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TRISTRAM COFFIN FAMILY

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Family record - Coffin line

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"The Family Tree" is of no consequence to those  
who have none.

# The Family Record

Devoted To  
GENEALOGY, BIOGRAPHY  
and  
SCIENTIFIC HISTORY

CHARLES E. LUKENS, Editor

Price 10 cents

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VOL. I

NO. I

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To live in the lives we leave behind is  
not to die.

"History is fiction agreed upon."—  
Napoleon.

"Teach me not history, for all history  
is false."—Lord Brougham.

History is a science based upon the positive and negative in causation. Causation is law. When so recognized, it will be studied inversely. The past is but an aspect of the present. Time is without entity, consequently there is no chronology. Thought knows no calendar. It may be traced from any point either way to any other point. Nothing is past that can be remembered. If recalled it is present. There is no other tense.

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PUBLISHED BY

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31369







### "GOLGOTHA"

This rock marks the spot where Thomas Macy launched his boat for Nantucket, 1659. The spirit of liberty—that guided the hands that placed it where it guards it.

"A leap—they gain the boat—and there  
The Goodman wields his oar;  
Far round the bleak and stormy cape  
The ventu'rous Macy passed,  
And on Nantucket's naked isle  
Drew up his boat at last."

"THE EXILES". Whittier.

"With unknown fear and undaunted courage, and with an unflinching trust in the guiding and guarding hand of Heaven, did brave all dangers to secure a free altar and a safe home, and thereby transmit to his descendants the seeds of true liberty and pure religion....."

"No tomb-stone marks the final resting place of his earthly remains, but a monument has been reared in the hearts of his descendants in commemoration of him, which the ruthless hand of time neither obliterates or crumbles.

"We love and respect his memory for his undaunted courage and bravery in facing all dangers rather than yield to the will of man his religious convictions. We treasure his memory as being one of the early settlers and founders of this great republic and by his uprightness and sterling worth and integrity, added his mite in inculcating into the minds of those about him the principles of self-government, the foundation rock of American Independence."

SILVANUS J. MACY.

The traits of this illustrious commoner has been remarkably reproduced in his posterity in times and seasons when destiny and environment called them forth. In all the vicissitudes of pioneer life in the East, the South and the West, they never wandered from their central thought nor led from any condition to avoid assimilation through the operation of any law. They were not Pilgrims or wanderers, but sojourners with Him who was their Pole Star. His descendants are numbered among the pioneers in every advanced step taken in American history, and in darkest hours they kept vigil.

There is an unwritten law for the posterity of Thomas Macy. His descendants are commissioned to keep the fire of liberty burning upon the altar of self-sacrifice that was kindled by Roger Williams.





## SOME LEAGUES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

### "A League of Colonies"

#### PART ONE

There is no other way of judging the future than by the past. The future and the past are but aspects of the present. Otherwise they would not admit of comparison. Nothing is past that can be remembered. If it is recalled, it is present. Scientifically considered, the present is the only tense. Other so-called tenses belong to the art of speech. The scenes of our childhood may appear more vivid than scenes of comparatively recent date. The motives of a thousand ancestors, are a part of our being.

It was in the year 1613, that four of the five New England Colonies formed a league for the purpose of "recovering fugitive servants." Rhode Island was not invited to join the league. During the Colonial Period Rhode Island was always regarded with suspicion and distrust when the material interests of those in authority, were involved.

The attitude of Rhode Island was due to the influence of Roger Williams, who was ordered to return to England because he championed interests that were adverse to the "established order." Evading authorities, he fled to Rhode Island, where he established a colony that was an asylum for those persecuted in other colonies. Among the early refugees, was Anne Hutchinson. She remained in Rhode Island until the death of her husband, in 1612, when she removed to New York where she hoped to find greater protection from persecutors and defamers of that time. The following year, she and her family, with the exception of one son, were killed by Indians. Those who were indirectly responsible for her death, proclaimed from their pulpits that, "her death was a just retribution from God for her heresy." The first Colonial Governor of Massachusetts was a descendant of this illustrious woman. The knowledge of the condition of the populace, comprising five-sixths of the population, of New England, cannot be acquired from text books coming from one source and based upon an agreement.

They were peons, liable to imprisonment for debt and forced to become debtors.

The dominant element of New England



made a rapid pace along the line of least resistance toward a condition of no resistance, it's highest conception of a future state. Many of these of the first and second generations, reverted to the primeval days of their ancestors, which was their easiest course to pursue. It is a matter of record, that there were communities in Massachusetts composed of the first and second generations, who were not shocked by nudity, if accompanied with atrocity, as the following shows:

To the constables of Dover, Hampton, Salisbury, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, Wrennain, Lynn, Boston, Roxbury, Dedham, and until These vagabond Quakers are carried out of this jurisdiction you, and every one of you, are required in the King's Majesty's name to take these vagabond Quakers, ANNE

MARY ———— and ALICE ———— and make them fast to the cart's tail and driving the cart through your several towns to whip them upon their naked backs not exceeding ten stripes apiece on each of them, in each town, and so to convey them from constable to constable till they are out of this jurisdiction, as you will answer it at your peril; and this shall be your warrant.

RICHARD WALDRON.

Dated at Dover, December 22, 1662.

"Fared to the waist, for the north  
wind's grip

And keener sting of the constible whip,  
The flood that followed each hissing  
blow

Froze as it sprinkled the winter snow,

Priest and ruler, boy and maid

Followed the dismal cavalcade;

And from door and window, open  
brought

Looked and wondered rafter and  
stone." WHITTIER.

TO KNOW THE MIND OF A PEOPLE,  
Read Their Literature and Study Their  
Biography for Their Issues.

The year 1750 is generally recognized as the end of the constructive period of our Colonial History.

Within that period more of than a century and a quarter following the arrival of the Merchants' Adventures Company at Plymouth, 1620, the Puritan did not give to the world a book, a discovery, or an invention. He contributed



absolutely nothing to science, to literature, to art, to poetry or to song. Yet, time, in his consciousness was so precious that three days of it was grace but never free grace. It is not to be inferred that no books were written. Cotton Mather wrote many books, not one of which was to his credit or to the credit of his generation. He wrote one book on witchcraft that was largely responsible for the death of nineteen innocent persons.

The plowshare of today is not scoured by any gravel road made in this period, for the Puritan was a dependent upon the Indian even for trails.

The evidence, if any, of the existence of the Puritan within this period indicates that he was not superior to the mound-builder, but inferior to the Aztec Indian.

Every offense, every depredation, every crime committed against the Indian by the Whites within this period was condoned by authorities who had neither power nor inclination to punish offenders of their own race.

The four colonies constituting the League of Colonies all agreed upon the death penalty for the Quaker because he antagonized. The material interests of those in authority. There could have been no other cause.

Descendants of the New England Puritan who have achieved honor and greatness have done so proportionately to their departure from the faith and practices of their ancestors prior to 1750. Many of these trace their lineage through a maternal line to the constructive or positive element and are proud of it.

It is acknowledged, however, that the virtues of the Puritan may be seen upon every page of history—written by himself. "There are makers of history," and there are makers of histories.



## GENEALOGY

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Genealogy is the science of personal identification. It is consecutive biography, a constructive part of scientific history.

It is by weaving and interweaving biographies that we have a record of an epoch or an era.

For more than 3,500 years the Jews kept an accurate account of their family history. Even in captivity more stress, if possible, was given to their family records. This was essential to their tribal relationship. Priests who were unable to show a family tree were rejected. Josephus claimed to have traced lineage from the tribe of Levi by means of public registers.

The laws of heredity appear to be as binding upon man as upon the quadruped.

It need not be surprising if the mystic seven appears in genealogy. It numbers the years between a generation on the psychological plane and a generation upon the material plane.

It may name a child after a lapse of seven generations. Why not? It may repeat characteristics after a lapse of seven generations.

The laws of heredity do not follow the male line exclusively. The features as well as traits of character of the mother are often transmitted to the sons. While the features and characteristics of the father appear in the daughters.

The operating forces of heredity and environment have manifested elements that have little in common. These elements have been the contending forces in American history since its exploration. There have been at all times, in our country, two or more distinct elements. When there were but two contending elements, they had nothing in common but human speech, and not always that. The two elements may be regarded as constructive and non-constructive; positive and negative. They need not be compared, since both right and wrong are relative and correlative. The Golden Rule is a provokidism.





## THE COFFIN FAMILY TRISTRAM COFFIN

Son of Peter and Joanna, was born in Brixham Parish (sometimes called Brixton,) Devonshire in 1605. Married Dionis Stephens, about 1630. He was son of Peter Coffin of Brixham, married Joanna Thumber. Issue of Peter Coffin: Joanna, Deborah, Eunice, Mary Tristram and John.

Peter Coffin was son of Nicholas Coffin of Butler Parish of Brixham. Issue: Peter, Nicholas, Tristram, John and Anna.

Tristram Coffin emigrated to America in 1642. It was easier for him to do so than to remain in England at that time. Being a Royalist, he did not appreciate the cant of Cromwell, who gave the color of crimson to the soil of Ireland and Scotland. He brought to America, his mother and two sisters in addition to his family, consisting of wife and five children.

He and two sons were among the ten original owners of Nantucket. He removed to Nantucket in 1660, the year following the arrival of Thomas Macy, the first white settler on the Island.

In the purchase of Nantucket Island, it was mutually agreed that each would receive twenty-two and one-half acres. It was also agreed that each could sell one-half interest of his share which they did. It was further agreed that the remainder of the 29,000 acres of the Island would be held in trust for the Indians, numbering about three thousand. Any contract with an Indian for land would be null and void. At that time it was unlawful for an Indian to own land in the Massachusetts Colony.

The Coffin family had three of the twenty shares of the allotment on Nantucket. Tristram Coffin was appointed Governor of Nantucket in 1671 and again in 1677. His death occurred in 1681. Issue: Peter, Tristram, Elizabeth, James, John and Stephen.

The Coffins are of Norman-French descent. The Coffin family descended from Sir Richard Coffin, Knight, who accompanied William the Conqueror, from Normandy to England, in the year 1066, and the Manor of Alvington, in the County of Devonshire, was assigned to him.

Near Falaise, in Normandy, is a large estate called Courtfont which belonged in the Coffin family until 1796 when the last Miss Coffin married Monsieur Le Clerc.



The principal seat of the family in England was at Portledge near Biddisford, in North Devon, bordering upon Barnstable Bay, now occupied by the family of John Richard Pine Collin.

The families respecting the County of Devonshire, or Devon, make honorable mention of Sir Elias Coffin, Knight of Clist and Loganby, in the days of King John; of Sir Richard Coffin of Aylington, in the time of Henry II; of Sir Jeffrey Coffin and Coumbe Coffin, under Henry III; and other knights, descendants of these, during successive reign, until the time of Henry VIII, when we find Sir William Coffin, Sheriff of Devonshire, highly preferred at Court, and one of eighteen assistants chosen by the King to accompany him to a tournament in France, in 1519. He was also high Stewart of the Manor and liberties of Stanton in Hereford. There is a missing link between the time of Richard Coffin, of Portledge, and Nicholas Coffin of Butler's Parish of Brigham, which is due to the fact that no records are to be found relating to the intervening history.

#### SOME DESCENDANTS OF TRISTRAM AND DIONIS COFFIN.

##### Second and Third Generations.

**Peter:**—Eldest son, b. at Brixton, Eng., 1631. m. Abigail, dau. of Edward and Katherine Starbuck of Dover, J. H., afterwards Nantucket wealthiest of family; became freeman 1666, and lieut. in 1675; served in King Phillip's War; a representative in legislature in 1672-3, again in 1679. Served as Associate and Chief Justice of Supreme Court of N. H.

**Issue:**—Abigail b. 10-20-1657 m. 12-16-1673. Daniel Davidson.

**Peter, Jr.**—b. 8-20-1660; m. 8-15-1682, Elizabeth, dau. of Nathaniel and Mary Starbuck, d. 1699.

**Jethro:**—b. 9-16-1663. m. Mary, dau. of John and Priscilla Gardner, d. 1726.

**Tristram:**—b. 1-16-1665; m. Deborah Colard.

**Robert:**— b. 1667; m. Joanna, dau. of John Gilman, widow of Henry Dyer, d. 5-19-1710. No Issue.

**Edward:**— b. 2-20-1669; m. Anna, dau. of John and Priscilla Gardner.

**Judith:**—b. 2-4-1672.

**Pamell:**—Died in infancy.

**Elizabeth:**—b. 1-27-1680; m. 6-5-1698, Col. John Gilman, d. 7-1-1720.

**Elizabeth:**—Died single.

**Tristram, Jr.**— b. in England 1632. m.



Judith Somerby (widow) dau. of Edmond and Sarah Greenleaf. b. 1625. d. 12-15-1705. He becomes freeman 4-29-1668. d. in Newbury 2-4-1704 leaving 177 descendants. Was merchant tailor and filled many positions of trust. Served as deacon for twenty years. Built the Coffin Mansion about 1654.

Issue:—Judith:— b 12-4-1653. m John Sanborn. 11-19-1674.

Deborah:— b 11-10-1655. m Joseph Knight 10-31-1677.

Amy:—b 4-22-1659. m Joseph Little 10-31-1677.

James:—b 4-22-1659. m Florence Hooke 11-16-1655.

John:—b 9-8-1660. d 5-13-1677.

Lydia:—b 4-22-1662. m Moses Little. MD. m 3-18-1865. John Pike.

Enoch:—b 1-21-1663. d 11-12-1675.

Stephen:—b 8-18-1664. m Sarah Atkinson 10-8-1685. d 8-31-1725.

**Elizabeth:**— b in Eng. obt. 1634-5 m Capt. Stephen Greenleaf., s of Edmund. She died 11-19-1678. He died 12-1-1690. From his family has descended the Greenleafs of New England, among whom have been many ripe scholars, eminent as jurists, teachers and divines..

ISSUE:—

Stephen Greenleaf:— b 8-15-1652. m 10-23-1616. Elizabeth Gerrish, dau of William.

Sarah Greenleaf:—b 10-29-1655. m 6-7-1677. Richard Dole.

Daniel Greenleaf:—b 2-17-1658.

Elizabeth Greenleaf:—b 4-9-1660. m 10-12-1685. m Thomas Noyes, s of James.

John Greenleaf:—b 6-21-1662. m 3-1-1689. Elizabeth Hills.

Samuel Greenleaf:—b 10-30-1665. m 3-7-1689 Sarah Kent, of s John Kent.

Tristram Greenleaf:—b 2-11-1668. m 11-12-1689 Margaret Piper.

Edmund Greenleaf:—b 5-10-1670. m 7-2-1691 Abigail Somerby, dau of Abiel.

Judith Greenleaf:— b 10-13-1673. d 9-30-1690.

Mary Greenleaf:—b 12-6-1676. m Joshua Moody, son of Caleb.

**James Coffin:**—b in Eng. 8-12-1640. m 12-31-1663 Mary dau of John and Abigail Severance, d at Nantucket 1720. Was among the early settlers of Nantucket but removed to Dover, N. H. Became a member of church and freeman in 1671. Returned to Nantucket where he died. Was father of fourteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity and married.



This branch furnished the greatest woman of her time, Lucretia Mott.

ISSUE:—

Mary:—b 4-18-1665. m Richard Pinkham, a James, s of Richard and Sarah (Shattuck) Gardner. d 2-1-1741.

James, Jr.:—m Love dau of Richard and Sarah (Shattuck) Gardner, 2nd Ruth, dau of John and Priscilla Gardner. d 10-2-1741.

Nathaniel:—b 1671. m 8-17-1692, Damaris, dau of Wm. Gayer. d 3-29-1721.

John:—m Hope Gardner, dau of Richard. d 7-1-1747.

Dinah:—m 11-20-1695 Nathaniel Starbuck, Jr. d 8-1-1750.

Deborah:—b 10-10-1695, m George Bunker, s of Wm. d 10-8-1767.

Ebenezer:—b 3-30-1676; m 12-12-1700, Eleanor, dau of Nathaniel Barnard, d 10-17-1730.

Joseph:—b 2-4-1680. m Bertha dau of John Macy. d 7-14-1719.

Elizabeth:—b 8-28-1683. Lost overboard between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Ruth:—m Joseph s of Richard and Mary Gardner. d 5-28-1748.

Abigail:—m Nathaniel s of Richard and Sarah Gardner. d 3-15-1790, was first person buried in Gardner burial ground.

Experience:—Died young.

Jonathan:—b 8-28-1692. m Hephzibah, dau Ebenezer Harker, d 2-5-1773.

John:—b in England, died 10-30-1642 in infancy.

Deborah:—b Haverhill, Mass., 11-16-1642. d 12-8-1612.

Mary:—b in Haverhill 2-20-1645. m at 17 to Nathaniel s of Edward and Katherine Reynolds Starbuck. d 11-13-1717. He died 2-2-1719. Their oldest child Mary b 3-30-1663 was first white child born on Nantucket. From this family all Starbucks of America are descended.

She was a most extraordinary woman, participating in the practical duties and responsibilities of public gatherings and town meetings, on which occasions her words were always listened to with marked respect. She was consulted upon all matters of public importance because her judgment was superior, and she was acknowledged to be a great woman. In 1701 she became interested in the religious faith of the Quakers or Friends, and took the spiritual concerns of the whole island under her special supervision. Meetings were held in her own house.

ISSUE:





Mary Starbuck:—b 3-30-1663. m James Gardner s of Richard. d 1696.

Elizabeth Starbuck:—b 9-9-1665. m Peter Colln, Jr. s of Peter and Abigail (Starbuck) Coffin 2nd. Nathaniel Barnard, Jr. s of Nanthaniel.

Nathaniel Starbuck Jr.:—b 8-9-1668. m 11-20-1690 Dinah dau of James and Mary (Severance) Coffin. d 1-29-1753.

Jethro Starbuck:—b 12-14-1671. m 12-6-1694 Dorcas dau of Wm. and Dorcas (Starbuck) Dayer, d 8-12-1770.

Barnabas Starbuck:—b 1673. d 9-21-1732 unmarried.

Eunice Starbuck:—b 4-11-1674. m George s of John Gardner, d 2-12-1766.

Priscilla Starbuck:—b 1676. m John s of John Coleman. d 3-14-1762.

Hephzibah Starbuck:—b 4-2-1680. m Thomas Hathaway. d 2-7-1740.

Anna Starbuck:—died single.

Paul Starbuck:—died single.

**Lieut. John Coffin:**—Eighth ( a former John having died) b at Haverhill 10-30-1647. m Deborah dau of Joseph and Sarah Austin, d 9-5-1711. He is the ancestor of the Coffins of Martha's Vineyard. Held some minor offices in Nantucket.

ISSUE:—

Lydia:—b 6-1-1669. m John Logan, 2nd John Draper, 3rd Thomas Thaxter.

Peter:—b 8-5-1671 m Christian Condy 2nd Hope dau of Joseph and Bethiah (Macy) Gardner, d 10-27-1749.

John:—b 22-10-1673.

Love:—b 4-23-1676 died single.

Enoch:—b 1678. m Beulah Eddy, abt. 1700. d 1761.

Samuel:—m Miriam Gardner dau of Richard, Jr. d 2-22-1764.

Hannah:—m Benjamin Gardner s of Ricnard, Jr. d 1-23-1768.

Tristram:—m Mary Bunker, dau of William 1714. d 1-29-1763.

Deborah:—m 6-18-1708, Thomas Macy s of John and Deborah (Gardner) Macy.

Elizabeth:—died single.

Benjamin:—b 8-23-1683.

**Stephen:**—The youngest. b at Newburg, Mass., 5-10-1652, and was about 8 years old when his father removed to Nantucket. It appears that Tristram reversed the law of primo-geniture and gave his lands to his youngest son. This was probably due to the fact that he remained upon the estate and cared for his parents in old age. It is from this branch that Edwin M. Stanton descended. He married Mary dau of George and Jane (God-



frey) Bunker, abt. 1668-9. d 11-14-1734.  
ISSUE:—

Daniel:—lost at sea. 4 mo. 1724.

Dionis:—b 9-21-1671 m. Jacob Norton.

Peter:—b 11-14-1673. m in Boston.

Stephen Jr.:—b 2-20-1675. m 1693 Experience Look dau of Thomas.

Judith:—m Peter Folger, s Elezer, 2nd Nathaniel Barnard, Jr. 3rd Stephen Wilcox. d 12-2-1760.

Susanna:—m Peter Bunker, s of William, d 6-11-1740.

Mehitable:—m Armstrong Smith.

Anna:—m Solomon Gardner s of Richard, 2nd d 4-22-1740.

Hephzibah:—m Samuel Gardner.

Paul:—b 4-15-1695. m Mary Allen, dau of Edward. d 4th mo. 1729.

### Third Generation

#### Anna Coffin

Daughter of Stephen Coffin, married Solomon Gardner. born July 1, 1680. died June 17, 1760. Their daughter, Dinah, married David Macy, son of John, son of John, son of Thomas Macy, the progenitor of the Macy family. Removed to North Carolina.

#### ISSUE:

Stephen, born June 6, 1741, died February 8 1822. David, Jr. born about 1743. Miriam, born about 1745 died July 4, 1789. Anna born about 1747. Sarah, born about 1749. Abigail, born about 1753, died in June, 1824, in Jefferson County Ohio, married Benjamin Stanton; grandparents of Edwin M. Stanton.

### Third and Fourth Generation

Samuel, son of John and Deborah (Austin) Coffin, married Miriam, daughter of Richard and Mary (Austin) Gardner. In the year 1704 they became Friends. Many of their descendants have been Friends.

Richard Gardner was a son of Richard and Sarah (Shattuck) Gardner. She was the daughter of Dumaris (Shattuck) Gardner, step-mother, second wife of Thomas Gardner. These two women were persecuted and prosecuted at various times for espousing Quaker Faith.

#### ISSUE:

Deborah, born 1708, married Tristram Starbuck. John, married Keziah Folger. Pamell, married Robert Coffin. Sarah, married Samuel Stanton second marriage to James Pinkham. David, born 1718, married Ruth Coleman, second marriage to Christine Allen, third marriage to Eliza Crosby. William born 1720, married Priscilla Paddock, removed to South Carolina.



Miriam, born 1723, married Richard Pinkham. Mary, born 1724 married William Barnard. Priscilla, born 1730 married Christian Coleman. Lebin, unmarried.

#### Fourth Generation

**Benjamin Coffin.**

Married Deborah Macy, born April 17, 1726, died November 22, 1803. Their son, Thomas, born September 5, 1766, married January 28, 1790 to Anna Folger. Parents of Lucretia (Coffin) Mott, foremost woman of her day. A pioneer in every forward movement of her time. A minister in the Society of Friends. She was a descendant of the Seventh generation of Damaris (Shattuck) Gardner. Mother of Sarah (Shattuck) Gardner. Both were persecuted and prosecuted for espousing Quaker Faith, and manifesting sympathy for those who were persecuted.

#### Fourth and Fifth Generations

William, son of Samuel and Miriam (Gardner) Coffin, born in Nantucket in 1720. Married Priscilla, daughter of Nathaniel and Ann Paddock, moved to New Garden, North Carolina in 1773. Known as a man of superior intelligence and dignity of character. Both died in 1803.

#### ISSUE:

Deborah, born April 30, 1743, married Abel Gardner, second marriage to Micajah Terrell. Libin, born August 7, 1745, married Hepzibah Starbuck. William, born July 25, 1747, married Esther Hunt, second marriage Elizabeth Vestal. Samuel, born October 8, 1749, married Diana Carr, second marriage to Mary Macy. Barnabas, born October 25, 1751, married Phoebe Marshall. Matthew, born February 23, 1754, married Hannah Mendenhall, second marriage to Hannah Macy. Bethuel, born February 6, 1756, married Hannah, daughter of Nathan and Mary Dicks, second marriage to Catherine Macy. Alijah born May 22, 1760, married Elizabeth Robinson. Levi, born October 10, 1763, married Prudence Williams. His son Levi, was President of Underground Railroad. Priscilla, born October 31, 1765, married Asa Hunt.

#### Fifth and Sixth Generations

Bethuel, son of William and Priscilla (Paddock) Coffin, was born February 6, 1756, married Hannah, daughter of Nathan and Mary Dicks, May 1, 1776. Hannah (Dicks) Coffin was born June 16, 1757 and died October 10, 1820. They lived near



where the battle of Guilford was fought in the Revolutionary War, and helped to bury the dead and to care for the wounded. Bethuel Coffin married Catherine Macy in 1822, moved to Indiana in 1825, and died in 1837, near Greensboro, Henry County.

ISSUE:

Isaac born May 2, 1778, died young. Elisha, born November 27, 1779. Zacharias, born April 6, 1782, married Phebe Sta. Luck. Paul born March 3, 1784, married Elizabeth W. Moody. Rebecca, born February 27, 1786, married Robert White. Hannah, born May 15, 1788, married Thomas Symons. Mary, born November 18, 1792, married Micah Newby. Elijah born November, 1793, married Naomi Hyatt. Bethuel, born August 20, 1799, died young.

BEAUTIFUL ISLE OF NANTUCKET  
SONG

Tune, Beautiful Isle of Somewhere.  
Composed by Lillian D. Truelood, descendant of Linn Coffin for the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Friends Meeting, 1819, near Salem, Indiana. Linn Coffin was one of the original members.

Somewhere in old Nantucket,  
Somewhere their feet have trod;  
Somewhere with bravest spirit,  
Working and tearing God.

Chorus.

Somewhere, Somewhere  
Beautiful Isle of Nantucket,  
Land of the true, where the Coffins grew  
Beautiful Isle of Nantucket.

Bravest of Norman people  
Crossed o'er the briny sea  
Bringing the knighted spirit,  
Over to conquer thee.

Chorus

Brought with them crest of knighthood  
Placed it on door and stile;  
Just a fond remembrance  
Of days of the Norman Kings.

Chorus

Cast off the grand old title,  
Put on the Quaker dress;  
Helping to build a nation,  
Where none should be oppressed.

Chorus





## BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

The family of Tristram Coffin consisted of Mother, Sisters Eunice and Mary, in addition to wife and children. One of the sisters married Alexander Adams, an ancestor of President Adams.

**Robert Barry Coffin**, author, b. Hudson, N. Y., 7-21-1826; d. in Fordham, N. Y., 6-10-1886. He was seventh in line from Tristram.

**Timothy Gardner Coffin**, b. in Nantucket, Mass., 11-1-1788, d. in New Bedford, Mass., 9-19-1854.

**Robert Allen Coffin**, educator, b. in Williamsburg, Mass., 8-23-1801, d. in Conway, Mass., 9-4-1878. His brother, **James Henry**, meteorologist, b. in Williamsport, Mass., 9-6-1806, d. in Easton, Pa., 2-6-1873. Both graduates of Amherst College. **Selden Jennings Coffin**, educator, b. in Ogdensburg, N. Y., 8-3-1838; graduate of LaFayette in 1858 and Princeton Theological Seminary 1864. Succeeded his father, Robert Allen Coffin as professor of Mathematics and Astronomy in LaFayette on the death of the latter.

**Robert Stevenson Coffin**, poet, b. in Brunswick, Me., 7-14-1797, d. in Rawley, Mass., 5-7-1827. Son of **Ebenezer Coffin**, a minister.

**Roland Folger Coffin**, sailor, b. in Brooklyn, Mass., 3-8-1826, d. on Shelter Island, 7-17-1883. Served as reporter and was a writer of note.

**William Anderson Coffin**, artist of note, b. in Allegheny City, Pa., 1-31-1855. Graduate of Yale in 1874.

**Nathaniel Coffin**, physician, b. in Portland, Me., 6-3-1744, d. there in 10-18-1826. Son of Dr. Nathaniel Coffin.

**Charles Carleton Coffin**, author, b. in Boscawen, N. H., 7-26-1823, d. in Brookline, Mass., 3-2-1886. Served as war correspondent, witnessing many battles. Served as a member of the legislature in Massachusetts.

**James Huntington Crane Coffin**, mathematician, b. in Wiscasset, Me., 9-14-1815, d. in Washington, D. C., 1-8-1890. Professor of Mathematics in U. S. Navy 1836-1843; then placed in charge of a department in U. S. Naval Observatory. Was member of the American Academy of Science of Boston; American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia and one of the original members of the National Academy of Sciences.



**Joshua Coffin**, antiquarian, b. in Newbury, Mass. 10-12-1792, d. there 6-21-1861. An ardent Abolitionist.

Dr. Lotus Coffman, President of the University of Minn., has been prominent in educational affairs of Indiana and Illinois.

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### EDWIN M. STANTON

Son of David and Lucy (Norman), a Virginian; son of Benjamin and Abigail (Macy) Stanton. Son of Henry and Lydia (Abigail) Stanton; Abigail (Macy) Stanton, dau of David and Dinah (Gardner) Macy, dau of Solomon and Anna (Collin) Gardner, dau of Stephen and Mary (Bunker) Coffin, dau of George Bunker. Edwin M. Stanton is seventh generation from Tristram Coffin, Thomas Macy, Richard and (Sarah Shattuck) Gardner, Refugees from Massachusetts and pioneers of Nantucket; related to Levi Coffin through Coffin and Gardner lines (3); related to Lucretia Mott through Coffin, Gardner (3) and Macy lines.

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### LEVI COFFIN

Was the son of Levi and Prudence (Williams) Coffin; son of William and Priscilla (Paddock Coffin; son of Samuel and Miriam (Gardner) Coffin; son of John and Deborah (Austin) Coffin; son of Tristram.

He was related to Edwin M. Stanton and Lucretia Mott through the Coffin and Gardner lines. The only son and next youngest of seven children. He was born and grew to manhood in New Garden settlement of Friends in North Carolina.

In that state, it was a capital offense to aid a slave to gain his freedom.

His conversion to Abolitionism occurred when he was about seven years of age. In early manhood he organized the first Firstday or Sunday school within the entire South. Soon after he organized in the same place, the New Garden meeting house, a Sunday School for negroes. This was suppressed by authorities.

Soon after his marriage he located in Indiana. He was largely instrumental in organizing the Yearly Meeting of Anti-Slavery Friends in 1813. This organization remained a separate body for thirteen years.

It was in the above year that eight thousand members of the Methodist Episcopal Church organized the Wesleyan Methodist Church on a protest against chattel slavery.



This deflection prepared the way for a much greater one two years later.

In 1847 Levi Coffin removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, to conduct a free labor store. Some of the Abolitionists thought that consistency required them to abstain from the use of the products of slave labor. They followed the example of their ancestors, who boycotted "prize goods" (plunder obtained from pirates) and charged the traffickers in prize goods with the responsibility of all crime committed upon the sea.

Although these stores were operated outside the realm of profit, they were not self sustaining. Free cotton could only be obtained in small quantities and its manufacture was accomplished with difficulty. They could not hope to compete successfully with slave labor products. These stores could only be maintained in centers where there was considerable sympathy with this phase of the work. Most of the Abolitionists had no opportunity to patronize these stores and some thought their duty ceased if they aided in the Underground Railroad movement.

For every slave that reached Canada a hundred were born. And Canada only assimilate a portion of the slave population. The Negro in Canada was a dependent.

Levi personally aided over three thousand fugitives in their journey North. Not one of these were overtaken. He traveled freely in the South without attempting to conceal his identity or withhold his testimony against slavery.

His life was a strenuous one. He lived to see the fruitage of his labor. His visit to England, Ireland and Scotland in 1867 in behalf of the freedman was a triumphant one.

The name Coffin was well and favorably known. He was a descendent of the seventh generation of Nicholas Coffin, of Britton in Devonshire. He received much financial aid for the cause so dear to his heart.

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#### **Sons and Daughters of Nantucket.**

The purpose of this organization is to cherish the memory and emulate the example of the pioneers of Nantucket who established and maintained a Commonwealth when there was no other in New England. Membership is restricted to descendants of residents of Nantucket prior to 1750. There is no age restriction.

Headquarters; Alliance, Ohio.



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