

THE RAY GENEALOGY

Showing the Line
of Descent From



DANIEL RAY
Who Settled at Plymouth Colony
About 1630



RAY & FRISBIE, Printers
Grinnell, Iowa

FOREWORD

This booklet was prepared primarily for the benefit of the children of Orin Linden Ray who was born at Tinmouth, Vt., in 1821, and died at White Cloud, Mich., in 1890. It traces this branch of the family line from the earliest settlement in this country about 1630.

It consists chiefly of "Recollections" written by Orin Linden Ray in the years from 1885 to 1888, mostly published in the Poultney, Vt., Journal. There were 64 of these letters in the Journal, referring to citizens of Rutland county whom he knew between 1830 and 1845. Only a few references were made to his own family, but these we have copied into this booklet. It will help all descendants of Gilbert Ray, who served when a mere boy in the Revolutionary War, to connect their ancestry up with the earliest Colonial days.

The compiler acknowledges much assistance from several descendants of Gilbert Ray and extends thanks to them.

W. G. RAY,
Grinnell, Iowa.

September, 1919.

THE RAY GENEALOGY

THE RAY DESCENT

There were three Rays, possibly brothers, who settled in Massachusetts at an early day. They were Simon Ray, Caleb Ray and Daniel Ray. Daniel Ray was the ancestor of the branch of the Ray family to which we belong, and the descent is as follows:

1. **Daniel Ray:** Settled at Plymouth Bay Colony about 1630, and removed to Massachusetts Bay Colony soon after. Married Bethia —.

2. **Joshua Ray:** Son of Daniel Ray above, born probably in 1628 in England. Married Sarah Waters Feb. 26, 1651.

3. **Samuel (1) Ray:** Oldest son of Joshua Ray, married Mary —.

4. **Samuel (2) Ray:**—Oldest son of Samuel (1) Ray. Born 1685-8. Married Meriam Smith, Aug. 10, 1709-10. She died 1746.

5. **Benjamin Ray (Elam):** Seventh child of (Samuel (2) Ray; born Oct. 17, 1725; married, first, Abigail Hawes, June 24, 1751. She died in 1758. He married, second, Sarah Bragg, Apr. 17, 1759.

6. **Gilbert Ray:** Born Aug. 18, 1764, at Wrentham, Mass. Died Apr. 17, 1849, at North Russell, N. Y. Married Rachel Perry.

7. **Benjamin Ray:** Son of Gilbert Ray, born Nov. 26, 1789, died Oct. 22, 1835. Married Gloriana Gillett.

8. **Orin Linden Ray:** Born Aug. 11, 1821. Died July 25, 1890. Married Harriet Shaw, Dec. 25, 1851.

Some of the facts following are taken from New England Genealogies, prepared by William Richard Cutter of Woburn, Mass., and published by the Lewis Historical Publishing Company of New York City.

The compilation consists of four volumes and deals with almost countless families. The record of the Rays was apparently furnished by members of the family still living at or near Wrentham.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME "RAY"

Ra or Rae is a very ancient personal name, originally derived perhaps from rae, the Scotch form of roe, a deer. In Anglo-Saxon times, Ra, Rae, and Ray were used as baptismal or Christian names and the Gaelic form MacRae (McRae, etc.) came into use and the family became very numerous. Ray is the most common spelling but Rae and Rea are still in use.

The estate of Gill, in the parish of Bromfield, County Cumberland, belonged to the family of Reay or Ray from the time of William the Lion, King of Scotland, who died in 1214. Tradition says that the original Ray was a faithful adherent of the Scottish monarch, by whom he was greatly esteemed for his extraordinary swiftness of foot in pursuing deer, (which, like that of the Homeric hero exceeded that of most horsemen and dogs) and gave him the estate. The tenure was a pepper corn rent, with the stipulation that the name of William should be perpetuated in the family. This was strictly observed from generation to generation until the latter half of the eighteenth century, when the William Ray in possession gave the "hope of the house" the name of John.

From these Reays have sprung most if not all the Rays, Wreys, and Raes in England, and also the Rays, Wrays, Reas, and Raes, it is believed, in the United States. In England the family of Ray is prominent in Berwick, Suffolk, Derby, and Gloucester.

Coat of Arms.

The oldest Ray coat of arms seems to be: Quartely or and azure on bend gules, three fleur de lis or. The Rea or Ree family prominent in London and Worcestershire, bear: Azure a bezant four crescents argent. Crest, out of a mural coronet argent a dragon's head azure.

The only Scotch coat of arms of the Rae family is given by Burke: Vert three stags courant argent crest., a stag: sinister, a lion; both proper. Motto: "In omnia promptus."

Simon Ray.

Several pioneers came to New England before 1650. Simon Ray settled at Braintree, Mass., where

he died Sept. 30, 1641. His son Simon settled at New Shoreham, R. I., and is the progenitor of a numerous family at Block Island and vicinity.

Caleb Ray.

Caleb Ray settled in Boston and died there leaving a son, Caleb. He was a member of the Second Church of Boston. A David Ray, baptised at Forfarshire, Scotland, owned the covenant at Charlestown Sept. 26, 1696. His son Samuel, born Aug. 29, 1697, married Mary Fullerton in Boston, Oct. 22, 1723.

DANIEL RAY.

(1) Daniel Ray, immigrant ancestor of this family, was doubtless the brother of Caleb Ray of Boston and probably also of Simon Ray of Brain tree. Tradition has it that he was Scotch, tho few came to the colonies at the time he came, except from England. The family was prominent in Galloway, Caithness, and Ayrshire, Scotland. There are reasons for believing Daniel Ray came from Suffolkshire, England, tho he may have been of Scotch ancestry. He settled in Plymouth Colony in 1630 or earlier and bought land of Anthony Annable but soon afterward removed to Massachusetts Bay Colony, settling at Salem before Feb. 6, 1631, according to a letter from Gov. Bradford to Gov. Winthrop of that date. The descendants of Daniel in Essex county have followed the spelling Rea but those who have left that section in most cases have adopted Ray which is nearly universal in the families descended from Caleb and Simon, the other immigrants.

Daniel Ray became a prominent citizen of Salem, was admitted a freeman May 14, 1634. He held various offices and removed to Salem Village, now Danvers, in 1662. He married Bethia —, who survived him.

Children:

1. Joshua.
2. Rebecca.
3. Sarah.
4. Bethia.

The latter married Capt. Thos. Lathrop, who was killed at Bloody Brook in King Philip's war. Second, she married Joseph Grafton, and third, William Goodhue.

Joshua Ray.

(2) Joshua Ray, ~~oldest~~ son of Daniel Ray or Rae was born in England and probably died at Salem Village, now Danvers, in 1710. In several depositions he stated his birth differently, once 1628, again 1631 and also 1637. He became a member of the First Church of Salem in 1668; a freeman May 3, 1665; married Sarah Waters Feb. 26, 1651. She died May 9, 1700. Both were among the original members of the First Church of Salem. He was keeping a tavern in 1693.

Children:

1. Samuel (1) (Not recorded but found with the family at Danvers) mentioned below,
2. Daniel.
3. Rebecca. She married Samuel Stevens who was killed at Bloody Brook, Sept. 18 1675.
4. Sarah, died at one year.
5. Sarah.
6. Bethia.
7. Joshua.
8. John.
9. Hannah.

Samuel (1) Ray.

(3) Samuel ~~2~~ 1). Oldest son of Joshua Ray, first appears on the public records at Salem Village now north parish of Danvers. His wife, Mary, and six children were baptised in that church June 14 1702. He had a brother, John, member of same church.

Children:

- ✓ 1. Samuel (2).
2. Robert.
3. Jonathan.
4. William.
5. Benjamin.
6. Abel.
7. Elizabeth.

Samuel (2) Ray.

(4) Samuel ~~2~~ 2) Ray, oldest son of Samuel (1) Ray, was born about 1685-8 at Salem or vicinity and was baptised into the church June 14, 1702. He se

tled at Wrentham, Mass., and Dec. 22, 1729, had land laid out to him in the eighth acre division, lying on the west side of his house lot, a part of the right of Timothy Metcalf which Ray had bot in 1726. Later he had other lands in the 12 acre division from the rights of Joseph Whitney, John Blake, and Joseph Cowel on Bungee Hill. He married Meriam Smith Aug. 10, 1709, who died Aug. 2, 1746.

Children:

1. Mary born Aug., 1710.
2. Meriam born Apr. 9, 1712.
3. Samuel born July 9, 1716.
4. Robert born Oct. 3, 1718.
5. Abigail born Apr. 16, 1721.
6. Joseph born Apr. 30, 1723.
- ✓7. Benjamin born Oct. 17, 1725.
8. Henry born Feb. 11, 1728 or 9.
9. William born Feb. 21, 1730 or 1.

Benjamin Ray.

(5) Benjamin Ray, son of Samuel (2) Ray was born at Wrentham, Oct. 17, 1725. He married first Abigail Hawes, June 24, 1751. She died Dec. 28, 1758. He married second Sarah Bragg, Apr. 17, 1759.

Children by his first wife:

1. Susanna born Apr. 23, 1752. Died young.
2. Molly born Mar. 26, 1754. She married Abijah Pond.
3. Jabez, died day of birth.
4. Abigail born Nov. 18, 1756. Died young.
5. Tilly born Dec. 3, 1758. Died young.

Children by his second wife:

6. William born Jan. 4, 1760; married Joanna Pond.
7. Gilbert, born Aug. 18, 1764.
8. Zelotes born Dec. 16, 1769.

Family of Gilbert Ray.

Deacon Gilbert Ray, born in Wrentham, Mass., Aug. 18, 1764.

Rachel Perry Ray, born in Wrentham, Mass., Feb. 3, 1766.

Gilbert Ray and Rachel Perry married at Wrentham, May 4, 1786.

The children were:

1. Loudon Ray, born in Wilmington, Vt., May 11, 1787. Married Electa Gillett. Died, 1860, in Rutland Co.
2. Benjamin Ray, born in Hubbardton, Vt., Nov. 26, 1788. Died at Middletown, Vt., Oct. 22, 1835.
3. Eden, Born in Hubbardton, June 16, 1790. Married Minerva Bailey. Buried at Mason City, Iowa.
4. Alanson—Born at Hebron, N. Y., July 2, 1792. Married Melissa Clark. Died at North Russell, N. Y.
5. James, born June 17, 1794. Married Miriam Conger. Died at Florence, N. Y.
6. Rachel—Born June 9, 1796. Married Warren Owen. Died in Delaware county, Ohio.
7. Gilbert, Jr., born Sept. 14, 1798. Married Miss Landorff; buried at Lake Mills, Wis.
8. Olive, born Aug. 22, 1800. Married Arunah Griswold. Buried at Canton, New York.
9. John, born at Tinmouth, Vt., July 31, 1802. Married Diadama Lawrence; buried at North Russell, N. Y.
10. Abner, born Feb. 5, 1804; married Miss Foote. Buried at Holly, N. Y.
11. Triphena, born Aug. 25, 1805. Died in infancy.
12. Ezra, born Aug. 15, 1806. Died young.
13. Cynthia, born Dec. 3, 1811. Married Gideon B. Clark. Buried at North Russell, New York.

From the Records of Revolutionary Soldiers in the state house in Boston we learn that Gilbert Ray enlisted March 3, 1781, when but 16 years and 6 months of age, for 15 days; that upon his discharge he re-enlisted for three years, receiving his final discharge at the close of the war in May 1783. He was located during part of his service at West Point, and was in the battle of White Plains, and also served at Yorktown. He came out of the war not yet 19 years of age with a corporal's rank.

HISTORY OF THE RAYS.

“Old Memories Number Sixteen” in The Poultney Journal, Friday, May 29, 1885.—Written by
G. L. Ray.

Braceville, Ill., May 16, 1885.

Editor Journal:—

Notes in the papers and private letters inform me that two families of cousins are now residents of the district in Hampton, where I taught my second school.

Eli, Rodney Ray and the writer are double cousins. Our mothers were both Gilletts, and our fathers own brothers. They were own cousins, and I a second cousin of John H. Thomas, of Orwell, whose recent death I regret to have seen in the papers. The latter and I were classmates at I. C. A. in 1841 and '42. The sister of John H. was also a pupil of the school at that time. Janet Thomas was a bright, lovely lady of twenty summers, amiable, good-tempered and adorned with every womanly attribute. She married a Mr. Hammond, and died within a year from her bridal day, leaving one child. But why speak of this? It is nothing strange for people to die, and children to be orphaned. There is scarcely a household without some vacant-chair. When Alexander the Great was about to breathe his last, he sent this dying request to his mother—that she should make a great feast and invite, as her guests only those who had lost a friend. She complied with his request, and made great preparations. On the appointed day no one came. She was disappointed, and asked an attendant the meaning of her son's strange request. He replied: “It was to teach you not to mourn for him, as death is but the common lot of humanity.”

I am almost as oblivious of these friends' history for the last forty years as of the veriest. But it will not affect my purpose, that being to recall persons and events of the long past to the notice of this generation. Eli and Rodney were the sons of Loudon Ray, and were born in West Tinmouth amid no salvoes of artillery, such as usually announce the birth of princes of the blood royal. Their father was the son of Dea. Gilbert Ray, and the oldest of a

family of thirteen children, eleven of whom lived to raise large families. Gilbert Ray was the son of Elam Ray, of Wrentham, Mass., and the youngest in a family of four brothers and two sisters. Tradition says that Elam was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill. He was a patriot, and lay mortally wounded inside the entrenchments when Gen. Warren fell.

The family of Elam Ray were now scattered. The girls eventually married, one of them a Mr. Jenner, and lived and raised a family near Hubbardton, Vt. The other daughter married a Gilbert, and lived and died near Malone, N. Y. Elam Ray's four sons, Benjamin, William, Zelotus and Gilbert, were soldiers of the Revolution. Benjamin separated from his brothers at West Point. When the army was disbanded in 1783 he went into the western wilderness, settled at Lenox, N. Y., and raised a large family, whose descendants are "legion" now. For the period of fifty years his whereabouts were unknown to his brothers and sisters. Gilbert found him there by accident in the summer of 1833. The two brothers met upon the highway. Grandfather had been on a visit to his son at Canastota, and just started with grandmother in a buggy for his home. Grandfather stopped and inquired if there was not a man named Ray in the neighborhood. "Yes," was the reply, "My name is Ray." "Well," said the former, "will you be kind enough to inform me about your father's family?" He did so, naming the brothers and sisters in the order of their ages. Then grandfather said: "I am your brother Gilbert." The old men embraced and wept like children. They visited together a week, and parted never to meet again this side the grave.

The next brother of my grandfather, William Ray, settled in Hubbardton, lived and died there some forty years ago. He was the father of Mrs. Hyde Westover of Castleton. Zelotus Ray settled in East Bennington, Vt., died there and left numerous descendants.

Gilbert Ray was born in 1764. He was but eleven years old when the battle of Bunker Hill was fought. Boston was 15 miles distant. He spent most of the day, June 17, 1775, with his ear to the ground, listening to the sound of the conflict. When the firing

ceased he went home and informed his mother of the result of the battle, which proved correct.

At the age of 15 he went into the army, and was in the division commanded by Gen. Henry Knox. He was at the siege of Yorktown, witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis. For sometime before the close of the war he was stationed at West Point, helped take up the great chain stretched across the Hudson to block the passage of British ships. He witnessed Washington's farewell to the army, and was one of the escort that conducted the commander-in-chief to the boat, after he bade the officers adieu. He came out of the war a corporal.

In 1783 Gilbert Ray married Rachel Perry, a relative of O. H. Perry, who distinguished himself at the battle of Lake Erie. They lived successively at Wilmington and Hubbardton, Vt., at Hebron, N. Y., and afterwards at West Tinmouth, Vt., where he cleared up the farm north of the Gillett place at the head of the Gulf. He lived in Tinmouth till 1829, when he moved to Canton, N. Y., where he died in March, 1849, at the age of 85 years. Grandmother survived him for two years, dying at the age of 85. She was one of the good "mothers in Israel," whom all the grandchildren loved. While our grandfather was stern, reticent, and uncommunicative, she delighted to amuse us, and would entertain us with stories of the early days.

The Perrys have become very numerous and widely scattered. A nephew of Oliver H. Perry was commander of our fleet on the Mexican coast in 1846. He was superceded by Com. Conner in the spring of '47. A daughter of his is the wife of August Belmont. He gave one of his sons, lately a member of congress, the mother's family name, Perry. The mother of the late Otis Wood was a sister of our grandmother.

Louden Ray, the father of the cousins named, at my first recollection lived in West Tinmouth, near the Jared Ives farm, and in sight of my own home. That was the birthplace of this family of cousins, nine in all. They were as follows: Paulina, afterwards Mrs. Williams, now deceased; Elos, for a long time a resident of Orwell; Emeline, afterwards Mrs. Davis; Lucinda, now Mrs. Young; Eli; Angeline, afterwards

Mrs. Hill; Caroline, now of Fair Haven; Ellen, now Mrs. Larrabee, and Rodney. Uncle was born in 1787, and died about 20 years ago. He was not only a large farmer, but a finished carpenter, a hard worker. While some of his family at home conducted the farm he, with help in his employ was usually abroad superintending the erection of buildings of every class and nature, churches, schoolhouses, barns and dwellings. Many buildings yet standing, in Wallingford, Tinmouth and Middleton, were the creations of his brain and work of his hands. The morning sun never caught him or one of his family napping. And if his boys have accumulated property, their economy, frugality and industry have earned it. The mother of the cousins, as I said before, was a Gillett. She married at fifteen, raised a large family and managed the affairs of her household with profit, energy and care. I was often at their house over night when a boy. How distinctly I remember her early calls of the children! Always before daylight in summer: "Come, Eli! Come Ellen! Come Rodney!" She seldom said "go." She led them herself. Her father was Russell Gillett. He died about eighty years ago in the Lillie neighborhood, south of Middletown. His death occurred in a most singular manner. He rose before light on a Sunday morning in winter, designing to take his family in a sleigh to church at a distance of some miles. He went to the barn to feed his team. Climbing to a high hay-mow he threw down some hay, and slid down the mow to the barn floor. He was large and heavy. A rake, hidden by the hay, was leaning against the mow. As he descended, the rake handle penetrated his body to a distance of 28 inches, passing through the intestines and resting against the left shoulder blade. He drew it out, went to the house and said: "I am a dead man." He expired in great agony within an hour.

The summer of 1838, when a boy of sixteen, I worked during the season of haying at my uncle's. Rodney and the girls took care of and milked their thirty cows. Eli and I went into the hayfield each morning before it was light enough to see a stone. I think he will admit that I, though a boy, was no laggard then. We rounded and levelled with a scythe

our acre and a half apiece before noon. The hay was always in the barn before we slept.

Elos and his brother-in-law, Hopkins, who lived six miles away in East Tinnmouth, finished their haying and came to help us. The morning they came they were sharpening their scythes with scythe-stones in the kitchen at half-past two in the morning. Eli and I bounded out of bed and were soon with them, as ambitious as they. As we passed the bedroom door where uncle slept, he called out: "Orin, you needn't go to the field yet. The boys are foolish to go out to work so early. When they are as old as I am, they will see their folly." But we went to the meadow, four of us, with scythes, and laid down our six acres before noon. At ten o'clock uncle came and told me to put up my scythe, as I had mowed long enough, and must be fatigued. Such was his kindness to me. But I rather liked to be up with the men, and I cut the last clip of standing grass in that field. That was the way those cousins labored in their younger days. If they have been prospered they have, doubtless, deserved their prosperity.

O. L. RAY.

THE RAY HISTORY

Personal Letter of O. L. Ray to His Son Charlie Written in 1888.

(Please note that the lines in parenthesis are written by Charles L. Ray, who made some private investigation from the records in Boston and Wrentham, and also received other information from relatives).

White Cloud, Mich., Mar. 11, 1888.

My Dear Charley:—

You ask me to give you the genealogy of my family. I can tell you what I know, which is very little. My father died when I was fourteen. It is forty-two years since I saw my mother. She died in Vermont 24 years ago. Aunt Cynthia Clark, my father's youngest sister, used to tell some things that are now forgotten, but she died 28 years ago, in N. Russell, N. Y. For forty years I have lived in the west—have had no one of the older relatives to talk with. In that time have seen Abner Ray, John Ray and Eden Ray, once or twice each. Learned nothing of them. My great grandfather on my father's side was Elam Ray.

(This is a mistake for the records of the town of Wrentham say that his name was Benjamin Ray. Also so given in the Vital Statistics of the town of Wrentham, and I can not account for this name unless it was a nickname).

He lived at Wrentham, Mass., where grandfather Gilbert Ray was born, in 1764.

That is the end of the genealogical line as far back as I know it. Elam Ray was killed in the war of the Revolution. Aunt Clark told me when I was a small boy that he was killed at Bunker Hill.

("There is no record anywhere that a man named Elam Ray served the State of Massachusetts in any capacity during the Revolution, and no one named Ray appears among the list of killed there."—Secretary of State, Boston).

It has got to be only a tradition now. When Grandfather died he left a short personal history of himself. Said nothing of his father. Only spoke of his family in a general way. He said his father never returned from the war. His family became

scattered. Grandfather had brothers Benjamin, William, Zelotus. All served in the war but Zelotus. (He was too young). His brother, Benjamin Ray, and himself separated when Washington's army was disbanded at West Point in 1783. The brothers met once again by accident just 50 years afterwards, in 1833. Grandfather had a son, Gilbert, living in Canastota, N. Y. He and grandmother visited the son and learning that an old man named Ray lived six miles away in Lenox, Madison County, they went to see him. In this way he found his oldest brother, Benjamin. The two old men embraced each other and wept like children. They visited together a week and parted never to meet again in this world. Benjamin Ray was a wealthy farmer, and had three generations of descendants settled near him.

(Somewhere I was told, maybe father told it in another letter, g. g, father drove down and when he heard of this old man he stopped because it was on his way home, and Benjamin, 80 years old, was sitting on the porch in his armchair and that Gilbert knew him as soon as he saw him and they sent for the other Gilbert and had a family reunion right there, and that Benjamin Ray died the next year).

My Great Uncle William was a soldier of the Revolution.

He lived and died in Hubbardton, Vt., Rutland County, near the battleground where Col. Seth Warner, the rearguard of St. Clair on his retreat from Ticonderoga, had his battle with Fraser and DeReidesel on July 7th, 1777. I never saw him or his family altho my father used to visit him when I was small. They lived but 18 miles from us. He was a carpenter, farmer, and pensioner. Benjamin Ray never drew a pension. He was too wealthy. I don't know when they died or the names and address of any of their descendants.

Zelotus Ray settled at East Bennington, Vt. I never saw him but once. He came to my father's house in Middletown, Vt., with a daughter when I was a small boy. I only remember that he was very talkative, well-dressed and had a fine covered carriage. The names and addresses of none of his descendants are known to me now. They settled in and around Bennington. I think he was not a soldier of the Revolution. They had sisters, but their names are

not known to me now. One of them married a Gilbert. He settled near Malone, Franklin Co., N. Y. Their descendants, some of them, are in that vicinity now. Rev. Dr. Lyman Gilbert, late of West Newton, Mass., and later of Brooklyn, N. Y., was my father's own cousin. In my boyhood I saw several of the family.

Another of grandfather's sisters married a Jenner. They lived in Hubbardton or Benson, Vt. William Riley Jenner was living and a brother and sister, near Union City, Mich., five years ago (1883). They were small but comfortable farmers. The sister was the wife of Mr. Hudson, then 79 years old and very deaf.

These were cousins of my father's. Riley, when a boy of 17 lived at my father's, when I was six years old. That is all I know of grandfather's family.

Gilbert Ray, my grandfather, was born in Wrentham, Mass., Aug. 18, 1764. He was 11 years old when the battle of Bunker Hill took place. His home was 15 miles from Boston. His father and older brothers being in Boston at the time, he was interested in all the movements of our army there. While the battle was raging he lay with his face to the ground. When the firing ceased he went in to his home crying and told his mother the British had won the day, as their cannon were heard after the American guns ceased firing. Of course his prediction proved true, and he never saw his father again, but his brothers lived thru it.

Grandfather Gilbert Ray married Rachel Perry. They had children Loudon, Benjamin, Eden, Elanson, Rachel, James, Gilbert, Olive, John, Abner and Cynthia. I knew them all in childhood. They all lived to marry and raise families. Rachel Perry had brothers and sisters, how many I cannot at this date tell. The name of only one I remember. It was Benjamin. He died very wealthy at Wilmington, Vt., many years ago. His property was willed to his wife and her friends. Another brother died in Lima, N. Y., in 1850, aged 96 years.

He was a prominent man in the community, very wealthy and left numerous descendants. I don't know the address of any of them. My Aunt Cynthia has frequently told me that Commodore O. H. Perry was a cousin to my grandmother.

Grandfather was reticent, a strict Presbyterian, never smiled or conversed much. I tried to get him to tell me the story of his battles, but he invariably put me off by telling me he was tired and he didn't want me to ask him any questions. But Grandmother Ray was one of the "good mothers in Israel". No ill nature and no hypocrisy about her. Both she and my father told me that grandfather left home and went into the army at 15. For a short time he did cooking, but he soon carried arms, joined the Division of Gen. Henry Knox, and served to the end of the war. They were in Washington's army, and he served at the siege of Yorktown. Was at West Point in 82-83. Was one of the party that conducted Washington to the boat after his farewell to the army. Saw Knox and Washington embrace and weep like children at the "Farewell." He afterward helped take up the great chain stretching across the Hudson to prevent the British ship sailing up the river. He states in his personal history that he gave his last twenty dollars of Federal money for a glass of toddy (rum and molasses). It was considered worthless. He told me this himself.

After grandfather married he settled by his brother, William, near Hubbardton battleground. Then lived awhile at Hebron, N. Y., then moved to West Tinmouth, Rutland County, Vt., where I was born and where he lived at my first recollection. When I was five years old, my grandfather, who had lived almost in the same house with my father, moved to Russell, N. Y. They spent nearly 20 of the last years of their lives at Russell. In the fall of 1848 I went there. The next spring, '49, my grandfather died. He and grandmother lived with their youngest daughter, Cynthia Clark. I was at his funeral.

Grandmother died two years later. I saw her buried. When the coffin was lowered into the grave there was an outburst of weeping by the cousins that told how that good old grandmother was loved by all. Among those that then stood at those graves were Uncle John, cousins Harlow, Samuel, Melissa, Janet, Uncle Elanson, Aunt Melissa and Grandmother Clark. All are quietly sleeping in that churchyard now. Grandfather and grandmother were 85 at the times they died, grandmother being two years the

youngest, and she survived grandfather's death two years.

An incident that grandmother told me I will relate here. When they were living near Hubbardton battleground, the wife of a neighbor dug up some skulls and used one for a soap dish. Then she brought one to present to her to be used for the same purpose. Grandmother expressed her horror at such a thought. "Why," said the neighbor, "they are nothing but British skulls." Grandmother told her it was all the same, she could use human skulls for no such purpose.

Loudon Ray married Electa Gillett, own cousin to my mother. Her father's name was Philarmon Gillett. In sliding from a hawmow he ran a rake handle 28 inches into his body. He drew it out, went into his house and told his family he was a dead man. He lived two hours.

Loudon Ray had nine children, 3 boys and 6 girls. All living now, I believe, but the oldest girl, Paulina Williams. She leaves a daughter. I left Vermont 40 years ago and have had little or no correspondence with any one since.

Elos Ray married a Hopkins. The wife is dead. Elos, at the age of 76, lives at Orwell, Vt. His son, Walter O. Ray, lives with him. There is a large family there:

Mrs. John Bradley, now deceased.

The next is Emeline, who married Benoni Davis. They had one son, who was killed by the cars some years ago. She lives with her brothers and sisters—sometimes with one, then with another.

Lucinda married a Young. Is a widow at Timmouth, Vt. Has married children. One girl, the wife of a popular preacher—have forgotten their names.

Eli Ray is married, wealthy, and living at Poultney, Vt. Has children who are good writers. Robert Ray, I knew him as Malden, Eli's son, lives with his father.

Angeline, Caroline, Helen, all widows with children. live at Fair Haven, Vt. Don't know, or have forgotten their address.

Rodney Ray, son of Loudon, lives near Eli at Hampton, N. Y. Rodney's wife was a Stowe, a pupil of mine in 1842. Have not seen her since. Rodney was only a small boy when I left Vt., 41 years ago.

The next of your great-grandfather's children was Benjamin, my father, born in 1789. Died at Middletown, Vt., in October (22), in 1835. He is buried by the church at Tinmouth Centre, Vt. He was an industrious, sober, honest man and a great reader of books. He left children: Barbara, Franklin, Orin, Eliza, Harriet, Electa, (Laura E.) The last was born a month after her father's death. (She was born Feb. 15, 1836). Barbara has never married. Has been dead about ten years. Harriet died at 18, in 1849 or 50. She was as fair a flower as ever bloomed in summer's sun. Died of consumption. Is buried at East Poultney. Franklin lives in Middletown, Vt. Has four children. I can't tell the names of but two, John, and Martha (now) Flanders.

They write me often, are good penmen. Write either of them, John or Martha, they will be pleased to have you do so. My sister Eliza was at Northampton, Mass., unmarried. Electa, now Richardson, lives at Canton, N. Y. She has one child, a son, now a school teacher. My brother's oldest girl, Eliza, married a Leonard and lives in Tinmouth, Vt. Don't know their first names. They are prominent farmers and well to do.

My mother's name was Aner (Gloriana) Gillett, daughter of Sylvester Gillett. (He sometimes wrote it Vester). He was a doctor and a Universalist minister, a very smart man, but left no writings but doctor's charges. He died in central New York 61 years ago. (He lived at Lysander. A granddaughter living in Pittsfield, Mass., wrote me 18 years ago that when she was five years old she was playing in the yard when they told her later, that she stopped, looked up toward the sky and said, "O, there is grandpa." A few days later they heard of his death.) He has often dandled me in his arms but I do not remember him. His wife and my grandmother was an Owen. They were a large family, the Owens. One, a niece of my grandmother, lived, some years ago near the church at Kewanee, Ill., a minister's widow, named Hurd.

Eden Ray, my uncle, married Minerva Bailey. They had children Amelia (Lowrey), at Pentwater, Mich., Tertullis Ray at Winfield, Kan., Alfonso Ray, Ditto, Emily Jourdan, Chicago, Lewis Ray, Mason City, Iowa.

Uncle Elanson Ray married Melissa Clark. Lived and died at N. Russell, N. Y. They had children, Samuel, Melissa, Jennet and Emergene. You knew them all. Samuel left two girls, both married, have forgotten their names (Elva, Eva, twins) Jennet married Dr. Gibbons at Russell. Both dead. Left a girl, Jennet, now living, unmarried, in Russell, N. Y. Is well off. I have letters from her. Dr. Ray's family all dead but Emergene. She married her cousin, Alanson Ray, son of John Ray. Living at Canton, N. Y. He is a miller and now quite wealthy. Probably you remember them.

Aunt Rachel married Warren Owen, another cousin of my mother's. Moved to Kingston Centre, O. A farmer. They had eight children. All lived to have families. Rachel married a Herrendeen. Lived and died at Silver Lake, Ind. They were farmers. Raised 11 children. All married and living about Silver Lake the last I knew. Frisbie lived at Savannah, Mo. Died about the time I left you four years ago. The girl is married; don't know her husband's or brother's names. Her name was Columba. Franklin Owen, a good man, settled at Berkshire, Delaware Co., O. Died there 20 years ago. Has a son Lamoile Owen living there now. Samuel is at Rockford, S. W. Dakota. William and family were at Mt. Vernon, O., or Frederickton. Gilbert died 25 years ago, left four or five children, near Berkshire. Aunt Rachel Owen died 10 years ago at Berkshire. Uncle was living four years ago with his youngest son, Lamoile, at Kingston Centre, in Delaware Co., O. (He died about 1896). Olive married a Williams and is still living with two of her boys near Union City in S. Mich. Two sons and a daughter are married and live at Milbrook in Mecosta Co., Mich.

That whole family are honest, hard working people.

James Ray, our uncle, married Miriam Conger at Danby, Vt. He parted with his wife after raising five or six children. He died at Florence, N. Y. 30 years ago. They had children, Moses, Fidelia, Minerva, James. All these I knew when a boy. They moved to Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., over 50 years ago where two or three more boys were born. I have heard their names but have forgotten them. One belongs to the publishing firm of Derby & Miller of

Syracuse, N. Y. One was a machinist in Cincinnati the last I knew.

Uncle Gilbert Ray married a Landorff. Both died 20 years ago at Lake Mills, Wis. They raised four children, 3 sons and one daughter. The oldest boy, Perry, died in northern Ill. 30 years ago. The daughter died at fifteen, 37 years ago at Oswego, N. Y. The second boy was killed at Port Hudson and his body lies in the trenches there. The only survivor, Capt. Orlin Landoff Ray, at Lake Mills, Wis. He was captain in the 29th Wisconsin. Served under Gen. Canby at the taking of Mobile.

Olive Ray married Arunah Griswold. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. She died at Canton, N. Y., 48 years ago. Left children, Pamela, Rachel, David, Octava, Olive, Loyal. Perhaps you knew some of them. Pamela is a Mrs. Jacob Brown of Canton, N. Y. Uncle Elanson's folks brought up Loyal. He is married at Rockford, Dak.

Rachel is dead. Octavia married a Fort. Lives, I think, at Owosso, Mich. There is another girl who went to Arkansas to teach after the war. She married. They all have children you bet.

Uncle John Ray of Russell you probably know all about. Aunt Diadama (Lawrence), uncle's widow was living at N. Russell at last accounts. Their youngest boy Alanson married cousin Emergene.

(They had three children. The oldest, Viola, died not long ago. No children. Edna lives in Ogdensburg, N. Y. Married a Curtin. He is Supt. of the repair shop [I guess that is what they call it] at the State Hospital [insane] there for the last 27 or 28 years. They have one daughter about 18. Fred lives on John Ray's old farm. Has two children, a boy about 12 and a girl about 16).

Sarah married Dennis Smith of Dekalb Junction, N. Y. (They had three girls and a boy, some of them are still living I think). Harlow (I do not think left any children altho I think they told me his widow was still alive. These were Uncle John's three children).

Uncle Abner married a Foote. Then he married a 2nd and a 3rd time. He had a daughter who married and died in childbed. The child died too. Those deaths killed her mother. Uncle Abner married a widow 30 years younger than himself. She mar-

ried him and married a Shaw. He died five years ago last July. He left her rich. A paper was sent to all of the heirs notifying them of the proof and hearing of the will. I expect that is the paper you spoke of. I have one. It is not at hand but can find it. Will do so and send to you. Uncle Abner willed all of his property to his wife, so she and her son by her first husband are well fixed.

Aunt Cynthia married a Clark (Gideon B.). He died 42 years ago (1844). She died 28 years ago (1860). She after married a Bassett). They left children Elam, Corynthia, Lovilla and Egbert. Elam or (Gideon as I think he was called. They are all dead now. Egbert and Elam lived in S. Chicago. Elam left one daughter unmarried I think. Egbert left four daughters. Have forgotten about them but one lives single in Enosburgh Falls, Vt. Corynthia had two children. One, Gerald Healy, lives near Potsdam, N. Y.)

About the Gilletts.

(From Letter No. 64)

My mother's Grandfather Gillett first took up the land and settled on the Gillett farm in West Tinmouth near the head of the gulf. She had several uncles who were raised there, and a grandmother who lived to be 104 years old and who died there. The older Gilletts' family of boys were William, Sylvester, Philarmon, Russell and Benjamin. There were girls, one the mother of Mrs. Joel Francis. Another married a Brown and a third married a White. Russell was the grandfather on the mother's side, of Eli and Rodney, and their brother and sisters.

Sylvester was my grandfather. He married and lived some years with his father in West Tinmouth. They were all large, strong, stalwart men and very supple of limb. I well remember seeing Uncle Ben come to my father's house, he above fifty years old. We had a fence of sliding bars, equal to a six-rail fence in height. He never stopped to let them down but would place his left hand on the top and hop over without otherwise touching it. My mother often said her father, Sylvester, was the strongest

and spryest of the Gillett family. He was a doctor and attended to his medical practice traveling on foot.

The Gillett place was afterwards known as the Scott place and is up on the "Gulf" road.

In a letter to the Journal B. Frisbie says: "Up this road is the gulf in fact, which is a ravine or gorge on one side of the road and might make one giddy in riding along but for the undergrowth which almost conceals the chasms. This gulf gave the name to District No. 7 in Tinmouth as the "gulf district" and the inhabitants "live up in the gulf."

THE RAY FAMILY. **As Told by B. Frisbie.**

Deacon Gilbert Ray was one of the first settlers in Tinmouth. He came from Wrentham, Mass., and was one of four brothers, Benjamin, William, Gilbert and Zelotus, all soldiers of the Revolution. Benjamin settled after the war, at Lenox, N. Y.; William in Hubbardtown, Zelotus in Bennington, and Gilbert raised a family of 13 children. Two sons had their home at or near the old homestead in the gulf.

DeWitt C. Pond, in Poultney Journal, July 4, 1885.

I knew John Ray and family and when a lad roamed over his farm hunting, berrying and looking for cows and sheep. The Ray homestead at that time stood on the east side of the road facing the west (since torn down or removed across the road).

Letter No. 25.

James and Gilbert Ray, Jim, my father's youngest brothers, had voices that could be heard a mile. They could imitate anything that walked on four legs, or two.

Death of Benjamin Ray. (Old Memories No. 34)

In the fall of 1835 my father's last illness came. An exposure and sudden cold brought on inflammation of the brain. He complained of pain in the head, went to sleep, awoke in a delirium from which he did not recover. * * * " After three nights

of watchless care by my father's sick-bed my mother broke down and left the room in tears when told by the doctor there was no hope.

That evening as the sun went down my good father's lamp of life went out. So whatever position, fortune or lot in life, thus died at the age of forty-five an industrious, hardworking, honest man.

Taught School in Vermont.

(Old Memories No. 49)

"My last winter in Vermont was spent teaching school in the Dennison District as it was then called, two miles or more east of Castleton. This was in the winter of 1846-47.

Edited Canton Independent.

"In the year 1851 and for several years I was owner and publisher of the only newspaper at Canton, the county seat of St. Lawrence county, New York. I was a Whig in politics. The county was largely Democratic and from motives of policy I made my paper a neutral. At the start I ran in debt for my printing establishment and by hard work and economy paid for it. I was obliged to buy more printers' material. For this I ran in debt and gave my note for \$200 payable in six months. When time of payment came, I was \$100 short of enough to meet it. I drew up a note for \$100 payable in 90 days, and attempted to get the money from a bank at Ogdensburg but without success. Malone was the next nearest town where there was a bank and on my "editor's pass" I went to Malone. Wm. A. Wheeler afterwards Vice President, was cashier. I told him my story. He said, "Your paper is taken here. I like its tone—the stand it takes for temperance and good morals." And then he added, "I will be your indorser and make the note payable at the Albany City bank."

The note was paid when due. I still have the canceled note and have treasured it to this time. It has the names "James Paddock" and "Wm. A. Wheeler" on the back of it and I keep it as a memento of the man who was four years Vice President.

Lived at Middletown.

(Old Memories 54)

From the year 1828 to 1840 my home was at Middletown and I a boy from seven to nineteen years old there.

Was Elected Second Lieutenant.

(Old Memories No. 41)

Our militia trainings were seasons of great interest in Middleton fifty years ago. Who living does not remember the brilliant display and gaudy uniforms of the officers, the captain and the first and second lieutenants? The blue coat, the white vest and breeches, the polished boots, the elegant cap and white feathers? I liked the parade and training day. It fired my blood and filled my head with thoughts of Bunker Hill and Bennington. A meeting came off to elect officers. I was not quite 18 but they voted me a second lieutenant. It was the highest I ever climbed on the military ladder. The honor I enjoyed briefly. I was about to accept, but my brother Frank and others called me aside and advised me to decline the appointment. The uniform they said would cost me several months' wages and treating the company to liquor, as was the custom, would be several dollars more. So I declined to accept the office.

The last general training I attended in Vermont was at South Clarendon in October, 1840.

Served in Mexican War.

(From "Our Battles Before Mexico, No. 1, in (Fair Haven, Vt., New Era).

Early in the winter of 1847 some college schoolmates and myself left Burlington, Vt., College, and enlisted in the United States Army. The war with Mexico had been raging nearly a year and we enlisted for the war. Uniform success had thus far attended our army; and not one of our number could claim any credit for patriotism or bravery on our part for enlisting. We had no expectation of being called to do any fighting; no idea of having to snuff the odor of burnt powder, or of having to face bristling bayonets or aid in the sepulture of the dead.

We reached Vera Cruz on the 10th of April about three weeks after its capture by Gen. Scott. Immediately upon arrival we were enrolled in the old Third regiment of regulars commanded by Col. Alexander and attached to Gen. P. F. Smith's brigade of Gen. David E. Twiggs' division.

We at once took up our march for the City of Mexico, the distance being about 300 miles.

Extract from Letter 22.

.... Early in the spring of 1848 our colors were pulled down from the places they had long occupied in Mexico and on the last of May we left the City of Mexico and reached our homes on the first of July.

Loudon Ray had ten children, all deceased. A great-granddaughter, Mrs. Eva Ray Warren Cutts, living at Orwell, Vt., writes: "I do not know if any descendants of the old families are now living around 'The Gulf.' The Rays are nearly all gone in this locality. Mrs. Judge C. E. Sutton of Middlebury, and Thomas H. Ray of Brandon are near here."

David W. Ray who conducts a furniture business at Faribault, a grandson of James Ray and Miriam Conger, his wife writes of their family:

Moses W. Ray, my father, was an expert at the Woolen Mill business. He went to Ottawa, Canada, in 1849, and there married Anna Helmer. They remained in Canada until 1865 coming to Minnesota later and went on a farm, and remained there until his death. My father was a good church member, and a fine orator.

Minerva Ray Tripp, was born in 1825, and died in 1908. She came to Minnesota and later married Hiram Tripp in the fifties. Hiram Tripp died Sept. 4th, 1886, at the age of 64.

A. D. Ray in early life learned the mechanics trade in Cincinnati, and at the beginning of the Civil War was quartermaster of the rolling stock, situated at Nashville, Tennessee, later went to Chicago and entered the Northwest Railway Co., as master mechanic, and worked there for about twenty-four years. He came to Faribault after that and died April 24, 1891, and was buried in the Cannon City Cemetery.

Fidelia Ray Hawkins, wife of Samuel Hawkins, came to Minnesota in the fifties and settled in Cannon City. She died April 7th, 1904, at the age of 84 years. Her husband, Samuel Hawkins, died April 17th, 1881, at the age of 62 years. The cause of his death was the burning of his house, and he suffocated in the smoke trying to remove his furniture.

Marion Ray, my grandmother, wife of James Ray, died October 8th, 1880, and was buried in Cannon City cemetery at the age of 80 years.

David Ray enlisted with the rank of sergeant in the Mexican war, and while there came home on a furlough, returning and lost his life over the affections of a girl. I have at present a silver button that was on his coat and this is the only thing that is left of his effects.

Andrew Ray in early life clerked in Buffalo in a dry goods store, and when the Civil War broke out he entered and served in the paymaster department, and after the war he went in the publishing business, and gave readings in Shakespeare.

A letter from F. O. Ray, who is a grandson of Gilbert Ray, Jr., and a son of Capt. O. L. Ray of the 29th Wisconsin, says of several members of the Ray family:

In regard to the children of Olive Ray who married a Griswold, Ruby G. Rowland taught several years in the southwest, finally went to Idaho and married a man named Rowland, had no children, was living at Ladysmith, Wis., when I last heard of her, with a niece, a wife of Dr. Stevenson.

Octavia Griswold Forte was living in Quinnesec, Mich., but I have not heard of her for a number of years. Had no children. Louisa Griswold married a man named House, lived at Lima, Wis., until her death, which occurred a number of years ago. She had quite a number of children, one of whom married the Dr. Stevenson spoken of before.

Judge Orin L. Ray of Pierson, Montcalm county, Mich., is the only one of the Ray family I ever saw, aside from those mentioned above. He was a temperance lecturer and I heard him in Lake Mills, when I was a small boy about 11 years of age. I well remember the comments that were made, when the bills

were posted, announcing that O. L. Ray would give a temperance lecture at the M. E. church. My father carried the joke through and did not enlighten anyone of the difference until the evening, when he introduced his cousin, O. L. Ray of Michigan, who would give the discourse for the evening.

My Uncle Perry Ray died before the Civil war, was never married. My father was the second oldest child, Milan Ray was the youngest boy. He enlisted in the Fourth Wisconsin cavalry and was an expert player on the fife, and played for Gen. Ben Butler, in New Orleans when he faced the angry crowd of Southern sympathizers. Uncle Milan was anxious to be promoted, and as the position of fifer did not bring the chance, he threw his fife aside and shouldered his musket and took his chances in the battle, was wounded in the battle of Baton Rouge, La., and died of wounds there.

There are descendants of John and Alanson Ray and Olive Griswold living at Canton and Russell, New York.

Descendants of Rachel Ray Owen are still living at Sunbury, Delaware county, Ohio. Our correspondence here was but a letter from Mrs. Kingston Owen, the widow of a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Owen.

Those interested can easily pursue their investigations further and blank leaves are left in the back of this book for any entries any one may wish to make.