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A HISTORY

OF THE

STARR FAMILY,

OF NEW ENGLAND, FROM THE ANCESTOR,

DR. COMFORT STARR,

OF ASHFORD, COUNTY OF KENT, ENGLAND, WHO EMIGRATED TO

BOSTON, MASS.,

IN

1635;

CONTAINING THE NAMES OF 6766 OF HIS DESCENDANTS,
AND THE RECORD AND HISTORY OF 1794 FAMILIES.

BY BURGIS PRATT STARR.

"THE MAN WHO FEELS NO SENTIMENT OF VENERATION FOR THE MEMORY OF HIS
FOREFATHERS; WHO HAS NO NATURAL REGARD FOR HIS ANCESTORS, OR HIS KINDRED, IS
HIMSELF UNWORTHY OF KINDRED REGARD, OR REMEMBRANCE."—*Daniel Webster.*

HARTFORD, CONN.:

THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD CO. PRINT.

1879.

33

DR. CALVIN STARR, son of John 28, b. April 2, 1822, at Columbus, O.; graduated Feb., 1851, at the Medical College at Cleveland. In 1857, settled at Iowa City, Iowa; a Homeopathic physician; Cong. He m. Sept. 23, 1851, SOPHIA JOANNA, dau. of JOHN and MARGARET (Hivling) McPHERSON, b. June 30, 1829, at Xenia, O.

CHILDREN.

- + CALVIN, b. June 12, 1852, d. Sept. 3, 1852.
- A GEORGE BURT, b. Aug. 19, 1854.
- B CLARENCE ALLEN, b. Feb. 24, 1856; is in the Post-office at Iowa City.
- + WILLIE, b. July 1, 1859, d. Oct. 27, 1860.
- C EMMA HIVLING, b. Aug. 28, 1862.
- D MARY PORTER, b. Feb. 26, 1865.
- E JOHN AUKENY, b. March 25, 1868.

34

WILLIAM STARR, son of Thomas 22, Thomas 20, Samuel 19, Thomas 7, Dr. Comfort 1, b. April 20, 1745; a man of irreproachable character, quiet, unassuming, and greatly beloved. He inherited the southerly portion of the old Starr farm, on which he built his house, pleasantly located about a mile north of the present ferry, now occupied by wid. Betsey A. Fish. He was the leading blacksmith of the town, and manufactured axes, hoes, ploughshares, spades, forks, and other agricultural implements of iron for the farmers of the place. He was in Fort Griswold at the time of the massacre, and was severely wounded in the breast by a musket ball; also suffered the loss of property by the destruction of the town, so that the State abated his taxes. The Pension Report says, "William Starr, Q. M., 8th Reg't Ct. Militia, placed on Pension Rolls Sept. 26, 1788. Disabled Sept. 6, 1781. He d. Dec. 31, 1816; buried with his wives in the Starr Burial Ground."

He m. (1st) Nov. 1, 1770, FRELOVE, dau. of BENJ. and FRELOVE BAILEY, d. Feb. 8, 1799, in her 52d year; m. (2d) Aug. 2, 1800, MARY, dau. of AMOS and DEBORAH (Lamb) STARK, d. Dec. 24, 1839, m. 84. //

CHILDREN.

- A LUCINDA, b. July 29, 1772; an exemplary Christian; member of Bap. church; d. March 10, 1846; she m. Feb. 8, 1798, Dyer, son of Thomas and Sarah Harris, b. Nov. 25, 1765, at New London, where he d. Aug. 23, 1818.

GROTON FAMILY—35.

HARRIS CHILDREN.

Sally, b. Nov. 23, 1793, d. Jan. 7, 1862, unm'd.—Ebenezer, b. Aug. 4, 1795, d. Feb. 10, 1844.—Lucinda, b. Jan. 11, 1798, d. Sept. 1, 1801.—Austin, b. March 8, 1801, d. Nov. 25, 1839.—Douglas Woodworth, b. Dec. 23, 1802, d. Sept. 3, 1860.—Lyman, b. Aug. 25, 1804, d. May 20, 1872.—Alfred, b. March 4, 1807, d. Oct. 14, 1875.—Janett, b. April 4, 1809, d. April 23, 1868, m. F. W. Holt, of N. L.—William, b. Dec. 29, 1810, d. Feb. 8, 1842.—Mary Ann, b. Dec. 27, 1813, d. Feb. 20, 1842.

B WILLIAM, b. July 11, 1775. He went to Birmingham, Erie Co., Ohio. The first burial there was Sept. 18, 1818; the next was his wife Arminta. After her death he went to Mo.; d. March, 1851, in Quincy, Ill.; farmer.

C JANEZ, b. Oct. 24, 1777, d. Nov. 10, 1796.

D FRELOVE, b. May 19, 1780, m. Jesse Burdick, of Newport, R. I.; and d. Dec., 1823.

35 ELISHA, b. Sept. 20, 1783.

44 THOMAS, b. Sept. 3, 1784.

47 PEREZ, b. June 19, 1784.

48 JARED, b. Jan. 18, 1791.

52 DUDLEY, b. Dec. 19, 1792.

35.

ELISHA STARR, son of William 34, Thomas 22, Thomas 20, Samuel 19, Thomas 7, Dr. Comfort 1, b. Sept. 20, 1782; a farmer boy; became a merchant in New London. After a few years he purchased a part of his father's farm in Groton, and lived at the old homestead until he removed to his new residence on the crown of the hill overlooking the river and the City of New London; a highly respected citizen, declining office when offered, ever devoted to his farm and family; d. Aug. 1, 1867; Congregational.

He m. (1st) Nov. 20, 1803, SALLY, dau. of WILLIAM and ELIZABETH (Hampstead) HOLT, b. Nov. 5, 1776, d. March 8, 1856; m. (2d) Jan. 9, 1859, FANNY PENDLETON, b. Dec. 9, 1798, at Stonington; d. —

CHILDREN.

+ ELIZA ELDREDGE, b. Nov. 14, 1804, d. Sept. 17, 1805.

A MARY HOLT, b. Dec. 20, 1805, d. May 14, 1835, unm'd.

33 WILLIAM HOLT, b. May 27, 1808.

38 CHARLES HOLT, b. Aug. 1, 1810.

39 DAVID HOLT, b. Oct. 23, 1813.

43 HENRY HOLT, b. Aug. 26, 1815.

45 EDWIN HOLT, b. Aug. 1, 1817.

FIRE LANDS FAMILY, HURON CO., O.

These lands were granted by the State of Conn. to its inhabitants whose property had been destroyed by the enemy during the Revolutionary war. The following is from the "Fireland Pioneer," Nov., 1858:

"Thomas Starr, with his brother Perez, came in the year 1810, from Conn., in a one-horse wagon to Cleveland, O. Thomas came on to Eldredge (now Berlin), Erie Co., in Sept. of that year. There was but one settler in the eastern part of the township at that time. He got help from Florence, Huron, and Milan to raise his house. On the morning of Nov. 6, 1810, the day appointed for the raising, the snow was six inches deep, that had fallen during the night. Soon after sunrise old Mr. Burdue, a kind friend, made his appearance on horseback with four gallons of whiskey, which he had brought from Milan for the occasion. The hands soon came, the house was raised, and they had a good time of it in spite of the gloomy prospects of the morning. In that house the brothers kept bachelors' hall for some time."

THOMAS STARR, son of William 34, Thomas 22, Thomas 20, Samuel 19, Thomas 7, Dr. Comfort 1, b. Sept. 3, 1784, in Groton, Ct.; in 1810 removed to Eldredge, Erie Co., O.; was drafted into the military service in the war of 1812. He was a blacksmith, and made the iron work for the first decked vessel that was built west of Erie, and for many more after that. At the first election in the township, April, 1817, was chosen "pathfinder;" Oct. 11, 1818, assisted at the organization of the First Bap. church, of which he was ever a consistent member; a man of pure, unblemished character; a useful citizen; gentle and lovely in his old age; d. Aug. 14, 1868, at Rochester, Lorain Co., O. He m. Feb. 5, 1814, CLEMINTINA CLARK, of Pompey, N. Y.; b. April 9, 1791; d. Aug. 7, 1873.

CHILDREN.

43 WILLIAM ELDREDGE, b. Jan. 23, 1815.

44 BETSEY MARIA, b. Dec. 8, 1816, d. Sept. 16, 1825.

45 HORACE, b. June 26, 1818.

A ELIAS, b. March 22, 1820, d. Dec. 15, 1860, unm'd.

B JULIA, b. Dec. 5, 1821, m. May 29, 1842, Alexander, son of Jesse and Polly (Grandall) Jones, b. April 18, 1831, at Attica, N. Y.; proprietor of "American House," Cleveland, O.

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THE
FIRELANDS PIONEER:

PUBLISHED BY THE

Fire Lands Historical Society.

AT THEIR ROOMS IN

WHITTLESEY BUILDING, NORWALK, OHIO.

VOLUMES I AND II,

Printed by H. D. COOK & Co., Register Office,
SANDUSKY, OHIO.

VOLUME III,

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CLEVELAND, OHIO.

1862.

ter living in Michigan. There are now living twenty-five grand children and six great grand children of John Hoak.

John Laughlin settled about the same time and in the same part of the township with Mr. Hoak. There is now but one member of the family living in the township, Milton Laughlin—the other members of the family, having died or moved out of the township. He is an able farmer and a fair representation of this honorable pioneer family.

Nathaniel Burdue settled near the center of the township in the spring of 1811. There is now but one member of this family in the township, viz: the widow of Jacob Myers. One son, John Burdue, is now living in the western part of the State. Nathaniel Burdue—or old Mr. Burdue as he was formerly called—lived near the center of the township. He raised the first fruit in that part of it. A school house was built at an early day near his orchard, and it is not to be wondered at, that the old man often found rude boys among his trees stealing apples in those days of scarcity, nor no wonder that he often aimed to pelt them heartily with stones for so doing. Neither is it very strange that the old man who so often chased the boys with his gray locks floating in the wind, should become associated in their minds with that evil one against whom they had heard so much said, notwithstanding his many good traits of character. He died over twenty years since at an advanced age.

According to present advices it seems that John Dunbar was the first white settler in the original limits of this township, and made the first clearing in it. He came from the State of New York in the year 1809, and settled on the farm now owned by the heirs of John Weatherlow. His brother, Isaiah Dunbar, came with, and for a time lived with his brother; but soon built a house and settled near the center of the township near what has since been

called the Dunbar Spring, and where X. Phillips now resides. All traces of these Dunbar appear to be lost.

Perhaps a Mr. Tillison had settled at or before this time on land now owned by Curtis Denschooter, and now constituting a part of the township, but then in Vermilion township.

This Tillison family used to be very hospitable in *their way*. As an instance, of it, a certain man now living in the township told me that Mrs. Tillison once told him, that if he did not stay and take supper with them she would knock him down.

Perez and ~~Thomas Starr~~ came in the year 1810, from Connecticut, in a one horse wagon to Cleveland. Perez Starr came on to Berlin in July of that year and worked at his trade, that of a mill wright, with a Mr. Seymour, on what was afterwards called Thompson's mill. It was built on land now owned by H. L. Hill, near the center of the township. ~~Thos. Starr~~ came on from Cleveland to Berlin with Judge John Walworth, of Cleveland, in September, of the same year. At which time he says there was but one settler in the eastern part of the township, viz: John Dunbar, before mentioned. ~~Thos. Starr~~ worked some time on the mill which he says was fitted for running in the fall of that year.

Mr. Starr built a house in November of that year, and got his help to raise it from Florence, Huron and Milan. On the morning of sixth of November, the day of his raising, the snow was six inches deep; it had fallen the night previous. He was fearful his hands would not be on hand. But in the morning soon after sunrise, he heard a kind of Indian whoop which he answered, and soon "old Mr. Burdue," as he has often since been called, made his appearance on horseback with four gallons of whiskey, which he had brought with him from Milan for the raising. The hands came, the house was raised, and they had a good time of it in spite of the gloomy

Perez
b. 19 June
1786

Thomas
b. 3 Sept
1784

forebodings of the morning. It was built on the farm now owned by J. S. Lowry. Mr. Starr for sometime kept "batchelor's hall" in this house with his brother Perez. In 1812 he was drafted into the military service. After being discharged, he was married to Clementina Clark of Florence, in February, 1814. In 1815 he traded his farm with Samuel Reed, (who moved in that year from Connecticut,) for the one on which he has since lived for about forty years, and where E. P. Hill now lives, in the Eastern part of the township.

7C
Mr. Starr was a blacksmith by trade, and used to follow the business of ironing vessels for the Lake. He did the iron work for the first decked vessel that was built this side of Erie. It was owned by Capt. Austin, of Vermillion. Two were built for Hiram Russell, at Huron, and one for Capt. Ransom, at Black River. He used to work and trade at Huron in 1811, and has often come from there in the night by torch light, with the wolves howling around him. Capt. Hiram Russell traded at Huron then. About that time, and some considerable time after this—down as late as 1815, \$40 per bbl. was paid for pork, and often damaged at that. For flour over \$20 per bbl., salt \$15 per bbl. For a black tea-pot, \$2. Tea-cups and saucers, \$2 per sett, and the same for plates. Mr. Starr has had eight children, four of whom are now living. The oldest son, William Edridge, is supposed to be the first male child, if not the first child born in the township. He was born in January, 1815, and is now the only son living. He lives in Marietta, Marshal county, Iowa. The remaining children live in this part of the State. Mr. Starr has nineteen grand children, and now lives with his wife in Rochester, Lorain county, and is 73 years of age.

8A
Wm. Fitzgerald came, in Dec. 1810, from Shorgum, Orange county, New York. Jacob Simpson came with him. Mr. Fitz-

gerald settled on the farm now owned by Henry Hine, son of the late Jared Hine.

Hieronymus Mingus came in February, 1811, from Onondaga county, New York. He had a family consisting of a wife, four sons, and one unmarried daughter. Aaron Fox and his wife, with two children, came at the same time—his wife was a daughter of Mr. Mingus. In September, 1813, Daniel Mingus, the eldest of Mr. Mingus' sons, was killed in the battle on the Peninsula. The second son, Jacob Mingus, lived and died on the farm where his widow now resides—who was the daughter of Nathaniel and Margaret Burdue. The third son, James, married Phebe Darly, and settled in Townsend, Huron county, where his widow now resides with six sons, grown to manhood, and one daughter. James Mingus was a perfect Nimrod—a mighty hunter in his day. Benjamin, the fourth son, married Mary Potter, daughter of the well-known Elder True Potter, of the Methodist Church, and settled and remained for a long time on the farm where his father located, and now owned by Charles Tillinghast. He died in Townsend, Huron county, whilst making preparations to move to Indiana. Aaron Fox and wife still reside in the northern part of this Township. He has had eight children, and all are now living. The oldest son, Charles Fox, is living in Michigan, and has been the father of fourteen children. Three other children live in the State of Indiana. The remainder live in this part of the State. All the grand children of Mr. Fox number sixty-one, and the great grand children seven. He is seventy-two years of age, and still performs active labor. Mrs. Fox is sixty-nine years of age, and in a feeble state of health. Old Mr. Mingus survived his wife several years, and died at a very advanced age at the residence of his son, Jacob Mingus. He had been a soldier of the Revolution, and was a very worthy man.

Francis Keyes came in, it is said, in