

History of Ezekiel Knowlton

Ezekiel Knowlton, son of Captain John Knowlton and Bertha or Bethia Carter, was born 1679, in Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts. His parents moved to Manchester the year of his birth and he spent the rest of his life in Manchester.

Ezekiel Knowlton married Sarah Leach, daughter of Robert Leach and Sarah, 29 January 1698, in Manchester. Their 4 children were all born in Manchester.

He was a weaver. Ezekiel died 1706. His widow was appointed administratrix of his estate, 4 November 1706. She died 18 March 1734 or 1735 in Manchester.

History of Captain John Knowlton

Captain John Knowlton, son of William Knowlton and Elizabeth, was born 1644 in Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts. He married Bertha or Bethia Carter about 1668. They had three children which were born in Ipswich.

John resided in Ipswich, from which place he removed to Manchester, Massachusetts, about 1679. He was a captain of the local militia. He was made a freeman in 1669, and took the oath in Manchester in 1680. He was a carpenter, a very enterprising man, and dealt largely in real estate. He was Selectman in Manchester in 1700, 1705, 07, 08, and 1718, Town Clerk in 1714, and Representative in 1717.

History of Sarah Knowlton

Sarah Knowlton, daughter of Ezekiel Knowlton and Sarah Leach, was named after her mother and her grandmother Sarah. She was born 24 October 1704, in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts.

She married John Woodbury on 2 April 1722 or 1723. They had 5 children.

He died later lost at sea and the family sometime after that time removed to Brookfield.

History of William Knowlton

William was born 1615, in England. His father Capt William Knowlton who owned the vessel in which they sailed to America died during the voyage. But William Jr., continued the trip with his mother Ann Elizabeth Smith and his brothers and sister to Nova Scotia. From there they came to Massachusetts. Probably lived in Hingham or Wenham a few years, then finally settled in Ipswich. He was one of the first settlers of Ipswich. William married Elizabeth about 1638. They had seven children. The first two were probably born in Wenham or Hingham, and the remaining five in Ipswich.

The family probably continued to go to church in Wenham as it was one of the villages next to Ipswich.

They became some of the first members of the "Church of Christ," when it was originated in Ipswich 1646, at this time it embraced one hundred and sixty souls.

William's brother Deacon Thomas and wife Susannah had no children so they were glad to send William's boys to school for 4 years each from age 5 to 8.

William conveyed to Edward Bragg of Ipswich in 1643 a house and lot which he had purchased of John Andrews.

William died in 1655, his estate being inventoried 17 July, estimated about 37 pounds. His debts amounted to about 27 pounds.

Deed from William Knowlton to Edwin Bragg

"All my commonage with the appertainings belonging to the house lot which I bought of John Andrews who bought the same of Thomas Bishop, who bought the same of Robert Hayes to whom the

freemen of the town of Ipswich did grant the same for a house lot, and whereupon there hath been a house built, and upon occasion removed, the said I and containing one acre, and it adjoyneth to the other lands where I now dwell, which I bought of William Sampson and William Story having a lane leading towards the house of Joseph Medcalf towards the East and Ipswich towards the west, I do convey &c to Edward (Edwin) Bragg."

William's death has been erroneously fixed by Felt at 1644, for in 1648 he conveys other property situated on Break Neck Hill, a historic elevation in Ipswich. His death undoubtedly occurred in 1654 or 5, for an inventory of his estate was taken 17 July 1655.

History of Captain William Knowlton

Captain William Knowlton, son of Richard Knowlton and Elizabeth Cantize, born 1584 in Kent, England, and married, about 1608, to Ann Elizabeth Smith. They were blessed with 6 children, all born in England.

Captain William Knowlton sailed from the port of London for Nova Scotia in 1632, as is usually believed, although this date is only approximate. A record is kept of those emigrants only who, on leaving England, took the oath of loyalty to the English Crown, and promised conformity to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Established Church, and who also swore that they were "no subsidy men."

As a large number desired to avoid this enforced allegiance, and to enter the land of their adoption free to follow their own political and religious inclinations, they took no legal departure, but sailed away with more or less secrecy, and were therefore not enrolled in the official records of the government. As no record of Knowlton appears in the Customs Department at London, it must be inferred that William was independent in political action, and a non-conformist in religion. As every resident within the geographical boundaries of an English parish was enrolled in its records, no matter what his faith might be, Captain Knowlton and family were undoubtedly so enrolled at Chiswick. Unfortunately, the old parish church was seized by Cromwell and his troopers in 1645, and used as a garrison. His horses were stalled in its chancel, the men were quartered in the nave, and all the early parochial records were burned, except a small account book of the

church from 1619-1622. Of the children of Captain William already mentioned, John, William, Dea Thomas, and probably, Samuel, accompanied him in his voyage to America.

Captain William died on the westward voyage, and his widow and children proceeded to Nova Scotia, where they remained but a short time. We later hear of them in Ipswich, Massachusetts.