

Rev. Samuel Dudley died without making a will. His son, Theophilus Dudley, was administrator of the estate. The land was divided among the children. I believe each had a 12th part; for Stephen, yeoman and planter, in 1703, gave his son James one-twelfth part of the 600 acres; and James gave his "well beloved kinsman," James Dudley, Jr., in 1712, one-twelfth part of the 600 acres granted his "honored father, Mr. Samuel Dudley, late of Exeter, deceased;" and Samuel Dudley, calling himself son of the Rev. Samuel, gives his part of the 600 acres to his two sons, Samuel and Jonathan, in 1721; and when Timothy died, in 1702, he left a twelfth part of the 600 acre lot to his brothers and sisters. By the Rev. Samuel Dudley's Inventory which is in the Probate Office at Exeter, he left 17 books, valued at £2; and his wearing apparel, £5, 12s.

The women were poorly educated, and several wives of these Dudleys made their marks for signatures, although they belonged to the highest families.

Mr. Dudley's record and life were honorable. He certainly might have had a high official career in the colonies if he had desired it, and had not been a minister. It was against the custom of the Puritans to take their chief public officials from the clerical class. He had an excellent school-training. His hand-writing was fine and clear (though much-abbreviated), with nice punctuation. The spelling was uniform and modernized. There is no affectation of any sort in his text or style. I have heard of no traditions about him, except that he claimed to be of the Earl of Leicester's branch of the Dudleys. He did not, however, use any family seal, or any other seal, of arms so far as I have seen.

We have no written account of his personal traits and appearance. But it has been told me by some who had it from their fathers or grandfathers, that he was an active, sociable man, who could not bear to be slandered and defamed, and admired simplicity of character and plain rustic life. He does not seem to have left any portrait of himself or any one of his family.

The people, among whom he lived, in his last days, were honest, large-hearted yeomen, very brave, but not very religious. They don't appear to have had a church organization at the time he preached to them. I suspect he was no fanatic, but inherited his piety and quiet disposition from his mother. He might have been a pet of the Earl Theophilus Clinton, in his childhood, for he kept the memory of that English friend green, and named a son for him.

His grandson, James Dudley, was my grandfather's grandfather,