

C H A P T E R 7

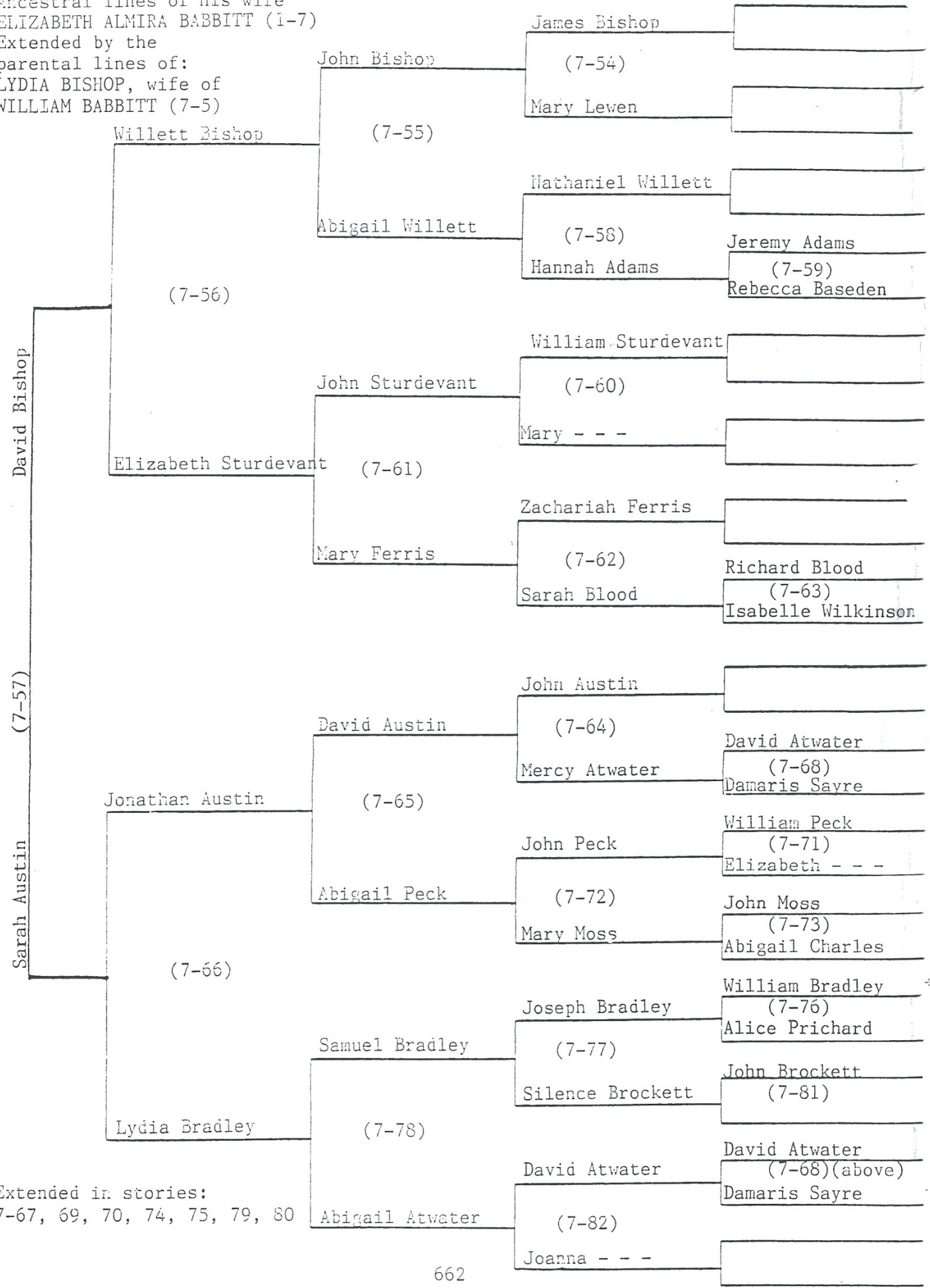
P A R T 5

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

Extended by the parental lines of
LYDIA BISHOP, wife of
WILLIAM BABBITT (7-5)

PEDIGREE CHART

Book of Leonard Gurley
 Ancestral lines of his wife
 ELIZABETH ALMIRA BABBITT (1-7)
 Extended by the
 parental lines of:
 LYDIA BISHOP, wife of
 WILLIAM BABBITT (7-5)



* Extended in stories:
 7-67, 69, 70, 74, 75, 79, 80

JAMES BISHOP (abt. 1625-1691)
 MARY LEWEN (abt. 1625-1664)

In Jacobus' compilation of "Families of New Haven," 1929, is given the following:

"James Bishop of New Haven, died 24 June 1691, New Haven Vital Statistics; Lieut. Gov. (Conn.) 1683; md. (1) Mary Lewen, who died 26 Nov. 1664, probably sister of George Lamberton's wife; md. (2) 12 Dec. 1665, Elizabeth Tompkins of Milford, Conn., who died 25 Oct. 1703.

"By 1st wife

1. Hannah Bishop, b. 29 May 1651, bp. 1 June 1651, died 12 June 1710 ae. 59; md. 12 Aug. 1669, John Morris
2. Grace Bishop, b. 17 Jan. 1652-3, bp. 30 (?) Feb. 1652
3. Sarah Bishop, b. 28 July 1655, bp. 29 July 1655
4. Elizabeth Bishop, b. 3 July 1657; md. 12 Sept. 1677, Eleazer Giles
5. Abigail Bishop, b. 30 Oct. 1659, bp. 22 Jan. 1659-60, died 24 Oct. 1710 ae. 51; md. (1) 18 Nov. 1686, John Talmadge; md. (2) William Maltbse
6. John Bishop, b. 17 May 1662, died 1710; md. Abigail dau., Nathaniel Willett of Hartford, who died 1725 (7-55)
7. Ruth Bishop, b. 22 Nov. 1664, (4 days before her mother died) bp. 12 Dec. 1664, died 1 June 1739, ae. 74; md. 21 Oct. 1692, Nathaniel Yale

"Children by 2nd wife:

8. Samuel Bishop, b. 21 Nov. 1666, bp. 19 Nov. 1668, died, 12 March 1747-8 ae. 81-3-21.
9. Mary Bishop, b. 14 Mar. 1668-9
10. James Bishop, b. 27 July 1671, died, 1 July 1736, ae. 67; md. 11 Dec. 1695, Abigail
11. Rebecca Bishop, b. 10 Dec. 1673, died 5 Apr. 1734, ae 60; md. 14 Nov. 1695, Samuel Thompson." 1

The DAR report tells us that "James Bishop came to America and joined the New Haven Colony in 1648. He was one of the leading men of his day. In 1665 he was chosen representative to the General Court; in 1668, assitant to the Governor and in 1685 became St. Governor of Connecticut. He died 24 June 1691 in New Haven." 2

His children are listed in the above reference but, undoubtedly, were reprinted from Jacobus' work, as given above. It is stated in the same report, above, that James had three brothers; Henry of Boston, Mass., Nathaniel of Boston and perhaps Thomas of Ipswich, Mass. James was a young man at the time of his arrival in New Haven for it is evident that he married his first wife about that time.

Additional data is furnished on an ancestral chart submitted to the Connecticut Society of Genealogy. Inc. James' birth is given as about 1625 in England. Mary Lewen's birth as about 1625, that they were married in 1650 at Branford Connecticut." 3 (map #5)

Ten years had passed since the planting of the New Haven colony when James Bishop went there to make it his home. It was not like going among strangers. They were all Englishmen with common ideals and goals. The relations between the people of New Haven and those of Massachusetts Bay were most intimate

and communications were kept quite current as the ships came and went from one port to the other.

We know that James Bishop had rare leadership qualities and stood out among the most respected of men in his day, still we must be content to measure all of his qualities by recognizing the great achievements that were made in Connecticut during his lifetime and especially during his administration as Governor of the area.

During his lifetime, New England had grown from a wild uninhabited wilderness to many regular colonies along the coastlines of Massachusetts and Connecticut and even into many areas inland. A history of New England following the arrival of the Plymouth colonists until the latter part of the 17th century would include the relevant material for James Bishop's story. The area under his administration was still England's and was expected to acknowledge its jurisdiction. Although the New England colonies recognized their English loyalties they were children striving to be independent and self governed. Whenever problems arose they seldom called on their motherland for support. They settled their difficulties in their own way and overcame some of the most serious problems.

James' administration saw the settling of many Connecticut River Valley disputes and Indian war skirmishes. He helped in combining the New Haven and Hartford claims of territory into one state which later became the state of Connecticut. What had been two great colonies competing for dominance joined hands in the greater area or commonwealth.

In 1922, Edward D. Dickerman described the Colonial beginnings of New Haven and of the high and dignified character of the people who were its settlers. For many years the restrictive policies of New Haven as in many of the New England colonies allowed only those persons whose standards were high to become freemen and enjoy voting rights as members of the community. Each inhabitant was required to take an oath (see appendix #7) and for this right they must be accepted members of a church with their names registered on the ecclesiastical books of the town. We are told that the citizens of New Haven were of the best blood that England had to offer. Mr. Dickerson had this to say about New Haven's early settlers:

"They were a choice stock. No other would have dared what they did. Most of them had been accustomed to material comforts and security of homes; not a few to luxury. Among them were owners of large estates, shrewd merchants, able lawyers, learned and eloquent ministers, attractive teachers, scholars of high rank at Oxford and Cambridge; while the rest were mostly thrifty farmers, with here and there a skilled artisan." ⁴

It is well at this point to be reminded that these highly educated people of their time found themselves in conditions that required every man to be a farmer in order to be sustained in the wilderness. Every household tilled a few acres and raised their own crops, had their own livestock and became hunters and fishermen as the need required. Often their survival depended upon an all-out involvement of strenuous manual labor. Those who were called upon to serve the community in official positions did so by extending themselves the second mile.

"Pioneers are usually men of force. These were; but with other rarer qualities added. They had beliefs, and these so woven into their texture as to command them. They came with a moral purpose and with no thought of going back - not as bands of adventurous men eager for exploits, or fame or gold - but bringing their wives too, their boys and girls, helpless babes, and household treasures, to plant themselves permanently in the unknown land.

"This made the New England settlements wholly unlike those of Canada, the West Indies, or South America. Those started with men. These in New England started with families. Those yielded not a little to the barbarism they found. These kept their civilization and made it verile. They had the greatness of the Hebrew Patriarchs. Their intelligence, love of freedom and fidelity to conviction would have been short-lived but for the vigorous family life that prevailed (and the wives who stood beside their husbands were the staunch and gentle givers of strength and stability, through the hardships, tragedies, and trials encountered). These pioneers perpetuated themselves in children. The children married, blending diverse social elements to a multiplying people. The twenty-thousand became millions, keeping still the forceful character of the first colonists, but unfolding it in expressions infinitely varied . . ." 5

From 1648, when James Bishop entered New Haven, until the later years of the century New Haven saw many changes. It became a thriving seaport.

"A number of the settlers built large and costly houses, 'outdoing the rest of the country,' as the historian says . . . The style of living, too, was a kind not often seen among pioneers. New Haven was bringing London into a wilderness.

"But the promise failed of fulfillment. The Long Parliament in England assembled, Cromwell led his 'Ironsides' to victory, King Charles was beheaded. The immigration to America ceased, and some of the settlers began to go back to the homeland. New Haven could not grow. Investments there did not bring returns. Those who had been rich saw their wealth diminish.

"The dream that the founders, Governor Eaton and the Rev. Davenport, had had, became a disappointment when the New Haven Colony was united with the Hartford Colony to become the Connecticut Commonwealth." 6

It was during this time of stormy troubles that James Bishop gave his service in the greater colony adjustments. He may have been in the background during New Haven's speculative period. But he lived till this period had passed, and no doubt was growing deeply and strongly into the practical everyday life of the place in order to have made himself what he was; the master of its affairs. He gained a position where he could, and undoubtedly did, perform valuable services for Connecticut; a position of dignity and honor.

One of the problems that faced the settlers during James Bishop's administrative service was the Indian war scare of 1675-6. New Haven was called upon to furnish armed support to its sister colonies in Massachusetts in the conflict that involved all of New England at that time.

"King Philip's War was probably the most ruthless conflict with the Indians in Colonial American history. The Indians had slyly mobilized themselves in an attempt to be rid of white intruders. The events which immediately gave rise to it are briefly as follows:

Massasoit, chief sachem of the Wampanoags and steadfast ally of the Plymouth Colony, died in 1660, leaving two sons, Wamsutta and Metacom, who were nicknamed by the English Alexander and Philip. Alexander (Wamsutta) succeeded his father as chieftain, and shortly afterwards, while at Plymouth, died of a 'violent fever.' Philip (Metacom) soon stepped into his brother's place, firmly convinced that Alexander had been poisoned, and plotted revenge. The war associated with Philip's name was the outcome." 7

The final battle was fought in the swamp lands near Providence where Metacom and his warriors were congregated. Many were killed both Indian and English and Metacom fled to the west and was finally captured near New Haven where he was tried and executed. It was a fearful and dreadful time for the settlers of that area - a day that was not soon forgotten.

The greatest contributing factor that came from the Hartford General Court actions during James' term of office was those which healed the wounds of friction brought on by the controversy over the boundary lines of these two great Connecticut colonies. The adjustments that were made as the two colonies were merged into one, left disappointing scars and some bitter feelings among the ranks of the founders of New Haven. Many of the settlers still held to the dream that had been advocated by Rev. Davenport and Gov. Theophilus Eaton - that New Haven was the place to prepare for 'the coming of the Savior' - the place was to become 'the colony of a Zion people.' To many the dream was lost when New Haven joined hands with Hartford.

The orderly lay-out of the town of New Haven shows the meticulous manner in which the settlement was brought about. The plan of the town was one of order, well arranged systematically and allotted to the early settlers by an ecclesiastical form of government. Everything was done as if ordained by higher authority than man's (see map #26). The religious sentiment of New Haven posed an element of serious concern for those who knew that the only solution to the boundary conflict was to dissolve the land into a union of the two colonies making one whole domain which was finally accomplished in the year 1665.

"To none was the disappointment so severe as to Rev. Davenport of New Haven who was seeing his dream of a colonial government, which he fondly thought would remain till the coming of the Lord. He speaks in a letter to a friend in Massachusetts of 'Christ's interest in New Haven colony as miserably lost.' Mr. Davenport accepted a pastorate in Boston and removed from New Haven. He died in less than two years at Boston. His departure from New Haven doubtless helped to obliterate the bitter feelings produced by the boundary controversy between Hartford and New Haven.

"Many settlers preferred the fundamental laws of New Haven. Abraham Pierson, pastor of the church in Branford, had, some years before, removed with several families of his flock out of the jurisdiction of Connecticut into that of New Haven, because they so much preferred its government and its restrictive methods of preventing any bad element from entering the colony. They were naturally disappointed and grieved when the Connecticut Colony followed them with its latitudinarianism in the admission of freemen. Their disappointment was so great that some of them including the pastor, removed to New Jersey, and commenced a new settlement . . .

"The union of the two colonies was in itself so desirable, that resentment against what was wrong in the means of accomplishing it, yielded to the stronger feelings of satisfac-

tion with the result. After more than two centuries, New Haven scarcely remembers that she was once a distinct colony." 8

The Utopian dream that was had by Rev. Davenport and Gov. Theophilus Eaton, however, was over and passed. James Bishop played a part in all these struggles that brought great changes and adjustments in the development of Connecticut.

At least eight of James' children lived to be married and have families who outlived him as did his wife, Elizabeth, who died twelve years later. They were buried in New Haven.

Next to Boston and its near-by settlements, New Haven became the home of a greater number of our immigrant ancestors, some of whom are Samuel Cook (4-6), Edward Parker (4-9), William Ives (4-10), Nathaniel Merriman (4-13), John Austin (7-64), David Atwater (7-68), William Peck (7-71), William Bradley (7-76), and John Brockett (7-80). Their stories extend what can be said of New Haven, the home of James Bishop, so that many aspects are covered with but few repetitions.

1. #3, p. 201, 202
2. #71, p. 24
3. #2, Vol. 12, chart (225S-62)
4. #36, p. 1
5. *ibid*, pp. 1-2
6. *ibid*, p. 137
7. #44, preface pp. xii, xiii
8. #111, p. 10