



GOADE (*Goode*) and DOWNING*

ABIGAIL¹ GOADE, born about 1618–22, daughter of JOHN and ABIGAIL (DOWNING) GOADE of London, crossed the ocean² by or before 1640 in an unknown vessel, to become a member of the family of her uncle Emanuel¹ Downing in Salem, very likely because of earlier death of her parents. Her father was called a “skinner” as was also her Aunt Susanna Downing’s husband, Francis Kirby. This implied that they were dealers in hides, leathers, furs, shoes, etc.

Since the character of her uncle Emanuel¹ Downing and his family** and the environment of his home would have been highly significant in and to the life of our ABIGAIL¹, it seems fitting to weigh conditions there. As has been stated, Emanuel¹† was educated at Cambridge, entering in December, 1602, and specializing in law after which he became a member of the Inner Temple.⁷ He married first Anne Ware, daughter of Sir James of Dublin, by whom he had three children; and on April 10, 1622, he married secondly Lucy Winthrop, younger sister of John¹ Winthrop who emigrated with the Fleet in 1630 to establish Massachusetts Bay Colony and who became its first resident governor.

Emanuel¹ and Lucy spent some years in Dublin where their well-known son George²‡ was born but they had returned to England by 1626 when Emanuel¹

*Of the Downing family of co. Suffolk, a *gentle* family, and armigerous,¹⁶ it has been said that an outstanding characteristic was that they “consistently, through two centuries, manifested a practical belief in the absolute value of Learning”.⁷ The earliest established family head in this line was GEORGE^a DOWNING of Beccles, co. Suffolk, whose will⁶ signed December 15, 1561, named his wife CICELY and five children of whom his second and third sons, John^b and GEORGE^b were “to go to the grammer schole, and then to the Universitie of Cambridge”. His estate was probated on June 26, 1564, by his widow CICELY. Their son GEORGE^b matriculated³ at Cambridge in 1569, took his bachelor’s degree in 1573–4, his master’s degree in 1577 and served as Master of the Grammar School at Ipswich, co. Suffolk from 1589 until his death in 1610. He married a Miss BELLAMY and had ten children, of whom Emanuel^c, the eldest, later the emigrant to New England, was baptized at St. Lawrence, Ipswich,^{1,6} August 12, 1585, and Nathaniel^c was baptized there October 8, 1587, followed by three daughters, Susanna^c, the eldest, Nahomie^c and our ABIGAIL^c. The wife of GEORGE^b died before 1611 for when he made his will⁶ on January 17, 1610–1, she was not named. He sent at least two of his sons, Emanuel^c and Joseph^c to Cambridge³ and had evidently provided for them financially as well, for excepting a bequest of books to Joseph^c, his entire estate was left to the three daughters whom he named as joint executrixes. That he was comfortably fixed is evidenced by his permission to these daughters to sell “my howse and tenements with the gardanis, orchardes and all that doth belongs thereto, . . . to the value of eight skoare and tenn powndes”. He gave them the lease of “White Friars”, the house he lived in, and equal shares of the estate. Nahomie was to have the “danske cheste” [damask?] “which standeth in the summer parlor”, and he specifically withheld from his son Joseph^c, in the daughters’ behalf, “my twoo household bybles with tenne of my cheif bookes . . .”.⁶ At this time the girls were probably unmarried but presently Susanna^c married Francis Kirby, a “skinner” and merchant of London who subsequently carried on extensive business dealings with John² Winthrop and Emanuel¹ Downing in the colony; between January, 1611 and 1615, our ABIGAIL^c married JOHN GOAD, skinner of London; and by repeated circumstantial evidence Nahomie^c must have married Richard Hill of London and have been the “sister Hill” frequently referred to⁵ by Lucy (Winthrop) Downing as well as by Richard Kirby, husband of Susanna^c Downing.

**Emanuel¹ Downing is impersonally listed as a member of a “gentle family,” which was definitely armigerous.¹⁶

†It has been surmised⁷ that he was named in honor of Emanuel College which had been founded the year before his birth by Walter Mildmay, a relative of the Winthrop family and very likely acquainted with the Downings.

‡This son was the well (if not favorably) known Sir George (later baronet) whose name was given to and is borne by the noted Downing Street in the heart of London.

became an attorney of the Court of Wards and was instrumental in getting a similar position for his brother-in-law, John¹ Winthrop. As the plans for emigration to the colony in New England developed, Emanuel¹ was deeply and actively interested, first in an advisory capacity and presently with the thought of eventual participation. After the sailing of the eleven vessels of the Fleet with their seven hundred or more passengers,¹² he and his wife both carried on extended correspondence with different members of the Winthrop family in New England, and Emanuel¹ was particularly occupied with export and import between England and the colony, making considerable investments himself, and frequently referring to his own eventual emigration. His wife wrote¹⁰ her brother on March 4, 1636-7, that one chief point of objection to their removal was the lack of adequate educational privileges — especially for George, their eldest son.

It is rather a coincidence that on the previous¹³ October 28, 1636, the court in New England had already voted £400 to establish a college and on November 15, 1637, Cambridge was chosen as its location and this was the birth of Harvard, which name was given¹¹ it on March 13, 1639, and, to anticipate, with the first class of this colonial college their son George² Downing graduated.¹⁰

For the three children of Emanuel¹ by his first wife preceded him to New England, James² in the fleet with his uncle, John¹ Winthrop, and Susan² and Mary² in 1633 under the care of Gov. William Coddington. But finally Emanuel¹ with wife Lucy and various children, including son George², sailed¹¹ in the "Thomas and Frances", being eight weeks on the way and arriving at their destination before September 7, 1638, for on that date the Rev. Edmund Browne who sailed on the same vessel wrote, from the colony, relative to what is now Harvard, "Wee have a Cambridge heere, a College erecting, youth lectured, a library, and I suppose there will be a presse this winter".¹¹ Rev. Browne's writing also recorded the fact that Lucy (Winthrop) Downing supplied his wants on the voyage "out of her treasury of provision. I was joyned in the messe wth them, had a often refreshing wth fresh meate and bottle beere et coeter."¹¹

Emanuel¹ settled at Salem* where within a month of their arrival he and his wife joined the church on November 4, 1638, and he became a freeman during the following March, and thenceforth he took a very prominent and constructive part in colonial affairs.³ Business took him to England** in 1642, 1644 and again in 1652, and he died in England or Scotland about 1656-60. His daughter Ann² baptized in April, 1633, in London, married⁹ in Salem in August, 1656, Capt. Joseph² Gardner (THOMAS¹), who lost his life in the Great Swamp Fight (see Upham, p. 624).

On the whole the life of Emanuel¹ Downing in both Old and New England

*Two items culled from the great number of letters preserved furnish the following sidelights on daily needs and trials: Gov. John¹ Winthrop noted on October 11, 1633, while Emanuel¹ was still in England,

"The wolves continued to do much hurt among our cattle; and this month by Mr. Grant, there came over four Irish greyhounds which were sent to the Governor by Mr. Downing, his brother-in-law." And in 1640-1, after the Downings' arrival in the colony, Lucy, wife of Emanuel¹ wrote to the governor's wife, begging garlic and sage and to borrow a gander for "I have 3 geese and not a husband for them . . ." ¹⁴ It is recorded¹³ that in 1638 Emanuel Downing brought over "at his great charges, all things fitting for takeing wild foule by way of duck coy," and the court gave him liberty to use some pond in Salem vicinity to make use of this equipment, and forbade anyone to use a gun within a half-mile of that pond under threat of fine or other punishment. This was undoubtedly in behalf of food supplies rather than mere sport.

**The fine home which Emanuel¹ Downing built near Salem burned down¹⁷ in 1645 while he was temporarily in England and his family was at meeting. Their loss of bedding, apparel and household goods amounted to £200.¹⁷

seems to have been highly commendable as to morals and ideals in relation to the church, the community, the colony, his friends and family, and during the last thirty years of his life "he was a strong and useful adherent of the infant colony, by his personal service when here and by his investment and planning when away."

But one outstanding trait evident in the lives of many early colonists (as well as later men) marked him as it did also Judge Samuel Sewall, the Diarist, namely, the matchmaking propensity in behalf of his flock, with an eye to the financial standing of prospective partners. In Sewall's case¹⁵ his purse-weighing, relative to his own various wives, or their prospects, as well as his concern for his children's possibilities, causes him to appear actually ridiculous, but in the case of Emanuel¹ one may justly say he was perhaps only provident and thrifty. His daughter Lucy² caused him the greatest concern, but he desired to marry his eldest son James² to one Rebecca Cooper, an orphan with a dowery. However, the girl's guardian had other plans. Emanuel¹ had also his niece our ABIGAIL on his hands. His wife Lucy wrote early in 1640-1 to her sister-in-law, the wife of Gov. John¹ Winthrop:

"I thank you . . . for the mayde. I have good hopes of her. My cozen [niece] NAB and she were fellow traillers in the ship from Eng: NAB giues her the report of a very good carigd theer: . . . My mayde ABYGALL is suddaynlie to be maryed to ROBERT MOULTON of this towne: and I hope it may proue a blessinge of comfort to her, for the parents and sonne [MOULTON] are people of a religious peacable life, and prouident in their estates."¹⁴

And Emanuel¹ himself wrote to Gov. John¹ Winthrop on January 20, 1640-1: "I desire . . . to match some of my elder children because some thinke me to blame, that none of them are disposed of. I have provided a verie good match for my neice, NAB. GOADE; he is old MOULTON his only sonne, a member of our church, of 4 or 500li [pounds] estate: if my sonns [James'] busines proceede I may about a moneth hence haue both couples married on a day."¹⁴ But that double wedding did not occur for the son's business did not "proceed"!

The known children of JOHN GOADE of London by his wife ABIGAIL DOWNING, born probably in London, were

- I. John, born by 1615-6, for the will^{1,6} of his mother's brother Nathaniel⁶ Downing "of London, gentleman," dated May 7, 1616, gave "To my sister, ABIGAIL GOADE, wife of JOHN GOADE, skinner, twenty pounds, and to their son, John Goade, forty shillings to make him a cup."
- II. Thomas¹ Goad, born about 1620, for in 1635, at the age of fifteen, he emigrated⁴ on the "Abigail" with John² Winthrop as a servant, having been outfitted by his aunt (called "Sister Hill", wife of Richard, doubtless Nahomie Downing, see p. 315) but through interference of a meddling outsider⁵ he was defrauded of what his aunt had provided and soon after arrival in New England he left the employ of Winthrop and sailed for Spain, probably planning a return to his relatives in England.⁵ He was called "cosen" [nephew] by Richard Kirby, husband of Susanna Downing.
- III. ABIGAIL¹, b. doubtless in London and probably about 1618-22; d. in Salem, Mass., between⁸ Jan. 5 and March 22, 1665-6; emigrated to New England perhaps early in 1640 for on September 8, 1640 she joined² Salem Church and she married there about February, 1640-1, or soon after, undoubtedly at the home of her uncle Emanuel¹ Downing, ROBERT² MOULTON (see Moulton, p. 455).

REFERENCES

1. Water's Gleanings, pp. 35, 37-9; New England Register, XXXVIII, 193-7.
2. Pope's Pioneers, pp. 144, 189, Supplement XVI; History of Salem, Mass., S. Perley, II, 26-9.
3. Alumni Cantabrigiensis, II, 62.
4. New England Register, XIV, 320; Planters of the Commonwealth, C. E. Banks, 1930, pp. 162-7.
5. Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, Ser. 3, IX, 248, 267; Ser. 4, VI, 44, 59-60, VII, 13, 16-7; Ser. 5, I, 9-10, 336-7.
6. Suffolk Manorial Families, being Winthrop of Groton and Allied Families, J. J. Muskett, 1896, pp. 96-9; Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1564, 20 Stevenson; 1616, 48 Cope, Sentence 23 Parker.
7. The Godfather of Downing Street, John Beresford, 1925, pp. 16-41.
8. Probates of Essex Co., Mass. II, 27-8.
9. Savage, I, 236; II, 65-6, 228.
10. Sibley's Harvard Graduates, 1873, I, 28 et seq.
11. Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, VII, 76; XV, lxx, cxxxii.
12. Life and Letters of John¹ Winthrop, R. C. Winthrop, 1864, I, 388; 1867, II, 176-81, 204-11.
13. Records of Massachusetts Bay Colony, I, 183, 208, 236.
14. Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, Ser. 4, VI, 56-7; Ser. 5, I, 31-2.
15. American Antiquarian Society Transactions, 1857, III, 144.
16. Pope's Pioneers, 1900, Supp. [p. xvi]; New England Register, LXXXVI, 261, 267, 280; History of Harvard University, S. E. Morison, 1935, p. 376.
17. Salem in the 17th Century, J. D. Phillips, 1933, pp. 142-3; Winthrop's Journal, II, 220-1, being VIII of Original Narratives of Early American History.