

PIERSON GENEALOGY.



STEPHEN PIERSON, the Immigrant Ancestor, born in Suffolk County, England, in 1645, was apprenticed there by his mother (probably a widow) to Thomas Mulliner of Branford, Conn., to learn the carpenter trade, and landed in New Haven in 1654. Mulliner first appeared in New Haven in 1640. June 30, 1657, Stephen testified in court in New Haven in a case of slander brought by Meeker against Mulliner for saying that Meeker's pigs were bewitched. Oct., 1658, he appeared in the Probate Court at New Haven in a complaint made against Thomas Mulliner for not fulfilling an agreement to teach him the carpenter trade. March 15, 1667, he was one of eight recorded residents of Derby, then called Paugassett, and in all probability was there in 1666. His first wife, and mother of all his children, was Mary Tomlinson, daughter of Henry Tomlinson and his wife, Alice ——— of Stratford, Conn., who came from Watertown, Mass., in 1644; to Milford, Conn., in 1652 (where he kept an ordinary); and thence to Stratford, Conn., in 1665, where he died in 1681. His widow, Alice, married John Birdsey, senior, under a contract of Oct. 8th, 1688. Mary Tomlinson died in Derby Sept. 25, 1715. Stephen died in Derby (now Oxford) May 14, 1739, aged 94, leaving a second wife, Esther. He had a home lot of 3½ acres, now part of a town reservoir in Derby, on the original town street on meeting-house hill, called also New Haven Sentinel hill. His will, dated Sept. 2, 1733, provides for his wife, Esther; eldest son, Stephen, junior, 20 shillings; daughter, Sarah Twitchell, 80 pounds; daughter, Mary Baldwin, 80 pounds; son, Abraham, and daughter, Bathsheba Blackman, of Stratford, Conn., heretofore provided for; (son, John, probably a bachelor, died about 1704). His son, Abraham, appointed executor. Inventory, dated Dec. 4, 1739, is as follows, viz.: Welchman's lot, £100; barn and homestead, £360; 80 acres of land in Quaker Farms purchase, £44; another piece of land in Bear Hill district, £85; one old Bible, 5 shillings; one other Bible, 6 shillings; and other small articles (requiring an expert to read) amounting in all to £631, 9s., 3d. The appraisers were Francis French and Samuel Riggs. All attempts to trace Stephen Pierson in Suffolk County or beyond have failed.