

**GENEALOGIES OF THE LYMANS  
OF MIDDLEFIELD, OF THE  
DICKINSONS OF MONTREAL,  
AND  
OF THE PARTRIDGES OF HATFIELD**

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Genealogies of the Lymans of Middlefield, of the Dickinsons of Montreal, and of the Partridges of Hatfield by James Taylor Dickinson

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**JAMES TAYLOR DICKINSON**

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GENEALOGIES

OF THE LYMANS  
OF MIDDLEFIELD,

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AND OF THE PARTRIDGES  
OF HATFIELD.

*By James T. Hutchinson*

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This pamphlet is printed for private circulation only. It was my intention to have brought the results of my inquiries into better form to have made them more readable, and more convenient for reference. Want of health forbids my turning to the best account the material in my possession. I am obliged to send my papers to the printer in such shape as requires of me least labor. The essential facts however, are here, and are now committed to the keeping of those who may desire their preservation. I am indebted to S. D. Partridge Esq., for the genealogy of the Partridges of Hatfield.

JAS. T. DICKINSON,

*Middlefield, Conn., Sept. 9, 1865.*

**GENEALOGIES.**





## GENEALOGY OF THE LYMANS OF MIDDLEFIELD.

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MIDDLEFIELD, CONN., April 20th, 1864.

At the request of Mr. William Lyman, my father-in-law, I have undertaken to trace the genealogy of the Middlefield branch of the Lyman family. During the last winter, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman, while reading the "Autobiography and Correspondence of Dr. Lyman Beecher," who was first cousin of Mr. Lyman, found, in the book, several genealogical errors. Their attention was thus turned to the Lyman genealogy with a view to collecting and preserving all the facts that could be recovered. They placed in my hands a bundle of old papers, mostly old deeds, about fifty in number, covering a period of 99 years, from 1709 to 1808, or three generations, which, for convenience, may be named the generations of Ebenezer<sup>d</sup>, John<sup>d</sup> and David<sup>d</sup> Lyman; and, in the female line, of Hope<sup>d</sup> (Stow) Hawley, Hope<sup>d</sup> (Hawley) Lyman, and Esther<sup>d</sup> (Lyman) Beecher, the mother of Dr. Beecher. Among these papers is the last Will (now before me) of John<sup>d</sup> Lyman, grandfather of William, bearing date April 2d, 1763, and "Proved" at the Court of Probate in Middletown, 5th Sept., 1763, in which the names of his children are mentioned, viz.:—"David, Elihu and Phineas, Catherine, Hannah and Esther," also the name of his wife, "Hope Lyman." Mr. William<sup>d</sup> Lyman knows that his grandfather John<sup>d</sup> came to Middlefield from Durham, and has always understood that the family came to Durham from Northampton, Mass. He remembers riding with his father David<sup>d</sup> past a house on the Durham road ("Crooked Lane") a little south of the "Square's house," and that his father said he ought to have bought it when sold because it had belonged to his father's (John<sup>d</sup>'s) family. The house fronted south, and was on the west side of the road. Mrs. Lyman also remembers the house; it was pointed out to her by her mother-in-law, Mrs. David Lyman. The house was standing fifty years ago, and probably was not pulled down till several years later. The house of Noah<sup>d</sup> Lyman, one of the uncles of John, and father of Gen. Phineas<sup>d</sup> Lyman, stood on the east side of the road, as did also the house of Thomas<sup>d</sup>, another uncle. It thus appears that the three brothers, Thomas<sup>d</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>d</sup> and Noah<sup>d</sup>, sons of Thomas<sup>d</sup>, of Northampton, all

lived near each other. Thomas<sup>2</sup> Lyman, of Northampton, and afterwards of Durham, born probably about 1649, married in 1678, according to Savage, Ruth, widow of Joseph Baker and daughter of William Holten. He had four sons and two daughters, viz. :—Thomas, Mindwell, Ebenezer, Elizabeth, Noah and Enoch; was made freeman 1690; and removed, says Savage, to Durham. It seems that three of his sons, Thomas, Ebenezer and Noah, came with him, as their names appear repeatedly on the Durham Records. His daughter Mindwell also came to Durham, for, in Vol. II. of *Historical and Genealogical Register*, page 221, also Vol. XIV., p. 66, I find the name of "Mindwell Lyman, of Durham," as second wife of John Harris, of Middletown; she died Feb. 6, 1758.

But when did the removal of the family from Northampton to Durham occur? It must have been after 1708 and before 1715; for, in 1708, when Durham was incorporated, the number of adult males was 34, all of whose names are mentioned in the Records, but among them the name of Lyman does not appear; and in 1715 is the first mention I can find in the Records of this name, in which year the names of Thomas Lyman, Sr. and Thomas Lyman, Jr. are found together in the same Deed. The name of Ebenezer Lyman appears in Deeds in 1728, 1731, 1736, 1741, and, for the last time, it occurs in a Deed belonging to William Lyman, where he signs the acknowledgment as Justice of the Peace. In one of the above deeds he sells, for one thousand pounds, land, "mansion house," &c. (probably his homestead), and as his name ceases to appear in the Records, he probably went, about 1741, to live in Torrington, his son Ebenezer having preceded him. In *Barber's Historical Collections of Connecticut*, under the head of Torrington, page 496, I find the following :—

"The first settler that moved into the township was Ebenezer Lyman, from Durham, with a young family, consisting of three persons only; this was in 1737. Several young men had, however, labored in the township the summer previous. Jonathan Coe was the second person who moved into the place; he also was from Durham. The principal settlers were from Windsor and Durham. The settlement of this town was slow. When the first minister, the Rev. Nathaniel Roberts, was ordained, in the summer of 1741, there were but fourteen families in the town. As this was considered a frontier settlement at this time, a fortification was erected not far from the centre of the town. It was incorporated in 1741."

Who was this Ebenezer Lyman, first settler of Torrington? Was he the Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> who was born in Northampton and came with his father Thomas<sup>2</sup>, his brothers Thomas<sup>4</sup> and Noah<sup>4</sup>, and his sister Mindwell<sup>4</sup>, to Durham, between 1708 and 1715? No, but an Ebenezer<sup>3</sup>, Jr., son of the other Ebenezer; for he had "a young family, consisting of three persons only." The senior Ebenezer, of the fourth generation, was, at this time, over fifty, too old to be a suitable man to be the first settler of a frontier township.

John<sup>1</sup> Lyman died in the year 1763, between April 2d and Sept. 5th, for he signed the Will April 2d, and the same is proved in the Middletown Court of Probate Sept. 5th, 1763, when "John Lyman, late of Middletown" is spoken of as "deceased." His age was forty-six; for, his son David<sup>4</sup> told William<sup>7</sup> that he (David) "was sixteen years old when his father died, and that he thought him an old man though only forty-six." John<sup>3</sup> was, therefore, born about 1717.