

COLTON.

Thomas and Margaret Bliss were married in England, which they left on account of religious persecution. They had six children born in England and four in America. Their son Lawrence came to this country with his father in 1635, and died in 1676. He married, October 25, 1654, Lydia, nineteen years old, daughter of Samuel Wright, one of the first settlers in the Connecticut Valley, at Springfield, and the Wright sort of a wife for colonial days, when every man took his gun to church and sat at the foot of the pew ready to rush to the door when the guards posted outside gave the alarm. Elder Brewster could preach and pray, but never hesitated a moment when it became necessary to go on Indian campaigns and fight the savages. It was only a question of life or death, and there was no time to lose. The Indians owned the country, and the white folks were driving them out, but the ministers overlooked all questions of morals and principles when savages were concerned, and joined their parishioners in the fights.

The Deerfield massacre sent a thrill of horror throughout New England. Husbands did not last long in those terrible Indian wars of King Philip. Lydia had four lovers, married them all, and died a widow at the age of sixty-four, December 17, 1699. Her father had been killed by the Indians at Northfield in 1675, and on October 31, 1678, Lydia married John Norton. On January 7, 1688, she married John Lamb, and on March 1, 1692, it was George Colton's opportunity, and he had Bliss for seven years, until February 13, 1699, and then for ten months Lydia was left alone with her four gold wedding rings.