

## More Thoughts on Origin of the Name

By the Hopkinton records of the surname of our immigrant ancestor, Philip, we know that his name there was always written without the "le" which commonly appears in the Beverly records of it. To account for his coming thus to discard the use of this syllable with his name we need first to recall the fact elsewhere presented that by its nature as the French definitive word it was not regarded by him as an essential part of his surname. Nevertheless since its use with his surname had been inherited, why would he come to discard it? An answer seems readily to be found as we take into account the fact that scarcely could the entirely English-speaking residents of Beverly consider this "le" of Philip's pronunciation and spelling of his name as being other than the first syllable of it. And plainly, so to consider it must make Philip's name a three-syllable one instead of the two-syllable name indifferently qualified by the French definitive "le"<sup>124</sup> as he had inherited it. The only escape from having his name thus transformed by the English conception of the "le" was plainly to discard its use and to pronounce his name only in the two syllables of its distinctive part. That within a few years after becoming a resident of Beverly Philip had seriously contemplated doing this seems indicated by the first two church records<sup>125</sup> concerning him, where as above noted his name was written without the "le". While as above suggested, this omission<sup>126</sup> seems not to have been authorized by Philip, yet it reasonably indicates that he had discussed with the minister-recorder of this church his intention to do this at some convenient time. By the circumstances<sup>127</sup> of Philip's life during the early years at Beverly, his having learned a new language, and his being often away from home by virtue of his calling as seafaring, scarcely could be without causing confusion for himself and family, ask those who had come to know him as Legody to change to the two syllable Gody; and with the passing of time and so with more people knowing him as Legody the difficulty of making this change must have been