MAJOR TIMOTHY HATCH OF HARTFORD, CT., AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649194018

Major Timothy Hatch of Hartford, Ct., and his descendants by Edward Hatch Fletcher

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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EDWARD HATCH FLETCHER

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Trieste

Timothy Hatch.

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OF HARTFORD, CT.,

AND HIS DESCENDANTS;

BY

EDWARD HATCH FLETCHER,

OF NEW YORK CITY.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR
BY THADDEUS B. MEAD, 96 DUANE STREET,
NEW YORK.
1879.

418 West Fifty-first Street,
New York, October, 1879.

Dear Kinsfolk :

This little compilation was undertaken six years ago, and would have been sooner issued but that there appeared at one time a prospect that it might be merged in a more extensive work by another hand. The latter seems to have failed, at least for the present, from a lack of encouragement ; and I have proceeded to complete my undertaking, which is here presented.

A few blanks occur, not from the want of proper endeavor on the part of the compiler.

The influence and tendencies of these family histories can be only for good, and with all its imperfections, I have faith that this will be prized by the present, and more highly by future generations.

Respectfully,

EDWARD HATCH FLETCHER.

Explanation.—The names having a plus mark (+) recur in the succeeding generation as heads of families. The small superior figures denote the generation.

MAJOR TIMOTHY HATCH.

THE first settlement of our family in this country was as early as 1635. The Plymouth Colony received rapid accession at that time from the mother country. They penetrated the surrounding wilderness, planted their homes, and founded new towns. About thirty miles south-easterly from Plymouth our immigrant ancestors settled, where is now the town of Falmouth. An old house which has stood more than a century and remained in possession of the family until a recent period is pointed out as "the old Hatch place"; and undoubtedly stands upon the ground of the original settlement. None of the descendants, however, remain in that town.

Thence, we trace our line downward to the State of Connecticut, whither several of that family removed at an early date, and settled in Tolland, Guilford, Windsor, and other towns near Hartford. Captain Zephaniah Hatch, whose exact succession has not yet been fixed, but is unmistakably clear as being from the Falmouth family, was a sea-captain and traded with the West Indies. He lived in Guilford, where he m. 1745, Johannah, dau. of Josiah and Hannah Chittenden. Josiah was uncle of Thomas Chittenden, the first governor of the State of Vermont. Of their fifteen children, five were b. in Guilford; and they then rem. to Oxford, in the same state. This was his residence the remainder of his life. Here he d. at upwards of eighty years of age. Here their son Timothy, who is the head of our branch, was b. in 1757.

Of the boyhood and early life of Timothy no account has been preserved. He entered the army at the commencement of the Revolution, and at the age of nineteen was in the battle of White Plains. In this conflict he was taken prisoner by the British, and suffered in the New York "Bridewell" prison the treatment of prisoners, which, though not so atrocious as that of the rebels in the late war, was very cruel. He was finally exchanged, but we do not find that he was in further active service. In 1778 he m. Lucretia Rockwell and settled in East Hartford, Ct., where he lived several years, and where their first two children were b. About 1784 he rem. to Blanford, Ms., where he purchased a small farm, and lived about twenty years. Six children were b. in Blanford. He rem. to Hartford, Ct., where, in connection with his son Frederic W., he built a house on Pearl Street, opposite the old jail, which still remains in good condition. His wife Lucretia died Feb. 4, 1811. He m. 2d Lucy Bassett, who d. Feb. 11, 1817. The third wife was Mrs. Lucinda [Martyn] Danforth, widow of Daniel Danforth of Hartford. She was b. in Hadley, Ms., June 6, 1777, and d. July 3, 1853. By this marriage were three children, b. in Hartford. After his removal to Hartford he was occupied in active business pursuits—public business, mercantile, and exchange brokerage.

After the close of the Revolution he was a major in the militia, and at the time of the "Shay's Rebellion" was called out for its suppression.

The character of Major Timothy Hatch would seem to partake largely of the elements ascribed to our Puritan ancestors —firm integrity, unbending adherence to principle, a strong will, persevering energy. These, united with good judgment, a mind of some cultivation and stored by reading, would naturally give him success in his undertakings and a prominent place in community. In public affairs he took a lively interest, and his name frequently occurs in the newspapers of that time in connection with public meetings of various sorts. In religion he was an Episcopalian, a member of Christ Church, Hartford. He lived to the ripe age of eighty-one, and d. June 10, 1838. He could count as his progeny at the time of his death, eleven children, fifty-five grandchildren, and twenty-three great grandchildren—a total of eighty-nine.