

**THOMAS SEWALL: SOME
OF HIS ANCESTORS AND
ALL OF HIS DESCENDANTS;
A GENEALOGY**

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Thomas Sewall: some of his ancestors and all of his descendants; a genealogy by Henry Sewall Webster

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HENRY SEWALL WEBSTER

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HENRY SEWALL WEBSTER

GARDINER, MAINE

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PART I

ANCESTORS OF THOMAS SEWALL

William¹, Henry², Henry³, Henry⁴, John⁵, Nicholas⁶, John⁷, Thomas⁸.

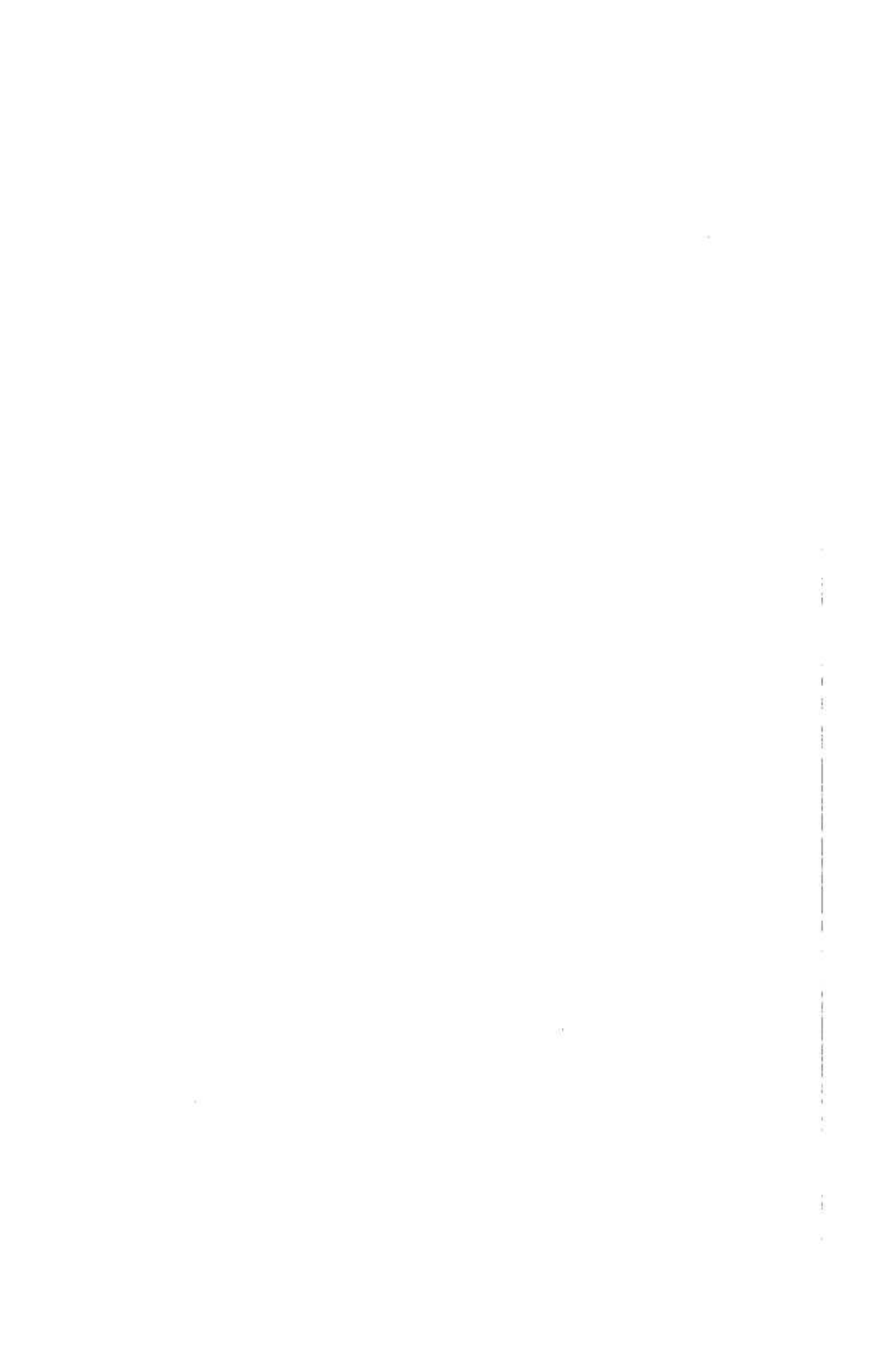
The earliest known ancestor of the Sewalls of New England is William Shewell, who married Matilda Horne about 1540. For proof of his connection with the Sewalls, which has been disputed by some, see Waters' Genealogical Gleanings in England, page 153.

William Shewell had two sons, William and Henry. William was a vintner in Coventry, England, and became Mayor of that city. He, with his wife Ann, is buried in St. Michael's Church, Coventry, and a brass plate with an inscription to the latter, in which the family name appears as Sewaell, may still be found there.

Henry Sewall, with whom we are more directly concerned, was also of Coventry. He was born about 1544, and married Margaret, eldest daughter of Avery Gresbrook or Grazebrook of Middleton in the county of Warwick. He was a linen draper, and Judge Sewall says that he acquired "a great estate". He was twice Mayor of Coventry, in 159 and 1606. His will was proved April 8, 1628. He was buried in the Drapers' Chapel in St. Michael's Church.

His eldest child, also named Henry Sewall, was baptized April 8, 1576, married Ann Hunt, emigrated to Newbury, Mass., in 1635, afterwards removed to the adjacent town of Rowley and died there March, 1657. He appears as "Henry Showell" in some of the colonial records.

He had but one child, Henry Sewall, born in Coventry 1614. His history may be learned in part from the in-



scription on his tombstone still standing in the burying-ground of the First Parish in Newbury. This epitaph, supposed to have been composed by his distinguished son, Judge Samuel Sewall, is as follows:

"Mr. Henry Sewall (sent by Mr. Henry Sewall his father in ye ship *Elsabeth & Dorcas*, Capt. Watts Commander) arrived at Boston 1634, winterd at Ipswich, helpd begin this plantation 1635, furnishing English servants, cattel & provisions. Married Mrs. Jane Dummer March ye 25, 1646. Died May ye 16, 1700, Ætat 86. His fruitful vine being thus disjoind fell to the ground January ye 13 following, Ætat 74. Psal. 27, 10."

Judge Sewall says that the emigration of his father and grandfather was "out of dislike to the English Hierarchy". Jane Dummer, the wife of Henry Sewall, was the daughter of Stephen Dummer who, with his brother Richard, had emigrated about 1638. They are the ancestors of the New England Dummers.

Henry Sewall went to England with his wife in 1646-7, but returned to Newbury in 1658. During his stay in England he officiated as a Puritan minister. He represented Newbury in the General Court in 1661, 1663, 1668 and 1670. A house which he built in Newbury is still standing.

John Sewall, son of the last named Henry, was born in England October 10, 1654, and married, October 27, 1674, Hannah Fessenden of Cambridge, probably his cousin. She had come to Cambridge from England in 1674 with her brother Nicholas, from whom the New England Fessendens are descended. John Sewall's tombstone stands near that of his father. He died August 8, 1699. His widow married Jacob Toppan of Newbury, and died April 4, 1723.

John Sewall had seven children, three of whom moved to York, Maine; his only daughter Hannah, who married Rev. Samuel Moody of York, and Samuel and Nicholas, who married sisters, Lydia and Mehitable Storer.

Nicholas Sewall, born June 1, 1690, married Mehitable Storer of Wells, Maine, born May 5, 1696, daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Austin) Storer, formerly of Charlestown,

Mass. He settled in York, at the part called Newtown, in 1708. He was a tanner, and in 1729 his tanyard was on land near "the minister's land". He died in 1740 and was buried in the old burying ground near the Congregational Church. His widow married Jonathan, son of Abram Preble, in 1768.

John Sewall of York, one of the ten children of Nicholas, was born July 6, 1716. He married, Nov. 27, 1739, Mary Sayward (spelled also Saward and Seward), born April 23, 1718, daughter of John and Mary (Bane) Sayward, granddaughter of John and Mary (Rishworth) Sayward, and great-granddaughter of Henry Sayward, who emigrated from England with his wife Mary in 1637. She died Sept. 16, 1781.

John Sewall was a shoemaker. The latter part of his life was passed on Arrowsic Island in the town of Georgetown, Maine. He died in 1806. He had eight children:

1. Susannah, born Oct. 1, 1741, married William White.
2. Mehitable, born June 10, 1743, married Benjamin Trott. "She had 6 children at 3 births."
3. Mary Seward, born May 16, 1745, married a Mr. Sargent.
4. John, born Dec. 9, 1747, married Abigail Beal, died without issue.
5. Thomas, born Sept. 24, 1750.
6. Tabitha, baptized Nov. 25, 1753, married Feb. 9, 1786, her cousin Henry Sewall (son of Henry Sewall and grandson of Samuel and Lydia (Storer) Sewall), a captain in the Army of the Revolution and afterwards Major General of Maine militia. She died June 19, 1810.
7. Esther, married a Mr. Chisam.
8. Theodore, born 1761, married 1st, Olive Beal; 2nd, Mrs. Rebecca Pettie, said to be his cousin. He died Sept. 8, 1821. The births of nine children by his wife Olive, three of whom were born the same day, are recorded in the Georgetown, Maine, records.