

Fosdick
Family

THE FOSDICK LINE

Compiled by

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FOSDICK LINE

1. Stephen Fosdick m Sarah Wetherell, 1624.
2. John Fosdick m Anna Shapley, ?1652.
3. Samuel Fosdick I m Mercy Picket, 1682.
4. Samuel Fosdick II m Susanna Turner, 1706.
5. James Fosdick m Elizabeth Darling, 1735.
6. William Fosdick I m Dorthy Colt, ?1761.
7. William Fosdick II m Rena Carrington, 1783.
8. Nancy Fosdick m Timothy Atwood Jr., 1802.
9. Irene Atwood m Samuel Haynes 1881.
10. Luman Andros Miner m Mary Jane Haynes 1848.
11. Gilbert Ora Miner m Andomeda Secor 1889.

Eight miles south of Boston in Lincolnshire, England, lies a small village called Fosdyke. It takes its name from the great Roman road, the Fosse Way, which ran diagonally across England from Bath, to Lincoln. The name appears to come from the Latin fossa and the Old English dic or dyke, both of which seem to convey the same idea of a ditch or earthwork. The village of Fosdyke goes back to very early days and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror (1085 A.D.). During medieval times, the name of the village was spelled in various ways: Fosdig, Fosdik, Fossedike, Fossedik, Fosdike, and Fosdick. According to old custom, ff often was used as a form of the initial F. Thus the name Fosdyke frequently would appear ffosdyke.

1. Stephen Fosdick, carpenter and patriarch of the Fosdick Line, was born in England in 1583; and died in Charlestown, Mass. 21 May 1664, aged 81. He is believed to have emigrated to America in October 1634 with nearly 600 inhabitants of Suffolk, England. In 1612, he married, in Hadleigh, eight miles north of Great Wenham, England, Anne Harre. Anne bore him six children before she died in England.^a

Stephen Fosdick married second, Sarah Wetherell, in 1624, and she accompanied him to America. There were two children by this marriage. Sarah Wetherell, born in 1589, "was a sister of John Wetherell, but her parentage is unknown." She may have been related to William Wetherell, a graduate of Cambridge U., and a schoolmaster, "who came to Charlestown

^aRaymond B. Fosdick, Annals of the Fosdick Family (New York, 1953, pp. 1-15.

in 1635, from Maidstone, Kent County, England, and who was for several years the grammar master of the public school."^a

In 1635, Stephen Fosdick applied for and received admission as an inhabitant of Charlestown, his name appearing in the list of inhabitants for 1635.^a In January of that year, Charlestown numbered 72 inhabitants, most of whom had wives and children.^a The church had been formed in 1632, from the church in Boston, but there was no school established until 1636.^a The government and social regulations were Puritan.^b

He was admitted a member of the Church in Charlestown, in full communion, 6 Febr. 1638, and his wife, Sarah, 7 July 1638.^c However, "his church relations do not seem to have been harmonious. In the earlier days of the noted Baptist controversy, he was fined 20 lbs., (probably for reading Anabaptist books, or offences of this nature),^d and on May 7, 1643, was excommunicated from the church. The civil penalty was released a few years afterwards. His house, worth 15 lbs., was burned while it was in the Sheriff's hands, and in 1648, on his petition, the fine was abated to 5 lbs., which he paid, and his lands were discharged.^e But he was not restored to the church until 1664,^f

^aFrothingham's Hist., Charlestown, pp. 65, 69, 84, 85; quot. in Lewis L. Fosdick, Fosdick Family (New York, 1891) p. 18-25.

^bLewis L. Fosdick, Ibid.

^cChurch Records, Budington's Hist. 1st Ch. Charlestown, p. 247, quoted in Lewis L. Fosdick, Fosdick Family, Ibid.

^dFrothingham, op. cit.

^eMass. Records III p. 139, Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid.

^fCh. Rec. in N.E.H. and G. Reg. XXIV, 11; Frothingham, p. 132, Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid.

about three months before his death. There is no concurrent church record of the sentence or its cause; but the church record of the restoration shows the offence to have consisted in speaking against the church covenant, and neglecting to hear the church in their dealings with him."^a

Stephen Fosdick was admitted a freeman on 7 Sept. 1638, and at a general meeting of the freemen, held 15 Dec. 1640, he and two others were chosen Surveyors for the Highways, the only civil office which he is known to have held.^b

"His landed possessions and transactions were considerable. Besides his house plot, granted in 1635; in 1638 the town granted him the meadow between his planting ground and the River;^c in 1639, he and four neighbors were granted liberty to make a key, (quay) 'as far out as they will;'^d in 1642, he hired 'two thirds of the ware vizt Mr. Winthrop's pt. and the Town's pt. the said Stephen is to have half the fish for his Labor and the other half to redound to the use of Mr. Winthrop and the Town;'^e in 1658, March 1, he shared in the allotment of a large tract of town lands among the inhabitants of the town, his share being twenty-five acres wood and four and a half

^aBudington's Hist. Ch. 59, Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid., p. 25.

^bTown Records, Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid., p. 24.

^cIbid.

^dCharlestown Records, Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid.

^eIbid.

commons;^a and besides these, made purchases and sales of other tracts to quite a great extent.^b

At his death, Stephen Fosdick's estate was inventoried at 500 lbs.^c which then was riches.^d His will was dated 23 Febr. 1663, and probated 21 June 1664. An abstract of his will follows.

"First. I give to my wife the four rooms, one over another which we do now make use of, I give my wife the bed we now lie on, and the hutches and the little table that are in the room, with the little kettle and the pot and the great kettle with those things that are convenient for her during the term of her life, and half the upper garden next to Mr. Shaplyes and Michael Long, with free egress and regress with all the household stuff that is mine, during her life, and after my wife's decease the house and lands to return to my executrix, and for the moveables above mentioned is to be equally divided, between my grandchildren of James Barnatt and Richard Holding that are now living. Also my wife is to have the felling ax that Goodman Cuttar made me last and two wedges and one beetle, furthermore I order my executrix to pay to my wife three pounds every year, and lay her in six cord of wood yearly upon the

^aFrothingham, p. 154, op. cit.

^bLewis L. Fosdick, op. cit. p. 26.

^cWyman's Gen., p. 355, op. cit., p. 26.

^dBancroft II, p. 407, op. cit.

ward for her use, furthermore I give to my wife a cow, and a cow comon to keep the cow on and also I order my executrix to winter this cow for her yearly during her life.

I give my daughter Hannah, 10 lbs., my daughter Martha, 10 lbs. and 40 acres in Oburne, my daughter Mary, 15 lbs., and my grandchild Steven Fosdick, 20 lbs.

I give my grandchild Samuel Fosdick, the son of John, after my son John's decease, the house and barn and the yard and garden belonging to it within Charlestown, lying by Mr. Shapelys with the Hay lott in Durty marsh, and the two cow comons and the woodlot which was given to it by lot, to him and to his heirs, male or female, and so to run in the generation of the Fosdicks forever.

I give to my grandchild John Fosdick, the son of John the house and land lying in Mauldon, to him and to his heirs male or female never to go out of the generations of the Fosdicks forever. Moreover my executrix is to pay twenty pounds to my two grandchildren of my son Thomas.

I make my son John my sole heir and executrix of my estate. Overseers: William Dady and Solomon Phips."^a

^aProbate Records, op. cit., pp. 26-28.

Children of Stephen and Anne (Harre) Fosdick:

- i. Hannah, b 1615, m James Barrett, 1642, res. Malden, d there 1681.
- ii. Thomas, b 1616, m Damaris ?, d 1650.
- iii. Martha, b 1617, m Richard Holden, res. Watertown and Groton.
- iv. Samuel, carpenter, d 1649.
- v. Prob. Sarah.
- vi. Unknown.

Children of Stephen and Sarah (Wetherell) Fosdick:

- *vii. John, b 1626, the next lineal ancestor.
- viii. Mary, b 1630, m Thomas Webb.

2. John Fosdick (Stephen¹) Carpenter, was born in 1626 in Charlestown, Mass., and died 17 Sept. 1716, aged 90, also in Charlestown.^a

He married first Mrs. Anna (Shapleigh or Shapley) Branson, daughter of Nicholas and Ann Shapley. Anna was born in 1627 and died 15 Oct. 1679 in Charlestown, aged 52. When Anna was 22, she married Henry Branson or Brainson. The child born to her after her marriage she confessed was John Fosdicks. This was James, born 17 June 1649. This case was brought to court, but the outcome is not known. Apparantly she continued to live for awhile with her husband, because in 1651, a daughter, Mary Branson, appears to have been born to her. Raymond Fosdick states that the records at this point are unclear. Henry Branson, then, does disappear from the scene, and John Fosdick married his Anna. After which, they left Charlestown and settled in nearby Malden for a few years.^a

John Fosdick married second Elizabeth Betts, the widow of John Betts, and 30 years his junior. She was born in 1656; and died 27 Sept. 1716 in Charlestown, aged 60. She died just 10 days after her husband John. On 2 June 1692, Elizabeth was arrested for witchcraft by the court at Salem. Elizabeth was then 35 and the family was still living in Malden. Her accusers were two domestic servants, Marcy Lewis and Mary Warren of Salem village, age 17 and 20, who could neither read or write. There is no record of what happened next. Elizabeth was still alive 24 years later, so she at least escaped the fate of hanging. But the hysterical testimony of Marcy and Mary sent other victims to the gallows.^a

^aRaymond B. Fosdick, op. cit.

John Fosdick was not admitted to the Church until 1696 when he was 70 years old. There is no record that his wife Ann was ever admitted to the Church.^a

In the ancient burying ground in Charlestown John and Anna are buried in the same plot, and probably Elizabeth too. Her gravestone has disappeared by Wyman in 1879 noted the existence of it. On John's gravestone is printed:

Here lies buried
The body of
Mr. John Fosdick
Age 90 yrs
Who deceased
Sept 17, 1760.^a

On Anna's headstone reads "The Anna Shapley of his youth." One of the gravestones near John's has a hole in it made by a British shell fired 15 years after John's death by the cannonballs fired from British ships lying near by in the Charles River.^a

John left a large estate of 123 lbs.^a

^aIbid.

Children of John and Anna (Shapley) (Branson) Fosdick:

- i. James, b 17 June 1649.
- ii. Anna, b 2 Oct. 1653.
- *iii. Samuel, b 15 Dec. 1655, next lineal ancestor.
- iv. John, b 20 Feb. 1657.
- v. Stephen, b 1 Nov. 1660.
- vi. Thomas, b 1 Nov. 1662, d 1721, m Mary Martin 16 July 1695.
- vii. Joseph, b 1 April 1665.
- viii. Sarah, b 22 April 1667.
- ix. Jonathan, b 25 Aug. 1669.

Children of John and Elizabeth (Betts) Fosdick:

- x. Sarah, b 11 June 1687, m Daniel Newhall.

3. Samuel Fosdick I (John² Stephen¹), known as Captain Samuel Fosdick of New London, Conn., was born in Charlestown, Mass., 15 Dec. 1655 and moved to New London in 1672 where he died 27 Aug. 1702, aged 47.

Samuel married Mercy Picket at New London, 1 Nov. 1682. Mercy Picket was born 16 Jan. 1660/1 and died 28 Nov. 1725 in New London. She married second John Arnold, 6 Dec. 1703. On her mother's side Mercy descended from Elder William Brewster who came to New England on the Mayflower in 1620. See Brewster Line.

Before Samuel moved from Charlestown, he served in King Philip's War (Great Indian War or Narragansett War), 1675, being a corporal in Capt. Samuel Mosely's Company.^a For this service he was granted a gratuity of 192 acres of land in 1728. Since this was 28 years after his death, the land was given to his heir Samuel II, who immediately sold it to his brother-in-law James Tilley of New London for 12 lbs.^b

On 15 April 1677, Samuel I was baptised in Charlestown Church.^c And "on 17 Jan. 1691/2, he and his wife Mercy owned the covenant, and had four children baptised, viz: Samuel, Mercy, Ruth, and Anna, in the First Church of Christ, New London, by Rev. Gurdon Saltonstall, and on 28 Febr. 1696/7, he and his wife were admitted into the church."^c

^aFrothingham's Charlestown, p. 179; N.E.H.G. Reg. VIII, p. 241; Redpath's US p. 142, quoted by Lewis L. Fosdick, op. cit.

^bRaymond B. Fosdick, op. cit. p. 41.

^cChurch Records I, p. 238, quot. by Lewis L. Fosdick, op. cit., p. 40.

Samuel, as well as being a member of many of the courts committees, was a Deputy for New London, in the General Court of Conn. for the years 1694, 1696, 1697, 1698, and 1700.^a He also managed prominent estates in probate proceedings. His other occupations were shipwright, blacksmith, surveyor, and, as he had extensive real estate holdings, he did some farming.^b

He also "had some distinction in military matters."^c In Oct. 1690, he was appointed a Lieutenant of one of the two foot companies which the General Court ordered to be raised to prevent the French from attacking or settling at Albany.^c In Aug. 1697, Mr. Samuel Fosdick was appointed and commissioned by the council in Hartford to be Captain of the soldiers to be listed out of the several towns for the defense of New London County.^c

On 31 Aug. 1704, Samuel's large estate was divided: the widow received one-third of the realty for life, and one-third of the personalty forever; the eldest son a double portion, and the rest of the children equal portions.^d

^aConn. Pub. Rec., quoted by Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid.

^bRaymond B. Fosdick, op. cit.

^cLewis L. Fosdick, op. cit., pp. 41, 42.

^dProbate Rec., quot. by Lewis L. Fosdick, Ibid.

Children of Samuel and Mercy (Picket) Fosdick:

- i. Samuel, d young.
- *ii. Samuel, b 18 Sept. 1684; the next lineal ancestor.
- iii. Mercy, b 30 Nov. 1686, m Thomas Jiggles, of Boston, in 1708, m (2) Thomas Morris.
- iv. Ruth, b 27 June 1689, m Tilley, of N. Y., d 29 June 1741.
- v. Anna, b 8 Dec. 1691, m Thomas Latham of Groton, d 1761.
- vi. John, or Jonathan, b 1 Febr. 1694, m in Guilford, 7 Feb. 1747, Jane Bradley.
- vii. Thomas, b 29 Aug. 1696, Deacon, m (1) Esther Updike, 1720, m (2) Grace Minor, 1755.
- viii. Mary, b 7 July 1699, m Richard Sutton of Charlestown, 1719, d there 1757.

4. Samuel Fosdick II (Samuel I³ John² Stephen¹) was born in New London 18 Sept. 1684, and bapt. there 17 Jan. 1691/2, First Church of Christ, by Rev. Gurdon Saltonstall. His residences were New London, Conn., Charlestown, Mass., and Oyster Bay, Long Island. At age 83, Samuel II went on a long journey from which he never returned.

Samuel Fosdick married Susanna Turner, 13 July 1706, in New London. She was his second cousin and a great-granddaughter of Jonathan Brewster, being descended from Brewster's daughter Mary; while Samuel was descended from Brewster's daughter Ruth. See Brewster Line. This was Susannah's second marriage. She married first in 1703, Adam Picket, her second cousin; thus, he was also Samuel's first cousin. Adam was a mariner and was lost at sea shortly after his marriage.^a

On 20 Dec. 1714, because of a quarrel with Adam Picket's brother John, Samuel Fosdick II, aged 30, stood in the pillary 3 times for the space of half an hour each time.^a

When Samuel's grandfather died in 1716, Samuel II inherited the Sconce Point holdings and the family left New London for Charlestown. Shortly after, Samuel brought suit against the selectmen of Charlestown about/^aroad right-of-way through his ancestral acres. He lost.^a

In 1728 Susannah, his wife brought suit against him to the selectmen of Charlestown. She told the Selectmen that her husband had threatened her life and abused her to such a degree that she was afraid to live with him. She stated that Samuel

^aRaymond B. Fosdick, op. cit.

had disposed of all his creatures and hogs, packed up his household goods, leased out all his lands for a considerable number of years thereby to strip her and her children of support and is thought to have designs to leave her. Samuel was then required to sign a complex trustee document that made suitable provision for his wife and children so that they may not become a charge of the town of Charlestown. With this document signed and sealed, Samuel apparantly said goodby to his family and left for Oyster Bay Long Island taking with him his eldest son Samuel III, age 18.^a

On 15 Sept. 1732, Samuel II sold his fathers homestead in New London for 200 lbs. In 1749, Caulking said that Samuel was "keeping the tavern." He also had some interest in sheep and cattle raising, and being a Potter; but his chief occupation was Blacksmith.^a

Between 1736 and 1754, Samuel was involved in 26 separate cases in courts of common pleas Queens County. In 6 he was the plaintiff, in 20 the defendent. Since each case meant a trip to the County Seat at Jamaica over 25 miles away, Raymond B. Fosdick suggests that Samuel must have spent many hours on horseback plodding back and forth.^a

In 1753 when Samuel's wife Susanna died, he disposed of the Oyster Bay property and thereafter spent much of his time in Charlestown perhaps living in the old homestead in Sconce Point.^a

^aIbid.

Samuel Fosdick II, at age 74, in 1758, married again to Elizabeth LeCross of Oyster Bay. The marriage was performed by banns by the Rev. Sam Seabury.

Samuel's will was probated in 1784, 17 years after he left Charlestown to be heard from no more. To James went Sconce Point and the bulk of the real property.

Children of Samuel II and Susanna (Turner) Fosdick:

- i. Mercy, b 1707, New London.
- ii. Mary, b 28 Mar. 1708, New London.
- iii. Samuel, b 11 March 1710/11, New London.
- iv. William, b 4 Febr. 1712/13, New London, m Susanna White, d prev. to 1742.
- v. Ruth, b 25 Jan. 1713/14, New London.
- *vi. James. b 20 Nov. 1716, New London, m Elizabeth Darling, d 16 Oct. 1784, next lineal ancestor.
- vii. Ezekiel, b 17 Febr. 1719/20, Charlestown, m (1) Abigail Wright; m(2) Anna Wells.
- viii. Jesse, b 7 Nov. 1722, Charlestown.
- ix. Susanna, b 11 Oct. 1724, Charlestown, m Samuel Frothingham, d 1801.

5. James Fosdick (Samuel II⁴ Samuel I³ John² Stephen¹) was born in New London, 20 Nov. 1716, and moved with his father to Charlestown about 1717 or 1718 where he died 16 Oct. 1784, age 68. He was by trade a cardmaker, making wool-carders for the manufacture of wool.^a

His wife was Elizabeth Darling, married 6 Dec. 1735, at Boston. She was admitted to the Charlestown Church 11 Jan. 1741, and died in Charlestown in 1799.

James "seems to have been the last recorded owner in the Fosdick family of the property on Sconce Point, which he had inherited from his father, and which, according to the will of Stephen Fosdick his great-great-grandfather, was 'to run in the generations of the Fosdicks forever.'" ^a

; Samuel and his wife were "buried in the 'Old Burying Ground' of Charlestown. Their gravestones, standing in 1852, have now disappeared. The inventory of his estate show him to have been in very comfortable circumstances."^a

^aIbid.

Children of James and Elizabeth (Darling) Fosdick:

- i. Abigail, b 1736, m (1) Solomon Phipps, 1754, m (2) James Brazier, 1767.
- ii. Elizabeth, b 1737, m Edward Tenney (Penney?) 1761.
- iii. James, b 1739, m (1) Mercy Collis, 1762, m (2) Mary Thornton.
- *iv. William, bapt. 1741, next lineal ancestor.
- v. Ruth.
- vi. Mary.
- vii. Thomas, m Abigail Edes, 17 Feb. 1777, in Boston, prior to 1800.
- viii. Jesse, b about 1755, served in Rev. War.
- ix. David, b 27 April 1757.
- x. Sarah.

6. William Fosdick I (James⁵ Samuel II⁴ Samuel I³ John² Stephen¹) was born in Charlestown in 1741; he died in ?1779, aged ?38.

He married Dorothy Colt.^a The family lived in East Windsor where their eleven children were baptised in East Windsor Church.^b

William Fosdick was a Private in the Revolutionary War, serving out of Charlestown, Mass. from 26 Aug. 1777 to 31 Dec. 1779. His enlistment was for 3 years, but on the muster roll for Oct. 1779, dated Camp Providence, he was reported sick at Providence hospital.^c

Children of William I and Dorothy (Colt) Fosdick:

- *i. William II, bapt. 9 May, 1762, the next lineal ancestor.
- ii. Dorothy, bapt. 9 May 1762, bu. 17 July 1762.
- iii. Laurence, bapt 18 Sept. 1763.
- iv. Sarah, bapt. 24 Febr. 1765.
- v. ? , bapt. 8 Feb. 1767.
- vi. ? , bapt. 25 June 1769.
- vii. ? , bapt. 21 June 1772.
- viii. ? , bapt. 20 Nov. 1774.
- ix. ? , bapt. 5 May 1776.
- x. ? , bapt. 4 May 1777.
- xi. ? , bapt. 30 July 1780.

^aMayflower Index (1960) #52314.

^bHenry R. Stiles, Ancient Windsor Conn. (Hartford, 1891), p. 271.

^cMass. Soldiers and Sailors, Vol. 5 (Boston, 1899), p. 880.

7. William Fosdick II (William I⁶ James⁵ Samuel II⁴ Samuel I³ John² Stephen¹) was born in East Windwor, Conn. 27 April 1762;^a he died 6 Febr. 1851 in Angelica, Allegany Co., New York, aged 89.

He married Rena Carrington in 1783, probably in New Lebanon, New York.^a Rena was born 6 Sept. 1769 in Conn., and died 18 Sept. 1853 in ?Angelica City, New York, aged 84.

In 1778, age 16, W'm Fosdick II first entered the service of the U. S. in the Rev. War as a substitute for Timothy Pole of East Hartford. On 8 July 1779, he entered service for Eppe Gilman of Hartland, Conn., joining the army at Litchfield Courthouse under Col. Canfield in Paxtain Tomroy's Co. of Militia. The Company marched to Danbury and drew provisions from military stores kept in the Church or meeting house, the rest of Danbury having been previously burnt. No other provisions except salt shad were drawn during the first 7 days, "after which (harvest having commenced) the troops obtained rye meal." They stayed two or three days longer, then marched through Bedford, Norwalk and Stanford. He again went into service, this time as a substitute for his brother Lawrence of East Windsor. After starting home because of scarcity of provisions, he was recalled after having gone 8 or 10 miles. In 1781 he was drafted. All his service time (3 years) was spent as a fifer. "He also alleged 3 months service on the privateer sloop Randolph."^a

^aPension File, National Archives.

^bD. A. R.

In 1850, William and Rena Fosdick, then age 88 and 81, were living with their son Joel, his wife Louisa and their family in Angelica City, N. Y. William's occupation was stated on the census for that year as "Shoemaker."

Children of William and Rena (Carrington) Fosdick:

- i. William III, b 1784, m Prusha Smith.^a
- *ii. Nancy, b 1785, d 1860, age 75, next lineal ancestor.
- iii. Rena, b 1789 N. Y. d 1866, age 77, m John Mathews.^b
- iv. Lucy, b 1796, d 1873, age 77, m Salmon Gates in 1813.^c
- v. Joel, b 1803, m Louisa.^d
- vi. Electra, b 1810, d 1896, age 86, m Rowland Carrington.^e
- vii. Aaron Carrington Fosdick, b 1808, d 1885, age 77, m 1827, Olive Dolly Moon,^f Children: Alpha, Jacob.^h

8. Nancy Fosdick (William II⁷ William I⁶ James⁵ Samuel II⁴ Samuel I³ John² Stephen¹) was born in 1785 in Conn.^g and died in 1860, age 75.

She married Timothy Atwood Jr. in 1802. He was born in 1782 in N. Y.; died in 1872, age 90. See Atwood Line.

^aDAR 62408.

^bDAR 110213.

^cDAR 156011, and Mayflower Index #52306 (1960).

^d1850 Census, Angelica City, N. Y.

^eDAR 110213.

^fDAR 110213.

^gIll. Census, Vol. 37, Ed. 178, Sheet 6, Line 28, Nat. Archives.

^h1860 Marshall Co. Ill. Fed. Census.