

# THE GESNER FAMILY

OF NEW YORK AND NOVA SCOTIA

*Together with some Notes concerning the families of  
BOGARDUS, BROWER, FERDON, and PINEO*

BY

ANTHON TEMPLE GESNER

*In Commemoration of the 202nd Anniversary of  
the Settlement of John Henry Gesner in America*

1710-1912

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## ERRATA

Beneath frontispiece, third line from bottom of the page, read "two infant children of *David Concklin*."

Pages 9, 25, and 27. The wife of Nicholas Gesner was *Gracie* Post, so named from Gracie family of New York.

Page 14, line 8. Omit "Dr." before Francis Barretto's name.

Page 15, second line from bottom. Born 1862 (not 1865).

Page 16, line 22. Omit the words "wife of Col. Henry Gesner" and the comma after David Pineo's name.

Page 20, line 7. Jacob Concklin married Mary *Quidor*, daughter of Peter Quidor (not Snider).

Page 22, first line. Corneilisen (not Cornelius).



## INTRODUCTION

During the past four centuries the name of GESNER has been borne by many men who have attained to positions of conspicuous honor. Originally brought into prominence by the indefatigable labours and achievements of the most renowned scientist of his age, Conrad von Gesner, of Zurich (1516-1571), it was further honored in the 16th and following centuries by not a few who held high position in the Universities of Germany and Switzerland, and who have left a memorial of their works in the several departments of science, letters, and theology. The names of Solomon Gesner (1559-1605), divinity professor in the University of Wittenberg, and the three brothers—Andrew Samuel, (1690-1761), Jean Albert (1694-1760), and John Matthew, (1691-1761), philologist and professor at Anspach—were among the most noted scholars of Europe in their day. Solomon Gesner (1730-1788) was both poet and painter, John Gesner (1709-1790) was a physician and naturalist, and John James (1707-1787), brother of the last mentioned, was a noted clergyman and missionary of Zurich. The list if given in fullness would be a long one. Here in America the family found a worthy son of fame in the person of Dr. Abraham Gesner (1797-1864) of Nova Scotia and New York, inventor, scientist, and lecturer in Dalhousie, and Kings College, Canada, whom a generation now passing away remember with respect for his learning and achievements; while others of less note have done, or are doing, the work of clergymen and educators in our land.

These notes are the result of several years of occasional study of the family history pursued at odd moments of leisure. The writer has been diligent in his search of civil and ecclesiastical records, and when possible has included in the Notes such references and authorities as may be of further service and interest to the reader. The writer's aim has also been to make these notes of special interest to his own children, and for that reason has included some material which concerns them alone.

It had been our hope that the life of the late William Nicholas Gesner of New Haven and Whitneyville, Conn., might not close before his Genealogy of the Gesner Family had issued from the press. He gave freely and lovingly of his time to this subject, and we here desire to acknowledge our debt to him for information in several particulars.

Dr. Oscar Kuhns of Wesleyan University, Mr. Winthrop S. Gilman of New York, Mr. Robert H. Fenton of Nyack, the Rev. T. C. Mellor, formerly rector of St. John's, Parish, Cornwallis, N. S., Professor Frederick W. Mar, and the Rev. Dr. Arthur Eaton of New York, have rendered assistance which we also wish appreciatively to acknowledge.

ANTHON T. GESNER.

Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn.,

September, 1912.



OLD FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

The plat is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. James W. Gowdy. Here lie buried the remains of John Gesner and Famitcha Brower Gesner, Cornelius Gesner, Famitcha Gesner (wife of Peter Wilsey), Elizabeth Gesner (wife of Jacob Concklin), Famiche Concklin (daughter of Elizabeth Gesner and Jacob Concklin), Jacob Concklin (son of Jacob Concklin and Hester Barhyt), Jacob Concklin, Jr., David Concklin (d. 1851 or 1852, no stone), Phoebe Concklin and David Concklin, Jr. (children of David and Famiche Concklin), Eleanor Cooper (d. Dec. 25, 1813, aged 50 yrs. and 10 mos.), Mary Quidor (wife of Jacob Concklin, Jr.), Peter and Rachel (children of Jacob Concklin, Jr.), and two infant children of Jacob Concklin. The graves of the last four mentioned are unmarked.

There are in all seventeen graves.





- I. JOHN HENDRICK GESNER, 1681-1745.
- II. JOHN HENRY GESNER of Tappan, N. Y., 1724-1811.
- III. "COL." HENRY GESNER of Cornwallis, N. S., 1756-1850.
- IV. DR. ABRAHAM GESNER of Nova Scotia and New York, 1797-1864.
- V. REV. ABRAHAM HERBERT GESNER of New York, 1832-1895.
- VI. { REV. RICHMOND HERBERT GESNER of Oswego, N. Y., b. 1862.  
REV. ANTHON TEMPLE GESNER of Middletown, Conn., b. 1865.
- VII. CONRAD HERBERT GESNER, son of Anthon T. Gesner, b. 1901.

## FIRST GENERATION

**I. Johan Hendrick Gesner, 1681-1745.** The first of the name of Gesner in this country, and the ancestor of the Hudson River and Nova Scotia Gesners, was Johan Hendrick Gesner, who, in the twenty-ninth year of his age, accompanied by his wife Anna Elizabeth and infant daughter Margaret, left the Palatinate of the Rhine, with many others who in that oppressed region had suffered through war and misrule, and came to London; from whence he sailed by ship Lyon for America, arriving in New York, June 10-12, 1710 (note 1A).

Of the young emigrant's birthplace and parentage we have no certain record. Possibly he was a son of that John Gesner who was a practitioner of the Imperial court which in the year 1693 was removed from Treve to Wetzler (note 2).

The winter of 1710 was spent in New York. In the spring he may have removed to Yonkers Fall (note 3).

Within a short while, however, he is found residing in the vicinity of Tappan, Rockland Co., New York, and at no great distance from Hackensack, N. J., where he had acquaintances and friends.

He was a miller by profession, though in the ship's papers his trade is described as that of a carpenter.

He was a man of pious life, brought up in, and adhering to, the Lutheran faith, and, as the early Lutheran Church records show, more than once a sponsor on the occasion of some child's baptism.

On the 30th day of October, 1745, the elder Gesner made his will. By this will John Hendrick Gesner devised all his property (excepting "one negro woman") to his wife Elizabeth during her lifetime, and provided that at her death it should go to his son John. The "one negro woman" was left to his daughter Geritty (Margaret), wife of Jacob Valentine who resided in Yonkers. Margaret however appears to have had some share of ownership in her father's mill on the Hackensack river, for his grandson Nicholas expressly states that "his father bought Margaret's share" for a consideration.\*

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\* For will see note 4, also Fernow's Catalogue of Wills of N. Y., and notes 4 and 5.

4. Isaac (n. 12), b. May 15, 1753, m. Johanna Lavidsjer or Lafarge.
5. HENRY, } twins (n. 13) { b. Nov. 10, 1756, m. Sarah Pineo (n. 17).
6. Abraham, } } b. Nov. 10, 1756, m. Elizabeth Steadman.
7. Cornelius, b. Feb. 1, 1761, d. Sept. 7, 1790.
8. Nicholas (ns. 14-15), b. Dec. 10, 1765, m. Grace Post.
9. Famiche (n. 16), b. Mar. 31, 1768, m. Peter Wilsie of Tappan, 1789  
(note 23).

Several letters of John Gesner, II., have been preserved and are in the keeping of his descendants. Nicholas Gesner in his Diary has left us an interesting note regarding the position taken by his father during the period of the Revolutionary War. He says "It may not be improper to note here that our Father and Mother, John Gesner and Famitcha Brower, wished to remain neutral in the War of the Revolution. He refused to sign the Association Articles, dreading the Consequences; was called a tory, but truly he was a peaceable man in every respect. Threatenments were made, and his sons grown up were all menaced to be taken to New England, and confined in dungeons (or mines). Violence was used in many places and with many. Father Gesner, now about 52 or 53 years old, admonished his sons Jacob, Isaac, Henry, and Abraham to take opportunity to go to New York, now in possession of the British. With some others, after their father had admonished them to be good boys, they went off in an open pettiauger belonging to Denis Sneed." (Note 19.)

This decision was fraught with serious consequences to the family. The two boys, Henry and Abraham, at the conclusion of the war settled in Nova Scotia, where they became well-to-do and influential men. Jacob was lost at sea, Isaac settled in New York, and John, the eldest, after his experiences with the British, spent five years in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and then returned with his family to live near Nyack. The old home was broken up, and judging from the few letters of their father that remain, after Famitcha his wife was laid to rest, in Feb. 1788, there were many dreary days of sadness (note 24).

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### THIRD GENERATION

**III. "Col." Henry Gesner**, born Nov. 10, 1756. At about the age of 18 years, Henry and his twin brother Abraham joined the King's Orange Rangers. At the outbreak

of the Revolution, because of their strong loyalist sympathies, they enlisted with the British and in consequence suffered the loss of all their property, in lieu of which the British granted Henry 400 acres in the Cornwallis Valley, and Abraham a tract of similar area near Annapolis Royal in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia (note 19).

In Nova Scotia, Henry Gesner met and married (May 4, 1786) Sarah Pineo, daughter of David and Rebecca West Pineo. The Rev. Hugh Graham, Church of England minister, performed the ceremony. The Pineos were French Huguenots who came to Nova Scotia before the Revolutionary War from Lebanon, Conn. They were descended from Jacques Pineo, who came to Bristol from France in 1706, and removed to Lebanon ten years later. The ancestors of Rebecca West were also from Connecticut (note 17).

Sarah, Henry's wife, bore him twelve children, viz.:

1. Rebekah, b. May 27, 1787, m. Elkanah Terry.
2. John Henry, b. Mar. 20, 1789, m. Mary Lydia Chase 1818.
3. Elizabeth, b. Mar. 11, 1791, m. Hon. Samuel Chipman 1815.
4. David Henry, b. Mar. 7, 1793 (note 18).
5. Famitcha, b. Mar. 27, 1795, m. Benj. Cossett 1821.
6. ABRAHAM (IV), b. May 2, 1797, m. Harriet Webster Jan. 31, 1822.
7. Gibbs Henry, b. July 12, 1799.
8. Sarah, b. Feb. 21, 1802, m. Dr. Carr.
9. Harry, b. April 17, 1804, m. Catherine Kidston at Cornwallis.
10. Anna Maria, b. Sept. 28, 1806, m. Edward Hamilton of Horton.
11. Lavinia Caroline, b. May 22, 1809, m. — Kerr (she died May 26, 1890, note 20).
12. Charlotte Herbert, b. Sept. 8, 1813, m. Samuel Barnaby.

All baptized in St. John's Church, Cornwallis.

Sarah Pineo Gesner, the mother of these children, was born Sept. 3, 1768, and died April 23, 1842. Henry died Oct. 13, 1850, aged 94 years. Their bodies rest in the churchyard of the English Church, at Cornwallis, N. S.

The Natural History Society of New Brunswick printed in 1896 (bulletin XIV.) a biographical sketch of Dr. Abraham Gesner, written by his son, George Weldon Gesner, and read before the Society, April 7 of that same year. We regret to say that this sketch contains some serious genealogical errors. Dr. Abraham Gesner's grandfather was certainly not "Nicholas Gesner," but John Gesner, and it was not this John Gesner, but his father, John Henry Gesner, who emigrated to this

country and settled near Tappan. Nor was Major André executed on the Gesner property. The Gesner lands lay a mile eastward of the hill where André was hung. Several books and a copy of a pamphlet by Dr. Abraham Gesner, published in New York in 1862, entitled "The Gold Fields of Nova Scotia," are in the possession of Rev. Anthon T. Gesner, as also are Dr. Gesner's two writing desks and surgeons' lance. The family bible is preserved by the Rev. Richmond Herbert Gesner of Oswego. For other sketches of Dr. Gesner's life see Appleton's Encyclopedia and Dr. Eaton's History of King's Co., N. S.

The old Henry Gesner residence at Cornwallis still stands in good repair, backed by a great orchard of nearly 7,000 apple trees largely grown from seeds brought from New York by Henry many years ago. Across the road there dwells his great-granddaughter, Katherine Eliza Gesner Boak, now over seventy years of age, but full of memories of the past, dear to every descendant who reckons back to the old Nova Scotia homestead which has given shelter to so many who have passed on to Paradise.

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#### FOURTH GENERATION

**IV. Abraham Gesner**, born at Cornwallis, May 2, 1797; died at Halifax, N. S., April 29, 1864; married on Jan. 31, 1822, Harriet Webster (b. July 24, 1801, d. at Tarrytown, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1868), daughter of Dr. Isaac Webster of Kentville, N. S. They were married by Rev. Hugh Graham, Church of England minister, at Horton. At the age of twenty-eight, after several commercial ventures in shipping, in one of which he came near losing his life, he went to London to study surgery and medicine at Grey's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals, the former being under the direction of Sir Astley Cooper and the latter under the direction of Dr. Abernethy.

After taking his degree he returned to Nova Scotia and settled at Parrsboro, on the Bay of Fundy. The district was especially rich in minerals, and the young physician, who was a man of scientific tastes, seldom returned home without a load of "specimens" in his saddle-bags. In 1836 he published

his "Remarks on the Geology and Mineralogy of Nova Scotia," which brought him at once to the attention of the government. Two years later he was appointed Provincial Geologist of the Province of New Brunswick. On the acceptance of this position he moved to St. John, N. B., and began a systematic exploration of the region, embodying his observations in a number of geological reports published by the government (1839-1843). He established at St. John the "Gesner Museum," which was afterwards purchased by the Natural History Society of New Brunswick. He was an excellent naturalist and taxidermist, and many of the large animals were stuffed and set up by his own hand.

At the expiration of his office Dr. Gesner returned to Nova Scotia to reside in the old homestead of his fathers at Cornwallis, where he wrote two more volumes, "New Brunswick, with Notes for Emigrants," and "Industrial Resources of Nova Scotia," meanwhile engaging in the practice of medicine and experimenting in electricity. "He constructed an electrical engine or motor which was driven by a voltaic battery, the principle being identical with that now used in electrical motors," etc.\* In 1850 he removed to Sacville, and in 1852 to Halifax, where he met Lord Dundonald, Admiral of the B. N. A. Station and the original discoverer of illuminating gas, and with him examined the asphaltum of Pitch Lake, Trinidad, and from it extracted burning oil for lamps." Afterward he extracted an illuminating oil from coal and other bituminous substances, which he patented in 1854 under the name of "Keroselene" in the United States.†

About 1855, after the perfection of his discovery, Dr. Gesner removed to Williamsburg, New York, and built kerosene oil works on Newton Creek, near Penny Bridge, in the locality later called "Blissville." In 1861 Dr. Gesner published "Coal, Petroleum and other Distilled Oils." In 1863 he returned to Halifax, N. S., and was offered the chair of Natural History in Dalhousie College, but the following year, on the 29th day of April, he entered into rest from earthly labor.

\* See Bul. of Nat. Hist. Soc. of New Brunswick, vol. xiv. There are several genealogical errors in this Bulletin.

† The patents were numbers 11,203, 11,204, 11,205, U. S. Patent Office, June 27, 1854. The name keroselene, afterwards shortened to kerosene, was given to this illuminating oil by Dr. Gesner, which he derived from two Greek words, *keros* = wax and *elaion* = oil.

Dr. Gesner is described as "a man of medium height, with deep chest and square shoulders. He had black eyes which shone brilliantly when he was excited or in earnest conversation. His hair was black to the end of his days. He was popular with those with whom he came in contact and often urged to take some political office, but he was devoted to scientific pursuits and refused to enter the political arena." He was musical and played with the flute and violin. He was a man of abstemious and temperate habits, genial and generous in disposition. He was a firm churchman all his life and for many years Warden of Christ Church, Williamsburg, New York. In the later years of his life he was a fellow of the Geological Society of England, Corresponding Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Cornwall, Member of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and a member of the Geographical Society of New York. His body rests in Camp Hill Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The following 11 children were born to Dr. Abraham Gesner and Harriet Webster his wife.

1. HENRY, b. at Cornwallis, May 26, 1823, died in Philadelphia. (No record).
2. ISAAC, b. at Cornwallis, June 4, 1825, died July 13, 1826.
3. WILLIAM, b. at Cornwallis, May 26, 1827, m., 1st, Annie Herty at Milledgeville, Ga., 1841. Their children were William Henry, b. 1852; Francis James, b. 1854, d. 1879; Harriet Luana, b. 1857 who mar. 1st Chas. F. Miller, and 2nd, Dr. Alton G. North; Mary Herty, b. 1859, mar. Dr. Henry Clark. William, mar. a second time to Mary Virginia Jones, daughter of Samuel G. Jones, and sister of Governor Jones of Alabama, June 21, 1866. The children of William by his second marriage all died in infancy. He was a man of very high character and noted as a geologist and for his scientific attainments. During the Civil War the Confederate Government sent him to England to arrange for securing explosives.
4. George Weldon, b. at Parsboro Oct. 13, 1829, died Nov. 11, 1904, at Bay Ridge, L. I. Eminent as a mineralogist and geologist and the inventor of the Gesner rust-proof process in the treatment of iron—married Miss Corbett—one daughter, Harleston Gesner, a deaconess of the Episcopal Church.
5. ABRAHAM HERBERT, b. at Parsboro, N. S., June 25, 1832, d. April 30, 1895. A well-known clergyman of the Episcopal Church for over thirty-five years. Most of his ministry spent in New York State. Married Dec. 29, 1859, in Christ Church, Brooklyn, Helen Catlin

Dickinson, daughter of Andrew Dickinson and Elvira Catlin, formerly of Milton and Litchfield, Conn. Their children were Landon, b. Feb. 22, 1861, at Briar Cliff, N. Y., died soon after birth; Richmond Herbert, b. April 26, 1862, at Rondout, N. Y., and Anthon Temple, b. July 20, 1865, at Le Roy, N. Y. Helen Catlin Dickinson, beloved wife of Abraham Herbert Gesner, died at West Farms, N. Y., March 5, 1868. He married, second, Sarah Adeline Barretto, daughter of Dr. Francis Barretto, of New York, June 12, 1873. No children by this marriage.

6. Brower, b. Nov. 13, 1834, at Parrsborough, Nova Scotia, married in 1863, Frances A. Field, of New York, and died Nov. 1874. While a student at the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons the Civil War broke out, and Brower offered his services to his country in the capacity of a surgeon. Distinguished for bravery he received the Kearney Medal of Honor. Later was promoted to Surgeon in Chief of Artillery in the 2d Corps. Made Lieut.-Colonel by act of Congress after the War. He first served in the 38th N. Y. Volunteers as Surgeon and later was on Gen. Hancock's Staff. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, N. Y. Brower had one child Lillian, who married the Marquis Vincenzo Perreca of Italy, formerly a member of the King's Guard. Their daughter, Mary, is at present with her mother at Bay Ridge, L. I.
7. Harriet Luana, b. at Parrsboro, N. S., Mar. 10, 1837, died at St. John, N. B., Sept. 8, 1838.
8. John Frederick, b. at St. John, N. B., July 24, 1839, graduate of Columbia College, N. Y., 1861. Chemist, geologist, and inventor, resided in New York, never married, died Feb. 3, 1899. He patented several electrical and chemical appliances, for some of which he received honorable mention at the Paris Exposition in 1889. He was a man of literary tastes, writing frequently for magazines.
9. Conrad, b. at St. John, N. B., 26 Aug., 1841, never married. A man of great promise and rare excellence of character, whose life was cut short on the 19th of October, 1877, by drowning. Mr. Gesner was engaged in working the gypsum quarries of San Marco in the Gulf of California in which he was interested as a partner with Lucas Brothers, manufacturers of plaster paris in San Francisco. With a party of eight Mexicans and Indians, he endeavored to reach San Marco in a sail boat. He crossed the Gulf safely, but was caught in a gale to the leeward of San Marco island and all were lost. The crew of the Brig, which he was loading, endeavored to reach the party, but was unsuccessful in finding them. Later Mr. Gesner's body and those of three Indians were washed ashore three miles north of La Paz and there buried (see notice N. Y. Herald).
10. Robert Parker, b. in Cornwallis, 27 Mar., 1844; d. Halifax, Mar. 26, 1851.
11. Elizabeth Cochran, b. Sackville, N. S., Dec. 10, 1848; d. 23 July, 1850, in Halifax.



## FIFTH GENERATION

**V. Abraham Herbert**, son of Dr. Abraham Gesner, was born at Parrsboro, N. S., June 25, 1832, died April 30, 1895, married, first, Dec. 29, 1859, Helen Catlin Dickinson, daughter of Andrew Dickinson (of Milton, Conn., Brooklyn, N. Y., and of Ridgewood, N. J.) and Elvira Catlin, of Litchfield, Conn. Three children were born of this marriage, the first, Landon, died the day of his birth, Feb. 22, 1861, who was buried near the east end of the old All Saints' Church, Briar Cliff, N. Y. The second son, Richmond Herbert, present rector of Christ Church, Oswego, N. Y. The third son, Anthon Temple, Professor of Ethics and Evidences in the Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn.

Abraham Herbert, after a short business career, studied for the Episcopal ministry. Graduated from the General Theological Seminary, N. Y., in June, 1859, was ordained, and became rector of All Saints', Briar Cliff, Ossining, New York. Other charges: Holy Spirit, Rondout, N. Y., Leroy, N. Y. (1863-1867), Grace Church, West Farms, N. Y. (1869-1872). During this last mentioned rectorship his wife died (Mar. 5, 1868), and in 1871, by reason of over-exertion, he suffered a serious stroke of paralysis, from which he never wholly recovered his former strength. Became again rector of All Saints', Briar Cliff, where he remained till 1874. In 1873, June 12, married, 2nd, Sarah Adeline Barretto, daughter of Dr. Francis Barretto, of New York. In 1875, became rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Milford, Pa., where he remained until October 1878. Became for the third time rector of All Saints', Briar Cliff. His last charge was St. Mary's Church, "Beechwood," Scarborough-on-the-Hudson, where in 1894, by reason of failing health, he became rector emeritus, which position he held till the day of his death. A man of singularly beautiful and lovable character, of great self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, he was greatly beloved by all who knew him (note 22).

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## SIXTH GENERATION

**Richmond Herbert Gesner and Anthon Temple Gesner**, sons of Abraham Herbert Gesner.

Richmond H. Gesner, b. Apr. 26, 1865, at Rondout, N. Y., Graduated B. A., from St. Stephen's College, 1883; General

Theol. Seminary B. D., 1887; rector of Christ Church, Oswego, N. Y., since 1906. Married Ida Virginia Brett, of Albany, 1890. Four children, Gertrude, Marguerite, Virginia, and Catherine.

Anthon T. Gesner, b. July 20, 1865, at Le Roy, N. Y., Trinity College B. A., 1890, M. A., 1894. Berkeley Divinity School, 1893. Mütter Professor of Ethics and Evidences in Berkeley Divinity School, 1910. Married Blanche Louise Pinniger (born in Chippenham, Wiltshire, England) June 14, 1893, in Chicago. Four children, Helen Sargent, Dorothy Dickinson, Conrad Herbert, and Harriet Davis.

### DESCENT OF RICHMOND AND ANTHON GESNER

#### Sons of Rev. Abraham Herbert Gesner of Ossining, N. Y.

1. From DOMINIE EVARDUS BOGARDUS, first Dutch Minister of New York, and ANNEKE JANS, through FAMITCHA Brower, daughter of ADOLPHUS Brower and granddaughter of Jacob Brower and his wife Anneke Bogardus. Anneke Bogardus was the daughter of William Bogardus, who was the son of Dominie Ewardus Bogardus and Anneke Jans Van Masterland. Famitcha Brower married John Gesner of Tappan, 1744.

2. From CAPT. MYLES STANDISH and JOHN ALDEN of the Mayflower, through SARAH Pineo, daughter of David Pineo, wife of Col. Henry Gesner, whose mother was Elizabeth Sampson. Elizabeth Sampson's father was David Sampson (1685-1772). David was the son of Caleb Sampson and Mercy Standish of Duxbury. Mercy Standish was the daughter of Alexander Standish and Sarah Alden. Alexander Standish was the son of Myles Standish, and Sarah Alden was the daughter of John Alden and Priscilla Mullens. (See The Mayflower Descendant Magazine. See also Pineo Genealogy in Dr. Arthur Eatons History of Kings Co., N. S.)

3. From GOVERNOR JOHN WEBSTER of Connecticut, through Harriet Webster, wife of Dr. Abraham Gesner. Harriet Webster (b. 1801) was the daughter of Dr. Isaac (b. 1766), who was the son of Moses (b. 1743), who was the son of Noah (b. 1706), who was the son of George (b. 1669), who was the son of Thomas (d. 1786), who was the son of Hon. John Webster,

also

4. Through Helen Catlin Dickinson, wife of Rev. A. H. Gesner. Helen Catlin Dickinson was a great-granddaughter of Margaret Seymour, who was the daughter of John Seymour (1666-1748) and Elizabeth Webster. Elizabeth Webster was the daughter of Lieut. Robert Webster and his wife Susannah Treat (daughter of Hon. Richard Treat). Lieut. Robert Webster of Middletown was the son of Hon. John Webster (1596-1661), Governor of Connecticut.

## NOTES OF OTHER BRANCHES OF THE GESNER FAMILY

Descendants of Abraham Gesner and Elizabeth Steadman.

Elizabeth Gesner and Jacob Concklin.

Famitcha Gesner and Benjamin Cossett.

John H. Gesner and Ann Onderdonck.

Nicholas Gesner and Grace Post.

William H. Gesner and Mary A. Mann.

William N. Gesner and Margaret Paton.

The Brower Family.

The Ferdon Family.

The Pineo Family.

Individual members of the Gesner Family.

Sources of information, etc.

### NOTE 1

A. Tobler-Meyer derives the name of Gesner from *in der Gassen, i. e.*, the man who resided near the street approaching some town or city. Three brothers, Vasa, Paul, and Andrew, resided in Germany, near Switzerland, during the first half of the 16th century. Vasa was the father of the eminent naturalist, Conrad, who received knighthood. Paul was the father of Solomon (1559-1605), the scholar and theologian. Andrew, who received 39 wounds in the battle of Zug, lived exactly 39 years afterward and was a progenitor of the modern Gesner family in Germany, Conrad died without issue (see Biog. Univers., Paris, 1818).

B. See Rupp's 10,000 Names of Palatines, O'Callaghans Doc. Hist. of N. Y., vol. iii., p. 568; also Ecclesiastical Records of State of N. Y., vol. iii., and Professor Kuhns' authoritative work, "History of the Palatines."

### NOTE 2

John Gesner, practitioner at the Imperial Court at Wetzlar (see Bergischen Geschichts vereins, vol. xx., p. 102, Library of Cologne). The Court was moved from Trier (Treve) to Wetzlar in 1693 owing to the unsettled condition of the country.

### NOTE 3

See Records of the Broome Street Lutheran Church (N. Y. Gen. and Biog. Soc.); Records of Dutch Church at Tappan, in Cole's Hist. of Rockland Co.; Year Book of Holland Soc., 1903, etc.

William N. Gesner, whose unpublished notes are in the possession of Professor Frederick W. Mar of Brooklyn, was of the opinion that John

Hendrick Gesner, sen., resided for a short time in Yonkers, and that the name of his wife was Ann Elizabeth Smith. See List of Palatines emigrating to America, in the Library of the Historical Society of Penn. in Philadelphia.

## NOTE 4

The Will of J. Hendrick Gesner reads:

“In the name of God. Amen. Oct. 30, 1745.

I, Hendrick Gesener of Tappan, Orange Co., being sick, my executors are to sell my personal property to pay debts. I leave my wife Elizabeth all my estate for life, but in case she be willing that my real estate should be sold, then from the proceeds my son John is to have £150, and the rest to remain in my wife's hands for her support. After her death I leave to my son John all real estate remaining, except one negro woman, which I leave to my daughter Geritty, wife of Jacob Valentine. I make my wife Elizabeth, and trusty friends Isaac Blauvelt and Johannes Ferdon, executors.”

The will is witnessed by Johannes Waldron, Gerritt Erickson, and Johannes Vleirboom. It was proved July 16, 1748.

Shortly before drawing his own will John Hendrick Gesner was a witness to the will of his friend and neighbor, Jacob Ferdon of Scralenberg, Bergen Co., N. J., whose daughter Jannetje (Jannette) married Jacob Brower, father of Famitcha Brower, wife of John Gesner, jr. See note 7 for Brower and Ferdon families.

## NOTE 5

In the list of baptisms in Coles “History of Rockland Co.” is to be read “No. 1151 Johannes Matthyrs Valentine born July 14, 1741, baptized August 9, child of Jacob Valentine and Grietye Gesner.” This is Margaret Gesner's child. Margaret was an infant when her father came to America in 1710.

## NOTE 6

In 1796 John Gesner deeded to his son-in-law, Jacob Concklin, a very considerable tract of land near Rockland for the sum of £875 current money of New York. John is described as a resident of Harrington, Rockland Town, Bergen Co. (see Record of Deeds, Hackensack, N. J.).

## NOTE 7. BROWER AND FERDON DESCENT

“The BROWERS were descended from Adam Brower who emigrated to New Amsterdam from Cologne, France, 1642. Three years later he married Magdalena Jacobs Ferdon of Long Island. He was a miller and lived in New Amsterdam until 1647 when he removed to Brooklyn where he joined the Dutch Church in 1677. His issue was fifteen children, of which number one, Jacob, was a second son” (see Harveys Genealog. Hist. of Bergen Co., N. J.) Jacob Brower married Anneke Bogardus January 29, 1682, and their sixth child was Adolphus (born

October 5, 1693) who married Jennette Ferdon (b. August 23, 1690). Famitcha who married John Gesner was the fifth child of Adolphus. She was baptized December 1, 1723, and married in 1744.

"The FERDONS were descended from Thomas Ferdon. (He spelled it Verdon.) Thomas emigrated to America as early as 1645. It was probably his sister Magdalena who in March 19, 1645, married Adam Brower at Flatlands, L. I. The Ferdons came of a French family which had for some time resided in Holland. Thomas settled in the Gowanus section of Brooklyn, on a farm of one Anthony Hulse.

He married Mary Dodge, a daughter of Aeltje Bredenbend, widow of William Bredenbend by a former husband, by whom he had one child whom he named Thomas. This Thomas (jr.) was born about 1654. His father, the elder Thomas, was a magistrate in Brooklyn in 1661, 1662, 1663, and 1664, and is recorded as having taken the oath of allegiance to King Charles in 1687. The younger Thomas was thrice married. His first wife was Yte (or Elsie) Jurianise, widow of Tunis Ten Eycke. The second and third wives had no issue. His only child, born of his first wife at Brooklyn, March 19, 16—, was *Jacob* Ferdon. Thomas Ferdon (son of Thomas) was an ensign in the Kings Co. Militia, 1715, and both he and Yte were members of the Dutch Church. He was Constable in 1664, and in 1718 was a Deacon of the Dutch Church at New Utrecht.

Jacob Ferdon married, May 17, 1678, at New York, Femmetye Williams of Flatlands, L. I. She was a native of Mepple, Holland. The couple lived at Flatbush, L. I., where they joined the Dutch Church in 1694. In 1698 Jacob bought a farm at New Utrecht where they removed and lived. Their children were Barbara, Wilhelmus, Thomas, Maria, *Jannetje*, Fammetje, Dirke, and John." *Jannetje* married *Adolphus Brower* (Family Records. Also see Harvey's Biograph. Hist. of Bergen Co., N. J.).

#### NOTE 8

The land upon which the house stood was part of the "Lockhart lands." "The title passed from Dr. George Lockhart to his half-brother, Col. William Merritt, whose heirs sold it to John Corbett, an English sea captain, in 1703, who at his death devised it to his only child, Mary, wife of Henry Ludlow. The Ludlows sold it to William Ferdon, John Ferdon, Hendrick Geisener, and his sons, John and Nicholas, and to Matthew Concklin," and certain others (see the story of the Old Ferry in the Palisades Library, also see page 28 Harvey's History of Hudson and Bergen Counties).

This property during the course of the dispute concerning the state line was sometimes in Rockland County, N. Y., and again in Bergen County, N. J. It is now in Bergen County, on the road to Closter, and formerly bordered Closter Creek. Gesner at the time of the Revolution was regarded as a citizen of Orangetown, and several of his sons belonged to a militia company known as the "King's Orange Rangers," organized in 1766. Rockland County was erected out of Orange County in 1798.

## NOTE 9. DESCENDANTS OF ELIZABETH GESNER

ELIZABETH, (born Dec. 6, bapt. Dec. 29, 1745), married Jacob Concklin. He was the son of Jacob Concklin, Esq. (b. 1718, d. June 9, 1718), and Hester Barhyte (b. Apr. 11, 1720, d. Oct. 12, 1783). The children of *Jacob Concklin and Elizabeth* were: Jacob, b. July 15, 1766; Famiche, b. Feb. 18, 1773; and Elizabeth, b. Jan. 13, 1778.

Jacob Concklin (b. July 15, 1766), the son of Jacob and Elizabeth, married Mary Snider, daughter of Peter Snider and Elsie Truman. Their children were: (1) Jacob, b. May 14, 1794, who married Elmira Stephens and died October, 1832, in New York. (Their only child, a son, died young.) (2) John Gesner Concklin b. Sept. 18, 1796, married Madeline Fortier, Mar. 26, 1821, daughter of Louis H. Fortier and Mary Pineo. Their children were Louis Henry Fortier, b. Mar. 11, 1822, and Mary Elizabeth, b. Aug. 14, 1832, who married James W. Gowdy, Sept. 11, 1853, and had issue as follows: William Edwin, Louis Henry, Sarah Madeline, John Concklin, Jerome LeRoy, Emma Ellen, Benjamin, Virginia, Leah, Margaret.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gowdy reside on a portion of the old Gesner farm and the Gesner burying ground is but a few rods from their door.

## NOTE 10. DESCENDANTS OF JOHN H. GESNER

John Henry the eldest son of John and Famitcha (Brower) Gesner was born Sept. 24, 1749.

He married Anne Onderdonck, daughter of Andros Onderdonck and Sarah Remsen, Sept. 18, 1771. His name is on the list of signers of the Orangetown Resolutions of 1775, but he appears to have taken no very active part in the war. Mr. Wm. N. Gesner was diligent in looking up the main facts of his life, and to him and to Mr. Robt. H. Fenton of Nyack the writer is indebted for most of the following account.

“During the first part of the Revolutionary War he resided in a small house in the north end of the Onderdonck property at Nyack and ran a pettiauger on the River.

“His business seems to have been the carrying of stone to Peekskill and other places in New York. In the spring of 1777, Col. Bird with five hundred men was sent by the British commander in New York to destroy the commissary stores at Peekskill and John Gesner was there at the time with his vessel in Annsville Creek. As soon as he learned the object of the British he made an attempt to secure some of the goods by a plea of being loyal to the Crown, but was unable to get anything. The account states that he left as the stores were being committed to the flames. In going down the Creek he was fired

upon by a detachment of red-coats stationed in a field near by. They signaled him to stop, but as he continued they sent a volley of musket balls at the boat. He and his boatman, who was named Riker, escaped being struck. A little further down the river Gesner encountered a British war vessel (probably the frigate *Brune*) which had brought a detachment up the Hudson. This time he fared less fortunately. Gesner turned to escape up the river, but the light wind completely died away and left the two vessels becalmed. The British then lowered a boat and came aboard the pettiauger which they said they intended to take with them down the river, and as Gesner and Riker were non-combatants they might go ashore. Gesner however preferred to remain with his ship with hope of regaining possession of his property. The boat was used as a ferry between New York and neighboring shores for a considerable time. On the occasion of a foggy night Gesner attempted to regain possession of his property by sailing off with his vessel, but he was captured and brought back to New York where his family joined him and for a time he was forced to remain there. While in New York he worked for a while in a saw-mill and then went with his family to Nova Scotia where he remained a few years and where at least three of his children were born."

They lived at Shelburne, where Henry was baptized by the Rev. Wm. Walters of the Episcopal Church, Feb. 2, 1785.

John returned to Nyack some time previous to 1797, in the opinion of Mr. W. N. Gesner, and lived there till his death, June 10, 1833, "an honorable and highly respected citizen of the community."

"On John Gesner's return to Nyack he built the house long known as the Hasbruck house and resided there till his wife died, when he went to live with his son Henry, the ship-builder, and died in the old homestead, afterwards known as the Perry place, on Franklin Street.

"This John, following the example of his father, gave a burying place to his children with the provision that it should remain in the family and never be sold. It passed out of the hands, however, of his children in course of time, for in 1870 when the Northern New Jersey Railway was built, it ran its track right through it. The stones and what few remains could be found were taken to Oak Hill Cemetery and placed in the Presbyterian ground, where the relics of the Tallman

and Cornelius burying grounds were also consigned. The Gesner burial ground was located on the south side of Smith Avenue, a short distance from the South Nyack R. R. Station. It was eighty feet in length north and south, and sixteen broad east and west."

Mr. Robert H. Fenton of Nyack states that the effect of John Gesner's escapade with the British at Peekskill and on the river gave rise to the rumor that he had joined the enemy, and as a result the Committee of Safety called upon his wife to make inquiry into the matter. "Ann was indignant, and, being of a high temper when aroused, gave the representatives of the Committee such a tongue-lashing that they became angered, and it became necessary for her to move, with her two or three small children, to New York and join her husband."

#### NOTE 10

The children of John H. Gesner and Ann Onderdonck (daug. of Andrus Onderdonck and Sarah Remsen) were ten in number, viz: 1st, John Henry who married Rachel Palmer, 2nd, Ann who married Joshua Brush, 3rd, Phoebe who married John Sneden, 4th, Henry who married Rachel Townsend, 5th, Sarah who married James Lent, 6th, Elizabeth who married Sylvester Hayford, 7th, David (born in Cornwallis, June 19, 1787), who married Elizabeth Coren, 8th, Mary who married Elijah Appleby, 9th, Abraham who married Wilmina Onderdonck, 10th, Jane who married Evert G. Wandell of Troy, Apr. 1833. (See Tappan Dutch Ch. Records, etc.)

The descendants of Ann Brush are represented by the family of Peter Brush of Englewood, N. J., and Baltus Brush and C. W. Fullwood of Nyack. Phoebe Sneden settled at Piermont and her last known surviving descendant is Charles Lawrence of Sparkill.

Of the above children John's fourth child, *Henry* (b. Feb. 2, 1785), was the builder in 1826 of the Orange, the second steamboat to ply regularly on the waters of the Hudson. In later years he was the proprietor of the old Tappan Inn (1819). In 1811 Henry and his cousin, William Herbert (son of Nicholas), were ensigns in Col. Blauvelt's regiment. In 1814 Henry was commissioned lieutenant in the 83d N. Y. Reg.

HENRY (son of John Henry) married Rachel Townsend Jan. 16, 1806. The following children were born by this marriage: Philip Debay, Ann, Phoebe, Sylvester, Jane, John, Sarah, Elmira, and Henry.

Philip D. (b. Feb. 22, 1807), married Mary Perry and had Henry T. (b. Mar. 1st, 1835). Henry T. married June 26, 1854, Eliza M. Lavender and had William Henry and John Millard (b. Mar. 1859).

John Millard, who is now the cashier of the Nyack National Bank, married Armena C. Lyon, Nov. 12, 1879. They have two children, Sarah Louise (mar. to Louis L. Robbins, Jr.), and John Millard Gesner, Jr.



Another descendant of Henry Gesner and Rachel Townsend through their son, Sylvester, is the Rev. Oscar Gesner. Oscar Gesner was born Nov. 16, 1840, graduated from Rutgers College 1862; married Caroline Elizabeth Brush. Their eldest son was Dr. J. B. Gesner, graduate of Rutgers's College and Princeton Theological Seminary; not living. Another son is Rev. Herbert M. Gesner, at one time pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Saratoga, and now pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Atlantic City, N. J.

A record of Henry Gesner's military service is to be found in Military Records (1784-1821), Vol. II., Council of Appointment, published by State of New York. These volumes contain the military record of Nicholas Gesner, also who was the first to receive appointment as colonel under the resolution of the Council.

## NOTE 11

JACOB, the second son, born Dec. 23, 1751. We know little of him beyond that told us by Nicholas Gesner in his diary that he was "lost at sea." (See "Story of the Ferry," and the "Diary" in Palisades Library.) There is some reason for believing that Jacob also enlisted with the British, and became a captain in the loyalist forces.

## NOTE 12

ISAAC (born May 15, 1753) became a tailor. In a letter written by John Gesner to Henry, his son, under date of June 23, 1791, he speaks of "his son Isaac as residing with his family in New York, where he is pursuing his trade. In 1790 he resided with his wife, Johanna Lefarge, in the "west ward." Near him dwelt *Peter* Gesner's family of which I find no further record.

## NOTE 13. FAMILY OF ABRAHAM GESNER

ABRAHAM, twin brother of Henry, born Nov. 10, 1756.

An interesting sketch of Abraham Gesner is to be read in Calneck's Hist. of Annapolis Co., which we quote in part. Through his loyalty to the British cause he lost his patrimony.

In a memorial to Sir James Kempt in 1828 asking for half pay he informs his Excellency that he had "entered the military service of his country at the age of 16 years in the King's Orange Rangers, then commanded by Samuel V. Bayard. That he was with Sir Henry Clinton in his northern expedition, and was present at the storming and taking of Fort Montgomery, and was in another engagement of less note. That he bought his quartermaster's commission of a Capt. Bethel; that he took refuge with the British army in 1776 and came to this place in 1779, and that he had served in the militia of this colony the long time of forty years, that is from 1788."

“Towards the close of the last century he became proprietor of the Noble property in Granville, then known as the Alexander Howe farm, which included lots No. 95 and No. 96 and No. 97 in that township, including an area of 1500 acres of marsh, pasture and woodland. He took much pride in improving and beautifying the estate, and to him the people of the county are much indebted for the present flourishing condition of the fruit orchards,” etc.

“In 1824 Abraham Gesner, or as he was more commonly called, ‘Major Gesner,’ accepted the appointment on the bench of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas. His uprightness of character and sincerity of purpose commanded the respect of parliament and people. In 1827, on grounds of infirmity, he declined a nomination in the general election,” etc.\*

ABRAHAM, Henry’s twin brother, born November 10, 1756, married in 1786, Elizabeth Steadman of Nova Scotia, and by her had children:

1. Hannah, b. 1787, d. 1883, m. John Troop.
2. Famitcha, b. 1788, d. 1879, m. Andrew Walker.
3. Jacob, b. 1791, d. —, m. Eliz. Trites of Westmoreland, N. B.
4. Elizabeth, b. 1793, d. 1833, unmarried.
5. Maria, b. 1795, d. 1886, unmarried.
6. Henry, b. 1797, d. 1869, m. Mary Bent.
7. Horatio, b. 1799, d. —, m. John H. Ditmars.
8. Caroline, b. 1802, d. —, m. Moses Shaw, M. P. P.
9. Isaac, b. 1804, d. 1824, unmarried.
10. Abraham, b. 1806, d. —, m. Christina Young.
11. DeLancy Moody, b. 1809, d. —, m. 1st Lucy A. Longley.  
m. 2d Jane Eggleston.
12. George Provost, b. 1812, d. —, m. Phoebe Young.

See Calneck’s Hist. of Annapolis Co.

L. D. Gesner, son DeLancy Moody Gesner resides on the old Gesner place at Belle Isle, Annapolis, N. S.

Among the descendants of Abraham Gesner living in the United States is to be mentioned Mrs. HORATIO JANE CUNNINGHAM of Montclair, N. J., widow of David Beale Cunningham, and daughter of John Henry Ditmars, who married Horatio (b. 1799), daughter of Colonel Abraham Gesner.

Mrs. Cunningham’s four children are: 1. Arthur Sinclair Cunningham, unmarried. 2. Marion Hobart, wife of Mr. James D. Freeman of Englewood, N. J. 3. James Wellet Cunningham of New York, who married Ellen Avery Painter. 4. Horatio Blanch Cunningham who in 1895 married Mr. Charles Hoyt Ellingwood of Englewood. The latter has, Evelyn (b. 1896) and Virginia (b. 1898).

\* Calneck’s Hist. of Annapolis Co., p. 417, and History of Members of Canadian Parliament.

Other descendants of Abraham are George R. Gesner (b. 1851), whose father was George Provost, and lived at Grenville, N. S., and Percy Eugene Gesner of Belle Isle, Annapolis Co., N. S.

Calneck in his History of Annapolis Co., N. S., gives a considerable list of Abraham's descendants.

#### NOTE 14. "COL." NICHOLAS GESNER'S DESCENDANTS

Nicholas, youngest son of John and Famitcha, was a born mechanic and shipbuilder. He invented a loom for weaving the Dutch double-faced blankets and bed covers. He married Grace Post by whom he had four children: *William Herbert*, *Nicholas*, *Sarah*, and *Jacob*. The last named entered the Baptist ministry. His boyhood years from eleven to seventeen (1775-1783) were lived in exciting times, but his father who was of a quiet, religious disposition could take no part in the questions of "Rights" and "Resolutions," and bade his children to follow their own conscientious convictions. For some years Nicholas Gesner taught school near his home. His abilities more and more received recognition from neighbors and acquaintances. He was frequently called upon to draw legal papers for his neighbors, and was an experienced surveyor. His diary which in its present fragmentary condition covers a period of 21 years from 1830 to 1851, is one of the most valuable possessions of the Palisades Library. It is remarkable for its accuracy and carefulness of composition.

In 1811 he was first major in Lieut. Col. Blauvelt's regiment of Rockland County, and in 1816 he was promoted to colonel of the 160th N. Y. Regiment. As early as 1798 he had held the position of ensign in the Rockland County militia, from which post he had steadily risen.

In the '40's he with others of the family who were descended from Anneke Jans, through the Bogardus and Browers, spent much time and money in an effort to recover possession of the Trinity Church property, to which they believed that corporation had no title.\* The letters written on this matter to his brother Henry, and to his nephew Dr. Abram Gesner, are models of penmanship and expression, and are permeated with

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\* The Gesner claim to a share in the inheritance of the Trinity Church property was based upon the descent of Famitcha Brower, wife of II. John Gesner. Famitcha was the daughter of Adolphus (b. Oct. 5, 1693), who was the son of Jacob Brower and Anneke Bogardus, daughter of William Bogardus. William was the son of Dominie Ewardus Bogardus, second husband of Anneke Jans (note 21).

a spirit of Christian manliness and justice. In 1834 he enjoyed a visit from his brother Abraham of Nova Scotia. The visit was repeated in 1837, when Abram brought with him his daughter, Anna Maria.

## NOTE 15

I. A. WILLIAM HERBERT GESNER, son of Nicholas Gesner, was born at Nyack July 10, 1790, and died Feb. 4, 1866. He married Mary Ann Mann (daughter of George and Helen Mann), May 30, 1814 (see Tappan Dutch Church Records). Their children were:

1. Amelia Helen, b. Apr. 11, 1815, d. Apr. 12, 1901.
2. William Nicholas, b. Feb. 19, 1817.
3. George Mann, b. Feb. 25, 1819.
4. Charles Albert, b. Dec. 5, 1820, d. Oct. 5, 1863.
5. David Sidney, b. Aug. 21, 1825.
6. Margaret Ann, b. Mar. 28, 1827, d. Oct. 10, 1846.
7. John Edwin, b. Nov. 26, 1828, d. July 1, 1855.
8. Eugene, b. Oct. 9, 1830.
9. Matilda, b. Oct. 26, 1831.
10. Herbert, b. Dec. 14, 1832, d. Nov. 16, 1860.

The mother of these ten children died Nov. 22, 1883. William Herbert and his wife are buried in the new cemetery at Rockland.

B. WILLIAM N. GESNER, late of Whitneyville, Conn., one of the ten children born to William Herbert Gesner and Mary Ann Mann, and grandson of Nicholas Gesner, married Margaret Taylor Paton whose grandparents came to New York, from Picton, Nova Scotia. The Patons were pure McClean Scotch. Writing in 1900, Mr. Wm. N. Gesner says "we have seven children living, two called to the Heavenly Father, seventeen grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren."

William Nicholas Gesner was an experienced shipbuilder, a man of sterling character and piety. His widow still survives him in Maine. His unpublished notes on the Gesner family are in the keeping of Professor F. W. Mar, Richmond Hill, Brooklyn.

c. Children of Mr. William Nicholas Gesner and Margaret Taylor Paton:

1. Mary Jane, married H. K. Parkin.
2. Margaret Taylor, died at 21.
3. Helen Louise, married Professor Fred. W. Mar of Brooklyn.
4. Matilda Ann, married Horace Lines.
5. Myra, married William H. Mar.
6. Salina F., died aged four years.
7. E. H. Gesner, lives at Stratford.
8. Alice Francis, married J. W. Payne.
9. George P., married Lena Lyman.

II. NICHOLAS GESNER, son of Nicholas Gesner and Grace Post was born July 10, 1790, and died without issue Feb. 4, 1866.

III. SARAH ("Sally"), daughter of Nicholas and Grace Post, was born June 27, 1796; married May 28, 1817, Jonathan Lawrence (b. 10 Sept. 1795, d. 1870) son of Jonathan and Mary (Mann) Lawrence. Their five children were:

1. Mary, b. 20 Sept., 1818.
2. William H., b. 28 June, 1820, who married Mary Jane Brooks, no children.
3. Charles, b. 7 Feb. 1822.
4. Sarah G., b. 31 Dec., 1825, d. 1899.
5. Cornelia, b. 10 Jan., 1831, m. 7 Sept. 1856, Albert Snook.

IV. JACOB GESNER, son of Nicholas Gesner and Grace Post, born at Rockland, April 7, 1801, died August, 1883, married first, October 15, 1831, Elizabeth Cooper (b. 6 Mar., 1802) daughter of Lucas and Caroline Cooper by whom he had seven children:

1. Elizabeth, b. 7 Nov., 1836, d. Dec. 1836.
2. Emeline, b. 15 Feb., 1839, m. Sidney W. Darling, their son Sidney A., b. Mar. 17, 1857, m. Ella A. Saxton.
3. and 4. Twins, b. 25 July, 1841, died in infancy.
5. Sarah Ann, b. 30 Sept., 1842, d. Oct. 1896, unmarried.
6. Amanda, b. 27 Feb., 1846, m. Dec. 30, 1866, John D. Concklin, and had Edmond Ernest, b. Oct. 19, 1867, married Hattie Wiedenbach; Elsie, b. June 22, 1869, d. April 7, 1890; and William, b. 6 Dec., 1871, m. Willie Ruth Stevens.
7. Nicholas, b. 30 Dec., 1847, m. 1st Mary Perry and 2d Margaret J. Ganley.

JACOB Gesner married second time (20 May, 1867 at Newark) Henrietta Clark (b. 7 Dec. 1839) daughter of James H. Clark by whom he had the following children: Annie, b. 1868, died in infancy; Elmer, b. 13 Jan., 1870, at Jersey City; and Marretta, b. 1873, died aged 4 years.

#### NOTE 16. DESCENDANTS OF FAMITCHA GESNER.

FAMITCHA GESNER, daughter of Col. Henry Gesner of Cornwallis, mar. Nov. 15, 1821, Benjamin Cossett. This Benjamin Cossett was a son of Rev. Rama Cossett, Cornwallis. Nine children were the fruit of this marriage:

1. Elizabeth, b. Aug. 15, 1822 (deceased).
2. Henry B., b. Feb. 26, 1824.
3. Edward W., b. Mar. 21, 1826.
4. Maria, b. June 3, 1828, mar. Mr. Chas. Hill.
5. Caroline, b. 1830, mar. John Peters.
6. George B., b. Dec. 9, 1832, mar. Emily Hill Dec. 25, 1865.
7. Eugene H., b. Oct. 22, 1834 (deceased).

8. Emily, b. 1838, mar. Marshall Hill of Sidney, Cape Breton, Feb. 2, 1865.
9. Evelyn, twin sister of Emily—died—see Calneck's History of Annapolis Co., N. S.

Of the above children, Emily, b. 1838, wife of Marshall Hill, bore her husband eight children. Of the number, Edwin Samuel mar. Elizabeth Peters Oct. 1, 1901, and resides in Stillwater, Minn. Another child named Evelyn, born Oct. 16, 1873, married Mr. W. H. Peters of Stillwater, Minn.

#### NOTE 17. PINEO FAMILY

- I. JAMES PINEO (or "Pineau"); a French Huguenot, came to Bristol, R. I., in 1706, where he married Dorothy ——. On or about 1717, he removed to Lebanon, Conn., where he resided until his death. His children were:
  1. James, b. 1707.
  2. Elizabeth, b. 1709.
  3. James, b. 1710 (m. Priscilla Newcomb).
  4. Sarah b. 1712.
  5. Daniel, b. 1715.
  6. Submit, b. 1717 (m. Silas Newcomb).
  7. Joseph, b. 1720.
  8. Péter, b. May 4, 1723.
  9. Dorothy, b. 1725 (m. Capt. John Reed of Taunton).
- II. PETER PINEO, born 1723, married Elizabeth, daughter of David and Mary (Chaffin) Sampson, and had
- III. DAVID, who married, November 12, 1767, Rebecca, daughter of Capt. Stephen and Margaret West of Cornwallis, N. S.
- IV. SARAH PINEO, born September 3, 1768, was David's eldest child. She married Henry Gesner May 4, 1786. Her mother Rebecca died May 23, 1803.

For descent of Elizabeth Sampson (Sarah's grandmother) from Capt. Myles Standish see page 16.

#### NOTE 18

David Henry had a son Abraham who moved to Michigan and settled in St. Clair. Another son of David is Dr. George B. Gesner of Eckford, Mich. In an old letter of Henry Gesner to Nicholas, his brother, dated March 1, 1848, he says the number of his grandchildren are about 70 and great-grandchildren 18.

#### NOTE 19.

Henry and his twin brother Abraham were both members of the King's Orange Rangers. Henry had the heel of his boot shot off at Yonkers during the Revolution. "The King's Orange Rangers was a

loyalist corps, raised mainly in Orange County, N. Y., by Lieut. John Bayard in 1766. It was ordered to Nova Scotia and embarked to Halifax Oct. 27, 1778. It remained in Nova Scotia until 1783 and was then disbanded at Inaco, near St. John." (See Winslop Papers pp. 33, 40, 73, 93 and 125).

Henry's military experience acquired during the war became of value to the Province in later years. In 1818 he held a major's commission in the 6th Battalion Kings County Militia, and in 1828 was lieutenant colonel of the 1st Battalion. (See Dr. Arthur Eaton's History of Kings County, Nova Scotia, p. 434.)

## NOTE 20

Lavinia married ——— Kerr, a lawyer by profession, to whom she bore several children. One daughter married a Mr. Sweet of Fox River, N. S., with whom Lavinia dwelt during the closing years of her life. Lavinia was a woman of deep and fervent piety and possessed a genuine love of literature. She composed several poems of considerable merit, but we believe never published anything. She died May 26, 1890, the last surviving child of Henry Gesner and Sarah Pineo.

Charlotte Herbert (b. 1813, d. May 4, 1882), buried in the Episcopal churchyard at Cornwallis, near her parents.

## NOTE 21. THE BOGARDUS FAMILY

1. EVARDUS BOGARDUS, familiarly known as "Dominie Bogardus," first minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in New York, married in 1635 Anneke Jans, widow of Roeloff Jans Van Masterland. Prior to his marriage certain lands (later in history known as the "Trinity Church property") lying in the city of New York, were granted to Anneke Jans by Woulter Van Twiller, the Dutch Governor of the Province. This grant was afterwards confirmed to the children of Dominie Evarthus Bogardus and Aneke Jans by the Hon. Richard Nichols, the first British Governor of the Province of New York.

The children of Evarthus Bogardus and Anneke Jans were:

- (2) WILLIAM, b. 1638, m. Wyntie Lybrant, Aug. 29, 1658.
- (3) Cornelius, b. 1640, bap. Sept. 9, 1640.
- (4) Jonas, bap. 1643, Jan. 4, d. without issue.
- (5) Petres, b. 1645, m.

2. WILLIAM BOGARDUS (son of 1 Evarthus) married Aug. 29, 1658, Wyntie Lybrant. They had three children:

- (6) Evarthus, bap. Nov. 2, 1659.
- (7) Lytie, bap. Mar. 16, 1661.
- (8) ANNEKE, bap. Oct. 3, 1663, m. Jacob Brower, Jan. 29, 1682.

ANNEKE JANS, widow of Roeloff Jans Van Masterland, and afterwards wife of Dominie Evarthus Bogardus of New York, was a granddaughter of Anneke Webber. Anneke Webber was the daughter of William Prince of Orange ("William the Silent").

## NOTE 22

Helen Catlin Dickinson, wife of Rev. A. H. Gesner, was descended on her father's side from Oliver Dickinson (1757-1847) of Litchfield, Conn., and on her mother's side from David Catlin (1747-1839), also of Litchfield. Both these men were privates in the Connecticut troops during the American Revolution, serving under Col. Webb, and both were granted pensions in the year 1832, having then reached years of infirmity.

Oliver Dickinson's father was also named Oliver (1724-1783), whose father was Ebenezer Dickinson, who came from Hatfield, Mass., to Litchfield, where he died Nov. 21, 1774, in the 85th year of his age. Ebenezer (b. Oct. 7, 1690) was the son of that Nathaniel Dickinson whose grandfather, Nathaniel, settled in Wethersfield, Conn., 1637.

David Catlin's father was John Catlin (1693-1759) of Hartford, and his mother was Margaret Seymour, daughter of John Seymour, Jr., and Elizabeth Webster, also of Hartford.

## NOTE 23

Mrs. W. C. Denike of Rockland, N. J., is the daughter of Elizabeth Wilsey, the daughter of John Wilsey, the son of Peter Wilsey and Famiche Gesner.

We have been unable to obtain complete records of all the descendants of children of John Henry Gesner.

## NOTE 24

There was an error made in cutting on the gravestone the date of Famitcha's birth. It was cut 1722, but according to the direction of Nicholas Gesner, her son, it should have been cut 1723.