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THE EARLE FAMILY.

RALPH EARLE

AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

COMPILED BY

PLINY EARLE

OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

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PRINTED FOR THE FAMILY.

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INTRODUCTION.

As this book is specially devoted to an exposition of the genealogy of the descendants of one emigrant from the mother country, an introduction thereto might, without impropriety, be omitted, and the work left to tell its own story. But a brief glance at the historical relations of the family in England, and at some other branches of it in the United States, may not be unacceptable to persons not already familiar with the subject.

In a communication from a member of the London Genealogical Society, the writer says: "The family of Earle is of very ancient origin, and can be traced back, most probably, to a Saxon ancestor, prior to the Norman conquest; but certainly I find evidences proving that, at the time of Henry the Second (who was crowned A. D. 1154), they were of Beckington, in the County of Somerset." This authority is confirmed by Sir Bernard Burke, who, in his account of the family in the "Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland," says: "So far back as the seventh (year of the reign of) Henry the Second, John de Erlegh paid five marks for the scutage of his lands at Beckington."

Our London correspondent goes on to say: "In the time of Henry the Third (who reigned from A. D. 1216 to A. D. 1272) Henry de Erle was Lord of Newton, in County Somerset. The Earles were also Lords of North Pelherton, in the same County; and, later on, in the time of Edward the Second (who was crowned in 1307), they were Lords of the Manor of Somerton Parva, also called Somerton Erleigh, in the County of Somerset, which they held by grand sergeancy as King's Chamberlain; and in the forty-fifth year of the reign of Edward the Third (who was crowned in 1327), they held lands in the same County, by service of pouring water on the King's hands on Easter or Christmas day.

"One branch of the Somersetshire Erles settled in the County of Devon, in the time of Edward the Third, as I find John Erle holding lands at Ashburton, twenty miles from Exeter, and bearing the same arms as his Somersetshire ancestor: viz.: *Gules*, 3 escallops, *argent*, within a bordure, engrailed, *argent*. This John Erle's second son held lands at Culhampton, in the County of Devon, twelve miles from Exeter, and was succeeded in them by his son and heir, John Erle, who married Thomasine Beare, of the County of Somerset, and by her had a son Walter, who married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Richard Wykes, of Bindon and Charlborough (or Charborough), both in the County of Dorset. This Walter and his descendants continued owners of Charlborough until 1690, when Frances, sole daughter and heir of General Thomas Erle, married Sir Edward Ernly, Baronet, of Wadington, County of Wilts, by whom she left an only child and heir, Frances, who carried the estate to her husband, Henry Drax, of Ellerton Abbey, County of York.

"From the Erles of Devon are descended the Erles of Hants (Hampshire), Lincolnshire, London, Berkshire, and Essex.

"The elder son of John Erle, who first settled at Ashburton, County of Devon, and his descendants for several generations, continued to reside in that county. There are many lines of the Earles all springing from a common ancestor with him who first settled in Devonshire; and, when perfected, the Earle pedigree would prove a valuable and interesting genealogical history.

"The ancient armorials, as originally borne, are as follows: ARMS. *Gules*, three escallops, *argent*, within a bordure engrailed of the last. CREST, a lion's head erased, *or*, transfixed with a spear, *argent*, embrued, *gules*."

The Walter Erle here mentioned was the Sir Walter of whom Hume says: "He was one of the first patriots of the English revolution of 1649." He was one of the five Knights who resisted the encroachments of King Charles the First

upon the rights of his subjects, a more or less detailed account of which is given by Rushworth, Hume and Hallam, in their histories of England.

The Commons having failed to pass a bill for subsidies, the King was left without supplies. He demanded a general loan, for the raising of which each person was to be assessed according to his rate in the next previous subsidy; and appointed a commission to have charge of the business. The common people who refused to contribute to the loan were impressed for service in the navy; the gentry were bound in recognizances to appear at the Council table, and were committed to prison. "Five gentlemen alone," says Hume, "had spirit enough to defend the public liberties, and to demand releasement, not as a favor from the court, but as their due by the laws of their country." One of these, as already intimated, was Sir Walter Erle. They sued out writs of *habeas corpus* from the Court of King's Bench, and, at the michaelmas term of that court, in the third year of the reign of the King, the warden of the Fleet prison, who held them in custody, made return for each one of them, under a common form, of which that of Sir Walter was as follows:

"That Sir Walter Earl, Knight, named in the writ, is detained in the prison of the Fleet, in his custody, by special command of the King, to him signified by warrant of several of the Privy Council, in these words: 'Whereas Sir Walter Earl, Knight, was heretofore committed to your custody; These are to will and require you still to detain, letting you know that both his first commitment, and direction for the continuance of him in prison, were and are by his Majesty's special commandment.'

THOMAS COVENTREY.

From Whitehall, November 7, 1627."

The prisoners were remanded to the custody of the Fleet. On the 29th of January, next following, it was decided by the King's council to call a parliament. The parliament was held in March, 1628, and the prisoners were released. "It is to the discussion which arose out of the case of these

five gentlemen," writes Rushworth *(Historical Collections, Vol. I.)*, "that we owe the continual assertion, by parliament, of the fundamental immunity of English subjects from arbitrary detention, and its ultimate establishment by the Statute of Charles the Second." This statute, "for the better securing the liberty of the subject," was passed May 27, 1679, and was called the "Subjects Writ of Right." It was "founded on the old common law, and is next in importance to *Magna Charta*," for, under it, "no subject of England can be detained in prison, except in cases wherein the detention is shown to be justified by the law." Not alone every Englishman, but every American as well, who appreciates the value of the safe-guards of his liberty and his rights, is obligated in gratitude to Sir Walter and his four companions for that heroic conduct in defiance of their Sovereign, which was the initiatory act leading to the permanent establishment of the *right* to the writ of *habeas corpus*, and a test of the legality of imprisonment before a court of competent jurisdiction.

Burke, in the dictionary already quoted, mentions the General Thomas Erle, above mentioned, as "the famous Lieutenant General of the Ordnance, commander of the centre of the English army at the battle of Almanza (Spain), grandson and heir of Sir Walter Erle of Charborough, the parliamentarian."

The three counties, Dorset, Somerset and Devon, adjoin each other, and Exeter, the chief city of Devonshire, is not very remote from the centre of the territory included by the three. It is shown above, that for nearly five hundred years before the occurrence of the historical facts in relation to Sir Walter and his fellow-knights, that territory had been inhabited by Earles. As the people of England were at that time far less migratory than they are now, it is undoubtedly true that, in the course of those several centuries, those Earles must have so increased and multiplied as to have become quite numerous. Some of the earliest families were living within a few miles of Exeter, and there are monuments to persons of

the name in the Exeter cathedral. These facts are mentioned as arguments in favor of the probability of the truth of the tradition that Ralph Earle came from Exeter.

It will be perceived, further, as a matter of interest, that Sir Walter and Ralph were cotemporaries. The former was released from prison in 1628; ten years later, in 1638, Ralph was in Rhode Island, with a wife and at least two children. If, then, Ralph was from Exeter or its neighborhood, there is little doubt that there was a traceable kinship between them. It might have been near and it might have been remote, for the period of more than four preceding centuries, gave room for twelve or fourteen generations of descendants of the earliest families, and this would so far separate some of the members of the latest generation that they would be cousins of the tenth or twelfth remove—a remoteness which does not yet exist between any of even the youngest descendants of Ralph and Joan of Rhode Island.

It is very evident that many of the early settlers upon the island of Rhode Island and the adjacent region of Massachusetts came from the southwesterly part of England. They gave to their new settlements names with which they were familiar at home. In England, the four towns Tiverton, Dartmouth, Plymouth and Barnstaple are all in Devonshire, their distances from Exeter being but about 15, 32, 40 and 35 miles, respectively. Taunton, Bridgewater and Bristol are in County Somerset, the first about 30, the second about 40, and the last about 60 miles from Exeter. Swansea is on the coast of Wales, directly opposite Devonshire and but about 60 miles from Exeter. Falmouth is in County Cornwall, which joins Devon on the West, and is not far from 80 miles from Exeter; while Newport and Portsmouth are in Hampshire, about 100 miles East of Exeter.

Among the more prominent branches of the family in England is that which is known as the Earles of Craglethorpe, in Lincolnshire. Sir Richard Earle, of that place, was created baronet in 1629. He had two sons, John and Richard.

At his decease the title and estates descended to his grandson Richard, the son of his eldest son John. This Richard never married and consequently, at his decease, the title and estates reverted to his uncle Richard, who was still living. This Richard married Ellena, daughter of William Welby, Esq., of Denton, in Lincolnshire, and died about 1684, leaving one son, named Richard. He inherited the title and estates but died August 13, 1697, aged 24 years, unmarried. The title, after thus belonging to four Richards in succession, now became extinct. There were, however, other branches of the family. John Earle, Esq., of Liverpool, a descendant of the Craglethorpe Earles, married Mary Finch and had five children: 1, John; 2, Ralph; 3, Thomas; 4, William; and 5, Sarah. 1, John, died without issue. 2, Ralph, married Dorothy Aldersley, of Liverpool. In 1788, the Willis estates of Halsmead and of Hall-of-the-Hill were bequeathed to him, and he assumed the surname and the Coat of Arms of the Willis family. 3, Thomas, married and had two daughters: Mary, who married her cousin Thomas (of Spekelands), and Jane, who married Richard Gwillyme. 4, William, married Mrs. Ann Winstanley and had three children; first, William of Everton; second, Thomas (of Spekelands) who had issue by his cousin Mary; and third, Mary, who married Arthur Heywood, Esq., of Larkhill. 5, Sarah, married Rev. John Stanley, rector of Warwick, and brother of Edward, eleventh earl of Derby.

Hardman Earle, one of the eight children of Thomas (of Spekelands) and his cousin Mary, was a merchant in Liverpool. He married in 1819, Mary, second daughter of William Langton, Esq., of Kirkham, County of Lancaster, by whom he had several children. He was created a baronet on the 3d of November, 1869, and his residence was known as Allerton Tower, in the County of Lancaster.

Richard Earle, Esq., another son of Thomas (of Spekelands), was a barrister-at-law in Liverpool, and married Margaret, another daughter of William Langton, Esq. It

would appear that the living members of this branch of the family are somewhat numerous in Liverpool and the adjacent counties. General Earle, who was killed in 1885 in the war of the Soudan, and a bronze statute of whom, erected in front of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, was unveiled by General Wolseley on the 16th of December, 1887, was a member of the branch.

The family of Bulwer, of Norman origin, was founded at the time of the Conquest, by Tyrus, or Tyrold de Dalling. William Bulwer, Esq., of Wood Dalling, Norfolk County, the last male representative of this family, died in 1775, bequeathing his manors and estates to his nephew, William Wiggett, Esq., who took the name of Bulwer. He married Mary, eldest daughter of Augustine Earle, Esq., of Heydon (a lineal descendant, in the main line, of Erasmus Earle, distinguished in Cromwell's time, and one of the Commissioners of the Treaty of Uxbridge), and had issue, William Earle Bulwer, his heir, and five others. This William Earle Bulwer, Esq., of Heydon Hall, was a brigadier-general officer in the army, and colonel of the 106th Foot. He espoused Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of Richard Warburton Lytton, Esq., of Knebworth Park, in Hertfordshire, and had three sons, viz.: 1, William Earle Lytton Bulwer, who succeeded his father, in 1807, at Heydon Hall; 2, Henry Lytton Earle Bulwer, Secretary of the Embassy to Paris, and Minister to Madrid and to the United States of America; and 3, Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer, the novelist, poet, and member of Parliament. He was created Baron July 18, 1838, and in 1843 took the title of Sir Edward George Earle Bulwer Lytton, having succeeded, by his mother's will, to Knebworth Park and the estates of the Lytton family.

OTHER BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY IN AMERICA.

There are several branches of the Earle family in the United States which have their parent American stem in emigrants from England other than Ralph.

1. One of these is known as the Secaucus branch, so called from the fact that their American progenitor, Edward Earle (with his wife Hannah), purchased, in 1676, for "two thousand Dutch dollars," the so-called Island of Secaucus, on the coast of New Jersey, a few miles westerly from New York city, together with buildings, stock, and several "Christian and negro servants," and made that his permanent home. Some of the Earles now in the city and vicinity of the city of New York and the adjacent region of New Jersey, are members of this branch. So also are some of the Earles of the British province of New Brunswick, among whom is Dr. Sylvester Zabriskie (Sobieski) Earle, a resident of St. John, and the mayor of that city at the time of its devastation by the great conflagration, in the summer of the year 1876. Abraham L. Earle, for many years connected with the finance department of the Comptroller's Office in New York city; Lawrence Carmichael Earle, an artist (painter) in Chicago, and Miles Hitchcock Earle, of the firm of Earle & Miller, in St. Louis, Mo., are likewise lineal descendants of Edward of Secaucus. John H. Earle, of Brooklyn, N. Y., another descendant, has made extensive researches in the genealogy of this branch, and to him I am indebted for a beautiful manuscript embodiment of it.

2. During the earlier part of the revolutionary war there was a Morris Earle in New York city. His wife's maiden name was Anna de la Montagnia. He died about the year 1780, having had children as follows: 1, Morris; 2, James; 3, William, who is said to have lived at some time in Hartford, Conn.; 4, Rebecca, who *m.* Henry B. Earle; 5, Thomas, *b.* about 1770; *m.* 1st, —— Todd; 2d, Matilda Harrington; *d.* 1810; 6, Anna; and 7, Marmaduke, who lived at Oyster Bay, Long Island.

The second son, James, was the father of Thomas Earle of Homer, N. Y.; and of Absalom B. Earle, the widely known evangelical minister. William had, at least, four sons, all of them, thirty years ago, in business in New York city, viz.:

a, Morris, a grocer; *b*, William P., proprietor of Earle's Hotel, and father of Ferdinand P. Earle, the present proprietor; *c*, Alexander M. (who was with his brother Morris, 95 Front Street); and *d*, George S. Thomas had two sons: *a*, Robert, who *m.* 1st, Harriet Crane, and 2d, Mary Ann Smith, and lived in Jersey City, N. J.; and *b*, Thomas, Jr., *b.* Feb. 10, 1809; *m.* 1st, Euphemia Demarest, 2d, Cornelia Hasbrouck. Thomas, Jr., had a son Ralph, *b.* about 1838, who was named for one of his mother's relatives, and not for any Ralph in the Rhode Island branch. Thomas, senior, had, also, two daughters, Anna, who *m.* William G. Babb, and Caroline, who was unmarried when this information was received. Morris's son, Marmaduke, had issue as follows: *a*, Sidney; *b*, Anna; *c*, James F., who lived at Red Bank, N. J.; *d*, Sarah; *e*, Mary; *f*, and *g*, Samuel and Alfred, both ministers of the gospel; *h*, Henry, who lived at Oyster Bay; and *i*, a son who lived at Penn Yan, N. Y. There are reasons for the belief that the Morris at the head of this branch came from Nova Scotia or one of the other British provinces.

Some members of this branch retain the final *e* in their surname; others have dropped it.

3. There is a numerous branch of the general family in central New York, and especially in Onondaga County, who spell their surname Earll. Dr. David Earll, of Tioga Centre, to whom I applied, in 1859, for information in regard to the genealogy of this branch, replied by referring me to the late Judge Nehemiah Earll, of Syracuse, stating that he possessed "more information on the subject than any other person in the State." I have now before me three letters from Judge Nehemiah, one of them written in 1859, one in 1860, and one in 1861. In 1859 he says: "My grandfather, Daniel Earll, I knew from earliest remembrance to the time of his death. He died in April, 1817, aged 87 years. He had two brothers, Nehemiah and David: both died in this county. They had two sisters. One of them married Daniel Wallace, and the other John Ryan. My great-uncle, Nehemiah, had two

daughters, but no son. David had several sons and daughters, viz.: Nathaniel, David, Peter and William. My grandfather (Daniel) lived, at an early day, in Great Barrington, Mass., where my father and his brothers were born, except the youngest, I think. I always understood that my *great*-grandfather was a captain in the old French war, previous to 1750. My grandfather (Daniel) had eight sons, to wit: Jonas, Daniel, Nathaniel, Robert (my father), Benjamin, Watson, Nehemiah and Abijah; and two daughters, Lucy, the wife of Isaac Danks, and Patience, the wife of Timothy Copp. * * * I saw my grandfather a short time before his death. He told me that he then had living over one hundred and fifty children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

In this letter the Judge says: "I am more than 72 years old."

In his letter of July 29, 1861, he says: "From information I have obtained since I last wrote you, I find that, some time previous to the year 1700, William Earll came from Wales to Rhode Island, and afterwards had two sons, Nathaniel and William; that those two sons married two sisters whose maiden names were Adams. They also had another sister, who married a Scotchman by the name of Wheeler. I am unable to learn what became of William. Nathaniel, some time after his marriage, settled in Great Barrington, Mass., and had three sons, viz.: Daniel (my grandfather), Nehemiah and David. About the year 1770 my grandfather emigrated with his family to Nova Scotia. His oldest son, Jonas, was probably married there. He married Experience Sprague. They afterwards settled at White Creek, Washington County, New York, and Daniel, Jr., returned to White Creek and married about 1776. About that time, or perhaps a year later, my grandfather and his sons Nathaniel and Robert formed a company and returned (my grandfather leaving the rest of his family in Nova Scotia) to White Creek. In the mean time my great-grandfather (Nathaniel) with his sons Nehemiah and David, had moved from Great Barrington to White Creek.

"I have a cousin now living near me. She was daughter of my uncle Jonas, and is now more than eighty-five years of age. She informs me she well recollects her great-grandfather, Nathaniel Earll, and that his son David was about her own age; that her great-grandfather was familiarly called 'Captain Nat' by their friends; that he was a large, fleshy man; and that he died about 1790."

The Judge also states that Thomas Wheeler, grandson of the Wheeler who married an Adams, sister to the wife of Daniel's father, Nathaniel, made a visit of several months to his grandmother, about 1793, in Leicester, Mass., that she often spoke of her nephew, Daniel Earll, and said that his family, on their return from Nova Scotia, remained some time with her in Leicester."

Warner Earll, a lawyer of San Luis Obispo, California, and a grandson of Judge Nehemiah's brother Robert, in a letter dated August 18, 1887, writes that he remembers Lucy Danks, daughter of Daniel, and "when a mere child, heard her relate many things occurring when she lived in Nova Scotia."

It appears to be pretty clearly shown from the above that the name of the father of Daniel Earll, of Great Barrington, was Nathaniel. Daniel died in 1817, aged, one authority says, 87 years, another 88 years. Consequently, he was born in either 1729 or 1730.

I will now point out what, at least, is a singular coincidence. William Earle [9–3, p. 28 of this book], with his sons, disappeared, so far as records are concerned, from Little Compton, R. I., in the early part of the 18th century. His fifth son was named Nathaniel [61–5]. He was born January 28, 1705, and therefore, at the birth of Daniel Earll, was 24 or 25 years old, a very suitable age to be the father of Daniel. *Was* he his father? There are further coincidences which render an affirmative answer not improbable. The father of the Nathaniel of Judge Earll's account was named William, and the father of the Nathaniel of Little Compton was named

William. The Judge's William came from Wales to Rhode Island; Ralph, who had a son William, came, as is believed, from a point within fifty miles of Wales to Rhode Island. Any genealogist of much experience would probably say that the discrepancies between the two histories are not greater than often occur in traditional accounts. That Daniel Earll, on his return from Nova Scotia, stopped some time in Leicester, Mass., may be further mentioned as a significant coincidence, for, at that time several families of Earles, the descendants of Ralph, resided in that town.

But, whatever were its American origin, the Onondaga branch is now numerous, and presents to the genealogist an interesting field for research which ought to be thoroughly explored. It has been an influential family in New York, and many of its members have occupied prominent positions. Judge Nehemiah was a member of Congress. Among its living members are Dr. George W. Earll, of Skaneateles, and Dr. Isaac Balfour Earll, of Syracuse, sons of Hiram, son of Daniel; Thomas Earll, of Brooklyn; George David Earll, of New York city; Asa *Earl*, of Lafayette, Indiana, a descendant of Daniel's son Nehemiah; and William Earll, a dealer in agricultural implements in Chico, California, who is a son of Peter, son of David the brother of Daniel. George D. Earll, son of Elijah B., son of David, son of David, the *brother* of Daniel, was a lawyer in Watertown, N. Y., twenty-five years ago; and David Sprague Earll, son of Jonas, son of Daniel, and brother of Jonas, Jr., who had been a member of Congress, was living, a few years ago, in Syracuse.

Nehemiah Earll, uncle of Judge Nehemiah, removed to the Western States and had a family of fifteen children. One of his grandsons, Guy Chaffee Earl, of Oakland, California, in writing of him, says: "He spelled his name with two l's, Earll, but, tiring of this, dropped one l." All of his descendants probably followed his example.

4. At some time between the years 1720 and 1740 Thomas Earl came from England and settled in Burlington, New

Jersey, or its vicinity. His son John had a large family, several of whom died young; but his son Gibtersharp (or Gibterthorp) died in 1850, at the age of 78 years; and another son, Samuel W., was still living, ten years ago, in Burlington. Gibtersharp left four sons and four daughters, all of whom, with the exception of the eldest son, John, were living in 1868. Thomas, one of the other sons, was a physician at Franklin Mills, Portage Co., Ohio, and William C., another, resided in Toledo, Ohio.

5. For the last two hundred years there has been a settlement of Earles on the Eastern shore of Maryland. To this branch belonged the late Judge Richard Tilghman Earle, of Neelwood, near Centreville, with whom, so long ago as 1840, I held some correspondence in regard to the genealogy of our families. In a letter dated October 8th of that year, he says: "The family record of my ancestry I have made up chiefly from a well attested manuscript of my grandfather, James Earle, who died in the year 1736. The author states that *his* grandfather and grandmother, James Earle and Rhody Earle, came to Maryland in 1683, and brought with them thirteen children, their eldest son, John Earle, being in the country before, in the command of a ship; that the commander was afterwards captured by pirates on the coast of Africa, and ended his life in slavery; that he descended from the second son, Michael Earle; and that his uncle Joseph Earle, settled in the same neighborhood with his father. No farther notice is taken of the thirteen children, neither in ascertaining the number of males and females, nor in stating what became of them. The manuscript is equally unfortunate in another important particular, in omitting to tell from what country the immigrants, James Earle, his wife Rhody Earle, and their thirteen children came when they took up their abode in Maryland."

Dr. John C. Earle, now of Easton, Md., is a son of Judge Richard Tilghman, and the widow of another son, James Tilghman, is living near Centreville. Two others, Richard

Tilghman and Samuel Tilghman, are farmers residing upon old family homesteads; and a fifth, George, now deceased, was a lawyer and held offices both State and national.

6. In 1805 John Baylis Earle was a member of Congress from South Carolina. A letter from him to Pliny Earle, senior [355–1], in reply to a request for genealogical information in regard to his family, and dated at Washington on the 13th of January of the year aforesaid, is now before me. In it he says: "My grandfather, whose name was Samuel Earle, lived and died in the State of Virginia, in the neighborhood of Lord Fairfax. My father having married and removed to South Carolina before I was born, I had no opportunity to know much of my distant relatives. * * * My father had but one own brother, who was father to the Samuel Earle, late a member of Congress." He then proceeds to mention a trait in some of his relatives which has been exhibited in the descendants of Ralph of Rhode Island: "A number of the young men are remarkable for their mechanical ingenuity. None of them ever served an apprenticeship to any business, but they have learned trades without instruction, and done several kinds of work to great perfection, one of them having, without any assistance or many tools, made an elegant horseman's sword."

General Elias Earle and his cousin Baylis J. Earle, of Waldo, near Santa Fe Lake, Florida, are, according to a letter from the latter, in 1883, descendants of the above-mentioned John Baylis and of Elias Earle, his brother, who was also, as is stated in the letter, "in Congress from the northern district of South Carolina about 75 years ago." The letter also states that John Baylis is a family name, and was borne not only by the member of Congress, but also "by Judge Baylis John Earle, of South Carolina, and also by Gen. John Baylis Earle, who was, for twenty years, the Adjutant and Inspector General of South Carolina. Elias, Baylis and Samuel are family names in the southern branch."

Colonel William E. Earle, a lawyer, in Washington, D. C.,

is a member of the South Carolina branch. I believe it has been shown that Samuel Earle, the grandfather of John Baylis Earle, who was in Congress in 1805, was a son of the James and Rhody Earle who were the first American progenitors of the Maryland Earles.

7. According to the Records of Boxford, Mass., William Eills, of that town, *m.* Nov. 19, 1719, Sarah Curtis. They had five children, three of whom were sons. William, the eldest, and the only one, so far as known, who lived to have a family, *m.* August 23, 1744, Martha Booth. After the birth of three children in Boxford, they removed to Rindge, N. H., where, after the birth of three more, William died. Three of his children were sons: 1, John, *m.* in 1773, Rebecca Page; lived in Rindge and *d.* there in 1803. 2, Jacob, *m.* in 1769, Relief Bennett, and *d.* in 1794, in Boylston, Mass. 3, Stephen, *m.* in 1780, Mary Rice; lived several years in Shrewsbury, Mass., then removed to Gerry (now Phillipston), and was accidentally killed in Boston, June 7, 1825.

These three brothers changed their family name to Earls or Earl.

John and Rebecca (Page) Earl had nine children, but only one son, John, who *m.* in 1811, Rhoda Castle. They lived some years in Burlington, Vt., went thence to Essex, Essex Co., New York, and afterwards removed to Michigan.

Jacob and Relief (Bennett) Earl had five children, three of whom were sons: 1, Jacob, *m.* Polly Burgess, and lived in Hardwick, Mass., where he died in 1843. 2, Jonathan, who *d.* young. 3, William, *m.* Delia Maynard; lived in Springfield, Vt., and *d.* in 1855.

Stephen and Mary (Rice) Earl had four sons: 1, Henry, *b.* 1780; *m.* 1807, Mary Ryder, and *d.* Oct. 2, 1809, in Wellfleet, Mass. He was a teacher. 2, John, *m.* 1806, Sally G. Harding, and *d.* in Lowell, Mass., May 9, 1825. 3, Hezekiah, *m.* 1811, Mary (Harris) Popkin, and *d.* in Boston, Mass., March 30, 1857. He was the proprietor of the widely known *Earl's Coffee House*, from about 1806 to 1832, and

Deputy City Marshal from 1832 to 1857. 4, Stephen, *b.* 1791; *m.* 1814, Nabby Stone, and *d.* in Princeton, Mass., April 13, 1825. They had two children, both of whom *d.* young.

John and Rhoda (Castle) Earl had but one son, John H., *b.* 1815; *m.* 1840, Lorinda Morseman. Issue, two children, one son, John W., *b.* in 1840. In 1844 the family were in Jackson Co., Michigan.

Jacob and Polly (Burgess) Earl had eleven children, eight of them sons, of whom only four were married; viz.: 1, Ira, *b.* 1801; *m.* Iris Butterfield; lived many years in Leicester, Mass., and *d.* there in 1881. 2, Benjamin P., *b.* 1814; *m.* 1845, Sarah Deans; had but one child, Ella, who *m.* 1871, Austin V. Dow, and *d.* 1872. 3, James P., *b.* 1817; went to Charleston, South Carolina, and *m.* Anna Brooklebank. They had four children, three of them sons: *a*, James P., now a dealer in boots and shoes in Charleston. *b*, Edward, *b.* 1853. *c*, William, *b.* 1855. 4, Ralph, *b.* 1819. He went to Charleston, S. C., where he *m.* in 1845, Amanda R. Mackie; returned to Hardwick, Mass., in 1853; was in the stove and iron-ware trade in Worcester, Mass., in 1855, and returned to Charleston, where he *d.* in 1860. They had six children, four of them sons: *a*, Elmer Ralph, *b.* 1848. *b*, Arthur C., *b.* 1850. *c*, Ira M., *b.* 1851. *d*, Ralph, *b.* 1856. The first three were born in Charleston, S. C., the fourth in Worcester, Mass. After Ralph's decease the family returned to Massachusetts, and lived in Springfield. The widow married again, but her husband has died, and she is now living with two of her children in Brooklyn, N. Y.

William and Delia (Maynard) Earl had twelve children, of whom five sons married: 1, Edward S., *b.* 1808; *m.* Hannah A. Wheeler; had three children, all daughters; lived many years in Springfield, Vt., but *d.* in 1879 in Waumatiza, Wis. 2, William M., *b.* 1811; *m.* 1st, Eliza Farrar, 2d, Augusta Pratt; was living in Springfield, Vt., in 1859, and afterward in Ludlow. They had four children, two of them sons, one

of whom *d.* young. The other, Edward O., was *b.* May 16, 1844. 3, Samuel M., *b.* 1813; *m.* Mehitable Wilkins; had two children, both girls; was living in Springfield, Vt., in 1859. 4, Warren R., *b.* 1820; *m.* 1846, Louisa Hutchinson, of Nashua, N. H.; issue, four children, three of them boys, of whom one *d.* young. The others were: *a*, Alonzo B., *b.* 1851; last heard from in Stoddard, N. H. *b*, Alfred O., *b.* August 26, 1853; last heard from in Springfield, Vt. 5, Alonzo B., *b.* 1828; *m.* 1855, Marilla A. Lewis; issue, five children, of whom two were sons: *a*, Orville H., *b.* June 29, 1856, in Medford, Mass. *b*, George W., *b.* Feb. 22, 1862, in Goshen, N. H.

Henry and Mary (Ryder) Earl had issue: Henry, *b.* 1809; *m.* Mary Ann Harris, of Windsor, Vt., and had four children, two of them sons. One of these *d.* young. The other, William H., was *b.* 1841; *m.* 1872, Lizzie J. Deane, of Medford, Mass., and was living in that town in 1879.

Hezekiah and Mary (Harris–Popkin) Earl had six children, two or them sons, one of whom *d.* young. The other, Hezekiah, who is freight accountant of the Boston and Albany Railroad Co., was *b.* Aug. 15, 1817; *m.* 1847, Harriet N. Brooks. They live in Auburndale, Mass., and have two children: 1, Joseph S., *b.* July 26, 1850; *m.* Cora Bailey. 2, Harris B., *b.* Oct. 3, 1862.

Ira and Iris (Butterfield) Earl had three children, of whom the only son, John E. Earle, was *b.* Feb. 6, 1831; *m.* Sarah S. Caldwell, and lives in New Haven, Conn., where he is engaged in the business of American and foreign patents, and is an expert in patent causes. Their children were: 1, Edward C., *b.* 1857; *d.* 1882. 2, Joseph C., *b.* 1858. 3, Frederick C., *b.* 1862; *m.* 1886, Charlotte Isabel Lyon, and has one child, John Edwin, *b.* Oct. 2, 1887. 4, Harry P., *b.* 1865. 5, John W., *b.* 1869; *d.* 1870. 6, James P., *b.* 1870. 7, Leila E., *b.* 1875.

John E. and his family have added the final *e* to their surname.

Stephen Earl, of Gerry, adopted an orphan named Benjamin H. White, who, after Stephen's death, was adopted by his son Hezekiah. The boy's name was changed to Benjamin White Earl. He *m.* in 1829, Elizabeth Albin, in New York city. They lived in some of the middle States, and afterward in Ohio, where he *d.* at Steubenville, about 1860. Their children were: 1, William S., *b.* 1837. 2, Benjamin H., *b.* 1840. 3, Francis A., *b.* 1844. 4, John K., *b.* 1846. 5, Edward A., *b.* 1850. 6, James F., *b.* 1853.

8. Being in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1879, I met Mr. Porter W. Earl, then a resident, with his family, of that city. I was strongly impressed with his very striking family resemblance to the descendants of the fifth and sixth generations of Ralph Earle who were living in Leicester, Mass., and its vicinity from fifty to seventy years ago. This resemblance was so marked as to leave no doubt upon my mind that he is a descendant of Ralph. He stated that his father, Stephen H. Earl, whose mother was either a Hopkins or a Williams, removed from Newport, R. I., or its vicinity to Vermont and there, at the age of 33 years, married Sarah Porter. Their children were: 1, Sarah, who *m.* Christian Ingersoll. 2, William, *d.* in Hamburg, N. Y. 3, Porter W., *b.* in 1802, in Peru, N. Y. 4, Mary; and 5, Eliza.

The children of Porter [?] W. were: 1, Porter M., *d.* unmarried. 2, William, *m.* and lives in Colorado. 3, Harriet, *m.* and lives in Peoria, Ill. 4, Mary, *m.* —— Baxter, and lives in Cedar Rapids. 5, Ella, living unmarried with her father.

Mr. Earl further stated in regard to his father, Stephen H., that he was taken prisoner by the British at Newport in the Revolutionary war; and that he died at Hamburg, near Buffalo, N. Y., in 1838. Perhaps the true position of this family among the descendants of Ralph and Joan may hereafter be discovered. Porter [?] W. now resides in Peoria, Ill.

9. James S. Earle, the founder of the picture gallery in Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., was the son of Henry Earle, who removed from Winchester to London, Eng., and

died in 1820. James came to America in 1815. His brother, John H., came in 1825 and also settled in Philadelphia.

COAT OF ARMS.

Several inquires have been received in relation to the coat of arms of the Earle family. As will be seen below, a no inconsiderable number of armorials have been granted to different members of the family in England. But in all my intercourse, either personal or by written correspondence, with the descendants of Ralph and Joan, I have found no one who wore or bore a coat of arms, and in only one instance have I heard of one in the possession of any family.

The late Edward W. Lawton, of Newport, R. I., a man of much general culture, who was born in 1786, and between whose ancestral relatives and the Earles there had been several intermarriages, sent to me, in 1858, the dates of birth, marriage, etc., of the children of John [199–5] and Dorcas (Barney) Earle, accompanied by the following statement:

"The transcript (of dates, etc.) was sent me by my benevolent Aunt Sarah [440–5], who gave away the bible, as she did every other article in the house that her needy friends would take, even the coat of arms of the Earles, which was set in a small black frame, with 10 by 12 glass. I remember the horses' heads only." He thought it must still be in the possession of some descendant of John and Dorcas.

The subjoined list of granted armorials in England is copied from Mr. Burke.

1. Earl. (Swallowfield Place, County of Berks.) Gules, three escallops, within a bordure engrailed, argent. *Crest*—A Lion's head, erased or, pierced with a broken dart proper.

2. Earl, or Erlley. The same arms. *Crest*—On the point of a tilting spear, proper, headed argent, a dolphin naiant of the first.

3. Earl. Gules on a chevron argent; three trefoils sable between as many escallops in chief and a dolphin in base,

all within a double tressure engrailed of the second, the outer bordure or. *Crest*—A nag's head erased sable maned or.

4. Earle. (Topsfield, County of Essex, and Craglethorpe, County of Lincoln.) Gules three escallops within a bordure engrailed argent. *Crest*—A nag's head erased sable maned or.

5. Earle. (Boston, County of Lincoln.) Gules an amulet or, between three escallops argent within a bordure engrailed of the third.

6. Earle. (Lincolnshire; granted 1558.) Gules a fesse, between three sheldrakes argent. *Crest*—A Lion's head erased or, pierced through the head with a broken spear argent the point embrued gules.

7. Earle. Gules, on a fesse or, three magpies proper membered of the second.

8. Earle. Azure a fesse between two cotises or.

9. Earle. Paly of ten or and gules a mullett in chief argent. *Crest*—A Lion's gamb erect and erased, holding an arrow in bend sinister, point downwards, proper.

10. Earles (granted 1 August, 1660). Ermine on a cross gules five crowns or. *Crest*—A cross gules between two wings ermine.

11. Earles (granted 1 August, 1660). Ermine on a chief indented sable three eastern crowns or.

The coat of arms borne by the Earles of Maryland differs from any one of these, but has points of resemblance to several of them, and is most nearly like the first and the fourth. The special English branch of the family from which Ralph originated must, apparently, be discovered, before his descendants can rightfully claim either of the armorials here mentioned.

The names of more than four thousand of the descendants of Ralph and Joan Earle are mentioned in this collection, although those which are regularly numbered, in the body of the work, are, as indicated by the last number on page 439,

only 3,978. In cases where a person named Earle, whether man or woman, had but one child, the name of that child is given in connection with that of its parent, and under the designating number of that parent; and the history of the family is not carried forward to the next generation. Hence there is no special number for the child. Examples of this kind may be seen in No. 1688–10, where Martha J. Earle married Charles E. Osgood, and in No. 1804–4, where Frank M. Earle married Anna Conlin. These exceptional cases are alone sufficient to swell the number of named descendants to a considerable excess over four thousand; and to these may be added the later received names printed near the end of the book, under the head of "Additions."

Ralph and Joan Earle had five children—two sons and three daughters. The two sons had eleven children; the three daughters, twenty-nine. The eleven, by family name, were Earles; the twenty-nine had several family names, corresponding, respectively, with the surnames of the husbands of the three daughters. The descendants of the twenty-nine who had other family names, have undoubtedly been far more numerous than the descendants of the eleven Earles. As in most other genealogies, there is, in this book, no attempt to trace the descendants of females named Earle, farther than their children. So far as our knowledge extends, the names, dates of birth, etc., of the children of every married woman whose maiden name was Earle, are here recorded; but the names of her grandchildren, and the descendants of later generations, are not, unless she married an Earle. Thus, for example, the names, so far as known, of the children of the three daughters of Ralph and Joan, are inserted; but those of the children of those children are not. There the descending lineage of those families stops; and the same rule is followed throughout the book. In the endeavor to maintain a rigid adherence to this rule, I have been obliged, and often with much regret, to omit more than a thousand names now in my possession.

It will be perceived that the orthography of the family name has differed, in England, as well as in America. To say nothing of the apparently original De Erlegh, and the later De Erle, the spelling has been, in that country, Erle, Earl, Earls and Earle, in different branches. The name is still found there under these four several forms; but it is believed that Earle is by far the most prevalent.

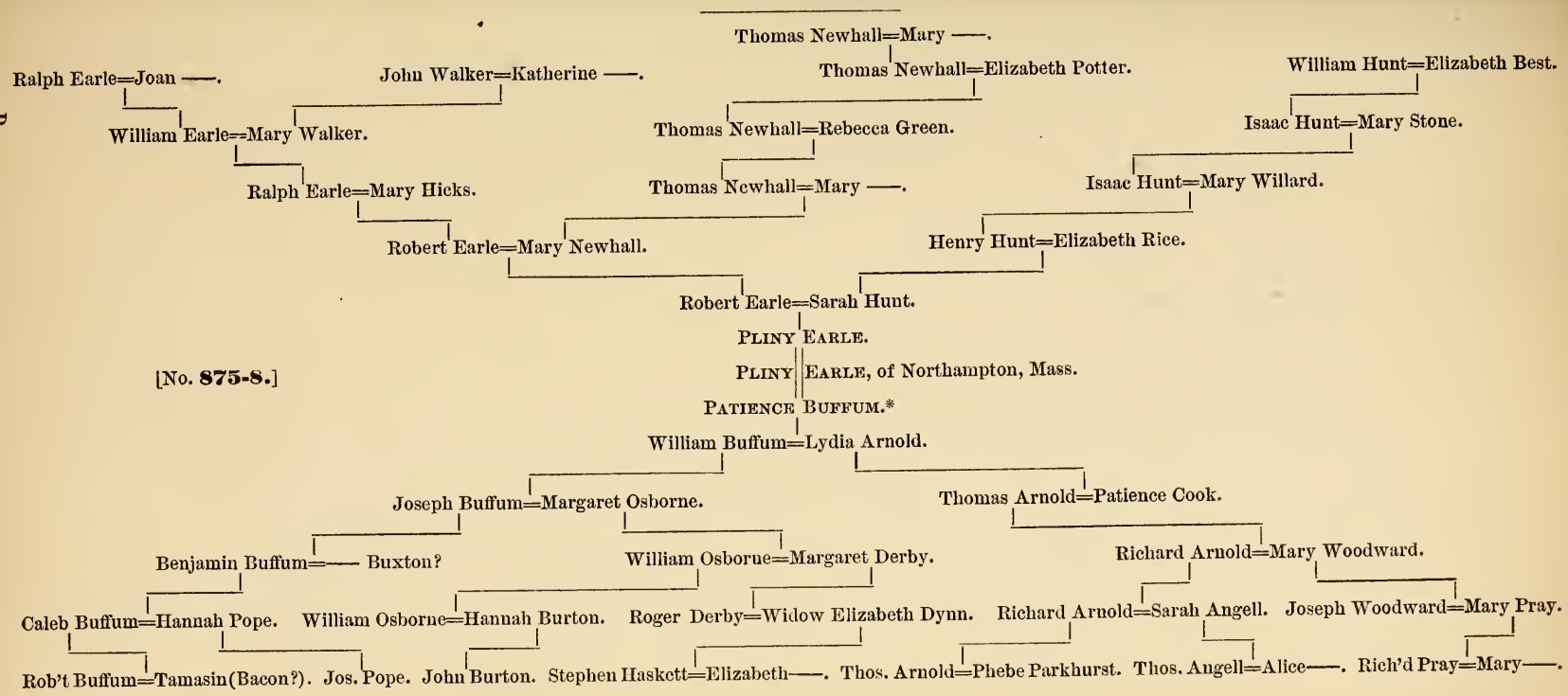
In the compilation of this book, the diversity of orthography has been the source of no little labor, not to say annoyance. It has been the endeavor, as stated in a note on page 18, to give the names of all living descendants, as they themselves, in each instance, would write it. But it is undoubtedly true that, in many instances, there has been a failure to accomplish that object. As an illustration of the difficulty in its accomplishment, as well as to show how the spelling of one's name is governed by either taste, whim or caprice, the following curious example may be adduced: In a public registry of one of the counties in Massachusetts, there is the record of a document relating to the ownership of certain real estate. The paper was signed by six brothers. If their signatures be correctly copied, the first three of them spelled their surname Earll; the next two, Earle; and the last one, Earl. The paper was signed more than a hundred years ago.

Perfect accuracy in the multitude of statistics of a genealogical work is impossible; but it is hoped that this contains few errors other than those which were apparently unavoidable. Of these, the compiler desires to receive corrections, which will be preserved for future use, should the time come in which, by other hands than his, the work may be continued, and its scope enlarged by the tracing of some branches not here fully developed.

PLINY EARLE.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., *March 19, 1888.*

PEDIGREE OF PLINY EARLE.



* See page 466.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Pliny Earle, No. 875, - - - - Frontispiece.
Thomas Earle, No. 172, - - - *To face page* 57
Robert Earle, No. 887, - - - - *To face page* 117
John Purple Howard, No. 1062, - - *To face page* 132
Robert Earl, No. 1221, - - - - *To face page* 146
Homer Earle Sargent, No. 1467, - *To face page* 166
Halford Earle, No. 734, - - - - *To face page* 182
Daniel Earle, No. 791, - - - - *To face page* 190
John Milton Earle, No. 868, - - - *To face page* 205
Thomas Earle, No. 869, - - - *To face page* 209
Anthony Chase, No. 870, - - - - *To face page* 215
Pliny Earle Chase, No. 1902, - - *To face page* 217
Thomas Chase, No. 1904, - - - - *To face page* 219
Timothy Keese Earle, No. 917, - - *To face page* 224
Oliver Keese Earle, No. 919, - - - *To face page* 227
Edward Earle, No. 927, - - - *To face page* 228
William Barton Earle, No. 957, - - *To face page* 232
Samuel Earl, No. 1220, - - - *To face page* 271
George B. Earle, No. 1266, - - - *To face page* 274
Charles Nelson Earle, No. 1491, - *To face page* 304
Parker Earle, No. 1525, - - - - *To face page* 307
Harry Louis Earle, No. 1728, - - *To face page* 335
George Hussey Earle, No. 1899, - - *To face page* 348
Stephen Carpenter Earle, No. 1921, *To face page* 353
Weston Earle, No. 2092, - - - *To face page* 368
Lloyd S. Earle, No. 2096, - - - - *To face page* 370
Matthew Myers Earl, No. 2262, - - *To face page* 384
Lyman Earle, No. 2836, - - - - *To face page* 411

ERRATA.

Page 23, 6th line from top, for *1634* read *1654.*

Page 37, 5th line from top, for *Sept. 2, 1693*, read *Dec. 21, 1701.*

Page 70, 9th line from bottom, for *Hannah Earle* read *Hannah Earle Borden.*

Page 73, 3d line from top, for *Mary Wheeler* read *Mary McClelland.*

Page 77, 21st line from bottom, for *William E. Pearson* read *William C. Pearson.*

Page 100, last line, for *4 ch.* read *3 ch.*

Page 168, 9th line from bottom, for *issue 4 ch.*, read *no issue*

Page 168, 8th line from bottom, for *issue 1 ch.* read *issue 5 ch.*

Page 168, 6th line from bottom, for *sister* read *daughter.*

Page 223, 9th and 11th lines from top, for *Delphia* read *Delhi.*

Page 223, 5th line from bottom, and page 356, 6th line from bottom, for *George Earle* read *George T. Earle.*

Page 256, last line on page, for *Ellwood Jenison* read *Ellwood Jemison.*

Page 269, 8th line from bottom, for *Charles A. Nickelson* read *Charles S. Nickelson.*

Page 296, 5th line from bottom, for *N. Y.* read *Wis.*

Page 301, 15th line from top, for *Bouron* read *Bowron.*

Page 309, 13th line from top, for *Tyler E. Earle* read *Tyler L. Earle.*

Page 311, 15th line from top, for *Herbert E. Earle* read *Herbert C. Earle.*

Page 311, 8th line from bottom, for *Andiss* read *Audiss.*

Page 316, 2d line from bottom, for *Minnie Proctor* read *Ermina Bell Proctor.*

Page 360, last line, for *Josephine Pilond* read *Josephine E. Pilon.*

Page 380, 4th line from top, for *Abzarah* read *Alzarah.*

Page 396, 3d line from bottom, for *Delette* read *Deette.*

Page 425, 11th line from bottom, for *Josephine Pilond* read *Josephine E. (b. Feb. 28, 1866), dau. of Joseph and Mary E. (Robins) Pilon, of Stewardson, Potter Co., Pa.*

ABBREVIATIONS.

The following abbreviations are used in this work:—*b.* for born; *d.* for died; *dau.* for daughter; *gr.* for grand; *m.* for married; *unm.* for unmarried.

For the names of children look under the numbers of their parents.

The italicized names in parenthesis, immediately following the name of a married descendant, where his personal and family record is given, show his direct pedigree back to the emigrant Ralph; and the small figures, attached to those names, indicate the generation to which each of those persons, respectively, belonged. For instance, in the case of [1638–2] George F. Earle, on page 328, the parenthetical names show that George's father was Halford, of the seventh generation; his grandfather, Frederick, of the sixth generation; his great-grandfather, George, of the fifth generation; and so on, to Ralph, of the first generation. By these italicized names it is very easy for any descendant to trace his direct ancestry.

In the language of another similar work, "The comparative length of the biographical memoirs in the following pages, has been determined rather by the means of information than by the merits of the subjects of the sketches."

RALPH EARLE

AND HIS

DESCENDANTS.

FIRST GENERATION.

[1]. **Ralph[1] Earle**; *m.* Joan ——; and *d.* at Portsmouth, R. I., in 1678.

Of the place of birth, the residence previous to emigration from England, or the ancestry of Ralph, we have no positive history. There is a tradition among his descendants that he came from Exeter, in the year 1634, and this tradition is probably correct. There is little doubt that he was married in England, and that his wife came with him, but her maiden surname and the dates of her birth and death are unknown. Her Christian name is spelled in the old records in three different ways, viz.: Ione, Jone and Joan; we have adopted the last orthography as now the most common.

The earliest trace of Ralph hitherto discovered, is in the records of Newport, R. I. His name is there found under date of "first of eighth month" (October), 1638, in a list with fifty-eight others, arranged as "A catalogue of such persons who, by the Generall consent of the company, were admitted to the Inhabytants of the Island now called Aqueedneck, having submitted themselves to the Government that is, or shall be, established according to the word of God therein."

The following is extracted from the records of Portsmouth, R. I.:

"APRIL ye 30th, 1639.

We, whose names are under [written, doe acknowledge*] ourselves the legell subjects of [his majestie] King Charles, and in his name [doe hereby binde] ourzelves into a civill body politicke, unto his lawes according to matters of justice."

This declaration was signed by twenty-nine men, of whom Ralph Earle† was one. January 7, 1640, it was ordered at a town meeting that he and his co-partner, Mr. Wilbur, "shall serve the town with good sufficient stuff, viz: well sawn boards at eight shillings the hundred, and half inch boards at seven shillings, to be delivered at the pit by the waterside."

March 21, 1640, Ralph conveyed to William Baulstone "parcells of upland and meadow."

In the record of a town meeting held August 26, 1647, it is stated that he was "chosen to keep an Inn to sell beer and wine, and to entertain strangers"; and at another held June 2, 1649, he was "chosen Treasurer for this year next insuing, and also overseer of the poor."

At a similar meeting on the 29th of April, 1650, Ralph and five others were chosen "for the committee for the General Assembly at Newport in May next." On the 12th of November, 1650, it was "voated & granted that Ralph Erl's house wherein he now dwelleth be recorded & Inn, in ye room of ye former vote that he was an Innkeeper"; on the 19th of January, 1651, he and three others were chosen "to proportion every man's farm," &c., for the purpose of assessing a tax for the support of a poor man; and on the 3d of June, 1651, he was again elected town treasurer.

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*A part of the record is torn off, and it has been supplied on the town's book by the words in brackets.

† This name in all the very earliest records is written with the final e, but the orthography soon begins to vary and runs into the several forms—Earl, Earll, Erl and Erle.

In minor branches of the family the two forms Earle and Earl have been continued to the present day; and in central New York there are many families whose descent from Ralph is indicated by circumstantial evidence, but has not been positively demonstrated, who now write their names Earll. In this compilation the orthography of *living* families is that which is used by them, wherever it is known, and it will be seen that it sometimes varies in individuals of the same family.

Under date of August 25, 1651, there is a record of an agreement of division of fence between Ralph Earle and John Tripp. A very old copy of the original document is now in the possession of the heirs of the late George Earle of Providence, R. I.; it is dated August 25, 1639.

On the 21st of May, 1651, Ralph conveyed a tenement and eight acres of land to Nicholas and Joan Harte; on the 24th of June, 1652, he sold to William Arnold of Providence, land formerly owned by Francis Weston's wife Margaret, near "Pawtuxet Falls"; on February 19, 1653, he quitclaimed to Thomas Lawton, and on December 13, 1653, he conveyed twenty acres to William Cadman.

In 1654, he and another man were chosen as a town's committee to "oversee the work of the Prison."

On the 5th of April, 1655, he conveyed to his son William eighteen acres of land on the northern extremity of the island, at Bristol Ferry. It is traditional that he owned the ferry, but this has not been confirmed by any discovered records.

May 5, 1655, the "Jurymen chosen for the Generall Court of Tryals to be held at Providence," were John Sandford, Ralph Earle and Francis Brayton. Ralph was again upon the grand jury in 1669.

May 25, 1655, he was appointed by the Court of Commissioners to keep a house of entertainment. A convenient sign was to be set out at the most "perspicuous" place, to give notice to strangers.

On November 24, 1656, he conveyed land to Daniel Grinnell, Ralph, Jr., signing the deed as witness; and on the 5th of January, 1658, he conveyed forty acres to Jeremiah Willis.

At a town meeting March 2, 1658, five men were chosen "to examine and audit Ralph Earll's accompts of what the towne is indebted unto him, and what they shall find the towne to be in his debt shall be payd to the sayd Earll by the towne Treasurer."

August 10, 1667, he joined a "troope of horse," which had been ordered to be raised, and signed, with eighteen others, a paper in which they "approve of the choyce of our Captaine (Peleg N. Sanford) and Lieftenant (John Almy) to the full." He was afterward captain of the troop.

June 7, 1671, in the General Assembly, Ralph "Earll" and eleven others, of Portsmouth, and a number of residents of Newport, were appointed as a special court, to sit on the 15th of the same month, to try "two Indians now imprisoned upon criminall charge."

Ralph claimed the lands of the Dutch House of Good Hope, now Hartford, Connecticut, and commenced a lawsuit therefor "against Richard Lord and James Richards of Hartford, possessors of the Dutch land, about 1667. Earl affirmed that he purchased the land of Underhill, in August, 1653, and paid him twenty pounds sterling for it; but Underhill protested against Earl's claim." "It is not improbable," continues the article from which we quote, "that there was some foundation for this claim. There are many papers upon the subject in the archives of Connecticut."

Ralph's will was as follows:

"The last will and testiment of Ralph Earle, of Portsmouth, on Rhoad Island, being in perfect memory, being sencible of man's mortalitie and for the avoiding of futur controversies amongst my Relations doe order and dispose of my Estate as followeth:—first I doe order, substitute and apointe Jone my wife my whole and sole Executrix to Receive and pay all whatsoever is due Either to or from mee and that which Remains of my Estate shall bee and Remaine in the hand and possession of my said wife during her naturall life and att her deceas to be disposed and divided in maner and forme following, namely, my will is that after and upon the decease of my said wife that all my land and housing, with the apurtinenc thereto belonging, shall be and Remaine to my Eldest sonn, Ralph Earle, and to Ralph Earle, the sonn of my sonn William Earle, to be Equally divided into three parts, my sonn Ralph to have two parts thereof and my said Grandsonn one, to be to them, there heirs and Asigns a possesion and Estate forever: and further my will is that all my moveable Estate shall, at the decease of my said wife, be Equally divided into five parts, and that my sonn Ralph Earle shall have two parts thereof, he paying, or causing to be paid, the sum of one shilling to my son William Earle, as his portion of my Estate, and the other three parts thereof I doe give and bequeath to my three daughters, that is to say, Mary the wife of William Cory, Martha the wife of William Wood, and Sarah, widow to the late deceased Thomas Cornell, to Each of them an Equall share: and for the dividing and disposing wherof, as an overseer, I doe order and apoint my friend and neighbor John Tripp the Elder to take care to see this my will performed as abovesaid; and that this is my will and testament, to be performed to all true intents, witness my hand and seal, this nienteenth day of november, in the year one Thousand six hundred Seventy and Three."

"Witnes Thomas Havens."

The children of Ralph and Joan Earle were:

2–1. RALPH EARLE; *m.* Dorcas Sprague.
3–2. WILLIAM EARLE; *m.* 1st, Mary Walker; 2d, Prudence ——.

4–3. MARY EARLE; *m.* William Cory.
5–4. MARTHA EARLE; *m.* William Wood.
6–5. SARAH EARLE; *m.* Thomas Cornell.

SECOND GENERATION.

[2–1]. **Ralph[2] Earle** *(Ralph[1])*, son of Ralph and Joan Earle; *m.* before Oct. 26, 1659, Dorcas, dau. of Francis and Lydia Sprague, of Duxbury, Mass.; and *d.* probably in 1716, as letters of administration were granted to his son John on the 6th of January, 1717.

The first intimation of this Ralph is in the record of a town meeting in Portsmouth, January 19, 1651, where his father is mentioned as Ralph Earle, Senior. The next is his signature as witness to one of his father's deeds of real estate, November 24, 1656. He was received a freeman of the town May 11, 1658; and at the same meeting it was "Ordered that Ralph Earll Jun[r] shall be payd Eleven Shillings after the Rate of Eight white peages (beads) per peny, by the Treasurer."

October 26, 1659, Francis Sprague, "of Duxborough," conveyed to his "son-in-Law, Ralph Earl, of Road Island," one-half share of land at "Coaksett and Acushena, in the Jurisdiction of Plymouth." Sprague had his title to the land from the Indians Wosamequin and "Wamsitta."

It is probable that Ralph immediately removed from Portsmouth and settled upon this land, as at the time of all known subsequent allusions to him he was in Dartmouth, within which the land was situated. He was one of the persons who received the confirmatory deed of the town, and it is known that he was there in 1663.

May 10, 1684, John Eyanoe conveyed to Ralph Earle, a neck or island, made at high water, in Yarmouth, in consideration of a "certain parcel of Land sittuate under y[e] goverment of new york in America, upon cutAhonkko, viz. one neck and one island in A fresh pond upon s[d] cutAhonkko, and Twenty acres of Land in Dartmouth, payd by Ralph Earl."

June 13, 1688, "Ralph Earl of Dartmouth," "in consideration of natural love and affection," conveyed to his son Ralph, "one half of

the westermost island, called Elizabeth Island, to be his after my decease."

October 20, 1689, "in consideration of natural affection," he conveyed to his son William one hundred acres of land in Dartmouth.

June 10, 1692, he says that "of my own moote [and] motion, for divors good causes and good considerations moveing mee thereunto, beside my trew Love and naturall Affections that I bare unto this my youngest son Joseph Earle, and for his advancement for time to come," and "with the consent of Dorcas, my wife," he conveyed to the said Joseph two hundred acres of land in Dartmouth. This was "bounded upon Ponaganset River, So up into the woods."

July 24, 1693, he conveyed to his son William, "in consideration of natural love and affection, one quarter part of the Island called by the Indians Pocatahunka, being the westermost Island."

He was a large land holder, and many other of his conveyances are upon record. Of these grants, the only consideration for the value of the land appears to have been his "natural love and affection" in the following instances, namely: 250 acres to his son John; after his death 100 acres to his grandson John, 100 acres to his grandson Daniel, 50 acres to his grandson Benjamin, and "A small Island, or Tract of Land," to William Ingraham.

The following paragraph is taken from John W. Barber's Historical Collections of Massachusetts:

"During Philip's War a great part of this town [Dartmouth] was laid desolate and many of the inhabitants killed. The most of the Plymouth forces were ordered thither. In coming to Russel's garrison, at Ponaganset, or Aponaganset, in this town, they met with a number of the enemy that had surrendered themselves prisoners, on terms promised by Capt. Eels, of the garrison, and Ralph Earle, who persuaded them to come in, by a friendly Indian whom he employed. It is to be regretted, however, that notwithstanding the promises made by the above persons to the Indians, they were, by the superior authorities, carried away to Plymouth, 'then sold and transported out of the country, being about eight score persons.'"

The children of Ralph and Dorcas (Sprague) Earle were:

7–1. JOHN EARLE; *m.* Mary Wilcox.
8–2. RALPH EARLE; *m.* Dorcas Dillingham.
9–3. WILLIAM EARLE; *m.* Hephzibah Butts.
10–4. JOSEPH EARLE; *m.* Elizabeth Slocum.

also a daughter Dorcas Earle who married John Clapp. Their son Ebenezer Clapp m. Mary Wilcox dau of Kenelm and Bethia (Holt) Winslow. Their dau Bethia Clapp m. Samuel Church son of Richard and Anna (Stinchcomb) Church.

[3–2]. **William**[2] **Earle** *(Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Joan Earle; *m.* 1st, Mary, dau. of John and Katharine Walker, of Portsmouth, R. I., issue, three children; 2d, Prudence —— (*d.* Jan. 18, 1718); and *d.* Jan. 15, 1715.

The first known record of William is under date of April 2, 1634, when he and his wife Mary sold to James Sands their interest in fourteen acres that came by right of the late widow Walker; the land having come by marriage of Mary Walker (daughter of the widow) to William Earle.

In 1658, on the 11th of May, he was "Received a freeman" of Portsmouth; on the 18th of the same month "Att the Generall court of Commissioners held for the Collony, at Warwicke," he was admitted as a freeman of the colony; and on the 8th of June, he and two others were "chosen Jurymen to attend the Generel court of Tryels, at Newport."

At a town meeting held May 1, 1665, it was ordered that William Earle and William Correy (Cory) should have "one acker of land on the hill cauled Briges hill, or some other conveniant place in this townes Comons, and a quarter of an acker of land lying aganst ye towne pond over against William Earle's new dwelinge house, and these two pearcells of land they are to have and to enjoy to them and theres, so long as they maintain a wind mill in this towne for the towns use, Provided that if they maintain not the said mill then the said pearcells of land is to be returned and laid downe to the townes use and dispose." In 1668, the wind mill had been erected, and the town, at the request of said Earle and Cory, annulled the above order, and exchanged two acres of ground near the mill for two acres belonging to the said parties. In 1684, the site of the mill is mentioned as "Windmill hill," and in 1685, the grounds were re-exchanged, the town and the parties taking their former property respectively.

"The Eare marke of William Earl's cattell is a hapeny under the side of ye further Eare and a Slit on the Nere Eare, of 12 yeares standing, and Entred upon Record by me, Richard Bulgar, towne Clarke, December, ye 5th, 1667."

William removed to Dartmouth about the year 1670, and stayed several years, his interest there being large. He owned more than

two thousand acres from his claims in the original division of the land. Copies of many conveyances both to and from him are upon record. In one of the latter, dated June 26, 1680, in consideration of "naturall Love and affection," he conveyed to his son Ralph and his wife Mary, "of Dartmouth," a "parcel of Land Scituate Lying and being in the Township of Freetown, in the county of Bristoll aforesaid, on the Eastward side of Tanton River, containing half a share, that is to say, half that whole share Adjoyning to the Fall River, two thirds whereof I do give to my said son Ralph Earll his heirs and Assigns forever; and the other Third thereof I do give to my said Daughter in Law Mary Earll her heirs and Assigns forever." This deed was executed in Portsmouth, and the land conveyed is now the site of the central and earliest settled part of the city of Fall River.

On the 6th of May, 1691, the "General Assembly for their Majesties Collony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in Portsmouth on said Rhode Island, for the Election of General Officers for the said Collony," was held "at the house of William Earle, it being removed from Newport by reason of the distemper." It was "adjourned until the 23d day of June, and then to meet again at the house of William Earle, in Portsmouth, except the Governor sees cause to meet sooner, if urgent occasion should present."

In 1692, he was on the "grand Inquest at Newport"; and on the 6th of October he conveyed to his "welbeloved son Thomas Earll, of the Town of Dartmouth, * * * one full quarter of a share of upland" in Dartmouth.

He was a deputy from Portsmouth to the General Assemblies held at Providence, October 25, 1704, and at Newport, May 1, 1706, and July 3, 1706.

In his will, executed Nov. 13, 1713, he gave to his son William, a brass milk pan, and a like gift to his sons Thomas, Ralph and John, and his daughters Mary Borden, Mary Hix and Prudence Durfee, and to the last a negro girl, "Kate," also, to his son John, all the rest of the estate, real and personal, he paying legacies as follows: to grandson Caleb Earle, forty acres, or £40, at the age of twenty-one. To granddaughter Joan Earle, daughter of Caleb, £10, at twenty years of age. His son John was to allow his mother comfortable and sufficient maintenance.

The children of William Earle were:

11–1. MARY EARLE, *b.* 1655; *m.* John Borden.
12–2. WILLIAM EARLE; *m.* Elizabeth ——.
13–3. RALPH EARLE, *b.* 1660; *m.* Mary Hicks.
14–4. THOMAS EARLE; *m.* Mary Taber.
15–5. CALEB EARLE; *m.* Mary ——.
16–6. JOHN EARLE; *m.* Mary Wait.
17–7. PRUDENCE EARLE; *m.* Benjamin Durfee.

[4–3]. **Mary**[2] **Earle** *(Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Joan Earle; *m.* 1st, William Cory (*d.* 1682); and 2d, Joseph, son of Henry and Mary Timberlake. They lived in Portsmouth, R. I.; where she *d.* Mar. 22, 1718.

The children of Mary Earle were:

18– 1. JOHN CORY; *m.* Elizabeth —— (*d.* after 1713); and *d.* 1712.
19– 2. WILLIAM CORY; *m.* Martha (*d.* 1704), dau. of John and Mary (Borden) Cook; and *d.* 1704.
20– 3. MERCY CORY; *m.* 1st, Cornelius Jones; 2d, Nov. 17, 1704, Charles Gonsales.
21– 4. ANNE CORY; *m.* Robert (*b.* March, 1650; *d.* 1722), son of Robert and Rebecca Bennett.
22– 5. THOMAS CORY; *m.* 1st, —— ——; 2d, Feb. 24, 1732, Susanna Taber (*d.* after 1734); and *d.* 1738.
23– 6. MARGARET CORY; *d.* young.
24– 7. MARY CORY; *m.* Thomas (*d.* 1726), son of John and Mary (Borden) Cook; and *d.* after 1726.
25– 8. CALEB CORY; *m.* Sarah —— (*d.* after 1704); and *d.* 1704.
26– 9. ROGER CORY; *m.* 1st, —— ——; 2d, May 1, 1718, Remembrance, widow of John Dye; and *d.* 1754.
27–10. JOAN CORY; *m.* —— Taylor.
28–11. SARAH TIMBERLAKE; *m.* Dec. 13, 1699, Thomas (*b.* April 11, 1679; *d.* Sept. 2, 1761), son of Jethro and Mehitable Jeoffries, of Newport, R. I.; and *d.* Oct. 7, 1769.

[5–4]. **Martha**[2] **Earle** *(Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Joan Earle; *m.* William (*d.* 1697), son of John and —— Wood. They lived in Portsmouth, R. I., and Dartmouth, Mass.

Their children were:

29–1. WILLIAM WOOD.
30–2. GEORGE WOOD.
31–3. JOSIAH WOOD.
32–4. DANIEL WOOD.
33–5. JOHN WOOD.
34– 6. JOSEPH WOOD.
35– 7. [A daughter].
36– 8. SARAH WOOD.
37– 9. MARGARET WOOD.
38–10. REBECCA WOOD.

[6–5]. **Sarah**[2] **Earle** *(Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Joan Earle; *m.* 1st, Thomas (*d.* 1673), son of Thomas and Rebecca Cornell; 2d, David Lake; and *d.* in 1690. She lived in Portsmouth, Little Compton and Tiverton, R. I.

Their children were:

39–1. John Cornell.
40–2. Sarah Cornell.
41–3. Innocent Cornell.
42–4. Sarah Lake, *b.* May 10, 1678.
43–5. David Lake, *b.* June 2, 1679; *m.* Mary (*b.* Feb. 25, 1682; *d.* after 1767), dau. of Daniel and Hannah (Cook) Wilcox; and *d.* Aug. 4, 1767.
44–6. Jonathan Lake, *b.* Dec. 30, 1681.
45–7. Joel Lake, *b.* Jan. 30, 1683; *m.* Sarah ——; and *d.* in 1735.
46–8. Joseph Lake, *b.* June 15, 1690.

THIRD GENERATION.

[7–1]. **John**[3] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Dorcas (Sprague) Earle; *m.* Mary (*d.* 1735), dau. of Daniel and Elizabeth (Cook) Wilcox; and *d.* in 1728.

John had taken the oath of fidelity, or Freeman's oath, in Dartmouth before March 24, 1686, but he afterwards removed to Tiverton. Before this removal and in October, 1686, John Sprague, son of John and grandson of Francis Sprague, and Lydia, his wife, conveyed to him all right, or claim of inheritance, in "one half of a purchase of Land Lying In ye township of Dartmouth, In ye county of Bristoll, where my Uncle Ralf Earl now lives." This was the land which Francis Sprague gave to his son-in-law, Ralph Earle [2–1].

In his will, which was executed February 12, 1719, he mentions his wife Mary; sons John, Daniel and Benjamin; and daughters Mary, Rebecca and Elizabeth. The inventory was £251. 6s. 1d.

The children of John and Mary (Wilcox) Earle were:

47–1. John Earle, *b.* Aug. 7, 1687.
48–2. Daniel Earle, *b.* Oct. 8, 1688; *m.* Grace Wicks, 1716.

49–3. Benjamin Earle, *b.* May 25, 1691; *m.* Rebecca Westgate.
50–4. Mary Earle, *b.* June 1, 1693; living, unmarried, in 1769.
51–5. Rebecca Earle, *b.* Dec. 17, 1695.
52–6. Elizabeth Earle, *b.* Sept. 6, 1699; *m.* 1st, George Westgate; 2d, Capt. John Adams, of Warren, R. I.

[8–2]. **Ralph[3] Earle, Jr.** *(Ralph,[2] Ralph[1])*, of Dartmouth, son of Ralph and Dorcas (Sprague) Earle, was *b.* 1660; *m.* 1692, Dorcas, dau. of Henry Dillingham; and *d.* in 1718. Dorcas died on "the 23[d] of the month called January, 1742, in the eightieth year of her age."

Ralph had taken the oath of fidelity, or freeman's oath, before March 24, 1686.

In 1693 he conveyed to his brother William, then in Dartmouth, "one half part of all and Singular my Island, as my father Ralph Earle hath given it to mee, which said Island is called Elizabeth Island." He had lived at one period on this island.

Ralph's will, executed April 2, 1718, and entered for probate May 8, 1718, mentions his wife Dorcas, his brother Joseph, his daughters Deborah, Hannah and Meribah, and his son Barnabas, to each of whom he left a legacy. The inventory was £1,862. 5s. 5d., and his wife Dorcas was executrix.

The children of Ralph and Dorcas (Dillingham) Earle were:

53–1. Deborah Earle, *b.* Sept. 2, 1693; *m.* Adam Hunt.
54–2. Barnabas Earle, *b.* Feb. 3, 1698; *m.* 1759, widow Parnel Chase. No issue.
55–3. Hannah Earle, *b.* Dec. 21, 1701; *m.* Aug. 27, 1719, William Brown.
56–4. Meribah Earle, *b.* Jan. 29, 1703.

Barnabas was on the petit jury in 1725; constable in 1741; "tything-man" in 1766. At the town meeting of August 9, 1762, he was chosen Moderator. It appears that he had a liberal estate for the times and place in which he lived. He received, by bequest, his father's homestead and various other lands. He also had an interest in the common lands of Dartmouth, and his name, among others, is signed to requests for calls of meetings of the "Proprietors and Purchasers," in several years from 1743 to 1773.

From his will, executed March 2, 1770, and entered for probate June 16, 1778, we make the following extract:

"Item I Give and Bequeath Unto my true and Loving Wife Pernal Earl: all my Indoors Moveable Estate also: my Sidesaddle and one third part of my Liveing Stock of Cattle Sheep horses and Swine I als° Give Her my Gould Sleave Buttens and my Silver Shoe Buckell all wich I Give to Her and to Her Heirs and Assigns for Ever. I also Give Her the Use and Improvement of my Now Dwelling House and ye yard round s^d House and orchard adjoyning s^d yard Dureing Her Natural Life. I also Give to my s^d Wife the Keeping of One Rideing horse & ye Keeping of one Cow to be kept weell or with Sufficient Hay and grass on my Homesed farm Dureing her Natural Life I also Give Her twelve Pound Lawfull mony to be paid Her yearly and Every Year after my Desease Dureing Her Natural life I also Give Her ten Bushels of Good Indian Coarn and ten Pounds of Good Marchantable Sheeps Woll yearly and Every year During Her Natural Life also Seven Coard of Wood yearly and Every year as above s^d she cuting & carting the same. All Which I Give to my Said Wife Parnel Earl In Lew of Her thirds or Right Dowry in my Esate."

[9–3]. **William[3] Earle** *(Ralph,[2] Ralph[1])*, son of Ralph and Dorcas (Sprague) Earle; *m.* Dec. 26, 1695, Hephzibah (*b.* 1675), dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Butts.

"I William Earle, son of Ralph Earle, of Dartmouth," in consideration of sixty-five pounds sterling, convey to Peleg Slocum, "one quarter part of the westermost Island called Elizabeth Island, alias Cotohunko, containing, by estimation, one hundred and twelve acres." August 29, 1693.

On the same day he conveyed to the said Slocum the use of one-eighth part of the same island during the life of his father, Ralph.

February 3, 1696, in consideration of thirty pounds sterling, he conveyed to Robert Havens one hundred acres of land in Dartmouth.

He was chosen constable in 1695, and again March 30, 1696.

The children of William and Hephzibah (Butts) Earle were:

57–1. Sarah Earle, *b.* Dec. 18, 1696; *m.* Thomas Manchester, of Tiverton, R. I., July 28, 1720.
58–2. Anna Earle, *b.* March 10, 1700; *m.* William King, of E. Greenwich, R. I., Feb. 1, 1722.
59–3. Joseph Earle, *b.* Feb. 9, 1702.
60–4. Thomas Earle, *b.* Jan. 17, 1704.

61–5. NATHANIEL EARLE, *b.* Jan. 28, 1705.
62–6. DAMARIS EARLE, *b.* Jan. 18, 1707.
63–7. JONATHAN EARLE, *b.* June 7, 1712.

These births are recorded in Little Compton, R. I.

No further history of the family is found: they probably emigrated from New England.

[10–4]. **Joseph**[3] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Dorcas (Sprague) Earle, of Dartmouth, Mass.; *m.* Elizabeth (*b.* April 8, 1671), dau. of Giles and Anne (Lawton) Slocum, of Portsmouth, R. I.; and *d.* in 1756.

His father having given him two hundred acres of land in Dartmouth, he lived many years in that town, but removed to Portsmouth, R. I., before May 1, 1730. In the former town he was chosen juryman "for trials" in 1696, 1699 and 1700, and was on the grand jury in 1719. He was constable in 1702, and fence-viewer in 1724.

"The Ear mark of Joseph Earl, his Cattel, is a croop on the right Ear and a slit in the left. Recorded [Dartmouth] May the 2th day, 1724."

On the 1st of May, 1730, he relinquished his claim in the burying-ground at Portsmouth, and on the same day, in consideration, as he says, of "paternal love, good will and affection, which I have and do bear unto my loving son-in-law, James Kirby, of Newport," he deeded to said Kirby a house and several parcels of land.

The children of Joseph and Elizabeth (Slocum) Earle were:

64–1. ANN EARLE, *b.* Jan. 28, 1704; *m.* James Kirby.
65–2. DORCAS EARLE, *b.* April 10, 1705; *m.* Wm. Tilley.
66–3. JOSEPH EARLE, *b.* Dec. 31, 1708; *d.* Aug. 30, 1728.

[11–1]. **Mary**[3] **Earle** *(William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of William and Mary (Walker) Earle, was *b.* in 1655, in Portsmouth, R. I.; *m.* Dec. 25, 1670, John (*b.* Sept., 1640; *d.* June 4, 1716), son of Richard and Joan Borden; lived in Portsmouth, and *d.* in June, 1734.

Their children were:

67–1. RICHARD BORDEN, *b.* Oct. 25, 1671.

68–2. John Borden, *b.* 1675.
69–3. Amey Borden, *b.* May 30, 1678; *m.* Benjamin Chase, of Tiverton, R. I.
70–4. Joseph Borden, *b.* Dec. 3, 1680.
71–5. Thomas Borden, *b.* Dec. 13, 1682; *m.* April 18, 1717, Catharine (*b.* Feb. 23, 1689), dau. of John and Alice (Teddeman) Hull, of Jamestown, R. I.
72–6. Hope Borden, *b.* March 3, 1685.
73–7. Mary Borden.
74–8. William Borden, *b.* Aug. 15, 1689; *m.* July 7, 1715, Alice (*b.* Oct. 22, 1692), dau. of John and Alice (Teddeman) Hull, of Jamestown; one son, William.
75–9. Benjamin Borden.

[12–2]. **William[3] Earl** (*William,[2] Ralph[1]*), son of William and Mary (Walker) Earle, was *b.* in Portsmouth, R. I.; *m.* Elizabeth ——, and settled in Dartmouth, Mass., where he was chosen juryman in 1694, and constable in 1695 and 1696. On the 5th of July, 1695, his father, who had lived in Dartmouth for some years, but had returned to Portsmouth, conveyed to him, in consideration of "love and affection," the homestead from which he had removed in the former town.

It appears that William was engaged in a small way in the shipping business, owning, in company with another man, a sloop with which he carried on a coasting trade between the ports of southern New England, New York and New Jersey.

In December, 1697, he removed to Springfield, N. J.; bought a farm there and passed the rest of his life upon it. The exact date of his death is not known; but his will is dated Sept. 23, 1732, and was proven May 10, 1733. In it after small legacies of money and furniture to his apparently only surviving daughters, Mary Borden and Martha Shinn, he gave the whole of the remainder of his estate, both real and personal, to his son William.

William was a member of the Society of Friends. His descendants followed his example in their religious relations and many of them still remain in membership with that society.

William's name upon the records is written without the final e; and as all of his descendants, so far as appears, have adopted that orthography, we here conform to their custom in that respect.

The children of William and Elizabeth Earl were:

76–1. MARY EARL; *m.* Jonathan Borden.
77–2. MARTHA EARL; *m.* Thomas Shinn (*b.* Nov. 6, 1693); and had one son, Earl Shinn.
78–3. —— EARL; *m.* John Webb.
79–4. WILLIAM EARL; *m.* Mrs. Mary Sharpe.
80–5. THOMAS EARL; *m.* Mary Crispin.

[13–3]. **Ralph[3] Earle** (*William,[2] Ralph[1]*), son of William and Mary (Walker) Earle, was *b.* in 1660; *m.* Mary (Carr) Hicks, widow of John Hicks, and dau. of Robert Carr, of Newport, R. I.; and *d.* in 1757, at Leicester, Mass. His wife *d.* in the same year. Both were interred in the Friends' burial-ground, at Leicester, where are the graves of members of no less than six generations of their descendants.

The earliest known record of Ralph is, that he had taken the freeman's oath in Dartmouth prior to March 24, 1686. In 1688, his father gave to him and his wife the land "adjoyning the Fall River" at Pocasset, in Freetown. His removal to and occupancy of this land must have occurred soon afterward. He lived there between twenty-five and thirty years, the site of his house being on what is now Bedford street, about ten rods northeast of the northeast corner of the market which was standing in 1860. The house had a gambrel roof, and was destroyed about fifty years ago.

"The yaer mark of Ralph Earll's Creatures is a half penie on the hinder part of the right yaer and a Crop on the Left and his brandmark RE. Enterd the 14: of february 169⅔ by Sam[ll] Gardner Selectman."

He was surveyor of highways in 1690, '92 and '96, constable in 1699, and grand juryman in 1700 and 1715.

An old letter addressed to him in 1715, gives him the military title Ensign. In that year he conveyed to his son John eight acres of land, five of which was at Bristol Ferry, and came by gift from his grandfather Ralph.

In 1716, he went through Providence, R. I., into the interior of Massachusetts as far as Leicester. On the way, at Grafton, Mass., he hired an Indian, named Moses Printer, as a guide. Upon a portion of their route there was no path, and they marked trees as guides

on their return. In the course of the next following year, 1717, he removed with a part of his family to Leicester, and purchased two tracts or lots of land of the original Proprietors of that town. The two tracts contained about 550 acres. One of them included the Mulberry Grove (now George and Billings Mann's) and some of the adjoining farms, and the other was on the west side of Asnebumskit hill, in what is now Paxton. Its westerly boundary appears to have been the road leading northerly from the Penniman place, one mile east of Paxton centre.

"Janowari 3, 1722, Ralf Earll Entred his mark (for cattle) the Top of the left Ear off."

His dwelling house was about one and one-half miles north-easterly from the central village of Leicester, on Mulberry street, and very near the site of the present residence of Benjamin Wilson. It was a gambrel-roofed building of but one story, and was taken down in the year 1846.

At a town meeting March 5, 1721, it was "Voated that Ralph Earl" should have a certain "pew spot" in the meeting-house, he paying the town twenty shillings.

Within the next succeeding twelve years a meeting of the Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, was organized in the town. Ralph joined it, and in 1732, he, his sons William and Robert and four other men, asked to be released from paying "any part of the Tax for the Seport of the minister or ministers established by the Laws of this province," alleging that they were Quakers, with a conscientious scruple against such payment, and laying claim to "the Privileges granted" to the people so-called. A meeting-house was erected upon a lot taken from the farms of Ralph and his neighbor and fellow-Quaker, Nathaniel Potter, both of whose bodies now repose within a few feet of its site.

Ralph's interest in the Society was such that he went to Philadelphia to visit William Penn. Penn was at that time building a house at Pennsburg, and it is said that he told Ralph that he would put the initials of his name upon the chimney.

At a town meeting March 22, 1736, "Voted to alow Mr. Ralph Earl four shillings to meet worcester men to preambulate ye line between worcester & lester."

It has been said that Ralph once owned Mount Hope, R. I., but no deed of it can be found upon record.

Ralph's will was executed on the 25th of May, 1750. Among the bequests to his wife is his "negro boy Sharp"; and he directs that if the negro be faithful and well-behaved, he shall have his freedom at her decease. If he be not faithful, he may be sold. But before Ralph died he manumitted the slave, and on the 6th of April, 1756, gave him thirty acres of land on the southern declivity of Asnebumskit. In the deed of conveyance he says "In consideration of Love, good will and faithful service to me performed by my negro servant Sharp" he makes this gift. It appears that Sharp afterwards assumed the name Freeborn as a surname. Ralph's deed is recorded in the Worcester Registry, Book 38, p. 285.*

The children of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle were:

81– 1. WILLIAM EARLE, *b.* Nov. 12, 1690; *m.* Annah Howard.
82– 2. JOHN EARLE, *b.* April 24, 1692; *m.* widow Sarah Borden.
83– 3. MARY EARLE, *b.* Oct. 24, 1693; *m.* —— Sheffield.
84– 4. ELIZABETH EARLE, *b.* Dec. 24, 1696; *m.* Robert Lawton.
85– 5. SARAH EARLE, *b.* Jan. 18, 1698; *m.* Stephen Manchester.
86– 6. MARTHA EARLE, *b.* Dec. 21, 1700.
87– 7. PATIENCE EARLE, *b.* Nov. 24, 1702; *m.* Benjamin Richardson.
88– 8. RALPH EARLE, *b.* March 14, 1704.
89– 9. ROBERT EARLE, *b.* March 2, 1706; *m.* 1st, Mary Newhall; 2d, Hepzibah Johnson.
90–10. MERCY EARLE, *b.* March 13, 1708; *m.* Jotham Rice.
91–11. BENJAMIN EARLE, *b.* March 14, 1711; *m.* 1st, Abigail Newhall; 2d, widow Deborah (Buffum) Slade.

[14–4]. **Thomas**[3] **Earle** (*William*,[2] *Ralph*[1]), son of William and Mary (Walker) Earle; *m.* before Nov., 1693, Mary (*b.* 1670; *d.* 1759), dau. of Philip and Mary Taber, of Dartmouth, Mass.; and *d.* April 28, 1727.

In 1692, when his father gave him land in Dartmouth, he went there to live; in 1696, conveyed his land to John Shaw; lived a short time in Portsmouth; bought the same year of John Shaw 40 acres in Swanzey,† to which he removed and added more to it; in 1708, sold off between one and two acres for a Friends' meeting-house; in

* On the chart of "Ralph Earle and his Descendants" it is stated that he held *two* slaves. This mistake was caused by the differences in the spelling of Sharp's name in the records. † In the early records the spelling of the name of this town is *Swansea*, but in this work we have adopted the modern spelling—*Swanzey*.

1716, conveyed for love and good will, one-half his farm to his son Oliver, and in 1721, sold the other half to him for £1,100. He had then returned to Portsmouth. He died at his homestead in Warwick, R. I.

His will was executed in Warwick, April 27, 1727, and his wife Mary was executrix. Inventory, £669. 19s. 1d.

The children of Thomas and Mary (Taber) Earle were:

92–1. WILLIAM EARLE; *m.* 1st, Mehitable Brayton; 2d, widow Abigail Lawton.
93–2. THOMAS EARLE.
94–3. MARY EARLE; *m.* Jan. 31, 1711, Elisha, son of Daniel Baker, of Yarmouth, Mass.
95–4. OLIVER EARLE; *m.* Rebecca Sherman; *d.* 1766.
96–5. SARAH EARLE.
97–6. LYDIA EARLE.
98–7. REBECCA EARLE.

[15–5]. **Caleb[3] Earle** *(William,[2] Ralph[1])*, son of William and Mary (Walker) Earle; *m.* Mary ——, who, after his death, *m.* Joseph Hicks.

Their children were:

99–1. CALEB EARLE.
100–2. JOAN EARLE.

[16–6]. **John[3] Earle** *(William,[2] Ralph[1])*, son of William and Prudence Earle; *m.* Feb. 27, 1700, Mary (*d.* after 1759), dau. of Thomas and Sarah (Cook) Wait, of Tiverton, R. I., and *d.* Aug. 12, 1759. They were married by Joseph Church, Esq.

Richard Sherman, for thirty years Town Clerk of Portsmouth, says (1858) that "in 1714, John Earl's dwelling house stood a few rods south of the site of the hotel erected a few years ago at Bristol ferry."

It appears by the records of Portsmouth, that John acted upon coroner's juries in 1697, 1705 and 1712.

In 1714, the town of Portsmouth granted to him, in consideration of twenty-four shillings, twelve acres of the common lands.

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November 15, 1715, "John Earll," of Portsmouth, in consideration of £100, conveyed to his "cousin* (nephew)† John Earll Jr.‡ (2d) of Portsmouth," three acres of land, with a dwelling house, in Portsmouth. This land was near Bristol ferry, and adjoined lands belonging to each party, respectively.

February 13, 1722, in consideration of £60, he conveyed to Shadrach Keese six acres of land on Hog Island, in Portsmouth.

His will was executed in 1759.

The children of John and Mary (Wait) Earle were:

101–1. PRUDENCE EARLE, *b.* Nov. 18, 1701.
102–2. MARY EARLE, *b.* Feb. 19, 1703; *m.* Job Durfee.
103–3. OLIVER EARLE, *b.* Feb. 26, 1706; *m.* Ruth Hall.
104–4. MARTHA EARLE, *b.* Sept. 29, 1708; *m.* Stephen Brownell.
105–5. WILLIAM EARLE, *b.* March 28, 1710; *m.* Mary Lawton.
106–6. JOHN EARLE, *b.* Nov. 10, 1717; *m.* 1st, Elizabeth Hall; 2d, Tabitha Hall; 3d, widow Deborah Brownell.

[17–7]. **Prudence**[3] **Earle** *(William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of William and Prudence Earle, *b.* in 1681 in Portsmouth, R. I.; *m.* Benjamin (*b.* 1680; *d.* Jan. 6, 1754), son of Thomas and Deliverance (Tripp) Durfee; lived in Tiverton and Newport, R. I.; and *d.* March 12, 1733, in Westport, Mass.

Their children were:

107–1. JAMES DURFEE, *b.* Aug. 28, 1701.
108–2. ANN DURFEE, *b.* Jan. 11, 1703.
109–3. POPE DURFEE, *b.* Jan. 7, 1705.
110–4. WILLIAM DURFEE, *b.* Dec. 5, 1707.
111–5. BENJAMIN DURFEE, *b.* Jan. 5, 1709.
112–6. MARY DURFEE, *b.* Jan. 30, 1711.
113–7. SUSANNAH DURFEE, *b.* Jan. 28, 1713.
114–8. MARTHA DURFEE, *b.* July 15, 1719.
115–9. THOMAS DURFEE, *b.* Nov. 5, 1721.

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* Though he called him "cousin," he was his *nephew*. † See John Earle, son of Ralph [82–2]. He refers to his "unkle John" in a deed executed the same day as this. ‡ Though he calls him "Jr." he was *not* Jr., but "2d."

FOURTH GENERATION.

[48–2]. **Daniel**[4] **Earle** *(John,*[3] *Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of John and Mary (Wilcox) Earle, of Tiverton, R. I., *b.* Oct. 28, 1688; *m.* May 12, 1716, Grace Hicks. He was living in April, 1772. It appears that he passed the whole of his life in Tiverton, as several conveyances of land, both from and to him, are found in the records of the town.

The children of Daniel and Grace (Hicks) Earle were:

116–1. MARY EARLE, *b.* Sept. 10, 1719.
117–2. SARAH EARLE, *b.* July 7, 1723.
118–3. DANIEL EARLE, *b.* March 22, 1726; *m.* Jan. 11, 1761, Susannah Church, of Little Compton, R. I.
119–4. JOHN EARLE, *b.* July 25, 1732.
120–5. BENJAMIN EARLE, *b.* June 22, 1736; *m.* 1760, Mary ——.

[49–3]. **Benjamin**[4] **Earle** *(John,*[3] *Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of John and Mary (Wilcox) Earle, of Tiverton, R. I., *b.* May 25, 1691; *m.* May 28, 1726, Rebecca (*b.* Jan. 8, 1697; *d.* Nov. 17, 1779), dau. of Robert and Sarah Westgate, of Warwick, R. I.; and *d.* June 15, 1770. He was a farmer and resided in Warwick.

Their children were:

121–1. WILLAM EARLE, *b.* Feb. 12, 1727; *m.* Mary Brown.
122–2. JOHN EARLE, *b.* Jan. 27, 1729; *d.* Sept. 8, 1751.
123–3. SARAH EARLE, *b.* Feb. 8, 1731.
124–4. BENJAMIN EARLE, *b.* Nov. 25, 1733.

[52–6]. **Elizabeth**[4] **Earle** *(John,*[3] *Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of John and Mary (Wilcox) Earle, *b.* Sept. 6, 1699, in Tiverton, R. I.; *m.* 1st, Oct. 5, 1727, George (*b.* April 24, 1688), son of Robert and Sarah Westgate, of Warwick, R. I., and lived in Warwick. She *m.* 2d, Nov. 14, 1757, Capt. John Adams, of Warren, R. I.

Their children were:

125–1. GEORGE WESTGATE, *b.* Sept. 16, 1728.
126–2. JOHN WESTGATE, *b.* Feb. 1, 1731.

127-3. PRISCILLA WESTGATE, *b.* Sept. 8, 1732.
128-4. MARY WESTGATE, *b.* Jan. 7, 1735.
129-5. EARLE WESTGATE, *b.* Feb. 26, 1736.

[55-3]. **Hannah**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Dorcas (Dillingham) Earle, *b.* Sept. 2, 1693, in Dartmouth, Mass.; *m.* Aug. 27, 1719, William Brown (*b.* April 3, 1696), of Portsmouth, R. I.; lived in Portsmouth; and *d.* May 2, 1731.

Their children were:

130-1. JANE BROWN, *b.* May 22, 1720.
131-2. DEBORAH BROWN, *b.* April 25, 1722.
132-3. NICHOLSON BROWN, *b.* Nov. 14, 1724; *d.* Oct. 29, 1726.
133-4. ELIZABETH BROWN, *b.* April 19, 1727.
134-5. WILLIAM BROWN, *b.* April 5, 1731; *d.* June 5, 1731.

[64-1]. **Ann**[4] **Earle** *(Joseph,*[3] *Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Joseph and Elizabeth (Slocum) Earle, of Portsmouth, R. I., *b.* Jan. 28, 1704; *m.* Feb. 11, 1725, James Kirby.

"febuary ye 11th 1724[5] James Kerba and Ann Earl entered into ye marriage Covenant be me Thomas Terrah."—[Dartmouth Records.

Their child was:

135-1. JOSEPH KIRBY.

[65-2]. **Dorcas**[4] **Earle** *(Joseph,*[3] *Ralph,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Joseph and Elizabeth (Slocum) Earle, of Portsmouth, R. I., *b.* April 10, 1705; *m.* before 1738, William Tilley.

Their children were:

136-1. WILLIAM TILLEY, *b.* 1738.
137-2. JAMES TILLEY.

[79-4]. **William**[4] **Earl** *(William,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of William and Elizabeth Earle, *b.* in Springfield, N. J.; *m.* in 1739, Mary, widow of —— Sharp; and lived on the farm devised to him by his father.

William's will is dated June 9, 1740. Letters of administration were granted to his wife, June 11, 1759.

Their child was:

138-1. ELIZABETH EARL.

[80-5]. **Thomas**[4] **Earl** *(William,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of William and Elizabeth Earl, *b.* in Springfield, N. J.; *m.* Sept. 6, 1727, Mary (*b.* May 12, 1705), dau. of Silas and Mrs. Mary (Stockton) Shinn Crispin; and *d.* in 1778.

After his brother William's decease he lived on his father's homestead and devised it to his son Thomas. In his will he says "I am creditably Enformed that I have inherited a large Estate in Rhode Island, By the Death of my Grand Father William Earl and I advise my sons Thomas and Tanton to go in pursuit of it." No such bequest was made in his grandfather's will.

The children of Thomas and Mary (Crispin) Earl were:

139-1. TANTON EARL, *b.* March 9, 1731; *m.* Mary Haines.
140-2. THOMAS EARL; *m.* 1st, Rebecca Newbold; 2d, Leah Tucker.
141-3. WILLIAM EARL; *m.* Mercy ——; and *d.* before his father.
142-4. JOHN EARL; *d.* before his father.

[81-1]. **William**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* Nov. 12, 1690, in Dartmouth or Freetown, Mass.; *m.* Anna Howard, of Tiverton, R. I.; and *d.* in 1769.

He removed to Leicester, Mass., where he bought quite a large tract of land of the original proprietors of the town. This was on both sides of what is now Mulberry street, and Marshall street was its northern boundary. His house was about fifty rods south of the junction of those streets, a little north of the present dwelling of John P. Stevens.

"Janowari 3, 1722, William [Earl] Entred his Mark [for cattle] the Right Ear cut off."—[Leicester Town Records.

As already mentioned he was one of the earliest members of the Society of Friends in Leicester, and at a town meeting, held March 2, 1730, it was, at his request, "Voted to abate Will[m] Earl So much of his Rate (tax) as proportionally appears To be his part to the

minister Rate." Twenty-eight years later, in 1758, and after the decease of his father, the adult male members of the Society were William Earle, Nathaniel Potter, Dudley Wade Swan, Steward Southgate, Robert and Benjamin Earle, Benjamin Wheaton, William Earle, Jr., John Potter and Nathaniel Potter, Jr.

January 12, 1737, at a town meeting it was "Voted to keep ye school at Mr. William Earl's, one month, from this time."

March 23, 1737, he conveyed by deed to his son William, the southerly half (87 acres) of his farm, that portion which bounds the Mulberry Grove farm, now George and Billings Mann's, on the north. He built a grist-mill near the N. E. corner of his farm, on what was then called Hasey's brook, and about sixty or eighty rods south of the point where Marshall street crosses that stream. Some remains of the dam are still visible. On the 28th of December, 1739, he conveyed his farm and buildings—dwelling-house, barn and grist-mill,—to "Luke Lincoln, of Scituate, Co. of Plymouth," in consideration of £1,800. About two months later, February 14, 1740, he bought a farm of John Glasford, and lived on it until September 23, 1748, when he conveyed it to Jabez Green, of Stoneham, for £3,000, old tenor, bills of credit. This place was occupied by Green, and later by his son, Abel Green. It is now owned by Charles M. Marsh, and lies a little east of the north end of the Lynde reservoir, the house being at the junction of Fowler and Reservoir streets.

William soon afterwards removed to Shrewsbury, where he remained several years. In 1766 he was living in Paxton, where, on the 8th of April, 1768, he conveyed half of the farm and buildings where he dwelt to his son William, and the other half to his son Ralph. This farm is now the Tyler Penniman place, one mile east of Paxton centre, and was a part of the large tract originally owned by William's father, Ralph, and Jonathan Witt.

William appears to have been among the few wealthiest men of his time in Leicester. He dealt largely in real estate, and many of his conveyances are upon record. In some of them he calls himself "yeoman," in others "joyner."

His will was executed March 22, 1769, and entered for probate March 29, 1769.

The children of William and Anna (Howard) Earle were:

143–1. WILLIAM EARLE, *b.* April 27, 1714; *m.* Mary Cutting.
144–2. ELIZABETH EARLE, *b.* May 12, 1716; *m.* John Potter.

145-3. MARY EARLE, *b.* Feb. 28, 1719; *m.* July 1, 1741, James Lawton, Jr.
146-4. DAVID EARLE, *b.* Aug. 16, 1721; *m.* Martha Earle [167-1].
147-5. JUDITH EARLE, *b.* Aug. 11, 1723; *m.* 1st, Geo. Cutting, of Cambridge, and had a son, Earle Cutting; 2d, —— Graves.
148-6. RALPH EARLE, *b.* Nov. 13, 1726; *m.* Phebe Whittemore.
149-7. JOHN EARLE, *b.* March 1, 1729.

[82-2]. **John**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* Feb. 24, 1694, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* Dec. 24, 1719, Sarah, widow of John Borden, of Swanzey, Mass.; and their children were born in Swanzey.

He lived some years in Portsmouth and the records of that town mention him as "John Earll, Jr.," his father having a brother John in the same town.

On the 15th of November, 1715, in consideration, as he says, of one hundred pounds [£100], "paid by my unkle John Earll, of Portsmouth," he conveyed to said John [16-6] "all that my land Lying Eastward of the Eastward Row of cherry trees, which Land was given to me by my father, Ralph Earll, by Estimation four acres." The deed is signed, "John Earll, Jr."

He removed to Swanzey before the time of his marriage.

The children of John and Mary (Hicks) Earle were:

150-1. MARY EARLE, *b.* May 4, 1722.
151-2. PATIENCE EARLE, *b.* Sept. 2, 1724.
152-3. JOHN EARLE, *b.* July 4, 1727; *m.* Patience Stafford; and supposed to have removed to Perquimans Co., North Carolina.
153-4. JOSEPH EARLE, *b.* Jan. 25, 1730; *m.* Feb. 12, 1747, Eunice Hathaway.
154-5. LYDIA EARLE, *b.* Aug. 2, 1732.

[83-3]. **Mary**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* Oct. 24, 1693, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* —— Sheffield.

Their child was:

155-1. NATHANIEL SHEFFIELD.

[84–4]. **Elizabeth**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* Dec. 24, 1696, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* at Newport, R. I., July 5, 1716, Robert (*b.* Jan. 5, 1696), son of Robert and Mary (Wodell) Lawton, of Portsmouth, where their children were born.

Their children were:

156–1. JOB LAWTON, *b.* Jan. 10, 1717.
157–2. ROBERT LAWTON, *b.* Nov. 17, 1718.
158–3. ELIZABETH LAWTON, *b.* July 17, 1720.
159–4. GEORGE LAWTON, *b.* Dec. 28, 1721.
160–5. MARY LAWTON, *b.* Dec. 17, 1723.

[85–5]. **Sarah**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* Jan. 18, 1698, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* Sept. 6, 1714, Stephen Manchester, of Tiverton; and resided in Tiverton.

Their children were:

161–1. EDWARD MANCHESTER, *b.* Nov. 1, 1718.
162–2. MARTHA MANCHESTER, *b.* July 31, 1720.

[87–7]. **Patience**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, dau. of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* Nov. 24, 1702, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* Benjamin Richardson, a housewright; and *d.* in 1755, in Leicester.

She was buried in the Friends' burying-ground, her grave being next north of that of her mother.

The children of Patience and Benjamin Richardson were:

163–1. ABIGAIL RICHARDSON, *b.* Dec. 30, 1725.
164–2. BENJAMIN RICHARDSON, *b.* Feb. 20, 1731; *m.* in 1758, Eunice, dau. of Dudley Wade Swan, of Leicester.
165–3. ELIZABETH RICHARDSON, *b.* July 9, 1734; *m.* Nathan Earle [168–2].
166–4. NATHANIEL RICHARDSON, *b.* Jan. 15, 1737; *m.* Ruth Gilkey, of Plainfield.

[89–9]. **Robert**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* March 2, 1706, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* 1st, Mary Newhall (*b.* Nov. 5, 1704), dau. of Thomas Newhall,* of Leicester, formerly of Malden, by whom he had ten children; and 2d, March 23, 1756, Hepsibah Johnson, of Worcester, Mass., by whom he had two children. He *d.* in 1796.

At the age of eleven years he removed with his father to Leicester, Mass. Upon his attainment of the age of twenty-one years his father gave him by deed, dated March 9, 1727–8, O. S., and without consideration other than "love, good will and affection," two tracts of land. Upon one of them, containing eighty acres, he erected a dwelling, on the corner of Earle and Mulberry streets, in which he resided during all his married life. On the 11th of April, 1792, he conveyed the place to his grandsons, Pliny and Jonah Earle, in consideration of £300. In the next following year Pliny removed the dwelling to the opposite (East) side of the road, and erected upon the old site the house which, with some additions, is still standing. Here Robert passed the remainder of his days in the family of his grandson Pliny.

He had a strong constitution and retained his vigor and activity in a remarkable degree until very near the close of his life. After the ninetieth anniversary of his birth, he went alone and on horseback to visit his sons in Chester, now Vt. On his return, he arrived home at night, having ridden fifty miles on that day. On the following morning he said he could ride to Boston on *that* day, without feeling fatigue. Once at least, he rode in one day from Leicester to Newport, R. I., to attend the yearly meeting of the Society of Friends, of which Society, as heretofore mentioned, he was a member.

Some years before his death, he was returning from Worcester in company with his brother William [81–1], both on horseback, when upon "Potash-plain," they tried the speed of their horses, both of them pacers, when Robert's horse fell, threw him, and so injured him that he never fully recovered from the consequent lameness.

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* Son of Thomas, who was the first white child born in Lynn, Mass., and was son of Thomas (*d.* May 25, 1674) and Mary (*d.* Sept. 25, 1665) Newhall, who came from England.

The children of Robert Earle were:

167- 1. MARTHA EARLE, *b.* Nov. 3, 1726; *m.* 1st, David Earle [146-4]; 2d, Hezekiah Ward.
168- 2. NATHAN EARLE, *b.* May 12, 1728; *m.* Elizabeth Richardson [165-3].
169- 3. MARY EARLE, *b.* Aug. 10, 1730; *m.* Jonathan Sargent.
170- 4. ELIZABETH EARLE, *b.* Oct. 18, 1732; *m.* John Whittemore.
171- 5. GEORGE EARLE, *b.* March 3, 1735; *m.* Mary Baker.
172- 6. THOMAS EARLE, *b.* Aug. 27, 1737; *m.* Hannah Wait.
173- 7. ESEK EARLE, *b.* Feb. 10, 1741; *m.* Mehitable Snow.
174- 8. ROBERT EARLE, *b.* Oct. 10, 1743; *m.* Sarah Hunt.
175- 9. LYDIA EARLE, *b.* Aug. 15, 1746; *m.* 1st, John Wilson; 2d, Micah Johnson; 3d, Jonas Newton.
176-10. MARMADUKE EARLE, *b.* March 8, 1749; *m.* Elizabeth Newton.
177-11. PHEBE EARLE, *b.* Dec. 22, 1756; *m.* Francis Flagg.
178-12. TIMOTHY EARLE, *b.* March 13, 1759; *d.* in the U. S. army, Nov. 3, 1777.

[90-10]. **Mercy[4] Earle** *(Ralph,[3] William,[2] Ralph[1])*, dau. of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* March 13, 1708, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* Jotham Rice and resided in Worcester and Barre, Mass. According to the "History of the Rice Family" she *d.* in 1803.

Their children were:

179- 1. VIOLATA RICE; *m.* John Gates; and *d.* Feb. 10, 1801.
180- 2. DANIEL RICE, *b.* about 1732; *m.* Keziah Snow; and *d.* July 15, 1810, in Barre.
181- 3. RALPH RICE; *m.* Sarah ——.
182- 4. MARTHA RICE, *b.* May 5, 1735; *m.* 1st, —— Walker; 2d, Benjamin Chandler (*d.* June 14, 1798), of Petersham, Mass.
183- 5. MARY RICE, *b.* about 1737; *m.* Sylvanus Howe.
184- 6. JOTHAM RICE, *b.* about 1744; *m.* 1st, Harriet Snow; 2d, Elizabeth Sullivan; and *d.* March 28, 1814.
185- 7. JAMES RICE, *b.* about 1746; *m.* 1st, Susan Cutting; 2d, Ruth White; and *d.* July 21, 1832, in Barre.
186- 8. MERCY RICE, *b.* Aug. 7, 1749; *m.* June 7, 1774, Thaddeus Eames.
187- 9. PRUDENCE RICE, *b.* Aug. 7, 1751; *m.* Silas Barber.
188-10. BENJAMIN RICE, *b.* about 1753; *m.* Abigail Smith; and *d.* Jan. 17, 1821, in Barre.
189-11. ELIZABETH RICE; *m.* —— Wilder.

For these and about three hundred of their descendants see the "History of the Rice Family," by A. W. Henshaw.

[91–11]. **Benjamin**[4] **Earle** *(Ralph,*[3] *William,*[2] *Ralph*[1]*)*, son of Ralph and Mary (Hicks) Earle, *b.* March 14, 1711, in Freetown, Mass.; *m.* 1st, Abigail Newhall, dau. of Thomas Newhall, of Leicester, formerly of Malden, who was the mother of all his children; 2d, widow Deborah (Buffum) Slade (*b.* Dec. 1, 1716; *d.* Dec. 26, 1804), dau. of Jonathan Buffum; and *d.* Dec. 18, 1760.

Benjamin was the youngest of eleven children and appears to have lived with his father during the life of the latter. January 18, 1753, his father "in consideration of £100 lawful money and love and affection" conveyed to him the homestead, consisting of the buildings and 140 acres of land. He afterward built a grist-mill upon the stream running through the westerly part of the farm. Traces of the dam are still visible, thirty or forty rods below the remains of another dam, a short distance south of the Friends' cemetery, where his brother Robert's grandson Timothy erected a saw- and grist-mill in 1815.

He was chairman of the Board of Selectmen in 1757.

According to the town records, he "Declared himself a Quaker and Desired his name to be entered as such." August 13, 1739, he and Nathaniel Potter deeded to Samuel Thayer of Mendon, the lot upon which the Friends erected their meeting-house. Much the larger part of the lot was taken from Benjamin's farm, which was a part of the original farm of his father Ralph. December 27, 1739, Thayer conveyed it to Benjamin Earle, Nathaniel Potter, Thomas Smith and John Wells, with the condition that it should never be divided, but held in common, and each one's share at his decease should go to the survivors and their heirs or assigns forever.

Benjamin's son John enlisted in the army of the United States. In 1760, while posted at a southern station he was attacked with the small-pox. His father went for him, brought him home, took the disease and both father and son died of it. In his will, executed in 1759, he gave his son Antipas "that farm that I bought of John Hasey, being fifty acres with the Building and improvements, and ten acres of my homestead." This farm is on Fowler street, at the head of the Lynde reservoir, and the modern house is on the site of

the original and much larger one. To his son John he gave 120 acres "in the Northeasterly part of Leicester"; to his son Gardiner, "all my homestead" except the ten acres to Antipas, "with all my buildings, mills and improvements thereon, also all my farming tools and one half of my stock of creatures of all kinds the other half to be equally divided among all four of my sons." Gardiner was to pay Antipas twenty-five pounds, thirteen shillings and fourpence. Antipas was made executor and residuary legatee of real estate.

He afterward married his second wife and, as has been seen, in the latter part of 1760, was removed by a somewhat sudden and unexpected death. He had made no change in his will and consequently his widow was unprovided for. Under these circumstances the action of the sons was highly commended and is worthy of commemoration. They appended to the will the following declaration:

"We, Newell Earl and Antipas Earl for our Selves & Thomas Wheeler in Behalf of and with the free Consent of Gardiner Earl to whom he is Guardian Notwithstanding what is Contained in the foregoing Will in Consideration that since the foregoing will was made ye Deceased married and hath now left a Widow We Do therefor hereby give our full and free Consent & agree that our Honored Mother-in Law Deborah Earl Shall have hold & Enjoy one third part of the whol of s^d^ Deceased's personal Estate given & not given away in this Will after the just Debts &c. are paid as Witness our hands Feb'y 5th 1761. Newell Earl. Antipass Earl. Gardiner Earl. Thos. Wheeler Guard^n^.

Test Timo Paine.

"I Newel Earl Eldest Son of S^d^ Deceased agree that the Two Thirds of our Dec^d^ Fathers personall Estate shall be Divided Equally between me & my Two Brothers—in Case our S^d^ mother Enjoys ye Other Third. Feby 5th 1761.

Test Timo Paine. Newell Earl."

Newhall Earle had received nearly all his share of the estate before the will was made.

The children of Benjamin and Abigail (Newhall) Earle were:

190–1. NEWHALL EARLE, *b.* March 15, 1735; *m.* Rachel Stoddard.
191–2. ANTIPAS EARLE, *b.* June 1, 1737; *m.* Mercy Slade.
192–3. JOHN EARLE, *b.* Nov. 18, 1740; *d.* Nov. 25, 1760.

193–4. GARDINER EARLE, *b.* Feb. 21, 1744; *m.* 1st, Rebecca Brown; 2d, March 11, 1767, Phebe Hallock. Gardiner lived on his father's homestead until November, 1780, when he sold it to his brother Antipas and removed to the State of New York. He was in Orange Co. in 1786.

194–5. BENJAMIN EARLE, *b.* March 28, 1747; *d.* Dec. 24, 1747.

[92–1]. **William[4] Earle** *(Thomas,[3] William,[2] Ralph[1])*, son of Thomas and Mary (Taber) Earle, *b.* in Dartmouth, Mass., or Portsmouth, R. I.; *m.* 1st, June 25, 1718, Mehitable Brayton, of Portsmouth, R. I., by whom he had three children; 2d, April 6, 1737, Abigail, dau. of Josiah and Bethiah Abbott, and widow of John Lawton, by whom he had four children. He resided in Portsmouth, R. I., and *d.* Aug. 14, 1744.

Their children were:

195–1. WILLIAM EARLE, *b.* March 16, 1721; *m.* 1st, Sarah Dennis; 2d, widow Catharine (Williams) Lunt.

196–2. DAVID EARLE, *b.* July 11, 1722; *m.* Abigail Lawton.

197–3. MARY EARLE, *b.* Aug. 11, 1725.

198–4. THOMAS EARLE, *b.* Dec. 21, 1736; *m.* Mary Tripp.

199–5. JOHN EARLE, *b.* March 16, 1738; *m.* Dorcas Barney.

200–6. ABBOTT EARLE, *b.* Dec. 12, 1740; *d.* young.

201–7. PHEBE EARLE, *b.* Nov. 5, 1743; *d.* Oct. 20, 1828, unmarried, in Mendon, Mass.

[95–4]. **Oliver[4] Earle** *(Thomas,[3] William,[2] Ralph[1])*, son of Thomas and Mary (Taber) Earle; *m.* June 9, 1720, Rebecca, dau. of Samuel and Martha (Tripp) Sherman, of Portsmouth, R. I.; and *d.* in 1766. He resided in Swanzey.

In 1716, his father deeded to him one-half of his farm in Swanzey. Oliver had been living in the city of New York, where he was engaged in the East India trade. His father was then in Portsmouth.

In 1721, Oliver bought the other half of the farm of his father for £1,100.

From Oliver's will, which was executed in 1766, we make the following extract:

"I give and Bequeath unto my well beloved Wife Rebecca Earl one Equal half part of all my Houshold goods forever and the

Improvement of the One Equal half part of my Dwelling House I now live In and one half of the Cellar and one half of the Gardens and a priviledge of the wells and a Priviledge to pass and repass where she shall have Occation and also Sufficient firewood to be cutt and brought home to her door for her own Use and Two Hundred pounds Weight of good Pork and Three Hundred pounds Weight of good beef &. Twenty pounds Weight of good Sheeps wool and Twenty pounds Weight of good flax from the Swingle and Ten Bushels of Good Indian Corn and five Bushels of Rye and five Barrels of Cyder and as many Apples as She Shall have Occation for her Own Use and a Priviledge to keep fowles for her Own Use also I give unto my said beloved Wife five Pounds Lawfull Money all the aforesaid giftes and Bequeaths are to be paid her Yearly and Every Year by my Executors hereafter named so long as She Shall Remain my Widow and no Longer.

Also I give unto my wellbeloved Wife Two good Cows and one good Riding beast to be kept Winter and Summer on this my Homestead farm Yearly and Every Year During her Widowhood and no longer and also my Negro Woman Named Jenny and my Negro Girl Named Rose for Ever I also give unto Rebecca my Wife my Side Saddle and bridle all the aforesaid giftes and Bequeaths are in Liew of her Rights of her Thirds or Dowry if She pleases to Except thereof * * * * * *

Furthermore my Will is that Jeff a Negro Man an Apprentice now to James Luther Junr Shall be free at the Expiration of the Term of his Apprentiship. Also my Will is that my five Negros Namely Augustus Ceasar Simon Abraham and Margaret Shall be free when they Shall come to Thirty Years of Age."

The children of Oliver and Rebecca (Sherman) Earle were:

202–1. JOSHUA EARLE; *m.* Alice Sherman.
203–2. CALEB EARLE, *b.* Jan. 30, 1729; *m.* 1st, Sarah Buffington; 2d, Hannah Chace.
204–3. THOMAS EARLE, *b.* 1731; *m.* Esther Chace.
205–4. MARY EARLE; *m.* Jonathan Chace.

[102–2]. **Mary[4] Earle** *(John,[3] William,[2] Ralph[1])*, dau. of John and Mary (Wait) Earle, *b.* Feb. 19, 1703, at Portsmouth, R. I.; *m.* Job Durfee.

Their children were:

206–1. THOMAS DURFEE.
207–2. JOB DURFEE.
208–3. SYLVIA DURFEE; *m.* George Tripp.