

THOMAS BENEDICT HISTORY

The testimony of Mary Bridgum Benedict herself, who lived to the age of one hundred years, and in her lifetime communicated it to her grandson, Deacon James Benedict, of Ridgefield, Conn., who recorded it in 1755:

" Be it remembered that one William Benedict, about the beginning of the 15th century (probably meaning about the year 1500; otherwite the three generations would extend through 200 years, [Signed] Abner Benedict"), who lived in Nottinghamshire, in England, had a son born unto him whom he called William, after his own name (an only son) ; and this William, the second of that name, had also an only son whom he called William ; and this 3d William had in the year 1617 one only child whom he called Thomas; and this Thomas's mother dying, his father married the widow Bridgum.

Now this Thomas was put out an apprentice to a weaver, who afterwards in the 21st year of his age, came over into New-England, together with his sister-in-law, Mary Bridgum. Afterwards said Thomas was joined in marriage with Mary Bridgum. After they had lived some time in the Bay parts, they removed to Southhold on Long Island, where were born unto them five sons and four daughters, whose names were Thomas, John, Samuel, James, Daniel, Betty, Mary, Sarah and Rebeccah. From thence they removed to a farm belonging to the town, called Hassamamac, where they lived some time. From thence they removed to Huntingtown, where they lived some years. Then they removed to Jamaica on said Island, where Thomas, their eldest son took to wife Mary Messenger, of that town. And last of all, they removed to Norwalk, in Fairfield county, Connecticut, with all their family, where they were all married. John took to wife Phebe, daughter to Mr. John Gregory, of said Norwalk. Samuel took to wife Rebecca Andrews. James took to wife Sarah Gregory, sister of the above said Phebe. Daniel took to wife Mary Marvin. Their daughters were all married. Betty to John Slawson, of Stanford ; Mary to John Olmsted; Sarah to James Beebe; Rebeccah to Samuel Wood. From these have risen a numerous offspring.

The children of Thomas, the 2d of that name, were Thomas (an only son), Mary, Hannah, Esther, Abigail and Elizabeth. The children of John were Sarah, Phebe, John, Jonathan, Benjamin, Joseph, James, Mary and Thomas. The children of Samuel were Joannah, Samuel, Thomas, Rebeccah, Esther, Nathaniel and Abraham. The children of James were Sarah, Rebeccah, Phebe, James, John, Thomas and Elisabeth. The children of Daniel were Mary, Daniel, Mercy and Hannah. The children of Betty were Mary and Thomas. The children of Mary were John, Mary, Jane, Sarah, Rebeccah, Elisabeth, Daniel, Richard, Eunice and Deborah. The children of Rebeccah were an infant (I know not his name), and Samuel. The children of Sarah were Sarah and James. All of these were the children and grandchildren of our honoured predecessors, Thomas Benedict and Mary his wife, who walked in the midst of their house with a perfect heart. They were strict observers of the Lord's day. from even to even (Levit. 23 : 32. "From even to even shall ye celebrate your Sabbaths," was to our New-England ancestors sufficient Scripture authority for their following Jewish example in commencing the sabbath on Saturday evening at sunset.) and I think it may be said of them, as it was of Zacharias and Elizabeth, "that they walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, and obtained a good report through faith." Their excellent example had a good effect, by the blessing of heaven, upon their children. He was made a deacon of the church at Norwalk, and used that office to the good satisfaction of that church to his death, which wad in the 73d year of his age; and two of his sons, viz : John and Samuel, used the office until old age and its attendants rendered them unable to serve any longer.

And there are, at this day no less than seven of the family and name that use that office and some of them at least I hope, to good acceptance with God and man.

The children of John, the 2d of that name were John, Matthew, Caleb, Nathaniel, Annah and Phebe. The children of Behjamin were Benjamin, Timothy, John, Samuel, Daniel, Amos, Elisabeth, Mary, Rachael and Thankful. The children of Joseph were Joseph, Gideon, Anna, Pitman, Jonathan, Mary, Ezra and John. The children of James were Sarah, Ruth, Peter, Hannah, Phebe, James, Martha and John and Thomas. The children of Thomas wttre Ebenezer, David, John, Thomas, Betty and Seth. The children of Phebe were Enos, William, Noah, a son and Phebe. The children of Mary were Ezra, Josiah, Phebe, Asa and Isaac. All these were the grand-children of Deacon John Bertedict, the 1st of that name, who was my honoured father.

[Signed] JAMES BENEDICT.
Ridgefield, March ye 14, 1755."