

**THE FOUNDING OF CHARLESTOWN
BY THE SPRAGUES, A
GLIMPSE OF THE BEGINNING OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY
SETTLEMENT**

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The founding of Charlestown by the Spragues, a glimpse of the beginning of the Massachusetts Bay settlement by Henry Harrison Sprague

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HENRY HARRISON SPRAGUE

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BY
HENRY H. SPRAGUE

BOSTON
WILLIAM B. CLARKE CO.
1910

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THE FOUNDING OF CHARLESTOWN

It is substantially undisputed that Charlestown, the first permanent settlement in Massachusetts Bay, was founded by the three brothers, Ralph, Richard and William Sprague, and that they, accompanied by three or four others, whose names have never been ascertained with certainty, were the first permanent settlers of the plantation. Considerable question has, however, arisen, more especially in the later years, relative to the time of their arrival in New England, and, consequently, a question as to the actual date of the founding of Charlestown, whether in the year 1628 or 1629. The latter date has oftener been given by later writers, though in the early period the date was almost universally fixed as 1628, and the Spragues were declared to have arrived with Gov. John Endicott in that year in the ship *Abigail*.

The later writers, who have taken the ground that the Spragues did not come over with Endicott in the ship *Abigail* in the year 1628, and that the settlement of Charlestown was effected in the year 1629, base their conclusions on the grounds (1) that the original account of the settlement, contained with the town records, states that the Spragues came "at their own cost," as-