

Timothy Blodgett
A Brief Biography
By Bill Poole

The immigrant ancestor of **Timothy Blodgett** was his **Second Great Grandfather (Great, Great Grandfather), Thomas Blodgett**. Thomas arrived on board the ship *Increase*, captained by Robert Lea, that sailed from London, England in April, 1635. Thomas was 30 years old and his occupation was given as “glover.” He was accompanied by his wife, Susannah (listed as Suzan), age 37, and their two children, Daniel aged four and Samuel aged one and a half.¹

With him, Thomas brought certificates from Ministers and Justices of the Peace “of his conformitee to the Church of England.” The family settled in Cambridge, MA where Thomas was admitted as a Freeman and allotted land on March 6, 1636. In 1639, he sold a tract of land to Elder Frost an estate on Dunham Street, between Harvard Square and Mount Auburn Street that may have been his homestead. Susannah and Thomas had four children: 1. **Daniel**, born in England in 1631; 2. **Samuel, Great Grandfather of Timothy**, born in England in 1633; 3. **Susanna**, born in Cambridge, MA in June, 1637, married on November 28, 1655, Jonathan Thompson; 4. **Thomas**, birthdate not recorded, died young in Cambridge, August 7, 1639.²

Thomas wrote a will dated August 10, 1641. He died in 1642 and the will was probated in 1643.³

“I Thomas Bloggett, being at this time in my right mind give to my wife Susan my whole estate after my decease as well within as without. She to bring up my children in such learning and other things as is meet for them and pay to oldest son Daniel £15, when one and twenty or in one month after decease. To second son Samuel £25 as above. To daughter Susanna £15. Should they have a father-in-law who does not treat them well, my will is that the Deacons and our Brother Edward Winship they or either of them shall have power to see unto it and reforme it by one means or other.

Written this tenth day of the 9th month, 1641
Thomas Blogget

In presence of us,
Thomas Harris
John Meena”

Susanna, left with three children, married on July 15, 1644, James Thompson of Woburn, MA and she and the children moved to Woburn. There, daughter Susanna married Jonathan Thompson, her stepbrother, son of Jonathan.⁴ The mother, Susanna died in Woburn on February 10, 1660, and is buried in Woburn’s First Burial Ground.⁵

Samuel Blodgett, Great Grandfather

Samuel came with his mother and stepfather to Woburn where he held a number of offices and was an officer in the militia, Ensign then Captain. He was Selectman in 1681, 1691, 1693 and 1695-7. In 1681 he was chosen “commissioner of the Rate,” In 1693 he was Deputy to the General Court.⁶

Samuel married in Woburn, MA on December 13, 1655, **Ruth Eggleton** (or Iggleden) daughter of **Stephen and Elizabeth Bennett Eggleton**. Ruth’s father and mother, Stephen and Elizabeth Eggleton had sailed from London on board the ship *Castle*, but Stephen died before the ship reached Boston.⁷

Samuel and Ruth had children, all born in Woburn: 1. **Ruth**, born December 10, 1658, married in Woburn in 1673, Thomas Kendall; 2. **Samuel**, born December 10, 1658; 3. **Thomas, Grandfather of Timothy**, born February 26, 1661; 4. **Susanna**, born February 17, 1665, married in Woburn on December 29, 1685, James Simonds; 5. **Sarah**, born February 17, 1668, married January 7, 1687, John Hayward of Concord, MA; 6. **Martha** (twin), born September 15, 1673, married April 7, 1696, Joseph Winn of Concord, MA; 7. **Mary** (twin), born September 15, 1673, married in Charlestown, MA on October 24, 1693, Joseph Richardson of Charlestown.⁸

Thomas Blodgett, Grandfather of Timothy

Thomas married in Woburn on November 11, 1685, **Rebecca Tidd**, born about 1665 in Woburn (not recorded), daughter of **John and Rebecca Wood Tidd**. The family moved from Woburn to Lexington sometime in the 1690s. He was assessed in Woburn from 1684 to 1689. One source states that he was assessed in Lexington in 1691, but Charles Hudson has him first taxed in 1694. He subscribed to the Lexington Meeting House in 1692, giving one pound six shillings. He and Rebecca were admitted to the Lexington church on March 5, 1699. They settled on what is today's Adams Street in Lexington.⁹

Thomas In April 1711, Thomas gave 5 shillings toward the purchase of the common. At a town meeting held on January 9, 1713, it was voted to build a new meeting house on the plan of the church at Concord, and Thomas was appointed to a committee to carry out the plan. After the incorporation of Lexington in 1713, Thomas was chosen a tithingman, charged with insuring attendance and keeping order at church meetings. In 1713, 1718, 1720, 1722, and 1724 he was a selectman, and in 1717, he was assessor. He represented the town in the General Court in 1719 and 1721.¹⁰

Thomas and Rebecca had eight children, all of whose births were recorded in Woburn, but the last two children were baptized at Lexington: 1. **Thomas**, born August 5, 1686; 2. **unnamed child**, died April 13, 1688; 3. **Rebecca**, born June 5, 1689, married John Russell of Lexington (marriage does not appear in either Lexington or Woburn Vital Records); 4. **unnamed child**, died 1691; 5. **Ruth**, born October 14, 1694, perhaps died young; 6. **Joseph**, born September 17, 1696; 7. **Abigail**, born November 7, 1688, baptized at Lexington, November 13, 1698; and 8. **Samuel, Father of Timothy**, born June 17, 1702, baptized in Lexington June 28, 1702.¹¹

Thomas died between October 26, 1738 when his will was written, and November 28, 1740 when it was probated. He mentioned his wife, Rebecca, daughters Rebecca and Abigail and sons Thomas, Joseph and Samuel. He also stated that he had given lands to each of his sons. Rebecca died in Lexington on March 8, 1750.¹²

Samuel Blodgett Father of Timothy

Samuel married on June 26, 1726, **Mary Russell**, born in Lexington on January 1, 1704/05, baptized January 7, daughter of **Jonathan and Elizabeth Russell** (maiden name unknown). They had eight children, all born in Lexington: 1. **Samuel**, born April 30, 1727; 2. **Simeon**, born January 5, 1729/30; 3. **Joseph**, born February 10, 1731/32, died January 7, 1732/33, aged less than a year old; 4. **Mary**, born June 20, 1733, married in Lexington on May 27, 1760, Jonathan Perry; 5. **Ruth**, born August 29, 1735, married in Lexington on October 25, 1759, Henry Harrington; 6. **Josiah**, born December 28, 1737; 7. **Timothy, the subject of this essay**, born April 7, 1740; and 8. **Isaac**, born February 1, 1743/44.¹³

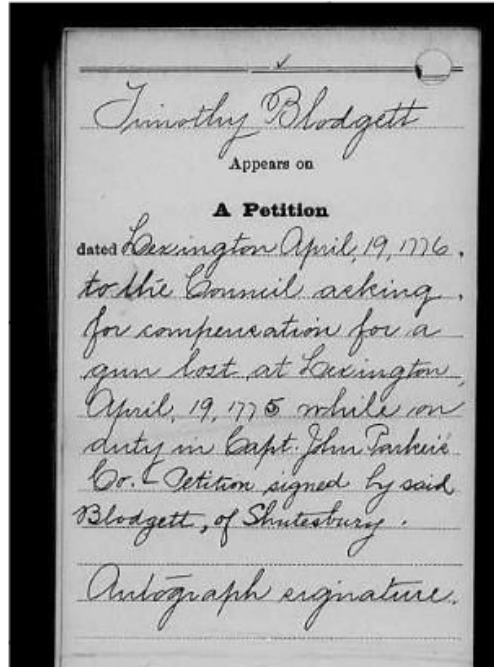
One source has **Susan**, twin to Josiah, born December 28, 1737; and Elizabeth, born in 1745, married in Lexington on May 27, 1760 David Fiske.¹⁴ Charles Hudson does not have them listed.¹⁴

Samuel lived in Lexington his whole life and was assessed there from 1744 to 1771. Samuel died on January 23, 1773 and Mary on April 22, 1781. Their graves have not yet been located. Their wills and probate records have not been found.¹⁵

Timothy Blodgett

Timothy on April 19, 1775 was 35 years old, married and had, depending upon the sources four or six children and is the only one of the family credited with being on Lexington Common under Captain John Parker's command. During the skirmish, Timothy lost his musket and petitioned for payment of the loss. Family tradition has him stationed on Governor's Island for a while.¹⁶ But the only entry in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution* refers to his claim for the lost musket.¹⁷

BLODGETT, TIMOTHY, Shutesbury, Petition dated Lexington, April 19, 1776, signed by said Blodgett, asking for compensation for a gun lost at Lexington, April 19, 1775, while on duty in Capt. John Parker's co.



The Blodgett family retained a charming if not completely accurate account of April 19, 1775 as told by Millicent Perry Blodgett, wife of Timothy, to her Granddaughter Sally (Blodgett) Lyon.

The news that the British were coming through on their way to Concord was brought to the old-fashioned colonial house on the edge of the little village just before midnight. All were aroused. Grandmother began her baking, for it was a Wednesday, her baking day, and she was a famous cook. Grandfather Timothy began getting ready his flint-lock. They were all busy. Through all the hours of that night the neighbors kept coming in and out to discuss what should be done.

One woman said: "I told my husband to go, but he says he's sick, and I told him he was a coward, for my old father has gone to the meeting house green, old as he is." Her father was one of the eight men killed, Parker by name."

Grandfather was then already on the Lexington Green, and followed on after the Red-coats nearly to Concord, then helped to harass and worry and chase them back all the way to Lexington, where the wornout and heated British soldiers lay down on the Green, panting, and many of them were waited upon back to Boston to the tune of Yankee Doodle.

A report spread that Lord Percy was coming with fifteen thousand men from Boston to burn and destroy all the villages between there and Concord, and caused a perfect panic in the town early in the morning of the 19th. Most of the husbands and fathers were gone in pursuit of the enemy. The women, under this new excitement, fled with their children from their homes to the adjacent woods: Grandmother among them, with her three little children, and leaving the oven full of her good baking.

While wandering in the woods, Grandmother met Samuel Adams one of the proscribed men — both Adams and Hancock were under the ban, and though all others might be pardoned, their lives were forfeit. These two men without doubt were concealed in the house of the minister, and the soldiers stopped at Lexington to take them, but their warm reception made them hasten on. Adams though fleeing for his life did not forget his stately politeness: — “God bless you, Madam,” he said, bowing low from his horse and saluting with his hand.

Grandmother came back to her house to find her oven of food all gone, but she always said she was glad our own hungry men found in her absence. Later on in the day, a British officer asked her for food and found her crying. “Why do you cry” he asked, “We do not hurt women and children.” She answered, “No, but you kill our husbands and sons and fathers, and why shouldn’t we cry!”

Courtesy of Mrs. Louisa Thayer Tiffany, a daughter
Of Sally (Blodgett) Lyon¹⁸

Family traditions frequently hold kernels of truth, but fading memories and exaggerations sometimes render them somewhat unreliable. Could Timothy have lost his musket, yet “followed on after the Red-coats nearly to Concord, then helped to harass and worry and chase them back all the way to Lexington . . . ?” Millicent had four children by this time, not three as stated. The meeting with Samuel Adams is possible, but Adams and Hancock travelled in a coach to that portion of Woburn that is now Burlington and from there on to Billerica.

following the events of April 19th, Timothy, Millicent and their children did not remain long in Lexington. In 1776 they may have been in Shutesbury, MA where Timothy made his claim for a lost gun. In 1777 they were in Wendell, MA where six of their children were born and they then moved on to settle in Deerfield, MA where their last child was born.

George Sheldon’s *History of Deerfield, Massachusetts* has only a few references to Timothy, and all refer to a controversy that arose within the Deerfield church. It seems that all New England churches experienced divisive and long lasting disputes that arose for a number of reasons. Disputes arose out of liturgical differences, the difficulty in attending services for those living at a distance from the meeting house, and opposition to the Ministerial Tax, imposed for the support of the minister.

In Deerfield, the quarrel began over the attempt to extend the temporary ministry of Samuel Willard whose liberal ideas alienated some of his parishioners. When a concord of ministers gathered to discuss Willard’s ordination, they voted in the negative, His supporters then advocated for a town meeting to be held on August 28, 1807 to consider continuing his service. The vote was 114 yeas to 34 nays with Timothy and his son, Joseph, voting in the negative. There followed on April 4, 1808, a petition to divide the town in two, with Timothy and Joseph’s names affixed. Those agitating for separation were from the southern portion of town, which fixes the location of Timothy and Joseph’s homes.

Then on February 5, 1809, those from the southern part of town demanded that their Ministerial Taxes be withheld and used to pay a minister to serve where they could "Conscientiously and Conveniently attend." "We are conscious in our own minds of a very essential difference in opinion from the Rev. Mr. Willard on some of the most important doctrines of the Gospel, & consequently cannot derive the Instruction & Edification by attending on his ministry we otherwise can," Joseph and Timothy were among the 40 named individuals.

Whether the true nature of the dispute was about differences in religious beliefs or the inconvenience of travelling to service or a bit if both is not absolutely clear, but the fact that the dissidents were all from the southern part of town, gives credence to the latter reason. The dispute continued at length, until on June 30, 1818 "the Second Congregational Church was established at Bloody Brook*and the ministerial fund divided to mutual satisfaction."¹⁹

*Bloody Brook refers to the stream in South Deerfield near where on September 18, 1675, Captain Thomas Lathrop and a force of 84 men including 16 teamsters travelling from Deerfield to Hadley, MA were ambushed by a war party primarily composed of Pokumtuck warriors and the captain and 76 men slain.

Timothy had married about 1765 **Millicent Perry**, born March 9, 1748 in Woburn, MA daughter of **Joseph and Mary Perry**, and they are said to have had thirteen children, but not all births are supported by records.²⁰

1. **Timothy Jr.**, born September 24, 1766, baptized in Lexington on April 5, 1767 married Elizabeth Stiles in on April 20, 1786, died November 25, 1855 in Fitzwilliam, Cheshire, NH, **burial unknown**.
2. **Thaddeus**, born in Lexington on June 2, 1768, baptized June 12, 1768, married March 3, 1794 in Deerfield, MA, Sally Tuttle, died between 1855-60 1850 in Poland, Chautauqua, NY; buried Allen Cemetery, Falconer, Chautauqua, NY.
3. **Levi**, born in Lexington, July 29, 1770, baptized August 5, 1770, married on January 3, 1791 in Surry, Cheshire County, NH, Kezia Puffer, died in Wendell, MA May 28, 1848 aged 77; **burial unknown**.
4. **Josiah** (twin), born January 23, 1773, died 1822 (**records not found**).
5. **Lucy** (twin), baptized in Lexington, April 4, 1773, married September 19, 1792, Asaph Mitchell of Deerfield, MA, died August 27, 186s in Fredonia, Chautauqua, NY, aged 90, buried Pioneer Cemetery, Fredonia, NY.
6. **Samuel Newell**, born September 29, 1774 (**record not found**), married Susanna Harper, died in Hadley, Saratoga, NY on July 4, 1849 aged 74. **burial unknown**.
7. **Joseph**, born January 19, 1777 in Wendell, MA married Thankful Hawkes daughter of Waitstill and Ann Spoffard Hawkes in Deerfield, MA on October 11, 1798, died In Fitzwilliam, NH, September 16, 1822 aged 45, buried Village Cemetery, Fitzwilliam, NH.
8. **Mary (Polly)**, born 1779 in Wendell, MA, married Silas Hawkes in Deerfield, MA on February 26, 1798, died in Deerfield on July 19, 1840 aged 61years, buried Sugarloaf Street Cemetery, South Deering, MA.
9. **Millicent**, born December 23, 1781 in Wendell, MA, married Waitstill Hawkes in Deerfield, MA on February 26, 1801, died in Deerfield on September 9, 1831, 49 years;, buried in Sugarloaf Street Cemetery, Deerfield, MA.
10. **Sally**, born in Wendell ,MA in 1783, marriage intention in Deerfield, MA April 16, 1803 to John Legate of Charlemont, MA died in Guilford, Windham County, Vermont in October 5, 1861 aged 77, buried North River Cemetery, Colrain, Franklin County, MA.
11. **Lucretia**, born June 6, 1786, in Wendell, MA, died March 30, 1789, Wendell; **burial unknown**.
12. **Simeon**, born April 20, 1788 in Wendell, MA, marriage intention in Deerfield, MA November 17, 1810 to Lydia Graves, died in Deerfield, MA on September 2, 1842 aged 54, buried Sugarloaf Street Cemetery, South Deerfield, MA.
13. **Edmund**, born Aug. 30, 1790 in Deerfield, MA **death and burial unknown**

Timothy Sr. and Millicent both died in Deerfield, he on January 13, 1831 aged 90 and she, May 7, 1827 aged 80. They are buried in Sugarloaf Street Cemetery in South Deerfield, MA



Mr.
Timothy Blodgett
Died
13 Jan, 1831
AE 90

MELICENT BLODGETT
wife of
TIMOTHY BLODGETT
died
7 May 1827
AE 80



Footnotes

¹Great Migration: Passengers of the Increase, 1635 at <https://www.geni.com/projects/Great-Migration-Passengers-of-the-Increase-1635/8682>; also <https://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/increase.htm>.

²Blodgett, Edwin A., *Ten Generations of Blodgetts in America*, p. 5. at <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/564757-ten-generations-of-blodgetts-in-america?offset=2>

³*Ibid.*

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1967580/memorial-search?firstname=&middlename=&lastname=blodgett&cemeteryName=First+Burial+Ground&birthyear=&birthyearfilter=&deathyear=&deathyearfilter=&memorialid=&mcid=&linkedToName=&datefilter=&orderby=r&plot=>

⁶Sewell, Samuel M. A., *The History of Woburn, Middlesex County, Nass., From the Grant of Its Territory to Charlestown in 1649, to the Year 1862*, Boston, Wiggin and Lunt, Publishers, 1863, pp. 582, 584, 589.

⁷Vital Records of Woburn, MA to the End of the Year 1873 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Woburn/>

⁸*Ibid.*; Vital Records of Charlestown, MA to the Year 1850, p. 31 at <https://digital-americanancestors-org.nehgs.idm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15869coll33/id/5292>

⁹Blodgett, Edwin A., *op. cit.*, pp. 10-11; Charles Hudson, *Bi-centenary Edition History of the Town of Lexington Massachusetts in Two Volumes*, Volume I, *History*, Lexington Historical Society, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, 1913, p. 35.

¹⁰*Ibid.*

¹¹Vital Records of Lexington, MA to the End of the Year 1897 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Lexington/>

¹²Middlesex County: MA Probate File Papers, 1648-1871, Volume Middlesex Cases 1-1999, pages 1983:1-1983:8 at <https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/middlesex-county-ma-probate-file-papers-1648-1871/image?volumeld=14459&pageName=1983:1&rlid=38176835>; Vital Records of Lexington, MA, *op. cit.*

¹³Hudson, *Genealogies*, *op. cit.*, p. 36.

¹⁴Blodgett, Edwin A., *op. cit.*, p. 23.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶*Ibid.*, p. 56.

¹⁷Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, A compilation from the Archives Prepared and Published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Accordance with Chapter 100, Resolves of 1891, Boston, Wright & Potter, 1896-1908, Volume 2. page 199.

¹⁸Blodgett, Edwin A., pp. 56-7.

¹⁹Sheldon, George, *1636—Pokumtuck—1886 A History of Deerfield, Massachusetts, The Times When and The People By Whom It Was Settled, Unsettled and Resettled, With A Special Study of the Indian Wars In the Connecticut Valley, With Genealogies*, Two Volumes, Volume I, pp. 784-801.

²⁰Vital Records of Lexington, MA, *op. cit.*; Vital Records of Deerfield, MA; to the End of the Year 1849;

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47829567/thaddeus-blodgett>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15797452/lucy-mitchell>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23489123/joseph-blodgett>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89595297/mary-hawks>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74485039/melicent-hawks>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21372992/sally-legate>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89578238/simeon-blodgett>