

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO A
TRUMBULL GENEALOGY,
FROM GLEANINGS IN
ENGLISH FIELDS**

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Contributions to a Trumbull genealogy, from gleanings in English fields by J. Henry Lea

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J. HENRY LEA

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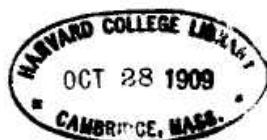
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J. HENRY LEA.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO A TRUMBULL GENEALOGY.

THERE is probably no family among our early colonial and revolutionary stock which has contributed so many distinguished men to their country's service in so many widely varied walks of life as the Trumbulls—preëminent among statesmen, warriors, divines, poets, painters and historians, the fame of the family must still rest, as its most enduring monument, on the patriot Governor of Connecticut whose nickname of "Brother Jonathan," affectionately given him by Washington, will ever stand as the prototype of American manhood and patriotism.

That so little has ever been done to substantiate the ancestry of so notable a family seems a grave omission on the part of our historians, and I esteem it a privilege to be able to throw some light on the obscurity which has thus far enveloped its origin.

As is well known to all who have taken an interest in the subject, there were two John Trumbulls (or Trumble, as the name was then generally written) in the Massachusetts Colony at an early day, and there has been no little confusion regarding them among genealogists. As a matter of fact, however, there was no connection whatever between them, and nothing has ever been discovered that would indicate that they were even known to one another. They were:

I.—John Trumble, Cooper, of Roxbury in 1639, and among the first members of Mr. Eliot's Church there, and the following year (13 May 1640) made freeman of Rowley. *He brought to this country a wife Ellen and son John.**

II.—John Trumble, Mariner, of Cambridge in 1636, was also made a freeman in 1640, and removed to Charlestown in 1655. He had wife Elizabeth; perhaps married here.†

There has always been a family tradition attributing the origin of one or both of them to Newcastle on Tyne in England, and this at length found confirmation in a power of attorney of Susan Blackiston of Newcastle on Tyne, widow, dated 27 August 1653, to Joanna Scill of New England, to recover for her, *inter alia*, a debt dating from 1637, of John Trumble, cooper, late of Newcastle on Tyne, and

* Savage, iv., 336; Essex Ins. Hist. Coll., xxiv., 56.

† Savage, op. cit.; Wyman's Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown, II., 354; Paige's Hist. Camb., p. 672.

now of New England.* This gave us the evidence that *it was the cooper and not the mariner* who was from Newcastle, while the will of William Kinge of Ipswich, Co. Suffolk, ship carpenter, † to which Mr. H. F. Waters kindly called my attention, must beyond doubt refer to the second John, the mariner, as we now know the wife of the former to have been a Chandler.

It has been my great good fortune to locate one of these with absolute certainty, and the other beyond a reasonable doubt, although some further evidence is needed as to the last.

Being recently in the North of England I made a careful examination of the Consistory Court of Durham, the results of which are printed herewith, but they are most disappointing, as the Trumbull wills were few and these few yielded but little information. This task completed I had but one day to spare, having to keep an appointment at the Probate Court at Lichfield, and I resolved to devote it to a Parish Register search of Newcastle. This important and populous city contains no less than four Parish Churches, and it was manifestly impossible to see them all in a day. Reasoning from analogy that if our man was a cooper he would probably have resided near the wharves and shipping, I selected the church nearest the river (All Saints) to begin with, and my delight may be imagined when I found, in rapid succession, the marriage of John Trumble and Ellinor Chandler in 1635, the baptism of his daughter Beriah in 1637, and his son John in 1639. The burial of Beriah, four months after her baptism, leaving the family as we first find it in America, makes the identification complete, and fixes the date of the emigration within a few months.

The remainder of the day was spent in exhausting the Register, as far as time permitted, of all entries of the name, but in spite of the large number of these found, the result, as far as this particular family is concerned, is somewhat meagre. The records only commence in 1600, and the only baptism which could, chronologically, have been that of our man, is John the son of James in 1612, and I have serious doubts as to their identity for this reason—John Trumble of Rowley was evidently a man of more than ordinary education and intelligence, he wrote a clerkly hand (no common accomplishment in those days), was Town Clerk of Rowley until his death in 1656, and taught the first school there:‡ but James, the father of the John baptized in 1612, is recorded as a "Kielman," that is, he occupied the humble position of a laborer on one of the keelboats or lighters used in loading vessels or conveying freight about the wharves, and it does not seem likely that a man in his position could have given his son the education which we know the emigrant to have possessed.

* Middlesex Co. Deeds, I, 87, printed in *RECORDS*, Jan. 1884, vol. xxxviii., page 79.

† See abstract from Arch. Suff. file 2, No. 124.

‡ Essex Ins. Hist. Colls., iv., 65-6.

The other three ancient parishes of Newcastle may, however, give us the parentage of John Trumble which All Saints denies us. They are St. Andrew's (Reg. 1597), St. John's (1587) and St. Nicholas (1558), the latter being the mother church. Gateshead in Durham, on the opposite bank of the Tyne and integrally a part of Newcastle, the Register of which dates from 1559, should also be examined. The parentage of Ellinor Chandler, which was not found at All Saints, should also be sought in all of these.

It may be, however, that we must look further afield and across the Scottish border. It has always been believed that the Trumbulls of England were descended from the broken remnants of the once powerful border clan of Turabull, whose romantic origin is so well known,* and which, harried in turn by Scotch and English forays, was finally broken up and scattered. In 1545 the English burned no less than twelve castles and two towns of the clan in the Valley of the Rule,† and although the Barony of Mynto remained vested in a chief of the name until the middle of the 17th century,‡ the power of the clan was broken, and it was thenceforward but a shadow of its former self.

- * "Between red eslarbanks, that frightful acowl,
Fringed with grey hazel, roars the mining Roull;
Where Turnbolls once, a race no power could awe,
Lined the rough skirts of stormy Rubieslaw.
Bold was the chief from whom their line they draw,
Whose nervous arm the furious bison slew,
The bison, fiercest race of Scotia's breed,
Whose bounding course outstripped the red deer's speed,
By hunters chased, encircled on the plain,
He frowning shook his yellow lion mane,
Spurred with black hoof in bursting rage the ground,
And fiercely toss'd his moony horns around.
On Scotia's lord he rush'd with lightning speed,
Bent his strong neck to toss the startled steed;
His arms robust the bardy hunter flung
Around his bending horns, and upward wrung,
With writhing force his neck retorted round,
And roll'd the panting monster on the ground,
Crush'd with enormous strength his bony skull,
And courtiers hailed the man who turned the bull."

Leydens' Scenes of Infancy, p. 102.

The adventure took place in the forest of Callender, near Stirling, and its date is approximately fixed by a grant from King Robert Bruce in 1315 of lands in Fulhophalch (i.e. Philiphaugh, a short distance west of the Rule), to *Willielmo dicto Turnebull*, for "a reddendo of one broad arrow at the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary." (Reg. Mag. Sig., p. 6.) He was slain at the battle of Halidon Hill in 1333 in a single combat with Sir Robert Beuhale, a Norfolk knight. (Hutchinson's Northumb., ii., 70; Ridpath's Border Hist., 218.)

Walter Turnbull, probably son of the above, was early in the possession of Mynto, so long held by the family, and which was confirmed to him, or a descendant of the same name, by King David III. in 1370. (Robertson's Index, p. 33, No. 48.) Before the middle of the 15th century they had obtained the Barony of Bedrule (Stoddard's Scottish Arms, ii., 49), having by this time become a powerful border clan and rivalling the Moss Troopers of Liddesdale in audacity and daring. In 1510 their excesses had become so great that the King of Scotland marched with an army to the waters of Rule and executed summary justice on the clan. (Jefferey's Hist. Roxborough, 330.) This blow and a deadly vendetta with the Kers, aided the border warfare in weakening and finally breaking up the clan. The last who claimed the chieftainship, after the failure of the direct line of Mynto and Bedrule, was a John Turnbull of Know, about 1672-78. (Stoddard, ii., 60.)

† Jefferey's Hist. Roxborough, 331.

‡ *Ibid.*—Retour, ii., No. 243.

The alien tax in the Lay Subsidies at the Public Record Office in Fetter Lane, the results of a brief examination of which are printed herewith, seems to clearly indicate the Scotch origin of the Trumbulls, and so to point out to the Clan Turnbull of Bedrule as the progenitors of the race.

We will now turn to John Trumble the mariner. Being engaged one day in a search of the Baptismal Registers of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, London, my attention was attracted by the occurrence of a family of the name, and I believe that John the son of Robert Trumble, mariner, of Wapping, who was baptized 25 Sept. 1608, will prove to be the John Trumble of Charlestown, who in 1665 was 48* and in 1686 was 80,† according to his own depositions. These last dates are utterly irreconcilable, and we can only conjecture that the first of them should be 1655, or that his age should have been 58 instead of 48, to make them harmonize with each other. Admitting this error, they are, taken in connection with the maritime profession of the father, most suggestively near to the date of baptism as given: while the statement of Savage, that he was in his 80th year at his death in July 1687, exactly tallies with the baptism.‡

Robert, the father, unfortunately died intestate in 1614,§ but the will of the mother, Judith, may yet be found, or some further and more exact reference from some of the King, Hichman or Sandwell families.¶ The wills at Bury St. Edmunds should also be seen in this connection, while a further examination of the Stepney Registers for Marriages and Burials might, and most probably would, demonstrate or disprove the theory I have promulgated.

There was a family of Trumbulls of London, fishmongers and shipowners if not mariners, in the 16th century, whose wills in the Pre. Court make a very good pedigree of four generations,** and whom I have suspected to be the prepositors of Robert of Stepney, but no confirmatory evidence has yet been found, and I believe that their place of origin will be finally located in Suffolk or Essex, probably derived, like the Newcastle family, from the Clan Turnbull.

In the meanwhile I submit the results of my stray gleanings during the last half dozen years in the English fields in the hope that other than the two grains of wheat which I have pointed out may be found among the chaff, and may prove of service to some co-worker in the cause.

* Wyman's Gen. and Est. of Charlestown, II., 954.

† Palge's Hist. Camb., p. 672.

‡ Savage, iv., 336.

§ See his admn. in Com. Ct. of Lond. 1614.

¶ See will of William Kings, above cited.

** Wills of Thomas Turnbull the elder 1557, Johane his wife 1570, Thomas Trumble the younger 1569, Emanuel Trumbull 1603. Admons. of Edward Trumbull 1610, and Maria Trumbull 1619. See also Marriage Licenses 1579, 1687 and 1614.

ALIENS TAXED IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

- 1544—Return of Strangers inhabiting within the Towne of Newcastle upon Tyne, co. Northumb., dated laste October xxxvj Henry 8th. Ralph the Earl of Westmoreland, Thomas Tempest knyght. Thomas Hylton knyght, Robert lewyn mair of Towne of Newcastle opon tyne, Robert Brandelyng, Henry Anderson & Jacobus lawson m'chants of said towne, constitute Thomas mydelton gent., Hyghe Collector &c of Subsidies granted xxxv H. 8 on Aliens. (*The report contains no Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-70
- 1545—Ditto, dated vj Januarie xxxvj Hen. viij. The Mayor & 2 Aldermen say they can in nowise be informed of any such person or persons borne out of the kinges dominions. P.R.O. 158-70
- 1548—Ditto, dated xxij Jan. 1 Edw. vi. (*No Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-73
- 1550—Ditto, dated xxix April, 3 Edw. vi. (*No Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-76
- 1550—Ditto, dated xv febr. 4 Edw. vi. (*No Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-77
- 1551—Ditto, dated xx march, 5 Edw. vi.
 Itm: Robert Trimbyll having goodes to the value of v^s and not aboute viij^d. P.R.O. 158-78
- 1559—Ditto, dated 10 Sept., 1 Elizabeth.
 Widowe Troombe a scot pth by the pole iiij^d P.R.O. 158-79
- 1559—Ditto, dated xxvij Nov., 2 Elizabeth.
 wedow trimble a scote paith by the powle iiij^d P.R.O. 158-80
- 1572—Ditto, dated xvij June, 14 Elizabeth. (*No Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-81
- 1577—Ditto, dated x Oct., 19 Eliz. (*No Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-82
- 1581—Ditto, dated xxvij Maye, 23 Elizabeth.
 Robert Tromble a Scott paith by the Poll iiij^d. P.R.O. 158-83
- 1597—Ditto, dated 6 Oct., 30 Eliz. (*No Trumbulls.*) P.R.O. 158-87
- 1621—Ditto, dated 5 April, 19 James, 1621.

Newcastle on Tyne—Alienizine Nate.

Georgius Trumble	taxatur ad nihil	vij ^d
Alexander "	" "	"
Johes "	" "	"
Jacobus "	" "	"
Dauid "	" "	"
Isabella "	" "	"

P.R.O. 158-89

A fragment of a roll of Account of an Assessment of a Subsidy upon the (*Scotch*) inhabitants of Co. of Durham. No date, temps Henry 8th. (*Very imperfect and obliterated in many parts.*)

(*Towns uncertain.*)

willi termbell	Scot	ij ^d
John Trumbell	Scoto p. bon	—
Thorneton.		
walle termbell	Scoto	ij ^d

P.R.O. 158-75