

THE FAMILY  
OF  
JAMES THORNTON,  
FATHER OF  
**Hon. Matthew Thornton.**

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BY  
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## THORNTON.

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The name **Thornton** is said to have been derived from **Thor**, the ancient northern deity. A different origin, however, is suggested by the coats of arms of two of the oldest Thornton families of England, the Thorntons of York and the Thorntons of Tiersall, which bear upon them three hawthorn trees or bushes, which suggest the combination of the words "thorn" and "town."

The name **DE THORNTON** also appears in the early annals, indicating a Norman ancestry. Thornton in Gaelic was **MacSkenaghan** or **MacSceinaghan**, from **sceine**, a knife.

There are numerous families of Thorntons in the United States. One of the earliest Thornton immigrants to America was **WILLIAM THORNTON**, who came from Yorkshire, England, prior to 1646, and settled in York county, Virginia. This William Thornton was the ancestor of a large number of prominent descendants, some of whom became connected by marriage with the family of President George Washington, and some with the family of President Zachary Taylor. Dr. John H. F. Thornton, who married Mary, daughter of President William Henry Harrison, was probably of this family.

Another early immigrant to America was **JOHN THORNTON**, who was one of the founders of the First Baptist church of Newport, R. I., in 1648.

**REV. THOMAS THORNTON**, who came from England in 1663, and settled at Yarmouth, Mass., was the ancestor of descendants of eminence.

**JAMES THORNTON**, father of Hon. Matthew Thornton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, emigrated from Ireland to America in 1718.

There were other Thornton families who settled in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

## THE FAMILY OF JAMES THORNTON.

The earliest history of this family is in a manuscript by Hon. George C. Clyde, grandson of Col. Samuel Clyde, of Cherry Valley, N. Y., who married Catherine Wasson, niece of Hon. Matthew Thornton. This MSS. is in the possession of Dr. James D. Clyde, of Cherry Valley, and the following is an extract therefrom :

“ Col. Clyde’s mother’s name was Esther Rankin. His wife’s name was Catherine Wasson. She was a niece of MATTHEW THORNTON, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and was born in Leicester, Mass., in the town of Worcester, in 1737. Her family was originally ENGLISH, but emigrated to the north of Ireland. Her mother’s name was AGNES THORNTON, and her mother was NANCY SMITH, who, with her husband, JAMES THORNTON, was in the siege of Londonderry, in 1689, when it was besieged by King James and relieved by the Prince of Orange. They lived on a farm about a mile from the city, and were subject to frequent visits from King James’ troopers. On one occasion a party of marauders, among whom was a trooper who had been a hired servant to Mr. Thornton, rode up to their house, and throwing the bridle of his horse to Mr. Thornton, told him to walk him up and down while they got some refreshments. Mr. Thornton was quite indignant, but did not dare to refuse. When the trooper mounted again he told Thornton in a whisper that he had saved his life, and had done it only as a protection to him. On another occasion a party who paid them a visit said to Mrs. Thornton, ‘The sugar plums from Derry are plenty today,’ meaning the balls from the cannon which were playing upon them. ‘Yes,’ she said, ‘and I hope you may get some of them before the day is over.’ Her husband told her afterwards he expected her reply would have cost her her life. She came to this country with her husband, and Mrs. Clyde said she was a very handsome woman, and would knit and tell stories all day long when she was so old she could do no other work.”

According to the Clyde MSS. James Thornton, father of Hon. Matthew and of Agnes Thornton, was living with his wife near Londonderry, Ireland, in 1689, but it is evident that in handing down the family tradition a generation was omitted, as James, father of Hon. Matthew Thornton, was not more than five years of age in 1689, which is shown by the record on his gravestone in Forest Hill cemetery, East Derry, N. H., which states that he died on November 7th, 1754, in the 70th year of his age. It will be assumed, therefore, that

the James Thornton and Nancy Smith, his wife, who are referred to in the Clyde MSS. as living near Londonderry, Ireland, in 1689, were the grandparents of Hon. Matthew Thornton.

The Clyde MSS. states that the Thorntons lived on a farm about a mile from the city of Londonderry at the time of the siege, and that they were subject to frequent visits from the troopers of King James. The Clyde farm was on Carn Hill, which is about a mile from the city of Londonderry, on the road to Limavady, and at the time of the siege Sir N. O'Neil's dragoons were stationed on the easterly bank of the River Foyle, near Carn Hill. It seems probable, therefore, that the farm of the Thorntons was on or near Carn Hill, in some location which was protected from the "sugar plums" from Derry.

The Clyde manuscript is authority for the following facts:

1. That the Thornton family was of English origin.
2. That the Thornton family emigrated to the north of Ireland, and that James Thornton and Nancy Smith, his wife, were living on a farm about a mile from Londonderry at the time of the siege, in 1689.
3. That James Thornton and Nancy Smith, his wife, emigrated to America.

The place of origin in England of this branch of the Thornton family is unknown.

Several families of Thorntons emigrated from England to Ireland, among them the THORNTONS OF GRENVILLE, who emigrated in the reign of James I. and settled in Londonderry. A member of this family, Robert Thornton, was mayor of Londonderry at the breaking out of the rebellion of 1641. He and others of his family purchased property in Londonderry and elsewhere from the London companies. William Thornton, son of William Thornton of Bentham, Yorkshire county, England, settled in Muff, near Londonderry, Ireland. O'Hart states that in the reign of Elizabeth about 100,000 acres in the County Limerick were confiscated and divided among English families, among whom were Thorntons.

Nothing is known in regard to James Thornton and Nancy Smith, his wife, beyond what is stated in the Clyde MSS. Their son James<sup>2</sup> was born in or about 1684, his birthplace being unknown.

James<sup>2</sup> Thornton had eight children: 1. James. 2. Andrew. 3. Matthew. 4. Agnes. 5. William. 6. Samuel. 7. Hannah. 8. Esther. Of these children Matthew was born in Ireland, probably near Londonderry, in 1714.

The Thornton family is said to have been among the 120 families who, in five small ships, arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, on August 5, 1718, and in the fall of that year to have gone to Falmouth (now Portland, Maine), where they spent the winter on shipboard, enduring great hardships. They then went to Wiscasset, Maine, and after a stay there of a few years they moved to Worcester, Massachusetts. In Worcester the Thorntons lived on a farm near Tacknuck Hill, adjoining the town of Leicester. The only record that has been found of the wife of James Thornton is the deed of the Worcester farm, dated February 14, 1739-40, in which "Ketiran" Thornton joins. In 1740, James<sup>2</sup> Thornton moved from Worcester to Pelham, Massachusetts, of which town he was one of the founders and principal proprietors. He remained in Pelham, where he held various town offices, until 1748, when he moved to Londonderry, New Hampshire, where he resided until his death on November 7, 1754. He is buried in Forest Hills cemetery, East Derry, N. H., beside his daughter, Hannah Wallace.

Of the eight children of James<sup>2</sup> Thornton descendants to all but the first two have been traced. All that is known of James and Andrew is that they were co-grantees with their brother, Hon. Matthew, in 1768, of the town of Thornton, N. H., which was named in honor of Hon. Matthew Thornton.

The most prominent member of the Thornton family was Hon. Matthew Thornton, son of James<sup>2</sup> Thornton. He settled in New Hampshire, where he became distinguished as a physician, judge, statesman and patriot in the Revolution. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for the State of New Hampshire, and the history of his life is to be found among the Lives of the Signers. He died on June 24, 1803, and is buried at Thornton's Ferry, N. H., where a monument to his memory was erected in 1892 by the State of New Hampshire.

## DESCENDANTS OF HON. MATTHEW THORNTON.

HON. MATTHEW THORNTON married, about 1760, Hannah Jack, of Chester, N. H. She died December 5, 1786, and he died June 24, 1803. Both are buried at Thornton's Ferry, N. H. Their children, born at Londonderry, N. H., were as follows: 1. James, b. 1763. 2. Andrew, b. 1766. 3. Mary. 4. Hannah. 5. Matthew, born 1770.

HANNAH JACK, who, at the age of 18, was married to Hon. Matthew Thornton, was the daughter of Andrew Jack, who settled near Jack Hill, in Chester, N. H., at some time prior to 1747, when his name appears upon the Presbyterian records as Warden. The Jack family came originally from Scotland, where the name is to be found in the early records of the parishes of Glasgow, Lanark and Edinburgh. The family of Andrew Jack emigrated from Scotland to Londonderry, Ireland. The church register of the parish of Templemore, Londonderry, shows the baptism, on June 11, 1713, of a son, Thomas, to Andrew Jack and Ellener, his wife. This Andrew Jack may have been the father of the Andrew Jack who emigrated to America and who married MARY MORRISON, born in Ireland about 1718. Her ancestor, John Morrison, was born in the county of Aberdeen, Scotland, about 1628, and emigrated to Ireland previous to 1688, where he resided at or near Londonderry. He and his family were among the Scotch Protestants who, during the siege of Londonderry, were by the inhuman order of General de Rosen, driven beneath the walls of the city, where they suffered from starvation, and were exposed to the fire of both besiegers and besieged. The Morrisons survived and were admitted into the city.

Andrew Jack and Mary Morrison had four children: Two sons, Andrew and Samuel, and two daughters, one of whom, HANNAH, born about 1742, became the wife of Hon. Matthew Thornton in 1760.

## DESCENDANTS OF THE CHILDREN OF HON. MATTHEW THORNTON.

### I.

#### Descendants of James Thornton.

JAMES THORNTON, b. 1763, resided in Merrimack, N. H., and became a member of the New Hampshire Legislature. He married Mary Parker, of Litchfield, N. H., and they had four children: 1. Matthew. 2. Hannah. 3. Mary. 4. James Buonaparte. James Thornton died in 1817, and is buried at Thornton's Ferry, N. H.

HANNAH, daughter of James Thornton, married COL. JOSEPH GREELEY, of Nashua, N. H. They had seven children: 1. Mary Thornton. 2. Joseph Thornton. 3. Sarah. 4. Charles A. 5. James B. 6. Edward P. 7. Helen Dana.

Gen. James B. Greeley became a physician; served in the Civil War; married Arabella McGaw Wood, and lived at Thornton's Ferry, N. H., on the farm formerly the homestead of Hon. Matthew Thornton.

JAMES BUONAPARTE THORNTON married Sophia Shepard, of Connecticut. They had two children: 1. James Shepard. 2. Mary P. They resided in Merrimack, N. H. James B. Thornton was a member of the New Hampshire Legislature; Speaker of the N. H. House of Representatives in 1829 and 1830; Second Comptroller of the U. S. Treasury; Chargé d'Affaires at Callao, Peru, in 1836. Died 1838, and is buried at Thornton's Ferry, N. H.

MARY P. THORNTON, daughter of Hon. James B. Thornton, married Dr. Charles Davis, and their son, Charles Thornton Davis, is a Judge of the Court of Land Registration in Boston, Mass.

JAMES SHEPARD THORNTON, son of Hon. James B. Thornton, attained distinction in the U. S. Navy, and the following sketch of his life was written by Judge Charles Thornton Davis.

"James Shepard Thornton had a very distinguished career in the United States Navy. His name and memory have been perpetuated by the Department in the U. S. torpedo boat 'Thornton,' and stories and traditions about him as one of the famous fighters of the Navy are still current in the service.

"He was a man of singular quickness, both of thought and action; cool and determined in time of danger; extremely thorough in professional prepara-



tion ; and wholly devoid of physical fear. These qualities, combined with a powerful physique and robust health, made him a formidable fighter, and it was his fortune to see an unusual amount of active and dangerous service. He was a stern disciplinarian, one of the most severe in the Navy, but very popular with his men. In private life he was an affectionate, even-tempered and warm-hearted friend, and a jovial companion. He had quick appreciation of the merits of others, unswerving loyalty to his friends, his superiors, and the service, and great personal modesty.

"He was born in the Thornton homestead at Thornton's Ferry, New Hampshire, February 25, 1827. His father died while he was very young, leaving him to the care and guardianship of Franklin Pierce and Senator Ather-ton. By the latter he was appointed a midshipman in the Navy on January 15, 1841.

"In 1845, while at home on his first leave, he gave the first public evidence of that indifference to physical danger, which was often criticized as recklessness, but from which he never suffered disaster. Finding the house of a poor woman in Nashua on fire, and the volunteer fire department engaged in moving out the effects instead of attempting to save the house, Midshipman Thornton led in a volunteer force of fire fighters, and soon emerged from the conflict triumphant, but with all the hair burned off his head.

"In 1846 he was sent to the Naval Academy, and in 1847 to sea as past-midshipman, where he had the great advantage of active service in the Mexican war.

"In 1850 he went to the Pacific on coast survey work. While there, being unjustly insulted and humiliated by a superior officer, from whom he was unable to obtain redress, he promptly resigned from the Navy, and then seeking out his former superior officer, administered to him such a public castigation that the offending officer was shortly forced to leave the service.

"From 1850 to 1854 young Thornton was engaged in surveying the gold fields of California and in what is now Utah, but in February, 1854, being restored to his old rank among his classmates, he re-joined the service and went at once to sea, serving in the Brazils, where he had been as a midshipman during the Mexican war. While in the Brazils he exhibited his courage by several times refusing to fight duels. One duel, however, he was forced into, and was slightly wounded after having himself fired into the air. He was never challenged again.

"At the outbreak of the Civil War he was transferred to Admiral Farragut's flagship, the Hartford, and was her executive officer during the famous passage

of the forts when Farragut was lashed in the rigging. After the battle Farragut stated to his flag lieutenant that he had never seen a more efficient officer in action than Thornton. The scheme of covering the sides of the ship with chains was Thornton's invention, for which he received high praise from Farragut.

"In 1862 he was commissioned Lieutenant Commander, and given command of the *Winona*, off Mobile. While in this command he made a small boat reconnaissance under a heavy fire from Fort Gaines, sounding the various approaches to the fort and gathering information of the greatest value. For this exploit the Navy Department caused a torpedo boat to be named for him. Later, he cut out a rebel steamer from under the guns of Fort Morgan in total disregard of the signals of his flag officer not to risk the engagement. He declined to see the signals, believing his ship to be in such position that he was justified in disregarding orders from a distance, and when his conduct was reported on complaint to Admiral Farragut, he received unqualified commendation.

"In December, 1862, he was assigned to the *Kearsarge* as executive officer at the beginning of her cruise in search of the *Alabama*. Just before the battle, Thornton wrote home that he had his ship and crew in such a state of efficiency that they could fight an action without officers. Nevertheless, when the fight actually took place Thornton went from gun to gun steadying the crews and occasionally aiming and firing the guns. Captain Winslow was very hearty in his praise of the services of his executive officer during the battle. To the accuracy of her own fire was largely due the victory of the *Kearsarge*, and the accuracy of that fire was attributed both by her commanding officer and by her crew as due to a great extent to the efficiency of her executive officer. In this battle Thornton repeated his *Hartford* manœuvre of protecting the vital parts of the ship with chains, a manœuvre which the English naval officers of that day, as well as Admiral Farragut of the old, and Captain Mahan of the new, American Navy, characterized as of the highest professional merit.

"After the battle there were some unworthy efforts made to create jealousy and trouble between Captain Winslow and his executive officer, but the efforts failed. Thornton always remained unswervingly loyal to his commanding officer, who assumed all the burden of possible defeat and whom he held entitled to the full credit of the victory. Winslow, on his part, was prompt and generous in his praise of Thornton's skill and services, and when the officers of the *Kearsarge* met their first public welcome on their return, Winslow entered the banquet hall arm in arm with his executive officer. After the battle Thornton received three superb jewelled swords of honor from the grateful marine underwriters and boards of trade of Philadelphia, San Francisco and Boston.

"For distinguished service in the action with the Alabama, Thornton was advanced several numbers in his grade, and given command of the Kearsarge.

"From 1865 to 1873 he was stationed at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, and in August, 1873, was sent in command of the U. S. S. 'Monongahela' to Kerguelen Island with the transit of Venus expedition. The only available charts for this dangerous voyage were the original charts made by Captain Cook, which were placed at Thornton's disposal by the British government. He accomplished his difficult mission successfully, but upon the return voyage, while studying his copy of the Cook chart in his cabin, he was thrown down by a sudden lurch of the ship and received serious injuries to the spine. He was at once invalidated home, but died on May 14, 1875, at Germantown, Pennsylvania, within a few weeks after his arrival.

"He married, in 1857, his cousin, Ellen Thornton Wood, a woman of remarkable beauty as well as of great dignity of character. They had no children, and Mrs. Thornton died in May, 1901.

"James Shepard Thornton was the last of his name of the descendants of Hon. Matthew Thornton."

## II.

ANDREW THORNTON, son of Hon. Matthew Thornton, born 1766.

[Descendants not traced.]

## III.

MARY THORNTON, daughter of Hon. Matthew Thornton, married Hon. Silas Betton, of Salem, N. H. They had seven children: 1. Wealthy J. 2. Harriet. 3. Caroline. 4. Thornton. 5. Charles C. P. 6. Mary J. 7. George O. George E. Betton, a lawyer of Boston, Mass., Thornton Betton, a lawyer of Derry, N. H., and Matthew Thornton Betton, of Portsmouth, N. H., were descendants. The burial plot of the Betton family is in Forest Hills cemetery, East Derry, N. H.

## IV.

HANNAH THORNTON, daughter of Hon. Matthew Thornton, married John McGaw of Bedford, N. H. John McGaw was son of Jacob McGaw, of Scotch descent, who emigrated from Lineygloss, in the north of Ireland, where he was born in 1737, to America, where he settled in Bedford, N. H., and married Margaret Orr.

John McGaw and Hannah Thornton had three children: 1. Thornton. 2. John Andrew. 3. Harriet Frances.

Hannah Thornton McGaw died in 1846, and is buried at Mt. Auburn, Cambridge, Mass.

THORNTON MCGAW was born at Newburyport, Mass., July 24, 1799; moved to Bedford, N. H., in 1805; prepared for college at Pinkerton Academy, Londonderry; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1820, among the first seven in a class of twenty-four; studied law with his uncle, Jacob McGaw of Bangor, Me., where he commenced the practice of law in 1824. He married Anne Frances, daughter of Joseph Carr of Bangor, on October 19, 1826. Child, Annie Thornton. He died October 5, 1859, at Bangor, Me., and is buried at Mt. Auburn cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.

At a meeting of the Penobscot County Bar, held on Oct. 6, 1859, resolutions were adopted expressive of appreciation of the memory of the honorable professional character of Thornton McGaw, as a counselor of the courts, of his integrity as a man, and of his social and generous qualities as a companion and friend. The death of Thornton McGaw was announced to the court by Judge Hathaway, and the announcement was responded to by Judge Appleton, who said in part:

"I first knew Mr. McGaw in the prime and vigor of life, after he had commenced his professional career, and when by his skill in the management of affairs, by his accurate learning and ability, he had obtained a large and extensive practice. With the advantage which a liberal education confers, thoroughly read in the law, acquainted equally with its technicalities as with its more liberal and general principles; of unquestioned integrity, he soon acquired an eminent position in his profession. His habitual caution and prudence, his strong sense and legal acquirements, were all displayed in the sagacity of his professional advice and in the wisdom of his judgment. Successful in early life in the acquisition of an estate amply abundant, he soon exchanged the harassing cares and the annoying perplexities of forensic for the more congenial pleasures of social life, which his independent means permitted him to enjoy, and where his vigorous intellect, his liberal culture, his infinite wit and humor, made him one of the most attractive as well as one of the most instructive of companions."

ANNIE THORNTON MCGAW, daughter of Thornton McGaw, was born at Bangor, Maine, on January 26, 1828, and was married in 1855 to Charles W. Adams, who was born in Rochester, N. H.

#### ADAMS FAMILY.

The ancestor of this family was HENRY ADAMS, of Braintree, (Quincy) Mass. He came from England, and is said to have arrived in Boston, Mass., with his wife, eight sons and a daughter, in 1632 or 1633. Charles I., in 1629,

granted 40 acres of land in Massachusetts to Thomas Adams, who was an Alderman, High Sheriff and Lord Mayor of London. It is said that Henry Adams was a brother of Thomas, and took up the latter's grant. President John Adams erected a monument to the memory of Henry Adams in the old churchyard at Quincy, with the following inscription :

"In memory of Henry Adams, who took his flight from the Dragon persecution in Devonshire, England, and alighted with eight sons near Mt. Wollaston. One of the sons returned to England, and after taking time to explore the country, four removed to Medfield and two to Chelmsford. One only, JOSEPH, who lies here at his left hand, remained here,—an original proprietor in the township of Braintree."

President John Quincy Adams dissented from his father's opinion that Henry Adams came from Devonshire, and gave his opinion that Braintree, ~~Essex~~ county, England, was the place of origin. This opinion seems to have been based largely on the fact that Braintree, Mass., was settled by Hooker's company, which was made up from Braintree, Chelmsford and other villages of ~~Essex~~ county, England.

JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> ADAMS, who, in the epitaph to Henry Adams, is referred to as he "who lies here at his left hand, an original proprietor in the township of Braintree," was born in England in 1626, and was married in Braintree, Mass., in 1650, to Abigail Baxter. They had twelve children, the second of whom, born in 1654, was also named JOSEPH<sup>2</sup>. He was a selectman in Braintree, and served in the war with the Indians in 1676. Samuel Adams, the Patriot, was descended from Joseph<sup>2</sup> Adams, through his son, Capt. John Adams.

Joseph<sup>3</sup> Adams was married three times. By his second wife, Hannah Bass, he had ten children, the first of whom, named JOSEPH, was born in 1688, graduated from Harvard College in 1710, was ordained a minister, and settled at Newington, N. H., in 1715, where he remained as pastor for 66 years. John Adams, second President of the United States, was a son of Deacon John Adams, brother of Rev. Joseph Adams.

Rev. Joseph Adams was married twice, and by his first wife, Elizabeth Knight (Janvrin), had five children, the fourth of whom, BENJAMIN, b. 1728, was a justice of the peace and selectman in Newington, and delegate to the convention which adopted the Federal Constitution. Benjamin Adams married Abigail Pickering, and had eight children, the first of whom was JAMES, b. 1752, who became a selectman in Rochester, N. H. James Adams married Mary Cole, and had six children, the first, BENJAMIN, b. about 1779. Benjamin Adams married Elizabeth Horne, and had six children, the youngest of whom was CHARLES WILLIAM, b. 1813, at Rochester, N. H.

The children of Charles William Adams and Annie Thornton McGaw were Charles Thornton Adams, Harvard A. B., a lawyer in New York, and Helen Lee of Northampton, Mass.

## II.

JOHN ANDREW MCGAW, son of John and Hannah Thornton McGaw, became a prosperous shipping merchant in the city of New York. He married Nancy Goffe, of Bedford, N. H., and they had four children: 1. Harriet Ann. 2. Hannah Thornton. 3. Helen. 4. Frances Eliza.

HARRIET ANN MCGAW married Freeman P. Woodbury, a merchant in the city of New York. Their children were: 1. John McGaw. 2. Gordon. 3. Thornton. 4. Helen.

JOHN MCGAW WOODBURY graduated from Princeton College in 1879, also from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York; served as major on the staff of General Wilson in the Spanish-American war, and has held the office of Street Cleaning Commissioner of the city of New York under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

GORDON WOODBURY graduated from Harvard College, became a lawyer in the city of New York, afterwards in Manchester, N. H. Is proprietor of the *Manchester Daily Union*.

THORNTON WOODBURY graduated from Harvard College, and is connected with the *New York Sun*.

HELEN WOODBURY married Dr. William S. Seamans, Harvard A. B., one of the examining physicians of the Equitable Life Insurance Company in the city of New York.

HANNAH THORNTON MCGAW married Rev. Henry Fenn, Yale A. B., and resides in Portland, Maine.

HELEN MCGAW married Fleming Smith, Esq., and resides in New York city.

FRANCES ELIZA MCGAW married Charles H. Woodbury, Dartmouth A. B., a lawyer of the city of New York.

## III.

HARRIET FRANCES MCGAW, daughter of John and Hannah Thornton McGaw, married Rev. Henry Wood, a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was editor of the *Congregational Journal*; was appointed Consul to Beyrout, Syria, by President Pierce, and lived there many years. He was appointed chaplain in the U. S. Navy, and stationed at Philadelphia, Pa. Their children were: 1. John Thornton. 2. Ellen Francis. 3. Arabella McGaw. 4. Harriet H. 5. Elizabeth. 6. Henrietta. 7. Catharine Perley. 8. Charles. 9. Robert McGaw.

## V.

MATTHEW THORNTON, son of Hon. Matthew Thornton, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1797, and became a lawyer in New Hampshire. He married Fanny Curtis of Amherst, N. H., and their children were: 1. Abigail Curtis. 2. Hannah Jack. Matthew Thornton died in 1804.

## DESCENDANTS OF AGNES THORNTON WASSON.

AGNES THORNTON WASSON, sister of Hon. Matthew Thornton, had a daughter, Catherine, born in Leicester, Mass., April 28, 1737. Agnes Thornton's husband is believed to have been Thomas Wasson or Wason, who, with his brother James, came from County Antrim, Ireland, to America in 1736. The Wasson family came originally from the north of England. Thomas Wasson settled in Chester, N. H., prior to July, 1738. He had a son Thomas, who is thought to have been the Thomas Wasson who served in the War of the Revolution as captain, 5th company, 2d regiment, Schenectady (N. Y.) division. John Thornton, son of Hon. Matthew's brother William, served as 1st lieutenant in this company. Catherine Wasson had several brothers, and Thornton and John Wason, who were grantees of Orford, N. H., in 1761, were probably two of them. It is also probable that George Wasson, who married Agnes Sullivan, and had eight children (the youngest, James Duane, born at Duaneburg, N. Y., on April 24, 1792) was also a brother of Catherine's.

The family of Agnes Thornton Wasson were among the early settlers of the New York frontier, where their home was at Amsterdam. Catherine Wasson was married, in 1761, at Schenectady, N. Y., to Capt. Samuel Clyde.

### CLYDE OR CLOYD FAMILY.

This family was of Scotch origin. The name Clyde or Cloyd appears frequently in the early records of the parishes of Glasgow and Lanark. Family tradition has it that three brothers named Clyde left Scotland on account of religious troubles and settled in the north of Ireland. The subsidy and hearth rolls of Londonderry, Ireland, show that there were in Glendermott parish, in 1662, one Jo. Cloyd; in Ballykelly, a James Cloyd; in Kearne or Carn, a JOHN CLYDE, in 1663; in Drumboe, a Munyon Clyde, and in Glasteele, a Robert Clide. Tradition in Ireland is that some of the family of John Clyde of Carn emigrated to America. John Clyde, whose farm was on Carn Hill, near Londonderry, was probably the grandfather of DANIEL CLYDE, who emigrated to America from Londonderry about 1732, and settled in that part of Londonderry, New Hampshire, which is now known as Windham. This Daniel Clyde is said to have been born in 1683. He had a brother Michael (b. 1710) who settled in East Allen, Penna. Daniel Clyde married Esther, daughter of Hugh Rankin, an emigrant from County Antrim, Ireland, to Londonderry, N. H. Esther



Rankin was born in 1706; was a woman of worth and of a strong religious character. They had nine children, five of whom were born in Ireland, viz.: 1. Joseph, b. 1722. 2. Hugh, b. 1724. 3. John, b. 1826. 4. Daniel, b. 1728. 5. Ann, b. 1730. 6. SAMUEL, b. April 11, 1832, in Windham, N. H. 7. Mary, b. 1735. 8. Nancy, b. 1740. 9. Agnes, b. 1744.

Daniel Clyde was a selectman in Windham in 1747. He died on June 4, 1753.

It is not known when SAMUEL CLYDE left Windham and settled in New York, but it was probably shortly after the death of his father, Daniel.

By a commission, dated at Albany, N. Y., on May 25, 1758, under the hand of Samuel James Abercromby, Samuel Clyde was appointed captain of a company of Rangers.

In 1762, Samuel Clyde and his wife moved to Cherry Valley, N. Y., where they lived for ten years on the James Ritchie farm, which was the place of birth of their four eldest daughters and of their son Matthew. In 1768, Samuel Clyde purchased a farm about one mile from the village of Cherry Valley, the title to which farm has ever since remained in the family, the present owner being Dr. James D. Clyde.

Both Colonel Clyde and his wife bore prominent parts in the Revolution. They and their eight children were survivors of the massacre of Cherry Valley in 1778.

After the destruction of Cherry Valley Colonel Clyde moved with his family to Canajoharie, where they resided until spring with a Mr. Van Alstyne. They then went to Curry's Bush, near Princetown, N. Y., where they lived with some relations (Thorntons) until 1783, when peace was declared. The Thorntons referred to were the sons of William Thornton, of whom Major John Thornton was one. Colonel Clyde and his family returned to Cherry Valley in 1784. He was appointed Sheriff of Montgomery county, which office he held until his death on November 30, 1890. Catherine Wasson Clyde died on May 31, 1824.

The children of Colonel Samuel Clyde and of Catherine Wasson, his wife, born between 1762 and 1778, were as follows: 1. Agnes. 2. Ann. 3. Jennie. 4. Catherine. 5. Matthew. 6. George. 7. Joseph. 8. Esther. Of these children Agnes and Jennie married members of the Schermerhorn family, and Catherine married Major Lester Holt. Their descendants have not been traced.

MATTHEW CLYDE married Jane Clark. They resided in Cherry Valley and Medina, N. Y. Their children were: 1. Melinda. 2. Samuel. 3. Steuben.

4. William. 5. Thornton. 6. Joseph. 7. Keziah. 8. Jane. 9. Esther. Thornton Clyde had two sons who were killed in the Civil War: Alvin, 121st N. Y. Vols., killed at Chancellorsville, aged 21; Arthur, 90th N. Y. Vols., died at Key West, aged 19.

STEUBEN CLYDE married Susan Sherman. They resided at Maine, N. Y., and had eleven children, born between 1826 and 1847. Of these, Alfred served in the Civil War in the 89th N. Y. Infantry, and in the 50th N. Y. Engineers.

GEORGE CLYDE, son of Colonel Samuel Clyde, married Martha Campbell, and resided at Cherry Valley, N. Y. They had four children: 1. George Clinton, b. 1802. 2. Jefferson Newton. 3. Lafayette. 4. Albert W., b. 1820. George Clyde died in 1847.

#### CAMPBELL FAMILY.

MARTHA CAMPBELL, wife of George Clyde, was descended from Colonel William Campbell, who moved from Campbelltown, Argyleshire, Scotland, to Ireland, about 1685. He had two sons, James, born at Londonderry, Ireland, in 1690, and Samuel, born in 1695. These sons, with their families, moved to America in 1728, landing at Boston, Mass., where they remained until 1733, when they settled in Londonderry, N. H. In 1741, James Campbell went to Cherry Valley, N. Y. His first wife, married in Ireland, was Jane Humphrey. They had six children, the eldest of whom, John, born in Ireland, married Elinor Ramsey, and they had two children: 1. John, Jr. 2. Eleanor. Eleanor Campbell married Captain Samuel Campbell (probably her cousin), and had ten children, all of whom she outlived, attaining the age of 88. Two of Eleanor Campbell's daughters, Martha and Margaret, married George Clyde and Joseph Clyde, his brother.

Eleanor Campbell was 24 years old at the time of the destruction of Cherry Valley in 1778, and she and her father's family were taken prisoners by the Indians, but with the other women and children she was sent back by Brandt, after a captivity of three days.

HON. GEORGE CLINTON CLYDE, son of George Clyde and Martha Campbell, his wife, married, in 1829, Catherine Dorr. He was admitted to the bar of the State of New York in 1824; located at Burlington, N. Y.; County Clerk in 1835; moved to Chatham, Columbia county, N. Y., in 1839; Judge Court of Common Pleas and member N. Y. Constitutional Convention of 1846; returned to Cherry Valley, N. Y., in 1852, and died in 1868. He had no children, but

adopted the children of his brother Lafayette. He was the writer of the manuscript account of the life of Colonel Samuel Clyde, in which the early history of the Thornton family is referred to.

LAFAYETTE CLYDE, son of George Clyde, married Frances A. Crafts, a descendant of Gov. Bradford of Plymouth, Mass. Their children were: 1. Frances E., b. 1841. 2. James D., b. 1843.

JAMES D. CLYDE, son of Lafayette Clyde, is a physician at Cherry Valley, N. Y. He left college in 1861, at the age of 18, and enlisted as a private in the U. S. army; was afterwards commissioned 1st lieutenant and captain; was made prisoner and kept so for ten months, a part of the time at Charleston, S. C., under fire of U. S. guns; discharged in 1865; graduated in 1867 from College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York. Dr. Clyde owns and resides on the farm near Cherry Valley, which was purchased in 1768 by Colonel Samuel Clyde, and the ownership of which has been kept in the family ever since.

ALBERT W. CLYDE, son of George Clyde and Martha Campbell, his wife, married Fatima Flint. They had ten children, born between 1840 and 1865: 1. Margaret A. 2. Martha E. 3. Eugene A. 4. Edward L. 5. George C. 6. Jefferson W. 7. George C. 8. Fannie V. 9. Kittie D. 10. Frank D.

EDWARD L. CLYDE enlisted in Co. D, 46th regt., N. Y. Vols., August 1, 1864.

JOSEPH CLYDE, son of Colonel Samuel Clyde, married Margaret Campbell. Their children, born between 1804 and 1824, were: 1. Samuel Adams. 2. Louisa Maria. 3. DeWitt Clinton. 4. Eleanor Campbell. 5. Joseph Henry. 6. Julie Lucretia. 7. John Wells.

SAMUEL ADAMS CLYDE married Elizabeth Fern. Their children, born between 1843 and 1853, were: 1. Arthur William. 2. Louisa E. 3. Jefferson Fern. 4. Sarah E.

ARTHUR W. CLYDE served in Co. K, 27th Iowa Vol. Infantry, from August, 1862, to August, 1865. For more than twelve years he has been States' Attorney of McIntosh county, North Dakota.

JEFFERSON FERN CLYDE was a member of the Iowa State Senate in 1890. In 1896 he was elected Judge of the District Court of Iowa, and re-elected in 1900. He is a graduate of the Collegiate and Law departments of the State University of Iowa, and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

## WILLIAM THORNTON AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

WILLIAM THORNTON, brother of Hon. Matthew Thornton, was, with his father, James, one of the first settlers of Pelham, Mass., in 1740, and as a surveyor he assisted in laying out that town. In 1744 he left Pelham and moved to Kingsfield (now Palmer), Mass., where he had a farm on the east side of Dumplin Hill. Here his sons, William (1745), Matthew (1746) and James were probably born. In March, 1748, William sold his farm at Palmer, and became the first settler of Dublin, N. H., which town was granted in 1749 to Hon. Matthew Thornton and others. The farm in Dublin on which William Thornton settled was owned by Hon. Matthew Thornton, and was subsequently sold by him to Dea. Isaac Appleton. A small monument has been erected on this farm to mark the place of the first settlement of the town. Two children were born to William Thornton during his residence in Dublin, a daughter, Molly, in 1749, said to have been the first white child born in that town, and a son, Thomas, born probably in 1751. William Thornton remained in Dublin until about 1753, when he left on account of the Indians, and with his family moved to Schenectady, N. Y., where his son John was born in 1753.

William Thornton and his sons, Matthew and James, served in the border warfare, their names appearing on the muster roll of Capt. Daniel Campbell's company of Schenectady, on May 12, 1767.

From a deed dated Feb. 3, 1770, it appears that William Thornton was then of Curry's Brook (or Bush), near Princetown, Albany county, N. Y. He returned to New Hampshire, and after living in Londonderry in 1773 and 1774 he went to Thornton, N. H., where he remained until his death in 1790.

### I.

WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> THORNTON, born 1745, married Dolly Bagley of Candia, N. H., and resided at Thornton, N. H. They had seven children, born between 1784 and 1799, viz.: 1. William<sup>3</sup>. 2. John. 3. Polly. 4. Matthew. 5. Nathan. 6. Hannah. 7. James.

WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> THORNTON, b. 1784, was a selectman, tax collector and justice of the peace in Thornton, N. H. His first wife was Mary Bagley, and they had eight children, born between 1806 and 1820, viz.: 1. Lucinda. 2. Cereno. 3. Milton. 4. Freeman. 5. Cynthia. 6. Lavina. 7. Washington. 8. Lena. His second wife was Harriet Elliot, and they had nine children, born between 1824 and 1840, viz.: 1. William<sup>4</sup>. 2. Martha. 3. Mary Esther. 4. Harriet. 5. Emeline. 6. William<sup>5</sup>. 7. Hannah D. 8. Edmund Elliot. 9. Henry H.

WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> THORNTON, b. 1832, married Emma E. Keniston of Campton, N. H., and their son, George K., is roadmaster of the Boston and Maine railroad at Salem, Mass.

EDMUND ELLIOT THORNTON enlisted at Mound City, Kansas, in 1861, in the U. S. army as 1st lieutenant; was made captain October 29, 1861; mustered out September 29, 1865; Co. G, 7th Kansas regt.

HENRY H. THORNTON enlisted in Co. H, 15th N. H. regt. at Concord, N. H., Oct. 15, 1862; wounded at Port Hudson May 27, 1863; discharged Aug. 13, 1863.

JOHN THORNTON, son of William<sup>2</sup> Thornton and Dolly Bagley, married Sarah Lunt, and resided in Derby, Vt. They had three children, born between 1821 and 1826, of whom John, b. 1823, moved to Stanstead, Canada, in 1840; thence to Barnston, P. Q. (1841-1855); thence to Coaticook, where he resided until his death in 1888. He represented the county of Stanstead in the Quebec Legislature for eight years. Descendants live in Barnston and other parts of Canada.

MATTHEW THORNTON, son of William<sup>2</sup> Thornton and Dolly Bagley, enlisted Feb. 23, 1813, in Capt. Joseph Flander's company (N. H.), and served 281 days. He married Esther Banker, and they had six children, whose descendants live in Michigan, Kansas and other western states.

NATHAN THORNTON, son of William<sup>2</sup> Thornton and Dolly Bagley, married Olive Edgerly of Peeling (Woodstock), N. H. He died in 1860.

JAMES THORNTON, son of William<sup>2</sup> Thornton and Dolly Bagley, married Rachel True of Wentworth, N. H. They had six children, whose descendants live in Hatley, P. Q., Canada.

## II.

CAPT. MATTHEW THORNTON was the second child of William Thornton. He was born on December 6, 1746, undoubtedly at Palmer, Massachusetts, where his father then lived. He was probably with his father when the latter became the first settler of Dublin, N. H., about 1748, and moved with him to Schenectady, N. Y., in 1753.

The names of William "Thornenton" and of James and Matthew Thornton appear on the muster roll of Capt. Daniel Campbell's company of Schenectady, on May 12, 1767.

Matthew Thornton was married on March 30, 1768, to Mary Crawford, and their first child, Dorcas, born March 12, 1770, was baptized at Schenectady, N. Y., on June 12, 1770.

In 1772, Matthew returned to New Hampshire and settled in the town of Thornton. Three more children were born to Matthew in New Hampshire, viz.: Joseph, on May 9, 1772; Cathrine in 1773, and Leah, on March 9, 1774.

Matthew was elected a delegate from the town of Thornton to the Third Provincial Congress of New Hampshire, which met at Exeter on April 21, 1775. He was also returned as a delegate from the towns of Thornton and Holderness, to the Fourth Provincial Congress, which met at Exeter on May 17, 1775. On June 23, 1775, he was recommended by David Hobart and others of Plymouth to the Committee of Safety as a fit person to enlist a company.

On July 4, 1775, he was added to the committee for bringing in a plan for regulating the militia.

On July 6, 1775, he was recommended as lieutenant of a company which Capt. James Osgood was authorized to enlist.

He enlisted a company, the roll of which set forth in Vol. 17, St. Papers, p. 14. See also Vol. 14, St. Papers, p. 166. This company of 43 men formed the major part of Capt. James Osgood's company, of which Capt. Matthew Thornton was 1st lieutenant. He served in that capacity under Col. Timothy Bedell in the expedition against Canada.

In a letter dated August 7, 1775, by Matthew Thornton, chairman of the Committee of Safety, to Col. Bedell, in which Capt. Thornton is mentioned as the bearer thereof, it is said that he also bears a letter from Gen. Sullivan, and is requested to take Capt. Thornton with him to Gen. Schuyler at Crown Point and endeavor to get the three companies, of which Gen. Osgood's was one, into the Continental service. The three companies marched from Haverhill, N. H., about Sept. 8, 1775, and on Nov. 2, 1775, captured Fort St. John, and took 600 prisoners and munitions of war.

Matthew Thornton's term of enlistment having expired, he was discharged Dec. 21, 1775.

On Feb. 3, 1776, the Committee of Safety gave directions to pay off Lieut. Thornton's company, and on Feb. 10, 1776, it ordered the Treasurer to pay Capt. Matthew Thornton his wages and rations, 18£ 19s 2d.

On April 4, 1776, his daughter, Jane Livermore, was born at Thornton, N. H.

On June 30, 1776 he was appointed by the Provincial Congress on a committee to take from the custody of Col. John Fenton, who was declared to be an enemy of his country, the files and records of the Court of Common Pleas of the county of Grafton.

Matthew's sixth child, a daughter, Mary, was born in Thornton in 1777.

On Sept. 30, 1777, Col. John Hurd, writing to the Committee of Safety from Haverhill, Mass., advises them of his being present at Plymouth when Capt. Matthew Thornton was arrested as a traitor. In this letter he says that at the battle of Bennington, which took place Aug. 16, 1777, Col. Charles Johnston informed him that Capt. Matthew Thornton was captured with the Hessians, inside the breastworks. Thornton claimed at this examination that he had been over to Otter Creek to see his land, and had been captured by the Hessians, who made him go with their army to assist in driving wagons, but that he did not bear arms, and that when he was captured he was taken with the waggoners. Col. Hurd adds that Col. Johnston assured him that when Thornton was captured there was not a *wagon* near him. (He did not claim to have been with the wagons.) The result of the examination was adverse to Thornton, and he was sent to Exeter and confined in the jail in that place.

On Nov. 7, 1778, the New Hampshire Legislature voted that Mr. Thornton, brother to Matthew Thornton, Jr., now in the prison at Exeter, be admitted to visit his said brother in prison, the prison keeper attending him. It does not appear which brother this was, but it was probably William, who lived in Thornton, N. H.

On Dec. 24, 1778, upon petition of Matthew Thornton, prisoner, to the General Assembly, he was granted the liberty of the prison yard upon giving bond in £200, with two sureties.

On April 3, 1779, an act was passed for the trial of Matthew Thornton in the county of Strafford.

June 3, 1779, a vote was passed "that Captain Ebenezer Webster be and hereby is directed to repair to Boscawen, or elsewhere, and see what evidence he can procure against one Matthew Thornton, a State prisoner now in the jail at Exeter, for treason against this State and the United States, and make return of his success to the House or the Committee of Safety of this State as soon as may be."

On June 26, 1779, Capt. Ebenezer Webster was directed, in behalf of the State, to collect all the evidence that he could find against Matthew Thornton, a State prisoner, for treason against the United States, and have them before the Superior Court for the county of Rockingham in July next.

June 26, 1779, an act was passed repealing an act for the trial of Matthew Thornton in the county of Stafford and authorizing the Superior Court to try said Matthew Thornton in the county of Rockingham.

At the September term of the Superior Court of Judicature, held at Exeter on the first Tuesday of September, 1779, Matthew Thornton, of the town of Thornton, in the county of Grafton, gentleman, was indicted for traitorously

levying war and conspiring to levy war against the State of New Hampshire and the U. S. at a place called Bennington, on the 16th of August, 1777, to which indictment he pleaded not guilty. Evidence was given both for and against the prisoner, and the jury found him NOT GUILTY; whereupon he was discharged.

Under date of Jan. 5, 1779, the following entry appears in the records of the Committee of Safety :

"The Committee met and ordered one John Chandler, of Boscawen, to deliver to Mary Thornton, wife of Matthew Thornton, now in the Exeter jail, a sleigh belonging to the said Thornton, in his custody."

Capt. Matthew Thornton subsequently went to St. Andrews, Charlotte county, New Brunswick, where he settled at the Ledge. Two children were born to him in New Brunswick, a son, Matthew, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who were twins.

Capt. Matthew Thornton died in 1824, and is buried at the Ledge, New Brunswick.

DORCAS THORNTON, daughter of Capt. Matthew, married Kennedy, and died in 1838, without issue.

JOSEPH THORNTON, son of Capt. Matthew, married Lydia Bailey, of Calais, Me. They had seven children : 1. William. 2. Sarah. 3. Joseph. 4. Samuel. 5. Nathaniel. 6. Eli. 7. Abiel. Descendants are to be found in Maine.

CATHERINE THORNTON, daughter of Capt. Matthew, is said to have married a Young.

LEAH THORNTON, daughter of Capt. Matthew, married Abiel Sprague, of Sprague Falls, Baileyville, Me. They had eight children : 1. Moses. 2. John. 3. Eli. 4. Jane. 5. Hannah. 6. Leah. 7. Sarah. 8. Rachel.

JANE LIVERMORE THORNTON, daughter of Capt. Matthew, married Capt. Eli Sprague of Machias, Me., and they resided at Sprague Falls, Baileyville, Me. They had twelve children : 1. Matthew Thornton. 2. Elizabeth Thornton. 3. Peris B. 4. Joseph Thornton. 5. John H. 6. Sophronia P. 7. Rebecca C. 8. Catherine Young. 9. Ezra C. 10. Eleazer B. 11. Ethan Allen. 12. Mary J.

MARY THORNTON, daughter of Capt. Matthew, is said to have married a Frost.

MATTHEW THORNTON, son of Capt. Matthew, married Sarah Pomeroy of Pomeroy Ridge, N. B. Their children were : 1. Matthew. 2. Mary E. 3. Benjamin. 4. Hannah. 5. Dorcas A. 6. Almira J. 7. Edward. 8. William. 9. Katherine. 10. James. 11. Priscilla A.



## III.

JAMES THORNTON, b. about 1747, probably at Palmer, Mass., went with his father's family to Dublin, N. H., about 1748, and moved with them to Schenectady, N. Y., in 1753. The muster roll of Capt. Daniel Campbell's company of Schenectady, May 12, 1767, gives the names of James Thornton and of his father and brother, Matthew. James also served in the war of the Revolution, in the 2d regiment, Albany county.

Pearson's "Genealogies of the First Settlers of Schenectady" gives the following record, which probably refers to the James Thornton above :

James Thornton m. Antje Schermerhorn. Children: 1. Mary, b. Sept. 9, 1785. 2. William, b. Feb. 17, 1793. 3. Margarieta, b. April 14, 1795.

There are probably descendants from this line in Schenectady, N. Y., but they have not been traced.

## IV.

MOLLY THORNTON, daughter of William, brother of Hon. Matthew Thornton, born in Dublin, N. H., about 1749. Descendants, if any, have not been traced.

## V.

THOMAS THORNTON, son of William Thornton, b. 1751, probably in Dublin, N. H. Moved to Schenectady, N. Y., with his father, William, in 1753. School teacher. Served in war of the Revolution in 2d regiment, Albany county. He married Elizabeth Richardson, sister of Paris Richardson, aide to Gen. Washington. Their children were: 1. William. 2. Eurette. 3. Elizabeth. 4. John. 5. Thomas. 6. Charles Wallace. 7. George.

WILLIAM THORNTON married Eunice Stevens. They had children: 1. Asa. 2. Thomas W. 3. Matilda. 3. Elizabeth.

THOMAS THORNTON married, in 1816, Keziah Ward. They resided in Duanesburgh and Albany, N. Y. Their children were: 1. Eurette. 2. Elizabeth. 3. Hester. 4. William. 5. Stephen F. 6. Matilda. 7. Mary. 8. Marshus. 9. Thomas W. 10. Lucinda.

EURETTA THORNTON married Henry Mix, of Albany, N. Y. She was noted as a philanthropist during the Civil War.

ELIZABETH THORNTON married Benjamin Snyder, of Bethlehem, N. Y. They had seven children.

HESTER THORNTON married Edmund J. Lord, of Albany, N. Y. They had five children.

WILLIAM THORNTON married Margaret Ferguson, of Brooklyn, and resided in Valparaiso, Ind. They had two children.

STEPHEN F. THORNTON married Katharine Varley, of Albany, N. Y. They had five children.

LUCINDA THORNTON married Nelson H. Salisbury, of Albany, N. Y. They had two children.

CHARLES WALLACE THORNTON, son of Thomas, married Almira Gaige, and lived near Altamont, N. Y. They had seven children, born between 1823 and 1843. 1. George. 2. Lydia. 3. Maria L. 4. Thereon. 5. Euretta. 6. Charles W. 7. Amanda.

## VI.

JOHN THORNTON, son of William Thornton, was born at Schenectady, N. Y., in 1753. He served with distinction in the war of the Revolution. He was 1st lieutenant in Capt. Thomas Wasson's company (5th) in the 2d regiment, Schenectady division. His brothers, James and Thomas, served in the same regiment. Captain (and later Major) John Thornton served with Col. Willett along the Mohawk valley, and as major he commanded the escort to General Washington and Governor Clinton from Fort Plain to Cherry Valley and Otsego Lake and return, during the summer of 1783.

On January 25, 1786, Major Thornton purchased a farm of 100 acres at Curry's Bush (or Brook), in the town of Princetown, Albany county, N. Y., which farm had been owned by Daniel Clyde, in 1771.

Major Thornton married Ann (Adelia) Clyde, daughter of Col. Samuel Clyde. She was born October 25, 1764, and her ancestry is set forth under the Agnes Thornton Wasson branch. Their children were: 1. John Clyde, b. July 28, 1793. 2. John Clyde, b. Nov. 24, 1795. 3. Adelia, b. Aug. 28, 1797. 4. William Anderson, b. Aug. 29, 1802. 5. Catherine Agnes, b. Oct. 31, 1806.

Major Thornton sold his farm at Princetown on August 29, 1799, and probably moved from there to Albany, N. Y., where his son, William A., was born.

Major Thornton died on March 22, 1819, and was buried at Schenectady, N. Y. His wife died on October 14, 1841.

WILLIAM ANDERSON THORNTON, b. 1802, in Albany, N. Y., graduated first in his class at West Point; entered U. S. army, engineer corps; served in

Seminole Indian war in Florida ; transferred to ordnance department, and stationed at Governor's Island, N. Y., Watertown arsenal, Mass., and Watervliet arsenal, N. Y.; was promoted to rank of Brigadier General. He married Helen Smith in 1833, and their children, born between 1834 and 1851, were: 1. Anna Clyde. 2. Helena de Witt. 3. Adelia. 4. William A. 5. Catherine Clyde. 6. George de Witt. 7. Elenora. 8. Howard. 9. Julia. 10. John.

Brigadier General W. A. Thornton died at his post on Governor's Island, N. Y., on April 6, 1866.

ELENORA THORNTON married in 1867, John Hugh Walsh, of Newburgh, N. Y.; residence, "Thorntonhurst," Great Barrington, Mass. Their children, born between 1874 and 1889, were: 1. Ellen Beekman. 2. William Thornton. 3. Elizabeth de Witt. 4. Howard Thornton. 5. John Hugh. 6. George Radcliffe. 7. Nora Clyde.

ELLEN BEEKMAN WALSH married in 1903 Gurdon W. Gordon; residence, Springfield, Mass.

HOWARD THORNTON, son of William A. Thornton, is a lawyer at Newburgh, N. Y. Former member of assembly of state of New York.

## DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL THORNTON.

SAMUEL THORNTON, brother of Hon. Matthew Thornton, lived at Campton, N. H., and later at Hatley and Stanstead, in Canada. He is said to have married twice, and to have had 22 children, 11 by each wife. By his second wife he had the following children: 1. Samuel<sup>2</sup>, b. 1775. 2. Reuben. 3. Sarah. 4. Abram. 5. Catharine. 6. Dorcas; b. 1779. 7. Eleanor. 8. William. 9. Sumner. 10. Hannah. 11. ———

Samuel<sup>2</sup> married (1802) Catherine Baker, of Campton, N. H. She is said to have been related to Lord Chatham of England. Their children, born between 1805 and 1819, were: 1. David. 2. Hannah. 3. William. 4. Chester. 5. Sally. 6. Matthew. 7. Samuel. 8. John.

Samuel<sup>2</sup>, when 17 years of age, went to London, England. He adopted a system of coking which gave him great success among the iron masters near London. He returned to America and settled in Wheelock, Vt.

DAVID THORNTON lived in Campton, N. H. He married Lydia Clark, and they had ten children, born between 1834 and 1855.

HANNAH THORNTON married Shepard Morse. They had six children, some of whom live in Tiverton, R. I. Hannah Thornton married (2) Jonas Hall. Mrs. Charles N. Peckham of Fall River, Mass., is their daughter.

WILLIAM THORNTON lived in Fall River, Mass., and had three children.

CHESTER THORNTON lived in New Bedford, Mass., and had five children.

SALLY THORNTON, known as "Sally the Preacher," built a church in Thornton, N. H., where she preached; was a gifted speaker.

SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> THORNTON lived in Hardwick, Vt.; had eight children, one of whom, John C., lives in Dorchester, Mass.

JOHN THORNTON married Arvilla A. Sweetzer, and lived in Wheelock, Vt. They had seven children: 1. Chester. 2. Eleanor. 3. Mary J. 4. Eliza A. 5. Leonard. 6. John H. 7. Hollis.

Chester Thornton was publisher of the "Family Journal of New York."

Mary J. Thornton Wait lives in Troy, N. Y.

John H. Thornton lives in Bogata, N. J.

DORCAS, daughter of Samuel Thornton, b. 1779, married, 1802, John Durgin, and had many descendants. (See Runnel's History of Sanbornton, N. H.)

## DESCENDANTS OF HANNAH THORNTON WALLACE.

HANNAH THORNTON, sister of Hon. Matthew Thornton, b. 1724, married William Wallace, of Londonderry, N. H.

### WALLACE FAMILY.

This family was of Scotch origin. The ancestor was John Wallace, who came from Coleraine, Ireland, to Londonderry, N. H., in 1719, and there married Annis Barnet, in 1721. The Scotch records show that there was born in the parish of Glasgow, on Sept. 28, 1682, to James Wallace and Agnes Wood, a son John. The John Wallace, who came to America in 1719, named his first son (b. 1722) James, and it seems probable that the Glasgow record refers to the ancestor of this family. William Wallace, son of John Wallace and Annis Barnet, was born in 1725. He died in 1805. His wife died in 1814, and is buried beside her father, James Thornton, in Forest Hills cemetery, at E. Derry, N. H.

Their children, born between 1754 and 1772, were: 1. Mary. 2. John. 3. William. 4. Catharine. 5. James. 6. Hannah. 7. Matthew.

### I.

MARY WALLACE, b. 1754, d. 1756.

### II.

JOHN WALLACE, b. 1757, married and settled in Thornton, N. H. Died about 1850, leaving a family. Descendants not traced.

### III.

WILLIAM WALLACE, b. 1758, settled at Niagara, Canada, prior to 1800, and remained there until 1812. Was a great friend of Joseph Brandt, chief of the Mohawks. With his brother James he owned 40,000 acres of land on Grand river. This was confiscated, and, deprived of all their property in Canada, the brothers came to the State of New York, where William finally settled in Rochester. He married, in 1795, Anna Doudal. Their children, born between 1798 and 1811, were: 1. Matthew Thornton. 2. Charity. 3. Hannah. 4. William H. 5. James J. 6. John W. 7. Frances A.

## IV.

CATHARINE WALLACE, daughter of Hannah Thornton Wallace, married Capt. James Cox of Londonderry, N. H. They resided in Holderness, N. H. Their children, born between 1793 and 1804, were: 1. William Wallace. 2. James. 3. Mary. 4. Hannah Wallace. 5. Leonard J. 6. Caroline.

WILLIAM WALLACE COX married in 1817 Hannah Kimball. They resided in Holderness, N. H. Their children, born between 1819 and 1833, were: 1. William H. 2. Carleton A. 3. Edmund K. 4. Benjamin F. 5. William W. 6. Catharine A.

EDMUND K. COX married Nancy D. Merrill, and they had two children, one of whom, Emma G., b. 1857, married Josiah H. Sargent of Plymouth, N. H.

BENJAMIN F. COX married Ann F. Currier, and their son, George B., was born in 1860. Residence, Laconia, N. H.

JAMES COX, son of Catharine Wallace Cox, married Anna E. Rogers. Residence, Thornton, N. H. Their children, born between 1824 and 1841, were: 1. James W. 2. Susan E. 3. John M. 4. Rachel R. 5. Mary E. 6. Amelia A. 7. Daniel W. 8. James W.

SUSAN E. COX married Leslie D. Scribner. Residence, Nashua, N. H. Their children, born between 1848 and 1870, were: 1. Willis G. 2. Lizzie J. 3. Clara A. 4. Nellie E. 5. Susan W. 6. Josie M. 7. Olive L. 8. Harry M.

MARY E. COX, daughter of James Cox, married Elisha Bassett. Residence, Brookline, Mass. Their children were: 1. Anna R., b. 1867. 2. Isabel S., b. 1869.

AMELIA A. COX, daughter of James Cox, married Levi W. Fifield. Residence, Worcester, Mass. Their children, born between 1858 and 1862, were: 1. Annie Laurie. 2. Mary L. 3. Alice M.

ANNIE LAURIE FIFIELD married George W. Knapp. Residence, Stoneham, Mass. Child, William Bruce, b. 1886.

DANIEL W. COX, son of James Cox, married Emma P. Curry. Residence, Lakeport, N. H. Their children, born between 1867 and 1875, were: 1. John M. 2. Jessie E. 3. Grace E.

JAMES W. COX, son of James Cox, married Josephine Mooney. Residence, Washington, D. C. Child, Willis A., b. 1872.

LEONARD J. COX, son of Catharine W. Cox, married Mary Clark. Residence, Holderness, N. H. Their children, born between 1826 and 1844, were :  
 1. Catherine W. 2. Arthur C. 3. Electa A. 4. Matilda J. 5. James L.  
 6. Lemuel M. 7. Charles P. 8. Mary A.

## V.

JAMES WALLACE, b. 1763, resided in Buffalo, N. Y., and died there in 1853 without issue.

[See William Wallace.]

## VI.

HANNAH WALLACE, b. 1765, d. 1814 ; single.

## VII.

MATTHEW WALLACE, b. 1772, d. 1775.

## DESCENDANTS OF ESTHER THORNTON FERGUSON.

ESTHER THORNTON, sister of Hon. Matthew Thornton, was married at Pelham, Mass., on Dec. 4, 1746, to James Ferguson.

### FERGUSON FAMILY.

This family was of Scotch origin, and emigrated to the north of Ireland, and from there to America. The earliest history of this family is found in a written statement by John Ferguson, son of Silas of Springfield, N. Y., which says that three unmarried brothers by the name of Ferguson came from Ireland and settled in Pelham, Mass.; that two of them married with the Puritans of Pelham, and that the youngest, Samuel, went to Cherry Valley, N. Y., in 1755, and remained unmarried. The two brothers who married the "Puritans" of Pelham were William and James; the former was married, in 1744, to Janet ———, and the latter, in 1746, to Esther Thornton.

The history of Pelham shows that the Ferguson family was prominent in the early history of that town. In the original deed of the town lands, made in 1738-9, John Ferguson of Grafton, Mass., was grantee of one-sixtieth part. It seems probable that the three brothers, William, James and Samuel, were sons of John Ferguson of Grafton. There was a Robert Ferguson who, in 1738, was of Grafton, and subsequently of Pelham, who was probably a brother of John of Grafton. There was also a Samuel Ferguson of Westborough (near Grafton) in 1730, who is supposed to have been a brother of John of Grafton. This Samuel was among the first settlers of Blandford, Mass., where he died in 1741, aged 48, leaving six children, one of whom was named JOHN.

The records in Scotland show that in the parish of Glasgow there was born to John Ferguson and Janet Miller, on December 22, 1680, a son John, who may have been the John Ferguson of Grafton and Pelham, Mass.

The first meetings of the proprietors of Pelham was held on August 6, 1740, at the dwelling house of John Ferguson, which was in the center of the town, next to the lot on which the meeting house was located, and town meetings were held there until 1743.

The names of John, William, Samuel, Robert and James Ferguson appear upon a protest dated August 31, 1743, against the calling of Rev. Robert Abercrombie as minister, by the inhabitants of Pelham.

JOHN FERGUSON was a selectmen and assessor of Pelham for many years, and in 1756 he was elected treasurer, which office he held until 1758, when a special town meeting was called to choose a town treasurer in place of John Ferguson, "by reason of said Ferguson's removal."



## JAMES FERGUSON.

The name of JAMES FERGUSON first appears in the records of Pelham, Mass., on the protest dated August 31, 1743, against the Rev. Robert Abercrombie.

He evidently served in the French and Indian war, as at a town meeting at Pelham on March 19, 1746-7 it was "Voted that James Ferguson is freed from paying rata ye 1746 for his being in ye war."

He was chosen one of the surveyors of Pelham at the town meetings in 1755, 1756 and 1758. In 1759 he was chosen one of the town constables.

In January, 1763, he was one of the protestants against the calling of Richard C. Graham as minister.

He served in the war of the Revolution. A muster roll of the company under Capt. David Cowden in Col. Benj. R. Woodbridge's regiment to Aug. 1, 1775, contains his name.

In 1779 he resided in Coleraine, Mass., as is shown by a deed, in which his wife Esther joins, conveying 100 acres in Pelham.

The children of Esther Thornton and James Ferguson, all of whom were born between 1747 and 1754, were: 1. Mary. 2. Esther. 3. Margaret. 4. Hannah. 5. Robert. 6. A son.

ROBERT FERGUSON married Jane Young in 1790. In 1796 he bought a farm in Cherry Valley, N. Y., the ownership of which still remains in the family. Their children, born between 1792 and 1812, were: 1. Hadassah. 2. Nancy. 3. Fanny. 4. Thornton. 5. James R. 6. John M. 7. Eliphalet.

NANCY FERGUSON was married in 1820 to David Scollard of Springfield, N. Y. They had seven children, born between 1821 and 1841: 1. Fanny McK. 2. John. 3. Davison. 4. Elizabeth J. 5. James. 6. Mary. 7. William. Their descendants live in Springfield and Milford, N. Y., and North Dakota.

FANNY FERGUSON was married in 1827 to Jacob Sutphen of Cherry Valley, N. Y. They had six children, born between 1828 and 1839: 1. Jane. 2. Catharine. 3. James. 4. John. 5. Electa H. 6. Margaret J.

JOHN SUTPHEN enlisted in the U. S. army Aug. 14, 1861, in Rochester, N. Y. Private in Co. H, 3d N. Y. Vol. Cavalry; in battle Ball's Bluff (October, 1861); on picket duty in North Carolina under Gen. Burnside; in following engagements in 1862: Winchester, Va., March 1; Trent Road, N. C., May 15; Neuse Road, N. C., Aug. 20; Little Washington, Sept. 6; Jamestown Road, Sept. 23; near Tarboro, N. C., Nov. 3; Rollo Mills, Nov. 7; Reniston, Dec. 14; White Hall, Dec. 16; Goldsborough, Dec. 17. In 1863: Bottom's Bridge, Feb. 7; Stony Creek, Va., May 7; Nottaway Bridge, May 8; Chula Station,

June 2; Petersburg, June 15; Stanton Bridge, June 25; Roanoke Bridge, June 26; Rheams Station, June 29. Was captured in this fight, escaped same day, wandered in woods for several days, finally reached the Federal lines on July 1st. Discharged Aug. 29, 1864. Carried the company guidon for two years. It is still in his possession, a worn and battered remnant. He was elected supervisor of Monroe county, N. Y., in 1900.

THORNTON FERGUSON was married in Pelham, Mass., on June 6, 1831, to Lavonia Peck. They resided in Springfield, N. Y. Their children, born between 1832 and 1850, were: 1. Harriet. 2. Adeline. 3. Jane. 4. Lyman P. 5. Henry Thornton. 6. Charles T. 7. Howard. 8. Edward G. 9. Imogene P. 10. Charlotte C. 11. Henrietta L.

HENRY THORNTON FERGUSON enlisted at Cherry Valley, N. Y., in Co. D, Berdan's Sharp Shooters, in 1861. Died Sept. 28, 1863, in Race St. Hospital, Philadelphia.

CHARLES T. FERGUSON was 2d lieutenant in 121st regiment, N. Y. Vols., having enlisted on Aug. 18, 1862.

EDWARD S. FERGUSON enlisted at East Springfield, N. Y., Oct. 3, 1863, in 16th N. Y. Heavy Artillery, Co. C. Joined regiment at Yorktown, Nov. 5. On Nov. 8 was attached to Battery L, 4th U. S. Artillery. Served in the Army of the James under Gen. Butler, at Bermuda Hundred, Fortress Monroe, Petersburg and Cold Harbor. In hospital at Willett's Point, L. I. Returned to army in November, 1864. April 3, 1865, at Richmond. Discharged Sept. 10, 1865. Resides Chicago, Ill.

JAMES R. FERGUSON (son of Robert) married (1) Eliza A. Rose of Springfield, N. Y. Their children were: 1. Elizabeth, b. 1839. 2. Eliza A., b. 1841. He married (2) Louisa A. Bowker. Their children, born between 1843 and 1856, were: 1. James L. 2. Louisa J. 3. Mary C. 4. Sarah L. 5. Lucy M. 6. Robert Wallace. 7. Fannie Sutphen.

ELIZA A. FERGUSON resides at Richfield Springs, N. Y., and owns the farm at Cherry Valley which was purchased by her grandfather, Robert Ferguson, in 1796.

JOHN M. FERGUSON (son of Robert) married Catharine Lawson. Their children, born between 1835 and 1844, were: 1. Davison S. 2. Jean S. 3. Ruth M. 4. Andrew. 5. Mary C. Of these, Davison S. resided at South Walden, Vt., and was a member of the Vermont Legislature. Andrew enlisted in the 121st regiment, N. Y. Vols., and died in November, 1864, at Ft. Lincoln, Va.

ELIPHALET FERGUSON (son of Robert) married Mary E. Bryson of New York city, in 1842. Resided in South Bend, Ind., where his children were born, and later in De Soto, Mo. Their children were: 1. Fannie M., b. 1852. 2. George B., born 1854.

FANNIE M. FERGUSON married Robert J. Bricker. They resided in Carbondale, Ill. Their son, George S. Bricker, enlisted May 2, 1898, in the 4th Ill. regiment, and went to Cuba. Mustered out May 2, 1899.

Records from Thornton-Walrath Bible

(Columbia Center, Ohio.)

Asa M. Thornton departed this life in the township of Independence, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, Mar. 4, 1853.

Cordelia F. Thornton was born Sept. 13, 1829.  
(d. Oct. 29, 1901.)

Mary Jane Thornton

b. Apr. 8, 1830.

(d. June 4, 1889.)

Martha Ann Thornton b. Apr. 8, 1838.

Cathrine Thornton

was b. Jan. 23, 1828.

Departed this life Feb. 28, 1828.

Harriet Amelia Thornton

b. Aug. 3, 1845.

Asa M. Thornton was born Aug. 4, 1804.

Dorothy Walrath (his wife) was b. June 15, 1807.

Note :Asa Thornton is listed in "The Family of James Thornton, father of Hon. Matthew Thornton," by Chas. Thornton Adams, N.Y.C. 1905, page 25, as the oldest son of Wm. Thornton and Eunice Stevens.

