

## CHAPTER XVII.

### DOWSE FAMILY.

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THE brothers Francis and Lawrence Dowse were among the early settlers of Boston. Francis resided at that place until his decease, in 1680, leaving issue by his wife, Catharine, who died in 1697, five daughters, one of whom was baptized at the First Church, 5th mo. (July) 17, 1642.\* This is the first mention of the name of Dowse that can be found in New England. His brother, Lawrence Dowse, *of whom hereafter*, was mentioned in 1644. From a statement made by Eleazer Dowse, who was born in 1764, and committed to writing by one of his sons, it appears that the brothers Dowse came from the neighborhood of Colchester, or Billerica, in the eastern part of England.

I. SERGEANT LAWRENCE DOWSE, of Charlestown, Middlesex County, Mass., (brother of Francis, of Boston,) was born in England about 1613-15; aged 44 in 1659, 71 in 1684, and 77 in 1692; † admitted to church at Boston, 1st mo. (March) 22, 1645, and removed to Charlestown some time prior to 1649. He was admitted to church at that place 1st mo. (March) 21, 1652; ‡ appointed constable of the town in 1656, and died March 12, 1692, aged 78 years, § leaving an estate valued at £313 9s. 6d. The dwelling-house, barn, and land adjoining were valued at £90, and 33 acres of land situated in various parts of the town at £72. See *Appendix XXVII*.

Lawrence Dowse married, first, probably in England, Martha ———, who was buried at Boston 8th mo. (October), 1644, || and secondly, at Charlestown, in 1647-48, Margery, daughter of Rob-

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\* Suffolk County Probate Records, Vol. VII, p. 336, and Vol. VIII, p. 144.

† Wyman's *Charlestown Genealogies and Estates*, Vol. I, p. 301.

‡ Boston and Charlestown Church Records.

§ Gravestones, and Charlestown Archives, Vol. III, p. 591.

|| Boston Records, Vol. I, p. 152, Registry Office, Boston.