

**A GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF
THE DESCENDANTS OF MOSES
PENGRY, OF IPSWICH, MASS,
SO FAR AS ASCERTAINED**

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A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Moses Pengry, of Ipswich, Mass, so Far as
Ascertained by William M. Pingry

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WILLIAM M. PINGRY

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THE DESCENDANTS OF MOSES
PINGRY, OF IPSWICH, MASS,
SO FAR AS ASCERTAINED**



Yours very truly

John F. Lingry

A
GENEALOGICAL RECORD

OF

THE DESCENDANTS

OF

MOSES PENGRY,

OF H'SWICK, MASS.,

SO FAR AS ASCERTAINED; COLLECTED AND ARRANGED

BY

WILLIAM M. PENGRY,

Perkinsville Vt

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PREFACE.

Five generations had passed away before any attempt was made to trace the family history and lineage. Traditions exist which are more or less reliable, but after two and one-third centuries, nothing can be absolutely known excepting what was recorded near the times when the events occurred. The records made at the time will greatly aid in furnishing information concerning those who long ago passed from earth, and to these records reference has been had for facts concerning at least four generations recorded in this book.

The records of Essex county and of the towns of Ipswich, Rowley, Georgetown and Methuen, all in Massachusetts, have been carefully searched, and all the information they furnish deemed worthy of preservation will be here found.

For the first fifty-five years, nearly all the family lived in Ipswich. For eighty-five years after that, most of the family lived in Rowley and Georgetown, while two families and their descendants lived many years in Methuen.

But very few left Essex county before the close of the war of the revolution. At that time the family had increased in numbers considerably and sought and found new homes in other parts of Massachusetts and in New Hampshire and Vermont, and twenty years later in Maine and Nova Scotia.

At the present time the family is greatly scattered, being found in at least five New England states, and in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, California and perhaps some other states. It is not known that any of the family ever made a permanent settlement in a slave state in which slavery existed, excepting in one instance. If any one of them has claimed to hold another human being as his chattel, it has not come to the knowledge of the writer.

Our early ancestors were men of character, standing and influence, industrious and frugal, willing and able to sustain themselves and rear their families for usefulness. The same characteristics have to a great extent marked their posterity. No family has made better citizens than the descendants of Moses Pengry. Trained as most of them have been to habits of industry, frugality and uprightness, descended from puritan ances-

try, and embracing much of their strictness, they have been law abiding, and ready to contribute of their property and influence to promote the general welfare.

In only one instance has any one of the name been tried for felony, and in that case the respondent was honorably acquitted by a verdict of a jury of his country.

The law reports do not contain the name as a party litigant for nearly two centuries, and up to the present time it will be found that in most instances they have secured their rights without appealing to the courts to settle them.

They have decided opinions upon political questions of importance, and exercise the right of speech and of suffrage, but none of them have made politics their business nor held office except by the spontaneous call of the people.

Those who have lived to manhood or womanhood have generally become heads of families, and have contributed their share of the country's defenders.

In the French war, the war of the revolution, the second war with Great Britain and the war for sustaining the unity of the nation and the authority of the United States government, they furnished their share of those who took the tented field, and endured the hardships of war, and poured out their blood and gave up their lives for their country and nation. Before the war of the rebellion they entertained divers political views, but when the tug of war came they were all patriots, were all for sustaining the authority of the nation forcibly, if necessary. None of them rejoiced at rebel victories, or mourned for their defeat.

The knowledge the writer had of the family before commencing this work and the information obtained in preparing it, combined, lead him to a feeling of just pride in his ancestry and kinsfolk, and although the work may prove to him a pecuniary loss, he will be in some measure compensated by the pleasure of an acquaintance with the family.

When, about seven years ago, he entertained a purpose to collect the history of the family, he did not know of another person who was interested in it. He soon, however, found encouragement from others, which tended to cheer him while pursuing his inquiries under difficulties. Among the earliest who took an interest were Rev. Dr. John F. Pingrey of Elizabeth, N. J., and Thomas P. Pingree, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Pittsfield, Mass. They have aided me greatly in obtaining the information which has enabled me to prepare and send out the work. My acknowledgements are also due to Miss Lucy W. Tenney of Rowley, Mass., Mrs. Sarah P. Peabody of Stratham, N. H., Mrs. Betsey Pingrey of Hartland, Vt., Edmund P. Pingree and his daughter Lizzie A. Pingree of Denmark, Me., Bradbury C. A. Pingree of Norway, Me., Parkman Pingree of Parkman, Me., Rev. Andrew and Dr. David Pingree both of Pingree Grove, Ill., David Pingree a Salem, Mass., Luther F. Pingree of Portland, Me., Benjamin

B. Pingree of Rowley, Mass., Caroline P. Frost of Petersham, Mass., Hon. N. W. Hazen of Andover, Mass., Mrs. Rebecca Webster of Bridgewater, N. H., Nathan P. Dodge of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Wm. W. Pingree of Chicago, Ill., True Pingry of Omro, Wis., and a person (a lady, I think, who did not give her name) who furnished me a valuable record of the descendants of Daniel Pingree, and especially to Mrs. Mary A. Burnham of Ayer, Mass., who furnished me family records, and preserved and lent me ancient papers, without which I would not have commenced the work. After commencing my researches I was surprised to find what the name originally was. So far as I now recollect, the first knowledge I had of it was obtained by the autograph signature of the second Aaron to a deed made in 1713, a copy of which is inserted in this work, and afterwards I was informed by Thomas P. Pingree of Pittsfield, Mass., that in examining Essex county records at Salem, he found a record of Aaron Pengry's will. He afterwards furnished me a copy of the will in which was the name of Moses Pengry as a witness. From this copy and many other ancient papers I am led to think that persons bearing the name for the first two generations uniformly spelled it Pengry. The first departure from that orthography that has come to my knowledge, was in the case of my great-grandfather, Aaron, who added an "e" at the end making it Pengrye. I have no certain information that any other person of the name so spelled it. Since that time the spelling has been greatly diverse with a strong tendency for the last eighty or ninety years to end with double e. I have endeavored in the body of the work to spell each person's name as he spelled it himself, so far as I could ascertain. I have found at least one ancient name that I cannot classify. Wm. J. Pingree has furnished me from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register Vol. 7, page 79 or 359 the name of Wm. Pengry whose age was 22, in 1666. This is all I know of him. I think I have the names of the children of Moses Pengry, and therefore think he may have been a son of the first Aaron, and that he died before 1684 when Aaron made his will. If that were so, Aaron had a former wife (which is quite probable) of whom I have no account.

One who has had no experience in collecting and arranging family records, can have but little idea of the difficulties and labor of the task. Many letters remain unanswered, sometimes repeated solicitations have brought a reply, sometimes not. Frequently letters giving information have been illegible, or unintelligible. I have never known a genealogical record that had not many mistakes and I cannot expect this will be singular in that respect. Persons finding mistakes will confer a favor by giving information. Corrections may and should be preserved, so that in case of a future enlarged and improved edition, a more accurate and valuable work may be obtained.

With this work, containing such records for two hundred and forty years as have been accessible, for a foundation a good work may hereafter be made.

I would have been pleased to have been furnished with many more biographical sketches. No doubt many might have been written which would be valuable. I have had personal acquaintance with very few of the family, and have not felt myself competent to furnish sketches of them. Nearly all contained in the work have been furnished me. The book I send out is principally statistical, containing names and dates so far as I have obtained them, and showing how each is related to the others. Perhaps future researches will discover the lost link in the family of the second and third Moses Pengrys.

Whether James Pingry of Lyme, N. H., and George Pingry of Bennington, Vt., were sons or grandsons of Moses of the third generation, and where the family were from 1699 to 1764 may be made to appear hereafter.

It is quite probable that the third Moses, or his son or sons, lived for a time in Tolland, Conn., but the town records do not show it.

In this work I have undertaken only to look up and arrange the family in America. The origin of Aaron and Moses would be an interesting study, and efforts in that direction have been put forth, thus far with no satisfactory result.

It is generally understood in the family that they came from England to Ipswich, Mass., probably from near London. The fact that Moses and Aaron and the sons of Moses allied themselves by marriage with good families, and that Moses took a leading position in the civil government and in the church tends to show that they were regarded not as foreigners, but as citizens.

After considerable investigation it is ascertained there has been within forty years in England one man named Pingree and one named Pengree. Whether any of the name were left there after the immigration of Aaron and Moses is uncertain. The name most like it is the French name Pingré. That name has existed in France for some four or five centuries, perhaps longer. It is said to have originated at Amiens. There have been noblemen of the name as far back as it has been traced. One person of the name, Alexandre Gui Pingré, was distinguished as an astronomer. He is said to have been born at Paris in 1711, and died 1796. A Count of the name has been travelling in America the present year, 1861.

Rev. Mr. Wood of Scituate, Mass., has become interested in looking up the origin of the family, desiring if possible, to show that the American family are descended from the French family. So far he has not succeeded, but is hopeful that he may do so, or at least ascertain the origin of the Pingree family.

However flattering it might be to us to show our descent from