

The Settlement at Rowley, Essex co., Mass.

The Rev^d Ezekiel Rogers was given the living of Rowley,¹ co. York, England by Sir Francis Barrington, co. Essex, Kt.

In December 1638 Mr. Rogers arrived in America with about 20² families and they all spent the winter at Salem; April or May 1639 this company, which had increased to 60 families, settled on lands in Essex co., Mass. to which a charter was granted in September 1639, under the name of Rowley.

Soon after the settlement, other families moved into the town, so that before the survey of Rowley, bearing date January 10th 1644, was completed, 16 other families had been added to the original 60, and land was also assigned to them at the time it was distributed.

We find the name of Mark I Prime in the list of the 76 families, but not in that of the 60 families.

These people labored originally in common, and this state of things lasted 5 years, no man owning any land in severalty, until the land on both sides of the brook had been cleared; and they had laid out some streets and roads, several of which received names.

Will of Mark I Prime, and the proving of the same. (PROBATE OFFICE ESSEX CO., MASS., LIBER 4, FOL. 76.)

The last will and testement of Marke Prime of Rowlly being weake in body but ¶fect in memery doe therefore ordaine this my last will in manner os followeth: I giue my soule to god that gaue it mee and my body to the graue

¹ Rowley is a parish, 2 or 3 miles from Southcave, in the Wapenstoke of Harthill in the East Riding of Yorkshire, England; in 1831 it had a population of about 500.

² The names of these 20 families are not known; it is presumed that a list of them was destroyed in 1651, when Mr. Rogers' house was consumed by fire.