

DOUGLASS

FAMILY  HISTORY



NOTE: *this edition, on the 50th anniversary of the writing of this work by my grandfather, attempts to duplicate the original as precisely as practicable. In a few instances, spelling and grammar have been corrected; the fonts used are web-compatible fonts common to most computers but were chosen to mimic those in the original edition, printed by my Uncle Hugh Douglass in 1962. Pagination is the same here as in the original print edition. In the original, these first two pages were counted but were blank; only this note has been added to this edition. Of course, hyperlinks did not exist in 1960, but this edition takes advantage of linking low-resolution photos to high-resolution copies, links to pages on the Douglass family website, and other cross-links.*

The text of the original ended on p. 41; pages 42-48 were fill-in pages in which to record deaths, births, and marriages; they have been deleted in this edition. In their place is an update of the last half-century, added in an attempt to keep Grandpa's good work up-to-date.

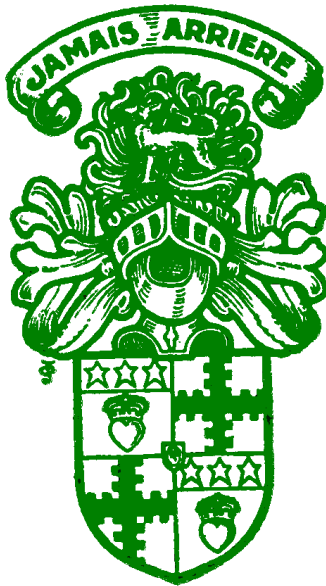
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any errors, omissions, and updates at martydouglass@gmail.com, or on the link provided in the Douglass family website: www.douglass.netfirms.com.

Sincerely,

*Martin J. Douglass
July, 2010*

DOUGLASS FAMILY HISTORY

compiled and written by
ROYAL M. DOUGLASS

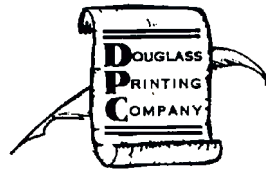


-1960 -

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DOUGLASS FAMILY HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this record is to show only the lines directly affecting our immediate family. There is much interesting related material, however, in our possession that for practical reasons cannot be included here, but will continue to be preserved.

The plan employed begins with the most remote forebears known, and follows their lines down till they converge in the union of Josiah Breese Douglass and Ella Laverna Pritchard – our parents – then with a few variations follows the descendants of these two to the present time.

The name Douglass (or Douglas), meaning “Dark Water,” appears prominently for many centuries in Scotch and English history and is conspicuous throughout our states as applied to cities, towns, counties, etc., indicating there were many of that name among the early pioneers.

The double s, it has been claimed, distinguished the Black Douglass clan of early Scotland from the “Red clan” using but one s. Confirmation of this is lacking as we can find but little use of the second s in history. No doubt the spelling, to some extent, has come to be changed to suit individual whims. We do know, however, that the three brothers with whom we are concerned registered for military duty with the double s and the is fairly good evidence that we come of the warring Black Douglass clan. *Jamais Arriere* appearing commonly on

the various Douglas coats of arms means “never in the rear ranks.”

Starting with Douglasses there follows the story of the Redners, the Breeses, the Pritchards, the Haven family, and others. To avoid confusion because of duplication of names, all names that appear in the family line are numbered to correspond with the names on the cart (or tree) included with this volume.

Credit for data used in this record is due many individuals. Especially worthy of recognition is Grandmother, Sarah Pritchard, who has passed down valuable records, supplemented with additions by our mother, Ella Pritchard Douglass. Also contributions by Ellen Abbey (Aunt Ell”) and cousin Margaret Douglass have helped greatly.

Comparing notes some years ago with Mrs. Martin Wright (Nellie) of Ithaca, descendant of James Douglass, brother of great-grandfather William, we got much helpful material. Excerpts from various regional histories of Pennsylvania furnished by Cousin Florence Pritchard Scott have been valuable.

Assistance by Nancy and Hugh in typing and printing is greatly appreciated.

For the time-being your chronicler is much like the fabled do-do bird that always flies backward, being more interested in seeing where he came from than in where he is going.



EXPLANATION

The numbering system should not be difficult to comprehend. Each digit represents a generation, and digits are separated by points. Where points are omitted, it is an oversight and the meaning is the same as those

separated.

Ancestry numbers are given with a minus sign, descendants without it.

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REDNER-DOUGLASS REUNION at the home of Charles Douglass, 1922

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DOUGLASS AND RELATED FAMILY HISTORY

THE SCOTCH OF IT

Between the middle of the 18th century and the time of the Revolutionary War, three Douglass immigrants from the Edinburgh area landed in New York City and proceeded to establish themselves in the new country.

From a roster of New York State soldiers of the Revolution, family tradition and clouded records, it is satisfactorily established that their names were William (-1.1.1), James, (-1.1.1A) and Jonathan (-1.1.1B). There may have been a sister also. Several years ago a contact with a Perry Douglass of Lovelton, Pennsylvania (near Wyalusing at Douglass Hollow) revealed that he was a descendant of Jonathan. His line: Jonathan (-1.1.1.B), Richard, Samuel, Alexander to Perry.

Our record begins with William (-1.1.1), from whom our line descends.

William Douglass, coming to America at age 22, settled in Orange County, New York and was married three times.

By the first marriage he had one son, John. This "Uncle John" kept contact with the Hector Redners and Douglasses some years.

Before continuing in order with children of the second marriage, with whom we are most concerned, we will record that for a third wife this William St. married Sarah Wilkinson, of Welsh descent, in Orange County about 1805. To them were born: Uriah, Lettie, Clarice, Janet, Almira, Chauncy, Priscilla, Charles Volney, Phoebe, and John. Records of these seem a little mixed but the older ones were born in Orange County and others in Tompkins County where family migrated about 1818. Scouting in Lansing, Newfield, Ithaca, and other parts of Tompkins County revealed many descendants there, but few, if any, now remain by the name of Douglass. All, however, point back to a William Douglass in their ancestry. Father told that at one time there were so many Williams that they had to be identified by such labels as William C., White-eye Bill, Boatman Bill, and the like.

Many stories were related to me of individuals but the family connections are uncertain. They told how one of the women went back to Orange County for a visit and returned horseback, carrying among other things a set of Haviland chinaware. A Captain Robert Douglass went down with his ship during the "War of 1812." A Walter, son of Walter, was killed in a hunting accident. It is claimed that John, youngest son of William Douglass, weighed 350 pounds. A Stephen Douglass of Lansing area, with whom I once talked, had a reputation for being the biggest liar in the county – the harmless "tall tale" type, I suppose.

By the second marriage of senior William (-1.1.1), children were as follows:

I. – James (-1.1.1B), born Aug. 3, 1787; died Dec. 17, 1832, age 45; married Elsie Strang in Tompkins County. They had sons William C., Sidney, Oliver, and James; also daughters, Kisiah who married a Davenport, and Elsie, marrying a Smith. William C. remained on the home farm near Trumballs Corners and had a son Smith who became Nellie Wright's father. William C. and wife Maryann used to visit our grandparents in Hector and Maryann, within the memory of some of us, visited our Redner-Douglass reunion in the late 1890's. Other sons of James migrated to Illinois and Kansas. Oliver died in Libby prison during the Civil War.

II. – Margaret (-1.1.1A) (Aunt Peggy) born Aug. 28, 1796 in Orange County, died Mar. 20, 1887 in Hector, Pennsylvania; married Abner Redner, son of Henry and Catherine Bensil Redner and brother of Sarah Redner Douglass in Tompkins County. About 1839 they moved to Hector, Potter County, Pennsylvania, where they settled on a farm and lived out their long and useful lives – he to age 104, she to age 90.

Their nine children were:

- 1 – Lemuel, who married Elizabeth Strait.
- 2 – Oris, who married Elisabeth Wilbur.
- 3 – Lettie Jane, who married Marvin Abbey.
- 4 – Darius, married Matilda Phillips.
- 5 – Samantha, died young.
- 6 – Orsemus, died age 18.
- 7 – William D., married Emma Little
- 8 – Pamela Ann, married Hopewell Phillips.
- 9 – Abner Jr., died in infancy.

On the 100th birthday of Abner Redner, September 24, 1895, a large number of relatives and friends gathered at his home to celebrate. He mingled freely with the group on the lawn that day and remained fairly active to the time of his death three and a half years later. Had he lived another year he would have seen three centuries.

III. – Elisabeth (-1.1.1D) married Joel Breese, son of Henry Breese, who was a brother of John Breese, Sr., our ancestor. Their eight children were: 1) Alanson, 2) Catherine Jane, 3) William Henry, 4) Mary Ann, 5) James Douglass, 6) Margaret Louisa, 7) Abram Wood, and 8) Stephen Strang.

William Henry (3rd above) married Caroline Breese, his cousin and sister of grandmother, Sarah Breese Douglass. To them were born five sons: Phidel, Clarence, Thadeus, Wallace, and Fred Albert. State Supreme Court Judge Walter Reynolds is grandson of Phidel Breese.

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THE EARLY DOUGLASS HOMESTEAD at Hector, Pennsylvania. James Douglass with son Henry. Henry's wife Sarah at left (obscured).

James Douglass Breese (5th above) married Henrietta Green. Their two daughters were Ellen, who married Darius Abbey, grandson of Abner and Margaret Douglass Redner, and Sarah Minerva, who married Henry Douglass, son of James and Sarah Breese Douglass. Children of this last couple will appear later. The Abbeys left no children.

IV. – Mary (-1.1.1C) married Ira Lounsbery in Tompkins County. They had one daughter, Rebecca, who married James Shappee and had children: Harry, William, Cooley, Fred, and Mary Jemima.

V. – William (-1.1.1), born in Wallkill, Orange County, New York June 10, 1794; died at Hector, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1862; married Sarah Redner, daughter of Henry and Catherine Bensel Redner, at Lansing, Tompkins County, New York, April 24, 1819. As a young man, he was a soldier in the War of 1812, for which service his widow received a government pension for many years after his death.

After nearly twenty years' residence in Tompkins County they moved from Hector township there to Hector Township, Potter County, Pennsylvania about 1840. (Hector Township, Tompkins County, New York later became part of Schuylker County.)

Descendants of William and Sarah Redner Douglass:

1. – James (-1.1), born May 12, 1820 in Tompkins County, New York; died January 8, 1899 at Hector, Pennsylvania; buried in family cemetery there; married Sarah Breese March 14, 1848. (Their descendants later.)

2. – Louisa, born November 13, 1822; married Alva Thompson; resided in the Sabinsville, Pennsylvania area. Children: James, Edward, and Nettie M., who married Wilmot Abbey, son of Marvin Abbey and grandson of Abner Redner. After his death, she married Charley Reese. All now deceased.

3. – Electa J., born July 5, 1825; married Ira Kilbourne December 21, 1845. They had children: Lemoine, Kenyon, Mary Amanda, Meltha, Otis Arthur, David, and Sarah. (More on the Kilbournes later.)

4. – Catherine, born March 25, 1827; died March 12, 1909; married Bradford Beach; resided in Clymer Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Their children were: Wallace D., father of Jay and Howard; Agusta C., Ezra G., Charles L., Ida, who married Leon Kilbourne and had one son, Jay; Jennie, who married a Waterman, and Elwood. Annette (“Nettie”) married Frank Bristol and now lives with the Daughter Florence Sunderland Dutcher in St. Petersburg, Florida. A nonagenarian, she is the only family survivor of her generation. Charles married Phoenie French and three sons, Sidney, Walter,

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and Russell, survive them There are possibly others of the Beach family but not to our knowledge.

5. – Amanda, born February 17, 1832; died April 9, 1849. Did not marry.

6. – Ira Lounsbury, born July 18, 1843; died August 15, 1911. Not Married. Served in Civil War; lived with mother till her death on home farm.

7. – Henry Redner, born April 22, 1837; died August 25, 1882; married May A. Wilkinson. After his death she married James Hart. Left no children.

8. – Margaret, born August 24, 1841; married Matthew Wilkinson; resided at Sunderlinville, Pennsylvania area. Children: William, Eva, and Sarah. Eva married William Mays and had daughter Margaret who married Warren Kenyon. They have two sons, James and Gary, and reside in Sunderlinville, Pennsylvania. Sarah married Frank Manning and after his death married William Brown. She left no children.

9. – Mary Elizabeth, born September 22, 1845; died November 5, 1917; married Alonzo Skinner. Always lived at Hector Corners. Had no children.

Reviewing the life of William Douglass, Sr. (-1.1.1), our prolific forebear, he made good in his adopted country, serving in the war of the Revolution, making farms and homes in the hinterlands and generously

“replenishing the earth.” His descendants have been honest, industrious citizens so far as records show. Living to about the age 65, he was probably buried in the Lansing or Newfield area, bet we find no record of this.

For many years the Tompkins County Douglasses held a family gathering known as the Douglass-Davenport reunion. Since coming to Horseheads to live in 1909, some of us attended this gathering several times. One year I was chosen president and by chance being president of our Redner-Douglass group the same year, arranged to have both groups meet together, which we did in Denison Park, Corning, in 1921. In or about the year 1917, we borrowed the big Breese tent and erected it on our lawn, entertaining the reunion here at Horseheads.

Interest has since so diminished that, I believe, they no longer keep up the gatherings. There are very few, if any, with the Douglass name remaining in that area. A regular attendant at these reunions was a William J. Douglass and family of Sayre, Pennsylvania, employee of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Notice of his death appeared November, 1960. A brother of his, John, was killed in a railroad wreck. There was one or more sons. They were descendants of James, brother of William, Jr.

WILLIAM DOUGLASS JR. (-1.1.1)

Born in Wallkill, Orange County, New York June 10, 1794; died August 3, 1862 in Hector, Pennsylvania. Following service in the War of 1812, along with his father, brothers, and sisters, he migrated about 1818 to Tompkins County, New York. There in the town of Lansing he married Margaret Redner, daughter of Henry and sister of Abner Redner, April 24, 1819.

It appears that they settled in the Town of Hector, Tompkins County. After about twenty years of residence there, he, with his brother-in-law Abner Redner, with their families, sought new homes in the newly developing area of Potter County, Pennsylvania and settled on adjoining farms in the Township of Hector. It is significant that several of the newly formed townships in Potter County were given the same names as the ones from which these settlers came in Tompkins County, such as Hector, Ulysses, and Newfield. It is probable that many others were making a similar move about the same time. Lansing is also a local name thus brought to the area.

Several of the children of these pioneers took up land bordering their parents, developing good farms and a congenial neighborhood. A cemetery was plotted on the farm of William's son James, where all burials were made and which is well preserved today.

The William Douglass farm was the one we now know as Margaret Douglass; home and is worked in connection with the James Douglass farm by Carlton, great-grandson on William, Jr.

The Abner Redner farm is directly across the highway from the William Douglass farm. The son Henry's farm joins the James Douglass farm on the west and that of Mary and Alonzo Skinner joins Henry's place on the north. Henry's widow later married James Hart, so their place is best know to us as the Hart farm. Oris Redner acquired a farm joining on the south.

The land that these pioneers settled was untamed forest. Large tracts were owned by speculating individuals or land companies who sold off acreage to prospective farmers for a very few dollars per acre. The tract from which these farms were a part was known as the Dent Tract. They were bough on a time-payment plan. Once a reay, the settlers journeyed to Coudersport, the county seat, to pay the interest and whatever could be applied to principal. Cash was hard to come by and it took many ears in some cases to acquire a clear title.

The first dwelling were of logs, chinked with clay, with stone fireplaces. Later they were able to have timber sawed for better frame houses. There being no market for

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the virgin pine and hemlock as lumber, trees were felled, piled, and burned to make clearings for raising the all-important crops of vegetables, grains, etc.

These industrious pioneers of necessity had to be pretty much self-sustaining. They raised what they ate. Clothes and bedding were largely grown on the place in the form of flax and wool, which was processed and woven by the women in the home. Boots and shoes were made during the long winter evenings by the father from the hides from the beeves they ate. Two hides were taken to a tannery – if available. One paid for tanning the other. Some did their own tanning with acid from sumac or hemlock bark. Soles were attached with wooden pegs, as they wore away with the leather and no doubt were more easily obtained. The girls braided summer hats for the men and bonnets for themselves from straws selected from the strawstacks. Sugar was made from the abundant maples and honey was easily obtained from wild bees, living in hollow trees. Orchards were set out that soon provided a variety of good fruit (without spraying). Wild berries and nuts were to be had for the gathering. Berries



**HOME OF WILLIAM DOUGLASS, JR. (-1.1.1)
First fame house on original Douglass farm, now
owned my Margaret Douglass. Her father, Henry,
is seated in auto.**

and other fruits were preserved for winter use by drying. Besides milk and butter, Brindle and Bess kept the family larder supplied with cheese. Sweet milk was curdled, pressed, and cured in the home, making the best of Cheddar. Wild game, brook trout, and wild pigeon squabs in season added variety to the family fare.

While the horse played an important role, the ox was a common beast of burden and quite generally was the motive power for transportation.

One was most fortunate if he could locate his farmstead near a spring of water. Otherwise a well had to be dug down to a water vein, stoned up and water drawn by a bucket on a long rope or chain.

Hay was cut with a scythe and raked with a handrake. Grain was cut with a “cradle,” tied in bundles by hand to dry, and threshed with the “armstrong” flail. The forest furnished the fuel. Washings were done in a tub with a scrub board and wrung by hand. Tubs and buckets were largely made of wood by a local cooper, if available. Otherwise there is no doubt that a pioneer made his own, same as he did his brooms, ox yokes, sleds, cider presses, and nearly everything his work required. Post mauls were cut from knurls from a maple tree. Water was heated and cooking done in the fireplace or in a kettle hung over an open fire outside. They made their own soap.

Candles made from beef or mutton tallow – sometimes beeswax – or a “fat” pine knot provided lighting. (Kerosene oil, with the invention of glass chimney lamps and lanterns, did not come into use until after the Civil War.)

Of course conditions steadily improved from such beginnings.

In spite of limitations these pioneers enjoyed social gatherings, making the most of corn husking bees, apples peels, quilting parties, sugaring-off parties, singing schools, spelling bees, etc. The women found diversion from making clothes and knitting stockings and mittens by competing in beautiful needlework, crocheted trim-



ABNER REDNER.
A Centenarian of Potter County, Pa.

(From an old Newspaper Clipping)

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mings, stand spreads, etc.

No doctors were at first available. Mothers treated the wounds and dispensed home remedies. Usually some capable woman in a neighborhood could be counted upon in emergencies as nurse or midwife.

Children, no doubt, were at first taught the "three R's" be their parents, but school houses quickly followed the settler's cabin and the rule was two terms a year: three months in winter to accommodate the boys who worked in the fields in summer; and three months in summer, best suited to children who had to walk long distances. There was no compulsory education. Itinerant ministers infrequently conducted religious services in the school houses.

Under the system, it was quite natural that the girls, being able to attend more school sessions, got the better education and, with but little higher training, became teachers themselves. Aunt Mary, ("Mate") taught neighboring schools some few years.

Many a girl of those times who had had the advantage of city or village education and culture went into the hinterlands to teach school, fell in love with a pioneer's son, and settled there to become an important refining influence. Or perhaps such courageous young women left the luxury of urban environment to share the lot of a wilderness bound bridegroom as did our grandmother, Sarah Breese, and her sisters, Catherine and Esther. The contribution of such women to the development of our country is incalculable. (Witness Whittier's "Among The Hills.")

The Douglasses and Redners with their neighbors

developed good farms and a substantial citizenry. Progress, which at first was rapid, was seriously interrupted by the Civil War. Great-grandfather William (-1.1.1) died in 1862 at the beginning of the war. Grandfather James (-1.1) was oldest of the sons and at this time had his own family and farm. He was disqualified for service on a first examination because of deafness. It was then agreed that Henry and Ira, yet unmarried, would volunteer and James look after the families at home. Sometime later, however, James was drafted and accepted, leaving the two families to fare as best they could. The sons of James (Charles and Josiah), in their early teens, raised crops and provided firewood until the soldiers returned at the end of the war.

These three brothers and a nephew, James Thompson, served in many engagements until Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Henry, a member of the 57th Pennsylvania volunteers was a flagbearer through many battles, including Gettysburg.

Ira L., a private in Co. D, 207th Pennsylvania volunteers engaged in charges at Ft. Steadman, Petersburg, Ft. Hill, Sawdust Pile, Gravelly Run, Hatches Run, and others. He was confined one month at Point of Rocks Hospital and was honorably discharged May 31, 1865.

James, a private in Co. C, 93rd Pennsylvania volunteers; 2 months in City Point Hospital; took part in engagements at Ft. Steadman, Petersburg, Sawdust Pile, Gravelly Run, Sailor Creek, and the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.

James Thompson was a member of Co. D, 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

JAMES DOUGLASS (-1.1)

Extract from Potter County (Pennsylvania) history published about 1885:

"James Douglass, farmer, P. O. Hector, was born in Tompkins County, New York May 12, 1820. He attended school at Newfield, New York and when not in school, worked on the farm with his father. In 1841, his parents moved to Tioga County, near the county line and that same year he bought a tract of land in Hector Township, Potter County Pennsylvania, which he improved, and in 1850 bought the farm where he now limes, which is one of the best farms in the township.

"He was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, serving from December 1, 1864 until the close of the war. Mr. Douglass was married March 14, 1848 to Miss Sarah Breese, of Chemung County, New York. They had nine children."

It is generally understood that it was the father, William, who bought the first land in 1841, mentioned above, and James who acquired the neighboring tract in 1850. For his farm, grandfather contracted to pay \$465.29. Final payment and securing of deed was not

accomplished until 1876.

It appears that James, after going to Pennsylvania with his father when about age 21, made a practice of returning to "Yorkstate" where work was available and no doubt the money earned was greatly needed back home.

His records show the purchase of a "scowboat" named "The Tame Indian" in June, 1847 from a William Breese. (Very likely his cousin, son of Elizabeth Douglass Breese.) We don't know how many seasons he worked on the Erie Canal but the story is handed down that returning at the end of one season, over Seneca Lake, towed by a tugboat, a storm threatened to sink the heavily loaded boat and its cargo. Grandfather, realizing the danger, escaped to the tug, cut the tow line and witnessed the product of probably more than a year's work swallowed by cruel Seneca Lake. The cargo consisted of his mule team which had plied the towpath all summer and intended for use on the new farm, bolts of cloth, barrels of salt and many provisions for the family needs, besides all personal articles.

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We believe that he worked some time on the farm of John Breese. He married the daughter, Sarah, in March 1848 and their first child, Charles, was born in Horseheads in June of '49.

While serving in the war he was stricken with cholera while on a hurried march and fell out of rank, lying in a wet corn field a day and night. He was later rescued by comrades and hospitalized for some months before

recovery.

The last twenty years or so of his life were spent in a wheelchair – the only way we remember him – always cheerful, quiet, and uncomplaining. His invalid condition, “rheumatism,” was attributed to the exposure while in service and he received the maximum government pension the last several years of his life.

He died on January 8, 1899, age 79 years

THE BREESE BRANCH

While the theory has been held, and may be true, that the Breeses originated in Holland, all we can be sure of is that our Breese (also spelled Brees) ancestors came to this country from Shrewsbury, England. They settled in New Jersey, naming the locality Shrewsbury after the hometown in England. Best guess is that they were English, not Dutch.

Following is from a Horseheads paper of 1902:

BRIEF SKETCH OF A LARGE CHEMUNG COUNTY FAMILY

The subjects of this sketch are the descendants of John Breese, who came to this country about 1735 and settled in New Jersey. He married Dorothy Riggs and located in Barnard Township, Summerset County, New Jersey. A large family of children was born to them and the worthy couple attained the ripe old age of 90 years each. Three of their children started for this Village (from New Jersey), Samuel, Henry and John; Samuel stopping at Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania; John and Henry coming on to Chemung County. John married Hannah Gildersleeve. Coming to this County, they brought eight children with them; two were born later – Sarah and John, Sarah being the first white child born in Chemung County. Their other children were Deborah, Phoebe, Elias, Samuel, Eseriah, Hannah and Silas, in all making ten children. When coming to this County they came with two yoke of oxen attached to a big lumber wagon; they also had a brood mare and four cows. A part of their goods were on a flat boat they constructed themselves, that they poled up the river. They would milk their cows, strain the milk in their churn that set over the hind axle of the wagon and at night it would be churned and fit to take out, so they would have plenty of butter and

buttermilk for their use. They were six weeks making their journey and would oftentimes have to wait for rain to raise the river so they could come on, making their first stop just below Elmira. Stopping there through the winter, the following summer they came and settled just below where Lyman Jackson now resides, living there for two years. They then bought and built on the farms where Mrs. Hoffman and Horace Breese now live in Horseheads, for it was Horseheads then as well as now, for the horses' heads lay along the Indian trail for a mile. There were 85 grandchildren who lived to be men and women...”

These ancestors, coming from New Jersey, followed the Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers, a trail left by the Sullivan Expedition of which John Breese was a member. This soldier had camped in the flat valley at Horseheads then with General Sullivan, and remembering the favored location, chose a site here when the government paid off the Revolutionary soldiers with grants of land. He thus became the first settler in the town of Horseheads.

They first settled on a spot of which the Jackson place is a part and where the historical monument to the first settler is now erected. When this farm was sufficiently improved to secure title, he, with others who had followed him, pooled their money and sent one of their number to New York City to prove the claims. When the “Col.” Payne returned, all the farms were deeded in his name. There was no legal recourse except by an expensive trip to New York, and that with uncertain results; so John Breese then abandoned the spot and settled on what we now know as the “Breese farm.”

*

* This is copied correctly from the History, although obviously the total number of children listed is nine, not ten.

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