

**12.** NICHOLAS<sup>4</sup> DUDLEY (*Stephen, <sup>Samuel,</sup> <sup>Thomas</sup>), born Aug. 27, 1694; married Elizabeth Gordon, and they had seven children, born at Brentwood, N. H. :*

i. Capt. JOHN DUDLEY was born in 1723, at Exeter; a farmer and merchant of very active habits, and much engaged in business for many years. He commanded a company of militia before the Revolution, and possessed a high character, but was rather too ambitious. He was good natured and sociable, a great talker, and very fond of leadership. But his eccentric operations undermined his estate at last. On one occasion he bought nearly all the boards that were manufactured in Epping that year, amounting to several hundred thousand feet, and got teams enough to haul them in one day to Exeter Landing, a distance of eight or ten miles. He formed all the proprietors of the teams into a procession, on horseback, which he himself, on a fine steed, marshalled, preceded by a trumpeter, and so marched in grand style, followed by all his lumber teams. At another time he hired a great number of mechanics and other workmen, and proceeded into the forest on a Monday morning, and, by Saturday night following, had erected and finished a barn eighty feet long by forty wide. But his property could not stand such enterprises forever. It vanished, and about two years before the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, he went into the employment of Gov. John Wentworth as his Steward, on his great farm at Wolfborough, in the County of Stafford, N. H. But the Governor taking up his abode in the British Provinces, Capt. Dudley lost his stewardship, and then went into a new township on the Ossipee river, where he lived several years the life of a hermit, keeping bachelor's hall. Once, at least, in that time he was obliged to take the poor debtor's oath to obtain release from jail. All this misfortune came upon him on account of eccentric business transactions, and not from any vicious habits, or family burdens, as he never married. Soon after his discharge from prison, he left New Hampshire forever. This was not long after the close of the war. He went to Vermont, took up new lands, and acquired some property in the evening of his life. About 1791 his nephew, Rev. Nicholas Dudley, whom he had educated in more fortunate days, came from his home at Ashford, Conn., to his native place, inquired for his uncle John Dudley, found him up in Vermont, took him home to Ashford, and there the old gentleman spent his remaining years in comfort and plenty. He died about 1796.

25. ii. BYLEX, b. 1725; m. 1st, Miss Stone, 2nd, Mrs. Lufkin; d. at Fisherfield, N. H. (now Newbury). 27. iii. TRUEWORTHY,<sup>5</sup> b. 1727; m. Miss Gordon; d. 1759, at Exeter, N. H. 28. iv. JOSEPH, b. 1728; a soldier in the French and Revolutionary wars; m. Hannah, dau. of Ephraim Leavitt, of Stratham. v. SARAH, m. Capt. Josiah Robinson. vi. BETSEY, m. Benj. Hill of Northwood, N. H. vii. NICHOLAS, m. Abigail. His tax at Brentwood in 1743 was £1. 11. 6. See his autograph, No. 1, p. 298.

**13.** CAPT. TRUEWORTHY<sup>4</sup> DUDLEY (*Stephen, <sup>Samuel,</sup> <sup>Thomas</sup>), born 1700; married Hannah Gilman,*