

that very many years had passed from the building of the Chapel until its restoration. Its register is said to go back to the year eleven hundred.

The name occurs very early in the Colonial records. At Boston the mercantile firm of Benet & Co. existed as early as 1630. Bennett street, in that city, doubtless owes its name to this fact. The family must have increased rapidly, for few names are mentioned more frequently, not always in the most complimentary manner. Yet we have upon the whole no valid reason to believe that we were not much like other people.

In Essex, Mass., 1644, Hugh Lynn and Samuel Bennett were presented to the court for being "common sleepers in church" and fined each two shillings and sixpence.

Samuel evidently became wide awake, for in 1664, July 15th, he buys "ye new water mill." His circumstances had improved for nine years previously Joshua Foote sued him for debt, but as Foote's dog had killed Bennett's calf, for which Bennett received the sum of twenty shillings, possibly revengeful litigation was not altogether unknown at that early date. In 1649, William Hook conveyed to him "all that tract of land formerly belonging to his father, Humphrey Hook, etc. One William Bennett complained that Edward Dowty had defaulted on a contract whereby Dowty was to sell a fitch of bacon for three pounds of "beaver." The court appointed Francis Eaton and Robert Hicks, arbitrators, who decided that Bennett's currency was, like silver in 1899, worth but fifty per cent of its face value.

For a considerable time it was believed that this Samuel who "slept in the time of exercise," was our English ancestor. Rev. George S. Bennett, who himself of Boston, has made exhaustive search of old records, states that *our* Samuel was son to Edward, who, with his wife and four children, sailed from Weymouth, England, and settled at Weymouth, Mass., taking up as he was entitled to thirty-six acres of public land. He was made a Freeman in 1636. After a residence there for seven years he became an original proprietor in the company that founded Rehoboth, to which place he removed, dying there 1645-1646, wealthy, and was buried in the Proprietor's Cemetery. He had children

Samuel (1) born 1628.

John, born 1630.