

December 21, 1939

Mr. John Dickson, Managing Editor,
The National Cyclopedia of American Biography,
70 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Dickson:

It might not be difficult for me to prepare a short biographical article for someone else, but it is rather difficult for me to prepare one for myself, having read your note under paragraph 10. I have endeavored to fill out your blank but have little idea whether I have given you what you want or not. I filled this blank in with pen and ink and wish you to send me another that I may fill in by typewriter.

I enclose herewith an article in reply to paragraph eleven which is undoubtedly too long. I have also written a list of the various things with which I am now connected.

Under item 22 I show the earliest ancestor on my paternal line and also my earliest ancestor on the maternal line.

Under 23 I have simply covered the Simons line. Beginning with William Simons, the second in the list, all names, births, etc., have been verified. The records of five generations are found at Enfield, Conn.

I place as the first Simons, William Simonds of Woburn, Mass. The spelling does not matter, as the English spelling usually has the "d" and the early New Englanders either did not know how to spell, or did not care. In reading Bradford's History of Plymouth Colony, I found on pages opened before me four different spellings of Priscilla's last name. William Simonds of Woburn, Mass. is presumedly the William Simonds who sailed from London, October 20, 1635 on the Ship Safety. This presumption is made especially strong, as in 1643, or 1644, he married Judith Phippen-Hayward, a widow, who sailed from London in 1635 on the Ship Planter. Judith Phippen was married to Hayward while they were aboard ship and