

Goodwin's book, the "Goodwins of Hartford, Conn.," page 68, there was no reason for believing that William Goodwin's wife Susanna was his second wife. But this will, with a bequest to "my daughter Elizabeth, wife of William Goodinge of Bocking," and the discovery afterwards of the record in the Parish Register in Shalford of their marriage in 1616, and the conveyance of land in Braintree and Bocking by John Talcott and wife Dorothy, and William Goodwin and wife Elizabeth, made in June, 1632 (just as the "Lion" was about to sail, in which these men are known to have been fellow passengers), make it highly probable that William Goodwin's wife Elizabeth came with him to Hartford, and lead irresistibly to the conclusion that Robert White's son-in-law, William Goodwin of Bocking, and Elder William Goodwin of Hartford, were the same person.

The date of the decease of William Goodwin's wife Elizabeth has not been ascertained, but it must have been before January, 1669-70, for at this date William Goodwin sold land in Hadley, Mass., and the name of his wife who then joined in the deed of it is Susanna—"the first and only record of his wife yet discovered in America."

William Goodwin and his wife Elizabeth left but one child, a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Crow, an early settler of Hartford. The date of her birth is not known, but it could not have been earlier than 1617, nor has the date of her marriage been found.

It is very plausibly supposed that the John White who came over in the "Lion" in 1632 and settled first in Newtown, now Cambridge, in Massachusetts, and then came with the Rev. Thomas Hooker and his church to Hartford in 1636, was the son of Robert White of Messing. The record of his baptism has not been found. He was not of age in 1617, when his father made his will, in which it was provided that if he should marry without the approbation and consent of his mother, and of Joseph Loomis of Braintree and William Goodwin of Bocking, his legacy of 200 pounds should be reduced to 100 pounds. In the list of thirty-three of the passengers of the "Lion,"\* given in Drake's Founders of New England, page 12, his name follows next after the name of William Goodwin. His wife's name was Mary, as appears from an unexecuted lease in the handwriting of his son, Nathaniel White (now in the possession of one of his descendants), dated March 28, 1666, the lessors being John White and Mary his wife, the lessee their son Nathaniel; the premises, his house and garden, etc., in Hartford, reserving the use of two rooms therein for the term of the lives of said John and Mary, and of the longest liver, whether said John or said Mary.

The Parish Register of Messing gives the marriage, December 26, 1622, of John White and Mary (Lev)it. A fac simile of a tracing made by Mr. William Brigg of this entry is here given.

*John White and Mary Levit  
ye 26<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1622*

At the request of Mr. Frank F. Starr, of Middletown, Mr. William Brigg,

\* We know the name of the vessel from Gov. Winthrop's Hist. N. E., vol. 1, p. 107.



editor of the Herts Genealogist and Antiquary, very kindly made a careful examination of this entry. His great experience and skill in deciphering old records make his suggestions and conclusions on difficult words in such records of great value. He writes to Mr. Starr as follows:

"In reference to this entry: all I need say is that it is a most difficult one to read so far as the surname of the wife is concerned. In the tracing you will notice two faint lines where the initial letter of the name ought to appear. These lines were only visible under a very strong magnifying glass, and the letters following are totally illegible until we come to the last two, viz. 'it,' which are clear enough. It struck me at once that the initial letter was 'L,' and I immediately searched the portions of the register in the same handwriting for a capital L, but failed to find one. Then I searched through the baptisms to see if there was any name ending in 'it,' during the period in which it might be supposed she was born, and again I failed to find anything satisfactory. Later on in the register, however, in the years 1633 and 1635 respectively, I came across the baptism of two children of Isaac Levit and Mary his wife, and I have very little hesitation in suggesting that the name of John White's wife was Levit. On my return home I looked again at the will of Robert White, printed in Mr. Goodwin's book, and found that a certain William Levett was one of the witnesses. I think you will agree with me that my suggestion is a very probable one."

Mr. Brigg found among the Filed Wills, Archdeaconry of Colchester, the will of William Levett, yeoman of Messing, dated 9th October, 1626, proved 15th December, 1626, at Fering. He left an estate of about five hundred pounds. Mentions wife Margaret, sons Isaac, Richard and John. Mr. Brigg also found the nuncupative will of his widow Margaret, dated February 16, 1633, proved 9 March, 1633. Mentions sons Isaac, John and Richard, also a son William not mentioned in her husband's will. No daughter is mentioned in either will. William Levett's will is valuable because the name of one of the witnesses is "John Whit." The following is a fac simile of a tracing made by Mr. Brigg of this signature, and under it is a fac simile of the signature of Elder John White of Hartford, to the recommendation of the Council in 1677, of which he was a member, called to heal the difficulty which had long troubled the ancient church in Windsor.

Witness to the will of Wm. Levett of Messing  
in 1626.

Signature Elder John White of Hartford in 1677.

The variation in the spelling of these names is not considered important. Autograph signatures of the same person are often found where the spelling is not precisely the same, especially when the difference consists of the final "e." Persons familiar with the handwriting of those times have examined these fac similes, and considering that one signature was written in 1626 and the other fifty-one years afterwards, when the writer was about 76 years old, have expressed the opinion that they are sufficiently alike to have been written by the same hand.

Of Elder John White's children, Mary and Nathaniel were born in England, but only the baptism, July 16, 1626, of Mary has been found. The rest of his children named in his will were born here.