

**GENEALOGY OF THE  
PHILADELPHIA BRANCH  
OF THE DAMON FAMILY  
OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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Genealogy of the Philadelphia branch of the Damon family of Massachusetts by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton

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**ANNE HOLLINGSWORTH WHARTON**

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Or, a lion rampant azure, over all on a fesse gules three martlets argent.

Crest: a demi lion rampant azure.

Motto: Pro Rege, Pro Lege, Pro Grege.

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OF  
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OF MASSACHUSETTS



PHILADELPHIA  
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## PREFACE.

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THE name of Damon is to be found in many counties of England, early appearing in Dorsetshire, Hampshire, Somersetshire, and Kent. It is also to be met with in the honored ranks of literature and music.

William Damon or Daman, who is styled one of Queen Elizabeth's musicians, was probably the earliest composer who set the Psalms of David in the vernacular to part music.

Of this work, which is to be seen in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Mr. Leslie Stephen says,—

"His work appeared first in 1579, printed by John Day, with a preface by Edward Hake, who relates how these compositions were 'by private meanes and for his private delite . . . gotten and gathered together from the fertile soyle of his honest friend, Guilielmo Daman,' by one 'John Bull, citezen and goldsmith of London,' and how, though Daman never intended them to be published, Bull 'hasted forthwith of himself . . . to commit the same to the presse.' The work appeared in four oblong quarto part-books, and is now of great rarity, the edition probably having been bought up by the composer or his friends. In 1591 another version of Daman's Psalms appeared from Thomas East's press. This work was published by William Swayne, and by him dedicated to Lord Burghley. In the preface to this work Swayne says that the former publication 'not answering the expectation that many had of the auctor's skill, gave him occasion to take upon him a new labour to recover the wrong his friend did in publishing that that was so done.' The work appeared in two forms, in one of which the melody of the psalm is in the tenor part, in the other in the treble. Both versions are in four separate part-books. The words of both the 1579 and 1591 editions are taken

from Sternhold and Hopkins's version of the Psalms, but the contents of the two editions are not the same. Neither is entered in the register of the Stationers' Company. In the later publication Daman is styled 'late one of her Majestie's Musicians,' so that it is possible that he was dead when it appeared, though details of his biography are entirely wanting. The only other extant compositions of his are a *Miserere* and some sacred music in lute tablature preserved in the British Museum." (Add. MSS. 5054, 31,992, 29,246.)

William Damon, the musical composer, seems to have spelled his name Damon and Daman, and, as the Rev. Samuel Chenery Damon states, the English name has been variously spelled, Daman, Damman, Dammien, Damond, Daymen, Daming, and Damon. The last-named spelling has been adopted by the three families which settled in America, although in England two branches of the family still vary in the spelling of their surname, one spelling it Damen and the other Damon.

The original design of this work was to make it embrace a fuller genealogy of the Damon family of Wayland than is given in the "Damon Memorial," by the Rev. Samuel Chenery Damon. This idea having been abandoned, only the antecedents of Albert Forster Damon, in the various lines, are here given, with the names of his descendants.

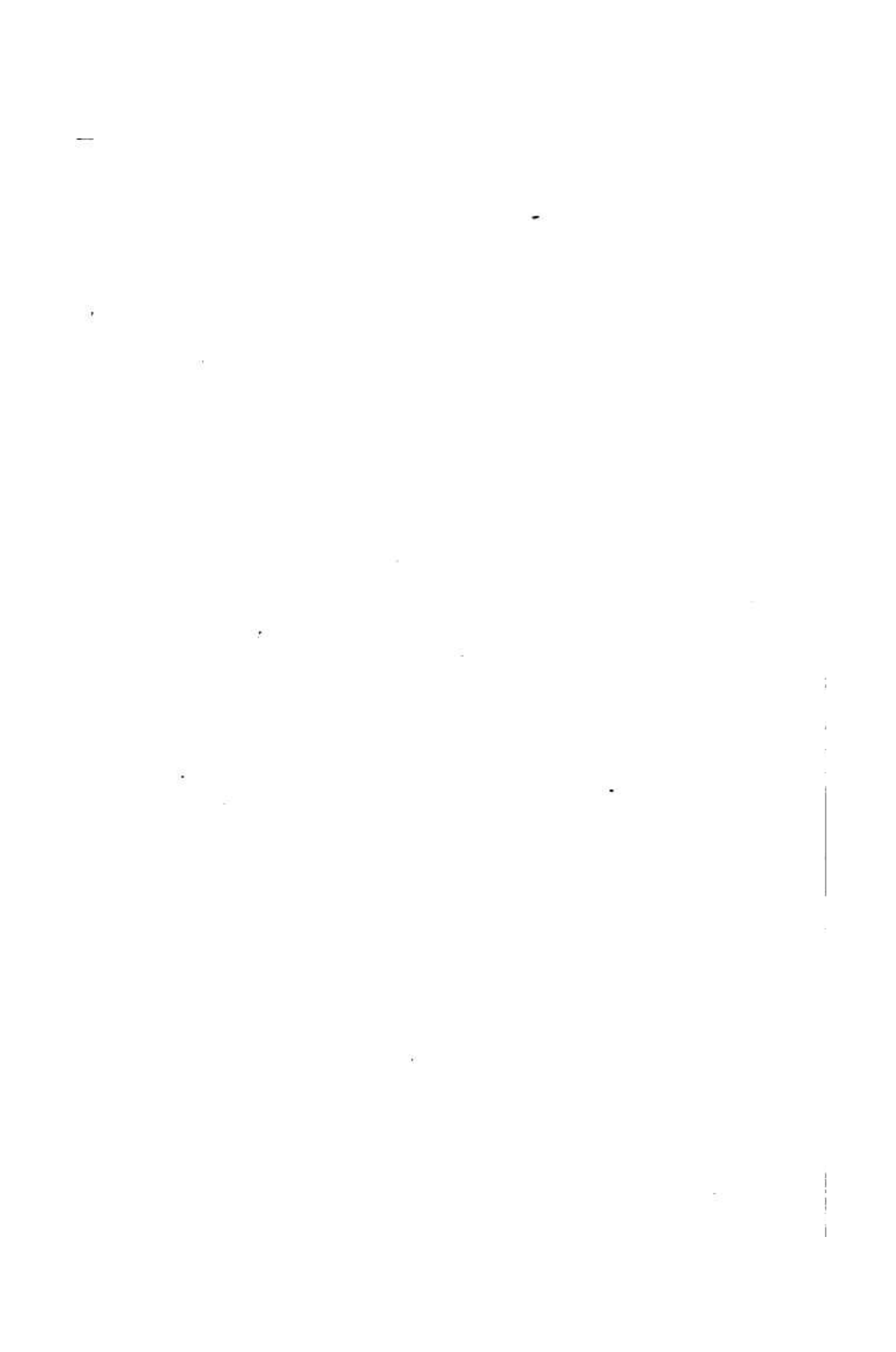
The material for this small volume has been drawn from private papers in the Damon family, from a copy of the MSS. of the Rev. David Damon, from "The Descendants of Reginald Forster," by E. J. Forster, M.D., from histories of Framingham, Concord, and Reading, and from original records at Wayland and East Cambridge, Massachusetts. The work of collating and revising this material for publication has been done by Miss A. H. Wharton and Miss Anne H. Cresson, of Philadelphia.



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THE GENEALOGY  
OF  
THE DAMON FAMILY.

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THE Damon family of Wayland traces direct descent from,—

1. THOMAS DAMON, who emigrated from the north of England during the latter half of the seventeenth century. Repeated search has failed to reveal the exact date of this departure. The Rev. David Damon, who has given much attention to researches in his family, says, "When he [Thomas Damon] came over, from what particular place, and where he lived, and when or where he died, I cannot say certainly. I think it most probable, however, from the best traditionary accounts which I have had, that he came over somewhere between 1650 and 1680, and it may be near the last-named year. That some, perhaps all, of his children were born in England before he came.\* That he lived in that part of Charlestown which is now Stoneham, and near to the South Reading line, and within a mile of the place where his son Thomas lived afterwards; but all this is very uncertain, though not wholly conjectural. . . . When I was a youth about seventeen years of age, I carefully examined the grave-stones in the burying-place in Charlestown, where the Harvard's monument now is, near the State prison, and there found two or three old and small stones on which were recorded the deaths of some children of the name of Damon. As nearly as I can now remember, these were said

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\* It will be seen later that the birth of his son Thomas is recorded at Reading.