

REPRESENTATIVE MEN
and OLD FAMILIES *of*
SOUTHEASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS

CONTAINING

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT AND
REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS AND GENEALOG-
ICAL RECORDS OF MANY OF THE OLD FAMILIES

ILLUSTRATED

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to which the reader is referred for detail. Since the coming to New England in the early years of the seventeenth century of Benjamin Nye, the forerunner of this family here in America, it has been a continuous one, many members of which have given a good account of themselves, becoming useful men and women in their various communities, and the men prominent and influential in various lines of effort and public service. The generations down to James Henry Nye follow in chronological order.

(I) Benjamin Nye, born May 4, 1620, at Bidlenden, Kent, England, came to this country and to Lynn, Mass., in the ship "Abigail," with Edmund Freeman's Company, 1635. Mr. Nye's lineage is traced back to Randolph Nye, who settled in Sussex, England, in 1527, through William Ralph, Thomas and Thomas (2). Benjamin Nye was married Oct. 19, 1640, in Sandwich, Mass., to Katherine, daughter of Thomas Tupper, who, too, was a passenger in the "Abigail," and who in 1637 settled in Sandwich. In 1654 Benjamin Nye's name appears on a list of those contributing toward building a mill; in 1655 his name is on the subscription list for building a meetinghouse; in the same year (1655) he was supervisor of highways; in 1657, he engaged to pay fifteen shillings yearly toward the minister's salary; was chosen constable in 1661, etc. He seems to have built a mill at the little pond and therefor the town in 1669 voted him twelve acres of land. He was granted permission in 1675 to build a fulling-mill upon Spring river. These with other references to him in important connection and relation to public business evidence the kind of man he was. The children of Benjamin and Katherine were: Mary, John, Ebenezer, Jonathan, Mercy, Caleb, Nathan and Benjamin.

(II) John Nye, son of Benjamin, took the oath of fidelity in 1678, and in that same year served on the grand jury. Along with his brother, Ebenezer, he purchased 100 acres of land in Falmouth, and in 1689 they were granted 200 acres more. On May 10, 1694, he was appointed on a committee by the town to erect two cottages on the plain for the shepherds to dwell in. He was on a committee in September, 1695, to provide a suitable person to keep school in the town for one year. Mr. Nye married Esther Shed. He died in 1722. Children: Benjamin, born Nov. 24, 1673; John, born Nov. 22, 1675; Abigail, born April 18, 1678 (married Edward Dillingham); Experience, born Dec. 16, 1682 (married Josiah Swift); Hannah, born Jan. 19, 1685 (married

Isaac Jennings); Ebenezer, born Sept. 23, 1687; Peleg, born Nov. 12, 1689; Nathan; Joseph, born in 1694; and Cornelius, born in 1697.

(III) Peleg Nye, born Nov. 12, 1689, in Sandwich, Mass., married June 26, 1717, Elizabeth Bryant, and they were residents of Sandwich. He died there in November or December, 1761. Their children were: Nathaniel, born June 7, 1719; Elizabeth, born May 22, 1721 (married Joseph Gifford); Joseph, born Oct. 21, 1723; and Abigail, born March 5, 1725.

(IV) Joseph Nye, born Oct. 21, 1723, in Sandwich, Mass., there died in 1790. He married Dec. 23, 1756, Elizabeth Holmes, of Sandwich, who survived him. Children: Elisha, born Nov. 2, 1757; Bartlett, born Aug. 8, 1759; Temperance, born May 3, 1762; Lemuel, born Oct. 14, 1764; Jane, born in 1767; Bryant, born Sept. 13, 1769; Joseph, born Oct. 30, 1771; Heman, born Nov. 23, 1773; and Peleg, born July 9, 1778.

(V) Heman Nye, born Nov. 23, 1773, in East Sandwich, Mass., died there June 2, 1847. He was a seafaring man, following the same vocation all his life, being engaged mostly in the West Indian trade, and for many years was master of vessels plying in this trade. On June 24, 1799, he married Mehetabel Howland, born June 23, 1773, daughter of Job Howland, of Barnstable, and a direct descendant of John Howland, of the "Mayflower." Their children were: Job Howland, born Feb. 25, 1801; Hannah Howland, born Dec. 11, 1805; Josiah Fish, born Sept. 21, 1806; Joanna Chipman, born April 25, 1809; Heman, born July 21, 1812; Elisha B., born March 8, 1815; and Peleg, born March 10, 1817. The mother died May 25, 1860.

(VI) Josiah Fish Nye, father of James Henry Nye, was born Sept. 21, 1806, in Sandwich, Mass., and died there Sept. 1, 1867. In early life he followed the sea, and for a time was engaged in the whaling trade, being mate of various vessels thus engaged. He finally made a trip to the Middle West, going by way of the Erie canal and thence by ox team, the trip taking three weeks; and he bought a tract of land in Ohio, in Sandusky county, where now stands the city of Fremont. He remained there but about a year, when he returned home and again took to the water, following the sea until about twenty years prior to his death, when he took up farming in the south part of the town, where he had a well kept farm of about one hundred acres. For many years he lived in the central part of the town, but finally settled down on his farm in the southern