

Your views are large enough, if I rightly read your note, to take in all other Phelps names, besides William, as for instance certainly, George, the presumed brother of William, to whom I give one more son than to William, and allow all to marry and procreate; but William's descendants fill a little more room in my pages than George's, because William, Samuel, Nathaniel, and perhaps Joseph were born in England, so that I call each a first comer; and thus William has great-grandsons named by me, while George can show only grand sons; meaning however grand children, female as much as male.

Still longer, sir, must be my research, for my desire is to show every man in New England before May, 1692, with his children and grand children; and sometimes there will occur twenty and even thirty stocks, with no ascertained relationship. Smiths, Halls, and other such common patronymies, are examples. But you may hear of the Phelps family name in other towns than Dorchester, where first it pitched a tent, and from which it has been absent above two hundred and twenty years, as Edward at Newbury, thence to Andover, though not so early as your progenitor; Henry, at Salem, as early as 1634, with John, and Nicholas, perhaps brothers, but more probably sons; Samuel at Boston, but only twenty years before the close of the seventeenth century, and a William of near about the same time, at least before 1692, having sons John and William. Most of your names, however, are derived from George and William, the Dorchester Christians that were with Warham, their spiritual leader to foundation of Windsor, in the copious history of which town, published last December, the deductions from William seem to be drawn out very minutely; and very striking is it, that nothing of the off-shoots of George is told. My gathering of the descendants of George, who went up the river early, is almost as good as Dr. Stiles for William's, at least as far as the third generation, while down to the ninth or tenth I believe there is no failure.

Probably you will not wait for the publication of my work, and indeed it can be of no great benefit to you if you do wait; but any direct manner of obtaining the volumes must be only through the great publishing house of Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, as my residence here in the hill country allows me no control of their operations, and they would do much better without my assistance than with. Had I time, I would cheerfully copy whatever you might desire, but the whole of my hours from morn to evening is given to this service. In two days I enter my seventy-seventh year, and am therefore bound to severe economy in the use of the few days that shall be entrusted to me; and hardly should I rejoice at the progress already made in my Dictionary, if the thought of interruption in its completion, and of leaving my labor to be perfected by another, should force itself on my mind.

With best wishes for your success, I remain, sir, your very obedient,

JAS. SAVAGE.

P. S.—I return to Boston the end of October, and remain there to near the end of May.

J. S.

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, U. S. Am., February 4, 1860.

To OLIVER PHELPS, Esq.

Dear Sir,—I should be happy to impart to you the information you desire were it in my power. I have never been acquainted with any members of your family, and know little of their history. If the late Oliver Phelps, Esq., of Suffield, Connecticut, was of your family, I may add that his son Oliver Leicester Phelps was a contemporary in Yale College, being two years before me in the order of the classes. If this branch belongs to your family tree, I might perhaps point you to some sources of information, although I am not certain that they would throw much light on your researches.

Thanking you for your kind feeling towards myself, I remain, dear sir, your's truly.

B. SILLIMAN.

ANDOVER THEOL. SEMINARY, Sept. 1, 1859.

O. S. PHELPS, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—I have just returned from a journey, and find your letter of August 22nd awaiting me.

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