

THE ANCESTORS
AND
DESCENDANTS
OF
ELISHA PRATT
OF
TURNER, MAINE

Francis H. Russell

1948

"It may be of some use to such as come
after; but I shall rest in my own benefit."

Governor William Bradford
in preface to Of Plymouth Plantation

"A proud heart, a dainty tooth, and an idle
hand be here intolerable."

Edward Winslow
in letter written from Plymouth

THE ANCESTORS
OF
ELISHA PRATT

1. Joshua Pratt was born in England and came to Plymouth probably in July 1623 on the ship Anne, the third ship to bring persons to the Plymouth colony. The one hundred and two people who came on the Mayflower, the thirty-five who came on the Fortune, and the ninety-six who came on the Anne -- a total of 233 -- constitute the group of early settlers at Plymouth known today as the Pilgrims -- known by their children and grandchildren as "the First Comers".

Joshua Pratt's father, it is believed, was Henry Pratt, an English nonconformist minister who was imprisoned for preaching the gospel contrary to the rules of the established Church of England, one of more than four hundred religious teachers who were confined in damp and gloomy jails in England for the same offense. While in prison he managed to communicate with his family by writing to them with the blood which he drew from his arm. Whether he died in jail as many of his fellow prisoners did, or was released and lived for a few years more is unknown.

Tradition relates that the father of Henry was John
Pratt

Pratt and that either John or his father was French and earlier bore the surname of Plat or Platt. He is supposed to have fled from France during some political excitement in that country and to have become an armour bearer to the monarch of England.

The name Platt appears in French, Danish, German, and Swedish and appears as Prado in Spanish and Portuguese. They are all derived from the Latin root word, pratum, meaning meadow. Pratt has been a common name in England from the earliest time. The Pratts were located largely in the southern part of England. The family motto was "The flowery meadows smile." Persons bearing the Pratt name lived in Rouen, Normandy, and came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. Pratts are also found among the Crusaders.

The Pilgrim band that Joshua Pratt and his fellow passengers on the Anne joined had, three years before, as Bradford and Winslow recount in Mourt's Relation, on "Wednesday, the sixth of September, the wind coming East North East, a fine small gale,...loosed from Plymouth (England);...and, after many difficulties in boisterous storms, at length, by God's providence, upon the 9th of November following, by break of the day,...espied land, which we deemed to be Cape Cod, and so it afterward proved."

The Mayflower, 180 tons, was ninety feet long and twenty-four feet wide. It had a crew of eighteen men.

The

The crew and storage space were in the forequarters and the 102 passengers lived in bunks and cabins aft. During the voyage there were usually two meals each day, mostly cold food. The little cooking that was done was on an open fire on a small area on the deck filled with sand.

After five weeks of exploring along Cape Cod for a location for the new colony, resulting in the selection of the former Indian settlement, Patuxet (Plymouth¹), a party was sent out from the Mayflower on Thursday afternoon, December 28 (N.S.) "to measure out the grounds." A rough street was laid out running up the hill from the water's edge "about a cannon shot (800 yards) in length." It was known as "The Street", or First Street, nowadays called Leyden Street.

Nineteen house lots were laid out, on both sides of The Street, each family being allowed half a "pole" (rod) in breadth and three in depth for each member. Lots were cast for the plots. The first winter only seven of the nineteen houses were built. All these, except Governor Bradford's house, were on the south side of Leyden Street and extended from near the water's edge up to Spring
Street.

¹Plymouth was not named by the Pilgrims. The name had already been assigned to the spot by King Charles I on the basis of a map of the Massachusetts Bay region prepared by Captain John Smith on his 1614 trip. Charles River got its name at the same time.

Street, which was laid out at a right angle with Leyden, having the Fort Hill for the corner of the angle, as a protection for both streets. The seven houses were finished at the end of March and at that time the last of the Pilgrims moved off the Mayflower.

The lots on the south side of Leyden Street, running from hill to bay, were allotted, in the following order, to Edward Winslow, Francis Cook, Isaac Allerton, John Billington, William Brewster, John Goodman and Peter Brown. They were allotted, however, only "for the erection of houses for common convenience and shelter." They remained for the first three years the property of the colony. In addition to the seven original dwellings, there were four buildings for the use of the plantation: one for the sick, the common house, and two store houses. During the second year the original plan was carried out and the remainder of the nineteen houses were built.

The houses were made from hand-squared logs, the spaces filled with clay. The floors were made of smoothed logs and the roofs of thatched swamp grass. The gardens were enclosed with hewn planks.

During the first three months, fifty-three of the 104 who came on the Mayflower died as a result of the rigors of living in winter weather on shipboard and in the rude dwellings. Of eighteen women in the group only four
survived

survived the first winter. Those who died were buried without markers on the little knoll known as Cole's Hill on the edge of the Bay.

Around the middle of July 1623 the ship Anne, 140 tons, arrived with sixty passengers. Some were wives and children of those who came on the Mayflower. Others were members of the group that had remained in Leyden. Others, probably including Joshua Pratt, had joined the ship in England.

Of the arrival of the Anne, Bradford says:

"These passengers when they saw their (the Pilgrims') low & poore condition ashore, were much danted and dismayed, and according to their diverse humors were diversely affected; some wished themselves in England againe; others fell a weeping, fancying their own miserie in what y^ey saw now in others; other some pitying the distress they saw their friends had been long in and still were under; in a word, all were full of sadnes. Only some of their old friends rejoyced to see them, and y^t it was no worse with them, for they could not expecte it should be better, and now hoped they should injoye better days together. And truly it was no marvell they should be thus affected, for they were in a very low condition, many were ragged in aparell, & some litle beter then halfe naked; though some y^t were stord before, were well enough in this regard. But for food they were all alike, save some y^t had got a few pease of y^e ship y^t was last year. The best dish they could presente their friends with was a lobster, or a peece of fish, without bread or anything els but a cupp of fair spring water."

Joshua's brother Phineas (or "Phinehas") had come to nearby Wessagussett (Weymouth) from England in May 1622 in the schooner Sparrow with a group of settlers financed

by

-5-

by Thomas Weston of London. Weston had also headed the Company that furnished the funds for the Mayflower voyage. The Weymouth colony, after extreme hardship, was forced by famine to abandon its efforts and in the late spring of 1623 went to Piscataqua (Portsmouth, New Hampshire). Phineas wrote an account (Phineas Pratt's Narrative) of his experiences at Wessagussett and his escape through the snow and lurking hostile Indians to secure help from the Plymouth men. From Piscataqua Phineas came to Plymouth in the summer of 1623. Later Phineas moved to Charlestown and died in 1680, aged ninety. A third Pratt, Matthew, possibly a brother of Joshua and Phineas, settled in Weymouth a short time later.

Willison in Saints and Strangers says that Joshua came to Plymouth from the Weymouth company with Phineas. All other authorities (such as Davis, Goodwin and Savage) say that he came in the Anne. There does not appear to be positive proof either way. Joshua's name is included in the 1624 division of lands at Plymouth as being among those who arrived in the Anne (this list being the only basis of our knowledge of the identity of the Anne's passengers). So, however, is Phineas' name. (The names of Joshua, Phineas and six others are written in another hand and ink than the rest of the list. These could not all have come from Weymouth, however, as two of them were

a married couple and there were no women at Weymouth.) Phinehas' Narrative makes no mention of Joshua nor do any of the other records of the Weymouth venture. The presumption is, therefore, that, in Joshua's case, the Plymouth record is correct and that he came in the Anne.

In 1624 the settlers were divided into twelve companies of thirteen persons each. Unmarried men were assigned to the various households and Joshua Pratt became a member of the company of Francis Cook. The town by this time contained thirty-two dwellings, all within the compass of about a half a mile.

The land was planted and tilled with heavy hoes. The two mile stretch of land at Plymouth running south from High Cliff had been cultivated by the Indians, quite possibly for centuries, but the area had been abandoned three years prior to the arrival of the Pilgrins as the result of a plague that had wiped out all the tribe -- except the invaluable Squanto.

During the first year the colony planted twenty acres of Indian corn (an estimated 90,000 hills, with two or three alewives for fertilizer in each hill), and six acres of wheat, rye, barley and peas -- no mean accomplishment for the twenty-one men and six boys who had also to build the dwellings. In addition each
family

family had its own small vegetable garden about the house. By 1624, when there were 180 persons in the colony, all two hundred acres of the original cleared area of the Indians was under cultivation.

For three years corn was almost the only food. When that ran out, the colony lived on fish and water. The first cattle to be brought to Plymouth were the three heifers and a bull which came in March 1624 in the Charity. (There were, however, on the Mayflower two dogs, a spaniel and a mastiff.) To the Francis Cook company was later assigned one of the "four black heifers that came in the Jacob and two she-goats."

A notation in the Plymouth records under date of July 26, 1638 states that Joshua Pratt "had four shares in the black heifer which was Henry Holland's." A later entry says, "Joshua Pratt's black heiffer, her encrease is a three year old heiffer and 1 cove calf. Joshua had 40 d. and the cove calf and the stock had the heiffer."

Most of the Pilgrims had been farmers in England. Following their emigration it was necessary for them to take up trades. Joshua became a weaver.

Joshua Pratt's name appears frequently in the early Plymouth colony records. It is included in the various Plymouth lists of freemen. He must have devoted a considerable

considerable portion of his time to various public offices. Among them was that of "messenger", or marshall, of the colony and constable for the "town of New Plymouth", a position to which he was elected in 1633, when the office was created, and which he held for many years.

The town meeting, an institution now widely associated with New England, originelly settled all questions of public interest in the Plymouth colony, and in criminal cases acted as both judge and jury. For fifteen years there were no criminal laws and no prison. There were, instead of prison, fines and forfeitures, the stocks and the whipping post.

Originally many of the duties which might properly belong to the office of constable had been performed by Miles Standish by virtue of his captaincy. In 1633 it was decided to create the office of constable, and Joshua Pratt was chosen. The oath that was taken by the constable contained the following:

"You shall diligently see that his Majestie's peace comanded be not broken but shall carry the pson or psons offending before the Governor of this corporeacon or some one of his Assistants, and there attend the hearing of the case and such order as shall be given you. You shall apprehend all suspicious psons and bring them before the said Governor or some one of his Assistants as aforesaid. You shall duly and truly serve such warrants and give such sumons as shall be directed unto you from the Governor or Assistants before menconed, and shall

labour

labour to advance the peace and happiness of this corporation and oppose any thing that shall seeme to annoy the same by all due meanes and courses. So help you God, who is the God of truth and punisher of falsehood."

The functions of the office are described by Davis in "Ancient Landmarks":

"The constable was an officer made necessary by new conditions growing out of the gradual development of the colony. The number of settlers had increased, and a demand arose for increased efforts to preserve the peace. The footpaths of the settlement became cart-ways, and needed repair. The freemen constituting the General Court became scattered, and some one must be delegated to warn them of its meetings....The General Court needed a messenger. Rates and fines must be collected, and executions served. To meet these wants, arising naturally in the evolution of government, the office of constable was established, bearing little or no resemblance to any office ever before bearing the name except in Massachusetts, and receiving the best appellation which the vocabulary afforded. Until 1638 the constable for Plymouth was the messenger of the court, the prototype of the sergeant-at-arms of the Massachusetts Legislature. His Duty was to attend the General Courts and the Courts of Assistants, to act as keeper of the jail, to execute punishment, to give warning of such marriages as shall be approved by authority, to seal weights and measures, and measure out such land as shall be ordered by the governor or government."

The salary was thirty bushels of corn a year, corn being the de facto currency of the colony. One would conclude from Goodwin's detailed enumeration of the misdoings of various members of the colony in his Pilgrim Republic that Joshua probably earned his pay.

Joshua Pratt also served with William Bradford, Edward Winslow, and John Holland as surveyor of the township

township of Plymouth. The reason given for this was one part of them for every share of land laid out. On September 3, 1693 the General Court ordered that "a Certain Ancient Manuscript Called Joshua Pratts book now in ye Custody of the Towne Clerk of Plymouth Relating to the laying out & bounding of sundry lands and Meadows within this County That said book after the same is entered or Transmitted in to sd plymouth Townes Book by sd clerk shall be delivered by him to the Clerk of this County to be kept & presented by him for the benefit of such as are therein Concerned."

At various times Joshua was an assessor. He also served often as arbitrator and juror.

During the first two years the colony at Plymouth was run on a communal basis. In 1623, as previously stated, a first division of lands was made, granting garden lots on the basis of one acre to a person. The original record of this division, for the most part in the handwriting of Governor Bradford, is in the first book of the Colony Records in the Plymouth Registry of Deeds. Among the allotments is one of two acres on the "north side" of the town to Joshua Pratt and Phineas Pratt.¹

Joshua's

¹The statement in Davis' Ancient Landmarks, p. 52, that Joshua Pratt's lots were on the south side of the town near Eel River is in error, as a reference to the original records will indicate.

Joshua's allotment, probably used by him originally for garden land and later as the location of his house, was at High Cliff, still called by that name, a mile and a half north of the center of the town. On the seaward side of "the Country Road" (now Route 3), reached by Atlantic Street, it is still an open field on the water's edge, affording a superb view of the whole Plymouth Bay area. That this was the location of Joshua's lot is indicated by the wording of the 1623 allotment on the "north side" and also by two later deeds. A deed dated July 1637 from Edward Doty to Richard Derby conveys "all those messuages, houses, and tenements at the heigh Cliffe or Shearts Hill together with the four lottes of land and three other acres purchased of Joshua Pratt, Phineas Pratt and John Shaw." In May 1642 Joshua Pratt sold to Edward Doty "one acre of upland lying at the heigh Cliffe".

An Indian burial ground was discovered in 1844 near High Cliff on the line of the Old Colony Railroad. This may have marked the northerly boundary of the early Indian settlement.

In 1637 Joshua (frequently spelled "Josuah" in the deeds) bought "for fourteene bushells of Corne" a house and lot at the center of town, on the south side of Summer Street (parallel to Leyden) at Spring Lane,

bordering

bordering on Town Brook.

Other land that belonged to him included: "Two acres of Marsh Meads at the good Island"; "a garden place about the house he hath bought of Thomas Savory at Squerrell"; "twelve acres of upland lying at Cedar Swamp and the meadow about a ponds beyond Triangle Ponds"; and "five acres of meadow in the South Meadows toward Aggawan, Colebrook Meadows (South Carver)".

The town records for January 14, 1642 state "The Towne granted XX. acres of the lands of Clarks Island to the five that make salt for XXI yeares paying a bushell of salt yearly to Josuah Pratt dureing the said terme if it be demanded."

Joshua and Phineas both married in 1630. The first name of Joshua's wife was Bathsheba; her last name is believed to have been Fay.

Joshua and Bathsheba Pratt had seven sons and one daughter: Joshua, Joseph, John, Jonathan, Benajah, Eleaser, David, and Hannah.

Joshua died in October 1656. Besides real estate, he left among the personal items listed in the inventory of his estate: two beds, one bolster, one pillow, three blankets, one pair of sheets, one iron kettle, one iron
pot

pot, and pot hangers, a pig, one cow, one halifer, a sheep, a weather cock, a mill, two pewee dishes, a cupboard, two chests, a great Latin Bible, six pounds and a half of cotton wool, a spinning wheel, a frying pan, a spade, two axes, a sieve, two chisels, two augurs, two gouges, a hammer, two saws, a hoe, a smoothing iron, two waistcoats, and various similar items common to the household of that day.

Following Joshua's death, on August 29, 1667 Bathsheba married John Doggett of Martha's Vineyard.

Joshua Pratt's descendants have been remarkable for their longevity. His grandson, Ephraim Pratt of Shutesbury, lived to the age of 116.

2. Jonathan Pratt, the son of Joshua and Bathsheba Pratt, was born in Plymouth in 1639. He is recorded, on May 11, 1698, as owning land on "the Meadow" on the shore of Plymouth Bay and later "on the west side of the road to Lakenham Neere (Garver)". In 1675 he accepted the post of under-marshal on condition that he be excused from helping to execute criminals. He was surveyor of highways in 1681 and a selectman in 1687.

On November 2, 1664 he married Abigail Wood (born August 1645), daughter of Deacon John Dunham (who arrived in Plymouth in 1633) and his wife, Abigail.

The children of Jonathan and Abigail Pratt were:
Abigail, June 16, 1665; Bathsheba, February 20, 1666;

Jonathan,

Jonathan, March 20, 1663; Hannah, June 28, 1671; Jabez, November 1, 1673; Hiletiab, December 11, 1676; Bethya, August 8, 1679; and Maria, 1684.

Jonathan's wife, Abigail, died in 1684. After her death he moved to Taunton and on March 3, 1689 married Elizabeth, daughter of Nicolas White and the widow of Samuel Hall.

Jonathan died in 1729.

3. Jonathan Pratt, son of Jonathan and Abigail, was born in Plymouth, March 20, 1668. On January 8, 1691 he married Margaret Low, daughter of John Low who was killed by the Indians at Rehoboth in 1676. Her mother was Elisabeth Howland, daughter of Arthur (brother of John, of the Mayflower) and Margaret Howland. Jonathan and Margaret were married in Scituate and settled in the part of Scituate that later became Hanover.

The children of Jonathan and Margaret Pratt were: Abigail, 1692; Margaret, 1694; Jonathan, October 6, 1697; Martha, August 28, 1704; Deborah and Patience, baptized 1707; Othniel, born January 25, 1708.

Jonathan lived on a farm across the road from the one owned by his grandson Jonathan (see No. 5 below), and about 100 yards nearer Boston. It was the site of a house built by Martin Church in 1840, destroyed by fire a

few

few years ago. A small barnyard now occupies the site.

Jonathan died June 20, 1728.

4. Othniel Pratt, son of Jonathan and Margaret, was born in Hanover, January 25, 1708. On April 2, 1736 he married Mary Pryor, daughter of Benjamin Pryor (Joseph², Thomas³) and Bethia Pratt of Duxbury. The Pryors were descendants of John Pryor, Sheriff of London in 1317. Joseph Pryor served in the company commanded by Captain Miles Standish.

The children of Othniel and Mary Pratt were:

Jonathan, October 15, 1740; Othniel, March 7, 1743; Benjamin, March 4, 1745; Deborah, baptized May 8, 1747; Mary, 1750; Ruth baptized April 1753; Jabez, baptized July 27, 1755; and Hannah baptized July 9, 1758.

Othniel lived on the farm formerly owned by his father. He died June 23, 1759. His wife, Mary, died March 12 the same year.

5. Jonathan Pratt, son of Othniel and Mary Pratt, was born in Hanover, October 15, 1740. On December 30, 1762 he married Lucy Church, born in 1742, the daughter of Nathaniel Church (Nathaniel³, Nathaniel², Richard¹), and Mary Curtis. Richard Church, one of the ancestors of Franklin D. Roosevelt, was the third wealthiest man in Plymouth in 1632 (B1116). He was a carpenter and built the

the first church in Plymouth and the gun carriages for the fort. The church was built in 1648 on the north side of the town square (at the head of Leyden Street), next to Governor Bradford's house, and stood until 1683. Originally the common house (20 feet square) was used both for storage and public worship. Then it burned in 1622, the Fort was built "with good timber," as Bradford wrote, "both strong and comly, which was of good defense, made with a flatte rooffe and batilments, on which their ordnance was mounted, and where they kepte constant watch, especially in time of danger. It served them also for a meeting house, and was fitted accordingly for that use." Richard Church is mentioned as five feet six in height, well-knit, strong, active; having a broad forehead, strong chin, and a firm but delicate nose; and as being blunt, intelligent and conscientious. His wife was Elizabeth Warren, daughter of Richard Warren, signer of the Mayflower Compact.

Jonathan Pratt was a soldier in the Revolutionary Army and fought at Bunker Hill.

He

He lived on a farm on Washington Street, Hanover, now part of Route 3 from Boston to Plymouth. The house stood a few feet north of a house, now standing, built by Samuel S. Church in 1832. The latter is a large white colonial house on the west side of the road, a short distance south of Assinnippi and a third of a mile north of the sign on Route 3 directing traffic to "Hanover business section". Mrs. W. S. Packard, a recent occupant of the farm, recalls talking with Mrs. Pearce, daughter of Samuel Church. Mrs. Pearce told her she remembered living in the Jonathan Pratt house while the new house (1832) was being built.

The children of Jonathan Pratt and Lucy Church were: Lucy and Jonathan, twins, baptized September 18, 1768; Jabez, 1769; Elisha, May 2, 1771; Mary, 1773; Sarah, 1776; Joanna, 1779; and Church and Deborah, twins, 1789. Of these nine children six later moved to Maine to live.

Lucy died August 23, 1789 and Jonathan

married

married on April 15, 1790 Lydia Chamberlain. They had a child, Benjamin C., born November 23, 1790. Lydia died in November 1790 and Jonathan married on January 10, 1798 Desire Palmer.

Jonathan Pratt died November 28, 1813.

6. Elisha Pratt was born in Hanover May 2, 1771, son of Jonathan and Lucy Pratt. He left Hanover for Turner, Maine, in 1790 as a carpenter apprentice to his older brother, Jonathan.

An old notebook in the possession of the Town Clerk of Turner which contains notations of events in Turner prior to the commencement of the two records has the following: "The intention of marriage between Elisha Pratt and Rebecah Keen, both of Turner, was published March the 10th, 1799." They were married April 1 that year. Rebecca Keen was born in Taunton, Massachusetts, July 11, 1775, the daughter of John Keen (John⁴, John³, John², Josiah¹) and Jerusha Blake (Captain Edward⁶, Samuel⁵, William⁴, William³, John², Humphrey¹ of Somerset, England). Captain Edward Blake married Annie Hanover, daughter of Grinfield Hanover, reputedly brother of King George I of England, and great-grandson of Mary, Queen of Scots.

The children of Elisha and Rebecca Pratt were:

Edward,

Edward, December 28, 1799; Lucy, November 5, 1801;
Rebecca, April 9, 1806; Mercy, June 1, 1807; Elisha,
March 13, 1808 (died young); Deborah, May 22, 1810;
Timothy, August 9, 1812; Elisha, January 3, 1815;
Mahala, February 26, 1817.

Elisha purchased two lots (320 acres) in the north part of Turner. His home was a large square colonial type house on the east side of the North Parish Road, across from the present Pratt homestead. On the northwest slope of the highest hill in town, the farm bordering on a small lake, Elisha's house looked fifty miles west to the Presidential Range and north to Mount Blue, and mountains Abram and Bigelow, a view of surpassing beauty. The house had wide clapboards and the floor was made of twelve-inch wooden squares, painted to resemble marble. The doorsteps were fashioned of hewn rock. The rooms were large and the furniture "nice", according to the recollection of one of Elisha's granddaughters. The hall had woodwork resembling marble and a "huge" stairway. It was torn down around 1840, and replaced by a "modern cottage". The cottage burned down in 1856.

There are excellent oil paintings of Elisha and Rebecca Pratt, possibly by Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, who at one time travelled
through

through the towns of northern New England painting portraits. Jeanette Pratt Jones, granddaughter of Elisha, said that she remembered the artist coming to the farm and living there with the family while he painted the two portraits. One has his choice between this account and a family tradition that after their children had grown up Elisha and Rebecca took a trip back to Hanover and to Boston, had their portraits painted, and bought a gold watch for each son and a gold necklace for each daughter. One of the gold necklaces is shown on Rebecca in her portrait. Jeanette Jones also recalled that on every May 2, his birthday, Elisha used to walk with his grandchildren through the woods, past the Devil's Den (mentioned in "Guide Book to Maine" by the Federal Writer's Project), down Winding Hill to the Lower Opening (Lower Barns) on the east part of the farm. The old ox-road can even today be followed through the woods, a treasure spot, in season, for mayflowers.

Turner, when Elisha went there, was, according to French's History, barely a clearing in the wilderness. The settlers carried their corn to New Gloucester, twenty-five miles away, to be ground. Each man took his grist on his back, following a spotted path through the woods. The

The settlers were dependent upon their farms for the supply of their tables. Callers at tea time were likely to be served roasted potatoes and milk. The maple trees furnished sugar, the fields bread, and the pastures meat and products of the dairy. Clothing was manufactured at home, flax furnishing the material for summer wear and wool for winter. The housewife carded the flax, the tow, and the wool by hand and spun the rolls into yarn which she wove into cloth for the use of the family. She made the bedding and table linen. It was the practice of the farmer to carry the hides, taken from the cattle killed for beef, to the local tanners, and, when the leather was ready for use in the fall, call in the shoemaker and have the shoes made for the family.

The early houses were rude, a story and a half high. Later the houses were built larger and two stories and a half high. The inside of the house was frequently finished by ceiling the walls with boards. Carpets were unknown and the floor was rarely painted. White sand was sprinkled on the floor and brushed with a broom into patterns. Each room was furnished with a brick fireplace, the one in the kitchen, or living room, being large and capable of holding a huge pile of wood. All the cooking for the family was done over the open fire or in the brick oven. A long seat made of boards, with a high back, called a
settle,

settle, was a standard part of the kitchen furniture.

The roads were poor and wagons did not come into use until later. The people rode on horseback, the man seated on a saddle and the woman on a pillion behind him. People going to church would frequently "ride and tie" or "hitch and hike": a couple would mount the horse and ride a portion of the way, when they would dismount and tie the horse by the roadside and proceed on foot. When the next couple came up to the horse they would mount and ride on past their companions and then in turn tie the horse and proceed on foot.

A notice of Elisha Pratt's death on January 25, 1858, in the Gospel Banner, the Maine Universalist periodical, written by George Bates, minister of the Universalist church in Turner, reads:

"In North Turner, Jan. 25, Elisha Pratt, in the 87th year of his age. Father Pratt was a native of Hanover, Mass., but came to Turner at the age of 19 as an apprentice to an older brother. After serving his time he settled in Turner, where he has remained ever since. He has probably erected and finished more dwelling houses and other buildings than any man in town, and has contributed liberally to the construction of roads, bridges, school-houses, and three houses of public worship, owning a share in each. By great industry, and yet with a truly liberal spirit, he obtained a competency in this world's goods, and while the poor were never turned empty away, he brought up a large family, and provided amply for their wants in after life. His worthy companion preceded him to the spirit-land

about

about ten years, since which time he has lived with his children, six of whom he has left, not to mourn that he has entered into his eternal rest, but to cherish his memory and imitate his virtues."

Although it cannot now be definitely known, it may be supposed, from the foregoing and other evidence, that buildings which were built by Elisha Pratt include the present town hall and Universalist church at Turner Center, the school house at Howe's Corner, and a number of the older farmhouses in Turner.

Rebecca Pratt died June 21, 1847. She and Elisha are buried at the Howe's Corner Cemetery in Turner.

References:

Plymouth Colony Records

Prattford, Of Plymouth Plantation

Mourt's Relation

Davis, Ancient Plymouth Landmarks

Cookwin, The Plymouth Republic

Willison, Saints and Strangers

Arber, The Story of the Pilgrim Fathers

Phineas Pratt's Narrative

History of Hanover, Massachusetts

History of Turner, Maine

II
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
OF
SUSAN PRATT

Children of Elisia and Rebecca Pratt:

- I. Edward Pratt, born December 23, 1799; died December 27, 1850.
- II. Lucy Pratt, born November 5, 1801; died February 27, 1880.
- III. Rebecca Pratt, born April 2, 1806; died August 16, 1847.
- IV. Mercy Pratt, born June 1, 1807; died February 11, 1864.
- V. Elisia Pratt, born March 13, 1808; died May 26, 1843.
- VI. Deborah Pratt, born May 23, 1810; died April 10, 1887.
- VII. Timothy Pratt, born August 9, 1812; died June 23, 1906.
- VIII. Elisia Pratt, born January 3, 1815; died September 11, 1880.
- IX. Mahala Pratt, born February 26, 1817; died July 25, 1866.

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- I. Edward Pratt, born December 28, 1799; died December 27, 1850; lived at Strickland's Ferry, Me.; mar. Nov. 7, 1827, Louisa Merrill, d. April 16, 1852; ae 47.

Children:

- A. Persis H. Pratt, b. 1829; d. June 30, 1850.
- B. Mary J. Pratt, b. 1832; d. July 17, 1852; mar. Geo. H. Keith.

Child:

1. Emma T. Pratt

2. David Pratt, b. September 23, 1837;
d. May 12, 1915; mar. L. Ora Baker,
b. Oct. 16, 1879; d. Feb. 9, 1881.

Children:

1. Caroline Louisa Pratt, b. April 27, 1860;
d. April 19, 1894; mar. William R. Soper,
South Livermore, Me.

Child:

(a) Chester A. Soper, So. Livermore; mar.
Lyrtle Verrill.

Children:

(i) Dorothy Soper, mar. Alvin Bradbury.

(ii) Caroline Beatrice Soper, mar.
Wallace Sanford Dunmore,
Nov. 15, 1943.

(iii) Harold Soper.

(iv) Robert Edward Soper.

2. Edward Hartwell Pratt, b. Nov. 4, 1861;
d. Aug. 24, 1934; East Poland, Me.; mar.
Grace L. Pulsifer, b. Feb. 17, 1872.

Child:

(a) Hartwell L. Pratt, b. Feb. 27, 1909.

3. Percis Pratt, b. Oct. 26, 1864; d. Feb. 26,
1917; mar. Abram J. Anderson, Leeds
Point, N. J., b. May 12, 1861.

Children:

(a) Clare Ana Anderson, b. Mar. 14, 1889;
mar. Delwyn M. Sooy, b. Dec. 20, 1883.

Child:

(i) Delwyn M. Sooy, Jr., b. Aug. 7,
1914; mar. Katherine _____.

(b) Edward Earl Anderson, b. July 25, 1897;
Mar. Jessie _____.

Child:

(i) Marion Jessie Anderson, b. May 24,
1925.

mar.² Elva M. Reed, b. May 15, 1849; d. Jan. 3, 1924.

Child:

4. Charles Harvey Pratt, b. October 15, 1885; mar. Aug. 26, 1914 Carolyn Roberta Kemp, b. April 3, 1887.

Child:

- (a) Deborah Louise Pratt, b. Aug. 2, 1919.

- D. Rhoda Pratt, b. 1840; d. 1904; mar. Jason B. Dickor.

- E. Seriah Merrill Pratt, carpenter, Turner Village, b. October 15, 1842; d. Nov. 17, 1916; mar. 1875, Mary E. Foot, b. Aug. 11, 1853, d. Nov. 13, 1920.

Child:

1. Dr. Ralph D. Pratt, Middleburg, Pennsylvania; b. April 28, 1876; mar. Mary Tarbell.

Children:

- (a) Alfred Pratt, Harrisburg, Pa.

- (b) Maxa Pratt; mar. Claude Richards.

- F. Thomas M. Pratt, b. May 25, 1845; d. Feb. 4, 1924. mar. Osca Bigelow, b. Jan. 2, 1848; d. March 1, 1926.

Children:

1. Warren B. Pratt, b. June 30, 1883; mar. Elva Alden.

Child:

- (a) Alden Pratt, b. Feb. 20, 1916.

2. Harold B. Pratt, Auburn, Me.; b. Sept. 22, 1884; mar. Ethel Smith, b. July 16, 1882.

3. Irma L. Pratt, b. March 3, 1886; mar. Aug. 30 1913 Russell M. Chase, b. Dec. 27, 1877.

Child:

- (i) Arthur Thomas Chase, b. Dec. 27,
1928.

4. Felia Pratt, b. Aug. 20, 1891; mar.
Aug. 20, 1919 Fred E. Young, b. May 7,
1891.

Child:

- (a) Evelyn Esca Young, b. Aug. 6, 1923.

- II. Lucy Pratt, born November 5, 1801; died February 27,
1828; mar. January 1, 1826, Branch Leavitt.

Children:

- A. Nancy M. Leavitt, b. May 3, 1829; d.
December 6, 1910; mar. Charles Berry,
Turner Maine.

Children:

1. Clara M. Berry, b. August 20, 1854; d.
December 29, 1933; mar. Benjamin Jones,
b. December 28, 1851; d. January 3, 1903.

Children:

- (a) Julia Ada Jones, b. December 31, 1878;
mar. June 6, 1906 Lewis Monroe Irish,
Rumford Falls, b. May 27, 1879.

Child:

- (i) Benjamin Jones Irish, b. October 13,
1909, mar. Mary Kathleen Farrell,
October 2, 1933.

- (ii) Horace Mason Irish, b. February 20,
1912; mar. Lillian Fallardeau.

Children:

- (1) Lewis Mason Irish, b. June 2,
1936.

- (2) Dennis Jones Irish, b. June 19,
1940.

- (3) Julie Ann Irish, b. June 3,
1943.

- (iii) Maynard Monroe Irish, b. January 19,
1916; mar. Shirley M. Woolaver,
October 1943.

(b) Lucy Leavitt Jones, b. February 22, 1885; d. February 27, 1933; mar. June 23, 1908 Elisha L. Stetson, Rumford Falls, b. March 7, 1883.

Children:

(1) Clara Martha Stetson, b. July 13, 1909; mar. September 5, 1932 Raymond Howard.

Child:

(1) Lucy Minnet Howard, b. February 20, 1942.

(11) Robert Stetson, b. June 3, 1914.

2. Ada Mary Berry, b. August 24, 1863; d. August 15, 1933; mar. Elisha Pratt, Rumford Falls, b. October 23, 1856; d. February 1, 1937 (son of Timothy Pratt).

B. James Madison Leavitt, b. September 2, 1826; d. February 19, 1903. (founded Leavitt Institute); mar. 1857, Clara Bates (daughter of Rev. George Bates); d. November 2, 1902.

C. Lewis Leavitt, b. May 11, 1834; mar.¹ Persis Berry.

Children:

1. Frederic Augustus Leavitt.

2. Abbie Berry Leavitt, b. June 16, 1859; d. November 3, 1933; mar. 1880 Asa M. Gilman, b. September 6, 1857.

Children:

(a) Fred Lewis Gilman, d. ae 12.

(b) Madison Leavitt Gilman, b. April 26, 1893; mar. Edith Pattengall.

Children:

(i) Jane Gilman, mar.¹ _____ Carr.

Child:

(a) Abbie Carr.

mar.² Robert D. Whitney.

(11) William Pattengall Gilman.

mar.² Jane Bisbee.

Child:

3. Adeline Jackson Leavitt.

Children:

(a) Adeline Leavitt.

(b) Ramona Leavitt.

(c) _____.

(d) _____.

D. Rebecca Leavitt, b. March 13, 1836; d.
May 11, 1856; mar. Wallace Copeland.

Child:

1. Rebecca Copeland, b. May 11, 1856.

III. Rebecca Pratt, b. April 9, 1806; d. August 16,
1849; mar. April 1, 1830 Alanson Richmond,
Turner, Maine, son of Nathan Richmond.

Child:

A. Elisha Richmond, mar. Nellie Prescott.

Child:

1. Walter Elisha Richmond.

IV. Mercy Pratt, b. June 1, 1807; d. February 11,
1884; mar. May 30, 1850, _____ Packard.

V. Elisha Pratt, b. March 13, 1808; d. May 26,
1813.

VI. Deborah Pratt, b. May 22, 1810; d. April 10, 1887.
mar.¹ Thomas McCollister, Jr., Canton, Me.;
d. Oct. 20, 1844, ae. 36.

Children:

A. John T. McCollister; b. Feb. 1843; d.
Feb. 1844.

B. Lewis A. McCollister; b. May 1842; d. March 12,
1848.

mar.² Harvey Reed, d. Oct. 24, 1857, ae. 46 yrs.,
4 mos.

Child:

C. Oliver Charles Pratt, b. May 25, 1849; d. Jan. 3, 1924; mar. 1875 Pratt 13, Keen's Mills, Me.; d. September 23, 1847 (c.v.).

mar.³ Charles Herbert Ficker, Livermore Center, Me.; d. July 23, 1890, age 83 yrs., 9 mos.

- VII. Timothy Pratt, of Turner, b. August 9, 1812; d. June 23, 1906. Died in 1836 the Pratt homestead on North Parish Road presently standing; mar. April 24, 1836 Betsey Jones (died Benjamin), b. April 28, 1814; d. January 9, 1896. Betsey's mother was Elizabeth Allen whose mother was Polly Thayer; William⁴, Thomas⁴, Nicholas³, Thomas³, John³, of Weymouth, Mass., ancestor of William (Mabel).

Children:

A. Mary Jane Pratt, Turner Maine, b. June 28, 1836; d. June 8, 1913; mar. June 9, 1864 Amos Leavitt, b. December 2, 1839; d. December 16, 1936.

Children:

1. Sarah Ranstead Pratt, b. March 8, 1868; mar. April 26, 1894 Elwin B. Tinkham, Turner, Maine, b. December 17, 1869; d. February 21, 1938.

2. Susan Leavitt Pratt, b. March 22, 1871; d. February 6, 1920.

B. Harrison Merrill Pratt, b. June 22, 1840; d. July 17, 1889; mar.¹ August 13, 1866 Sarah Ranstead, d. December 1867.

mar.² Mary Parsons.

Child:

1. Harrison Merrill Pratt II, b. August 18, 1875; mar. October 5, 1897 Laura Beaumont, b. October 19, 1877.

Child:

(a) Laura Beaumont Pratt, b. March 2, 1902; mar. May 27, 1924, Benjamin Strong, Jr., b. August 3, 1896; res. R.F.D. #2, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.

Children:

- (i) Benjamin Strong, b. March 23, 1925.
- (ii) John Strong.
- (iii) Laura Strong.

mar. 3 February 2, 1885 Anna Charlotte Boothby,
b. March 20, 1861; d. July 14, 1898.

- C. Sarson Chase Pratt, Turner, Maine; lived on
Pratt homestead, North Parish Road; fought
in 16th Maine Regiment in Civil War; b.
September 21, 1842; d. June 26, 1918; mar.
September 21, 1868 Harriet Alma Bonney, b.
January 5, 1847; d. March 15, 1901 (ancestors:
Thomas Bonney, John and Priscilla Alden,
Gov. William Bradford).

Children:

1. Alice Bonney Pratt, b. March 3, 1872; mar.
June 18, 1902, William Bradford, Turner,
Maine, b. February 25, 1870; d. June 13,
1940.

Children:

- (a) Charles Pratt Bradford, Augusta, Maine;
b. August 20, 1904; mar. Rosa H.
Hodgkins, August 3, 1940.

- (b) Harriett Bradford, b. April 19, 1906;
mar. Naaman Barnes.

Children:

- (i) Betsy Alice Barnes, b. December 17,
1934.
- (ii) Lois Carol Barnes, b. December 28,
1937.

2. Edith Belle Pratt, b. February 24, 1875;
mar. September 10, 1902 James Porter
Russell, Newton, Massachusetts; b. May 11,
1877; d. September 28, 1932.

Children:

- (a) Francis Henry Russell, State Department,
Washington, D. C.; b. October 1, 1904;
mar. June 16, 1932 Ruth Alene Libbey.

Children:

- (i) Paul Libbey Russell, b. December 13,
1934.
- (ii) Alene Julia Russell, b. January 15,
1940.

(b) Portia Russell, b. August 21, 1906;
mar. October 11, 1931 Richard
Austin Winslow, Auburndale, Mass.

Child:

(i) Russell Austin Winslow, b.
Oct. 27, 1934.

(c) Robert Pratt Russell, Melrose, Mass.,
b. Oct. 28, 1909; mar. July 2, 1932
Ruth Jeannette Lowry.

Children:

(i) Ann Russell, b. July 3, 1933.
(ii) James Porter Russell, b.
Sept. 1, 1936.
(iii) George Lebaron Russell, b. Dec. 5,
1941.

(d) Elizabeth Russell, b. April 3, 1912.

D. Timothy Lloyd Pratt, b. Dec. 7, 1845; d.
May 1, 1921; mar. May 26, 1872 Jennett
Jones, b. Dec. 13, 1849; d. April 22, 1876.

Children:

1. Jennie May Pratt, b. Feb. 13, 1874; d.
Sept. 4, 1943; mar. June 12, 1916 Ned
Willis, Auburn, Maine, b. July 3, 1870.
2. Gertrude Ella Pratt, b. April 8, 1876.
mar.² December 15, 1880 Elizabeth F. Metcalf,
b. May 3, 1845; d. December 25, 1919.
3. Grace Whitman Pratt, res. 100 Nichols St.,
Lewiston, Maine, b. June 30, 1884; mar.
Aug. 28, 1907 Albert Garfield Johnson,
b. January 6, 1882; d. October 19, 1918.

Children:

(a) Myron Lloyd Johnson, b. June 21, 1908;
mar. June 27, 1933 Barbara Rose
McCullough b. September 11, 1908.

Children:

(i) Nancy Marilyn Johnson, b. Aug. 19,
1934.
(ii) Patricia Ann Johnson, b. June 5,
1937.
(iii) Philip Frederick Johnson, b.
June 18, 1938.

(b) Margaret Elizabeth Johnson, b. April 15, 1911; mar. September 9, 1936, Wilfrid John Maclean, b. April 6, 1910.

Children:

- (1) David Douglas Maclean, b. Feb. 27, 1941.
(11) Mary Elizabeth Maclean, b. May 3, 1944.

B. Charles Clifford Pratt, b. June 19, 1848; d. Jan. 25, 1927; mar. May 2, 1874, Edith Briggs, b. April 2, 1853.

F. Elisha Pratt, Rumford Falls, Me., b. Oct. 23, 1856; d. Feb. 1, 1937; mar. May 1, 1876 Ada Marr Berry, b. Aug. 24, 1863; d. Aug. 15, 1933.

G. Rebecca Pratt, Kenosha, Wis., b. Oct. 23, 1856; d. Jan. 4, 1944; mar. May 1, 1876, Perkins C. Torrey, b. Oct. 3, 1842; d. April 25, 1925.

Children:

1. Lottie Ethel Torrey, b. Sept. 27, 1877; mar. June 27, 1901 Edward A. de Diemar, Cincinnati, Ohio, b. May 13, 1876.

Children:

- (a) Edmonston Pratt de Diemar, b. April 28, 1905; d. April 29, 1905.
(b) Torrey Mills de Diemar, b. Oct. 23, 1909; d. Aug. 19, 1911.
(c) Ruth Rosemary de Diemar, b. Dec. 24, 1911; mar. Leighton Winthrop Mitchell.

Child:

- (1) Torrey Leighton Mitchell, b. Feb. 17, 1942.
(11) Douglass de Diemar Mitchell, b. Feb. 29, 1948.
2. Charles Torrey, b. Oct. 30, 1882; d. Sept. 5, 1927; mar. Nov. 14, 1907 Myrtle Esme Williams, b. April 6, 1885.

VIII. Elisha Pratt, Turner, Me.; b. Jan. 3, 1815; d. Sept. 11, 1880; mar. May 2, 1839 Susan Jones, b. 1820; d. March 22, 1897.

Children:

- A. Jeannette Jones Pratt, b. Jan. 28, 1840;
d. July 18, 1926; mar. Aug. 8, 1861 Joseph
D. Jones, b. November 14, 1837, d. 1904.

Children:

1. Clarence E. Jones, b. July 9, 1862; d.
June 7, 1930; mar. Jan. 15, 1891,
Winona Hale.

Children:

- (a) Linus Hale Jones, b. Dec. 25, 1893;
mar. Ethelyn Streeter, Oct. 1, 1927.

Children:

- (i) Freeman Streeter Jones, b. Oct. 27,
1928.
(ii) Miles Hale Jones, b. Sept 17, 1932.
(b) William Bartlett Jones, b. March 14,
1895.
(c) Clarence Hale Jones, b. April 23, 1899;
mar. Mabel Clark, May 19, 1923.

Child:

- (i) Priscilla Louise Jones, b. Jan. 12,
1925.
(d) Elmer Jones, b. March 28, 1903; mar.
Anna Rush, Oct. 1924.

Child:

- (i) William Bartlett Jones, b. Feb. 17,
1929.
(e) Ruth Jones, b. April 1, 1908; mar.
June 17, 1933 Joseph S. Schmidt.

Child:

- (i) John Joseph Schmidt, b. May 17, 1938.

2. Alice E. Jones, b. July 30, 1868; mar.
Oct. 12, 1892 Levi P. Churchill, Myricks,
Mass., b. May 24, 1864.

Child:

- (a) Phoebe M. Churchill, b. May 11, 1894;
mar. Bion Pierce.

Child:

- (i) Estelle May Pierce.

3. Benjamin Oliver Jones, b. July 28, 1882;
mar. 1914 Grace Haskins

Children:

(a) Jeannette Estelle Jones, b. April 18,
1915

(b) Eleanor Mary Jones, b. Nov. 25, 1920;
mar. Oct. 2, 1943 William Robert
Sechrist

(c) Rossa Pratt Jones, b. Feb. 17, 1923

4. Daniel Jones, b. March 14, 1885

- B. Rossa Jones^{Pratt}, b. 1844; d. April 6, 1882; mar.
William O. Jones, b. Feb. 4, 1835, brother
of Joseph, her sister's husband

Children:

1. Harry Edes Jones, b. July 3, 1869; d.
April 1889.

2. Claude P. Jones, b. June 2, 1875; d.
Dec. 1922.

- C. Julia E. Jones^{Pratt}, b. July 15, 1855; d. April 26,
1894; mar. 1873 Crawford Humphrey, b.
Dec. 30, 1849; d. Nov. 17, 1928.

Children:

1. Forest B. Humphrey, b. 1875; d. Feb. 11,
1943; mar. Louise Chapin, Oct. 19, 1910.

Child:

(a) Horace Chapin Humphrey, b. March 13,
1922.

2. Susie Bernice, Humphrey, b. 1879; mar.
Clifford Archer, 1902

Children:

(a) Maurice C. Archer, b. 1905
(b) Julia Martha Archer, b. 1907
(c) Susie Bernice Archer, b. 1909
(d) Crawford Archer, b. 1910
(e) Elwood Elisha Archer, b. 1912

3. Mary M. Humphrey, b. Oct. 7, 1881; d.
1936; mar. 1904 William S. Marquis, b.
April 11, 1877.

Child:

(a) Lorette Estelle Marquis, b. Sept. 2,
1908; mar. 1936 Ethan Pearson.

4. Edith P. Humphrey, b. 1885; mar. Guy
Patterson, 1906.

IX. Mahala Pratt, b. Feb. 26, 1817; d. July 25, 1866;
mar. Feb. 26, 1834 Sarson Chase.

Children:

A. Deborah Chase, b. May 7, 1839; d. June 1919;
mar. Silas T. McKenney, Boston, Massachusetts.

Child:

1. Charlotte J. McKenney, b. Nov. 12, 1863; d.
1932; mar. Charles North Cartwright,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Children:

(a) Charles North Cartwright, Jr., Washington,
D. C., b. Oct. 26, 1893; mar. Nov. 20,
1920, Lena L. Adams.

Child:

(i) Lois Cartwright, b. Aug. 17, 1921;
mar. James Gutzwiller, Dec. 1942.

(b) Richard Chase Cartwright, b. May 15,
1902, Milton, Massachusetts; mar.
Florence Kinsley.

Children:

(i) Jane Cartwright, b. Sept. 1, 1928
(cover of Life, Jan. 12, 1948).
(ii) Patricia Cartwright, b. Sept. 25,
1932.

B. Eliza Chase, mar. William Thompson, Abington,
Mass.

Child:

1. Albert Thompson

C. Rebecca Chase, b. Oct. 10, 1845; d. Feb. 18,
1923; mar. James Cooper, Brockton, Mass.

Children:

1. Charles Cooper, b. Nov. 13, 1869; d. June,
1934; Brockton.

2. Harriet Cooper, b. July 7, 1771;
Res. Brockton, Massachusetts.

3. Hazel Cooper, b. July 12, 1881;
mar. Joel E. McNatt, res. 1441
Corson Street, Pasadena, Cal.

Child:

(a) Colleen Rebecca McNatt, b. Mar. 9,
1928.

D. Clara Chase, mar. George Freeman, res.
Plymouth, Mass.

Children:

1. Charles Freeman, b. _____; d. 1930.

2. Mabel Freeman, b. _____; d. 1938.

(Please send any additional information or
corrections to Francis H. Russell, 9632 Kensington
Parkway, Kensington, Maryland.)