

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Bosworth Genealogy

A History *of the* Descendants of
EDWARD BOSWORTH
who arrived in America
in the year
1634

PART III
FOURTH GENERATION

COMPILED BY
MRS. MARY BOSWORTH CLARKE
Oakland, California

MILLER TYPOGRAPHIC SERVICE
Successor to Cossitype
16 Beale Street, San Francisco, California
Published 1928

60

DAVID⁴ BOSWORTH, son of Jonathan³ Jr. (*Jonathan*², *Edward*¹) and Hannah (Howland), and grandson of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland, both passengers in the Mayflower; born at Swansea, Mass., Sept. 15, 1669; died at Halifax, Mass., June 12, 1747; married first at Plymouth, Aug. 18, 1698, MERCY (Mary in marriage record) STURTEVANT, daughter of Deacon Samuel and first wife, Mercy Sturtevant, born 1676; died Apr. 23, 1707, and is buried beside her mother in the Plympton Burying Ground. David married second, PATIENCE (———).

As seen above David was born at Swansea, and probably spent his boyhood and young manhood there, but in 1698 we find him in Plymouth, where in August he was married to Mercy. In May 1699, following his marriage, David bought land at a place called Monponsett in the township of Plymouth, and in August 1701, bought more land on the west side of Monponsett pond "on the way going to Bridgewater." As this location is about six miles to the northwest of Colchester, in what is now the township of Plympton, the place where David's father lived in the early years of his married life, near to the Howlands, David's grandfather and uncles, it is easy to see what led him to go to this section. It does not appear that David ever removed from the place where he first settled, but at first being the "West Precinct" of Plymouth, it afterward became Plympton, and later Halifax.

On Nov. 26, 1695 the "Western Precinct" of Plymouth was incorporated. The order "for setting up the worship of God in said precinct," reads as follows:

"So soon as the Inhabitants of Said precinct shall have procured a learned and orthodox minister to preach the word of God among them shall be freed & exempt from paying toward the support of the ministry at the Town and for so long time as they Shall enjoy and have Such a ministry continued with them."

The first Precinct meeting that is recorded was held in

FOURTH GENERATION

January 1701, but Lewis Bradford, Town Clerk of Plympton, who wrote a sketch of the town in 1826, says, "They doubtless held Precinct meetings before that time."

At a meeting of the society held May 29, 1701 "it was agreed upon that our minister M^r. Isaac Cushman shall have 35 pounds for his sallery this present year."

"Att a meeting Held by the Inhabytants of the new Society in the western precinct of plimouth one the 3^d Day of June 1702 the said inhabitants did make Coice of *David Bosworth* to be there Clark."

On the same date it was voted "to petition to his Excelency the Gouvnrone that they might have Training by themseleilfe—David Bosworth Clark."

"Att a grate & generall Court or Assembelly held att Boston the 28 of May 1707 . . . In Answer to the pettition of the Inhabitanth" this tract was incorporated into a town under the name of Plympton on June 4, 1707 and the bounds set.

David Bosworth served as Town Clerk from June 1702 to Mar. 1, 1707/8, when a new clerk was elected.*

In a list of the inhabitants made in 1709 of those qualified to vote at town meetings, David was the only Bosworth. At a town meeting held in Plimpton Mar. 2, 1710/11 "John Cole & David bosworth ware Chosen Cunstabels." Dec. 13, 1711, it was voted to raise £4-10s. to pay a "Schoull-master 3 months att 30s. p^r month" and £2-12s. "for Dieting him."

Mar. 2, 1712-13, "Benony Lucas, David Bosworth & Isaac Cushman jun. were chosen Selectmen and assessors." It was also voted that every house-keeper should kill "either two Crows or six blackbirds or Gee birds between Mar. 15, and June 15 and bring in their heads to the selectmen or pay 2 shillings beside his or their just proportion in the town Rates."

Mar. 1, 1713-14, the same three Selectmen and assessors were again chosen; also on Mar. 14, 1714-15, and Mar. 1, 1715-16. On Mar. 26, 1715-16, Isaac Cushman as Town Clerk was sworn before Benony Lucas and David Bosworth, and "Benony Lucas and David Bosworth took the oath of assessors before me Isaac Cushman town Clerk."

About this time there was a new meeting house built and at a town meeting held June 15, 1716 a committee was appointed "to Determine in what seat Each person Should Set." This committee reported July 16, 1716, assigning each person to a pew; the tenth on the list is "to David Bosworth att y^e west end next y^e Stairs."

Mar. 18, 1716-17, Benony Lucas, David Bosworth and Isaac Cushman, Jr. were chosen Selectmen and sworn in. David was also chosen one of the "Surveyors of Highways."

*Copying the above from the old records I noted that after this date the writing was not nearly as good, and felt a thrill of pride that one of our name had left so clear a record.

From Mar. 2, 1712-13 until Mar. 23, 1729-30, David was chosen each year as Selectman, and served to and including that year. In March 1720 he began to be called "Deakon" Bosworth.

June 22, 1720. The selectmen of Plimpton (including David Bosworth), and the selectmen of Plymouth, renewed the bounds between the towns, which according to "the Laws of this Province," was to be done every three years.

"Maye ye 17th 1725 . . . at the above said meeting the Town made an act and voted that whoso Ever Should kill a wild Cat and bring his head unto the select men or to any one of them and their Certify him or them that it was bona fido killed within the bounds of the Town of Plimpton sall be payd out of the Town Treasury the Sum of five shillings for such head." Among the items for which the town was taxed, Sept. 6, 1725, the following appears: "Wild Cats heads—£1-0-0," showing that four had been killed. On the last date David was chosen one of a committee of three "to make answer to the petision of the North precinct in plimouth and plimpton praying for a Township."

Mar. 30, 1727, "Deak Bozworth" was one of the "Grand Jury men Chosen for Superior Court." On the same date the vote concerning wild cats' heads was again passed; also that concerning killing birds "or Squillils Such as are destructive to corn" or be fined 2s. Paid for wild cats' heads, £2-0-0, and this bounty was again voted.

At this time Rev. Isaac Cushman's salary was raised to 75 pounds a year. It had begun at 35 pounds and been raised 10 pounds each year, and the year following this it was raised to 85 pounds. Also about this time "Sam^{ll} Bryant and Jonathan Shaw, Ju^r ware chosen to take care of the boyes a sabbath Dayes to preuent thare playing att meeting and also to suppress any disorders by any: Either in the time of publick worship or in the Interuailes of the same and to Complain of all such disorder to authority." (Jonathan Shaw Jr. was a brother of Priscilla Shaw who married David Bosworth Jr. son of above.)

Mar. 23, 1729/30, "Deakon Bozworth & Ignatius Cushing with Peter Tomson & Sam^{ll} Lucas" were chosen to join with the agents of Middleborough to settle the boundary between them; also "Deacon Bozworth chosen to get a Coppy from the town Boock att Plymouth of the bounds of the ministry lot in plimpton."

About this time two men were chosen "to take care of the towns stock of powder and bullets and flints *and secure them in the meeting house.*"

FOURTH GENERATION

July 27, 1730, "Sam^l Bradford and Deakon Bozworth ware Chosen to agree with a scoollmaster for a year next ensuing." At the same meeting "the town by thare vote gave Liberty to any of the Inhabitants of sd town to build three seats adjoining each other upon the top girts at the west end of the meeting house at their own Cost and Charge for *negro and Indian Servants to set in.*"

On the records of the church in Plympton is found the following: "Memorandum that on Sabbath day some time in March in y^e year 1718-19, Samuel Sturtevant*, Elcanah Cushman and David Bosworth were ordained Deacons by the imposition of hands." There seems to have grown up a warm friendship between the pastor, Rev. Isaac Cushman, and David Bosworth, for when the minister made his will, Oct. 25, 1727, David, with Ignatius Cushing and Benoni Lucas, was a witness; and in the will Rev. Cushman says: "And I do hereby Request my loving friends Capt. Benoni Lucas & Deacon David Bozworth to be Overseers of this my last Will & Testament," etc. By May 12, 1731 the minister had so failed in health that "the town voted to get a minister to be assisting with Mr. Cushman in the worke of the ministry for the present . . . the town made choice of David Bozworth and Sam^l Churchel to provide for the pulpit as aforesd." Rev. Cushman must have died not long after this, for on Sept. 20, 1731, "the town made choice of David Bozworth and Sam^l Churchel to acquaint M^r Jonathan Parker that the town hath made Choice of him for their minister." The following is a receipt given by Rev. Cushman: "Received of Capt. Caleb Loring Town treasurer eighty five pounds in money for my worke in the ministry for the year beginning at the Last day of october 1728 and ending the Last of october 1729 which is in full for my worke in sd ministry from the begining of the world to that day I say Received by me Isac Cushman." Nov. 1, 1731, The town voted that the three Deacons should "acquaint M^r. Jonathan Parker with the votes of the town Respecting his Settlement and sallary," etc.

Feb. 4, 1730/31. The committee appointed in March 1730 "to Renew and settle the bounds of a tract of Land formerly Laid out in sd town for a ministry Lott and for a Conueniency for a training place and a burying place for sd town", made their report; David Bozworth, Ignatius Cushing and Joseph Lucas representing the town.

*This was probably the father of Mercy, wife of Deacon David Bosworth.

BOSWORTH GENEALOGY

NOTE: All the foregoing town records may be found in Book 1 of the town of Plympton. Near the close Lewis Bradford the Town Clerk wrote under date, Jan. 17, 1825; "It appears that David Bozworth was the Precinct Clerk in 1695—In 1825 people of that name generally write their names Bosworth." In 1834 he wrote "David Bosworth was the first Precinct clerk and the only one mentioned." The following may be found in Book 2:

Mar. 22, 1731/2, at a Town meeting held on this date Deacon David Bozworth with two others were chosen Selectmen.

June 13, 1732, David Bozworth one of a committee to confer regarding the setting off the south part of the town as a new town or precinct.

Dec. 4, 1732, the three Selectmen were appointed a committee to provide a schoolmaster.

Mar. 26, 1733, Joseph Thomas, Samuel Bradford and Deacon David Bosworth were reelected as Selectmen, and the other officers of the town took their oath of office before them.

Nov. 26, 1733, on a list of amounts to be raised, was 12 pounds to pay for wild cats killed, but in June 1734 it was voted not to continue the bounty for killing wild cats.

Mar. 26, 1734, Deacon David Bozworth, Joseph Lucas and Joseph Thomas chosen Selectmen and other officers sworn before them.

This was the last time David was elected to office, in Plympton; for the north part of the town, the part in which David lived, was set off and became a part of Halifax, which was incorporated July 4, 1734.

Sept. 16, 1734, "Att a Town Meeting held at Plympton . . . Mr Samuel Bradford was chosen a Selectman in the Rume of Deacon David Bozworth."

July 18, 1734 The first town meeting of Halifax was held by order of General Court; officers chosen—David Bosworth one of three Selectmen, also Sealer of Weights; was also one of a committee of three to supply the pulpit. It was voted to call Rev. John Cotton, and David Bosworth was one of a committee of three to acquaint him with the fact.

The records of the "Church of Christ" in Halifax begin *Oct. 16, 1734*: "This day was set apart as a day of fasting and prayer; Ministers were present from Middleborough, Pembroke, Plymouth, Kingston and Plympton. Among the names of "the Brethren" who signed the covenant were:

FOURTH GENERATION

David Bosworth

Samuel Sturtevant (father of Mercy, first wife of David)

Jonathan Bosworth (second son of David. David Jr., the eldest son
had removed to Killingly, Ct.)

"The Sisters."

Patience Bosworth (second wife of David)

Ruth Bosworth (second wife of Jonathan)

Jan. 28, 1734/5 the first business meeting of the church was held. David Bosworth was chosen clerk. *Apr. 9, 1735* the church voted to call the Rev. John Cotton, and on July 21, 1735 he sent a letter of acceptance which is recorded. He was ordained *Oct. 1, 1735*.

"Anno 1735 when y^e church were destitute of a pastor, Zadock Bosworth y^e son of Jonathan and Ruth Bosworth was Baptized at Halifax By y^e Rev. Mr. Parker.

Nov. 3, 1735. At a meeting of the church, Samuel Sturtevant, David Bosworth and Isaac Tinkham were chosen deacons.

Mar. 31, 1735, David Bosworth was chosen Town Clerk; also one of three Selectmen.

Mar. 18, 1744/5, Voted to allow Deacon Bosworth's account for service done.

This is the last mention of David on the Church Records, except the record that he died June 12, 1747, aged 77, and on July 20, 1747, the Halifax church held a meeting to appoint a deacon to take his place.

As to the land transactions of David, it has been stated in the first part of this sketch, that he bought land in 1699 and in 1701, near to Monponsett pond, on the way going to Bridgewater. The second piece was bought of Francis Curtis, whose wife, Hannah Bosworth, was a second cousin of David, a daughter of Benjamin³ Bosworth. On the "Records of the Town of Plymouth," (Vol. 2, p. 147), is found the following:

"The Bounds of y^e Highway which is Laid outt To y^e Metting house in y^e new society bounded att Bridgewater path with a Wallnut Tree and a black oake tree both marked and so To David Bosworths house and from Thence To John Curtisses house and from thence to Joseph Kings house . . . and from The bridge as nere as Is Convenient To David bosworths meadow To a white oak Tree marked" etc.

Mar. 5, 1705/6 David bought 20 a. adjoining what he already had, which was still called "in Plymouth." *July 7, 1708* he

sold 50 a. to Samuel Lucas, and now he is called "of Plimpton." (The signature to this deed was not acknowledged until July 14, 1744.)

Nov. 24, 1714, David again bought land, this time in a section called "Kings Cedar Swamp" in Plimpton of Jonathan Bryant, and the following month another piece of Samuel Sturtevant in the same section, the first for £5. . 5s., the other for £4. . 10s. A notation is made that "These fell by lot to the above owners when the land was first divided."

Mar. 30, 1714/15 Robert and John Waterman sold 20 a. to David for £28, and on *May 9, 1716*, Thomas Tomson sold land to David, $1\frac{1}{4}$ a. adjoining the land "whereon the sd David now dwelleth"; price paid £4. . 10s. *Jan. 27, 1717/18* he bought 4 a. of land for £4 of John Curtis, adjoining his own land.

As we have seen in the history of Jonathan Bosworth, Jr., on May 10, 1708, he gave his son David, 20 acres of land in Swansea, (See entire deed on p. 158). David held this land until after the death of his father, then sold it. An abstract of the deed is as follows:

David Bosworth of "Plimton in the county of Plimouth" for £30 deeds to Stephen Cornwell of Swansea "a Certain Lott of Land laid out in the Right of my Honoured father Jonathan Bosworth of Swansea deceased; called the Twenty acre Division . . . on the Easterly part of Swansea Town purchase near Showamit Purchase Containing Twenty acres of land . . . laid out in the year 1699 and numbered 17 & bounded Northerly & Easterly on highways and southerly on a lott number 18 laid out in the Right of Nathaniel Toogood" etc.

(Signed)

David Bosworth

May 29, 1722

John Thomas
Jeremiah Allen } Witnesses.

*(Fall River, Mass. Deeds, Bk. 4, p. 232)

NOTE: Nathaniel Toogood's daughter married David's brother John.

June 22, 1722, David Bosworth, *Sen.* (so called because his son David had reached the age of 21), for 50s., bought of Joseph Washburn, "one eighth part of one share in a Cedar Swamp now in the township of Pembroke."

*This is the only one of the deeds copied at Fall River, the others are from Taunton. In this deed at Taunton the lot is numbered 77 and the lot on the south, 78. The compiler has no way of knowing which is correct.

FOURTH GENERATION

Jan. 11, 1724/5 David Bosworth with others of the town of Plympton, deed land to Mark Perkins, a blacksmith, to induce him to settle in Plympton "in consideration of the occasion and need that there is for a blacksmith to settle in our neighborhood."

Apr. 8, 1725 David Bosworth, Sen. buys $14\frac{1}{4}$ a. for £16, "at a Place called Cedar-Bridge Swamp in Plimpton" adjoining his own land, of his brother-in-law, Josiah Sturtevant. (A quit claim from Samuel Sturtevant follows the above.)

Sept. 30, 1729 James Bryant for £3 sells to David Bosworth Sen. of Plimpton 1 a. 29 rds. in Plimpton adjoining "the South East side of that 30 a. Lot of y^e s^d David Bozworth Senior Whereon David Bosworth Junior now dwelleth." On the same day, David, for £250, sold to Francis Pummery of Hanover, the 45 a. 69 rds. "whereon David Bosworth Jun^r. now dwelleth." It is probable that David Jr. was about to remove to Killingly, Conn., for we find him there in Jan. 1730. On Sept. 23, 1731, David made an exchange of land with Thomas Tomson, Sen.

On the same date as the last, David, still of Plympton, "in consideration of y^e love and good affection which I bear unto my son Nehemiah Bosworth of y^e Town of Plimpton" deeds "A Certain Parcel of my homestead land lying & being in y^e Township of Plympton", which adjoined $14\frac{1}{4}$ acres which he formerly bought of Robert and John Waterman, and "on y^e Southwest Side of y^e highway that leads from Plym^o. to Bridgewater over against y^e Dwelling house of Jon^a. Bosworth with the Buildings and fences thereon, and also y^e one half of my two Parcels of meadow lying & being on ye Brook called Monponsett Meadow Brook in Plympton afore-said"; also one half the land in Kings Cedar Swamp which he bought of Samuel Sturtevant, Jr., and of Jonathan Bryant; also " $\frac{1}{2}$ of that $\frac{1}{8}$ part of one share . . . in y^e Great Cedar Swamp in y^e purchase Called y^e Major Purchase in ye Township of Pembroke" which he bought of Jos. Washburn, "Always reserving unto myself y^e whole use & improvement of all y^e abovesd Premises During my natural life—Also reserving unto my loving wife Patience Bozworth ye use and improvement of one third part thereof During her Natural Life if she outlive me."

On the same date, and for the same "considerations" as above, David deeds to Jonathan Bosworth, his son, "The Several Parcels of Upland Meadow and Swamps in y^e Township of Plympton . . . that is to say one Parcel thereof lyeth on ye northeast side of ye highway that leads from Plym^o. to Bridgewater and Containeth all my Lands w^{ch} lyeth there joining together on ye northeast side of ye highway whereon ye Dwelling house of ye said Jona. Bozworth now standeth and also one other Parcel of my

homestead land lying on ye Southwest side of said Highway . . . to include all my land which lyeth there joining together on ye sd Range." (Then follows the other one half of the parcel described above); "Always reserving" etc. same as above.

The above deeds were signed by David Bosworth, also acknowledged and recorded same date, Sept. 23, 1731.

Having thus wisely made a division of his property while he was still alive and in good health, on Oct. 27, 1740, nine years later, he made his will, in which he is called—

"David Bosworth yeoman of Halifax." He bequeaths:

1st to beloved wife Patience $\frac{1}{2}$ his moveable estate; "also y^e improvement of the Houseing & lands I have given to my sons Jonathan & Nehemiah during life according to ye restrictions and Limitations mentioned in my Deeds to my said Sons."

2nd "I give to my son David my Great Bible and all my Wearing Apparell having already given him his portion in Lands and money" etc.

3rd Confirms to sons Nehemiah and Jonathan "all the houseing and lands" he had given to them by deed.

4th Gives to daughter Hannah one half his moveable estate and what may be left of the other half after his wifes decease. Appoints son Jonathan as Executor to his will.

A codicil to the above will, made May 8, 1743, says:

"It is my mind and will that inasmuch as my son Jonathan is deceased that my surviving son Nehemiah shall be sole Executor to this my last will and Testament."

The above will was presented for probate, July 14, 1747, and Nehemiah the son given administration on the estate. He gave bonds July 15, 1747, with Robert Waterman, Jr of Halifax, and Edmond Wood of Middleboro.

Samuel Sturtevant, as previously noted, was made a deacon of the church in Plympton at the same time as David, and after the separation of the towns and the organization of the new church at Halifax, they were again made deacons. They lived near each other and both lived to a good old age; they are buried beside their second wives in the burying place by Monponsett Pond. (Monponsett, the Indian name for Halifax.) Mercy Sturtevant, the first wife of Deacon Samuel, and Mercy, her daughter, the first wife of Deacon David, are buried side by side in the burying ground at Plympton. The compiler visited these graves in 1905 and found them in fairly good condition, for although a portion has been split off the

FOURTH GENERATION

side of each of the stones there was enough of the reading left so that it was easy to make out the entire inscriptions, which are as follows:

HERE LYES Y^e BODY
OF MARCY STUR
TEVANT WIFE TO
DECON SAMUEL
STURTEUANT DIED
* Y^e 3 1714
IN Y^e 60th YEAR
OF HER AGE

HERE LYES Y^e BO
DY OF MARCY
THE WIFE
OF DEACON DAVID
BOZWORTH DIED
Y^e 23 OF
APRIL 1707
IN Y^e 31st YEAR
OF HER AGE

(*Name of month entirely gone.)

On Mar. 18, 1735/6 Deacon Samuel Sturtevant made his will, in which he bequeathed to the heirs of his daughter Mercy Bozworth, David, Jonathan, Nehemiah and Hannah.

CHILDREN

of David⁴ and Mercy (Sturtevant) Bosworth,
born in the "Western Precinct" of Plymouth, Mass.

- 133+ i—DAVID⁵ JR., b. May 21, 1699; d. ——— m. Priscilla Shaw.
 - 134+ ii—JONATHAN⁵, b. Feb. 16, 1700/1; d. Jan. 24, 1741/2; m. (1) Alice Cushman; m. (2) Ruth Tilson.
 - 135+ iii—NEHEMIAH⁵, b. Mar. 15, 1702*; d. Dec. 22, 1762; m. (1) Susannah Ring; m. (2) Sarah Tomson.
 - 136+ iv—HANNAH⁵, b. June 24, 1705; d. ———; m. William Ripley.
- (*Probably O. S., and should be 1702/3)

61

JOHN⁴ BOSWORTH, son of Jonathan³ Jr. (*Jonathan*², *Edward*¹) and Hannah (Howland), and grandson of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland, both passengers in the *Mayflower*; born in Swansea, Mass., Apr. 6, 1671; died in Barrington, Mass. (now R. I.), Sept. 20, 1719; married at Swansea, June 10, (or 16, both dates on record) 1702, Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Toogood, born July 25, 1682; died previous to June 7, 1773 when her estate was being settled: she married second at Bristol, R. I., Feb. 18, 1723/4,