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1885



RECORD

OF THE

Pyncheon Family

IN

England and America.

Steel Portraits of both Gen. Benj. Harrison, and Hon. Levi P. Morton,
of the style and quality of this are being engraved, and will appear in the
Books. This Beecher portrait will not appear in the Book, being used simply
as SAMPLE.

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Amy Ward Beecher
4



William Pynchon 

THE EMIGRANT

From an original portrait in the Museum of the Peabody Academy of Science,
in Salem, Mass.

1
RECORD

OF THE

PYNCHON FAMILY

IN

1173

352

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

COMPILED BY

DR. J. C. PYNCHON,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.:

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RECORD OF THE PYNCHON FAMILY, IN ENGLAND.

[Taken from the "HERALDIC JOURNAL," No. 14, April, 1866.]

From the Visitations of Essex, 1558 and 1612, it seems that Nicholas¹ Pinchon of Wales, Sheriff of London in 1532, had a son, John² Pinchon of Writtle, co. Essex, who m. Jane, heiress of Sir Richard Empson, and d. 29 Nov., 1573, leaving six children. His widow married Dr. Thomas Wilson, Secretary of State.

John² and Jane Pinchon had

- I. William³.
- II. John³, of whom presently.
- III. Sir Edward³.
- IV. Agnes³, m. Thomas Chicele of Hingham Ferriers.
- V. Elizabeth³, m. Geoffrey Gates of St. Edmunds Bury.
- VI. Jane, m. Andrew Paschal of Springfield.

The oldest son, William³ Pinchon, m. Rose, dau. of Thomas Reding of Pinner, in Middlesex, and had

Peter⁴, (died aged 15), Sir Edmund⁴, Henry⁴, Christopher⁴, (who m. Mary Vincent, and had a son Edward⁵), Elizabeth⁴, and Anne⁴, wife of Richard Weston, Earl of Portland.

William³ died 13 Oct., 1592; his heirs at Writtle were Sir Edmund⁴, who m. Dorothy, dau. of Sir Jerome Weston of Skreens, in Roxwell, and had an only son, John⁵, and three daughters, Mary⁵, wife of Walter Overbury, Elizabeth⁵, and Anne⁵, wife of John Wolfe.

John⁵ Pinchon m. 1st, Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Cornwallis, and died 30 July, 1654, leaving a son, Edward⁶, who died Feb., 1672, and a daughter, Bridget⁶, who was the second wife of William Petre, fourth Baron Petre.

The only child of Lady Petre was Mary, born 25 March, 1679, m. George Heneage of Hainton, co. Linc.

Here the older branch seems to terminate, and we return to John³ Pinchon, son of John², who settled at Springfield, co. Essex, and m. —, dau. and heir of — Orchard.
His son was William⁴ Pynchon, the emigrant.

RECORD OF THE PYNCHON FAMILY IN AMERICA.

William¹ Pynchon, the emigrant who came to this country with Gov. Winthrop in 1630, was son of John³ Pynchon of Springfield, Essex County, England; was one of the first patentees of the Colony of Massachusetts. About this time he settled in Roxbury.

There came with him from England John² Pynchon, his son, born A. D. 1621; Annie², wife of Henry Smith, who assisted Col. Pynchon in the government of the colony;

Margaret² married William Davis, a druggist in Boston;

Mary², his youngest daughter, who married Elizur Holyoke, and who gave name to Mt. Holyoke.

The original stone which marked the graves of Mary and Elizur Holyoke, in the old burying ground at the foot of Elm street, on the banks of the Connecticut river, with some of their undoubted remains, were removed by Dr. J. C. Pynchon, and were re-interred in the Pynchon lot, in the new cemetery, in the year 1849.

Col. William¹ Pynchon's wife died in Roxbury, A. D. 1630. He then married Frances Sanford, of Roxbury, and led a colony, A. D. 1636, to Springfield, naming it after his father's country seat in England. After residing with the colony and governing the same for sixteen years, viz., until A. D. 1652, he was deposed from his magisterial offices in consequence of writing a book, on the subject of Christ's Atonement, whose sentiments were deemed heretical by the ministers of the ruling theology, and by the Legislature of the State. The book was

burned by the sheriff in public, in presence of the faithful, in Boston. There are known to be but three of these books extant: one is in the British museum, one in Harvard college library, which was once owned by Elizur Holyoke, and the other is now owned by H. S. Sheldon, of Suffield, Conn.

Col. Pynchon¹, feeling the persecutions to which he was subject, probably disappointed and disgusted, left Springfield and, in company with his son-in-law, Henry Smith, and the Rev. John Moxon, his minister, in September, 1652, settled in Wraisbury, where he was born, or Wyradsburg, and where he died Oct. 29, 1661, aged 72.

His second wife died there Oct. 10, 1657.

When his daughters, Annie² and Margaret², died, is to me unknown. Mary² Holyoke died Oct. 26, 1657.

SECOND GENERATION.

William¹ Pynchon left his son, John² Pynchon, afterwards known as Major Pynchon² in Springfield, sometimes called the Worshipful Major, who was long chief magistrate, a ruler and a man of extensive knowledge of the affairs of the colony, and representing the same in the State government. He was born A. D. 1621, and died Jan. 7, 1703, aged 77 years.

He married Amy, daughter of Gov. George Wyllys, of Hartford, Oct. 30, 1644. She died Jan. 9, 1699, aged about 74 years.

The children of John² Pynchon and Amy, his wife, were Joseph³, born July 26, 1646, and died, unmarried, Dec. 30, 1682.

Joseph³ graduated at Harvard college, was in England at the burning of the town of Springfield, became a physician in Boston, and died there.

John³, born Oct. 15, 1647; died April 25, 1721.

Mary³, born Oct. 28, 1650; married Josiah Whiting.

William³, born Oct. 11, 1653; died 1654.

Mehitabel³, born Nov. 22, 1661; died July 24, 1663.

THIRD GENERATION.

Col. John³ Pynchon, son of Col. John² and Amy² Pynchon, was a student at Harvard college for a time with his brother, Joseph³, till he removed to Boston, became a merchant, and began trading on his own account.

He married Margaret Hubbard, daughter of Rev. William Hubbard, historian, of Ipswich.

Their children, during the Indian wars, were born in Ipswich.

Their names were—

John⁴,

Margaret⁴,

William⁴.

Col. John³ Pynchon, the father of this family, appears to have been a man making great improvements in Springfield, and in the neighboring towns, county and colony to which he belonged, in laying out the lands in Springfield, Suffield, Enfield, Wilbraham, Ludlow, and Longmeadow. He was one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies in 1683.

Col. John³ Pynchon died April 25, 1721.

Margaret, the mother, died Nov. 11, 1716.

FOURTH GENERATION.

Col. John⁴ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of John³ and Margaret³ Pynchon, entered Harvard college when young, remaining two years. His grandfather took him away and procured for him the office of Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and Court of Sessions, at Springfield. He was afterwards appointed or chosen County Register. He lived with his grandfather some years, who was first Justice of the Court.

He married, Feb. 18, 1702, Bathshua⁴ Taylor, daughter of the Rev. William Taylor, of Westfield.

Their children were—

Elisabeth⁵, born Dec. 27, 1702; died Sept. 6, 1776.

William⁵, born Nov. 11, 1703; died Jan. 11, 1783.

John⁵ and Joseph⁵; John⁵ died April 6, 1754.

Mary⁵, born Oct. 10, 1706; married Brig. Gen. *Joseph* ~~Josiah~~ Dwight.

Bathshua⁵, born Jan., 11, 1708; married Robert Harris, Feb. 18, 1730; died A. D. 1760.

Bathshua, the mother, died June, 1710.

Col. John⁴ Pynchon married again, for his second wife, Phebe⁴ Lester, of Enfield, Nov. 3, 1711. She was born A. D. 1686.

Their children were—

Martha⁵, died Dec. 8, 1712.

Edward⁵, born April 9, 1713; died Nov. 3, 1777.

Nathaniel⁵, born March 3, 1715; died Oct. 10, 1722.

George⁵, born April 20, 1717; died June 26, 1797.

Charles⁵, born Jan. 31, 1719; died Aug. 19, 1783.

Margaret⁵ died Oct. 27, 1722.

Phebe⁴, the mother, died Oct. 17, 1722.

Elisabeth⁵, daughter of the first wife, married Benjamin Colton.

Col. John⁴ Pynchon, the father, died July 12, 1742, aged 68 years.

Edward⁵ married Widow Bliss, and died s. p.

George⁵ married twice, and had children: George⁶, Louisa⁶, Nathaniel⁶, Peter⁶, and Peter⁶ and Henry.

Charles⁵ married Anne Dwight, and had two daughters.

Col. William⁴ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of John³ and Margaret³ Pynchon, was born at Ipswich, and was put an apprentice to a noted brazier in Boston. At the age of twenty-one he came to Springfield and was appointed one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas and Sessions, and a colonel of the southern regiment of militia in the county of Hampshire.

He was married, May 15, 1721, to Katharine⁴ Brewer, daughter of Rev. Daniel Brewer.

Their children were—

Sarah⁵, born August 17, 1721. Married Col. Josiah Dwight, and died August 4, 1755, without issue.

William⁵, born Dec. 12, 1723.

Margaret⁵, born Nov. 24, 1727. Married Elijah Williams, of Deerfield, and died in April, 1772.

Daniel⁵ John, born October 7, 1733; died at Yale college April 22, 1754.

Joseph⁵, born Oct. 30, 1737. Graduated at New Haven, 1757. Married Sarah Ruggles, daughter of Rev. Thomas Ruggles, of Guilford, where he settled. In 1775 he removed to New Haven, and in 1777 to Long Island or New York. Died in Guilford Nov. 23, 1794.

Thomas R.⁶ Pynchon, son of Joseph⁵, was born in Guilford in 1760. Educated in New York; practiced medicine and surgery in Guilford, and attained a wide celebrity. Died, in 1796, in consequence of a fall from his horse.

Thomas R.⁸ Pynchon, grandson of Dr. Thomas R.⁶, was born in New Haven in 1823. Educated at Trinity college, Hartford, where he afterwards became professor and president; an Episcopalian rector, with the title of D. D.; and is now (1885) in said college.

The different members of this family, in regular descent, I have been unable to obtain, though Dr. Thomas R.⁶ Pynchon, now in Hartford, can, if he chooses, easily supply the deficiency.

Col. William⁴ Pynchon, the father of this family, died Jan. 1, 1741. His widow died April 10, 1747.

FIFTH GENERATION.

William⁵ Pynchon, son of William⁴ Pynchon, graduated at Harvard in 1743; was an eminent lawyer of Salem, where he married Catherine, daughter of Mitchell Sewall, and had—

Elisabeth⁶, born Jan. 26, 1752; married Timothy Orne.

Katharine⁶, born Feb. 25, 1754; married William Wetmore.

Sarah⁶, born Feb. 6, 1757; married Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver.

William⁶, born July 24, 1759; married, but died s. p.

John⁶, born March 14, 1780; died unmarried.

This branch of the family is extinct in the male line, the father, William⁶, dying March 14, 1789.

William⁵ Pynchon collected the records of the Pynchon families. From his writings these accounts are largely taken.

William⁵ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of Col. John⁴ and Bathshua⁴ Pynchon, was married, Dec. 14, 1738, to Sarah Bliss, daughter of Lieut. Col. Pelatiah Bliss.

Their children were—

William⁶ Pynchon, born Nov. 21, 1739; died March 24, 1808, aged 69 years.

John⁶, born Sept. 20, 1742; died March 4, 1826, aged 84.

Sarah⁶, born Oct. 5, 1751; died July 26, 1826.

Sarah⁶ married David White, of Longmeadow.

William⁵, the father, died Jan. 11, 1783.

Sarah⁵, his widow, died Feb. 21, 1796.

John⁵ Pynchon, of Suffield, son of Col. John⁴ and Bathshua⁴ Pynchon, married a widow of a Mr. Winchell, of Suffield.

They had no children. He died at Suffield, April 6, 1754.

The Hon. Joseph⁵ Pynchon, of Boston, son of Col. John⁴ and Bathshua⁴ Pynchon, was educated at Harvard college and graduated in 1726. He preached at times, studied and practiced medicine. First settled in Longmeadow Oct. 13, 1748. He married the widow of Rev. Mr. Cheney, of Brookfield, and daughter of Rev. John Cotton, of Newton. They removed to Boston.

Their children were—

Mary,

Elizabeth,

Margaret,

Martha.

Mary, the eldest, married Rev. Mr. Elliott, of Fairfield, Conn. The history of all the children is unknown.

Edward⁵ Pynchon, son of Col. John⁴ and Phebe⁴ Pynchon, was Register and Treasurer of the County of Hampshire for many years. He was married, Dec. 15, 1763, to Rebecca Bliss, widow of Capt. Luke Bliss. Her maiden name was Stoughton, and Windsor, Conn., was her native place. They had no children. He died Nov. 3, 1777, leaving his estate to his relatives, at the age of 64 years. His widow died Nov. 5, 1810, in the old Pynchon house, built by the Worshipful Major² in 1660, at the age of 89 years.

Capt. George⁵, son of Col. John⁴ and Phebe⁴ Pynchon, was married, Dec. 21, 1738, to Hannah Bartlett.

Their children were—

George⁶, born April 27, 1739.

Lovice⁶, born Aug. 9, 1740.

Nathaniel⁶, born Jan. 1, 1743.

Walter⁶, born Sept. 5, 1744.

Peter⁶, born Aug. 30, 1746; died Jan. 24, 1749.

Margaret⁶, born March 19, 1747.

Hannah, the mother, died Aug. 10, 1751.

Capt. George⁵ Pynchon was again married to Abigail Pease, of Enfield, Conn.

Their children were—

Ebenezer⁶, born 1756; died 1759.

Henry⁶, born 1758; died 1759.

Henry⁶, born 1759.

Abigail⁶, born Jan., 1762.

Peter⁶, born Dec. 23, 1763.

Abigail⁶, the daughter, was married, June 19, 1780, to Jeremiah Platt.

Capt. George⁵ Pynchon died June 27, 1797.

Abigail, his widow, died Sept. 9, 1810.

Dr. Charles⁵ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of Col. John⁴ and Phebe⁴ Pynchon, was a thoroughly educated surgeon and physician; held through life a most extensive practice in all these parts, and was looked up to here as the eminent one of his day. He was army surgeon in the French and English wars, in 1745 and 1755; was a bosom friend of Col. Ephraim Williams, the founder of Williams college; was with him when he fell at the first fire at Fort Edward, New York; was one of the two surgeons into whose hands Baron Von Dieskau fell for treatment when wounded and held a prisoner by the English, and from whose hands the Baron went back as far as Paris, to die, some little time afterward.

I have in my possession a book of prescriptions, in parchment, used by him about a century and a half ago, and found by a friend of the family at a book-stall on a street corner in Boston, written in Latin, which differ somewhat from prescriptions of remedial agents at the present day, and which are somewhat grotesque and curious, but from which I conclude that all the wisdom did not die with that generation. His office was in the building, now standing, the second above Ferry, on Main street.

He was married, July 30, 1749, to Anna Dwight, of Hatfield.

Their children were—

Mary⁶, born Feb. 1, 1753; died in 1802.

Nancy⁶, or Anna, born 1754; died in 1797.

Mary⁶ was married to Hon. Samuel Lyman.

Nancy⁶ was married, in 1786, to Col. Joseph Williams, and died without issue.

Col. Charles⁵, or Doctor more usually called, died Aug. 9, 1783, aged 64 years.

Anna, his widow, died Dec. 22, 1802.

SIXTH GENERATION.

Major William⁶ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of William⁵ and Sarah⁵ Pynchon, was married, Nov. 13, 1766, to Lucy Harris, daughter of Lieut. Robert Harris and Bathshua, his wife.

Their children were—

Erastus⁷, born Oct. 19, 1767; died Dec. 24, 1816.

Stephen⁷, born Jan. 31, 1769; died Feb. 5, 1823.

Lois⁷, born Oct. 6, 1770; died Dec. 8, 1771.

Bathshua⁷, born July 27, 1772; died April 2, 1845.

Edward⁷, born Nov. 14, 1774; died March 17, 1830.

William⁷, born Dec. 11, 1776; died Aug. 12, 1847.

Joseph⁷, born Aug. 23, 1779; died May 31, 1815.

Lois⁷, born Jan. 1, 1782; died Jan. 3, 1783.

Bathshua⁷ was married to Rev. Ebenezer Gay, of Suffield; was a lady of rare beauty and of mental endowments, well educated and accomplished, of great goodness of heart, loved by all who knew her, and greatly lamented by all in death.

The children of Bathshua⁷ and Ebenezer Gay were—

Mary⁸, born 1802; married a second husband, Rev. Henry Robinson, of Guilford, Conn., who died there. His widow died April 18, 1885.

Lucy H. Gay, who married Rev. Thomas Palmer, of Suffield, died in 1872.

Major⁶ Pynchon died March 24, 1808, aged 69 years.

Lucy, his widow, died Feb. 7, 1814, aged 75 years.

John⁶ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of William⁵ and Sarah⁵ Pynchon, was married, Dec. 8, 1768, to Lucy Horton, daughter of Capt. John Horton and Mary, his wife.

Their children were—

John⁷, born Nov. 12, 1769.

Lucy⁷, born March 1, 1771.

Lucy⁷, born Dec. 16, 1772.

Daniel⁷, born March 3, 1775.

Daniel⁷, born Feb. 12, 1781.

Sally⁷, born May, 1783. Married Samuel Eastman, a

lawyer of Hardwick, Mass., and died in Springfield, Nov. 8, 1828.

This family, in the male line, is extinct. John⁶, the father, died March 4, 1826, aged 84 years.

SEVENTH GENERATION.

Edward⁷ Pynchon, of the seventh generation, son of Maj. William⁶ and Lucy⁶ Pynchon, married, March, 1816, Susan, daughter of David Ames and of Rebecca, his wife.

They had a son, born July 11, 1818, who died in infancy.

Edward⁷ Pynchon was for many years Register of Deeds and Treasurer of Hampden County, and died March 19, 1830, aged 56 years.

Susan Pynchon, his widow, died in Longmeadow, Oct. 18, 1872, at the age of 83 years.

William⁷ Pynchon, of Springfield, son of Maj. William⁶ and Lucy Pynchon, married Esther, daughter of Ebenezer Billings, of Greenfield, Mass., Dec. 3, 1812.

Their children were—

Sarah⁸, born Sept. 26, 1813; died March 3, 1843.

Joseph C.⁸, born March 3, 1815.

Daniel⁸, born Nov. 16, 1816; died June 13, 1871.

William⁸, born June 18, 1820.

Emily B.⁸, born Feb. 16, 1823.

John P.⁸, born Dec. 27, 1824. *Feb. 13 1888-*

William⁷, the father, died Aug. 12, 1847, aged 71 years.

Esther, his widow, died Sept. 5, 1878, at the remarkable age of 97 yrs., 5 mos.

Stephen⁷ Pynchon, son of Maj. William and Lucy Pynchon, was married, Jan. 10, 1799, to Sarah Trask, of Wales.

Their children were—

Lucy⁸, born in 1800; died March 14, 1876, unmarried.

William⁸, born Jan. 4, 1802; drowned in Mississippi, in 1823.

The first wife of James L.⁸ was Margaret Lodge, of Boston.
Second wife, Charlotte Elizabeth Warren, daughter of George
Warren, of Framingham, Mass.

Edward⁸, born March 27, 1803. He became a teacher in the south, and married Miss Lewis, a southern lady, by whom he had three or four children. He died in Alabama, June 24, 1868.

[The only male descendant of this branch of the family is Dr. Lewis⁹ Pynchon, son of Edward⁸, a surgeon in the Confederate army.]

Sarah⁸, born March 29, 1807; married William Bement, a clergyman of East Hampton; died in New York in 1854.

James L.⁸, merchant in Boston, born and died in Brimfield. Died Dec. 2, 1878.

Eliza⁸ was the next daughter, who married Augustus Welch, of Mississippi, and died, without issue, Oct. 17, 1840.

Charlotte⁸, the youngest daughter, married a Col. Ventris, and had several children, all losing their property during the civil war. She died May 12, 1877.

Stephen⁷, the father of this family, died Feb. 5, 1823.

Sarah⁷, his widow, died in 1856, aged 78 years.

EIGHTH GENERATION.

Joseph Charles⁸ Pynchon, son of William of the seventh generation, entered Amherst college in 1832, but finally graduated at Williams college in 1836. Studied medicine in Harvard and at New York university; practiced medicine three years in Springfield, and afterwards engaged in the business of banking and insurance.

He married Julia Mather Clapp, daughter of John Clapp, Esq., of Leicester, Mass., by whom he had four children, viz:

Helen Clapp⁹ Pynchon, born May 22, 1854, and died Dec. 19, 1855.

Edward⁹ Pynchon, born June 14, 1856.

James Holland⁹ Pynchon, born Aug. 2, 1858.

Joseph Flint⁹ Pynchon, born June 24, 1863.

Daniel⁸ Pynchon, son of William of the seventh generation, married Frances A. Tift, of Mystic, Conn.

Their children were—

Fanny F.⁹ Pynchon, who married Albert M. Day, of Springfield, merchant, and afterwards banker in Chicago.

Charles⁹ Pynchon, who died young in 1851.

Mary Cora Nellie⁹ Pynchon was born April, 1854, and married ~~Charles~~ Mallory, a ship merchant in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1874.

John⁹ Pynchon, the third son, was born June 11, 1856, and is in the coal trade in Milwaukee.

George M.⁹ Pynchon, the fourth son, was born Nov., 1862.

There was a second son, Clarence, who died in infancy.

Daniel⁶, the father, died, as before recorded, June 13, 1871. He was formerly a merchant in Albany, Ga., and afterwards in Springfield, where he died.

William⁸ Pynchon, son of William and Esther of the seventh generation, lives a farmer in Springfield, and married Louisa Jane Blodgett.

Their children were—

Sarah Louisa⁹, born Dec. 21, A. D. 1846; married J. Johnson, a merchant.

William Edward⁹, born Sept. 29, A. D. 1843; lives in Adrian, Mich.

Mary Holyoke⁹ Pynchon, born Nov. 9, 1857.

Dec 1
7. 1857
John P.⁶ Pynchon, youngest son of William⁷ and Esther, born, as before recorded, Dec. 27, 1824; was first a merchant in Cleveland, Ohio, and afterwards engaged in iron forging in Chicago, and married Marceline Donaldson, widow, A. D. 1882.

Pynchon
Emily B.⁸ ~~Bliss~~, second daughter of William⁷ and Esther Pynchon, married T. W. Bliss, merchant, and removed to Charleston, S. C.

Their children were—

Eliza R. Bliss, born Oct. 12, 1851.

Sarah P. Bliss, born Feb. 24, 1859.





CONCERNING THE HOLYOKE FAMILY.

Captain Elizur Holyoke married Mary, youngest daughter of William Pynchon, the pioneer of the Springfield colony, Nov. 20, A. D. 1640. She died Oct. 26, 1657.

Capt. Holyoke afterwards married a Mrs. John Maynard, already twice a widow.

He died Feb. 5, 1676, a few months after the burning of Springfield.

In the old burying ground at the foot of Elm street the remains of the Pynchon families were interred from time immemorial—all within a spot of perhaps three rods square, and within this space stood the double head-stone, now in the Pynchon lot in the new cemetery. The writer superintended the removal of these remains in the year 1849.

Beneath this stone, and deep in the white sand, on the banks of the Connecticut river, were found the remains of two lying side by side, with no others in close proximity. Is it too much to conjecture that these were the remains of Elizur and Mary Holyoke? Is it not natural that Mr. Holyoke's last wife should have been buried by the side of one of her former husbands, rather than within the Pynchon grounds; that he should have erected the double head-stone to his *first* wife after her death, and, dying afterwards, was laid by the side of *her* who was the wife of his early love—the mother of all his children—by the side of the Pynchon family, *with whom and by the side of whom* he had lived, from early manhood,* all the years

* Holyoke's homestead extended from what is now Bridge street to Worthington street, and went to the river. Pynchon's homestead lay next north, extending nearly to the railroad, and on this land stood the fort.

of his life? And is it not strange that no one of his descendants had taken pains to inscribe his name on the other side of the double-headed monument, or that no other stone was erected to mark the spot where he was laid?

These remains were found side by side, in the white sand, about six feet below the surface. This sand was discolored, and some few pieces of the skulls and other bones were found, while even the screws or nails of the coffins were wholly destroyed, their places being marked by the rust only, while no other vestige of the coffins remained. The few remains were gathered, which soon crumbled to dust on exposure to the air, and, with the surrounding earth, deposited in the new cemetery, after having lain in the old burying ground, in the case of Mary Holyoke, *one hundred and ninety-one years*.

Elizur Holyoke was easily the leading man of the colony, after his father-in-law, the pioneer. Mr. Pynchon leaned upon him for aid in all his negotiations with the Indians and in the general management of the colony. He was a magistrate, and an officer in the little army for the protection of the settlers against Indian incursions. He was one of the commissioners as well as surveyors of townships in all the Connecticut Valley, from Windsor, Ct., to Deerfield, Mass., whose skill, daring and enterprise were availed of in all the trying emergencies of the early settlers. He gave his name to Mount Holyoke—whence also the name of Holyoke, our neighboring city.

His son Samuel was a famous Indian fighter, and led the retreat of our forces after their disastrous defeat at Turner's Falls, and whose efforts on that occasion resulted in his early death.

Elizur's grandson, ——, was president of Harvard college, and his great-grandson was the famous Dr. Edward A. Holyoke, of Salem, who practiced medicine and surgery for seventy-nine continuous years, and died in 1829, within our memory, at the age of one hundred years and eight months.

LETTER

OF THE

"WORSHIPFUL MAJOR" JOHN PYNCHON,
TO HIS SON, JOSEPH PYNCHON, THEN IN LONDON, IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE BURNING OF SPRINGFIELD, BY THE INDIANS,
IN OCTOBER, 1675.

[Several towns had been destroyed by the Indians, under King Philip. Brookfield, Deerfield, Hatfield, Hadley, and other towns in the Valley, were either burned or threatened with complete annihilation. Major Pynchon was in command of the troops at Hadley, and fighting the Indians which infested it, when he was summoned home. Marching down Main street, he passed Ferry, now Cypress street. On the south-west corner of Main street (the spot now occupied by Clark Holbrook's meat market and Alexander's stove store), he found the house of Miles Morgan, as of all others, with one exception, in ruins. Continuing his march down to the old fort—his home—corner of Main and Fort streets (where Fort block now stands), he found it filled with women and children, all his barns, mills and outhouses burned, and most of the town in smoking ruins. It was under these disheartening circumstances that he penned the following letter, which I have thought worthy to be preserved by his descendants.]

SP., OCTO., 1675.

DEAR SON JOSEPH :

The sore contending of God with us, for our sins, unthankfulness for our former mercies, and unfaithfulness under our precious enjoyments, hath evidently demonstrated the He is very angry with this Country. God having given the heathen a large commission to destroy this People—And exceeding havock have they made in this Country, destroying two or three small places above Northampton and Hadley, and lately

they have fallen upon Springfield, and almost ruined it by burning of Houses. About 30 or 32 dwelling Houses are burnt down, and some 25 Barns full of corn and hay. The Lord hath spared my dwelling house, but my barns and out-housing are all burnt down, and all my corn and hay consumed, and not anything have I left of food either for man or beast. All my mills, both corn and saw-mills, are burnt down. Those at home in this Towne and also those I had in other places and four of those houses and barns to them, were burnt down in this Towne, belongeth to me also, so that God hath laid me low. My farmers also undone, and many in Towne that were in my debt, entirely disabled. So that I am really reduced to greate straites. But it is the Lord's good pleasure it should be so. And he is most Just and Righteous, yea in very faithfulness hath he done it, for the good of my Soule. I have not the least cause to murmur and repine, at the wise dispose of a Gracious God and loving father, but desire to acquiesce in his good pleasure, and to lye at his foote in holy submission to his blessed will.

This Providence and the unsettled state of this country in reference to this Indian War affords matter for consideration, in reference to your coming over, which I have much desired, and wrote to you for—but now shall leave you to your liberty, not having ground, or seeing cause to put you upon it, further than you shall yourself see reason for it. Though I and your mother should be exceeding glad to see you, yet as tymes are, question whether it be best to come over yet (I mean now) and how God may dispose of us I know not. We are yet here in Springfield, my house garrisoned with soldiers and full of troubles and hurrys. The Lord help us to remember our peace and quietness, and to lament our abuse thereof and heartily and really turne to himself, by unfeigned repentance. The Lord is in good earnest with us, and truly expects our being in good earnest with Him in returning to himselfe. Oh dear Son, how sweete is an interest in Christ Jesus, in these distracting tymes, and it is good knowing in whom we have believed. Treasure

in Heaven is abiding, when the greatest worldly enjoyments may soon fail us, and come to nothing. Let us therefore, while we have them, so use them, as not using them—setting loose from them, and being contented to part with all, when God calls for it. In the improving of the creature, to set loose from it, is a sweete and blessed frame, for I know it is a duty to look after and manage what God hath given us, and in that respect I may call on you to doe your best (in a way of prudence) to settle your Estate in England and in it to advise with Mr. Wichens and Bro. Smith, who I know will afford the best helpe they can, and doe as you are able. I am not able to afford you any helpe, but by the prayers I am always putting up for you, and as God shall enable shall be ready to do my utmost for you.

The Lord in many other ways be good to you and us. How He may deal with us I know not. Where his Providence may cast me, whither to Boston or further, or whether I may live to get out of this place, it is with himself and on that strong Rock I desire to depend for Salvation here and hereafter. I am in straites and hurrys, and may only add mine and your mothers endeared Love and Affection, to you, and with hearty wishes and prayers for you, I commend you to the grace of God in Christ Jesus, and am your afflicted and loving Father,

JOHN PYNCHON.

P. S.

DEAR SON: I should not have you troubled at these sad losses which I have met with. There is no reason for a child to be troubled when his Father calls in that which he lent him. It was the Lord that sent it to me, and he that gave it hath taken it away; and blessed be the name of the Lord. He hath done very well for me, and I acknowledge his goodness to me, and desire to trust in him and submit to him forever, and do you with me, acknowledge and justify Him.

REMARKS.

The compiler of this genealogy of the Pynchon family thought it a duty he owed to said family to make its history as complete as possible, and to pass it on to future generations. It seemed a pity, while so much care had been taken by his progenitors to preserve the line complete, from Nicholas Pynchon, high sheriff of London, under the reign of King Henry VIII., and from about the year 1515 down to the present time, that I should neglect to add what little I could to this history and genealogy. I have not been able to trace the collateral branches, but there are many others in this vicinity as well as in more distant places, who have some connection of blood and of kindred, in a nearer or remoter degree, who can, with the parent stem preserved, easily trace the branches, if in the future they should care to do so, and thus go back to their origin. What I have done has no merit. I have simply made use of what has been done, in the way of research, by others. It was reserved for the eighth generation to be the iconoclasts, who demolished the old fort, and partitioned and sold out the remaining ancestral lands, to be enjoyed by others. I feel that I have simply done, in a small way, a pious duty, and have done it, at that, most imperfectly.

I wish to acknowledge that I have been aided by notes of Judge Henry Morris, presented by him, and read before the Connecticut Valley Historical Association, of this city, whose labors and researches have done so much to enlighten us as to the early history of this ancient town, and of the Connecticut Valley. To the later descendants of the Pynchon family he has been an invaluable teacher, and they owe to him a debt of gratitude which can scarcely be repaid.

JOS. C. PYNCHON.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., May, 1885.

