

THE JOHN BRIDGE FAMILY

FIRST GENERATION

1. JOHN¹ BRIDGE came from England in 1631, a widower. His sister, Elizabeth, who married John Betts of Cambridge, may have come at the same time. He married in 1658 (marriage contract dated Nov. 29, 1658), his second wife, MRS. ELIZABETH, widow of Martin Saunders of Braintree, who had previously been the wife of Roger Bancroft of Cambridge. She apparently had no children. After the death of John Bridge, she married her fourth husband, Edward Taylor of Boston, and was living in 1685.

The only children of John Bridge, of whom we have any knowledge, were his two sons, who were born in England and came over with their father. He died April 15, 1665, his will being proved Oct. 3, 1665, in which he mentions his wife, Elizabeth; his son, Matthew; and his granddaughter, Dorcas, daughter of Thomas Bridge, his second son. For characterization see *Introduction*.

Children:

2. i. MATTHEW² BRIDGE, b. in England about 1615.
3. ii. THOMAS, b. in England.

ELIZABETH BRIDGE, a sister of John Bridge, probably came over with her brother. She married JOHN BETTS of Cambridge, who came to New England in 1634 at the age of forty years. Before 1639 he purchased a house, which in 1662 he sold to John Shepard. In 1642, besides many other lots of land, he owned about an acre fronting the Common, which he sold to Harvard College in 1661. Dane Hall stands on the southern part of this lot. He died Feb. 21, 1662-3. His wife died Jan. 2, 1663-4. In her will she devises house to her brother John, and trifling legacies to a large number of friends, but does not mention any children.

WILL OF JOHN BRIDGE, THE PURITAN

"After my soul and body comitted to God, I give my wife her covent made with her before mariage, *Provided* that she take the house that was Jno Betts, with six acres of land upon Strawberry Hill, at a valuable price, being part of her covenant. I give to my Grand-child, Dorcas Bridge all that was her mothers, brass, Pewter, linnen, woollen, house-hold stuffe, and whatsoever

is wanting to be made up according to her mothers Inventory in the Court rolls. Also, I give unto Dorcas Bridge foure pounds which Sister Betts gave unto her. I give unto Mathew Bridge all my land and houses that I now dwell in & possesse, here about the Town Marsh in the great marsh, upland and plowland, for the Terme of his life & no longer, but then to be disposed of for the use of the children that are now, to the eldest, a double part, & the rest all alike.

I give to my sonne Mathew all my goods and Cattell & house hold stufte whatsoever. I ordaine & make Mathew Bridge my Executo^r.

Exhibited in Court at Cambridge, Octob. 3, 1665. By Mathew Bridge, to whom the Court granted admstracon of the estate of ye above sd. John Bridge, Deced.

An Inventory of all the estate reall and personally w^{ch} did belong unto Deacon Jno Bridge lately deced. Prised 11 2^m 1665. By Jno. Cooper & Rl: Eccles.

	£	s.	d.
Implements Dwelling House, barne, Orchard,			
yards Wood lott & towne privileges at	60.		
15 acres of land	60.		
5 acres of marsh & upland joyneing	18.		
12 acres of marsh joyneing to Mr. Haugh's			
farm	36.		
A division of land on the South side the river	6.		
6 accrs of land on the South side of the river	6.		
1 Dwelling House in the Towne	30.		
A man servant's time	16.		
In goods chattells & cattell, as by articles set			
downe in the Inventory.	140.	03	06
	372.	03	06

Exhibited in Court by Mathew Bridge administrator to the estate of the above Jno Bridge, deced, and by him attested on oath Octob 3, 1665, and is here entred By Thomas Danforth Recordr.

SECOND GENERATION

2. MATTHEW² BRIDGE (*John*¹), born in England about 1615; died in Lexington, Apr. 28, 1700, *aged 85 years*; married Jan. 19, 1643, ANNA, daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Symmes) Danforth, born about 1620; was baptized Nov. 3, 1622; died Dec. 9, 1704, *aged 84 years*.

Matthew Bridge seems to have done, in good part, the service for Lexington which his father rendered to Cambridge.

Crowded as, almost from the first, the New Towne settlers felt themselves, with Charlestown, Boston and Watertown pressing so close upon three sides of them, the Cambridge Proprietors soon looked for new lands toward their northwest.

As early as 1643, John Bridge cut grass on a lot he owned at Vine Brook, or "Cambridge Farms," as Lexington was then called. These lots were bounded by other earlier improved lands of his. This fact leads Mr. Hudson to suppose that even so early Matthew had gone to the Farms to live. But Mr. Paige's opinion seems more trustworthy — that he lived, probably until about 1668, at the corner of Main and Brattle Streets, in Cambridge, on land which he bought in 1657 and which he sold to Captain Pyam Blowers in 1672. At this last date, certainly, he had left, as it was at that time occupied by Reuben Luxford.

At the time of his probable removal to Lexington, Matthew was one of the largest landholders of the precinct. As early as 1648, he owned at least four hundred acres there.

In 1683, he sold his father's homestead to John Marrett and thus cut the last strong material tie that bound him to the old Cambridge home. For fifteen or twenty years before that time, he had energetically served the new settlement; and when the town was organized in 1692, he helped in its organization, as before, when the meeting-house was built, he contributed as largely as any to build that — more largely than any but three.

When the first parish tax was laid, one finds the four leading taxpayers to have been Samuel Stone, William Munroe, Benjamin Muzzey and Matthew Bridge.

It is noteworthy that the community at Cambridge was, from its general intelligence for which it was distinguished, or on some other account, but little troubled by presumed cases of witchcraft; and that, in perhaps the only important instance of supposed possession, the victims were declared innocent. Two certificates to the Christian character of Winnefret Holman, and to her

evident freedom from all signs of possession, are presented, which we may suppose released her from danger. These are now valuable witnesses of the good sense and intelligence of John Palfrey and of Matthew Bridge, who are prominent signers of the one, and of Anna (Danforth) Bridge, Elizabeth Bridge and John Bridge, who signed the other.

In 1643, Matthew became a member of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company," and in the same year he married Anna, daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Symmes) Danforth.

He was truly a most honorable successor to his father. It was his good fortune to marry into one of the finest families that Old England ever furnished New England. The Danforth family was truly of a remarkable stock, highly educated, well off in worldly goods, capable of progressive business activities, and religiously cultured far beyond the average of their English neighbors. Crossing the Atlantic, they settled first in Salem, Mass., but found, as they believed, that the place was inhospitable and they therefore removed to locations much nearer Boston, though Boston was by no means for many years a chosen location for them.

Nicholas Danforth is described as a man who fled from England, in part at least, to escape from the burden of being knighted, which position King Charles demanded of all persons having a certain income. Though possessed of a fine property, he abandoned it all for freedom of conscience and liberty to serve God as his judgment might dictate.

We are by no means able to affirm that John Bridge, the Puritan, and Nicholas Danforth, the Puritan, were intimates in the motherland, but they readily and speedily became such through their religious, personal and family association soon after reaching their New England home.

In 1635, Nicholas Danforth bought landed property in Cambridge from at least five different landowners. He resided on what is now called Bow Street, near Mount Auburn Street. He became a Representative to the General Court in 1635; he assisted in laying out the boundaries of Roxbury, Dedham and Dorchester, and when Harvard College was inaugurated at Cambridge, Mr. Danforth was elected, Nov. 20, 1637, as one of the Inauguration Committee. He died in 1638. His wife had preceded him in death in 1628. He had at least four sons and daughters, for we know that Andrew Belcher married Elizabeth Danforth on Oct. 1, 1639, and that Anne Danforth married Matthew Bridge, Jan. 19, 1643.

Anne Danforth was born in England, about 1622, as was her husband; she was baptized in Framlingham, England, Sept. 3,

1622; died in Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 9, 1704, *aged 82 years*. For the last thirty years of her life, she resided with her husband in Lexington, Mass., where he became a leading citizen. Her children and grandchildren became eminent in their several spheres and also in their marriages.

Nicholas Danforth, son of Thomas, and grandson of Thomas, father of a distinguished line, and himself an honored man, came from Framlingham, England, County of Suffolk, in 1634. His wife, Elizabeth Symmes, died at her English home on Feb. 22, 1629. She was the daughter of Rev. William Symmes, whose father William, with his wife, suffered during Queen Mary's reign. Her brother, Rev. Zechariah Symmes, came over in 1634, and was settled in Charlestown.

For these facts concerning Mrs. Danforth and her parents, the editor is indebted to the "Genealogy of the Danforth Family," published in 1902, which gives a complete history of that distinguished family.

Children born in Cambridge, Mass.:

4. i. JOHN² BRIDGE, b. June 15, 1645; d. in Boston, in 1672.
- ii. ANNE, b. in 1647.
- iii. MARTHA, b. Jan. 19, 1648-9; d. Feb. 15, 1649-50.
5. iv. MATTHEW, b. May 5, 1650.
- v. SAMUEL, b. Feb. 17, 1652-3; d. Feb. 25, 1672-3.
- vi. THOMAS, b. June 1, 1656; d. Mar. 28, 1672-3.
6. vii. ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 17, 1659.

There are standing in the old burying-ground, Cambridge, pieces of the original stones, in fairly good condition, placed there in 1672-3, with inscriptions on same, of the birth and death of Samuel and Thomas.

3. THOMAS² BRIDGE (*John*¹), born in England; came to this country with his father, in 1631; died March, 1656, at about the same time as his wife. Her name was DORCAS; her parentage has not been discovered. Only one child can be traced to Thomas and Dorcas Bridge. Thomas became a member of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company," in 1643, and was made a Freeman in 1648.

The following is on record in the Cambridge, Mass., Book of Deeds, Wills, etc.:

"10. 1st mo. The Inventory of the goods and chattels of Thomas Bridge and his wife of Cambridge, late deceased —

75 items of household goods and wearing apparalls. The whole sum in 46£ 1s. 10d.

Richard Jackson

Thomas Marrett

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11. PHEBE, b. May 11, 1829.
5. ANN, b. Oct. 27, 1736; d. Jan. 2, 1762; m. Dec. 22, 1761, WILLIAM BOWES, of Boston; b. Jan. 2, 1734, d. in London, England, Apr. 1805, *aged 71 years*. He m. (II), Sarah Stoddard. Said to have had several children. Her first husband was a son of Nicholas Bowes and Lucy (Hancock) Bowes, of Lexington and Bedford. [See 7-4 Dorcas Bridge].
9. v. JOSEPH, b. July 8, 1698.
10. vi. JOHN, b. Sept. 1, 1700.
- vii. ELIZABETH, b. Nov. 30, 1703; d. in Boston, Jan. 19, 1751. Unm.
11. viii. SAMUEL, b. Mar. 2, 1705.
- ix. MARTHA, b. Sept. 20, 1707; d. in Boston, Apr. 20, 1752. Unm.
- Elizabeth and Martha Bridge lived, after their father's decease, with their energetic and faithful sister, Abigail Whitney, who, early deprived of her husband, continued his business with the success she deserved, and wisely and well conducted the education of her children. See "Account of Descendants of John and Elinor Whitney," and especially "Incidents in the life of Samuel Whitney," and an account of his descendants by "Henry Austin Whitney, Esq." which last is "privately printed."

6. ELIZABETH³ BRIDGE (2. *Matthew*², *John*¹), b. Aug. 17, 1659; married (I), Jan. 17, 1677-8, his second wife, CAPTAIN BENJAMIN, son of Edward Garfield, Jr., and of Rebecca, his first wife, born in 1643. He was a notable citizen of Watertown in his day, a Representative of Watertown nine times, between 1689 and 1717 and held numerous municipal appointments. He was admitted Freeman Apr. 18, 1690.

From Elizabeth descended, in the seventh generation, James Abram Garfield, the late President of the United States. For the President's line of descent, which was from Thomas, their oldest son, see Appendix I. Benjamin Garfield died Nov. 28, 1717, *aged 74 years*, and Elizabeth married as her second husband, Oct. 25, 1720, DANIEL, son of Robert and Susanna (George) Harrington, b. Nov. 1, 1657; died Apr. 19, 1728, *aged 71 years*.

Children:

- i. ELIZABETH⁴ GARFIELD, b. June 30, 1679.
- ii. THOMAS (Lieut.), b. Dec. 12, 1680; d. in Weston, Feb. 4, 1752, *aged 72 years*; m. Jan. 24, 1706-7, MERCY, dau. of Joshua and Elizabeth (Flagg) Bigelow, b. in 1686; d. Feb. 28, 1744-5.

Children:

1. ELIZABETH⁵ GARFIELD, b. Aug. 10, 1708; m. Sept. 1, 1738, SAMUEL BROOKS of Concord.
2. EUNICE, b. Aug. 23, 1710; m. Dec. 12, 1734, EBENEZER HOBBS, of Weston. He d. Oct. 9, 1762.

5. JOHN COLBURN, b. Sept. 20, 1810.
6. LYDIA, b. Nov. 19, 1812.
7. LUCY ANN, b. Feb. 13, 1818.
10. REBECCA, b. Nov. 11, 1774.
11. ENOCH, b. Nov. 16, 1777; m. (I), MARY ———; d. Oct. 29, 1802; (II), Nov. 7, 1805, NANCY JONES.
Children:
 1. MARY⁷ GARFIELD, b. Mar. 11, 1800.
 2. GEORGE, b. Dec. 31, 1801.
 3. ELIZA ANNA, b. June 24, 1806.
 4. ELISHA, b. Apr. 1808.
 5. SUSAN, b. Sept. 23, 1810.
 6. SARAH, b. June 20, 1813.
 7. ELI, b. June 8, 1816.
12. ENOCH, b. Jan. 23, 1729-30; d. June 19, 1758.
- iii. ANNA, b. June 2, 1683; d. Sept. 13, 1737; m. Feb. 27, 1702-3, DEACON BENJAMIN, son of Jonathan and Mary (Shattuck) Browne, of Weston, b. Feb. 27, 1681; d. Mar. 11, 1753, *aged 72 years.*
Children:
 1. ANNA⁶ BROWNE, b. Mar. 2, 1703-4; d. in 1767; m. Dec. 24, 1724, JOSIAH, JR., son of Capt. Josiah and Abigail (Barnes) Jones, of Weston, b. Oct. 24, 1701; d. Mar. 22, 1769. About 1739 they moved to Stockbridge, Mass.
Children, first six born in Weston:
 1. JOSIAH⁶ JONES (Capt.), b. Oct. 4, 1725; d. Apr. 1795, *aged 70 years*; m. Nov. 9, 1757, MABEL, dau. of Joseph and Elizabeth (Merrick) Woodbridge, of West Springfield, Mass., b. Feb. 13, 1735; d. Mar. 12, 1809, *aged 74 years*. For a large list of descendants, see Bond's "Watertown," pages 318 to 322.
Children:
 1. SOLOMON⁷ JONES, b. Jan. 26, 1759; d. in 1842, *aged 83 years*. A Deacon of Stockbridge Church; m. (I), Oct. 30, 1783, OLIVE BRISTOL; (II), ELIZABETH HINSDALE. About 1800, he removed to Hamilton, N. Y., afterwards to Oswego, N. Y. Eleven children, twenty-four grandchildren.
 2. STEPHEN, b. Feb. 4, 1761; m. in 1785, MARGERY SPARKS. He removed to Oswego, N. Y. Six children, twenty grandchildren.
 3. CLARISSA, b. Jan. 12, 1763; m. in 1785, ENOS BOUGHTON, a merchant of Victor, N. Y.; was engaged in many ventures; made several fortunes and lost them. Seven children and twenty-nine grandchildren.
 4. ELIZABETH, b. May 22, 1765; d. Dec. 24, 1835,

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- aged 70 years*; m. Oct. 13, 1786, JOEL BRISTOL, Esq., of Clinton, N. Y.; d. Sept. 16, 1827. Seven children, twelve grandchildren.
5. JOSIAH, JR., b. Sept. 9, 1767. He was a Deacon and farmer of Stockbridge, Mass.; m. Jan. 5, 1797, FIDELIA, dau. of Nathaniel West of Tolland, Conn. Nine children and sixteen grandchildren.
6. HORATIO, b. Dec. 30, 1769; studied medicine and practiced in Philadelphia, Pittsfield and Stockbridge; d. Apr. 26, 1813; m. Dec. 22, 1800, ELIZABETH, dau. of Hon. Elijah and Phebe (Nash) Brown, of Stockbridge. He was Representative in the Provincial Congress in 1776, and one of the Committee of Inspection and Safety. She d. in Middletown, Conn., May 19, 1851. One child.
7. ANNA, b. Aug. 1772; m. Oct. 4, 1789, ROSWELL LOMBARD, b. Aug. 26, 1766, in Springfield, Mass. Removed to New York. She d. at Coxsackie, N. Y., Sept. 21, 1803. He d. in 1843, *aged 77 years*. Six children, twenty-five grandchildren.
8. WILLIAM, b. Apr. 1, 1775; studied medicine in Oswego, N. Y., where he d. Apr. 25, 1825; m. Dec. 18, 1805, CLARISSA, dau. of Elijah Brown, Esq. (See above.) Two children, seven grandchildren.
9. MARY, b. Jan. 31, 1778; d. July 18, 1830, unm.
2. BENJAMIN, b. Feb. 10, 1705-6; m. (Int.), Dec. 29, 1732, SARAH DAKIN, of Concord, Mass.
Children:
1. JOHN⁶ BROWNE, b. June 19, 1733; m. July 19, 1759, SARAH, dau. of Joseph and Abigail (Fuller) Garfield, of Waltham, bapt. Jan. 21, 1739. Joseph was a brother of Capt. Benjamin Garfield.
Children:
1. SARAH⁷ BROWNE, b. July 31, 1760.
2. BETTEE, b. Mar. 13, 1764.
3. EUNICE, b. June 9, 1766.
4. JESSE, b. Sept. 28, 1767.
5. AMENA, b. Nov. 15, 1769.
2. SARAH, b. Jan. 20, 1735; d. July 1751.
3. MEHITABLE, b. Sept. 9, 1737; d. June 1738.
4. BENJAMIN, b. and d. Apr. 2, 1739. } Triplets
5. EBENEZER, b. and d. Apr. 2, 1739. }
6. JONATHAN, b. and d. Apr. 2, 1739. }
7. ELIZABETH, b. Dec. 24, 1740; d. Aug. 5, 1751.