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Ancestry of Rev. John
Sherman and Capt.
John Sherman

ANCESTRY

REV. JOHN SHERMAN

CAPT. JOHN SHERMAN

JANUARY 1897

Read, Jan. 20, 98.

Chester J. Sherman
for C. F. White

ANCESTRY

OF

REV. JOHN SHERMAN AND CAPT. JOHN SHERMAN.

See H. & G. The Genealogical Gleanings in the April and July numbers (1896) of the Register contain a number of wills which throw light on the lineage of the Sherman's of Dedham, England, and Watertown, Mass.

It is proposed to call attention to the information given in some of these wills concerning Rev. John Sherman and Capt. John Sherman of Watertown.

The accompanying Pedigree table shows their descent from Henry¹ Sherman, the elder of Colchester, whose will is dated 1589 (281)*

Samuel³ Sherman, a son of Edmund² Sherman, by his second wife Anne Clere, and a grandson of Henry¹ Sherman the elder of Colchester made his will in 1648 (392).

It contains valuable information of his relatives in New England, confirming and adding to our knowledge of the family.

He gives legacies to Rev. John Sherman and Samuel, his brother, and to their sisters and to their mother. He mentions their father, and places their legacies in the hands of Edmund, their brother, to be sent over by him to New England. We read in the will of legacies:

"To my loving sister Sherman, Edmund's widow."

This Edmund, whose widow is Samuel's "loving sister Sherman", was a half brother of the testator and was the father of Rev. John. According to Savage, he was at Wethersfield† in 1636, and went to New Haven, where he died in 1641.

He was the "Olde Father Shirman" of whom, in New Haven Colony Records Vol 1, page 52, we read:

"3 Mon. 1641. An Inventory and will of Olde Father Shirman was delivered into Court."

Unfortunately the will and the inventory are missing, and no copy or account of them is to be found.

* The figures in brackets refer to pages in Vol. 50 (1896) of N. E. H. & G. Register where the wills referred to may be read.

† Memorial History of Hartford County Vol. 2 p. 437.

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Samuel Sherman's will is dated 1648. Edmund died as has been said in 1641. There is little doubt but that he was the "Olde Father Shirman" who died in New Haven, and that his widow was the "Widd" Sherman who received an allotment of land in New Haven with the other first planters of the town.

The "cousin Edmund Sherman" in this will was Rev. John's brother who came to Watertown and returned to England. He was doing business and in correspondence with friends and relatives in New England, and could easily send over these legacies.

Bond, in his History of Watertown, page 1088, says, in 1663 he sent a power of attorney to his brother Rev. John Sherman of Watertown, to bring suit against "the assignees" for two broad-cloths sent over to Thomas Hammond.

Three sisters of Rev. John were here in New England. One, the youngest, is not named; another was Grace, and the third was Ester Ward, who was probably the wife of Andrew Ward of Watertown 1634, Wethersfield 1635, a very prominent and influential man. He and his brother-in-law, Samuel Sherman, were leaders in the settlement of Stamford, Conn., in 1640.

The testator speaks of his brother Richard, who died in Boston, and whose will is in Vol. 9 page 227 of Register, and of the two children of Richard, Samuel and Alice. He also sends £10 in linen cloth and shoes to his sister Mary Bacon in New England.

The Sherman ancestors of Rev. John Sherman were: Edmund³ who came to New England and died in New Haven (Edmund², Henry¹).

As to Edmund³ Sherman (Henry², Henry¹) there is no evidence that he came to this country. He married Judith Anger and is called by his sister Anne Colchester in her will in 1638 (390) "my brother Edmund Sherman of Colchester." She speaks in her will of her daughter Phoebe Barnard of New England, and had her brother Edmund been in New England in 1638 it is not likely he would be described as of Colchester.

This Anne Wilson was Anne Sherman (Henry², Henry¹) who married, 1st Anthony Whiting and 2nd, Thomas Wilson.

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The parentage of Capt. John Sherman, Watertown, freeman May 17, 1637, is not so easily traced. Some of his descendants may be interested in the reasons which may be given for thinking that he was the son of John^s Sherman (Henry², Henry¹) and of Grace Makin, daughter of Tobias Makin of Fingrinhoe, County Essex, England, whose will (286) is dated May 14, 1610.

These Sherman wills show that Anne Sherman (Edmund², Henry¹) married John Anger. In her will dated 1625 (498) is this bequest:

"I give to the two children of *the wife* of Thomas Rogers, John Sherman and Richard Sherman, *my kinsmen*, ten shillings a piece at their ages of one and twenty."

This bequest tells us that Thomas Rogers married a widow whose former husband was named Sherman, by whom she had these two children, John Sherman and Richard Sherman.

It also follows that the father of these two children was dead in 1625, for that is the date of Ann Anger's will.

It will be shown that this John Sherman was our Capt. John, and that this Thomas Rogers was the Thomas Rogers who came to Watertown, Bond says probably in 1630, and was made freeman May 17, 1637, and who died November 12, 1638, aged 50, whose house lot in Watertown Capt. John Sherman bought.

Thomas Rogers had one child* by this widow Sherman, a daughter Elizabeth, who married Daniel Smith.

After the death of Thomas Rogers, his widow Grace Sherman Rogers married for her third husband William Palmer, widower.

Palmer's daughter Martha, by a former wife, had married Capt. John Sherman. They were married before Thomas Rogers died, for their first child John Sherman was born November 2, 1638.

William Palmer died after 1650, for in that year he agreed to release to his son-in-law John Sherman, land in Great Ormsby, Co. Norfolk, England. It is supposed he came from that place. His widow Grace Sherman Rogers Palmer married for her fourth husband Roger Porter, widower, who died April 3, 1654, aged 71.**

In Mass. Colony Records Vol. 4 page 232 we read:

1655, May 29: "In answer to the petition of Grace Porter craving the favor of this Court for liberty to sell the house and lands, she stands possessed of mentioned in her petition: The Court grants her request, so as Daniel Smith of Watertown, husband of the

***) For Palmer, Porter, Rogers, Sherman, Smith see Bond's Hist., Watertown, pp. 384, 407, 413, 430, 439, 865, 913, 934, 935, 1017, 1023, 1014, 1038, 1039 and Mass. Colony Records Vol. 4 pp. 248 and 264.

daughter of Thomas Rogers, have notice given him by Jno Sherman of the Court condescension, unless the said Smith at the next session of this Court shall show cause to the contrary."

Grace Porter died in Watertown, leaving a will proved June 17, 1662.

It will be seen from ~~an abstract of her will which follows~~ ^{post on page 8} that she was the mother of Capt. John Sherman, and this fact proves that the John Sherman described in the will of Ann Anger, as one of the two children of the wife of Thomas Rogers, was our Capt. John Sherman, and this being so, Thomas Rogers must be identical with the Thomas Rogers who came to Watertown and died in 1638.

Grace Porter gives nothing to the children of William Palmer or Roger Porter, but only to children of her blood. An abstract of her will is as follows:

After devises to her "son John Sherman and to her daughter Elizabeth Smith" (who was her daughter by Thomas Rogers, and widow of Daniel Smith who died 1660), and after legacies to "her grandchildren," each of whom she names, viz: to Daniel Smith, who was son of her daughter Elizabeth Rogers, and to John, Martha, Mary, Sarah and Joseph Sherman, all the children then living of Capt. John Sherman, she directs the *residue* to be divided equally between "her said son John Sherman, and her said daughter Elizabeth Smith." "My brother John Coolidge and Lieutenant Richard Beers to be executors."

My cousin John Sherman to be overseer, to whom "I give as followeth: to my said cousin Sherman the sum of forty shillings, and twenty shillings a piece to each of my said executors, brother John Coolidge and Lieutenant Beers "

"Witnesses John Sherman and Mary Sherman."

The will is not dated.

On one page of the inventory of this residue, a note about the division of Grace Porter's estate says:

"In case *their brother in England* shall legally obtain against the estate that they jointly and equally do tender estate for satisfying the same that so neither side may be unequally represented by this award. The 8th of July, 1662, Simon Willard, Richard Russell, Thomas Danforth."

"Their brother in England" is without doubt the Richard Sherman described in the bequest in Ann Anger's will, as one of the two children of the wife of Thomas Rogers.

Mr. Savage in his Genealogical Dictionary says Capt. John Sherman died January 25, 1691, aged 76, which makes 1615 the year of his birth.

In looking through these wills to find the father of Capt. John, two facts which have been brought to light in the preceding pages are of great assistance, to wit : that Capt. John's father died before 1625, and that his mother's christian name was Grace. So that none of the grandsons of Henry¹ the elder of Colchester, who are known to have been living after 1625, and none of those who died before 1625 leaving a widow surviving whose christian name was other than Grace, could have been the father of our Capt. John.

Applying these tests to the grandsons of Henry² who are mentioned in these wills, the evidence is now submitted which leads to the conclusion that Capt. John Sherman's ancestry is John², Henry², Henry¹.

In the will of Henry¹ the elder of Colchester (281) are the names of his sons living in 1589, to wit :

Henry², Edmund² and Robert².

Robert², "Doctor in Phissick," lived in London. He had two sons Robert and Richard, neither of them mentioned in the will of their grandfather in 1589. We hear no more of them after their father's will in 1602 (284). It does not seem probable that either of them would have been old enough if living in 1615, the year of Capt. John's birth, to have been his father. He left surviving a widow Bridget.

Edmund² had by his first wife Anne Pelatte three sons, viz : Edmund³, Richard³ and Bezaleel³, and by his second wife Anne Cleare three sons : Samuel³, John³ and Benjamin³. (See his will (283) and his wife's will 284). All these six sons were living after 1625, except Bezaleel.

Edmund³ is the Edmund Sherman who died in New Haven in 1641.

Richard³ died in Boston in 1660.

Bezaleel³ died in 1618 (288) leaving a daughter Ursula and a son John. The legacy to the son John in Ann Anger's will (408) shows he is not our Capt. John, to whom also she gives a legacy calling him one of the two children of the wife of Thomas Rogers. He left a widow surviving - Priscilla.

Samuel³. His will was made in 1643 (391) and in it he mentions as living then his brothers John³ and Benjamin³

Take now the sons of Henry² :

In his will (285) he names six sons living in 1610, to wit :

Henry², Nathaniel², Daniel², John², Ezekiel² and Edmund² who is spoken of as Edmund of Colchester in some of the wills.

Henry² made his will in 1642 (398).

Ezekiel² and Edmund² are mentioned as living in the will of their sister Anne Wilson in 1638 (390).

Nathaniel² was baptized July 11, 1582 (415). His will in 1615 (287) tells us of but two sons Nathaniel and Joseph. He left a widow surviving—Priscilla.

Daniel² was married to Christian Chapman in 1601 (414). He is not mentioned after the will of his mother Susan Sherman in 1610 (286). He had a son John whose will dated 1658 (395) shows conclusively he is not Capt. John. Daniel² left a will dated April 1, 1633, which is not in the Gleanings of Mr. Waters. A brief abstract of this will is given at the end of this article.

Samuel², who is not mentioned in the will of his father but is mentioned in the will of his mother Susan Sherman 1610 (286) had probably a wife Philippa, by whom he had five children; whose baptisms are given on pages 415—416. One transcriber of the Dedham Parish Register copies the burial of Sara Sherman thus:

“1612 Dec. 5, Sara dau. of Samuel and Phillipa Sherman”.

But in the burials on page 417, Phillipa happens to be omitted.

It is evident then that neither of these six sons of Henry² was Capt. John's father. The only son of Henry² now left is John². Of him nothing is known after the will of his mother Susan Sherman in 1610 (286).

In the absence of direct evidence the result of this process of elimination must determine the question, and John² Sherman the son of Henry² and grandson of Henry¹ the elder of Colchester, must be accepted as the father of our Capt. John.^x

As to Edmund Sherman who is mentioned in the will of Tobias Makin which is dated 1610 (286).

It is probable that he is the Edmund² Sherman (Edmund², Henry¹) who was the father of Rev. John Sherman.

That he married Joane Makin is not improbable.

If Tobias Makin's will is read with care it will be seen that he does not say that his daughter Grace Sherman is the wife of Edmund Sherman, nor that Richard Sberman the son of Edmund Sherman is his grandchild, though from the context, this legacy to Richard following the legacy to his grandchild Elizabeth Potter, the inference is a fair one that he was his grandchild, and this inference is supported by the baptism on Dedham Parish Register (page 416) where we read:

^x This "Process" is not, of course, conclusive—Henry Sherman of Colchester may have had other sons not named in his Will & if so, one of them may have been the father of our Capt. John—Other known facts however sustain this theory that John² (Henry², Henry¹) was the father of Capt. John.
(C. Absolute)

"1608 Oct. 16, Richard son of Edmund and Jene Sherman".

Grace Makin called by Tobias "Grace Sherman my daughter" may very plausibly be supposed to be our Grace Porter who married first John Sherman, and second Thomas Rogers. His place in the Rogers family is not ascertained.

Here it may be said that John Rogers, the famous preacher of Dedham owned land in Fingrinhoe where Tobias Makin lived, for in (Vol. 41 page 175 Register) he and his wife Dorothy sell it, and that Rev. Richard Rogers (Vol. 41 page 163 Reg.) makes "son Makin" one of the overseers of his will, and that a Thomas Makin was one of the witnesses of Ann Anger's will (408).

Evidently the Rogers and Makin families were intimate, and also acquainted with the Shermans.

It may be noticed that John Sherman and Mary Sherman were witnesses of Grace Porter's will. They were without doubt Rev. John Sherman and his wife Mary. Grace calls him "my cousin" which is not inconsistent with the theory that Rev. John's mother might be her sister. Cousin often meaning in those days nephew and niece.

There is a tradition which has come down in one branch of the Sherman family from a grandson of Capt. John, that the Rev. John and Capt. John were cousins in the modern meaning of the word, their fathers being brothers. It is now known that their fathers were not brothers, but if their mothers were sisters the tradition would be nearer the truth than most traditions are.

It is not forgotten that Grace Porter in her will calls John Coolidge her brother, implying she was Grace Coolidge before marriage, but though a strong point, it may not be thought conclusive. Some evidence has been given against it. She might have called John Coolidge her brother, if his wife whose family name is not known, should have been a sister of either of Grace's four husbands.

That Grace Porter was the mother of Capt. John Sherman is a fact. It would be gratifying to know whether she was Grace Coolidge or Grace Makin or of some other family, and also to know whether Joan Makin married Edmund² Sherman (Edmund², Henry¹) and was the mother of Rev. John.

The facts suggesting these questions deserve to be noticed but the questions must wait for a satisfactory answer until evidence of a positive character shall be found to determine them.

It was thought the Parish Register of Fingrinhoe might give the marriages of the Makins and Shermans, but that Parish Register has no entry earlier than 1653, and these marriages were before 1610.

Will of Daniel Sherman.

Daniel Sherman of Dedham, April 1, 1633, proved April 15, 1634. Sons Henry, Daniel, John and Edmund. Daughters Mary, Susan, Christian and Martha. Kinsman Robert Smith. Brother Henry Sherman. Wife Sarah executrix.

PORTER.

Middlesex County, Mass. Probate.
File 1862.

Know all men by these presents that I, Grace Porter, widow, of Watertown in the County of Middlesex in New England, inhabitant, being in perfect memory but under the afflicting hand of the ever gracious God, my Lord and maker, not knowing how soone it may be his good pleasure to call me out of this evill world; after sollemn profession of unfayned willingness to resigne to his Sovereignes disposal and of an humble confidence and trust in his rich mercy and free grace in Jesus Christ for what concerns my everlasting estate in another world; I do for the ordering of what temporall estate I shall leave behind me, after my debts payd and funerall expences discharged, make this my Last will and testament; giving and bequeathing as followeth

Imprints I give to my Sonne John Sherman my dividend of upland.

Item. I do give to my daughter Elisabeth Smith all my marsh being by estimation foure acres more or lesse to be to her and her sonn Daniel after her.

Item. I do give to my said daughter Elisabeth all my wearing clothes and all my linnen and also my great kittle.

Item. I doe give to my grand child Daniel Smith my cow that is with calf.

Item. I doe give my other cow to my grand child John Sherman.

Item. I doe give to my grand child Martha Sherman my warming pan.

Item. I do to my grand children Mary Sherman and Sarah Sherman to each of them two pewter dishes: and to Joseph Sherman five shillings.

My will is, that the remainder of my estate be divided equally between my said son John Sherman and my said daughter Elisabeth Smith each of them to possessse and enjoy their part or half which by such division shall be set out for them,

Whereas I am indebted to my daughter Elisabeth Smith, my mind is she should be satisfied in the first place in such goods as shee shall choose.

I doe also hereby declare, that for such things as I left with my said daughter Elisabeth (of the particulars of which, my son Sherman had a note) I had them againe, since, of her, see that shee is not to be called for any account about them upon that or any other note to that purpose.

I do further hereby constitute and choose my brother John Cooledge and Lieutenant Richard Beers as executors of this will intreating my cousin Job: Sherman as overseer, to see my mind full filled, unto whom I give as followeth to my said Cousin Sherman the sume of forty shillings: and twenty shillings apiece to each of my said executors brother Cooledge and Lieutenant Beers.

This is my Last will and Testament witness my hand and seal

Subscribed sealed and
delivered in the presence
of us John Sherman
Mary Sherman

Grace  Porter
her mark

(In the margin)

Lent. Beers & Jno Cooledge appearing in Court 17 (27), 4, 1662, openly disclaimed their executership to this will.
Thomas Danforth. R.

Mr. Jno Sherman & Jno Cooledge appearing in Court at Charlestown the 17th (4) 1662, attested on oath that they were present wth Grace Porter, deceased signed & published this her last will and testament & that she was of a disposing mind wth she so did being about a year now past.

Entered & Recorded in the Register of Wills and Inventories lib. 2, page 41. 17 (4) 1662.

Thomas Danforth. R.

Inventory of Grace Porter ye relique of Roger Porter now deceased taken June 24th, 1662.

On one page of Inventory a note about division of Grace Porter's estate says "In case their brother in England shall legally obtain against the estate, that they joyently & equally do tender estate for satisfying the same that so neither side may be unequally represented by this award."

This 8th of July 1662,

Simon Willard,
Richard Russell
Thomas Danforth

SHERMAN OF YAXLEY AND SHERMAN OF DEDHAM.—It seems probable that Henry Sherman, the Elder of Colchester, was one of the Shermans of Yaxley, Suffolk Co. If so, it may be possible to carry this line back one or two generations.

In Vol. 3 Second Series of the Proceedings of the Mass. Historical Society, 1885-1886, pp. 249-257, is a very interesting account of "Exploded" Coats of Arms. One of the "Exploded" is that of Sherman, described p. 251, as follows: "Sherman, He beareth, Argent, a Lyon Rampant, Sable, between three Holly leaves, Proper, by the name of Sherman, of this family are Samuel, John and Edward (old MS. correction says Edmond), sons of Samuel Sherman of Dedham in Essex, *originally extracted from Yaxley in Suffolk*; which Edward Sherman being of London, Merchant, hath married Jane Daughter of John Wall* of Bromley by Jane daughter and Heire of Sayer."

This is from page 189 of the fourth edition of John Guillim's "Display of Heraldry," published in 1660, and being made by one whose business led him to ascertain such facts, is good authority for believing, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the Dedham Shermans were "originally extracted from Yaxley in Suffolk."

The will of Thomas Sherman of Yaxley, Co. Suffolk, which is dated January 20, 1550, proved November 16, 1551, mentions nine sons, among them a son Henry and a son William.

In the will of this son William, dated May 28, 1583, proved August 9th, 1583, he styles himself citizen and grocer of London, now inhabiting at Ipswich, Co. Suffolk, and he mentions a brother Henry.

It is hoped that further investigation now being made in England may result in proving or disproving the theory that Henry Sherman of Colchester is identical with the Henry mentioned in the will of Thomas and of his son William.

Thomas Sherman of Yaxley, will proved 1551, begins the Sherman Pedigree in the Visitation of Leicester 1619 (Harleian Society Pub.), which gives three or four generations of the descendants of his son William.

This "Exploded" Coat of Arms, granted by Cromwell—a rare, and to those of Puritan descent a very honorable heritage—is probably that seen on the tomb of Edmund Sherman, in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Dedham. The tomb in October, 1806, was in ruins, the sides had fallen in and the slab on which are the Arms and inscription, rests on the ground.

The Vicar of St. Mary's shows an amusing letter from General Sherman, to whom he had applied for money to restore it, in which the General declines.

The Coat of Arms thereon is similar to the Arms of the Yaxley Shermans, which are: Or, a lion rampant, sable, between three oak leaves, vert. The inscription is as follows:—

Here resteth the body of Mary
the wife of Edmund Sherman
of Dedham who departed this life
January 27th in the 62nd year of her age

1733

She was the second daughter of
Nicholas Freeman of Dedham
Who died in the 57th year of his age

1676

Also the body of
Edmund Sherman Gent
who died ye 9th of January 1741-2
aged 72 years

The reason for "Exploding" certain Coats of Arms is given on the title page of a second "fourth edition" of the "Display of Heraldry", published about 1662, where it is stated that "since imprinting of this last edition, many offensive Coats (to the Loyal Party) are exploded", and after the two dedications to Charles II., and the Duke of Somerset, comes the following:

"To The most concerned—The Nobility and Gentry.

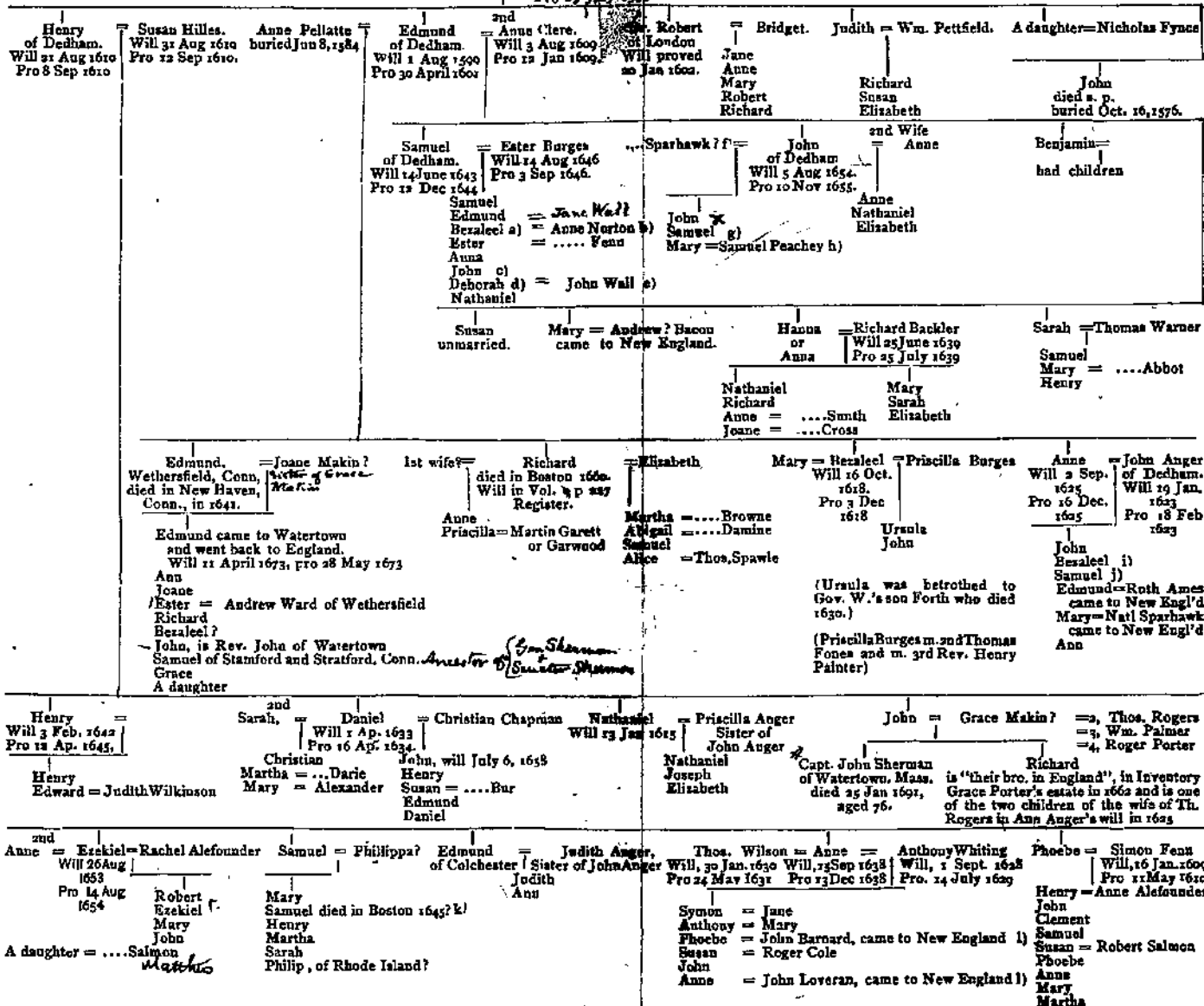
My Lords and Gentlemen:

This inestimable piece of Heraldry, that hath passed four impressions with much approbation, had the unhappy fate in the last, to have a blot in its Escutcheon, viz: The insertion of Oliver's Creatures, which as no merit could enter them in such a Regiment but Usurpation, so we have in this fifth impression, exploded them and incerted the Persons, Titles and Dignities of such as His Majesty (since his blessed restauration) conferred honor upon. That so the Corn may be intire, of one Sheaf, and the Grapes of one Vine. R. B. (Richard Blome.)"

* See wills of Nicholas Wall and Thomas Gippes, pp. 129 and 249 of REGISTERS, Vol. 50.

SHERMAN PEDIGREE.

Agnes buried 14 October 1580. **HENRY SHERMAN** = 2d Margery, widow of — Wilson
the elder of Colchester.
Will 20 January 1580.
Pro 25 July 1580



a) Will 10 May 1687, pro. 15 Sept. 1687. p. 306.

b) Will 26 Nov. 1720, pro. 2 Nov. 1722, p. 397.

c) Will 16 March 1670, pro. 29 March 1671, p. 356.

d) Will 31 Aug. 1684, pro. 9 July 1685. p. 251

e) Will 26 March 1678, pro. 3 June 1678, p. 250.

f) Will 29 March 1653, pro. 20 Sep. 1653, p. 470.

g) Will 30 Dec. 1628, pro. 28 Feb. 1628, p. 304.

h) From another transcript of Dedham Parish Register.

i) Will 25 Oct. 1678, pro. 11 Nov. 1678, p. 405.

j) Will 1 April 1667, pro. 25 May 1667, p. 404.

k) Supposed to be referred to in will John Ward, Vol. 46, p. 312.

l) Bond's History, Watertown, pp. 15 & 313.

a) Their gr. granddaughter Mary Vincent married Neil, third Earl of Rosebery, grandfather of the present (fifth) Earl of Rosebery.

From the wills of the Sherman's and their kinfolk in Vol. 50 N. E. H. & G. Reg. pp. 249 to 288 & pp. 385 to 424 and from the transcript of Dedham Parish Register pp 414 to 417.

* Ancestor of Hon. Roger Sherman Signer Declaration of Independence & of Hon. Wm. M. Edwards & of Judge E. R. Howe & Senator Howe of Illinois & of Governor Roger S. Baldwin of Conn. who was also U.S. Senator.

