

the city record, where, in 1757, "Major Goldthwait informed the selectmen that the pavement before his estate on Ship street was very much out of repair." He was chosen constable in 1735 and 1736, and in 1742 and 1743, clerk of the market. His death in Medford is found in the records of that town as having taken place May 10, 1761. The inventory of the estate of Maj. Benjamin Goldthwait of Medford (called also in the same connection, colonel) was ordered made June 8, 1761, the widow, Charity, being appointed executrix. The estate was declared insolvent, and the proceeds were divided among the creditors. Among the latter was Joseph Collins, who afterwards married the widow, their intention being published Sept. 28, 1762, when both are called of Boston. Children:*

*No records of birth or baptism of Mary, Jacob, Benjamin, as well as Aaron, children of Major Benjamin, as here given, have been found. Mary, being "of Boston" at her marriage, I find this her only probable parentage. The birth of Jacob is taken from his own statement of his age when enlisting as a soldier; that of Benjamin, from the family record of his age at death. That Jacob was a son appears, first, from his being, according to his own testimony, born in Boston, where families of the name were then very few, and the rest of them fully recorded; and second, from the tradition among his descendants that his father was prominent in the French and Indian wars, a statement especially applicable to Major Benjamin. During the century and a quarter and more, however, since the latter's death, his name has become changed to *Ebenezer* in the present version of the family tradition given by one of his great-great-grandchildren, a kind of error repeatedly found in cases like this where written records are wanting, and of which I had another example in this same family, when still another of the same present generation made a similar mistake in telling of his more recent ancestor, Captain Jacob. Knowledge of the latter's war service remained, but the name had become entirely changed in his recollection. It is certain that there was no Ebenezer who could have been Jacob's father. As will be seen, Jacob called his youngest son Benjamin.

For Benjamin's place in this family I have the evidence of his name, taken from that of his father, as well as those of his children, repeating names in the Boston family, together with the strong negative evidence that, like Jacob, he can belong nowhere else. That Major Benjamin had other children than those in extant church records, is shown by the evidence in regard to Aaron; such were probably baptized in connection with some church whose records are lacking.