

# Thomas Steel

of Boston  
and Some of His Descendants

1664—1905

Also including the Family and American Ancestry  
of Samuel and Olive (Pierce) Steele, Pioneers of  
Koshkonong, Wis., 1842. Also the Families  
of Laura J. and Louisa L. (Pierce)  
Arkins, of Denver, Colorado.

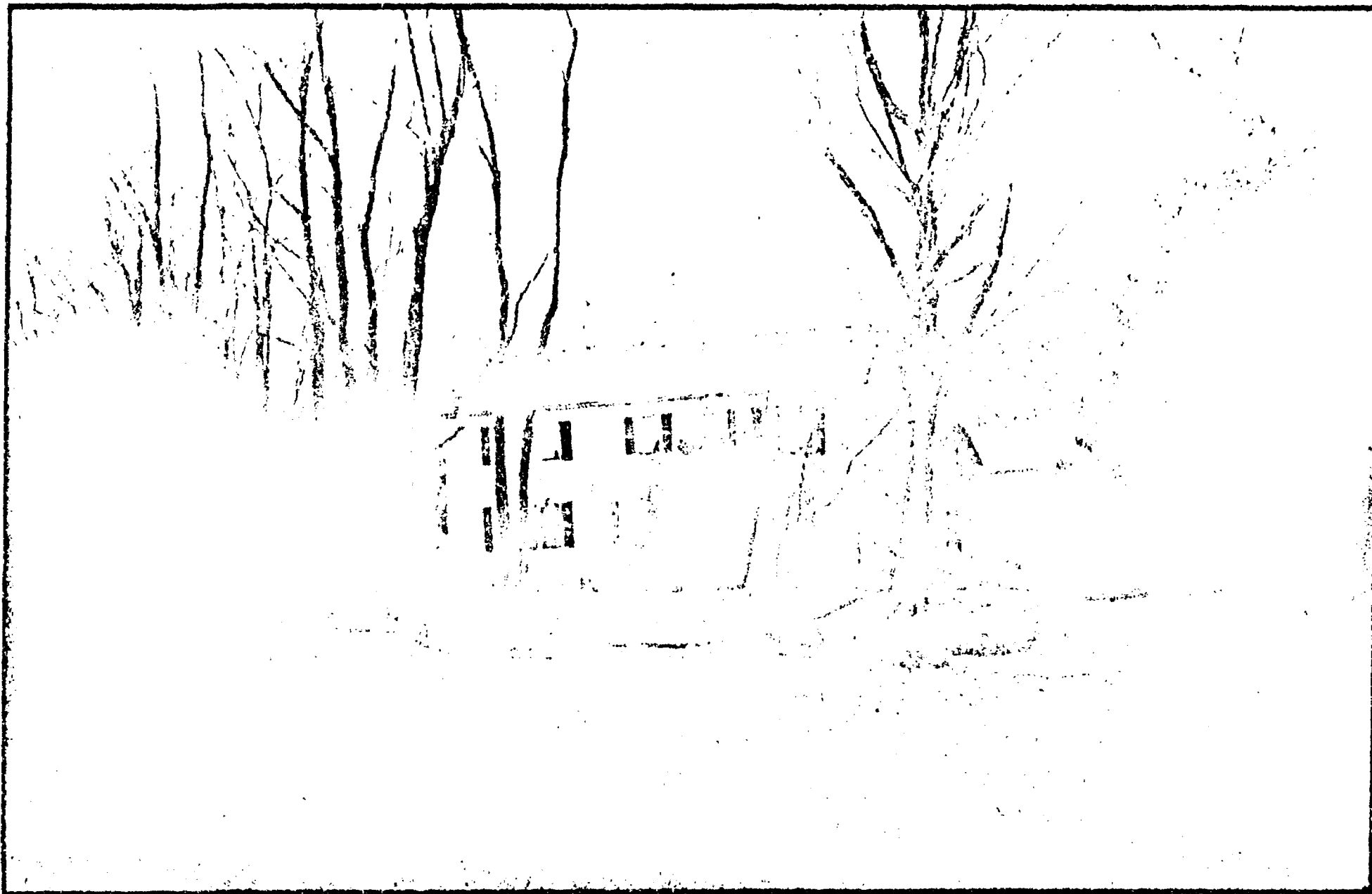
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RESIDENCE OF JUDGE THOMAS STEELE IN LEICESTER, MASS., 1736



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## INTRODUCTORY

This record is designed to cover, in the main, only the lines of descent of our own family; not following out the lines of the collateral branches.

A more extended work would have been desirable, so as to cover as far as possible all the descendants of Thomas Steel of Boston; but the writer has not the time for such an undertaking. The work of Mr. Daniel Steele Durrie, so far as it relates to this family, while it is of inestimable value, is only incidental, and aside from his main purpose, which was directed to the Connecticut families. Such statements as came to him in relation to the family of Thomas Steel he set down with the care and efficiency which was characteristic of his work; but he neither promised nor attempted a full and accurate record of others than the families of John and George Steele. It was inevitable that such a record must be incomplete, and it was likely to be, and in some particulars is, erroneous and misleading. Wherever such has seemed to be the case it is indicated in this work, and the proper correction or omission supplied when possible, either from personal knowledge or family or public records.

It is hoped that a general account and record of the descendants of Thomas Steel may be included in the work on the Steele families in this country, now understood to be in preparation by Mr. F. B. King, of Albany, N. Y.

The many families of our ancestral lines, both paternal and maternal, all run back well into the 17th century in this country. The family names and approximate dates of settlement in New England are, mainly, as follows, viz.: In

the paternal line, Steele, 1690; Allen. —; Pemberton, 1630; Garfield, 1635; Rice, 1638; Rider, 1639; Bowman, 1630; Dixie, 1629; Marshall, 1650; Bridge, 1634; Wheeler, 1654. In the maternal line: Pierce, 1645; Eames, 1634; Holbrook, 1643; Low, before 1653; Ellis, 1653; Martin, 1665; Tibbitts, 1670; Spencer, 1668; Wright, 1654; Brown, 1636; Bullock, before 1699; Greene, 1635; Almy, 1655; Fry, 1650; Coggeshall, 1645; Stanton, 1670; Leach, 1679; Lobdell, 1659; Newcomb, 1693; Terry, before 1691; Kitcherell, 1634; Rhodes, before 1697.

In preparing this work, many authorities have been consulted, and special acknowledgment is due to the following: Durrie's Steele families; Washburn's History of Leicester, Mass.; Records of the church in Brattle Square; Paige's History of Hardwick; Pierce Families, by F. C. Pierce; Dean's History of Scituate; Vital Statistics of Rehoboth; Austin's Historical and Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island; Vital Records of Coventry, and the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Thanks are due to I. H. Bradley, Librarian of the State Historical Society, Madison, Wis., and his assistants; Mary A. Smith, of the Albany, N. Y., Historical Library; Miss S. B. Kidder, Boston; Mrs. Andrew Ross, of Vergennes, Vt.; Katherine M. Stevens, Newport, R. I.; John S. Sargent, of Chicago, Ill.; Geo. H. Pounder, of Ft. Atkinson, Wis.; Mrs. Rhoda Spencer Fairbairn, of Spencerville, Canada, and to members of the family.

PASADENA, CAL., June, 1905.

## I.

### THOMAS STEEL.

Thomas Steel, the first of the family in America, was born in 1664. His birthplace was probably in the Parish of Eastwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland, which was partly within the suburbs of Glasgow. The parish embraced the towns of Pollockshaws and Thornliebank, and part of Shawlands. It is said in the "*Americana Heraldica*," page 179, that Thomas was "born in Scotland in 1664."

He was a man of intelligence and education and of sterling character. According to the *Heraldic Journal*, 2-20, it was said of him by the eminent Boston minister, Rev. Benjamin Coleman, that he was "an Honour to the Kingdom and Church of Scotland, where he was born and educated, and to the University which adorned him with Letters."

Mr. Coleman further says that his father was "a Gentleman of superior Wisdom and Virtue, of whom I had a very high character sent me by the late Rev. Mr. Woodrow of Eastwood, near Glasgow."

Mr. Coleman was the first pastor of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, and is said to have preached a funeral discourse upon Thomas Steel at his death in 1735, also one at the funeral of his first wife in 1723.

The first name of the father of Thomas Steel is not given, nor any particulars as to his nationality, but it would seem, from the above, that Thomas was a Scotchman and a graduate of Glasgow or Edinburg University. He followed the business of merchant, and at his death had large property and business interests, both on land and sea.

At what time Thomas came to this country, is not certainly known. The first record of his presence in Boston, is found in the Probate Records of Suffolk county, 8-61, where he appears as a witness to the will of John Cordonier, (a Glasgow man) dated August 26, 1691.

In 1692, as related in the "*History and Antiquities of Boston*," page 493, Thomas Steel, Esq., with two others, returned

from Port Royal, Jamaica, and brought news of the great earthquake there, which destroyed upwards of 2000 lives.

It is said in Washburn's "History of Leicester," that he was, at one time, appointed a special judge with three others to sit in the Common Pleas Court of Suffolk Co. when the regular judge was unable to act. Also was called on to act in a judicial capacity at other times.

In the New England Hist. and Genealogical Register, Vol. 30, page 199, is published a report of Commissioners signed by Thomas Steel with others, as follows:

"Pursuant to an order Directed to us from his Excellcy. Joseph Dudley, esq., Capt. Genl. and Governr. in Chief of Hr. Maj.tys. Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England &c, and the Hon. ble Francis Nicholson Esqr. Genl. of Her Maj.tys. Forces in the Late Expedition to Nova Scotia, we have examined the within account, and allow fifteen hundred and forty-two pounds, eight shillings, sterling, a just charge, and due according to ye Resolve of ye Council of Warr.

Witness our hands at Boston, July 21, 1711.

JOHN GEORGE.

THOS. STEEL.

JOHN COLEMAN.

WM HARRIS."

In the "Memorial History of Boston," Vol. 2, page XXVI, is given a plan or plat, No. 23, of a lot granted in 1637 to Richard Sherman's wife, at the corner of Winter & Tremont streets in Boston, and it is said that this corner was, later, owned by Capt. Edward Wyllis, was bought of his heirs by Col. Vetch, who sold it, in 1713, to Capt. Thomas Steel. (Sewall Papers 111-10.)

Whether this place was occupied by Thomas Steel as a residence, does not appear, but, according to his will, he was living in Hanover street at the time of his death, in 1735.

There appears in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register 15-306, a diary of Jeremiah Bumstead, of Boston, in which is the following: "1725, Dec. 11. On



Tuesday last arrived here, Capt. Steel, in 7 weeks from London, in whom came our agent, ye Honorable Elias Cooke esq." Whether this refers to Capt. Steel in person, or to a ship of that name, may not be quite clear. It may also be that it refers to another person, a Capt. John Steel, then living in Boston, who has been mistakenly supposed, by some authorities, to have been a son of Thomas, but was not so.

Thomas is, at times, mentioned by the title of Captain, but I have not been able to learn the origin of the title, or whether it was military or maritime. He is usually spoken of as Thomas Steel, esq.

From 1728 until his death, he was President of the Scots' Charitable Society in New England. (Drake, History and Antiquities of Boston, 455.) He was a member of the Church in Brattle Square, the earliest of the Congregational churches in Boston, where religious affairs were then largely dominated by the Mathers and others of the strictest Presbyterian creed. Violent controversies raged over this, first of the liberal orthodox churches, but the ability and moderation of its founders, and especially of its first pastor, the Rev. Benjamin Coleman, won a complete and early success; and Mr. Coleman, before his death, was even elected to the Presidency of Harvard College, though the opposition succeeded in preventing his confirmation.

Thomas Steel joined this church in 1711, and was made a member of the governing committee and so remained.

The baptisms of his children are recorded in the church records and the marriages of some of them.

From the above reference to the Church of Scotland, it would seem that the family, there, were Presbyterians. The only other reference to the family in Scotland, is found in the will of Thomas, which directs his executors to remit twelve pounds, sterling, to his nephew, James Clealand of Glasgow, to be divided among the children of his two deceased sisters, Margaret and Jannet. From this, apparently, one sister had been married to a Clealand. The married name of the other is not known, but a possible clue to this is found in the statement, in the N. E. Reg. 51-491, that

Col. Andrew Todd, born in Ireland, came to New Hampshire in 1720 and was married to Beatrix Moore, and that their daughter Mary, born July 31, 1728, married Thomas Morrison, born May 15, 1724, "son of James and Janet (Steel) Morrison." This Thomas Morrison would have been eleven years old at the death of Thomas Steel, and may have been one of the Glasgow nephews, and his descendents may be numbered among the numerous Scotch-Irish Morrisons of New Hampshire.

I have not been able, as yet, to gain any further record proofs as to the origin of the family. It was believed by our father, Samuel Steel, that they were of English ancestry. It is said in Durrie's Steele Families, that some have supposed Thomas of Boston to have been a brother of John and George Steele, eminent among the founders of Hartford, Conn., but this could not have been possible, as Thomas must have been some fifty years younger than they. I have found no evidence of relationship.

Some of the authorities are also in error as to the relationship between Thomas Steel and the Capt. John Steel above mentioned. This Capt. John is said by Americana Heraldica, and The Heraldic Journal, in (Vol. 2, Page 20) to have been the son of Thomas. The statement is made in discussing the tombstone bearing the Steel arms, and inscribed Capt. John Steel, found in the northeast corner of the King's Chapel burial ground in Boston. It is supposed to have belonged to the Capt. John Steel who died in 1768, and it is said he was undoubtedly the son of Thomas.

The John who died in 1768, however, was not a son of Thomas. Thomas had a son, John, born Nov. 24, 1720. He would have been, at the death of Capt. John, 1768, only forty-eight years old, which would not agree with Capt. John's description of himself in his will, which says he was "far advanced in years." Again, "Capt. John Steel" appears in the list of subscribers to Prince's Chronology in, or before, 1736, when John, son of Thomas, was only sixteen years old. The will of Capt. John also speaks of his only surviving child, Mary, as married to Royal Tyler. This marriage, as shown by Boston records, took place in 1747, when

John, the son of Thomas, would have been only twenty-seven years old, and could not have had a marriageable daughter.

This Capt. John Steel is said to have been a merchant, and Capt. of the North Battery. Whether the tomb in King's Chapel belonged to him, or whether he was any relation of Thomas, I have not been able to determine. If Thomas, or any of his family bore or claimed the Steel arms, I have not found, thus far, any reliable record of the fact. If it should so appear, it might assist in tracing the ancestry of the family, as coats of arms were then a valued family distinction.

That Thomas held a high social position, there is no doubt, as his usual title of esquire, at that time, indicated. It is also of record, that his son Thomas, who was a Harvard graduate, was fourth in social rank, or "family dignity," of all the members of his class, the son of Chief Justice Oliver being first.

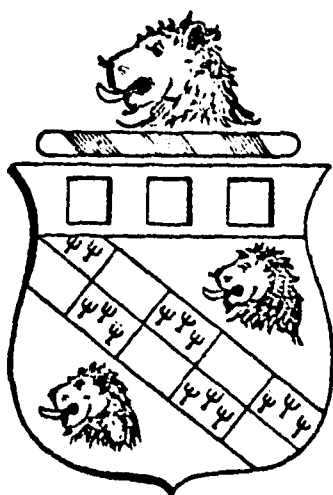
It seems that up to about 1772, the Harvard graduates were listed, not in alphabetical order, but in the order of "family dignity" or rank; the sons of Royal Governors and King's Counselors coming first, then sons of ministers and magistrates, &c. As Thomas Steel, esq., was only a private citizen, so far as appears, his family must, probably, have been esteemed such as to justify the high rank of his son in the class. The old distinctions of rank have been so long done away with, in this country, that they seem strange to us, but they were then very real, and very much in evidence. This same coat of arms, known as the Steele arms, is still claimed by a Steel family of Scotland, whose head is now James Strang Steel, esq., of Selkirk. He, however, traces his ancestry back only about to the time of Thomas Steel, and no relationship appears.

The same arms are also borne by several Steele families of the north of Ireland, and were the arms of a Dr. Thomas Steel, who was a surgeon in the British army in our Revolutionary war, but remained in this country and died in New Jersey in 1813. (Amer. His. Reg., 2-820.) I give a description of the arms, though making no claim that they belonged to our ancestor.

Blazoning: Argent, a bend, checquy sable and ermine, between two lions' heads erased, gules. In a chief, azure, three billets or; crest, a lion's head erased, gules.

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## COAT OF ARMS.



As bearing upon the family ancestry, I find, in a volume of "Reminiscences of Saratoga," a biographical sketch of Dr. John Honeywood Steele, our great uncle, who was a noted physician and scientist of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and died in 1838, in which it is stated that he claimed descent from the Cheshire family of prominence among the Independents in the civil war in England, some of whose members held high offices under the Commonwealth, both in England and Ireland. William Steel, claimed by Dr. Steel as our ancestor, was an eminent lawyer, having been one of the four counsel for the Commonwealth on the trial of King Charles I., but not present at the trial on account of sickness. He was, afterwards, Recorder of London, Chief Baron of the Exchequer and Lord Chancellor of Ireland. On the death of Oliver Cromwell, he returned to England, by which, as one writer says, "the affairs of Ireland suffered much, he being generally esteemed to be a man of great prudence and uncorrupted integrity." After the dispersion of the long parliament, he was named as a member of the Council of

Safety, but he declined to act, advising that the government be left to parliament. On the restoration of Charles II., he retired to Holland, but was allowed to return and reside in England, where he died in 1680. In religion he was a firm Independent or Congregationalist. He was president of the London Society for Propagating the Gospel in New England, under whose auspices John Elliott, the apostle to the Indians, carried on his work. Interesting correspondence between him and Elliott is published in Vol. 36, of the New England Register.

It is stated in the "History of Saratoga County," 1878, and in another "History of Saratoga County," 1899, that Dr. John H. Steel was a lineal descendent of William Steel, the Lord Chancellor. There is no doubt that Dr. Steele believed this to be the fact, but I have not been able to fully verify it by any record. A partial pedigree of the Cheshire family is given in Aitkins' Life of Sir Richard Steele, the essayist, who has been thought, by some, to have been a grandson of the Lord Chancellor, as our Thomas Steel perhaps was.

Sir Richard Steel is said to have been very reticent as to his ancestors, only declaring that they were gentlemen. It should be remembered that, in his time, so soon after the fall of the Commonwealth, when Cromwell and all his works were held in deepest execration by the governing authorities, it would not have been a thing to boast of or widely publish, that one's ancestors had been among his chief supporters; and this would have been especially true of Sir Richard Steel, who was a constant seeker after court favor. His father died in Ireland while he was quite young. His mother is said to have been an Irish lady of distinction, named Gascoine. The Cheshire family was quite numerous in the time of the Commonwealth, and descended from Thomas Steel of Weston, Cheshire, whose son, Richard, of Sandbach, Cheshire, was the father of William, the Lord Chancellor. Another son, Thomas, was Governor of Beeston Castle, and is said to have been shot in 1643, for surrendering the fortress to the King's forces. A third son, George, left a numerous family, some of whom settled in Ireland. Accord-

ing to the pedigree given by Aitkins, William left three sons: Richard, by his first wife, Elizabeth Godfrey, of Kent, Eng.; and William and Benjamin, by his second wife, Mary (Melish) Harvey. Of these sons, Benjamin died in England, 1705, leaving but one child, a daughter. Richard was "living in 1707." Of William, Jr., there is no further account. If our family is of this line, it must have been through either Richard, born about 1639. or William, Jr., the date of whose birth is not known, but was after 1640. As our ancestor, Thomas Steel, was born in 1664, in Scotland, it might be that Richard, or possibly William, Jr., married and settled at Glasgow, prior to that date.

The will of William Steel, senior, 1680, states that Richard had "already received," the share of the estate intended for him. It also gives the homestead to his surviving widow, and makes her sole executrix; all of which indicated that Richard, the eldest son, was settled elsewhere. One authority says that Richard settled in Ireland; and if so, it was, no doubt, near Dublin, where his father lived many years as Lord Chancellor. Dublin and Glasgow are on opposite sides of the channel, and there was much migration between the two places. One instance of such intercourse, was James, the father of Thomas Morrison, above mentioned, as probably nephew of our Thomas Steel. James was known in New Hampshire as "Charter James," being one of the first settlers. He is said to have been born in the north of Ireland, of Scotch parents, and to have removed to Glasgow and married, for his first wife, Jane Steel, and his second wife, Janet Steel. It is probable enough that Richard Steel, or William, Jr., may have gone from Dublin to Glasgow and married and settled there, before the birth of our Thomas in 1664. If, however, Dr. John H. Steel had proof that such was the fact, I have not found the proof, and can only say that, so far as the record goes, our great, great, great grandfather, Thomas Steel, esq., was a Scotchman. His father certainly lived in Scotland, and his mother was, probably, Scotch, judging by the names given the two daughters.

On July 2nd, 1708, Thomas Steel, Esq., was married, in Boston, by Rev. Sam. Miles (Presbyterian), to Jane Allen. The name is spelled Alline in the Report of Record Commissioners, but probably that is an error, as one of their sons was named Allen Steel, and early records often spell the name different ways. Her ancestry, I have not been able to trace.\* The records of the Church in Brattle Square show that Thomas Steel was admitted to the church June 3rd, 1711, and was afterward elected a member of the church committee and so continued. These records also show the baptisms of his children. The last child, John, was born in 1720, and the mother died in 1723, as appears from an entry in Rev. Wm. Cooper's diary, given in N. E. Reg., Vol. 30, page 436, as follows: "1723, Jany. 30. At Madam Steel's funeral." The Heraldic Journal also says Mr. Coleman preached her funeral sermon at that date, and that she died at the age of forty-two years.

The public record also shows that Thomas Steel, Esq., re-married in Boston, May 19, 1724, Margaret Nelson, Mr. Sam. Miles (Pres.) officiating. This Margaret Nelson (his second wife) was a daughter of that John Nelson who was prominent in Colonial affairs about the end of the 17th century, and who commanded the troops which took the usurping Gov. Andros prisoner. The will of Thomas Steel fully settles the question of her parentage. It is also stated in the Memorial History of Boston, 2-541, that this John Nelson's daughter married Capt. Thomas Steel.

Thomas Steel died in Boston Jan. 8, 1735-36, aged 71 years. The date Jan. 8, is given in the Heraldic Journal, which says the funeral discourse by Mr. Coleman was "dedicated to the widow," which would imply that it was published, but I have not been able to find a copy. The Journal gives the first wife's name as Mary, which is an error, her name being Jane.

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\*Although the evidence is lacking, I am of the opinion that Jane Allen was a daughter of Gov. Samuel Allen of New Hampshire, who died in 1705, and whose widow, Elizabeth, was living in Charlestown, Mass., in 1708, probably with her two unmarried daughters, mentioned by Savage, who says it was not known to him whom they married.

Another curious error in relation to Thomas Steel appears on page 10, Vol. 2, of the Heraldic Journal. In describing the coat of arms known as the Eells' arms, viz.: "three eels across the field, crest, a visor or head piece of armor, closed;" it is said that this seal "appears on the will of Thomas Steel." This seemed so improbable, that an examination was recently made of the original will, which is still preserved in the files in the Probate court of Suffolk county. It was found that no device or coat of arms appears upon the will, and no seal except the usual one following the signature of the testator, which seal consists of a small square or lozenge of paper fastened to the will by some adhesive substance, and bearing no markings or device whatever, so far as can be discerned. The same is true of the will of the above named Capt. John Steel.

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## THE WILL OF THOMAS STEEL.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN, THIS FIFTH Day of January, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, I, Thomas Steel, of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, in New England Esqr., being advanced in years and in a weak and Low Condition, Do make this my Last Will & Testament, as follows, viz.:

First & Principally, I commit my Soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator, hoping in his mercy thro' the Merits, Death & Passion & prevailing Intercession of Jesus Christ, my Lord & Savior, and my Body I desire may be decently interred, at ye discretion of my Executors hereafter named, in faith of the Resurrection of it at the Last Day. And as touching such Temporal Estate as God hath be-trusted Me with, (after my just Debts & funeral Charges are paid), I will & bequeath the Same as Follows: That is to say, IMPRIMIS: I give & bequeath unto my beloved Wife Margaret Steel, the Sum of One thousand five hundred Pounds, New England Currency. Including the Sum of Three hundred & fifty pounds left us by her Father, John Nelson,



Esqr., & his Wife by their Testament. I also give her my negro Man named Bass, during the term of her natural Life, and the use and Improvement of One half of my present Dwelling House & Land with the Appurces. during her Continuing my Widow, rent free if she shall incline so long to live therein, but not otherwise. ITEM: I give & devise to my Eldest Son Thomas Steel, all that, my Farm situate in Leicester, in the County of Worcester, containing, by estimation, five hundred acres more or less, with the Housing, Edifices, Buildings, fences, Stock & Utensils thereto belonging, in ye present Tenure & occupation of the Widow Gill & her Children. To HAVE AND TO HOLD the said farm & premises, with the Appurces. unto him, the said Thomas Steel, his Heirs, Executrs. Adminrs. and Assigns forever. ITEM: I give and Devise unto my Son Samuel Steel, all that, my Farm, Situate in Leicester aforesaid, on the South & West Sides of the Meeting House, in the present Tenure & Occupation of John Wassum, containing, by Estimation, two hundred & thirty-seven Acres, more or less, Together with the Housing, Fences, Stock, Utensils & Appurces. thereto belonging; and also another Tract of Land in the said Township of Leicester, containing, by Estimation, One hundred Acres more or less, lying on Chestnut Hill, so called. To HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Farm Lands & Premises, with the Appurtenances, unto him, the said Samuel Steel, his heirs, Executrs. Adminrs. & Assigns forever. ITEM: I give & devise unto my Son Allen Steel, my Bakehouse & Land in Hanover Street, in Boston, in the possession of Thomas Pearson, with the Warehouse Adjoyning North Easterly on the House & Land of Dr. Douglass; and also my Land & Garden behind the said Bakehouse and Warehouse. To HAVE & TO HOLD the said Bakehouse & Warehouse Lands & Premises, with the appurces, unto him, the said Allen Steel, his Heirs Adminrs. & Assigns forever. ITEM: I give & Devise unto my Son John Steel, my present Dwelling House, situate in Hanover Street, in Boston Aforesaid, with Land, Stable, fence & appurces. thereto belonging, fronting on the said Street, bounded Westerly on Land in possession of Mrs. Walker

and others, in the rear by Land of Samuel Waldo, on the Northeast by my Bakehouse in the said Pearson's possession. To HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Dwelling house, Land & Premes., with the Appurces. (reserving to my wife as above expressed, one half thereof during her widowhood), unto him, the said John Steel, his Heirs & Assigns forever. ITEM: I give to my Daughter Jane, (now wife of Mr. Joseph Dowse), the Sum of Nine hundred & fifty pounds, over & above the Sum of Five Hundred & eighty pounds wch. I have advanced to her, in Plate, Money & Goods, upon her marriage with said Dowse. ITEM: I give & bequeath to my Daughter Elizabeth Steel, the Sum of fifteen hundred pounds, this Currency to be disposed of as She pleaseth, the Money to be reserved by my Executrs. till she arrives to full age, or till the Day of her marriage which shall first happen. ITEM: I give to my Son Samuel Steel the Sum of Two Hundred pounds, New England Currency, to enable him to buy Stock & Servants to put upon the Farm, before given him. ITEM: I give and bequeath to my Son Allen Steel, the sum of Four hundred pounds, New England Currency. ITEM: I give and bequeath to Anna Lauchlan, Widow of Thomas Lauchlan deced. Twenty pounds, and to their two Sons Thomas Lauchlan & Samuel Lauchlan, Fifty pounds apiece, New England Currency. ITEM: I will & desire my Executors, hereafter named, to remit Twelve pounds Sterling, to my Nephew, Mr. James Clealand, Malster at Glasgow, to be by him divided Equally to & among the children of my two Sisters, Margaret & Jannet, both decd., which I give them as a Token of my love to them. ITEM: I Do hereby nominate, desire & appoint, my beloved Wife, Margaret Steel, my Son in Law, Joseph Dowse & Jane his Wife, my very good friends, Doctor William Douglass of Boston, & ye Revd. Mr. John Campbell, of Oxford, to be Executors of this, my Last Will & Testament, and Do hereby fully empower them, (or a Major part of them), to Sell all my Houses, Lands, Rights of Lands and Real Estate, lying within the Colony of Connecticut, in New England, and to pass & Execute a good Deed or Deeds in the law for the

Same; and I do also desire & Impower my said Executors to Sell my Merchandizes, Effects & Interest in Vessells, to the most Advantage & to Collect & gather in my Debts, as Soon as may be, and to Improve my Children's portions of my Personal Estate, during their minority, at Interest upon good security;—and I Do hereby give to Each of my executors, the Sum of Twenty pounds, New England Currency. Lastly I Give, devise & bequeath all the Residue & Remainder of my Estate unto my Six children, before named, to be divided between them in manner following, viz.: Two seventh portion, a Double portion thereof, unto my eldest Son Thomas Steel, and to Each of my other children, a Single Share or one seventh part thereof. To HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, to them their Several & respective Heirs, Execrs. Adminrs. & Assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I, the said Thomas Steel, have hereunto set my hand & seal, the Day & Year first herein before written, Thos. Steel (& a Seal). Signed, Sealed & Delivd. in presence of us, by the said Thomas Steel, & by him declared to be his Last Will & Testament,

JOHN TYNG.

JOSEPH LLOYD.

SAML TYLEY.

Exmd.

JOHN BOYDELL.

Reg.

Suffolk ss—By the Honble. Josiah Willard Esqr. Judge of Probate &c. The within written Will, being presented for probate by the Executors therein named, John Tyng, Joseph Lloyd & Samuel Tyley made Oath that they Saw Thomas Steel Esqr, the Subscriber to this Instrument, Sign & Seal & heard him publish & declare the same to be his Last Will & Testament, and that, when he so did, he was of sound, disposing mind & memory, according to these deponents best discerning, and that they set their hands as Witnesses thereof, in the said testators presence.

Boston, January 19th, 1735.

J. WILLARD.

Attest.

JOHN BOYDELL, Reg.

## CHILDREN OF THOMAS<sup>1</sup> AND JANE (ALLEN) STEEL.

1. JANE,<sup>2</sup> born Apr. 20th, 1709, baptized Apr. 24. Married in King's Chapel, Dec. 14th, 1734, to Joseph Dowse. Her children were MARGARET, KATHERINE and JONATHAN.
2. (II.) THOMAS,<sup>2</sup> born May 4th, 1711, baptized May 6th. (He was our ancestor. His history, &c, appears later herein.)
3. SAMUEL,<sup>2</sup> born Jany. 5th, 1713, baptized Jany. 11th. Some uncertainty has arisen in regard to this *Samuel*.<sup>2</sup> There seems to be no further record of him in Boston, except in his father's will, from which it would seem he was a farmer and settled in Leicester, as he is given £200 by a special bequest, with which to "buy stock & servants to put upon the farm."  
 Durrie, in his "Steel Families," surmised that he might be our progenitor, who married a Pemberton. But I find undoubted proof that it was his brother *Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> above named, who married Mary Pemberton, (Mrs. Cushing), and was our ancestor. This will appear in the account of *Thomas* immediately following.  
 There is reason to believe that this *Samuel*<sup>2</sup> is the same who settled in Hardwick, Worcester Co., Mass., in that part later incorporated as New Braintree, and near Leicester. Paige's "History of Hardwick," 506, gives his wife's name as Margaret, and his children, DAVID, baptized Nov. 13, 1745; THOMAS, same date; WILLIAM, baptized Oct. 7, 1750; AARON, baptized Feb. 6, 1753. Paige also says that a Samuel Steel of Hardwick, was a corporal in Capt. Mundell's Company, on the expedition to Crown Point, in 1756. The son Aaron may be the same who served in the Continental army from Mass. in the Revolutionary War.
4. DAVID,<sup>2</sup> born May 16th, 1714, baptized May 16, age one week. (So in record.) No further account is found

of him; but from the fact that he is not mentioned in his father's will, it is believed he died before his father.

5. ELIZABETH,<sup>2</sup> born July 17, 1716, baptized July 22. No further account is found except in her father's will, where she is given £1500 and a share in the residue.
6. ALLEN,<sup>2</sup> born April 3rd, 1719, baptized Apr. 5th, age one week. Married Nov. 17, 1741, to Deborah Myrick. A will of Allen Steel appears of record 1748; and, among "Intentions of Marriage," 1749, appear the names of Deborah Steel and Isaac King.
7. JOHN,<sup>2</sup> born Nov. 24, 1720, baptized Nov. 27th, one week. Given the homestead in his father's will. The name appears later as a well-known merchant and Selectman in Boston, but as there was another of the same name, then living there, he has not been fully identified. It is believed he is the same who, on May 23, 1745, was married to Mary Sunderland in Boston.

II. THOMAS,<sup>2</sup> STEELE (*Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), born in Boston, May 4, 1711. Married, Aug. 22d, 1736, to Mrs. Mary (Pemberton) Cushing, by Rev. Benj. Coleman, D.D. Concerning this marriage, several errors have crept into the family record. In Durrie's "Steel Families" it is said that *Thos. Steel*<sup>2</sup> married "Mary Cushing," and it so appears in the Report of Record Comms. of Boston. But in the record of the church in Brattle Square, page 244, the name appears as *Mrs. Mary Cushing*. Durrie is further misled by the bride's name, to suppose that it was some unidentified member of the Steel family, —(he thinks, possibly, *Samuel*<sup>2</sup> brother of *Thomas*<sup>2</sup>), who married "a daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton" and was the head of our branch of the family, as given by him. The minister intended to be referred to, is Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton, 3rd pastor of the Old South Church. It seems that it was not his daughter, but his niece,

Mary Pemberton, who is our ancestress, and she was married first, Oct. 23, 1729, to Nathaniel Cushing, a son of Judge John Cushing of Scituate. Nathaniel, who was a graduate of Harvard College, died one month after the marriage, and the widow married *Thomas Steel*,<sup>2</sup> as above stated. Mary Pemberton was born Aug. 10th, 1707, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Dixie) Pemberton. Her father was elder brother of the Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton, and son of James and Sarah (Marshall) Pemberton, of Boston. Her mother was probably granddaughter of Thomas Dixie, who came over in 1637.

James Pemberton was one of the founders of the Old South Church, and is said to have come from England with Winthrop, when only 8 years of age, in 1630. Sarah Marshall was a daughter of Thomas and Alice Marshall. The Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton also had a daughter Mary, but she married Hugh Vans. His only other daughter was Jane, who died young. The similarity in name may be responsible for the statement that our ancestor married a daughter of the minister. The above facts are fully shown by the Report of Record Commissioners, the Cushing Family genealogy, and N. E. Hist. & Gen. Register, 46-393, "Pemberton Family" by Walter K. Watkins.

A record of interest appearing in the above reports is that of "Intention of marriage" Aug. 14th, 1732, by Thomas Steel and Elizabeth Morey. For some reason, apparently, the marriage did not take place. Four years afterwards, *Thomas*<sup>2</sup> was married to Mrs. Mary Pemberton Cushing, as above. *Thomas*<sup>2</sup> was graduated A. B. at Harvard College in 1730, and received his degree of A. M. in 1734. He removed to Leicester, Worcester Co., Mass., and engaged in the business of merchant. He was town clerk and Selectman during a great

part of his residence there. He was a Representative to the Gen. Court of Massachusetts Bay Province, from 1752 to 1755. In 1756 he became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, of Worcester Co., and so continued until shortly before his death, in 1776, when the Court was superseded by the Revolutionary Committee. He seems to have been an able and careful official, and most useful in the Community.

Washburn, in his History of Leicester, says, "Everything we can gather relative to Judge Steel, leads us to believe that he was a man of high respectability of character, who possessed the confidence of his fellow citizens, through differing from them in his political sentiments."

He is said to have been a firm loyalist in his feelings and opinions, though not offensive in their expression, but standing, with his three associate judges, in favor of the existing government and laws. When, with his fellow judges, he had joined in a friendly address to the British authorities in Boston, at the beginning of the revolutionary troubles, he was the one to apologize therefor at the call of the Revolutionary Committee. If he had lived, he would, as Washburn has said, most likely have sided with his country, especially as two of his daughters were married to influential patriots; one of whom, Dr. John Honeywood, died in the Revolutionary Army at Ticonderoga.

According to Washburn, Judge Steele had a large property when he came to Leicester, but was not a good business manager and lost much of it before his death. He is said to have lived, first, at the place since owned by the Henshaw family, then in the large old house (which he built) at the foot of Meeting House Hill, corner of Flip Lane and the Great Road. At the time of his death, he was living in the Rawson house, on the Great Road, just

east of the Town Meadow Brook. He died of apoplexy, July 18th, 1776, his wife having died Jan. 28th, 1768. His daughter Mary died in Leicester in 1828, "the last of the family residing in that town."

The engraving in front of this book is from a photograph of the residence of Judge Steele in Leicester, since known as the Steele-Henshaw house. The front yard had been the site of the fort or block house for refuge from hostile Indians.

For the original photograph I am indebted to the kindness of John S. Sargent, of Chicago, Ill., who is of the Leicester family of that name, and whose great grandmother remembered being often taken into the fort at night, during the Indian troubles.

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## CHILDREN OF THOMAS<sup>2</sup> AND MARY (PEMBERTON-CUSHING) STEELE.

1. MARY,<sup>3</sup> born 1737, died soon.
2. THOMAS,<sup>3</sup> born 1738. He is, probably, the same who, according to Washburn's Leicester, page 213, was Surgeon's Mate in Gen. Ruggles' regiment, in the French war—1757. Concerning him the account in Durrie's Steele Families is, no doubt, erroneous.

He is, there, said to have married and lived in Salem, Mass., and had children, who removed to Salem, Washington Co., N. Y.; and the names are given for several generations. It seems, however, that the Salem family did not belong to our line.

Washburn's Leicester, page 180, says that our Thomas<sup>3</sup> died in 1768, unmarried. The Vital Records of Leicester, also show that Thomas Steele, son of Thomas and Mary, died Aug. 10th, 1767.

In further looking up this question, I find it stated in Johnson's History of Washington Co., N. Y., page 190, that the family given by Durrie as belonging to



our *Thomas*,<sup>3</sup> were descendents of a Thomas Steel who came from Ireland, before the Revolutionary War, and settled in Salem, N. Y.

3. ELIZABETH,<sup>3</sup> born Nov. 2, 1740; m. 1761, Dr. John Honeywood, an English physician of high rank and reputation. He became a surgeon in the Continental army, and died, at Ticonderoga, in 1776.

Their children were:

ST. JOHN, b. Feb. 7, 1763; graduate of Yale College, teacher, attorney at law, writer and poet of some note, lived in Salem, N. Y. Died Sept. 1st, 1798, aged 35. He was married but left no child surviving him.

MARY, b. 1766; m. Nathaniel Lyon.

ELIZABETH, b. 1769; m. Samuel Allen, Esq., treasurer of Worcester Co.

HENRY, b. 1771.

The mother, *Elizabeth*,<sup>3</sup> died while the children were quite young. St. John Honeywood, although he died at the age of 35, had already exhibited talents which, had his life been prolonged, would, perhaps, have won for him high rank, both in politics and literature. He worked his way through college, being left an orphan, without means, at an early age. He was an esteemed pupil and friend of Dr. Stiles, then President of Yale, in whose family he lived for a time. He taught school, read law, and practiced at Salem, N. Y. He was one of the presidential electors at the election of John Adams, and held the offices of Master in Chancery, and clerk of the county. His name is included in a list of the promising younger poets of the time, by William Cullen Bryant. A small volume containing his poems, was published after his death, in 1801. I have a copy of the book.

It shows a constructive and lyrical ability which should have won general recognition, if he had lived. It was published by subscription, and, among the sub-

scribers, appear the names of many public men of the time, and curiously, among the rest, those of Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton.

4. MARY,<sup>3</sup> b. Nov. 26, 1741; died at Leicester, in 1828.
5. JANE,<sup>3</sup> b. Jan. 17, 1741; no further record appears.
6. MARGARET,<sup>3</sup> b. April 24, 1745; married, about 1776, Dr. Edward Rawson, of Leicester.

Children:

MARY, b. 1779.

BENJAMIN PEMBERTON, b. 1781. Removed to Hudson, N. Y.

MARGARET S., b. 1784; died soon.

The mother, *Margaret*,<sup>3</sup> died 1784; the father, 1786.

7. SARAH,<sup>3</sup> b. Oct. 17, 1746; married Caleb Hitchcock of West Brookfield, Aug. 21, 1782.
8. (III.) SAMUEL,<sup>3</sup> b. June 24, 1749. He was our ancestor. His history is given below.
9. ANN,<sup>3</sup> b. April 22, 1751; married, 1772, Hon. Joseph Allen of Leicester; died May 10, 1775. One child, THOMAS, died soon.

III. SAMUEL,<sup>3</sup> STEELE, (*Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), eighth child of Judge Thomas Steele; born at Leicester, June 24th, 1749; married, in Leicester, June 30th, 1775, Mrs. Anna (Garfield) Sargent, widow of Nathaniel Sargent, deceased, of Leicester, and daughter of Samuel and Mary (Bowman) Garfield of Watertown, Mass., and later of Leicester, and, perhaps, in that part set off and incorporated as Spencer.

She was born at Watertown, Mass., Nov. 5, 1735, and baptized Nov. 9, 1735. She married, first, Nathaniel Sargent, Sept. 2, 1753, and, by him, had six children. He died between 1770 and 1775. She was a descendent of Edward Garfield of Watertown, Mass., 1635. The line of descent, as shown in Bond's Watertown, is as follows:

*Edward*<sup>1</sup> *Garfield*; *Edward*<sup>2</sup> of Watertown, 1635; wife, Rebecca; *Capt. Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> whose 1st wife was Mehitable Hawkins; 2nd wife, Elizabeth Bridge, daughter of Mathew and Anna (Danforth) Bridge, and granddaughter of John Bridge of Cambridge, Mass., and of Nicholas Danforth, of a noted English family. *Samuel*<sup>4</sup> *Garfield*, son of *Benjamin*<sup>3</sup> and Elizabeth, born Sept. 3, 1690; married Mary Bowman about 1714. *Anna*,<sup>5</sup> born Nov. 5, 1735; baptized Nov. 9, 1735. The researches of Senator Hoar and Rev. Mr. Porter, made to fix the pedigree of President Garfield, who was a descendent of *Edward* and *Capt. Benjamin*, are said to have proven that there was but one Edward Garfield of Watertown, instead of two (father and son) as given by Bond, which would make Anna, 4th in descent. It appears from Worcester records that Samuel Garfield was Selectman in 1745, and that three brothers of Anna, named *Benjamin*, *Samuel* and *Nathaniel* were married there in 1750-2. Mary (Bowman) Garfield, mother of Anna, was probably a descendent, in the 4th generation, of Nathaniel Bowman of Watertown, Mass., who came from England, probably with Winthrop, in 1630. "Anna Sargent (widow) was married to Samuel Steele in Leicester, June 30, 1775," as shown by the public records.

After their marriage they lived in the town of Sutton, Worcester Co., Mass., where their three children were born. Their son, Dr. John H. Steele, who was born in 1780, and who left home at an early age, relates that their home was distant from neighbors, and they were often annoyed by troublesome, though not hostile, Indians, and that, one day, his mother, who was making soap, became so annoyed that she drove them away with a dipper of hot soap—a glimpse of the troubles of pioneer life in those times.

Later, the family moved to Vermont, settling in or near Brandon, Rutland Co. The date of removal to Vt. is not known, but was about 1799, as a deed to Benjamin Steel, of Brandon, of date Nov. 1, 1799, is of record.

SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> died in Pittsford (or Brandon) in 1816, and his wife, Anna, died, 1808.

Their children were:

1. BENJAMIN,<sup>4</sup> born 1776, Sutton, Mass. Married 1804, Polly Ray, of Wilmington. Vt. Died 1838 at Hubbardton, Vt. An account of his descendants, to some extent, as well as those of his brother, Dr. John H. Steele, may be found in Durrie's Steele Families, page 94 and following.

The memorandum, however, of Benjamin's children, on page 156 of that work, is an error. Those there named as his children, were the children of his brother Samuel, as correctly given on page 94, of the same work.

2. (IV.) SAMUEL,<sup>4</sup> born 1778, Sutton, Mass. (our grandfather, subsequent history below).
3. JOHN HONEYWOOD,<sup>4</sup> born 1780, Sutton, Mass. Married Dec. 23, 1817, Mary Taylor; died 1838. He was an able and widely known physician, scientist and public man of Saratoga Springs, N. Y. A biographical sketch of his life may be found in a volume entitled Reminiscences of Saratoga, Wm. L. Stone, 1875.

Also in Histories of Saratoga County, 1878 and 1899. He was president of the New York State Medical Society, Surgeon of the 4th regiment of cavalry in 1812, and Assistant Surgeon in the U. S. Navy, and was present at the siege of Algiers. He was a prominent Mason, was a member of the Albany Lyceum of Natural History and of many Scientific and Historical Societies in this country and Europe.

He avoided politics, but was once postmaster, and judge of county court. He published several scientific

works, and was widely known as the "model physician." The citizens of Saratoga Springs, at his death, held a public meeting in his honor, and erected a stone to his memory. Our father, Samuel Steele, nephew of Dr. Steele, visited him at Saratoga Springs about 1830, and often spoke of his great ability as a physician, and his wide popularity.

- IV. SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> STEELE, (*Samuel*,<sup>3</sup> *Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), born in Sutton, Worcester Co., Mass., 1778, married about 1803, Mercy Rice, daughter of Antipas and Thankful (Rider) Rice of Hardwick, Mass. (Mercy Rice's pedigree is given later herein.) They lived, first, on a farm in Sudbury, Vt., then in the town of Pittsford, where he died in 1837. She continued to reside in Pittsford until her death, Dec. 26th, 1867.

Their children were:

1. ANN,<sup>5</sup> born 1804; died Jany. 30, 1858, Pittsford, Vt.
2. SOLOMON,<sup>5</sup> born 1806; died about 1824, Pittsford, Vt.
3. HOMER,<sup>5</sup> born 1808; died June 25, 1878, Pittsford, Vt.
4. (V.) SAMUEL,<sup>5</sup> born Sept. 30, 1809. Married Sept. 22, 1833, at Madrid, N. Y., Olive Pierce. He died Dec. 31, 1885. She died Feb. 10, 1902, Whitewater, Wis. Their descendants are given, and her family pedigree, subsequently, herein.
5. ELIZA,<sup>5</sup> born 1811; died Feb. 6, 1883, at Pittsford, Vt.
6. TIMOTHY,<sup>5</sup> born 1814, Pittsford, Vt. Died 1893 at Island City, Oregon. (See subsequent page for his family.)
7. WARREN,<sup>5</sup> born 1816; died about 1860.

8. ANDREW,<sup>5</sup> born Mch., 1820. Was a substantial and respected farmer. Remained with his mother until her death. Also made a home for sisters, at Pittsford, Vt. Unmarried; died Dec. 24, 1896.
  9. POLLY,<sup>5</sup> born Oct., 1822; resides at Brandon, Vt.
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## THE FAMILY OF SAMUEL AND OLIVE (PIERCE) STEELE.

V. SAMUEL STEELE<sup>5</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Samuel,<sup>3</sup> Thomas,<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) of Koshkonong and Whitewater, Wis., the 5th in line of descent in this country from Thomas Steel, Esq. (*Capt. Thomas Steel*) of Boston, Mass., was born in the town of Pittsford, Rutland County, Vt., Sept. 30th, 1809. Reared on a farm among the hills, he received only the limited common school education then attainable, a lack which he always felt, and was anxious, as far as possible, to assist his children in providing against. He was a farmer, and continued to follow agricultural pursuits up to the last year of his life.

He was married Sept. 22, 1833, at Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., to Olive Pierce (8th in line of descent from Captain Michael Pierce of Scituate, Mass.), who was born Jany. 1st., 1816. Her ancestry is shown later herein. They first resided in Madrid, St. Lawrence County, New York, but removed about 1840 to the town of Chili, Monroe County, N. Y., six miles west of Rochester. Two years later, in July, 1842, they came to Wisconsin, accompanied by her parents, Benjamin and Clarissa Pierce. They traveled by railway to Buffalo, then the western limit of railroad construction, and from there by way of the lakes on one of the early steamships known as propellers. They landed at Racine, Wis., and came from there by ox team to South Koshkonong, Jefferson County, where they met with a hospitable welcome from an old New York neighbor, Hiram Hall, and others of his family who had then recently settled there.

He took up land on Sections 33 and 34 in Koshkonong,

where he built a log house, which was the early home of the family in Wisconsin. This house was about 40 rods west of the present highway and on a ridge just north of the spring pond, now dried up, which furnished soft water for the household use. He also took up 80 acres adjoining in the town of Lima.

This farm, wooded with burr oaks, he cleared up and improved, as well as doing considerable work for the neighbors. For some years he kept a breaking team of five or six yoke of oxen and did breaking for others; also a blacksmith shop, doing repair work for farming tools.

This was before the days of machinery or manufacturing, and most of the things needed on the farm or in the house, had to be made or repaired there. Clothing and bedding were made from wool, feathers and flax raised on the farm. Grandmother Clarissa Pierce and our mother, were skillful spinners and weavers, both of wool and flax. The flax was broken and heckled by grandfather Benj. Pierce, who was also a very good amateur cobbler and did the family shoemaking and gardening, as well as capturing and tending a large colony of wild bees.

About 1855, after the death of grandfather and grandmother, this farm was sold and father purchased, and removed to, the farm half a mile east, then known as the Henry or Brice Hall Farm, which was also on the county line, the house being in the town of Lima. Here he lived until 1868, but in the meantime, spent two or three years in California, hoping to better his fortunes, but with only moderate success. In 1868 he sold the farm to his son Charles and removed to a smaller place near the city of Whitewater, removing in 1871 to that city, where he resided until his death, December 31, 1885, from weakness of old age. His widow, Olive Steele, continued to live at their home on Highland Street, Whitewater, with their daughter, Anna B. Steele, until the mother's death, February 10th, 1902, also from old age. Father and mother are buried on the family lot in South Koshkonong cemetery, with her father and mother and our sister Mercy, who died in 1865. They had nine children, of whom seven are now living, in 1905.

## OBITUARY.

STEELE.

Feb. 10, 1902.

Mrs. Olive Steele, whose maiden name was Olive Pierce, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., January 1, 1816. Here she grew to womanhood, and in 1833 was married to Samuel Steele of Brandon, Vermont. For the bettering of their condition they came, later, in 1842, to Wisconsin, traveling by way of canals and lakes to Racine, from whence they came by ox team to Koshkonong, where Mr. Steele bought a farm and where she shared with him for many years the hard life of the pioneer, yet finding time always in the midst of her own arduous labors to give a sick neighbor the care that was needed; and there are those still living who will remember well her kindly ministrations. Here grew up the eight children who were born to Mr. and Mrs. Steele, all of whom have been more or less identified with the growth and interests of Whitewater, and all but one of whom are still living, the daughter, Mercy, having entered the better life in the year 1865, when but twenty-one years of age.

In the year 1868 Mr. Steele sold the home farm to his son Charles, who still owns it, and moved to a small farm about two miles from Whitewater. Here they remained but a few years, finally coming to Whitewater to the home on Highland Street, where they lived together until the year 1885, when Mr. Steele entered into rest. Since then Mrs. Steele has lived in this home with her youngest daughter, Anna, where, as the infirmities of years increased, she has been tenderly cared for until on the morning of February 10 release came early and painlessly, and she left those who love her here to join the many who love her there.

Mrs. Steele was of a happy, cheerful disposition, and kept an interest in all that was happening, not only in her own locality but in the great world itself. Until the last weeks of her life she read the papers and was always anxious for their coming, that she might know of the world's doings.



She was converted when a girl of sixteen and has been for nearly seventy years a faithful member of the Methodist church. Her religion was never obtrusive, but always positive and practical, and her great joy was the church and its services, where she was to be found as long as it was possible for her to get there. She will be missed by the church, as well as by the circle of neighbors and friends, some of whom are friends of a lifetime and who will remember always the kindly words and deeds which have made Grandma Steele so greatly beloved. Hands of sons and grandsons laid her gently to rest on the afternoon of February 12 by the side of husband, daughter and the father and mother who so long ago preceded her to the better land; and as long as they live children and grandchildren shall rise up and call her blessed.

“The change has come and mother sleeps—  
 Not sleeps; but wakes to greater deeps  
 Of wisdom, glory, truth and light,  
 Than ever blessed her seeking sight  
 In this low, long, lethargic night—  
     Worn out with strife  
     Which men call life.”

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#### CHILDREN OF SAMUEL<sup>s</sup> AND OLIVE (PIERCE) STEELE.

1. SOLOMON SPENCER, born June 13, 1834, Madrid, St. Lawrence County, N. Y.
2. SARAH L., born Feb. 1st, 1836, Madrid, N. Y.
3. CHARLES W., born July 6th, 1838, Madrid, N. Y.
4. GEORGE W., born Feb. 16th, 1841, Chili, Monroe County, N. Y.
5. MERCY R., born Feb. 15th, 1844, Koshkonong, Wis. Died Dec. 5th, 1865. Lima, Wis.
6. ANDREW J., born July 2nd, 1846, Koshkonong, Wis.
7. A son, born March 18th, 1848. Died the same day.

8. ANNA B., born Feb. 7th, 1850, Koshkonong, Wis.
9. FRANK PIERCE, born Aug. 25th, 1852, Koshkonong, Wis.

I. S. SPENCER STEELE<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>3</sup> *Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), born June 13th, 1834, at Madrid, N. Y. Teacher; M. E. minister, retired; architect and builder. Resides at Whitewater, Wis. Married Aug. 25th, 1862, Emma A. Ranney, born May 13th, 1838, daughter of Daniel and Fidelia H. (Sawyer) Ranney.

Children:

1. CLARA JESTINA,<sup>7</sup> born July 6th, 1864; resides, Whitewater, Wis.
  2. ATLEY GEORGE,<sup>7</sup> born July 23rd, 1866. Died Feb. 4th, 1869.
  3. EVERETT RANNEY,<sup>7</sup> born June 23rd, 1868. Painter and Decorator. Resides, Whitewater, Wis.
  4. NELLIE BRIDGE,<sup>7</sup> born December 3rd, 1871. Married Sept. 12th, 1897, James W. Bower. Resides, Chicago, Ill.
  5. OLIVE HAMILTON,<sup>7</sup> born Nov. 27, 1880. Resides Whitewater, Wis.
- II. SARAH L. STEELE<sup>6</sup>-HAMILTON (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>3</sup> *Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 1st, 1836, Madrid, N. Y. Married at Lima, Wis., Mar. 5, 1856, Oscar T. Hamilton, born May 4, 1830, son of Thomas and Sarah (Armstrong) Hamilton of Groton, N. Y. He was a farmer and teacher and a justice of the peace of Whitewater, Wis. He died Nov. 19, 1900. They had four children, all born at Whitewater, Wis.

Children:

1. ELLA AUGUSTA,<sup>7</sup> born Jan. 20, 1857. Graduate of State Normal School, Whitewater, Wis. Teacher. Librarian of Whitewater Public Library.

2. JESSIE BELLE,<sup>7</sup> born July 3, 1863. Died Aug 20, 1864.
3. THOMAS SAMUEL,<sup>7</sup> born April 4, 1867. Died May 12, 1870.
4. HERBERT OSCAR,<sup>7</sup> born April 14, 1872. Attorney at law, Whitewater, Wis. District Attorney, Walworth Co., 1898-9. Married Oct. 6, 1897, Mary Lottie Wheeler of Whitewater, born May 4, 1873, daughter of Isaac U. and Sarah (Vincent) Wheeler.

Their children are:

LAURA, born July 8, 1898.

HERBERT OSCAR, born Aug. 26, 1899.

- III. CHARLES W. STEELE<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>5</sup> Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Samuel,<sup>3</sup> Thomas,<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>1</sup>*), born July 6, 1838, Madrid, N. Y. Farmer and merchant, retired. Served through war, 1861 to 1865. Capt. Co. A. 4th Wis. Cav., Past Com. Curtice Post, G. A. R., and Past Jr. V. C. Dept., Wis. Resides, Whitewater, Wis. Married, first, Nov. 18, 1868, Jane A. Shove, of Waukau, Wis., daughter of Francis and Mary (Hallows) Shove, born Jany. 2, 1847. Died Sept. 19, 1886. He married, second, Sept. 6th, 1898, Katherine Muck, born April 4, 1865, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Muck of Jefferson, Wis.

Children by first wife; born, Lima, Wis.:

1. JESSIE EDNA,<sup>7</sup> born Nov. 2, 1869. Married Oct. 29, 1894, to Herman Thayer, son of E. F. and Emma (Saxe) Thayer, of Whitewater, Wis. He died Nov. 9, 1900. She resides, Whitewater, Wis. Kindergarten teacher. Graduate.
  2. MORRIS SHOVE,<sup>7</sup> born Mch. 29, 1872. Merchant. Resides, Berwyn, Ill.
  3. CHARLES WILMER,<sup>7</sup> born May 12, 1876; died soon.
- IV. GEORGE W. STEELE<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>5</sup> Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Samuel,<sup>3</sup> Thomas,<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>1</sup>*), born at Chili, Monroe Co.,

N. Y., Feb. 16, 1841. Attorney at Law, U. S. Circuit Court Commissioner. Mayor, city of Whitewater, 1891-2. Served through war, 1861 to 1865. Capt. Co. K., 13 Wis. Inf. Author of *Deirdre*, a volume of poems. Member G. A. R. Married at Iowa Falls, Ia., Nov. 19, 1873, Mrs. Lorissa (Curtis) Folsom, born Dec. 31, 1843, at Hannibal, Oswego Co., N. Y., daughter of William and Mary (Sperry) Curtis. One child: Archer Benjamin,<sup>7</sup> born at Whitewater, Wis., July 15, 1877. Died Aug. 15, 1878.

V. MERCY RICE STEELE<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>3</sup> *Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), born at Koshkonong, Wis., Feb. 15, 1844. Died Dec. 5, 1865. Of blessed memory.

VI. ANDREW J. STEELE<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> *Samuel*,<sup>3</sup> *Thomas*,<sup>2</sup> *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), born at Koshkonong, Wis., July 2, 1846. Graduate of State Normal School, Whitewater, Wis. President of LeMoyne Normal School, Memphis, Tenn. Served in war, 1864-5, Co. L., 8 Ill. Cav. Member, G. A. R. Adjutant Genl. Dept. of Tennessee. Married, first, Amelia J. Crandall, of Milton, Wis., born June 3, 1848. Separation decreed by Second Circuit Court, Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 3, 1899, for insanity of wife, existing prior to marriage. He married, second, Alice E. Harvey of Paw Paw, Mich., June 20, 1899. She was born Dec. 17, 1859, County Barry, Mich.

Children by first wife:

1. JESSIE A.,<sup>7</sup> born, Memphis, Tenn., Apr. 27, 1874. Died June 13, 1874.
2. HOWARD A.,<sup>7</sup> born, Whitewater, Wis., Aug. 9, 1876. In business at Seattle, Wash.

Children by second wife:

3. ARTHUR HARVEY.<sup>7</sup> born, Memphis, Tenn., June 20, 1900.

4. ELEANOR ALICE,<sup>7</sup> born, Bay View, Mich., July 24, 1902.

VII. ANNA B. STEELE,<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>5</sup> Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Samuel,<sup>3</sup> Thomas,<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>1</sup>*), born, Koshkonong, Wis., Feb. 7, 1850. Resides, Whitewater, Wis.

VIII. FRANK PIERCE STEELE<sup>6</sup> (*Samuel,<sup>5</sup> Samuel,<sup>4</sup> Samuel,<sup>3</sup> Thomas,<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>1</sup>*), born, Koshkonong, Wis., Aug. 25, 1852. Photographic artist, retired. Resides, Whitewater, Wis. Married Apr. 19, 1878, Alma O. Masters, born June 24, 1859, Waterloo, Wis., daughter of Eschuylus and Sarah T. (Fitz) Masters.

#### Children:

1. MABEL HAMILTON,<sup>7</sup> born Calumet, Mich., Aug. 24, 1881; married Nov. 22, 1899, to Joseph Miller of Chicago, Ill.; now of Whitewater, Wis.

2. GEORGE WARREN,<sup>7</sup> born Blue Hill, Neb., Sept. 23, 1884. Died Whitewater, Wis., Sept. 8, 1902.

3. LOIS FITZ,<sup>7</sup> born Blue Hill, Neb., Oct. 16, 1885. Died Jany. 4, 1902.

4. PRINCE ALBERT,<sup>7</sup> born Blue Hill, Neb., Dec. 6, 1888.

5. EUGENE,<sup>7</sup> born Apr. 23, 1892.

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## THE FAMILY OF TIMOTHY STEELE OF KOSHKONONG, WIS.

He was born in Pittsford, Vt., about 1814. Came west about 1841, first to Mich., where he was married, about 1842, to Arabella Locke. They removed to Wis. about 1845, settling on a farm some four miles south of Ft. Atkinson, one-half mile east of the River Road. Later, he removed to Ft. Atkinson, where he resided until a few years before his death, when he went to join his children in Oregon. He died at Island City, Oregon, 1893. Wife died at Ft. Atkinson, Wis., 1875.

## Children:

1. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> born Apr. 30, 1843. Died May 3rd, 1848.
  2. HATTIE MARIA,<sup>6</sup> born in the town of Koshkonong, Wis., Oct 26, 1845. She married Mch. 17, 1870, George Henry Pounder, of Ft. Atkinson, Wis., mechanic and manufacturer. They resided at Ft. Atkinson. She died Aug. 16, 1873, leaving two children, Hattie Belle Pounder, born Jany. 29, 1871; George Pounder, born June 25, 1873. Died Aug. 23, 1873. Their daughter Hattie Belle was married Sept. 14, 1893, to Henry Southworth Royce, of Ft. Atkinson, Wis., now a prominent business man of Tacoma, Wash. They have two children: Byron Pounder Royce, born Sept. 28, 1894, and Harriette Ann Royce, born June 14, 1896. Mr. Pounder subsequently married Miss Ann Haight, daughter of Hon. and Mrs. John T. Haight, prominent among the earliest settlers of South Koshkonong.
  3. EDWARD F.<sup>6</sup> born Sept. 6, 1848; died Mch. 6, 1851.
  4. CHARLES M.<sup>6</sup> born Aug. 3, 1850; died Jany. 3, 1854.
  5. CHARLES F.<sup>6</sup> born Mch. 3, 1855; died Mch. 30, 1855.
  6. MARTHA G.<sup>6</sup> born July, 1857; died Sept. 20, 1858.
  7. GEORGE R.<sup>6</sup> born Dec. 9, 1863; died Sept. 14, 1865.
- Three children of TIMOTHY<sup>5</sup> and Arabella (Locke) Steele are now living:
- MRS. ANN ELIZA<sup>6</sup> HENRY, widow of Edw. Henry. One child, Mabel.
- IDA<sup>6</sup> STEELE, of Ft. Atkinson, Wis.
- SAMUEL<sup>6</sup> STEELE, of Spokane, Wash.

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

The family name, Steele, is said by Bardsley, in his Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames, to be of Scandinavian origin and the same as the Danish Staal, and Icelandic Stal. He finds it appearing first in the year 1275, on the east coast of England, where it probably came from Denmark.

The original spelling was Steel, without the final e, and that is the correct form in our family, as it appears in all the earlier names, and as our father, Samuel, often said. The final e, seems to have been very generally adopted by those of the name, though the Scotch family, of Selkirk, still retains the original form.

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## RICE.

ANCESTRY OF MERCY RICE, WIFE OF SAMUEL STEELE<sup>4</sup> OF PITTSFORD, VT.

EDMUND RICE<sup>1</sup> came to Mass. in 1638 or 1639, from Berkhamstead, England, and settled in Sudbury, Mass. (N. E. Register, 53-359.) On page 383 of "Pioneers of Mass.," it is said that he was Deputy from Sudbury in 1643, that his first wife's name was Tamazine (given in Savage as Thomasine), and that she died June 13, 1654, and he was remarried Mch. 1st, 1655, to Mercy Brigham. He died May 3rd, 1663, at Marlboro, Mass. He had eleven children. Reference is had to Paige's History of Hardwick for a genealogy of his family, which was a prominent and influential one in that part of Mass. His third son, THOMAS,<sup>2</sup> lived at Marlboro, and his wife's name was Mary. Their son, THOMAS,<sup>3</sup> was born June 30, 1654. His first wife died soon, and he married his cousin, Anna Rice, who was mother of his children. Their son CHARLES<sup>4</sup> was born July 7, 1684, and married Rachel Wheeler of Marlboro, Apr. 26, 1711. SOLOMON,<sup>5</sup> born Sept. 1, 1713; wife's name Anna. He removed from Westbury to Hardwick in 1749; was a soldier in the French war, 1757; died Mch. 11, 1802. His son, ANTIPAS,<sup>6</sup> was born 1744; married Oct. 27, 1774, Thankful Rider, and died Feb. 10, 1802. He was First Lieut. in Capt. Warner's Company of Mass. militia in Hardwick, 1783. His fifth child, MERCY,<sup>7</sup> born about 1782, married about 1803, SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> STEELE, and died at Pittsford, Vt., Dec. 26, 1867. Her mother, Thankful Rider Rice, is believed to have been a descendant of CAPT. SAMUEL<sup>1</sup> RIDER of Yarmouth, 1643, and Sarah Bartlett, his wife, through SAMUEL<sup>2</sup> RIDER and Lydia Tilden, SAMUEL<sup>3</sup>

RIDER and Rebecca Winslow, the last named being a descendant of Peter Worden of Yarmouth and Kenelm Winslow, a brother of Gov. Edw. Winslow.

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## PIERCE.

### AMERICAN ANCESTRY OF OLIVE PIERCE, WIFE OF SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> STEELE.

I. CAPT. MICHAEL PIERCE, the first of the family in this country, was born about 1615, probably in London, Eng. He had a brother, Capt. William Pierce, of London, and later of Boston, who was "one of the most active shipmasters of the time of the Pilgrims, and brought over many of the Puritan Settlers." Capt. William Pierce, who seems to be identical with the above, had a grant of 1700 acres of land near Mulberry Island, Virginia, which he colonized before 1624, bringing over a large retinue of servants, workmen, animals, etc. He commanded the ships *Lion*, *Desire*, and other noted vessels; also in 1639 published an *Almanac for New England*. From 1620 to 1634 his home seems to have been in Virginia, where he was granted, at different times, several thousand acres of land near the James River. He was a magistrate and member of the Council of the Colony of Virginia. His wife's name was Joan. Their daughter Jane, after the death of Pocahontas, married her surviving husband, John Rolfe. (Waters' "General Gleanings in England.") About 1634, Capt William seems to have removed to Boston, but continued to follow the seas. He is said by Winthrop to have been killed at the Bahama Islands in 1641.

Michael Pierce, with his family, came over in 1645. The ancestry of the brothers is not known. Michael went, first, to Hingham, Mass., but soon settled in Scituate, Mass. Whether he had previously had a military record is not known, but he soon became an officer, and at one time served as an Ensign under Capt. Myles Standish. In 1669 he was made Captain, and had command of the forces in that part of the Province. He was active in defense of the settlements against the Indians, and in many public services. Deane's



History of Scituate says of him: "Capt. Michael has left evidence on record in the town of his usefulness in public affairs, but his memory is to be forever honored for the brave manner in which he fell in defense of his country." This was in King Phillip's War. He was engaged in the Narragansett fight in Dec. 1675. In the following spring the Indians invaded that part of the colony in force, killing and burning. Capt. Pierce went out against them, having 63 white men and some 20 friendly Indians. In the direction of Rehoboth he met some of the hostiles and drove them back, and next morning, March 26, 1676, renewed the fight, since known in history as Pierce's Fight, or the Battle of the Plain. The Indians were not supposed to be in great force, but as the fight progressed, Pierce found he was overmatched, and sent for reinforcements. The message was delayed, it is said, by the stupidity of the bearer, who waited for church services to close before delivering it. Probably any available help would have been insufficient. The Indians are said to have brought ten or twelve hundred warriors into the fight, under the command of Canonchet, their greatest fighting chief; and Pierce, seeing the desperate nature of the conflict, and that it was a fight to the death or a disastrous rout, formed his remaining men in a circle and stood his ground, fighting until all were slain. The enemy also lost heavily—about 140, it is said—but carried off their dead and wounded. The friendly Indians with Pierce, some 20 in number, fought well, and many were killed.

Out of 63 whites in the Company 52, or, according to some accounts, 55 were killed. Such of their names as have been preserved are here given as worthy of perpetual remembrance:

*From Scituate*—Capt. Michael Pierce, John Lathrop, Thomas Savery, Jeremiah Barstow, Joseph Perry, Samuel Russell, Gershom Dodson, Joseph Wade, John Ensign, John Rowse, Benjamin Chittendon, Samuel Pratt, William Wilcome, Joseph Cowen.

*From Mansfield*—Thos. Little, John Burrows, John Low, John Eams, Joseph Phillips, More —, Joseph White, Saml. Bump, John Brance.

*From Duxbury*—John Sprague, Benj. Toal, Joshua Forbes, Thos. Hunt.

*From Sandwich*—Benj. Nye, John Gibbs, Daniel Bessey, Caleb Blake, Stephen Wing.

*From Barnstable*—Lieutenant Samuel Fuller, Samuel Linnett, John Lewis, Samuel Childs, Eleazer Clapp, Samuel Bereman.

*From Yarmouth*—John Matthews, John Gage, Henry Gage, Wm. Gage, Henry Gold.

*From Eastham*—Joseph Nessefield, John Walker, John M——.

*From Rehoboth*—John Fitts, Jr., John Miller, Jr.

The list was preserved by Rev. Noah Newman of Rehoboth, who gave an early and full account of the disaster.

The name of Capt. Michael Pierce's first wife, who was the mother, probably, of all his children, was long unknown. Late researches show that she was a daughter of Anthony Eames or Enmes, who came to Charlestown in 1634, was made Freeman, 1637, and lived in Hingham and Marshfield. He was a representative to the General Court, 1653 to 1661, and a Lieut. in the military forces. Mrs. Pierce's given name is not known. Her death is recorded in the journal of Rev. Peter Hobart: "Dec. 31st, 1662, Michael Perce's wife dyed." (New England Hist. and Gen. Reg., 1902, page 409.) He afterwards married Mrs. Annah James, who survived him. He had ten children. For an account of his descendants in general, reference is had to the Pierce Family Genealogy by Frederick C. Pierce.

II. His fourth child, EPHRIAM<sup>2</sup> (*Michael*<sup>1</sup>), born about 1650, married Hannah Holbrook, daughter of Capt. John and Elizabeth (or Sarah) Holbrook of Weymouth, Mass. He lived at Rehoboth and Swansea, Mass., and the neighboring settlement of Providence, Rhode Island.

In 1677, he bought 60 acres in Providence. In 1688 he was constable. It is recorded that in 1691, he and his wife had "a difference," and he gave notice that he had been "over persuaded" to sign an agreement which might give her the disposal of his estate, and he forbids the same.

It does not appear to have been a very serious difference, as they continued to live together, and to buy and sell property together. Two years later, in the year 1693, they sold out in Providence, and removed to the neighboring town of Swansea, Mass.

In the History of Barrington, by Bicknell, page 594, it is said that Ephraim Pierce of Swansea was, in 1700 to 1705, and in 1709-1710 and 1713, Representative to the Great and General Court of Massachusetts Bay Province; but whether this was *Ephriam*<sup>2</sup> or his son *Ephriam*,<sup>3</sup> then past 26 years of age, is not known. It was, undoubtedly, one or the other.

EPHRAIM<sup>2</sup> died Sept. 14, 1719, and his wife died the same year. The inventory of his personal estate was £198, 5s., including "one negro woman and child, £50."

III. His second son, EPHRAIM,<sup>3</sup> (*Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>) was born 1674, and lived at Rehoboth and Swansea, Mass. He married, April 16, 1692, Mary Low, daughter of John and Mary (Rhodes) Low. Her father, John Low, was a son of Anthony, who was a son of John Low of Boston, wheelwright, who died in 1653. John Low, her father, is believed to be the same who fell in Pierce's fight. Her mother was a daughter of Zachariah and Joanna (Arnold) Rhodes.

EPHRIAM<sup>3</sup> is said to have died at Gloucester, R. I., in 1772, ninety-eight years of age.

IV. His son MIAL<sup>4</sup> (*Ephraim*,<sup>3</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>) was born April 24, 1693, and married Judith Ellis, who was born 1686, and died Oct. 6, 1744. She is said, in "Pierce Families," to have been "daughter of Judge Ellis." Her father was undoubtedly Thomas Ellis of Medfield, who is said by Savage to have married Mary, daughter of Thomas Wight, of Dedham, and had a daughter called Juda in her grandfather's will. Thomas Ellis is thought to have come from Wrentham, Eng., where the record of his baptism appears Dec. 13, 1629. (Savage 2-114.)

MIAL<sup>4</sup> was a deacon in the Baptist church, and lived at Warwick, R. I., and Swansea and Rehoboth, Mass. He died Oct. 24, 1786, being then 93 years old.

V. His son, NATHAN<sup>5</sup> (*Mial*,<sup>4</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>3</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>), was born Feb. 21, 1716. He was a Baptist minister, and preached for forty years in one church, known as Pierce's meeting house. Bliss, in his History of Rehoboth, says Pierce's church was in the southeast part of the town of Rehoboth, and was founded by some thirty persons from the Second Baptist church in Swansea. Daniel Martin was the first pastor, and Pierce was soon after ordained with him and succeeded him.

REV. NATHAN<sup>5</sup> was married Oct. 6, 1736, to Lydia Martin, born July 17, 1716, daughter of Ephraim and Thankful (Bullock) Martin. Bicknell's History of Barrington, R. I., says the Martins "held a high rank among the families of Barrington, and descended from John Martin, son of Richard, who settled in Swansea in 1668." They were from Swansea, in Wales. Lydia is said to have been "a remarkably smart woman; of short stature, round face and black eyes; noted for learning and for the assistance she gave her husband." It is said he had a preference for spelling his name Perce, but she spelled it Pierce. This notion of Elder Nathan's may explain why our grandfather, Benjamin Pierce, used to say the name ought to be spelled Perce. His grandmother, Lydia, knew better. Some of Rev. Nathan's descendants, however, have taken the name Perce. Rev. Nathan died April 19, 1792, and it is recorded that his son, Preserved, succeeded him in the ministry. His widow, Lydia, died Dec. 21, 1796. They had fifteen children.

VI. HEZEKIAH<sup>6</sup> (*Nathan*,<sup>5</sup> *Mial*,<sup>4</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>3</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>), was the eighth child, and was born Jan. 25, 1755. He married, about 1777, Phebe Tibbits, born in Warwick, R. I., Feb. 10, 1761, daughter of John and Waite (Brown) Tibbits, whose pedigree is given later herein. The exact date and place of marriage is not known. They lived in Cheshire, Berkshire Co., Mass., in 1778. In 1780 he was a Revolutionary soldier, a corporal in the Lanesboro Company of Capt. Daniel Brown, Col. Benjamin Simonds' regiment, of Massachusetts. He may also have served earlier with the Green Mountain

Boys, as his older brother, Nathan Pierce, also of Cheshire, was a Captain in Col. Seth Warner's regiment, in the expedition to Canada in 1776.

The military record of Capt. Nathan Pierce is a pathetic one, and is given briefly as follows: "In Feb., 1776, had left with his company for Montreal. Feb. 19, ordered to Quebec, arriving 26th, all except two sick with smallpox, he having partially recovered. May 4th, 1776, before Quebec. Capt. Pierce reported sick. Died May 19th, 1776, on the Island of Three Sisters, near Quebec." Some faint echo of this disastrous winter campaign may have found expression in a song grandfather Benjamin Pierce used to sing, to the tune of "Barbara Allen," beginning:

"We are marching forward toward Quebec,  
And the British have retreated."

On Aug. 16, 1776, a deed of lands in pursuance of a contract with Capt. Nathan Pierce, was given by John Tibbits of Lanesboro, to the widow, Sarah (Davis) Pierce, and children, Nathan, Lydia and Cromwell, then very young. The widow afterward married Nathan Herndeen.

In the published records of Revolutionary soldiers of Massachusetts, in a list of names of men stationed at New York and White Plains, for five months, and discharged Dec. 1st, 1776, the name of Hezekiah Pierce appears, as a private in Capt. Nathaniel Carpenter's Company, Col. Simeon Cary's Regiment, Gen. John Fellows' brigade. It is believed that this was our ancestor, who would then have been 21 years old, but I have no present means of verifying this belief.

Hezekiah may have lived for a time in Vermont, as there appears in a history of the town of Woodford, Bennington Co., Vt., which is not far from Cheshire, Mass., a statement that on March 10th, 1792, Hezekiah Pierce, with others, took the Freeman's oath at town meeting. (Vt. Hist. Mag. I-248.) He removed, in 1801, to Lisbon, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., along with his father-in-law, John Tibbits, and brothers-in-law Wesson Briggs and John Tibbits, Jr. Here he built a house, "the largest in the town," which is still standing, and known as "the big house."

According to the recollection of Mrs. Julia Pierce House, granddaughter of Hezekiah, he lived in Lisbon until his death, and was buried in a family vault there, with his wife, who had died before him. Our mother's recollection was that he removed to Schenectady before his death. The only account of Hezekiah given in the "Pierce Family Genealogy" is the date of birth and a statement that he removed to Vermont from Rehoboth, Mass., where his father, Rev. Nathan Pierce, lived and died. Cheshire, Mass., where he settled, is near the Vermont line. It seems to have been settled largely by former residents of Rehoboth, Mass., and parts of Rhode Island, adjoining, among whom were his father-in-law, John Tibbits, and the Brown families; Mrs. Tibbits being a Brown. The interruption and loss of family, church and public records common to most families of the time of the Revolutionary War, has made it difficult, if not impossible, to fully trace the history or the family of Hezekiah. His son Benjamin, our grandfather, was the eldest child. Through the kindness of Mary A. Smith, of the N. Y. Historical Library, of whom I was making inquiries, I learned of another descendant, who was also inquiring in regard to the same matter, and was placed in communication with her. She is Mrs. Laura J. Arkins of Denver, Colo. From her I learn that she is a great granddaughter of Hezekiah Pierce, her father, Elisha Pierce, being a son of Ontario Pierce, the youngest son of Hezekiah. Her family pedigree is given below. Her aunt, Clarissa Pierce Stanley, now living in Oregon, was named after our grandmother, Clarissa (Spencer) Pierce.

How many children Hezekiah had is not known. There were at least two daughters, one of whom married Wm. Briggs, and one married John Snyder of Lisbon, whose two sons, Cornell Snyder and Washington Snyder, came to Wisconsin. Cornell Snyder's children were Charlotte, William, Emma and Georgiana. Some of the Briggs family also came to Wisconsin, but their present residence is not known.

In 1801, when the Tibbits, Pierce and Briggs families removed to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., that region was a wilderness. John Tibbits, in 1798, had bought of Alexander

McComb 9500 acres of land there, and from this, in 1801, the town of Lisbon was formed, on petition of our grandfather, Benjamin Pierce, and others. It is related in the "History of St. Lawrence County" that John Tibbitts, Sr., and his son-in-law, Wesson Briggs, with their families and goods, came to Lisbon from Schenectady by boat, by way of Mohawk River, Indian Creek, Oswego River and Lake Ontario, and that they were five weeks in making this journey. The same authority says that the new settlers suffered many hardships, and were greatly assisted by neighbors across the river, in Canada, who had come there from New England, during the Revolutionary War. The marriage of Grandfather Benjamin Pierce to Clarissa Spencer was, no doubt, one of the moving causes in this.

Benjamin had, probably, come to that section some time before the others, as he was married to Clarissa Spencer in October, 1800. The Spencers and Wrights were settled at Johnstown and Spencerville, Canada, just across the St. Lawrence River from Lisbon, and being well to do, were able to be of material assistance to their old neighbors from Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It is probable that Hezekiah lived some years after 1829, as Mrs. Julia Pierce House, the granddaughter above named, who was born in that year, remembers him well. The date of his death is not known.

VII. His son, BENJAMIN<sup>7</sup> (*Hezekiah*,<sup>6</sup> *Nathan*,<sup>5</sup> *Mial*,<sup>4</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>3</sup> *Eprhaim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>), was born in Cheshire, Berkshire county, Mass., Nov. 5, 1778; married Oct. 12, 1800, at Johnstown, Canada, Clarissa Spencer; born April 16, 1785, daughter of Peleg and Sarah (Wright) Spencer, both of New England ancestry. Their family pedigrees are given later herein. Benjamin engaged in the milling business, also farming. His mill burned down, and they later removed with their daughter, Olive (Pierce) Steele, to Koshkonong, Jefferson Co., Wis., where he died Nov. 4, 1849, and his wife died March 11, 1854. Both are buried in South Koshkonong Cemetery.

VIII. OLIVE<sup>8</sup> (*Benjamin*,<sup>7</sup> *Hezekiah*,<sup>6</sup> *Nathan*,<sup>5</sup> *Mial*,<sup>4</sup> *Eph-*

*raim*,<sup>3</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>), born January 1, 1816; married Sept. 22, 1833, at Lisbon, N. Y., Samuel Steele. She died Feb. 10, 1902, at Whitewater, Wis.

## DESCENDANTS OF ONTARIO PIERCE.

Prepared by Mrs. Laura J. Arkins.

ONTARIO<sup>7</sup> PIERCE (*Hezekiah*,<sup>6</sup> *Nathan*,<sup>5</sup> *Mial*,<sup>4</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>3</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>), youngest son of *Hezekiah*<sup>6</sup> *Pierce*, b. 1798, Schenectady, N. Y. When a babe, his father, *Hezekiah*, moved to Lisbon, and when he came to Lake Ontario, was so impressed that he named the child Ontario. Ontario married Jane Toune, of Albany, N. Y. They lived on a farm belonging to Aaron Burr, near Ogdensburg, where all of their children were born.

ELISHA<sup>8</sup> PIERCE (*Ontario*,<sup>7</sup> *Hezekiah*,<sup>6</sup> *Nathan*,<sup>5</sup> *Mial*,<sup>4</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>3</sup> *Ephraim*,<sup>2</sup> *Michael*<sup>1</sup>), eldest son of *Ontario*,<sup>7</sup> b. July 1, 1820; m. Sarah Ricker, Nov. 22, 1840. Elisha died, 1849, at Cleveland, Ohio, of cholera. His widow died at Benton Harbor, Mich., Nov. 28, 1901.

Their children were:

1. WILLIAM,<sup>9</sup> b. Aug. 16, 1841; d., Cleveland, Ohio, July 22, 1845.
2. GEORGE,<sup>9</sup> b. at Cleveland, Oct. 22, 1842; d. May 30, 1848.
3. LAURA JANE,<sup>9</sup> b. Oct. 16, 1845, Cleveland, Ohio; m. Joseph Arkins, June 29, 1864, Chicago, Ill. Joseph Arkins died Feb. 25, 1883.
4. LOUISA L.,<sup>9</sup> b. Nov. 22, 1847; m. John Arkins, May 28, 1867, at Chicago, Ill. Joseph and John were brothers.
5. JULIA ANN,<sup>9</sup> b. Apr. 13, 1848, at Cleveland, Ohio; m. Capt. T. Mitchell, at Chicago, Ill. Julia died at Benton Harbor, Mich., 1890.



CHILDREN OF LAURA J.<sup>9</sup> (PIERCE) ARKINS AND  
JOSEPH ARKINS.

I. FRANCIS JOSEPH ARKINS, born April 2, 1866, in St. Louis, Mo., learned the printer's trade, and worked as journeyman in Denver, Colorado, and later became a reporter on the Rocky Mountain News, being advanced to an executive position, and for several years was telegraph editor of that publication. August 13, 1897, went to Cripple Creek, Colo., where he assumed the editorship of the Morning Times, in which capacity he served for five years, where he entered politics, and gained a state-wide reputation for fearlessness in waging incessant warfare on the gambling fraternity, never ceasing efforts in this direction until gambling in all forms was completely suppressed, his work being carried on in the face of threats as to his personal safety through violence. In 1902, he went on an important mining mission to Old Mexico, and in November of the same year became editor of a technical mining publication, known as Ores and Metals, at Denver, Colo.

In religious matters, Francis Joseph followed in the footsteps of his ancestors, many of whom were Baptist ministers, being baptized and joining the First Baptist Church of Denver, Colo., before the age of twenty. He married Winona Juanita Silversparre, in Chicago, Ill., July 19, 1894, and their children, Carol and Lucille, were born, respectively, April 14, 1895, and Feb. 5, 1897, in Denver, Colo.

II. WILLIAM MAURICE ARKINS, born July 16, 1868, in Chicago, Ill. William received a liberal education in the public schools of Chicago and Denver, Colo., and later attended St. Francis College near Milwaukee, Wis., where he was baptized in the Catholic faith and joined the church of that denomination. Was associated with his brother Francis, in Cripple Creek, in the capacity of mining editor of the Morning Times, engaging later in general newspaper work. Married Estelle Lewis. Cripple Creek, Colo., October 7, 1903, making Cripple Creek their residence.

III. CHARLES THOMAS ARKINS, born Dec. 18, 1870, in New Orelans, La. Educated in Denver public schools; afterwards was in the service of the Denver, Texas and Fort Worth railroad as locomotive fireman, resigning to engage in the Ute Indian War in the western part of Colorado, going to the front as a private in Troop C., First Colorado Cavalry. Later took a full four years' course at the Colorado School of Mines, leaving that institution in 1897 to engage in active practice as a mining engineer and metallurgist, becoming identified quite prominently in the management of metallurgical plants for the treatment of ores in California, Colorado, South Dakota, Missouri and elsewhere. Was superintendent for the Federal Lead Company, one of the largest and most important enterprises in the lead mining industry in the world, situated in Missouri. Also served in the Republic of Mexico as metallurgical expert for a large manufacturing company of mining and metallurgical machinery. At one time was County Surveyor of Jefferson County, Colo. Married Margaret Tilton Shaw of Louisville, Kentucky, at Denver, October 27, 1900. In 1904, in company with his wife, sailed from San Francisco for Western Australia, whither he went at the call of the Golden Horseshoe Mining Estates Company, Limited, to act in the advisory capacity of metallurgical engineer, at the conclusion of which engagement he sailed for Europe by way of Ceylon, Suez Canal, and Naples. After extensive travel through Italy and France he entered the service of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, (owners of the largest silver producing mines in the world, situated in Australia), attaining distinction as an expert metallurgist before the King's Bench of the Royal Courts of Justice, London, subsequently completing the journey around the world, resuming metallurgical practice in the United States.

Is a Master Mason, also Royal Arch Mason, belonging at Golden, Colorado, as well as a member of the Scottish Rite Masonic bodies of the Valley of Denver, where he received the thirty-second degree.

IV. GRACE ARKINS, born October 6, 1873, in Chicago, Ill. Was raised and educated in Denver, Colo., where she achieved great popularity through her charmingly sweet manners and her talent as an elocutionist and pianist. Is a writer of considerable ability, though too modest to follow that line. Is the only niece of the late lamented John Arkins. Married Joseph Bryan Page, a Virginian, at Denver, Colo.

Mr. Page is a chemist and assayer of high merit, and is a cousin of Thomas Nelson Page, the author, and a descendant of John Randolph, of Roanoke, also of General Nelson Page, the hero of Yorktown; also of Thomas Nelson, signer of Declaration of Independence. Is a son of Dr. John Randolph Page, late of the faculty of the University of Virginia, where Joseph received his education. Resides at Victor, Colo.

V. HARRY ARKINS, born September 3, 1880, in Chicago, Ill., died February 23, 1883, in Denver, Colo.

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## FAMILY OF LOUISA L.<sup>9</sup> (PIERCE) ARKINS AND JOHN ARKINS.

LOUISA L.<sup>9</sup> PIERCE, daughter of *Elisha<sup>s</sup> Pierce*, married John Arkins, May, 1867, in Chicago, Ill. Two children, Edwin George, married Abigail Parkhurst, December, 1903, and resides in New York City, N. Y., and Clarence, died in infancy.

The following sketch of John Arkins is taken from newspaper notices at the time of his death. "John Arkins was born at Cumberland, Md., in 1842, Feb. 14, the family removing later to Redwing, Minn., where John learned the printer's trade, and at the outbreak of the war of the rebellion, enlisted in Company A., Fifth Minn. Infantry, of which company his brother William was captain. He stood the fire of many a hot engagement, among them being the battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg, and others, concluding his career as a soldier after the battle of Nashville, before which time he was promoted to the rank of first sergeant; altogether, braving the hardships and dangers of twenty-one battles, emerging untouched by lead. The experience gained in the

army loaned such strength to his character as to make his subsequent courage almost reckless in its aggressiveness. He went to Colorado in 1873, where he pursued his trade as printer, serving usually as a foreman. When the excitement attendant with the discovery of ore in Leadville became feverish, he migrated to the city of the clouds, where he, in company with two other gentlemen, established the Evening Chronicle, and soon after, his ability as an editor won him state-wide fame. Later he sold the Chronicle and purchased an interest in the Rocky Mountain News of Denver, in 1880, assuming the editorship of this paper, in which he soon attained a national reputation.

His efforts promoted the interests of the publication to the extent that it became one of the most potent factors in the upbuilding of the vast west, ever moulding public opinion in the interests of civilization. In collaboration with others, he was instrumental in bringing together the first bi-metallic convention in the interest of the free coining of silver. He was soon acknowledged a political leader of note, being at the head and front of everything Democratic. His character is thus summarized in a recent sketch: As a friend he was warm-hearted and faithful—as an enemy he was hot-headed and aggressive—but always ready to acknowledge his faults and forgive the faults of others. As a companion he was convivial, entertaining, jovial and generous, loved by his friends and feared by his enemies, respected by his associates, and popular with the people. As an editorial writer, he was practical, strong, fearless and forceful, autocratic and successful. As a journalist, he was recognized throughout the country as a man of talent and excellent business sagacity. He used the columns of his journal without fear or favor in battling with the transgressors of the law, and especially the saloon element, which insisted on conducting business contrary to law, and lived to view with satisfaction the splendid results of his efforts in this direction. He died in Denver, August 18, 1894, his funeral being the largest ever known in Colorado; thousands of people, and all the newsboys of Denver, whose welfare he had earnestly striven to better, assembling at his bier, the ministers being overcome

with sorrow and emotion during the several eulogies delivered, while the floral contributions reflected the high esteem in which he was held by the people at large. His funeral was conducted under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic. He acquired the title of Colonel through his connection with the governor's staff, and did much to promote the interests of the National Guard. He was survived by his wife and son, to whom he bequeathed a fortune. He had two brothers, Joseph, husband of Laura Jane (Pierce) Arkins, (sister of Louisa L. [Pierce] Arkins), and Maurice, with both of whom he was associated in the ownership of the News, together with U. S. Senator Thomas M. Paterson. Both of these brothers are deceased.

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### TIBBITS.

#### PEDIGREE OF PHEBE TIBBITS, WIFE OF HEZEKIAH PIERCE.

I. HENRY TIBBITS, of Kingstown or Warwick, R. I., about 1670; was constable, conservator of peace and deputy. He is said to have come from Warwickshire, Eng., and was among the earliest settlers of the western shore of Providence Bay, his place being known as 'Tibbits' Point, and being in the town of Warwick. His wife was Mary Stanton, daughter of Robert and Avis Stanton. He died in 1713, she in 1708.

II. HENRY<sup>2</sup> (*Henry*<sup>1</sup>), of Warwick; wife's name was Rebecca. He died Dec. 27. 1702, she died June 10, 1752.

III. WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> (*Henry*,<sup>2</sup> *Henry*<sup>1</sup>), born about 1700, married April 26, 1736, Judith Pierce, born Oct. 21, 1720, daughter of Dea. Mial and Judith (Ellis) Pierce, of Rehoboth.

IV. JOHN<sup>4</sup> (*William*,<sup>3</sup> *Henry*,<sup>2</sup> *Henry*<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 25, 1737, Warwick, R. I.; married Jany. 7. 1760, Waite Brown, born 1741, daughter of Elisha and Patience (Edmunds) Brown of Warwick, and probably the descendant in the 5th generation, of Rev. Chad Brown of Providence in 1638, who was an Elder in First Baptist Church, and the successor

of Roger Williams. *John*<sup>4</sup> *Tibbits* removed to Lanesboro, Berkshire Co., Mass., where they lived until 1780, when they are said to have removed to Lansingburgh, N. Y. This is doubtful, though their son George then went there.

In 1801, according to the History of Rensselaer Co., they removed with their son John to Lisbon, N. Y., "where both father and son were prominent in the early history of the town." Their eldest son, George, was a prominent public man of northern New York, and became a member of Congress and Mayor of the city of Troy.

JOHN<sup>4</sup> died at Lisbon, 1817; Waite, his wife, died, 1811. They had ten children, the oldest being:

V. PHEBE,<sup>5</sup> born at Warwick, R. I., Feb. 10, 1761; married about 1777, Hezekiah Pierce, (son of Rev. Nathan and Lydia), died at Lisbon, N. Y.

It will be observed that Phebe Tibbits and Hezekiah Pierce were distant cousins; her grandmother, Judith, wife of William Tibbits, being a daughter of Mial<sup>4</sup> Pierce, who was also Hezekiah's grandfather.

Waite Brown, the mother of Phebe, was of one of the most noted families of Rhode Island, having large influence in the Baptist Church, and as the principal patrons of Brown University of Providence, founded in 1764.

The Tibbits families and Hezekiah Pierce were, perhaps, living in Cheshire at the time of the making of the great cheese, presented to President Thomas Jefferson in 1801. Elisha Brown, our ancestor above named, was concerned in the matter, as it appears from published accounts that his cider mill was used for pressing the cheese.

Whether Capt. Daniel Brown was of the same family as Elisha, does not appear. It was in Capt. Daniel Brown's Company, however, that our great grandfather, Hezekiah Pierce, served as a non-commissioned officer in the Revolutionary War. Elder John Leland was a great uncle of Dr. A. G. Leland, of Whitewater, Wis. It has been asserted by some, that the freight on the big cheese, from Hudson to Washington, though not so big as the cheese, was a pretty large sum, and that the President was presented with the bill, also, and paid it.

The following account is given in the Springfield Republican:

A HISTORIC CHEESE.  
THE MONSTER THAT CHESHIRE SENT TO PRESIDENT JEFFERSON.

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Nearly Every One in Town Contributed Curd, and Elder John Leland Bossed the Job—The Formal Presentation at the White House.

The story of the great cheese made at Cheshire in 1801 and sent the following winter to President Jefferson as a New Year's present, has been told in prose and verse many times, but is worthy of repetition as an interesting bit of local history, showing, as it does, the patriotic spirit by which the good people of Cheshire were moved, and the novel manner they chose for its expression.

In those days Cheshire was famous for three things—its exceptionally fine dairying interests and products, the wellnigh universal adhesion of the voting population to the Democratic party and Elder John Leland, an able, eccentric and witty Baptist divine, whose fame is a part of the history of Cheshire. Elder Leland and most of the other people of the town were ardent admirers of Thomas Jefferson, and when he was elected president of the United States, their joy was unbounded.

It was finally decided that it would be proper to give their esteem a tangible expression in the form of a mammoth cheese, which should show to the president the quality of their material resources and something of the extent of their admiration for him.

The announcement of this plan was made by Elder Leland from his pulpit one Sunday morning, and was received with pleasure by the people.

July 20, 1801, was the date set for the making of the cheese, and the plan was to have all the owners of cows in town, with the exception of the few federalists there were, to make their curd and carry it to a central place for pressing. Of course there was no cheese press large enough

for the pressing of such a cheese as was proposed, and Elisha Brown's cider press was consequently selected for the work.

When the day came for making the cheese the people gathered from all parts of the town. Those who had curd to contribute brought it with them, some in large quantities and some in small, but all extremely proud to contribute to the monster cheese that was to be sent to the president. Besides being a busy day it was also a gala day for the inhabitants of Cheshire. The farmers and their wives and families turned out en masse to witness the construction of what proved to be the most famous cheese in all history, for, though a still larger cheese was made in the town at a later date, this was the president's cheese, and the great Elder Leland, who in the estimation of the people of Cheshire was second in importance only to President Jefferson himself, was leading and directing the enterprise. Most of those present were arrayed in their Sunday best, though the women who superintended the mixing of the curd were obliged to wear protecting aprons.

The hoop in which the cheese was pressed was made for the occasion. It was four feet in diameter and eighteen inches deep, and was secured with strong bands of iron to enable it to stand the pressure. When all of the curd had been mixed and salted it was placed in this hoop, a follower which had also been made especially for the purpose was placed upon it, and the ponderous wooden screws of the old cider mill were turned down on the most precious body they had ever compressed. After all was done a hymn, lined off by Elder Leland, was sung by the assemblage, and the people separated for their homes, highly satisfied with and very proud of their day's work. Some days after it was made the cheese was taken to Capt. Daniel Brown's cheese house to be cured. Its weight one month from the time it was pressed was 1,235 pounds. The moving of the cheese from the cider press to Captain Brown's was made a great occasion. The people turned out again, and the cheese was followed by a big procession. Moses Wolcott, who kept the



"tavern," gave a feast to all present, and thereby linked his name to this part of the town's history.

The following December the great cheese was sent to Washington in charge of Elder Leland and Darius Brown. There were no railroads in those days, and it was drawn on a sled to Hudson, N. Y., and shipped from there by water. The presentation of the cheese to the president was an event of moment in Washington. The presentation was made at the White House in the presence of the cabinet, foreign diplomats and other notables, Elder Leland serving as spokesman and assuring the president in suitable terms of the great esteem in which he was held by the people from whom the gift had come.

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## SPENCER.

### PEDIGREE OF CLARISSA SPENCER, WIFE OF BENJAMIN PIERCE.

I. JOHN<sup>1</sup> SPENCER was Freeman at Newport, Rhode Island, 1668. He was first among the founders of East Greenwich, 1677, and became town clerk, conservator of the peace and deputy. His wife's name was Susannah. He died in 1684, and she Apr. 12, 1719. JOHN<sup>1</sup> is supposed by Austin, in his "Rhode Island," to have been a son of Michael Spencer, of Cambridge, Mass., 1634, and possibly the same John who was made heir to his uncle John Spencer, by will proved, 1648, in Salem, Mass. Probably neither supposition is correct.

This nephew, John, it seems, died a bachelor, about 1656, as his estate was then settled in England. (N. E. Reg., Vol. 46, page 45.)

It also seems doubtful if JOHN<sup>1</sup> of East Greenwich, was a son of Michael, or either of Michael's brothers. The English records show that Michael, William, Thomas and Jarrard (or Gerrard) Spencer, were brothers; the sons of Jarrard Spencer, decd.; probably, of London. (N. E. Reg., Vol. 45, page 251.) They came over about 1634.

Savage names only two children of Michael, viz.: Susannah and Michael; and he expresses the opinion that John<sup>1</sup> of

East Greenwich, came from England about the time of the Restoration of Charles Second, 1660. He thinks, also, that John's wife, Susannah, may have been a daughter of John Greene,<sup>2</sup> but in this he is probably mistaken, as Susannah Greene appears, from public records, to have married another. I have not been able to learn Susannah Spencer's family name.

It appears from a small volume, published by R. C. Spencer of Milwaukee, that some of the descendants of John<sup>1</sup> have believed that he was a younger son of Sir Robert Spencer of England, mainly from an escutcheon, or coat of arms, still existing, which, it is said, belonged to John,<sup>1</sup> and has written upon it, in John's handwriting, the name of Sir Robert. So far, however, no one has been able to trace his English ancestry, convincingly. He had nine children born between 1665 and 1684. The eldest was John,<sup>2</sup> and the youngest was Peleg,<sup>2</sup> through both of whom we trace our descent.

II. PELEG<sup>2</sup> (*John*<sup>1</sup>), was born Dec. 4, 1683, in East Greenwich, R. I.; died Sept. 13, 1763; married July, 1708, Elizabeth Coggeshall, born Mch. 9, 1686, daughter of Joshua and Sarah Coggeshall. Peleg<sup>2</sup> was a weaver, and was deputy in 1709, 1711, 1716 and 1728. His son:

III. PELEG<sup>3</sup> (*Peleg*<sup>2</sup> *John*<sup>1</sup>), was born Feb. 23, 1717.

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JOHN<sup>2</sup> SPENCER (*John*<sup>1</sup>), was born Apr. 22, 1666; died 1743; married Audrey Greene, who was born Dec. 27, 1667; died Apr. 17, 1733. She was a daughter of John Greene,<sup>2</sup> and Ann (Almy) Greene.

The first of the Greene family, Audrey's grandfather, John Greene,<sup>1</sup> a physician, was of a Quaker family and came from Salisbury, Eng., in 1635, on account of religious persecution. He was compelled to leave Massachusetts for the same reason, and was one of the thirteen who, with Roger Williams, settled in Rhode Island. His son, John<sup>2</sup> Greene, father of Audrey, was a member of the Council of Gov. Andros, a major in the military, and was Deputy Governor, 1690 to 1700. Gen. Nathaniel Greene of the Revolutionary War was a descendant of John Greene.<sup>1</sup>

John<sup>2</sup> Spencer was, by occupation, a cordwainer, and was justice of the peace, a deputy for many years, and Speaker of the House of Deputies from 1712 to 1729. His son:

JOHN<sup>3</sup> SPENCER (*John,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>*), was born June 24, 1693; died 1746; married Sept. 13, 1716, Mary Fry, born June 10, 1693; died 1744; daughter of Thomas and Welthian (Greene) Fry.

AUDRY<sup>4</sup> SPENCER, daughter of JOHN<sup>3</sup> and Mary, was born Dec. 1, 1720.

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Peleg<sup>3</sup> Spencer and Audry<sup>4</sup> Spencer were married in Coventry, R. I., Oct. 27, 1737, by John Spencer, J. P. (grandfather of Audry.) Their son,

IV. PELEG<sup>4</sup> SPENCER (*Peleg,<sup>3</sup> Peleg,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>*), was born in Coventry, R. I. Jan. 23, 1756; married in 1783, at Shaftsbury, Vt., Sarah Wright, born Sept. 3, 1768, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Leach) Wright. He died at Johnstown, Canada, 1834; she died Jan. 2, 1844. Their daughter,

V. CLARISSA<sup>5</sup> SPENCER (*Peleg,<sup>4</sup> Peleg,<sup>3</sup> Peleg,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>*), was born at Johnstown, Canada, April 16, 1785; married Benjamin Pierce, Oct. 12, 1800; died at Koshkonong, Wis., March 11, 1854.

The exact time or cause of the removal of the Wright family and Peleg<sup>4</sup> Spencer to Canada is not known. It was probably some time before the marriage of Peleg and Sarah, although they were married in Vermont. Our mother's understanding, in the case of her grandfather, Peleg, was that he was dissatisfied with the conscription or draft, as enforced in Vermont, and removed to Canada. His brother Charles, however, who married Zerviah Wright, his wife's sister, was a Revolutionary soldier.

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## WRIGHT.

### PEDIGREE OF SARAH WRIGHT, WIFE OF PELEG SPENCER<sup>4</sup>

This pedigree is taken from an article by Rev. Stephen

Wright, of Glens Falls, N. Y., 1881, in N. E. Hist. & Geneal. Register, Vol. 35, page 74:

I. LIEUT. ABEL WRIGHT<sup>1</sup> was living in Springfield, Mass., in 1655, being then 24 years old. He may have been a nephew of Thomas of Wethersfield and Dea. Samuel of Springfield, 1639.

On December 1st., 1657, he married Martha, daughter of Samuel and Martha Kitcherell, of Hartford, Conn. He was representative to Gen. Court, 1696, and Lieutenant in the military. His wife was scalped by Indians, Oct. 19, 1708, and died of her injuries.

II. ENSIGN ABEL<sup>2</sup> (*Abel*<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 25, 1664; married Sept. 16, 1691, Rebecca, daughter of Samuel and Anna (Lobdell) Terry, of Springfield, Mass.

III. EBENEZER<sup>3</sup> (*Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 22, 1701, at Lebanon, married April 20, 1721, Elizabeth, daughter of Simon and Deborah Newcomb. She died 1727, he April 22, 1786.

IV. EBENEZER<sup>4</sup> (*Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 2, 1727, at Windham; married March 11, 1751, Mary, daughter of Amos Leach. He was a farmer, and lived in Mansfield and New Fairfield, Conn. Went to Newton, Sussex Co., N. J., but returned and settled in Shaftesbury, Vt., 1765. Removed to Johnstown, Canada, during the Revolutionary War; died July 18, 1809. She died May 13, 1801.

V. SARAH<sup>5</sup> (*Ebenezer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 3, 1768; married, 1783, Peleg Spencer.<sup>4</sup> She died at Johnstown, Can., Jan. 2, 1844. He died about 1834.

Clarissa Spencer, born April 16, 1785. Married Benjamin Pierce.