

father's family except that it was of Welsh descent, and that his grandfather lived in Massachusetts. Azariah Thomas, his father, having emigrated from Massachusetts to the northern part of New York State early in the century (about 1804), where he died in 1831, the writer, at that time but 5 years of age, was thus left isolated from his father's family, with little inclination and less opportunity for making their acquaintance. While in after years the desire for learning something of the family became strongly developed, but for the following circumstance it would probably never have been gratified. In the summer of 1887, while overhauling some old books and papers, he came across a letter addressed to an elder brother, written in March, 1852, thirty-nine years ago, by the late Sarah N. Thomas (Gage), daughter of Alpheus Thomas, of Prescott, Mass. Here was a name and an address, a sufficient clue for attempting to discover the long-lost family. A letter addressed "To any Descendant of the late Alpheus Thomas," and directed to Prescott, Mass., soon brought a reply from Judge E. A. Thomas, of Amherst, Mass., brother of the writer of the above-mentioned letter, and with whom a correspondence was immediately opened. The information thus acquired served only to increase the desire for more knowledge of the family, and finally led to the conception of the present volume. A circular was sent to all known addresses of members of the family and replies received of such a character as to encourage in the prosecution of the work. The result of the effort is now placed before the members of the family.

The arrangement adopted in this record is one that will be easily understood and that will permit of a ready tracing of families. Following each name in *large type*