

Lieutenant Thomas Putnam, (2) eldest son of John and Priscilla (Gould) Putnam, was born at Aston Abbotts, county Bucks, England, March 7, 1644-5, and died at Salem village, Massachusetts, May 5, 1686. He married, first, at Lynn, Massachusetts, August 17, 1643, Ann, daughter of Edward and Prudence (Stockton) Holyoke. The Holyoke family was one of the most prominent and aristocratic families in the colony. Mrs. Putnam died September 1, 1665. Lieutenant Thomas Putnam married, second, at Salem, September 14, 1666, Mary Veren, widow of Nathaniel Veren, a rich merchant formerly of Salem. Mrs. Putnam (second) died March 16, 1694. In 1684 Mrs. Putnam, in the appointment of seats in the meeting house at the village, was seated in the first or principal pew reserved for women. Thomas Putnam, Sr., was an inhabitant of Lynn in 1640, freeman in 1642; one of the seven selectmen of Lynn in 1643, and was admitted to the church in Salem, April 3, 1643. In 1645 the general court passed the following order: "Mr. Thomas Putnam is appointed by the courts to end small causes for ye towne of Lynne for ye yeare ensuing June 18, 1645." He was "Chosen for Gran Jurymen" in Salem in 1648, and was chosen constable for Salem in place of Mr. William Browne, October 10, 1655. The office of constable at that time carried great authority, and covered the entire local administration of affairs. He was also the first parish clerk at Salem village, and was prominent in local as well as town affairs. October 8, 1662, he was appointed by the general court as lieutenant in the troop of horse. He was also the largest tax payer in Salem in 1682. Two of Massachusetts' most honored citizens are direct descendants of Mrs. (Veren) Putnam, viz: Robert C. Winthrop and Hon. William C. Endicott. The homestead of Lieutenant Thomas Putnam is still standing, a little east of Hawthorne's Hill, in the northern part of Danvers.

Sergeant Thomas Putnam, (3) son of Thomas and Ann (Holyoke) Putnam, was born in Salem, January 12, 1652, and died in Salem, May 24, 1699. He married Ann, youngest daughter of George and Elizabeth Carr, of Salisbury, born there June 15, 1661, died in Salem village, June 8, 1699. Sergeant Thomas Putnam received a liberal education, but, like many others whom we

should call more enlightened, took a prominent part in the witchcraft delusion of 1692, being only second to Parris in the fury with which he seemed to ferret out the victims of his young daughter's insane desire for notoriety. His wife also took an active part in these proceedings. She was the sister of Mary Carr, wife of Mr. James Bayley, whose ministry at the village was the cause of so much dissension, and which indirectly added to the bitterness of the witchcraft persecutions. Sergeant Putnam was of a decisive and obstinate nature. He had great influence in the village, and did not hesitate to use it. He had been in the Narragansett fight, belonged to the company of troopers, and was parish clerk. Many of the records of the witchcraft proceedings are in his hand. He wrote a fine, clear and beautiful hand. It was in the house of Sergeant Thomas Putnam and the Rev. Mr. Parris that the "bewitched" children first met to accomplish their pranks. In the "circle" were the daughter of Sergeant Thomas Putnam, Ann, born October 18, 1679, and a maid servant of Mrs. Putnam, Mary Lewis. Sergeant Thomas Putnam and probably his wife were firm believers in the whole matter, but, like many others, showed a lamentable lack of common sense. The strain was too much for him, and he died soon after the trial; his wife lived only a few weeks longer.

Seth Putnam, (4) son of Sergeant Thomas and Ann (Carr) Putnam, was born in Salem village in May, 1695, and died in Charlestown, New Hampshire, November 30, 1775. He married, September 16, 1718, Ruth, daughter of John Whipple, and born in 1692, and died in Charlestown, New Hampshire, February 1, 1785. Seth Putnam was one of the earliest of the Danvers Putnams to go forth into the wilderness and make a home for himself and family. In 1719 he bought of Samuel Walker for two hundred pounds, a house lot and sixty acres of land in Billerica, Massachusetts. Here he lived until 1750, when he removed to Number Four, now Charlestown, New Hampshire. This frontier post had been fearfully exposed to Indian attacks, and but three of the original grantees had settled there. In 1746 Number Four had been abandoned by the settlers, who took up their abode in Groton, Lunenburg and Loamster, Massachusetts. In 1747 the place was again garrisoned,