

GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

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at Bucksport and at Gray's Commercial College in Portland. He studied civil engineering in the office of Green & Danforth in the latter city. In 1869 he entered the employ of General George Thom, of the United States engineering corps, and was engaged in harbor improvements and in removing obstructions at various places along the New England coast. While engaged in this work he held the position of inspector. In 1874 he returned to Dover and was elected clerk of the courts, assuming the duties of that office January 1, 1875, and serving continuously till the present time (1908). Besides his official duties Mr. Flint has large farming interests and owns one of the finest and most extensive apple orchards in the state. He is a Republican in politics, and attends the Congregational church. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and to the Royal Arcanum. On August 15, 1872, Henry B. Flint married Caro E. Emery, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Emery, who was born in Bangor, October 28, 1852. Three children were born of the marriage: 1. Robert, born April 13, 1873, died June 21, 1876. 2. Edgar T., born June 2, 1877, at Dover, Maine, obtained his education in the schools of Dover and at Foxcroft Academy, the medical department of the University of Vermont, and Baltimore Medical College. He began the practice of medicine at Fort Kent in Aroostook county, and is now settled at Mars Hill in the same county. 3. Charlotte Woodman, born at Foxcroft, Maine, April 15, 1882, was educated in the public schools and at Foxcroft Academy. She also took a musical course at Dana Musical Institute, Warren, Ohio, and at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She has taught school in Sebec and Jackman, Maine, and is now supervisor of music in the public schools of Guilford.

THATCHER There are two ways of spelling this name, with the middle *t* and without. The Thachers claim that their method is the true and ancient one. But this probably belongs to that large class of surnames, like Webster, Fletcher, Fisher, Fuller and their counterparts, which were derived from an occupation; although in primitive times, when everybody had to be a jack-of-all-trades, it might be thought that the process of thatching roofs would hardly have been a distinctive craft or business.

Still, if the occupations of farmer and carpenter, which must have been of almost uni-

versal application, could furnish patronymics, why not thatcher? The family, whether they use the middle *t* or not, appear to have made an excellent record in this country, for they began with some early ministers of distinction, and have since included judges of the supreme court and other men of rank.

The first of the name of whom we can find any record is the Rev. Peter Thacher, who lived in the early part of the seventeenth century at Sarum, England, where he was rector of the parish of Saint Edmund's for the space of nineteen years. He was a man of talent and possessed a liberal and independent mind; but he dissented from the established church, and being harrassed by the spiritual courts, he resolved to turn his back on ecclesiastical persecution and migrate to New England, but the death of his wife altered his plans. The purpose of the father was destined to be carried out by the eldest son, who subsequently became the Rev. Thomas Thacher, minister of the church at Weymouth, Massachusetts, and the first pastor of the Old South in Boston, whose pulpit he was filling at the time of his death in 1678. Rev. Thomas Thacher seems to have been quite a remarkable man. He was only fifteen when he arrived in this country, June 4, 1635, but he had the good fortune to become an inmate of the family of Rev. Thomas Chauncey, afterwards president of Harvard College. Young Thacher not only achieved distinction in the pulpit, but he studied medicine as well, and united the vocations of physician and clergyman, a useful combination in those days. He was a man of great learning, and President Stiles speaks of Mr. Thacher as the best Arabic scholar known in the country, and states that he composed and published a Hebrew lexicon. Mather says he was a most incomparable scribe, and there are yet extant monuments of Syriac and other Oriental characters in his handwriting, which are hardly to be imitated. Rev. Thomas Thacher seems to have been a man held in the highest veneration by his fellows, and his death inspired Eleazer, an Indian student at Harvard, to write an elegy from which the following extract is taken. Although the verse is conventional, it is perhaps worthy of note as coming from a red man in the year 1678.

"Thacher, 'tis virtue that thy name endears,
Virtue, that climbs beyond the starry spheres.
To men of station, and of low degree,
Thy faith shines forth like beacons o'er the sea.

Thy cross of suffering thou shalt bear no more,
Temptations, perils, sorrows, all are o'er,
Death, the destroyer, died—the last of foes—
And life renewed, to life immortal grows."

Rev. Thomas Thacher left a long line of ministerial descendants. His youngest son, Rev. Peter Thacher, was for forty-seven years the beloved pastor of the church at Milton, Massachusetts. His son, Rev. Peter (2) Thacher, was for thirty-five years in charge of the church at Middleboro, Massachusetts. His son, Rev. Peter (3) Thacher, preached at Attleboro, Massachusetts, for forty-three years, or until his death, which occurred September 13, 1785, in the seventieth year of his age. Perhaps the most noted Rev. Peter of all was Rev. Peter Thacher who received his doctor's degree from the University of Edinburgh. He was the eldest son of Oxenbridge Thacher, who was a grandson of Rev. Peter (1). Dr. Peter Thacher had his first pastorate at Malden, Massachusetts, but in 1785 was called to the Brattle Street Church in Boston. He was one of the earliest members of the Historical Society, and belonged to nearly all the literary and charitable institutions then existing in New England. Two of Dr. Peter Thacher's sons, Thomas Cushing and Samuel Cooper Thacher, also became ministers, the first at Lynn, and the second in Boston. There were also many collateral relatives who were clergymen. In fact, it is doubtful if any family in the country has furnished more preachers of the Gospel.

(I) Samuel Thatcher, the ancestor of the following line, was admitted freeman at Watertown, Massachusetts, May 18, 1642. No relationship is known to exist between him and Rev. Thomas Thacher, mentioned in the introduction, but the fact that they were contemporaneous settlers in the new world, and bore the same rather unusual surname, would indicate that they might have sprung from the same English stock a few generations back. The date of Samuel Thatcher's birth is unknown, but he died November 30, 1669. The inventory of his estate amounted to a little more than six hundred and seventy-five pounds, a comfortable property for those days. Samuel Thatcher was a deacon, served several times as selectman, and held the office of representative in 1665-66-68-69. Deacon Thatcher left a widow, Hannah, whose maiden name is unknown; two children: Hannah, born October 9, 1645; Samuel (2), whose sketch follows. Hannah Thatcher was married to John Holmes, but she had died previous to April 16, 1682, the date of her mother's will. This will was proved April 3, 1683.

(II) Samuel (2), only son of Deacon Samuel (1) and Hannah Thatcher, was born October 20, 1648, lived at Watertown, Massa-

chusetts, and died October 21, 1726. He was a lieutenant, and was admitted freeman April 18, 1690. His wife Mary, whose maiden name is unknown, died August 17, 1725. Children: 1. Mary, August 1, 1681, died the next May. 2. Samuel, April 8, 1683. 3. John, January 22, 1685-86, married Elizabeth Morse. 4. Anna, April 30, 1688, died July 22, 1690. 5. Mary, September 17, 1690, married Joseph Child. 6. Hannah, December 10, 1692. 7. Abigail, June 6, 1694. 8. Mercy, January 2, 1697-98. 9. Sarah, November 30, 1699, died June 13, 1727. 10. Ebenezer.

(III) Ebenezer, third and youngest son of Lieutenant Samuel (2) and Mary Thatcher, was born March 17, 1703-04, lived at Watertown, Massachusetts, and died in 1757. January 27, 1731-32, he married Susanna Spring, and they had seven children: 1. Samuel (3), whose sketch follows. 2. Sarah, February 20, 1733-34. 3. Mary, December 27, 1735. 4. Ebenezer, August 20, 1737, died in October, 1741. 5. Susanna, July 3, 1739. 6. Sarah, October 3, 1741, died September 3, 1749. 7. Ebenezer, January 15, 1742-43.

(IV) Samuel (3), eldest child of Ebenezer and Susanna (Spring) Thatcher, was baptized November 5, 1732, lived at Cambridge, Massachusetts, which town he represented in the legislature, and died in 1792. On September 3, 1753, he married Mary Brown, of Lexington, daughter of James and Jane (Bowman) Brown, who was born August 13, 1735. Children: 1. Susanna, 1755, married Jesse Putnam. 2. Ebenezer, born and died in 1759. 3. Mary, 1767, married Thomas Mayhew. 4. Elizabeth, 1771. 5. Samuel (4) whose sketch follows. 6. Ebenezer, 1778, married Lucy F. Knox. Ebenezer Thatcher, the youngest son, was graduated from Harvard College in 1798, moved to Thomaston, Maine, where he became a lawyer, militia officer and judge of the court of common pleas. He afterwards removed to Bingham, where he died June 12, 1841. The second of Ebenezer Thatcher's children, Commodore Henry Knox Thatcher, was graduated from West Point in 1827, and commanded the frigate "Colorado" at the storming of Fort Fisher.

(V) Honorable Samuel (4), second son of Samuel (3) and Mary (Brown) Thatcher, was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, July 1, 1776, and died at Bangor, Maine, July 18, 1870. In 1793, when a youth of seventeen, he was graduated from Harvard College. He studied law with Hon. Timothy Bigelow, of Groton, Massachusetts, settled first at New Gloucester, Maine; removed to Warren in

1800, where he lived till 1833, at which time he moved to Brewer; he spent his last years in Bangor. He represented the town of Warren in the state legislature for eleven years, and was representative to congress for two terms, 1803-07. He was sheriff of Lincoln county from 1812 to 1821, and was one of the founders of Warren Academy. January 15, 1800, he married Sarah Brown, daughter of Reuben and Molly (Howe) Brown, of Concord, Massachusetts. She was born in Concord, December 17, 1776, and died at Bangor, Maine, September 22, 1851. Five children, but one of whom survived their father: 1. Harriet Howard, born at Warren, Maine, May 28, 1801, died at Bangor, June 23, 1865. 2. Elizabeth, born at Concord, Massachusetts, April 1, 1803, died at Warren, June 23, 1827. 3. Samuel, born at Warren, February 11, 1805, lived at Bangor for some years, removed to Saint Anthony, Minnesota, in 1851, where he died August 31, 1861. He was much esteemed, and a promoter of every good work in his native state. He married Elizabeth L. P. Johnston. 4. George Augustus, whose sketch follows. 5. Benjamin Bussey, born in Warren, October 8, 1809, was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1826, studied law and had an office in Boston, but he relinquished his profession in order to devote his time to literary pursuits. He was a constant contributor to magazines and newspapers, and wrote well on many subjects. He died in Boston, July 14, 1840.

(VI) George Augustus, second son of Samuel (4) and Sarah (Brown) Thatcher, was born at Warren, Maine, August 24, 1806, and died at Bangor, Maine, December 1, 1885. He moved to Bangor in 1822 and was clerk for George W. Pickering till 1826, when they entered into partnership under the firm name of George A. Thatcher and Company. In after years Mr. Thatcher was associated with other firms till he retired from active business in 1847. He joined the First Congregational Church in 1828, and was chosen deacon in 1840, and for many years was trustee of the Bangor Theological Seminary. He was originally a Whig and afterwards a Republican in politics, and served as assessor for several years. He was early identified with the anti-slavery and temperance movements in Bangor. October 1, 1832, he married Rebecca Jane Billings, daughter of Caleb C. and Nancy (Thoreau) Billings, who was born June 23, 1813, died October 27, 1883. Children: 1. George Putnam, born July 14, 1833, lives in California. 2. Frederick Augustus,

September 25, 1835, died January 10, 1838. 3. Charles Alfred, May 16, 1837, gave his life for his country; he died at Red River, Louisiana, November 26, 1864, while in command of the United States steamer, "Gazelle." 4. Benjamin Bussey, April 21, 1839, was a merchant in Bangor; has been representative and held other official positions; married (first) Mary E. Walker, born August 19, 1842, died January 12, 1875; married (second) December 4, 1877, Charlotte P. Walker, sister of his first wife; they have two children: George T. and Lottie May; Benjamin B. Thatcher died June 3, 1906. 5. Caleb Billings, November 5, 1840, lives at Bangor. 6. Sarah Frances, June 7, 1842, deceased. 7. Henry Knox, whose sketch follows.

(VII) Henry Knox, youngest of the six sons of George Augustus and Rebecca J. (Billings) Thatcher, was born at Bangor, Maine, August 3, 1854. He was educated in the schools of his native town, and was graduated from Harvard College in 1877, and from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1881. He began the practice of his profession at Cambridge, Maine, in 1882, and moved to Dexter, Maine, in 1885, where he has been located ever since. Dr. Thatcher is one of the leading physicians in that region, and has a large and constantly increasing practice. He is a Republican in politics and attends the Congregational church. He belongs to Penobscot Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Dexter, and to Saint John Royal Arch Chapter. January 17, 1882, Dr. Thatcher married Annie Ross, daughter of Hugh and Ann Ross, of Bangor. They have one child, Henry David Thoreau, born July 12, 1884. The son was educated in the schools of Dexter, and was graduated from the University of Maine at Orono in 1905. In 1907 he married Mary MacNamara, of Orono, and is now living at Wharton, New Jersey, where he is a civil engineer. They have one child, Anna Rebecca, born July 12, 1908.

Here is another Maine family who have filled to the full the measure of usefulness, as soldiers, preachers, physicians, seamen and farmers, and their record in all stations of life is an enviable one. The name is German, from which country their ancestors came.

(I) Davis Wasgatt, born March 11, 1751, enlisted in the Continental army, and fought in the revolution. He married Rachael Richardson, born November 27, 1752, died June 30, 1841. The husband died November 27,