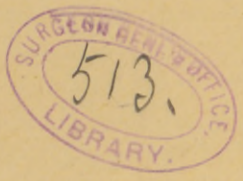
GREEN (SAM'L A.)

Lakin family.



Green (Sam'l A.)

LAKIN FAMILY.

By Hon. Samuel A. Green, M.D., of Boston, Mass.

Among the first settlers of Groton were the brothers Lieutenant William and Ensign John Lakin, who each owned a twenty-acre right as original proprietors of the town. They had both previously lived at Reading, where they had been married. During the earliest history of Groton their names appear frequently in the affairs of the town, and they seem both to have taken a prominent part in civil and ecclesiastical matters. William's house-lot lay on both sides of the road leading to Hawtree Meadow, which is now known as Chicopee Row; and John's was at Nod, a district lying northerly of the soapstone quarry. From these two militia officers are descended the numerous family of Lakins in Groton and wide neighborhood. For facts concerning John Lakin, see an article in the Register (xlv., pp. 81, 82) for January, 1891.

The following copies of old papers, now in my possession, help to clear up some of the obscurities existing in the genealogical history of the family. William Martin, whose name appears in the first receipt, was the step-father of William Lakin, and he, too, had previously lived at Reading. The brothers William and John were sons of William Lakin, of England, who came to this country, perhaps as early as the year 1645, with their mother and step-father, accompanied also by their grandfather William Lakin, senior.

Receaved the 10th of June 1646: by me Witt Laken of Reding, of my ffather in Law William Martine of Redinge the sū of Twentie povnds and is in ffull payment and satisfaction of a legasie giuen to me by my owne ffather Willm̄ Laken of Reding tn in England: I say Receavd by me

William Lakin

20li–0–0

Signd and delivrd
in the presnts of vs
Nicholas Brown
Richard Sadler:

SURGEON GENL'S OFFICE
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LIBRARY.

The next two receipts relate to bequests made by William Martin, who, according to the County records, died at Groton on March 26, 1672[3?], aged about 76 years. They are in the handwriting of the Reverend Samuel Willard, who, like other country ministers of that period, in addition to their pastoral duties acted the part of scribes for the benefit of their neighbors. The following are copies of the papers: —

Groton: August. 5. 1673.

Received by my Brō Jnō Lakin of Groton, ten pounds in the pay of Ralph Dix of Reading, upon the account of a legacy of the said sum̄e bequeathed to me, by my Father William Martin in his last Will & Testament: as also two ox chains, & foure wedges, & a beetle ring: bequeathed to me in the said will: I say

Received by me.

Witnesse: WILLIAM LAKIN
Samuel Willard
Elezebeth Sherman

Groton. August: 5. 1673.

Received by John Lakin of Groton the full sum̄e of fourty shillings upon the account of a legacye of the said sum̄e, bequeathed to mee by the last Will & Testament of my Loving friend W^m^ Martin, deceased.

I say Received

Witnesse by me
William Lakin SAM^ll^ WILLARD.
Elezebeth Sherman

The first of these receipts was lately given to me by Mr. Charles Butler Brooks, of Boston, who found it among the papers of his grandfather Caleb Butler, Esq., the historian of Groton; and the other two were given to me more than forty years ago by the late Hon. John Boynton, of Groton. It is somewhat singular that these old manuscripts, relating to similar transactions in the same family, should now come together after the vicissitudes of nearly two centuries and a half. Elizabeth Sherman, one of the witnesses, was a younger sister of Mr. Willard's wife.

William Lakin, senior, was the oldest person among the original settlers of Groton, and he died on December 10, 1672, aged about 91 years.

William Martin's house-lot at Groton lay on the borders of a large sheet of water which in his lifetime was known as Martin's Pond, and still keeps the same name. In the record of James Parker's land, on July 6, 1666, "the pond called Goodman Martin's Pond" is mentioned. There is also a Martin's Pond within the original limits of the town of Reading,—but now lying in the northwest corner of North Reading,—which may have been named after him, as he lived there before coming to Groton. Perhaps some local antiquary of that neighborhood can give the origin of the name.

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