

**GENEALOGY OF THE
BRIDGMAN FAMILY:
DESCENDANTS OF JAMES
BRIDGMAN, 1636-1894**

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Genealogy of the Bridgman Family: Descendants of James Bridgman, 1636-1894 by Burt
Nichols Bridgman & Joseph Clark Bridgman

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BURT NICHOLS BRIDGMAN & JOSEPH CLARK BRIDGMAN

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"THE CASTLE." RESIDENCE OF SIDNEY EDWIN BRIDGEMAN, NORTHAMPTON, MASS., 1891.

GENEALOGY
OF THE
BRIDGMAN FAMILY

DESCENDANTS OF JAMES BRIDGMAN.

1636



1894

COMPILED BY
BURT NICHOLS BRIDGMAN
AND
JOSEPH CLARK BRIDGMAN

HYDE PARK, MASS.
1894.

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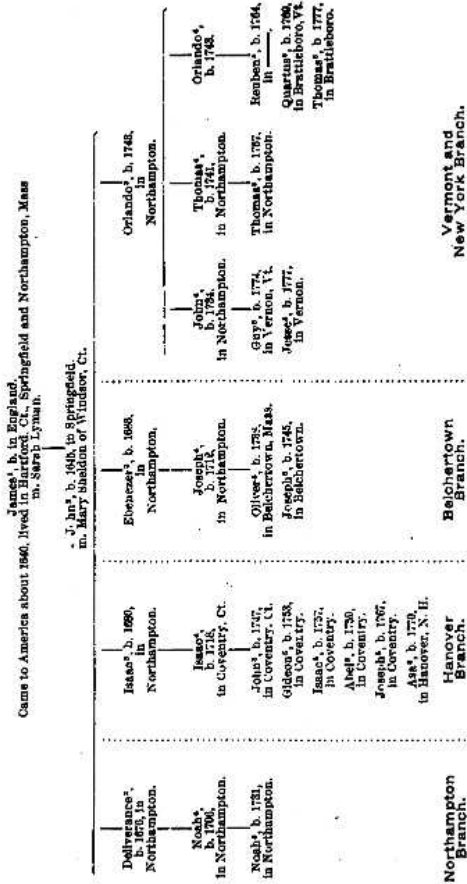
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CHART, SHOWING FIRST FIVE GENERATIONS OF THE BRIDGMAN FAMILY.



INTRODUCTION.

DEAR KINDRED:—

To compile our family record of ten generations, covering two hundred and fifty years, finding you in almost every state, from Maine to Oregon, was a work the magnitude of which we had no conception. But once begun, with no open door of escape, we have toiled on, writing hundreds of letters, calling upon many in your homes, searching town records, looking over old family Bibles—would there were more!—and now give you in this imperfect work the result of our years' labor. We say imperfect, because you will find errors, although we have contributed largely to the government revenue to harmonize conflicting dates, and have been careful as possible in the effort to make each record exact and complete.

We would here recognize the kindness of a few (without ignoring others) who have promptly and gladly assisted us in gathering data; for without their help many names would be followed by "no report," where now the complete family history is preserved for all time.

Kinsfolk of Deliverance^a will appreciate assistance of Cousin Lucinda^b, from her prairie home in South Dakota, who has passed the allotted "threescore and ten." Louisa, wife of Theodore^c of Cleveland, O., has contributed much information. Descendants of Ebenezer^d will ever owe gratitude to their family historian, Elisha Burt^e, who has lived most of his life on the old homestead in Belchertown. (See picture, page 84.) Always interested in everything pertaining to our name, he gives from his storehouse of knowledge much for the benefit of all. We also gladly acknowledge the receipt of data from Mrs. William Eustice^f regarding the generations of to-day. Children of Orlando^g are greatly indebted to Julia^h, daughter of Adnaⁱ—Mrs. Edward Palmer of Elmira, N. Y.—who has done much, and at great sacrifice, writing scores of letters, gathering facts we could have obtained from no other source. Many other fair cousins have aided us, and they will each accept our personal thanks. But kinsfolk of Isaac^j, and all others as well, should lift their hats in gratitude to Christopher Columbus^k

of Vermillion, South Dakota, who has done royal service in welding links of this incomplete chain; for, scenting a trail on farms in the East, or prairies of the West, among or beyond the Rockies, or in the sunny South, he followed it till he could return bringing results with him.

And in giving credit where credit is due for so much indefatigable labor, remember, this work originated with Burt Nichols^a (page 42), who laid it aside in 1886 that he might prepare himself for a service promising greater reward. So send to him and his your blessing, as in their far-away home in Africa they strive to redeem the Dark Continent. We express regret and surprise that a few, who must have received repeated letters of inquiry, made no response; that they are so indifferent to a work in which they, their children and generations to come, should have lasting interest. We therefore make no apology for their unfinished page; the fault is with them.

In correspondence some of our kin take us to task for omitting the "e" in "Bridge." To such we quote Scripture: "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." But as for ourselves, the shorter the bridge the safer. In the petition* signed by two brothers (see page 114) we find John¹ adds the "e," while Orlando² does not. Yet most (not all) of the Orlando branch use it, with a very few of Isaac's descendants; while none of the Deliverance or Ebenezer families spell the name any longer than is necessary.

We are asked if the chain could not be perfected by establishing the link between James¹ and his ancestry. Replies to letters sent, making inquiries that might lead to such a result have failed us, and while we have visited Hantz county, England, at that time, unfortunately, the genealogical fever was not raging, and we ignored town records and family Bibles, and simply looked about the villages with feelings akin to those of Mark Twain when he stood by the grave of his ancestor, Adam, and wept. Should good fortune ever again take us across the sea, record-searching will take the place of sight-seeing, until we can show blood relation to our English consins.

And now we lay aside the pen. Judging by the growing interest in family records, we presume from the yet unborn, another Joseph will arise who may see enough in this history to take up the work where we leave it, correct our errors, and give to his day and generation a new and revised edition of the Bridgman Genealogy.

* In the possession of H. J. Bridgman, Auburndale, Mass.