

THE RAWSON FAMILY.

A REVISED

MEMOIR

OF

EDWARD RAWSON,

SECRETARY OF THE COLONY OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY,

FROM 1650 TO 1686;

WITH

GENEALOGICAL NOTICES OF HIS DESCENDANTS,

INCLUDING NINE GENERATIONS.

BY E. B. CRANE.

'Tell ye your Children of it, and let your Children tell their Children, and their Children
another Generation.'—*Bible.*

WORCESTER:
PUBLISHED BY THE FAMILY.
1875.

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Edward Rawson.

NATIS 1615



ETATIS SUÆ 55.
1670.

Engraved from the original Portrait in the possession of R. B. Dodge,
East Sutton, Mass.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
PREFACE	vii
HOW TO TRACE THE LINE OF DESCENT	x
THE FAMILY NAME, ITS ORIGIN, &C.	xiii
FAMILY COAT OF ARMS	xv
INDEX NO. 1	295
INDEX NO. 2	317
APPENDIX	251
OATH ADMINISTERED TO EDWARD RAWSON	251
EDWARD RAWSON COMMISSIONED AS STEWARD AND AGENT	252
LETTER TO CAPT. JOHN LEVERETT	252
SALARY INCREASED	253
LETTER TO WILLIAM LEET, ESQ.	253
LETTER TO LORD ARLINGTON	255
LETTER TO CONNECTICUTT	256
"LAWS AND ORDERS OF WARR"	257
EDWARD RAWSON A LARGE LAND HOLDER	258
BURIAL PLACE OF EDWARD RAWSON	258
PETITION TO SIR EDMUND ANDROSS	259
REV. JOHN WILSON'S WILL	260
GRINDAL RAWSON'S SETTLEMENT IN THE MINISTRY	262
REV. GRINDAL RAWSON'S WILL	263
MRS. GRINDAL RAWSON'S LETTER TO COTTON MATHER	265
EXTRACTS FROM REV. GRINDAL RAWSON'S ELECTION SERMON	268
DAVID RAWSON'S WILL	273
FIRST FAMILY REUNION	276
ADDRESS BY LUTHER RAWSON MARSH, ESQ.	276
SECOND RAWSON FAMILY REUNION	281
THIRD RAWSON FAMILY REUNION	284
EDMUND GRINDAL, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY	292
ADDENDA	329
ERRATA	333

ENGRAVINGS.

	FACING PAGE.
FRONTISPIECE, EDWARD RAWSON, OUR PROGENITOR.	
REBECCA RAWSON	9
PHINEAS WASHINGTON LELAND	51
POLLA RAWSON	55
THE CAPT. SAMUEL RAWSON MANSION	57
ABEL RAWSON, ESQ.	108
DR. BASS RAWSON	109
MRS. ABIGAIL RAWSON PRENTICE	116
HENRY E. PRENTICE, ESQ.	117
MRS. LURANA WHITE TOWNSEND	146
REUBEN RAWSON DODGE	331

P R E F A C E .

AT the First Gathering of the RAWSON FAMILY, October 8th, A. D., 1872, at Horticultural Hall, Worcester, Mass., the wish was repeatedly expressed by those who took part that a new *Family Memorial* should be published. This wish was heartily shared by all ; although no direct steps were then taken towards its accomplishment. The whole time was occupied in becoming acquainted with each other and in examining the ancient Family Relics which were exhibited in the Hall in abundance. They were presented and carefully arranged by Mr. REUBEN RAWSON DODGE of Sutton, who has been for more than a quarter of a century collecting them ; and to whom, more than to any other person, the Family are indebted beyond recompense for the persistent energy and industry with which he has labored in their behalf. To him are we under obligation for the First Meeting. A Reunion was held at the same place, October 1st, 1873, when the subject of a New *Memorial* was again urged, and a Committee chosen to collect material and see to the publication of the Book. The names of that Committee are as follows : R. R. DODGE, L. O. LIVINGSTON, GEORGE RAWSON, E. B. CRANE, MARY G. LELAND, N. A. BOUTELLE and O. F. RAWSON. A few months later, a majority of the Committee convened at Worcester for the purpose of making a beginning in the work for which they were chosen. The result of that meeting was a vote that the whole matter be placed in the hands of E. B. CRANE, the Secretary-elect of the Association, to distribute circulars and blanks, and to

receive the same when returned. That part of the work has been quite thoroughly prosecuted. At the Third Family Reunion, held September 16th, A. D., 1874, report was presented of progress thus far made. A copy of this report and a brief account of each Family Gathering, including the address of LUTHER R. MARSH, Esq., of New York City, may be found in the Appendix. Little more than a year had been spent in gathering Records when letters began to be received, with the inquiry, "When will the Book be ready for distribution?" No arrangement even had then been made with any person to compile the work, and no one had volunteered his services. Thinking the time too precious to be lost, the writer made a beginning of the compilation, without the slightest thought of carrying it to completion, but with the idea that whoever should take hold of the work after him might possibly find that no harm had been done.

Now that the work is so nearly accomplished, he must present an apology for continuing that which, in the beginning, he felt incompetent to perform.

He has attempted to record only plain, simple facts, without display of rhetoric (to which he makes no pretensions). If the work has been made plain, so that readers can all trace the genealogies, then he will feel that he has been instrumental in furnishing some little comfort and general knowledge concerning this prolific Family.

The *Memorial* published in 1849, by Mr. REUBEN RAWSON DODGE and SULLIVAN S. RAWSON, through the assistance of JOSEPH H. DORR, Esq., of Boston, and Hon. JOSEPH RAWSON of R. I., contained 1462 names, and has been made the groundwork for this book.

The Author desires that full credit should be awarded to all who furnished material for that work; and would also express his gratitude personally to each and every one who has contributed any matter whatsoever pertaining to this volume, and especially to those who have contributed engravings, they adding

materially to the interest of the book. Mr. DODGE has been untiring in his efforts to furnish documents and give aid to this work, and is entitled to special mention.

This Book contains upwards of 5,450 names, descendants of the Secretary, EDWARD RAWSON.

Perfection in a work like this is seldom attained. When records and reports are presented in so many different forms and written by as many different hands, to be compiled by one person, errors are quite likely to occur, however vigilant the compiler may be. Letters and figures are often written so obscurely as to require very careful study in order to arrive at even a probable certainty. Too much care can not be used in preparing the original reports in order that errors may be subsequently avoided. No effort has been made to trace the RAWSON Family in England. It has been the object of this work to revise, correct and complete a genealogy of the Family in America. Our correspondence has been quite extensive, and replies have been prompt on the part of its widely-scattered members, for which they have our most hearty thanks; yet quite a number of persons (and probably families) have not responded, and perhaps have not been reached by our Circulars, which may account, in a measure, for some of the omissions and the incompleteness of this book.

When replies to our letters have not been received we have endeavored to get information through other members of the Family. On this account there may be found occasional discrepancy in dates. Some of the records used were received quite a number of years ago. Changes must since have taken place, but as we could not get reports of more recent date it was thought best to use those at hand in order to leave the chain of descent unbroken.

We have placed some reliance upon interested members, soliciting information from them respecting all persons in their particular branch of the Family. We have thus reached some of whom we had no direct knowledge, and are happy to say that our expectations have been more than realized.

The interest has been universal and spontaneous. Some few have sent in quite lengthy biographical sketches. It was not thought best to publish them in full, although we should be very glad to do so, as they contain matter of special interest and usefulness to immediate descendants; but we have here given them in a condensed form, that expense might be saved, and it is hoped that at the same time there has been no serious loss of the ennobling influences contained therein.

The Author has followed the style of arrangement adopted in the *Slafter Memorial*, published by Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A. M., of Boston. Consecutive numbers are placed on the left margin against those who bear the name of RAWSON; also, against descendants who are heads of families, of whatever name. No two names receive the same number, although the same name may appear twice under different numbers—first as *child*, then as *parent*.

In order to find the name of a RAWSON consult Index No. 1, where all Christian names only are alphabetically arranged. Since the same Christian name often occurs, the actual or conjectural year of birth is prefixed to each name, to assist in determining which person of the common Christian name is meant. The number after each name is the consecutive number. Turn to this number in the body of the book and record will be found of the first appearance of the person as a *child*, in all cases except that of the first EDWARD.

Should a bracketed [—] number here be found *after* the name, it refers to a subsequent record of the same person as *parent*. When a bracketed number does not appear after the name no further information concerning that person will be found.

In like manner, immediately after the name of a *parent*, will be found a bracketed number, which refers *back* to the entry of the same name where the person appears as a *child*. Therefore, as a rule, the *larger* numbers refer *forward*, and the *smaller* ones *backward*. Also, after the name of a *parent*, the pedigree is indicated in parenthesis, (—) with small figures above, showing to

what generation the name belonged. Thus, parent's name Grindal², father's name William¹, grandfather's Edmund⁰, and so on down to Edward¹.

In Index No. 2 will be found all names of descendants and persons who have intermarried with the various families mentioned in the book, and who bear *other names* than that of RAWSON. This index contains only the names of heads of families, and in it the surnames are entered alphabetically. The Christian names follow in regular order, with consecutive numbers appended, referring to each name in the body of the book.

When the name of a descendant or relative of the RAWSON Family does not appear in the index, reference may be made to the name of either wife, father or mother. A line of descent may thus be found from which the desired information may be gained.

The Author has not been able to be as thorough and systematic in collecting and arranging genealogical information respecting families of other names connected through the various female lines, as some may desire. But all information received may be found in this volume, and, with but few exceptions, immediately following that of the last person in the line who bore the name of RAWSON.

In these cases, also, bracketed numbers are appended, referring *back* to corresponding numbers under the parent's name. Small exponential figures are also printed over to indicate the generation to which the name belongs.

The usual abbreviations for the names of States are employed; m. stands for married; b. for born; d. for died; s. for settled; r. for reside; U. C. for Union College; W. C., Williams College, and also for Waterville College; H. C., Harvard College; B. C., Bowdoin College; B. U., Brown University.

A blank "Family Record" will be found at the end of each book, where the different families can supply deficiencies in their records or continue them in future years. Although the Circulars issued did not call specially for information concerning military service rendered or collegiate course of education pursued, yet

we have the pleasure of knowing that the Family has been well represented in each of these named departments, and would have done honor to this Record had the materials been collected with which to form a Roll of Honor as well as a List of College Graduates. So far as information was received, it has been placed under the individual's name in the body of the book.

In the Appendix may be found printed copies of Letters, Deeds, &c., which will be of interest to many of the Family.

To EDMUND GRINDAL RAWSON, M. D., of New York City, OSCAR F. RAWSON of this City, NEWELL A. BOUTELLE of Woonsocket, R. I., and HENRY M. RAWSON of Providence, R. I., who have given valuable pecuniary aid towards the publication of this work, we return our special thanks.

Also, for many additional and interesting facts concerning some of the subjects of this record, we are indebted to the American Antiquarian Society of this City, who have in store a vast amount of historical and genealogical information, to which we have had free access, through the kindness of S. F. Haven, Esq., Librarian, and the gentlemanly and courteous Assistant-Librarian, Mr. Edmund M. Barton, who always has been ready to assist us personally when he could be of service. We cannot refrain from also expressing our perfect satisfaction with the manner in which our work has been executed at the printing house of Mr. Charles Hamilton, Worcester, Mass. And we beg to express our grateful appreciation of the interest taken by Mr. Benjamin J. Dodge (the foreman), to have this register correctly printed, and in every way, so far as possible, made satisfactory to the Members of the Family.

E. B. CRANE.

WORCESTER, MASS., *August 25th*, 1875.

N A M E.

It will perhaps be both pleasing and instructive, to some at least, of the RAWSON descendants, to learn something concerning the name, its origin and meaning. For this purpose, the best authorities on the subject have been consulted, and the works of a number of different persons on surnames have been examined. That of "*Mark Antony Lower's Essays on English Surnames*" has been accepted as the one most likely to prove reliable. Family surnames were not commonly in use previous to the tenth century, and cannot be traced further back than the latter part of that century. They were first used in France, and particularly in Normandy, at the North of France. When William the Conqueror mounted the English throne, in 1066, Normandy was incorporated with, and formed an important part of, the territory of the English monarchy. The entry of those Norman adventurers into England was, no doubt, the inauguration of the custom of having surnames. Many of these names were taken from the castle, village, or country seat in which the Normans lived on the other side of the channel. Some of these were used by prefixing the French preposition *de*. Another large class was formed by adding *son* to the christian name of the father. Office, occupation, or condition in life gave rise to names such as Knight, Shepard, Smith, Page. Others still were taken from color or complexion, as White, Black, Brown; some were derived from animals: Drake, Bird, Wolf, &c. To these might be added many more in illustration, but perhaps enough have been presented to give the reader an idea of the manner in which family names were first produced. Previous then to the Norman conquest, persons had commonly but one name, a christian name given on the ninth or tenth day after birth. It was often expressive of some quality in high estimation, of valor, skill, wisdom, or gracefulness. Other names were taken from the names of the different ancient gods, &c. Among these we find Hildebrand (war brand), Konrad (bold in council), Adolph (Noble Wolf), Arnold (Valiant Eagle), Osborn (God Bear), Wolfhild (Wolf heroine); *Ralph*, in England often pronounced *Raf*, with broad *a*, meaning famous wolf or hero, and this "Lower" tells us is the name from which ours comes. It was very often written *Relf* and pronounced like *Rauf*, with a very broad *a*. By adding the plural termination *es*, as was done to King, *Kinges*; Servant, *Servantes*, the name

became Ralphen or Relphen, and it was pronounced Raufes or Rawes. Then *Son* was appended in the place of *es*, and the *f* dropped, making Rawson, meaning son of Rauf or Rawes. Thus from Ralph came Rawes, Rawson, Rawlins, Rawlinson, and Rason.

Ralph *de* Mortimer was the First Constable of England, receiving his commission from William the Conqueror. The name Ralph must have been a popular one among the learned men as far back as the tenth century. Ralph, a Norwegian Bishop, was Abbat of Abingdon in England in 1050 and 1052; Ralph, Bishop of Orkney, 1077; Ralph *d* Escures, Bishop of Rochester 1108, and Archbishop of Canterbury 1114 to 1122; Ralph, Archdeacon of Colchester, and English Judge in 1189; died in 1190. Ralph, Archdeacon of Hereford, a Judge from 1163 to 1197. Ralph, Bishop of Down, 1202 to 1213. Ralph of Bristol, Bishop of Kildare, 1233; d. 1258. Ralph of Kilmessan, Bishop of Down, 1329; died 1353. Ralph of Maidstone, Bishop of Hereford, 1234. Ralph of Shrewsbury, Bishop of Bath, 1329, d. 1363. Ralph of *de* Wareham, Bishop of Chichester, 1218; d. 1222.

A pedigree of the RAWSON FAMILY is mentioned in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, covering eight generations, and contained in "William Pavers' Consolidated Visitations of Yorkshire." Burk, in his *Complete Work on Heraldry*, mentions it, saying that it begins with RICHARD RAWSON of Frystone, who flourished in the time of Richard II., about 1380, and was concluded in 1585. From this family arose the RAWSONS of Bradford, ancestors of William of Bolling, who married heiress of Brooke of Brookeroyd, and was grandfather to BENJAMIN RAWSON of Bradford and Darley, who purchased the estate of Nidd, County of York.

These pedigrees referred to, were collected by Heralds under Royal Commissions, who were instructed to visit the several counties of England, and collect the same from all families of any distinction, and to enter them in a book containing official proceedings. These register books contained the pedigrees and arms collected in course of the visitations, with the signatures of the heads of the families. Since the beginning of the seventeenth century these visitations have been discontinued. These facts go to show that it is a very ancient, as well as quite prominent, patronymic.

RICHARD RAWSON, an English Canonist and Jurist, d. 1543. About 1580, John Blake, Jr., son of John Blake of Little Baddow, County of Essex, England, married Anna, the heir of RAWSON. She had seven children. William Blake, a brother to this John, came to America in 1630 and settled at Dorchester, Mass.

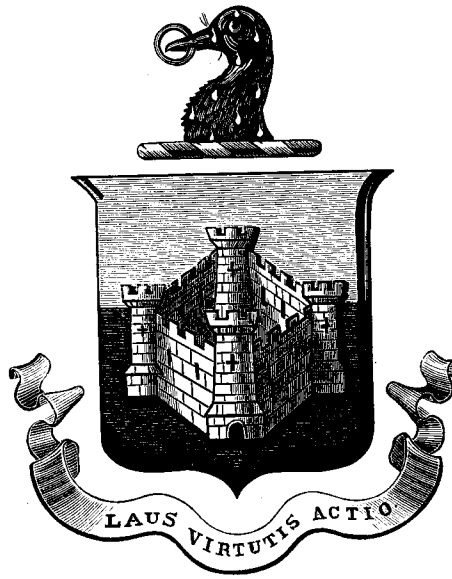
There are other explanations of the origin of the name of RAWSON, but after careful study of them all, this is believed to be the true one. Other explanations derive the name from Rous, Rouse, Roussane, (French), and Row, (Scotch), pronounced *Raw* in English. Thence comes Rawes, then RAWSON, also Ros and Ross, or Raven, then Ravensson and RAWSON in England. Edward, meaning (truth keeper) a faithful man, and Edmund (truth mouth) a speaker of the truth, are very often found among the names of the family, and are also antique.

The RAWSON FAMILY COAT OF ARMS gives another proof that the name is ancient and bears distinction. The origin of this emblem is accounted for by the following legend :—

“Far back in the blood-stained history of England there was a strong fortress or castle in the possession of the enemy, which it was desirable to capture. Some attempts had been made but without success. There was a bold, energetic, patriotic young Officer in the King's Army by the name of RAWSON, who volunteered to organize an expedition for its reduction, if allowed a certain number of men. The proposition was accepted, the expedition successful, and to reward the young Officer for his daring skill and bravery, he was presented with this Coat of Arms.”

Whether the story be true or not the writer is not prepared to affirm; but it is a fact that such a family blazon does exist, and has been on record at the Herald's College, or College of Arms, for several hundred years. It is composed of an escutcheon, representing an old knightly shield, the lower half (sable) black, the upper half (azure) blue; in centre of the shield a castle, with four towers in gold; crest (placed over), a raven's head, black; bearing on the neck drops of gold, one and two; erased, on a wreath; in the beak a ring of gold. The motto underneath, “*Laus Virtutis Actio*,” may be freely rendered, “The deed of bravery is its own praise.” The sentiment of the device seems to be Strength, Strategy, Watchfulness. The Raven obtained possession by force and holds the precious reward in his beak.

The cut of the Family Coat of Arms given here was made from the original obtained in England by a Son of the REV. THOS. READ RAWSON, of Albany, N. Y.



RAWSON

COAT OF ARMS.

