



JOHN GRANT CRANE

HISTORY
OF THE
Family of John Crane,

GRANDSON OF STEPHEN CRANE, WHOSE
FATHER WAS JOHN CRANE
THE FIRST ;

TOGETHER WITH PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF THE AUTHOR,

JOHN GRANT CRANE.

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PREFACE.

The principal reason why in my old age I should write this memoir, is, that it may perpetuate the honorable record we have as a family, instil a patriotic love of country in all branches of it, and show to all what descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers are through successive generations; and that long after I have been laid to rest this memento will surely be a source of pride and pleasure, that we, as a family have been brought through God's Providence, to this our present condition among the respected members of the great human family.

JOHN GRANT CRANE.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF JOHN CRANE,

GRANDSON OF STEPHEN CRANE, WHOSE FATHER
WAS JOHN CRANE THE FIRST.

John Crane the second was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, April 20, 1723; married Huldah Grant, May 27, 1748; they had six children—Elias, Elijah, Sarah, John, Jeremiah and Anna. He was married the second time to Hannah Pierson in April, 1775, and they had one daughter, Mary. He died September 12, 1807, in his 85th year.

Elijah Crane, son of John Crane the second, married a Miss Ross, by whom he had three children—David, Stephen and Huldah.

John Crane the third, son of John Crane the second, married Phebe Ross; they had eight children—Rebecca, Betsy, Phebe, John Grant, Elias, Josiah, Huldah and Sally.

Sarah Crane, daughter of John Crane the second, married Dr. Isaac Hendricks.

Rebecca Crane, daughter of John Crane the third, married Jotham Potter, March 8, 1803; they had three children—Susan, Betsy and Elias.

Betsy Crane, daughter of John Crane the third, married Thomas Moore; they had six children—Phebe, David, Robert, Mary Ann, John and Israel.

Phebe Ross Crane, daughter of John Crane the third, married Benjamin Potter; they had five children—John, Rebecca, Alpheus, Hannah and Phebe.

John Grant Crane, son of John Crane the third, married Sally Pierson; they had two children—John Davis and William Pierson.

Elias Crane, son of John Crane the third, married Esther Maxwell, and they had six children, John Grant, Mary Ann, Phebe, Susan, Amzi A., and Elias M.

Josiah Crane, son of John Crane the third, married Electa Ross; they had four children—Mary Ross, John Grant, Ann Elizabeth and Josiah, Jr.

Huldah Crane, daughter of John Crane the third, married John Potter; they had two children, Benjamin and Mary Hannah.

Sally Crane, daughter of John Crane the third, never married.

John Grant Crane, son of Elias Crane, married Sarah Cutter; they had seven children—Mary H., Anna A., Sarah C., Esther M., John M., Frederick and David C. He was married the second time to Hannah Cutter and they had one child, William C.

Mary Ann Crane, daughter of Elias Crane, married Nathan Winans; they had six children—Nancy, Elias, Elizabeth, Mary, Susan and Jacob.

Phebe Crane, daughter of Elias Crane, married

Silas Miller ; they had five children—Annie, Charlotte, Abraham, Jonas and Mary.

Susan Crane, daughter of Elias Crane, married Isaac Williams ; they had four children—Louisa, Bell, John M. and Annie.

Elias Crane, son of Elias Crane, married Louisa Müller; they had six children—L. Britton, Sally, Winfield S., Josephine, John and Elizabeth.

Amzi Crane, son of Elias Crane, married Emeline Potter; they had three children—Franklin P., Harriet and Annie.

Elijah Crane, son of John Crane the second, had three children, as stated in the first part of this family history—David, Stephen and Huldah. Stephen is well remembered by the writer of this memoir, also remembers the time when his sons moved to the West, where they were known as pioneers of Northern Illinois. The grandchildren of Stephen are still living there, and are universally respected and prosperous. Elias Potter of Connecticut Farms, married Maria, a daughter of Stephen.

My father, Elias Crane, son of John Crane the third, went to Illinois in 1845 and located lands, about 1,000 acres in Henry County of that state. He had a soldier's land warrant of his own, issued in President Van Buren's time, and then, by buying other land warrants of soldiers who did not desire to locate, he came into possession of about two sections, viz, 1289 acres. My brothers today occupy and own about one-

half of the land my father first located. One of them raises 50 acres of broom corn alone, and both are known as successful farmers.

The following is the family record on my mother's side, beginning with her great-grandfather.

John Maxwell came from Scotland and landed in Amboy about 1650 ; he had three children—David, William and Esther.

David Maxwell, son of John Maxwell, married Mary Miller; they had four children—John, Samuel, Ruth and Isaac.

Esther Maxwell, daughter of John Maxwell, married Moses Miller and had children, of which Ezra was one, and Elizabeth, wife of S. Headley.

William Maxwell, son of John Maxwell, married and had a family, and lived at Turkey, (now New Providence.)

John Maxwell, son of David Maxwell, married Anna Hubbell ; they had six children—Susan, Mary, David, Abner, Nancy and Esther.

Ruth Maxwell, daughter of David Maxwell, married Lycum Ross, and went to Ohio.

Samuel Maxwell, son of David Maxwell, married and went to Western New York.

Isaac Maxwell, son of David Maxwell, married and went to New Providence (called then Turkey); he had three children—David, Betsy and Susan.

Susan Maxwell, daughter of John Maxwell, married Stephen Foster; they had four children—Nathan, Mary, Job and Wheeler.

Mary Maxwell, daughter of John Maxwell, married Denman Meeker; they had eight children—David, Josiah, William, Marcus, Edward, Lewis, Nancy M. and Henrietta.

Abner Maxwell, son of John Maxwell, married Sarah Allen; they had eight children—John A., William A., Jane, David W., George, Hannah, Mary and James.

David and Nancy Maxwell, son and daughter of John, never married.

Esther Maxwell, daughter of John Maxwell, married Elias Crane; they had six children—John G., Mary Ann, Phebe, Susan F., Elias and Amzi A.

Stephen Crane was from Connecticut, and was nearly related to Jasper Crane, of Newark, N. J., who was one of the first settlers of New Haven, Conn., in 1639. Stephen was one of the first to settle at Elizabeth, in 1663, and had a son John, who was John Crane the first, was father of John, Jacob and Isaac, who settled at Cranford, N. J.

John the second, and his brother Jacob, purchased two or three hundred acres along the river, at Cranford, and built a saw-mill and a mill for grinding grain. Jacob lived on the west side of the river, and John lived up the river, to the west, where John Grant Crane lately lived, but owned the farm on the east of the river, by the mill, where his son lived.

John C. the second took an active part in church work, and was an elder in the Westfield church. He and one other man agreed to build the new church,

which stood until 1860, when the present church was built. He took an active part in the revolutionary war, two of his sons, John and Elijah, were enrolled as minute men. His brother Jacob was a colonel of the company of the minute men. When Washington's army was at Morristown, he encouraged farmers to bring their grain to him and he would grind it free for the army. At that time the place was called Crane's Mills.

There was a number of families living quite close, and all were on very friendly terms. There were John Ross, John Miller and his brother Moses, living on the farm where his grandson, John O. Miller, recently lived. Jonathan Crane and his brother Benjamin, who was the grandfather of Moses Crane, who lives on the homestead. Living so near and being so friendly they inter-married.

Elijah and John Crane, brothers, married two daughters of John Ross.

A son of John Ross married Ruth Maxwell.

David Maxwell married Mary Miller, daughter of John Miller.

Moses Miller married Esther Maxwell, daughter of John Maxwell.

Abner Miller, son of John Miller, married a daughter of John Keyt; they had two sons—Abner Jr. and John O.

Abner Jr. married a daughter of Jacob Seering of Union, and had children.

John O. married a daughter of Mr. Ludlow; they

had six children—John A., James, Elizabeth, Abby, Louisa and Ludlow.

John Grant Crane, son of Josiah Crane, married Abby Miller, daughter of John O. Miller.

Elias Crane, son of Elias Crane, married Louisa Miller, daughter of John O. Miller.

John Crane the third lived opposite the grist mill, on the farm belonging to his father, and there all of his children were born. He was engaged in milling as well as in farming. His sons, Elias and Josiah, were instructed in the science of tending both the grist and the saw mill, which was of great advantage to them in after life. After the death of his father (John the second) there was a division of property among the heirs, and the farm and mills were sold to Nicolas Mooney, and the name changed to Mooney's Mills, and John the third moved to the homestead, where he lived until his death.

John Grant Crane, son of John the third, married Sally Pierson and lived on a farm west of his grandfather. He died about 1816.

Elias Crane, the second, son of John the third, went to New York and learned the mason's trade, which he followed for fifteen years. He married Esther Maxwell in the winter of 1811. In 1812 he was drafted and went to war with a company of artillery from Westfield, under Captain Pierson. Soon after peace was declared he purchased a place just west of Galloping Hill, and lived there ten years, following the mason's trade in the summer and working in saw or grist mills in the winter, as

there was little building done in the winter time. He and his brother Josiah, about 1820, engaged in getting ship timber, which was a paying business, the country at that time abounding in white oak timber. In the spring of 1828 he purchased the farm that formerly belonged to Captain Jonas Wade, which was considered one of the best, abounding in orchards of apples and pears. The first year he was on the place there was gathered over five thousand bushels of apples. The best were sold in New York and other places, the balance taken to the cider-mill. There was great quantities of cider made and shipped south in those days. He was a successful farmer. He and his wife joined the Connecticut Farms Church in 1817, joining by letter. He took an active part in church work, and was elected an elder in 1836. He died in 1869, in his 81st year. His wife lived over ten years longer, dying in her 92d year.

Josiah Crane, the third son of John the third, was one of the first who were the means of building the Presbyterian Church of Cranford, and resided on the same farm which he had occupied from the first, living to see a large town and population surrounding him, and in a few years selling his farm, which was needed for lots and building purposes, and purchasing a residence formerly occupied by Mr. Anderson, where he died a few years since. He united with the Westfield Church in 1825, and left in June, 1851, when the church at Cranford was organized.

In the Spring of 1849 Josiah Crane, John Miller and a few others built a Union Chapel on the main road,

opposite Mr. Crane's residence. Here for a time many of the pastors of the vicinity officiated. As the majority of the church-going population belonged to the old Westfield Church, it was decided, in 1851, to organize a Presbyterian church, when nineteen members from the above united in the organization. Mr. Crane was always interested in the welfare of the church and donated liberally to its support. He also took great interest in the building of the second building and contributed to the same; also presented the bell, which was hung in the steeple, and is now in the present building, which is the third.

At a Sunday school picnic, held on his place in 1849, some of the children wrote with chalk on a building near the railroad tracks, "Cranesville," and so the name remained until the present station was build in 1869, when the name was changed to Cranford. In 1849 there was no church between Elizabeth and Westfield, nor between Rahway and Connecticut Farms, and numbers found it difficult to get to church. Mr. Crane considered it his duty to provide for this, and now in Cranford alone there are five churches, and as many more in Roselle.

When Mr. Crane was in his 81st year he held his sixtieth wedding anniversary. He was in his 82d year when he died.

Sally Crane, the youngest of the family of John the third, never married. She remained at home and took care of her father and mother as long as they lived, and after they died she made herself useful among her

brothers and sisters' families. She lived to be over 80 years old. Her sister Huldah was in her 89th year when she died. Huldah was visiting one of her granddaughters, and while lying down in the afternoon, as was her habit, she was stricken with apoplexy and never awoke. She had married John Potter, who died in the prime of life, aged about 40 years. They had one daughter, Mary Hannah. Mr. Potter, in his will, left his estate equally between his widow and his daughter. The widow retained possession of her half as long as she lived, and managed the farm on which they lived with good success.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

OF JOHN GRANT CRANE, SON OF ELIAS, BORN NOV. 5TH,
1813, THE AUTHOR OF THIS GENEALOGICAL TABLE.

I have always lived in Union township; was married to Sarah Cutter, of Woodbridge, when I was 22, and went to live on the farm where my grandfather was born. It was at that time owned by my mother and her sister Nancy, and at their death it came to me, and it has always been my home since. I was the first one in this section of New Jersey to raise strawberries and peaches for market; also introduced blooded stock, such as Shorthorns and Ayrshires.

I took an active part in church matters; was for forty years a member of the choir; I played the bass viol, which was the first music used in our church; was a Sunday School teacher for thirty-five years; I have

been a church member for sixty years and a deacon or elder for fifty-five years; I have visited the congregation in connection with the pastor ever since I was an elder.

In 1840 I was elected as Superintendent of Public Schools of Union township, and the law required me to visit all the schools twice a year, which I tried to do to the best of my ability; so I became acquainted with all the boys and girls who attended school, and when they grew up to men and women they grew out of my remembrance, but they still remembered me.

About 1860 I joined the American Institute in New York and used to attend the Farmers' Club about once in two weeks, and after Professor Cook became Commissioner of Agriculture and visited the counties we formed the Farmers' Club of Union County, and I was elected president, and Dennis C. Crane secretary. The editor of the Elizabeth Journal, Mr. F. W. Foote, used to meet with us and publish an account of the meetings in his paper, which was taken by the farmers. It introduced new modes of cultivating and new fruits, and proved an advantage to the farmers.

I have my eight children all living. Three of my sons are married: John M. married Matilda Miller, and they have two children—Elizabeth S. and Edith M. Frederick married Anna Lucille Harrington, and William C. married Isabel Lennox, and they have two children—Alfred Lennox and L. Leonie.

I held a reception on my 84th birthday, which was attended by my children and grand-children, and was enjoyed by all.

I desire to say something about the connection of my ancestors with revolutionary times. Both my grandfathers were in the service of their country as minute men, and acted as home guard. My mother's father, John Maxwell, suffered great losses at the hands of the British, as they took nearly everything he had on his farm, such as cattle and food of all kinds. At the time the British soldiers invaded New Jersey, crossing in boats at Elizabethport, my grandfathers were engaged in skirmishes with them all along their line of march; and at Connecticut Farms a sharp encounter was had, and on their arrival at Springfield, a pitched battle was fought, in which they were engaged.

My grandfather Maxwell and John Garthwaite were lying in a field of rye as the British came along, and fired at them. When the latter saw the smoke of the muskets they returned fire. The patriots retreated and crossed the brook to the hollow below the hill and then took a stand at the foot of the hill, where the old Wade cider mill now stands. When the army came to the foot of the hill a skirmish took place which ended in the death of General Crane's son, who was shot, through mistake, by the patriots.

John Baldwin and Matthias Brant were standing in front of the church and firing toward the cider mill. Mr. Brant said, "We had better retreat." As they started, Baldwin received a shot in the jaw, which broke it, but did not destroy his patriotism, although it hurt his speech. They took him into the graveyard, put some bushes over him, and told him to stay there, and they

would send some women to look after him. He recovered and fought as well as he was able; living to the age of 80 years.

The following is a song of Revolutionary times referring to the Battle of Monmouth. It was sung by William Harvey Johnson, who is now living in Union Township, in the 95th year of his age:

The Battle of Monmouth.

Rejoice, rejoice, Americans,
 Ye freeborn sons of fame;
 Your war-like acts of future days,
 Your worthy deeds proclaim.
 For long as time and nature lasts
 Posterity shall boast
 How brave we fought to save our lands
 From the tyrannic host.

Proud Clinton, in his haughty strains,
 Vowed to destroy our states;
 Spread terror through our wide domains,
 'Mid horrid war's debate,
 But found his idle boasts in vain
 When to the Jersey came,
 Where freemen up in Freehold plains
 Fought there near Monmouth town.

There Clinton's chosen thousands came,
 The flower of Britain's troops,
 Thinking to snatch immortal fame
 From our heroic youth.
 But Maxwell led his veterans on,
 Fired with patriotic zeal,
 While Washington and Lee, and Wayne,
 For action took the field.

Militiamen in either flanks
 Stood ready to oppose,
 While Sterling, mowing down in ranks
 Held troops of haughty foes.

With equal numbers each contained,
 And clamorous wars abound,
 Thundering guns the air doth rend
 And propagate the sound.

Full long the bloody conflict held,
 Till Britain's force gave way—
 Threw up the colors of the field
 And ran in wild dismay,
 Their killed and wounded left behind,
 As monuments may be.

Let love and liberty inspire
 Our minds for to live free,
 That we in peace may end our days
 And let our offspring see
 How brave we fought to save our lands,
 Leaving our children free.

The history of Middlesex and Union Counties is fully given in a book common to everyone. What was then Essex extended to Middlesex, and is now divided by a county known as Union.

General Crane, mentioned above, took an active part in the patriotic cause, and, among other exploits, captured some vessels in Newark Bay, and also two vessels in New York Bay, which he brought over to the Jersey coast. He had six brothers—David, Andrew, Jacob, Joseph, Stephen and Matthias, all of whom, except Matthias, took an active part in the revolution.

David Crane was also active in rebuilding the old Connecticut Farms Church after it was burned by the British, and contributed the bell which now hangs in the belfry. David had a son and a daughter, who died early in years, which distressed him greatly. He then

adopted a son of his dead brother Joseph, giving him a liberal education, so that he became a prominent citizen and a civil engineer; he did surveying all through the section known as Elizabeth at that time, which extended as far as New Providence on the west, to the Rahway river on the south, and to Essex County on the north.

There were three prominent men in this section—Mathias Potter, Jonas Wade, and an Irishman, Gilbert Gray, (an exiled man) who took great interest in the freeing of this country from British rule. These all belonged in this immediate neighborhood, and were also members of the old Presbyterian Church.

Between the church and the place now known as Roselle was a hill that was named Galloping Hill, on account of the fierce riding by cavalry in pursuit of the British, who were foraging the country for provisions and other plunder.

My great-grandfather, John Crane the second, was a slave-holder, and some of his slaves were quite expert in shooting rabbits. He would tell these men, on their going to the field to work, to take their muskets with them and shoot the red-coats if they saw any, probably considering them as good game as the rabbits.

The first Governor of New Jersey, Gov. Livingston, was living then on the farm known as John Kean's, and on the occasion of the visit of Marquis de Lafayette to this country in 1824, Col. Peter Kean, the grandfather of the present John Kean, rode in a carriage with Gov. Livingston, in the procession formed in honor

of the Marquis. Benjamin Williamson entertained Lafayette at his home, in Elizabeth, where many of the notable people of the state were assembled.

One of the most noted men in the earlier days of New Jersey was Thomas Gibbons, a wealthy man, who owned large properties in Elizabeth and extending to Elizabethport, where he had several docks. Colonel Ogden & Co. built the first passenger steamboat in New Jersey, and ran it between Elizabethport and Jersey City. He was not allowed to land his passengers at any dock on the New York side, and of course, he was obliged to ferry them across the river. Gibbons wished to go into the steamboat company, but they would not receive him, because he wished to reduce the fare, which was 50 cents. Gibbons afterward obtained free dockage, through the Supreme Court, and started a steamboat, reducing the fare to 25 cents. One of the passengers on a certain day remarked to Mr. Gibbons that his boat was not very well managed, as to steering, running into the dock, etc., and thought he could send him a better captain. Gibbons said he would like to see him. The next day Cornelius Vanderbilt was presented to him, and employed at once on a salary of \$40 a month.

William Gibbons, a son of Thomas Gibbons, was known as a prosperous farmer, and was the first one to introduce foreign horses and cattle. He succeeded in getting the farmers in Northern New Jersey to improve their live stock, by buying what is known as Shorthorn Durhams, which he had imported. He also imported some very fine horses, among them a mare named

Fashion, who won many races and a great deal of money for her owner. A man by the name of David Sanderson, who kept a hotel in Elizabethport, and a great horseman, was an intimate friend of Gibbons. Gibbons induced Sanderson to start a four-horse mail coach, which ran from Elizabethport to Schooley's Mountain, over the road now known as Morris Avenue.

Union Township, formerly the district of Elizabeth, Essex County, has always been known as a prosperous farming country, and it is said that General Washington, in passing through it, remarked that it was the garden spot of Northern New Jersey. More fruit, especially apples, was raised in this section fifty years ago, than in any other part of the world of the same area.

Essex county being so large, it became necessary to have a division, as it made so much travel and caused other inconveniences for the county officials. In 18 Moses M. Crane, of Union, one of the chosen freeholders of Essex county, Thomas Reynolds, of Springfield, and Nathaniel Bonnel, of Summit, laid before the Board of Freeholders a plan for the division of Essex and a county formed to be known as Union, which was accepted by the Board and passed by the Legislature. Moses M. Crane was elected afterward a county collector, and Thomas Reynolds sheriff of the new county. After Reynolds' term had expired Nathaniel Bonnell was elected sheriff. This was done as part recompense for their services in getting the division made.

Since the settlement of our family in New Haven, Conn., in 1639, not one of its descendants, so far as

can be ascertained, has been known as a suicide, a criminal or a pauper—an honorable record, love of country, and correct business principles have been marked characteristics of the family from the time of its landing on the shores of America to this day. Each member of this family may point with pride to these facts which are verified by published history, and which no living person can deny.

JOHN G. CRANE.

Union, Union County, N. J., July, 1899.

EIGHTY-FOURTH BIRTHDAY.

JOHN GRANT CRANE'S RELATIVES GATHER TO CON-
GRATULATE HIM.

The following account of the celebration of the 84th birthday of John Grant Crane, was published in the Elizabeth Daily Journal, Friday, December 3, 1897.

One of the pleasures of a pastor's life is the family reunions to which he is invited from time to time. The gathering together of old and young, the homecoming of those who long since left the old home, the cementing again of the ties of blood—all these are delightful features long to be remembered.

Such a gathering was recently enjoyed at the home of John Grant Crane, one of the elders of the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, about one mile north of Roselle. On November 5th, Mr. Crane celebrated his 84th birthday by a reunion of the Crane tribe. All ages were represented, from the little child to the aged veter-

an, scarred and wrinkled by the long struggle of life. Thirty-two in all were present, including six of his children and five grandchildren. Woodbridge, Roselle, Elizabeth, Newark and East Orange aided Union in filling out this number.

A very pleasant afternoon was passed in social intercourse. Old associations were renewed, the old times discussed, and many learned more about their kith and kin than they ever knew before.

Mr. Crane had with great labor prepared a genealogical table, tracing out the families of the descendants of the original Crane of this region, John Crane, who built a grist mill on the banks of the Rahway river, near Cranford (named after him), nearly two centuries ago. About 200 of his descendants are now living. This paper was read by his son, Fred Crane of New York. It was followed by some remarks by John Crane, in which the old days were vividly recalled. The strong and accurate memory, for which he is noted, did him good service. Among other items Mr. Crane mentioned the fact that brooms were first made from broom corn by John Miller, one of his ancestors. Moses Miller, brother of John, was a sailor, and brought a package of the seed from the West Indies. His brother planted it, but not relishing the grain as food, turned it to its new use, and thus originated the very useful article used in all our homes. Mr. Crane urged on all present to lead a sociable life, and reestablish the kindly fellowship of the olden times when men were not too busy to be interested in their neighbors. All who know Mr. Crane recognize the ap-

propriateness of this advice as coming from him, for he faithfully practices what he preaches. There are few homes in this neighborhood which have not known him as a visitor.

The afternoon closed with a bountiful collation that was greatly enjoyed by all; and so ended a very pleasant, reunion that will long be recalled with pleasure by all who were present.

It may be interesting to add that the house where the reunion was held has always been owned and occupied by Mr. Crane's family. The eastern wing was built by his grandfather, John Maxwell, immediately after the Revolutionary War. It was laid out by the north star, so as to fit all the points of the compass. The western end was added some 50 years later, to meet the wants of a growing family. Mr. Crane's great-great-grandfather, John Maxwell, bought the farm about 1700 from the Elizabeth Association. Their title came from the Indians, from whom they bought the land between the Passaic and Raritan rivers.

Mrs. Crane, formerly Miss Hannah Cutter, came from Woodbridge. It is an interesting coincidence that her home, also, has never been owned outside of her family. Richard Cutter, her great-great-grandfather, came from Massachusetts about 1700, and bought the old homestead. Like the first of Mr. Crane's family he also built and ran a grist-mill.

C. S. CONVERSE,

*Pastor Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church,
Union, N. J.*