SOME EARLY ENGLISH RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE EASTMAN FAMILY.

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Until comparatively recently nothing has been known of the origin of the Eastman family in this country beyond the fact that the first colonist of the name in New England, Robert Eastman, sailed for Boston in the ship Confidence in 1636, and was one of the original settlers at Salisbury in Massachusetts Bay. The new settlement by the Merrimac was founded largely by Wiltshire emigrants, and a number of these, including heads of families by the names of Rolfe, Sanders, Whittier and Eastman, came from the parish of Downton, a few miles south of the shire town of Wiltshire. What Rowley and Newbury in England are to their daughter towns on this side the Atlantic, that Salisbury, England, is to our Salisbury in Massachusetts.

The Downton parish register was first searched for Eastman records by the present writer in the summer of 1910, and some notes on the origin of the family were published in the Granite Monthly, a New Hampshire magazine, for December of that year and the following October. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. George Eastman of Rochester, New York, it was possible to engage the services of an expert antiquary, Mr. Charles H. Hoppin, for the purpose of making a complete transcript of early Eastman family records preserved in Wiltshire archives. From the large quantity of material collected by this historian a selection has been made relating to the direct ancestral line to which this pioneer colonist Robert belongs, and this is included in the present article. Much more space than is here available would be required to contain all the extant information.

ANCESTRAL LINE OF THE PIONEER COLONIST.

First Generation.

The ultimate progenitor of this line of whom authentic records have been preserved is John Eastman of Charleton. Following is a literal transcript of his original will, dated April 26, 1564, and proved May 9, 1565.

“Archdeaconry Court of Sarum, Register 4, folio 193.

Testaæ. Johannis Eastman de Downton.

In the name of god amen the xxvi day of april in the yere of our lord god m'ceccclxxiiii, I, John Eastman of Charleton within the pyshe of Downton, within the Countie of wytless, husbandman, beyng sycke in body but plitt in memory, do make my last will and testament after this maner & forme following. Myrat & principally I give and bequeath my sowe to almighty god my
maker, redeemer and savior, trusty by the meyrytte of his blessed passion to be child of salvation, my body to be buryed within the churche of Saynt lawrence in Downton where my father doth lye.

Itm, I gave to our Lady church of Sar [= Cathedral at Salisbury] vi d. Itm, I gave to tvr vicares of Downton for my tythes forgotten xii d. Itm, I gave & bequeath to the Reparations of my pyshe churche of Downton lii iiis. Itm, I gave & bequeath to the reparations of Catheryn brydge of Downton xii. Itm, I gave & bequeath to Willi Estman my sonne x liis shepe, v of them shalbe ewes & v of them shalbe lambs, & in money good and lawfull v " & ii acres of wheat, the one lying in hoker linche & one half acre bwn the lyncherd & hym, & the other half acre by the grene thorne.

Itm, I gave & bequeath to John, Willi, Walter & Florence, sones & daughters to the said Willi Estman lii shepe apec, & to ev'y one of [them] in money good & lawfull x a pece, and to each of them one pewter platter apec, & betwene the said lii children if I gave one sparrow cowe, wth Cowes goeth now in the forest, & shalbe distributed by the directe of ther fathers, yf any of thses said lii children do decease or dye before they come to pitt age to make ther wills that then the legatye of them that fayle or dye shall remaine to them that lyveth, equally to be devyded betwene them & go from the one to the other. Itm, I gave & bequeath unto John Eastman & to Willi his brother, sones to Roger Estman, lii shepe a pece & to each of them in money good and lawfull x s apec & a pewter platter apec, & betwene them a blanke heyler. Yf the said John or Willi decease or dye before they come to the age to make ther wills that then the legatye of the one shall remaine to the other.

Itm, I gave & bequeath to elizabeh barrce my sntt [= servant] li yeue shepe. Itm, I gave & bequeath to Willi newman my sntt one yewe. Itm, I gave and bequeath to ev'y one of my god children lii d apec yf they will come & make hit of my executor. Itm, I gave and bequeath to Richard Carter pyshe clerke of Downton half a bs of wheat & as mutche of mault.

The Rest of all my goods movable and unmovable herein not bequeathed, my detts and legatyes payd, I gave & bequeath them all unto Roger my sone makyngge hym my whole and sole executor, desyrring Robt Carpenter & Nycolas newman to be my overseers, & they shall have for their paynes lii iiis a pece. Wytynesses to this my last will & testament, Richard Cockes, willi Modyas & Richard Cates.
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Pbat fuit testam supr script Johannis Estman nup de Downton sine Jure. Arctimus save defuncta cara magno Johe James in legibus bacce Offici dni arcu iux. Die mens maij A.D. Dni m.m cccc x. Irv. ac p i t im apptbat ac Comis q u fuit eo.*

The foregoing document proves that the testator had only six grandchildren living in 1564, all of whom were minors. Two of the grandsons were named William; one of whom belonged to the family of Roger Eastman and lived at Charlton, in the parish of Downton, and the other, who was son of the testator's executor, at Weeke, in the same parish. Concerning the family that lived at Weeke, it will be sufficient to note that William Eastman (William, John), was twice married, first in 1599, to Elizabth Kempe, and secondly to Edith —— family name not found, who died in 1619. Downton parish records give the following as his children:

i. William, b. —— 3. 1655.
ii. Margaret, bp. 1654.
iii. Elizabeth, bp. 1610.
iv. Alice, bp. 1614.

Second Generation.

The foregoing will of John Eastman is authority for giving to his son Roger of Charlton only two children who had been born prior to the year 1564 and were still minors when that instrument was made. Other offspring, however, must have been born subsequent to the year 1564, for we find at the time of Roger's death, in February, 1604, he, being then a widower, had eight children living whose names are known to us, and at least eight grandchildren. Besides these heirs, a married daughter of Roger, who had been the wife of one William Skeete, executor under the will of Roger, had previously deceased. Downton parish records show that Roger Eastman was buried Feb. 17, 1604. His will, dated Jan. 11, of the same year, was proved six days following his death. The original will, unfortunately somewhat mutilated, together with the complete detailed inventory of the estate and administrator's bond is on file with the Consistory Court of Sarum, and is an important genealogical document.

The injury to the will itself is of such nature that a portion of the left hand margin has been torn away, or "perhaps eaten by rats," as suggested by Mr. Hoppin, who prepared an exact transcript. The names of one or two of the beneficiaries are unfortunately lost, having been contained in the missing frag-

* The Latin note appended to the will may be modernized as follows:

"The above-written will of John Estmann, late of Downton in our Jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Salisbury, deceased, was proved before Master John James, bachelor of law, official of the Lord Archdeacon of Salisbury, on the ninth day of the month of May in the year of our Lord 1565, and by him approved, etc., and [administration] was granted, etc."

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James, but from other sources we are clearly warranted in supplying
one of them as William, who was either the eldest or second
son. There are named as executor the testator's son-in-law,
William Skeate, and as overseers "my well-beloved sons Walter
Eastman y e & John Eastman." The remaining heirs, named
in the order of their mention, were Nicholas and Roger Eastman,
four Skeate grandchildren, and Mary, Edith and Thomas Eastman.
Witnesses to the will were John Bebman, Thomas Furseley,
Walter Eastman and John Eastman. A seal is attached, bearing
the device of a talbot passant.

Third Generation.

We come now to the generation immediately preceding that
of the emigrant Roger, and find entries in the Downton parish
register for reconstructing the families of his uncle William and
father Nicholas as follows:

William Eastman (Roger, John), born some time prior to
1564; died after 1622. He married (1) Edith ——, who died in
Oct., 1605. He married (2) in 1607, —— (name blank or illegible
in Downton parish register). Resided at Downton. Children:

i. John, bp. March 25, 1603; d. 1663, leaving son John.
iii. Greenway, bp. Aug. 16, 1609; was "late of New Alresford in the County of Southampton" in March, 1660, at which time his widow was the wife of Thomas Bone.
viii. Hugh, bp. May 1, 1622.

Nicholas Eastman (Roger, John), born probably between
1564 and 1570; died some time after 1625. He married Barbara
—— (family name probably Roeke), who was buried at Downton,
July 9, 1625. Resided at Chardleton. Children:

i. Thomas, bp. Jan. 9, 1603/4; m. Oct. 21, 1624, Alice Sanders, sister of John Sanders of Weeke. He was living in 1666.
ii. John, bp. Dec. 24, 1605; m. July 28, 1628, Margaret Newman. His will dated Jan. 5, 1657/8, and proved
April 4, 1657. Her will dated Nov. 8, 1673, and probated Dec. 4, 1675; both buried in the parish church at Downton. They had children:

i. Christiana, who m. John Noyes.
ii. Barbara.
iii. Alice, who m. James Barrowe.
iv. Margaret, who m. Thomas Wheeler.

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iii. Margaret, bp. March 26, 1668; m. July 20, 1635, Richard Browse.


vi. Maurice or “Morris,” bp. April 26, 1615; will proved May 8, 1699, by his executors “William Rooke and Barbara his wife,” designated in the will as “my kinsmen.” Bequest of £100 to “my kinswoman Barbara Rooke, the daughter of William Rooke,” and £10 to sister Mary Moody. Thomas Eastman overseer.

vii. William, bp. Jan. 21, 1617/8; had a son William; both living in 1669.


x. Mary, bp. March 24, 1625; m. John Moody. She was living in 1659, as were also her three children: Mary, Edith and Maurice (or “Morris”).

As has already been stated, the earliest ancestor who can be directly connected by authentic records with the line to which Roger, the founder of the family in this country belonged, is John Eastman of Charleston who died in 1565. A number of Eastman items occur in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners’ Court Rolls for the Manor of Downton, ranging in date from 14 Edw. IV to 30 Henry VIII (1471–1540). Under date of 1530 occur in these manor court rolls is found in the following entry, where mention is made of both a John and Roger Eastman of Charleston:

Membrane 1. 1539.

Downton Manor. Court held there 17 December, 30 Henry VIII.

Charleston: The tithingmen there presents that Roger Eastman has been sworn in the office of tithingman; and that (in reckoning the paumage of pigs) Roger Eastman has two old and six young pigs; and John Eastman the younger, one old pig. Nanton [Nutron]. John Eastman has one old and two young pigs.

In conclusion is offered a copy of Eastman items taken from the vital records of Romsey, Hampshire, not previously published:

Christenings.

8 April, 1596. Elizabeth the daughter of John Eastman.
13 April, 1598. Roger the son of John Eastman.
3 April, 1599. John the son of John Eastman.
1 February, 1600. Margaret the daughter of John Eastman.
20 October, 1602. Anthony the son of John Eastman.

Burials.

6 October, 1602. John Eastman.
Will of John Eastman of Charleton, in the
Parish of Downton, Wilts
April 26, 1564

Earliest known document extant
belonging to the direct ancestral line from which
The Eastman Family of the United States
is descended

Photograph of the original record
in the Archdeaconry Court of Sarum, Wilts
Register 4, folios 182-4.
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