

Second Generation.

SECOND GENERATION.

SEVENTH SON AND EIGHTH CHILD.

2. HEZEKIAH² BRAINERD* (*Daniel*¹) of Haddam, Middlesex Co., Conn.; m., Oct. 1, 1707, Dorothy (Hobart) Mason, b. Aug. 21, 1679, in Topsfield, Mass., dau. of Rev. Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Whiting) Hobart† and widow of Daniel Mason of Lebanon, Conn., to whom she was married Apr. 19, 1704. He was a grandson of the celebrated Capt. John Mason. She had one child, Jeremiah Mason, b. Mch. 4, 1705, at Lebanon, who married Mary Clark. Mr. Daniel Mason d. May 5, 1705, at the same place.

Elizabeth Whiting was daughter of Rev. Samuel Whiting, who came from Lincolnshire, England, and settled first in Boston, and afterwards in Lynn, Mass. Mrs. Elizabeth (Whiting) Hobart d. in Hartford, Conn. Hezekiah Brainerd was representative to the General Assembly

* Colonial Records of Connecticut (1717-1725), Vol. VI, p. 207. Mr. Hez. Brainerd chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives, Oct. 13, 1720.

Page 225. This Assembly grants to Mr. Hez. Brainerd, Clerk, the sum of one pound, five shillings, to be paid out of the publick treasury.

Pages 233-270-304-329. Mr. Hez. Brainerd was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives, May 11, and Oct. 12, 1721, and May 10, and Oct. 11, 1722.

Pages 257-287-326-362. This Assembly grants Mr. Hezekiah Brainerd, for his services as Speaker of the Lower House for this Session, the sum of thirty shillings, May & Oct., 1721, May & Oct., 1722.

Page 317. This Assembly do appoint Mr. Hez. Brainerd one of the Justices of the Peace and Quorum in the county of Hartford, May, 1722.

Pages 366-410-439-482-513-553. Hez. Brainerd, Esq., was chosen Assistant of this Colony, or in the Upper House, May & Oct., 1723, May & Oct., 1724, May & Oct., 1725.

Pages 407-472-506-507-578. He was called in council with the Governor & other Assistants, May 21, Oct. 26, Oct. 28, 1724, and Oct. 16, 1725.

Page 520. He was one with others to adjust the Colony's accounts with the Treasurer, May, 1725.

He was often appointed on a committee to adjust differences between individuals and settle boundary lines. He was town clerk for the county of Hartford, the place being made vacant by his death.

He was appointed by the Charter and Laws of this Colony (Hartford), for the election of publick officers, viz.: Governor, Deputy, Governor's Assistant, Treasurer, and Secretary.

† In the will of Samuel Whiting, Sen., of Lynn, Essex Co., Mass., dated Feb. 25, 1678, pp. 160-161, is found the following bequest: "I give to my dau., Hubbard, and to my son-in-law, Mr. Jeremiah Hubbard." The foot note said, this name is usually spelled Hobart. From Memoirs of Rev. Samuel Whiting.

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May 14, 1713; and from May, 1715, to Oct., 1722, and clerk of the House of Representatives in May, 1721, and speaker of the House for the three following sessions. He was justice of the quorum for Middlesex County in 1722 and '23; was elected a member of the Governor's Council (Senate of Connecticut), which he held during life. He had command of a regiment. He held the office of justice of the peace. His house was located between Walkley Hill and Higganum, north of the village of Haddam. He was a farmer.

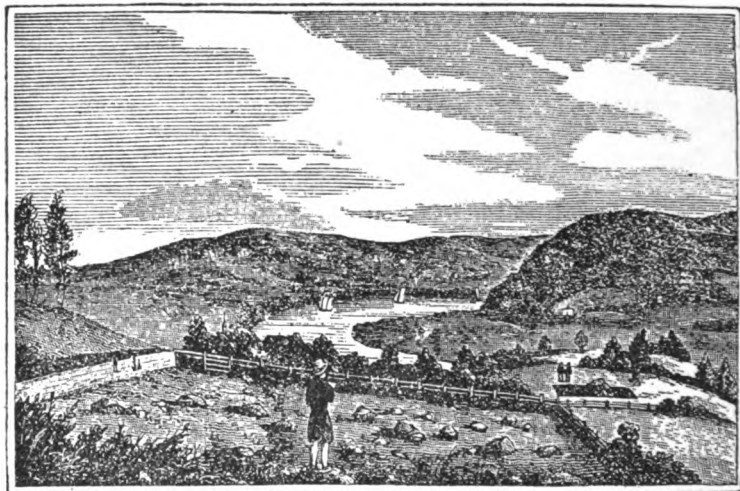
The History of Wallingford, Conn., said: "At the Oct. session of the General Assembly, 1726, a grant of 300 acres of land in the town of Goshen was made to John Hull of Wallingford, James Wadsworth of Durham and Hezekiah Brainerd* of Haddam, for public services." It was called the Esquires Farm, from its being given to those persons, each of whom had the title of Esquire. He became a man of great distinction and influence. Rev. Dr. D. D. Field said in *The History of the Towns of Haddam and East Haddam*, That under the disadvantages of education common in his day, he acquired extensive knowledge. Early called also by divine grace, he gave himself up to the practice of religion. He used to keep days of private fastings to promote his spiritual welfare, was much in prayer, and had particular evidence that his prayers were heard and enjoyed strong and abiding consolation and hope. His mental and moral worth soon attracted public notice and he was raised to the station of an assistant in the colony of Connecticut, which station he held till his death. On a proposition to establish a Court of Chancery in the state, he was selected as the judge, though the court was never organized. The worshipful Hezekiah Brainerd d. May 24, 1727, ae. 46 yrs., in Hartford, Conn., during a session of the General Assembly, and was buried in the old burying ground† in that city. The happy effects of his prayers and labors were left upon his children. The following is a copy of the inscription on his grave-stone:

HERE LYETH BURY
ED y° BODY OF
HEZEKIAH BRAINERD^d
ASSISTANT WHO
DIED MAYy° 24
A D 1727
AGED 46 YEARS.

* Colonial Records of Connecticut (1726-1735), Vol. VII, p. 58, Oct., 1726, James Wadsworth, John Hall, Hez. Brainerd, Esq.rs. This Assembly grants each of them, one hundred acres of land, which respective grants are in consideration of their good service done to the government.

They were known as the Esquires farms.

† The burying ground is in the rear of the Center church, Hartford, and has been thoroughly renovated and put in first class order, with a substantial iron fence on the street side, by "The Daughters of the American Revolution," of the Ruth Wyllys Chapter, of Hartford, Conn.



From Barber's Historical Collections of Connecticut, published in the year 1836, p. 516:

This is a representation of the spot, looking towards the north, where that devoted missionary, David Brainerd, first drew his breath. The house in which he was born was probably built one hundred and sixty or one hundred and seventy years since. It was a one-story building, forty by thirty feet, with a portico by the south door. After this house was taken down another was built on its foundation. This second was taken down about fifteen years since. The place remained in possession of the Brainerds till about the year 1802. The cellar walls still remain. The place is seen in the engraving on the right, near by which two persons are standing. The house stood a short distance from the river at an elevation of perhaps one hundred feet from the water and about eight or ten feet from the turnpike road, commanding a fine prospect of the river, both to the north and south. A spring issues in the orchard near the road, and was formerly conducted to the back door of the house. This place is half a mile from Higganum Landing, one and a half northeast from the courthouse in Haddam, and about eight miles from Middletown.

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He died at the house of Secretary Hezekiah Wyllys, his brother-in-law, their wives being sisters, daughters of Rev. Jeremiah Hobart of Haddam, Conn., about noon, Wednesday, the same day and time that he was 46 years of age, as Capt. Joshua Hemstead's diary tells us. The Assembly granted £10 towards the expenses of his funeral.* Mrs. Dorothy (Hobart) (Mason) Brainerd d. Mch. 11, 1731 or '32, in her 53d yr.

Children :

3. i. HEZEKIAH, b. Oct. 26, 1708, in Haddam, Conn.
 4. ii. DOROTHY, b. Feb. 23, 1709-10, in Haddam, Conn.
 5. iii. NEHEMIAH, b. Apr. 20, 1711-12, in Haddam, Conn.
 6. iv. JEBUSHA, b. Apr. 21, 1714, in Haddam, Conn.
 7. v. MARTHA, b. Sept. 1, 1716, in Haddam, Conn.
 8. vi. DAVID, b. Apr. 20, 1718, in Haddam, Conn.
 9. vii. JOHN, b. Feb. 28, 1719-20, in Haddam, Conn.
 10. viii. ELIZABETH, b. Oct. 5, 1722, in Haddam, Conn.
 11. ix. ISRAEL, b. June 7, 1725, in Haddam, Conn.
2. vi. David Brainerd† was son of Hezekiah Brainerd and his wife, Dorothy Hobart, who had been, at the time of her marriage to Hezekiah Brainerd, for three years, widow of Daniel Mason, grandson of the celebrated Capt. John Mason, conqueror of the Pequots. In view of the extraordinary career of their distinguished son it will be interesting to discover what traits of these parents had come to them by inheritance, to be in turn transmitted to their children. As also the life of Brainerd was powerfully affected by the peculiarities of the little settlement where most of his life was spent, a study of his surroundings will not be out of place.
- Hezekiah Brainerd had obtained more education than was customary for the young men of his day. As unusual difficulties beset the way of a youth in pursuit of knowledge at this early time, when all New England hardly sufficed to support Harvard College, and all other schools were few and poor, we certainly may suppose that he possessed an unusually keen thirst for knowledge, as well as a vigorous and well-balanced mind and great perseverance amid difficulties. This certainly reappears in the son, who stood at the head of his class and was noted for his scholarship and patient endurance of hardship. His public services and the offices which he held at a time when public places were filled only by the most

* Colonial Records of Connecticut, Vol. VII, p. 114, May, 1727. Resolved by this Assembly. That 'tis consistent with justice that this Assembly allow something out of the publick treasury towards the defraying the charge of the interment of the Worshipful Hez. Brainerd, Esq. This Assembly grant out of the publick treasury to that end and use, the sum of ten pounds.

† The following article on David Brainerd, the noted missionary to the Indians, was prepared by Homer Worthington Brainard of Hartford, Conn.

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worthy, show him to have been a man of sound judgment and executive ability, which won the respect of his fellows. He represented his town in the General Court, was also one of the Council, and died at Hartford, while there in performance of his public duties. His father, Daniel Brainerd, who had come to New England when a boy of eight years, and lived in one of the well-to-do families of Hartford, Conn., until his majority, had been also respected by all, and had been justice of the peace and deacon in the church. Further back we cannot go.

Of David Brainerd's inheritance from his mother fortunately we can speak with much more certainty, and doubtless we have here another instance of what has been often noted in the lives of celebrated men. Like many others he had a gifted mother. She was the daughter of Jeremiah Hobart, one of the five sons of the Rev. Peter Hobart, the celebrated minister at Hingham, Mass., four of whom became ministers. Rev. Jeremiah Hobart preached at Topsfield, Mass., then removed to Hempstead, L. I., and finally settled in Haddam, Conn., where he died in the 85th year of his age. He went to public worship in the forenoon and died in his chair during the interval between the services. The mother of Dorothy Hobart was a daughter of Rev. Samuel Whiting, one of the most able of the Puritan ministers, first at Boston, in England, and then at Lynn, Mass., being noted for his learning, tolerance, and likings for the pleasanter sides of life. His wife, Elizabeth St. John, the mother of Dorothy Hobart, was sister of Oliver St. John, Chief Justice of England under Oliver Cromwell. It will thus be seen that from his mother David Brainerd inherited the results of generations of affluence and culture, and more particularly that some of the best blood of the Puritan era flowed in his veins. Some of the best fruit of the Puritan emigration to New England and the best traditions of Harvard College were, we may be sure, the legacy of Jeremiah Hobart to his daughter and her son.

Of Haddam in those early days, a little will suffice. Settled in 1662 by twenty young men from Hartford and vicinity, it had grown slowly and at the time of David Brainerd's birth contained about sixty families. Its area was large, arable land was scarce, forests covered its great hills and the Indians were threatening. Its situation was remote from the principal towns of the colony, many of its people removed across the river to occupy better lands, and its growth was slow and its conditions rude and primitive. Rev. Jeremiah Hobart was succeeded by Rev. Phineas Fiske, who held the pastorate from 1714 until 1736. The terms of his settlement show the poverty of the town. They had much land, but little ready money. They offered their minister as his settlement a home lot of six acres, forty acres on the neck, twenty acres of timber,