

Reproduced from a painting made in 1802

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL

HIS ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS
AND THE
HOYT, STRONG, AND OTHER FAMILIES
WITH WHICH THEY INTERMARRIED

Compiled For
FRENCH RAYBURN BISSELL
By
EDITH NEWBOLD JESSOP

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PREFACE

THE records gathered together in this book are not the result of original research—no cemeteries have been visited, no old documents have been examined; but the data have been taken from books written by men and women who, it would seem, *have* gone to original sources for their information, and who have spent much time in the compilation of the historical material from which excerpts are given here.

Comparisons have been made between various records covering the same families and events, for verification of dates and other information; and where authors have differed and no means were at hand of determining the true facts, the varying statements have been given for record.

The author wishes to acknowledge her obligation to the following books and authors:

ABRIDGED COMPENDIUM OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Edited by F. A. Virkus

Published by A. N. Marquis & Company, Chicago, 1925.

ABSTRACT OF WILLS OF NEW YORK STATE

Printed for the New York Historical Society, New York.

AMERICA HERALDICA

By E. DeV. Vermont

Published by Brentano Brothers, New York, 1886.

AMERICAN ANCESTRY

Published by Joel Munsell's Sons, Albany, N. Y., 1887-1899.

AMERICAN STATE PAPERS, MILITARY AFFAIRS, VOLS. 3 AND 4

Published by Gales & Seaton, Washington, 1860.

ANCESTRY AND KINDRED OF HERBERT FRANCIS SMITH

By Herbert Francis Smith, Brooklyn, 1922.

ANCIENT WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

By Henry R. Stiles

Published by Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., Hartford, Conn., 1892.

ANNALS OF STATEN ISLAND

*By J. J. Clute**Published by C. Vogt, New York, 1877.*CALENDAR OF HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS, War of the Revolution, in the
Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York*Published by Weed, Parsons & Co., Albany, 1868.*

COLONIAL FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES

*By George N. Mackenzie**Published by The Grafton Press, Boston, 1907.*

CYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

*Edited by James Grant Wilson and John Fiske**Published by D. Appleton & Company, New York, 1888-1889.*

DESCENDANTS OF JACOB SEBOR, 1709-1793

Compiled by Helen Beach, Middletown, Conn., 1923.

DIGEST OF EARLY CONNECTICUT PROBATE RECORDS

DIGEST OF HARTFORD COUNTY PROBATE RECORDS

*By Charles William Manwaring**Published by R. S. Peck & Co., Hartford, Conn., 1904.*

EARLY PURITAN SETTLERS OF CONNECTICUT

*By Royal R. Hinman**Published by Case, Tiffany & Co., Hartford, Conn., 1852-1856.*

GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF NEW ENGLAND

*By James Savage**Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1862.*

GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

*By William R. Cutter**Published by The Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York, 1912.*

HISTORICAL REGISTER OF OFFICERS OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

*By Francis B. Heitman**Published by The Rare Book Shop, Washington, 1890 and revised 1914.*

HISTORY OF BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

*By H. P. Smith**Published by D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, N. Y., 1885.*

HISTORY OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*Edited by a Committee of the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society**Published by E. Clapp, Jr., Boston, 1859.*

HISTORY OF LONG ISLAND

*By Benjamin F. Thompson**Published by Gould, Banks & Co., New York, 1843.*

- HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK
By William S. Pelletreau
Published by W. W. Preston & Co., Philadelphia, 1886.
- HISTORY OF ROCHESTER AND MONROE COUNTY
By William F. Peck
Published by The Pioneer Publishing Co., New York, 1908.
- HISTORY OF SAINT LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY
By J. T. Scharf
Published by L. H. Everts & Co., Philadelphia, 1883.
- HISTORY OF THE STRONG FAMILY
By B. W. Dwight
Published by Joel Munsell's Sons, Albany, N. Y., 1871.
- HOLCOMB (E) GENEALOGY
By Jesse Seaver
Published by the American Historical-Genealogical Society, Philadelphia, 1925.
- HOYT, HAIGHT AND HIGHT FAMILIES
By D. W. Hoyt
Published by Henry Hoyt, Boston, and printed by the Providence Press, Providence, R. I., 1871.
- JOURNAL OF THE REVEREND SILAS CONSTANT
By Emily Warren Roebling
Published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1903.
- LYON MEMORIAL, NEW YORK FAMILIES
Edited by Robert B. Miller and A. B. Lyons
Published by the Press of William Graham Printing Company, Detroit, 1907.
- MEMORIAL HISTORY OF BOSTON
By Justin Winsor
Published by J. R. Osgood & Co., Boston, 1881.
- MEMORIAL HISTORY OF HARTFORD COUNTY
Edited by J. H. Trumbull
Published by E. L. Osgood & Co., Boston, 1886.
- NAMES OF PERSONS FOR WHOM MARRIAGE LICENSES WERE ISSUED BY
 THE SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW YORK, PREVIOUS TO 1784
Published by Weed, Parsons & Co., Albany, 1860.
- NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REGISTER
- NEW YORK IN THE REVOLUTION AS COLONY AND STATE, RECORDS ARRANGED AND CLASSIFIED BY JAMES A. ROBERTS, COMPTROLLER
Published by the Press of Brandow Printing Co., Albany, 1898.

REMARKABLE PROVIDENCES

*By Increase Mather**First printed by Samuel Green, Boston, 1684.*

SOLDIERS IN KING PHILIP'S WAR

*By George Madison Bodge**Published by Rockwell & Churchill, Boston, 1896.*

STEMMATA STRONGEANIA

*By E. Thomson Sutton**Published in London, 1912.*

SURNAMEs OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

*By Henry Harrison**Published by The Eaton Press, London, 1912.*

VIRGINIA GENEALOGIES

*By H. E. Hayden**Published by E. B. Yordy, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 1891.*

VITAL RECORDS OF BOLTON, CONNECTICUT

*Published by the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Conn.**Printed by Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., Hartford, 1909.*

WINDSOR FARMES

*By J. A. Stoughton**Published by Clark & Smith, Hartford, Conn., 1883.*

WOODHULL GENEALOGY

*By Mary Gould Woodhull and Francis Bowes Stevens**Published by H. T. Coates & Co., Philadelphia, 1904.*

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OLD STYLE AND NEW STYLE IN DATING

At the time of the first settlement in New England, the English people were using the Julian Calendar (the solar calendar as adjusted by Julius Caesar)—called the “old style” method of dating. The average year under the Julian Calendar being too long by a few minutes, the error was rectified in the Gregorian Calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. This was called the “new style” method of dating. Under the “old style” method of dating, the year began on the 25th of March, Annunciation (or Lady) Day; under the “new style” the year began on the 1st of January.

The “new style” was not universally adopted in 1582. The first time it was used by the General Court of Connecticut was the 20th day of March, 1649–1650, which would be 1650 by the new reckoning. Original records bearing dates between January 1st and March 25th, previous to 1649–1650, should have one year added, to give the proper year according to our present system of reckoning.

Furthermore, the “few minutes” difference in the length of the Julian and the Gregorian years, came to mean some days’ difference, and in order to give a date in terms of our present reckoning, it is necessary to add ten days to the dates between 1600 and 1700; and eleven days between 1700 and 1752—this, in addition to the one year to be added if the dates came between January 1st and March 25th, previous to (but not after) the year 1649–1650.* In 1752, the English Government adopted and made effective the Gregorian Calendar—the “new style”—and cancelled, the eleven days then existing between this “new style” and the “old style” which they had been using, by declaring the 3rd of September, 1752, the 14th.

* That is, in Connecticut; the author believes that the colonies in America did not take uniform action in this matter prior to 1752, but has made investigation of none but the Connecticut colony.

John Bissell, the immigrant ancestor
|
Thomas Holcomb m. Elizabeth Ferguson
|
Samuel Bissell m. Abigail Holcomb
|
William Filley m. Margaret
|
John Bissell m. Abigail Filley
|
Henry Denslow
|
Samuel Denslow m. Patience Gibbs
|
John Bissell m. Hannah Denslow
|
Ozias Bissell m. Mabel Roberts
|
Jacob Sebor m. Jane Woodbury
|
DANIEL BISSELL (General) m. Deborah Sebor
|
|
|
|
Hans (John) Christopher m. Jane Arrowsmith
|
Richard Christopher m. Hester Garrison
|
Peter Mathews m. Bridget
|
|
John Abeel m. Catalina Schuyler
|
Vincent Mathews m. Catalina Abeel
|
James Mathews m. Hannah Strong
|
John G. Christopher m. Elizabeth Mathews
|
James M. Christopher m. Eliza Allen Lewis
|
James Russell Bissell m. Anna Haight Christopher
|
Henry Watson m. Janet Johnston
|
French Rayburn Bissell m. Emily F. Watson
|
Janet Watson Bissell

Richard Strong
|
John Strong (Elder) m. Abigail Ford
|
William Holton (Deacon) m. Mary
|
Thomas Strong m. Rachel Holton
|
Thomas Terry
|
Thomas Terry, Jr.
|
Selah Strong m. Abigail Terry
|
Richard Woodhull m. Deborah Crewe (?)
|
The Reverend Jonah Fordham
|
Richard Woodhull m. Temperance Fordham (?)
|
Richard Smith
|
Richard Smith m. Hannah Tooker
|
Nathaniel Woodhull m. Sarah Smith
|
Selah Strong, Jr., m. Hannah Woodhull

In these records the ancestry of French Rayburn Bissell is traced to the following men who came to America prior to 1650:

Simon Hoyt 1628
Thomas Ford 1630
John Strong 1630
Thomas Holcomb 1630
William Holton 1634
Thomas Terry 1635
Richard Smith Before 1643
John Bissell, 1639, or possibly 1628
William Filley 1640
Henry Denslow 1644
Richard Woodhull 1648

John Hoyt m. Ruth
|
Simon Hoyt m. Deborah Stowers
|
Walter Hoyt
|
Zerubbabel Hayt
|
Joseph Hayt m. Sarah
|
Zerubbabel Hayt m. Dorothy
|
The Reverend John Eells
|
Stephen Haight m. Martha Eells

Enoch Lewis
|
Elisha Lewis m. Anna Haight
|
Eliza Allen Lewis

THE BISSELL FAMILY



THE BISSELL HOMESTEAD NEAR ST. LOUIS, AS IT WAS REMODELLED IN 1924



From a photograph taken in 1875

THE BISSELL HOMESTEAD NEAR ST. LOUIS. BUILT IN 1812

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL

His Ancestors and Descendants

THE BISSELL FAMILY

THE name has many variations: Bisselle, Byssell, Bysselle, Bissel, Bessell; Buissel is found in the Domesday Book; Buscel, commonly Bushell; Buscall, a Huguenot name in London, 1618; Bichell, Norman-French; Bushall, Bizzell, Bisley, Bixley, Beasley, Bussell. *DIS-SELLE (2 SAMPLES)*

The exact meaning of the name is uncertain. Biso and Bis—whence probably are Biss, Bissell, Bissett, perhaps Bish—were old German names, and Furst refers to the Old Norse “bisa,” meaning “to strive vehemently.” “Surnames of the United Kingdom,” by Henry Harrison, published by The Eaton Press, London, 1912, gives Bissell as a combination of the French *Biss*, meaning *brown, tawny*, and the diminutive suffix, *el*.

It is probable that the family of Bissell is of Huguenot origin. Many Huguenots fled to England to escape the persecutions which followed the massacre of Saint Bartholomew in 1572. Some of the Bissell descendants do not believe in the tradition of their Huguenot descent, because, they state, “the name is found in the Domesday Book, and this was started some time after the landing of William the Conqueror in England; and the Bissells were building monasteries in Ireland in 1255. They were members of the Church of England.” However, the statement is made in “America Heraldica”: “Careful investigation shows that the arms used to the present day by the descendants of John Bissell were brought over by his grandfather from France to England and were registered there at the College of Heralds, London.” The author of the present record, in reading Volume 2 of

Stiles's "Ancient Windsor," at the New York Public Library, found an entry in pencil, evidently made by some other searcher, reading, "John Bissell's Huguenot Bible in Weston, Pennsylvania."

The coat-of-arms described in Burke's "Complete Armory," and registered at the College of Heralds, is as follows:

Arms: Gules, on a bend, argent; three escallops, sable.

Crest: A demi-eagle with wings displayed, sable, charged on the neck with an escallop shell, or.

Motto: IN RECTO DECUS—variously translated, "In Rectitude, Honor," and "Honor is to be found on the straight road."

The coat-of-arms used by General Daniel Bissell and his descendants varies from the original Bissell coat-of-arms in the shape of the shield and the drawing of the eagle. These differences are accounted for by the fact that the descent is through a cadet house. The motto is *PARATUS ET FIDELIS*—"Ready and Faithful."

The family of John Bissell, who settled in Windsor, Connecticut, is the only Bissell family definitely known to have come to this country, and all the colonial families are descended therefrom. Tradition asserts that this John, with a brother, Thomas, came from Somersetshire in England, to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1628, and that the latter died at Plymouth, or returned to England. This is doubtful, as is also the tradition that Thomas married an Indian girl, daughter of a Poquonnoc sachem, and died without issue. The same tradition has been held concerning Thomas, son of John Holmes. No trace of such a marriage or of the emigrant Thomas Bissell is to be found.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE

First Generation

JOHN BISSELL

Born 1590 or 1591.

Married twice, but name of neither wife is known. First wife died probably 1642. Second wife died 1665.

Died 1677.

CHILDREN (*by first wife*)

John

Mary

Thomas

SAMUEL

Nathaniel

Joyce

Second Generation

SAMUEL BISSELL

Born 1636.

Married, first, 1658, Abigail Holcomb, who died 1688; married, second, Mary (last name unknown), who died 1718.

Died 1700.

CHILDREN (*by first wife*)

JOHN

Abigail

Jacob

Mary

Samuel

Benajah

Elizabeth

Deborah

Hannah

Joshua

Third Generation

JOHN BISSELL

Born 1659.

Married, 1680, Abigail Filley, who died 1707.

Died 1684 or 1685.

CHILDREN

Abigail

JOHN

Fourth Generation

JOHN BISSELL

Born 1682 or 1683.

Married, first, 1710 or 1711, Hannah Denslow, who died 1751 or 1752; married, second, 1753, Mrs. Dorothy Latham.

Died 1771.

CHILDREN (*by first wife*)

Sarah

John

Lucy

Elisha

OZIAS

Fifth Generation

OZIAS BISSELL

Born probably 1731.

Married, first, 1751, Mabel Robarts, who died 1803; married, second, Sarah Hoffman, who died 1828 or 1829.

Died 1822.

CHILDREN (*by first wife*)

Ozias, Jr.

Mabel

Russell

Russell (Major)

Hannah

Elijah

Leverett

Belle

Anna

Freedom

Theodosia

DANIEL (GENERAL)

Sixth Generation

DANIEL BISSELL (GENERAL)

Born 1768 or 1769.

Married, about 1793, Deborah Sebor, who died 1843.

Died 1833.

CHILDREN

Eliza Seba

Mary Green

Cornelia Richmond

James

JAMES RUSSELL

THE BISSELL FAMILY

Seventh Generation

JAMES RUSSELL BISSELL

Born 1808.

Married, 1849, Anna Haight Christopher, who died 1905.

Died 1887.

CHILDREN

Daniel Russell

Eliza Morrison

Anna Haight

Sextus Shearer

Cornelia Douglass

FRENCH RAYBURN

Mary Cora

Eloise Morrison

Eighth Generation

FRENCH RAYBURN BISSELL

Born 1861.

Married, 1907, Emily Fannie Watson.

ONE CHILD

JANET WATSON BISSELL

Born 1909.

FIRST GENERATION

JOHN BISSELL

The Immigrant Ancestor and His Family

JOHN BISSELL was born in Somersetshire, England, 1590 or 1591. He died at Windsor, Connecticut, October 3, 1677. He married, first, in England. Neither the name nor the date of birth of this first wife is known; and her death is variously recorded as 1640, May 21, 1641, and 1642. The "Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy," published by A. N. Marquis & Company, Chicago, gives the name of his first wife as Mary Drake, but this information may be erroneous, there being a possibility that the name was confused with that of Mary, the eldest daughter of John Bissell, who married Jacob Drake.

John Bissell was married a second time, but the name of his second wife is unknown. In the "History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut," by Henry R. Stiles, in the list of deaths in Windsor in 1640 we find recorded the death of "John Bissell's wife," and, again in 1665, "the wife of John Bissell, Senior." In the "Genealogical Dictionary of New England," by James Savage, we find the following, relating to John Bissell, Senior: "His widow died 21st day of May following [the birth of Joyce in 164-] and his next widow died the 29th of November, 1665, but of both the names are unknown." Again in Stiles's "Ancient Windsor": "Nathaniel doubtless resided on the river bank below the Scantic from the time of his marriage [1662]. . . . John Bissell, Sr., evidently died here [at Nathaniel's], having made provision for his second wife, stipulating that Nathaniel should give 'his now present mother-in-law if she is willing and choose to have the use of the parlor for her abode' it should be granted."* However, John Bissell outlived his second wife, and the digest of his will given elsewhere in these records makes no mention of her.

* In the early histories searched, the term "mother-in-law" is used in the sense that "step-mother" is now used.

The exact year in which John Bissell settled in Windsor is in dispute, as is also the time of his coming to America from England. Certain records indicate that he came to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1628, and removed to Windsor, Connecticut, a few years afterward. Other records give 1635 as the date of his removal to Windsor; while several histories consulted give evidence that 1639 is the correct date of his coming to America and settling in Windsor.

Supporting a date before 1639, we give the following facts: In the "New England Genealogical and Historical Register," volume 5, is found this entry: "The following names of the First Settlers of Windsor are recorded in the Town Records of 1640, five years after their removal from Dorchester." And John Bissell's name is in the list. Reference is made to the tradition, common in the various branches of the Bissell family, that certain ferry rights were granted to John Bissell, Senior, in consideration of services rendered in bringing over cattle in 1636-1637. In Hayden's "Virginia Genealogies," in the record of the Eno family, we find: "James Eno married Abigail Bissell, daughter of Samuel Bissell, and granddaughter of John Bissell, born Somersetshire, England, 1591, came to New England 1628." "The Genealogical and Family History of Central New York," by William R. Cutter, gives the date of John Bissell's coming to Plymouth, Massachusetts, as 1628. In volume 3 of "American Ancestry" the statement is made that John Bissell "landed at Plymouth 1628 with wife and three children, moved to Windsor 1640." But in no case, in any of the histories quoted above, have definite incidents been related, nor have extracts from town records or similar evidence been given, to support the bare statements.

Supporting 1639 as the date John Bissell came to America, we find in "Early Puritan Settlers of Connecticut," by Royal R. Hinman: "The first settlers of Windsor were Mr. John Warham, who laid the foundation of his church there in 1635; and [here follows a list of eighteen men, among them being Deacon John Moore and Thomas Ford, into whose families the Bissells married, *but no mention is made of John Bissell*]. Others arrived at different times until 1639, when

the Reverend Ephraim Huit came from England and also settled as a colleague with Mr. Warham at Windsor in 1639. A part of his church came with him, viz., John Bissell, Thomas Holcomb,* Daniel Clark, Peter Tilton, and Edward Griswold. On his way to Windsor he was joined in Massachusetts by others who accompanied him." Further, in Hinman's records, we find this: "John Bissell, Juror, 1640-43, came to Windsor in 1639, deputy and ferryman in 1640." In the "Genealogical Dictionary of New England," by James Savage, we find: "John Bissell, Windsor, 1639, said to have come from England with Rev. Ephraim Huit."

The author of this record could find no mention made, in the dozen or more histories of the early days of New England which were searched, of the participation of the Bissells in the various affairs of the colony before 1639. But beginning with that date they are frequently mentioned in connection with almost every phase of the life of the colony—civil, religious, commercial, and military.

It is difficult to determine what definite occupation John Bissell, Senior, had. The statement is made in various records that he was ferryman in 1640. In the official records we find that the subject of operating a regular ferry across the Connecticut at Windsor was first agitated about 1641, but that no definite action was taken until 1648-1649, when a contract was made with John Bissell for seven years. It is probable, therefore, that between 1640 and 1648 John Bissell was conducting a ferry on his own behalf, as a private business, and not under contract with the Windsor authorities. The "Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy" makes the statement that he "established Bissell's ferry across the Connecticut under Charter from King Charles," and this may refer to the period between 1640 and 1648.

Stiles says: "There is a tradition in the Bissell family that in 1636-1637 this John Bissell was sent by the colony to England to procure a new supply of cattle to replenish the heavy losses which they had suffered from the exceeding severity of the preceding winter; that he

* However, there is other evidence that Thomas Holcomb came to America fully five years before this date.

returned with '17 cows and a bull'; and as a reward for his services received the monopoly of this ferry from the court. The tradition is strongly marked both by its prevalence and its uniformity of detail, among all the different branches of this large and widely extended family. Yet we are disinclined to believe it: first, because in the official colonial records there is not the slightest allusion to any such circumstance; second, because we have very serious doubts whether John Bissell was in Windsor at so early a date. It is probable that he may have come to Windsor about 1639 or 1640, and may have brought some cattle with him, but we have been as yet unable to connect them with the ferry."

The contract to operate the ferry made by the Court with John Bissell, Senior, in January, 1648-1649, was as follows:

"John Bissell undertakes to keep and carefully to attend the Ferry over the Great River at Windsor, for the full term of 7 years from this day, and that he will provide a sufficient Boat for the carrying over of horse and foot upon all occasions; And that if his own occasions should necessitate him at any time to go out of call from his house or Ferry, that then he will provide some able man in his room to attend that service; for which the said John Bissell is to have of those that he ferries over, 8d for every horse or mare, and 2d for every person that goes over therewith, or that hath another passenger to go over the said Ferry at the same time; and 3d for every person that goes over the said Ferry alone, single, or without any more than himself at the same time.

"And the court prohibits all other persons (except the inhabitants of Windsor who have liberty to carry over themselves or neighbors in their own canoes or boats) from carrying over the said Ferry any passenger or passengers, when the said John Bissell or his assignee is present, or within call of his house or Ferry as aforesaid, to attend that service. And if any person or persons as aforesaid shall at any time during the aforesaid term, go over by Indians or English that have not boats or canoes of their own, that they pass over the said Ferry in,

they shall as truly pay 8d for every horse or mare, and 2d for every person, as if they went over with him. And the court also gives the said John Bissell liberty to relieve [i. e., entertain] such strangers and passengers as cannot go the ordinary, and take of them convenient and reasonable recompense for the same. This was consented to by John Bissell in Court."

The lease on the ferry having expired, it was renewed, May 15, 1656, for one year on the same terms as before, with the addition that "troops shall have free passage for man and horse so often as the said troopers shall with their listed horses travel with them to Springfield town or beyond."

Again, in May, 1657, "John Bissell's lease of the ferry was renewed for one year 'at his old house.'" This item was taken from the Colonial Records, i, 298; but other records, together with the entry following, make it certain that it was John, Junior, who operated the ferry for the year beginning May, 1657.

"March 11, 1658, John Bissell, Jr., having managed the country ferry at Windsor to entire satisfaction, received from the court a renewal thereof for ten years."

In March, 1663-1664, John Bissell, Jr., applied to the court for a release from his contract.

There was a period of some thirteen years when no one of the name of Bissell held a lease for the operation of the ferry,* and then we find

* Although Stiles says the Bissells may have *worked* the ferry for the town authorities during this period, and the following account, taken from Increase Mather's "Remarkable Providences," indicates that Nathaniel Bissell may have had some connection with the ferry, and indicates, as well, that the life of the ferryman was not lacking in exciting adventures:

"Jan. 13, 1670.—Three women, viz., the wives of Lieut. Filer, and of John Drake, and of Nathaniel Lomas, having crossed Connecticut river upon a necessary and neighborly account, and having done the work they went for, were desirous to return to their own families, the river being at that time partly shut up with ice, old and new, and partly open. There being some pains taken aforehand to cut a way through the ice, the three women above said got into a canoe, with whom also there was Nathaniel Bissell and an Indian. There was likewise another canoe with two men in it, that went before them to help them in case they should meet with any distress, which indeed quickly came upon them; for just as they were getting out of the narrow passage between the ice, being near the middle of the river, a greater part of the upper ice came down upon them, and struck the end of their canoe, and broke it to pieces, so that it quickly sunk under them. The Indian speedily got upon the ice, but Nathaniel Bissell, and the above said women, were left floating in the middle of the river, being cut off from all manner of human help besides what did arise from themselves and the two men in the little canoe, which was so small that three persons

that on May 10, 1677, Nathaniel Bissell received a lease of the ferry for seven years from date. "He was always to keep a boat and men ready to attend the service, and to take for his pains sixpence for a horse and man in silver presently paid (i. e., in cash) or in other pay, 8d a horse and man."

During the period between the release of John Bissell, Jr., in 1663-1664, and the beginning of Nathaniel Bissell's contract in 1677, the location of the ferry was changed to the mouth of the Scantic.

After the close of Nathaniel Bissell's contract, the ferry reverted to the town.

Then, "March 18, 1716, at a town meeting the Connecticut River Ferry at Scantic was granted to Jonathan Bissell and Ammi Trumbull on condition that they should carry over the selectmen and collectors free, when they were upon business, and foot passengers on lecture days." It would seem from other records that this contract was for four years.

There was another period during which the Bissells evidently did not have the lease of the ferry; then "In 1726, the ferry was granted to Jonathan and Daniel Bissell for seven years. They engaged to 'pass over all who lived north of the Rivulet in Windsor, or those who lived

durst seldom if ever, venture in it. They were indeed discerned from one shore, but the dangerous ice would not admit from either shore one to come near them. All things thus circumstanced, the suddenness of the stroke and distress (which is apt to amaze men, especially when no less than life is concerned), the extreme coldness of the weather, it being a sharp season, that persons out of the water were in danger of freezing, the unaptness of the persons to help themselves, being mostly women, one big with child, and near the time of her travail (who was also carried away under the ice), the other as unskilled and inactive to do anything for self-preservation as almost any could be, the waters deep, that there was no hope of footing, no passage to either shore, in any eye of reason, neither with their little canoe, by reason of the ice, nor without it, the ice being thin and rotten, and full of holes. Now, that all should be brought off safely without the loss of life, or wrong to health, was counted in the day of it a *Remarkable Providence*. To say how it was done is difficult, yet something of the manner of the deliverance may be mentioned. The abovesaid Nathaniel Bissell, perceiving their danger, and being active in swimming, endeavoured, what might be, the preservation of himself and some others; he strove to have swum to the upper ice, but the stream being too hard, he was forced downwards to the lower ice where, by reason of the slipperiness of the ice, and disadvantage of the stream, he found it difficult getting up; at length, by the good hand of Providence, being gotten upon the ice, he saw one of the women swimming down under the ice, and perceiving a hole, or open place, some few rods below, there he waited, and took her up as she swam along. The other two women were in the river, till the two men in the little canoe came for their relief; at length all of them got their heads above the water, and had a little time to pause, though a long, and difficult, and dangerous way to any shore; but by getting their little canoe upon the ice, and carrying one at a time over hazardous places, they did (though in a long while) get all safe to the shore from whence they came."

north of Stoughton's Brook in East Windsor, free on Sabbath and lecture days.'"

No record appears after that of the connection of any of the Bissell family with the ferry, but Bissell's Ferry continued in operation until about 1922.

As the contract of John Bissell, Senior, as ferryman also gave him the right to entertain and to receive recompense from travelers, he may be considered to have been an inn-keeper.

John, Senior, and several of his sons conducted large land transactions, both for themselves and as agents for the town. They must have been farmers to some extent. John, Senior, may also have been a merchant, as we find in the Windsor town expenses of 1659-60, the item "1000 nails of John Bissell"; though John, Junior, could have been meant in this case.

John, Senior, is spoken of as a selectman, as a juror, as a deputy. Hinman, in his "Early Puritan Settlers of Connecticut," says of him: "John Bissell of Windsor was a juror at Hartford in 1640, 1643, Oct., 1645, and March, 1647, and 1648; deputy to the General Court in 1642, and attended forty-six sessions of the General and Particular Courts before the union of the Connecticut and New Haven colonies, and in all served as Juror twelve sessions of the Court at Hartford. . . . He was frequently appointed upon important committees by the General Court of Connecticut."

When, in 1675, in raising the tax for the support of the rivulet ferry, it was deemed more equitable to levy the tax on such persons and property as were to be benefited most, John (presumably John, Senior) and Nathaniel Bissell were in the first class, "Family, horse, and four oxen;" while John (Junior?), Thomas, and Samuel Bissell were in the second class, "Family, horse, and two oxen."

John, Senior, and John, Junior, Thomas, Samuel, and Nathaniel Bissell were listed in 1669 as having been "approved of to be freemen and allowed to take the oath of freedom"; but it is not certain whether the oath was taken in 1669, or whether the list of 1669 was a record of that and also of previous years.

In the church records of Windsor we find "A list of those that have been taken into full communion," and the dates; and in this list, "John Bissell, senior, May 3, 1640."

The following is taken from the chapter on "First Settlers and Their Home Lots," in "Ancient Windsor," by Henry R. Stiles: "John Bissell, ferryman in 1640, lot granted 22 rods wide; bought 25 rods additional. In 1642 the Massachusetts surveyors, Woodward and Saffrey, ran the line between the colonies at John Bissell's house, the remains of which were to be seen in 1751."

Subsequently, John Bissell must have made extensive purchases of land, for we find records of generous gifts to his children; and items concerning the purchase of land by John Bissell occur frequently in the records of Windsor land transactions.

Quoting again from Stiles, "For thirty years after [the original settlement of Windsor] there seems to have been no occupation of the lands on the east side except as a pasturage for their cattle and some small mowing.

"The Bissell family were undoubtedly the pioneers of the East Windsor emigration. It is not probable, however, that they had any permanent residence on the east side for many years after that date, as so isolated a position in the then unsettled state of the country would have been full of peril to themselves and the common welfare. January, 1662-3, Nathaniel Bissell received from his father, John, a deed of property upon the east side of the river near the Ferry, wherein is mentioned a house *already built*. As 'Goodman Bissell Sen'r's' landing place on the east side of the Great River is referred to in a record in Windsor 'Book of Town Wayes,' under date of January 1659-60, we may reasonably infer that this house was erected about 1658 or 1659. This was undoubtedly the first and for several years the only dwelling house in East (now South) Windsor."

J. H. Hayden (considered an authority on Windsor history) wrote the following sketch of the Bissells for Stiles's 1891 edition of the "History of Ancient Windsor":

"John Bissell, Sen., bought the Ludlow lot on the east side of the

Connecticut, below the mouth of the Scantuck, 1649, and had evidently built there before 1657, and had proposed to transfer the ferry to that place; but we find that the court in extending his lease another year specified that it should be kept 'at his old house.' . . . John, Jr., married [in 1658], and his father gave him 'his old house,' the old homestead. . . . In 1662, John, Sr., deeded to his son Nathaniel, for his marriage portion, 'one-quarter of his land at Scantuck (on the east side of the Connecticut) with a quarter part of all his housing, dwelling house and out housing,' with another quarter at the death of his father; and Nathaniel was living there at the time of King Philip's War, 1675-6, when the council ordered 'a garrison of not less than six men kept at the house of Nathaniel Bissell, at Scantuck.' . . . The Bissells did not build on the east side of the river at the old ferry place."

Quoting from the "Genealogical and Family History of Central New York," by William R. Cutter, "His [John Bissell's] was probably the first family actually residing on the east side of the river. Cellars and houses were there earlier, and in 1648 William Hills sold a dwelling house, barn, and appurtenances on that side, but the houses were occupied by laborers who temporarily resided there while cultivating the meadow and cutting hay which was stored in ricks until winter and then carried across the river on the ice.

"He gave his homestead at Old Windsor to his son John, and removed with his son Nathaniel to a site below the mouth of the Scantic. The homestead passed from John Bissell, Jr., to his son Daniel, whose son Daniel sold the house in 1790 and removed to Randolph, Vermont. The house was removed to another part of the town."

Stoughton, in "Windsor Farmes," writes: "From Windsor Land Records, Vol. 1, it is evident that the Bissells owned a mill on land purchased from the Indians before 1670. Nathaniel and John Bissell, Jr., purchased the land jointly, bounded easterly on the Scantic brook, October 8, 1670. December 18, 1669, John Osborne sold all his timber east of the Connecticut River 'fitt to saw at the saw mill' to

John and Nathaniel Bissell, but stipulated that they must not cut any within a mile of the river. This was one of the three-mile lots and the Bissells could cut on the other two miles all the saw logs; but 'all the oaks fitt for shingles and clapboards' Osborne reserved for his own use. The consideration for the privilege of cutting over this whole tract of primeval forest was '500 feet of good boards at the saw mill and slabs enoffe to lay in the lower floor of my house on the east side.'" The proprietorship of the mill was evidently in the Bissell family in 1697, according to certain extant records.

In Increase Mather's "Remarkable Providences" in an account of "some remarkable preservacions which sundry in Windsor in New England have experienced," we find this: "Remarkable also was the deliverance which John and Thomas Bissell of Windsor aforesaid did at another time receive. John Bissell, on a morning about break of day, taking nails out of a great barrel wherein was a considerable quantity of gunpowder and bullets, having a candle in his hand, the powder took fire. Thomas Bissell was then putting on his clothes, standing by a window which though well fastened was by the force of the powder carried away at least four rods; the partition wall from another room was broken in pieces; the roof of the house opened and slipt off the plates about five feet down; also the great girt of the house at one end broke out so far that it drew from the summer to the end most of its tenant. The woman of the house was lying sick, and another woman under it in bed, yet did the Divine Providence so order things as that no one received any hurt excepting John Bissell, who fell through two floors into a cellar, his shoes being taken from his feet, and found at twenty feet distant, his hands and his face very much scorched, without any other wound in his body."

Out of the musty records of a long forgotten civil suit, also, comes another story, with which the "remarkable providence" had much to do.

In an affidavit made in the case of Whiting *versus* Bissell* in 1684,

* This was a suit to recover lands sold by Mrs. Whiting without authority, in which minors had interest. It was a celebrated case and many well known persons testified.

Matthew Griswold, son-in-law of Henry Wolcott, testifying in regard to certain land transactions occurring at Windsor in 1639-1640, said:

“John Bissell, sometime of Windsor, now deceased, did offer to sell mee at that part of Mr. Ludlowe’s accommodations both of houseing and lands, which hee bought of Wm. Whiting (as he tolde mee) which lay on the west side Connecticut river, in the townshipp of Windsor . . . and I being not accommodated to my mind where I then lived at Saybrook, and haueing kindred of my owne and my wife’s at Windsor, was willing to dwell at Windsor, and I bid the said Bissell £140 . . . tendered for sale, and haueing afterwards advised with my brother [in law] Henry Wolcott [Jr.] my said brother told mee he thought I had bid enoffe and did not advise me to give more; also I went to father-in-law Mr. Wolcott [Sr.] who told mee I had bid high enoffe for my settlement there, advised mee to give £10 more, that is £150 in all, rather than not buy it, and higher he advised mee not, whereupon I again treated with Goodman Bissell and bid him £150 and (he still held) at £160, so after discourse we parted with this conclusion; he said if I heard no more of him I should conclude he would not take my offer, so he went from mee, and the day after I went from Windsor with my boat, concluding I might have it for £160 and not under; but afterwards I understand from him and others that he had risen early in the morning to set his people to work, that he might come to mee to accept of my offer of £150, but an accident fell out that powder took fire and burnt him so that he could not come, so that had not that accident been I had bought the said accommodations for £150 in such country pay as he was to make to Mrs. Whiting.”

Had this accident not befallen Goodman Bissell, Matthew Griswold might have bought the Windsor property from him; Windsor might have received a most important acquisition to her social wealth, and might have had the honor of claiming two Griswolds as well as two Wolcotts as Governors of Connecticut, sprung from her own soil.

Cutter says that John Bissell was a soldier in King Philip’s War, in 1675, and in 1677 was Quartermaster of a troop of Horse. This is

surprising, in view of the fact that John Bissell, Senior, would have been in his late eighties at that time. Yet in Stiles's account of King Philip's War the statement is made, "In an old book of rates we find the following names of Windsor troopers who were in actual service and received 6s 8d each 'on war account': Captain John Bissell, John Bissell, Jr.," [and others].

After King Philip's War, there seems to have been a period of great distress in some of the New England colonies, but not so great in Connecticut, for Connecticut sent contributions to the other colonies.

In the "account of what persons of Windsor gave to the voluntary contribution made for the poor in want in other colonies" we find these contributions:

	£	s	d
John Bissell		2	
John Bissell, Jr.		5	
Thomas Bissell	1		
Samuel Bissell		4	
Nathaniel Bissell	1		

This was a rather generous donation from the Bissell family, for in the list of one hundred and forty-five persons who contributed, only one other person gave as much as one pound.

In regard to the will of John Bissell, the following was copied from "A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records," compiled by Charles William Manwaring, Volume 1, published by R. S. Peck & Co., Hartford, 1904:

"JOHN BISSELL, Windsor. Invt. £520-16-03. Taken 22 October, 1677 by Daniel Clark, Benjamin Newbery, Return Strong. Will dated 25 September, 1673: I John Bissell of Windsor doe make this my last Will & Testament: I give to my daughter Mary, the wife of Jacob Drake, £10; to my daughter Joyce, wife of Samuel Pinney, £30. I give to my son John £50. The remainder of my estate after my just debts and funeral charges are paid, with 20 shillings a peice to each of my grandchildren naturally descending from my foure sons and two daughters, I bequeath to my foure sons, John, Thomas, Samuel,

and Nathaniel. The remaynder of my estate to be equally divided. I appoint my sons John and Thomas Bissell to be executors. I desire Deacon John Moore and Daniel Clark to be supervisors.

John X Bissell, L. S.

Witness: John Moore Sen.

Daniel Clark

Court record, Page 165 6 December 1677.

Will approved."

CHILDREN OF JOHN BISSELL, THE IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

Second Generation

JOHN BISSELL, JUNIOR

Born in England. Married, June 17, 1658, Isabel Mason, of Saybrook, daughter of the celebrated Indian fighter, Captain John Mason. Isabel Mason Bissell died March 29, 1665. John Bissell married a second time, in 1669, but we have no information concerning the name, or date of birth and death of this second wife. He died in 1693. *7688 11407 near name*

MARY BISSELL

Born in England, and may have been the first child. Married, April 12, 1649, Jacob Drake. No children.

THOMAS BISSELL

Born in England, date of birth not given. Married, October 11, 1655, Abigail Moore, daughter of Deacon John and Abigail Moore, of Windsor. Died (probably in Windsor) July 31, 1689.

SAMUEL BISSELL

(See record given elsewhere.)

NATHANIEL BISSELL

Born in Windsor, September 24, 1640. Married, first, September 23 or 25, 1662, Mindwell Moore, daughter of Deacon John and Abigail Moore. (Evidently Thomas and Nathaniel Bissell married sisters.) Mindwell Moore Bissell died November 24, 1682, and Nathaniel Bissell married, second, July 4, 1683 (one record gives this date as September 25, 1683), Dorothy Fitch, who died June 28, 1691. Nathaniel Bissell died March 12, 1713 or 1714.

JOYCE BISSELL

Born probably 1641 or 1642 unless she was a twin with Nathaniel.
Married, November 7 or 17, 1665, Samuel Pinney, son of
Humphrey and Mary Hull Pinney.

Tradition preserves the following jocose ditty with which John Bissell
used to call his family:

“John, Tom, Sam and Nat,
Rise, Joice, and hang on the pot.”

SECOND GENERATION

SAMUEL BISSELL

Son of John Bissell, the Immigrant Ancestor

SAMUEL BISSELL (JOHN¹) was born in 1636. He married, first, June 11, 1658, Abigail Holcomb, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Holcomb. One record states that Abigail Holcomb was born January 6, 1638; and according to another record she was baptized either June or January 6, 1638. She died August 17, 1688. Samuel Bissell married, a second time, Mary (last name unknown). We find in the Appendix of Stiles's "Ancient Windsor," "Wid. Mary, wife to Samuel Bissell of W., died 24 — 1718. Simsbury Record. Probably a second wife of this Samuel." Hinman notes that "Mary, second wife of Samuel Bissell, died June 24, 1718." And Samuel mentions his wife, Mary, in his will. He died December 3, 1700.

In the records of the early history of Windsor we find the name of Samuel Bissell in various connections. In 1675, when in raising the tax for the support of the rivulet ferry it was thought more equitable to lay the tax on such persons and property as were to be most benefited thereby, the taxpayers were divided into classes; and Samuel was classed among those having "Family, horse, and two oxen." We find his name among those who made contributions to the "poor in want" in other colonies after King Philip's War. He "avowed the Half-Way Covenant in Windsor Church, 27th November, 1659;" and he is mentioned further in church records as having "tendered himself publikly to attayn baptism for his children." His name appears in the 1669 "List of Freemen of Windsor."

One of the records states that "Samuel resided southeast corner Bowfield; bought 1661 lot west side of Broad Street (9 x 34 rods) where S. E. Clapp resides [in 1889], on which he built and resided.

His father gave him 106 acres of the Whiting lot, all except the east side which was previously sold to Job Drake."

No record consulted mentions any definite occupation in which Samuel Bissell was engaged, but, judging from his will following, he owned considerable land, and was one of the prosperous men of his day.

From "A Digest of Hartford County Probate Records," by Charles William Manwaring, pages 8, 9, 10, 11:

"BISSELL, SAMUEL, SEN., Windsor, died 3 December 1700. Invt. £495-03-07. Taken 9 December 1700 by John Moore Sen., Matthew Allyn and Benajah Holcomb. Will dated 2 August, 1697:

"I Samuel Bissell Senior of Windsor doe make this my last will and testament. I give to my son Samuel £140 besides that land which I have already given him, on which his house standeth, which is about six acres. Item, I give to my two daughters, Abigaile and Mary, which are already married, £20 to each besides what they have already had. Item, I give to my three younger daughters, Elizabeth, Deborah, and Hannah, £75 apiece. On wch legacies my will is that it shall be and remain to my children above named, to them and their heirs forever. Item, I give to my son Joshua all that meadow land at Simsbury, wch belongs to me, wch I bought of Mr. Stone and Jonathan Gillett (17 acres) excepting two acres which my son Jacob did improve in his life, which sd two acres I give to my grandson Jacob Bissell, son of Jacob Bissell deceased, if he live to the age of twenty-one years. In case he do not survive to that age, my son Joshua shall have it. Also, two acres of upland on ye north side of the brooke known by the name of Bissell's Brooke, at Simsbury, I give to my son Joshua. I give to my grandson John Bissell, son of John Bissell deceased, £5; and £2-10 to my granddaughter Abigaile Bissell. I give to my grandson Jacob Bissell my dwelling house at Simsbury. I give to my wife Mary 20 shillings in silver money, and for security for the payment of the £5 per annum which I engaged to pay her while she remained my widow, I make over ten acres of my meadow land at the south end known as the Great Meadow. I nominate my son Samuel to be

executor, and desire John Moore, Lt. John Higley, Matthew Allyn, and Michael Taintor to be my Overseers.

SAMUEL BISSELL, L. S.

Witness:

John Moore, Sen.

John Higley, Sen.

"The wise disposing providence of God having made a breach in my family bereaveing of the son of my hope, whom I had nominated executor, has given me occasion to add this my codicil: The Estate that I had devised to my son Samuel (who is deceased) shall, after my decease, be equally divided amongst my five daughters. I appoint my sonn in law, James Enno, executor, and supervisors as above. 23 April 1698.

SAMUEL BISSELL, SEN., L. S.

Witness:

Daniel Clarke

Martha Clarke

"A codicil dated 25 November 1700: The testator nominated his son-in-law John Pettibone, Jr., joint executor with James Enno; and to settle any differences that may arise in the division of the estate, he appoints his brother Benajah Holcomb and John Moore, Sen.

"Court Record, page 4, 16 December, 1700. James Enno of Windsor and John Pettibone exhibit the last will of their father-in-law, Samuel Bissell, of the same Windsor, deceased. Will proven by the witnesses."

HOLCOMB, OR HOLCOMBE

The family of Holcombe settled for centuries upon the estate of Hull, County Devon, England,—seven descents of which are recorded in the Heralds visitations of 1620,—sent several of its members over to America between 1630 and 1695. The first colonist of the name, Thomas Holcombe (whose daughter, Abigail, married Samuel Bissell), was born either in Pembrokehire, Wales, or in Devonshire, England, in 1601, and, it is believed, was a son of Gilbert and Ann Holcombe. He came to New England in 1630 in the "Mary and John." He married Elizabeth Ferguson, some authorities

state, before he left England, and others say the marriage took place in Dorchester, Massachusetts. She was born in England and was a fellow passenger on the "Mary and John." Thomas Holcomb (or Holcombe) was made freeman at Dorchester in 1634; sold his lands there in 1635 and soon afterward removed to Windsor. He was a prominent man in the settlement. In 1639 he was one of those who represented Windsor and Hartford in the forming of the Constitution of the Colony of Connecticut. He died September 7, 1657. After his death his widow married, August 5, 1658, James Enno. She died October 7, 1679.

The arms and motto given in "America Heraldica," by E. DeV. Vermont, have been preserved especially in this branch of the Holcombe family. A complete pedigree of the Holcombes of Devonshire, starting from John Holcombe, Knight (XI Century), and including the father of the emigrant, Thomas Holcombe, is given in the "Holcombe Genealogy" by Jesse Seaver.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND ELIZABETH (FERGUSON) HOLCOMB

Elizabeth. Married Josiah Ellsworth.
 Mary. Married George Griswold.
 ABIGAIL. Married Samuel Bissell.
 Joshua. Married Ruth Sherwood.
 Sarah.
 Benajah. Married Sarah Enno.
 Deborah. Died very young.
 Nathaniel.
 Deborah. Married Daniel Birge.
 Jonathan.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND ABIGAIL (HOLCOMB) BISSELL

Third Generation

JOHN BISSELL
 (See record given elsewhere)

ABIGAIL BISSELL
 Born July 6, 1661. Married, December 26, 1678, James Enno, son (by his first wife, Anna Bidwell) of the James Enno who married, as his second wife, the Widow Elizabeth Holcomb (Abigail Bissell's grandmother). Abigail (Bissell) Enno died April 19, 1728.

JACOB BISSELL
 Born March 28, 1664. Married Mary (last name unknown); one son, Jacob. Died August 1, 1694.

MARY BISSELL

Born September 15, 1666. Married John Pettibone.

SAMUEL BISSELL

Born January 11, 1668 or 1669. Died 1697 or 1698, aged twenty-nine, leaving a widow, Mary, and a child unborn at the time of his death, later named Mary.

BENAJAH BISSELL

Born June 30, 1671.

ELIZABETH BISSELL

Born either January or March 4, 1677. There is some slight evidence (in the will of her brother Jacob) that she married a Mr. Root.

DEBORAH BISSELL

Born October 29, 1679. Married Stephen Pettibone.

HANNAH BISSELL

Born either September or December 18, 1682. Married, March 28, 1700, Nathaniel Phelps. Died February 24, 1717.

JOSHUA BISSELL

(Mentioned in his father's will, but not mentioned in any other record consulted.)

THIRD GENERATION

JOHN BISSELL

Son of Samuel and Abigail (Holcomb) Bissell

JOHN BISSELL (SAMUEL,² JOHN¹) was born April 5, 1659, and was baptized November 27, 1659. He married, August 26, 1680, Abigail Filley, daughter of William and Margaret Filley. (William Filley settled in Windsor as early as 1640.)

Abigail Filley was born August 21, 1658. John Bissell must have died late in 1684 or early in 1685, as the records state that at the time of his death his daughter Abigail was three and one-half years old, and his son John two years old. After his death, Abigail Filley Bissell married, on October 30, 1685, Samuel Tudor, by whom she had children. She died January 8, 1707.

The following, in regard to the estate of John Bissell, is taken from "A Digest of the Hartford County Probate Records," by Charles William Manwaring.

"BISSELL, JOHN, son of Samuel of Windsor, Invt. £127-02-08. Taken 27 January 1684-5 by John Loomis, John Moore. The children: Abigail 3½ years of age; John, 2 years.

"Court Record Page 104, 24 March, 1684-5: Adms. to Abigail Bissell, the widow. Distribution to widow £21-13-04, to the son a double portion, to the daughter a single portion. John Loomis sen. and John Loomis, Jr., to be Overseers."

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL (FILLEE) BISSELL

Fourth Generation

ABIGAIL BISSELL

Born April or August 3, 1681. There is some indication, in the record of the settlement of the estate of her uncle, Jacob Bissell, that Abigail Bissell married a Mr. Baker.

JOHN BISSELL

(See record given elsewhere.)

FOURTH GENERATION

JOHN BISSELL

Son of John and Abigail (Filley) Bissell

JOHN BISSELL (JOHN,³ SAMUEL,² JOHN¹) was born in 1682 or 1683. He died March 8, 1771 "in the eighty-eighth year of his age." He married, February 22 or 27, 1710 or 1711, Hannah Denslow, daughter of Samuel and Patience (Gibbs) Denslow. Hannah Denslow was born November 14, 1690, and died January 13, 1751 or 1752.

The Bolton Vital Records contain this item: "John Bissell, Esq. of Bolton and Mrs. Dorothy Latham of New London were married January 17th, A. D. 1753." This second marriage is also mentioned in the "New England Genealogical and Historical Register," volume 4.

Stiles, in his "Ancient Windsor," gives this: "John (Capt.) Early at Bolton, where he had land set out to him in the first apportionment of town lands, 1722; was selectman in 1721, and for many subsequent years. He was established and confirmed to be Lieutenant of the company or train band in the town of Bolton in October, 1722 (Colonial Records vol. V, 330); later he was Captain, but after his appointment to a Justice of the Peace in May, 1739, he was more frequently designated 'Esquire.' He represented the town in the Assembly and was in many ways a prominent man.

"John Bissell's home lot in Bolton was at Quarryville, and there he and his wife were buried."

It is probable that this John Bissell was a lawyer, for we find in the list of Windsor's Judges and Lawyers, this statement: "Prosecuting Officers (King's Attorney), John Bissell of Windsor, 1727;" and, again, "Lawyers from Windsor: John Bissell of Windsor (later of Bolton) 1714." As the John Bissell in whom we are interested did move from Windsor to Bolton, and as the dates correspond to other facts in our possession, we believe we are correct in assuming that this is one of the ancestors through whom we trace.

DENSLOW

DENSLOW was one of the prominent names in the early days of Windsor. Savage gives a record of Henry Denslow as having been in Windsor in 1644. He was one of the early settlers of Pine Meadow (present Windsor Locks), having bought land there from Thomas Ford in 1663. He built a house and took his family (a wife and seven children) there probably in the same year. His youngest daughter, Elizabeth, born February 11, 1665, was probably the first white child born in that town. Tradition tells us that the Denslow family returned to Windsor after the breaking out of King Philip's War; and that Mr. Denslow, venturing back to his farm, was captured by the Indians and killed. This was in 1676. After the war his widow and children returned to Pine Meadow. Samuel, his only son, who was seventeen years old at the time of his father's death, spent his life there and was succeeded by two sons.

The site of Henry Denslow's house in Pine Meadow has been definitely fixed by excavations which uncovered the lower portion of the cellar wall at each of the corners. A gray flint boulder, of more than a half ton's weight (found on his own farm), has been placed over the northeast corner, with this inscription:

1663

1676

1876

This Stone Marks The Site
Of The First House In
Pinemeadow, Built 1663(?)
By Henry Denslow, Captured
Here And Killed By The
Indians, April 4th(?) 1676.

The following record of the estate of Henry Denslow is taken from "A Digest of Hartford County Probate Records," by Charles William Manwaring:

"DENSLOW, HENRY. Invt. £215-18-06. Taken 17 August 1676 by Jacob Drake, Thomas Bissell. Children Samuel, seventeen years of age, and seven daughters: Susanna, wife of John Hodge; Mary, wife of Thomas Rowley; Ruth, wife of Thomas Copley. Those unmarried: Abigail, twenty years of age; Deborah,* eighteen (lame and sickly); Hannah,† fourteen; Elizabeth,‡ ten years of age.

"Court record page 157-11 September, 1676: Adms. to the widow, Lt. Fyler and Ensign Maudsley to be Overseers.

"Page 159-6 December, 1676—order to distribute estate: to Samuel £50, to each of the seven daughters, £20, including what some have already received, Deborah to have an additional £10 on account of her lameness. The parcell of Land 50 rods by the River, running back 80 rods from the River to

* Married later, John Hoskins. † Married later, Henry Burt. ‡ Married later, William King.

the road westward, which was given by Henry Denslow to the wife of John Hodge and her children, though not recorded, shall be and remain to her and to her children, and the said Hodge shall have no power to alienate the said Land."

SAMUEL DENSLOW, son of Henry, was born December 19, 1659. He married, December 2, 1686, Patience Gibbs.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND PATIENCE (GIBBS) DENSLOW

HANNAH. Born November 14, 1690. Married John Bissell.

Elizabeth. Born March 9, 1692 or 1693.

Sarah. Born February 13, 1694.

Samuel. Born July 14, 1697. Married, first, Mary Grant; second, Sarah Chapman.

Benjamin. Born March 29, 1701.

Joseph. Born March 24, 1703 or 1704. Married Ann Holcomb.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND HANNAH (DENSLOW) BISSELL

Fifth Generation

SARAH BISSELL

Date of birth not given, but probably the first child. She married Samuel Bartholomew of Branford, Connecticut, January 7, 1738. (Stiles lists Sarah as the youngest child, but either that is incorrect, or the date of her marriage is incorrect.)

JOHN BISSELL

Born February 18, 1717 or 1718. Died at Bolton, 1759 or 1760. His wife's name was Sarah (last name unknown).

LUCY BISSELL

Born August 6, 1722 (Bolton Vital Records). Lucy is not mentioned in any other record consulted.*

ELISHA BISSELL

Born, according to Bolton Vital Records, May 9, 1728; baptized March 31, 1728, according to another record, which is inconsistent with the Bolton Vital Records. Married, first, Mary Robarts, of Hartford, March 15, 1755. The name of his second wife was Sarah (last name unknown). Died June 19, 1767.

OZIAS BISSELL

(See record given elsewhere.)

* Although Mr. A. H. Godbey, in a letter to Mr. S. S. Bissell dated Dec. 2, 1914, mentions that Lucy, an older sister of Ozias Bissell, married a Mr. Tyler and had a son, Ozias Bissell Tyler.

FIFTH GENERATION

OZIAS BISSELL

Son of John and Hannah (Denslow) Bissell

OZIAS BISSELL (JOHN,⁴ JOHN,³ SAMUEL,² JOHN¹) was born at Bolton, Connecticut. The date of his birth is uncertain. Stiles gives May 13, 1729; the Bolton Vital Records and the Bissell family records give 1731, and as Stiles gives the date of baptism as May 16, 1731, we believe 1731 is the correct year of his birth.

The records also vary as to his death. The Bissell family records state that he died November 30, 1822, at Vernon, Connecticut. According to two other records he died March 16, 1822, aged ninety-three; but one of these records gives Manchester, and the other, Vernon, Connecticut, as the place of his death, the latter adding that he "resided and died in that part of Bolton later called Vernon, and was buried at Manchester, Connecticut."

He married, first, Mabel Robarts, of Hartford, Connecticut, December 31, 1751. Mabel Robarts was born about 1728, and died October 31, 1803, aged seventy-six.

Ozias Bissell married, second, when he was over eighty (according to Stiles), Sarah Hoffman. She died the 26th of August, 1828 or 1829, aged seventy-three. This age does not agree with the age given for the wife of Ozias Bissell in his Pension Affidavit. Another record states that Ozias Bissell "married, second, Elizabeth Kilbourne, who was born about 1755 and who died August 26, 1828," but we believe this is an error, as his *son*, Ozias, married an Elizabeth Kilborn, or Kilbourne.

The Pension Affidavit of Ozias Bissell, dated June 7, 1820, stated that he was "eighty-eight years old; farmer; wife aged fifty-eight; both unable to labor; resided Vernon, Connecticut; property valued at \$192."

The first definite record we have of Ozias Bissell in the French War is that he was in action on Lake George in 1755; but Stiles says he served nine years in the French War, and if so he must have been in service prior to 1755. He was a sergeant in Captain Noah Grant's Company, 1756. Although a resident of Bolton, he was chosen lieutenant of a company in Hartford.

The French War virtually ended in 1760, but in 1762 England became involved in war with the principal continental powers, and the colonies were required to furnish men and arms for her service. In the early part of 1762 a large number of colonial troops were engaged in an expedition against Martinique and the French posts in the West Indies. Shortly after, war was declared with Spain, and a large fleet with some 15,000 troops was sent to attempt the reduction of Havana and the Spanish West Indies. Ozias must have been in this expedition, for we find records stating that he "was prisoner in 1762 at Havana where he was confined nearly eight months." We also find the statement that he became acquainted with the renowned Ethan Allen when a prisoner in 1762 at Havana.

The record of Ozias Bissell in the Revolutionary War is given as follows:

From the "History of Ancient Windsor," by Henry R. Stiles, 1892:

Served five years and eight months.

Was in three general actions and seven skirmishes.

Was wounded three times—once severely.

Was twice taken prisoner and each time held for about two years.

Served his first months as a volunteer.

Private Second Company First Regiment raised for the reduction of Crown Point, April, 1775, in service twenty-eight weeks.

Raised one of the first companies in 1775, marched to Boston and was at the siege of that city.

Appointed First Lieutenant, Second Company Fourth Regiment, April, 1775.

Promoted Captain Second Company, Fourth Regiment.

Engaged in the Battle of Long Island, August, 1776, where he was taken prisoner (Stiles). (Heitman also gives this item, and states in addition that he was wounded in this battle.)

From the "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army, April 1775–December 1783," by F. B. Heitman, 1914 revision:

Lieutenant in Lexington Alarm, April, 1775.
First Lieutenant Eighth Connecticut, 1st May, 1775.
Captain, 1st September, 1775.
Captain Seventeenth Continental Infantry, 1st January, 1776.
Captain of Moseley's Connecticut Militia Regiment, 1778.
Wounded and taken prisoner at Long Island, 27th August, 1776.
Taken prisoner at Horse Neck, 26th February, 1779.

From the U. S. Pension Office Records:

Appointed, 12th of March, 1778, Captain of the First Battalion of Connecticut Line, and served nine months.
June, 1779, appointed Captain of a company in Colonel Huntington's Regiment.
March 20, 1780, appointed Captain of a Foot Company, Colonel Wells' Regiment, and served until June, 1781; taken prisoner with Colonel Wells near Horseneck, Conn., 10th December, 1780, and held until June, 1781.

Still another record states briefly: "In the War of the Revolution, Ozias Bissell was Lieutenant in Captain Timothy Cheney's company of Minute Men at the Battle of Lexington; afterwards took part in the capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point. He was made Captain in 1776 by the Continental Congress, was twice prisoner and three times wounded during the War; and a short time before his death he stated that he, his sons and grandsons had given their country one hundred and twenty years of military service. He had five sons, two of whom died in service."

Mr. Lewis Bissell, in a letter dated September 11, 1852, to Mr. James Bissell, at "Franklinville Farm, Saint Ferdinand,"* enclosed a paper that gives a few facts regarding Captain Ozias Bissell not found in other records searched. This paper reads as follows:

"He raised the first Company in the Revolutionary war (in 1775) and marched to Boston and was received on his first arrival by Genl. Washington. Was near 8 months at Havanna (in the Island of Cuba) while a prisoner. Was in the Genl. Action on Long Island (when taken prisoner) 8 months a Volunteer. Became acquainted with the celebrated Ethan Allen at New York when a prisoner in 1762 at Havanna.

* This is the old Bissell homestead near Saint Louis.

In 1755 in the Battle of Lake George (victorious). Himself and Sons, 120 years in the service.

"The substance of the foregoing was taken down by George Bissell, (Son of Russell Bissell) as dictated by Capt. Ozias Bissell Senr. the 20th day of January, 1822. Said Ozias Bissell lived to the age of 93 years. L. B.

"P. S. Elijah Bissell, son of Ozias Bissell, Sr. is supposed to have died on board of one of the British Prison Ships. He was one of the Strongest men of the age; could take up a Barrel of cider & put it onto a wagon with ease."

(The parentheses and the underlining are given as in the original paper referred to above.)

CHILDREN OF OZIAS AND MABEL (ROBARTS) BISSELL

Sixth Generation

OZIAS BISSELL, JR.

Baptized April 12, 1752. Married, January 25, 1776, Elizabeth Kilbourne (or Kilborn).

MABEL BISSELL

Born July 23, 1753. Married Andrew Millard.

RUSSELL BISSELL

Born January 13, 1755. Died February 20, 1755.

RUSSELL BISSELL (MAJOR)

Born, according to Stiles, 1755; according to Bolton Vital Records, 1756; baptized January 11, 1756. Private in the Lexington Alarm Party, April, 1775; private 4th Connecticut, May 23 to December 10, 1775; ensign in Wells's Connecticut State Regiment; taken prisoner at Horseneck, Conn., December 15, 1780; lieutenant 2d Infantry, March 4, 1791; 2d sub legion September 4, 1792; captain February 19, 1793; 2d Infantry, November 1, 1796; transferred to 1st Infantry, April 1, 1802; major 2d Infantry, December 9, 1807. Married, about 1782, Eunice Rockwell, who died February 9, 1832. He died December 18, 1807, at Bellefontaine (St. Louis), Missouri, while in the United States Service.

CHILDREN

George. Born December 26, 1784.

Eunice. Born July 8, 1787. Married Henry Winter. Died 1860.

Lewis (Captain). Born October 12, 1789. (See Appendix for further data in regard to Lewis Bissell.)

Nancy. Born July, 1795. Married Rudolphus Landfear. Died 1870 at Hartford, Connecticut.

HANNAH BISSELL

Born December 11, 1757. Married Calvin Gilman.

ELIJAH BISSELL

Baptized February 25, 1759. Married Betsy Buckland. Died on the prison ship, at New York, during the War of the Revolution.

LEVERETT BISSELL

Baptized February 1, 1761. Married Sarah Newton. Died March 25, 1813, aged fifty-two.

BELLE (THE SAME AS BETSY?) BISSELL

Baptized November 13, 1763. Married John Marshall.

ANNA BISSELL

Baptized November 13, 1763. Married Joseph Loomis.

FREEDOM BISSELL

Baptized February 22, 1767. Married Elijah Fitch.

THEODOSIA (OR DOSHA) BISSELL

Baptized August 20, 1769. Married Daniel Landfear (or Landfear).

DANIEL BISSELL (GENERAL)

Twin with Theodosia. (See record following.)

SIXTH GENERATION

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL

Son of Ozias and Mabel (Robarts) Bissell

DANIEL BISSELL (OZIAS,⁵ JOHN,⁴ JOHN,³ SAMUEL,² JOHN¹) was born at Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut, in 1768 or 1769—probably the latter year, as the date of his baptism is given as July 20, 1769, in one record, and as July 26, 1769, in another.

The Bissell family records contain the following sketch of Daniel Bissell:

“He entered the army (War of the Revolution) when a beardless boy as a fifer in the 8th Regiment (Colonel Huntington’s), but rose through various grades to Brigadier General.* He was in the Eastern Division of the Army for years, at times carrying secret dispatches from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, in the depth of winter, and executed several dangerous commissions. At St. Clair’s defeat he and his brother (Russell?) were the only ones left of their company. In 1804 he commanded at Fort Massac, a military post of some importance on the Ohio River some distance above Cairo. In December, 1807, he visited, by order of General Howard, the cantonment of Bellefontaine, on the Missouri River, eighteen miles north of St. Louis, on the occasion of the death of his brother, Major Russell Bissell, traveling much of the intervening two hundred miles on horseback. The following year, 1808, he was appointed by President Jefferson, Military Governor of ‘Upper Louisiana,’ now including the states of Missouri and Illinois, with command of Bellefontaine Fort. In 1813 he joined his regiment at Lake Erie, served during the whole war, and had the honor of commanding the last battle of the War of 1812, at Lyon’s Creek. He was afterwards in command at Mobile, New Orleans, and

* These promotions did not come during the Revolution, but much later in his life. (See statement of Pension Bureau following.)

Baton Rouge, retiring from the army at the latter place, in 1821, to the large tract of land which he had purchased on the Bellefontaine Road, a few miles north of St. Louis. He died of pneumonia, at his farm near St. Louis, December 14, 1833."

Daniel Bissell married Deborah Sebor, daughter of Jacob and Jane (Woodbury) Sebor, about 1793, at Middletown, Connecticut.

Deborah Sebor Bissell died November 13 or 15, 1843. In all the Bissell records this name is given as Seba, but it is Sebor in the published genealogy of that family.

Appleton's "Cyclopedia of American Biography" gives the following military record of General Daniel Bissell:

Cadet.....	September, 1791
Ensign.....	April 11, 1792
Lieutenant.....	January, 1794
Captain.....	January, 1799
Lieutenant Colonel.....	August 18, 1808
Colonel.....	August 15, 1812
Brigadier General.....	March 9, 1814
Won battle at Lyon Creek, U. C., October 19, 1814; Colonel	
First Infantry, with brevet of Brigadier General, May 15, 1815;	
transferred Second Artillery, January 16, 1826.*	

F. B. Heitman's "Historical Register of the United States Army, 1789-1889" (published in 1890) gives General Bissell's military record, with slight variations from Appleton's statement, as follows:

"Daniel Bissell, Conn.

Conn. Ens 1 inf 11 April 1792; 1 sub legn 4 Sept 1792; lt 3 Jan 1794; 1 inf 1 Nov 1796; capt 1 Jan 1799; lt col 1 inf 18 Aug 08; col 5 inf 15 Aug 12; brig gen 9 March 14: retained 17 May 15 as col 1 inf with bvt of brig gen from 9 March 14; hon dischg 1 June 21; (died 14 Dec 33)"

A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Pensions, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., dated January 3, 1923, gives a few details in regard to General Bissell's service not found in any of the books searched:

"While living at Manchester, Conn., he enlisted in 1777 or 1778,

* See the data, following shortly, taken from the American State Papers.

served as Orderly Sergeant, in Colonels Bradley and Swift's Conn. Regiments, until the close of the War in 1783, and then was continued on the peace establishment, as a Sergeant until after the battle of Saint Clair's Defeat, in 1791, and for gallant conduct on that occasion was promoted to Ensign and later became Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Colonel and Brigadier General in the United States Army, until he left the service in 1821."

Further, in the same letter, this statement is made: "On January 6, 1847, James Russell Bissell of Saint Louis, Missouri, applied for pension on account of his father's services in the Revolution, in behalf of himself and the other surviving children, namely: Cornelia Richmond Douglass and Eliza Seba Hailman, and their claim was allowed."

The following record of General Daniel Bissell is taken from the "History of Saint Louis," by J. T. Scharf, written in 1883, and is so full of interest that it is given in full, although some of the facts are duplicated in the sketch of General Bissell preceding:

"St. Louis has been from the earliest part of its history the scene of great military activity at different epochs. Bellefontaine Cantonment and afterwards Jefferson Barracks, was an important point for the concentration of troops, and the presence of United States officers and their active participation in the social life of St. Louis has greatly aided in keeping alive the military spirit. Among these officers, none was more highly esteemed than General Daniel Bissell, who built the Cantonment at Bellefontaine.

"General Bissell was born in Connecticut about the year 1768. His ancestors, of English stock, were early settlers in Connecticut, and related to many of the oldest and best families of New England. His father was a Revolutionary veteran who served with gallantry for eight years in the Colonial Army. Though barely old enough to shoulder a musket, General Bissell ardently embraced the cause of the patriots, and rose by his bravery through the various grades of promotion from a private to the rank of Brigadier General.* His five

* Not during the Revolution, however; see Heitman's statement, and the letter from the Pension Bureau, in regard to his promotions.

brothers served with distinction throughout the Revolutionary struggle, and four of them afterwards in the Regular Army. One of them died on board a prison ship, and one, Major Russell Bissell, died at Fort Bellefontaine near St. Louis, in 1807, where he had been stationed for many years. No finer record of service by a single family can be shown than that of his father, brothers, and himself, whose military service amounted in the aggregate to one hundred and twenty years.

“General Bissell, while a young officer of the Revolution, was once assigned the duty of carrying important dispatches from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. He made the journey on foot, unattended, and was often compelled to secrete himself from the hostile Indians, to go without food, and endure bitter cold, to swim streams, etc. He delivered the dispatches safely, and won the hearty thanks and praise of the commanding officer, who could scarcely believe that he had made the perilous journey without an escort. His military career was an unusually active and brilliant one. As an officer of the Regular Army, he participated in many of the important battles on the Western frontier, and was with St. Clair in his memorable defeat. While he was in command at Fort Massac, an important military post on the Ohio River above Cairo, and during the administration of Thomas Jefferson, the province of Louisiana was ceded by France to the United States. He was immediately appointed Military Commander of that portion of the territory now embraced in the states of Missouri and Illinois. As heretofore stated, he built by Government order, the Cantonment of Bellefontaine, and was afterwards for several years Commandant of that post.

“As Military Commander, he was intrusted with both military and civil functions, and he left the indelible impress of his strong and honest character upon the measures leading up to the organization of the great states of Missouri and Illinois. He was a warm personal friend of Daniel Boone, and as Military Commander extended to Lewis and Clark in their famous expedition, the hospitality of the Territory, aiding them greatly by his ripe counsel and experience.

"General Bissell, after leaving Fort Bellefontaine, was commander of many important points in the South, among which were Mobile, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. He had the honor of commanding in the last battle, that of Lyon's Creek, of the War of 1812. He was mustered out of service in 1821 at Baton Rouge.

"After his retirement from the Army, he was strongly urged to accept prominent civil positions under the Government, but declined to do so. He entered a large tract of land near St. Louis on the Bellefontaine Road, to which he added from time to time by purchase, until his estate numbered twenty-three hundred acres.

"General Bissell died of pneumonia at his farm on the 15th day of December, 1833. His wife died November 15th, 1843, and both are interred in the family burying ground on the farm."

(The Bissell family records and F. B. Heitman give December 14th as the date of the death of General Bissell; Scharf and the Pension Bureau give December 15th. In the Vital Records kept by William Watson, and printed in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register," April, 1925, the entry is found: "1833, Dec. 14, Gen. Daniel Bissell, oldest Officer in the U. S. Army, at St. Louis." The date of the death of Deborah Sebor Bissell is given as November 15th by Scharf, and as November 13th, 1843, by the Pension Bureau. They were buried on the Bissell farm, as stated above, but their bodies were later removed to the Bellefontaine cemetery. In regard to the date of birth of General Bissell, the Bissell family records give 1768; Scharf claims it was "about 1768"; while according to Stiles he was baptized in July, 1769, which would indicate that 1769 is the correct year of his birth.)

Lewis Bissell, a nephew of General Daniel Bissell, in writing a sketch of his own life for the Missouri Historical Society, in 1866, gave the following account of the trip taken by General (then Colonel) Bissell and himself, from Connecticut to Missouri, in 1809:

"The last week in February, 1809, in company with the late General Daniel Bissell, then a Colonel, we left Connecticut for this place, and in order to travel as fast as possible, took the mail stage for Pittsburgh.

The sleighing being good we reached Philadelphia in due time. The snow disappearing we took wheels for Pittsburgh; the roads excessively muddy; travelled day and night, and going over the mountains in dark and rainy nights, the passengers had to each take turn in walking with a lantern beside the horses in order to keep the road, though this did not prevent us having an upset. I do not now remember the time we were on the way to Pittsburgh though it was many days, and we were nearly worn out with fatigue and want of sleep. Here we had to procure the hull of a small keelboat, and have a rough cabin fitted up on the stern, in order to drift down the Ohio river. This delayed us ten or twelve days, when, procuring three or four soldiers from Fort Pitt, we launched forth, drifting down with the current. When the wind was strong we had to put ashore, and sometimes remain a day or two. In due course of time we reached the mouth of the Ohio, where we had to hire several of Mr. Bird's stout negroes to assist in ascending the Mississippi, an arduous task, from daylight to dark, in cordelling and pulling along by the bushes, but in twelve days reached St. Louis, on the 10th day of May, 1809."

From the "History of Saint Louis City and County," by J. T. Scharf, volume 2, page 1823:

"PROMINENT EVENTS IN SAINT LOUIS

"1825. On the 29th of April, General LaFayette was publicly received by the citizens of Saint Louis on the occasion of his visit to the United States. The announcement of the proposed visit of this distinguished hero to this country was received by the citizens of Saint Louis as early as the previous September. On the evening of Friday the 10th of that month, pursuant to notice, a number of the inhabitants of the City of Saint Louis assembled at the office of the Register 'for the purpose of making arrangements for some public demonstration of their feelings upon the arrival in the United States of General LaFayette.' General Bernard Pratte was appointed Chairman, and Thompson Douglass, Secretary. It was resolved that Daniel Bissell, William Christy, Auguste Chouteau, Pierre Chouteau, Sr., Bernard

Pratte, Stephen Hempstead, Sr., Alexander McNair, William Rector, William Carr Lane, Henry S. Geyer, and Archibald Gamble 'be a committee to superintend and direct all arrangements for the reception and accommodation of General LaFayette should he determine to visit this city, and that they be authorized to call such future meetings as they may deem proper.' On the Wednesday evening following, 'in pursuance of the above resolution, a national salute was fired and a display of fireworks and a general illumination took place in the evening.' On the 20th of September, 1824, Daniel Bissell, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, wrote General LaFayette in Philadelphia, tendering a welcome on behalf of the citizens, 'with an earnest hope that a visit by you to this most western city of the United States will not be incompatible with either your time or your inclination.' LaFayette replied from Washington under date of February 5, 1825, and arrived in Saint Louis April 26, 1825."

According to the Bissell family records, General LaFayette, on the occasion of this visit to Saint Louis, was entertained at the home of one of General Bissell's daughters, Eliza Seba Bissell, who had married William Morrison.

The following is an article which appeared in the St. Louis "Times," November 17, 1829:

"GENERAL BISSELL

"There is no duty which we perform with so much pleasure, as that of paying a just tribute of respect to, and claiming a reparation of injuries done those, who have served their country faithfully, either in peace or in war. The case of General Bissell is one of this nature. An accomplished officer, regularly bred in the school of hard service, he has served through every gradation of rank from the private to the general. His first commission was the reward of his courage and good conduct at St. Clair's defeat. . . . After that he was always on the frontier, and was constantly selected by his commanding officers for enterprizes of danger, difficulty and hardship. As a disciplinarian he was pre-eminent, and was often charged with the duties of drill,

discipline, review and muster. He was also frequently employed as a disbursing officer, [*] ing out several hundred thousand [*] a cent ever stuck to his [*] a moment lost in the settlement and [*] sment of his accounts. At [the] breaking [out] of the insurrection in the [*] ern counties in Pennsylvania, when [*] 000 troops, militia and regulars were called into service by President Washington, General Bissell, then a subaltern, was selected to conduct the artillery through the mountains, and had the honor to receive the personal attention of Washington. In the late war he went to Canada as a Colonel of Infantry, where his regiment was immediately distinguished for its discipline and good conduct. A promotion to the rank of brigadier general soon followed, and at Lyon's Creek, where he defeated in the open field, a superior body of select British troops, he proved himself worthy of still higher promotion. The commanding general (Izard) bestowed upon him the highest praise.

"At the close of the war he was retained upon the peace establishment, with the rank of Colonel; and at the reduction of 1821 he was dismissed from service. His dismissal was decided by the Senate to be illegal; but he had no other alternative than to retire to his farm in this neighborhood, where his examples in the pursuits of civil life, are as worthy of imitation, as his gallant conduct in the field of strife; and where too, he waits that justice, at the hands of the present administration, which has been denied him by others. During the administration of Mr. Monroe, the Senate of the United States decided that General Bissell was entitled to his command in the army, and when nominated by President Adams, that enlightened body repeated its former decision, which we hope will accord with the views of President Jackson, so eminently qualified to settle the question, and who possesses that energy of character, which never shrinks from responsibility, when justice and right requires him to act. General Bissell is known here as the decided friend and supporter of the election of President Jackson, and his restoration to his command would, we have no hesitation in saying, be highly gratifying to the republican party of this state."

* Illegible.

With further reference to General Bissell's retirement from the army, and the effort made to have him reinstated, the following records are given from "American State Papers, Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States, Selected and Edited under the Authority of Congress," volume 3, "Military Affairs," published in 1860.

"19th Congress. No. 333. 1st Session.

*"PROCEEDINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF DANIEL BISSELL TO BE
COLONEL OF THE SECOND REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.*

"Communicated to the Senate, May 22, 1826.

"In Executive Session—Senate of the United States.

"Monday, May 22, 1826.

"Mr. Harrison, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was recommitted the nomination of Daniel Bissell, together with the message of the President of the United States, of the 12th ultimo, relating thereto, reported:

"That the President of the United States having declined to accede to the proposition of the Senate contained in their resolution of February 2, it remains only for the Senate to act upon the nomination of the said Bissell as made in the message of January 16. As the President has not communicated to the Senate the reasons which have prevented his concurring in their opinion, and as the committee, after the most careful investigation, can see no good reason for an abandonment of the principles for which they have so long contended, in relation to the appointment of a colonel for the second regiment of artillery, they recommend to the Senate not to advise and consent to the appointment of Daniel Bissell to fill that office in the manner in which the nomination has been made.

"The report was read.

"On motion by Mr. Chambers,

"Ordered, That the nomination of Daniel Bissell lie on the table.

"On motion by Mr. Harrison,

“Ordered, That the injunction of secrecy be removed from the proceedings in relation to the nomination of Daniel Bissell.

“The following are the proceedings previous to the foregoing:

“Monday, January 16, 1826.

“The following message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. John Adams, jr.:

“*“To the Senate of the United States:*

“‘I nominate Daniel Bissell, of Missouri, to be colonel of the 2d regiment of artillery.

“‘JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.’

“The message was read.

“*Ordered,* That the nomination of Daniel Bissell be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs to consider and report thereon.

“Tuesday, January 24, 1826.

“Mr. Harrison, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred on the 16th instant the nomination of Daniel Bissell, submitted the following report:

“That they have had the same under consideration, and find that the said Daniel Bissell, after filling all the inferior grades, was a brigadier general in the line of the army of the United States at the conclusion of the late war, taking rank as such from the 9th day of March, 1814. That in reducing the army from the war to a peace establishment in 1815, General Bissell, in common with many other superior officers, was retained in service with a lineal rank inferior to that which he had held in the war, and with a brevet rank corresponding to the higher rank which he had so held; and that by virtue of this arrangement, which was made by the President and received the sanction of the Senate, General Bissell became a colonel in the line, taking rank as such from the 15th day of August, 1812 (the rank of his former colonelcy), with the brevet rank of brigadier general, taking effect from the 9th day of March, 1814, the date of his former lineal rank in that grade.

“In the further reduction of the army which took place in the year 1821, in the execution of the 12th section of the act of March 2, of that year, by which the President was authorized ‘*to cause to be arranged the officers &c of the several corps [then] in service, in such manner as to form and complete out of the same the force authorized by [that] act to be retained, and cause the supernumerary officers, &c, to be discharged,*’ Brevet General Bissell was considered as a supernumerary colonel and ordered to be discharged. This arrangement, as it affected General Bissell and some other officers, was decided by the Senate to be illegal and void; and the officer appointed in place of General Bissell was rejected.

“The Committee deem it improper to argue the question of the correctness of that decision. They will only say that they believe it to have been correct; that it was made upon great deliberation and afterwards reconsidered and confirmed; and that they consider it as the final decision of the highest tribunal which has cognizance of the question. The consequence of this decision was that General Bissell still remained in the army; and as a colonel therein might be lawfully nominated to the colonelcy of the 2d regiment of artillery (vacant since the arrangement of 1821), as is done in the President’s message of the 16th instant, and without being so considered he could not be nominated to that place without violating the rule of regimental promotion, which is so well known and so perfectly established in the army of the United States.

“The legality of the nomination being clear, the committee deem it superfluous to examine the question of merits—it being known to the Senate and to the nation that General Bissell has been for more than thirty years, and in all the various grades from the private to the general, one of the most distinguished and meritorious soldiers and officers which his country has produced.

“In recommending his confirmation, therefore, to the place indicated in the message, the committee act in conformity to the principles herein above set forth; and in fixing his rank to correspond with that which he held at the time of the reduction of the army in 1821, they act in

further conformity to the same principles and in obedience to the precedents in the cases of Colonel Fenwick, Colonel House, and Lieutenant Colonel Eustis, as decided by the Senate on the 8th day of May, 1822. They therefore submit the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the Senate do advise and consent to the nomination of Daniel Bissell to be colonel of the 2d regiment of artillery, to take rank as such from the 15th day of August, in the year 1812.

“The report and resolution were read.

“Ordered, That they be printed in confidence for the use of the Senate, and that the nomination lie on the table.

“Thursday, February 2, 1826.

“Mr. Benton submitted the following motion:

“Resolved, That in the opinion of the Senate, Daniel Bissell is entitled to the place of colonel in the army of the United States, taking rank as such from August 15, 1812, with the brevet rank of brigadier general from March 9, 1814, and that the President of the United States may arrange him accordingly.

“The Senate proceeded to consider the motion, and

“On the question to *agree thereto,*

“It was determined in the affirmative:

“Yeas 37, nays 2.

“The yeas and nays being desired by one-fifth of the Senators present,

“Those who voted in the affirmative are—Messrs. Barton, Bell, Benton, Berrien, Boulogny, Branch, Chandler, Chase, Cobb, Dickerson, Eaton, Edwards, Findlay, Harrison, Hayne, Hendricks, Holmes, Johnson of Kentucky, Johnston of Louisiana, Kane, King, Knight, Lloyd, Macon, Marks, Noble, Randolph, Robbins, Rowan, Seymour, Thomas, Van Buren, Van Dyke, White, Willey, Williams, and Woodbury.

“Those who voted in the negative are—Messrs. Mills and Smith.

“Ordered, That the Senate lay before the President of the United States the proceedings of the Senate in relation to the nomination of Daniel Bissell.

“Wednesday, April 12, 1826.

“The following message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. John Adams, jr.:

““Washington, April 11, 1826.

“*‘To the Senate of the United States:*

“‘On the 16th of January last I sent to the Senate a nomination of Daniel Bissell to be colonel of the Second Regiment of Artillery, and on the 3rd of February I received from the Secretary of the Senate an attested copy of their proceedings in relation to that nomination, laid before me by their order, and closing with a resolution in these words:

“*‘Resolved*, that in the opinion of the Senate Daniel Bissell is entitled to the place of colonel in the Army of the United States, taking rank as such from the 15th of August, 1812, with the brevet of brigadier-general from the 9th of March, 1814, and that the President of the United States may arrange him accordingly.

“‘In the discharge of my own duties I am under the necessity of stating respectfully to the Senate—

“‘First. That I can not concur in these opinions.

“‘Secondly. That the resolution of the Senate, having on its face no reference either to the nomination or to the office for which it was made, leaves me doubtful whether it was intended by the Senate as their decision upon the nomination or not. If intended as their decision it imports that the Senate do not advise and consent to the appointment of Daniel Bissell as colonel in the Second Regiment of Artillery. If intended as a mere expression of their opinions, superseding in their judgment the necessity of their immediate decision upon the nomination, it leaves the Senate still in possession of the nomination and free to act upon it when informed of my inability to carry those opinions into effect.

“‘In this uncertainty I have thought it most respectful to the Senate to refer the subject again to them for their consideration. The delay in the transmission of this communication is attributable to the earnest desire which I have entertained of acceding to the opinions and complying with the wishes of the Senate, and to the long and repeated reconsideration of my own impressions with the view to make them, if possible, conform to theirs. A still higher duty now constrains me to invite their definitive decision upon the nomination.

“‘JOHN QUINCY ADAMS’

“Monday, April 17, 1826.

“On motion by Mr. Harrison, that it be

“*Resolved*, That in the opinion of the Senate Daniel Bissell is entitled to rank as colonel in the army from August 15, 1812, with a brevet of brigadier general from March 9, 1814.

"It was determined in the negative.

"The Senate resumed the consideration of the nomination of Daniel Bissell contained in the message of January 16.

"On motion by Mr. Harrison,

"*Ordered*, That it lie on the table.

"Mr. Eaton submitted the following motion:

"*Resolved*, That the nomination of Daniel Bissell to be colonel of the 2d regiment of artillery is unnecessary, for the reasons—

"*1st.* That he is already in the army, and should be arranged agreeably to the provisions of the act of 1821 for reducing the army.

"*2d.* That an appointment to take effect now would be an act of injustice to Colonel Bissell, by placing him in a rank different from what he is entitled to claim by existing laws.

"*Resolved*, That the President of the United States having declined acting in conformity with the advices of the Senate heretofore given, the Senate do not consider that they should take any further course in relation to the nomination of Daniel Bissell.

"The Senate proceeded to consider the motion, and

"On motion by Mr. Mills,

"*Ordered*, That it lie on the table.

"19th Congress. No. 352. 2d Session.

"ON THE EXECUTION OF THE ACT TO REDUCE AND FIX THE MILITARY PEACE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A COLONEL FOR THE SECOND REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

"Communicated to the Senate, February 6, 1827.

"Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred so much of the President's message as related to the non-execution, in part, of the act of March 2, 1821, entitled '*An act to reduce and fix the military peace establishment of the United States*,' reported:

"That having examined the case referred to them with all the care which is due to a question of great intrinsic importance, heightened in its claims upon their attention by the special recommendations of the President, they have come to the conclusion that the obstacle to the

execution of the act of March 2, 1821, as it relates to the colonelcy of the 2d regiment of artillery, may be obviated by an explanatory act, and for that purpose they have reported a bill. The propriety of this course the committee believe will be made apparent by a plain and brief history of the case, which is as follows:

“On the 2d of March, 1821, an act was passed ‘*to reduce and fix the military peace establishment of the United States,*’ the 12th section of which enacted—

“‘That the President of the United States cause to be arranged the officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates of the several corps now in the service of the United States in such manner as to form and complete out of the same the force authorized by this act, and cause the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates to be discharged from the service of the United States.’

“Before the passage of this act there were *eleven* regiments in service, to wit: one of riflemen, one of ordnance, one of light artillery, and eight of infantry, and by this act the same *number*, though of different arms, were still to be kept up, to wit, four of artillery, and seven of infantry; and the *corps* of engineers was to be retained as then organized. The number of regiments being the same both before and after the act of 1821, it would seem to be an obvious conclusion that there would be no supernumeraries of the rank of field officer; but the President considered four colonels as such, to wit, Bissell, Wadsworth, King and Smith, and ordered them to be discharged, and the four places thus vacated were filled by officers who were not colonels at the passage of that act, to wit: by the *razee* of Brigadier General Atkinson, who was reduced to the rank of colonel; by the promotion of *Lieutenant* Colonels Fenwick and Bomford to the rank of colonels; and by the appointment of Paymaster General Towson to the same grade. This execution of the act, so far as it affected Colonel Bissell and some other officers, was decided by the Senate, on the 16th of May, 1822, to be illegal and void, and the officer nominated to the place considered as belonging to Colonel Bissell was rejected. Upon being informed of this rejection, the President, in the full belief of the correctness of what he had done

and under the impression that the Senate, on being fully informed of his reasons, would approve his decision, afterward re-nominated the officer who had been rejected, and supported the construction which he had given to the act of 1821 in an elaborate written message. This called upon the Senate to reconsider their vote of rejection, and after taking several weeks for that purpose they re-affirmed the decision which they had first made. The effect of these different constructions given to the act of 1821 was to leave Colonel Bissell in a new and anomalous position. By the decision of the President he was out of the army—by the decision of the Senate he was in it; and the latter corresponding with his own opinion, he accordingly reported for duty to the War Department, and continued to do so at intervals during the remainder of Mr. Monroe's presidency, but without being ordered into service, or having his case in any way brought before the Senate in its executive, or before Congress in its legislative capacity. At the change of administration, in March, 1825, Colonel Bissell again reported for duty, but the President not feeling himself justified in *ordering* him into service by his own mere authority, and at the same time believing it right to restore him to his place in the army, nominated him to the Senate for the colonelcy of the second regiment of artillery on the 16th day of January, 1826. This nomination being referred to the Military Committee to consider and report upon, they reported accordingly, reaffirming the decisions of the Senate in 1822, and the principle of this report being formed into a *resolution*, it was *resolved* by the Senate, after great deliberation, and by a vote upon yeas and nays of thirty-seven to two—'That, in the opinion of the Senate, Daniel Bissell is entitled to the place of COLONEL in the army of the United States, taking rank as such from the 15th of August, 1812, with the BREVET rank of BRIGADIER GENERAL from the 9th of March, 1814, and that the President of the United States may ARRANGE him accordingly.'

"This resolution was adopted on the 2d of February, 1826, and being communicated to the President, he informed the Senate, by message on the 12th of April following, of his inability to concur in their opinion, and again referred the nomination of Colonel Bissell to their decision.

The subject was thereupon again referred to the Military Committee, who reported that after the most careful investigation they could see no good reason for an abandonment of the principles in relation to the rights of that officer for which the Senate had so long contended, and the nomination being ordered to lie upon the table, left the whole question as it had remained since the first decision of the Senate in 1822. The nomination remaining thus not acted upon, the President, at the commencement of the present session, in his annual message, communicated the fact and the difficulty to the two Houses of Congress and submitted it to their sound discretion to make such legislative provision for the case as it might require.

“It is under this recommendation that your committee have had the subject referred to them, and by which they find themselves, for the first time, called upon to act in a *legislative* capacity upon it. In this new character they deem it to be inadvisable to argue the question of the correctness of the several decisions made by the Senate. They feel themselves called upon to look at the facts of the case as they are, and to provide a remedy, if possible, for a disagreement between the President and the Senate, which there is little probability of terminating by argument. The facts are that the law of 1821 for the reduction of the army remains without execution in a material point; that a regiment remains, and has remained for upwards of five years, without a colonel; that an officer who has risen through every grade from the private soldier to the general—who purchased his first commission on the field of battle at the disastrous defeat of St. Clair, and illustrated his last one by a handsome victory over a British detachment in Canada—that this meritorious and distinguished officer is designated for the place both by the President and the Senate, and kept out of it by a disagreement between them, and that there is no room to expect that either will ever concur in the construction of the act of 1821 which the other has given it. Such are the facts; and upon a candid view of their own duty, your committee are of the opinion that it is not the part required of them that they should act the advocate and argue in favor of the Senate’s and against the President’s decision; nor can they suppose that it would

properly fall within the legislative powers of Congress to reverse the decision of one or the other. But they believe it to be their duty to take up the question as practical men, and to find a remedy, if possible, for the cure of an admitted evil. Acting upon this sense of duty, your committee have come to the conclusion that an act explanatory of the act of 1821 may be framed, which will do full justice to Colonel Bissell, and conflict with no decision heretofore made by the President or the Senate. They have reported a bill accordingly; and if it should have the good fortune to receive the favorable consideration of Congress, there will be an end to all questions about the discharge of colonels considered as supernumerary in 1821, as two of them are dead, one provided for (with his own consent) in a civil office, and Colonel Bissell alone remaining to be disposed of."

From "American State Papers," Volume 4 of the "Military Affairs": page 243, and following:

"21st Congress. No. 422. 1st Session.

"ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A COLONEL OF THE SECOND REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

"Communicated to the House of Representatives January 18, 1830.

"Mr. Vance, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred that part of the President's message asking an explanatory act to designate the class of officers from which the colonelcy of the 2d regiment of artillery should be filled, reported:

"The act of the 2d of March, 1821, to reduce and fix the military peace establishment of the United States, authorized that, out of the then military establishment, there should be organized four regiments of artillery and seven regiments of infantry, and that the corps of engineers (bombardiers excepted) and the topographical engineers and their assistants, should be retained in service as then organized; and that the ordnance should be merged in the artillery.

"This organization was, by the before recited act, to be arranged and completed by the 1st of June of that year. The 12th section enacted,

‘That the President of the United States cause to be arranged the officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates of the several corps, now in the service of the United States, in such manner as to form and complete out of the same the force authorized by this act; and cause the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates, to be discharged from the service of the United States.’ Under this act the President made the following arrangements of the colonelcies of the four regiments of artillery: Colonel Porter, of the light artillery, was arranged to the 1st regiment; Colonel Towson, paymaster general, and late a captain of light artillery, was arranged to the command of the 2d regiment; Colonel Armistead, of the engineers, was arranged to the 3d regiment; and Lieutenant Colonel Fenwick, of the artillery, to the 4th regiment.

“This arrangement of commandants of the four regiments of artillery was published in general orders from the War Department on the 17th of May, 1821, and was subsequently carried into effect both by the appointing and confirming powers of the government, with the single exception of N. Towson, who was arranged to the 2d regiment of artillery, nominated to the Senate, and by them rejected. The question now presents itself, which of the officers discharged as supernumeraries on the 1st of June, 1821, ought, in accordance with military usage, to have been arranged to this command; as the joint action of the Executive and Senate, in completing the organization of the artillery, with this single exception, precludes the necessity of all further inquiry on this subject.

“Your committee, to arrive at certainty on this point, have examined the army register of the 1st of January, 1821, by which they find the discharged officers held the following rank in the army: Wadsworth was a colonel on the 2d of July, 1812; Bissell was a colonel on the 15th of August of the same year; King on the 21st of February, 1814; and Smith the 10th of February, 1818. This being the rank of those officers, and but one vacancy to fill, it would follow as a matter of right, they all belonging to the same corps of the army, that Wadsworth, and not

Bissell, as heretofore contended by the Senate, was the individual that ought to have been arranged to this place in the army; but in addition to this view of the case, Wadsworth was a colonel of ordnance, which corps was merged in the artillery by the very law that authorized the reduction of the army, and which made him as much a colonel of artillery as if it had been named in terms in the body of his commission. Not so with Bissell, he was a colonel of infantry; and to take command in the artillery, must have been transferred by orders from the War Department, under the rules and regulations to govern the army, which rules and regulations are in the following words:

“Article 75. ‘The transfer of officers will only be made by the War Department, in orders on the mutual application of the parties (except in extraordinary cases).’

“Sec. 63, Articles of War. ‘Nor shall an officer be transferred into a regiment to the prejudice of the rank of any officer thereof.’

“This being the law of transfers, as legalized and adopted by the act of the 2d of March, 1821, to reduce and fix the military peace establishment, all must agree that the President had the power of withholding this place from Bissell, and that, too, in strict accordance with law and military usage; but it was different in the case of Wadsworth. There was no transfer necessary in his case. An arrangement to the command, he belonging to the proper corps and holding the proper rank, would have satisfied all the requisitions of the law, without the responsibility of transfer. The power of transfer is a highly responsible and important one, and has been properly vested in the hands of the President. It is for him to know that the qualifications of the officer transferred from a lower to a higher grade of service are sufficient to justify him with the army and the nation.

“It is well known to all military men that there are three grades of service in our army: 1st, the engineers; 2d, the artillery; and, 3d, the infantry. The President has full power to transfer engineer officers to any corps of the army, under no other restrictions than a due regard to rank. This right was, no doubt, vested in him without limit, because of the superior attainments of the officers of that corps. The same reason-

ing will apply to the officers of artillery, when compared to the infantry. An officer may be very competent to command a regiment of infantry, whom it would be dangerous to put at the head of a regiment of artillery. Hence the necessity of throwing the responsibility of transfer from one corps to another on the War Department, where it was at the time of the reduction of the army, and still continues.

“In making this statement your committee would not wish to be understood as drawing an invidious distinction between the officers of the different corps of the army; far from it. They are well aware that many of its first officers belong to the infantry, and would do credit to the command of any grade of service; and from a general diffusion of military science through every branch of the army, by the Military Academy at West Point, the time will soon come when the officers of our army may be transferred from one corps to another without prejudice, limit, or restriction.

“But it is said that the death of Wadsworth prior to the rejection of Colonel Towson by the Senate, which caused the vacancy in the 2d regiment of artillery, leaves the place open for Bissell. Your committee do not concur in this opinion. The command of this regiment, all will agree, ought, from military principle and usage, at the time of arranging officers as published in orders from the War Department on the 17th of May, 1821, to have been assigned to Wadsworth. For him to have entered on command needed no new appointment, no transfer, no reduction or elevation of rank; he held the proper grade, and by law belonged to the proper corps of the army.

“Let us examine this matter and see how it stood under the arrangement as published by orders from the War Department. Colonel Porter was arranged to the 1st regiment of artillery; Colonel Towson, late a captain of light artillery and Paymaster General, was arranged to the 2d regiment of artillery; Colonel Armistead, of the engineers, was arranged to the 3d regiment of artillery; and Lieutenant Colonel Fenwick was arranged to the 4th regiment of artillery. Neither Porter nor Armistead needed new commissions to assume and continue in the

command of their regiments, and Wadsworth would, under a similar arrangement, have occupied the same ground. But it was different with Fenwick and Towson. They had to go before the Senate for confirmation, and the result was that Fenwick was confirmed and Towson rejected. This confirmation of Fenwick was on the 8th of May, 1822, and Lieutenant Colonel House, on the death of Colonel Porter, was promoted to the colonelcy of the 1st regiment of artillery, and confirmed on the same day. By this statement it will be seen that House succeeded to the command, after the death of Porter, in the regular line of promotion, and it is equally clear that if Colonel Wadsworth had been arranged to the 2d regiment of artillery, as in right he ought to have been, that the next oldest lieutenant colonel would have succeeded to the command in the same line of succession. Porter and Wadsworth held the same rank and belonged to the same corps. Both died within a few months of each other, and neither could have been appointed to the colonelcy until by law the officers should have been arranged and the army organized. Bissell belonged to a different corps and could take no command in the artillery but by transfer from the War Department. Will it be contended that an injury done to Wadsworth by the arrangement, as published in general orders from the War Department, should benefit Bissell and prejudice the corps of artillery by withholding the regular promotion therefrom—a right known to be held as most sacred by every officer of the army? That Colonel Bissell was discharged from the army in accordance with military usage your committee are not prepared to say, nor is it necessary. It may be that the reduction of the rank of Atkinson, in the corps to which Bissell belonged, from that of a brigadier general to a colonel of infantry, was prejudicial to his rights; but as that act has been ratified by the constituted authorities of the country, he is left without remedy, unless the President should exercise his constitutional right of appointment, or assume the responsibility of transfer; neither of which your committee are prepared to question, but which, in this case, they have no doubt would be subversive of military principle and highly prejudicial to the interest of the junior officers of the army.

“Who can question, after the confirmation of Lieutenant Colonel Fenwick by the Senate to the command of the 4th regiment of artillery, that they would have withheld their sanction in like manner to the next oldest lieutenant colonel as commandant of the 2d regiment, if he had been nominated thereto? The difficulty between the appointing and confirming power was not whether it was proper to arrange a lieutenant colonel to this place, for this was sanctioned by the action of both in the case of Fenwick; but it was whether a staff officer that had never held a higher lineal rank than captain should be placed in this command, to the prejudice of his seniors in this corps of the army. In every view your committee are able to take of this question they are convinced that the command of the 2d regiment of artillery belongs to the army by promotion, and to that end they report a bill.”

In reference to the outcome of this matter of reinstating General Bissell, it is stated in the Bissell family records that favorable action was finally taken, that he was reinstated with full salary from the time he had been deprived of his command, and that he refused the salary, being content with vindication and recognition. The Bissell records indicate, further, that an element of personal animosity had entered into the matter—certain of the General's enemies who were envious of his success and high standing having succeeded in persuading those in authority to dismiss him. An exhaustive search of the State papers and other records, however, has failed to verify this tradition.

At the first session of the Twenty-second Congress, the Army Register for 1832 was communicated to the Senate (January 24, 1832), and the colonelcy of the Second Regiment of Artillery was still vacant. But the Army Register for 1833, communicated to the Senate January 28, 1833, gives the name of William Lindsay as colonel of the Second Regiment of Artillery, the date of his commission being April 26, 1832.

SEBOR

This record of the Sebor family is taken from “The Descendants of Jacob Sebor of Middletown, Connecticut, 1709–1793,” compiled by Miss Helen Beach, and published in 1923, with additions and corrections made by Miss Beach in 1926.

Miss Beach writes as her "Prefatory Note,"

"This family record has been put together from the recollections of the score or more of persons of the fifth generation living today.

"There were few written records and no family letters at all, all such having been destroyed. One or two journals gave some facts, some ancient tombstones were copied and some of the lines of ancestry were found in the records of the Genealogical Societies.

"The record therefore cannot pretend to perfect accuracy, but is printed for the information of the later generations.

"November 2nd, 1915."

JACOB SEBOR. Born in England, 1709.* Married Jane Woodbury of New London, Conn., who was born 1722, died March 9, 1802, aged eighty years. Died at Middletown, Conn., March 16, 1793, aged eighty-four years.

CHILDREN OF JACOB AND JANE (WOODBURY) SEBOR

Jacob Sebor. Born January 16, 1755, at Middletown. Married, April 27, 1786, at New London, Elizabeth Winthrop, daughter of John Still and Elizabeth (Shirreff) Winthrop. Died May 5, 1847.

John Sebor. Born at Middletown, July 28, 1756. Died December 6, 1756.

A daughter (name not given). Born August 12, died August 26, 1757.

Thomas Walker Sebor. Born 1759 or 1760. Baptized as an adult December 14, 1777. He was a seaman on the Privateer "Experiment," in 1779 and 1780. Lost overboard with two others on the return of this vessel from Port au Prince. Loss reported on the arrival of the vessel, March 15, 1780.

Jane Sebor. Born probably 1761. Baptized as an adult 1774. Married at Middletown, May 17, 1780, William Richards of New Jersey.

Elizabeth Sebor. Born 1763 or 1764. Baptized as an adult November 6, 1774. Confirmed in Christ Church, Middletown, September 17, 1786. Married, first April 8, 1781, at Middletown, John Louis (Johann Ludwig) de Koven, whom she divorced in 1785. Married, second, September, 1789, Ralph Isaacs, attorney-at-law, New Haven, Conn. Died April 19, 1809, at Augusta, Georgia, aged forty-five years. Buried in the graveyard of St. Paul's Church.

James Farquhar Sebor. Date of birth not given. Baptized as an infant November 6, 1774. Died, unmarried, 1790 or 1791, and was said to be twenty-four years old at that time.

DEBORAH SEBOR. Date of birth not given. Baptized as an infant November 6, 1774. Confirmed in Christ Church, Middletown, September 17, 1786. Married Daniel Bissell.

* Bissell family records state that he was a native of Holland and a prominent merchant in Middletown.

The records of Christ Church, Middletown, now the Church of the Holy Trinity, show baptisms of children of Daniel and Deborah Bissell as follows:

Eliza Sebor, September 23, 1801.

Mary Green, September 23, 1801.

Cornelia Richmond, September 23, 1801.

* James Russell, October 13, 1807.

The Sebor house, bought July 25, 1768, and having been the home of three generations of the family, is still standing on the corner of Main and Washington Streets, in Middletown, Connecticut. It is used now as a bakery and has two shop fronts on the street.

Town Clerk Records, Vol. 22, Page 53.

"Deed from James Cornwell of Middletown in the county of Hartford and colony of Connecticut, in New England, in America, to Jacob Sebor of the said Middletown, of house and lot of land one and one half acres. Bounded West upon the Main Street, North upon a lane leading from the Town House to the Landing on Connecticut River, East upon land of Titus Hosmer and South upon land given by Jacob Cornwell dec^d to the heirs of Daniel Cornwell dec^d together with the Mantian House and all the other buildings standing on said land except a Merchant shop belonging to Mr. Nathaniel Brown which shall remain to s^d Brown with liberty to improve or remove the same, paying a ground rent therefore to s^d Jacob consideration £455 lawful money signed and sealed July 25th 1768, in the 8th year of our Sov. Lord George the Third of Great Britain, etc., etc.

Signed James Cornwell"

Town Clerk Records, Vol. 41, Page 214, show a mortgage for \$1500 placed on the property, on June 27, 1809, to three individuals as a committee of Christ Church.

After some years, the original Sebor house was sold, and another Sebor place laid out on High Street. The High Street Sebor house was built in 1852, and was bought in 1854 from Duane Barnes. It is still in the possession of the family.

Town Clerk Records, Vol. 39, Page 2.

"Received from Deborah Sebor five pounds lawful money in consideration of which I do hereby sell and assign to the said Deborah, a female negro or

* This could not have been the James Russell Bissell, father of French Rayburn Bissell, as the records show the date of birth of James Russell Bissell as September 12, 1808. Perhaps it was the "James Bissell, born May, 1806, died in infancy," given in the Bissell records.

mulatto child about four years old named Nancy to serve her the said Deborah till she is twenty-five years old and no longer. Witness my hand this 3rd day of November 1791.

JACOB SEBOR

Jacob Sebor, Jr., Witness."

The last will and testament of Jacob Sebor of Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and state of Connecticut, is as follows:

"I give, devise and bequeath, all my estate both real and personal, to my son Jacob Sebor of New York to be to him, his heirs, and assigns for ever. In Trust, however, and subject to the payment of the following legacies and charges: viz.: that he shall furnish and provide for my wife Jane Sebor a decent reasonable and comfortable maintenance and support for and during the term of her natural life. That he pay to each of my daughters viz.: Jane the wife of William Richards, Elizabeth the wife of Ralph Isaacs, Jun^r, and Deborah Sebor the sum of thirty pounds Lawful money annually to be paid half yearly. The first payment to be made six months after my death and so to continue during the term of their natural lives respectively and that he pay all my just debts and funeral charges.

"And I do hereby nominate and appoint him the said Jacob Sebor of New York to be the executor of this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Middletown aforesaid this 5th day of December 1791.

JACOB SEBOR

"Executed and declared by the said Jacob Sebor as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who signed our names in the presence of the testator and of each other.

Nath^l Shaler.

Lucy Ann Shaler.

Asahel Johnson."

"At a court of probate held at Middletown in and for the district of Middletown on the 1st day of April A. D. 1793.

"Then this Instrument was exhibited in court, was in Court proved to be the last Will and Testament of Jacob Sebor late of Middletown deceased, was by the Court approved, accepted and ordered to be recorded in the Registry of this Court and Mr. Jacob Sebor, who is appointed sole executor to the same, personally appeared before this court and accepted the Trust reposed in him and gave bonds according to law.

Test. BEZALEEL FISK Clerk"

Inventory taken March 27, 1793, by Ashbel Burnham and Bezaleel Fisk.

	£2245	8	0
Of which the House, Barn and 1½ acres of Land	700	0	0
Cash or debentures	529	14	5
State certificates	4	17	6
Town orders	1	16	4
Interest due	6	9	7
Notes due to estate	17	9	6
“ “	64	14	0
“ “ by Jacob Sebor Jr.	776	19	8
71½ ounces silverplate	25	0	6
Household effects	74	0	0
Kitchen utensils	6	10	0
Hay 1½ tons	3	10	0
Glass boxes (probably cold frames for gardens)	7	6	8
2 carpets and stair carpet	7	18	0
3 old guns	1	16	0
1 pistol and 1 cutlass		6	0
10 gallons brandy	4	10	0
26 ounces old pewter	1	10	4
Garden tools and all sorts of miscellaneous articles make up the rest of the inventory. Among the personal effects inventoried are a watch and 6 pairs of spectacles, 19 snuff-boxes and 5 dozen buckles, and a 4 ounce bottle of snuff, 58 kegs of lamp black at 6 pence each (perhaps to make ink?), a Mason jewel and apron, saddle and saddle bags, and one large Bible.			

CHILDREN OF DANIEL AND DEBORAH (SEBOR) BISSELL

Seventh Generation

ELIZA SEBA BISSELL

Born May 16, 1794. Married, 1813, William Morrison of Kaskaskia, Illinois. There were five children born of this marriage: Mary, who married James Clarke; Olivia, who married Frederick W. von Schrader; Eloise, who married Alexander Kayser; Rebecca, who married Augustus Brown; George, who died when a young man, unmarried. After the death of Mr. Morrison, Eliza Seba Bissell Morrison married a Mr. Hailman.

MARY GREEN BISSELL

Born October 19, 1796. Married, 1815, Captain Risdon H. Price, one of the pioneer merchants of St. Louis. They had three children: Risdon H., Fred, and a daughter who married a Mr. House.

CORNELIA RICHMOND BISSELL

Born September 13, 1801. Married, 1817, Major A. J. Douglass of the Regular Army. They had three children: William, James, and Eliza Pope Douglass.

JAMES BISSELL

Born May, 1806. Died in infancy.

JAMES RUSSELL BISSELL

(See record following.)

SEVENTH GENERATION

JAMES RUSSELL BISSELL

Son of Daniel and Deborah (Sebor) Bissell

JAMES RUSSELL BISSELL (DANIEL,⁶ OZIAS,⁵ JOHN,⁴ JOHN,³ SAMUEL,² JOHN¹) was born at Middletown, Connecticut, September 12, 1808. In 1810, when he was a very small child, he was brought to St. Louis (or Bellefontaine), Missouri. He attended school at Mount Airy, near Philadelphia, and afterward entered Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, from which he was graduated. He then began the study of law with Judge Lawless, but in 1833, on the death of his father, he returned to St. Louis, for the protection of his mother and to look after the family interests.

He married, at St. Louis, Anna Haight Christopher. The date of this marriage is March 7, 1849, according to the Bissell family records in Mrs. James Russell Bissell's handwriting; and March 9, 1849, according to Dwight's "History of the Strong Family." Anna Haight Christopher was the daughter of James Mathews and Eliza Allen (Lewis) Christopher.* According to the Bissell family records, she was born July 10, 1822, at Rochester, New York; according to Dwight's "History of the Strong Family" she was born July 10, 1822, at Hartland, New York; according to another record, the year of her birth was 1824. Her father, James Mathews Christopher, died in 1824, and her mother married, in 1831, Sextus Shearer, by whom she had six children. The Shearer family moved to St. Louis in 1843.

James Russell Bissell died at the Bissell homestead, near St. Louis, January 3, 1887, aged seventy-eight. He was survived by his wife and seven children. His wife died January 21, 1905, also at the Bissell homestead.

* See Records of the Hoyt family, Ninth Generation, and of the Strong family, Sixth and Seventh Generations.

J. T. Scharf, in the "History of Saint Louis," wrote:

"Mr. Bissell has given his children the advantage of a liberal education, and has always been a strong advocate of education and public improvements. For twenty years he has been a leading member of the Bellefontaine Methodist Church. Politically he is a firm Democrat, but in local matters always supports those who, in his opinion, are best fitted for the positions sought. He is a large landholder and a successful farmer."

James Russell Bissell did not believe in slavery. Prior to the Civil War he was a slave owner but he paid his slaves wages and was gradually freeing them—as they accumulated money enough to be independent of the support given them under the system of slavery. Although he was a "Union" man, he was persecuted for his Southern sympathies by authorities whose ardor for the Union cause led to extremes. He was imprisoned and fined ten thousand dollars, and his wife was fined five thousand dollars.

CHILDREN OF JAMES RUSSELL AND ANNA HAIGHT (CHRISTOPHER) BISSELL

Eighth Generation

DANIEL RUSSELL BISSELL

Born May 4, 1850, at the Bissell homestead, near St. Louis, Missouri. Received his education in the St. Louis schools and at Washington and Lee College, Lexington, Virginia. Married, December 17, 1874, in St. Louis County, Evelyn Holmes Richardson.

See Appendix for further information in regard to the family of Daniel R. Bissell.

ELIZA MORRISON BISSELL

Born August 14, 1852. Married Charles E. Ware, of St. Louis. Died August 22, 1911.

CHILDREN

J. Bissell Ware. Born November 21, 1875. Married, November 1, 1899, Eliza Boyd.

Edwin Stanley Ware. Born April 15, 1877. Married Edith Hoyt.

GENERAL DANIEL BISSELL

Eloise Morrison Ware. Born October 26, 1880. Married, April 8, 1911, Champ Conner.

Charles Edward Ware. Born June 19, 1887. Married, 1913, Dollie Lawler.

Three other children, Natalie, Elise, and Anna Christopher Ware, died in infancy. The dates of their births and of their deaths are not given.

ANNA HAIGHT BISSELL

Born January 29, 1855. Died January 1, 1856.

SEXTUS SHEARER BISSELL

Born November 16, 1856. Died November 6, 1924. Unmarried.

CORNELIA DOUGLASS BISSELL

Born January 7, 1859. Married E. J. White. Died August 10, 1914.

FRENCH RAYBURN BISSELL

(See record given elsewhere.)

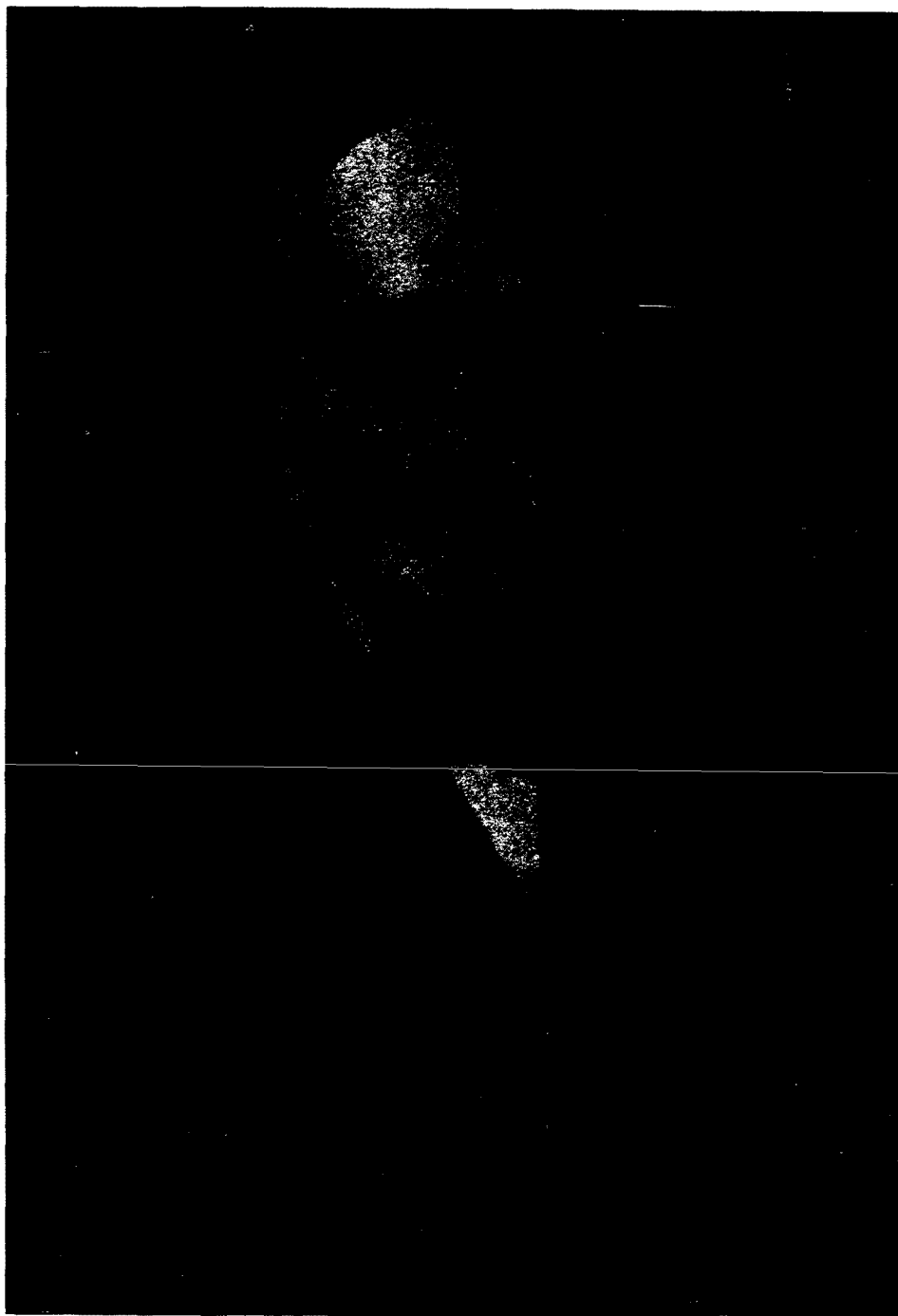
MARY CORA BISSELL

Born May 10, 1863. Died April 14, 1912.

ELOISE MORRISON BISSELL

Born August 21, 1865, at the Bissell homestead, near St. Louis, Missouri. Received her education in St. Louis and at Maplewood College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Married, October 10, 1888, Harry Douglass Wilson, of St. Louis.

See Appendix for further record of this family.



Reproduced from a painting made in 1883

JAMES RUSSELL BISSELL

EIGHTH GENERATION

FRENCH RAYBURN BISSELL

Son of James Russell and Anna Haight (Christopher) Bissell

FRENCH RAYBURN BISSELL (JAMES RUSSELL,⁷ DANIEL,⁶ OZIAS,⁵ JOHN,⁴ JOHN,³ SAMUEL,² JOHN¹) was born March 30, 1861, at the Bissell homestead, near St. Louis, Missouri. He received his education at Central College, Fayette, Missouri. He married, at Alton, Illinois, February 6, 1907, Emily Fannie Watson, daughter of Henry and Janet (Johnston) Watson, who was born May 23, 1871, at Alton, Illinois.

At the time of writing this record—1926—Mr. Bissell's business connections are as follows:

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Cement Corporation, Alabama Portland Cement Company, Argentine Portland Cement Company, The Cuban Portland Cement Corporation, Indiana Portland Cement Company, The Kansas Portland Cement Company, Knickerbocker Portland Cement Company, Inc., Louisiana Portland Cement Company, Texas Portland Cement Company, Uruguay Portland Cement Company, Virginia Portland Cement Corporation.

His club connections are: Metropolitan, Uptown, and Whist Clubs (New York City); Oakland Golf Club (Bayside, Long Island); Sleepy Hollow Country Club (Scarboro-on-Hudson, New York); Noonday Club (St. Louis, Missouri); Houston Country Club (Houston, Texas).

Town Residence: 21 East Sixty-sixth Street, New York City.

Summer Home: "Cedartops," on Lake Champlain, North Hero, Vermont.

WATSON

HENRY WATSON (whose daughter Emily married French Rayburn Bissell) was born at Bishop Auckland, Durham County, England, March 17, 1836. He married, first, in England, Fannie Dowson. Two children were born of this marriage: George Fred Watson, and Emily Watson who died at the age of eight.

Henry Watson came to America in 1858, and established a home and went into business for himself at Alton, Illinois. He conducted extensive operations in stone quarrying, and in connection with this, he was a contractor. He had faith in his community, and some of the enduring developments of Alton and the surrounding country are monuments to his foresight and ability. He was prominently connected with various financial enterprises, contributed in a valuable manner to the civic interests of Alton, and was a Mason with membership in Belvidere Commandery, Knights Templar, and in the Mystic Shrine.

After the death of his first wife, he married Janet Johnston, this marriage taking place at Bunker Hill, Illinois, January 1, 1869. Janet Johnston was born at Dalry Ayrshire, Scotland, October 8, 1846, and came to America with the other members of her family in 1853.

Four daughters were born of this marriage:

EMILY FANNIE WATSON.. Married French Rayburn Bissell. One child, Janet Watson Bissell.

Mary Taylor Watson. Married Oliver Strong Stowell. Died May 15, 1926, at Alton, Ill.

Elizabeth Johnston Watson. Married George Abner McKinney. Two children, Susanne Elizabeth and Mary Elizabeth McKinney.

Grace Kirkwood Watson. Married Lewis March Carr.

Henry Watson died at Alton, April 2, 1909. He was survived by his wife and five children. Mrs. Watson died February 17, 1917. Throughout the forty-eight years of her residence in Alton, she was a tireless worker in religious and welfare circles, and after the death of her husband, when she had charge of the administration of his estate, she demonstrated that she had marked business capacity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Watson left to their children a heritage of ability, uprightness, and personal qualities which endeared them to those with whom they came in contact.

CHILDREN OF FRENCH RAYBURN AND EMILY F. (WATSON) BISSELL

Ninth Generation

JANET WATSON BISSELL

Born August 31, 1909, at Dallas, Texas.

THE STRONG FAMILY

THE STRONG FAMILY*

ACCORDING to E. Thomson Sutton (in "Stemmata Strongeana," published in London, 1912):

"The name 'Strong' is a corruption from Straunge and Storage, many branches of which families early possessed seats in divers English counties. In the 'Calendar Inquisition Post Mortem' appears Hugo Straunge, as owner of estates near York, during the first year of Henry the Fifth's reign. Gaye's History of Suffolk notes 'John Straunge, armiger,' bequeathing lands in 1378. He also held lands in Norfolk, but the county from which the line may be directly associated is Somerset. Here, in Nether Strong, was founded the house of Strong, that subsequently settled in Dorsetshire and Ireland."

Sutton gives the following arms, crest, and motto as belonging to the Strong family:

Arms: Argent, a chevron wavy sable between three lozenges azure.

Crest: An eagle with two heads, displayed sable, beaked and legged azure, langued gules.

Motto: TENTANDA VIA EST—"A way is to be attempted."

Whether or not the Strong families descended from Elder John Strong have a right to the arms, crest, and motto given by Sutton, or whether Elder John Strong was a descendant of the family which, according to Sutton, had its origin in Somerset County, the author has not been able to determine. Certain descendants of Elder John Strong in America are making this claim, but on what authority is not known.

* The record of the Strong family which follows is taken (except where indicated to the contrary) from the "History of the Strong Family," by B. W. Dwight, published in 1871.

Dwight wrote, in 1871 (in the "History of the Strong Family"):

"That the Strongs of England, Ireland and Scotland are of a different origin respectively would seem to be manifest from the variety of their family crests." . . . And that among the English families "there is a threefold variety of crest. One of them is, out of a mural coronet, gold, a demi-eagle, wings displayed, gold; another is an eagle with two heads, wings expanded; the third form of crest is an eagle displayed, gold. An eagle with wings expanded characterizes them all. Which of the three forms of crest belongs to the Strongs of this country, the author has no means of determining."

Dwight does not believe that the motto, *Tentanda Via Est*, belongs to the Strongs of America, although he writes that "it was early represented to him by members of the family" that this motto had been handed down by their ancestors.

Dwight says, further, that—"The name is stated in one record, on what authority the writer knows not, to have been originally McStrachan and to have gone through the following changes: McStrachan, Strachan, Strachn, Strong;" and that "The Strong family of England was originally located in the County of Shropshire."

GENEALOGICAL TABLE

First Generation

RICHARD STRONG

Born 1561.

Married (wife's name unknown).

Died 1613.

CHILDREN

JOHN

Eleanor

Second Generation

JOHN STRONG (the immigrant ancestor).

Born 1605.

Married, first, in England. Name of wife and date of marriage unknown; she died 1630. Married, second, December, 1630, Abigail Ford.

Died 1699.

CHILDREN (*by his first wife*)

John

An infant who died when a few months old.

CHILDREN (*by his second wife, Abigail Ford*)

THOMAS

Jedediah

Josiah

Return

Ebenezer

Abigail

Elizabeth

Experience

Samuel

Joseph

Mary

Sarah

Hannah

Hester

Thankful

Jerijah

Third Generation

THOMAS STRONG

Born 163-.

Married, first, 1660, Mary Huit; she died and he married,
second, 1671, Rachel Holton.

Died 1689.

CHILDREN (*by his first wife, Mary Huit*)

Thomas, Jr.

Maria

John

Huit

Asahel

CHILDREN (*by his second wife, Rachel Holton*)

Joseph

Benjamin

Adino

Waitstill

Rachel

SELAH

Benajah

Ephraim

Elnathan

Ruth

Submit

Fourth Generation

SELAH STRONG

Born 1680.

Married, 1702, Abigail Terry.

Died 1732.

CHILDREN

Rachel

Abigail

Thomas

Hannah

SELAH

Benajah

Joseph

Mary

Benjamin

Anna

Fifth Generation

SELAH STRONG, JR.

Born 1713 or 1714.

Married, probably in 1736, Hannah Woodhull.

Died (date unknown).

CHILDREN

Nathaniel

Rachel

Benjamin

HANNAH

Samuel

Anna

Temperance

Juliana

Nathan

Sarah

Temperance

Abigail

Selah

Catharine

Sixth Generation

HANNAH STRONG

Born 1742.

Married, 1762, James Mathews.

Died (date unknown).

CHILDREN

Selah

Vincent

Peter

Fletcher

James

Nathaniel Strong

Catharine

Hannah

ELIZABETH

Juliana Strong

Sarah

Bridget

Seventh Generation

ELIZABETH MATHEWS

Born 1773.

Married, 1798, John Garrison Christopher.

Died 1864.

CHILDREN

JAMES MATHEWS

Joshua

Joseph

Nathaniel Strong

Julia Ann

Elizabeth

Hester

Hannah

John

Eighth Generation

JAMES MATHEWS CHRISTOPHER

Born 1799.

Married, 1821, Eliza Allen Lewis.

Died 1824.

ONE CHILD

ANNA HAIGHT

Ninth Generation

ANNA HAIGHT CHRISTOPHER

Born 1822.

Married, 1849, James Russell Bissell.

Died 1905.

See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation.

FIRST GENERATION

RICHARD STRONG

RICHARD STRONG was of the branch of the Strong family which, B. W. Dwight says (in his "History of the Strong Family"), was originally located in the County of Shropshire, England. One of this family married an heiress of Griffith, of the County of Caernarvon, Wales, and in 1545 went there to live. Richard was born in the County of Caernarvon in 1561. In 1590 he removed to Taunton, Somersetshire, England, where he died in 1613, leaving a son John, then eight years of age, and a daughter Eleanor.

There is a family tradition that the father of Richard Strong was a Roman Catholic and lived to a great age.

CHILDREN OF RICHARD STRONG

Second Generation

JOHN STRONG

(See record following.)

ELEANOR STRONG

Dwight says: "Eleanor Strong came to America with her brother John when he was but twenty-five years of age; she was probably several years younger. She married Walter Deane, a tanner, of Taunton, Massachusetts."

SECOND GENERATION

ELDER JOHN STRONG

Son of Richard Strong

JOHN STRONG (RICHARD¹) was born at Taunton, England, in 1605. He removed to London and afterward to Plymouth. He sailed from Plymouth for America, March 20, 1630, in company with one hundred and forty persons (among them the Reverend Messrs. Warham and Maverick, and Messrs. John Mason and Roger Clap), in the ship "Mary and John," and arrived at Nantasket (now Hull), Massachusetts, May 30, 1630, after a passage of more than seventy days. The original destination of the vessel was the Charles River, but owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding that arose between the captain and the passengers the latter were summarily put ashore by the captain at Nantasket. After searching for a few days for a desirable place in which to settle and establish homes for themselves, they decided upon a spot which they called Dorchester—this is now Dorchester Neck or South Boston.

In 1635, after having assisted in founding and developing the town of Dorchester, John Strong removed to Hingham, Massachusetts, and on March 9, 1636, took the Freeman's oath at Boston. His stay at Hingham was brief, for on December 4, 1638, he was an inhabitant and proprietor of Taunton, Massachusetts, and in that year was made a Freeman of Plymouth Colony. He remained at Taunton until 1645, as he was a deputy from there to the General Court in Plymouth in 1641, 1643, and 1644. From Taunton he removed to Windsor, Connecticut, where he was appointed with four others "to superintend and bring forward the settlement of that place," which had been settled a few years before (1636) by a portion of the same colony that, with him, had founded Dorchester.

In 1659 he removed from Windsor to Northampton, Massachusetts,

of which he was one of the first and most active founders, just as he had previously been of Dorchester, Hingham, Taunton, and Windsor. He lived at Northampton for forty years, and was a leading man in the affairs of the town and of the church. He was a tanner and was very prosperous. The records of the county clerk's office show that he owned, at different times, some two hundred acres of land in and around Northampton.

In 1663 he was ordained Ruling Elder in the church at Northampton.

John Strong was married, first, in England, and his eldest son, John, was born there in 1626. His family accompanied him from England, but his wife, whose name is unknown, died either during the passage or soon after their arrival in America. Shortly after her death their second child, an infant who had been born either during the passage or soon after landing, died also. In any event, both she and this second child had died within a few months after the landing in America.

John Strong married, second, in December, 1630, Abigail Ford, daughter of Thomas Ford, of Dorchester, Massachusetts. At the time of her marriage in 1630, she was probably not more than sixteen years old and John Strong was but twenty-five. She died July 6, 1688.

Elder John Strong died April 14, 1699. He had had, up to the time of his death, 160 descendants: 18 children, 15 of whom had families; 114 grandchildren; and at least 33 great-grandchildren. His first child, John, was born in 1626, and his youngest child, Jerijah, in 1665—thirty-nine years apart.

During his lifetime he made over his lands to his children, and took bills of those whom he had helped beyond their share—as, of Ebenezer, for land and rent, £71 8s; of Samuel, for land and rent, £49 12s; and of Jerijah, for land and rent, £60. At his death, he owed £61 11s, chiefly to his son Ebenezer, to which add for funeral expenses 40s, probate of will and inventory 7s 6d, and recording of same, 5s, and he had a free estate of £140. He gave to seven daughters £40 each, with what they had previously received. Abigail had had £38 13s; Elizabeth, £36 7s; Sarah, £28 1s; Hannah, £28 12s; Hester, £23 5s; and

Thankful, £16 7s. He gave to Experience £5, to Catherine Chauncey (daughter of Abigail) £10, and to Rachel Strong (widow of Thomas) one acre in Northampton "long improved by her husband." His sons Samuel and Jerijah were the executors of his will.

The following record of Elder John Strong is taken from "The Genealogical Dictionary of New England" by James Savage, published in 1860. Savage will be found to disagree with Dwight on many points. The compiler of this record is unable to say who is the more careful historian, Dwight or Savage. Dwight's book was published eleven years after Savage's, and it may be said that Dwight had that length of time in which to settle the doubts so strongly expressed by Savage, especially as to the time of John Strong's coming to America, and as to the death of his first wife and his marriage with Abigail Ford. Dwight gives the date of this second marriage with no indication of doubt, and this point is important, since Thomas, through whom we trace, is said by Dwight to have been the son of Abigail Ford, but by Savage, to have been the son of the first wife.

"John Strong, Hingham, 1635. Among the first proprietors who drew home lots September of that year. Freeman 9 March, 1637. Next year was of Taunton and counted there as one of the first proprietors. Made freeman of that jurisdiction 4 December, chosen representative 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, as Baylies shows II, 2 and 3, and a juror 1645; three or four years after, is found at Windsor and made freeman of Connecticut, May, 1651, unless this were his son, which seems very improbable; and soon after 1661 was inhabitant of Northampton, Mass. With very great doubts as to most of the items, and utter rejection of part most important in tradition reported of his coming in the 'Mary and John' to Dorchester with Warham in May, 1630, and of the death of his first wife on the passage and taking a second wife in 1630; I think it probable that he brought John in 1635, and at Hingham had Thomas, possibly another child who died in infancy, and that his wife died there, and that he married perhaps in 1638, Abigail, daughter of Thomas Ford of Dorchester; for in that single year is the only mention of his name as residing at Dorchester. Had, probably at

Taunton, Jedediah, baptized April 14, 1639 at Dorchester, though the church record implies that the parents lived at Hingham; Return; Ebenezer; and Abigail; at Windsor, certain had Elizabeth, born 24 August, 1647, or 24 February, 1648; Experience, born 4 August, 1650; Samuel and Joseph (perhaps sometimes called Josiah), twins, 5 August, 1652; Mary, 26 October, 1654.

"At Windsor, he married, 26 November, 1656, Mary, only daughter of Joseph Clark;* had Sarah, not on record, perhaps 1657; Hannah, 30 May, 1659; and Esther, 7 June, 1661; at Northampton had Thankful, 25 July, 1663; and Jerijah, 12 December, 1665. Cothren favors him with three more children, one who died in infancy two months after arrival of family in 1630; and Josiah, who died when a young man. But I distrust the existence of both. And Sarah, who married 19 December, 1675 or 13 January following (either of which may be thought a more probable date than that of the family tradition, 13 July, 1675), Joseph Barnard of Hadley, and next, 1698, Captain Jonathan Wells of Deerfield. She may have come between Mary and Hannah. On the high authority of Dr. Allen, I can find but sixteen children besides the infant who died.

"John Strong was, very likely, born at Taunton in County Somerset, and his father may have been Richard, and his sister may have been the wife of Walter Deane; but that he ever lived at Dorchester is highly improbable, for Harris or any more searching inquirer has not found his name there, before or after 1638, except once as a witness to a deed, which may have been written at Hingham; and it is hardly to be believed that the same wife who bore two children at Northampton had been taken at Dorchester in 1630.

"That he was indeed ever residing at Dorchester after 1638, can be surmised from the trifling incident only, that John Hill was married at Boston, 16 January, 1657, to Elizabeth Strong by Humphrey Atherton, the assistant, who was a Dorchester man. Nor is it more probable, as the tradition ornaments the story, that he came from England with Warham or accompanied him in 1636 to Windsor. Hitchcock, Parsons,

* This is without doubt an error, as John, Jr., married Mary Clark.

Cothren, Genealogical Register VIII, 180, and Emery, too easily admit such relation in my opinion, that relies on the powerful contemporary silence of his brother-in-law, Roger Clap, who did come in that ship and married a daughter of his fellow passenger, Thomas Ford. For the modern origin of these improbable traditions, I presume that, as the ancestor was at Windsor within twelve years of its settlement, and his son married a Warham, and as Ford removed to Windsor, the story spread gradually that he had come from England to Dorchester with Warham and accompanied him to his next home in Connecticut; but the reporters did not consider two points, that many people were of Dorchester who did not come with Warham, and many of Windsor who did not come from Dorchester. In McClure's account of the settlement of Windsor, written 1797, part 1, Massachusetts Historical Collection V, 167, is seen the list of the sixteen male members of the church of Dorchester that went with Warham thither, among whom is *no Strong*.* As Roger Clap had married a daughter of Ford two or three years before the exodus, the daughter who became the second wife of Strong, as it seems to me *after* it, may have continued at Dorchester to comfort her sister and avoid the perils of another first planting.

"John Strong was a tanner; one of the pillars of the foundation of the church; Elder, 1663. His wife died 6 July, 1688, and he died 14 April, 1699, aged 91, says his son Jerijah, which in modern tradition is easily corrupted to 94."

FORD

THOMAS FORD, whose daughter, Abigail, married Elder John Strong, came to America in 1630. He was a passenger on the "Mary and John," and was one of the first settlers of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

He was a freeman at Dorchester in 1631. He was one of the early settlers of Windsor, Connecticut, settling there probably in 1635. He was a deputy to the General Court in 1637, 1638, 1639 and 1640, and a Grand Juror in 1643.

Quoting from Stiles' "History of Ancient Windsor:"

"Ford owned large tracts of land by original grants, including about half of Pine Meadow, and most of the site of the present village of Windsor Locks.

* Dwight does not claim that Strong went with Warham to Windsor; only that he came from England with Warham.

He had hundreds of acres granted him on the east side of the Great River, and bought many acres from others.

"The first distribution of land [in Pine Meadow] was made by the General Court before 1640. . . . Six hundred rods of the north end of this strip of land was set out to Thomas Ford of Windsor, which included nearly half the meadow and all of the mill-sites and the main street of the present village. Thirty acres of the meadow he sold, before 1656, to William Gaylord, Jr., and February 7, 1663, he sold the balance of the lot to Henry Denslow,* who built his house and brought his family here probably the same year."

Thomas Ford's first wife (whose name is not given in any record consulted) died at Windsor April 18, 1643. He married, second, Mrs. Ann Scott, widow of Thomas Scott. He removed to Northampton, probably at the same time that Elder John Strong did,—in 1659,—and he died there November 28, 1676.

He had four daughters, presumably all by his first wife. No sons are mentioned in the records consulted. His daughters were:

ABIGAIL. Married Elder John Strong, 1630.

Joan. Married Captain Roger Clap of Dorchester, November 6, 1633.

Hepzibah. Married, first, Richard Lyman of Northampton; and after his death, married, 1664, John Marsh of Northampton.

Another daughter (name not given). Married Captain Aaron Cooke of Northampton.

CHILDREN OF ELDER JOHN STRONG, THE IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

Third Generation

By his first wife, name unknown

JOHN STRONG, JUNIOR

Born in England 1626. Married, 1656, Mary Clark, daughter of Joseph and Frances Clark of Windsor, who died 1663. Married, second, 1664, Elizabeth Warriner, who died 1684. Died at Windsor, Conn., 1697 or 1698.

AN INFANT, name unknown, who died at Dorchester, Mass., 1630, a few months old.

By his second wife, Abigail Ford

THOMAS STRONG

(See record given elsewhere.)

* One of the ancestors of General Daniel Bissell. See the Bissell genealogy, Fourth Generation.

JEDEDIAH STRONG

Born 1637. Married, first, 1662, Freedom Woodward, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Woodward, who died 1681; married, second, in December, 1681, Abigail Stebbins, daughter of John and Abigail (Bartlett) Stebbins, who died 1689; married, third, 1691 or 1692, Mrs. Mary (Hart) Lee, widow of John Lee and daughter of Stephen Hart. Jedediah Strong died 1733.

JOSIAH STRONG

Born about 1639. Died young, unmarried.

RETURN STRONG

Born 1640 or 1641. Married, first, 1664, Sarah Warham, daughter of the Reverend John and Jane Warham. She died 1678, and he married again, the name of his second wife being unknown. He died 1726. His oldest girl, Sarah, married Joseph Bissell.

EBENEZER STRONG

Born 1643. Like his father, he was a Ruling Elder in the church. Married, 1668, Hannah Clap, daughter of Nicholas and Sarah Clap. Died 1729.

ABIGAIL STRONG

Born about 1645. Married 1673, the Reverend Nathaniel Chauncey, who died 1685. Married, second, 1686, Deacon Medad Pomeroy. Died 1704.

ELIZABETH STRONG

Born 1647. Married, 1669, Joseph Parsons, son of Cornet Joseph and Mary (Bliss) Parsons. Died 1736.

EXPERIENCE STRONG

Baptized August 4, 1650. Married, 1669, Zerubbabel Filer of Windsor.

SAMUEL STRONG

Born 1652. Married, first, 1684, Esther Clap, daughter of Deacon Edward Clap of Dorchester. She died 1698, and Samuel Strong married, second, 1698, Mrs. Ruth (Sheldon) Wright. Died 1732.

JOSEPH STRONG

Born 1652 (twin with Samuel). Died young.

MARY STRONG

Born 1654. Married, 1679, Deacon John Clark of Northampton, a son of Lieutenant William Clark. Died 1738.

SARAH STRONG

Born 1656. Married, first, 1675, Joseph Barnard, son of Francis and Hannah Barnard. He died 1695, and she married, second, 1698, Captain Jonathan Wells, son of Thomas and Mary Wells. Sarah (Strong) Wells died 1733.

HANNAH STRONG

Born 1659. Married, 1680, Captain William Clark of Northampton. Died 1693 or 1694.

HESTER STRONG

Born 1661. Married, 1678, Thomas Bissell, Jr., of Windsor, son of Thomas and Abigail (Moore) Bissell. Hester (Strong) Bissell died 1726 or 1727.

THANKFUL STRONG

Born 1663. Married a Mr. Baldwin of Milford, Conn.

JERIJAH STRONG

Born 1665. Married, 1700, Thankful Stebbins, daughter of John and Abigail (Bartlett) Stebbins. Died 1754.

THIRD GENERATION

THOMAS STRONG

Son of Elder John and Abigail (Ford) Strong

THOMAS STRONG (ELDER JOHN,² RICHARD¹) was born at Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 163-. It is presumed that he accompanied the other members of his family on their removal first to Hingham, next to Taunton, Massachusetts, then to Windsor, Connecticut, to which they must have moved after 1645. Thomas Strong was a trooper at Windsor in 1658, under Major Mason (recorded March 11, 1657-58). In 1659 he removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, with his father. He married, December 5, 1660, Mary Huit, daughter of the Reverend Ephraim Huit and his wife Isabel (last name unknown), of Windsor. Mary Huit was born probably in 1640, and died February 20, 1670 or 1671. Thomas Strong married, second, October 10, 1671, Rachel Holton, daughter of Deacon William Holton and his wife Mary (last name unknown). Rachel Holton Strong outlived Thomas Strong, and May 16, 1698, married, second, Nathan Bradley of East Guilford, Connecticut, now Madison. With this marriage she and her younger children moved into southern Connecticut.

Thomas Strong died October 3, 1689. All his children were living at the time of his death except the youngest, Submit Strong, who was a posthumous child.

Thomas Strong was a farmer, and presumably a very prosperous one, his estate being inventoried at £379 14s.

By his will, his eldest son, Thomas, had "half the house and homestead forever; hoping he will come and live there and so be a help to his mother-in-law." [Note the use of "mother-in-law" here when "step-mother" is evidently intended.] The mother had "the whole of the rest of the estate for five years to bring up the children; then the estate

to be divided according to law, Thomas to have a double portion—he to pay if half of whole is too much.”

HOLTON

WILLIAM HOLTON, whose daughter, Rachel, married Thomas Strong, was born in 1611. He came to Massachusetts in 1634, in the “Francis,” from Ipswich, County Suffolk, England. He was one of the first settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, and was one of the eight original petitioners for liberty to plant and settle at Nonotuck (Northampton), Massachusetts, to which he came in 1653 or 1654. He erected, by contract, the first house of worship in Northampton, and was the first elected Deacon of the First Church of Northampton, having been ordained June 13, 1663 (one record says May 13). He was a Justice of the Peace; a representative to the General Court, 1664, 1667, 1669, 1671; a member of the first board of magistrates, appointed 1665, by the General Court. He introduced a motion in the General Court at Boston, Massachusetts, for the suppression of intemperance, the first known temperance movement in American history. He was the first commissioner to the General Court in Boston in that temperance effort. His name is engraved on the Forefathers Monument in the cemetery of the Central Church at Hartford, Connecticut. He died August 12, 1691, and his widow, Mary, died November 15, 1691.

Their children were:

John Holton.

Samuel Holton.

William Holton. Married Sarah, daughter of Samuel Marshfield. Their only child, Mary, married Ebenezer Strong, Jr.

Mary Holton. Married David Burt.

Sarah Holton. Married John King.

Ruth Holton. Married, first, Joseph Baker; married, second, Thomas Lyman.

Thomas Holton.

RACHEL HOLTON. Married Thomas Strong.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS STRONG

Fourth Generation

By his first wife, Mary Huit

THOMAS STRONG, JR.

Born November 16, 1661. Married, November 17, 1683, Mary Stebbins, daughter of John and Abigail (Bartlett) Stebbins.

MARIA STRONG

Born August 31, 1663. Married, about 1681, Samuel Judd, son of Deacon Thomas Judd of Farmington, Conn. Died May 18, 1751.

JOHN STRONG

Born March 9, 1664 or 1665. Died unmarried near Deerfield, Mass., May 21, 1699.

HUIT (OR HEWETT) STRONG

Born December 2, 1666. Died unmarried September 29, 1689. One of the first settlers of Durham, Conn.

ASAHEL STRONG

Born November 14, 1668. Married, June 11, 1689, Margaret Hart, daughter of Deacon Stephen Hart. Died October 8, 1739.

By his second wife, Rachel Holton

JOSEPH STRONG

Born December 2, 1672. Married, first, 1694, Sarah Allen, daughter of Nehemiah and Sarah (Woodford) Allen. She died and Joseph Strong married, second, 1724, Ruth (last name unknown).

BENJAMIN STRONG

Born 1674. Died August 27, 1755, unmarried.

ADINO STRONG

Born January 25, 1676. Married, about 1702, Eunice (last name unknown). Died December 31, 1749.

WAITSTILL STRONG

Born 1677 or 1678. Married, first, 1701, Sarah Janes, daughter of Abel and Mary (Judd) Janes, who died 1705; married, second, 1708, Mindwell Bartlett, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Baldwin) Bartlett. Died November 13, 1762.

RACHEL STRONG

Born July 15, 1679. Married, 1705 or 1706, Miles Dudley, son of Joseph and Ann (Robinson) Dudley. Died January 4, 1769.

SELAH STRONG

(See record given elsewhere.)

BENAJAH STRONG

Born September 24, 1682. Married, October 18, 1713, Sarah Sherman of Fairfield, Conn., daughter of Captain David Sherman. Died 1714.

EPHRAIM STRONG

Born January 4, 1685. Married, 1712, Mary Buckingham, daughter of Elder Daniel and Hannah (Fowler) Buckingham.

ELNATHAN STRONG

Born August 20, 1686. Married, 1712, Patience Jenner, daughter of Samuel and Hannah Jenner of Woodbury, Conn. Died May 22, 1727. After his death his widow married Jonathan Law.

RUTH STRONG

Born February 4, 1688. Married, 1712, Deacon William Dudley, son of Joseph and Ann (Robinson) Dudley. Died September 18, 1743. After her death, William Dudley married Rebecca Fisk.

SUBMIT STRONG

Born February 23, 1690, after her father's death. Believed to have died early. Beyond the date of her birth, no facts concerning her have been found.

FOURTH GENERATION

SELAH STRONG

Son of Thomas and Rachel (Holton) Strong

SELAH STRONG (THOMAS,³ ELDER JOHN,² RICHARD¹) was born December 23, 1680. He married, June 23, 1702, Abigail Terry of Southold, Long Island, who was born June 10, 1680. She is believed to have been the daughter of Thomas Terry, Jr., of Southold, whose father, Thomas Terry, aged twenty-eight, embarked from England for America with his brothers, Robert and Richard, on July 13, 1635, in the "James."

Selah Strong was a farmer and tradesman at Setauket, Long Island; justice of the peace, and a trustee of the town of Brookhaven. He died April 8, 1732. His wife died February 2, 1761.

CHILDREN OF SELAH AND ABIGAIL (TERRY) STRONG

Fifth Generation

RACHEL STRONG

Born May 7, 1704. Married Captain Samuel D'Honneur of Setauket, Long Island.

ABIGAIL STRONG

Born May 8, 1706. Married Timothy Carle of Huntington, Long Island. Died February 18, 1737.

THOMAS STRONG

Born June 5, 1708. Married, about 1730, Susannah Thompson, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Brewster) Thompson. Died January 14, 1760.

HANNAH STRONG

Born November 5, 1711. Married Richard Willis of Islip, Long Island.

SELAH STRONG, JR.

(See record given elsewhere.)

BENAJAH STRONG

Born at Setauket, Long Island, March 7, 1715 or 1716. Married, 1739, Martha Mills (daughter of Timothy Mills, first settler at "Mills' Pond"). Died November 10, 1772.

JOSEPH STRONG

Born March 13, 1717 or 1718. Married, 1740, Charity Wells, daughter of John and Mary (Judson) Wells. Died September 22, 1741. After his death his widow married William Burr.

MARY STRONG

Born September 17, 1719. Married Merriby Bostwick of Stamford, Conn. Died February 8, 1754.

BENJAMIN STRONG

Born May 12, 1722. Name of wife not given. Died November 10, 1760.

ANNA STRONG

Born July 2, 1725. Married, 1747, the Reverend Jacob Green, son of Jacob and Dorothy (Lynde) Green. Died November 25, 1756. After her death her husband married Elizabeth Pierson.

FIFTH GENERATION

SELAH STRONG, JR.

Son of Selah and Abigail (Terry) Strong

SELAH STRONG, JR. (SELAH,⁴ THOMAS,³ ELDER JOHN,² RICHARD¹), was born February 23, 1713 or 1714. He married, probably in 1736, Hannah Woodhull, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Smith) Woodhull. Selah Strong, Jr., was a farmer at Blooming Grove, Orange County, New York.

WOODHULL

The family from which Hannah Woodhull was descended is very ancient. It can be traced from Walter Flanderensis, who came to England with William the Conqueror. In "America Heraldica" the Arms of the Woodhull family are given as: Or, three crescents, gules. And the Crest: Two wings, gules, out of a ducal coronet, or. There are eighteen quarterings in the Complete Achievement, as given in the "Woodhull Genealogy" by Mary Gould Woodhull and Francis Bowes Stevens.

Richard Woodhull, the common ancestor in America, was born at Thenford, Northamptonshire, England, September 13, 1620. The date of his marriage and the surname of his wife, Deborah, are uncertain. It is strongly believed by some that he married Deborah Crewe.

The exact date of Richard Woodhull's arrival in America is unknown, but it was prior to April 29, 1648, as on that date he witnessed a deed at Southampton, Long Island. He was among the early settlers of Jamaica, but after a few years he left the western part of the Island and settled, in 1656, at Setauket Harbor, then called Cromwell Bay or Ashford, becoming one of its most useful citizens. His particular knowledge in surveying and in drawing conveyances rendered his services invaluable at that early period of the settlement, and his name is found associated with most of the transactions of the town during his life. Richard Woodhull, Lion Gardiner, and Edward Howell were the three most notable men connected with the early Long Island settlements, and ranking with them was Richard Smith, the Patentee of Smithtown.

As early as 1675, and perhaps earlier, Richard Woodhull had purchased from the Indians 10,800 acres of land in Brookhaven, Suffolk County, Long Island. He became Proprietor of Brookhaven in two patents—that of

Governor Richard Nicoll in 1666, and that of Governor Thomas Dongan in 1686.

In 1663 he represented Brookhaven at the General Court at Hartford, Connecticut, in an effort to obtain aid against the usurpations of the Dutch. In 1666 he was appointed one of the Justices of the Court of Assizes, and in 1673 he became deputy to the Dutch Commissioners in New York and by them was commissioned a magistrate for Brookhaven. He died October 17, 1690.

CHILDREN OF RICHARD AND DEBORAH (CREWE?) WOODHULL

RICHARD, 2D. (See record following.)

Nathaniel. Second child. Date of birth unknown. Died unmarried June 16, 1680.

Deborah. Born 1654. Married Captain John Lawrence of Newtown, Long Island. Died January 6, 1742.

Ann. Born 1659. Married Daniel Tourneur of Harlem, N. Y.

Ruth. Date of birth unknown. Married, about 1678, Samuel Edsall.

RICHARD, 2D, above, was born October 9, 1649, and like his father was an intelligent and useful man. In 1678 he was a Justice of the Honorable Court of Assizes, and was Colonial Captain in the King's Troops in 1685. The name of his wife is in dispute. Several authorities state that he married Temperance Topping of Southampton, Herbert Francis Smith (in the "Ancestry and Kindred of Herbert Francis Smith") adding that she was the daughter of Thomas Topping and that the date of the marriage was August 19, 1680. Other authorities, including Benjamin F. Thompson (in the "History of Long Island") and the authors of the "Woodhull Genealogy" previously quoted, state that Richard Woodhull, 2d, married Temperance Fordham, daughter of the Reverend Jonah Fordham of Southampton, but they do not give the date of this marriage. As the year of the birth of his first child was 1691 (eleven years after the date given for his marriage to Temperance Topping), it is possible that he married Temperance Topping, that she died in a few years, and that he then married Temperance Fordham who became the mother of the children listed below. This, however, is conjecture on the part of the present author. Richard, 2d, died October 18, 1699.

CHILDREN OF RICHARD, 2D

Richard, 3d. Born November 2, 1691. Married Mary Homan.

NATHANIEL. (See record following.)

Josiah. Born September 9, 1695. Married Clementine Homan.

Temperance. Born 1697.

John.

Dorothy. Married William Helme.

NATHANIEL WOODHULL, the second son of Richard, 2d, settled upon the lands devised to him at Mastic, Long Island. He married, in 1716, Sarah Smith, who was born February 13, 1700. She was the daughter of Richard and Hannah (Tooker) Smith, and the granddaughter of Richard Smith, the Patentee of Smithtown, Long Island. Nathaniel Woodhull died March 9, 1760.

CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL AND SARAH (SMITH) WOODHULL

- HANNAH. Born February 25, 1718. Married Selah Strong, Jr.
 Temperance. Born March 15, 1720. Married Edmund Smith.
 Nathaniel (General). Born December 30, 1722. Married, 1761, Ruth Floyd. President of the Provincial Congress, New York, 1775, and a distinguished soldier in the Revolutionary War. Died September 10, 1776.
 Dorothy or Dorothea. Born November 29, 1724. Married Richard Miller.
 Sarah. Born February 9, 1726. Married Fletcher Mathews. Died 1791.
 Richard. Born May 22, 1729. Married, first, Rebecca Abigail Mix (also given as Elizabeth Mix); second, Rebecca Carr; third, Susanna Cooke; fourth, Dorcas (last name unknown). Richard Woodhull graduated at Yale University in 1752, and was a tutor there for several years. Died December 7, 1797.
 Jesse Smith (Colonel). Born February 10, 1732 or 1735. Married Hester DuBois. Settled in Orange County, N. Y., where he was one of the most prominent figures of his day. Commissioned Colonel of the County Militia, 1775; President of the New York Provincial Congress, 1776; member of the New York Council of Appointments, 1777; member of the New York Senate, 1777-78. Died February 4, 1795.
 Juliana. Born April 6, 1737. Married Hezekiah Howell of Smithtown, Long Island, and removed to Blooming Grove, N. Y. Died 1816.
 Deborah. Born March 5, 1738. Married Colonel Isaac Nicoll, and lived in Orange County, N. Y. Died 1807.
 Ruth. Born December 5, 1740. Married Judge William Smith. Died 1822.
 Ebenezer. Born February 2, 1742. Married Abigail Howell. Removed to Blooming Grove, N. Y. Commissioned, 1776, adjutant of a regiment of Minute Men, and later captain of a Company of Light Horse belonging to the Blooming Grove, Cornwall Precinct, Regiment. Died October, 1804.

The material for this sketch of the Woodhull family was taken from the "History of Long Island," by Benjamin F. Thompson, the "Woodhull Genealogy," by Mary Gould Woodhull and Francis Bowes Stevens, and the "Journal of the Reverend Silas Constant," by Emily Warren Roebling.

CHILDREN OF SELAH STRONG, JR., AND HANNAH (WOODHULL)
STRONG*Sixth Generation*

NATHANIEL STRONG (MAJOR)

Born November 18, 1737. Married Amy Brewster, daughter of John Brewster. One of their daughters, Mary, married her cousin, Selah Mathews, son of James and Hannah (Strong) Mathews; and another daughter, Juliana, married General Vincent Mathews. Died November 6, 1778.

RACHEL STRONG

Born June 11, 1739. Married Birdseye Youngs, son of Henry Youngs of Orange County, N. Y. Died November 12, 1791.

BENJAMIN STRONG

Born February 26, 1741. Died August 24, 1767.

HANNAH STRONG

(See record given elsewhere.)

SAMUEL STRONG (MAJOR)

Born July 14, 1744. Married, December 19, 1765, Abigail Brewster, daughter of John Brewster of Blooming Grove, N. Y., and earlier of Setauket, Long Island. She died 1775, and he married, 1776, Mrs. Experience Brewster, widow of Edward Brewster, brother of his (Samuel Strong's) first wife. Samuel Strong died October 20, 1806.

ANNA STRONG

Born November 18, 1746. Married, about 1768, Daniel Tuthill.

TEMPERANCE STRONG

Born February 16, 1748. Died November 24, 1750.

JULIANA STRONG

Born January 16, 1750. Married Christopher Van Deusen.

NATHAN STRONG (CAPTAIN)

Born November 1, 1751. A captain in the Revolutionary War, wounded at the battle of White Plains, and present at the surrender of Burgoyne. Married, 1777, Ruth Brewster, daughter of John Brewster of Blooming Grove, N. Y., and sister of Amy and Abigail Brewster, wives of his brothers, Nathaniel and Samuel. Died July 17, 1796.

SARAH STRONG

Born September 29, 1753. Married, first, Selah Havens, son of Benjamin and Abigail (Strong) Havens. He died, and she married, second, the Reverend David Rose, and had five children, one of whom, Esther Rose, married Vincent Mathews Strong.

TEMPERANCE STRONG

Born September 11, 1755. Married Stephen Halsey of Blooming Grove. Died December 14, 1815.

ABIGAIL STRONG

Born August 17, 1757. Died August 9, 1767.

SELAH STRONG

Born October 14, 1759. Died January 24, 1762.

CATHERINE STRONG

Born January 6, 1762. Married Joshua Hubbard. Died January 19, 1779.

SIXTH GENERATION

HANNAH STRONG

Daughter of Selah Strong, Jr., and Hannah (Woodhull) Strong

HANNAH STRONG (SELAH, JR.,⁵ SELAH,⁴ THOMAS,³ ELDER JOHN,² RICHARD¹) was born October 17, 1742. She married, February 18, 1762, James Mathews (son of Vincent and Catalina (Abeel) Mathews), who was born in 1742 at "Mathewsfield," the family estate in Orange County, New York.

James Mathews was a farmer and lived with his father at "Mathewsfield" for many years, but after 1791 he removed to Newtown (later called Elmira), New York, which was then called "the Far West." He died at Elmira in 1816.

Dwight, in his "History of the Strong Family," states that during the Revolutionary War James Mathews was a sub-contractor for the supply of troops at West Point, and that on the failure of the principal contractor he lost all his property. Dwight speaks of him as "General" James Mathews, but on what authority we have been unable to find. Having been a sub-contractor in the Revolutionary War would hardly elevate him to that rank, and in "New York in the Revolution as Colony and State" (records arranged and classified by James A. Roberts, Comptroller) we find the name of James Mathews in the roll of Enlisted Men, in "The Line, First Regiment." He signed the oath of loyalty to the American Colonies and the Continental Congress on May 15, 1775, but it is evident from the extracts following that his patriotism was gravely questioned. This apparently unfounded suspicion was probably due to the well-known activities of his brother David, a loyalist.

From "Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, War of the Revolution, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York," Volume 1, page 352:

"To William Allison, Esq., and Col^o. Clinton or either of them. Gentlemen: Whereas James Mathews stands charged with dangerous Designs and treasonable conspiracies against the Rights and Liberties of the united Colonies of America, We do in pursuance and of a certain Resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the twentieth of June Instant authorize and request you to cause the said James Mathews to be with all his Papers forthwith apprehended and secured, and that Return be made to us of the manner in which this Warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this twenty-second Day of June 1776.

Phil. Livingston,
Gouv^r Morris,
John Jay"

(Of the Committee on Conspiracies)

"The within named James Mathews taken at his place of abode in Cornwall Precinct, Orange County, pursuant to the within Warrant, and delivered to the Committee. But no Papers Containing Information Relative to the Conspiracy.

Per M^e. William Allison

New York, 25 June, 1776."

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"I, James Mathews, Esq., of Orange County in the Colony of New York do most solemnly declare that the claims of the British Parliament to bind at their discretion the people of the United Colonies in America in all cases whatsoever, are in my opinion absurd, unjust and tyrannical, and that the hostile attempts of their fleets and Armies to enforce submission to those wicked and ridiculous claims ought to be resisted by arms. And therefore I do engage and associate under all the ties which I hold sacred to defend by arms these united Colonies against the said hostile attempts agreeable to such laws and regulations as my representatives in the Congresses or future general assemblies of this Colony have or shall for that purpose make and establish.

James Mathews

New York, 26th June, 1776."

“Know all Men by these Presents that we James Mathews of Mathewsfield in the Precinct of Cornwall in Orange County Gentleman and Nathaniel Strong of Blooming Grove in the Precinct & County aforesaid Esq^s are held & firmly bound unto John Hearing Esq^r President of the Congress of the Colony of New York in the Sum of five hundred pounds lawful money of New York to be paid to the said John Hearing his Executors administrators or assigns. For the payment of which Sum we do bind ourselves jointly & severally firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seal Dated the 26 Day of June, 1776.

“The Condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bounden James Mathews shall on reasonable Notice to him given or left at the usual Place of his abode attend the Congress of this Colony for the Time being or a Committee thereof thereunto duely authorized and appointed, and answer such matter as may be alledged against him, and in the meantime shall neither directly or indirectly contravene or oppose the Measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony but on the contrary shall approve himself a good Friend to the american Cause then the above obligation shall be void otherwise remain in full Force & Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered in
the presence of
Phil Livingston
Gouv^r Morris”

James Mathews,
Nath^l Strong.

MATHEWS

JAMES MATHEWS, who married Hannah Strong, was the grandson of Colonel Peter Mathews, the first of the name of whom there is record in this country.

COLONEL PETER MATHEWS accompanied Governor Fletcher to New York. According to the Earl of Bellamont, he “had been brought up from a child with Colonel Fletcher.” The census of 1703 for New York lists “Captain Mathews” and five children, three sons and two daughters. He was major, and commanded the Independent Fusiliers in 1711, in which his son Fletcher Mathews was lieutenant. In 1714 he commanded a company of the Albany County militia, and in this also his son Fletcher was lieutenant and his son Vincent a private. Peter Mathews died at Albany in 1719, where his will,

proved December 27th of that year, made his wife Bridget his sole legatee. Her will, dated January 8, 1721, proved ten days later, named her son Vincent, grandson Peter, and daughters Catharine and Flora. The grandson, Peter Mathews, who was living in 1739, and who probably died unmarried and without issue, may have been the son of Lieutenant Fletcher Mathews who died February 14, 1714.

VINCENT MATHEWS became one of the patentees of a tract of land of seven hundred acres near New Windsor, Orange County, New York, which he called "Mathewsfield." He was taxed at Newburgh in 1718; was made by Royal Patent, Clerk of Orange County from 1726 to 1763; member of the Assembly from that county from 1729 to 1739; Judge from 1733 to 1737; and was commissioned Colonel of the Orange County Regiment of Foot, June 20, 1738. He married, first, Catalina, daughter of John Abeel (Mayor of Albany in 1694-95, 1709-10), by his wife Catalina Schuyler; and second, Elizabeth Wileman. He died in June, 1784, at the age of eighty-four, when in New York on a visit.

His children were:

By his first wife, Catalina Abeel

Catalina Mathews. Baptized at Albany, August 18, 1723.

David Mathews. Married, November 6, 1758, Sarah Seymour. Practised law in Orange County as early as 1760, and in New York in 1769; was Mayor of New York before the Revolution; became a loyalist, and removed to Nova Scotia. Had issue.

Fletcher Mathews. Married, January 24, 1758, Sarah Woodhull (probably the daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Smith) Woodhull and the sister of Hannah Woodhull who married Selah Strong). He resided in Ulster County, where he followed the legal profession until his death, about 1799. His children were Catharine, who married (1) — Evertson, and (2) — Baldwin; Bridget, who married Thomas Waters; Elizabeth, who married Henry A. Williams; and Mary.

JAMES MATHEWS. Married Hannah Strong.

Bridget Mathews. Married — Jones.

By his second wife, Elizabeth Wileman

Elizabeth Mathews. Married Theophilus Beekman.

The will of Vincent Mathews, which follows, is taken from the "Abstract of Wills of New York" compiled for the New York Historical Society:

"I Vincent Mathews, of Mathews field, Cornwal Precinct, Orange County, Esquire, being in a comfortable state of health, do this 12th day of March, 1783, make my last will and testament. I leave to my two sons, Fletcher and James Mathews, and my daughter Bridget Jones, together with the children of my son David, all my lands at Western hook in Albany County which came to me by my first wife, Catalina Abeel, equally divided amongst them, one

fourth to Fletcher, one fourth to James, one fourth to Bridget Jones, one fourth to the children of David. To my sons, Fletcher and James, and the children of David, and to my daughter Elizabeth Beekman, all the residue of my real estate in the State of New York, the State of Connecticut, or elsewhere, one fourth to each. It is my will that my children and grandchildren divide my estate as aforesaid in as short a time after my decease as they or any two of my children, shall agree to such division, first giving three months notice in one or more of the Public newspapers of this State, and if they do not agree within six months, then my executors to make a division, provided always that if my said son Fletcher shall refuse to come to a division of that part of my estate at Western hook aforesaid, and to make releases to the said James, Bridget Jones, and the children of David when thereto required, he shall be barred from any right or title to any part of my estate herein given him; and provided also that if my said son Fletcher shall produce any account against me after my decease, which account shall be deducted out of that part of my estate herein given him; and providing likewise that if my aforesaid son David doth not take up and cancel a bond in which I was security for him to George Foliet, of the city of New York, merchant, for a certain sum, the amount of the same when my executors shall be called upon for its payment shall be deducted out of that part of my estate devised to the children of my said son David. To my said daughter, Elizabeth Beekman, my jewels and plate which my late wife Elizabeth brought to my house at Mathews field. All the remainder of my personal estate to be divided in the following manner, one fourth each to my son Fletcher, to my son James, the children of David and to my daughter Elizabeth Beekman, but if Fletcher refuse to comply with the directions heretofore given as to lands at Western hook then he to be barred of receiving any of my personal estate, and in such case it to be divided as follows: one third to James, one third to the children of David, and one third to Elizabeth. My executors to sell that part of my estate, real and personal, devised to the children of my son David, and to pay them the money or equal shares as they arrive at full age. I appoint my son James, my son-in-law, Theophilus Beekman, and my friend Mr. John Ellison of Ulster County, executors."

"Witnesses, William Hudson, Richard Goldsmith, Thomas Moffat, of Cornwall Precinct, Orange County, Esquire. Proved, New York, June 21, 1784."

This account of the Mathews family (with the exception of the will) was taken almost entirely from "The Journal of the Reverend Silas Constant," by Emily Warren Roebling.

CHILDREN OF JAMES AND HANNAH (STRONG) MATHEWS

Seventh Generation

SELAH MATHEWS

Married his cousin, Mary Strong, daughter of Major Nathaniel and Amy (Brewster) Strong.

VINCENT MATHEWS (GENERAL)

Born June 29, 1766. Married, August 11, 1791, Juliana Strong, daughter of Major Nathaniel and Amy (Brewster) Strong. Admitted to the New York Bar 1790, and settled in practice at Elmira; member of New York Legislature 1793 and 1794; State Senator 1796-1799 and 1799-1803; member of Congress 1809-1811. Removed to Bath 1816. From 1812 to 1817 was District Attorney for Tioga, Broome, Seneca, Steuben and Alleghany Counties. Removed to Rochester, 1821, and while in Rochester was District Attorney at different times for about ten years. Member New York Legislature 1826. Military record: appointed 1794, Lieutenant of Cavalry, and successively appointed Major, Colonel, and Brigadier General. Died at Rochester, August 23, 1846.

PETER MATHEWS

Removed to the State of Michigan. He married, but the name of his wife is not given. His children were John, Peter, and Hannah.

FLETCHER MATHEWS

Married, 1806, Elizabeth Sayre of Orange County, N. Y., daughter of James Sayre of Horse Heads. Died 1814, at Romulus, N. Y.

JAMES MATHEWS

Married a Miss Hammond. Lived on his farm near Elmira, N. Y.

NATHANIEL STRONG MATHEWS

Died, aged nineteen.

CATHARINE MATHEWS

Married General Mathew Carpenter.

HANNAH MATHEWS

Married Lebbeus Tubbs.

ELIZABETH MATHEWS

(See record given elsewhere.)

JULIANA STRONG MATHEWS

Born February 14, 1775. Married, March 24, 1795, the Honorable Lazarus Hammond, son of John Hammond.

SARAH MATHEWS

Born May 18, 1779. Married, January 20 or 26, 1799, General Samuel S. Haight, son of Stephen and Margaret (Cooke) Haight, of Athens, N. Y.

BRIDGET MATHEWS

Married William Lowe, a lawyer.

SEVENTH GENERATION

ELIZABETH MATHEWS

Daughter of James and Hannah (Strong) Mathews

ELIZABETH MATHEWS was born at "Mathewsfield," Goshen, New York, October 1, 1773. She married, June 17, 1798, at Elmira, New York, John Garrison Christopher.

John Garrison Christopher was the son of Richard and Hester (Garrison) Christopher. He was born on Staten Island, September 18, 1770, and he died at Rochester, New York, January 21, 1840.

Elizabeth Mathews Christopher outlived her husband. She died at St. Louis, Missouri, July 20, 1864, and was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York.

Dwight, in his "History of the Strong Family," describes her as "a lady of strong good sense and rare energy of character," to which the family records add, "of remarkable vitality."

(In possible explanation of the place of her death, it will be noted that her son, John, was a merchant at St. Louis, where he died in 1864; and also that her granddaughter, Anna Haight Christopher, had married James Russell Bissell and was living at St. Louis at that time.)

According to Dwight, John Garrison Christopher "engaged at Binghamton (Chenango Point, as then called) in farming and the lumber business until 1817, when he removed to Rochester, N. Y. He was from early life a professor of religion and in his later years full of fervid love to Christ and souls."

On page 74 of H. P. Smith's "History of Broome County" (published by D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, in 1885) we find:

"On the 15th day of June, 1812, the Chenango Turnpike Company was incorporated and empowered to construct a road beginning at the 28th milestone on the Pennsylvania line and running thence by the

most direct and practicable route to the house of John G. Christopher, on the Susquehanna River, opposite the village of Chenango Point."

On page 202 of the same book, in the chapter, "History of the City of Binghamton":

"Two streets only were at first opened—Court and Water Streets. Lots were laid out three quarters of an acre in size, and the usual price was \$20 a lot; corner lots, of course, cost higher. The first building erected within the village plot was a dwelling house built by John G. Christopher. It stood on Water Street near the site of the present gas works, and was built in the autumn of 1800. This house was occupied by Mr. Christopher only a short time." Later in the same record we find that in 1805 Judge William Stuart purchased the house built by John G. Christopher on Water Street, giving it the name of The Cottage House.

In Peck's "History of Rochester and Monroe County," on page 63, we find:

"LaFayette came here [Rochester] in June, 1825, arriving on a canal boat from Lockport, though the waterway was not completed till four months later. Of course, there were receptions and speeches, and a great banquet at the Mansion House [evidently a hotel] then kept by John G. Christopher."

Further in the same book appears: "How Monroe Became a County. The first board of supervisors of Monroe County assembled at the house of John G. Christopher in Rochester on the 8th day of May, 1821."

CHRISTOPHER

"Surnames of the United Kingdom," by Henry Harrison, gives the name CHRISTOPHER (Anglo-Greek), meaning "Christ-Bearing"; "Christ Tribute."

There is a tradition in the Bissell family that the first members of the Christopher family in this country were Huguenots who had fled from Holland.

In "Annals of Staten Island from Its Discovery to the Present," by J. J. Clute, published in 1877, we find:

"CHRISTOPHER. The original of this name is Christoffel, which is the Dutch for Christopher."

Various old church records are given in Clute's book, and among them:

"Hans (John) Christopher and Jane Arrowsmith had the following children baptized:

"A son, Johannes, April 16, 1732.

"A son, Barnt, April 14, 1734.

"A son, Joseph, August 8, 1736.

"A son, RICHARD, September 30, 1739.

"Richard (above) and Esther, his wife, had the following children:

"JOHN GARRISON, born September 18, 1770.

"James Grover, born August 30, 1772.

"Joseph, born May 9, 1775."

In the book, "Names of Persons for Whom Marriage Licenses Were Issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York, Previous to 1784," we find:

"July 28, 1767, Richard Christopher and Hester Garrison." (It seems quite probable that the "Esther, wife of Richard," referred to in Clute's History, is the "Hester" of the marriage license record.)

Dwight, in his "History of the Strong Family," says that Hester Garrison and Joseph Christopher were the ancestors of this branch of the family; but it would seem that the records of the marriage license bureau would be more reliable.

CHILDREN OF JOHN GARRISON AND ELIZABETH (MATHEWS) CHRISTOPHER

Eighth Generation

JAMES MATHEWS CHRISTOPHER

Born April 25, 1799. Married Eliza Allen Lewis, daughter of Elisha and Anna (Haight) Lewis. One child, Anna Haight Christopher, who married James Russell Bissell. (See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation, and the Hoyt (Haight) records, Ninth Generation.)

JOSHUA CHRISTOPHER

Born November 13, 1800, at Hartland, Niagara County, N. Y.
Died at Rochester, N. Y., July 17, 1832.

JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER

Born February 14, 1803. Married, first, Mary Ann Howell; second, Marian S. McGregor. Died at New York, May 19, 1885.

NATHANIEL STRONG CHRISTOPHER

Born May 21, 1805. Died at Rochester, June 28, 1818.

JULIA ANN (OR ANNA) CHRISTOPHER

Born June 14, 1807.

ELIZABETH CHRISTOPHER

Born June 27 or 17, 1809. (Given both ways in Bissell family records.)

HESTER CHRISTOPHER

Born October 3, 1811. Married, January 24, 1839,* Charles Haight Lewis (son of Elisha and Anna (Haight) Lewis), born May 27, 1807, at Ovid, N. Y. He was a merchant at Huntington, Ind. They had no children. The records do not make it clear whether it was Charles Haight Lewis or his wife Hester who died at Huntington, Ind., October 19, 1884.

HANNAH CHRISTOPHER

Born November 2, 1813. Died January 10, 1814.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER

Born October 10, 1815. Married, June 11, 1844, at Rochester, N. Y., Mary Elizabeth Haywood, who was born January 13, 1821. John Christopher was a merchant at St. Louis, Mo., and later moved to Yonkers, N. Y. He died at St. Louis, December 13, 1864.

CHILDREN

Julia Elizabeth Christopher. Born April 16, 1846. Married William Wightman.

Mary Louisa Christopher. Born January 2, 1849. Died the same year.

Charles Lewis Christopher. Born August 22, 1852.

John Garrison Christopher. Born July 4, 1855.

Rufus Lackland Christopher. Born October 17, 1858.

William Haywood Christopher. Born January 21, 1863.

It is to be noted that in the family of John Garrison and Elizabeth (Mathews) Christopher, their son, James Mathews Christopher, married Eliza Allen Lewis, and their daughter, Hester Christopher, married Charles Haight Lewis, both children of Elisha and Anna (Haight) Lewis.

* Also given in the Bissell records as January 4, 1837.

THE HOYT FAMILY

THE HOYT FAMILY*

THERE seems to be no definite knowledge regarding the origin of the Hoyt family. In England there are numerous variations of the name—in Somersetshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Cornwall, Warwickshire; the name "Hoyte" occurs in Ireland; a tradition among some of the families makes the Hoyts and Haight of Welsh origin; in the United States there are Germans of the name of Hoyt who claim that Heidt is the original spelling. "Furst's Book," or more correctly, "Weigel's Book of German Arms," contains, under the head of "Westphalian Arms," those of von Hoyte. The Garter King at Arms, of the Heralds College, could not find any arms in England belonging to the name of Hoyte. The name does not occur in most works upon English surnames, and these facts strengthen the belief in the German origin of the Hoytes of England. No positive proof has yet been found of the presence of Hoytes in England before the fifteenth century.

The earliest spelling of this name in England is Hoyt, in 1417. Later there appeared the forms Hayte, Haite, Hoyett, Hoyte, Hoitt. Hayt is now the most common spelling in America. From the earliest times "a" was frequently substituted for "o" in the names of the Connecticut and New York branches of the families. Where the English and Dutch streams of migration met in Westchester County, New York, the name Hoyt seems to have been changed to Haight quite commonly during a large part of the eighteenth century. The spelling Hayt is now found mostly in Dutchess County and in Putnam County, and in other portions of New York, among the descendants of Stephen Hayt of Bedford. The manner in which the gradual change in the name cor-

*The records of the Hoyt family which follow have been taken, except where indicated, almost verbatim, from "The Hoyt, Haight and Hight Families," by D. W. Hoyt, published in 1871.

responds with the change of location is worthy of note. In eastern Massachusetts the name was Hoyt, but as the family passed north and east they became in part Hoit in New Hampshire, and Hight in Maine. As the family traveled south and west they remained Hoyt in Danbury, became Hayt in Norwalk, Hait in Stamford, Connecticut, and Haight in Westchester County, New York.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE

First Generation

JOHN HOYT

Born (date unknown).

Married Ruth (last name unknown).

Died (date unknown).

ONE CHILD MENTIONED

SIMON

Second Generation

SIMON HOYT, the immigrant ancestor.

Born 1590 or 1595 (probably the earlier date).

Married, first, 1612, Deborah Stowers, born 1593; second, probably in 1633, Susanna Smith, who died about 1674.

Died 1657.

CHILDREN (*by his first wife, Deborah Stowers*)

John

WALTER

Thomas

Deborah

Nicholas

Ruth

CHILDREN (*by his second wife, Susanna Smith*)

Moses

Joshua

Samuel

Benjamin

Mary

Daughter, name not given

Miriam

Third Generation

WALTER HOYT

Born about 1618.
Married (wife's name unknown).
Died about 1698.

CHILDREN

John
Elizabeth
Hannah
ZERUBBABEL

Fourth Generation

ZERUBBABEL HAYT

Born between 1650 and 1654. Married twice—name of first wife unknown; second wife probably Widow Mehitabel Keeler.
Died between 1727 and 1738.

CHILDREN (*probably all by his first wife*)

Abigail
JOSEPH
Daniel
Hannah
Caleb
Rhoda

Fifth Generation

JOSEPH HAYT

Born 1676, 1677, or 1678.
Married Sarah (last name unknown).
Died 1730 or 1731.

CHILDREN

ZERUBBABEL
James
Moses
Joseph
Sarah
Elizabeth
Hannah

Sixth Generation

ZERUBBABEL HAYT

Born between 1698 and 1708.
Married Dorothy (last name unknown).
Died between 1790 and 1794.

CHILDREN

STEPHEN
Elizabeth
Dorothy
Justus
Major

Seventh Generation

STEPHEN HAYT

Born about 1730.
Married Martha Eells (born 1736; died 1811).
Died 1770.

CHILDREN

Stephen
Abigail
John
Samuel
Zephaniah
ANNA

Eighth Generation

ANNA HAYT (or Haight)

Born 1770.
Married, 1791, Elisha Lewis (born 1768; died probably 1822).
Died 1854.

CHILDREN

Patty Lewis
John C. Lewis
ELIZA ALLEN LEWIS
Stephen Lewis
James C. Lewis
Tompkins D. Lewis
Charles H. Lewis

Ninth Generation

ELIZA ALLEN LEWIS

Born 1797.

Married, first, 1821, James Mathews Christopher (born 1799; died 1824); married, second, 1831, Sextus Shearer.

Died 1853.

CHILDREN

By her first husband, James Mathews Christopher

ANNA HAIGHT CHRISTOPHER

By her second husband, Sextus Shearer

Lewis Shearer

Helen Elizabeth Shearer

Sextus Shearer, Jr.

(Probably three others, but their names are unknown)

Tenth Generation

ANNA HAIGHT CHRISTOPHER

Born 1822.

Married, 1849, James Russell Bissell (born 1808; died 1887).

Died 1905.

(See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation.)

FIRST GENERATION

JOHN HOYT

No record has been found of John Hoyt other than that his wife's name was Ruth, and that he lived at Dorchester, England, where his son Simon was born in 1590.

SECOND GENERATION

SIMON HOYT

The Immigrant Ancestor

"The following records were taken from the Parish Church records at Upway, England, by Cornelius Haight of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York.

"Simon Hoyt, son of John and Ruth Hoyt, was born at Dorchester, England, January 20, 1590, and died September 1, 1657, at Stamford, Connecticut. He married, first, at Parish Church, Upway, 1612, Deborah Stowers, daughter of Walter Stowers. She was born at Dorchester, England, May 1, 1593, baptized Upway parish church, June 5, 1593. Date and place of death not known. Simon married, second, after coming to America, Susanna Smith, who survived him. She married, second, Robert Bates, and died about 1674, at Stamford, Connecticut.

"In 1628, Simon Hoyt, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Nicholas Stowers, and the Spragues, who were all from Upway in Dorsetshire, came to America in the ship 'Abigail' with Governor John Endicott, arriving at Salem, Massachusetts, September 6th. In 1629 he went to Charlestown. In 1630, he was in Dorchester, his name appearing in the

records as Simon Hoit. In 1635, he was at Scituate, where he, with his wife, Susanna, joined the Church. In 1639 he went to Windsor, Connecticut, where he had four score acres of land granted to him by the Plantation, February 28, 1640. A house and lot was granted him in Fairfield, March, 1649, and his name appears in a list of the pioneers of Stamford." (From the "Lyon Memorial, New York Families," page 279, "The Hoyt (Haight) Family.")

A much more complete account of Simon Hoyt is given in the book, "The Hoyt, Haight and Hight Families in America," by D. W. Hoyt; but at the beginning of the record of Simon Hoyt (in the volume consulted at the New York Public Library) there has been written in ink in the margin: "For correct record see Lyon Memorial, 1907, Vol. 3, p. 279" (which is the sketch previously given). For this reason we do not insert here Hoyt's account of Simon, the immigrant ancestor, but for purposes of record and comparison, we quote below the account given by Stiles in his "Ancient Windsor" (1892).

"Hoyt (Hoit, Hoyte, Hoite, Haight). (Revision with the aid of Frederick Everest Haight of New York City.)

"Simon, the progenitor of the name in this country, was born in the year 1595, and it would seem probable that his birthplace was Curry Rivel, Somersetshire, England. He was one of the company that came to this country under the leadership of Governor John Endicott in the ship 'Abigail'; arriving at Salem the 6th of September, 1628. During the summer of 1629 he and a few others, at the request of Governor Endicott, explored and settled Charlestown; but he cannot have remained there long, as he was one of the first settlers of Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1630, where he remained until 1635, when it was ordered that 'the lott of meadow that was Simeon Hoyte's next to Boston side joyning to John Witchfield, shall be divided betwixt Mr. Roger Williams and Gyles Gibbs.' May 18, 1631, he had been made freeman, being one of the first in Massachusetts. From Dorchester, he went, in 1633* to Scituate, where he married his second wife, Susanna

* This date is not in agreement with the statement made just previously, that he remained in Dorchester until 1635.

Smith, and in April, 1635, with her joined the church at that place. As he had sold his property there to Mr. Bower before 1636, it would seem that he went to Windsor in the first, or one of the first companies, although Hinman puts him down as one of those who went to Windsor in 1639 with the Reverend Mr. Huit. The Particular Court, on May 7, 1640, taking into consideration the long distance between Simon Hoyt's house and the general settlement, did order that 'Simon Hoyette and his family are to be freed fro' watch and ward until there be further order taken by the Court.' Later (28 February, 1640)* eighty acres were granted him by the town. He must have moved from Windsor to Fairfield about 1649, as a home lot of two and one-half acres of land was granted him there in March of that year, and he shortly after bought other lots there.

"He found his last home and resting place in Stamford, where he died September 1st, 1657, after having been either an early or one of the first settlers in seven New England towns. 'Old Goode Hoyt' died at Windsor, 1664."

Simon Hoyt's holdings in land, described extensively in D. W. Hoyt's book, are not listed here, since the statement that he was an owner of considerable land seems to be sufficient. This extract, taken from Hoyt's book, may, however, be of interest:

"The following is also found on the Stamford records, worn and torn and partially illegible, especially the columns of shillings and pence:

* Note evident error in dates—February 28 would not be *later* than May 7, 1640.

"Octo 9: 57 An Inventory of y^e Estate of Simon Hoyte taken by
ff (illegible) Rich Law:

Entry 24: 3^m
1659

	lb.
Impmus 3 Cowes.....	15-
It 2 oxes.....	15-
It 4: 2: years.....	10-
It 1: 3: year old com time.....	03-
It 1 yearl-g.....	01-
It one Horse.....	10-0
It one mare & Colt.....	20-0
It one yearl-g colt with time.....	12-0-0
It p Land.....	30-0-0
It one Homelott & a mill.....	30-0-0
It in pute ^r	01-
It in brass, 1: pan 1: pot, 1: mortte ^r , 2: cittills.....	02-
It in Iron, 1: pot, 2 lesser pots.....	03-
It more Iron, axes, howes Chaines.....	05-
It armes, 1 gun, 3 swords 2: barrells.....	02-08
It in woollen Cloathes.....	05-06
It one hat & lether Jacket.....	00-07
It one paire sheets & 43 yards new cloth.....	07-09
It too chests, 2 wheeles.....	01-02
It in Coops ware.....	01-03
It in Turne's ware.....	00-03
It three Earthen pots.....	00-
It one sadle & roapes & tow comes.....	01-
It in beding.....	06-
It (sivory?) & marking Iron.....	00-
It one colte ^r & old Iron.....	00-
It in Indian corn, 10: bushells.....	01-
It 25 bushells wheat.....	05-
It 80: ib: of tobaca.....	01-
It cart & plow & wheeles.....	02-
It two yoaks.....	00-
It in Debts, Due.....	05-
It in Hey six load.....	05-
It in pease 40 bushells.....	07-
It 14 swine.....	20-
It 2 hides.....	00-
	<hr/> 233-
It in Debts ow-g.....	01-
It oweing 25 bushells wheat.....	05-
It owing.....	00- "

CHILDREN OF SIMON HOYT

Third Generation

By his first wife, Deborah Stowers

JOHN HOYT

Born March 12, 1614. Married Mrs. Mary Purdy. Died 1684.

WALTER HOYT

(See record given elsewhere.)

THOMAS HOYT

Born September 20, 1618. Died September 9, 1656.

DEBORAH HOYT

Born August 9, 1620. Died June 3, 1628.

NICHOLAS HOYT

Born November 10, 1622. Married Susanna Joyce, 1646.
Both died 1655.

RUTH HOYT

Born January 2, 1625. Died May 9, 1627.

By his second wife, Susanna Smith

MOSES HOYT

Born before 1637. Married Elizabeth (last name unknown).

JOSHUA HOYT

Born about 1641. Married Mary Bell, daughter of Francis and Rebecca Bell. Died 1690.

SAMUEL HOYT

Born about 1643. Married, first, 1671, Hannah Holly, who died 1710; second, Rebecca Gold, who died 1713; third, Mrs. Hannah Gold, senior, of Stamford, 1714. Died April 7, 1720.

BENJAMIN HOYT

Born 1644. Married, first, 1676, Hannah Weed, who died 1711; second, Abigail (last name unknown). Died 1735 or 1736.

MARY HOYT

Married Thomas Lyon.

A DAUGHTER, name not given. Married Samuel Finch.

MIRIAM HOYT

Married Samuel Firman.

(Stiles does not mention Thomas, Deborah, Ruth, Mary, Miriam.)

THIRD GENERATION

WALTER HOYT

Son of Simon and Deborah (Stowers) Hoyt

WALTER HOYT (SIMON,² JOHN¹) was born about 1618. The name of his wife and the date of their marriage are not given in any of the records searched. The earliest record respecting him is at Windsor, Connecticut, where a grant of land to him was recorded in 1640. From Rowland and Grant's old Windsor records we learn that Walter Hoyt, or Hayt, had three children born there.

Walter Hoyt soon removed from Windsor, and was one of the first settlers of Norwalk. The first record of Norwalk town proceedings is dated 1653. An entry dated December 18, 1653, relates to an agreement by the townsmen "with Ralph Keeiler and Walter Haite," about building a house for Mr. Hanford, the minister. At a town meeting held March 29, 1655, it was voted that "Walter Haite and Ralph Keeiler are to worke the fence for the yeere ensuing." The same year "Waltar Haite is to erect and sett up a good and sufficient gate leading into the meadows of the other side," and was one of the three who were to drive the cows to pasture.

In a table of "estate of lands and accommodations" in 1655 is "Walter Haite." His name does not appear in certain deeds and agreements dated 1650 and 1651; but in the Norwalk patent of 1686 "Mr. Walter Hoyt" is the fifth of the ten "proprietors of the Township of Norwalk" whose names are mentioned in that instrument as having possessed the land "for more than twenty years last past." The grants and deeds to Walter Haite occupy two pages, folio 8, of the first book of Norwalk grants and deeds.

In the table of "The Estates of lands and Accommodations of ye town of Norwalk" in February, 1671, we find, as one of the sixty-four names, "Walter Hayte £192." One of the seventy-eight names of

"The Estates of Commonage of the Inhabitants of Norwalk," January, 1687, is "Walter Hoyt, £242." In each case there are only eight persons who are rated at a higher sum.

In 1665 and 1670 Walter Haite was to beat the drum for meetings, and so forth, for 10 shillings. In October, 1679, (Walter) Haite was added to the committee "for the carrying on the worke of the new meeting house."

Walter Hayte was a selectman of Norwalk in 1672, and perhaps in other years. His name occurs very frequently on the town records. Walter Hoyte was a deputy for Norwalk in the General Court in 1658, 1659, 1661, 1667, 1668, 1670, 1671, 1673, 1674, 1676, 1678, and 1681. On the published records his name appears as a deputy at fourteen sessions in the above years, seven times as Hoyte, four times as Hoyt, and three times as Hoit. In nearly all these instances his name appears with the title "Sarj", he having been confirmed by the General Court as sergeant of a company at Norwalk in May, 1659. The name of Walter Hoyt occurs as late as December, 1694, on a list of Norwalk voters at town meetings.

Walter Hoite appeared at Fairfield, Connecticut, in 1684, and took oath as witness to the will of John Hoit of Rye, New York. He is then mentioned as being about sixty-five years old. Walter Hoyt died about 1698. His will is recorded at Fairfield, and the original is also on file there, one side of which is covered with what appears to be shorthand writing. The original will reads as follows:

"Norwalke the 11 of Feb'y 1695 or 6 the last will and testament of Walter Hayt aged aboute 78 yearse I the said Walter hayt Being ill and weacke Apprehending I shall not long continue in the land of the living—I will and bequeth my body unto the dust & a descent bueriall and my soull to god that gave it to me—and for that lettell Estat that god hath given me be disposed of as folloeth unto my tow sons namly John hayt of Danbury and my son Zaraball hayt that what land and medo and comonage I haue within the towne bounds of Norwalke be deuided equally to ech of them a like and also whatt other moubable

estat that I shall leue or may be left after my decesse—and that it be to them and there heirs and asines administrators to haue and to hold for ever—and this to be my last will: and to conttermend any former: and to stand good unto them—after my Joust debts be discharged—my desiar that my tow sones be executors vnto this my will—and this for to be my last will as witness my hand the day and yeare aboue dated it must be understood what lands I haue not disposed of before by Gift or deed

WALLTER HOYTE

syined In the presence of us

wittness

John Platt Se^r

Joseph Sension”

“The will and Inuentory of ye Estate of Walter Hoit of Norwalk deceased being Exhibited to y^e Prerogatiue Court In Fairfield this 11: of Aprill 1699 and the Court do Aproue s^d Will and Inuentory and do order them to be recorded.

Nathan Gold Clerk.”

The copy on the book of records differs somewhat in orthography from the original, but the words are identical. In the copy the name is sometimes Hayt, and sometimes Hait, but the signature is copied “Walter Hayt.” In the original the signature is not very legible, the writer having been an old man at the time. It seems to be “Wallter hoyte,” as given above, though it may be intended for Hayte. His signature to deeds on the Norwalk records in 1686 reads Hoyt.

An inventory of the estate of “Walter Hayte of Norwalk” is on file at Fairfield, and is dated January 10, 1698. It contains nine items in all, amounting to about £167, of which £150 is the value of the land, including meadow, commonage, and so forth.

On the town records of Norwalk we find an entry commencing thus: “Whereas Walter Hoyt of Norwalk Deceased and Dyed posesed of sum considerable Estate: both in Lands and moveables, as appears both by his will and Inuentory, and Bequeathing the whole tharof

vnto his two sonnns, namely John Hoyt Sen^r of Danberry And Zerrub-
babell Hoyt of Norwalk equally to be Divided Between them."

CHILDREN OF WALTER HOYT

Fourth Generation

JOHN HOYT

Born 1644, at Windsor, Connecticut. Married, first, Mary
Lindall, 1666; second, Hannah (last name unknown). He
lived at Norwalk and at Danbury, and died about 1711, leaving
a widow, Hannah.

ELIZABETH HOYT

Married Samuel Sention of Norwalk, 1663.

HANNAH HOYT

Married Judah Gregory of Norwalk, 1664.

ZERUBBABEL HOYT

(See record following.)

FOURTH GENERATION

ZERUBBABEL HAYT

Son of Walter Hoyt

ZERUBBABEL HAYT (WALTER,³ SIMON,² JOHN¹) was born between 1650 and 1654. He was married twice. The name of his first wife is not stated in any of the records consulted. His second wife was probably the Widow Mehitabel Keeler, whom he married before 1725, since we find a deed dated January, 1724-25, from John Keeler, David Keeler, and Daniel Keeler of Norwalk to their "honored mother, Mahitabel Hayt, now wife of Dea. Zerubbabel Hayt of Norwalk."

Zerubbabel Hayt lived in Norwalk and died between 1727 and 1738.

On the Norwalk records we find that December, 1680, "Zerubbabell Haite hath undertaken to beate the drumme for publick meetings, and also for such stray horses as are brought in to be sould, for which he is to have fourteen shillings; and ten pence a time that stray horses are brought in to be sould." February, 1686, "Zerubbabell Hoyt did ingage to beat the Drum and maintaine it, and that on all publique occasions; and to sweep the meeting house for the yeere insuing, and is allowed for his labor two and forty shillings." January, 1687, "Estates of Commonage of the Inhabitants of Norwalk," Zerubbabel Hoyt, £50. We also find that Zerubbabell Hoyt was on the list of voters in December, 1694; received 5s for "half one wolf," December, 1701; and the same month was chosen one of the pounders "for to pound all swine that are on the comons of the towne after the 1st of March next ensueing, not sufficiently yoaked and Ringed"; in 1706, was one of a committee of seven to "order and determine" the "seating of the meeting house," having "respect to age, quality, and the estates of persons in the publique list"; December, 1708, was one of a committee of three to locate a burying place for the "inhabitants on the

west side of Norwalk River." December 11, 1713, "the town grants to Zerubbabell Hoyt twenty-six shillings in pay, or two thirds money, for his ringing y^e bell, at nine a'clock at night, for y^e year ensuing; and the said Hoyt ingages to performe the same." The estate of Zerubabel Hayt on the "account of Commonage," December, 1721, was £342, there being only two or three others as large.

From the records thus far quoted it will be seen that in most cases his name appears as Hoyt. On the Norwalk record of births, marriages, and deaths the name is Haite in all cases before 1700, and Hayt afterward. On one page of the land records we find five lots of land, containing eighty-nine acres, granted by the town of Norwalk to Zerubabel Hoyt, February, 1699. We find a deed from Walter Hoyt to his son Zerubbabel in 1692, and from Zerubbabel Hayt to his three sons, at various times from 1704 to 1726; also, land laid out to him and his three sons at Canoe Hill in 1712, and various other deeds of Zerubabel Hayt from 1703 to 1723, and perhaps later.

He was called Deacon as early as 1717, and probably earlier.

From the Colonial Records of Connecticut, we learn that in May, 1697, Zerubbabel Hayt was one of nine persons who, by an order of the General Court, were "to purchase of the Indians a certain tract of land lying about fourteen miles northward of the town of Norwalk to settle a plantation there."

In 1698 Zerubbabel Hoit signed the inventory of the estate of Thomas Hyatt.

We find no probate records relating to the disposition of his own estate. He was between seventy-five and eighty-five years of age at the time of his death. He is referred to as deceased, late of Norwalk, January 25, 1738-39, in an indenture between his heirs. We find a deed of Zerubbabel Hayt in 1733, and a record of land laid out to him at Canoe Hill in 1735, but it is possible that these may refer to his grandson, Zerubbabel.

CHILDREN OF ZERUBBABEL HAYT

Fifth Generation

By his first wife

ABIGAIL HAYT

Born 1675.

JOSEPH HAYT

(See record given elsewhere.)

DANIEL HAYT

(Called Deacon.) Born 1681. Married twice. Name of first wife unknown; second wife, Widow Sarah Starr of Danbury, whom he married about 1748. Died between 1756 and 1764.

HANNAH HAYT

Married Joseph Whitney of Norwalk, 1704.

CALEB HAYT

Married Mrs. Mehitabel (Keeler) Blatchly, 1707 or 1708. Both died 1755.

RHODA HAYT

Married John Keeler, Jr., of Norwalk, 1710.

FIFTH GENERATION

JOSEPH HAYT

Son of Zerubbabel Hayt

JOSEPH HAYT (ZERUBBABEL,⁴ WALTER,³ SIMON,² JOHN¹) was born in 1676, 1677, or 1678. He married Sarah (last name unknown), and lived at Norwalk, Connecticut. He died December, 1730, or January, 1731.

Land in Norwalk on the east side of Five-mile River was granted to Joseph Hoyt, recorded on the same page with land of his father, February, 1699. His father deeded him a house and home lot in 1704, other land in 1710, 1721-22, 1725-26, and so forth. Joseph Hayt's name occurs often on the land records of Norwalk.

In the account of Commonage, December, 1721, is the entry "Joseph Hayt, £100."

His will was recorded at Fairfield, dated December 28, 1730, proved January 22, 1731. His wife, Sarah, and seven children are named.

CHILDREN OF JOSEPH HAYT

Sixth Generation

ZERUBBABEL HAYT

(See record given elsewhere.)

JAMES HAYT

Born 1708. Lived at Norwalk. Married Hannah Gould, who died 1778, aged sixty-three. Died 1774.

MOSES HAYT

Born before 1712. Lived at Norwalk. Married Mary (last name unknown). Died about 1785.

JOSEPH HAYT

Born after 1709. Lived at Norwalk, and was married, but the name of his wife is unknown. Died probably about 1782.

THE HOYT FAMILY

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SARAH HAYT

ELIZABETH HAYT

Married Samuel Raymond, Jr., before 1720.

HANNAH HAYT

SIXTH GENERATION

ZERUBBABEL HAYT

Son of Joseph Hayt

ZERUBBABEL HAYT (JOSEPH,⁵ZERUBBABEL,⁴WALTER,³SIMON,²JOHN¹) was born between 1698 and 1708. He was the eldest son of Joseph Hayt. He married Dorothy (last name unknown), and lived at Norwalk, New Canaan Parish, Connecticut, and at Bedford, Westchester County, New York. He died between 1790 and 1794.

He and his brother, Moses Hayt, signed an indenture relating to the estate of their grandfather, Zerubbabel, in 1738. His name appears as one of the committee appointed at the first meeting of the New Canaan Society, July, 1731. He and his wife, Dorothy, were added to the New Canaan church May 8, 1737, and their children were baptized there in 1736 and 1739. In January, 1748-49, Zerubbabel Hoyt or Hight of New Canaan Parish bought land in Bedford, and he removed there probably about 1749. We find deeds from Zerubbabel Hoyt and Dorothy Hoyt to their eldest son, Stephen Hoyt, in 1770; and from Zerubbabel Hayt to his son, Major Hayt, in 1788, all of Bedford, and acknowledged October, 1790, by witnesses.

CHILDREN OF ZERUBBABEL HAYT

Seventh Generation

STEPHEN HAYT

(See record given elsewhere.)

ELIZABETH HAYT

Baptized March 30, 1736, at New Canaan. Married Matthew Fountain.

DOROTHY HAYT

Baptized September 2, 1739, at New Canaan. Married John Combs.

JUSTUS HAYT

Born 1742 or 1743. Married, 1765, Elizabeth Fitch, who died 1830. Died 1823.

MAJOR HAYT

Born 1745. Married, first, Jerusha Newman, who died 1798; and second, Phebe (last name unknown). Lived at Bedford, N. Y., in the old Hayt homestead, and died 1816.

SEVENTH GENERATION

STEPHEN HAYT

Son of Zerubbabel Hayt

STEPHEN HAYT (ZERUBBABEL,⁶ JOSEPH,⁵ ZERUBBABEL,⁴ WALTER,³ SIMON,² JOHN¹) was born about 1730. He married Martha Eells (daughter of the Reverend John Eells of New Canaan, Connecticut), and lived at Bedford, Westchester County, New York. The old records show that his father and mother deeded land to their "eldest son, Stephen, in 1770." He served in the French War. He died in 1770.

The following excerpt regarding his will is taken from the "Abstract of Wills of New York State," printed for the New York Historical Society:

"In the name of God, amen. I, Stephen Hoyt, of Bedford, Westchester County, being sick in body. I will and positively order that all debts be paid. I leave to my wife Martha a mare and saddle, two cows, and all household goods, and the use of my house and land for the bringing up of the children, and also all movables. When the youngest child is of age, all lands and estate to be sold and divided among all my children, excepting that my son Stephen shall have £3 more than either of them. [The names of the other children are not given in the will.] I make Matthew Fountain executor and trustee for the children."

"Dated February 7, 1770. Witnesses Nehemiah Lounsbury, Joseph Owen, Jeremiah Lounsbury. Proved March 3, 1770, by David Dayton, Surrogate."

After his death his widow, Mrs. Martha (Eells) Hayt, married Nathaniel Newman. She was born in 1736 and died September 28, 1811.

CHILDREN OF STEPHEN AND MARTHA (EELLS) HAYT

Eighth Generation

STEPHEN HAYT

Born at Bedford, N. Y., 1760. Married, 1785, Hannah Delavan, who died 1843, aged eighty. He was a farmer, and lived at Patterson, Putnam County, N. Y. He served in the Revolution. Died 1834.

ABIGAIL HAYT

Born 1761. Married Charles Dimond, and settled in Pennsylvania.

JOHN HAYT

Born at Bedford, N. Y., 1763. Married, 1794, Elizabeth Delavan, who died 1845, aged seventy-three. He was a tanner and currier, and lived at Fredericksburgh, Dutchess County, now Patterson, Putnam County, N. Y. He died 1838.

SAMUEL HAYT

Born at Bedford, N. Y., 1765. Married, first, 1789, Sarah Delavan, who died 1829; second, 1831, Rebecca Dibble Knapp (widow of Noah Knapp), who died 1843. Though quite young, he served in the Revolutionary War. In addition to being a farmer he was a shoemaker, a tanner, and a currier. He lived most of his life at Patterson, Putnam County, N. Y., and died 1850.

ZEPHANIAH HAYT

Born at Bedford, N. Y., 1767. Married, about 1795, Sarah Ogden Hurlbutt. He was a shoemaker and lived at Patterson, and later at Romulus, N. Y. Died 1842.

ANNA HAYT

(See record following.)

EIGHTH GENERATION

ANNA HAYT

Daughter of Stephen and Martha (Eells) Hayt

ANNA HAYT* (STEPHEN,⁷ ZERUBBABEL,⁶ JOSEPH,⁵ ZERUBBABEL,⁴ WALTER,³ SIMON,² JOHN¹) was born at Patterson, Dutchess (now Putnam) County, New York, January 15, 1770. She married, in Dutchess County, December 4, 1791, Elisha Lewis, son of Enoch Lewis. Bissell family records (in the handwriting of Mrs. James Russell Bissell) state that Elisha Lewis was born September 4, 1768, at Patterson, New York; and that he died December 22, 1822, at Hartland, New York, aged fifty-four years, nine months, sixteen days. Other family records state that he died December 27, 1822, aged fifty-seven; and still other records give the year of his death as 1823. In these records the length of life given for Elisha Lewis is not consistent with the dates given of his birth and death.†

Family records state, further, that Elisha Lewis was "distinguished as a lawyer," but this has not been corroborated by any published records found.

D. W. Hoyt, in the "Hoyt, Haight, and Hight Families," states that Mr. and Mrs. Lewis "settled in Western New York"; and the Bissell family records show that they resided during most of their married life near Lockport,† New York. They lived for some years, however, in Putnam County, since in the "History of Putnam County," by William S. Pelletreau (1886), we find the names of an Enoch and an Elisha Lewis in the "General list of all dwelling houses . . . and the lots on which the same are erected (not exceeding two acres in any case) here owned, possessed or occupied on the first day of October,

* Also spelled Haight.

† Lockport is about seven miles from Hartland, where Elisha Lewis is believed to have died.

‡ Mrs. Lewis died August 18, 1854, at Huntington, Indiana.

1798, in the town of Franklin, 6th division, being within the first assessment District in the 4th division, in the State of New York."

Quoting further from Pelletreau: "At a meeting of the Hudson Presbytery in September, 1794, Rev. John Close was appointed to organize the church in Frederickburg and administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which he performed April, 1795. At that time Mr. John Hayt and Mr. Enoch Lewis were admitted members of the church. . . . In June, 1795, Rev. Isaac Orton was employed to preach and continued until September, 1798. Under his ministry Mrs. Anna Lewis, wife of Mr. Elisha Lewis, was admitted a member."

The first five children of Anna and Elisha Lewis were born in Putnam County. Their last two children, Tompkins D. and Charles H., were born near Ovid, Seneca County, New York, in 1805 and 1807 respectively; and their oldest child, Patty, was married in Ovid in 1809.

These facts serve in a measure to trace the movement of the family.

No published records concerning the antecedents of Elisha Lewis have been found. The Bissell family records state that Elisha's father was Enoch Lewis. The statement is made in Pelletreau's "History of Putnam County" that, in the old burying ground at Patterson, there is a stone marked "Sarah, wife of Enoch Lewis, died November 22, 1787, aged 40." The date would make it possible for this to be the mother of the Elisha Lewis in whom we are interested, but there is no proof to this effect.

Bissell family records state that "one of Elisha Lewis's brothers was the Reverend Stephen Lewis, Rector of the Old North Church, Boston, Mass., from 1778* to 1785, the first Rector after the Revolution." If these dates are correct, it would not be possible for the "Sarah, wife of Enoch Lewis, who died November 22, 1787, aged 40," to be his mother. It would be possible, however, if 1785 and not 1778 were the year of his ministry. In Winsor's "Memorial History of Boston," on page 447, we find: "In the meantime, the Reverend Stephen C. Lewis, who had been Chaplain of a regiment of Light Dragoons in the

* 1778 was not "after the Revolution."

army of General Burgoyne, had become the regular minister of Christ Church." There is no proof that these two records refer to the same Stephen Lewis, nor have we proof, other than family tradition, that Stephen Lewis, the minister, was the brother of Elisha. From the dates it would seem much more probable that he was the uncle, not the brother, of Elisha.

CHILDREN OF ELISHA AND ANNA (HAIGHT) LEWIS

Ninth Generation

PATTY LEWIS

Born 1792, in Putnam County, N. Y. Married Joel Seeley, 1809, at Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y. He died in Michigan, 1851; she died 1866, at Oxford, Mich.

JOHN C. LEWIS

Born 1795, in Putnam County, N. Y. Married, 1819, at Stephentown, N. Y., Miriam P. Douglass. She died 1855, and he died 1870, both at Huntington, Ind.

ELIZA ALLEN LEWIS

(See record following.)

STEPHEN LEWIS

Born 1800 and died 1802 in Putnam County, N. Y.

JAMES C. LEWIS

Born 1802, in Putnam County, N. Y. Married, 1831, at Hartland, Niagara County, N. Y., Sarah J. Arnold. Died 1845 at Lockport, N. Y.

TOMPKINS D. LEWIS

Born 1805 at Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y. Married, first, 1829, Emeline Sabin, who died 1830; second, 1832, Isabella S. Allen, who died 1834; third, 1835, Frances Hope Allen, who died 1842; fourth, 1844, Eliza Ann Benjamin, who probably outlived him. Died 1847 at Homer, Ill.

CHARLES H. LEWIS

Born 1807, near Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y. Married at Rochester, N. Y., 1837 or 1839, Hester Christopher. The records are not clear as to whether Mr. Lewis or his wife died at Huntington, Ind., October 19, 1884.

In the Bissell family records there is a statement that the sons of Mrs. Anna Hayt Lewis "were professional men, physicians and lawyers."

NINTH GENERATION

ELIZA ALLEN LEWIS

Daughter of Elisha and Anna (Haight) Lewis

ELIZA ALLEN LEWIS was born in Dutchess County, New York, November 22, 1797. She married James Mathews Christopher, at Hartland, Niagara County, New York, the date being given in the Bissell family records, both as May 6 and May 22, 1821, and her name being written "Eliza" in some entries and "Elizabeth" in others.

James Mathews Christopher was the son of John Garrison and Elizabeth (Mathews) Christopher,* and was born April 25, 1799. According to one record he died December 29, 1824, at Hartland, and according to another, at Lockport, New York. (Lockport and Hartland are about seven miles apart.)

Mrs. Eliza Allen (Lewis) Christopher married, second, Sextus Shearer, January 25, 1831, at Hartland, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Shearer removed to Buffalo, New York, where they resided for some years. They removed to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1843, and Mrs. Shearer died there January 21, 1853. Mr. Shearer removed, later, to California.

CHILDREN OF ELIZA ALLEN LEWIS

Tenth Generation

By her first husband, James Mathews Christopher

ANNA HAIGHT CHRISTOPHER

Married James Russell Bissell. (See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation.)

By her second husband, Sextus Shearer

LEWIS SHEARER

Born May 18, 1832. Married, November 15, 1859, Mary Helen Lawrence. Died December 25, 1887.

* See records of the Strong Family, Sixth and Seventh Generations.

CHILDREN OF LEWIS AND MARY HELEN (LAWRENCE) SHEARER

Helen Shearer. Married a Mr. Craig.

Elizabeth Lawrence Shearer.

Margaret Shearer. Married a Mr. Guppy.

HELEN ELIZABETH SHEARER

Born April 4, 1837. Married David Barton Wilson. Died April 5, 1917.

CHILDREN OF DAVID BARTON AND HELEN ELIZABETH (SHEARER) WILSON

Harry Douglass Wilson. Married Eloise Morrison Bissell, daughter of James Russell and Anna Haight (Christopher) Bissell. (See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation; see also Appendix for further record of the family of Harry Douglass and Eloise Morrison (Bissell) Wilson.)

Bissell Wilson

Anna Christopher Wilson

Helen Wilson. Married a Mr. Minor.

Andrew Wilson

SEXTUS SHEARER, JR.

Born at Buffalo, N. Y., October 14, 1838. In 1843 his family removed to St. Louis, Missouri, from which place he entered college. In December, 1861, he left New York for San Francisco (at that time his father's residence), via Cape Horn, and returned by the same route in November, 1866. During the larger portion of the intermediate time he was in a law office in San Francisco, and after relinquishing the idea of making the law his profession, he spent some time in teaching. On his return to the East he entered the Divinity School at Cambridge, Massachusetts. In February, 1868, his studies were interrupted by a violent attack of bronchitis, and on the advice of physicians he sailed for California on June first. Notwithstanding the change of climate, the change of seasons, and the most strenuous efforts of friends to baffle the disease, he sank rapidly and died of consumption at San Diego, Lower California, March 5, 1868. With rare talents, kindness of heart, and devotion to high purposes, his prospects of usefulness were thus terminated before he had even entered on his work. His death was sudden, for he rode six miles on the previous day, and had taken more or less exercise every day. (From the Shearer family records.)

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

LEWIS BISSELL

LEWIS BISSELL was the son of Major Russell Bissell* and a nephew of General Daniel Bissell. He was born October 12, 1789, in Hartford County, Connecticut. His military record is given in Heitman's "Historical Register" as follows: "Ensign 1st Infantry, 12 December, 1808; 2nd lieutenant, 12 March, 1812; 1st lieutenant, 30 March, 1814; captain, 30 June, 1814; transferred to 3rd infantry, 17 May, 1815; transferred to 8th infantry, 2nd December, 1815; resigned 31st March, 1817." The Bissell family records state that he fought under General Scott at the battle of Lundy's Lane, and that he was commandant of the fort where Omaha now stands. After his retirement from the Army, he settled at St. Louis, Missouri. He married, first, in 1824, Mary Woodbridge of Manchester, Connecticut. She died in 1834. He married, second, Mary Douglas, in 1842 (other records give this date as 1837). He died November 26, 1868.

CHILDREN by his first wife, Mary Woodbridge.

James. Born 1826. Died at St. Louis, Mo., 1888.

Mary. Born 1828. Married William Morrison. Died 1850.

George. Born 1830. Graduated from West Point Military Academy. Married Virginia Reyburn in 1858. They resided in San Francisco, and had children—Eugene, Louis, Cora, and others.

Anna. Born 1832. Married Governor Henry Haight of California.

CHILDREN by his second wife, Mary Douglas.

Cornelia. Married A. Provines.

Sophie. Married Richard Cheney.

Ludy. Married Samuel May.

Anne. Married George F. Wilson.

Lewis. Died young.

Taylor. Lived in Staunton, Va.

(According to some records, there were two other children, but their names are not given.)

* See list of children of Ozias Bissell, Fifth Generation, Bissell records.

THE FAMILY OF DANIEL RUSSELL BISSELL*

Son of James Russell and Anna Haight (Christopher) Bissell

Daniel Russell Bissell married, in St. Louis County, December 17, 1874, Evelyn Holmes Richardson.

CHILDREN

Elizabeth Richardson Bissell. Born January 9, 1876. Married, first, Arthur North of Labady, Missouri. One child: Virginia Bissell North. Married, second, Henry P. Hilliard of Austin, Texas. One child: Henri P. Hilliard. They live at Santa Rosa, California.

James Russell Bissell. Born November 11, 1877. Married Maude Stephenson Stokely of Kansas City, Missouri. One child: James Russell Bissell, Jr. They live at St. Louis, Missouri.

Anna Christopher Bissell. Born July 25, 1879. Died December 18, 1918.

Daniel Russell Bissell. Born October 15, 1881. Married Winter Custus Trader of Austin, Texas. Three children: Daniel Richardson Bissell, Evelyn May Bissell, Beverly Trader Bissell.

French Rayburn Bissell. Born September 16, 1884. Died February 28, 1893.

Evelyn Holmes Richardson, wife of Daniel Russell Bissell, is the daughter of Colonel Francis DuBose and Elizabeth Dunbar (Holmes) Richardson.

Colonel Francis DuBose Richardson was born in Wilkenson County, Mississippi, August 20, 1812. His father and mother were from Sumter County, South Carolina, and they were among the pioneers of Mississippi. His mother was Margaret DuBose, a descendant of a Huguenot refugee from France. His father was Colonel John Taulden Richardson, who served as Lieutenant Colonel in the War of 1812, and was an active participant in the engagements below New Orleans when the British attempted to capture the city. He moved to Louisiana in 1823 and established himself in the Teche Country.

Colonel Francis DuBose Richardson succeeded his father in the sugar planting business, and for nearly sixty years was a resident of Iberico Parish, Louisiana. He was very active in Louisiana politics, and was a member of the Legislature for several terms.

He married, in 1833, Bethia Liddle of Wilkenson County, Mississippi.

* See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation.

She lived only two years after their marriage. While the dates of the births of Colonel Richardson's children are not given, it would seem from the names that the following must have been the children of this first marriage:

Frank Liddle Richardson (Colonel). Lived in New Orleans, Louisiana.
Bethia Liddle Richardson. Married Donaldson Caffery of Franklin, Louisiana, who was Senator from Louisiana for seven years.

Colonel Francis DuBose Richardson married, second, in 1835, Elizabeth Dunbar Holmes of Lexington, Kentucky. She was a descendant of Henry Clay.

CHILDREN

Evelyn Holmes Richardson. Married Daniel Russell Bissell of St. Louis.
Daniel DuBose Richardson. Married Nannie Jennings of St. Louis.
Kate Sessions Richardson. Married Walter Davis of Lake Village, Arkansas.
Eloise Dunbar Richardson. Married Cumberland McBride of St. Louis County.
Anna Richardson. Married George Nonemacher of Springfield, Missouri.
Helen Lee Richardson and Mary Louise Richardson, both of whom remained single and were missionaries to Shanghai, China.

THE FAMILY OF ELOISE MORRISON BISSELL*

Daughter of James Russell and Anna Haight (Christopher) Bissell

Eloise Morrison Bissell married, October 10, 1888, Harry Douglass Wilson. He was the son of David Barton and Helen Elizabeth (Shearer) Wilson,† and was the eldest of seven children, four sons and three daughters. He was born May 1, 1860, at St. Louis, Missouri.

When but twelve years of age, Harry Douglass Wilson removed, with his parents, to Oakland, California. He was graduated from the high school of that city, and then entered the University of California, from which he was graduated in 1883 with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. After graduation, he entered the service of the Missouri Pacific Railroad at St. Louis, as a

* See the Bissell records, Seventh Generation.

†Helen Elizabeth Shearer was the daughter of Eliza Allen Lewis by her second husband, Sextus Shearer. See the Hoyt records, Ninth Generation.

clerk in the office of the General Passenger Agent. In 1888 he was transferred from St. Louis to Memphis, Tennessee, as Division Passenger Agent. He continued to be advanced, and eventually reached the position of importance and responsibility which he held at the time of his death. He died at Memphis, December 10, 1923.

Mr. Wilson belonged to the Memphis Traffic Club, the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club. He was at one time President of the Chickasaw Club of Memphis. He was a Thirty-second Degree Mason, a Knight Templar, and a Shriner. He was a Past Eminent Commander of Memphis Commandery Number Four, Knights Templar, and a Past Potentate of Al Chymia.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Douglass Wilson are:

SEXTUS SHEARER WILSON

Born November 25, 1889, at St. Louis, Missouri. Was graduated in 1907 from the Memphis University School at Memphis, Tennessee, and in 1908 from Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. Married, October 21, 1914, Nancy Lee Nunn, daughter of A. W. and Katherine (Reynolds) Nunn. Nancy Lee Nunn was born October 15, 1891, at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Sextus Shearer Wilson entered the cotton business, and at the time of writing this record, 1926, he controlled large plantation interests near Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

CHILDREN

Katherine Reynolds Wilson. Born May 23, 1916.

Eloise Bissell Wilson. Born April 22, 1919.

Sextus Shearer Wilson, Jr. Born January 30, 1925.

Henry Townsend Wilson

Born October 11, 1891, at St. Louis, Missouri. Was graduated from the University of Tennessee, where he completed a civil engineering course of four years. Served in the World War as a First Lieutenant of Artillery. Married, August 31, 1918, Martha Fritchey Eberly of Joplin, Missouri. She was born July 21, 1894, at Greensburg, Kansas. At the time of writing this record, 1926, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were living at Fort Worth, Texas, where Mr. Wilson was branch manager of the Mack International Motor Truck Company.

CHILDREN

Thomas Douglass Wilson. Born January 18, 1920.

Henry Townsend Wilson, Jr. Born July 4, 1921.