



# Historic homes and places and genealogical and personal memoirs relating to the families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Volume 4)

*William Richard Cutter*

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Genealogical and Personal Memoirs.

(For first generation see Thomas Sawyer 1.)  
SAWYER

(II) Caleb Sawyer, son of Thomas Sawyer (i), born at

Lancaster, April 20, 1659, died there February 13, 1755. He married, December 28, 1687, Sarah, daughter of Ralph Houghton, died November 15, 1757, in her ninetieth year. He had a grant of thirty acres on the east side of Bare Hill, now Harvard. He probably built his house soon after the massacre of 1697, and he was in the Bare Hill garrison in 1704. Near his home was the famous "Rendezvous" tree, often mentioned in old records. Sawyer outlived all other pioneer settlers of Harvard. His old house, now or lately owned by James Ford, is still known as the Washington Warner place. Before his death Caleb divided his farm between his sons Seth and Jonathan. Seth lived in the old house with his father; Jonathan built a new house to the northward. Caleb was selectman in 1737. He married, December 28, 1687, Sarah Houghton, whose brother James went to Harvard to settle with him and is the ancestor of the Houghtons of Harvard. Children: i. Jonathan, mentioned below. 2. John. 3. Hepsibah, baptized at Lancaster, 1708. 4. Abigail, baptized 1708. 5. Seth, born 1705, baptized with Hepsibah and Abigail; died March 29, 1768.

(III) Captain Jonathan, Sawyer, son of Caleb Sawyer (2), born in Lancaster, 1690. He removed with his parents to Harvard when a lad, and lived there all his life; was selectman 1734, on building committee of the church 1732. He was in the Lancaster Troop, and in 1737 succeeded Captain Thomas Carter as captain under Colonel wSamuel Willard. He married Elizabeth Wheelock. Children, baptized in First Church of Lancaster: i. Jonathan, born 1716. 2. Elizabeth, 1717. 3. Caleb, 1720; a prominent citizen of Harvard. 4. Lois, 1724. 5. Olive, 1726. 6. Sarah, 1727. 7. Manasseh, mentioned below. 8. Lois, 1732.

(IV) Manasseh Sawyer, son of Jonathan Sawyer (3), was born in Harvard, 1729, baptized in First Church of Lancaster. He had half his father's homestead, upon which he built his house. He bequeathed his home to his son, Luther, who left it to his son Arad,

and all three generations spent their lives on this farm. He had the third seat in the meeting house in 1775. He marched to Lexington, April 19, 1775, under Captain Joseph Fairbanks, regiment of Colonel Asa Whitcomb. He was too old to enter the Continental army, but on the Rhode Island alarm, 1777, served again under Captain Hezekiah Whitney, Colonel Josiah Whitney's regiment. He married at Harvard, February 18, 1756, Lydia, born August 16, 1731, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Brown) Fairbanks, descendant of Jonathan Fairbanks, of Dedham. Children, born at Harvard: i. Jonathan, March 9, 1758. 2. Jabez, December 24, 1759.

3. Lydia, November 30, 1761. 4. Rhoda, March 30, 1764. 5. Abijah, August 12, 1766. 6. Manasseh, Jr.,

mentioned below. 7. Joseph, April 4, 1771. 8. Luther, April 18,

1773-

(V) Manasseh Sawyer, Jr., son of Manasseh Sawyer (4), was born in Harvard, September 6, 1768. He received a common school education, was naturally studious, given to reading, and took a lively interest in public questions. He was one of the ten who founded the Harvard Social Library, 1808. His farm was on Bare Hill, some fifty acres, and he owned various other lots. He was prosperous, and for his time had a large property. Of large physique, quiet and self-possessed in manner, he commanded the respect of all his townsmen. He was a member of the Harvard church. He died at Harvard. He married, April 22, 1789, Mercy Mead, born at Harvard, February 15, 1769, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Willard) Mead. Her father was born June 18, 1732, son of Samuel Mead, who came from Littleton, Massachusetts, to Harvard. Children, born at Harvard: i. Jonathan, July 26, 1789. 2. Manasseh. July 28, 1791. 3. Rebecca, November 14, 1793; died September 16, 1798. ...

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