

SECOND GENERATION.

4. WILLIAM RAWSON² [2], (Edward¹), third son of Edward, was educated to a mercantile life, and became a prominent merchant and an importer of foreign goods. Up to the time of his marriage, in 1673, he resided with his father in Rawson's Lane, now Bromfield Street, Boston, where he kept a dry goods store. At the age of 22 years he was married to Anne Glover, only daughter of Mr. Nathaniel and Mary (Smith) Glover of Dorchester, Mass., as the following certificate, copied from the ancient Bible, will show:—

“This may certify all whomsoever it may concerne, that on y^e 11th day of July, 1673, on a certificate I received, that William Rawson and Anne Glover, y^e daughter of y^e late Mr. Nathaniel Glover, had been duly and legally published, I joined them in marriage at the house and in the presence of Mr. Habackuk Glover, his wife, Mr. Edward Rawson, father of y^e s^d William Rawson, and other friends. As witness my hand, this 31st of July, 1673.
EDWARD TYNG, Ass't.”

It seems they were faithful to the great and first command given to man—to be fruitful and multiply—for in the space of twenty-five years they had twenty children. Only five sons of them, however, living to grow up and have families of their own. He purchased a house of Mr. John Glover of Boston (an uncle of his wife), and must have resided in Boston some years.

In 1689, he sold his estate back to Mr. Glover, of whom he purchased, and removed with his family to Dorchester, where he resided upon a portion of “Newbury Farm,” inherited by his wife. He afterwards purchased of the heirs of his great uncle, the Rev. John Wilson, a tract of land situated in Braintree, “being a portion of the land granted to this most worthy and distinguished Divine by the General Court of the Colony,” which he made into a homestead, and which is now known as the “Ancient Rawson Farm.” It is situated near Neponset village, adjoining the homestead of the Hon. Josiah Quincy. It has been passed down from father to son, unto the fifth generation. From William to his son David, who left it to his son Jonathan in 1760, then to Jonathan, Jr., and his sister Mary, in 1782, between whom it was divided. In 1819, Jonathan, Jr., left his portion to his

son Samuel, who died in 1854, unmarried; leaving it to his sister Clarissa, now 75 years of age, and the only one of the children of Jonathan, Jr., still living. The other portion, owned by Mary and her husband, Mr. Lemuel Billings, passed into the hands of their son, John Billings, who left it to his son, Lemuel, who now owns the whole estate, having recently purchased of Clarissa Rawson her interest in the same. His house is on the same spot where the house of William Rawson once stood. Here, upon this spot, sacred to their memory, William and Anne lived nearly forty years; here they died. He, Sept. 20, 1726, in his 75th year. She, about 1730, aged 74 years.

His children were:—

- 5—1. ANN, b. April 11, 1674; d. infancy.
- 6—2. WILSON, b. 1675; d. infancy.
- 7—3. MARGARET, b. Aug. 1, 1676; d. infancy.
- 8—4. EDWARD, b. Sept. 6, 1677; d. infancy.
- 9—5. EDWARD, b. Aug. 29, 1678; d. infancy.
- 10—6. RACHAEL, b. Oct. 16, 1679; d. infancy.
- 11—7. DOROTHY, b. Aug. 8, 1681; d. Sept. 20, 1689.
- 12—8. WILLIAM [39], b. Dec. 8, 1682; m. Sarah Crosby. ✓
- 13—9. DAVID [48], b. Dec. 13, 1683; m. Mary Gulliver. ✓
- 14—10. DOROTHY, b. June 19, 1686; d. young.
- 15—11. EBENEZER, b. Dec. 1, 1687; d. Aug. 28, 1696.
- 16—12. THANKFUL, b. Aug. 6, 1688; d. Aug. 21, 1688.
- 17—13. NATHANIEL [61], b. Dec. 3, 1689; m. Hannah Thompson. ✓
- 18—14. EBENEZER, b. July 25, 1691; d. young.
- 19—15. EDWARD [67], b. Jan. 27, 1692; m. Preserved Bailey. ✓
- 20—16. ANN, b. Aug. 28, 1693; d. infancy.
- 21—17. PATIENCE, b. Nov. 8, 1694; d. Nov. 14, 1694.
- 22—18. PELETIAH [70], b. July 2, 1696; m. Hannah Hall. ✓
- 23—19. GRINDAL, b. Aug. 24, 1697; d. infancy.
- 24—20. MARY, b. Dec. 16, 1698; d. infancy.

[The names of the above twenty children are found recorded in the ancient family Bible.]

25. REBECCA, [9, page 7] the ninth child of our progenitor, Edward Rawson, and his sixth daughter, is the heroine of as romantic a story as can be found upon the pages of New England history. She was born May 23, 1656. Having been fondly nurtured and carefully educated, she was pronounced by her contemporaries one of the most beautiful, polite and accomplished young ladies in Boston. She is represented as being rather tall, genteel in person and graceful in manner, "with a pleasant wit." Having enjoyed the benefit of good society, she was greatly admired by the young men of family and distinction in the Province. Of a generous, loving disposition, often lifting her hand to relieve those in want or distress. A young man of quite respectable appearance and pleasing address made her acquaintance under the assumed name of Sir Thomas Hale, Jr., and represented that he was a nephew of Lord Chief Justice Hale of England, whence he recently came. As he seemed to be well acquainted with Sir Thomas Hale's family, and conducted himself as one becoming his professed rank, Rebecca and her family were inclined to place

confidence in him, and thus he won the love and respect of this most estimable young woman.

She was descended from one of the first families of Boston, and thought herself good enough to make the young lord a wife. Perhaps she was much elated with the idea of becoming a *lady* of distinction, residing across the water, and of being known and recognized as Lady Hale among her kinsfolk still living in England. They were accordingly married, July 1, 1679, by a "minister of the gospel, in the presence of near forty witnesses."

Being handsomely furnished, they embarked for England, where, in due time, they safely arrived. Anxious to set foot on land after such a long and tedious confinement on board ship, they went immediately on shore *en deshabelle*, leaving their trunks on board vessel; passing the first night at an inn, and the next at the house of one of her relatives. Early next morning he rose, took the keys, telling her he would go down to the vessel and have the trunks sent up in time for her to dress before dinner. The trunks came, and she waited patiently for him to come with the keys until two o'clock in the afternoon. When, upon breaking open the trunks, to her inexpressible surprise, she found herself completely stripped of everything. He had taken all articles of value out of the trunks, refilling them with worthless trash and combustible matter.

Thereupon, her kinsman ordered his carriage, and went with her to the place where they rested the previous night. She inquired for Sir Thomas Hale, Jr., but was told he had not been there for some days. She said she was sure he was there the night before. They said *Thomas Rumsey* had been there with a young lady, but was gone to his wife in Canterbury; and she never saw him afterwards. What a pang of anguish struck to the heart of this young wife as she at a glance took in her situation. Although among friends, her high hopes and expectations could not be realized; her cup of joy was thus suddenly dashed to earth. The man in whom she trusted had deceived her and her family, and acted the part of a villain. She also may have felt remorse at the disgrace she had brought upon her family in choosing him, and that it was a righteous judgment upon her for the pride and vanity she had entertained in thinking to become the wife of a nobleman. During a residence of thirteen years in England, following her abandonment, she learned many curious arts, such as painting on glass, &c., and by her ingenuity and industry procured a genteel subsistence for herself and child. Her pride did not allow her to be dependent upon her friends for support.

Finally, after almost numberless urgent solicitations and entreaties from her father and other friends in New England, to return home, she decided to do so, and took passage with one of her uncles in a vessel belonging to him, bound for Boston by the way of Port Royal in Jamaica. She left behind her child in the care of a sister who had no children and desired to keep it.

They arrived safely at Port Royal, but after a few days' delay, when about to set sail thence for Boston, the ship was swallowed up, with its passengers and crew, on the morning of the great earthquake (June 9, 1692), which is said to have destroyed all the shipping in the harbor as well as a portion of the town itself. Her uncle, who happened to be on shore at the time engaged in the settlement of his accounts, was the only person saved out of the entire ship's company to divulge the sad news of the fate of this most accomplished and talented young woman.

John G. Whittier published a book in 1849, entitled "Leaves from Margaret Smith's Journal, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay," in which Rebecca and her father fill prominent parts.

To show how adroitly Rumsey played his part in this eventful story, and how successful he was, not only in the Secretary's family but with others, in pecuniary matters, we print the following fact, which has come to notice: He gained the confidence of John Hull, treasurer and mint-master of the Colony, who advanced him £250, as he says, "in silver every shilling," on bills drawn on Sarah, Viscountess Crowden. Hull found her to be a myth, and Sir Thomas a slippery fellow. A copy of the sworn testimony of Theodore Atkinson and Mary his wife, inhabitants of Boston in New England, taken from the New England Historic and Genealogical Antiquarian, also saith:—

That about the third month in the year 1678, Thomas Rumsey came to me and tendered his service to me for one year to work wth mee; and he told me he was a Kentishman and that his father lived near Canterbury, and that his father was a yeoman and had an estate about four hundred a year; and also that his father died when he was but young and that his father's estate did fall to him at his mother-in-law's decease; and, also, he pretended that he came over to New England upon the account of religion; and, further, he hired himself wth mee for a year, for to attend my business and to keep my booke of accounts and for gathering in of my debts; but when he had been about a month with mee he pretended he was one that had been highly bred, but he would not say further what he was; but about five months after he came to mee, then he told mee his father was a Knight and Baronet, and that his mother-in-law was a Lady. So he lived and carryed himself, pretending he was highly bred, y^e I, the said Atkinson, did not set him on work because he promised mee he would satisfy mee for what charges and expenses I was out about him; but a little time after he came to mee he began to discover himself so as his religion did seem to wear away, and before the year was expired he changed his name and said his name was Hailes, and p^{ro}fessed he had been a great traveller in y^e Straights for about two-and-twenty months, and that his mother was called the Lady Hailes and paid him his money by Bills of exchange from time to time; that she was a lady that had three hundred p^{ar}añ of her own that she brought wth her, and that his father had about eight hundred a year and a vast estate which he durst not nor would mention lest he should be laughed at and not be believed, and that all his father's estate after his mother's decease was his. Those, and such like unheard of stories as those, in which there is not the least shadow of truth (as the Deponents are enformed), and as the deponents now perceive he made use off as a delusion to put a cheat on Mr. Edward Rawson of Boston afore said, to accomplish his abominable villainy and deceive him of his daughter, M^{rs}. Rebecca Rawson, who he was married unto by a minister of the Gospel on the first day of

July, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seventy-nine, in the presence of near forty witnesses.

26. GRINDAL RAWSON² [3] (Edward'), graduated at H. C., 1678. His wife, writing to Dr. Cotton Mather, after the death of her husband, says, "after he had taken his first degree, he was invited by his brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Torrey, to come to his house and study divinity there, which he did, with such proficiency that he was advised to enter upon preaching. He preached his first sermon at Medfield, with great acceptance, and after two months' occasional performances at other places, he received an invitation to Mendon," in the county of Worcester, Mass. This was Oct. 4, 1680. He continued to preach there until April 7, 1684, when he was permanently settled. He married Susanna Wilson, daughter of the Rev. John Wilson of Medfield, and sister of Dr. John Wilson of Braintree, and granddaughter of the Rev. John Wilson, first minister of Boston. They were distant relatives, "second or third cousins."

Cotton Mather, who was a classmate and friend of Grindal Rawson, in his preface to his sermon which he preached at the funeral of the latter, quotes the language used by President Urian Oakes, at the Commencement of 1678, when he conferred the degrees on the class of that year. It appears that "he took notice of three," John Cotton, Cotton Mather, and Grindal Rawson; and of the latter as follows:—

"Tertius grande quiddam sonans, *Grindallus Rawsonus* est; clarissimo quoque Genere natus; nam Pater ejus Honorandus illustrem in R. P. locum tenet; Pientissimus et ὀρθοδοξότατος JOHANNES WILSONUS Apostolicus Plane vir Proavunculus, Reverendissimusque EDMUNDUS GRINDALLUS, Archi-episcopus olim Cantuarensis, sanctissimus vir, tantumque non in Archi-Episcopatu Puritanus, Abavunculus, fuerunt. Detque Deus ut eruditione, sanctitate, Moribus optimis, et WILSONUM et GRINDALLUM exprimat."

It will be seen that President Oakes, by the use of the word *proavunculus*, makes John Wilson great-uncle of Edward Rawson. This must be erroneous, as Wilson was but twenty-seven years older than Edward Rawson, and the several manuscript memorials of the Rawsons name Wilson as uncle. The Latin quoted may be rendered thus:—

"The third, somewhat high-sounding, is GRINDAL RAWSON; sprung likewise from a most illustrious stock; for his Hon. father holds a high place in the State; the very pious and orthodox JOHN WILSON, a truly apostolic man, was his great-grandmother's brother, and the Right Reverend EDMUND GRINDAL, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, a most saintly man, and in the Archbishopric little less than a Puritan, his great-great-grandmother's brother. And may God grant that in learning, holiness and excellence of character, he may resemble both WILSON and GRINDAL."

Cotton Mather, in his sermon referred to, says of Grindal Rawson:—

“We generally esteemed him a truly pious man, and a very prudent one, and a person of *temper*, and every way qualified for a friend that might be delighted in. We honored him for his industrious oversight of the *Flock in the wilderness* which had been committed unto him, and the variety of successful *pains* which he took for the good of those to whom God had therefore exceedingly endeared him. We honored him for his *intellectual abilities*, which procured frequent applications to him, and brought him sometimes upon our most conspicuous theatres; and we usually took it for granted that things would be fairly done where he had an hand in the doing of them. We honored him for his doing the work of an *Evangelist* among our Indians, of whose language he was a *master* that had scarce an *equal*, and for whose welfare his projections and performances were such as render our loss herein hardly to be repaired. Such *services are Pyramids*.” And Dr. Metcalf, in his forthcoming History of Mendon, remarks that “he was an excellent scholar and an eminent divine. His reputation as a theologian was of such a character that the General Court sometimes referred grave and serious questions of ecclesiastical polity to him for decision.” It is said, “he was complimented as being the General Court’s oracle.”

The Rev. Grindal Rawson and the Rev. Samuel Danforth, pastor of the church in Taunton, were instructed by the Commissioners for the Propagation of the Gospel, in 1698, to visit the Indians in the American Plantations in New England and parts adjacent. The account given by them of their visit is quite interesting, and published in the Mass. Historical Collections, 1st series, vol. 10.

The following order was passed by the General Court, July 31, 1692: “Ordered, that the Rev. John Hale, Rev. Grindal Rawson, Mr. John Wise and Mr. John Emerson, Ministers of God’s word, be desired to accompany the General and Forces in the expedition against Canada, to carry on the worshipping of God in that expedition.” Whether they, or either of them, accompanied the expedition under Sir William Phips in 1690 is unknown.

Several interesting anecdotes are recorded of the Rev. Grindal Rawson, in connection with Cotton Mather, but the limits of this memorial will not permit of their insertion.

Grindal Rawson was the author of a work entitled “Confession of Faith,” written in the Indian and English tongues. Two, at least, of his sermons were published; one, an Artillery Election sermon, “preached to and at the request of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, in 1703;” the other, an Election sermon, “preached before his Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Council and Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, on May 25, 1709.” This latter sermon was, in its tone, bold, manly and eloquent, and “published by desire of the House of Representatives.” A more extended notice of Grindal Rawson may be found in Cotton Mather’s “Mantissa,” in his preface to his sermon before mentioned. He died “on the Lord’s day, about sunset, Feb. 6, 1715, a. 56.”

The following are the epitaphs on the gravestones erected to the memory of himself and wife, in the burying-ground in Mendon:—

“ Here Lyeth Interr'd
the Body of the Reverend Mr.
GRINDAL RAWSON,
The late faithful and learned Pastor
of the church of Christ in Mendon,
who died Feby. 6, 1715,
and entered 6 days into y^e 57th. year
of his age Deceased the 35th.
year of his ministry
The memory of the Just is Blessed.”

“ Here lies inter'd y^e
Remains of Mrs. Susanna
Rawson, Relict of
y^e late Rev. Mr. Grindal
Rawson Pastor of y^e
Church of Christ in
Mendon and daughter
to y^e Rev. Mr. John Wil-
son 1st Minister of y^e
Gospel in Medfield
who departed this life
July 8th ADomini 1748
in y^e 84th year of her age.”

The following were the children of Grindal Rawson:—

- 27—1. EDWARD, d. Nov. 21, 1683.
- 28—2. EDWARD, b. 1684; d. Nov. 21, 1688.
- 29—3. JOHN, b. April 26, 1685; d. May 26, 1685.
- 30—4. SUSANNA [84], b. Oct. 31, 1686; m. Benjamin Reynolds, 1719.
- 31—5. EDMUND [80], b. July 8, 1689.
- 32—6. WILSON [91], b. June 23, 1692; m. Margaret Arthur.
- 33—7. JOHN [100], b. Oct. 1, 1695; m. Mercy Hayward.
- 34—8. MARY [107], b. June 22, 1699; m. Joseph Dorr, April 9, 1724;
d. April 9, 1776.
- 35—9. RACHAEL [114], b. Sept. 6, 1701; m. Samuel Wood.
- 36—10. DAVID, b. Oct. 25, 1703; d. Jan. 18, 1704.
- 37—11. GRINDAL [126], b. Sept. 6, 1707; m. Dorothy Chauncey; d.
1777.
- 38—12. ELIZABETH [133], b. April 21, 1710; m. 1st, Abner Hazeltine,
Feb. 11, 1730; 2d, James Wood.