

with leaving the line thus incompletely traced, and in the summer of 1890, while recovering from a long period of sickness, he resolved to make one more effort to fully trace the ancestral descent back to the emigrant ancestor who settled in America.

Soon after this, by correspondence, he made the acquaintance of Hon. Edward F. Johnson, of Woburn, Mass., a lineal descendant of Capt. Edward Johnson, bearing the name of his distinguished ancestor and possessing much of his persevering spirit, who with a kindness and generosity uncommon in this selfish world, offered his assistance in tracing this line, and as a result of his researches in the Registry of Essex and Middlesex counties, the line was established by documentary evidence beyond the possibility of a doubt.

This being accomplished the author at once determined to publish a new book. Fourteen years had past away since the publication of the first, and many changes had taken place by death and otherwise during the interim; a new generation had arisen upon the stage of life, and the family line had been fully verified and established. All these events imperiously demanded another publication. And that demand has brought the present volume into existence.

In recent years many works of this kind have been given to the public. Some person in almost every family line seems to be animated by a laudable spirit, and a commendable zeal to engage in the work of rescuing the family history from that obscurity which a long series of years has thrown over it. In these works the records appear in different forms, possessing different degrees of merit. The compiler of these records considers that form the best, which presents the facts in a manner the most readily perceived and the most easily understood, and he has found no form in the numerous works which he has examined that better accomplishes this purpose than the one which he has adopted.

The records are entered in the order of the generations, and families of the same generation appear in connection with each other in the book. The descendants commencing with a designated ancestor, are numbered in the regular order of descent from the first to the last. The descendant number of each descendant is placed on the right hand side of the page opposite his name, and when any descendant becomes the head of a family, the descendant number is placed before the name of that person in connection with the record of that family, on the left hand side of the page, and in its new relation may be considered the number of that family. And thus if the reader desires to know anything more of a person in a future direction he will turn forward until he finds his descendant number on the left, or if he desires to see the record of the family of that person's father, he will note the number before his name and turn back until he finds this number on the right. In this way the book in its general arrangement becomes an index to itself.