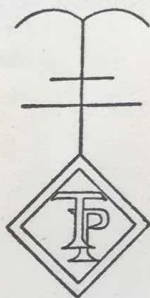
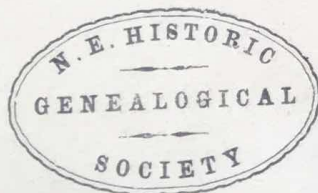


GENEALOGICAL HISTORY
OF THE
FRENCH AND ALLIED FAMILIES
—
BEYER

A Genealogical History of the French and Allied Families

BY
MARY QUEAL BEYER



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THE FRENCH FAMILY

THE name French is supposed to have originated in France, appearing first in England soon after the Norman Conquest, being noted in the list of those who fought with William the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings. Records in Yorkshire, England, show the name as early as 1100, and later on it appears in the west and north, being found in North England and Scotland. During this time the name was variously spelled Franceis, de Frenssh, le ffrensh, Frenssh, Frensche, Frense, Franche, Freynch, the earliest notice of the surname French, as it is used today, appearing in 1252.¹

The first generation of this branch of the French family of which there is any authentic record, dates from the death of Thomas French, which occurred at Weathersfield, County Essex, England, in 1599.

First Generation

THOMAS¹ FRENCH the elder, of Weathersfield, County Essex, England, died 1599. In his will he mentions wife Bridget, three children and grandson John, son of Thomas, and gives to the poor of Halstead, Essex; of West Wratting, Cambridge, Snetisham, Norfolk; Little Birdfield and Arkesden, Essex.

- I. Thomas, married Anne.
- II. Mary, married John Collin.
- III. Elizabeth, married John Meade.

Second Generation

THOMAS² FRENCH (Thomas¹), of Halstead, County Essex, England, died January 27, 1613, leaving wife Anne, six sons, and several daughters.

- I. Thomas, married a Miss Wood.
- II. John.

¹ County Records of the surnames of French in England by A. D. Weld French.

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- III. Edward.
 - IV. Robert.
 - V. William.
 - VI. Francis.
- Also several daughters.

Third Generation

THOMAS³ FRENCH (Thomas,² Thomas¹), of Halstead, County Essex, England, married a daughter of — Wood.

- I. William, born March 15, 1603; married Elizabeth —.
- II. Francis, baptized June 29, 1606.
- III. Jerrymya, baptized November 21, 1607.

Fourth Generation

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM⁴ FRENCH (Thomas,³ Thomas,² Thomas¹), born March 15, 1603; married Elizabeth, surname not known, about 1623. To them were born:

- I. Francis, born in England, 1624; came with parents in ship "Defence"; removed to Milford, Connecticut, about 1650, and four years later was one of the settlers in Derby, Connecticut. He married April 10, 1661, Lydia Bonnell of Milford. To them were born nine children. Francis French died February 14, 1681. Lydia Bonnell French died April 1, 1708.
- * II. Elizabeth, born in England, 1629; married Robert Eliot of Dedham.
- III. Mary, born in England, 1633; baptized when between two and three years of age at her father's "joyning"; married Jonathan Hyde, and died May 27, 1672, at the birth of her son Joseph, who was her twelfth or fourteenth child.
- IV. John, born in England, 1635; married June 21, 1659, Abigail Coggan, daughter of Henry of Barnstable. She died April 5, 1662. John married (second) July 3, 1663, Hannah, daughter of John Burrage of Charlestown. To them were born two children:

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1. Hannah, born in Billerica January 20, 1664; married August 3, 1685, Dr. John Kittredge. To them were born five children, they being the progenitors of a long line of medical men, through their sons John and Jacob. Simeon, the grandson of John, was the father of eight sons, all of whom were physicians.
2. Abigail, born in Billerica December 6, 1665; married Benjamin Parker. To them were born one son and three daughters.

Abigail died March 13, 1728.

Hannah, second wife of John French, died July 7, 1667.
John French married (third) January 14, 1668, Mary, daughter of John Rogers. To them was born one child:

3. Mary, born in Billerica March 4, 1670; married Nathan, son of Daniel Shed. To them were born nine children. Nathan Shed died June 18, 1736. Mary Shed died August 21, 1740.

Mary, third wife of John French, died June 16, 1677.

John French married (fourth) January 16, 1677 (or 1678), Mary, daughter of Francis Littlefield of Woburn, and widow of John Kittredge of Billerica. To them were born six children:

4. John, born in Billerica May 15, 1679.
5. Elizabeth, born in Billerica July 24, 1681; married Thomas Abbott.
6. William, born in Billerica November 26, 1683; died April 21, 1685.
7. Sarah, born in Billerica September 15, 1685; married — Flint, of Charlestown. After his death Sarah married April 5, 1710, Joseph Frost. To them were born three sons and one daughter.
8. William, born in Billerica August 8, 1687; married Mehitable Patten. To them were born eight children:
 - a. William, born January 25, 1713; married Tabitha ——. To them were born eleven children, by name:

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- Jonathan, William, Joseph, Tabitha, Benjamin, Nehemiah, Mehitable, Ephraim, Mehitable (second), Stephen, Betsey.
- b. Elizabeth, born in Billerica April 3, 1716; married Ephraim Kidder. To them were born nine children. Elizabeth died November 30, 1755.
- c. Mehitable, born in Billerica August 29, 1718; married John White.
- d. Nathaniel, born in Billerica February 2, 1721; married Elizabeth Frost. To them were born eleven children, the names of three being known to the author — Nathaniel, Joel, and William, the last named being born March 27, 1753, and claimed by his descendants as the first martyr to the cause of American independence.
- e. Jonathan, born in Billerica May 28, 1724; died June 20, 1725.
- f. David, born in Billerica May 28, 1724.
- h. John, born in Billerica May 27, 1730; married Mary, daughter of Jacob French; he married (second) Priscilla Mace. John was the father of eleven children.
9. Hannah, born in Billerica February 18, 1693; married Jonathan Richardson. To them were born one daughter and three sons. Jonathan died August 13, 1720. Hannah married (second) February 15, 1726, Benjamin Frost. To them was born one daughter. Hannah died September 12, 1769.
- Mary, fourth wife of John French, died in 1719. John French was a colonel in the militia, and was often in the town's service. He was wounded by the Indians in an assault on Quaboag in 1675. He died in October, 1712.
- V. Sarah, born in Cambridge in March, 1638; married Jonathan Peake.
- VI. Jacob, born in Cambridge March 16, 1640; lived in Billerica

- ond) Mary, daughter of Thomas Lathrop and widow of John Stearns of Billerica. To them were born four children.
- XI. Mary (second), born April 3, 1670; married Nathaniel Dunklin. To them were born twelve children.
- XII. Sarah (second), born October 29, 1671; married Joseph Crosby of Billerica May 6, 1691.
- XIII. Abigail; born April 14, 1673; died April 13, 1674.
- XIV. Hannah (third), born January 25, 1676; married John Childs of Watertown October 5, 1693.

From one of these fourteen children of Lieutenant William French, Alice French (Octave Thanet), the author, of Davenport, Iowa, is descended.

Lieutenant William French died November 20, 1681, aged seventy-eight years.

In the winter of 1634, the *Defence* sailed from Hartwick,¹ for the *New World*, but the ship being driven back on account of bad weather, the journey for the time being was abandoned, and it was not until August 10, 1635, that this vessel finally embarked upon the voyage that was to land her passengers on the shores of the then almost unknown continent. The *Defence*, being old and unseaworthy, sprung a leak in the first storm encountered, which exposed those on board to such great danger that they were about to return to port. However, they finally succeeded in repairing the damage and continued their journey, encountering many storms during their thirty-four days upon the sea, came in sight of land October 2d, and the following day, October 3, 1635, landed at Boston. Thomas Bostacke of London was master of the ship. Among the passengers is found the name of William French, his wife Elizabeth, and four children, they being the first of this family to set foot on American soil.

William French was born in Halstead, County Essex, England, March 15, 1603, and married Elizabeth, surname not known, about 1623, her age being given as thirty or thirty-two in the record in the customs house, London, England.

On reaching Boston, William French purchased property and set-

¹This seaport was at the mouth of the Stover in Essex, having a spacious and safe harbor.

tled in the Newe Towne, called New Town or Newtown until May 2, 1638, when the General Court "Ordered That Newtowne shall henceforward be called Cambridge,"¹ and no other act of incorporation is found on record. His home was on the westerly side of Dunster street, about midway between Harvard Square and Mount Auburn street, the site now being occupied by a bank. He bought this property in 1639 and sold it to William Barrett June 10, 1656, after his removal to Billerica.

The following deed was given at that time, the original being on file in the East Cambridge court house:

WILLIAM FFRENCH DEED TO WM BARRETT

To all people to whome this present writeing shall come to be seen or Read, Know ye that I Wm ffrench of Cambridge in the county of Middlesex in New England Taylor, ffor and in consideration of fifty pounds sterling to me the said William ffrench before the ensealing & delivery of these presents, well and truly payd by William Barret of the same place Taylor, the receite whereof I the said William ffrench do by these presents acknowledge, and therewith to be fully satisfied and payd, and thereof of every part and parcell thereof do clearly and absolutely acquitte, exonerate, and discharge the said William Barrett, his Heyres, Executours, Administratours, and every of them for ever by these presents have granted, bargained, aliened, enfeoffed and confirmed, and by these presents do fully, cleerely, and absolutely grant, bargaine, and sell, Alien, enfeoffe, and confirme, unto the said William Barrett, his Heyres and Assignes for ever, my now Mansion house scittuated in Cambridge before named with about halfe a rood of land adjoyneing to the same and planted with fruite trees, and bounded with Water Street east, Daniel Kempster South, Abraham Morrill West, Steeven Day North, Also a Barne and out house standing on the east side the Highway with about Halfe a rood of land adjoyneing thereto, and bounded with the aforesaid street West, William Bordman north, and the Swamp east and South, with all the Towne rights and priviledges, for wood, timber, commonage or otherwise to the said house apperteyning or in any wise belonging, To Have & to Hould the said Messuage and Tenement, and other the premises, and every part and parcell thereof, with all & singular their appurtenances, unto the said William Barrett his Heyres and Assignes forever, to his and their only propper use and behooffe. And I the said William ffrench do covenant, promise, and grant for me,

¹ Paige's *History of Cambridge*.

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my Heires, Executors, Administrators, Assignes by these presents, that I the said William ffrench have good right, full power, and lawful Authority to grant bargaine, & sell the said Dwelling house, and barne and yards, and orchard thereto apperteyneing, with all other the appurtenances and priviledges thereof, And that the said William Barrett his Heyres & Assignes shall and may at all times, and from time to time for ever hereafter, peaceably and quietly, Have Hold, occupy, possesse & enjoy the said Bargained premises, and every part, and parcell thereof, with their and every of their appurtenances, without any lawfull lett, trouble, Eviction, Expulsion, suite, molestation, Disturbance, contradiction, or Deniall of me the said William ffrench, or of Elizabeth my Loveing wife, or either of us or by any other manner of wayes or meanes whatsoever haveing any lawful right or interest therein. In witness whereof I the said William ffrench, as also Elizabeth my wife, have here unto put our hands and seales, this tenth day of June. In the year of our Lord God One thousand six hundred fifty and six.

Signed, sealed, and Delivered
in the presence off

John Steedman
Thomas Danforth

WILLIAM FFRENCH
and a seale

ELIZABETH FFRENCH
her X marke
& a seale annexed

This deed of sale was acknowledged by William ffrench and Elizabeth his wife, this Xth of 4th mo 1656.

¹ Entered and Recorded, January 3th, 1656.

By THOMAS DANFORTH Recorder

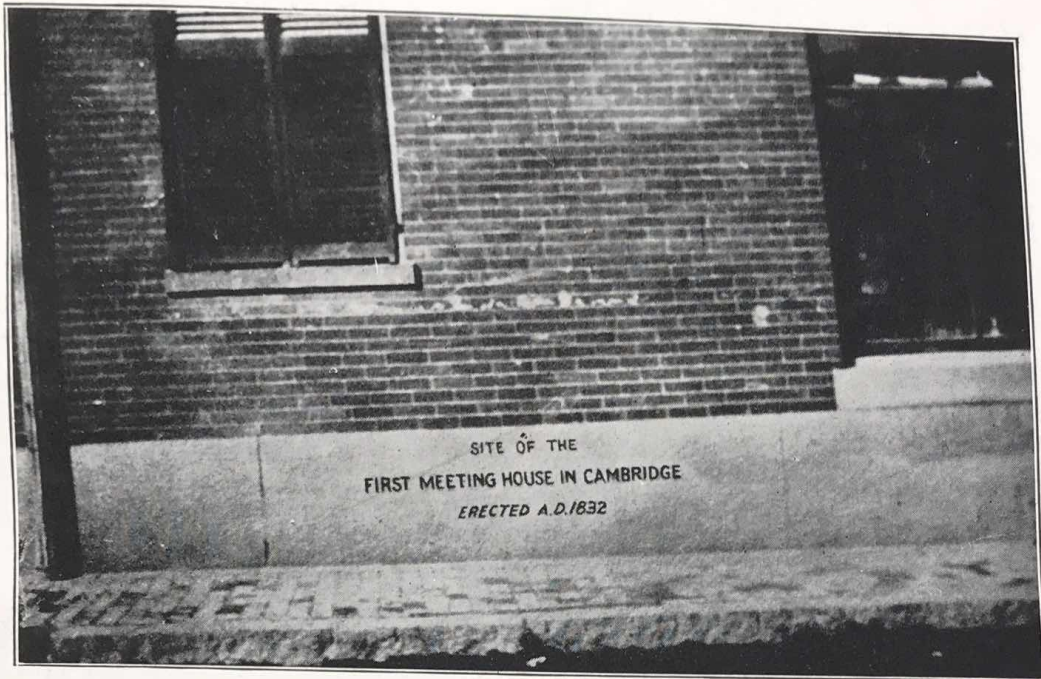
On the west side of Dunster street at the north corner of Mount Auburn street the first meeting house was built, and the following inscription may be seen today on the granite corner stone of the building now standing on the lot:

Site of the First Meeting House in Cambridge Erected A. D. 1632.

This meeting house was a plain simple structure built probably of logs and had a thatched roof, the congregation presumably being called to worship by the beating of a drum.

Acknowledgment is hereby made to Mr. Perrin, treasurer of First Church, Cambridge, for the privilege of looking through the church records and copying such portions as were desired. Here was found the following entry:

¹ The first month of the calendar year at that time was March.



SITE OF MEETING HOUSE IN CAMBRIDGE



SITE OF HOME OF LT. WILLIAM FRENCH, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS