

"OH, THAT MINE ADVERSARY HAD WRITTEN A BOOK."

THE GOSS FAMILY:

An Historical Romance.

COMPILED BY WILLIAM H. BOOMER, AND READ AT THE NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE GOSS FAMILY, AT THE POLAND CAMP-GROUNDS, SEPT. 11, 1886.

LEWISTON, MAINE:

MDCCCLXXXVI.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS HUMBLE EFFORT is submitted with a great deal of fear and trembling. To construct a Genealogy upon other than the old basis is, indeed, a bold step forward. While the average Genealogy may be very useful as a scrap-book, or as a safe place to keep bank-bills, it is hoped that this humble volume will be something more than that, and will be the means of whiling away an hour that might otherwise be wasted in desultory conversation.

By some, it may be considered in poor taste to palm off a picture of Lydia Pinkham as one of the Gosses, or a cut of Humpty Dumpty to represent some of our ancestors. I will hasten to add that no reflection is intended upon the Gosses. The Gosses are an upright and worthy family—honest in their dealings, temperate in their habits, sociable in their natures, fathers in many cases of twins, fond of a joke, and with too much “horse sense” in their make-up to apply other than an honorable motive to this “History.”

I started this Edition de luxe with a list of 33 subscribers; 33 subscribers, at 25 cents each, make \$8.25. The press-work and binding alone cost me \$35.00. I am in hopes to get enough out of it to pay for paper, postage and “packing.” I never heard of an Édition de luxe (whatever that is) being issued for the trifle of two dimes and a half; but I wanted to strike out boldly, and do something startling. Such as it is, I submit this “Genealogy” to the Gosses and the Gosslings, for their approval and 25 cents.

THE AUTHOR.

DEDICATION.

This Volume is Dedicated to A. G. & C. F. Goss,

Dealers in Stoves, Stove-Funnel, Elbows (and a general assortment of cuss-words to go with them),
Kitchen Furnishing Goods, Clothes-Wringers, Tin and Wooden Ware, &c. Agents for the
Cooley Creamery and the Florence Lamp-Stoves. Gosses and others are invited
to call. Corner of Main and Lincoln Streets, LEWISTON, MAINE.

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 Tacus Atwood.....Auburn.
 Attorney-at-Law, Goff Block.
 Guy C. Goss.....Bath.
 W. A. Goss.....Lewiston.
 Eben D. Jordan.....Boston.
 Jordan, Marsh & Co.
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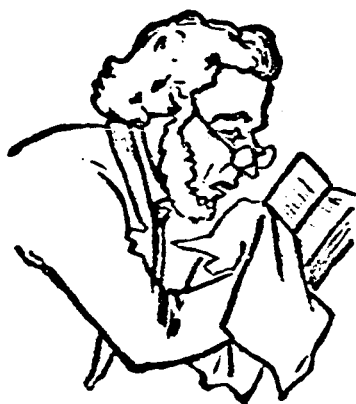
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THE GOSS FAMILY.



At the eighth annual Reunion of the Goss Family, held on the Poland Camp-Grounds, Sept. 16, 1885, I was appointed, with Joseph Goss, Ann Arris, Emeline Atwood and Taseus Atwood, "a Committee to search the records, and prepare a History of the Family, to be read at the next Reunion." After listening to the paper prepared by Sarah B. Martin, which was read, last year, by Mrs. Charles Thurston of Danville Junction, it occurred to me that, perhaps, little additional could be written about the Gosses. But an extensive correspondence, the past summer, has disabused me of this idea, for I find enough material could be collected to fill a 1000-page book.

Now, I do not propose to stand up here, and recite a lot of statistics of births, marriages and deaths, for the matter of an hour, or an hour and a half. Such would prove very dry, and I should be fearful lest my audience might rise to a man (and a woman), and vamoose the grounds. The place for such, properly, is in a printed Genealogy, where each family interested can consult it at its leisure. There are too many characters in the story, to keep track of them all. I shall only introduce such statistics as will seem proper to obtain an intelligent idea of the whole. My story will be general, rather than

specific, and I shall introduce anecdotes of the Gosses and their connections, interspersed with poetry and such, that will make this yarn as interesting as a 25-cent dime novel.

THE ORIGINAL THOMAS.



Accounts vary as to the original Thomas Goss, who came to this country from England. One account says he was born and married in the old country, and had some children there. England intended to press him aboard a man-o'-war, but he left his property, consisting of an island and a ship of merchandise, and departed with his family for this country. This account says that he settled in Gloucester, Cape Ann, Massachusetts. From Gloucester he came to old Danville, in this State, and lived there until his death. He lived to be 100 years and 3 months old. It is rumored that he was greatly addicted to the use of tobacco, and it is thought this was the reason of his being cut down at such an untimely age. Both he and his wife died on his son George's place. This account tells us that he had six children—Richard, John, Joshua, Thomas, George and Polly. Richard married a Smith, John a Parsons, Joshua and Thomas unknowns, George a Stinchfield, and Polly, Thomas Rowe.

Within a few days, I have received a letter from John T. Goss of Presque Isle, Aroostook County, a man 80 years of age. The letter was written by his daughter, Mrs. A. E. Wight. This letter sheds additional light on the original Goss, and tells a different story. This Mr. John T. Goss of Presque Isle informs us that the original Thomas Goss was his grandfather. He sailed from England in 1756, with wife and three children, a fourth child being born on the passage. They landed in New York, and afterwards settled on Long Island. This account tells us that the names of his family were Peter, Susan, Theodore and John. There is a tradition that a brother accompanied Thomas—William by name. The variance in the two accounts may be caused by getting Thomas and William mixed up—or else, perhaps, I am mixed. If I knew the present post-office address of the original Thomas Goss, who came to this country in 1756, I would drop him a line and have this thing straightened out.

RETURNS FROM THE BACK COUNTIES.

This Mr. John T. Goss, who is on these grounds to-day, with his daughter, Mrs. Wight, is the original settler of Presque Isle. He entered the place on the 27th of March, 1842, with a wife, seven children and \$6.25 in money. The brothers and sisters of John T. Goss foot up as follows: Elizabeth, Peter, Phebe, Alice, Hannah, Mary, Sarah and Priscilla—nine in all. This is one of the back counties that's been heard from. John T. Goss was married in 1827, at St. George, N. B. The names of his family are: Elvira, Sarah, Mary, Bliss, Hannah, Nancy, Priscilla, James, Emeline and Albert—ten in all. More returns from the back counties! There would seem to be no immediate danger of the family ever dying out, if the present Gosses will only pattern after the earlier ones, and display the same amount of energy.

The year previous to Mr. Goss settling in Presque Isle, he had felled a few trees and made a log camp. The snow was five feet deep in the woods, and Mr. Goss and his family picked their way through the forests by means of spotted trees. He bought land for 75 cents an acre. Time was given to make the cash payment of 25 cents, the remaining 50 cents to be worked out as a road tax. "During that first year, while Mr. Goss was at work sixteen and eighteen hours a day, clearing five and six acres of land, his wife and children were engaged in planting beans and corn and potatoes. 'That fall we were a good while without bread,' were the words of the pioneer settler, 'but we had green corn and such.' During the first winter wife and babies were left in the log camp, and Mr. Goss spent five months in the woods, working for \$1 a day. He was at home only once during the five months. That must have been a long and dreary winter for the brave woman, alone in the woods with her children, the oldest a girl of thirteen. The next year people began to move in. Mr. Goss cleared ten more acres of land, and the hardest struggle was over." Mr. Goss will be 80 years old, Sept. 15, 1886.

Both accounts of the original Thomas Goss, who came to this country in 1756, agree that he had a



Decline and Fall of the
Goss Family.

son John, and that this John married a Parsons. Joseph Goss, who is serving on this Committee, wrote me that he had looked up the old Danville record of births, marriages and deaths, and finds that this John Goss, the son of the original Thomas Goss from England, was born at Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts, June 6, 1770. "This is an important link in the chain of evidence," as our County Attorney, Tascus Atwood, Esq., would say. It goes to prove that Thomas Goss settled in Gloucester, Mass., or at least lived there at one time. It is altogether likely that he may, at an earlier date, have lived on Long Island. The date of the birth of this particular John Goss, June 6, 1770, was fourteen years after the arrival of Thomas, his father, from England. This John Goss (1st) was the grandfather of the presiding officer of South Lewiston. John Goss (1st), who said, Ann Parsons, of his native town, born the same year as her husband. wife's death occurred March 10, 1848. half days, learning to write and figure names of the brothers and sisters of Goss (2d), was born at Gloucester, married Catherine Dyer of Lewiston, Nov. 18, 1792, d. 1793. The 3d child, also called Samuel, b. 1794, d. 1796. Samuel Parsons Goss, 4th child. b. at Pejepscot, 1797, m. Sally Vosmus, 1819; Sally was b. in 1800, d. at Danville, 1848; he d. at Danville, 1870. Samuel and Sally had children as follows: Betsey, b. 1820, m. Isaac Libby; Mary Jane, b. 1822, m. Jeremiah Parker; Joseph (1st), b. 1825, d. in infancy; Levi, b. 1828, went to California in 1854, and for the last ten years has not been heard from; Joseph (2d), b. in Danville, Feb. 6, 1830, m. Eliza Jordan of same place, Aug. 25, 1852. When Joseph was 18 years old he commenced work on the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railway (now the Grand Trunk), and was one of the passengers on the first through train to Canada; after his marriage he went beyond Island Pond, and lived with his wife in a log camp. [Joseph is serving on this Committee.] Charles M., 6th child of Samuel and Sally, b.



Some Old Settlers.

1832, m. Cynthia Pomerey of Levant; Delphina m. Reuben Parker; Lucinda R., b. 1837, m. George E. Thorne, 1854; 9th and last child, Lucy A., b. 1841, m. Lathrop Coombs, 1867. The 5th child of John Goss (1st), Anna, b. 1798, m. Samuel Martin of Poland, 1822; in the spring of 1823 they moved to Poland, three miles from her father's home; with her own hands she set out some apple trees, only one of which is alive to-day; she lived on this place 59 years and 10 months, and died at the age of 83. Jeffrey, 6th child, b. 1800, d. 1822. 7th child, Mary, b. 1802, m. Jacob Vosmus of Pejepscot, 1822; she was the mother of 12 children; she lived on their farm until her husband's death, and then went around with her children to live; she is a smart old lady to-day [September, 1886]. Thomas, 8th child, b. 1804, m. Sally Jordan, 1827; Thomas and Sally had 8 children—Olive Ann, Sewall N., Elery F., Lydia S., Henry P., Almon L., Sarah E. (1st), Sarah E. (2d). Sarah E. (2d) m. Charles Thurston; they live at Danville Junction. Olive Ann m. Leonard Leavitt, and lives in Turner. Elery m. Menitable A. Russell, and lives in Auburn. Almon m. Mary Abby Pettingill, and also resides in Auburn. Almon and Elery comprise the firm of A. L. & E. F. Goss, which has been in business in the line of stoves, kitchen furnishing goods, etc., in Lewiston, for more than 20 years. In the commercial world they rank A1. Agents for the Cooley Creamery. [Advertisement: Daily every other day and Weekly 1 time.] Levi Sanborn, 9th child, b. 1806, m. Mercy Dyer for his first wife and Mary Ann Webb for his second wife; he was the father of 13 children; Mary Ann still lives. Tamma, 10th child, b. 1808, m. Charles Maxwell of Poland. William Allen Rowe Goss, b. 1812, had two wives—first, Mary Nutting of Danville; second, Mary Martin of same place. The 12th child, Caroline, b. 1814, d. while young. Twelve children in all; so it seems that John Goss (1st) was equal, if not superior, to any Goss that preceded him.

JOHN GOSS (2d) AND "AUNT KATY."

John Goss (2d), the father of our presiding officer, was born, as I have stated, at Gloucester, Mass., in 1791-2. From the papers of Sarah B. Martin, we learn that John Goss (1st) "bought his farm in Danville of one Thomas Sparback, Sept. 5, 1803." Danville was then called Pejepscot, and was a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. John Goss (2d) was 25 years of age at the time of his marriage

with Catherine Dyer. She was born Jan. 15, 1789, at Cape Elizabeth, moved when she was four years of age to Lewiston, and went to school in a dwelling-house on the very spot where John Goss (3d) now lives, in South Lewiston. "Katy" Goss was the mother of 11 children — 6 daughters and 5 sons — in the order named : Caroline, Sarah, John, Ann, Dyer, Catherine, Samuel, William H., Angelia, Emeline and Lewis. Three of the children are dead : William H., Sarah and Caroline. "Katy" lived to the age of 93 years, 4 months and 12 days, dying May 28, 1882, at the home of her son, John Goss (3d), in South Lewiston. Her husband died May 14, 1860.

Now right here is where your historian wishes to introduce a few remarks, explanatory. To be impartial and just, the same prominence should be given the children of one branch of the family as another. Properly, I should give in detail facts and incidents bearing upon the lives of the other children of John Goss (1st) as well as upon what appertains to John Goss (2d), alone. But it will appear, upon reflection, that this will be impossible in the limits of the time given me to read this history. It

has been through no fault of mine that this "Genealogy" may prove deficient in data bearing upon the lives of the other children of John Goss (1st), namely: Samuel, Sally, Anna, Jeffrey, Mary, Thomas, Levi Sanborn, Tamma, or William Allen Rowe Goss. Within the past ten weeks I have advertised in two of the leading papers, for information bearing upon any of the Gosses, and it has only been on the occasion of my writing personally that I have received any response, and then, not always. Concerning the history of John and Catherine Goss, I have made myself familiar naturally, as my mother was so closely associated with it. From her lips I have heard much bearing upon them. Taking the children of "Aunt Katy" in order, I shall begin with my sainted mother.



An "Anxious and Aimless" Goss.

Caroline was born in Lewiston, in what was then called the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Much of her childhood was passed near the home of our presiding officer, in the southern portion of the town. The opportunities for an education in those days were very limited. In old Danville, mother went to school to Otis Waterman, a leading pedagogue of the

early times. I can hardly conceive, at this day, how she could have made herself so proficient in various studies. In reading, she was excellent; in geography, well posted; and was one of the best natural spellers I have ever known. My mother came of good stock.

MILLERISM AND POETRY.

Caroline's marriage to John Boomer occurred Feb. 28, 1832, in old Danville. Elder Jonathan Tracy tied the nuptial knot. Mr. Boomer was a native of Nova Scotia, born in Liverpool, March 10, 1806. He was commonly known as a "Blue Nose." By trade he was a cabinet-maker, but he sometimes preached by way of diversion, though not an ordained minister. About 1840 he embraced the doctrine of Joseph Miller. Father was extreme in his views—believed in fixing set dates, etc. I well remember, when a boy, the collection of charts he had on hand—all about the opening of the seven seals, the beast with the ten horns, with pictures of lions, dragons and devils, and improbable monsters, supposed in some way to bear upon the second coming of Christ. Mr. Boomer always had a keen appreciation of the ludicrous, and I believe if he could come on earth, at this day, and run across that collection of charts, he would burst more than one suspender button in trying to contain himself.



Some years after his marriage, father, with his family, consisting of wife and four children, moved to a town in Penobscot County, where he took up land and "farmed it." Mr. Boomer had as a neighbor a man whom I will call Jesse Barney, a person of a somewhat unsavory reputation. This Barney represented to the man of whom father got his farm, that the land was being "run out," and endeavored in every way to make it uncomfortable for Mr. Boomer. It was about this time that the muse inspired father, and he wrote some fifty verses about his "Jes" Barney, that must have made life a burden to him, the said Barney. I am sorry that I cannot reproduce them here; they would prove a feature of this occasion, I am sure. I give herewith four verses, the only ones I could obtain. It will be noticed that they begin in the middle of the subject.

The Titus Stone spoken of was a town pauper, who was let out for his keeping, as was customary in those days. Barney, it appears, had him once in his tender care. It has been remarked that the great beauty of poetry is in not understanding it. Then this "poem" must be lacking in beauty, for there is no mistaking its meaning. I subjoin the verses:

(1) And all along the road,
From Bowerbank and further,*
"Jes" Barney lies and cheats and steals,
Does everything but murder.

(2) And this he once had liked to do
On poor old Titus Stone,
He beat and bruised his body so,
He scarce could go alone.

(3) For such insults and such abuse,
And such outrageous treason,
The civil law should be put in force,
And put him in State prison.

(4) And there he ought to spend his days
In serious meditation,
Review his life, and try to escape
The torments of damnation!

* Poetic license.

This "Jes" Barney had some peculiar notions of economy. He once drank a quart of milk that had become sour, or "hurt" in some way. He didn't want to see it *wasted*! He had a fearful attack of nightmare, that night, and must have seen innumerable. Barney was sick all the next day—a doctor's visit costing him a dollar and a half—but *he saved the milk!* Barney's early life was full of vicissitudes. His school-visit costing him a dollar and a half—but *he saved the milk!* ing must have been limited; but he had natural gifts, and was quick-witted. With the advantages of an education, I believe he would have made his mark. I submit an incident in his life, to show how prompt he was to make a retort:

He was once party, of which member. As us-
down the case
with his argu-



arguing, on the street, about the policy of the organization Mr. Boomer had always been a ual, a number had collected about him, and he in his customary vigorous manner. As he was ment, he was approached by a leading citizen of



Republican consistent was laying proceeding Lewiston—

a member of the legal profession—a man who had quite an idea of his own importance. This leading citizen was addicted to the flowing bowl, and was in the habit of going home inebriated. “I suppose,” says he, addressing father, “that you consider yourself the *head* and *front* of the Republican party?” Mr. Boomer, who stammered a little in his speech, retorted: “I th-th-thought *you* was the *t-t-tail end* of the Democratic party, the way you wiggled home, the other night!”

From Atkinson, Mr. Boomer went to Quincy, Mass., afterwards lived in the Penley neighborhood, in South Auburn, and came to Auburn, across the river from Lewiston Falls, about 1852. My mother had ten children: Edna E. (1st), Rebecca Bell, Joel S., Johnnie, Edna E. (2d), George Cyrus (1st), Caroline Ada, George Cyrus (2d), William H., and Rosalia Maria. Of these children, four survive. I faintly remember the death of Rosalia Maria, who departed this life, July 6, 1853. Rebecca married Stillman Clough, of Lowell, Mass., by whom she had two children, Laura B. and Ida May. Rebecca died June 3, 1865. She was an accomplished woman, and her death, at the early age of 32, cut short a life that gave indications of much promise. Joel S., born in 1835, married, first, Eliza Patterson of Bowdoin, by whom one child was born that is now living: George E. Eliza died Jan. 3, 1865. Joel married Rose Morse, July 19, 1874. Four children were born by this union. Caroline, named for my mother, died June 25, 1882, an infant of four months. On the occasion of the funeral of this child, after the body was laid in the casket, a rose-bud was placed in the tiny hand. Before the funeral services commenced, the bud had blossomed into a rose. This touching incident was noticed in the *Lewiston Journal*. Going the rounds of the press, the item met the eyes of a lady in the South, who sent the following poem on the subject to a Tennessee paper, from which I copy the lines:

- (1) An Infant slept, oh, fair to see,
Amid the coffin's gloom;
Too fair, we thought, as yet to be
A tenant of the tomb.
- (2) We placed a bud within its hand,
And went away to weep,

- To think that life's first golden sand
Was wasted in that sleep.
- (3) But ere the narrow house closed o'er,
We looked again to see
The darling baby smile once more
In Death's sweet mystery.

(4) Still fair as beauty's sculptured thought,
The little cherub lay,
As if the lovely clay had caught
The soul's immortal ray.

(5) And what we had not marked, at first,
As living to expand,

The bud a beauteous flower had burst,
Blown in its frozen hand.

(6) Oh, then a whisper on the air
Made bright the darkened sod—
" 'Tis but the bud you're placing there,
The flower will bloom with God."

Edna E., born April 19, 1841, married A. S. Dunham of Paris, 1865. Children: Fred, Ada, John Perley, Jennie, John Augustus. Edna has all the qualities of mind and heart characteristic of her mother, and is, indeed, one of the salt of the earth. George C. is married, and lives in Somerville, Mass. He served through the war in the 14th Connecticut, and participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. George C. Boomer is famous as the only soldier in that engagement, who has n't written a magazine article on the "Mistakes of the Battle." George tried his hand at a practical joke once, and it worked successfully. An entertainment was announced to come off in Auburn Hall. The date chanced to be April 1st. George conceived the idea of printing some complimentary tickets. He did so. He sent them to several prominent men of Lewiston and Auburn. The prominent man responded with great *éclat*. There were a number of him present, as there always is in our community when he stands a chance of getting into a show for nothing. He brought his wife along with him. The tickets were presented at the door. They were no good. No complimentary tickets had been issued by the management—in fact, the free list had been entirely suspended. Not wishing to go home without seeing the performance, the prominent man produced his wallet, slowly unstrapped it, and the treasury of the show was enriched in each case by the addition of a dollar. George once received from an Auburn lawyer a "demand notice." George's response was as follows:

Your kind and entertaining note was duly received. There is no use in my calling. I do not wish to see you, and I hope you will smother your desire to see me. In common with savings banks and other monied institutions, I have scaled down my debts. They have reduced from 10 to 25 per cent.; but I am not to be outdone by

any set of bloated bondholders, and have scaled down 100 per cent. You are at liberty to commence suit at your earliest convenience.

William H. Boomer, born Feb. 10, 1849, left school at the age of 14, and entered a printing office. He was employed four winters on the *Springfield* (Mass.) *Republican*, as a compositor, and worked three years on the *Boston Herald and Globe*. For more than ten years he has been employed in the book-room of the *Lewiston Journal*. The seasons of 1885-6 he set the type and did the proof-reading on that model of typographical excellence—the *Squirrel Island Squid*. The *Squid* is a vacation-paper, issued twice weekly. William H. is present, and will speak for himself: “John Quincy Adams once said that all the good that was in him he laid to his mother. I can take this home to myself. All the good that is in me I lay to the influence of a pure and cherished mother. I have the reflection that I was always kind to her. She was one of the best of women. Everybody spoke well of ‘Aunt Cally.’ No better or nobler woman ever lived, and I feel that no tribute that a son can pay to a mother can do her more than justice. She died Dec. 29, 1881, surrounded by her family; and has passed to that glory-crowned home, amid Heaven’s immortal bloom. Her closing words were: ‘This is the last of earth!’”

Sarah, second in order, married Artemus Carter of Portland. She had five children: Charlotte Isabelle, Ellen, Nettie, Albert and Hattie. Charlotte Isabelle died at the age of 2 years. Ellen married Lyman Lebonté, Nettie an Andrews, and Albert a Peabody. Albert’s wife is dead. Sarah died Sept. 28, 1860, and was laid at rest in the old Fitz burying ground, in Danville.

John (3d), son of John and Catherine Goss, was born Oct. 8, 1818. He married Mary L. Brooks, his present wife, July 11, 1847. Their children, now living, are: Charles F., b. 1848; he m. Abby R. Madison, 1871; Charles is associated with E. S. Paul in the dry goods business in Lewiston. George W., b. 1851, m. Lillian L. Ricker, 1873; George holds the position of teller in the First National Bank of Lewiston; as a writer of obituary resolves he ranks second only to G. Washington Childs of the *Philadelphia Ledger*. Etta L., b. 1857, m. George W. Ham, 1877. Edwin L., b. 1862, m. Marion H. Wing, 1886. Lizzie Cedelle, b. 1866, m. Rev. J. L. Smith, 1885. Minnie Florence, b. 1869. John Burgess, b. 1871. John Goss (3d), is the presiding officer of the Goss Family Reunion, the present

year [1886]. The entire family have always looked up to "Uncle John" as a sort of guide and counselor. He has ever been prominent in all matters appertaining to our large and growing family, and has been foremost in every good deed. I do n't know what we shall do after "Uncle John" has passed over to the majority. We shall have no one to tell us the proper way to plant beans and cucumbers, or tender to us advice about courtship and matrimony — for John has been a much-married man, and knows how 'tis himself!

Ann, fourth child of John and Catherine Goss, born March 12, 1820, married William P. Arris, Sept. 4, 1839. "Aunt Ann" has had *fifteen children*! In England, the government pensions a mother who bears as many children as that; and I believe "Aunt Ann" ought to have a pension. She is n't dead yet, for, on the occasion of her 66th birthday, she walked ten miles to minister to her son's sick wife. Ann was always good in sickness, and I believe, somewhere in Heaven, a front seat is reserved for her. Her husband, William P. Arris, is upon a bed of sickness; he has been an invalid for 13 years. Mr. Arris was an active man, in his younger days, and did a great deal of hard work. Ann and William have lived in about every house in Lewiston and Auburn. Ann is good for a number of years yet. The reason why I don't mention the names of her children and grandchildren is — because *life is too short*!



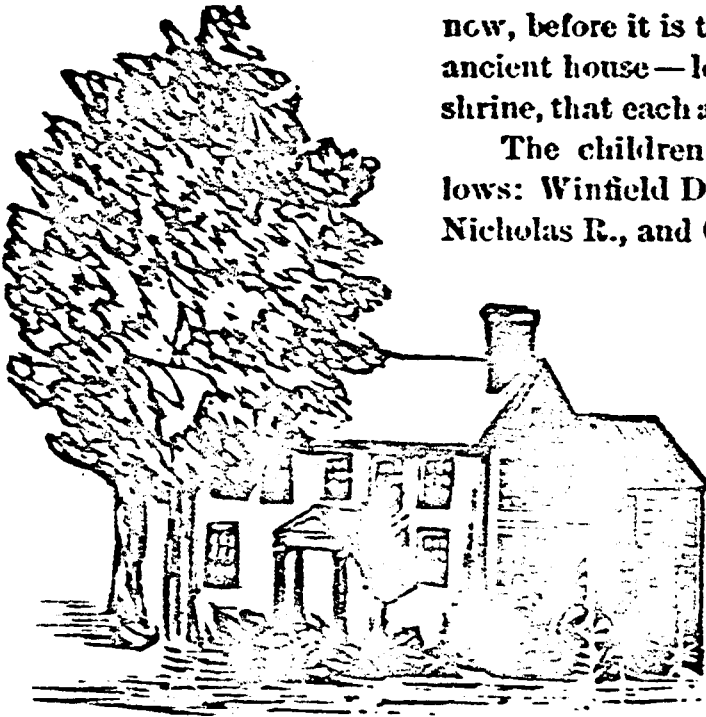
Dyer, fifth in order, b. Nov. 8, 1821, m. Christiana Clifford, Nov. 19, 1850. Rev. Charles Merrill officiated. Dyer and "Aunt Chris" (as good souls as ever lived) dwell on the old Goss place, in Danville, where they have resided for over 25 years. To my mind, this Goss place is a cherished spot. The buildings must be over 60 years old. Built in a sort o' Queen Anne style, their very ancient, rambling appearance have a charm that is inexpressible. How much of sunshine and shadow, and glory and gloom, cluster about those dear old buildings! Within the walls of that mansion have been witnessed scenes that will bring up to us childhood's happy hours, when prattling youth were wont to play about its doors; the gray-haired sire, returning from the hay-field of a hot, sultry day in July, glad to seek rest within its portals; the children, climbing their mother's knee,

"the envied kiss to share"; the dear old grandfather, and the dear old grandmother, passing the evening of their lives there, awaiting the summons that shall bear them heavenward; to whose minds the old homestead is ever beautiful; who would not exchange the old farm and its associations for all the wealth of all the Indies. Indeed, it is a dear old spot; and now, before it is too late—ere the ravages of time or fire may destroy that ancient house—let the photographer's art transfer a picture of the sacred shrine, that each and all may have a copy to preserve for future generations.

The children of Dyer and Christiana Goss, in their order, are as follows: Winfield D., Addie E., Ella F., Edwin K., Cedell H., Jennie M., Nicholas R., and Charlotte R. Three have died: Winfield D., Edwin K., Jennie M. Addie married Orville Swett; Ella m. Azel B. Hood; Cedell m. James A. Pike.

Catherine, sixth child of John and Catherine Goss, b. Nov. 1, 1823, m. John H. Martin, in the year 1848, in Boston. Children: Emily A., Lorenzo H., Hannah E., Amelia R. (1st), Aurilla M., Roscoe M., Amelia R. (2d), Lillie M. B., Wallace H., Grace G., John C. Of these 11 children, Lorenzo, Hannah, Amelia and Aurilla are dead. It is usual, on occasions like this Reunion, to draw up resolutions of regret for such members of a family as may have died during the year, and send these resolutions, properly engrossed, to the relatives

of the deceased. This is all very well and very appropriate. I believe I never read any yet that did n't speak of the "dispensations of an all-wise Providence," or "what is our loss is his gain," or something in that strain. (I expect, when I climb the golden stairs, that these last lines will be transposed and made to read: "What is *his* loss is *our* gain!") But I believe there is a sympathy that should be



extended to the *living*, that is paramount to all this. Take the case of Emily Martin, for example. While she is not an object of charity, she is certainly an object of our sympathy; and I am of the opinion that, here and now, we should offer something substantial as an expression of our regards. Emily has been an invalid for more than 20 years, suffering greatly most of the time, and is certainly worthy of whatever sympathy we may bestow. How much of a hero or heroine is the man or woman who is born into this world, and who enjoys through life perfect health? Who make their boasts that *they* were never sick a day in their lives? Such are not the heroes or the heroines, nor always, either, the brainy ones. "Great minds have great afflictions." These robust people know not what it is to suffer martyrdom, such as, undoubtedly, Emily Martin endures every hour of her life. It is one of the ways of the Almighty that we cannot fathom, that she is made to suffer in this way. Let us all, as kin and kind, extend to her our sympathy in a substantial manner. I have been to an expense of between five and six dollars in advertising and correspondence relative to the Goss Family; if those who feel so inclined, will contribute a mite to pay this bill, I will turn the amount over to "Aunt Cath," for Emily's benefit. [A subscription of \$6.57 was taken up. I have since received a touching letter from this young lady, and I know that all those who contributed must feel repaid. Emily's post-office address is North Pownal, Maine. The author asks those who have newspapers and such, that they have read, and who desire to do a kindly act, to please send them to her address, thus making bright the hours of a dark existence.]

Samuel Goss, seventh in order, was born Oct. 16, 1825, in Danville. Samuel was married to Abbie Waterman in Poland, Sept. 25, 1855, by Wallace Waterman, Esq. They have had three children. [I understand that I got a trifle mixed in regard to Samuel. My informant must have been thinking of another Samuel. I accused him of having had two wives. That *was* a little rough. It's bad enough, sometimes, for a Goss to have *one* wife, and I feel that I owe Samuel—who is a most worthy man, and his wife, who is a most excellent woman—the *amende honorable*.]

William H. Goss, eighth child, b. Sept. 1, 1827, d. Dec. 28, 1849. His death was caused by being improperly vaccinated. Your historian was named for him. When told that I was honored with his

title, he looked at me, and remarked: "Why, he is nothing but an acorn compared to the mighty oak!"

Angelia, ninth child, was born Jan. 28, 1830. She was married to George Waterhouse, in 1850, by Wallace Waterman, Esq. George is an engineer on the Grand Trunk Railway, and resides with his wife in Gorham, N. H. The children of George and Angelia Waterhouse are *minus*.

Emeline, tenth in order, Atwood, 1853, in Danville. burn. Tascus Atwood, Esq., ney, and a rising young lawyer, and a former wife. Tascus resides in Auburn. They

Lewis, eleventh and last Feb. 9, 1857. Lewis m. Sarah Feb. 2, 1868. Their children, Goss, Albert W., and Wilfamily, live on the Sabattus he has been in the employ of pany. Lewis is one of your men, but he has a kindly suffering humanity, in what Lewis has been prominent cause, and in and out of sea- than one person has been burning, by his persuasive ten years he has been con- Lewiston and Auburn. In out of Lewiston, Lewis is enjoying that serene contentment which comes of a life passed in doing good.



THE AUTHOR.

[BEFORE HE HAD HIS HAIR CUT.]

b. April 2, 1832, m. Harrison They reside near Lake Au- our present County Attor- yer, is the son of Harrison by ried Helen E. Jameson, and have one child.

child, was born in Danville, A. Baker, his present wife, now living, are: Irwin W. lie E. Lewis, with wife and road, in Lewiston. For years the Lewiston Machine Com- plain, unpretentious sort of heart—a heart that beats for ever guise it may appear. for years in the temperance son has championed it. More snatched, as a brand from the influence. For more than nected with reform clubs in a pleasant home, a few miles

LETTER FROM GUY C. GOSS, ESQ.

Since the foregoing was written, I have corresponded with Guy C. Goss, Esq., one of Bath's leading citizens, and known all over the globe as an extensive ship-builder. I enclosed sample pages of this volume, and intimated that any information that he could impart about the Bath branch of the Gosses would prove very acceptable. His entertaining and instructive letter is here printed:

BATH, September 4, 1886.

WILLIAM H. BOOMER, ESQ.,—*Dear Sir:* Your esteemed favor is at hand. It was my intention to have accepted the kind invitation to be present at the Reunion of the Goss Family. I could claim no kinship of any of the families in Maine by the name I bear. My father, Benjamin C. Goss, was born in Newburyport, Mass., 1788, and was an only son. His father (my grandfather) was master of an English ship, and was lost this same year, on Cape Cod, in a northeast gale. Arriving off Newburyport, in the winter season, and unable to cross the bar, he could not fetch out past the Cape, and his ship and all hands were lost. He married Susan Hodge of Newburyport. My father came to Maine about 1807, and was engaged in teaching school. He married Betsey Johnson, a daughter of Deacon Johnson, one of the first settlers in East Readfield. He served in the war of 1812. He was in several battles, in one of which he was taken prisoner, but made his escape. I think it was at the Battle of Chateaugay Woods. After the war he removed to the eastern part of the State, then Penobscot County, in the town of Sangerville. I was born there. He was engaged in that new country in surveying, and was County Commissioner. He was a member of the first Legislature of Maine, and was one of the signers of the Constitution. He was the father of nine children, all but one of whom are deceased. The only ones bearing the name left beside myself is a nephew residing in West Virginia.

I never had time to stop at Newburyport long enough to trace my father's maternal ancestors. George Whitefield (as I remember my father telling me) died at his uncle's house. He claimed that Lydia H. Sigourney was a relative. You know all Americans are sovereigns in their own right, and a great many of us claim to trace our lineage back to royalty. So it is with the Gosses. As my father used to tell me, we descended or were relatives (I rather think *ascended*) from Mary, Queen of Scots. So I infer that the name Goss is a corruption of Guise. There is a strong family resemblance in the Gosses I have met with, and I think my sister Mary was as queenly a woman as Mary of Guise, and as beautiful. When in Liverpool, England, in 1847, a lady boarding at the same house I did came to me and asked if my name was not Goss. I told her it was. She said she knew she could not

be mistaken, and asked me what relation I was to Bishop Goss. I had to tell her that I could not claim the honor of any relationship. The first one I ever saw of my name was at Point de Galle, Ceylon, I think in 1833. He was a lieutenant in the English navy, and I could not doubt his being a Goss. I have since met two of the name in Boston, and they both bear the same likeness. I have also met with two of the Gosses in Lewiston — A. L. Goss and a brother, E. F. Goss — and there is no mistaking the names or the looks.

Yours, truly,

G. C. GOSS.

REMARKS.

There is seemingly no end to the Gosses. There are Gosses in front of you, Gosses behind you — Gosses to left of you, Gosses to right of you — anywhere and everywhere you will find Gosses. It would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer or an Androscoggin County Attorney to keep track of them all.

There is a howling wilderness of and one is lost in amazement — speak — in attempting to trace and sisters of John Goss (2d); and there are the brothers and married John Goss (2d); one of in Boston. Then there is “Aunt ter, of whom I have heard my gail Dyer was born June 23, 1800, lady. I interviewed her, this year, resided. She married Aaron eight children. Mr. Witham died

There is a “redundant fullity” in writing anything. You dictionary, or an unabridged copy line somewhere. It was impossible, in remarks occupying an hour, to get in everybody’s name. Where I have devoted more space to one than to another, it is because I am more familiar with that one’s



THE AUTHOR'S "COUSIN."
[Use Cuticura for the Complexion.]

uncles, aunts and grandchildren, becomes sort o' snow-blind, so to them all. There are the brothers their history should be looked up; sisters of Catherine Dyer, who the sisters — “Aunt Tarr” — lived Nabby” Witham, Catherine’s sis-mother frequently speak. Abi-and is living to-day, a smart old at Danville, where she has always Witham, Jan. 31, 1820. They had Oct. 31, 1870.

ness and an unsatisfactory brev-can get out a pocket edition of a of 2000 pages. I had to draw the

life, and not through any intention to be partial. No live man can write a history to suit everybody. The ones that will find fault with this production are the ones that wrote me, in response to my requests for information, letters like the following: "I can't give you any facts whatever about my grandfather." "I don't think there is anything concerning my folks that will be of interest." "If you want to know anything about the original Gosses, write to Aunt Jerusha Stebbins, who lives near Trap Corner." I write to Aunt Jerusha Stebbins, who lives near Trap Corner, and she tells me if I want to find out anything about our ancestors, to "drop a line to Mr. Jedediah Wayback, who lives



on Sand Hill." I send to Mr. "there's an old fellow that came up in East Jasper, Vermont. some of his faculties. He's mill out o' gear, or make a man



Wayback, and he tells me that over in the Mayflower, who lives He's a little feeble, and has lost homely enough to throw a saw-deny his country to look at him;



but he's got no end of stories to tell about the Gosses—and some of them are just as comical as they can be." And so it goes. A member of the family will tell me that a certain Goss is born on a certain date; the town records give a different date. What am I to do? At best, it's a thankless task, and if the Goss Family propose to get out a regular Genealogy—as I have heard it intimated—they'll have to pay a man a salary to do it—and he'll earn that salary! Up to a certain point, it is a "labor of love" to prepare a History; beyond that, it seems stale, flat and unprofitable. The average Genealogy makes 600 pages, and ble; as a volume to ern romance in com-phant, vice punished, the generations in aunts, and the grand-Goss madness. But it is best each year and read the paper at



costs \$3.50. As a book of reference, it is doubtless valuable to entertain and amuse, the Patent Office Report is a wild West-parison. Even the old familiar *denouement* of virtue trium-etc., is omitted. To get out a regular Genealogy—taking their order, and introducing the sisters, the cousins and the children—there will have to be some method put into this this involves an enormous amount of work; and so, perhaps, to simply take up one or two branches of the Goss Family, these Reunions. These gatherings have now grown to such

magnitude, that it wo n't do to take up too much time in routine business, else their object will fail. I, for one, want a little time to look around among the Gosses, and take them by the hand — especially the young and good-looking ones. In the language of Solon Chase:

“We Must n't Bite Off More'n We Can Chaw!”

When it comes to writing a Genealogy on the old basis, you can count me out. My best hold is n't *statistics*. I wish the person God speed that undertakes it, and hope he will get returns commensurate with the labor performed — but I doubt it.

The humble effort which is here presented, call it what you will—Genealogy, History, Biography, Almanac or Picture Book—is *original throughout*. my own “hook,” and set the type, trusting to Good Luck. The book has cost me to issue, about \$70.00. I have work than was at first intended, and shall be obliged its preparation, I have n't even had a confidential adviser; that officious person has been conveniently absent, for which I cannot feel too grateful. Aside from that which may seem trivial, there is a great deal of solid information, that is well worth preserving, which the Gosses have never before had the privilege of seeing in connected form. The dates used are taken from family Bibles and town records, and sometimes from memory of the “oldest inhabitant.” That memory is not always to be relied upon, and I have had to, in some cases, “average” the dates. For instance, the death of William H., eighth child of John Goss (2d), was given to me as Dec. 28, 1848. As your historian was born Feb. 10, 1849, he could hardly have made the remark attributed to him on page 17, and so I print his death as occurring Dec. 28, 1849. If a person is n't careful, he'll run into just such stumbling blocks. I have used all human precautions to get figures correct, and hope to at least be given the credit of *trying* to do justice by all.

Since I started this volume, considerable encouragement, in the way of letters, subscriptions, etc., has been given me. From Mr. C. S. Gosse, Advertising Agent, Boston [advertisements placed in all the leading papers; estimates furnished], to whom I sent sample pages, the following was received:



The Original
Thomas.



"Shall want about ten (possibly more) of your books; put me down for ten, any way, and notify me when they are ready." In Lewiston, I have n't been out of my way to get a subscriber. As usual, the man has sought the *office*, rather than the office seeking the man.



This is my first attempt at writing ancient history. Up to date, I've enjoyed it. Through the forbearance of the Goss Family, and a disposition to forgive what I have said about them, provided I won't do it again, they have kindly permitted me to act as their historian for the coming year. Next season I'm going right into that stronghold of the Gosses—old Danville—and interview some of the older

members. (If the sitting-room can be engaged, it will be in order, also, to interview some of the younger members.) Now that the Gosses have been given fair warning, they will be enabled to put themselves on guard—fix a time-lock to their chicken-coop, deposit their silver spoons in a safe place, and have a mark that won't wash out put on their umbrellas. The historian will come home with a pillow-case full of apples and a lot of beech-nuts, to remember the "old folks" by. The author simply throws out the hint that he is very fond of the pumpkin-pie and molasses gingerbread of the grandmother, and that any attention paid to his Department of the Interior will be returned with interest.

"SEE YOU LATER!"



Oh, Lydia, in your hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please;
But seen too often, familiar with your face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

TO THE GOSS FAMILY:

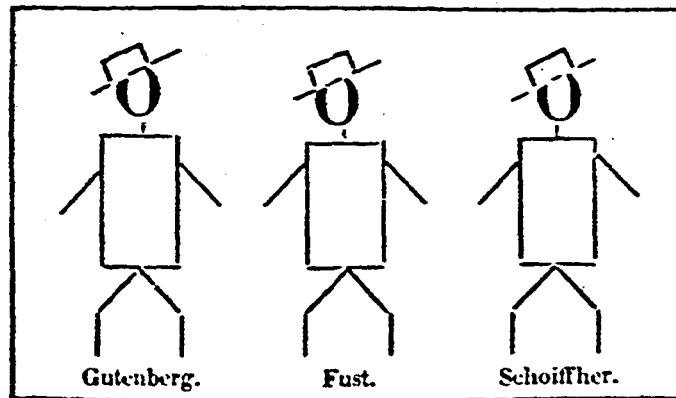
Since the first eight pages of this book were printed, I have been shown the original deed of Thomas Sparhawk to John Goss (1st); it was received too late for insertion here, but will be read at the next Reunion.

As Chairman of the Committee, I desire to obtain all the information possible about the Gosses. Facts bearing upon the life of the original Thomas Goss are particularly desired, as well as copies of ancient deeds and wills. It is hoped the response will be general to this appeal. I shall be only too happy to give all the Gosses a showing-up at the next Reunion, but I can hardly be expected to write history unless facts are given me to write history upon. It would be contrary to law and the evidence for me to lie about the Gosses, and I wouldn't do it—at least, not for less than 20 cents an hour. My address will be found on preceding page.

W. H. B.

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