

SAMUEL SLADE BENTON

His Ancestors and Descendants

by

Josiah Henry Benton, Jr.

1620 1901

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¶

THE preparation of this volume has been the recreation of hours taken from a busy life. It was at first intended to be a tribute to the memory of my grandparents, but has so far outgrown the original design that it may perhaps be called the Story of a New England Family.

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Andrew Benton

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1683

Andrew Benton

1620-1683

THE Bentons of New England are descended from Edward Benton and Andrew Benton, who came from England between 1630 and 1635. It is not now possible definitely to determine to what particular branch of the English family they belonged. That family was an ancient and honorable one, and was at one time quite numerous, especially in Wiltshire and in Essex. (*History of Rochford Hundred*, by Philip Benton, pp. 394 *et seq.*)

There are seven coats of arms belonging to the English Bentons, but as it is not yet possible to ascertain from which branch of the English family the Bentons of New England came, any of their descendants who covet a coat of arms must suit themselves at the risk of choosing a coat which they have no right to wear. I think, however, they may well be content to trace their lineage from Andrew and Edward Benton, plain yeomen from the English farms, who came to the new world to better their condition, and that they might own the land they tilled.

The earliest ancestor of Samuel Slade Benton of whom I have as yet found any accurate information, is Andrew Benton, who was born in England in 1620, the year in which the *Mayflower* brought the Puritans to New England. His tombstone, still standing in the "Old Center Burying Ground" near the rear wall of the First Church in Hartford, Connecticut, and doubtless erected by his son Samuel, bears this inscription:—

ANDREW
BENTON AGED
63 YEARS
HE DYED JVLV
31 ANO 1683.

He probably came from England among those who settled first at Watertown in 1630, a portion of whom went to

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Wethersfield and Hartford, Connecticut, in 1634 and 1635, and some of them to Milford in 1639.

The Indian name of Milford was Wepowage. It was purchased of the Indians by a committee for the planters, February 12, 1639, for the consideration of "6 coats, 10 blankets, 1 kettle, 12 hatchets, 12 hoes, 2 dozen knives and a dozen small glasses" (mirrors). The original settlers or "planters" are said to have come mostly from the counties of Essex, Hereford, and York, England. A number of them came with the Eaton and Davenport Company, and were at New Haven in 1638, their pastor being the Rev. Peter Prudden from Edgton, Yorkshire. While they were at New Haven they decided to settle at Wepowage at the head of a small harbor on Long Island Sound about ten miles from New Haven. Mr. Prudden preached at that time at Wethersfield, adjoining New Haven, and when he went with his church company from New Haven a number of the settlers in Wethersfield went with him, and became members of the Milford Church, organized at New Haven, August 22, 1639. These settlers from Wethersfield, of whom Andrew Benton was probably one, were from Watertown, Massachusetts, and a part of Sir Richard Saltonstall's company from Essex, England. The planters went from New Haven by the devious Indian trail, driving their cattle and other domestic animals with them, while their scanty household effects, farming utensils, and materials for a common house were taken by water. They erected a common house at the head of the harbor, and a few huts for temporary occupation, and then, as they were without the jurisdiction of any established settlement, they made a government of their own. November 20, 1639, they agreed that the power to elect officers and to manage the common interests of the plantation should be in the church only, and also that they would "guide themselves in all their doings by the written Word of God till such time as a body of laws should be established." They also chose five magistrates, directed that they should hold courts once in six weeks, and agreed as to the payments to be made by each person for the public charges, and November 24, 1640, "with the common consent and general vote of the freemen the plantation was named Milford."

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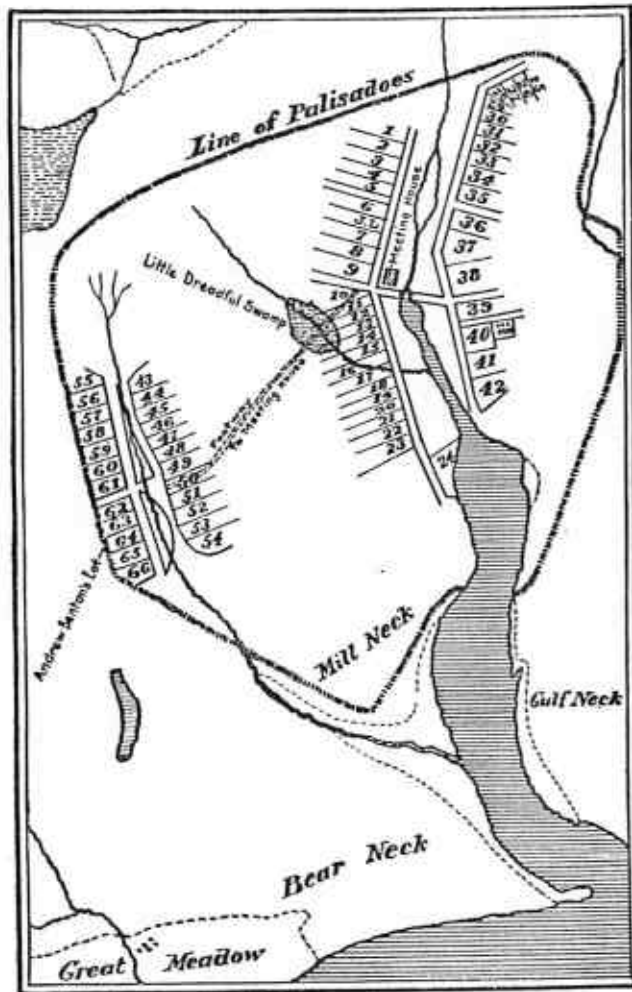
The first record of Andrew Benton is in the list of the original settlers in 1639, but he is not recorded among the "free planters," which shows that he was not then in church fellowship. The Milford planters declared this to be a necessary qualification to "act in the choyce of public officers for the carrying on of public affays in this plantation." In the original allotment of Milford lands made in 1639, and recorded in 1646, Andrew Benton received lot 64 containing three acres, and shown on the accompanying plan. The record is: "Andrew Benton hath three acres be it more or less being bounded with a highway on the East, with George Clark Sen' on the South with the comon on the West, and with Edward Riggs on the North." (*Milford Land Records*, Vol. I. p. 80.) These lots were laid out in narrow parallel strips on each side of Mill River and West End Brook, doubtless for convenience of access to water.

By the original allotment each owner was required to build a good house on his lot within three years or it went back to the town, but this condition evidently was not strictly enforced. The houses of the settlers were not of logs, but were framed in the low lean-to style, and covered with split oak shingles. There were no division fences until 1645, by which time it is said most of the planters had built on their lots, though Andrew Benton may not have built until a year or two later.

All the lots were surrounded by "palisades" for common protection. These "palisades" were of the trunks of trees planted in the ground, and set so thickly that a man could not pass between them, making a fence ten or twelve feet in height, enclosing an area of nearly a mile square on both sides of the river. But for this the little settlement would probably have been destroyed at the time of the Indian combination against the white men in 1645 and 1646. At that time the settlers kept guard by sentinels every few rods along the whole line of "palisades" day and night. As early as March 10, 1640, the settlers organized themselves in military service, and provided that "every male above the age of 16 years, whether magistrates, ministers, or any other (though exempt from training, watching and warding) shall always be pro-

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[Herewith is given a plan of the original town plot of Milford,



projected on a scale of three inches to a mile. The lot of Andrew Benton is number 64 on the plan at the left of the plate.]

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vided with and have in readiness, both a pound of powder and two pounds of bullets or shott, and two fathoms of match for a matchlock, on penalty of 5s. a month for such default, in case ye amunition is to be had from ye town magazine." In 1645 the Indians set the country about Milford on fire, which did much damage to timber and meadows, although by strenuous exertions the settlers stopped the fire at the swamps on the West and North before it reached the "palisades."

The Milford Church, organized at New Haven, August 22, 1639, was formed in the following manner:—Seven persons were first chosen, who joined in covenant to be the church, and were called "the seven pillars." Others were afterwards added and joined in the covenant, making the "visible saints" who were the church. In 1640 this church chose and ordained Rev. Peter Prudden as minister. The record of the ordination in the handwriting of Mr. Prudden is as follows: "At Milford, I, Peter Prudden was called to ye office of a Pastour in this church, and ordained at New Haven, by Zachariah Whitman, Williom Fowler, Edmund Tapp, designed by ye church for that work: Zach: Whitman being ye moderator for that meeting in a day of solemn humiliation, upon ye 3d Saturday in April, being I remember ye 18th day of ye month, 1640."

Whitman was the Ruling Elder, and Fowler and Tapp were the Deacons. Mr. Prudden had previously been ordained as a minister and had preached in England and in the Colony; but, following the primary principle of Congregationalism, that the minister derives his authority from the particular body of "visible saints" or church by which he is called, he was reordained by the Milford Church.

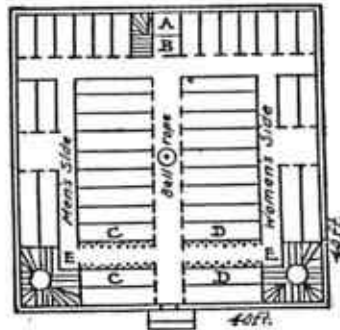
In 1641 a meeting-house forty feet square was erected, but was not completed for some years. The accompanying ground plan, showing the arrangement of seats, and a south view of it taken from Lambert's *History of New Haven Colony*, are interesting. It was doubtless in this house that Andrew Benton's children born in Milford were baptized. February 7, 1643, a footway was laid out to the meeting-house for the accommodation of the settlers on the west side as follows: "By

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[The following cut represents a view of the first Meeting-House from the south; and below is the ground plan of the same building.



The various letters represent (A) the pulpit; (B) deacons' seat; (C) guard seats; (D) guard seats on the women's side of the house; (E) gallery stairs. The dots show the place where the guns were set.



The bell-rope hung down in the middle aisle. These illustrations are taken from Lambert's "History of New Haven Colony."]

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the brethren and inhabitants of Milford it is agreed, that a footway to the meeting house shall be allowed, (and maintayned with convenient styles) from the West End. The stiles to be maintained by bro: Nicholas Camp at the West End, and by bro: Tho. Baker at the meeting house (for the outside stiles;) and for the inner fences, each man shall maintain his stile in the most convenient place: and the passage over Little Dreadful swamp in John Fletcher's lot, shall be by a long log hewed on the upper side." Andrew and Hannah Benton often travelled this footway, for their home was on the west side of the town, and Little Dreadful swamp lay between it and the meeting-house.

In 1643 Milford became a part of the Colony of New Haven, but under the conditions contained in the following curious declaration in the *New Haven Colony Records*, Vol. I. p. 71:—

"A Generall Court held at New Haven the 23rd of October, 1643. Whereas this Plantation att first with generall ande full consent layde their foundations thatt none butt members of aproved Churches should be accounted free Burgesses, nor should any else have any vote in any Election, or power or trust in ordering of Civill affayres, in wch. way we have constantly proceeded hitherto in our whole Court wth. much comfortable fruite through God's Blessing. and whereas Stamforde, Guilforde, Yennicoock (Southhold,) have upon ye same foundations and ingagements, Entered into Combination wth. vs.— This Court was now informed thatt of late there have beene some meetings and treatyes between some of Milforde ande Mr. Eaton about a Combination by which it appeareth thatt Milforde hath formerly taken in as free Burgesses, six Planters who are nott in Church ffellowship, wch. hath bred some difficulty in the passages of this treaty; butt att present it stands thus,— The Deputies for Milforde have offered in the name both of the Church ande Towne, First—thatt the present six free Burgesses who are nott Church members shall nott at any time hereafter be chosen either Deputies or into any Public trust for the Combination. Secondly, thatt they shall neither personally nor by Proxie vote att any time in the Election of Magistrates. Ande Thirdly, thatt none

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shall be admitted freemen or free Burgesses hereafter at Milforde butt Church members, according to the practice of New Haven; Thus farr they granted, butt in two perticulars, they ande the said six freemen desire Liberty. First yt. the said six freemen being already admitted by them, may continue to act in all proper perticular towne business wherein the Combination is nott interested, ande Secondly thatt they may vote in the Election of Deputies to be sent to the Generall Courte for the Combination or Jurisdiction wch. soe to be chosen ande sent shall alwayes be Church members. The Premises being seriously considered by the whole Courte, the Brethren did express themselves as one man clearly ande fully thatt in the foundation layde for Civill government they have attended their Lights, ande should have failed in their dutye had they done otherwise ande professed themselves carefull and resolved nott to shake the said Groundworks by any change for any respect—and Ordered that this their vnderstanding of their way and Resolution to maintain itt should be entred wth. their vote in this business as a Lasting Record. But not foreseeing any danger in yielding to Milforde wth. the forementioned Cautions, itt was by Generall Consent and vote ordered thatt the Consociation proceed in all things according to the premises."

As Andrew Benton was not admitted to the Milford Church until 1648, he was doubtless one of the six planters not in church fellowship, whose action was thus carefully guarded.

In a further division of lands in 1646, Andrew Benton received ten acres more of land (*Milford Land Records*, pp. 86, 97). In 1647 he sold, or rather exchanged, his original lot 64 for original lot 62. (*Id.*, p. 102.) Lot 64 is high land on the outer portion of the town and is still farm land. Lot 62 is at the southwest corner of the present Hill and Spring streets. The houses on Spring Street faced the east, and it is probable that Andrew Benton built his first house on lot 62. In 1648/9 he received more land, probably meadow, the record being: "Ord. that Andrew Benton shall have a piece of land for his last quarter division in the place where he propounded beyond the beaver pond." (*Id.*, p. 21.) On May 14, 1649, it was ordered that "Andrew Benton is granted liberty

to lay down his seed division and to take it up in another place where he desireth that is that which James Board laid down." (*Id.*, p. 23.) In another division in 1659/60 of meadow land the record is: "General Court, 19 March 1659/60. The number of acres that are to be laid out to each Inhabitant. Andrew Benton 8 $\frac{3}{4}$." (*Id.*, p. 54.)

Andrew Benton married first Hannah Stocking, the youngest daughter of George Stocking of Hartford, who settled first in "The New Towne," now Cambridge, Massachusetts, and went from there to Hartford as one of the first settlers in 1636. The place and date of this marriage are not shown by any record, but it was probably in 1649, at Hartford, and after he had built a house in Milford either on his original lot 64 or original lot 62.

The original record of the First Church at Milford, now in the possession of Deacon George Clark of Milford, shows that Andrew Benton was admitted to the Church March 5, 1648, and that October 13, 1650, "the wife of Andrew Benton" was admitted. X

George Stocking was an active member of the First Church and prominent among the early settlers of Hartford. I think Andrew Benton and Hannah Stocking must have become acquainted while Andrew was at Watertown, or possibly while he was at Wethersfield, only three miles from Hartford, and after Andrew had settled in Milford and built him a house he went to Hartford to marry the girl he had known before he went to Milford. The distance, about seventy-five miles, from Milford to Hartford, through what was then a wilderness, was such as probably to prevent any acquaintance between them being formed after he went to Milford and Hannah's father settled in Hartford. It is easy to see why no record of this marriage is to be found. The law then required all marriages to take place before some magistrate.* It was not until October 11, 1694, that the General Court enacted that "This Court, for the satisfaction of such as are conscientiously desirous to be married by the ministers of their plantations doe grant the ordayned ministers of the severall plan-

* It is said that no marriage was solemnized by a minister in Massachusetts until 1686. (*Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, 1858-1860, p. 283.)

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tations in this Colony liberty to joyne in mariage such persons as are qualified for the same according to law." (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. III. p. 136.)

The marriage therefore could not have been solemnized by a minister, and the Hartford town records of that period are so incomplete as to show that marriages by magistrates were very frequently not recorded.

The original records of the First Church of Milford show that a son of Andrew Benton was baptized April 14, 1650. The record is as follows: "14 April 1650 John son of Andrew Benton, he died May following by his mother in y^e bed in y^e night." The first entry in the town record of births and deaths is October, 1653. No previous record can be found, and it is quite clear that this son John was the first child of Andrew and Hannah Benton. The church record also shows the baptism of three other children in Milford, the record being:—

"23 November 1651 Hannah daugh. of Andrew Benton."

"14 August 1653 Andrew son of Andrew Benton."

"15 April 1655 Mary daugh. of Andrew Benton."

From March, 1656, to July, 1660, the Milford Church was without a minister and there is no church record for that period.

The Milford town record, beginning October, 1653, shows the birth of three children, beginning with that of Mary, whom the church record shows to have been baptized April 15, 1655. That record is:—

"Mary Benton daughter of Andrew Benton of Milford was borne the fourteenth of April 1655. John Benton sone of Andrew Benton of Milford was borne y^e 7 October 1656. Samuel Benton sone of Andrew Benton of Milford was borne y^e 15 of August 1658."

The town records are complete and in good condition from 1658, and after July, 1660, the church records are also complete and in good condition, but neither of these records shows the birth or baptism of any child of Andrew Benton after that of Samuel, born August 15, 1658. The inventory of his estate, however, in December, 1683, shows that there were two other children of Andrew and Hannah Benton; a

His Ancestors

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son, Joseph, and a daughter, Dorothy. Joseph died August 12, 1753, and the inscription on his tombstone in Goodhill Cemetery, Kent, Connecticut, states that he was then in his ninety-third year, which shows his birth to have been about 1661. No record has yet been found of Dorothy except the statement in the inventory of her father's estate, in 1683, that she was then living and one of the children of his first wife. I think she was younger than Joseph, and that both of them were born in Hartford, and probably baptized in the First Church, the records of which at that period are lost.

I think Andrew Benton went from Milford to Hartford as early as 1660. He was elected viewer of fences in Hartford, February 16, 1663, and reelected February 17, 1664. (*Hartford Town Votes*, pp. 119, 121.) He was a creditor in Hartford of Nathaniel Greensmith, who was executed for witchcraft at Hartford January 25, 1663, and the Court allowed payment of his debt February 4, 1664, the record being: "Feb: 4: 1664 To make a finall Issue of the payment of Nat. Greensmiths debts, the court allows out of Andrew Bentons Bill the Sum of fifteen pound & they viz: the Marshall, ensigne, & peck are to satisfy themselves for their paines there abouts out of this estate."

The Court record also shows that he served as a juror in Hartford, in June, 1664; and at a General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut for Election at Hartford, May 11, 1665, he was admitted and sworn as a freeman. (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. I. p. 19.)

The form of the "Freeman's Oath" was prescribed by law and stated the essential duties of good citizenship. It was as follows:—

¶ The Oath of a Freeman.

I, A. B. being by the P'vidence of God an Inhabitant I, w^hin the Jurisdiction of Conectecott, doe acknowledge myselfe to be subiecte to the Gouverment thereof, and doe swear by the great and fearefull name of the euerliueing God, to be true and faythfull vnto the same, and doe submitt boath my p'son and estate thereunto, according to all the holsome lawes and orders that there are, or hereafter shall be there made, and established by lawfull authority, and that I will nether

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plott nor practice any euell ag' the same, nor consent to any that shall so doe, but will tymely discouer the same to lawfull authority there established; and that I will, as I am in duty bownd, mayntayne the honner of the same and of the lawfull magestratts thereof, p'moting the publicke good of yt, whilst I shall soe continue an Inhabitant there; and whensoe' I shall giue my voate or suffrage touching any matter wth conserns this Comon welth being cauled thereunto, will give yt as in my conscience I shall judge, may conduce to the best good of the same, wthout respect of p'sons or favor of any man. Soe helpe me God in o' Lord Jesus Christe.

Aprill the xth, 1640. (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. I. p. 73.)

February 26, 1656, it was ordered that not less than two magistrates should give this oath at a duly warned public meeting. (*Id.*, p. 293.)

The church records of Milford show that Andrew Benton and his wife and children were dismissed to the Hartford church in March, 1666. The records are, under the head of "Admissions": "5 March, 1648, Andrew Benton." Following this in a different handwriting, "his wife & children dismissed to Hartford March 1666," and "13 October, 1650, the wife of Andrew Benton"; following this in a different handwriting, "dismissed to Hartford March 1666." At that time the church in Hartford was the original or First Church, organized at Watertown October 11, 1633, and it was to that church that Andrew and his wife and children were dismissed.

February 12, 1669, a part of the members of the First Church organized the Second Church of Hartford, and Andrew Benton and Hannah Benton were among the original members of the Second Church who signed the covenant at the time of its organization. In the records of the Second Church of Hartford, following the names of the original members there is a list of "members and children not in full communion," and in this list is the name of Hannah Benton, doubtless the daughter of Andrew Benton, who was baptized in Milford, November 23, 1651. She died before January, 1678, when another daughter of Andrew Benton, by Anne Cole, his second wife, was born and named Hannah.

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The original records of the First Church of Hartford before 1685 are lost, and it is impossible to tell when Andrew and Hannah Benton were accepted as members of that church upon their dismissal from the Milford Church, but there is no doubt about their membership in the First Church. The town records show that in August, 1667, nearly three years before the organization of the Second Church, "the Town did desire and empower John Cole, Andrew Benton and William Edwards to correct any disorder that they shall discover in the time of public worship," and at a town meeting held February 23, 1668, "Robert Sanford and Andrew Benton chosen to be collectors for gathering of the minister's rates this year ensuing." (*Hartford Town Votes*, pp. 134, 138.) It also appears from the manuscript of Mr. Whiting, minister of the First Church who separated with a portion of the members and formed the Second Church in February, 1669, that Andrew Benton, John Cole, and two others of the church were called by Mr. Whiting, the minister, to be present with him November 22nd, 1666, "at Mr. Willys' house," when William Pitkin and others "came to speak" with Mr. Whiting and demanded full communion with the Hartford church on the ground of their English church membership. (*Hist. First Church, Hartford*, p. 200.) It is evident that Andrew Benton was prominent in the First Church from the time he went to Hartford. He stood steadily with Mr. Whiting, the associate minister, with George Stocking, his father-in-law, with John Cole, whose daughter he subsequently married as his second wife, and with the other members who opposed the methods of church government and management adopted by the minister, Mr. Stone. They regarded Mr. Stone's views and methods as opposed to the sound teachings of Thomas Hooker, pastor of the First Church from its organization in Watertown, in 1633, to his death at Hartford in 1647. The differences between these two parties in the First Church of Hartford continued during the entire period from about 1650 to 1669, and were known as the "Hartford Controversy." They divided the churches of Connecticut and the churches of New England. They caused the calling of a synod in Massachusetts which promulgated what was known as the "Half Way

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Covenant" of 1657 and produced the following extraordinary legislation by the General Court of Connecticut in 1658:

"This Court orders that henceforth no persons in this Jurisdiction shall in any way imbody themselves into Ch. estate without consent of the Generall Court & approbation of the neighbo' Ch.s. This Court orders that there shall bee no ministry or Ch. administration entertained or attended by the inhabitants of any plantation in this Collony distinct & seperate from & in opposition to that wh^{ch} is openly & publickly obserued & dispenced by the settled & approued Minister of the place, except it bee by approbation of the Gen'all Court & neighbo' Ch.," March 11, 1657/8. (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. I. p. 311.)

As absence from public worship was then punished in court by a fine of five shillings for each offence (*Code 1650*, p. 23; *Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. I. 522), this law practically compelled Andrew Benton and all who shared his views to worship with those from whom they differed in fundamental doctrine under penalty of a fine.

The real question at issue in the "Hartford Controversy" was whether the Congregationalism of Hooker and the Cambridge Platform, which recognized no authority except that of the members of each individual church, called "visible saints," should be superseded by a Congregationalism which recognized a power in the minister and in associations or synods outside of the churches to control the action of individual churches. Questions of baptism, of right to full communion by reason of church membership in other churches, of the powers of ruling elders, and countless other subordinate matters, entered into the discussion, but at bottom it was simply a contest between those who sought to restore a Presbyterian order of regulation of individual churches, and those who stood for the fundamental doctrine that Congregationalism rests upon the absolute independence of a company of "visible saints," or members of each particular church. Andrew Benton stood steadily with the minority in the First Church for the old doctrine, which was the vital principle of Congregationalism. It was only by their unflinching opposition to the majority that a reaction was stayed which would inevitably have resulted in the displacement of pure Congre-

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gationalism by a form of church government that Hooker and his followers left England to escape. It is hardly too much to say that the sturdy minority of the First Church of Hartford saved New England Congregationalism from destruction.

In January, 1677, Andrew Benton and Andrew Benton, Jr., each received a lot of ten and a half acres in the division of the undivided lands which were granted by a Committee of the Proprietors to "such of the Town of Hartford as they shall see in need of the same, and as they shall judge it may be advantageous," upon condition that the grantees should not sell the same until the lots were fenced and improved. February 17, 1669, he was chosen viewer of fences. (*Hartford Town Votes*, p. 140.) He appears to have had charge of the meeting-house, for the record shows that at a town meeting December 29, 1676, "the Town gave to Andrew Benton for sweeping the meetinghouse 3 pounds per annum;" September 10, 1677, he served as juror in Hartford.

No record has yet been found to show when Hannah Stocking, the first wife of Andrew Benton, died, but it was probably about 1670. Andrew Benton married Anne Cole as his second wife, and their first child, Ebenezer, was baptized January 4, 1673. There were three other children by this marriage,—Lydia, baptized February 13, 1675, Hannah, baptized January 26, 1678, and John, baptized May 30, 1680, who doubtless died in infancy, as he was not living at the distribution of his father's estate in September, 1683.

December 12, 1680, his lands in Hartford were recorded to Andrew Benton in the *Hartford Book of Distributions*, p. 284, as follows:—

"Land in Hartford, in Connecticutt belonging to Andrew Benton & His heirs forever: One parcell of land on which his dwelling house now standeth which he bought of Capt^l John Tallcott and John Allyn (Agents empowered by the General Court of Connecticutt May 14 1668) Containing by estimation three roods be it more or less abutting on a highway leading to Wethersfield on the East, and on a highway leading to Farmington on the North, and towards the West, and on Thomas Hosmer his land South. More one parcell of upland which he bought of the sayd John Tallcott,

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John Allyn &c containing by estimation twenty acres be it more or less, and abutts on a highway West, and on Mr. Willys and Mr. Whittings land East, and on Mr. Richards land North, and on Samuel Moody his land South. These parcells of land were formerly Nath. Greensmiths and now sold to Andrew Benton, and recorded to him March 11th, 1671. More: one parcell of upland which was given him by George Stocking to be to him and his heirs that he hath by the sayd Stocking's daughter, containing by Estimation eight acres be it more or less, and now by exchange with Samuel Moody the sayd land doth abutt on a highway on the East, and on the North, and on Sam^l Moody on the West and on land formerly Tho. Seldens, now Nath. Coles on the South."

The first of these parcels was at the junction of the roads leading to Wethersfield and Farmington on the west side of what was then known as Wethersfield Lane, and is now Wethersfield Avenue, and was the first lot below what is called "South Green." It was originally the homestead of Nathaniel Greensmith, who with his wife, Rebecca, was charged with having bewitched Anne Cole, and was convicted of witchcraft, and executed at Hartford, in January, 1662. After its purchase by Andrew Benton he lived there. His wife Hannah doubtless died in the house, and he and his second wife, Anne Cole, both died there. The house has been moved away, and only a portion of it is still standing, but the accompanying picture of a similar house built by Hosmer on the adjoining lot about the same time, doubtless shows the Benton house as it was when Andrew lived in it. The record of the Court as to the transfer of this place to Andrew Benton is as follows: "May 22nd, 1668, This Court empowers Mr. Sam^l Willys Capt^r. Tallcott and the Secretary to make a deed of sale to Andrew Benton of Nath: Greensmiths house and land which was seized for charge expended on s^d Greensmith and sold to G: [Goodman] Benton." (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. II. p. 91.) In the distribution of Andrew's estate in 1685, this lot with house and barn was sold to his son, Joseph, for eighty-five pounds, and he sold it to Samuel Kellogg, June 22, 1693.

The second parcel was on the east side of what is now



Andrew Benton House, Hartford
1660

Washington Street, north of the junction of Webster Street. Four acres of this lot were probably given to Andrew, Jr., by his father when Andrew was married, about 1676, and he built and lived upon it. At the death of Andrew, Sr., the remaining sixteen acres were divided equally between his four sons, Andrew, Samuel, Joseph, and Ebenezer, at the valuation of seven pounds an acre, which gave Andrew with his home lot eight acres. Afterwards sixteen acres of this property passed into the ownership of Samuel, the son of Andrew, who gave it by will to his son Moses, in 1746. Most of this sixteen acres is now included in the grounds of the "Retreat for the Insane." The third parcel of upland was limited by the conveyance of it to the children of Andrew and Hannah Stocking, and was therefore not included in the inventory or distribution of Andrew's estate.

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Anne Cole, the second wife of Andrew Benton, was said to have been bewitched when a girl by Nathaniel Greensmith and Rebecca, his wife, in 1662. A full account of this matter was given in a letter by the Rev. John Whiting, pastor of the First Church, and afterwards of the Second Church, in Hartford, to Rev. Increase Mather, in 1682, published in *Mass. Hist. Coll.*, Series IV. Vol. VIII. pp. 466-469.

This letter was entitled "An account of a Remarkable passage of Divine providence that happened in Hartford in the yeare of our Lord 1662." The part of it relating to Anne Cole specially is as follows:—

"The subject was Anne Cole (the daughter of John Cole, a godly man among us, then next neighbour to the man and woman that afterward suffered for witchcraft,) who had for some time been afflicted and in some feares about her spirituall estate: . . . She hath been and is a person esteemed pious, behaving herselfe with a pleasant mixture of humility and faith under her heavy sufferings, professing (as she did sundry times) that she knew nothing of those things that were spoken by her, but that her tongue was improved to express what was never in her mind, which was matter of great affliction to her. Since the abatement of her sorrows she is joined to the church, and therein been a humble walker for many yeares. And since also married to a good man, hath

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borne him severall children, and in her constant way approved herselfe truely godly to the charity of all observers:—

“The matter is, That Anno. 1662. This Anne Cole (living in her father’s family) was taken with strange fitts, wherein she (or rather the Devill, as ’t is judged, making use of her lips) held a discourse for a considerable time. The generall purport of it was to this purpose, that a company of familiars of the evill one, (who were named in the discourse that passed from her) were contriving how to carry on their mischievous designes, against some and especially against her, mentioning sundry ways they would take to that end, As that they would afflict her body, spoile her name, hinder her marriage, &c., . . . And then after some time of unintelligible muttering, the discourse passed into a Dutch tone (a family of Dutch then living in the town) . . . Judicious M^r Stone (who is now with God) being by, when the latter discourse passed, declared it in his thoughts impossible that one not familiarly acquainted with the Dutch (which Anne Cole had not at all been) should so exactly imitate the Dutch tone in the pronounciation of English:—Sundry times such kind of discourse was uttered by her, which was very awefull and amazing to the hearers: M^r Sam^l Hooker was present the first time, and M^r Joseph Haines, who wrote what was said, so did the Relator also, when he came into the house, some time after the discourse began.—Extreamely violent bodily motions she many times had, even to the hazard of her life in the apprehensions of those that saw them: And very often great disturbance was giuen in the publick worship of God by her and two other women who had also strange fitts. Once in speciall, on a day of prayer kept on that account, the motion and noise of the afflicted was so terrible, that a godly person fainted under the appearance of it:—The consequent was, That one of the persons presented as actiue in the forementioned discourse (A lewd, ignorant, considerably aged woman) being a prisoner upon suspicion of witchcraft, the court sent for M^r Haines and myselfe to read what we had written; which when Mr Haines had done (the prisoner being present) she forthwith and freely confessed those things to be true, that she (and other persons named

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1620

in the discourse) had familiarity with the devill. &c. . . .

“This with the concurrent evidence, brought the woman and her husband to their death as the devill’s familiars, and most of the other persons mentioned in the discourse made their escape into another part of the Country. After this execution of some and escape of others, the good woman had abatement of her sorrows, which had continued sundry yeares, and she yet remains maintaining her integrity, walking therein with much humble comfort, after her so sore and amazing affliction: The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

“Rev^d and deare Sir,—I had thoughts of sending the precedent account before now, but I could not (nor yet can) find my papers wherein I wrote what came from Anne Cole in her fitts. However I have gathered up the maine sum, and now send it: if you think fitt to insert the whole or any thing of it, not varying the substance, it is left with you.”

A condensed account of this case is given by Increase Mather in his “*Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences*,” Ch. 5. Another account is also found in “*A Case of Witchcraft in Hartford*,” by C. J. Hoadley, in the *Connecticut Magazine*, November, 1899.

Andrew Benton was evidently respected and trusted. The following curious provision relating to him is found in the will of Joseph Nash of Hartford, made January 17, 1675. After appointing his brother executor the testator provided: “Also I doe desire & appoynt my Good friends Robert Webster & Andrew Benton to be the overseers of this my will desiring them to be helpfull to my wife & daughter with their counsell as they may have need—as also in deviding the estate & otherwise as there be occasion & appoynt this to be last will &c.” (*Prob. Rec. Hartford*, Bk. 4, p. 7.)

It is evident that Andrew Benton was a man strong in body and in mind, tenacious for what he believed to be right, industrious, thrifty, and honest. He began life as a poor emigrant boy in the rugged wilderness of New England. He reared a large family, performed well his duties in town and church, and left his children a moderate but comfortable estate, and the heritage of a good name. He died July 31, 1683, at Hartford,

Samuel Slade Benton

ANDREW BENTON 1620 leaving no will, and September 4, 1683, an inventory of his estate, amounting to £345 17s. 9d., was taken by James Steele, Sr., and John Merrill.*

The original inventory is now on file in the Probate Court at Hartford, and is as follows:—

¶ *An Inventory of the estate of Andrew Benton Senr' deceased taken the 4th of September: 1683: by us.*

Imp. his Aparill woolin lining hatts &c	003	13	06
on: beed and bedstede withe firnitur belonging to it:	006	10	00
In: 7 pair of sheets and on od sheet	002	07	00
In 7 pilow Coats 18s tabel lining 36s 6d	002	14	06
on Cradel rug and blankett: 5s two chests			
10s 2 ts fether pilows: 5s	001	00	00
3 great chairs: 9s: on muskett 20s: 6: Cushens: 9s:	001	04	00
Beeding in the littell rum 30s: 30 yards of tow cloth 3lb	004	10	00
on sword and 2 pair of bandlers: 5s: 3 spinning wheels and a reel 9s	000	14	00
on wormin pane 3s on tube and soop in it 4s: too yarn 12	000	19	00
In 9lb of twere yarn: 18s in 4lb 1/2 of Cotten yarne 13s: 6:	001	11	06
naills 5s on trundel bed and bed stede: 20s: 3 chairs: 4s:	001	09	00
In bras: 4lb two Ioyrn potts 30s: on Ioyrn keetel: 5s	005	15	00
I pautter: 35s teene pans 3s: erthen ware 6s: 6d: a our glas 12d	002	05	06
wooden ware 6s: spoons: 2s: on Candelseek 12d: two seues 2s	000	11	00
on pair of stillyards: 20s: two tramells tongs slic and greed Ioyrn 6s:	000	16	00
on tabel form: and meel chest 5s: 3 old bags: 3s	000	08	00

* The average estate of that period in the Colony as shown by the inventories was about two hundred and fifty pounds.

His Ancestors

books 20s: 4 agers: 3 chesels on squar on sheff on hame and pair pinchers 13s.	001	13	00	ANDREW BENTON 1620
two narow axes 4s: on beetell and 2 weges: 8s:	000	08	00	
barells tubs and pails: 28s on chees pres: and a bradall 31s	001	11	00	
on wooden beetell: 1s: on grinding stone 1s: 2 pair of shers: 1s	000	03	00	
yarn and flax in the chambers: 30s on beed: 3 old blanketts on rug and on Coverlett and boulster all: 50s	004	00	00	
2 two new hors Colers on Cart roop: on hors halter	000	16	00	
on pair of crosgrners for a dor: 15d: on old pilian: and cloth 2s: 6d.	000	03	09	
Chest and oatts 20s: two Corn sives: 18d lumber in the chamber 5s	000	16	06	
about 90 bushels of mislin and rye about 30 bushels of Indan:	018	05	00	
In chees and meet and sault 3lb an a great shovell 18d	003	01	06	
In Cartt and plow and plow Ioyerns and chains all	004	10	00	
Iron friing pans: and a half bushell 3s on cuting knif 5.	000	08	00	
In housing and homlott 85lb in 16 acers of upland by m ^r Richards great Lotts 112lb	197	00	00	
In 8 acers of Land within the fenc in the great swamp:	020	00	00	
In 10: or 12 acers at fower mile hill	004	00	00	
In about twenty Sheep and Lams	008	00	00	
In Swin: 4lb in two old marrs 2lb	006	00	00	
In two oxen 5 coves two Calfs 3 yong Cat-tel: all	037	00	00	
In sith forks hows and other utensells for husbandry &c	001	00	00	

345 03 09

Samuel Slade Benton

ANDREW
BENTON
1620

JAMES STEELE SEN^{OR}

JOHN MERRILL

21 pound of Sheeps wool:
28s Iron cro: 000 14 00
two gunns that were not at home
childⁿ Andrew Samuell and Joseph: the
daughters: Marry and doray by his first
wif: by his secont wif Ebenesar: 9 or ten
yers old Leda about 7 ars old hana 5

The Corne in the barne and on the ground we have not
prisd: which as we are informd is about two acers of Sumer
wheet: 8 acers of mislin on acer of barly on acer of oats: and
3 acers of Indan Corne

debts due to the estate	6 19 9
debts due from ye estate	11 3 10

[On a separate scrap of paper not copied in the records:]

dets due from the estate

m ellieson	Way	04 02 00
m Phenias	Wilson	02 16 01
m William	gibbins	00 12 00
John	ballew	00 03 03
Jonathan	bull	00 10 06
m gardner		03 00 00

11 03 10

dets due to the estate

goodman barns of farminton	01 04 00
John Wiord of Wethersfild	00 15 00
du frome the estate } of ieremyah addoms }	01 04 00
m Cro	00 11 00
due from the toune	01 10 00
Richard Smith buther	01 02 00
du from the estate of gorg Stoking	0 13 09

6 19 9

11 3 10

6 19 9

4 4 1

his Ancestors

At a special court held December 18th, 1683, "The Inventory of Andrew Benton was exhibited in court & the court Grant Administration on the estate to Joseph Benton, & distributed the estate as followeth to the widdow forty pounds of the personall estate to be at her disspos(e) forever & a 3^d of the real estate dureing her naturall Life & to Andr(ew) his eldest son besides what he hath received all ready fifty-fower pounds to Samuel Thirty fower pounds to Joseph Thirty fower pounds to Mary Thirty Three pounds to Dorathy Thirty Three pounds to Ebenezer because of his Impotency forty Nine pounds to Lidia Thirty Three pounds to Hannah Thirty Three pounds the sons to have their portion at twenty-one yeares of age the daughters to have their portion at eighteen yeares of age, & If any dy before they be of age his or their portion is to be divided amongst the survivors the Land to be divided amongst the sons part at present the rest in reversion after their mothers decease & Steven Hosmore & John Morrice are appoynted to be overseers to the children and estate & to distribute it to the Legatees, according to this distribution, & If the estate fall short it is to be born by the Legatees proportionally & If their be any adition it is to be divided according to this proportion." (*Probate Rec.*, Bk. 4, p. 77.)

¶ *The Distribution of Good—Bentons estate*

His wife be cd acording to y^e court order was to be

be	40 00 00
pd her 3 cows & 4 sheep	11 18 00
a bed bedstead & furnitur	6 10 00
an Iron kettle & pan	00 08 00
3 brass kettles & a skylyt	02 19 00
an iron pott & tramell	01 05 00
frying pan & 1/2 bushell	00 03 00
2 chayrs	00 04 04
cloath yarn & flax	06 08 02
for weaving	00 08 00
sope & tub	00 04 00
wheells reell & sieves	00 11 00
tongues slice & gridiron	00 03 00

ANDREW
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1620

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ANDREW BENTON 1620	an hour glass & fire pan	00 02 06
	earthen ware	00 05 00
	bellows barrells tubs & payls	00 18 06
	a candle stick table & meat trough	00 06 00
	a bason poringer & spoons	00 06 09
	bookes & wooden bowles	00 10 00
	pillows & blankets	00 13 00
	3 cushens 2 pillow coats	00 11 06
	towells sheets & table cloathes	00 14 00
	a bate ment for debts	02 10 00
	to be payd By Joseph in corn	02 01 03
		<u>40 00 00</u>
	Andrew Benton cd	54 00 00
	pd him by a cow	03 13 00
	by a third part of y ^e teem	05 15 06
	by 6 sheep	02 08 00
	a bible	00 05 00
	by an axe augers hamer &c	00 12 00
	sheep sheares & a shovell	00 02 06
	cheeses & salt	00 07 06
	a tub & payll	00 07 06
	by w ⁱ was pd to m ^r way for him	02 03 10
	a hog & 2 pigs	02 03 00
	a how & fork &c	00 06 00
	4 acres of upland	28 00 00
	a bate ment for debts &c	07 08 00
	to pay by Joseph	00 08 02
		<u>54 00 00</u>
	Sam ^l Benton cd	34 00 00
	pd him by a gun chayr &c	01 00 00
	a bible cheeses barrells &c	01 00 03
	nayls & a fork	00 07 00
	4 acres of land in y ^e upland	28 00 00
	his abate ment for debts &c	04 12 10
		<u>35 00 01</u>

His Ancestors

he is to pay 20 ^d of y ^e debts.		ANDREW BENTON 1620
Mary Benton cd	33 00 00	
pd her by a bed & furniture	01 14 00	
by a heifer	03 00 00	
pewter & tin ware	00 15 00	
a brass kettle & skiner	00 18 00	
earthen ware & box iron	00 06 06	
a chayr & cushin	00 02 10	
table linnen & pillow beers	01 00 09	
sheets & towells	01 00 00	
10 pd 1/2 of sheeps wooll	00 14 00	
a chest botls & choping knife	00 07 00	
5 sheep	02 00 00	
a chees pres & cradle	00 03 00	
a tramell & beding	00 14 00	
a cow & Bull	05 13 00	
a gun sword hay cutter &c	01 14 06	
a carpitt & bees wax	01 00 00	
abatement for debts &c	04 10 07	
by a third part of y ^e teem	05 15 06	
by an iron crow	00 14 00	
by Joseph Benton	01 00 04	
	<u>33 00 00</u>	
Dorittee Benton cd	33 00 00	
pd her by a heifer	02 00 00	
by a trundle bed & bed stead	01 00 00	
in pewter & wooden ware	01 00 00	
a kittle pot & skylit	00 17 00	
a chest & a chayr	00 09 10	
tabel linnen & pillow biers	01 01 09	
sheets & towells	01 00 00	
10 yd ^e tow cloath	01 00 00	
10 pd 1/2 sheeps wooll	00 14 00	
churn & pillion	00 04 00	
a rug botle & cetera	00 17 08	

Samuel Slade Benton

ANDREW BENTON 1620	6 sheep	02 08 00
	a glas & Bed rug	00 12 00
	2 calves & 2 pigs	01 17 00
	a pr stilyards Bettle wedges	00 16 06
	oats & cheeses	00 16 00
	sugar hops oatmell tunell	01 04 02
	abatement for debts &c	04 10 00
	by a third part of y ^e teem	05 15 06
	by Joseph Benton	04 15 07
		<u>33 00 00</u>
	Ebenezer Benton cd	49 00 00
	pd by 4 acres of land in y ^e upland by Mr Richards	28 00 00
	by 10 acres 1/2 land at five mile hill	04 00 00
	by his fathers cloaths	03 11 00
	by 2 pigs & cetera	00 19 00
	by abatement	06 13 10
	by Joseph Benton	05 16 02
		<u>49 00 00</u>
	Lydia Benton cd	33 00 00
	her abatement is	04 10 07
	to be pd by Joseph Benton	28 09 05
		<u>33 00 00</u>
	Hannah Benton cd	33 00 00
	Her proportion of a batement	04 10 07
	to be pd by Joseph Benton	28 09 05
		<u>33 00 00</u>
	Joseph Benton Dt to y ^e estate for y ^e house Barn & home lot:	85 00 00
	by his proportion of a batement	04 12 00
	by 4 acres in y ^e uplands	28 00 00
	by a gun & axe	00 12 00

His Ancestors

a bottle & salt	00 03 06	ANDREW BENTON 1620
a hog	01 10 00	
	<u>119 18 04</u>	
Joseph is cred his share by what he payeth t good Benton to andrew Benton to mary Benton to dorrtty Benton to Ebenezer Benton to lydia Benton to Hannah Benton	34 00 00 02 01 03 00 08 02 01 00 04 04 15 01 05 16 02 28 09 05 28 09 05	
	<u>104 19 10</u>	
Joseph is to pay in debts	014 19 06	
	<u>119 18 04</u>	

The widow Benton hath for her thirds in y^e homestead as was agreed half y^e hous viz: y^e south end & y^e small room & half y^e seller and y^e use of y^e well & half y^e orchard & half y^e garden next to it & one quarter of y^e Barn & yard room for her cows & for woods it was agreed y^e she should have y^e use of Ebenezers Land also while he was of age

Distributed By us

STEPHEN HOSMER
JOHN MERRITT

A County Court held at Hartford March 5, 1684/5:
"The distribution of the estat of Andrew Benton was exhibited in court & approved." (*Prob. Rec.*, Bk. 4, p. 102.)

Ane (Cole) Benton, widow of Andrew, died April 4, 1686, leaving a will, as follows:—

THE last will of Ane Benton made the twenty six day of march one thousand sixe hundred and eighty sixe being in sound mind and perfete memory and not knowing the day of my death doe Commit my Soule into the hands of my redeemer and my body to a Comly buryell I doe dispose of that estate god has betruusted me with as follows I give to my Son

Samuel Slade Benton

ANDREW	Behives & Tramell	00	09	00
BENTON	pork & Suitt	01	13	00
1620	cheeses & a cheyer	00	06	00
	coverlids pillows	01	17	00
	a box & pewter	00	15	06
	2 skylits	00	09	00
	pillow Beers & Napkins	00	06	06
		11	02	06
		08	00	00
	2 cowes	04	00	00
	6 sheep & 3 lams	00	14	00
	a sow	03	00	00
	4 hogs	15	14	00
		60	12	06
Tottall				

Taken By us

STEPHEN HOSMER
ICHABOD WELLS

Children of Andrew Benton

JOHN, born at Milford, April 9, 1650, died May 24, 1650.

HANNAH, born at Milford, November 23, 1651, died probably after 1669 and before 1678, at Hartford.

ANDREW, JR., born at Milford, Connecticut, and baptized August 14, 1653, married Martha Spencer, the daughter of Thomas Spencer of Hartford, Connecticut. She was born May 19, 1657, and they were probably married in 1676, as their first child, Hannah, was baptized in the Second Church, January 6, 1677. The church record also shows that on that day Andrew Benton, Jr., "owned ye covenant." He and his wife were admitted to the Second Church December 10, 1694, and he died at Hartford February 5, 1704, leaving an estate which was inventoried at 94 pounds, 3 shillings, and 4 pence, but which proved to be insolvent, and of which his brother Samuel was appointed administrator March 9, 1704.

MARY, born at Milford, Connecticut, April 14, 1655, married Nathaniel Cole of Hartford, October 23, 1685. He was a son of John Cole and a brother of Anne Cole, Andrew Benton's second wife. Nathaniel Cole died April 20, 1708, and Mary then married Jonathan Biglow, who died January 9, 1711, aged sixty-two. March 19, 1713, she married Deacon John Shepard of Hartford. June 3, 1751, "Mary Shepherd, formerly Mary Benton, daughter of Andrew Benton, deceased," quitclaimed her right as a "co-heir" to the estate of Andrew Benton to any land in Hartford on the east side of the great river unto Moses Benton. (*Hartford Records*, Vol. VIII. p. 387.) She died at Hartford, December 23, 1752.

JOHN, born October 7, 1656, at Milford, doubtless died in childhood.

SAMUEL, born at Milford August 15, 1658, died April 10, 1746, at Hartford. A sketch of him will be found at page 41.

ANDREW BENTON 1620
 JOSEPH, probably born at Hartford in 1661, married first a daughter of Deacon Paul Peck, Sr., of Hartford. She died January 27, 1680, and was buried in Hartford. He then married Sarah, daughter of Bevil Waters, at Hartford, February 10, 1697. (*Rec. Second Church, Hartford*, p. 238.) He died at Kent, Connecticut, August 12, 1753, at the age of ninety-three.

DOROTHY was probably born in 1663 or 1664, at Hartford. There is no record of her except that she appears by the inventory of her father's estate to have been a child of Andrew's first wife, Hannah, and that she was living at Andrew's death in 1683.

EBENEZER, the only son of Andrew and Anne (Cole) Benton, was born in Hartford and baptized January 4, 1673. He was of feeble mind, and upon the distribution of his father's estate in 1683, when he was nine or ten years old, he was allowed a larger share than the other heirs "because of his impotency." He lived with his mother until her death, when his uncle, Nathaniel Cole, became his guardian. By the will of Nathaniel Cole, made April 17, 1708, he left one third of his movables to his wife, adding, "my said wife to let Ebenezer Benton have a bed out of it." He also made further provision for his ward as follows: "Also my will is that Ebenezer Benton should be maintained by my wife and my son jointly so long as my wife shall remain my widow, but if she should marry that then my son, Nathaniel Cole, shall take care to maintain him during his natural life, if my son Nathaniel Cole shall live to survive him, and that then my said son shall have what estate was given to maintain the said Ebenezer Benton not yet disposed of for his maintenance." The widow of Nathaniel Cole married John Biglow, probably in 1709, and Ebenezer became the ward of Nathaniel Cole, Jr., who evidently did not comply with the will of his father, as the General Court of May, 1718, "empowered Capt. Cyprian Nichols, Dea. Thomas Richards & Sargent James Ensign to sell the lands of Ebenezer Benton for his support and maintenance for the future." (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. V. pp. 111, 112.) This committee by their deed, dated February 19, 1719/20, conveyed to Samuel Benton,

Sr., "four acres of upland and ten acres at five mile hill, which was granted to Ebenezer at the distribution of his father's estate," in consideration that he and his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns should care for Ebenezer "under his impotency" and "well support him both in sickness and health" during the rest of his natural life. I have no other record of Ebenezer except the reference to him in the will of his nephew, Jacob, the son of Samuel, who speaks of having some interest in land in Hartford from his uncle Ebenezer, which shows that he died before 1760, the date of that will.

LYDIA, daughter of Andrew and Anne (Cole) Benton, was born in Hartford and baptized February 13, 1675. She was admitted to the Second Church of Hartford, April 26, 1697. I have no further record of her.

HANNAH, daughter of Andrew and Anne (Cole) Benton, was born in Hartford and baptized January 26, 1678. She married Edward Scofell of Haddam, Connecticut, February 20, 1699. He died April 21, 1703, and his widow, Hannah, married Benjamin Smith sometime before May 20, 1706.

JOHN, baptized in the Second Church, Hartford, May 30, 1680, died before July, 1683.

The following records of the Second Church of Hartford show how faithful the descendants of Andrew in Hartford were to the church of which he was one of the founders.

ANDREW BENTON and his wife received December 10, 1694.

JOSEPH BENTON received March 8, 1696.

LYDIA BENTON received April 25, 1697.

SARAI wife to JOSEPH BENTON received March 15, 1712/13.

SAMUEL BENTON, SEN^r received September 23, 1716.

DANIEL BENTON, September 21, 1718.

JACOB BENTON, received June 23, 1723.

CALEB BENTON received March 28, 1725.

HANNAH, wife to CALEB BENTON, received February 20, 1725.

MARTHA BENTON, wife of Josiah Clark, received in 1799.

PRUDENCE BENTON, received in 1808.

BETSEY BENTON, received in 1808.

HEPZIBAH BENTON, received in 1821.

JERUSA BENTON, received in 1831.

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LAVINIA BENTON, received in 1831.
HARRIET BENTON, received in 1838.

¶ *Baptisms*

PHINEHAS, Son to Jacob Benton, January 17, 1730.
ASA, Son to Ebenezer Benton, February 28, 1730/1.
EBENEZER, the son of Andrew Benton, January 4, 1673/4.
LYDIA, the daughter of Andrew Benton, February 13, 1674/5.
HANNAH, the daughter of Andrew Benton, Jun', who this day owned the covenant, January 6, 1677/8.
HANNAH, the daughter of Andrew Benton, Sen', January 26, 1678/9.
MARTHA, the daughter of Andrew Benton, Jun', August 1, 1679.
JOHN, the son of And: Benton, Sen', May 30, 1680.
ANDREW, the son of Andrew Benton, Jun', July 31, 1681.
MERCY, the daughter of Andrew Benton, 7ber 9, 1683.
JOHN, the son of Andrew Benton, February 22, 1684.
HANNAH, the daughter of Sam: Benton, March 19, 1688.
DOROTHY, the daughter of Andrew Benton, April 22, 1688.
EBENEZER (the son of Andrew) BENTON, October 18, 1696.
JACOB (the son of Samⁿ) BENTON, September 26, 1698.
ELIZABETH (the daughter of Andrew) BENTON, February 12, 1698/9.
RUTH (the daughter of Joseph) BENTON, February 12, 1698/9.
MOSES, the son of Samuel Benton, May 3, 1702.
ISAAC yⁿ son of Joseph Benton, February 14, 1703.
LYDIA, daughter to Samⁿ Benton, August 26, 1705.
MEDAD, son to Samuel Benton, junior, Att what time he owned his Coven', Nov: 4, 1705.
JONATHAN, son to Samⁿ Benton, Juni', September 7, 1707.
TIMOTHY, Son to Samuel Benton juni', March 19, 1709/10.
JEHIEL, Son to Joseph Benton, January 28, 1710.
EUNICE, daughter to Samuel Benton, jun', June 22, 1712.
KEZIA, daughter to Joseph Benton, September 19, 1714.
MARY, daughter to Samuel Benton, Juni', May 29, 1715.
SAMUEL, son of Samuel Benton, Jun'. August 11, 1717.
SARAI, daughter to Samuel Benton, Juni'. August 16, 1719.
ANDREW, Son to Joseph Benton, August 23, 1719.

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HANNAH, daughter to Caleb Benton, July 31, 1720.
MARTHA, daughter to Joseph Benton, November 13, 1720.
EBENEZER, son to Ebenezer Benton. wⁿ he made publick confession of his sin. April 30, 1721.
CALEB, Son to Caleb Benton, February 4, 1721.
ANNE, daughter to Ebenezer Benton, December 16, 1722.
VIOLET, daughter to Caleb Benton, December 8, 1723.
JOHN, son to Ebenezer Benton, November 15, 1724.
ABRAHAM, son to Caleb Benton, April 11, 1725.
ABIGAIL, Daughter to Jacob Benton, September 19, 1725.
MARY, daughter to Ebenezer Benton, February 26, 1726/7.
JACOB, son to Jacob Benton, January 12, 1728.
SARAH & } Twin children to Caleb Benton, February 23,
SUSANNA } 1728/9.
SALLY, Daughter of Samuel Benton, April 27, 1794.
MOSES, Son of Samuel Benton, Private, Sick. March 10, 1797.
ANDREW, Son of Samuel Benton, Nov' 9, 1800.
MARIA BENTON, Adult. Nov. 4, 1821.

¶ *Baptisms in the South Church by Ministers of other Churches.*

GEORGE, Son of Sam' Benton. September 23, 1792.

¶ *Marriages*

April 24, 1794	Ithamar Colton, Hartford, to MIRIAM BENTON, Hartford.
December 18, 1794	Amos Thompson, Hartford, to EUNICE BENTON, Hartford.
November 8, 1795	Oliver Terry, Hartford, to PRUDENCE BENTON, Hartford.
June 18, 1797	CHAUNCEY BENTON, Hartford, to Betsey Bidwell, Hartford.
September 13, 1798	Erastus Wells, Hartford, to NABBY BENTON, Hartford.
Septem' 14, 1800	GEORGE BENTON, Hartford, to Mitty Steele, Hartford.
October 8, 1800	Ezra Corning, Hartford, to Wid: HANNAH BENTON, Hartford.
September 22, 1801	Timothy P. Perkins, Hartford, to JERUSA BENTON, Hartford.

Samuel Slade Benton

ANDREW BENTON 1620	November 20, 1803	JAMES BENTON, Hartford, to Eunice Stanley, Hartford.
	October 15, 1804	George Corning, Hartford, to HANNAH BENTON, Hartford.
	September 10, 1807	Rev. Oliver Wetmore, Trenton, N. Y., to CHLOE BENTON, Hartford.
	May 8, 1808	Frederic Lathrop, Hartford, to MARTHA BENTON, Hartford.
	April 6, 1814	David North, Berlin, to SALLY BENTON, Hartford.
	June 25, 1815	WILLIAM BENTON, Hartford, to Lydia Burt, Hartford.
	September 8, 1816	Roderic Seymour, Hartford, to EMILY BENTON, Hartford.
	May 9, 1820	Daniel Fish, Falmouth, to M. FANNY BENTON, Hartford.

¶ Deaths

August 10, 1792	WILLIAM BENTON; died at the southward some time since, 26 years.
Decem ^r 28, 1795	NATH ^s S. BENTON; cancer, 37 years.
March 10, 1797	An Infant child of SAMUEL BENTON; 10 Days.
April 23, 1803	SAMUEL BENTON; complex, 52 years.
January 26, 1804	An Infant child of CHAUNCEY BENTON, 14 Hours.
November 9, 1805	JOHN BENTON; paralysis, 81 years.
January 9, 1807	CATHERINE, Daughter of Nath ^s Benton Dec ^d , 12 years.
May 25, 1807	PRUDENCE, wife of Josiah Benton; consumption, 42 years.
February 16, 1810	A child of REYNOLDS BENTON; 1 month.
February 28, 1811	ASA BENTON; suddenly, 69 years.
March 20, 1811	REYNOLDS BENTON; consumption, 43 years.
May 24, 1811	Wid: RUTH BENTON; old age, 86 years.

His Ancestors

September 30, 1814	EBENEZER BENTON; fever, 32 years.	ANDREW BENTON 1620
February 20, 1816	PRUDENCE BENTON; spotted fever, 37 years.	
February 15, 1819	Wid: ELIZABETH BENTON; old age, 95 years.	
June 5, 1819	Wid: JERUSHA BENTON; complex, 76 years.	
July 26, 1820	GEORGE, SON of GEORGE BENTON; fever, 15 years.	
May 19, 1823	GEORGE BENTON; peripneumony, 45 years.	
August 8, 1823	GEORGE BENTON; insania, 37 years.	
May 9, 1824	JANE BENTON; drowned, 30 years.	
¶ Baptisms 1824-1859		
—, 1824	JERUSHA, daughter of Mitta Benton.	
July 4, 1824	LAVINIA P., daughter of Mitta Benton.	
—, 1824	JULIA, daughter of Mitta Benton.	
July, 1830	MARIA WELLS, daughter of Andrew Benton.	

Samuel Benton

1658-1746

Samuel Benton

1658-1746

SAMUEL BENTON, son of Andrew Benton and Hannah (Stocking) Benton, was born at Milford, Connecticut, August 15, 1658. His father removed from Milford to Hartford when Samuel was a small child, and he lived all his life in Hartford. He married, probably at New Haven, Sarah, daughter of William and Mary Chatterton of New Haven, where she was born July 19, 1661. (*New Haven Births, Marriages, and Deaths*, Bk. 1, p. 26.) No record of the marriage is to be found, but their first child, Samuel, was born at Hartford, January 28, 1680. December 28, 1682, when Samuel Benton was twenty-four years old, he was "granted a small piece of land to set a house upon, near Jonathan Webster's house." (*Hartford Town Votes*, p. 169.) In the distribution of the estate of his father in 1683, he received:—

"Sam" Benton cd.	34 00 00
pd him by a gun chayr &c	01 00 00
a bible cheeses barrells	01 00 03
nayls & a fork	00 07 00
4 acres of land in y ^e upland	28 00 00
his abatement for debts &c	04 12 10
	<hr/>
	35 00 01

he is to pay 20^d of y^e debts."

March 11, 1686, he was recorded in Hartford Book of Distributions as owning "One parcell of Land lyeing Neer the road Leading to farmington containing by estimation fower acres be it more or less & abutts on m^r Richards his Land North on the Highway West on Joseph Bentions land South & on m^r Willys & m^r Wells there Land on the east, which was distributed to him as part of fethers estate by those ap-
poynted by the court to doe it.

"One parcell which was given him by his Grand fether Georg Stocking Lyeing near the wolfe pound containing by

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estimation fower acres & a butts on the highway on the east on Thomas Bunce his Land South on John Stockings Land West & on Joseph Bulls Land North."

He was Surveyor of Highways in Hartford in 1713 and 1714, and in 1715 he was a selectman. (*Hartford Town Votes*, pp. 233, 240.) September 23, 1716, he was admitted to the Second Church of Hartford, as Samuel Benton, Sr. He was a large land-owner in Hartford and in Tolland and Harwinton, and was evidently a prominent and enterprising citizen. He was one of the grantees in a deed by the trustees constituted by the Connecticut Assembly in May, 1715, to the First Proprietors of the Town of Tolland, May 11, 1719. His son, Samuel Benton, Jr., and his brother, Joseph Benton, Sr., and his nephew, Joseph Benton, Jr., were also grantees in this deed. (*Waldo's Early History of Tolland*, pp. 80, 81.) At the Court held March 9, 1703/4, he presented an inventory of the estate of his deceased brother, Andrew Benton, who had died intestate; and was granted letters of administration on said estate provided he gave bonds as the law directs. This he did the 27th day of March, 1704, in the sum of £100, to make his return by March, 1705. (*Prob. Rec.*, Bk. 7, p. 54.) This estate appears to have remained unsettled for about five years. Although Samuel, as administrator, had received in May, 1705, from the General Court, authority to sell Andrew's house and lot (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. III. p. 485), he does not appear to have made the transfer till February 5, 1708/9, when the sale was made to Samuel, Jr. (*Land Rec.*, Vol. I. p. 448). He was appointed guardian of John and Mary, children of his brother Andrew, April 12, 1704. (*Id.*, Bk. 7, p. 56.) September 5, 1709, he was appointed guardian of Ebenezer, son of his brother Andrew. (*Id.*, Bk. 7, p. 133.) August 8, 1711, he was allowed £1 19s. on account of services in aid of the expedition against Canada. (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. IV. p. 263.) February 19, 1720, he was given by the Court the care of his half-brother, Ebenezer, who was "impotent in body and in mind." February 20, 1719, he made a deed to his son, Daniel Benton, as follows:—

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KNOW al men by these presents that I Samuel benton Sen^r. of the towne of hartford and colony of Conectecut husbandman for and in consideration of love good wil affections which I have and do have unto my loveing Son daniel benton of the same towne and county batcheldor hav given and granted and by these presents do frely clearly and absolutly give and grant unto the s^d daniel benton his heirs execetors and adminestrators a sertaine tract or parcel of lands lying and being situate in tolland in the county aforesd containeing by estimation forty acres be the same more or les with al other devisions thereunto belonging buted and bounded as followeth east on Josophah lomes West on a highway south on barnebus hinsdel and north on ephraem hickox which sd tract or parcel of land I have given to him the sd daniel benton his heirs execetors and adminestrators from hence fourth and forever as his proper inheretance absolutly without any maner of condetion in witnes whereof I have heareunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of feberwary in the fifth yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne lord george by the grace of god King of england Scotland france and Ireland defender of the faith anno domine one thousand Seven hundred nineteene Signed sealed and delivered

in presence of us

Edward dod

Johnathan hinckley

SAMUEL BENTON SEN^r. (Seal)

hartford May 17: 1719 then Samuel benton Sen^r. the granter came before me the under wrighter and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his volentary act and deed before me Aaron Cook Justis of the Peace this foregoing Instrument was recorded by me Joseph benton towne clark

He was one of the original proprietors of Harwinton. This proprietorship is connected with a very curious incident in Connecticut history. When James II. appointed Andros to be president and captain-general over New England, the Connecticut Colony, fearing that ungranted lands, that is, lands not granted to any particular plantation or town, would be seized by the Crown, granted to the Planta-

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tions of Hartford and Windsor a large tract of land called "Western Lands." Afterwards the Colony assumed to treat these lands as its own, without regard to the grant to Hartford and Windsor, and this brought about a conflict between the Hartford and Windsor claimants, who sought to treat the lands as theirs under the Colonial grant of the officers of the Colonial government. This resulted in a riot and jail-breaking at Hartford. Finally the matter was settled by a division of the lands, the western half to the Colony, and the eastern half to Hartford and Windsor; and May 22, 1729, the Colonial authorities gave a patent of the eastern half, or division as it was called, to Hartford and Windsor. These towns divided this share equally between them, and three townships were made from Hartford's share and three from Windsor's share, leaving a remainder owned jointly by Hartford and Windsor, sufficient for another township, of which each town owned one-half. This remainder was divided into eastern and western portions, the eastern portion being given to Hartford and the western to Windsor proprietors. The two portions were then incorporated, in May, 1732, and May, 1733, as the town of Harwinton, the name being, as it is said, constructed from the first syllables of Hartford and Windsor, with the addition of "ton," meaning town. Hartford appears to have granted its portion to proprietors according to their tax valuation, and Samuel Benton was one of these proprietors. August, 1732, before the incorporation of Harwinton, he gave the following curious conveyance of his share as a proprietor in these lands to his son Jacob:—

TO all Christian people to whom these presents shall come Greeting know y^e that I Sam^l Benton of Hartford in the county of Hartford and Colony of Coneticutt in New England for and in consideration of Love Goodwill and affection whitch I have and do Beare to my dutifull and well beloved son Jacob Benton of sd Hartford do fully freely and absolutely Give Grant Convey and conferr unto him my sd son Jacob Benton and to his heirs and assigns forever viz:—all my right title interest posesion and property whitch I ever had or that I now have of in or unto any part or ("part")

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or parcells of a certain tract of Land Comonly called the Western Land formerly Granted to the townships of Hartford and Windsor Lying and being within the aforesaid Colony of Coneticutt and as my said right share and property Doth or may arise and accrue to me more Especially by action of my List of Estate given AD 1720 amounting to the sum of one Hundred and twenty pounds and ten shillings money how ever the same may be Drawn laid out or Divided or buted and Bounded as of my right to have and to hold the above Granted premises to gether with all the previledges and appurtenances to the sam—Belonging or in any wise appertaining unto him the said Jacob Benton his heirs and assigns forever and to his and their only proper use and (behoof) as a good sure and absolute Estate of inheritane in fee simple the same Being free & Clear and freely and Clearly ajusted and Discharged of and (from) all and all maner of former or other Giftes Grants Lases Sales Leases wills Entails joanters Dewvies Judgments Executions or other Incumberances whatsoever and in witnes hereof I the said Sam^l Benton have hearunto set my Hand and seal ye Day of august annodomini one thousand seaven Hundred and thirty two
Signed sealed and Delivered
in pr of

Icabod Welles
Elizabeth Wyllys
August y^e 11th 1756
Recd the aforegoing deed
recerd and hear
have recerded it at Lerge
test Abijah Catling
town Clerk

SAM^l BENTON (*and seal*)

Hartford ss. September 5th 1732
then M^r Sam^l Benton parsonally
appeared and acknowledged the
above writen Instrument by Him
Executed to be His free act and
Deed Before Hez Willys Just
peace
(*Harwinton Rec.*, Bk. 1, p. 418.)

Samuel Benton's house, in which he lived, stood on the east side of the road leading to Farmington, now Washington Street. In the distribution of his father's estate in 1683, he had four acres of land on the east side of this road, and bounded on the north by Mr. Richards' land, on the east by Mr. Wyllys' and Mr. Wells', and on the south by land of

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his brother Joseph, containing four acres, which Joseph had received from his father's estate. March 30, 1701, Samuel bought of Joseph his four-acre lot. Nathaniel Cole had a four-acre lot next that of Joseph Benton, and this Samuel bought April 28, 1709. February 19, 1720, he acquired the four acres belonging to Ebenezer, thus giving him sixteen acres in his home lot, the title to which remained in him until his death, when he gave it to his son Moses by will. Most of this land is now in the grounds of the "Retreat for the Insane."

In the record of the Session of the General Assembly for May, 1720, is this curious entry with regard to a claim made by Samuel Benton:—

"Upon the petition of Samuel Benton of Hartford, preferred to this Assembly in October last, the town of Hartford by the Worshipful William Pitkin and Major Joseph Talcott, Esq", and Joseph King for himself, appeared, pursuant to the order of this Assembly in October, and were heard in their arguments wherefore the charge demanded by the petitioner for the keeping a certain man, who was sometime taken for Nathaniel Wilson, otherwhile for John Clements, should not be cast upon them: Whereupon this Assembly, observing that the overtures of Providence in that case were strange, unheard of and unaccountable, the evidence on both sides unusually strong and peremptory, to that degree that the certain truth is not likely to be gain'd by human testimony, and that final judgments in the law, till reversed, must be accounted among the most infallible human evidence of undoubted truth; and further observing, that the charge demanded did arise for the keeping the said man whilst by judgment of law known by the relations of Nathaniel Wilson, and acquiescent in, was declared and pronounced to be Nathaniel Wilson, agreeable to the concurrent opinion of all men hearing thereof: This Assembly do resolve and order, that the accounts of the charge be examined and adjusted by the judge of the probate in Hartford; that what shall be so adjusted and allowed shall be reimbursed and paid out of the estate of Nathaniel Wilson within three months next coming; and that for want of such payment to be made by the heirs

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of the said Nathaniel Wilson, it is hereby ordered, that Capt. Aaron Cook, with Mr. Nathaniel Stanly of Hartford, shall pursue the order of this Assembly made on the 12th of May, 1709, wherein full power was granted to Capt. Aaron Cook and Mr. Richard Edwards, to sell so much of the housing and lands belonging to Nathaniel Wilson of Hartford as might be needful for his support, for the payment of the account aforesaid." (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. VI. pp. 162, 184.)

The *Hartford Town Records*, Book I., of Land Records, show the births and the Records of the Second Church, the baptisms of children of Samuel Benton as follows: January 28, 1680, a son, Samuel, born; September 28, 1685, a daughter, Sarah, born; March 14, 1688, a daughter, Hannah, born, and baptized March 19, 1688; December 9, 1691, a daughter, Abigail, born; March 1, 1694, a son, Caleb, born; June 25, 1696, a son, Daniel, born; September 21, 1698, a son, Jacob, born, and baptized September 26, 1698; April 26, 1702, a son, Moses, born, and baptized May 3, 1702; August 26, 1705, a daughter, Lydia, baptized.

The following deed given by Samuel and Sarah Benton in 1721 shows the relation of Samuel to the Chatterton family and is otherwise interesting:—

KNOW all men that we Joshua Hotchkis with Susanna my wife of New Haven in the County of New Haven Samⁿ Benton with Sarah my wife of Hartford in the County of Hartford and Marcy Francis of Wethersfield in sd County of Hartford widdow for Divers weighty Causes and Considerations but more Especially for that tender love and affection that our Brother John Hotchkis of Wallingford in sd county of New Haven has shown to our aged Mother Mary Chatterton whom our said Brother supported for more than four years Last past: Have Remised Released and for Ever quitted and by these presents we the said Samⁿ Benton Sarah Benton, Marcy Francis and Joshua Hotchkis Susanna Hotchkis do fully freely firmly and absolutely Remise Release and for Ever quitted unto the sd John Hotchkis in his full quiet and peaceable possession and seizen being one Certain piece or percell of Land Containing three acres Lying and

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being in Coopers quarter in sd New Haven being Bounded Eastwardly by Land formerly belonging to James Heaton westerly by Theophilus Munsons Land, Northerly by Bradlys Land and Southwardly by John Blacklys Land, To have and to hold all sd percell of land with the appurtenances to the same belonging unto him the sd John Hotchkis his heirs and assigns for Ever; as his and their own proper and absolute Estate of Inheritance in fee simple; and we the above Named Samuel Benton Sarah Benton Marcy Francis and Joshua Hotchkis Susanna Hotchkiss do hereby utterly Barr and for Ever Exclude our Selves our heirs Executors and adminⁿ from all and Every action sute tryall Challeinge and demand for or towards the Recovery of sd percell of Land or any part thereof from the sd John Hotchkis his heirs Executors adminⁿ or assigns;

In witness where of we have signed sealed and delivered this Instrument this Thirteenth day of May in y^e Seventh year of y^e Reign of our Sovereign Lord George of Great Brittain King &c Anno Domini 1721.

Signed Sealed & delivered		SAM ^{ll} : BENTON	Seal
In presence of us		her	
Tho: Richards	these two of Hartford	SARAH × BENTON	Seal
Stephen Brace	signed and sealed	mark	
Sam ^{ll} Benton	Sam ^{ll} Benton and	her	
Jacob Benton	Sarah his wife per-	MERCY × FFRANCES	Seal
Caleb Tuttle	sonally appeared in	mark	
Caleb Hotchkiss	Hartford this 6 th day of December 1722 & acknowledged the within written In- strument to be their free voluntary act	JOSHUA HOTCHKISS	Seal
	and Deed Before me	her	
	Nathan ^{ll} Stanly	SUSANNA × HOTCHKIS	Seal
	Jus' Peace	mark	

Marcy Francis within named personally appeared in Wethersfield the 8th day of December 1722 & acknowledged the within written Instrument to be her free act and Deed Before me Daniel Goodrich Justice of Peace.

The above is a true Record of the original deed January 30th 1723^¼

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Ⓕ SAM^{ll} BISHOP Clerk
(New Haven Land Records, Bk. 6, p. 367.)

April 4, 1744, he made his last will, which was allowed at a Probate Court, June 3, 1746, as follows:—

IN the Name of God Amen this fourth Day of April A D. 1744. I Samuel Benton of Hartford In ye Colony of Connecticut Being Advanced. In years Even to Old Age And Labouring under Bodily Infirmitys though of Sound mind & memory thanks be to God therefor Calling to mind the mortality of my body. knowing y' it is appointed for man once to dye Do make and ordain this my Last will and Testament. that is to Say principally And first of all I Give and Recommend my Soul Into the hands of almighty God y' Gave it And my body I Recommend to the Earth by a Decent and Christian Burial att y^e Discretion of my Executors Hereafter named Nothing Doubting but att y^e General Resurrection I shall Receive y^e Same Again by y^e mighty power of God. And as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with In this Life after my Just Debts and Necessary Expences are paid. I Give and Dispose off y^e Same In y^e following manner—

Imp. I Give and bequeath unto my. Dearly. beloved Wife Sarah one third part. of my Moveable Estate for Ever. also I Give her one third part of my Real Estate for her Improvement During her natural life—

Item. I Give unto my Son Samuel Benton besides what I have formerly Given to him by Deeds of Gift a Certain peice or parcel of land Containing Eight Acres more or Less Lying In Hartford In y^e west Division Commonly So Called Butted north on Land of Jonathan Easton west on Land of Samuel Benton East and South on y^e highway and on y^e Common to be to him and his Heirs for ever—

Item. I Give to my Son Caleb Benton besides what I for-

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merly Gave him one Hundred and twenty pounds Money. I paid towards y^e purchase of his House Barn and homlott. also I give to my Sd Son Caleb Benton and to his Heirs for Ever forty acres of Land In my Western Right att Harwinton—

Item. My will is that the Land in Tolland I formerly Gave to My Son Daniel Benton by a Deed Shall be In full of all his portion from my Estate—

Item. I Give to my Son Jacob Benton besides what I have formerly Given him all y^e Remainder of my Western Right. of Lands In Harwinton to be to him and his Heirs for Ever—

Item. I Give to my Son Moses Benton And to his Heirs for Ever All y^e Lands Belonging to me In Hartford (Excepting what I have before Disposed off) with all y^e buildings thereon and appurtenances thereto belonging—

Also I give him two Oxen two Horses Cart and plow Harrow Timber Chain plow Chain and all Tackling belonging to y^e Same. also I give him a Cow an axe a hoe. and a spade. also I give him a Weavers Loom and Tackling belonging to y^e Same.—

Item. I Give to my Daughter Sarah twenty Shillings old Tennor to be paid her by my Executors within three months after my Decease—

Item. I Give to my Daughter Lidia Benton one Feather bed and furniture to it Blankets and Sheets I also Give her one Cow and Six Sheep. also I Give her a room In my house to live In So long as She Shall live unmarried. and My will is y^e all y^e remainder of my moveable Estate not all ready Givem away be Equally Divided amongst my three Daughters Hannah Abigail and Lidia att Inventory price. And further my will is that if my wife Should Dye before me then the third part of my Moveable Estate I have given to her be Equally Divided to my three Daughters Hannah Abigail and Lidia as aforesaid.—

Item. I do hereby Constitute Appoint and ordain My Son Moses Benton and Lidia Benton to be Sole Executors

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of this my Last will and Testament And I do hereby utterly Disalow Revoke and Disanull all and Every other Testament will and Executons. by me In any wise before willed or named. Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last will and Testament. In wittness whereoff I have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal. the Day. and Year above written—

Signed Sealed published

& Declared by y^e Sd Samuel SAMUELL BENTON (*Seal*)
Benton to be his Last will

And Testament. in the
presence off—

Joseph Buckingham	} Witnesses
Tho Richards	
Jonathan Ensign	

(*Probate Rec.*, Bk. 15, p. 13.)

When this will was made Samuel Benton had given a considerable portion of his real estate to his sons. His eldest daughter, Sarah, had evidently displeased him, and when we see by the date of her marriage that she was only sixteen years old, we may infer that perhaps she made a runaway match. He gave her only twenty shillings "old tenor," that is, in the bills of credit issued by the Colony, and so depreciated that the twenty shillings were really worth only one shilling. Sarah was thus practically "cut off with a shilling."

His sons, Samuel and Daniel, were then prosperous citizens of Tolland. Jacob was the leading citizen of Harwinton. Caleb was married and living on his own place in Hartford. But Moses, the youngest son, and his sister Lydia were living at home, caring for their aged parents. Samuel probably made them executors of his will for this reason, as it was then usual to make the eldest son executor and quite unusual to make a daughter executrix when there were sons. He also gave the homestead to Moses, and a room in the house to Lydia to live in as long as she remained unmarried. At the time of her father's death she was forty-one years old, and probably never married but continued to live in the room given her until her death.

SAMUEL BENTON 1658
 No inventory of Samuel's estate is to be found, but he doubtless left a comfortable estate, as he was an active, enterprising man, with excellent capacity to acquire and manage property. The following is a facsimile of his signature to his last will now on file in the Probate Court.



He died April 10, 1746, at the age of eighty-eight years, and was buried in the cemetery at Hartford, April 11, 1746. This is shown by the entry on that day in the diary of the Rev. Daniel Wadsworth, pastor of the First Church, the entry being under that date: "This day Samuel Benton Interred," but there is not as yet any other record found of the death, and no tombstone marks the spot where he was buried. (*Wadsworth's Diary*, p. 130.)

Children of Samuel Benton

ALL the children of Samuel Benton were born in Hartford.

SAMUEL BENTON, Jr., born January 28, 1680, married Mary Pomeroy, daughter of Medad and Experience (Woodward) Pomeroy, of Northampton, Mass., January 2, 1704, and died at Tolland, Connecticut, February 8, 1763.

SARAH, born September 28, 1685, married Moses Blackley, Jr., of Guilford, January 11, 1702, when she was about sixteen years old. She was living when her father made his will in April, 1744.

HANNAH, born March 14, 1688, married Samuel Kellogg, of Hartford, May 11, 1711. Her husband died before January 18, 1713, as she was admitted to the Second Church of Hartford at that time as "Wid. Hannah Kellogg." She married a second time Joseph Root, of Farmington, Connecticut, October 20, 1716, and had several children. She died at Farmington.

ABIGAIL, born December 9, 1691, owned the covenant in the Second Church, April 12, 1741. She was living in 1744, and is mentioned in her father's will of that date.

CALEB, born March 1, 1694, married Hannah, daughter of Thomas Ensign of Hartford, probably in 1718 or 1719, as their first child, Hannah, was born at Hartford, June 27, 1720, and baptized in the Second Church, June 31, 1720. He was admitted to the Second Church, June 27, 1725, and his wife, Hannah, was admitted to the same church, February 20, 1725. He lived all his life at Hartford on a place towards the purchase of which his father gave him one hundred and twenty pounds, and he died at Hartford, July 25, 1776. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to his wife, Hannah, and his sons, Abraham and Thomas, December 2, 1755. (*Hartford Prob. Rec.*, Bk. 17, p. 87.)

DANIEL, born June 25, 1696, was admitted to the Second

Samuel Slade Benton

SAMUEL BENTON 1658 Church of Hartford, September 21, 1718. He married Mary Skinner, daughter of John and Rachel (Pratt) Skinner, January 3, 1722. She was born at Hartford, May 28, 1704, and died at Tolland, December 17, 1766. In 1719, his father gave him land in Tolland, Connecticut, and he moved to that town, where he afterwards lived, and died July 25, 1726.

JACOB, born September 21, 1698. A sketch of him follows at page 57.

MOSES, born April 26, 1702. A sketch of him is found at page 71.

LYDIA, baptized in the Second Church at Hartford, August 26, 1705, was living with her father at the time of his will in 1744, probably unmarried.

Jacob Benton

1698-1761

Jacob Benton

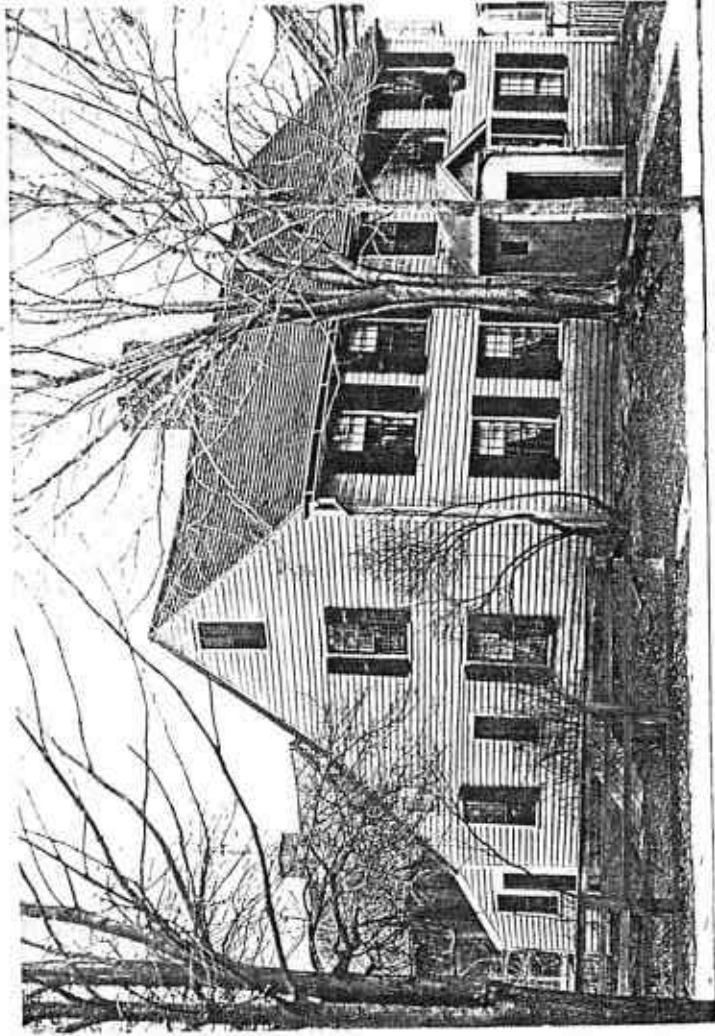
1698-1761

JACOB BENTON, the third son of Samuel Benton and Sarah (Chatterton) Benton, was born at Hartford, September 21, 1698, and baptized in the Second Church, September 26, 1698. His father was a large land-owner in Hartford and elsewhere, one of the selectmen, and one of the leading citizens of Hartford, and Jacob appears to have received more than the usual education of boys at that time.

April 3, 1723, he bought of his brother Samuel, who had removed to Tolland, the place on which Samuel had lived in Hartford, containing eight acres of land with house and other buildings thereon for one hundred and thirty pounds. This eight acres was the original home lot of Andrew Benton, Jr., and was purchased by Samuel Benton, Jr., February 5, 1708, after the death of Andrew. It was on the east side of what is now Washington Street, north of its junction with Webster Street, and south of the homestead of Jacob's father, Samuel Benton. A portion of it is now included in the grounds of the "Retreat for the Insane." July 6, 1724, Jacob married Abigail Carter, the daughter of Joshua and Martha (Skinner) Carter, of Hartford. She was a member of the First Church, admitted to full communion April 28, 1717, and the marriage was in that church. (*Hist. Catalogue, First Ch., Hartford*, p. 243.) They went to live on the place he had bought of his brother Samuel, and he resided there until 1736 or 1737. Abigail, the daughter of his first wife, and his sons, Jacob, Phineas, Amos, and Barnabas, children of his second wife, were all born in this house. March 10, 1741, Jacob sold this place to Deacon Joseph Holtom, of Hartford, for a consideration named in the deed of four hundred and eighty pounds. (*Hartford Rec.*, Bk. 6, p. 411.) About the year 1800 the house was moved across the street farther to the north, and it now stands on the west side of Washington Street. It does not

JACOB BENTON
1698
appear to have been changed, and the accompanying picture doubtless shows it substantially as it was when Jacob Benton lived in it. September 20, 1725, his wife Abigail died in this house, and April 4, 1728, he married, in the First Church, Elizabeth Hinsdell, daughter of Barnabas and Martha (Smith) Hinsdell of Hartford, where she was born January 9, 1703.

December 11, 1729, he was chosen surveyor of highways for the "South Side" in Hartford, and December 12, 1732, he was chosen grand juror. (*Hartford Town Votes*, Vol. II. pp. 69, 78.) His father was one of the original proprietors of Harwinton, a town about twenty miles from Hartford, and in August, 1732, he conveyed a portion of his right in this grant to his son Jacob, in consideration of the "love, goodwill, and affection" which he bore to his son. In May, 1736, Jacob with others petitioned the General Court for "authority to embody in Church estate and be incorporated as a town by the name of Harwinton," but authority apparently was not given, for October 4, 1737, another memorial for the same purpose was presented to the General Court, which stated that the population of Harwinton was then one hundred and sixty-one, of whom twenty-four were heads of families. Jacob Benton signed this memorial as "Senior Deacon," showing that the Harwinton Church had then been organized. Harwinton was incorporated as a town in October, 1737. The Act of incorporation recited the petition of the "Inhabitants of the Plantation called Harwinton" &c., and "Resolved that said Plantation be a Town Incorporate Known by the name of Harwinton and Vested with Town Priviledges as Other Towns in this Colony Established by Law are, and that a Tax of two pence pr. Acre shall be Assesed & Levyed upon all the Lands within the Bounds of said Town Annually for the Space of four years, next after the Session of the Gen' Assembly in May next in Lieu of any former Grant or Tax, and that the Collectors for the Time being in said Town shall annually Collect said Tax, who are hereby Authorized and Impowred to Collect the same as Other Collectors of town Rates by Law are & having Collected the same, said Collectors are to deliver the same to such Committee or Committees from Time to Time



Jacob Benton House, Hartford
1715

Book the first

Marwinton february: an. 2 Jan 1798

Marwinton town Boal for recording of Boals
born wot or Entorwy: Price four Pounds:

& Marwinton's First Town Boal

Price Four

~~Price Four~~

— Jacob Briten formerly of Hartford was married to Abigail
 Carter of hartford on the 8th Day of July anno dom 1724
 Abigail Bontons ^{of hartford} the daughter of Jacob Bonten and Abigail Briten
 his wife was born the 18th Day of September Anno dom 1725
 — Abigail Bonten of Hartford the wife of Jacob Briten on the 15th the
 Day of September Anno dom 1725

— Jacob Bonten formerly of Hartford was a gain: Married to Elisabth
 Hindsell of Hartford on the 4th Day of April anno dom 1722
 — Jacob Bonten jun^r of Hartford the son of Jacob Bonten and Elisabth
 his wife was born the 8th Day of January Anno dom 1723
 — Priscilla Bonten of Hartford the son of Jacob Bonten and Elisabth
 Bonten his wife was born the 10th Day of January Anno dom 1723
 — Jmes Bonten of Hartford the son of Jacob Bonten and Elisabth
 Bonten his wife was born the 10th Day of November Anno dom 1723
 — Barnabas Bonten of Hartford the son of Jacob Bonten and Elisabth
 Bonten his wife was born the 3rd Day of January Anno dom 1723
 — These four Sons was born at hartford but now are of Marwinton

— Elisabth Bontens ^{of Marwinton} the daughter of Jacob Bonten
 and Elisabth Bonten his wife was born the 1st Day of
 June Anno dom 1738

When this you see remember me Jacob

as said Town shall make Choice of for that purpose, and to be by them Applied and Improved, for the Support of the Gospell Ministry and Building a Meeting House in said Town, and it is further Resolved that said Inhabitants have Liberty to Join themselves into Church Estate and Settle an Orthodox Minister of the Gospell in said Town with the Advice and Consent of the Neighbouring Churches, and it is further by this Assembly Resolved that the Letter A shall be the brand for Horses in the Town of Harwinton." (*History of Harwinton*, p. 105.)

JACOB
BENTON
1698

The first town meeting was held at Jacob Benton's house in Harwinton, December 20, 1737. He was then chosen town clerk, chairman of the board of listers and rate-makers, and town treasurer, and was also made a committee to receive and dispose of the land-tax money that the General Court might order. He was town clerk from 1737 until 1741. The original records kept by him are still in existence in good condition, and the accompanying is a facsimile of the first page. It is interesting to his descendants not only as being an accurate record by him of his family at that time, but as showing that he was a good penman for the times. Few town records of that date are as clear and accurate as those kept by him. The first earmark recorded in Harwinton was "December 20, 1737, Jacob Bentens ear mark for his Creatures is a Cross on the near ear."* He was clerk of the Proprietors of East Harwinton from 1736, and was selectman of Harwinton in 1742, 1743, 1744, 1748, 1749, 1754, 1755, 1758. In 1758 he was a Deputy from Harwinton to the General Assembly. He was also sealer of weights and measures for several years, and held other minor offices at various times. It is apparent from the records that he was the most active and prominent citizen of the town for many years, both in town and church affairs.

April 21, 1738, at a town meeting held at his house he was put on "A Commeete to treet with Mr. Andrew Bartholomew in order to a settlement in the work of the Menesterry A mongst us and to Lay the Propossels y' Allready haue been Proposed before him and to bring his Answer if any bemad to the next meeting for a further Confirmation.

* The letter o was then often written as we now write the letter e.

JACOB
BENTON
1698

And it is farther voted that the said Commeete or any tow of them Shall make ther A Plication to the next Association for there advice in order to the Settlemnt of a minister amongst us." (*Harwinton Records*, Bk. 1; *History of Harwinton*, p. 58.) At a meeting of the Proprietors of East Harwinton, he was also put on a committee to lay out the land to be given to the ordained minister. (*Ibid.*, p. 60.)

He was quite active in school matters, as appears by the following town votes:—

"20 Jan., 1741/2. Voted: that: wee will: haue schooling sum part of the year. Voted that there be three: pence upon the pound leued upon the Grand List in order to Maintain a School in the town. Voted that Jacob Benten and Jonathan Hopkins and Nathan Davis Be a Commity in order to provide a Sofisiant School master and mistress for the year insuing in the town. Voted that the School for the Jnstructing the youth to Right and Read for two months this year Be at the Dweling House of Jsrael Merimon. Voted that the Rest of the Mony Be left to the Discretion of the Commity to Lay out upon School Dames—9 June 1743. Voted that any parson or parsons Joyning to gether to Build a School house in the town of Harwinton shall have Liberty to Build a Schoolhouse Sumwhere Neer the Meeting Hous upon there one cost. Voted that Jsrael Merrimon and Daniel Bartholomew Be a Commity to Determin the place whare the Schhol House Shall Stand. 13 Jan., 1745/6. Voted that there Shold be a School house built in Sum Conuenient place near the meeting house in Said Town. 17 Feb., 1745/6. it is now Voted that y^e above Said School house Shold butt Sumwhar neare y^e SouthEast corner of y^e R^d: M^t: Andrew Bartholomew y^e Lyeth West of y^e meeting house or near there as y^e Comiitis descretion Shall Lad them. Voted that y^e above menshoned School house Shall be Eighteen feet in length & Sixteen feet in Wedth one Story high. Voted that De:ⁿ Jacob Benton & Daniel Bartholomew & Jonathan Butler Shall be a Commity to order & See to y^e building & finishing of y^e above Said Schoolhouse. Voted that all y^e boards & Timber & Stone that was Left in finishing of y^e Loar part of y^e meeting house Shall be made Use of So fare as it will Go for the ben-

JACOB
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1698

fit of the above Said School house in any Use as sd Com- mity Shall See fit about sd house. 15 Dec., 1747. this meet- ing (begun at the Meeting-House,) is aiorned to the School house in y^e above Said town this meeting being opned at said School house they proseded uiz— Uoted that Amaziah Ash- man Shall be a town Inhabitant in this Town. Uoted that there Shall be a Rate Leued on poles and Ratable Estats in this town of Seventy pounds money of the old tener to De- fray the Charge of Building the Schoolhouse in this town in this year. Uoted that there Shell Be Twenty pounds in money of the old tenor Leued on poles and Ratable Estats in this town in order to maintaining of a Schoole a mongst in this town in the year Insuing. Uoted that D^r Jacob Benton & daniel Bartholomew & Samuel Phelps Shall be a Commitus to Receve and pay out the above Said money for Schooling as there Disscreshon Shall Lead them for the Best advantage for Educating yuth amonst us in this town for the year Jn- suing. 13 Dec., 1748. Uoted that there Shall be Eighty pounds in money of the old tenon Leved on pols and Ra- tabel Estats in this town in order to Cary (on) Schooling in this town the one half of it is to be improved to hire a School master as fare as it Shall Go in this town for the year insuing and the other half is to be improved to hire School danes in this town for y^e year Insuing. Uoted that d^r Jacob Benton and Samuel Phelps and Daniel Bartholomew and Daniel Phelps and Capt Daniel Messenger Shall be a Committee to order and a point a School master and School mistrises in this town in the year insuing and to Receive in and pay out the above Sum of money for the use aforesaid according to there Discretion for the Larning of the youth a mongst us to w(r)ight and Reade. 3 Dec., 1750. Voted that there be Sixty pounds leved for the hiring a School master to teach Children to Read & write Cypher the one half to be Raised by the town and the other half to be by the parents or mas- ters of the Children that they Send to Said School.

"Voted that there Shall be Forty pounds Raysd for the hir- ing of two women to teach Children to Read the Schools to be kept the one East Side of the town at Such Place as the Committee that Shall be Chosen Shall a point; to be Raised

JACOB
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1698

one half by the town the other half by the parents and masters of the Children that they send according to the number they send

"Voted that Ebenezer Hopkins Isaac Bull and Abijah Catling Shall be a Committee to order the prudentials of the Schools in hiring a School master and School mistrises and disposing the money that was Voted for School according to the true intent for what it was Granted. 3 Dec., 1751. Voted that there Shall be one hundred pounds in money of the old tenor Raised in this Town for Schooling of Children in order to teach them to writ and Read the one half of s^d money to be Raised on the Ratetabel Estate of the inhabitants and the other half to be——Raised upon the poles of Such Children as Shall be Sent (to) School the above money to be divided upon the List on Each Side of the town and Improved as the Committee that Shall Be Chosen Shall order the same in one Shool or more and to apoint the places to keep the Schools and git school masters for y^e same Voted that Ebenezer Hopkins and Abijah Catling and Lt Aaron Cook and Israel Merriman and David Hayden and decon Daniel Phelps Shall be a Comm(ittee) to apoint the Places for the Schools and dispose of the School money for the Use for which it is voted for.

"20 Dec., 1752. Voted that we will have a School in this town for the year Insuing to wit one month on the East Side of the town and one month at the School house in this town & one month on the West Side the Town Voted that their Shall be £60 00s : 00d in money of the old tenor Leived on the one half of it Leived on the Ratable Estate in this Town and the other half of the s^d money to be Leived on the poles of Such as Go to School in order to maintain a school among us Voted that Cyprian Webster & Samuel Phelps & Deⁿ Jacob Benton Shall be a Commetee to apoint places for Said School and to hire a School master for said School. 18 Sept., 1753. Voted that their Shall be Seventy Pounds money Levied on the poles & Ratable Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town to Defray the Charges of the meeting house and of the Schooling that we have had Done allready in this Town this year & pay for a Cloth to Cover the Ded that is all-

JACOB
BENTON
1698

ready provided in this town" (*Hist. of Harwinton*, pp. 42, 43, 44, 45.)

"20 March, 1753. voted that the proprietors will dispose of the undevided Land the interest of S^d money to Support a School in the west propriety of Harwinton." (From Records of "the west propriators of harwinton," *Ibid.*, p. 45.)

All the town meetings were held at Jacob Benton's house until January, 1741, after which they appear to have been held at the meeting-house.

Before pews were made in the body of the meeting-house the men sat on the right side of the house and the women on the left side, and the town assigned the seats by vote. February 17, 1746, the town voted that Jacob Bente (Benton) and others named should "Sit in y^e pew under y^e Stares at the west end of the meeting house," &c. In December, 1752, the town voted to raise fifty pounds in money, old tenor, to be "Leved on the Ratable Estate in this Town to defray the Charg of Building of the Pews in the Body of the meeting house." Jacob Benton was made chairman of a "Commetee to Look after and See that the Pews be made in the body of the meeting house and to draw the said 50 pounds in money and dispose of it to the workmen that doe the work." Also chairman of a committee "to be Seeters of the meetinghouse after the pews are made in the Loer part of the Meeting House."

Jacob Benton and Elizabeth Hinsdell Benton had five children:—Jacob, born January 8, 1728/9 at Hartford; Phinehas, born January 10, 1731/2 at Hartford; Amos, born November 10, 1732, at Hartford; Barnabas, born January 3, 1733/4 at Hartford; and Elizabeth, born June 17, 1738, at Harwinton.

Jacob Benton died November 23, 1761, at Harwinton. The entry in the Town Records is "Deacon Jacob Benton of Harwinton Died the 23rd day of November, 1761, in the sixty-second year of his age." He was buried in the "Old Cemetery" at Harwinton, though no stone now stands to mark the spot. He appears by the Town Records to have been a considerable land-owner in Harwinton, and although there is no inventory of his estate from which its amount can be ascertained, I think he left more than an average estate

JACOB
BENTON
1698

for the times. He made his last will December 11, 1760, as follows:—

IN the Name of God amen: y^e 11th Day of June A^o Dom^o: 1760. I Jacob Benton of Harwinton In the County of Litchfield & Colony of Connecticut in New-England, being at this present time Under Somewhat of Indisposition of Body: Nevertheless through y^e goodness of God Enjoying Soundness of Mind & Memory: & Calling to mind my own mortality & y^t it is appointed unto man to die, I Do therefore make & ordain this my last will & Testament, hereby, Revoking & Disannulling all former or other wills, Testaments or Executors by me Made—

And first of all I Recommend my Soul into the hands of God my faithfull Creator: hoping for the forgiveness of all my Sins, through the Merits, Righteousness & Mediation of Jesus Christ my Saviour & Redeemer: I Recommend my Body to y^e Earth to a Decent Buriall according to the Discretion of my Executors hereafter Named: & as touching Such worldly Estate or Goods as God hath pleased to bless me with in this Life, I Give Demise & Dispose of the Same in Manner following—

First I Do Give to my Eldest Son Jacob Benton, my Sixth or Last Division of Land in Harwinton, which Consists of Two Parts or Lottments, the one Containing twenty two acres & one Perch, the other five acres as may be Seen in the Survey Bill on Record having heretofore given him part of his portion; & in particular a featherbed with the furniture there-off which he hath now in possession—

I Do also Give him my Meadow lott which Lieth west of Cyprian Websters Esq^r: being on the other Side of the highway from his house: & Contains about thirty three acres and an Half, be the Same more or less. I also give him my Great Bible.

I Do also give to (my Grand child) Phinehas (y^e Son of my Son Jacob) one yoke of oxen: or the Value of a good yoke of oxen out of my Moveable Estate; in Case he arrives to y^e age of 21 years; otherwise, I give y^e above Specified to my Son Jacob:—

JACOB
BENTON
1698

I Give also to my Grandchild, Elizabeth; viz: my Son Jacob's Daughter, my best bed with all the furniture there-off; & my big Chest with Drawers & the Box that Usually Standeth thereon, & also my Great table, & my Great black Chair & three of y^e Small black Chairs; my best looking glass & Two platters & two plates, all which things here mentioned If She Should not live to possess or dispose off; or have heirs to possess & Inherit yⁿ my will is that they Should be my Son Jacob's & his Heirs for ever—

Secondly: I Give to my Son Amos Benton the one half of the Lott on which his Dwelling house Now Stands, having Already Given him the other half by Deed of Gift, the whole Lott Containing about 57 acres; I give him also my Lott which Lyeth & is Bounded Upon y^e Highway North of his dwelling house; S^d lott lying on the North Side of S^d Highway, & Contains about 50 acres; I give him also my weaving loom & y^e tackling or furniture which belongs thereto, which he hath Now in possession.—

Thirdly I give to my Son Barnabas Benton, my Homelott or Homestead, with the Buildings thereon; the lott being about 64 acres. I Give him also my Lott that is North & in the Same tear with my Homelott, being a lott that I Bought of Dan. ⁿ Hinsdell & Contains Fifty Six acres; & is Bounded North on land belonging to Jonathan Butlers Heirs, & South on Land Now belonging to Janna Griswold:—

I Give him also my great Kettle & my Great Pot, & the Remainder of my Chairs: which I have not already disposed off, also my Gun & my Small looking Glass & my Dish Kettle.

Fourthly: I Give my Daughter Abigail one Cow; & also So much out of my Moveable Estate as with the Cow Shall Make Seven Pounds taking y^e Cow & S^d Moveables as they Shall be prizd by the Executors of this my will; I give her also an Equal part with my children y^t is to a Say a fourth part of my Books (the great Bible excepted) being already disposed off: which with what She hath already had is to be Understood as her whole Portion—

And Now having Some Rights of land not as yet men-

JACOB
BENTON
1698

tioned, viz: In New Haven, which fell to me by my Honoured Mother, Sarah Benton & in Hartford by my Uncle Ebenezer Benton—& also in Harwinton In all undivided Lands: & if there Should be any belonging to me otherwise Not here mentioned: my will is y' all & every S^t Rights Should be Equally Divided between my Sons Jacob, Amos & Barnabas.

Moreover as there Remains yet Some Moveable Estate not disposed off I Do give in the first place to my Son Jacob one Cow & Six Sheep or y^e worth & value of them out of my Moveable Estate.

& in the Next place I give to my Son Amos one bed which I Call & is to be Understood as y^e meanest bed or least worth with its furniture

& my other bed Not yet disposed off I give to my Son Barnabas, with the furniture thereof—

& Now as to the Remainder of my Moveable Estate Not as yet disposed off My will is, that after my Just Debts & funerall Charges are paid; that it Should be Equally Divided between my Sons Jacob, Amos & Barnabas—

Moreover I Do Constitute & ordain my three Sons: viz: Jacob, Amos & Barnabas Executors of this my Last Will & Testament hereby Revoking all former & other wills & Testaments

& Pronounce & Declare this to be my Last will & Testament

Made & Dated In Harwinton this 11th Day of June—
A^o D^o one Thousand Seven Hundred & Sixty—

Signd Seald pronounced & Declard
to be the Last will & Testament
of Jacob Benton In presence off—

Abj^t Cutting

Andrew Bartholomew

Joseph Cook

JACOB BENTON (*Seal*)

November the 30 day 1761 then personally appeared Abijah Cutting & Andrew Bartholomew and Joseph Cook the witnesses of y^e foregoing will and made oath that the above named Jacob Benton Signed Sealed and declared the Same

to Be his Last will and testament in our presence and that he was in his perfect mind and memory this before me

JACOB
BENTON
1698

and we the above witnesses Signed in the presences of each other. CYPRIAN WEBSTER Justice of peace

This will was allowed by the Probate Court, at Litchfield, where it is now on file, November 30, 1761, but no inventory of the estate is to be found. The following is a facsimile of his signature to the will.

Jacob Benton

Deacon Jacob Benton was evidently a devout Christian, a public-spirited citizen, and an excellent husband and father, a good man of whom his descendants may well be proud.

Moses Benton

1702-1755

I HAVE been much aided in the preparation of the foregoing sketches of Andrew, Samuel, and Jacob Benton by Mr. Charles Towneley Martin of Hartford, who has not only freely given me information which he had gathered, but has personally examined all the original records referred to therein. Mr. Martin is descended on his mother's side from Moses Benton, a grandson of Andrew, and a brother of Jacob Benton. His mother was a daughter of Martha Benton, a daughter of Samuel, the son of Moses Benton. I therefore print the following sketches of Moses and Samuel Benton, and of Martha, the daughter of Samuel, from information given by Mr. Martin, to show my appreciation of his assistance, although they are no part of my original plan to publish information only as to Samuel Slade's direct line of descent from Andrew Benton.

Moses Benton

1702-1755

MOSSES BENTON, born at Hartford April 26, 1702, and baptized May 3, 1702, in the Second Church, was the youngest son of Samuel Benton, Sr., of Hartford. He lived with his father on the home place, about a mile and a quarter from the First Church, until his father's death in 1746, when the place was given to him by his father's will. He appears to have taken some part in town affairs, as he was chosen fence-viewer for the South side December 11, 1729, and was chosen collector of the Town rate December 18, 1733. He was a member of the Grand Jury in 1739 and one of the haywards in 1744. He was married to Merriam about 1740 or 1741, as their oldest child died November 12, 1815, at the age of seventy-three years. The most diligent search, however, does not discover any record of this marriage, nor is the surname of Moses' wife yet known. Moses Benton died at Hartford May 11, 1755, and was there buried May 12, 1755.

The inventory of his personal estate made October 3, 1755, amounted to £74 15s. 6d. Among other articles it included "Two bibles, a testament, Book of Mr. Whitfields, Wats hymns, Select hymns and Mr. Sheperds sound believer." No distribution of his real estate was made until June 30, 1773, when it was divided by an instrument executed by his widow and his children, Moses, Samuel, Martha, wife of Josiah Clark, Merriam, Jr., and Lydia Benton. The records of the Second Church of Hartford, where Moses would naturally have been a member, are lost between 1731 and 1790, and it is not known whether he was a member of the church, though the books contained in his inventory would indicate that he was. His father doubtless gave him the home estate and all his lands in Hartford because he had taken care of his parents in their old age. His wife, Merriam, appears to have been a woman of character and ability. When her husband died in 1755,

MOSES
BENTON
1702

she was left with the care of a family of small children, the youngest, Lydia, probably less than a year old. She evidently managed all the estate left by her husband, including that given to his children as well as that given to her, until the division of the real estate in 1773. She does not appear to have disposed of any of the property, but to have kept the estate entire. She died September 30, 1776, and was buried October 1, 1776, at Hartford, the sexton's record being: "Mother of Samuel Benton, 1 Oct. 1776, age 61 years." The following notice of her death in the *Connecticut Courant*, No. 611, October 7, 1776, shows the estimation in which she was held in Hartford: "Died at this place on Monday last, Mrs. Merriam Benton, widow of the late Mr. Moses Benton, in the sixtieth year of her age, justly lamented by her numerous children and acquaintances, was a person of a blameless character, of a kind and friendly temper and disposition to all especially to the sick and distressed."

The will of Moses Benton, executed May 8, 1755, only three days before his death, is now on file in the Probate Court at Hartford, where it was approved August 5, 1755. It is in the handwriting of Pelatiah Mills and is as follows:—

IN The Name of God Amen I Moses Benton of Hartford in Hartford Countey beinge Weeke & Low in Boodely Helth but of Sound minde & Memery for which I Desire to Bles God I Rrememberinge y^e it is appointed for all men once to Dye I Doe Hearby make & ordain this my Laste will and and Testement in maner & forme as followeth—

First & Principely I Recomend my Sole to God that Gave it Hopinge therow y^e Merits of a Glorus Jeseus to Receve y^e same att y^e Reserection of y^e Juste—and as touching y^e worldly estate & Good things with which it Hath Plesed God to bles me After y^e Payments of all my Dets & funerall charges I Dispose of in Maner following—

First I Give to my Well beloved Wiffe Merriam the use & Improvment of one Half of my Dewelinge House & the use & Improvment of five acres of Land adjoining on y^e South Side of my House Loot

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& to Extend Easte till s^d five acres be meseuered of & y^e Same to use & Improve as Longe as She Shall Remain my Widow and also one third of my Loot att West divition and also full & free Liberty to Git Her fier wood of of y^e Land that is Laid oute in y^e Late Divition of Hartford Comons and also one third Parte of my medow Land. begininge att Easte End & on y^e North Side of my Land tackinge one third parte of y^e Same all to be used & Disposed by Her Duriinge Her Remaininge my Widow—

and furthermore I Give & Bequeth to my s^d Wiffe the one third Parte of all my movable Goods and Stock of what Nature or kinde Soever to be Her own for ever—

Item. I Give to my three Dafters Martha & Mirriam and Lidiah one acre & Half of Land Each of them to Have oute of my Medow Lott and all y^e Remainder of my movable Estate to be thirs for ever & Equally Divided amongste them & further my will is y^e y^e Rentes and Improvments of my Sons Land for y^e term of tow years be Equeley Divided amongst my s^d three Dafters as also all my Land in s^d Hartford on y^e Easte Side of Connecticut River—

And furthermore I Give & Bequethe to my two Sons Moses & Samuell all y^e Reste of my Estate in Housings Lands wher soe Ever y^e Same Shall be to be Equely Divided between them and I Hearby macke & appoint Joseph Holtom of s^d Hartford & my Beloved wiffe Merriam to be the Executors of this my Will & Testement Hearby Declaringe & Pronouncinge this and this ondy to be my Laste will & testement Hearby Revokinge all other & former Wills by me Heartofore made In Confirmation wherof I Have Hearunto Set to my Hand & Seall this 8th of May 1755:

Pronounced Published and

Declared to be His Laste Will & Testement in

MOSES BENTON (*Seal*)

Presents of us as Witnises

Caleb benton

William Powill

Pel^d Mills

Children of Moses and Merriam Benton

MARTHA, the oldest child, married Josiah Clark of Hartford, the intention of marriage being published in the church at West Hartford, July 4, 1762. Their daughter, Eunice Clark, died July 1, 1774, aged ten years, as appears by the gravestone in the First Church graveyard at Hartford.

MOSES, the second child, was born in 1744. Little has been ascertained with regard to him. After the death of his father when he was fifteen years old, June 14, 1762, he made choice of Joseph Bunce as his guardian. (*Prob. Rec.*, Bk. 19, p. 9.) At the distribution of his father's estate in 1773, he appears to have been living at home with his mother, and he made a conveyance of land in Hartford, June 12, 1783. His niece, Mrs. Martha Lathrop, who was living in 1878, said that he was never married.

SAMUEL, the third child, was baptized June 18, 1749, in the First Church, and died April 23, 1803, as appears by the record of the Second Church. A sketch of him and his family follows.

MERRIAM, the fourth child, was born in 1754, and married Rev. Ithamar Colton April 24, 1794, as appears by the records of the Second Church. They soon moved to Granby, Connecticut. She died July 28, 1840, at the age of eighty-six years, as shown by her gravestone in the South graveyard at Hartford.

LYDIA, the youngest child, married John Nevens of Hartford, and she was living in 1773, at the time of the distribution of her father's estate, but the date of her birth, of her marriage, and of her death are not known.

Samuel, the son of Moses and Merriam Benton, was baptized in the First Church at Hartford, June 18, 1749. November 22, 1772, he married Prudence, the daughter of Zebulon and Keziah (Bull) Seymour, of Hartford, where

she was born April 3, 1755. By this marriage he became connected with one of the most influential families of the Second Church. There is no information to be had of his early life and education, but he was, like his father, a husbandman. After his father's death he and his brother Moses occupied the homestead which their father Moses inherited from his father Samuel, Moses occupying the south half, and Samuel with his mother the north half of the house. December 11, 1776, he was chosen tythingman, doubtless for the Second Church, which shows that he must have been a church member. (*Town Votes*, Vol. II. p. 257.) June 17, 1774, he mortgaged the seven acres of land and the north half of the house, which he had inherited from his father, Moses, to Thomas Seymour, a cousin of his wife, to secure a debt of sixty pounds. July 1, 1773, the day after he received his portion in the distribution of his father's estate, he appears to have begun to dispose of his lands. This might have been required by the hard times of the Revolution, or he might not have inherited the good business qualities of his grandfather, Samuel, for whom he was named. However this may be he continued to dispose of his lands until June 3, 1783, when he with his brother Moses gave a deed of their home lot to Thomas Seymour. By this conveyance the last of the upland owned by Andrew Benton passed out of the Benton family. Samuel, however, remained in the house as a tenant of Seymour until 1790, when he removed to Cooper Lane, now Lafayette Street, where he lived until his death, April 23, 1803. His wife Prudence survived him, and died September 1, 1831. He was a member of the Governor's Guard and thus exempt from service in the regular training band, but he volunteered and served in the war of the Revolution about eighteen months, and at some time during the war he had charge of a provision train, but no official record of his service is yet found. Samuel left his widow the care of a family of little children. To support herself and them she established a private school, such as was known a century ago as a "Dame School." "Miss Benton," as she was called, took small boys as well as girls into her school. She was a woman of remarkable energy, and her school is said to have been a good one for that time. She

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was an enthusiastic instructor, and kept a plentiful supply of willows at her desk. "Miss Benton" was succeeded in the school by Miss Thatcher, and later by Prudence Benton Lathrop, granddaughter of the founder. It was given up about 1850.

Samuel and Prudence Benton had the following children:—

Ursula, born August 24, 1773; died November 13, 1773.

Samuel, born August 20, 1774; died October 7, 1776.

Eunice, born July 19, 1776, who married Amos Thompson, December 18, 1794, and died at New Haven, Connecticut, September 30, 1832.

Prudence, born August 4, 1778. She was admitted to the Second Church in 1808, and died unmarried February 20, 1816.

Samuel 2nd, born August 30, 1780, and died September 8, 1780.

James, born October 1st, 1781, married Eunice Stanly of Wethersfield November 12, 1803, and died in the spring of 1837.

Samuel 3rd, born March 3, 1784; married Hulda, daughter of Rev. Elisha Barns, at Canaan, New York. He died at Ballston Springs, New York, August 15, 1863.

Martha, born May 21, 1786, married at Hartford, May 8, 1808, Dr. Frederick Lathrop, a lineal descendant of Rev. John Lathrop, of Scituate, Massachusetts. He was born at Lebanon, New Hampshire, August 21, 1782. In 1815 he with his wife Martha and their family went to Lebanon, New Hampshire, where he lived until May, 1818, when they removed to Buffalo, New York. The journey was a slow and tedious one, partly by team and partly by canal, and on the way he decided to settle at Batavia, New York. The country was then wild and unsettled, and they lived in constant fear of the Indians. Martha, who was known as "Patty," told her grandson, Mr. Martin, of the conditions which then prevailed, and how on one occasion, when on her way home after night-fall, she crawled into a hollow log lying across the path to escape a party of Indians who were passing. Their dog stopped at the log and growled, was spoken to by his master, and went on. After they had gone she came out and made her way home. They did not remain long at Batavia, but removed to Aurelius, New



Martha Benton Lathrop

1857

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

York, where they lived until the death of Dr. Lathrop, November 19, 1821. Martha was then left alone with a family, and her friends at Hartford being informed of her situation, her brother, James Benton, went from Hartford, in the spring of 1822, with an ox team and brought her and her family back to Hartford, the journey taking several weeks. After her return to Hartford, she, her mother, and her younger sister Betsey, lived together until the death of her mother in 1831, and then she and her sister lived together until the death of Betsey, June 24, 1847. Martha then went to live with her daughter Prudence, who married at New Haven, September 10, 1850, James B. Martin of Hartford. Charles Towneley Martin, referred to above, was their son. Martha Benton Lathrop died at her daughter's, Mrs. Martin's, home November 30, 1878, aged 92 years, 6 months and 9 days. She told her grandson, Mr. Martin, that during her long life, she never had a severe illness, and never had even a headache. She had an even temperament, and an amiable disposition, and was a devout Christian. At her death she was the oldest member of the Second Church at Hartford, to which she was admitted in 1824. The accompanying picture of her is from a daguerreotype in the possession of Mr. Martin, taken in June, 1857. Her children were Frederick, Jr., Orlando, Martha Ann, James, Elizabeth, Elderkin, Elijah Andrew, Lucinda, and Prudence Benton.

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Betsey, born September 6, 1788, died June 24, 1847, unmarried. She was admitted to the Second Church in 1808. She was fifteen years old when her father died, and afterward lived with her mother and then with her mother and sister, Mrs. Martha Lathrop. She had a fine voice, and was the leading singer in Hartford during the early part of the century, singing in the Second Church as long as her health permitted.

George, born April 23, 1791, married in 1812 at Milton, New York, Almena, daughter of Sylvanus and Mary (Palmer) Rugg of Milton, and died at Greenfield, New York, July 26, 1848.

Sally, born February 18, 1794, married April 6, 1814, David North of Berlin, Connecticut, and died at Schoharie, New York, May 31, 1878.

Samuel Slade Benton

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Moses, born March 2, 1797, died March 10, 1797.
Andrew, born February 9, 1800, married first Henrietta Hotchkiss, of New Haven, who died in a few months. He then married Aurelia Wells of Hartford, by whom he had two children, Maria and Henry. She died and he married as his third wife Dolly Stowe of Charlton, Massachusetts. They had children, Andrew, Henry, and Susan. He married as his fourth wife Melissa Judd, a widow, and he died at Beloit, Wisconsin, January 12, 1865.

He was first a printer and also a paper-maker, but in 1831 he was sent by the American Sunday-school Union to St. Louis to establish Sunday-schools. He studied theology at Lane Seminary, Walnut Hill, Ohio, became a clergyman, and was settled over the Presbyterian Church at Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, until he lost his health and was obliged to resign. He was then for several years associate editor of the *Watchman of the Valley* in Cincinnati, Ohio, and subsequently engaged in establishing educational institutions in Ohio.

Ursula and Samuel and Samuel 2nd, children of Samuel and Prudence Benton, were buried in the orchard east of Samuel's house and back of it. Ursula's burial was the first in what is now called the "Old South Burying Ground" on Maple Avenue. This burying ground, containing about four acres, was purchased by the Town in December 15, 1800, of Thomas Seymour, for \$400, and it contained the little orchard where Samuel's children were buried. He and his wife and other members of his family were afterwards buried there. The last burial in this ground was that of his daughter Martha, December 2, 1878, and she was the last survivor of his family.

Jacob Benton, Jr.

1729-1807

Jacob Benton, Jr.

1729-1807

JACOB BENTON, Jr., was born at Hartford, Connecticut, January 2, 1728/9, and baptized in the Second Church of Hartford on the 12th of the same month. He was the oldest son of Jacob Benton, Sr., and Elizabeth (Hinsdell) Benton, and was about six years old when his father removed from Hartford to Harwinton. As his father was one of the most prominent citizens of the Town and senior deacon of the church, and chairman of the school committee, Jacob doubtless had all the advantages for education which the town school and the church then afforded. I have in my possession original letters written by him when he was past middle age, which show that he wrote an excellent business hand, and I think he must have been trained in business and taught to keep accounts and records. The first record found of him is that of his election as "Lister and Rate maker" in Harwinton, December 3, 1751. He was reelected to this office in 1752 and 1753, showing that he held this important town office three years in succession before he was twenty-five years old. (*Harwinton Town Votes*, Vol. I.) In 1754 he had cattle of his own, for he was then given an earmark for his cattle in Harwinton, the record being, "Feb. 19, 1754. Jacob Benton Jr. Ear mark for his creatures is a happany cut upon the fore side of the off ear." December 3, 1754, he was chosen surveyor of highways, and the Town at the same time voted that "Jacob Benton, Jr. shall take the care of the Meeting House and to repair the same as ocation shall Call & bring in his account to the Select men." He was chosen surveyor of highways in 1755 and in December, 1757, he was chosen Tythingman. December 4, 1759, the Town passed the following votes:—

"Voted that Jacob Benton, Junior shall Be the Quorester to tune the Salms in this sosity." "Voted that Amos Benton shall tune the same in Jacob Bentons absence." In December, 1765, the Town voted that "L. Jacob Benton be Lister & Rate

See also p 95
for update on
Jacob Jr. and
his children.

Samuel Slade Benton

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maker." He does not appear by the record to have held any other town offices in Harwinton until 1775, when at a town meeting held September 19, it was voted "that Jacob Benton and Medad Hall be committee men for schooling for the year ensuing." The record also shows that he took the oath of fidelity in Harwinton April 13, 1778.

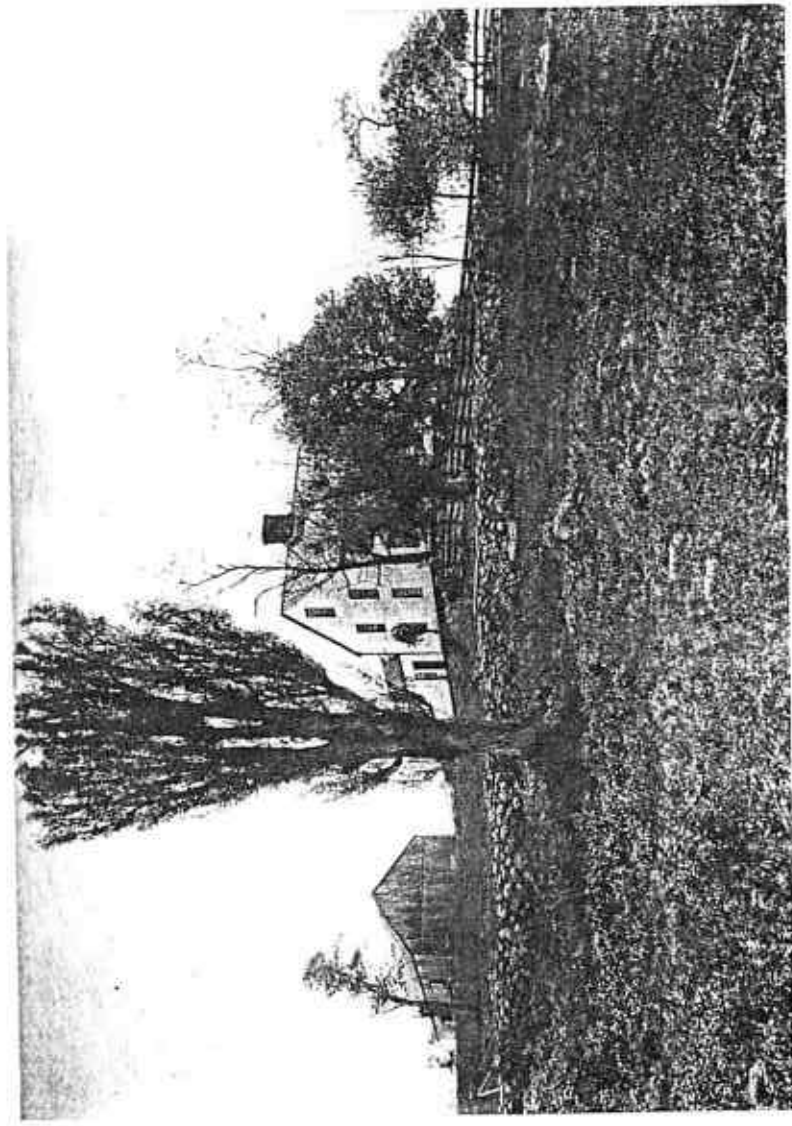
This oath was required by the acts of May and October, 1777, which required the person who took it to declare that he would faithfully maintain the government established in the State of Connecticut by the people, and that he "believed in his conscience that the King of Great Britain neither had nor of right ought to have any authority in or over the State." And the act provided that "no person in this state shall exercise any office, civil or military, or vote in any town, society, or other public meeting appointed by law, or plead in any court (except in his own case) until he has taken the oath of fidelity to the State." Also that no person should be an executor or administrator of any estate, or a guardian to any minor until he had taken the oath. (*Hinman's Connecticut in War of American Revolution*, pp. 221, 228.)

When his father's will was made, in June, 1760, Jacob was thirty-one years old, and the will shows that he had a son named Phineas and a daughter Elizabeth, and that he was then living in his own house at Harwinton. This house, built by him and still standing, is the residence of William S. Jones, and is called the "Winship Place." The accompanying is a picture of it as it now appears. The Town records of Harwinton do not show his marriage or the birth of any of his children, and the church records of Harwinton prior to 1790 are lost. But original letters from him and from his wife in my possession written from Rockingham, Vermont, between 1783 and 1805, show that his wife's name was Hannah, and leave little doubt that her maiden name was Slade.

These letters and family records show that Jacob and Hannah Benton had eight children: Phineas and Elizabeth, named in their grandfather's will, and Mabel, Jacob, Reynold, Chauncey, Mary, and Samuel Slade. Phineas and Elizabeth were both born before June, 1760, and doubtless at

Jacob
Benton
House

1760
The house was built by Jacob Benton in 1760. It is a two-story structure with a gambrel roof and a central chimney. The house is surrounded by a large, well-kept lawn and a stone wall. The house is in excellent condition and is a fine example of early American architecture.



Jacob Benton House, Harwinton
1760

Harwinton. The inscription on the tombstone of Elizabeth in the Harwinton cemetery states that she died August 23, 1820, aged 59 years, which would make the date of her birth 1761. But this is obviously not exact, for she was alive at the time of her grandfather's will in June, 1760, which would make her over sixty years of age when she died in 1820. It is not probable that she was born before Phineas, as in that case her age as stated on the tombstone would be incorrect by several years. I think she was probably born in 1759, and that Phineas was born in 1757 or 1758. The letters to which I have referred make no mention of Phineas but indicate clearly that Elizabeth was the oldest child then living.

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BENTON,
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The Town records of Alstead, New Hampshire, show that Mabel was married there December 11, 1783. I think it may be fairly assumed that she was then about twenty-two years old, and was born in 1761, or about two years after the birth of Elizabeth. The inscription put upon the tombstone of Jacob in the cemetery at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, by his brother, Samuel Slade, states that he died September 7, 1828, aged 62, which shows his birth to have been in 1766.

The records of the Second Church at Hartford and an original letter in my possession from his brother Jacob, show that Reynold died March 26, 1811, aged 43, which would make his birth to have been in 1768, or two years after his brother Jacob's birth. The record in a family Bible now owned by Mrs. Fannie Smith of Hartford, a great-granddaughter of Chauncey, shows that he was born August 1, 1770, and the record in the family Bible of Samuel Kingsbury, now in my possession, states that his wife, Mary Benton, was born at Harwinton, Connecticut, September 18, 1772, while the record in the family Bible of Samuel Slade Benton shows that he was born at Harwinton, Connecticut, April 27, 1777. These recorded dates are undoubtedly correct, and I believe the others are substantially accurate. I have no doubt that all the children of Jacob and Hannah Benton were born in Harwinton, Connecticut, and that he lived there until about 1782.

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The Town records of Harwinton, the Connecticut Colony records, the Probate records, and family records show that Jacob Benton was in Harwinton at the following dates: February 19, 1754, when he received an earmark for his cattle; in 1754 and in 1755, when he was surveyor of highways; in 1757, when he was Tythingman; in 1759, when he was "Quo-terer"; June 11, 1760, when his father's will was made; November 30, 1760, when his father's will was proved; May, 1761, when he was made a lieutenant, the record being, "This Assembly do establish Mr. Jacob Benton to be Lieutenant of the east company or train band in the town of Harwinton in the first regiment in this Colony" (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. V. p. 552); January, 1763, when an execution appears to have been issued against him as an executor of his father's will; in 1765, when he was lister; October 24, 1766, the date of the record of another earmark for his cattle, the record being, "24 Oct 1766 Jacob Benton's ear mark is a cross on the Right ear and on the under side of same across the ear," (in another handwriting is added) "this mark put to Nath^l Moody"; September 18, 1772, birth of his daughter Mary in Harwinton; January and May, 1774, when he was adjudged insolvent by the General Court on his own petition (*Pub. Rec. Conn.*, Vol. XIV. pp. 230, 276); in 1775, when he was one of the school committee; April 27, 1777, birth of his son, Samuel Slade, in Harwinton; and April 13, 1778, when he took the oath of fidelity in Harwinton.

The only thing to indicate that Jacob was not in Harwinton all this time is that in the list of unclaimed letters of January 25, 1766, published in the *Connecticut Courant*, February 3, 1766, the names of Jacob Benton and of his brother Amos of Harwinton appear, and in the same list of December 14, 1767, letters appear addressed to "Jacob Benton & Co. of Harwinton." But whether this is accurate, and whether Jacob then lived in Harwinton, and the letters were simply unclaimed, or whether he was then living temporarily elsewhere it is impossible to tell. That he and his wife were members of the church in Harwinton appears from the records of the Congregational Church in Rockingham, Vermont, now in the possession of Mrs. W. H. H.

JACOB
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Putnam of Springfield, Vermont, which show that September 10, 1786, his wife was admitted to that church by letter from the church in Harwinton, and that September 4, 1791, he was admitted to that church by letter from the church in Harwinton. The church records of Harwinton prior to 1790 being lost, it is impossible to tell when they became members there. I believe, however, that they were members at the time of their marriage or soon after it, and that all their children were baptized in the Harwinton Church.

Jacob and his brothers Moses and Barnabas were executors of his father's will, and they evidently each received a fair estate from their father. Jacob and his brother Amos went into business as "Jacob Benton & Co." The tradition is that they speculated and failed and lost their property, and the records confirm this. April 25, 1767, Amos Benton conveyed to John Smith, merchant, of New York City, land received from his father by will, and May 11, 1768, Jacob and Amos conveyed to John Smith, merchant, of New York City, land received by will from their father. I am inclined to think that Jacob, Sr., kept a country store in Harwinton, and that after his death his sons Jacob and Amos carried on the business unsuccessfully, and failed and lost their property sometime before 1774, in which year Jacob applied for and received a special act of insolvency from the Assembly. He was then nearly fifty years of age, and soon sought a new home for himself and family. The course of immigration from Connecticut was then up the river to New Hampshire and Vermont. John Slade, who I think was the brother of Hannah, Jacob's wife, had settled in Alstead, New Hampshire, then a frontier town, and Jacob and Hannah Benton went there, in 1782. He had with him his wife and all his children then living except Elizabeth, who was then married to Silas Gridley of Harwinton, and Chauncey, who was for some reason in Hartford. Mabel, doubtless the oldest except Elizabeth, was then about twenty or twenty-one years old, Jacob, the oldest son, sixteen or seventeen, Reynold about fourteen, Mary ten or eleven, and Samuel Slade five or six years old. Jacob Benton was not destitute, for he appears to have had property and to have been taxed in Alstead, but follow-

JACOB
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ing what was then quite a general custom in New Hampshire and Vermont, to prevent new-comers from obtaining settlement so that if they became destitute the town would become chargeable for their support, the selectmen of Alstead caused Jacob Benton and his wife and children to be duly "warned to depart." The record of this is as follows:—

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, CHESHIRE SS.

To SAML. KIDDER one of the Constables of Alstead,

Greeting

I N the name of the Government & people of said state you are hereby Required forthwith to warn Jacob Benton & Hannah his wife, Mabel, Jacob, Reynold, Mary & Samuel Benton, their children to Depart out of this Town Immediately & no longer make it the place of their Residence under the pains that will follow. Hereof fail not & make Return of this warrant with your doings thereon as soon as may be

Given under our hands & seal of office this 26th March 1783.

AMOS SHEPARD	} <i>Selectmen.</i>
TIMO. FLETCHER	
SIMON BROOKS JR.	

April 7, 1783.

Serv^d this warrant by reading the same in the hearing of s^d persons.

SAML KIDDER
Const.

(*Alstead Records*, Vol. A, p. 154.)

As the law then was, such a warning notice, to be effective, must be given within one year after the person warned came into the town. (*Acts and Laws Province N. H.*, 1696–1725, p. 137.) This notice therefore shows that Jacob Benton and his wife and children went to Alstead as late at least as March, 1782, or about five years after the latest date at which there is any positive evidence of his being in Harwinton. He may perhaps have been in Hartford a portion of this time and have gone from there to Alstead, but there is no evidence of it. He evidently remained in Alstead two or three years, as his daughter Mabel married there December 11, 1783,

JACOB
BENTON,
JUNIOR
1729

and is stated in the record to have been "of Alstead," but the admission of his wife to the Rockingham Church in September, 1786, shows that he probably went to Rockingham before that time, and an original letter from him which I have, written March 6, 1787, shows that he was then living there. He appears, however, to have been taxed in Alstead as late as 1787, as the Town records show that his "state tax of thirty one shillings certificates and five shillings school tax in John Slades hands" were abated March 11, 1788. It is likely that he removed from Alstead to Rockingham very early in 1787 and that his tax of that year in Alstead was abated as improperly assessed. Rockingham included Bellows Falls and was the head of navigation by boats from Connecticut, and I think Jacob Benton traded there in a small way for some time. He lived on a small place on the river road which was too small for a farm, and his letters to his son Reynold and others in Connecticut show that salt and other articles of merchandise were sent to him by boat, and that he sent back "shooks of staves" and other articles then produced in that part of Vermont and New Hampshire. He was a trader in Harwinton, and doubtless continued to trade in Rockingham until he was old and infirm, when he was supported by his son Jacob. His wife died at Rockingham July 21, 1805, and is doubtless buried in the churchyard of the old Congregational Church, though there is no record of it and no stone or other memorial to be found which shows it. After her death he was in feeble health, but he remained at Rockingham until the fall of 1806, when he went to his daughter Mary Kingsbury's home in Alstead, where he died January 13, 1807, at the age of seventy-eight. He was probably buried by the side of his wife at Rockingham, but it is impossible to tell definitely, as no record of it exists, and no gravestone can be found.

The dates of the births and deaths of his children as nearly as they can be now fixed are as follows: Phineas, born at Harwinton, probably in 1757 or 1758 (he died, probably in childhood, at Harwinton); Elizabeth, born at Harwinton about 1759, died at Harwinton, August 23, 1820; Mabel, born about 1761, died at some time after 1830; Jacob, born

Samuel Slade Benton

JACOB BENTON, JUNIOR 1729 at Harwinton, 1766, died at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, September 7, 1828; Reynold, born at Harwinton about 1768, died at Hartford, Connecticut, March 26, 1811; Chauncey, born at Harwinton, August 1, 1770, died at Hartford, Connecticut, August 17, 1833; Mary, born at Harwinton, September 18, 1772, died at Amherst, Massachusetts, June 19, 1841; Samuel Slade, born at Harwinton, April 27, 1777, died at Newbury, Vermont, December 15, 1857.

Jacob Benton and his wife were both earnest Christians, and without doubt all their children were baptized in the Congregational Church. It was to him that his father gave by will his "Great Bible," and he evidently instructed his children therein, for they all appear to have been familiar with the Scriptures and believers in the Congregational church. The following letters, the originals of which I have, show something of the character of Jacob and Hannah Benton, and should be of interest to their descendants:—

Jacob-Hannah Benton to Silas Gridley.

DEAR SON AND DAUGHTER: After our regards to you and your children would inform you that we are all as well as common and Mabel and her children. We received your letter in a few days after it was writ. Samuel was taken in December unwell and a pain settled in the side of his neck, and after a while it began to swell and very painful for a fortnight or more and then the Doctor opened it and then he was some better, but it was more than a month before he was fit to go to school.

But Mabel sold her horse a few days before she received your letter and was gone to keep house this winter for a man and it is so difficult to hire a horse for so long a journey, and it has got so late in the winter that it will not be safe to go with the sleigh and my mare is so heavy with foal that she will not do to ride. I intended to come and see you this winter but I do not see as I can at present. I sent Chauncey a letter when I sent you one, and another since, but have had none from him. We heard last week by a traveller that William Slade was gone to Woodbury or New Milford to be married. Mabel came home last Saturday to see us and is here now. We should be glad you

His Ancestors

would send us a letter and about Brother Amos (*Several lines missing here*)

JACOB HANNAH BENTON.

JACOB BENTON, JUNIOR 1729

Rockingham, February 9th, 1789.

In handwriting of Jacob Benton.

Directed to Mr. Silas Gridley in Harwinton.

Jacob Hannah Benton to Silas and Elizabeth Gridley:

SILAS AND ELIZABETH: After our dearest regards to you and Reynold & your children would inform you that we are all as well as common, hoping this will find you so. But should be very glad to hear that it is so. We have never heard from you since your mother came from you. We have sent two or three letters but no answer. We take it very hard that Reynold nor you have not sent us a letter this Summer. It is uncertain whether our letters ever come to you or not, but you can pretty certainly send us a letter if you would leave it at Mr. Calder's at Hartford Ferry. We have sent there several times by the boatmen but they can find no letter for us. We want to know what Reynold is about. The neighbours keep inquiring whether we have heard from him till we are ashamed. We hope some of you will come and see us this fall and we want to have you write whether you intend to come or not. I intend to come and see you next winter if I can. We expect Mary will have another child in a month or two. We want to hear from your Aunt Dochester. Your Aunt Slade remains in a very weak and low state not like to live long. The rest of them are as well as common. Mabel was unwell a spell in the spring, but has got some better. We have not heard very lately from Chauncey. Jacob lives yet with Conol Bellows at the Yellow House. We see him very often. We shall expect that Reynold will come and see us soon as his business will allow of it if you cannot come. We have sent and waited so long to hear from you that we are discouraged of sending by private persons and send this by post. Shall not enlarge at this time, but remain

Your ever mindful parents,

JACOB HANNAH BENTON.

Rockingham July 29th, 1791

JACOB
BENTON,
JUNIOR
1729

SILAS AND ELIZABETH: After our sincerest regards to you and your children your father and mother, brothers and sisters, Lieutenant Joseph Cook and his wife, Mrs. Lankton and all inquiring friends, would inform that we are as well as common, sometimes troubled with rheumatism. Pains and infirmities of old age creep upon us. We have had some talk of going to see you this winter but have slung it by at present, but I intend if I am alive and well enough to go and see you before another winter. We received a letter from Tine Bradley the Summer past and they wrote that their daughter lay at the point of death and we have n't heard anything since. We want to hear from them and John.

We want to hear whether Sergeant (*Missing*) is alive and whether there is any of our acquaintance dead. Shall not enlarge, but ever remain,

Your mindfull parents

JACOB HANNAH BENTON.

Rockingham January the 9th, 1799

SILAS AND ELIZABETH: After our Sincerest Respects to you and your children your Father and Mother and all inquiring friends would inform you that we are yet alive but are troubled with the infirmities of old age and lameness and other difficulties, and are left pretty much alone this Summer. Jacob and Samuel went up the River about 90 miles and bought each of them farms and Jacob came home in July but stayed but a day or two. Samuel came home last week and stayed but one night Mr. Gilbird came here last Saturday and told us that you were all well and neighbours in general—Wooster and Kingsberry and the three families were all well a few days ago Mable had a Daughter born about six weeks past. Mr. Gilbird informed us that there has been a great stir of religion in town of late and many added to the Church and hopefully to the Lord of such as shall be saved, which we rejoiced to hear of, and praying and hoping that you and all others will be careful to maintain good works and stand firm in the faith to the end. I laid out to go and see you this month but I cannot go till Jacob or

JACOB
BENTON,
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1729

Samuel come home so I cannot set any time at present but intend to go as soon as I can.

I shall not enlarge at present but remain your mindfull Parent till Death. Praying and hoping that we and you all may so live here in the world that whether we have an opportunity of seeing the faces of one another in this world we may all meet in heaven, which may God of his infinite mercy grant through Christ

JACOB HANNAH BENTON.

Rockingham October the 5 1801.

The following letter to Elizabeth Gridley in 1803 is probably the last letter ever written by Hannah Benton.

Rockingham, July 6th.

DEAR Child. I take this opportunity to send my kind love to you all, and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying good health. I take this opportunity to write to you to inform you that I am exceeding unwell . . . to the dropsy consumption, and I am losing my flesh very fast and seemingly I am drawing quite fast by the borders of the grave. I want to have you come and see me if you can make it convenient and I wish you not to fail coming for I think you will never have an other opportunity of coming to see me I wish you not to put it any longer it comes a little cooler weather I want to have your husband come with you, but if he can't make it convenient I wish to have your oldest son come with you I must insist on your coming to see me once more. Your Father is well as common and your sisters and their familys Your sister Mary has lost her youngest son this spring Your brother Jacob and Samuel live an hundred miles up the river We heard from them last May and they were then well If you can make it convenient to come I want to have you come in a carriage for that will not weary you so much as riding a horse back and they say that it is a very good carriage road. I have no more to write but remain

Your ever mindful parent till death

HANNAH BENTON.

Directed on the outside to Mr. Silas Gridley, Harwinton.

No date. Evidently not sent by post.

JACOB
BENTON,
JUNIOR
1729

The following is probably the last letter written by Jacob Benton.

REYNOLD AND CHAUNCEY: After due regards would inform you that your Mother grew some weaker along for this month past and seemed to be better on some account but was taken the Monday before last with a purging and we thought she was a dying for some time, but recovered again, and sometimes better and then worse, and her reason failed with her strength and she lived until Sabbath day the 21st and died about 3 o'clock afternoon. She had the jaunders and dropsy and no medicine seemed to do any good, and she was in great distress, seemed to be dying for 2 days. Mabel and Mary were here with her for a week before she died. She didn't have watchers but about nine days and failed very fast. I have a housekeeper that lives with me at present and will stay a spell longer. My pen and ink so poor shall not Inlarge but remain

Your lonesome Parent, JACOB BENTON.

Rockingham, July 24th, 1805.

After you have read the letter I wish you would wrap a paper around this and send it to Harwinton.

The following is a facsimile of the signature of Jacob Benton, written when he was seventy-six.

The following letter, which I have from his son Jacob to Silas Gridley and Elizabeth Gridley, states the circumstances of the death of Jacob Benton.

Alstead, January 28, 1807.

DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER: I have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from Sister and felt sensibly touched with it. Feeling for the misfortune of your family and sincerely hope ere this that health may be enjoyed by you all.

JACOB
BENTON,
JUNIOR
1729

Although I have not written before it has not proceeded from an indifference toward you, but nothing but ordinary occurrences has happened with me until of late. Near the last of December I received a letter from Sister Kingsbury that Father was at their house lame and sick, but it being inconvenient for me to go immediately did not arrive till the 18th Jny, but he had died the Tuesday preceding, 13th, much sooner than had been previously expected. He lived two months or more at Kingsbury's last Winter, but would go back to Rockingham in the Spring where he lived in a very ill condition until November when Mr. Webb brought him to Alstead. He was confined to the room and his bed ever after. His disorder proved to be the dropsy and asthma. They had medical assistance but it gave him but temporary relief. He retained his rational faculties to the last. Mr. Kingsbury's family are passably well at present. They had a child last Spring that died. Candese has had Fits and much more misfortune, and it is with painful anxiety that I reflect on his being much involved in debt. Worcester family are well. One child four months old well when I left there. Circumstances favorable I stay at Waterford yet, but have not purchased anywhere. Any communication from you would be gladly received. My best wishes for your prosperity, and am with sincerity

Yours &c.
JACOB BENTON.

Brothers and Sisters of Jacob Benton, Jr.

ABIGAIL, daughter of Abigail (Carter) Benton, the first wife of Jacob Benton, Sr., was a half-sister of Jacob Benton, Jr. She was born at Hartford, September 18, 1725, and I think baptized in the First Church September 19, 1725. I have no further accurate information of her except that she was living at the date of her father's will, June 11, 1760, and is there mentioned as "my daughter Abigail." It is thought by some that she was the Abigail Benton who is said to have married Timothy Dodd, son of Timothy and Lydia (Flowers) Dodd, about 1752. (*Hinman's Conn. Settlers*, p. 209.)

PHINEAS, born at Hartford, January 10, 1731^{1/2}, was the second son of Jacob Benton, Sr., and Elizabeth (Hinsdell) Benton, and I think died August 16, 1749.

AMOS, son of Jacob Benton, Sr., and Elizabeth (Hinsdell) Benton, was born at Hartford, November 10, 1732, and baptized November 12, 1732. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Hinsdale) White, at Hartford, May 13, 1756. She was born August 28, 1726, and died at Harwinton, August 17, 1757. They had one child—

Amos, born at Harwinton, March 27, 1757.

Amos Benton married, second, Jerusha Bull of Harwinton, January 18, 1759, and they had the following children born in Harwinton:—

Nathaniel White, born January 5, 1760.

Rimmon, born May 29, 1761; died in December, 1831.

Jerusha, born November 25, 1762.

Abigail, born January 23, 1765; died June 3, 1792.

Ichabod, born September 13, 1767; died January 14, 1854.

Roger, born August 13, 1770.

Phineas, born September 12, 1772; died January 30, 1774, at Farmington, Connecticut.

SINCE the foregoing Sketch of Jacob Benton, Jr., was printed, the Harwinton Church records from 1774 to May 1, 1784, have been found. They show that at some time between February, 1774, and October 23, 1774, "Jacob Benton and Hannah his wife" were admitted as members; also that in October, 1775, "Honor, daughter of Jacob Benton," was baptized, and that in October, 1777, "Samuel Slade, son of Jacob Benton," was baptized.

Jacob Benton was one of the minority in the Harwinton Church who were opposed to the pastor in the controversy as to baptism, which is stated in the records as follows:—

"28 Sept., 1778. . . . there is a difficulty Arose in the Society by Reason of the Rev^d Mr David Perry Refusing to Baptise Children of those parents who were in Covenant when s^d Rev^d Mr. Perry Ordained in the work of the Ministry.

"Voted it is the Minds of the Society that the Rev^d Mr David Perry is holden by a Covenant he has made with his People to Baptise the Children of those person who was in Covenant when the Rev^d Mr Perry was Ordained and Look upon it the Duty of the Rev^d Mr Perry to do the same."

March 10, 1779, twenty members, including Jacob Benton, were voted to have been guilty of "abusive and unchristian behavior toward both the pastor and church," and April 30, 1779, they were all "suspended."

This schism in the Harwinton Church resulted in the dismissal of Mr. Perry December 23, 1783, and caused more than one-fourth of the inhabitants of the town to leave their connection with the original society. Jacob Benton, however, doubtless retained his membership, for in 1791 he was admitted to the church at Rockingham, Vermont, upon letter from the Harwinton Church.

They had also one child born at Lenox, Massachusetts—
Phineas 2nd, born September 12, 1777.

Jerusha (Bull) Benton, wife of Amos Benton, died June 3, 1793, and he died February 20, 1797, both I think at Lenox, Massachusetts.

JACOB
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1729

Amos, son of Amos and Elizabeth (White) Benton, born March 27, 1757, left two sons, Amos and Erastus. After his death they sold their little homestead in Lenox, Massachusetts, and moved into the western part of New York, as I am informed. I do not know whom Erastus married, or anything of his family, except that he is said to have had two sons. I do not know whom Amos married, but I am told that he had a family of thirteen children, all twins but one. He is said to have been an elder in the Reformed Methodist Church.

Nathaniel White married and had sons, who, I am informed, went to Michigan.

Rimmon is said to have settled in Shoreham, Vermont, and to have had one son, Joseph Benton, who settled in Maine and had a family of ten children.

Abigail, daughter of Amos and Jerusha (Bull) Benton, married Barnabas Ames at Harwinton, as I am informed.

Roger married and had sons, who, I am informed, now live in Newark, New Jersey.

BARNABAS, son of Jacob Benton, Sr., and Elizabeth (Hinsdell) Benton, born at Hartford, January 3, 1734/5, and the youngest brother of Jacob Benton, Jr., married Martha Griswold February 15, 1758. They had ten children, all born in Harwinton:—

Martha, born February 27, 1759.

Barnabas, born November 24, 1760; died September 2, 1763.

Lorene, born June 22, 1762.

Barnabas 2nd, born April 17, 1764; died May 3, 1764.

Barnabas 3rd, born March 8, 1765.

Seth, born May 20, 1767.

William, born April 22, 1769.

Lydia, born May 4, 1771.

Abigail, born April 19, 1774; died August 8, 1857.

Cynthia, born July 18, 1776.

Samuel Slade Benton

JACOB BENTON, JUNIOR
1729
Martha, the oldest child of Barnabas, is said to have married Joseph Cooley, March 14, 1779.

Lorene married Ashbel Porter.

William, son of Barnabas, married Lois Kellogg, March 17, 1793, and they had four children born at Harwinton:—

Willis, born January 8, 1794.

Lois, born March 9, 1796.

William Pomeroy, born July 7, 1798.

Maria, born September 29, 1800.

Abigail, daughter of Barnabas, married Job Alfred at Harwinton, October 9, 1793, and died at Harwinton, August 8, 1857.

Of the other children of Barnabas I have no information.

I believe the above with regard to Amos and Barnabas, brothers of Jacob Benton, Jr., and their families to be substantially accurate, but I have not been able with the time at my command to investigate sufficiently to be certain about it, and print it only as the best information I have.

ELIZABETH, youngest daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Hinsdell) Benton, born at Harwinton, June 17, 1738, is not mentioned in her father's will, made December 11, 1760, and I have no information concerning her. I think she probably died in childhood.

Children of Jacob Benton, Jr.

THE children of Jacob Benton, Jr., were all doubtless born at Harwinton, Connecticut, most, if not all, of them, I have no doubt, in the house built by him and now standing. (*Shown on page 82, ante.*)

PHINEAS was probably born in 1757 or 1758, and though living at the date of his grandfather's will in 1760, doubtless died in childhood.

Sketches of the other children of Jacob Benton, Jr., namely:—

ELIZABETH, born probably in 1759,

MABEL, born about 1761,

JACOB, born in 1766,

REYNOLD, born probably in 1768,

CHAUNCEY, born August 1, 1770,

MARY, born September 18, 1772,

SAMUEL SLADE, born April 27, 1777,

will be found on the pages which follow.

The information for these sketches, with the exception of that of Samuel Slade, my grandfather, has been very difficult to obtain, and I am not certain of the accuracy of all the names and dates given. But I think the sketches are substantially accurate and that they give as much information as can now be had of the children of Jacob Benton, Jr. The descendants of Elizabeth, Mabel, Reynold, Chauncey, and Mary are widely scattered, and it has not been possible within the time at my command to obtain more knowledge of them than I have above given.

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