

SHULL, BURDSALL,
STOCKTON
AND
ALLIED FAMILIES

A GENEALOGICAL STUDY
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



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Bassett



ASSETT and its variant, Basset, are surnames of locality origin, meaning "of Bassett." Another derivation of this name is from the nickname, "the basset," meaning "the dwarf" or a man of short stature, from the Old French *basset*. The name appears in many early English registers, including the Hundred Rolls of 1273 for several English counties.

(Bardsley: "Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames.")

I. *Roger Bassett*, the first known member of this family, married, April 27, 1623, Ann Holland, who married (second) Hugh Burt of Dorking, County Surrey, England. Ann (Holland-Bassett) Burt died in 1673, the year her will was recorded, as follows:

At the Salem Quarterly Court held at Salem 24:4.1673 the will and inventory of An Burt were allowed and William Bassett was appointed administrator

the eight of gineury (1664) my Wil is that Willyam Bassit juner should have won of my Kowes and John Bassit should have won Cowe and Elisha bassit should have Won Kowe and that samewell bassit should have the steare And it is my Wil that theas Children //should haue// the proffit of theas Cattell and the prinsepell when they be eighttene yeares ould and i give to Elizebeth basset a new feather bed A boulster and a pillow and a pillow beare A blankit and a Rouge and I giue to Sarah bassit my ould feather bed a boulster and pillow and A pillow beare A blankit and A tapsterri Couering and i give to Meriam bassit A copper ketel A table Cloth and half A dosen of napkins and a ew shep, han touel and I giue to mary bassit my biggest eiorn pot a long tabel Cloth and four napkins and a han touel, a ew shep And i giue to hannah bassit tow eiorn pots and a warmin pan and a pare of shetes and a pare of pillow bears and a ew shep

and I giue to ellin bartrom A ew lam and to hannah battrom an ew lam and I giue to the wife of Willyam bartrom my black brodcloth sute and one puter basson and i giue to liddi Burrill fue shillens or a ew lam and my wil is that these goodes should not be ewsed till the Children doth reseaeue them & that these gearls should have the proffit of theas shep & the prinsepell when thay Come to age

I doe desier my brother Francis Burrill and good man Craft would see that this my wil be fulfilled.

AN BORT

Wit: FRANCIS BURRILL and WILLIAM CROFTS.

Inventory taken 18 March 1672/3 by William Crofts and Francis Burrill: total 47 li: 2s: 6d.

Attested 26:4:1673 by William Bassett.

Among the children of Roger and Ann (Holland) Bassett was *William*, of whom further.

("Cope Collection," in the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Book "Bas-Bier." "Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts," Vol. V, p. 203. "Essex County Quarterly Court Files," Vol. XX, Leaves 48-49. "Probate Records," Vol. II, pp. 361-62.)

II. *William Bassett*, son of Roger and Ann (Holland) Bassett, was born May 30, 1624, and died March 31, 1703. His will was dated February 10, 1701-02, and was

probated May 22, 1703. In it he mentioned his wife and children. He came to New England in 1635, on the ship "Abigail" of London, with his stepfather, Hugh Burt, his mother, their son, Edward, and Hugh Burt, Jr., son of Hugh Burt by a former marriage. Their whereabouts in America are not definitely known until the year 1638, when we find Hugh Burt, Sr., participating in the allocation of lands at Saugus, Massachusetts, the name of which was shortly thereafter changed to Lynn. We hear no more of William Bassett until November, 1653, when the birth of his son John was recorded in Essex County, Massachusetts. In his stepfather's will, dated October 7, 1661, he was called "my sonn will: Bassit," and he was mentioned in the will of his mother, Ann (Holland-Bassett) Burt. He probated it and was appointed administrator on June 24, 1673.

He appears to have entered into the usual activities of the early settlers. On June 24, 1662, "William Bassett of Lynn" served as a member of the jury of trials held at Salem; on 8 mo. 20, 1675, "Sergeant William Bassett of Lynn" was selected for the jury of trials and, on June 25, 1678, he served as a member of the same body. Four years later, on November 28, 1682, his name appears for similar service as "Ensign William Bassett of Lynn." The military title "Sergeant" was no doubt in consequence of his service in the Indian wars of 1675-76, as he is known to have participated in the "Swamp Fight" when King Philip was killed near Mount Hope on August 12, 1675.

A common occurrence in New England was the yearly assembly in the various towns for the purpose of administering the oath of fidelity or the oath of allegiance. Among those in the squadrons of Henry Collins, Sr., and Henry Selzby, who took the oath of fidelity at the General Meeting held February 26, 1677, and were sworn in by Captain Thomas Marshal, of Lynn, was William Bassett, Jr. In the same record and on the same day "William Bassett, Sr.," appears as the leader of a squadron. William Bassett and William Bassett, Jr., both of Lynn, took the oath of allegiance at Salem in November, 1678. William Bassett was sworn in as constable of Lynn at the Quarterly Court held at Salem on 4 mo. 23, 1673, and again on 4 mo. 26, 1675. He appears to have been the owner of a boat, though nothing is known of its size. In the court records, under date of 9 mo. 28, 1682, appears the account of Henry Collins, Jr., overseer for the remainder of the work done on the county bridge at Lynn. One of the items was "to Wm. Bassett Sr. for his boat, 6 sh." Evidently William Bassett was held in high esteem by his neighbors, for his name frequently occurs in the court records as a witness to their wills or as appraising their personal effects.

William Bassett married about 1650-51, but the name of his wife is not known.

Children:

1. William, Jr., probably the eldest, as he was mentioned first in his father's will; married, October 25, 1675, Sarah Hood of Lynn, who was imprisoned for witchcraft in 1692.
2. Elizabeth, married (first), April 1, 1674, as his second wife, John Proctor, who was executed for witchcraft August 19, 1692, at Salem. She was tried for the same offense, but was released. She married (second) Daniel Richards of Lynn, declaring intentions of marriage with him September 22, 1699. Her father's will, in 1701-02, called her "Elizabeth Bassett *alias* Richards." The death of "old Betty Richards" is entered in the town records of Lynn as of "16.9.1729."
3. John, born at Lynn, 9 mo., 1653; died in 1736-1737; married Mary, whose surname is not known.
4. Sarah, of whom further.
5. Merriam, born at Lynn, 7 mo., 1655; was called "my daughter Meriam Sandy" in her father's will.
6. Elisha, born probably in 1656; married Elizabeth, whose surname is not known.
7. Mary, born at Lynn, 1 mo., 1657; was called "my daughter Mary Ruck" in her father's will.
8. Hannah, born at Lynn, February 25, 1659-60; was called "my daughter Hannah Lille" in her father's will; married John Lillie of Woburn, Massachusetts, and had six children, all entered in the Woburn town records.
9. Samuel, born at Lynn, March 18, 1663-64.
10. Rebecca, born probably in 1664-65; was called "my daughter Rebecca Bassett" in her father's will.

11. Rachel, born at Lynn, March 13, 1666-67; was called "my daughter Rachel Silsbe" in her father's will; married, January 23, 1693, Ephraim Silsbee of Salem.

("Cope Collection," in the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Book "Bas-Bier." "Lynn Vital Records," Vol. II. C. E. Banks: "Planters of the Commonwealth," p. 164. "Records of Essex County, Massachusetts." "Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts," Vol. II, pp. 329-30; Vol. III, p. 335; Vol. V, pp. 203, 402; Vol. VI, pp. 51, 400; Vol. VII, pp. 1, 158; Vol. VIII, pp. 438, 440. "Essex County Quarterly Court Files," Vol. XX, Leaves 48-49. "Probate Records," Vol. II, pp. 361-62.)

III. Sarah Bassett, daughter of William Bassett, was called "my daughter Sarah Elwell" in her father's will. She married Thomas Elwell. (Elwell II.)

(*Ibid.*)

