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Family Register

Nathaniel Oak



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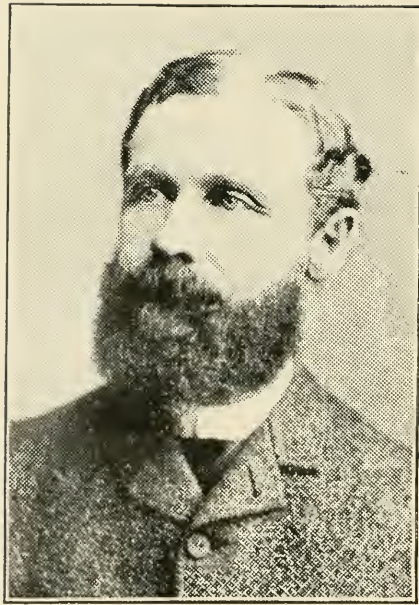












HENRY LEBBEUS OAK



OAK—OAKS—OAKES

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FAMILY REGISTER  
NATHANIEL OAK

OF MARLBOROUGH, MASS.

AND THREE GENERATIONS OF HIS DESCENDANTS  
IN BOTH MALE AND FEMALE LINES

By HENRY LEBBEUS OAK

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With Sketch of Life of

HENRY LEBBEUS OAK

HISTORICAL WRITER AND GENEALOGIST

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“HERE ARE THE NAMES OF MANY OAKS  
WHO LIVED AND DIED LIKE OTHER FOLKS.”

PRINTED FOR SUBSCRIBERS WITH PERMISSION OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF BOSTON, MASS.  
TO WHOM THE AUTHOR BEQUEATHED THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS

BY

ORA OAK, CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA

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## PREFACE.

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All history as a record of men's acts, is biography. To record facts is always a legitimate and worthy object. The record of a family is as valuable to the family as the record of a town to its inhabitants. The comprehensive genealogical record is to the tribe what the Bible or tombstone record is to the single family. It is in no proper sense a book for the public. It is put in print simply to insure greater permanence and accessibility. An ancient prejudice has caused the printing of a family history to be regarded as a sort of title hunting, or an effort to invest a commonplace family with a fictitious prominence. American genealogists as a rule have taken a different and proper view of the matter. Hundreds of such histories have been printed, thousands of them are being compiled, and the custom receives the hearty approval of the best men.

The undertaking of this work in 1891 was due to a realization of the fact—sad, though by no means new or peculiar—that the writer's own family was nearing extinction in its old home. In the quiet little adjoining New England towns of Garland and Exeter, Maine, where his great grandfather had died, as also his grandfather and great uncles and aunts, where their children had spent their lives; where he and others of his generation had been born—there were but five of the name surviving, all in old age. Soon the name would be found there only on tombstones.

The younger generations were widely scattered; and in a few years, all knowledge of the old home and the relationship between the branches there originating would be lost. Inspired by this somewhat sentimental view of the matter, the writer determined to compile and if possible to print a small pamphlet record of the ancestors and descendants of his great grandfather, the only Oaks of whom our family had any knowledge. As he progressed with the work he not only became fascinated with it—the usual experience of those who dabble in genealogy—but he came to realize that his branch of the family was only one of many; that Garland and Exeter were only one of many old homes whence the Oaks had been distributed—the same tender memories clustering about each of those centers as about ours. So the scope of the work was extended to include all descendants of our immigrant ancestor.

Isolated in the mountains of California, the writer has been obliged to rely on personal correspondence for the later generations; and for the earlier ones largely on the services of agents who have searched for him the archives and libraries. It is hoped that the record will compare favorably in accuracy with similar works. Doubtless there are errors. Correspondents are not always sufficiently careful. Searchers and copyists are by no means infallible. Records, civil and religious, often disagree. Relatives and friends give varying versions of a date or fact, and even the compiler has been known to make mistakes.

To members of the family who as a rule have promptly answered my queries, several in each branch collecting material outside of their immediate connections, and especially to the older women of the tribe—most enthusiastic and helpful of all—my hearty thanks are due.

This record includes descendants in the female lines, a feature generally disapproved by genealogists. The writer is unable to admit the force of any objection he has heard. The distinction between male and female lines is purely an artificial one, resulting from the custom of children taking the father's name. Every descendant of the sixth generation is as fully an Oak as the writer. In life for the few generations personally known to each individual we make no distinction in our feelings between the children of sons and daughters. On these ties during life are founded our feelings toward generations beyond our knowledge, both past and future. Why in either case should we reject the female lines if we care for the family at all?

#### OTHER OAKS IN AMERICA.

It is estimated that the Oaks in the United States may be divided into four nearly equal classes. First, the family here recorded. Second, the well-known and widely scattered Cambridge-Malden-North Yarmouth family, descendants of Thomas and Edward Oakes, who immigrated before 1640 and best known through Rev. Uriah, an early president of Harvard College.

Third, the descendants of William, a traditional immigrant from Wales, and whose sons William and probably John lived in Worcester County, Massachusetts, at the same time as our ancestors. They were doubtless remote kinsmen.

Fourth, a miscellaneous class, the largest element of which sprang from German immigrants settling in New York and Pennsylvania, writing the name originally Och or Ochs.

It is notable that in his voluminous correspondence the writer has found no descendants of any of the few Oaks named by Savage except Nathaniel, Edward and Thomas.

## INTRODUCTION.

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The descendants of Nathaniel Oak (1) through his sons so far as it has been possible to register them in eight years of diligent research, number about 10,000. If the descendants of his three daughters were added and all the missing lines and members were found the total would very likely be 20,000. The record of the first four generations as here printed contains 237 names. That is, the immigrant had 8 children, through his sons 35 grandchildren, and 193 great grandchildren.

The branches will be printed in like manner if the members will take copies enough to pay the cost of manufacture. Members whose means permit, and whose interest in the family goes beyond the early generations and their own branch, can purchase the other branch records.

As in the case of most immigrants, we know nothing of Nathaniel Oak's old-world pedigree, and no evidence has been found of kinship with other families of the name in America. As to the name, the immigrant wrote it "Oak," or sometimes "Oake"; so did his children, except Jonathan, (8) who late in life added an "s", and so did his grandchildren except those of Jonathan's children who settled in Maine. In one branch—Nathaniel (20)—and in parts of two others—Seth (11) and Sylvanus (39)—the original form has been retained; but in all the others from the fourth or fifth generations "Oaks" and "Oakes" have been the forms preferred in about equal proportions. The tendency has been always to lengthen the name; no instance of its being shortened is known.

The family has been in no sense a distinguished one, its members in all generations having been for the most part farmers, mechanics and small traders in humble circumstances and unknown beyond the limits of the communities where they have lived. Most branches, however, have furnished several names favorably known in professional and official life; and while not noted, the family has been generally respectable, the vicious and worthless being almost as rare as the prominent and learned and rich. A respectable percentage have been entrusted with public functions in town and church. The average of respectability has been high. Industry and integrity have been prevailing characteristics. Quiet reserve and modest pretensions have

been the rule. Local prominence has been earned not assumed, and there has been a general tendency on the part of most to "mind their own business." In politics, religion and other non-essentials the Oaks have differed according to environment; they have never been extreme partisans or fanatics.

They were fairly represented in the Colonial wars, in the Revolution, in the War of 1812, and on both sides in the War of 1861-5. They are widely scattered, living today in every state of the Union. **No member has reason to be ashamed of the tribe as a whole.**

This record is merely a "family register," mainly of bare names and dates. There is no attempt to give it a fictitious appearance of literary or historical value. It has little interest or importance except to members of the family or a few genealogists who may consult it for other family connections. By the family it should be preserved as a "record" **that will have increased value and interest** for all future generations.

Doubtless errors will be found—possibly more than usual in genealogic records, as the writer's research has been limited to correspondence with members of the family, with town and county officials and with agents employed to clear up certain points. **Corrections, additions and especially clues to missing links will be gratefully received by the publisher.**

Credit and thanks are due to the many who have furnished information, but to name them here would be to repeat too large a part of the record. In some cases credit will be given in the proper place when especially due. Among the genealogical experts employed none have been so helpful as Rev. Anson Titus, of Tufts College, Mass.

Roman numbers (I, IV., etc.) indicate the generation, and are prefixed to the family heading; elsewhere the raised exponent figure (George<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, etc.) is used; (2, 5, etc.), the genealogic number in this record.

HENRY L. OAK.

Seigler Springs, Lake County, Cal., March, 1900.

## FAMILY REGISTER

### NATHANIEL OAK OF \*MARLBOROUGH, MASS.

#### I. THE IMMIGRANT.

1. **Nathaniel Oak I.** Marlboro (now Northboro), Mass., farmer; born about 1645; immigrant about 1660-5; married first, December 14, 1686; married second, May 20, 1703; died Westboro, February 17, 1721. First wife, **Mehitable Rediat**, daughter of John and Ann;—born Sudbury, 1646; died November 25, 1702; no children. Second wife, **Mary Holloway**, daughter of Adam<sup>1</sup> and Hannah<sup>2</sup> (Hayward), widow of Jacob Farrar who was killed in Philip's War, 1676; born February 25, 1682; married third, Thomas Rice, July 2, 1722 (two children); died after 1733. Eight children (2-9).

Of our immigrant ancestor's nationality we have only a vague tradition that he came from Wales. Probably he was of English stock; and a writer of 1826 calls him an Englishman. Respecting his age, we have only the conjecture that he was at least as old as his first wife,—40 in 1686. Of his coming to America we have the following record—doubtless his own statement—handed down to his grandchildren and by the son of one of them (John<sup>4</sup> Conant (169) inscribed in the family Bible: "The grandfather of my mother was a cabin-boy on an English vessel bound to Boston. Nine miles from land the vessel foundered. All the ship's crew, except the boy whose name was Oaks, were lost. He, being a good swimmer, swam ashore. In his distress he solemnly promised the Lord if He would preserve him to get to land he would never go onto the water again. This promise he sacredly kept. His wife, my great-grandmother, could never persuade him even to cross Charles River in a boat to Boston. He would always go around upon the neck. Thus he reached his after-home, poor and penniless, without even clothes to cover him; and as was then the custom, having no friends in America, he was bound out to earn his living. His master set him to work in a pitch-pine forest to pick up pine knots. In this employ he was attacked by a catamount, or wild-cat, which he slew with a large pine knot. His master gave him the bounty the State paid for

\*"Marlborough" is the correct spelling, but throughout the text of this history we have used an author's privilege, and hence the abbreviated form, "Marlboro," appears.—O. O.

the pelt of this furious beast, with which he bought a sheep or two, which he let out to double. These sheep were all the property he began the world with when he became of age. He often said that while swimming to land he suffered more from hunger than anything else. When tired he would turn on his back and rest. The above account I have often heard my mother and my uncles relate."

In 1830-40 there were members of the tribe who believed in an "English fortune" awaiting the heirs—a mania that has attacked most families at one time or another; but unfortunately—for genealogical rather than financial reasons—they have left no record of the facts or theories on which their hopes rested. The first record of Nathaniel<sup>†</sup>, and the only one found by Savage, is that of his first marriage in 1686. Later the records are sufficient though not of great importance or interest. In the early years his conduct was in certain respects not exemplary, but after his second marriage he seems to have become a respectable, though not a prominent citizen. In documents of the time he is termed "yeoman," "planter" and sometimes "gentleman." He was in comfortable circumstances, having acquired some land through his first wife, whose father was a man of property. He is mentioned in town and county records; in the Worcester Magazine, 1826; and in Hudson's History of Marlboro. In 1688 he paid 4s 6d taxes under the Andros government. In 1692 he served in a garrison; and in 1707 as one of the Goodnow garrison, he took part in a fight with the Indians. In 1702 he signed the call to Rev. John Emerson; and there are a few records of his land transactions. His home farm, near Stirrup Brook, has since been locally famous as the "Peter Whitney Place." The old house was burned and the present one built in 1780. In 1900 it has been occupied about forty years by Samuel McClure, being about sixty rods north of the Old Northboro church. In 1717 that part of \*Marlboro containing the Oak farm was set off as †Westboro;

\* Marlboro, Worcester County, Mass., 26 miles west from Boston, on the B. & A. Railroad, was incorporated, six miles square, in May, 1660. Westboro and Northboro were subsequently set off from the original town. The Indian name of the town was Akommakmesit, and in its early days the town was subject to attacks by the savages and a fort was built for the protection of the settlers in times of danger. Marlboro has now grown to be a smart manufacturing town of 16,000 inhabitants. Though hilly the land is fine, the scenery beautiful and the points of historic interest numerous.

† Westboro, adjoining, has also become a factory town of over 5,000 people with four trolley lines and B. & A. Railroad to Boston. The valley is level, surrounded by hills, and it is claimed to be "the most beautiful village in the state." The State Insane Asylum is located here and other public institutions and many beautiful residences.



and later became part of Northboro. Near by, about a mile from the village and near the junction of the Marlboro and Westboro roads is an old abandoned burial ground, where doubtless rest the remains of our ancestor, and where the monument of his father-in-law, Adam Holloway, is still to be seen.

Nathaniel's children were put under the guardianship of Jonathan Forbush, who had lived for some time on the Oak farm and to whom part of it had been deeded earlier, though some of them later chose Joseph Wheeler and William Holloway, other kinsmen on their mother's side. As they grew up the oldest son occupied the homestead and the others settled on farms in the vicinity. Only one spent his whole life in the town; but only one, Jonathan (8), ever left what is now Worcester county.

## SECOND GENERATION.

### II. CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL I. AND MARY HOLLOWAY.

2. **Nathaniel.** Bolton, Mass.; farmer; born Marlboro, June 7, 1704; married first, February 20, 1727; married second, June 7, 1736; died probably (possibly his wife) June 5, 1783. First wife **Tabitha Rice**, daughter of Edward and Lydia (Fairbanks), born March 6, 1706; died before 1736. Second wife, **Keziah Maynard**, daughter of David and Hannah; born July 10, 1703; died about 1794 (or 1783); six children (10-15).

Nathaniel<sup>2</sup> lived on the old home farm, where all his children but one were born, until 1745. He held such minor positions as highway surveyor and tithing man, 1736-42. In 1740 with Capt. James Eagar and others he "perambulated" the boundary between Westboro and \*Bolton. In 1745 with his wife and five children he settled in Bolton, buying a farm on Long Hill, where he spent the rest of his life. In 1781 he and his wife, being "aged and poor" the income of his son Beriah's estate was left to the

\* Bolton, a farming town on the Nashua River, 31 miles west of Boston, was set off from Lancaster in 1738. The B. & M. and N. Y. N. H. & H. Railroads run either side of it four miles away. A Concord coach carries the mail and Bolton remains a typical New England town of the old type, with two churches, 106 pupils in the public school and 745 inhabitants. It abounds in fine scenic views and is attracting attention as a residence section.

widow for their support. One of the two died in 1783 and the other before 1795, when the estate was distributed. His registered descendants number about 2,500.

3. **William.** Marlboro, Mass.; born February 18, 1706; died unmarried August 8, 1723. He was at work as carpenter's apprentice, with five other workmen, on a new house for Capt. John Keyes in Shrewsbury. The job was completed when the men retired for the night; but in the night the house took fire and only one man (Ebenezer Bragg) saved his life, the others including the Oak boy were overcome by the smoke and their bodies were burned. An account of the disaster by Rev. Mr. Breck was published in the Boston Letter.

4. **Hannah.** Marlboro, Mass.; born December 27, 1707; married about 1728; died March 3, 1807, aged ninety-nine. Husband, **Gershom Fay, Jr.** Her descendants and those of her two sisters are not registered in this work; but one of them, \*Orlin P. Fay of Vermontville, Mich., had in 1896, 7,000 names in the Fay family, doubtless including most of Hannah's descendants. Her children were: Gershom, born 1729; Thaddeus, 1731; Dinah, 1733; Adam, 1736; Joseph, 1738; David, 1741; Hannah, 1743; Millicent, 1746.

5. **Mary.** Marlboro, Mass.; born March 31, 1710; married February 20, 1735; died April 4, 1805; age ninety-five. Husband, **Daniel Maynard;** born March 16, 1692; died January 1, 1760; children: Lucy, born 1735; Daniel, 1737; Labilla, 1739; William, 1743; Jedediah, 1745; Elihu, 1748; Mary, 1751.

6. **Ann.** Marlboro, Mass.; born September 9, 1712; married about 1735; died ——. Husband, **David Maynard;** born January 20, 1705, brother of Keziah (2); F. E. Blake, of Boston, has regis-

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\* Orlin P. Fay, the genealogist of the Fay family, was a descendant of Hannah (Oak) Fay, in the fourth generation; born in Prattsburgh, Steuben County, N.Y., Sept. 13, 1820—married, April 19, 1851, Laura Bridges, born in Williamstown, Mass. He was raised on a farm where there were "ten stones to one dirt," as he expresses it. Making the most of the scanty school privileges then afforded, at the age of 21 he left the farm and for many years engaged in any mechanical work that offered, developing the same industry, adaptability and reliability that characterized his cousins of the "Oak" family. Dec. 24, '61, he enlisted in Company E, 101st N. Y. Vol. Inf.—was mustered in as a musician, playing the part of solo alto. Owing to sickness he was discharged for disability June 12, 1862. In 1869 Mr. Fay moved to Vermontville, Mich., where he made shovel handles for the noted firm of Oliver Ames & Sons, and the failure of that firm carried him down with it. Fortunately he obtained a pension which brightened his later days. Mr. Orlin P. Fay died January 10, 1904, leaving an enviable record. His two sons died before reaching manhood. His widow survives him. His genealogical work then in print was turned over to his brother, W. C. Fay, Woodbury, Mich., from whom copies can be purchased.

tered the Maynards, including the two Oak branches. Children: Jemima, 1736; Solomon, 1739; David, 1741; Leviniah, 1743; Levi, 1745; Ann, 1747; Hannah, 1750; Abigail, 1751.

7. **John**. Westboro, Mass.; farmer; born Marlboro, March 16, 1715; married November 2 (or 3), 1742; died September, 1752. Wife, **Susanna Allen**, daughter of Ephraim<sup>4</sup> and Susanna (Beacon); born, 1723; married second, 1754, John Butler; died May 6, 1814, age ninety-one. Five children (16-20). John<sup>2</sup> Oak bought a farm and built a house on it; the place, known later as the "Gasset Place," and owned in 1897 by George Smith, is about two miles north of Northboro village and a portion of the old house is thought to be included in the newer one. John was a prosperous farmer, being in 1749 one of the fifteen largest taxpayers in town, and the appraisement of the estate in 1752 being £396, but he died at the early age of thirty-seven, when the children were very young; and nothing respecting him has been handed down through the son and daughter who alone lived to maturity. His descendants number about 1200. All in the male line have retained the name "Oak" in its original form. There was another John Oaks of Sunderland and Petersham, erroneously identified with our John by some writers—the error resulting in no little confusion and wasted labor. The widow had six children by her second husband, born in Shrewsbury. In 1766 the family removed to Winchester, N. H.

8. **Jonathan**. Skowhegan, Maine; carpenter and farmer; born Marlboro, Mass., August 21, 1717; married first about 1740; married second 1749 (intention January 19); married third about 1751; married fourth April 23 (or 26), 1762; died 1784 (will dated December 2, 1784, probated March 12, 1785). First wife, **Rebecca Barnard**, daughter of Robert and Rebecca (Osgood); born probably at death of her mother, July, 1727, but possibly September 10, 1725; died before 1748; two children. Second wife, **Elizabeth Wheeler**, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (descendant of Capt. Thomas, who led the Concord company in Philip's War, 1675-6, born February 15, 1727; died November 23, 1750; one child. Third wife, **Sarah Wheeler**, sister of Elizabeth; born August 23, 1733; died May 22, 1761; five children. Fourth wife, **Abigail Rand**, daughter of John and Abigail (Whitney); born November 14, 1736; died Sangerville, Maine, 1813; eight children. In all, sixteen children (21-36).

Captain Jonathan Oaks, for so he wrote the name in later life, being the first of the family to change the form—was the most enterprising and successful of the brothers. He was a land-owner in Westboro, 1738-9; was dismissed with wife from the Marlboro church, 1741; a "housewright" of Bolton, 1744; and a resident of Stow, 1745-9. Then he sold his possessions in those towns and bought for £1600 a farm of 112 acres on Bare Hill (or Oak Hill as it was also called from the large trees there growing) in Harvard. Here he built a house—largely from materials taken from other buildings torn down by him in the practice of his craft—which was still standing in good repair in 1896, owned by Andrew Mc-Neff. In 1750-70 he is named frequently in various records of town and church—though apparently not a church member; served as juryman, constable, tithingman, surveyor of hoops, highway surveyor, and tax collector. From about 1766 he was known colloquially and in official records as "Captain," having doubtless been chosen captain of the training band. This would indicate service in the French-Indian wars; indeed the family tradition, several times appearing in print—is that he fought with Wolf at Quebec, and was employed to make the fallen hero's coffin. There is no reason to doubt that this was founded on his own statement and is true; but no official record of his military service has been found by diligent research. There has been a prevalent idea that he was given, or promised, a large reward by the British government; and whenever in the early years any Oaks changed his residence so as to be lost track of by a portion of the family he was generally supposed to have somehow appropriated more than his share of the bounty and gone to dwell in some very distant part of the world. In 1771 Capt. Oaks sold his Harvard property for £440 and obtained from the Kennebec Purchase Company a grant of land in Canaan, Maine, settling there with his family in 1772. His land was part of the site of the present city of Skowhegan, including an island in the Kennebec river that still bears his name. He was thus one of the first settlers; and his son William was probably the first child born in Showhegan. Though the owner of much land and a man trusted by everybody, yet having provided for many children at their marriage and the Continental currency being worthless, he was hard pressed for money in Revolutionary times, as were his heirs for some time after his death; his estate being appraised at only £219. Moreover for several years before his death he was totally blind,

and perhaps never saw his youngest child. According to tradition he had by his four wives twenty-four children but this is of doubtful accuracy; and at any rate only sixteen lived to be named in his will of 1784—on file in Wiscasset and printed in the Lincoln County Probate Records. His estate was left to his sons Solomon and Levi with provision for the minor children, and five shillings for each of the nine already provided for. The oldest three daughters never came to Maine; the oldest son disappeared; and the rest remained for some years—some permanently—in the region of Skowhegan. In 1806-8 several of them settled in Sangerville, Piscataquis county, and others in other parts of the state, where their descendants are still very numerous. Over 5,000 of Captain Jonathan's descendants have been registered.

9. **George.** Rutland, Mass; clothier and farmer; born Westboro, Feb. 15. 1720; married first October 23 (or 26) 1744; married second June 12 (or 13) 1765; died after 1777. First wife, **Lydia Eagar**, daughter of Captain James and Tabitha (Howe); born May 15, 1723; died September 10, 1758; six children (37-42). Second wife, **Mercy Bartlett**, daughter of Ensign Daniel and Martha (Howe); born May 31, 1730; two children (43-44). George Oak lived in Westboro on the farm now known as the "Wesson Place," owned by one of the firearm's firm, and one of the finest places in that region. As early as 1769—and by the town record of "Warnings" in 1763, though that would seem an error—he settled in \*Rutland. He had served in the colonial wars, being mustered into service September 25, 1755, for the Crown Point expedition; enlisting again April 2, 1759; and serving as ensign 1762 in Captain Jonathan Fay's company... **In the Revolution he is named in a company of Rutland minute men at the Lexington alarm, 1775; and he enlisted August 20, 1777, in the company of Captain David Bent, marching to Bennington.** Thus all his descendants are entitled to membership in both Colonial and Revolutionary societies. After 1777 absolutely nothing is known of the old veteran; of his children by the second wife nothing is known beyond the Rutland church record of their

\* Rutland—Worcester County, Mass. This town, located on the Ware River, 52 miles west from Boston, on the B. and M. Railroad, was purchased from the Indians in 1668. The Indian name was Naznag. The settlers suffered severely from the Indians in the colonial days. The land lies high and dry among the hills and is a natural health resort, and here is located a sanatorium for the cure of consumption. Farming is now the chief occupation and the town has a population of 1740.

baptism; and of the other children we have the descendants of only one—Sylvanus, about 700 in number.

### THIRD GENERATION.

#### III. CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup> AND TABITHA RICE.

10. **William.** Winchendon, Mass.; farmer; baptized Westboro, April 28, 1728; married Bolton, March (or May) 27, 1752; died 1774. Wife, **Relief Whitcomb**, daughter of William and Hepzibah (Sawyer); born Lancaster, February 29, 1736. She married second, April 4, 1783, Samuel Patrick (properly Fitzpatrick) a prosperous farmer and town-clerk of Fitzwilliam, N. H. by whom she had no children. They lived in Jaffrey from 1809; he died August 6, 1817, aged (89); and she died in Fitzwilliam April 27, 1824 (or 19); nine children (45-53).

William Oak received at marriage a small legacy from his grandmother Rice; and his wife inherited some property from her father. In 1757 he removed from Bolton to Narragansett No. 6 (Templeton) where he bought a farm of 80 acres, adding other tracts later. From April 7, 1759, sending his family to Bolton, he served 10 months and 28 days against the French and Indians in the company of Capt. Samuel Clark, Col. Ruggles. **His services entitle all his descendants to membership in the Colonial Societies.** In 1763-4 he sold his Templeton property for £160, and bought for £104 a farm in Ipswich, Canada, later \*Winchendon, where he was one of the early settlers. His farm was on both sides of Miller's River; and his house "east of the bridge and long causey, where Phineas Ball now lives" (1849),

\* Winchendon, Worcester County, Mass. Reached by the B. & M. and B. & A. Railroads. Lies 68 miles westerly from Boston in the north central part of the State. This place was formerly "Ipswich Canada" because most of the grantees were soldiers or descendants of soldiers who had served in an expedition to Canada in 1690. It was incorporated as Winchendon in 1735. Its growth was retarded by the French and Indian wars. It is now a manufacturing town of 6,000 people. The country is hilly, soil deep though rocky and the scenery beautiful.

as we learn from Hyde's Hist. Winchendon. By reason of failing health and financial troubles he sold 1767-72 to Kinsmen and others all his land except the home lot, which also the family had to give up after his death, as the estate proved insolvent. Among his literary treasures as shown by the inventory was "Mr. Miller's Sermon on the Total Reduction of Canada"—recalling his experience in the French war. His descendants number about 500. Name "Oaks" and "Oakes."

11. **Seth.** Athens, Vt., carpenter and farmer; born Westboro, Mass., April 8, 1733; married Bolton, May 25, 1757 (inten. September 13, 1756); died Townshend, Vt., about 1814 (or probably April 24, 1810. Wife, **Elizabeth Shevally** of Stow, Mass.; seven children (54-60).

Capt. Seth Oak—so known for his military service as was the custom of the time, though never a commissioned officer—was of Col. Oliver Wilder's regiment of horse from Bolton, mustered September 27, 1755. In 1759-60 he also served in the army, his family meanwhile living in Harvard, perhaps with his uncle Jonathan. On his return he lived for a while in Templeton; and with his brother William settled in Winchendon 1763-4, buying a part of his brother's land 1767-70. His house, later occupied by Eben Arnold, "was west of the bridge and long causey." **At the Lexington alarm of 1775 he served 14 days as sergeant in Capt. Hale's company, Col. Sparrowhawk;** in May, 1775, he was of Capt. Wilder's company, Col. Doolittle, and in October-December was quartermaster sergeant at Winter Hill. As early as 1763, Lunenburg, Vt., was chartered to a company of which Seth Oak was a member. Traditionally he became disgusted with his grant before reaching it, and sold out for a glass of grog! In the fall of 1779, however, he left Winchendon for the Vermont wilderness, and with Jonathan Perham and Ephraim Holden built a log cabin in Athens, to which they brought their families in the spring of 1780. Seth and two of his sons were original grantees of the town; his daughter Polly was the first child born in Athens; and some of his descendants still live near the site of the first cabin. The farm was that occupied in 1900 by Daniel Wilcox, just south of the brick church. In 1784 Seth's military zeal was again utilized in a militia force called out by the Sheriff. He spent his last years in Townshend with his daughter, Mrs. Wis-

well, appearing on the tax-list there in 1810. His descendants number about 800. All three forms of the name appear.

### III. CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup> AND KEZIAH MAYNARD.

12. **Tabitha.** Westminster, Vt.; born Westboro, Mass., September 2 (or 12), 1737; married Bolton, December 11, 1765; died March 22, 1811 (or at age of 80?). Husband, **David Stiles**, of Boxford, Mass.; seven children (231-7).

About 100 of Tabitha's descendants have been registered; but the record is very imperfect. The published Stiles Genealogy contains but little on this branch; and members have not seemed disposed to give much information.

13. **Nathaniel.** Bolton, Mass.; Born Westboro, January 12, 1742. Probably died young. Nothing is definitely known beyond the record of his birth. He may possibly have been the Nathaniel who bought land in Winchendon 1767 seq.; and he may have served an enlistment in the Revolution, it being impossible in these matters to distinguish between him and his cousin (20) and nephew (55) of the same name. He was not living in Bolton 1773, because his cousin was then known as Nathaniel Jr. It is deemed improbable in any case that he left descendants.

14. **Beriah.** Bolton, Mass., farmer; born Westboro November 22, 1743; married December 31, 1767; died 1782, (will probated February 28, 1783. Wife, **Tabitha Fosket**; born 1744; died September 16, 1820. In Shay's Rebellion, when neighbors were hiding their weapons, she declared (traditionally) that she would break her gun on the rebels' heads! Nine children (61-69).

Beriah Oak served at the Lexington Alarm 1775, in Captain Longley's company, Colonel Whitcomb, being discharged April 14, after 10 days' service. He also served later, before June 26, and may have been at Bunker Hill. He was a prosperous man; but died before the age of 40. The income of his estate was left for the support of his aged parents; and the estate was distributed in 1795 after their death. His children and grand-children were



nearly all workers in wood as well as farmers. It was said that an Oaks' house could be recognized by the chips and shavings; and this was largely true of other branches as well. We have about 800 of Beriah's descendants—the largest branch in the male line. In the name they are about equally divided between "Oaks" and "Oakes."

15. **Mindwell**. Acton, Vt.; born Bolton, Mass., March 23, 1746; married March (or April) 10, 1766; died November 22, 1826. Husband, **Caleb Gates**, of Stow, son of John and Mary; born, July 14, 1751; three children (192-4).

The children were born in Stow, Mass. The family became pioneer settlers of Johnson's Gore, later known as Acton 1801-41 now part of Townsend, Vt. The Gates farm was later known as the Dennis Holden Place; and in 1900 was owned by Mrs. Richard Hewes. This is one of the smaller branches of the Oaks tribe; but the record is nearly complete with about 150 names.

### III. CHILDREN OF JOHN<sup>2</sup> (7) AND SUSANNA ALLEN.

All born in Westboro, Mass.

16. **Hannah**. Born July 20, 1743; died September 16, 1745.

17. **Levinah**. Born May 23, 1745; living 1754, but died young.

18. **Elijah**. Born April 27, 1747; died December 1, 1750.

19. **Hannah**. Winchester, N. H.; born Westboro, Mass., April 20, 1749; married first, June 17, 1768; married second, November 18, 1783; died April 13, 1838. First husband, **Seth<sup>6</sup> Alexander**, farmer, son of Elias<sup>5</sup> and Ruth (Harmon); born 1746; died December 10, 1780. He was a sergeant 1775-6 in Capt. Wm. Humphreys' company, and ensign June, 1777, in Capt. Oliver Capron's company, marching to the relief of Ticonderoga; eight children (145-152). Second husband, **John Follett**, farmer; son of John<sup>4</sup> and Rachel (Stevens); born Attleboro, Mass., March 5,

1752; died February 16, 1821. **A Revolutionary soldier and later captain of militia**; six children (186-191).

Hannah<sup>3</sup> Oak went with her mother and step-father, John Butler, to Shrewsbury, Mass., 1754, and to Winchester, N. H., 1766. Her registered descendents—the record being practically complete—number over 700. Dr. Alexander left at his death a complete genealogy of the first family; and the late Judge David Follett, of Norwich, N. Y., had nearly completed the record of the Folletts, a pamphlet containing the early generations having been printed by him. Strangely no knowledge or tradition of her family was possessed in my own branch—descended from her only brother—Nathaniel—though the two lived for a time in Winchester. I have over 600 of her descendants, who in character and culture seem to excel the average of most other branches. Possibly, however, I am prejudiced by the promptness and courtesy with which as a rule they have responded to my appeals for information. I find it hard to resist a division of our tribe into folks of two classes—the good who answer my queries, and the bad who will not reply.

20. **Nathaniel**. Chelsea, Vt., hotel-keeper; born Westboro, Mass., May 16, 1751; married first, Bolton, June 2 (or 20), 1773; married second about 1804; died Exeter, Me., March 15, 1940. First wife, **Susanna Hastings**, daughter of Capt. Benjamin and Abigail (Sawtell); born Bolton, Mass., February 11, 1748; died Chelsea, Vermont, about 1803. She was a woman for whom her children had an unusually strong affection and reverence; and the name of Hastings has been preserved in many branches of her descendents. She was a good singer, a favorite pupil of Billings, the famous New England teacher and composer; nine children (70-78). Second wife, **Elizabeth** —— (widow Gates); no children. After her husband's death she went from Exeter, Me., to live with relations in Castleton, Vt., and died before 1848.

Nathaniel<sup>3</sup> Oak, losing his father when an infant, went with his mother to Shrewsbury, Mass., 1754; but from 1766, when she went to New Hampshire, and perhaps earlier, he lived with his uncle Nathaniel (2) in Boston, perhaps also spending some years in Winchendon with his cousins William (10) and Seth (11). At his marriage in Bolton, 1773, he was recorded as Nathaniel Jr., which at first led to error as to his identity. **At the Lexington alarm of 1775 he served 12 days in the company of his father-in-**

law, **Capt. Benjamin Hastings**. Possibly he may have been the Nathaniel who served later enlistments (see 13-55). If so he sent his wife to Winchester, N. H., to live with his mother and sister, where he soon followed, where most of his children were born, and where in 1777-83 he bought in three lots 176 acres of land for £508. In 1790 he removed with his family to Chelsea, Vt., his home for half a century. There he kept a hotel in a building still standing (1900) the hall of which was long used as county court house, for town meetings, and for meetings of the Congregational church. Later he lived in a cottage, also still standing; served as pound-keeper and sexton; took great pride in his garden; and worked as a carpenter at odd jobs, being, like all his tribe, "handy with tools." The large number of land transfers in his name would indicate that he indulged somewhat in real estate speculation. There are traditions of considerable wealth and of extreme poverty, both perhaps well founded, but exaggerated and referring to different periods of his life. In later years he spent some winters with his oldest son in Boscawen, N. H.; and in 1839 went to live with a younger son in Exeter, Me. There on a Sunday in 1840 he died suddenly in church at the age of 89. He was a man of robust physique and of jovial temperament, as befitted a landlord; well known and liked wherever he lived; in religion an active Methodist, but at home in the meetings of any denomination. His descendants number about 500. Name always "Oak."

### III. CHILDREN OF JONATHAN<sup>2</sup> (8) AND REBECCA BARNARD.

21 **Mary**. Ashburnham, Mass.; born Marlboro (or Bolton) July 16, 1741; married Harvard, March 14, 1758; from Middleboro to Ashburnham 1776; died September 13, 1794.

She died at a funeral in church and was carried home on the bier provided for the occasion. Her descendants number 1200, the largest branch of the tribe, though the record in some lines is far from complete. Husband, **Jonathan<sup>4</sup> Sampson**, son of Peleg<sup>3</sup> and a lineal descendant of **Capt. Miles Standish** of the "May-

flower;" born October 25, 1733; he married second August 2, 1796, Sarah Osburn; moved to Swanzey, N. H., 1802; died, 1820. He was a prominent citizen; proprietor and treasurer of Dorchester Canada (Ashburnham); selectman, etc; 13 children (216-228). The Sampson genealogy furnishes but slight information in our branch.

It is notable that genealogies have been published for the families of Capt. Jonathan Oak's three oldest daughters—Sampson, Conant and Bigelow.

22. **Lydia**. Ashburnham, Mass.; born Stow, June 6, 1743; married November 29, 1766 (or Nov. 19, 1767, Bible); died Brandon, Vt., January 2 (or 4), 1802. Husband, **Ebenezer Conant**, farmer and miller, son of Ebenezer and Ruth (Pierce); born August 11, 1743; died August 3, 1783; 7 children (167-173).

Lydia<sup>3</sup> Oak probably lived for some years with her great grandfather Barnard in Stow—possibly a case of too much step-mother; at least she was "warned" from Stow in June, 1762, though she was not a woman likely to become a burden to any town. It was a common formality. She is described as a woman of great force and business ability. **Her husband served through the Revolution as lieutenant and adjutant**; and during his absence, with the aid of a young son, she carried on his grist-mill. Ebenezer Conant was a descendant of the famous Roger of Salem, virtually first governor of Massachusetts. He served as selectman, etc., and was joint author with his son of certain theological manuscript, extant in 1868. Lydia's descendants probably include a greater number of professional and prominent people than any other of the Oak branches. Her descendants number 541. The excellent Conant Genealogy has but 150.

23. **Elizabeth**, Crown Point, N. Y.; baptized Harvard, Mass., November 25, 1752; married, Ashburnham, Mass., September 11, 1770; died ——. Husband, **Nathan Bigelow**, son of John and Grace (Allen); born Weston, Mass., November 8, 1743; died 1804 (or 1824); 10 children (153-163).

The published Bigelow Genealogy throws but little light on this branch. About 650 descendants have been registered, many still living in the region of Crown Point and Ticonderoga. They include a Chief Justice of Nevada, R. R. Bigelow, and a Congressman from California, Hon. J. C. Needham, besides several members less distinguished. The family went to Vermont before

1784 and to New York before 1787. Elizabeth had a brother who died in infancy, 1749.

### III. CHILDREN OF JONATHAN<sup>2</sup> (8) AND SARAH WHEELER.

24. **Sarah.** Born\* Harvard, Mass., January 12, 1752; "owned ye covenant and was baptized at her own desire" September 22, 1771; married 1771; died —. Husband, **William Blackden**; 3 children (164-166).

Practically no record of her descendants has been found. The family came to Maine. Three of four have been heard from, but decline to give details. The name has usually been written **Blagden** in later years.

25. **Jonathan.** Stow, Mass.; born about 1754. All that is known of him is that he was named in his father's will of 1784 as the oldest son, with a legacy of 10 shillings "if he ever comes back to this place." **John Conant** (169) also remembered him as visiting his sister **Lydia** in **Ashburnham** about 1773-80. He doubtless disappeared in Revolutionary times, and was never heard of. The writer, like other genealogists, long confounded him with another **Jonathan** in **Worcester county**.

26. **Rebecca.** Born at Harvard, Mass., about 1756. Known only by mention in her father's will of 1784, and then apparently married. No clew to her descendants.

27. **John.** Exeter, Me.; carpenter and farmer; born, Harvard, Mass., October 22, 1757 (or '58); married about 1780; died June 25, 1842. Wife, **Abigail Lambert**, probably sister of **Sherebiah**, who married his sister **Millie** (31); died, 1844, age 85; 8 children (79-86).

**John Oaks** served 5 years—four enlistments or more—in the Revolution, being much employed as a scout, taking part at **Bennington** and many other battles, and once being sent by **General**

\* Harvard, Worcester County, Mass. This well known town was incorporated in 1732 and named in honor of Rev. John Harvard, founder of Harvard College. It is a hilly township, but with productive soil. It is located on a branch of the B. & M. Railroad, 28 miles west of Boston and is noted for beautiful scenery as well as for its college and as a summer resort.

**Washington from Long Island to Quebec.** There are many dates and details—somewhat confused—in the Massachusetts Archives and his pension petitions. He received a pension from the U. S., and a land grant of 200 acres from the State of Maine. After the war he returned to Canaan, Me., where in 1793 he sold his half-interest in a saw-mill; was of Lisbon, 1803; lived for some years in Palmyra; and about 1812 went to Bangor, where he built some of the old structures, and with his son John was “a prisoner of war” in 1814 (War of 1812). In 1819 he settled on a farm in South Exeter, still known as Oak’s Hill, where he died at the age of 85. Though somewhat fond of his grog, as was proper for an old soldier, he was a zealous Baptist, and meetings were often held in his barn. He was noted for his fund of Revolutionary anecdotes, with which he enlivened even his religious exhortations. The old veteran was widely known and well liked; obituaries were published in the Bangor papers; and **Lines on the Death of John Oaks** are found in the works of the Maine poet, David Barker. His descendants number over 1,050, and are numerous in eastern and northern Maine. Name “Oaks” and “Oakes.”

28. **Daniel.** Wiscasset, Me. “Cordwainer”; born Harvard, Mass., about 1760-1 (19 years old in 1780); married first at Marlboro, September 9, 1783; married second before 1797; married third before 1801; died perhaps 1845; first wife, **Morning Blin Flagg** (probably Widow Flagg); 3 children; second wife, **Susan** — — — (known only by having signed deeds in 1797, possibly an error); no children; third wife, **Deborah Dorcas Albee** (widow Fletcher); born Anson, Me., 1775; died February 22, 1857; 9 children (87-95).

**Daniel Oaks was also a Revolutionary soldier, serving three enlistments, 1777-81,** from Westboro and Bolton, Mass. He was of Canaan, Me., or owned property there, to 1804; yet most of his children seem to have been born in Wiscasset—where unfortunately no records are to be found, though the family is remembered. From about 1828 he lived in Boston. His descendants number 150. Name “Oakes.”

III. CHILDREN OF JONATHAN<sup>2</sup> (8) AND ABIGAIL RAND.

29. **Lois.** Skowhegan, Me.; baptized Harvard, Mass., October 23, 1763; married about 1793; died May 12, 1815. Husband, **Dr. Willard Sears**; died December 12, 1832, age (86?); 2 children (229-230).

Possibly the Lois born 1763 died young, and the name was given to another born 1766, as the family say that she was aged 49 at her death. The record of this branch was the first to be completed with 123 names.

30. **Levi.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; baptized Harvard, Mass., October 23, 1763, and apparently twin of Lois; married Canaan, Me., 1788; died 1831. Wife, **Lydia Brown**; died Wellington, Me., 1849, age 82; 7 children (96-102). Levi went to Sangerville in 1808, but later lived in Wellington. He died in "Aroostook," Me., while on a visit to his son. There are some 250 descendants of his daughters; but those of his sons have not been found.

31. **Millie.** Skowhegan, Me.; baptized Harvard, Mass., September 11, 1768; married, Canaan, Me. (intention) July 20, 1787; died, January 16, 1845. Husband, **Sherebiah Lambert**; died, May 1, 1883; 10 children (206-215).

Millie was a famous midwife in her day, presiding, it is said, at fifteen hundred births for a fee of one dollar each. Also a woman of some nerve, since on one occasion she rescued a pet calf from a bear that had seized it. About 250 of her descendants have been found, but the record is very incomplete.

32. **Solomon.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born Harvard, Mass., May 9, 1769; baptized November 19, 1769; married, Canaan, Me., 1786; died, Parkman, Me., January 24, 1857. Wife, **Suzanna Clark**; born March 3, 1767; died May, 1858; 13 children (103-115). Solomon was executor of his father's will, 1785; held minor town offices in Canaan to 1790; and settled in Sangerville, 1808. His home seems to have been on the island part of the Skowhegan farm, where most of his children were born. He went to Illinois in 1842; but returned to die in Maine. The last of his children died in 1892. Over 200 of his descendants are registered—the record being imperfect in some of the western lines. "Oaks" and "Oakes" were the forms of the name used.

33. **Sybil.** Skowhegan, Me.; baptized Harvard, Mass., No-

vember 19, 1769; probably twin of Solomon; married about 1796; died about 1845. Husband, **Daniel Homsted**, farmer; 11 children (195-205). About 200 descendants. Record incomplete.

34. **Abel**. Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born Harvard, Mass., April 10, 1771, (baptized August 11); married, Canaan, Me., November 23, 1792; died December 21, 1856.

He came to Maine at the age of one year; and to Sangerville 1806-7. Wife **Betsy Hamlin**; born at Gorham, Me., May 22, 1770; died, April 19, 1850. She was of the family of Hon. Hannibal Hamlin; 12 children (116-127); about 600 descendants; record nearly complete. Name generally "Oaks."

35. Elder **William**. Sangerville, Me.; farmer and Baptist preacher; born at Canaan, Me., June 7, 1774 (or August, 1773); married first (intention) September 5, 1793; married second about 1836; died January 12 (or December 28), 1851. First wife, **Susan Orr**; born Harpswell, Me., 1773; died, April 10, 1833; 6 children. Second wife, **Martha Morgridge**; born February 3, 1797; died October 22, 1851; 2 children; in all 8 children (128-135).

Elder William<sup>3</sup> was probably the first child born in what is now Skowhegan, Me. He was ordained as a preacher in 1815; deposed in 1821; and reinstated in 1826. He was a very handsome man and of marked ability; but was inclined to "backslide" occasionally in matters of faith and practice, quarreling with the church—but both were always willing to be forgiven. A paralytic shock affected his mind in the last years. Record of descendants complete with 125 names. One of his daughters was living in 1898. Name "Oakes."

36. **Lucy**. Sangerville, Me.; born at Canaan, Me., December 27 (or 22), 1776; married, Topsham, Me., October 7, 1797; died December 27, 1852. Husband, **David Douty**; died November 2, 1858; 12 children (174-185). One daughter living in 1898.



### III. CHILDREN OF GEORGE<sup>2</sup> (9) AND LYDIA EAGAR.

37. **Lucy.** Born, Westboro, Mass., January 9, 1745; married, Charlton, Mass., 1770; died —. Husband, **Jonas Eddy.**

Of the descendants of Lucy and her sisters nothing has been learned.

38. **Lydia.** Andover, Mass. Born, Westboro, August 19, 1746; married, November 6, 1766 (int. October 3); died —. Husband, **Jonathan Cummings** of Andover. (Name possibly Comins). In 1771 she was reported as "out of the province in parts unknown." 10 children (173-a-j).

39. **Sylvanus.** \*Coleraine, Mass.; clothier; born, Westboro, March 30, 1749; married, Rutland, Mass., November 25 (or December 3), 1771; died about 1800. Wife, **Abigail Ball**; born May 18, 1752; died May 21, 1808; 8 children (136-144).

Sylvanus<sup>3</sup> Oak in 1771 bought of Nathaniel Waite for £160 a fulling-mill and clothier's shop in Princeton, Mass. He lived also in Holden, where some of his children were born. **He served 12 days, from April 20, 1775, at the Lexington alarm, in the company of Captain Sargent, marching from Rutland to Cambridge.** After the war he sold out his Princeton property, took his pay in Continental money, and lost it all. He lived subsequently in Coleraine\*, dying, it is said, across the line in Vermont; but there is nothing definite as to place or date. His registered descendants number over 600. Several branches are missing. In some lines the name "Oak" is retained.

40. **Asa.** Born January 15, 1751; died same day.

41. **Vashti.** Born April 19, 1754; married, Holden, Mass., March 6, 1777. Husband, **Moses Ball.**

42. **Thankful.** Born May 19, 1758; living, 1771.

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\* Colerain, Franklin County, Mass., was incorporated in 1761. It was largely settled by Irish emigrants and is said to have been named in honor of Lord Colerain. It is beautifully situated at the junction of the forks of North River, and the natural scenery possesses great attractions. Colerain is 125 miles northwesterly from Boston, and is reached by electric cars from Shelburn Falls, six miles away. It is a great cotton manufacturing town, maintaining three mills, has fine churches, schools and a Memorial Hall. In the early days it was guarded by three forts and was subject to Indian attacks.

### III. CHILDREN OF GEORGE (9) AND MERCY BARTLETT.

43. **Martha.** Baptized, Rutland, Mass., November 3, 1769.  
 44. **Jesse.** Baptized June 23, 1771.

### FOURTH GENERATION.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> (10) AND RELIEF WHITCOMB.

The Oaks of the fourth generation numbered 100. The earliest birth was 1753; the latest death was 1897. Two only survive in 1898. Two (Nos. 135 and 185) and the other living when this work was begun gave me directly or indirectly considerable information. Personally I have known in childhood only five of the number, of whom four were of my own branch of the family. While most of them lived and died like their fathers in the four New England states of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, about one-fourth of the number made their homes in other states, as follows, in order of the number settling in each: New York, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Iowa, California and New Brunswick.

45. **William.** Winchendon, Mass.; born Bolton, November 18, 1753; died April 9, 1771. He was drowned in the spring flood of Miller's River, near his home and in sight of his mother. Robert Moffat was in the boat with him, and the two lads were buried side by side in the Old Central Burying Ground.

46. **Kezia.** Bridgewater, N. Y.; born Bolton, Mass., July 28, 1756. Husband, **Samuel Blood**; one child (Rebecca) and probably others. They are said to have belonged to a Shaker community in Massachusetts before settling in New York.

47. **Relief.** Born at Bolton (or Templeton) 1758; died December 23, 1758.

48. **Thankful.** Born October 12, 1760; died, Templeton, May 22, 1764.

49. **Abigail.** Fitzwilliam, N. H.; born, Templeton, Mass., September, 1763; married, March 11, 1783; died, Winchendon, March 9, 1847. Husband, **Nathaniel Wilson**; died January 3, 1817. He was one of the first settlers of Fitzwilliam; no children. By Abigail's will the income of her estate was left to an adopted son of her husband and his descendants, the property to go finally to the town of Winchendon for the support of Sundays Schools. The last of the descendants dying in 1893, the town came into possession of the bequest.

50. **Hepzibah.** Stamford, Vt.; born, Winchendon, Mass., November 2, 1764 (or Bolton, October 12, 1760—perhaps another who died young) married first——; married second about 1798; died November 5, 1820. First husband, ——**Washburn**; no children; second husband, Ensign **Timothy Cook**, son of Noah and Keziah (Powers) of Hadley, Mass.; born February 6, 1757 (or November 17, 1756); died, September 17, 1821; 4 children, Hepzibah, Andrew, Stephen, and Keziah. Hepzibah's son, marrying into the Oak tribe, she had many descendants in another branch—that of Beriah<sup>3</sup> (14).

51. **Joel.** Newbury, Ohio; farmer; born Winchendon, Mass., September 1, 1767; married in Ohio about 1795; died December 12, 1822. Wife, **Susan Bent**, daughter of Col. Silas, a prominent man and ancestor of several western celebrities; born April 21, 1773; died April 5, 1865; 7 children, Susan, Elizabeth, Daniel, Sumner, William, Charlotte, Lucy.

Joel<sup>4</sup> Oaks went to Ohio in 1787 and took an active part in the various Indian wars, his services as scout being especially valued. He was with Gen. Putnam (1787-8) in the expedition to Muskingum (Marietta); settled at Newbury, below Belpré on land where had stood Col. Nye's blockhouse, being there in 1790 —; at "Farmers' Castle," 1792; associated from 1794 with Griffith Grimes in salt enterprises and discovery of the Scioto salines. His old farm, in what is now Little Hocking, is occupied by his grandson, Silas (154).

52. **Abraham.** Bridgewater, N. Y.; farmer and trader; born Winchendon, Mass., August 31 (or 15), 1770; married first, January 31, 1791; married second, 1810; died May 8, 1844; first wife, **Lois Gurley**, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Walker); born, Marshfield, Conn., March 10, 1764; died, July 17, 1809; 5 children,

Mary, Relief, Lucinda, Samuel, Laura. Second wife, **Rhoda Pierson** (widow Luce); born 1776; 5 children, Lois, Harriet, Murilla, Abigail, Sarah.

Abraham<sup>4</sup> Oaks went from Fitzwilliam, N. H., in 1791, to Whitestown, N. Y. In June of that year he leased from the Indian Foncoit, land in Brotherton (Deansville), but probably did not take possession, as a little later he bought for £200 a farm in 20th township (Sangerfield) from which Bridgewater was set off, where he spent the rest of his life. He held various town offices, especially in connection with the schools; and was an influential member of the Congregational church from 1804. The family lived on the farm to 1850; then in the village. For the record of William's descendants and those of his sisters, I am indebted almost entirely to Rev. Wm. DeLoss Love of Hartford, Conn., a descendant of Abraham<sup>4</sup>.

53. **Ephraim**. Bridgewater, N. Y.; farmer; born Winchendon, Mass., March 9, 1773; died December 18, 1810. Wife, **Margaret** — — —; no children. He bought 250 acres of land in 1796, and held minor town offices; but was for many years in bad health.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF SETH<sup>3</sup> (11) AND ELIZABETH SHEVALLY.

54. **Calvin**. Athens, Vt.; farmer and carpenter; born Bolton, Mass., September 12, 1758; married about 1780; died November 10, 1815. Wife, **Lucretia Fuller**, daughter of Edward of Leominster; died September 19, 1854; 7 children, Betsy, Edward, Polly, Sally, Clarissa, Sophia, and Lovell H.

Calvin<sup>4</sup> Oak (he and his brothers and some of the descendants so wrote the name) was like his father a **Revolutionary soldier**, serving 6 days at the **Lexington Alarm** in Capt. Hale's Co., Col.

Sparhawk; re-enlisting April 26, 1775, in Capt. Wilder's company, and perhaps serving two other short enlistments, 1779-80. Of light complexion, height 5 feet 6 inches; called "Captain" on his tombstone. He went to Athens 1780, and was one of the original proprietors. His farm was that now owned (1896) by George Swan, near the scythe-snath factory.

55. **Nathaniel.** Athens, Vt.; farmer; born Templeton (or Harvard) March, 1762; married about 1787; died March 25, 1830. Wife, **Susanna Evans**; died October 12, 1842, age 72; 10 children, Sally, Clarissa, Willard, Ebenezer, Sarah, Clarissa, Simeon, Nathaniel, William and Lucius.

**Nathaniel Oak** was a Revolutionary soldier, marching from Bolton, February 13, 1780, at the age of 18, under Captain Thomas Pritchard; height 5 ft. 7 in. There are four other brief enlistments in 1778-80 of a Nathaniel Oak, some of which were doubtless of this man; but by reason of his age, the existence of others of the name, and his supposed presence in Vermont 1780, there is much confusion. He was one of the proprietors of Athens, but perhaps did not go there with his father. According to Hemmenway's Historical Atlas of Vermont "Nath'l Oak wanted a certain bewitching beauty; Amaziah Rockham wanted the bewitching beauty too. They had many quarrels over the lass, till at last the neighbors decided that they should fight for the prize. Rockham being a spry man, gave Oak, who was slow and clumsy at fighting, a sound whipping, but was so good hearted withal that, he said, 'Go and take the girl,' and Oak went and took her and lived with her long enough to twice claim a silver wedding."

56. **Saloma.** "Sally," Townshend, Vt.; born Winchendon, Mass., May 25, 1764; married about 1784; died May 8, 1835. Husband, Capt. **Samuel Wiswell**, son of Samuel. Held town offices, and was lieutenant of militia; 6 children: John, Polly, Samuel, Ebenezer, Sally and Seth.

57. **John.** Athens, Vt.; farmer; born Winchendon, Mass., July 31, 1766; married July 12, 1789. Wife, **Lydia Chaffee**; born March 22, 1771; went to Illinois with her son, and died October 25, 1852; 9 children: Ezra, Susan, Lucy, John, Samuel, Amelia, Lydia, Fanny and Seth Squire.

58. **Thomas.** Born Winchendon, July 6, 1768. Wife, **Phebe** ———; 4 children, viz: Ebenezer, Calvin, ——— (a son), and Seth. The descendants in this line have not been found.

59. **Ebenezer.** Athens, Vt.; born January 12, 1771; died unmarried, October 22, 1792.

60. **Polly.** Townshend, Vt.; born Athens, May, 1780; married before 1801. Husband, **Jonas Whitcomb**; born November 12, 1777; 10 children: Polly, Sarah, Cynthia, Hulda, Luke, Hiram, Willard, Ansel, William and Eliza. Polly was the first child born in Athens. The record of her descendants is very incomplete.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF BERIAH<sup>3</sup> (14) AND TABITHA FOSKET.

61. **John.** Somerset, Vt.; farmer and carpenter; born Bolton, Mass., March 30, 1768; married Bolton, December 12, 1793. Wife, **Mary Eaton**, daughter of Uriah of Sudbury; 7 children, viz: Joel, Noyes, Beriah, Eliza, Eunice, Mary and Cynthia. John<sup>4</sup> Oaks received a double share of his father's estate in 1795. He was an easy-going man with a pleasure-loving wife, and the children "brought themselves up," some of them not making a very good job of it.

62. **Elizabeth.** Athol, Mass.; born Bolton, February 6, 1770. Husband, **Abijah Woodward**; 2 children, viz: Abijah and Rhoda.

63. **James.** Bernardston, Mass.; farmer and carpenter; born at Bolton, October 30, 1771; married, Bolton, September 12, 1797; to Bernardston about 1825; died October 12, 1846. Wife, **Sarah Walker**, daughter of Thomas and Mary of Sudbury; died October 26, 1846; 8 children: Maryliza, Amory (or Emory), Elmira, Thomas, Mary, Gardner, Albert and James.

64. **Abraham.** Athol, Mass.; farmer and carpenter; born Bolton, March 29, 1773; married (intention) August 27, 1797; to Athol, 1805; died October 17, 1840. Wife, **Joanna Walker**, of Rindge, N. H., and Wilton, Me.; born April 19, 1775; died, November 9, 1841, of consumption, bequeathing the tendency; 4 children, viz: Ira, Phebe, Abigail and Abraham. The male line is destined to become extinct. This family was the first, outside of the writer's own branch, to be found.

65. **Asa**. Landoff (Easton), N. H.; farmer; born Bolton, Mass., December 6, 1774; married first about 1794; married second about 1834; died, 1856. He lived in Stow, Mass., for some years before settling in New Hampshire. First wife, **Martha ("Pattie") Robins**; 6 children: Sophia, Charles, Frank, Asa; and Lincoln and Martha, who died young. Second wife, widow **Stewart**; no children.

66. **Daniel**. Stanford, Vt.; farmer; born Bolton, Mass., June 17, 1776; married June 24, 1800; died October 16, 1844 (or October 23, 1845). Wife, **Hepzibah Batchelder**; born August 22, 1778; died, October 27, 1858; 10 children: Asa, Luke, Merrick, Louisa, Mary, Adeline, Nancy, Daniel, Ephraim and Andrew. He lived in Athol, Mass., to 1808, and went from Clarksburg to Vermont in 1816. He had more descendants, probably, than any other of his generation in the whole Oak family.

67. **Eunice**. Berlin, Mass.; born Bolton, March 14, 1778; married first, October 25, 1809; married second, October 31, 1813; died May 2, 1846. First husband, **Ebenezer Randal**, of Stow; no children. Second husband, **Hollis Johnson**, of Berlin; no children. An adopted son, Benjamin Johnson, had five children, one of whom is Mrs. John L. Stone of Hyde Park, Mass., author of the Stone Souvenir.

68. **Phebe**. Stow, Mass.; born, Bolton, December 23, 1779; married June 18, 1800; died Fitchburg, October 11, 1848 (or April, 1832). Husband, **Samuel Danforth, Jr.**; died, 1851; 7 children, as follows: Tabitha, Phebe, Octavius, Eunice, Clarissa, Fosket and Hollis. The record of this family is very incomplete.

69. **Beriah**. Wendell, Mass.; farmer and carpenter; born Bolton, August 19, 1781; married, Marlboro, June 13, 1804; died, December 24, 1863. Wife, **Eunice Ames**; born March, 1787; died February 12, 1851; 8 children, namely: Fosket, Lucretia, Samuel, Miriam, Eunice, David, Wilbur, Elizabeth. All died young. Beriah<sup>4</sup> Oakes, Jr., was a prominent Methodist, building at great sacrifice the First Methodist church in Wendell. None of his children had issue.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL<sup>3</sup> (20) AND SUSANNA HASTINGS.

70. **Benjamin Hastings.** Garland, Me.; hotel-keeper and farmer; born Winchester N. H., March 3, 1776; married Chelsea, Vt., December 23, 1804; died April 26, 1842. Wife, **Hannah Smith**, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah of Walpole, N. H.; born, 1779; died January, 1853; 8 children: William S., Susan H., Genett, Henry Laurens, Lyndon, Lorenzo, Lebbeus and Edson Lang.

Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Oak, on going to Vermont at the age of fourteen years, was a boy of remarkable physical strength; but in a hay-field contest for charitable purposes he injured himself and was never a well man again. He served in the army for a year or two as a musician, being in 1799 "in the Second Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers, stationed at New London, Conn." Leaving the army he became clerk in a store; and probably engaged in business for himself, unfortunately, however, as insolvency proceedings are recorded in 1808. He was town clerk of Chelsea 1807-12, and member of the Vermont Legislature in 1810. In 1812-26 he kept a hotel at Boscawen, N. H. Finally, failing business, bad health and excessive use of liquor effected his financial ruin. In September, 1826, he emigrated with family and household effects in an old chaise and one-horse wagon to Exeter, Me., and in 1830 bought a farm in the adjoining town of Garland. In Maine, though the family had a hard struggle with poverty and the father never escaped the burden of debt, yet he became an esteemed and useful citizen, serving alternately as selectman and town treasurer to the last; an influential member of the Congregational church society, and often an arbiter of disputes between townsmen. He abandoned his drinking habit, and brought up five sons who never used liquor nor tobacco. Not quite so much can be said for his grandsons, yet even they are often sober. Hannah, the wife, though a good woman and conscientious mother, was subject to great depression of spirits, and inspired more respect than affection. In all but blood the veritable mother of the children and one of the best friends of all the Oaks for three generations was her sister, "Aunt Sally," who lived in the family, latterly as housekeeper for Laurens, from the early days in New Hampshire, to her own death in 1862 at the age of 74. Of "Aunt Sally," Lyndon Oak, her nephew, writes: "She



was blessed with a large share of happiness. In the blue days of the later years in Boscawen and the earlier years in Maine, when the chilling clouds of poverty hung heavily over us, the habitual hopefulness of Aunt Sally, and her strong faith in the coming of better days and her words of encouragement and cheer were a perpetual benediction to the children of the household—and when the better days came no one greeted them with keener satisfaction than Aunt Sally.” My grandfather greatly regretted his lack of education. He was a great reader, considering his opportunities, and in Boscawen took an active part with the Webster family in building up the schools. His hotel in Boscawen was on the Merrimac river, two miles above the later Fisherville, now Pennacook, the building, in 1894 a private dwelling, having been for many years used as a boarding house for the Elmwood Academy. The nearest neighbors were Ezekiel Webster, brother of Daniel, and family, a little above and across the road. One of the Websters still lives there and remembers the times of our grandfather, when, as he writes, “Capt. Oak, as he was known, was a noted performer on the fife, and also a good player of the violin.” When he was married he sold his violin to buy a cow.

71. **Susanna.** Born Winchester, N. H., April 12, 1778; married Chelsea, Vt., 1798; died in Howard county, Indiana, March 5, 1870, aged 91. Husband, **Enoch Challis**, son of Thomas<sup>4</sup> and Molly (French); born Salisbury, N. H., January 22, 1774; died Boscawen, N. H., about 1816; 1 child, Josiah Edson.. Susanna as the oldest daughter, had much influence in molding the characters of her brothers and sisters. In physique she was smaller than her sisters; she inherited her mother’s musical taste, and bequeathed it to her son.

Susanna lived in many places with her roving son, but spent ten years or more with the Oaks of Exeter and Garland, Me., where she endeared herself to all. She was a woman of strong character and attractive personality; but especially noted for her self-sacrificing efforts under unfavorable circumstances to give her only son an education. Her husband kept the Boscawen hotel in 1812, but then went into the army, returning with shattered health.

72. **Nathaniel.** Exeter, Me.; farmer and builder; born Winchester, N. H., February 9, 1780; married Lee, N. H., November

1. 1811; died September 24, 1851. Wife, **Abigail Cartland**, daughter of Elijah<sup>3</sup> and Abigail<sup>5</sup> (Scales); born Lee, N. H., December 17, 1788; died August 18, 1866; 8 children, Eliza, Samuel, Abigail, Harriet, Nathaniel, George, Joseph and Mary.

Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> Oak left Chelsea, Vt., at the age of 18, with all his possessions hanging from a stick over his shoulder. Working on bridges and other structures in Portsmouth and Bangor, he at last came on a visit to his sister Abigail to Exeter, Me., where in 1810 he bought a farm in the wilderness, which he cleared and made his home for life. Physically he stood "six feet in his stockings," and was a model of athletic manhood. His character was equal to his physique; and his "luck" was proverbially not inferior to either. From the beginning he was a leading citizen, though never accepting public office. He prospered as a man is likely to do who can do the work of three in field or forest, and has no bad habits; and he became rich according to the standards of the time and region. Of unquestioned integrity, strict morality, a leading member of the Baptist church, noted for his liberality to the poor, he was a general favorite, whose success created no envy. One of his children, Nathaniel, lives in old age, 1906, on the old farm, the last of his generation.

73. **Arethusa**. Born January 20, 1782; died young.

74. **Abigail**. Florence, Ind.; baptized Winchester, N. H., May, 1785; married Chelsea, Vt., about 1806; died Hamilton, O., March 17, 1862. Husband, **Matthew Hedges**, farmer, son of David and Phebe (Shaw); died March 22, 1863; 7 children, William, Mary Jane, Nathaniel Gates, Harriet, Chas. Emerson, Hester Ann, Davenport Oak.

The family lived for a year or two in Stow, Vt., and went to Exeter, Me., in 1807-8, Abigail being the first of this branch to live in Maine. In 1816 the famous "year without crops," the Hedges removed to Ohio, and in 1821 settled in Florence, Ind., returning to Ohio soon after 1840, and spending their last years with their youngest son in Cincinnati. Abigail was traditionally older than Nathaniel, and though baptized in 1785, she may have been born some years earlier, or she may have been a twin of William, baptized the same year. Her descendants and those of William, the western lines of this branch, far outnumber those of all the other children of Nathaniel<sup>3</sup> (20). The eastern cousins had long lost all knowledge of these relatives when in 1891 the search was begun for this record.

75. **William.** East Enterprise, Ind., farmer and carpenter; baptized Winchester, N. H., November 6, 1785; married N. Y., about 1805; died 1825. Wife, **Sarah Alger** (widow Bullock?); 7 children, William Benjamin H., Sarah J., Jerusha, Davenport, Laura, Mary.

William<sup>4</sup> may have been a twin of Abigail. The eastern relations knew nothing of him for 90 years, except that he left his home in Chelsea, Vt., 1803-4, not being able to agree with his step-mother. Unfortunately the family Bible cannot be consulted, the grandchildren in possession fearing an intention of the writer to get their share of some great fortune! He married in N. Y., perhaps Buffalo, and in 1815 settled in Indiana on a farm still occupied by his descendants in 1900. He was by all accounts a respectable, hard-working man, and an active Methodist, the meetings being long held in his home. His children had little opportunity for education, and his descendants are humble farmers and Democrats of the Indiana type.

76. **Betsy.** Andover, Mass.; born Winchester, N. H., July 20, 1787; married first about 1815; married second about 1830; died Garland, Me., 1872. First husband, **Reuben Taylor**, hotel-keeper, of Danbury, Vt.; died about 1825; 3 children: Benjamin, William, Francis; second husband, **Alvah Jennings**; no children.

Betsy<sup>4</sup>, with her first husband and after his death, kept the Mansion House in Andover, Mass. They had also kept a hotel in Boscawen, N. H. She was a very tall, straight woman of great worth, much courage and ambition; but her life was full of misfortunes. Her second husband proved worthless; her second son disappeared in Australia; her oldest son was mentally weak in his later years; twice in old age she fell and broke her hip, and even on her way to the grave the hearse was with difficulty kept from being overturned by a gale. She spent her last years in Garland, Maine, and her line is believed to be extinct.

77. **Sarah.** Born Winchester, N. H., about 1790; died unmarried about 1840. She lived with her sister, Mrs. Challis, and died of cholera in Cincinnati.

78. **Nancy.** Exeter, Me.; born Chelsea, Vt., April 11, 1792; married, Corinth, Me., June 16, 1817; died 1879. Husband, **Benjamin Evans, M. D.**, son of Thankful<sup>5</sup>; born Freetown, Mass., January 16, 1790; died March 26, 1871; no children. Nancy went to

Exeter, from Vermont in 1810 to visit her sister Abigail, and there she spent her life, being the last survivor of the family. The story of her early experiences and marriage, with the career of her husband, a pioneer physician, is a most fascinating one, but too long for this record, as is the eulogy that might truthfully be given to this noble couple. If Mrs. Evans ever had any faults her most intimate friends never discovered them. Her sister Betsy spent her later years at her home.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF JOHN<sup>3</sup> (27) AND ABIGAIL LAMBERT.

79. **Sarah.** Lee, Me.; born Canaan, Me., December 1, 1781; married Canaan, 1802 (intention 1804?); died 1867. Husband, **John Hook, Jr.**, millwright, died March 11, 1851; 9 children, Daniel, John, Joseph, Diana, Harriet, Mary, Betsy, Sarah and Martha.

80. **John.** Exeter, Me., farmer; born Canaan, Me., Nov. 11, 1783; married about 1806; died Kirkland, January 7, 1850. Wife, **Catherine** (widow McKenney); born February 5, 1793; died Chelsea, Mass., February 18, 1866; 9 children: Catherine, Rachel, Daniel, Abigail, Harriet, Philena, Rebecca and George.

John<sup>4</sup> Oaks came from Palermo to Bangor, Me., in 1812, and with his father was a prisoner of war in 1814. He came to Exeter in 1829; had a withered hand; perhaps Catherine was a second wife.

81. **Lydia.** Newport, Me.; born Canaan, February 22, 1788; married before 1807; died Bangor, December, 1871. Husband, **Elisha Philbrook**; died January 13, 1860; 11 children: Roswell, Sabrina, Asenath, Jethro, Jason, Sophronia, Ira, Sirena, Deronda, Alona, Ruel.

82. **Levi.** Cherryfield, Me.; farmer; born before 1798; married before 1818; died, 1861. Wife, **Mary Groves**; died, 1784; 8 children, Eli, Betsy, Elisha, Lydia, Mary, George, Cynthia, Sophronia, Abigail. He lived in Exeter 1827-33, coming from Wis-casset. Lived in Beddington in 1841.

83. **Daniel.** Exeter, Me., farmer; born before 1800; married before 1820; died Hartland, Me., June 17, 1871. Wife, **Betsy Elizabeth Philbrook**, sister of Elisha (81); died November, 1862; 11 children, John, Abigail, Nancy, Catherine, Julia, William, Daniel, Sarah, Ellen, Rebecca, Mary. Daniel lived also in Bangor, or Brewer.

84. **Electrius.** St. Francis, N. B.; farmer; died about 1890. Wife, **Henrietta Lavigne**, half-breed French and Indian, said to have been an excellent woman; 13 children, Olive, Sarah, Electrius, William, Joseph, Ellen, Betsy, Abigail, Liza (Louisa), Olive, Peggy, John, Harriet. Electrius<sup>4</sup> Oaks was a veteran of the War of 1812. When the line was run between the U. S. and Canada his farm proved to be on the Canadian side. His descendants are very numerous and very imperfectly recorded. Most of the children and grandchildren married French Canadians; and naturally they have but slight education, and with few exceptions are not helpful correspondents. Families of 12 to 18 children are not unusual.

85. **William Ward.** Bangor, Me.; foundryman; born Canaan, October 9, 1799; married Exeter, April 20, 1833; died Cambridge, Mass., March 29, 1879. Wife, **Eliza H. Stearns**, daughter of Capt. Levi of Newport; born Oakland, Me., March 12, 1802; died September 1, 1877; 7 children: Levi, Hannah, Nathaniel, Electrius, Charlotte, Eliza, Almeda. William lived in Boston some years from 1836, but returned to Maine, dying on a visit to Massachusetts.

86. **Betsy.** Bangor, Me.; born 1802. Husband, **Paul Tibbetts**; 7 children: John, Abigail, Henry, Naomi, Joseph, Lois, Martha. She lived also in Exeter and Carmel. Very little is known of her descendants.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF DANIEL<sup>3</sup> (28) AND MORNING BLIN.

87. **Samuel.** Charleston, S. C.; merchant; born Wiscasset, Me., 1784; married Canaan, 1802; died 1845. Wife, **Mary Burrill**;

died 1880, aged 93; 3 children: Ziba, Charlotte, Francis. Samuel<sup>4</sup> Oakes lived in Brownville, Me., before going to S. C. Nothing is known of what induced him to settle in the South. Suspicious relatives, relying on unfounded rumors of considerable wealth, think he may have obtained the famous grant due his grandfather! He was a prosperous trader, but never rich.

88. **Rachel.** Cambridge, Mass.; born Wiscasset, Me., about 1790; married first about 1810; married second, and third; died about 1837. First husband, **Capt. John Christie**, an Englishman of Boston; privateer in War of 1812, who died in Dartmoor prison, England, 1813; 1 child, Margaret. Second husband, **Peter Garaux**, French baker of Boston, who had served under Napoleon, and who entertained Louis Phillippe at his house. He had considerable property, including a block of buildings at Garaux Place (17 Portland street), which was inherited by his step-daughter, Margaret Christie. He lived but few years after the marriage, and had no children. Third husband, **Richard Jennings**, of Damariscotta, or Newcastle, Me.; no children.

89. **Elizabeth.** Cambridge, Mass.; died about 1850. Husband, **John Young**, U. S. Navy. He lost both arms in a battle on the lakes, War of 1812; no children.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF DANIEL<sup>3</sup> (28) AND DEBORAH ALBEE.

90. **Daniel Lambert.** Charleston, Mass.; sailor; born Wiscasset, Me., 1801; married first ———; married second about 1841; died June, 1877 (or January, 1875) in the Sailors' Home at Quincy. First wife, **Hannah Pike** (perhaps widow Pike, or Little); 1 child, Charlotte. Second wife, **Sarah Collins**; born October, 1809; 4 children;: Daniel, William, Asa, Samuel; married second, ———**Towle**; E. Boston, 1895.

91. **Moses L.** Boston, Mass.; policeman; born Wiscasset, Me.; twice married; died, December, 1871. First wife, **Jane Page** (widow DeForrest); died November 16, 1854, aged 45; 2 children, Moses and John. Second wife, **Nancy Kelly** (widow Barber); no children.

92. **Morning.** (Later "Marina Kirke"); Boston, Mass.; born Wiscasset, Me., 1810; 4 times married—and never a widow; died January 16, 1864 (or 1859). By some she was called a clairvoyant physician; but it would seem that she simply lived in her later years by selling medicines prepared according to formulæ of her brother, Dr. Thomas. First husband, **Albert J. Treadwell**; no children. Second husband, **Bradford Stacy**; 3 children: Stimpson, Bradford, Lucinda. Third husband, **Loring Jordan**; no children. Fourth husband, **Marshall Pike**, minstrel, author of the old song, "Home Again," which he dedicated to his niece, Charlotte<sup>s</sup> Oakes. Still living, 1896; no children.

93. **Asa Hutchings.** Boston, Mass.; physician; born Wiscasset, Me., 1811; died February 11, 1883. Wife, **Mary Ann Hartshorn**; died October 3, 1844; aged 31; 1 child: Rachel.

94. **Thomas Fletcher.** Titusville, Pa.; physician; born Wiscasset, Me., about 1820; married first, New Bedford, Mass.; married second, Pennsylvania, about 1871; died February 26, 1876. First wife, **Elizabeth Sherman**, of New Bedford; divorced; 1 child, Frank. Second wife, **Kate** —— (widow Bevins); no children.

Dr. Thomas<sup>4</sup> Oakes was a skillful physician, serving in the war as assistant surgeon, First Massachusetts Volunteers, from July 29, 1862; and surgeon Fifty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteers, 1863-5; also acting as Brigade surgeon. He practiced in East Portsmouth and Boston from 1846, removing to Pennsylvania after the war. He suffered much from dyspepsia, and died poor. A long and eulogistic memorial was published in the Titusville papers. His first wife married —— Robinson and went to Vermont. The widow is said to have been in Buffalo, N. Y., 1896.

95. **Francis Garaux.** Boston, Mass.; born Wiscasset, Me., April, 1822; married 1840; died March 6, 1876; buried Burlington, Me. Wife, **Caroline Comfort Paige**, daughter of John<sup>2</sup> (Col. Edward<sup>1</sup>); born Rumford, Me., 1822; died December 10, 1874; 3 children: Thomas, Francis, Marshall. Francis was the father of Thomas F. Oakes, the railroad magnate of New York.

IV. CHILDREN OF LEVI<sup>3</sup> (30) AND LYDIA BROWN.

96. **Louisa**. Sangerville, Me.; born Canaan, November 1, 1790; married December 10 (or 25), 1810; died September 13, 1824. Husband, **Walter Leland**, son of Henry<sup>4</sup>; born Sherburn, Mass., June 2, 1784; married second, widow Dane, 1825; married third, widow Bennett, 1833; 5 children: Sarah, Walter, Lydia, Laura, Chauncey. There is a published genealogy of the Leland family.

97. **Jonathan**. Parkman, Me.; born Canaan about 1793; married Sangerville, 1816; to Parkman, 1827; to Aroostook before 1831. Wife, **Rachael Carsley**; 4 children: Ebenezer, Martha, Cynthia, Timothy.

98. **Cynthia**. Rutland, O.; born Canaan, Me., February 22, 1795; married Sangerville, February 4, 1814; to Philadelphia, 1838; to Ohio, 1846; died September 26, 1855. Husband, **William Stevens, Jr.**; born November 7, 1793; died March 9, 1873; 10 children: Eunice, William, Lucy, Francis, Cynthia, Mary, Lorenz, Augustus, John, William.

99. **Lydia**. Wellington, Me. Husband, ——— **Davis**; no children.

100. **Levi**. Wellington, Me. Wife, **Sarah Tibbetts**; 4 children. The family left Wellington before 1840, and no further trace has been found.

101. **Mary**. Died young.

102. **Elizabeth**. Wellington, Me.; died North Searsmont, about 1875. Husband, **Henry Follett**; died Sacramento, Cal., 1850; 6 children: Jefferson, Levi, Henry, Francis, Loranus, Lorida.

IV. CHILDREN OF SOLOMON<sup>3</sup> (32) AND SUSANNA CLARK.

103. **Othniel**. Born 1787; died young.

104. **Sybil**. Illinois; born Canaan, Me., 1788 (or '90); married (intention) January 29, 1805; died 1859. Husband, **Isaac Law-**



rence; farmer; 8 children: Benjamin, Irene, Deborah, Sybil, Mary, Harriet, Abner, Isaac. The family went to Illinois about 1848.

105. **Olive.** Parkman, Me.; born Canaan, 1790 (or 92); married May 15, 1815; died June 20, 1861; to Illinois, 1848; returned to Maine 1856. Husband, **Joseph Morgridge**; farmer; he married second, her sister, Morning, and died November 16, 1882; 2 children: Otis, Flagg.

106. **Millie.** Norridgewock, Me.; born Canaan, December 28, 1793; married 1815; died September 2, 1876. Husband, **Cyrus Heald**; farmer; born September 2, 1793; died January 3, 1859; 10 children: Harriet, Sabrina, Winthrop, Lucy, Susan, Thomas, Charlotte, Solomon, Marcia, Gracia.

107. **Nancy.** Sangerville, Me.; born Canaan, March 30, 1794; married September 9, 1813; died November 12, 1877. Husband, **Moses Rollins**; farmer; 5 children: Olive, John, Benjamin, Charles, Henry.

108. **Abigail.** Wisconsin; born Canaan, Me., 1796; married, Sangerville, November 27, 1816; died California. Husband, **Noah Clough**; 5 children: Clarissa, Noah, Orison, Albion, John. The family went west before 1840; and several of the sons went later to California, one of them taking the mother there after the father's death. This family has not been found.

109. **Susan.** Sangerville, Me.; born Canaan, 1798; died unmarried, 1828.

110. **Solomon.** Illinois; farmer; born Canaan, Me., June 18, 1799; married Sangerville, September 14, 1823; to Parkman, 1839; to Illinois, 1852, but perhaps returned; died 1868. Wife, **Paulina Douty**, his cousin( 174); 10 children: Delphina, Horace, Isaac, Lucy, Martha, David, Lafayette, Olive, William, Amelia.

111. **Morning Flagg.** Parkman, Me.; born Canaan, 1802; married November 26, 1865; died March 11, 1892. Husband, **Joseph Morgridge**; died November 16, 1882. His first wife was her sister Olive (105); no children. She died in Illinois, where after her husband's death she went to live with her sister Lydia (113).

112. **Owen.** Belvidere, Ill.; farmer; born Canaan, Me., October 5, 1804; married first, Parkman, November 24, 1833; to Illi-

nois about 1845; married second, March 31, 1863; died August 2, 1897, aged 92. First wife, **Delana Crocker**; died May 1, 1854; 4 children: Sallie, Susan, Henry, Owen. Second wife, **Elizabeth H. Petingill** (widow Coburn), of Wyanet, Ill., 1900; no children. Owen was born on Oaks' Island, Skowhegan; but in infancy went to Sangerville. His widow has been a helpful correspondent in a branch of the family where help was sadly needed.

113. **Lydia**. Charles City, Ia.; born Sangerville, Me., October 30, 1808; married Parkman, October 26, 1834; to Illinois about 1851; died January 11, 1892. Husband, **Alden Crocker**, son of Joseph and brother of Delana (112); died Parkman, Me., 1850; 7 children: George, Lavina, Winthrop, Charles, Andrew, Daniel, Amanda.

114. **Amanda**. Sangerville, Me.; born 1810; died unmarried, 1830.

115. **Elbridge**. Flora, Illinois; born Sangerville, Me., August 18, 1813 (or August 19, 1812); married Sangerville, June, 1832; to Illinois about 1848; died February 12, 1889. Wife, **Liberty Leighton**; died May 5, 1893; 5 children: Cyrus, Marshall, John, Susan, Abigail.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF ABEL<sup>3</sup> (34) AND BETSY HAMLIN.

116. **Lucy**. Sangerville, Me.; born Canaan, March 28, 1793; married first, June, 1811; married second, after 1840; died July 17, 1874 (or 1880). She lived also in Garland and Dexter before 1821. First husband, **Sampson Silver**; farmer; died August 11, 1840; 7 children: John, Jane, Stephen, Sarah, Samuel, Benjamin, Savilla. Second husband, **William Goodwin**; no children.

117. **Simeon**. Sangerville, Me.; born Canaan, December 21, 1794; married about 1817. He went south, perhaps to South Carolina, after 1830, to settle some estate, and was never heard of again. He also is one of those suspected of having secured the mythical Oakes fortune. Wife, **Dorothy Stevens**, sister of William (98); died Portland, Oregon, March 31, 1870; 7 children: Gorham, Ira, Edward, Lucinda, Louisa, Lyllis, Lovina.

118. **Stephen.** Brookville, Pa.; millwright; born Canaan, Me., February 28, 1797; married May 6, 1821; from Sangerville, Me., to Pennsylvania, 1837; died May 29, 1874. Wife, **Sally Jane Ames**; born 1800; died 1880; 8 children: Elizabeth, Stephen, Calvin, Cordelia, George, Sally, Martin, Hudson.

119. **Abel.** Providence, R. I.; contractor; born Canaan, Me., March 22, 1798; married Milton, Mass., September 1, 1828; died February 12, 1858. Wife, **Charlotte Billings**, of Boston; died December 28, 1866; 5 children: Mary, Charles, Mary, William, John.

120. **James.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born Canaan, Me., March 24, 1800; married July 10, 1823; died Foxcroft, Me. Wife, **Sarah Parsons**; 6 children: Kingman, Danville, Howard, Arvilla, Hudson, Ruth.

121. **Samuel.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born Canaan, November 27, 1801; married October 7, 1824; died December 24, 1884. Wife, **Sally Saunders**, of Orland; born 1803; 1 child, Abel.

122. **Eliza.** Milo, Me.; born Canaan, August 10, 1803; married December 13, 1829; died October 31, 1854. Husband, **Robert Walton**, stonemason; born Paris, Me., July 24, 1804; died July 21, 1872; 4 children: Emily, Cyrena, Daniel, William.

123. **William.** Orland, Me.; farmer; born Canaan, May 18, 1806 (or 1804); married 1829; died February 28, 1888. He was a prominent citizen, high in Masonry, and colonel of militia. He went to California in "the days of gold." Wife, **Sarah Partridge**; died April 1, 1852; 5 children: Emily, Abigail, Florence, Druzilla, Corydon.

124. **Ebenezer Gardner.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born October 16, 1808; married first, ———; married second, April 30, 1849; died July 26, 1882. First wife, **Harriet Mead**, of Orland; divorced; no children. Second wife, **Sarah Briggs**; died February 17, 1884; 8 children: Nelson, Imogene, Eliza, Emily, Estella, Mary, David, Fred. Gardner Oaks was of Orland, 1833; and his children were born in Guilford. He also is said to have sought gold in California.

125. **John Ames.** Garland, Me.; farmer and Methodist preacher; born Sangerville, Me., June 28, 1809; married Parkman, April 1, 1828; to Garland, 1847; died August 26, 1886. Wife, **Lucy**

**Ann Follett**, of Wellington; born December 20, 1809; died April 22, 1871; sister of Henry (102); 3 children: Melvina, Amelia, Llewellyn. Elder John<sup>4</sup> A. Oaks was a good-natured, hard-working man, who preached and traded horses at intervals. He had a commendable habit of treating the writer as a boy to maple syrup, being the only one of the tribe known to the writer outside of his own branch. The two families lived in Garland for half a century, neither knowing of any relationship between Oaks and Oak.

126. **Lovina**. Orland, Me.; born Sangerville, July, 1812; married first, about 1835; married second about 1840; died March 16, 1873. First husband, **Hudson Saunders**; farmer; died January 12, 1839; 2 children: Hudson, Caroline. Second husband, **Jesse Floyd**, lawyer; 1 child, George.

127. **Daniel**. Orland, Me.; farmer; born Sangerville, July, 1815; died unmarried, 1836. Accidentally drowned.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> (35) AND SUSANNA ORR.

128. **Otis**. Sangerville, Me., farmer; born Canaan, January 4, 1794; married May 4, 1823; died Monson, September 24, 1875. Wife, **Celia Morgridge**; born Litchfield, February, 1797; died August 11, 1894; 3 children: Melville, Miranda, Sanford.

129. **William**. Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born Canaan, November 8, 1795; married, May 3, 1819; died April 12, 1873. Wife, **Mary Weymouth**; born October 9, 1798; died 1887; 8 children: Abner, James, William, Albion, Valentine, William, Mary, Augustus. Col. William<sup>4</sup> Oakes was a very prominent citizen, colonel of militia, holding town, county and state offices. It is regretted that a more detailed account of his life has not been furnished. Many of his descendants are in the professions—lawyers, teachers, engineers and artists.

130. **Betsy**. Sangerville, Me.; born Canaan, March 7, 1799; married November 28, 1819; died Dover, December 14, 1864. Husband, **William Farnham, Jr.**; 2 children: Susan, Hannah.

131. **Fanny.** Sangerville, Me.; born ———; married December 24, 1826; died July 18, 1883. Husband, **Eleazar Brown**; died February 15, 1876; 3 children: Lamar, Sarah, Augustus.

132. **Charity Jane.** Sangerville, Me.; born November 29, 1808; married April 22, 1828; died April 19, 1891. Husband, **Samuel Farnham**; died June 28, 1889; killed by lightning; 7 children: Harriet, Albert, Emily, Everett, Luther, Lucile, Samuel.

133. **Lamar Chace.** Sangerville, Me.; born June, 1805; died unmarried, October 28, 1825.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> (35) AND MARTHA MORGRIDGE.

134. **Mortimer Judson**, physician; born Sangerville, Me., May 6, 1837; married Lowell, Mass., 1856; died 1871. Wife, **Lizzie Church**; 1 child, Fred.

135. **Araminta**...Dexter, Me., 1898; born April 24, 1840; married November 26, 1863, (by Justice Lorenzo<sup>5</sup> Oak, Benj.<sup>4</sup> (70).) Husband, **Fred Page**, expressman; no children. She is one of the two survivors of her generation in 1898; and the only one with whom the writer has had direct correspondence. Though an invalid, confined to her room for years by a malady of the eyes, she has taken the greatest interest in the family record, and has supplied a very large amount of information about members of several different branches.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF SYLVANUS<sup>3</sup> (39) AND ABIGAIL BALL.

136. **Rebecca.** Born November 16, 1772; died after 1835. Husband, **Joseph Thorp.** No trace of the children found.

137. **Lydia.** Coleraine, Mass.; born Holden, September 17, 1774; married, 1793; died February 25, 1852. Husband, **Abel**

**Shattuck**, son of Thomas<sup>s</sup>; born 1758; died July 1, 1816; 14 children: Mary, Jethro, Almira, Abel, Park, Lydia, Ai, Milo, Ase-nath, Silas, Truman, Truly, Ezra, Sylvia. Lydia was his second wife. Abel Shattuck lived 10 years with the Shakers of New Lebanon, N. Y., a clothier by trade, and much employed in public affairs of Coleraine. The 14 children had many descendants—one of the largest lines from this fourth generation; but the excellent **Shattuck Genealogy** gave a good start; and members of the family have as a rule been good correspondents.

138. **John**. Coleraine, Mass.; farmer; born December 19, 1776; married about 1803; died May 17, 1850. Wife, **Rachel Caldwell**; born August 30, 1785; died April 9, 1825; 8 children: Rachel, Joseph, Evelyn, George Mary, Samuel, Cleora, Abigail. John was crippled with rheumatism in his later years. Two daughters are living and have given the records of their own families; but are uncommunicative about the other lines, most of which, however, were not numerous.

139. **Darius**. Born September 11, 1780; died in infancy.

140. **Mary**. ———, New York; born January 11, 1784. Husband, ——— **Eldridge**; 1 child, David (and probably more)—family not found.

141. **Silas**. Darkesville, W. Va.; woolen manufacturer; born Coleraine, Mass., March 19, 1787; married, Virginia, November 14, 1815; died July 14, 1856. Wife, **Margaret Collins**; died May 10, 1871; 4 children: David, William, Mary, Margaret. Silas and his descendants wrote the name "Oak," as did probably his brothers and sisters in youth.

142. **George**. Black River, N. Y.; clothier; born June 13, 1790; married June 3, 1819; died October 12, 1857. Wife, **Martha Green Choate**; born Bennington, Vt., October 22, 1797; died July 28, 1878; 8 children: Carlos, William, Helen, Charles, George, Kimball, Martha, Caroline.

143. **Levi**. Abingdon, Va.; farmer and fuller; born February 26, 1793; married, Virginia, January 15, 1819; died June 12, 1891. Wife, **Jane White**; born January 9, 1801; died July 6, 1891; 2 children, Mary, Margaret. Levi<sup>s</sup> Oak was a Union man during the war. He was of dark complexion, tall but not strong, a quiet man of good reputation. Like his brother Silas he retained the name in its original form.

144. **Margaret.** Coleraine, Mass.; born June 16, 1797; married 1817; died —. Husband, **Amos Stewart**; farmer; born January 4, 1793; died June 17, 1867; 10 children: Haven, William, Silas, Nancy, David, Amos, Amos, Charles, Mary, George. His second wife was Lydia<sup>5</sup> Shattuck (widow Babcock), daughter of Lydia<sup>4</sup> Oak (137); no children.

## DESCENDANTS OF NATHANIEL OAK.

### Fourth Generation in Female Lines.

Arranged alphabetically by surnames, with reference by number to and from the male lines.

#### ALEXANDER, Hannah<sup>3</sup> Oak, John<sup>2</sup> (7)

This family with 42 names in the male line and over 300 in all lines, constitutes with that of Follett, one of the main branches of the Oaks. It is the branch most nearly related to the writer, except his own. The MSS. left by Dr. Alexander has been of great service, and members generally have been good correspondents.

## IV. CHILDREN OF SETH AND HANNAH<sup>3</sup> OAK (19)

### All Born Winchester, N. H.

145. **Hannah.** Winchester, N. H.; born September 25, 1769; married first, March 14, 1787; married second, November 27, 1810; died January 3, 1853. First husband, **James Foster**, of Fitzwilliam, son of Joseph, who was a Revolutionary soldier (?); 6 children: Sally, Daniel, Susan, Hannah, Grata, James. Second husband, **Tertius Lyman**; born 1762; died October 6, 1827; 1 child, Tertius.

146. **Seth.** Born 1770; died young.
147. **Elias.** Born July 24, 1771; died October 5, 1776.
148. **Grata.** Winchester, N. H.; born July 4, 1773; married 1795; died November 3, 1819. Husband, **Ephraim Hawkins**; died October 17, 1820, aged 54; 4 children: Pamela, Daniel, Pamela, Lifa.
149. **Elijah.** Born February 23, 1775; died October 5, 1776.
150. **Elias.** DeKalb, N. Y.; born January 10, 1777; married Cooperstown, 1808; died 1855. Wife, **Chloe Woodhouse**; died April, 1842; 7 children: Horace, Emery, Elvira, Emily, Evaline, Jane, James.
151. **Seth.** DeKalb, N. Y.; born March 31, 1779; married first about 1814; married second about 1845; died February 5, 1874. First wife, **Olive Spencer**; born May 23, 1791; died September 17, 1839; 6 children: Edward, Mary, William, Dixon, Florilla, Caroline. Second wife, **Lucy** (widow Barnes); died December 8, 1875; no children.
152. **Content.** Earlville, N. Y.; born May 10, 1781; married July 14, 1799; died November 6, 1863. Husband, **James Stowell**, M. D., son of Joseph and Martha; born October 2, 1771; died 1843; 12 children: Pamela, Eunice, Jeremiah, Caroline, Paul, Alexander, Cynthia, Hannah, George, Sanford, Samantha, Nancy.

**BIGELOW. Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> Oak, Jon.<sup>2</sup> (8).**

This is one of the main branches—the descendants of one of the immigrant's grandchildren. It is also one of the largest branches with over 700 names, though the record in some lines is still missing.

The published **Bigelow Genealogy** contains but very little information on the Oak branch.

**IV. CHILDREN OF NATHAN AND ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup>  
OAK (23).**

153. **Levi.** Crown Point, N. Y., from 1802; born Ashburnham, Mass., July 13, 1771; married February 25, 1798; died Au-



gust 26, 1825. Wife, **Lucy Sampson** (224) (his cousin), daughter of Jonathan and Mary<sup>3</sup> Oak (21); born May 12, 1775; died April 23, 1838; 9 children: Olive, Ephriam, Polly, Ransom, Levi, Lucy, Calvin, Desta, Roswell.

154. **Nathan**. Brandon, Vt.; shoemaker; born Ashburnham, Mass., January 27, 1773. Wife, **Nabby Carey**; 5 children: Phila, Lavina, Parmelia, Abbie, Charles.

155. **Betsy**. Born Ashburnham, Mass., September 17, 1774; died about 1834. Husband, **John Dunlop**; 2 children: Betsy, —?

156. **Jonathan Oaks**. Born Ashburnham, Mass., July 22, 1776. Wife, — — — —; 3 children: Rosaline, Eliza, Ransom.

157. **John**. Crown Point, N. Y.; farmer; born Vermont, August 18, 1780; married February 11, 1812; died May 28, 1847. Wife, **Harriet Holden**; born March 4, 1791; died, December 24, 1881; 9 children: John, Orson, Matilda, Hartwell, Augustus, Darius, Stephen, Charles, Sarah.

158. **Ebenezer**. Crown Point, N. Y.; farmer; born September 12, 1784; married 1812; died November 24, 1863. Wife, **Betsy Wallace**; died September 3, 1860; 9 children: Maranda, Alonzo, John, Daniel, Melissa, Martha, Henry, Mary, Orville.

159. **Joseph**. Wisconsin; born Crown Point, N. Y., February 15, 1787; married about 1810; died — — — —. Wife, **Catherine Chilcott**; 14 children: Rosetta, William, Nancy, William, John, William, Polly, Rosetta, Oscar, Amos, Lucinda, Daniel, Polly, Hiram. Joseph was the grandfather of Chief Justice Rosco R. Bigelow, of Nevada.

160. **Amos**. Detroit, Mich.; millwright; born Crown Point, N. Y., May 30, 1789; died December 24, 1850. Wife, **Nancy Chilcott**; born May 10, 1797; died February 21, 1846; 11 children: William, Charlotte, Elijah, Seymour, Orlando, Orphia, Emily, Clinton, Henry, Mary, Alice.

161. **Sally**. Crown Point, N. Y.; born Clarendon, Vt. (?), September 12, 1791; married first, April 21, 1808; married second, January 31, 1844; died March 14, 1868. First husband, **David Drake**; born Concord, Mass., September 24, 1787; died February 13, 1837; 10 children: Lyman, Martha, Amos, Nathan, Ann, Albida, Lucinda, Olive, Mary, Laura. Congressman James C. Needham of California is a grandson of Sally.

162. **Daniel.** Wisconsin.

163. **Polly.** Vermont. Husband, **Charles Holden.**

Of probably half of the whole Bigelow branch no record can be found.

**BLACKDEN, Sarah Oak<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan<sup>2</sup> (8).**

**IV. CHILDREN OF WILLIAM AND SARAH OAK 3 (24).**

164. **Joseph Fairbanks.** Maine; born Harvard, Mass., April 6, 1772. Wife, **Jennie Getchell**; 6 children: Clarissa, Rozinda, James, William, Daniel, David.

165. **Sarah.** Born Harvard, Mass., February 17, 1774.

166. **Mary.** Husband, **Benjamin Getchell**, of N. Anson, Me., brother of Jennie (164); 10 children: Reed, Dennis, Phineas, Mary, Cynthia, Charlotte, Fanny, Nancy, Cynthia, Sarah and two who died in infancy. This should be one of the main branches of the tribe, but as yet very little information has been obtained. The name in later times has generally been written **Blagden** or **Blagdon**.

**CONANT. Lydia<sup>3</sup> Oak, Jonathan<sup>2</sup> (8).**

This is one of the large main branches of the tribe; and the record is complete with about 550 names. In the male Conant line there are 108 names. It is a family of distinguished lineage and of high character, containing probably more professional and prominent members than any other branch. The excellent published **Conant Genealogy** has been of great service, though it contains less than one-third of the names here recorded.

IV. CHILDREN OF EBENEZER AND LYDIA<sup>3</sup> OAK (22).

167. **Lydia**. Born Stow, Mass., November 21, 1768; died, Ashburnham, September, 1776.

168. **Sarah**. Brandon, Vt.; born Ashburnham, Mass., October 24 (or 17), 1770; married November 6, 1788; died Springfield, N. Y., May 2, 1839. Husband, Deacon **Jonathan Merriam**, son of Isaac<sup>5</sup> and Eleanor (Monroe); born, Concord, Mass., July 6, 1764; died March 26, 1826 (or April 26, 1825); a hatter by trade; Capt. of Militia; selectman, and Baptist deacon; 8 children: Isaac, Jonathan, Sarah, Lydia, Eben, Calvin, Rollin, Mylon.

169. **John**. Brandon, Vt.; manufacturer and foundryman; born Ashburnham, Mass., February 2 (or 22), 1773; married first, November 19, 1794; married second, 1853; died June 30, 1856. He was one of the richest and most prominent men in town; deacon, Justice, Representative, and Presidential Elector. First wife, **Charity Wait Broughton**, daughter of Wait; born June 14, 1772; died December 12, 1851; 9 children: Cynthia, Samuel, Chauncey, John, Thomas, Sophronia, Caroline, Clara, Francis. Second wife, widow **Bowman**, of Chicago; no children.

170. **Elizabeth**. Brandon, Vt.; born Ashburnham, Mass., March 15, 1775; married, February 10, 1794; died June 3, 1842. Husband, Capt. **David Merriam**, brother of Jonathan (168); born January 28, 1760; died February 15, 1842 (or '45 or '49); 4 children: Betsy, Alvin, Angeline, David.

171. **Eben**. Geneva, Ill.; farmer; born Ashburnham, Mass., June 6, 1777; married first ———; married second, June 4, 1807; married third, May 17, 1849; died July 17, 1870. A prominent Unitarian. First wife, **Rebecca Stuart**; 2 children: Rebecca, Sophia. Second wife, **Fanny Clifford**, of Pittsford, Vt.; died January 26, 1848; 5 children: Rebecca, Fanny, Augustus, Calvin, Harriet. Third wife, **Polly Olin Wright**; no children.

172. **Calvin**. Putnam, O.; mechanic and physician; born, Ashburnham, Mass., May 30, 1779; married first, May 24, 1801; married second, ———; died January 26, 1829. Clerk of Baptist church; lived in Vermont—Pittsford, Brandon, and Shelburne, to 1816. First wife, **Esther Rich**, of Pittsford, Vt.; born, January 15, 1782; died, June 11, 1825; 6 children: Lydia, Melinda, Betsy, Charles, Lorenzo, Cyrus.

173. **Luther.** Geneva, Ill.; born Ashburnham, Mass., January (or June), 24, 1782; married first, July 10, 1804; married second, August 25, 1811; died August 8, 1835. First wife, **Polly Hall**, of Brandon, Vt.; born May 12, 1786; died December 12, 1809; 2 children: Polly, Amanda. Second wife, **Reziner Bemis**; born Dummerston, Vt., May 7, 1787; died June 30, 1867; 3 children: Olive, Mary, William.

**CUMMINGS, Lydia<sup>3</sup> Oak, George.<sup>2</sup> (9).**

**IV. CHILDREN OF JONATHAN AND LYDIA<sup>3</sup> OAK (38).**

Probably born Andover, Mass.

- 173a. **Sarah.** Born May 21, 1767; died young.
- 173b. **Sarah.** Born August 25, 1768.
- 173c. **Jonathan.** Born February 5, 1771.
- 173d. **Stephen.** Born January 12, 1773.
- 173e. **Mary.** Born November 1, 1774.
- 173f. **Daniel.** Born December 1, 1776; died young.
- 173g. **Daniel.** Born September 2, 1778.
- 173h. **Amos.** Born July 2, 1781.
- 173i. **Patty.** Born October 13, 1783.
- 173j. **Abithar.** Born September 22, 1786.

(Probably not all children of Lydia, the first wife). There is another record from "Merrimack" of the birth of the following children of a Jonathan and Lydia Cummings: **Elizabeth**, August 26, 1786; **Lydia**, October 5, 1788; **Jonathan**, September, 1790; **Achsah**, April 21, 1795.

**DOUTY. Lucy<sup>3</sup> Oaks (36), Jonathan<sup>2</sup> (8).**

**IV. CHILDREN OF DAVID AND LUCY<sup>3</sup> OAKS (36).**

174. **Philena** (or **Paulina**). Illinois; born, Maine, December 14, 1798; married September 14, 1823; died — — — —. Husband,

**Solomon<sup>4</sup> Oaks** (110); died 1868; 10 children: Delphina, Horace, Isaac, Lucy, Martha, David, Lafayette, Olive, William, Amelia.

175. **Oaksmen.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; Colonel of Militia; born, May 31, 1800; died, August 9, 1844, from a fall from his horse at a muster. Wife, **Mercy Colton**; died, September 9, 1853, aged 44; 5 children: Justice, Lorenzo, Abby, Henrietta, Rozilla.

176. **George.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born August 20, 1801; married, 1823; died September 29, 1863. Wife, **Sally Mecomber**; died January 8, 1888; 7 children: Elizabeth, Sally, Winburn, Olive, Abigail, George, David.

177. **John.** Winnebago, Wisconsin; farmer; born March 18, 1803; married, 1833; died, June, 1887. Wife, **Mary Ann Hilton**; 4 children: Daniel, Calvin, Alfred, Sarah.

178. **Martha.** Dexter, Me., born, December 17, 1804; married, 1832; died — — —. Husband, **Joseph Wormell**; 2 children: George, Lucy.

179. **Hiram.** Fond du Lac, Wis.; real estate; born, Maine, September 24, 1806; died, Vineland, N. J., October 8, 1871. Wife, **Althea Robinson**; no children.

180. **Abigail.** Galesburg, Ill.; born, Sangerville, Me., September 17, 1809; married, 1829; died, N. Y., — — —. Husband, **Isaac W. Colton**; 2 children: David, Martha. One of the children was Gen. D. D. Colton, of San Francisco, associated with Huntington, Hopkins, Stanford and Crocker in building the Central Pacific railroad.

181. Col. **CALVIN SANGER.** Dover, Me.; farmer and surveyor; born Sangerville, December 10, 1811; married, June 15, 1845; to Guilford 1845; to Dover, 1853; died, June 17, 1863. Deputy Sheriff and twice Sheriff of Piscataquis county. He raised a company, 1861, and became Major of the First Maine Cavalry; promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel; and in a month was to have been Brigadier General, but was killed in a cavalry charge at Addis, Va. Wife, **Emily Cummings Bailey**, of "Mayflower" stock; died, 1892; 1 child, and 6 who died young. The son is Frank S. Douty of San Francisco, Cal., prominent in business and social circles.

182. **Lovey.** Sangerville, Me.; born, April 4, 1814; married, July 26, 1835; died, December 24, 1857. Husband, **James Tarr**,

blacksmith; died, May 6, 1892; 3 children: Susan, Charles, James.

183. **Charles Weymouth.** Houlton, Me.; born March 2, 1815; married, March 12, 1843; died, October 26, 1890. Wife, **Mary Elizabeth Staples**; born, Albion, January 19, 1823; died, September 8, 1895; 1 child: Ella.

184. **David.** Sangerville, Me.; farmer; born, November 17, 1818; married first, 1846; married second, March 15, 1855; died, June 14, 1870. First wife, **Sarah Cleaves**; 2 children: Charles, Edwin. Second wife, **Josephine Herring**; 6 children: Hattie, Fred, Ada, May, David, Calvin.

185. **Lucy Reliance.** Mt. Vernon, Wash., 1897; born, April 28, 1822 (or 1820); married first, May 12, 1846; married second, December 22, 1883. One of the two survivors of the fourth generation. First husband, **Joseph Cleaves**, merchant; divorced, and living in 1897; 5 children: Fred, Howard, Arthur, Ida, Mary. Second husband, **Orrin Kincaid**, farmer; no children.

**FOLLETT.** Hannah<sup>3</sup> Oak, John<sup>2</sup> (7).

This family, with the Alexanders, constitutes one of the main branches of the tribe, or more than half the descendants of John<sup>2</sup> (7).

#### IV. CHILDREN OF JOHN AND HANNAH<sup>3</sup> OAK (19).

All Born Winchester, N. H.

186. **John.** Winchester, N. H.; farmer; born, June 9, 1784; married June 30 (or June 28), 1810; died, July 27, 1816. Wife, **Lydia Oldham**, daughter of Abel and Amy (Hawkins); born April 29, 1790; married second, Timothy Smith, 1824; died, January 19, 1868; 4 children: Nancy, Eliphalet, Abel, Stutson.

187. **Silas.** Enfield, N. Y.; farmer; born January 31, 1786; married first, 1808; married second, Enfield, July 21, 1814; died, October 1, 1864. First wife, **Hannah May**; died, May, 1813; 4 children, Fanny, Emily, Harriet, Sophronia. Second wife, **Nancy**

**Curry**; 9 children, William, James, Caroline, John, Betsy, Alex, Lutheda, Permelia, Mary.

188. **King**. Nauvoo, Ill.; farmer; born July 25 (24 or 26), 1788; married, about 1816; died, March 9, 1844. He went from New Hampshire to Cooperstown, N. Y., and to DeKalb, 1809; to Ohio, before 1824; became a Mormon Elder, 1831; to Illinois, 1839. He shared the persecution of the saints, being in jail in Richmond and Columbia, Mo., April to October, 1839, on a charge of robbery, but was acquitted on trial. He was killed by a bucket of rocks falling upon him in a well. Part of his family went on with the church to Utah, but the widow and two sons went to Iowa. Wife, **Louisa Tanner**; born August 3, 1799; died, November 15, 1891; 9 children: Warren, William, Nancy, Edward, John, Adeline, Emily, Mary, Edward.

189. **Lifa**. Winchester, N. H.; born April 19, 1790; died unmarried, October 21, 1809. Killed by fall from a building.

190. **William**. Winchester, N. H.; hotel-keeper; born April 17, (or 18) 1792; married, September 15, 1818; died, June 26, 1861. Wife, Lutheda Scott, daughter of Eben; born April 14, 1794; died February 25, 1859; 4 children, Abigail, Seth, Maryette, Maria.

191. **Alexander**. Ohio; born, May 7, 1794; died, before 1823. He went to Ohio with his brother King; probably married; and died there; probably no children.

#### **GATES.** Mindwell<sup>3</sup> Oak, Nathaniel<sup>2</sup> (2).

This is one of the smaller main branches of the tribe, with about 150 names, with 37 names in the male line. The record is nearly complete.

#### **IV. CHILDREN OF CALEB AND MINDWELL<sup>3</sup> OAK (15).**

192. **Achsah**. Acton (Townshend), Vt.; born Stow, Mass., March 8, 1777; married March 19, 1807; died July, 1854. Husband, **Dennis Holden**, son of Philemon of Shirley, Mass., one of the proprietors and first settlers of Johnson's Gore (Acton);

born December 6, 1784; died July 15, 1872; 7 children, Philemon, Sabra, Ira, Lurinha, Louisa, Achsah, Fidelia.

193. **Artemas.** Born April 25, 1780; died young.

194. **Josiah.** Acton and Reading, Vt.; born Stow, Mass., October 8, 1783; married January 8, 1803; died March 10, 1812. Wife, **Sabra Holden**, sister of Dennis (192); born December 23, 1782; died, December 13, 1815; 5 children, Artemas, Josiah, John, Emery, Caleb.

#### **HOMSTED. Sybil<sup>3</sup> Oaks, Jonathan<sup>2</sup> (8).**

This one of the main branches descending from the third generation contains about 220 names, some lines being yet very incomplete. The male Homsted line recorded includes 73 names.

#### **IV. CHILDREN OF DANIEL AND SYBIL 3 OAKS (33). Born Skowhegan, Me.**

195. **Abigail.** First husband, **Daniel Hutchinson**; 4 children. Second husband, **Robert Rogers**; 4 children (names unknown).

196. **Abel.** Skowhegan, Me.; married about 1816; died about 1865. Wife, **Sally Hutchinson**; 7 children, Emily, Elinor, Sybil, Abel, Philena, Mary, Ruel.

197. **Timothy.** Skowhegan, Me., farmer; born, 1797; married, about 1816; died November 2, 1831; drowned. Wife, **Abigail French**; born Epping, N. H., 1786; died, Portland, Me., December, 1874; 3 children, John, Abbie, Timothy.

198. **Reuben.** Palmyra, Me.; farmer; born, January 18, 1798; married first, June, 1822; married second, March 23, 1830; died, April 5, 1878. First wife, **Sally Malbon**; 2 children, Daniel, James. Second wife, **Harriet Horn**; born June 15, 1807; died, January 15, 1887; 3 children, Timothy, Charles, Sarah.

199. **Mary.** Palmyra, Me.; born February 2, 1802; married, January 1, 1823; died, January 16, 1893. Husband, **George Pooler**; born, October 5, 1799; died May 6, 1888; 6 children, Eben, Timothy, Leander, Daniel, Mary.



199a. **Betsy**. Palmyra, Me.; born, June, 1799; married, January 21, 1823; died, November 8, 1850. Husband, **Jonathan Robinson**, farmer; born, March 5, 1800; died, March 16, 1879; 9 children, Daniel, Thomas, Lucinda, Louisa, Ann, Cyrus, John, Frank, Randolph.

200. **Lucinda**. St. Albans, Me.; died about 1855. Husband, **John French**; farmer; 1 child, Margaret.

201. **Daniel**. Skowhegan, Me.; farmer; born, 1809; married, first, 1831; died, Hampden, March 28, 1879. First wife, **Martha Nason**, of Athens; 2 children, Daniel, Samuel.

202. **Hannah**. W. Pittsfield, Me.; born 1810; married about 1829; died August 3, 1893. Husband, **Moody Patten**; farmer; died March 7, 1880, aged 75; 10 children, Seth, Benjamin, Joshua, Sybil, George, Harriet, Frances, Abel, Oscar, Josiah.

203. **Seth**. Skowhegan, Me.; farmer; born, March 18, 1811; married February 21, 1837; died January 12, 1885. Wife, **Harriet T. Heald**, daughter of Cyrus and Millie<sup>4</sup> Oaks (106); born December 14, 1815; living 1895; 1 child, Augustus.

204. **Franklin**; died at 14.

205. **Margaret**; died unmarried.

**LAMBERT**. Millie<sup>3</sup> Oaks, Jonathan <sup>2</sup> (8).

This would doubtless be one of the larger if the record were complete; but there is but slight prospect of making it so. It contains about 300 names, with 60 in the male Lambert line.

#### IV. CHILDREN OF SHEREBIAH AND MILLIE<sup>3</sup> OAKS

(31).

Born Skowhegan, Me.

206. **Daniel**. St. Paul, Minn.; born March 1, 1788; 5 children, Richard, James, Daniel, Pamela, Ann.

207. **David**. Iowa (?); born January 17, 1790.

208. **Solomon**. Livonia, Mich.; farmer; born May 15, 1792; 2 children, William, Mary.

209. **Lydia A.** Born October 20, 1794; married about 1810; died February 5, 1883 (or January 11, 1881). Husband, **William Brawn** (Braun or Brann); 12 children, David, Hannah, Richard Lambert, Sherebiah, James, Henry, Peter, Robert, Mercy, Pamela, Frank B., William, Thomas.

210. **Willard.** Livonia, Mich.; farmer; born March 9, 1797.

211. **Richard.** Skowhegan, Me.; farmer; born July 6, 1799; married, December 25, 1823; died, February 25, 1880. Wife, **Rhoda Gulliver**; born October 22, 1798; died December 18, 1893; 4 children, Ruel, Sarah, William, John.

212. **James.** Skowhegan, Me.; Michigan; Canada; born, July 13, 1801; twice married; 10 children, Green, William, James, Pamela, Lamar, George, Albert, Loren, Caroline, Clarissa.

213. **Robert.** Bloomfield, Me.; lumberman; born April 9, 1804; married about 1827; died December 31, 1834; killed by a falling tree. Wife, **Azuba Parker**; 5 children, Thomas, Charles, Rhoda, Azuba, Lovina.

214. **Mary Homsted.** Levant, Me.; born August 1, 1807; married about 1823; died November 24, 1878. Husband, **Levi Curtis**; died December, 1863; 9 children, John Wesley, James C., Isaac, John Wesley, Samuel Osborn, Levi, Emeline, Richard Lambert, William.

215. **Martha.** Lowell, or Enfield, Me.; born December 11, 1811. Husband, **Eben Doane**; 6 children, Pamela, Eben, Hannah, Mary, Ruel, Sarah.

**SAMPSON.** Mary<sup>3</sup> Oak, Jonathan<sup>2</sup> (8).

This is the largest of the main branches of the tribe, with over 1,100 names, with 100 in the male line. The record is still far from complete. By many the name is written "Samson." The published genealogy of the family contains something on the early generations. The **Hist. Ashburnham, Mass.**, has been very helpful; and many have proved good correspondents.

Especial credit is due to Levi J. Sampson of Braceville, Ohio.

IV. CHILDREN OF JONATHAN AND MARY<sup>3</sup> OAK (21).

216. **Jonathan.** Ashburnham, Mass.; farmer, born, Middleboro, May 7, 1759; married, February 21, 1782; died, December 9, 1846 (or 1847). **A Revolutionary soldier, serving 5 or 6 enlistments; and a prominent citizen.** Wife, **Susanna Rice**, daughter of Zebulon of Berlin; born March 22, 1759; died, July 30, 1850; 8 children, Mary, Dolly, Jonathan, Margaret, Mary, Sally, Abraham, Isaac; all born in Boylston.

217. **Mary.** Ashburnham, Mass.; born May 4, 1761; married October 17, 1785; died December 23, 1817. Husband, **Moses Tottingham**, son of Elisha<sup>4</sup> and Sarah (Lawrence); born Woburn, July 22, 1746; died, 1831; 8 children, Mary Elizabeth, Sarah, Moses, Asa, Ephriam, David, Abram.

218. **Abraham.** Westminster, Mass.; blacksmith; born May 23 (or 22), 1763; died, December 21, 1845. **Revolutionary soldier.** Wife, **Sally Adams**, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Baker); no children.

219. **Lydia.** Rindge, N. H.; born August 1, 1764; married August 2, 1782; died September 1, 1840. Husband, **Edward Whitmore**, son of Joseph<sup>5</sup> and Mary (Marion); born August 12, 1763; died November 15, 1841; 9 children, Patty, Oliver, Sally, Lydia, Emma, Isaac, Levi, Zoa, Joseph.

220. **Oliver.** Ashburnham, Mass.; farmer, and prominent Methodist; born September 22, 1766; married 1789; died, January 15, 1835; Wife, **Abigail Sawin**, daughter of John and Mary (Whitney); born 1769; died February 19, 1843; 8 children, Nancy, Abigail, Oliver, Nancy, Amos, Mary, Almira, Stephen.

221. **Ephraim.** Crown Point, N. Y.; born June 9, 1769; married about 1790; died February 15, 1853. Wife, **Olive Gates**; 12 children, Amos, Ephriam, Jeremiah, Betty, Levi, Ivers, Louisa, Almon, Abraham, Loyal, Olive, Miron.

222. **Moses**; born March 26, 1771; died unmarried; a hunter and trapper, from whom Sampson's Pond, Franklin Co., N. Y., was named.

223. **Relief.** Princeton, Mass.; born February 8, 1773. Husband, **John Winch.** Descendants not found.

224. **Lucy.** Crown Point, N. Y., born New York, April 23 (or May 12,) 1775; married February 25, 1798; died April 23, 1835 (or

'38). Husband, **Levi<sup>4</sup> Bigelow** (153), her cousin; 9 children, Olive, Ephraim, Polly, Ransom, Levi, Lucy, Calvin, Desta, Roswell.

225. **John**. Born July 10, 1777; died unmarried.

226. **Rebecca Barnard**. Willsboro, N. Y.; born May 30, 1780; married September 10, 1805; died August 8, 1845. Husband, **Daniel Rand**; born January 28, 1729; died April 10, 1850; 12 children: Stillman, Eley, Jarvis, Emeline, Lucy, Louisa, Mary, Ephraim, Rebecca, Emerson, Barnard, Robert.

227. **Solomon**. Malone, N. Y.; from Weybridge, Vt.; born January 26, 1783.

228. **Betsy**. Born April 19, 1785; died unmarried.

**SEARS.** Lois<sup>3</sup> Oaks, Jonathan<sup>2</sup> (8).

#### IV. CHILDREN OF WILLARD AND LOIS<sup>3</sup> OAKS (29).

229. **Fanny**. Skowhegan, Me.; born Canaan, March 20, 1794; married about 1815; died January 11, 1880. Husband, **James Brawn** (Braun or Brown), son of Thomas; born August 18, 1791; died November 18, 1852; 6 children, Lois, Francis, Adeline, Julia Ann, Henrietta, Judith Ann Longley.

230. **Thomas**. Parkman, Me.; farmer; Captain of Militia and town official; lived also in Wellington; born Cornville, January 14, 1795; married first, Sebec, Me., about 1818; married second, 1830; married third, after 1850; died, Sebec, June 28, 1878. First wife, **Polly Head**; died August 12, 1830; 5 children, Sumner, Levi, Armina, Sabina, Thomas. Second wife, **Susan Head**; died August, 1849; 6 children, Mary, Jane, Emily, Hiram, Lois, Willard. Third wife, **Sarah Coffin** (perhaps widow Wood); no children.

**STILES.** Tabitha<sup>3</sup> Oak, Nathaniel<sup>2</sup> (2).

**IV. CHILDREN OF DAVID AND TABITHA<sup>3</sup> OAK (12).**

Born probably Westminister, Mass.

231. **Minda.** Born October 21, 1766. Husband, **Nathaniel Briggs**; 6 children, names not given.

232. **Rhoda.** Norwich, Vt.; born December 20, 1767; married 1804. Husband, **Ephraim Smith**; 2 children, names not given.

233. **Eunice.** Born June 30, 1769; died unmarried.

234. **David.** Putney, Vt.; born, August 19, 1771; married, 1792. Wife, **Elizabeth Lippenwell** (widow Wyman), of Fitzwilliam, N. H. (or Weston, Vt.); 10 children, David, Joseph, Ephraim, Mark, Oren, Elhannon, Hosea, Philander, Harriet, Miranda.

235. **Gideon.** Born August 29, 1773; married November, 1819; died, April 12, 1829. Wife, **Lydia Wyman**; 3 children, Gideon, Lydia, Minerva.

236. **Kezia.** Born June 24, 1775; married first, October 28, 1798; married second, 1804. First husband, **Wm. Brooks**; 2 children. Second husband, **David Bemis**; 5 children, no names given.

237. **Nathaniel.** Rockingham, Vt.; farmer; born June 22, 1777; married first about 1805; married second ———; died, 1829. First wife, **Lucy Crosby**. Second wife, **Mary Tuft**, of Townshend, Vt.; born July 12, 1783; 5 children, Caroline, Henry, Adeline, Catherine, Cromwell.

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This ends the record of the four generations. The manuscript record on hand includes the most of the 5th, 6th and 7th generations and some data down to the 8th and 9th generation.

The volume of autographs includes about 1000 names and the volume of photographs includes several hundred persons to both of which I am adding as fast as received.

Vol. IV (Collateral Pedigree) Contains the names and genealogical information of 545 families with which the Oak tribe are intermarried. So to the genealogist this is the most valuable and interesting volume of the set.

In printing this record, I have followed as far as possible the language of the compiler. Doubtless could he have revised the final proofs he would have made some changes in wording which the writer did not feel authorized to make.

He would also have avoided some of the errors which I have made through ignorance and inexperience in this line of work.

It is with both joy and regret that I send out this little volume. Joy that the early record, so hard to obtain, and which if not now preserved would never again be made, is safe from loss. That the manuscript volumes were not destroyed by the earthquake and fire in San Francisco, in April, 1906, was because the administrator of Mr. Oaks' estate happened to keep them at his residence in Oakland instead of at his office in San Francisco, which with its contents was totally consumed.

It affords me great relief to know that such a danger has passed, for while to most the record is of no importance, to a few it is priceless.

While embracing less than 250 out of the 10,000 recorded descendants, it covers the period most difficult to investigate, and about 150 years of time, and connects our lives with those of our ancestors of 1776, whose record we can but be proud of, and the knowledge of whose services is worth more than the whole cost of the work.

I feel regret that the printed record is not brought down to date and more details given of the lives of many of those recorded. While it comes down to our grandparents, it leaves out the later generations, and I fear it may be years before the branch records will be printed. While I am thankful to those who have helped to bear the burden, still I realize that the number interested is pitifully small and unless some one or some few in each branch are "moved" to assist materially, the record will not get into print.

Meanwhile I stand ready to assist as far as possible any who care to trace their pedigree down to date, and keep the record complete.

ORA OAK.

Cucamonga, San Bernardino Co., Cal., Nov. 1906.







# HENRY LEBBEUS OAK

Historical Writer and  
Genealogist

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"A life devoid of praise or fame, yet nobly spent."

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A BRIEF SKETCH BY HIS BROTHER,  
ORA OAK

CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA



## HENRY LEBBEUS OAK

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Believing that every descendant of the Oak tribe will be interested in a sketch of the life of the compiler of the **Oak Genealogy**, and also of his historical work which preceded this, the writer undertakes the task, albeit both a sad and pleasant one.

Rarely does it fall to the lot of any one man to accomplish so much and receive so little recognition, or appreciation, of his work.

Henry Lebbeus was of the 6th generation descended through Nath<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Nath.<sup>3</sup>, Benj.<sup>4</sup>, Lebbeus<sup>5</sup>. Born in Garland, Penobscot county, Maine, (26 miles north of Bangor) on May 13, 1844.

Of his paternal ancestry to Benj. 4 (70), this volume gives information. His father, Lebbeus, was the seventh child of Benj. and Hannah (Smith) Oak. Born in Boscawen, N. H., in 1820, he came with his parents to Garland, Me., when a lad of six years, where he, with his four brothers and one sister, spent their entire lives, excepting, in his case, the time spent in learning his trade of harness-maker, in Bangor, Me., and Haverhill, Mass., and two years spent in Los Angeles, Cal., 1898-1900, visiting his boys. He died in his old home in Garland in May, 1905, three days after Henry's death. Lebbeus received less benefit from his schooling than his brothers, but was a great reader, and a well informed man on all current events, national, state and local.

Too old to enter the army in '61, he became captain of the home guards and later major of the state militia, and was active in filling Garland's quota of soldiers in the Civil War. He was well liked among his townspeople from the oldest to the youngest. Though on good terms with every one, genial social and witty, he was very averse to making social and formal calls.

I seldom knew him to visit, even his near relatives, though much pleased to have any of them or neighbors drop in to spend an hour with him of a Sunday afternoon.

This trait of aversion to society, calling and visiting, was even

more marked in Henry than in his father, causing him to lose, or miss, many opportunities to make valuable acquaintances and lasting friends, for it is to be noted that despite his feeling to the contrary, to be once his friend was to remain his friend. Always pleasant and courteous to those whom his duties or chance threw in his way, he never made the slightest exertion to cultivate or extend acquaintanceship. When he could not escape a social function, he became the life of it.

Henry's mother, Sarah Elizabeth (Merriam) was a quiet, thoughtful, devout woman, loved by all who knew her, and was as near perfection as mortals attain.

Though slight of form and frail of health, yet she was all a mother could be to her growing family. She died in 1886. Her line of recorded ancestors, compiled by her son largely from printed records, runs back much farther than on the father's side. **Joseph Merriam**, the immigrant of 1638, to Concord, Mass., was a son of **William Miriam** and **Sara Burges**, of Hadlow, Kent, England, and her line included both Abram and Ezra Merriam, father and son, who served in the War of the Revolution. Our mother was also a great grand-daughter, on her father's side, of **Oliver Elliot**, of Mason, N. H., a Revolutionary soldier, and also on her mother's side (Sally Hill-Merriam), a descendant of **John Boynton**, immigrant from England in 1638, whose wife, **Ellen Pell**, was of a long English pedigree. Henry's literary bent seems to have come largely from his mother's side of the family. Our mother's grandfather, Ebenezer Hill, was a Congregational minister of Mason, N. H., and mother received a legacy of a few hundred dollars from an uncle, John Boynton Hill. This money she devoted to Henry's education, he being her first born and early showing considerable mental ability, in the fond hope and expressed wish that he too should become a minister of the gospel.

He sincerely desired to carry out her ambition for him, but his peculiar temperament and mental mechanism made it impossible, and the fact clouded both their lives.

As a lad at school Henry was bright and quick to learn and generally knew his lessons, though seldom caught studying. He was of slender build, with light curly hair and bright ways that made him a favorite with the teachers and a leader with the boys.

L. O. Merriam, of Minneapolis, Minn., his cousin, school-mate and afterwards his college class and room-mate, writes thus of his early school days.

"As a boy, Henry was always easily the first. He was leader in everything. His remarkable physical qualities made him very popular among the boys. He could run faster, swim better, play better ball, jump farther, climb higher, and was more of an athlete in every way than any other boy in school. He was popular with the girls for the same reasons combined with a quick wit and an attractive personality. Because of his excellent scholarship, he was popular with the teachers. **No school ever brought out his full capacity for work.** The ease with which he mastered everything, left him plenty of time and energy to be turned in other lines, not always to the benefit of his school standing."

Of his boyhood in his autobiography, Henry says:

"Henry Oak, the oldest grandchild of Capt. Benjamin, was as a boy very quick to learn; but unambitious and indolent, and otherwise showing no very marked qualities, good or bad. Drifting along with his classes in the public and high schools, doing such work as he could not avoid in his father's garden, woodshed and harness shop, he found himself at 17 fitted for college, and, his mother having received an unexpected legacy of a few hundred dollars and mother-like placing it at the disposal of her son, he was able to enter Bowdoin College in 1862. In college as at school he had no difficulty in taking high rank in the recitation room and secured the honor of a 'Junior Part' and assistant librarianship; but otherwise he had not sense enough to derive any real benefit from the course, giving more attention to gymnastics than to his studies, doing no useful reading, making no effort to take advantage of much needed social opportunities, and indulging in the usual foolish college pranks, though his poverty kept him from the more ruinous forms of dissipation. Finally, being suspended with many others, and being the last permitted to return, he left Bowdoin with his classmate, George R. Williams, and a year later was graduated without honors from Dartmouth in 1865."

Some of us have learned that a boy who is "indolent" and "unambitious," does not often find himself "fitted for college" at 17. The last term fitting for college, Henry, with his cousin Leander, walked to Exeter Corner, 3½ miles and back each day. Nothing specially indolent about that.

His criticism on his course in college is probably a just one, but who does not look back with regret on wasted opportunities,

and misapplied energies? Of his college career his cousin, L. O. Merriam, writes:

"In college it was just the same. Before we had finished the first term of our Freshman year, Henry had dropped into his customary place among the first. While his class rank was always good, his popularity with the class-mates was even better. He devoted a great deal of time to the gymnasium, with remarkable success. But one in the class could compete with him in athletics.

"When we reached the dignity of Sophomores, he had established himself as a leader and could always be depended on to do his full share both as a scholar and an athlete. Of course, he had to take a hand in the 'larks' then considered a necessary part of the Sophomore year, and there as elsewhere was second to no one."

The whole class were suspended for "cutting" one of the recitations of an unpopular tutor, and refusal to apologize and "make up." That young Oak was considered a leader is shown by the fact that he was the last to be allowed to return.

This evidently made him dissatisfied with Bowdoin, for he soon left Bowdoin for Dartmouth. Of his life at Dartmouth, I have not been able to get details, his cousin quoted above having entered the army and the currents of their lives never having again joined. But that Dartmouth held her place in his esteem is established by the fact that to his "alma mater" he left one of the two published sets of his historical works in eleven volumes. From his autobiography we quote:

"During the college course he taught four terms in the public schools of Exeter, Garland and Westport, Me., with one term of high school in his native village. Later he taught one year as assistant in the Morris Academy, Morristown, N. J. As a teacher he had but slight success, not liking the profession, and having no natural fitness for it."

Having been a pupil under him, I can testify that in school he was a strict disciplinarian, and kept the scholars "up in the collar" and imparted plenty of instruction, but by fear of his rod rather than by the force of his arguments. He was a successful, though not popular teacher. No labor was too great to help an ardent seeker after knowledge, and no punishment too severe for an indolent or unruly pupil.

When the war of '61 broke out, Henry was eager to enlist, as

did his cousin, Leander, two years his senior, but the protests of his parents prevailed, and he continued his college course to '65. His autobiography again tells the story:

"In July, 1866, he went to California by steamer from New Jersey, and took a position as clerk in charge of a grain warehouse in Petaluma. But sickness, hitherto unknown, forced him to give up the place; and his life was saved only by the kind attentions of Mr. Williams, his classmate at Dartmouth, and his sister, Mrs. Laura J. Barstow. On partial recovery he was forced again to resort to teaching, and in 1867 taught one term as principal of the Haywards public schools, and one term as assistant—acting principal—of the Napa Collegiate Institute. After months of idleness, and on the point of engaging another school, he obtained in 1868 a position as office editor of the *San Francisco Occident*, in which I believe he gave tolerable satisfaction to all concerned—except perhaps the readers. He also edited then and later some guide books and other minor publications issued by the publishers of the paper.

"Early in 1869 he became **Librarian of the Bancroft Library of San Francisco, a position which he held for 18 years to 1887.** Besides his duties as librarian, he was Superintendent of the literary industries, carried on in the institution and resulting in the publication of the Bancroft Works in 39 volumes. Of these he was also the author of 10 volumes as follows: In the *Native Races*, Vol. I, Chap. III, on the 'Columbians'; Vol. II, Chap. II, 'General View of Civilized Nations'; Chap. XVII, 'Aztec Picture-Writing'; Chap. XXIV, on "Maya Hieroglyphics"; Vol. IV, "Antiquities," the entire volume; and Vol. V, 'Primitive History,' Chap. II-X, on Nahua annals and the earliest Maya records—also some other small matters, making in the *Native Races* 1597 pages out of a total of 4000. In the *History of the Pacific States* **Mr. Oak** wrote seven and a half consecutive volumes on the annals of the Spanish Northwest, as follows:..North Mexican States I, the entire volume; Arizona and New Mexico, the entire volume; California, I-V, five entire volumes; and Northwest Coast I, first half on maritime explorations. Also of id. II, Chap. XV-XVI, on the 'Oregon Question'; Central America I, Chap II, 'Summary of Geographical Knowledge and Discovery'; and California VI, Chap. XX, 'Mexican Land Titles.' Two sets of these writings have been bound separately with new titles, and an unpublished pamphlet on the authorship of the entire work and

the Bancroft Methods. Mr. Oak's work as a writer is not acknowledged by Mr. Bancroft, though credit is given for his services as librarian and superintendent.

"To this historical work the author gave all his ability and energy. His resources of original material had never been equalled in writing the annals of early American territory. Every detail was treated conscientiously according to the best of his judgment. The labor was immense; but this was the happiest period of his life; for he was conscious of doing faithful work. Under these circumstances the author is naturally proud of his work, and believes in its merits. Yet his belief does not make it so; and the balance of evidence is against him. The volumes are neglected by the public, and—though no critic has attempted to controvert his conclusions or impeach his honesty—ignored or sneered at by scholars generally. The author has yet a faint hope that in time, when the prejudice against the Bancroft name and enterprise shall have died out, some merit may be recognized in the records that have cost him so many years of toil."

These years from 1869 to 1887 were strenuous years in the life of Henry L. Oak. His mind matured early, and his judgment at 25 was as sound as that of most men at 35.

For three years he had been engaged in uncertain and uncongenial work, and he now found a vocation for which he proved especially adapted and to which he gave his full vigor of mind and body.

To understand his work and his relation to the Bancroft enterprise, it is necessary to outline briefly the undertaking and its execution. The head of the enterprise, Hubert Howe Bancroft, 12 years Mr. Oak's senior, came from Ohio to California in 1852. His ancestors, like Mr. Oak's, were of the old Puritan stock of Massachusetts. Mr. Bancroft did not have a college education, but had had business experience. He was an able, energetic young man, and opened a business as H. H. Bancroft & Co., Booksellers and Stationers. He was industrious, energetic, self-confident and inspiring confidence in others. His business grew by leaps and bounds, and the firm soon became the leading one in its line on the Pacific Coast. In the publishing of guide books to the different sections of the state was sprouted the seed which grew to the publishing of the History of the Pacific Coast.



To accommodate the compiler of the "guides," all the books and maps relating to the coast were gathered on the table or shelves most convenient, and as the "guide" business grew the number of books increased until large enough to attract Mr. Bancroft's attention, and he realized that it would be a wise move to make a collection of all books and maps published relating to the Pacific Coast, and at it he went with zeal.

In 1866-7, Mr. Bancroft made a trip to Europe, securing a large number of books, maps, etc., so that when Mr. Oak took charge of the library there was already a collection of 16,000 volumes for him to classify, index and care for.

In May, 1870, the library was moved to the Bancroft building, 721 Market street, San Francisco, and housed on the fifth floor, in a room 35x170 feet, specially arranged for its reception. Mr. Oak also "roomed" on the fifth floor. The library constantly grew until it contained upwards of 50,000 volumes, much of it original manuscript of surpassing value.

In 1881 the library was moved to a building erected for that purpose at 1538 Valencia street. There Mr. Oak spent six years of his life.

This library included everything obtainable in print or manuscript, relating to the Pacific Coast, from Panama to Alaska. No other collection approaching this in completeness can be made or has been attempted. The decision as to what to buy was largely left to Mr. Oak's judgment, as well as the sifting of the chaff from the wheat after the material arrived. Mr. Oak remained librarian during all the productive life of the library. Since he left it in 1887 it has lain idle until recently sold by Mr. Bancroft to the University of California—and removed to Berkeley. It was not injured by the earthquake and fire of April, 1906.

When Mr. Oak began work for Mr. Bancroft in '69, no question of salary was raised. He was willing to accept whatever Mr. Bancroft offered, and during the 18 years' service Oak never asked for a raise in salary, though Mr. Bancroft several times voluntarily increased his pay, and Oak once, after a serious fire, reduced his own salary. His pay, though larger than that of any other in the library, was not more than half that paid at that time, in an equally responsible position, in commercial houses of San Francisco. The financial outcome of the "History Business" was problematical from the beginning, and there were

numerous obstacles and setbacks, such as fires and financial stringencies that threatened at times to stop the work. Mr. Bancroft realized and acknowledged that he was not paying Mr. Oak as he deserved, but his plausible excuse was that it was all out-go and no income, but when the tide turned and the bread cast upon the waters came back buttered toast, "Oak should be amply provided for." To insure Mr. Oak's continuing in the library in case of his (Mr. Bancroft's) death, he made a provision in his will that Oak should receive \$10,000 and full authority in the library to complete the work in hand. How Mr. Bancroft kept his promises we shall see later.

With the library an accomplished fact, the question arose, How best to utilize it. Mr. Bancroft was not the man to lock up a quarter of a million dollars in books to lie idle. He had achieved commercial success. He was a fluent writer. He thirsted for literary fame; for a reputation as the Historian of the Pacific Coast; and after numerous trials and experiments, it was determined to write first as a preliminary work, "The Native Races of the Pacific Coast," which was issued in 1875 in five volumes and was accorded a satisfactory reception and established Mr. Bancroft's reputation as a writer and historian. **Nearly half of that work was written by Henry L. Oak.**

Of Mr. Oak, Mr. Bancroft says in his "Literary Industries":

"I have often regarded it as remarkable that so true and conscientious a friend, so faithful a librarian and laborer should so early and opportunely come my way.

"In him were combined in a remarkable degree, those rare and admirable qualities essential to the work. This man had certainly found his vocation and fitted himself to it perfectly. Ability, application, endurance, clear-headedness and sound judgment united with patience and enthusiasm, enabled him to trample down many of the obstacles that constantly beset our path. Pleasant and affable to all around him, he sought no man's company. Methodical in his habits, having little to do with society, he fastened his mind upon the work, and there kept it day after day and year after year. No one ever has known, or ever will know the early history of California or the Spanish Northwest as we knew it." (Originally written as "Oak knew it.")

"Oak was plain of speech. Without dogmatism, he had an opinion and usually a clear and correct one, on almost every

current topic, particularly if it were connected with his work or the library, and in the expression of opinion he was not timid. It has been my custom from the beginning to discuss freely with him, and others, every question of importance arising in my work. Often radical differences of opinion have arisen between Oak and myself, but during the many pleasant years we have labored together, the first unkind word has yet to be spoken.

"It is a remarkable fact that this man (Oak) is the only live Yankee to find permanent occupation in my work. Working in the library at one time, I have had representatives from England, Ireland and Scotland, from France, Germany and Switzerland; from Russia, Poland, Spain and Italy, with but one from any part of the United States. But let me say that this one, in regard to ability, integrity and life-devotion to me and my cause, was surpassed by none." (Originally written "surpassed them all.")

These words of testimony show what Mr. Bancroft thought of Mr. Oak's ability, integrity and fidelity.

The intimacy and companionship of the two men were much more close than Mr. Bancroft would naturally put in print. Each man was a complement of the other, and together they made a complete unit, working in harmony and with skill.

Mr. Bancroft was expansive in his ideas. No common business, no common library, no ordinary publication, would satisfy him. He must be leader in all that he undertook. His eye was ever on the end; the means he would leave to others. He was sanguine, bold, aggressive. Mr. Oak was conservative, cautious, exact, never to be caught in error if care could prevent it. He was obviously the man to carry out the details of Mr. Bancroft's large conceptions. Mr. Bancroft had the means and the will; Mr. Oak had the patience and skill to work out the various problems as they came up. Their relations were more intimate than those of an ordinary employer and employee. They were more than friendly. Mr. Bancroft did everything that Mr. Oak would permit to make his task congenial. He invited him to his home, introduced him to his friends, gave literary visitors to understand that Mr. Oak was authority in all matters pertaining to the library, etc., etc. He paid him the largest salary of any of his helpers, and then acknowledged that Mr. Oak's manuscript was the least expensive of any. In fact, Mr. Bancroft left all the

detail of the arrangement, management of the library, the superintendence of the writing, and arrangement of the publication to Mr. Oak. The other men all took their instructions and reported their work and delivered their manuscript to Mr. Oak, and Mr. Bancroft might as well have been away entirely, as he was in fact, very much of the time. And not only did Mr. Oak act as librarian and superintendent during all the critical years of the enterprise, but in addition he turned out more manuscript in neater shape than any other of the writers.

Mr. Bancroft was away much of the time looking up authorities on special points, making friends with prominent people and writing current history with a local flavor.

In addition to the quotations from Mr. Bancroft's printed testimony, my brother left quite a collection of Mr. Bancroft's letters, from which I quote to show his continued confidence in my brother, and also to show to what extent Mr. Bancroft left the work in his hands.

He writes in one letter: "Do as you have done heretofore, and possibly a little more so. You may prepare and publish and take the pay for, in the Overland or Eastern magazines, just as many articles as you please, using all you like of the cuts."

"As I said before, the whole force on that volume at the outside will turn out three or four galleys a week, while **you single-handed**, with all your proof-reading, will do **six**."

In another letter: "See that every man about the premises does good work, and you may discharge on the spot. You and I can finish the work (Native Races) if we don't have a single other man."

Again: "I have just made a new lease with Heney. This will add \$450 a month to our income—so that everything looks lovely."

"I am fully determined if I live and am prospered, to take you and Kate (his daughter) and go to Europe and stay there until we get tired of it. By the time we are ready to go, our work will be so well known that we ought to be able to derive enjoyment from it.

"Now, without unforeseen misfortune (after a favorable report from A. L. Bancroft on the condition of the business) we can consummate our plans in splendid shape. There are three things to do:

I. Go to Mexico.

II. Finish our work.

III. Go to Europe.

Yes, and one more, not to plan any more books."

It may be noted that while Mr. Bancroft went to Mexico, to Europe and all over the United States, enjoying constant change and recreation, Mr. Oak remained at his desk, working from fourteen to sixteen hours a day, attending to the details of proof-reading and the work of the others by day and writing his own portion of the manuscript at night, until overcome by insomnia, dyspepsia and nervous prostration, he was forced to leave the library, as soon as he had finished the History of California to 1849.

This in a letter of May, '85, when the work was being printed, indicates whether Mr. Oak was a **writer** or only a "swamper."

"I would like for you to finish up the whole five volumes on California as soon as possible. You may command all the printers and all the type. Mr. Stone (manager of publishing department) will see that nothing interferes with the prompt execution of your work. **You may omit any work on them which stands in the way of their quick completion.**"

"You can go on and close up the whole five volumes just as soon as you can, **using your own judgment about everything.** I am perfectly willing to omit the chapter you propose if you think best."

"**You can go on and close up the volumes on California without sending me proof.**"

What stronger evidence could be had as to who wrote the History of California?

"Mrs. Jackson (Helen Hunt) says, if you will let her see your manuscript on California, she would submit to you any thing or idea she gets from it. I told her I would let her look it over if you had no objections."

Not so bad, that, as evidence as to who wrote the manuscript.

Mr. Bancroft writes in 1876:

"Your biography will not be out of place. You say you are not known in the world of letters. I say you should be, and that is just what I propose to do. You have done the work, and it is no more than right the world should know it. I don't mean to say exactly what and everything you have written. **The fact**

is I should be ashamed to own it up. But I propose next to my sweet self, to give you the credit for the manner in which this Pacific Coast work has been done, and that I take it is simple justice."

Not only did Mr. Bancroft not acknowledge my brother's share of the literary work, but on finally going to print cut out much that he had previously written eulogistic of him.

Some conception may be had of Mr. Oak's work when we learn that he was the virtual author of eleven volumes of history of about 1000 pages each, which involved the consultation and comparison of the works of hundreds of writers, in thousands of volumes in Spanish, French, Italian and German, as well as English; that all the evidence had to be sifted, the facts ascertained and then set forth in good language, with proper references, covering centuries of time and thousands of miles of territory.

Mr. Oak never strove to be ornate. He set forth the simple facts, and his conclusions, in the simplest possible language. Mr. Bancroft read the proof and occasionally added an adjective or struck out a qualifying phrase, and proclaimed himself the author. Had Mr. Oaks done nothing but write these volumes, the fact would be worthy of record, but while doing this work he also supervised the work of the other writers, men of many different nationalities and dispositions. To keep this force harmonious and enthusiastic and in touch with the main idea was no small task. He did all this and more, but it broke him down when yet a young man. Not only had Mr. Oak to keep the other writers keyed up to a concert pitch, that they might turn out the required amount of manuscript daily, but he had also to keep Mr. Bancroft toned down to a practical basis.

Mr. Bancroft strove for effect, Mr. Oak for facts. If it sounded right it was good enough for Mr. Bancroft. He insisted on quantity, not quality. Mr. Oak insisted on absolute accuracy, and on this rock they finally split. Mr. Oak absolutely refused to do shoddy work, and when reviewed by competent critics and future historical searchers, his work (Spanish Northwest, Vols. I-II, and California I-V) will be found to stand the test.

Mr. Bancroft, pressed by circumstances, was eager to begin printing and publishing; and to receive the reward of his labors. Mr. Oak held back, wishing every point to be exact and correct

before going into print. Mr. Bancroft's authority of course was paramount, and the later work was hurried. Writers were rushed and shoddy work was done, consequently when the work was finally published and went to the critics, it was picked to pieces, ruthlessly unjustly criticised and condemned. The outer bark being rough, the whole tree, root and branch, was declared unsound. Perhaps the blow fell harder on Mr. Oak than on Mr. Bancroft. I think it did. As an old friend expressed it on reading his autobiography, "His whole soul thirsted for the recognition which he knew his work merited." Mr. Bancroft, while a good writer, always commanding attention and inspiring interest, was not a good historian. He built a showy edifice, but had not the patience to establish his foundations deep enough and secure enough to endure the storms and waves of criticism. His ambition o'erleaped itself. The work he claimed to have done was beyond the power of any one man. Had he been satisfied to acknowledge himself as what he could perhaps rightfully claim to be, **editor-in-chief**—and had published the names and specified the work of each of collaborators, his reputation would have been more savory and the ends of justice more nearly complied with. But he risked all, assumed authority for all, won out financially and made a fortune. What should he care for critics or reputation?

What was the final result? From the day when Mr. Oak left the library in June, 1887, and started on a tour of the state, hoping to recover his health, and during the succeeding years leading his hermit life at Siegler's Springs, trying under the mountain pines to woo back the strength spent in Mr. Bancroft's interests, not a kind word nor an expression of interest or sympathy came from Mr. Bancroft. All claims were ignored, all promises forgotten.

Surely, all graft is not confined to oil kings, beef barons and railway magnates.

Mr. Bancroft stands convicted by his own testimony of publishing as his own work, history of which he only read the proof-sheets.

After waiting fourteen years for Mr. Bancroft to keep the promises he had so repeatedly made; his health gone, his means going, and his desire to print the family record, on which he had spent ten years of hard labor, being uppermost in his mind,

Mr. Oak wrote Mr. Bancroft, calling his attention to long unfulfilled promises, and asked financial help. Anticipating that Mr. Bancroft did not intend "making good," Mr. Oak had prepared the data, showing his share and that of the other collaborators of Mr. Bancroft in the work published as Mr. Bancroft's own, and unwisely made the printing of that record the alternative for Mr. Bancroft to consider. In his pamphlet, "Literary Industries in a New Light," Mr. Oak prints both his letter and Mr. Bancroft's brutal reply, from which I quote, "I doubt if authors are in the habit of giving their employees any credit at all," etc.

The foregoing is written not to eulogize my brother nor to defame Mr. Bancroft. Each has made his record and no one can change it. But I believe it my duty to place on record the detail and extent of my brother's work. Of the two bound copies of his historical writing, one is in Dartmouth College Library, and one I have. Of the pamphlet, "**Literary Industries in a New Light**," only a dozen or so were printed, and they are distributed among the historical societies and colleges of the Pacific Coast. This genealogical record will be more widely scattered, and it is hoped will fall into appreciative hands and his memory kept green by the family whose record he has done so much to preserve. I shall at least feel that I have placed on record some facts no one else could have supplied.

Of his life after leaving San Francisco, Mr. Oak says in his autobiography:

"Of course, his health broke down; he could no longer sleep; and having completed his task and saved a few thousand dollars he resolved to give up his little fight for fame and fortune and transfer his hermit life—for such it had been even in a great city—to the mountains. Accordingly in 1887 he settled at Siegler Springs, where a little later he built a cabin, and where he has lived with some degree of contentment—his companions being for the most part his books and pipe—ever since. His little capital constantly dwindled; but he hopes it may suffice for his small needs to the end. From 1891 he has spent his time and all the money he could spare in the preparation of this genealogic record, undertaken at first as a pastime and agreeable reminder of past historical research, and continued with an idea that **somebody some time may deem it a work worth while having been done.**"

After eight years of wonderful success in tracing the genealogic



record of our family, considering the obstacles to be overcome and his distance from the birthplace of the family—he felt that the record should be printed, but when he appealed to the descendants for aid, he was again doomed to disappointment. The labor and expense of the work had been great and much as he wanted to publish the record, he did not feel warranted in expending the necessary amount of money from his decreasing store, knowing that his earning capacity was gone, and fearing years of invalidism in a hospital or dependence upon relatives, which to him was still worse; so in 1900 he stopped work and research. He had securely bound in morocco the four volumes of manuscript, three of photographs, and one of autographs, which are now in my possession. Not wishing to impose on any one the publication of the record; perhaps thinking we did not care, he bequeathed the above volumes to the New England Historic Genealogic Society, of Boston, Mass., where they would be accessible, if any of the descendants cared to search them. The above society cheerfully and willingly loaned the volumes to the writer for the purpose of publication. In addition to the bound volumes, my brother also left duplicate volumes, ready, or nearly so, for the printer, which the writer found in his cottage after his death; also hundreds of letters and packages of data and notes of all sorts and kinds.

In his letter of instructions, written a year before his death, which he evidently thought might be sudden, he says: "Of such things (letters, manuscripts, clippings, photographs, etc.) take only what you want as relics for yourself or others of the family, but burn the rest. **"In case of doubt, burn."**

I burned nothing. In his condition of mind, when this letter was written, he wished no record left. I consider it not only justice but duty to put on record the work he did and to preserve the data that may some day be of great benefit to some one. That in some day of deep depression he did not consign the whole accumulation to the flames appears almost providential. Evidently the lingering hope that some ship sent out freighted with hope might return with a more substantial cargo and enable him to carry out his cherished desire, restrained him. He could not destroy his own offspring—neither could I!

He left me not only the manuscript, but a part of his property, and while he did not instruct or request me to publish it, I should

feel guilty if I did not devote at least a part of his means to that end and carry out his wishes to the best of my ability.

His autobiography concludes:

"It would be useless to deny that Mr. Oak as a result of his failures, especially as a writer, is in a sense a disappointed man, leading an embittered and unhappy life; it is also well nigh certain his unsocial qualities, his inability to gain influence over or the warm friendship of his fellow-men would have prevented any marked success in any sphere of action; yet considering his condition, his radical defect of character, his long list of failures, his lack of practical business sagacity, his inherited tendency to despondency, his never-ending insomnia and ill health, and his limited pecuniary resources, he may be regarded as surprisingly free from morbid despair; and perhaps as well contented as the average of men. This is due in part to a sort of philosophic carelessness respecting most matters, great and small, a habit of mind long cultivated in self-defense and proving in most cases an effective antidote to despondency and misanthropic views of life. If he can win no warm friendship he feels it for many; and in the later years he makes no bitter enemies. He counts on several years more of a not too burdensome life. In politics from being a Republican he has become essentially a "Mugwump," taking a deep interest, but no active part, in the broader political questions of the day. In religion he has long been a thorough Agnostic, yet in sympathy with any religious belief that helps men to be better. He has broken most of the commandments, and is sorry for it. He uses whiskey in moderation and tobacco to excess. If the Oaks of coming generations can find in his life any example to be carefully avoided they are welcome to the benefit, and his life will not have been lived altogether in vain."

Mr. Oak died on May 20, 1905, in his cottage at Sieglers, being found dead on his bed, apparently having died suddenly and painlessly. His remains were cremated at the Oakland crematory, and his ashes rest in the columbarium of that institution. He never married. Mr. Oak was about 5 feet 10 inches in height, weighing 160 to 165 pounds, well muscled, but with no spare flesh. He had blue eyes, light wavy hair and a thick curly beard, which he generally wore full. He was quick of movement and every motion indicated force and energy. He had fine regular features; was even handsome, a rarity in his branch of the Oaks.

✓ The writer, the next younger brother of Henry L. Oak, after

the usual common school training and one term at Foxcroft Academy and one year in a lumber mill in New Brunswick, and one term at the Maine State University, came to California at his brother's suggestion, in January, 1872. A place had been promised him in the wholesale department of the Bancroft Company, but it was not vacant on his arrival, so he was admitted, or consigned, to the fifth floor—Library department—until the downstairs vacancy occurred. Consequently, he was inducted into history writing for several weeks, thereby earning a whole line in Bancroft's History as showing "marked ability," a reputation assuredly standing on the slightest foundation on record. Unfortunately, the next line states that my work as well as that of several others "all amounted to nothing," owing to change of plans.

After a few weeks I went into the wholesale department, but continued to live with my brother, who had rooms on the library floor. I spent my evenings and Sundays there and knew what was going on. I was well acquainted with nearly the whole force and kept in touch with the work as it progressed. Later I left the house and spent five years in Nevada, but in 1881 returned to the Bancroft establishment and became manager of the Mexican department, and spent the most of four years (1881-5) travelling in Mexico, first as salesman for the wholesale department, then as special agent for the History department, consequently I knew as much of the writing, making and selling of the Bancroft works as any one outside the principals. I spent six months in the City of Mexico, where I had the honor and pleasure of a personal interview with President Diaz, and met most of the military and literary men of Mexico. In 1886 I left the Bancroft house and came to Southern California. In 1887 my brother made a trip through the state for his health. My first wife died in June, 1887, and I soon after joined my brother at San Luis Obispo, and we journeyed together with a single horse, by slow stages, through to San Diego. I had just buried my wife; he had left all that made life dear to him. During that trip we threshed over life's straw pretty thoroughly. He told me things I had not before known. He had never been confidential. His own affairs he kept carefully to himself, but reserve was largely laid aside during that two weeks trip and what I write concerning the Bancroft enterprise was largely acquired then and added to what I already knew and have since learned.

In San Diego I left him and returned to my boyhood home in Maine, after an absence of 16 years. In Henry's diary I found this entry: "Ora has gone, and the trip will be lonely." I can now reciprocate and truly say, "The journey is more lonely now that Henry is gone."

At the end of that trip, after traversing the entire state, he settled at Siegler's, Lake county. After my return I settled in Perris, Riverside county, and thereafter, though he visited me occasionally, I was too much engrossed in business and my own affairs to keep very close to his. I knew that he was working on the family record; that he had found the family of William, the long lost, and he sent us charts showing the pedigree of our children, but I did not realize the magnitude of the work he had done. While I was interested, I did not display as much appreciation as I now wish I had.

In my brother's estimate of himself as shown in his autobiography, the eccentric and marked traits show prominently. His defects were very largely imaginary. He was much esteemed by all with whom he associated in any capacity. There was always an air of reserve that kept strangers at a distance, and his own affairs he kept strictly to himself. He always felt a lack of confidence in his business judgment, yet he managed to keep the wolf at a greater distance than most literary men.

If I were to state what I think the greatest mistake of his life, which he invites other Oaks to avoid, it would be in not getting married.

When he came to California in 1866 he was engaged to a most estimable young lady. His ill health and "bad luck" the first few years discouraged him, and he broke the engagement; afterwards the uncertainty of employment and inability to adapt himself to other lines of work made him fearful, and he never married. Had he had a home life and home cares, much of his ill health and despondent tendencies might have been avoided. His long evenings in his mountain cottage with no companions save his open fire, his pipe, his books and his bitter memories, were too numerous, and excessive use of tobacco brought on rheumatism of chest and heart, and finally killed him.

"Disappointed joys are woes as deep as our clay human nature undergoes."





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