

## LEARNED GENEALOGY

### FIRST GENERATION

**[1] William Learned.** The first admission to the present First church of Charlestown was, according to its records, as follows: "1632, 10 mo., day 6, William Learned and Goodith, his wife, were admitted." (N.E.H. & G. Reg., vol. Xxxiii, page 191.) This name, Goodith, is said by Rev. Samuel Sewall to be, not a corrupt spelling of Judith, but an old English name, from the Saxon, Goditha. It was common at that time. In one instance, at least, about this period a child, baptized Goodith, was, however, always called Judith. (Col. Joseph L. Chester.) It is, however, perplexing to find, after the death of William Learned, that one, who was probably his widow, is called Jane and Sarah.

It has been said, but whether upon good authority is not known, that William Learned came over in Feb., 1624. But this seems improbable, since his son Isaac was born that month, and his daughter Mary was buried in England, July, 1625.

He did not belong to the Boston church. The last admissions to that church, prior to the going off of the Charlestown residents, are those of Anne, wife of John Elliott, Thomas and Elizabeth James, and William Pierce; who doubtless came in the Lion of Sept. 16. (Letter from Hon. James Savage.)

The Charlestown members were dismissed Oct. 14, 1632, and formed a distinct church, Nov. 2, 1632. (Frothingham's Charlestown, p. 70.) See the original covenant, stating that the thirty-five persons were dismissed "the 14<sup>th</sup> of the eaight moneth, 1632." (N.E.H. & G. Reg., vol. Xxiii, 190.) It must have been about two months afterwards that William Learned and his wife were admitted to the church. But in the Charlestown Records, at page 6, is a list of such as were recorded, "Willi. Larnet, acknowledged his fault in subscribing the seditious writing and desiring his name to be crossed out, it was yelded to him and crossed."

Feb. 12, 1637-8, it was referred to Mr. Greene and to William Learned to settle Mr. Witherell's wages for the year past. William Witherell was the schoolmaster.

"1638 the 26 of the 2d moneth, Mr. Increase Nowell, Mr. Zach. Sims, Mr. Jno. Greene, Mr. John Hayward, Sergt. Ralph Sprague and William Learned were desired to consider of some things tending toward a body of laws." As he was thus made one of a commission of some importance, we may suppose that he was a man of good sense, and as his name has no title prefixed, he was probably not a man of any high position.

In 1640 a movement was on foot to settle Woburn. The first meeting for the purpose was held at the house of Mr. Thomas Greene, December 18<sup>th</sup>; and town orders were there signed by thirty-two persons, and among them by William Learned (spelled by the clerk Larnedt). He was one of the seven who, the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 1642, formed the first church of Woburn (Woburn town records; Sewall's Woburn, p. 20: Johnson's Wonder Working Prov., p. 17.) On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, it is recorded that he freely gave up his lot for the use of the town, which gave it to Thomas Richardson, and agreed to give to William Learned the like for quantity and quality. It was afterwards ordered that he should have seventy-two acres laid out to his son Isaac, in recompense for the sixty-six which he had thus given.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 1643, he was chosen constable and one of the selectmen; and again February 9, 1644-5. Some additional land was given him in Sept., 1645. Another order, two months later, says that he was to have six acres and a half for a house lot and farm in meadow, and the residence, being sixty acres, "the one-halfe in forest field and the other halfe in playne field."

He died March 1, 1646, two days before the selectmen were chosen for the third term; and thus he held the offices of selectman and constable at his death. (Qu. 1646-7; as he is named in the town rate 22d of 10 mo. 1646.) Judging from the age of his daughter, Sarah, he must have been born as early as 1590; and would therefore have been at least 56 at his death. He left a widow who had an annuity, as is quite plain from the records quoted below. But there is a doubt as to her name. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 1648, his son, "Isack Lerner, was discharged of his accompt consarning his father, who, deseased, constable." The account had been settled in part, Sept. 26.

A petition to the General court, signed by thirty-six women "of Malden and Charlestown of the Mystick side," Oct. 28, 1651, in favor of Rev. Marmaduke Matthews, has among the signatures that of Jane Learned. (Frothingham's Charlestown, p. 126)

## SECOND GENERATION

[2] Elizabeth Learned. (of William), married John Hall, as his second wife, who came in 1630, one of the founders of the church in Charlestown. Their children seem to have been: John Hall, b. Sept. 21, 1645; Elizabeth Hall, b. Sept. 4, 1647, and d. soon; Elizabeth Hall, b. Nov. 21, 1648, and perhaps others. (See Savage's Gen. Dict. li, 333.) E. Winslow Paige, a distinguished lawyer of New York City, is a descendant.

[3] **Isaac Learned.** (of William), was born Feb. 25, 1623, in Bermondsey parish, county Surrey, England, and probably came with his father to this country when about seven or eight years old. He probably went with his father, when about seventeen or eighteen years old, from Charlestown to Woburn. He married, at Woburn, July 9, 1646, Mary, daughter of Isaac Sternes, or Stearns, of Watertown, who was born in England and bapt. Jan. 26, 1626, in the parish of Nayland, Suffolk. The record of his marriage is in the Woburn records, although his wife came from Watertown. April 2, 1652, he sold his house and lands in Woburn to Bartholomew Pierson, of Watertown, and removed to Chelmsford, where he died, Nov. 27, 1657. (County records say Dec. 4.) His inventory, dated Dec. 7, 1657, amounted to L187 182 6d. April 6, 1658, administration was granted to widow Mary and her father, Isaac Sternes. Estate was indebted to Widow Learnett L3 per annum during widowhood.

(will inserted later)

Lands were repeatedly laid out for him in Woburn, both before and after his father's death. The last time his name appears in the records is when he was appointed, Jan 4, 1651-2, on a committee to lay out a drift way for cattle, etc., through Henry Brock's lot, near Horn pond.

He was chosen one of the selectmen of Chelmsford, Dec. 22, 165; sergeant of the (train) band, March 24, 1656; a committee to lay out certain meadow lands, Jan. 11, 1656. Appointed commissioner to decide small cases at Chelmsford. He was chosen Deacon, July 13, 1656.

In the office of the Secretary of State, Boston, vol. 112, p. 80, is a petition signed by him for a grant of additional land to Chelmsford, dated May 7, 1656. A petition from Woburn, signed by him, "Isaac Larnitt," and by others, is printed in Mass. Hist. Coll., 3d series, vol. I. P. 38 to 45; in which the petitioners remonstrated against an order forbidding any person to undertake a constant course of preaching, or prophesying, without the approbation of the elders of the four next churches or of the County Court.

The Chelmsford records contain several grants of land to him. At page 162 is a record of such land, including house lot, upland and meadow, purporting to have been originally granted January 26, 1659, and attested as follows: "A true copy of the original in Town Book, page 58, and here entered this 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 1705;" Also on the same page a copy of a similar grant of thirty acres, originally made Oct. 24, 1664. Feb. 9, 1708, thirty acres of land, of the heirs of Isaac Larned, apparently the same last mentioned, laid out at further Tadmuck, were exchanged for another tract (page 147). At page 164 are given the bounds of the meadow of Isaac Larnard lying at Great Tadmuck. At page 165 the renewal of the bounds between lot of Isaac Larned and Joseph Parker, lying in the pine plain near the Crain meadow, dated January 29, 1711, recorded Feb. 1, 1711. Under date of Nov. 24, 1665, John Parker (or perhaps James Parker), Isaac Learned and Thomas Chamberline, "sometimes inhabitants of Woburn," planters, sell to George Farley, of Billerica, sundry parcels of land in Billerica, which they bought of Thomas Dudley, Esq., dec'd. But this deed is not executed by Isaac Learned. (Register of Deeds, Middlesex, vol. lii, p. 181) His widow, Mary, was married to John Burge, late of Weymouth, June 7, 1662, for his second wife, by Capt. Johnson, of Woburn. (Records of Chelmsford.) The proposed division of Isaac Learned's estate, April 1, 1662, signed by Mary Learned and Isaac Sterne, had been witnessed by John Burge. (Middlesex Court Files, p. 141 ½.) April 7, 1664, the court allowed the division of the estate between John Burge and the children of Isaac Learned. (Id., vol. 2, p. 5), and following this is an "inventory of the estate belonging to Mary Lernet, widow, now in the hands of John Burge, of Chelmsford," her surviving husband, dated Dec. 21, 1663, and amounting to L222. She died, Jan. 8, 1663, within eighteen months after her second marriage. 1673, Sept. 23, there was a division of the estate of Isaac Learned. After her death, John Burg (or Burge) married the widow Grisell Gurney; he being her fourth husband. She died July 9, 1669, and he married, June, 1676, Jane, Widow of John Gornell, of Dorchester. She died April 4, 1678, and Burge died Oct. 22, 1678. (N.E.H. and G. Reg. Xvi, 79.)

The will of John Burge, in Suffolk Prob. Office, dated June 1, 1671, gives 20s apiece to the six children of Isaac Learned, on condition that he is acquitted for the four (sic) pounds claimed in their behalf by their grandmother. A codicil gives the six pounds to the four children, William, Sarah, Isaac and Benoni, of Isaac Learned, because Mary and Hannah had something given before. (N.E.H. and G. Reg xl, 260.) This sum of six pounds is probably that above mentioned which "Widow Learned, at Chelmsford," owed the estate of Widow Jane Learned.

Isaac Sternes, who is above mentioned as the father of Mary, wife of Isaac Learned, came to America in 1630, probably from the parish of Nayland, in Suffolk, and settled in Watertown. He was admitted a freeman May 18, 1631, the earliest date of any such admission. He was selectman in 1659, 1670 and 1671. In 1647, with Mr. William Biscoe, he had charge of the first bridge of which any mention is made, over the Charles river, at Watertown. He died June 19, 1671, leaving a widow, Mary, who died April 2,

1677. The inventory of his estate shows him to have been, for those days, in comparative affluence. It included forty-seven parcels of land, amounting to four hundred and sixty-seven acres, with a proportionate quantity of stock, farming utensils and household goods; the whole value amounting to L524 4s 0d. (See the inventory at length in Bond's Watertown.) He had, before his death, given portions to each of his children. He made a will five days previous to his death, giving, among other items, to his grandchildren, "the children of my oldest son, John Sternes, fower score pounds," making, with what he had previously given, a double portion; to his grand children, "the children of my daughter, Mary, deceased, five and thirty pounds; my grandchild Isaac Lernet, to have ten pounds of the said 35 pounds." All of the descendants of Isaac Learned are also descendants of Isaac Sternes through his daughter, Mary. There were also numerous other inter-marriages. His son, John, one of the first settlers of Bilerica, m., second, at Barnstable, Dec., 1656, Mary, dau. of Tomas and Sarah (Learned) Lathrop.

For a full account of the family and descendants of Isaac Sternes, see Bond's Watertown, p. 450, where is given the coat of arms; or, a chevron between three crosses flory, sable; crest, a cock starling proper. This is said to be the same with that borne by the families of this name in the counties of Bucks, Cambridge, Hertford and Norfolk, England.

The following is a copy taken from records of Rev. John Fiske, minister of Chelmsford:

1655, Isa. Lernet's wife, member of another church, admitted to communion at Chelmsford.  
1655, Baptized Isaac Lernet's child, viz., Isaack Lernet.  
11 of 4, '56, Received into Ch. Covt., Mary Lernet, ye wife of Bro. Isaack Lernet.  
13 of 5, '56, J.L. chosen to officiate the office of a Deacon.  
1 of 2, '56, Children baptized:  
    Bro. Lernet,  
    Mary, about 10 y. old, 15 of 5, '56.  
    Anna, 8 y. old, 11 of 6, '56.  
    William, 6 y. old, 1 of 8, '56.  
    Sarah, 4 y. old, 15 of 9, '56.  
    Isaack, 2 y. old, 15 of 8, in y. '57.  
    Benoni, bapt. 17 of 10, '57.

A fac simile of Isaac Learned's signature.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isaac Learned". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial 'I' and 'L'.

Children:

- i. Mary, b. Aug. 7, 1647, at Woburn.
- ii. Hannah, b. Aug. 24, 1649, at Woburn.
- iii. William, b. Oct. 1, 1650, at Woburn.
- iv. Sarah, b. Oct. 18 (qu. 28), 1653, at Chelmsford
- v. Isaac, b. Sept. 16, 1655, at Chelmsford (county records say Oct. 5)
- vi. Benoni, b. Nov. 29, 1657, at Chelmsford (county records say Dec. 4), either the day of his father's death or within a day or two thereof.

[4] Mary (Isaac, William), m. about 1673, Moses Barron, of Chelmsford, son of Ellis and Grace Barron, of Watertown, b. March 1, 1643. (Bond's Watertown, p. 17) He is thought to have died early.

### THIRD GENERATION

[5] **Hannah** (Isaac, William), m. Dec. 25, 1666, Joseph Farwell, of Chelmsford, b. Feb 20, 1641, son of Henry Farwell, of Concord, and his wife Olive.

Children:

- i. Hannah Farwell, b. Jan. 20, 1667; m., Dec. 20, 1685, Samuel Wood, of Groton
- ii. Joseph Farwell, b. July 24, 1670; m. Jan. 23, 1696, Hannah Colburn, of Chelmsford; probably d. at Groton, August 21, 1740.
- iii. Elizabeth Farwell, b. June 9, 1672.
- iv. Henry Farwell, b. Dec. 18, 1674; m., Jan. 23, 1696, Susannah Richardson of Chelmsford.
- v. Sarah Farwell, b. Sept. 2, 1683.
- vi. John Farwell, b. June 15, 1686.

[6] William (Isaac, William), d. at Watertown about 1684, unmarried. His estate was administered upon April 23, 1684, by his brothers, Isaac and Benoni. The inventory dated April 7, 1685, is as follows:

*The Inventory of the Estate of William Learned of Watertown deceased 1684.*

Imprimis. 4 books of seamens practis & quadrons	.	.	1	0	0
Wearing woolin clothes	.	.	2	10	0
Linning clothes	.	.	1	5	0
A hat and hat chase	.	.	0	10	0
			5	5	0

These above prized by us

Obadiah Morse  
John Skeeck.