

The original seat of this family CONVERSE was in Navarre, France, from which place removed to England Roger de Coigniers, near the close of the reign of William the Conqueror. He was appointed constable of Durham by the bishop of Durham. Among his descendants Conyers of Horden, Durham, was created a baronet, July 1, 1548. Sir Humphrey of the eighth generation wrote the name Coigniers, and Sir Christopher of the twentieth generation adopted the form Conyers. Those bearing the name in Navarre were Huguenots or French Protestants and in the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's day in 1572, many of this family fell victims. At this time Pierre Coigniers, who was attached to the court of Henry IV of France, made his escape with his wife and two infants and settled in the county of Essex, England. In England the spelling of the name was quite naturally changed to correspond with its pronunciation of Conyers. Some of the descendants now spell it Convers and it took this form for some generations after coming to America.

(I) The immigrant ancestor was Deacon Edward Convers, who came to New England in the fleet of Governor Winthrop in 1630, and settled in Charlestown, Massachusetts. In 1631 a grant was made to him of the first ferry between Charlestown and Boston, and of this he retained control for several years under the favor of the general court. In the same year he was admitted a freeman, and was selectman from 1635 to 1640. His name is first on the list of seven commissioners appointed by the church in Charlestown to arrange for a settlement at Woburn. With others he removed to the new town and ably assisted in its settlement and organization, and after its incorporation he became one of its most useful and honored citizens. He was selectman of the town from 1644 until his death, and was one of the commissioners for the trial of minor causes. He was also one of the founders of the Woburn Church and a deacon for many years. His residence was in what is now a part of Winchester, and there he died August 10, 1663, aged seventy-three years. He was accompanied on his journey to America by his wife Sarah and several children. She died January 14, 1662, and he was married (second) September 19, following, to Joanna, widow of Ralph Sprague. He had three sons and a daughter: Josiah, James, Samuel and Mary.

(II) James, second son of Deacon Edward and

## MPSHIRE.

Sarah Convers, was a native of England, born 1619-20, and came to America with his father when a child. He resided in Woburn and according to the history of that town "through long life he was a very valuable and highly esteemed citizen and was repeatedly honored by the town with the principle offices." He died May 10, 1717, aged ninety-five years. He was married October 24, 1643, to Anna Long, daughter of Robert Long, of Charlestown, and they were the parents of ten children.

(III) Major James (2) Convers, eldest son of Ensign James (1) Convers, was born October 16, 1645, in Woburn, and died there July 8, 1706, in the sixty-first year of his age. He was a man of considerable prominence in civil affairs, and also won distinction in the war with the French and Indians. His daring and successful defence of Storer's Garrison at Wells in the year 1691, and during the war usually styled "King William's War." earned him promotion to the rank of major. He was ten years a member of the general court, and was three times elected speaker of the house. He was married January 1, 1669, to Hannah Carter, who was born January 19, 1651, a daughter of Captain John and Elizabeth Carter, of Woburn. They had nine children, only five of whom survived the period of youth.

(IV) John, son of Major James (2) and Hannah (Carter) Converse, was born August 22, 1673, in Woburn, and resided in that town until after 1708, when he was absent about twenty years. It is probable that during this time he lived in Dunstable, as he was a resident of that town subsequently. He was married May 22, 1699, to Abigail Sawyer, who was born March 17, 1679, daughter of Joshua Sawyer, of Woburn. The births of two of their children are recorded in Woburn previous to 1708, and his next appearance in the records of that town is at the birth of his son John, July 31, 1728. The older children were Joshua and Patience, and there were probably others between, the record of whose births has not been discovered.

(V) Joshua, eldest son of John and Abigail Sawyer) Converse, was born June 3, 1704, in Woburn, but was early a resident of Dunstable. In the year 1729 he removed to lot number four, within the present town of Merrimack, New Hampshire, then constituting a part of the tract lying on both sides of the river known by the name of Naticook, or Litchfield. He was frequently elected to office, serving as moderator, assessor and selectman, and upon several important committees. He was drowned in the Merrimack river in 1744. In the return of his estate found in the probate records it is shown to have been valued at one thousand, two hundred and five pounds, fourteen shillings and four pence. His property included an interest in a saw mill and in other lands besides his homestead. His personal property was valued at nearly one hundred and forty-five pounds, outside of bonds, notes and book debts, which nearly trebled that amount. He was married July 31, 1729, to Rachael Blanchard, who was born March 23, 1712, in Dun-

seventh daughter and eighth child of Joseph and Abiah (Hassel) Blanchard. (See Blanchard III). This marriage is recorded in Woburn and both parties are described as at Dunstable. The names of two of their children, Joseph and Jesse, is found upon the records of the ancient town of Litchfield, and the third, Zebulon, is recorded in Merrimack, which was in 1744. There were no doubt other older children which do not appear of record. Joseph's birth is recorded as occurring in November, 1739.

(VI) Robert, who was undoubtedly a son of Joshua and Rachael (Blanchard) Converse, was born in 1735. The History of Amherst says he was born in Woburn and this might easily have been true during a visit of his parents to that town. It is more probable, however, that he was born in Litchfield. In 1783 he settled in the town of Amherst, adjoining the town where he was reared, and there died March 30, 1826. He was married in 1778 to Mary Lamb, who died December 15, 1827, aged eighty-seven years. For a time they resided in Stoneham, Massachusetts, where their eldest son was born. Their children were: Josiah, Ebenezer and Rebecca.

(VII) Ebenezer, second son and child of Robert and Mary (Lamb) Converse, was born February 25, 1779, in Stoneham, Massachusetts, and died in South Merrimack, New Hampshire, August 23, 1861. It is probable that the family home was on the border of Amherst and Merrimack and probably included land in both towns. He was married in November, 1805, to Rhoda Bowtell, who was born in Amherst, July 14, 1875, aged ninety-four years. Their children were: Ebenezer, Joseph, Farnes, George, Mary, Luther, Abigail, Charles, Rufus, Rhoda and Robert.

(VIII) Rufus, sixth son and eighth child of Ebenezer and Rhoda (Bowtell) Converse, was born May 23, 1819, in Amherst, and died in Milford, New Hampshire, March 11, 1906. He was a successful lumber dealer for the long period of forty years, conducting his operations in Amherst and Milford, New Hampshire, and in addition to this he also conducted agricultural pursuits. He married, September 6, 1849, Eliza Ritterbush, daughter of Christopher Columbus Ritterbush, who was of German descent. Four children were the issue of this marriage, two of whom are living, namely: Carrie and Mary Lizzie. George died aged four years, Ellison A. died aged about six years. The younger daughter is a member of the Woman's Club and both are eligible to hold membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

ONE LINE OF THE  
CONVERSE FAMILY OF ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

	Born	Died
DEACON EDWARD <sup>1</sup> CONVERSE, England, and Woburn	1590	1663
SAMUEL <sup>2</sup> CONVERSE, Woburn, Mass.	Bapt. 1637	1672
SAMUEL <sup>3</sup> CONVERSE, Woburn, Mass., and Thompson, Conn.	Born 1662	1732
EDWARD <sup>4</sup> CONVERSE, Thompson, Conn.	1696	1784
JONATHAN <sup>5</sup> CONVERSE, Thompson, Conn.		1761
DEACON JONATHAN <sup>6</sup> CONVERSE, Thompson, Conn.	1760	1845
ELISHA <sup>7</sup> CONVERSE, Thompson, Conn., and Stoneham, Mass.	1786	1854
DEACON JAMES W. <sup>8</sup> CONVERSE, Boston, Mass.	1808	
HON. ELISHA SLAID <sup>9</sup> CONVERSE, Malden, Mass.	1820	
COSTELLO C. <sup>10</sup> CONVERSE, Boston and Malden	1845	
HARRY E. <sup>11</sup> CONVERSE, Malden, Mass.	1863	



97p.

## DEACON EDWARD CONVERS.

ENGLAND, CHARLESTOWN, AND WOBURN. MASS.

1. DEACON EDWARD<sup>1</sup> CONVERS, England, and Woburn, Mass.; born Jan. 30, 1590; died Aug. 10, 1663, aged 73 years. Probably married, 1st, Jane Clarke, who died probably before 1617; 2d, Sarah —, in England, died Jan. 14, 1662; 3d, Joanna Sprague, the widow of Ralph Sprague, of Charlestown, Mass., Sept. 9, 1662, died Feb. 24, 1679.

We now approach a most interesting point in the record of this family: the departure of Deacon Edward Convers, with his wife Sarah, and three children, Josiah, James, and Mary, from the comforts of their old home in England, for the privations of these then inhospitable shores. Doubtless the motives which led to this exile were of a threefold character: the first and chief, greater freedom to worship God in their own way; second, greater political liberty; and third, greater opportunities of acquiring and holding property.

On leaving England, Gov. Winthrop, *speaking for his company* of about seven hundred people, among whom were Deacon Convers and family, "bade an affectionate farewell to the church, and the land of their nativity."

"Reverend Fathers and Brethren [such was their address to all from whom they parted], howsoever your charity may have met with discouragement through the misrepost of our intentions, or the indiscretion of some amongst us, yet we desire you will be pleased to take

notice, that the principals and the body of our company esteem it our honour to call the Church of England, from whence we rise, our deare mother, and cannot part from our native countrie, where she specially resideth, without much sadness of heart, and many tears in our eyes; blessing God for the parentage and education, as members of the same body, and while we have breath, we shall sincerely endeavour the continuance and abundance of her welfare. Be pleased, therefore, Reverend Fathers and Brethren, to helpe forward the worke now in hand: which, if it prosper, you shall see the more glorious. It is a usual exercise of your charity to recommend to the prayers of your congregations, the straights of your neighbors: do the like for a church springing out of your owne bowels; pray without ceasing for us, who are a weake colony from yourselves."

After a stormy passage of about sixty-three days, they arrived outside Salem Harbor, about the 12th of June, 1630. Early in July following, a landing and settlement were effected at Charlestown, "where they lay up and down in tents and booths round the hill"; several "crossed the river and settled in Boston, others planted on the Mystic, now Malden." But Deacon Edward Convers and his family and many others remained. On the 30th of July a church was organized. On the next Lord's day others were received, among whom were "Edward Convers and Sarah Convers, his wife." (Rec. First Church, Boston.) And the members of this church could alone partake of the Lord's Supper, or present their children for baptism. Some two years later, this church removed to Boston, and ever after became known as the First Church of Boston. Immediately after this removal, another church was organized, and since has been known as the First Church of Charlestown (viz., Nov. 2, 1632). There were nineteen male and sixteen female members, among whom were "Edward and Sarah Convers."

The following covenant is written on the same page as the names of the founders of this church:—

## THE FORMEE OF THE COVENANT.

*In the name of our Lord God, and in the obedience to his holy will and divine ordinances:*

Wee, whose names are heer written, Beeing by his most wise and good providence brought together, and desirous to unite ourselues into one congregation or church under our Lord Jesus Christ, our Head; In such sort as becometh all those whom he hath redeemed and sanctified unto himselfe, Doe heer solemnly and religeously, as in his most holy presence, Promise and bynde ourselues to walke in all our wayes according to the rules of the Gospell, and in all sinccer conformity to his holy ordinances: and in mutuall Love and Respect each to other: so near as God shall give us grace.

In fine weather, they worshipped under the branches of a widely spreading tree; at other times, some one of the few dwellings served as a "Meeting place." They were located on the side of the hill, near where the Waverley House now stands.

We cull two items from the record of the First Church of Charlestown of interest to us:—

1636: 11: mo: 8: Thomas Carter was admitted. Esther Carter, wife of Thomas Carter, by letter of dismission from y<sup>e</sup> Church of London, whereof Mr. Thomas Vincent is pastor.

1637: 1<sup>st</sup> mo: day: 12: Samuel Converse, the son of Edward Converse, and Sarah, his wife, was Baptized.

(It was customary to baptize infants as soon after birth as was prudent.)

That Edward Converse was a man of some wealth and considerable influence, of great strength and energy, as well as a rigid Puritan, is evidenced on nearly every page of colonial and town history, and continued to be so for thirty-three years after his arrival in this country. The limits of this work admit of but brief allusion to his noble record.

The curious are referred to the early history of this coun-



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CONVERSE FAMILY

One line of the Coigneries  
Family of England

Roger' De Coigneries, France and  
Durham, England.

From 1010-1590

Died in Woburn, Mass

Copied from film

78-33 p

ONE LINE OF THE  
COIGNERIÉS FAMILY OF ENGLAND.

	BORN ABOUT	DIED
ROGER <sup>1</sup> DE COIGNERIE, Colguerie, France, and Durham, England . . . . .	1010	
ROGER <sup>2</sup> DE COIGNERIE, Durham, England.		
ROGER <sup>3</sup> DE COIGNERIE, Durham and Sockburn, England.		
GALFRID <sup>4</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England.		
JOHN <sup>5</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England.		
SIR HUMBERT <sup>6</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England.		
SIR JOHN <sup>7</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England.		
ROGER <sup>8</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England.		
SIR JOHN <sup>9</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England . . . . .		1095
	BORN	
ROBERT <sup>10</sup> COYVERS, Sockburn, England . . . . .	1071	1423
JOHN <sup>11</sup> COYVERS, Hornby, England.		
SIR CHRISTOPHER <sup>12</sup> COYVERS, Hornby, England.		
SIR JOHN <sup>13</sup> COYVERS, Hornby, England.		
SIR JOHN <sup>14</sup> COYVERS, Hornby, England.		
REGINALD <sup>15</sup> COYVERS, Wakerly, England . . . . .		1314
RICHARD <sup>16</sup> COYVERS, Wakerly, England.		
	BAPTIZED	
CHRISTOPHER <sup>17</sup> COYVERS, Wakerly, England . . . . .	1552	
	BORN	
EDWARD <sup>18</sup> COYVERS, Wakerly, England, and successively Woburn, Mass. . . . .	1590	1663

## DE COIGNERIES.

THE origin of the family of De Coignerès is lost in antiquity; but it is well known that they were firmly seated upon their estates in Coignerès, France (from which they derived their name), long before the Norman Conquest of England, in 1066.

1. ROGER DE COIGNERÈS, the first in our line of whom we have information in detail, was born in France about the year 1010. He became one of the trusted chieftains of William the Conqueror, and as such accompanied him in his invasion of England, and was with him in the battle of Hastings.

On this field of battle William the Conqueror soon after caused to be erected a memorial building of great magnificence, which he named "The Abbey of Battle"; in which building he placed certain monks, and enjoined them to pray for those who died in the battle, and to preserve a faithful record of all who shared in the victory. On this record of roll appears the name of our Roger de Coignerès as Coniers.

Referring to this roll, Mr. Burke says: —

"The roll of Battle Abbey, the earliest record of the Normans, has at all times been regarded with deep interest by the principal families of the kingdom, by those who shew descent directly from the chiefs of the conqueror's host, as well as by those who indirectly establish a similar lineage."

### ARMS.

Sir William Dugdale states that

"Arms, as marks of honor, were first used by great commanders in war, necessity requiring that their persons should be notified to their friends and followers."

Mr. Wiffen, in his "Memoirs of the House of Russell," remarks, after alluding to the early French possessions of the house of Coignerès :—

"I have in my possession a fine seal in green wax, of Roger de Coignerès . . . with the device of a maunch in hold relief, surrounded by seven cross-crosslets, the hand holding a spear-head or *flour-de-lis*, around which is the legend,

† SIGILLUM : ROGERI : DE CONNERIS. †"

"This arms is described heraldically as follows: Arms.—*Ar.*, a maunch surrounded by seven cross-crosslets, both *Ar.* Crest, a dexter hand grasping a broken spear, *pp.*"

Undoubtedly these arms were worn by Roger de Coignerès before and at the battle of Hastings, an engraving of which appears on the opposite page.

After the battle of Hastings, there was a long and severe contest to subjugate the North of England, which being accomplished, William placed Roger de Coignerès over one of the most important strongholds of that region, viz., the Castle of Durham.

(In France the constable was the first dignitary under the Crown, commander-in-chief and supreme military judge.)  
Surtees, in his "History of Durham," states that

"Roger de Coignerès was by the Conqueror made constable of Durham Castle and keeper of all the soldiers' arms therein, and which office was settled on him and his heirs male forever."

The English arms of the family of Coignerès, as given by Surtees at the head of his "Pedigree of Conyers, of Sockburn" (i. e., Roger de Coignerès), are "Azure, a maunch, or. Crest: On a wreath a demi-val., *pales.*" (See engraving opposite page 89.)

Flower, in his "Visitation of Yorkshire, A. D. 1563," notes that Roger Conyers came into England with William the Conqueror,\* and the same is confirmed by Foster ("Visitation

\* Visitation of Yorkshire (Flower and Foster), 1563 and 1584-5.

of Yorkshire, 1584-5") of this family of De Coignerès, *alias* Coniers, *alias* Conyers (for thus rapidly followed the changes in this surname); and "soon after the Norman Conquest, Sockburn [Durham] became by Episcopal grants the seat of the Norman family of Conyers,"\* and "which continued till the reign of Charles I. (1625-1645) in the possession of the family of Conyers."† It is spoken of by Leland as follows: "Sockburn, where as the eldest house is of the Coniers, with the demains about it, is of a mile circumference of exceeding pleasant ground, is almost made an isle as Tase ryver windeth about it. A little beneath the maner-place is a grete were for fish."

This Roger<sup>1</sup> de Coignerès, who accompanied William of Normandy to England, left a son.

2. ROGER<sup>2</sup> DE CONIERS. (To whom the Bishop Ralph Flambard of Ranulph gave the manor of Rungstan in Yorkshire between 1099 and 1126.) He had two children, namely:

1. Roger<sup>3</sup> de Coniers. Married Matilda.

ii. Galfrid de Coniers, rector of Sockburn, 1168.

3. ROGER<sup>3</sup> DE CONIERS (Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>). He was a baron of the bishopric of Durham and Lord of Bishopston; lived, 1134 to 1174; joined with his son and heir, Robert Conyers, in the gift of the churches of Bishopston and Sockburn to Sherburn House, to whom Henry II. confirmed the constablership of Durham. This Roger<sup>3</sup> de Coniers was a noted baron of the bishopric of Durham; rendered "important services to Bishop William de St. Barbara,"‡ and was a "liberal benefactor to the church." He married Matilda —, whose name is mentioned in her husband's grant of

\* History of Durham, England (Surtees). Flower and Foster's Visitation of Yorkshire.

† Norman People, pp. 208, 256.

‡ History of Durham, England (Surtees).

lands in Bishopton to St. Mary, of Nesham.\* He afterwards had the address to bring the Scotch intruder, Comyn (who had had possession of the castle and church), an humble, kneeling penitent before the Episcopal throne. The constable's staff and the wardenship of Durham Castle, which he had recovered from Comyn, seem a most appropriate reward; and if the green acres of Sockburn were added to the gift, he was still not overpaid. He long survived these transactions, and was a liberal benefactor to the church.

Children :

- i. Robert<sup>4</sup>, son and heir, died before 7 Richard I., A. D. 1195.
- ii. Roger<sup>4</sup>, living 1795. Died (s. p.) *ante* 23 Henry III., 1239.
- iii. Galfrid<sup>4</sup>.

4. GALFRID<sup>4</sup> CONYERS (Roger<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>), Lord of Sockburn and of Bishopton, 1213-1238; died *ante* 1238; married Elinoro —.

He inherited the property of his elder brother, Roger<sup>4</sup>, who died s. p.

Children :

- i. John<sup>5</sup>.
- ii. Elizabeth<sup>5</sup>.
- iii. Geoffrey<sup>5</sup>, who was committed to the care of the Bishop of Durham, 5 Henry III., A. D. 1220.

5. JOHN<sup>5</sup> CONYERS (Galfrid<sup>4</sup>, Roger<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>) lived 23 Henry III., A. D. 1239; had the manors of Sockburn, Bishopton, Stainton, Auckland, confirmed to him by fine from his cousin, Roger Conyers, of Hoton Conyers. Surtees says: "From John, the son of Galfrid Conyers, descended in a long lineal procession gallant knights and esquires, who held Sockburn till the reign of Charles I. (1625), whilst the younger branches of this ancient, stately

\* Surtees' Pedigree, in History of Durham, England.

cedar shadowed both Durham and Yorkshire. All are now fallen, and not a foot of land is now held by Conyers in either county."

Children :

- I. John<sup>6</sup>. Son and heir. Died s. p.
- II. Galfrid<sup>6</sup>. Lord of Sockburn.
- III. Sir Humphrey<sup>6</sup>.

6. SIR HUMPHREY<sup>6</sup> CONYERS (John<sup>5</sup>, Galfrid<sup>4</sup>, Roger<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>), styled "of Sockburne" and "of Bishopton" (in grant of Robert, son of Roger de Coniers, of lands in Stainton granted to the Abbey of Rievaulx, 1270).

Children :

- I. Sir John<sup>7</sup>.
7. SIR JOHN<sup>7</sup> CONYERS (Sir Humphrey<sup>6</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Galfrid<sup>4</sup>, Roger<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>), of Sockburn, knight (son and heir of Sir Humphrey<sup>6</sup>), married Scolastica, daughter and co-heir of Ralph de Cotam, Esq., 27 Edward I., 1298.

Children :

- I. Sir John<sup>8</sup>. Eldest son of John<sup>7</sup> and co-heir of his grandfather Ralph de Cotam, 1298, entailed the manor of Sockburn on heirs male, 8 Edward III., 1334 (i. e., to his brother Roger's son).
- II. Roger<sup>8</sup>. The second son.
8. ROGER<sup>8</sup> CONYERS (Sir John<sup>7</sup>, Sir Humphrey<sup>6</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Galfrid<sup>4</sup>, Roger<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>). Living 1323.

Children :

- I. Galfrid<sup>9</sup>. Living 8 Edward III. Died (s. p.) A. D. 1334.
- II. Sir John<sup>9</sup>. Who received the manor by entailment, as before mentioned, whose line we continue.
9. SIR JOHN<sup>9</sup> CONYERS (Roger<sup>8</sup>, Sir John<sup>7</sup>, Sir Humphrey<sup>6</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Galfrid<sup>4</sup>, Roger<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Roger<sup>1</sup>), of Sockburn, knight, nephew and heir of Sir John Conyers, who entailed the said manors; living time 8 Edward III. (1334)

*Converse  
Family*

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

**ALLEN CONVERSE, OF WOBURN, MASS.,  
AND DESCENDANTS**

BY WILLIAM R. CUTTER

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
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## ALLEN CONVERSE, OF WOBURN, MASS., AND DESCENDANTS.

By WILLIAM R. CUTTER, Esq., Librarian of the Public Library, Woburn, Mass.

PREVIOUS writers, notably Sewall\* and Vinton,† differ vastly from the conclusions of the present writer in relation to the genealogy of this person and that of Josiah<sup>d</sup> of this list. The hint that the latter was descended differently from what previously accepted authorities supposed him to be, was received from the statements purporting to be from a family bible of date 1761, mentioned by Seymour Morris, of Chicago, in his *Morris Genealogy*, p. 45.

1. ALLEN<sup>i</sup> CONVERSE, ancestor of one line of the Converse family in Woburn, Mass., was a kinsman of Edward Converse, well known as the ancestor of another line of the Woburn Converse family. Previous authorities have confounded the lines of these first settlers of the ancient town, and the following is an attempt to correct the line of Allen. The name of his wife has also been wrongly given as *Sarah*—the name of his daughter—and the date of death of the daughter has also been given as that of the wife.

The family of Allen Converse is notable for the large number of deaths in it at one period (1679), covering the space of a few months; in the following order:—

Hannah, wife of Zachariah (son),	January 1,	1679.
Zachariah (the son himself)	" 22,	"
Hannah Pierce (daughter)	March 23,	"
Allen (the father)	April 19,	"
Sarah (daughter)	" 22,	"

All these died apparently of the small pox, which was rife in Woburn at the time.

Allen Converse needs no especially lengthy mention here. His name is found in the first volume of the Woburn town records many times, from 1645 and onwards, as the holder of minor town offices, as taxed in the rates, the recipient of grants of town land near his house and at longer distances; facts of peculiar interest, as showing the locality of his residence, and the

\* Sewall's *Hist. Woburn*.

† A. C. Vinton, app. to *Woburn Marriages*, compiled by Judge Edward F. Johnson, who contributed the abstracts from the official records of the Middlesex County Registry found in this article.

estimation in which he was held by his fellow-townsmen.\* Both he and his wife were school-teachers, and both taught school in Woburn and were compensated for their services by the town. I have mentioned the manner of his death by the small pox. This dread disease afflicted the family in a melancholy way by destroying five members, as I have shown above, in the course of a few months. At the close of the year 1678, a number of persons in Woburn were ill of it. The disease continued to prevail until May, 1679, when twenty-seven persons, at least, were suffering with it, and were publicly made mention of in the town records.†

The will of Allen Converse, of Woburn, was dated April 14, 1679, five days before his death. By it he gives ten pounds to his grandson, the son of his daughter Hannah Pierce—the daughter having died just a short time before—using, as expressed in the will, the strange spelling and statement: "my sonn Peirces child, borne of my daughter Hannah;" the legacy to be paid when he, the said grandson, came of age. In the will Allen speaks of his deceased son Zechariah (who had died January 22, previous), of his own wife Elizabeth, his son Samuel, and of his own two daughters—Sarah and Mary.

Allen Converse died April 19, 1679, and Elizabeth Converse, widow—evidently his widow—died August 9, 1691.

To illustrate localities, an important feature in the determination of this lineage, the following inventory of Allen Converse is presented:—

Inventory of estate of "Allen Converse, taken 4th of ye 4th [mo.] (1679)."	
Imprims, one hous, barn, orchard, with about 20 acurs of land adjacent to ye same	£ sh. d.
itm. for about 40 acurs of land at a place caled boggy meddow feild,	100 00 00
itm. for 5 acurs of land neer goodman bakers	050 00 00
itm. for about 10 acurs of land att maple meddow plain	010 00 00
itm. for about 10 acurs of land one ye north side of maple meddow river	010 00 00
itm. for about 54 acurs of upland and meddow att a place caled Lubbers [Lubber's] brooke	005 00 00
itm. for woodland and herbidge	015 00 00
itm. for about 7 acurs of meddow att maple meadow, att 5 <sup>th</sup> pr acur,	030 00 00
itm. for 4 acurs of meddow att lows [Loose] meddow att	035 00 00
itm. for one acur & ½ of meddow att boggy meddow	008 00 00
itm. for about one acur of meddow att Steprock	006 00 00
itm. for quarter part of a sawmill.‡	002 00 00
The totall [including personal]	005 00 00
	370 12 00

Apprised by Josyah Convers, James Connars, Sen., James Connars, Junr.

Item first is thus disposed of:—

Joseph Whittemore conveys to Caleb Blodgett, a mansion house, barn, and 20 ac., being part of the homestead formerly Allen Converse's—N., Col. Jonathan Tyng; E., Daniel Baldwin; S., partly by James Burbeen, at both ends of said southerly line; elsewhere by Daniel Baldwin; W., by Wright St., or High St., § which leadeth from Colonel Tyng's to Joshua Sawyer's, June 15, 1714. [18:257.] Thirty acres at Humble Bee Hole—[near the present village of North Woburn]—was "formerly Allen Converse's," per a deed [13:521].

Some of the items of land named in Allen Converse's inventory are mentioned in that of his son Samuel in a somewhat modified form, and the similarity of names of localities is extended to that of the grandson Josiah.

\* Compare *Woburn Records*, vol. 1 (printed edition, with index); Cutter's *Woburn Historic Sites*, p. 23.

† Compare Sewall's *Woburn*, pp. 122-23, 606.

‡ John Walker, to proprietors of sawmill at Boggy-Meadow Field, viz., Francis Wyman, Allen Converse, Henry Sammers, and Joseph Winn, deed, April 8, 1678; original in Woburn Public Library, *Wyman Coll.* 11:1.

§ Now Middle Street, Woburn.

## Children of Allen Converse, per Woburn Records:

2. i. ZACHARIAH, b. Oct. 11, 1642; d. Jan. 22, 1679. Mentioned as deceased, in father's will, April 14, 1679.
  - ii. ELIZABETH, b. March 7, 1645; d. (dau. of Allen) Aug. 2, 1661.
  - iii. SARAH, b. July 11, 1647; d. April 22, 1679. She is named in father's will, April 14, 1679, being one of his three children then living. The Sarah Converse who was interested in the estate of Allen Converse, in 1708, was evidently Sarah, his granddaughter, daughter of Samuel (3).
  - iv. JOSEPH, b. May 31, 1649; not living at time when his father's will was made; evidently died young, as the mortality of children dying young in the family is marked.
  - v. MARY, b. Sept. 26, 1651, d. (dau. of Allen) Nov. 10, 1651.
  - vi. THEOPHILUS, b. Sept. 21, 1652; d. (son of Allen) Sept. 28, 1652.
  2. vii. SAMUEL, b. Sept. 20, 1653; d. Oct. 25, 1699. Named in his father's will, as one of his three children then living.
  - viii. MARY, b. Nov. 26, 1655, apparently unmarried when her father's will was made, April 14, 1679, and named therein as one of his three children then living. She married apparently, Sergt. Jacob French, at Billerica, June 30, 1685; d. 1686, *Hazen*.
  - ix. HANNAH, b. March 13, 1660; m. Nathaniel Pierce. Dec. 27, 1677. She d. (wife of Nathaniel Pierce) March 23, 1679. This was before the date of her father's will, April 14, 1679, in which her son and only child is mentioned in her stead, to whom the grandfather gave £10, to be paid when he became of age. The child was *Nathaniel*, b. Feb. 2, 1679.
2. ZACHARIAH<sup>2</sup> CONVERSE (*Allen*<sup>1</sup>), born Oct. 11, 1642; died Jan. 22, 1679, evidently of the small pox, then generally prevailing. He is called deceased son Zachariah, in father's will, April 14, 1679. Hannah, his wife, died Jan. 1, 1679, evidently of the prevailing small pox. She was Hannah Bateman, married June 12, 1667. She is evidently the Goodwife Converse referred to in Volume II. of the Woburn town records as one of those sick of the small pox, and who died of the disease at that period. In the list were Zachariah Converse's wife and child. This is, therefore, a reference to her, and not to Allen Converse's wife, as others have supposed. Zachariah had:
- i. ZACHARIAH, b. Nov. 4, 1670. He was one of the volunteers from Woburn in Phips's 1690 expedition to Canada.—Mass. Archives, v. 36, pp. 246-7.—*Zachariah Converse*, 1690; order of name (in document) 2d; 1738: personally present; attest by Joseph Reed. He was one of the few surviving soldiers from Woburn, of the campaign of 1690, who were living in the year 1738. His uncle, Samuel Converse, served in 1690, in the same expedition. Zachariah d. Dec. 30, 1747. There is no evidence of marriage of Zachariah on the Woburn Records, either of the ceremony or the births of any children.
  - ii. ELIZABETH, b. Oct. 29, 1672; living single, 1747-48; d. Jan. 27, 1755.
  - iii. RUTH, b. Oct. 3, 1674; dr. of Zachariah, d. Jan. 8, 1675.

[Judge Edward F. Johnson contributes the following from the Middlesex County Registry regarding these two Zachariah Converses:

ZACHARIAH<sup>2</sup> CONVERSE. Will of Zachariah Converse, being weak in body by reason of the distemper of the small pox. I make my *honoured* father, *Allin* Converse, sole executor \* \* I bequeath my 2 children to my father, my son and my daughter, Zachariah and Elizabeth, to bring them up in the *fears of god*. \* \* If they die in minority, I bequeath my estate to my brother Samuel and my sisters equally, Jan. 22, 1678[-79]. Inventory, which he died seized of, Jan.

22, 1678[-79].—house, barn, and land adjacent thereto, and his meadow at Willow Meadow, with upland at Settle Meadow and Wood Hill. Josiah Converse and James Converse Senr., appraisers.

ZACHARIAH<sup>2</sup> CONVERSE. Feb. 1, 1747, Josiah Converse, Samuel Kendall, and William Tay, administrators of estate of Zachariah Converse. Ebenezer Richardson appears afterwards as one, appointed July 25, 1748. The inventory discloses homestead of about 60 ac., and about 8 ac. of meadow at Willow Meadow, lying on the west side of road to Andover, near said homestead. Feb. 15, 1747, Samuel Kendall and Josiah Converse represent that "we have *bin* to the house of Mr. Zachariah Converse, late of Woburn, and requested of *Ms.* Elizabeth Converse, sister to said Converse, the goods of said Converse, and she altogether refused to us the possession." [The dates are more correctly, February, 1747-48. Josiah Converse, above, died June 17, 1748 (his successor in this administration being appointed July 25, 1748). The circumstance of his connection in this matter is an additional proof of his family relationship, he being a cousin of the Zachariah, here mentioned, who, from the facts here presented, evidently died single, as did also his sister Elizabeth.—see following paragraph. There are interesting facts regarding the location of the house of the last named Zachariah in deeds, but enough has been given to locate him genealogically.]

What follows relates to Elizabeth Converse, who died January 27, 1755.

In corroboration of this date, and the identification of the individual, the following facts are adduced: "Feb. 1, 1747, the selectmen of Woburn represent "*Mrs* Eliz<sup>a</sup> Converse of this our town" *non compos.* (Mem.: On margin of account, containing expenses of funeral, etc.—"deceased Jan'y 27, 1755.") In a petition signed by many citizens, dated Jan. 18, 1749, it is represented that Elizabeth Converse, single woman, needs a guardian. Inventory taken April 9, 1751, shows homestead of about 60 ac., and meadow of 3 ac. at Willow Meadow, on west side of road leading to Andover, near said homestead. (Josiah Johnson had been appointed guardian, Feb. 12, 1749.) Benjamin Johnson was appointed administrator, Feb. 17, 1755. Receipt of Susanna Wright for 2 yrs., 5 mos. board of Elizabeth Converse, deceased, dated Feb. 20, 1755. Inventory of *Mrs*s Elizabeth Converse, single woman, taken April 9, 1755, includes mention of 59 ac., part in Woburn and part in Wilmington.—E. F. J. [Her estate, it will be observed, is identical with that of her father and brother,—see preceding paragraph.]

The fact, too, that no one of the name of Converse is mentioned in the disposition of her affairs, after the death of Josiah Converse in 1748, is further proof that he was her kinsman, and evidently the nearest of kin.

In further proof that the right Elizabeth is here given, and that Mr. Vinton is in error in date ascribed—*Woburn Marriages*, part 3 of series, p. 328, No. 63—to Elizabeth, b. 1699, daughter of Robert and Mary, of Edward line, a deed, apparently unrecorded, from Mary Converse, and Ann, and others, to Ebenezer, dated Nov. 2, 1737—Wyman Coll., Woburn Public Library, 11: 10—is cited. In this deed of release Mary Converse, widow, Ebenezer Thompson and Hannah Thompson, Josiah Simonds and Elizabeth Simonds, Isaac Snow, and Ann Converse, maiden, all of Woburn; Daniel Reed and Mary Reed, of Charlestown; and Samuel Smith, of Leicester, and Sarah Smith, his wife, quit claim to Ebenezer Converse, of Woburn, their interest to the estate which James Converse [their brother], late of Woburn, deceased, died seized of . . . Nov. 2, 1737. Signed by all the foregoing, except Isaac Snow, and also signed by Ruth Snow, Jonathan Reed and Keziah Reed, Benjamin Converse, and Lois Carr, other members of the family, but not named in the body of the document. The Elizabeth—63, *Vinton*—thus married Josiah Simonds. The marriages of nearly all these persons are noted in the printed records, to which the reader is referred for dates.]

3. SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> CONVERSE (*Allen*<sup>1</sup>), b. Sept. 20, 1653; d. — 1699, per Woburn Records. He was a volunteer from Woburn in Phips's 1690 expedition to Canada.—*Mass. Archives*, 36:246-7. The expedition was to Quebec—compare work entitled "1690: Sir William Phips devant Québec: histoire d'un siège; par Ernest Myrand," Quebec, 1893, 8°, 429 pp. *Samuel Converse*, 1690; order of name (in

document) 28th; 1738: Samuel Converse, in right of his "father," Samuel Converse, Woburn. "The first Samuel was son of Allen Converse and b. 1653. Samuel, son of Samuel, was b. 1686. The first Samuel d. in 1699, and the death of the second Samuel is not a matter of Woburn record. There are no entries in the Woburn record of marriages referring to either of these two men. The first Samuel (1653-1699) was an uncle of the Zachariah Converse, who was in the same expedition."—*Note by Cutter*. His daughter Sarah, appears to be a party in interest in his father's (Allen Converse's) estate, in 1703.

Samuel and Sarah had:—

- i. SARAH, b. Jan. 10, 1684, d. (?) of small pox, Nov. 25, 1721.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. Nov. 22, 1686; living 1738, see mention under father.
- iii. MARY, b. Sept. 26, 1688; m. Gregory Stone, of Lexington.
- iv. JOSEPH (of Samuel, Sen.) b. May 4, 1691; m. Isabell Furbush, both of Woburn, at Medford, by Thomas Tufts, Esq., July 14, 1719. Had *Abigail*, b. Jan. 17, 1719-20.
- v. HANNAH, b. Dec. 28, 1693; bedridden, in 1714; prob. dead before 1720.
4. vi. JOSIAH, b. May 10, 1699; d. June 17, 1748.

I venture the suggestion that Sarah Converse, of Woburn, who married Thomas Dutton, Jr., of Billerica, at Billerica, Nov. —, 1721, is identical with Sarah, the widow of this Samuel Converse. Sarah Dutton, widow, died in Woburn, Dec. 18, 1738. Examination of the official records of deeds and probate fails to discover anything concerning the settlement of her affairs. Her son Josiah Converse appears in the tax lists in 1721, and immediately disappears, going apparently with her to Billerica, and returning to Woburn after 1732, where he was married. In the Reading record of his marriage, he is called of Malden, which would apparently be one of the places where he had lived before returning to Woburn.

Inventory of Samuel Converse, Sr., of Woburn, died Oct. 25, 1699, as it was appraised Nov. 7, 1699, by James Fowle, Joseph Pierce, and John Walker, Sr.:—Homestead and woodland adjoining, £100; 1½ ac. of meadow at Boggy Meadow, £3 15s.; woodland near Step Rock Meadow, 10s.; woodland at Forest Field Hill, £1 5s.; 1½ ac. at Loose (?) Meadow, £3; woodland near Butters' Saw Mill, £2 10s.; woodlot near James Thompson's, £5; total, including personal property, £143 5s.

January 8, 1699 [1700] Sarah Converse, relict widow of Samuel Converse, late of Woburn, husbandman, dec'd intestate, admitted administratrix, made oath to above;—bond in £280—Joseph Pierce and Zachariah Converse, sureties.

Articles of agreement made Dec. 16, 1714, between Sarah Converse, relict widow of Samuel, late of Woburn, and the children and heirs of said deceased, whose names are underwritten. It is agreed for the settlement of said deceased's estate, which was valued at £130, that our honored mother, Sarah Converse, aforesaid, shall have for her use £50, during her life, to wit, that she shall have the use of half the house and cellar; that Joseph Converse (shall provide her certain things, etc.) . . . that Joseph shall have £11 18s., besides what he hath purchased of his eldest brother Samuel; it is agreed that Josiah, who being under age, shall have £11 18s., etc.; lastly, it is agreed that Hannah Converse, who lies bedrid, shall have £11 18s.; and it is agreed that Joseph shall have the whole of the estate of the deceased, he to pay the rest of their several parts and portions, as above. Signed Sarah Converse, Joseph Converse, Mary Converse, Hannah Converse (the foregoing made their marks) and David Roberts, Jr., guardian to Josiah Converse.

Jan. 5, 1714, David Roberts appointed guardian of Josiah Converse, a minor, in his sixteenth year of age, son of the late Samuel Converse.

Joseph Converse conveys to Eleazer Flagg, 10 ac., near a certain mill of Samuel Eames, called Boggy Mill. Dower of Sarah [the mother of Joseph] re-

leased, Jan. 28, 1715. [20:353.] The same Joseph conveys to Samuel Damon, of Reading, 12 ac., lying between Boggy Field and Step Rock. Release of Sarah Converse, mother of Joseph, Feb. 25, 1715. [21:314.] He conveys to Philip Alexander, a homestead and 55 ac.; E., road to Eames sawmill, etc., and N., county road; 14 ac. at Cold Spring; 5 ac. at Wood Hill; 1½ ac., Boggy Meadow; and 2 ac. at Loose Meadow, Dec. 22, 1719. [This is evidently the homestead of his father Samuel.] Connected with this is the following genealogically important release: We, Gregory Stone and Mary Stone, of Lexington, Sarah Converse, and Josiah Converse, Jr., of Woburn, quitclaim to Philip Alexander all interest in estate of our father Samuel Converse, late of Woburn, dec'd, which estate said Alexander hath lately purchased of our elder brother Joseph Converse, March, 31, 1720. [23:164].—E. F. J. [The daughter Hannah, who was mentioned in the agreement of 1714, did not join in the release of 1720, and died apparently before that date.]

In relation to Josiah being called Jr., in 1720—see paragraph above. In 1708 Robert Converse conveys real estate by deed to his brother Josiah Converse, Jr. (34, *Vinton*): Josiah, Sr., in that year, was Josiah (d. 1717)—(*Vinton*, 6). In 1720, Josiah (*Vinton*, 34) was Senior, called Ensign Josiah Converse, in tax lists, 1721, whence his name disappears before 1727—he having removed from the town—*Morris*, p. 43, where his descendants are traced. Josiah, Jr., in 1720, was, therefore, the Josiah of the text.

4. JOSIAH<sup>o</sup> CONVERSE (*Samuel<sup>o</sup> Allen<sup>1</sup>*), b. May 10, 1699, d. June 17, 1748; m. Sarah Evans, of Reading, Dec. 27, 1732,\* who survived until after the Revolutionary period, as widow being taxed in the East List, 1777, and marrying Capt. Timothy Brooks, of Woburn, March 30, 1781, died his widow, Feb. 22, 1789, aged 81 y., dying of cancer, and being buried at Woburn, Feb. 24, 1789—*per Thompson's Diary*—see also N. E. HIST. GEN. REG. 29:154. The estate of Capt. Timothy Brooks was insolvent in 1789, and the court ordered the administrator to pay a certain per cent. of the creditors' claims, which was all they could receive until his widow's death.

Sept. 1, 1748, administration on Josiah Converse granted to widow Sarah, who gives bonds, £300, with Pierson Richardson, Jr., and Benjamin Richardson, sureties.

Inventory of real and personal estate of Josiah Converse, of Woburn, dec'd June 17, 1748: homestead and buildings, £3,200; 3 ac., adjoining, £210; 12 ac., called Reed Field, £480; 5 ac., called Upper Orchard, £180; 19 ac., Wood Hill, £300; 2 ac., Boggy Meadow, £150; 10 ac., Loose Meadow, £200. Benjamin Richardson, Pierson Richardson, Jr., and David Fisk, appraisers. (The widow adds the provisions and a right in a School House.) April 3, 1749, Mrs. Sarah Converse, the administratrix, exhibited this inventory on oath.

Agreement of heirs of Josiah Converse [d. 1748] sets forth full inventory, including homestead of 100 acres, 120 perch, and bounded N. and E., Road; W., by road, by Mary Tidd and John Fowle's lands; S., Joshua Thornton, Joshua Richardson, and John Leathe, etc., etc.; and Sarah Converse, deceased's widow, Josiah Converse (eldest son), Samuel Converse, and Sarah Converse, the deceased's daughter, all of age, mutually agree to divide, etc.,—Nov. 30, 1759.

Sarah Converse, widow, consideration £100, mortgages to Samuel Nevers, 25 ac., bounded S., town way; W., Ezekiel Reed; N., Abijah Smith; and E., James Fowle, Jr.; also, 4 ac. woodland, bounded W. and N., Timothy Reed; S., Abijah Smith; E., Edward Walker and Francis Kendall; also 11 ac. woodland, bounded W. and N. by land late Doctor Jonathan Hayward's; S. and E. by Nathan Kendall. Provided if said Sarah and her heirs shall from Feb. 4, 1761, take care of said Samuel Nevers and wife Deborah in a manner suitable to their old age,—then to be void. Witness, Mary Nevers, Josiah Johnson. Rec. Feb. 20, 1761.—E. F. J. [The Nevers property, here mentioned, was located in the westerly part of Woburn.]

\* March 9, 1732, per Reading Records.—A. S. Wood.

Josiah and Sarah had:—

- i. JOSIAH, b. Jan. 27, 1734; m. Hephzibah Brooks, March 28, 1758; and d. Feb. 2, 1810; she d., his widow, March 11, 1813, æ. 74. He was furnished with a bayonet according to law as a member of the East company of Woburn Militia, in 1758. He was a member of the same company during the Revolutionary War, the captain then being Jesse Wyman. His son *Josiah*,<sup>5</sup> b. March 14, 1759, d. Sept. 8, 1840 (epit. 282, 2d Burying Ground) went personally into the service for the Northward Army; against Burgoyne, in August, 1777. His son, *Jesse*,<sup>5</sup> b. Feb. 9, 1765, d. July 17, 1864, æ. 99 y. His son, *Joshua*,<sup>5</sup> b. Jan. 20, 1767, d. Feb. 5, 1868, æ. 101 y. His son, *Luther*,<sup>5</sup> was the father of Parker L.<sup>6</sup> Converse, judge, writer, etc.; and *Joshua*,<sup>5</sup> the centenarian, was the father of Sherman<sup>6</sup> Converse, b. March 5, 1810, d. April 16, 1896.
  - ii. SAMUEL, b. Nov. 23, 1735; m. Mary Tyler, Oct. 9, 1760; and d. Nov. 30, or Dec. 1, 1775—*Thompson's Diary*—funeral, in Old Parish, Dec. 2, P. M., attended by Rev. John Marrett, of the Second Parish; Samuel being 40 years of age. His widow Mary d. June 27, 1814, æ. 76. He died intestate and an inventory of his estate was taken Sept. 23, 1784. In the division his widow Mary, and eldest surviving son Jeremiah, and children Joseph, Jacob, Mary, Abigail and Lydia were mentioned. *Jeremiah*,<sup>5</sup> the son, was the grandfather of Alva S. Wood of Woburn, antiquary.
  - iii. SARAH, b. Aug. 26, 1736; m. Bartholomew Richardson, April 10, 1760, who was b. in Woburn, March 25, 1730, and d. June 14, 1812. She d. Feb. 1, 1825. They were ancestors, through *Sarah*,<sup>5</sup> m. Josiah Walker, and Hannah,<sup>6</sup> m. Benjamin F. Thompson, of Abijah Thompson, officer of the Winchester Historical Genealogical Society.
  - iv. ZACHARIAH, b. Dec. 28, 1741.
  - v. JOHN, b. Oct. 23, 1748, after his father's death.
-

CONVERSE FAMILY SETTLEMENTS IN AMERICA.

BY JOHN J. PUTNAM.

Names become intimately associated with places; equally so places with names. It is thus not only with individuals but with family groups. Migration was not very active during the early period of New England history. The forefathers and foremothers were generally content to abide where they had first planted themselves, however rude their domiciles and surroundings. House building, leveling of forests, cultivation of near-by acres, occasionally utilizing small streams for water-power, were no holiday diversions but arduous undertakings. The howling of ferocious beasts was no merry music for their ears. The neighborhoods were sparse and lonely. Intercourse was cordial but restricted. The hardship of dotting townships with village centres for church worship and business transactions was necessarily severe. There was more room than people—more to do than enterprise to accomplish. The condition was in all respects primitive. Descendants of the fourth generation from Edward Converse, of Woburn, Massachusetts, timidly began to prospect for new homes, yet ventured not far from familiar acres over which they roamed in childhood. Whereabout to cast their fortune was the pressing question. A slight circumstance may have determined their decision. One by one they took up their residence in the more or less remote parts of their native State, and in adjoining New Hampshire, Vermont, or Connecticut. No "Great West" was open to their adventure. In order to understand these self-denying and resolute people, we must keep in mind their rigidly plain living, industrious habits, and limited resources. Sighing for something larger and better, a natural craving for suppressed human nature, the day dawned for the tribes of this family to reinforce their courage and go forth to try other scenes less familiar and uninspiring. The principal

*Anonymous*

locations they ventured to choose it is not difficult to ascertain. Wherever their residence became fixed, they at once applied themselves to the work of good citizenship, and often with an efficiency that soon earned them official honors. Instances of this kind are numerous. All that belonged to the new homes quickly assumed the aspect of comfort and pleasantness. So much for what was then thought adventurous and enterprising. The outcome of such settlements became the pride and glory of New England.

#### SETTLEMENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

**CHARLESTOWN AND WOBURN.** The immigrant ancestor, Deacon Edward Converse, was born in Wakerly, Northampton County, England, January 30, 1590; died in Woburn, Mass., August 10, 1663. With his wife Sarah ———, and children Josiah, James and Mary, he sailed from England in the fleet with Winthrop, in the ship *Arabella*, landing at Salem June 12, 1630. They soon made their settlement in Charlestown. Being a sturdy Puritan, it is probable that Edward early looked after his church privileges. The First Church in Boston was organized the same year of his arrival, with which the family became identified, until two years later the First Church in Charlestown was instituted, to which numerous memberships were transferred.

Edward Converse was a man of rare executive force and enterprising spirit. He took the freeman's oath in 1631. He established the first ferry between Charlestown and Boston in 1631, under the authority of the General Court, and held its lease until 1640. He served Charlestown as Selectman five years. He was Deputy to the General Court, and one of the first two deacons chosen by the church in Woburn.

WOBURN was organized as a town in 1644, and thereafter it was his residence. He served on its Board of

Selectmen till his death in 1663. He built the first dwelling house, the first mill, and the first bridge within its limits was known as "Convers Bridge." A natural sentiment has endeared the locality selected for the permanent home of their honored ancestor, and fond associations will linger for an indefinite period. It was the burial place of Josiah,<sup>2</sup> James,<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> and John.<sup>4</sup>

CAMBRIDGE AND WATERTOWN. The descendants of Edward Converse to be traced in the localities mentioned are in the line of Josiah<sup>2</sup>; and prominent among them are Dr. Converse, of Watertown, and Dr. Convers Francis, minister in Watertown, and professor of pulpit eloquence and pastoral care in Harvard University. Also Lydia Francis, a sister who married David L. Child, who was born in West Boylston, graduated at Harvard College in 1817. Both husband and wife moved in literary circles, and were hand-in-hand co-workers in philanthropic movements. The stone over the grave of Dr. Converse bears an inscription highly appreciative of rare qualities of character, and is a model elegiac tribute:

"To the much honored memory of Josiah Convers, Esq., who, by divine permission, resigned his valuable life August, 1774, aged 73.

"If real medical abilities, united with every human and social virtue, the most active extensive generosity, universal benevolence and charity, may deserve to outline the panegyric of a mouldering stone, the envy of the grave, and the devouring tooth of time, certainly the virtues and many excellences which distinguish the character of Dr. Converse are very eminently entitled to such peculiar tribute from the grateful public."

"This honest stone, what few vain marbles can,  
May truly say,—here lies an honest man."

BEDFORD. Joseph Converse<sup>6</sup> (Joshua, John, James, James, Edward), sometime previous to 1762, located in Bedford, and remained there until 1794. There his ten

children were born. Removed to Chesterfield, New Hampshire in 1794 or 5. (See Family History in the Line of Joseph Converse, Worcester, Mass., 1897.)

ANDOVER. Sarah Converse,<sup>7</sup> daughter of Joseph Converse,<sup>6</sup> of Bedford, married in 1788 Jeremiah Goldsmith, of Andover. They had eleven children; and their grandchildren are still located there. More of them doubtless have sought other homes. The sufficient tracing of this line has been neglected beyond excuse.

LEICESTER. Josiah Converse,<sup>4</sup> son of Major James,<sup>3</sup> removed from Woburn to Leicester, Massachusetts, about 1728, accompanied by his two sons, Josiah<sup>5</sup> and James<sup>6</sup>; also by John<sup>5</sup>, the son of John<sup>4</sup>, who remained permanently in Leicester, two of his five children marrying in the neighboring town of Spencer. Other descendants settled in the near-by towns of Brookfield, Palmer and New Braintree.

BOSTON. James W.<sup>8</sup> and Elisha,<sup>8</sup> in the line from Samuel.<sup>2</sup> Both men of high character and large fortunes, successful in business and generous in their philanthropy. (See Family History by Hill.)

James and Edmund Cogswell,<sup>8</sup> sons of Rev. James Converse,<sup>7</sup> of Weathersfield, Vermont, were prominent merchants and business men in Boston. James is reputed to have been more influential than any other person in organizing the Board of Trade in Boston; also the National Board of Trade. He officially presented to the Massachusetts Legislature the petition which resulted in the appointment of a Board of State Railroad Commissioners, of which he was Chairman in 1869.

Elizabeth Converse<sup>8</sup> married Dr. Simon S. Hewett, a noted practitioner in Boston fifty years ago. Born in Auburn, Massachusetts.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE.

CHESTERFIELD. Two sons of Joseph,<sup>6</sup> of Bedford, Massachusetts, Joseph<sup>7</sup> and Josiah<sup>7</sup>; also two daughters, Bet-

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

sey<sup>7</sup> and Mary.<sup>7</sup> The first named married Levi Mead, and the second, John Putnam. Numerous descendants in each line have earned a degree of distinction, notably Larkin G. Mead, the sculptor; Edwin D. Mead, editor and lecturer; and Gertrude Mead, as sharing the honor of her husband, William Dean Howells.

RINDGE. Zebulon Converse<sup>6</sup> (Joshua,<sup>5</sup> John,<sup>4</sup> James,<sup>3</sup> James,<sup>2</sup> Edward<sup>1</sup>) was the head of a branch of the family that has long been prominent in Rindge. (See Town History.)

LYME. Joel Converse,<sup>5</sup> the father of Rev. John Kendall Converse, long a clergyman and teacher in Burlington, Vt. (See Vermont.)

#### CONNECTICUT.

KILLINGLY, THOMPSON AND STAFFORD are towns which early became centres of migration and rapid increase of members of the Converse family. Samuel<sup>3</sup> (Sumuel,<sup>2</sup> Edward<sup>1</sup>) settled in Thompson in 1710. His descendants are widely scattered, and include many persons of prominence. The pioneer settler in Stafford, Tolland County, in 1735, was Lieutenant Josiah,<sup>5</sup> (Josiah,<sup>4</sup> James,<sup>3</sup> James,<sup>2</sup> Edward<sup>1</sup>). He removed from Leicester, Massachusetts. The dispersion from this home-centre has been equally remarkable in number, and in quality of manhood and womanhood, as will be noted under the next heading.

WINDSOR LOCKS has been the residence for many years of ALFRED WOODS CONVERSE,<sup>9</sup> in the line of Josiah.<sup>5</sup> He is known as one deeply interested and well informed in Converse family history.

#### VERMONT.

Vermont has been hospitable to people of Converse birth; and it is believed that this State has sacrificed nothing in material prosperity, moral tone or educational advancement from its welcome to citizenship.

RANDOLPH. Colonel Israel Converse,<sup>6</sup> son of Lieutenant Josiah,<sup>5</sup> of Stafford, Connecticut, removed to Randolph in 1787, and died there in 1806. Nine of his fourteen children were born in Stafford, and five in Randolph. He was the lineal ancestor of Commander Converse, U. S. N.; Major James Converse, the noted railroad engineer, officer and manager of Texas; Hon. Marcus A. Hanna, and Hon. Judge Phelps Converse, of Parkman, Ohio.

BURLINGTON. REV. JOHN KENDRICK CONVERSE; born 1801, died 1880, in the line of Samuel,<sup>3</sup> branching from Thompson, Connecticut. Three sons and four daughters. One son, John Herman, is at the head of the widely known Baldwin Locomotive Works, in Philadelphia. With him is a brother, Charles Allen, the compiler of the most extended history of the Converse family ever published, in two volumes of rare excellence and sumptuousness, a monument of labor and loyalty.

WEATHERSFIELD. REV. JAMES CONVERSE, 1772-1839. Forty years minister of the town. Graduated from Harvard College 1799; father of the Boston merchants before mentioned.

BRIDPORT. PAIN CONVERSE, in the line of Samuel,<sup>3</sup> of Thompson, Connecticut. Removed from Thompson about 1790, with a family of ten children, to Bridport.

WOODSTOCK. JULIUS CONVERSE,<sup>2</sup> (Joseph, Josiah, Josiah, James, James, Edward). He was Governor of Vermont. Warren, a brother, resided in Kirkland, N. Y.

#### MIDDLE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN STATES.

The three larger branches from the family of Edward Converse,<sup>1</sup> of Woburn, Massachusetts, for two or three generations, have been represented in these sections of the country conspicuously by Hon. George Leroy Converse, of Columbus, Ohio, an eminent lawyer and member of Congress. The enumeration would involve too many details for this summary if they were accessible. The

city directories and court records of populous places, such as Chicago, Cleveland and Columbus, will furnish clews for investigators. Among the localities of Converse settlements amid more sparse populations, Lodi, Elyria, Plain City and Parkman, Ohio, may be named. Princeton, Illinois, may be added.

Few of the Converse name have founded homes in the Southern States. Conspicuous representatives among these are Major James Converse, of San Antonio, Texas, and Dexter Edgar Converse, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, one a native of Ohio and the other of Vermont. The story of each of these men is a marvel of capacity, energy, success, public spirit and liberality. They furnish material for interesting and stimulating biographies.

Amasa Converse, of Richmond, Virginia, and Louisville, Kentucky, and his sons, Bartlet and Thomas, were eminent divines, associated as publishers and editors of the *Christian Observer*, an organ of the Presbyterian Church.

*The tribes will continue to multiply and disperse.*

The following is taken from the Bible presented to the Society by Mrs. J. A. W. Ramsay. This book was the property of Levi Moore, of Worcester, in 1830.

Levi Moore, son of John and Mary Moore, in the town of Worcester, Mass., was married to Olive Gould, daughter of Oliver and Sarah Gould, of Claremont, N. H., on the 5th day of June in the year 1816.

The time of the births of their children and their names are as follows:

Dolly Ann was born the 21st of May in the year 1818.  
Sarah Maria was born the 24th of April in the year 1824. ✓  
Lucy Permelia was born the 26th of September, 1832.  
Levi was born the 27th of August in the year 1836.  
Asa Moore, born 1720, married Sarah Heywood, February 10th, 1743. She died December 13, 1760.  
Asa, born March 10, 1744. John, born May 3d, 1746.  
Sarah, born Aug. 30, 1748. Married Daniel Gates, of Fullam, Nov. 13, 1775.  
Hannah, born July 23, 1750. Married Shepard Gates Feb. 23, 1774.  
Martha, born July 15, 1752. Married Mr. Whitney.  
Thaddeus, born September 15, 1754.  
Betsey, born February 17, 1757. Daniel, born May 19, 1759.

Asa Moore married again Mary Cook, April 12, 1764. She died in May, 1765. They had a son.

William was born February 19, 1765.

Asa Moore died June 30, 1800, aged 80 years.

Asa, son of Asa and Sarah Moore, died April, 1765.

John married Persis Gates, 1767. Their children were born as follows:

Asa, November 29, 1768. Sally, December 9, 1771.

Persis, September 5, 1775.

Persis, the wife of John Moore, died September 19, 1776.

John Moore married, second, Mary Gurney April 24, 1776.

Their children were:

Daniel, born June 23, 1777. John, born January 27, 1778.

Mary, born September 3, 1780. Levi, born October 2, 1788.

Thaddeus Moore married Tabitha Green of Leicester, December 11, 1777. Their children were:

Nancy, born December 2, 1781. Phineas, born October 20, 1785.

Thaddeus Moore died 1793.

Betsy Moore married James McFarland, Jr., January 5, 1778.

Their children are as follows:

Daniel, born September 1, 1780. Lotty, Daniel.

Ira, born October 31, 1785. Betsy, born April 11, 1789.

Horace, born September 1, 1792. Asa, born June 15, 1795.

#### DEATHS.

September 18th, 1793, my sister, Sarah Gurney, died aged 43.

September 11th, 1795, my honored mother, Sarah Gurney, died aged 88.

September 5th, 1799, my sister, Hannah Gurney, died aged 66.

Mrs. Mary Moore, wife of John Moore, died November 6, 1827, aged 80 years.

Mary Whittemore, wife of Clark Whittemore and daughter of John and Mary Moore, died July 26, 1829, aged 49 years.

Mr. John Moore died October 30, 1831, aged 85 years.

Dolly Ann, eldest daughter of Levi and Olive Moore, died October 2, 1836, aged 18 years, 5 months and 12 days. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.

Persis Goldthwait died January 18, 1860, aged 84 years.

A. T. Rice died September 19, 1860, aged 33 years.

W. H. Rice died November 18, 1860, aged 11 years.

Lucy P. Rice died January 3, 1861, aged 29 years.

Lizzy A. Rice, died August 14, 1858, aged 6 years.

Clara Rice, died January 2, 1861, aged 36 hours.