

**GENEALOGY IN PART OF THE SPRAGUE  
FAMILIES IN AMERICA: AS DESCENDED FROM  
EDWARD SPRAGUE OF ENGLAND, FROM 1614  
TO 1902, WITH THE WILLS OF EDWARD  
SPRAGUE AND THAT OF HIS SON WILLIAM  
WHO SETTLED IN HINGHAM, MASS., IN 1636**

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Genealogy in part of the Sprague families in America: as descended from Edward Sprague of England, from 1614 to 1902, with the wills of Edward Sprague and that of his son William who settled in Hingham, Mass., in 1636 by Augustus B. R. Sprague

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# **AUGUSTUS B. R. SPRAGUE**

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# Genealogy

IN PART OF THE

## Sprague Families in America

AS DESCENDED FROM

EDWARD SPRAGUE OF ENGLAND,

✻ From 1614 to 1902 ✻

With the Wills of Edward Sprague and that of his son,  
William, who settled in Hingham, Mass., in 1636.

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COMPILED BY AUGUSTUS B. R. SPRAGUE,  
A Member of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, etc.



Worcester, Mass.;  
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## - Introduction -

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In gathering the facts herein submitted, it was my purpose to trace my lineage back to WILLIAM SPRAGUE, who, with his brothers Ralph and Richard, and others, came over in the interest of the Massachusetts Bay Company to prepare the way for a new colony. From papers in my father's possession and from other sources, I have been able to do this, but the descendants of William Sprague were so numerous that I have confined my researches substantially to my own line, including the eighth generation and giving some facts of interest to all descendants of William, who was doubtless the ancestor of most persons bearing the name of Sprague in this country. Blank pages have been added that the families of the eighth generation may record their own descendants.

If the information presented is of any value or interest to those descended from the men and women, Puritans, who jointly with the Pilgrims, formed an alliance which worked out the problems and laid the foundations of this great republic, I shall be amply repaid for the labor required to gather the facts recorded in this little pamphlet.

A. B. R. S.

Worcester, Massachusetts, Sept., 1902.

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## - The Spragues -

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The purpose of this work is not to give a complete or an exhaustive history of the SPRAGUE FAMILIES who settled in America, but to briefly record their origin as descended from EDWARD SPRAGUE of England, whose three sons emigrated to this country during the year 1628-9. Also, to furnish brief genealogies of three of his sons, particularly that of WILLIAM who settled in Charlestown and Hingham, Mass.

The Spragues descended from good old Anglo-Saxon and English stock, have an honorable history of more than 300 years, and are worthy of a more extended mention than the limits of this work.

We make several extracts from the genealogy of the families collated by the late Hosea Sprague of Hingham, published by him in the year 1828, for which the compiler is much indebted for that which is found in this work relating to Edward and his three sons.

Gene. An. Lib. 11450



Edward Sprague, of England, the date of his birth is not given, was a resident of Upway, county of Dorset, and a fuller by trade. He married Christiana, the family name, date of birth and marriage not given, and by whom he had these six children.

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1 RALPH,  | 4 RICHARD,     |
| 2 ALICE,  | 5 CHRISTOPHER, |
| 3 EDWARD, | 6 WILLIAM.     |

Ralph, Richard and William arrived at Naumkeag, (Salem,) in 1628-1629. They came over in the interest of the Massachusetts Bay Company, to prepare for a new colony, and "it was their decree that none but honest and Godly men should go over to settle."

In Prince's Chronology we read, "Among those who arrive at Naumkeag, are Ralph Sprague, with his brethren Richard and William, who, with three or four more, were by Governor Endicott employed to explore and take possession of the country westward. They travelled through the woods to Charlestown, on a neck of land called Mishawum, between Mystic and Charles rivers, full of Indians named Aberginians, with whom they made peace."

Hon. Edward Everett, in his address commemorative of the bi-centennial of the arrival of Winthrop at Charlestown, in speaking of the three brothers, Ralph, Richard and William Sprague, said, "they are the founders of the settlement in this place, and were persons of substance and enter-

prise, excellent citizens, generous public benefactors, and the head of a very large and respectable family of descendants."

Ralph Sprague was about twenty-five years old when he came to this country. He had four sons, John, Richard, Samuel and Phineas, and a daughter Mary, who married Daniel Edmands.

John and Richard were born in England.

On the 23rd of September, 1630, Ralph was one of a jury empaneled. This seems to have been the first jury in Massachusetts.

Ralph Sprague was a lieutenant in the Train Band. In 1631, Captain Richard Sprague commanded a company of the Train Band, and on Friday of each week exercised his command at a convenient place near the Indian wigwams.

Feb. 10, 1634-5, the famous town order creating a Board of Selectmen was passed, Richard and William Sprague, among others, signed this order. —*Memorial History of Boston.*

Richard Sprague left no posterity. "His sword, which is mentioned in his brother William's will, is preserved in one of the old Sprague houses in Hingham. (1828.)

Edward Sprague died in 1614.

We append his Will, Inventory of his Estate, and their probations, as a matter of history in these annals.

### Will of Edward Sprague of England.—1614.

THE Vltth day of June in the year of our Lord God, 1614. *In the Name of God, Amen.*

I, EDWARD SPRAGUE of Upway in the County of Dorset, fuller, being sick and weak of body, but well and perfect in mind, thanks be given unto Almighty God, do ordain and appoint this my last Will and Testament to be made in manner and form following. That is to say, first of all, I do bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my saviour and redeemer, and my body to be buried within the church yard. As for such temporal goods as God hath blessed me withall, I give and bequeath as hereafter follows: viz. I give unto the parish church of Upway ten shillings,

*Item*—I give unto the poor of the said parish of Upway ten shillings.

*Item*—I give unto Ralph Sprague my eldest son one of the oldest pair of shears in my shop and one lesser pair called the quarrell.

*Item*—I give and bequeath unto my eldest daughter Alice Sprague fifty pounds, to be paid within one year after my decease.

*Item*—I give and bequeath unto Edward Sprague my second son, two pairs of shears and twenty pounds to be paid likewise within one year after my decease.

*Item*—I give and bequeath unto Richard Sprague my third son twenty pounds to be paid when he shall be one and twenty years of age.

*Item*—I give and bequeath unto Christopher Sprague my fourth son twenty pounds to be paid when he shall be of the age of one and twenty years.

*Item*—I give and bequeath unto William Sprague my youngest son twenty pounds to be paid when he shall be of the age of one and twenty years.