THE KINSMAN FAMILY: GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT KINSMAN, OF IPSWICH, MASS. FROM 1634 TO 1875

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LUCY W. STICKNEY

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THE KINSMAN FAMILY.

GENEALOGICAL RECORD

OF THE

DESCENDANTS OF

ROBERT KINSMAN,

OF IPSWICH, MASS.

FROM 1634 TO 1875.

COMPILED FOR

Frederick Kinsman

LUCY W. STICKNEY.

BOSTON:

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS work was not undertaken with the desire or expectation of showing any marked distinction in the Kinsman family, as History, which notes the progress of events, has never recorded the name prominently in its annals; neither was it undertaken with any hope of sharing in some great estate which might be found without a claimant in the Fatherland, as has been intimated; nor has the idea of compensation for the work, when completed, ever had a moment's consideration; on the contrary, the expenses from the beginning have been incurred with the expectation of pecuniary loss in carrying out the plan, and the result has more than justified this anticipation.

The writer, at a very early period of his life, had a strong desire to know something of his genealogy, and in fact began this work when a boy visiting relatives in Lisbon, Conn., by copying from their old Family Bible the record of his own branch, which extended back to Robert Kinsman, the third of that name in America. This desire was revived and strengthened in after years by an examination of Felt's "History of Ipswich," a book in which frequent mention is made of early members of the family.

Having decided to pursue the inquiry more thoroughly, but living in Ohio, at a distance from where the investigation should begin, the writer first opened a correspondence with Mrs. Louisa Kinsman Holmes, of Ipswich, Mass., and afterwards visited that town, a place of the greatest interest to the Kinsman family, as having been the spot where their first ancestor in America settled on his arrival from England, as well as the home of so many generations of his descendants. Mrs. Holmes was much interested in the subject, and, with her assistance and efficient efforts, so much of the early history of Robert Kinsman of Ipswich, and of his descendants in America, was brought to light, that a short sketch and limited record of the family was prepared, being designed for publication in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register." This was in the year 1868, and at that time the writer, having become acquainted with Mr. William Low Kinsman, of Salem, Mass., interested him also in the work, and he has rendered valuable aid in its prepara-Having been strongly advised to such a course, we then determined not to publish the Record at that time, but first to have investigations made in England, with the hope of finding there a lineal connection for our emigrant ancestor, Robert Kinsman.

Accordingly Miss flarriet A. Bainbridge, now Mrs. H. A. de Salis, of London, Eng., was employed to make the necessary researches, and the result of her labors will be found in the English Record with which this book commences, and in the Pedigree following. These researches were continued at intervals, with varying prospects of success, during several years, ending only in 1873; but we have finally been compelled reluctantly to abandon the idea of obtaining at present the absolute proofs necessary to establish a positive connection for our ancestor, Robert Kinsman, who emigrated in 1634. This result, in view of the importance of the object sought, as well as of the time and labor expended and the expense incurred, is of course a great disappointment; but

we are in a measure compensated for it by the remarkably full and excellent Pedigree which we have obtained, dating back to the year 1337.

A careful examination of this, in connection with the English Record, will show that we have found two Roberts, one in Wiltshire and one in Northamptonshire, at the right period of time, each being of the proper approximate age, and both of them apparently unaccounted for in England after 1634; either of whom therefore may have been, and one or the other of whom we believe must have been, the Emigrant whose ancestral line we have endeavored to discover. Although unable to decide positively between the two claimants, and therefore leaving it for each reader to choose for himself, we yet consider the preponderance of evidence, as given in the English Record, to be clearly in favor of the Wiltshire Robert.

Pending the investigation by Miss Bainbridge in England, we concluded that our American Record might be much enlarged and improved by proper effort, and that the attempt ought to be made. We found in the person of Miss Lucy W. Stickney, of Salem, Mass., the energy and experience required, and accordingly she was engaged to carry out this work and prepare the Record for publication. Through her successful efforts it has been greatly extended, and, as far as possible, perfected and completed.

In connection with the Record, we have introduced some interesting historical extracts relating to the times and surroundings of our ancestor at the period of his arrival in America, showing also who were his companions on the voyage from England, and how and where they were finally located; and also giving an idea of the state of public sentiment, and the trials and embarrassments encountered by emigrants, at that time and subsequently.

We do not expect that the Record will be found entirely

free from errors, as the collection and transferrence of so many names and dates, from such various sources, render the liability of mistake necessarily great; besides which, in some instances, words and figures in the letters sent us have been so indistinct that they may have been incorrectly recorded. Believing, however, that it is substantially correct, we hope this work may fill the place for which it was designed, and prove to be a genealogical record by which all the descendants of Robert Kinsman of Ipswich can trace a perfect line back to that worthy ancestor.

If there are any of the family whose names or records, not having been obtained, are omitted here, their correct descent and connection can probably be ascertained, with little difficulty, by means of this Record; any such omissions can be supplied, or corrections made, upon the blank leaves which will be found at the end of this volume, and in case of any such additions or corrections, marginal references to them should be made in the book, at the proper places of connection.

The system of numbering will be readily understood: Kinsman children who have become parents receive a number (at the right hand of the page), and appear again in their proper order, with their families; Kinsmans who have no descendants, and the children of Kinsman mothers bearing another name, are not, as a rule, carried forward.

To all those who have aided in our labors we tender our sincere thanks, hoping that they may find their reward in the completeness of the work that has been accomplished through their assistance.

FREDERICK KINSMAN.

WARREN, OHIO, January, 1876.

