

As a matter of taste, ours is a name to admire, or the contrary, according to the point of view taken. I remember once, when in Florence, presenting my card at the post-office window to inquire for letters, when the clerk, after scanning it, threw back his head and laughed aloud. His conduct was certainly uncourteous, but it was impossible to be offended at it when I considered how strikingly in contrast to the liquid syllables of his own musical language, must have seemed to this Italian a name, five of whose seven consonants stood together in its midst, without a vowel to break their close array; it is quite likely that it looked to him something as the vowelless Welsh words look to us, and its pronunciation seemed doubtless quite as impossible. From an Anglo-Saxon standpoint, on the contrary, it may be considered as having its claims for admiration. Its first syllable, used as the synonym for whatever is best and of most real value, brings to the ear its own agreeable associations, while the derivation of the second, making it a symbol of the strength and energy of the race among whom it took its origin, lends it the dignity of such an idea, not inaptly conveyed by its sound. Taken as a whole it commands also respect for its centuries of age. In a country where we are somewhat under reproach for having only what is new, have we ever thought sufficiently how ancient a personal possession each of us has in his name?

After our ancestor's first settlement in Salem (1636) for about sixty-four years all of his name continued to live in that town, after which, about 1700, occurred the first removal of one of them from it, when John Goldthwaite, his grandson, went to Boston, becoming the ancestor of a numerous family there. For more than thirty years after, no other descendant of his name left Salem, until one great grandson, Thomas, in 1733, went to the central part of the state (probably to the region of New Salem), and another, Samuel, to Northern Rhode Island. All of the Goldthwaite name were thus for nearly a century confined either to the original home, or were found in Boston. This original home (now Peabody) though always the same place, will be found called by the different names, Salem, Danvers, South Danvers, Peabody, which unless explained may cause confusion. From their first settlement until June 16, 1757, what is now Danvers and Peabody was part of the town of Salem, the former known as Salem Village, the latter as Salem Middle Precinct. At that date the two were made into the town of Danvers, and so continued till May 18, 1855, when part of Danvers was established as South Danvers. Again, April 13, 1868, in honor of George Peabody, the great London banker and philanthropist, who was a native, and in early life a resident of the town, and who there