

were killing all supporters of the King they could find. The Neff-Neve-Neave family were all strong Royalists and many hundreds of the Kings supporters fled to the Colonies around the time William first appears in the Essex County Court records.

THE ANCESTRY OF MARY (CORLISS) NEFF

Mary Corliss was the daughter of George Corliss, who was born at or near Exeter, Devonshire, England in 1617, the son of Thomas Corliss. He settled in Newbury, Mass., about 1639, at which date he gave his age as 22 years. He moved to Haverhill, Mass., a few years later and on Oct. 26, 1645 married Joanna Davis, by whom he had one son and seven daughters. His was the second marriage to be recorded at Haverhill.

By 1645, George Corliss was one of the 32 landholders in Haverhill. He was an able and industrious man who was able to increase his land holdings very materially over the years. By 1647, he had erected a log house in the densely forested West Parish and in later years his farm was called "Poplar Lawn." He owned most of the land on both sides of the old "Spicket Path," as it was then called, for a distance of more than three miles.

George Corliss was a freeman in 1645. He ^{was} Constable of Haverhill in 1650 and a Selectman 1648, 1652, 1657, 1669 and 1679. By a strange coincidence, George Corliss and his son and grandson died while sitting in the same chair in the Corliss home. George died Oct. 19, 1686. His will dated Oct. 18, probated Nov. 23, 1686, divided his extensive farm among his children, the home farm going to his son, John Corliss, and the farm one mile east to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Neff. Administration of the estate was granted to William Neff.

Joanna Davis, wife of George Corliss, and mother of Mary (Corliss) Neff, was the daughter of Thomas Davis and his wife, Christian Coffin who were married in England before emigrating to this country. Thomas Davis was a sawyer from Marlborough, County Wiltshire, England, who came on the "James" in April 1635, arriving Boston June 3, 1635. He was a freeman June 2, 1641. He was of Newbury 1641 and seems to have settled in Haverhill in the spring of 1642. His name is signed on the deed of purchase of the Haverhill territory from the Indians. Thomas Davis was elected one of the first Selectman of Haverhill at the Town Meeting Jan. 13, 1646. He was a Constable in 1655. He was a Mason. He was born 1603 and died July 27, 1683 and his wife died April 17, 1688, both at Haverhill. Administration of Thomas Davis' estate was granted Oct. 30, 1683, to William Neff. Another administration was granted in 1728 to his great-grandson, John Corliss. The Davis family traces its origin to Wales from whose patron saint, David, the name is derived.

THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM NEFF

1. WILLIAM¹ NEFF, born 1639-1642 (he gave his age as 24 yrs. in 1663, Essex Co. Court Rec. Vol. 3, p. 127 and his family gave his age at death as 47 yrs.); "went after ye Army & died at Pemaquid (Me.) Feb. 1688/9;" married 23 Jan. 1665, Haverhill, Mass., MARY CORLISS, born 8 Sept. 1646 at Haverhill, Mass. and died there 22 Oct. 1722 (Haverhill V.R.), the daughter of George & Joanna (Davis) Corliss. Mary Neff was a famous Colonial heroine.

The name of William Neff appears in The Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Mass., in a number of cases between 1658 and 1681. These cases show him to be living first in Newbury and later in Haverhill, Mass. There is enough variety in the