

## HISTORY OF PARKER.

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IT has been impossible to trace the ancestry, or nationality, back of Edward Parker, who first appeared upon the records of the New Haven Colony January 4th, 1643, at which time he and seven others were fined 3s. 4d. each "for total defect in armes." At a general court held the July previous, "Itt is ordered thatt every male, fro' 16 yeares olde to sixty, w'hin this jurisdicto' shall be forthw<sup>th</sup> furnished of a good gun or muskett, a pound of good powder, 4 fathom of match for a match lock, and 5 or 6 good flints, fitted for every fyre lock, and 4 pound of pistoll bulletts fitted to their guns, and so continue furnished from time to time, vnder the penalty of 10s. fine vpon every defect in any of the forenamed perticulars."

From the difference between the legal fine and the amount assessed, I infer that Edward and party had but recently arrived in the colony. The next record of him is July 1st, 1644, when he took the "oath of fidelity," with all the members of the colony. According to the reckoning, then, this was six months after the fine was imposed, as the change from one year to another was in the spring.

John Potter and wife were members of the original company which, under Davenport and Eaton, settled New Haven, Conn., in 1638. John died, and about the first of July, 1646, his widow—Elizabeth—and Edward Parker were married. From the Colonial Records of New Haven it appears that she had three children by her first husband—two sons and a daughter—so it would be natural to suppose that Edward was not a *young* man at the time of his marriage. At his death John Potter must have possessed some property; for though no record of a will or appraisement of his estate is found, a record of court, under date of July 7th, 1646, says: "Edw Parker & his wife p<sup>r</sup>sented their desires to the court to invest Jn<sup>o</sup> Potter's two sons in the right of "their father's land & howse, and declared themselves willing to bestow a heyfer of a "yeare old on Hannah, & deliuer it presently for her vse, & so to be improved as a "stock for her, &c, as P a perticular writting in the hand of the secrettarie made and "signed by both of them before the goveinour, deputy goveinour, & magistrate."

"At a Court held at Newhaven the 7<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1647 Edward Parker being warned to "the court for rates dew to the treasurer, some p<sup>t</sup> before he marryed the widdow, and "some part since, Edw Parker promysed pay for what is dew since he marryed the "widdow, in corne shortlye, & for that before John Potters death dew, it was respitted."

Edward Parker seems to have been employed as a planter, as well as a butcher, and he must have had some influence in the colony; for the record shows that he was one of the two men representing New Haven, who arrested the notorious Thomas Baxter at Fairfield, and conveyed him with others—who opposed the arrest—to New Haven, in 1653. He was also cognizant of and aided in keeping secreted the Regicides