

**THE KNAPP FAMILY IN AMERICA:
A GENEALOGY OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM
KNAPP WHO SETTLED IN
WATERTOWN, MASS., IN 1630**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649749089

The Knapp Family in America: A Genealogy of the Descendants of William Knapp Who Settled in Watertown, Mass., in 1630 by Arthur Mason Knapp

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ARTHUR MASON KNAPP

**THE KNAPP FAMILY IN AMERICA:
A GENEALOGY OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM
KNAPP WHO SETTLED IN
WATERTOWN, MASS., IN 1630**



Arthur Mason Knapp

THIS book embodies the result of investigations pursued for many years, as a diversion from other literary labor, by one who, despite his modesty, reflected much honor upon the name he bore. [See Appendix, Note A.] The author would doubtless have extended and elaborated the work before publishing it, and solved some problems that perplexed him; but the editors have chosen to present it substantially as he left it. He was extremely painstaking in his researches and cautious in his statements, so that his records may generally be relied upon. His doubts, so far as known, are indicated as such.

GEORGE B. KNAPP,
KATHARINE KNAPP,

Editors.

BOSTON, 1909.

INTRODUCTION

THE name Knapp is of Teutonic origin, and is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *cnapa*, which corresponds to the German *Knappe*, an esquire or body-servant to a knight or noble; or from *cnaep*, a hill, which, in the forms of Knap, Knop, Knob, nap, etc., occurs as a place-name in midland and southern England. Probably the name has not a common origin for all families bearing it. There are many variations in the spelling of the name, some families not adhering to any particular form, while others were quite persistent in so doing, even when more liberty in that matter was practiced than now.

The earliest mention of the name is in the *Rotuli Curiae Regis*, Volume I, page 139, thus: "Anno Regis Ricardi IX: I: XV die [i. e., 1198], Petrus Knape." From that time down, it occurs frequently in English records. It was common in Suffolk and Norfolk counties and there is some evidence, but not as yet conclusive, that the Knapps of America came from the former county.* In the Visitation of Suffolk of 1577 the coat-of-arms of the Knapp family is thus described: "Or, in chief, three close helmets, sable; in base a lion passant, of the last. Crest: An arm embowed, in armour, proper, garnished, or, the hand of the first grasping by the blade a broken sword, argent; hilt and pommel of the second, with a branch of laurel, vert. Motto: *Spes nostra Deus.*"

Among the immigrants who came over with Sir Richard Saltonstall in 1630 were two men, perhaps brothers, named Nicholas and William Knapp, who, with others, became the first settlers of Watertown, Mass. The children of Nicholas removed to Connecticut and are the ancestors of the Knapps of that state, of western Massachusetts, of New York and states farther west. William, who remained in Watertown, is the ancestor of those of the name in central and eastern Massachusetts, except the southeastern, where they are from Aaron (possibly a third brother), who was one of the early settlers of Taunton. The Knapps of New Hampshire and Maine are also descendants of William.

Before 1644 William Knapp was grantee of seven lots of land in the town of Watertown, and purchaser of one. His "homestall" of sixteen acres was bounded southwesterly by that of Richard Lock-

* Mr. Oswald G. Knapp, of Hillside, Castle Hill, Maidenhead, England, who is about to publish a history of the English families of the name of Knapp, has made some interesting researches in an endeavor to locate our ancestor William.

wood, southeasterly by that of Nicholas Knapp, easterly by that of Richard Browne, northeasterly by that of Richard Beers, northerly by the highway (the Cambridge road). Most of his real estate, amounting to about one hundred and seventy acres, came, after his death, into the possession of Nathaniel Coolidge. His will, proved October 15, 1658, makes no mention of his wife, probably because made before his second marriage, his first wife having died in England. In the settlement of his estate, however, his widow received one third. In the records of Watertown there are many items relating to this, our earliest American ancestor.

THE KNAPP FAMILY IN AMERICA

NOTE. — The successive generations are designated by the letters of the alphabet in large capitals, A representing the immigrant. The Arabic notation indicates the order in which the families of each generation are considered; and the Roman numerals distinguish the children of each family.

A

WILLIAM KNAPP was born in England about 1578; came to this country in 1630 with Sir Richard Saltonstall, and was one of the first settlers of Watertown, Mass., where he died Aug. 30, 1658, aged, as the town record states, "about eighty." The name of his first wife, who died in England, is unknown; his second, whom he married between 1655 and 1658, was Priscilla Akers, widow of Thomas Akers.

CHILDREN:

(All born in England.)

B¹ I. WILLIAM.

B² II. JOHN.

B³ III. JAMES.

IV. MARY, *m.*, 1636 (?), *Thomas Smith*, of Watertown (who was *b.* 1601 and *d.* March 10, 1692[3]).

V. JUDITH, *m.*, 1650(?), *Nicholas Cady*, and removed, about 1668, to Groton, Mass.

VI. ANNE, *m.* *Thomas Philbrick*, of Hampton; *d.* May 17, 1667.

VII. ELIZABETH, *m.* *John Buttery* and returned to England, where she resided at Bury St. Mary, Suffolk. In 1662, June 24, she, a widow, sold through her attorney, Thomas Danforth, her share (one eighth) of her father's estate. The original power of attorney is on file at the probate office in East Cambridge, Mass.

B¹

WILLIAM² (William¹), son of the immigrant; *b.* in England; *m.*, first, *Mary* —; *m.*, second, about 1652, *Margaret* —; lived in Watertown, where he died Sept. 25, 1676.

CHILDREN:

I. PRISCILLA, *b.* Nov. 10, 1642.

II. JOSEPH, apprenticed March 6, 1656, to J. Fleming, afterwards to John Barnard.

III. JUDY, *b.* March 2, 1653.

IV. ELIZABETH, *b.* July 23, 1657; *m.*, Sept. 11, 1674, *Samuel Scripture*, of Cambridge.

B²

JOHN² (William¹), son of the immigrant; *b.* in England about 1624; *m.*, May 25, 1660, *Sarah Young*. His will, proved April 27, 1696, mentions his wife Sarah and children I. to VII. in the following list.

CHILDREN:

- C¹ I. JOHN, *b.* May 4, 1661.
 II. SARAH, *b.* Sept. 5, 1662 (called in John's will, Sarah Park).
 III. HENRY, executor of his father's will. In 1716 he was protecting settlers against the Indians.
 C² IV. ISAAC, *b.* 1672(?).
 V. MARY, *m.* *Simon Tozer*, of Weston, Mass.
 C³ VI. JOSHUA.
 VII. ABIGAIL, *m.*, Oct. 3, 1712, *Benjamin Newton*, of Marlboro, Mass.
 VIII. JAMES, probably lost in the expedition against Quebec in 1690. [From Registry of Deeds, East Cambridge, Nov. 9, 1736: "Isaac Knapp, of Salem, and wife Anna grant land in Maine, west of Sowhegan, granted in right of his brother James, who was in the Canada expedition, now deceased."]

B³

JAMES² (William¹), son of the immigrant; *b.* about 1627; *m.* *Elizabeth*, dau. of *John Warren*. He was one of the original proprietors of Groton, Mass., where twenty acres of land, free from taxes for twenty years, were given him to encourage the building of a mill.

CHILDREN:

- I. ELIZABETH, *b.* April 21, 1655; *m.* *Ephraim Philbrick*, of Groton. She was bewitched in 1671. [See Appendix, Note B.]
 II. JAMES, *b.* May 26, 1657; *d.* Sept. 26, 1657.

C¹

JOHN³ (John², William¹), son of John [B²] and Sarah (Young) Knapp, *b.* in Watertown, May 4, 1661; *m.*, Aug. 4, 1686, *Sarah Park*, and removed to Newton, where he died in 1733. His wife died Dec. 19, 1727. A deed dated June 14, 1729, names John, Sr.; John, Jr.,

husbandman; Jonas, housewright; Daniel and Jonathan, husbandmen; Sarah, Lydia, and Hannah, "symsters," all of Newton; James, husbandman, of Worcester; Ebenezer, weaver, of Weston. In the Registry of Deeds, East Cambridge, Mass., are many items relating to transfer of property among various members of this family, dating from 1704 to 1736.

CHILDREN:

- I. SARAH, *b.* Aug. 13, 1686; *d.* 1755; unmarried.
- D¹ II. JOHN, *b.* Dec. 11, 1688.
- D² III. JAMES, *b.* Feb. 21, 1690.
- IV. JONAS, *m.*, Nov. 6, 1737, *Mary Wright*, at Falmouth, Me. On muster roll of Capt. John Shipley's company, June 26, 1722; on that of Capt. Geo. Berry's company, Falmouth, Me., May 19, 1746, to Jan. 19, 1747, Corporal Jonas Knapp.
- V. JONATHAN.
- D³ VI. DANIEL.
- D⁴ VII. EBENEZER.
- VIII. LYDIA, *d.* April 29, 1734, unmarried.
- IX. HANNAH, *m.* *Moses Allen* and lived in New Medfield, Worcester County, Mass.
- X. ISAAC, *b.* —; *m.* *Mary* — and had a son, Jedediah, *b.* Feb. 28, 1726, who married *Sarah* — and had a daughter Hannah, a minor above fourteen years of age in 1762, when the widow Sarah was appointed her guardian. They lived in Needham. Among the grantees of Lyndeboro, N. H., September, 1736, are Isaac and James Knapp, probably x. and iii.

C²

ISAAC² (John², William¹), son of John [B²] and Sarah (Young) Knapp, of Newton; *b.* 1672(?); lived in Charlestown, Cambridge, Marblehead, Salem. Was a shipwright. He died Dec. 8, 1744, and was buried in the Granary Burying-ground, Boston. His wife was *Anna*, dau. of *Benoni Eaton*, of Cambridge. He served in the Quebec expedition of 1690 with his brother James, and in 1735 received for his services in that war a grant of land in the Canada townships. The deed of its sale, recorded in East Cambridge, shows that he and his wife were both living Nov. 9, 1736. He removed to Salem between 1703 and 1707, and, so far as I know, all the Knapps of Essex County, of the eighteenth century, except those of Marblehead, are descended from him.