

Clarke's Kindred Genealogies.

A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF CERTAIN DESCENDANTS OF
JOSEPH CLARKE, DORCHESTER, 1630;
DENICE DARLING, BRAINTREE, 1662;
EDWARD GRAY, PLYMOUTH, 1643;
AND WILLIAM HORNE, DOVER, 1659;

AND SKETCHES OF THE

Orne (Horne), Pyncheon, and Downing Families,

BY

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Ὡσπερ ξένοι χαίροντες ἰδεῖν πατρίδα γαίαν,
Οὕτως δε οἱ γράφοντες ἰδεῖν βιβλίου τέλος.

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PYNCHON GENEALOGY.

The following, relating to the ancient Pynchon family is taken from the New England Hist. and Gen. Reg. vol. XXXVII., page 361 and ff. :

“Pynchon Families in Springfield. 1st Generation. The Hon. Col. William Pynchon, one of the first patentees of the colony of Massachusetts and treasurer of the same, came to New England in the year 1629 with Governor Winthrop and others. In the year 1636 he, as principal leader of the first settlers, came from Roxbury to Springfield. By the public records it appears that his children, which were with him in Springfield, were: Col. John Pynchon, his successor; the wife of Mr. Henry Smith, Mary; the wife of Capt. Elizur Holyoke, and Margaret, who was married Dec. 6, 1644, to Mr. William Davis. By the records of the General Court of Mass., it appears that Col. William Pynchon published something which the court considered to be heretical and which gave offense. The court proposed to write to England, signifying its disapprobation of the doctrines advanced by Col. Pynchon, and they also appointed Mr. Norton of Ipswich to confute the arguments advanced by Col. Pynchon. The court also suspended him from his office at Springfield, appointing Mr. Henry Smith to succeed him. These transactions of the General Court, and some difficulties with people of Connecticut River, are supposed to have been the cause of Col. William Pynchon's leaving Springfield and Mass., as it is said he did, September, 1652, with his son-in-law, Mr. Henry Smith, and returned to England. He died in a place called Wraisbury, Oct., 1662, aged 72. The following is a reproduction of the signature of this remarkable man :

William Pynchon 

“Second Generation.—Colonel John Pynchon, of Springfield, son of Col. William Pynchon, was married Oct. 30, 1644, to Anne Willis. Their children were: Joseph, born July 26, 1646; John, born Oct. 15, 1647, died April 25, 1721; Mary, born Oct. 28, 1650; William, born Oct. 11, 1653, died June 15, 1654; Mehetabel, born Nov. 22, 1661, died July 24, 1663. Joseph, educated at Harvard College, was graduated A. D., 1664, was in England, 1675, at the time Springfield was burnt by the Indians. He settled in Boston and died unmarried. The family of John follows this. Mary was married Oct. 5, 1669, to Joseph Whitney. Mrs. Anne Pynchon the mother died Jan. 9, 1699. Col. John Pynchon the father died Jan. 17, 1703.

“Third Generation.—Col. John Pynchon, of Springfield, son of Col. John and Amy Pynchon above, was married to Margaret Hubbard, daughter of the Rev. William Hubbard, of Ipswich. His wife remained during the Indian war at Ipswich, where his children were born, and after the war they settled at Springfield. Their children were: John, born ———, died July 12, 1742; Margaret, born ———; William, born ———, died Jan. 1, 1741. Margaret, the daughter was married to (Captain) Nathaniel Downing, of Ipswich, and had six children, viz.: Nathaniel, John, Margaret, *Jane*, Lucy, and Anna. The families of the sons John and William, see below. Col. John Pynchon the father and his father in their day, made great improvement both in the county and town wherein they lived, as appears from records. The second Col. John Pynchon was one of the commissioners of the united colonies. He died April 25, 1721. Margaret his wife died Nov. 11, 1716.”

The following relating to the Pynchon Lineage is from Dwight's Genealogy, page 628:—

No family in the land was more conspicuous for excellence in the early days of N. E. History than the Pynchon family.

Nicholas Pynchon of Wales, Sheriff of London, in 1533, had a son, John Pynchon of Writtle, Essex, who m. Jane, heiress of Sir Richard Empson, and d. Nov. 29, 1573, leaving six children. His widow, Mrs. Jane Pynchon, m. Dr. Thomas Wilson, Secretary of State. (See Heraldic Journal, Boston, April, 1866.) Their children were:

I. William, who m. Rosa Reding of Pinner, Middlesex, England.

II. John Pynchon, who settled in Springfield, Essex, England, and was the progenitor of the American Pynchons.

III. Sir Edward Pynchon.

IV. Agnes Pynchon, who m. Thomas Chicele of Hingham, furrier.

V. Elizabeth Pynchon, who m. Geoffrey Gates of St. Edmunds Bury.

VI. Jane Pynchon, who m. Andrew Paschal, of Springfield, England.

John Pynchon of Springfield, Essex, England, had a son William Pynchon, the settler in Mass. He was one of the patentees of the colony charter of Massachusetts Bay, and was appointed magistrate and assistant in 1629, in England. He came hither in 1630, with Gov. Winthrop, and began the settlement of Roxbury, Mass., being its principal founder, and the prime mover in founding the Congregational Church established there, thus laying the foundation himself of two important American towns. In 1650, he was censured for having published a work entitled, "The Meritorious Price of Man's Redemption," and cited to appear before the court, and laid under heavy bonds. It is a dialogue in form, and is described as having been a book full of errors and weakness, and some heresy, which the General Court of Massachusetts condemned to be burned. The grand error of the book consisted, it was said, "in regarding the sufferings of Christ as merely trials of his obedience." The next year he retracted his statements, and the censure was suspended; but he was so much dissatisfied that he went back to England, and never returned to this country again. He was a man of high mark for both intellect and excellence. It was in 1652 that he left the new world, after twenty-two years' residence here, for his old home. His wife, whose name is unknown to the author, died in 1630, shortly after his arrival here; and he m. a second wife, widow, Frances Sanford, a "grave matron of the church of Dorchester," Mass. She died in England, Oct. 10, 1657; he in Wyrardisbury, England, October of 1661, aged

seventy-two. His children by the first marriage were Ann, Mary, Major John, and Margaret; they all remained in this country.

Major John Pynchon (son of William Pynchon, the settler) b. in England in 1625, came to this country with his father when he was 5 years old. He m. Oct. 30, 1645, Amy Wyllys, b. in England in 1624 (daughter of Gov. Wyllys of Hartford, Ct. and Mary —). He was a man of very superior talents, character, and social position. He represented the town of Springfield in the General Court in 1659, '62 and '63, and was for twenty-one years (1665–86) an "assistant" in it. He was spoken of and addressed by the title of "The Worshipful." From 1652 to 1660 (when Hampshire co. was incorporated) he, with two others, had a joint commission to hear and determine causes, and from 1692 to 1702 he was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for Hampshire co. He was a large farmer and landholder, and owned several sawmills and gristmills, and was much engaged in public business. Even as far off as New London, Ct., he bought 2400 acres of land, in company with James Rogers. In King Philip's War, in 1675, his brick house built, in 1660, was used as a fort for defense. At the beginning of the attack in June he was in Hadley. He died Jan. 17, 1702–3, aged seventy-six. His wife d. Jan. 9, 1698–9, aged seventy-four.

CHILDREN.—THIRD GENERATION.

Col. John Pynchon b. Oct., 15, 1647, m. about 1672, Margaret Hubbard (daughter of Rev. Wm. Hubbard of Ipswich, Mass., the N. E. Historian, and Margaret Rogers, daughter of Rev. Nathaniel Rogers of Ipswich and Margaret Crane.

He was lieut. colonel, and clerk of the Courts and register of Deeds. He lived in Boston, and afterwards at Ipswich and Springfield. He was made judge in 1708, and died April 25, 1721. (See Washburn's Judicial History, Mass.) She died at Springfield, Nov. 11, 1716. His children were all born at Ipswich.

CHILDREN.—FOURTH GENERATION.

I. Col. John Pynchon Jr., b. in 1674, d. July 12, 1742.

II. Margaret Pynchon, b. about 1680, m. Captain Nathaniel Downing.

The full and interesting record found in Savage's New England Gen. Dict., vol. 2, page 65-7, relating to the Downing family with which Margaret Pynchon became allied when she married Captain Nathaniel Downing, whose illustrious family in 1800, founded Downing College, Cambridge, England, is here produced. (New Eng. Gen. Dict. vol. 2, page 65.)