

PREFACE.

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In the arrangement of the genealogical record, I have mainly followed the plan adopted in the New England Historical Genealogical Register.

Each person by the name of Sears has his, or her, serial number in Arabic figures, and family number in Roman numerals.

The column of figures on the left margin of the page is, from beginning to end, the general enumeration, and when any such number is *starred*, the asterisk denotes reference to a distinct paragraph or chapter further on, where a more full account of the individual and his family may be found. This applies to all in the male line who are known to have married, and whose issue I have recorded.

By the plan adopted, the different branches of a family of the same generation are grouped together, so that their connection may be readily seen, and individuals are placed as by right of primogeniture.

To trace the ancestry of any individual Sears, you have only to take the number at the head of the chapter or paragraph, and turn back to the same number in the margin, and you will there find his parentage, etc., and the same process continued will take you back to the first generation.

The double-dating, which occurs in the mention of early generations, is in conformity with the general practice of the period.