JAMES ROGERS

OF

LONDONDERRY,

AND

JAMES ROGERS

OF

DUNBARTON.

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JAMES ROGERS of Londonderry — AND — JAMES ROGERS of Dunbarton.

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It has been quite generally assumed that James Rogers, who was one of the earliest settlers of Londonderry, was the same man as James Rogers, who was one of the earliest settlers of Dunbarton and the father of Col. Robert Rogers "the Ranger;" but the records show the contrary. It is the purpose of this article to give so much of the history of each as to show that there were two of the same name and give some account of their families.

I. JAMES ROGERS OF LONDONDERRY.

Among the Scotch-Irish who in 1717 petitioned for a plantation in New Hampshire, were Hugh and James Rogers.

This petition being denied, John Wheelwright, Oct. 20, 1719, gave the Scotch-Irish a deed of a tract of land ten miles square, called Nutfield. (N. AND Q., Vol. XV, p. 174.)

One half a lot was laid out to James Rogers, July 14, 1721, with an interest in the undivided lands. William Campbell sold to James Rogers of Billerica thirty acres of land in Nutfield, March 8, 172½. (Bk. 17, p. 316.)

On June 21, 1722, the State granted to John Moore and others

(subject to the claims of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and those claiming under that authority) one hundred and sixteen shares to persons named in a schedule annexed, (with 850 shares additional to some of them) and on the same day the proprietors admitted eight others with one share each, and granted to Gov. Shute and Gov. Wentworth a house lot and 500 acres each. This grant is known as the charter of Londedonrry.

In this schedule, James Rogers is put down for one-half a share, and "Wm. Cambel" for one share; but Hugh Rogers is not named.
(N. H. State Papers, Vol. XXV, pp. 272-277.)

I give memoranda of deeds showing the continuous residence of James Rogers in Londonderry up to the time of his death.

July 20, 1727, James Rogers of Londonderry conveyed to James Calderwood half a lot of land in Londonderry, and his wife joins to release dower.

James Rogers of Londonderry and Jean, his wife (but she did not sign) are named in deed dated Oct. 10, 1732, as conveying to William Dickey land in Londonderry described as "part of mendment and addition lands" * * "and one-half of meadow land out to James Rogers and James Gilmore." (Book 19, p. 1.)

And on the fifteenth of the next January, he conveyed one half of the Leverett meadow in Londonderry. (Book 19, p. 260.)

By deed dated Dec. 30, 1736, James Rogers of Londonderry, yeoman, conveyed to Samuel Allison, land in L., "being part of a larger tract of land laid out to me as a proprietor of said Londonderry." His wife, Jean, joined to release dower.

Other deeds of James Rogers *of Londonderry*, in several of which his wife, Jean, joined are dated Dec. 21, 1739, (Bk. 42, p. 330); July 31, 1749, (Bk. 39, p. 260); July 31, 1749, (Bk. 39, p. 261); April 4, 1749, (Bk. 46, p. 128); Aug. 3, 1749, (Bk. 38, p. 283); and May 24,

1751, ("being part of my second division mendment and addition"), (Bk. 39, p. 251).

On Feb'y 3, 174⅞, James Lindsay, blacksmith, of Londonderry, (his wife Margaret joining to release dower) conveyed to James Rogers of L., yeoman, all rights in common lands as proprietor. (Bk. 34, p. 117).

[In 1722 schedule, James Lindsay is credited with one share.]

July 23, 1751, Abraham Cochran conveyed to James Rogers of Londonderry land in L., "laid out to the right of Henry Greene" (who had one share in 1722). (Bk. 38, p. 467.)

James Rogers of Londonderry conveyed to Thomas Burnside sixty-three acres of land in L. This deed was dated Dec. 2, 1754, but was not acknowledged till Sept. 17, 1755, two days after the date of his will, five days before his own death and twelve days after the death of his wife. (Bk. 47, p. 206.)

James Rogers of Londonderry took the oath of allegiance in 1727; signed the "Proposals for Peace" in the famous church dissension in 1737, and served on various committees in town affairs.

The surname of his wife is not known; she died Sept. 5, 1755, aged 62, and he, Sept. 22, 1755, aged 69; his older brother, Hugh, survived him, dying March 4, 1763, aged 80, and his wife (also named Jean) Feb'y 28, 1756, aged 63.

The children of James and Jean Rogers, as given in the Londonderry record, were:

2. Martha[2], b. May 3, 1723; m. Robert McClure.
3. Thomas[2], b. July 7, 1724.
4. William[2], b. Sept. 15, 1726.
5. John[2], b. June 25, 1729.
6. James[2], b. Feb'y 22, 173½; d. young.

But his will shows that he had others, viz.:

7. Margaret[2], b. ; m. Samuel Thompson.
8. Mary[2], b. ; m. Joseph Scobey.
9. Jean[2], b. ; m. William Morrison.
10. Esther[2], b. ; m. Samuel Huston.

It is also quite certain that Samuel Rogers, who died July 4, 1755, aged 16, and was buried near James and Jean, was their son.

James[2] is not mentioued in the will and undoubtedly died young.

The or r in which the daughters are named in the will, indicates that ' rgaret, Mary and Jean were older than Martha.

His will, dated September 15, 1755, gives small legacies to several parties, and then divides the residue into eight parts, and gives one-eighth each to son, Thomas ; son, William ; son, John ; son, Samuel Thompson, and wife, Margaret ; son, Joseph Scobey, and wife, Mary ; son, William Morrison, and wife, Jean ; son, Robert McClure, and wife, Martha ; and Esther Rogers. (Vol. XIII, p. 406.)

On Feb'y 6, 1759, Thomas Rogers of Chester, William Rogers, John Rogers, Samuel Thompson, Margaret Thompson, Joseph Scobey, Mary Scobey, William Morrison, Jean Morrison, Robert McClure, Martha McClure, Samuel Huston and Esther Huston, "all of Londonderry, yeomen and spinsters," conveyed to Hugh Gregg the half lot which James Rogers bought of William Campbell ; and Elizabeth Rogers, wife of Thomas, Jeanet, wife of William, and Jean, wife of John, join to release dower. (Bk. 100, p. 149.)

The deed shows that the "James Rogers" of Billerica to whom Campbell conveyed was the same James Rogers who was an original proprietor of Londonderry.

Robert McClure, who married Martha[2], was born in Ireland in 1788, and came to this country in his ninth year with his father, Richard, who was a ruling Elder in Rev. Mr. Morehead's church in Boston ; they had a son, James, who marrried Mary Nesmith of Londonderry, "and they were my great grand-parents." (MSS. of A. B. Otis.)

Samuel Huston, who married Esther[2] (as his second wife), was one of the original proprietors of Belfast, Maine. He moved there in

1771, and spent the rest of his life there, dying in 1819. (Williamson's Belfast, p. 96.)

John is the only other child of James, whose family I have even partially traced. He was well known as "Lieutenant Rogers;" he married Jean Ewins, daughter of James; he settled first in Londonderry, but moved to Acworth in 1768; he died in 1776 of "camp fever" contracted in bringing home Robert McClure from the continental army; his widow died in 1798.

Children born in Londonderry and Acworth:

James[3], b. June 5, 1754.
Jonathan[3], b.
John[3], b.
Agnes[3], b. ; m. Abner Gage.
Samuel[3], b.
Peter[3], b.
Baptiste[3], b.
Susanna[3], b. ; m. Joseph Hemphill.
Hannah[3], b.
Elizabeth[3], b. ; m. Stephen Thornton.
Esther[3], b. ; m. (1) Benjamin Hobbs;
(2) George Clark;
(3) M. Temple.

These names are not given in the order of births.

His will (d. Nov. 11, 1776. p. Jan'y. 1777) mentions "deare wife"; "two eldest daughters, Agnes and Elizabeth"; "two eldest sons, James and Jonathan"; and "the rest of my children."

Administration on estate of Jean Rogers, late of Acksworth, granted to Jonathan and John Rogers, Oct. 9, 1798.

Will of James Ewins (d. May 1, 1780, p. Aug. 29, 1781) mentions

daughter, Jeane Rogers and her husband, John Rogers, and gives to "grandson, John Rogers, one lot of land which I bought in Ackworth." (Vol. XXVI, p. 170.)

James[3], son of Lt. John, married, August 16, 1784, Mary Markham, daughter of Joseph and Mehitable [Spencer] Markham, born April 21, 1768; he died June 5, 1819, and she Aug. 8, 1842.

Children, born in Ackworth.

Jonathan[4], b. Nov. 18, 1785.
John[4], b. Dec. 21, 1786.
Joseph[4], b. Mar. 15, 1788.
Nancy[4], b. Feb'y 4, 1789; d. Feb'y 3, 1813.
Tamsen[4], b. Jan'y 2, 1791.
Ralph[4], b. Dec. 25, 1792.
Samuel[4], b. Dec. 26, 1794.
Mary[4], b. Dec. 28, 1796; d. Aug. 6, 1818.
Lucy[4], b. Feb'y, 1798.
Drusilla[4], b. Aug. 3, 1800; d. Mar. 1, 1815.
Teressa[4], b. Mar. 11, 1803.
Ann[4], b. June 1, 1806.
Eliza[4], Sept. 1, 1808.

Jonathan[3], son of Lt. John, married twice: (1) Polly Maes, by whom he had Polly[4]; (2) Elizabeth Rogers (?), by whom he had Maes[4], Ephraim[4], Nancy[4], and Alvah[4].

John[3], son of Lt. John, married Polly, daughter of Daniel Reynolds; he is said to have moved to Lempster, but died in Lexington, Mass., Sept. 2, 1832; they had Daniel[4] (d. young), Maria[4], Hannah Ophelia[4], John Adams[4], Eliza Jane[4] (d. young), Melvina Bardwell[4], Stephen Reynolds[4] (b. Jan'y 24, 1813), Susan Hemphill[4] (b. Feb'y 28, 1814), Harriet Eliza[4], and Daniel[4] (d. young).

Samuel[3], son of Lt. John, is said to have married Anna Dodge of Syracuse, N. Y., and that he died there, leaving one son, Charles.

II. JAMES ROGERS OF DUNBARTON

The first mention which I find of this JAMES ROGERS (and it is sufficient for the main purpose of this paper) is in the deed by which Zaccheus Lovewell of Nottingham conveyed, November 24, 1738, to James Rogers *of Methuen*, Mass., husbandman, land on westerly side of Suncook township, part of grant to said Lovewell and others, soldiers under Capt. John Lovewell. (Bk. 38, p. 20.)

This grant was made by Massachusetts, June 19, 1735, to Capt. John Eastman's river, and was called Gorhamtown.

James Rogers in 1739 moved with his family to this lot and lived there till April, 1748, when he was driven away by the Indians and his improvements destroyed.

Later in 1748, Rev. David McGregor, John Stark, Archibald Stark and three others of "Amos Ceeg," thirty-three others of Londonderry, (among whom were James Rogers, Joseph Scobey and Matthew Thornton), six others of Chester, six of Haverhill, two of Kingston, and eight of Litchfield petitioned the Masonian Proprietors for the grant of a township, six miles square.

(N. H. State Papers, Vol. XXV, p. 187.)

On the eighth of October, 1748, these petitioners were authorized to make a survey, but on the twelfth they were notified that their grant must be second to that of John Goffe. (*Ibid*, 188.)

On the twenty sixth of the same month, James Rogers, "now resident in Bow," ahd James Pudney, now resident in Pennicook," by their Attorney, represented to the Proprietors, that whereas said James Rogers, and six sons, David, Samuel, James, Robert, Richard and John, the said Joseph and six sons, John, Joseph, William, Henry, Asa and Obadiah, had purchased a lot of land, 2190 acres, and had improved jointly about 98 acres of meadow and about 100 acres of up land and "had two dwelling-houses, two barns and two orchards,"

the houses "built about nine years past": and that "in April last ye Indians burnt and destroyed said houses and barns and cut down ye orchards, and killed a heifer and a steer belonging to said James Rogers," etc., "wherefore (referring to deed from Lovewell) they prayed to be included as fourteen persons among the grantees and the 2190 acres assigned to them as their full share." (*Ibid.*)

However, others claimed a part of the 2190 acres, claimed by Rogers aud Pudney. (*Ibid*, 192.)

On Dec. 17, 1748, the Proprietors granted a township to the petitioners, among them;

James Rogers of Londonderry, who had No. 10, R. 4, and the north half of No. 1, in the same range.

James Rogers of Bow, who had No. 7, R. 6, and the north half of No. 6, R. 5.

Joseph Pudney of Pennicook, who had No. 6, R. 6, and the north half of No. 6, R. 5.

"And the eldest sons of said Joseph Pudney and James Rogers, both one share equally," and they had No. 8, R. 6, and the south half of No. 8, R. 5. (*Ibid*, pp. 198-208.)

Some of the grantees having forfeited their shares, the tract was regranted March 2, 1752, among others to James Rogers of Londonderry * * * * and "to Joseph Pudney, James Rogers and their eldest sons for one right, all living on the tract of land hereby granted," etc. (*Ibid*, p. 205.)

On Jan'y 1, 174$^{8}_{9}$, James Rogers of Londonderry conveyed to James McGregor all his right in this township. (Bk. 38, p. 175.)

On June 10, 1752, Joseph Pudney of Starkstown conveyed to James Rogers of Starkstown his one-half of lot 6, R. 5; and by another deed on the same day "all our possessions" (described in detail). (Bk. 43, pp. 124-125.)

And on same day Rogers conveyed land in Starkstown to Pudney. (Bk. 41, p. 477.)

On April 7, 1852, Matthew Thornton of Londonderry, and on the next day James Ewins of L. conveyed land in Starkstown to "James Rodgers of Starkstown."

As James Rodgers went from Methuen, Mass, in 1739, to Starkstown (now Dunbarton) with his six sons, it is quite probable that his children, or some of them, were born in Methuen. He lived in S. till his death, except about a year when he lived in Bow. He was accidentally shot and killed late in 1752, or early in 1753; his widow, Mary, was appointed administratrix on his estate, June 25, 1753, (Vol. XIII, p. 67.)

Their children were Daniel, Samuel, James, Robert, Richard, John and Catharine.

Daniel removed to Dunbarton; he was appointed chairman of a committee of the proprietors, Dec 29, 1773.

Samuel settled in Bow, about 1758.

Robert was the celebrated "Ranger," who did great service in the French and Indian war; in the Revolution he became a loyalist and went to England in 1777; in 1778, he was banished from New Hampshire by an act of the Legislature; and on Mar. 4, 1778, his wife was divorced from him by the same authority; he died in England about 1800; his son Arthur (his only child so far as I have ascertained) "lived with his mother many years on the family farm near Concord," and died in Portsmouth, in 1841. In a deed dated in 1754, Robert is described as of Merrimac, and in one in 1762 as of Portsmouth.

Richard was also in the "Ranger" service; he was First Lieutenant under his brother Robert in 1756, and was sent to Boston with despatches; later in the same year, Richard was appointed Captain of a second company of Rangers, which did efficient service during

that fall and winter; he was later stationed at Fort William Henry and died there of small-pox a few days before it was attacked by the French and Indians; his brother (Major Robert) in his diary says, that after th ecapture of the Fort, Richard's body was dug up and scalped.

James was also in the service as a "Ranger;" he was Ensign in one of the new companies formed in 1756; was in the famous expedition to Fort George, in Jan'y, 1757, under Major Robert, his brother; was promoted to a captaincy, and in a letter, dated in 1775, Major Robert speaks of him as "Colonel."

Deeds (B. 59, p. 486, and B. 61, p, 547) show that in 1760 and 1761, he was at Starkstown; but May 6, 1760, he purchased land in Londonderry (B. 61, p. 549) and soon moved there, for in deeds dated March 24, 1762, and July 7, 1762, he is described as of Londonderry. (B. 64, pp. 502, 529.)

And on Dec. 10, 1762, James Rogers of Londonderry conveyed to Robert Rogers of Portsmouth, land in Suncook conveyed to James Rogers of Starktown by Abraham Kimball, by deed dated March 2, 1761, and recorded in Book 61, p. 547. (B. 70, p. 311.)

He married Margaret, daughter of Rev. David McGregor, and had born in Londonderry (as shown by the records):

David, b. Nov. 7, 1762.

James, b. Nov. 22, 1764; d. young.

Whether he had other children or not I have not ascertained. He is said to have moved to Kent, now Londonderry, Vermont, in 1774. I have given this detailed account of James Rogers because it has been assumed that he belonged to the Londonderry family.

There is no occasion to recapitulate the evidence to satisfy the reader that the original James Rogers of Londonderry and the first James Rogers of Starktown (Dunbarton) were two different men.