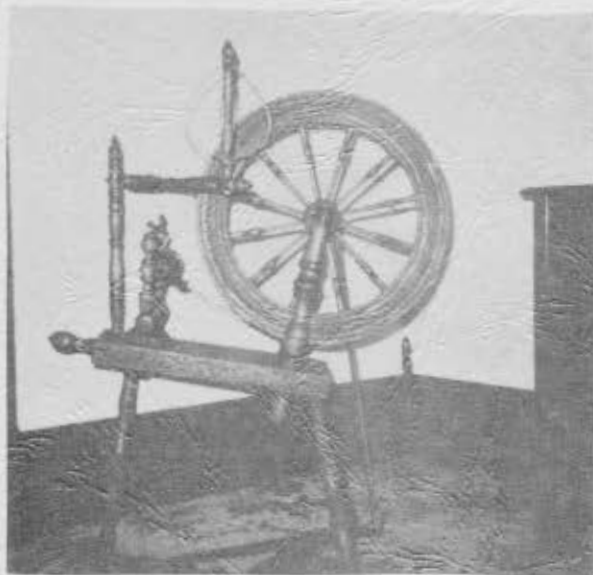


W E S S O N

'T' H R E A D S



WESSON THREADS

About twelve years ago I became interested in the roots of our family, its history, who we were, and where we came from to the extent that it developed into a hobby that drew me ever deeper into this mystery. As the prospects of completing this genealogy in every detail is concerned, I am sure that it will require the time that I will have only when I retire. Then, good health and other eminities being favorable, I perhaps will.

To celebrate our Bicentennial Year, I felt that the seemingly mountain of material that has been gathered so far should be condensed and recorded before the possibility that it may be lost. The sincere desire of many of the clan to learn of our accomplishments was the other factor that prompted me to compile this book. This report is factual unless otherwise stated, and would be a basis for anyone desirous of enlarging on any particular family line. The book is also designed so that future addendums could easily be added to this volume.

My reward has been the locating of our lost relatives, the satisfaction of knowing that our family has had a part in the development of this country longer than the United States of America, the pride of being a part of them that endured so much, and the cementing of associations with all of the family.

It is my hope that this brief history may be of some interest to members of the present and future generations who, too, may question our heritage.

Compiled by Harris Wesson - 1976.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my family, and especially my wife Edna, I dedicate this work in gratitude for the time I spent at my work shop instead of with their company.

To my partner in this venture, a cousin that I really didn't know until "we" got involved, a host of praise and thanks for the painstaking work and research that she has done. The opportunity for me to get to really know her has been one of this work's best compensations. To you Myrna Wesson Kolaas of Seattle, Washington, goes the largest share of any praise or commendation that may come from any reader of these following pages. The distance from Seattle to Illinois was not a barrier to our efforts. Our mutual arguments and disagreements only acted to prove and research each point.

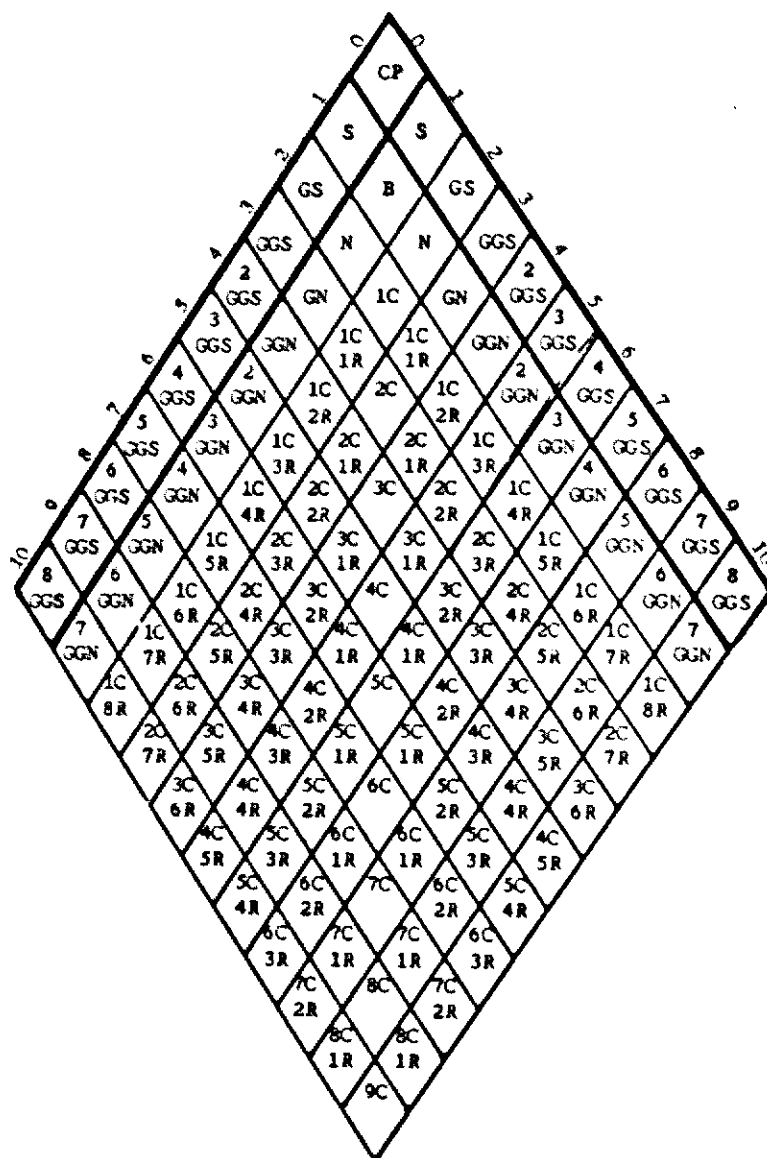
To the assistance lent to me by Heston and Wilma Wesson, the present occupants of the first Wesson farm in Illinois, I wish to compliment and thank for all the hours that they have helped me.

To my niece Kay Amanda Wesson, a special thank you for taking time from her teaching assignment in Boston to locate a manuscript that unlocked many doors for our research, and had she not found it while there, this report would not be ready at this time.

To the assistance accorded me through S. Darrell and Gladys Wesson and his mother Alice, an appreciative thank you.

To all the "kin" that contributed bits and pieces, theories, and suggestion, your help has been a great benefit to us.

To Mary and Helen Wesson of Summerville, Pa. for the pictures of Lucinda's spinning wheel depicted on the cover, a treasure shared.



The Common or Canon Law Relationship Chart

CP - Common Progenitor B - Brother or Sister C - Cousin
 S - Son or Daughter N - Nephew or Niece R - Times removed

The controversy over our name - whether we were Wesson or Weston, has constituted much research and inquiry. We have solicited professional genealogists, studied many works, and conclude that our first immigrant ancestor was named WESTON.

Whether the name change was due to (he took the "t" out and made it an "s" because it looked nicer and was easier to write as claimed by the descendants in Pennsylvania) or (the name was Weston and when the family moved west the neighbors got it wrong, or the Wessons were Tories and during the Revolutionary War took to the mountains and heavy timber as claimed by the Illinois descendants) is not known.

The inconsistency of the spelling of the name is evident in most all records. It is apparent in studying census records of a particular family that in one report it will be Weston, ten years later it may be Wesson, so the confusion has existed.

Benjamin Weston James W Wesson
James W Wesson, assignee

The above copies of James and Ben's signature, plus the wording on the deed to James, depict the custom in early times of how the double "s" was written. Most people don't recognize the word assignee in the "James W Wesson, assignee". I believe that because of this custom, a first glance could lead to confusion.

We are sure that our ancestor touched the shores of the new world at Salem, Massachusetts under the name of John Weston. It is evident, however, that when John moved west to Reading from Salem, the two names are found in numerous records, but are one and the same person. From my studies, it appears that the children in the third generation from John, made a definite

selection of the spelling as they branched out in the settlement of this country. Those that went into Maine and New Hampshire stayed with the Weston, those that went to Templeton area of Massachusetts kept Wesson.

I have not found any clue as to the reason for this, whether it was political, of a family difference, or just a personal preference. The fact that recorded genealogies using either name trace back to the same immigrant, John, have convinced me that many of us are of the same blood.

Even though our name appears unique and restricted to us, there were many other Weston or Wesson immigrants to this country. The Thomas Weston, founder of the colony at Wiscasset in 1622 is not our family. A Frances Weston that was in Salem in 1633, and an Edmund Weston that came from London to Boston in 1635, may have been related to John Weston, but this fact is not proven.

In the state of Virginia, we find the following pioneers:- William Weston, age 25, came on the "Jonathan" in 1620; Thomas Weston arrived in 1623 on the ship "George"; Jesper Weston, age 27, came in 1634; Sicillia Weston, age 37, arrived on the "Prinrose" in 1635. As the people moved to new areas in the expansion of our country, they did it in a certain form. People of Virginia, as a rule, did not relocate or settle in the northern part of the western territory. People from the New England states, generally, settled in the northern part of the western territory. We are satisfied that we are not descended from Virginia Wessons.

To enlarge on the aforementioned Westons of the Boston area, the Thomas Weston that founded the colony at Wiscasset, now called Weymouth, in 1622 returned to England and died there. His will left his estates in Virginia to his daughter Elizabeth, who married Roger Conant and lived in Massachusetts. Since he did so, it is presumed that he had no sons in

America.

Frances Weston, who was in Salem, Mass. in 1633, moved to Providence in 1639, and was one of the founders of the First Baptist Church in America. He was believed to have died in 1645 and left no issue.

Edmund Weston, who came on the "Elizabeth and Ann" from London to Boston in 1635, at the reported age of 30, moved to Duxbury in 1645. He was apprenticed to John Winslow and later to William Thomas. He received a grant of land in 1640, married late in life to a daughter of John Soule, and died in Duxbury in 1686. To our research, he had four children:- Elnathan 1657 - 1724; Edmund 1660 - 1727; John 1662 - 1736; and a Mary. We have the genealogy of this family.

We have not conducted an extensive search of the area of England where our John immigrated from. There is one reference in the Library of Congress that we feel holds much information on this, but the papers are too fragile to be copied.

Therefore, John Weston was the progenitor of many families of Weston, as well as many families known as Wesson - the cognomen appearing in both these forms and in various other ramifications of the name.

OUR WESSON ANCESTRY

Citing a passage from the book "Genealogical and Family History of the State of Maine" by Little - "The Weston or Wesson family is of ancient English origin, the founder having come to England with William the Conqueror, from whom he received valuable estates in Staffordshire and elsewhere for his services."

Staffordshire England records reveal many Wessons, and it is believed that this is the origin of our family. As an extensive search has not been made at this time to prove this, it is given as a basis which has been accepted by several genealogists to be a fact.

We now must picture a situation in England during the Civil War, of a young man who has lost his father, of stories and tales of the wonders of the new world to the west, and a desire for the adventure and prospects of a whole new life. This must have prompted John Weston, then of the age of 13 or 14, to stow away on a vessel bound for that vast country across the seas. As he left his widowed mother in Buckinghamshire, England, he must have possessed a great amount of courage and determination. He was not discovered until the vessel was far out at sea, so he was permitted to complete the journey to the shores of America in 1644, and landed at Salem, Massachusetts.

John settled in Salem and became a member of the First Church there in 1648. He moved west to Reading, Massachusetts in 1652, in the area known today as Wakefield, and he accumulated one of the largest estates in town.

On April 18, 1653, he is on record as having married Sarah Fitch. Sarah was a daughter of Zachariah and Mary Fitch, who came to this country

in 1637-38, after the burial in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England of a son Robert. In about 1640, the Fitch family settled in the South Parish of Reading, now Wakefield, where they lived until the death of Zachariah. Zachariah's occupation in England was that of a glover.

Sarah Fitch was born ca 1635, one of eight children, and died on December 25, 1698.

John was buried in the Reading Cemetery after his death in 1723. We had high hopes to locate his stone and prove dates and the name, but progress had stepped in to thwart our pursuits. Old burial grounds became a part of new ones, remains reinterred, and some stones lost, so that our search didn't reveal what we had hoped it would. In the History of Salem, Mass. Vol. 2, by Sidney Perley, it states that Lynnfield Street in South Peabody was laid out as a county highway between Salem and Reading by a party of four men, John Wesson being one of them. This occurred in 1659.

The family of John and Sarah Fitch Wesson:-

- (1) John Wesson, b August 17, 1655, died August 19, 1655
- (2) Sarah Wesson, b July 15, 1656, died January 27, 1685 unmarried
- (3) Mary Wesson, b May 25, 1659 and died young
- (4) JOHN WESSON, b March 9, 1661 and died in 1719
- (5) Elizabeth Wesson, b February 7, 1662
- (6) Samuel Wesson, b April 16, 1665, married Abigail Eames in 1688 and lived in Reading.
- (7) Stephen Wesson, b December 8, 1667, married Sarah Townsend, died in 1745, lived in Reading but grandchildren moved to New Hampshire.
- (8) Thomas Wesson, b November 20, 1670, married Elizabeth Brown in 1694, lived in Reading and their children were born there. However, their grandchildren moved to Maine.

SECOND GENERATION

JOHN WESSON, the fourth child of John and Sarah, was born on March 9, 1661, married on November 26, 1684, to Mary Bryant (b 1666 daughter of Abraham and Mary (Kendall) Bryant) and lived in Reading. John died in 1719. Their children were:-

- (1) John Wesson, b October 22, 1685, d 1707, killed in French and Indian War.
- (2) Abraham Wesson, b August 10, 1687, died 1765
- (3) Samuel Wesson, b July 10, 1689, died 1745
- (4) Mary Wesson, b November 30, 1691
- (5) Stephen Wesson, b December 1, 1693, died December 28, 1780. He moved to Concord about 1726 and lived in what is now Lincoln.
- (6) Jeremiah Wesson, b 1695 and died in 1714, unmarried
- (7) James Wesson, b March 3, 1697, died October 10, 1726, married Joanna Phillips, had three children.
- (8) BENJAMIN WESSON, b 1698 and died in 1756.

THIRD GENERATION

BENJAMIN WESSON, born 1698, married on April 18, 1726, in Reading, Mass. to Eunice Upham. They lived their lives in this area and had the following family:-

- (1) Eunice Wesson, b 1727, died 1727
- (2) BENJAMIN WESSON, b March 18, 1728
- (3) Eunice Wesson, b 1729
- (4) Mary Wesson, b 1731
- (5) James Wesson, b 1733, died 1758
- (6) Abigail Wesson, b 1741, died 1743

FOURTH GENERATION

BENJAMIN WESSON, born March 18, 1728, died on April 26, 1798, is found in the records of the First Church of Lebanon, Connecticut, to be married there on March 15, 1752, to Elizabeth Brewster.

Through this marriage to Elizabeth may be our only claim to being a descendant of a passenger of the Mayflower!

The William Brewster and his wife Mary (Wentworth) who sailed on the Mayflower with two of their children, Love and Wrestling, also had other children, some deceased, but William left his first born and oldest son, Jonathan, behind in England. Jonathan came to America in November 1621 on the ship "Fortune".

Jonathan married on April 10, 1624, Lucretia Oldham in New London, Connecticut. He died there in 1659, and had a family consisting of William b 1625; Mary b 1627; Benjamin b 1633; and Elizabeth b 1637.

Benjamin Brewster, b November 17, 1633, married Ann Dartt the "Last Daye of Febeare 1660". They had children Mary b December 1660; Ann b 1662; Jonathan b 1664; Daniel b 1666; William b March 22, 1669; Ruth b 1671; and Elizabeth b 1676.

William Brewster married Patience....., and they had children William; Patience; Samuel; Ebenezer b February 1, 1703; and Peter.

Ebenezer Brewster married November 13, 1720, Elizabeth DeWolff, and they lived at Lebanon, Connecticut, and had children Sarah; Charles; Katharine; and Elizabeth born March 7, 1729.

So through genetics, we are blood descendants of the William Brewster who came on the Mayflower, but we are descended through his son who did not. You can argue the point and satisfy yourself as to whether or not you are a descendant of a Mayflower passenger!

Lebanon is south and west of Boston, east and a little south of Hartford, Connecticut. When or why the family got to this area is not known at present.

It appears that the migration of the Wesson family during this period is where an adoption of the name Weston or Wesson seems to have definitely taken place. Those families that went northeast into Maine and New Hampshire seemed to keep Weston. Our lineage that soon went north and eventually to the west kept the Wesson.

Shortly after the marriage of Benjamin and Elizabeth, they moved about 65 miles north to the area of Templeton, Massachusetts. Templeton was established in 1762 from a plantation called Narragansett No. 6. This area wasn't open to settlers until after the war against the Narragansett Indians, which ended in 1675. Even though offers of townships to soldiers of this conflict as gratuities in addition to their wages brought no fulfillment, this development didn't materialize until these promises began to be accepted by descendants of the soldiers. I have no proof that our people were recipients of such a grant, but these actions started the development of what is now known as Templeton. Benjamin and Elizabeth lived their lives in this area and reared their family.

The study of this area was interesting to me in that the political parties of the time were Federalists, Whig, and Republicans. A Tory was a hateful object in their eyes, which may lend some credence to the thoughts of the Illinois descendants as reported earlier. I have no information as to the political beliefs of our ancestors at this period.

As we are now in the period of the Revolution, we find that the residents of this community were adopting resolutions concerning the relationship with Britain, also formulating plans for survival in case the men had

to leave to defend their country. Upon receiving the tidings of Paul Revere on the morning of the 19th of April, 1775, before that day had closed, soldiers from this area were on the march for Boston. Thirty six soldiers, minute men perhaps, left under the leadership of Captain Ezekial Knowlton.

We have searched the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailor lists, and have not proved that any of our ancestors were in this conflict, but from the Templeton area and Worcester County of Massachusetts, the following Wessons are named as soldiers:- Benjamin Wesson of Templeton, private with Captain Ezekial Knowltons company which marched in response to the alarm of April 19, service 18 days.

Benjamin Wesson of Templeton, served with Captain Noel Fletchers company, signed for pay on June 8, 1775, at camp near Charleston Road, service 3 months and 8 days.

Benjamin Wesson, Templeton, with Captain Josiah Wilders company, 7th Worcester County regiment - term 3 years.

Benjamin Wesson, private Captain Josiah Wilders company, service 29 days at Saratoga.

Benjamin Wesson, sergeant, Captain Benjamin Nye's company, joined September 1778, service 2 months 20 days.

There are many other Wesson's listed as having served, however we have no proof of which family these Benjamins are from, if they might be just one or two individuals, or if they are our ancestors. We must remember that there were several Wesson families living near Templeton and that Benjamin was a common name. However, if the Wessons were Tories, it doesn't appear that they "took off for the hills", and is very evident that the Wessons were responsive to the call for seperation from Britain.

The children of Benjamin and Elizabeth Wesson.

- (1) Abigail b February 15, 1753, married March 3, 1774 Andrew Gardner
- (2) Zuriab b October 26, 1754, died unmarried May 28, 1790
- (3) Benjamin b April 11, 1756, died 1776 in the Revolution
- (4) Asa b June 3, 1758, married Elizabeth Fowler ca 1784
- (5) Elizabeth b February 14, 1760, married Elisha Tilden ca 1787
- (6) JAMES WESSON b March 6, 1762
- (7) John b March 6, 1762, died March 29, 1762
- (8) Eunice b February 12, 1764, died unmarried May 2, 1831
- (9) Katee b February 17, 1766 married March 22, 1791 James Johnson in Templeton.
- (10) John b March 9, 1768 married 1789 Hannah May, died 1816, Templeton
- (11) Lucy b March 9, 1768 died May 11, 1769
- (12) Lucy b August 31, 1770 married July 7, 1789, Charles Tilden
- (13) Charles Brewster Wesson, b May 14, 1774, married Polly Hooker February 19, 1795 in Rutland, Vermont, died 1849. Was town clerk of Belvidere, Vermont.

From the Averill collection at the Essex Institute, the following reports of two members of this family that served during the revolution. "Benjamin Wesson, b 1756, was drafted into the army after the battle at Lexington. A comrade, Stephen Rugg of Templeton, gave the following account of his death October 28, 1776. The Hessians hemmed us in and cut off our flank guard. Benjamin cried "quarters", "quarters", but no quarters were given, and finding none were granted he determined to sell his life as dearly as possible when he found there was no escape; coming in contact with three of the enemy he shot one and dispatched the other with the bayonet and leveled the third with the butt of his gun; afterwards he

was surrounded by overpowering numbers and cut to pieces by the cutlasses of the enemy. Truly a greater hero never offered up his life for his country."

"Asa Wesson, b 1758, entered the army soon after the battle of Lexington and served during the war."

FIFTH GENERATION

JAMES WESSON was born March 6, 1762 in Templeton, Massachusetts. He married on March 8, 1784 Abigail Ross, daughter of Roger and Mary Ross. She was born January 29, 1764 in Lancaster, Mass., and died on August 27, 1814. The seven children born to this family were:-

- (1) BENJAMIN WESSON b March 6, 1785
- (2) George Wesson b February 4, 1787, married Sylvia Streeter
- (3) Asa Wesson, b July 7, 1789, married Sally Stockwell
- (4) Abigail Wesson, b April 2, 1791, married Joshua Barnes
- (5) Prudence Warner Wesson, b May 22, 1793, married Nahum Chubb
- (6) Jonathan Ross Wesson, b March 18, 1795
- (7) Elizabeth Brewster Wesson, b 1797, married Amos Parker Bangs.

In this generation we notice the use of a middle name, especially in the last three children born. We also notice this with the birth of the last child in the fourth generation. We feel that our Benjamin, the first born of this family, must have a more full name but we have been unable to locate it.

It is this family that started the migration to northern Vermont. Besides the father James, and our Benjamin, George also moved there, died in 1828, and he and his wife are buried in Bakersfield. Asa stayed in Phillipston, Mass., had a family of 9 children, at least four of them moved

to northern Vermont. Abigail moved to Bakersfield, died there and is buried there along with her husband. They had four children. Prudence remained around Phillipston as did Elizabeth. Some of the cousins of this family also started new ventures in the northern part of Vermont.

Ben^r Wesson son to James & Abigail Wesson Born March 1st 1785
George Wesson son to James & Abigail Wesson Born Feb 24 4th 1787
Asa Wesson son to James & Abigail Wesson Born July 7th 1789
Abigail Wesson daughter to James & Abigail Wesson Born April 2 1791
Prudence Warner Wesson daughter to James & Abigail Wesson
Born May 22 1793.
Jonathan Pop Wesson son to James & Abigail Wesson born March 18 1795

Ebene^r Wright Town Clerk

The above is a copy of the records received from the Town Clerk of Templeton which reveal the recorded births of James and Abigail's children, except for Elizabeth, and as recorded by Ebenezer Wright, Town Clerk.

James Wesson was married a second time to a Deborah (some records say widow D.) Brown, presumed ca 1818. It is thought that Abigail died probably ca 1816. No record could be found in Bakersfield of Abigail's death. According to Congregational Church Records of Bakersfield, Ut., James died in 1829, in Fairfield, Ut., and Deborah Wesson, his widow, was named his administrator on August 6, 1829. The entire estate was valued at less than \$150.00 and all was assigned to the widow for use and support of herself and the children (not named). We have found some recorded land transactions involving James, Benjamin, and George which will be explained in the next chapter. It is not known what James' occupation was at this time, whether

farming or lumbering.

Geographically, our forefathers occupied the very northwestern part of Vermont. Franklin County is the very north western most, the county to the south east of it is Lamoille, and the county due east is Orleans. The area first occupied by the Wessons was known as Coit's Gore, an area of roughly 10,000 acres given by the state of Vermont to a group of settlers, one of whom was a William Coit. This grant was in 1788. Much of the area of Coit's Gore was taken in as a part of Bakersfield in 1824, the balance became a part of the township of Waterville. The surface of the area is varied, a large portion being rugged and mountainous. The soil is generally sandy and much better adapted to dairying than grain farming. The timber was mostly birch, maple, and spruce, interspersed with hemlock and elm.

SIXTH GENERATION

BENJAMIN WESSON, born March 6, 1785 in Templeton, is recorded in the Town Clerks records of Bakersfield, Vt., as having been married there on March 30, 1806, to Lucinda Wright, daughter of David and Mary Ann Wright. Lucinda was born August 9, 1788 also in Templeton, Mass. It is presumed that Benjamin moved to this area with his father, and perhaps other relatives, about 1800.

He settled in Bakersfield, or Coit's Gore as the early area maps call this section. He must have purchased some land for in the Bakersfield Deeds, vol 3, p 809: Benjamin Wesson of Bakersfield executed a mortgage deed to Silas Haseltine, also of Bakersfield, 27 May 1807. One half of lot number six being the east end of half of said lot and which lot lies in that part of Coit's Gore which is known to be annexed to said Bakersfield.....about 50 acres. These same records, vol 3, p 205: Ben Wesson of Bakersfield

deeds to James Wesson 11 May 1807, about 50 acres in part of Coit's Gore known to be in Bakersfield. South half of lot 18 which he purchased from Samuel Franklin, Wm. T. Robinson, and Abraham Franklin who holds a mortgage. James Wesson will take it upon himself to redeem the mortgage. (James Wesson transferred some property, including mortgage, to George Wesson, 6 January 1809 (3/204)).

Little is known of Benjamin's activities at this time. A problem that has caused us much concern is that our Illinois families have always referred to the father of James that came to Illinois as Silas. We have found no other name with this Benjamin, whether it might have been Silas Benjamin or Benjamin Silas. The fact that he named his sons James Wright Wesson, Benjamin Socrates Wesson, and Silas B. Wesson, leads me to believe that we have not found his full name. The Illinois family history has termed the third son as Silas Jr., and if true would establish the proper name for this Benjamin. However, all the records that we have found on Silas don't clarify that question either.

His sons, James Wright Wesson born August 13, 1806; Benjamin Socrates Wesson born August 12, 1807; and Silas B. Wesson born ca 1810, were left without a father at an early age. We have not proved the date of the death of Benjamin - some where in the period of 1811 - 1814. C. E. Smith's works "Some Revolutionary Soldiers of Athel and Vicinity" list his death as October 29, 1813 "from a family record". We have not located that family record, and this is the only specific date we have found. Our Illinois family records tell us he was killed by the Indians, and another report says he was killed at the battle of Plattsburg in the War of 1812. It is very possible that he could have been killed by an Indian in this battle. We have spent considerable time researching War of 1812 records, records of

Clinton County, New York which contains the city of Plattsburg, all to no avail.

After locating our Pennsylvania cousins, the descendants of Benjamin Socrates Wesson, we learned that Lucinda married after Benjamins death a James Spencer. Again, we have not been able to locate this marriage record. From these descendants we also learned that Lucinda's married life with James was again of short duration because of his death. We have not been able to locate any record of Spencers death, but presume it to have occurred in the general area of northern Vermont. The old spinning wheel that Lucinda used and is now in the home of a Pennsylvania descendant, has the initials "J S" stamped on one end. We feel sure that this indicates the ownership by a James Spencer.

We have located the marriage of Lucinda to her third husband, from the Town Clerks records of Waterville, Vt., - Name of Bride - Lucinda Spencer; Name of Groom - Barnabas Willey; Residence of Bride - Waterville; Date of Marriage - November 22, 1825; Party Officiating - James Horner, J.P.

Again, Lucinda's married life was of a short duration, death took her third husband. We have found in the records of Lamoille District Probate, Vol C (1845-1847) and Vol D (1847-1851) Small Book C, page 129:- At a Probate Court holden at the Probate office in Hyde Park within and for said District on the 14th day of February AD 1848.....Estate of Barnabus Willey, late of Johnson, deceased.....Daniel Dodge and Solomon Balch of Johnson had been appointed appraisers 11 January 1848, Lucinda Willey named administratrix.....Lucinda Willey is the widow.....Inventory totaled \$77.30, including household furniture, hand tools, a supply of wool, a loom and supplies, a cow and 10 sheep. On 15 February 1848, the whole estate, since it amounted to less than \$150.00, was assigned to the support of the widow

Lucinda Willey. The statement was also made that there were no minor children.

I believe that there were times that Lucinda and her sons must have lived with either relatives or friends. We have searched the census records of other families in this area trying to locate this family, but have not been successful. It no doubt was necessary for these young men to become self sufficient at an early age, and because of this may have lived individually with other families also.

Sometime after the death of her third husband, Lucinda went to Pennsylvania to live with her son, Benjamin Socrates, and spent the rest of her life there. We do not know, however, the exact date of her death nor her burial site.

The proof of this genealogy came with a report of the 1860 census of Clover Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, which listed a Lucinda Willey living with the family of Benjamin Socrates, listing her age as 72, and stating that she was born in Massachusetts. all of which proves this family tie.

WRIGHT GENEALOGY - Research by Myrna Kolaas 1978

- John Wright 1st gen in America b in England, d 21 Jun 1688 at Wolburn, Mass., m Priscilla ? who d 10 Apr 1687 in Wolburn.
Children: John, Joseph, Ruth, Deborah, and Sarah
- John b 1630 d 30 Apr 1714 at Wolburn, m 10 May 1661 at Chelmsford, Mass., Abigail Warin (Warren) b 1642 d 6 Apr 1726 at Wolburn.
Children: John, Joseph, Ebenezer, Jacob, Abigail, Priscilla, Josia, ? , Samuel, and Lidiiah
- Ebenezer b 11 Nov 1665 at Chelmsford d 16 Aug 1735 at Westford, Mass m 14 May 1697 Hannah Gletcher b 30 Jul 1676
- Ebenezer b 5 Mar 1705 d 12 Aug 1781 at Westford m 25 May 1730 at Westford Deliverance Stevens b 20 Jan 1705 d 8 Jun 1789
- Ebenezer b 29 Jan 1734 at Westford d 2 Oct 1811 at Templeton, Mass. Intent of m 18 Aug 1758 in Chelmsford to Lucy Barrett b 17 Apr 1732 d 23 Feb 1804
- David b 26 Sep 1763 at Templeton d unkn, m 7 Feb 1793 at Templeton Maria Ann Warner
- Lucinda b 9 Aug 1788 at Templeton d unkn, m 30 Mar 1806 at Bakersfield, Ut to Benjamin Wesson

UPHAM GENEALOGY - Research by George Weston

The surname is thought to be of Celtic origin. There are towns of Upham in Hampshire, a Church of Upham in Wiltshire, England, and a village named Upham in Ireland. Hugh de Upham is the first of this name of which we have a record. In 1208 he donated a portion of his estate to a church of St Mary in Bradenstock, Wiltshire. Upham was originally the name of a locality and was in use before the time of Edward the Confessor 1041-1065. When surnames were introduced, many of the wealthy classes took the names of their estates. The "de" meaning "of" was dropped as early as 1445.

JOHN UPHAM ancestor of all American Uphams was b 1597 in England, probably in Somersetshire, during the last years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. On 20 Mar 1635 he migrated from Weymouth, England with the Hull colony and settled in what is now Weymouth, Mass. With him was his wife Elizabeth Webb Upham b 1603 d 1670 in Malden, Mass whom he m 1 Nov 1626, and children John 7, Nathaniel 5, Elizabeth 3, and his sister Sarah 26. John m 2d widow Katherine Holland in 1671.

PHINEAS UPHAM the sixth and last child of John & Elizabeth, and the only son that left descendants, was b at Weymouth, Mass 1635 d 1676. He m 14 Feb 1658 Ruth Wood b 1636/7 d 1696/7. Phineas was a military man, a Lieut under Capt Wayte in King Philips' War in 1675. In Sep 1675 he was on an expedition into the Hixmuck country against the Indians. In Oct 1675 he was assigned to Capt Johnson's Company, Major Appleton commanding and took part in the great Narragansett fight and was wounded, his wounds causing his d in Malden in Oct 1676. Children: ? , Phineas, Nathaniel, Ruth, John, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Richard.

NATHANIEL UPHAM b 1661 d 11 Nov 1717 m 1684 Sarah Floyd b 1662 d 14 Oct 1715. Children: Nathaniel, Sarah, Ruth, Dorothy, Noah, Abigail, Joanna b 1699 m 1717 Samuel Weston, Lois, and Eunice b 1707 m 1726 Benjamin Wesson

Genealogy of Webb, Wood, Floyd, Mousal, & Doolittle families available.

Referring to Page 17 of "Wesson Threads" - A more complete documentation of the second generation John Wesson that m Mary Bryant, along with their complete family. Research of Terry Weston, George Weston, and The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

MARY BRYANT was b 23 Jul 1666 m John Wesson 24 Nov 1684 and d 19 Dec 1725 at Reading, Mass. Family b at Reading:-

1. John b 22 Oct 1685; d 11 Jun 1707
2. Abraham 10 Aug 1687; 1765 unm
3. Samuel 10 Jul 1689; Nov 1745 at Wakefield, m Joanna Upham b at Malden 21 Apr 1699 in 1717. Descendants of this union include George W. Weston of Aurora (located in 1978)
4. Mary 30 Nov 1691 m 20 Nov 1718 John Stow
5. Stephen 1 Dec 1693 m (1) 2 Feb 1716 Hannah Flagg (2) 6 Dec 1721 Elizabeth Parker
6. Zachariah 19 Aug 1695; d 8 Oct 1714
7. James 2 Mar 1697; 10 Oct 1726 m 8 Apr 1718 Joanna Phillips
8. Benjamin 9 Nov 1698; Nov 1756 at Wakefield, m at Reading 18 Apr 1726 Eunice Upham (sister to Joanna above) b 7 Jun 1707. Descendants of this union - "Jll" & "Pa" Wessons
9. Jeremiah 28 Jul 1700
10. Timothy 16 Feb 1701/2
11. Jonathan 5 Apr 1705
12. Sarah 19 Feb 1707/8; 13 Dec 1729 at Weston, m 5 Jun 1728 Nathan Upham
13. John 2 Dec 1709; 21 Dec 1787 at Willington, Con. m 12 Sep 1733 Elizabeth Goodwin. Descendants of this union - Terry Weston living in Michigan (found in 1980)

GEORGE WOODFORD WESTON LINEAGE

1. John Weston (Ca 1631-1723) m Sarah Fitch
2. John Weston (1661-1719) m Mary Bryant of above
3. Samuel Weston (1689-1745) m Joanna Upham (3d child of Mary Bryant)
4. Samuel Weston (1722-1775) m Sarah Rogers
5. Rogers Weston (1758-1843) m Deborah Lawrence
6. Jeremy Weston (1790-1861) m Matilda Anderson
7. George Weston (1827-1886) m Helen Stark
8. Stutley Weston (1869-1944) m Rose Elizabeth Woodford
9. George Woodford Weston b 3 Mar 1898 m 21 Jun 1927 Helen Phoebe Brougher b 6 Mar 1902 d 3 Jun 1982, to them a son
10. Robert Eugene Weston b 16 Feb 1928 m 1953 Winnifred Jeannette Zucker b 7 May 1928 - their children
11. Christine
 - Alice
 - George
 - Robert Jr.
 - Linnea

WESSON FAMILY CHART FROM 1644

Gener- ation

(1)

JOHN WESSON (WESTON)

b: ca 1631 In England

d: 1723

m: 4-18- 1653 Sarah Fitch
b: ca 1635
d: 12-25-1698

(2) Ch

JOHN WESSON; John 1655-1655; Sarah 1656-1685; Mary 1659-;
b: 3- 9-1661 Elizabeth 1662; Samuel 1665; Stephen 1667-1745;
d: 1719 Thomas 1670

m: 11-26-1726 Mary Bryant
b: 1666
d:

(3) Ch

BENJAMIN WESSON: John 1685-1707; Abraham 1687-1765; Samuel 1689-
b: 1698 1745; Mary 1691; Stephen 1693-1780; Jeremiah
d: 1756 1695-1714; James 1697-1726

m: 4-18-1726 Eunice Upham
b:
d:

(4) Ch

BENJAMIN WESSON: Eunice 1727-1727; Eunice 1729; Mary 1731; James
b: 3-18-1728 1733-1758; Abigail 1741-1743

d: 4-26-1798
m: 3-15-1752 Elizabeth Brewster
b: 3- 7-1729
d:

(5) Ch

JAMES WESSON; Abigail 1753; Zuriiah 1754-1790; Benjamin 1756-
b: 3- 6-1762 1776; Asa 1758; Elizabeth 1760; John 1762-1762;
d: 1829 Eunice 1764-1831; Katee 1766;
m: 3- 8-1784 Abigail Ross John 1768-1816; Lucy 1768-1769;
b: 1-29-1764 Lucy 1770; Charles 1774-1849
d: 8-27-1814

(6) Ch

BENJAMIN WESSON; George 1787; Asa 1789; Abigail 1791; Prudence
b: 3- 6-1785 1793; Jonathan Ross 1795; Elizabeth Brewster 1797

d: ca1811-14
m: 3-30-1806 Lucinda Wright
b: 8- 9-1788
d:

(7) Ch

JAMES WRIGHT WESSON - BENJAMIN SOCRATES WESSON - SILAS B. WESSON
b: Aug 13, 1806 b: Aug 12, 1807 b: ca 1810
d: Aug 26, 1880 d: 1883 d: 1892
m: ca 1832 m: June 2, 1835 m: Oct 23, 1832

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

- A Genealogical Dictionary of The First Settlers of New England by James Savage, Vol 4, 1862*
- Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors In The War of The Revolution p 882*
- Vermont Gazetteer*
- Early Connecticut Marriages prior to 1800, Second Book by F. W. Bailey*
- Massachusetts Vital Records, Salem, Mass.*
- Templeton Vital Records to 1800.*
- History of Salem Mass., Vol 2, by Sidney Perley 1925*
- Town Clerk's Records of Templeton, Mass.*
- History of Worcester County, Mass.*
- History of Barre, Vt.,*
- Ballard and Allied Families*
- National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol 62, No. 3, Sept 1974*
- Centennial History of Harrison, Maine, (Cumberland County) Houlton-Sampson Fernald*
- Genealogical & Family History of the State of Maine by Little*
- Plymouth, New Hampshire Records, p 736-737*
- History of Hillsborough County, New Hampshire 1885, compiled under the supervision of Dr. Hamilton Jurd as pertains to life of James A. Weston.*
- Genealogical & Family History of the State of New Hampshire - Stearns*
- The Weston Genealogy by James A. Weston and B. H. Weston of Manchester, N. Hampshire Dec 27, 1884*
- History of Duxbury, Mass reprint by Goodspeed Bookshops, Boston 1970*
- Genealogical History of Town of Reading, Mass by Hon Lilley Eaton 1874*
- Vital Records of Reading Mass compiled by Thomas W. Baldwin*
- Roster of the War of 1812 - 1814*
- Lanville & Orleans Counties, Vt., by Child 1883 - 1884*
- Uxbridge Marriages*
- History of the Fitch Family AD 1400-1930, compiled by Roscoe C. Fitch, Vol 1*
- The Brewster Genealogy*
- William Brewster of the Mayflower by Dorothy Brewster*
- The American Genealogist, Whole No 161, Vol 41, No. 1, Jan 1965*
- The Descendants of Edmund Weston of Duxbury, Mass for Five Generations, by Thomas Weston, 1887*
- Some Revolutionary Soldiers of Athel and Vicinity, #12, Benjamin Wesson of Templeton, by C. E. Smith, typewritten works filed in the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston.*
- Reading Births*

TERRY WAYNE WESTON LINEAGE

1. John Weston (Ca 1631-1723) m Sarah Fitch
2. John Weston (1661-1719) m Mary Bryant
3. John Weston (13th child of John & Mary Bryant) b 2 Dec 1709 d 21 Dec 1787 m 12 Dec 1733 Elizabeth Goodwin d 16 May 1780, had children: Rebecca, Eliza, John, James, Jeremiah, Mary, Timothy, Jonathan, Sarah - Abraham (twins), and Anna
4. James Weston b 7 Jun 1743 Willington, Con d 26 Dec 1820 m 16 Aug 1764 Anne Abbe b 1738 d 28 Feb 1814. Children: Submit, John, Timothy, Elizabeth, and Ann.
5. Timothy Weston b 23 May 1771 Willington, Con d 5 Dec 1838 m Thankful (Caldwell ?) b 1781/2 d 2 May 1857. Children: John, Thomas, George C, William C, Rhodolphus, Elisha B, Welthy Ann, and Phebe.
6. George C. Weston b 29 Aug 1807 Hartford, Con d 4 Sep 1878 m 20 Aug 1834 Abba Augusta Slack b 29 Jul 1818 d 12 Apr 1897. Children: Charles, Lucy Jane, William Henry, Frank Leeds, George Edgar, Abby Augusta, Herbert Alonzo, Erwine Howard, Lilla Minerva, and Albert Eugene.
7. Albert Eugene Weston b 2 Jun 1856 Vernon, Con d 15 Dec 1933 Mosherville, Mich m 21 Feb 1878 Hannah E. Cheesbro b Feb 1859 d 1 Jul 1903. Children: George Everett, a stillborn, Fred Erwing, Edith Mae, Jessie Augusta, Bessie, Warner William, Carl, and Wesley Wayne
8. Fred Erwing Weston b 16 Jan 1887 Mosherville, Mich d 31 Aug 1963 m 1. Sep 1910 Susan Belle McClintic b 31 Jan 1890 d 28 Apr 1978 had one son Ernest Mac.
9. Ernest Mac Weston b 25 Jun 1917 Mosherville, Mi d 1 Jan 1964 m 19 Jun 1938 Celica Mae Phelps b 8 Oct 1918. Children: Terry Wayne and Donald Edward
10. Terry Wayne Weston b 4 Oct 1943 at Hillsdale, Mi m 2 Aug 1968 Carole Elizabeth Pierce, divorced 1971, no children. Terry presently living at 1520 Plain St., Mosherville, Michigan (Located in 1980)

"WOODSTOCK" WESSON LINEAGE

1. John Wesson (Ca 1631-1723) m Sarah Fitch. Children: John, Sarah, Mary, John, Elizabeth, Samuel, Stephen b 8 Dec 1667, and Thomas
2. Stephen Wesson b 8 Dec 1667 d Apr 1753 m Sarah Townsend 22 Mar 1694 (all in Reading, Mass) Children: Stephen b 10 Apr 1697, Isaac, and John.
3. Stephen Wesson b 10 Apr 1697 in Reading, d 5 Jun 1777 in Wilmington m 6 Dec 1721 Elizabeth Parker dau Nathaniel & Elizabeth Parker, b 1702 d 22 Apr 1766. Children: Ephraim b 8 Sep 1722, Stephen Elizabeth, Sarah, Lydia, Nathaniel, Nathan, Keziah, Caleb, and Rebecca
4. Ephraim Wesson b 8 Sep 1722 in Peacham, Vt m Lydia Proctor b 1 May 1729 dau Samuel & Lydia (Cotton) Proctor d 16 Jun 1809 in Peacham. Ephraim served in the Revolutionary War from New Hampshire. Children: Lydia, Nelly, Ephraim Jr, James, Peter (twin), Aaron, Samuel, Sarah, and Elizabeth
5. James Wesson b 10 Jun 1757 in Pepperill, Mass m Keziah Bailey and then eventually moved to Stanstead, Canada. Children: Lydia, Elizabeth, Ephraim, Nathan b 12 Jun 1788
6. Nathan Wesson b 10 Jun 1788 d 29 Feb 1868 m Mary Mosher b 28 Apr 1801 d 13 Mar 1862. Children: Lydia, Betsy, Maria, Caroline L, Sally R, Mary, and one son Edwin James b 28 May 1839.
7. Edwin James Wesson b 28 May 1839 m Helen Nelson of Barrington, Ill in 1872 (moved to McHenry, Co., Ill in 1874, it is not known when he came to Illinois). Children: Frank, Hettie, Edwin Albert b 26 Jul 1888.
8. Edwin Albert Wesson b 26 Jul 1888 d 31 Jan 1972 m 1909 Mary E. Thomas b May 1876 d 26 Sep 1968. Children: Frank, Alfred, Howard Leon b 10 Aug 1914
9. Howard Leon Wesson b 10 Aug 1914 m 11 Sep 1948 Mary Catherine Sutton b 23 Nov 1916. Children:
10. Catherine Gail
Patricia Ann

Bibliography continued:

- From the Essex Institute - manuscript works of Mrs Martha Weston Averill and material from B. H. Weston manuscript collection*
- Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Town of Reading edited by Chester W. Eaton and Warren E. Eaton, 1896*
- Cambridge Mountain View Cemetery Records*
- Paigis History of Hardwick, Mass.*
- The Fenton Historical Society, Jamestown, New York*
- Clinton County Historian, Plattsburg, New York*
- Clinton County Clerks Office, Plattsburg, N.Y.*
- Hutchinson and Morton Funeral Home, Oil City, Pa*
- Secretary of State of Vermont, Division of Vital Records*
- The Chautauqua County Clerk, Mayville, N.Y.*
- Associate Librarian, Manuscripts and History Section, N.Y. State Library*
- Registrar, Probate Court, Lamoille County Court House, Hyde Park, Ut.*
- State of New York Department of Health*
- The Library of Congress*
- Newbury Library, Chicago*
- Mormon Genealogical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah*
- Lorraine D. Wells, Town Clerk of Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Ut.*
- Beverly Martin, Town Clerk of Bakersfield, Ut.*
- Town Clerks records of Halifax, Bakersfield, Worcester, Fairfield, Belvidere, Colchester, Burlington, Cambridge, Johnson, and Waterville, Vermont*
- Deed Records in Bakersfield, Ut.*
- Wesson Memorial Hospital, Springfield, Mass.*
- Census records of 1800 through 1870 in all areas thought important*
- Genealogists:*
- Mrs. James H. Brown of Manchester, Mass.*
- Mrs. Mary Pat Johnson, Burlington, Ut.*
- Mrs. Edna Ingham, Jamestown, N.Y., Fenton Institute*
- Mrs Elsie C. Wells, Bakersfield, Ut.*
- Mrs. E. Hortense Sheldon, Waterbury, Ut.*
- Mrs. Helen Bagg Johnson, Ellington, N.Y.*
- Westons contacted: Mrs. Bertha Weston, Jeffersonville, Ut., Wendell Weston, Cambridge, Ut., Merton Weston, Royalton, Ut., Earle F. Wesson, Hashua, New Hampshire.*

JAMESTOWN AREA

Originally the province of New York was granted in 1663 by Charles 11, and its western boundaries were not defined. Most of this land in the western part was sold to the Holland Land Company - at 32¢ per acre. The Holland Company then surveyed and developed this area for settlement, reselling the land for as high as \$2.00 to \$3.00 per acre.

Our attention is directed to the very western most part of the state, the area known today as Chautauqua County. The first pioneers found an area that was densely covered with a majestic forest of the largest growth, which cast its dark shadows everywhere. Nowhere in northern latitudes could be found trees so tall and large, and while none could behold, without awe and pleasure, the grandeur and grace of this mighty woods, yet a home here promised a lifetime of toil and privation. The forests were of majestic pine, oak, and hemlock. The county of Chautauqua was organized in 1811.

We have learned that the first white person to stay in this area was in 1796. However, he left for a short time and it wasn't until 1802 that any white person took up permanent residence.

It is said that the settlers of Chautauqua County were the poorest class of people - men who often expended their last dollar to procure the article for their land. One couple had but \$10.00, which they paid for a barrel of flour, then subsisting on it along with fish and game until they could raise a crop of their own. They were classed as being very industrious and hard working people.

Lumbering was the only business in the first days - and ashes were the only cash crop. Their demand for the making of soap was so great, that much of this mighty forest was burned just for the ashes. These ashes came in

several grades, some bringing a greater premium than others, and were classed as pot ashes, pearl ashes, and black salts. These were sold mainly to Montreal and New York, and the transportation problem was a great obstacle. After the opening of the Erie Canal, ashes were then sold on the European market. Up to 500 tons of them were sold per year from this area.

Saw mills sprang up along every stream and often side by side. In Jamestown in early 1820's, three million feet of boards were cut annually - mills ran 24 hours a day, two shifts of 12 hours each. Pay was \$14 to \$15 per month, plus board, for each shift. A man working in the woods all day earned 50 cents, and if he owned a horse or ox and furnished the animal to draw logs, he received a total of one dollar a day!

Butt ends of logs and other waste was piled and burned - fires burned 24 hours a day and year around. Saw dust was dumped in the streams in such quantities that it affected the flow of the water and these deposits could be found over 50 years later.

An interesting fact learned on one of our trips to the area was that our people would work in the woods all winter long, cutting the trees, sawing them into lumber, etc. During this period, a raft would be constructed on the edge of a stream, with the heavy timbers on the bottom, the lumber piled next, and the raft topped off with shingles. When the spring thaws would start, these rafts would be pushed in the water, and from three to fifteen people, depending on the size of the raft, would ride on it, steer it, and whatever all the way to Pittsburgh. If the water was running high, several of these rafts would often tie up at night in some sheltered place, and tests of strength between the "crews" and merrymaking would go on all night. When the water was beginning to

recede, the trip was often made without a stop. Upon arriving at Pittsburgh, the whole raft would be disposed of, the workers would then walk back, or buy a horse and ride back, work their fields during the summer, and the next fall start the same process over again. I have found no evidence in the records that our people ever made a raft trip, but were involved in all the other processes.

Another interesting fact learned, was that only the pine was used. The hardwood being too heavy for their rafts was usually considered in the way and burned. Suddenly all the pine lumber was gone, and then only did the people realize what had happened to these dense heavy forests. I think that perhaps James and Ben realized this in the early 1840's, and this fact prompted them to seek a life in a new territory.

In our visits to this area, we were impressed with the several ridges that prevail. These rise to about 900 feet, fall away sharply to a little valley, and rise again. Often the valleys contain little streams which were very useful in their lumbering pursuits. As the land was not suitable for farm use after being cleared, the area today is sparsely populated. There being some lumbering carried on, but it is an area dotted with trailer homes and partly finished houses occupied by people who gain their livelihood in Jamestown or other large communities.

One last note before pursuing the genealogy, is to relate what was considered to be the largest tree in the state. It stood just west of the Fredonia road bridge. It was a black walnut tree, 27 feet in circumference and nine feet in diameter, with its lowest limb seventy feet from the ground. This tree was very straight, and was blown down on the 22nd of April 1822. Being hollow at the butt, about twelve feet was cut off the lower end and the inside worked down and smoothed out, leaving a shell

about four inches thick. While lying on the ground, a man could ride through it on horse back. It was shown throughout the east and also in England, and was sold in England in 1828 to a diorama.

How, or when, our people moved to the Chautauqua County area of New York has not been learned. The theory that James and perhaps Benjamin had worked on the Erie canal has been pursued at great length. There is much logic to this belief, but at this time I have no proof that it was a means of our people getting from Vermont to Chautauqua. One of the early settlers of my town of Marengo, Illinois came from Vermont, worked on the Canal, settled for a few years in Chautauqua County, and then came to McHenry County at the same time as James came to DeKalb County. Work on this canal began in 1817, and was completed in 1825. As teamsters were used for practically everything, including pulling the barges along, it is very possible that "our boys" were involved. As young ambitious men, it would have been a great opportunity in those days for employment. We can imagine that the tales of the Chautauqua forests were a beck and call to the early settlers as a place to "strike it rich".

Following is a note, actual size, found among the effects of Silas and James that Heston Wesson has in his possession, that establishes James appearance in the area of Gerry as early as 1826.

Mr. Wright Weston Pay Joel Carpenter five dollars
& fifty cts & this shall be your discharge from me
Gerry Oct-24th-1826
J. Wesson

The note reads:- "Jas Wright Wesson - Pay Joel Carpenter five dollars
and fifty cts & this shall be your discharge from me
Gerry Oct 24th 1826 H Sargent"

This message, on this small piece of paper, is very significant, and it is a miracle that it was ever kept. H. Sargent was a doctor and in the area in 1818, he was also a postmaster. I do not know the nature of the debt to Mr. Carpenter or the reason for this transaction. Whether James was indebted for his passage to this area, or what, is a mystery. From James' ledger, we learn of many business dealings with Joel Carpenter during the years he lived in Chautauqua. James was now a young man of 20 years of age.

James bought this ledger to keep his business records intact, and a notation on the first page says "bought in Gerry - 13 July 1831 - cost 68 cents". This book was used by him until the time of his death in 1880, and the final closing entries were made on the open accounts by the administrator of his estate - Silas Dexter Wesson. It is a very informative, historic, and treasured book.

James appeared to be associated in business with a Thomas W. Wright, as evidenced by early entries in his ledger. He appeared to

In Jan. 24 1832 Orin Billard began work for Jas. Wesson & Thos W Wright at Twelve Dollars per month

be involved with working in the woods, drawing logs to the mill, and in the making of wood shingles. Many entries are recorded of settlement for the making of shingles and in settlement of other obligations through the medium of shingles. I cannot determine if the help was paid per thousand

individual shingles, or by the number of shingles that would cover a thousand square feet. I prefer to think of it in terms of individual shingles. I can imagine that these workers were pretty adept with a shingle axe and once they started splitting a proper sized part of a tree trunk, I'll bet it was almost continual motion. As help was paid 45¢ per thousand shingles, and the average wage was 50¢ per day, we'll let you figure out the amount of product after a days work!

Following is part of a page from James' ledger where Chester Mellen began work making shingles for the company on July 10, 1832.

Chester Mellen Began Making
Shingles for company July the Tenth
Eighteen hundred and ~~thirty~~ thirty two
10 of July 1832 Jas H W P 00000
Thomas W Wright Benjamin S
Wagon Benjamin S Wagon

And following is a portion of the "Credit" side of the ledger - entry of July 1832 - payment to Chester Mellen for the making of shingles.

July 20	Chester Mellen Cr
1832	by the making of eight thousand of Shingles of forty five cents per thousand \$3 60
1833	Settled the above account
27 Mar	Received in full of all demand

James brother Benjamin appears in the ledger in 1832 and working with James. Following is a record of the hiring directly by Benjamin of one of their workers.

1839	John B. Hatch began work	
April 16	for Benjamin & Wesson for \$15.00 per month	
	Lost time	Wesson
May 28	To one day work for Benjamin 1 day	
	To work for B. Wesson 3 days 3.00	
July	To work for B. Wesson 4 1/2 days 4.12	

In 1835, we find the company to be "Cobb and Wesson". I am not certain that perhaps this should be "Cobb-Wesson-Wesson" as entries involving Benjamin are intermixed. However, I have no precise evidence of this combine.

1837 William Wicks began work for
 Apr 20 Cobb & Wesson for fourteen dollars per
 month

I have not been able to determine if James ever owned land in the Chautauqua County area. There is only the one mention in his ledger (in the excerpt following) of "April 1832 - James W. Wesson paid on land \$50.00". Searches through books, plat maps, and county records, reveal no land ownership.

Company Company Account between
 Thos Wright & J W Wesson
 Thos Wright paid R Cobb for Land \$153 74.
 J W Wesson paid on Land 50 00
 3 April 1832 J W Wesson Bought of W Chester & Co
 14 Iron Ware to the amount of \$6 63
 to Household furniture 15 00
 March Chairs 24
 Chairs 9 00
 Bedstead & Table 8 00
 Pails & Tubs of Dishes 1 25
 1832
 Dec 25 Lucy Hatch began work
 25 To nine yds of Cotton Cloth at 1/9 0 81
 1833 To one Bale of Wicking at 1/10 0 19
 Jan 14 To one pair of Shoes 1/10 2 00

The above excerpt of April 3, 1832 indicates when the marriage of James and Sybil must have taken place. For what other reason would he have purchased from W. Chester & Co. "Iron Ware, Household furniture, Chairs, Bedstead & Table, and Pails & Tubs of Dishes". As we have no recorded date of his marriage, we can assume that it took place in March or April of 1832.

This page also reveals a few prices of the time - cotton cloth at 9¢ per yard, a bale of wicking for 19¢, and a pair of shoes for \$2.00!

The following page reveals his work on saw mills.

1837 To J Cobb for
 To Isaac Cobb Jr & J W Weston work
 for repair on the Saw Mill and other
 about the mill up to this date
 July 25 To making Head & tail block to
 the mill and helping start the
 mill in March last \$ 00
 To cutting and drawing two logs
 and sawing for Buckle to the
 water wheel on the timber the
 shaft and the timber, the saw gate 2. 00
 Sawing & drawing 4 Cherry Logs
 and Sawing into Boards six Logs 5 00
 Aug 14 To Clark and Owen 1/2 day 75
 2 To Clark and two yoke of Oxen 1 day 88
 3 To Self & man & two yoke of Oxen 1/2 day
 4 To Self & man & two yoke of Oxen 51
 7 To Clark and Owen helping Lyndes
 get Shingles from Fargos 1 day 75
 10 To drawing Boards from Lower Mill 75
 To Sawing 2124 feet of flooring
 and Clapboards for R Cobb
 his House and work six days 5 18

1838

February

March

Self & man

The preceeding page of the ledger reads:- July 23, 1837 - To Isaac Cobb Jr & J W Wesson work for repair on the Saw Mill and other about the mill up to this date - To making Head and tail block to the mill and helping start the mill in March last \$10.00.....To cutting and drawing two logs and sawing for buckets to the water wheel on the timber the shaft and the timber for the saw gate \$2.00. On the entry for August 8 To Clark and two yoke of oxen $\frac{1}{2}$ day 88 cents....August 10, To sawing 2124 feet of flooring and clap boards for R Cobb his house and work six days \$3.18.

The following page deals with "Hands by the Tower". I am not sure what this phrase actually means, except that it must be the payroll for helpers with the mill. In my reading, I have not been able to learn just what is meant by this. This page deals with 1837, the months of August and November. There are several other pages of similar accounting in his ledger. It reads:- William Jones $1\frac{1}{2}$ day; R. Pratt $\frac{1}{2}$ day; Jones $\frac{1}{2}$ day; Pratt $\frac{1}{2}$ day; Chester Mellem 1 day; Rufus $\frac{1}{2}$ day; L. Williams $\frac{1}{2}$; Jones $\frac{1}{2}$ day; Jones 1 day; Rufus C. Williams 1 day; C. Mellem 2 day; and so forth. And the notation along the edge "Settled the above Feb 6th, 1838".

James also kept busy in the Chautauqua area at "Draying". There are many mentions of going to Jamestown, Sinclearville, and all the other villages in the area, either hauling logs or goods. He and his yoke of oxen must have been inseperable. An account in 1835, "To the drawing one hundred and seventeen logs on the Williams job - \$177.00", a job which no doubt consumed about as many days. He also found time to build fence, help in butchering, do a little farming for the necessary staples, and to be active in the local necessities. There are several mentions of "days to training", attending meetings, and serving in court. The days of

1837 Hands by the tower

Aug 30 William Jones 1 1/2 day
 R. Pratt 1/2 day
 Jones 1/2 day Pratt 1/2 day

11 Chestn Mellen 1 day Rufus 1/2 day
 12 L Williams 1/2 Jones 1/2 day
 15 Jones 1 day Rufus & Williams 1 day
 C Mellen 2 days C Mellen 2 3/4
 J. Clark 3/4 L Williams 2 dy
 Jones 1/2 day R. & Williams 2 dy
 Clark 1/2 day Jones 1/2 day
 Clark 1 day C Mellen 1 1/2 day
 R. & Williams 1 1/2 day Jacob

Nov 8 Reader 1 1/2 day Samuel Reader 1 1/2
 9 10 Jacob Reader 2 d. Samuel Reader 1.
 W Jones 1/2 day Samuel Reader 1
 Jacob Reader 1 day Jones 1 1/2 day

19 R. & Williams 1 1/2 day C Mellen 1 day L 1 1/2
 1 day L Williams 1 day
 21 L Williams 1/2 day R. & Williams 1/2 day
 25 R. & Williams 1 1/2 day
 J. Reader 1 1/2 day L Williams 1/2
 day Butchering

Settled the above
 Feb 6th 1838

training I have not been able to specify, but assume that it was of a military or militia nature.

Following is an excerpt that shows that he was involved with the school

systems. It appears that he must have been treasurer of the district. Out of his levy of \$25.80, he paid teachers wages of \$18.25 (I wonder for how long that was), \$5.16 for library money, leaving a balance of \$2.39. Of course, for scholars out of the district, John Rice paid 23 cents and John Cobb 18 cents, so the district was solvent and no anticipation warrants needed! We are still working trying to locate this old district No. 8, and presume it has a bearing on an incident reported in the following Hatch history.

1839 Recd. of the School Commissioners of the
 April 16 town of Gerry twenty five Dollars and
 Eighty Cents paid Eighteen Dollars &
 twenty five Cents for teachers Wages
 five dollars and sixteen Cents for
 Library money leaving in the hands
 of the Trustees two Dollars and
 thirty nine Cents. for scholars out of
 the District John Rice twenty three
 Cents John Cobb. Eighteen Cents

School District No. 8.
 Apr. 16. 1839

The following entry from November 6, 1834, indicated one of the houses James occupied. The Cuttings were pioneers of the area also, and seemed to be more of the land owner category. This place is indicated on a map of the area later. A Calvin Cutting came to Gerry in 1817 and settled near the center of town. Afterwards he resided on the road leading to Sinclearville at a place known as Cuttings Stand. This is just a

Nov. 6th "Rented Polly Cuttings House
for the winter [the first]"

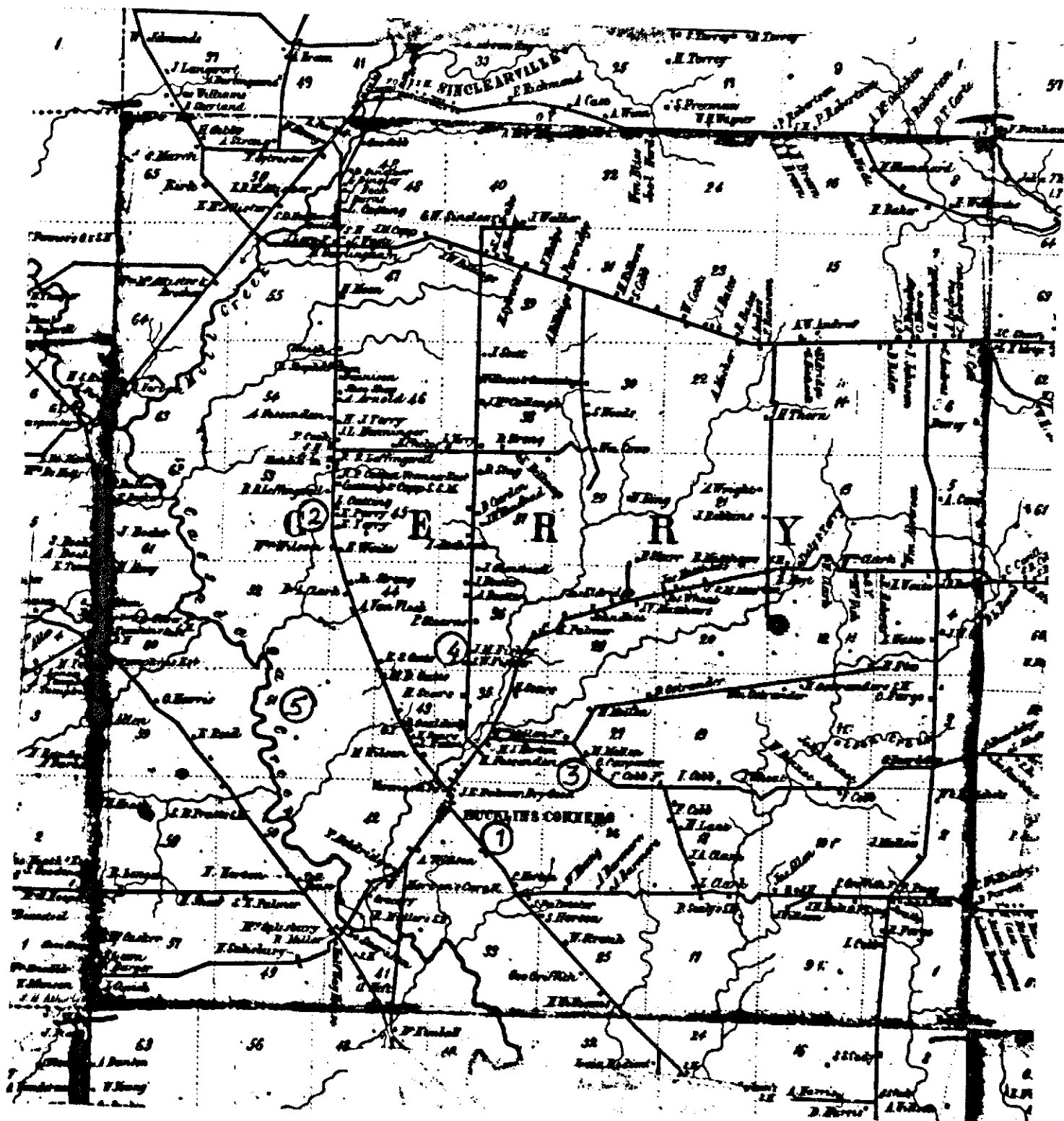
little over two miles north of Gerry. The first town meeting of Gerry was held in Calvin Cuttings home on May 2, 1830. I have no proof of what relationship Polly was to Calvin.

From all this circumstantial evidence, it is my belief that our forefathers lived in Gerry township, somewhere within a radius of three miles of "Bucklins Corners" as it appears on the following map.

Index to the map of Gerry Township:-

- 1 Bucklins Corners was also known as Vermont, and now as Gerry. Note J E Palmers Dry Goods - often mentioned in James ledger.
- 2 The area settled by Cuttings, and perhaps the location of the house above mentioned. Notice the Leffengwells, another name frequently mentioned in the ledger.
- 3 This road, the fork to the south, and the road running slightly southeast, and the road back west contain so many names James did business with :- Mellen, Carpenter, J. Cobb, F. Cobb, J. Cobb, J. H. and Zinias Clark, Barmores, and Horton. I have traveled this road very slowly, several times, expecting a miracle of a clue to our past. Isaac Cobb and sons Freeman, Isaac, John, and Roland came from Franklin County, Vermont, as did James and Benjamin.
- 4 This area has the Sears, Gates, Stearns, and Fisher families that he so often worked with.
- 5 The larger stream of the area - the Casadaga, which powered several saw mills, perhaps the one our family worked on. From these bits of

facts, I am certain that within this small area our forefathers labored
for their survival and succeeded in establishing their families.



Throughout his ledger, James had several pages used for the details of his business with "widow Sally Hatch", his mother-in-law. In June of 1832 he records as a credit to Sally Hatch - by ten sheep at one pound of wool per head for use of said sheep and said sheep returned January 10, 1833. Pasture and care was worth a price.

Evidently, Sally must have kept quite a few cows, for James was forever buying butter from her. In the year 1834, on June 11 he bought seven pounds; four pounds on the 28th; July 14th five more pounds; August thirteenth two pounds; 15th two pounds; 24th one pound; on Sept 1st - one pound and one fourth, and so forth, all at the price of ten cents per pound. At times, he also kept a cow or two for "widow Sally Hatch".

Prices, of course, seem ridiculous in comparison to our level of today. In the 1840's he paid 15¢ for the mending of Lucinda's shoes, 10¢ for fixing Sally shoes, bought beef for as low as 4¢ per pound, corn was worth 25¢ per bushel, a cow \$25.00, and yoke of stags \$50.00. This was in the period before he came to Illinois.

His accounting also listed any lost time for being sick, or of "days at play", going to Jamestown and other villages. With the prevailing wage being fifty cents a day, one had to be frugal.

S I L A S B W E S S O N

The three sons born to Benjamin and Lucinda Wesson, must have had a life a little different from most. Their father dying when they were very young, mother remarrying and her second husband not living very long, these young lads no doubt had to fend for themselves. As Silas was the youngest, I presume that he could not join his brothers Benjamin and James when they left northern Vermont, so he must have stayed with his mother.

It wasn't until 1970, when reading the letter discovered in Illinois written by Benjamin in 1880 to his nephew Silas Dexter Wesson, that we knew where Silas was living. Ben's letter stated "same day that I received your letter, I received one from your Uncle Silas Wesson who lives in Cambridge, Lamoille County, Vermont. Said that self and family were well, had raised seven hundred bushels of corn this year, milked 24 cows".

Silas B. Wesson was born ca 1810, presumed died in 1892 in Cambridge (per article in Burlington Free Press - date of January 6, 1892, under Cambridge "The funeral of old Mr. Wesson held Tuesday.....").

Silas was married in Belvidere, Vermont, on October 23, 1832, to Esther Carpenter, by Moses Phelps, Justice of Peace.

Esther Carpenter was born March 2, 1811, at Westminster, Vermont, daughter of John and Esther Carpenter. Esther died on July 2, 1889, age 77 years, 5 months, and 2 days, of Dropsy, as recorded in the town records of Cambridge, Vt., by W. H. Griswold, Town Clerk.

The children of Silas B. and Esther Wesson were : -

- (1) Silas Wesson b June 31, 1833 and died June 15, 1834, age 10 months and 16 days, buried in Belvidere Center Cemetery, Vt.
- (2) Infant son b August 20, 1838 and died August 25, 1838, buried in

Belvidere Center Cemetery, Ut.

- (3) *Esther M. Wesson b ca December 1840, died April 24, 1846, age 5 years and 5 months, Buried in Belvidere Center Cemetery, Ut.*
- (4) *Aphie (Aphia) Wesson b February 17, 1845, a female, no record after 1860*
- (5) *Martha M. Wesson b Belvidere, Ut., June 24, 1847, died at Cambridge on January 12, 1897, age 49 years, 6 months, and 19 days of measles and complications.*

This is believed to be the family of Silas and Esther. There is some confusion in a report in the Vermont Vital Records, v. 1, p. 26, which lists a Birth - Male; Name of Child Josiah Silas Weston; Date of Birth - July 29, 1831; Full name of father - Silas B. Weston. No mothers name mentioned. Also in the same records:- Deceased, Josiah Silas Weston, Age 2 years, 11 months, 14 days; Father's name - Silas B. Weston; Date of Death - June 15, 1834. We have the Cemetery Record of the death of Silas Wesson mention before as also being on June 15, 1834 and the age of 10 months and 16 days, Names of parents - Silas B. and Esther Carpenter Wesson. Genealogist Mrs. Mary Pat Johnson believes the Josiah Silas to be in error as far as Silas B. and Esther are concerned.

Also, in the 1850 census there is a Josiah Wesson living with Silas B. Wesson, age 15 years, and it is presumed not to be the child of Silas and Esther, but perhaps a relative that was living in the household at the time of the census.

M A R T H A M. W E S S O N

Martha M. Wesson, daughter of Silas and Esther, was married on September 14, 1871, at the age of 24 years, to Orrin E. Foster. The residence of

the bride is listed in the records as Waterville, Ut. Orrin E. Foster is listed as age 23, son of Silas Foster and Chloe Arms Foster, place of birth - Bakersfield, Ut., and occupation as that of tub manufacturer. Officiating at the ceremony was A. B. Swift, Pastor.

There is a record of Orrin's second marriage on November 22, 1898 to Harriet M. (Welch) Butler, in Cambridge, at which time he is listed as a farmer and 49 years old. Officiating at this ceremony was A. H. Heath, Pastor, and marriage took place in Cambridge, Ut. Orrin Foster died on February 14, 1929, in Johnson, Vermont.

Orrin and Martha had at least one child, Esther M. Foster, born on August 15, 1879, at Cambridge, Ut., and her father at that time was also listed as a farmer. (Incidentally, this record was not put on the books until 1944, when it is presumed Esther Foster perhaps applied for social security, she then being 65 years of age). Esther M. Foster married on December 3, 1900, to Melvin G. Morse, and at that time she gave her address of the bride as Johnson, Ut. Officiating was Rev. Edward G. French, and the ceremony recorded in Hardwick, Vermont.

In the Lamoyille and Orleans Countys Directory of 1883 - 1884, page 304, it lists Wesson, Silas B. (P.O. Jeffersonville) r 7, farmer with O. E. Foster (Foster, Orrin E (Jeffersonville), r 7, dairy 23 cows, and a farmer, leases of Henry Smiley 160. "r 7" means the road which today corresponds with the present route 109 between Jeffersonville and Waterville, then and now, a very rural road.

The 1880 Census lists Silas B. and Esther living with Orrin and Martha Foster. How soon before this year they moved in with their son-in-law and daughter is not known, but presumed they lived the balance of their lives there.

The Census Records reveal: -

1850 Census of Vermont; Lamoille; Belvidere.

Silas B. Wesson 40, male farmer, born Ut.
Esther Wesson 39, female, born Ut.
Josiah Wesson 15, male, farmer, born Ut., attended school during year
Alpha Wesson 5, female, born Ut., attended school during year
Martha M. Wesson 3, female, born Ut.

1860 Census, Vermont; Lamoille; Waterville.

Silas B. Wesson 50, male, farmer (no real estate) \$50 personal property
Esther Wesson 49, female, born Ut.
Alpha Wesson 14, female, born Ut., attended school during year
Martha M. Wesson 13, female, born Ut., attended school during year

1870 Census, Vermont; Lamoille; Waterville.

Weston, S. B. 60, male, white, farmer, \$3500 real estate, \$800 personal property

Weston, Esther 59, female, white, keeping house, born Ut.

Weston, Martha M. 23, female, white, at home, born Ut.

1880 Census, Vermont; Lamoille; Cambridge. 86/93

Foster, Orrin E, white, male, 31, married, farmer, born Ut., father born Massachusetts, mother born Ut.

Foster, Martha M., white, female, 33, wife, keeping house, Ut., Ut., Ut.

Foster, Esther M., white, female, age 9, b August, daughter, single, Ut.

Weston, Silas B., white, male, 70, father-in-law, married, farmer, Ut.

Weston, Esther C., white, female, 69, mother-in-law, married, keeping house.

You will notice that the records of 1850 and 1860 use Wesson, the other reports use Weston - no wonder we are confused! The family of Esther M. Foster Morse has not been traced at this time.

BENJAMIN SOCRATES WESSON
Born August 12, 1807, died 1883



The Chautauqua area was the separation point of the brothers Benjamin and James. The forest being rapidly depleted, our forefathers submitted, I am sure, to this fate and to the desires for new fortunes and perhaps an easy life. Benjamin elected to go south into Pennsylvania, and as the records in his family state "for his health and to live among the pines".

James selected the prairies of the west and had chosen DeKalb County, Illinois. For some reason, or chain of events, these two families appeared to get lost from each other. Not that Ben and James did not communicate, but from records that we have found, it must have been infrequent. It also

appears from letters that a visit of the two must never have occurred. In the letters of late 1800's, each seemed to be trying to excuse himself or pardon himself from not having made the effort to effect a visit with the other.

It wasn't until 1970 that proof was found that Ben was in Pennsylvania. This resulted from finding an 1880 letter in the effects of James and Silas Dexter that had been kept, and recently opened to the descendants in Illinois. This letter was from Ben to Silas Dexter after Ben had learned of his brother's death. This letter was written in Knox Dale, Pennsylvania and it revealed Ben's address as Summerville.

Using one of my schemes to locate living descendants, I requested of the telephone company the directories of all the communities in and around Knox Dale and Summerville. Upon receiving these several listings, I experienced a feeling of wasted energy and another dead end as I searched through Brookville, Corsica, Hawthron, Ringgold, Hazen, Siger, Strattonville, with no name of Wesson! However, in the community of Summerville I found listed - Wesson, Mary Sumrle 568-2431. A letter was dispatched immediately, and you cannot imagine the surprise and elation of the recipient - not to mention the sender upon receiving a reply! Through this chance we located a missing branch of the Wesson tree, much history, and a lot of wonderful cousins.

We know that Benjamin was married on June 2, 1835, in Gerry, New York to Roxana Alverson. Roxana was born in 1814, daughter of James Reynolds Alverson and Damaris Shephardson.

A William and James Alverson settled in the Gerry area about 1815. They came from Rhode Island, moved with their father to Halifax, Vermont, thence to Chenango County, New York. William was the first to arrive and

settled upon land near Vermont, New York. James and William were among the founders of the Methodist Church in Gerry. Roxana's mother was born in Halifax, Ut., on October 3, 1783, and died in Ellington, New York on January 25, 1846. We located the graves of these families in the Valley View Cemetery, Ellington, New York.

Benjamin was the first postmaster in Troy, now named Summerville, listed on the records as such on January 28, 1848. He served in this capacity for several years. He was also a certified teacher and taught school in the area. He had about an 80 acre farm on the south edge of the village, and from his letters regarded it as a first rate farm. Had Ben ever visited his brother James in Illinois, he may have made a different evaluation of this fact. We have visited this site, and there is no building left today to mark his farm home.

Benjamin and Roxana's family consisted of the following children:-

- (1) Bryan Almarion Wesson, b May 9, 1836 and died November 19, 1911
- (2) Dwight Alverson Wesson, b July 8, 1844 and died May 21, 1911
- (3) Damaris Wesson, died when very small
- (4) McCrary Wesson, died when a baby
- (5) Oscar Emory Wesson, b October 29, 1859 and died April 16, 1939

Benjamin and his sons worked together in this area of Pennsylvania. They were, at one time, greatly involved in "oil diggins" around the present city of Oil City, Pa. In a letter Ben wrote to James, dated 22 July, 1877, and written from Petrolia, Pa., Ben writes - "Yesterdays mail brought me a very welcome epistle from a long unheard from brother. It found us all in the enjoyment of tolerable good health. The reason why I have not written to you ere this time I will not attempt to tell. Suffice it to say carelessness on my part. I am busy most of the time in my office trying

to make an honest living. I should like to have the privilege once more in time to shake your hand and exchange a few thoughts. My boys are all with me. Dwight is putting down a well for himself with a flattering prospect of getting a good well. It is located in good territory at any rate. The other boys are working on pumping wells. It is not necessary to say money is scarce, oil low priced etc. How would it suit you and Sybil to come down and visit a younger brother this fall..... Sometimes it makes me feel quite lonesome and discontented in view that out side of my own family, that I have not a single relative to talk or visit with. We appear to be an isolated family at any rate. I am aware that we shall soon pass the way of all the earth and be forgotten. Eternity with me is in full view - time is fast closing". This letter bears out statements in paragraph two of Benjamin's history.

Bryon was the only son of Benjamin to marry and rear a family. He married Rachel Regina Mauk on June 12, 1856, and their family consisted of the following children:-

- (1) Ursula Viola Wesson, b January 16, 1857 died March 27, 1940
- (2) Captola Lenoir Wesson, b 1859
- (3) Lucy Alverson Wesson, b April 22, 1861, married Scott Carrier
- (4) Dwight Daily Wesson, b June 30, 1862 died December 10, 1924
- (5) Laura Ohpelia Wesson, b May 2, 1864 died April 14, 1941
- (6) Effie Mae Wesson, b January 16, 1870 died January 23, 1952
- (7) Berton Almarion Wesson, died in infancy

Dwight Daily Wesson is the father of the Wesson, Mary Sumrue 568-2431, that answered that chance letter in 1970, and led to the discovery of the Pennsylvania branch of this Wesson tree.

Benjamin had his mother live with him in Troy after the death of her

third husband. An excerpt from another letter written by Benjamin, found only in part and date it was written unknown, says - "I suppose that my aged mother has plenty of tobacco and time to consume it". His mother died in the area of Troy, but we have not been able to locate the date of her death or her place of burial. The last recorded fact is the 1860 census which has been mentioned before.

Mary and Helen Wesson of Summerville have the old spinning wheel, which is in excellent condition, that Lucinda used during her lifetime, and is supposed to have manipulated it while smoking her pipe.

A complete genealogical chart of Benjamin Wesson's descendants is available.

HATCH

We find a Dexter and Nathan Hatch appearing just east of Gerry in 1815, and they were of the first settlers of the area. They came from Vermont along with the William Alversons, and others, and plunged into the unbroken pine forest bordering the Cassadage Creek. This settlement acquired the name of Vermont in just recognition of the group of Vermonters that pioneered here. In 1817, a James Bucklin came to the area from Windham County, Vt., and established an inn at the crossroads. From then on, this community was also known as Bucklin Corners. Early maps and records use either name. The name was changed to Gerry about 1876.

In 1822 a Post Office was established with Dexter Hatch as Postmaster. In 1830, Nathan Hatch was chosen as a Commissioner of Schools. Nathan was also a prominent Baptist and helped organize the first Baptist church in the area. Nathan is believed to be a brother of Dexter. This indicates that our people were active and instrumental in organizing this community.

We are not sure where Dexter Hatch was born, nor have we traced more of his ancestry, but we know that he lived in or near Halifax, Vt., before coming to the Gerry area.

From the Vermont Vital Records v 2, p 128, we find "Birth, Female - Sybil B. Hatch, February 28, 1813. Maiden name of mother - Sally; Mother's residence - Halifax; Full name of father - Dexter Hatch. (Darius Bullock, Town Clerk of Halifax)". Also, the following copy of Dexter's record during the War of 1812 reveals the number of miles from place of abode to Burlington as 160, which fits this location.

H | 3 | Vt.
(Williams'.) Militia.

Dexter Hatch

Pri, { Captain Luke Parsons' Company of
Cavalry belonging to Col. Jonathan
Williams' Regiment of Vermont
Detached Militia.
(War of 1812.)

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for *Oct 1 to Dec 8*, 1812

Roll dated *Highgate*
Dec 8, 1812

Commencement of service, *Oct 1*, 1812

Expiration of service, *Dec 8*, 1812

Present or absent, _____

No. of miles from place of
abode to Burlington, } *160*

No. of days marching from place of abode to
Burlington, and rate per day, *10 2/3 days*

Travel at 15 miles per day

No. of miles from place of dismissal to place of
abode, *205*

No. of days marching from place of dismissal at
Highgate to place of abode, *13 2/3*

Remarks: _____

H | 3 | Vt.
(Williams'.) Militia.

Dexter Hatch

Pri, { Captain Luke Parsons' Company of
Cavalry attached to the 3 Reg't
Vermont Militia.
(War of 1812.)

Appears on

Company Pay Roll

for *Oct. 1 to Dec 8*, 1812

Roll dated *Dec. 8*, 1812.

Commencement of service, *Oct 1*, 1812

Expiration of service, *Dec. 8*, 1812

Travel to and from reu- } *34.5 miles, 20 days.*
dezvous,

Time paid for, *2* months *28* days.

Pay per month, *6 66/100* dollars, _____ cents.

Amount of pay, *19* dollars, *24* cents.

Allowance for horse, &c., } *34.60*
at 40 cts. per day,

Total amount, *53* dollars, *84* cents.

Remarks: _____

Windham County, which contains Halifax, is the southeastern most county of Vermont. The James Bucklin mentioned before, came from Windham County; William Alverson came from Halifax, and the Hatch's also came from this area. Halifax is about 40 miles from Templeton, Mass., which is located in Worcester County. We have found many Bolsters in Worcester County, and although we have not proved the ancestry of Sally Bolster, these circumstances lead me to believe that people from an area had a

tendency to migrate in groups to a new one.

Dexter Hatch was born ca 1788. He took for his wife a Sally Bolster who was born ca 1785 and died 1 May 1865. We have not learned of the place of their marriage or the date. According to our family history, Dexter was supposed to have been killed by falling timber, and this is very logical, but I have not been able to verify it. He died 14 January 1828, age 40 years, and is buried in the Gerry Cemetery on Route 60 on the north edge of Gerry. In fact, his lots are adjacent to the road and can be seen from the car as you drive by.

The children born to this marriage were: -

- (1) Sybil B. Hatch, born 28 February 1813 in Halifax, Ut. She married married James Wright Wesson in the Gerry area ca 1832.
- (2) Polly Hatch, birthdate and place unknown, married Loren Bush and had four children:- Hoffman, Addie, Russel, and John.
- (3) John Bolster Hatch, born 8 November 1817, presumed near Gerry. Married Ruthala C. Fross and had children Garetta, Gertrude, Pierce, and Woodruff. He died on 19 February 1890 and is buried in the Valley View Cemetery just north of Ellington, New York. He also was the administrator of his mothers estate, and we have the documents where he released the mortgage Sally held on James Wesson's farm in DeKalb County, Illinois.
- (4) Jerusha Hatch was born in 1821 and died 20 July 1822, 10 months old and is buried in Dexters plot in Gerry Cemetery.
- (5) Mason D. Hatch was born in 1823, married a Polly Strong, and he died on 25 September 1857. He and his family are buried just north of his fathers plot in Gerry Cemetery and is marked with a stone that is a duplicate of Dexters. Mason was a supervisor in 1855.

- (6) Sally Hatch born 1824 and died 11 August 1835 and is buried in the Dexter plot in Gerry.
- (7) Jerusha Haach born 11 August 1827, married on 25 March 1845 to Hiram Terry, and she died 20 June 1865. They are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Sinclairville. In the 1850 census, Sally Hatch (mother of our Sybil) is listed as living with the family of Hiram and Jerusha.

We also found in the papers Heston Wesson has, a letter from Ruthala Hatch written in Ellington, New York to our folks here in Illinois, dated March 22d, but no year. From the names listed therein and of their activities, genealogist Helen Bagg Johnson of Ellington has established the year to be 1871 - 1876. In this letter she mentions old neighbors of James and Sybil, school districts where one of her children will be teaching, activities carried on by her and Hiram, news of Mason and Polly, and other facts that helped us pinpoint where they used to live. Ruthala was interested and anxious for news from Illinois about Lucinda and Christina. She writes, "Tell Dexters folks that I congratulate them on their accession to their family - may their little ones grow up and be a comfort to them and an honor to society". We visited these areas on our last trip to the Gerry area.

We located Helen Bagg Johnson through the Fenton Institute in Jamestown, New York. She is Ellingtons town clerk, historian, and genealogist. She also happens to be a direct descendant of Dexter Hatch. She gave us much information and has become a treasured friend - as well as another relative! We trust that she may uncover more facts for us.

James and Sybil's children were born in Chautauqua County. I has amazed me that our present day people know very little of Silas Dexter's

sisters and their families. I have not researched this part of our family and am reporting only that which has been handed to me, and not verified.

Lucinda Wesson was the first born, date unknown, and married a William Titus. She had children:- Ida, Agnes, William, and Irene. Ida married James Sheahan and had children Anna, Birdie, Eugene, and Donna. Agnes married C. D. Dutton and had children William, Cortex, and Roy. Irene married Joe Conway and had a daughter Irene, who married an Earl Caulkins, and had two children, Red and Craig.

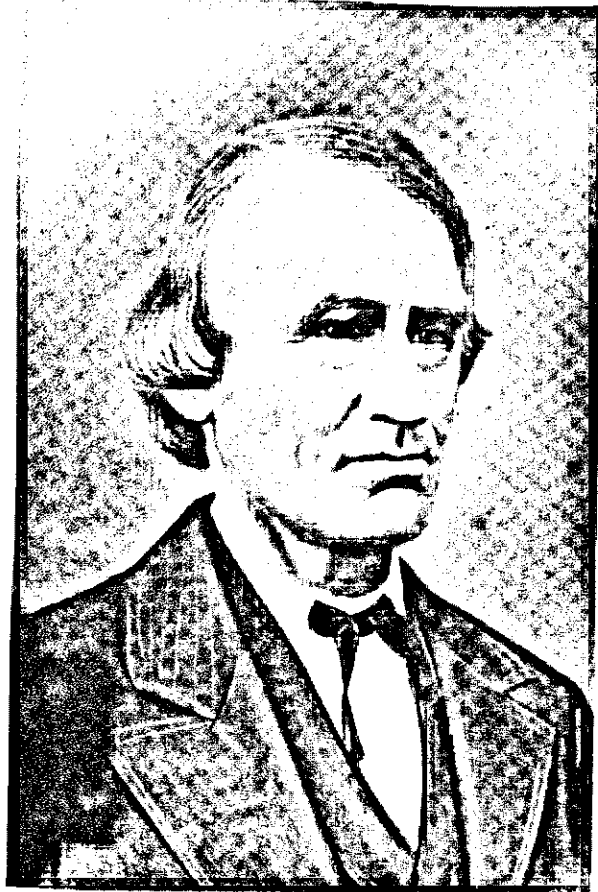
Sarah was born ca 1835, married a Bruer, and had children Bryan, Jay, Clara, and Jennie, and moved to Iowa.

Silas Dexter Wesson was the third born on 22 August 1839.

Christiana J. Wesson was the last child born of James and Sybil ca 1845. She married a John Stratton, and had children Blanch and Eva.

James Wesson's migration to Illinois in the fall of 1845 will be covered later in these works. We find in his ledger that his accounts in Gerry, New York area terminate with July and August 1845 entries.

JAMES WRIGHT WESSON
August 13, 1806 - August 26, 1880



The year of 1845 must have been a busy one in the household of James and Sybil Wesson, with making plans for the big move to the west, and the birth of their last child, Christinia. The ledger reveals that accounts were settled in the Chautauqua area as late as August 19, so it is presumed that the journey took place mostly in the month of September 1845. Our family records say that they arrived in Illinois on October 9, 1845.

James did not make this trip alone with his wife and four children. He came with a William Shepardson, his wife Hannah, and their three children, making a party of eleven. They traveled the entire distance

by ox drawn wagons.

The Shepardson genealogy states that he and James Wesson settled near Ross Grove, Paw Paw, Twp., DeKalb County. James ledger doesn't reveal his first residence in Ill., but on November 6, 1845 through March 1846, his ledger records doing business in Dupage County with a Joseph Thayer in ploughing, planting, cutting saw logs, building fence, making rails, cutting barn timbers, and a lot of working in the woods. For his labors, he collected pay in the form of wheat, potatoes, beef, and oats, food for his animals and family.

The first entry in the ledger in DeKalb County is in April 1846. At that time he was working for a Danforth D. Quint, N. Stearns, and W. Shepardson. His entries include such as ... "by oxen one day harrowing 25¢; by going to Fox River after things; by milling 6 bushels to Aurora; by one trip to mill with oxen;.....".

I have not found any dealings with William Shepardson in the Gerry, N.Y. area. However, another neighbor from New York must have arrived in Illinois shortly after James. Account with Newton Stearns, Chautauqua County 1845, entries March through July 12, found in his ledger again in 1846 in Ross Grove area. The page from Gerry closed with this entry - "DeKalb County, Ill., Aug 19, 1845, settled with N. Stearns and found due him on old account \$6.37". There were numerous dealings with this Stearns both in New York and Illinois.

William Shepardson's son, Sylvanus Eaton, born in Gerry, came with his parents and lived at Romeo, Will County in 1845, and Warrenville, Dupage Co., in 1846. He and James may have been together, but not verified.

In 1846, a page is used in his ledger in relation to Ross Grove, "Account of work done by Shepardson and Wesson on McIntes barn 8½ days

(each)....by boy and team twice to four mile Grove". Again, the exact place of his residence during this period in DeKalb County is not known. Ross Grove was a wooded sector located in Paw Paw Township, in the south east quarter of section 10. Paw Paw is the township just west of Victor. Ross Grove got its name from its first settler, a Joseph Ross, who was from the south and not the New England area as were most of the early settlers of this area. A post office opened in Ross Grove in 1843.

In 1849, James and Sybil purchased the 160 acre farm in DeKalb County that is still in the Wesson family. The deed reads: Know Ye, That in pursuance of an act of Congress, entitles "An Act to raise for a limited time, an additional military force, and for other purposes", approved February 11th, 1847, Richard Smith, private in Captain Sheppards company of the Third Regiment of United States Infantry, having deposited in the General Land Office a Warrant in his favor, numbered 35521. There is therefore granted by the United States unto James W. Wesson, assignee of said Richard Smith, and to his heirs; the South East quarter of Section Seventeen; in Township thirty seven North; of Range four east; in the District of Lands subject to sale at Chicago, Illinois, containing one hundred and sixty acres. This deed is signed the tenth of August 1850 by the President Millard Fillmore. This deed is filed under United States to James W. Wesson, No. 4181, State of Illinois, DeKalb County. Filed for record October 23rd, 1866, and is recorded in book 37 of Deeds on Page 200.

Even though the purchase price of this farm was \$1.25 per acre, or a total of \$200.00, James and Sybil had but \$50.00 to pay on this purchase. The balance was received from Sybil's mother, Sally Hatch, who held a mortgage dated November 1st, 1849. A provision of this mortgage reads

"Provided always that if the party of the first part shall, will, and truly pay the party of the second part One Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Interest at Six percent Five years from this date, then this instrument to be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect". This mortgage was filed March 28th, 1850 at 9 o'clock a.m., and recorded in Book B of Mortgages, Pages 359-360, M. M. Mack, Recorder.

History proves that James' dreams weren't fulfilled, for the mortgage wasn't satisfied until November 7, 1866. At this time, Sally Hatch was deceased and her estate was settled by her brother, John B. Hatch, administrator. He was still living near Ellington, New York at that time, as explained in the previous Hatch history. We have the release No. 4791, Recorded in DeKalb County on the 11th day of January 1867, at 4 o'clock p.m., in Liber 25 of Discharge of Mortgages, at page 38, F. W. Partridge, Clerk.

It is believed that the first dwelling that James occupied was a log cabin sort of a building situated north of the present buildings near the corners of the roads. It is not known the exact date that this structure was built, or by whom. To this day, evidence can be noticed in working the soil of the location of the former home site.

James changed the site of his homestead to the area where the present buildings are located, but again the exact date is not known. He did, however, move some of the buildings from the corner to his new location, mainly the wash house and a portion of the main house, which comprised the kitchen and dinning room.

His ledger reveals that he used ox teams a great deal and oxen were his main source of power well into 1848, and perhaps later. He kept busy breaking the prairie soil, and must have been professed at it or

else owned the necessary equipment, for he was often engaged in this work for others. In 1851 he records "Ten days breaking prairie - \$10.00". In May 1853, "self and team breaking 11½ acres prairie at \$1.75 per acre".

An entry in the ledger of note is "March 1849 - Lucinda (his daughter) working for Albert Davis two days, one helping butchering and one cutting sausage - 38 cents!"

In studying the early history of this area and the local Indians, I wonder how often James and Silas had the experience of not only seeing but of talking to the friendly Indian Chief Shabbona. His name in Indian language was Nee Con Che Moka, meaning friend of the white man. Shabbona died in 1859 and is buried in this vicinity. Although he was not the most popular with his blood brothers for having been friendly with the white settlers during Black Hawks reign, he was nonetheless, a brave and strong man. Chief Shabbona was a great admirer of Tecumseh, and in the War of 1812, he joined the great chief and stood by his side when he fell at the battle of the Thames. His association with Tecumseh, who was remarkably temperate in his habits, had its influence on the mind and character of Shabbona. It is interesting to note that at least our forefathers were of the time and era of such happenings.

James worked his farm with the help of his son Silas Dexter and hired hands, clearing the land and breaking the prairie soil. Meanwhile his daughters were growing and leaving home to make a life for themselves. We must remember that he lost the help of his son during the years of 1861 through 1864, while Silas Dexter was serving his country during the Civil War.

Citing a few excerpts of a letter James wrote to his brother Ben-

jamin dated May 3rd, 1871, of which we now have the original, he states-
"The viset you speak of on my part is rather doubtful - I can get enough to live comfortable at home - not the first dollar for viseting. You say you make six dollars a day over expences - can't you lay by a few days or weeks and come out to Ill?.....besides you will see the handsomest country you ever see, and see the fields of corn, wheat, barley, and oats in the stack - my opinion you would not stay in oil diggins one month.....I planted corn, my corn one week to day. Dexter is planting over 30 acres. We planted about 10 acres of that yesterday, that is he and I. One pair of horses done the work. It takes a pair of horses to draw the planter, one to drive, and one to drop the corn, two rows at a time, no big rocks or stumps in the way.....I have not wrote anything about my family - that is the children. I will begin with the oldest - Lucinda lives in Aurora has four children, the oldest 19 years old, married and lives in Aurora; Sally lives in Iowa has 3 children; Dexter has three children, lives on the old homestead. Christinia married has a little girl 4 years the 12th, lives in sight 1½ miles from us".

From this letter, James thought that Illinois was much the better place than Pennsylvania, and seemed to be always trying to get Ben to pay a visit to Illinois. Of course, Ben wasn't successful either in getting James to take a trip to Pennsylvania!

James was interested in his community, and no doubt proud of the position of his farm, as far as Victor Township was concerned. The area of the homestead was known as Victor Centre, and a post office was established there in April 1863, and operated until 1879.

The site of what was known as Victor was on the west side of present

route 23, north of the Suydam Church, and consisted of a creamery and a few other buildings, none of which are visible today.

In 1857, the citizens became aware that a burial site was necessary and an organization was formed named the Victor Cemetery Association. James W. Wesson is the first name appearing on the board of directors, and on March 11, 1857, he deeded one acre of his farm for the use of a cemetery. It was then known as the Victor Burial Ground, but more commonly as the Wesson, Cemetery, and the "Wesson Cemetery" is the more common name today. A masonry arch was erected in 1927 over the main walkway which lists the name as "Victor Cemetery".

James deeded an additional amount of land to the cemetery association in 1869. The association purchased another amount of land in their expansion program in 1972.

In 1862, James Wesson was the Commissioner of Highways for Victor, was moderator of town meetings in 1863, and had a part in constructing the rural school, District No. 4, Victor, again more commonly known as the Wesson School. This was built directly across from the cemetery. His ledger records, October 1852 - To one day leveling sills to school house.....To one day sheeting school house..... To 1½ days putting rafters and boarding roof.....To one day shingling. For several years a large percentage of the pupils were Wessons, and often the teacher. This building was moved from this location about 1949.

To enhance the beauty of the homestead, and to celebrate the end of the Civil War, maple trees were planted along the road. None of these are visible today as these trees were cut down to provide for the electric lines when this commodity became available to the rural area. The yard of the old homestead contained almost a grove of tall trees in it-

self, and because of age, these are no longer present in their original numbers.

As we know that the pioneer days were long and arduous, occasionally time was taken off for frivolity. In James' ledger, account with Joseph McIlahan, Joseph was credited with last time "To one half day nigger shows"!

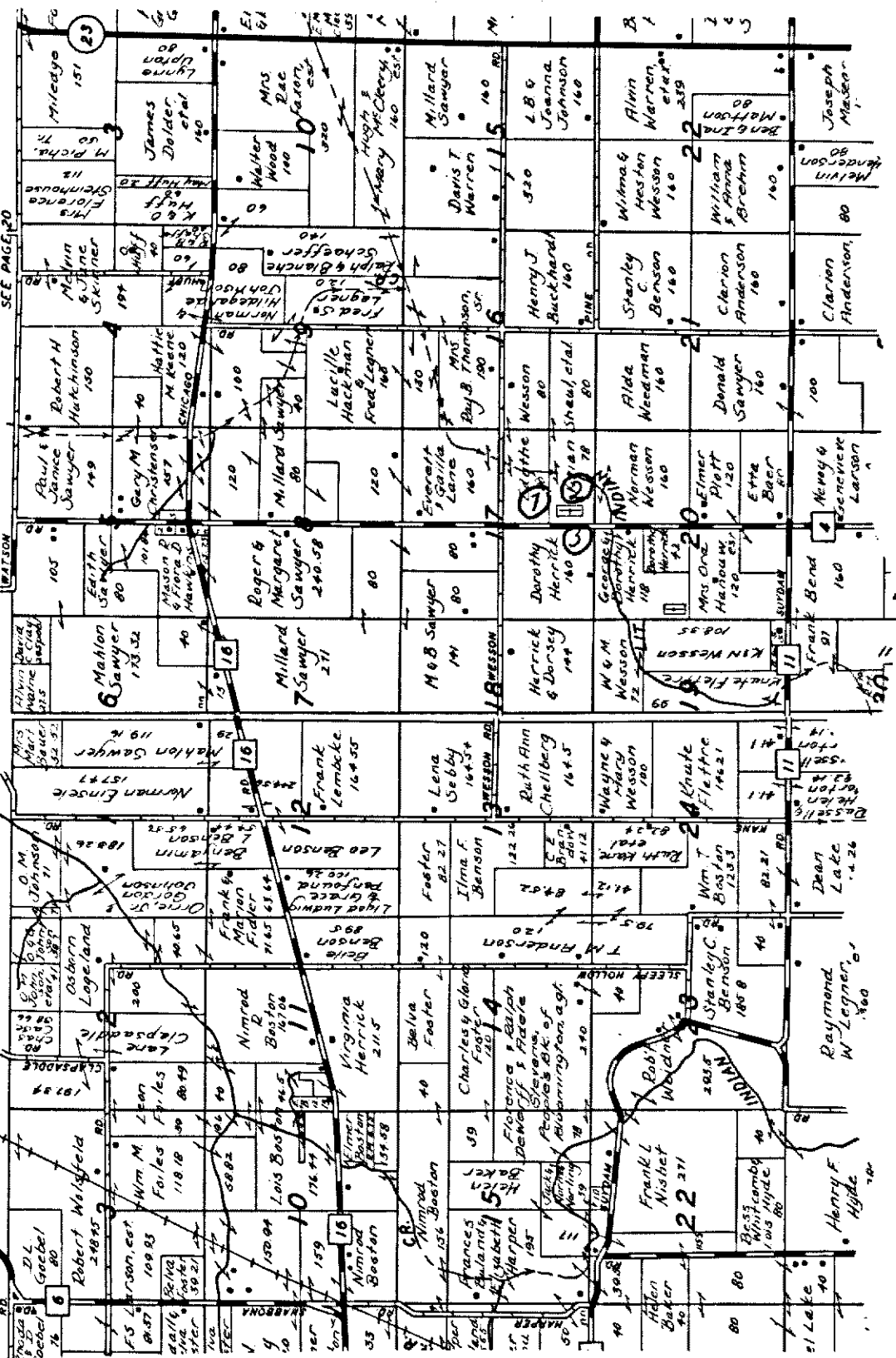
The western part of Victor township from a plat map, and the eastern part of Paw Paw township, are given to locate the points of interest as pertain to our family.

Number 1 indicates the site of the present buildings on the Wesson farm. Number 2 indicates the location of the Victor Cemetery, and number 3 the former site of the school. Wish to call your attention to the Wesson Road which runs east and west about the middle of the map. This was taken from a 1975 plat book of DeKalb County.

T.37N.-R.3E. VICTORT.37N.-R.4E.

PAW PAW

SEE PAGE 20



SILAS DEXTER WESSON

Silas Dexter Wesson, "Deck" as he is known to his Illinois descendants, was born on August 22, 1839 in Chautauqua County, New York. He came with his parents and sisters to Illinois in the covered wagon on October 9, 1845, and grew to manhood in DeKalb County. Despite the fact that he was but six years old, he was soon involved with helping his father break the prairie soil and learning the art of farming. His education came from the local school, his family, and the Jennings Seminary in Aurora, Illinois, which he attended for two winter terms.

His devotion to his country prompted him to answer the call for volunteers for service in the Civil War. He subscribed to the term of "For War or 3 years", and his enlistment occupied nearly four full years of his life. His service took him to practically all the important battlefields of the east. He returned home to Victor Township with his trusted Civil War mount "Charley", his faithful horse that lived into some 20 years of age.

Deck was married to his "Doxie" girl, Dagdalen Suydam, on October 15, 1866. This young couple became involved in farming with Deck's father. They also started their family, which became quite a large one as will be reported later. After the birth of their fourth child, Deck must have been lured to the west for the opportunity to homestead an estate for himself. The call to the Kansas territory seemed to fit this dream.

In May 1872, he and his family left for Morris County, Kansas, near Parkersburg and Council Grove, where he settled on a 160 acre farm. His application No. 14077 for homestead was granted by Certificate No. 4723-

"Whereas there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Salina, Kansas.....To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domainthe claim of Silas D. Wesson to one hundred and sixty acres. President Rutherford B. Hayes caused these letters to be made Patent on the thirtieth day of June, 1880.

While establishing a home and farm in this new territory, four more children were born. His prospects at striking it rich at farming must have been tested, for he took an examination as was certified to teach school, which he did to supplement his income.

From the Public Schools of the State of Kansas: It is hereby Certified that S. D. Wesson has been examined in all the branches required to be taught in common school and having furnished evidence of good moral character and ability to govern, is entitled to a First Grade Certificate for the County of Morris. This certificate shall be valid 12 months, unless sooner revoked. His proficiency on a scale of 10:- Orthography 9; Reading $7\frac{1}{2}$; Penmanship $7\frac{1}{2}$; Geography $7\frac{1}{2}$; English Grammar 8; Written Arithmetic 10; U. S. Const & History 10. Dated at Council Grove this 12th day of January 1878.

In 1874 he was holding office in Council Grove, Kansas up to 5 days a week. The exact nature of his position is not known. It is evident that he worked with the County Board of Commissioners, and was instrumental in securing a herd law. At that time he reports that he had 2 cows, "good crops", and life was quite kind to this family.

As James and Sybil were getting old, they began to plead for Deck and Maggie to come back to Illinois as early as 1878. In a letter of Deck to James, he states "You want us to come back there this fall.

It would be impossible to do so this fall, it would be a big thing to undertake with seven babies, besides I have taken a school this fall to commence in Sept." In the same letter Deck pleaded for his parents to journey to Kansas to show them what he was proud of and "you could make the round trip for \$60.00 while it would take \$100.00 for me".

In 1879, James did go to Kansas, but I think more to convince his son to come back and take over the home place, as he seemed to be experiencing dissatisfaction in his hired help. In March of 1880, Deck writes "I will sell out here & come back if you think it best.....I would have to build a house of course.....I will work the farm as you may direct, living in separate houses. All I would ask would be my living".

On March 14th, he again writes that he thinks it best if he leaves Kansas in the fall, for he would have to sacrifice much to sell his machinery and try to find someone to take his place.

On May 15, 1880, the 8th anniversary of his leaving Illinois, he writes again, "I have sold all my cows but one, all my hogs but a little pig about 1 foot long, now all I have left is my team and tools. He thinks he has his farm sold at \$10.00 per acre, and asking his father if he should sell his wagon, plows, etc., and says he may not be ready to start for 1 week to 2 months." Of course, a problem not mentioned in his letter is that child number 8 was soon to be born. On June 22, 1880, Harry Wilder Wesson was born, and three weeks later the family started the trek back to Illinois. Magdalen and the new baby were put on a train, the rest of the family making the journey by team and covered wagon. The trip took three weeks to complete, and the family dog became so foot sore that he gave up and would not follow the wagon. One horse also died during the trip, but "Charlie", his old Civil War mount, made

the trip home.

As Silas Dexter's father James died on August 26, 1880, his return home was just in time. He then settled down to farm the "home" place, and later Deck purchased additional land to add to it.

After the Civil War, Deck was active in the D. A. R. and other veterans groups, and was also prone to do a little politicking. He enjoyed speaking and was often listed on programs of settlers picnics and community gatherings. He also was very active in local government and held several offices. He served as township clerk, as township supervisor for nine years, assessor for three years, and was a justice of peace for 24 years. In *Past and Present of DeKalb County* by L. M. Gross, it states "He was a speaker of considerable force, has the wit of the son of Erin, and is known as the Poet Laureate".

During the next few years after returning from Kansas, Deck and Maggie's family increased from eight to the final number of eleven children. Deck had a habit of giving his children a nickname, and I often wondered as a young lad, that while attending a family gathering, my father always answered to a strange name. Their children with their families, and his nickname for each follows:-

Sybelle Johannah Wesson - b June 15, 1867, was called "Belle", never married and died on May 25, 1941. Buried in the "Wesson" Cemetery.

Elvie Magdalen Wesson - b October 2, 1868, was known as "Dixie". She married Egbert Jessie Sweet, lived for a time in Shabbona Grove, Ill, and then moving to Altoona, Wisconsin in 1908. She died on January 6, 1910, and is buried in the Wesson Cemetery. Their family consisted of Harold LaVerne, Eugene LeRoy, Iris Lily, and Mary Gladys.

Mason Dexter Wesson - b June 15, 1870, and answered to "Larry". He mar-

ried Letitia Mary Glenn, died on August 1, 1902, and he and his family are buried in the Wesson Cemetery. He was a railroad man and suffered the loss of a leg in a railroad accident in Sandwich, Ill in 1900. Their children - Marie Grace, Eugene Glenn, Ella Magdalen, Lucinda Ann, and Agnes Henrietta.

Alpha Grace Wesson - b February 17, 1872, escaped the nickname as her brothers and sisters had, and was called by her middle name Grace. She married Bert Allen Bark, were farmers in the area, and she died November 14, 1934, and buried in the Sandwich Cemetery. Their family consisted of three children, Marion Reinette, Hurdman Wesson, and Ila Estrid.

Minerva Marcia Wesson - b January 10, 1874 in Kansas, and was appropriately called "Mina" or "Minnie". She married William Samuel Todd, lived near Kaneville, Ill until the fall of 1901, and then moved to Minnesota. She died on April 17, 1945, and is buried in the Wesson Cemetery. The children born to this couple were: Lloyd Paul, Stanley David, Erma Magdalene, Bessie Belle, and Ross Dexter.

Sarah Matilda Wesson - b March 3, 1876, and came running to the call of "Sadie". She married Henry John Von Ohlen, were farmers in the area, and she died on November 27, 1917, buried in the Wesson Cemetery. Their children: Ila Rae, Janice Meredith, and Henry Kenneth.

Jacques Wright Wesson - b November 13, 1877, and acquired the handle of "Buck". He married Nora Louise Maser, and farmed in the general area of home, moving to Oklahoma in about 1910, then to Iowa, and then to Alexandria, Minnesota in 1914. He died on November 9, 1962. His family: Cecil Ray, Cleda Myrna, Hazel Iola, Jacques Wright, and Barbara Magdalen.

Harry Wilder Wesson - b June 22, 1880 and responded to the name of "Bile".

He married Edythe Laura Hansen and was a farmer all his life. He died on April 18, 1956, and is buried in the Wesson Cemetery. His family; Ulvian Edythe, Wilder Wayne, Loyale Heston, Beatrice Laurene, and Wilda Jeanette.

Lloyd Fulton Wesson - b July 26, 1882, and his other name was "Ferg".

He married Alice L. Johnson and farmed all his life in the Sandwich area. He died on March 3, 1960, buried in the Wesson Cemetery. His family: Octa Alice, Stanley Darrell, and Ida Virdelle.

Elon Farnsworth Wynn Wesson - b September 4, 1884, and the selection for him was "Barney". He married Lillian Amanda Schaeffer and farmed all his life, on the home place until 1913, and then in Boone County, Illinois. He died on February 4, 1946 and is buried in the Wesson Cemetery. His family: Elon Eugene, Neva Ragls, Harris Earl, Marjorie Lois, and Donald Francis.

Benjamin Harrison Ray Wesson - b August 6, 1888, had two other names, "Tip" or "Ole". He married Gladys Avonelle Bennett, and spent his life as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, living in Iowa most of his life and later years in California. He died on November 10, 1965. His family: Margaret Elizabeth and Jeanne Bennett.

Deck even changed the name of his mother to "Biddie"!

About 1906, a second house was finally built on the homestead. It stood south of the present structure, but burned to the ground about 1932.

Deck, in the later years of his life, relinquished the operation of his farm to his "boys". Silas Dexter Wesson died on February 4, 1909, and, of course, is buried in the Wesson Cemetery.

Wilder took sole charge of the farm after his marriage in 1907 until

the spring of 1909. At that time, Elon was married and leased the farm for three years, leaving it in February 1913 for his new farm in Boone County. Wilder then came back to the homestead, finally purchasing it from the heirs of the estate, and it has been in his and his childrens names to this day. It is interesting to note that Wilder paid the estate \$217.50 per acre, it being more per acre than the entire farm cost originally. Heston and Wilma Wesson, present owners of this farm, razed the old house and constructed a new ranch home in 1972 on the same site.

Following are two programs which S. D. Wesson is a participant, and typical of his activities. The Army Mule was one of his poems.

G. A. R. No. 510
W. R. C. No. 182

Department
of
Illinois

Banquet October 30th, 1902

GUEST OF HONOR

General W. R. Shafter

AFTER DINNER

"Good Bye Dolly Gray,"	HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET.
"The Army Mule,"	S. D. WESSON.
"Lesson from the Spanish War,"	REV. J. M. LEWIS PH. D.
"Barbara Fritchie,"	C. H. FROST.
"Welcome Pretty Primrose,"	HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET
"Our Jolly Tars,"	REV. A. R. BICKENBACH.
"Heroes of the Spanish War,"	REV. G. H. ROBERTSON D. D.
"Santiago,"	GENERAL W. R. SHAFTER.
"My Old Kentucky Home,"	HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET.

PRITCHARD'S GROVE.
Wednesday Sept. 6th, '93

Grand gathering at the grove at 10 o'clock a. m. sharp.

Music,	FREELAND PLOW BOY BAND.
Call to order by the President,	S. D. Wesson.
Prayer,	Rev. Robinson, Waterman.
Singing,	Quartette
Address of Welcome,	S. D. Wesson.
Music,	Band.
12 o'clock,	Dinner.
1 o'clock p. m.,	Music by the Band.
Oration and Registration of Old Settlers,	Rev. Dawson, Shabbona.
Early Experiences,	Related by the Old Settlers.
Singing,	Quartette.
Music,	Band.
Report of Secretary and Treasurer, and Election of Officers.	

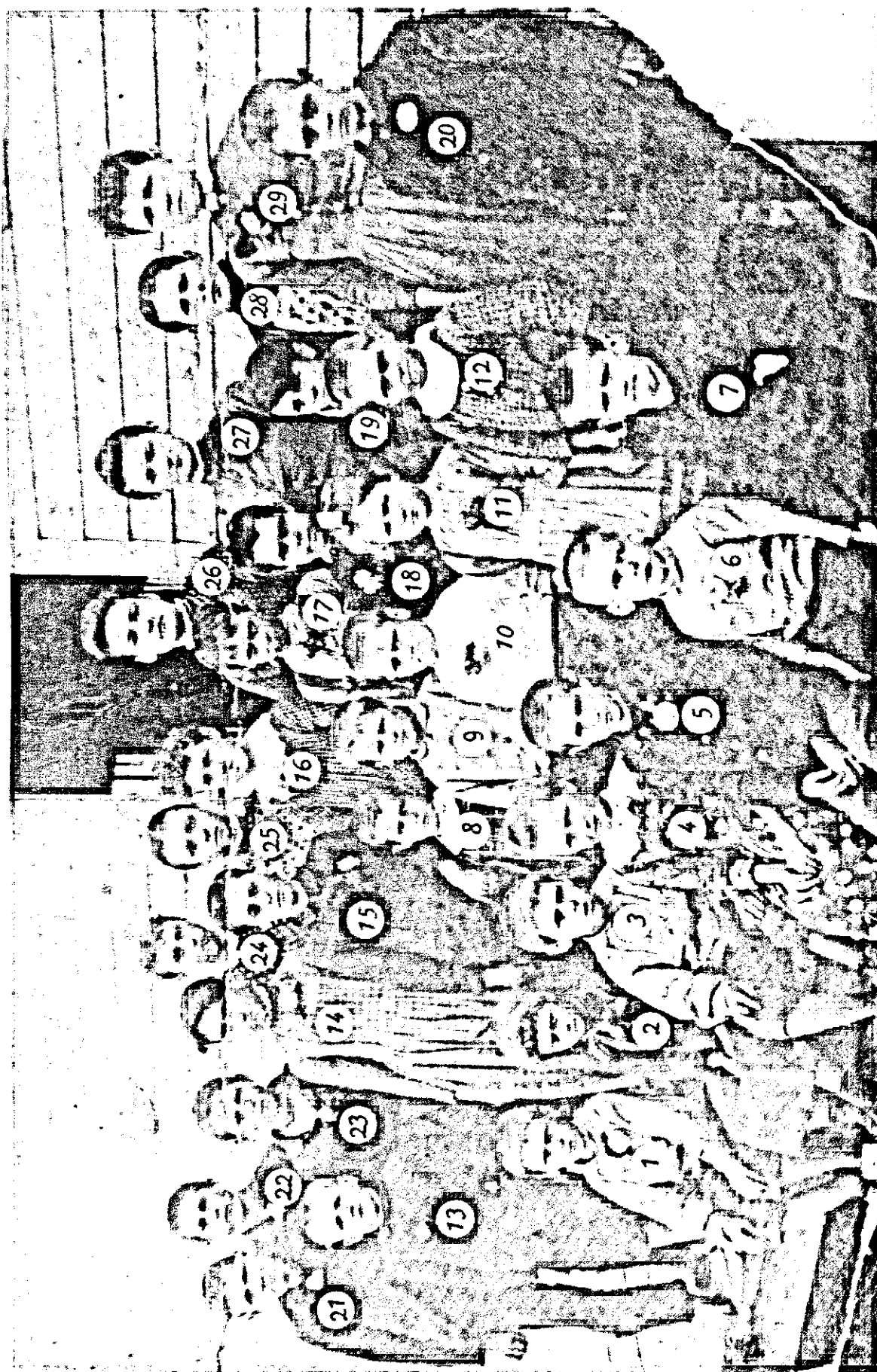
SPORTING GAMES—Tag of War for a purse of \$3. Boys Foot Race under 16 years, 1st prize \$2, 2nd \$1. Girls Foot Race, 1st prize 2.00, 2nd 1.00. Old Man's Foot Race, 1st prize 2.00, 2nd 1.00. Flap-jack Turnover Egg Race, 1st prize 1.00, 2nd 50c. Tennis Game, 2.00 for first best, 1.00 for the second best and numerous other sporting games.

A grand game of Base Ball will be played for a sum of 30 Dollars, to be given to the winning club.

PAW PAW VS. AMBOY.

President of the day, S. P. Wilson. Vice President, R. Hargrave. Ray Pao, A. F. Post, Shabazz, W. Hughes, Akira, W. S. Saito, Japan. W. Keene, Vice Secretary and Treasurer. H. Kuhl, Special Police. Oswald W. and Gov. Ames, John Russell, F. Murrie, Marshall, M. O'Harford, Chaplain. Rev. Robinson, Committee of Arrangements. E. M. Ames, C. G. Cochrane, G. H. Leshner, J. A. Green, H. Hensberg.

Positively no liquor will be allowed on the grounds. Smoking is loose and loose strictly forbidden in the entire of the event.

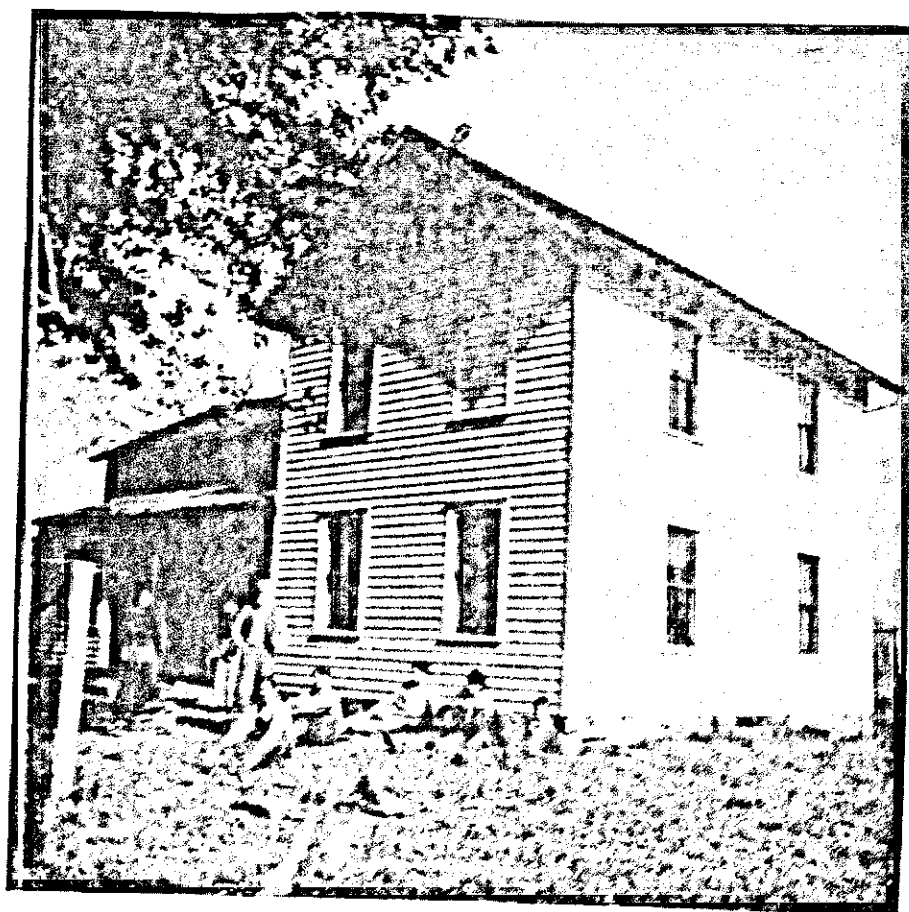
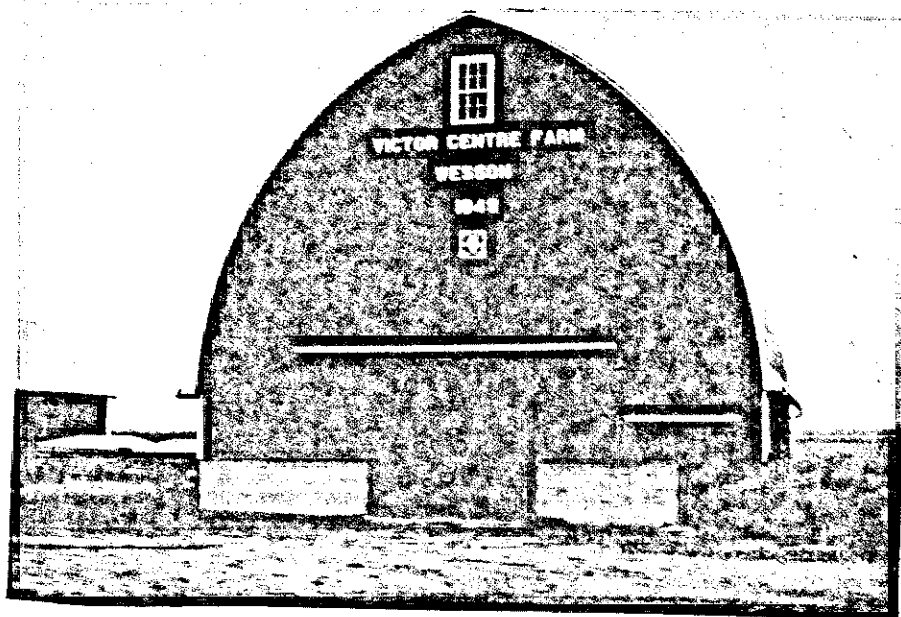


The School District Number 4, Victor Township, known as the Wesson School, picture taken in 1889, with the student body named as best that could be determined at this date.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. ? Terpening | 2. Mable Sweet |
| 3. ? Terpening | 4. Mammie Legner |
| 5. Charles Montague | 6. Charles Bend |
| 7. <u>Harry Wilder Wesson</u> | 8. Jesse Montague |
| 9. ? Terpening | 10. <u>Elon Farnsworth Wesson</u> |
| 11. Mernie Arnold | 12. Walter Woods |
| 13. <u>Lloyd Fulton Wesson</u> | 14. Tillie Wilson |
| 15. George Stratton | 16. Ally Montague |
| 17. Robert Sweet | 18. Robert Woods |
| 19. Etta Wilson | 20. Leonard Woods |
| 21. <u>Jacques Wright Wesson</u> | 22. George Arnold |
| 23. J Arnold | 24. Edith Morton |
| 25. Hattie Morton | 26. <u>Elvie Magdalen Wesson</u> |
| 27. <u>Minerva Marcia Wesson</u> | 28. Bessie Arnold |
| 29. <u>Sarah Matilda Wesson</u> | |

Elon Wesson was not old enough to be attending school at this time, but because the school picture was to be taken, he was dressed in his Sunday best and sent to school for the picture. From his expression, he may have had a few reservations. I am sure that 21, Jacques Wright Wesson didn't forget his shoes, he probably was conforming to the dress code of the day.

The following is a picture of the barn as it is today on the old homestead. This building was built about 1951, after a fire destroyed the original barn on this site built about 1907. The small barn in the left of this picture was built by the Wesson "boys".



The previous picture shows the old house, the one that was razed in 1972, with (left to right) Magdalen, Sybil, and Deck standing, Wilder, Lloyd, Wright, Elon, and Ray sitting on the ground. The date of this picture is not known, but presumed to be before 1910.

THE AFFINITY

In our studies and searches for the Wesson ancestry, it often seemed that we stumbled onto the ancestral lines of the families of our Magdalen Suydam. I have not portrayed these families in any great depth, but have included that which I think will be the most interesting to the descendants of James Wright Wesson. As it would take a lifetime to search each family line, perhaps some one of the younger generations will wish to dwell on one or two of these following families. We feel that the following reports have been researched sufficiently and are correct.

To the descendants of Benjamin Socrates Wesson, may you enjoy the comments of the lineage of your "western" cousins and perhaps someone in your families will endeavor to compile a story of the ancestral lines that will be most important to you. If someone should, I can assure you that we "western" cousins shall be most interested in your work.

CORTELYOU

We start our Cortelyou lineage in Holland in the year 1600. In this year we find the records of a Jaques (Jacques) Cortelyou appearing in Utrecht. His marriage is recorded there on April 12, 1612 to Elsker (Elsie) Hendricks. In December of that year their first child was baptised.

The children born to this union were Abraham; Jacques Cortelyou; Judith died 1684, married 1640 Blaise Pailhot; Jeanne married 1636 to Jerome Bastairous; and Jeneken married 1637 to Gulleaume Benet. The order of birth after Jacques is not confirmed, and it is assumed that Abraham died young.

Elsken died on December 7, 1663, and was laid to rest in the old St. Nicholas Church, still standing, a few blocks from her home in the Teelingstraat, in Utrecht. It is presumed that her husband died before her with the exact date not known.

Following the Spanish acquisition, the Netherlands became a sanctuary for Protestants, French Huguenots, Scotch Presbyterians, and Belgian Walloons. The Cortelyous were protestant refugees who had fled from the Catholic provinces which are now comprised in the area of Belgium and northern France. They then formed their own church, and became known as Walloons. These Walloon records can be found today in the City Archives of Utrecht, and from them, these Cortelyou family facts have been taken. In studying other genealogists reports, it is accepted that our people were not in Holland before 1600, and they are not found there today. Holland, then, was a stopping place before embarking for the new America and a pursuit of their beliefs and freedom.

Jacques Cortelyou (2) was born in Holland in 1625. He was termed a brilliant young man and furthered his education by attending the University in Utrecht. This school was founded in 1636, but no records of students can be found before 1643. In this year a ledger was started with the signatures of the students, and the one hundred and fifty-seventh name recorded in 1643 is:-

Jacobus Cortelion Ultrajectinus

This is a fac simile of his signature. It was the common practice for students to Latinize at least a part of their names. Following this custom Jacques called himself "Jacobus" (James). To this he added Ultraiectinus or Ultrajectinus, meaning of "Utrecht".

Ja. Cortelion. 1657.

Fac simile of signature of Jacques Cortelyou in America.

Jacques desire for employment and associations with Cornelius Van Werckhoven were no doubt the factors that changed his life and brought him to America. Van Werckhoven was an official of the Dutch government, a leading citizen of Utrecht, and was also interested in establishing a "New Netherlands" in America. He thus engaged Jacques as a surveyor and also as a tutor for his children on his expedition to the New World in 1652. Van Werckhoven's employment with the West India Company required that he return to Holland in 1654, where he died suddenly in 1655.

Jacques then succeeded to Van Werckhoven's interests, and surveyed and laid the boundaries for New Utrecht in America. Van Werckhoven had negotiated for the purchase of the land between Gowanus Road to Coney Island, the area known today as Brooklyn, for his New Utrecht. The cost of this purchase was "6 coats, 6 kettles, 6 axes, 6 chisels, 6 small look-

ing glasses, 12 knives, and 12 combs". The land was divided into twenty plots of fifty acres each, distributed among nineteen men with one lot being kept for the poor. New Utrecht received a town government in 1661.

Jacques married Neltje Van Duyn in 1655. Neltje came to this country with a brother, Gerrit Cornelese Van Duyn. Her parents were Cornelis Gerritt Van Duyn and Machtelje Huyken. Jacques died in 1693, and Neltje in 1695. It was said that Jacques was a good Cartesian and not a good Christian. To this union were born seven children, all but one living to adulthood.

The children born were:- child 1675-1657; Jacques Cortelyou; Cornelius 1662-1690 married Neeltje Volckers; Pieter 1665-1757 married Diewertje De Witt; Helena 1666-1720 married three times, Nicholas R. Van Brunt, Denyse Teunissen, and Hendrick H. Hafte; Maria 1669 married Wilem W. Barkelo; and William 1671-1692.

To earn a livelihood for his family, Jacques of course was engaged in farming as were all of the pioneers. However, he also started the business of running a ferry across the narrows, which business was operated by the family for two generations. Now this water barrier is breached by a large toll bridge.

Jacques Cortelyou (3) was born in 1660 and died May 3, 1731. He married first on October 4, 1685, Marretje Hendrickse Smack, who bore him eight children:- Aeltie 1687 died young; Geertje 1688 died young; Neeltje 1691 died young; Geertje 1693 married in 1713 Hendrich Van Leerwen; Helena 1695-1726; Jaques 1697-1705; Hendrich 1699-1705; and Neeltje 1703 married Abraham L. Van Voorhies. In this family is evidence of the custom in those days of naming a successor child of the same sex the same name as a recently deceased one. Marretje died in 1705, probably of the same cause.

that took the lives of her two children, Jaques and Hendrich.

On January 10, 1706, Jacques married Altje J. Boerman, and she bore him seven children and died in 1732. Of these seven children, only two lived to adulthood and married. The children were:- Mayra 1706 died young; Jacques 1707 married 1730 Marretje ; Hendrick Cortelyou; Dyna 1715 died young; Marretie 1716 died young; Frederich 1719 died young; and Aeltje 1722 died young. Jacques lived on his fathers farm tract in New Utrecht and continued the family enterprise of operating the ferry across the narrows.

It might be well to mention here that the restored Vechte-Cortelyou house stood on the east side of the old Gowanus Road about 100 feet southwest of the present 5th Avenue and 3rd Street in Brooklyn. It was demolished about 1897 in making way for the present city. During the battle of Long Island, this house was a fort used by General Grant when this area was attacked by General Cornwallis. It was a stone two story structure built in 1699 by a Klaes Vechte, rented to an Isaac Cortelyou just before the Revolution, and later purchased by a Jacques Cortelyou, but not our direct ancestor. In 1934 a replica was erected in the Gowanus section and perhaps is there today.

Hendrick Cortelyou (4) was born on April 11, 1711, and died on March 5, 1777. He married first on August 3, 1731, Antie Albertse Van Voorhies, who was born April 15, 1711, and died March 18, 1742. To this marriage was born Jacques 1732-1774 married Maria; Albert 1734 married Helena Black; Hendrick Cortelyou; William 1738-1740; and William 1740-1812 married Eve Terhune.

Antie Van Voorhies was the daughter of Albert Coerte Van Voorhies and his first wife Sara Willemse Cornel. The Van Voorhies were people

from Reinen, Dreuthe, in the Netherlands and came to this country in April 1660 on the ship "Spotted Cow". The emigrant was Steven Courte, or Courten. His father was Court Alberts, who resided in front of Hies, Hees, or "Voorhies", in Holland. It was the custom among the early settlers to adopt the Christian name of the father as the surname of the child. In the due process of time, the surname of Van Voorhies was adopted. The lineage here runs, Coerte Alberts, Steven Coerte, Coerte Stevense, to Albert Coerte Van Voorhees and his first wife Sara Willemse Cornel. The Voorhies first settled in New Utrecht.

As the century turned from 1699 to 1700, a number of Dutch families, joined by some French Huguenots, came to farm the rich valleys of the Raritan and the Millstone Rivers in New Jersey. For the most part, these people came from the Dutch settlements on Long Island, where Brooklyn is today.

Franklin Township, in New Jersey, once the home of the peaceful Raritan Indians, was a part of a tract sold to Augustine Herman on December 6, 1651, by Indian Chiefs Konachama and Queermak for 100 pounds of merchandise. The township began to be settled in 1682.

In 1699 Gerrit Cleas Veghter joined Peter Cortelyou and George Willocks in the purchase from the Proprietors of 3,000 acres on the east side of the Millstone River from Griggstown to Six Mile Run and Ten Mile Run. The "Harrison" tract was surveyed by Jacques and Pieter Cortelyou in 1703 dividing it into 16 lots. Lot no. 7 was given to Jacques Cortelyou in payment for surveying services. Franklin township was incorporated in 1798.

There was a One, Three, Six, Nine, and Ten Mile Run. These were brooks that crossed the countryside, joined the Millstone River, and were

these distances from the mouth. In middle New Jersey a run is a brook, in North Jersey it is a kill, and in South Jersey it is a creek.

Similarly, in those days, you "harness" up a horse in middle New Jersey, "gear" him up in North Jersey, and "rig" him up in South Jersey.

It was this generation and Hendrick, that left the area of Long Island. They moved to Ten Mile Run, New Jersey, which no doubt, was a move via water up the Raritan River, to Brunswick in Somerset County, and then up the Millstone River. Hendrick settled in this farming area and began the long list of descendants and land owners in New Jersey.

Antie died in March of 1742, and Hendrick married on August 19, 1742 a Catrina Hooglandt. Catrina died on October 19, 1785. From this marriage were born eight children:- Antie 1743-1796 married Peter Stoothoff; Adryana 1745; Harmanus 1747-1816 married Catharine Van Dyke; Altje 1749 married Ferdinand Van Dyke; Helena 1751; Marya 1752 married Jan Van Dyke; Arianty 1754 married Roelof Cornell; and Johanna 1756-1775. It is interesting to note the marriages between the Cortelyou's and the Van Dyke's. Peter Stoothoff was possibly a brother of Johanna mentioned later, but we have no proof of this.

Hendrick Cortelyou (5) was born October 10, 1736 and died on October 31, 1800. On November 23, 1759, he married Johanna Stoothoff who was born on November 12, 1742 and died December 12, 1809. They lived their lives in the area of Six Mile and Ten Mile Run and earned their livelihood from farming. To this marriage were born eleven children:- Hendrick 1761-1847 married 1st Ann DeHart and 2d Elizabeth Nevius; William 1763-1838 married Maria Voorhies; Jaques 1765-1777; Sarah 1767-1793; Albert 1768-1825 married Ida Dorland; Peter 1768-1828 married Margaret Frey; John 1772-1843 married Ellen Voorhies; Harmon Cortelyou; Ann 1777-

1777; Jaques 1778-1863 married Johanna Van Tine; and Abraham 1780-1854 married 1st Dianah Garretson and 2d Johanna Polhemus. Hendrick died in an accident and was buried in the Ten Mile Run Cemetery. The family were members of the Six Mile Run Reformed Church. This church was established in 1703 and organized in 1710, and is in existence today. Many of the early records are still on file today which we used in proving our ancestry.

The Stoothoffs originated from Nieuwkerken, Holland, and came to this country in 1633. The emigrant pioneer was Elbert Elbertse Stoothoff, who originally settled in the Flatlands. These people were found in the vicinity of the Raritan as early as 1717.

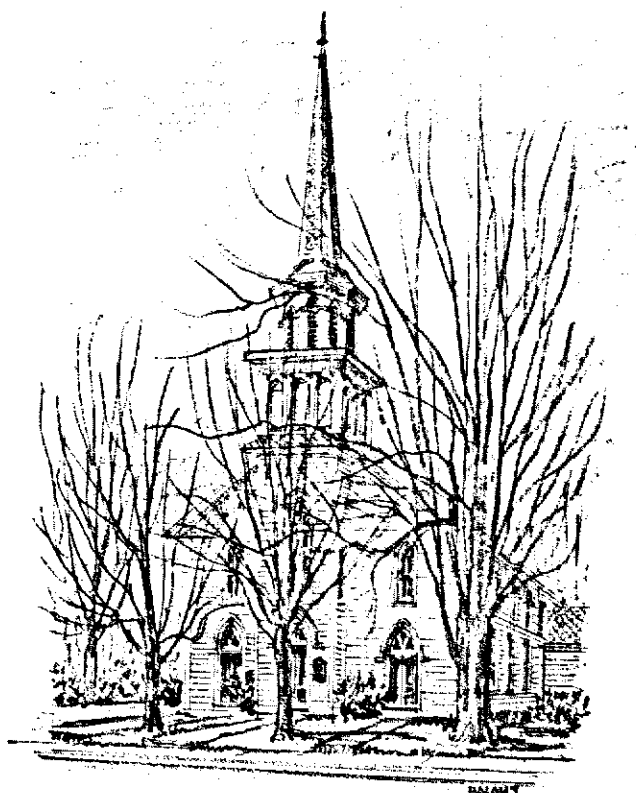
Harmon Cortelyou (6) was born on December 5, 1774 and died on June 10, 1849. He was born at Ten Mile Run and died at Middlebrush, and his gravestone is present today to mark the site of his burial. He was a farmer on property directly across the road from the meadow in front of the South Middlebrush Graveyard. He married a Sarah Garretson, born February 2, 1771 (see Garretson genealogy) and from this marriage were born three children:- Johanna Cortelyou; Hendrick on June 18, 1808; and Magdalene on April 29, 1811.

Johanna Cortelyou (7) was born on December 25, 1804 and was married on February 16, 1825 at the Six Mile Run Church in New Jersey to Simon Bois Suydam. She is our direct ancestor and this marriage is enlarged upon in the Suydam family accounting.

Johanna's sister, Magdalene, married Albert B. Garretson, the son of Samuel Garretson who was Sarah's brother. Therefore, first cousins married, so to confuse you, Sarah's nephew was her son-in-law!

Myrna Kolaas made a special trip to New Jersey and located and

photographed the gravestones of Herman Cortelyou and wife Sarah in the South Middlebrush graveyard. At the Ten Mile Run Cemetery south of Franklin Park, New Jersey on the Georgetown road were found the stones of Hendrick and Johanna Stoothoff Cortelyou along with those of their children. The inscriptive dates proved the ancestry of these people and our genealogy.

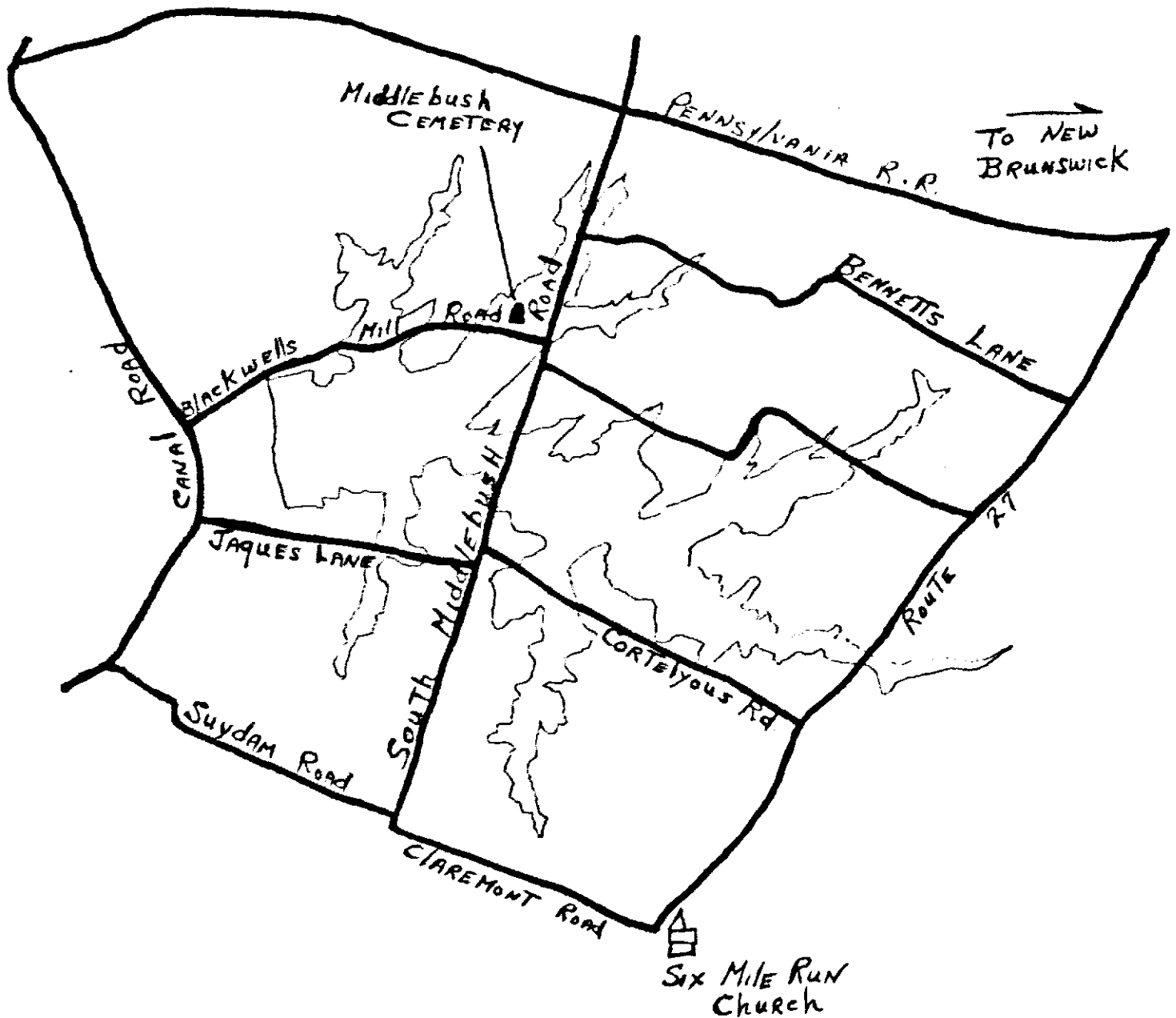


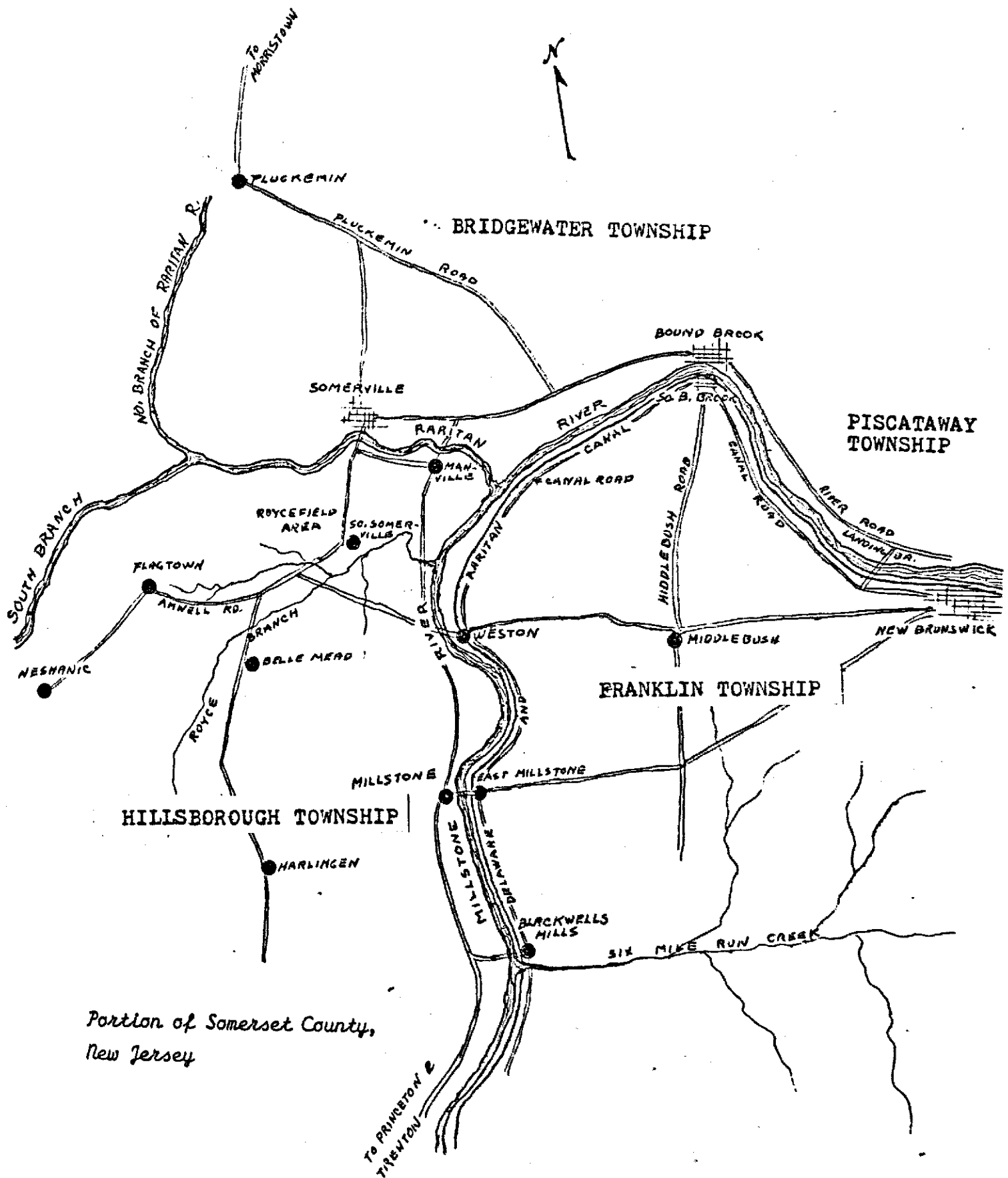
Six Mile Run Reformed Church, Franklin Park, N. J.

Following is a map of an area destined to become a reservoir and of the area to be inundated. It will cover the area of the Middlebrush Cemetery which contains the grave sites of many of our ancestors. It is interesting to note the names of some of the roads in this area. This general area contained the families of the Cortelyous, Frenchs, Suydams,

Garretsons, Boice, and others that were the originators of the names and family backgrounds of our present day generations.

Incidentally, a movement has been underway to block this project and I am not sure whether the reservoir will be completed or not.





Portion of Somerset County,
New Jersey

A larger map of Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey.

CORTELYOU FAMILY CHART from 1600

Gener- ation

- (1) JACQUES CORTELYOU
 b: found in Holland in 1600
 d:
 m: 4-12-1612 Elske Hendricks
 b:
 d: 1663
- (2) Ch JACQUES CORTELYOU; Abraham; Judith d 1684; Jeanne; Jenneken
 b: 1625
 d: 1693
 m: 1655 Neeltje Van Duyn
 b:
 d: 1695
- (3) Ch JACQUES CORTELYOU; child 1657-1657; Cornelius 1662-1690; Pieter
 b: 1660 1665-1757; Helena 1666-1720; Maria 1669;
 d: 5-3-1731 William 1671-1692
 m: 10-4-1685 Marretje Hendrickse Smack
 b: Ch-Aeltje 1687 d y; Geertje 1688
 d: 1705 d y; Neeltje 1691 d y; Geertje 1693;
 Helena 1695-1726; Jacques 1697-1705;
 Hendrich 1699-1705; Neeltje 1703
 m: 1-10-1706 Aeltje J. Boerman
 b:
 d:
- (4) Ch HENDRICK CORTELYOU; Rayra 1706 d y; Jacques 1707; Dyna 1715 d y;
 b: 4-18-1711 Marretje 1716 d y; Frederick 1719 d y; Aeltje
 d: 3-5-1777 d y
 m: 8-3-1731 Antie Albertse Van Voorhies
 b: 5-15-1711
 d: 3-18-1742
- (5) Ch HENDRICK CORTELYOU; Jaques 1732-1774; Albert -1734; William 1738-
 b: 10-10-1736 1740; William 1740-1812.
 2d m (4) 8-19-1742 Catrina Hooglandt
 b: 7-15-1719
 d: 10-19-1785
 Ch Antie 1743-1796; Adryana 1745; Harmanus 1747-
 1816; Aeltje 1749; Helena 1751; Maria 1752;
 Arianty 1754; Johanna 1756-1775
 d: 10-31-1800
 m: 11-23-1759 Johanna Stoothoff
 b: 11-12-1742
 d: 12-12-1809
- (6) Ch HARMON CORTELYOU; Hendrick 1761-1841; William 1763-1838; Jaques
 b: 12-5-1774 1765-1777; Sarah 1767-1793; Albert 1768-1825;
 d: 6-10-1849 Peter 1768-1828; John 1772-1843; Ann 1777-1777;
 m: Jaques 1778-1863; Abraham 1780-1854
 Sarah Garretson
 b: 2-2-1771
 d: 10-18-1843
- (7) Ch JOHANNA CORTELYOU; Hendrick 1808-1851; Magdalene 1811-1884
 b: 12-25-1804
 d: 7-7-1881
 m: 2-16-1825 Simon Bois Suydam; b: 1-4-1803 d 6-21-1899

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

- Dutch Houses of Brooklyn* by Maud E. Dilliard
Emma C. Totten, historian and genealogist of Somerset, New Jersey
History of The City of New York by Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer
History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey by James P. Snell
Six Mile Run Reformed Church Records, H. E. Speckman, pastor 1969
Somerset County Historical Quarterlies, A. Van Doren Honeyman
New Jersey Colonial Documents
New Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey Vol 35
New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings - Vol 54
Raritan Landing That Was - Vol 54
The History of a River Port - Vol 54
New Brunswick Baptism Records - Vol 11, 12, 13, also 55 and 56
Millstone Valley by G. C. Menzies
The Cortelyou Genealogy by John Van Zandt Cortelyou
The Origin of the Cortelyou Family by John J. Dellott
Visits to the Ten Mile Run Cemetery and South Middlebush Cemetery,
both in New Jersey, and photographs by Myrna Kolaas.

Jacques - Jaques - Jakas - Jaquish

This name has caused a bit of confusion in the records of our people. In the New Amsterdam records the name appears as Jacques, Jaques, and Jacobus, in referring to our Cortelyou ancestor. In the Six Mile Run Church baptismal records we find the Jaques, son of Hendrick (2) listed as Jakas. In 1816, Hermanis Cortelyou named both "my son Jaques" and "my son Jaquish" in his will.

Jaques, born November 30, 1843, son of Simon Suydam and Johannah Cortelyou, may have solved the problem by using "Jacob" in later life, as he is so named in the obituary of his brother, Simon. Jaques is spelled thus in the recording in the old family bible, and is said that he changed his name to Jacob when he moved to Wisconsin.

Jacques Wright Wesson, born November 13, 1877, son of Silas D. Wesson and Magdalen Suydam, was listed in the family bible records as Jaques, as well as his father's obituary and several other early records. He was named after his uncle Jaques Suydam. However, in the 1900 census he is listed as "Jacques", written in his father's own hand since Silas D. Wesson was the enumerator for that census in Victor Township. Jacques Wright Wesson pronounced his first name "Jaquish" but always used his middle name, Wright.

His son Jacques Wright Wesson, born November 24, 1913, used his first name and as an adult gave it the French pronunciation. However, he was "Jack" to 99.9% of the relationship. The third Jacques Wright Wesson, born May 11, 1941, at one time signed his letters "Jock", but several years ago he returned to Jacques. Despite the numerous Jacques in public life today, he is - no doubt - often asked, "How do you pronounce your name"?

GARRETSON

We start with our Garretson ancestry in 1634. As with other family names, we find our "Garretson" in the old records as Gerritsen, Gerretsen, Gerritszen, Gerritse, Gerrits, Gerritz, etc., all of which are patronymic forms of Gerrit and indicative of the Christian name of a Dutch ancestor. The suffixes sen, se, szen, s, and z were contractions of sen denoting "son of". The name as we know it today has been in practice since early 1800's.

Our emigrant ancestor was Gerrit Remmersen who was born in East Friesland, Holland, in the year 1634 and came to this country in 1656.

In 1663 he married the widow of one William Gerritsen named Maria or Mary. She presumably was born in Bermuda in 1636 and married a William Gerritsen there in 1650. The fact that her first husband was named Gerritsen is mere coincidence and he is not our ancestral lineage. From this marriage were born two boys and two girls and these children took as their last name Williamsen and Williamse, indicating that they were sons and daughters of William. William and Mary came to this country in 1659 and settled in Kings County, New York.

In the year following her husband's death, Maria married Gerrit Remmersen. He was aged twenty-eight and she twenty-six. Their marriage produced five children:- Anna 1664-1729; Rem 1667-1715; Samuel Gerritsen 1671-1763; Maria 1673-1755; and Rachel 1675-1757. All of these children took the name of Gerritse or Gerritsen. This family were member of the Dutch Reformed Church of Flatlands, Kings County, New York. In 1678 Gerrit moved his family to Manhattan Island where he died on December 27 of that year at the age of forty-four. He was buried in "Stuyvesant's

Church", a cemetery located at a point that later became Broadway and Morris Streets. In 1676 this location was abandoned and the north portion of it became known as Trinity Churchyard and was used as a burying ground.

Maria survived her husband by thirty-three years. She died in 1721 at the age of 85 and was buried in the Gravesend Churchyard.

Samuel Gerritson (2) was born on October 1, 1671, presumably in Kings County, New York. He went with his family on their move to Manhattan in 1678, and we find him moving to Gravesend in 1685. His mother had extensive holdings at that time, and Samuel began acquiring considerable holdings himself. He held property in Gravesend and also land on Gisbert's Island. As a result of land fills, this island is now a part of Coney Island. Samuel was a man of prestige and apparent wealth, and held many public offices.

In 1698 he acquired several parcels of land in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey. His property in Gravesend and rights in the mill were sold in 1698. Even though Samuel was very active in public life and is on record of having witnessed and drew up several wills, no record has ever been found of a will of his. He died on September 4, 1763 at the age of ninety-one years, ten months, and twenty-three days, having outlived his wife and four of his nine children.

To prove the fact of never giving up in genealogy research for each year facts are uncovered, either through chance or purpose, a find of a personal diary in 1884 by a Judge Ricord unleashed much information on the Garretsons. The diary was recorded in Dutch, and as he translated it into English, unfolded were many of the secrets written by Samuel of his complete family. In typical Dutch language such notations as these

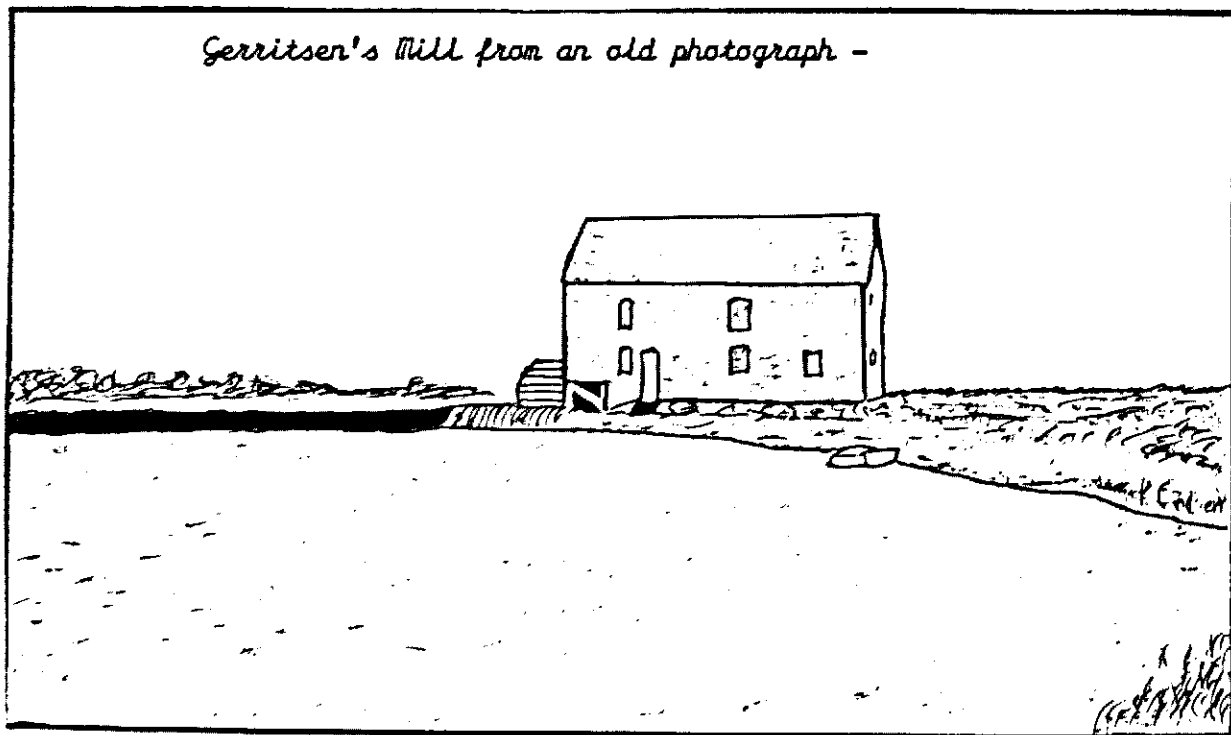
provided the proof of the facts:- " In the year of our Lord 1634 then was my honored father Gerrit Remmersen born in East Friesland in the Town named.....In the year 1659 did my honored mother with her man William Gerretsen in this land arrived.....In the year 1671, on the 1st of October was to her a son born named Samuel on a Sunday.....In the year 1678, the 27th of December, my honored father Slept in the Lord, on a Tuesday in the morning, and was buried in Stuyvesant's Church aged about 44 years".

Samuel married Yda (Ida) Reyder on January 14, 1695. She was a daughter of Barent (Barnardus) Juriansen Reyder and Aaltje (Stevensse Coerten) Voorhees, born on August 15, 1676. Her father Barent emigrated in 1658 and became magistrate of Gravesend in the 1670's. Samuel referred to his wife in his diary as his "worthy wife" and that they "in holy pleasure lived six and fifty years". She died on September 12, 1751, Samuel died on September 4, 1763. The children born to this marriage were:- Bernardus 1696-1765; Gerrit 1698-1752 married Marytje Wyckoff; Samuel Jr 1701 - ca 1766 married probably Metie Suydam a daughter of Hendrick Suydam of Flatbush; Rem 1703-1781, married in 1734 Catryntje and lived along the Millstone River in New Jersey; Aeltie 1705-1740 married Gerrit Wyckoff; Jacobus Gerretson; Maria 1711 probably married Jacobus Joost; Wilhelmus Garretson 1712-1746 did marry and have a family and lived in Somerset County, New Jersey and belonged to the Six Mile Run Church; Johannis 1716-1766 was married twice to Elizabeth Vanderwoort and Jannetje Williamse.

It was this Johannis that operated the Gerritsen's Mill that was burned by vandals in 1934, thought at that time to have been operated for some 200 years, most of this period in ownership by a Gerritson. This mill was a type constructed by the Dutch on Long Island that was known as a tide mill. The creeks and inlets which flowed into the sea swelled

as each tide came in. In order to store the water that the tide brought in, a dam was built across the creek. As the tide rose, flood gates were opened, permitting water to fill the pond above the dam. When the tide reached its crest, the mill pond was full; the flood gates were then closed, retaining the water. On the side of the mill was a mill-race having a gate which, operated by hand, could be raised or lowered, thus allowing as much water as was needed to flow to the undershot mill wheel. Samuel, a son of Johannis, was operating the mill during the revolution and was forced to grind grain for the British. Samuel was not in sympathy with the British cause; therefore, one dark night his mill stones mysteriously "disappeared" and it was not until after the war that they were "found" — deep in the waters of his mill pond. For this act, Samuel was known as a "Patriot of Long Island". If you travel through the southern part of Brooklyn today you will observe signs to Gerritsen Beach, or drive down Gerritsen Avenue, or see Gerritsen creek. To find the site of this mill today, it would be about 150 feet from the point at which Avenue U would intersect the creek if it ran that far.

Gerritsen's Mill from an old photograph -



Jacobus Gerritson (3) was born in Kings County, New York on March 25, 1708. He grew to maturity around Gravesend and in 1732 took for his life's partner Sara Koerten, one of the five daughters of Steven Coerte and Agatha Janse, and a great-granddaughter of Steven Coerte, the common ancestor of the Voorhees family who emigrated from Hees in Holland in 1660 - as mentioned in the Cortelyou ancestry.

It is believed that shortly after his marriage, Jacobus and Sara moved to Somerset County in New Jersey as these people were impressed with the fertile valleys of the Millstone and Raritan Rivers. It is presumed that they occupied land inherited by Sara near the Raritan, and they belonged to the First Dutch Reformed Church of that place and family records are on file there today.

The children born to this marriage were Samuel 1733 d y; Sara; and Jacobus Garretson. Jacobus (3) died in 1746.

Jacobus Garretson (4) was born in 1745 and died in 1812. He married in 1767 Helena Ditmars, daughter of Rem Ditmars and Helena Van Liew of Millstone. Jacobus and Helena lived on a farm along the Millstone river about five miles south of Millstone. Jacobus appears to have been a very religious man and greatly supported his church, not only with money, but also of his time. Prior to 1766 the Dutch families living in the Millstone Valley shared their place of worship with the Scottish Presbyterians. In 1766 the Dutch established their own church, and Jacobus' name appears as having served as an officer of the church from 1780 until his death in 1812.

The area our ancestors occupied at this period was closely associated with the Revolution. A few miles east of the Millstone River was the route over which General Washington retreated across New Jersey after his

defeat on Long Island in 1776. During the first winter of the war, British General Howe was stationed at New Brunswick. Raiding parties were sent out to nearby communities to plunder whatever they could from householders and farmers. In fact, several skirmishes occurred in the area with these raiding parties.

Jacobus and Helena gave to their community eleven children:-

Jacobus, Jr 1758-1802 married Martha Vechter and they had five children; Rem J. 1769-1801 married Elizabeth Veghte and had five children; Sara (Sally) Garretson; Helena 1774 - ; Samuel 1776-1847 married Helena Voorhees and they had eleven children; Johannes 1778-1857 married Jane Hegeman and they had ten children; Stephanus 1781-1845 married Nelly Van Ruys and had three children; Peter 1783-1840 married Elizabeth Polhemus and had four children; Garret 1788-1829 married Johanna Sutphin and had two children; and Idah 1793-1834 married John Stoothoff and had four children. I have listed the size of these families to indicate that to do a complete genealogy on this family alone would be a book in itself! Most of the children of Jacobus and Helena are buried in Millstone, Three Mile Run Cemetery, and South Middlebush Cemetery.

Sara Garretson (5) born February 2, 1771 and died October 18, 1843. She married Harmon Cortelyou possibly in 1803, and you have read the genealogy in the previous Cortelyou chapter.

GARRETSON FAMILY CHART from 1634

Gener- ation

- (1) GERRIT REMMERSEN
 b: 1634 in East Friesland, Holland; came to America 1656
 d: 12-27-1678
 m: 1653 Maria (widow of William Gerritsen)
 b: 1636
 d: 5- 1-1721
- (2) Ch SAMUEL GERRITSEN; Anna 1664-1729; Rem 1667-1715; Maria 1673-
 b: 10- 1-1671 1755; Rachel 1675-1757
 d: 9- 4-1763
 m: 1-14-1695 Yda (Ida) Reyder
 b: 8-15-1676
 d: 9-12-1751
- (3) Ch JACOBUS GERRITSEN: Bernardus 1691-1765; Gerrit 1698-1752; Samuel
 b: 3-25-1708 1701-1766; Rem 1703-1781; Aeltie 1705-1740;
 d: 1-20-1746 Maria 1711-; Wilhelmus 1713-1746;
 m: 1732 Sara Koerte
 b: ca 1712
 d: after 1746
- (4) Ch JACOBUS GARRETSON; Samuel 1733 d y; Sara
 b: 1745
 d: 1812
 m: 1767 Helena Ditmars
 b: 9-16-1749
 d: after 1812
- (5) Ch SARA (SALLY) GARRETSON: Jacobus, Jr 1768-1802; Rem 1769-1801;
 Helena 1774-; Samuel 1776-1847; Johannes
 1778-1857; Stephanus 1781-1845; Peter
 b: 2- 2- 1771 1783-1840; Garret 1788-1829; Dinah 1791-
 d: 10-18-1843 1824; Idah 1793-1834
 m: prob 1803 Harmon Cortelyou

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

- 250th Anniversary of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Raritan,
Somerville, New Jersey - Rev D. R. Evans 1949
- Ancestors of Two Sisters - John Van Zandt Cortelyou
Cape May County, N. J. Magazine 1956
- Centennial of the Hillsborough Dutch Reformed Church at Millstone, Rev.
E. T. Corwin 1866
- Documentary History of New York - E. B. O'Callaghan, M.D. 1850
- Early Settlers of Kings County - Teunis G. Bergen 1881
- Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey
- Historic Homesteads of Kings County (N.Y.) Chas A. Ditmas 1909
- Historic Somerset (N.J.) J. H. Van Horn 1965
- History of Hudson County (N.J.) Chas. H. Winfield 1872
- History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties - J. P. Smell 1881
- History of Kings County New York, Vol 1 - H. R. Stiles 1884
- History of Long Island - Peter Ross 1903
- Life and Times of Peter Stuyvesant
- Long Island - B. F. Thompson 1962
- New Brunswick Reformed Church Marriage Records
- New Jersey Archives Collection. Abstracts of wills.
- New Jersey Colonial Documents
- New Jersey Census 1830, 1840, 1850
- New York Genealogical and Biographical Records
- New York Historical Society Collection - Vols 25 - 41
- One Garretson Family by Arthur Garretson 1973
- Old Dutch Houses of Brooklyn - M. E. Dillard 1942
- Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families - R. F. Bailey 1968
- Somerset County Historical Quarterlies - A Van Doren Honeyman Vol 1 - 8
- The Hillsborough Reformed Church 200th Anniversary, Millstone, N.J.
- Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York - 1897

S U Y D A M

Our Suydam ancestry will start with one Hendrick Rycke (Rijcken) who arrived in America ca 1663 and is presumed to have been born ca 1633. He first located in the suburbs of New Amsterdam and then moved to Flatbush. His wife's name was Ida Jacobs, and they joined with the Dutch Reformed Church in Flatbush in April 1679. Hendrick died in 1701.

Hendrick was known as being from "south of the dam" in Holland, hence we find the Zui, Seyt, Suyt as the prefix denoting the "south", and the family finally adopted the name of Suydam in 1710. In "Riker's Annals of New Town" he claims that our people were originally a German family located at a very remote area in lower Saxony. An ancestor from Holland supposedly took part in the first crusade to the Holy Land in 1096.

Children born to this marriage were Rijck and twin Jacob in 1666; Jacob married Seytie Jacobs and died in 1738; Hendrick who married Bennetie; Rijck 1675-1741; Ida 1678 married Pieter Leffertze; Jannetje 1680; CORNELIUS SUYDAM; Jannetje 1683; Abraham 1684; and Gertrude.

CORNELIUS SUYDAM (2) was born ca 1682 in Flatbush, Long Island and died ca 1771 at Raritan Landing, New Jersey. He moved to the south side of the Raritan River in Somerset County, New Jersey in very early 1700. Cornelius married Marytie Fonteyn, daughter of Charles Fonteyn and Magdaleentjie (Helena) Reinerse. He and his wife are listed as members of the Reformed Church at New Brunswick in 1717. Cornelius's will dated December 12, 1768 was proved on November 11, 1771, and from its content he was a sizeable land owner in Piscataway in Middlesex County as well as in Somerset County.

The children of Cornelius and Marytie were:- Itie 1717; CHARLES SUYDAM; Jannetje 1721 married Abraham Deriemer; Magdaleentje 1722 married George Buys; Maria 1725; Hendrick; Cornelius; Jacob 1731; Marya 1733 married Leonard Buys; Lea 1735 married Bernardus Gerritse; Catrina 1738 married Nicholas Cowenover; Gertje 1739 married Mart Nevius.

CHARLES SUYDAM (3) was born April 1719 and died 1799. He married in 1740 Arrejantie _____, of which very little is known. Charles was the founder of a mill which he ran from 1750 for thirty years and it was then taken over by his son. He was instrumental in getting the dam built to provide the power for his mill. This family, as the others, were members of the Dutch Reformed Church. Their children were:- Maria 1741; Idah 1745-1822 married Abraham Nevius; CORNELIUS SUYDAM: Charles 1749; Jacob 1751; Hendrick 1753; and Oake.

CORNELIUS SUYDAM (4) was born in May 1747 and died 1797. He married Rachel Collins, and again very little is known of her except that we find her baptised in the Dutch Reformed Church on June 6, 1788. This family lived in the same area as their fore fathers and carried on the same family occupations. The children born to this family were JOHANNES (JOHN) SUYDAM; Antje 1770; Maria 1773; Charles 1775; Hendrick 1778; Mathewis 1781; Jannetje 1783, and there may have been others.

JOHANNES (JOHN) SUYDAM (5) was born in 1769. He married on May 5, 1795 Antie (Ann) French, whose lineage will follow in the next chapter. Ann was baptised on September 3, 1770 in New Brunswick, New Jersey and was also a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. From this union a child, SIMON BOIS SUYDAM was born on June 4, 1803. I have no record of other births in this family, and I also have no record that Simon was the only child. He, however, is the progenitor of the Suydams in Illinois.

SIMON BOIS SUYDAM (6) was born in Somerset County, New Jersey. He married on February 16, 1825 Johannah Cortelyou at the Six Mile Run Church in New Jersey. He died on June 21, 1899, a full 96 years of age, and is buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery, Sandwich, Illinois, in the older part of the cemetery behind the present caretakers house. Johannah died July 7, 1881 and is buried with her husband.

Simon was an ambitious young man and worked on the family farm until his marriage. He then moved to a farm near Millstone, New Jersey and engaged in farming on his own. He evidently had a great desire to go to new places, for in 1835 he purchased an 80 acre farm in Butler County, Ohio. This move for him and Johannah must have been quite an undertaking with five little children, but they made the move and settled down to farm in Ohio.

In 1838, the urge to move further west again caught up with Simon for he then purchased a 160 acre farm near Fairview, Fulton County, Illinois. His move was with only five children, having lost one in Ohio and also achieving another birth. He farmed in this area until 1851, and added another four children to his family. However, he evidently wasn't satisfied with this place to try to make a living, for in that year he chose to make another move. Simon must have been a man of great endurance, foresight, and of strong determinations. It is difficult for me to understand, with his large family and the rigorous pioneer living, that he would undertake yet another move. In his mind the decision was made, and his last move in 1851 was the one that perpetrated the act that created this large Wesson family in the mid west - when his daughter and a young Wesson had entered into a lifelong pact of marriage and rearing a large family. This move brought him to DeKalb

County where he finally secured 320 acres of farm land, and settled down to complete his life long ambitions.

Simon Bois and Johannah Suydams family consisted of:-

- (1) Annamara (Ann) b May 14, 1826, died May 16, 1900, married on October 16, 1847, Michael F. Stout
- (2) Herman b February 3, 1828, died March 7, 1872, married Phebe ?.
- (3) Sarah b January 13, 1830 married John Scolville
- (4) Matilda D. b February 14, 1832, married S. B. Skinner February 12, 1851
- (5) John b February 23, 1834, died October 10, 1835. These children being born in New Jersey
- (6) John H. b April 7, 1837 in Ohio, died in 1887 and married Emily Burk. John served in the Civil War and was wounded.
- (7) Simon Peter b August 8, 1839, married November 7, 1866 Sarah O. Brown 1846-1899, and he died January 8, 1918. He also served in the Civil War.
- (8) Cornelius P. b November 8, 1841, died January 24, 1862 in Virginia a victim of Typhoid fever while serving in the Civil War, refer to diary entry of same date - and buried in Arlington Cemetery in Virginia, grave No. 1202
- (9) Jacques C. b November 30, 1843
- (10) MAGDALEN SUYDAM b October 15, 1845 in Fairview, Illinois and died March 30, 1926 in Victor Township, DeKalb County, Ill., and buried the Victor Cemetery.

The Suydam Methodist Church in rural DeKalb County derives its name from this family. Church services were first held at the home of Simon and Johannah and consisted of Sunday school, class meetings, and occasion-

al preachings by a circuit rider. On September 15, 1876, Simon and Johannah conveyed a parcel of land to "The Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church" consisting of .7 of an acre and measuring 8 rods by 14 rods. The deed reads "for and in consideration of Fifty Dollars". I tend to believe that this land was a gift to the church, for if a deed is valid a consideration must be stipulated and I think this sum so designated just validated the deed.

The first church was realized from the sale of a gift of 80 acres of land given to the society by a Mr. E. F. Cook. Cook died at 27 years of age from tuberculosis, but having been greatly influenced by the early services in the Suydam home and school house, he willed these 80 acres to the church. The original church was destroyed by fire in 1915. The church that was rebuilt still remains today. Simon and Johannah were of the first members of this church society which dates back to 1868.

The Suydam Church is known for its unique land mark, the buggy shed. This shed has been maintained in good repair to serve as this unique land mark.

The authors mother, Lillian Schaeffer, was named to the committee at the second meeting of the womens group to formulate a name, this being in 1903. The name chosen and adopted was "Ladies Social Circle". Her mother was the first secretary.

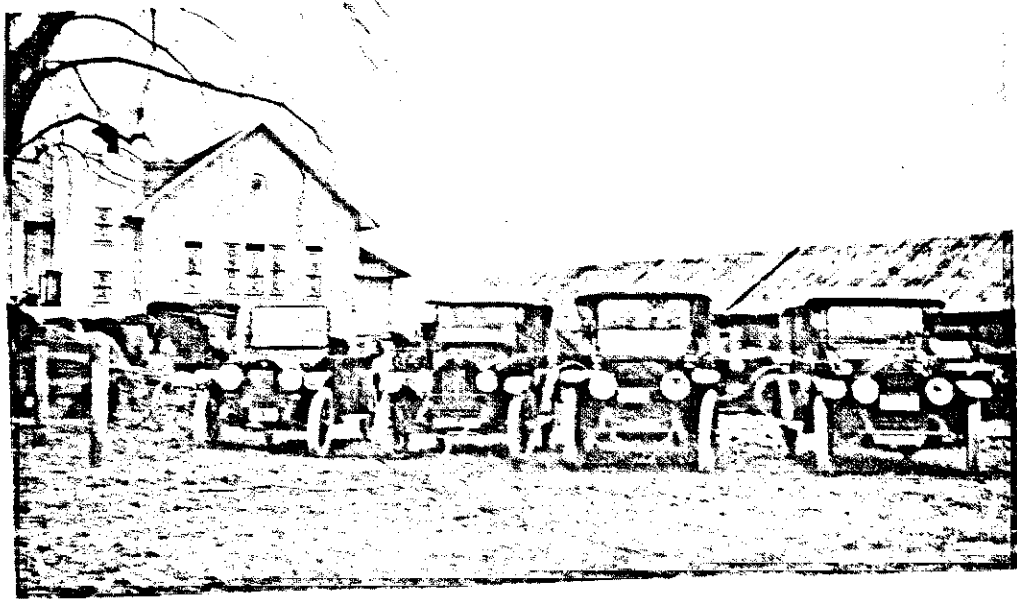
SUYDAM FAMILY CHART from 1663

Generation

- (1) HENDRICK RYCKE
 b: ca 1633 arrived in America 1663
 d: 1701
 m: Ida Jacobs
 b:
 d:
- (2) Ch CORNELIUS SUYDAM; Rijik 1666; Jacob 1666-1738; Hendrick;
 b: ca 1682 Rijik 1675-1741; Ida 1678; Jannetje 1680;
 d: ca 1771 Jannetje 1683; Abraham 1684; Gertrude
 m: Marytie Fonteyn
 b:
 d:
- (3) Ch CHARLES SUYDAM; Itie 1717; Jannetje 1721; Magdaleentje 1722;
 b: 4- -1719 Maria 1725; Hendrick; Cornelius; Jacob 1731;
 d: 1799 Marya 1733; Lea 1735; Catrina 1738; Gertje
 m: 1740 Arrenjantie _____ 1739
 b:
 d:
- (4) Ch CORNELIUS SUYDAM; Maria 1741; Idah 1745-1822; Charles 1749;
 b: 5- -1747 Jacob 1751; Hendrick 1753
 d: 1797
 m: Rachel Collins
 b: 6- 6-1788
 d:
- (5) Ch JOHANNES SUYDAM; Antje 1770; Maria 1773; Charles 1775; Hend-
 b: 1769 rick 1778; Mathewis 1781; Jannetje 1783;
 d: perhaps others
 m: 5- 5-1795 Ann French
 b: 9- 3-1770
 d:
- (6) Ch SIMON BOIS SUYDAM;
 b: 6- 4- 1803
 d: 6-21- 1899
 m: 2-16- 1825 Johannah Cortelyou
 b: 12-25-1804
 d: 7- 7-1881
- (7) Ch MAGDALEN SUYDAM; Annomara M. 1826-1900; Herman 1828-1872;
 b: 10-15-1845 Sarah 1830 - ; Matilda D. 1832 - ; John 1834-
 d: 3-30-1926 1835; John H. 1837-1887; Simon Peter 1839-
 1918; Cornelius : 1841-1862; Jacques 1843- .
 m: 10-15-1866 Silas Dexter Wesson
 b: 8-22-1839
 d: 2- 4-1909

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- An Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent* by Wm. J. Hoffman
Annals of Newtown
Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey,
New Brunswick marriage and baptism records.
Family Records
First Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway & Woodbridge - Olde
East New Jersey by Monette
New Jersey Archives, First Series, Vol xlii
New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings, July and April 1936, Vol
54 - 56 "Raritan Landing That Was"
New York Genealogy and Biographical Records, Vol 67, 1936
Past and Present of DeKalb County, Vol 1 and 2
Portrait and Biographical Album, DeKalb County, Ill., Chapman Bros 1885
Somerset County Historical Quarterly - Vol 5
Tombstone inscriptions, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Sandwich, Illinois
1840 U. S. Census, Fairview, Fulton County, Ill
1870 U. S. Census, Victor Twp, DeKalb County, Ill
1880 U. S. Census, DeKalb County, Ill
Henry Cobb Stryker & Amanda Rosetta Walker by Daisy Belle Wickberg
(typed manuscript)



The Suydam Church on a Sunday morning, about 1920, showing the use of the buggy shed and the beginning of the transition to the "gas buggy".



Suydam Church in October 1976, showing restored buggy shed, and a few additions to the church building itself.

The Families of

FRENCH - COUWENHOVEN - VAN WICKELLEN - BOICE that are a part of our heritage. We will briefly show the ancestral lines of these families as our information is rather brief and we have not exercised a lot of effort to make them more complete.

We find a *JAN VAN WICKELLEN* of the Netherlands who married a *Sytie* (last name unknown). One of their children, *EVERT JANSEN VAN WICKELLEN*, was born in 1662 and brought to America in 1664, "betrothed February 27, 1690 to *Mettje Symonsen*".

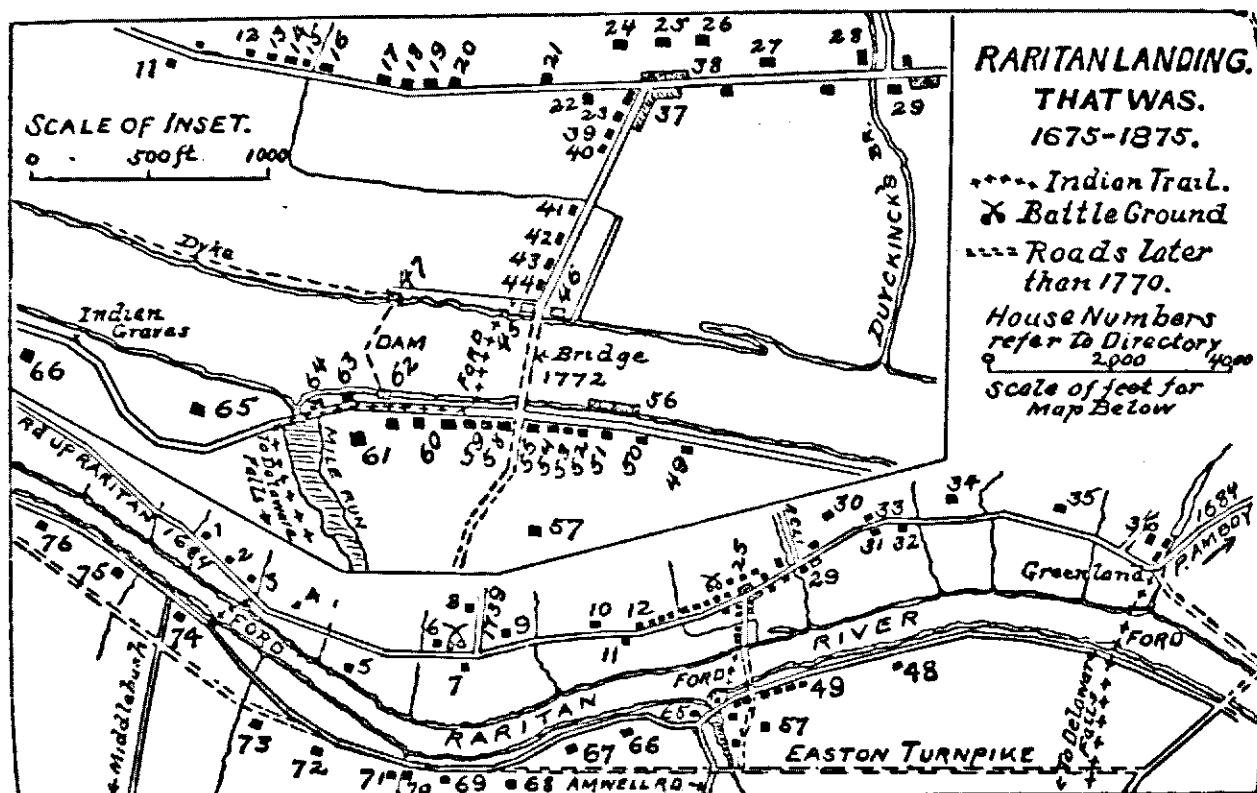
SIMON VAN WICKELLEN, a child of *Evert* and *Mettje*, was born in 1700 and died in 1754. He married a *Gerradina Couwenhoven*, who was baptised in 1709.

Gerradina was a daughter of *Nicassius Couwenhoven* and *Elsie*. *Nicassius Couwenhoven* was a son of *John Couwenhoven* and *Gerdientie De Sille*, who was a grand daughter of *Nicassius De Sille*, a lawyer from France and an important man in New Amsterdam in America. He did very much in helping to form the new colony and its government. *John* was a son of *Gerrit Couwenhoven* and a grandson of *Wolfert Gerritsen Van Couwenhoven*. I mention these names and the connection as they are prominent in reading of the early history of our country.

Simon and *Gerradina* had a daughter *SELTJE VAN WICKELLEN* who was born in 1732, married in 1749 a *JOHN BOICE*, born 1723. The *Boice* families are prominent in early records and are found spelled *Boyce*, *Boise*, *Bois*, *Buys*, *Boys*, *Bice*, and *Buis*. This marriage produced a daughter *GARDINA BOICE*, born in 1751.

GARDINA BOICE married a *JOHN FRENCH*, son of *William French* and *Antje Sebring* who were married in 1742. *Gardina* and *John* had two children, a

son William born in 1774, and a daughter ANN FRENCH, born on September 30, 1770, that married JOHANNES SUYDAM.



A Directory of Raritan Landing 1675-1875. This indicates the occupancy, not always the ownership, of dwellings. Numbers indicate the location of dwellings on the above map. (9) Charles Suydam residence 1740 - 1780. (47) Charles Suydam mill, owned from 1750 - 1780, and then by Hendrick Suydam until 1800. Charles was the prime mover in getting the dam built. (68) Cornelius Suydam and wife Maritie Fontyn from 1703 - 1765. (21) William French, 1749-1780, with warehouses, destroyed in 1776-1777, then he occupied #30 until 1814. William French also owned # 31. Losses in the Revolution at Raritan Landing were as follows: (21 - 30) William French & 753, large dwelling, storehouse, second dwelling, barns, smoke house, household goods, farming utensils, 3 swords, gun, bayonet,

2 Bibles, cattle. John French looted of goods £ 103. (9) Charles Suydam £ 2,033. Damage to dwelling and mill, 2 negroe wenches, horses, cattle, 3,300 panels fence. Buildings at the homestead, cider mill, wagon house, barn, hovel, barrack, damage to dwelling, cash, rum, metheglin, etc. (76) John French £ 151, house and kitchen burnt, horses taken. In this area, there were 57 families who suffered damages in this war.



Simon Bois Suydam, taken from an old group photograph, 1898.

Nothing that is memorable ever passes -

For in memory the past is ever present.

(Reddings)

Silas Dexter Wesson's tour of service during the Civil War has been made more interesting because of the diary that he kept, and which is available. I felt that some of the records received from the War Department regarding Deck were of sufficient interest and historical value, that I have included them. The first is the record of his enlistment in September 1861 and of his first Camp Muster-in-roll. His enlistment with Capt. Freeman's Co., Ill Volunteers, became Co. K, 8th Regiment, Illinois Cavalry.

W | S Cav. | Ill.

 Silas D. Wesson
 _____, Co. K, 8 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.

Appears on
 Regimental Descriptive Book
 of the regiment named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 22 years; height 5 feet 10 inches.
 Complexion Sandy
 Eyes Grey; hair Brown
 Where born Chatauque, N.Y.
 Occupation Farmer

ENLISTMENT.

When Sept 7, 1861.
 Where Victoria, In Wm
 By whom Stanley; term 3 y'rs.
 Remarks:

W | S Cav. | Ill.

Silas D. Wesson
 5 Capt., Capt. Freeman's Co., Illinois Vols.*
 Age 22 years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll
 of the organization named above. Roll dated

Camp Kane Sept 18, 1861.
 Muster-in to date Sept 18, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When _____, 186

Where _____

Period 3 years.

Bounty paid \$100; due \$100

Valuation of horse, \$100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$100

Height 5 ft 10 in.; eyes Grey

Hair Brown; complexion Sandy

Remarks:

* This organization subsequently became Co. K, 8 Reg't Ill. Cav.

Book mark: 2873 - B - aqs (13) 72 (one)

Bollinger

On the following page is a copy of the Casualty Sheet which became a part of his record. He was wounded "slightly", it says, in June of 1863, at action at Beverly Ford. It is said that he was standing in his saddle, drawing a bead on a "Johnny Reb" and about to fire when he was struck by a Minnie Ball and spun from his saddle. The bullet entered the front of the fleshy part of his thigh, and almost passed through. The fact that the bullet that hit him was nearly spent, caused this slug to tear a "patch" from his trousers. This patch then covered the bullet, and when it was removed was claimed to have saved his life. Civil War soldiers often actually died of lead poisoning from slugs that remained in the body too long, and the fact that the cloth covered this bullet probably saved him from lead poisoning.

Had he not been wounded at Beverly Ford, he would have been in the thick of the battle of Gettysburg, as his unit was the first to become involved. They fired the first shot west and north of the city on McPerson Ridge as the enemy crossed Marsh Creek Bridge on July 1, 1863. A monument marks the spot today where this action took place.

Deck's association during the war with a Brig. General Elon Farnsworth, who captured the esteem and admiration of Deck, and was killed in a futile charge ordered by General Kilpatrick, was the basis for the name of his tenth child, and my father.

(See reverse for explanation)

Co. K, 8 Illinois Cavalry
Union

CASUALTY SHEET.

Name, Silas S. Kesson

Rank, Corp, Company K, Regiment, 8th

Arm, Cavalry, State, Illinois

Place of casualty, Beverly Ford Va

Nature of casualty, Wounded Highly

Date of casualty, June 9 1863

FROM WHAT SOURCE THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED.

Report of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the 8th Ill. Cav. & Regiment,

Brigade, Division, Corps, acted during the year 1863
Signed, S. A. Forsyth Maj. Comd. 8th Regt Ill. Cav. (Index 174123 pg 6)

E. J. Terry
Clerk.

Copies of the Daily
Reports during his period
of recuperating.

W | S Cav. | Ill.

S D Wesson

, Co. K, 8 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.

Appears on Returns as follows:

*June & July 1863 Absent sick
& wounded in hospital*

W | S Cav. | Ill.

Silas D Wesson

Capt, Co. K, 8 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for *May & June*, 1863.

Present or absent. *Absent.*

Stoppage, \$.....100 for

Due Gov't, \$.....100 for

Valuation of horse, \$.....100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$.....100

Remarks: *Wounded and sent
to Hospital June 9, 1863*

W | S Cav. | Ill.

Silas D. Wesson

Capt, Co. K, 8 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for *July & Aug*, 1863.

Present or absent. *Present*

Stoppage, \$.....100 for

Due Gov't, \$.....100 for

Valuation of horse, \$.....100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$.....100

Remarks: *Returned to Company Aug 8
1863.*

Record of Re-Enlistment and Final Muster-Out.

W | 8 Cav. | Ill.

Silas D. Kesson
Copt., Co. *K*, 8 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.

Age *24* years.

Appears on a

Detachment Muster-out Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Culpeper C.H. Va. Dec 31, 1863.

Muster-out to date *Dec 31, 1863.*

Last paid to *Oct 31, 1863.*

Clothing account:

Last settled....., 186 ; drawn since \$ 100

Due soldier \$ *1.54* 100; due U. S. \$ 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ 100

Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ *1.00* 100

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipment \$ 100

Remarks *Discharged by re-enlistment as per roll under G.O. 191 June 63 War Dept*

* Authority was granted by the War Department, under date of Dec. 29, 1901, to re-enlist as Veterans members of this organization who had served less than two years. - 100-C-1902.

Book mark:

(349)

J. J. Baker

Copyist.

W | 8 Cav. | Ill.

Silas D. Kesson
Sgt., Co. *K*, 8 Reg't Illinois Cavalry.

Age *24* years.

Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated

Benton Banacks Mo July 17, 1865.

Muster-out to date *July 17, 1865.*

Last paid to *Oct 31, 1865.*

Clothing account:

Last settled *Dec 31, 1864*; drawn since \$ *20.43* 100

Due soldier \$ *9.94* 100; due U. S. \$ 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ 100

Bounty paid \$ *210.00* 100; due \$ *190.00* 100

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks *Vel*

Stoppages retained per B.O. 161 War Dept June 5/65 for arms money value \$3.00

Book mark:

(351)

Symons

Copyist.

Following are copies, as I have them, of several letters that Deck wrote home while in the service during the Civil War. They are presented in a chronological order and reveal camp life, thoughts, and activity not found in his diary.

Washington, Nov 27th, 1861

Dear Brother and Sister

I received your letter a day ago. I was glad to hear from you at last. I did not give you the right address and it did not come promptly. I am well and comfortably situated in a tent although it is quite cold and rainy. It is colder than I thought in this climate. We do not know where we shall winter yet but I think it will be in this vicinity somewhere. We have not received our arms yet. It seems that they are not in a hurry to send us in the field. We are formed in a Brigade with 2 other Regiments under Gen Palmer of New York. We do not live as fine as we did in St. Charles. All kinds of notions are very high - apples are 5 cts apiece and small ones at that but our chief trouble is stamps. Our P. M. in camp will not keep Postage stamps and we have to buy of pedlars. I have seen them sold for 5 cents apiece. I sent home and got some so I keep a supply on hand. We have not received any pay yet. I do not know when we shall either. When you write direct to 8th Ills Cavalry, Company K it will be sure to reach me then. I receive a letter from Father, they were all well. I believe I have written all the news so I will close. Give my love to the children so Good bye

Affectionate Brother

S. D. Wesson

Camp California, Jan 8th, 1862

Dear Sister

I received yours of the 29th in due season. I was glad to hear from you. I am in good health. The weather is very cold, it is like winter now. John Gosper is very sick he is in the hospital. I do not think he is in any danger now. There is not any news of importance to write everything goes on in the same old way. Our new Capt (Farnsworth) is a first rate Capt. Co K is all right now. I had a letter from Olive. She tells me she is not going to marry but I know better. I think she will commit

matrimony before long. I received those stamps they are very welcome but my wants are supplied now. I went to Alexandria the other day and bought \$1.00 worth which I think will stand me until I am through with Uncle Sam. We have signed a pay roll for 2 months pay. I expect we shall get our money in a few days. I intend to send mine home by mail and run the risk. I have written all the news I can think so I will stop. Give my love to the children tell Rena Uncle Dexter is coming back and fetch her nice present by and by and expect to see me when the war is over by the blessings of Providence.

Address Alexandria Fairfax C.
Virginia

Your Affectionately
S. D. Wesson

Alexandria Jan 31st 1862

Dear Brother & Sister

I thought I would try and write a little today it being the last of the month. I have been very sick but I am better now. I have had the camp fever. This sickness is very great in our camps. The boys are taken down without any warning and in many cases it is fatal. We have left the camp and gone into quarters in the city. We live in a good house it is very comfortable indeed. I do not think I shall be able to do duty again for a long time. I do not gain strength very fast. I suppose Olive is married before this. I do not know but somehow I think she might as well have "staid away" although it may prove a happy union. I do not think there will be much done in the army until spring there is so many sick. It is very gloomy weather it is mud and rain all the time but we are in a good house and our horses are in a good stable so we can stand the bad weather. I suppose you have heard of Cornelius Suydam death. He died of Typhoid Fever. I think some of his folks will come out after him. I am getting tired so please excuse me and as I grow stronger I will write again. Give my love to all the children and I remain yours

Affectionately
S. D. Wesson

Alexandria Feb 7th, 1862

Dear Brother

I thought I would write a few lines for it is a bad spell of weather just now. It rains nearly all the time. Mr. Suydam has been here for the last few days he started for home this morning. I am gaining slow but sure. I am able to run around and see the city. It is an old town it looks as old as Noahs Ark. Everything is very high. Butter 25cts. Eggs the same per doz. Potatoes \$1.00 per bushell etc.

I have lived on my Private pocket for the last few days. I could not eat Uncle Sams coarse rations it costs too much I have got to stop it. The weather is so bad the roads are almost impassible and the army is obliged to lay still. Everything is at a stand still and will be until the roads get better. There is a good many of the boys are sick. It is chiefly Fevers that ails them. We are very comfortable in our brick house it seems like living at home again. I have not heard from home lately or the letters have been lost. It is true that half the letters I write from here are stopped or lost in the mail. I do not know the reason why. I suppose it is some of the clerks who expect to get money. There is no news to write of any account so I will close and wait until something happens to write about. Give my love to all the children and I remain.

Yours in Friendship

S. D. Wesson

Alexandria Feb 21st 62

Dear Brother and Sister

I was glad to receive a letter from you at last. I began to think my letters had not reached you. I am fully returned to health but a great many are sick yet. But thank fortune we are under marching orders as soon as the rain will stop long enough for us to get through the mud, and you may expect to hear of an advance Southward. 1000 men have gone today out towards Manassas to explore the country. It is reported that the Rebels have fled from the place. I do not think it would be a very hard job to take Manassas now. But you take the news up there and you hear of a Bttle before we do. There is nothing going on in Alexandria it is as quiet as Little Rock. The old city is about dead. Secession has killed it. I rec'd a letter Father today, all well. Give my love to the children.

Potomac Creek May 10th

Dear Bro & Sister

Today our first day in camp. For the last 10 days we have been going day and night with the usual weather, rain and wind, mud knee deep. I feel as sleepy as I ever did after a frolic. Today it is as hot as a furnace. The weather has been cold until today. We have returned from the wilderness at last without having the pleasure of joining Stoneman on his raid in the rear of the Reb army, all owing to the cowardice or something else of our General. At any rate Hooker was so displeased he arrested him and sent him to Washington to stand a court of Inquiry. Gen Averill is the one that I refer to. You will understand the programme like this. Stoneman crossed the Rappahannock below Fredricksburg and passed around the right flank of the Reb Army while a division under Averill crossed the upper ford and met Stoneman at Gordonsville in the rear of the Rebs and about 25 miles from Richmond. Stoneman performed his part to perfection. Averill crossed the Rappahannock and got as far as the Rapidan without seeing a Reb when on the opposite bank of the Rapidan we found a squadron of Cavalry and one piece of Artillery. He halted and waited for them to retreat but they didn't and so he did. This we failed in our part of the expedition all for some reason, what I do know and probably never shall unless Averill is court-martialed. Though you have probably by this time seen all the particulars. Our last fight I want to say that we was not whipped as bad as you might think. True Hooker has fallen back across the river but I am certain the Rebs got the worst in the fight, The Infantry all say so too. But the Reb army was much larger than Hooker supposed. Besides the 11th Army corps (Sigels) would not fight. The reason they gave was that Sigel did not lead them but the true one probably is many of the Regts time was out in a few days. Some of them even their time expired the night of the battle (Friday). Gen Stoneman said there was not a soldier in Richmond, all had been sent to the front. If Averill had joined him he said he would have tried to ride right into Richmond. It is not improbable at all for there was no defenders but the city guards, a kind of Police. He went near enough to view the town and capture a sergeant and his squad of the city guards. John Gasper came today. Those boots were just the thing, accept my most sincere thanks. Thanks cannot express my gratitude.

The value of such a gift here too cannot be expressed in words, a pair of boots from Illinois! I was offered \$25.00 for them as soon as it was known. I quietly informed the person that money could not buy them. The boys say if I get killed in a fight they will take great pains to keep the Rebs from getting me for the sake of those boots. This is my first attempt at writing for so long I don't know as you can read it. This will do now. If we don't leave tomorrow I will write again.

I am so sleepy I cant hold my eyes open. Goodbye. Deck
Give my love to the children. I am going to write to Grettie tomorrow.

New Kent Court House May 12th

Dear Brother and Sister

I recd a letter from you yesterday. I was glad to hear from "America" once more. We left Alexandria the 23rd April and after a few days we landed at Ship Point at the mouth of York river. Yorktown was evacuated within a few days after our arrival and since then it has been busy times I tell you. For 3 days we did not take the saddles off our horses and 2 nights we stood all night at their side ready to spring into the saddle at any moment. But we have not been in any hard fight yet but two or 3 skirmishes. I crossed the battle field at Williamsburg and it was rather a bloody sight but the dead were mostly Gray coats and I did not feel the least bit sorry. Our men suffered severely but the rebels suffered more but of course the papers have told you all about it long before this. We are excamped at New Kent Court house, 25 miles from Richmond in the most beautiful country I believe I ever saw. It is warm and dry and if it were not for the war the country would seem a Paradise on earth. John Gosper is here with the rest of the boys tough and hearty. The health of all the boys is very good. We live very temperate, sometimes we have one meal a day, sometimes none and then again all we can eat. Our food is hard crackers and meat, and coffee when we get enough of that we are lucky. My paper is all in half sheets and dirty as can be but it as good as anyone has here in camp. Sitting here among the horses and dust flying all over me my paper does not look very nice. I have heard from home lately. Tina told me of the death of Stevens, it seems the measles are very fatal this year. Pierce died in the hospital

before we left Alexandria. I do not know whether his wife knows it yet or not. I ought to write to her but I almost dread to tell her the news for she will be nearly crazy with grief, for she is really left desolate, without anything to support her family.

I believe I have written all the news now. I hope to date my next at Richmond if I am spared, but the chance is good for a bloody fight before we enter the city. But McClellan is enough for them easy enough. Give my love to the children. Tell Rena to learn fast. She will be a schoolmarm someday and a good one too. My respects to Miss Gosper and goodbye for a while.

Yours Affectionately

S. D. Wesson

Mechanicsville, June 12th, 1862

Dear Brother and Sister

After a long silence I will once more try to write a little. It is a hard task for me to write. It is not very easy to write when one is on picket guard all night, and the weather is quite warm, making it a strong temptation to get in the shade and sleep. We are all quiet now, no more fighting since the Battle at Bottoms Bridge. There has been quite a number of "flags of truce" passing back and forth over the lines. I of course do not know what it is about, but surely there must be some kind of business that is important going on. I hope it will result in ending this war. I do not feel like fighting much more. It is getting too warm and besides I have been rather unwell for a day or two and that makes a fellow feel rather homesick. The health of the boys is generally good. George Gould has gone home on a furlough. He was wounded in his left shoulder by a pistol ball. I fear it made me homesick to see him go home feeling so happy, but never mind I am coming too some time. There was part of our Reg't in the Battle at Bottoms Bridge. I believe we had one man killed. The secesh deserters say, that their army cant stand another such battle. Their men are very discontented they desert every chance they get. Every thing is very high here. Butter 50cts pr. lb. potatoes \$4.00 per bushel flour and meal in proportion (there is not any sale for it in the Army) Cheese 50cts etc., etc. But the country abounds in Fruit and that we take without any price. Strawberries, cherries are already in full blush the cherries are the finest

I ever saw. Every Apple & Peach tree hangs full, if we stay here until Autumn our fruit stores will be boundless. I understand Beauregard's Army is broken up by Gen Halleck, we do not get the papers here very often. I do not know whether it is true or not. I believe I have written all the news, write often I like to receive letters even if I do not always answer at once. You must excuse my not writing oftener for if you was here you would not blame me. Give my love to the children, so good bye

Yours Affectionately

S. D. Wesson

P.S. I send you a secesh Postage Stamp it has been used but you can see what a price Jeff charges for letters.

Harrisons Landing July 25th

Dear Brother & Sister

I rec'd yours of the 18th. I was surprised to hear that you had not heard from me since the Battle. As soon as we arrived at Harrison's Landing I wrote a full account of my adventures but it seems it did not get through. Our mail arrangements are not very regular. It is almost an accident if a letter goes at all. I do not know hardly how to state my feelings during the retreat. It seemed to me like one constant battle. We were under arms day and night being employed in standing guard nights and scouting all over the country both day & night. First the fight at Mechanicsville and after that it was one constant war and confusion of Battle and preparing for another. I kept no acct of time and as for stopping to think it was out of the question. We did not lose but a few men not half as many as we have lost since we have been standing Picket. Our Reg't has lost about 20 men in skirmishing in the woods on Turkey Bench Creek and at Malvern's Hill. The country around that place is a heavily timbered swamp, it is like hunting wild beasts to venture into such a place. About my feelings in battle there is but one answer that any soldier can testify to that is no thoughts at all. It is no place for thinking as the bullets go by your ears it sounds like the hissing of boiling water. Zip! Zip! and the scream of a shell as it goes through the air is the most horrible sound that you can imagine. When soldiers do break and fly it is the very worst of horrors every man fleeing for life frightens a hundred more and this it spreads like wildfire. It is

a brave man indeed that can resist a stampede. Our feelings here are still for McClellan. I believe the whole army is willing to trust to "Little Mac". The weather is very hot many of the boys are sick with fevers. I hope the army will advance soon and get out of this hole. Everything is high Cheese 80cts per lb. Butter 50 so our treats are rather costly. I have filled my sheet I must wait until another time. Write often direct to Washington D. C.

Yours truly
S.D.W.

Harrisons Landing July 28th

Dear Brother

As it is rather difficult for a letter to reach you from here I will try to write oftener while we stay in camp. I have just came in from picket duty. All is quiet on the lines now I think the Rebels are falling back. The next thing we shall hear of will be Jackson will be up in the valley to overwhelm Pope's army as he did Banks. I would like to see our army advance towards Richmond again. The weather is very hot the air is like a furnace. The weather has a bad effect on the boys. Many are sick with fevers and when a person gets sick it seems that he never will get well. The health of the Victor boys is good, however. I hope we will be sent to the west to hunt out the guerilla parties in Ky. and Missouri. It is far better than fighting in regular battles. It is rather dangerous to be sure but we live better, get plenty for our horses, have a new camp every night (which is far healthier) and last and most important there is a better feeling between officers and men. Common danger makes all friends. In camp this is not always the case, the Officers put on their fine clothes and style and order the boys about with all the authority of a Major General. Since Col Farnsworth went home Lt. Col. Garble has been trying to introduce the Russian discipline. He is a perfect tyrant, he seems to delight in punishing the men for some little fault. I had rather be in the field all the time than stay in camp. John is going to send a few lines to Carrie I believe, I am going to find him and get it so I will end my chapter. Give my love to the children. Good bye

Yours truly
S. D. Wesson

Camp Relief Aug 11th

Dear Brother & Sister

I cannot write but a few words but I feel as if I must write a little as I have not written for so long. I have been sick for several weeks fever and diarrhea have run me down as weak as a child. I do not expect to get much better until it gets cooler weather. I have received letters from Ida and Aggie and from many others. But I shall have to wait until I get better before I answer. Remember me to all friends. I will write as soon as I get better.

in haste your brother

S.D. Wesson

Sharpsburg, Md. Sept 22, 1862

Dear Brother & Sister

I have not forgotten you although it has been an age since I wrote to you. At least it seems so to me. I have sought for an opportunity to write and this is my first. Of course you know of the stirring times we have had here in Md. The 8th Ill has had their full share in this campaign. We have not lost but a few men. It sometimes seems to me we are under protection. Other Regiments lose many men and we go ahead and lose none. But we have the best Col in the service. Farnsworth is acting Adjutant General now but he is with us all the time and a better leader could not be found. We whipped Jackson bad here. I am sorry to say we let him across the river. It is the opinion of many that he could have been compelled to surrender at least the prisoners say that they were so badly whipped that if we had kept up firing half an hour longer they would have surrendered. But we held up a day and gave him a chance to escape. I have enjoyed good health since I have been here. The weather is fine dry and warm. It is very healthy up here among the hills and mountains. The people here seem very glad to see us but a great many are secesh but dare not show it openly now. I think Jackson lost more recruits in this state than he got. The battle field here is covered with dead secesh I do not know the exact number of killed yet. I have not seen any account of it yet in the papers. I would like to write Grandmother but I do not know her address. Please send it to me in your next. John Gosper is well he is orderly for Col Farnsworth now.

All the boys are well from Victor. I hear Manson has enlisted. I am sorry for it he is too young and tender he will not stand it I know. I notice the young boys are sick nearly all the time. Their constitutions are not hardened to withstand the exposure that they are obliged to endure. There was a great many new troops here at the Battle. They were better than the old troops so they said. I do not know where we will go from here but I suppose we will have a winter campaign in Virginia this winter. I must stop now and cook my dinner. Give my respects to Cousin Garrett and all the friends. Meanwhile I remain

Yours Affectionately
S. D. Wesson

Knoxville Oct 23d/62

Dear Sister and Cousin

You will see this is a partnership letter at once. Perhaps you will think it indicates laziness, or a desire to shirk from duty. I can "not Guilty" however a soldiers laziness is proverbial. My excuse is time. We are now in camp, for a while at least and we are obliged to drill and "dress Parade" nearly all day with attending to our horses keeps us as busy as bees. I rec'd yours of the 5th sometime ago. I have written to Grandmother. I do not know what she will think about it for I hardly knew what to write. I have just received a letter from Tina, all well is about all she ever writes although she did write something about a Pumpkin once. I should think, Garrett, with your large school of little folks it would be inconvenient to oversee it, if Tina description is true, although I heartily agree with you about the usefulness of small folks. McClellan is a little stick of a fellow, almost as broad as he is long but when he moves it is with all his might. We are encamped near Harpers Ferry at a place called Knoxville. I think our work is done for this campaign. Wait for another season. Wait! Wait! it seems and I really believe, the leaders of this war do not care how long it lasts or else they are crazy. We poor soldiers, rank and file of the army are anxious enough I assure you. But we cannot help ourselves so we all wait. There has been quite a number of recruits joined our Reg't from Ills. I guess we enjoy a good reputation at home. I see that Col Farnsworth is named for Congress. I hope he will not leave us yet. I acknowledge the receipt of those stamps. I thank you much for them although I have plenty

now. But as Garreta says not to despise the day of small things, so is "Brevity the soul of wit: so the shorter my letter the better.

Yours etc

S. D. Wesson

Aquila Creek Nov 24th/62

Dear Sister and Cousin

I rec'd your letter of the 7th a few days ago. This is my first opportunity to answer. I tell you, it is busy times with us now. We started from Harpers Ferry Oct 31st since which time we have been going night and day and now we are at Aquila Creek to stay two days and then we will be off again. I have since read Lucinda's last congratulating the army upon McClellan's removal. I am not sorry but many, a great many, in the army are much displeased about it. I think Burnside will show that our army can move as fast as the Rebels, that is the part in which the Rebs have always beat us. In spite of McClellan "strategy" I should very much like to spend Christmas with you but it is simply an impossibility unless the war ends before that time or I get a leg shot off and get discharged which I hope will not happen. The weather is getting pretty cold for camping out but we do not mind it hoping this winter will end the war. Your letter came too late for me to find your brother. But if I ever come near the 64th again I shall find Cousin James if he is in the Reg't. If my brother Soldier, C. Pierce has really taken a shine to you, Grettie, you will be astonished at his perseverance and inability to take any kind of a hint short of a kick, report him to his Reg't, he is a deserter from some of the western troops, the 52d I think.

Tuesday morning. I did not have time to finish last night. Our Lieut Col Gamble has just arrived from Chicago. You recollect he was wounded at Malvern Hill he looks well and hearty. The fight has just begun at Fredricksburg we can hear the big guns roar quite plain but you will likely read the full particulars in the papers before this reaches you. I do not think the Rebs intend to make a stand here. We will stay here until tomorrow, I think. I must write one or two more letters so I will end this. Give my love to the children. Write soon. Good bye

Yours in a hurry

S. D. Wesson

Bell Plains Dec 21st 1862

Dear Sister and Coz

A fine frosty morning real Christmas weather. All well here. All goes well as long as we can keep warm. I am sorry to say we have been rather worsted in the last fight. It must be Gen Burnside was forced in to it against his better judgment. It looked like an impossibility even to me to force the Rebs out of these strong intrenchments where one man was equal to 5 outside. But all the pro's and con's will be debated in the papers of course and a cry will be raised against Burnside and out with him and put in somebody else. Yet we all feel as much confidence in "old Bunny" as ever. If the Politicians and Editors would let our Generals alone they would do well enough. But enough Christmas is coming but it does not awake any anticipations of pleasant times for me here. But then I can indulge in "fond recollections" of Christmas times past and gone and await the day of deliverance with patience. I have not seen the 64th Reg't yet I heard it was in action. The first leave of absence I can get I am going to see Cousin James. I tried to get leave yesterday but it was refused. We have not got our good Col Farnsworth now but a perfect tyrant, and our privileges are few. I am sorry Grettie that Nettie's Piano is spoiling the attachment of C.P. Never mind he will soon become such a devotee of music that Nettie will be utterly disgusted with his beautiful feet and shoulders. But enough, I hope you will enjoy yourself Christmas. Write soon. Meanwhile I will enjoy my Christmas as best I can. Give my love to all Good bye.

From your cousin

Deck

Edge Hill Jan 31st/63

Dear Brother

All is confusion in the army at least it seems so. Burnside, Sumner and Franklin gone. I think the army of the Potomac is on the eve of dissolution. Everything is at a stand still. Our Reg't is still on Picket. I guess we are elected to picket the rest of the war. We have had a stormy time for about 10 days. It has rained and snowed until the roads are almost impassible. Today it has cleared off with a prospect of better times. I have not heard from you for quite a time. I wish you would write and let me know how the Democrats are getting along in their campaign against the Government and how soon do they intend to attack Washington. Father wrote me that they trying to raise H—l with every-

thing that was for defending the President in prosecuting the war. I would like to have Col Farnsworth lead the 8th Ill to Springfield and set things to rights in a hurry. My health is good we all live very well on the country which has a better effect on the health of the men than the whole Medical Department. Guerillas attacked a foraging party yesterday, we had 2 men wounded. It is the first time we have been molested. These Guerillas are citizens, Farmers etc that start out in small parties fire a few shots at our men and then run. No one can tell where they are. Since I commenced writing the weather has changed. The clouds have shut out the sunshine. Another storm is coming. Give my love to the Children. Write soon.

Yours etc

S. D. Wesson

Aquia Creek Feb 20th/63

Dear Brother & Sister

I was quite surprised when I read your last letter that you had not heard from me since I rec'd those mittens. I have written 3 one to Cinda one to Grettie and one to you, William. I have rec'd them and they are very acceptable indeed. I will send Mary Ann one of Jeffs \$10. It is perfectly current here it may be par some day if the war is not conducted better. Our prospects are not very flattering now. We are relieved from Picket now and are encamped about 1 mile from Aquia Creek landing. The weather is horrible it is impossible to move an empty wagon in many places. We are obliged to pack our forage from the landing on our horses backs. It has rained and snowed incessantly for nearly a week. Today it is fair for the first time. I must write to Grettie again. I presume she did not receive my letter before. We are in Gen Sigels Corps now I Believe. There is a rumor we are going west. I hope we shall I am sick of Virginia it reminds me of continued defeat and disaster. We are too near that nest of Politicians (Washington) to achieve anything. They will not let our Generals alone. The weather is so bad that nothing can be done until spring now that is certain. I will not write any more now. While we are in camp I can write oftener. Write soon.

Good bye

Yours

S. D. Wesson

Hope Landing Mar 4th

Dear Brother

A fine clear spring day, good prospect for better weather. We are fairly settled in camp now. I suppose we shall stay here until the army moves. I hear Johnny Gosper is going home on a furlough. I am sorry I did not know of this when we were in Fredericksburg. I would have sent some relic, some (curiosity) from that battle Field. I have nothing now at all. It is so long since that fight I have thrown or gave away every trinket taken from that old city.

John gets a sick furlough 30 days. He says he is not certain whether he will see you or not but I guess he will be apt to see you. My health is pretty good. I am troubled some with the Rheumatism in my shoulder. My arm is so lame today I can scarcely write. There is no news to write about everything is at a perfect stand still here. I long for good weather and good roads again when action will take the place of Idleness. Till then we must wait and so must the people at home. Meanwhile I remain

Your brother in arms

S. D. Wesson

P.S. Tell Cinda and Grettie I will write to them as soon as I think a letter will reach them. I have written 3 or 4 times already. Give my love to the Children. Good bye S.D.W.

Warrenton Apr 28th 1863

Dear Brother & Sister

Last night that letter came, yours of the 17th. You cannot imagine my delight, a letter from home and friends. It is an event in our tedious life out here in the wilderness not soon forgotten and anxiously looked for always. Of course you must have heard of a movement in the army of the Potomac ere this. The Cavalry all started from Camp on the 13th. Since then we have been wandering around the upper Rappahannock trying to do something, I know not what cut off from the rest of the army and all the World (except Rebeldom) for 15 days. The time may not seem very long to you perhaps but when you recollect it is day and night work picketing, scouting always obliged to be ready to flight at a moments warning. You may believe the hours are all counted. When we left camp the weather was fine. Since then it seems as if Providence was against

us. Every time we made a move it would begin to rain in torrents thus making it almost impossible to move Artillery without which we could not make much headway on the other side of the river. The last two days have been fine yet we have not moved. Something has happened. I know not what. It is certain the Rebs were informed of our intentions for they have a large force in readiness to meet us where before we started they had none. The rumor is in camp today that 2 Lieuts on Gen Hookers staff have played the traitor and kept the enemy informed of all our moves. If true it is probably the cause of our halting here so long. How I would like to have the punishing of those D—ls if it is true. I seem as if every Officer in the army is only a curse to us. We are now lying by the Railroad at Warrenton for the last two days the cars have brought us supplies from Alexandria. This the way is opened for sending letters again. I am very glad about those boots but I am afraid it is asking too much of John. I never thought to say anything to him about it. In fact I never intended to send for anything until he was gone. And then thinks I, I know he will bring them if he can, thus presuming on his good nature, perhaps too much. I am not going to write to Grettie again for a good long time not until I see her Brother. The day we were ordered to march I was going to see him. If we ever see the Infantry again I will find him sure. During the fine weather we have passed through my paper got soaking wet, my ink bottle spilled and a lead pencil is a poor substitute but better than nothing. Give my love to the children. You must take care that Tina bears herself with becoming dignity in her new office. Tell her to write. Good bye dear Bro & Sister

Your Brother

Deck

Potomac Creek, May 14th '63

Dear Bro & Sister

A cooling rain has just fallen. It has made the air so cool and pleasant I thought I would improve the opportunity to scribble a little. I have tasted some of the contents of that little bag of fruit. It was good "that is what's the matter" all the boys in the mess have a high opinion of me. They say they like me first rate and all send their compliments to the sender of that fruit. We are a family of six, the most

harmonious squad in the company by all odds, I know. Myself, the Orderly Sergt, and 4 as good fellows as ever shot a Reb compose the squad. I went to the railroad today and had my "horseytype" taken. I shall have to tell you who it is so here goes. The one sitting in the saddle is me fully armed (except carbine). The horse is one I ride and belongs to uncle Sam. Just as I rode up a train of cars came in forming a pretty good background. It was loaded with hay and grain and some few soldiers. On the left you can see them unloading hay. On the rear of the train is another engine you can just see the smoke. On the last car but one you see a brakeman all legs. He was stooping down turning the brake and he took all legs and no body. He does not know it though or he would have taken a better attitude. I had on those boots too you'd better believe they look nice. The sun shone so hot and bright that I squinted like an Owl. I could not help it. I had my revolver in my hand. It can hardly be seen on account of its brightness. So many of the troops are going home. I fear the Army of the Potomac will not do much soon unless Hooker gets reinforced soon. Every day they keep going, time out. It will make a great difference in a few days in our numbers. My health is very good in spite of the hot weather. Everything is quiet no news of any kind afloat. Give my love to the children. I hope to hear from Tina soon. Goodbye.

From your Brother
S. D. Wesson

Lincoln Hospital June 13

Dear Bro

Today, my 3rd day in a Hospital. I will try to while away the tedious hours in writing a word or two to you. It is rather tedious yet but it will not be so as soon as I get able to run about. My leg is pretty stiff and sore yet. The ball struck the fore side of my leg close to my body, went clean through without touching the bone or injuring it in the least, just through the flesh coming out directly under the cheek of my _____. I shall be all right in a few days. This is a good place for a sick or wounded man but how lonesome. I should be sick if I was obliged to stay here an hour longer than I am obliged to.

In the fight at Beverly Ford (June 9th) we had some pretty hard

fighting but we rather whipped them. I was not wounded until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Before we were taken to the Hospital the fight was over, it was a hard one I assure you. We did not lose but a few killed but 200 wounded. There is no news from the Army I guess there is another halt. If you want to write while I am here direct to Lincoln Hospital Ward 5 Washington D. C. I shall not stay any longer than I am obliged to. Give my love to the children schoolmams & write soon.

I remain yours

S. D. Wesson

Kelleys Fort Aug 10th

Dear Brother and Sister

Within one mile of my last experience in battle I am. I found the Reg't encamped on the same field where I was wounded. Last night we came back over the river and now are lying on the bank expecting a fight. I have been a long time getting to the Reg't. I rode on horseback from Harrisburg with Lieut Trask to the Rappahannack which took us 8 days to accomplish. I found most of the boys well, a few are gone, dead and in the Hospital. I recd your letter of Aug 4th this morning. In regard to Peters case I cannot give any satisfactory information. There is no recruiting Officer in Chicago for our Reg't. Capt Hynes of our Reg't was in Chicago trying to get transportation for new recruits for the Regt and could not do it. He told me they were obliged to go to Springfield first and then be forwarded to the Reg't. I do not know whether Peter would like to be handed around from one place to another 2 or 3 weeks before he could reach the Regt or not finally. The best way I think is to go to Col Farnsworth who can give him all the information he desires.

I got through with all my parcels in good order except Johnny's cherries. They were slightly mouldy. Capt Sullivan sends his sincere thanks to the sender of those cakes. Poor Osborne is gone to the hospital, where I cannot tell, the boys said he wearied of the strife and wanted rest. I do not blame him yet I know Osborne did not "play off" he is better mettle than that.

My facilities for writing are not very good as you see, seated in the open field in the hot sun without any shade or pen and ink either. I do not think we shall fight much today although we stand prepared for

an attack. The army is in a state of glorious inactivity just now. Mead says he cannot move until he gets reinforcements. Lee is on the other side of the river in the same fix. I must acknowledge I felt not quite as much at home when I first touched "sacred soil" as I thought but now among the boys I feel better. The long march from Harrisburg was rather dreary.

I crossed the battle field at Gettysburg saw the place where Gen Farnsworth fell and where the desperate fighting took place on Cemetery Hill. Where Hancock's division stood the ground is thickly covered with graves.

I have been nearly 24 hours with the Reg't now. I have had a little visit with John Gasper he is on Picket now. When he comes in and our camp is made permanent I will write again. My leg is well. Give my love to all

Your Bro

S. D. Wesson

Cedar Run Aug 28th

Dear Brother

My last ended rather abruptly. Peter Farley my comrade is gone. It was hard to lose one of our best men thus. It led to an Order from Gen Buford strictly forbidding horse racing in future. He says he cannot afford to lose any of the 8th Ills in that way. We are still in the old camp but under the usual style "Ready to march at a moments notice". There is rumors of a Rebel raid into Maryland which doubtless is the cause of our being constantly ready.

It seems that Col Farnsworth is not making much progress in his Brigade at home. It will disappoint many ambitious young Officers in this Regiment who were expecting Majorities, Captaincies, etc in the new Brigade. John Gasper is looking for advancement in another direction. I am not at liberty to state publicly as he told me in confidence. He is trying for a position in a Negro Regt.

Capt Sullivan is very friendly to me. He says he has been under great obligations to me in times past and he will not forget it now. We have already a surplus of Commissioned Officers. Our 2d Lieut is to be mustered out of the service. We are not allowed but one Lieut on account of the Co. being under the Maximum Number.

My health is good. The weather has changed to a much cooler temperature. Nothing but "acting on the defensive" which means doing nothing. All attention is paid to Charleston here as well as elsewhere. We anxiously await its downfall. With my love to all. Adieu

From your Brother

S. D. Wesson

In Picket Dec 5th/63

Dear Brother and Sister

I have not heard from any of you for a long time. If you are waiting for one I will remove the difficulty at once. I had a letter from Tina yesterday the first since her return from the east. I am well but not a "veteran". I am not well pleased with the army of the Potomac enough to enlist for 3 years more. I may join the veterans after my time is out here. The last move of the army was for what? We do not know here do you? We have settled down again in our old camps. The weather will soon put a stop to all military operation but it is fine now although very cold. John Gasper is with the company yet. I mention once to you that he was going to join a "U.S. Colored Reg't" he has not gone yet.

It is not very encouraging to be in an army that is out generalled and foiled in every move. But we do some good I hope by keeping Lee here with a large army while the western army finish the war. It is getting time for us to have a new Commander. Meade has Commanded as long as we generally have any one General. I do not know who the next one can be, Sedgwick, I think. But we are willing to wait and fight as well under one General as another and wherever we have been we have seen hard fighting as hard as any other army even if it has produced such great results.

It seems that Joe has not suited Father entirely by the tone of Fathers letter. I do not know what is the matter but I thought of what you told me last summer. I am sorry for I suppose labor is very scarce and the price high. We have not been paid any yet. Greenbacks are becoming a scarcity among us. I hear the Paymaster is at Head Quarters with our pay, hope it is true. It is pretty cold writing in the open woods this morning so I must stop and warm up. Write soon. My love to the children. I am yours for a vigorous prosecution of the war.

S. D. Wesson

On Picket Jan 18th 1864

Dear Sister

Still on Picket and no prospect of being relieved. We have been on Picket now 25 days. I hope the army will move soon somewhere. I hardly care where. I rec'd your and Gretties letters from home. I rather think by Gretties description of Mrs. Craigs Kissing Bee She was somewhat astonished by the way they do things out West. She also says she fears she will not have a chance to see Jonny and Maggie, who is she? I know several Maggies all of them very nice girls but I never knew of any particular Maggie in Victor or anywhere else. If she will explain a little perhaps I will know. The weather is very cold and clear. It makes me think of them mittens every night. They will be very acceptable when they come. It is so cold it is rather hard writing. I will wait till there comes a thaw. Give my love to the children. I will write again soon.

From your brother

S. D. Wesson

Geeseborough Pt March 3

Dear Brother and Sister

Once more in Washington in the mud and water. It is raining this morning it seems natural to hear the rain patter on the canvas. We are in good tents however which makes it quite comfortable.

We have no horses yet. There is none in the stables fit for duty. I did not get time to come out and see you for we went in a hurry. There was no use of it either for we have stay here and drill the new recruits when we might as well have done it at St. Charles. The boys swear some about it.

All the Reb Regiments have reenlisted too so it will be Veteran fight Veteran in the army of the Potomac. I do not know what Addie Bush will think of my promise to and see her. I must write and explain it to her. There is nothing to write about now. Wait until I get into the field. Write soon. Give my love to the children. Good bye

From your Brother

S. D. Wesson

Gresboro Point Apr 4th

Dear Brother

Being a cold rainy morning I thought I would write you a "note"

although I believe I do not owe you any letter at present. We have nothing to talk of here but the weather which is uncommon cold and wet, to in the 4th day of constant rain. I think Gen Grant will find the weather here worse to overcome than the Reb armies. We are still in camp near the city of Washington. Today the 1st Battalion of our Reg't is going to patrol the city. I hear we have been detailed for that business for the next three months. It was formerly done by a Reg't called "Scotts Nine Hundred" but they became so immoral and dissipated that they have been sent to Texas as being unfit for civilized society. Washington is a hard place no mistake about it. I do not know but it will ruin the gallant 8th too, but we will try it. We are all well weather can have no effect upon us, we are veterans and can stand it.

Have you sent those photographs yet? I have not heard from you since I wrote to Ida and Aggy. Write and let me know as soon as convenient. John Gosper is at home I suppose now. He went away from here about 2 weeks ago. The wind is blowing so hard it is impossible to write. Give my love to the children. Write soon.

From your Brother
S. D. Wesson

April 13, 1864

Dear Niece Aggy

Your letter arrived all safe and was very welcome indeed. Ida sent me three stamps in her letter, too, so you see your letters are valuable to me. I look for them eagerly every day. It is so lonesome here. Nothing to do to keep us from getting homesick. I think of sending home for a box of things to eat if we stay in the city, and I guess we will, but I am not sure of it yet. As soon as I am certain of it I will have father start it on the road.

We are all well. It is real warm weather here, but it keeps raining every day, so it is awfully muddy all the time. I have not got a horse now. He is so lame that I sent him off, but Uncle Sam will give me another one pretty soon I hope. Tell your ma that I did not pay for those photographs at all. I have no money now. If she will get them I will send the money in a short time. I want six or eight of them. You and Ida may keep one apiece if you like them better than those you have

got. I did not have time to go out to see you or I would have brought you some. Give my love to all. Good bye, write soon.

Your Uncle Dexter

Camp Greshoro Point April 28th 1864

Dear Brother and Sister

Your letter arrived yesterday I was glad to hear from you. We are in the midst of exciting rumors of all kinds. Everything is preparing for some grand event somewhere. Gen Burnside went through the city yesterday with his army bound for parts unknown. The War Dept has stopped furnishing any more troops here and all the horse and arms and ammunition are being sent off to Fortress Monroe and the army of the Potomac in a few days the thing will be out. Somebody is going to get hurt I am sure.

So John Gasper is in active service already, practicing on his own men. I will not complain if he serves all the Nigs in the same way. I think between our men and the Rebs the poor Darkey will stand a poor chance to enjoy the blessings of freedom only in death. Those stamps you sent me were very acceptable for I am out of them and money too but we have been mustered for pay and will be paid in a few days.

I will now begin writing again. I have just come in from "Dress Parade" we have one every night when it does not storm. We are all going to live in the city in a few days six of the Companies are there now.

About those Photographs I got those of Jonny and used them all up and want some more. I am getting up a photograph Gallery of Camp K and the boys will not give their Ph's unless I give them mine. If you will send me half a dozen. I can get them cheaper and better too of Kinblade than I can here in the city. Tina has just written to me that she is going to send a box of things, good! Remeber me in love to the children, and I remain as ever

Yours in haste

S. D. Wesson

Camp Relief June 7th/64

Dear Brother & Sister

I have not answered your note as soon as I would have done had I been at leisure a little more. We have been in camp two days now and all is confusion yet. I am staying in from Dress Parade to write tonight.

We have been out to the front just 3 weeks, fighting bushwhackers, Guerillas etc. When the base of supplies was moved to the white house on the Pennisula we were sent back to Washington. It was just what the Officers wanted, they cannot put on style in the field as they can here. We have just been paid but money is almost as much a curse as blessing here and that is one reason why I would rather be somewhere else for it is impossible to save a penny here. It is the custom for all the "Non Commissioned" to dress and spend money and in fact it is expected by the Col that we should be pretty gay in our apparel. Many of the boys have already spent every cent of their pay. Many are better off without money than with it as it only goes for whiskey. In fact it is not a fit place for any young soldier. I had rather see a friend of mine go right to the front and run the chance of bullets than stay here.

My health is good and so are all of the boys from Victor. The weather is very warm. Washington is enveloped in a cloud of yellow dust night and day.

I received those Pho's. I have made them useful in trading with the boys and getting their pictures in return. How much did they cost? I will send you the amount. No news from the army tonight except Grant is holding his own which is as much as can be expected until he gets reinforced. Half the hard fighting is not done yet unless Lee leaves Richmond to its fate which is not at all probable. Cinda you write you are sick what is the matter? I have heard so much of the spotted fever at home that I am almost afraid to open a letter lest it should tell me of the sickness of some of the family with that disease. Give my love to the children. Write soon and I hope to hear you are well. Good Night

From your Brother

Dexter

Manassas Junction Nov 10th/64

Dear Brother

Although the election is over and the result is known with you before this yet I am still in the dark. Our facilities for news are rather poor but I am firm in the faith that Old Abe is all right. If Mc. is elected I shall feel very much as if I was fighting for the South hereafter. When he takes his seat in the White House I shall try to vacate mine in the saddle. I suppose Ills has gone for Little Mac as down in

Egypt they always vote until they are sure of a majority. If we could have had a vote it would have went for Old Abe sure. The boys are all well, weather wet and cold. We have nearly got through with our job on the R. R. I think we will go to Washington in a few days. It will be a good thing if we can get some pay as we have not been paid in 4 months. There is nothing going on here that is worth writing. Good bye

Yours for the war

S. D. Wesson

Falls Church Nov 30th

Dear Brother

Your last letter came to hand in about time. Glad to hear from you again. We are in winter quarters now, do not know whether we will stay here long or not. We built winter quarters twice and had to move out of them again. We are now at Falls Church about 10 miles from Washington. We have fine log huts built and are going to be really comfortable if the powers that be will let us stay and Rosey keeps his distance.

We have not any pay yet but expect to get some in a few days as the pay rolls have been sent in to the Generals Head Quarters. By the way; does Jep live on your place yet. I have written to him twice but have received no answer. We feel all right over the election; we can fight for Old Abe but not for Ik, not by a long shot. We are now in barracks I will try to write a little oftener if we stay. Give my love to the children. Write soon. I remain as ever yours

S. D. Wesson

Rappahannock River Jan 10th

Dear Brother & Sister

A cold rainy day hard time for the "Picket Guards" but it must be kept up rain or shine. We have been on post now 16 days the longest time on guard I ever saw. I am getting rather sleepy being up so much nights. Today is the first rain this winter. It will probably rain now for 2 or 3 weeks. The news from the west are so much mixed up we cannot tell which got the better in the fight. I believe the Rebs are sending troops to the west from this place. The camps opposite our post are all deserted except a few Pickets no troops are to be seen. If so "Old Bunny" will soon find it out I guess when we will get up and chase them in a hurry.

I am glad to hear about those mittens. It will make me feel better still to see them. I will send Mary Ann some Secesh money if she would like to see some of Jeff's Currency. When Fredricksburg was in our hands it was full of the worthless trash. The bank there was emptied of any quantity of it. I have none now but \$1 or Richmond money which I will send you. Perhaps you have seen the same before if not it will give you a fair idea of Bank note Engravers in the South. The rain is falling faster than ever it is getting dark. Good night, write soon

From your Brother

S. D. Wesson

Falls Church March 3rd/65

Dear Brother

I do not think you will quite forget me but I do not know as I have done my stints in writing lately. Well here I am safe and sound of course being to the rear where there is no danger. Old Abe is to be inaugurated tomorrow. I would have been in the city to witness the ceremony but my pass did not come so I will have to forego the pleasure of seeing the show. Capt Kinley is going in to see him in the morning.

We are about 8 miles from Washington by the pike. All the main roads in this country are pikes with toll gates every mile or two on them but there is no one to take toll of the traveller now.

The weather has changed from dry to wet. The usual spring rains have set in and there will not be anymore good weather until about the middle of April. But we have got good shanties build and I think we will stay in them until it gets good going then we will go to the front.

We have just been paid 4 months pay. It comes good for we are all in a good place to send it home for there is not much chance here to spend money. I got a letter from Father a few days ago. He seems very much irritated about that new law that is passed paying for Soldiers by tax. It is not quite just I think but it frets Father awfully to think it makes everybody pay the Substitutes. The war will not last much longer I think so these young fellows that have enlisted for one year will see the end of the Southern Confederacy and cry "I did it" as big as anybody. Hoping I will be one of the fortunate ones to see the end of the fight too. I remain

Yours for the Union

S. D. Wesson

Fairfax Station Va June 13th, 1865

Dear Brother

I suppose you are very busy now with your crops but you can take a little longer nooning some day to read this. I am mad William I am mad. I have served so long in the army that I feel like a regular and I am one. A regular fool for reenlisting. If I was a Copperhead or a Rebel I would get much better useage. They are sending home all the one year men those that got \$1500 for coming and the Veterans have got to stay their time out. I do not know what they will do with us next, shouldn't wonder if they sent us to Tortugas to work after our time is out. If this is the reward for being a good soldier, the next war I will join on the Rebellion side sure.

Col Farnsworth came out to the camp and made us a speech last night. He called us "good fellows" said that Gen Grant knew we were the best Regt in the army and wound up by saying he had done all he could to get us out but Gen Grant couldn't see it so we would have to stay our time out. Told us to be "good boys and mind our mother". "Is not that encouraging?" It seems to me perfectly foolish although I may see the use of it when I get better or wiser. Is there many troops at home yet. All of the big army around Washington have gone. The 105th Ills was here but I could not get a pass to go and see them. I have not felt so homesick since the first Campaign on the Peninsula under McClellan.

John Gosper was here and took dinner with us the other day. I was glad to see him. He is a noble hearted boy as ever lived. His artificial leg is quite a help to him he does not limp scarcely any now. I had a good little visit with him. He went from here to New York. I got a big letter from Grettie Hatch a day or two ago. She is in Rochester having a good time I reckon. She is sweet on "Cousin Deck". I must go to supper good bye

Yours truly

S. D. Wesson

Care has been exercised in copying these letters as regards spelling and punctuation are concerned so that they are copies.

The Garetta or Garettie he mentions so often is his first cousin - the daughter of John Bolster Hatch who was a brother of Deck's mother. I cannot explain the correlation in several of his letters which give the impression that Garettie and Lucinda might have been living in the same location.

As Deck had no brother, the brother he refers too should be his brother-in-law, William Titus.

Ida and Figgie are Deck's nieces. Tina would be his sister Christinia.

* * * * *

In conclusion -

I feel that no matter how small the foot

A track has been left in the sands of time.

No matter how short the mortal life

A record has been inscribed.

Both of which can be restored to legibility through persistent, diligent, meticulous research.

Printing done by George A. Grasley with tender loving consideration.