

**The Bennett,  
Bently,  
and Beers  
Families**

**1899**





*A. A. Bennett*



## INTRODUCTORY.

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DURING recent years I have had many inquiries from widely separated parts of our country, asking for information as to the Bennett origin. Falling back upon tradition, I could only say, we were certainly of revolutionary and colonial stock. During 1898, a lady cousin, whom I had not seen, asked: "Please tell me from whom I came?" This impelled me to some day be able to tell her. The result is embodied in these pages. Books of this character become, of necessity, discursive. A tree puts out a few large branches; these, in turn, others, until it is hard to distinguish among them. We follow a main branch only to find it broken off; and in other cases, the limb is too weak to support the burden. Under such circumstances verbosity may be excusable. I am certain *my* reading public will be lenient in all criticism. From the first, as now, there has been a disparity in spelling the name. We find it Bennet, Bennett, Benit, Beneat, Bennitt, and even that far cry, Beuight. Undoubtedly near relatives, for their own reasons, spelled it differently. I have, for the sake of uniformity, taken the more general usage, but very many still use the terminal-itt, and deem it correct.

While pursuing my researches, (without it at all being a part of my original intention) I came upon the Bentley and Beers lines, the three converging in the writer, I have seen fit to incorporate them in this little book. In these lines the family traditions were much clearer and more positive, and no argument is needed to establish their reliability.

I had expected to trace down to the smallest and latest member of the allied families, but it is impossible to do this accurately without more leisure than the intervals of a busy life afford. It is to be hoped that each, for himself, will take up the work where I have laid it down, and thus perpetuate a knowledge of an honorable and patriotic lineage.

While no attempt has been made to trace our descent back to the English "gentry," yet it is no discredit to be as the Germans say, "wohl gebormen."

Our immigrant ancestor was from Wiltshire, where the seat of the Bennetts is at Pitthouse. It is now occupied by the female line, the present master having taken his wife's name legally. Edward was a younger son for whom at home was not sufficient room. There is also a family coat-of-arms which some of the name in this country are using. The motto is "*Benedictus qui tolit concere*," or "blessed is he who bears the cross." Most people bear some kind of a cross, but very few do it without more or less growling and probably those who use the motto do not live up to it. Yet we may retain our pride in the sturdy Anglo-Saxon strain that has produced men and women who prove their quality by their reasonable consideration for the rights of others, but who if it comes to a pinch, do not hesitate

"To prove their doctrine orthodox  
By apostolic blows and knocks."

I have to thank some members of the family for assistance. I deem myself fortunate to have had access to the large and valuable collection of records in the rooms of the Historical Society at Wilkes-Barre, of which the Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden is the learned and accomplished custodian.

S. B. BENNETT.

PITTSBURGH, PA., August 1, 1899.





ME AND JACK.





## THE BENNETTS.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, founder of the *New York Herald*, a Scotchman, born in Banffshire, once wrote: "The Bennetts were a little band of Freeboters, A. D. 896, in Saxony. I have no doubt they robbed and plundered a good deal. They emigrated to France and settled on the river Loire, where they lived several hundred years. The family was Roman Catholic and later, of the Church of England." That the Scotch Bennett's statement is true, may readily be believed, for one thousand years ago Europe was given over to pillage, and the strong showed the weak no consideration. Perhaps the sturdy Bennett tribe owed its continued existence to the fact of its extreme tenacity of purpose and the inability of others to crush it out.

At that time London was occupied by the Danes; Englishmen were herdsmen, and cattle-stealing very much the fashion. This Saxon tribe was probably no worse than its neighbors. Be this as it may, the family in England, during the reign of Charles the First, had assumed considerable importance. A Sir Henry Bennett being private secretary to King Charles Second. The "Dictionary of English Biography," beginning with the time of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, includes sketches of the lives of no less than twenty-eight Englishmen of the name who were of repute as Historians, Theologians, Physicians, Lawyers, Poets, Hymn-writers, Musicians—the last one noticed being Sir William Sterndale Bennett, the celebrated teacher and a pianist of much celebrity, who passed away about 1875. I learn that now in England are more than one hundred clergymen of the established church.

In 1619, at Yoghual, a South Irish seaport, Richard Lord Boyle caused repairs to be made to a certain chapel, time having caused it to fall into ruin. He provided recumbent stone effigies of a man and woman upon a tomb which bears the inscription: "Here lyeth the bodies of Richard Bennett and Ellis Barry his wife, the first founders of this Chapel. This, for the reviving of their memory, I have had their figures cut in stone." It argues

that very many years had passed from the building of the Chapel until its restoration. Its register is said to go back to the year eleven hundred.

The name occurs very early in the Colonial records. At Boston the mercantile firm of Benet & Co. existed as early as 1630. Bennett street, in that city, doubtless owes its name to this fact. The family must have increased rapidly, for few names are mentioned more frequently, not always in the most complimentary manner. Yet we have upon the whole no valid reason to believe that we were not much like other people.

In Essex, Mass., 1644, Hugh Lynn and Samuel Bennett were presented to the court for being "common sleepers in church" and fined each two shillings and sixpence.

Samuel evidently became wide awake, for in 1664, July 15th, he buys "ye new water mill." His circumstances had improved for nine years previously Joshua Foote sued him for debt, but as Foote's dog had killed Bennett's calf, for which Bennett received the sum of twenty shillings, possibly revengeful litigation was not altogether unknown at that early date. In 1649, William Hook conveyed to him "all that tract of land formerly belonging to his father, Humphrey Hook, etc. One William Bennett complained that Edward Dowty had defaulted on a contract whereby Dowty was to sell a fitch of bacon for three pounds of "beaver." The court appointed Francis Eaton and Robert Hicks, arbitrators, who decided that Bennett's currency was, like silver in 1899, worth but fifty per cent of its face value.

For a considerable time it was believed that this Samuel who "slept in the time of exercise," was our English ancestor. Rev. George S. Bennett, who himself of Boston, has made exhaustive search of old records, states that *our* Samuel was son to Edward, who, with his wife and four children, sailed from Weymouth, England, and settled at Weymouth, Mass., taking up as he was entitled to thirty-six acres of public land. He was made a Freeman in 1636. After a residence there for seven years he became an original proprietor in the company that founded Rehoboth, to which place he removed, dying there 1645-1646, wealthy, and was buried in the Proprietor's Cemetery. He had children

Samuel (1) born 1628.

John, born 1630.

Priscilla, 1632, married William Carpenter.

Edward.

Richard.

Unquestionably Ephraim Bennett who married Hannah Bently at Goshen, N. Y., came from Warwick, R. I., through Orange county to the Wyoming lands of the Susquehanna Company; thence to what was called Tioga Point, now Athens, Pa. His father, Ephraim, accompanied him with his family, consisting of other sons and daughters.

It will be observed in passing that Samuel (1) who died in 1684, left a widow who married Moses Forsman. Samuel (2) married January 2, 1689, Sarah Forsman, who died 1705. In 1690, their first child Samuel (3) was born. No record of this Samuel's issue exists, so far as known. It is fairly certain that he became the father of Ephraim, sr., for three reasons:

FIRST—Names were faithfully handed down in those old families, and we know Ephraim, jr.'s first born was named Samuel.

SECOND—Granting that Ephraim, sr., was son to Samuel (3) it provides the generation between the above and the correctly recorded birth of Ephraim, jr., in 1762.

THIRD—The writer's father told him that his great grandmother was a Forsman, and this being so, we would find Sarah Forsman the grandmother of Ephraim, sr. A simple error of tradition but a strong corroboration in fact, as it places a Forsman in the line of descent.

Thus it will be seen that while it is not absolutely proven, it is much more than probable that Samuel (1) of Edward of Weymouth, is our first American ancestor.

In our branch we then have:

FIRST—SAMUEL (1) died 1684; by trade a cooper; married Anna ———; she married (2) Moses Forsman.

Residence, Greenwich, R. I.

1652, bought land of Stukely Westcott.

1655, a Freeman.

1656, a seargeant of militia, for which he received twenty pounds.

1678, was voted one hundred acres of public land.

1678, member of General Court for ten years.

1682, he sold thirty-four acres near "Solitary hill," to Richard Evenden.

1684, will proven; wife Anna, executrix. Samuel (2) received sixty and Edward seventy acres of land.

He had—

Edward, born 1654; died 1735.

Elizabeth, born —; died 1721.

(2) SAMUEL, born —; Coventry, R. I.

William, born —

(2) SAMUEL, married (1) Sarah Forsman, daughter of Moses.

Married (2) Desire Berry.

Married Rachel (3) —

He was by trade a carpenter.

1684, a Freeman.

1688, grand juryman.

1690, deputy in General Assembly.

1690, a Lieutenant.

1703, he and his wife deed to Thomas Fry, dwelling, orchard, etc., for sixty-eight pounds.

In 1711, he deeds "for love, etc., to my son Samuel," (3) ten acres of land; his wife, Rachel, joins calling Samuel "my son-in-law."

He had—

(3) SAMUEL, born September 24, 1690.

Sarah, born January 31, 1693.

Hannah, born April 27, 1697.

Elizabeth, born November 19, 1699.

Benjamin, born November 7, 1701.

John, born October 15, 1703.

William, born May 15, 1706.

Priscilla, born October 7, 1708.

Mary, born April, 1711.

Desire, born February 12, 1713.

(3) SAMUEL, born 1690.

There seems to be no satisfactory record of his progeny.

EPHRAIM (4) married Mary Stafford. The family traditions here diverge; some believing him to have gone with David, at Urbana, others with Joseph in Ohio.

Just before the Revolutionary war, with his family he went from Providence, R. I., to Goshen, Orange county, N. Y., on his way to the Wyoming valley, "being induced to this removal by favorable reports from friends and *relatives* already there." See

appendix. The war beginning they remained near Goshen until its close, then going to near Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

As is well-known, the old Pennsylvania feud named the "Penamite War" broke out with renewed virulence and settlers claiming title under the Susquehanna Company were fined, imprisoned, and driven out. The Bennetts and some thirty other families built a batteau and placing all their goods upon it, alternately poled and pulled it up the Susquehanna to Tioga Point; their few cattle being driven by the boys along the river bank through the forest. Samuel and Thomas (6) assisted in this work, they having been born at Goshen, and then eight and six years old respectively.

EPHRAIM'S (4) family consisted certainly of Ephraim (5), James, Thaddeus, Thomas, Abraham, David and Jonathan, or Joseph. They settled at Wellsburg, N. Y. Later Ephraim (4) removed with Joseph to the state of Ohio (2) where his descendants now are.

Joseph was a Baptist minister, and had also a son of the same name and calling. He was a Continental soldier under Colonel Brinkerhoff and Captain Brown, and a Corporal under Colonel Malcolm and Captain Delevan.

James was a renowned Indian fighter. A family tradition relates that his young son was killed and scalped by the savages. Later James met at Tioga Point, an Indian, who drunken, boasted of this exploit. James at this time was restrained from killing him, but later the Red Man disappeared. His descendants are also somewhere in the great west. He served in the Orange county regiment, under Col. John Hathorne and Captain David McCamly. Orange county, N. Y., was of large territory, organized in 1683, and named for William of Orange, afterward King of England. It was on the direct route to the western lands of the Susquehanna Company, and a place of call for travelers east and westward. It is well-known that after the disaster at Wyoming the settlers abandoned their homes and sought safety beyond the Delaware river.

The Orange county inhabitants suffered greatly from the savages, yet its people had the honor to be in close touch with many of the stirring events of the Revolutionary War.

While the army was cantoned there in 1782, an event showed the character of Washington in its strongest light. I allude to the offer of many officers through Col. Nicola to make him the

American King. The Nicola letter brought out the deserved and stinging rebuke, "such suggestions I must view with abhorrence and reprehend with severity. Your ideas seem fraught with the greatest mischief that can befall my country."

Later in 1783, a meeting of his officers was held, who with the army about to be disbanded, found themselves without pay or resources for the dark future because of the neglect of Congress. Washington met them and by his arguments carried conviction to their minds. It was at this time upon taking his glasses to read a letter, he said, "you see, gentlemen, I have grown gray and also blind in your service."

Among the very first Wyoming settlers were Bennetts, and when the thriving city of Wilkes-Barre held but five white women three of them were of the name. In 1755, Isaac Bennett, of Preston, Conn., paid four-and-one-half pounds for a share in the Susquehanna Company. He was later expelled because he was said to have defrauded certain Indians. In 1754 Samuel bought one share and James one-half share. It is *most likely* that this was Samuel (3) and that Thomas Bennett, the owner of the Forty Fort treaty table, and father of Mrs. Myers, took up this land which is now occupied by the charming home of Stephen Vaughn, Esq., at Dorranceton, Pa.

This supposition being correct Thomas would have been brother to Ephraim (4) which last had grandchildren in 1782. At the date of the massacre Thomas was said to have been called "Old Bennett" by the Indian wearing his stolen clothes, who parading around said, "me Old Bennett now." Ephraim (4) had served in the French war of 1756, and was taken prisoner in "Gen. Johnson's fight."

In 1758, Abel Willard petitioned the General Assembly of Massachusetts to take such steps as would procure his release. This argues that at this time he was a citizen of that colony. This is confirmed by the fact that in 1748 he had petitioned the General Court to confirm to him a deed "made by Levi Osborne who, by the Province of God, had been taken away by death."

Another Ephraim Bennett married Hannah Stillson in 1773. His name is on the roster of Col. Van. Rensselaer, Captain Sharp with Benjamin, Ezra and Robert. He being about the age of Ephraim (5) it is fair to presume them to have been cousins. In May, 1795, Ephraim (4) and Mary his wife, conveyed to Thomas

Baldwin, of Newtown, Tioga county, N. Y., seventy-four acres of land in town of Chemung and State aforesaid, for consideration of eighty pounds. This is the Southport premises so long held by the Baldwin family.

October 10, 1796, Ephraim Bennett gave a mortgage for one hundred and twenty pounds to John W. Watkins, upon one hundred acres of land, No. 5 of farm lots of L. Hommedieu Patent. Which Ephraim it was, does not appear. (See old records of Tioga county N. Y.)

The rosters published by the State of New York, contains the names of twenty-five Bennetts who served in the Continental army in various organizations. They were closely connected and of near kinship to those of the name who, obtaining title under the Susquehanna Company, located in Wyoming valley and who from the first had to defend their rights as they understood them, from the encroachment of the State of Pennsylvania and the Red Men. All histories of the valley are united upon this point.

Later the Pioneers made a more or less common cause against the British and Indians, and so far as known no Connecticut settler ever became Tory. In passing, I would note that the Bennetts were men of short or medium stature, usually dark complexion, dark eyes and hair. Few military descriptive lists are preserved. I find but three soldiers described; their height being five, seven and nine inches more than five feet.

A tradition has it that Ephraim, jr., got his black eyes from being French. As at an early date there was at least one French Colony in Rhode Island which Samuel Bennett befriended, it is possible that there may have been intermarriages. It is but fair to say, however, that later Bennett was charged with double dealing, in that he obtained some of the lands occupied by the Colonists and as they charged, much to their injury.

It is presumed that families enlisting for military service would choose the same command. Hathorne and Wisner regiments were raised about Goshen. We find upon the roster of Hathorne and McCamly Ephraim, sr., seargent (also Wisner and Baly) Ephraim, jr., sergeant. James (also Wisner and Baly). Jeremiah (also Dubois and Gano). Thaddeus, Thomas, Abraham (also Weisenfels and Hardenburg) and David (also Van Rensalaer and De Garmo.

The writer's father used to mention an Uncle Thaddeus. A

Thaddeus about A. D. 1800, paid taxes in territory of Chemung county, as did Abraham at Big Flats. David removed to Howard, Steuben county. He became the father of Daniel Bennett, who had twenty-three children, one of whom, Benjamin Bennett, is father to Fred. Bennett, Esq., of Joliet, Ill., Colonel commanding the crack regiment of the national guard of that state, the third which saw service in the Spanish war going from Chickamauga, (when Lieutenant Bennett met him) to Porto Rico, taking part in that short but lively campaign. Colonel Bennett is a western military authority, and an attorney having a large clientele at Joliet. During the writer's boyhood visits were exchanged between David's descendants and those of Ephraim, jr.

It is thought that David B. Hill, ex-Governor and Senator, a man of very great ability, but an example of the "vaulting ambition which o'er-leaps itself and falls upon t'other side," is descended from David's branch. A letter of inquiry to him upon the subject remains unanswered. "*Resquiescat in Pace.*"

Ephraim (5) born May 1st, 1762, married Hannah Bentley, at Goshen, February 7th, 1781. He was not nineteen years of age, she just more than sixteen. Nothing is known of their early education only that the registry in the old Bible by him is in fair old-fashioned penmanship. Hannah was daughter of Green M. Bently, a veteran soldier of two wars. She died at Tioga, Pa., while on a visit to her brother Benjamin, in company with her husband who survived her three years. She was buried there. Later her remains were removed to Montour Falls, N. Y., and laid beside her husband in the family plot. Ephraim bereft, made his home with his son, Col. Green Bently Bennett, where he died suddenly of apoplexy, October 26th, 1843. He is vividly recalled to memory by the writer at three years old.

He was but fourteen years of age at breaking out of the war of Independence; married at eighteen. It is not known certainly, but probably his military service was rendered after his marriage. As has been seen he was Seargent under Col. John Hathorne and Captain David McCamly. Some ten years previous to his death he applied for and received a pension, as is sufficiently established by the following document :



*Department of the Interior—Bureau of Pensions.*

Washington D. C., May 10, 1899.

L. W. B., Inquiry 23120.

Sir:—In response to your recent communication, you are advised that Ephraim Bennett made application for a pension on March 7th, 1833, at which time he was seventy years of age and residing in Tioga county, N. Y., and his pension was allowed for one year and seven months actual service as a private in the New York troops, Revolutionary war. He enlisted in Orange county, N. Y., and served under Captain McCambly and Col. Hathorne. There is no other Ephraim Bennett found upon the Revolutionary war pension or bounty-land records on file in this Bureau.

Very Respectfully,

H. CLAY EVANS, *Commissioner*.

MR. STEPHEN B. BENNETT, Pittston, Pa.

The battle, or rather slaughter, of Minisink took place July 22, 1779, beginning middle of the forenoon, lasting until nightfall giving the few Continentals left an opportunity of escape. Col. Durston had called out the local militia : later was reinforced by Col. Hathorne, his senior in command.

They followed the Indians to near the mouth of the Lackawaxen ; were ambushed by the wily Brant. It is said that this battle made thirty widows in the town of Goshen alone. In 1822 the bones of the slain, which had lain bleaching upon the barren hills for more than forty years, were gathered and entombed under a suitable monument, which dedicated, now stands at Goshen to mark the event. Lossing says, "General Hathorne, being eighty years old, made a short but feeling address." Upon the face of the stone is the name of Benjamin Bennett, with forty others, all apparently of Yankee lineage. This Bennett's name appears on the roster of Captain Hadlock, under Col. Yates ; also, Van Rensalaer.

Washington's headquarters were located within Orange county parts of 1780, '81, '82 and most of 1783, in which year the Continental army was disbanded, its members returning destitute to their wasted homes and scattered families. The locality having been at times the chief cantonment of the American army is a conspicuous point in the history of the war. It is indeed a high

honor to know that our ancestors aided Washington in his great work even in an humble way ; that perhaps they knew him personally, that at least he was to them a well-known and commanding figure.

Ephraim (5) removed from Wellsburg about 1805. Green Bently being born there in 1797, has told the writer that to see Lebbens Hammond, who escaped from Queen Esther at Bloody Rock, at his father's house was a frequent occurrence.

Research in the old Tioga county records shows a deed made 1802, by Charles Wilkes and Lewis Simond, by their attorney, Robert C. Johnson, of New York city, to Ephraim Bennett, of Catharinestown, Tioga county, N. Y., conveying eighty-one and one-half acres of land in southwest quarter of township No. 3, situate on the road leading from the Seneca Lake to Newtown or Elmira. This was unquestionably the Millport property where he built a saw mill. Here his family grew up, were married, going out to homes of their own, but frequently returning to the paternal roof. My father has often pictured the scene about the great open fire-place of a winter night, when the old men alternately awed and thrilled the young people by tales of the times that "tried men's souls." At their social entertainments dancing began mid-afternoon and continued until the following morning, when tired but happy, young and old wended homeward, some on sleds drawn by oxen, the better circumstanced upon horseback with their ladies snugly bestowed behind them on a "pillion" (a stuffed blanket) attached to the saddle. *They could dance*—when nearly sixty years old. Col. Green could cut the pigeon wing with skill and lightly as a boy. While not an engineer, Ephraim (5) was out much with surveyors who established land lines for the great proprietors who had obtained large tracts by patents from the government. When so engaged, where the city of Corning now is, he was offered as much land on the opposite flats above Gibson as he wanted for two cows. He used to tell this story with a smile, and explain that the cows were esteemed of more value than all the flat land there, covered as it was with stunted pines and subject to yearly overflow.

From Millport he removed to the town of Dix, where he owned and occupied a farm adjoining his son's which, in later years, we called the "lower place." There was included a grist mill upon Bower's creek, passing through the farm. The mill was aban-

doned long since, like many works of men's hands, having outlived its usefulness. The little stream which turned its great wheel being the work of the Creator still enriches the landscape, and its falls, "Montour," furnishes one of the attractions of the lake country. His children were :

Samuel, born Nov. 27, 1781 ; married Sally Van Gorder.

Thomas Strait, born Aug. 2, 1783.

Susannah, born Sept. 11, 1785 ; married David Coryell.

Peggy, born Dec. 15, 1787 ; married (1) Brant Catlin.

(2) Charles Curtis.

Elizabeth, born Nov. 4, 1789 ; married Thomas Mills.

Polly, born Dec. 15, 1791 ; died 1794.

Abner Knox, born Jan. 11, 1793 ; married Sarah Lattin.

Sally, born Nov. 27, 1795 ; married William McClure.

GREEN BENTLY (6), born Nov. 30, 1797 ;

married (1) Cynthia McClure.

married (2) Anna Beers Tyler.

Milly, born Feb. 28, 1801 ; married James Parks.

Harry, born Sept. 7, 1802 ; married Mary McClure.

Brant, born Aug. 28, 1805 ; died April 20, 1807.

Charles M., born May 11, 1807 ; married Louisa Canfield.

SAMUEL the oldest, born at Goshen, married Sally Van Gorder, whose father was said to have been of the New Jersey line. He was a farmer living east of Havana and was the kindest and best of men ; one of the writer's real boyhood pleasures was to visit Uncle Sam. He had a large family of daughters, all having been married there is many descendents, but unfortunately the name is not continued in his branch. He enlisted near the close of the war of 1812 as a musician. His children were :

Ruby, died in infancy.

Cynthia, died in infancy.

Hannah, married John Morgan.

Maria, married John Morgan.

Sally, married William Sharp.

Ruby (2), married Jackson T. Brown.

Polly, married Elvin K. Mandeville.

Rebecca, married Manly Palmer.

Susannah, married Charles Paige.

Margaret, married John I. Coe (1),

E. Greggs (2).

THOMAS STRAIT, wife not known: they had a son named Ephraim. But little is known of them. I find, however, in an old diary (we all kept them) under date of Wednesday, April 4th, 1860, "Upon returning home found there a Mr. Dodge and *Ephraim Bennett* from the State of Ohio, with Uncle Sam." Perhaps some other can supply the information. Susannah had sons—Abraham, George, Guy and probably other children. I believe some descendants are in Williamsport, Pa.

PEGGY, married Brant Catlin, a son of Judge Catlin, living nearby, a family of good extraction and well-to-do. A very few of the name are left. She married, second, Charles Curtis; one son remains, Oscar Curtis of Montour Falls. Brant the elder being deceased in 1860.

ELIZABETH, married Thomas Mills, a son of George Mills who kept a tavern at Catharinstown, having removed from the "blue Juniata." Grandchildren remain—the Parsons, Buckleys, Mannings, Nobles, McDonalds and a son residing near San Francisco, California.

ABNER KNOX, a shoemaker by trade, served in the war of 1812, and was present at the battle of Black Rock, later removing to Liverpool, Ohio. His sons early engaged in the thriving pottery industry in that locality. His descendants are in that section, one of them at Pittsburg, being the person of inquiring mind who prompted this research. He married Sarah Delia Lattin, in Che-mung county, N. Y., August 27th, 1820. He died December 2d, 1865; she January 29th, 1873. Their descendants were:

Louise Maria, born 1824.

Samuel, born 1826.

John Morgan, born 1828.

Thomas Mills, born 1831.

George Letcher, born 1835.

The only family of descendants reported is Thomas Mills, who married Emma Alice Staley, December 25th, 1851. Residing at East Liverpool, Ohio, a retired merchant.

They had:

Bertha Louise, married William Dunn.

Lafayette Wilkinson.

Thomas Mills, jr.

Emma Ursula, married F. A. Knowles.

Ellsworth Orpheus.

Ulysses Grant, married Christina A. Ci-Grand.

Elmer Kelsey, married Lucy Emmert.

Lydian C. Hastings.

Samuel Ellsworth, married Moisselle Tanby Johnson.

Hannah Elizabeth, married W. E. Hutchinson.

SALLY, married William McClure. One son, Uriah; a daughter, Mrs. Levi Leonard.

MILLY with her husband and family went to Ohio, but returning lived at Millport. N. Y. She passed away at the house of her son-in-law, Hon. G. M. Beard. Their children :

Emily, married George Ide.

Benajah, married Lorinda Denson.

Amanda, married David Cramer.

Charles, married Elizabeth Thompson.

Elizabeth, married Josiah Botsford.

Cynthia, married George M. Beard, M. D.

HARRY, about 1840, removed to Indiana where his descendants now are. Charles M., in 1848 went to Oowégo, Ill., later with his large family to Springfield, Mo. Major Lyman G. Bennett, a veteran of the civil war, remains there and if, as suggested, each family take up this work when I lay it down, the Major will take ample care of his part. Charles M. passed away at the house of John McClure Bennett while on a visit to his old home in the east. Their children :

Lyman G., born Aug. 1, 1832 ; married Melissa E. Lyons.

Guy Coryell, resides Phoenix Arizona.

Charles M., born July 31, 1847 ; married Sarah A. Smith.  
1881 ; is County Judge at Springfield, Mo.

Frank is at Springfield also, engaged in merchandising.

Major Lyman G. Bennett was the first man to enlist for the war of the rebellion in Kendall county, Ill.; private in 36th regiment. In 1863 helped to recruit the fourth Arkansas Cavalry ; was commissioned Adjutant and later Major ; was mustered out in 1866 ; was afterwards employed in the far west as a government surveyor.

GREENE BENTLEY, born at Wellsburg, N. Y., married (1) Cynthia McClure. She was a daughter of John of Thomas, of the migration ; a Wyoming settler whose two older sons crossed at Mill Creek on the morning of the massacre and returned not,

being presumably slain. Thomas, in 1790, built and kept a tavern at Tioga Point. John later bought the identical locality a Havana which was the site of Queen Catharine Montour's village. The writer remembers the original log house and the great apple trees which had sprung up from the stumps made by Sullivan's army. John's wife was Sarah Crosby, of Fishkill. His father came to Catharinestown with ox-teams.

Thomas of John of Thomas occupied the homestead upon which is the famous McClure's Glen, a rival to that of Watkin's, some say far more attractive. Two sons of Ephraim (5) married McClures and a daughter married William of that name. It is said that Marquis De La Fayette was entertained when in this country by both Thomas McClure and George Mills.

In 1825 Greene bought the farm in Dix, upon which he passed his life, finding there a log house which he occupied; afterward constructing the house now occupied by Charles Mitchell Bennett. Three years later he built a saw mill, the lumber from which was drawn to the head of Seneca Lake, four miles away. About 1840 he built a flouring mill on Post creek, which is still in operation. At this time he was fairly wealthy for those days, but judging other's honesty by his own he was induced to endorse the paper of one Nash, to whom the Col. had been a benefactor. Nash defaulted and then began harassing vexations and expensive litigations with the usual result, *the backer paid*. There was a long and trying struggle but when the endorser passed away he literally fulfilled the Scripture injunction, "owe no man anything" and left no debt unsettled, just or unjust.

Becoming a widower in 1839, he married, at Danby, N. Y., Anna Beers Tyler, by whom he had one son, Stephen Beers Bennett. He was supervisor of the town of Dix in first board of Chemung county in 1836. He was first postmaster of the office at Moreland, N. Y., and continued for many years. The writer well remembers the tedious processes when every letter must have an accompanying way-bill, both being wrapped in a cover which was a work of art almost and required practice and skill. At this time railroads were few and coaching the fashion for people in the southern part of New York and northern Pennsylvania. Seneca Lake with its steamers was the route chosen eastward via Albany, and west via Buffalo. A daily line of stages to Watkin's ran between that town and Elmira and also Corning. Soon after

ten A. M. the Corning mail arrived returning at two P. M. in an old-style springless but rocking coach ; the front "boot" for small packages, the back one for baggage and drawn by four spanking horses. The writer has often seen four and five in a train and travel was very light when but one was required. Green B. was superintendent of the Chemung Canal System, 1846-1848, and again, 1851-1852, during which time the canals did a large business. In 1835, he was a member of New York State Assembly, outliving all but three of his colleagues, Hon. Thurlow Weed, Daniel S. Dickinson and another. The riding cloak, which was part of his outfit, is now in possession of his grandson, Lieut. Bennett. He was Colonel of militia prior to 1840, and frequently said he greatly desired to go out in 1812, but was refused because of his youth. During the political excitement caused by the alleged drowning of Morgan, who was said to have betrayed the secrets of Freemasonry, by which the Hon. William H. Seward came into national repute, the Colonel was a "Masons' Jack," that is, one not a Mason, but who had faith in the good character of the fraternity. Later, he was a Democrat of the best school, and was certain that an honest Democrat's "the noblest work of God," and not scarce either. He knew but little about dirty politics, which he abhorred. He had much influence in the affairs of Chemung county, and in fact southern New York, prior to the war, and his advice was always sought in party councils. The things that came to him were unsought as he preferred to help others rather than himself. He had a large share of natural ability, and if his star had risen under later and brighter skies, he would have succeeded in professional life.

His issue. Seventh generation:

Thomas Strait, born 1822; married Mary Brown.

John McClure, born 1824; married (1) Elizabeth Tyler.

(2) Clymena Shutts.

Charles Mitchell, born 1826; married Melissa Cole.

Ephraim, born 1828; died 1853.

George Coryell, born 1830; died 1848.

Emily Peck, born 1833; married Willard Morse.

Issue by Anna Beers Tyler:

Stephen Beers, born 1840; married Sarah C. Shutts.

About 1850, Thomas Strait with his family removed to

Oswego, Ill. But two sons remain of his family, who now reside in that state.

Elizabeth Tyler, wife of John McClure, died in 1848. In 1853 he married Clymena Shutts. They made a home just north of the original homestead. Three sons came to them: Ephriam, a graduate of Union College, married Emma Bennett, granddaughter of Charles M. (6), and, also of ex-Governor Drew, of Arkansas; Ephriam is a banker at Phoenix, Arizona, a prominent Mason, being Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar in that jurisdiction. His father is also a Knight Templar and a member of St. Omer Commandery, Elmira, N. Y. Berton Green, liberally educated, married Kathro Belle Udell; residence, Rochester, N. Y., where he is General Eastern Agent of the Northwestern Mutual Insurance Co., a position of trust and profit. Thus far no children have come to any of them.

Charles M. keeps the old home, living in the house built seventy years ago.

Ephriam, who died of consumption, received a liberal education, and, at date of failure of health, was reading for the bar with Edward Quinn and Frank Keman, later Senator of that name. He was a young man of very great promise.

George is remembered only as a fine fellow who succeeded in keeping the small boy busy.

Emily married Mr. Willard Morse and resides at Millport, N. Y. For many years she made the home of Col. Green attractive.

Stephen Beers, born 1840, passed his youth upon the farm. In 1861, he enlisted in the 48th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers, Colonel James Perry, which command was with General Thomas W. Sherman's successful expedition to Port Royal, S. C. Later, was in Norfolk, Va., as a member of Norfolk Brigade Band. Upon being mustered out, in 1865, he obtained employment with the Fall Brook Coal Co., at Corning, N. Y. In March, 1872, he removed to Pittston, Pa., taking charge of the mining operations of the Butler Colliery Co., and is now engaged in anthracite coal mining. After Grover Cleveland's inauguration, he was appointed postmaster of the city, during which term he was instrumental in establishing the free delivery system in its local postal service. In February, 1894, he was elected Burgess of West Pittston for a term of three years, although opposed in politics to a *large* majority of his constituents. The verdict, upon his retirement,



was like that rendered upon his finishing his term as postmaster, "the best we ever had." He was a delegate to the Democratic Sound Money Convention at Indianapolis which nominated Palmer and Buckner. He considered it a very high honor to meet and act with so many distinguished Democrats, who, while not expecting to elect any ticket placed in nomination, were there to put the seal of condemnation upon "Bryanism." He is Past Eminent Commander of Wyoming Valley Commandery, K. T. ; a member of Nugent Post, G. A. R. ; an original trustee of the Pittston Hospital Association ; one of the executive committee of the Twin Shaft Relief Fund ; a member of the New England Society, which meets annually in Scranton ; of the Wyoming Valley Historical Society, and Wyoming Monument Association.

A daughter, Anna Elizabeth, born Corning, N. Y., August 5, 1868, married Charles S. Morrow, of Towanda, younger son of President Judge Paul D. Morrow. They removed to Duluth, where he died of appendicitis December, 1893, leaving a daughter, Henrietta Bennett Morrow, born Duluth, June 6, 1891.

A son, Frederick Charles, born West Pittston, December 31, 1876, educated at West Pittston High School, and graduated from Military School, Manlius, N. Y., after a three year's course, second in class in military tactics, which secured his registration in the War Department, Washington, D. C., and the Adjutant General's office, Harrisburg, Pa. He was commissioned First Lieutenant of Co. C, Ninth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel Charles B. Dougherty commanding, at Mt. Gretna, April, 1899, for the Spanish War, by his Excellency, Governor Daniel H. Hastings, upon recommendation of Hon. Thomas J. Stewart, Adjutant General of Pennsylvania ; was mustered out of United States service October 29, 1898, retaining commission in National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania. At date of muster out, he was practically responsible for the proper preparation of the intricate papers required, his immediate superior, Captain Gage, being totally disabled by fever contracted at that soldiers' earthly hell, Chickamauga. He is a member of the Wyoming Monument Association—the New England Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, a Companion of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, and of the Military Service Institution.

It is deemed unfortunate that it is not possible to identify and follow out the female line, and but few facts exist as to this

ve important family adjunct. I know only of one, a Mrs. Abby Bennett, long a resident of Elmira, N. Y., whose maiden name was Burt, being a neice to Ephraim, sr.

0. EDWARD, English.
1. SAMUEL, English and Colonial.
2. SAMUEL, Colonial.
3. SAMUEL, Colonial.
4. EPHRAIM, Colonial and Federal.
5. EPHRAIM, Colonial and Federal.
6. GREEN BENTLY, Federal.
7. STEPHEN BEERS.
8. FREDERICK CHARLES.
9. HENRIETTA BENNETT MORROW.

Covering two hundred and sixty-five years of our country's history to the close of the century.

#### Roster of the Bennetts in New York troops, Revolutionary war:

NAME.	RANK	COLONEL	CAPTAIN.
Benjamin	Private	Van Rensalaer	
DAVID	Private	" "	DeGarmo.
EPHRAIM	Sergeant	" "	Fraist.
Ephraim	Private	" "	Sharp.
Ezra	"	" "	Turner.
Jesse	"	" "	Turner.
Robert	"	" "	DeGarmo.
Bildad	"	Van Veghten	Woodworth.
Richard	"	" "	Van Woert.
Richard	"	" "	Winne.
Richard	"	" "	Woodworth.
John	"	Van Woert	Brown.
Abraham	"	Wessenfels	Hardenburg.
John	"	Wessenfels	Thompson.
Joseph	Corporal	Brinckerhoff	Brinckerhoff.
Joseph	Private	Malcolm	Delevan.
Amos	Lieutenant	Fisher	McMasters.
Amos	Lieutenant	Fisher	Yeomans.
Benjamin	Private	Graham	Sherwood.
Increase	Private	Field	Heacock.
Isaiah	Sergeant	Luddington	Kidd.

NAME.	RANK.	COLONEL.	CAPTAIN.
Jeremiah	Corporal	Dubois	Gano.
Mitchell	Private	Poesling	Westfall.
Oliver	"	Willett	Livingston.
Oliver	"	Willett	Gillet.
Ephraim	"	Wisner	Baly.
James	"	Wisner	Baly.
Benjamin	"	Yates	Hadlock.
Francis	"	"	Brown.
John	"	"	Hadlock.
John	"	"	Yates.
Nathan	Corporal	"	Brown.
Robert	Private	"	Yates.
Robinson	"	"	Hadlock.
Robinson	"	"	Brown.
Richard	"	"	Yates.
EPHRAIM	Sergeant	Hathorn	McCamly.
EPHRAIM	Private	"	"
JAMES	"	"	"
Jeremiah	"	"	Minthorn.
THADDEUS	"	"	McCamly,
THOMAS	"	"	"
ABRAHAM	"	"	"

NOTE.—Rev. George S. Bennett, Rector of Grace Church, Jersey City, says that Samuel Bennett (3) married Mary Stafford. Since going to print, I have verified this statement and find the wedding of July 15, 1716. She was called "Mary Stafford, daughter of Amos." Ephraim (5) also married a Mary Stafford. The Baldwin deed in part establishes this fact. Samuel married in 1716; Ephraim (6) was born in 1762, or forty-six years later. Assume Ephraim, sr's birth year to have been 1725, he would have been about thirty-one years of age when taken prisoner, returning home four years previous to the birth of Ephraim, jr. The double marriage with the Stafford family is additional confirmation of the hypothesis on page five.

The above named gentleman, writing under date of September 5, 1899, says: "I have been to Warwick, Orange county, this summer: I find Ephraim Bennett joined the Baptist church there in 1769, also, Sarah. Ephraim removed in 1788." So that his stay was very brief in the valley of Wyoming. However, tradition says the residence here was for a considerable time, and *one* of the name may have removed later from Warwick.

B. F. Bennett, Esq., an attorney in Greenup, Kentucky, states as to the missing Ephraim of Thomas Strait (6). He was step-son to Joseph Bennett and my half brother. He came to Sciota county, Ohio, in the year 1818, being then five years old, where he resided until the seventies, when he removed to Kansas with three of his children, leaving four behind him. He has been dead several years. His sons, Ebenezer and John and a daughter, Ruby, (married name not known) are in Kansas. Of those remaining in Ohio, Thomas Strait, deceased, named after his grandfather, would now be about sixty years old. Elizabeth, widow with children, married Mr. Burke. Her address is Firebrick, Lewis Co., Ky. Sallie married (1) Allen, (2) Adkins, address, California, Pike Co., Ohio. Susan married Spriggs; is now in Sciota Co, Ohio. This verifies the entry in my diary mentioned on page 14.

## THE VALLEY OF WYOMING.

Our history has shown an intimate connection with early events in Wyoming; therefore, for the benefit of those living afar, to whom our local history is not known, I have thought best to add some additional facts. We are directly west of Connecticut, along the forty-second parallel of latitude, and distant say one hundred and fifty miles. The valley begins where the Susquehanna, from the northwest, breaks through the gorge at Campbell's Ledge. A rocky barrier once existed there, at which time the river came down upon a much higher level and over a great fall, the water seeking rest in a depression caused by the uncut barrier at Nanticoke. Everywhere we find evidence of long submergence and that it was the bottom of an ancient lake of considerable dimensions. It lies on both sides of the river and is from three to six miles wide. Every portion of it is underlaid by veins of anthracite coal, some at great depth. Its industries are served by many railroads: The Pennsylvania, Lackawanna, Lehigh Valley, Erie, New York, Susquehanna and Western, Delaware and Hudson, and Central Railroad of New Jersey. It is gridironed by systems of electric roads over which one may travel from the lower end of the valley to Carbondale, on the Lackawanna river, a distance of forty-five miles.

Before the advent of railroads, two of the State's expensive system of canals transported its products, but now they would be absurdly inadequate. The existence of coal was known to the early settlers but no practical use was made of it until about the time of the Revolution, when some arkloads were sent down and distributed along the river. As to whom belongs the credit of being the first successful user of it, has long been a subject of controversy, but it is believed it was first substituted for wood, in an open grate, in the old tavern at Wilkes-Barre. We have a large population and two cities, Wilkes-Barre and Pittston; also, the large and thriving boroughs of Nanticoke, Alden, Ashley, Parsons, Plymouth, Kingston, Wyoming, West Pittston, and many others

of less importance, so that it is practically continuously built up. The Lackawanna River empties just above Pittston, having risen south of the water shed along the New York line, coming over the upper end of the Wyoming coal field, passing through the hustling city of Scranton, ten miles away, with its varied interests. It was anciently reached only by pathways leading from Easton, on the Delaware, from Orange County, from Sunbury, (Fort Augusta) and from the north by the Indian trail to Catharinetown and Fort Niagara, along which the Six Nations sent war parties south to the far borders of Virginia.

Its pristine beauty has been celebrated in song and story. Early in the century the poet Campbell wrote :

"On Susquehanna's side, fair Wyoming;  
Although the wild flower on thy ruined wall,  
And roofless homes a sad remembrance bring  
Of what thy gentle people did befall,  
Yet thou wert once the loveliest land of all  
That sees the Atlantic's wave their morn restore."

And Fitz Green Halleck said :

"Thou comest in beauty on my gaze at last  
On Susquehanna's side, fair Wyoming,  
Image of a dream in hours long past,  
When life was in its bud and blossoming."

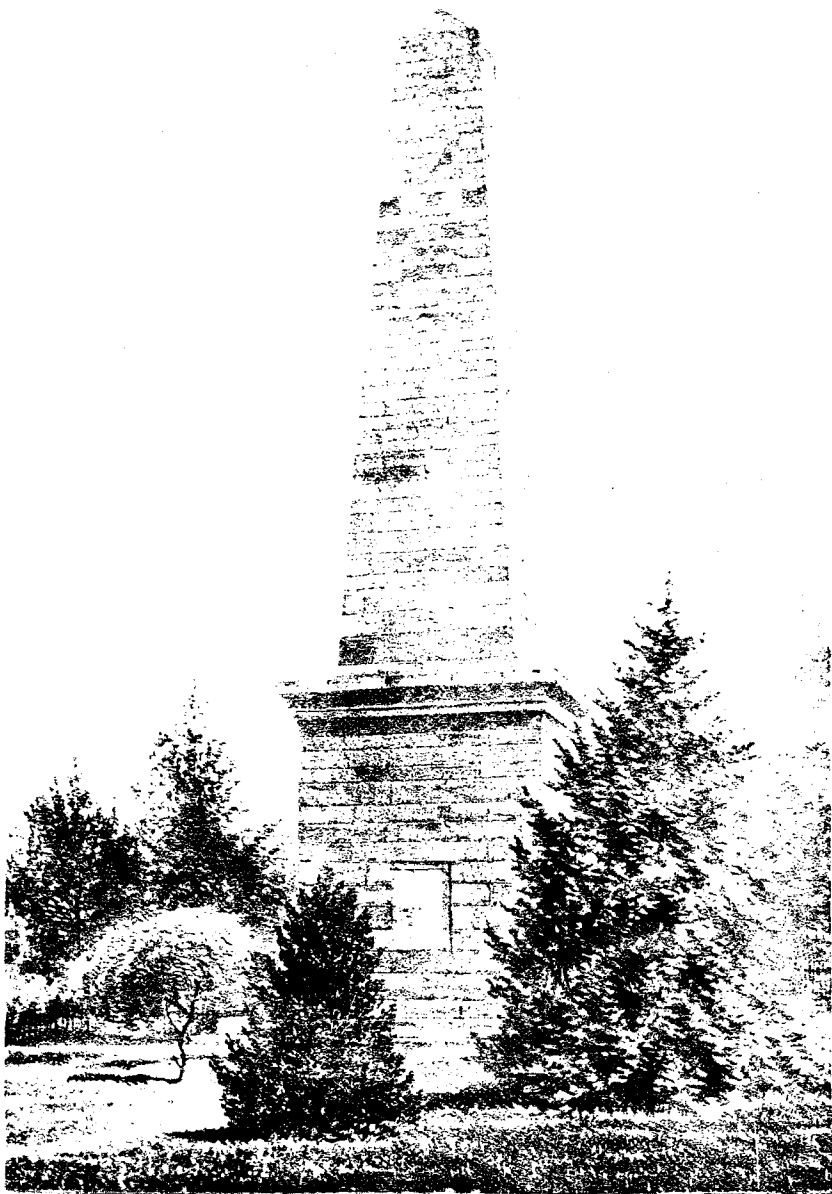
The old wits failed not to ridicule some of its inhabitants' pretensions. Colonel Dyer, returning to New Haven, being loud in praise of its fertility, was thus lampooned in the much used Yankee Doodle meter of that day :

"Canaan of old, as we are told,  
Its skies did rain down manna,  
But heavenly food's not half so good,  
As Dyer makes Susquehanna."

A local historian "to the manner born," Charles Miner, says of it fifty years ago : "Its character of extreme richness is derived from the extensive flats or river bottoms which extend a considerable distance from the stream, unsurpassed in luxuriant fertility. Pure streams of water come leaping from the hills, imparting health and pleasure in their course, all of them abounding with delicious trout. The quail whistled in the meadow ; the pheasant rustled in its leafy covert ; the wild duck reared her brood and

bent the reed in every inlet ; the red deer fed upon the hills, while in the deep forest, within a few hours' walk, was found the stately elk ; the streams yielded at all seasons an abundant supply of fish, perch, pike and bass, and, in the spring season, thousands of shad. Such were the common scenes when white people first came to Wyoming, which seems to have been formed by nature a perfect Indian paradise."

The name, originally *Waugh-Wam-a*, was a Delaware word, and signified broad plains. Count Zinzendorf, an Austro-Saxon nobleman, came from Bethlehem, in 1742, as a Moravian missionary to the Indians, and was probably the first white man here. The Indians received him kindly, but afterward planned to dispatch him. Watching him in his rude tent at now Plymouth, they saw a huge rattlesnake, which had been warmed by his fire, crawl across his legs and disappear. This satisfied them that the Count was under divine protection and he was thereafter respected accordingly. He found the Shawnees located at Plymouth, and the Delawares below Wilkes-Barre. Neither claimed sovereignty, but were vassals of the Iroquois or Six Nations, who held them under surveillance. Grants of land by royal favor usually bounded by degrees of latitude and extended from "sea to sea." Hence arose the Connecticut claim to Wyoming lands, which had been so granted, but which were within the well defined limits of the State of Pennsylvania. The great territory was called Westmoreland. The Susquehanna Company was *chartered only* by the Colony and was assisted indirectly. Little doubt exists that the pioneers intended to carve out a new state in Westmoreland. In 1762, a considerable number of emigrants came on and began improvements, returning home in the fall. In the spring of 1763, they brought their families and whole possessions. On the 15th of October they were set upon by the Indians with the loss of twenty male settlers. The others abandoned all and returned to their former home. The Governor of Pennsylvania sent on a force which "destroyed the corn" left by the fugitives. Later, the company set off five townships, each one being allotted to "forty substantial citizens" who were to "*take and hold possession.*" Among the first forty, who built Forty Fort, was Thomas Bennett. A little later came Rufus and others and Isaac of Preston. Thomas McClure, also mentioned, was here in 1769. His son James lived at Wilkes-Barre, and father to the second white child born there.



AYOON MONUMENT





He was one of the *Enfants Perdus* of July 3, 1878. Learning of this intrusion, Governor Penn sent a force to expel the Yankees, who resisted. Here is the origin of the Pennamite or Pennymite war. Captain Durkee, Yankee, was with others, taken prisoner by Captain Ogden, Pennamite, and sent to Philadelphia. With him were Draper, Gore, Luddington and Thomas Bennett. A considerable cash compensation was voted these men by the Susquehanna Company. In 1770, all being free again, we find Captain Durkee and his men besieging the fort at Mill Creek, where Ogden had left a garrison. It later capitulated with the loss of one man killed and several injured. The Yankees were ahead. In September, Captain Ogden came on and captured a considerable flock of settlers and lodged them in Easton jail, Pennsylvania was ahead and the Yankees vacated. Ogden, leaving a garrison, returned to Philadelphia. On the 18th of December, Lazarus Stewart (Yankee) surprised the garrison and sent them southward. The settlers returned and the strife was kept up with varying results in 1771, but with marked Yankee success in 1772, they controlling the locality. In 1775, the last expedition prior to the Revolutionary War, under Colonel Plunket, was repulsed by the Yankees, at Nanticoke, under Colonel Zebulon Butler. At this time the relations with the mother country were so strained that local disagreements were held in abeyance. Wyoming furnished more than its proportion of soldiers for the Continental army, thereby uncovering its borders and tempting Indian attack. Colonel Zebulon Butler was in Washington's army, had returned in time to lead the Americans at Wyoming. He passed away in Wilkes-Barre. His sons, John and Lord Butler, opened and named the Butler mine, which has been in operation since 1835. After the close of the Revolution, the local strife again began, but it became largely a legal struggle. The final outcome being that by act of Pennsylvania Legislature, the individual titles of the New England settlers were confirmed; yet many stoutly refused to accept. Colonel Jenkins, owner of the site of Fort Wintermoot, in his old age absolutely refusing to have any commerce with the State. His heirs, however accepted title.

During the troubled years, several forts had been built. These were of hewn logs, loopholed, the second story projecting over the first, thus enabling defenders to shoot, stone, or *scald* an assaulting party. They were surrounded by trees of considerable size,

sharpened at the top, set in the ground closely together, and called a stockade. Inside this enclosure were cabins, occupied in an emergency. All were located near water. Fort Durkee, at South, and Fort Wyoming at middle Wilkes-Barre, Fort Ogden at or near the City Hospital, and seven miles north were three Pittston stockades. On the west side, opposite Fort Ogden, was Forty Fort, just below the lower end of Monocasy Island. Four miles above, near a never-failing spring of water, was Fort Wintermoot. This was a Tory outfit, and to it the victorious savages, white and red, retired to refresh themselves and finish their day's butchery. Still above, at Pittston Ferry, was Fort Jenkins, its site now about to be suitably marked by our patriotic ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The battle of July 3d, 1778, in many striking respects, resembles that of Mimsink. The same reckless daring; divided councils as to the wisdom of attack; recriminations hurled at the more cautious; the lamentable result, a frightful slaughter, which might have been avoided by waiting for reinforcements, then approaching. It is probable, however, that if not attacked, the settlers feared the immediate destruction of their homes, consequently the hasty action.

We shall, further on, have to tell of incidents personal to this work only.

Lossing, in 1848, came here and saw Mrs. Myers, at that time a venerable lady, a daughter of Thomas Bennett, in 1778 a young maiden of sixteen, in the fort on July 3. He says: "I passed an interesting hour with the living chronicle of Wyoming. Her memory was clear and she related the incidents of her girlhood with a perspicuity that evinced remarkable mental vigor. After the battle, her face was painted and a white fillet bound about her head to protect her. She and her mother took refuge in the fort with their effects, Thomas and Solomon having gone to the Delaware during the night. Their house, not far away, stood for a week but was eventually burned. Returning after they left the valley, she during seventy years, witnessed many changes." Her son became High Sheriff of the county. A son-in law, Rev. Dr. Peck, a prominent minister, long connected with the Methodist Book Concern. Her father, being an aged man, did not march out. Her brother Solomon, not retreating with the others, later made his way cautiously to the river, swimming to Monocasy Island, where Mr. Hollenback *divided* a shirt and pants between

the two and they made their way to Wilkes-Barre, and thence to Goshen. The year following, Thomas and Solomon were captured by a band of six Indians and hurried north. At the head of the valley they found Lebbeus Hammond securely bound. All hurrying on, they camped the second night at Meshoppen. Bennett, sr., remained unbound and assisted in getting wood for the fire. The sentinel was alternately roasting and gnawing a deer's head which had been killed. Seeing him nodding, Bennett drove a spear through him, and, cutting the bonds of the others, they fell upon the sleepers. But one got away, and he was badly wounded by a tomahawk from the hand of Hammond. Speaking of this event, my father told me that Hammond met this Indian later at Tioga Point and compared notes of the fight. By the same authority, who had it from Hammond's lips: "When Elliott and I agreed to, and made the rush to the woods from the rock, for a time the Indians seemed too much astonished to pursue. I soon fell over a log and lay close, the Indians crossing but a few feet away. My hand fell upon a pine knot with a sort of a handle, which I carried during the night as a weapon." He reached Fort Ogden, removed to and died in Chemung county, N. Y., about 1810.

A local historian, I think Plumb, says: "Solomon Bennett went to Canada," Is this correct? A Solomon Bennett was at, and became an original proprietor of Hornellsville, N. Y., prior to 1800. It would require good evidence to convince me that the "good marksman" of Wyoming and this Bennett were not identical. I have a letter from a venerable gentleman, Mr. J. C. Stephens, of Canisteo, N. Y., who says: "My grandfather, Uriah Stephens, was in the battle with the Indians, July 3, 1778, and had a brother, Rufus, killed and scalped. I can remember seeing Solomon. He was a broad-shouldered, stout built man. He came here with the early settlers. He married Asa Upson's widow, of Muncy, Pa., whose husband was killed while making sugar. She was my aunt. My grandfather told me of Thomas and Solomon Bennett's *scrape* with the Indians at Meshoppen. Ten men bought two townships here. Solomon took two shares, and built mills on Bennett Creek and was the number one business man of the place. He went to New York and began speculating, failed, came home and died and was buried in his father-in-law's private burial place about 1820."

Thomas Bennett had a son, Andrew, who had John, father to Charles, who was born near Kingston, 1819. Charles was an attorney-at-law, passing away in 1866. I believe two descendants survive in Wilkes-Barre. The death of John was somewhat tragic. He was not strong, and his house, built upon the original site, taking fire, he was removed and placed upon a chair in the shade of a tree. The excitement overcame him and he died of heart failure.

Ishmael Bennett, born 1730, removed from Rhode Island to Connecticut, and, about 1770, to the Valley. After the battle, with others he went to Connecticut, afterward returning, when he took for his second wife Abigail Beers, widow of Philip Weeks, who was slain at the massacre, and sister to the Fairfield Beers mentioned below. He removed to Ohio in 1816, attaining an advanced age. His son Nathan lived in Wilkes-Barre, as late as 1872. No effort has been made to trace the relationship, which undoubtedly existed. (See Kulp.)

Isaac Bennett, of Preston, Conn., who purchased half a share in the Susquehanna Company, which entitled him to about five hundred acres of land, was here in 1769, and his name appears on the roll of those who agreed to "man their rights." There were also several Pittston Bennetts, whose descendants are still in the valley.

The virility of the race is evidenced by its wide distribution, emigrants not alone coming to New England, but settling in the Southern Colonies. I think Sir Richard Bennett to have been Governor of Virginia in 1654. "Virginia Genealogies," by Horace Edwin Hayden, M. A., shows marriages between the Bennetts and the old Virginia families, the Peytons, Lewises, etc.

I have in my employment a very decent and industrious colored man, who came from North Carolina to work upon a new railroad. Upon asking him how he obtained the name Robert Bennett, he said it was that of his father's old master, who came from Rhode Island. Perhaps at first a "Yankee school master," but more likely an agent or overseer, who acquired land and property in men.

As at Goshen, the bones of the slain were uncared for during a long period. About 1842 a number of ladies formed an association for the purpose of completing the long discussed but neglected work of erecting a suitable monument. They organized the

Wyoming Monument Association, and, by their energy and patriotic devotion, the necessary funds were secured, and the shaft under which rests the mortal remains of the heroes, finished. It is of granite blocks, sixty-two feet high, and of striking and noble proportions. Upon marble tablets are suitable inscriptions, with the names of the fallen. It is *certain* that all who fell are not so honored, as, for example, the two McClures. Very many names are there, common in the southern tier of New York.

An additional historical fact, of interest to my readers, is: (I quote Miner,) "An old man named Weeks, from Fairfield County, Conn., sent from his farm to battle seven persons: Three sons, one grandson, two relatives and a boarder." The *boarder* was Jabez Beers, and his name appears inscribed on the monumental marble. The (voluntary) "Wyoming Monument Association" now has charge of the structure and grounds, their excellent condition showing careful supervision. On each succeeding anniversary, at ten a. m., exercises are held there which yearly grow in interest. Eloquent addresses upon historical topics by eminent men are delivered, the whole embellished by patriotic music of a high order. The last meeting of all was more largely attended than any previous one. It was presided over by its president, the venerable Calvin Parsons, Esq., a descendant of Anderson Dana who is there entombed.



A MELLINS FOOD BABY.

## THE BENTLYS.

GENERAL ROELIFFE BRINKERHOFF, an eminent citizen and soldier, residing at Mansfield, Ohio, has produced an admirable monograph, which he has named the Genealogical Records of "The Tribe of Benjamin," of which he is one by marriage. Of the Bentlys, he says: "They were superior men in many ways. I met a gentleman recently who stated that he had made extensive inquiries about the family, and had yet to hear of one who became a public charge, died a pauper, or in prison as a convicted criminal," and the general adds testimony to that effect.

The history of "The Tribe of Benjamin" begins with William, who was in Kingstown, Rhode Island, prior to 1679. I am satisfied that this William was son to him of the name who died there in 1691, but of whom the Colonial records give few facts. He probably emigrated about 1630 or soon after the landing of the Pilgrims. A tradition exists that these Bentlys were of Scotch descent. I have not found any evidence to substantiate this belief, but on the contrary much to establish their Anglo-Saxon origin. There may be Irish and Scotch Bentlys, but not in this line.

Of the second William, General Brinkerhoff says he left children, WILLIAM (3), James, Thomas, Benjamin and Jane. While probably correct, I have been able to define only the first three. His wife's name was Sarah, who with her husband, died in 1720, both at Kingstown. In 1679, he, with others, petitioned the King to "Graciously put an end to the animosities that exist in the Colonies," (presumably largely religious). September, 1687, he was taxed 4 s., 6½ d. April, 1705, he set up, by permission of Kingstown authorities, a building for carrying on the trade of a currier. His will was probated in 1720. He was a Freeman. This by no means implies any previous condition of servitude, but rather the taking of an obligation called the "Freeman's oath," a queer jumble of obligations which more closely bound the

individual to the worship of God and to good citizenship. It was always an evidence of good character and a high appreciation of civic duty, and practically created an aristocracy within Democracy.

WILLIAM (3), of Stonington, Conn., son of William (2), married

(1) Mary Elliott.

(2) Bathsheba Lewis, widow of Israel Lewis.

He had children by Mary Elliott :

John.

George.

Caleb.

Ezekiel.

Elizabeth.

Tabatha.

Ruhama.

Mary.

By Bathsheba Lewis :

William, born 1735.

Thomas, born —.

James, born 1739.

GREEN M., (4), born 1741, March 23.

Benjamin, born 1744.

He died 1760. His will admitted to probate, provided that his wife, Bathsheba, should be executrix. He said in effect: My older children having to some extent been provided for, all returns from my estate shall be devoted to the care and maintenance of my younger children, and that finally it shall go to them. The inventory amounted to 486*l.* 15*s.*, consisting of apparel, spinning and flax wheel, a cow, two sheep, etc., done at Kingstown. Some part of his life he had spent in Connecticut, but had returned to Rhode Island. In this will, it is easy to discover the dominating force of an able and managing woman, in the person of Mrs. Bathsheba, who was probably a Green, and it is reasonable to believe that the force of character evinced by her descendants, was, to a considerable extent, due to her personality. The William named above, was, perhaps, the distinguished divine who ministered many years at Salem, Mass., before the Revolution, and was a correspondent of the eminent men of that day,

the Adamses, Madisons, and others. He was a man of much ability.

General Brinckerhoff says of George, brother to Caleb and half-brother to Green M., "after the Revolutionary War, he removed to Western Pennsylvania and settled at Jacobs Creek, Westmoreland county. His wife was Jane Carson. Their children were: Shesbazzar, House, Jeffrey, Absolom, Mary, Benjamin. In 1787, they removed to the west bank of the Monongahela, in Washington county. These Bentlys became large land owners."

Benjamin appears at Sharon, Ohio, some years prior to his death in 1818. They had children, all with families save one. They were Robert, Adamson, Elizabeth, George, Hannah, Benjamin, James, Martin, Shesbazzar (Great Scott), Aboliab and Mary. All were tall and fine looking, Adamson six feet four, and, Martin excepted, lived to more than three score and ten. They were men of influence in the communities in which they lived.

Caleb, third son by Mary Elliott, was a soldier under a Captain Russell, who, with his company, joined the British expedition to Havana under Admiral Lord Pocoke and Lord Albermarle in 1762. A considerable number of soldiers were levied in the colonies, among whom yellow fever and climatic diseases made havoc, not fifty per cent. returning, upon the withdrawal of the British flag. Very recently I was gratified to receive a letter from Mrs. Rosa B. Marvin, of Oregon, Wis., who says: "I do not know my lineage, but I am descended from Caleb Bently, who married Elizabeth Spencer, they having at least three sons, William, Isaac and Nathan. Isaac was my great-grandfather, born in Rhode Island, and moved to New York in 1804." She identifies Caleb as being with the Cuban expedition, but queries whether Isaac was son or grandson to Caleb. Apparently he was born about 1725 to 1730 and would have been thirty-five years old in 1762. His younger brother, William, was born in 1744. In absence of all positive knowledge, it would seem from all the circumstances that William's first family were advanced in years, and that, late in life, he married Mrs. Lewis, consequently Isaac was probably son to Caleb of West Indies fame.

As to Green M., who was great-grandfather to the Bennetts of the seventh generation, it has been said: "He removed from



Rhode Island to the West Branch of the Susquehanna." His journey may have ended there, but it is certain that it was made by the way of Goshen, where he served as a soldier, and where Hannah married Ephraim Bennett, jr. It is possible that he resided at Muncy for a time, leaving because of defect of land title, like many others holding under the Connecticut charter, for all that region was claimed by the Susquehanna Company, and subjected to forays from Philadelphia and Easton.

New York archives show that eleven (11) Bentlys served in the Continental line in that state. They were enlisted in commands raised along the Hudson River. Among them appear Benjamin, Thomas and Green M. It is probable that at the close of the war they "swarmed" westward, some to Chester county, Pa., Benjamin to the Western Reserve claimed by Connecticut, and Green M. to Luzerne county.

Elisha T. Bently, of Benjamin, of Green M., has left a written memorandum that his grandfather married about 1755. As he was born March 23, 1741, he would have been but fourteen years old, too young even for that day of early marriages. I am unable to settle the name of his wife and must accept the probably correct tradition that she was Diana Strait. This will explain the appearance of the name in the family, Hannah having called her second son Thomas Strait Bennett, very likely for the boy's grandfather. The memoranda says also that Green M. was by trade a tailor. If all accounts are true it would not take nine of such tailors to make one man by any means. He had sons Benjamin and Green jr., beside daughters Diana, Rhoda, Hannah, Elizabeth, Sarah. Here is additional confirmation of the Diana Strait tradition. Another tradition is that a William married a Green. This may well be correct as the maiden name of the wife is unknown with certainty.

Among historians of Wyoming events, the year 1789 has been called the "year of migration," when, worn out by the harassment of Pennsylvania State authorities, very many New England people found refuge within the borders of New York State. Green M. and his family took part in this removal and in that year built the first house in what is now Ashland township, Chemung county. He gave his name to Bently Creek. Hannah had been some years married and her family of young Bennetts was increasing regularly and as rapidly as Dame Nature

would permit, and she resided nearby for several years. Colonel Green Bently Bennett having been born at foot of "Hard-scrabble Hill," at Wellsburg, in 1797. By old papers of record at Owego, they seem to have removed to Millport about the same time, not far from 1805. The locality chosen was convenient to Seneca Lake. The virgin forest was of the finest pine and oak trees, this being a reason that so many of the pioneers in that section engaged in milling lumber.

In 1823, Veteran township was created, being taken from Catharine, Tioga county, (named from Catharine Montour). Because of Bently's "high character and integrity, and for the reason that he was a "*veteran pioneer and soldier* of two wars," the new township was named in his honor. He was buried in a private plot upon his land. Recently the people of Millport have taken steps to remove the remains to their public cemetery and there to erect a suitable monument. It is said that he was a Major in the Revolutionary Army. Thorough search proves this incorrect. He was simply a *private*, but deserves high honor for all that. We frequently find that reputed officers were not commissioned. Rev. Mr. Hayden explains in this way: "After the close of the Revolution, ex-soldiers would naturally secure prominent places in the militia and have applied to them the term of their rank. Later it would be assumed that they were of the same rank during the war, and after they passed away the error would be perpetuated.

He was, in religious matters, a follower of Roger Williams, and would neither support nor attend any but Baptist preaching. This resulted in annoyance and vexatious litigation, and, being arrested and subjected to fines, he concluded to try a residence among the Quakers, who also had hard lines in New England. He had started westward with all his possessions when the sheriff overtook and proposed to detain him, but Bently, backed by his old flint-lock musket of Canada in 1757, safely convoyed his expedition across the State line. This self-same musket remains in possession of his great-grandson, Melville Prustman, of Tioga county. Surprise was expressed when I told an antiquarian friend that our Bennett branch were largely Baptists. The reason is not far to seek, Hannah, the daughter of such a father, and Grandmother Bathsheba Lewis, would not permit her lambs to stray very far from any fold where she thought best to place them.

The Bentlys were reputed to be men of powerful physique, undaunted courage and great endurance. A cane now in possession of Charles M. Bennett, once used by Benjamin of Green M., argues that he was a very tall man; they were said to be "red men," or of high color and the red or light hair still appears occasionally. As has been said, Benjamin, the elder son, removed to Tioga, Pa., with his wife, Mary Keeny, in 1803 or 1805. In 1815 she died, he in the following year married Jane Ottarson, of Bradford county, whose nephew was a leading editorial writer on the *New York Tribune* when controlled by Horace Greely. She became mother of three sons, James, Ephraim and Elisha T. The latter retained the house at Tioga for many years, when failing health sent him to Florida. Returning with his wife they passed away recently at the home of his sons, Ephraim and Solon, who are engaged in a successful mercantile business in Ithaca, N. Y. Mrs. Bently was Almira Mitchell, sister to Hon. John I. Mitchell, ex-United States Senator, etc. I have to acknowledge favors from Mrs. Flora Mix now of Hornellsville, N. Y., Elisha T.'s daughter. A daughter of Benjamin by Mary Keeny, married Andrew Prutsman; a daughter is Mrs. Edward Spaulding, of Corning, N. Y.; a son Christopher, was an officer in a Wisconsin regiment during the rebellion. Being taken prisoner he, with others, was placed under fire at Charleston. Upon the approach of Sherman they were hurried inland and eventually escaped by cutting through the floor of the car, afterward for weeks cared for by the blacks. The story is quite as thrilling as that told by Richardson in his "Field Dungeon and Escape," and should be certainly preserved in unfading characters.

Green Bently, jr., seems to have remained with or near his father. He was born about 1778, probably in Orange county. His wife was Olive Hopper. The date of his death is unknown, but in March, 1822, Green M. Bently deeds to Olive (Hopper) Bently for \$500 and to her male heirs, viz: James, George, Ezekiel, William and Elisha Bently, the one hundred acres of land purchased of Benjamin and Mary (Keeny) Bently "so long as she shall remain the widow of Green Bently, jr., and in case of her marriage, to go to above male heirs." In spite of the restriction she later married a Captain Greenough by whom she had children, I think. The Bennetts to the last recognized and called Mrs. Greenough "Aunt Olive." The property passed into

the hands of the Greenoughs and was occupied by them to the dissatisfaction of the Bentlys.

A lady eighty years of age, Mrs. Margaret Craig, residing at Clay Center, Kansas, writes: "Green Bently, jr., was my father. He died when I was three years old," so that the date of his decease was about 1820, or say three years before his father. She continues, "Ephraim Bennett's wife was my aunt, the only one I ever knew; her name was Hannah. Mother had six boys before she had a girl. My oldest sister was born in 1811. My older brother married Eunice Nichols. Daniel Thompson's first wife was sister to my brother James' wife. Brother George married Lucinda Cleveland. Ezekiel was never married, being ill of an incurable malady. My brother William married Captain Greenough's oldest daughter, Experience. My sister, Esther, married his oldest son, David Greenough. My younger brother, Elisha, (not Elisha T., they were cousins) married a woman in Pennsylvania by the name of Bethia Schoonover. He died the husband of Mary Mitchell. My sister Eunice married first Elihu Lane, second Trumbull Page. I first married a man by the name of William Tiers. *My grandfather was thought much of.* When I was in Ohio there was a preacher there named Joseph Bennett. He came to see one of Green Bently's girls. When he saw me he *dropt* into a chair and cried. My father was a Free Mason, and was buried in that style." She says there were ten children, but as shown, accounts for but seven.

I am thus careful of small matters as there may be many whom they will interest, and who may be able to build upon them.

This Bently record is brief as relating particularly to our branch of the family, but if the history of all the descendants of William (2) could be written, I am certain it would do us no discredit. The vital statistics show that they married into many of the old New England families, a William marrying a Mary Houghton prior to 1700. I give below the roster of soldiers of the name during the Revolutionary War in the New York line, as I have already done in the part dedicated to the Bennetts:

## The Bentlys in New York line :

NAME.	RANK	COLONEL	CAPTAIN.
Oliver	Lieutenant	Van Rensalaer	Niles.
Tillinghast	Lieutenant	Vandenburg	Wheeler.
Tillinghast	Lieutenant	Graham	Vail.
Samuel	Sergeant	Van Rensalaer	Niles.
Benjamin	Private	Van Rensalaer	Niles.
Benedict	"	Van Veghten	
Thomas	"	Van Veghten	Woodworth.
Richard	"	Webster	Tozer.
Thomas	"	Vandenburg	Wheel. ?
Joseph	"	Whiting	Herrick.
Thomas	"	Whiting	Herrick.
GREEN M.	"	Wisner	Baly.

NOTE.—After going to print, I had opportunity to consult a history of Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler counties, published by Edwards and Ensign, Philadelphia, Pa., 1879, which contains the following :

"The first settler in the township (Veteran) was Green Bently, who was born in Rhode Island, removed to Warwick, Orange county, N. Y., with a view to settlement in Wyoming Valley, but fearing difficulty with the Indians, he remained at Warwick during the Revolutionary War, where he saw service with the army. About 1784, he moved on to Wyoming. The Pennamite troubles breaking out, the Bentlys remained only three years, uniting in building a boat, placing upon it their effects, they proceeded up the river, consuming thirty days in the trip, the live stock being driven along the bank of the stream. At Bently Creek, he bought three hundred acres of land. About 1798 he sold, removing to Millport, buying land upon which he built a log house on the west side of the highway, directly opposite the spot where, later, Green Bently, jr., built the house occupied by Olive (Hopper) Bently with her second husband, Captain Greenough. Bently's remains now lie in the private plot, a short distance away."

Recently, with John McClure Bennett, the writer visited the place and identified the location. It is still known as the old Greenough place. Just north and adjoining is the "Bailey place," where, near a little rivulet coming from the eastern hills, once stood the home of Ephraim Bennett (5) and Hannah Bently.

## THE BEERS.

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THIS early Colonial family was from Yorkshire, England. The name was originally O'Beare or Beare, of the O'Beares and O'Sullivan's of Castle Beare—Haven, Ireland.

In 1563, it was decreed that this castle should be allotted to O'Donnell, fourteenth Lord of Beare and Bantry. Dermot, born 1526, thirteenth Duke of Beare and Bautry, served in all the wars against Queen Elizabeth. At the head of a large force from his Dukedom, he crossed the channel to England, accompanied by his nephew, Donnell. This particular rebellion, as usual, proving unsuccessful, the forces dispersed, Donnell escaping to Spain, dying there in 1626.

The celebrated French Marshal, McMahon, claimed descent from the O'Sullivan Beares.

Daniel O'Sullivan Beare, father of (School) Master Sullivan, of Berwick, N. H., the grandfather of General John Sullivan, of Revolutionary fame, later Governor of that State, was of this family. Master Sullivan was a rebel by birth and training. After untiring efforts to restore the Stuarts to the English throne during 1716-1721-1723, he left his native Ireland for the new world. It is related that his wife, on shipboard, being asked "What will you do in America?" answered, "Raise Governors." Strikingly coincidental is the fact that her son John became Governor of New Hampshire, 1786-87-89, and James became Governor of Massachusetts in 1808; and a grand-son, early in this century, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio. Master Sullivan was an accomplished scholarly gentleman and maintained himself by teaching, dying in 1795 at the age of one hundred and five years.

It will be readily understood how the ancestors of JAMES (1) and Richard Beers found themselves in England, and how it became much to their interest to change their religion and modify their ideas of loyalty. Inheriting an adventurous spirit, it is easy to see that their descendants might seek their fortunes in America as many others were doing.



First Lieut. Frederick Chas. Bennett,  
Co. C, 4th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry





I find the earliest mention of Richard Beares is that he embarked, date of September 2, 1635, on the ship "*William*," John Loughram, Master, sailing from Gravesend, County Kent, England. In common with other passengers, he took, before sailing, the usual oath of "Conformity to the Protestant religion and that he was no subsidy man." His age is conjectural. He presumably arrived in 1636, and, as he immediately assumed prominence in the Colony, it is probable that he was in the full vigor of early manhood, having, been born about 1600. He left in England a brother, JAMES (1), who, by occupation a mariner, was lost at sea in 1653. This JAMES had two sons who later came across the water to Massachusetts.

Richard resided at Watertown. In 1642, records call him Sergeant Beers. In 1668, "Leftenant" Beares. In this year he was appointed one of a committee of three to "lay out the City of Boston." This argues that he may have been a surveyor. This is not a certainty but a probability, as very frequent commissions of this kind were awarded him, the latest found being of date 1666. In October, 1664, the General Assembly of the Colony "Granted to Leftenant Beers, he having been one of the first settlers in the Colony and having served the country twice in the wars against the 'Peckquotts,' the said court deemeth it fit to grant unto the said Leftenant Beers three hundred acres of land, which shall be held according to law." As Richard was said to have been a "deacon in the church, and wealthy for those times," he did not find it necessary to take up this land. In 1682, Eleazer Beers, his son and executor, for the benefit of his widow prays the "General Assembly for Liberty to lay out three hundred acres of land formerly granted Richard Beers." This of May 27th to which "humble prayer" assent was given.

In 1675, Captain Beers, was Deputy in the General Assembly as he had been for thirteen successive years, having been made a Freeman as early as 1637. He was marked present at the session of July 9, 1675.

It a digression, but I can not refrain from giving some extracts from the proceedings of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, of which Richard was a member.

At session of March 1, 1641 :

"John Dane, for making an Indian *drunke*, was fined five shillings.

Jane Abell was presented for being *drunke*. It being a mistake, she was discharged.

Mr. Edward Tomlin, retracting his opinion against *singing in church*, was discharged.

Boston is enjoined to mend their (high) ways upon pain of paying twenty shillings.

The wife of Robert Lewes, for cursing the name of God, was 'censured' to be whipped.

The wife of Richard Carter appearing, she was admonished and enjoined to bring her husband to be bound for her good behaviour.

Davy Heckburn, for his misdemeanor and foul miscarriage, was 'censured' to be severely whipped and to wear an iron collar till the court please, and to serve three weeks longer."

Stern if not exact justice, surely.

Conflicts with the Indians began with the Pequots about 1637 and continued for a long time. Thirty-eight years later that known as King Phillip's war broke out, resulting in the massacre at Hadley and many other atrocities. Northfield was threatened, and Captains Lathrop and Beers, from Boston, with their commands, marched promptly to its relief. Captain Beers' company proceeded slowly, having ox teams drawing carts loaded with supplies. At the steep crossing of a small stream, still called Bloody Creek, they were set upon and Captain Beers and twenty of his men slain. (See Bodge's History of King Phillip's War.) Thus the gallant gentleman who had been "out against the 'Peck-quotts' twice," exemplified the saying, "the pitcher that goeth often to the well shall be broken at last."

While we are not directly descended from this old Captain, let us hope and trust that we are not devoid of the energy and courage that sent them out in arms for the right, nor grown degenerate as the centuries have passed. His son Elnathan, who escaped, was Ensign in the company and served later under Captain Sill, Richard's successor. His wife was named Sarah. His children were Sarah, Sarah (2), Mary, Eleazer, Judith, Elizabeth, Elnathan, Abigail.

James, jr., and ANTHONY (2) had come to America. James and his descendants are not identified. ANTHONY, our Colonial ancestor, was at Watertown, Mass., and a Sergeant in the Indian wars in 1649. He removed to Roxbury, Mass. in 1658; in 1659, to Fairfield county, Conn. He was, like his father, a mariner,

and, like him, lost at sea : date 1679. His wife was named Elizabeth. Their children were :

ELIZABETH, married Goodin.

BETHIA, married Mettup.

MARY, married Smith.

SAMUEL, died in infancy.

EPHRAIM, born 1648.

JOHN, born 1652.

ESTHER, born 1654.

SAMUEL B., born 1657.

BARNABAS (3), born 1658.

BARNABAS (3) married Elizabeth Wilcoxson. She died 1688. He married a second wife, name unknown. He had :

Elizabeth.

Nathan.

JOSIAH (4).

JOSIAH (4), born Stratford, Conn., August, 1693, married Elizabeth Uffoot, May 10, 1717. They had :

NATHAN.

BARNABAS.

JOSIAH, jr.

WILLIAM.

SAMUEL.

RUTH.

STEPHEN (5).

TABATHA.

ABNER.

Rev. Nathan Beers was of Stonington, and, although an aged man and a non-combatant, was beaten so severely that he died during the raid upon the Long Island coast towns, in May, 1778, by the British under Sir Henry Clinton and General Tryon. Another Nathan Beers became a Lieutenant in the third Connecticut Regiment, Webb Continentals, and in 1783 was retired upon half pay.

Josiah, jr., in 1778, was appointed Ensign of the second Train Band of the Fourth Regiment of the State of Connecticut. Later, he was made a Lieutenant by State authority. (Assembly Records.) Of this second company, Samuel Uffoot was Captain. They were probably cousins, inasmuch as Josiah's mother was an Uffoot.

STEPHEN (5), born December 9, 1734, died June 19, 1815; married Anna Benjamin, who died June 1818. They had :

Isaac, born April, 1667 ; died 1671.

STEPHEN (6), born January 24, 1771, who died August 14, 1846.

Mary Bliss, born September 11, 1773 ; married Comfort Butler ; died in 1852.

Anna, born June 3, 1775 ; married Dr. Payne.

Theodocia, born June 2, 1779 ; died about 1845 ; married Seymour Adams, said to be one of the New England family of that name, a very polished and accomplished gentleman, and a musician.

Lucy, born December 4, 1781 ; died 1817 ; married Robert Grant.

Of the above, the writer recalls only Theodocia, who, in 1845, was a venerable and lovely lady. She had been for years widowed, with sons and daughters. She resided about two miles east of the Bennett home with a son, John. Another son resided ten miles away. A daughter was Mrs. William R. Smith, whose husband was an early banker and merchant at Addison, N. Y. Another married Mr. Nelson Cowan, late of Corning. A Mrs. Downs, whose husband was in business in Havana, removed to New York City, where the writer's mother sometimes visited, but she may not have been a daughter to Theodocia, but surely a cousin of the seventh generation. The Grants lived not far from Ithaca, Franklin and his children being musical and gifted. George resided at Mecklenburg, where his descendants now are.

It is regrettable that our facts are so meagre with respect to such close relatives. Perhaps others into whose hands these pages come, may be able to supply them.

STEPHEN (6), born June 24, 1771 ; died August 14, 1846 ; married Elizabeth Davis, who died at Danby, N. Y., March 6, 1844. She was daughter to Stephen Davis and Elizabeth Thatcher, and born in sight of sight of Horse Neck, Conn., where General Putnam rode down the rocks to escape the British. Henrietta Bennett Morrow has a piece of jewelry given her before her marriage bearing the initials of John Dean, an early sweetheart. A precious heirloom. The lettering is in quaint, old fashioned characters. They had :

Josiah, born March, 1798; died May, 1840; married Clarissa Clark.

Mary Thatcher, born January 15, 1800; married Seba Canfield, Esq.; died December 23, 1823.

ANNA, born November 20, 1801; died January 2, 1876; married (1) Reuben Tyler.

(2) Green Bently Bennett.

Isaac M., born February 21, 1804; died March 31, 1873; married (1) Caroline Patterson.

(2) Charlotte Patterson.

Stephen Davis, born March 11, 1807; married Ann Elizabeth Thompson; died February 6, 1870.

Frederick, born May 11, 1809; died August 23, 1879; married Cornelia Smith.

William Pitt, born November 12, 1812; died March 31, 1841; married Maria Judson.

ORIN DAY, born January 7, 1818; died August 5, 1819. Abner Beers of Josiah (4) married Hannah Beardsly.

They had :

Jabez, born 1763.

Elizabeth Abigail, married Abner Judson.

Lewis, born 1768; married Phoebe Curtis, 1793.

Deacon Jabez Beers, son to Abner and Hannah, married Betsey Howley, 1786; second wife Harriet ———. He was Deacon of Stratford Church, removed to Danby, N. Y. He had :

Harriett, born 1787.

Betsey, born 1789.

Harry, born 1791.

Harriet, born —.

Harry removed to and lived at Danby.

As the Bennetts and Bentlys migrated to Chemung county, N. Y., so there seems to have been among the Beers and others, a hegira to the vicinity of Ithaca, in Tompkins county. The locality chosen for settlement was in a broad, well watered, gently sloping valley upon one of the principal highways between the head of Cayuga Lake and the Susquehanna River at Owego; its drainage being north to Cayuga Lake and down the beautiful Buttermilk Falls, south of Ithaca.

At Danby Corners, STEPHEN (6) built a large and commodious house, together with a sawmill, and in 1840 a considerable town had grown up. Here had gathered, beside the different Beers's, the Judsons, Beardslys, Curtises, Clarkes and other Connecticut people whose names the writer does not recall, but most of them were related to his mother in some degree of cousinship. As he remembers them, they were cultivated, reserved people, and the noisy small boy, being frozen by them, did not at all enjoy calling with his mother upon them. I now think they must have been very nice. As to the religious leanings of STEPHEN (6) family, they were between the Methodist belief and the Presbyterian doctrine.

Dr. Lewis Beers, being well to do, gave a site and built a church at South Danby, where for many years he taught, or caused to be taught, the doctrines formulated by Emanuel Sweedenborg, and which, with the best teachings of modern spiritualism, has done so much to change and broaden religious thought and to teach thoughtful people that it is but a step across the line to the unseen and abiding land. Isaac, Stephen, Davis and Frederick received Dr. Beers' teaching, and from such a small beginning has grown, it is said, the very advanced religious ideas among the faculty of Cornell University. The old church only remains as to its walls, but its waves of influence, it is hoped, are still spreading.

Lewis Curtis, Esq., who married a Miss Mills, of the Corning family of that name, grandson of Dr. Beers, lived at the old homestead. As to the children of STEPHEN (6) :

Josiah resided at Danby Corners. He had a son, Stephen Clark, who married Mary Munson, removing to Owego, N. Y., where his descendants are, and a daughter, Angeline, now of Ithaca.

Mary Thatcher Canfield resided at South Danby. They had a son, Orrin Day, who died, unmarried, December 28, 1848, aged twenty-three years. A daughter, Augusta Maria, born June 18, 1820, married Thomas Phillips, now of Waverly, N. Y. She died November 12, 1872, having been mother to a family of three sons and five daughters. She was an accomplished lady of most charming manner and many virtues.

ANNA had sons and daughters, Lorenzo, Reuben, Elizabeth and Amy. Lorenzo Tyler married Emeline Bagley, removed to Michigan, where he died January 20, 1875, aged fifty-seven years.

His wife survives him, also a son, Morris Sanford Tyler. Reuben died, unmarried, April 1, 1863, aged thirty-eight years. He is buried at Havana, N. Y. Elizabeth married John McClure Bennett, February 3, 1848. She died September 3, that year, about the date of the death of George Bennett, during an epidemic of typhoid. Amy, born August 22, 1822, married Charles Keeler. She died October 8, 1848, leaving a daughter, Sarah, who, born 1844, married Julius Manning, whom she survives. She has four children. ANNA, in 1839, married Colonel Green Bently Bennett, removing from Danby to Moreland, N. Y. By this marriage she had one son, Stephen Beers Bennett.

Isaac M. resided in Ithaca, N. Y., and was engaged in lumber dealing. He was highly respected and considered one of the solid men of the town. He married Caroline, and afterward Charlotte Patterson, sisters to Dr. Patterson, a leading physician of Ithaca. His collection of Sweedenborgs works was bequeathed to Cornell University.

Stephen Davis retained the old homestead and cared for his parents in their declining years. He later went to Galesburg, Ill., and resided with his widowed daughter, Elizabeth Anna Ruger, whose husband, Francis, was a valued officer in the war between the States. At this writing, "Aunt Ann" still survives at an advanced age, at Galesburg. Their eldest son, Frederick Josiah, resides at Carroll, Ia. He married Louisa Griffey. Their daughters are in the northwest and are married well. Isaac Abner married Anna S. Woodward. They have no children. He resides at Anaconda, Cal. William Davis, born January 1, 1841, died 1867. Had been a soldier in the then recent war. Augusta Maria, born 1846, married Francis Hicks, a banker at Cheyenne, Neb. She died of consumption October 26, 1884. There are descendants—Cora Bell, born February 19, 1848; married James S. Whittaker, of Penn Yan; died August, 1895, leaving one son.

Frederick, born May 11, 1809; married Cornelia Smith; died August 23, 1897. She was sister to Martin Luther Smith, who graduated from West Point high in his class. Having married a Southern woman, he cast his lot with the Confederacy. As showing the horrors of civil war, he met upon the field many of the sons of his boyhood's associates, his nephew, Martin Beers, giving up his life for the Union cause. Frederick was for many

years a successful physician of the old school. Later, he removed to Ithaca, and embarked in the lumber business with his brother, Isaac M. His younger daughters, Lucy Clarissa and Mittie, retain the home in that city. Joan Clara, born November 28, 1834; died April 27, 1897. She married George Nourse, Esq., (deceased August 1899). They had a large family, viz.:

Frances Luther, married Lottie Judson.  
 Frederick Beers, married Belle Williams.  
 Louis Adrian.  
 Martin Leigh.  
 Sarah Cornelia (deceased), married James Hillick.  
 Edwin Augustus.  
 Arthur Willard.  
 Burt Lincoln.  
 Ralph Farrington.  
 Jennie Louise, married William Morrison, now of Wilmington, Del.  
 Lucy Edith at home.

William Pitt, born November 10, 1812; married Maria Judson; died March 31, 1841. She is of the family previously mentioned, and still survives at Danby. They had William, born 1837; Caroline, born 1840, neither married.

ORRIN DAY, "much beloved" as was natural under the circumstances, born January 7, 1818; died August 5, 1819.

Our descent is, therefore:

James (1), English.  
 Anthony (2), Colonial.  
 Barnabas (3), Colonial.  
 Josiah (4), Colonial.  
 Stephen (5), Federal.  
 Stephen (6).  
 Anna Beers (Tyler) Bennett (7).  
 Stephen Beers Bennett (8).  
 Frederick Charles Bennett (9).  
 Henrietta Bennett Morrow (10).

reaching back at least, in America, two hundred and fifty years.

NOTE—Danby village was at first called Beers settlement. Among the the earliest comers were Abner and Stephen Beers (6) who was the first Supervisor of the town. Abner kept a store in 1806. The post-office being estab-



lished in 1802, Dr. Lewis Beers became postmaster, until 1811, when Jabez, his brother, took the office. This migration took place in 1797, from Stratford, Fairfield county, Conn. Dr Beers became very prominent in town and county and occupied the place owned by E. L. B. Curtis, Esq. He was first Justice of the Peace, receiving his commission from Hon. Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor. His brother Jabez succeeded him. He was a member of the Legislature, President of the Owego and Ithaca Turnpike Company until 1841, and first pastor of the New Jerusalem Church (Sweedborgian), which faith he adopted in 1813, and was followed in its ministry by Rev. Dr. Brown. In all his public positions he evinced an unflinching desire to do his whole duty, and died at eighty-three, having filled the full measure of a useful life. In 1805, he brought from Stratford his parents, Abner and Hannah, with his brother Nathan. The aged couple passed away 1816-17. About 1805-6, came Joseph Judson, Nathan Adams with his brother Seymour and wife, and Comfort Butler and wife. (The history of Tompkins county above quoted.)

We have mentioned a tradition that Ephraim (4) went to Ohio with Joseph, his son;—another that he went with David to Howard. It seems that this last statement is correct, and that the Baptist ministers were Thaddeus and Joseph. However there was a Joseph (5) who removed to Indiana about 1820.

Under date of September 11, Hon. B. F. Bennett writes, clearing up some points touched upon. He is son to Rev. Joseph Bennett of Thaddeus of Ephraim (4) and married Eunice, daughter of Green M. Bently, sister to Hannah, wife of Ephraim (5). His statement accounts for Rev. Joseph's interest in "one of Green Bently's girls," as stated by Mrs. Craig. He says that the mother of Eunice was sister to General Nathaniel Green, of Revolutionary fame. I consider this in part doubtful yet that Mrs. Bathsheba (Lewis) Bently was a Green and her children cousins to the General. Circumstances also confirm the tradition. Rhode Island people from Warwick transplanted its name to Orange county, N. Y. Green M. was of both Warwicks. General Nathaniel Green was born in the first named place in 1746, Green M. in 1741. William (3) married late in life, Mrs. Bathsheba bearing William (4), her first son in 1735. It is not of course impossible that the relation of brother and sister existed, but it is more nearly certain that she was sister to the father, who was an "anchor smith," at Warwick, which trade Nathaniel was taught. It would further account for the introduction of the unusual name Green in the family, which is now borne in in the eighth generation. In 1768, Nathaniel became a member of the Colonial Legislature. His military genius becoming known, in 1776, Congress made him a Major General and he became the "right hand of Washington," taking conspicuous part in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Guilford Court House, Camden, S. C., Fort Ninety-six and Eutaw Springs, which ended the war in the South. As an honorable reward, Congress voted General Green a gold medal and a captured British standard.

Mr. Bennett says: "Thomas Strait Bennett (6) married my mother, and died at Havana, N. Y. about 1812, leaving two children, Ephraim (7) and Ruby

who died in infancy and was buried near her father at that place. The widow, a daughter to George Mills, Esq., married my father, in 1813. Thaddeus and Joseph came to Portsmouth, Ohio, with Ephraim in 1818, the latter marrying Rachel, daughter to Judar Mead, from New York State, by whom he had a large family, most dying in childhood. Thaddeus was a Baptist minister as was also Joseph, the first dying in 1834. Joseph served in the war of 1812, under a Captain Nobles, company and regiment unknown, as a substitute for his brother Benjamin, dying at Harrisonville, Ohio, in 1868, his wife having passed away in 1862. His eldest son, Thaddeus, is living at eighty-three, the youngest, the writer, is seventy. Sarah, married name Smith, is seventy-two, living in Greenup county. Levina H. married Lantz, P. O. address Sciota, Ohio." The remainder of the letter relates to his personality and in whose mind the currency question is raised by the *Beaver transaction*, of Bennett and Dowty. It simply confirms the grand story of our race:—

"They know the right, and knowing, dare maintain."

"I gather that you are a *gold bug*. If so, we agree on the currency question. Government may stamp and compel its citizens to accept paper as a legal tender, but its ultimate value is governed by the ability to redeem it in the currency of equal value to all nations. I am one of the Bennetts in the South who is a Republican. I served in the Federal Army, in the Fifty-sixth Ohio, and since have always voted as I shot. I knew several of our name who served on the other side who were good men. I was in business and what was called a *mill man* until the war, in which I lost my health. At its close I read law and have been a practicing attorney since. I was elected delegate to our Constitutional Convention in 1890, and in 1892 re-elected to the Legislature that made the laws conforming to the Constitution previously adopted. Was returned in 1894 and had held several minor offices in my county. While in the army I was second and first Sergeant and Trainmaster in the field. I was at taking of Fort Donelson and the battle of Shiloh. Later in the Provost Department, enforcing the draft and recruiting niggers until the close of the war. More power to the arm of our "Kentucky Colonel."

My task nears completion. It is a proper and worthy ambition to preserve the record of an ancient and honorable lineage from oblivion. In this I have at least succeeded partially. It is hoped that each one into whose hands this book may come will seek to add something to our knowledge of the subject while there is yet time, and at least to preserve our imperfect history for those who come after.

Our ancestors, though not perfect nor infallible in many respects, were a brave and virtuous race, whose love of liberty prompted many sacrifices and sustained them under severe trials. To let the memory of these men die is injurious to posterity by depriving it of what might contribute to promote their steadiness to the principles we retain, even under hardships and severities.

I lay the fascinating duty by with regret that where so much ought to be told, so little is possible.

Beginning with the Bennett line, I could not with certainty go behind Ephraim, jr., nor with the Bentlys back of Green M. In the Beers line, surety existed as to Barnabas being a great ancestor. It has been "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little," until it has been possible to present many facts logically arranged. Yet, the broken story suggests Dr. Johnson's simile of the *Dancing Dog*, "The wonder being not that he danced well, but that he danced at all."

Let me very earnestly beg all to begin *right now*, under the inspiration of the new springing national life, so that at the close of the next century, those who come after may, as Rev. George S. Bennett says, "Not be obliged to spend years searching dry records, only to be baffled and disappointed in the end."

For many years, in New England, a more or less complete system of keeping vital statistics has existed. In other states, legislation to this end is being enacted. Its importance is manifest. The New England States, prompted by the interest in our early history, has caused to be collated and published old public records, musty court proceedings, valuable letters, military orders, and of *especial* value are the old Parish Registers, containing births, marriages and deaths, imperfect as they are, many of course, having been lost. This has made possible, even partial success to the antiquarian of today, who *must* be proud to prove that his ancestors came in by the New England gateway.

## APPENDIX.

The Tyro making his first attempt to express himself in print is likely to comprehend the passage, "Oh that mine enemy would write a book," for he finds himself to have committed sins of both omission and commission, which will not all lie upon the shoulders of the "intelligent compositor."

On page 18, I refer to three sons of John McClure Bennett, naming but two, Ephraim James and Burton Green. The second son, Oscar Curtis, assumed charge of the homestead in 1875 and

thus continued several years, during which his parents, with the older and younger brothers were in Arizona Territory. After their return, he was employed with a surveying party engaged in running lines for the Union Pacific R. R in the far west. Coming home, he married Miss Cora Coon, daughter of a girl school mate friend of the writer, and resides with his parents at Moreland, N. Y.

Page 14: The Parks family were early settlers in Chemung county, at and about Erin. The children of James Parks and Milly Bennett were:

Emily, married Emson Wood.  
 Benajah, married Lorinda Denson.  
 Amanda, married (1) George Ide.  
                                   (2) David Cramer.  
 Charles, married Elizabeth Thompson.  
 Elizabeth married Josiah Botsford.  
 Cynthia Maria, married George M. Beard, M. D.

Page 8: "*General Johnson's Fight*":

I find in Lossing's History, very recently, particulars of this battle, which fully explains how our ancestor, Ephraim (4) was made prisoner. He may or may not have been a citizen of Massachusetts at the time. That colony would however, properly be the one to take steps for his release. The fight took place ten miles from Glens Falls, Warren county, N. Y., and four miles from the head of Lake George, not far from the Massachusetts line, at a locality now known as Williams Rock, a huge boulder so named because Colonel Ephraim Williams, in command of a detachment of General Johnson's (later Sir William) forces, was there killed, September 8, 1755. The troops engaged were French Regulars from Canada, the Dominion Militia and Northern Indians, commanded by Baron Dieskau and soldiers from the Colonies, with a large force of Mohawk Indians under their chief, Hendrick, who was also slain. Colonel Williams was in immediate command of his Massachusetts regiment. The result was a complete rout, although later in the day, Dieskau meeting Johnson's main body, was disastrously defeated, retreating hurriedly with prisoners and plunder. Colonel Williams was of Stockbridge, about forty years old. His property, left by will, founded a school, which developed into Williams College.

#### Errata:

PAGE.	LINE.	READ.
1	34	Gebornen.
8	3	fraught.
8	3	It.
16	6	Her.
42	3	1769, etc.
47	37	Expunge, in.