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STATE OF MAINE

REPORT OF
STATE HISTORIAN
1913 - 1914



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SENTINEL PUBLISHING COMPANY
1915

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STATE OF MAINE,

OFFICE OF THE STATE HISTORIAN,

DECEMBER 31, 1914.

*To His Excellency, William T. Haines,
Governor of Maine:*

SIR:—I have the honor to present herewith my report for the years 1913 and 1914.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY S. BURRAGE,

State Historian.

REPORT OF STATE HISTORIAN 1913, 1914

At the close of my report covering the years 1911 and 1912 mention was made of the writer's purpose to prepare for publication, during the year 1913, a work with reference to which I had spent considerable time for many years in collecting materials. The work was commenced in November, 1912, and by the first of October, 1913, more than two-thirds of the manuscript of "The Beginnings of Colonial Maine, 1602-1658" were ready for the printer. Delays occurred in connection with the publication of the manuscript, and the first proof-sheets were not received from the printer until about the middle of December. The preparation of the manuscript was completed before the end of the year, however, and the last of the proof-sheets came from the printer's hands early in April, 1914. At the close of that month the bound volume, containing four hundred and twenty-seven pages, and twenty-seven added full-page illustrations, was ready for delivery. To the Governor and Gentlemen of the Council I am greatly indebted for efficient coöperation in my endeavor to make the publication, in its mechanical appearance, creditable to the State. Eleven hundred copies of the book were printed. By direction of the Governor and Council, two hundred copies were made available to persons and libraries outside of the State at three dollars per copy, on application to the State Librarian. The distribution of the work within the limits of the State was also placed in the hands of the State Librarian, in accordance with the direction of the Legislature. The reception that the work has received both in this country and in England, as indicated in the press notices and in many personal letters, is a gratification to the writer.

Immediately upon the completion of this work of publication I sailed for England, where five months were spent, a part of this time being devoted to added researches with reference to our early Maine history, especially that following the period 1602-1658. The manuscript department of the British Museum contains much as yet unused material with reference to this later period. It is well known that not long after the restoration of Charles II in 1660, the colony of Massachusetts Bay, in order to strengthen its hold upon Maine territory, purchased of Ferdinando Gorges, the grandson and heir of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, all his interest in the Province of Maine for the sum of twelve hundred and fifty pounds sterling. Royalist influences in England, however, were soon active in the endeavor to bring the New England colonies under other management than had now become dominant; and among these manuscripts in the British Museum are many that show how numerous and urgent were the appeals of those who were engaged in efforts in this direction. Attacks upon the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony were successful; and Ferdinando Gorges, on the ground that the Bay Colony had forfeited its charter, claimed that the Province of Maine had reverted to him; and I found the original of a proposal made by Gorges February 24, 1675, for the sale of the Province of Maine to his Majesty for one thousand pounds down and ten thousand pounds a year for five years. The affairs of the King, however, were not in a condition at all favorable for his attention to matters connected with New England colonial concerns, and the proposal doubtless received scant if any notice; but the fact that such a proposal was made is an interesting illustration of the long continued and unsuccessful efforts of Sir Ferdinando Gorges' heirs, after the restoration, to regain their possessions on this side of the sea.

On another manuscript in the British Museum, I found in a lead pencil record the words, "By Dr. Gardner, late of Boston in New England." To one familiar with the history of Maine, it was a natural inference that the "Dr. Gardner" of the record might be none other than Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, the founder of Gardiner, Maine. Added investigation established the correctness of the inference. The manuscript, which covers fifty

seven pages, bears the following title: "Some facts collected and observations made on the Fisheries and Government of Newfoundland, showing the many advantages which will arise to this Kingdom on Colonizing that Island; to which is added a plan for speedy settling it." While the manuscript itself has reference only to territory outside of our national domain, it has for us attractive interest both as an early account of Newfoundland, and as the work of one who, before and after the Revolutionary War, was prominent in our colonial and state history, and was influential in the early development of large land properties on the Kennebec.

An inquiry, to which I failed to obtain any information when gathering materials for "The Beginnings of Colonial Maine, 1602-1658," had reference to the later years of Thomas Elbridge, son of Giles Elbridge of Bristol, England, who, with Robert Aldworth of the same place, secured the Pemaquid patent in 1631. As the possessor of the patent, Thomas Elbridge is supposed to have come to Pemaquid about the year 1647. For awhile he was known as "of Pemaquid in New England," but after 1672 no record concerning him, there or elsewhere, rewarded my search.* Once, indeed, finding a statement that connected Thomas Elbridge with Marblehead in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, I was moving in the right direction; yet inquiry there brought no information, but only added disappointment. After my return from England, however, the Hon. Charles F. Jenney of Boston, who as a summer resident at Monhegan had become greatly interested in the early history of colonial Maine, and knew of my inquiries concerning the later years of Thomas Elbridge, called my attention to information with reference to him contained in a privately printed work entitled "Family Memorials. A series of Genealogical and Biographical Monographs on the Families of Salisbury, Aldworth, Elbridge, Sewall, Pyldren-Dummer, Wally, Quincy, Gookin, Wendell, Breese, Chevalier-Anderson, and Phillips. With Fifteen Pedigrees and an Appendix. By Edward Elbridge Salisbury, 1885. Two hundred copies printed privately. Two Parts."

In this work, from an existing memorandum prepared in the interest of the heirs of Thomas Elbridge and with refer-

*The Beginnings of Colonial Maine, 1602-1658, page 308.

ence to certain property claims in England, there are statements that afford us an added glimpse of Thomas Elbridge of Pemaquid, who is said not only to have removed from that place to Marblehead, where he married Rebecca _____, but is mentioned as "of the island of Jamaica in the West Indies." It is known that Giles Elbridge, his father, had business relations in that island, and Elbridge property interests there doubtless furnished the occasion for the presence of Thomas Elbridge in the West Indies. As he had no further known connection with Marblehead, it seems probable that death overtook him before he was able to return. His sons, born in Marblehead, were sent by his direction to England for their "education and advancement in the world." All of them remained there. John, the youngest, became the final possessor of the combined Aldworth and Elbridge estates. For many years, also, he was the Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs at Bristol. The two daughters of Thomas Elbridge, Elizabeth and Rebecca, remained on this side of the sea, and through them quite a number of prominent New England families trace back their lineage to Thomas Elbridge of Pemaquid, Marblehead and Jamaica. Among them are those who have become widely known, some as merchants distinguished for business ability, sagacity and honorable dealing; others as men in public life, holding high positions connected with the conduct of state and national affairs, and honored by repeated calls to such service. Among the former may be mentioned the Salisburys of Worcester, Massachusetts, Stephen Salisbury having been a familiar name at the heart of the old commonwealth for several generations. The Salisburys are descendants of Thomas Elbridge through his younger daughter Rebecca. Through her two others, prominent in public relations, but of another name, Levi Lincoln and Enoch Lincoln, brothers born in Worcester, Mass., and connected with the Salisbury family, are also descendants of Thomas Elbridge of Pemaquid. Levi Lincoln (born October 25, 1782, died May 29, 1868) was Lieut. Governor of Massachusetts (1823); Judge of the Supreme Court of Mass., (1824); Governor of the same State (1826-35); member of Congress (1835-41); Presidential Elector (1846). His brother, Enoch Lincoln (born December 28, 1788, died October 8, 1829), was admitted to the bar in 1811, and entered upon the practice of

law in Salem, Mass.; but not long after removed to Fryeburg, Maine. He was drawn thither in part by a deep love of nature, and in 1816 he published a poem entitled "The Village," in which he gave expression to the thoughts and feelings impressed upon him by the scenery and social life of Fryeburg and vicinity. In 1818, he was elected a member of Congress from the District of Maine. In 1819, he removed to Paris. After Maine became a state, he was twice elected a member of Congress. In 1826, he was elected governor of Maine, and was reelected in 1827 and 1828. Near the close of his third term he died at Augusta, whither he had gone to deliver an address at the laying of the corner-stone of the capitol. Doubtless he would have been called to other and higher stations had not his death, shortly before he completed his forty-first year, removed him from a career bright with the prospect of added opportunities and successes. Elizabeth, the elder daughter of Thomas Elbridge, also married; and prominent among the Elbridge descendants in this line is found the name of Elbridge Gerry (born in Marblehead, Mass., July 17, 1744, died in Washington, D. C., November 23, 1814). Belonging to a slightly earlier period than Levi and Enoch Lincoln, he was in political life both before and after the Revolutionary War. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; member of the Continental Congress (1776-80 and 1783-85); delegate to the Constitutional Convention (1787); member of Congress from Massachusetts (1789-93); Commissioner to France (1797, 1798); Governor of Massachusetts (1810-12); and Vice President of the United States (1813, 1814). He died full of years as well as of honors, having shortly before his death reached his seventieth birthday.* The mere mention of these men, distinguished for valuable service in different spheres, and highly honored in our American colonial and national life, is suggestive of very many others in less conspicuous places whose lineage, in an unbroken line, is traceable from generation to generation back to Thomas Elbridge of Pemaquid.

A valuable service performed by Enoch Lincoln as governor of Maine had reference to Maine's northeastern boundary, con-

*The line of descent of these descendants of Thomas Elbridge will be found in an appendix to this report.

cerning which before the time of Governor Lincoln there had been considerable controversy for more than a generation. Governor Washburn, in an elaborate paper on the North Eastern Boundary read before the Maine Historical Society May 15, 1879, made special mention of Governor Lincoln in this connection. The story of Maine's part in that controversy has never been told with that fulness and exactness which a matter of so much importance demands. In the country at large, there was a considerable degree of interest in the questions that had arisen with reference to the boundary, and the national government was active in the desire to secure a satisfactory adjustment of differences that had long existed between the two countries. In Maine, however, inasmuch as the British claim involved a large and valuable portion of Maine territory, far deeper feelings had been stirred and a more general interest aroused, than in other parts of the United States.

One reason why so little attention has been given to Maine's part in the boundary controversy is doubtless to be found in the fact that the materials for a proper examination and study of that part have not been, and are not now, easily available. Governor Washburn, in the preparation of his paper on the boundary controversy to which mention has just been made, met with difficulties on account of this lack of available sources of information. This appears in his reference to the settlement of the initial boundary contentions as to the true St. Croix as contemplated in the fifth article of the treaty of 1794. The commission that gave the decision in this case, Governor Washburn says, consisted of "Thomas Barclay, David Howell (Englishmen) and Egbert Benson (American).^{*} The natural inference followed, and was emphasized by Governor Washburn, that Great Britain "had the good fortune to be strongly represented on the St. Croix Commission, while the side of the United States was but feebly and inadequately supported." Accordingly, what else was to be expected from the labors of the commission but a "chapter of concessions, submissions and humiliations, by which the otherwise fair record of American diplomacy has been dimmed and stained." Later investigation, however, has revealed the fact that on the St. Croix Commission there was only

^{*} Maine Historical Society Collections, First Series, Vol. 8, p. 12.

one Englishman, while two American citizens represented the United States. According to the terms of the treaty of 1794, the King of Great Britain was to appoint one member of the commission, the President of the United States one, and the two thus appointed were to select the third member. George III appointed as the British member of the commission Thomas Barclay of Annapolis, Nova Scotia. He was a native of New York, a man of ability and high standing, who at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War attached himself to the British side, served as an officer in the British army, and at the conclusion of the war, with many other American Loyalists, became a resident of Nova Scotia. As the second member of the commission President Washington appointed a distinguished citizen of Rhode Island, David Howell. He was a graduate of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton College. For many years he was a professor of law in Rhode Island College, now Brown University. He was a member of the Continental Congress, Attorney General of Rhode Island and a Judge of the Supreme Court. The third member of the commission, selected by the two thus appointed, was Egbert Benson, a prominent member of the New York bar, who had been Attorney General of New York and a member of the Continental Congress, while later he was made a judge of the Supreme Court of New York. The majority of the St. Croix Commission, therefore, was with the United States and not with Great Britain, as Governor Washburn by lack of proper sources of information was led to suppose.

Concerning this lack of easily available materials with reference to Maine's part in the boundary controversy, it must be added that our State archives are very incomplete. In the ninth report of the Public Archives Commission, published in 1910 at the Public Printing Office in Washington, there is a report (pages 261-318) on "The Archives of the State of Maine" by Prof. Allen Johnson of Bowdoin College, now of Yale University. In this report, Prof. Johnson says he found in the executive office in the State House no correspondence of any governor of Maine before the administration of Governor Bodwell (1883), and then only of "letters received." No "letters mailed" were found before the administration of Governor Burleigh (1889). The war correspondence of Governors Washburn, Coburn and Cony was found in the Adjutant Gen-

eral's office. I have recently learned that the office of the Secretary of State is in possession of a book containing manuscript copies of about forty letters written by Governors King, Parris, Lincoln, Smith and others bearing dates from 1820 to 1837. Some of these letters relate to the northeastern boundary controversy.

The State Library, however, is in possession of four large manuscript volumes containing correspondence, &c., relating to northeastern boundary matters, belonging to the years 1825-1839, the whole amounting to 1454 pages. The collection is one of very great interest and value, containing letters from Clay, Webster and others holding high official positions at Washington and elsewhere; but while in it are found many letters addressed to Maine governors during the period mentioned, an examination of the correspondence brings to light only one letter written by a governor of Maine. While, therefore, these four volumes are exceedingly important because of their presentation of views entertained by high government officials with reference to the boundary, they are lacking almost wholly in Maine official correspondence. This lack, so far as is now possible, should be supplied; and I earnestly recommend that diligent search be made for such correspondence at the State House in Boston, at the office of the Secretary of State in Washington, in Canadian archives and in all other places where such search is likely to be rewarded. When this has been done, all this manuscript material, including that contained in the four volumes in the State Library, the whole arranged in chronological order, and accompanied with such notes as the correspondence may seem to demand, should be printed, and placed beyond the possibility of loss.

In an earlier report (1907, 1908, pages 9 and 10), I have already called attention to the lack of historical materials in the legislative files in the office of the Secretary of State. This is a matter of no slight importance, and efforts to repair this loss so far as is possible should be made in any way that can be devised. In this earlier report, I made reference to the help I had received from the messages of the governors of Maine in my search for information that should have been found in the legislative files, but was wholly wanting there. Examination of the messages of the governors at that time revealed the fact

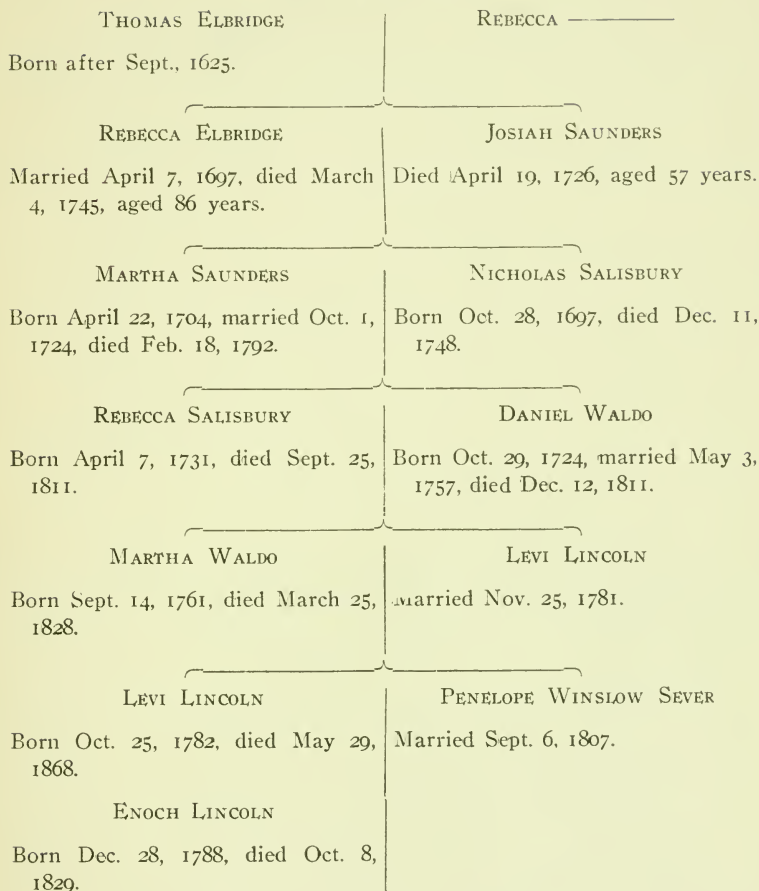
that the messages contain much valuable material with reference to Maine's part in the northeastern boundary controversy. In fact, they furnish materials with reference to other points of very deep interest in connection with our state history from its beginnings in 1820. The centennial of the State is approaching. An event of so much importance to the people of Maine calls for a worthy celebration. To this end plans already are rightly under consideration. In connection with such a celebration, as one way in which the first one hundred years of our history as a State may fittingly be celebrated, I suggest the desirability of bringing together and publishing the messages and proclamations of the governors of Maine throughout this period. Such a publication should include brief biographical sketches of each of the governors, their portraits, and such historical notes as the messages and proclamations may require. In order that the work of compilation and publication may be completed by the close of the first one hundred years of our State history, it is evident that there should be no delay in entering upon it.

APPENDIX.

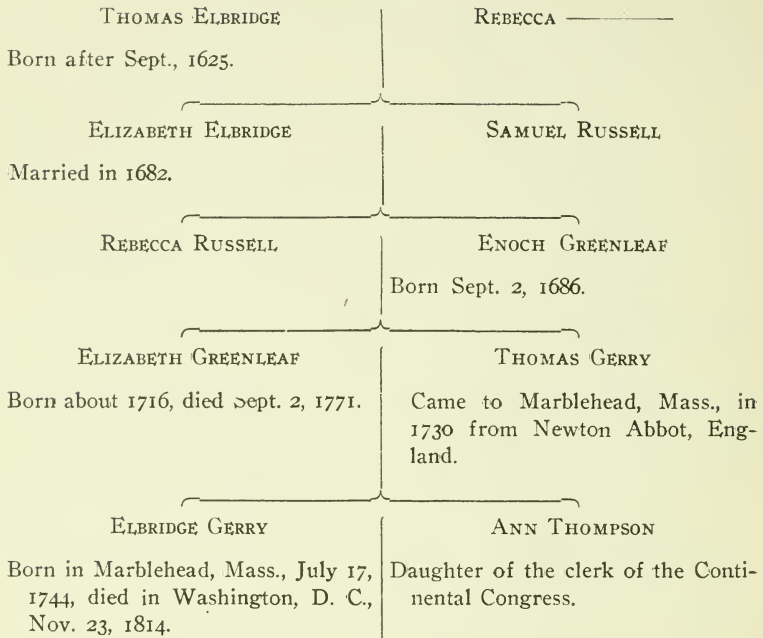
SALISBURY LINE.

<p>THOMAS ELBRIDGE</p> <p>Born after Sept., 1625, as he was still a minor in 1646.</p>	<p>REBECCA _____</p>
<p>REBECCA ELBRIDGE</p>	<p>JOSIAH SAUNDERS</p>
<p>Married April 7, 1697, died March 4, 1745, aged 86 years.</p>	<p>Died April 19, 1726, aged 57 years.</p>
<p>MARTHA SAUNDERS</p>	<p>NICHOLAS SALISBURY</p>
<p>Born April 22, 1704, married Oct. 1, 1724, died Feb. 18, 1792.</p>	<p>Born Oct. 28, 1697, died Dec. 11, 1748.</p>
<p>STEPHEN SALISBURY (1)</p>	<p>ELIZABETH TUCKERMAN</p>
<p>Born Sept. 25, 1746, married Jan. 31, 1797, died May 11, 1829.</p>	<p>Born in 1768 and lived about 75 years. Daughter of Edward Tuckerman.</p>
<p>STEPHEN SALISBURY (2)</p>	<p>REBECCA SCOTT DEAN</p>
<p>Born March 8, 1798, married Nov. 1, 1833, died August 24, 1884.</p>	<p>Died July 24, 1843.</p>
<p>STEPHEN SALISBURY (3)</p>	
<p>Born March 31, 1835, died November 16, 1905, a bachelor, enriching Worcester, Mass., his birth-place, with large benefactions.</p>	

LINCOLN LINE.



GERRY LINE.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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