

BOWEN FARM

Rehoboth, Mass.

28 Feb. 1943.

Dear Mr. Forbes:

I have your letter of the 26th asking how elaborate a job I plan to do on Newman.

I am writing a complete life of Rev. Samuel¹ Newman and his children, carrying most of his sons down to the point where the lines become extinct. I am working entirely from source material, and have every original Rehoboth, Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Colony, etc., record. I have probably missed some original records, but these in the aggregate couldn't possibly amount to more than two or three percent. Every statement is documented, and the story will be a permanent source record for historians and scholars. There will be no occasion or excuse for anyone else ever writing the history of the Newman family.

Samuel Newman was a very important early New England divine, and while the lives of many of the really lesser men have been written, little has been written about Newman, and practically nothing about his family — and most of that is wrong, including even Savage.

The documented story of this Newman family reaches into the very heart of early New England history, including, as it does, the Winthrop family; also, Judge Sewall, who was related in two or three different ways, to say nothing of numbers of the early ministers, and winding up with Rev. Samuel's great-great-grandson, Sir William Pepperrell^{2d}, who was created baronet in 1774, and died a royalist in England in 1818.

The story, of course, brings in Obadiah Holmes, leader of half of Newman's Rehoboth church; his whipping in Massachusetts Bay; and his association with Dr. John Clarke of Rhode Island. I also give the names of the Rehoboth church membership, those with Newman and those with Holmes — some were rascals, especially Newman's followers.

I debunk that marvelous death of Samuel Newman as recited by the early ministers, and by Pepys in his diary, and later~~ly~~ by Cotton Mather in his Magnalia.

Also, in the course of this story I change considerable of the printed history of King Philip's War; I thoroughly take up the matter of his Concordances of the Bible.

All my writing is done entirely from original source material, and I pay no attention to anything any other writer has said. I intend that each article shall be a complete source record on the subject.

28 Feb. 1943.

Mr. Allyn B. Forbes ----- 2

As you know, I am writing a series of Rehoboth articles for the REGISTER, and intended this article to start in the July issue. It is illustrated and would, for a guess, take about 100 pages of the REGISTER. It never occurred to me to think of The Massachusetts Historical Society in connection with any of these articles. I spent more than twenty years on research before starting to print the results. I have such a mass of original material, which has never been printed, that I could write for the next ten years without exhausting it. This material when published will change some of the history as now written. For instance, the following are just a few subjects:

1. Massasoit wasn't Massasoit.
2. The history of the name Sockenk is wrong.
3. A Rehoboth settlement four years earlier than mentioned in any history.
4. Town Deeds - one original about 24" x 30" never published.
5. Thirty men in King William's War, heretofore unknown, etc.
6. Additional data on King Phillips War - important.
7. Names of early settlers heretofore unknown.
8. New data on Mint Master John Hull, etc., etc.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Allyn B. Forbes,
1154 Boylston St.,
Boston, Mass.