

It should be borne in mind that many changes have taken place in boundaries and town names.

Plymouth Colony was merged in the Province of Massachusetts in 1692. The east precinct of Yarmouth was incorporated as the town of Dennis, June 19, 1793, and part of Harwich was set off as Brewster, Feb. 19, 1803.

In giving birth-places, etc., I have generally followed the original records, which do not usually take note of the popular names for localities or district subdivisions; for instance, a child born in South Yarmouth is entered as of Yarmouth; or if in East Dennis, as of Dennis, etc.

I have been taken to task for writing that a person was of Yarmouth, his descendant gravely affirming that his "grandfather lived and died in Dennis," when in point of fact there was not then any such town.

In <sup>the early</sup> Colonial and Provincial times the title of Captain was given only to officers of that rank in the army, militia and navy; commanders of vessels in the merchant service were styled Master or Skipper.

The early Searses called "Capt." in records were, therefore, of the militia, though some of them may also have been seafaring men.

Some persons may feel aggrieved that fuller mention is not made of themselves and their families.

It has been my aim to treat all alike, but while many, and I am pleased to say most, of the persons to whom I have applied for information have cheerfully interested themselves to procure for me required data, others have made no response, or such as was little better than none; if, therefore, some families are left out entirely, or imperfect, perhaps erroneous data given, it is not my fault.