

The Narragansett Sun.

HISTORY OF WESTBROOK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1895

CHAPTER XI.

John Webb "Taylor" of Pride's Bridge.—John Webb, Jr., who married Sarah Leighton and lived at Duck Pond.—Capt. William Webb of Portland.—Mrs. Elizabeth Larrabee Webb, daughter of Benjamin Jr., and Amy Pride Larrabee.

Intentions of marriage between John Webb and Catherine Randall were entered upon the Falmouth records in 1762. This could not have been the John Webb, who married Susanna Swett, and whose children were given in the last chapter, for in 1762 he would have been but about twelve years old; nor, could it have been John Webb the "Taylor," who bought land near Prides' Bridge of Joseph Conant, on which he seems to have resided at the time of his decease which occurred between the 25th of January and the 22nd of February 1766. The task of connecting the Prides' Bridge Webbs with the other families has been one of considerable difficulty, but I am now able to state without any hesitation that "John Webb Taylor" as he is called in the conveyance from Conant was one of the numerous sons of Samuel and Bethiah Webb of Windham. He is thus mention in Eli Webb's letter to his half brother: "John lived in Falmouth and had eight children, three sons and five daughters. "He was married in 1753 to Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin and Amy (Pride) Larrabee. She was born in 1732, and lived until 1827. Her father Benjamin Larrabee was doubtless the same who was one of the grantees in 1728, of the water power at Saccarappa. He was born in 1700, at Falmouth Neck, the son of Capt. Benjamin and Deborah (Ingersoll) Larrabee. The first Benjamin was a native probably of old North Yarmouth and was born in 1666. He had been second in command of the Casco Fort, as it was called, near the mouth of Presumpscot river; and when the fort was dismantled, had come to Falmouth Neck with Major Moody and engaged in business

pursuits. His wife Deborah, was a daughter of John Ingersoll an ancient proprietor of Falmouth lands. The Larrabee family, in every generation of which, from 1666, to the present time there has been a Benjamin, has always been more or less prominent in the affairs of the old town and its numerous divisions, and will receive especial attention in a future chapter.

John and Elizabeth (Larrabee) Webb, probably had ten children instead of eight as stated by his brother Eli Webb. The following appears from a collation of different authorities to be a correct list as far it goes, although not in the order in which they were born:

1. John, Jr., born 19th May 1754, married Sarah Leighton in 1777. Their children were: 1. Dorothy married Andrew Hunnewell of Durham. 3. Elizabeth, married Brackett Sawyer. 3. Abigail married John Lord of Falmouth. They were the grandparents of Elbridge Lord of this city, at present Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. 4. Seth, who emigrated to Penobscot County where his descendants are numerous. 5. Lucy married James Lord of North Yarmouth. 6. Eunice married William Tobin of Durham. 7. Bethany (Bethiah?) the second wife of Charles Jameson of Westbrook. 8. Phebe, married Simeon Libby of Richmond, Maine. 9. Ruth the first wife of Charles Jameson. 10. Mary, unmarried.
2. Anna.
3. Betsey.
4. Abigail married Ebenezer Cross, of Portland. The late Hon. Wm. W. Cross of Bridgton was their grandson.
5. Mary, married Green Hannaford of Cape Elizabeth.
7. William, was a successful sea captain and resided in Portland on Congress street, near the head of

India. He married a daughter of ___
Moody.

8. Susan.

There were also sons Benjamin and Thomas. Benjamin was married, but left no children. He resided on the farm in Westbrook, near Pride's Bridge, on the westerly side of the county road. The farm buildings, in a ruinous condition, stood in the field away from the public road until a few years since. Thomas Webb was never married if I am correctly informed, but lived with Benjamin in Westbrook. John, Jr., died on the 8th of July, 1846. He lived near the Duck Pond on a farm subsequently occupied by his son-in-law, Jameson.

As has been already noticed, Mrs. Elizabeth (Larrabee) Webb born in 1732, survived her husband many years, dying in 1827. I have been informed by one of her granddaughters who remembered her well, that in her girlhood she was accustomed to attend divine worship at the First Baptist Church in Portland, then under the pastoral care of Parson Thomas Smith; and was present at the dedication of the wooden structure about 1750, being then a young woman some eighteen years of age and unmarried; and that she was again present, when upwards of four score years and ten, the dedication of the present stone edifice which had been erected on the same spot. On this last occasion, as was natural, she received much attention from minister and people, and was invited to dinner by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Nichols, but was obliged to decline the invitation because of the infirmities of age.

In William Lunt's ledger, to which frequent reference had been made, the names of Webbs, John and John, Jr., occur, and the one, without the distinguishing mark, seems to have exercised the calling of a tailor, fitting the male members of the Lunt household with sundry coats and jackets, in exchange for footwear which was made by Lunt for himself and his wife and children. As the elder John Webb "Taylor" was already deceased before the earliest date in Lunt's book. I infer that the tailor with whom he had dealings was the John Webb who married Sarah Leighton; and as I find no John among the sons of the latter the "Jr." of the ledger is left still unaccounted for, unless, indeed, he was the same who married Susanna Swett and was noticed in the last chapter.

R.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

HISTORY OF WESTBROOK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1895

CHAPTER XI.-CONTINUED.

The residence of John Webb, "Taylor," at Falmouth Neck, now Portland.—The exact date of his death not known.—The home of the Larrabees at Dear Hill, Westbrook. The death and burial of Joshua Webb, eldest son of Jonathan Webb.—A characteristic passage from the journal of Parson Bradley.

Before he settled at Pride's Bridge, John Webb appears to have been engaged in the business of a tailor in that part of Falmouth then called the Neck, now Portland. The tenth of October 1763, he sold to Joseph Bayley, "Mariner," a certain small lot or parcel of land containing ten square rods on the northerly side of Love Lane, so called, (now Center street,) beginning in the westerly corner of a lot of land belonging to Nathaniel Ingersoll, "whereon he now liveth." Ingersoll was probably a kinsman of Webb's wife. Previous to this time, Webb had built a house on the Neck on land belonging to Benjamin Larrabee, probably the father of his wife. This land Larrabee sold to Ebenezer Mayo by deed dated 25th January 1766. Larrabee's wife, who is mentioned in this deed as having a right dower in his land, was Catherine, who may have been his second wife. In 1763, a Benjamin Larrabee of Falmouth married Catherine Tibbetts; and the previous year, 1762, Benjamin Larrabee, also of Falmouth, married Lydia Bayley. The land they conveyed by Larrabee to Mayo is described as "a certain small lot of land laying and being in that part of Falmouth called the Neck, on the north-easterly side of Middle street, on which is a house lately built by John Webb Taylor in which he lately dwelt." This land was adjacent to land of Joseph Bayley, but the task of its definite location is

more than I have been able to accomplish. On the same day that Larrabee sold the land on which Webb's house was standing, to Mayo, Webb conveyed the house to the same grantee; but it appears that Webb's deed was not acknowledged until the 25th of March of the same year, two months after the deed was made. From the fact that Mayo conveyed to Webb's wife and children on the 22th of February 1766, the same lands at Pride's Bridge, which Webb had conveyed to him the previous year, (1765,) it has been assumed that Webb had deceased just previous to the former date. But against this we have the magistrate's certificate of acknowledgement just noticed. The time of his death, therefore, becomes uncertain; but it is probable that he did not survive many years after this period. The late Hon. Wm. W. Cross, his great-grandson, writing some time in the "eighties," of this century said that he had then been dead over a hundred years.

The deed of the house given by Webb to Mayo is witnessed by Joshua Moody and "Mary Letherbe X her mark." This fact is interesting as showing an old pronunciation of the name of the Larrabee family, who were called "Leatherbee" by many persons as late as the early part of the present century.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Larrabee) Webb, took part in the division of the estate of her father, the second Benjamin Larrabee, in 1792, at which time she appears to have been a widow. The heirs at this time were, Benjamin Larrabee, John Larrabee, Mary Tuckfield, Elizabeth Webb, David Ross and Amy his wife, and Abigail Larrabee.

To Benjamin Larrabee was assigned, in this division, a tract of sixty acres of land at Deer Hill, at a valuation of 36 shillings per acre. At this time Benjamin was of Portland, but he probably soon afterwards took up his residence here on the same spot where C. P. Maxwell now lives, in a house which had been built by David Small, an early settler. The Small house, which was a one storied structure, was subsequently removed to make room for the large house, long the home of several generations of the Larrabee family, which now forms two stories of the main structure of the "White House" at Cumberland Mills. Benjamin Larrabee, who shared in this division, was the third to bear the name in a

direct line. He married Sarah, a daughter of Joshua Brackett of Portland; and through their mother his children and their descendants inherited a large tract of land from Congress street to the Back Bay, some of which is still (or was recently) held in the family name. Mr. Larrabee was born in 1735 and died in 1809. He received from Joseph Noyes a conveyance of a large tract of land near his Deer Hill inheritance; and in the definite location of the road from Capisic to Saccarappa, made the 5th of December, 1803, mention is made of Larrabee's sixty acre lot on which "he now resides."

Benjamin Larrabee who was the fourth of the name in the direct line, son of Benjamin and Sarah (Brackett) Larrabee, married _____ Cobbey and second _____ Lamb, a sister of the late John and Samuel Lamb. He owned large tracts of land inherited from his father, from Deer Hill in Westbrook to near Harper's Hill in the present city of Deering, including the present Deering city farm. With his son Benjamin, who died a few years since in Portland, leaving three daughters and no son, the direct line of Benjamin ceased, but the name is still borne in the family by one of his grandsons.

And although persons bearing the name have never been very numerous in Westbrook the posterity of the second Benjamin Larrabee is still well represented in each of the cities that have been carved out the a portion of the territory of ancient Falmouth.

The time when Joshua Webb, the oldest son of Jonathan Webb, died, and the place where he was buried, have been matters of uncertainty; but are settled by the following entry in Parson Bradley's journal, with which I have been furnished by a friend, and which I give, in all the quaintness of the original, as follows:

"June 1st, 1841, I set out for Saccarappa Village on foot. ½ past 12 at Mr. Foster's where I took dinner and stayed till 2 p.m.; then called at James Merrill's and spent an hour, then at Henry Stevens' ½ hour, then called at the house of mourning, Mrs. Plummer's, whose father, Joshua Webb, a corpse, aged 59, he wishing me to attend his funeral and perform the religious ceremony, making the request while alive as well as his children. I asked a blessing at the house, then at 4 p.m. proceeded to the Congregational meetinghouse where I preached a funeral sermon, sung the 90th Psalm, L.M., read the 14th chapter of Job, made some remarks, then prayed, sung again, 90th Psalm, S.M., then

the blessing, then to the grave where was deposited the body of Jonathan Webb, there to remain till the trump of God shall awaken his sleeping dust.”

It is “in evidence” therefore, that on the 1st day of June, 1841, Joshua Webb was buried in the Conant cemetery, near the grave of his father, Jonathan Webb.

R.

TO BE CONTINUED.