



*THE WEBSTER FAMILY
OF*

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK COUNTY, ENGLAND

NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

PELHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

KIMBALL WEBSTER

Kimball Webster b. 2 November 1828 T Pelham NH is the 7th generation grandson of Ebenezer Webster, the early settler of Pelham. Kimball Webster is the author of the book "History of Hudson NH"; it is from this book that I am providing Kimball's genealogy of Ebenezer Webster's family in Pelham.

Knowing that Kimball was dedicated to preserving history and genealogy I feel certain that he would be pleased to make this contribution to the town of his birth and his ancestors.

Ebenezer Webster married 29 Nov 1767 Rebecca Baldwin (John & Sarah) of Pelham NH. Their children: Sarah b. 1 Sept 1771. Ebenezer b. 7 March 1773. Rebecca b. 13 July 1773, Pelham VR, d. 14 Dec 1774. This has to be the wrong birth year for Rebecca and should probably be 1774. Rebecca Baldwin Webster died shortly after her daughter's demise.

Ebenezer Webster Jr. m. 20 Dec 1802 Mary Harris of Methuen. Their children:

Baptized 5 Dec 1816: John Baldwin, Jesse, Mary, and Martha.

“ 10 June 1818: Sarah Noyes. 30 August 1821: Lydia.

Ebenezer Sr, married 2nd, Martha Barker of Pelham who died without issue. Ebenezer married 3rd Elizabeth Bradford of Salem NH and they had nine children all born in Pelham:

Rebecca b. 12 Sept 1779. Moses b. 16 April 1784. Isaac b. 22 December 1786. Asa b. 11 May 1789. John b. 25 December 1791. Benjamin b. 7 October 1795. Betsy b. 1 April 1796 (should this be 1797?)

Ebenezer Webster Sr. died 13 March 1823 at Pelham NH.

Elizabeth B. Webster (John & Hannah Cumming Webster, Ebenezer) m. Warren Blodgett of Hudson, cousin to my 5th generation grandmother Betsey Blodgett Baldwin.

There were children, also, of this marriage: Charles L., born in Nashua, April 5, 1854, and Sarah Maria, born July 12, 1858.

Reuben L., married, January 1, 1866, Abbie E., daughter of Amos and Electa S. Winn of Hudson. They had two children: Edward A., born May 20, 1869, and George, who died in infancy. His wife died October 20, 1875. December 18, 1879, he married Mary E., daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth (Bennett) Dickerson. The result of this union was a daughter, Emily M., born February 18, 1882.

Edward A. Spalding married, October 27, 1888, Anna E. Sanders, of Washington, Vt., and resides in Hudson. They have one child, Ned, born May 26, 1910.

Charles L. Spalding married, January 7, 1886, Sarah B., daughter of William T. and Lucy A., (Byam) Merrill, born in Hudson, January 13, 1863. They have two children: Helen C., born in Hudson, January 10, 1887, and Harold M., born July 20, 1889. They live in Hudson.

Sarah Maria married, June 23, 1892, John C. Groves, son of Robert and Elizabeth Groves, of Hudson. They settled on the old homestead in Hudson, and have two sons, Reuben Spalding, born July 28, 1893, and Robert Laton, born July 20, 1895.

Mr. Spalding was a Democrat politically, but never sought office; yet he was a member of the board of selectmen in Hudson for two years, 1874 and 1875. He attended the Episcopal church. He died October 4, 1901, aged 90 years. His wife, Sarah E., died June 3, 1898, aged 79.

He was an honor to his native town while he lived, and was a worthy exponent of this one among the most ancient and honored families of Hudson.

KIMBALL WEBSTER

(I). John Webster came from Ipswich, Suffolk County, England, to Ipswich, Mass., where he was made a free-man in 1635. He died about 1646, and his family after-

wards removed to Newbury. His wife was Mary Shatswell. They had four sons and four daughters, as follows: Mary, John, born in 1633, Hannah, Abigail, Stephen, Elizabeth, Israel and Nathan. On October 29, 1650, Mary, the widow of John Webster, married John Emery of Newbury, and died April 28, 1694.

Hannah Webster, second daughter and third child of John and Mary Shatswell Webster, married, April 1, 1657, Michael Emerson, and they settled in Haverhill, Mass. They had fifteen children, the oldest of whom was Hannah, born December 23, 1657, who married, December 3, 1677, Thomas Duston. She was the famous Indian heroine.

(II). Stephen, second son and fifth child of John and Mary (Shatswell) Webster, was born in Ipswich, Mass., removed to Newbury, and from there to Haverhill in 1653. He was a tailor by trade, a man of influence, and was one of the selectmen in 1669. He married, first, March 24, 1663, Hannah, daughter of John Ayer, of Salisbury, who died June 2, 1676. He married, second, May 26, 1678, Widow Judith Brown. He died August 10, 1694. His children, all by his first wife, were: Hannah, John, Mary, Stephen, Nathan and Abigail.

(III). Stephen, second son and fourth child of Stephen and Hannah (Ayer) Webster, was born in Haverhill, January 1, 1672, and died March 9, 1748, aged seventy-six. He was one of eight men in the garrison of John Webster, March, 1690. He married Widow Mary Cook. They had six children: Samuel, John, Stephen, William, Ebenezer and Mary.

(IV). Ebenezer, fifth son and child of Stephen and Mary (Cook) Webster, was born in Haverhill, September 20, 1711. He married, March 1, 1737, Mehitable, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Day) Kimball, of Bradford, Mass. Their children were: Lydia, Isaac, Mary, Ebenezer, Jonathan, Stephen, Moses and John.

(V). Ebenezer, fourth child and second son of Ebenezer and Mehitable (Kimball) Webster, was born in Haver-

hill, February 1, 1744, and died in Pelham, N. H., March 14, 1823. He was married three times and settled in Pelham. He married in Pelham, November 29, 1770, Rebecca Baldwin, probably of Pelham. They had three children: Sarah, Ebenezer and Rebecca, the last of whom died young. His wife, Rebecca, died, and he married, second, in Pelham, December 31, 1775, Martha Barker. She died without issue, and he married, third, in Salem, N. H., October 14, 1778, Elizabeth Bradford of Salem, formerly of Beverly, Mass., daughter of Captain Simon and Eunice (Warren) Bradford, born in Beverly, September 6, 1754. She died in Amherst, N. H., March 27, 1844. They had nine children, all born in Pelham: Rebecca, Nancy, Moses, Simon, Isaac, Asa, John, Benjamin and Betsey.

Ebenezer Webster was a quiet, industrious farmer in Pelham, residing just south of North, or White's pond, where he spent all his life after his marriage.

(VI). John, seventh child and fifth son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Bradford) Webster, was born in Pelham, December 25, 1791. He married, August 22, 1815, Hannah, daughter of Eleazer and Sarah (Hale) Cummings, born in Nottingham West, now Hudson, August 4, 1794. She was a great granddaughter of Deacon Henry and Mary (Bartlett) Hale, and also a great granddaughter of Nathaniel and Ann (Worm) Hills, of Hills' Garrison, both of Nottingham West.

John resided upon the old homestead in Pelham, excepting one year in Meredith, 1819, and one year in Hudson, 1834, until 1841, when he sold his farm in Pelham and removed to Amherst, N. H., where he remained until 1846, when he returned to Hudson, and bought a farm on Bush hill, where he lived for twenty years, and then made his home with his daughters, Mrs. Titcomb and Mrs. Baker, until his death, March 1, 1883. Mr. Webster was a man of great energy and unremitting industry, by which he had been able to provide for his large family of children, and insure for himself a comfortable support in his old age. He

was drafted in the war of 1812, and served in Captain Haynes' company at Portsmouth, where he obtained an honorable discharge.

He was a loyal citizen, a good husband and father, an attentive son, supporting his aged parents until their death, and doing his duty faithfully in every position. For many years he was universally called "Honest John Webster."

Mrs. Hannah (Cummings) Webster performed faithfully her part in life as wife, mother and Christian. Industrious and frugal, she cared for her large family of children, physically, morally and religiously, and her children learned from day to day by precept and example. She united with the Congregational church in Pelham, and was an esteemed member of other churches of the same denomination wherever she resided. She died in Hudson, February 3, 1871.

The children of John and Hannah (Cummings) Webster were: Elizabeth B., married Warren Blodgett; Moses; Sally Hale, married Simeon Titcomb; Eleazer C., died young; Lovisa U., married John H. Baker; Lucy Ann, married Daniel B. Cluff; Kimball; Hannah Jane, died unmarried; John C.; Nathan P.; Willard H.; Milton E., died young; and Orrin P.

(VII). Kimball, seventh child and third son of John and Hannah (Cummings) Webster, was born in Pelham, November 2, 1828. His education was acquired at the common schools of Pelham and Hudson. He grew up a farmer boy inured to hard work, and prepared for the toil and labor that have since been his lot. He also worked upon the quarries in Pelham in 1847 and 1848.

He was one of the California pioneers of "forty-nine." April 17, 1849, six months before attaining his majority, after hearing of the great gold discovery in California, he left home and went to Independence, Missouri, where with a company of twenty-eight men fitted out with pack mules and horses, he traveled over the trail to California, arriving in the Sacramento valley October 13, after spending six months on the way, and experiencing many hardships. He

He has always been a Democrat in politics, and although in the minority party politically in his town, he was selectman four years, being chairman of the board.

He has twice been chairman of a committee to re-appraise all the real estate in Hudson for taxation, and was chosen a third time, but declined to serve on account of his advancing age. He represented his town in the state Legislature for the term of 1901 to 1902. He was a member of the school board of Hudson for seven years, 1885-1893. He has been one of the trustees of the public library since its organization in 1894. He was chairman of a committee of five to build a new bridge over Merrimack river in 1881. In 1910, he was again a member of another committee of five for the town of Hudson, including the selectmen, to build another bridge to replace the former one, which had become unfit for the increasing traffic.

He has been a continuous acting Justice of the Peace since 1859, drawing numerous deeds, wills and other legal papers. His practice in the probate courts has been extensive. He has been a trustee in savings banks in Nashua for many years. He is a member of Rising Sun Lodge, F. and A. M., of Nashua, and has been largely identified with the history of the order of Patrons of Husbandry in Hillsborough County. He was the first to become interested in the establishment of a local grange in Hudson, and was its Master for ten years. He was one of the few to organize the New Hampshire State Grange, December 23, 1873, and also Hillsborough County Council, March 4, 1874, of which he was Master two years, and its secretary from December, 1876, until the organization, April 17, 1883, of its successor, Hillsborough County Pomona Grange, No. 1, when he was secretary of that body, which office he continued to hold to December, 1888, when he declined a re-election.

He has always been much interested in historical matters and ancient landmarks, including genealogies.

engaged in mining on the Feather and Yuba rivers, and in June, 1851, went to Oregon, then a territory, as was also California.

He was engaged upon the surveys of the public lands in Oregon, and in the spring of 1852, was commissioned a deputy surveyor. His work was in the Willamette and Umpqua valleys. He returned home by the way of the Isthmus of Panama in the fall of 1854.

In 1855, he was employed as a surveyor and land examiner by the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad company, in the western part of Missouri. In the summer of 1858, he resided in Vinal Haven, Me., and was in the service of the Bodwell Granite Company. Since that time he has been a resident of Hudson, where he owns and occupies a portion of the farm purchased by his great grandfather, Eleazer Cummings, in 1728.

Mr. Webster married, January 29, 1857, Abiah Cutter, daughter of Seth and Deborah (Gage) Butler Cutter, born in Pelham, February 1, 1837. Their children were: Lizzie Jane, born January 11, 1858, married Horace A. Martin, resides in Hudson; Ella Frances, born August 19, 1859, married Frank A. Walch, and resides in Nashua; twins, two boys, born June 26, 1861, and died soon after; Eliza Ball, born July 14, 1862, and married Charles C. Leslie, resides in Hudson; Latina Ray, born July 26, 1865, died November 12, 1887; Julia Anna, born October 26, 1867, married John A. Robinson and resides in Hudson; Mary Newton, born August 9, 1869, married George H. Abbott, and resides in Hudson; and twins, male and female, born June 10, 1876, and died the same day.

They have eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. (1912.)

Mr. Webster has been a surveyor and engineer. He had an experience of fifty years in tracing old lines and boundaries and finding lost land marks. In this he was considered an expert, with very few superiors.

In the Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire, published in 1908, under Webster ancestry, page 23, Ebenezer Webster, are several very important errors.

The genealogy will be found correct in this article, also as given in the History of Hudson, in the History of Hillsborough County, N. H., published 1885, by J. W. Lewis & Co., Philadelphia, page 482.

NATHAN PIERCE WEBSTER

Nathan Pierce Webster, the fifth son and tenth child of John and Hannah (Cummings) Webster, was born in Pelham, N. H., May 19, 1835.

In his seventh year his parents removed to Amherst, N. H., and when he was twelve they returned to Hudson. He was educated at the public schools in Amherst and Hudson and a private academy at Hudson Center. While in his minority he worked with his father on the farm at Bush hill and one season on a farm in Dracut, Mass. In the later years he spent the winters at making shoes with some of his brothers, in a small shoe shop at the homestead.

In 1857, at the age of twenty-two years, he was employed at quarrying and cutting stone in Vinal Haven, Me. In 1858, he engaged in the periodical business in Boston, which he pursued with success for several years.

May 17, 1860, he married Susan M. Morrison, daughter of Samuel and Achsah (Davis) Morrison, born in Hudson, November 27, 1838. The fruit of this marriage was one son, Brinton M. Webster, born in East Cambridge, Mass., October 6, 1864. Susan Webster died October 6, 1864. He married, second, Josephine E. Rollins, daughter of Hiram Rollins, of Chelsea, Mass., born February 29, 1840. They had two children: Moses R., born in Hudson, April 24, 1879, and Adele G., born May 17, 1880, and died July 21, 1897.

In 1866, Mr. Webster, engaged in business with his brother, John C. Webster, at Danbury Depot, N. H. They kept a large store, including groceries and a variety of other goods. He remained in Danbury two years, until 1868.

In 1869, he and his brother, Willard H. Webster formed a copartnership in the grocery business in Hudson. Willard Webster died November 23, 1869. He then assumed the full ownership and management of the store, which he conducted with success until 1892, when by reason of declining health he sold out his business to George G. Andrews.

He represented the town of Hudson in the Legislature in 1882. He was postmaster from November 15, 1869, to July 24, 1878, and from April 14, 1879, to July 23, 1892, more than twenty-two years in all. He was a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Baptist church. Although fond of hunting and fishing, he never permitted sport to interfere with his business. His integrity as an honest man was beyond question by all who knew him. He died January 28, 1893. His wife, Josephine, died January 30, 1907.

WILLARD H. WEBSTER

Willard H. Webster, son of John and Hannah (Cummings) Webster, was born in Pelham, N. H., March 22, 1837. In 1841, the family removed to Amherst, N. H., and in 1846, to Hudson. Willard was instructed in the public schools in Amherst and Hudson, and a private academy at Hudson Center.

He married, June 9, 1859, Sophia C. Foster, daughter of David and Sophia (Coburn) Foster, of Hudson, born June 6, 1839. A daughter, Ida S., was born to them July 18, 1860. His wife, Sophia, died November 15, 1860, and this daughter was brought up by her grandmother, Mrs. Foster. He married, second, October 19, 1863, Addie M.

Walton, of Maine, born March 12, 1843. The following children resulted from this marriage: George Walton, born August 31, 1864; Melville Trevett, born May 6, 1866, died September 13, 1867; and Minnie Louise, born February 21, 1869.

Mr. Webster was brought up by his father to assist him on the farm, and for a short time he made shoes. For several years after he attained his majority he was engaged in the newspaper work in Boston, with three of his brothers. In the winter of 1867, while caring for his parents on the farm in Hudson, his youngest brother, Orrin P. Webster, then doing a successful business in Boston, came to his father's in January, and died of tuberculosis, February 3, 1867.

Willard immediately removed to Boston to save his brother's business from going to ruin by default. He returned to Hudson in September of the same year, but not until after having received into his system, in some way, the germs of the "white plague." He had been a young man with a strong will and a great ambition, and had inherited a very strong constitution.

In the spring of 1878, he entered the grocery business in Carnes' store at the Bridge. He was appointed postmaster of the Hudson office, September 21, 1868. He, with his brother, Nathan P. Webster, formed a firm in the grocery business in the old store at the Bridge, in the spring of 1869. He struggled against the progress of the disease for more than two years, but his iron constitution and his indomitable will and ambition could not prevail. He died November 23, 1869, thirty-two years of age, and a noble young man in the prime of life, universally loved and respected.

CHAPTER XL

OFFICIAL ROSTER

The following is a list of moderators of annual town meetings, town clerks and selectmen of the town of Nottingham, from 1733 to 1741.

Moderators of Annual Town Meetings

Captain Robert Fletcher, 1
Henry Baldwin, 1734, '37, '38.
John Butler, 1735, '41.
Joseph Snow, 1736, '39.
Thomas Colburn, 1740.

Selectmen

1733, Henry Baldwin, Captain Robert Fletcher, John Taylor, Joseph Snow, John Butler.
1734, Henry Baldwin, Robert Fletcher, Zaccheus Lovewell, John Butler, Eleazer Cummings.
1735, John Butler, Robert Fletcher, Thomas Colburn.
1736, Daniel Fletcher, William Cummings, John Butler.
1737, Henry Baldwin, Joseph Hamblet, John Butler.
1738, Henry Baldwin, John Butler, Joseph Hamblet, Joseph Winn, John Baldwin.
1739, Eleazer Cummings, Zaccheus Lovewell, Joniathan Snow.
1740, Thomas Colburn, Zaccheus Lovewell, John Snow.
1741, Henry Baldwin, Joseph Hamblet, Thomas Gage.

Town Clerks

Henry Baldwin, 1733, '34, '37, '38, '41.
John Butler, 1735, '36.
Jonathan Snow, 1739, '40.

Until 1741, the town of Nottingham was supposed to be wholly in Massachusetts, and was under the laws and jurisdiction of that commonwealth; but upon the settlement of the province line in that year, the town was divided, and the greater part fell within the limits of New Hampshire. Nottingham in this state became a district,

and remained as such until 1746. There is no record of any town or district meeting from November 22, 1741, to August 9, 1743, at which last meeting the first district officers were elected.

Moderators of Annual Meetings. Selectmen and Town Clerks of the District of Nottingham.

MODERATORS

Henry Baldwin, 1743, '44.
Thomas Colburn, 1745.
Thomas Gage, 1746.

SELECTMEN

1743, Zaccheus Lovewell, Ezekiel Chase, Samuel Greeley.
1744, Ezekiel Chase, Joseph Hamblet, John Marshall.
1745, Zaccheus Lovewell, Samuel Greeley, Samuel Butler.

Samuel Greeley was elected district clerk at the first district meeting that is found recorded, and was re-elected each year afterwards as long as Nottingham remained a district.

The charter of Nottingham West as a town, as has been already stated, was dated July 5, 1746, and the first meeting for the election of officers was held July 17 of the same year.

The following lists present the names of the persons who have held the several offices of moderator of annual town meetings, town clerks and selectmen from the year 1746 to 1913, with the years in which they were respectively chosen:

MODERATORS

Zaccheus Lovewell, 1746.
Thomas Colburn, 1747, '48, '49, '50, '51, '53, '58.
Ezekiel Chase, 1752, '54, '55, '56, '57, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '76.
Abraham Page, 1759, '60, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '77, '78.
Daniel Merrill, 1761.
Ephraim Cummings, 1762, '63.
Henry Hale, 1769.
George Burns, 1770.

CHAPTER XXXV

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

Previous to its charter, and while Nottingham remained a part of Dunstable, there is no evidence found of any highways being laid out on the east side of the Merrimack, now in the town of Hudson.

The first tax list for the town of Nottingham, made by the selectmen in 1733, contained the names of fifty-five persons, of whom twelve at least were residents in that section of the town which now forms a part of Tyngsborough, Mass., eight, in what is now Litchfield, and about seventeen, within the present limits of Pelham.

This would show that at that time the population of what is now Hudson, did not exceed twenty families, nearly all of which were settled a short distance east of the Merrimack, between the town line of Hudson and Litchfield on the north, and the state line on the south, a distance of about seven miles.

No roads had been laid out and constructed for the accommodation of these pioneer settlers, and they traveled from house to house by paths that had become worn by common usage. With few culverts or bridges, these crude roadways wound over many rough places, but served a very good purpose for their horse-back riding, and for the small amount of traffic that was done by ox teams.

The first attempt to lay out a public highway by the town of Nottingham, as found recorded, was February 15, 1734, a little more than one year after the incorporation of that town.

The selectmen laid out a highway four poles wide from Dracut line, near Long Pond, to Natticook, (Litchfield) line. It passed below Musquash dam, and to the north-east side of Davenport meadow.

At the annual meeting, of the same year, the town by vote refused to accept the road as laid out. A second highway was laid out by the selectmen, March 26, 1746-7, from Litchfield, southerly through the town. At this time the province line had been settled and adjusted, so the road ended at the Tyngsborough line.

It began at Litchfield line near the house of John Robinson, and was laid out southerly, passing near the following residences: Nathaniel Hills, John Marsh, Eleazer Cummings, John Marshall, Deacon Samuel Greeley, Thomas Pollard, Lieut. Joseph Winn, Samuel Burbank, Samuel Huston, and to the province line. The road was three rods wide.

At a town meeting, June 8, 1747, "it was voted not to accept the highway as laid out."

As a large percentage of the inhabitants of the town lived near this road as laid out, and would seem to have been well accommodated by it, it is hard to understand at this time why it should have been rejected.

March 19, 1744, when Nottingham was a district, a road was laid out at the east side by the selectmen, three poles wide. This road began near the house of Rev. Mr. Merrill, and ran easterly over land of Fletcher, Col. Tyng and part of Kimball's farm, to Samuel Butler's land and to land of Henry Baldwin and between Baldwin's farm and Kimball's farm to highway leading to Londonderry. Thence partly easterly and all on Kimball's farm to Baldwin's bridge over Beaver brook, and partly easterly through Baldwin's farm to Dracut line. October 24, Joseph Hamblet and John Marshall, selectmen, laid out a highway at the east side of the district of Nottingham, from Dracut line to Joseph Hamblet's, and Deacon Butler's house, "and so across his farm and up Beaver creek to Londonderry line. The highway is three poles wide from one end to the other."

It will be remembered that at that time the district of Dracut bounded the district of Nottingham on the east, and Pelham as incorporated two years later was made up,

about one-third from the east part of Nottingham and about two-thirds from that part of Dracut that fell into New Hampshire on the settlement of the province line in 1741. This highway, or so much of it as has not been discontinued, is now principally in Pelham.

March 26, 1747, a road was laid out three poles wide from "the Little bridge, so called, to Hardy's ferry."

The same was again laid out, or changed, December 5, 1757, from Lieut. Winn's field, westerly over the Little bridge, so called, and so to "the road that is now trod to Hardy's ferry." "Derry Lane" was laid out March 26, 1747, two poles wide, from the road that leads to Litchfield to Londonderry road. In 1749, it was voted by the town to change the above mentioned road "between Roger Chase's and Edward Spalding's by the Farms burying ground; running between Ezekiel Greele's and Reuben Greele's and Samuel Hills'." In 1791, November 6, the town again changed this road as follows: "beginning at the north-east corner of the Farms burying place, and from thence north-easterly two poles wide to the Derry road."

March 27, 1747, a road was laid out three poles wide from the highway that leads to Litchfield, near the Blodgett cemetery, and running easterly by the Chase hill and over Bush hill to Pelham line.

The Searles, or Spear road, north of Bush hill was laid out three poles wide, March 27, 1747, and began at the road last described. It thence ran easterly over land of Glover, and at the south side of his house and on Glover's land, and on land of Searles, and at the north side of the house of Ebenezer Blodgett, and at the north side of the house of James Marsh; thence easterly on Marsh's land to land of Benjamin Frost; thence running on land of said Frost and land of Onesiphorus Marsh to Pelham line.