

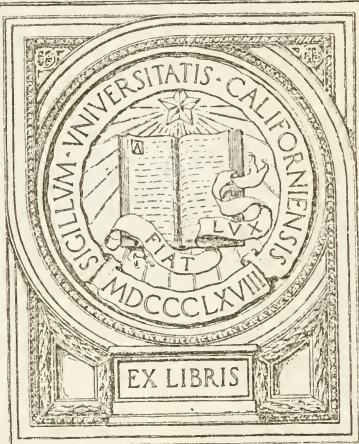
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**A** HISTORICAL SKETCH  
*of the* ROBINSON FAMILY

— *of the Line of* —

EBENEZER ROBINSON  
— A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION —









EBENEZER ROBINSON

[An old wood cut used in the "History of Reading, Vt., and loaned by Gilbert A. Davis, of Windsor, Vt.]

A HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
ROBINSON FAMILY

OF THE LINE OF  
EBENEZER ROBINSON

*A Soldier of the Revolution.*

Born at Lexington, Mass., Feb., 14th, 1765.  
Died at South Reading, Vt., Oct. 31, 1857.

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BY  
JANE BANCROFT ROBINSON, Ph. D.  
*Member of American Historical Society.*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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It is with some degree of pleasure and satisfaction that the undersigned present this "Historical Sketch of the Robinson Family" to the descendants of Ebenezer Robinson, whose life is herein described.

While on a visit to Boston last August, we had the pleasure of attending the biennial meeting of the "Robinson Family Association" at Gloucester, Mass., of visiting the birthplace of Ebenezer Robinson at historic Lexington, and of viewing the lane where young Robinson, hearing the noise of the battle, ran down and witnessed the retreat of the British troops along the turn-pike to Boston.

It was an eventful summer day to us when with our kodaks, we inspected the patriotic scenes about Lexington, and the interest awakened there and at the "Robinson Family" gathering at Gloucester is the responsible cause of this sketch.

If the descendants of Ebenezer Robinson take anything like the pleasure in reading and tracing this family history that has been enjoyed in its preparation, we shall be amply repaid for the time and effort expended.

In preparing this sketch there were many facts as to persons and families much to be desired, which we were unable or found difficult to obtain. This will account for any lack of uniformity in the facts given of the several families. We regret that we were not able to obtain pictures of the home of Ebenezer Robinson in South Reading and of other homesteads of Robinson families.

We are indebted to Mr. Charles E. Robinson, of Yonkers, N. Y., the Historiographer of the "Robinson Family Association" for the "Robinson Family Crest," as given herein, and for many facts and suggestions relative to this history; also to Rev. S. L. B. Speare, of Newton, Mass.; to Mr. George A. Gordon, of Boston, Recording Secretary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; to Mr. Arthur H. Keyes, of Rutland, Vt., and several other members of the Robinson Family for valuable information contained herein.

With the best wishes of the undersigned, this historical sketch is respectfully submitted to the numerous descendants of our Revolutionary Hero.

GEORGE O. ROBINSON,  
JANE B. ROBINSON.

THE writing of this *Sketch* involved considerable work. The aid of court officials and genealogists was obtained when further accuracy could be secured. Therefore the labor and expense given this little pamphlet were more than is manifest by a cursory glance.

It is hoped that the *Sketch* may prove of interest to those of the future who honor the substantial men and women of the past who have contributed to make our country what it is today.

MRS. GEORGE O. ROBINSON

1303 Wentworth Avenue,  
Pasadena, California

# CHAPTER I.

## EBENEZER ROBINSON.

The State of Massachusetts has furnished many "good men and true" to the upbuilding of the great Republic of the New World. Among these are statesmen and leaders far out of proportion to her population. The subject of this sketch, however, is one of the rank and file, one of the many upright, substantial men, who have made New England what it is in influence and in history.

New England has developed through its religion. Love of church privileges led the people to settle near one another, so that they could build meeting houses. They desired to educate their children to become not only good citizens but intelligent, exemplary citizens, and so they built school-houses. These conveniences gave rise to their town organizations, and to the town-meeting which did more to improve and elevate the people than any other political institution.

The town-meeting assembled all the freemen on a level, public questions were openly discussed, and every freeman understood his civil and political rights, and to maintain them was ready to fight. Hence the citizens of New England kept up a military organization, selecting their wisest and most reliable men as officers, and often the same man held the office of both captain and deacon. The religious idea was the foundation stone of their civilization.

We may call the Puritans of New England stern and austere, but their conceptions of life tended to elevate and ennoble. Their climate was cold and rigorous; their land infertile; their privations many. They were trained in the school of adversity. Yet it remains true as has been said: "In wealth, in learning, in social order, in everything which make a people truly great, the Colonies settled by the Puritans are decidedly in advance of any others."

It was to such an environment that Ebenezer Robinson was born Feb. 14, 1765. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all lived their lives in similar surroundings. His mother died when he was a little boy of nearly three years, and his father when he was nine years of age. He continued to live on in the old homestead, with his step-mother and four younger children to play with, and to care for. Meanwhile the clouds on the political sky were gathering, and the young men of the family shared in the indignant, resentful feeling of the colonists. Three of his older brothers were Revolutionary soldiers, and his oldest brother, Joseph, took part in the battle of Lexington, the first outbreak of the war of the Revolution.

In view of these facts it is not strange that as a boy of sixteen, Ebenezer entered the service, becoming one of the defenders of his country. We have the story of his life from his own lips, as told to his grandson, George O. Robinson, who had completed his college course at the University of Vermont and was over twenty-five years of age when his grandfather died.\*

"One of the most remarkable of the early settlers of Reading, Vt., was Ebenezer Robinson, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who was born on the 14th day of February, 1765, in Lexington, Mass., near the place where afterwards occurred the battle of Lexington. He was the sixth son of James and Margaret Robinson; who lived at this time on the old homestead farm, which Jonathan Robinson, the father of James, purchased of Isaac Powers in 1706, and on which James was born August 30th, 1715.

Ebenezer Robinson settled in South Reading, Vt., in the Spring of 1788, with his elder brother, James Robinson, who was then married. They located on the farm near South Reading recently owned and for a long time held by Washington Keyes, which was then a wilderness. They built here a log cabin, and, immediately after, was born a son of James Robinson, Ebenezer Robinson, 2d (named after the subject

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\*This narrative was prepared for and mainly taken from the "Hist. of Reading, Vt., G. A. Davis, Bellows Falls, Vt., 1874."

of this sketch), who subsequently was a resident of Felchville, a village which sprung up in the southeast part of Reading. He was familiarly known as Capt. Eb. In this log house the two brothers lived for several years, Ebenezer clearing and settling his farm adjoining, afterward so long owned and occupied by himself, till the summer of 1792, when he built a frame house, which is still standing as the wing or kitchen part of the present house, and to which in November, 1792, having married Miss Hannah Ackley, he took his bride and established his own happy home. Previous to this, the Ackley family had migrated from the vicinity of Haddam, Connecticut, and settled above South Reading. In this frame house this devoted couple reared a large, intelligent, prosperous family and spent a happy life of sixty-six years together. In 1824 he built on a large two-story frame mansion as an addition in front, which in those times was considered an unusually fine residence, and still stands as a respectable edifice.

The hardships of clearing this hardwood wilderness farm were great, but he was always undaunted, and nothing baffled him. During this early period he successfully dealt in the real estate of this vicinity and secured many permanent settlers for the town.

In his ninety-first year, while he was in the full vigor of intellect, he gave his grandson, Frank M. Robinson, of Dubuque, Iowa, the following account of his early life, which was taken down in his own words:

'I was born in Lexington, Mass., on the 14th day of February, 1765. I was, therefore, only a lad of about ten years when the great struggle which gave freedom to the American people began, when injured rights were to be vindicated, when I heard the report of musketry, in the opening scene of this conflict for freedom of conscience and freedom of country, in the streets and upon the Green of my own native town.

Well do I remember the roll of the musketry and the noise of this battle of Lexington, and the excitement consequent upon the retreat of the British soldiers down the valley

past my home to Boston, and of the subsequent severer conflict at Bunker's Hill, but a few miles distant.

Thus early in life did I begin to cherish a warm love of country, amounting even to patriotism, and to be moved by a true sense of the dangers that seemed to threaten, not only the peace and quietude of the family and town, but the ruin of the whole colonial fabric.

The engagements at Lexington, at Concord and upon Bunker's Height warmed my bosom with more than a childish ardor to join the contest against British insolence and what savored of perpetual thralldom. Early in the spring of 1781 I entered the service, accompanied by my brothers, Asa and James Robinson, on board the ship *Belisarius*, carrying 20 guns. The number on board, including officers, sailors, and soldiers, was 125. We set sail from Boston under the command of Capt. James Munroe.

We cruised off south, along the coast of Pennsylvania, and about the mouth of the Susquehanna River, thence still southerly till we were in the region of the Equator, where one day we discovered at early dawn what appeared in the dim distance to be a ship. We gave chase, and after the lapse of many hours so neared the stranger that we were within cannon range of her.

It was a much larger ship than our own and carried many more guns. We supposed her a heavy man-of-war of the British line, and began to prepare our noble vessel for an engagement. As is the custom in such instances, or in naval contests, all the sails were furled, except the top-sails and some of the stay-sails, which were just sufficient to govern the ship and change her position when necessary. Our cannon were charged and our torches burning, and we waited for a change of position before we should salute her with a broadside.

Meanwhile our enemy had eased her flight, furled sail, cleared deck, prepared for fight, and was the first to discharge her cannon. This assault was unexpected by us, as it was not attended by the usual formalities of naval warfare on the part of the stranger. In view of this cowardly act



our commander at once ordered us to draw alongside the unknown ship, to grapple and board her as quickly as possible, but no sooner was this movement commenced than, to our surprise, not to say our chagrin, the vessel, which we had regarded all along as an English man-of-war, hoisted Spanish colors, and thereby took away all pretext of warfare, except the ill-treatment we had received. Capt. Munroe was at first inclined to resent this indignity, this violation of the usages of allied nations in their intercourse on the high seas in time of war. He however, gave vent to his irritation and anger by addressing the Spanish commander in the most pre-emptory and decisive manner and terms, in relation to his cowardly, dastardly conduct.

The Spanish Captain very coolly submitted, and offered to accompany us and do us service when he could. The reply of Capt. Munroe was in these laconic words: "Go your way. I prefer rather to be alone than attended by such a d——d coward as you have shown yourself," and so we separated.

From the equatorial regions, after capturing one or two smaller prizes, we cruised northward off the West India Islands. We shifted about here for several days, until early one morning we discovered a fleet composed of several ships, yet at the distance they were from us, we could not discern their number. They were steering directly toward us and bore every evidence, as they afterwards proved to be, of being a fleet of the British line. We endeavored to make our escape by flight. They gave us chase and followed in hot pursuit until past midday. During their pursuit, when they had gained upon us so much as to be within cannon range, they gave us occasional shots from the bow or gunwale of the ship, though without much injury to our ship or crew. One of these shots, however, took off both legs, close to the body, of a man who stood next to me, on my left hand, and at the same instant a splinter from the side of the vessel struck my foot and benumbed my whole leg, from which I suffered much. The fleet neared us, and it being satisfactorily determined that it was a British fleet of

fourteen ships, five of which were larger than our own, and all hope of escape being abandoned, we concluded to surrender. We were divided among the ships of the enemy, being about twenty persons to each. We were well treated while in this situation. The fleet directed its course to New York City, where we were all put on board the 'Old Jersey,' the notorious British prison ship, then lying up East River, above the City, and entirely without rigging.

We had been cruising about three months when we were captured. Our sufferings while confined in this old hull of a ship were unaccountably severe, and many of our number perished on account of the stench, the damp, deathly atmosphere in which we were confined and the miserable food which was furnished us to support life.

It may not be uninteresting to know of what our fare consisted and what humanity is capable of enduring, when controlled by the force of necessity. The account is brief, but heart-sickening. Bread was a constant part of our ration and the chief source of our nutriment. It came to our hands in any but a palatable condition. The loaves were badly eaten by insects and then abandoned by them, or well inhabited by vermin on their reception by us. What was not in this condition was very full, I had almost said literally alive, with insects, insomuch that it was impossible for us to get them all out, and we were obliged to devour these animated communities, these bee-hives of activity, or to be reduced to the utmost wretchedness and starvation. Besides our bread, we had pease twice a week. When the day came in which we were to have boiled pease, the steward would put about two bushels into a large kettle with a quantity of water and boil them. I have stood by the side of this kettle while its contents were becoming heated, and have seen yellow worms rise to the surface in large quantities, and as the water became heated, they would gather in large clusters, affording the only seasoning or condiment to our repast.

During the latter part of the time of my imprisonment, I had the smallpox, but began to recover before arrange-

ments were made for our exchange. I was a prisoner aboard the 'Old Jersey' about six months. We were exchanged, conveyed, and set off, some time in December, on the coast of Rhode Island. I remember this fact in relation to time from this circumstance, that it was Thanksgiving time, and the first of sleighing. I was not well when I was set off, not having entirely recovered from the small-pox. I could not walk more than five or six miles per diem. Occasionally I had an opportunity to ride a few miles.

When coming through the streets of Providence on a cold, stormy day, with nothing to protect my feet from the snow, ice and water which then filled them, but some old scuffs, that were not worthy the name of shoes, a gentleman, observing my condition, hailed me and inquired the cause of my destitution, whence I came and whither I was going. I told him briefly what circumstances had brought me to this condition. He assured me that my shoes were good for nothing, and directed me to go into a small grocery or huckster shop near by, and remain there until he should return with some shoes for me. I entered as he directed, and there found six or eight young men lounging or apparently without any business. They gazed upon me somewhat intently, noticed my ragged and tattered garments, and soon began to manifest no little interest to know what had subjected me to so forlorn and destitute a condition.

To them also I narrated some of the leading incidents of my life. Excited by pity at seeing me so ragged, shoeless and shivering with cold, they gave me a 'bitter,' a little luncheon and contributed about a dollar in money to procure me food when I could not beg, or might be turned away without alms. At this point of my interview with the young men, the old gentleman before mentioned returned with a pair of shoes, a pair of socks and some bread and cheese, all which he presented to me, accompanied by the most cheering language, and expressing a strong hope that I might be sustained and prospered in the remainder of my

journey, we parted. I felt encouraged and renewed my journey with a more elastic step and a lighter heart.

I commonly stopped at houses such as gave evidence of thrift and wealth, being less likely to be turned away from such places than from the beggarly, poor appearing homes. I was obliged to beg my food and shelter nearly the whole of the way. I recollect calling at one house, a kind of tavern or 'way house,' at night, for the purpose of getting shelter for the night. I went into the kitchen and made known my poverty to the landlady, and asked that she would permit me to lodge upon the floor by the fire. She told me she thought I might be thus accommodated, though her husband was then absent and might on his return be unwilling I should remain. He came late in the evening, had apparently been drinking and was very cross. He asked me what I was there for, and told me he would not have me in his house. Said he: 'You have the smallpox, you must leave, you cannot remain here.' I entreated him not to drive me from his house, leaving me at that hour of the night to the mercy of the cold, bleak winds of December. But my appeal was in vain. Finally, however, at my earnest solicitation, he gave me permission to lie in his horse-barn, and thus I passed the night. His allusion to my having the smallpox was because it was plain to be perceived, on account of want and much exposure to cold, that I recently had had that disease, though at that time there was no danger to be apprehended from it. However, it served as a pretext for driving me from his house. One man carried me several miles on my journey, and generally I was treated very well.

I remained at home, being in poor health, through the three winter months, and then entered the military service in the Revolution, early in the spring of 1782. I enlisted for the town of Malden for three years, under Capt. Wait. Before entering the ranks in the field, I went to Boston and served as waiter to Lieut. Thomas Robinson, who was clerk to the muster-master. I remained here three or four weeks, when I went with twenty-five or thirty others to near West Point, on the Hudson River, and joined the 10th Massachu-

setts Regiment. The 10th wore British coats and was commanded by Col. Tupper. I was in Capt. Dix's company. We went to Verplank Point, lay there some time, then went to Morrison, or a place of some such name, and remained about a month. Soon after the 9th and 10th regiments broke up, and I entered the 5th regiment, commanded by Col. Michael Jackson, under Capt. Cogswell. A Grenadier company was formed of the tallest and stoutest men. I had the offer to join, but did not, and was obliged to join another company. The Grenadier company was formed at Newburgh Huts and remained there until after the news of peace.

When the news of peace came, our huts or camp were knee deep in snow, but we celebrated the event with raising of flags and with guns and music. Then all regiments broke up, and one was formed called the American Regiment of young men, consisting of six or seven hundred, under Col. Henry Jackson. I was assigned to Capt. Williams' company, my term of enlistment not having expired, and we remained at Newburgh Huts till winter, and was then ordered to Old Springfield, Mass. Capt. Williams' company numbered about sixty. I remained at Springfield till I got my discharge, which was the last of June or first of July, 1784. The whole company were discharged at the same time. My discharge was made out in New York, and was signed by Col. Henry Jackson.'

After thus serving over two years in the Revolutionary army, young Robinson returned, with his brothers, to his native home in Lexington. Here he remained in honest toil, till the spring of 1788, when he removed and settled at South Reading, as above stated.

The hardships of his service during the Revolutionary war, and the fact that he was early in life left an orphan and had to labor hard for his own livelihood, schooled him well for the hardships of his early settlement in this town. What to most men would seem insurmountable obstacles, were often easily encountered by him and regarded as trivial. It was a favorite remark of his that, if you wished to ac-

comply with anything difficult or laborious, you should always say, 'Come, boys,' and not 'Go, boys.' He believed that success in any calling of life consisted mainly in a good, vigorous, personal leadership of the persons to be benefited.

Here on his productive, well-tilled farm he spent a long life of usefulness and activity and reared a large family of children, and like many of those old revolutionary pensioners, he was in his old age healthy and hearty, remarkably vigorous both in mind and body, even to his last brief sickness. Long will his grandchildren remember those grand old Thanksgiving days, and the good cheer and the jolly times enjoyed around his festive table and cheerful fireside on these anniversary days. A few years before his death, after a residence in this town of nearly seventy years, he again re-visited the scenes of his childhood in Lexington. It was a visit of sad and lonely interest to him. Of all his former large circle of early relatives, friends and acquaintances, he found only two survivors and they were much broken down with age. Yet his visit to those places of historical and local interest, he seemed to enjoy with peculiar zest.

His death occurred on the 31st day of October, 1857, at the age of nearly ninety-three years. Less than two weeks before his death, he related in detail the above history to the writer of this sketch and recounted, with wonderful memory and great animation and zeal, the various vicissitudes and hardships of his long life.

His veneration for Washington, the father of our country was very great, and it was ever his pride that he was once a member of a company that temporarily acted as a body guard to their noble commander.

It was one of his latest remarks, that during the sixty-six years he had lived with the wife of his choice, in that house and upon that farm, he had lived in contentment and happiness, and had never wished to change his lot for that of any other, nor his home for that which any other country or clime could afford. He seemed happy in the society of his numerous posterity and had the satisfaction of seeing

them generally prosperous. He had little or no education in early life except that acquired in the army and by his later experience, yet in his old age he could cast up the amount due on promissory notes given at annual interest, with difficult partial payments endorsed thereon, and make a written statement of the same, with an accuracy and dispatch that might well put to shame many of the liberally educated young men of the present day. He learned to write while in the Continental army, by copying the ballads and camp-songs of the soldiers in copy books, one of which is now in the possession of, and highly prized by the writer of this sketch.

As a citizen, he was always upright and exact in all his dealings, and dignified, though generous and cordial in his intercourse. He was never an office-seeking politician, but held many positions of honor and trust, both civil and military, and always proved himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him, and was honored by his townsmen in positions of trust in many ways. He was public spirited and a patron of noble enterprise. The bell in the steeple of the church at South Reading was his gift to the people of that village. He was ever a stern lover of justice. He remarked to the writer, at his last interview with him, that he had made it a principle during his life, 'ever to do right' and to cause right to be done. He was a devoted patriot and had personally attended the polls of every Presidential election up to the time of his death, casting his last ballot for Fremont in 1856.

Thus have passed away these Revolutionary patriots. None remain to testify of their early hardships and struggles for Freedom. Through their labors and sufferings we inherit this, our fair land, and these, our free institutions.

Truly do their memory and their courage deserve our highest veneration and respect, and if thus their memories are revered by their posterity, they will not, of necessity, need any lofty monuments or deeply wrought inscription to tell us of their noble deeds, their devoted patriotism and true greatness. However lowly may be their resting-place, let

these tributes ever be ascribed to their memories with grateful hearts. May it truly be said of them, that:—

‘the joy

With which their children tread the hallowed ground  
That holds their venerated bones, the peace  
That smiles on all they fought for, and the wealth  
That clothes the land they received,—these, though mute  
As feeling ever is, when deepest—these  
Are monuments more lasting than the tombs  
Reared to the kings and demi-gods of old.’”

The wife of Ebenezer Robinson was Hannah Ackley, of whom not so many facts are known to her descendants. She was born Dec. 22, 1771, at East Haddam, Ct., and when a girl of twenty-one, in her father's new home, near South Reading, on Nov. 18, 1792, she married her young husband, a little over four years older than herself, and went with him to his hillside farm.

She is remembered by her grand-children as a quiet, serene, cheery old lady who made an ideal grandmother at their Thanksgiving, and other festive occasions. Her husband left a fine tribute to her memory, when he said that he had lived sixty-six years in contentment and happiness with the wife of his choice and had never wished to change his lot for that of any other. She died Feb. 10th, 1858, surviving her husband not quite four months.

- \*Children:* LEWIS ROBINSON, b. Aug. 19th, 1793; d. Nov. 16th, 1871.  
 CALVIN ROBINSON, b. Jan. 10, 1798; d. March 28, 1819.  
 JONAS ROBINSON, b. Dec. 15th, 1794; d. Dec. 31st, 1794.  
 MARVIN ROBINSON, b. March 24th, 1800; d. Dec. 22nd, 1866.  
 EBENEZER ROBINSON, b. Sept. 30th, 1809; d. July 5, 1848.  
 RHODA ROBINSON, b. Feb. 8th, 1796 (never married); d. Oct. 21st, 1873.  
 SALLY TOWIN ROBINSON, b. Sept. 19th, 1802; d. Oct. 6, 1816.  
 HANNAH ROBINSON, b. Jan. 20th 1805 (never married); d. April 19th, 1873.  
 ELIZA ROBINSON, b. May 20th, 1807; d. Dec. 13th, 1860; m. Washington Keyes, Sept. 29, 1831.

\*The dates concerning the immediate family of Ebenezer Robinson are taken from the old family Bible, inherited by the oldest son of the oldest son, and now in the possession of Mrs. Calvin L. Robinson, Jacksonville, Florida.



## CHAPTER II.

### WILLIAM ROBINSON, OF NEWTON.

*The Earliest Known Direct Ancestor of Ebenezer  
Robinson.*

Shrouded in the mists of the far past, it has been difficult to obtain any certain knowledge of the personality of "William of Newton," sometimes called "William of Watertown." The few facts here cited have been obtained with more difficulty than all contained in the remainder of this little book. There is no record of the birth of William Robinson in Massachusetts Colony. There is one tradition that he came from Bristol, England, which could easily arise if he sailed from that port, but the tradition of the family of Ebenezer Robinson is that he came from the north of England. It is probable that he was born about 1640, and married in this country about 1667, Elizabeth Cutter (b. July 15, 1643), a daughter of Richard Cutter, a well known freeman of Cambridge. In the records William Robinson is styled sometimes "of Watertown," sometimes "of Cambridge" and sometimes "of Newton." This confusion is not difficult to understand when the uncertain boundaries of the early towns are kept in mind.

Watertown is the oldest of these towns. As early as Sept. 7, 1630, less than ten years after the landing of the Pilgrims, "The Court ordered that the town upon the Charles River be called Watertown." It was the fourth town formed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and next to Dorchester was the earliest to keep formal records.† When Cambridge was formed, part of Watertown was given to it, and William Robinson lived in that part of Cambridge called

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†"Watertown Records, prepared for publication by the Historical Society, Watertown, 1894."

Cambridge Village, which afterward became Newton. His farm lay along the south bank of the Charles River, separated by it from the Watertown of his time.

All three towns, Watertown, Cambridge, and Newton, have records more or less complete of William Robinson and his family. Evidently he was a freeman of Cambridge Village, which later became Newton, so we prefer to call him "William of Newton."<sup>‡</sup>

The inhabitants of Cambridge Village on the south side of the river, as early as 1654, began a movement to separate from Cambridge, and for thirty-five years the struggle did not cease until they obtained what they wanted. Finally fifty-two freemen of Cambridge Village petitioned the General Court (commencing May 8, 1678) "to grant us our freedom from Cambridge and that we may be a township of ourselves without any more dependence upon Cambridge—and that you would please give the place a name."<sup>\*</sup>

This petition commonly called "The Petition of Secession," was granted, Cambridge Village was set off from Cambridge, and later was christened Newtown, taking the former name of Cambridge. William Robinson was the eleventh name of the fifty-two sturdy signers of the Petition. At that time there were sixty-five freemen in Cambridge Village.

To become a freeman in those early days was deemed by the fathers a boon greatly to be desired. If their descendants had guarded the sacred rights of citizenship as carefully through the years as did they, the present days of the Republic would not present so many problems. To procure this privilege, a man had first to be or to become a member of the church; then he must obtain permission to become a freeman from the General or Quarterly Court, after which the freeman's oath was taken before a magistrate. A note of the ceremony was then carefully entered in the town record.

"The Records of the Town of Cambridge, (formerly

<sup>‡</sup>Smith's Hist. of Newton, p. 41, gives the names of the settlers of the town, previous to 1700, and William Robinson is marked "1679."

<sup>\*</sup>Jackson's History of Newton, p. 60.

<sup>\*</sup>History of Cambridge, by L. R. Paige, Cambridge, 1877, p. 89.

Newtowne) 1630-1703, printed by order of the City Council, 1901," does not once mention William Robinson who, as we have learned, lived at Cambridge Village away from the central part of Cambridge. He seems to have been a quiet, peaceable, law-abiding citizen, and the signing of the "Petition of Secession" is the only publicly assertive act of William Robinson, so far as history can prove.

His father-in-law, Richard Cutter, was of quite another stamp. He was admitted freeman June 2, 1641, and was made a member of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co." of Boston in 1643. The "Town Records of Cambridge" mention Richard Cutter thirty-eight times for various reasons. He seems to have been a wheel-wright by trade, as one of the entries state that the town grants timber to Richard Cutter for a "payre of wheeles." Again he is granted permission to fell "foure trees for his trade on the South side the river." Again a grant of land was divided among the freemen and Richard Cutter receives eighty acres.

Richard Cutter was also a signer of the petition presented October 19, 1664, to the honored General Court of Massachusetts, which while assuming loyalty, manifested the same unwillingness to submit to arbitrary government that was exhibited a hundred years later. Evidently he was an active man of affairs. The first wife of Richard Cutter was Elizabeth Williams, some facts about whom are worthy of preservation for her descendants. She was the daughter of Robert Williams and Elizabeth (Stalham) Williams and was born in England about 1626. Robert Williams was born about 1607. The record of William Williams of Hatfield, England, says that the embarkation records reads: "April 8, 1637, Robert Williams, Cordwyner (Cordwainer —i. e., shoemaker) of Norwich Co., Norfolk, England, in the 'John and Dorothy' of Ipswich, William Andrews, Master. For New England to Inhabit."

Robert Williams settled in Roxbury, was admitted freeman in 1638, and died Sept. 1, 1693, at 86 years of age. He was the common ancestor of many distinguished men who have honored the country. He had a son named Isaac (born

Sept. 1, 1638), who owned a farm of 500 acres in the west part of Newton (now Auburndale), near the farm of William Robinson. He also had a son named Stephen, born Nov. 28, 1640.

Elizabeth Williams was daughter of Robert Williams, and great grandmother of Ebenezer Robinson.

She was admitted to the church in Roxbury in 1644 and married about the same time to Richard Cutter, of Cambridge, and died June 15, 1693. In his will Richard Cutter asked to be buried by the side of his wife Elizabeth. Their gravestones are still standing in the graveyard, near Harvard Square, Cambridge, Mass. Of such good ancestry came their eldest daughter, Elizabeth Cutter, born July 13, 1645, who became the wife of William Robinson as early as 1667.\*

The Middlesex (Mass.) Probate records give us the only glimpses we have into the life and character of Wm. Robinson. He made a will dated March 22, 1693, the will being made and witnessed on his death-bed, in which he bequeathes all his "estate lands, goods and Chattles here in Watertown to my dafter Elizabeth," and states that "my two children David and Jonathan shall have their maintenance and be carefully brought up by my dafter." In this will Wm. Robinson, twenty-one years of age, Mary Robinson, about twenty years of age, and Samuel Robinson, about fifteen years old, were left without mention. David, then seventeen years old, was lame and helpless, and Johnathan was thirteen years of age. This will was presented for probate June 26, 1693, but was disallowed on account of informality. The probate records state that it was probated later, Nov. 21, 1698.

Evidently Wm. Robinson, Jr., the oldest son was not

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\*NOTE—The identity of the wife of William Robinson has occasioned considerable search to verify the fact that she was Elizabeth Cutter. Richard Cutter was married twice; first as we have seen to Elizabeth Williams. He married as his second wife, Frances Perriman, widow of Isaac Amsden, Feb. 14, 1663, who survived him. Each wife was the mother of seven children. We find by the records in those early days that in case of a second marriage it was not unusual to have two children by the same name, one by each wife. So Richard Cutter was the father of Elizabeth Cutter, b. July 15, 1645, who became the wife of William Robinson, of Newton, and the eleventh child, Elizabeth Cutter, b. March 1, 1669, who became the wife of Nathaniel Hall, of Medford.

The Middlesex (Mass.) Probate Records make these facts plain.

satisfied with the will, and had himself appointed administrator Oct. 21, 1695, and he swears to the inventory of the estate as here given.

"This is an inventory of the whole estate of william Robeson of watertwin in the county of midlesex taken this 14 of August 1695 and apprised by us the subscribers

huse and Lands and orchid	30.	0.	0.
for worcking touiles of Iron	1.	12.	6.
for beden and all things argrabell to it	2.	01.	6.
and for ould lumber	0.	6.	0.
and for Iron and brass poute and citelles	2.	0.	6.
and tabels chistes and weeles	1.	8.	0.
and for tobcs and braller	0.	7.	0.
and for puter and wooden dishses	1.	2.	6.
and for gunn and armes	1.	0.	0.
and for books	0.	19.	0.
and for one hoge	1.	0.	0.
and for money	2.	0.	0.
	43.	17.	0.

Apprised the day and yer abouesayed By us

Mickell fflagge and  
Samuel Bigelo."

That Wm. Robinson wanted to shield himself from unjust judgment on the part of his older children and his friends is shown by the following entry:

"Charlestowne, Nouembr 21: 1698.

Thomas Woolson and Frances Fullam, the two witnesses, swear, 'which was ommitted by ye scribe being in haste and forgetting to enter ye same according to his Deced's Direction in ye will and that then ye said Wm. Robinson when he so did was of good understanding and of disposing minde, then declaring it his omission of his other children in sd will was not for want of affection to ym, but only out of his undue Care for ye providing for his lame childe and also ye youngest that was not Capable of help it Selfe and yt Goodwife Sanders, Elizabeth Stimpson & other women were in and about ye house till said will was making and read to ye deace and to his full Conteent and Satisfaction

*Jurator Cora*

JAS RUSSELL"

The division of the estate :

"9 May 1698. Isaac Williams Phillip Shattuck and Abraham Brown Com<sup>e</sup> appointed by the court return division of the Robinson estate, viz. :

"The housing and fences being now out of repaior and Sum of ye land worne out and the moueables being worne and sum of them loste in consideration of the Land being A Small parcel and not capable of being deuided without ye damnifying: and Spoileing of ye whole, whereupon the eldest son of the aboused william Robeson, deceast, claiming his birth-right which the law of this province alowes, he haueing alredy taken administration on said Estate, we order william Robeson eldest son of William Robeson decease to take the at one mentioned twelue acres of land and houseing and all that properly belongeth thereto and also all ye moueables, and after all just debts are paid and necessary charges alowed the remainder to be divided into seven equal parts, and that the eldest son pays to each of his brethren and sisters their propertion. reseruing to himself his duble portion, according to the direction of the law. 22:8:98 considered of, allowed and entered."

As is seen, at the time of William Robinson's death he possessed only twelve acres of land, but his thrifty son William must have added to it, as on the map of Newton for 1700 (see map) the Robinson farm is given as 200 acres.

The above are the sole records that touch directly upon the life and character of "William of Newton." There are, however, in the Middlesex (Mass.) Deeds, many identifying references. Abstracts Vol. XXXIII: MDX (Mass.) Deeds, p. 113, "William Robinson of Newton, and Jonathan Robinson of Lexington acknowledge all rights, etc., in the estate of their honored grandfather, Richard Cutter, sometime of Cambridge, deceased." "William Robinson engages to discharge the claim of his sister, Elizabeth Gregory, a granddaughter and heir to the same." 8 Jan., 1726.

P. 118, "Samuel Robinson of Marlboro, as heir to his father, William Robinson, dec'd, and his mother, Elizabeth Robinson, alias Cutter, quitclaims all interest, etc., in the estate of his grandfather, Richard Cutter, formerly of Cambridge, deceased. 20 Jul. 1728."

Are we not justified in inferring from the above facts

certain qualities of Wm. Robinson? He evidently must have had enterprise and courage, as a young man, to seek his fortunes in the New World. He must also have had substantial good qualities of character to secure as a wife Elizabeth Cutter, the granddaughter of Robert Williams, the daughter of Richard Cutter, and niece of Isaac Williams, all well known and respected citizens. He was a good and loving father, taking especial pains to have his older children understand why he made exclusive provision for the younger helpless ones.

Those early days of the Colony were filled with hard work and privation. The settlers had to endure the rigors of a severe climate, work hard to subdue the land and struggle to maintain their local and general political rights.

William Robinson must have died about sixty years of age, after a life of toil and struggle, leaving a small estate, but he reared a family of children, who were sensible, able men and women, and, with the exception of the lame son David, they were able to take their part in the world's work. William, who remained in Newton, Samuel, who removed to Cambridge, and Jonathan, who settled in Lexington, were all founders of families who have provided good citizens and practical men of affairs, and quite often distinguished leaders for the community.

## CHAPTER III.

### WILLIAM ROBINSON'S CHILDREN.

The children of William and Elizabeth Cutter Robinson were as follows: \*

1. ELIZABETH, b. 1669; m. Dec. 20, 1693, Daniel Maggrigge of Watertown.
2. HANNAH ANN, b. July 13, 1671; d. Oct. 5, 1672.
3. WILLIAM, b. July 10, 1673.
4. MERCY, b. Aug. 7, 1676.
5. DAVID, b. May 23, 1678. "Lame and helpless."
6. SAMUEL, b. April 20, 1680.
7. JONATHAN, b. April 20, 1682.

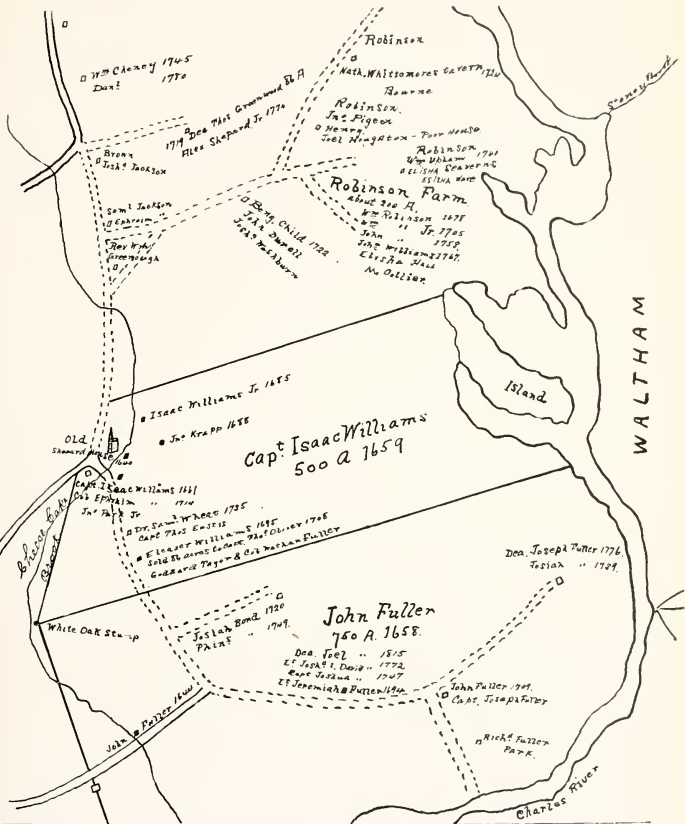
All the children except Hannah were living at the time of William Robinson's death, but evidently his wife had previously died, as we see from his will, that his sole reliance for the care of the two helpless children was "my dafter Elizabeth," the oldest child, then a young woman of twenty-six years. Her father died in March, and the records show that the following December she married "Daniel Maggrigge of Watertown." The name Maggrigge was evidently a corruption of McGregor, and later generations have adopted Gregory.

David, "lame and helpless," a boy of fifteen, continued to live with his sister for four years, until April 9, 1697, when from the "Watertown Records," Vol. II, pp. 114 and 121, we learn that he lived for a time with Samuel Begelo, and then Joseph Lovewels. He remained single. There are no further records concerning him, and as his brothers became more prosperous, it is probable that they assumed his entire care.

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\*The record of the children of William and Elizabeth Robinson is best preserved in Hist. of Cambridge, L. R. Paige, p. 644.





SECTION OF PLAN  
OF THE  
**TOWN OF NEWTON**  
IN 1700

SHOWING FARM OF WILLIAM ROBINSON, NOW A PART OF AUBURNDALE.

Taken from a map in the History of the Early Settlement of Newton, Mass., by Francis Jackson, 1854.

Scale, 150 Rods to an Inch.

William Robinson, Jr., third child and oldest son of "William of Newton," evidently remained on his father's farm, and added to it. We have seen that he applied to have his father's will set aside and insisted on his right as the oldest son to have a "duble portion," which was granted him.

The estate was divided May 9, 1698, and the land is mentioned as twelve acres. But the Robinson Farm marked on the plan of the town of Newton in 1700 (see map) gives 200 acres to the Robinson farm. Smith's *His. of Newton* has some paragraphs relating to this farm, which we will here quote.

"A survey of the map of 1700 furnishes a good view of the division of the territory of Newton among the early proprietors, and of the relative location of their estates." Page 115.

"Southwest of the Fuller farm was Capt'n Isaac Williams (1659), five hundred acres. All the names in this trace of land, in the map of 1700, were on the easterly side. Isaac Williams, Jr. (1686); John Knapp (1688); Captain Isaac Williams (1861),—successors, Colonel Ephraim Williams (1714), (founder of Williams College). Page 118.

"Southwest of Captain Isaac Williams was the Robinson farm about two hundred acres, covering the territory since called Auburndale, and extending to Charles River. On this territory stood Nathaniel Whittemore's tavern (1724), the Bourne House, at the southeast part; then John Pigeon, Henry Pigeon, Joel Houghton, north of the tavern; near the middle, William Upham (1740), Elisha Seaverns, Elisha Ware; near the northeast part, William Robinson (1678)—, successors, William Robinson, Jr. (1705), John Robinson (1753), Jonathan Williams (1767), Elisha Hall, M. Collier." Page 118.

Evidently William Robinson, Jr., had the gift of acquisition, and became a man of substance, judged by the standards of his age.

"Robinson, William (d. 1754) by will, dated Dec. 25th, 1742, proved March 11, 1754, bequeathed house, barn, and seventy-nine acres of land in Newton to his son Jeremiah; fifty-eight and a half acres to his son John; to son Ichabod £660. He had a large farm at what is now Auburndale, and land in Mendon. One

of his sons lived on the site of the Seaverns house; one in the Bourne house, once a tavern, and one in the house enlarged for the former Newton Poor House. His real estate was appraised at £7221-5sh. Personal, £1014-17sh.-6d." †

William Robinson, Jr., was a selectman of Newton for the year 1735, and that he was a man of consideration in the community is manifest. His wife died in 1747, and he died in 1754, at 81 years of age.

Their children are as follows:

WILLIAM,

DANIEL, m. Mercy Seger, 1726.

JEREMIAH, b. Oct. 22, 1705; d. 1754.

ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 11, 1707, m. Wm. Upham from Malden, March, 1741.

HANNAH, b. Sept. 16, 1709.

JOSIAH, b. Sept. 17, 1711.

ICHABOD, b. Sept. 2, 1713, m. Sarah Mirick, Feb., 1744, went to Mendon and died 1756.

THANKFUL, b. Sept. 3, 1715.

JOHN, b. 1722.

Samuel, the sixth child of William Robinson, had a noteworthy line of descendants. He, himself, must have been a capable, energetic man, for in 1707, when he was 27 years of age, he bought a house and three-quarters of an acre at the S. W. corner of Battle Square and Brattle Street, in Cambridge, where he kept a tavern until June 13, 1721, when he sold his estate and moved to Westborough, where he died. Administration was granted to his wife Elizabeth, April 24, 1724, and her brother, Jedekiah Brigham, was appointed guardian to the only son, Samuel, then in his 19th year, Feb. 25, 1725. The name of Samuel Robinson is enrolled among the inn-keepers of Cambridge, as having received a license from 1714-1720.\*

His son Samuel, the only one who survived him, was brought up in the busy, bustling life of his father's tavern. Noting how prominent, and aggressive, and public-spir-

†Hist. of Newton Mass. S. F. Smith, D. D., Boston, 1880.

\*Hist. of Newton, p. 401. Jackson

ited was Samuel Robinson, Jr., we recognize the broadening, stimulating effect of his environment, which must have early made him familiar with the prominent men of his time and the events that were happening.

Samuel Robinson, son of William Robinson, was twice married; first m. Mar. 23, 1704, to Sarah Manning (b. Aug. 26, 1681, d. July 19, 1709), whose father was a man of means and a Representative.\*

Second, m. Oct. 16, 1711, to Elizabeth Brigham, daughter of Capt. Samuel Brigham, of Marlborough.

*Children:* SARAH, bap. July 22, 1705; died young.

SAMUEL, b. April 4, 1707.

DOROTHY, b. April 19, 1709.

PERSIS b. Sept. 7, 1712.

EDMUND, b. June 7, 1714, d. Nov. 25, 1716.

SARAH, b. Oct. 3, 1717.

At his death in 1724 his only surviving son Samuel was then in his 19th year. Samuel Robinson, Jr., b. April 4, 1707, m. May, 1732, Mercy Leonard. His children are recorded in Hardwick, Mass., and their names are as follows:

ELIZABETH, b. Dec. 24, 1733.

LEONARD, b. July 16, 1736.

SAMUEL, b. Aug. 9, 1738.

MOSES, b. March 15, 1741, settled in Bennington, and was the first Colonel of Militia in Vermont, was first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Senator in Congress, and second Governor of the State. Received the honorary degree of A. M. at Yale College, 1789, and at Dartmouth College in 1790; died May 19, 1813.

PAUL, b. Dec. 17, 1743; d. 1754.

SILAS, b. March 17, 1746; Revolutionary soldier; d. at an advanced age at St. Albans, Vt.

MERCY, b. Oct. 8, 1748; m. Colonel J. Safford.

SARAH, b. Nov. 13, 1751; m. first Benj. Fay; 2d., Gen. H. Swift.

DAVID, b. Nov. 4, 1754; m. three times, was in the Bennington Battle, afterward Major-General of Militia and U. S. Marshal for eight years, and sheriff for 22 years; d. November, 1843.

JONATHAN, b. Aug. 24, 1756; was Chief Justice of the Supreme

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\* NOTE.—See the History of the Manning Family, by Wm. H. Manning, Salem Press, 1902. Page 142.

Court, 1801-1807, and United States Senator. Received honorary degree of A. M. at Dartmouth College, and d. Nov. 3, 1819.

ANNA, b. Oct. 4, 1759; m. Isaac Webster.

Samuel Robinson, the father of this large family, was a man of marked individuality and left his impress upon the men and events of his times. He removed to Hardwick in 1735 and remained there until 1761. While there he was selectman, assessor, town clerk and deacon. He was Captain of a military company in the old French war, and in 1748 was stationed at Fort George. On his return to Massachusetts by the Hoosac River route, he was attracted by the fertility of the country, so that later he induced a company of his associates to join him in purchasing a former grant of this territory, made by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire in honor of whom Bennington was named. In October, 1761, he, his family and friends removed to Bennington, where he became prominent politically and was appointed first Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Robinson cast in his fortunes with the original settlers of the New Hampshire grants in the famous land grant controversy between New York and New Hampshire, in which New York claimed jurisdiction over the territory of Vermont. He was chosen as a bearer of a petition to King George, signed by over a thousand settlers asking for relief against the New York patents. Sailing on Christmas Day, 1766, after a six weeks' passage, he reached London, and succeeded in obtaining an order from the King, dated July 24, 1767, prohibiting the Governor of New York, "upon pain of his Majesty's highest displeasure from making any further grants whatever of the lands in question until his Majesty's further pleasure should be known, concerning the same." Later, in October, he was seized with smallpox and died Oct. 27, 1767, and was buried in London.

The family of Samuel Robinson has been prominent in the annals of Vermont\* and has been described as follows: "The most remarkable among a number of Vermont families prolific of public usefulness—a family

\*Men of Vermont, Transcript Pub. Co., 1894, p. 54.

that has in the past century furnished two governors, two United States senators, six judges of one degree and another, the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party in the state in three different generations, and United States marshals, generals, colonels, state's attorneys, town clerks, etc., almost without number."

Moses Robinson, second Governor of Vermont, left six sons, the fourth of whom was Nathan, a lawyer who died at the age of forty. His son, John S. Robinson, the only Democratic Governor of Vermont for more than half a century, was born at Bennington, Nov. 10, 1804. He graduated at Williams College, became a lawyer and identified himself with the Democratic party, and was Governor for 1853-1854. In 1860 was Chairman of the Vermont delegation to the National Democratic Convention at Charleston, S. C., was stricken with apoplexy and died there the 24th of the month. He was a man of a high order of talents.

## CHAPTER IV.

### JONATHAN ROBINSON.

Jonathan Robinson, the youngest child of "William Robinson of Newton," was born April 20, 1682. His father's will, made upon his death bed, dated March 22, 1693, bequeathed all his estate to "my dafter, Elizabeth Robinson," with the provision that my two children, David, "fifteen years old, lame and helpless," and Jonathan, shall have their maintenance and be carefully brought up by my dafter. The father's heart went out tenderly to his helpless child, and to his dearly-loved youngest boy, left in the world without a parent's care. Jonathan must have continued to live with his sister until May 16, 1698, when, according to the record made in the Middlesex (Mass.) Probate records, "Jonathan Robinson, a minor of 16 years, made choice of Nath'll Sparrowhawk to be his guardian and he accepted." We find from the records that Jonathan Robinson was a weaver. We know also that Isaac Williams, his mother's uncle and a man of means and influence, lived on the farm adjoining that of his father and he, by trade, was a weaver. We can infer that Jonathan learned his trade from his uncle. He must have been industrious, energetic and saving, for he both married and purchased his farm in Lexington at the early age of twenty-four.

The wife of Jonathan Robinson was Ruth Morse, a few words regarding whom must be of interest to her descendants. She was born April 15, 1684, and was the daughter of Jonathan Morse, born Nov. 16, 1643, who married Oct. 17, 1678, Abigail Shattuck.\* Jonathan Morse was the fourth son of Joseph Morse, who, when he was twenty-four years of age, embarked at Ipswich, England, April, 1634, in the ship "*Elizabeth*," William Andrews master. Joseph

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\*History of Watertown, Henry Bond, p. 371 (Genealogies).

Morse was one of the original proprietors of Watertown. His name is on the earliest list of proprietors, and he was admitted freeman May 6, 1635. His father and mother, Joseph and Deborah Morse, came to America probably a year or two later than their son and settled at Watertown. Joseph Morse died March 4, 1691, and his estate was administered by his son John. It was from this substantial and respected family that Jonathan Robinson married his wife of twenty-two years, June 19, 1706.

Jonathan at once proceeded to make a suitable home for his young wife and purchased a farm in Cambridge Farms (now Lexington), which is still in the possession of his descendants. \*The deed is dated Oct. 11, 1706. Hudson in his *History of Lexington*, p. 203, says: "It appears by a deed in possession of the family, that Isaac Powers, of Cambridge, sold to Jonathan Robinson, of Cambridge, weaver, in 1706, a lot of land at Cambridge Farms, bounded northerly by Concord road, easterly by land of Joanna Winship, southerly by land of John Dickson, and westerly by land of Jonathan Robinson, bounded by the Winships, Whitmores and Bowmans, leaves no doubt but that he resided on or near the place now occupied by Mr. Jonas Gammell, at the termination of Oak Street."

Cambridge Farms was a portion of Cambridge. Lexington was then included in it, and this part of the town appears to have been regarded as the wood-lots and hay fields of Cambridge. Lexington was set aside and was organized into a town March 31, 1713, a few years after Jonathan Robinson settled there.

From the reference in Hudson to "other deeds" it is probable that Jonathan Robinson accumulated some property and it is also probable that the house that Jonathan originally built had been replaced by the ample, well-built structure that stood on the hill seventy years later at the time of the Revolution.

The present possessor of the old farm homestead at Lexington, Mass., is Mr. Joseph Franklin Gammell, the only

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\**History of Town of Lexington*. Charles Hudson, Boston, 1886.



child of Franklin Gammell, and the grandson of Rhoda Robinson, so that this farm has been in the possession of Jonathan Robinson's descendants nearly two hundred years. In



THE SITE OF THE ROBINSON HOMESTEAD ON TOP OF THE HILL  
AT LEXINGTON, MASS.

As viewed by two of the grandchildren of Ebenezer Robinson August 2, 1902. George O. Robinson of Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. Alden Speare of Newton, Mass.

August, 1902, the writer, in company with two grandchildren of Ebenezer Robinson (viz., Mrs. Alden Speare, of Newton Centre, Mass., and Mr. George O. Robinson, of Detroit, Mich.), visited the site of the old house. Mrs. Speare said: "I visited here often in my girlhood days and I well remember the old place. It must have been a fine house at the time it was built, and was kept in good repair until it was burned. The walls of some of the rooms were originally pannelled, so that one not familiar with the house could not tell where were the cupboards.

At the time the British soldiers came to Lexington this house was raided, and a mark or dent was made on one of these panels where a soldier had struck it with his gun to see if there was a cupboard behind it. In modernizing the finish of this room that panel was preserved as a relic."

Mr. George O. Robinson said: "I well remember talking with my grandfather, Ebenezer Robinson, about the early



THE LANE DOWN WHICH YOUNG EBENEZER ROBINSON RAN TO  
WATCH THE BRITISH SOLDIERS RETREAT FROM  
LEXINGTON BATTLEFIELD.

days of the Revolutionary war, and his telling me that as a boy he heard the guns of the Battle of Lexington, and he used to describe how he ran down the lane leading from the farm house to Main street, to see the British soldiers retreating on the turnpike road to Boston."

The Robinson house was located on a hill, reached by a

lane (the lower part of which is now known as Oak street in East Lexington), climbing upward from Main street. The site commands a pleasant view of the surrounding country. The house and all the adjoining buildings were burned in March, 1886, and the cellar, only partially filled in, marks its site. Doubtless many records that would have added much to this sketch perished with the place, as Mr. J. Franklin Gammell, the owner, states that the only valuable paper he possesses is the old deed of the farm dated Oct. 11, 1706.

Hudson states that Jonathan Robinson filled the honorable office of Tythingman in 1735, and in 1744 was on a committee "to dignify and seat the meeting house." He died in 1753 and his wife Ruth followed him April 25, 1759. His will, dated Feb. 2, 1748, was proved Feb. 18, 1758.

The children of Jonathan and Ruth were as follows:

JONATHAN, b. July 25, 1707. (See below.)

RUTH, b. June 29, 1709; d. Oct. 23, 1722.

ABIGAIL, b. Feb. 4, 1711; baptized June 24, 1711; m. Nathaniel Bacon, of Lexington.

JAMES, b. Aug. 30, 1715; bap. Sept. 4. (See below.)

LYDIA, b. Aug. 29, 1718; bap. Sept. 7; m. Caleb Simonds

HANNAH, b. Jan. 8, 1721; bap. Jan. 14; d. Oct. 24, 1721.

#### SONS OF JONATHAN ROBINSON.

In all the histories and books on geneology that I have consulted, it seems to be the practice to follow the history of the sons who bear the family name. The history of the daughters is merged into that of their husbands, so that there is little to be learned concerning them. Following this procedure let us learn what we can concerning the two sons of Jonathan Robinson, Jonathan, Jr., and James. Jonathan, the elder son, will chiefly be remembered as being the great grandfather of Gov. George D. Robinson of Massachusetts. The line of descent is as follows:

JONATHAN ROBINSON, b. July 25, 1707; d. 1748; m. Elizabeth.

*Children:* ELIZABETH, m. June. 20, 1732.

JACOB, b. Feb. 3, 1739.

JONATHAN, b. Sept. 29, 1733.

SUBMIT, bap. July 17, 1743.

Of these we will follow the line only of Jacob, the oldest son, who married Elizabeth Draper. They were added to the church March 21, 1775.

*Children:* JACOB, b. Oct. 28, 1762; d. Sept. 12, 1848.  
 ELIZABETH, b. March 6, 1765; d. Dec. 29, 1767.  
 JESSE, b. July 14, 1767; m. Rebecca Tidd.  
 JONATHAN, b. June 20, 1769, was twice married.  
 BETTY, b. Feb. 26, 1772; m. White, of Watertown.  
 ANNA, b. June 28, 1774; m. Gardner, of Cambridge.  
 NATHAN, b. Dec. 1, 1776; d. Sept. 22, 1776.

We will again follow the line only of Jacob, the oldest son, who married Aug. 26, 1790, Hannah (Tufts) Simonds.

*Children:* JACOB, b. April 24, 1791.  
 CHARLES, b. May 5, 1793; d. Sept. 24, 1801.  
 HANNAH, b. April 25, 1795; m. April 8, 1821, Charles Tufts, founder of Tufts College.  
 JOHN, b. April 30, 1797; d. Sept. 22, 1891.  
 GEORGE, b. Dec. 2, 1799; d. Sept. 22, 1801.  
 CHARLES, b. May 5, 1802; d. May 22, 1886.  
 JOHN, b. Aug. 19, 1804.  
 HARRIET, b. Nov. 6, 1806.  
 MARY ANN, b. Feb. 2, 1812.

Of these we will note only the descendants of the seventh child, Charles, whose second son became the governor of his state.

Charles married Oct. 16, 1827, Mary Davis [daughter of Abel and Lavinia (Hosmer) Davis].

*Children:* CHARLES, b. Nov. 6, 1829.  
 GEORGE DEXTER, b. in Lexington, Jan. 20, 1834; d. Feb. 22, 1806.

The early education of George Dexter Robinson was in Lexington, afterwards in the Hopkins Classical School at Cambridge. He entered Harvard College in 1852, graduating in the class of '56 with high rank. He became principal of the High School at Chicopee, Mass., remaining until 1865,

when he entered the law office of his brother, Hon. Charles Robinson, Jr., in Charlestown. He was admitted to the bar at Cambridge in March, 1866, and returned to Chicopee, engaging in the practice of law.

In 1874 he was Representative in the Massachusetts Legislature, in '76 served in the State Senate. In '76 as Republican candidate he was elected Representative from the Eleventh Congressional District to serve in the Forty-fifth Congress, and afterwards to the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh. Here he became one of the ablest members as a presiding officer, and easily came to the front as debater on the rules and points of order.

At the Republican State Convention, Sept. 19, 1883, Mr. Robinson was unanimously nominated for Governor, and entered upon the memorable campaign against Gen. Butler, which resulted in his election; was re-elected in '84 and '85, serving three years. At the close of his services as Governor, and after ten years of public life, he resumed the practice of his profession in Springfield, with his son, who was afterwards his partner.

November 24, 1859, he was married to Hannah E., daughter of William Stevens, of Lexington; she died Sept. 5, 1864.

July 11, 1867, he married Susan E., daughter of Joseph F. Simonds, of Lexington.

His son, Walter Stevens Robinson, was born March 22, 1861, graduated at Amherst in '84; married Miss Sarah Homans, and resides in Springfield. His daughter, Annie Florence, born October 41, 1869, graduated at Smith College in '91, and is the wife of Herbert W. Wright, of Springfield, Mass.

Mr. Robinson received the degrees—A. B. (Harvard, '56); A. M. (Harvard, '59); L. L. D. (Amherst, '84); L. L. D. (Harvard, '86).

He was an eminent Governor, one of the leaders at the Bar, and was universally esteemed and trusted. He led a very active and busy life, and in the midst of honorable work and duties was suddenly stricken with apoplexy, dying

at his home in Chicopee after a short illness, Feb. 22, 1896, at the age of sixty-two.\*

JAMES ROBINSON.

James Robinson (son of Jonathan), as the father of Ebenezer Robinson, merits a larger notice than we shall be able to give to his life, for the recorded facts are few, and there is no other knowledge of him extant which we have been able to obtain. The farm evidently descended to him and he must have there lived a quiet life of contentment in daily duties. He married three times, and had eleven children. He was admitted to the Church, March 10, 1765.

James Robinson married May 23, 1751, Anna Trask. She died, and he married Margaret ———, by whom he had eight children. She died Nov. 5, 1767, and he married third, Elizabeth ———, by whom he had three children.† He died Aug. 12, 1774.

CHILDREN OF JAMES AND MARGARET.

RUTH ROBINSON, b. Jan. 28, 1753.

JOSEPH ROBINSON, b. March 1755; Soldier of Revolution; d. July 5, 1784.

SILAS, b. Feb. 20, 1757; m. Lydia.

ASA, b. Jan. 19, 1759; Soldier of Revolution in the campaign to New York, 1776.

JAMES, b. Nov. 26, 1760; m. May 25, 1787, Judith Reed, of Woburn; Soldier of the Revolution.

RHODA, b. May 10, 1763; d. young.

EBENEZER, b. Feb. 14, 1765; d. 1857.

PERSIS, b. Jan. 25, 1767; baptized Feb. 1, 1767.

CHILDREN OF JAMES AND ELIZABETH.

JONAS, b. May 18, 1770; baptized Dec. 5, 1773.

RHODA, baptized Oct. 20, 1771; m. Simeon Snow, May 24, 1781.

LYDIA, b. Jan. 2, 1773.

\*For the above facts of Governor Robinson's career, acknowledgment is due to his widow, Mrs. Susan E. Robinson of Chicopee, Mass.

†The records of early colonial days were generally carefully kept, but as time passed on, less care was exercised, and the difficulty of obtaining exact names and dates increases. We have not been able to obtain the family names of the second and third wives of James Robinson.

NOTE—The facts concerning the last three children are incorrectly given in Hudson's Lexington. Cambridge records are here followed.



LXINGTON GREEN,

Showing the scene of the Battle in which Joseph Robinson, oldest brother of Ebenezer, participated in Capt. Parker's Company.

It will thus be seen that James Robinson had four sons who served as patriots in the Revolutionary war—Joseph, Asa, James and Ebenezer. His oldest son, Joseph, was a member of Capt. Parker's company and participated in the battle of Lexington, the first act of the Revolutionary drama.\* He married Mrs. Betty Hadley, the widow of his comrade, Samuel Hadley, who was killed in battle on the immortal April 19, 1775, at the battle of Lexington. Joseph Robinson enlisted with the eight months' men in 1775, and served with the twelve months' men the year following, and subsequently entered the Continental Army.

Hudson says: "He lived to enjoy the bounty of his country and to see her prosperous and happy, and died April 14, 1830. His wife died Feb. 9, 1831."

*Children:* RHODA, b. May 17, 1781; m. May 17, 1810, John Gammell, of Charlestown, and d. Sept. 11, 1861.

MARGARET, b. Feb. 20, 1783.

NANCY, b. Jan. 30, 1785; m. July 20, 1809, Thomas Cutter, of West Cambridge.

JOSEPH, b. July 14, 1787; m. Lydia Gair, of Boston; d. May 18, 1822.

John Gammell, the husband of Rhoda Robinson, born Nov. 12, 1785, died Oct. 1, 1866, was the son of William Gammell, a soldier of the Revolution. (b. 1750). They were married May 17, 1810.

Their children were:

JOHN, b. Jan. 13, 1812.

ELIZA, b. Aug. 21, 1813; d. July 14, 1848.

FRANKLIN, b. May 29, 1815; d. Feb. 22, 1842.

EBEN, b. March 7, 1817; d. May, 1890.

MARGARET ANN, b. Nov. 1, 1818; d. Nov. 12, 1850.

JONAS, b. Oct. 10, 1820; d. (1878?).

LUCY, b. Jan. 1, 1822; d. Dec. 22, 1889.

James Robinson, Jr., who was the brother and comrade of Ebenezer, and settled with him in South Reading, Vt., in

\*NOTE—His name is found on the Roll of the Company in Hudson's History of Lexington, p. 383.



1788, had a large family of children whose history does not properly come within the scope of this sketch. He married Judith Read and their children were as follows:

JAMES ROBINSON, b. Nov. 26th, 1761, Lexington, Mass.; m. May 25, 1787; d. Nov. 29th 1836.

JUDITH REED ROBINSON, his wife, b. March 6th, 1768, Woburn, Mass.; d. Jan. 27th, 1857.

CHILDREN:

JAMES, JR., b. March 20th, 1788; d. April 19th, 1847.

LUCY F., b. Dec. 8th, 1879; d. Sept. 4th, 1869.

EBENEZER, b. April 8th, 1791; d. March 1st, 1883;

MARY REED, b. Dec. 17th, 1792; d. May 16th, 1842.

BETSY, b. Oct. 3rd, 1794; d. Dec. 12th, 1842.

SALLY, b. May 19th, 1797; d. Sept. 11th, 1814.

NANCY, b. Nov. 27th, 1798; d. July 25th, 1803.

LYDIA, b. Nov. 23rd, 1800; d. Aug. 31st, 1886.

EZRA and LOIS, b. Dec. 8th, 1802; Ezra died June 26th, 1875;  
Lois died June 14th, 1888.

ELEANOR, b. Jan. 22nd, 1806; d. June 25th, 1900.

ROSILLA, b. July 29th, 1809; d. Dec. 17th, 1891.

ALLEN REED, b. April 28th, 1811; d. Oct. 6th, 1840.

NOAH B., b. July 2nd, 1813; d. Oct. 1st, 1839.

James Robinson and his wife lived and died in Reading and their large family mostly lived and died in that vicinity.

## CHAPTER V.

### CHILDREN OF EBENEZER ROBINSON.

#### *The Oldest Son, Lewis Robinson, and Descendants.*

Of the children of Ebenezer Robinson we note that Jonas died in infancy, Sally Town when a girl of fourteen, and Calvin when a promising young man of twenty-one years. Two unmarried daughters, Hannah and Rhoda, continued to live in the old homestead, and both died, advanced in years, in 1873. The nephews of Rhoda Robinson speak of her as an ideal maiden aunt, kind, affectionate and sprightly. Although quite deaf, she was active and industrious and helpful to her many relatives.

Lewis Robinson, the oldest son, became a man of prominence in his native town. The following sketch of his life was written by his oldest son, Calvin L. Robinson, for "The History of Reading."

"Lewis Robinson (b. Aug. 19, 1793; d. Nov. 16, 1871), was the eldest child of Ebenezer and Hannah Ackley Robinson. He was raised on the farm cleared by his father, being employed nine months in the year in tilling the land, and attending school for three months in the winter. To these advantages for an education were added one term at the old Academy at Duttonsville, and another at a High School in Granville, N. Y.

The sons and daughters of the early settlers of Vermont were content to build their homes around their ancestral hearth stones, and the subject of our sketch with his five brothers and sisters, all settled in or near the village of South Reading, Vt., lived and died there, and were buried in the old village graveyard on the hill. Lewis Robinson proved himself a man of marked ability and energy. Soon after he came of age he engaged in the business of book publishing, establishing a printing office at Greenbush. He

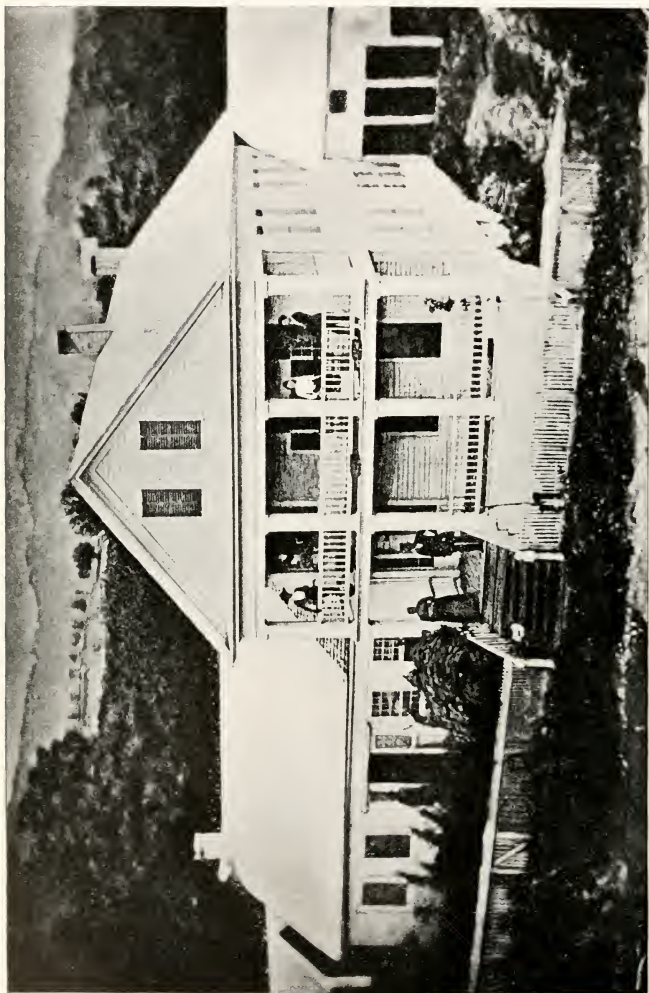
published a number of works there, and soon after went into the copper plate printing and the publication of maps and Scripture paintings at South Reading. In the map manufacture he found a large field. He was one of the most extensive copper plate map publishers. In 1836 with two of his brothers-in-law, he established a large map publishing house in Akron, Ohio. In 1839, he opened a store, and soon after built a starch mill and carried on starch manufacturing.

In 1844, he established a branch of his map business at Stanstead, Lower Canada, and published there Canadian maps. In truth Lewis Robinson showed a business capacity of an uncommon order.

In politics he was a staunch Whig until the organization of the Republican party, when he found himself in sympathy with this new movement and voted with the party. For himself he would never seek nor accept any political office. He was not a man of many words, but took a serious view of life, and went about everything with the air of one who feels he has a mission to perform on earth, and an account to render for his stewardship here. For many years he was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He lived to the age of seventy-eight years and died at his residence in South Reading, Nov. 16th, 1871.

Among the sons of Reading who remained in their native hills none showed greater ability and perseverance than Lewis Robinson. The former prosperity of South Reading was mainly due to his efforts, and even yet the marks of the enterprise of Lewis Robinson stand in his native village to attest to his vigorous character, rugged and strong, like the hills of his native state."

SARAH MANNING, wife of Lewis Robinson, was born Aug. 6th, 1803, and was the daughter of Levi Manning, of Cavendish, Vt. He was born in Townsend, Mass., July 29th, 1766, and was the seventh generation from William Manning, who came to America about the year 1634 and settled in Cambridge, Mass., and whose grandson, Samuel, settled in Billerica, Mass., on the old Manning homestead



THE HOMESTEAD OF LEWIS ROBINSON, BUILT IN 1844.  
This picture was taken in June, 1848, with all the family outside except Caroline, the eldest daughter.

which is preserved and remains in the Manning family to this day. This history of this family, numbering 6,014 persons, is fully given by William H. Manning, of Ayer, Mass., in a volume entitled, '*The Manning Family*,' published at Salem, Mass., 1902," page 292. Sarah Manning married Lewis Robinson, Oct. 25, 1825.

Mrs. Robinson was a woman of unusual character and energy, and an excellent wife and mother. She was gifted in mind and unselfish in disposition, sacrificing her own comforts in order that her children should be well educated. She had the pleasure of seeing them all comfortably situated in life. She was a great lover of music, and was an able and influential woman in her village—was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and always full of good works. She survived her husband over twenty-one years, and during much of this time she lived during the winter with some one of her children and in summer at her old homestead in South Reading, where she died peacefully while making preparations for the celebration of her ninetyeth birthday."

Lewis and Sarah Robinson had seven children. Their descendants are recorded as follows:

I. CAROLINE MALVINA, b. April 25th, 1827. She was educated in the public schools, afterward at the Chester Academy and at Newbury Seminary, finishing with a musical course in the Boston Conservatory of Music. Subsequently she was teacher of music at the Springfield (Vt.) Wesleyan Seminary and taught two or three terms of select school. She was married March 1st, 1849, to Alden Speare, of Boston, Mass., and by him was the mother of seven children.

Alden Speare (b. Oct. 26, 1825, d. Mar. 22, 1902), was born at Chelsea, Vermont, and was of sterling New England stock. His father, a physician, was a man of great energy, business capacity and of staunch Christian character, who died at the early age of fifty-one, when Alden, the older son, then attending Newbury Seminary, felt compelled to leave school to settle his father's estate.

For nearly fifty-eight years he identified himself with the commercial, educational and religious interests of Boston. Mr. Speare's success in business is manifested by his prominent connection with the great enterprises of railroad building, being director for many years of the Santa Fé & Mexican Central R. R. Systems. His judgment, energy, and foresight were potent factors in the establishment of several important railway lines. He was also the second mayor of the City of Newton.

Alden Speare was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was lay delegate to the General Conference of 1888, and became one of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of that denomination. He also did much work in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, being President of this Association in Boston in 1857, and also of the Boston Wesleyan Association for many years. Since 1872 Alden Speare has been a Trustee of Boston University, to which he contributed noble gifts. His benefactions were large to many other educational and charitable institutions.

Alden Speare was a man noted for his business and personal integrity. But greater than his business capacity and his tireless service for every good cause, is the unsullied character he bore through life. He died suddenly at Pasadena, Cal., Mar. 22d, 1902. The following were the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Speare:

1. SARAH JANE, born August 22nd, 1851, and died Sept. 14th, 1851.
2. HERBERT ALDEN, born Aug. 27th, 1852. He was married June 14th, 1875, to Rhoda H. Brickett, of Newton Centre, Mass., and became a business man of much prominence, entering the firm of Alden Speare's Sons & Co., of Boston. He died Oct. 14th, 1887.

Their children are:

FLORENCE, b. June 6, 1876.

EMMA, b. Sept. 28, 1879; m. Feb. 19, 1901, to Frederick Gould and to them a daughter Lois was born April 5, 1903.

ALDEN HERBERT, b. May 18, 1883.

3. EMMA CAROLINE, b. Dec. 8th, 1855; m. Oct. 3rd, 1876, to Rev. William Edwards Huntington, and died March 3rd, 1877.

4. ELLA MARIA, b. March 28th, 1858; m. May 10th, 1881, Rev. William Edwards Huntington.

William Edwards Huntington was born in Hillsborough, Illinois, July 30th, 1844. He served in two campaigns in the war; in 1864, as private in the 40th Wisconsin and as First Lieutenant in 1865 in the 49th Wisconsin Regiment.

He was graduated at the University of Wisconsin in 1870, obtaining there his degrees of A. B. and A. M. From the Boston University he received the degrees of S. T. B. and Ph. D. He preached in Nahant, Jamaica Plains, Rosindale, Newton, Harvard St. Church, Cambridge, and in Tremont St. Church, Boston.

He studied in Germany in 1880 for one year. In 1882 he was made Dean of the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University. On the resignation of Dr. Warren, he was elected Acting President of Boston University.

Dr. and Mrs. Huntington have four children as follows:

RAYMOND EDWARDS, b. June 28th, 1882.

EMMA CAROLINE, b. Jan. 16th, 1884; died September, 1884.

GENEVIEVE, b. July 29th, 1892.

MIRIAM, b. Nov. 21st, 1897.

5. LEWIS ROBINSON, b. June 6th, 1861; m. Nov. 20th, 1883, to Edith Burgess Holway, daughter of Rev. Dr. W. O. Holway, a retired chaplain in the U. S. Navy. They have one child, Caroline Malvina, b. April 20th, 1885.

Mr. Lewis Robinson Speare received his education in the Public and High Schools of Newton. In 1880 he entered the employ of Speare, Gregory & Co., and in 1882 was admitted as a partner. In 1886 a special partnership of Alden Speare's Sons & Co. was formed, Mr. Speare was soon made senior partner of the same. The business has grown to large proportions, being now an incorporated company with houses in Boston, New York and Chicago. He is at present the President of this Company. He is also President and Treasurer of the Ashland Emery & Corundum Co., and President of the Crystal Springs Manufacturing Co., and Wheat Starch Co. Mr. Speare is a man of large business interests, and his success is accounted for by the devotion and ability that he has given to his interests.

6. MINNIE GERTRUDE, b. Oct. 22nd, 1862; m. April 25th, 1894, to William Ingraham Haven. They have one child, Gladys, b. July 26th, 1895.

William Ingraham Haven, D. D., son of Bishop Gilbert Haven of the Methodist Episcopal Church, b. in Westfield, Mass., Jan. 30, 1856; graduated from Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham, Mass., in 1873; from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Ct., in 1877, and from Boston University School of Theology in 1881. Entered the New England M. E. Conference in 1881, was pastor of Eggleston Square Church, Saratoga St. Church, Boston, and of the Church in Newton Centre and Brookline. In 1898 he was elected Secretary of the American Bible Society, which position he still holds.

7. EDWARD RAY, b. Sept. 21st, 1872; m. Oct. 30th, 1894, to Dorothy Simmons, b. Feb. 12, 1874. She was graduated from Boston University with the degree of Ph. B., June, 1894.

Mr. Edward Ray Speare is a graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, of Boston University. After graduating he became connected with the business founded by his father in 1851. He is the Vice-President and General Manager of the Alden Speare's Sons & Company, Secretary and Treasurer of the Water Paint Company of America. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Boston University; is Treasurer of the Blair and Le Larm Veneer Company; secretary of the Ashland Emery and Corundum Company, and director in various other industrial concerns. His children are:

ALBERT ROBINSON, b. April 12th, 1896.

DOROTHY, b. Dec. 13th, 1897.

VIRGINIA, b. Aug. 7th, 1899.

II. CALVIN LEWIS, eldest son of Lewis Robinson, was born June 3rd, 1828. He was educated in the public schools and at the Newbury and Springfield Seminaries and at the Norwich University, finishing with a two years' course in the University of Vermont. He was married March 1st, 1855, to Elizabeth Seymour, born Jan. 28th, 1834, in Broome, P. Q. With failing health, he entered commercial business in December, 1857, settling in Jacksonville, Florida. Here he carried on a large commercial trade, and in the early part of the War of the Rebellion was, with his family, driven from home, and his store and dock were burned, together with much valuable property, by the rebels. He was succored by the gunboats of the United States navy, which reinstated the Federal authority in that locality. He was a member of the National Republican Convention held in Baltimore in 1864, that nominated Abraham Lincoln the second time, and was a delegate to General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Baltimore in 1876. He continued his residence, as a staunch, loyal citizen of the Government, in that city until the time of his death, which occurred July 4th, 1887. He had the following children:

I. ARTHUR SEYMOUR, b. Dec. 2nd, 1857; m. Dec. 25th, 1880, to Maggie Mosser, b. Oct. 19th, 1859. Their children are:

ARTHUR MOSSER, b. Oct. 12th, 1881; d. Aug. 21st, 1901.

JOSEPH ALBERT, b. Feb. 18th, 1890.



2 EDWARD IRVING, b. Nov. 12th, 1859; m. Dec. 16th, 1884, to Alice Barber. Their children are:

RALPH HOWARD, b. July 2nd, 1886.

CARL LEWIS, b. Jan. 30th, 1889.

REGINALD BARBER, b. July 20th, 1891.

EDWARD IRVING, m. October, 1894, to Lillian Martin. Their children are:

SOLON, Dec. 5th, 1895.

LEWIS MARTIN, May 9th, 1897.

3. GEORGE LEWIS, b. Nov. 2nd, 1861; d. Nov. 7th, 1861.

4. WILLIAM CALVIN, b. May 7th, 1864; d. Dec. 17th, 1865.

5. ANNIE, b. Sept. 1st, 1869; m. June 13th, 1889, to Roland Woodward, a civil engineer; b. Oct. 4th, 1868 at Irvington, Ill. Their children are:

ROLAND WOODWARD, JR., b. March 20th, 1890.

ROSE ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 3rd, 1892.

HAROLD ROBINSON, b. Dec. 11th, 1893.

DOROTHY RUSSELL, b. July 7th, 1895.

6. ALICE MANNING, b. July 12th, 1872; m. July 18th, 1896, to David A. Disbrow, b. Feb. 10th, 1866.

7. RUBY ELIZABETH b. June 15th, 1875; d. Sept. 9th, 1877.

III. ELIZA ANN, second daughter of Lewis Robinson, born March 29th, 1830. She was educated as were the other members of the family, and was married Sept. 19th, 1849, to John S. Clark, of Lunenburg, Vt., who was born Sept. 4th, 1822. They settled on the well-known Judge Clark meadow farm in the oxbow of the Connecticut River in Lunenburg, Vt. At the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, Mr. Clark entered the military service of the Vermont Volunteers and was appointed captain of Company K, Eight Vermont Volunteers, Col. Stephen Thomas, which regiment was ordered to New Orleans in the fall of 1862. He performed military service until the following spring in the expedition of Major General Butler, when he was stricken with dysentery and died

in the hospital March 20th, 1863. The following children were born to them:

1. LEWIS S. CLARK, b. Dec. 17th, 1850. He now resides in Seattle, Wash.

2. JOHN C. CLARK, b. June 3rd, 1852. He was educated in Detroit, Mich., while living with his uncle, George O. Robinson, and afterwards returned to Vermont. For several years he was cashier of the Chelsea (Vt.) National Bank, and subsequently was cashier of the First National Bank of St. Johnsbury, Vt., and represented the town of St. Johnsbury in the State Legislature in 1894-5. He is now secretary and treasurer of Messrs. E. and T. Fairbanks & Co. Scale Works, of St. Johnsbury. He was married April 14th, 1881, to Lida Puffer, of Grand Isle, Vt., who was born March 4th, 1863. Their children are:

ROBERT PUFFER, b. March 20th, 1882. He was educated in St. Johnsbury Academy and is now connected with the Fairbanks' Scale Co.

MARGARET ROBINSON, b. May 15th, 1884.

ARTHUR DANA, b. March 26th, 1889.

DOROTHEA, b. Nov. 5th, 1898.

3. FLORA ELLA, b. Dec. 12th, 1853. She was married Nov. 18th, 1875, to A. D. Rowell, who was born February, 1839, and died June 17th, 1893, in St. Johnsbury, Vt. Mr. Rowell carried on the business of jewelry, silverware and watchmaking in St. Johnsbury, to which business his wife succeeded.

4. GEORGE ROBINSON CLARK, b. Sept. 9th, 1859. He was educated at the St. Johnsbury Academy, and entered the profession of dentistry. He married Mona Maynard, of Northfield, Vt., and settled in his profession in Boston, Mass. He has been a member of the celebrated Ruggle Street Baptist Church choir for twenty years.

MRS. ELIZA ANN CLARK re-married Nov. 12th, 1871, her second husband being Edward F. Brown, a merchant of St. Johnsbury, Vt., who was born in Berlin, Vt., in 1819. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown are still residing in St. Johnsbury.

IV. GEORGE O., second son of Lewis Robinson, was born at South Reading, Vt., June 14th, 1832, enjoyed the usual advantages of a public school education, assisted his father in various departments of business and at the age of seventeen commenced teaching school and studied to fit himself for college at

Newbury (Vt.) Seminary. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1857 as salutatorian of his class. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1858. For two years he practised law in Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1861 removed to Detroit, Michigan, forming a law partnership with David W. Brooks in 1862. The firm made a specialty of the collection of claims upon the Government arising out of the Civil War. The partnership was dissolved in 1872, when the new firm of Robinson & Fliinn was formed, giving special attention to the title, care and sale of pine lands and pine land estates. He has conducted large and important business interests, being at the present time especially interested in iron mines. He has taken an active interest in the affairs of the city where he has lived, and for some years was an active member of the Board of Education.

In charitable and religious work he has always been active. He was one of the original members of the Young Men's Christian Association, and has been an active and influential member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, having been a lay delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1896, and was for a time a member of the important Book Committee of the Church. He was the organizer and principal founder of the Michigan Christian Advocate, and has been for a number of years the president of the company which publishes it. He has traveled extensively both in his own country and in foreign lands, and has written of his travels as well as of other subjects.

George O. Robinson married, Sept. 27, 1859, Helen Mather, who was a daughter of Atla E. Mather, the first crockery merchant of Detroit. He was a direct descendant of the Mather family, well known in the early history of Massachusetts. (See history of the Mather family.) Helen Mather was educated in the schools of Detroit, and also at the well-known Female Seminary at Burlington, Vt. Her mother, Lois Yale, was a daughter of Lyman Yale, of Charlotte, Vt., a descendant of the brother of the founder of

Yale College. She was a woman of fine tastes and manners and was highly gifted in music. She died Jan. 10th, 1890, leaving four children, who still survive.

For his second wife, George O. Robinson married, May 7, 1891, Jane M. Bancroft, the daughter of Rev. George C. Bancroft and Caroline Orton Bancroft. She is a graduate of the celebrated school of Mrs. Emma Willard at Troy, N. Y., the State Normal School at Albany, and in 1877 of Syracuse University. Later she obtained in course, upon examination, the degree of Master and Doctor of Philosophy. Miss Bancroft was the Dean of the Woman's College of the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, from 1877 until 1886. She spent the years 1886 to 1888 at the Universities of Zurich and Paris, making history a special study. While in Europe she became greatly interested in Christian philanthropy, and later wrote a work entitled, "Deaconess in Europe and Their Lessons for America." She is at the present time the First Vice-President and Trustee of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Secretary of its Deaconess Bureau. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are greatly interested in philanthropic work, in the charities of Detroit as also in many other causes.

The children of George O. and Helen (Mather) Robinson are:

I. FREDERICK AUSTIN, b. July 27, 1860, was educated in the schools of Detroit and at the Academy in St. Johnsbury, Vt. He graduated from the Literary Department of the University of Michigan in 1882, degree A. B., and from the Law Department of the University of Michigan in 1883, degree LL. B. He was married May 3, 1888, to Clara Louise Hayes, of Detroit, who was born March 17, 1861, daughter of Josiah D. Hayes, a prominent railroad official, originator of the system of through bills of lading to foreign countries and an authority on inter-state commerce. They have two children.

FREDERICK HAYES, b. Aug. 24, 1898.

MARION LOUISE, b. Aug. 16, 1901.

Mr. Robinson is a citizen of public spirit, devoted to the interests of his city. He has served ten years as a member of the Board of Estimates of Detroit, and one term as the President of the Board. He is

FURTHER FACTS CONCERNING THE FAMILY OF  
GEORGE O. ROBINSON

The later years of George O. Robinson were largely devoted to philanthropy, especially to the uplift of the lowly and the interests of the church. In 1904 he was a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Los Angeles. In the same year, Albion College gave him the honorary degree of LL. D. Robinson Hall there continues his memory. The George O. Robinson School for Girls at San Juan, Porto Rico, and the Boys' Industrial Institute at Hatillo, Porto Rico, keep his memory green in that island. Robinson Hall, a large Hospital Building in Washington, D. C., was named in recognition of himself and Mrs. Robinson. He entered into the eternal life December 13, 1915.

MRS. GEORGE O. ROBINSON (Jane Bancroft Robinson) in 1908 was elected President of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church and resigned in 1913 on account of Mr. Robinson's ill health. She was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1908 and 1920; was a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference in 1911 at Toronto, and appointed a delegate to the Conference of 1921 at London, but was unable to go. In 1919 Syracuse University gave her the degree of LL. D., up to that time the only woman so honored. She is a member of several learned societies, including the American and Historical Associations. Her present home is in Pasadena, California.

FREDERICK AUSTIN ROBINSON, an able and honored lawyer, and a citizen who served well in the city offices of Detroit, Mich., entered the eternal life December 30, 1913.

Mrs. Frederick A. Robinson now resides in Brookline, Mass.  
Frederick H. Robinson graduated at Williams College in 1920.  
Marion L. Robinson graduated at Smith College in 1922.

CAROLINE ROBINSON (Cheesebrough) married September 11, 1918, Romaine Pierson of New York, a well-known publisher of medical books.

GEORGE A. ROBINSON'S two sons, George Mather and Lewis Speare, are now students at Princeton.

EMMA MABEL ROBINSON was married September 17, 1917, to Dr. Willard J. Denno. Dr. Denno graduated from Yale University, Class of 1903; from Columbia Medical School in 1906. He is at present Medical Director of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

The original Sketch of the Robinson Family was published in 1903. Many facts have occurred since then that have affected all branches of the family. At this time the writer has neither time nor strength to re-write the entire history, but if any member of any branch desires to write out the facts affecting that family, and will have one hundred and fifty inset pages printed (that being the number of books yet remaining) and send to the writer before February 1, 1923, they will be placed in the Sketch, as are the facts concerning the family of George O. Robinson.

(Signed) JANE BANCROFT ROBINSON.

(Mrs. George O. Robinson)



Managing Director of the Farrand Organ Company, and has been for a number of years connected in business with the firm of Robinson & Flinn, Attorneys, interested in pine and iron lands.

2. CAROLINE MANNING, b. Aug. 10th, 1863, was educated at Professor Sill's Detroit Female Seminary and at the Painesville, O., Young Ladies' Institute. She was married to George L. Chesebrough, Dec. 22nd, 1886, and has resided for the last ten years in the city of Duluth, Minn.

George L. Chesebrough was born Feb. 26th, 1862, in Sandusky, O., is the son of Alfred Chesebrough, at one time Controller and Library Commissioner of the City of Detroit, and largely interested in vessel transportation. George L. Chesebrough is engaged in the development of mining lands.

3. GEORGE ALTA, b. Jan. 11th, 1868, was educated in the Detroit Public Schools and graduated from the St. Johnsbury, Vt., Academy. He afterwards spent three years in civil engineering on the Santa Fé R. R., under the direction of his cousin, Albert A. Robinson, chief engineer of the road. Later he took the engineering course at the University of Michigan, and has since been chiefly employed as a civil engineer in the office of the Detroit City Engineer. He married Jan. 5th, 1899, to Antoinette Bloom (b. April 6, 1872), of Detroit, a daughter of Mr. Nelson Bloom. They have one child, George, father Robinson, born Nov. 24th, 1901.

4. WILLIAM HENRY, b. Sept. 9th, 1874, and died Dec. 10th, 1878. A most promising boy.

5. EMMA MABEL, b. Nov. 13th, 1876, was educated and graduated from the Detroit Home and Day School, and was later at Mt. Vernon Seminary, Washington, D. C.

The following are younger children of Lewis and Sarah Robinson:

V. SARAH JANE, third daughter of Lewis Robinson, born May 11, 1834, was educated in select schools and at Springfield Seminary. She developed a fine talent for painting water colors and for music, but was prematurely stricken with disease and died March 7, 1855.

VI. CORNELIA EGLANTINE, born Nov., 1840, died Dec. 1841.

VII. FLORA ELLA, born March, 1845, died Sept., 1845.

## CHAPTER VI.

### MARVIN ROBINSON,

*Fourth Son of Ebenezer Robinson.*

Compiled from a Sketch Written by his Son, Frank M. Robinson, Esq.  
of Dubuque, Iowa, for the History of Reading.

“MARVIN ROBINSON, the fourth son and fifth child of Ebenezer Robinson, was born March 24, 1800, on what is known as the ‘Old Esquire Robinson Farm’ at South Reading. Until he was twenty-one years of age he assisted his father in clearing away the forests and carrying on the farm. Soon after reaching his majority he commenced the business of tanning in South Reading, and continued it with such success as to acquire not only what was considered a competence, but an amount sufficient to number him among the wealthier men of Reading. Later he abandoned the tanner and currier’s trade altogether and farming was his principal occupation up to the time of his death.

He filled several offices of trust in his native town, having been seven times elected one of the selectmen, which position he was filling at the time of his death. He was chosen lister one or more years and served his townsmen in other positions of trust and responsibility. In politics he was a Whig, but when the issues upon which that party was founded no longer existed, he gave his vote and his support to the newly formed Republican party. He was not a politician or partisan farther than the principles of his party, in his judgment, conduced to the general public welfare.

He was a man of great physical strength and endurance. Whatever he aimed to accomplish he labored for with a perseverance and energy that distanced many a man of weaker will and less physical power. A man of good judgment and sound practical sense himself in regard to all the



business and duties that came within the range of his observation, and measuring everything by a matter of fact test, he entertained but poor opinion of all theories and schemes in which he could see no tangible value or practical utility.

His early education was limited to that afforded by the common schools, and a wider range of scholastic training he deemed quite unnecessary for the successful business man. His sons he taught the hard lessons of self-reliance and economy by making them, from early boyhood, dependent upon their own resources for all beyond necessary food and clothing, and when they reached manhood, the same austere discipline compelled them, unaided, to make their own place in the world and be the founders as well as architects of their own fortunes.

His opinions he held firmly and the fear or favor of no man ever checked their free expression, while his unswerving integrity of purpose and character were never called in question by friend, neighbor or townsman. By nature, stern and strong himself, his discipline and judgment of others may have sometimes seemed to be severe, but severity was never allowed to overbalance what he believed to be the even scale of justice.

New England, almost from the rocks, has been made the Eden she is, through the energy, economy, perseverance and practical intelligence of men of his type."

Marvin Robinson (b. March 24, 1800; d. Dec. 22, 1866) was twice married. 1st. On Oct. 11, 1826, to Lucinda Fullam (b. Sept. 13, 1797; d. Nov. 25, 1839). They had seven children. 2nd. On Sept. 22, 1840, to Charlotte Wood (b. May 2, 1816, in Hartland, Vermont; d. April 14, 1899, in Felchville). They had three children.

#### CHILDREN OF MARVIN AND LUCINDA.

I. FRANKLIN MARVIN (b. August 2, 1828; d. March 25, 1885), who married Feb. 3, 1857, Laura Goddard Spaulding (b. May 6, 1832; d. June 21, 1889). Mr. Robinson graduated at Dartmouth College class of 1855. In 1856 he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, and practiced law. In 1862

he formed a partnership with Austin Adams, another Dartmouth man, the firm becoming later "Adams, Robinson & Lacey." Mr. Robinson was a sound lawyer, an excellent business man, and actively interested in the city, where he lived for over thirty years.

1. MAY GODDARD, b. April 21, 1860; m. Oct. 6, 1879, to Judge Benjamin W. Lacey; b. March 12, 1849, in Cayuga County, New York; son of Dr. Samuel Lacey and Mary Woodbury Lacey. He graduated from the law department of Columbian College in 1871; began the practice of the law in 1872 in Dubuque; was made a judge of the District Court in 1878 and held this position for five years. At present is a member of the law firm of Lacey & Brown, President of the Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, and a Director of the Gas Company, Street Railway and other companies. He has been interested in public institutions, having been President of the Hospital and Library Boards. Of six children born to them, four are living, as follows:

FRANK ROBINSON, b. Feb. 22, 1881, graduate of Harvard, class of 1902, Harvard Law School.

BURRITT SAMUEL, b. March 4, 1882, graduate of Harvard, class of 1903.

CLIVE WOODBURY, b. Feb. 4, 1893.

MARGARET, b. April 16, 1899.

2. BELLE FULLAM, b. Aug. 11, 1862; d. April 5, 1887.

3. GRACE, b. March 14, 1871; m. June 27, 1893, to Westel Woodbury Willoughby, Ph. D., b. July 20, 1867; Professor at Johns Hopkins University. Children:

WESTEL ROBINSON, b. Nov. 1, 1895.

LAURA ROBINSON, b. March 1, 1897.

II. EDWIN AURETUS, second son of Marvin Robinson, was born Oct. 18th, 1829, was educated in the public schools and after arriving of age he settled in Boston and became a partner in the wholesale provision house of W. F. Robinson & Co., with his two brothers, and died unmarried Nov. 8th, 1892.

III. CHARLES HENRY, the third son, was born July 18th, 1831, was educated in Reading, settled in Boston and entered the firm of W. F. Robinson & Co. with his brothers. He was successful in business, married in Boston, and died April 8th, 1902, leaving no children.

IV. WALLACE FULLAM ROBINSON, the fourth son of Marvin, was born Dec. 22, 1832, and educated in Reading, and when a young man he entered business in the provision market in Boston. His business grew rapidly when he added to it the wholesale and packing business and soon took in partnership his two older brothers under the firm name of W. F. Robinson & Co. They were all good business men and were very successful. Wallace F. Robinson has accumulated a handsome fortune; has been President of the Boston Chamber of Commerce and of the Board of Trade, and has been honored in many ways. He has now retired from business with the respect and esteem of his large circle of acquaintances. He married Aug. 19th, 1858, Mary Jane Robinson (born Aug. 20th, 1838), who was a daughter of Ezra Robinson, son of James Robinson, mentioned as brother of Ebenezer in this sketch. Their children are as follows:

FRED WALTER, b. Sept. 10, 1859; d. June 7, 1893.

HARRY EZRA, b. Oct. 17, 1872.

V. FORREST ALONZO, b. May 29, 1835; d. March 19, 1836.

VI. MARIA FRANCES, b. Jan. 2, 1837; m. March 27, 1857, James Orville Whitten.

VII. ELMER DUANE, b. July 15, 1838; d. Dec. 4, 1893; m. Sept. 14, 1862, Lorette C. Hawkins (b. March 11, 1838). Children:

ERWIN ELMER, b. Aug. 6, 1865; m. April 30, 1900, to Serena Sheldon, b. Oct. 24, 1868.

ARTHUR HAWKINS, b. May 1, 1874.

Elmer Duane, when about two years of age, his mother having died, was adopted by his aunt, Eliza Robinson Keyes, wife of Washington Keyes, whose surname, "Keyes," was henceforth his name.

He entered the Civil War as lieutenant, was promoted to

the rank of captain, and his company, with its regiment, took a prominent part in the battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Keyes went to Rutland, Vermont, in 1870, and entered in the retail grocery business, which gradually assumed large proportions. a wholesale branch being also established. He became the head of the largest firm in the wholesale grocery business in the State of Vermont. In June, 1865, Mr. Erwin E. Keyes was taken into partnership. Mr. Keyes was a man of the most thorough and painstaking instincts; was prominent in business affairs, was a director in banks and other financial institutions, and commanded to an unusual extent the respect and confidence of all who were in any way associated with him.

CHILDREN OF MARVIN AND CHARLOTTE.

VIII. ELROY CLEMENT, b. Jan. 30, 1844; d. Oct. 28, 1885. He was a merchant of Weathersfield, Vt., and a member of the Vermont Legislature.

IX. DELIA ADA, b. Jan. 24, 1847; d. Oct. 29, 1851.

X. ADDIE LESTINA, b. Nov. 7, 1852; d. Aug. 9, 1873.

## CHAPTER VII.

### EBENEZER ROBINSON, JR.

Ebenezer Robinson, Jr., the youngest son of Ebenezer Robinson, was born in South Reading, Sept. 30, 1809. He received his education in the public schools, and while a young man was an active agent in the selling of copper-plate maps of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont for his brother, Lewis Robinson, who was then in the map publishing business. He developed excellent business qualities and good judgment, and married Jan. 4, 1837, Adeline Williams (b. Dec. 19, 1814; d. July 18, 1894), the daughter of Samuel Williams and Polly Manning, his wife.\* After marriage he settled on his father's farm, which he carried on in connection with his father. He became a citizen much esteemed in his community. He evinced those thorough sterling qualities of integrity and mechanical and mathematical accuracy which characterized his father, and which have since made themselves manifest in his boys, and was holding office of public trust in the town of Reading when he was suddenly stricken with congestion of the lungs and died July 5, 1849, leaving his widow and four children.

In 1853 Mrs. Adeline Williams Robinson was married to Mr. Alba Childs, and settled in Wisconsin.

I. STILLMAN W., b. March 6, 1838, has been twice married. On Dec. 29, 1863, to Mary Elizabeth Holden (b. Jan. 30, 1839; d. July 29, 1885). Children:

1. ECKKA MAZALA, b. Oct. 15, 1869; m. June 23, 1892, Rev. Geo. E. Rowe. Four children.
2. ERDIS GEROSKA, b. Dec. 20, 1872.
3. ZELLA, b. Dec. 2, 1877; m. June 4, 1902, to Otto F. Hakes.

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\* NOTE.—See History of the Manning Family. Page 292.

Mr. Robinson was married April 12, 1888, to Mary Haines.

"From 17 to 21 years, Stillman W. Robinson served an apprenticeship as machinist; at 25 he graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of civil engineer; from 25 to 28 years, he was assistant on the United States Lake Survey; from 28 to 32 he was assistant in engineering, University of Michigan; from 32 to 40, professor of Mechanical Engineering and Physics, University of Illinois; from 40 to 57, professor of Mechanical Engineering, Ohio State University, resigning in 1895 and giving attention to mechanical and scientific subjects. In 1896 he was given the degree of D. Sc.; and in 1899 was made Professor Emeritus in Mechanical Engineering, Ohio State University.

In 1880-84 he was inspector of railways and bridges for Ohio; 1887-90, consulting engineer A. T. & S. Fé R. R.; and in 1887 consulting engineer for the Lick telescope and mountings.

From 1862 to the present time he has been an inventor, having secured some 40 patents, a goodly number of which have proved of value, especially the eight or ten concerned in shoe manufacture."

Mr. Robinson is a member of the Am. Soc. Mech. Eng.; Am. Soc. Civ. Eng.; of Naval and Marine Engs.; a Fellow of the A. A. A. S.; is author of important articles in societies and periodicals; of four of Van Nostrand's Science Series; and of a college text book on "Principles and Mechanism."

At the Centennial, three awards were granted on appliances of his invention, and at the Columbian Exposition, two.

II. ELNA ALPHONSE, b. Dec. 15, 1839, was twice married. First, April 27, 1861, at Gardner, Mass., to Melora M. Smith (b. Oct. 15, 1839; d. Aug. 16, 1885). Children:

1. SARAH ANN, b. March 4, 1862; d. March 4, 1862.
2. ADDIE EVA, b. Oct. 17, 1863; d. Aug. 27, 1865.

3. GERTRUDE MINNIE, b. July 5, 1868; m. Dec. 25, 1887, to W. L. Troyer, b. ———; d. April 8, 1893. Children:  
FANNIE F., b. Sept. 27, 1888.  
MABEL, b. Oct. 26, 1891.
4. INEZ MARY, b. Nov. 28, 1872; m. Archibald Boyd, Aug. 30, 1881. Children:  
BERT BLAINE, b. Jan. 29, 1891.  
GEO. ARCHIBALD, b. Aug. 26, 1892.  
WILBUR ALPHONSO, b. Feb. 4, 1895.  
NEIL DOW, b. Dec. 27, 1897.  
JOHN ROBINSON, b. July 14, 1900.
5. FANNIE NETTIE, b. Aug. 30, 1881.

Elna A. Robinson m. Nov. 30, 1886, Semphrona E. Stage, (b. Mar. 4, 1844.)

From 17 to 21 Mr. Robinson served an apprenticeship as a machinist. In 1870-74 he attended the University of Illinois, graduating with the degree of M. E., when he became assistant in Mechanical Engineering at the same institution. In 1878 he became partner with Mr. E. M. Burr at Champaign, Ill., for general machine construction, as well as improving and manufacturing specialties, and still continues in business in the same city.

III. ALBERT ALONZO ROBINSON, third son of Ebenezer Jr.; b. Oct. 21, 1844; twice married; first, Dec. 6, 1869, Julia Caroline Burdick; d. Aug. 3, 1880. Second, married September, 1885, Mrs. Eliza Frances Williams, and now resides in Topeka, Kan.

Albert Alonzo and Julia Caroline had one child:

METTA BURDICK ROBINSON, b. July 17, 1876.

He was born at South Reading, Vt., and was educated in the public schools, and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1869, taking the degree of C. E. and B. S., and in 1871, M. S. In June, 1900, the honorary degree of LL. D. was conferred on him by his *Alma Mater*.

His work on railroads began in 1869, when he entered the service of the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad as axeman in the engineering corps, and thereafter served succes-

sively as chainman, levelman, transitman, office engineer, locating engineer, and as assistant engineer until April 1, 1871. Then he became assistant engineer of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., in charge of location and construction, and two years later, April, 1873, was made Chief Engineer, which position he held until August, 1890, during which period he had charge of the entire construction of the Santa Fé Railway System, including the route through the Grand Canon of the Arkansas.

From June, 1883, to September 1, 1883, he was Assistant General Superintendent of the same railroad; from September 1, 1883, to March 1, 1884, he was General Superintendent; from March 1, 1884, to February 1, 1886, he was General Manager; from February 1, 1886, to May, 1888, Second Vice-President; and Second Vice-President and General Manager from May, 1888, until May 1, 1893, when he left this system and accepted the Presidency of the Mexican Central Ry. Co., which position he still holds.

During his engineering experience, he has had direct charge of the construction of over four thousand five hundred miles of railroad in all kinds of country, on plains and deserts and in mountains and mountain canons. In 1887, the railroad from Pueblo to Denver was constructed and opened for traffic, 116 miles in 216 days, and also 360 miles of the line from Kansas City to Chicago in 276 days.

Mr. Robinson is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The history of his connection with the Santa Fé Ry. is of deep interest from the fact of his unusual success in overcoming obstacles involving difficult railway problems. His record will now probably show the highest in railway construction mileage.

IV. MARY ELLA, only daughter of Ebenezer Jr.; b. Sept. 4, 1847; m. April 24, 1870, Asa N. Phelps, of Springfield, Wisconsin, where they settled and have since resided, Mr. Phelps carrying on a grocery and grain business at that place. Their children are:

CYRUS ALBA PHELPS, b. Feb. 2, 1871.

ADELINE WILLIAMS PHELPS, b. August 4, 1879.



## ELIZA ROBINSON.

ELIZA ROBINSON, youngest daughter and ninth child of Ebenezer Robinson, was born May 20, 1807, and married Washington Keyes, of a well known family in Reading, September 29, 1831, and died December 13, 1860. They settled on the adjoining farm, next northerly of the Ebenezer Robinson farm, where formerly James, the brother of Ebenezer Robinson, had lived, and which he had cleared, which farm Mr. Keyes greatly improved and enjoyed until some time after the death of his wife.

They had one child, Laura Malvina Keyes, who was born Sept. 7, 1832, and afterwards they adopted into their family Elmer Duane, the sixth son of Marvin and Lucinda Robinson, whose mother died in his infancy and who grew up as their child. Having used the name of Keyes in his childhood, he was ever afterward known by that name. Reference is made to him under the head of Chapter VI. in giving the children of Marvin Robinson.

Washington Keyes was an intelligent and prosperous farmer and was the representative of his town in the Vermont Legislature at the time of the death of his wife.

Laura M. Keyes married William Manning Williams Sept. 7, 1853. They had four children, Lizzie, Arthur, Frank and Flora Ella, the first three of whom died in childhood. Flora Ella was born Oct. 31, 1865, and was married to William Wallace White Sept. 2, 1879, who died in New York Dec. 11, 1887.

William M. Williams was born April 6, 1824, and was the son of Samuel and Polly (Manning) Williams. (See Chapter VII. as to his sister, Adeline Williams, who married Ebenezer Robinson Jr.) After carrying on a woodenware manufactory in South Reading, he settled in New York city as cabinetmaker, and died in that city May 19, 1897, survived by his wife, Laura (Keyes) Williams, and his daughter, Flora Ella White.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE ROBINSON NAME.\*

The person who studies genealogy for the sake of tracing descent from some distinguished ancestor is to be pitied. Disillusion is his invariable experience. Such persons should study Gibbon's sketch of the noble French house of Courtenay, and take the lesson home. Rising from a plebian root, active, vigorous individuals pushed forward the fortunes of the Courtenay family until it was connected with the royal line of France. It remained prominent for a century or two and then it gradually, pitilessly sank until again it was lost to recognition among the masses of the people. The honors had passed away, but the family remained, though its ramifications were lost among the many. So every family is inextricably intermingled with all classes and ranks of social life.

The study of genealogy in itself, however, is in many ways interesting. To trace the characteristics of a family from generation to generation is a psychological investigation. To note the effect of inter-marriage; to study the immediate, marked result of a capable, energetic individual upon all related to him; to note how environment affects development of character; all of these are questions that must concern those who are interested in the life about them.

The question of environment is well illustrated in the descendants of Samuel Robinson. He kept a tavern at Cambridge, a town of schools, close to Boston, which even then was one of the most active intellectual and political centers of the New World. His son Samuel grew up in this atmosphere of intellectual ferment, and is it surprising

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Homes of English Names, H. B. Guppy, 1890. English Surnames, Lower, 1875. English Surnames, Bardsley, London, 1875.

that his branch of the descendants of William Robinson has produced more statesmen and men of public life than any other?

Then the study of names, especially of surnames, has a fascination to a thinker. How did they arise? A little research shows us that surnames are a mark of advanced civilization. Camden, the great antiquary, says that they were not known in England until the time of the English Conquest. Before that time, every existing deed is signed with a cross and a single name. About the middle of the twelfth century persons of rank began to have some distinctive name in addition to the baptismal name, but such names were hardly known among the middle and lower classes before the fifteenth century. Then all kinds of designations arose and in various ways. One person would be named by his occupation; a mason, a carpenter, a miner; another from local names, as field, grove, lake; another from the place where he resided, as Norman, Poland, Scott; others from the baptismal name of the father.

The English surname of Robinson was derived from the baptismal name of Robert, itself a Teutonic name. A few of the derivations are as follows:

Robarts, Robins, Robinson, Roberts, Robertson, Robison, Robson and Roby. Then we have the nickname of Dob for Robert, from which has come Dobbs, Dobson, Dobbins, Dobinson, and Dobyette, and from Hob, another nickname for Robert, has come Hobbs, Hobson, Hobbins, Hopkins, and Hopkinson. From the Welsh we have Ap-robert, Ap-robin, and the contractions, Probert and Probyn.

Robert was a frequent name among the people, and the following fact may be one of the reasons for its so being: Salverte says that when the European states were converted to the Christian faith, pagan names were laid aside and new names were imposed at the baptism of the converts. Nobles and men of position were given separate baptism, but the plebeian candidates were divided into companies, and as the priest conferred baptism upon a company, he would give the same name to all the members of the company. Now.

imagine that a whole company were baptised "Robert!" It certainly would be an impossible task for their descendants to trace their ancestry to one common beginning.

Then consider the variety of names derived from Robert, mentioned in the paragraph above, and a little reflection will convince the most enthusiastic genealogist that the attempt to trace back all Robinsons to a common ancestor is a pre-determined failure.

Neither should we envy the heroic task of writing a history of the Robinson Family, as undertaken by its devoted historiographer, Mr. Chas. E. Robinson.

Lower (page 177) gives a curious study of statistics concerning sixty of the most common surnames of England, showing the births, deaths and marriages registered for one year, ending July 1st, 1838. "In this time, *in England alone*, 1,445 Robinsons were born, 1,223 died and 877 were married."

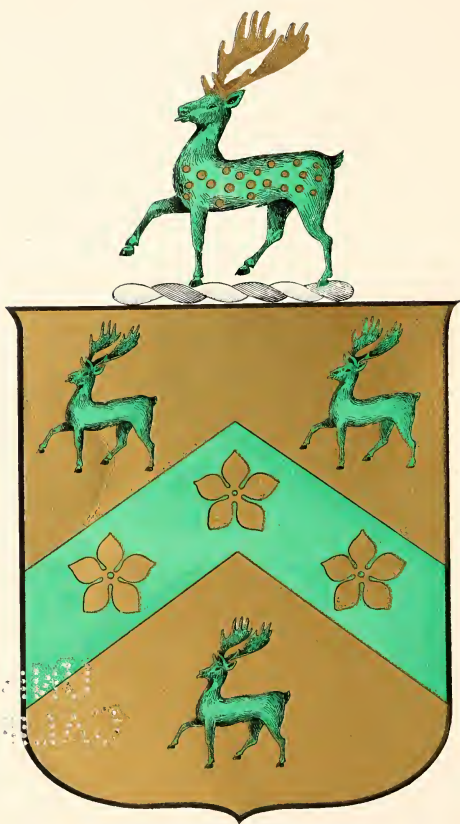
Truly a historiographer of such a family has no light task!

The name has figured largely in early English history. There was "Robin of Redesdale," the leader of fifteen thousand farmers and peasants who, in 1345, at the time of the peasants' revolt, marched to Bambury and captured the Earl of Pembroke. The name is also preserved to us in the legendary exploits of Robin Hood, the bold Archer of Sherwood Forest, the hero of the common people. His name is still used every day in proverbial expressions wherever the English language is known. "All around Robin Hood's barn," indicates an unnecessarily circuitous way. "Robin Hood's wind," is a name given in Lancaster to a wind that blows during the thawing of the snow, so named, it is said, because Robin Hood once stated that he could stand any wind except a thawing wind.

The great home of the Robinson clan is in the north of England, its members becoming less as you travel south. There were located its most influential families.

Mr. Charles E. Robinson, Historiographer of the "Robinson Family Association," in his book, entitled, "The Rob-

Univ. of  
California



COAT OF ARMS OF "YE ROBINSONS FROM THE NORTH,"  
THE ENGLISH HOME OF THE EARLY ROBINSONS,  
EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA.

insons and their Kinfolk," has an interesting chapter on "Heraldry," drawing his facts largely from J. Bernard Burke in his "General Armory." He tells of the mottoes, crests, colors, coats-of-arms of different families of Robinsons, mostly from the North of England.

Some of these mottoes are as follows:

"Robinson of Yorkshire and Robinson of Lancastershire have the same motto, *Virtute, non verbis*. (By bravery, not by words.)"

"Robinson of Tottenham, *'Virtus pretiosior auro.'* (Virtue is more precious than gold.)"

"Robinson of Buckinghamshire, *I'ncam Malum bono*. (I will conquer evil by good.)" Granted in 1731.

"Robinson of Beverly House, Toronto, Canada, *Properet provide*. (Quickly and cautiously.)"

"Robinson of Scotland, *Intemerata fides*. (Uncorrupted faith.)"

"Robinson, Earl of Ripon, *Qualis ab incepto*. (The same as from the beginning.)"

"Robinson of Rokeby Hall, County of Louth, *Sola in Deo Salus*. (Salvation in God alone.)"

"Robinson, Lord Rokeby, *Non nobis solum sed toti mundo nati*. (Not born for ourselves alone, but for the whole world.)"

"Robinson of Silksworth Hall, County of Durham, descended from William Robinson of Durham, living in 1502, *Post nubila Phoebus*. (Sunshine after clouds.)"

By the kindness of Mr. Charles E. Robinson we here reproduce the coat-of-arms of "William Robinson of ye North," confirmed by the Herald of Arms in the visitation of Leicestershire in 1619, and of London in 1633. (*Harleian publications*, pp. 182, 204.)"

This coat-of-arms is simply given as one among the nineteen that are noted by Mr. Charles E. Robinson as belonging to different Robinson families, and as a matter of interest to any one bearing the Robinson name.

We have no proof to adduce that "William of Newton or Watertown," the most remote direct ancestor of Eben-

ezer Robinson, known to us, had any connection with these English families entitled to possess coats-of-arms, other than the tradition of the family that he came from the north of England. We know that some of the Robinson families in America brought over from England parchment copies of arms, which appear on early deeds of their property, while in the list of individuals for whom crests were made in early colonial times, in this country, there is no one by the name of Robinson.

So far as we can learn, the ancestors of Ebenezer Robinson were hard-working, God-fearing men and women, who deserved well of their generation by their straightforward, useful lives. The descendants of Ebenezer Robinson are content that he possessed the same characteristics of a good husband, a devoted father, a faithful Christian, and that his best claim to be remembered by those coming after him, is that he was a brave patriot, "A Soldier of the Revolution."



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OF THE

## ROBINSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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