

DAVID BISHOP (1732-after 1781)
 SARAH AUSTIN (abt. 1735-after 1781)

"David Bishop, son of Willett and Elizabeth (Sturdevant) Bishop (7-56) was born 30 Dec. 1732 at New Haven, Conn. (map #5). (George Washington was born the same year, Feb. 22.) He was bp. Feb. 1733; md. 9 Nov. 1758, Sarah, dau. of Jonathan and Lydia (Bradley) Austin (7-66). Family perhaps incomplete. (note child #5):

1. Lois Bishop, b. 21 Nov. 1759
2. Naomi Bishop, b. 16 June 1762
3. Jonathan Austin Bishop, b. 25, May 1764
4. Lydia Bishop, b. 6 May 1766 (md. William Babbitt of Berkshire County, Mass. (7-5)
5. Sarah Bishop, b. 3 July 1768; she or a later Sarah bp. 10 Feb. 1781
6. Hannah Bishop, b. 13 Mar. 1771
7. Abigail Bishop, bp. 10 Feb. 1781." 1

In 1733, the year following David's birth, thirteen major English colonies had been established. Two of them, New York and Delaware, had been siezed from the Dutch. At that time America was not called by that name; they were merely colonies of England. Originally the land claimed by England was simply a small portion of the land mass that eventually became the United States of America as it now exists.

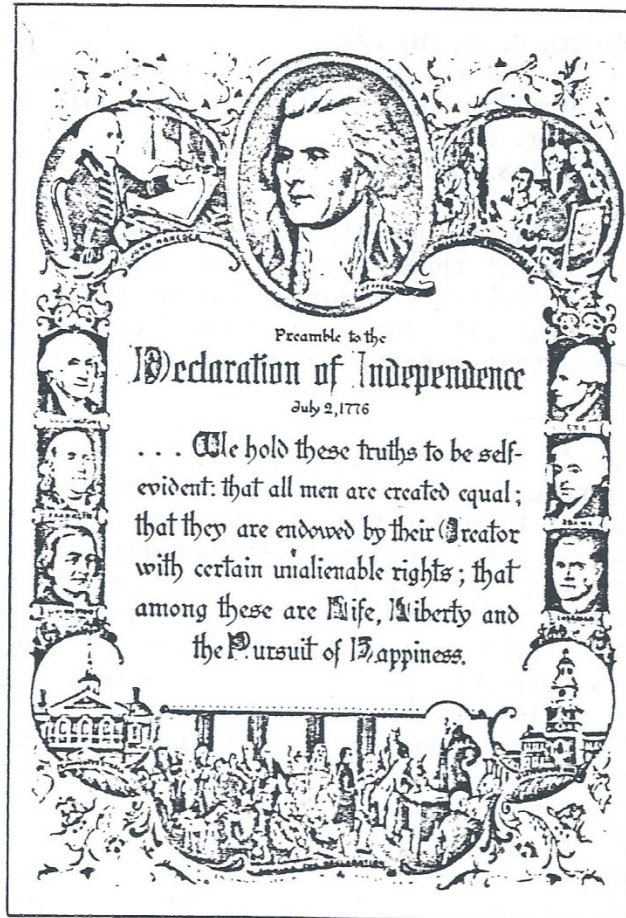
Both David Bishop and Sarah Austin had lived in New Haven from birth where they remained after marriage rearing their seven children. They lived during a very exciting period of time for the thirteen colonies which included their own Connecticut and their sister colony of Massachusetts. It was a transition-al period for the occupied lands of America. The French and indian Wars (1744-54) found the colonies loyally supporting England's cause in protecting her pos-sessions. The loyalty of the English settlers was pronounced, but after the war a confidence in the strength of the colonies gave rise to a growing sense of independence. The English colonies began to object to England's intrusion into their local affairs and especially was 'taxation without representation' an objectional issue.

David and Sarah were married just the year before George Washington married Martha Curtis, a widow with two children. They lived during the time of many great statesmen and innovators. Of the many great men who lived during this ex-citing period of great change, besides George Washington, were John Adams, Ben-jamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, William Penn and such daring pioneers as Daniel Boone and John Paul Jones.

The turbulent years that resulted in the 1776 Declaration of Independence induced the arousals of contentious debate that could be heard in all of New Eng-land's towns and villages. Without doubt David and Sarah would not have remained silent of earnest comment, for the issues at stake were of tremendous interest and momentous weight. It was Patrick Henry, statesmand and orator, who said ". . .give me liberty of give me death!"

George Washington took command of the Continental forces July 3, 1775, at Cambridge, Mass. His first victory drove the British out of Boston, but de-feats followed. After crossing the Delaware at McKonkey's Ferry in 1776, he won victories at Trenton and Princeton, but a desperate winter at Valley Forge

followed, in 1777-78, before Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Va., in 1781. George continued in command until hostilities ended (1783). He aided in ratification of the Constitution and was unanimously chosen first President of the United States, taking office in 1789.



PREAMBLE TO DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

David and Sarah's children ranged in ages from the eldest, 30, to the youngest 8 years of age, at the time of Washington's inaugural. Our Lydia, child #4, who had married William Babbitt about four years earlier, was 23 years of age.

The leaders of this Nation were great men, but their work would have been vain without the whole-hearted pioneers who held the threads of their communities with firmness, doing the patch-work of adjustments made through the struggles. The framers drew up the Constitution, but the farmers supported it and made success possible. Framers and farmers, a great combination! Probably more than ninety percent of the people were farmers when that instrument was adopted.

Someone has said: "Show me a great man and I will show you a great mother." Beside each framer or farmer there was a great wife and mother, a pioneer, too, in her own right.

We have no record of the date of David or Sarah's death but doubtless their last days were spent in New Haven. No lettered tablet marks their resting place; their only monuments were their children, whose honored careers testified to the wealth of mental endowment inherited from their parents and ancestors.

The Appalatian Mountains and their two branch ranges--the Catskill and Adirondacks, had been formidable barriers to any further colonizations west, in truth, they had been a natural fortification to the eastern settlers. The gaps in these natural barriers, through which rivers had cut their way and where the Indians had made narrow trails when braves went on their frequent war paths, began in reality to tempt the more adventurous of the Atlantic Coast settlers. (map #15) Prior to David's time, very few settlers had attempted to claim lands west of these mountain barriers. The danger of hostile Indians and the primitive means of travel at that time were enough to discourage any large scale migration over such terrain.

As time went on, however, a portion of David and Sarah's posterity did become participants in a westward movement that was to take them into New York, Ohio, Illinois, and even further west to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains. In this study of ancestors a line of descent from their daughter, Lydia (#4) and her husband, William Babbitt (7-5), were to be among some to leave the more established settlements of New England to pioneer new areas west.

David Bishop and Sarah Austin are the 4th great grandparents of descendants who fall into the same generation as the writer. Lorin Whiting Babbitt, the son of William and Lydia (Bishop) Babbitt and grandson of David and Sarah, and his wife, Almira Castle, (7-6) became the parents of our Elizabeth Almira Babbitt. She married Leonard Gurley Rice (1-7) and they are great grandparents of the writer. The whole of Chapter 7, sets forth the lines of ancestors from Elizabeth Almira Babbitt and all prior chapters include ancestors of Leonard Gurley Rice. We do not stop with Chapter 7, however, for the writer had two sets of Grandparents; (1-8) and (9-3), with ancestral lines in Chapters 8 and 9. The paternal ancestry of the writer is portrayed in Chapters 1 through 8. The maternal ancestry, or the ancestry of the writer's mother, is portrayed in Chapter 9. Now we can see how the meshing of lines, both paternal and maternal, converge into a union of ancestors to be claimed by a single descendant.

Any descendant can be proud of a great heritage. It is like a free gift to us, but its bestowal meant much sacrifice and hard work by the many from whom it came. Still, the rewards were there with every struggle. What more could be said of David and Sarah than was said earlier; their monument was the endowment passed on to those who came after.

1. #3, Vol. 1, p. 203