

**A GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR OF  
THE FAMILY OF JOHN LAWRENCE,  
OF WATERTOWN, 1636; WITH BRIEF  
NOTICES OF OTHERS OF THE NAME  
IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA**

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A Genealogical Memoir of the Family of John Lawrence, of Watertown, 1636; With Brief Notices of Others of the Name in England and America by John Lawrence

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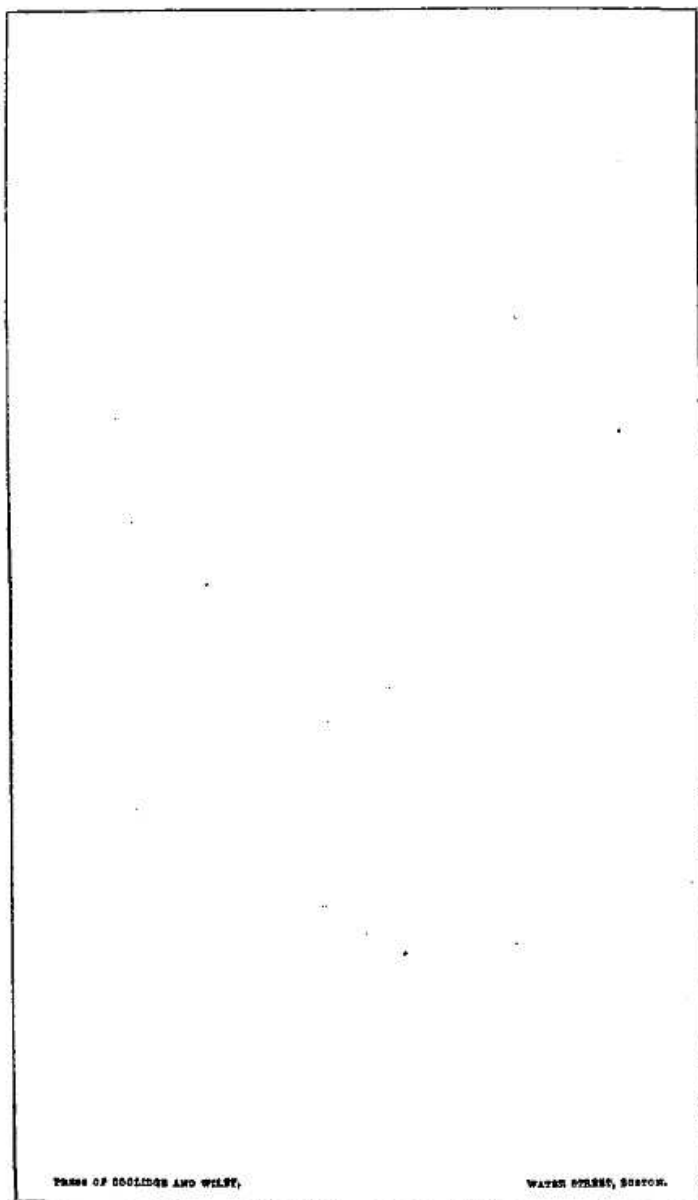
JOHN LAWRENCE,

OF WATERTOWN, 1636;

WITH BRIEF NOTICES OF OTHERS OF THE NAME IN  
ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

*"Your Fathers, where are they?"—Zechariah.*

1847.



PRESS OF COOLIDGE AND WILBY,

WATER STREET, BOSTON.

## PREFACE.

FOR the sake of simplicity and clearness, the matter of this sketch is arranged in three parts. The first contains, in connection with the explanation of the name *Lawrence*, a concise account of some of the earliest and more important families and persons of the name in England, and is properly introductory to the second; which comprises within the number of sixty or more families nearly five hundred individuals whose lineage and descent from the original English ancestors, *John and Elizabeth* of Watertown, can be easily traced by means of the personal and family reference figures employed. The plan does not follow the course of consecutive lineal descent, yet embraces in successive families all those of the same generation. In addition to the births, marriages and deaths as they have been obtained, some not uninteresting and important historical facts have been inserted. The third and last part includes what has been ascertained of other persons of the name, supposed to have come early to this country, who settled in New England and New Netherlands.

To those of the family name and lineage into whose hands this may come, it is not necessary to say, that while there has been an earnest endeavor to secure accuracy in the statements and dates given, yet it will probably be found that many errors have occurred which will need to be corrected. It has been observed in some cases that the records of the town did not agree with those of the Church, nor these again with the family registers and the burial inscriptions. Hence discrepancies arise, which can be rectified only by close comparison and carefully drawn conclusions.

The request is therefore made, that any further particulars, by which what has been hereby commenced may be corrected and improved, may be furnished for the use of those who have been laboring to compile the history of this family and put it into such a form that, concerning those who *are not* it may be as though they *were*; while they who *shall be* will not be left entirely ignorant of those who *have been*.

The family may be truly said to have had not only a *name* but a *character*, for intelligence, probity, piety and usefulness. Enterprising and benevolent, many of them have lived to do good and be blessings in the world. The spirit of philanthropy and charitableness in the *living* Lawrences is but the spirit of their fathers of former generations, exercised in the possession of ampler means and over a wider sphere of influence.

Many have shown that if not born *noblemen*, as were others of their name aforetime in the "Father-land," they could and did become such, (*noble men*) and such let their descendants be.

My acknowledgments are due to several gentlemen from whom important aid has been received in the preparation of this memoir. Particularly would I express them to M. G. Cobb, Esq., of Charlestown, from whom valuable notes were obtained; to the Rev. Mr. Sewall, of Burlington; the Rev. N. Bouton, of Concord, N. H.; C. Butler, Esq., of Groton, whose history of that town, about to be issued, will contain interesting and important statements of the Lawrences of that place; also to Mr. Henry Bass, of Boston, Mr. Z. Hosmer, and Thaddeus W. Harris, M. D., Librarian of Harvard College. To Amos A. Lawrence, Esq., especially, should they be expressed, for the interest which he has taken, and the assistance he has rendered, in this work.

Imperfect though it be, yielding to the desire of esteemed friends, it is committed to the press for the use of the family, in hope that something enlarged and more complete may be published at some future day.

JOHN LAWRENCE.



# PART I.

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## DEFINITION AND USAGE OF THE NAME.

The name *Lawrence* as applied to men, is of very early origin. The *orthography* of the word has been slightly varied in its common usage, yet the number of syllables, it is believed, has never been changed; nor the essential vowel and consonant sounds altered. Dissyllabic, with an *a* and either a single or double *u* in the first syllable, the second has always had for its vowel short *a*, or *e*, followed by *us* or *nice*.

If not in its application to the same person as used in the same family for several successive generations, it has been found written in at least three, if not four various, yet similar ways; namely, *Laurens*, *Lawrence*, *Lawrence*, and *Lawrance*. The modern and almost universal orthography of the word is *Lawrence*. Its derivation we trace to the Latin *Laurus* — *Laurentius*. The latter form is that in which the name is found as first given to men. The signification of the word recorded by some one (not an indifferent scholar) on the first page of the Town Records of Hingham, Mass., may be regarded as pretty near the truth. "Christian names for men now most used with the signification, *Lawrence* — flourishing like a Bay tree."

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## LAWRENCE OF ITALY.

The first instance of an individual to whom the name belonged who lived in England, which has been ascertained, is that of *Lawrence*, a monk. In Collier's Dictionary the word is *Laurentius*. Harris, in his History of Kent, has it *Lawrence*. By birth a Roman, he came over from Italy to Britain in company with Austin and others, who labored for the propagation of Christianity in the Island. Upon the death of Austin, LAWRENCE, accord-

ing to previous arrangement, was appointed to succeed him as Archbishop of the See of Canterbury. He is represented to have been a man of good learning and piety, who openly reproved the King, Eadbold, son of Ethelbert, for his vices, and succeeded in reforming him so far that he afterwards founded the Monastery of St. Austins, in the Abbey of which Archbishop Lawrence was buried, A. D. 916.

### ENGLISH BRANCHES AND CONNECTED HISTORY.

It is, however, to one ROBERT LAWRENCE, of Lancashire, we are to look for the first individual of the name whose family and circumstances entitle him to be considered the Ancestor of the Lawrences of England. Born, probably, as early as A. D. 1150, he accompanied his sovereign, Richard Cœur de Lion, to the war of the Crusades, in the Holy Land, and so distinguished himself in the siege of Acre that he was knighted Sir Robert of Ashton Hall, and obtained for his arms, "Arg. a cross raguly Gu." — A. D. 1191.

Seized of Ashton Hall in Lancashire, his successors held this seat for many generations, and it has been said to have belonged, even of late, to some of Sir Robert's descendants. His son and immediate successor married a daughter of James Trafford, Esq., of Trafford, Lancashire, by whom he had a son and heir, *James*, who succeeded Sir Robert, his father.

JAMES married Matilda de Washington, daughter of John Washington, of Washington, in 1252. She was an heiress, the only daughter. The son and successor of James Lawrence "living in the thirty-seventh year of Henry III.," by Matilda, was *John*, who married Margaret, daughter of Walter Chesford, whose son, named *John*, succeeding his father, married Elizabeth, daughter of — Holt, of Stably, in Lancashire, and died A. D. 1360.

Sir ROBERT, a knight, son and heir of John and Elizabeth Lawrence, married Margaret Holden, of Lancashire, by whom he had sons: first, *Robert*, ancestor of the Lawrences of Standish, Crich Grange and Sevenhampton; second, *Thomas*; third, *William*; fourth, *Edmund*; — ancestors of other principal branches of the name in England.

I. Sir ROBERT, son of Sir Robert and Margaret Lawrence, born before 1454, married Amphibis, daughter of Edward Longford, Esq., of Longford, and had sons: first, *James*, a knight, styled "Sir James of Standish," to distinguish him from another of the name living at the time. He married Cecily, daughter of — Boteler, Esq., of Lancashire, an heiress, and had issue, two sons and a daughter.

Sir *Thomas*, first son of Sir James and Cecily Lawrence, married

Eleanor, daughter of Lionel Lord Welles, and thus acquired estates in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham and York. Sir *John*, a son by this marriage, the seventh knight in a direct line, is said to have possessed, in 1591, thirty-four manors; but being outlawed for crime, died without issue, an exile in France. *Cecily*, a daughter, married William Gerard, ancestor of the Bromley family of Gerards, to whom Ashton Hall and other estates passed, about 1800.

*Robert*, second son of Sir Robert and Amphilbis Lawrence, married Margaret, daughter of John Lawrence, Esq., of Rixton, in Lancashire, by whom he had Sir *Robert*, who married a daughter of Thomas Stanley, Esq., and died in 1571. Also *John*, who commanded a wing of the English army under Lord Stanley at the battle of Flodden Field, and died without issue, aged thirty-eight years. *William*, a third son, born 1509, or before, married Isabel Molyneux, daughter of John Molyneux, of Chorley, in Lancashire, and held great estates—Sevenhampton, &c., in Gloucestershire, the manor of the Sea House, Somerset, &c. He had several children, of whom *John*, Doctor of Laws, was Archdeacon of Worcester, &c. *Robert*, born at Withington, 1521, married for his second wife Eleanor, daughter of John Stratford, of Farncot, by whom he had: first, *William*, who received from his father the estates of Shurdington. He married, and had *Anthony*, his heir, who also married, and had a son *William*, who died without issue, and the estates went to *Littleton* Lawrence, Esq., of Cricklade.

*Robert*, second son of *Robert* and Eleanor Lawrence, died without issue, 1585. He was of Sevenhampton. *Anthony*, a third son, married a daughter of William Gradwell, Esq., of Gray's Inn, and had by her *Anthony*, his heir, a daughter *Frances*, or *Elisabeth*, who married William Rogers, Esq., of Sandiwell, and a son *William*. *Anthony* Lawrence, Esq., married Mary, daughter of Giles Broadway, Esq., and had two sons and three daughters. *Robert* Lawrence, Esq., was of Sevenhampton, and the second son, and married Mary, daughter of John Rogers, Esq., of Hazleton, and was the ancestor of "*Walter* Lawrence, Esq., said to be the last heir-male of the elder branch of the Shurdington family, who died in May, 1810," and likewise of *John* Lawrence, living unmarried, in 1806, aged 73 years, who was Rector of Sevenhampton.

*Nicholas*, third son of Sir *Robert* and Amphilbis Lawrence, living in 1454, married, and had a son *Littleton* Lawrence, Esq., of Cricklade, who inherited estates under the will of *William* Lawrence, Esq., of Shurdington, which are still held by his descendants.

The arms of this branch at Shurdington and Sevenhampton, &c., were: "Argent, a cross, raguly gu." Crest—"The tail or lower part of a fish erect and coupéd." Estates "in Gloucestershire." Seat, "Sandy-Well Park."