

**GENEALOGY OF
THE WELLS FAMILY,
OF WELLS, MAINE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649591855

Genealogy of the Wells Family, of Wells, Maine by Charles K. Wells

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES K. WELLS

**GENEALOGY OF
THE WELLS FAMILY,
OF WELLS, MAINE**

GENEALOGY
OF THE
WELLS FAMILY

OF
94
WELLS, MAINE.

BY CHARLES K. WELLS.

MILWAUKEE:

PRESS OF BURDICK & ARMITAGE, 100 MICHIGAN ST.

1874.

PREFACE.

Though I have bestowed considerable time and care on this Genealogy, I am well aware that it is far from being complete. The reason is this: the records and nearly all the members of the Wells family are more than a thousand miles distant from me, and the state of my health has prevented me from consulting either personally; and in some instances I could obtain no answers to letters addressed to prominent members of different branches of the family.

I am indebted, for the principal part that appears in the following pages, to the late Judge Edward E. Bourne, of Kennebunk, Me., who made for me a most thorough examination of the church and town records of the town of Wells, and of the county records of the county of York, Me. I am also indebted to Mr. Henry J. Cross, of Salem, Mass., for valuable information, and for obtaining for me copies of interesting documents from the records of Essex County. I am also under obligation to the Register of Deeds and the Probate Register of York County, for promptly furnishing, at a moderate expense, abstracts and copies of valuable papers and records in their respective offices.

PREFACE.

I have published in the Appendix hereto copies of several wills and probate orders, not because of any intrinsic interest in them of themselves, but because they furnish the most conclusive and satisfactory evidence of the connection and relationship between the various members and generations of the family.

I am quite sure that the names of all John^s Wells' descendants, down to and including the fourth and perhaps the fifth generation, who had children, are here given; so that it will be easy for any of his descendants to trace back his lineage to him, and thence to Thomas Welis of Ipswich, our first ancestor in this country. I should be glad to have any person who can supply any of the omissions I have made communicate the same to me in writing, and if another edition of this Genealogy should be published, the omitted names supplied will appear in their proper places.

CHARLES K. WELLS.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., January 1, 1874.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLAN.

As the plan here adopted may not be apparent at first view, the following explanation may be deemed necessary: The Arabic numbers running through the whole Genealogy are to show not only the number of every individual descended from the same ancestor, but by the aid of them the connection of every person is seen at a glance, and the ancestors or descendants may be traced backward or forward with the greatest ease and facility. One number set under another, or two numbers set against the same individual, show in all cases that such individual has descendants, and the lower number indicates the place in the series next after which the descendants are to be found; remembering that the Roman numerals are only employed to show the number of children belonging to the same particular family.

For example: (20) IV. NATHANIEL⁴ shows that this person is number 20 in the regular Arabic series, and that following (28) onward his family will be found; the IV. indicates that he is his father's fourth child; the ⁴ at the end of the name denotes the individual to be of the fourth generation from the first of the series, and so of all other numbers in a similar situation; i. e., all those placed like an exponent at the end of names show the generation. All names of persons having descendants are necessarily repeated in their order, but are not renumbered. Thus NATHANIEL⁴ (20) is repeated after (28), the (20) showing his original place in the series. If two numbers (thus: 20) are not placed to the left of a person's name, it denotes that such person has no descendants named herein. The descendants of the female descendants are not given.

THE
WELLS FAMILY.

The Wells, or Wellcs, family, in England, is of very ancient origin, clearly traceable back, it is claimed, to the time of the Norman conquest. About 1635 several families of that name (which was then sometimes spelt Wells, but oftener Welles) emigrated from England to Massachusetts. Some of these families remained in the eastern part of that State, others went to Rhode Island, others to Hartford and other towns in Connecticut, and still others to Hatfield and Hadley, in the western part of Massachusetts. So that we find at a very early day—before 1660—persons bearing that name in many towns of New England. It is probable that (1) Thomas Wells of Ipswich was the earliest emigrant of that name who settled in this country. He came as early as 1635, and perhaps a year earlier. Savage, in his *Genealogical Dictionary of New England*, states that he came in 1635, on the "Susan and Ellen," from London, with young Richard Saltonstall, when thirty years of age. Mr. D. W. Hoyt, of Providence, R. I., has published the genealogy of his third son, Thomas (*N. E. Gen. Register*, vol. 12, page 157), and I have endeavored in these pages to trace as well as I could, especially through the earlier generations, the descendants of his second son, John; and I hope some other person will do the same in regard to the descendants of his eldest son, Nathaniel.

The following interesting article is copied from the New England Genealogical Register, vol. 4, pages 11 and 12, and some of its erroneous statements are hereafter noticed:

Thomas Wells was one of the earliest English inhabitants of Ipswich. He took the Freeman's oath at Boston, May 7, 1637. He had a house lot granted to him in 1635, on the south side of the river, near where the Stone Bridge now is, and afterwards, in 1638, "planting lands" near "Heart-break Hill." He probably came from Essex, England, having had relatives at Colchester, in that County, at the time of his decease in 1666. He married Abigail, a daughter of William Warner, sister of Daniel and John Warner, all of them people of consideration among the first settlers. He left three sons, Nathaniel, the eldest, John, and Thomas; and five daughters, Sarah Massie, of Salem, Abigail Tredwell, of Ipswich, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Lydia. The last named became Lydia Ropes before the decease of her mother in 1671. Nathaniel, the eldest son, with his wife Lydia, continued to reside in Ipswich until after the decease of his mother, who bequeaths to him the "flax now growing." He was probably father of Nathaniel, who was born 1669, and died at Ipswich October 13, 1717, who was father of Capt. Nathaniel, who was born April 24, 1699, and died May 27, 1790. The Rev. Jonathan French, of North Hampton, in an article in the Genealogical Register, volume 1, page 43, states that the Rev. Nathaniel Wells, minister, of Deerfield, New Hampshire, was "son of Deacon Nathaniel Wells, whose father was also Deacon Nathaniel Wells, who removed to Wells, Me., from Ipswich, Mass., and who was a son of Deacon Thomas Wells of Ipswich." I suspect that there is an error here, and that the first Dea. Nathaniel Wells, of Wells, was son of John, second son of Thomas of Ipswich, who married Sarah, daughter of Francis Littlefield, and settled in Wells, which received its name from this family, having previously been called Preston. His father transferred to him, by a deed of gift, all his lands in that place, being about three hundred and fifty acres. To Thomas, the youngest son, the father, by his will, dated July 3, 1666, bequeaths two hundred and fifty pounds sterling, to be paid him "when he come to the age of 22 years, 4 months and 10 days." By the same instrument, it appears that he was born "11th 11th mo., 1645," or January 11, 1647, of the present style. Why this precise period was fixed on for the payment of the legacy does not appear. Is it possible that the good Deacon could have dabbled in astrology? He also provides for the contingency of his son's "going to the college," and bequeaths to him "all the books I bought for his use, and my phisic books, and the books called orthodox evangelist." Two books which would probably come under the latter description, "The Soul's Preparation for

Christ," and "Parkins upon the Creed," he had given to his daughters.* From this bequest of "phissic books," the inference is drawn that he was a physician.† The evidence is not quite conclusive, yet I know of no other. The books were appraised at £8 6s. 3d., a respectable medical library for those days. This was probably the Thomas Wells who, according to Farmer, was the first minister of Amesbury, ordained in 1672, and died July 10, 1734, aged eighty-six. If so, he was eighty-seven years and six months old at the time of his decease.

From the above, and from the will of (1) THOMAS WELLS¹ of Ipswich, our first ancestor in America (Appendix, pages 3 to 12), and other evidence, it appears that he married Abigail, the daughter of William Warner (but whether in England or this country I cannot state), and had children, viz.:

- (2) I. NATHANIEL,² born —, died December 15, 1681. He married, October 29, 1661, Lydia Thurlley, and had children, viz.:

ABIGAIL, born in 1662.

LYDIA, born in 1667.

NATHANIEL, born in 1669.

SARAH, born in 1671.

HANNAH and ELIZABETH, born in 1677.

As I do not propose to trace the descendants of Nathaniel² (2), his children are not numbered.

- (3) II. JOHN,² born —, died in Wells April 11, 1677.
 (4) III. SARAH,² born —, married John Massie, of Salem.
 (5) IV. ABIGAIL,² born —, married, June 19, 1661, Nathaniel Tredwell, of Salem.
 (6) V. THOMAS,² born January 11, 1647, died July 10, 1734.
 (7) VI. ELIZABETH,² born —, married — Burnam.
 (8) VII. HANNAH,² born —.
 (9) VIII. LYDIA, born —, married, March 25, 1669, John Ropes, of Salem.

The relative ages of the children I judge from the order in which

*Not correctly stated. See Appendix, pages 4 and 8.

†In his will, and in several deeds, he is styled a "yeoman," from which I infer that he was not a physician.