

**A PRELIMINARY
GENEALOGY OF
THE DYAR FAMILY**

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A Preliminary Genealogy of the Dyar Family by Harrison Gray Dyar

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HARRISON GRAY DYAR

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PREPARED BY HARRISON GRAY DYAR.

NOTICE.

Though the following data are incomplete, it is desired to put them on record in printed form, principally for distribution to members of the family, in order that they may see what is known and furnish further facts and dates that may be known to them. In the compilation here presented I would acknowledge the co-operation of Messrs. Daniel Everett Dyar, Daniel Thomas Dyar, Miss Eva Ann Dyar, Mrs. Mary Dyar McLean, and Judge Daniel W. Bond, besides many others who have courteously replied to our inquiries and copied family records. Those possessing additional facts are requested to communicate them to either Mr. D. E. Dyar, 101 Woodside Avenue, Winthrop Center, Mass., or to Dr. Harrison G. Dyar, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.

HARRISON G. DYAR.

April 1, 1903.



A PRELIMINARY GENEALOGY OF THE DYAR FAMILY.

The name Dyer is a common one in America, but only rarely has the modification of the spelling into Dyar taken place. The only instance of importance that is known to me is that occurring in the line here partially treated, which took place about the year 1700.

The name is an old English one, formerly spelled Dyer or Dyre. Dyers were settled in Gastonbury, Somersetshire, before the Conquest. After the defeat of the Saxons at Senlac, near Hastings, Siward Dyer and his two sons, Siward Beam and Wright, returned to Gastonbury. Siward Dyre was Earl of Northumbria about 1036. He was descended from Alfred the Great, and is said to have been the original of the Siward of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Sir James Dyer, of Round Hill, Somersetshire, was Speaker of the House of Commons and Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in the time of Queen Elizabeth. He died at Staunton, Hunterdonshire, in 1581, without issue, the baronetcy descending to a nephew. Sir Richard Dyer, of Wincanton, Somersetshire, is also mentioned. The last of the baronets of Great Staughton, descended from him, died in 1776, and the representation of the baronetcy passed to America, but has not been claimed. Several Dyers came from England to America in the very early days of colonization. It is with Thomas Dyer, of Shipton Mallett, near Gastonbury, Somersetshire, that the line here traced starts. He came to New England about 1635 and settled in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

FIRST GENERATION.

I. THOMAS DYER, 1612-1676.

Born at Shipton Mallett, in Somersetshire, near Gastonbury, in England, in 1612. He came to New England in 1632 according to one record, though it was probably later, but before 1640. Agnes Reed,* whom he had courted in England, moved to America with her parents, and Thomas went down to the ship

*Or Alice Read, according to the Poole genealogy (Ithaca, N. Y., 1893).

to say farewell, but was induced to accompany them, which he did without returning to take leave of his own family. He married Agnes Reed in 1640, settled in Weymouth, Mass., where his eight children were born. His wife died December 4, 1667. He married again Elizabeth Frasy, who was a widow before marriage and outlived him. He was a cloth worker by trade. Was freeman in Weymouth in 1644, a deacon in the church under the Rev. Samuel Torrey, and died November 6, 1676, leaving "a very good estate" (£2103 14 7) to his widow, children, and each of his grandchildren. The will of Elizabeth Dyer, his widow, who died December 19, 1678 (will probated at Boston, 1679), mentions her son, Abraham Harding, daughters, Elizabeth Addams and Prudence. Her son, John Harding, of Medfield, and Joseph Dyer, of Weymouth, were executors. His children were:

Mary, born July 6, 1641, died October 23, 1716.	2
John, born July 10, 1643, died June 2, 1696.	3
Thomas, born March 29, 1645, died in youth.	4
Abigail, born July 9, 1647, died —.*	5
Sarah, born March 10, 1649, died May 2, 1687.	6
Thomas, born May 5, 1651, died March 27, 1673.	7
Joseph, } born November 6, 1653.	8
Benjamin, } (died October 12, 1704.	8
	(died December 29, 1718.
	9

SECOND GENERATION.

2. MARY DYER, 1641-1716.

Born in Weymouth, Mass., and married Samuel White of that place. She had no children.

3. JOHN DYER, 1643-1696.

Born in Weymouth, Mass., where he lived, but removed to Boston about 1670. He was an ironmonger by trade. He was twice married. First to Mary Bicknell about 1668, by whom he had five children. She died July 21, 1677, aged 28 years. He married again about 1678, Elizabeth —, by whom he had six children. He died June 2, 1696, and his estate was administered by his widow and eldest son, John. His children were:

Thomas, born February 17, 1669, died in youth.	10
John, born February 29, 1672, died —.	11
Thomas, born September 18, 1673, died in youth.	12
Samuel, born July 19, 1675, died in youth.	13
Benjamin, born July 15, 1677, died —.	14
Elizabeth, born May 6, 1679, died —.	15
Nathaniel, born October 17, 1681, died in youth.	16
Mary, born June 3, 1683, died September 5, 1759.	17
Samuel, born October 13, 1685, died in youth.	18
Joseph, born March 2, 1687, died —.	19
Sarah, born February 6, 1692, died —.	20

* A dash indicates that a date or name is lacking.

5. ABIGAIL DYER, 1647—.

She was born in Weymouth, Mass., and married Lieut. Jacob Nash of that place. She had eleven children and fifty-nine grandchildren.

6. SARAH DYER, 1649-1687.

Born in Weymouth, Mass. She married John Ruggles, and had one son, Benjamin (born August 11, 1676, died September 7, 1708), who was minister of Suffield. John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame, is a descendant.

7. THOMAS DYER, 1651-1673.

He was born in Weymouth, Mass. According to Col. Asa White, who wrote in 1803, he "settled in Plymouth and left a posterity there," but I have been unable to trace it.

8. JOSEPH DYER, 1653-1704.

Born in Weymouth, Mass., where he settled. He was freeman in 1678, and a deacon of the church. He was twice married; first to Hannah Frazy, by whom he had three children. She died October 27, 1682. His second wife was Hannah Baxter, who outlived him, dying September 19, 1726. His will, made in 1701, names his brother, Benjamin Dyer, and Rev. Joseph Baxter overseers. His children were:

Hannah, born February 22, 1677, died in youth.	21
Elizabeth, born November 30, 1680, died —.	22
Hannah, born October 10, 1682, died in youth.	23
Hannah, born February 13, 1684, died —.	24
Joseph, born June 19, 1686, died in youth.	25
Benjamin, born April 13, 1688, died February 12, 1774.	26
Mary, born April 12, 1690, died in youth.	27
John, born April 9, 1692, died February 25, 1779.	28
Thomas, born April 15, 1694, died May 27, 1766.	29
Mary, born October 30, 1696, died October 24, 1697.	30
Ebenezer, born July 7, 1698, died in youth.	31
Samuel, born May 15, 1699, died in youth.	32
Mehitable, born June 1, 1700, died —.	33
Sarah, born August 29, 1702, died —, 1754.	34

9. BENJAMIN DYER, 1653-1718.

He was a soldier in King Philip's War, 1675-'6. He married Mary — and settled in Boston, living one time on Brattle street. He was a freeman in Boston in 1675. His wife died March 15, 1690, and he married Hannah Odlin, December 10, 1691. By her he had ten children. His will was probated at Boston in 1719. His children were:

Hannah, born September 27, 1692, died —.	35
Thomas, born November 7, 1693, died —.	36
Abigail, born April 7, 1695, died —.	37
Margaret, born November 21, 1696, died —, 1735.	38
John, born November 21, 1698, died April 13, 1723.	39
Benjamin, born November 27, 1700, died —, 1775.	40
Joseph, born September 27, 1702, died —.	41
Mary, born November 14, 1704, died October —, 1721.	42
Elisha, born March 31, 1707, died April 10, 1739.	43
Sarah, born December 13, 1708, died —.	44

THIRD GENERATION.

11. JOHN DYER, 1672—.

He married Hannah Morton, June 6, 1694. The record of this line is too incomplete for the usual treatment. Sons were probably William, John and Charles. William married Hannah Cotton Phillips about 1730, and Hannah Howland about 1735. His children were William (1731), Hannah (1736), and Hannah (1737). The last married Stephen Miller, of Milton, and had nine children. John married Hannah Morton in 1734 and had a son, John, born in 1735, who married Mary Barnes in 1757, with son, John, born in 1758. Charles married Lucy Cotton and had a son, Charles (1738), and daughter, Lucy (1741). The son married Bethiah Cotton and bought land in Plymouth, Mass., in 1774. His children were Charles, Mary, Lucy, Martha Cotton, Margaret and Bethiah. The first two were not married; Lucy married Joseph Bartlett, Martha Cotton married Joseph Holmes, while Margaret and Bethiah both married Jeremiah Holbrook.

17. MARY DYER, 1683-1759.

She was married December 5, 1705, to Benjamin Kettell, of Charlestown, and had eight children.

19. JOSEPH DYER, 1687—.

He was born in Boston and became a mariner. He was married to Lydia Hough, December 19, 1717, by the Rev. John Webb. In this year he bought a house on Hepburn Lane, and with his mother and three sisters sold four acres of marsh in Charlestown, but subsequent records are lacking. He probably died early, perhaps not far from 1720. His wife survived till 1774; her will, probated August 4 of that year, mentions her son, Joseph, and granddaughter, Lydia. Here originates the spelling DYAR. His children were:

Joseph, born February 7, 1719, died —, 1780.

William, born April 15, 1721, died —.

45

46

22. ELIZABETH DYER, 1680—.

She was born in Weymouth, Mass., and married Alexander Lord (or Lovell?), of Medfield. She had ten children, born between 1702 and 1724.

24. HANNAH DYER, 1684—.

She was born in Weymouth, Mass., and married David Carver, of that place. Three children are recorded.

26. BENJAMIN DYER, 1688-1774.

Was born in Weymouth, Mass., where he lived. He married Sarah Sawyer, of Hingham, Mass., June 24, 1708. He left a

will which was probated at Boston in 1774, in which he remembered his wife, Sarah, her brother, Jonathan Gulliver (this must have been a brother of his son-in-law, not of his wife); his daughters, Mary Rawson and Sarah, and his grandson, Asa White. His wife died shortly before him, October 12, 1773. His children were:

Joseph, born August 8, 1711, died August 20, 1774.	47
Hannah, born February 20, 1714, died (after 1803?).	48
Sarah, born October 30, 1716, died September 1, 1719.	49
Mary, born April 8, 1719, died March 19, 1784.	50
Sarah, born February 11, 1723, died October 14, 1726.	51
Sarah, born July 7, 1728, died March 17, 1803.	52

28. JOHN DYER, 1692-1779.

He was born in Weymouth, Mass., but went to Windham, Conn., with his brother Thomas. He sold out his holdings to his brother and went to Canterbury where he settled and left descendants. He married Abigail Fitch, October 22, 1713, by whom he had eight children. Subsequently he married Joanna Christophus Leffingwell, a widow. His children were:

Sibyl, born October 26, 1714, died —.	53
Elijah, born September 10, 1716, died —.	54
Abigail, born April 10, 1718, died —.	55
James, born February 16, 1720, died —.	56
John, born May 9, 1722, died —.	57
Joseph, born February 5, 1724, died —.	58
Sarah, born November 14, 1727, died —.	59
Ebenezer, born September 17, 1729, died —, 1757.	60

29. THOMAS DYER, 1694-1766.

He was born in Weymouth, Mass., but was in Windham, Conn., in 1715, the year he attained his majority. He bought land and settled there. He was a shoemaker by trade; became a selectman in the church, and a colonel in the French and Indian war. He married Lydia Backus, October 24, 1717, and had four children. Subsequently he married Mehitable Gardiner, and third, Mrs. Sarah Walden. His children were:

Mary, born January 31, 1718, died May 27, 1802.	61
Eliphalet, born September 14, 1721, died May 13, 1807.	62
Lydia, born July 12, 1724, died July 3, 1790.	63
Eunice, born June 1, 1727, died October 25, 1751.	64

34. SARAH DYER, 1702-1754.

She was born in Weymouth, Mass., and married David Morse, of Natick, Mass. She had ten children.

36. THOMAS DYER, 1693—.

He was born in Boston, Mass. A Thomas Dyer, of Boston, a mariner, perhaps this one, married Mary Vine. The children were: