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SOME MATERIAL

FOR A

HISTORY OF THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

RENTOUL—RINTOUL—RANTOUL.

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COMPILED BY ROBERT S. RANTOUL.

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[Reprinted from HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE ESSEX INSTITUTE,  
VOL. XXI, Nos. 10, 11, 12.]

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PRINTED AT THE SALEM PRESS,  
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IN an "Antient Boke of Récords, lately discovered in State Papers Office in London and brought to Scotland in 1793" the following entry appears, showing that between 1362 and 1367, the dates covered by this purloined and restored volume now to be seen at Edinburgh, there was, in the County of Kinross, Fifeshire, a *clausum*, close, or enclosed estate bearing the name "Rentoule."

These are among the entries under "Kynros :"

*"Pendant In Manu Domini Walteri de Haliburton de voluntate, ut supra, terre de Seghy. In manu eiusdem, Cragok Fermour. In manu eiusdem Cragok domini. In manu eiusdem Lardenach Rentoule et Ladglassy, cum pertinenciis, que valebant XXVII libras."*

I have also a lithographed fac-simile of "the Original Drawing in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh" lettered "Keanrosse-shyre descrybed, Oct. 25, 1642, Be Ja. Gordone At Keanrosse," which shows a place in the Parish of Orwell, at the foot of the Ochel Hills, overlooking the picturesque Loch Leven with its famous trout-angling and its romantic island-castle,\* designated as "Rentowle." "Middletoune," the birthplace of Robert, the immigrant to Salem, is the next place easterly shown on this "original drawing," and is midway between Keanrosse and Milnathorte.

These descriptions, supposed to apply to the same estate offered for rental at Kinross, June 7, 1882, in terms which follow, would seem to show that the first syllable of the name was spelled with an "e," at the earliest dates of which we have any record. I insert an advertisement of the estate cut from a local journal.

#### DESIRABLE GRAZING FARM TO LET.

TO BE LET, for 15 years, with entry, at Martinmas next.  
The FARM OF TOUCHIE and RINTOUL, lying in the Parish of Orwell and County of Kinross, extending to 268 Acres Arable or thereby, and 260 Acres or thereby of good sound Hill Pasture. The Lands are situated within about four miles of Kinross and Milnathort, at both of which places there are Railway Stations, and weekly corn markets and stock sales.

The whole Lands, including the Hill, are enclosed, and the Arable land is suitably subdivided, and is well-adapted for either cropping or grazing. The Dwelling-House is of modern structure, and commands a beautiful view of Lochleven and its surroundings, and there is a suitable Steading, with Thrashing Mill driven by water-power. The Shootings, which are presently let at £20 a year, will be included in the lease.

Mr. HAKLEY, the present tenant, who is not to be an offerer, will point out the boundaries, and the Conditions of Let will be seen in the hands of GEORGE BOGIE, Solicitor, Kinross, by whom offers will be received till 11th July next. The Proprietors will not be bound to accept the highest or any offer.

Kinross, 7th June 1882.

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\* From this ancient water-girt fortress, which was the royal residence of Alexander III as early as 1257, and was granted in 1542, by James V, to Sir Robert Douglas, Queen Mary of Scots was rescued, in her twenty-fifth year, by young Douglas on the night of Sunday, May 2, 1568, after an imprisonment of nearly a year, during which her abdication had been extorted from her. For a fine description by Sir Walter Scott, see "The Abbot," also J. F. Hunnewell's "Lands of Scott," p. 245, *et seq.*

Our local records show the following variations in spelling the name, which have occurred since Robert, the immigrant, reached Salem.

I find, Dec. 27, 1769, Receipt to Rich<sup>d</sup> Derby, signed Robert Rintoul. Oct. 15, 1774, Rob<sup>t</sup> Rentoul, of Salem; certificate of intention of marriage; and Rev. James Diman's record of the marriage, Nov. 3, 1774, of Rob<sup>t</sup> Rantoul to Mary Preston. Tax bills of Capt. Rintoul for '76 and '77. Dec., 1782, deeds to Mary Rentall and Robert Rentall. July 15, 1784, probate certificate of death by shipwreck of R. Rentoul, signed by Wm. Gray, Jr., and Benj<sup>n</sup> West; and April, 1788, an inventory of his estate, signed "Mary Rentoul." In 1793, the "widow Rentall" is mentioned in the records and by Benj. Pickman in his notes (Hist. Coll. Essex Institute, Vol. VI, p. 94) as a householder at the corner of Central and Essex streets, and a deed to Mary Rantoul, July 14, 1792, is the second instance of the use of any other vowel than "e" or "i," prior to a deed to my grandfather, Hon. Robert Rantoul, March 1, 1800, since which date the use of the vowel "a" has been uniform. A few miles south of Charleston, S. C., on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, is "Rantowle's Station," but I know nothing of the origin of its name. The town of Rantoul, in Champaign County, Illinois, was so named by the directors of the Illinois Central Railroad, for my father, Hon. Robert Rantoul, jr., of Beverly, a member of the first board of directors of that road. The towns of Rantoul in Calumet County, Wisconsin, and in Franklin County, Kansas, are named after the same person.

Major Robert Rintoul of Lahill in Fifeshire, late of the Fife Militia Artillery, in a letter dated Aug. 20, 1883, says playfully that the acknowledged position of chief of the clan belongs to Lieut. Col. Robert Rintoul, late 16th [Queen's] Lancers and formerly Captain 4th Dragoon

Guards, and now 3d Royal Surrey Militia, who is a member of the Royal Geographical Society, and has been decorated with the Order of the Medjidie by the Sultan for voluntary services rendered to Turkey in 1853, and was appointed, Jan'y, 1882, Deputy Lieutenant for the Tower Hamlets. He is the only son of Robert Stephen Rintoul, who was born in the north of Scotland, and edited, from 1809 to 1825, the "Dundee Advertiser," and then removed to London, establishing there and conducting until his death, thirty years later, the "Spectator." The father is described as a "strong Liberal but no slave to party;" as "holding, though courted by both sides, an entirely independent course and position," and as enjoying the lifelong friendship of such men as Jeremy Bentham, Sir John Bowring, Lord Brougham, George Grote, Sir William Molesworth, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, the Duke of Newcastle, J. S. Mill, Sir Rowland Hill and W. M. Thackeray. The "North British Mail" speaks thus of him in March, 1883: "His rise in life was a romance, and well worth describing as an example for imitation. As a purveyor of condensed information there never has been a man to match him on the British press."

Besides an only son, Col. Rintoul, Robert Stephen Rintoul left a daughter, still living in the south of France, and his sister Jessie was married to one Crawford, came to America in 1851, and died at the age of seventy in 1883, at Pittston, Pennsylvania. She had "strong literary tastes," which she seems to have imparted to her son Hugh Rintoul Crawford of New York City, and was also "an accomplished musician."

From correspondence with Col. Rintoul, who writes from "Kinross House, Carlyle Square, London," I learn that he is the great-grandson of Robert Rintoul of Burnside, Dupplin, Perthshire, that there are but few of the name anywhere, that he is "a bit of an antiquary," and

has a collection of old highland arms and accoutrements, besides being a fellow of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, and that in the course of his archæological rambles he has made some most interesting discoveries. Some of them are recorded in the beginning of this communication.'

Millar's life of Rob Roy Macgregor [Dundee and London, J. Leng & Co., 1883] quotes Col. Rintoul as an authority in Scottish antiquities, and describes a flint-lock pistol, now in his possession, which once belonged to Rob Roy Macgregor.

Col. Rintoul writes me, April 24, 1882, "a few years since, whilst staying in the house of some friends in Kinrosshire, an old cupboard was opened and amongst other things was a powder-horn (an ox-horn) over a hundred years old, on which is rudely engraved:

**James Rintowl Awcht This Horn**

'Awcht' means, in English, *owns*. Of course I 'annexed' the horn. On a 'skean dhu,' given to me when a boy on my first shooting, by a fine old Highland gentleman whose immediate forbears had been 'out in the '45,' he has, in a Gaelic inscription, written it 'Raibart Ruian-toul.'

The termination *toul* seems to be not an uncommon one in Scotland, and probably has a meaning which I have not been able to discover. "Tomintoul," "Auchtertoul," "Cairn Toul" occur as names of places. In the "United States Magazine and Democratic Review," Vol. XXVII, No. CXLVIII [New York, Oct., 1850] it is stated that the name is derived from the two Gaelic words *Rhynn* and *Tuyl*, which mean *Mountain Cavern*. No authority is given. I am also told that *toul* is Scottish for *barn*. In the first two instances known to me in which the name occurs in fiction, it is spelled "Rintoul," and the surround-

ings are Scotch. These instances are, a story of the Fife-shire Coast [Blackwood, 1853] entitled "John Rintoul, or the Fragment of the Wreck," and "The Ladies Lindores" [Blackwood, 1882] in which the scene is laid in the north of Fife, and Lord Rintoul's name is Robert. In the third, a novel published by Osgood & Co., Boston, Nov., 1884, the scene is laid in Washington, D. C., and among the rocks of Cape Ann, and the title of the book is "John Rantoul."

"Burke's General Armory" gives "Rintoul, Scotland; argent, three eagles displayed, gules; crest, an elm tree, proper." Fairbairn and others give "Rintoul" and the crest.

From a letter of Rev. John Laurence Rentoul dated at "The Manse, Lisburn, Ireland, May 30, 1882," I learn that the name is rare in the north of Ireland, that it was spelled Rintoul and came from Scotland, that Rev. Dr. James Rentoul, the writer's grandfather, changed the spelling to Rentoul in Ireland, and that it is also spelled Rantoul there, that the Ballykelly family are of the same stock as his, and that his grandfather, with three of his sons, Alexander, James B., and John L., and two sons of John, four sons of James and one son of Alexander have all been Presbyterian ministers.

This exhausts what I know of the spelling of the family name. I come now to the pronunciation of it. The sounding of the first syllable, however spelled, has not, so far as I can learn, ever varied much. But as to the accenting of the syllables and the sounding of the last of them, there has been the widest divergence. The sound well enough expressed by the letters "Rentall," as used by Colonel Pickman and others at the close of the last century, has been a common pronunciation in Essex County within my own recollection and may be heard exceptionally to-day. Generally, however, the vowel

sounds are uniformly heard now as though they were *Ran-tool*, but the accent seems to be placed indifferently on either syllable. Thus, while the poet Lowell in the "Biglow Papers" writes :

" And Rantoul, too, talked pretty loud about the Anglo-Saxon,"

Whittier on the other hand accents the second syllable in "The Panorama," thus :

" To the wise maxims of her olden school  
" Virginia listened from thy lips, Rantoul!"

and again in the "Garrison of Cape Ann:"

" Long has passed the summer morning, and its memory waxes old,  
" When along yon breezy headlands with a pleasant friend I strolled.  
" Ah! the autumn sun is shining, and the ocean wind blows cool,  
" And the golden-rod and aster bloom around thy grave, Rantoul!"

Col. Rintoul writes me, Sept., 1883, in answer to an inquiry on this subject, in these words: "Touching the pronunciation of our name in this country, Britain, there is a difference as with you. We have always pronounced it *Rin-tool*, rhyming with *cool*, but in the north it is generally called *Rintowl*, rhyming with *fowl*. I stick to the former." In both cases he marks the accent on the penultimate, and not on the second syllable.

Before the discovery of these interesting records in Edinburgh, the generally accepted family tradition seems to have been that our Scottish progenitor was a Huguenot who left the south of France for Holland at the end of the seventeenth century, with so many more of his faith, and found his way later from Holland to Perthshire, Kinross, or Inverness, with the army of the Prince of Orange, afterwards William III. I cannot do better than to print, in this connection, an exhaustive communication on this matter, prepared at my request by Rev. John Laurence Rentoul, D. D., Professor of Oriental Languages

and Philosophy at Ormond College, The University, Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Rentoul writes from "S. S. Garonne, off Cape Spartivento, Sardinia, Feb'y 26, 1885," on his return voyage from a visit to England.

### I. NAME.

Rentoul, or Rintoul (or Rantoul).

- I. Original British Domicile — Scotland. Branches of the family now found in Ireland, England, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Large mountain in New Zealand — "*Mt. Rintoul*" — Province of Nelson, Middle Island (near "Ben Nevis," and "Mt. Franklin") called after this family name.
- II. Scottish Counties in which the name was originally domiciled after its introduction into Great Britain,— Perthshire,— Fifeshire, and (especially) Kinross-shire.
- III. Origin of "Rentoul," or "Rintoul" Family and Name.

Family tradition, at least in the Perthshire stock, points unwaveringly to French origin. This is supported by the character of the name itself, as also by the fact that it is to be found in France. The exceedingly limited number of those bearing this name to be found in British lands points to its being of foreign extraction. It is in no sense a "clan," or tribal Scottish name; it is strictly a *family* name, of rare occurrence, and remarkably slight diffusion. But while the persistent tradition as to the French extraction of this name is doubtless correct, it has, like all such family history handed down from mouth to mouth, become confused as to times and dates. The account preserved amongst the representatives of the Perthshire stock is that the common ancestor who introduced this name from France into Scotland was a Huguenot, who came from France into Holland and thence into Scotland as a refugee for conscience' sake, after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685. That common ancestor settled in Perthshire, Fifeshire, or

Kinross-shire,—whence the three main branches of the family in Scotland, and thereafter in British lands.

Having made a lengthened investigation of this interesting tradition I am led to believe that the substance of fact in it is as follows: The name "Rentoul" appears to be undoubtedly French, or Rhenish-French. Also it was a name known amongst the Huguenots. But it certainly had been introduced into Scotland, and had become interwoven with a district in Kinross-shire, near Loch Leven, centuries before the Huguenot epoch. The very interesting documents brought to my notice by Robert S. Rantoul, Esq., of Salem, Mass., U. S. A.,—especially the extract from the "Antient Booke of Records," and the "Original Drawing in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh," lettered "Keanrosse-shyre,"—leave no doubt upon this matter. There it is incontestably proven that so early as the latter part of the 14th Century there was in the county of Kinross, prettily situated near Loch Leven, an enclosed estate named "*Rentoule*" and owned by Lardenach "*Rentoule*."

But that very document, while it disposes of the notion that the name was introduced into Gt. Britain so late as the Reformation or the Huguenot age, yet bears out unmistakably, I think, the foreign and French origin of the name. It also disproves the attempted derivation of this name from Gaelic words, or its connection with such forms as "Toul" in "*Cairn Toul*."

- (1). The vowel *e* at the end of a word was at that time a fully sounded vowel, so that the name "Rentoule" would in that age be not a dissyllable as at present, but a full three-syllabled word.

As is known to any student of early English, or to any intelligent reader of Chaucer, the final "*e*" (a remnant in the one event of the "case-endings" of words derived from the Anglo-Saxon, or, in the other, the sign of words derived from the French) was fully pronounced in England down to an age considerably later than that

referred to in the extract from the "Antient Boke of Records." The full sound of the final "e" continued till a still later date in Scotland. The full enunciation of the final "e" lingers to the present day in French poetry. It was universal in all modes of English speech, both prose and poetry, in Scotland, "between 1362 and 1367, the dates covered by the Antient Boke of Records," the time when we find the name "Rentoule" first occurring. We are not at liberty therefore linguistically to compare the syllable "toul" of the name "Rentoul" with such single-syllabled sounds as the "Toul"<sup>1</sup> of "Cairn-Toul." We must look in the face the fact that "Rentoule," when it first meets us in Scotland, is a full trisyllable form, of which the final "e" is a necessary factor; and that it bears all the marks of a French or at least of a foreign name.

- (2). The tendency shown by the name in Gt. Britain to suffer internal modification, both as to spelling and sound (while such native sounds as the "Toul" of "Cairn Toul" stand fast) is in keeping with the foreign extraction.
- (3). The Rentoul or Rintoul family crest seems to bear out this foreign extraction.  
The Elm, I need scarcely say, was not a tree indigenous to Scotland, and its introduction into that country is of recent date.
- (4). In connection with this point I may mention the interesting fact that when, a few years ago, the Evangelical Alliance met in Southport (the watering-place of the North West of England) I happened to be one of the three clergymen acting as secretaries during its sittings, being at that time minister of St. George's Presbyterian Church in that town. The French Deputies were the late Rev. Dr. Fisch, the eminent Protestant *pasteur* of

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<sup>1</sup>The slight vocalic intonation at the end of certain Gaelic forms, and which is as light and evanescent as a Hebrew "Sheva," could not, so far as I can see, account for this "e" in "Rentoule."

Paris, and Mons. Rosseeuw St. Hilaire, the distinguished Professor of the *Sorbonne*, Member of the *Institut* and Historian of Spain.

Both these gentlemen, on the public platform of the Alliance, "*claimed Mr. Rentoul as a true Frenchman in family and in name and race, kin to the true Huguenot blood.*"

- (5). The only fact I have ever met which served, in any way, to shake my confidence in the purely French extraction of the name is the following: in 1879, when travelling in Germany, on the route from Hanover to Amsterdam through Westphalen, not far away from the place where Hermann of Detmold, A. D. 9, crushed the legions of Varus, I came upon the prettily situated village and district of *Rinteln* — towards the Rhine. Afterwards, on my arrival in Melbourne, I found the Rabbi of the Chief Synagogue there, a German Jew from Rhineland, bearing the name *Rintel*. Hence I have at times fancied that the name "Rintoul" or "Rentoul" may originally have been of the Rhineland or Westphalen region, the family taking its name from the district and thence removing westward into France proper.<sup>2</sup> One thing however is certain that the name occurs in France, and was borne by some of the Huguenots.

Let me summarize in a few sentences the conclusions to which an investigation of the facts seems to lead:

- (a'). The name is not Gaelic or British in its origin. The Gaelic inscription "*Raibart Ruintoul*" on a "Skean dhu" in the possession of Col. Robert Rintoul of London is of modern date — before the rebellion of '45 — it is merely in keeping with a fashion, prevalent amongst Scotch gentlemen of that age, of affecting Highland costume and of inscribing Gaelic lettering upon their weapons.
- (β'). The name is not in any sense a clan or tribal name, and

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<sup>2</sup> Is it impossible that the first syllable of "Rinteln," "Rintoul," "Rentoul" may be radically connected with the name of the great river itself — "Rhin," "Rhein?"

does not occur in the Highlands proper. Nor is there any acknowledged "head of the house." (Major Robert Rintoul's statement that Col. Robert Rintoul is the "head of the Rintoul clan" is a flattering pleasantry merely and rests on nothing substantial).

The Perthshire-Ulster Rentouls have always regarded themselves as the elder stock, but there is nothing clearer than conjecture with respect to this matter. The name Rentoul or Rintoul is merely a family name very slightly diffused.

- (γ'). The name is of Continental and almost certainly of French origin. It occurs in France and was not unknown in Huguenot circles.
- (δ'). Its introduction into Scotland was, however, anterior, by several centuries, to the Huguenot age. It is found in Kinross-shire as early as the latter part of the 14th Century.
- (ε'). The name must, therefore, have come into Scotland in one of two ways :

As a resultant from the large wave of Norman-French invasion in the eleventh and succeeding centuries.

Much more probably it was due to the close and long-continued relationship between the realms of Scotland and France and between the royal houses of Scotland and France in the era of the Anglo-Norman kings of England. The hostility between England and France caused Scotland and France to be very closely bound together in cordial relationship during those early centuries. In consequence many Scotchmen were passing into France and many Frenchmen were passing into Scotland and settling there. The body-guard of the French king "St. Louis" and of other French kings was formed exclusively of Scotchmen and was known as the "Scotch Guard."

On the other hand the influence of French names, customs, fashions and even pronunciation upon Scottish life and upon Scottish topography remains from that time to this day.

In that age and in this way, I doubt not, the name "Rentoule" was borne from France to Scotland by the original founder of the family in Great Britain, who settled in Kinross-shire, and gave his name to the district "Rentoule" (now "Rintoul") near Loch Leven. So that the persistent tradition of the Perthshire Rintouls (or Rentouls) as to a French origin is no doubt in the main correct.

## II. PRONUNCIATION OF NAME.

The name "Rentoul," or "Rintoul," in Scotland, like other names of foreign extraction, has been affected a good deal by local usage. The names "Rentoul" and "Rintoul" are quite the same and have been often used interchangeably,—a father, for example, bearing the name "Rentoul" and his son "Rintoul" or *vice versa*. The name Rentoul (pronounced Rán[g]tool) is to be met with in France.

In England it is pronounced with the accent on the first syllable; the second syllable as if rhyming with the word *pool*. In Scotland it is sounded, sometimes Rintoul, more frequently (especially in the county of Fife) Rintowl,—accented on the last syllable. Thus, two of my Professors, who were Scotchmen, named me (in my student days) in this diverse way. Professor G. Lillie Craik, the eminent linguistic and literary critic (a South of Scotland man) called me "Mr. Rentòol." Professor Chas. Macdonall, the eminent Greek scholar (an East of Scotland man) named me, "Mr. Rentòwl." Yet they would not have similarly differed or blundered over the name of the Earl of *Kinnoul*. Neither could have pronounced it "Kinnowel."

In Ulster the name is often shortened and vulgarized, by the loose and careless tongue of the North of Ireland,

into the sound "Rentel," or "Rentall;" and the vulgarism of the Ulster speech has made its appearance even in the United States of America, and has been discovered by Robert S. Rantoul, Esq., of Salem, Mass., as having found its way into a local register in Essex County. It is a mere loose, local vulgarism.

### III. CREST AND ARMS.

1. Crest. An Elm-tree proper, firmly-rooted.
2. Arms. "Three royal eagles; gules, blazoned upon field argent." (See Fairbairn, Rabson, Burke, etc., etc., on Heraldry and the Family Crests of Great Britain).
3. Motto. The motto proper to this Crest has not as yet been authenticated, if any motto existed. Professor John Rintoul of Dublin years ago, and myself at a later date, took a good deal of trouble investigating this matter. I was just making enquiries at the Imperial Herald Office in Paris in reference to the original motto, when, owing to the fall of the Second Empire at Sedan, that rather useless department was abolished. I have myself been using as motto the word—"Resistez!" because this was the word which the brave band of Huguenot sufferers, who lay for many years imprisoned for Conscience' sake at Toulouse, cut upon the stone of their dungeon-walls. It seems to fit admirably the enduring Elm, and the undaunted Eagles of the Crest and Arms. Professor John Rintoul, however, states that many years ago he saw, in a book of cognate matters, the Rintoul or Rentoul Crest with the scroll "*Restez fermes!*" attached to it.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> It is rather curious that the two notions and the two crests described by Tenyson (Merlin and Vivien) as embodying the Spirit of the old by-gone times of force and fame ("The Eagle") and of the new Christian time "rather use than fame" ("the Tree") should be conjoined together in this family Crest and Arms.

*Facta non Verba*

IV. IRISH STOCK.

I have treated thus far of the name and family in general, and of its existence in Scotland. Considering the attention Mr. Rantoul of America is paying to this part of the subject it is unnecessary for me to do anything further than to trace the branches of the Rentoul race that spread over from Scotland into Ireland.

I. FIFESHIRE BRANCH.

Rev. Robert Rentoul or Rintoul — close of 18th Century.  
Incumbent of Presbyterian Church, (Synod of Ulster in connection with Church of Scotland) Ballykelly, Co. Londonderry.

(This Mr. Rentoul was first cousin to Robert Rintoul, the immigrant to Salem and father of Hon. Robert Rantoul of Beverly, U. S. A.).

Son — Captain Robert Rentoul — of Her Majesty's Army — afterwards Landed Proprietor at Limavady, Co. Londonderry.

His sons and daughters removed to New Zealand, — save one, Miss Rentoul, wedded to Professor Dill, M.D., F.R.S.E., etc. (Professor of Obstetrics, Queen's Coll., Belfast—).

Son — Rev. S. M. Dill, M. A., — Minister of Parish Church of Alloway, Church of Scotland.

Professor John Rintoul, M.A., of Dublin. This gentleman, whose parents belonged originally to Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, is a native of Montrose, Forfarshire, who was graduated at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh and, in 1832, removed to Dublin and bore a part in introducing the National System of Education into Ireland. He was for many years a Professor in the Training College in Dublin. He retired on pension in 1853. He has one child surviving, Miss Agnes Rintoul.

James, a brother of Prof. John of Dublin, resides in New York, a trustee and manager of property.

Their father was John Rintoul, born at Kirkcaldy, 1776, died 1838; from 1805 a teacher in the Academy of Montrose.

II. PERTHSHIRE-ULSTER RENTOULS.

Rev. James (probably second son of Alexander) Rentoul — of Crieff, Perthshire (or more accurately of Goole, Auchterarder near Crieff, uncle of Smeaton the Laird of Goole).

This Rev. James Rentoul settled in Manorcunningham,

Co. Donegal, near City of Londonderry, close of 18th Century (1791). His name had been spelled Rintoul until then. He adopted the spelling "Rentoul" to be in keeping with his friend, the Rev. Robert Rentoul (see above) of Ballykelly. This Rev. James Rentoul was a man of many and varied parts, of great eloquence, and a natural leader of men. He was of splendid physique, standing six-feet two, and built in proportion.

Many stories are still told along the "Lagan Valley" of his deeds of courage and endurance in those lawless times. When a Licentiate of the Presbytery of Perth (the Presbyteries of that day being very arbitrary and generally sending their best Licentiates, whether they wished it or not, to the posts of peril and difficulty) he was commissioned, sorely against his will, to repair to Ulster for the purpose of organizing and strengthening "the cause" there. Young Rentoul's father had been of the party that "came out" from the Church of Scotland along with the Erskines. The "Synod of Ulster" of the Church of Scotland in Ireland was at that time largely saturated with Socinianism. It was the aim of the "Secession" or Erskine party in Scotland to counteract this influence by establishing a strongly Secession Element in Ireland. To this work young Rentoul was commissioned. The Secession Element was then divided into "Burgher" Synod and "Anti-Burgher" Synod, and Rentoul was appointed to the Church of "Ray," Manorcunningham, at that time the largest "Anti-Burgher" congregation in Ulster. From the first he bent his energies to bring about union between the discordant forces of the Secession movement; and when, largely owing to his influence, the union between the "Burgher" and "Anti-Burgher" Synods took place in 1818, thus forming the powerful "Secession Synod of Ireland," the Rev. James Rentoul was unanimously chosen first Moderator (President) of the united body. This Secession body of Presbyterians in Ireland undoubtedly did much,

by the living earnestness of the Gospel they preached, to kindle new faith and Christian life throughout the Synod of Ulster.<sup>4</sup> The Rev. James Rentoul lived almost to see a yet larger and nobler union — when (after the Synod of Ulster separated itself from Socinianism under the influence of Dr. Henry Cooke) the Secession Synod of Ireland and the Church of Scotland Synod of Ulster united together (1841) to form the large and powerful "Presbyterian Church of Ireland." Three sons of the Rev. James Rentoul took part in bringing about that union.

James Rentoul, aforesaid, landing in Ulster in 1791, married in 1793 Anne, daughter of the Rev. Robert Reid (himself a Scotchman) of Manorcunningham<sup>5</sup> — whose mother Margaret Cunningham was a lineal descendant of Hugh Cunningham, chaplain in the 17th Century to the "*Glencairn Regiment*," and cousin to its leader James Cunningham, Seventh Earl of Glencairn. The Glencairn Regiment was one of the five Scottish Regiments employed in extinguishing the rebellion of 1641 in Ulster. The Rev. Hugh Cunningham, with other cadets of the Cunningham (or Conynghame) family afterwards settled in Ulster at Manorcunningham, by the fertile shores of Lough Swilly.

The place, with its manor-house was thenceforward called by their name. The Rev. Hugh Cunningham thus became, in common with the chaplains of the other four regiments, a founder of Presbyterian-Protestantism in Ireland.

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<sup>4</sup>When I was a lad I happened to meet the late Rev. George Gillilan—"the poet preacher of Dundee"—who was a great friend of the Rev. James Rentoul; and like him had been brought up in the Secession (now United Presbyterian) Church of Scotland. "Rentoul Rintowl!" exclaimed the kindly-faced orator, "Did a grandfather of yours, James Rintoul, go from Perth to Ulster?" On my replying in the affirmative, Gillilan continued: "My lad, when I was a boy I heard him preaching under a big tent at open air service in Comrie. Ah, if ever you become a preacher and can only preach a tenth as well, *you'll do!*"

<sup>5</sup>See Reid's *History of Presbyterian Church of Ireland*, Ed. by Dr. Killen. Also Rev. Samuel Alexander's *History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland* (New York, Carter & Bros., 1860).

## TABLE OF DESCENT OF PERTHSHIRE—ULSTER RENTOULS.

Rev. James Rentoul, of Manorcunningham, married Anne Cunningham Reid.*	
<p>Rev. Alex. Rentoul, M.D., D.D., died 1864, a medical practitioner, and afterwards succeeded his father in the Manorcunningham Church.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rev. James Alex. Rentoul, LL.D., of St. Andrews, Woolwich, and barrister at law, Woolwich, London.</li> <li>2. Erminde—now Mrs. Esler of Pakenham Place, Belfast, who is a writer of fiction; her husband is a leading physician.</li> <li>3. Robert Rentoul, Esq., M.D., Glasgow.</li> <li>4. Harriet, } Principals of Old-Park</li> <li>5. Lizzie, } Ladies' College, Belfast.</li> <li>6. Margaret Augusta—wife of Dr. Irwin, Manorcunningham.</li> <li>7. Annie—wife of James Clark.</li> <li>8. William Gearvais Rentoul, student.</li> </ol>	<p>Margaret Rentoul, married William Montgomery, Esq. Dead.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. James Rentoul Montgomery, Managing Director of Mississippi and Dominion Line, Liverpool.</li> <li>2. Alexander Montgomery, Manorcunningham, Land owner and Commissioner under Gladstone Land Bill.</li> <li>3. Wm. Montgomery, Land owner, Manorcunningham.</li> <li>4. Anna M. Montgomery, married to Wm. Blackwood, Esq., of Milford, Co. Donegal.</li> </ol>

PERTHSHIRE—ULSTER RENTOULS (*Continued*).

Rev. James Rentoul, married Anne Cunningham Reid.	
<p>James B. Rentoul, D.D. (still living—83 years of age—and preaching in 1885) Garvagh, Co. Londonderry. (Married Sarah Wilson, sister of Professor Wilson).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wm. Jas. Rentoul went to Philadelphia, U. S. A.</li> <li>2. Rev. Alex. Rentoul, M.A. (St. Peter's Church, Liverpool, now of Sandy Mount, Dublin).</li> <li>3. Rev. Robert Wilson Reid Rentoul, M. A. (St. George's Church, Darlington, Eng.).</li> <li>4. Rev. John Laurence Rentoul, M.A., D. D., St. George's Church, Southport, Eng., now Professor of Oriental Languages and Philosophy, Ormond College, the University, Melbourne.</li> <li>5. Rev. Alfred H. Rentoul, M.A., Langford, Ireland.</li> <li>6. Annie Reid Rentoul (dead).</li> <li>7. Sarah Wilson Rentoul, Garvagh.</li> </ol>	<p>Rev. John L. Rentoul, died 1869 (Ballymoney).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rev. James Rentoul, Dro-more.</li> <li>2. Rev. John Laurence Rentoul, First Church, Lisburn.</li> <li>3. Robert Rentoul, Esq., M.D., etc., Liverpool.</li> <li>4. Anna Rentoul, married to Wm. A. Cameron, Esq., of Perthshire and Manchester. Dead.</li> <li>5. Lizzie Rentoul, dead.</li> <li>6. Maggie Rentoul, married to David Boal, Esq.</li> <li>7. Eva Rentoul, married to R. Lytle, Esq., Belfast.</li> <li>8. Sarah Rentoul, married to Rev. R. J. Lynd, M.A. (successor to Dr. Cooke in the pulpit of the May Street Church, Belfast).</li> <li>9. Mrs. Dorcas Hastings.</li> </ol>

Rev. James (married Anne Cunningham Reid) had a fourth son, Robert, now living at Manorcunningham, a farmer; for fifty years an elder in the church of Ray; and unmarried. To this church his grandfather Reid, his father, his brother Alexander and his nephew Jas. Alexander have preached for more than a century.

\* Miss Reid's brother Alexander went to the United States of America and became father of the late Hon. Alex. Reid, M. D., and of Colin. M. Reid, of Washington, Pa., a family which suffered nobly in the late war for the Union and for freedom.

Thus far Professor Rentoul of Melbourne. I have but little to add to the general statement that the original *habitat* of the family in Scotland seems to have been Fifeshire, the land of Macduff, or at least the pleasant belt of hill-country about Loch Leven. If research is to be pushed further, and these various lines run back to a common ancestor, it must be done from original sources north of the Tweed. I have done enough to show the persistent recurrence of family names, always a feature of interest, and perhaps also of race-characteristics, as far as is to be expected after eliminating the fifty per cent, or possibly the more than fifty per cent of these values which are due to the formative influence of the mothers of a race. Some other offshoots of the stock have come within my ken but I cannot connect them, and with a bare mention of these, I leave this part of the subject to be pursued by others.

At "King's Place," Perth, Scotland, August 4, 1882, died, without issue, Laurence Rintoul, a Justice of the Peace, leaving a considerable property to his nephew and heir, a McGregor of Banchory,—Cupar in Angus.

This gentleman, and his brother John Rintoul, a Fifeshire land-owner, also deceased, were sons of a brother of Rev. James Rentoul of Manorcunningham.

Peter Rintoul, a well-known merchant of Glasgow, died a few years since, and in the last generation, Alexander Rentoul appears as a partner in the firm of Rentoul & Zimmerman, long-established ship-brokers, at Liverpool. Rev. William Rintoul of Montreal, who died Sept. 13, 1851, leaving two sons, Robert, since deceased, and William H., agent of the Imperial Insurance Company of London, at Montreal, was born in 1797, and was the son of Robert Rintoul, b. 1748, who was the son of Alexander Rintoul, b. 1708, in Tilly Coultry, Clackmannanshire,

adjoining Fife. Alexander left four children, of whom Robert was the third, and the last named died in 1822 and left James, b. 1779, Robert, b. 1795, William, b. 1797, Andrew, b. 1799, David, b. 1801, Alexander, b. 1803, and Peter, b. 1807. Rev. William Rintoul came to Toronto in 1831, and filled the Hebrew Professorship in Knox College, and also the St. Gabriel Street pulpit at Montreal. He was a native of Clackmannanshire.

Since preparing, in July, 1863, the matter printed in these Historical Collections [Vol. V, p. 145] some corrections and additions have reached me, and I revise some of those statements for greater accuracy.

In the Register of Marriages, Births and Baptisms for the Parish of Cleish, County of Kinross, Fifeshire, Scotland, it is recorded that "Robert Rintoul, the younger, born at Kelty in this Parish, and Christian Millar of the Parish of Kinglassie, were married December 24th A. D. 1742."

This Robert Rintoul, described as the younger, from which we may infer that his father bore the same name, had a brother who died at the Cape of Good Hope on his return from China, about 1773; a brother (David?) who preached at Elgin, North Britain, 1770-5; two sisters who resided with the latter at Elgin; a sister married in Edinburgh, and a brother William, married to Ann Brown about 1740 at Kelty Bridge End, whose eleven children are registered in Cleish, and amongst them Robert, afterwards the Rev., who preached in the Parish of Ballykelly, Limavady, County of Londonderry, North of Ireland, for many years, and whose descendants immigrated to New Zealand.

Robert Rintoul, the younger, as above, had at least seven children. I name them in the order of their probable seniority. They were Margaret, Elizabeth, Jeanie,

probably baptized and registered in the Parish of Beath adjoining Cleish, before 1750; Robert, born January, 1753; William, born September, 1754; Helen, born 1756, and David, born 1759.

Of these seven children, Margaret married one Hamilton. They had a son named Robert who died in London about 1820, and a daughter named Margaret who married a farmer named Veitch residing at "the Park" near Linlithgow. This estate was left by will to their daughter, Margaret Veitch, who resided there unmarried in 1865.

Elizabeth Rintoul married a clergyman named Gibbs, who was the minister of Uphall Church, near Linlithgow.

Jeanie married Robert Smith of Edinburgh. I met, in 1876, at Stuttgart, and again in 1878, at Chateau D'Oex, Switzerland, an elderly Scotchman, Robert Smith, connected as Deputy Inspector General with the medical staff of the British army, who proved to be their great-grandson.

Robert Rintoul was born at Middleton, Kinross, Fifeshire, Jan'y, 1753, and came to America at the age of sixteen. He was a slight man, and had black hair and eyes and a swarthy skin. He was lost at sea March, 1783, at the age of thirty, while in command of the ship "Iris" belonging to Wm. Gray, jr., and Benj. West, which sailed from Salem, the January preceding, for Virginia and thence, March 6, for Nantes in France. He was married, Nov. 3, 1774, to Mary, daughter of Andrew and Mary (Lambert) Preston, born at Salem, Sept. 17, 1755, who died at Beverly, July 17, 1816, at the age of 61, and lies buried in the Charter Street Burial Ground, in Salem.

William Rintoul died in London, March 9, 1823. In 1776, he was captured by an American privateer and

brought to Newburyport, whence he was permitted to go to Salem, and remain until exchanged in the family of his brother Robert. His wife was Sarah Sinclair who died in London, Aug. 7, 1849, aged 82, and lies buried in Stepney Meeting Ground.

Of his four children Robert William, born in the parish of Cleish, Jan'y 30, 1796, was a printer and died in London, March 19, 1869. Sarah Sinclair, born in the same parish, April 9, 1797, was married to one Sabourin of Stepney, London, a lumber merchant, whom she survived, and died childless, March 7, 1875. Christy Millar, born Oct. 27, 1800, in the parish of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, died unmarried, Sept. 6, 1849. Mary, born in the same parish, Sept. 7, 1802, died unmarried, Feb. 15, 1866, and lies buried with her brother and her sister Sarah in Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington.

Robert Rintoul, who came to Boston in a British ship-of-war in 1769, settled at Salem, and perished by shipwreck in 1783, left three children, all born at Salem and probably baptized at the East Church. They were Robert, Samuel and Polly.

Of these the eldest, Robert (born Nov. 23, 1778, died at Beverly, Oct. 24, 1858), established himself in business at Beverly, June 18, 1796, at the age of eighteen; was an Overseer of the Poor of that town from 1804 to 1854, when he resigned, having written fifty consecutive annual reports; a Justice of the Peace and acting Trial Justice for the town from 1808 until his death in 1858, as well as Parish Clerk of the First Parish for the same period, and deacon of the First Church, for forty-six years before his death; an original and lifelong member of the Massachusetts Temperance Society from its inception in 1812; was, from 1830 to 1851 inclusive, an original trustee on the part of the State of the Institution for the edu-

cation of the Blind ; represented the town in the General Court for the years from 1809 to 1819, from 1823 to 1827 and from 1828 to 1833 inclusive, having been chosen a Senator from Essex County for the years 1820, '21 and '22,—a total legislative term of twenty-five years ; was Captain of the Light Infantry Company of Beverly from 1805 to 1809 ; and First Lieutenant of the coast-guard Artillery Company in 1814-15 ; was for some years one of the County Commissioners of Highways, and presented, at the invitation of the town, Aug. 31, 1824, an address to Lafayette on his tour through Beverly ; was a member of the School Committee for forty years ; a member of the two State Conventions which have been held (1820-1853) for amending the Constitution of Massachusetts, and called the latter to order ; and, after reaching his majority in 1799, attended every annual town meeting but one, and nearly every special town meeting held in Beverly, until 1854, a period of fifty-five years.

He was married at Beverly, June 4, 1801, to Joanna, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Herrick, see "Herrick Family Register," Bangor, 1846, p. 59) Lovett of Beverly, who was born there Nov. 10, 1780, and died there Sept. 23, 1848. Energy and dignity were well united in his bearing, and he wore, in early life, the aspect of advanced years, from the fact that his hair, naturally brown, became thin and white, in consequence of a fever which he had at the age of sixteen. His eyes were of a clear, light blue, and his skin was fair. He was of good stature with a well-knit frame. His likeness precedes this monograph.

Samuel was born July 10, 1781, and died at Bilboa, Spain, on a voyage undertaken in pursuit of health, April 22, 1802.

Polly, born July 22, 1783, was married, May 30,

1808, to Andrew Peabody of Beverly, a teacher of repute and a native of Middleton, in Essex County (See New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. III, p. 362); resided in Beverly with him and after his death (Dec. 19, 1814, *Æt.* 42) until about 1835 when she removed to Portsmouth, N. H., and died there, Nov. 15, 1836, in the family of her son Andrew Preston Peabody, then Pastor of the South Church (born at Beverly, March 19, 1811; grad. H. C. 1826; Tutor; Plummer Professor and Preacher to the University; S. T. D.; LL. D.; A. A. S.). She also left a daughter, Mary Rantoul, now Mrs. John Pickering Lyman of Portsmouth.

Robert Rantoul, born at Salem, Nov. 23, 1778, had issue as follows:

Joanna Lovett, born at Beverly Jan'y 13, 1803, was married there, Sept. 26, 1824, to William Endicott (born at Beverly, March 11, 1799, see New England Genealogical and Antiquarian Register, Vol. I, pp. 339-341) and died at St. Louis, Mo., June 26, 1863.

Robert, known as Junior, born at Beverly, Aug. 13, 1805, was a puny child and through life a confirmed dyspeptic. His complexion was sallow and very dark, his eyes black, and his hair, originally black, became steel-grey in his early prime. At the age of three he learned to read and from his boyish years until his death at the age of forty-seven, he was an incessant, rapid and omnivorous reader of the issues of the American, English, and to a considerable extent of the Continental, especially of the French press. Nothing worth knowing failed to interest him and nothing which interested him was forgotten. Leaving home, Sept. 8, 1819, for Phillips Andover Academy, where he had for a room-mate Isaac Ray, afterwards of Providence, R. I., an eminent specialist and writer upon mental science, he entered Harvard College in 1822, and

was graduated in course with his cousin and room-mate, Andrew P. Peabody, in 1826. In his freshman year he was instrumental in the formation of a student's club for mutual instruction and debate, called the *AKPIBOAΘFOY-MENOI*, which held its first meeting April 14, 1823, and which with the "Hermetic Society" of 1813 and the old "Speaking Club" of 1770, were merged, Nov. 15, 1825, into the "Institute of 1770," the constitution of which he drafted. On leaving college he delivered the valedictory class poem. The late Dr. Ray, writing at the time of his death, says :

"After an interval of more than thirty years, my recollection of his mental manifestations calls up some of that 'special wonder' which they excited then . . . The trait which impressed me most was his unquenchable thirst for knowledge, which sought for gratification in every field of human inquiry."

And Dr. Peabody, in the prefatory chapter contributed by him to the volume of "Memoirs, Speeches and Writings of Robert Rantoul, Jr." (Boston, 1854), has said : "His habits of study continued through life on the model on which they were formed in his college days. He studied not books but subjects. Whatever was proposed for his investigation . . . his first care was to bring together all within his reach that had any bearing on the matter in hand ; nor, till he had taken a survey of the whole, did he deem himself authorized to write or speak with any confidence as to any portion or aspect of the subject matter. We have never known a method of study so thoroughly exhaustive as his ; nor was his capacity for using large and heterogeneous masses of material inferior to his skill and industry in collecting them."

Entering the office of Hon. John Pickering of Salem,

to fit himself for the profession of the law, he became at once a pioneer in the Lyceum system then first attracting notice. The first Lyceum organized in this vicinity was formed at Beverly in Dec'r, 1828, from a debating club which he had been active in promoting a year before, and the second was organized at Salem, in Jan'y, 1830. Having been, after another term of study in the office of Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, admitted to the bar in 1829, he practised law successively at Salem, South Reading, Gloucester and Boston. Residing in Gloucester from 1833 to 1838 he represented that town in the General Court for the years 1835, '6, '7 and '8. In 1837 and for the six succeeding years he held a seat by appointment of the Governor on the first State Board of Education. He also represented the Commonwealth, which had taken an interest in the building of the Western Railroad from Worcester to Albany, on the first board of directors of that road in 1836, '37 and '38. In the spring of 1839 he removed his residence to the homestead and place of his birth in Beverly and his law-practice to Tudor's Building in Boston. In 1843 he became Collector of the Customs for the Port of Boston and Charlestown, and from 1845 to 1849 was United States District Attorney for the Massachusetts district. In 1845 he embarked, with Hon. Rufus Choate and Hon. Caleb Cushing, in an undertaking to buy up, for lumbering and mining purposes, the Falls of St. Croix and St. Anthony and a large tract of unimproved lands about the headwaters of the Mississippi, upon which the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis now stand, but these three lawyers, eminent as they were, took titles which the courts have failed to sustain and their investments yielded no fruit but litigation.

In 1850, he was an original corporator and director of the Illinois Central Railroad, having secured from the

Legislature of Illinois a valuable charter drafted by himself, in face of a vigorous local opposition, of which, as the late President Lincoln told me with the utmost good humor, he was the organizer and spokesman. Feb. 22, 1851, he took his seat in the United States Senate, to fill a short, unexpired term vacated by Mr. Webster's acceptance of the State Department. In December following he took a seat in the United States House of Representatives and died at Washington, during the first session of the XXXII Congress, August 7, 1852.

His exhaustive report on Capital Punishment, addressed to the Legislature of 1836, together with later writings on that subject, have been widely and highly commended. In April, 1852, he appeared in defence of Thomas Sims, the first fugitive slave surrendered by Massachusetts under the new act of 1850, and took a position which he had before announced in addressing his constituents at Lynn, April 3, 1851, and afterwards reiterated on the floor of Congress, June 11, 1852, and again before his constituents at Mechanic Hall, Salem, July 5,—a position which had the sanction of Mr. Webster's better judgment but which that statesman had abandoned in deference to the views of others (Appendix to Congressional Globe, Vol. XXII, part 1st, p. 274) namely, that the Constitutional provision for the rendition of fugitives from service and labor was an injunction addressed to the states as an obligation to be discharged by them and contained no grant of power to the general government.

The personal bearing and characteristics of Robert Rantoul, Jr., may be gathered from a paper by Hon. Nathan Crosby on "Distinguished Men of Essex County" (Essex Inst. Hist. Col. XVII, p. 163, *et seq.*). Also from a citation from the New York Evening Post (Memoirs, Speeches and Writings, p. 311), and from a portrait

by the late Joseph Ames of Boston, now in the Senate Chamber of Massachusetts. The estimation in which he was held will appear from the remarks of Hon. Charles Sumner, on announcing his sudden death to the Senate of the United States, and of Hon. Horace Mann, in making the same announcement in the House of Representatives; from the volume of "Memoirs, Speeches and Writings" already quoted and the letters of Wendell Phillips and others there printed; from the article already cited in the United States Magazine and Democratic Review, for October, 1850, which has a most excellent likeness of him; from Whittier's lines written at his death and bearing his name; and from an inscription from the pen of Mr. Sumner, placed over his grave at Beverly, which may be found in "Sumner's Works," Vol. III, p. 82.

He was married at Beverly, August 3, 1831, to Jane Elizabeth, daughter of Peter and Deborah (Gage) Woodbury, born at Beverly Oct. 10, 1807 who died at Beverly, June 14, 1870. They had two sons.

The remaining children of Robert and Joanna Lovett Rantoul were Mary Elizabeth, born at Beverly, Aug. 14, 1809; died there, Aug. 14, 1821.

Samuel, born at Beverly, March 23, 1813; died there, Dec'r 9, 1831. Class of 1832, Harvard College.

Charlotte, born at Beverly, Jan'y 9, 1816; died there, Dec'r 2, 1839.

Elizabeth Augusta Lovett, born at Beverly, April 2, 1819; died there, May 23, 1837.

Hannah Lovett, born at Beverly, June 17, 1821.

