

BENJAMIN GOODRIDGE

By Merton Goodrich

Benjamin Goodridge, father of Oliver and son of Philip was born in Newbury 3 Feb. 1701, and came to Lunenburg when a young man in his father's family in 1724.

He married at Lunenburg 8 April 1730 Sarah Phelps who was born in Lancaster 18 December 1705, daughter of Edward and Ruth Andrews Phelps. She died 19 June 1776.

He acquired a farm in the western part of the town, which remained in the possession of some of his descendants for more than 150 years. He commanded a company in the French and Indian Wars, was a Justice of the Peace, town clerk for twenty years, and chairman of the Board of Selectmen almost every year from 1732 to 1770, a period covering 38 years.

He was one of the leaders in the organization of Worcester County, and was several times a representative to the legislature of General Court of Massachusetts. The History of Fitchburg, a neighboring town, states that he and his brother Philip Jr. and Philip's son Simon were among the most prominent men in the state in their time. He died 19 April 1773, aged 72 years.

CHILDREN born in Lunenburg:

- 1.Sarah, born 1 Jan. 1731; married Elisha Bigelow, a son of Abijah Bigelow; was town clerk of Leominster several years, a representative to the General Court, congressman two terms, and clerk of courts of Worcester County 16 years.
- 2.Eliphalet, born 27 March 1733; married Rebecca Snow.
- 3.Olive, born 3 July 1736; married Ephraim Pierce.
- 4.Daniel, born 11 Aug. 1738; married Hannah Lord.
- 5.Benjamin, born 7 July 1740; married Lydia Wilder.
- 6.Sewall, born 7 July 1743; married Phebe Putnam; a graduate of Harvard University; pastor of the Congregational Church at Lyndeborough, New Hampshire for over 40 years.
- 7.Loïs, born 21 Mar. 1745; married Mr. Hale, Rutland, Vt.
- 8.Lucy, born 25 Jan. 1747; married Moses Blake (?), Plattsburg, N. Y.
- 9.Oliver, born 27 Oct. 1749; married Elizabeth Hastings.