

HISTORICAL SKETCH
—OF THE—
SHELDON FAMILY

PREPARED AND READ BY HARRY W. SHELDON
OF YONKERS, NEW YORK, AT THE SECOND
ANNUAL REUNION OF THE SHELDON
FAMILY, HELD AT RUPERT, VER-
MONT, AUGUST 8, 1912

Published by
ROY F. SHELDON
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
1913

Historical Sketch of the Sheldon Family

A HISTORICAL sketch of the Sheldon family begins properly with the Sheldons in England. There is not much that can be said upon this point at this time. The connection between the English and American branches of the family has not yet been established and we do not know who were the parents of the men who brought the name to this country, nor from what parts of England they came.

By consulting one of the English authorities on British families we find that the Sheldons have been most numerous in Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Worcestershire. There is a village in Derbyshire named Sheldon, and in this county has long dwelt an important branch of the family.

Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born at Stanton, Parish of Ellastone, Staffordshire, in 1598 and died in 1677 according to one authority, while another authority states that he was born at Ashbourne, Derbyshire. He was graduated at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1617, supported the Royalist cause and spent the time of Cromwell's ascendancy in retirement in Staffordshire and Derbyshire. He was made Bishop of London in 1660 and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1663. He built the Sheldonian Theatre at Oxford and the library at Lambeth Palace, and contributed two thousand

pounds toward rebuilding St. Paul's Cathedral after the great fire. His nephew, Sir Joseph Sheldon, was Lord Mayor of London, and died about the year 1681. Some American genealogists have stated that our first American ancestor was the son of one or the other of these men, but the records show plainly that the Archbishop died unmarried and that the Lord Mayor left no male issue. Let us hope that some day we shall be able to establish definitely the connection with the old country.

You will find that most American families of whatever name will have a tradition stating that "there were three brothers who came over" and will name the places where they settled. Now there were several early settlers in New England bearing our name but we do not know that they were in any way related to each other. By consulting Savage's Genealogical Dictionary of New England we find the names of Godfrey Sheldon of Scarborough, John, Thomas and William Sheldon of Billerica, John Sheldon and Nicholas and Timothy Sheldon of Providence, John Sheldon of Newport and Isaac Sheldon of Windsor and Northampton. These were the founders of the Sheldon families in this country and their relationship to each other, if any, is not known.

The history of that branch of the family from which the Sheldons in Suffield, Connecticut, and Rupert, Vermont, are descended, begins with Isaac Sheldon who was in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1652, at which time he owned there a home lot of three acres with house, barn and orchard "purchased of John Stiles," another lot on the street "purchased of Samuel Rockwell," a meadow lot "by purchase of Richard Samwas," and another lot "purchased of Thomas Parsons."

For a long time it was supposed that this Isaac Sheldon was the same man who seems to have been in Dorchester in 1634, and that he removed to Windsor with part of the congregation settlers of Windsor. On the original records of the town it would appear that Isaac was there January 10th, 1640, and owned at that time the land already mentioned, but this has of the Rev. John Warham in 1635, as one of the original been disproved by Mr. George Sheldon, the venerable historian of Deerfield, Massachusetts, who says in his History of Deerfield that the entries I have quoted, being on a page headed: "Jan. 10, 1640," were really made at a later date, to utilize a blank page. It is on record that Isaac Sheldon testified before a court in Northampton, March 25th, 1679, that he was then "about fifty years old." This would settle the time of his birth as about 1629, and it is presumed that he was born in England. It is, of course, possible that he was a son of the Isaac Sheldon who seems to have been in Dorchester in 1634 and that he was brought to Windsor as a child by some other family.

We know definitely that Isaac Sheldon who held land in Windsor in 1652, was given permission to "keep house" there with Samuel Rockwell, "so they carry themselves soberly, and do not entertain Idel parsons to ye expense of time by night or daye." In 1654, Isaac sold out to Samuel Rockwell and removed to Northampton, where he was one of the first settlers. He owned farm land in "Manhan Meadow," and a home lot of four acres. When the Rev. Eleazar Mather settled in Northampton as pastor of the church, one hundred and sixty-three and one-half acres of land were placed at his disposal, to be given by him to such persons as came to Northampton to

settle through his influence. Isaac Sheldon gave six acres and his father-in-law, Thomas Woodford, six acres. Isaac and his wife, together with Thomas Woodford, signed the church covenant June 18th, 1661. It is on record that Isaac contributed to Harvard College nine pounds of flax, valued at nine shillings. There were many contributors in Northampton, each one giving what he could. In March, 1678, Isaac was appointed one of the first Tithingmen in Northampton, whose duty it was to have charge of the morals of the community. On February 27th, 1681, he was appointed on a committee to stake out highways, and on March 7th, 1698, he was appointed an overseer of the poor. He was a Selectman in 1656 and a leading man in town affairs. He died at Northampton, July 29th, 1708. He had married in 1653, Mary, daughter of Thomas Woodford and his wife Mary Blott of Hartford. She was the mother of thirteen of his fourteen children. She died April 17th, 1684, and Isaac married second, about 1685, Mehitable, daughter of Thomas Gunn, who had been the wife of David Ensign, all of Hartford. She was the mother of the last child, Jonathan, and she died January 30th, 1720. The records show that Isaac had fourteen children and one hundred and fifteen grandchildren. In view of this good beginning, the numerical strength of this branch of the Sheldon family "throughout all generations" is not surprising.

The family of Isaac Sheldon consisted of Mary, born 1654, married John Bridgeman; Isaac, born September 4th, 1656, married Sarah Warner and succeeded to the old homestead at Northampton; John, born Dec. 5th, 1658, married Hannah Stebbins and settled in Deerfield; Thomas, born August 6th, 1661, married Mary Hinsdale; Ruth, born August 27th,

1663, married Joseph Wright; Thankful, a twin with Ruth, married Benjamin Edwards; Mindwell, born February 24th, 1666, married John Pomeroy; Joseph, born February 1st, 1668, married Mary Whiting; Hannah, born June 29th, 1670, married Samuel Chapin of Springfield; Eleazar, born August 4th, 1672, died the following year; Samuel, born November 5th, 1675, married and settled in New Marlborough, Massachusetts; Ebenezer, born March 1st, 1677, married Mary Hunt; Mercy, born 1681 and died the following year; and the youngest child, Jonathan, born May 29th, 1687, married Mary Southwell. Several of these children married a second time.

It is necessary to limit this paper to a recital of interesting facts in connection with the three sons, John, Thomas and Jonathan, and their descendants.

We find in Sheldon's History of Deerfield, the story of John Sheldon and his family, which is full of tragic interest. He removed from Northampton to Deerfield, where he was a prominent citizen, Selectman, Ensign in the first company, Captain in 1707, and Deacon in the church. He built about 1696, the historic "Old Indian House" whose scarred and battered door I have seen in the Memorial Hall at Deerfield. He occupied this house at the time of the desolation of the town by the French and Indians, February 29th, 1704. Describing this house, Mr. Sheldon says:

"The 'Old Indian House' stood at the north end of the training field, facing the south. Its frame was largely of oak. It was twenty-one by forty-two feet, two stories with a steep pitch roof. In front the second story projected about two feet, the ends of the cross beams being supported by ornamental oak

brackets, two of which are preserved in Memorial Hall. A lean-to thirteen and a half feet wide ran the whole length of the north side, its roof being a continuation of that on the main building. The ground floor was thus thirty-four and a half by forty-two feet. Near the center rose the chimney, about ten feet square at the base, with fire-places on the sides and rear. South of it was the front entry, which, including the stairway, was eight by twelve feet. The lower floor was laid under the sill, which, projecting beyond the wall, formed a ledge around the bottom of the rooms, a tempting seat for the children. Stepping over the sill into the front entry, doors on either hand opened into the front rooms; stairs on the right led by two square landings, and two turns to the left, to a passage over the entry, from which at the right and left doors led to the chambers. In the rear of the chimney was a small, dark room, with stairs to the garret. Including the garret, there were five rooms in the main structure, each of them lighted by two windows with diamond panes set in lead. The kitchen was in the central part of the lean-to, with windows in the rear; east of this was a bed room, and west, the buttery and back entry. The fire place was a deep cavern, the jambs and back at right angles to each other and the floor. Here, hanging on nails driven into a piece of wood built into the structure for the purpose, hung the branding-iron, the burning-iron, the pot-hook, the long handled frying-pan, the iron peel or oven slice, the scooped fire-shovel with stout tongs standing by. In one end was the oven, its mouth flush with the back of the fire-place. In this nook, when the oven was not in use, stood a wooden bench, on which the children could sit and study the catechism and spelling book by fire-light, or watch the stars through the

square tower above their heads, the view interrupted only by the black, shiny lug-pole, and its great trammels; or in the season, its burden of hams and flitches of pork or venison, hanging to be cured in the smoke. The mantle-tree was a huge beam of oak, protected from the blaze only by the current of cold air constantly ascending."

Speaking of early marriages in Deerfield, Mr. Sheldon, the historian, says:

"A notable marriage was that of John, son of Ensign Sheldon, to Hannah Chapin. Their wedding journey was a winter's horseback trip from Springfield to the since historic 'Old Indian House,' the bride on a pillion behind the groom. What but the great love which binds a woman's heart to her husband could have induced her to leave her secure home in Springfield, to brave with him the dangers of this doomed frontier? Of the six persons married as above, five were within a few weeks, swallowed up by death or captivity."

In Mr. Sheldon's account of the capture of Deerfield by the French and Indians under DeRouville on February 29th, 1704, we read:

"The stout door of Ensign John Sheldon's house resisted the efforts to break it down. It was cut partly through with axes, and bullets fired through the place at random, one of which killed Mrs. Sheldon as she was sitting on a bed in the east room. Entrance was finally effected at the back door, which, according to a family tradition, was left open by a lad who sought safety in flight. Most of the family were captured. Probably the Ensign was not at home. His son, the newly married John, with his wife jumped from the east chamber window. Hannah sprained her ankle and could not escape,

but she urged her husband to fly to Hatfield for aid. This he did, binding strips of a woolen blanket about his naked feet as he ran. The tradition says also that the two years old Mercy was taken to the front door and her brains dashed out on the doorstone: and further, that the house, being the largest in the town, was reserved as a depot for captives. It was set on fire when the last mauraunders were driven away, but it was saved, and stood until 1849 — the widely known ‘ Old Indian House.’ The scarred and battered door, supported by the original door posts and flanked by great oaken brackets from the front of the house, is now a center of attraction at Memorial Hall.”

From this interesting history we learn that Hannah, the wife of young John and three of the children of Ensign John, Mary, aged sixteen, Ebenezer, aged twelve, and Remembrance, aged eleven, were carried to Canada as captives. There is a story that Mary was adopted by an Indian squaw, who used to visit her at Deerfield after the return of the captives.

It is further related that during the winter following the capture, Ensign John was sent by Governor Dudley on a mission to Canada and returned in the spring with five Deerfield captives, two of whom were Hannah, his son’s wife, and Esther, oldest daughter of Parson Williams; the next winter he was again sent to Canada to negotiate the redemption of English captives; he was so successful that May 30th, 1706, he sailed from Quebec with forty-four, leaving fifty-seven to be transported on the Brigantine “ Hope,” which was dispatched for them on his arrival at Boston, August 1st. Still again, a third time, he was sent in 1707, returning with seven captives — one hundred and thirteen in all — but from different parts of

New England. Ensign John removed to Hartford, married his second wife, Widow Elizabeth Pratt and died in Hartford, about 1733.

Thomas Sheldon, the fourth child and third son of Isaac and brother of Ensign John, was born at Northampton, August 6th, 1661. He married in 1685, Mary Hinsdale, daughter of Samuel Hinsdale and his wife Mehitable Johnson. This Samuel Hinsdale had been in Hadley and had removed to Deerfield, where he was killed by the Indians, September 18th, 1675. He had married his wife, Mehitable, daughter of Humphrey and Ellen Cheney Johnson, October 31st, 1660. This Thomas Sheldon was the greatgrandfather of the Hon. David Sheldon and Seth Phelps Sheldon, early settlers in Rupert. He was a Deacon in the old church at Northampton, and presented to the church a communion service of massive silver, which is still in use, or was until quite recently in the present Congregational church. He was a Selectman in 1697, was appointed on a committee to erect a poorhouse, March, 1705, and in 1719 he was appointed to have charge of the town stock of ammunition. He died at Northampton, June 7th, 1725. During the past year I have spent a considerable amount of time in tracing the descendants of Deacon Thomas Sheldon, and I am therefore able to tell you more about this branch of the family than about the other branch which played such an important part in the settlement and history of Rupert and vicinity, and which has been the especial study of Mr. Charles C. Sheldon of Suffield.

Deacon Thomas Sheldon had eight children, born at Northampton: Thomas, born June, 1688, married Mary Smith of Hadley; Mary, born July 26th, 1690, married Samuel Par-

sons; Rebecca, born 1693, died 1703; Josiah, born December, 1695, married Anna Stanley; Benjamin, born 1697, married Mary Strong; Rachel, born February 22d, 1701, married John Pomeroy; Jemima, born May 31st, 1702, married Samuel Williams; Elisha, born September 2d, 1709, married Elizabeth Ely.

The first child, Thomas Sheldon, Jr., who married Mary Smith of Hadley, removed with his family to Suffield, Connecticut, probably about 1720, as the birth dates of all of his children born in 1721 and thereafter appear in the Suffield town records. His uncle, Jonathan, the half brother of Deacon Thomas Sheldon, had previously, or possibly at about the same time, settled in Suffield and built in 1723, the old homestead near West Suffield, which is still standing. Thomas Sheldon, Jr., had land on the road between Suffield and West Suffield, about one-half mile west of the village of Suffield. He had nine children, Mary, born 1713, married John Hanchett; John, born 1715, died young; Thomas, born 1717, and died in 1739, unmarried; Rachel, born 1719, married Isaac Davis of Windsor; Mercy and Thankful, twins, born 1721. Mercy died in 1775, unmarried, and Thankful married John Montague. A second son, John, born August 14th, 1724, was the father of Judge David Sheldon, who occupied the land and built the fine old house where we are guests to-day. Another son, Captain Simeon, was born March 26th, 1726, married Grace Phelps and was the father of Seth Phelps Sheldon, who followed his cousin David to Rupert. The last child, Oliver, was born September 10th, 1728, and died November 18th of the same year.

Of these children, Deacon John Sheldon first claims our

attention. He married at Suffield, August 15th, 1744, Mary, daughter of John and Mary Hamblin Rising and had thirteen children, four of whom settled in Rupert. These were John, born February 27th, 1749, married August 20th, 1769, Sybil Spear, and died in Rupert, December 20th, 1812; Elizabeth, born February 2d, 1755, married January 9th, 1777, Seth Harmon, and died in Rupert, October 13th, 1825; Judge David, born October 27th, 1756, married November 18th, 1779, Sarah Harmon and died in Rupert, February 15th, 1832; Anne, born April 6th, 1762, married Josiah Curtis and lived in the eastern part of the town of Rupert.

The John Sheldon and his wife Sybil, to whom I have just referred, are buried in the Rupert Churchyard. They were the parents of ten children: Mary, wife of Alexander Trumbull; John, Jr., who married Phebe Manter; Thaddeus who married Ellis Green; Chloe, wife of Orange Frary; Thankful, wife of Eli Smith Weed; Moses who married Lydia Green; Chauncey who married Lucy Whiting; William who married Mrs. H. P. Bates; Sybil who died in infancy, and Submit, wife of Joseph Hastings.

Judge David Sheldon's sister, Elizabeth, who married Seth Harmon, was the mother of nine children. Mr. George S. Hibbard, in his history of Rupert, says that the Harmon homestead was the place long occupied by T. J. Prescott. He also states that Mr. Harmon was twice married, each wife being a sister of Judge David Sheldon, but this is an error. According to the Rupert town records, his second wife was Anna Foster of Rupert, whom he married March 6th, 1827. Elizabeth Sheldon Harmon was the grandmother of Rosina L. Harmon, wife of the late Ira F. Sheldon.

Doctor Henry Sheldon, in an article on Rupert, in the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, says:

“In 1780 the Hon. David Sheldon, subsequently a man of note and influence, emigrated to this town from Suffield, Connecticut. When quite young, he enlisted under Captain Hanchett of Suffield, joined the regiment of Col. Benedict Arnold, was led by him through the wilderness of Maine to Canada, enduring incredible hardships and suffering, was taken prisoner at Quebec, and after some months of confinement, was exchanged early in 1776. He came here poor, but by industry and good management, made a good fortune. He was a man of large frame, noble and commanding appearance and wielded a great influence over his fellow-townsmen. He was a Representative to the Vermont Legislature thirteen times between 1784 and 1811, and was one of the Judges of the County Court for many years, besides holding many town offices. He raised a family of ten children, gave four of them a college education, and died in 1832.”

The History of Rupert says that Judge David Sheldon first settled on the farm long occupied by the late Enos P. Sheldon, and four or five years later located on the farm where now stands this fine old house which was erected in 1806. The first child in this family, David, was born in Suffield. He was known as “Squire David,” and married Jerusha Smith. He was Town Treasurer for nearly forty years, and Representative for the town of Rupert in 1829, 1830 and 1846. The second child was “Captain Thomas,” who married Jerusha Hopkins, and later, Mary McCleary. The other children were “Doctor Ira,” who married Isabella Gray; Rev. Luther,

a graduate of Middlebury College, married Sarah Johnson Harris; Sarah, married General Elisha Hopkins; Calvin, a graduate of Middlebury, married Esther Pierpont, and was a lawyer in Manchester, and later in Oswego, New York; "Deacon Titus" married Mercy Nelson; James, married Abigail Flower; Nancy, married Rufus Hopkins; Hon. Cyrus D., married Eliza Parmalee and lived in Troy, New York.

I have been able to learn but little concerning Anne Sheldon, the Judge's younger sister, who married Josiah Curtis. They lived in the eastern part of the town and had a family of eleven children. Their daughter, Mary, married Richard Bailey. Another daughter, Anna, married Abner Derby, and another, Betsey, was the second wife of Richard Bailey.

Now, going back to Captain Simeon Sheldon, the brother of Deacon John, we find that he married Grace Phelps, daughter of Captain Timothy and Abigail Phelps, November 10th, 1748. It is worthy of note that Timothy and Abigail Phelps both lived until their ninetieth year, and as stated on their tombstone in the old churchyard at Suffield, "they lived in the married state sixty-three years together."

Captain Simeon's son, Seth Phelps Sheldon, cousin of the Judge, was born in Suffield, June 28th, 1762, and came to Rupert before his marriage. He was here in 1790, possibly earlier, and occupied the farm where Mr. Emmons Sheldon now lives. He returned to Suffield and we learn from the West Suffield church records that he married January 24th, 1793, Rhoda Pomeroy, daughter of Captain Isaac and Rhoda Sykes Pomeroy. His wife was a daughter of Titus and Rhoda Sykes, the progenitors of the Sykes family of Dorset and Rupert. After their marriage, Seth and Rhoda made the

journey to Rupert on horseback, and took up their residence on the farm. The old house where they lived now stands back of the farmhouse and is used as a storehouse. Later, the more pretentious homestead was built, which has been considerably remodeled and enlarged by its present owner.

The statement that Seth Phelps Sheldon enlisted in the war of 1812, is, I think, not true. His name does not appear on the government records at Washington. He had a family of nine children. Two of the daughters, Betsey and Louisa, died unmarried. Of the other children, Dr. Henry Sheldon married Elizabeth Gordon Harris, a sister of the wife of the Rev. Luther Sheldon, previously mentioned; and second, Patience Hopkins, and lived in Rupert. He was a graduate of Middlebury College, and was Postmaster about twenty-five years, two years a State Senator, clerk of the Congregational Society for a considerable period, and Town Clerk from 1824 to 1862, inclusive, with the exception of the year 1845. Another daughter, Maria, married Harvey Sykes of Dorset; a son, Seth, married Marina Ann Rising and lived in West Rupert; Simeon married Lois Eastman and lived on the old farm, later moving to the west; Rhoda married Alexander Bliss of Dorset; Julia married William Williams of Dorset; Mary was the second wife of John Moore of Dorset. Seth Phelps Sheldon died December 13th, 1827, and his wife, June 30th, 1863, in her ninetieth year.

Another child of Captain Simeon Sheldon who lies buried in the Rupert churchyard, was Eunice, born October 25th, 1751, married June 16th, 1796, George Granger, lived in Southwick, Massachusetts, and died in Rupert, March 31st, 1819. She was then a widow and had no children, and had

come to Rupert to visit her relatives or to spend her declining years with them.

Captain Simeon Sheldon's daughter, Mercy, married Phineas Woolworth, and lived in western New York. Frank W. Woolworth, their great-grandson, is the founder and head of the well-known company operating "five and ten cent stores" throughout the country, and recently erected in New York the Woolworth Building, the highest office-building in the world.

I have traced the lines of descent from Deacon Thomas Sheldon to those descendants who settled in Rupert. If we were to trace other lines of his descendants, we would find the name of Levi P. Morton, Governor of New York State and Vice-President of the United States. The Hon. William Lyman, Jr., a grandson, born in 1755, was a Member of Congress and American Consul at London. Another grandson, Captain Samuel Lyman, married Mary Warren, the only daughter of General Joseph Warren of Boston, who lost his life at the battle of Bunker Hill. Another descendant was Samuel Fowler, a member of the class of 1768 at Yale, Massachusetts State Senator and a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1820. Still another descendant of note is Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, one of the greatest financiers of our time. Those whom I have just mentioned are descended from Benjamin Sheldon, son of Deacon Thomas.

There is one other branch of the family of Deacon Thomas Sheldon which deserves our attention. His son, the Hon. Elisha Sheldon, was a graduate of Yale, class of 1730. He lived in Lyme and later in Litchfield, Connecticut. He was an "Assistant" of the colony from 1762 until his death in Litchfield, September 1st, 1779. His wife was Elizabeth Ely

of Saybrook. The following is copied from his tombstone at Litchfield:

“A gentleman of extensive genius and liberal education, called in early life to various public employments both civil and military, all of which he executed with punctuality and fidelity, much respected for his generosity and benevolence, and greatly lamented by his extensive acquaintance. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”

Colonel Elisha Sheldon, his son, was born at Lyme, March 6th, 1740. He was a Colonel of dragoons in the Revolutionary War, and he and his command were on the list of the traitor Arnold, to be turned over to the British. It was the family of this Colonel Elisha Sheldon which settled and gave the name to the town of Sheldon, Vermont, in the northern part of the state. This town had been originally called “Hungerford.” It is said that the Colonel’s eldest son, Samuel Bellows Sheldon, first visited the locality in 1789, to look the township over with the idea of settling there. In the spring of 1790, George, the youngest son, went to the place and later that year returned to Connecticut. He journeyed again to the Vermont wilderness in the spring of 1791, and later in that year came Colonel Sheldon and his sons Elisha, Jr., Samuel B., and son-in-law, Elnathan Keyes, with their families and that of George, and the negro servants, and made a permanent settlement.

The descendants of Captain Jonathan Sheldon, the youngest son of Isaac of Northampton and half brother of Deacon Thomas, form a large and important branch of the family. Mr. Charles C. Sheldon of Suffield has made a very thorough study of this branch and has written a Genealogy, which I

have seen at the library in Suffield. My own knowledge of this branch is limited to what I have gleaned from "The Sheldon Magazine," an uncompleted genealogical work published in rough proof sheets many years ago by the Rev. Henry O. Sheldon.

Captain Jonathan Sheldon married Mary Southwell and settled in Suffield about 1720. He was only about one year older than his nephew, Thomas Sheldon, Jr., and it is probable that they went to Suffield at about the same time.

The family of Captain Jonathan consisted of ten children, six sons and four daughters: Mehitable, born 1709, married Samuel Warner; Jonathan, born 1711, married Sarah Kent; Rebecca, born 1714, married John Norton; Daniel, born 1717, married Deborah Hathaway, and second, Mrs. Ruth H. Smith, and third, a Mrs. Pomeroy. Elijah, born 1719, married Sarah King; Silence, born 1721, married Rev. Jonathan Judd; Asa, born 1722, married Thankful Pomeroy; Gershom, born 1724, married Sarah Pomeroy, and Mary, born 1725, married Rev. John Graham.

This branch of the family is very large. Of the many grandchildren I note that Captain Seth Sheldon, son of Daniel, married Hannah Hanchett and settled in Pawlet, Vermont. Deacon Joel Sheldon, also a son of Daniel, married Mary Hanchett and settled in Rupert. He was the father of Dr. Chauncey L. Sheldon of Warsaw, New York, David Fitch Sheldon of Rupert, Mary Sheldon, wife of Silas Reed of Pawlet, and Israel Sheldon of Danby. In this particular family there were thirteen children and they were descended through their mother from Thomas Sheldon, Jr., as were also the seven children of Captain Seth Sheldon of Pawlet, through

their mother. We find in tracing these lines, many intermarriages between the different branches of the Sheldon family, the Hanchetts, Harmons, Sykes, Kents and Pomeroy's, and the relationships are very complex.

Another grandson of Captain Jonathan, who came to Rupert, was Phineas, who married Eleanor Smith. Carlos P. Sheldon of Vergennes was their son. Their daughter Deborah married Thaddeus Smith of Rupert. Another daughter, Nancy, married Samuel Ames of Shaftsbury.

A granddaughter of Captain Jonathan, Lydia Sheldon, married Deacon Cephas Kent, a prominent early resident of Dorset, and another, Anna Sheldon, married Israel Sykes, the grandfather of Deacon Gilbert M. Sykes of Dorset.

The family of another grandson, Increase Sheldon, lived in Dorset and Rupert. Julius K. Sheldon of Dorset was one of his sons.

Isaac Sheldon, son of Gershom and grandson of Captain Jonathan, was another early settler in Rupert. He married Mindwell Phelps and had a family of seven children, among whom were Isaac, Jr., and Enos of Rupert.

The limits of this paper will not allow special mention of the many members of our family who have bravely responded to their country's call in times of war, those who have honorably served Nation, State, County and community in various capacities, the many who have been numbered in the ranks of the clergy, the medical and legal professions, and those who have gone out as teachers and missionaries. The list would be a long one. We can feel a just pride in the notably excellent record of men and women of our name and blood, in all walks of life.