Yale College

toral service,—Timothy Edwards, of Windsor, and Anthony Stoddard, of Woodbury.

AUTHORITIES.

Dodd, E. Haven Register, pp. 62–66, 104, 124, 126, 167. Havens, Centennial Discourse at East Haven, 15, 16. Savage, Geneal. Dict. ii, 401. R. D. Smyth, College Courant, July 18, 1868, 36. Pres. Stiles, MS. note on Triennial Catalogue of 1784.

JOHN RUSSELL was born January 24, 1686-7. His father, the Rev. Samuel Russel, was a son of the Rev. John (Harvard Coll. 1645), of Hadley, Massachusetts, known in New England history as the protector of the regicides, and was himself graduated at Harvard in 1681. While preaching in Deerfield, Massachusetts, he was invited (February 1, 1685-6) to preach in the town of Branford, Connecticut ; the people agreed, October 11, 1686, to settle him as pastor, and the words of a vote passed December 9, with reference to his pay for the year and to pay for his board before he came with his family, seem to imply that his removal was accomplished by this date. If this is so, the eldest child of the family, John, was probably born in Branford; the mother being Abigail, daughter of the Rev. John Whiting (Harv. Coll. 1653), of Hartford.

The Rev. Samuel Russel being among the most forward in the movement which gave birth to the College, it would be natural that his son should be among the earliest applicants for training.

He resided, all his life, in Branford, where he was one of the most prominent and useful inhabitants, bearing worthily all the civil and military offices in the gift of the people. He was town-clerk from 1709 to 1721, and again from 1748 until 1757. He was also justice of the peace, from 1728, and an officer of the militia, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel (in 1752). He was a Deputy to the General Assembly at forty-five sessions between 1714 and 1753, serving as clerk for most of the time from 1726 to 1741, and as Speaker in 1751.

From June 7, 1733, until his death, Colonel Russell was one of the deacons of the First church in Branford, and he earnestly and faithfully supported his pastor, the Rev. Philemon Robbins, in his difficulties (1742-48) with the Old-Light ministers of the New Haven County Consociation.

He died in Branford, July 7, 1757, aged 70 years, and was buried the succeeding day. His estate was appraised at about \pounds 3400.

He married, December 17, 1707, Sarah, eldest child of Thomas Trowbridge, Jr., of New Haven.

She was born November 26, 1686, and died January 23, 1761, aged 74. Of their eight children, one son and three daughters survived their parents. Their daughter Mary married the Rev. Thomas Canfield (Y. C. 1739), of Roxbury, Connecticut. Another daughter married Captain Ezekiel Hayes, of New Haven, and became the greatgrandmother of President Hayes.

In the year of Colonel Russell's graduation at Saybrook, his cousin of the same name was graduated at Cambridge; and some confusion has arisen, since the Yale graduate appears also to have received an honorary master's degree from Harvard a few years later. (The words, Mr. Cant. Nov. are attached to his name in the Yale Catalogue of 1724.) The John Russell who was graduated at Harvard College in 1704 was the eldest son of the Rev. Jonathan Russell (Harv. Coll. 1675), of Barnstable, Massachusetts, where he was born, November 3, 1685. He studied medicine, and lived in Barnstable, where he died, August 25, 1759. It is certain that he never received any degree from this College, though he is marked "et Yal." in the Harvard Triennials of 1833 and later.

AUTHORITIES.

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