

WILLIAM BRADLEY
AGNES MARGATE

From the records of "The Willard-Bradley Memoirs" and "Banning and Allied Families" it was possible to come up with the following line from William, of Sheriff-Hutton in County York and even list the children in the three generations:

1. William Bradley, of Sheriff-Hutton in Yorkshire, England (map #6)
2. William Bradley, of city of Coventry, Warwickshire, England (map #16); md. Agnes Margate. Children:
 1. Francis Bradley, md. Fancesca Watkins, children:
 - a. Francis Bradley, heir, b. 1595
 - b. Anna Maria
 2. Thomas Bradley, md. Maria Cotes
 3. William Bradley, b. 1585; md. (1) Joanna Waddington, abt. 1610; American immigrants (7-75). Children:
 - a. Anna Bradley
 - b. Magdalen Bradley
 - c. Elizabeth Bradley
 - d. Leticia Bradley
 - e. William Bradley, b. abt. 1619/20 md. (7-76)
- md. (2) Elizabeth _____ . Children:
 - f. Daniel Bradley
 - g. Joshua Bradley
 - h. Ellen Bradley
 - i. Nathan Bradley
 - j. Stephen Bradley, b. 1642

The above chart clarifies the relationship of the Bradleys that concern this study. William, 3rd son of William (#2) of Coventry, was born ten years before his nephew (a) Francis Bradley son of William's brother, Francis (#1) ¹

Willard goes on to state,

"Judge Joseph Bradley of the Supreme Court, United States, conjectures that William Bradley, born in 1585, and Francis, born in 1595 were, respectively, the fathers of William (our ancestor) of New Haven, Conn., and Francis Bradley of Fairfield, Conn. Judge Joseph Bradley gives three reasons which are: First, the family name, second, the Arms which have been claimed in this country and third, the fact that William and Francis of Connecticut were followers and adherents of the Theophilus Eaton and Rev. John Davenport. The significance arises from the fact that William, b. 1585 and Francis, b. 1595, of Coventry, and Eaton and Davenport were originally Coventry boys, almost the same age; and no doubt brought up in the congregation of Eaton's father in Coventry. Their ages were as follows:

William Bradley, b. about 1585
Theophilus Eaton, b. 1592
Francis Bradley, b. 1595
John Davenport, b. 1597" ²

Mr. Eaton was a very wealthy merchant, and all were Puritans. William Bradley (2) above, and his oldest son Francis would be likely to send their sons William (3) and Francis (a) with him, or under his auspices to New Haven where the latter maintained an establishment able to accomodate many.

These sons were William (7-75), our ancestor, of New Haven and Francis (a), his nephew of Fairfield, Connecticut, both of whom came over to New England with Eaton and Davenport.

The reason for including this discourse of Henry Kellogg Willard, is to establish the pedigree line as herein given before going further with the descendants of William Bradley of Coventry, #2 above. The identity of William Bradley, the immigrant (7-75), as given by Henry Kellogg Willard, has only recently been uncovered and accepted, and Mr. Willard asks us to accept his findings.

Bradley is a local English name of Anglo Saxon origin signifying the "Broad-lea," from the old English words, brad and leah. The first known of the name is in 1183. An early Survey gives mention of a Roger de Bradley. In 1475 is seen the Will of Sir John Pilkington, Knight of Yorkshire, bequeathing to his brother Charles a place named Bradley. A John Bradley was bishop of Shaftsbury in 1539 and many others of note and rank are shown through the years.

The English Bradleys were holders of a Coat of Arms. In the home of one Dr. Coleman was seen a silver tankard engraved with the Bradley Coat of Arms. Several impressions in wax of the seal were made from which a brass seal was made. Attempts were made to get possession of the tankard, itself, without success. Evidently it is a precious item of American collection.

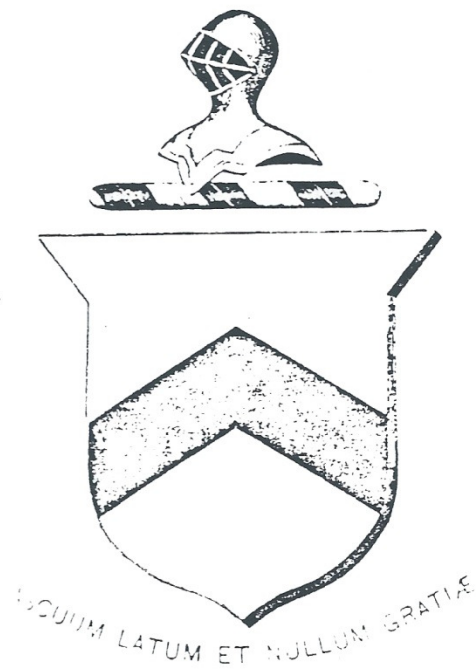
In the "Genealogy of the Guilfield, Conn. Bradley Families" an attempt was made to settle the genealogy of the American branches:

"Tradition, which is confirmed by careful research, has long understood that "the first Bradleys of the United States were descended from a family in the market town of Bingley, in the West Riding Yorkshire (great land of the traditional fox hunt) . . . (map 1 #6)

"Bingley is on the River Aire, about twelve miles northeast of Leeds. The town of Bradley was about seven miles north of Bingley.

"Different heraldic bearings were granted to different branches of the family. Those borne by the ancestors of the American branch were: Argent chevron sable, the crest, an open helmet and the motto, "Pascuum latum et nullum gratiae." This Bradley Coat of Arms, Shield and Crest, holds to the motto, 'Be Broadminded and Wise.' " 4

"An early mention of the name was in 1183, when at the feast of St. Cuthbert in lent, all the revenues of the District of Lord Hugh, Bishop of Durham were by his order, described; Roger de Bradley was mentioned as holding 40 acres at Bradley Walsingham in the survey of Bolton. This statement does not connect the William Bradley who married Agnes Margate, or his father, in any kinship relation to Roger de Bradley. It does tell us that there



was a district in Yorkshire named for the Bradley family. The town of Bingley in Yorkshire, on the River Aire, is said to be the home of the earliest Bradleys. The town of Bradley was about six or seven miles to the north." 5

As noted in the stories that follow, there are four William Bradleys in line of father to son. The story numbers given to each helps to designate the sequence of generations.

1. #81(a) p. 27
2. ibid pp. 27-28
3. ibid (b), p. 31
4. #105 pp.5, 6
5. #71 pp. 31, 32 also, #152, p. 1223