

*Heather Wilkinson Raja of Londonderry, New Hampshire wrote the following letter which was published in the NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS Spring 2002*

#### A LONG-LIVED SEPARATIST

One ancestor has always intrigued me, and the lack of information about him piques my interest even more. His name was Rev- Stephen Bachiller, born about 1561, who graduated from Oxford and led his flock in Wherwell, Hampshire, England for many years. The exciting part of his life was just beginning in 1608 when he left for Leyden with the Separatists. I have often wondered what everyday life was like in Holland for this small group of Englishmen who went on to such fame after their arrival in the new world. On June 5, 1632, he came to New England. The Reverend was quite elderly at the time, yet the accounts of his life state that he walked from Cape Cod to New Hampshire searching for a new flock to lead. He had four wives in his long life (another adventure in itself). He died at over one hundred years old in England! His abandoned fourth wife, branded with the letter A at the court of York County on October 15, 1651, inspired Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. No one has ever written a book about Stephen, although it would be a page-turner. If he had written a journal, it would be fascinating. I still live in Rockingham County, New Hampshire, and his legacy lives on in the numerous Batchelder names in the local phone directories and with the ubiquitous Batchelder road in nearly every town around here. The descendants on his side of my family still live very long rich interesting lives, as I hope I will too.