

# WILLIAM H. HILL

By JOHN N. MCCLINTOCK.

WILLIAM H. HILL, who with Spencer R. Richardson and Edward D. Adams established the banking house of Richardson, Hill & Co., of Boston, needs no introduction to the financial world. For forty years he has been one of the leaders in advancing the material interests of Massachusetts, in railroads, steamboats, factories, commerce and banking, whereby Massachusetts has maintained her position in the van of modern progress. He is a member of a colonial family which from the first settlement of the country has been prominent in public affairs.

I. PETER HILL, the pioneer ancestor, born in England, emigrated to this country with his family some time before 1618, settled in Saco in 1653, and died in Saco in 1667.

II. ROGER HILL, son of Peter Hill, born in England, emigrated with his father, settled in Saco in 1653; married, in November, 1658, Mary Cross; died in 1696. Mary (Cross) Hill died in 1720.\*

Children of Roger and Mary (Cross) Hill:

1. Sarah, born April 7, 1661; married Pendleton Fletcher.
2. Hannah, born Sept. 7, 1664, married Saint Joseph Storer.
3. John, born May 28, 1666; married Mary Frost of Kittery.
4. Samuel, born Dec. 14, 1668.
5. Joseph.

\*The following letter, heretofore unpublished, brings back vividly the troublous times in which the writer lived:

"Dated from Wells, Me., May, 1680.

Dear and loving wife:— These are to let you know that we are all well here, blessed be God for it, and all our children remember their duty to you. The Indians have killed Goodman Frost and James Littlefield, and carried away Nathaniel Frost, and burned several houses here in Wells.

I would have our son John to hire a boat, if he can, to bring you and some of our things by water, for I fear it is not safe to come by land. Son John be as careful of your mother as you possibly can, for it is very dangerous times; the Lord only knows whether we shall see one another any more. Praying for your prosperity your loving husband until death.

Roger Hill."

"Remember my love to son Fletcher and daughter and all their children, and to all my neighbors in general. Son Storer and wife remember their duty to you and love to their mother, Fletcher and all cousins and yourself."

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6. Mary, born June 25, 1672; married Daniel Littlefield.
7. Benjamin, born Feb. 21, 1674.
8. Ebenezer, born Feb. 14, 1679.

III. CAPT. JOHN HILL, son of Roger and Mary (Cross) Hill, born in Saco, May 28, 1666, was in command of the garrison house at Saco during the King Philip War, stoutly and successfully defending the same; later removed to Berwick, then a part of the township of Kittery; married Dec. 12, 1694, Mary Frost, the daughter of Major Charles Frost of Kittery and the granddaughter of Nicholas Frost, the first of the name in the country, who was killed by the Indians July 4, 1697, at the age of 65 years, and was buried on Frost's Hill in Elliott. Captain John Hill died June 2, 1713; his widow died February 1, 1752.

Children of Captain John and Mary (Frost) Hill:

1. Sarah, born Dec. 6, 1695.
2. Mary, born Jan. 15, 1701.
3. John (Judge), born Jan., 1703.
4. Abigail, born Dec. 5, 1706.
5. Elisha, born Feb. 5, 1710.
6. Eunice, born Nov. 1, 1712.

IV. CAPTAIN ELISHA HILL son of John and Mary (Frost) Hill, was born in Berwick Feb. 5, 1709-10, old style; built himself a house near his brother, Judge John Hill at Great Works, South Berwick, and there resided; was a deacon of the church; married Dec. 16, 1736, Mary Plaisted, the daughter of Captain Elisha and Hannah (Wheelwright) Plaisted of Berwick, the granddaughter of Colonel John and Mary (Pickering) Plaisted of Portsmouth, the great-granddaughter of Lieut. Roger Plaisted, who was killed by the Indians Oct. 16, 1675, at the age of 48 years.

Captain Elisha Hill died June 1, 1764; his wife died Aug. 6, 1785, at the age of 67 years; they were buried in the South Berwick Cemetery.

Children of Captain Elisha and Mary (Pickering) Hill:

1. John, born Aug. 26, 1738; married Elizabeth Scammons, Sept. 25, 1766.
2. Mary, born Jan. 14, 1740; married Michael Whidden of Portsmouth, Nov. 25, 1766.
3. Hannah, born Aug. 26, 1741; married Dominicus Goodwin of South Berwick, July 12, 1763.
4. Eunice, a twin sister, married 1st George Hight, Sept. 6, 1764; married 2nd Thomas Damrill, Jan. 25, 1774.
5. Elisha, born July 27, 1743; removed to Portsmouth; married Oct. 28, 1773, Elizabeth Clark (widow), and left children.
6. Samuel, born July 12, 1745, removed to Portsmouth, married Polly Gouge, March 31, 1774, was a successful merchant, and left children.
7. Sarah, born Dec. 14, 1746, married Samuel Cutts of Saco, Oct. 15, 1767.
8. Elizabeth, born Oct. 26, 1748, married Ward Clark, Dean of Exeter, Jan. 25, 1770.

9. Abigail, born Sept. 7, 1759, married 1st Colonel Eliphalet Ladd, May 14, 1772, married 2nd Rev. Dr. Joseph Buckminster, Aug. 5, 1810.\*
10. Jeremiah, born Aug. 10, 1752; removed to Portsmouth; married Polly Trewin May, 1774.
11. James, born April 1, 1754; married, 1st Eunice Gruard, 2nd Sally M. Briard.
12. Mehitable, born Feb. 21, 1756; married George Massey of Portsmouth, Dec. 2, 1773.
13. Ichabod, born July 6, 1758; married Esther Gordon, Nov. 6, 1781.
14. Olive, born Feb. 21, 1761; married James Taylor of Canada, Aug. 1, 1789.

V. CAPTAIN JAMES HILL, son of Captain Elisha and Mary (Pickering) Hill, born April 1, 1754, in Berwick, settled in Portsmouth. "The Fourth Provincial Congress voted on the First day of September, 1775, to raise four regiments of Minute Men by the enlistment of men from the several regiments of Militia. The men were to be enlisted for four months, and then others were to take their places. The troops were stationed in Portsmouth, New Castle, Kittery and vicinity to defend the harbor from any attack that might be made upon it by the enemy from the seaward. Captain James Hill commanded one of these companies on Pierce's Island Nov. 5, 1775. In a pay-roll of a company of Volunteers commanded by Col. John Langdon from Sept. 29, 1777 to Oct. 31, following, and joined to the Continental Army under General Gates at Saratoga, James Hill appears as an Ensign, time in service one month, thirteen days—thirteen days allowed for travel home. The foregoing was an independent company composed of men of rank and position, who volunteered to go under command of Hon. John Langdon and assist personally in completing the work of capturing Burgoyne's Army, which had been so effectually commenced by the troops under Stark at Bennington. Col. Langdon furnished the money to equip Stark's New Hampshire men, and had patriotism enough left to take the field in person and labor in the cause with enthusiastic ability until the close of the war."†

In the records of Portsmouth Captain James Hill is named as one of the twelve citizens elected to receive General George Washington when he visited Portsmouth.

Captain James Hill married 1st Eunice Gruard, Sept. 30, 1776; she died Feb. 26, 1801; he married 2nd Mrs. Sally M. Briard (widow), March 26, 1803, whose first husband was the brother of Eunice (Gruard) Hill. She had a

\* Alexander H. Ladd of Portsmouth, a grandson of Colonel Eliphalet and Abigail (Hill) Ladd, has given in a letter most of the foregoing information, citing as his authority a paper on Judge John Hill and descendants, published in Vol. 12 of N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, manuscripts discovered in an old chest in the garret of Capt. Gerish of Berwick, where they had been nailed up for seventy years, and civil and military commissions held by the Hills.

† A. D. Ayling, Adjutant General of New Hampshire.

son, George, by her first husband, two children by her second husband, William and Katherine, and five children by her last husband.

Captain James Hill died Dec. 29, 1811, in Portsmouth.

Children of Captain James and Eunice (Guard) Hill:

1. Elsha, born Jan. 8, 1777; married Phoebe Jenkins, March 17, 1798; lived and died in Portsmouth, father of Aaron R. Hill, living in 1894.
2. Eunice, born March 1, 1778; married her cousin John Hill, Aug. 2, 1796; lived and died in Portsmouth.
3. Mary, born Nov. 16, 1779; married Thomas Chadbourne, Aug. 28, 1802; lived and died in Portsmouth.
4. Elizabeth (Betsey), born April 9, 1781; married George Daniels, Feb. 23, 1803; settled in New York State; had children, and died there.
5. James, born March 27, 1783; married Abigail Hill.
6. Jeremiah, born Feb. 16, 1785; married Hannah Miller, May, 23, 1814; settled in Vermont.
7. Melutab, born Oct. 16, 1786; married Joseph Sweet, Aug. 8, 1808; died in Mobile.
8. George Massey, born Aug. 19, 1788; died Aug. 16, 1798.
9. Ann, born March 18, 1790; lived and died in Cambridge.
10. Fanny, born Sept. 24, 1791; died Oct. 21, 1791.
11. Theodore, born April 3, 1793, a minister in Maine; died there in 1882.
12. Henry, born Sept. 11, 1794; settled in Georgia.
13. Sarah Ann, born Aug. 26, 1796; lived and died in Cambridge.
14. Harriette, born May 24, 1798; joined Henry in Georgia.

Children of Captain James and Sally M. (Guard) (Briland) Hill, 2nd wife:

1. Caroline Ladd, born Jan. 4 (or March 21) 1804; lived and died in Portsmouth.
2. Samuel Ladd, born Aug. 19, 1806; was a pilot off New Orleans.
3. Oliver Briland, born Aug. 30, 1807; published a newspaper in New Orleans.
4. Jane, born April 22, 1809; married a Mr. Landers; settled in Ohio.
5. Alfred, born Jan. 1, 1811; was the father of Mrs. Louise B. Farrell, wife of Colonel William B. Farrell of New York; and died at sea.

VI. JAMES HILL, son of James and Eunice (Guard) Hill, born in Portsmouth, March 27, 1783; married Abigail Hill, Sept. 20, 1807. She was the daughter of Moses Hill of the Connecticut family, born in 1787; and died Nov. 30, 1861. He died Dec. 26, 1829. Both are buried in the old North burying ground in Portsmouth. On his tombstone is the inscription: "An honest man is the noblest work of God." On that of his wife: "Gone to meet her friends that went before, and to wait for those who come after." James Hill served in the Home Guard in the War of 1812.

Children of James and Abigail (Hill) Hill:

1. Mary Jane, born \_\_\_\_\_; married John S. Harvey of Portsmouth; three children, Charles Carroll, Adelaide and William Henry.
2. Abby Stevens, born May 30, 1811; married Leonard Wilson, a merchant and real estate owner, settled in Buffalo, N.Y.; two children, Mary Granger and Harvey.
3. James Madison, born 1812 (?); a successful sea captain, commanding some of the largest and finest vessels afloat, married Valeria Brown; 4 children, Elsha (died young) Harriet, Katie, and J. Fred.
4. William Henry, born July 22, 1814; married Abby P. Remick.
5. Aaron M., born July 20, 1815; married Nancy Newhall of Saugus.

6. John Putnam, died in San Francisco in 1855.
7. Henrietta, died young.
8. Henrietta Loring, died in 1859 at age of 27 years.
9. Eliza Ann, died in Portsmouth.

VII. WILLIAM HENRY HILL, son of James and Abigail (Hill) Hill, was born July 22, 1811 in the house known as the Dr. Leighton house, on Vaughn Street near Deer Street in Portsmouth. He was reared in humble circumstances, but by great ability and strict economy he attained unusual financial success. He was a large and handsome man, with a finely shaped head, close curling hair, red in early youth and snow white in later years. He was six feet tall, weighed over two hundred pounds; had great dignity of presence; yet was genial, sympathetic, and had a keen sense of humor. His reputation for integrity, remarkable insight into business and legal methods, sound judgment, justice, unflinching independence, and absolute reliability caused him to be greatly respected and his advice to be largely sought.

He was the axis on which all the ramifications of his family connections revolved and which never failed them. When a young man he was an active member of the Boston Fusileers, and at the time of the burning of the convent in Charlestown, he was at the Armory for several days and nights ready for service. He was identified with many of the prominent business interests of Boston. He was the pioneer and a director of the First National Bank of Boston, a director in Boston Wharf Co., and Boston and Marine Insurance Co., president of the Boston and Bangor Steamboat Co., and held many other offices of trust and honor.

Two days before his death he said to his daughters: "I have never in all my life done a dishonorable act that I know of. If there is a future life, I want it, and shall have it." He died at his home on Corey Hill, Beacon Street, Brookline, Feb. 26, 1888.

He was married 1st Dec. 31, 1837, to Abby F. Remick, daughter of Samuel Harrington and Sarah M. (Tucker) Remick, Mrs. Abby F. (Remick) Hill traced her descent through six generations from

1. CHRISTIAN REMICK, born in 1631, settled in Kittery in 1651, signed the submission to Massachusetts in 1652; was a planter and surveyor; was often one of the selectmen of Kittery; Town Treasurer. His wife, Hannah was living in 1703; he was living in 1715.

2. SERGEANT JACOB REMICK, son of Christian, born in 1660; married Lydia; served Kittery as selectman and treasurer; was a farmer and ship-builder; his will was probated in 1745.

3. JACOB REMICH, son of Sergt. Jacob, and Lydia Remich, was born March 6, 1686-7; married Rebecca daughter of John Sloper; died about 1760.

4. BENJAMIN REMICH, son of Jacob and Rebecca (Sloper) Remich, born in 1719; was a ship builder; married Elizabeth Deed; died in 1782. His widow died in 1790.

5. BENJAMIN REMICH, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Deed) Remich, born in 1753; married in 1777, Abigail, daughter of John and Margaret (Fernald) Fernald; was a ship builder and naval constructor, a veteran of the American Revolution; one of the builders of Commodore Paul Jones's ships; died 1839.

6. SAMUEL HARRINGTON REMICH, son of Benjamin and Abigail (Fernald) (Remich), born in 1785; married in 1805 Sarah M. Tucker, who died in 1829; was a soldier in War of 1812; was a builder; lived in Kittery and Boston; died in 1861.

7. ABBY FERNALD REMICH, daughter of Samuel H. and Susan M. (Tucker) Remich, born Oct. 1, 1816; married Dec. 31, 1837, William Henry Hill; died in 1858.

Children of William Henry and Abby Fernald (Remich) Hill:

1. William Henry, born July 14, 1838; married 1st Sarah E. May, 2nd Caroline Wright Rogers.
2. Sarah Abby, born Dec. 26, 1839.
3. Henrietta Lavina, born Oct. 20 1841; married Dec. 10, 1867, Henry White, son of Wm. A. and Lucy (Jackson) White of Boston; resides in Brookline, Mass.  
Children:
  1. Herbert Hill White, born June 29, 1869, married Oct. 3, 1893, Clarissa Watts, daughter of Charles Winslow and Emma (Watts) Lewis.
  2. Norman Hill White, born Dec. 25, 1871.
4. Samuel James, died in infancy.

By a second marriage to Kate C. Chase, daughter of Deacon Samuel Chase of Haverhill there were children:

1. Minnie, born Feb. 17, 1860; died in November, 1861.
2. Mabel Chase, born March 27, 1864.
3. Edith White, born Sept. 2, 1868.
4. Ethel Maria, born May 6, 1870.

VIII. WILLIAM HENRY HILL, son of William Henry and Abby Fernald (Remich) Hill, was born in Boston, July 11, 1838; graduated at the Roxbury High School in 1855; began his business career as a clerk, from 1855 to 1859, in the publishing house of Sanborn, Carter & Hazin and their successors, Brown, Taggard & Chase; became a partner in the firm as Chase, Nichols & Hill, 1859-1861; bookseller and publisher on his own account