

FOREWORD

The compilation of this genealogy has been an interesting and rewarding experience. At the beginning it seemed a comparatively easy task; but before proceeding far I discovered that my knowledge of the historical facts relating to my family was meager and exceedingly hazy. I was well acquainted with most of my relatives—had known them all my life; but, in writing a sketch of the life of a particular person, dependable factual material was essential. Impressions, general ideas, or hearsay did not afford a basis for a reliable record. Even dates were uncertain and records were conflicting. Dates of births, of deaths, and of marriages were frequently recorded differently in various places, and which of these to accept as authentic was often a problem. Several avenues of approach were necessary in order to verify a given date or incident.

It is a source of disappointment to one seeking information from the town and county records in the rural districts of many of our older states, to find that there are few dependable records of vital statistics prior to 1880. Unlike the newer states, where state organizations were set up soon after statehood was granted, such important data was supposed to be kept by a local town clerk or other official, but no uniform system was followed. Entries depended upon the ability and interest of the local political officeholder at the time; and many such records are glaring examples of incompetency; moreover, in many cases the recording of such data was begun only in recent years.

In the English Commonwealth, church records are universally reliable. In America, unfortunately, these, as a rule, have been kept in a slipshod manner. I endeavored to ascertain when members of my own family were baptized or admitted to church membership, but such information could not be found. Old church books had been destroyed—no importance had been attached to them. Records of deeds, on the contrary, were usually found to be accurately kept and dependable.

It was my first intention to compile the genealogy, then to write the story of the family. As the genealogy developed, however, it seemed better to expand the historical sketches of members of the family who were associated in business, including them as a part of the genealogy. The most interesting family story is the beginning and development of the five and ten cent business. This naturally called for extended sketches of the business activities of Messrs. Frank W. Woolworth, Charles Sumner Woolworth and Seymour H. Knox. No attempt has been made to write a life history of any person; only the more important factors and events relating to the founding and early development of the business have been recorded. These will be found in Part II.

Only four members of my generation of the family are alive at this date. They, together with members of the younger generations, have been very help-

ful in recalling and amplifying items of family history, and in verifying the historical items.

Especial thanks are due my cousins, Mrs. Carrie Knox Fowler and Mr. Charles Sumner Woolworth, who have furnished considerable material. Other members of the family and friends have been helpful in answering inquiries, and have contributed much factual and historical material. In the foreword to Part II, which describes the part played by the grandchildren of Henry and Kezia Sloan McBrier in the development of the five and ten cent business, acknowledgment has been made of the assistance received from those who had a part in building the five and ten cent business in the early years.

Rev. Roger F. Williams, historian of the Northern New York Conference of the Methodist Church, has furnished copies of obituaries and newspaper articles, and has undertaken considerable investigation of the early history of the family. His contribution has been of great assistance.

Mr. John K. Winkler, author of "Five and Ten," has very kindly granted me permission to reproduce some of the pictures contained in his interesting book on "The Fabulous Life of Frank W. Woolworth"; and his publishers, Robert M. McBride & Company, have cooperated by providing a number of electrotypes from Mr. Winkler's book. For this assistance I desire to express my sincere thanks.

Miss Edith G. Dreyer has rendered valuable assistance in reviewing and correcting the manuscript. Her painstaking work is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the efficient help and cooperation of my secretary, Mrs. Cyril DeWitt Anderson, who has taken a genuine personal interest in this arduous undertaking, and without whose faithful assistance this work would never have been accomplished.

EDWIN MERTON McBRIER

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The Name—McBRIER

The name is spelled in various ways in Scotland, where the family originated, and also in America, to which many members of the clan migrated.

The following quotations, by permission, are from the "McBrayer Genealogy," published by the authors, Mrs. Charles R. Whitaker and Dr. L. B. McBrayer. This genealogy was published in Southern Pines, N. C., in 1926. The writer corresponded with Dr. McBrayer, and had the pleasure of meeting him in 1931, when passing through Southern Pines. The founder in America of the branch of the family recorded in the "McBrayer Genealogy" was William McBrayer who was born in Scotland, "probably in Dumfriesshire or Galloway, in 1702, and died in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1795." The descendants of William McBrayer, immigrant, gradually moved south from Pennsylvania into the Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and other southern states.

"The name of MacBriare or MacBriar is one of some antiquity in Dumfriesshire and the adjoining counties on the southeast border of Scotland. The MacBriars of Netherwood are frequently alluded to in old local histories and described in books of heraldry as 'an ancient family in Dumfriesshire who were supposed originally to have emigrated to the south of Scotland from the county of Aberdeen, a highland origin which the name itself indicates.' In ancient documents the name is spelled MacBriare, MacBriar, Macbryre, Mackbrie, Mackbray, etc.

"The Netherwood family settled and possessed considerable landed property in Dumfriesshire prior to the year 1400, which appears by family deeds and papers as well as the earlier records of that county; and besides their original estate on the river Neth in the immediate vicinity of the town of Dumfries, different branches of the family were land owners in other parts of the county and in Galloway, and the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. They appear to have intermarried with the Maxwells, Johnstons, and other families of distinction in the district, and to have long had great influence in the burgh of Dumfries of which the head of the family was provost from time to time.

"The estate of Netherwood (County Dumfries) descended in regular succession in the MacBriare family for many generations down to the year 1740, when it was in the possession of Archibald MacBriare, the last proprietor of the name, who was compelled to alienate the entire of the landed property which had been so long in his family. The present MacBriare family of Tweedhill and Broadmeadows (County Berwick) since the middle of the last century has represented the MacBriares of Netherwood.

"The following incidents in the life of one of the family, who seems to have taken part in the public affairs at the time of the Reformation, are alluded to by several writers:

"John MacBriare or MacBray, on account of publicly expressing sentiments favorable to the Reformation then in progress, was obliged to take refuge in England about 1538. At the death of Edward VI, he retired from that country to Frankfort, where he preached to the English congregation.

He is called an eminent exile in strypes (see Annals I, 130). On the accession of Elizabeth he returned to England and on the 13 November, 1568, was inducted to the vicarage of St. Nicholas in New Castle, and was buried there November 16, 1584.

"Ball mentions several of MacBriare's works, and says, 'he wrote elegantly in Latin.' (See Ball, Spottiswood, etc.; also Notes McGrie's "Life of Knox.")

Burke's Landed Gentry, Volume II, page 837.

Burke's Commoner, Volume IV, page 598.

"Sir Walter Scott, in his 'Old Mortality,' uses as one of his heroes Ephraim Macbriar. The scenes were enacted under the reign of Charles II.

"On page VI of the introduction of this book, published by Ginn & Company, Boston, the writer says, 'Undoubtedly Scott's sympathies leaned strongly to the Tory side * * * On the other hand he has shown in his portrayal of such characters as Macbriar and Morton that he was not blind to the merits of those who had risen in arms against the intolerant measures of Charles II.'

"On page 112, '* * * kneel down, make ready, present fire, just as they did with auld deaf John Macbriar, that never understood a single question they put to him and sae lost his life for lack of hearing.'

"Ephraim Macbriar was a mere youth, being only twenty years of age, but could present his cause fluently and convincingly. He believed with all his soul and mind and heart in religious liberty, and he was always faithful to a friend or a trust.

"Pages 207-210, after quoting three pages from his sermon, Scott says: 'The eloquent preacher was rewarded, etc., etc.'

"Pages 230-231, Scott says, '* * * Macbriar, clergyman, pleads eloquently for religious liberty.'

"Pages 377-383, Records the trial, with persecution and torture of Ephraim Macbriar, the charge being that he was an effective crusader for religious liberty and refused to give information that would incriminate a friend. He was pronounced guilty, which he admitted, and condemned to death. He was executed the next day."

In Scotland the name has been variously spelled McBrier, McBryer, Macbrair, MacBryre, Mackbrie, McBrayer, McBraire, McBrair. After the family moved to Ireland, the name was written McBrer, McBriar, McBrier, and probably otherwise.

Unfortunately, some members of the later generations in America dropped the distinguishing "Mc" and used "Brier" as the surname. There are now quite a number of "Briers" in central and western United States.

While there were doubtless many McBrier emigrants from Scotland and North Ireland who settled in America, only four emigrant families from North Ireland have been definitely located by the writer. All of these, after arrival here, spelled their names "McBrier" so far as known, except two uncles of the writer as will later appear.

A recent investigation of the Presbyterian Historical Records in Belfast, Ireland, disclosed that the name of the founder of the writer's branch of the family, Henry McBrier, is recorded in the Killinchy Registers as "Henry McBriar." The same spelling is used in the church baptismal records of their

two eldest children, Esther Boyd and John Henry. This does not necessarily mean that he spelled his name "McBriar," as frequently the spelling on the church records differed from the one commonly used by the family.

"McBrier" is the spelling that he used in America; and, in the family record in his Bible, he entered, in his own hand, the name as "McBrier" for all the members of his family. He expected that his descendants would use this form of spelling; however, two of his four sons, Henry Wesley and William, used an older form, "McBryer," which they probably acquired from old school books that were brought from Ireland.

In order that this genealogy may conform to the records of deeds, vital statistics, etc., both spellings are used in this volume, the spellings corresponding to those used by the four sons and their respective families.

WHO WERE THE SCOTCH-IRISH?

“Scotch-Irish in the U. S.
Are of Scottish Descent

“But They Came From Ireland, Having Moved
There First

“The Scotch-Irish are chiefly of Scottish descent, though they came to the United States from Ireland.

“In 1611 King James I began colonizing Ulster, a barren and neglected part of Ireland, with people from Scotland and the northern part of England. They began migrating to America about 1730 and at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War about one-sixth of the population of the colonies was Scotch-Irish.”

(From the New York *Herald Tribune*, Sunday, August 27, 1939.)

“When James I, in 1607, confiscated the estates of the native Irish in six counties of Ulster, he planted them with Scotch and English Presbyterians. These outsiders came to be known as Scotch-Irish, because they were chiefly of Scotch blood and had settled in Ireland. The native Irish, to whom they were alien both by blood and by religion, detested them as usurpers, and fought them many a bloody battle.

“In time, as their leases in Ulster began to expire, the Scotch-Irish themselves came into conflict with the Crown, by whom they were persecuted and evicted. Then the Ulstermen began immigrating in large numbers to Pennsylvania. As Froude says, ‘In the two years that followed the Antrim evictions, thirty thousand Protestants left Ulster for a land where there was no legal robbery, and where those who sowed the seed could reap the harvest.’”

(From “Our Southern Highlanders,” by Horace Kephart,
The Macmillan Company, New York, 1922.)

“Sir James (Gibson) married the heiress of Renfrew, Scotland, whose family name was Knox. This couple became ancestors to a large family in Dumbartonshire, Glasgow, Rutherglen, and Lanark. The oldest son, Sir Maurice, succeeded to the estates of his uncle, Sir William the Bishop. (Scottish exchequer Records, and Charter of University of Glasgow of Bishop James Beauton, published by Maitland Club of Scotland.) The Rutherglen Gibsons married Hamiltons and in 1607 part of them were sent to Armagh, Ireland, by James VI where they received land grants.

“This occurred at the time of the ‘Irish Settlement’ when James VI of Scotland (James I of England), transferred many families from the Scottish Lowland Counties of Dumbarton, Dumfries and Renfrew, across the Channel, to take the lands of those Earls of Ireland whose Rebellion he had just ended.

Their descendants became the 'Scotch-Irish' of history. A Princeton professor tells us this term was first used in the Scottish Universities to designate the students resorting to them from Ulster. They were called 'Scoto-Hybernus.' Rev. Francis McKemie, the noted divine, was enrolled in Glasgow University as 'Franciscus McKemius, Scoto-Hybernus.'

"In the decisive Revolution of 1668, culminating in the 'Siege of Londonderry' and the 'Battle of the Boyne,' it was these 'Scotch-Irish' who saved the Protestant cause and thereby saved the liberties of the whole English-speaking race. Many of their descendants came from Ulster to America, again seeking freedom. Thousands upon thousands of these hardy pioneers spread over the valleys and along the rivers of this New World. History records not only their personal piety but also their rigid enforcement of law and order. And it is a matter of record that in the Revolutionary forces there were Gibsons from every one of the thirteen colonies."

December 15, 1936.

J. STEWART GIBSON

(From "Gibson Ancestry," by J. Stewart Gibson, in his introduction to the "Gibson Genealogy.")

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN NEW YORK

The present counties of St. Lawrence and Jefferson, bordering on the St. Lawrence River and the northeastern shore of Lake Ontario, were settled in the latter part of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries. There had been many earlier settlements on the lower reaches of the St. Lawrence River, along the shores of Lake Champlain and Lake George, and northward from New York City, following the course of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. The rapids in the St. Lawrence, above Montreal, constituted a barrier to the early settlement of the shores of the upper St. Lawrence River and of Lake Ontario.

These sections of northern New York were, during the early part of the nineteenth century, inaccessible by road from the port of New York and the older settlements along the Hudson River and in the Mohawk Valley. The first move toward making a public road through the virgin forest was in 1791 when Arthur Noble and Baron Steuben petitioned the legislature of the state of New York for a road "from Little Falls on the Mohawk River to the falls on the Black River which runs into Lake Ontario." It is recorded that the road was not built.*

The early immigrants to America followed the natural water courses; and they settled there and took up farms near the shores of the rivers and lakes. Later arrivals penetrated more deeply into the forests. Thus the virgin country was gradually settled. Apparently, as settlers in the valleys of the Hudson and the Mohawk pushed farther north, and others entering northern New York by the St. Lawrence River settled the country toward the south, roads were gradually extended until they met. These roads were originally mere trails, or "log-roads" through the forests. An idea of how crude they were can be obtained from the following quotations from the history of this period.†

"During the first summer, Mr. Pettibone had occasion to resort to the mill at Columbia, through a densely wooded country, without roads worthy of the name, and the trip was performed under circumstances of peculiar hardship. Dr. —, and a young man by the name of Abel Kelsey, started with an ox team and wagon, expecting to spend the night in a shanty which they supposed had been built, and was occupied by a settler who had commenced a small clearing on the West side of Racquette river, about a mile and a half below the present city of Potsdam. They accordingly neglected to take with them any apparatus for kindling a fire.

"At the close of a day of toil and labor, they found themselves on the banks of the river, and succeeded in fording it, laying the grainbags on

* See "Gazetteer of Jefferson Co.," compiled and published by Hamilton Child, The Syracuse Journal Co., July, 1890.

† See "History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York," by Franklin B. Hough, Little & Co., 53 State St., Albany, N. Y. Page 474.

poles across the top of the wagon, to keep them dry; but, to their great disappointment, the cheerful log hut and comfortable fire which they anticipated as awaiting them, was not there, and to add to their misery a cold, drenching rain set in, and continued through the night. They had already been half drowned in crossing the river, and were compelled to crawl under the best shelter they could find, and spend the night in as wretched condition as possible. On the next morning, Mr. Pettibone found himself shaking with ague, contracted in consequence of exposure, and with the greatest difficulty able to get through to his destination.

"The journey to Foot's mill, in Canton, usually consumed five days, in going and returning, ten bushels being the amount that could be taken on a trip, which was performed with an ox team. Two or three men accompanied to guard against accidents, and clear away the underbrush for the cattle. On arriving at streams, the grain was taken over on their shoulders, or laid across the oxen, to keep it out of the water, and thus all the intervening rivers were forded, except Racquette river, which was crossed by a float, just below the falls, at Potsdam Village. This was the only way of crossing at that place, till the erection of a bridge in 1809. The ox teams were driven into the water, sometimes much against their will, and forced to swim the river, the drivers with whips and loud shouts preventing their return to the banks. At night, if the pioneers found shelter and supper in the hut of some settler, it was well; and if not, it was as well; for they usually succeeded in striking a spark from steel, and setting fire to some dry standing or fallen tree, by the side of which they would spend the night, having care that the fire should not mount into the tree top, and detach the larger branches, or burrow among the roots, and overturn the flaming column upon them."

"The first grist mill in Stockholm, was erected at the present village of Bicknelville, and during the first one or two years, the citizens were compelled to resort to Sheik's mill, in Canada, or Canton, or to Robert's mill, now Columbia village. In 1804 a mill was gotten into operation in Hopkinton."

This region in northern New York was fairly well settled before the railroads were constructed. The railroad from Rome to Watertown was not completed until 1851. The record is as follows:—

Watertown & Rome Rail Road incorporated Apr. 17, 1832.
 Work begun Nov. 1848, sixteen years after incorporation.
 Road opened from Rome to Camden, fall of 1849.
 Opened to Pierrepont Manor, May 28, 1851.
 Opened to Watertown, Sept. 24, 1851.

Later the road was extended to De Kalb Junction; thence to Ogdensburg, and to Canton, Potsdam, etc.

The Utica and Black River Railroad was begun, and thirty-five miles to Boonville was completed in 1855. It took thirteen years to extend the road an additional twenty-four miles to Lowville; and to Carthage, sixteen miles beyond, required four years more. That same year the spur to Watertown was built.

Subsequently the main line was extended from Carthage to Philadelphia and on to Ogdensburg.* These railroads were later acquired by the New York Central Railroad.

We can thus see that while the railroads later opened up the northern country to the markets of the world, they were of no assistance in the pioneer days, during the latter part of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries, when these northern areas were being settled.

An illustration of the growth of population is graphically shown on the map, page xxviii. In 1800 there was only a population of *six persons or over per square mile* in the small area in eastern New York. Settlement had scarcely begun along the upper St. Lawrence and the shores of Lake Ontario.

* See details in "Gazetteer of Jefferson Co.," The Syracuse Journal Co., July, 1890.



HOW THE CIVILIAN CONQUEST PROGRESSED IN FIFTY YEARS

In 1800 the frontier line, where inhabitants numbered six or more to the square mile, ran as indicated by the black line in the upper map. Fifty years later it ran through the Middle West, as indicated by the black line in the lower map. At the beginning of the present century the frontier line had entirely disappeared.

(See "History of The American Frontier," 1924, by Frederick Logan Paxson.)



KEZIA SLOAN McBRIER
1801-1877



HENRY McBRIER
1801-1889

Photographs taken when living in Jefferson County.

FIRST GENERATION

Historical Sketch of

HENRY McBRIER

and family

The McBriers are of Scotch ancestry. The ancestors of Henry and Kezia Sloan McBrier were doubtless among the large group of Scotch Presbyterians who were "transplanted" by James I of England (James VI of Scotland) from their native Scotland to the six counties of Ulster, Ireland, in 1607.*

The purpose of the ruthless uprooting of these home-loving folk from their ancestral lands was to colonize the depopulated sections of Ulster in Ireland. Upon arriving in this barren region, the majority became tenant farmers of the Crown. They were very poor, were mercilessly exploited and persecuted, and finally many were evicted from their leaseholds. In their extremity some sought homes in the new world. Years of preparation, filled with hard work and painfully strict economy, were required by the majority of the Scotch-Irish emigrants to accumulate sufficient funds to make the journey to America. As soon as several families had acquired sufficient funds for their passage, they formed groups, for mutual protection, and migrated to some certain predetermined district where they made their homes in contiguous localities. Having had their indomitable spirits forged and purified by the persecutions they had endured during their forced residence in Ireland, they were prepared to meet and overcome the deprivations and difficulties which they encountered in the new land.

The more independent among these immigrants did not stop in the cities. They possessed the true and invincible pioneer spirit. They desired homes, land of their own, and freedom; so they forged ahead into the forest, took up land where it was cheap, built new communities, established schools, and, above all, spread their religion throughout rural America.

The Scotch-Irish were a resourceful and virile people. For the most part they were members of the Presbyterian Church, and the records of that church in Ireland furnish the most complete and dependable source of information on family relationships. The scope of this genealogy does not admit, or require, a dissertation on the character of the Scotch-Irish, or their influence on the sections of America to which they migrated. Suffice it to say that they were a stabilizing influence in every section of the new continent where they settled.

A beginning was made to trace the McBriers from Ireland back to their Scottish ancestors; but because of the prevailing war this attempt had to be abandoned.

The home town of Henry and Kezia Sloan McBrier was easily discovered; and the names of many McBrier families were found on the records from 1700 to the present time.

* See page xxiii.

FIRST GENERATION

The Registry of Deeds from County Down, Ireland, reveals that transfers of property by and to members of the McBrier families were recorded throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The family name on this registry is spelled McBryer, McBriar and McBrier.

From the Public Record Office, wills of McBryar, McBrayer, McBraire and McBriar are noted. These were taken from the indexes. The report says the wills were destroyed by fire in 1922.

The Presbyterian Historical Records have been only partially searched. The Registers of Killinchy, where Henry and Kezia Sloan McBrier lived, show many entries of the family name during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The earliest entries of baptisms and marriages, from 1701 to 1757, show the family name entered as "McBrer." Later records almost universally use the spelling "McBriar." On these records are the following entries:

Marriages

- "Jan'y 17. 1824. Henry McBriar to 'Christian' Sloan, both of Killinchy."
(It is explained that "Christian" or "Kristy" was a common nickname for a young woman in earlier years.)

Baptisms

- "Dec. 22, 1824. Esther Boyd, daughter of Henry McBriar of Ballybrega."
"Nov. 15, 1826. John, child of Henry McBriar of Ballygeegan."
(Henry worked on farms, probably as a tenant. Evidently he moved from Ballybrega to Ballygeegan between the two dates of birth.)

HENRY McBRIER was born in County Down, Ireland, March 21, 1801, and died at De Kalb Junction, N. Y., July 1, 1889.

He married **KEZIA SLOAN** at Killinchy, County Down, Ireland, on January 17, 1824. She was born in County Down, Ireland, September 15, 1801, and died January 11, 1877, at Great Bend, N. Y.

Two children were born in Ireland prior to their migration to the United States: Esther Boyd on December 22, 1824, and John Henry on November 15, 1826.

It will be observed that two of these dates as here recorded do not coincide with the record Henry McBrier made in his Bible. Recent search in Ireland reveals that in the Killinchy Presbyterian Church records in Belfast, the marriage of Henry McBrier and Kezia Sloan is recorded as January 17, 1824, exactly one year, less one day, earlier than his Bible record. Also, the date of the birth of his first child, Esther, is recorded as December 22, 1824, just one year earlier than the Bible record; while the date of birth of the second child, John, is the same as the Bible record, November 15, 1826.

These entries were made some years after the family arrived in America; and without doubt a faulty memory caused the error in Henry McBrier's Bible record; hence the dates in the Killinchy Records have been accepted as authentic. An error of this sort is not surprising when we take into consideration the many changes that marked their early married life.

FIRST GENERATION

preacher in many of the sparsely settled communities in Jefferson County, and later in St. Lawrence County. His lasting influence was felt in every community in which he preached the gospel of "free grace and redeeming love."

We find that Rev. Moore was appointed preacher to the Methodist Church in Sackets Harbor in 1834. Sackets Harbor was on the mainland just across Black River Bay from Pillar Point; and Pillar Point was one of his out-stations. After two years' service in Sackets Harbor he was returned to the Rodman church. He evidently carried back some good reports of the fertile farms on Pillar Point which impressed Henry McBrier, and influenced him to move from Rodman to Pillar Point in 1845.

An interesting side light on the newness of the country is the record that Rev. Moore "married Harriet Hurlburt of Sackets Harbor in 1833, she being the first white child born in that settlement."

This move from Rodman to Pillar Point probably hastened the weddings of the two eldest McBrier children.

John, the oldest son of the McBriers, married Naoma Rogers about the time the family moved to Pillar Point. There has been no record discovered of the exact wedding date, but according to the Census Record of 1850 he must have been about nineteen, and his bride a year younger, when they were married. This would fix the wedding date during 1845. He apparently took his young bride with him to Pillar Point and worked for his father for a time.*

Among their neighbors, while living in Rodman, were the families of two brothers, Timothy and Jasper Woolworth. The Woolworths were also Methodists, and attended the same church; thus the families were well acquainted. Timothy Woolworth had a son named Seth, who became engaged to the eldest McBrier girl, Esther. They were married on January 1, 1846.

Jasper's son, John Hubbell Woolworth, became enamored of their third daughter, Fanny; but she was only fifteen years old at the time the McBriers left Rodman—too young for matrimony. They were not married until January 14, 1851, some six years after the McBriers had moved to Pillar Point.

The McBriers rented the large Hooker Farm on Pillar Point. They had now lived in America nearly twenty years. They had a family of eight children. By hard work and strict economy they had made some financial progress, and were able to equip and manage a large farm. They lived on the Pillar Point farm for eight years. During this period their children attended the Perch River district school, about three-quarters of a mile from the Hooker farmhouse; and the family attended the Methodist Church at Pillar Point.

The McBriers' next move was to the township of Russell, N. Y., in 1853. This change was the direct result of Rev. Moore's influence. As an inquisitive boy, I once asked my father, when he was talking about his boyhood days, "How did grandfather come to bring his family to Russell when it was a new, unsettled country?" His reply was: "Well, there was a Methodist minister by the name of William Moore who influenced his members to settle where he was located. He came to Hermon and Russell when the country was new, and land

* See Historical Sketch of John H. McBrier, page 47, for further comment.

AUG 27 1951

Dedicated
In Memoriam
to
Henry and Kezia Sloan McBrier
and their children,
Esther McBrier Woolworth
John Henry McBrier
Mary McBrier White
Fanny McBrier Woolworth
Henry Wesley McBryer
William Fletcher McBryer
Jane McBrier Knox
Albon Smith McBrier

FIRST GENERATION

was very cheap. He bought a small farm for himself near Hermon, and settled there as a local preacher. Then he began to write to your grandfather that he had better own a farm of his own, and that land there was good and cheap; so your grandfather moved his family to the Russell farm."

What father did not fully explain to me was revealed by the records when the facts for this story were being gathered. Rev. Moore prepared for the coming of the McBriers by buying a farm of 122 acres in the township of Russell, on January 7, 1852. He paid one thousand dollars for this farm. The McBriers moved from Pillar Point to Russell the next year, 1853, and lived on the farm, evidently renting it for a trial period to see if it suited them. Henry McBrier bought the farm from Rev. Moore on January 9, 1855; and it must be said to the credit of the latter that he did not make any profit on the transaction; for the record states that the price paid by Henry was \$1,090.00—the amount the preacher paid, plus a low rate of interest for the two years he had used the property.

But how did preacher Moore come to this newer and undeveloped back country in St. Lawrence County? We last heard of him in Jefferson County, in the settlements of Rodman, Sackets Harbor, and vicinity. A study of his career, as revealed by the minutes of the Northern New York Conference and the conferences that preceded it, give us his yearly appointments. He remained in Jefferson County until 1840; and in that year he began his ministry in St. Lawrence County, being appointed to the township of De Kalb. There were no villages in this township at that time, just a few groups of settlers in occasional scattered clearings; and this pioneer preacher was sent to give them spiritual leadership. He spent the remainder of his life in this vicinity.

His conference appointment for 1845 states that his parish was "De Kalb Circuit, from the wilds of Beaver Creek in De Kalb, through Hermon, into the wilds of Russell." This brief but vivid description of the region, not quite one hundred years ago, gives us a pen picture of the newness of the country that pages of description would fail to convey.

The next year, 1846, the circuit was called the "Russell Circuit," but it also included the township of Hermon and a portion of De Kalb. This was his appointment for two years. For the next seven years, 1848 to 1854, he was "on location" in Hermon, but he still served Russell. After his first appointment to De Kalb in 1840, he purchased a farm near Hermon village. Evidently he liked the place, and decided to have a permanent home there; so, after a few more years of frontier itinerating, he built a log hut and settled on his farm, which was less than half a mile from the small village of Hermon. During these seven years he developed the farm. It was also during this period that he bought the farm in Russell and induced the McBrier family to leave Pillar Point and settle in this newer country.

This is not a historical sketch of Rev. William D. Moore; but, as has already been stated, the two families were so intimately connected that the story of one cannot well be told without relating, in part, the history of the other. When Rev. Moore bought the Hermon farm, it was just a section of the

FIRST GENERATION

as the date of the beginning of the Russell Church. This was before the McBrier family had arrived in Russell. They came in 1853. That they at once became active members in the Russell church is indicated by a brief quotation from the official church records, which reads as follows:

"In the year 1855 they decided to build a house of worship, the minister in charge being Rev. Elias Hitchcock. The lot on which the church stands was a free gift of Capt. James Knox. He also gave the Bible used on the day of dedication. Among those who stood in the front ranks of the church as burden bearers at this time were *Henry McBrier and his wife Mrs. McBrier*, both of whom were a power in prayer and exhortation. . . . Judson Hamilton and his wife, Burr Hamilton and his wife, Richard Bennett and wife, William Bevitt and wife, Joseph Firth and wife, Hiry Derby and wife, Malachi Van Brocklen and wife, Caleb Aldrich and wife, James Knox and wife,* besides a host of other choice spirits who have gone to reap an abundant reward in the paradise of God."

Henry and Kezia McBrier lived on the farm until after their son, Albon, bought the farm on March 1, 1866. Soon afterward they retired from active farm life and moved to the village of Russell, where they resided for some years. They were typical pioneers of their day and generation. They had the courage and spirit that enabled them to leave the more settled state of life which prevailed in their ancestral home and venture into a new and unknown land, experiencing deprivations which our age cannot realize, overcoming difficulties greater than we can conceive; and, without receiving or desiring assistance from others, by their own ingenuity, hard work and thrift, they became prosperous, and were able to retire from their farm and enjoy their latter years in comfort and without financial worry.

In 1872 they left Russell and moved to Jefferson County, where they bought a house and six acres of land located near the small village of Great Bend. The records show that this house was purchased on December 9, 1872. It was located a short distance from the farmhouse of John H. and Fanny McBrier Woolworth. The house was enlarged and greatly improved to provide a comfortable home for them. They lived here until Kezia McBrier died on January 11, 1877.

After Mrs. McBrier's death, Henry sold his place to his grandson, Frank W. Woolworth, and went to live for a time with his youngest son, Albon S. McBrier, who had, that same year, sold the McBrier homestead in Russell and bought the Williams farm in De Kalb. This farm was located two miles from Hermon, on the road leading to East De Kalb. Henry had no sooner taken up his home there than he became active in assisting in the erection of a Methodist Church at De Kalb Village.

Henry McBrier lived here with his son, Albon, until March, 1878, when he married Mrs. Ann Gowdy Lesuer, a widow, who owned a farm near Jerusalem

* See "Historical Sketch, Jane Emily McBrier," page 104. Capt. James Knox was the father of the James H. Knox who married Jane Emily McBrier.

Historical Sketch
of
HENRY and KEZIA SLOAN McBRIER

founders in America
of the branch of the
McBRIER FAMILY
recorded in this Genealogy

284

GENEALOGY

of the descendants of

HENRY McBRIER
AND
KEZIA SLOAN McBRIER

who migrated to the United States in 1827

BY

EDWIN MERTON McBRIER

PART I

PRIVATELY PRINTED

1941

Genealogy of that branch of the
McBRIER FAMILY
 founded in America by
HENRY and KEZIA SLOAN McBRIER,
 who came to the United States of America
 from County Down, Ireland,
 in 1827

FIRST GENERATION

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Place of Death</i>
HENRY McBRIER Married Jan. 17, 1824 at Killinchy, Co. Down, Ireland, to	Mch. 21, 1801	County Down, Ireland	July 1, 1889	DeKalb Junction, N. Y.
KEZIA SLOAN (1st wife) Married Mch. 27, 1878 to	Sept. 15, 1801	" "	Jan. 11, 1877	Great Bend, N. Y.
ANN GOWDY LESUER (2d wife)	—, 1818	Martinsburg, N. Y.	Aug. 7, 1893	Watertown, N. Y.

*Children:—Second Generation
by first marriage*

1. Esther Boyd (m. Woolworth)	Dec. 22, 1824	Killinchy, County Down, Ireland.	Mch. 8, 1885	Weedsport, N. Y.
2. John Henry	Nov. 15, 1826	" "	Mch. 13, 1893	Junction City, Kans.
3. Mary E. (m. White)	Sept. 25, 1828	Rodman, N. Y.	Nov. 10, 1900	Pillar Point, N. Y.
4. Fanny (m. Woolworth)	Apr. 15, 1830	" "	Feb. 15, 1878	Great Bend, N. Y.
5. Henry Wesley	Dec. 1, 1831	" "	Dec. 27, 1902	Cedar Springs, Mich.
6. William Fletcher	June 18, 1835	" "	Dec. 4, 1915	Topeka, Kans.
7. Jane Emily (m. Knox)	Feb. 19, 1837	" "	Jan. 27, 1891	Russell, N. Y.
8. Albon Smith	Sept. 25, 1839	" "	Apr. 30, 1920	Gouverneur, N. Y.

SECOND GENERATION

Children of
HENRY and KEZIA SLOAN McBRIER

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Place of Death</i>
SETH WOOLWORTH	Feb. 19, 1817	Pinckney, Lewis Co., N. Y.	Nov. 4, 1888	Weedsport, N. Y.

Married Jan. 1, 1846
to

§1. ESTHER BOYD McBRIER	Dec. 22, 1824	Killinchy, County Down, Ireland.	Mch. 8, 1885	Weedsport, N. Y.
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Children:—Third Generation

1. Mary Kezia	Apr. 6, 1851	Weedsport, N. Y.	Sept. 26, 1928	Weedsport, N. Y.
2. Henry T.	Oct. 5, 1854	" "	Mch. 20, 1869	" "
3. Ida J.	Apr. 6, 1860	" "	Dec. 14, 1860	" "



§2. JOHN H. McBRIER	Nov. 15, 1826	Killinchy, County Down, Ireland.	Mch. 13, 1893	Junction City, Kans.
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Married in 1845
to

NAOMA ROGERS (1st wife)	—, 1828			
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Married in 1858 at
Dunkirk, N. Y., to

KATIE CASE (2d wife)	—, 1816		Sept. 28, 1894	Junction City, Kans.
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Children:—Third Generation
by first marriage

1. George H.	—, 1846	Jefferson Co., N. Y.	Oct. 26, 1902	Topeka, Kans.
2. Betsey	June 10, 1848	Brownville, N. Y.	Before 1850	Brownville, N. Y.
3. Adelaide	—, 1849	Jefferson Co., N. Y.		





THE JOHN H. WOOLWORTH FARMHOUSE
as it appeared in May, 1941.



FIRST HOME OF FRANK W. AND JENNIE CREIGHTON WOOLWORTH
In the left wing of this house on Franklin St., Watertown, N. Y., their eldest
daughter, Helena, was born.

SECOND GENERATION

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Place of Death</i>
ELBRIDGE T. WHITE	Aug. 16, 1830	Pillar Point, N. Y.	May 10, 1883	Pillar Point, N. Y.

Married Feb. 7, 1858
at Russell, N. Y., to

§3. MARY E. McBRIER	Sept. 25, 1828	Rodman, N. Y.	Nov. 10, 1900	Pillar Point, N. Y.
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Children:—Third Generation

1. Gardner Thomas	Aug. 19, 1861	Pillar Point, N. Y.	Apr. 28, 1914	Muncie, Ind.
2. Letitia Grace (m. Lonsdale)	Sept. 2, 1862	" " "	Sept. 10, 1922	Dexter, N. Y.
3. Julius H.	Jan. 15, 1868	" " "	Jan. 28, 1870	Pillar Point, N. Y.
4. Hazael Charles	Oct. 4, 1870	" " "	Dec. 29, 1930	Dexter, N. Y.

JOHN HUBBELL WOOLWORTH

	Aug. 16, 1821	Pinckney, Lewis Co., N. Y.	Feb. 8, 1907	Great Bend, N. Y.
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Married Jan. 14, 1851
at Pillar Point to

§4. FANNY McBRIER (1st wife)	Apr. 15, 1830	Rodman, N. Y.	Feb. 15, 1878	Great Bend, N. Y.
--	---------------	---------------	---------------	-------------------

Married Aug. 19, 1879
in Watertown, N. Y., to

ELVIRA AUSTIN MOULTON

(2d wife)	Feb. 17, 1828		Aug. 29, 1906	Great Bend, N. Y.
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*Children:—Third Generation
by first marriage*

1. Frank Winfield	Apr. 13, 1852	Rodman, N. Y.	Apr. 8, 1919	Glen Cove, N. Y.
2. Charles Sumner	Aug. 1, 1856	" "		Living in Scranton, Pa.

§5. HENRY WESLEY McBRYER

	Dec. 1, 1831	Rodman, N. Y.	Dec. 27, 1902	Cedar Springs, Mich.
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Married Sept. 15, 1857
to

JANE RUSHTON	Dec. 10, 1828	Edwards, N. Y.	Jan. 10, 1911	Cedar Springs, Mich.
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NOTE: Henry Wesley spelled his name "McBryer."
They had no children.



FRANK WINFIELD WOOLWORTH



THE WOOLWORTH FAMILY IN THE LATE 1880's

Left to right, the children are: Edna (later Mrs. Franklyn L. Hutton);
Helena (later Mrs. C. E. F. McCann); Jessie (later Mrs. James P. Donahue).



JENNIE CREIGHTON WOOLWORTH

THIRD GENERATION

Children of

JOHN HUBBELL *and* FANNY McBRIER WOOLWORTH

§1. FRANK WINFIELD WOOLWORTH was born April 13, 1852, in the township of Rodman, Jefferson County, N. Y., and died April 8, 1919, at his country home, Winfield Hall, at Glen Cove, Long Island, N. Y.

He married JENNIE CREIGHTON on June 11, 1876, at Great Bend, N. Y. She was born near Picton, Ontario, on March 7, 1853, and died May 21, 1924, at Glen Cove, Long Island, N. Y.

Children:—Fourth Generation

1. Helena Maud Woolworth, born July 17, 1878, in Watertown, N. Y.
(m. McCann)
2. Edna Woolworth " September 12, 1883, " Lancaster, Pa.
(m. Hutton)
3. Jessie May Woolworth, " March 14, 1886, " " "
(m. Donahue)

FRANK W. WOOLWORTH

The historical sketch of Frank W. Woolworth will be found in Part II of this volume, page 175.

JENNIE CREIGHTON WOOLWORTH was a beautiful, competent and gracious lady. Her husband met her in Watertown when he was employed by Augsbury & Moore, and later when he worked in A. Bushnell's dry goods store. While working in this latter place, his health broke; and, in February, 1876, he was compelled to return to his father's home in Great Bend, where his mother nursed him during his long illness. Miss Creighton was devoted to the struggling young salesman, and did not hesitate to demonstrate her affection by offering to assist the mother in caring for him; so she moved to the Woolworth home, and was married to young Frank on June 11, 1876.

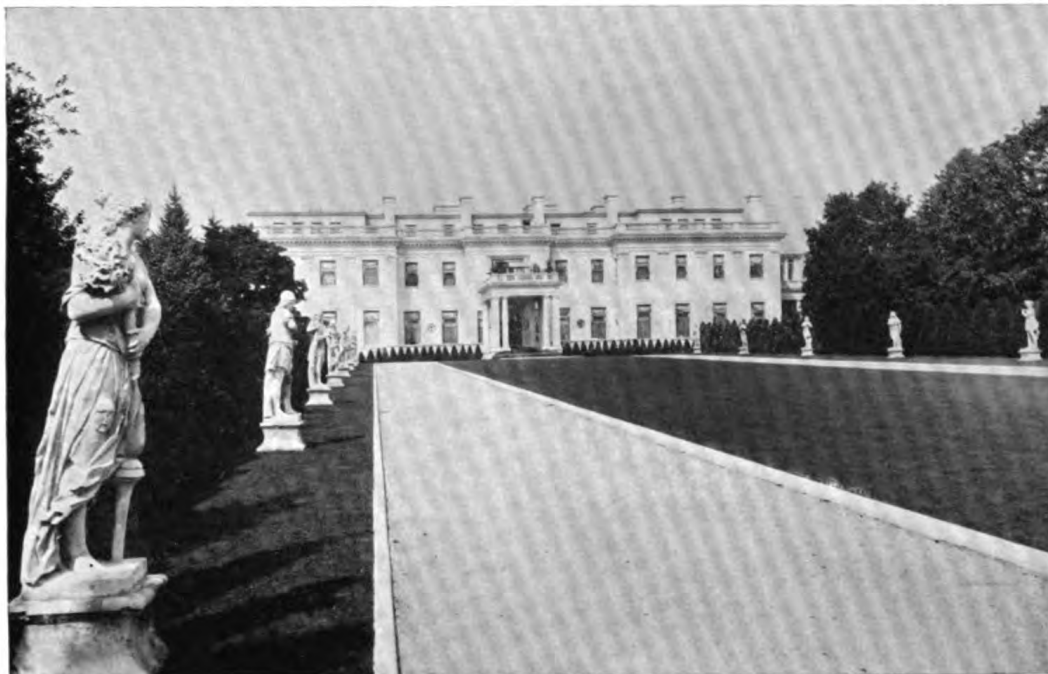
A year passed after their marriage before he was well enough to return to Watertown. Here he began anew in the store where he had been first employed. The name of the firm had meantime been changed to Moore & Smith. The young couple set up their very humble home in the wing of the house at 236 Franklin Street; and here their first daughter, Helena, was born on July 17, 1878.

A large measure of the credit for her husband's success is due Jennie Creighton Woolworth. She it was who, after nursing him back to health, encouraged him to return to Watertown and start again. She worked loyally with him in their early stores, and shared his first triumph in the successful Lancaster, Pa., store. After the number of stores increased and the business became a great success, she presided with dignity and grace in their palatial home at 990 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and at Winfield Hall, their country home at Glen Cove, Long Island.



JENNIE CREIGHTON WOOLWORTH

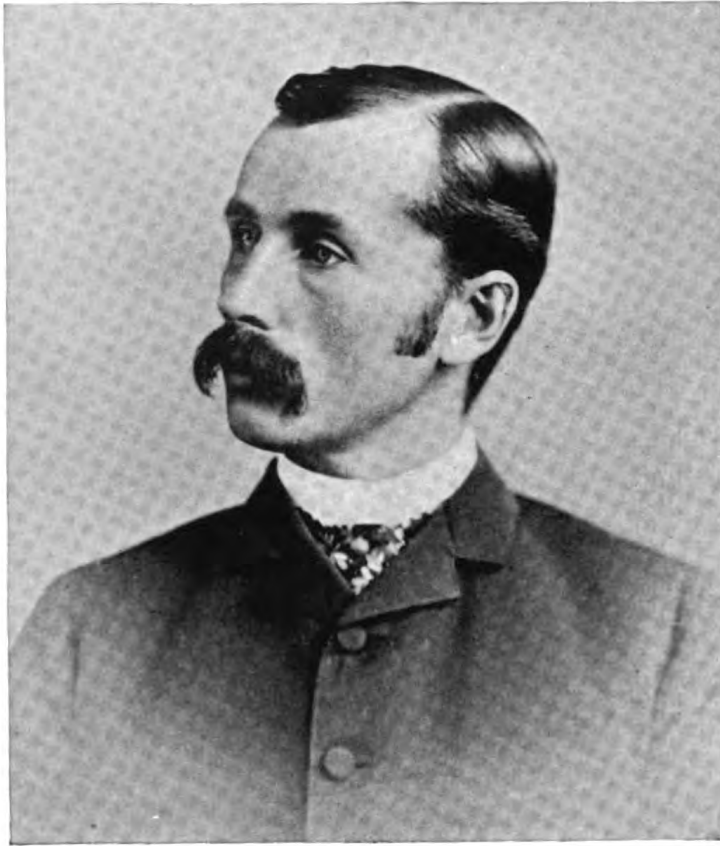
1853-1924



WINFIELD HALL, GLEN COVE, N. Y.
Country Estate of Frank W. Woolworth.



ENTRANCE HALL AND MARBLE STAIRWAY, WINFIELD HALL



CHARLES SUMNER
WOOLWORTH



ANNA RYALS WOOLWORTH

THIRD GENERATION

§2. **CHARLES SUMNER WOOLWORTH** was born August 1, 1856, in the township of Rodman, Jefferson Co., N. Y.

He married **ANNA ELIZABETH RYALS** on June 2, 1886, in Utica, N. Y. She was born March 3, 1857, in Utica, and died July 15, 1913, in Scranton, Pa.

He lives at 520 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

Children:—Fourth Generation

4. Ethel May Woolworth, born May 10, 1887, in Scranton, Pa.
(m. Huber)
5. Fred Everett Woolworth, " May 13, 1890, " " "
6. Richard Wesley Woolworth, " May 19, 1898, " " "

CHARLES SUMNER WOOLWORTH

The historical sketch of Charles Sumner Woolworth will be found in Part II of this volume, page 205.

ANNA ELIZABETH RYALS was the daughter of Isaac and Mary Davis Ryals of Utica, N. Y. Mr. Ryals was for many years the manager of the press room of the Utica *Observer*. The family were active members of the Baker Street Baptist Church.

Anna Ryals Woolworth was a lady of culture and refinement. After making her home in Scranton, she joined the Elm Park Methodist Church, and was a devoted and faithful member. Her influence on the religious and social life of Scranton was constructive, and she was greatly beloved by her many friends.

SECOND GENERATION

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Place of Death</i>
§6. WILLIAM FLETCHER McBRYER	June 18, 1835	Rodman, N. Y.	Dec. 4, 1915	Topeka, Kans.
Married Aug. 9, 1856 to				

NANCY JANE WHITE	Aug. 10, 1834	St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.	Dec. 18, 1914	Topeka, Kans.
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Children:—Third Generation

1. Charles H.	June 2, 1857	Canton, N. Y.	Mch. 28, 1858	Theresa, N. Y.
2. Charles W.	Sept. 17, 1859	" "	Nov. 25, 1928	Philadelphia, Pa.
3. Clara Janet	Sept. 8, 1862	" "	Jan. 10, 1919	Blue Island, Ill.
(m. 1. Griffith 2. Harrison 3. Elrick)				
4. Edwin L.	July 11, 1867	" "		Living in Eskridge, Kans.

NOTE: William Fletcher spelled his name "McBryer."



JAMES H. KNOX	Nov. 21, 1834	Russell, N. Y.	Mch. 12, 1894	Russell, N. Y.
Married Feb. 6, 1855 at Russell, N. Y., to				

§7. JANE EMILY McBRIER	Feb. 19, 1837	Rodman, N. Y.	Jan. 27, 1891	Russell, N. Y.
(1st wife)				

Married March 12, 1892
at Gouverneur, N. Y., to

JANE MILLAR	Oct. 10, 1843	Inkermon, Ont., Canada	Mch. 28, 1919	North Lawrence, N. Y.
(2d wife)				

*Children:—Third Generation
by first marriage*

1. Seymour Horace	Apr. 11, 1861	Russell, N. Y.	May 16, 1915	Buffalo, N. Y.
2. Carrie Ethel	Oct. 7, 1863	" "		Living in Buffalo, N. Y.
(m. Fowler)				
3. Burtiss Lorenzo	Nov. 20, 1869	" "	Dec. 26, 1929	Buffalo, N. Y.
4. Henry Danforth	Aug. 23, 1876	" "	Jan. 12, 1934	" "



SECOND GENERATION

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Place of Death</i>
§8. ALBON SMITH McBRIER				
	Sept. 25, 1839	Rodman, N. Y.	Apr. 30, 1920	Gouverneur, N. Y.
Married Nov. 12, 1863				
to				

CALISTA CAREY BROWN				
	Apr. 22, 1845	Hermon, N. Y.	Nov. 4, 1926	Gouverneur, N. Y.
<i>Children:—Third Generation</i>				
1. Edwin Merton	July 16, 1865	Russell, N. Y.		Living in Montclair, N. J.
2. Mason Bower	Nov. 1, 1870	“ “	Jan. 27, 1893	De Kalb, N. Y.
3. Mildred Hamlin	Jan. 28, 1879	De Kalb, N. Y.	Sept. 29, 1924	Gouverneur, N. Y.



The genealogy of each child of the second generation, and descendants, is given in the eight sections which follow.