

NOTES  
REGARDING A BRANCH  
OF THE  
UNDERWOOD FAMILY

BY

WILLIAM LAWRENCE UNDERWOOD, L.L.B.

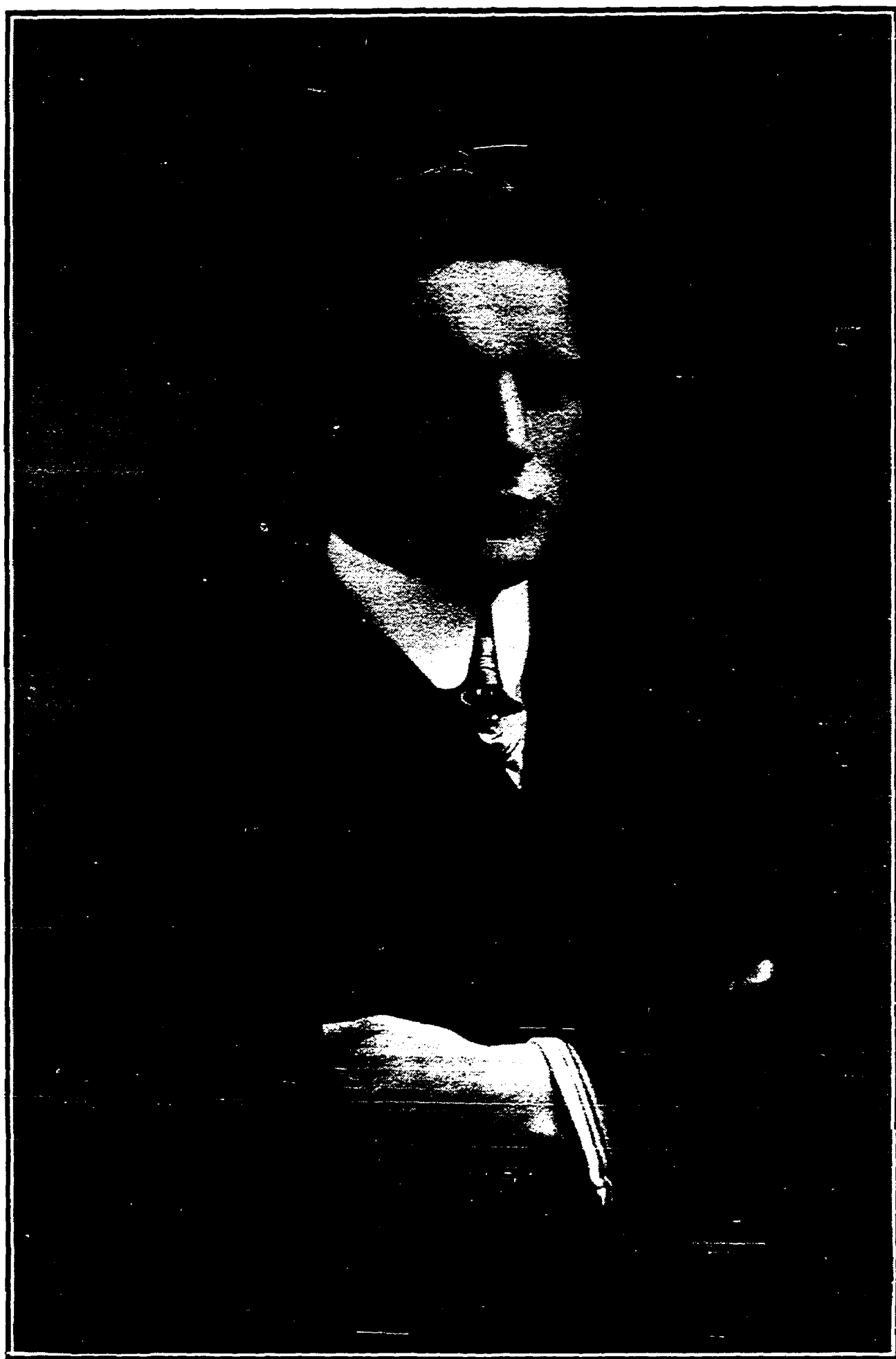


REUBEN TREE VOSS. 26 FRANKFORT ST., N. Y.

1917

PRESENTED BY

*Author*



*William L. Underwood*



To

those Underwoods who would know from whence  
they came, this work is dedicated, and it may be  
found by them in many of the Public Libraries.



To his friends

ANNA G. BAILEY

and

JOHN R. TOTTEN

the author is deeply indebted for  
criticism and suggestions.



## P R E F A C E .

The most difficult and most unsatisfactory subject upon which to write is that of genealogy. Usually the sources of information are incomplete and in some instances they are contradictory. Genealogy is purely an exact science, many people contend, although the better opinion, it seems, is that it is purely a matter of hearsay and is so classified in the laws of evidence.

The author has spent six years in compiling this work, searching records and interviewing relatives. No contention is made that the work is absolutely authentic, although it is believed to be such.

WILLIAM L. UNDERWOOD,

Patchogue, N. Y., February 10, 1917.



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The Underwood family in America is distinctly of English origin. Many records of the earlier Underwoods may be found in the Quaker Records, which are preserved at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate Street, London, England.

The origin of the name of Underwood is a matter of interest. Surnames came into use gradually, as a matter of necessity, when a more definite designation than the Christian name was required. Originally they were not distinctive family names, but were created for the purpose of distinguishing persons of the same Christian name. These names were usually distinctive of the individual and were taken either from his occupation, from some event of importance in which he took part, or from his place of residence, as was the case with the name of Underwood. In the old records it is written Underwoods, Underwode, Underwoode, Under-the-woods and also Under-the-wood. Today it is Underwood.

The earliest trace of the Underwood family as yet found is the Pedigree of Underwood of Buxley, Norfolk, contained in a Harleian MS. in the British Museum. This pedigree is traced back to the year 1177. In 1476 an Underwood from Hertfordshire is mentioned in the Visitations of London, in the Herald's College, London. There is a pedigree Underwood in 1634, which makes the note, "Vide Visitation of Hertfordshire, where the family remained 300 years." The Duchess of Iverness, morganatic wife of the Duke of Sussex, uncle of the late Queen Victoria, was an Underwood and as such assumed the Underwood arms.

Originally there was an Underwood of Buxley, of Norfolk County, whence came the Underwoods of London, of Enfield, of Hertford, of Ireland, and of Dublin, especially John Underwood of London, and the Duchess of Iverness. All these family branches bore arms strikingly like that of the original Underwood of Buxley.

The records of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York indicate that not one of the Underwoods, descendants of John Underwood, born in 1647, was ever committed to any asylum for the insane, any jail or house of correction. Not one of them was ever convicted of crime. They were an energetic and resolute people, abreast of the age in which they lived, respected citizens, ready to serve their country in all reasonable demands.

As colonists, opposed to the tyranny of England, the Underwoods fought in the Revolution, in Massachusetts and in New York.

One Underwood enlisted in the Civil War and died of small pox. The Underwoods believed, however, that the Civil War was unjust in as much as they believed it



*Underwood*



would have been more equitable for the government to have purchased the slaves from their owners for the purpose of freeing them, than to have taken them "without due process of law." They also believed that the south should not have seceded.

The Underwoods have filled public offices for generations.

Down to John Wesley Underwood, b. 1818, the family was of pure English blood; his second wife, however, was of Dutch descent. The wife of William Woodhull Underwood, b. 1855, was Irish by birth.

## PART I.

### LINEAL.

John Underwood, of Boston, Mass., b. 1647, probably in England, appears on the records of Boston with his wife Elizabeth and had children: Anthony, b. May 2, 1680, and Isarael, b. Jan. 13, 1682. He appears on the tax roll of Boston of 1681 and also on the roll of 1687 when his taxes were 1s, 10d. He died January 13, 1706, age 59 years, at Boston, Mass.

Isarael Underwood, b. Jan. 13, 1682, son of John, b. 1647, d. 1706, was admitted as Freeman probably at Greenwich, R. I., in 1734 and it is thought that he resided in the adjoining Town of Plainfield, Conn. The name of his wife is not known, and it is believed that he had the following children who, it is known, resided at Plainfield, Conn.: Isarael, b. about 1720, William, b. before 1740, Joseph and Sarah, who married Eliphalet Bingham of Plainfield, Conn., Nov. 25, 1761.

Isarael Underwood, b. about 1720, son of Isarael, b. Jan. 13, 1682, married Ruth . . . . . and resided at Plainfield, Conn., and had children: Isaac, b. May 29, 1744, Isarael, b. Apr. 4, 1746, Anne, b. Feb. 5, 1747, Elizabeth, b. Sept. 3, 1752, Timothy, b. Sept. 15, 1755, and Josiah, b. Feb. 9, 1757. It is known that he bought land of Jonathan Shepherd and of Jacob Johnson in 1732, of Ann Underwood in 1759 and of Elisha Williams in 1764.

Isarael Underwood, b. Apr. 4, 1746, son of Isarael, b. about 1720, resided at Plainfield, Conn., and later

moved westward into New York State, it is believed somewhere in the vicinity of Cortland. Isarael Underwood had children: William, b. 1789 and Isaac, who was b. Nov. 16, 1796. It is probable that there was more children whose names are not known. Isarael Underwood served seven days on the Lexington Alarm, Apr. 22, 1775, in the war of the Revolution.

William Underwood, b. 1789; son of Isarael. When a young man moved west from his home in Cortland. He settled in Wyoming Valley in Northern Pennsylvania, where he m. Ruth Goodwin, who with her people came from Tyron Co., now known as Tompkins Co., N. Y. Frances Slocum, who was carried away by the Indians at the massacre in Wyoming Valley was a niece of Ruth Goodwin. Ruth Goodwin was a daughter of Richard, son of William Goodwin, b. 1744 (m. Ruth Gibbs); d. Jan. 20, 1826. He cleared the way and drove the first wagon from Ithaca to Oswego. He was a miller and farmer. He was a son of Abraham Goodwin, b. 1719, in Connecticut, who moved to New York, then to Salem, N. J., and then to Essex Co., Penn., where as a carpenter it is thought he built a church. He is mentioned in the Pennsylvania archives as being connected with the Troops about 1750. He received a warrant for 104 acres of land in Nockanixon Township, Bucks Co., Penn., Dec. 8, 1749, where he moved in 1753.

Ruth Goodwin was a sister of Edward Weyburn Goodwin, a portrait painter who was prominent as an Abolitionist, and as a Methodist. He lived at Dryden, Ludlowville, and Auburn, N. Y., and later at Albany, N. Y. He was self educated and served as School Commissioner from year to year. He was proprietor of a country store until 29 years of age, when he studied with noted artists, becoming one of the foremost paint-

ers of his time. His miniatures are marvels of beauty, design and finish. On one occasion he competed with Inman, and Hardin on a full length portrait of William H. Seward, Secretary of State to President Lincoln. His work was accepted and placed in the capitol building at Albany, N. Y., and was destroyed there by fire. He was a warm friend of President Van Buren, William H. Seward, De Witt Clinton, James G. Birkley and Garrit Smith, candidate of the Abolitionists. Letters of his esteem by these men are now held by Richard LaBarre Goodwin. In 1843 he assumed the ownership of the Albany newspaper Tocsine of Liberty, an organ of the Abolitionists. He lectured about New York State on the subject of "Abolition of Slavery." He delivered a lecture, "Don't bring in the Church," referring to Emancipation, for which he was disciplined by the Methodist Church, of which he was a member. He delivered the first total abstinence temperance lecture in Central New York at Ludlowville, N. Y., where he converted the famous Benjamin Joy, who after having heard the lecture, destroyed his whiskey still, and became one of the best known temperance lecturers and workers of Central New York State. "His Christian manly character continued to be everywhere remarked upon by all who knew him through the years that have elapsed since his death in 1865. Overwork in the cause of emancipation, temperance and his art studies wore out his life at the age of 45."

William Underwood, b. 1789, and Ruth Goodwin, his wife, settled at Groton, Tompkins Co., N. Y., near Ithaca, where he cleared up 104 acres of land which is today considered the best farm in the vicinity. Their children were: Cynthia, b. Jan. 28, 1815; Alfred, b. Dec. 28, 1815; John Wesley, b. Jan. 26, 1818; Edwin, b. June

24, 1820; William, b. Feb. 28, 1822; Sally, b. Dec. 13, 1824; Nelson, b. July 27, 1826; Phebe, b. June 19, 1827; Isaac, b. July 11, 1829; Elizabeth, b. Oct. 25, 1831; Caroline, b. May 14, 1834; George Washington, b. May 27, 1836; Alma, b. about 1838. He died Aug. 17, 1865, at the age of 77 years. His wife Ruth died about 1890. Their bodies rest in the old Cline Burying Ground, Forest Hills, near Groton, N. Y., and East Ithaca, N. Y.

John Wesley Underwood, b. Jan. 26, 1818; son of William, b. 1789. When 20 years of age, left Ithaca, near his home at Groton, on a barge en route for Long Island. He sailed up Cayuga Lake to Erie Canal, thence by Hudson River, New York Bay, Atlantic Ocean, and the Great South Bay to Patchogue (on a sloop or sail boat from New York). It took three weeks to make the trip. Today it may be made in 7 hours by rail. Within a few years he returned to his home at Groton, m. Jane Smith of Groton, and had one son Stanley, b. about 1844, who enlisted in the Union Army in 1861, at Ithaca. He had small pox in New York City, and d. there in 1861. His wife, Jane, d. in 1848. He returned to Long Island, m. Amelia Huff, daughter of Paul and Sally Huff, and had children: John, b. 1850; d. 1853; Elizabeth Adele, b. about 1854; William Woodhull, b. Jan. 16, 1855; Frank, b. 1856; Susan, b. about 1858; Josiah, b. 1867; John Wesley, b. 1869; and Bertha, b. 1871; d. 1914 with scarlet fever. In 1866 he purchased about 25 acres of land bounded by the Patchogue River and the little Patchogue stream, where he resided until his death in 1871. In his younger days he was a farmer and dairyman at Groton, N. Y. After he moved to Patchogue, Suffolk Co., N. Y., he became an oysterman and shipbuilder. He was a most resolute man and persevering toiler. His death was caused by pleurisy and pneu-

monia at the age of 53, at Patchogue, N. Y. His wife Amelia, b. 18-; d. 1893, at the same place.

William Woodhull Underwood, b. Jan. 16, 1855; son of John Wesley, b. Jan. 26, 1818, m. Josephine Finn (daughter of Lawrence and Annie Finn, of the County of Wexford, Ireland, and granddaughter of Thomas and Mary Finn of the same place), September 25, 1886, and had children: Paul, b. June 18, 1887, and died Feb. 8, 1891. William Lawrence, b. Jan. 30, 1889, who for a number of years was an officer of U. S. Government in the customs service. He was graduated in June, 1911, from the Brooklyn Law School of St. Lawrence University with degree of (LL.B.) Bachelor of Laws. He is engaged in the practice of the law at Patchogue, N. Y., associated with Hon. George H. Furman, who for years was District Attorney of Suffolk County. Edward, b. Apr. 8, 1891, a civil engineer and surveyor, employed by Highway Department of State of New York, as an Engineer and Inspector. Olive, b. Apr. 8, 1891; married to Charles Brodde of Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 14, 1915. Millicent, b. July 29, 1893; Ruth, b. July 30, 1895; Josephine, b. Apr. 8, 1901. William W. is an officer of the Excise Department of State of New York and for many years active in politics, being a member of the Republican party. For a great many years his occupation was that of building and repairing vessels. Josephine, his wife, though born in Wexford, Ireland, Nov. 25, 1866, was educated at London, and New York City.

## PART II.

### COLLATERAL.

Cynthia Underwood, b. Jan. 28, 1815; daughter of William, b. 1789; m. Jerimiah Brown. Had children named Washington, Sally or Sarah, Alvina and Susan. They moved to Michigan, near Lake St. Clair.

Alfred Warren Underwood, b. Dec. 28, 1816; d. Sept. 27, 1843; son of William, b. 1789. Had children: William, b. Feb. 8, 1858; Florence H., b. July 4, 1859; Harlan Page, b. Sept. 1843; m. Inez A., daughter of Wilson and Deborah Halliday, Apr. 1, 1874. Had children: Paul H., b. Dec. 29, 1886, at Ludlowville, N. Y. (a professor in Cornell University), and Stanley W., b. July 16, 1886, at same place. William was born at Groton, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1846, and married Annette, daughter of Isaac and Emily (Armstrong) Sobers, on Jan. 9, 1867. Had children: Leda, b. Dec. 18, 1869; d. Aug. 7, 1876; Belle Augusta, b. May 4, 1877, who married Charles F. Starkey, son of Jacob Starkey, Jan. 6, 1897, and had a daughter Hazel Fern, b. Feb. 3, 1898; Bertha May, b. May 4, 1877, who married George, son of Andrew Sovocool, Jan. 25, 1899, and had a son Kenneth, b. June 14, 1901; Henry Herbert, b. Feb. 21, 1853, married Abbe Freeman in 1877; Florence G., b. Feb. 28, 1858, married Albert, son of Peter Bower, July 4, 1878. They live at Scranton, Pa., and have one daughter, Charlotte L., b. March 9, 1883; she married Claude, son of Archibald Lillie of Maravia, N. Y., at Cortland, N. Y., and lives at Maravia, N. Y.; Alice Annette, b. Jan. 6,

1866, married Newton, son of Sherman and Sarah (Shunway) Dick at Groton, N. Y.

Nelson Underwood, b. July 27, 1825; son of William, b. 1789; married and lived near Groton, N. Y.

Phoebe Underwood, b. June 19, 1827; daughter of William, b. 1789; married Chauncey Chazar, and had three children.

Elizabeth Underwood, b. Oct. 25, 1831; daughter of William, b. 1789; d. 1891; married Moses Peirree.

Caroline Underwood, b. May 14, 1824; daughter of William, b. 1789; married Frank Field and had children: Gertrude, b. ....; (married Jabin Secor) and Min-Gertrude, b. ....; (married Janin Secor) and Minnie A., b. 18....., both of whom reside at Elmira, N. Y. Frank Field, was a master mechanic, in locomotive shops of the Erie R. R. Co., and was interested in La France Co., manufacturers of steam Fire Engines, at Elmira, N. Y.

Isaac Underwood, b. July 11, 1829; son of William, b. 1789; married and moved to a Town near Lansing, Mich. About 25 years later he moved to Sand (or Sandy) Point, Idaho. Had children: Alonzo, Susan Sharp, Alice and Ezra, of Greenville, Mich.

George W. Underwood, b. May 27, 1836; son of William, b. 1789; married .....; had children: Charles (of Bethany, Conn.); Theodore; Irving; Earle; Edith; Margaret; Bertha and George. At the age of 16 he entered business for himself, going about the state purchasing and selling produce, cattle, horses, etc. He resides at Addison, in Steuben Co., N. Y., where he

holds large interests. On matters concerning the welfare of the community he has always been very active. During the civil war he bought horses for the U. S. Government in the central part of New York State.



**AUTHORITIES REGARDING THE FAMILIES OF UNDERWOOD.**

**Underwood Genealogy, by Lucien Marcus Underwood.**

**Vital Records of Chelmsford, Mass.**

**Vital Records of Billerica, Mass.**

**History of Billerica.**

**Births, Marriages and Deaths of Concord, Mass.**

**History Concord, Mass.**

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**Vital Records of Cambridge.**

**Savage Gen. Dic.**

**Hodgman's History of Westford (formerly part of Chelmsford.)**

**Vital Records of Westford, Mass.**

**Births, Marriages and Deaths, Concord, Mass., 1635-1850.**

**Pope's Pioneers of Mass.**

**Notes on Goodwin family, by Judge Goodwin**

