

C H A P T E R 7

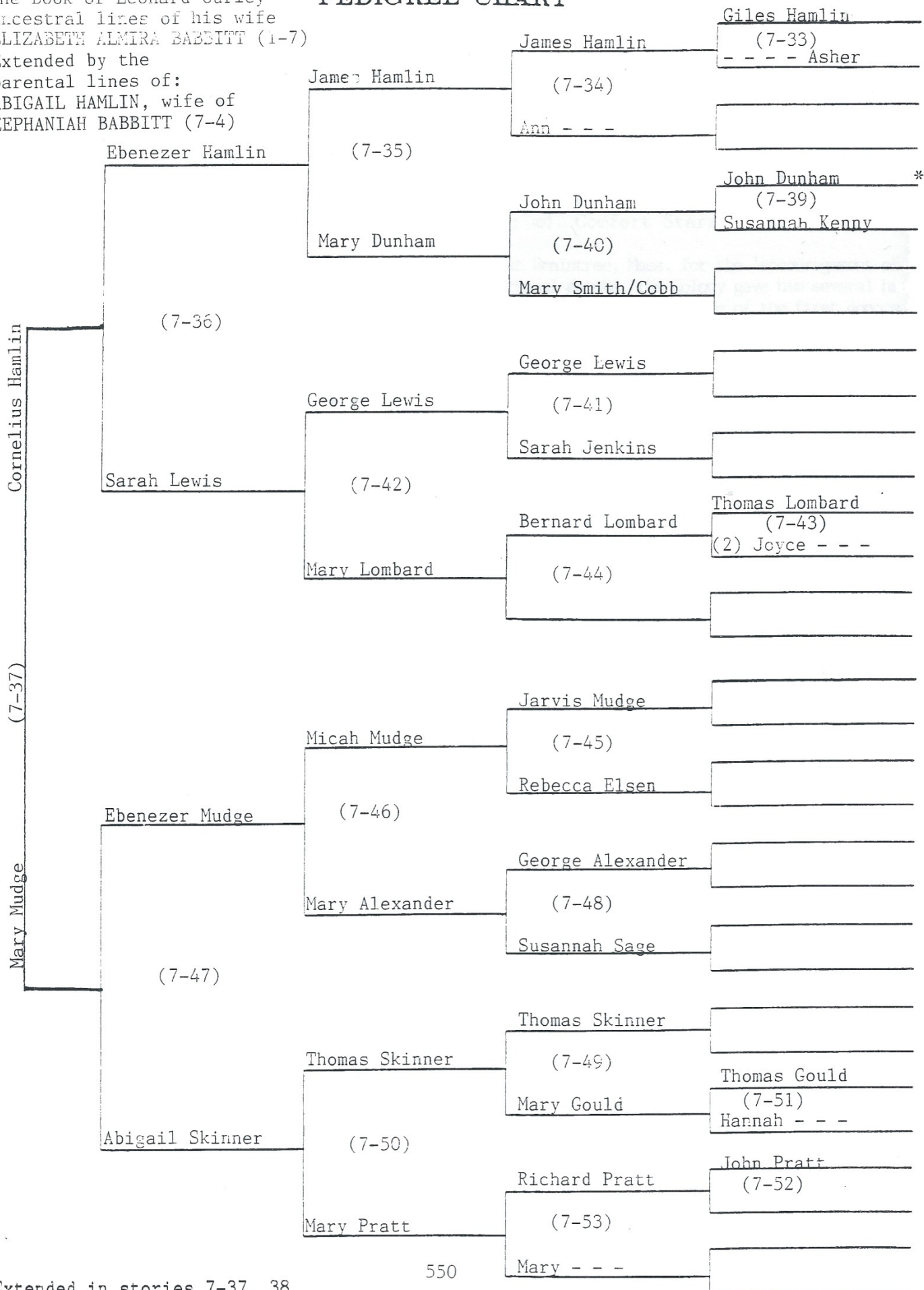
P A R T 4

Ancestral lines of
ELIZABETH ALMIRA BABBITT, wife of
LEONARD GURLEY RICE (1-7)

Extended by the parental lines of
ABIGAIL HAMLIN, wife of
ZEPHANIAH BABBITT (7-4)

The Book of Leonard Gurley
 Ancestral lines of his wife
 ELIZABETH ALMIRA BABBITT (1-7)
 Extended by the
 parental lines of:
 ABIGAIL HAMLIN, wife of
 ZEPHANIAH BABBITT (7-4)

PEDIGREE CHART



* Extended in stories 7-37, 38

GILES HAMLIN ()
 _____ ASHEY ()

"The English ancestor of the Hamlins in New England appears to be John Hamelyn, of Cornwall, living in 1570, who married Omar, daughter of Robert Knowles of Sarum. This couple had a son and heir who lived in Devonshire by the name of Giles. Giles Hamelin, or Hamelyn, married a daughter of Robert Ashey and had two sons: Thomas "Gentleman" (a rank given as a meritorious honor in England) London, 1623, and James." ¹

From these brief notations and with the confirmation of the DAR records, the line of descent from John Hamlin to Giles and to the immigrant Puritan ancestor, James Hamlin, is substantiated. ²

"The ancient Hamlins are believed to have been Teutonic tribes, clans, or nations of people who lived along the banks of the rivers and lakes in the far-off ages of old Germany. The name Hamlin is probably of locative origin, being derived from the old Saxon words "ham" and "lin" or "lyna," which means 'home' and 'pool'. A circumstance that appears to bear out this theory is the fact that Hamlins are now living in the ancient town of Hamelin, in Hanover, at the confluence of the rivers Hamel and Weser, which is the town made famous in the legend of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," by Robert Browning. . . Bearers of this name gradually found their way into other countries, and now the Hamlins are an immense representative family in Germany, France, England, Canada, and the United States of America. There are various ways of spelling the name, - Hamlin, Hamlyn, Hamblin, Hamline, Hamlyne. In early times members of a family often spelled their common name differently

"The American Hamlins are descended from the English branch of their race, whose origin is clearly proved by the old Norman and English chronicles. The first authentic records of individual Hamlins were made by William the Conqueror, in his "Battle Abbey Roll" and "Domesday Book." When he planned his invasion of England, he gathered his army for embarkation at Dives, France, in 1066 . . . Before the departure, William had a roll made of his knightly companions, who were about five hundred in number, and placed it in the old cathedral in Dives, where it may be seen today. On this roll is inscribed the name Hamlin de Balon, the first Hamlin to appear in authentic records. After the battle of Hastings, William, to commemorate his victory over the English, built the Battle Abbey on the field of his triumph, and to perpetuate the names of his knightly companions who fought under his banner, he had a second roll made, which he caused to be placed in Battle Abbey. This roll was lost when the ancient seat was destroyed by fire in 1793. But fortunately many copies of the original record were taken and safely preserved . . . the name of Hamelin de Balon appears on all such copies.

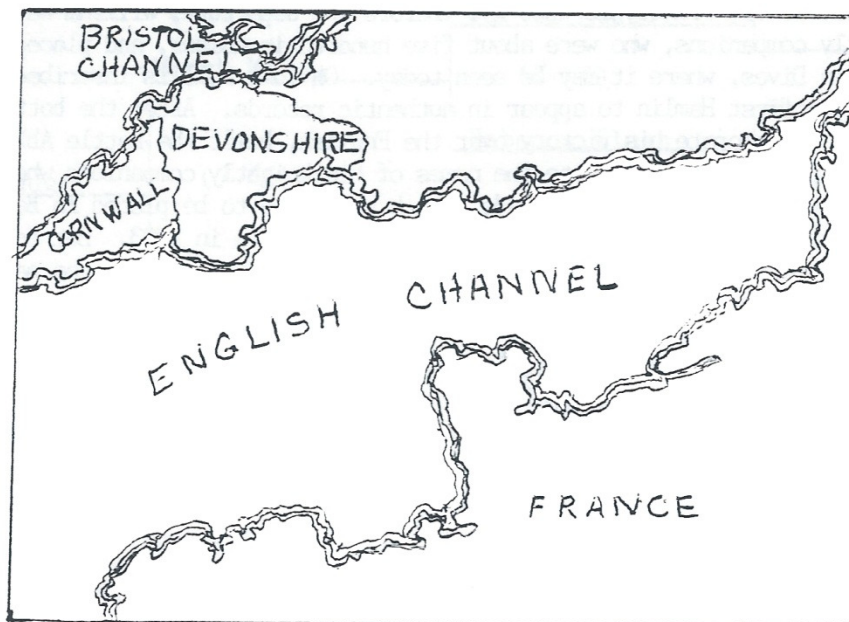
"English authorities hold that some names on the "Battle Abbey Roll" represent families and stands for several men of that name . . . When William set about completing his subjection of England he had the "Domesday Book" written in two volumes, in 1086, which is the authoritative record of his division of land among his trusted companions. In this are the names of the Hamelin de Balon . . .

"William's confidence in Hamelin, Sire de Balon, as he gave him lordship over Hamistone in Devonshire, now called Broadhempstone, with command of the territory, is proof of the Hamlin's Norman origin. The English were compelled to accept Norman lords, officers, speech, ways, and customs and Norman guards were placed to enforce all regulations. The Hamlin de Balon was in command of a large body of men and exercised much power in Cornwall. He had a numerous progeny; and the name Hamlin frequently occurs in the early records of Cornwall in ways which show that the Hamlins of that time were large landholders . . ." ³

Giles Hamlin lived into the period of Queen Elizabeth's reign. He no doubt was born, according to his son's life, sometime during the years of the reign of Henry VIII. The discovery of America was beginning to affect men's ideas, and to stir up that spirit of enterprise which led to the foundation of Greater Britain. Henry the VIII, in many respects represented the ideas of his time, and when he effected the separation from Rome he was acting in accord with the national dislike of subservience to any foreign power.

At the end of Henry's reign in 1547 he had placed the king's authority on a firm basis, and had adopted a strong position with regard to the religious question. Edward VI's reign (1547-53), was followed by Queen Mary (1553-58), another short period. Elizabeth, the last of the Tudors, succeeded in 1558, and reigned till 1603.

In 1588 the Spanish Armada was launched against England. Its defeat opened a new period in Elizabeth's reign, and until her death she was free from all danger of a foreign attack. The great queen's reign is remarkable for an extraordinary outburst of energy in all departments of politics, commerce, religion, and literature. This all led to numberless expeditions by Elizabethan seamen and the way was prepared for the colonial expansion of England. In the next century Queen Elizabeth saw a great increase in ship building as well as many factories established to augment commercial trade abroad. England was rising to a supreme position in the world. Its mills and factories were humming with activity.



CORNWALL AND DEVONSHIRE OF ENGLAND'S SOUTH SHORE

The Hamlins of Cornwall and Devonshire held high social positions. Most of the descendants eventually resided in Devonshire and it is said that it is due to their energy that the woolen business, the staple industry of the area, still flourishes in those valleys.

The list of Hamlin members of Parliament and other conspicuous offices would extend beyond the reasonable limits of space in this brief discourse and the list of notable Hamlins in America continues to prove the great contributions that they have made in political and civic service. Hannibal Hamlin was Vice President under Lincoln's administration and James Hamlin, our immigrant ancestor was his great great grandfather.

The above research of C. E. Hamlin as well as other studies expose the lines of English connections to American descendants. In order to condense the material we need only be concerned with the line to Abigail Hamlin who married Zephaniah Babbitt in the mid-1700s. James Hamlin the immigrant, who is the ancestor of the larger part of the Hamlin race in this Republic, was Abigail's great, great grandfather (James¹, James², Ebenezer³, Cornelius⁴, Abigail⁵). In England the line carries to Giles, the father of the immigrant, and to John, the father of Giles.

The Earl of Montaigne was a Robert Hamlin who had been given twenty-two manors of land in Cornwall and Devonshire (see map 1 #s 35,36). Robert and his half-brother William, are ancestors of the Cornwall and Devonshire families from whom it is established that John Hamlin, Giles father, descended, though, through which of the two half-brothers it is not ascertained. ⁴

1. #55 p. 5
2. #71 p. 58
3. #54 pp. 1-4
4. ibid pp. 2, 3