

worthy to be the founder of the Folsom family in America, and fit to transmit the vigorous pulsations of his ancestral blood to future generations.\*

The party having landed at Boston, Mass., Aug. 10, 1638, immediately proceeded to their place of destination, about fourteen miles S. E. from Boston. An Adam Foulsham, probably a son of the Adam who died in 1627, and a cousin, if not brother, of John Foulsham, came from Hingham, Eng., to Hingham, Mass., in 1639, but returned to England and died 1670. Their rector remained about three years, when hearing that the bishops were deposed, he returned to England in 1641† (the date given by Daniel Cushing), resumed his rectory, and died 1656. Edward Gilman had with others obtained a grant of laud eight miles square in a place now called Rehoboth, near the Rhode Island line, in 1641. In 1647 his name is recorded in Ipswich. Soon afterward he went to Exeter, N. H., where his sons were already established in business. John Folsom and wife, with their children, followed her father and mother to Exeter, probably not earlier than 1650; the first authentic record of their residence in that town being in the year 1655.

During the twelve or fifteen years' residence of John Foulsham in Hingham, Mass., he was not without tokens of the good will of the people.

\* As to the original derivation of the name FOULSHAM, Hon. George Folsom, in one of the MSS. left by him, says "It arose, upon the adoption of surnames in England, from the town of Foulsham, a village in the county of Norfolk, England [six or eight miles north of Hingham], in which county the family was seated for many centuries, possessing estates in fifteen different places." Thus, John of Foulsham became John Foulsham.

The orthography and pronunciation of the name have varied in the family itself, as well as among others writing and pronouncing it. The first Anglo-American bearing the name spelt it "Foulsham." His son, Dea. John, wrote it "Fullsom" in 1709, and it is so signed in his last will, 1715. In one instance in the Hingham town records it is spelt "Fulsham," but always afterward "Foulsham." In the Exeter records it is uniformly written "Folsom" from the year 1659, with one exception in 1681, when the town clerk wrote "Foulshame." In the records of the First Parish, Haverhill, Mass., 1749-54, it is spelt "Foulsham," "Foulsham," "Folsham," and "Fulsom," on occasion of the baptism of children of "Josiah Foulsham." Originally it was doubtless spelt "Foulshame"—its etymological significance being the *Fouls home*, or breeding-place, or mart. The old syllabic division must have been Foulshame, the final syllable becoming shortened into "ham," with the first letter silent, pronounced like *am*, as may now often be noticed in words of that termination. A further shortening appears in 1504—how extensively practised is uncertain—in a Latin inscription on a monumental stone in the floor of the church of Repps, Norfolk co., which translated is, Pray for the soul of Mr. Thomas Folsam, Baccalaureate of the Chapel (Hist. of Norfolk Co., vol. xi. p. 182). This last mode of spelling appears on modern maps of England, designating the town. But everywhere it is now written *Folsom* by those hearing the name.

In regard to the pronunciation of this word, it is now generally pronounced by the family quite like *wholesome* (the writer has never known but one exception). And we suggest that this is a preservation of the old way of pronouncing the name; that in the first syllable "Fouls" the diphthong "ou" was sounded as in "souls, poultry," &c. Certain it is that this old spelling—*fouls* (or *fontes*)—of our modern word "fowls," occurs in Chaucer—as in his "House of Fame," and in his "Legend of Nine Good Women":—

"As this foule when hit beheld."

"I hear the foules sing."

Our suggestion is, moreover, fully borne out by similar phenomena of pronunciation in modern times. We hear "howling-alley" (once written *howling-alley*, and the sphere or ball, *baule*) pronounced in two ways, with the first syllable like "ow" in *howl* and in the drinking-vessel *howl*. "Johnson, Elphinstone and Perry declare for the former, i. e. as in *howl*; Sheridan, Scott, Rennell and Smith pronounce it like *hole*. Garrick corrected Walker for pronouncing it like "howl."—(Early English Pronunciation, vol. I. p. 152.) Even the pronunciation of the word when written as Dea. John Folsom wrote it, "Fullsom," has authority in the old pronunciation of the word "Cowper," like that of *wood* (a hurt) as now heard, with the *ow* as in "group," or possibly nearer the sound of *o-oo*—the sound of the *ow* in "Cowper" as in *howl* being "given it only by those who do not know the family."

† In Mr. Blomefield's "County of Norfolk," vol. 2, p. 425, it is stated that he "came back to Hingham in the year 1643, after ten years voluntary banishment."