

This deed proves conclusively that John Johnson had a Proprietary right in land held in common by the proprietors of the town, and that his right had not been disposed of at the time of his death, and it proves also that Thomas was the son of John, and some persons may infer from this deed that he was his only son, yet the inference may be erroneous. It only proves that Thomas was the only heir to John's property not otherwise disposed of at the time of his death.

The Johnsons who first settled in Andover, were John, Thomas, Stephen, Timothy and William. There exists documentary evidence, as shown above, to prove that Thomas was the son of John, but nothing has been found in the records to show the parentage of the other three, but there are facts from which reasonable inferences may be drawn, that Stephen and Timothy and William were younger brothers of Thomas in the order named, and that they had several sisters who were married in Andover, which renders it very probable that John and Susanna Johnson had a family of about the usual size for that day.

The birthplace of these is not known, and perhaps never will be, but there is a strong presumption that all, or nearly all of them were born in Massachusetts, presumably, at Ipswich and Andover, with the exception of Thomas who may have been born at Charlestown.

John Johnson was certainly in Ipswich in 1635, and may have been there two or three years earlier among the first settlers of Agawam. John Johnson and Rev. Francis Dane both lived in Ipswich for several years, and their families were doubtless well acquainted with each other, and may have been intimate. They removed to Andover about the same time, 1648, and there may be some significance in these facts in relation to the idea that Stephen was the son of John and born in Ipswich, as he married in 1661, Elizabeth the oldest daughter of Mr. Dane.

The descendants of Timothy Johnson as well as those of Thomas, claim that the emigrant ancestor came from Hern Hill, but the author has found nothing in the early records of Andover, to definitely substantiate the claim, but there is a strong presumption endorsed by historians that the ancestors of the Andover Johnsons, resided at Hern Hill before coming to America, and it may be further presumed that John with his family came in 1630, to Charlestown with Capt. Edward Johnson, who afterwards settled at Woburn, and concerning whom there is positive evidence that he came from Hern Hill, and John may have been and probably was his brother.

Lines of descent have been definitely traced from Timothy Johnson, and records of his descendants will appear in an appendix to this book.

MILITARY SERVICE.

In the early settlements of Essex County, a necessity existed for a military force. The Indians were numerous and aggressive, and treacherously inclined to murder defenseless inhab-