

THE GENEALOGY OF PHILIP DIBBLE

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The principal genealogist for the Dibble family in America is Mr. Van Buren Lamb Jr. who has compiled a Dibble Memorial Library in Summit, New York, in order to preserve the results of his work. His interest in the Dibble family is in memory of his mother, Ida Lewie (Tanner) Lamb, the grand daughter of Sally Dibbell of Saybrook, Connecticut and Atwater, Ohio. All Connecticut and Massachusetts records were searched by Mr. Lamb and the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City has accepted his work as a source. I exchanged correspondence with him as late as January, 1968. He then had about 35,000 descendants of Robert Dibble listed. I wrote to him again in March 1968 but did not receive a reply. He was well along in age then and perhaps is now dead. His work is the basis of the pedigree chart concerning our line of early Dibles in America.

It is definitely known that the family came from the west counties of England, Dorset, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. Before 1700 A.D., the Archdeaconry of Cornwall at Bodwin, lists men of this name or its variations and the towns in which they lived. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury lists men this name as being of Somerset and Dorset. Somerset Hearth Tax of 1664 lists them as does the Principal Registry of Bishop of Exeter, Devonshire. Also the Parish Registers of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset, contain names of Dibble with the same variations in spelling. The Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City has many Parish records from these counties showing marriages, births and deaths of these people.

In England the name was spelled with these variations, Deeble, Deble, Dible, Debel, Deyble, Dibell, Debbel, Dobell, Dyble, and Dable. The same problem appears in the New England records, i.e., Dyble, Dybble, Dibiell, Diball, Diboll, Dibol etc. The spelling of the name simply suffered in the hands of town clerks and ministers who spelled the name as it sounded to them.

The founder of the family in America was Robert Dibble or Deeble, born about 1581 in Somerset, England. According to Holme's he sailed from Weymouth, England, in 1634 for New England. He was then referred to as of Somersetshire, England. There is mention in American records of Robert Deble in Roxbury, Massachusetts, from 1635 to 1642. This Robert had a son Thomas, born about 1614 and from Heraldic Church Notes of Cornwall, by Arthur J. Jewer, page 83, Oliver, son of Robert Deeble, was baptized 22 July 1610. Mr. Lamb believed this Oliver to be the brother of the New England Thomas, John and Abraham, all sons of Robert our first ancestor in America.

Unfortunately, the Dibble wills back to the year 1400 at Exeter Cathedral were destroyed in the World War II bombing of England, according to Mr. Lamb. There is a real problem in identifying Robert Dibble's parents, the name of his wife and all of his children. The Genealogical Library in Salt Lake is microfilming all Parish records available to them in England and they have advised me to delay my search until they have completed this work in order to save me from useless duplication. Some day we may identify the line further back. It will be an interesting effort.

Halberts of Bath, Ohio, have a Coat of Arms for the Dibble family and they no doubt have offered it to every Dibble in America. They document it from Burke's General Armory.

Before 1100 A.D., most people in Europe had only one name but with the increase in population, identification became difficult, when many Johns and Williams, for example, lived in the same village. A second name was needed so a system developed using a second name. The primary source for these names were, a man's occupation, location, or some peculiar characteristic. For example, John Carpenter, Joseph Miller, John Hill, George Overbrook, John Long etc, or the Patronymical, such as John Williamson, Jackson, and so on to the prefixes, Mactavish, Fitzgerald, O'Malley etc.