lives." He had a lot at Mount Wollaston, 1638. He was admitted freeman March 13, 1638-9. In 1640, "200 acres of land at the Mount [Wollaston] beyond Monotocott river," were granted him; this must have been in the present territory of Braintree. He was a successful and wealthy merchant; appears to have devoted himself to traffic; and to have taken no part in public affairs. He was a stockholder in the Iron Works at Braintree and at Lynn, from the beginning in 1644, till the failure of the Company in November, 1653. He advanced large sums of money to help that Company in their difficulties; and the property of the Company was attached to satisfy his claims, along with those of his friends, Thomas Savage, Anthony Stoddard, and others. See Vinton Memorial, pp. 465-470. He d. Sept. 7, 1660. Dowsabell, his wife, d. Feb. 28, 1659-60.

The will of Henry Webb, dated April 5, 1660; proved Sept. 13, 1660; may be found in the Genealogical Register, X., 177. He gives

property to his only daughter Margaret, late wife of Jacob Sheafe, and her children Elizabeth Sheafe and Mehitable Sheafe. He also mentions his brother John Webb, deceased, of Titherly in Hampshire, England, and several other relatives and friends. The will further says—"I giue vnto Harvard Colledge, Immediately after my decease, my house And land which I lately purchased of Henry Phillips, and was y^e late house of Samuell Oliuer, deceased, with such deed or deeds that concerne the same, the yearely Rent whereof to be improved, after y^e due and necessary Repayres thereof is provided for, to be foreuer, either for y^e maintanace of some poore schollars, or otherwise for y^e best good of y^e Colledge, to be Improved by the Care And discretion of y^e President and overseers of y^e Colledge, and Approbation of y^e overseers of this my will. I further giue vnto y^e said Colledge, £50 more, to be payd in speciall good pay," etc. The house here given was not his mansion-house; for *that* was given to his dau. Mrs. Sheafe, and to her dau. Elizabeth after her. The property given to the College is still owned by that corporation; it is the land on which stands the book-store so full of literary treasures, of Little, Brown & Co., No. 110 Washington Street. This store was handsomely rebuilt, of substantial granite, three years since, and the inscriptions, HENRICVS WEBB, COLL. HARV. D. 1660, DENVO ÆDIFICAV. PRÆS. ET SOC. 1860,* are sculptured in two tablets on the front wall.

His only daughter and child, Margaret, b. 1625; d. Feb. 23, 1693-4, a. 68; married Sept., 1642, Jacob Sheafe, b. Aug. 4, 1616, at Cranbrook in Kent, England. Mr. Sheafe d. at Boston, March 22, 1658-9. Mrs. Sheafe afterwards m. Rev. Thomas Thacher, the first minister of the Old South Church in Boston. By Mr. Sheafe, she had two daughters, Elizabeth, b. Oct. 1, 1644, who m. 1, Sept. 7, 1660, Robert Gibbs; 2, March 20, 1675, Jonathan Corwin of Salem (see p. 341 of this volume); and Mehitabel, b. May 28, 1658, who m. Sampson Sheafe, then a merchant of Boston, afterwards Judge of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire; from whom most of the name in New Hampshire are descended.

John Webb was admitted freeman, Dec. 7, 1636. He was a member of the Artillery Company in Boston, 1643. "One John Webb, alias Evered," † was the conductor of a fishing enterprise at the Isle of Sable in 1641. "John Evered, alias Webb," was one of the three appraisers of the estate of Mrs. Anne Leverett, mother of Governor Leverett, Boston, October, 1656. He was one of the early settlers of Chelmsford, of which town he was a representative, 1663, 1664, 1665.

John Webb, brazier, was admitted an inhabitant of Boston, Nov. 24, 1651.

There were, therefore, two John Webbs in Boston in 1655. One of them, probably "John Webb, alias Evered," sold house and lands in Braintree to Samuel Allen of Braintree, April 19, 1648. [Suff. Deeds, 1: 90.] This may indicate a connection with Christopher Webb, Richard, son of John and Anna Webb of Boston, died Dec. 30, 1651.

* "Henry Webb gave this property to Harvard College, 1660." "The College rebuilt the edifice, 1860."

† The "Evered" was probably assumed on leaving England, as a means of eluding the vigilance of the government, who would hinder emigration to these shores.