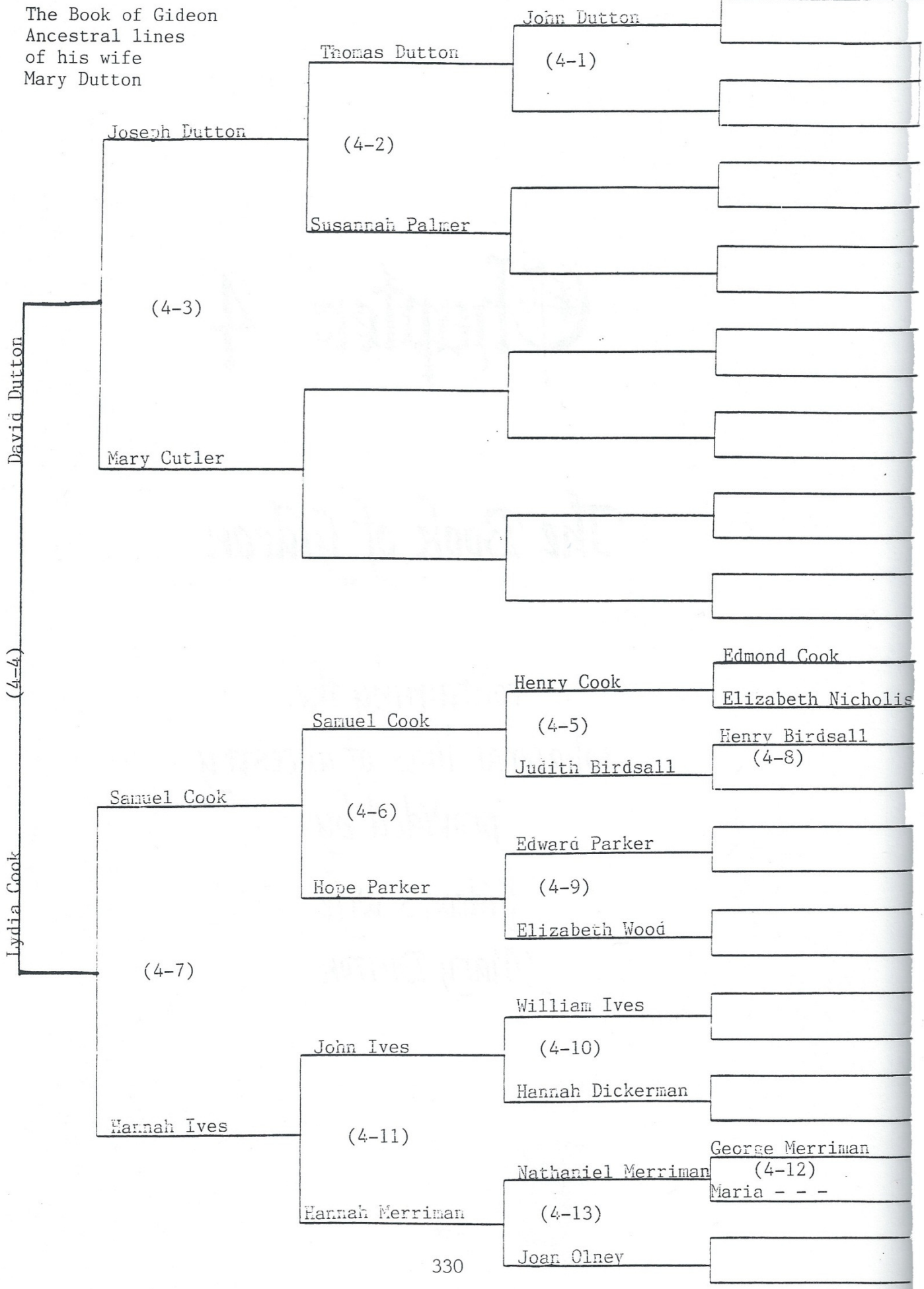


# Chapter 4

## The Book of Gideon

containing the  
collateral lines of ancestry  
provided by  
Gideon's wife  
Mary Dutton

# PEDIGREE CHART



## JOHN DUTTON (abt. 1596-1667)

While visiting friends in Houlton, Maine, in 1973, some time was spent in the Houlton Public Library where four volumes of "New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial" edited by William Richard Cutter, were searched. Several lines of ancestors were found, including our American Duttons.

"John Dutton, the American ancestor, was born in Frodsham, Cheshire, England (Map #1, County #7), and came to this country in 1630. He was before the General Court of Massachusetts, October 29, 1640. The surnames Dutton and Dunton were formerly used interchangeably. It is presumed, therefore, that the Dunton and Dutton pioneers at Reading, Massachusetts, may have been sons of this John Dutton of Reading: Thomas, Josiah, Robert and Samuel, all of Reading, Massachusetts." <sup>1</sup> (Map #2)

Four generations of Duttons are mentioned in the above source: John<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, with brief reviews of each on page 593.

In "Genealogy of the Dutton Family of Pennsylvania" by Gilbert Cope, in 1871, it is stated that John Dutton arrived in America in 1630, but that the place of his residence was unknown. However, he gave Thomas Dutton of Reading and Woburn, as a son of John, the immigrant. <sup>2</sup>

The towns of Reading and Woburn lay between 10 and 12 miles north and a little west of Boston. It is most likely that it was in this area that John settled. Some of the Duttons later moved further inland to Billerica, another ten miles to the north and west. (Map #2)

The Dutton ancestry in England is of great antiquity, and is on record as early as the year 974 A.D. A direct line is traced to our American ancestor, John, to that early date through the following list, son to father, with estimated birth years of each:

John, 1596; Ralph, abt. 1560; William, abt. 1530; William, abt. 1500; Richard, abt. 1475; Ralph, 1450; Richard, abt. 1430; John, 1400; Hugh, 1370; Edmund, 1315; Hugh, 1276; Sir Hugh de Dutton, 1251; Sir Thomas, 1228; Sir Hugh de, 1164; Sir Hugh, 1130; Hugh, 1098; Odard, abt. 1060; William, 1034; Robert, 1012; William, 974.

All the immigrants who landed in the Boston Bay area as early as John Dutton, including our ancestor, Nathaniel Foote (2-3), experienced the severest of privations. We are told by G. Frederick Robinson that:

"In spite of the expenditure of 192,000 pounds in bringing over the first group of planters, food was scarce until the harvest of 1631...

"The poorer people lived the first winter (1630-1631) in huts built like an Indian wigwam; the more provident had log cabins with chimneys of logs doubed with clay. The wealthy brought over frames, nails, bricks and glass, and later built more comfortable houses...

"After the first winter an extraordinary boom began. As the wolves were killed, cattle multiplied and herdsmen guarded them in fenced-in common enclosures. In 1633, there was

a great rejoicing over the discovery that English grain could be grown here, and soon English plows and hoes were brought over so that one man could take care of a larger acreage than by the old Indian methods used before. In the next ten years, twenty thousand people came to the Massachusetts Bay." <sup>3</sup> (Map #2)

The Indian menace which caused so much anxiety at first was lessened by two reasons. The Massachusetts leaders generously went beyond strict justice in settling any complaints made by the Indians and, secondly, the further reducing of the numbers of Indians that followed in the wake of disease and pestilence afflicting the native tribes to a tremendous extent.

In the scant material available on John Dutton, no wife is mentioned, and we can be sure of only the one son, Thomas, who migrated to America with him, and who came as a young boy of 9 years. Thomas and his wife are said to be the ancestors of most of the New England Duttons. John's burial date is given as 25 July, 1667.

1. #21, Vol. 2, p.593
2. #114, p.107
3. #144, pp. 31, 32