

PREFACE.

THE present work, commenced eight years ago amid the exacting cares and duties of a large professional practice, was completed during a long and tedious convalescence. And although many times it was extremely trying and disheartening, yet on the whole it has been a fascinating and, at times, a pleasant pastime.

When the writer first commenced collecting statistics it was with no idea of publication. But the work grew to such dimensions that it seemed best to carry it to completion for the benefit of the name of which it treats.

A few words are desirable as to the scope of the work, its plan, and the sources from which the materials have been obtained.

As to its *scope*, the idea has been to give as complete a history and genealogy as possible of all the descendants of William Hammond, who died in London, Eng., previous to 1634, and of his son Benjamin, who, born at London in 1621, came to Boston in 1634 with his mother, Elizabeth [Penn] Hammond, and three sisters, and died at Rochester, Mass., in 1703, leaving four sons, Samuel, John, Nathan and Benjamin, all of whom married and left children. As far as has been within range of possibilities, the history and genealogy of these four sons and their descendants have been carefully and conscientiously traced down to the present time.

No one, however, can be more painfully aware than the writer that many branches have disappeared, probably beyond all possibility of recovery or discovery. Possibly the publication of this Genealogy may be the means of bringing some of the lost tribes to light. And the author would esteem it a favor if any parties, knowing themselves to be related to the Hammonds described in this book, will communicate with him personally, giving all the information possible of their branches of the name.

On the other hand, great care has been taken to include none in this work unless the writer has felt morally certain that they actually belonged to this line of Hammonds.

The *plan* of the work has been to give first a person's place of residence, his business or occupation, and such other facts of his life as it seemed desirable to place on record. Then follow the facts of his marriage, viz: wife's maiden name, date of marriage, and the names and dates of birth of his children. Then the children who died young, all who did not marry, and the daughters who married, and also the sons who married but left no issue, are first disposed of. Finally, the sons who married, and left issue that carried on the family or line, are taken up, each in turn, and his record brought down to the present

time, or until the branch runs out or could be traced no further. Then the next son is taken up, and his record traced out in like manner.

Thus it will be seen that no attempt has been made to arrange the work by generations. The writer first tried this plan, but afterwards abandoned it for the one here adopted. The latter plan being more desirable from the fact that it enables anyone to get a clearer idea of the different branches and families, because they are kept together better.

To enable a stranger to follow out the record more readily, each branch, and the different sub-branches or families, have been designated by a series of numbers. The head of the family being designated by the †, and the sons who carry on the line, each by the number of his birth in the family, and the later sons in a similar manner, etc. For example, †-5-8. Thomas, means that Thomas was the eighth child of 5, and that 5 was the fifth child of †, or the head of the family or branch.

The record of daughters,—unless there were some good reason to the contrary,—has usually been dropped after giving their places of residence and the facts relating to their husbands and children. Where good reasons seem to exist, the record has been carried further,—even down to the present time.

Every available *source* known to the writer has been drawn upon to obtain materials for this Genealogy,—town records, church records, probate records, private records, head stones in cemeteries, etc. But, after all, a great part of the facts and statistics have been obtained from a very extensive correspondence with parties living in nearly all the northern and middle, and in many of the western and southern states. The writer has received more than one thousand letters and postal cards, and has written many more than that number.

The writer is not so sanguine as to suppose that a work like the present, containing so many facts gathered from so many sources, is entirely free from errors. But every effort has been made to have the facts *as correct as possible*.

A "Coat of Arms" is figured and described as a relic of our English Ancestry, though an interesting one even to Americans.

The "half-tones" are the best it has been possible to obtain under the circumstances. Some of the photographs and steel prints, from which they have been made, being very old and much faded, rendered it impossible to obtain fine work in such cases. Where a fresh photograph could be obtained the quality of the work is all that could be desired.

With these explanatory remarks the author sends the Genealogy forth, hoping it may afford in its perusal as much pleasure to its readers, as it has to the writer in its preparation.

ROLAND HAMMOND.

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