

**THE HISTORY AND GENEALOGY
OF THE PRENTICE, OR
PRENTISS FAMILY, IN NEW
ENGLAND, FROM 1631 TO 1852**

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The History and Genealogy of the Prentice, or Prentiss Family, in New England, from 1631 to 1852 by C. J. F. Binney

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C. J. F. BINNEY

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Prentice or Prentiss Family,
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FROM 1631 TO 1852.

COLLECTED BY
C. J. F. BINNEY.

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P R E F A C E.

The Editor and Publisher, after freely offering his materials to several of the Prentice or Prentiss name, was induced, at their urgent request, to undertake this work, and to have five hundred copies printed, and hopes that the surplus — two hundred copies — will be taken, that the expenses of publication may be repaid, and he relies on those interested to aid him.

Where the Editor personally examined Town, Church, Bible, or other records, he has endeavored to be accurate: where the information was derived from others, it is as received. Authorities are named, unless overlooked. Errors will arise in such a work. Lists of many families were sent to him without dates, &c., or explanation of relationship to others. On many old records of the children's births, the mother's Christian name only is mentioned. These omissions leave many blanks, for each family to fill up; and if made known to the writer, can be corrected in a future edition, if ever called for. The account of many families, of old date, is imperfect, as it was impossible to obtain information. What there is, will be a starting point for an accurate account by each family.

It is to be regretted that so few old portraits could be found, and that more of those of the present generation could not be induced to have their portraits inserted for the gratification of their friends and successors, who would prize them much. We consider a portrait of a deceased relative, or an old ancestor, as invaluable.

The portraits and views were furnished at his request, and are all that could be obtained. The associations and memories of childhood, called up by a view of the "Old Homestead," would be an oasis in the desert of life.

The information regarding our ancestors, that he has endeavored to rescue from the dust of more than a century, and to preserve from oblivion, he hopes will be pleasing to those interested. He has tried to keep in mind the meaning of the motto of the Prentice Arms, "Right — and Forward."

Many of the Prentice or Prentiss family, have been an ornament to Franklin's profession. The editor has been much indebted to the unwearied aid of Messrs. Henry Prentiss Lewis and Henry J. Prentiss, during the progress of this work through the press.

Wishing the virtues of those of the name now departed, may continue to flourish

"When that this [work] shall considered be by time,"

he now introduces the past to the present.

BOSTON, APRIL 15, 1852.

EXPLANATION.

Each individual of a Family is numbered (in parenthesis) in regular rotation. Should the name again appear, it can thus be traced back.

The Roman numerals designate the children of each family in succession.

The small figures at the end of each name, give the generation, from a common ancestor of that branch; when the chain of descent is broken, or the origin is doubtful, that number is omitted.

By following this plan, the work can be continued and extended, by continuing the numbers, as other families arise.

The letter *b.* is for born; *bap.* for baptised.

An Index to the heads of families, and other names, may be found at the end of the volume.

The dates are given as found on records, &c., without regard to Old or New Style.

In Old Style, the year began March 25, which was called the 1st month. The New Style, invented by Pope Gregory XIII., in 1582, was gradually adopted by other countries, (except Russia, Greece, and the East generally,) and by Great Britain and her Colonies in America, 14th (3) September, 1752, and commenced January 1, 1752, which was called the Historical year, and was added to the Legal year in double dating, between January 1st and 25th March — as on page 12: March 8, 1663-4. On page 133, 22, 8, 1648, Old Style, means 22d day of 31 month, (May.) [See Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff's Time Tables, for private distribution, Boston, 1850.]

The Prentice or Prentiss Family.

This name is an old one in England. In Rhymer's *Foedera*, vol. 3, page 730, mention is made of Thomas Prentiz, Anno Domini 1318, An. 12, Ed. 2. "De Tribus Sarplar Lanæ pretii triginta Librarium Sterlingorum," &c. Also, Richard Prentiz, vol. 8, page 294, A. D. 1403, An. 4, H. 4. "De Joculibus et Vestimentis Capellæ Regis." Also, John Prentys, Rector of Winterborn, Bradston, Aug. 22, 1413, and Prebendary of York, North Newbold, which he resigned Aug. 22, 1423.

The name in this country is believed to have been originally spelt *Prentice*. Some branches spell it *Prentiss*, some *Prentis*. In the following pages, the names of the different branches are spelt as found, or written by themselves, when known, otherwise written *tice*. I am told that Capt. Thomas P. of Newton, usually wrote it *tice*. Henry P., Sen., of Cambridge, Mass., and descendants, spelt it *tice*.

The first one of the name yet found in America was VALENTINE PRENTICE, who came over with the "Apostle" Elliot, in 1631, with his wife, Alice, and son, John, (another child having died on the passage,) and settled in Roxbury, Mass. It is supposed that VALENTINE, of Roxbury, HENRY,

of Cambridge, and Capt. THOMAS, of Newton, Mass., and perhaps ROBERT, of Roxbury, were connected in some way.

THOMAS PRENTICE resided in the family of Lt. Col. Roger Harlakenden, in Cambridge, and had a legacy of 40s. at H.'s death, in 1638. This is supposed to be the Capt. THOMAS PRENTICE, of Newton, Mass., who was in King Philip's war.

ROBERT PRENTICE resided in Roxbury, and was buried, per Church records, 3, 12, 1665, and appears to have been connected with Capt. Thomas Prentice, of Newton, who presented and deposed to his Inventory, on Probate Court, Boston, records, dated 7, 12, 1665.

Capt. THOMAS PRENTICE, of Newton, (formerly part of Cambridge,) came from England with his wife, Grace, and daughter, Grace. They joined the Cambridge Church, 1652. "Their child, Grace, baptised in England, and 4 years old when they joined this Church."

HENRY PRENTICE, Planter, of Cambridge, Mass., in 1640. His first wife was Elizabeth; his second was Joan or Joanna.

THOMAS PRENTICE, 2d, was in Newton 1659. His wife was Rebecca, daughter of Edward Jackson, Sen. She was born in England.

JAMES PRENTICE, Sen., was also in Newton in 1659, and he and Thomas 2d bought their farms together in that year, and were probably brothers. What connection there was between these seven is yet unknown. I shall give what account I have collected of each of these and their descendants.

As there is no other account of ROBERT PRENTICE, previously mentioned, the following is extracted from the Inventory of his Estate, on Boston Probate Court records, date 7, 12mo., 1665. He was buried 3d, 12mo., 1665.* "The

* Roxbury First Church records.

Inventory, appraised by Wm. Parks and Edward Dennison, mentions a house and two acres of land, bought of John Perry, with orchard and barn, £30. His dwelling-house and orchard, £30, more land, a number of animals, farming utensils, &c., a bull stagge at Capt. Prentice's, land at Gravelly Point, and fresh meadow, near Dorchester sheep-pen: rights in the 1,000 acres, next Dedham 29 acres, &c. Due 'Father' * Palmeto,† for expences about the estate. Due for Physic to Mr. (Dr. John) Alcock.‡ Due Dea. Wm. Peake and Shubael Seaver. Due by Capt. Isaac Johnson, Robert Pierpont, Gilbert, of Boston, Lewis, of Nahaway, Peter Gardner; and to John Stebbins, Thomas Hayley, Deacon Park, Robert Scayer, Tobyas Davis, Wm. Peacock, John Weld, Mr. Bracket, of Boston, Wm. Curtis, Robert Pepper, Mr. (Edward) Rawson, for Administration. Total Inventory, £174 16s. 5d. Debts, £29 4s. 6d. Capt. Thomas Prentice deposed in Court, April 26, 1666, 'that this paper contains a true Inventory of the Estate of the late Robert Prentice; that when he knows more he will disclose it.' — Ed. Rawson, Recorder."

The above is all there is relative to Robert P. on these records.‡

* The term "Father" Palmeto, refers to his age and standing.

† John Parmenter, sometime Deacon at Sudbury, Æ. 83, was buried 1d. 3mo. 1671. "Old Mother" Annis P. widow of John Parmenter, died Mar. 15, 1683. "A blessed saint" (or sister) "was buried 17d. 1mo. 1683."—[Church and Town records, Roxbury.] She had three husbands.

‡ Mr. John Alcock, Physician, died in Boston, 27d. 1mo. 1667, but was brought home and buried (by his wife) 29th day, Æ. 40. [Church records, Roxbury.]

[This Robert Prentice was one of the signers of the Roxbury petition, dated 25d. 8mo. 1664, to Hon. Gov., Dep'y Gov., and the rest of the Hon. Magistrates and H. of Deputies in Gen'l Court, about the infringement of their privileges in their patent.—[Note, page 394, vol. 5, 1851, His. Gen. Register.]