

There are some points in connection with the history and development of the Fairfield Branch, which will prove of the greatest interest, not only to the genealogist, but to the student of heredity, as well as to the reader of the history of the Colony. This branch was exceeded by none of the old colonial families of New England, either in the influence which it exerted on public affairs, or in the *quality* and *mettle* of the men which it produced.

Its founder may have been a scion of some noble house in England, but was more probably a well-to-do member of the middle class; but whatever his birth, we must concede to him possession of certain marked qualities, such as great energy, a superabundance of will power, and the talent of *leadership*,—that subtle quality difficult to define, but which men readily recognize, and which renders its possessor a leader in society; and allowing him these qualities, it will be interesting to note how they were transmitted to, and reproduced in his descendants.

His son Major John Burr was an officer in the French and Indian wars; Assistant, i. e., Senator, or member of the Upper House, and Magistrate of the Colony.

His three other sons were representatives, and local magistrates of Fairfield. His grandson, Col. John Burr, commanded a detachment in the expedition to Port Royal against the French, and in the Albany expedition against the Indians. He was also an Assistant and Magistrate of the Colony. Nathaniel Burr, another grandson, was a lawyer of prominence. Samuel Burr, also a grandson, graduated at Harvard College, and was master of the famous Charlestown Grammar School for twelve years, or until his death. Another grandson, Peter Burr, also graduated at Harvard, was Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, Assistant, and Magistrate; he was also elected Deputy Governor by the Senate, but lost the position from the refusal of the House to concur.

The little town of Fairfield, on the shores of the Sound, with its strong families of Burrs, Golds, Wakemans, and Sillimans, then enjoyed that political dominance of the Colony, which Hartford now exercises over the State, and as the former Deputy Governor—Gold—had been a native of that town, the House through jealousy, refused to elect his townsman Mr. Burr, as his successor.

Of the fourth generation, Col. Andrew Burr, grandson of Major John, commanded the Connecticut regiment raised for the expedition against Louisburg, and shared in the hardships of the siege,