

**JOHN ROGERS OF
MARSHFIELD AND SOME
OF HIS DESCENDANTS**

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JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND

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PREFACE.

In the preparation of the article on "The John Rogers Families of Plymouth and Vicinity," I gathered many facts in relation to the family of John Rogers of Marshfield. Correspondence with Miss RHODA B. ELLIS, a descendant, developed the fact that she had material of the same character, gathered partly from the Scituate Friends' records, which I had never examined. These materials seemed worth preserving by publication; and it was concluded to publish them (with additions furnished by Miss ELLIS or obtained from records of wills and deeds) under the title of "Some Materials for a Genealogy of John Rogers of Marshfield."

We contemplated a small pamphlet of some forty pages. But when our design became known other descendants desired Miss ELLIS to enlarge the work, offering to aid in furnishing material and in other ways. We acceded to these requests, and the consequence is that the pamphlet has grown to nearly five times its contemplated size.

While very many have aided in the collection of material, I am under special obligation to Charles C. Whittier, Esq., 40 Dartmouth Street, Boston, and to Col. Hiram A. Oakman of North Marshfield, for results of examination of public and family records; and to Miss Minnie K. Bachelder, of the Probate Office, at Plymouth, for skillful examination of probate records, and accurate reports thereon.

The arrangement may be easily understood. Those of the Rogers name are numbered consecutively in figures; those of other names, by families, with letters; the Roman capitals denote the generation, as does the small figure with the name; when the surname is given, I use the generation figure with that, as in that manner it is more

easily read and understood; in giving the line, in parenthesis, the name ROOERS, as a surname, is to be supplied, except when small capitals are used, and they denote another surname.

The sign — denotes that the party died without issue; + denotes that the name is carried forward in its regular order; † denotes that the name is carried down on the same page; and = denotes that the party is unmarried; when names are not marked, nothing further in relation to them is given.

J. H. D.

October 1, 1898.

JOHN ROGERS OF MARSHFIELD.

I. JOHN ROGERS' *of Marshfield.*

Neither the date or place of his birth, nor the time when he came to this country has been ascertained.

John Rogers, aged thirty-four, came from London to Barbadoes in the *Falcon*, in April, 1635; and John Rogers, aged eighteen, came to Barbadoes from London in the same vessel, Dec. 19, 1635. 2 *Brown's Gen.* p. 1131.

These ages suit John of Marshfield and John of Duxbury, but the former must have been married at that date and no mention is made of his wife.

It has been said that John of Marshfield was a relative of Rev. William Witherell and came to this country with him. In 1635, William Witherell of Maidstone, Schoolmaster, Mary, his wife, three children and one servant came in the *Hercules*; the certificate is dated March 14, 1634/5. *Founders of New England*, pp 82, 83.

No Rogers is named in the list; it is possible that John Rogers was the "servant," but his wife and child are not accounted for. There was a tradition that the mother of Mr. Witherell was a daughter of John Rogers the Martyr, and the inference has been drawn that the father of John of Marshfield was a brother of Witherell's mother. But the tradition is, at least, doubtful, for the Martyr suffered in 1555 and William Witherell was born in 1600, when the youngest child of the Martyr was over forty-five years old.

Deane says that John Rogers came to Scituate in 1644, but this is erroneous, for the name of John Rogers is given in the 1643 list of freemen of Scituate, although the date of his admission has not been found.

On September 20, 1699, John Rogers², the son of John Rogers¹ of Marshfield, gave a deposition before the Justices of the Court at Plymouth, that, in or about the year 1647, his father, John Rogers, lived in Scituate on a lot of land between the land of Thomas Hicks and the land of John Stockbridge, adjoining Hicks's swamp; and about the year 1647, "my father John Rogers aforesaid, being about to move out of said Scituate" (in effect) sold his house and land to Thomas Simons, "and my father removed out of Scituate about the time aforesaid, and I lived with him many years and never heard him lay any claim to said land after he removed from it." *Plym. Deeds, Bk. III, p. 144.*

This fixes 1647 as about the date of his father's removal into Marshfield, where he continued to reside till his death in the early part of 1661. He was fined (as appears by the town records) for not attending town meeting, Dec. 11, 1649, May 15, 1651, Aug. 23, 1652, Nov. 8, 1652, and Mar. 28, 1653.

The family name of his wife, Frances, has not been discovered, nor the date of their marriage. Their son, John, was born in 1632 or 1633, in all human probability before they left England.

Miss Thomas, in her history of Marshfield, suggests that Frances Rogers was Frances [Vassal] Adams, daughter of William Vassal and widow of James Adams; but Frances Vassal was not married till July 16, 1646, and did not become a widow till Jan. 6, 1651, when Frances Rogers had grown up children.

DAVIS, in his "Landmarks of Plymouth," under John

Rogers of Marshfield, says "by wife Frances, perhaps daughter of Robert Watson," &c.: also, Robert Watson came to Plymouth early, but finally settled in Connecticut; by wife Elizabeth, he had, born in England, George, 1603, Robert, Samuel, and perhaps Frances, who married John Rogers. No authority for this statement has been found; but if Robert Watson had a daughter, Frances, who married a John Rogers, there can be scarcely a doubt that he was John Rogers' of Marshfield.

Frances survived her husband, and married Walter Briggs of Scituate. In his will d. Jan'y 16, 1676/7, p. June 4, 1684. Walter Briggs mentions, among others, his wife, Frances. Deeds, Vol. VI, p. 9.

Administration on the estate of Frances Briggs, widow, of Scituate, was granted Oct. 14, 1687, to *her sons*, John and Joseph Rogers. Probate, Vol. I, p. 11.

John Rogers' died about May, 1661, and his widow in 1687.

II. Children, part probably born in England, and the others in Scituate:

- + 2. John^s, b. about 1632.
- + 3. Joseph^s,
- + 4. Timothy^s,
- + 5. Ann^s,
- + 6. Mary^s,
- + 7. Abigail^s,

These are given in the order named in the will d. Feb. 1, 1660 (O. S.) p. June 5, 1661, which mentions wife, Frances; children, John Rogers, Jr.; Joseph Rogers; Timothy Rogers; Ann Hudson; Mary Rogers and Abigail Rogers; his grandchildren, Posy Russell and John Russell.

William Witherell acknowledged June 23, 1665, that he sold "to John Rogers, Sen. of Marshfield, now deceased," "ten acres of upland laying at N. W. side of Nemassakeetpit brook." Dux. Rec. p. 12.