

History of Jeremiah Woodbury

Jeremiah was born in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts, on 23 September 1727. His mother was Sarah Knowlton.

Jeremiah Woodbury married Sebellia Jerusha Tucker (Tooker), daughter of Arthur Tucker and Mehitable Kendrick, on 22 March 1750. Their ten children were born in Brookfield, Worcester, Massachusetts: Sarah C. Woodbury, born 10 October 1750; John Woodbury, born 30 June 1752; Mehitable Woodbury, born 14 February 1755; Jeusha C. Woodbury, born 27 May 1757; Elizabeth Woodbury, born 24 December 1759; Diana Woodbury, born 21 December 1761; Theodore Woodbury, christened 18 November 1764; Hannah Woodbury, christened 27 October 1767; Thomas Woodbury, christened 27 October 1767; and Sybil Woodbury, born 20 May 1770.

Jeremiah Woodbury's name was on the muster roll of Capt. Cooley's Co. during the "French War." The term of service was given as extending from 20 September to 24 November 1756. He is also on the muster roll of Capt. Jacob Abbot's Co. on 9 August 1757.

History says he helped his son John build the house in Leverett, Massachusetts, which was built in 1778 and is still standing.

Jeremiah Woodbury and his wife Sebellia Jerusha Tucker spent their last days with their son John in his house. Jeremiah died 15 July 1820, at age 92, in Leverett, Massachusetts, his wife died 24 March 1801, in Leverett, Massachusetts.

History of John Woodbury

John was born in England about 1550. One record says he spent part of his life in Burlescomb, Devonshire, England. He married about 1572, in South Petherton, a parish in the South Eastern part of Somersetshire, about twelve miles from Burlescomb, Devonshire, England.

They could have been living in Burlescomb and were going to church in South Petherton, as evidence shows they were a religious family.

We do not know how many children this honorable couple had, but three were born in South Petherton, Somersetshire England, or Burlescomb, Devonshire, England: John Woodbury, born about 1579; William Woodbury, born 1599; and Jonathan Woodbury, born about 1591.

John's two children William and John Woodbury are the ancestors of nearly all, if not all, of the Woodburys in America.

History of John Woodbury

John was born in Manchester, Massachusetts, on 4 April 1701. John Woodbury married Sarah Knowlton, daughter of Ezekiel Knowlton and Sarah Leach, on 2 April 1722, in Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts. They were blessed with five children, all born in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts: John Woodbury, born 27 February 1723; Sarah Woodbury, born 19 April 1725; Elizabeth Woodbury, born 6 April 1726; Jeremiah Woodbury, born 23 September 1727; and Ezekiel Woodbury, born 23 September 1734.

John was lost at sea. After his death the family moved to Brookfield, Massachusetts.

History of John Woodbury

John, son of Jeremiah and Sebellia Jerusha Tucker Woodbury, was born 30 June 1752, in Brookfield, Massachusetts.

John Woodbury married Mary Ward, daughter of Isaac Ward and Sybil Moore in 1774. Soon after their marriage they probably moved to Leverett, Massachusetts. We find John Woodbury acquired a land grant there of several hundred acres in 1778 and built a large house on it the same year (1778). This house is still standing. Most of his children were born in this house.

One person said, "On one occasion there were seen four generations moving in the lot together. Father, son, grandson, and great-grandson."

In 1907, when the old stone chimney was removed from the old house, on this place a stone was taken out from over the fireplace in the parlor with the date '1778' inscribed upon it. This no doubt was the date of the building and this also was the date of the record of the land grant, 13 November 1778.

John Woodbury and Mary Ward's ten children were all born in the town of Leverett, Franklin, Massachusetts. They are: Electa Woodbury, born 30 April 1776; Jerusha Woodbury, born 1778; John Woodbury, born 1780; Mary Elizabeth Woodbury, born 26 May 1782; Susannah Woodbury, born 6 November 1784; Lucy Woodbury, born 1786; Isaac Woodbury, born 1788; Jeremiah Woodbury, born 9 March 1791; Sybil Woodbury, christened 2 July 1794; and Ward Woodbury, born 3 August 1796.

John was a Lieutenant and Captain in Colonel Leonard's

Regiment, in 1775, during the Revolutionary War and was credited on the quota of the town of Amherst, although he does not appear to have been a resident of that town.

John and Mary were glad to have John's parents spent their last days with them.

John died 18 March 1821, in Leverett, Massachusetts. Mary died 18 February 1829, in Leverett, Massachusetts.

History of Joseph Woodbury

Joseph was born 20 September 1659, in the part of Salem that later became Beverly, Massachusetts. He inherited property in Beverly and also in Manchester from his father Nicholas and his mother Anna (Palgrave or Paulgrave) Woodbury.

Joseph married Elizabeth West, daughter of Thomas West and Elizabeth Jackson, on 19 December 1687 in Beverly, Essex, Massachusetts. Their ten children were born in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts: Sarah Woodbury, born 27 August, 1688; Joseph Woodbury, born 22 May 1690; Elizabeth Woodbury, born 22 May 1690; Samuel Woodbury, born 1691; Abigail Woodbury, born 4 July 1692; Hannah Woodbury, born 31 August 1694; Samuel Woodbury, born 15 April 1697; John Woodbury, born 4 April 1701; Annah Woodbury, born 5 September 1703; and Benjamin Woodbury, born 21 June 1705.

Joseph died 14 October 1714, in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts. His wife Elizabeth, died 27 October, 1714, in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts.

History of Nicholas Woodbury

Nicholas Woodbury was christened on 9 April 1618 in South Petherton, Somersetshire, England.

When Nicholas Woodbury was about ten years old his father and mother were planning on going to the New World (New England). As Nicholas was the oldest child he probably helped his father and mother get ready for the trip. It must have seemed like a thrilling adventure as he was too young to fully realize all the hardships they would have to endure. It would take them about two months to make the trip unless the storms drove them off their course.

His father was probably well-to-do as only the educated and those with means were leaving England at this time; also, it cost from \$300 to \$500 for each passenger to pay fare on the boat. There were at least three children and two adults in William's family, and all their belongings and enough food to last for a while after they arrived. They were no doubt thankful in their hearts that they had a place to go where they could worship God as they pleased. This meant more to the Puritans than life itself.

They probably left England for the New World in the spring of 1628, with Nicholas' Uncle John Woodbury who had come from America in the fall of 1627 on a fishing and trading boat to obtain provision supplies, and above all to confer with their sponsors as to the future of the Colony. His visit and labors resulted in the charter to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, 4 May 1629, under which the Colony existed for 55 years.

When Nicholas and his father, mother, and younger brother said good-by to their friends and boarded the ship which took them to the New World they knew they were going to a wilderness but, upon arriving in New England, the beautiful trees, flowers, berries and tall green grass, must have looked like a heavenly paradise to them as they arrived in the spring of the year.

Nicholas' Uncle John was allotted a homestead in Salem. No doubt William and his little family helped build his house on it. This house was later found to be on the Northeast Corner of Essex and Washington Streets in Salem, Massachusetts.

His Uncle John's wife was allotted property in Beverly which was then part of Salem, but they did not build a house on it until 1630.

In those days all children helped with the work. The land had to be out under cultivation, cared for during the summer, and harvested in the fall as there must be food for the cold winter months ahead.

Nicholas and his brothers probably missed going to school, but it wasn't long until there was a school available, as the Puritans believed in educating their children. In their opinion it was essential for every faithful Christian to read the Bible daily, consequently all children had to be taught to read. In 1636, Harvard College was founded in the town of Cambridge. This was the first College in the Colonies. It was now possible to obtain a good education without traveling across the Ocean to the schools in Europe. No doubt Nicholas' father later took advantage of this as

he became an attorney in 1662.

Beverly was a beautiful place to live, one could walk in the woods, pick the huckleberries and wild flowers in the summer or just roam the beautiful hills deep in the pines and take a glimpse of the sea from time to time. But one must keep on the trails and watch out for snakes and wild animals. The most dangerous were the rattlesnakes, which have rattles in their tails, and will not run from man, but will jump him and bite him so mortally that he will die within an hour after, except the party bitten have about him some of the root of an herb called snake-weed, to bite on, to counteract the poison.

The Indians here made their living by planting corn, fishing and hunting wild animals. Most of the wild animal furs were sold or traded to the white man. The animals consisted of deer, otter, wild cats, bear and lion.

When Nicholas became older he no doubt hunted some of the wild animals too, and helped his father and Uncle John fish.

There was an abundance of fish in their season such as bass, codfish, mackerel and many other kinds of fish. At first it probably astonished Nicholas to see so many hundreds of fish caught at one time by net. Many of these fish were salted and sent to the Massachusetts Bay Colony and then to England when the ship returned after bringing a load of Puritans to the New World.

On 15 October 1637, Nicholas received a grant of 10 acres of land. He became a member of the church of Salem, but when the church was organized in Beverly, (Bass River) in 1667, he was

transferred to this church by a letter from the church in Salem. He and his wife and his parents were some of the founders of this church.

Nicholas married Anna Palgrave or Paulsgrave, daughter of Richard Palgrave or Paulgrave and Joan Harris, in 1651. Their eight children were born in Beverly, Essex, Massachusetts. They are: Abigail Woodbury, born about 1652; Joan Woodbury, born 10 December 1653; Nicholas Woodbury, born July 1654; Nicholas Woodbury, born 31 July 1657; Joseph Woodbury, born 20 September 1659; Isaac Woodbury, christened 20 September 1663; Andrew Woodbury, Christened 9 November 1665; and Benjamin Woodbury, Christened 26 April 1668.

Nicholas and his wife Ann were religious, and taught their children to live good lives. They were both hard working pioneers and suffered many trials and tribulations. Remember this country was a wilderness when they arrived and it took a lot of hard work to put land under cultivation as they had very little equipment to work with. But Nicholas and his family were not afraid of hard work and he finally became a wealthy farmer.

Nicholas took the Oath of freeman in 1673. He was on the jury in 1675. In 1666 and 1668 he was constable for "Cape Ann Side" now Beverly, and, in the latter years was also a tax collector.

Nicholas had a mill in 1673 at Markerel Cove, on Patch or Thissel Brook, so called from early settlers by those names. He was also a farmer; he not only owned land in Beverly but also owned land in Manchester which he leased in 1667 to John Elletrap. In

1661, Nicholas deposed that his father had long since owned part of the clay pit of which Nicholas was now in possession.

The Puritans were usually good to the Indians but when war came, Nicholas was not only found fighting in the war, but according to history he was taken prisoner by the Indians.

In 1640, John Thorn of Beverly, willed most of his property to Ann Palgrave before her marriage to Nicholas Woodbury. The will was probated in 1646. Ann also inherited property from her father's estate in Great Yarmouth.

Nicholas and Ann's estate was valued at twenty-five hundred and seventy-three pounds which was considered a large fortune at this time.

On the back of Nicholas Woodbury's original will which was probated in Boston May 1686, is endorsed "Cousin Nicholas Woodbury, his will." in Deacon Peter Woodbury's handwriting.

Nicholas Died 16 May 1686, in Beverly, Essex Massachusetts. His wife Anna Paulgrave died 10 June 1701, Beverly, Essex, Massachusetts.

History of William Woodbury

William, son of John, was born 1599, in England. He married on 29 January 1616, Elizabeth Patch, daughter of Nicholas and Jane Patch. They were married in South Petherton, Somersetshire, England, and some of their children were christened there.

William and Elizabeth brought their family to America. They probably came with William's older brother John who had been in America since 1625 and had been sent back to England in the fall of 1627 to get supplies, and above all to obtain the patent or charter that would secure to them the control and management of the enterprise. John had been in England six months and had filled his assignment. He probably, not only, took his brother William and family but also his son Humphery Woodbury back with him as his wife Joanna had passed away 5 June 1601.

William and family probably lived with John at first. History says, William built a large double oak framed structure called the garrison house in 1630, which stood until 1850 in Beverly, Massachusetts. William was given two early grants of forty acres each and several other tracts of land. He built his house near the seashore on Mackerel Cove at what is now called Woodbury's Point in Beverly Massachusetts.

In 1640 he and one other were appointed to keep a portion of the herd and were to have 36 pounds for it. They were "to begin to keepe them on the 6th day of the 2nd moneth. And their tyme of keeping of them to end, the 15th day of the 9th moneth. They are

to drive out the Cattell when the Sun is halfe an hower high, and to bring them in when the sun is halfe an hower high." The owners were to bring the cattle to, and take them from, a central pen, from which the "keeps" drove them, and to which they returned them. If an owner failed to get his stock to this place on time, he was obliged to "keep" it that day himself and to pay any damage it might cause.

In the early days nearly all communication between settlements in this vicinity was by water instead of by land since the territory was so heavily wooded and the streams and bays so numerous. It is related that the location of the first direct road established in this vicinity was decided by a heifer "from the Woodbury farm." This animal, for the sake of pasturage, was being driven from Woodbury's point to the meadow land at the head of Bass river by a circuitous trail along the shore, the only route then in use. She broke away and escaped into the woods and astonished her driver by reaching home before he did. Her trail disclosed a more direct, yet passable, route and it was subsequently used for travel. Thus this neighborhood can lay claim to a distinction like that of Boston which has its farfamed "cowpaths."

William was on the grand jury in 1643, 1644 and 1647. He became a freeman on 2 June 1641, and was a committee of one to receive donations from his neighborhood for John _____ in 1643. Each family was requested to give one-half peck of corn or as much more as its circumstances permitted. He was one of the several appointed in 1646 to "lay out the way" between the ferry at Salem

and the head of Jeffery's Creek.

The will of John Balch, made in 1648, asks his "loveing friends," including "William Woodberie," to be the overseers.

William joined the Church at Salem on 29 December 1639, and his wife Elizabeth did so on 21 October 1640, and both were original members of the Beverly Church when it was formed in 1667.

William appears to have had other occupations besides agriculture, from a letter, dated 1648, addressed to him and John Balch from Tristram Dolliber of Stoke Abbas, County Dorset; it shows he was in London on business that or the previous year.

In 1652, Tristram Dolliber confers the power of attorney on William Woodbury and Samuel Dolliber of Marbleshead. These documents are in the New England History and Genealogical Register, vol 31, page 312, July 1877.

In 1654 Captain Thomas Lothrop with his company, including many Beverly men, took part in the expedition against St. John's and Port Royal, Canada. The pilots of two of the sloops carrying his soldiers were William Woodbury and Humphery Woodbury, both of Beverly. Depositions were made in 1661 by Jeffery Massey, aged about seventy years, and by Nicholas Woodbury, about forty, that the clay pit was "in bounds of a 20 acres long since granted to William Woodbury and widow Brane."

A pleasing tribute has been paid to the character of this family in the following words: "Few enterprises of great pith and movement were set on foot in the colony except a Woodbury was of the party, and they seem to have been ready early and late, whether

in humble or conspicuous stations and whatever might betide, to bear a man's part."

On 23 September 1670, William and Elizabeth conveyed the dwelling house they then occupied, with fourteen acres of land in Beverly, to their son, Nicholas.

William and Elizabeth's children are: Nicholas Woodbury, christened 9 April 1651; William Woodbury, christened 7 May 1620; Andrew Woodbury, christened 9 March 1622; Hugh Woodbury, born about 1624; Isaac Woodbury, born about 1626; Hannah Woodbury, born about 1630; and Nathaniel Woodbury, Christened 11 November or October 1639.

The will of William Woodbury, Sr. was dated, 1 April 1663, and probated on 26 April 1677. He deeded most of his property to his children, before his death.

William's brother John was given 200 acres of land near Woodbury's point in Beverly. He held many high offices in Salem. On 28 September 1630, he was chosen Lord High, Constable of Salem, the first and only officer ever elected in America of such title. He was called "Father by the inhabitants of Salem because of his wisdom, usefulness and prominence.

William and his sons and John and his sons, gathered on the Bass River and Mackerel Cove settlements and formed the root and base of the large families of Woodburys who labored and persevered to create the civilization we enjoy.