

1 Sept. 1776; m. at Middletown, 4 Dec. 1726, Lieut. Nathaniel Gilbert, who d. 19 Apr. 1756.¶

- xii. JOHN, b. at Watertown, 17 Mar. 1659/60.
- xiii. ABIAH, d. before 1702.
- xiv. HESTER, d. at Watertown, 25 Aug. 1688.
- xv. MERCY, b. ; m. at Watertown, 4 Apr. 1700, SAMUEL BARNARD, b. 25 Mar. 1764. Children [from Bond's "Watertown"]: 1. *Esther*^a, b. 9 Sept. 1700. 2. *Elizabeth*, bapt. 18 Jan. 1701/2. 3. *Mercy*, b. (recorded as "Grace") 14 Aug. 1704, bapt. (as "Mercy") 20 Aug. 1704; m. 7 Feb. 1726/7, James Nutting. 4. *Samuel*, bapt. 14 Apr. 1706.

THE ELLIS BARRON FAMILY

[The following account has been arranged by the Editor-in-Chief from records communicated by EUGENE DIVEN BUCHANAN of Highland Park, Ill., now Sergeant of Medical Detachment, 383d Infantry. The account owes much to the kind assistance of Mr. Clarence Almon Torrey of Dorchester, Mass., and the field research of Miss Marion Charlotte Reed of Boston, Mass.]

ELLIS¹ BARRON, of Watertown, Mass., married first, GRACE ———, who was the mother of his children. He married second, HANNAH or ANNE (HAMMOND) HAWKINS, widow of Timothy Hawkins. She died 1 Sept. 1685. He died 30 Oct. 1676.

Ellis Barron was Constable at Watertown, 1658, and Selectman, 1668. His will reads in part as follows:

The last Will of Elizeas Barron of Wattertown In the name of God Amen I Elizeas Barron doe make this my Last Will my will is that my Debts being paid and my funnerall chargis Ratified and the a grement that was vpon marriage betwen my wife and I be paid

It to my oldist Son Elizeas ten pounds

It to my Son John fue pounds

It to my Son mossis fue pounds

It Elizabeth Barron my Grand Daughter

And my Seauen Children to Each an equall Share my Son Elizeas Sooll executor 26 October 1676.

. in the presence of vs

Eliz Barrō

John Biscoe

Thomas Hastings

The inventory was taken 13 Dec. 1676. [Middlesex County Probate, File 1291; Vol. 4, pp. 197, 199, 200.] Receipts were given 30 Apr. 1684 to the Executor by Simon Coolidge of Watertown in right of his late wife Hannah, deceased, and by Stephen and Susannah Randall; and the same date, Ellis Barron of

¶ Children of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Prout) Gilbert, b. at Middletown: 1. *Elizabeth*^a, b. 15 Dec. 1727; d. 9 Mar. 1727/8. 2. *Elizabeth*, b. 15 Feb. 1728/9. 3. *Eunice*, b. 12 Apr. 1730. 4. *Ebenezer*, b. 16 June 1731.

Watertown as Executor discharged the legacies by conveying land to "my Brother Moses Barron & to my Sisters Hannah Coolidge deceased, Susanna Randall & Sarah Estwick." [Middlesex County Deeds, Vol. 9, pp. 2, 3.]

The second marriage of the first Ellis Barron is proved by a receipt given 1 Apr. 1673 by Benjamin Garfield of Watertown to "Eliz Barron my father in law" for the portion of Mehitabel his wife, "left hir of the estate of Timothy Hawkins Deced, her father." [*ibid.*, Vol. 5, p. 21.]

Children:

- i. MARY², b. [say 1631]; d. 13 Feb. 1715/16; m. 10 Dec. 1650, DANIEL WARREN.
- +ii. ELLIS, b. abt. 1633.
- iii. SUSANNA, b. [say 1635]; m. 14 Dec. 1653, STEPHEN RANDALL.
- iv. HANNAH, b. [say 1637]; d. 14 July 1680; m. 17 Nov. 1658, SIMON COOLIDGE.
- v. JOHN, b. [say 1639]; d. at Groton, Mass., 1 Jan. 1693; m. ELIZABETH HUNT, dau. of William Hunt.*
- vi. SARAH, b. 24 July 1640; m. PHESANT EASTWICK of Boston, Mass., and Portsmouth, N. H.
- vii. MOSES, b. 1 Mar. 1643; d. at Chelmsford, Mass., 25 Apr. 1699; m. MARY LEARNED.†

ELLIS² BARRON, born about 1633, was aged about 20 in 1653 according to Middlesex County, Mass., Court Records. He married first, 14 Dec. 1653, HANNAH or ANNA HAWKINS, born at Watertown, Mass., 10 June 1637, died there 3 Jan. 1673/4, daughter of Timothy and Anne (Hammond) Hawkins. He married second, LYDIA (PRESCOTT) FAIRBANKS, widow of Jonas Fairbanks.

He resided at Watertown, Groton, again at Watertown, and finally at Lancaster, Mass., where he made his will 31 Dec. 1711, which was proved 7 Oct. 1712.

I Ellis Barron of Lancaster yeoman do make this my Last Will

* Children of John Barron, recorded at Groton: 1. John³, b. 4 Apr. 1665. 2. Elizabeth, b. 28 Sept. 1667. 3. Moses, b. 26 Mar. 1669. 4. Eliz (Elias), b. 14 June 1672. 5. Dorothy, b. 1 Mar. 1674 (wrongly credited in the birth record as daughter of Eliz). The will of John Barron, Sr., of Groton, made 23 Dec. 1692, presented 17 May 1693, named wife Elizabeth, eldest son John, sons John, Moses and Elias, and daughters Elizabeth and Dorotie, and mentioned "my Loveing Brethren Nehemiah Hunt and Moses Barron." [Middlesex County Probate, File 1300.]

† Children of Moses Barron, first born at Groton, others at Chelmsford: 1. John³, b. 26 Mar. 1669, d. at Chelmsford, 13 Jan. 1677/8. 2. Isaac, b. 1 Dec. 1671, d. at Chelmsford, 16 Sept. 1730 ae. 67-9-16. 3. Mary, b. 1 Mar. 1673/4. 4. Moses, b. [perhaps 1676 or before 1669], d. at Chelmsford, 16 Sept. 1719 ae. "about" 50. 5. Samuel, b. 3 May 1679. 6. Elizeus, b. 16 Mar. 1682. 7. William, b. 19 Nov. 1685. 8. Joseph, b. Sept. 1688. On 18 Oct. 1708, Elizeus Barron of Woodbridge, "East Jersie," and William Barron of Sherborn, Mass., quitclaimed to Isaac Barron of Chelmsford all interest in lands of "our Honord ffather Moses Barron late of Chelmsford Deced," witnessed by Moses Barron, Mary Barron [wife of Moses], and Elizabeth Richardson. [Middlesex County Deeds, Vol. 16, p. 481.] Elizeus, son of Moses, settled in Woodbridge, N. J., m. (1) 27 Dec. 1705, Mary Andrews, who d. 23 Aug. 1706, and (2) Deborah ———, and d. between 22 July and 16 Aug. 1715, his will mentioning wife Deborah and children Sarah and Mary. [N. J. Archives, Wills, 1-27.]

Impr I Give unto Lydia my now Married Wife all my housing Land all my Estate both reall and personal she paying out such Legacies & also my debts unto my Son Timothy Barron one shilling he having had his full time for himself for about sixteen years & upwards: to my Son Ellis Barron to Mehetabel Parker to Hannah Cady to Elizabeth Philbrick to Sarah Tailor to Grace Steevens to Each of them I give twelve pence a piece they having all formerly Received their portion in full to my Daughter Houghton twelve pence she also having Received what I can give her finally, I do make Lydia my beloved Wife Sole Executrix
 in presence of

John More [mark]
 Ebenezer Prescott
 John Keyes

his
 Ellis EE Barron
 mark

The widow, Lydia Barron, gave bond as Executrix, 7 Oct. 1712, Jabez Fairbank being her bondsman, and John Keyes and Ebenezer Prescott the witnesses. The inventory amounted to £139. [Middlesex County Probate, File 1289; Vol. 13, pp. 144, 146.]

Elliz Barron, Jr., of Watertown, gave a conveyance with Hannah his wife on 1 Apr. 1659. He appears in a deed, 29 Sept. 1667, as one of the agents for the town of Groton. He was of Watertown, carpenter, 2 July 1695, when he conveyed to "my Son in Law Ephraim Philbrook of Groton," and his wife Lydia signed with him. On 5 Nov. 1706, Ellis Barron of Watertown, housewright, with Lydia his wife, for £60, sold to Timothy Barron of Watertown, weaver, a mansion house, barn, orchard, and land. On 26 June 1711, Ellis Barron of Lancaster, carpenter, his wife Lydia also signing, for "The Tender Loue that I had, and fatherly afections y^t I did bear unto my well beloved Son Ellis Barron of Groton," conveyed "unto his Eldest Son Sam^l Barron my Grand Child of Groton," several parcels of land. [Middlesex County Deeds, Vol. 2, p. 82; Vol. 3, p. 399; Vol. 18, p. 382; Vol. 16, pp. 200, 297.]

Children by first wife, first four born at Watertown, others at Groton except seventh at Chelmsford:

- +i. ELLIS^s, b. 22 Sept. 1655.
- ii. HANNAH, b. 6 Mar. 1657; m. 14 June 1678, JAMES CADY.
- iii. ELIZABETH, b. 14 Apr. 1660; m. EPHRAIM PHILBRICK.
- iv. SARAH, b. 4 Nov. 1662; m. ——— TAYLOR.
- v. GRACE, b. 29 July 1665; m. ——— STEVENS.
- vi. MEHITABLE, b. 22 June 1668; m. ELEAZER PARKER.
- vii. ABIGAIL, b. 10 Jan. 1670/1; d. at Watertown, 14 Nov. 1676.
- viii. TIMOTHY, b. 18 Apr. 1673; d. 28 July 1718; m. 10 Mar. 1698/9, RACHEL JENISON. She m. (2) 28 Sept. 1720, John King.*

* Administration on the estate of Timothy Barron of Watertown was granted, 1 Sept. 1718, to his widow Rachel. A record dated 19 Feb. 1721/2 names the children as Timothy, of full age, Moses, aged 16, Hannah, aged 13, and Rachel, aged 10. [Middlesex County Probate, File 1321.]

Children by second wife, born at Watertown:

- ix. MARY, b. 25 Apr. 1679; d. 26 Apr. 1679.
- x. ABIGAIL, b. 30 May 1680; m. 2 Jan. 1699/1700, HENRY HOUGHTON.
- xi. JOSHUA, b. 4 May 1683; d. 6 May 1683.
- xii. JOSHUA, b. 6 Mar. 1684/5; d. 28 Mar. 1685.

* ELLIS³ BARRON, born at Watertown, Mass., 22 Sept. 1655. He married at Watertown, 26 May 1679, MARY SHERMAN, born at Watertown, 5 Mar. 1656/7, daughter of Rev. John and Mary (Launce) Sherman.

They lived at Groton, Mass., after marriage. The loss of birth records, and the lack of probate for Ellis³ Barron, have occasioned great difficulty in placing his children. Elizabeth is the only child whose birth record has been found. Samuel is proved as eldest son by a deed from his grandfather, Ellis² Barron. Benjamin was mentioned as a son of Ellis³ in Middlesex County Court records. That Mary, Grace, Elias and Mehitable were children of Ellis and Mary (Sherman) Barron is evident from a thorough investigation of the Barrons of Middlesex County, Mass. Very likely there were other children who died young.

Ellis Barron served in King Philip's War, 1676. [Bodge, *Soldiers in King Philip's War*, pp. 273, 366, 375.]

Children:

- i. MARY⁴, b. [say 1681]; d. 6 Apr. 1747; m. (recorded at Concord, Mass.) 13 Jan. 1698/9, SAMUEL BILLINGS, who d. 10 Mar. 1748/9, ae. 82.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. [say 1683]; d. 9 June 1771, in his 88th year; m. ABIGAIL (WOODS) PIERCE, widow of Daniel Pierce.
- iii. BENJAMIN, b. [say 1685]; d. at Concord, Mass., 13 July 1754; a merchant; m. at Sudbury, Mass. (called Benjamin Barnes in marriage record) 13 Jan. 1709/10, ELIZABETH PARRIS, b. at Boston, 28 Nov. 1682, d. 21 Mar. 1760.
- iv. ELIZABETH, b. at Groton, 26 Oct. 1687; m. at Concord, Mass., 29 Nov. 1709, NATHANIEL GRAVES of Guilford, Conn., b. 27 Jan. 1678, d. Jan. 1727. Four children.
- v. GRACE, b. [say 1690]; d. 13 Feb. 1783; m. at New Haven, Conn. (recorded at Guilford), 24 Sept. 1712, DANIEL FOWLER of Guilford, Conn., b. abt. 1686, d. 20 Dec. 1776. Eight children.
- vi. ELIAS, b. [say 1693]; lost his life in Lovewell's Fight, 1725; m. (then resident in Concord) 26 Sept. 1718, PRISCILLA WILSON; removed to Groton. She m. (2) Jonathan Mead, and d. at Concord, 2 July 1740.*

* Administration on the estate of Elias Barron of Groton was granted, 13 July 1725, to his widow Priscilla, who gave bond with William Wilson of Concord. An account in 1729 mentions bringing her three small children to Concord; "they were obliged to remove to Concord to her Father Wilson's." On 27 Oct. 1740, administration was granted to Ephraim Brown, the widow being deceased, and Jonathan Meeds of Concord, who had married the widow, was cited to appear. One of the Barron children was mentioned as Sarah wife of John Boyce. [Middlesex County Probate, File 1287.]

- vii. MEHITABLE, b. abt. 1697; d. 23 July 1744, ae. 47; m. 5 Dec. 1727, as his second wife, EBENEZER STAPLES of Mendon, Mass. She had a son Elias, so named probably for Elias⁴ or Ellis³ Barron. Ebenezer m. (3) 20 Mar. 1744/5, Mary Davis of Bedford, Mass.

It has been claimed that Ellis³ Barron had a second wife Sarah who was mother of the younger children. This claim has a record basis. The earlier vital records at Groton appear to be lost, but in accordance with colonial laws the early Groton town clerks copied the records of births, marriages and deaths for the use of the county clerk, who in turn copied them into record books. Elizabeth⁴ Barron in these County Court records is entered as daughter of Ellis and Sarah Barron in the record of her birth on 26 Oct. 1687. Our collaborator, Mr. Torrey, has made a critical study of the vital entries in the County Court records and has found a number of mistakes in them. The entry preceding and that following the Barron entry give the name of the mother as Sarah, and the fact that the mother's name was thus Sarah in three successive entries creates the suspicion that an error was made. Ellis³ Barron married Mary Sherman on 26 May 1679. No record of her death has been found. None of the younger children of Ellis³ named a daughter Sarah, as some of them would have been likely to do if their mother's name had been Sarah, with the exception of Elias⁴ whose wife's mother was named Sarah.

It will be noted that two of the younger children of Ellis³, Elizabeth and Grace, married men who lived at Guilford, Conn. Grace, the record states, was married at New Haven. Mary Sherman's half-brother Daniel Sherman settled in New Haven, and her sister of the whole blood, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell, was a resident of New Haven. This makes it probable that Grace's mother was Mary Sherman and that she was married at the home of one of her maternal relatives.

The will of Rev. John Sherman of Watertown, dated 6 Aug. 1685, gave ten pounds to his daughter Mary Barron. This makes it certain that she was mother of the older children. The Sherman estate was not settled for many years, and the executor's final account was not exhibited until 24 Dec. 1712. This account shows that the legacy of ten pounds was paid "To Mary Barron." One legacy was paid "To y^e Children of Bezaliell Sherman," so it seems certain that Mary Barron was living when her legacy was paid. The legacies amounted to a total of about £150. No sale of Sherman realty by the executors sufficient to discharge these legacies was made until 26 Jan. 1703/4, and the legacies were presumably paid between that date and 1712 when the account was presented to the Court. It is therefore concluded

that Mary Sherman survived to be mother of all the Barron children, and that Ellis³ had no second wife Sarah.

Although not called deceased in the deed which Ellis² gave to his grandson Samuel⁴ in 1711, the use of the past tense in referring to his son Ellis³ ("love that I *did* bear") and the fact that the conveyance was made to the latter's eldest son lead to the inference that Ellis³ had died before 1711. There are indications that most of the family moved to Concord, where some of the children resided or married. "Lunenburg Records, 1719-1764," p. 14, in the survey and allotment of Turkey Hills, show that "Elias Barron of Concord" was grantee of a lot. This may refer to Elias⁴, son of Ellis³, then perhaps about 21 years old.

THE FOUNDERS OF THE BRAS(S), BRASSER, BRESSER, BRIES AND BRAZIER FAMILIES IN AMERICA

By WILLIAM J. HOFFMAN, F.G.B.S.

The problem we set out to solve was to find the ancestry of *Herman Hendricksz Bras* and the immediate family he belonged to.

Herman Bras¹ removed to Hackensack, N. J., after his marriage, in 1682 at New York, to *Anna Wynaert*, in the entry of which he is called "from Brooklyn."

A quick survey disclosed that at practically the same period there appeared in the records of New Amsterdam, Brooklyn and Flatbush, Folckert *Hendricksz Bries*, Evert *Hendricksz Bresse* (*Brasser*), Gerrit *Hendricksz Bresser* (*Brasser*), *Henry Breser*, and others of a similar name, and in view of the fact that a number of these persons had the same patronymic,—Hendricksz (that is, all had a father named Hendrick), it was conceivable that they all belonged to the same family, in fact might have been brothers, and that Bries, Bras, Brazier, Bresse, etc. were variations of the same family name.

As mentioned above, Herman Hendricksz Bras was "from Brooklyn," but the records of the Brooklyn Dutch Ref. church (HSYB 1897) did not disclose anyone named Bras. There were, however, a few entries regarding persons with the surname Bries. In that early period, when tracing a person who is said to be "from Brooklyn," it is necessary to consult also the records of the surrounding towns, such as Flatbush, Jamaica, New Utrecht and also New Amsterdam.

¹ His name is given as Bas in the entry, a mistake, as is evident from all other records concerning him.