

THE EMES OR EAMES FAMILY

1. THOMAS EMES, the first of the family, as far as known, in this country, came to Massachusetts, probably from England, as early as 1634. The name is variously spelled Eames, Emes, Eams and Emmes, while the children of Capt. Jesse Emes wrote their name *Ames*. Thomas Emes was a brick-maker and mason. He was "maimed in his limbs." In 1637 he was a soldier in the Pequot war. In 1669, twenty years after the Mulford brothers settled at Easthampton, Long Island, Thomas Emes came from Sudbury to Framingham, Mass., where he leased land and became a farmer on a large scale. He married first Margaret —; 2d, 1662, at Cambridge, Mary (Blanford) Paddleford, a widow with several children. Feb. 1, 1676, during King Philip's war, a party of eleven Indians attacked the house of Thomas Emes, during the latter's absence in Boston. Mrs. Emes was engaged in soap-making and bravely defended herself and her children with the hot soap, but she was soon overpowered and killed, together with five children. The remaining children were taken into captivity and the house and barn were burned. Four of the children, Samuel, Margaret and Nathaniel Emes and Zechariah Paddleford, afterward returned to Framingham, while others were probably carried into Canada. A contemporary account of the escape from captivity of one of the sons, probably Samuel Emes, is interesting:

"The next Day (May 12), a Youth of about 11 Years of Age, made his Escape from the Indians, who was taken Prisoner when his Father's House was burnt and his Mother murdered on the first of February last; and though the Boy knew not a Step of the Way to any English Town, and was in continual Danger of the skulking Indians in the Woods, and far from the English, yet God directed him aright, and brought him to the Sight of Plantane, (the Herb which the Indians call English-foot, because it grows only amongst us, and is not found in the Indian Plantations) whereupon he concluded he was not far from some English Town, and accordingly following of the Plantane he arrived safe amongst us."¹

As indemnity for the loss of his property, Thomas Emes received 200 acres of land from the General Court, and 200 acres from the Indians. A complete account of this Indian raid may be found in Temple's History of Framingham, pp. 71-79.

Thomas Emes was born about 1618 and died suddenly Jan. 25, 1680-1. His death is thus recorded in *Sewall's Diary*:

¹A true account of the most considerable occurrences that have happened in the warre between the English and the Indians in New England. Lond., 1676. Reprinted in Drake, *The old Indian chronicle*. 1867, p. 258.