

# Preface

Lydia Cody's genealogy has been out of print, back in print, out of print, and back in print so that some people just won't believe it's not available any more. With the concentration of effort over the past decade on the preparation of the Philip and Martha books, little attention was paid to the sincere need for a reprinting of *The Cody Family: Massachusetts 1698*.

The paperback editions of Philip and Martha lacked historical and biographical data, and they lacked an index. In fact the idea of an index was abandoned after considerable effort by volunteer typists.

But as imperfect as they were, they awakened an interest in compilation prepared from scratch. The lesson of the index suggested that the entire record should be in a permanent computerized data file.

This has delayed printing of the complete Philip and Martha edition for almost four years. These years were occupied by learning the capabilities of a home computer, determining the procedures to follow, studying data base systems, and preparing the software.

When it was all in place, it was realized that while monumental effort had gone into generations six and following, there was nothing that could be put into the hands of users to tell them how we got through the first five generations. Except for the wall chart.

It was felt that an abridged Lydia Cody book covering the first five generations would be an appropriate companion book for the new Philip and Martha and that the two books would be offered as a pair fitted with a single slip case.

In addition to the first five generations, reproduced from the original volume, we have included two appendices. One reprints the Cody Family History used as a preface to Ernest William Cody's 1964 Directory. The other reprints a tract, "Piercing the Veil," written by Ernest William Cody.

We are delighted that this book can be published concurrently with Philip and Martha: Their Sons and Daughters.

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