

THE QUIET PURITANS The Birchards of New England Volume I, by Edna Manning Laughter. 8.5x11 hardcover, 227 pages, self-published 2004. \$45 plus \$3 P&H (in US), 2229 N.W. Mill Pond Rd, Portland, Oregon 97229.

This book traces the Puritan family of Thomas Birchard from England to America. Thomas and Mary Robinson Birchard and their six children (eight had been born in Essex County, England, but two had died before the family left England) arrived in Massachusetts Bay in November 1635 on the ship "Truelove" which had sailed from London two months earlier. By 1637, the family was living in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and then moved on to Hartford, Connecticut, where Thomas was the owner of six parcels of land. When his son John moved to Martha's Vineyard about 1650, Thomas soon followed, and was elected town clerk of Edgartown on that Island.

In early 1655, Thomas's wife Mary died, and Thomas married Katherine Andrews, a widow. Following her death some 16 years later, Thomas married for a third time to a woman identified only as Deborah. By 1683, again a widower, Thomas returned to Connecticut and was living in Norwich, perhaps with one of his children. He probably died between May 1683 and September 1684, although the exact date and place of death are not clear (according to the author, the records were destroyed).

As the author follows the life of Thomas Birchard from one place in New England to another, she gives historical information about the areas he lived in, as well as interesting facts regarding life in this time period, such as how early government worked, the type of housing that was constructed, some background on the Indians living in the area, the use of money

and barter for the payments of goods and services, and the role of religion in the community. She uses maps, drawings, and modern-day photos to show the areas relating to his life. There are also genealogies of related family names.

This is an interesting book, whether you are related to the Birchard family, or just have an interest in reading about life in New England in the 1600's. AR

THE ANCESTRY OF EDWARD H. PACKER (1840-1909) BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT & COUSINS ISLAND, MAINE, by Dudley Bishop Henderson. 490 pages, 6x9, hardcover, 2004. Published privately. Order from Dudley Bishop Henderson, 75 Ledgecrest Terrace, Manchester, CT 06040. Price: \$40.00.

This is the second in a series of books documenting the ancestry of the author. His stated goal is to eventually complete books on all eight great-grandparents. In this book he documents the ancestry of Edward H. Packer, his mother's paternal grandfather.

The book is divided into five chapters. Chapter I begins with a general family history, including Packer family migration, a list of ships and dates of arrival, and military history, including a detailed account of Edward Packer's Civil War service with the Massachusetts 37th Infantry Regiment. The author also documents some famous ancestors, including William Brewster (of The Mayflower), and various English kings. In Chapter II, he covers the "pioneer" ancestors who made the trip from the United Kingdom to New England, giving information about each, including where they settled in this country. Chapter III is an in-depth coverage of the ancestors of Edward Packer, and is the largest chapter in the book. It