

**THE GENEALOGY OF THE
BRAINERD FAMILY, IN THE
UNITED STATES, WITH
NUMEROUS SKETCHES OF
INDIVIDUALS**

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Individuals by David D. Field

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DAVID D. FIELD

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John G. Brainard

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WITH NUMEROUS SKETCHES OF INDIVIDUALS.

BY
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PREFACE.

VARIOUS circumstances have combined to induce me to write the Brainerd Genealogy. The town of Madison, Conn., where I was born and spent my childhood and youth, (formerly a part of the large town of Guilford,) was not far from Haddam, and there was much intercourse between the two places. The Rev. Israel Brainerd, from Haddam, a classmate of my only brother in Yale College, was for some years pastor of the first church in Guilford. One of the prominent members of my own class was William Fowler Brainerd, who was for many years an able and eloquent lawyer in Connecticut. He was a son of the Hon. Jeremiah Gates Brainerd, long a Judge of the Superior Court of that State, and Mayor of the city

of New London. Soon after I began to preach, I was settled as pastor of the church in Haddam, where Daniel Brainerd lived, the ancestor of all the Brainerds in the United States; where he was the first deacon in the church, and the first Justice in the town; and where his descendants, bearing his family name, were more numerous in the congregation and in the schools than those of any other early settler.

In my walks I often passed the spot where his youngest son, the Hon. Hezekiah Brainerd, lived and reared a large and very remarkable family of children. Among these were the missionaries, David and John Brainerd, of whom the reader will find more said in the following pages, than concerning any other two persons. In passing the spot, I could hardly refrain from pausing and meditating on the piety which had existed there a hundred years before, and especially on the extraordinary lives and characters of the two missionaries.

The difficulty of preparing a genealogy like this can only be appreciated by those who have undertaken a similar task. It is easy to trace the record of a single family through two or three generations; but to follow a genealogy which extends through two centuries, and divides into a hundred different branches, is a work of immense labor. The eye at a glance can

take in the trunk of a tree and mark its heavy boughs, but to trace every slender branch which has started from the parent stem, is almost endless. It is like counting every leaf.

The preparation of this work has cost me the labor of several years, much of the time since I last had the charge of a parish in 1851. I have travelled hundreds of miles, searched town and church records, written innumerable letters, requiring, in all, a degree of labor at which I am astonished myself, as I look back upon it. It has been truly a labor of love, prompted by my early interest in this family, and affectionate veneration for its honored names.

To avoid perplexity in finding particular families, I have given first the name of the original settler and his family, and then have taken each of his children in the order of age, and traced them down through children's children to the present day. Where I have not found the materials to complete the tables, I shall be greatly obliged to any reader who will furnish more full and exact details of his own particular branch of the family, which can be directed to me at my home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

David Brainerd, as the reader will learn, died and was buried at Northampton, Massachusetts; and John Brainerd, at Deerfield, New Jersey. The Rev. J. W.

Cattell, now pastor of the church at Deerfield, says: "I have felt very anxious to see some monument erected to the memory of Mr. Brainerd; it ought to have been done long ago." This is but just both to the dead and to the living, and it is to be hoped that means will soon be devised by which a memorial stone will be reared over or near the grave of this eminent missionary.

But the plea is still stronger for a monument to David and John Brainerd both, on the bank of Connecticut River, on the very spot where these men and their brothers and sisters were born. A marble tablet, or a granite column, or obelisk, could be placed so near the highway that its inscription could be read by all passing on the public road, and be visible for miles up and down the Connecticut River.

When shall the first steps be taken for such a monument? I would make a suggestion. Let there be a great family meeting of the Brainerds, such as other large families have held. Let it be at a season of the year when there may be easy access by land and water from different parts of the country. Let it be held at Haddam, the home of their ancestors, where they can visit the spots where their fathers lived and the yards where their bodies now lie buried; and