

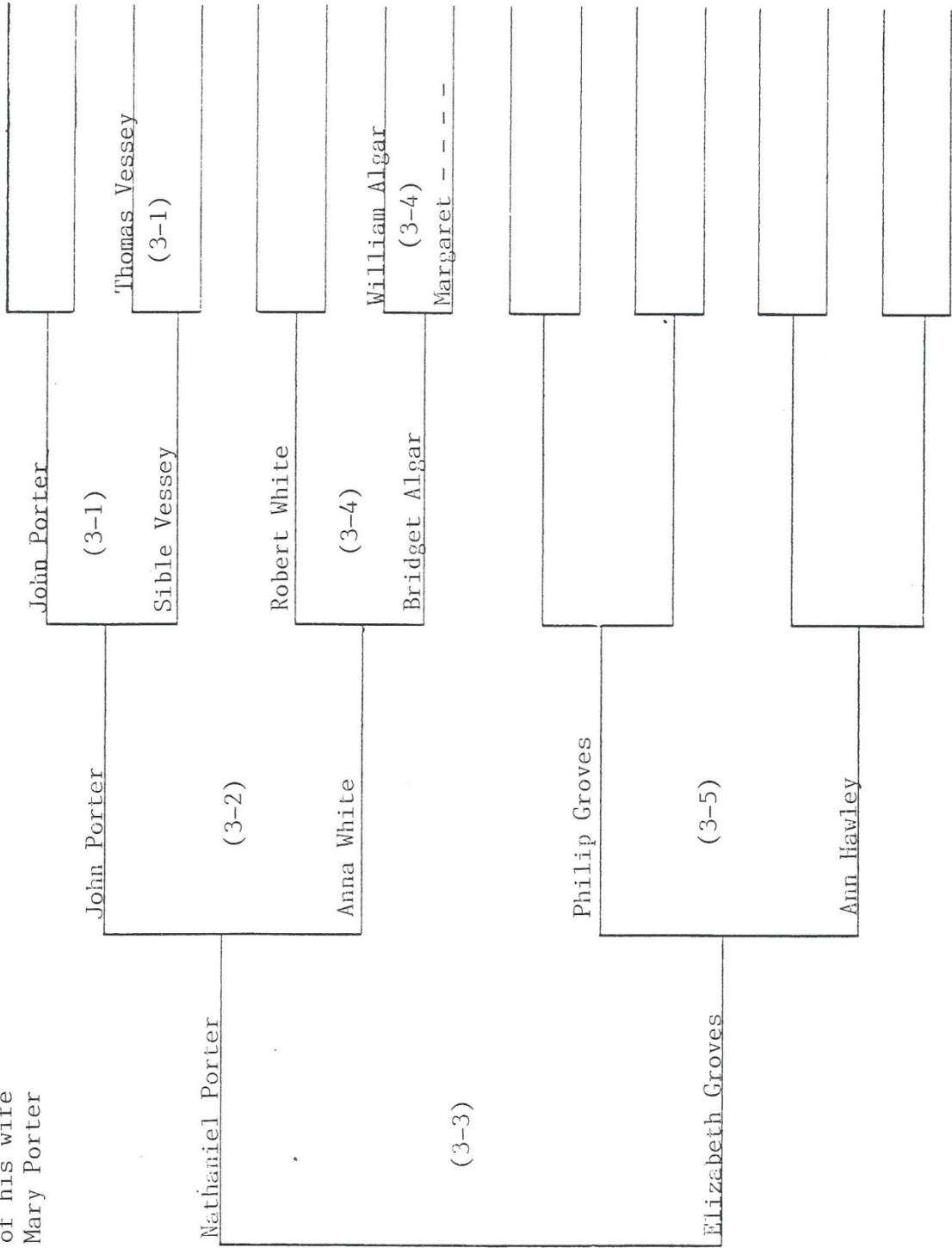
Chapter 3

The Book of Robert II

containing the
collateral lines of ancestry
provided by
wife of Robert II
Mary Porter

PEDIGREE CHART

The Book of Robert II
 Ancestral lines
 of his wife
 Mary Porter



JOHN PORTER (prob. before 1560-1625)

SIBEL (SYBIL) VESSEY (chr. 1561-after 1625)

"The Porter line traces to William de la Grande, a Norman Knight, who came to England with the "Conqueror." His son, Ralph (or Roger) became "grand porteur" to Henry the First 1120-1140, from which he derived the name Porter." ¹

From the research of Dorothy Y. Armistead of Naperville, Illinois, in 1970, and Brainerd T. Peck of Lakeside, Connecticut, 1968, the following information about John Porter and his wife, Sible (Vessey) Porter, was found on pedigree sheets submitted to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

John Porter was probably born prior to 1560. He was married to Sibil Vessey September 12, 1587, in Essex County, England. They lived in Felsted, Essex, England, where he died sometime between May 30, 1625 and November 26, 1625. His Will was dated 1623 at Little Baddow, Essex, the place where Sibil had been born. Mr. Peck records that John died at Little Baddow, so it is possible that they lived there for a time. ²

They were the parents of John Porter who married Anna White, who emigrated to New England. John and Anna were among the first settlers of Windsor, Connecticut. Anna had others of her family who also migrated to that same settlement in New England. (See 3-2 and 3-5) Windsor was first settled in about 1635 so John Sr's. son, John, did not emigrate until after his father died in 1625.

Essex is the county to the north and east of London, just north of the Thames River. This area of eastern England is called 'East Anglia and the Fens'. The sea for ages bit away at England's flank at the Wash, joined rivers in flooding the low-lying land, and even today chews relentlessly at the coastal villages. Men fought back, diking the sea, channeling the rivers, cutting canals and draining swamps. Cathedrals and castles tower over a fertile real that has been wrested from the waters. Grain sprouts in rich black soil. Sheep and cows fatten on soft green pastures. Orchards bend under their bounty.

Hempstead, Essex, the home of worsted, jersey and linsey-woolsey fabrics, woven from the golden fleece of their sheep, was the inventive endeavor of every Essex household until, in the eighteenth century, weaving was driven from the cottage to the Yorkshire factories.

The Essex of John Porter's time hummed with serene but busy endeavors. It was the ecclesiastical capitol of the East Angles.

Today, it sees London weekenders storming its beaches, day trippers fishing in the canals, while motorcycles rock the coast and the 'broads' are one big boat jam.

Essex was one of the largest contributors of emigrants leaving England for America during the seventeenth century. Some of our immigrant ancestors who came from Essex County other than the surname of Porter, include FOOTE (2-1)(2-3); DEMING (2-3); VESSEY (3-1); WHITE (3-2)(3-5); ALGAR (3-5); PRATT (7-53); and perhaps others. (Map1, #28)

Anna (Frary) Lepak of Maryland, recorded John Porter's death date as some time between May, 1623, and Nov. 1625, and stated that his wife, Sibil, survived him. ³

Brainerd T. Peck, New England genealogist, filed a pedigree sheet with the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., which gave the name of Sibil (Vessey) Porter, wife of John Porter of Essex, England, and the additional information that Sibil's father was Thomas Vessey, born in 1530 in Little Baddow, Essex, England, where he lived and died. The name of Thomas's wife, Sibil's mother, was not given, but this same source mentioned that there were five children in his family. All children were probably born in Little Baddow in Essex. ⁴ Sibil's name, however, is the only one of the children whose name is found on record.

The daughter of Thomas, Sibil Vessey, married John Porter (3-1), who lived in the same area of Essex. It was their son, John (3-2), who became one of our many immigrant ancestors of New England.

The children of John and Sybil (Vessey) Porter are recorded on a family group sheet submitted to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, by Alice W. Steed of Glendale, California as follows:

1. Francis Porter, b. abt. 1588, Felstead, Essex, England; md. Sept. 12, 1587, Joan Draper; Will proved, May 26, 1635.
2. Thomas Porter, b. abt. 1590, Felstead, Essex, England; buried, Dec. 20. 1638.
3. Margaret Porter, chr. May 17, 1595, Felstead, Essex, England.
4. John Porter, chr. June 21, 1594, Felstead, Essex, Eng.; md. Oct. 18, 1620, Anna or Rosanna White; died Apr. 21, 1648.
5. William Porter, b. 1596, Felstead, Essex, Eng.
6. Rose Porter, b. 1598; md. Mr. Wentford.

1. #152, p. 853
2. #2, Vol. 1, Chart (25-252)
and Vol. 2, Chart (17-432)
3. ibid, Vol. 14, Chart (295-146)
4. ibid, Vol. 2, Chart (17-432)