

BRIGGS, Lloyd Vernon, *History of shipbuilding on North River, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1640-1872*, (Boston: Coburn Bros., 1889)

NORTH RIVER.

CHAPTER I.

SOURCES OF NORTH RIVER AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES.—HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRIES LOCATED THEREON.

WHY the stream which has become so historic takes the name of North River, those who named it left no record, but probably it was either because that in going north from Plymouth they found two rivers, and named the southern, South River and the northern, North River; or else, during their explorations along the coast, when they discovered these two rivers, one flowing directly from the north, the other directly from the south, meeting a little way from the coast, and flowing into the ocean together as one stream, they named the one flowing from the north, North River, and the one flowing from the south, South River. Either would be sufficient reason for thus naming these rivers, and in absence of any record, one of these two theories may probably be accepted as correct. The sources of North River are the Indian Head and the Namassakeesett Rivers. For the benefit of those who would like to follow up these streams, I will locate them and their tributaries, and on them the mills, factories, forges, etc., giving as complete a history of each as it has been possible to gather from the material now in existence.

THE NAMASSAKEESET stream rises in Furnace Pond. Great Sandy Pond connects with Furnace, and Little Sandy Pond with Great Sandy; thus the Namassakeesett receives an unusually large amount of water at its very source. "On a recent visit to Furnace Pond in Pembroke, we endeavored to collect (for want of better information) some of the legends and traditions connected

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SAMUEL KENT, SHIPBUILDER.

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Mann, Barnabas Webb, Stepha and William Vinal, owners. 1796, sch. "LYDIA & POLLY," 102 tons, of Scituate; James Little, Oliver and Elijah Jenkins, and William Vinal, owners. 1797, sch. "FISH HAWK," 46 tons, of Scituate, Charles Ellms, Levi and William Vinal, owners. 1798, sch. "BETSEY," 60 tons, of Scituate. Nehemiah Manson, Lemuel and William Vinal, owners. 1800, sch. "ROVER," 89 tons; owners, Nehemiah Manson, James Collier, William Vinal, Ira Byrant, Cushing Otis, of Scituate, and others. She afterward hailed from Boston, was changed from a schooner into a brig in 1804, and on Feb. 14, 1811, at Boston, was ordered to be sold for the payment of seamen's wages. In 1800 sch. "LIBERTY," 88 tons, of Scituate, Charles Ellmes, David Otis, Lemuel and William Vinal, owners.



built more vessels than any one else at the Harbor during the first part of this century. His yard was located on the creek or inlet near the mouth of Satuit Brook, which was then quite clear and deep. It was on the Harbor side of the creek, and not far from the "Old Tavern House," which is still used for a public house. His residence stood on the present site of Mr. Ellm's grocery store. The first bridge over Satuit brook was built prior to 1648. This stream, for which the town was named, is scarcely a mile in length, and falls into the creek at the Harbor. The early settlers found beaver dams across it. East of the Harbor the territory was called Little Marsh in 1636. From the *Boston Evening Post*, of May 20, 1771, is taken an item relative to the Kent family, but not this immediate branch.

"Last Tuesday died Mr. Samuel Kent, of Charlestown, in the 57th year of his age, whose death (on account of his remarkable diligence, uprightness and goodness in the public as well as the private affairs of his life), is very justly regretted by all who knew him."

Samuel Kent, the shipbuilder of *Scituate* was a descendant of John Kent, of Dedham. After much time and labor among the Dedham church, town, and other records, and the same records of Charlestown, Cambridge, Boston and Scituate, the following genealogy has been compiled:

KENT GENEALOGY.

The first of this name we find in New England is "Jo. Kent,

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370 KENT — THE FIRST OF THAT NAME IN NEW ENGLAND.

aged 23, sailed from London in 1635 in the ship 'William & John,' bound to St. Christopher.**

The next earliest accounts of the Kent family are found in the "Dedham Records of Church and Cemetery," and the "Dedham Records of Births, Marriages, etc." Joshua Kent was in Dedham in 1643. He was admitted into the church there in Sept., 1644. In November, 1644, he went to England, the church records say, "with our testimoniall." He returned from England in 1645, bringing with him two brothers, one of whom was *John*, the direct or common ancestor of Samuel Kent, the shipbuilder, and the others of that name in Scituate and Marshfield. There was born to Joshua Kent, and Mary, his wife, Dec. 17, 1646, a dau., whom they named Lydia. Joshua became a freeman in 1646. In October, 1647, "for reasons not well satisfying his friends or church," accompanied by his wife, he went back to England, where he found the government in a very unsettled condition, trouble "having again arisen." Becoming disheartened at the convulsions of his native land, he and his wife returned again to America in October, 1648. Another child was born to them Jan. 27, 1650, whom they named Sarah. A third dau., Mary, was born Oct. 10, 1651. Mary Kent, deceased, Nov. 28, 1676; but whether it was the mother or child the records do not state.

John Kent, I., bro. of Joshua, was received into the church at Dedham, May 16, 1652. He was a freeman in 1654, and mar. March 21, 1662, Hannah Grizold (also found recorded as Grizwold and Grissell.) She died in Charlestown, Mass., January 9, 1690-1. They removed to Charlestown, where they were admitted to the church April 13, 1663. Their children were, I. Hannah, b. July 2, 1667; mar. Joseph Cahoon. II. John. III. Mary, b. Feb. 3, 1669-70. IV. Joshua, b. June 15, 1672, d. soon. V. Joshua, baptized July 5, 1673, afterward of Boston. VI. *Joseph*, baptized October 17, 1675, (mar. Rebecca Chittenden.) VII. Samuel, b. Mar. 23, 1678, d. aged 25 years. VIII. Ebenezer, b. Aug. 18, 1680, afterward of Scituate. IX. Lydia, b. July 16, 1683. X. Mary, b. May 12, 1686. XI. Susana, b. Aug. 13, 1689.

JOHN II., son of John I., mar. Dec. 22, 1692, Sarah Smith. They had children born in Charlestown. 1. Sarah, b. Oct.

** "Emigration to America, by Hotten."

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11, d. Dec. 24, 1693. 2. John, b. Sept. 29, 1694, baptized in Cambridge. 3. Hannah, b. Mar. 5, 1695-6, baptized in Cambridge. 4. Elizabeth, b. Jan. 8, 1697-8, baptized in Cambridge; d. in Scituate Jan. 8, 1702. In 1698, John, the father, and Sarah, his wife, removed to Scituate, where the following children were born to them. 5. Ebenezer,* b. May 28, 1699, who mar. in 1728, Huldah Whittemore, and in 1738 was captain of S. Henley's Snow, "Rebecca." 6. Benjamin K., b. Jan. 8, 1701. 7. Sarah, b. Sep. 10, 1702. 8. Samuel, b. Dec. 18, 1703. 9. Ezekiel, b. Oct. 8, 1705. 10. Nathaniel, b. Feb. 18, 1708. This family removed from Scituate to Marshfield about 1709-10, and accounts of some of their families can be found in this book at the end of the history of the Scituate branches.†

EBENEZER VIII., bro. of John II., and son of John I., went from Charlestown to Scituate where he married in 1703, Hannah Gannett. They had children: 1. Abigail, b. Oct. 12, 1706; d. March 12, 1709; 2. Mercy, b. July 31, 1708; 3. Elizabeth, b. Sept. 6, 1710. 4. Isaac, b. Sept. 27, 1712. 5. Mary, b. 1715. 6. Ebenezer, b. 1717. We will now go back to

Joseph, 6, son of John I., mar. Nov. 26, 1702, Rebecca Chittenden of Scituate (mar. by Rev. Mr. Cushing). She d. Apr. 2, 1762, in her 81st year. He d. May 30, 1753. By his will, probated June 30, 1753 ‡; he devised to his wife the use of all his estate except that given to Samuel. He gave his negroes, "Peggy to Mehetabel, Venus to Rebecca, Jenny to Benjamin and Violet to Stephen." Joseph and Rebecca (Chittenden) Kent had children: I. Joseph, b. Mar. 5, 1703-4, afterward of Boston, gentleman.§

*For descendants see Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown," K to Z, p. 571.

†"On 20th of May, in the year of our Lord 1700, John Kent, of Scituate, brought to record a stray horse, as he sayd, of a darke bay color, with two notches or peeces cut out of the near eare towards the top on each side one, said beast being taken damag feasant in Inclosures."—*Scituate Records*.

‡See Genealogies & Estates of Charlestown, K to Z, p. 572.

§WILL OF JOSEPH KENT.

In the name of God Amen I Joseph Kent of Boston in ye County of Suffolk & Province of ye Massachusetts Bay in New England Gent'n do make and ordain this my last will & testament & I do hereby give and bequeath all my estate both real and personal that I now have or hereafter may have as wages prize money &c due or that shall become due from any person or persons whatever to my brother Benjamin Kent of Boston aforesaid Gent'n his heirs & assigns and I do hereby nominate and appoint

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II. Stephen, b. June 14, 1706. III. Benjamin. IV. Mehetabel, b. Aug. 26, 1711, mar. Jotham Tuttle. V. Samuel, b. July 18, 1714, mar., Nov. 27, 1740, Rebecca Adams. VI. Jonathan, b. Mar. 29, 1717, afterward of Boston, gentleman. VII. *David*, b. June 1, 1719. VIII. John, b. Sept. 24, 1722. IX. Rebecca, b. May 6, 1725, mar. Eben Rockwell.

BENJAMIN KENT, of Boston, gentleman, who was attorney for David in 1749, and probably his brother and son of Joseph VI., mar. Elizabeth, dau. of Jacob Hassey, and had children: 1. Elizabeth who mar. ——— Butman. 2. Sarah, mar. ——— Blowers. 3. Benjamin who appears to have gone away and all trace of him was lost, possibly forever. Benjamin, Sr., and wife Elizabeth removed to Halifax, N. S., soon after or about the time of the Revolution. On April 15, 1785, he being about to visit Boston, leaving his wife and children in Halifax, deeded a certain messuage or dwelling-house in Boston in trust to Samuel Danforth, M.D., of Boston, to make use of for the support, etc., of his wife and children. This dwelling-house was formerly the residence of Benjamin, and was situated "at the north side of King street by the north end of the Town or Court House." Benjamin d. prior to 1794. His wife was residing in Halifax in 1808.

David 7, son of Joseph 6, mar., in 1744, Abigail Damon, who survived him, and who notwithstanding the restrictions in her husband's will,* mar., 2ndly, a Mr. King. David probably

him ye said Benjamin the sole executor of this my last will & testament In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seal this twenty-ninth day of April Anno Domini seventeen hundred & forty-six

sig. seal'd published & declared

in presence of

Henry Venner, Eben'r Rockwell, Thos. Goldthwaitt }

JOSEPH KENT (seal.)

Probated Jany. 6, 1758.

Letters granted to Benj. Kent Jany. 6, 1758.

See Probate Records, Suffolk Co., Vol. 53, page 54 & 55.

* WILL OF DAVID KENT.

In ye name of God Amen, I, David Kent of Boston in ye County of Suffolk in New England Cooper do hereby make this my last will & testament hereby revoking all other & former Will or Wills and testaments heretofore by me made & being of sound mind & memory do dispose of all my estate both real & personal in ye following manner and effect. But *Imprimis* I restore my soul to my Almighty God & Father who has blessed me with ye same and depend on his infinite goodness & mercy for my present and eternal future felicity and my body I resign to ye grave to be decently inter'd by my executrix hereinafter named. Item, the use & improvement of all my real & personal estate I give and bequeath to my loving wife so long as she shall continue my widow. Item I give and bequeath severally to my sons David & Joseph Kent, Fifty pounds to be paid to each of them by my Executrix hereinafter to be mentioned as they shall sey-

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left Charlestown early and followed his trade of cooper in Boston as in the Boston Town Records, 1742-1757, we find that

"At a Town Meeting held in Boston, Mar. 16, 1742, Mr. David Kent and six others were chosen cullers of staves for the year ensuing," and "At a Town Meeting, held Mar. 22, 1743, Mr. David Kent and eight others were chosen cullers of staves and hoops for the year ensuing."

He had by his wife Abigail two sons: I. *David*. II. Joseph, both minors at the time of the death of their father in 1760. Their mother Abigail was appointed their guardian in 1762, David then being "above 14 years of age." David, Sr., and wife Abigail resided at the north end of Boston, corner of Ship (afterward called Fore) street and Battery Alley (so called) in a two-story house "all wooden except a brick back," which he bought May 10, 1743, paying therefor £93, 15s. Wyman, in his *Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown, K to Z*, page 573, states that David, Sr., removed to Philadelphia, but from what source he received this information the author has been unable to ascertain. Certainly at the time of his death, David owned the property on Ship street and his widow resided there for many years. We will give Joseph's family first, then David's.

erally attain to the age of twenty-one years notwithstanding ye use and improvement aforesaid. Item, in case my said wife Abigail Kent should *intermarry with any man after my decease my will is and I do thereupon give bequeath and devise to my son David one third part of my real and personal estate to him and his heirs* to have and to hold to him and them immediately upon and forever after his attaining to ye age of twenty-one years. Item *one other third part of my real and personal estate (on such intermarriage as aforesaid) I hereby give bequeath and devise to my son Joseph Kent to him and to his heirs* to have and to hold to him and them immediately upon and forever after his attaining to ye age of twenty-one years. Item the other third part of my real & personal estate after my said wife's decease I do hereby give bequeath and devise to my said sons, the one moiety to my son David and his heirs and ye other moiety of said third to my son Joseph and his heirs forever. Item, my loving wife Abigail Kent I appoint ye sole executrix to this my last will and testament. In Testimony of all which I have heretofore set my hand and seal this nineteenth day of April A.D. 1759

DAVID KENT, (seal)

sign'd seal'd, publish'd
pronounc'd and declar'd
to be my last will & testament
in presence of ye subscribers
William Thomas, Rebecca Rockwell, Jonathan Kent.

Suffolk S.S. By ye Hon'ble Thomas Hutchinson, Esq. Judge of Probate &c. The within written will being presented for probate by ye executrix therein named, William Thomas & Rebecca Rockwell made oath that they saw David Kent, the subscriber to this instrument sign the same and also heard him publish & declare it to be his last will & testament & that when he so did he was of sound disposing mind and memory according to these deponents' best discerning and that they together with Jonathan Kent (since deceased) set to their hands as witnesses thereof in the said Testators presence.

THOMAS HUTCHINSON,

Probate office. See Bk 56 p. 279 (1760)

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JOSEPH II, son of David 7 was mar. to Mary, or Polly Clark, Oct. 24, 1768, by Rev. John Lathrop. Joseph d. prior to 1789. The Massachusetts Magazine records the death of a Mary Kent, Aug. 1, 1789. They had children: 1. Joseph. 2. John who succeeded to their father's interest in the estate, corner of Ship street and Battery (or Daggett's) Alley, which they still held in 1806, and also property on Prince street. Joseph, who was a cooper, was mar. to Hannah Trask, Oct. 18, 1795, by Rev. Jeremy Belknap; John, also a cooper, was mar. to Eunice Trask, Oct. 27, 1799, by Rev. Thomas Baldwin; both Joseph and John were residents of Boston in 1813.

David I., son of David 7, mar. Lydia Damon in 1773. He was a shipwright by trade, and probably built at Scituate Harbor, and possibly in Boston as he and his wife are spoken of in a deed dated 1797 as "of Boston." In 1789 he owned one undivided half of a dwelling house, located at the North end of Boston between Clark's and Hartt's building yards, near the North Battery, and on the corner of Ship street and Daggett's alley. This location suggests that he might have been a shipwright on one of the above yards. He d. in 1825. Lydia, his wife, died in Scituate, Dec. 12, 1831, aged 82. They had children: 1. Samuel the shipbuilder. 2. SALLY, mar. Thomas Lapham; she d. Mar. 11, 1821, aged 46 years. 3. RACHEL, mar. Perkins Clapp.

Samuel I., the shipbuilder, son of David I., mar. Hannah, dau. of Capt. Noah Brooks (who was b. in 1744, and d. at sea). She also had a bro., Capt. Noah of South Boston, and two sisters: one mar. William Bradford of Kingston; the other mar. the Hon. John Holmes of Maine. Samuel Kent resided at Scituate Harbor for many years, where he built vessels. An account of his business here is given in this chapter. Later he and his family removed to South Boston, but he afterward returned to Scituate, where he d. Aug. 5, 1829, aged 56 years. Samuel and Hannah Kent had children:

1. CHARLOTTE APPLETON, b. Jan. 12, 1800, d. Jan. 3, 1885. She mar., June 12, 1820, Ivory Hall of Alfred, Me. He d. April, 1873. Children: 1. Ivory Bradford, b. March 7, 1821, mar. Phebe L. Nason, Dec. 5, 1847. He d. April 16, 1856, leaving children: 1. William Bradford, b. April 11, 1849, who mar. Lizzie Newhall, and resides in Portland, Oregon, where they have four children: Bradford, Ada, Hubert and Chester,

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and, 2, Noah Brooks, b. July 31, 1853, who is mar., and also resides in Portland, Oregon, where he has two children, Florence and Ernest. 2. Hannah Francis, b. June 4, 1825, d. Aug. 22, 1826. 3. Charlotte Appleton, b. Mar. 5, 1829, mar. James L. Emerson, July 3, 1865, and resides in Alfred, Me., where they have two children: Mary Lottie, b. Jan. 12, 1867, and Fannie Hall, b. May 29, 1870. 4. Charles Henry, b. May 7, 1831, mar. Lizzie M. Marston, Feb. 7, 1866. They reside in South Boston, and have had six children: L. Gertrude, b. Feb. 19, 1867; Charles Bradford, b. Mar. 16, 1869; Lillian May, b. Aug. 22, 1871; Frank Ivory, b. Oct. 1, 1873; Nettie Estelle, b. Dec. 1, 1875; Florence Appleton, b. May 15, 1879, d. July 19, 1880. 5. Rachel Francis, b. Sept. 15, 1835, mar. Benjamin Parker, Aug. 29, 1877, and resides in Somerville, Mass. 6. Hannah Brooks, b. July 21, 1838, d. June 5, 1839. 7. Edward Kent, b. Mar. 28, 1840; d. Aug. 15, 1884.

2. HANNAH WILLIAMS, b. Oct. 14, 1801, mar. Alpheus Stetson, Dec. 4, 1819. They had eight children: 1st. Alpheus M., b. Sept. 21, 1820, mar. Sophia B. Osborn of So. Boston, Oct. 7, 1842, and had three children: 1. John Alpheus, b. July 28, 1844, mar. Julia Van Veighton of Rome, N. Y., June 20, 1866, children: John Alpheus, Jr., b. Feb. 2, 1868; Archie, b. June, 1869, d. July, 1869; Herbert Osborn, b. June 3, 1871; Sophia Lawson, b. Aug., 1876, d. April, 1877; William Graydon, b. Feb. 18, 1878; 2. Frances Sophia, b. Dec. 11, 1847, d. Sept. 8, 1848; 3. Herbert Osborn, b. Sept. 7, 1850, d. March 28, 1872. 2d. Daniel F. W., b. Sept. 15, 1823, d. May 16, 1825. 3d. Edward F., b. June 18, 1826, d. Nov. 15, 1829. 4th. Hannah Elizabeth,* b. Nov. 7, 1828, mar. Harrison O. Briggs. 5th. Edward F., 2nd, b. March 23, 1830, d. Oct. 27, 1830. 6th. Sarah W., b. Aug. 15, 1833, mar. Joseph F. Baker of Boston, Oct. 11, 1854, children: 1. FRANCES JOSEPHINE, b. Oct. 2, 1855, mar. Henry Hunt Arnold of Boston, Sept. 19, 1877; 2. ANNAH WILLIAMS, b. Jan. 9, 1858, mar. Charles Everett of Boston, June 15, 1882. She has one child: Charles, b. Oct. 11, 1883. 3. ALPHEUS STETSON, b. Feb. 6, 1860, mar. Martha E. Alden of Newton, Sept. 29, 1887. He has one child: Frances Josephine, b. Oct. 13, 1888. 4. GRACE SEARS, b. May 15, 1867. 7th. Franklin J., b. April 15, 1839, d. March 28, 1841. 8th. Mary Adelaide, b. June

* For Genealogy of her family see Chapter on Briggs Yard.

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25, 1843, mar. George F. Neale; Oct. 3, 1865, children: Geo. S., b. Oct., d. in Sept., 1866; Mary H., b. Sept., 1869; Alice K. and Forence, b. Jan., 1875, (Florence deceased); Lawrence I., b. July 1885.

3. *Samuel Kent Jr* b. Sept. 12,
1803* mar.
1st, Ann
Henry, of
Boston, 2nd, Elizabeth Tripp Baker of Dorchester, Nov. 24,
1831. By his second wife he had children: 1. Samuel Henry,
b. Sept. 14, 1832, mar. Maggie McCrea, Dec. 25, 1859, mar. 2nd,
Mary J. Biggs, widow of ——— Lee, and resides in San Fran-
cisco, Cal., no children. 2. John Hawes Bird, b. Oct. 1,
1835, mar. Sarah E. Shaw of Boston, April 5, 1877, and they
have one child, John Henry, b. Dec. 14, 1878. 3. Edward
Francis, b. June 20, 1842, d. Jan. 4, 1823.

4. RACHEL CLAPP, b. Oct. 21, 1805, d. April 1, 1858. She
mar. Ubert L. Pettingill, and they had children: 1. Charlotte
Kent, b. March 6, 1838, mar. Edward L. Goodwin; 2. Susan
Jane Adams, b. Sept. 24, 1840, mar. 1st, Truman Flint; 2nd
Curtis C. Goss; 3. Hannah Brooks, b. Aug. 7, 1842, mar.
Edward R. Taylor; 4. Frances, b. Nov. 29, 1844, mar. James
Mackey; 5. Ubert Kalloch, b. June 2, 1848. All the above
have descendants excepting Ubert K.

5. NOAH BROOKS, b. in 1806, a shipwright, d. Jan. 19, 1861,
in Augusta, Me., aged 55 years. He mar. Elizabeth Ellms,
dau. of Josiah Dunham.† She was b. 1815, and d. in 1838,

* His correct name was Sam'l King Kent, but he dropped the King, he said to show his aversion to a king. He was a shipwright, and built in 1825, at Boston, the sch. "Newcomb," 46 tons, for Lot Wheelwright, Loring Newcomb, Joseph Cotton, Jr., and Chas. Appleton.

† Simons, in his *History of South Boston*, p. 271, says: "Prominent among those who have been for a long time identified with the interests and history of South Boston, stands the well known name of Josiah Dunham. He was born in New Bedford, March 11, 1775. He was son of Jesse and Susan Dunham. His father was a sea captain. The family were among the earlier settlers of Plymouth, the first record of which goes back as far as the year 1635. The branch from which he descended subsequently moved to Martha's Vineyard. When a youth he came to Boston and served an apprenticeship at the rope making business with a Mr. Richardson, the father of the Hon. Jeffrey Richardson, of Boston, whose ropewalks extended from Purchase street to Milk street, near to the present location of Pearl street. He first commenced the manufacture of cordage on his own account in a ropewalk which stood on or near Boylston street in Boston. In the year 1807, he became the purchaser of several acres of land at South Boston in the vicinity of B street and built a residence for himself and a ropewalk, where he continued to carry on the cordage manufacture until the close of the year 1853. During all the years of his residence in South Boston he was engaged in the building of dwellings and

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aged 23 years. They had children: 1. Mary Ann, b. April, 1832, in So. Boston, d. in 1847, aged 15 years; 2. Sarah Elizabeth Ellms, b. Sept. 22, 1834, near Bryant's corner, Scituate, where Noah B. Kent and family resided for one year, when they returned to So. Boston. She mar. Nov. 15, 1858, Lloyd Briggs. (For Genealogy of this family see chapter XVII.)

6. BARKER B., b. in 1811, a ship-joiner, mar. Sarah H., dau. of Josiah Dunham and sister of Elizabeth, wife of his brother Noah Brooks Kent. Barker d. June 27, 1876. Sarah, his wife, d. Nov. 7, 1888. They had children: 1. by adoption, Barker B. (formerly Nathaniel Tuttle) a physician, b. Aug. 26, 1841, d. Feb. 2, 1872. He mar. Helena M., dau. of Capt. Ezra H. Baker of So. Boston, and they had one child, Sarah Helena, b. Aug. 1, 1871, d. Feb. 2, 1872.

7. SARAH ANN, b., Feb., 1812, mar. in So. Boston, Benjamin, son of Elisha James, M.D., of Scituate. Children: 1. George Barker, b. July, 1837, mar. Adelaide G. Washburne and has four children: George B., William G., Robert K. and Addie. 2. Elisha Francis, b. Jan. 3, 1841, mar. Elizabeth Sears, and has four children, Edward S., Elisha F., Sarah A.

stores, and, without erecting a large number in any one year, in the aggregate he was the moving spirit in the erection of more buildings in the place than any other man. Though he did not have the advantage of early education, yet for foresight, energy, perseverance and power of memory, he had few superiors. He was impulsive, easily excited, and an injury, real or supposed, was not soon forgotten. On the other hand his friendships were strong, his benefactions generous and long continued, and he would often do favors to others even to his own injury. He was an active participator in the efforts for building the North Free Bridge, and was untiring in his zeal for whatever promised to be of advantage to the place of his chosen residence. He served the Twelfth ward in the Common Council in the year 1833, and for three succeeding years was an efficient member of the Board of Aldermen. While a member of the latter Board he felt a deep interest in the grading of the streets of South Boston, but few of which previous to that time had been put in a respectable condition. Finding his associates in the Board rather slow in their movements in this work he followed the example of one of whom he was an ardent supporter and in his capacity as one of the Surveyors of the Highways 'took the responsibility.' He set men to work in ploughing down and levelling up Fourth street and Broadway. When completed he carried the bills for the same, amounting to some \$2500, before the Aldermen, who with some shrugs of their shoulders and a few smiles at the boldness of the act of their associate, approved the bills and ordered their payment by the city. In the year 1823, when the Congregational Church was formed which is now known as the Phillips Church, he generously erected a hall on Fourth street for their place of worship and gave them the rent and other substantial aid till they erected their church building. He had a wonderfully strong and vigorous constitution and died April 28, 1857 being 83 years of age." Josiah Dunham mar. Mary Ann, dau. of William and Mary Elms of Middleborough, Mass. She d. Feb. 19, 1899, aged 60 years 8 months. Josiah and Mary were both interred in No. 11 St. Matthew's Church, South Boston but in May, 1864, were removed to Forest Hills, their last resting place. "In 1853 Josiah Dunham, Jr., was chairman of a committee appointed for the purpose of organizing a Shade Tree Society." (History of South Boston, p. 120.) "It is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when every street as soon as graded will be graced with flourishing and beautiful shade trees."

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and Charles D. 3. Edward Brooks, b. Sept. 14, 1843, mar. _____ Smith and has had five children: Benjamin K., (deceased) Edward B., (deceased) Williams B., Reginald S., Catherine H. 4. Charles Little, b. Jan. 14, 1846, mar. Clitheroe Dean, and has three children: Dean K., Benjamin, 3rd, and Clitheroe. 5. Benjamin, b. Dec. 26, 1851, mar. Kittie Greely, no children. 6. Williams Kent, b. Dec. 25, 1852, mar. _____ Johnson, and has one child, Herbert J. Benjamin James, Sr., mar. for his second wife Susan Hall, who was b. in 1823, and by her had one child. 7. Frank Irvin, b. in 1862, d. young. The following are some of the Marshfield branches of the Kent family.*

ELISHA KENT, mar. Susanna Ford June, 1741. They had children: 1. William, b. Oct. 1, 1742, mar. Mary Samson, 1773. 2. Smith, b. Oct. 22, 1744. 3. Elisha, b. Sept. 13, 1746, lost at sea. 4. Peleg, b. Oct. 4, 1748, mar. Elizabeth Ford. 5. Lucy, b. Oct. 5, 1750. 6. Phebe, b. July 5, 1752, died early. 7. Charles, b. Jan. 7, 1754, mar. Ruth Baker. 8. Sarah, b. Feb. 19, 1756, mar. Melzar Samson, 1780. 9. Nathaniel, b. Dec. 25, 1760. 10. Warren, b. Dec. 20, 1764. 11. Alice, b. April 22, 1766. 12. Susanna, baptized May 11, 1766.

JOSEPH KENT, mar. Lydia Thomas, Feb. 28, 1743. They had children: 1. Ann, b. Oct. 28, 1744, died early. 2. Thomas, b. Oct. 13, 1746, lost at sea, 1771. 3. Lydia, b. 1751, mar. Dr. Burnham of Norwich, Conn. 4. John, b. 1756, mar. B. Walker. 5. Nathaniel, b. 1760, mar. 6. Abigail, b. Dec. 22, 1763, mar. Asa Weston. 7. Elizabeth, b. May, 1767, died June, 1856.

BENJAMIN KENT, mar. Persis Doggett, 1723. Benjamin Kent died at Kingston, Jamaica. They had children. 1. Penelope, baptized Nov. 8, 1724 or 1726, died early. 2. Joseph. 3. John, minors, at their grandfather's death removed to Maine. 4. Persis, b. July 9, 1724, mar. Robert Jenkins of Boston. 5. Betsey or Elizabeth, (mar. a Bois [?] of Milton). 6. Nathaniel. 7. Mary, died young. The will of Benjamin Kent of Boston, mariner proved June 27, 1748, in Suffolk County, Mass., gives a remainder of his estate to eight

* Nat. Kent, Nat. Thomas and Nat. Ford all of Marshfield, who used to be called the "three Nats," settled at Readfield, Maine, and Kent's Hill at that place took its name from Nat. Kent.

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children, viz.: Benjamin, Nathaniel, Joseph, John, Persis, Elizabeth, Bathsheba and Mary, and appoints his wife Persis executrix. A clause from Benjamin Kent's will reads, "My will is that my said wife shall have the use and improvement of the rest of my real and personal estate to enable her to bring up my children until the youngest of them arrive to the age of twenty-one years, and if there should be occasion to sell and dispose of any or all of my real estate for that end I hereby give her power to do so and to execute proper deeds of the same."

EZEKIEL KENT, mar. Susanna Winslow, Dec. 22, 1740, who was probably widow of Nath'l Winslow. They had children: 1. Penelope, b. June 26, 1743, mar. Josiah Winslow. 2. Susanna, b. June 17, 1745. 3. Deborah, b. Oct. 18, 1748, mar. Stephen Carver. 4. Ezekiel, b. March 1, 1747, drowned. 5. Marcy, b. Oct. 2, 1754, mar. a Beveridge. 6. Ann, b. Jan. 12, 1758. 7. Benjamin, b. Nov. 6, 1760, mar. a Beveridge. This family removed to Fox Island, Maine.

WILLIAM KENT, mar. Mary Sampson. They had children: 1. William, b. Sept. 5, 1773. 2. Polly, b. Dec. 28, 1775, mar. Asa Sherman, Dec. 27, 1798. 3. Susanna, b. Nov. 15, 1778. 4. Smith, b. Nov. 28, 1783. 5. Sylvia Church, b. July, 1788. 6. Elisha, b. Oct. 17, 1789, mar. B. Sprague. 7. Alice Warren, b. April 8, 1793.

SAMUEL KENT, mar. Desire Barker, June 25, 1732. Desire died June 14, 1744. Samuel Kent mar. secondly, Mrs. Phoebe Cook, of Kingston, Dec. 8, 1748. Children all by the first wife. 1. Samuel, deceased early. 2. Nathaniel, b. Feb. 25, 1735, died at Portsmouth. 3. Hannah, b. Aug. 4, 1737, mar. Nathan Brewster. 4. John, b. Oct. 13, 1739, settled at Portsmouth. 5. Sarah, b. Aug. 6, 1741, mar. John Friend of Newburyport. 6. Huldah, b. Dec. 2, 1743, died unmarried. 7. Ichabod, b. Dec. 13, 1747, settled at Duxbury. 8. Desire, mar. A. Hunt.

The above Samuel Kent was probably not a shipbuilder. There is a tradition that the Kents originally emigrated from the continent of Europe to England. Judge Hoar, a descendant of the Kents, has looked up some valuable facts, the author understands, relative to this family, but the information came too late to investigate for this book.

The first vessel built by *Samuel Kent*, of which we have found any record was in 1798, the sch. "ELIZA," 70 tons, owned by

Briggs notes state that Nathaniel Wilson drowned soon after 1730 that Susannah Winslow is suppose to have been Susanna BRYANT, before marriage to Nathaniel Wilson.
-MMR
03 July 2012

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