

THE DESCENDANTS OF
WILLIAM NEFF WHO MARRIED MARY CORLISS
JANUARY 23, 1665
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Compiled by
DOROTHY NEFF CURRY



Gilt 160
Mrs. F. L. Fisher
Tomb on 2, 7 area

The monument to Hannah Dustin, Mary Neff, and Samuel Leonardson, located at the confluence of the Merrimack and Contoocook rivers, Penacook, New Hampshire, is pictured opposite. Inscriptions found on the pedestal are reproduced below:

West Side
of Statue

HEROUM GESTA
FIDES JUSTITIA
HANNAH DUSTON
MARY NEFF
SAMUEL LEONARDSON
MARCH 30, 1697
MID-NIGHT

MARCH

15 1697 30

THE WAR WHOOP TOMAHAWK

FAGGOT & INFANTICIDES

East Side
of Statue

WERE AT HAVERHILL

THE ASHES OF

WIGWAM - CAMP - FIRES AT NIGHT

& OF TEN OF THE TRIBE

ARE HERE

STATUA

KNOW YE THAT WE WITH MANY PLANT IT
IN TRUST TO THE STATE WE GIVE & GRANT IT
THAT THE TIDE OF TIME MAY NEVER CANT IT
NOR MAR NOR SEVER
THAT PILGRIMS HERE MAY HEED THE MOTHERS
THAT TRUTH & FAITH & ALL THE OTHERS
WITH BANNERS HIGH IN GLORIOUS COLORS
MAY STAND FOREVER

South side
of Statue

WITNESS
B.F. PRESCOTT
ISAAC K. GAGE

NATH.¹ BOUTON
ELIP^h S. NUTTER
ROBT B. CAVERLY

FOREWORD

This history of the Neff family is dedicated to my father, Elmer Hartshorn Neff, whose stories about the Neff family in bygone days inspired me to look into the early Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and other state records. It has been both interesting and gratifying to find that all the things he told me (stories handed down from generation to generation) were correct by the records. An example is the story of Mary Neff's capture by the Indians.

This is the first genealogy of a Neff family of English origin. It is interesting to note that the name Neff, spelled various ways, is a very old one in England and is not necessarily, as once thought, of Swiss origin.

Work on this book began in 1947. A trip to Salem, Mass., resulted in finding the estate settlements of William Neff and of Mary (Corliss) Neff. I also found deeds in the Essex Co. Land Records at Salem which established the fact that Clement Neff was the son of William and Mary Neff of Haverhill and that Clement went first to Westerly, R.I., and then to Windham, Conn., at an early date; also that Mary, wife of Matthias Button² of Plainfield, Conn., was the daughter of William and Mary Neff of Haverhill, Mass.

The first Court record of William Neff is dated 1658, and this 300th anniversary seems an appropriate time to stop. There is, of course, much material which I have been unable to obtain because of unanswered letters, and to the disappearance of a family from the records of one town without clues for the next town.

One other story is of especial interest. One day when we were attempting to make a bureau stand straight and not tilt forward on the uneven floor of our 1760 house in Connecticut, my father suddenly laughed and said, "As my father would say, 'that thing stands comin' like old M's Masten's bureau.'" To my great surprise, I found a deed in the Windham, Conn., land records involving the widow, Mrs. Martha Masten and William Neff, dated Feb. 1746. This means, of course, that the phrase "stands comin' like old M's Masten's bureau" has been passed down as a joking remark for more than 200 years.

My thanks must go to the staff of the Connecticut State Library, especially to Mr. Burt, Miss Case, and Mr. Dennen, for their valuable assistance. My thanks must also go to the many cousins who have assisted in collecting information on various branches of the family: Mrs. Edna Hopkins, Mrs. Cassie Renner, Earl Neff, Hugh Neff and his mother in Wisconsin, Mrs. Ella Cilley in Arizona, Mrs. Margaret Sterling in Texas, Ellery Neff in Connecticut, several in New York state, and last but not least, Mrs. Marcella Neff Fisher of Iowa, whose encouragement and cross-country conversations by letter, have meant everything during the last 11 years. Many other relatives have also contributed, too numerous to mention.

It has been my purpose, whenever I could, to include material which would make people of past generations more real. Much research has been done on the allied families of Button, Dingley, Durkee, Genings or Jennings, Rowley, and Webster. More than usual space has been devoted to the descendants of Matthias and Mary (Neff) Button as the only existing Button genealogy is old and not very satisfactory. Button data includes my findings in Massachusetts and Connecticut Vital Records, and family information supplied by W.L. Campbell of Dixie, Wash. It is hoped everyone will read about these earliest Neff generations.

Dorothy Neff Curry
Upper Montclair, N.J.
May, 1958

THE ANCESTRY OF WILLIAM NEFF

This family of Neff is of English origin. The word "nef" is an old one in the English language, meaning ship. In feudal days, the lords of the manor in England had a special gold or silver dish for serving certain foods which was shaped like a ship and called a "nef." Champlain in writing of his explorations along the coast of Maine, spoke of Monhegan Island as a "nef," meaning it looked like a ship in the water.

William Neff was in Newbury, Mass., at a very early date when the settlers there were English. The story of our English origin has been passed down from father to son in many branches of the family along with the name of William Neff, and his wife Mary Neff who was carried off by the Indians with Hannah Dustin in 1697. While it has been impossible to identify the parents of William¹ Neff, efforts have been made and several possibilities are suggested below.

One of the family stories which has been handed down was to the effect that we were related to a Sir William Neff in England, and it seems that there was a Sir William Le Neve in England (1600-1661), herald and genealogist, who lived at a time for William's father to have known him, if he was the first of the family to come to the Colonies, or for William¹ himself, to have known if he came over in his teens. Sir William Le Neve was the son and heir of William Le Neve of Aslacton, County Norfolk, by his first wife, the daughter of John Oldham of Shimpling. Le Neve was appointed Mowbray herald extraordinary under a warrant dated 24 June 1622; York herald 25 Nov. 1625; Norroy King of Arms Dec. 1633 and Clarenceaux King of Arms 23 June 1635, having previously been knighted at Whitehall on 23 April 1634 by Charles I.

Correspondence with the Royal Genealogical Soc. in London has produced the information that Neff, Neffe, Neve, Le Neve, Neave and Le Neave are variants of the same name. Mr. Sheffield Neave, a past President of the Royal Genealogical Soc. in England, wrote me that the name is a very old one in England, going back before the time of William the Conqueror and the prefix "Le" was added during the time of William the Conqueror as a courtesy, but was later dropped. Members of this Neve-Neave family had sugar plantations in the West Indies during the 1600's and 1700's, but all records of this branch of the family were lost in England during the bombings of World War II. It is entirely possible that William¹ Neff's name was spelled Neve or Neave in England and was changed by the different town or court clerks who recorded it as it is spelled in various ways even by them. There were people in New England at an early date who spelled their names Neve and Neave.

Hotten, in his "Original Lists of Persons of Quality Who Went From Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700," lists one William Nesse 23 yeres" (Possibly Neffe as s and f were written alike), among passengers July 4, 1635. "Theis underwritten names are to be transported to Virginea imbarqued in the Transport of London, Mr. Edward Walker, p." It is possible that this William Nesse or Neffe settled in Vir. or, like others, did not like it there and made his way by boat to Mass., as there was an active¹ coastwise trade by that date. Or if he was the father of William Neff, William might easily have gone from Virginia to Mass. by boat.

The Essex Institute Hist. Coll. Vol. 57, p. 313, refers to the "Bilboa Merchant of Yarmouth whereof one William Neave is Master" and of a trip it made from Yarmouth, England to Boston in 1670. Perhaps this William Neave had made earlier trips to Boston and put his son ashore to try life in the Colonies.

It is also possible that William¹ Neff of this volume was a political refugee from Oliver Cromwell, whose victorious forces

were killing all supporters of the King they could find. The Neff-Neve-Neave family were all strong Royalists and many hundreds of the Kings supporters fled to the Colonies around the time William first appears in the Essex County Court records.

THE ANCESTRY OF MARY (CORLISS) NEFF

Mary Corliss was the daughter of George Corliss, who was born at or near Exeter, Devonshire, England in 1617, the son of Thomas Corliss. He settled in Newbury, Mass., about 1639, at which date he gave his age as 22 years. He moved to Haverhill, Mass., a few years later and on Oct. 26, 1645 married Joanna Davis, by whom he had one son and seven daughters. His was the second marriage to be recorded at Haverhill.

By 1645, George Corliss was one of the 32 landholders in Haverhill. He was an able and industrious man who was able to increase his land holdings very materially over the years. By 1647, he had erected a log house in the densely forested West Parish and in later years his farm was called "Poplar Lawn." He owned most of the land on both sides of the old "Spicket Path," as it was then called, for a distance of more than three miles.

George Corliss was a freeman in 1645. He ^{was} Constable of Haverhill in 1650 and a Selectman 1648, 1652, 1657, 1669 and 1679. By a strange coincidence, George Corliss and his son and grandson died while sitting in the same chair in the Corliss home. George died Oct. 19, 1686. His will dated Oct. 18, probated Nov. 23, 1686, divided his extensive farm among his children, the home farm going to his son, John Corliss, and the farm one mile east to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Neff. Administration of the estate was granted to William Neff.

Joanna Davis, wife of George Corliss, and mother of Mary (Corliss) Neff, was the daughter of Thomas Davis and his wife, Christian Coffin who were married in England before emigrating to this country. Thomas Davis was a sawyer from Marlborough, County Wiltshire, England, who came on the "James" in April 1635, arriving Boston June 3, 1635. He was a freeman June 2, 1641. He was of Newbury 1641 and seems to have settled in Haverhill in the spring of 1642. His name is signed on the deed of purchase of the Haverhill territory from the Indians. Thomas Davis was elected one of the first Selectman of Haverhill at the Town Meeting Jan. 13, 1646. He was a Constable in 1655. He was a Mason. He was born 1603 and died July 27, 1683 and his wife died April 17, 1688, both at Haverhill. Administration of Thomas Davis' estate was granted Oct. 30, 1683, to William Neffe. Another administration was granted in 1728 to his great-grandson, John Corliss. The Davis family traces its origin to Wales from whose patron saint, David, the name is derived.

THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM NEFF

1. WILLIAM¹ NEFF, born 1639-1642 (he gave his age as 24 yrs. in 1663, Essex Co. Court Rec. Vol. 3, p. 127 and his family gave his age at death as 47 yrs.); "went after ye Army & died at Pemaquid (Me.) Feb. 1688/9;" married 23 Jan. 1665, Haverhill, Mass., MARY CORLISS, born 8 Sept. 1646 at Haverhill, Mass. and died there 22 Oct. 1722 (Haverhill V.R.), the daughter of George & Joanna (Davis) Corliss. Mary Neff was a famous Colonial heroine.

The name of William Neff appears in The Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Mass., in a number of cases between 1658 and 1681. These cases show him to be living first in Newbury and later in Haverhill, Mass. There is enough variety in the

cases to give a rather surprisingly clear picture of life in those hard, rough days of struggle; of the tremendous effort it took to carve a home and farm and to bring up a family in the midst of a virgin forest while constantly in danger from Indian raids incited by the French; and of the various ways of adding to the family income.

William Neff appears first in the Court Records May 6, 1658 in Newbury, at which time he was working for John Knight, one of the first settlers at Newbury, who was licensed to run an Inn. Joseph Muzzey also worked at the Inn altho he had inherited a farm from his father. The Court Records show William lived at John Knight's house and altho he is referred to as his servant in one case, William was free to come and go for social affairs and on other jobs, so he could not have been a Bond Servant. (See Court Rec. in Appendix) The cases also show him to have been a hard working man and of an independent spirit.

On May 14, 1663, William Neff was made the Town Herdsman of Newbury, a position of importance and trust, as horses and cattle were of very great value and scarcity at that date. The following document is from the Essex Co. Quarterly Court Records Vol. 3, p. 126 & 127.

"The herdsmen's covenant: Agreed May 14, 1663 between the selectmen and William Neph, that the latter is to spend his whole time this somer, and to do his utmost endeavor to keep up the townes dry cattell and horses out of the cow commons, and to search the severall comons as there shalbe need, to cleare the dry cattell and horses out of the same, and also the hedge first being amended, the said William is to amend such gapps as he shall find in the hedge, and thus to continue as long as the selectmen shall see meet, and when they shall appoint, he shall bring downe all the cattell and horses also, the first time it is agreed that the said cattell shalbe brought unto their places, for the said Willaim to take them to Grenell Hill, at the pound, at John Bartlet's barne & at Goodman Pilsbury where the said William is to attend & drive them up. And the said William is to have for his labour 15 shillings pr weeke, one halfe in english corne and the other halfe in Indian. The which the said William is to demand it of the severall persons which are the owners of the cattell at the end of the time, and if it be not ready he is to appoint them where to pay it in the towne, as at Abraham Tappans & Richard Doles houses, within 10 days following and if payment be not made the said William is to sue the said owners that do not pay and the selectman is to assist him in it what is meet." Copy made by Anthony Somerby.

On Dec. 6, 1664, William Neff was a witness for John Knight in Court (Vol. 3, p. 346), while on the next page William Neph won the verdict in a case against John Woolcott for an unpaid debt.

John Knight testified that "about the 6 of last March was twelmunth, and John Woolcot came to deponent's house to talk with William Neph to help him work at Posskataque and agreed to give said Neph 3s per month and his diet, in cotton and English wool at price current. In case he did not like the wool offered, Woolcott was to pay him in boards at 40s per thousand, as he was to have such pay of Capt. Barfut. Said Neph lived at deponent's house when the bargain was made and he went away with his things and stayed about 9 weeks. Sworn in Court.

"John Wilson deposed that Neph worked with him for John Woolcott upon a saw mill above Poskataqua eight weeks. Sworn in Court.

"William Neph's bill of costs for going for John Wilson to Grenland etc. 1 li:17s:8d."

On Jan. 23, 1665, William Neff married Mary Corliss at Haverhill, Mass. George Corliss gave them a farm from his extensive

land holdings and William built a house on it. His name is on a list of those who had already built new houses on the common or their own land, dated 1668. Here William and Mary had six children, five boys and a daughter Mary.

People in those days saw little "hard money" and what they had was hoarded against a very special occasion. In order to buy articles of food or clothing, farm implements, etc. which could not be made at home, William, like other settlers, paid in goods. From the wonderful white oak trees he chopped down to clear farm land, he made "white oak pipe staves," "White oak hogshead staves and hogshead heading 2 ft. 3 in. in length"; also "cedar clapboards" all delivered at the Haverhill Landing (See Appendix). Other items of trade were wheat and pork. One interesting list of purchases in 1678 was: "2 yds holland 11s; stockings 9s; 2 Hatts p.Jno. Adkinson 9s 8d; Thread & Cooten 8s 9d; 17½ pd. sugar 10s 4d; cotten wooll 15s 3d; total 3 li:4s." William loved horses and bred and sold them, as did a number of his descendants.

William Neff was also a surveyor. One such job which he did with Joseph Kingsbury in Sept. 1684, was for Thomas Woodbury and Joseph Beason of Beverly (Essex Inst. Hist. Coll. Vol. 68, p. 186). Under date of 1667 appears the following interesting document in Records of the Mass. Bay Colony (Shurtleff Vol. 4, Pt. 2, p. 381):

"The bounds & Scittuation of M^r Edward Michelson farme of three hundred acres of land, granted vnto him by the honoured Generall Court, it being lajed out to the westward of Hauerill bounds, & it is bounded wth land lajed out for Jeremy Belchar, of Ipswich, vpon the north; the sajd north ljne extendeth two hundred rod; & at the west end of the sajd north ljne it is bounded wth a black oake tree marked, & wth a white oake tree marked at the east corner of the sajd north ljne, & bounded vpon the east wth land of the sajd Belchars; the east ljne extendeth two hundred twentje five rods vnto a white oake tree marked, & wth land of the sajd Belchars on y^e south, vnto a pine tree marked; the sajd south ljne rangeth two hundred rod vpon the square; the west ljne is bounded vpon the countrys land, & extendeth one hundred & sixty rod, vnto the first mentioned black oake tree; & the sircular strip of land that joynes to the square conteynes about sixty acres, and it is sufficiently bounded wth heap of stones & trees marked; and at the west end of the sajd strip it is bounded wth two heaps of stones, one vpon each side of the sajd strip. The aboue mentioned farme was lajd out & bounded as is herein exprest by vs whose names are herevnto subscribed, the 23 June 1667.

Joseph DAUIS
his mrke
WILLJAM W NEFF

The Court allowes of this returne."

In June 1683, a town meeting discussed once more the question of replacing the Meeting House which was too small for the increasing population and was also in poor condition. Apparently all agreed a new church was needed but 15 voted to tear down the present Meeting House and re-build on the same site, while 34, including William Neff and his father-in-law, George Corliss, voted to use the building they had until a new Meeting House could be built on a new site.

In Feb. 1688/9 William was drafted for the army by the much-hated Gov. Andros and went with a party of men to Maine and died at Pemaquid. At this time his youngest son, Thomas, was only 12. Thomas and his older brother John, according to family tradition, settled in Penn. and Del., but I have been unable to establish this, to date.

Inventory of the Estate of William Neff of Haverhill,
deceased February 1688, taken the 14th May 1689 by John Hartshorn
and Onesiforos Marsh, both of Haverhill.

10 akcr & half of meddow at Spicket	04:00:00
tan akcr common right 14:10s. 2 beds bedding	04:10:00
husbandry implements of Iron & wood*	00:14:00
two beds and bedding old and worn	03:00:00
a chest	00:04:06
pots tramil & tongs fire shouell (shovel)	
frying pan	01:00:00
earthen and wooden dishes and trays	00:01:00
tubs barrolls and _____	00:14:00
a pillian: 8 chairs whools a coll	00:18:06
a hundred of pork half a barroll of soap	02:10:00
four bushel and a half corn and moall	00:18:06
eighteen pounds of yarn 4 pounds boox	01:08:00
a sin gorn: hogs lard and another box	00:01:00
cordus box bullot	00:01:06
books	00:02:00

In 1691 a cow was added to the inventory 08:11:10

* "of which there is a mattock taken away either by Indians or English."

MARY NEFF, COLONIAL HEROINE

Mary Corliss Neff was born at Haverhill, Mass., in Sept. 1646, the daughter of George Corliss, one of the leading men in Haverhill. Mr. Corliss was a proprietor and was made a freeman in 1645, which meant that he could take part in running church and civil government affairs. He was elected Constable of Haverhill in 1650 and was elected a Town Selectman repeatedly. He was a man of means and had extensive land holdings. First he built a strong log house in the heavily forested West Parish of Haverhill and later a fine two story house, so that life was always as comfortable for the Corliss family as was possible in that frontier town.

Mary was trained in all the household arts and duties and, as the oldest of eight children, she undoubtedly had plenty of opportunity to practice all she had been taught. She grew up strong and healthy, which was fortunate in view of her later experiences. Life was relatively peaceful in her younger years, but after she had been married only a few weeks, the following document came to Haverhill which can be found now in the Rec. of the Court of Assistants of the Colony of Mass. Bay, Vol. 3, p. 158.

Court Files, Suffolk, no. 725

First paper:-

"you are hereby Required in his Majesties name to (sum)mon & require Mathias Button & sarah his daughter, Edward yeomans & his wife, Abraham whitacre & Elisabeth his wife, Robert swan & Elisabeth his wife, Abigaile Remington wife to John Rimington & John their sonne, Joseph Johnson & the wife of W^m Holdrige, Ephraim Davis, Willjam s symons, samuel symons & Mary the wife of Willjam Neafe all of Hauer hill to make their seuerall appearances before the next Court of Asistant^s to be held at Boston on the first tuesday in march next at eight o'clock in the morning then & there to give in their particular and seuerall evidences what they know of & concerning John Godfrey of Nubery being a witch or of any act of witchcraft done by

him he being bound ouer to that Court in order to his triall on the Complaint of Job Tyler & John Rimington making y^r retorne hereof to the Secretary at or before the time prefixed hereof yo^u are no^t to faile dated in Boston the 6th of february 1665.

By order of the County Court Sitting in Boston
4th february 1665. Edw: Rawson Secre^{ty}"

On the back is written:

"Thi^s warent wa^s serued vpon each perticular person
According to the tennor of it arest sarah button and () liues not
in Hauerhill

by me George Browne Constable of Hauerhill.

I have no evidence that these people ever testified in a witch trial of John Godfrey, but the summons must have caused considerable excitement in town.

As the years passed, William and Mary Neff were blessed with six children. Their home was on a rise of ground on the left side of the road running from the compact part of Haverhill out to the farm where Thomas & Hannah Duston lived after their marriage in 1677. Later on, their son William enlisted in His Majesty's Army serving elsewhere in Mass. and in Nov. 1686, their only daughter, Mary Neff Jr. married Matthias Button Jr.

At this point, the relationship between the Neff, Button and Duston families should be given. Matthias Button Sr. married, as his fourth wife, the widow Elizabeth (Wheeler) Duston, on June 9, 1663. The new Mrs. Button had a young son, Thomas Duston (who later became the husband of the Hannah Duston of our story. In 1663, Thomas Duston was about 11 years old and by his mother's second marriage, he suddenly acquired five young brothers and sisters; Hannah Button also 11 years old, Daniel 9, Abigail 7, Matthias Jr. 5, Peter 3 and they all grew up together in the same household. Matthias Button Sr., being a man of some means, saw to it that Thomas Duston, along with his own sons, received a good education and he trained them all to be industrious and thrifty. The benefit of this training showed in the adult lives of Thomas Duston of Haverhill and of Matthias Button Jr. who is recorded in history as one of the leading citizens of Plainfield, Conn.

By 1697, the year of the Haverhill massacre, we find Mrs. Mary Neff all alone except for her son Joseph. Mrs. Neff's husband "went after ye Army and died in Feb. 1688/9, at Pemaquid, Me.", perhaps killed by an Indian arrow. Her oldest son, William, had also been killed by Indians in 1691 (see #2 William Neff). Her three younger sons, who were all in their twenties by 1697, had left Haverhill for life adventures elsewhere. About 1690 or 91, Matthias and Mary (Neff) Button Jr. had migrated to Plainfield, Conn. so that Mrs. Neff's only daughter was too far away to see any more. It is easy to imagine that Hannah Duston and her babies, who lived nearby, filled an empty corner in Mary's heart.

An early writer has pictured Mrs. Mary Neff as having a very cheerful disposition and as being always ready to help others. Thus we find her, on that fateful March 15th, 1697, at the Duston home taking care of Hannah Duston and her 6-day old baby, Martha. The Rev. Cotton Mather in his Magnalia, gives one of the most complete and reliable accounts of this entire affair. In it he refers to Mary Neff as Hannah's nurse and she was certainly acting in that capacity at the moment. But the relationship between Mary Neff and Hannah Duston was a lot more than that: they were neighbors and friends and Mary's daughter and Hannah were sisters-in-law.

On the morning of March 15th, Thomas Duston had taken the

older children with him when he went to work in a nearby field. He had taken his gun with him, not that he was expecting Indian trouble because there had been no incidents since the previous August, when two neighbors had been killed and their sons carried into captivity. But for years, the men of Haverhill had always kept a gun with them wherever they went as they never knew when the Indians might attack.

The English had tried to maintain friendly relations with the Indians but the French in Canada never ceased in their efforts to win the New World from the English and did all they could to incite the Indians against the English. They even offered the Indians bounties for English scalps and for live English captives who were then sold into slavery to the French in Canada. The result was that every time roving bands of Indians came near an English town, they were looking for scalps and captives. Just such a band was in the forest near Haverhill on the night of March 14th. The first warning came when Thomas Duston suddenly saw a number of Indians approaching the field where he was at work. Telling his children to hurry to the nearest garrison house, he grabbed his gun and jumped on his horse to ride home and try to save his wife and baby. But the Indians were so close he saw he could do nothing for her and returned to join his children. By means of walking behind the children while pointing his gun at the Indians, he managed to get them to the garrison house, probably that of Onesiphorus Marsh. No one will ever know why the Indians did not shoot them all.

At the Duston house, all was pandemonium and terror. Mrs. Neff picked up the baby and tried to run with her to safety. However, she was 50 years old and could not out-run the Indian warrior who soon caught her and brought her back. Meanwhile, Hannah was ordered out of bed and told to dress herself, while the Indians ransacked her house and grabbed up everything they could carry off. Then they dragged her out, minus one shoe (so it is said), and set fire to the house. A few of the Indians hustled Hannah and Mary with the baby toward the woods. Stories vary as to the cause, but suddenly an Indian snatched little Martha out of Mary Neff's arms and swung it against an apple tree, dashing out its brains. One can imagine the feelings which filled Hannah Duston's heart at this point. The Indians rushed the two women along until they reached the spot in the woods where the squaws and children had been left. Here they were joined by other warriors who had killed twenty-seven and captured thirteen inhabitants of Haverhill.

Fearing pursuit, the Indians pushed on for about 12 miles that night. Several of the weaker captives who could not keep up the rapid pace, were killed and scalped and left beside the path. Hannah Duston must surely have met this same horrible fate, since she was sick and doubtless filled with shock and grief at the wanton killing of her baby, had she not been helped along by the strong arm and encouragement of her friend, Mary Neff. The party pushed rapidly on for 150 miles or more, through dense forests and over rough, rocky ground. In March, it must have been a cold, terrible journey, with snow still on the ground and icy brooks to be crossed.

The group which claimed Mary and Hannah consisted of 12 men women and children. One of the Indian men had lived in the family of Rev. Mr. Rowlandson of Lancaster, some years before; he had learned to speak English and had been taught to pray. Later he had been converted by French priests and, strangely enough, would not let the children eat or sleep without saying their prayers. But the Indians tried to prevent Mary and Hannah from praying! With this Indian family was a 14 year old boy, named Samuel Lennardson, who had been captured at Worcester about a year and a half before.

During the march northward, the Indians told the two women that when they reached the Indian Town, they would be stripped and made to run the gantlet. They described in frightening detail how they would be forced to run between two lines of Indians, men, women and children, who would beat them with clubs, tomahawks, etc.

Spurred on by these tales, the cruel treatment they were receiving, and a desire to avenge the death of her baby, Hannah Duston is said to have planned a way of escape which she was able to tell Mary and Samuel about, secretly. Samuel, who also wanted to escape, got his master, Bampico, to tell him how he killed and scalped the English. Bampico responded with full details, little suspecting the thought behind the question.

The band of 12 Indians and their three captives parted from the other Indians and Haverhill captives, about March 30, 1697, when they reached the Indians' home on an island at the junction of the Contoocook and Merimac Rivers. This is now Penacook, N. H., about 5 miles north of Concord, N. H. Now that they were "home" and the island was surrounded by rivers full of spring flood waters, the Indians relaxed. Samuel Lennardson was considered one of the family and the two women were obviously too worn out to try to escape, so the Indians all went to sleep that night without setting a guard.

This was just the opportunity the captives had been hoping for. A little before midnight, when the Indians were all soundly asleep, Hannah, Mary and Samuel, each armed with a tomahawk or hatchet, stole silently to a position near the heads of the sleeping Indians. All three tomahawks fell as one, and so quickly and quietly did the three move along, 10 of the 12 Indians were killed, with only one severely wounded squaw, and a small boy they had intended to take home with them, escaping into the woods.

A deposition sworn to before Joshua Bayley of Haverhill, June 28, 1739, is of interest here. "The deposition of the Widow Hannah Bradley of Haverhill of full age who testifieth & saith that about forty years past she said Hannah together with the widow Mary Neff were taken prisoners by the Indians & carried together into captivity, & above penny cook the Deponent was by the Indians forced to travel farther than the rest of the Captives, and the next night but one there came to us one Squaw who said that Hannah Duston and the aforesaid Mary Neff assisted in killing the Indians of her wigwam except herself and a boy, herself escaping narrowly, shewing to myself & others seven wounds as she said with a Hatchet on her head which wounds were given her when the rest were killed, and further saith not." Hannah Bradley signed with her mark. The General Court granted Joseph Neff two hundred acres of land. (See #4 Joseph Neff for more on this).

Hannah, Mary and Samuel quickly loaded one of the canoes with some food and weapons, including the gun of Hannah's captor and the hatchet and scalping knife said to have been used by Hannah (now on view at the Duston Family Assoc. quarters in Haverhill). They hastily chopped holes in the other canoes so they could not be used for pursuit, and started out. Hannah is said to have insisted on a return to the island to secure the Indian's scalps as a proof of their story. In any event, the 10 scalps were wrapped in linen stolen from Hannah's house and taken back to Haverhill.

They traveled at night, taking turns guiding the canoe down the Merrimac river and sleeping. They hid during the day, in constant fear of pursuit and roving bands of Indians. They finally reached the home of John Lovell at what is now Nashua, N. H. A monument was erected there in 1902 commemorating the event. The next morning the weary travelers reached Bradley's Cove, leaving the canoe there and going the rest of the way to Haverhill on foot. The two women had been given up for lost, so that one can imagine the joy and excitement their return and their story created.

Although the bounty of 50 pounds on Indian scalps had been revoked in 1696, Mr. Duston felt that the two women and the boy had done a tremendous thing in destroying some of the enemies who were killing innocent women and children. So after the three had had a chance to rest and recover somewhat from their experiences, they all went to Boston with their trophies, arriving April 21, 1697.

Mr. Duston filed the following petition which was read in the House of Representatives June 8, 1697 (Mass. Archives Vol. 70, p. 350):

"To the Right Honorable the Lieut Governor & the Great & General assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay now convened in Boston

The Humble Petition of Thomas Durstan of Haverhill Sheweth

That the wife of ye petitioner (with one Mary Neff) hath in her Late captivity among the Barbarous Indians, been disposed & assisted by heaven to do an extraordinary action, in the just slaughter or so many of the Barbarians, as would by the law of the Province which---- a few months ago, have entitled the actors unto considerable recompense from the Publick.

That tho the----of that good Law-----no claims to any such consideration from the publick, yet your petitioner humbly----that the merit of the action still remains the same; & it seems a matter of universall desire thro the whole Province that it should not pass unrecompensed.

And that your petitioner having lost his estate in that calamity wherein his wife was carried into her captivity render him the fitter object for what consideration the public Bounty shall judge proper for what hath been herein done, of some consequence, not only unto the persons more immediately delivered, but also unto the Generall Interest

Wherefore humbly Requesting a favorable Regard on this occasion

Your Petitioner shall pray &c

Thomus Du(r)stun."

The day the petition was read in the House of Representatives, it was voted "that the above named Thomas Durstan in behalf of his wife shall be allowed & paid out of the publick Treasury Twenty-five pounds: & Mary Neff the sum of Twelve pounds Ten Shillings, and the young man (Samuel Lenerson) concerned in the same action the like sum of Twelve pounds Ten Shillings." The larger sum granted to Mr. Duston was probably because of his "lost estate"; in other words, the burning of his house and household goods.

The unusual and astonishing exploit of Mary Neff, Hannah Duston, and Samuel Leonardson created quite a stir throughout the Colonies and the two women received many gifts. The only one which seems to have been preserved is the silver tankard presented to them by Gov. Sir Francis Nicholson of Maryland, now in the possession of the Duston Family Association at Haverhill, Mass. There are three statues commemorating these three people and their tremendous adventure. The first one was erected in 1861 at Haverhill, a block of Italian marble five feet square and 24 feet high. The second statue was erected at Penacook, N. H. in 1874 and the third stands in G.A.R. Park, Haverhill (1879).

In spite of this exciting experience, Mary Neff lived at Haverhill, in her own home, to the age of 76 years. The following inventory of her estate appears in the Essex Co., Mass., Probate Records #19221. The Inventory was taken in 1722 by Daniel Little, Phillip Hasletine and Jonathan Emerson.

38 acres of land	no value given	
bed & bedding		06:10:00
for her waring clothing		04:10:00
two chests and one box		00:12:00
for tongs 1s: one tramil 3s: friing pans 5s		
for pot hook and various kittles & pots		
all the iron house stuf being		01:04:00
for table linin		00:04:00
for earthen ware		00:02:00
for four trays & half bushol		00:06:00
for two spinning wheels & reel & scales & 3 chairs		00:08:00
for puter ware		00:03:00
for books		<u>00:10:00</u>
		14:09:00

The material for the story of Mary Neff was obtained from a considerable number of historical sources. The story of the capture of Mary and Hannah, Mary's attempt to carry the baby to safety and the baby's death, their rising in the night to kill and scalp their Indian captors and their escape was the same story in the records as my father had told me as a child, as grandpa had told him, and so on back thru the generations. In fact this story has been passed down with remarkable accuracy from generation to generations in all branches of the Neff family which I have been able to trace. We are proud to have this brave, strong woman for our ancestor.

Children born Haverhill, Mass. (Haverhill V.R.):

- 2 1. William b. 5 May 1667.
- 3 ii. Mary b. 9 Nov. 1668.
- 4 iii. Joseph b. 25 March 1670.
- 5 iv. John b. 16 May 1672.
- 6 v. Clement b. 29 March 1674.
- 7 vi. Thomas b. 29 March 1676.

SECOND GENERATION

2. WILLIAM² NEFF (William¹) born 5 May 1667 at Haverhill, Mass. No record of his marriage has been found, and only two incidents in connection with him in the army. He went into the regular army according to an incident in the Records of the Courts of Assistants, Colony of Massachusetts Bay, 1630-1692, Vol. I. Pages are devoted to the trial of various men involved but William was acquitted of guilt in the affair and set free. It seems that the ketch, Mary of Salem, was boarded at Falmouth in "Martyn's vinyard sound" by Thomas Pound and others. They ran up "red Flags from the masthead" and robbed the boat, committing an act of piracy.

Court "Adjourned to Munday the 20th of January instant 1689 at one o'clock and then met." Thomas Darforth Esq., Deputy Governor presided.

"William Neffe being imprisoned upon accusation for deserting their Maties Garrison at Falmouth where he was posted a private Centinel, and confederating with Thomas Pound Thomas Hawkinsin their piracy, said Neffe appearing in Court and it being certified that he was enticed and deluded away from the Garrison by his Corporal And that he tooke the first Opportunity to leave the pirates, Escaping from them and applyed himselfe to the next Magistrate. The Court discharged him He paying for a Gun which he had of the Country^s Store and saith he disposed of it for his Support."

Court "Adjourned to Thursday the 23rd of January instant

at nine in the morning and then met." It was ordered that "Thomas Pound, Thomas Hawkins, Thomas Johnston William Coward and Eleazer Buck, five of the condemned prisoners," sentenced to be hanged by their neckes, "be executed on Munday next the twenty."

In the Documentary History of Maine, Vol. 5, there is an account of an expedition to Maine, by boat, which was ambushed by the Indians on Aug. 7th, 1691. "A list of men killed and wounded in y^e late Expedytyn Estward viz^t" includes the name "William Neff" without specifying whether he was killed or wounded, but since no further record has been found of him, it is assumed that he was killed.

3. MARY² NEFF (William¹) was born 9 Nov. 1668 at Haverhill, Mass. (Haverhill Vit. Rec.); married 24 Nov. 1686, at Haverhill, MATTHIAS² BUTTON (Haverhill Vit. Rec.), born 17 May 1657/58 at Haverhill (Vit. Rec.), the son of Matthias¹ Button and his 3rd wife Teagle. Matthias² died in 1725 at Plainfield, Conn. and Mary died there at a later date.

Matthias & Mary (Neff) Button lived at Haverhill first, but soon after 1690, they, in company with his sister Sarah and her husband James² (Henry¹) Kingsbury and several other Mass. families, took the "Old Conn. Path" down to eastern Conn. where they took possession of the Quinebaug land east of the Appaquake or Little River which they had purchased from the sons of Gov. John Winthrop of Mass. This was the settlement of the town of Plainfield, Conn., the third town to be settled in Windham County. Disturbed and troubled times followed as this same tract of land was claimed by a group of Conn. men, headed by Messrs. Fitch and Tracy, who claimed the land had been given to them by the Indians. Fortunately their Indian neighbors, who were numerous, were friendly and willing to share their hunting, fishing and planting grounds with them. Eventually the claims of Mass. and Conn. men were straightened out.

Matthias Button and his wife were admitted to membership in the First Church of Stonington, Conn. May 16, 1697 (Ch. Rec. Vol. W, p. 190, Vol. 1, p. 10, etc.).

At the time the town of Plainfield was granted a Town Charter in 1699, 15 men were listed as settlers there, among them Matthias Button. In 1704, Matthias Button was one of 24 proprietors who each received an allotment of 100 acres. In 1725 an epidemic of some sort hit the town and so many people were sick that neighboring towns had to be called upon for help. Many of the town's leading citizens died, including Matthias Button.

As proof that the Mary Neff who married Matthias² Button was the daughter of William & Mary (Corliss) Neff of Haverhill, we have the following deed to be found in Vol. 67, p. 205 of the Essex County Land Records at Salem, Mass.

Mathias Button to Joseph Kneff. Received on Record December 25th 1734.

"To All People to whom these Presents shall come Mathias Button of Plainfield in the County of New London and Colony of Conn. in New England Yeoman Sends Greeting. Know ye that I y^e s^d Mathias Button in Consideration of y^e Sum of thirteen pounds of payable money of New England in hand to me at & before of Ensealing and Delivery of the Presents well and truly paid by my brother Joseph Kneff of Haverhill in the County of Essex and Province of Mass. Bay in New England....have given granted Remised Released and forever quitt claimed and by these Presents confirmed unto and upon the s^d Joseph Kneff and his heirs and Assigns forever all right and title and property interest....which I s^d Mathias Button and Mary my wife now have or may be thought to have...of the estate which our father

William Kneff & mother Mary Kneff Dec^a.....

Witnesses
Math Moriall
Richard Hazzen Jun^r

Signed Mathias Button & Seal

Entered Haverhill Jan. 16, 1734.

THE ANCESTRY OF MATTHIAS² BUTTON

Contrary to what some early writers would have us believe, Matthias¹ Button, born 1607, was christened 11 Oct. 1607 at the Parish Church, Harrold, England, the son of Thomas Button, an Englishman. Thomas Button was born about 1575 in England and died at Harrold, England 23 June 1617. This Thomas Button was a direct descendant of Sir Thomas Button who was appointed Bishop of Exeter, England, 25 Jan. 1292/3. (Inf. taken from Parish Reg. of Harrold, England).

Matthias¹ Button came to Salem 6 Sept. 1628 with Gov. John Endicott. He removed to Boston where he and wife Lettice had Mary, bp. 23 Feb. 1634 and Daniel bp. 22 Feb. 1635 at the 1st Church of Boston. Lettice died and Matthias¹ next appears in the Ipswich Town Records on 16 Nov. 1639 in the sale of "a house lot on High St."... "being granted at two several grants to John Thornton, deceased, and falling into the hands of the sayed Button by marriage of Joane, late wife of the sayed John Thornton"... "the sayed Matthias Button together with the consent of Joane his sayed wife doth quitt all title" etc. Matthias then moved to Haverhill where his name appears on a tax list in 1650. Mary, daughter of Matthias & Lettice married Edward Yeomans at Haverhill 6 Dec. 1652, and Sarah, presumably the daughter of Matthias' 2nd marriage, married James Kingsbury there 6 Jan. 1673 and were among the original settlers of Plainfield, Conn. No record has been found of the death of the first son Daniel nor of Matthias' marriage to his 3rd wife, Teagle _____ but at Haverhill, Matthias & Teagle had the following children: Hannah b. 11 May 1652, Daniel b. 10 April 1654 and killed at the Bloody Brook Battle 18 Sept. 1675, Abigail b. 16 June 1656, Matthias b. 17 March 1657/8, Peter b. 17 July 1660 and Patience b. 1 June 1662 and d. Oct. 1662. Teagle died 4 Feb. 1663 and Matthias then married his 4th wife, the widow Elizabeth (Wheeler) Duston, 9 June 1663. Matthias¹ Button died 13 Aug. 1672 and Elizabeth, his widow died 16 July 1690. The foregoing data is from the Haverhill Vit. Rec. This 4th marriage of Matthias Button made Thomas Duston, son of Elizabeth, and his famous wife, Hannah Duston brother and sister-in-law to Matthias² Button and his wife, Mary² Neff. It was Mary (Neff) Button's mother who was captured with Hannah Duston at the time of the Indian Massacre of 1697. (See under William¹ Neff).

More space is devoted to the descendants of Mary Neff Button than might have been, because of the six children of William¹ and Mary Neff, it has been possible to trace the descendants of only two, Mary and Clement Neff.

Button Children, 2 born Haverhill, Mass. and the others born Plainfield, Conn.

- I. Daniel³ b. 20 Sept. 1687, Haverhill, Mass.; d. May 1745, Stonington, Conn.; mar. 1 Oct. 1716 at Plainfield, Conn. (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 25) Anna Bell, dau. of Thomas Bell. They lived first at Plainfield and then moved to Windham, Conn., where they both joined the Windham Congregational Church in 1723/4. At the Windham Town Meeting in Dec. 1731, Daniel Button was elected "Surveyor of Highways." In 1737, Daniel and Anna Button went from the Hampton Congregational Church to the First Congregational Church at Stonington (Hampton 1st Ch. Rec.). Anna (Bell) Button d. 21 July 1760, age 65

yrs. (Stonington V.R. Vol. 3, p. 91).

Children, first three born Plainfield (V.R. Vol. 1, pgs. 25 & 26) and four born Windham (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 104):

1. John⁴ b. 17 Nov. 1717; mar. 24 May 1753 Hannah Stanbury at Voluntown (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 60). Their children (Voluntown V.R. Vol. 1, p. 60) were: Hannah b. 17 Feb. 1754; John b. 31 Jan. 1756; Mary b. 28 Apr. 1761.
 2. Elias b. 27 April 1720; probably mar. his cousin Anna Neff #13.
 3. Berredell, b. 25 Sept. 1721; mar. Ebenezer Worden of Stonington, 12 Jan. 1738 (Stonington V.R. Vol. 3, p. 124). Witnesses were John Button and Benjamin Worden. Their children (Stonington V. R. Vol. 3, p. 124) were: Abial b. 12 May 1740; Ebenezer b. 27 Feb. 1745; Borrodel b. 26 Aug. 1747; Sabra b. 25 Oct. 1752; Elizabeth b. 31 Aug. 1755; and Darius b. 26 Oct. 1757.
 4. Daniel b. 22 July 1724; mar. 24 Sept. 1744, at Westerly, R. I., Elizabeth Palmater. He lived at Stonington, Conn., and was a Cooper. His estate was valued at over £707 and included a Shop and Cooper's tools. His children were Daniel b. 1746 who mar. Elizabeth Button; Elias b. 18 May 1748 who mar. Sarah Blevit (Blooit) 25 Nov. 1777 at Enfield where children Elias, Garnett and Sally are recorded; Jonathan b. 1750 who mar. Naomi Munsell and lived E. Windsor, Conn.; Joseph; John; Anna who mar. Joseph Moon; Joshua; Penelope or Nelly who mar. Jan. 8, 1785 Jonathan Dyer; and Betsey b. 26 June 1771 and mar. 1 Sept. 1786 Oliver Neff #35.
 5. Deborah, twin with Anna, b. 2 May 1727; mar. 9 Nov. 1752, John Palmater, Westerly, R. I., (Westerly V.R. Vol. 3, p. 32).
 6. Anna, twin with Deborah, b. 2 May 1727; mar. 10 Apr. ^SSyrus (Cyrus) Amos of Preston Stonington V.R. Vol. 3, p. 127).
 7. Thankful, b. 9 March 1732.
- II. Matthias³ b. 22 Nov. 1689, Haverhill, Mass.; d. 4 July 1759 (Preston V.R. Vol. 1, p. 101); mar. 2 Oct. 1716 at Canterbury, Conn., Hannah Williams b. Preston, Conn., 3 Feb. 1692, the dau. of Charles & Hannah (Greer) Williams (Canterbury 1st Ch. Rec. Vol. R, p. 35).

The will of Matthias Button of Preston, folder #2062, Conn. State Library, mentions his wife Hannah, two grandsons, Matthias and Zebulon, sons of Zebulon deceased, eldest dau. Hannah, wife of Zadock Killam, dau. Miriam, wife of Daniel Amos of Preston, dau. Biah and her husband Elnathan Maynor of Windham and dau. Zipporah Thomas and her heirs. The estate was valued at £537:04:05, including the homestead at Preston at £400, a tract of land in Stonington £48:08:00, and various farm animals and personal and household items. This would indicate that Matthias Button was a very well-to-do man for those days.

The will of his widow, dated 18 Jan. 1772 is interesting because of its provisions. She bequeathed to "my beloved daughter Hannah Killam, 1 cow, the one half of my pewter and

my Best Gown and Quilt. To my grand Daughter Zipporah Thomas Daughter of my Daughter Zipporah, one cow, five Sheep, two Beds and Bedding, Two pots, one Kettle and my Two Wheels, Side Saddle, Two Tables and a Chest and Seven pounds money. To Grand Daughter Sarah Killam one Bed & Bedding. To grand sons Matthias Button and Zebulon Button to each of them 5 shillings money. To Daughter Zipporah Thomas a Chest, my Brass Kettle and Warming pan & Single Petticoat. To Grand Daughter Zipporah Thomas the one half of my pewter, my Loom and all the Tackling Belonging to it and all the yarn she now has spun and all the yarn I have spun & all I have to make yarn of. To my Daughter Bial Maynor five Shillings. All the Remainder of my Estate I give to my two Daughters Zipporah Thomas and Miriam Tracy to be Equally divided Between them." Son-in-law, Zadock Killam appointed Executor. One of the witnesses to the will was Benjamin Tracy. This will is in folder #2052, Conn. State Library.

Children, two born Plainfield (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 21) and three born Preston, Conn. (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 101):

1. Hannah b. 24 Sept. 1717; mar. 8 Nov. 1744, Zadock Killam (Preston Vol. 2, p. 17), b. 25 Oct. 1722, the son of John & Sarah (Rose) Killam (Preston Vol. 1, p. 104). Had a daughter Sarah.
2. Biah (Bial) b. 22 March 1719; mar. Elnathan Maynor (Mainard) of Windham and lived at Windham, Conn. Elnathan d. 6 Dec. 1777 (Windham V.R. Vol. 1, p. 300). Their children were: Mary b. 2 May 1741, Amos b. 14 June 1743 who mar. Elizabeth Button 20 Apr. 1769; Cyrus b. 6 Sept. 1745; Hannah b. 27 Apr. 1747; Thankful b. 9 Nov. 1749; Reuben b. 22 Feb. 1752; Zilpha b. 3 Sept. 1754; Moses b. 3 Nov. 1756; Amy b. 29 July 1759. (Above data in Windham V.R. Vol. 1, p. 242).
3. Zebulon b. 20 March 1721, Preston, Conn. (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 101); mar. 27 May 1742 Sibbell Walbridge of Preston. Zebulon d. 2 July 1753 at Stonington, Conn. (V.R. Vol. 3, p. 85). Two children, Matthias b. 24 Dec. 1750 and Zebulon b. 28 April 1753 at Stonington (V.R. Vol. 3, p. 85). Zebulon's will, probated 1753, in folder #890, Conn. State Library, mentions wife "Sibbal" and sons Matthias and Zebulon. In folder #885, Mrs. Sibel Button, on July 9, 1759, appealed to have Mr. Caleb Forbes of Preston appointed guardian of her sons. On Feb. 8, 1766, Matthias Button asked to have Mrs. Sibbel Button of Stonington made his guardian, giving his age as 16.
4. Zipporah b. 29 April 1724, Preston, Conn.; mar. 1 Oct. 1751, Aaron Thomas of Preston (Preston V.R. Vol. 2, p. 47). Four children: Zipporah b. 11 Dec. 1753; Aaron b. 16 Nov. 1754; Lucy b. 13 May 1756 and Joel b. 17 Dec. 1758. (All b. data Preston V.R. Vol. 2, p. 47).
5. Miriam b. 5 Nov. 1726; mar. 31 Dec. 1744, Daniel Ames (Amos) at Preston (V.R. Vol. 2, p. 10. Same reference for b. of their 12 children), who d. 2 June 1768. Miriam mar. 2nd Tracy. 12 Ames children: Daniel b. 23 June 1745 d.y.; Cyres b. 8 Nov. 1746; Esther b. 25 Mar. 1748; Miriam b. 7 Jan. 1749/50; Matthias b. 28 Apr. 1751; Daniel b. 19 Feb. 1753 & d. 4 Mar. 1770; Esther again b. 15 Oct. 1754; Huldah b. 10 Dec. 1756; Ezra b. 29 Apr. 1759; Zebulon b. 7 Mar. 1761; Elijah

b. 21 Sept. 1762; and Susanna b. 10 Apr. 1764.

III. Mary³ bp. (with Sarah) 23 Nov. 1696 at Stonington 1st Church (Ch. Rec. Vol. W, p. 200, also Vol. 1, p. 55 etc). Said to have married Solomon Hill of Sherborn, Mass. abt. 1714.

IV. Sarah³ b. 8 Apr. 1695, Plainfield, Conn. (Vol. 1, p. 1); d. 21 Feb. 1740, Plainfield (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 94); mar. 2 March 1712/3 William Marsh at Plainfield (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 14) who was b. 1685 & d. there 23 Jan. 1759 (Plainfield V.R. Vol. 2, p. 38), the son of William & Elizabeth (Yeomans) Marsh of Stonington.

Marsh Children born Plainfield, Conn.

1. Sarah b. 11 Aug. 1714 (Vol. 1, p. 14); d. 4 June 1729 by being burned (Vol. 1, p. 47).
2. William b. 1 Apr. 1716 (Vol. 1, p. 17); d. 30 Dec. 1724 (Vol. 1, p. 31).
3. Cyrus b. 14 Mar. 1718/19 (Vol. 1, p. 21); mar. Margaret Kinsman 29 May 1740 (Vol. 1, p. 96).
4. Hester d. 8 Jan. 1724/5 (Vol. 1, p. 31).
5. Persiler (Priscilla) b. 20 Oct. 1726 (Vol. 1, p. 40).
6. Elisabeth b. 16 Aug. 1729 (Vol. 1, p. 51).
7. Sarah b. 20 June 1732 (Vol. 1, p. 57).
8. Experience b. 5 June 1735 (Vol. 1, p. 65).
9. Desire b. 10 Mar. 1738 (Vol. 1, p. 94).

V. John³ b. 22 June 1698; d. 29 Apr. 1700, Plainfield, Conn. (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 1).

VI. Abigail³ bp. 11 Dec. 1701 Preston, Conn. 1st Church; mar. Felix Powell, April () 1724, (Plainfield V.R. Vol. 1, p. 30).

VII. Peter³ bp. 24 Sept. 1704, Stonington 1st Church (Ch. Rec. Vol. W, p. 205, Vol. 1, p. 81, etc.); d. Canterbury 1762 (Estate settlement, folder #321, Conn. State Library); mar. 11 Oct. 1729, Hannah Cleaveland, dau. of Deliverance³ Cleveland, (& Mary () Cleveland (Edward², Moses¹) at Plainfield, Conn. (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 67). They had three children born at Plainfield (V.R. Vol. 1, p. 67):

1. Matthias⁴ b. 29 July 1730; mar. 1) 5 Mar. 1752, Mary Safford (Preston V.R. Vol. 2, p. 113), by whom he had three children; mar. 2) 5 July 1760 Mercy Kimball. Matthias⁴ Button served in the Conn. Line as a Private in Capt. Jonathan Brewster's Co. (Nat'l #28554, Vol. 29, p. 203 D.A.R. Lineage Bk.) Children of Matthias & Mary were: William b. 26 Jan. 1753; Deliverance b. 4 Nov. 1754 who mar. 26 June 1774 Thomas Bellows of Preston (Vol. 2, p. 161), and Matthias b. 29 Aug. 1756. The four children of Matthias and Mercy were Peter b. 25 Feb. 1761; Hannah b. 7 Apr. 1763; Gideon b. 22 Apr. 1765, and Molly b. 22

Oct. 1767. (All Matthias' ch. rec. Preston Vol. 2, p. 113).

2. William b. 8 Feb. 1732/3.
3. Deliverance b. 7 Oct. 1734.

VIII. Zerviah³ b. 13 Sept 1708; mar. 5 Oct. 1727, Daniel Lamb, the son of Isaac & Elizabeth Lamb. (Groton V.R. Vol. 1, p. 43). The estate and will of Daniel Lamb, folder #1856, Conn. State Library, show him to have been a well-to-do man for the times. His will was dated 18 Dec. 1770 and was probated in 1783. The estate was valued at £696:17:09 and included 170 acres of land and buildings at £510. He bequeathed to his "beloved wife Zerviah Lamb, to his son Daniel £15, to son Samuel all Lands, buildings, tools, etc., to daughter Zurviah Billings £12, to daughter Eunice Lamb household goods to equal those given to daughter Freelope Chapman and £12, to daughter Freelope Chapman £12, to granddaughter Anne Lamb, daughter of son Nehemiah Lamb deceased, lands given to her father. Son Samuel was to have the cattle, sheep, hogs, etc. and to be the Executor of the will.

Lamb Children born at Groton, Conn. (Vol. 1, p. 143):

1. Eunice b. 2 Apr. 1729; d. 1734/5.
2. Daniel Lamb Jr. b. 5 Apr. 1731; d.y.
3. Zerviah b. 27 Mar. 1732/3.
4. Daniel 2nd b. 22 July 1735/6.
5. Nehemiah b. 20 March 1737/8.
6. Ezekiel b. 5 April 1740.
7. Eunice b. 1 March 1741.
8. Freelope b. 24 Jan. 1743.
9. Anne b. 18 Dec. 1745.
10. Samuel b. 10 Jan. 1748.

4. JOSEPH² NEFF (William¹) born 25 March 1670 at Haverhill, Mass; died 4 Feb. 1741/2. (Haverhill Vit. Rec). Joseph, so far as the records show, never married but continued to live all his life in Haverhill on the Neff farm of his parents and other lands which he acquired.

Joseph petitioned the General Court for a grant of land in consideration of his mother's services in assisting Hannah Dustin in killing "divers Indians." In his petition he declared that his mother was "kept a prisoner a considerable time" and "in their return home past through the utmost hazard of their lives and suffered distressing want, being almost starved before they could return to their dwellings." The Court granted Joseph Neff 200 acres of land in 1738 in return for Mary's heroism killing Indians.

Joseph purchased his brother Clement's share in the estate of their father, William Neff, and of their mother, Mary Neff, and also the share of his sister, Mary Neff Button, and her husband, Mathias Button. This seems to have taken years to accomplish, probably due to the difficulty of transmitting money and deeds to Haverhill, as Clement's deed was written in 1711 at Westerly, R.I., but neither this deed nor the deed from the Buttons was entered in

the Haverhill, Mass. records until Dec. 25, 1734. (Essex Co. Land Rec. Vol. 67, p. 167 and p. 205). Joseph paid Clement 14 pounds and Mary 13 pounds.

On Feb. 19, 1719/20, "Mary Neff of Haverhill, the relict and widow of William Neff late of said Town of Haverhill deceased and Joseph Neff of Haverhill son of said Mary Neff of y^e County of Essex in the Province of y^e Mass. Bay" etc. sold about 20 acres of land to "Jonathan Hasletine son of Nathaniel Hasletine." On 10 Feb. 1723, several months after his mother's death, Joseph sold for five pounds to Philip Hasletine one acre 60 rods of land "in forme of a gore." Both of these deeds were recorded at Haverhill 1 July 1724. (Land Rec. Vol. 42, p. 235).

Capt. John White sold to Joseph Neff on 20 July 1723, for "forty & three pounds & ten shillings a certain piece of land containing about fourteen acres & a halfe which Capt. White had purchased of John Merrill and which Merrill had purchased of Capt. Simon Wainright, bounded partly by land of Corp. Samuel Ayer and partly by Hawks meadow way." (Haverhill Land Rec. Vol. 41, p. 103).

That Joseph was still taking care of his mother at the time of her death is shown by the account he rendered the Court "for taking care of his mother for two years together in her old age several of the last years of her life she being very weakly and indisposed ... which made it very troublesome and costly to get nursis and watchors so that I think I cant afford it." The total sum for nurses, funeral and Court expenses paid him by the Ipswich Court on 12 March 1724 was 118 pounds 20s.

The mystery is, what happened to the more than 200 acres of land etc. which Joseph owned when he died? There is nothing in either the Land or Probate Records of Essex Co. to indicate their having been sold or willed to anyone.

5. JOHN² NEFF (William¹) b. 16 May 1672 at Haverhill, Mass. (Haverhill Vit. Rec.).

The only mention of John Neff which we have found was in the Coffin Papers Vol. 1, p. 42 (Joshua Coffin, Newbury historian). "Soldiers in the Canada Expedition - The names of such sold^{rs} y^t voluntarily listed o^rselves for y^e canada expedition out of maj^r S: regement.....John Neph. y^e above nam^d sold. listed and was wth me from June 26 to July 4." No date given but the next date in the Coffin Papers is 1691.

6. CLEMENT² NEFF (William¹) b. 29 March 1674, Haverhill, Mass.; died 3 June 1746, Stonington, Conn.; married MARY _____, possibly Mary Button b. 6 Oct. 1689, Stonington, Conn., the daughter of Peter² Button (Matthias¹). Mrs. Neff died at Windham, Conn. in 1752.

It is interesting to speculate as to just when Clement Neff left Haverhill, Mass. Possibly he accompanied his sister, Mrs. Matthias Button (Mary Neff²) and her family to Plainfield, Conn., in 1690 or perhaps he went directly to Westerly, R.I., or Stonington with Matthias' brother, Peter Button. He was in Westerly previous to 1708 as on 5 Apr. 1708 we find in the Westerly Land Records that "Thomas Reynalds of Westerly, yeoman" sold 50 acres of land to "Clement Neff of Westerly" for 13 pounds (Vol. 2, p. 208). On 9 Sept 1711, Clement paid 1s:9d for a share in common land at Westerly (Vol. 2, p. 115). Referring to a "List of Sales of Vacant Lands in Naragansett," we find that on 2 Oct 1711 there is a General Recorder's deed quit-claiming and confirming to 31 men of Westerly, one of whom was "Clemond Neff," 5300 acres as platted &c bounded southerly by the Pawcatuck river, easterly by Maxon's purchase, northerly by vacant lands and westerly by the Colony line. (Westerly L.R. Vol. 2, p. 113. See Potter's Early History of the Narragansett Country