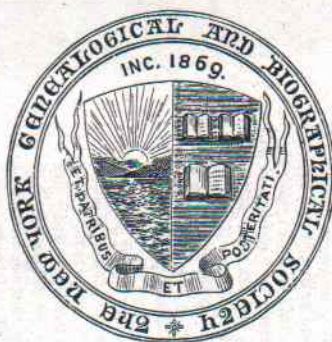


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marriage was just twenty-one. The average age of the men at marriage, according to five hundred names taken from the same authority, was twenty-five. There were only twenty marriages under the age of twenty-one.

Since the marriages recorded by Savage were among the children and grandchildren of the first settlers of New England, or between 1640 and 1700, there remains the question whether the Puritans of the next succeeding generations were not married at an earlier age than those of the former ones. Something has been attempted toward an answer. Five hundred marriages between 1700 and 1760 have been taken from *Genealogical Notes of Barnstable Families* and the *History of the Descendants of John Dwight, of Dedham, Mass.* The average age of the women as thus obtained was found to be twenty-two years and eight months. There were only thirty marriages under the age of eighteen, or six per cent., as against fourteen per cent. between 1640 and 1700. The average age of the men was about twenty-six. It appears, therefore, as though the Puritans of New England during the fore part of the eighteenth century were even less inclined to early marriage than those of the seventeenth century.

NOTES ON THE WEBB FAMILY.

BY REV. BENJAMIN WEBB.

THE difficulties attending genealogical researches in a newly settled country are apt to be many in number. This portion of the field presents no exception to the general rule, but rather illustrates it conspicuously. Bearing these things in mind, we are disposed to admire the courage of a pioneer in this direction, who has recently made public some of the results of his investigations, and to accept them gratefully. Still it must be admitted that room is left for further investigation, and perhaps it may be possible to attain to greater certainty in some respects. In the absence of certain knowledge, something in the way of conjecture may be tolerated.

In the first place, we note that Motcomb is given as the locality in Dorsetshire, England, to which the family is traced previously to its having a representative in this country. But there are two distinct places bearing this name, in the form of "Motcomb House," both located in Dorset. It would seem desirable to determine, by an examination of the records kept in England, which of these two is intended.

Such an examination might also lead to the solution of several doubtful matters in the family history, and might result in tracing it farther back than the settlement in this country, as far, perhaps, as the time when the coat-of-arms was granted, 1577. Until such information has been obtained, we are compelled to confine our attention to the family as resident in this country, beginning with the year 1626. In that year, it is said, Richard Webb came hither and settled in New England. It is also stated, in the words of one who, in his lifetime, was deeply interested in this subject, that "Richard Webb is supposed to have been a brother, or near kinsman, of Christopher Webb, as he bore the same coat-of-arms as Christopher. They came to this country very nearly together, and both

went to Braintree, Mass.* From this place it appears that Richard, having already resided in Boston and Cambridge, passed on with others to the settlement of Hartford, Conn., in 1635. We are not aware that anything has yet been done to determine to a certainty the relationship between these two, Richard and Christopher.

It has been further stated that Richard spent the latter part of his life as a resident of Stamford, Conn.; and that he died there in 1676, it being assumed that up to this time there was but one who bore this name, the same one who emigrated from England in 1626, and that he lived till fifty years afterwards. Supposing him to have been thirty years of age (as young as he is likely to have been) when he emigrated, his death, according to that account, occurred at the age of eighty. It is submitted that it was unusual for one who endured the hardships incident to pioneer life in New England in those days to live to so great an age. Again, we find, in the *History of Stamford*, † mention made of another Richard, as having settled there in 1654, or about that time, and as being probably the son of the former Richard, and it is stated that, in making a deposition on the 22d of November, 1667, he gave his age as "forty-four, or thereabouts." He was therefore born in 1623, and was about three years old when his father came to this country in 1626. The uncertainty indicated by the expression "or thereabouts," which he used, is very significant. It could hardly have existed if his father had been living, and in his neighborhood too, at that time. The same authority makes mention of his father's will, as dated in 1655. In view of what has here and elsewhere been presented, the following is suggested as a probable conjecture: that the two kinsmen, Richard and Christopher, came from England to Massachusetts in or about the year 1626, the former bringing with him at least one son, Richard, ‡ then an infant about three years of age, and leaving him, perhaps, in the care of his relatives, while he pressed on himself to make further explorations. These brought him, after he had resided in Boston and Cambridge and sojourned at Braintree, to Hartford and other places in Connecticut, till he settled finally in Norwalk, where, according to the *Historical Records of Norwalk*, by Edwin Hall, he was living in 1650, being married to Elizabeth, sister of John Gregory, of that place.

It is stated by one authority § that he had no children. In explanation of such a statement it is suggested that his children already mentioned resided elsewhere, and, having been born in England, of course their births would not be on record in this country; and it may be that they were his children by an earlier marriage, and that he had no children by this last wife. The year of his death, given in one place as 1665, may have been so given erroneously by an accidental reversal of the order of the last two figures. Elsewhere it is given as 1656. As the younger Richard is said to have settled, about the year 1654, in Stamford (then being newly settled, in the vicinity of Norwalk), it is further suggested that he probably came to live there at his father's instance, being then about thirty-one years of age. At once he is found residing there as proprietor of the Stamford mill. "He is not mentioned in his father's will of date 1655." || Might not the latter of these two circumstances be explained

* Extract from private letter.

† By Rev. E. B. Huntington.

‡ Another son named Joseph is mentioned as his eldest, in *Savage's Genealogical Records*, unless the son of another Richard is intended.

§ Savage.

|| Huntington.

by the former upon the supposition that he had already received his inheritance? In fine, these conclusions are assumed as probable that it was the elder Richard whose will was dated in 1655; that he died in 1656, his widow surviving him and living in Norwalk till 1680; and that it was his son Richard, born in 1623, and still living in 1667, whose will, giving his wife's name as Margery, was dated March 15, 1676, and who died a few days after this last-mentioned date. He would then have lived to the age of fifty-three, about as many years as his father did.

The following will serve as a summary of what has herein been indicated. Christopher Webb, born in England; parents' names unknown.

Richard Webb, born in England about 1600, married, and had two children, Joseph and Richard, born there; he died 1656.

The second Richard, born 1623, married Margery _____, and had six children: Joseph, Richard, Joshua, Caleb, Sarah, and Samuel. These were his legatees, according to Huntington's *History*.

VAN BORSUM-HENDRICKS, THE FIRST CHURCH MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK, WITH A GENEALOGY OF THE VAN BORSUM FAMILY.

BY WILLIAM GORDON VER PLANCK.

Most historians of our state and city have conceded to Sarah Rapelje the honor of being the first child of European parentage born in this state, and the claim that Jan Vingee was the first white *male* child born on Manhattan Island has not yet been successfully disputed. But Egbert Van Borsum and Annetje Hendricks will always hold the distinction of being the contracting parties in the first marriage in the colony of New York of which there is a church record. The earliest church records in this colony are those of the Reformed Dutch Church of New York city, and they commence with the following entry:

“ 1639

“ Dec. 11 Egbert Van Borsum, y. m. van Embden

“ & Annetje Hendricks, y. d. van Amsterdam.”

The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Everardus Bogardus, who was then the minister settled here.

There had been earlier marriages among the colonists here, for there is the record of the marriage of Jan Jacobsen and Marritje Pieters, which occurred August 15, 1639 (Vol. I, Coll. MSS., p. 153); and the record of a marriage contract between Thomas De Coninc and Marritje Frans Van Bets, September 22, 1639 (Vol. IV., Coll. MSS., p. 50). But neither of these were church marriages.

The descendants of the children of Egbert Van Borsum and Annetje Hendricks, who trace back their pedigrees to this first church marriage, can make good claim to an early American ancestry. The records of this same old Dutch Church have formed the basis of the following genealogy of the Van Borsum family.

1. EGBERT VAN BORSUM came to America some time prior to October