

FIRST GENERATION

1 JAMES COLE, of Plymouth, Mass. The earliest information obtained of James Cole, whose name stands at the head of the family in America, dates from 1616, when he was living at Highgate, a suburb of London, England. He is spoken of as a great lover of flowers, and it is probably due to this fact that he became acquainted with and married Mary Lobel, a daughter of the noted botanist and physician, Mathieu Lobel.

Mathieu Lobel was born in Lille in 1538. He was the son of Jean De Lobel, a distinguished lawyer. Mathieu was a physician at Montpellier, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland; he also practiced medicine in Antwerp, being attached as physician to William of Orange; from Antwerp he came to London, and became physician to James I. He was a great student of vegetable physiology, and was the author of a number of books upon medicinal plants. It was he who first discovered the medicinal qualities of the plant Lobelia, and gave the plant its name, using his own name and adding the letters "ia." He died in Highgate, London, March 2, 1616.

James Cole and Mary Lobel were married in 1624. Their first children, James and Hugh, were probably born in London. They came to Saco, Maine, in 1632, and the following year, 1633, located in Plymouth, Mass., where he was admitted as freeman the same year. He was known as a sailor. His name appears upon the tax list of Plymouth in 1634; Jan. 2, 1636, he had a grant of ten acres of land; Jan. 2, 1637, the court deeded him seven acres of land to belong to his dwelling house. Three acres of land probably included all the land on the south side of Leydon Street, from the corner of Warren Street to the westerly line of the lot opposite the Universalist Church. His dwelling stood on the lot next below the Baptist Church. He was the first settler of and lived upon what is still known as "Cole's Hill," the first burial ground of the Pilgrims. This land probably included the ground upon which rests Plymouth Rock. In September, 1641, he had a grant of fifty acres of land at Lakenham meadow. In October, 1642, he had a further grant of land at the same place. In 1662 a grant of land at Sacconet Neck. In 1665 he had thirty acres of land on the west side of the Namuet River. He was surveyor of highways in the years, 1641, 42, 51, and 52; was constable in 1641 and 1644. In 1637 his name appears upon a list of volunteers against the Pequot Indians.

Soon after his arrival at Plymouth he opened the first inn or public house of Plymouth, and one of if not the first, public house in New England. This house was kept as a public house by him and his son James until 1698.

In 1668 he sold to his son James the land down to and including the lot upon which stands the Baptist Church. In 1689 his son James sold it to William Shurtliffe.

I have been unable to find any record of the death of James Cole or his wife Mary.

Children

- 2 i James, b. 1625, in London, England.
- 3 ii Hugh, b. 1627, in London, England.
- 4 iii John, b. Nov. 21, 1637, in Plymouth, Mass.
- 5 iv Mary, b. 1639, in Plymouth, Mass.; m. (1) John Almy, who was a captain in the war against King Phillip; he d. Oct. 1, 1676; m. (2) John Pooke. She d. without children.

SECOND GENERATION

2 JAMES COLE (James¹), 1st child, b. London, England, 1626; came with his father to Plymouth in 1633; m. (1) Dec. 23, 1652, Mary Tilson; m. (2) Abigail Davenport. He removed to Scituate, and from there to York, Maine, and probably from there to Kennebuck, Maine, where he remained but a short time, as he was admitted as freeman of Plymouth in 1654. Was surveyor of highways in Plymouth in 1656; he held this office again in 1678 and 1685. He was the representative for Plymouth in 1690. He purchased property from his father in 1668, including the inn or public house, which business he kept for many years. Judge Sewell, in his diary under date of Mch. 8, 1698, says: "I get to Plymouth about noon and stop at Coles. This house was built by Governor Winslow and is the oldest in Plymouth." He died in Plymouth in 1712.

Children

- 6 -- i Mary, b. Dec. 16, 1653.
- 7 ii John, b. Mch. 16, 1660.
- 8 iii Nathaniel.
- 9 iv Ephraim.
- 10 v Elizabeth, m. Elkanah Cushman.
- 11 vi Martha, m. Nathan Howland.
- 12 vii Joanna, m. Thomas Howland.
- 13 viii Hannah, m. Elisha Bradford.

These names probably do not appear in the order of their birth.

3 HUGH COLE (James¹), 2d son, b. London, England, 1627; he came with his father to Plymouth, Mass., in 1633, and was admitted as freeman of Plymouth in 1657. He m. (1) Jan. 8, 1654, Mary Foxwell, daughter of Richard and Ann (Shelly) Foxwell of Barnstable, Mass. She was b. in Scituate, Aug. 17, 1635, and d. in Swansea, Mass. (Richard Foxwell came from England with Governor Winthrop in 1631, and the same year removed to Scituate and was admitted as freeman. He removed to Barnstable and was a member of the Barnstable Militia in 1643.) He m. (2) Jan. 1, 1689, Elizabeth, widow of Jacob Cook, former widow of William Shurtliffe, and daughter of Thomas and Ann Lettuce of Plymouth. She d. in Swansea, Mass., Oct. 31, 1693. He m. (3) Jan. 30, 1694, Mary, widow of Deacon Ephraim Morton, former widow of William

Harlow, and daughter of Robert and Judith Shelly, a cousin of his first wife.

The following appears upon the Plymouth records: "Apl. 8, 1634 It was agreed with James Cole that his son Hugh shall keep the Cowes from Apl. 15 to November, and shall have for his pay fifty bushels of corn. He shall bring them up every morning to be milked and then carry back to feed and bring them home at night."

He was made surveyor of highways at Barnstable, and granted 100 acres of land at Acushauett. In 1667 with others he purchased of King Phillip 500 acres of land on the west bank of what was named for him Coles River. He was a shipwright and civil engineer, and many of the tracts of land of Swansea were surveyed by him. He was a selectman of Swansea for many years, and was representative and deputy to the general court in the years, 1773, '74, '75, '80, '83, '84, '85, '86', and '89. He was for years the friend of King Phillip (the Indian chief). Having been requested by the Plymouth Colony Council to visit King Phillip and report the conditions made the following report:

"Swansea, Apl. 1, 1671. Most Honorable Sirs:—Yours I received this day whereby I perceive you desire to know what posture the Indians are in. I do not find them to continue in a posture of war as they have been. I went to Mount Hope last second day on purpose to see their proceedings and was in many of their houses, but saw nothing as intending to war. But asking them of their reason of continuing together at Mt. Hope, they answered, it was to see Phillip's child buried, and I have seen some return, but the greater part of them are together. And they gave as the reason, because the wind does so blow against them that they cannot go home with their canoes—not else. Rest assured I am yours to command what I am able.

" HUGH COLE."

" Oct. 27, 1669."

Hugh Cole was granted fifty acres of land lying between Manneonest Point and the Salt Marsh with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto him and his heirs forever. (Page 149, vol. 3, Plymouth Records.) He was granted by the court respecting his father's grant, he being an ancient freemen. Six score acres of land between the Mattapoiset River and the bounds of Acushasset.

In June, 1675, at the commencement of the war with King Phillip, two of Hugh Cole's sons were made prisoners by the Indians and taken to Phillip at Mount Hope. Phillip ordered them set at liberty, because, as he said, Hugh Cole had always been his friend. He sent word to Hugh that he could no longer restrain his warriors, and for him to take his

family and immediately remove to Rhode Island. This he did, and one hour afterward his home was in flames. While he had been on such friendly terms with Phillip, his was the first house burned, and Gershom Cole was the first person killed. After leaving his home Hugh Cole located at Portsmouth, R. I. The town records of Portsmouth show that, Oct. 12, 1675, Hugh Cole was granted liberty to use some of the windfalls that are down to build a small frame, and to make wheels for the use of the townsmen for their money. Savage says: "Hugh was a sergeant in the war against King Phillip." After the war in his election as representative he is always spoken of as sergeant. After the close of the war, 1677, he returned to Swansea and built a house a few rods from where Miss Abby Cole now lives. The well walled by him on the bank of the Kickemuit River is still there. This part of the land has descended by will, no deed having been made for it; it has never passed out of possession of the Cole family and is now owned by Miss Abby Cole. Part of the land owned by him in Swansea is now a part of Warren, R. I.

He died in Swansea, Jan. 22, 1699, and was buried in the Southern extreme of Meadow Neck, now known as Howland Meadow in Barrington, in what is known as the Tyler Point Cemetery. He had ten children, the first seven were born in Plymouth, the other three in Swansea.

Children

- 14 i James, b. Nov. 3, 1655; m. Mary.
- 15 ii Hugh, b. Mch. 6, 1658.
- 16 iii John, b. May 15, 1660.
- 17 iv Martha, b. Apl. 16, 1662, d. 1711; m. John Brooks. They had no children.
- 18 v Anna, b. Dec. 14, 1664.
- 19 vi Ruth, b. Jan. 8, 1666.
- 20 vii Joseph, b. May 18, 1668. Supposed to have died young.
- 21 viii Ebenezer, b. 1671. *
- 22 ix Mary, b. 1676.
- 23 x Benjamin, b. 1678.

4 JOHN COLE (James¹), 3d ch., b. Plymouth, Mass., Nov. 21, 1637; d. Swansea, 1677; m. Nov. 21, 1667, Elizabeth Ryder, daughter of Samuel Ryder of Yarmouth. He was one of the original proprietors of Swansea, Mass., signing the agreement at the organization of the town. June 6, the following appears: "Ordered by the court, in regard to the estate of John Cole. Forasmuch as the estate is small, and there being four small children to bring up, that the whole personal estate be settled upon his widow for the bringing up of the children, and the profits of the land until the children become of age. In case there shall be necessity for

Child

53 i Abigail, b. —————; m. John Brown, July 2, 1696.

15 HUGH COLE (Hugh², James¹), 2d ch., b. Plymouth, Mass., Mch. 8, 1658; m. Deborah Buckland, May 6, 1681. She was b. Sept., 1660; d. Dec. 7, 1724; was the daughter of Joseph and Deborah (Allen) Buckland. Hugh Cole was admitted as freeman of Swansea, Nov. 12, 1680. He d. Feb. 17, 1738. Both he and his wife are buried in the Kickemuit burying ground. The house built by him, probably in 1681, is still standing, some additions having been made thereto. (See cut of same on opposite page.)

Children, all born in Swansea

- 54 i Deborah, b. Feb. 11, 1682; m. John Cole, son of John³, John², James¹.
 55 ii Hugh, b. May 30, 1683.
 56 iii Mary, b. Apl. 17, 1686.
 57 iv Joseph, b. Mch. 19, 1687.
 58 v Lydia, b. Oct. 7, 1691.
 59 vi James, b. June 11, 1699.
 60 vii Hannah, b. July 1, 1702; d. Dec. 26, 1790; m. Nicholas Thomas.
 61 viii Deborah, b. Feb. 11, 1704.
 62 ix Christian, b. date unknown.
 63 x Bethiah, b. date unknown.

16 JOHN COLE (Hugh², James¹), 3d ch., b. Plymouth, Mass., May 15, 1660; m. (1) Susannah (maiden name and the date of their marriage unknown); m. (2) Sarah, probably the widow of Zacheus Butts, Aug. 15, 1712. He d. June 25, 1748. She d. Jan. 16, 1749. They were both buried in the Kickemuit burying ground. The house built by John Cole before the year 1700 is still standing (see cut on opposite page). Savage in his Plymouth Records gives the children of John Cole, son of Hugh, and states "he lived in Plympton." This is an error. The John he speaks of was the son of James¹; they were both b. 1660. The will of John Cole, dated Sept. 22, 1742, begins with: "I, John Cole, son of Hugh"; speaks of "wife Sarah"; gives to daughter Susanna Rounds five pounds; to his daughters, Mary Luther and Hannah Hammond, 28 pounds each; to his granddaughter, Elizabeth, 15 pounds; to my son, John, who has and does take care of me, all of the farm where I dwell in Swansea aforesaid"—hereafter follows a description of the land, "also all my household goods, cattle, etc., and constitute him my executor. Signed in the presence of Thomas Easterbrook, Caleb Cole, Joseph Mason, and Benjamin Cole, his brother." At the time of the will this land was in Swansea, but at the time the will was probated it had become a part of Warren, Rhode Island.

Children (Sisson)

- 195 i Benjamin, b. Aug. 2, 1722.
 196 ii Mercy, b. Feb. 12, 1725; m. Ebenezer Luther, Mch. 25, 1756.
 197 iii Gilbert, b. Aug. 15, 1730; m. Mary ———.
 198 iv Gideon, b. June 21, 1733; d. Apl. 12, 1819; m. Abigail Chase,
 Mch. 1, 1765.

59 JAMES COLE (Hugh³, Hugh², James¹), 6th ch., b. Swansea, Mass., June 11, 1699; d. 1751; m. Apl. 25, 1723, Dorothy Chaffee, d. June 25, 1759. Both are buried in Kickemuit burying ground.

Children

- 199 i Simeon, b. Jan. 25, 1723; m. Hannah Kingsley, Feb. 14, 1744.
 They probably had children, as in the settlement of the estate of his brother James, the heirs of Simeon are mentioned.
 200 ii Sybel, b. Sept. 8, 1725; m. Lewis Wheaton, July 20, 1750.
 201 iii James, b. Feb. 28, 1730; d. Jan. 24, 1731.
 202 iv James, b. May 30, 1732; d. May 29, 1734.
 203 v Hannah, b. Apl. 29, 1734.
 204 vi Rachel, b. Sept. 25, 1727.
 205 vii Lydia, b. Jan. 2, 1735; d. Dec. 1, 1735.
 206 viii James, b. Sept. 27, 1737; d. 1754.
 207 ix Dorothy, b. Feb. 17, 1739; d. Apl., 1754.
 208 x Lydia, b. 1744.

62 CHRISTIAN COLE (Hugh³, Hugh², James¹), 9th ch., b. Swansea, Mass., date of birth or death unknown. She m. Apl. 25, 1705, Nathaniel Kingsley, son of Eldad and Mehitable (Mowry) Kingsley. He was b. Feb. 5, 1678; d. July 12, 1752.

Children (Kingsley)

- 209 i Oliver, b. Dec. 11, 1705; d. Jan. 8, 1739; m. Freelove Hale,
 Dec. 3, 1729.
 210 ii Joseph, b. Mch. 28, 1709; d. Jan. 26, 1782; m. Susanna Barton,
 Nov. 30, 1735.
 211 iii Christian, b. Oct. 5, 1712; m. (1) Edward Knowles; m. (2)
 David Woods, Jan. 29, 1768.
 212 iv Hannah, b. Jan. 31, 1713; m. Edward Thurlow, Nov. 6, 1737.
 213 v Prudence, b. Aug. 23, 1714; m. Benjamin Carpenter of Providence.
 214 vi Rhoda, b. Feb. 2, 1720; d. Oct. 23, 1779; m. Rev. Russell
 Mason, June 5, 1736.
 214a vii Nathaniel, b. Jan. 16, 1723; d. unkm.
 214b viii Nathaniel, b. Jan. 29, 1728; d. unkm.