



The Quiet Puritans
The Birchards of New England

Volume I

The History of a Family
Birchards, McMillans and Rears

Edna Manning Laughter

There is no more admirable character in history
than the New England Puritan of the seventeenth century,
his unswerving devotion to duty, his unlimited courage
based on the fear of God,
his love of liberty and hatred of tyranny—
These are the qualities that have enthroned him in the memory
of the American people.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
PREFACE	8
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	9
INTRODUCTION	10
THE ENGLISH ANCESTORS OF MARY ROBINSON BIRCHARD	11
THE WYTHHER FAMILY	11
<i>FIRST GENERATION OF THE WYTHHER FAMILY</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>SECOND GENERATION OF THE WYTHHER FAMILY</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>THIRD GENERATION OF THE WYTHHER FAMILY</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>FOURTH GENERATION OF THE WYTHHER FAMILY</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE WYTHHER FAMILY</i>	<i>12</i>
THE ROBINSON FAMILY	13
<i>FIRST GENERATION OF THE ROBINSON FAMILY</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>SECOND GENERATION OF THE ROBINSON FAMILY</i>	<i>14</i>
THE BIRCHARD NAME	15
THE ENGLISH ANCESTORS OF THOMAS BIRCHARD	18
<i>FIRST GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>SECOND GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>THIRD GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY</i>	<i>19</i>
THE BIRCHARDS IN AMERICA	20
<i>FOURTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY</i>	<i>20</i>
THE GREAT MIGRATION	31
NEW ENGLAND COLONIAL LIFE	33
ROXBURY	35
FREEMEN AND SELECTMEN	36
A PURITAN PASTOR WHO WAS A LOCAL HERO	39
EARLY CONNECTICUT GOVERNMENT	41
THE REBELLION AT MARTHA’S VINEYARD	42
HOUSING IN COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND	45
CONNECTICUT TOWN MAP	48
<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY: ELIZABETH</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : ELIZABETH</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : ELIZABETH</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY : MARY</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY : SARAH</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY: SARAH</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY : SUSANNAH</i>	<i>59</i>

<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN</i>	61
THE FIRST OF THE MOHEGANS	71
SAYBROOK AND NORWICH	76
JOSHUA’S TRACT	84
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S SON SAMUEL</i>	89
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON SAMUEL	93
EIGHTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON SAMUEL	97
NINTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON SAMUEL.....	101
TENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON SAMUEL.....	109
ELEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON SAMUEL	113
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S SON JAMES</i>	117
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JAMES.....	120
EIGHTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JAMES.....	126
NINTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JAMES	130
TENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JAMES.....	136
ELEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JAMES....	144
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S DAUGHTER ABIGAIL</i>	145
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S SON THOMAS</i>	146
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON THOMAS ..	147
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JOHN</i>	148
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JOHN	149
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S SON JOSEPH</i>	150
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JOSEPH	153
EIGHTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JOSEPH	157
NINTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JOSEPH.....	159
TENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S SON JOSEPH	160
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S DAUGHTER MARY</i>	161
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S DAUGHTER MARY	162
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S SON DANIEL</i>	163
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN’S DAUGHTER LYDIA</i>	165
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from JOHN’S DAUGHTER LYDIA	166
<i>FIFTH GENERATION OF THE BIRCHARD FAMILY : HANNAH</i>	166
<i>SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from HANNAH</i>	169
SEVENTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from HANNAH.....	171
EIGHTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY from HANNAH.....	174

APPENDIX..... 175

A. THOMAS BIRCHARD'S HOLDINGS IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 176

B. LAND USAGE RULES IN MARTHA'S VINEYARD 176

C. THOMAS BIRCHARD'S POSSESSIONS ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD 177

D. EXTRACTS FROM JOSHUA HEMPSTEAD'S DIARY 178

E. JESSE BIRCHARD'S DIARY 182

F. HUGH CAULKINS GENEALOGY AND BACKGROUND 186

G .THE BECKWITH FAMILY GENEALOGY 188

J. THE TIDE MILL..... 198

K. THE LAMBERT HOUSE AND FAMILY IN WILTON, CONNECTICUT 199

L. THE BIRCHARD HOUSE IN THE MILL PLAIN SECTION OF DANBURY, CONNECTICUT..... 201

M. COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN CONNECTICUT..... 210

INDEX OF NAMES 211

ENDNOTES 219

