

**THE DARLING FAMILY IN AMERICA. BEING  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE FOUNDERS AND  
FIRST COLONIAL FAMILIES, AN OFFICIAL  
LIST OF THE HEADS OF FAMILIES OF THE  
NAME DARLING, RESIDENT IN THE UNITED  
STATES IN 1790, AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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The Darling family in America. Being an account of the founders and first colonial families, an official list of the heads of families of the name Darling, resident in the United States in 1790, and a bibliography by William M. Clemens

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**WILLIAM M. CLEMENS**

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THE  
Darling Family

IN  
AMERICA



Early Settlers Prior to 1800



1913  
NEW YORK  
WILLIAM M. CLEMENS  
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45 and 49 William Street

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# The Darling Family

IN AMERICA

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As a family name Darling—or Dearing, as the form sometimes was,—was bestowed upon or assumed by, persons who were of engaging personality, of fine physique, handsome or of courtly manners. According to the old records the family was in England as early as the year 1200 and some of its members were anciently cup-bearers to the king. The American pioneers were of this English stock but the connection with English progenitors has not yet been established.

Two branches of the family in England were armor-bearing. One had a grant as follows:

Arms.—Per fesse crenellé azure and gules, in chief a lion passant argent, and in base two falchions in saltire, blades argent, hilt and pommels or; on a canton ermine, a mural crown or, suspended therefrom by a ribbon gules, edged azure, the Corunna medal or.

Crest.—Out of a mural crown or, a dexter arm embowed in armor proper, sustaining an ines-

cutcheon gules, thereon two faulehions in saltire as in the arms, encircled by the ribbon and medal of Corunna.

Darling of London had the following:

Arms.—Azure guttée d'or, on a fesse of the last three crosses crosslet fitchée gules.

Crest.—A female figure proper habited in a loose robe azure, holding in the dexter hand a cross crosslet fitchée gules, in the sinister a book proper.

### THE FIRST AMERICAN DARLINGS

In the early records — Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine — the name Darling is spelled in several different ways: Darland, Derland, Dearland, Dealing, Durland, Darlen, Durlen, Darling and Darlyn. Wills are found, dating before 1718, in the probate courts of Suffolk and Middlesex counties of Massachusetts.

Pioneers of the Darling name were John of Salem, Mass., and Maine; George of Salem; Samuel of New Haven, Conn.; Richard of Huntington, L. I.; Dennis of Braintree and Mendon, Mass.; John of Braintree and Mendon. Some of these were undoubtedly connected but the relationship has not in every instance been certainly discovered. There were several other Darlings early in New England but their descendants have not been numerous. Nearly all the Darlings in the United



States have been derived from some one of the pioneers above named.

**DENNIS DARLING of Braintree, Mass.**

[From the manuscript of Carlos Parsons Darling\*]

I.

Dennis Darling, or Denice Darley or Darlin, first appears in Braintree, Mass., where he was married by Peter Brackett, justice of the peace, November 3, 1662, to Hannah Francis. Nothing definite is known concerning the parentage of Hannah Francis, although it is held by some that she was a daughter of John and Rosa Francis who were in Braintree at that time. Braintree Vital Records give the following children born there to Dennis and Hannah Darling:

1. Cornelius Darling, born January 4, 1663, died March 11, 1663.
2. John Darling, born in July, 1664.
3. A son, born June 18, 1667, died June 19, 1667.
4. Sarah Darling, born November 26, 1669.
5. Cornelius Darling, born January 25, 1675.
6. Hannah Darling, born April 14, 1677.

\*Carlos Parsons Darling of Lawrenceville, Tioga county, Penn., is at work upon a genealogy of the Darling and allied families, to be published in book form. He has a mass of information on hand, furnished by different members of the family residing in the United States and Europe, but there is still much to be secured before the interesting story can be told in its entirety, that the book may have the family record and history of every Darling, and descendant of a Darling. He asks that all members of the family shall send him their family history and record. He also asks for newspaper clippings referring to births, deaths and family gatherings which, if the sender wishes, will be returned after using.

Sometime during the years 1677-78, Dennis Darling and his family moved to Mendon, Mass., where he died January 25, 1717, aged 77 years. No trace has been found of the death of his wife Hannah. The Mendon Vital Records give the following children born in that town to Dennis and Hannah Darling:

7. Ebenezer Darling, born January 8, 1679.
8. Daniel Darling, born April 28, 1682.
9. Elizabeth Darling, born July 2, 1685.
10. Benjamin Darling, born February 11, 1687.

## II.

Captain John Darling, born in July 1664, married first, Elizabeth Thompson, second, Anne Rockwood and, third, Elizabeth Morse. He had one child by his first wife, one by his second wife, and eleven by his third wife. He died May 29, 1753.

Nothing further is known of Sarah Darling, born November 26, 1669.

Cornelius Darling, born January 25, 1675, married Mary Frebray and had several children, born in Mendon and Rehoboth, Mass.

Hannah Darling, born April 14, 1677, is still unaccounted for.

Ebenezer Darling, born January 8, 1679, married, March 3, 1698, Mary (Wheaton) Mann, widow of Thomas Mann, but evidently left no children.

Daniel Darling, born April 23, 1782, married

Lydia —— and had eight children. He died February 26, 1745 in Mendon, Mass.

Elizabeth Darling, born July 2, 1685, married in Mendon, Mass., January 8, 1708-9, Obadiah Wheelock.

Benjamin Darling, "gentleman" of Mendon, the youngest child of Dennis and Hannah (Francis) Darling, was born in Mendon February 11, 1687. He accumulated considerable property and was prominent in the locality. He lived on a farm of his own, consisting of a large tract of land situated in what is now the town of Blackstone, Mass., on the North Road, about three miles east of Millville, Mass., and now known as the Blackstone Poor Farm.

Benjamin Darling married, in Mendon, June 11, 1708, Mehitable White, born in Mendon, January 22, 1689, daughter of Thomas and Mehitable (Thornton?) White of Mendon, granddaughter of the first Thomas White who settled in Weymouth, Mass., in 1637. Thomas White, the father of Mehitable, was one of the early settlers and largest landowners of Milford, Mass. Mehitable (White) Darling must have died sometime after 1730, and probably was buried in the Chestnut Hill cemetery where her husband was afterward buried. She was the mother of eleven children.

Benjamin Darling married, second, in Mendon, April 17, 1760, Susanna (Benson-Thayer) White, widow of Aaron White, formerly widow of ——