

**Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, Volume 19. By Worcester Historical Society, Worcester, Mass - 1903**

**This PDF has been modified to include only the "Flagg Family in Worcester" section.**

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**Page 197 is repeated because an object in the scan obscured the page.**

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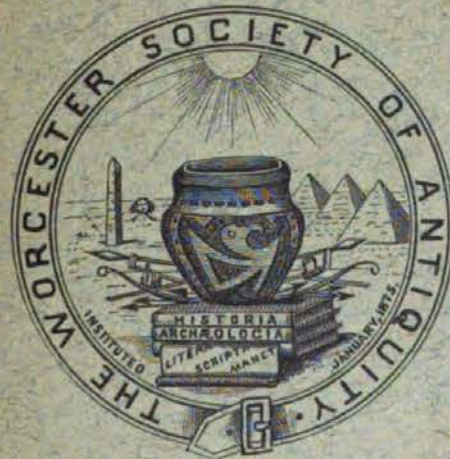
# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Worcester Society of Antiquity,

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

VOLUME XIX.



Worcester, Mass.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

1903.

U. S. A. CXXVII.

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## FLAGG FAMILY IN WORCESTER.

Thomas Flagg,<sup>1</sup> the ancestor of nearly if not all of that name in this country, settled in Watertown, Mass., as early as 1643. He died Feby. 6, 1697-98. His wife Mary was born 1619. She made a will, dated Dec. 30, 1702, which was proved April 21, 1703.

Their children:

1. John, b. June 14, 1643; m. Mary Gale.
2. Bartholomew, b. Feby. 23, 1644-45.
3. Thomas, b. April 28, 1646; m. Rebecca Dix.
4. Gershom, m. Hannah Leppingwell.
5. Michael, b. Mch. 23, 1650-51; m. Mary Bigelow, Worcester.
6. Eleazer, b. May 14, 1653.
7. Elizabeth, b. Mch. 22, 1654-55; m. Joshua Bigelow.
8. Mary, b. June 14, 1657; m. Samuel Bigelow.
9. Rebecca, b. Sept. 5, 1660; m. Stephen Cook.
10. Benjamin, b. June 25, 1662; m. Experience Child, and d. in Worcester.
11. Allen, b. May 16, 1665; m. Sarah Ball. He d. Nov., 1711.

Captain Benjamin Flagg<sup>2</sup> [10] married Sept. 26, 1690, Experience Child. It appears by the early town records of Worcester that he purchased the rights of Thomas Brown and also those of Jacob Leonard; and after the birth of his children, in Watertown, removed to Worcester, locating first on the sixty-acre home lot formerly owned by Thomas Brown, where the latter built a house; and as early as December, 1674, was licensed to keep an ordinary or tavern for the accommodation of travellers.

As early as 1686 Mr. Flagg seems to have come into possession of this Brown estate. But doubtless owing to the Indian depredations throughout the country, he did not remove his family hither until about the year 1717. -At the

first town meeting, held in Worcester on the last Wednesday of September, 1722, Mr. Flagg was chosen one of the selectmen. At the next town meeting, held on the first Monday in March, 1722-23, he was re-elected selectman and also elected one of the assessors. In 1724, on May 20, Benjamin Flagg was given one of the front seats in the meeting-house, and in September of that year he with Gershom Rice were chosen to "make adress to the Rev Mr Thomas White in behalf of ye church and town for his further assistance in ye work of ye Gospel." At the February town meeting in 1724-25, he was placed on a committee for auditing town accounts. At the following meeting in March he with Richard Wheeler and Tiras Rice opposed the work of completing the galleries in the meeting-house.

He was also selectman 1726 and for many years thereafter, also moderator of the town meeting in May, 1728, and on various occasions. He was on committee to settle accounts between the town and Rev. Mr. Isaac Burr in 1731, and secured on June 4 a statement from Mr. Burr, showing all accounts balanced to March, 1730-31. In 1733, at the reseating of the meeting-house, Mr. Flagg and his wife were assigned a place in "ye fore seet in ye body" of the house. He was chosen on committee in 1738 to provide some proper scheme for more profitably applying the profit received from the ministerial and school lands lying in the south part of the town, and Mch. 5, 1738-39, he was elected town treasurer.

April 16, 1739, he was with Major Jonas Rice, Deacon Moore, James Taylor and John Curtis chosen a committee to treat with a committee of the Court of General Sessions of ye Peace for ye County of Worcester about purchasing "a bell that may serve the town as well as the county, and also a proper place to hang ye same," and lay the proposals before the town for further consideration as soon as may be. This committee made a report at a town meeting,

May 23, 1739, which was read and accepted and the town voted to pay sixty pounds towards purchasing a bell, not to weigh less than three hundred pounds, and that one-half of the frame, with the necessary appurtenances for hanging said bell, be paid by the town; said frame to be erected near a small tree on the northerly side of the highway, a little northeasterly of Captain Heywood's dwelling-house; and a committee was appointed to purchase said bell and see to the building of said frame in conjunction with a committee from the Honorable Court.

Dec. 24, 1740, Captain Flagg was appointed on a committee with Col. John Chandler, then representing the town at the General Court, and Henry Lee, Esq., to answer in behalf of the town a petition of Captain Daniel How and others, inhabitants of Shrewsbury, relating to the "Maldin Farm." This appears to be the last public service assigned him by the town. He died May 3, 1741 and at the meeting of the inhabitants of the town, held Nov. 16, 1741, it was voted that the account of Captain Flagg, late Treasurer for the last year, as represented by John Chandler, Esq., and others a committee, be accepted and allowed and ordered to lie on file. At this same meeting a vote was passed placing an assessment of forty pounds upon the polls and estates, to be levied that year, the money to be used to pay for one-half the bell purchased by the town and county, and Henry Lee, Esq., and Capt. Heywood were appointed to see to the erection of the building for hanging the same on the spot formerly agreed to by the town and county.

It therefore appears that the senior Captain Benjamin Flagg did not live to see the first public bell set up in Worcester, although taking part in the preliminary steps to secure that object. His widow, Experience (Child) Flagg, died in Worcester, July 11, 1747.

Their children were:

12. 1. Benjamin, b. Aug. 25, 1691; m. Elizabeth Fiske.

13. 2. Experience, b. May 5, 1693; m. Caleb Ball of Concord, Oct. 26, 1713.
14. 3. Abigail, b. April 16, 1694; m. William Jennison.
15. 4. Bartholomew, b. Nov. 16, 1699.
16. 5. Elizabeth, b. Dec. 28, 1700; m. Peter King alias Rice, Feby. 15, 1719-20.
17. 6. Gershom, b. July 11, 1702.
18. 7. Mary, bapt. April 9, 1704.
19. 8. Ebenezer, b. Jany. 21, 1705-6.
20. 9. Richard, b. May 20, 1708; m. Grace.

Captain Benjamin Flagg [12] m. Jany. 25, 1715-16, Elizabeth Fiske, daughter of Nathaniel Fiske of Watertown. She was born June 24, 1692.

Captain Flagg was chosen one of the selectmen at the

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*ERRATA.*

Volume XIX. Page 197. Third line from top, read *Gershom Wheelock* for William Jennison.

to give Rev. Mr. Bourn a call to preach for the town. In 1724 he was given a place in the "third seat" in the Church.

One of the assessors 1724-25, 1728-29, 1730; at the April meeting, 1726, appointed on a committee to see that the town was provided with a "stock of Ammunition as the law directs"; at town meeting Mch. 2, he was chosen town clerk; chosen moderator at meeting, Mch. 31 1729, and to teach the school; also on committee for finishing the meeting-house; and the following year to look after the accounts for highway work; and in 1732 on committee with

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William Jennison, Esq., and Capt. Jonas Rice to account with the trustees for the last Bank money due the town, and pay what is due to the inhabitants of the north part of Worcester out of it, agreeable to the vote of the town at the sixth of March last past, and to make report to the town, and to be accountable to the town for the remainder.

November, 1732, appointed by the court one of a committee to see to building the court house, not to exceed twenty-six by thirty-six feet square and thirteen-foot posts. May 15, 1733, he was chosen with Daniel Heywood and Thomas Stearns to look after the locating and building of the first school-house in the town. It was to be twenty-four feet long, sixteen feet wide and seven feet studded, to be completely finished, with a good chimney and glass windows, with suitable tables and benches for the scholars. He, in 1733, was elected County Treasurer and re-elected for several years, and also given leave to build in the rear part of the floor of the meeting-house a pew for his own family use.

The high position in which he was held by the inhabitants of the town is further indicated by the fact of his having been frequently chosen moderator at various town meetings, and his continued service on the board of selectmen; showing that he was a worthy citizen, enjoying the full confidence of his townsmen and earning, as his father had done, the honorable title of Captain, no doubt through military service in defence of the settlement against depredations from the Indians.

He was representative to the General Court 1743-1744, 1746 and 1751, and succeeded Daniel Gookin as sheriff of the county in 1743, and held the office until 1751.

He died June 12, 1751, in the sixty-first year of his age, and his remains were deposited in the burial-ground on the Common.

Their children:

21. 1. Elizabeth, b. May 24, 1717, in Waltham; m. Absolom Rice, son of Jonas of Worcester.
22. 2. Abigail, b. Sept. 6, 1721; m. Samuel Hubbard.
23. 3. Benjamin, b. Feby. 1, 1724, bapt. in Waltham, Aug. 26, 1723; m. Abigail Chadwick.
24. 4. William, b. Feby. 5 or 6, 1726-27.
25. 5. Asa, b. Mch. 3, 1728-29; d. Mch. 20, 1728-29.
26. 6. Asa, b. June 14, 1730; an ensign in 1757.
27. 7. Mary, b. Nov. 27, 1732.

Benjamin Flagg [23] m. Abigail Chadwick. He was twenty-seven years of age at the time of his father's death and was very soon called upon to assume public duties as highway tax collector and fence viewer. But it is possible that the holding of public office was not the height of his ambition, although he was given his choice in selecting his pew in the new meeting-house, 1764, selecting No. 55. More than thirteen years slipped away before we find him recorded as holding any official position in the town.

At March meeting, 1766, he was elected to a position on the board of assessors. He was then living on what is now Plantation street. The same year his name appears on the list of selectmen and on the committee to instruct the town's representative at the General Court. In 1769 he is member of the school committee and for several years retained in that capacity, as well as that of assessor. At the March town meeting in 1772 he was one of the committee elected by the town to build a work-house, not exceeding eighteen by forty feet square, on the town's land, between the malthouse of Captain Goulding and Holmes Bridge, as near as may be to the brook. In addition to his duties as one of the selectmen he, in 1774, was called upon to serve on the committee to reply for the town to the Protest of William Elder, John Curtis and

others, the copy of which protest Clark Chandler, the town clerk, was obliged to obliterate from the town's book by dipping his finger in the ink and drawing it over the written pages.

Mr. Flagg was recognized as one of the staunch patriots of the town, and April 19, 1775, on the alarm at Lexington, he as Captain marched at the head of a company of Worcester militia to repel the attack of the Britishers. But this service of seven days was only the beginning of the period of his active service in the field. He responded to the call and marched to reinforce the continental army, joining Col. J. Ward's regiment, receiving his commission Jan. 29, 1776. He belonged to the First Worcester County Regiment. He was Lieutenant-Colonel in Col. Samuel Denny's First Worcester County Regiment, Massachusetts Militia, commissioned Feb. 2, 1776, serving, as it appears, in February, March and April. Again he marched, Aug. 19, 1777, as Lieut.-Colonel in Col. Samuel Denny's regiment, to reinforce the northern army, at which time the march was made to Hadley on the alarm at Bennington. This service lasted only five days, as the men were recalled at that point. But with his duties at home to his family and as member of the Board of Selectmen, who were charged with securing the town's quota of soldiers, and his own military life he could have enjoyed no perfect rest. For not only was the head of the family thus engaged, but at least three of his sons, Abel, Benjamin and Phineas.

In the town records, under date of March 31, he is given the title of Colonel, also in July, 1777, it was voted in town meeting that the town provide one hundred firearms with bayonets for the use of the Militia of the town, and also that when the committee have provided them they acquaint Colonel Flagg, who is to call upon the captains of the militia of said town, to call their companies together, at which time the aforesaid committee are to deliver the arms to such of the said militia as are destitute, they paying

therefor. He subsequently served on committee for fixing prices of labor and also to assist the town in raising its quota of soldiers to reinforce the army in the field. In fact he was frequently called to audit the town accounts and to adjust differences that might occur and to serve the public in various ways, including consideration of the petition of the inhabitants of the Gore to be annexed to Worcester. Jan. 13, 1785, he was one of the many signers requesting the call of Rev. Aaron Bancroft to the Old South Parish.

Colonel Benjamin Flagg died Oct. 8, 1818, at the age of ninety-five years, at that time the oldest man in the town, and from an article published in the *Worcester Spy* of Oct. 14, 1818, we quote the following words: "His surviving posterity are 4 children, 41 grandchildren and 83 greatgrandchildren. At his advanced age he had out-lived many more of each generation. Few have lived so long and descended to the grave more respected."

Their children:

28. 1. Benjamin, b. Mch. 10, 1746; m. Hannah —.
29. 2. Abigail, b. Jan. 21, 1748; m. Samuel Hutchinson of Lunenburg.
30. 3. John, b. Oct. 6, 1749; d. Dec. 29, 1772.
31. 4. Phineas, b. Oct. 9, 1751; m. Rhoda Stone, May 25, 1777.
32. 5. Abel, b. Oct. 12, 1753; d. Sept. 18, 1775. Marched on April 19, 1775, in his father's company of minutemen.
33. 6. Lydia, b. Dec. 21, 1755; m. Joseph Terry, April 3, 1777.
34. 7. Isaac, b. April 21, 1758.
35. 8. Eunice, b. July 16, 1762.
36. 9. Hannah, b. July 18, 1764; m. Joseph Patch, Nov. 7, 1782.
37. 10. ~~¶~~ Mary, b. Dec. 9, 1765 or 1766.

38. 11. Aaron, b. Mch. 2, 1769.

Benjamin Flagg [28] m. Hannah ——. He d. Mch. 9, 1819, aged 73. She d. July 21, 1843, aged 97.

Had children. He was sergt. in his father's company, April 19, 1775, and also enlisted in Capt. Wm. Gates' Company, Sept. 4, 1776, and with the nine months' men on resolve General Court, April 20, 1778.

1. Molly, b. Jany. 9, 1780.

2. Hannah, b. May 19, 1782; m. Oliver Kimball of Grafton and had three children:

1. Mary (Kimball), b. Feby. 20, 1803; m. Jasper W. Putnam.

2. Noah (Kimball), b. Dec. 10, 1804, and d. June 3, 1876. He m. Martha Warren Brown of Bath, Me., and settled in Westborough. A manufacturer of boots and shoes. They had:

1. Adelia D. (Kimball), b. June 8, 1829; d. May 28, 1901. She m. John Q. Adams and left a son, Winthrop F. Adams.

2. Sarah E. (Kimball), b. Jany. 23, 1831. Residence, Westborough.

3. Frederick W. (Kimball), b. Feby. 9, 1833; m., April 23, 1856, Susan F. McGinnis. Residence, Westborough, Mass. Had four children.

3. Hannah Kimball, b. Mch. 10, 1808; m. Ebenezer Aldrich of Grafton. and had:

1. Ellen E. (Aldrich), b. Sept. 2, 1830.

2. Augustus K. (Aldrich), b. Dec. 2, 1832; d. Feby. 15, 1835.

3. Augustus K. (Aldrich), b. April 15, 1835.

4. William T. (Aldrich), b. Oct. 14, 1837. Residence, Philadelphia, Pa.
5. Samuel W. (Aldrich), b. Nov. 28, 1839.
6. James E. (Aldrich), b. Jany. 6, 1843.

Phineas Flagg [31] m. Rhoda Stone, May 25, 1777. She was daughter of Jonathan and Ruth Stone of that part of Worcester now Auburn. When the alarm was sounded that the British soldiers were marching upon Lexington and Concord, Phineas Flagg was twenty-three years of age, and he immediately volunteered his services to repel the invasion; joining Colonel Timothy Bigelow's company of minutemen he marched for Cambridge on the 19th of April, 1775. He then re-enlisted in Captain Jonas Hubbard's company, Col. Jonathan Ward's regiment, and from a certificate dated Cambridge, June 18, 1775, we learn that he and others were in need of cartridge boxes; also from a muster-roll dated Aug. 1, 1775, that he enlisted April 24, 1775, serving three months and fifteen days. The return for his company was dated Dorchester, Oct. 7, 1775. He also served as second sergeant in Captain William Gates' company, Col. Jonathan Holman's regiment, roll dated in Chelsea Camp, New York, Sept. 4, 1776; his brother probably being the Benjamin Flagg mentioned as private on the same roll.

He died Oct. 1, 1791, aged thirty-nine years.

Their children:

39. 1. John, b. June 11, 1778; m. Sarah Ward, April 22, 1800.
40. 2. Abel, b. Oct. 31, 1780; m. Susanna Harrington, Oct. 31, 1802.
41. 3. Sarah, b. Mch. 5, 1783; m. Sullivan Taft, Oct. 18, 1804.
42. 4. Daniel, b. April 17, 1785; d. unmarried, Mch. 12, 1810.

43. 5. Polly, b. Dec. 11, 1787; d. unmarried.  
 44. 6. Benjamin, b. June 12, 1790; m. Julia Holbrook,  
 Sept. 28, 1815.

Aaron Flagg [38] m. Lucretia Curtis, Jany. 1, 1800, and had:

45. 1. Benjamin, b. Jany. 7, 1801.  
 46. 2. Eunice, b. Sept. 20, 1802.  
 47. 3. Mary, b. Sept. 27, 1804.  
 48. 4. Leonard, b. Feby. 17, 1807.  
 49. 5. Samuel C., b. Oct. 19, 1813. He went to New England Village in 1831, residing with Jasper Putnam, of whom he learned the trade of shoemaking and was employed in Northborough and also Westborough. He removed to Grafton Centre in 1846 and with Luke F. Allen manufactured shoes, retiring from active business in 1877. He was representative to the General Court in 1854. He married, Nov. 23, 1836, Elizabeth W. Merriam. Had:
1. Ann E., b. Jany. 17, 1839; m. Edmund P. Capron.
  2. Caroline A., b. Mch. 5, 1843.
  3. Ida F., b. Dec., 1849; m. Geo. R. Newton.
  4. Jennie C., b. Jany., 1857.

John Flagg [39] m. Sarah Ward, April 22, 1800.

Their children:

50. 1. Rhoda, b. Mch. 12, 1801; m. Darius Rice.  
 51. 2. Phineas, b. Sept. 30, 1802; d. Jany. 20, 1807.  
 52. 3. Sarah, b. 1804; m. Brigham Goss, Mch. 26, 1834.  
 53. 4. Lucy, b. 1807; d. May 8, 1810.  
 54. 5. Mary W., b. 1810; m. Eden Davis of Webster, Oct. 19, 1848; both d. in Thompson, Ct. No children.

55. 6. Nahum, b. 1812; m. Lydia Flagg Harrington, April 13, 1843.
56. 7. Hannah, b. 1815; d. unmarried, Jany. 11, 1860.
57. 8. Charles, b. 1821; m. Mrs. Sarah B. Whiting, May 15, 1862.

Abel Flagg [40] m. Susannah Harrington.

Their children:

58. 1. Elizabeth, b. Dec. 26, 1802.
59. 2. Lucretia, b. July 15, 1805; m. Benjamin Harrington.
60. 3. Samuel H., b. May 3, 1808.
61. 4. Nancy White, b. Jany. 7, 1811.
62. 5. Daniel, b. Sept. 25, 1813.
63. 6. Susannah, b. June 4, 1816; m.
64. 7. Ebenezer, b. May 8, 1819; m.
65. 8. Franklin, b. Oct. 3, 1822.
66. 9. Henry, b. June 29, 1826.

Lucretia Flagg [59] m. Mch. 18, 1834, Benjamin Harrington of Worcester and resided in Harrington court.

Their children:

1. Mary Elizabeth, b. Jany. 25, 1836.
2. Benjamin Franklin, b. Sept. 2, 1838.
3. Hannah Flagg, b. Nov. 12, 1842.
4. Henry Augustus, b. Sept. 8, 1846.

The latter has served the city on the Board of Overseers of the Poor and in the upper Board of the City Council.

Benjamin Flagg [44] m. Sept. 28, 1815, Julia Holbrook, daughter of Joseph and Milly (Fisher) Holbrook. She was b. May 7, 1790. Their two eldest children were born in East Sudbury, Mass., the others in Worcester. She d. Sept. 6, 1830, and he married 2d, Mrs. Lucy (Mann) Holbrook, by whom he had a daughter.

His children were:

67. 1. Julia H., b. Aug. 3, 1816; m. Joseph M. True, Dec. 8, 1842.



68. 2. Joseph H., b. Nov. 10, 1817; d. June 17, 1858.  
 69. 3. Eliza, b. May 3, 1821; m. George Newton, Nov. 10, 1842.  
 70. 4. Lucy M., b. Feby. 24, 1824; m. Willard E. Allen, April 25, 1844.  
 71. 5. Martha M., b. Mch. 10, 1828; m. Geo. F. Newton, June 14, 1854.  
 72. 6. Aaron, b. Aug. 6, 1830; m. Elizabeth Crosby, Sept. 6, 1854.  
 73. 7. Edna Jane, b. May 15, 1832; m. Charles H. Baldwin.

Julia H. Flagg [67] m. Joseph H. True, Dec. 8, 1842.  
 Their children:

1. Julia M. (True), b. Sept. 19, 1843; m. John S. Fowler; residence New Haven, Conn.
2. Joseph (True), d. in infancy.
3. Benjamin F. (True), b. Oct. 3, 1849.

Eliza Flagg [69] m. George Newton, Nov. 10, 1842.  
 Their children:

1. Lizzieanna (Newton), b. Oct. 3, 1851; deceased.
2. Benjamin S. (Newton), b. Oct. 14, 1853. He is an architect by profession, was employed for several years in the office of Stephen C. Earle of Worcester. But for a number of years has been conducting business on his own account, being the designer of several costly buildings. Residence, Worcester, Mass.

Lucy M. Flagg [70] m. Willard E. Allen, April 25, 1844.  
 Mr. Allen was a trunk and harness-maker and for many years conducted business on Foster street, occupying a store in Bank Block, which is now used by the Worcester County Institution for Savings.

Their children:

1. Eliza G. (Allen), b. Oct. 9, 1846; m. W. O. Patten.

2. Josephine F. (Allen), b. Jany. 10, 1849; residence, Worcester.

3. Juliette M. (Allen), b. Jany. 1, 1852; m. John Washburn. Residence, Martha's Vineyard.

Martha M. Flagg [71] m. Geo. F. Newton, June 14, 1854.

Their children:

1. Julia B. (Newton), deceased.

2. Lizzieanna (Newton), deceased.

Aaron Flagg [72] m. Elizabeth B. Crosby, Sept. 6, 1854.

Their children:

1. Ida M. (Crosby), m. Leonard Stebbins of Springfield, Mass.

2. Eliza Belle (Crosby), m. Frederick Bowman. Residence, New Haven, Conn.

Edna Jane Flagg [73] m. Charles H. Baldwin.

Their children:

1. Henrietta (Baldwin), m. Albert Murdock.

2. Charles H. (Baldwin).

3. Frank H. (Baldwin).

4. Martha F. (Baldwin), m. Myron W. Houghton.

5. William S. (Baldwin).

Rhoda Flagg [50] m. Darius Rice, Nov. 18, 1828. Mr. Rice was an active, enterprising, prosperous farmer; more than that, he possessed an inventive genius and constructed some of the earliest implements for the saving of both time and labor in cultivating the farm. He was the pioneer in raising and marketing produce from the garden in large quantities in Worcester and one of the first to introduce the peddling of milk in the streets of Worcester.

He, for several years, served on the Board of Selectmen of the town, and when Worcester became a city he was elected a member of the first Common Council from ward four. He was interested in furnishing the first water supply by gravitation used in the town. The water being conveyed in both lead and iron pipes. His home was on

Plantation street, at its junction with Grafton street, where he died.

Children were:

74. 1. Sarah Elizabeth, b. Oct. 4, 1829; m. Samuel Warren.
75. 2. Francis, b. Oct. 23, 1835; d. Jany. 11, 1836.
76. 3. Ellen Maria, b. Mch. 1, 1838; d. Oct. 29, 1839.
77. 4. George Henry, b. Nov. 28, 1840.

George Henry Rice [77] m. 1st Charlotte Greenwood, Feby. 15, 1866; m. 2d Evelyn E. Town, May 3, 1887. He succeeded to his father's farm, and aside from cultivating the broad acres constituting the old homestead, he owns considerable real estate in Florida, from whence he ships oranges to the northern markets and is also engaged quite extensively in the real estate business in Worcester. Residence, Number 2 Rice square.

Children:

1. Charles Herbert (Rice), b. May 30, 1867; m. Anna Sprague.
2. Harrison Town (Rice), b. Aug. 13, 1889.
3. Elsie Eloise (Rice), b. May 3, 1891.