

FIRST GENERATION

1 JOSEPH BARTLETT, was born about 1630, as appears from his deposition, dated Dec., 1681, taken in Middlesex County, Mass., Court. He died Dec. 26, 1702. The first recorded information found is his marriage to Mary Waite, on Oct. 27, 1668, in the Cambridge and Newton, Mass., Vital Records. He resided in that part of Cambridge, Mass., that later was known as Newton, Mass. His wife died Dec. 21, 1721. I have been unable to establish her parentage. The Magazine of American Genealogy No. 24, p. 197, says she is the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Waite of Boston, but testimony in Supreme Court files No. 4565, given by Hannah Bartlett, wife of Joseph Bartlett, Jr., in 1697, indicates that her home was in Rhode Island.

With respect to the life of Joseph Bartlett, Francis Jackson in his History of Newton, Mass. (1854), says, "The cellar hole of his dwelling house is still visible upon the side of the hill occupied by the Baptist Theological Seminary and about ninety rods south-east of the new railroad station at Newton Center."

The early married life of our ancestor seems to have had its rough spots for the Middlesex County Court files disclose the following document:

25 Dec. 1671, *Bartlett*
for Aprill Court. 1672.

Joseph Barlet 25.10.71, appearing before mee and by his owne confession convicted of uncivil & rude cariages towards his——wife (——?) & living out of his family day & night to ye great disgrace thereof, both by testimony ye informed, & his own confession with promise of admendment, is ordered to appeare at next Court at Camb^r and to bring testimony of his performance of his promise (——?).

In the published Cambridge Town Records the following appears under date of Mar. 3, 1673:

the Information given by those heere under written of the pore and low Condition of Joseph bartlit

thease are to Certifie our honered Captaine and the Rest of the selectmen of Cambrigd that according to your order wee have bine with Joseph bartlit and doe finde him in very poore Condition having noe house and very bad in Respect of foode and Rayment and

thearfor if you would be pleased to Allow five pounds
It may be a Comfortable supply to helpe to build him
A house and A helpe to supply his presents wants.

March th 3, 1673.

thomas prentis.

John Jackson

daniell bacon

Counstable

A Cobby of the Request of the selectmen sent to the
Reverent Elder wiswall and Mr Nehemiah hubbard
preacher at the second Church at Cambrigd.

Upon Information of the pore and low Condition
of Joseph bartlit and his family whoe is an Inhabitant of
this towne and particularly hath his Residence among
you wee thought It expeadiente: heereby to desire
and move you to speake to the Congregation upon the
saboath day about his condition and to move them to
make a Contribution towards his Releefe the saboath
day folling wee shall alsoe move our pasture to speake
to our Congregation to doe the like, and the Reason of
our proceding in this way is because theare is nothing
to be spared out of the towne Rate for his Releefe; and
wee finde this way most feisable to accomplish the end
having latly made a probation thearof for the Releefe
of one John Coller, a poore family on this side soe com-
mitting you to God, wee Remaine your loving friends
and Neighbours.

dated at Cambrigd Mar. th12, 167 $\frac{2}{3}$.

It is interesting to note that a granddaughter of the John
Coller, mentioned in the foregoing letter, Sybilla Coller, married
Joseph Bartlett, a grandson of the foregoing Joseph Bartlitt.

The answer to the foregoing petition of the selectmen is
found in the Town Records under date of May 12, 1673, which
contain the following entry:

our breatheren and Neighbours have subscribed
to give to Joseph bartlit for his Releefe fower pound
one shilling on the south side of the River.

It is apparent from the following document found in the
Middlesex County Court files, that Joseph Bartlett made im-
mediate use of the money provided by his fellow townsmen.

To the Constable of Muddy River (Brookline)

you are hereby required in his maiesties name to
Attach the goods, or for want ther of, the body of John

Clarke, living within your Precincts, & the Bond of him wth sureties to the vallew of thirty pounds for his appearance before the next county court holden at Cambridge the first teusday in Aprill next & there to Answer the Complaint of Joseph Bartlett of Cambr- in an action of the Case for pulling down—taking away ye timber thereof, & carying—a load of Barke all done upon the land—said Bartlett lying with in Cambridge Bounds, Bounded upon Hugh Clarke east Noah wiswall south & the highway west & Hugh Clarke afforsaid north; and for dammage thereby Sustained to the vallew of Sixtine pounds; herof faile not at your perill, & you are to mak Returne herof under your hand at the Said Court datted this 25th day of the 1st month 1673.

Daniel Gooken
Assistant.

The County Court records also contain summons to Jonathan Hide, Samuel Hide, Job Hide, Daniel Mackey, Sarah Gates, of Cambridge and Susannah Woodward of Boston, issued 31 March, 1673, to appear at the next county court held in Cambridge, "in a case depending Between Joseph Bartlett of Cambridge and John Clarke of Muddy River."

Among the papers in the case are found the following depositions:

I being an very pore man and have not skill nor abillaty to plead my owne case nor have no body to plead for me: and am senseble of being much impoverished by being molested upon the land which I bought of widow Smith of Watertown: as will apeer by evidence and have sufered much wrong: I doe humbly bechech this honred corte and Jurey that you wod consider my case.

the mark of Joseph bartlit

The court evidently held a hearing of this case on April 1, 1673, for the records contain depositions by Jonathan Hides, Noeah Wiswall, Daniel Neall, Job Hides, Uriah Clark, James Prentice, Daniel Smith, Thomas Wilson, Henry Seager, Thomas Boylson, Job Croft, John Alexander, and Henry Steavens. The deposition of Henry Seager is given as follows:

Henery seager 24 years of age or tharabouts and Rosemon Drew aged 22 yeers or thar abouts these deponents testifieth that when they were agitting timber for Joseph bartlits house that John Clarke brought Noah Wiswall and Goodman Elexander and did ful warne them of coming upon the land or for medling up anything upon it; for sayd John Clarke if you set up a house I will pull it downe and sed Goodman elesandre fech away the timber if he had wood of it; or wheather you have wood of it or no fech it away; and further sayeth not.

Sworne 1.2.73.

Tho. Danforth R.

Another document in the case is as follows:

We whose name are heareunto Subscribed being desired to judge: what damage Joseph Bartlet of Cambridge; Sustained by haveing his frame pulled downe; and his barke caried away; together with his being put oute of his busines, and haveing his prsent troubel; as also being disapoynted aboute his barke in paieing ye shoemaker; and runing up and downe in August last For to get warrants and ye like for ye receiving his right which he supposed was shaken by this Disturbance; and by his transporting his hay being two load; upon ye same acount as allso lost in ye title; which he had; all being considered we doe adjudge ye damage to amount to ye value of ten pounds; and have subscribed this first of Aprill 1673.

Sworn in Court

1.2.3.

by all ye subscribrs

Tho. Danforth R.

thomas Prentis

John fuller

John Spring

Jams Prentise

Job hide

The decision of the court is recorded as follows:

At a County Court held at Cambr

Aprill 1st 1673.

Joseph Bartlett pl^t agt Jno Clark deft In an actoon of the case for pulling downe a frame of his, taking away the timber thereof and Carying away about a load of barques all Done upon the land of the said Bartlett, lying within Cambr bounds, bounded upon Hugh Clarke East, Noah Wiswall South, and the highway west, and Hugh Clarke aforesaid North, and for damages thereby Susteyned to the vallue of sixteen pounds, according to Attachmt^t Dat. 25.1.1673 both p^rtyes appeared and

Joyned issue in the Case, and after full hearing of their pleas & evidences as they were by them p^resented in Court, the Jury brought in their verdict finding for the p^t Damages nine pounds, & costs of Court, one pound fourteen shillings & two pents

The defend^t Appealed to y^e next Court of Assists & put in Security to execute y^e same as followeth

John Clarke as Principal & Hugh Clarke as Surety do acknowledge themselves to stand bound Joyntly & Severally to the Clerk of y^e Court, in ten pounds p^d by them to be forfeited & p^d

The Condition of this Recognizance is that the said John Clark shall execute this his appeale.

What appears to be the final disposition of the case appears in the Court of Assistants Second Book, begun 3 Mar. 1673, as follows:

John Clarke plantiffe against Joseph Bartlet deffendant in an action of Appeale from the Judgement of the County Court at Cambridge in october last declaring his bond to be forfeited.

John Clarke plaintiff ag^t Joseph Bartlet deffendant in an action of Appeale from the Judgement of the County Court in Cambridg in october last &

Hugh Clarke plaintiff ag^t Joseph Bartlet deffendant in an action of appeale from the Judgment of the County Court in Cambridg in october last declaring his bond to be forfeited &—1673:

Hugh Clarke plaintiff ag^t Joseph Bartlet deffendant in an action of appeale from the Judgment of the County Court in october last (as) above

The Attachments Courts Judgments Reasons of Appeales & Ansts wth the evidences in the cases produced being read & heard in these 4 actions both plaintiffs & deffendant Agred & Consented in open Court one wth another that the merrit of the whole Case that should have binn heard & tryed at the last Court of assistants in September should now be heard & as it fell so the costs & Damages should be and so the Case was Comitted to the jury who brought in their verdict they found for the plaintiffs on the whole merrit of the Case reversion of the former Judgement & Costs of Courts five pounds fowerteen shillings & eight pence—1st Jr.

Time seems to be a great healer of such differences as the foregoing court records reveal, for Ebenezer Bartlett, a grandson

of Joseph Bartlett, married Ann Clarke, a great great grand-daughter of the Hugh Clarke mentioned above.

The financial condition of Joseph Bartlett does not seem to have improved much in the next two years, as the following mortgage bears witness:

This Witnesseth that I Joseph Bartlet of Cambridge—Plantr do owe—Thomas Prentice Senr of the same Towne Ten pound Sterl. to be paid—At or before the last of May in the yeare—One thousand six hundred Seaventy and Seaven; and for further—Security I do mortgage—my now dwelling house and all land adjoining thereto,—foure acres—31 Mar. 1675.

Wit: Neale (mark) Daniel Signs by mark.
Nathaniel Hancock No discharge of the mortgage.

In 1678, Joseph Bartlett signed a petition for the separation of Cambridge Village from Cambridge. The petition was granted in 1679, at which time there were sixty-five freemen in the town. In 1691, the name of the town was changed from Cambridge Village to New Town.

The next bit of information concerning Joseph Bartlett is ten years later, when the following appears in the Cambridge Town Records:

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Cambridge the 21 May 1688.

It was then put to Vott whether the Inhabitants would sell a peece of land on ye south side ye river of about five accer on the south side ye River neere Joseph Bartlitts & John Clarks and it was votted on the affirmitive and the Inhabitants made Choyce of the selectmen, with Samuel Chamne and Daniel Chamne as a Committe to sell & set a price upon ye said land to those that buy the same: This 21 May 1688.

Wee the Comitte above Mentioned in pursuance of the above Written Vott, have bargained & sould, the above mentioned land unto the above adjacent Joseph Bartlet his heires and assignes, for foure pound tenn shillings in money, a high way excepted of foure rode wide whose westerly side bounds upon Capt. Noah wiswells land, which when the Country high way is

taken out the prsell of land sould him will Containe about foure accer be it more or less, and being bounded on the East with John Clark and Joseph Bartlets lands, about south east with Cap Wiswell to a white Oake, and from that white oake it is bounded about South west, and the rest of the Country high way about west, and the rest of the peece of land is bounded with a highway & Cap. Thomas Prentice about northerly, we the aforesaid Comittee, have also agreed with the said Joseph Bartlet, that in Case the Adjacent Clarke will fence the one side of a rode wide highway thorow the tract of Land bought of the aforesaid Comitte then the said Bartlet is hereby ingaged to set him out one where may sut them both best, right Cross the land, from Clarks highway to the Country highway, and to the performance of the aforesaid premises we the comitte aforesaid in the behalf of the Town have set to our hands this Second day of March: 1690 the foure pound tenn shillings being first pd unto Mr Samuel Chamne.

This real estate venture does not seem to have been very successful, for under date of July 26, 1695, the town records state:

The Same time and day It was voted by the Inhabitants then Assembled, to Return unto Joseph Bartlett of Newtown the Sum of Money that the Town received of him about five yeares a gone, for a small percell of Land that was Sold him att that time about five yeares Since, and he makeing complaint that he Could not enjoy it quietly, the Inhabitants now met Voted on the Affirmative to return him his money again, and the Land to remain as before he bought it.

The transaction in this real estate deal seems to have been closed a little later for the Proprietors Records under date of Feb. 10, 1695⁶, have the following entry:

The Selectmen then payd unto Joseph Bartlett of Newton for a preel of Land formerly Sold unto him, that he never was possessed of and he formerly payd for, the Sume of four pounds and ten Shillings in money to his Satisfaction, and for which he gave a Receipt, this Same day, as may appeare by his Receipt: under his hand.

In the New England Register, Vol. 31, p. 306, we find:

Little Cambridge Rates	s	d
Joseph Bartlett, one per: & estate	01	10

Sept. 5, 1688.

Jan. 1, 1700, the Selectmen and Inhabitants "Voted that the schoolhouse be set in the highway near to Joseph Bartlett's and that it be finished by the first of October, and agreed with John Staples to keep school one month, four days in a week for £1 4s."

The last bit of information that I have been able to find concerning Joseph Bartlett appears in the Probate Court files under date of Jan. 8, 1702/3. It is a letter of administration granted to "Joseph Bartlett eldest son of Joseph Bartlett, late of Newton."

An Inventory of the Housing Lands and Estate of Joseph Bartlet late of Newton in the County of Middlesex Decd as it was taken and apprizd by us whose Names are under written:

Imprimus Housings & Lands	£15.00.00
One bed and Wearing apparel	01.00.00
One Gun	00.10.00
One Iron pot, one quart pot & one candlestick	00.14.00
In Iron tools 4/one chest & one wooden plates 3/	00.07.00
In Old Iron	00.00.06
	<hr/>
The Total vs	£17.11.06
In Debts, Debts and funeral Charges	
vs	2.01.8

John Staples
Samuel Hidges
Thomas Wiswell

Cambridge Jan. 25, 1702.

I have been unable to find any clue to the parentage of Joseph Bartlett. His deposition in the Clark case given above would indicate that he came as a lone immigrant and was unrelated to any of the other Bartlett families who were residents of the country.

References: Cambridge Vital Records; Newton, Mass., Vital Records; Jackson's History of Newton, Mass.; Cambridge Town Records; Cambridge Proprietors Records; Middlesex County Court Records.

Children; Newton, Mass.:

- MARY, b. Feb. 17, 1672; m. — Robinson (Court rec.).
- 2 JOSEPH, b. Mar. 5, 1673 (twin).
- MERCY, b. Mar. 5, 1673 (twin).
- ELIZABETH, b. July 12, 1676; was living, 1697, in the home of a Mr. Tucker, as appears from testimony in County Court at that time. She has been confused with Elizabeth Bartlett, daughter of Henry Bartlett of Marlboro, Mass., who m. in Newton, James Prentice. She probably d. Jan. 28, 1700/1.
- 3 SARAH, b. after 1676.
- 4 JOHN, b. after 1676.