

O LET US ALL BE PUT IN MIND
 THAT WE ARE BORN TO DIE
 GRAVE SAINT BEHIND THAT CANNOT FIND
 THEY OLD LOUE NIGHT NOR MORN
 PRAY LOOK ABOVE FOR THEIR YOUR LOUE
 SINGING WITH Y FIRST BORN.

The last four lines of this epigraph seem to have been favorites with the lapidary poets of the day, for we find them, word for word, on the gravestone of Mr. Nathaniel Adams, April 11, 1715. Yet this was about the same time when Pope published the Rape of the Lock.

John Bridgham, son of Henry and Elizabeth Bridgham of Boston, was born about 1645. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1669, and settled as a physician in Ipswich, about 1685. On the sixteenth of April of that year, there was granted to him by the freemen of the town, "about half an acre of land near Goodman, Bridges, near the widow Clark's: provided he improve it for a garden, and to build on for his settlement here in this town." He died May 2, 1721, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. "The record of his death, by the town clerk, is subjoined this remark,—"for many years past he proved himself a very skillful and eminent physician. his administrations being commonly attended with good success." He was a feoffee of the grammar school from 1714 to the time of his decease. A silver cup belonging to the communion service of the first church, has this inscription. "The Gift of Doct. John Bridgham, to the Church of Christ in Ipswich, 1721."

In December, A. D. 1700, a new meetinghouse having been built, the town chose a committee "To appoint all persons where they should sit in y^e new meetinghouse—and also to grant pews in y^e places reserved joining to y^e walls and sides of y^e meetinghouse—not to extend above 5 foot & 2 from y^e sides of y^e house into y^e allies." The committee consisted of "Coll^r John Wainwright, Lt. Coll^r John Appleton, Mr. Nehemiah Jewett, Deacon Nathaniel Knowlton, Serj Samuel Hart, Doct^r Philemon Dean, and Mr. Daniel Rogers." This meetinghouse was the largest ever built in this town; the parish, also, being larger in territory and population, than it is now. The construction of the interior would be considered in these days as remarkable. The pulpit was placed about seventeen feet from the northeasterly wall, with a large communion table in front of it. Twenty-five of the pews against the walls, were assigned to thirty-five of the principal inhabitants, "for the use of their wives and families," while to themselves were appointed seats in the body of the house. The men were seated on one side of the broad aisle, the women on the other. There were on each side, one seat behind the pulpit, and three short seats on each side of the pulpit and communion table. On these were seated the more elderly people, without much distinction of rank; the most elderly appear to have been placed on the seat behind the pulpit. About the table were seated ten of the more elderly of the *upper class* in society. On thirteen long seats, on each side of the house, were placed the rest of the inhabitants, according to their rank and station in society. At that time the title of Mr. was one of considerable distinction. Of one hundred and ninety-nine men, to whom seats were appointed, no more than twenty-seven had that appellation. As many more had military titles, from "Coll^r" to "Corpl^t" and three had the title of "Doct^r," viz: Bridgham, Dean, and Perkins. Of the six

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placed on the seat behind the pulpit, one had the title of "Deacon," and one that of "Serj^t." Of the ten seated at the table, three had the title of "Mr." two that of "Lt.," one that of "Q^r Mr." (Quarter Master) two that of "Ens.," one that of "Serj^t," and one "old Good^r Bragg," probably Edward Bragg, who must have been at that time, more than seventy-eight years old. The first long seat was assigned to eight persons, two of whom had the title of "Coll^r," two that of "Maj^r," two that of "Lt.," one that of "Doct^r," (Bridgham) and one that of "Mr." The second seat was assigned to eleven persons, one of whom had the title of "Ens." and all the others that of "Mr." On the third seat were seated thirteen persons, one of whom had the title of "Capt.," one that of "Doct^r," (Dean) one that of "Serj^t," one that of "Corpl^t," and six that of "Mr.," while three were without any addition to their names. The fourth seat had fourteen occupants, two of whom had the title of "Serj^t," four that of "Corpl^t," and three that of "Mr." On the fifth seat were sixteen persons, two of whom had the title of "Serj^t," and one that of "Mr." The six following seats were assigned to ninety-eight men, most of whom were freeholders and commoners, but are without any title attached to their names, except "Mr. Wardwell," who had a pew assigned to him, with permission "to sit in y^e sixth of y^e men's long seats, upon consideration of his son Elihu sitt in y^e sixth." The thirteenth seat was assigned to the "Boyes," "Negroes to go up to the benches at y^e head of y^e staires." The above is given as an illustration of the customs of the age, and of the relative social rank which the physicians sustained.

John Perkins was the son of Abraham, son of John, the younger, who with his father John, the elder, were among the first settlers of Ipswich. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1695, and soon afterwards commenced the practice of medicine in this place. He had a pew in the Meetinghouse appointed to him for the use of his family in 1700, but there appears to have been no seat assigned to himself. His father had a pew appointed to him "for his wife and family," with this condition, "one of y^e heads of s^d family to sit in s^d pew." This was probably intended to accommodate the Doctor. He is said to have removed to Boston, probably finding, as some of his successors have done, the profession at Ipswich *some-what crowded*. He was, not improbably, father to Doctor John Perkins, who came from Boston, and settled at Ipswich in 1723, and died here in 1780.

Samuel Wallis, son of Samuel by his first wife, Sarah Watson, was born September 23, 1691. The father Samuel, was son of Ensign Nicholas Wallis, son of Robert, one of the first settlers, who had land granted to him in 1639. The doctor had a wife named Sarah and lost an infant daughter, Sarah, October 4, 1715. He died October 16, 1723, in the thirty-eighth year of his age.

Thomas Berry was born in Boston, in 1695; graduated at Harvard College in 1712, and studied medicine with Doct^r Thomas Greaves of Charlestown. He settled as a physician in this town in December 1686, and married, August 6, 1717, Martha Rogers, daughter of the Rev. John Rogers. She died, August 24, 1727, at the age of thirty-three years, and on the seventeenth of the next February, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Turner of Salem. He was eminently distinguished for his energy and activity in public affairs, as well as in his own. He sustained the offices of a Colonel of the militia, Representative in the General Court, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge of Probate, and was many years one of the Executive Council of the Province. In 1749, he took an active part