

Calvin m. Abigail Bryant 1799.—Edmund of Woodstock, Conn., m. Mary Harvey 1781.—Abigail m. Peter Hayward 1732.

WILLIS.—Dea. John Willis was at Duxbury very early; he and his wife Elizabeth are recorded as there in 1637; he was an original Proprietor, and one of the first settlers of Bridgewater; the first Deacon here; sustained many town offices, both at Duxbury and here; represented Bridgewater at the old Colony Court 25 years; sold his estate in Duxbury to William Paybody 1657; was appointed to solemnize marriages and administer oaths to witnesses and others; his wife Elizabeth was wid. of William Palmer Jr.; her maiden name Hodgkins; his will dated 1692, proved 1693; his children therein mentioned were John, Nath'l, Joseph, Comfort, Benjamin, Hannah, wife of Nath'l Hayward; Elizabeth, who m. a Harvey; and Sarah, wife of John Ames. Nathaniel, Executor. He gave to Joseph "land at Farfield as

we go to Taunton;" "to Comfort, 15 acres at the Indian Field;" "to John, land his house stands on;" "to Nathaniel, the home-
stead;" and mentions the pond "that divides between me and Benjamin;" also "the Wolf Trap Gutter." He had four brothers, Nathaniel, Lawrence, Jonathan, and Francis, which we thus ascertain; Elkanah was appointed to settle his father Nathaniel's estate 1686, his uncle John to assist him. Elkanah also settled his uncle Lawrence Willis' estate in Boston 1703, and in 1704 he sold land in Boston, which he described as the estate of his uncle Francis Willis deceased. On the 8th day of January, 1656, the year Bridgewater was incorporated, the following record, and almost the first in the book of records, appears, viz: "Be it known unto all men by these presents, that we, Nathaniel Willis and Lawrence Willis, inhabitants of the town of Bridgewater, do bind ourselves to free the said town of Bridgewater from any charge or damage that may come upon the said town by the keeping of our brother Jonathan Willis." The following also appears on the Court Records: "Jonathan Willis, who is at Duxbury for cure, shall not be maintained by Duxbury, but by Sandwich, whence he came." Thus we are assured these five were brothers. There was a Richard Willis, servant of John Barnes, transferred by consent to Thomas Prince 1634, m. Amy Glasse 1639, was at Duxbury 1638, and at Plymouth 1640. Richard, his s. probably, m. Patience Bonum at Plymouth 1670, was dead 1678, leaving a D. Ruhamah, and no further notice of them appears.—Henry Willis offered himself as a soldier to go with Mr. Prince and Lieut. Holmes to assist Mass. and Conn. against the Pequot Indians 1637, and we have no further account of him.—Jeremiah Willis was at Duxbury 1638, a youth, and was required by the court to procure himself a master: there was a Jeremiah Willis, a land holder, at Narraganset 1661: there was also a Thomas Willis at Lynn, a Representative there 1634, and afterwards a Proprietor of Sandwich 1637. Whether any of these were of the same family we are not able to ascertain: they were cotemporaneous, and might be brothers, or otherwise related to them.—Lawrence Willis was among the first settlers in Bridgewater, but not an original Proprietor. He was in Sandwich 1643, and was a soldier against the Indians, m. Mary, D. of Thomas Makepeace of Boston, 1656; and finally removed to Boston, and his estate was settled there 1703; he probably had no children, as Elkanah, his nephew, settled his estate. We have no notice of any descendants of these five brothers excepting of John and Nathaniel, and of these most are descended from John.

2. John (s. of John 1) m. Experience, D. of Nicholas Byram, and had John, Samuel, Experience, and Mary: he d. a. 1712, the date of his will. Experience m. William Hudson.—Mary m. Israel Randall 1701.

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3. Nathaniel (s. of John 1) and his wife Lydia had Nathaniel, Jonathan, John, Ebenezer, Sarah, and Mary; he d. 1716: his estate divided among his heirs 1729. Sarah m. John Hayward 1707.—Mary (whether the above or not uncertain) m. William Gilmore 1731.

4. Joseph (s. of John 1) was at Scituate 1689, and admitted a freeman same year; he had a s. Joseph, who is mentioned in his grandfather's will, and is there called "the eldest son of my son Joseph," so that there were other ss., and perhaps daughters. Joseph was on a committee for running lines in B. 1667.—Joseph Willis is mentioned as a Proprietor of Taunton 1668, 1673, and 1684, and Joseph Willis of Taunton m. a D. of Thomas Lincoln. Perhaps he finally settled in Easton, which was then a part of Taunton.—There are no descendants of his in B., nor any further notice of him on B. records. Sometimes the father and sometimes the son is intended probably in the above notices.

5. Comfort (s. of John 1) lived near the bridge called Comfort's bridge; his ss. were Samuel, Joshua, Isaac, and he had probably other children. He was a Trooper in Philip's war, and left a manuscript, giving an account of one of the skirmishes of the period, which is now unfortunately lost.—Mercy Willis m. Samuel Hall of Taunton 1718.

6. Benja. (Son of John 1) m. Susanna, D. of Thomas Whitman, made a nuncupative will 1696, declared in presence of Comfort Willis, John Ames Jr., and Nathaniel Ames; no children mentioned, but he had 2 ss. Thomas 1694, and Benjamin 1696; and two Ds.; one, Susanna probably, m. Gen. David Cobb's grandfather of Taunton, and the other, Elizabeth, m. Capt. Nathaniel Woodward 1708; he might have had other children; he died æ. 39, and his wid. settled his estate in 1697; she d. æ. 98.—John Ames Jr. was guardian to Benjamin 1714.

"1645. The inhabitants of the town of Duxbury are granted a competent proportion of lands about Saughtuckquett (Sattucket), towards the west, for a plantation for them, and to have it four miles every way from the place where they shall set up their centre; provided it intrench not upon Winnytuckquett, formerly granted to Plymouth. And we have nominated Capt. Miles Standish, Mr. John Alden, George Soule, Constant Southworth, John Rogers, and William Brett, to be feoffees in trust for the equal dividing and laying forth the said lands to the inhabitants."

How the town proceeded in dividing these lands among the inhabitants, or how, by whom, or when it was determined what residence or other circumstance should entitle any one to a share, no record informs us; we are only told in subsequent writings, and particularly in Gov. Hinckley's confirmation, that the inhabitants settled this matter "by an agreement among themselves." They were at first but fifty-four, each of whom had one share, and were denominated original proprietors. Their names are thus given on the town records:—

WILLIAM BRADFORD,	EDWARD HALL,
WILLIAM MERRICK,	NICHOLAS ROBBINS,
JOHN BRADFORD,	THOMAS HAYWARD,
ABRAHAM PIERCE,	Mr. RALPH PARTRIDGE,
JOHN ROGERS,	NATHANIEL WILLIS,
GEORGE PARTRIDGE,	JOHN WILLIS,
JOHN STARR,	THOMAS BONNEY,
Mr. WILLIAM COLLIER,	Mr. MILES STANDISH,

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BRIDGEWATER.

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The first House of Representatives or Deputies in the Old Plymouth Colony convened in 1639. From June 3, 1656, the date of the incorporation of the town, to the year 1691 inclusive when the two colonies were united into one province, the Representatives from Bridgewater to the general court at Plymouth, appear in the following order:—

1657 John Willis,	1684 Thomas Hayward,
to 1661 William Brett,	1687 None. Andros' Ad-
to 1666 John Willis,	& 1688 ministration.
to 1676 John Willis and	1689 Thomas Hayward &
Samuel Edson,	William Brett, 2d.
1677 John Willis,	1690 William Brett,
to 1681 Thomas Hayward,	1691 Josiah Edson.
to 1683 Thomas Hayward &	
John Haward,	

it is said, every house but one in town was burnt. These were probably the out dwellings only on the skirts, and not in the village, where the houses were all in some measure fortified. The house excepted is said to have been Nicholas Byram's, which was in the east, where Capt. Isaac Whitman lately lived, and quite remote from the principal settlement.

The following is an extract from an ancient manuscript, of which Comfort Willis, who then held the office of "Town Trooper," is supposed to have been the author:—

"On Saturday, Capt. (Thomas) Hayward, Sergeant (Samuel Jr.) Packard, John Willis, and Isaac Harris, went out to see if the Indians were coming down upon them, and they saw an Indian, which made them think the enemy was at hand; and they immediately pressed Comfort Willis and Joseph Edson to go post to the Governor the same day at night to tell him of it. And he went to Plymouth with them the next day, to send Capt. Church with his company. And Capt. Church came with them to Monponset on the Sabbath, and came no further that day; and he told them he would meet them the next day. And Comfort Willis and Joseph Edson came home at night and told their friends of it, and Ensign (John) Haward, Samuel Edson, Josiah Edson, Joseph Edson, John Washburn, Samuel Washburn, Thomas Washburn, John Field, Nicholas Byram, Samuel Allen, Samuel Allen, Jr., John Gordon, John Hayward, John Packard, John Ames, Comfort Willis, Guido Bailey, Nathaniel Hayward, John Whitman, John Packard and Samuel Leach went out on Monday, supposing to meet with Captain Church; but they came upon the enemy, and fought with them, and took seventeen of them alive and also much plunder. And they all returned, and not one of them fell by the enemy, and received no help from Church."

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS FROM EARLY RECORDS IN A
CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

1656. June.—The town was incorporated.
- “ November 3.—It is agreed upon by the town that all who neglect to attend a town meeting after lawful warning shall pay 1s. 6d. ; and for tardiness, and not answering when their names are called, 9d.—and the same for going away before the meeting is closed.
- “ Nathaniel Willis and Lawrence Willis bind themselves to free the town from any charge in keeping their brother Jonathan Willis.
- “ About the holsters bought of Goodman Hill. Goodman

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Plain.

- 1666.—Samuel Edson, Nicholas Byram, and John Willis, appointed by the court Counsellors of War with the military officers of the town.
- 1667.—A jury was named by the court to be empannelled to lay out all ways requisite in the town of Bridgewater, viz. :

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EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BRIDGEWATER.

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- 1671.—Comfort Willis chosen trooper for five years, to find horse and furniture, only the town to find a pair of pistols and holsters, and if they were out of kelter at any time, he to repair them ; and if he went to Yarmouth, he was to have 20s. ; if to Plymouth, 15s. ; and if to Taunton, 10s. ; and Israel Packard to be trooper also on the same terms.
- “ John Hayward of the plain, and Nathaniel Willis to enquire who drink strong liquors in ordinaries.

raised as they might need.

1676.—A vote was called to see what should be done with the money that was made of the Indians, that were sold last, and it was voted, that the soldiers that took them should have it.

“ Elder Brett, Deacon Willis, and Mr. Samuel Edson were appointed to distribute the contributions made by divers christians in Ireland for the distresses of the Indian wars.

“ Deacon Willis and John Cary were chosen to take in the charges of the late war since June last, and the expenses of the scouts that were sent out before and since June.

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made, shall not be less than forty feet.

1686.—Ten acres of wood land to be laid out to each purchaser nearest to their habitations, as the land will afford it to be laid out, viz:—

Lots on the south side of Town River, below Goodman Alden's, namely, to William Snow, Samuel Edson, Edward Fobes, John Ames, Elihu Brett, Samuel Edson, Jr., Josiah Edson, Matthew Gannett, (of Scituate,) Solomon Leonard, Giles Leach, Benjamin Willis.

North side of the Town River, viz:—John Willis, Nathaniel Hayward, John Willis, Jr., Captain Wadsworth, (Samuel, of Duxbury,) Lieutenant (Thomas) Hayward, Joseph Bassett, William Bassett, Joseph