

LUTHER SISSON

OF EASTON, MASS.

His Ancestry & Descendants

Compiled &

Arthur A. Wood, ^o Esq., ...

MCMIX

LUTHER SISSON OF EASTON, MASS.

The name of Sisson is probably derived from Soissons, a province of France. Doubtless the progenitors of the English descendants of the name came to Britain with William of Normandy.

In the Poll-tax Returns of Howdenshire, (Yorkshire), for the year 1379 the following names are found: Johannes Sisson, Robertus Cisson, Henricus Sisson, Thomas Cysson, and William Cisson.

Canon Bardsley in his "Dictionary of English & Welsh Surnames" states: "Sisson, 'the son of Cecilia.'" An English genealogist concludes that in one instance the name is derived from Syston,

a populous village in Leicestershire. But, the derivation of the village name may lead again to the French origin. These English Sissons, as a rule, are usually non-conformists and engaged in commerce.

The first record, yet found, of the name in the United States is at Portsmouth, Rhode Island. On May 17, 1653 Richard Sisson was admitted a freeman of the town. July 6, 1658 he bought 1-300 part of Conanicut and Dutch Islands. June 5, 1667 he appears as a resident of Dartmouth, Mass., being drawn as a grand juryman.

Oct. 18, 1683 he made his will in which he gives to son James "all housing and land in Dartmonth." "To son George £5, in money." "To son John all house and land in Portsmouth."

From a deposition made in 1668 we learn that he was born in 1608. He died in 1684. The inventory of his estate amounted to £600, 19s, itemized as follows:

House and lands at Dartmouth, £240

House and lands at Rhode Island, £60

Cattle and horse kind, £113, 15s.

Swine, £30

Sheep, £14, 10s

Beds, etc., £50

New cloth, wool yarn, hemp and flax, £13

One Indian servant, £10; Negro servant, £28

Money, £12

From these meagre records we learn but little of the personality of the man who was the ancestor of most of those bearing the name of Sisson in the United States. There are some of the name descended from a Virginian stock, but later discoveries may lead to the Portsmouth settlement, as it is known that some of this family went south and all trace of the later generations has been lost.

Richard Sisson appears to have been a well-to-do farmer, possessing estates in Portsmouth and Dartmouth. At the time of his death his oldest

son, George was a prosperous farmer with a large family and had had his share of his father's estate, which accounts for the small legacy in the elder Sisson's will.

The earlier generations of the Sissons were generally farmers and members of the Quaker sect. The name is found among the patriot soldiers of the revolutionary army and we regret to note a few well deserved the name of tory and had their estates confiscated. In the ranks of the Union army the Sisson name was borne with honor and courage.

Richard Sisson's wife was named Mary. She died in 1692. This is all we know of the first New England mother of our tribe.

The six children of Richard¹ and Mary Sisson were—George, Elizabeth, James, John, Anne, and Mary.

George² Sisson, (*Richard*¹) was born in 1644, probably in England, married, 1667, Aug. 1, to Sarah, daughter of Thomas Lawton of Portsmouth,

R. I.; and died, 1718, Sept. 7. He was a farmer and served as a constable in 1687; as Deputy in 1690, 1702-5-7; and Justice of the Peace in 1703. His will, made August, 1718, gives to son George "the farm now possessed by him at Touisset Neck, Swansey." The inventory of his estate amounted to £451, 18s 8d. as follows:

Wearing apparel, £8, 11s; Armor, £2; Plate, £8, 12s, 8d; Silver money, £13, 12s, 6d; Bills of Public Credit, £69, 8s, 6d; Cows, steers, horses, 93 sheep, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 4 swine, geese, turkeys, fowls, and household furniture.

The homestead farm was given to Richard^s the eldest son, and has descended to the present time from father to son. It lies in the town of Portsmouth, R. I., on Rhode Island.

The children of George² and Sarah (Lawton) Sisson were:

Elizabeth, b. 1669

Ruth, b. 1680

Mary, b. 1670

George

Ann, b. 1672	Abigail, b. 1685
Hope, b. 1674	Thomas, b. 1686
Richard, b. 1676	John, b. 1688

James, b. 1690

George^s Sisson, (*Richard*¹, *George*²) born March 23, 1688; married (1) Mercy——; married (2) Oct. 11, 1721 at Swanzey, Mass., Lydia, daughter of Hugh Jr. and Deborah (Buckland) Cole of Swanzey. Their children were:

Elizabeth, b. 1709; m. Jeremiah Brown

Jane, m. Hugh Cole

Mary, m. Amos Daggett

Hopestill, b. 1713; m. John Fones

George, b. 1715; m. Drusilla Cole

James, b. 1717

Benjamin, b. 1722

John

Mercy, b. 1725; m. ———Luther

Gilbert, b. 1730; m. Mary Sisson

Lydia, b. 1731

Gideon, b. 1733 ; m. Abigail Chase

John⁴ Sisson, (*Richard*¹, *George*², *George*³) married July 21, 1751, at Swanzey, Mary Thurber.

His children were :

Phebe, b. 1751

George, b. 1753 ; m. Hannah (Wall) Smith

Jarvis, b. 1756 John, b. 1758

Caleb, b. 1760 Esek

Jane, b. 1764 ; m. Aaron Luther

Gardiner, b. 1767 ; m. Esther Woodmansee

Fones, b. 1769. Mary, b. 1771. Lydia, b. 1774

Esek⁵ Sisson, (*Rich*¹, *Geo*², *Geo*³, *John*⁴) was born Aug. 11, 1762 ; married at Swanzey, Mass., June 30, 1790 Sabra Luther. His children were :

Luther, b. 1797

Rebecca Luther, b. 1805, Feb. 14 ; m. Charles

H. Salisbury

Elizabeth Hunter

Philip Allen, b. 1806, Dec. 28

John

Thomas, m. Elmira Kelley

Fones

Esek Sisson was on roll of Col. Elliot's Reg. 1776.

Luther⁶ Sisson, (*Rich*¹., *Geo*²., *Geo*³., *John*⁴, *Esek*⁵) was born in Swanzey, Mass., Feb. 8, 1797; married Jan. 27, 1827, Hannah, daughter of Gideon and Hannah (Small) Church. She was born at Harwich, Mass., Oct. 22, 1808 and died at Easton, Mass., April 13, 1887. Luther Sisson died at Easton, April 25, 1868. He was machinist, an occupation that has been followed with honor and profit by many branches of the Sisson tribe. An aptitude for mechanical pursuits seems to be an inheritance in the New England lines of the family. Luther and Hannah were the parents of eight children, most of them residing in Easton; where, once a year, on Labor Day, the descendants of Luther are welcomed to a family reunion.

The children of Luther are:

-
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. John H. T. | 5. Jonathan T. |
| 2. Luther S. | 6. Sarah M. |
| 3. Hannah C. | 7. Eleanor J. |
| 4. Asa C. | 8. Henry F. |

1. John Humphrey Thompson⁷ Sisson was born in Dorchester, Mass., Jan. 26, 1828; married, Jan. 20, 1850, Lydia Ann, daughter of Thaddeus and Eliza(Ennis) Williams, born Oct. 30, 1832. He was a machinist, and resided at Easton. He died, June 13, 1864. His children are:

Frank Henry, b. 1850, Dec. 28; m. Eliza A. Hobart, residence Whitinsville, Mass.

John Davis, b. 1852, Feb. 3; d. in infancy

Luther Clifford, b. 1854, Mar. 1; d. in infancy

Alice Amelia, b. 1855, Mar. 17; d. ae 4y., 1mo.

Charles Clifford, b. 1860, Mar. 10; m. Nellie M Freeman, res. Whitinsville.

Elmer Elwood, b. 1863, Apr. 28; d. in infancy

2. Luther Sabra⁷ Sisson, born in Dorchester, Dec. 29, 1829; married, Nov. 6, 1856, Sarah Maria, daughter of James and Adelaide (Greene) Humphrey, born Jan. 9, 1839; d. Dec. 10, 1903. He is a machinist, residence, Easton. One child: Lennette Greene, b. 1861, May 2; m. George T. Allen, res. Worcester Mass.

3. Hannah Church⁷ Sisson, was born in Boston, Jan. 10, 1832; married May, 1853 George Williams who died Mar. 9, 1859. Her children were: Ira Luther, b. 1855, Mar. 18; d. ae 7 years
Luella Frances, b. 1859, June 27

4. Asa Church⁷ Sisson, born in Easton, June 11 1834; married, Oct. 13, 1854, Ellen F. daughter of Henry and Amanda (Shaw) Randall, born June 2, 1838. He is a machinist, residence, Easton.
Children:
Carrie Ella, b. 1856, Nov. 22; m. Frank C. Wade, res. Easton.

Herbert Church, b. 1858, June 9; m. Marian Leonard.

Alfred Asa, b. 1860, Dec. 2; m. Marian Wilber.

5. Jonathan Thomas' Sisson, born in Easton, June 18, 1836; married, Nov. 26, 1866, Alomie Frances, daughter of Ephraim and Mary (Collins) Ghen, born June 25, 1845. Residence, Easton.

Children:

Arthur Clarence, b. 1868, Jan. 1; m. Mary B. Cliffe, res. Pawtucket, R. I.

Daisy D., b. 1870, Mar. 26; d. infant.

Gertrude June, b. 1881, July 18; m. Ernest T. Walker.

Edith Alomie, b. 1884, Feb. 12.

6. Sarah Malinda' Sisson, born in Easton May 27, 1838; married April 5, 1855, Orrin B. Swift, born 1832, Feb. 17; died, 1870, Jan 26. Children:

Ada Lester, b. 1856, Mar. 26

Henry Rosco, b. 1859, May 27

Lizzie Etta, b. 1861, Mar. 25

Howard O. L., b. 1863, June 25

Edward Bradford, b. 1865, July 27

Freddie, b. " " " d. ae 1 year.

Luther Everett, b. 1866, Nov. 28

Mary Lottie, b. 1870, June 11

7. Eleanor Jones' Sisson, born Nov. 1, 1841, at Easton; married, Nov. 3, 1869, Norman A., son of Ephraim and Mary (Collins) Ghen, born 1847, Aug 31. Children:

Minnie Collins, b. 1870, June 16

Edith Sisson, b. 1873, Mar. 19: d. infancy

Lena Church, b. 1875, April 26; m. Samuel Cheatham.

Elmer Russell, b. 1882, Feb. 7

8. Henry Fones' Sisson, born in Easton, Oct. 31, 1843; married (1) Jan. 19, 1869, Nellie P Boynton, She died July 2, 1884; married (2) Cora Post. Residence, Yonkers, N. Y. Draughtsman.

Children :

Walter Manley, b. 1870, Aug. 20

Ethel Boynton, b. 1877, Feb. 18

Rebecca Luther⁶ Sisson, (*Rich*¹, *Geo*², *Geo*³, *John*⁴, *Esek*⁵), was born Feb. 14, 1805; married at Warren, R. I., Sept. 27, 1827, to Chas. H. son of Daniel and Mary() Salisbury of Baltimore, Md., born Nov. 8, 1804. She died May 17, 1861.

Children :

Mary Hall, b. 1828, Nov. 20

William H. b. 1831, Sept. 17

Sarah Ann, m. —Fuller

Eliza Cole, b. 1836

To the descendants of

Richard Sisson

Dear Friend :

Have you any interest in the history of the Sisson family? If so will you not take the trouble to send me what information you can about your branch of the family. The first emigrant of the name, and the only one so far as known, was Richard of Dartmouth, Ms., born 1608, died 1684. Over 3000 descendants of this Richard and his wife Mary have been traced. We shall be glad to add your family to the record. If, through lack of time or personal interest, you are unable to comply with this request; will you kindly ask some member of your family to do so? I can assure you the favor will be appreciated not alone by myself, but by many others of the family who desire to see the work made as complete as possible.

To make a good record the following items are desirable of each person born a Sisson.

Full name, date and place of birth, marriage, and death.

Full name and dates of persons married with names of parents.

Names and dates of children.

Residence, occupation, church membership, politics, public office, military or naval service and other items of family history, tradition, church or town record.

Copies of bible records, cemetery inscriptions, wills, deeds, marriage certificates (especially from Friends' meetings), obituary and anniversary notices and other personal mention in the local press.

Photographs or other pictures of Sissons and Sisson homesteads.

Do not think because you may have but few items to give, that they are of no value. On the contrary, you may have the clue for which I have been hunting for years.

In most cases I am able to give the ancestral line to Richard¹ and shall be happy to do so for you on request.

I have been engaged in this work during the past ten years and hope, before long to preserve the result of my labor in a more permanent form.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur A. Wood,

Slocum, R. I.

Oct. 18, 1904.