

AMOS PERRY, OF PROVIDENCE,

AND HIS

PATERNAL ANCESTORS IN AMERICA.

AMOS PERRY, of Providence, R. I., was born in the village of South Natick, town of Natick, Mass., August 12, 1812; attended the district school of the town; prepared for college in the family school of Rev. Daniel Kimball, of Needham; graduated from Harvard University in 1837; was teacher of youth in Providence and in New London, Ct., from 1837 to 1859, except three years (1852 to 1855) devoted to foreign travel and study, including a tour through Egypt, Palestine and Greece; made his third European tour in 1861, and while abroad was appointed by President Lincoln early in 1862 diplomatic and consular agent at the court of His Highness the Bey of Tunis; accompanied in 1865 the ambassador of the Bey of Tunis to this country, bringing the portrait of the Bey and letters of condolence on the death of President Lincoln, and of congratulation on the successful issue of the war of the rebellion; presented to the Bey in 1866, in the name of the President, a copy of Trumbull's portrait of Washington, which has since been and is now suspended with the portraits of Tunisian Beys and European Sovereigns in one of the Bey's palaces at Tunis; is the author of a volume entitled "Carthage and Tunis, Past and Present," 8vo, pp. 365, Provi-

dence, 1869; "Memorial of Zachariah Allen, LL. D., 1795-1882," Cambridge, 1883, 8vo, pp. 108; "R. I. State Census 1885," 8vo, pp. 660, Providence, 1887; has been a contributor to newspapers and magazines; has been the Secretary of the Rhode Island Historical Society since 1873, and its Librarian since 1880, occasionally contributing papers, in one of which, printed in the Society's Proceedings, 1874-5, he gave an historical sketch of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati, bringing to light an endowed institution that had long been lost sight of, and that has since been revived and re-organized; was Postmaster at Fruit Hill, North Providence, 1838 to 1840, while Amos Kendall was Postmaster-General; was Inspector of Public Schools in Providence county, 1845 to 1852; was for several years one of the Vice-Presidents of the American Institute of Instruction; was one of the founders of the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction; is a corresponding member of the Historical Societies of Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, Georgia, Maine, Chicago, and Western Reserve, Ohio, etc.; an honorary member of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati; a Vice-President of the American Peace Society; the honorary Vice-President for Rhode Island of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia; an honorary alumnus of Brown University and also of Griswold College, having received from the former in 1841 the honorary degree of M. A., and from the latter, in 1888, the degree of LL. D.; has been since 1831 connected with the church in his native village, of which his parents were original members, and of which Rev. James W. Thompson, (Brown University, A. B. 1827, D. D. 1849, Harvard, B. D. 1831,) was the first pastor, and Rev. George H. Badger, (Williams College, A. B. 1883, and Harvard B. D. 1886,) is the present pastor; he married August 28, 1838, Elizabeth Anastasia, who was born May 7, 1815, in Glocester, R. I., and was the daughter of Eber and Waite (Irons) Phetteplace, a descendant of Sir John Phetteplace, of England, and, on her mother's side, of Roger Williams, Gregory Dexter and Chad Brown.

Mr. Perry's father was ⁶Elijah, born July 7, 1771, in Natick, Mass.; died in Natick November 19, 1845; married April 9, 1795, Mary, who was a daughter of John and Tabitha (Battelle) Jones, of Dedham, and who was born in Dedham August 24, 1774, and died in Natick August 10, 1849. He (Elijah) had ten children — seven sons and three daughters; the first two of these children (sons) died early; the others all lived to be more than fifty years old, one of whom, the fifth, Elijah (1807–1884) reached his seventy-eighth year, and the second, Mary Perry Richards (1801–1889) her eighty-ninth year; all were married; all had one or more children; all but the oldest, Leonard (1799–1856) have (in 1890) one or more children still living, and all have one or more grandchildren still living except the second daughter, Caroline Miller (1803–1860), and the youngest son but two, John Jones (1810–1862); only one of the ten children still survives. He (Elijah) was a vigorous and well-to-do yeoman; he liked a country life, taking pleasure in meditating on the visible works of the Creator amid which he dwelt; he believed in farming as a means of attaining health, wealth and wisdom; he tried to make farmers of all his boys, and failed in every case; favored common schools and incorporated academies, but refused one of his sons permission to pursue a collegiate course of instruction on the ground that "college learning spoils the boys"; yet when that boy, having broken away from his father's leading-strings, graduated at Harvard College, the father and mother celebrated the occasion at his room, in Holworthy Hall (in which the library of the Hasty Pudding Club was kept that year under his charge), and they furnished there a liberal supply of fruits, flowers and other good things from their cheerful home in South Natick; he invested his surplus funds in farm lands; read agricultural papers; made agricultural experiments; was particularly interested in cattle, and was for several years associated with the late President Josiah Quincy, of Harvard University, as a member of the Committee on Working Oxen at the Brighton Cattle Show; was engaged for a time during the war of

1812 in the transportation of merchandise between Central New York and Boston; was one of the founders and liberal supporters of the oldest Christian society and church in South Natick; was respected as a man and a citizen, and he so lived as to cause memories of hospitality and social enjoyment to cluster about the place that was the home of himself and wife fifty years, and belonged to his family seventy years, which place was last owned by his grandson, Alfred Stedman Hartwell, (the elder son of his youngest daughter, Rebecca Dana); born in Dedham 1836; prepared for college in Natick High School; Harvard University, A. B. 1858 and LL. B. 1867; Representative in the General Court of Massachusetts from Natick, 1866-67; Brevet Brig-Gen. U. S. Vol. Forces; was First Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and also Attorney General of the Hawaiian Islands, which home place of Elijah Perry, senior, is now the estate of Dr. George J. Townsend, President of the South Natick Historical Society, Harvard University, A. B. 1842 and M. D. 1845.

Mr. Perry's grandfather was ⁵*Samuel*, born in Natick March 7, 1740, and died in Sherborn April 7, 1831; married August 14, 1766, Elizabeth Rowe, who was born in 1744, and died in Natick September 26, 1811. He had four sons and four daughters; lived where he was born (in the first house in Natick on the old Sherborn road to Boston) about ninety years, and removed thence only to receive the care of a daughter in his declining years; derived an ample support for himself and family from the cultivation of the soil, and from the sale of wood and timber that grew on his farm, which extended at one time to Dug Pond that borders on Cochituate Lake, and is now the water-supply of the town of Natick. The painful experience which he had during the French and Indian war, of being compelled, as a prisoner, to see persons scalped alive by infuriated savages, caused him to shrink from serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He remembered seeing the third edifice that was erected (in 1721) on the site of Eliot's Indian Mission Station in South Natick, surrounded by a trench as a means of defense against Indians,

which trench all who entered the mission enclosure had to cross on timbers placed for that purpose.

The next ancestor was ⁴*Samuel*, born in Sherborn, October 2, 1708; he died in Natick October 10, 1755; married April 9, 1735, Ruth Leland, who was born in Sherborn September 12, 1712, and died in Natick on the homestead estate of her first husband (Samuel) and of her son Samuel, April 14, 1799, after having outlived two other husbands. He had nine children, all born in Natick, the eldest of which was Abel, born September 16, 1736,—a selectman of Natick, a member of a Colonial Convention, and a Lieutenant in the Continental Army, and by virtue of his service in the latter capacity his great grandson, William Stevens Perry, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Iowa, born in Providence, R. I., January 22, 1832, is an hereditary member of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati.

The next ancestor was ³*Samuel* (a twin with Joseph, and the twin brothers married twin sisters on the same festive occasion, and one of Joseph's grandsons was Captain Amos Perry, who attained eminence as a magistrate and also as a military officer during the Revolutionary war); ³*Samuel*, born in Medfield August 26, 1674; died in Sherborn May 27, 1749; married April 26, 1698, Joanna Lovet; had two sons and two daughters.

The next ancestor was ²*John*, born in Roxbury September 7, 1639; died in Sherborn May 4, 1713; married May 23, 1665, Bethiah (daughter of Daniel Morse, of Sherborn); born in Sherborn March 24, 1648; died there June 3, 1717; he (John) removed from Roxbury to Medfield on or before 1665, and from Medfield to Sherborn (on what has been known as the Lemuel Leland place) in 1674; had seven children, six sons and a daughter.

The first of this family in America was ¹*John*, who was born in England; died in Roxbury and was buried there September 21, 1642; left a widow, Anna, and three children, Elizabeth, born January 25, 1637-8, John, born September 7, 1639, and

Samuel, born March 1, 1640-41; lost by death three children whose names are not given; arrived in Boston about the time when John Eliot (born 1604 and died 1690) arrived (November 2, 1631,) and, it is claimed, in the same ship with Eliot, who in a letter calls him *cousin*; settled in Roxbury; became a freeman March 4, 1633; was a member of Eliot's church in Roxbury, his name being the fifteenth on the church list; his elder son John settled in 1674 in Sherborn, within four miles of Eliot's Indian church in *Natick, in which Indian town (established for missionary purposes in 1651, and incorporated as a town February 19, 1781) many of his descendants have dwelt for the last century and a half.

The †compiler of these statistics cannot speak confidently in regard to the origin of the sur-name (Perry) of the founder of this family in America. He is, however, of the opinion that this name is of Welsh origin. *Ap* used as a prefix to *Harry*, signifies *son of Harry*, and the name *Ap-Harry*, introduced into England, soon became *Parry* or *Perry*. The members of this family are reputed to be endowed with vigorous and robust constitutions that give them a strong hold on life. They have had, with rare exceptions, until a recent date, Bible Christian names, one of which sufficed for each person. Among the six ancestors above cited there are two Johns, three Samuels and Elijah, each with a single Bible Christian name. There is one line of the family that has two Johns and six Samuels, following each other from father to son and representing eight successive generations, of which the last Samuel, born threescore years ago, is the only one that has a double Christian name. Another line has four Johns and three Samuels. The six ancestors named were all proprietors of real estate and freemen, and held at some periods of their lives posts of honor and trust in their respective towns.

*The name *Natick* signifies in the Indian language "*My Land*."

†Acknowledgments of aid are due to Dr. A. H. Blanchard, of Sherborn.

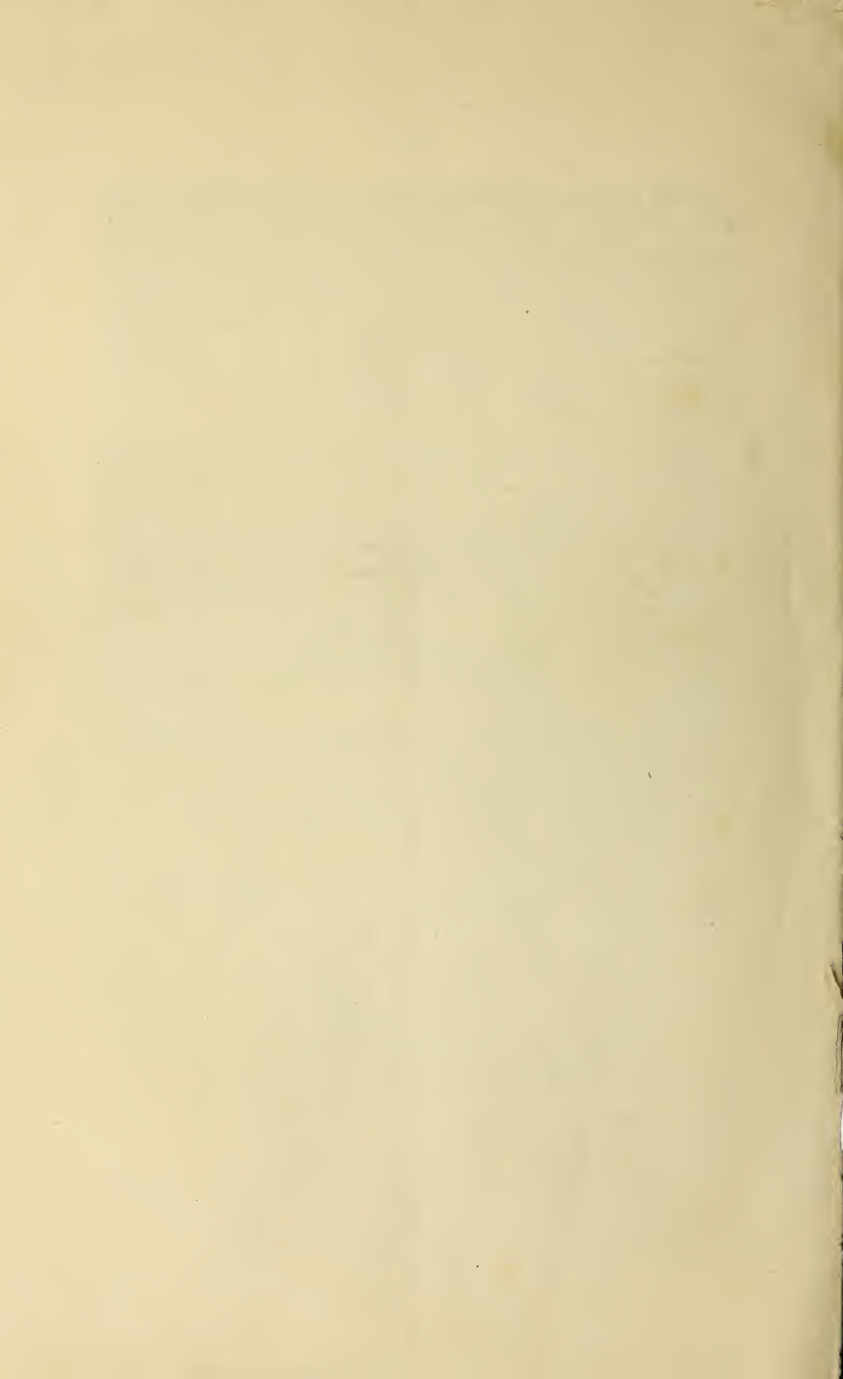
*From the foregoing statement may be inferred certain family characteristics. With the observance of the family relations, and an interest in landed property has been cultivated a regard for those civil, religious and humane institutions that constitute the safeguard and the glory of our country. The members of this family, starting out in America under the benign influence of the apostolic Eliot, have generally cultivated habits of industry, economy and sobriety, and have sustained in the various walks and callings of life the character of good citizens.

*Besides the family line that is given in full there are scores of family lines readily traced back to John of Roxbury, of which number two are briefly given in this note. One of these two is that of the late Governor B. F. Perry, of South Carolina, who is worthily represented by his family; his widow—a niece of Robert Y. Hayne, with whom Webster had a controversy in 1830—has lately honored, with an extended visit, the ancestral (New England) home of her lamented husband; one son is a Harvard graduate, a lawyer and a member of Congress; another son is an eminent physician, and is the genealogist and historian of the family; and another is engaged in improving his native domain as a practical agriculturist. Gov. Perry's father served, while in his teens, as a soldier in the Revolutionary army. At the close of the war he emigrated South, where he now has many descendants, one of whom is a United States Senator. The figures before the names indicate the respective generations:

7. Benj. Franklin Perry (Gov.) born in South Carolina, November 20, 1805.
6. Benjamin Perry, born in Sherborn September 15, 1761.
5. Moses Perry (called *Shock*) born in Sherborn July 28, 1719.
4. Nathaniel Perry, born in Sherborn July 23, 1692.
3. John Perry, born in Medfield September or December 24, 1667.
2. John Perry, born in Roxbury September 7, 1639.
1. John, the immigrant.

The other family line is that of Aaron F. Perry, an eminent lawyer, statesman and citizen of Cincinnati, from whose sketch, entitled "Memoranda Concerning John Perry," etc., the statistics of his line are taken.

8. Aaron Fyfe Perry, born in Leicester, Vt., January 1, 1815.
7. Aaron Perry, born pr. (?) in Leicester, Vt., February 7, 1792.
6. Abijah Perry, born in Princeton, Mass., August 3 or 17, 1764.
5. Aaron Perry, born in Mendon, Mass., April 17, 1733.
4. John Perry, born pr. (?) in Sherborn, June 16, 1703.
3. Samuel Perry, born in Medfield August 25, 1674.
2. John Perry, born in Roxbury, September 7, 1639.
1. John, the immigrant.



Amos Perry of Providence and his paternal ancestors in America

Perry, Amos, 1812-1899

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