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Bradley Family History: 1637 - present

By Clifford LaPlante

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BRADLEY FAMILY HISTORY

1637 - present



Clifford LaPlante

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Introduction

Danyell Broadley, born in Bingley, Yorkshire in 1588/89, was married three times and had fourteen children. He died and was buried in Bingley on November 27, 1641. His son William migrated to America in 1637 with Pilgrims, where the family name Broadley became Bradley.

Each chapter will trace a generation of Williams's descendants from their birth to death, blending family history, American history, and genealogy by exploring their lives, and those of their children, grandchildren, and spouses. This account explores the Bradleys' lineage with emphasis on religion, occupation, education, politics, military service, and related topics. Only significant historical events directly impacting the family are included, with a primary focus on New England history.

The research for this book began as a hobby nearly forty years ago, before computers and online resources were available. Over time, as I balanced college, career, and family, technology advanced, and I took genealogy courses, including a week in Salt Lake City, to get organized. I attempted to start the book several times but was often interrupted; however, I kept my notes and

research. Last year, determined to finally finish, I added the book to my bucket list. It proved more work than expected, but now, with publication near, I am thinking about what my next book could be.

A Surname Index and Bibliography are provided at the end of the book for genealogy researchers or those interested in family connections. I am a tenth great-grandson of Danyell Broadley and welcome inquiries.

Chapter 1 – First in America

William Bradley was born on 27 January 1609/10, in Shipley, Yorkshire, England, the son of Danyell and Elizabeth (Atkinson) Broadley. He married Alice Pritchard, the daughter of Roger and Frances (unknown maiden name) Pritchard, in Springfield, Massachusetts, on 18 February 1644/45. She was born on 5 October 1620 in England or Wales. They had eight children. He died on 29 May 1691 in New Haven, Connecticut. She died on 5 October 1692 in New Haven. Burial for both were at the Center Church on the Green Cemetery in New Haven.

In the year of William Bradley's birth, the Village of Shipley was primarily agricultural, with crops like wheat, barley, and oats. With sheep farming being prevalent, livestock farming was also in the region. The larger town of Bradford, about four miles distant, was a market town. London lies 175 miles south of Shipley. A notable event in England in 1610 was when the new King James version of the Bible was first published.

William served as a Major in the Parliamentary army, having been friends with Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658), who would later become second in command of that army

in 1645, during the English Civil War. Cromwell would go on to be appointed Lord Proctor of England, Scotland, and Ireland, being the only person to ever hold that position. He became Lord Proctor upon the execution of King Charles I (1649), an event it is said Cromwell played a key role in. The role of Lord Proctor is to be an interim ruler of the empire until a new King is crowned. In this case, King Charles II, son of Charles I, was proclaimed King in 1660. Apparently, Cromwell had been offered the crown in 1657 but declined, stating he opposed monarchy.

William arrived in America as part of the Davenport-Eaton founding expedition, a group of Puritans seeking religious freedom in the New World. John Davenport (1597–1670) was a Puritan who along with Theophilus Eaton (1590–1658), a Puritan leader from Davenport's congregation in London, secured a ship named the *Hector*—not to be confused with a ship of the same name, which in the mid-1700s brought emigrants from Scotland to Nova Scotia, Canada. Their journey was delayed when, in 1636, the English government impressed the ship for the “service of the crown.” The ship was released in early May of 1637 and completed the first leg of its two-part journey, arriving in Boston at the Massachusetts Bay

Colony on 26 June 1637. William was twenty-eight years old.

A passenger list from the voyage of the *Hector* (probably incomplete) has survived; however, such a list and the details of the sister ship that sailed with the *Hector*, if a list for that ship ever existed, it has been lost to time. The name William Bradley, or anyone with the Bradley surname, does not appear on the above-mentioned list. A typical ship of this era, sailing from England to Boston, could carry one hundred passengers. The list has only about forty names; therefore, a reasonable deduction would be that the list is incomplete. Other evidence supports that William was on the *Hector* or possibly its sister ship. A side note to the list is that there are several names on the list of the original settlers of what would become New Haven, Connecticut, whose children-to-be would eventually marry some of William's nine children.

The second part of the voyage of the *Hector* occurred in 1638, after exploration by Eaton to choose a site for the new settlement. Eaton reported back to his band of pioneers, having found a region of rich farmland and the presence of a harbor that sat at the mouth of a river, then called the Quinnipiac—later renamed the Connecticut

River. This was desirable to many members of the expedition who had been merchants in London and wished to be able to conduct or resume trade in the new world. With the expedition, the *Hector* arrived at its destination to establish the new colony on 24 April 1638. At first, the settlement was known as “Quinnipiac,” then briefly the “New Haven Plantation,” and finally, in 1640, was declared the “New Haven Colony” by its citizens, with Theophilus Eaton elected as its first Governor.

The arrival of the first settlers of New Haven in 1638 was thirty-two years after the arrival of the first settlers in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1606, eighteen years after the arrival of the Puritans at Plymouth, Massachusetts on the *Mayflower* in 1620—only ten years after the establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628. Many historians consider the establishment of the New Haven Colony of equal historic importance to the other English Colonies that preceded it.

The New Haven Colony grew steadily and became prosperous, developing commerce and trade, at first north along the Connecticut River (Weathersfield, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massachusetts, other Connecticut colonies, and some Native American tribes). A triangular trade route was set up; agricultural products were traded

with New Amsterdam (present-day New York City) for their trade goods, and some of these traded with Virginia for its tobacco. Eventually, direct trade was established with England and the islands of the West Indies (Barbados and St. Kitts)—the trade in sugar being the most profitable.

Meanwhile, back in New Haven, the records of the colony reflect that William Bradley, in about 1640, acquired land described as farmstead in the East Farms neighborhood (being on the west side of the Quinnipiac River) composed of 154 acres of upland, 33 acres of meadow, and a tract of land (acres not specified) transferred to him from one Francis Brewster. William's farm would become the center of activity for the Bradley clan soon to come. The area of William's land would become part of the independent town of North Haven in 1786, and he is credited with being that town's first landowner and citizen.

In May of 1643, the New Haven Colony joined the New England Confederation, an agreement between New England colonies drawn up in Boston for their "mutual defense and benefit." On 27 October 1643, the colonies of Branford, Guilford, Milford, Stamford, and Southold (Long Island) became part of the New Haven Colony and the Confederation.

Chapter 6 – The Czar of Vermont



William Czar Bradley

William Czar Bradley (*Stephen*⁵, *Moses*⁴, *Daniel*³, *Abraham*², *William*¹) was born on 23 March 1782 in Westminster, Vermont. He married Sarah Richards, daughter of Mark and Ann (Ruggles) Richards, in Westminister in December of 1866. She was born on 9 March 1783 in Westminister. They had three children. She died on 7 August 1866 in Westminister. He died on 3 March 1867 in Westminister. Both were interned in the Bradley Family Crypt at the Old Cemetery in Westminister.

When William Czar Bradley was born in 1782, his hometown of Westminister had a population of around 1,200 people, consisting mainly of farmers, tradespeople,

and some wealthy landowners. It was a bustling town with a strong sense of community and had been a hub for political activities during the Revolutionary War, hosting the Westminster Convention in 1777, which declared Vermont an independent republic. The town was deeply involved in the fight for American independence, with many residents in the region having served in the Green Mountain Boys or Continental Army.

The origin of William Czar's distinctive middle name, as detailed in Dorr Bradley Carpenter's books and other publications, stems from his father's deep admiration for Peter the Great. His father wished to name him after this historical figure. However, this preference sparked significant debate between William's parents, with his mother strongly opposing the idea. Ultimately, the compromise reached was to use "Czar" as William's middle name.

William was considered precocious, writing poetry at six and publishing prose by twelve. Reportedly, he read the entire Bible multiple times before age nine. Accepted at Yale College at eleven, he was expelled for "mischief," which he denied. He later confessed that he "had done undetected mischief enough to deserve censure."

Upon William's return to Westminster from Yale, he received a cold reception from his father, Stephen Rowe Bradley, who made no secret of his disappointment in his son. This apparently had the desired effect, as William went to study law under Siemon Strong in Amherst, Massachusetts. Strong was a Yale graduate who had studied both law and theology. William would later state, "Theology is the noblest profession; law is second to it." When Strong was appointed to the State Supreme Court in 1800, William returned to his father's office in Westminster for further study and was admitted to the Vermont Bar to practice law in 1802 at the age of 20.

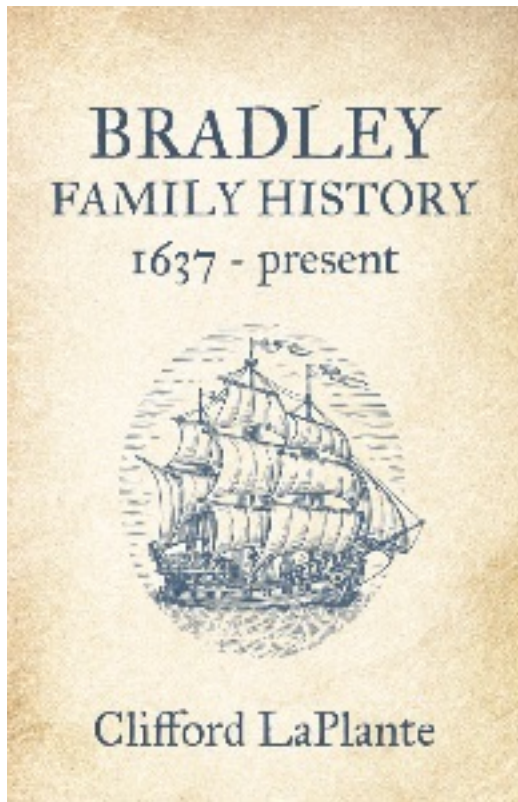
Later that year William married his bride Sarah Richards, who was 19. Her family, like his, consisted of lawyers and politicians and had fought in the American Revolution. Her father Mark Richards was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on July 15, 1760. Per the Revolutionary War pension records of 1835, he enlisted in the Continental Army at the age of 16. After the war, he settled in Boston and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He moved to Westminster, Vermont in 1796 and was a member of the State House of Representatives (1801–1805), the sheriff of Windham County (1806–1810), and a member of the Governor's Council in 1816. He was elected

as a Republican to the Fifteenth and Sixteenth U.S. Congresses (March 4, 1817–March 3, 1821), again a member of the State House of Representatives from 1824–1826, in 1828, and 1832–1834. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Vermont in 1830.

Ann (Ruggles) Richards, mother of Sarah, was previously married to Joseph Dorr (1742–1780), with whom she had two children, Nancy and Jonathan. Ann (1751–1841) and her second husband Mark Richards (1760–1844) are buried in the Bradley Crypt at Westminster's Old Cemetery. Her grave marker states she is a direct descendant of King Henry I of France. Further research is indicated to verify this lineage.



Grave marker, Bradley Crypt, Westminster



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