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which country no less than thirty-two ways of writing the name has been found. It is possible to trace the descent of the present Conants of Maine uninterruptedly back to John Conant, who lived in the Parish of East Budleigh, England, but was probably born at Gittisham, some ten or twelve miles north of that place, and about the year 1520. The name of his wife is not known, and the only child recorded was Richard Conant, from whom the American line is descended. This Richard Conant was probably born in the Parish of East Budley, about the year 1548, and from the records appears to have been very prominent there. He married Agnes Clarke, and they were the parents of a large family of children, of whom Roger, the sixth son and youngest of the family, was the immigrant ancestor. Roger Conant was baptized at All Saints' Church in the Parish of East Budley, Devonshire, England, April 9, 1592. He seems to have received a good education, as his family were people of substance. He removed in his youth to London and probably resided in that city about fourteen years, or until the time of his migration to America. He came to the New England colonies in 1623, and after remaining for a short time in the original colony he was obliged to leave that place on account of religious differences, and was one of the founders of Nantasket or Hull. He was very prominent in the region and held many positions of responsibility and trust. He married Sarah Hawkins, November 11, 1618, while residing in London, and his wife accompanied him to this country. They were the parents of several children, and it was through their son Lot that the descent of the Maine family comes.

Lot Conant was born about 1624, at Nantasket, Massachusetts, but moved to Marblehead, where he appears to have been residing as early as 1657. Here he took an active part in the affairs of the colony, and apparently grew wealthy there. He married Elizabeth Walton, about 1649, and they were the parents of a number of children.

John Conant, son of Lot and Elizabeth (Walton) Conant, was born December 15, 1652, at Beverly. He was a farmer and weaver, and the records of Beverly in his time contain many references to him and to his affairs. His death occurred September 30, 1724. He married, May 7, 1678, Bethia Mansfield, and they were the parents of ten children.

Lot (2) Conant, the eldest child of John and Bethia (Mansfield) Conant, was born in Beverly, June 1, 1679, and died September 20, 1767. About 1716 he removed to Concord, Massachusetts, and he seems to have owned large estates there and elsewhere. He married, May 15, 1698, Martha Cleaves, and they were the parents of the following children: Robert, who is mentioned below; Andrew, William, Dinah, Ezra, John, Elizabeth, Martha and Bethia.

Robert Conant, the eldest son of Lot (2) Conant, was born April 26, 1699, at Beverly, Massachusetts, but moved to Concord with his parents and afterwards settled at Chelmsford as early as 1726. Still later he removed to Stow, where his death occurred, March 27, 1773. He was a farmer and a carpenter. He was twice married, the first time to Esther ———, and it was through this marriage that the line with which we are concerned was derived.

Samuel Conant, eldest child of Robert and Esther Conant, was born about 1722, at Concord, in the part now known as Acton. He lived at Chelmsford and Stow with his parents, and later settled at the latter place, where he became a farmer. He married Sarah Holman, who died February 1, 1804, and they were the parents of the following children: Silas, Oliver, of further mention; Samuel, John, Levi, and a daughter.

Oliver Conant, second son of Samuel and Sarah (Holman) Conant, was born about 1750, at Stow. He settled first at Sudbury and later at Weston, and was a member of Captain Johnson Rice's company, of Colonel Samuel Bullard's regiment, in the Continental army, and saw service in New York. He married Thankful W. Walker, and they had the following children: Abraham, of whom further; Polly, Isaac, Thankful, Oliver, Sally, Louisa, Asa W., Josiah, and Betsy.

Abraham Conant, the eldest son of Oliver and Thankful W. (Walker) Conant, and the grandfather of Charles Melvin Conant, of this sketch, was born September 2, 1778, at Weston, Massachusetts, and died in 1849. He removed to Frankfort, now Winterport, Maine, about 1804, and engaged there in farming. In the year 1803 he married Thankful C. Lombard, of Truro, Massachusetts, who died about 1860, and they were the parents of the following children: Lydia, Isaac, Amasa S., Jacob, Charles, of further mention; Sarah, who died in infancy; Sarah Snow, Abraham, Thankful L., and Artemus Henry.

Charles Conant, fifth child of Abraham and Thankful C. (Lombard) Conant, was born December 24, 1812, at what is now Winterport, Maine. He spent his entire life in his native town and there engaged in agricultural pursuits,

1 of 1 2/16/25, 1:40 PM