

RICHARD BLOOD (abt. 1617-1683)  
ISABELLE WILKINSON ( )

Richard Blood, our immigrant ancestor, on a colateral line to William Babbitt (7-5), was born about 1617 in England. A study of Blood ancestry and as tradition has claimed, came from Cheshire and Northamplonshire, England (map 1 # 7,17). The family generally possessed large wealth. Richard came to New England when he was about 21 years of age in 1638. He married Isabelle, daughter of Henry and Mary Wilkinson, about 1640.

Prior to living in Groton Mass., and between the years of Richard's arrival from England and the birth of their 6th child in about 1660, they had resided in Lynn, Massachusetts, which is a sea-port town a short distance above Boston (map #2). This is where Richard and Isabelle probably met and were married.

The children of this couple were listed in the DAR record as follows:

1. James Blood, b. abt. 1643, Lynn, Essex, Mass.,; md. (1) Sept 7, 1669 Elizabeth Longley, dau. of William. She died Dec. 1, 1676; md. (2) Dec. 20, 1686, Abigail Kemp. He died Sept. 13, 1692.
2. Joseph Blood, b. abt. 1646, Lynn, Mass.
3. Sarah Blood, b. June 1648, Lynn, Mass. md. Nov. 7, 1673, Zachariah Ferris (7-62)
4. Nathaniel Blood, b. April 1650, Lynn, Mass.
5. Mary Blood, b. abt. 1652; died April 16, 1662
6. Richard Blood, b. abt 1660, Lynn, Mass., died Oct. 17, 1662
7. Hannah Blood, b. Mar. 1664, Groton, Mass.
8. Elizabeth Blood b. abt. 1666, Groton, Mass. 1

Between the years 1660 and 1664, the birthdates of #6 and #7, the family moved inland to Groton, Mass. (map #2). "He (Richard) was the largest proprietor among the early petitioners of Groton, owning 60 acres right near the Holingworth Paper Mill." 2

We find in the Lemuel Shattuck writings some additional information on the children. After the father Richard died, Dec. 7, 1683, without a will to settle the estate, his son James (#1) settled upon a part of the family land, where he was killed by the Indians Sept. 13, 1692. Nathaniel (#4) lived and died in Groton. He married June 13, 1670, Hannah Parker, dau. of Capt. James Parker and had six children. Elizabeth (#8) md. Dec. 1, 1686, Thomas Tarbell. They had ten children. Three of these children, Sarah, John and Zachariah, were captured by the Indians. Another son Richard, born after the first Richard who died as a baby, left Groton about 1700, probably on account of the Indian troubles and he is thought to have died in Dedham, Mass. 3

"The whole township of Groton was equal to eight miles square, or 40,960 acres. A proprietor with 60 acres right, as was allotted to Richard Blood meant then that he had a right to own about 3,242 acres if he chose to do so. In the making of the first division of land, however, the proprietors were restricted to a small number of acres and the inhabitants lived within a close proximity to assure better protection against Indian attacks." 4

The general lay-out of the town was centralized around a triangular section of commons and today the old portion of Groton can be located by that same early lay-out.

The town of Groton suffered tremendous losses both in lives and in properties. Homes had to be evacuated many times and some of the inhabitants did not return to reclaim their land in fear of further troubles. A lengthy account of Groton's difficulties and particular war-time atrocities are found in Caleb Butler's treatise, Chapter 6. Touching upon the Indian war, called King Philip's War, we might include what is said on a couple of pages.

"Of all the difficulties and discouragements which the early settlers of Groton had to encounter, those arising from the hostility of the natives, or Indians, as they were commonly called was by far the most appalling and distressing. For the term of about fifteen years, however, after the settlement commenced, it being a time of peace between the Massachusetts colony and the Indians, nothing appears on record, that the settlers suffered or felt any alarm from the savage neighbors. But during this very period, Metacom, by the English named Philip, a sachem of the Wampanoags, a tribe inhabiting some part of the area now the State of Rhode Island, a courageous warrior, possessing a sagacity and foresight not common in a savage, had conceived, and was cautiously maturing a plan to extirpate the European population of New England. He rightly judged, that if the settlements by foreigners progressed as they had done, and were then doing, the rightful proprietors of the soil must rapidly fly before the usurpers, or suffer extermination. He, therefore, in order to prevent what has long since happened, endeavored to unite the various tribes in and about New England in a plan to make a general and simultaneous attack upon the new settlers, and if possible, destroy them at once. He concealed his designs as well as he could from his intended victims but one Sausaman, an Indian who was friendly to the whites, knowing the intentions of Philip, disclosed them; and for that kind act was soon after killed by the Wampanoags. Whereupon three of his murderers were seized by the English of Plymouth colony, tried, convicted, condemned and executed. Philip himself was charged with being an accomplice, and not attempting to disprove the charge, it was thought he was guilty. Finding now that his plans were known, he no longer practised deception, but though unprepared for the contest, commenced open war. But for the disclosures of the unfortunate Sausaman, and for his commencing hostilities before his allies were fully prepared to join in the all-out attack, he might probably have succeeded in his enterprise.

"Though the laws of the Colonies forbade selling fire arms and ammunition to the Indians, they had not been strictly obeyed, and the French at Canada, and the Dutch at New York, had trafficked with them in these articles, so that at this time the Indians had a considerable supply of guns, and had learned to use them expertly. The numbers of those combined in Philip's plot for extermination, could not be determined with certainty. The whole number of white inhabitants at that time in New England has been estimated at one hundred and twenty thousand, and the number of Indians far exceeded them. Had the English all dwelt in a territory not larger than an average county of today, their chances of survival would have been slight." <sup>5</sup>

The heinous, cruel and vile atrocities that occurred in the settlements of Massachusetts and Connecticut resulting from so many surprise attacks put added fear into the hearts of all the settlers. Barracades were set up in every community to block any hostile advance, and guards were on constant watch. All of our ancestors who were living in New England, whether in Massachusetts or Connecticut, during this period of time experienced out-right tragedies or at least lived through the greatest of fears, not knowing when they might come face to face with a wicked foe.

King Philip was finally captured and executed by the courts of New Haven, Connecticut. The trauma of that execution was long remembered in New England.

The Indians were subdued and except for a few sporadic attacks on individuals or small groups of innocent people, the towns remained unmolested, by Indian raids for awhile, though the unexpected kept them on guard at all times and trained bands of volunteer men were always ready in every community. All able bodied males took their turn in military duties.

Richard Blood and family, if evacuated during the dangerous period, returned to make Groton their permanent home. The burnings and destruction of the place had to be restored by those who had the infallible courage to face the odds. By 1847 the town had grown to include about one hundred and thirty residences. According to the town map four Blood families and of course many who were kin, still remained in the town (see map #2). No doubt, we could find many distant relatives who live in Groton, today, just as we could in many other places in New England where immigrant ancestors helped establish settlements.

Richard died Dec. 7, 1683, at the age of about 66 at Groton, Massachusetts. Groton is inland northwest from Boston about twenty or twenty-five miles. Little is known about his wife, Isabelle, and there is an uncertainty as to her nativity, but she must have lived and died in Groton where most of her children remained.

According to a family group sheet submitted by Virginia (Blood) Lewis to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, the parents of Richard Blood were James and Ellen (\_\_\_\_\_) Blood. The parents of Isabelle Wilkinson are recorded in the same source as Henry and Mary (Watkinson) Wilkinson. <sup>6</sup>

1. #71 p. 101
2. *ibid*, p. 100
3. #89 p. 369
4. #130 p. 26
5. *ibid* pp. 68-69
6. #170 p. (7-63)