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Interior view of the New Bedford [Mass.] Meeting House. Many Rotch and Rodman descendants were members of the New Bedford Monthly Meeting (pp. 293–326).

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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In this issue

Origins: Curtis, Lovett

Families: Luce, Rodman, Rotch,
Snelling, Thurber, Wheeler

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viii. JOHN WELLS, bp. 25 April 1617; m. at Carlton, 16 Jan. 1638/39, LETTICE BODDINGTON.^[166] She was b. [say 1618] to Henry and Anne (____) Boddington of Chellington. Henry left a will probated 22 Nov. 1658, wherein he names his daughter “Lettice Wells the wife of John Wells” and a grandson John Wells.^[167] Thomas Wells and Thomas Wells, Jr. were witnesses. They therefore had at least one son:

1. *John Wells.*

ix. WILLIAM WELLS, bp. 21 Feb. 1618. He is perhaps the William Welles, schoolmaster, held by the churchwardens of Ampthill, Bedfordshire, to indemnify public charges on the town in 1662 and 1664, though more likely that was a nephew, son of Thomas and Judith (Walcott) Wells.^[168]

6. REV. WILLIAM^A WELLS (*Rev. Thomas^B, Hugh^C*) was baptized by his father at Chellington, 14 September 1589.^[169] He “is said to have been buried” at Moulsoe, Buckinghamshire, 2 September 1656.^[170] He married, not long after December 1616, **AGNES^A TAPP**, daughter of Edmund^B and Margaret (____) Tapp of Felmersham, and sister of the New Haven immigrant Edmund Tapp.^[171]

He is very likely the William Welles of Bedfordshire who matriculated at St. Mary Hall, Oxford 30 Oct. 1607, aged 18. He took a BA from Oriel College, 21 Jan. 1610/11, and an MA 9 July 1613.^[172] Foster speculates this graduate was rector of Ickworth and Reckham (or Rougham), Suffolk, but far more likely it was a local man of the same name.^[173] Indeed, William was serving as curate of Carlton as early as 1614, despite not being ordained; his father paid him a stipend while the older man performed the services at Chellington.^[174]

Wells was “of Chellington” by 1627/28, when he appointed his brother-in-law Valentine Lawrence of Crawley Green, Luton, as attorney to take possession of property in Luton which Wells had purchased of Abraham Crawley.^[175] Wells sold that land shortly before his death to Sir Robert Napier, of Luton Hoo, a family with which Lawrence had long association in Luton.^[176]

¹⁶⁶ Emmison, *Bedfordshire Registers* [note 13], B17.

¹⁶⁷ Will of Henry Boddington, PCC [note 2], PROB 11/283/518.

¹⁶⁸ Bedfordshire Archives Service Catalogue [database online] Ref: P30/13/1/1/4; BRO Ref: P30/13/1/1/6.

¹⁶⁹ Chellington parish register [note 110].

¹⁷⁰ Ratcliff, *History and Antiquities of the Newport Pagnell Hundreds*, 320 [note 35]. Ratcliff gives no source and the Moulsoe registers are silent on the question and moreover, likely incomplete.

¹⁷¹ *Tappe v. Wells* [note 22]; Partridge, “Origins of Edmund Tapp,” *The American Genealogist* 72 (1997):65–80 [note 24].

¹⁷² Foster, *Alumni Oxon.* [note 18], 4:1596

¹⁷³ Venn, *Alumni Cantabrig.* [note 34] 1:4:364.

¹⁷⁴ Clergy of the Church of England [note 14], Record #5444 showing the personnel at Chellington in 1614 (“No priest. Not licensed. Stipend: ‘He maintaineth him because he is child.’”); Clergy of the Church of England Record #35230 showing the 1616 subscription book (“to serve the cure expounde & catechise”).

¹⁷⁵ See note 31.

¹⁷⁶ Bedfordshire Archives Service Catalogue [database online] Ref: DW114. For the Lawrence/Napier association, see e.g., Bedfordshire Archives Service Catalogue [database online] Ref: AD801. William Wells was also a patient of Napier’s brother, the physician and astrologer Richard Napier [Lauren Kassell, Michael Hawkins, Robert Ralley, John Young, Joanne Edge, Janet Yvonne Martin-Portugues, and Natalie Kaoukji (eds.), ‘CASE73667’, *The casebooks of Simon Forman and*

Lawrence could have been Wells's business partner, as they at some point both bought a significant lot of land, cottages, and a malting house in the south of Luton, selling it in April 1655 to Edmund Jones, gentleman of Luton, and his wife Margaret.^[177] As of January 1638/39, Wells also held land in Felmersham, perhaps from his father-in-law.^[178]

As argued above, Parliament appointed Wells to the benefice of Melbourn in 1644 and he was probably still there in 1650 when his daughter Susan was married in Melbourn.^[179] Wells became rector of Moulsoe sometime in the early 1650s, after the sequestration of the incumbent.^[180] That fact—that he was very likely installed twice by the local Committees for Plundered Ministers under the Long Parliament—strongly suggests his theological opinions aligned with theirs.^[181] Further, the terms of his will suggest that he was never quite at home in the parish, and that some of his flock was withholding tithes.^[182]

Wells made his will 24 August 1656, and it was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 15 October of the same year. After remembering the poor of Carlton and Chellington (but not Moulsoe), William Wells left most of his household goods (including a “studie of books”) to his unmarried daughters Alice, Judith, and Elizabeth, along with £100 apiece to be paid six months after his decease or on the days of their marriages. He also bequeathed to them £20 in gold and all of his plates save one, to be divided between them. His daughters Elizabeth Wheeler, Anne Augur, and Susan Smith were given 20 shillings apiece, then separately given another 40 shillings apiece. Among other items, he left a small annuity to his grandchild Elizabeth Wheeler, the second daughter of his son-in-law William Wheeler, to be paid until she reached the age of 21. His granddaughter Anne Auger was bequeathed a small annuity on the same basis. The remaining grandchildren were not named, but received a bequest of 20 shillings apiece. His servants, Richard and Marie, received 22 shillings apiece.

Interestingly, he divided among his six daughters in England “all the money lent to [th]e state” if it ever be repaid. The lone son mentioned, Thomas, was deceased, and £5 and land in Chellington given him by William's father, Rev. Thomas, was divided equally between the daughters. Anne Wheeler in New England comes near the end of the will: “if she ever come over again [to England],” she is to share in the Chellington land. Finally, of the “hundred and three pounds” lent to the state, 20 shillings “belongith to my Sister Robert Tapps wife.” Three of the daughters, Alice, Judith, and Elizabeth, were appointed joint executrices, with Robert Tapp, brother-in-law, and William Wheeler, son-in-law, appointed overseers. Witnesses were Joseph Wells and William Janes.

Richard Napier, 1596–1634: a digital edition, <https://casebooks.lib.cam.ac.uk/cases/CASE73667>, accessed 24 July 2020].

¹⁷⁷ Bedfordshire Archives Service Catalogue [database online] Ref: BH1.

¹⁷⁸ Bedfordshire Archives Service Catalogue [database online] Ref: GA1276.

¹⁷⁹ See note 34.

¹⁸⁰ George Lipscomb, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham* (London: 1847), 4:254.

¹⁸¹ William Page, ed., *The Victoria History of the County of Buckingham* (London: 1905), 1:327.

¹⁸² Will of William Wells, PCC [note 2], PROB 11/258/333.

7. ANNE¹ WELLS (Rev. William^A, Rev. Thomas^B, Hugh^C), baptized by her grandfather at Chellington, 6 May 1621;^[193] died probably in Fairfield County, Connecticut, before 1708;^[194] married ca. 1640, EPHRAIM¹ WHEELER. Anne was named in her father's will as "my daughter Ann Wheeler who now liveth in New England." She is very likely the Ann Wells aged 15 recorded in London as "more for *The Planter*" on 5 April 1635, as well as the Ann Wells aged 20 certified for the *Susan and Ellen* around the same time.^[195]

Ephraim was baptized at Cranfield, Bedfordshire, 16 March 1618/19, son of Thomas and Rebecca (_____) Wheeler, made his will at Fairfield on 22 September 1669, proved there 1 November 1670.^[196] He was still in old England as late as 19 February 1637/38, when he and two brothers sold their jointly owned land in Cranfield,^[197] but in New England when he took the oath of freeman in Boston on 13 March 1638/39.^[198] He moved from Concord to Fairfield in 1644.^[199]

Children of Ephraim¹ and Anne¹ (Wells) Wheeler:^[200]

- i. ISAAC WHEELER, b. at Concord, Mass., 13 Dec. 1642; d. 15 April 1712.
- ii. MARY WHEELER, b. [say 1645]; m. by 1669 _____.
- iii. RUTH WHEELER, b. [say 1648]; made a will 19 Jan. 1718/19; proved at Stratfield, Conn., 10 Feb. 1718/19; m. SAMUEL TREADWELL.
- iv. HANNAH WHEELER, b. [say 1650]; m. at Concord 11 July 1667, SAMUEL SMEDLEY.
- v. REBECCA WHEELER, b. [say 1652]; d. after 1702; m. ca. 1672, SAMUEL GREGORY.
- vi. JUDITH WHEELER, b. [say 1655].
- vii. SAMUEL WHEELER, b. [say 1658]; d. at Hartford, Conn., 29 June 1712; m. by 1686, SARAH GRANT.
- viii. TIMOTHY WHEELER, b. [say 1660]; made a will 13 April 1730, proved 20 June 1730; m. (1) at Stratfield, Conn., 11 April 1689, REBECCA TURNEY; m. (2) MARGERY _____.
- ix. ABIGAIL WHEELER, b. [say 1662]; d. after 1697; m. ca. 1685, SAMUEL WELLES.
- x. EPHRAIM WHEELER, b. [say 1664]; d. before 27 Nov. 1705; m. (1) SARAH TURNEY; m. (2) SARAH SHERWOOD.

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¹⁹³ Chellington parish register [note 110].

¹⁹⁴ Donald Lines Jacobus, *The Ancestry of Lorenzo Ackley and his Wife Emma Arabella Bosworth* (Woodstock, Vt.: 1960), 54–55. [To accord with R. D. Wheeler.]

¹⁹⁵ Hotten [note 44], 48–49, 59.

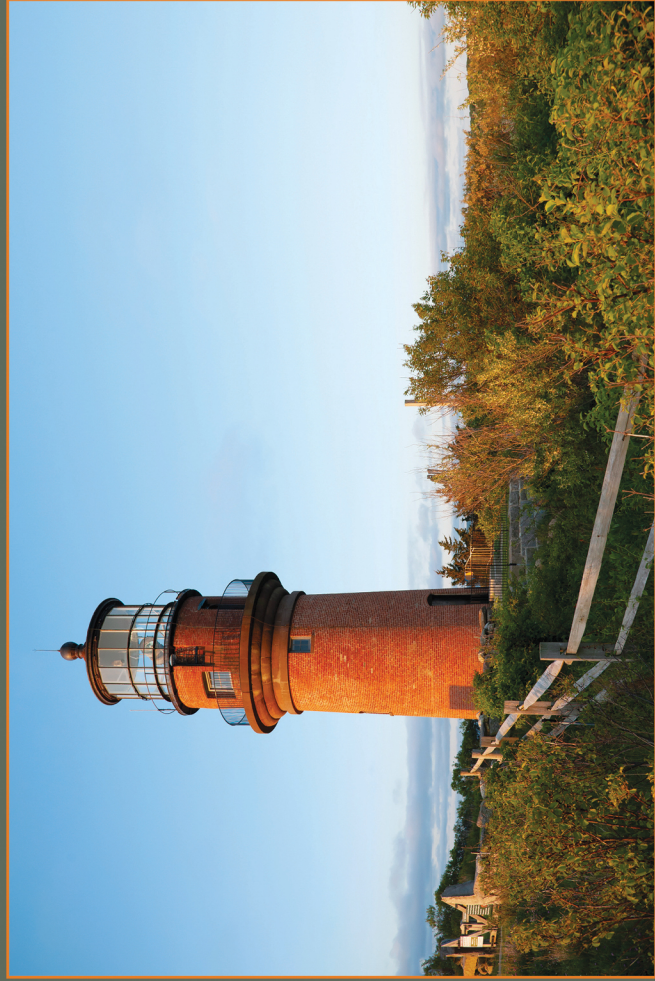
¹⁹⁶ Jacobus, *Lorenzo Ackley* [note 194], 54–55.

¹⁹⁷ John Insley Coddington, "The Wheelers of Bedfordshire and New England," *The American Genealogist* 28 (1952):259.

¹⁹⁸ "List of Freemen," *Register* 3 (1849):96.

¹⁹⁹ Jacobus, *Lorenzo Ackley* [note 194], 54–55.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*



Aquinnah Lighthouse, also referred to as Gay Head Light, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.
Henry and Remember Luce and many of their descendants lived on Martha's Vineyard; see pp.245–257.