

GEORGE LEWIS JR. (1629-1709)  
 MARY LOMBARD (1637-after 1683)

George was born in England, probably London, where his parents were living when they became members of Mr. Lothrop's church. George was the third child of George and Sarah (Jenkins) Lewis and when he was four or five years of age he came to Plymouth with his parents, an older sister and brother, and a baby brother. They landed in the Plymouth Harbor 13 years after the Pilgrims had arrived. The reference used here states that they probably came over after the church in London was broken up and Rev. Lothrop had been imprisoned. They were in Plymouth in 1633, but by 1634 were settled in Scituate (map #2).

When George was ten years of age and had three more younger brothers, his family removed from Scituate to Barnstable on Cape Cod in 1639, where George grew to manhood and married Mary Lombard, a daughter of a Plymouth Colony settler who had removed from Scituate to Barnstable about the same time as the Lewis family (see 7-44). George and Mary were married Dec. 1, 1654, the year of the death of George's mother.

They likely were married by Rev. Lothrop himself at Barnstable where they remained and had their family of twelve children. Mary's birthplace was Scituate where both she and George had spent part of their childhood. Her bapt. date is given as 8 Oct. 1637, two years before the time that many, including the Lombard and Lewis families followed their pastor to the new area of Barnstable. 1

From the writings of two historians, Kittridge and Otis, we are told that Barnstable was so named because of its similarity to the coast town of Barnstable in England. It is obvious to anyone who has seen both areas to note that the fronts of both places at low tide reveal stretches of sand flats on a long narrow harbor, crooked channels twisting their way seaward and low, easy shorelines on both sides. The DAR reports give us these words, taken from Otis' "Barnstable Families" Vol. 2:122:

"George Lewis, son of George, was a planter (farmer) and resided in the East Parish in Barnstable. He was not so well educated as others of the family and had not active business capacity of his brothers James or Thomas: yet he was honest and industrious, a good neighbor, and a worthy member of the church.

"His house stood on the south side of the highway. His house-lot containing 15 A. with a barn standing thereon he bought of Bernard and Joshua Lumbard Sept. 10, 1656. This was originally the land of Joshua Lumbard and a lot contained 6 A., one acre in the sale of Lewes being reserved. His farm was on the north side of the road.

"In 1654 he had 16 A. bounded by the land of Goodman Welles and the Indian reservation and by the land of Thos. Huckins at the "Horse Prison" so called. May 19, 1656 he bought for L 20 the dwelling house and 16 A of land of Robt. Shelly. Besides the above, he owned 2 lots of 3 A. each at Sandy Neck and his share in the common lands. Jan. 16, 1683 he sold one half of the above Sandy Neck lots to his brother James and one good cow, meadow being more highly valued then.

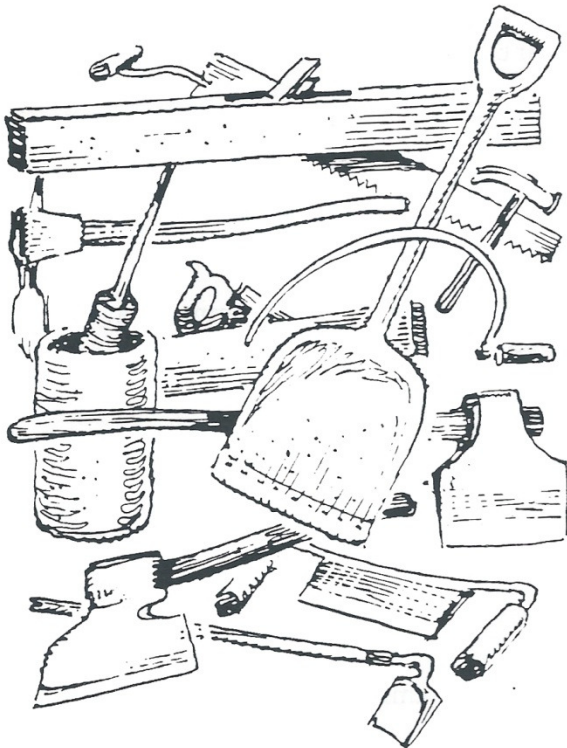
"He married Mary, dau. of Bernard Lumbard (aged 17). 12 children were born in Barnstable:

1. George Lewis, b. Sept. 1655; md. Elizabeth
2. Mary Lewis, b. 9 May 1657
3. Sarah Lewis, b. 12 Jan. 1659/60 md. Ebenezer Hamlin (7-36)
4. Hannah Lewis, b. July 1662, d. 1667
5. Melitiah Lewis, b. 23 Jan. 1664 md. 16 July 1684 Edward Gray of Yarmouth
6. Bathshun Lewis, b. Oct. 1667 md. 10 Aug 1690 John Kelly
7. Jabez Lewis, b. 10 June 1670
8. Benjamin Lewis, b. 22 Nov 1672
9. Johathan Lewis, b. 25 July 1674
10. John Lewis, b. 1 Dec. 1676
11. Nathan Lewis, b. 26 July 1678
12. Thankful Lewis, b. Sept. 17, 1683 md. 1704 Samuel Look" 2

George and Mary experienced the intimidations and terrors incident to the Indian uprisings prior to and during the time of 'King Philips War' and George lost two of his younger brothers as a result of Indian encounters.

George died Mar. 20, 1709 at Barnstable, Mass. There seems to be no record of his wife other than that given of her parentage, marriage and the account of her twelve children herein stated.

We are left to fill in the lack of personal references by mind imagery which too often only discolor the truth. Our ancestors do not always appear to us in all the homeliness of their true portraiture. We tend to overlook the simplicity of their attire and the poverty of their accomodations. Estates before 1700 were small, conveniences few, and the stock of furniture and garments extremely limited.



"Each man was in a great measure his own mechanic and artisan, and he wrought with imperfect tools. Most of these tools were made of 'Taunton Iron,' a coarse bog ore, which could produce only a dull edge, and was easily broken." 3

(Taunton Iron [Babbitt Iron] was first manufactured in America by our Babbitt ancestors living in Taunton Massachusetts. Reference is found in the stories of four generations of Babbitts from the time of Edward Bobet (7-1), our immigrant ancestor. However imperfect we might consider Babbitt Iron, it was of sufficient importance to early day planters to be considered invaluable and highly esteemed among their movables. (See pp. 419, 427)

"In the early inventories, very few chairs are mentioned. Stools, benches, and forms, took their place; joint stools came next, and still later, some families were provided with the high-backed settle, a cumbersome piece of furniture, but of great comfort in a farmers kitchen. A broad box-like cupboard, with shelves above where the pewter was arranged, and called the dresser, was another appendage of the kitchen. The houses were cheaply, rudely built, with many apertures for the entrance of wind and frost; the outside door frequently opening into the family room, where the fireplace was wide enough to admit an eight foot log, and had a draught almost equal to a constant bellows. The most finished timbers in the house, even those that protruded as sills and cross-beams in the best rooms, were hatchet-hacked, and the wainscoting unplanned . . . Most of the homesteads consisted of a house, garden and orchard. Cider was the most common beverage of the country. Some beer was drank. They had no tea nor coffee, and at first very little sugar or molasses . . . Broth, porridge, hasty-pudding, johnny-cake and samp, were articles of daily consumption. They had no potatoes, but beans and pumpkins in great abundance." <sup>3</sup>

It is pleasant to pause a moment to see George and Mary planting their garden, chatting with their neighbors and from Sabbath to Sabbath walking up the path to worship as a family in that church which had graced the presence of their beloved Rev. Lothrop, the early preacher who had suffered imprisonment in his mother land for the principles he had espoused in opposition to a mandatory faith. Here at the church we see them file into that plain little building of rough hewn lumber that had been so lovingly raised by humble hands to give their thanks to God and express their reverant praise. Side by side, they were, with the lowly mansions of their few dead in the church yard without.

For us today, we can only evoke the shades of those silent mansions, left unmarked, and record some few fragments of their history. They are not irrecoverably buried in the darkness of oblivion, they can be brought alive in the hearts of their descendants.

Without a doubt George and Mary and some of their children are buried in the ancient church yard where they faithfully attended religious meetings. No stone is left to mark the place and the church has long ago been replaced. It is possible that seven of their twelve children did not reach maturity. Though death dates are only given for one, Hannah, who died age 5, there are only the birth dates for the other six; Mary, Jabes, Benjamin, Jonathan, John and Nathan. George, Sarah, Melitiah, Bathshun and Thankful are the five children who have record of marriages. These five are known to have reached maturity.

1. #71 pp. 67-69
2. #71 pp. 68-69
3. #5 p. 268
4. ibid