

BENJAMIN GENEALOGY.

John Benjamin, (Gentleman) as he is styled in the early colonial records, shows indubitably that he belonged to the "landed gentry of England," and Burke is authority for it. He also states in his book of that title that the name originally was Berrington. He sailed from Wales with Sir Richard Salstonstall in the ship *Lion*, and landed in Boston in 1633. He with Sir Richard at once proceeded to Cambridge, founded the year before, where he built a house that was burned only a few years ago, and was made the first balliff, at that time a position equivalent to mayor. He had the largest library of any one in the Colony, and was an intimate friend of Gov. Winthrop.

His will is recorded in the Probate Court in Boston. The part of Cambridge where John Benjamin lived has since been divided, and called Watertown. The published history of Watertown has considerable to say about John Benjamin and family. There is a Benjamin Coat of Arms bearing on it the insignia indicating that some of the family had been in the Crusades.

The Stratford, Conn., branch of the family have it, with the motto: "Passez en avant," which they found with the coat of arms in a book in which it had been over 150 years. It is possible that it was adopted by one of the Berrington-Benjamin family. The Benjamin family is undoubtedly of English origin, and yet one of the Stratford branch saw an old mansion in the South of Wales with the Benjamin coat of arms over the doorway.

John Benjamin's youngest son, Joseph, moved to Pomfret, Conn.