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John E. Forward

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The Drinkwater Family.

The family of Drinkwater can trace its history into the distant past both in this country and in England. The present generation can trace its ancestry through two separate lines, to the passengers of the Mayflower, and before that time the Drinkwater or Derwentwater name was prominent in England. James Radeliff is referred to as the last Earl of Derwentwater, showing that the family was an old one in his day. He was born in 1688, in Northumberland, was educated in France, and on the death of his father in 1705 he succeeded to the title and the estates. In 1715 he, with the Earl of Marr, whose estates were just over the border in Scotland, headed the rebellion for the purpose of placing James Edward, generally known as "the Pretender" on the throne of England. The attempt proved a failure, and Radeliff was taken prisoner in battle, condemned on charge of high

treason and beheaded on Tower Hill Feb. 24, 1716, when but 28 years of age. He was a brave and skillful warrior, a courteous and amiable gentleman, and his fate was mourned by the people as a public calamity.

That the family is of even older date than the time of Radcliff is shown by the coat of arms granted to Hugh Drinkwater (or Derwentwater) of Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1615. Copies of this coat of arms, finely executed in oil, on parchment, are in possession of descendants of Joseph Drinkwater, who died in North Yarmouth, Me., in 1784.

The Drinkwater family in this section of Maine can trace its origin to a common ancestor, Micajah Drinkwater, who came from North Yarmouth and settled in Northport on the farm now owned by his grandson, Mathew Drinkwater. Micajah's grandfather, Thomas Drinkwater, was born in England and came to America when a young man, settling in Taunton, Mass. He married Elizabeth Haskell, a daughter of John and Patience (Soule) Haskell. Patience Soule was a daughter of George Soule who came over in the Mayflower in

1620. Thomas Drinkwater died in 1710. His son Joseph married Jane Latham (or Leighton) and was one of the early settlers of North Yarmouth.

From 1675 to 1713 all the coast settlements of Maine suffered from the Indian wars, and North Yarmouth was abandoned. It was resettled in 1721-2, and Joseph and Jane Drinkwater were among those who had the courage to settle there. They raised a family of nine sons and two daughters, as follows:

Joseph, d. 1722, m. Mary Leach.

John, m. Susan Staples.

Michael (Micajah) b. 1739; m. Betsy (or Elizabeth) Bradford.

Thomas.

Phineas, m. Sweetser.

Samuel, m. Barbour.

David, m. Rachel (Tower) ?

Daniel, m. Rebecca Fisher.

William.

Sarah, m. Sylvanus Young.

Hannah, m. Capt Peter Weare.

Micajah Drinkwater, son of Joseph and Janet Latham Drinkwater, was born January 25, 1739, in the Garrison house on

the eastern end of Cousens' Island in Casco Bay, then a part of North Yarmouth. He married Elizabeth (or Betsy) Bradford, a descendant of William Bradford, the second Colonial Governor of Massachusetts, and a fellow passenger on the Mayflower with Micajah's ancestor, George Soule. Elizabeth Bradford was a daughter of William Bradford, who was probably a son of Lieutenant Governor William Bradford, and a grandson of Governor William Bradford. She was a lady of rare qualities of both mind and heart, and was familiarly known among the younger generations as "Grandmother Bradford."

Micajah Drinkwater died about 1825 or '30, and his wife about the same time. Their family was as follows:

Ammi, m. Hannah McKenny.

James, b. 1783, m. Miriam Stetson.

Micajah Jr., m. Amy Wyman, d. April 30, 1851.

Lemuel, m. Rebecca Veazie, d. December 27, 1849.

Josiah, b. November 17, 1770, m. Julia——, Eunice Wyman, Rachael Parker, d. July 3, 1858.

John, died unmarried.

Zenas, b. November 9, 1768, m. Cynthia A. Pendleton, d. January 28, 1853.

Nancy, m. Solomon Frohock.

William, m. Lucy Williams.

Betsy, m. John Knight.

————, m. John Clark.

————, m. ———— Chase.

The towns of Northport and Lincolnville were formerly known as the Plantations of Ducktrap and Canaan, and were settled about 1780. Micajah Drinkwater, his sons and sons-in-law settled on the farms along the shore between Saturday Cove and Lincolnville Beach. Northport was incorporated June 13, 1796, and Lincolnville in 1802. Prior to 1798 all this section was in Lincoln County; in that year Hancock County was formed, and in 1827, Waldo County was set off. Thus the Drinkwater homestead has been in three counties; was first in a proprietary plantation, and is now in one of the oldest towns in the State. When Ducktrap was first settled it was a part of the Waldo Patent, and was owned by General Samuel Waldo. In 1792 it became the property of

General Henry Knox, and in 1802 of Thorn-dike, Sears and Prescott. From these various owners Micajah and his earlier de-scendants bought their farms.

In the year 1800 the Governments of the United States and France made a treaty, one clause of which was that France should pay to the United States the value of all property of the United States or its citizens which had been destroyed or taken by French privatiers prior to that date. The claims were all paid into the United States Treasury soon after, but it was not until 80 years later that our government paid the amounts due to our own citizens. These were known as the French Spoliation claims. One of these claims, presented in 1819 by Jane Gardiner, administratrix, was on account of the brig *Ca Ira*, taken by a French privatier in 1797. The vessel was owned by Joseph Drinkwater, and com-manded by Captain Allen Drinkwater, both of North Yarmouth. The full amount allowed was \$6,344, of which \$3,434 was to Joseph Drinkwater; \$2,210 to Elisha Gardiner, another owner, and the remainder in lots of \$100 or \$200 to the underwriters

and others of Portland. The Drinkwaters here mentioned were probably brothers of Micajah.

It is related of the nine sons of Joseph Drinkwater, the son of Thomas, that all were masters of vessels, and all chanced to arrive in Boston the same day. The officer in command of the fort, learning that so many vessels had passed in, all in command of men of the same name, feared that some mischief was brewing and went up to the city to investigate the matter. He was surprised to find that it was true, and that the men were all brothers. He invited them to supper with him, and the event was long held in remembrance as having been in "Good old English style."

West Drinkwater and Elizabeth Elwell were married September 22, 1814, and the next morning, after the bridegroom had gone to his work, his young wife saw two barges filled with armed British soldiers approaching the shore. She notified the first man she could find, Zachariah Lawrence, and he went to the shore with his musket and secreted himself. When the boats approached he began giving

orders as to a force of soldiers, and to increase the deception dodged from tree to tree and fired at the boats from different points. The boats withdrew for re-inforcements, and while they were gone West Drinkwater, Alban Elwell, Solomon Frohock and David Alden collected a force and prepared to meet them. The party soon returned with re-inforcements, and by use of a swivel gun on one of the boats drove the defenders back. The British plundered the store of Jones Shaw and several houses, taking, among other things, the dresses and other finery worn by the ladies at the wedding the night before. Capt. Amos Pendleton afterwards went to Castine and recovered some of the property.

During the latter part of October, the same year, a crew consisting of West Drinkwater, Kingsbury Duncan, Jonathan Clark, Samuel Duncan and John Duncan, under command of Major Noah Miller, went on a cruise in Penobscot bay for the purpose of preventing supplies being carried to Castine for the British. Nov. 1st, they overhauled the British sloop Mary, near Turtle Head, and after a chase and

some trouble with her crew, succeeded in capturing her. She had on board a valuable cargo consisting principally of satins, laces, shawls, clothing, bales of cloth, etc. for the British officers and their families at Castine. The sloop and cargo were sold in Portland, the net proceeds being \$66,426.34. One-half was paid into the treasury of the United States and the other half was divided among the men who made the capture. Major Miller and Collector Hook of the custom house each claimed and received \$14,106.58, and the men received but \$1000 each. The injustice thus done the crew was remedied in 1856, by Congress voting to give to Drinkwater, Clark and the three Duncans the half formerly taken by the Government, and the amount, \$22,213.17, was equally divided among them or their heirs.

Col. Drinkwater, the English historian, published a "History of the Siege of Gibraltar," and in 1785, established the "Garrison library" with 45,000 volumes and an excellent reading room at Gibraltar.

One of the most popular authors of books for girls, Mrs. Jennie Maria Drink-

water Conklin, died April 30, 1901. She was born in Portland in 1841, and was married in 1880 to Rev. Nathaniel Conklin. Among her published works are "Tessa Wadsworth's Discipline," "Miss Prudence," "Fairfax Girls," and others.

Reunions.

In the latter part of August, 1898, a party met in a cottage at Northport Camp-ground, and one of the number remarked that all present were of Drinkwater descent. This led to arrangements for a reunion, which was held on the Micajah Drinkwater farm in Northport, September 2nd, the same year. Notice was sent to such as could be conveniently reached, and about fifty persons attended the meeting. A clam bake was held and a very enjoyable day was spent by all. It was then decided to hold a reunion and form an association the next year.

The second reunion was held at Temple Heights, in Northport, August 25, 1899. An Association was formed with the following officers:

President, Ansel Wadsworth. Vice Presidents, Mathew Drinkwater, Northport; Allen L. Drinkwater, Northport; Mrs. Aurlia S. Pendleton, Waltham, Mass.; Mrs. Fannie E. Sylvester, Belfast; Arno W.

Knight, Lincolnville; Emery O. Pendleton, Belfast; Mrs. Mary E. Ingalls, Belfast; Mrs. Cordelia Drinkwater, Northport; Mrs. Orilla McGilvery Bean, Hallowell.

Secretary, John S. Fernald, Belfast.

Treasurer, Alban F. Elwell, Northport.

The roll-book showed 94 persons present and joining the Association.

The third reunion was held at Temple Heights, August 7, 1900. The attendance was larger than at the previous meeting, but many were kept away by their duties at home, it being in "Old Home Week." Several members were present from Massachusetts and other States. The officers of the previous year were re-elected with the exception of a few changes in the Vice Presidents, which are as follows: Mathew Drinkwater, Northport; Allen L. Drinkwater, Northport; Mrs. Aurelia S. Pendleton Waltham, Mass.; Mrs. Fannie E. Sylvester, Belfast; Arno W. Knight, Lincolnville; Emery O. Pendleton, Belfast; Thomas O. D. Urquhart, Manchester, Mass.; Mrs. Cordelia Drinkwater, Northport; Mrs. Chas. T. Knight, Northport; Capt. John W. McGlivery, Searsport.

TO ALL DRINKWATER DESCENDANTS!

At the second reunion of the Drinkwater family, in 1899, I began to collect data for a family history, thinking I might have it in form to publish in ten years or less. I now have records, more or less complete of 205 families, including 596 persons descendant of Micajah Drinkwater, but still lack a large amount of data.

This little pamphlet is put forth in the hope of awakening a renewed interest among the descendants, by showing briefly a few of the interesting points in relation to our ancestry.

I would ask each one who is the head of a family to furnish me with the following:

Names of grandparents on Drinkwater side; names of parents; name of husband or wife; names of children.

With date of birth; to whom each was married; date of death of each member; so far as known.

Also the names of all who served in the army or navy in any of the wars of the United States, especially the Revolution or 1812.

This will cost you but 2 cents in postage and a little trouble, and will materially hasten the publication of the history.

JOHN S. FERNALD.

Aug. 31, 1901.

Belfast, Maine.



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